

August 2019
Issue 15

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk



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SUMMER MEETING

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STAY CONNECTED

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KEEP IN TOUCH

We're always keen to keep in touch with the Claremont Fan Court community. Whether it's memories of your school days, stories of your travels, career details or reunions.

Please email alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk with your updates.

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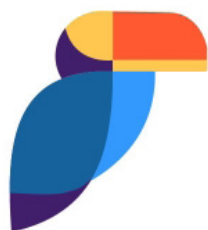
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Join the online Alumni Community

- Create an online profile
- Keep your contact details up to date
- Connect with old school friends
- Register to attend alumni events
- Receive school and alumni news

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

A warm welcome to all our alumni

As you will see on the forthcoming pages the school has been extremely busy since our last newsletter. We said goodbye to our Class of 2019 leavers, some of which have been with us from nursery. We wish them all the best and look forward to welcoming them back as alumni in the future. We also said goodbye to Mr Nanson who retires from the Senior School after 26 years and Mrs Casey from the Prep School who is retiring after 20 years.

It was another fabulously hot day as we celebrated the many achievements of our pupils at this year's summer meeting. We welcomed guest speaker JB Gill and celebrated Claremont's history including Queen Victoria's bicentenary. We also honoured the Hawker Aircraft company as part of the D-Day commemorations at summer meeting. Our newest building takes the name of Hawker Aircraft's chief designer, the Sir Sydney Camm science and technology building.

If you were unable to join us for one of our events this academic year there is plenty more to come, including Heritage Open Day on Sunday 15 September 2019.

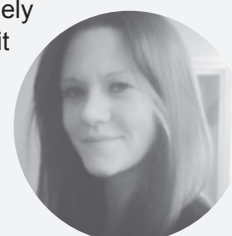
For now, we hope you enjoy the latest edition of our alumni newsletter and have a wonderful summer.



Gordon Hunt
Chair of Governors and member of the alumni community

A word from the editor...

We received some wonderful feedback following our last newsletter and we trust you will enjoy this latest edition. Sadly, I will be moving on after the summer and taking up a new position closer to home. I have been lucky enough to meet a great number of you over the past few months, and cannot thank you enough for all your stories, support and encouragement. Claremont Fan Court is truly a very special school and I am extremely grateful to have been a part of it for a short time.



Isy Paton
Alumni Relations Coordinator

ALUMNI NEWS

ERIC BOLE (ALUMNI STAFF 1948-1951)

A new biography by J. R. Suber tells the story of a Fan Court teacher and rugby coach, Eric Bole, who captained Cambridge University in 1945



and 1947. As well as playing for England in six un-capped matches during the Victory Internationals Eric also played county rugby for Lancashire. His years at Fan Court (1948-1951) play a short, but important part of the story. It was at Fan Court where Bole met his wife, Lorraine Abbott, a matron at the school. In 1951, Eric and Lorraine married and moved to the US where they continued to work in schools.

Mr Suber's 150-page biography about Eric Bole is available as a free digital download. To receive a copy, email him directly at jsuber23@yahoo.com.

ALUMNI NEWLYWEDS

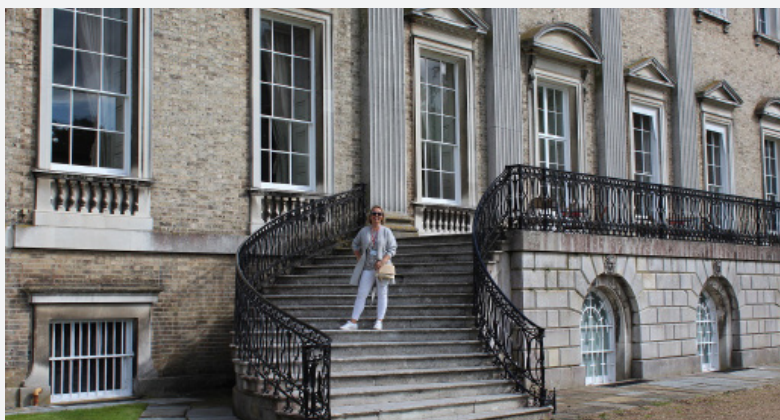


Congratulations to Claremont Fan Court alumni **Tamsyn, nee Neligan (Class of 2010, Esher)** and **Alsadair Roberts (Class of 2010, Radnor)** who tied the knot earlier this year. Since leaving, Tamsyn has taken up running, completing numerous marathons including Paris and London and writes a blog about her experiences: www.chasing6stars.com/blog.



