



THE CARGUNDIAN

Summer 2025



HEADMASTER'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

While the last 11 years haven't all been plain sailing – and the loss of two much loved members of staff as well as parents and recent former pupils stand out against the ongoing pressures of COVID, VAT on fees and pension/national insurance/business rates costs – Sarah and I will be leaving Cargilfield with many happy memories. These will certainly include:

IAPS Hockey Finals – so many sporting excitements and successes over the years but the Under 11 girls finishing 2nd in 2018 and the U13 boys finishing 3rd in 2020 were great days.

Common Entrance Results – the sun coming up over the hills near Keswick as Form 8 children receive their results that mark the end of their Cargilfield learning journey.

150th anniversary – the concert and art exhibition, the parties at the New Club and the House of Lords, the 150 Show with every child from P1 upwards telling the story of 150 years....and, of course, the magnificent Ball.

Cargilfield History – reaching out to the old boys who evacuated to Lawers in the 1940s;

walking the Western Front Way to pay tribute to the men on the Chapel Boards and watching Tom Heap open the wonderful new astroturf in the name of the Gillespie boys.

Performances – Ali Baba by the Treehouse, Alice in Ash Court, Romeo and Juliet at the Fringe. The Jungle Book, Peter Pan, Annie, Joseph or some beautiful P1 and Nursery nativities, even through COVID. What about Wolfie as President Trump or Edward Perrot as Mr Taylor? And then all the fun of Cargilfield's Got Talent each year. Musical evenings around the fire in chapel or with all the Upper School performing Mozart's Coronation Mass. Was anything quite as good as the choir singing for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on the Mound in 2016?

The tricky days – digging out the School after the Beast from the East in 2018 while children sledged and made snow day films? Taking children home on the train from Dalmeny Station when the Forth Road Bridge closed? Or everyone clearing the tree that fell and blocked the entrance to school earlier this year.

What will we miss?

- Sports Days – records and children cheering their Division round the track
- The last night of the year – heading out to Cramond Island with Form 8 boarders (even when Rob ended up carrying some of them through the water because he'd miscalculated the tide times)
- The Pentland Round – coaxing the Pre Prep up Carnethy Hill, stopping for another kit kat from Heather at Bavelaw or conversations as we pretend it's really only one more bend before Flotterstone.
- Time spent in chapel – open fires, the daffodils in abundance at Easter; the candles for Advent; the pipes at Remembrance.
- Dressing up (as Gangsta Granny, Robin Hood or Wally) for the Book Festival.
- Walking anywhere around school and being greeted as a long lost friend by countless children from the Nursery and Pre Prep.

Thank you, Cargilfield. Deo Custode!

Rob Taylor **Rob Taylor,
Headmaster**



LONG STANDING RECORD

Sports Day is a highlight of the Summer Term, competition is fierce and there is the occasional excitement of new records being set. One school record however has remained unbroken for an impressive 40 years. In 1985 Alec Lochore won the Under 13 800m in a blistering time of 2 minutes 30.4 seconds. Alexander went on to become an elite level equestrian athlete competing at events such as Badminton and Burghley. He is now recognised as a world leader in equestrian event management and consultancy including the delivery of the Equestrian competitions at the London and Tokyo Olympics.

We recently got in touch with Alec who writes:

"I remember my time at Cargilfield fondly and I can still remember the race 40 years later as it was the first time I had an 'out of body experience' – the legs kept going but I couldn't feel anything! One man who was there that day and who played an important part in my time at Cargilfield was Tony Richards. In 2012 I sent my sons to a small school in Norfolk, Beeston Hall, and none other than TR was the Deputy Headmaster at the time. I spent happy days seeing Tony and Elaine again and even bowled around his shoulder once more in a fathers v sons match. Happy times. Wishing everyone at Sports Day fast feet and strong arms."



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, the whole school enjoyed a magnificent picnic lunch in the sunshine. There was wartime music, speeches from Winston Churchill and lots of bunting. This was a joyful occasion during a week when we also reminded our current pupils of the men and women, including the 63 Cargilfield pupils on our war memorial, who fought and died during the Second World War and the importance of the sacrifice they made.



LONDON REUNION

During the Easter holidays we held a hugely enjoyable reunion at the Caledonian Club in London. It was a great opportunity for guests to reconnect and reminisce as well as an opportunity to meet Colin and Anna MacIntosh. Former pupil, Mark Agnew spoke about his adventures as part of the first team to kayak the Northwest Passage and about the importance of his experiences at Cargilfield and the friendships he made during his time at school. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a splendid evening.



IN GREEN

Former pupil, Louis Hall has recently published *In Green: Two Horses, Two Strangers, a journey to the End of the Land*. The book describes his 111-day uncharted journey on horseback across Europe. *In Green* is already attracting some fantastic reviews. To order a copy visit <https://www.duckworthbooks.co.uk/book/in-green>

"An utterly enchanting debut – a new favourite book. I was riding side by side with the author, every step of the way"

Antonia Fraser

VENUE HIRE

Whether you are looking for a meeting room, a party venue or a sports pitch, Cargilfield has some fantastic facilities available for hire. If you would like to find out more about what we have to offer, please contact our Operations Administrator, Colin Begg cbegg@cargilfield.com



ROWER RETURNS

Former pupil Melissa Wilson recently returned to Cargilfield to award the prizes at our Divisional Rowing Competition. Melissa first took up rowing while studying at Caius College, Cambridge, where she competed in four Boat Races, including stroking the victorious Cambridge crew in the 2017 Women's Boat Race.

Melissa's rowing career continued at international level, where she won silver and bronze medals at the World Rowing U23 Championships before making her senior debut in 2017, finishing 4th in the Women's Pair at the World Championships. Melissa went on to qualify for the Women's Quad for the Tokyo Olympics, earning selection for the Olympic team prior to the Covid pandemic.

Speaking after the event, Melissa said:

"I was hugely impressed by the pacing and form of those racing – showing such composure and determination at an early stage in their time rowing is an enormous achievement and a real testament to their strength of mind and body! Just as impressive was the cheering from the other students who were supporting, which is still ringing in my ears. An amazing atmosphere, and a memorable afternoon!"

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 14th June
12pm-3.45pm Summer Fair

Wednesday 2nd July
The Pentland Round Charity Walk. If you would like to join the walk, please e-mail events@cargilfield.com

Monday 4th - Friday 8th August
Cargilfield pre-season Rugby and Hockey Camps.

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd August
Holiday Activity Camp. A mixture of fun games, sports and arts & crafts. Open to all children aged 5 to 12.

Monday 20th – Friday 24th October
Half Term Activity Week

ROB TAYLOR HEADMASTER 2014-2025

