

# Hywelian Guild Magazine — 2020 —



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Photographs:

*Front and back covers: Summer lunch 2019 in the Sports Pavilion*

# Welcome!

*2019—the period covered by this magazine— turned out to be one of the most turbulent years I can remember. Images of uprisings and unrest in so many countries have filled our television screens, and the elephant in the room was obviously the goings on in the UK as we argued, sighed, debated, rolled our eyes in frustration and finally voted in the first December election for many decades.*

*It is therefore with some trepidation that I welcome you to this edition of the Hywelian Magazine. How will you cope with good news of achievements reached and lives celebrated? We have become so used to upheaval and disquiet that it is*

*sometimes difficult to merely enjoy a relaxing read with no underlying agenda or propaganda!*

*As always, we hope you enjoy this edition of your own magazine. It is an unending pleasure to receive and organise the news and information you so generously send and share.*

*My thanks as usual go to Sue Rayner and Joyce Shields for their help and encouragement, and to Hannah Roberts at School for keeping us all in touch. The Guild is also very grateful to the Principal, Sally Davis, for her support and enthusiasm for the future of the Guild, manifested in so many ways.*

*Lyn Owen (Editor)*

## SUMMER LUNCH 2020

Are you planning a reunion this year? Did you miss out on last year's lunch? Have you plenty of news to share with others of your year?

If the answer to any (or all) of the above is 'yes', then the Summer Lunch is your chance to catch up.

This year, the lunch is on Saturday 27 June at 1.00 pm. It will be preceded by the Guild's Annual General Meeting at 12.30 pm (and it's not at all boring!).

Details of how to obtain tickets [and book a table] will be sent out in due course.

## President's Letter

Mrs Sally Davis is President of the Guild and Principal of Howell's School. Below she reveals a different aspect of usual School activities

HAVE YOU EVER walked past a building and wondered what goes on inside? Wanted to peek through the kitchen windows of a vicarage or creep around to the back door of a government building? Perhaps I am exceptionally nosy, but Cardiff is full of buildings that pique my curiosity, and it would seem I'm not alone. Every autumn, CADW's Open Doors month gives us the chance to explore the hidden treasures of Wales's culture and history, and once again this September we flung our doors open at Howell's and invited the wider public to join an historical tour of the school. We are one of several buildings in Llandaff that are open to the public, and we do attract an increasing number of visitors each year. This year, we were delighted to welcome a married couple who were visiting Wales from their home in Canada, and had decided to make use of the Open Doors month to visit some

sites that are not on the usual tourist trail for visitors to Cardiff.

Newcomers to Howell's are always fascinated to see what goes on behind the grand wooden doors at the entrance to the school, and keen to find out more about our history in the School Museum that we now have in the Board Room. The Great Hall, of course, always inspires admiring gasps, but perhaps the most poignant part of the tour is when we take our visitors into the locker rooms just off the Covered Way, and insist they all step into the very small space, and then shut the door. As the room temperature rapidly begins to rise, we explain that they are in the air raid shelters that were built to protect the boarders and staff who remained living at school during the Second World War. Remembering those girls who waited out the raids in the shelters, not knowing what they would be stepping into once the

All Clear sounded or what news the postman might bring, always brings a lump to the throat. We have an incredible history here at Howell's, and are always thrilled to share it.

To everyone in the Howell's family, of course, our doors are open every day of the school year. Parents know that they can make an appointment to see a member of staff whenever they wish to, and our Hywelians will always be met with a very warm welcome, whether they come to one of our scheduled events, call in to donate a piece of family treasure to our archives, or make an appointment to visit for a private tour when they are visiting from overseas. This year, we have welcomed the class of 1976, who had a reunion at school to celebrate 50 years since they had started at Howell's, and for the summer lunch on a blisteringly hot Saturday in June we welcomed more than 60 Hywelians for an afternoon of sharing stories and reminiscing.

I'm lucky to meet Hywelians from

all walks of life, from business high-fliers and Queen's Counsels to broadcasters and Olympic athletes, at the many events that we hold throughout the year. Listening to them talk about their school days, and their fantastic achievements in adult life, I am reminded of one thing: a Howell's education has been opening doors for women (and now men!) since the school first opened 160 years ago, and it still continues to do so.

As ever, I love meeting Hywelians; you are a fascinating and varied group of people and I always come away from a meeting with at least one story to share with the current students. I hope to see you at Howell's soon!

*Sally Davis*  
*Principal*

## Dear Hywelians ...

Hywelian Guild Secretary Sue Rayner reports on another year of activity in the Guild.

THE OTHER WEEK, I was trying to organise a date for an evening get-together for four of us: it proved really difficult. We all lead such busy lives that even trying to fix a pleasurable occasion becomes almost impossible. I suspect I am not alone in finding it so.

It is thus all the more heartening that Hywelians up and down the country manage to meet (several times a year in some instances) just for lunch, or an evening meal. Occasionally, people travel long distances to meet up. In these days of hectic lives, we still have branches: in London, Scotland, the Thames Valley, West Wales and Bridgend (which includes members who live in Cardiff). This year, too, the class of 1976 came together at school to celebrate 50 years since they began at Howell's. Our 2019 Summer Lunch saw 60 or more of us gathered in the Sports Pavilion on a lovely summer's day in June.

I find it fascinating, and really encouraging, that so many of us want to get together many years after we started or left school. We catch up with people we possibly

don't see anywhere else and learn with wonder how different school is from the days when we were there. It is a tribute to the school and to the huge support we receive from Sally Davis and her team that many of us come back, and keep coming back year after year.

Once upon a time, the Guild organised many activities for Hywelians. Many of the Committee, unlike those of us today, only worked part time, if at all. We are very fortunate indeed that Sally arranges functions just for us — coffee mornings, cocktail parties and so on — and warmly invites us to numerous wonderful concerts and musicals (I fell in love with Toto at this year's Wizard of Oz!) which enable us to keep going as a Guild. I do so hope we will continue to meet up and down the country and - as we are all so busy - let's put the date for the next Summer Lunch in our diaries now! It will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

I hope to see many of you there.