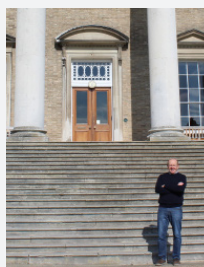
Olivia Vadjaraganian, nee Taylor (Class of 2010, Esher) married just a couple of weeks after Tamsyn (above) and we were delighted to hear the former head girl and deputy head girl are still best friends over 20 years after they first met at Claremont.

ALUMNI VISITS



Emma Veiga-Malta, nee Downes (Class of 1992, Longcross) returned for a visit from Sydney, Australia. The ex-lacrosse captain shared fond memories of her time at the school with Librarian, Mrs Bradley. Emma moved to Geneva in her 20's before settling down in Australia with her family. A keen artist at school she now runs her own business creating bespoke backdrops: bespokebackdropsbranding.com

Since leaving in 1985 **Ian Crowe (Class of 1985, Norwood)** moved across the world living in Australia and New Zealand, where he now lives with his family. Ian is the Commercial Director at New Zealand's National Museum, Ta Papa in Wellington. We were pleased to welcome Ian and his family back for the first time in years.



ALUMNI NEWS



Andrew Brewis (Class of 1985, Longcross) made apt use of the Joyce Grenfell Centre to rehearse the touring show, *Choice Grenfell*, a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the loss of the great comedian. Starring Suzanne Walters as Joyce Grenfell and Andrew Brewis as William Blezard, the show will run until May 2020 and has received a wave of applause since its opening. Tickets are available here kickinthehead.co.uk/choice-grenfell

Bottom right: We were delighted to be able to assist in reuniting 14 Claremont alumni who met up for the weekend on Saturday 13 July 2019. The reunion included **Peggy Pyle (Class of 1974, Astor)** and **Serena Harrigan (Class of 1977, Esher)**, who flew over from the USA; **Anne Mollerus (Class of 1978, Esher)** from Germany and **Paula Herbulot, nee Koomans (Class of 1977, Astor)** from Holland.

Katy Mills, nee Hirst (Class 1977, Norwood) organised the private event which was hosted by **Vicky Carter, nee Lazarus (Class of 1977, Esher)**, and also included **Susanne Tunnicliff (Class of 1976, Astor)**, **Jackie Elphick, nee Howell (Class of 1977, Norwood)**, **Nicky Mallet, nee Hargreaves (Class of 1977, Radnor)**, **Gillian Steer (Class of 1977, Astor)**, **Kristina Sutton (Class of 1977, Radnor)**, **Sarah Loane nee Mahon (Class of 1977 Esher)**, **Patricia Rickard nee Seager (Class of 1977 Radnor)** and **Anna Grant**.

We loved the 'then and now' photos by **Elliot Carnello (Class of 2012, Radnor)**. Originally from Sweden Elliot now lives in LA, where he is a tennis coach and was over in the UK working with Canadian tennis player Brayden Schnur during Wimbledon.



ALUMNI REUNIONS

Marian Archer, nee Bone (Class of 1963, Astor), appears to be heading up northern contingent of the Claremont Fan Court alumni having managed to keep in touch with fellow classmates, and meeting up every few years for the past three decades.



CALLING CLASS OF 1981...

Did you or someone you know leave the school after O levels in 1979 or A levels in 1981? We are organising a reunion on Saturday 19 October 2019 and are trying to contact alumni from the Class of 1981. If this was you please get in touch via alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk or 01372 473272 for more details.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Esme Finch

(Class of 2014, Esher)

Esme studied Events Management at Arts University Bournemouth. Since graduating she has continued to build upon her experience in the environmental sector, including fundraising for The Rainforest Trust and developing further understanding on engaging others to take action for the rights of the natural world and sustainability. Currently Esme works for Keep Britain Tidy as part of a joint waste solutions project.



