



# WOOLVERSTONIAN NEWS

The Ipswich High School Alumni Newsletter | March 2024

## OLD GIRL, JOAN KERSEY TURNS 109

**Joan Kersey, our oldest Old Girl, celebrated her 109th birthday on the 28th February. She had a happy day enjoying a ride in a Tesla and eating McDonald's for the first time.**

Joan had a visit from the EADT, received many phone calls, flowers, and cards, including one from HRH King Charles. 'Joan Kersey is an inspiration to people everywhere as she marks yet another landmark birthday and continues to live in the house in Tattingstone where she has lived for nearly all of her life. Miss Kersey credits her long and happy life with fresh food, and having surrounded herself with kind, loyal friends'. Joan commented, "I don't feel old".

Joan, from all of us at Ipswich High School, we wish you the happiest of birthdays.



# PAVILION FUNDRAISER

**The Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion is widely regarded as a rather unique and attractive structure and was built by the estate workers for John Berners, under the direction of Mr Charles Tebbit in 1894.**

Since then, the pavilion has welcomed hundreds of visiting sports teams and held many post-match teas, first for the Berners' annual 'Cricket Week' and subsequently for Woolverstone Hall School and of course, Ipswich High School.

The first cricket match was played in 1894, Woolverstone Park vs. Colchester Garrison and thus began a Berners' tradition that lasted well into the 1920s. With his extensive sporting and military connections, John Berners was able to host an array of famous cricketers from national and county teams, his own Old Etonian 'Ramblers', as well as various divisions of the British Army. In fact, the Royal Horse Artillery played at Woolverstone just 10 days before WW1 broke out.

The pavilion has remained relatively unchanged since its description from the EADT in June 1895, published as part of their extensive coverage of the week's cricket:

"On the far side, opposite the hall, there stands a permanent pavilion of picturesque design, which perhaps might be said, without overdoing the matter, to harmonise with the sylvan scene. The external walls are of bark and rustic oak, the gable-ends are 'rough cast', and the overhanging roof is covered with thatch. The interior is match-boarded, and a large and lofty dining or luncheon room, which forms the principal apartment, opens out upon a verandah at the front, which commands a splendid view of the field."

Lord Chief Justice, Lord Russell of Killowen was a visitor to the cricket week in 1895, as he was staying at Woolverstone Hall as the guest of Mr Berners (a short while later, the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury was also a guest at Woolverstone Hall). No doubt the pavilion has been privy to many an interesting conversation, something which led to speculation in the national newspapers when one dignitary was forced to deny that discussions of a parliamentary nature had taken place improperly at the Woolverstone Cricket Week.

Now approaching 130 years since its opening, the pavilion is in need of some attention. Most recently, the school has begun a process of restoration to be tackled in stages. Last year, stage one was completed with the re-thatching of the roof and the school is now moving onto the second, and final stage, focusing on the internal restoration and the creation of a permanent café to be used for sporting fixtures and as a hub for school and community events. The school has been extremely fortunate to receive numerous donations from Woolverstone Hall Old Boys, parents of current students and organisations such as the Adam Peaty Race Clinics, which have enabled the work thus far to be carried out. To mark their gratitude for donations received, the school will be installing a permanent plaque listing the names of all donors giving over £200 to the fund.

**If anyone wishes to donate, please follow this link <https://gofund.me/84edaae7>**



# PAVILION FUNDRAISER

## PAVILION FUNDRAISER

IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL  
TARGET £25,000

We are raising for the final phase to restore the historic Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion.

The Cricket Pavilion will be multi-use, with plans to create a unique space to serve our school community. The restored interior of the Cricket Pavilion will incorporate a seating area and café area and will be used for the school and alumni.

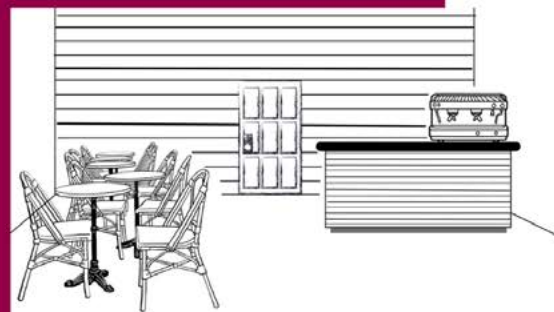
We very much want our restored pavilion to be a fundamental part of our school for many more generations to come.



PAST: THIS PHOTO FROM 1901 FEATURES AN ENGLAND 11 WHO PLAYED WOOLVERSTONE PARK CRICKET CLUB.



