

THE OLD BLUE

Editorial

Old Blues Day was held for the second year in a row, and this year we were welcomed by the new Headmaster, John Franklin. The full text of his talk is included in the Old Blues Day report, and includes another mention to change at Christ's Hospital. It seems that CH is continually changing, and the CHA will also change, if it is what is wanted by its members.

This issue carries a questionnaire, (see page 16) which it is hoped will be completed by as many Old Blues as possible. A questionnaire a few years ago to establish what readers wanted from the Old Blue only received replies from 6.75% of the recipients, with Obituaries at top of the list for most wanted sections! This time the reply rate needs to be higher so that any changes contemplated can take into account the opinions of a large number of Old Blues from a wider spread of ages and interests.

Given that it will be 90 years from the end of World War One, we are fortunate to have another article from that industrious military historian, David Miller, concerning the War Memorial at Horsham. Many Horsham Old Blues will have seen but never contemplated the Memorials, and the article is fascinating.

We also have an interview with Baroness Deech, news on the two Young Old Blue explorers, Rob and James, and their trek from magnetic pole to magnetic pole, and of course, the regular articles on what Old Blues are up to these days.

Unusually we have included the Senior Grecian's oration, which will also be published in the Blue, but will give Old Blues a feel for the thoughts of the present generation of students.

For many Old Blues, more important than a visit to the Horsham site, as it is known, was a trip down memory lane to Hertford. Taking advantage of an exhibition at the Hertford Museum, Hertford Old Blues have arranged at least three visits to remind themselves what they left behind and to meet old friends. Eventually the Hertford site will dim in the memory of Old Blues, but at least future generations will be able to browse the magazine and get a feel of what the girls thought of the place.

Christ's Hospital has a lot of history, and although things change, it is comforting for those who visit the school, to realise that it still carries out the mission, for which it was established.

John Hopgood

Front cover:

Courtesy CH Museum.

The Christ's Hospital Association Survey

Why are we undertaking a survey?

The CHA exists to establish and enhance a continuing relationship between Christ's Hospital and the Old Blue community. The office provides a range of benefits and services for members and it is keen to gain feedback in order to obtain detailed ideas and suggestions for how we can improve. This survey will also act as a satisfaction survey to help us understand how well we are satisfying your requirements from the Association. The Association has now been established for over 3 years and we feel now is the time to reflect on what the Association provides and will need to provide for the future.

What does the survey contain?

The survey is split into several sections:

Communications – We want to establish what and about whom YOU want to read, in which communication channel, and to assess how well our communications are received.

CHA Services – We aim to discover your awareness of the breadth and usage of our current services as well as how well these services and the office in general is received

Events – This is a key area of the survey as we wish to expand our range of events open to Old Blues and would like to understand what is important to you and which future events would be of most interest to you.

We ask for some personal details from you which will allow us to analyse the results of the survey across different age and engagement levels. However if you would like to give your opinion anonymously this can be done by completing the survey without your personal details and sending the questionnaire back to us.

How do I complete the survey?

For those without access to the internet or email, the printed format can be pulled out and returned in the enclosed SAE. We would prefer the survey to be completed online (See Survey) because it is quicker and also automates the results saving significant resources from the CHA office. There will also be a link on the CHA website.

How will the results be communicated?

The aim is to analyse and publicise the results in the next Old Blue along with a report on what actions we intend to take.

If you have any questions please contact the CHA Manager, Michelle Sutcliffe, on manager@chassociation.org or 01403 246618.

in this edition...

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CHA News

An Update on the Association

The Christ's Hospital Association has made great progress against the objectives it set itself last year, as well as continuing with the important traditions such as Old Blues Day and the Old Blue Publications. The last School year has seen:

The CHA 'Year Of' Reunions by decade being a large focus with 113 Old Blues, along with 56 of their guests, who left 10, 30, and 40 years ago returning to catch up with peers and learn about the current Christ's Hospital and the challenges it faces in the 20th century.

Old Blues Day 2008 welcomed back over 300 Old Blues and guests of all ages to Housey, this year with the addition (for those lucky ones who got a ticket) of a trip down 'The Tube'.