Ollie Moor

(Class of 2015, Longcross)

Congratulations to Ollie on the release of his first EP 'Against The Ropes' with his Guildford based band, Follower. After leaving Claremont, guitarist Ollie studied music production at The Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford where he co-founded the band with lead vocalist, Luke. Since then Follower have been gigging and touring around the UK.

followerofficialuk.bandcamp.com

Patrick Smith and Tom Brewster

(Class of 2001, Longcross), (Class of 2002, Esher)

We were delighted to discover that two Claremont Fan Court alumni have become colleagues working for the same company. Patrick and Tom both work for Precision Golf, the leading provider of custom fitted golf clubs in Europe, based in Byfleet.



Victoria Banham

(Class of 2016, Radnor)

Congratulations to Victoria who has taken the social media channel TikTok by storm, amassing more than 1.3 million followers. Victoria featured in our December 2018 edition of the newsletter with her body art.



68 likes

[precisiongolf](#) We'd like to give a warm welcome to Patrick Smith (PG Aftersales Manager) and Tom Brewster (PG Club Fitter) to the team. Reunited 20 years later having studied at [@claremontfancourt](#) school together!

ALUMNI EVENTS

QUEEN VICTORIA'S BICENTENARY (1819 – 2019)

On Saturday 25 May 2019 we welcomed more than 80 visitors to the school to celebrate Queen Victoria's 200th birthday. Three tours ran during the day, led by alumni and local historian, Pamela Rider, which provided an insight into the royal residents that have occupied the Claremont mansion.

Guests were welcomed into the outer hall and toured the rooms on the ground floor. Information regarding Queen Victoria's many visits to Claremont were laid out in the drawing room, along with paintings depicting her visits and her birthdays, including her 21st, which was spent at the mansion. Each room included a brief description of its use during the 66 years that Queen Victoria visited Claremont. All proceeds from the day go towards the school's heritage fund which helps with the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Many thanks to everyone who attended and for the continued support of Claremont Fan Court School.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday 15 September | Heritage Open Day

Please note that Heritage Open Day is on a Sunday this year.

March 2020 | London Networking

The perfect opportunity to reconnect with the school and make some new business contacts. Check our events page on the alumni website for more details shortly.

HELP SUPPORT FUTURE ALUMNI

Whether you have a little or more time to give, our current student body is grateful for any support from our alumni. Leaving the safety of school is one of the biggest steps we take in life. By becoming a mentor to a Claremont Fan Court pupil you can offer support and guidance with career aspirations and professional development.

Choose how you get involved, from support at our careers evening, 1-2-1 mentoring or work experience placements.

Becoming a mentor allows you to share your knowledge and expertise whilst supporting the school and future alumni with a little time commitment.

Contact careers@claremont.surrey.sch.uk to get involved.

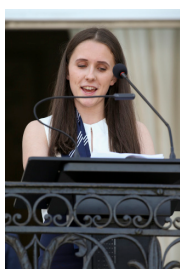


SUMMER MEETING 2019



Summer meeting 2019 marked the end of another fulfilling and successful year at Claremont Fan Court School. In school tradition the morning was spent rewarding our pupils who had gone the extra mile throughout the year, as well as congratulating every single child for another outstanding year of dedication, hard work and accomplishment. New headmaster Mr Briery was joined by chairman, Mr Hunt, and guest speaker, JB Gill, best known for his time in boy band JLS, now known for presenting 'Down on the Farm' on CBeebies. In his talk he reminded us that whilst talent helps, perseverance and hard work are the real driving forces behind success and, whenever we are faced with the fear of the unknown, to always remember that someone has to go first.

Pupils from all three schools performed for a crowd of over 2,000 parents, pupils, staff and alumni. With our head boy and head girl taking a moment to reflect not just on their academic achievements throughout their time at school, but also the friendships, memories and mistakes made along the way. It was a bitter sweet moment for them to address their fellow pupils one last time.



“
Someone has to be first,
so why can't it be you?
”

ALUMNI SPORTS MORNING

We welcomed back seven alumni football teams and a lacrosse team this year, with the Senior School fielding their first teams.