With best wishes

*Sue Rayner*

## WHO'S WHO IN 2020

### HYWELIAN GUILD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

*The magazine is now also produced in an online version accessible to all, so we have not given private addresses and telephone numbers. If you wish to contact the Guild, please do so via Hannah Roberts at School.*

#### PRINCIPAL AND GUILD PRESIDENT

Mrs Sally Davis, Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff

Tel: 029 2056 2019

#### DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mrs Natalie Chyba,

*Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School*

Mrs Judith Ashill

*Deputy Principal and Head of Prep School*

#### EXTRAORDINARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

MISS J TURNER

MRS J FITZ

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Ena Davies (née Evans)

Miss Margaret Evans

Mrs Nicola Davies (née Salter)

#### SECRETARY

Mrs Sue Rayner (née Davies)

#### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mrs Frances Smallcombe (née Gray)

#### TREASURER

Mrs Saskia Russell (née Blair)

#### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ms Kerry McFarland

#### AUDITOR

Mrs Julia Evans (née Martin)

#### LIAISON OFFICER

Mrs Julia Baker

#### MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs Lyn Owen (née Hawkins)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Mrs Joyce Shields (née Bingham)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms Kay Powell

Mrs Helen Graham (née Moger)

Mrs Catherine Coulson (née Johnson)

Mrs Anne Hayward (née Bates)

Mrs Calan McGreevy (née Davies)

Mrs Sheila McFarland (née Hamley)

Mrs Janet Sully

**HYWELIAN/SCHOOL LIAISON**

Hannah Roberts

*hywelians@how.gdst.net*

**BRANCH SECRETARIES**

**LONDON**

Diana Paul

**BRIDGEND**

Dr Pat Parry (née Lennox)

**SOUTHERN**

Vacant

**Scottish**

Mrs Caroline Robison (née McLean)

**THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN**

Dr Elan Preston-Whyte (née Jones)

**WEST WALES**

Mrs Catherine Coulson (née Johnson)

**AUSTRALIA**

Mrs Christine Atkinson (née Treeby)

*Officers and Branch Secretaries serve in a voluntary capacity, with appointment approved at the AGM. There is always a welcome to anyone wishing to serve on the Committee: please contact the Secretary for further details*



## Branch Reports

### WEST WALES BRANCH

West Wales Branch met twice during 2019; our Spring gathering was hosted by Judith McCloy (née Llewellyn, 1967 -74) at her holiday apartment overlooking Caswell Bay - a fabulous location affording stunning views over the beach, enjoyed by all eleven who attended! Our Autumn meeting was hosted by Sian Steele (née Pierce, 1956 -63) at her home in Pennard - ten members were present, including two first time attendees; Anne Ponisch (née Lloyd-Thomas, 1962-67) who travelled from Tenby and Hazel Lewis (née Mathias, 1961-63) who now lives in Swansea.

We were saddened to hear of the passing on September 9th of Hazel James (née Jones, 1939 -47) who would have celebrated her 90th birthday in November. One of the Branch's founder members, she was a regular attendee at our meetings and had hosted our meetings on several occasions in the lounge of the retirement complex where she latterly lived. Hazel trained as a teacher and worked in Cardiff teaching children with special needs; she would regularly take a group of them up to HSL to use the facilities. She was a founding member of The Singleton Singers and served as the choir's accompanist for many years. Hazel was a gifted embroiderer whose talents were put to good use at Walsingham + St Gabriel's Church, Swansea, where her funeral (attended by our Branch Secretary) was held. Jane Clayton (née Chubb, 1964 -71) would have been singing at the service with the Singleton Singers had she not been suffering from a heavy cold.

Gwyneth Smith (née Hopkins, 1959 -66) has kindly offered to host our Spring 2020 meeting at her home in Llandeilo, date to be confirmed. If you wish to join us please contact me by email (please note the change of email address):

*Catherine Coulson*

### BRIDGEND BRANCH

We had our usual Summer Evening meal in Cottrell Park Golf Club in July. We were 15 on this occasion, and we were blessed with a lovely sunny evening. We learnt that Margaret Evans, previous Chair of the Branch, had

moved from Pencoed to a care home in Porthcawl. She had been a regular member of our group for many years.

In November we had our usual Advent Service in Holy Cross Church Cowbridge, led by the new Curate Mr Ian Yemm. He spoke well of the meaning of Advent to the Howell's students and suggested they chat to us Hywelians after the Service. The Christmas tree festival was being held during that week and the girls were asked to count the trees- there were over 50. It was lovely to see so many girls from Year 7 filling one side of the church. One of the girls, Genevieve, read the poem 'A Child's Christmas' by Marjorie L C Pickthall — and read it beautifully. Following the service we Hywelians enjoyed a Christmas lunch in The Cellar in The Bear Hotel. Nineteen attended including five members of staff from School. Sally Davis was unable to attend this year, but Hannah Roberts kept us informed of activities in the school.

We have recently heard with sadness that Eunice Davies died recently— she had been a branch member for many years.

We hope to hold the same two meetings next year- dates to be arranged.

*Pat Parry*

### **SCOTTISH BRANCH**

Sadly, the Scottish branch was unable to hold a meeting this year, despite trying at least two different dates. The proposed date for our 2020 meeting is Monday 8th June. This will be at our usual venue, The Parklands Hotel, Perth. Both date and venue can be changed, if members notify me in good time (my email address is below)

*Caroline Robison (née McLean)*

### **THAMES AND CHILTERN BRANCH**

Ten members of the previous Thames Valley and Chilterns Old Hywelian branch (covering Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire) met again for lunch at Waterstones Bookshop in Piccadilly in mid-May. The two previous lunches in its top floor restaurant had been so successful that we had decided to continue to hold our reunion at the same venue. London is accessible for all of us by train or bus and a day out in 'Town ' gives everyone the opportunity to combine lunch with other activities! Those attending were: Margaret

Dart (Carston: 1964); Ann Lawrence (Pride: 1957); Diana Summersgill (Richards: 1952); Val Jones (Barclay: 1956); Jacqui Holder (Moore: 1953); Christine Palmer (Ruddock: 1957); Elan Preston-Whyte (Jones: 1955); Joy Moreland-Green (Rowlands : 1955); Jane Howard Griffiths (Howard: 1970), and Freda Cook (Parry: 1955). It was agreed that next year's lunch would again be in May and would probably be at Waterstones once more. If there are any other Hywelians who would like to join us then we would be delighted to see you.