PRESENT: THE NEW THATCH WAS COMPLETED IN SUMMER 2022



FUTURE: WITH YOUR SUPPORT THE PAVILION WILL BECOME A PLACE FOR SPORTS TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR SHCOOL.

### DONATE ONLINE :

 [bit.ly/IHSPavilion](https://bit.ly/IHSPavilion)

### OR SEND TO OUR OFFICE:

 Ipswich High School, Suffolk, IP9 1AZ

ANY DONATION OVER  
£200 WILL HAVE THEIR  
NAME DISPLAYED ON A  
PLAQUE INSIDE THE  
CRICKET PAVILION.

150   
1678 - 2028  
IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL

TO DISCUSS A DONATION :  
01473 201004  
[c.unwin@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:c.unwin@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)





# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The Berners Family of Woolverstone

William Berners bought Woolverstone Hall and 350 acres in August 1773 for £11,440. When Geoffrey Berners sold the Woolverstone Hall estate in 1937, it covered 10 square miles of beautiful, unspoilt countryside. In all 6,042 acres, in seven parishes, on the Shotley Peninsula in Suffolk.

The Berners' story starts in the age of Elizabeth I and stretches to just before World War 2. Their story is one of judicious investment, fortuitous inheritance and profitable marriage. With their wealth they built farms, houses, village halls, extended churches, altered roads and shaped the Shotley Peninsula.

This book contains the information presented in the 250th anniversary exhibition at Berners Hall, Woolverstone in July 2023. Find out about their real story: "The Berners Family of Woolverstone". You'll be surprised!

"An exhaustive account of the Berners family during their ownership of Woolverstone Hall and before. Contains a vast amount of research about the village and family. Highly recommended."

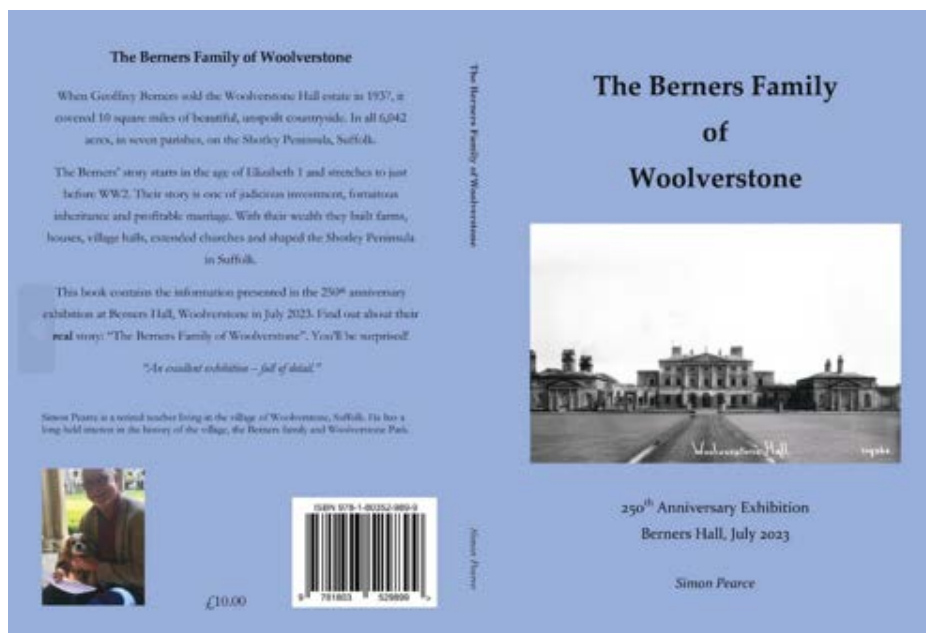
"altogether a nice little volume"

"an excellent exhibition - full of detail"

This luxury A5 volume contains 148 pages, printed on silk paper, contains 12 colour pages and many black and white illustrations.