The lacrosse was a close game with the alumni team only losing by one point and finishing 7-6. The school first team might have walked away with the medals this year, but we cannot wait for next year's rematch, when our current head girl Georgina will have swapped sides to the alumni team.

Returning to the lacrosse field was **Megan Philip (Class of 2012, Esher)** alongside **Caroline Gems (Class of 2012, Esher)**, **Jess Tallent (Class of 2011, Radnor)**, **Amy Spalding (Class of 2017, Longcross)**, **Elizabeth Lewin (Class of 2018, Norwood)**, **Ellen Scott (Class of 2016, Radnor)**, **Mollie Kimpton (Class of 2018, Radnor)**, **Sophie Spalding (Class of 2015, Longcross)** and **Tammy Rudd (Class of 2016, Esher)**.

We were thrilled (if not slightly nervous) to welcome Dad's Army into this year's football tournament, the first time a parent team has ever played at the alumni sports morning (and hopefully not the last). Every single team gave it their all and the final featured our reigning champions, The Golden Generation made up of **Elliot Lamble (Class of 2015, Norwood)**, **Cameron Mills (Class of 2015, Esher)**, **Cassian Hyde (Class of 2013, Radnor)**, **Daniel Visser (Class of 2015, Esher)**, **Tom Lloyd (Class of 2015, Longcross)**, **Luke Ravenscroft (Class of 2015, Longcross)**, **Steve Ciprini (Class of 2014, Radnor)**, **Hamish Hines (Class of 2015, Norwood)**, **Jon Leefe (Class of 2015, Esher)** and **James Clarke (Class of 2015, Longcross)**, against the school's first team Potential FC. Congratulations to The Golden Generation who won the shield for the third year in a row. Can they be beaten next year?



SCHOOL NEWS



INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR SHORTLISTING

The Preparatory School is pleased and proud to have been shortlisted for an 'Independent Preparatory School of the Year' award for 2019. This nomination reflects the holistic education offered at the Prep School, which is thorough in its grounding of literacy and numeracy, as well as rich in our other portfolio areas of science and technology, creative and performing arts, outdoor and active, world and culture, citizenship. We are delighted with the recognition that our school has received.

ETON NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the end of June, Claremont Fan Court School participated in the Eton national tennis championships in the U13, U15 and U19 age group categories. As a whole, it has been one of the most successful tennis tournaments in school history.

The U19 boys finished runners-up in the Clark trophy and the U19 girls reached the semi finals of the Loveband plate. In the U15s age group, the U15A girls finished in the final 16 and the U15A boys finished in the final 8. Congratulations to all involved.



YEAR 6 DRAMA PRODUCTION



Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed performing their annual drama production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat: a tale of dreams, brothers, pharaohs and forgiveness. Following auditions and rehearsals throughout the spring and summer terms, pupils produced an outstanding Prep School performance. With huge amounts of music, dancing and acting to learn, pupils impressed their audiences with a polished and professional run of shows. It was wonderful to see the children embrace the challenge presented by the show in order to produce something of such a high standard. There is no doubt that the production will be long remembered by our current Year 6 cohort!

PRE-PREP AND NURSERY SPORTS MORNING

Early Years children started off the Pre-Prep and Nursery sports morning, making their way around the 11 activities showcasing the skills they have been developing over the year. It was fantastic to see the children enjoying each activity. Next followed the Year 1 and Year 2 event with some more traditional races and field events, finishing with everyone participating in exciting relays. Well done to all the children, and thank you to the spectators who came along to support.



DID YOU KNOW?



