



Left-right: David Mason, Robert Dickinson, Tim Wickstead, David Leitch

On 23rd August 2014 four distinguished former students from Lincoln School, pictured above, came for a dose of nostalgia which included a visit to the Garton Archive. They were among the last cohort of pupils of the School before the comprehensive reorganisation in 1973, when it became Lincoln Christ's Hospital School.

An article in the *Lincolnshire Echo* on 5th January 1973 celebrated their successes in gaining places at Cambridge University in 1972. David Mason read modern languages at St Catharine's College, Robert Dickinson won a Monroe Scholarship for physical sciences at Queens', Tim Wickstead read classics at St John's, and David Leitch read English at Trinity.

There were two other students from the same year at Lincoln School who also went to Cambridge; Charles Lucas, who also read modern languages at Trinity College, and David Chambers who read natural sciences at Fitzwilliam College. A total of seven students from Lincoln School won places at Oxford or Cambridge that year, described by headmaster, the late Arthur Behenna, as a possible record for the School. The grainy photograph from the same edition of the *Echo* shows a group of seven students in the old library at Lincoln School. Left to right they are Mark Williams; Tim Wickstead; David Leitch; David Mason; Robert Dickinson; David

Chambers; and Charles Lucas. Mark, who is sadly no longer with us, lived in Brigg, and was a boarder at Lincoln School, lodging with an English teacher when the Boarding House closed in 1969.

I am reliably informed that Mark Williams went to Brasenose College, Oxford, to read Classics.



Biographies

Rob Dickinson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London. He graduated with a 1st Class Honours degree in Physics from Cambridge University, and then obtained a PhD in Biophysics from the University of London, in ultrasound signal processing. Rob has extensive experience in medical imaging, in both hospital and industrial environments. He worked on MRI coil development and system integration at Picker International Ltd., and later in a start-up company where he developed a sub-1mm intravascular ultrasound imaging catheter.

Rob's current research interests include imaging in surgery, interventional imaging, miniaturising medical devices, and wireless monitoring.

David Leitch graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and then studied for a PGCE at Liverpool University, where he trained to teach in primary and middle schools. His teaching career has been spent in special schools for physical disabilities. He taught at Ridgeway School in Kempston, Bedfordshire, and at Lonsdale School in Stevenage, where he was Residential Deputy Headteacher for 12 years. He then gained a post with Herefordshire Council as Senior Advisory

Teacher for Physical Disabilities, being awarded the mandatory qualification as a teacher of visually impaired children.

David is currently the team leader for the Herefordshire visual impairment team.

David Mason moved to London after graduating, where he subsequently qualified as a chartered accountant with Coopers & Lybrand, the leading global accountancy practice. Having settled in the south, he then moved into a succession of accountancy roles in industry where international travel was a prominent feature, first with International Paint, manufacturers of marine and industrial coatings, and then with the engineering company, John Brown. His foreign language skills were successfully resurrected during a three-year secondment to Paris in the late nineties. Latterly, David led the internal audit and compliance team for Aker Solutions, a Norwegian engineering services company based in Oslo, until leaving the organisation two years ago. Married with two children, he now lives in West Sussex.

Tim Wickstead taught for 36 years in a variety of comprehensive schools, including Beechen Cliff School, Bath (1977-83); Sheldon School in Chippenham (1983-87); and Wallingford School, Wallingford (1987-2004). In 2004 he qualified as an Advanced Skills Teacher, and was appointed Head of Creative Arts and Professional Tutor at Hinchingsbrook School in Cambridgeshire, retiring in 2013. Tim tells me that he was always happy when putting on lots of school plays, which began with his role of Pierre Patelin's wife in the Lincoln School Hall.

Tim has been Clerk at the Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting in Cambridge since his retirement.



Charles Lucas was invited to the reunion but unfortunately was unable to attend. After graduating, he began his career as a translator at Interlingua Language Services in Sussex. In 1982 he moved to Brussels, where he worked for 20 years in the European Commission's Translation Service. In 1995 he moved into management, ultimately becoming head of the English Language Department. He left Belgium in 2004 to set up home in Certaldo, Italy, working as a freelance translator and editor, and assisting his wife in their event and wedding organisation business, Tuscan Affairs. Three generations of his family have attended the school, beginning with his uncle and father in 1938, and his brother, Adrian, in 1968. His parents, siblings and nieces have all been involved with LCHS since its inception. Charles' passion for music has endured since his school days, and he continues to enjoy playing bass and singing in local bands and choirs.

Lincoln School has a long and proud tradition of sending its most gifted pupils over the years to Oxford and Cambridge. These included the founder of the Garton Archive, Charles Garton, who won a Scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1949 with a First Class Honours degree in Classics, and several other distinctions and scholarship awards.

Lincoln Christ's Hospital Girls' High School has also sent many of its most able pupils to either Oxford or Cambridge since the last decade of the nineteenth century, including three contemporaries of the boys above. Anna Millington read Mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge; Christine Brothwell read History at St Hugh's College, Oxford; and Jane Rimmer, née Thompson read Theology and English also at St Hugh's College.

The picture below was published in the *Lincolnshire Echo* at the time.



Bound for Oxford and Cambridge

Jane Thompson (17), of 4 Gregg Hall-close, Lincoln; Christine Brothwell (18), of 33 Carholme-road, Lincoln, and Anna Millington (17), of 18 Broadway-close, Lincoln, all pupils of Christ's Hospital Girls' High School, Lincoln, have gained places at Oxford and Cambridge.

Jane and Christine are to go to St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to read theology and history respectively, and Anna will read mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge.

The girls, who between them hold 26 O-levels, will stay at school until next year to complete their A-level courses.

Headmistress at the school, Mrs. S. Wood, said: "This is the first time in many years that three girls have gained places at Oxford and Cambridge, and I am very pleased with them."

Pictured, left to right, are Christine, Jane and Anna.

Pupils who have obtained places at the élite universities have always caught the eye and the headlines, but it is also important to note that many other pupils from both

schools, who were perhaps not as academically gifted, but who had other skills and talents, have served the local and wider communities well in their own chosen careers.

Similarly, the St Giles schools provided an education appropriate to the needs and talents of their own pupils.

Although the secondary modern schools in Lincoln and elsewhere had neither the academic tradition nor the kudos of the selective grammar schools, they provided a broad and balanced education appropriate to the needs and abilities of their pupils, which equipped them with the knowledge and practical skills needed to take their place in society, and to obtain employment in local industries. The ending of selective education in Lincoln in 1974 brought challenges both to the pupils and to the teachers. It is a tribute to the achievements of Lincoln Christ's Hospital School since its formation in 1974 that pupils of all abilities and talents have been educated together in the same school and have been afforded opportunities to fulfil their ambitions and potential.

(Extract from Occasional Paper 22 from the Garton Archive)

There is still room at Oxford and Cambridge during the 21st century for students from LCHS. In recent years Chloe Marsh, Matthew Yates and Molly Gee have been awarded places at Cambridge, and Alex Kelly, Alice Nutting, and Saman Ghanadzadeh have been successful in their applications to Oxford. Over eighty gain places each year at other universities, including many at the prestigious Russell Group of universities.

Perhaps in years to come, some of them will make nostalgic visits to their alma mater and provide material for other articles from the archives at LCHS.

Peter Harrod
Assistant Archivist at LCHS