My husband and I are moving from Oxfordshire to Surrey soon but we shall still be within a stone's throw of the Thames. Although I shall be living in Surrey, I hope to retain my connection with the other counties.

*Elan Preston-Whyte*

## **LONDON BRANCH**

2019 has gone by very quickly. As ever, the London branch had its two regular events: tea at Drapers' Hall at the end of April, which is also our AGM, and a less formal lunch in early November. Unfortunately, Sally Davis was unable to attend either event but Sue Thomas, Chairman of Governors, was able to be with us in the spring and told us about the current state of the school. It is always a popular event and well attended.

In the week following the meeting at Drapers' Hall, we heard the sad news of the deaths of two of our members, Suzanne Hudson (Powell) and Anne Mogg (Smith). In the autumn I was glad to host a lunch in my flat in Suzanne's memory which was a good opportunity to share stories and school memories.

In December, we had lunch at the Baltic restaurant again and everyone agrees that the venue was good and the food delicious. We hope to hold next year's lunch here again. Hannah Roberts came from Cardiff and filled us in on recent school activities. We are, of course, always ready to greet new members; those loyal members who regularly come enjoy themselves and the level of sound from our conversation is pretty high!

*Diana Paul*

BACK IN 2015, Ann Cotton OBE (née Evans, a Hywelian) was voted the GDST Alumna of the Year for her tireless work to provide education for girls in countries where provision is sadly lacking, through the charity she founded, CAMFED. Here, Jilayne Rickards, a very successful garden designer, tells us how four years later, the CAMFED garden at the Chelsea Flower Show came into being.

## THE CAMFED GARDEN AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2019

I HAVE BEEN A PRACTISING GARDEN DESIGNER for nearly 20 years, and have reached a stage in my career where I want to give something positive back to the world using my design skills. My school friend from Cornwall works in international development, and introduced me to the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), a fantastic charity that supports girls in rural Africa to stay in school - empowering girls and breaking the cycle of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. The charity was founded by Ann Cotton in 1993, with the first base being in Zimbabwe.

The CAMFED garden, Giving Girls a Space to Grow in Africa, reflects CAMFED's commitment to educating girls and young women in rural Africa, and the positive effects this has on their lives, families and communities. This is a vibrant and positive garden, that shows the spirit and optimism of young women who flourish even under the most difficult of circumstances, and through education go on to lift their communities out of poverty. These young women then have access to the same everyday choices that we take for granted such as who to marry, when (or if) have children

and how many.

Chelsea Flower Show is the premier flower show in the world and is therefore a global platform and extremely strong marketing opportunity. Strong competition for media and public attention is high, so I needed to find a way of making CAMFED stand out from all the other gardens. Once we had drilled down CAMFED's core message of keeping girls in education, I decided to base the garden on real life stories, to make it truthful and bold and to make it colourful and eye catching. I also used big, bold and pretty unusual plants too, some of which had not been seen at Chelsea before.

An outdoor classroom area was coupled with edible plants that would typically be grown in Zimbabwe, both by school communities and CAMFED graduates who run thriving agricultural businesses. I used iconic red soil and boulders to give a sense of place, with the boundaries and classroom construction methods true to a school I visited in Zimbabwe. I filled the garden with colourful yet typical accessories such as brightly coloured oil drums, colourful kanga gowns, musical instruments, and the original children's artwork set the scene within the classroom.

The planting was to be bold and exuberant with unusual plants, however the majority of these plants are not grown in the UK or Europe, so sourcing them was going to be hard. We instigated a very good relationship with the Eden Project, who agreed to grow these plants for us and also to take the garden as an exhibit after the show, thereby giving it sustainable legacy. It is now open to the public in the Med Biome and with a million people visiting Eden every year, the garden lives on telling the CAMFED story.

To show the more progressive side of Africa and to give it a science angle too, I included a water-efficient and sustainable growing bed. This bed uses a growing technique and water-efficient irrigation system, taught in rural Zimbabwe. Bio-fortified crops were used that help with nutrition in Africa and are widely grown there, and solar energy was also showcased with the use of a panel and solar pump. The combination of the science elements and how this can effect real change was very exciting as was showcasing so many unusual plants for the public to question us about.

To keep the theme truthful to life in Zimbabwe, I tried to use as many reclaimed items as possible – eg the oil drums were not wanted so we got them for free, bashed them up a bit and painted them. The rocks and solar kit were generously donated and we sourced many items from charity shops, markets, skips, auctions and EBay. Our garden

was easily the cheapest within our category at Chelsea this year! This reflects how people living in Zimbabwe resourcefully reuse every day items and encompasses a sustainability approach to gardening because they have to.

Media coverage for this hugely popular garden was immense, with the coveted BBC prime time slot of eight minutes being dedicated to the CAMFED garden. Press and VIPs were all over it throughout the week too and we had an interested party of MPs visit along with DEFRA. An area not much known about to the public is the corporate events that go on after the show is closed, and CAMFED did very well in attracting new potential donors along with renewing existing relationships.

There are so many real life and true stories used for the inspiration of this garden, and the goodwill shown by our donors and friends came through into the fabric of the garden which resulted in the public engaging with the garden very positively – it won the People's Choice Award. And of course, a Gold Medal!