The Old Blue magazine published two editions and continues to generate many articles and enthusiasm from the Old Blue community.

The success of the Old Blue Carol Concert was illustrated with its third year of strong attendance and fantastic participation from the audience, Old Blue choir and musicians.

The Careers Network undertook a refresh which generated over 100 new contacts for the service and continues to be used by both the School and Old Blue community.

The monthly e-newsletter community has grown to over 3,000 recipients a month.

The OB Walking & Countryside Club was reformed and a section for Old Blues who reside in France is in the process of being launched.

The CHA website continues to be a focal point for imparting forthcoming events and information and has added the facility this year of online booking, and photograph galleries supplied by the CHA Office and Old Blues. The online CHA Shop has also seen the addition of the CHA Commission Scheme – which allows Old Blues to buy online at their usual online retailers with a percentage of the profits coming back into the CHA.

Our objectives for the year ahead all centre around the continuation of engaging with the full spectrum of Old Blues:

A survey of CHA members to canvass views on the CHA and its achievements and to help shape how it looks in the future. This survey is contained within this edition of the Old Blue between pages 16 and 17 – complete this online (www.eu-survey.com/CHA) or return this hard copy and help inform the Association on its future activities and communications.

To work with the Development function to support the introduction of a new database into the department to increase the quality of information about Old Blues.

To continue with the refreshment of the Careers Network in order to increase its use and promotion of its successes.

Continuation of the successful 'Year Of' decade reunions.

The introduction of new themed alumni events by interest group (e.g Music).

To increase the range of CHA Merchandise, especially to reflect the requirements of the female and younger Old Blue factions.

To produce more cohesive marketing across CHA and its sections.

To re-launch the CHA club room to encourage more Old Blues back to the campus.

We continue to bring together the expertise of the CHA Office and a CHA Board, chaired by **Steve Webb (Col A 60-69)**, and comprised of 9 other Board members to achieve these objectives.

