

# Updates

## News by decades

Contributors include **Matthew Holdsworth (Ma B, Ma A 92-99)**, **John Shippen (Horsham Staff 66-04)**, **Craig Steger-Lewis (Ba B, Mid A 82-89)** and **Rex Sweeny (Mid B 69-76)**.

### General

When the Telegraph (12 May) listed the fifty most influential figures on the new Right, two were Old Blues. At number four was David Cameron's director of strategy (who has since moved to America), **Steve Hilton (Ma A 81-83, La A 83-86)**: 'It is he who persuaded Cameron to adopt a green agenda – "vote blue, go green" – and to put forward an agenda for social justice.' Number twenty-four was **Stephan Shakespeare (Kukowski, Pe B 68-75)**, founder of the YouGov polling organisation and owner of the Conservative Home website and the political internet TV station, 18 Doughty Street. Both men were higher up the list than most Shadow Cabinet members. But is there a right-wing bias among OBs generally? As far as we know, there hasn't been an Old Blue Tory MP since the retirement and death of **Sir Duncan McCallum (CH 1899-1904)** in 1958, since when we've had a Labour Foreign Secretary (**Michael Stewart, La A 18-25**), another senior minister in a Labour government (**David Simon, Md A 50-58, Senior Grecian, Governor & Almoner**) and at least three other Labour MPs, **Stuart Holland (La A/Ma B 51-59)**, **Martin Linton (Th A 54-62)** and **Bryan Magee (Ba A 41-48)** (though Magee eventually joined the Social Democrats). We've also had two members of the TUC General Council, **John Edmonds (Md B 54-62)** and **Paul Mackney (Pe B 60-67)**, not to mention our brace of polemical left-wing entertainers, **Mark Thomas (Pe B 74-81)** and **Attila the Stockbroker (Basil Baine, La B 68-75)**.



Left: **David Bawtree (Mid A 48-55)**.

### Early Years

The Times obituary (10 May) of the traditional cheesemaker Lucy Appleby observed that her unpasteurised cheeses survived the listeria scare of 1988-89 because they already had fierce champions, notably the 'monocle-wearing cheese guru' **Major Patrick Rance (Ba B 27-36)**. Rance championed traditional cheesemaking when it was least fashionable, wrote two authoritative studies, *The Great British Cheese Book* and *The French Cheese Book*, and stocked 150 cheeses at his village shop in Streatley, Oxfordshire.

Press obituaries in February of the fund manager Alastair Ross Goobey didn't forget to mention his father, **George Ross Goobey (Pe B 22-28, Governor & Almoner)**, 'the distinguished pension fund manager credited with first investing pension funds in company shares'; 'an almost legendary figure in the City whose reputation was built on his advocacy of equities for the pension fund industry'.

### Leavers from the 40's

Last year the statue of Jesus that had stood for more than a hundred years in the churchyard of St Thomas the Martyr in Oxford was stolen. Following a chance encounter with one of the churchwardens, the distinguished woodcarver **John Bye (Ba A 42-48)** who lives locally has produced a replacement, carved in limewood in the style of the Oberammergau statues, which was due to be blessed at the Patronal Festival in July. John says, 'I am retired really, so I don't do many hours a day, but I am very pleased with it. I think it looks good.'

On 1 February, following the death of *The Independent's* resident humorist Miles Kington, **Noel de Jongh (Th A 40-49)** contributed a charming short article – 'Miles and Me' – about their friendship, which began when Noel was the thirteen-year-old Kington's music teacher at Glenalmond College, Perthshire.



Commander **Alec Douglas (La A 38-47)** (now retired) (pictured above) was honoured on the 28th May 2008 as recipient of the Robert I Henry Award for Maritime Affairs, this award was issued by The Navy League of Canada and recognizes individuals who have accomplished feats or achievements of national or international significance in the area of maritime affairs.

**David Bawtree (Mid A 48-55)** completed his year as Master of the Worshipful Company of Engineers in May 2008. One of the themes he chose for his year was education. A group of Liverymen lunched in the Court Room and looked round the School. The then Headmaster, Peter Southern, presented Company Awards in Ironmongers Hall and spoke about the School's association with the City. Later in David's year the Treasurer, **Garry Johnson (Mid A 47-54)** was the Company's guest of honour at their annual Mansion House banquet.