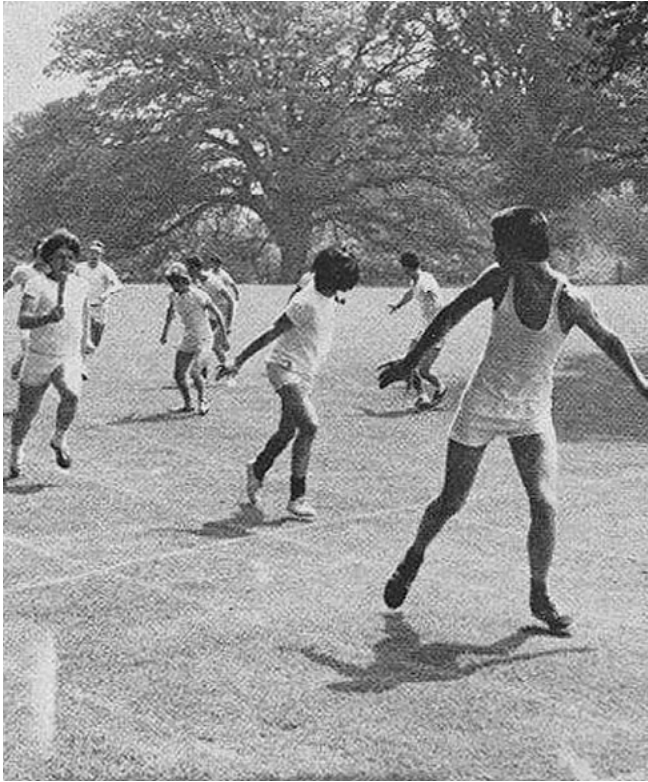
Cost is just £10. Postage £2.70. Could deliver on Peninsula.

If you would like a copy, please get in touch. [simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk](mailto:simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk) or 07825708171.



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

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**1952 Sports Day**



**1978 Tennis Team**



**1990 Ski Trip**



**1999 DofE Team**



# HANNAH SCOTT INTERVIEW

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## Firstly, a little write up about yourself.

My name is Hannah Scott. I'm an independent singer, songwriter and piano teacher. I grew up in Bramford, just outside Ipswich and now live in South London with my partner and two young stepsons. After leaving IHS, I studied French & Italian at Durham University, spending a wonderful year living in rural Tuscany as part of my degree, but after graduating, I decided to follow my passion - writing songs and performing them live. As an artist, highlights include my song "No Gravity" featuring in an episode of hit US TV series Greys Anatomy which was broadcast worldwide, recording a live session with Dermot O'Leary on BBC Radio 2 and performing at Edinburgh's Festival Theatre to an audience of 2000.



## What year did you join & leave?

I joined in 1994 and left in 2001 (VERY reluctantly!!)

## What were your favourite classes?

When I first started, I loved music lessons and was lucky to be taught by Mr Highcock and Mrs Wilson for my first year or two. I also really enjoyed my early biology lessons - I actually wanted to be a doctor until I realised I was better at languages and my maths and other sciences were not good enough. As I progressed further up the school, I came to love English with Mrs Steer, German with Frau Thomson and French with Mrs Curran (who terrified and inspired me in equal measure!)

## Who was your favourite teacher & why?

Mrs Steer - and I would say most of my year would give that answer too! She was such an inspiring teacher, supportive and caring, and genuinely interested in our thoughts and opinions. If I could inspire just one of my piano students in the way she inspired whole classes of teenagers, I'd be pretty pleased.



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# HANNAH SCOTT INTERVIEW

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## Most memorable moment?

Oh there were so many but probably playing the voice of Audrey II, the man-eating plant in the school production of A Little Shop Of Horrors when I was in Sixth Form and emerging from the mouth of the plant during the curtain call!

I was also pretty pleased to score IHS's first goal for the school's first ever football team - which I had badgered Miss Waghorn to start for months and months! It was a nice surprise when my goal was announced in assembly too.

## What did you think of the campus and the extracurricular activities?

Woolverstone Hall is a place I've always wanted to show to important people in my life. I remember having a conversation with one of my peers, Kate Riley, about how the school is one of our "places" and always will be. Coming up the drive still somehow feels like returning home. We didn't realise it at the time of course, but we really were so very lucky to be educated in such beautiful surroundings. Some of my fondest memories are around the Enrichment activities I took part in - school plays, singing in the choir and playing in the orchestra at Snape, Christmas concerts, and of course the football team.

## What advice would you give a current pupil?

I would say get involved in as many activities as you can - you are so lucky to be at a school where the Enrichment opportunities are so wide-ranging.

I would also say follow your passion rather than the career path you think you should follow or other people think you should follow. I'm lucky that my parents have always supported my music and because I love what I do, it rarely feels like work.



"She" - Sarah  
Harvey  
Hannah Scott  
and  
Eleanor Pickering



# HANNAH SCOTT INTERVIEW

**Did Woolverstone Hall give you the support you needed to follow your career? If so, how? If not, how could it have been improved?**

I was writing "pop" songs on acoustic guitar in the late 90s and early noughties and the school and music department were much more traditional / classical-based at the time. I remember asking if I could perform one of my songs at Snape Maltings during one of the annual concerts, and being told "that type of music wouldn't go down well". I do look back on this with a little sadness, given that the school was so very encouraging and nurturing in all other aspects but I am sure that 20-25 years later it is embracing all types of music and creative output.