Founder's Day Addresses

Only a Few Copies Left

Annually on Founder's Day, MissWest, Headmistress at Hertford 1942-1972, retold the story of the Foundation of Christ's Hospital, revising the tale from year to year. To mark her Memorial Service at CH, Horsham in September 2007 a group of Old Blues working together produced a single volume containing these addresses. This is still available for sale (£6 including p&p) from Kerren Simmonds, 6 Eastern Close, East Preston, Littlehampton, West Sussex BNH16 1BS. Cheques payable to K Simmonds (CH). Profits will go towards a memorial fund to be launched in Miss West's name.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL AND CH ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue	Details
Monday 1st September 2008, 12.30pm for 1.00pm	West Sussex Old Blues Lunch	The Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DN	Meet in the Cowdray Room, please contact Susan Howell Evans on westsussex@chassociation.org for further details.
Thursday 11th September 2008	Peele B Annual Luncheon	Café Rouge, 2 Lancer Square, Kensington Church Street, London W8 4EH	Cost iro £30-35, partners welcome. If you would like to attend contact Ken Mansell, email ken.mansell@btinternet.com or tel 0208 6685075
Saturday 13th September 2008	Old Blues Rugby Club First League Game & Opening of the 135th Anniv. Season Party	Old Blues Rugby, Dornan Fields, Arthur Road, Motspur Park, nr New Malden, Surrey KT3 6LX	Contact Giles Simons, Secretary Old Blues RFC, direct line 020 7786 6954, mobile 07768373897, email gilessimons@firthrossmartin.com
Tuesday 16th September 2008, please arrive at 12.30pm	Herts & Beds Monthly Lunch	Brookmans Park Golf Club (off the A1000, 3 miles north of Potters Bar)	Please contact hbob@chassociation.org, tel 01582 712097, for further details or to book your place
Saturday 20th September 2008	1st XV Match and the CH late Summer Ball	Christ's Hospital	Contact Sean Davey for further details, email sd@christs-hospital.org.uk
Monday 22nd September 2008	Old Blues Golfing Society Autumn Meeting	Cowdray Park Golf Club, Midhurst	Please see the Old Blues Golfing Society Page on the CHA website for more details and to download an entry form or contact rosemary.adkins@btinternet.com
Sunday 28th September 2008, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm	Bath and West Old Blues Annual Lunch	Wells Cathedral School by kind permission of the Head, Elizabeth Cairncross (Staff 86-00)	Please contact David Farrar, tel 01934 862226 or email d.farrar@btconnect.com for further details
Saturday 4th October 2008, 12 noon until 4.00 pm	Northwest Old Blues Annual Luncheon	Golden Pheasant, Plumley	Friends and spouses welcome, we will require a quorum of 20 by the 27th September for this event. For more details or to book contact Andrew Howgego on 0161 440 7694 or see the NorthWest Old Blues section page
Monday 6th October 2008, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm	West Sussex Old Blues Lunch	The Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DN	Meet in the Cowdray Room, please contact Susan Howell Evans, email westsussex@chassociation.org for further details.
Wednesday 8th October 2008	Middleton Reunion	Christ's Hospital	Please contact the CHA Office for further details
Thursday 9th October 2008	Founders Day Dinner 2008	Merchant Taylors' Hall, London	Chairman of the Dinner will be Kathleen Duncan (née Dale) House 3 1956-1965 and the Responder will be the conductor Charles Hazlewood Barnes B/Lamb B/Maine A 1978-1985. The Stewards are keen to encourage more young Old Blues to attend the dinner and in support of this are offering discounted tickets to those under 28 years of age. The ticket price is 'all inclusive', covering pre dinner drinks, table wines and port with coffee. To book this event contact Wendy Killner at the CHA Office on 01403 247665 or via email: administrator@chassociation.org or download the application form from the CHA website www.chassociation.org
Wednesday 11th October 2008	Old Blues Rugby Club Re-union Lunch	Old Blues Rugby, Dornan Fields, Arthur Road, Motspur Park, nr New Malden, Surrey KT3 6LX	Contact Giles Simons, Secretary Old Blues RFC, direct line 020 7786 6954, mobile 07768373897, email gilessimons@firthrossmartin.com
Saturday 18th October 2008, please arrive at 12.30pm	Herts & Beds Monthly Lunch	'The Boot' at Sarratt (about 5 miles north of Watford)	Please contact hbob@chassociation.org, tel 01582 712097, for further details or to book your place
Saturday 24th October 2008, 7pm	CHA East Midlands Section Founder's Day Dinner	Quorn Grange, 3 miles south of Loughborough	The Founder's Day Dinner will again be held at Quorn Grange, 3 miles south of Loughborough. Our Chairman this year will be Christopher Laurence (La A 39-47). An invitation will follow nearer the time. Please contact Wyn Parry on wyn45.parry@talktalk.net for further details
Saturday 25th October 2008, 12.30 for 1.00pm	Caledonian Society of Blues Founder's Day Lunch	The Queen's Hotel, Perth	Please see the Caledonian Society of Blues Section page on the CHA website for further details
Saturday 25th October 2008	Oxfordshire Section Founder's Day Dinner	New College Oxford	Guest speaker will be the New College Warden, Alan Ryan (La A 50-59). Please see the Oxfordshire Section page on the CHA website for further details
Friday 31st October 2008	Queensland Old Blues Founder's Day Dinner	Contact Geoff Hines for details	Open invitation to any Old Blues travelling in Australia around this time to join the Queensland Old Blues at their annual Founders Day Dinner. Please contact geoff@hmcgroup.net.au for further details
Monday 3rd November 2008, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm	West Sussex Old Blues Lunch	The Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DN	Meet in the Cowdray Room, please contact Susan Howell Evans, email westsussex@chassociation.org for further details
Tuesday 11th November 2008	WW1 Event	Christ's Hospital	More information on this event will be on the CHA website shortly
Tuesday 18th November 2008, please arrive at 12.30pm	Herts & Beds Monthly Lunch	Brookmans Park Golf Club (off the A1000, 3 miles north of Potters Bar)	Please contact hbob@chassociation.org, tel 01582 712097, for further details or to book your place
Monday 1st December 2008, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm	West Sussex Old Blues Lunch	The Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DN	Meet in the Cowdray Room, please contact Susan Howell Evans, email westsussex@chassociation.org for further details
Wednesday 10th December 2008	CHA Annual Carol Concert	St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London	More information on this event will be on the CHA website shortly
Saturday 13th December 2008, please arrive at 12.30pm	Herts & Beds Monthly Lunch	'The Boot' at Sarratt (about 5 miles north of Watford)	Please contact hbob@chassociation.org, tel 01582 712097, for further details or to book your place

The Careers Network

"Thank You" to all those who offered help with the Careers Network.