### Leavers from the 50's

The fiftieth anniversary of the death of author Dorothy L Sayers was marked (a little belatedly) in January by a service at St Mary's Church, Westminster Abbey, at which the chairman of the Dorothy L Sayers Society, **Christopher Dean (Ma A 41-51)**, read an address written by Baroness James of Holland Park (the author P D James).

The Journal of Medical Biography has recently included a paper by **Trevor Hoskins (Col.B, 40-50)** entitled Herbert Aldersmith (1847-1918): Christ's Hospital medical officer and co-founder of the Medical Officers of Schools Association. Trevor now helps part time in the CH Museum.

### Leavers from the 60's

In January the obituaries of Rod Allen, lead singer of the Sixties band the Fortunes, recalled **David Carr (Mid A 53-59)** as their keyboard player. The Fortunes had international hits with 'You've Got Your Troubles', 'Here It Comes Again' and 'Freedom Come, Freedom Go'. Their second single became the Radio Caroline theme tune, and they also recorded the famous Coca-Cola jingle 'It's the Real Thing'. David later moved to Hollywood.

**Judy Evans (6s 62-69)** has been elected to the Council of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. She is a plastic surgeon and claims to be only the 4th woman to be elected to Council.

Among the university professors who wrote to the Times in March calling on Gordon Brown to grant a free vote in the Commons on embryo research was **John Feehally (Ma B/Pe A 62-69)**, Professor of Renal Medicine at Leicester.

On Saturday 23rd Feb. the Council of the National Rifle Association of the United Kingdom (NRA) voted in a new Chairman, **Bill Richards (Pe B 61-66)**.

The longest-serving member of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, cellist **Anthony Sayer (La B 58-66)** is profiled on its website, with a sleekly pony-tailed photo. Musical encouragement at CH led him to the Royal College of Music 'where he specialised in contemporary music and also studied enough of the viol and conducting to realise that neither offered a way for a gentleman to earn a living.' The BBC SSO was the first job he applied for, and he's been there ever since, serving for sixteen years as first cello, though he's happy to have stepped back from that. 'Since the recent change in employment law he'll be the first player to have the dubious honour of staggering past 60 without being shoved out to pasture.'

### Leavers from the 70's

Since 2003 **Simon Pleydell (Th B 70-75)** has been Chief Executive of South Tees Hospital Trust, named by the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide as the top performing trust in the

country for 2007. He's been working in NHS management since 1980; after ten years in London hospitals he first moved to South Tees in 1991 to be the Trust's director of planning, and has been a chief executive since 1997, first at East Yorkshire Hospitals, then at the three-star York Health Services Trust, and then back at South Tees, where he has led the Trust's financial turnaround from £56 million debt in 2005/2006 to planned balance in 2008/2009. He also chairs the national Medical Workforce Forum of the NHS Employers organisation, and is a member of the Court of Newcastle University alongside **Richard H Maudslay (La B 56-64)**. In May he had a spot of bother in the national media after hospital staff inadvertently left an insulting message on a teenage patient's telephone; apologies were swift and thorough. Married with a son and daughter, he lives in Middleton St George, County Durham.

**Brigadier Buster Howes (Col A 71-78)** has now taken command of 3 Commando Brigade, based at Stonehouse Barracks, Plymouth. 'I'm surprised to be here in this position and I think a lot of it is down to luck and timing. However I am very, very proud.'

**Jeremy Staples (Col B 65-74)** is the Managing Director of the National Shooting Centre which administers and runs the shooting at Bisley Camp.

**Jeremy Usher-Smith (Pe A 67-71)** has become a director of Scotland's wildlife tourism organisation, Wild Scotland, and was in the news in June applauding the re-introduction of beavers to the country.

### Leavers from the 80's

**Clare Dawson (1s, Col B 81-87)** is orchestral director and chorister vocal teacher at the London Oratory School, and a regular singer in the professional choir at St Columba's (Church of Scotland), Pont Street. She was seen on BBC2 in December in James May's programme about his sisters' top toys, conducting the orchestra at the end.

