

Flying high with A Level success



As the Sixth Form continues to flourish in numbers, it is wonderful to see Hill House giving young people a helping hand on the road to success at the very highest level. (Pictured left to right from last year's upper sixth are: Emmanuel Victor (A*,A*,A*), Molly Lim (A*,A,A) Grace Stott (A*,A,A), Imogen Hooper (A*, A, A), Henry Cottam (A*,A*,A).

Old Boys Triumphant in batting extravaganza!

Saturday 27th June saw the annual staff versus Old Boys cricket fixture. Played in hot and sunny conditions, it was always going to be a difficult day for the bowlers and so it proved. The staff batted first and posted a very respectable 218 for 5 off their 25 overs. Following some outstanding batting from the Old Boys (and some questionable fielding and bowling from the staff!) the winning total of 219 was reached with 2 wickets and 7 balls to spare. Pictured is the winning Old Boys team, basking in the sun and glory!



The 1912



Edition Number 1

Summer 2015



Welcome from the Headmaster

It is a great pleasure to see the rebirth of a newsletter dedicated to the old boys and girls of Hill House and St.Mary's. It is always wonderful to hear from past pupils, to meet at public events and school functions, and to appreciate the warmth that you still feel for your old school.

While Hill House continues to thrive, grow and evolve, it is our overriding aim that we retain the ethos and atmosphere which so many value so much, where a family based community is at the heart of this very special school. The Hill House Association is a key element in that community.

David Holland



Harriet Hickson is pictured on the front row immediately to the right of Phil Brown, and the picture also includes 3 other Hill House students: Grace Stott, Dominic Roe and Lydia Parkhurst.

Recent Leavers

The addition of the Sixth Form in September 2011 has been a hugely significant development in the school's recent history and watching students leave the school as adults, entering the world of employment or Higher Education, is a very rewarding and satisfying element of what we continue to do in school. Two of our leavers from last year reflect on the year they've had and how Hill House had prepared them for the challenges of 'grown-up' life. Firstly, **Harriet Hickson**, who is currently in her first year at Exeter University, studying geography at their Cornwall Campus,

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Word from the Editor

Thank you for your many responses to my request for information for the magazine. I have received a wonderful array of pictures and stories stretching as far back as the late 1940s. I have not been able to use all of the stories you've sent me in this issue so I do have a head start on material for the Autumn 2015 edition, which is wonderful. Please keep all of your stories coming and in particular, it would be lovely to have some more stories from Old Girls from the St Mary's era.

Simon Hopkinson
Senior Master

Air Cadet launch

The school is proud to be the home of South Yorkshire's most recent new Air Cadet Unit. New recruits started parading in January this year and regularly parade up to 60 recruits every Tuesday and Thursday at the school. It is a great honour to welcome the RAF back home!!



Astro Turf news

We have always been a school with a great sporting pedigree. We are district and county champions at a number of sports and many of our pupils play at a very high level outside school. The school is very excited to be transforming the wasteland adjacent to the senior school into a state of the art astro turf hockey pitch which will also be used for tennis in future summer terms.



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Hill House School - A Brief History

Given that the school has undergone many changes over the years and those of you who are both contributing to and reading this will represent the school at various stages of its 100 year history, it might be helpful to just recap where we are now and where we came from. A special thanks to all the staff and students in Year 3 for their excellent research skills!

1912

Town Field School was founded as a school for boys by Reginald Master, at 1 Town Field Villas.

1921

The School moved to Hill House, 7 Regent Terrace and adopted the name Hill House School.

1945

Hill House School acquired an additional property, Number 2 South Parade, known as the Annex.

1959

April, St Mary's School was founded by Paula Haigh the wife of Hill House Headmaster Hamilton Haigh, at Bawtry Road, Doncaster. It was named after Mrs Haigh's own alma mater at Lancaster Gate in London and opened with 11 children.

1967

Hill House School became an educational trust run by a board of governors.

1972

The School moved to new premises, the former convent on Rutland Street, overlooking Town Fields.

1974

The first girl joined Hill House School and by the late 1970s had become fully co-educational.

1990

St. Mary's School began to accept boys.



2002

Hill House St Mary's School was born when the two schools merged, with primary age children being taught at the Rutland Street site and secondary age children taught at the St. Mary's site on Bawtry Road.

2008

September, Hill House, reverting to its former name, relocated to the Officers' Quarters of former RAF Finningley.

2011

September, Hill House opened its Sixth Form, housed in a new, purpose built Sixth Form Centre.

2012

Hill House celebrates its centenary year.

2013

Hill House School created a new crest and new sports fields are opened at Blaxton.