The CHA would like to say a big thank you for the good response to the Careers Network Form we sent out within the last Old Blue publication.

You may be wondering what has been happening since then. Central to making the Careers Service as efficient as possible is the CHA database, which is essential for putting both Old Blues and Pupils in touch with those who have offered help. Therefore much work has been going on to get all the 100+ responses we received from the Old Blue community onto this database.

The large numbers of help represented a very wide range of different career paths, which span from the unusual, such as the Director of Agronomist (the science of growing crops) to many positions within the Finance and Law sectors as well as a District Judge, Clergyman and

creatively, we now have an Opera singer on the database as well as some musicians. This network of experience and contacts offers pupils and the Old Blue community a great resource to tap into.

Since this refresh we have helped over 30 Grecians and Old Blues use this Careers Service for work experience, career advice and finding employment. I very much hope that the use of this service will keep growing to become a vital part of our service to Old Blues and current pupils.

Again, many thanks to all the Old Blues who support this service, which will make such a difference to the current and former pupil's of Christ's Hospital.

Should you wish to use the Careers Network service or have any queries on this, please contact the CHA Office on 01403 247665 or administrator@chassociation.org.

Founder's Day Dinner 2008 Merchant Taylors' Hall, London

Thursday 9th October 2008

Chairman of the Dinner will be Kathleen Duncan (née Dale) House 3 1956-1965 and the Responder will be the conductor Charles Hazlewood Barnes B/Lamb B/Maine A 1978-1985.

The Stewards are keen to encourage more young Old Blues to attend the dinner and in support of this are offering discounted tickets to those under 28 years of age.

The ticket price is 'all inclusive', covering pre dinner drinks, table wines and port with coffee.

The seating capacity of Merchant Taylors' Hall makes it possible for diners to bring a guest should they wish to do so. In the event of over-subscription priority will be given to eligible diners.

Application forms were sent in July to those that have attended in recent years. If you have not received an application form or would like to attend this event please contact Wendy Killner on 01403 247665 or email: administrator@chassociation.org or download the application form from the CHA website: www.chassociation.org.

Payment needs to be in the form of a cheque. Cheques will be presented to the bank on receipt and this should be taken as confirmation that you have been allocated a ticket.

For further information on the event itself please contact Roger Eades, Hon Sec to the Stewards of Founder's Day, 4 Squirrel Wood, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6PE. Email: rogereades@clara.co.uk

New Committee Formed

The meeting of the Court of Governors at Mansion House on 12th December 2007 approved and welcomed a proposal to form an ad hoc group of Governors to provide a two-way channel of communication between the Court and the Council of Almoners. The group is to be called "The Senate of the Court of Governors". It consists of ten elected members who will maintain a wide ranging contact with fellow Governors in order to gather and collate comment on any matter of interest and concern raised by the Council or by Governors themselves. The Senate is not intended to be a standing committee and will have no executive powers. The aim is to improve communication and involvement of the Court for the ultimate benefit of Christ's Hospital.



Above: *Members of the Senate of the Court of Governors (missing from the photograph are Amanda Herries, Patricia Stockton and Declan Salter).*

Alex Baskerville

Senior Grecian's Oration 2008

My Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Sheriffs, Aldermen, Chief Commoner, Almoners & Members of the School Governing Body, Governors, Livery guests, ladies & gentlemen and fellow pupils; it is a great honour to welcome you all to Christ's Hospital this Speech Day.