If you are interested in finding out about the incredible work CAMFED does, or wish to support them, then please do take a look at:

[www.camfed.org](http://www.camfed.org)

**JILAYNE RICKARDS MSGD**

*[see overleaf for some stunning photographs of the garden, taken by Simon Bourne]*



*The CAMFED garden*  
*RHS Chelsea Flower Show*  
*2019*





*“The planting was  
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## Who, what and where

We are always thrilled and impressed with the sort of activities and careers of Hywelians post School. Below are some of the things you have told us about yourselves this year.

**Patricia Anderson**, (née Westwood, 1979-1986), updates us on her family business:

‘After completing my Geography degree at Exeter, I went on to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor in London with Jones Lang Wootton. I met my Kiwi husband in London and we spent the next 20 years living and working in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Qatar and Dubai. During that time we also developed a vineyard in Nelson, on the South Island of New Zealand, supplying grapes to local wineries. In 2016, we finally moved with our two teenage children to live and work on the vineyard, and we launched our own label, Flaxmore Vineyards, in 2018. If anyone is passing through the area, we’d love you to drop into our cellar door to sample our Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Rosé! ‘

*For more information, Flaxmore’s website address is:*

*[www.flaxmore.co.nz](http://www.flaxmore.co.nz).*

**Claire Jenkyn** left Howell's six years ago after attending the school for 14 years; she says she really feels a Hywelian to her core! Here is her update:

‘This year has been an interesting one so far. I have been working as a Physiotherapist at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in the Oncology and Neuro-Rehabilitation Services. Working so closely with children and families. I have simultaneously created and led a voluntary project, ‘*My Brain, My Journey*’ inspired by being personally impacted by children and young people with brain injuries. The ‘*My Brain: My Journey*’ Exhibition, which will be held at The Whitworth Art Gallery, aims to showcase the artistic talent of children and young people who have sustained life-changing brain injuries. Through the support of a local artist and volunteers, children and young people will create individual and collaborative artwork that explores their journey through rehabilitation. The exhibition gives a platform to these



inspirational children and young people and provides them with the tools to explore, create and express their experiences. '*My Brain: My Journey*' celebrates the achievements and bravery of these children and young people and shows that through adversity comes empowerment.'

Claire goes on to say:

'I have now stepped away from Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and have applied to study Medicine, with the great help of Mrs Wilks, as UCAS feels a little daunting in your twenties! Fingers crossed!'

*[We wish Claire every success in her new career – Ed]*

**Jane Griffiths** (née Howard), left school in 1970. She says:

'Last year we experienced the sad loss of our son Timothy from a bilateral pulmonary embolism at the age of 37. Fortuitously I had just retired from twenty-five years' service at Emmbrook Court (Retirement Security Ltd), so I had time and space to deal with this tragic event. I don't think I will return to regular paid work, but I keep occupied with aerobics, Bible Study Group (I often think of Deaconess Allen!), Messy Church, Reading Association for the Blind

social club, and Expert Patient - and seeing our four granddaughters, including Aurelia Nora Joan, who joined the family in April.'

**Sarah L Stevens** attended HSL 1991 to 1998. She says:

'On 5th April this year I married Christina Conradt in Congleton, Cheshire.

I've also just returned from London after having the honour of being the Torchbearer at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Eleven shipmates and I represented the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, *RFA Mounts Bay*. The ship was first on scene at the Abaco Islands following Hurricane Dorian, the strongest hurricane on record to hit the Bahamas.'



**Maria McCarthy** (HSL, 1974-1981) is still working as a journalist. She was nominated for Newspress Automotive Consumer Journalist of the Year 2019 and Guild of Motor-ing Writers/IAM RoadSmart Road

Safety Journalist of the Year 2019. She's also been teaching workshops on getting your book published at The Poetry Cafe, London. Maria has now lived in Sidmouth, Devon for 12 years - it's a beautiful, peaceful seaside resort and she feels moving there was one of the best decisions she ever made. Maria enjoys walking,



swimming ('it was the pool at Howell's that got me into swimming and I still love it 40 years on') and folk-dancing.

She covers the local folk dance festival for The Sidmouth Herald and 'did a Jane Austen-style dance workshop which was brilliant and so much better than dancing in the hall on wet games!'

*[Maria can be contacted via her website:*

*[www.mariamccarthy.co.uk](http://www.mariamccarthy.co.uk) ]*

### **Hannah's Big Plastic Pledge**

Olympic gold medal winning sailor and Howell's alumna, Hannah Mills (Class of 2006), has recently launched The Big Plastic Pledge.

The aim of the campaign is to reduce single plastic use in sport, having seen the amount of waste which was produced at the Rio Olympics. Hannah, who is aiming for another gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, is encouraging other sports stars to become part of The Big Plastic Pledge.

*[For more information on this hugely important campaign, go to: <https://bigplasticpledge.com> ]*

**Caroline Robison** (née Maclean) is the contact for the Scottish Branch of the Hywelians. She writes:

'My own personal piece of news is that I recently organised a charity disco, together with three local friends (not Hywelians). We are all widows, or have experienced severe illness and we chose our charities, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, and Prostate Cancer UK, accordingly. We had a wonderful evening and raised £2019.00 for each charity.'

*[Very well done, Caroline—Ed]*

This is a lovely photo of **Joan Dalton** (Mrs Douglas) who left school in 1936! She is the mother of **Diana Douglas** (Mrs Newsom) (left 1962), who says:

‘My mother Joan Douglas (née Dalton) was 100 years old on 13th November 2019, She attended Howell’s in the 1920s and 1930s when Miss Trotter was head-mistress. Several of her teachers were still there when I went to Howell’s in 1960! She can still recite poetry she learnt as homework from Miss Phillips.’