Taekwondo Master

Congratulations to Matthew McHale, who, on the 13th of April this year, passed his Master 5th Dan black belt grading in Taekwondo. As he is only 22, this makes him one of the youngest ever Taekwondo Masters in British history. Matthew is an alumnus of Hill House, leaving in 2007. He is currently finishing a Law degree at the University of Nottingham.



Recent Leavers

reflected on her experience of completing her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, under the careful direction of Mrs Rachel Frisby: "The expedition section was 4 nights camping and walking from Helmsley to Robin Hoods Bay, which I completed in my group with **Grace Stott, Dominic Roe, Emily Slann** and **William Beck**. The teachers and students on the expedition made it such a brilliant experience and I have memories I will never forget, I wish I could do it again! I completed my award in March 2014 and was proud to be invited to St. James' Palace for the awards ceremony. Congratulating us on our awards was Prince Edward and Olympic Silver medalist Phil Brown. It was such a privilege to be able to meet them and visit such a wonderful building and I thank Hill House for giving me the opportunity to complete this award and have experiences I will treasure for life."



We also heard from Harriet's contemporary, **Ben Tebb**, who has had a very rewarding year since leaving us last August. He told me recently: "It has been strange adapting to a new place, 100 miles from home, but I have managed to find a job, made new friends, and become an independent adult. I am also pleased to say that I have been accepted into the special constabulary, passed my training, and am now operational, based at Kirkham police station. About 60 students applied for this role in Lancashire constabulary, and only 20 of us made the intake, an achievement I am especially proud of. In the constabulary, my role is very varied; one day I can be dealing with a road traffic collision, taking statements and preserving scenes, and the next I can be on night watch in Blackpool city centre!! Hill House is a truly special place, you will struggle to find a school that cares more about its students and their welfare, and encourages a bond which creates friends for life. I have the school to thank for the position I am in today, and the perseverance of teachers when dealing with me (they know who they are)."

Those were the days!

The award for 'most senior contributor' in this edition (there's a challenge for some of you out there!) goes to **Christopher Dale** who attended the school between 1948 and 1954ish (we'll forgive him the vagueness!!). Christopher recalled "It seems hundreds of years since I left Hill House but the memory of my time there still lingers. I paid a visit some years ago when the school was at what I believe was the old convent school to deliver some old photographs of cricket teams and others." Christopher was contemporaneous with,

among others, **Malcolm Barnsdale** who he still sees occasionally, **John Porter, Ian Bird, Ian Kinear, Ian Rook, Anthony DeMulder, David Langley, and John Crabtree**. In his words, "Not being academic, I left to go to Worksop College", after which he spent three years at the Scottish Hotel School and three years in America, working for a motel company. Following a call up to fight in the Vietnam War, Christopher returned home and started working with a Scottish engineering company, becoming

export sales executive in Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, followed by time with the industrial catering division of Mars. In 1972, Christopher opened his first hotel and there followed a 25 year career as hotelier and Food Hygiene lecturer. For the last twenty years he's worked as a volunteer for Cancer Research UK and other charities. Married to Isobel for 51 years they have two daughters and three grandsons. Hope you enjoy our selection of photos from now and days gone by Christopher!

John Reynolds



It was great to hear from **John Reynolds** (Master House 1985 - 1994) who now has a son in Reception with a daughter due to start in Nursery this coming September. In 1999 John attended the University of Leeds before leaving home to start his career as an Army Officer and in February 2003 enrolled on a Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. On receiving his Queen's commission, a year later, he went on to pass parachute selection and subsequently took his place in the Officers' Mess at 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (the Airborne Gunners) in Colchester. John served under this Regiment for 5 years, with 2 postings

overseas in Kosovo and Afghanistan. John left the military as a Captain in April 2009 for a change in direction, returned to Doncaster and started a family with his wife Liz who incidentally is a former Hill House pupil too (1983 - 1988). Later that year he formed his fitness company MFT, which is still going strong today. John told me: "I don't believe that it's purely and simply my military experience which has allowed me to achieve these things... the person you become in adulthood completely depends on what you have to face in your formative years." We think so too John and thank you for sharing your news with us.

A Life at the chalk face!

It's also been very interesting to hear from 2 former members of staff from different eras. As a previous Headmaster of the school and a parent of two former pupils, **Andy Cruickshank**, who started his term as Headmaster in 1991, told me: "I am always extremely interested in seeing how things are developing. Certainly the last few years have been quite extraordinary in the progress made and I am delighted to read about all the success. I am happy to say we still have a number of good friends in the Doncaster area who keep us abreast of the numerous school activities taking place." **Sharon Baker**, who taught at the school for 20 years, between 1977 and 1997, when the school was situated on Thorne Road in town, also contacted me, sharing some wonderful memories from her time at the school. Some of the highlights for Sharon, that I'm sure many of you who were students at that time will remember, include working alongside the very popular **Ray Staley**, who sadly passed away last year. She recalls that together they set up a WATCH environmental group for the pupils and displayed their work at York University and taking them to plant trees in the New National Forest in Leicestershire. They also ran very successful Field Weeks in the Lake District, during which the pupils stayed at Castle Head Field Centre. She went on to tell me: "Perhaps our most important contribution to our days at Hill House was the setting up of "The Young Adventurers" group -the YAs. At its height we had over ninety members packed into the hall for our Friday night meetings. Apart from weekly meetings we also went Youth Hostelling and camping in the Lake District and Scotland. No one can take away the memories of my association with Hill House and its pupils. They truly were "wonderful" and I hope today's pupils continue to make the most of every opportunity they are given." We hope so too Sharon and we'd love to hear more stories from former members of staff!