For those visiting Christ's Hospital today, if you journeyed by car, it is very likely that you travelled along the A23. Although this road is less than inspiring most of the time, I have nonetheless developed a love-hate relationship with an inauspicious bridge that stands on it. As a second former I used to view this bridge as the literal division between home and school life. When I was younger, it only inspired pleasant feelings in one direction, northbound; however, over the years it has become a symbol of comfort. My feelings when travelling under that bridge for the last time will be synonymous with the first. I will again be entering an unknown world, unsure whether I'm ready for it. But the difference is that Christ's Hospital equips pupils to deal with the unknown, giving one the confidence and grounding to embrace what is beyond the bridge. At this point I should indicate that the topic of bridge building is a good theme for this speech as it encompasses a lot of what I have to say and symbolises the educational role of this remarkable school.

I've always been a strong believer in fate and karma; therefore I think that the bridges we build now will have direct consequences and thus shape us as people. In 2005, thanks to Christ's Hospital, I spent two demanding and exhausting weeks in a Romanian Orphanage for handicapped children. On arrival at the Orphanage I was totally overwhelmed, but what was initially daunting became one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Those two weeks in Romania summarise the seven years I've been at CH. To begin with it is frightening, foreign and challenging. Then as time progresses a feeling of security develops as your friendships deepen and superficial confidence increases in proportion to your status at marching, from being hidden in the 2nd rank as a hapless second former to the ultimate honour of calling! And as your last term looms, you experience a confusing mixture of sadness for the imminent loss of a cherished lifestyle and, simultaneously, the sense of personal accomplishment to have made it through.

My Lord Mayor, your charitable theme for this year is 'investing in healthy lives, healthy vision, and healthy futures'. Christ's Hospital provides life changing opportunities and we are forever thankful for the City of London's investment in our healthy futures.

If it's not questions about the uniform, what I am most frequently asked is, 'why' I was made Senior Grecian. (I like to think this is general fascination rather than any suspicion of incapability on my part!). Nonetheless, I've never found a satisfactory answer to this question. It seems impossible simply to define the role. Oscar, my predecessor, said it was up to me to define the job and I will never forget the phrase; 'be creative'. Regardless, I had heard that the title also came with unspoken privileges some of which I would like to bring to the Lord Mayor's attention, direct from the endless CH grapevine. It has been said that I am the only pupil entitled to ride a white horse to and from lessons – it is to the disappointment of my friends that I have not yet put this into practice. I am also allowed to herd sheep in the City of London and grow a beard (a privilege which, thankfully, I have struggled to fulfill!)... My personal favourite is the myth that, if I were to marry and fall pregnant, I would be entitled to the Senior Master's House. So it seems my successor has much to look forward to in terms of fantasy: however, the prosaic reality may not quite match such lofty expectations!

In spite of this, the title will always remain shrouded in mystery, a concept the Housey pupil embraces because of the long history of our institution. Just as my link with a bridge on the A23 is mysterious, so, it seems, are the shared experiences of generations of Housey pupils as well as their irreversibly confused parents over the seemingly illogical ordering of year groups; '*so you're a second form, but in your first year?*' ... and my admiration for those who can remember that UF comes before GE and after LE is unbounded. Three children later and my mum still struggles with that one!

In this context of metaphorical bridge building I think the role of the house Matron is vital to the Housey pupil. In a letter from the Steward's Office dated January 1917 one is informed that Matrons were required to take care of the Masters' domestic comforts and rooms as well as the '*sweet washing of clothes*'. However, in light of this injustice the compromise that '*when boys have suet pudding, a milk pudding may be provided as an alternative for matrons*' aimed to quell any thoughts of matronly rebellion. Things are different these days, but matron is still relied upon for weekly

**Senior Grecian
privileges...
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junior 'bug-scratching' and the amending of 'fobbed' uniform, terms derived from the book of Housey slang that need little explanation. As a result of reading the book I gained an insight into the psyche of the schoolboy. For example, a favourite pastime was revealed to be 'Alabaster boxing', which involves the use of rolls of brown paper tied up with string as weapons for hitting others on the head. Again, I do not see huge discrepancies between the pastimes of the 19th century and those of today; indeed I fear my peers have already begun compiling a modern equivalent.