**Harry Wynne-Williams (Pe A 82-89)** and his wife Anna have welcomed daughter Florence Ophelia Rose, a sister for Leo.

Previously at Tate Liverpool, **Dr Simon Groom (La A 77-84)** has become Director of Modern and Contemporary Art for the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh. In an interview in the Edinburgh Evening News on 16 January he enthused about CH, where he was sent after his father's death left his mother struggling to raise two sons. 'We didn't pay a penny because the school was about helping those who came from economically deprived backgrounds and broken homes. I felt very fortunate growing up there and it gave me the kind of springboard I needed to get to a place at a university like Edinburgh.' Last year Simon curated the Turner Prize.

**Leavers from 1990 and later**  
**Mary Clare (Ba B, GrE 97-04)** is now President of Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group.

The fifth anniversary of the death of **Jeremiah Duggan (Th A 92-99)** was marked by the presentation of a petition at 10 Downing Street, urging the Prime Minister to ensure a proper inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Jerry's death. There were many Old Blues among the signatories.



Though she started only in 2006, **Holly Walsh (LHB 92-99)** has been doing fantastically well as a stand-up comedian, reaching the finals of four high-profile comedy competitions and writing for the well known comedian Jo Caulfield, before going on to win Best Newcomer at the Chortle Comedy Awards 2008. One reviewer wrote that 'she's warm and has an appealing style to her that's quirkily offbeat. She's got some good gags too ... puns that are in turns clever and silly, sometimes both at once.' Holly has performed at major comedy clubs throughout the UK and is much sought after as a writer on comedy shows for radio, online and TV. She contributes regularly to [www.Current.tv](http://www.Current.tv) and has been doing some presenting on CBBC, the BBC TV children's service. See her in action and find gig details at [www.MySpace.com/hollydwalsh](http://www.MySpace.com/hollydwalsh).

On 9 January the indestructible London band Nately, which at the time consisted only of **Alex Selby-Boothroyd (MdB, MdA 84-91)** and **Niall Barker (Pe B, Pe A 84-91)**, finally made it on to the small screen in a feature on ITV's London Tonight

about a competition to find a band to play at the Olympic handover in August 2008. Alex writes: 'It was only about 15 seconds, but combined with CH on Blue Peter and Charlie Hazlewood's excellent How Pop Songs Work on BBC4, it was a pretty good day for Old Blues and CH in general on TV.' The band has since expanded again into a five-piece rock'n'roll outfit, and played the Soho Revue Bar in April. Hear them on YouTube or at [www.Nately.net](http://www.Nately.net).

**Catherine Standing (1s, Col A 83-90)** announced the arrival of Theo on 6 August 2008, weighing in at 8lbs 13oz.

Labour councillor **Ed Turner (Md B 88-95)** is now deputy leader of Oxford City Council, responsible for finance, housing and strategic planning.

**Alice Willitts (nee Peasnell) (LHB 83-90)** claims to be a full-time mum (when not writing books – see Creative) giving talks, running a community group promoting and supporting parents who want to go freelance, freelance copywriting and working hard in the garden etc etc. She also spoke at the Allergy Show in London in June.

To let us know your news contact John Hopgood, email: [obeditor@ono.com](mailto:obeditor@ono.com)



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

## New CHA Advisory Board Member Required

**Applications are invited for a vacancy that has arisen on the Christ's Hospital Association Advisory Board following the resignation of Richard Ruck. Applications are sought from all Old Blues who would like to contribute to the development of the CHA and represent their peer group on the Board.**

*The role of the Board is to:*

- Provide support and guidance to the Christ's Hospital Association staff
- Advise on the level and type of service to be provided
- Assist with events and activities where appropriate

*What are the commitments of a Board member?*

- There are monthly teleconference's and three to four face to face meetings either in London or Horsham a year. The initial term of office is for three years.

Contact for more information: **Michelle Sutlieff, CHA Manager**  
Telephone: 01403 2476618 or email: [manager@chassociation.org](mailto:manager@chassociation.org)

Interested applicants should contact the CHA Manager for an application form which will need to be submitted by the 31st October 2008. Applications will be considered by the CHA Advisory Board Nominations Committee which will take into account the capability and skills of each applicant and how they can contribute to the work of the CHA. We envisage to announce the new appointment by Christmas 2008.