SIR SYDNEY CAMM (1940-1946)

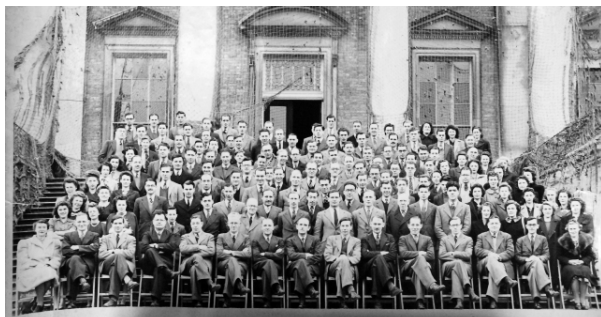
Born in Windsor on 5 August 1893, Sydney Camm was the oldest of twelve children and the son of an accomplished carpenter. He was awarded a scholarship to the Royal Free School, but left to follow in his father's footsteps. A lifelong love of planes led him to set up the Windsor Model Plane Club in 1912, where he met his wife, Hilda, the sister of a fellow club member and they had one child, a daughter.

Shortly before the First World War, Camm began working as a carpenter at the British aircraft and motorcycle manufacturer, Martinsyde in Weybridge. He was promoted to the drawing office where he spent the remainder of the war. In 1922 he went to work for George Handasyde one of the leading aircraft designers at that time, then in 1923 he joined the Hawker Aviation Company (later known as Hawker Siddeley).

At the outbreak of World War Two the decision was made to relocate Claremont School girls to Wales; at the same time Hawker Aircraft were looking to relocate their drawing offices from Kingston to avoid being bombed. Claremont mansion was leased to Hawker Aircraft for six years and housed the main design offices, whilst the belvedere was used as a watch tower by the home guard.

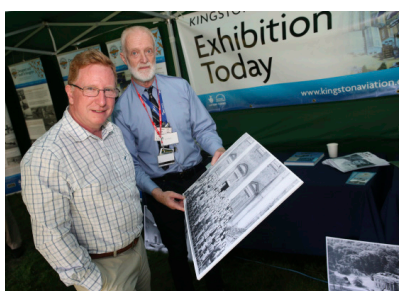
Camm worked for Hawker Aircraft until his retirement in 1965, during that time he designed more than 52 different types of aircraft, including the Cygnet and his most famous, the Hawker Hurricane, which proved instrumental during the Battle of Britain. He remained on the board of Hawker's successor company, Hawker Siddeley, which merged with British Aerospace, now BAE Systems.

A resident of Thames Ditton for over 30 years, he died playing golf in Richmond in 1966, aged 72.



ALUMNI EXHIBITION

We invited Kingston Aviation to join us in this year's summer meeting exhibition tent. Entries from the Prep School's humanities competition that focussed on the history of the school were displayed inside and visitors were invited to learn more about the part the mansion played in the second world war.



FOND FAREWELLS

Mr David Nanson joined Claremont Fan Court School over 25 years ago, during which time he took on a range of roles and responsibilities from head of PE to teaching French and Spanish. He also met his wife Karen at Claremont and both his daughters attended the school.

Mrs Deborah Casey is also retiring after 20 years of teaching in the Prep School. She will be missed by pupils and colleagues alike and plans to spend more time with her family and see more of the world.

We wish them both the best of luck in their retirements.



FAMILIAR FACES



This photo was taken in 1980's beside the mansion. Do you recognise any of the smiley faces in this group?

alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk

From our previous edition: These six Fan Court School boys were identified as **Philip Durrance (Class of 1955)**, **Richard Handsworth (Class of 1947)**, **Robert Handsworth (Class of 1948)**, **David Waghorn (Class of 1956)**, **Ian Kynoch (Class of 1953)** and *[unknown first name] Toussant*.



OBITUARY

We were sad to hear of the recent passing of artist **Kate Nicholson (Class of 1947)**. Kate was a St Ives painter, creating still life's and abstract works from her homes in Cumbria and Cornwall. She attended Claremont in 1944, and went on to study at Bath Academy of Art. During the 1960's Kate had her own studio in St Ives and was exhibiting her work in London Galleries, including the London Parr gallery. She was looking forward to her forthcoming exhibit at Falmouth Art Gallery and the release of her first book due to be published this year. She is survived by eight nephews and nieces.





HOW ARE WE DOING?

If you enjoyed reading this latest edition of the alumni newsletter, please drop us a line and let us know what you liked most.

GET INVOLVED IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Contact us to share your story with the Claremont Fan Court alumni community or make suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future editions.

You can opt out of receiving future editions of the newsletter at any time. To do this, please contact us using the contact details below.

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