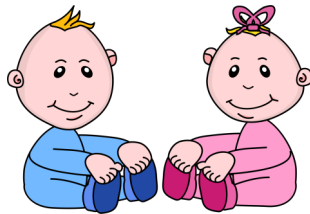


*Joan at her care home on her birthday, holding her card from the Queen.*

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Congratulations to **Jane King** (née Orpin, HSL 1966-1973) who says:

‘My daughter **Lindsey** (HSL 1994-2001) and husband Chris have a new son, Elijah Lorcan Jack, born 15 September 2019, a brother for Seren Esme, born 2 July 2016



*A note from the Editor: please do let us have your news updates—you’d be surprised how many friendships have been renewed following their appearance in the magazine. Remember that many of our readers may not use social media!*

The following profile is taken from a magazine article written about Vivienne Kelvin in a national US real estate magazine called “Real Producers”. We have left the text largely unedited, hence the American phraseology and spelling. What Vivienne has achieved serves to underline that Howell’s girls know what they want and how to get it!

### **In Pursuit of Opportunity: Making a Bold Move Across the World**

IT’S HARD TO IMAGINE what it’s like to tug along two kids in diapers on a flight across the world, but that’s exactly what Vivienne Kelvin and her husband did back in 2001. Vivienne’s husband had landed a great job in the San Francisco Bay Area and they decided to jump on the opportunity. They sold everything they owned and emigrated to the United States from the United Kingdom to reinvent themselves.

Vivienne’s life trajectory has taken quite a few unexpected turns over the years. She grew up in Wenvoe, a small Welsh village with a population of just 1,854. The village was once so isolated that it used to be cut off from the outside world by snow in harsh winters.

In 1989, Vivienne graduated from the University of Warwick with a Bachelor’s degree in biological sciences, with an emphasis in medical microbiology and bacterial genetics. But her graduation only brought about a strong disillusion-

ment and confusion when the reality hit home: she wasn’t actually passionate about biology.

That disillusionment led her to a job managing a factory production line in Grimsby, a fishing town in the UK. Fresh out of college, Vivienne was managing a team of people her mother’s age in the factory. The experience helped her get street smart fast and tune into the realities of the working world. She then worked a number of different jobs before deciding to move across the world with her long-time partner, Myles. At that point, she became “the black sheep that left and found the big world.”

### Real Estate Career Bloom

*“I like to be 100% ethical in my business because at the end of the day, I want people to have a wonderful experience working with me. And on top of that, I want them to be my clients for life. Most real estate agents don’t realize that 80% of future business comes from past transactions.”*

After arriving in the US, Vivienne

decided to go back to college and get an associate's degree in interior design. She subsequently opened up her own staging business and stored everything in her own garage to keep costs down. It was broker Tom Thompson who encouraged her to get into real estate.

Most people take years to build up their real estate business, but Vivienne hit the ground running. After getting her real estate license in March 2012, she managed to close her first deal in May. Her lead broker had gone on a trip to China and she was left to figure everything out on her own. Although incredibly stressful, it allowed Vivienne to dive into deep waters from the get-go and get acquainted with the process. But she was carving out her own path in the industry right from the start.

Vivienne is a huge proponent of using video marketing to attract clients to her listings. She uses these videos to both showcase the property itself and sell people on the area where the house is located. According to Vivienne, these videos have been a great differentiator that sets her apart from other agents in the Bay Area. She's had many people watch her videos and request to work with her. To this day there aren't many agents out there using video effectively.

In addition, Vivienne draws on her interior design experience to improve

the interior quality of her listings. This typically results in cosmetic upgrades, like a new vanity or freshly tiled floor, which can have a profound effect on how the listing is received by potential buyers. Now she's amassed a qualified team of contractors to take care of any work she needs to make her listings really pop.

Vivienne is now the broker/owner of Realty World Ascend and has seen continual growth year-over-year since the beginning. One aspect of real estate that she finds particularly intriguing is the legal side. She says that there's an interesting parallel between the structure of law and the science of biology. She'll typically disclose all of the nitty-gritty details with her clients even when her colleagues tell her that it's excessive and unnecessary.

#### The Importance of Goal Setting and Positivity

*"Since I've been writing goals, I've been amazed by what I've achieved – not only in my business but also in my personal life."*

Vivienne is a strict goal-setter. The goals she sets encompass all of the most important facets of life including personal, business, financial, family, and spiritual. Her goals are then broken down further by week, month, and

year, and at the end of each year, Vivienne will reflect on everything that she's been able to accomplish. The practice helps her stay motivated and continue to reach toward new heights. Establishing this as a consistent routine has been instrumental to her real estate success.

But to Vivienne, it's her focus on health and positivity that's had the most profound effect on her business.

*"Health is extremely important and a healthy body is a healthy business."* Her positivity has been fueled (sic) in part by a love of running that began in her 40s, and now she makes it a point to get out and move in some capacity every day. And since Vivienne can "talk the hind legs off a donkey," she's been able to land a few referrals from people she met along her running route. This positivity then extends out into gratitude. She takes the time to send out personal notes every month and stop by her clients randomly to give them pop-by gifts for helping her grow her business.

*"Any chance I have to get face-to-face contact with my clients, I take advantage of that. All of these things are additional layers that enhance my relationships with everyone that I work with."*

It's clear that Vivienne's unique approach to real estate has helped her

stand out in the crowded Bay Area market. She treats every client with the utmost respect, care, and passion, regardless of the price of the sale. Now she's looking to expand her team with other people who share a similar mindset and continue to develop her reach as an agent, and a person.

Viv's comment in a recent email says it all:

"This Howell's girl finally made it in the USA!"



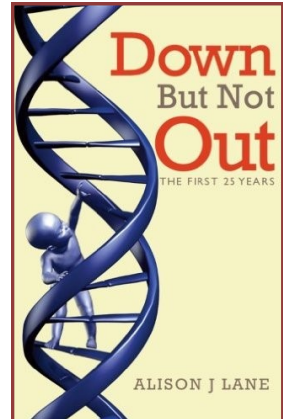
## Hywelians in print

We're always delighted to hear about Hywelians who have made it in the literary world. Here we outline some recent successes.

**Alison Lane** (née Morgan-Jones, sister of Wendy Morgan-Jones) left HSL in 1968, having been a boarder in Oaklands. Here she tells us how she came to write her book.