**Sentence to sum up your time at school?**

Amazing teaching, brilliant opportunities, and friendships that would end up being lifelong: I don't think another school could have given me close to what IHS gave.

## Be Part of Our Alumni Community

If you would like to contribute to our next Alumni Newsletter, please send your news, stories and announcements to

[alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)

We would be delighted to hear from you!

Invite fellow Alumni to our network - sign up [here](#)

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**@Alumni\_IHS\_WH**







IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL  
WOOLVERSTONE HALL  
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

CLICK HERE  
TO  
PURCHASE ONLINE



## Limited Edition Michael Coulter Woolverstone Print

Some 10 years ago, Michael Coulter, a local renowned artist and former teacher, painted a vibrant watercolour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ipswich High School moving to Woolverstone Hall. The original artwork hangs in the Leggett Room at Woolverstone Hall.

We have recently found a number of these prints in our archives and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school's move to Woolverstone Hall, we thought it was the perfect time to offer the opportunity to purchase one as a memento.

By Michael Coulter  
Woolverstone Hall  
20th Anniversary Print  
Signed and Numbered

43cm W x 32.5cm H - £25  
57cm W x 43cm H - £40



IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS, WOOLVERSTONE  
Reproduced from an original watercolour by Michael Coulter in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the school's move to Woolverstone Hall.

All proceeds will go towards the restoration  
of the Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion



# FROM THE HEAD



**Ipswich High School continues to go from strength to strength with record pupil numbers and ongoing improvements we have made across the whole Woolverstone Hall Estate.**

We continue to fundraise to restore our beloved Cricket Pavilion and we welcome both donations from individuals but also corporate sponsorship to create a permanent café space for use at sporting fixtures and other community events.

Ipswich High School and Woolverstone Hall School for Boys have a long history of lavish productions, and this heritage was certainly upheld in our staged performance of Shrek The Musical. A cast of over eighty performed to full houses and the inclusion for the first time of a gala performance on a Saturday afternoon allowed guests to mingle with the stars of the show in the Orangery.



Sport has always been important in the shared culture of both schools and there have been many notable successes this year. In Netball our U13 girls team gained bronze medals in the shield competition of the ISA National finals, and the U16 Girls team came 4th in the ISA Nationals. Our U13 and U16 Rugby players took part in the National 7s for the first time in the school's history, while the U16 Boys Hockey team also made regional finalists for the first time.

I look forward to both the Old Girls' Spring Lunch and the Old Boys vs Staff Cricket match later in the year.

Finally, I am always happy to see alumni, and if you would like to visit the school, please get in touch with either EmJ Clark, our Alumni Coordinator or my PA, Francesca Carter ([alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk) or [f.carter@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:f.carter@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)).





# IHS PUPIL SUCCESS

## British Sled Dog Sports Federation

Harry has recently competed at the National Championships Round 2 at Daley Forest. Harry was competing in the Junior 14-18 section. He took two qualifying places gaining a bronze medal, which means he only has to complete in two more races where he must come 1st, 2nd or 3rd and he will then have the honour to represent team GB in the Cani Cross World Championship ISFF (International Federation of Sled Dog Sports) held at Bardonecchia in October. Fantastic achievement. Well done!



## International Ski Races

Madeleine is very excited to be representing Great Britain along with three other UK athletes. She will be competing in the International Ski Races being held in Vratna, Slovakia. There is an opening ceremony and parade, followed by Giant Slalom and Slalom races. Good luck Madeleine!



## English S/C Winter Nationals

Congratulations to Clemmie for achieving three personal bests at the English S/C Winter Nationals in the open 200 B/C 200 I.M and the 100 I.M which took place just before Christmas.

Clemmie has also now achieved the consideration time for the open British Championships/Olympic trials in the 200 B/C which will take place in April.

This is an amazing achievement. Well done Clemmie!





# IHS NEWS

**Ipswich High School has been extremely lucky to participate in the eighth Norwich Model Arctic Council, informally known as NORMAC.**

This experience saw eleven students travel to Norwich for an extended weekend of discussions representing diplomats from all over the Arctic Circle. The Arctic Council was made up of eight member states, but also six permanent participants which consisted of indigenous tribes. IHS had the pleasure of representing the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Saami Council, the Russian Federation, and Sweden. The issues to be discussed included Food Insecurity, and Marine Protected Areas, both complex issues facing the Arctic in our current world.