My arrival at Christ's Hospital as a worried eleven year old coincided with a family break-up, but I was able to cope owing to the kindness of my Matron and the busy schedule the school provided to keep me motivated. Friends and family will remember that my junior years were plagued with homesickness and yet characterised by the memory of certain sensory delights, or maybe on occasion the contrary! It's almost impossible to describe to non-Housey pupils how the combination of 'Brasso', Housey coats and a certain type of wooden floor polish can recall to memory a unique fragrance which is exclusively CH, and all the more worryingly, oddly addictive. The less pleasant fragrance of old wooden tuck lockers and mouldy bread in the house kitchens are similarly evocative. Recently I have looked back upon old letters that my brothers and I sent home as second formers. My eldest brother, Angus, agonised about the whereabouts of his stolen swimming trunks and demanded a padlock urgently. Michael obviously was relieved to be away from home, as he hardly wasted any time writing letters

whereas I made a first class job of making my mum feel incredibly guilty. Such letters were written from a desk in the dayroom affectionately known as a 'toise', its etymology unknown. This was all prior to going upstairs to wash in the 'lav-ends' on the blue painted concrete floor. These memories represent my particular place in the school's history, one totally different to my eldest brother's era, in which many items did indeed mysteriously dematerialise. I have to say that this is an aspect of shared living with which I haven't fallen foul...that is until recently! Though I must clarify, this was not at the hands of any student, but of a half toothless man whom I was unfortunate to meet on Christ's Hospital station platform in guilty possession of my stolen bicycle. The combination of a bad weekend and this event inspired absolutely steely determination on my part to repossess the bike. At one point my toothless acquaintance raised his fists, to which gesture my outraged friend shouted, 'But she's head girl!' as if he had been an unruly second former refusing to do up their bands at the second time of asking. You will be pleased to hear that the man in question was arrested and is awaiting trial, but, more importantly, my bike is now safely home. At the beginning of this year I knew I could give detentions, but I never imagined criminal convictions!! Also I might add, this event implies no criticism of the excellent work of the school security officers. Many improvements have been made in recent years, such as, the gates – very good at letting you out, but getting back in can prove curiously difficult. I remember returning from a Hockey match late one evening and concern



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

Come and join us at our annual **Carol Concert**

**St John's Church Waterloo Road, London
Wednesday 10th December 2007 at 6.00pm**

Enjoy some great music performed by your fellow Old Blues followed by a glass of warming mulled wine and mince pie.

Tickets Prices: £6.00 adults, £3.00 Students and under 18yrs, Children under 12 free.

Book via the CHA Office or visit our website www.chassociation.org

If you are interested in singing in the choir, or if you regularly play a brass instrument and want to contribute to the evening by taking part, please contact Wendy Killner on 01403 247665 or email administrator@chassociation.org

Rehearsals for the choir will start from 4.00pm.

If you are still in touch with your CH peer group, why not help us organise Christmas drinks after the event! Contact Michelle Sutliff on 01403 2476618 or email manager@chassociation.org to help market the event.



setting in once we contacted security who said we were not showing up on their screens. To this day, I have no idea how a bright yellow bus with headlights ablaze and parked foursquare in front of the main gate could be out of frame, but that's technology for you! And talking of blazing light, the recent instalment of pedestrian lights across little side has seen a marked improvement in safety, though not without raising some concern. We are situated very close to Gatwick and many have commented that such a lengthy row of lights could be potentially disastrous!

I certainly could not have imagined some of the journeys this year would take me on, such as my invitation by the American Old Blues to the United States. If you'll excuse the pun, it was a literal bridging of the gap between young and old transatlantic Housey pupils. Their hospitality and generosity was truly remarkable and without a doubt it was the high point of my year. Indeed, venturing to unknown lands is not unfamiliar to pupils of Christ's Hospital as I discovered on a recent visit to the school museum. There I uncovered an invitation to Canada by an Old Blue in the February 1908 edition of 'The Blue'; *'This is a splendid country for youngsters who are not afraid of hard work and who can leave liquor alone'* – compelling evidence that the so called problem of today's youths is actually just an inherited predisposition. Under the section entitled *'In Defence of Swobs'*, there are references to previous Canadian adventures that inform the reader that *'a really active cow can provide quite a little fun'* as well as *'pleasing recollections of a meek looking heifer'* The School Notes also revealed stereotypical colonial assumptions about Australia, but I do not wish to offend our esteemed Headmaster by questioning his national heritage, so I will not go on. As well as transatlantic relations, the school has always been known to bridge out to the local community. Presently this is well represented by the active and successful community action program. However, when Christ's Hospital was founded the concept of supplying aid to the community was viewed differently. An imaginative way in which the school has been known to raise money was by hiring out pupils to attend wealthy citizen's funerals. Early accounts show that Christ's Hospital charged 20 shillings for up to 30 pupils. Where their solemn demeanours originate one can only guess!