'Our first child was born with Down's syndrome—devastating, but we loved our baby. When he went to live in supported living, I decided I wanted to write a book about our experience in raising him and offering support to other parents. It was subsequently published under the title *Down But Not Out—the First 25 Years*.

'This book is the story of our family. Our son Alex, has Down's syndrome. It starts from our early years, the struggle my husband and I had to become pregnant, to Alex's birth, childhood and adulthood. I want you to get to know Alex, celebrate his achievements with him and share our family's distress at his setbacks. Throughout, I hope you feel and enjoy the love that our family have for him, a love made all the more poignant by Alex's simple, accepting and loving nature.'



For further details of Alison's inspiring book, visit her website:

<http://alisonjlane.co.uk>

Sapere Books has acquired a third novel from **Jane Cable** (née Simpson), this one a dual timeline set in Cornwall in 1815 and 2015. It will be published towards the end of 2020 or in early 2021. Jane's first book for Sapere, *Another You*, came out in June 2019 with *Endless Skies* to follow this year. Both are contemporary romances looking back to World War Two.

Jane is happy to give talks to groups about her writing career or to visit book clubs.

Guild Secretary Sue Rayner gives us a glimpse of the wonders of one of the world's most diverse and fascinating continents, and recalls how a corner of Argentina became a little bit of Wales in exile.

EARLY IN 2019, I was fortunate enough to enjoy a splendid holiday with our Editor Lyn and another friend to four countries in South America.

We began in Peru, where we visited Machu Picchu, went on to Chile (Santiago and Valparaiso, the Atacama Desert, the Lake District and Torres Del Paine National Park) and from there to Argentina, where we visited El Calafate and the Perito Moreno Glacier. The next stage of our trip was one of the most fascinating elements.

We flew across Patagonia from El Calafate to Trelew, where the first thing you see as you enter the terminal after leaving the plane is a red dragon and the word 'Croeso'. This is one of the towns founded by the Welsh emigrants who travelled to Patagonia on the *Mimosa* in 1865. We weren't staying in Trelew, but travelling by road to Puerto Madryn which is where the emigrants landed. In Puerto Madryn there are a lot of Welsh flags, a memorial to the emigrants on the sea front and delightful street names such as Abraham Mathews and Henry Libanus Jones. We were told that being descended from one of the

emigrants carries a cachet amongst the local population.

We wondered what these brave souls who had travelled so far from their native country thought of the land in which they had arrived. If they had dreamed of a land of milk and honey, they would have been cruelly disappointed, for Patagonia is a desert. There are enormous farms all over Patagonia: enormous because it takes ten hectares *per sheep* to be able to farm. In this province of Argentina, there is only one river, the Chibut, and over time people moved to Trelew and Gaiman on the river banks as they could then grow some crops on which to live. Some gave up on this part of Argentina and trekked across Patagonia to the foothills of the Andes, where at least they would find plenty of water, and founded the town of Trevelin, which is very Welsh to this day.

We had a free day – on St. David's Day! – so we caught the local bus from Puerto Madryn to Trelew, where we visited the Welsh Museum with artefacts which the emigrants brought with them, and a sculpture commemorating the centenary of the arrival of *Mimosa*. There is also a very fine dinosaur museum where



we were invited to watch a documentary about the biggest dinosaur on earth which had been found locally. We were assured that it had an English sound track, and were treated to an hour of Sir David Attenborough talking us through the discovery and retrieval of this dinosaur which he had been invited to observe! There is a huge replica of the animal outside the town. Then we caught another bus to Gaiman, and went to a tea shop called Ty

Gwyn where Lyn could make use of her Welsh to talk to some locals.

From Puerto Madryn, we travelled to Buenos Aires, the Iguazu waterfalls and Rio de Janeiro before flying home. It was an amazing trip and the Welsh interlude in the middle was quite surreal. It was also food for thought about people who leave their homelands and everything they know to try and make a life for themselves half a world away out of desperation to find work and make enough money to live on.



Clockwise from top:  
Welcome to Trelew; 100 years of  
settlement; street name; the biggest  
dinosaur of them all.

## From the Archives

Janet Sully, Howell's Chief Archivist, records the year's happenings in the archives.

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY in our weekly sessions again this year, mainly continuing with routine archives-type tasks and organising our new base in the 'Hub'. We are very grateful for the items donated by Hywelians themselves or family members. As far as school magazines are concerned, we have more than enough of these for all years *except* the 1960s and 1970s, which seem to be in short supply. We also have plenty of old hockey and lacrosse sticks! I still live in hope of receiving one of the brown suit jackets worn by termly boarders as part of their Sunday suits from 1960 to about 1980; we have now been donated one of the skirts. Photographs are also welcome as long as we have an indication on the back of the approximate date, the event (if relevant) and, if possible, the names of the girls or staff who feature on them.

During the summer we came across a most unexpected item, especially for what has been primarily a girls' school: a mid-nineteenth century sword in its

scabbard! When the archives were moved from Bryntaf, most of the artefacts were put into temporary storage in Cumberland Lodge, and when going through these we found the sword. We had never seen it before, but presumably it had been secreted somewhere on the top floor of Bryntaf. I hoped that it might have belonged to Viscount Tredegar, the second Chairman of the Governors, who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War. After all, we are lucky enough to have his campaign chest in school. I consulted the sword expert at Bonhams the auctioneers, who confirmed that it dates approximately from the relevant period, but unfortunately he thinks that it was an infantry rather than a cavalry officer's sword. Frustratingly, a label used to be attached to it but only the string and eyelet hole remain! If anyone has any ideas about the provenance of this sword, please let me know. I can be contacted on

*HOWArchive@how.gdst.net*

We became aware of two more

Hywelians who merit inclusion on the Wall of Fame: Dr Philippa Seligman (née Kaye), who was a pioneer in the field of family therapy, and the singer and harpist Rachel Ann Morgan OBE. You may remember that the criteria selected are:

- A Hywelian awarded an OBE or higher honour
- A pioneer in a particular field
- A winner of a medal in the Olympic Games.