An outline of our experience at NORMAC would include a welcoming dinner, with speeches from the respective Ambassadors. Then, the rest of the weekend consisted of negotiation, collaborations and a focus on democratically coming to solutions that would benefit all member states and permanent participants, not to mention a formal dinner to conclude events. Three days of discussion resulted in two declarations passed unanimously on both issues discussed. These declarations could not have succeeded without well-researched information and a positive attitude to the conference.

The NORMAC experience provided an opportunity to take on many valuable skills, including debating, collaboration and providing some insight into a diplomat's perspective. The conference was guided by Dr Anthony Speca, whose Arctic experience speaks for itself. He offered crucial advice and led debriefings after the preceding day. This particularly guided us in growing from our mistakes and was a beneficial chance to reflect and learn. Overall, the experience was very valuable and insightful for us all, and we thank Norwich School for hosting!



**Written by Willow H**

# SHREK THE MUSICAL

**A cast of over 80 talented students performed an energetic performance of a hit West End and Broadway show.**

Our students performed 'Shrek the Musical', the hit musical based on William Steig's book and the DreamWorks Animation film Shrek. The curtain rose on the evening of March 13th, 2024, marking the beginning of a whimsical and entertaining journey through the kingdom of Far Far Away. The student performers brought the beloved characters to life on stage for 'Shrek the Musical'. The production showcased the hilarious and heartwarming story of Shrek, a grumpy ogre on a quest to rescue Princess Fiona from a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon. Mr Paul Stone, Director of Drama, said "It is such a truly wonderful moment, when you see many months of planning and rehearsal culminate in a group of over 80 talented young people, bring to fruition a high-quality theatrical production, working as performers, technicians and crew in a full-scale musical theatre show. We are so incredibly proud of what our pupils have created. We have stunning costumes, a spectacular set and a superb live band, but the greatest joy comes from seeing these amazing young people bringing the theatre to life with such skill, energy and professionalism. We can't wait to share the magic of 'Shrek, the Musical' with a full auditorium in our fantastic Hayworth Theatre."



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# SHREK THE MUSICAL

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Mr Browning, Head, said "The sheer scale of the talent and ambition of this production is both impressive and inspirational. A cast of 80 pupils has been thrilling audiences this week and will culminate in a gala performance on Saturday. Feedback from all who have seen it has been simply wonderful. I could not be prouder of the collective achievements of all involved."

Audiences were treated to vibrant costumes, enchanting sets, and show-stopping musical numbers, creating an unforgettable experience filled with laughter, heart, and a whole lot of fun. The production featured a talented cast of Ipswich High School students, supported by a dedicated student crew and production team. Together, they brought the magic of 'Shrek the Musical' to life in the school's fantastic Hayworth Theatre.





# WEDDINGS AT WOOLVERSTONE HALL

**TAILORED TO YOUR PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS TO CREATE AN EXPERIENCE AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE**

Woolverstone Hall is a magnificent Grade I listed mansion set within 87 acres of Suffolk parkland on the banks of the River Orwell, just five miles outside of Ipswich. With a rich history, stunning river views and spectacular architecture, Woolverstone Hall is a unique and beautiful setting made exclusively yours for the most amazing wedding day



## TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Woolverstone Hall has the most beautiful locations where you will make memories to last a lifetime. Whether you're looking for an intimate gathering or a large affair, the perfect setting awaits.

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

When you book Woolverstone Hall, the venue is exclusively yours for the day. Let us become your canvas as you create an unforgettable wedding.



**AN IDYLIC COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDING VENUE IN SUFFOLK**

**[ARRANGE A VIEWING](#)**



# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

## Be Part of Our Alumni Community

If you would like to contribute to our next Alumni Newsletter, please send your news, stories and announcements to

[alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)

We would be delighted to hear from you!

Invite fellow Alumni to our network - sign up [here](#)

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## The Old Girls' Association

Every female student who studied at Ipswich High prior to September 2018 is invited to join the Old Girls' Association (OGA). The 'old girls' are a diverse and far-flung group of individuals who are always welcome back at the school. Each year, the OGA holds a Spring Lunch and an AGM.

If you are not yet a member but would like to join, please contact: [Charlotte Godfrey](#), Membership Secretary.

The OGA has a [Facebook page](#) to rekindle lost friendships, share memories, advertise OG events, and generally keep the conversation going.



## The Old Boys' Association

From 1951 to 1990, Woolverstone Hall was home to Woolverstone Hall School, a secondary grammar boarding school for boys.

To help connect with past Woolverstone Hall pupils more effectively, the OBA has a [Facebook group](#) to rekindle lost friendships and share memories of their time at the school.