I believe that one's time at school should also be a period of spiritual development. My involvement in the Chapel Choir and Schola Cantorum, a small chamber choir, has been a constant inspiration to my spirituality. I have had the opportunity to sing Evensong at Southwark, Salisbury and St. Paul's Cathedrals. It is an especial privilege to perform in St. Paul's, an experience which few other my age can claim to have had. I was recently informed after the Amicables' Dinner at the Innkeeper's Hall that the floorboards we dined on still bear remnants of the scorch marks of the Great Fire of London. Every time I have given a tour this year I have found myself witnessing the familiar buildings with fresh eyes – the routine of day to day life does somewhat diminish the appreciation of their beauty. So I ask that when you leave Big School today, as well as looking out for the unattractive bridge on the A23, take a look at the Dining Hall. It's a sight which most of us have seen more times than we've had hot dinners, but there's something about the architecture that humanises the scale of the enormous building. This isn't an illusion as a result of mere familiarity, because, when you step inside it, Tardis-like it seems to expand and take on a wholly different character.

I'd like to think this would be the perfect analogy for the Housey pupil, for although we see only a solid exterior; on the inside there lies an unexpected depth and diversity.

I will be forever grateful to this school for all the opportunities that it has given me and for conferring the honour of an office through which I have been able both to serve Christ's Hospital and to make my small mark in the annals of its continuing history. We are not oppressed by the weight of its traditions and practices, but inspired by its dynamism and adaptability to changing times and new challenges. The wholesale change in the school's organizational and administrative structure and the complete renewal of its Senior Management during this last year are dramatic signs of its progressive outlook. Rooted in educational principles that have been tested and proven over centuries, we will face the future confidently. Our ethos will remain unchanged as to benefit future generations, and to inspire the same loyalty and love that we have felt. Young lives will continue to be changed and prospects to be transformed by the work that is done here so professionally by so many. To them all we offer our thanks and the promise of our commitment to those ideals which have formed and nurtured us.

My Lord Mayor, when faced with the prospect of burnt bridges, which are prominent factors in everyone's personal growth, I have always sought refuge in the knowledge that one's greatest enemies are the self induced emotions of doubt and fear. I once read that *'there are no limits to what you can do, be, or have – except for the limits you place on yourself'*. Within these redbrick walls the opportunities are pretty much limitless, but the best thing about the education at this school is that it allows you to take control of your destiny. You learn from the bridges you build and even from those which you leave incomplete. Hopefully, some of the things I've said today may have brought us all a little closer together through the realisation that regardless of gender or age, many of us have shared similar experiences that bridge the gaps between us.

My Lord Mayor, I quote from your speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet last November where you said 'that your school taught you the ageless values of trust, honesty, integrity, fairness, hard-work, charity and helping others', I am very grateful to be able to look back on my time at Christ's Hospital and say that it has taught me these values as well. I will forever strive to realise them in my own life and remember that, when I leave this wonderful place, I will carry them with me together with 'the good name of Christ's Hospital'.

The support of Mr and Mrs Fleming, the Deputy Heads, the Headmaster – past and current – and of course my wonderful tutor, Rev'd Mitra, has been invaluable and to them I give my utmost thanks. I also would like to thank Mr and Mrs Willis for their continuing support, as well as the fantastic team of monitors, especially the second monitor, Ato, a man of few words but of infallible actions. I am so pleased to have my friends and family here today also, particularly my eldest brother whose birthday it is. Even so I could not persuade him not to come: such is the loyalty that CH engenders.

Thank you.