A career in medicine!

Here are two stories of ex-students from entirely different eras who went on to forge highly successful careers in the medical profession: the first was sent in by **Stuart Brownley**, father of **Kate Brownley**, who was at the school between 1996 and 1999. Kate did exceptionally well after leaving Hill House going onto Leeds University where she studied Pharmacology gaining a first class degree. After winning awards and gaining two further degrees, Kate has recently commenced a Masters' degree at Newcastle University and is also working at Leeds Teaching Hospital as a Clinical Physiologist. Stuart told me: "I have no doubt that Hill House was the building block of Kate's success. It taught Kate discipline, dedication and a tenacity to never give up no matter how tough things get. The teachers Kate had

at the time were outstanding; I know Mr Hague is still with you, he may remember Kate. Please pass on my regards. All I can say as proud father is: "Thank You!" **Ken Sykes** also followed a career in medicine. Ken was at Hill House between 1957 and 1964. He became a doctor in 1974 and spent 33 years as a General Practitioner in Intake, Doncaster. Ken is now retired but doing plenty of locum work. Ken has just retired after 16 years as Club Doctor with Doncaster Rovers FC. Ken recalls of his time here: "I had a brilliant time at Hill House under Hamilton Haigh, even though science was not a subject at that time! I thoroughly enjoyed the sport and I am very pleased to see the sports fields development at Blaxton. I still have my old school football shirt and cricket cap - don't think they fit now!!"



School News



North Hockey

The U11 Hockey Team have become the most successful team in the school's history by winning 3rd place in the North of England Hockey Championships at Leeds. With impressive victories over Hymer's (4-0), RGS Newcastle (1-0) and Wakefield Girls (2-0), they finally succumbed in the semi-final to a breakaway goal and a 0-1 defeat by eventual winners Kings Macclesfield.

Any Questions? Nat West Vase



The school was delighted to host BBC 4's 'Any Questions' on 27th March. Everyone who was there enjoyed a stimulating evening of current political debate which was given added fervour with the imminent General Election clearly on everyone's minds. Thanks go to Mr Peter Shipston for his work in helping to bring this prestigious event to the school.

Pictured are, from left to right, David Holland, Jonathan Dibleby presenter, UKIP's spokesman on Economic Affairs Patrick O Flynn MEP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Rachel Reeves MP and Defence Secretary Michael Fallon MP.



The Under 15 Rugby team became the most successful rugby team in the school's history through their run to the last 16 of the Nat West national vase competition. After 50-0 victories over Worksop College and Mount St.Mary's, and closer wins over Pocklington (43-29) and Silcoates (33-12), the boys

finally bowed out of the competition after a thrilling 29-27 defeat at Stockport Grammar School. The team are pictured here with coaches Jamie Lennard, who has just been appointed as the school's Director of Rugby, (far left), Mr Webdale and Kerry Wood.

Old boy opens new playing fields at Blaxton

Michael Hills, ex-England, Sale and Doncaster professional rugby player and former student at Hill House pictured with from left to right, Chair of Governors, Liz Paver, David Holland, Dominic Johnson, James Aitken, Chris Webb (Governor) and Karen Kidney (Bursar).



In Brief...

Upper Sixth student, Lydia Parkhurst, proudly shows off her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award certificate which she received at a reception in St James' Palace earlier this year.



Field House were this year's House X-Country Relay winners and pictured are Mrs Judith Brown, Lucy Charnock Head of House and Housemistress Mrs Mahjabeen Thomas.



Another amazing Sixth Form Revue

This year's annual show was a huge success, not only in raising £1,000.00 for Teenage Cancer Trust, but also the outstanding efforts of the performers. Yet again, the standard was brilliant and mesmerised the

audience from start to end. Well done to everyone who performed and supported. Clips from the evening are available on the Youtube section of the school's website.



Friends Fashion show

The Friends Fashion show was held at Hill House, on 13th March in partnership with Cheeky Monkeys (Children's designer clothing), Tiffany

(Specialists in stunning occasion wear and accessories collections) and Moss Bros. (Bespoke ready to wear hire).