If you know of any other Hywelians who qualify for a panel on the Wall, do please let us know.

Our display on Sport in the Museum (formerly the Board Room) at Howell's has come to an end and, for the time being, we have re-stored the previous chronological display. More changes are planned in the New Year, so if you come to school in the spring you may well see some differences! Visitors are always welcome by appointment.

*Janet Sully*



*Photographs (above and left) of the sword found in Bryntaf, which some believe to have belonged to the second Chair of Howell's Governors, Lord Tredegar*

## Howell's students turn up exam trumps—yet again!

Principal Sally Davis shares good news about students' successes at GCSE and A level in 2019.

Dear Hywelians

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Class of 2019 have matched the outstanding success of last year's cohort at A\* to A grades at A Level. 52% of the examinations sat achieved an A or A\* despite the fact that all students are now sitting the new, more challenging specifications. There was an increase in the A\* to B pass rate from 74% to 80%, in a large year group of 99 students.

A quarter of the year group achieved A\* to A grades in all the A Levels they sat: I am very proud of the results overall. The students have worked incredibly hard and their results are well deserved.

Our results for GCSE are also outstanding again this year. 53% of entries were at A\* (or equivalent) and 73% at A\* or A (or equivalent). 17% of students achieved all A\* (or equivalent) and 34% of students achieved A\* or A (or equivalent) in all the examinations they sat.

Special mention must be made of the Welsh Department where all 17 students who sat the examination achieved an A\*. In this cohort, 25 girls sat their full course ICT GCSE a year early last year and they all achieved an A\*.

Well done everyone!



Sally adds:

*I am delighted that the students' effort and determination has been rewarded with such super results. I know they would want me to thank their families and staff for all the support they have received.*



# Hub, Hub, Hooray!

IF YOU TRAVELLED INTO SCHOOL on the number 24 bus from the city centre, you will have walked many times up the lane that connects Palace Road to the school grounds. No doubt in your enthusiasm to get to your desk and start the academic day, you would have paid little attention to what was then a fairly nondescript building on the left hand side, which was the maintenance workshop.

A similar walk today would guarantee a surprise: what was once a dingy structure is now an airy, bright and inviting complex known as the Hub. It houses the School's archives department, providing storage and working space to those diligent volunteers who document and record Howell's history. There are meeting rooms and spaces for informal discussion.

Most importantly, there is also a comfortable coffee bar, where helpful staff provide hot and cold

drinks and a range of delicious cakes and pastries. It is the Hub that is of most interest to Hywelians, as that is where they can meet informally at regular intervals. These get-

togethers provide a chance to catch up with fellow Hywelians in between the more formal setting of the Summer Lunch.

For those who live outside Cardiff, it's

worth remembering that the city offers good shopping opportunities, a fascinating National Museum and several concert halls—an excellent

reason to combine a visit to the Hub with other activities!



*[Thanks to Sue Rayner  
for photos]*

*[Notification of Hywelian Hub days is  
usually sent out by Hannah Roberts  
by email—Ed]*

## Obituaries and *In Memoriam*

It is always sad to report the passing of Hywelians. Regret, though, is tempered with gratitude for lives well-lived and fond remembrance of friends and acquaintances.

Moir Louise Cummins is the daughter of **Moir Meiklejohn** (née Greenwood) who has passed away. Here, Louise acknowledges the contribution that Howell's made to her mother's life.

'Moir Greenwood attended Howell's School as a boarder in the 1930s, where she received an outstanding education both in sports and academia. With a very high IQ, she also held a Mensa certificate, of which she was very proud.

Moir trained to become a teacher at Bangor, North Wales and she thoroughly enjoyed her career in teaching.

In 1949 she married James Meiklejohn and had two children; Louise and Lyndsay, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

At the age of 97 she could still recite the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling by heart, along with many other poems.

She was also physically active which she put down to playing sports three times a day at Howell's.

Thank you Howell's for giving Moira a wonderful education from which the whole family has benefitted.'

*[Louise also mentions that she has donated a copy of the School Magazine dated July 1937 in memory of her mother. It will be kept in the School Archives—Ed]*

**Dr Lorna Maureen Tapper-Jones** died peacefully on 1 May 2019 at the Holme Tower hospice in Penarth.



Lorna left school in 1967 and spent her life as a dedicated GP mainly working at the surgery in Penylan.

Her father, Sydney Tapper-Jones, was very well-known in Cardiff as he was Town Clerk for many years and his name appeared on Public Notices everywhere.

**Hazel James** (née Jones), who lived in Sketty, died at the end of September aged around 90. She left School in 1947.

The following tribute is written by sister Kay (HSL 1959-66):

**Suzanne Hudson** (née Powell) passed away at the end of April. She attended Llandaff City Church in Wales Primary School, before gaining an 11+ Scholarship to Howell's. After studying Geography, Zoology and Physics at A Level, she read Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth where she gained a BSc. (Hons) and then an MSc. by research.

Her first job was as a Planner with Milton Keynes Development Corporation, working on the innovative strategic plan for the new City. She then joined the Structure Plan team in Coventry City Council.



Moving to Stratford-upon-Avon, she taught Geography and British Constitution at the Girls' Grammar School, and then obtained a Lectureship at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

Following a move to Hampshire with husband Keith, Suzanne lectured in FE Colleges, was a Social Sciences Tutor with the Open University, and became mother to Julian. She also found time to study part-time for an MA(Ed) at Southampton University.

Returning to full-time work in the late 1980s, she joined Hampshire's Planning Department, subsequently became Assistant Director of Hampshire Council of Community

Service (HCCS), and then Director of the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils until 2005.

In retirement, Suzanne developed a wide variety of interests and became an active Parish Councillor. She was Membership Secretary and Events Organiser for Hampshire Archives Trust until 2018.

Suzanne was a loyal Hywelian. For a number of years in the 1970s she set the Senior General Knowledge Prize paper - which she had won in her final year at School. Later on she started, and organised holidays for,



the Hywelian Guild Travel Club, including a memorable one to Seville in 2006, as part of the celebrations for the Centenary of the Guild.

Suzanne was a member of the London Branch of the Guild and kept in regular touch with her year group. Always kind, warm and positive, and with a stunning smile, Suzanne will be missed by all those who knew her.

*Guild Secretary Sue Rayner also remembers Suzanne:*

Suzanne and I had links which went back a long way, as Suzanne's father taught me in Primary School (Mr Powell was favourite teacher of my sister and me) and my mother taught Suzanne at Howell's. We were also Girl Guides together in Llandaff. I didn't see Suzanne for many years until the great trip she organised to Seville in search of Thomas Howell as part of the Guild's Centenary celebrations. There was a great 'Eureka!' moment in Seville Airport when Suzanne realised who I was: 40 years or so and a change of name to say nothing of looks had passed since we had last met. Having returned to Cardiff when I retired and met up with Suzanne when she came to stay with her sister Kay, I became in awe of her amazing memory which was very helpful

with some of the photos we have in the school archive. Suzanne was a great supporter of the Hywelian Guild in the south of England, London and Cardiff and we will miss her very much.

Janet Lucas wrote to say that her mother, **Mary Lucas**, died on October 15, 2019, aged 90, after a brief illness. Janet says:

'Mom attended Howell's for seven years from 1941 to 1948 and was a very proud Hywelian. She always looked forward to receiving the Hywelian Magazine and kept both the magazine and a copy of *A Legacy Fulfilled* next to her favourite reading chair! Our family emigrated to Canada in 1965; the last 32 years of her life were spent in Victoria, British Columbia.'

Susan Osmolska has notified the Guild that her mother, **Eunice Davies** (née Jones) had died. She was a pupil at the school during the Second World War. Eunice was an enthusiastic member of the Hywelian Guild and attended both Bridgend Branch and West Wales meetings of the Guild.



Finally, in a very late piece of news, we report the death of **Elaine Blatchford** (née Marshall, HSL 1951-59). Paula and Julia, Elaine's daughters, write:

'We are sad to report the death of our amazing mother on 3 January 2020, overwhelmed by her COPD, just a few weeks after the death of our father.

Howell's was a significant influence and preparation for her life as French teacher, mother, wife and excellent adventurer. She was Head Girl from 1958-59, and remained in contact with school friends throughout her life, as well as deriving great pleasure from Hywelian reunions.

She was a Queen's Guide and swam for Cardiff University whilst studying French there, where she was known as the Walking Dictionary. She began teaching in Essex and enthusiastically learnt to sail, taught by my father.

They married and continued to sail together for the next fifty years. The early years required great cheerfulness to cope with basic boats and toddlers on the muddy East Coast rivers; my mother rose to every challenge and made it fun.

They began to take us to France and Holland in a biggen catamaran and in

retirement they sailed further, and eventually took to sailing in the Mediterranean on *La Chatelaine* (of course) for less mud and more warmth.

Along the way, Mum taught French to many adults and children, served on various committees which really got something done, and made a real contribution to her local church and community.

In recent years, she and Dad supported one another through various health crises. Mum said that during the six weeks that Dad looked after her at home after her hip operation in September 2019, he did not grumble once and showed great patience. Mum looked after Dad in his last bedridden fortnight at home and to quote Dad, "was an absolute brick".

Our parents will be buried side by side, overlooking the river Crouch, where they first sailed together. They were dearly loved, and a tremendous influence on us both. We owe them a great deal. We are especially grateful that they gave us one another.

Thank you, Howell's, for your contribution.

*Paula Horton and Julia Cazalet*

## Reunion News

It's always good to hear about successful reunions—and we do encourage you to think about joining other Hywelians at the Summer Lunch, too.

ON SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2019, a number of Hywelians met up at the school for a very special reunion to celebrate 50 years since starting our education at Howell's in 1969. On arrival, after excitedly recognising and meeting old friends and chatting over coffee, we thoroughly enjoyed visiting old haunts, classrooms and former boarding houses which brought back many memories. We then enjoyed an aperitif in the Stone Hall before sitting down to a delicious meal in the Day

Room, (old Little Dining Room or LDR!) which had been beautifully decorated. It was a very happy occasion, full of laughter, looking at old photos and reminiscing. It was lovely to hear what everyone had been doing, the time passed all too quickly! We hope to see many of them, and others who weren't able to come this time, at future Hywelian events. Many thanks to the catering team and everyone involved who made the day such a success.



## Reminders

IF YOU WOULD LIKE a printed version of next year's Magazine by post, please remember to send Joyce Shields an A5-sized envelope (C5) carrying a LARGE stamp of the correct postage, by the end of September 2020. Joyce's address can be obtained from Hannah Roberts, Hywelian Liaison at School.

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IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY a Facebook user, you might like to consider joining the Hywelian Guild Facebook page. It's a lovely way to keep in touch (or even get in touch!) with school friends and other Hywelians.

Joyce Shields, our super-efficient and knowledgeable Membership Secretary would be delighted to give you further details of how to join.

The page is only open to Hywelians and is not publicly available.

Contact: *hywelians@how.gdst.net*

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## The Bronwen Jacques Trust

MRS BRONWEN JACQUES WAS one of the earliest Secretaries of the Hywelian Guild. When she died in 1975, she left her house near Gloucester to the Governors for the benefit of former pupils and ex-members of staff. The Governors decided to sell the house and, with the proceeds, created a Trust fund.

Half the money was given to the Cartref Homes in Cardiff with the proviso that two former pupils or ex-members of staff would have priority entry to one of the homes each year. The remaining money was invested and the resulting income is administered by a sub-group of the Hywelian Guild Committee, chaired by Mrs Davis.

The income is available to help any former pupil or ex-member of staff who may be in financial difficulty, whether or not a member of the Guild. The names of those assisted remain confidential within the sub-Committee.

*Hywelians wishing to apply should address their letter to Mrs Sally Davis.*

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