



THE CARGILFIELDIAN

Autumn 2024



CARGILFIELD HOSTS AFGHAN MEDICAL STUDENTS

Just before the start of term, Cargilfield provided temporary accommodation for 19 women from Afghanistan who are training to be doctors at Scottish universities. Headmaster Rob Taylor said, "This collaboration with the Scottish Office of the UK Government and The Linda Norgrove Foundation reflected our shared values of humanity and education, and we were proud to have played a part in helping these future doctors build a brighter future in Scotland."

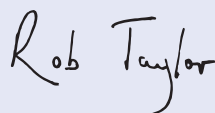
The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP, Secretary of State for Scotland sent his personal thanks to the entire team at Cargilfield for welcoming the women. He commented that, "Cargilfield School has a rich history of service to others and the championing of girls' education. Your willingness to help these remarkable young women is a reflection of these values."

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

September saw us celebrating Foundation Day at Cargilfield: the anniversary of the day on which the first boys arrived at the School in 1873. Following the 150th anniversary last year, we have decided to mark this day annually with a service in chapel followed by events on the Headmaster's Lawn.

Next year, Foundation Day will fall on Friday 19th September 2025 and we would love to welcome former members of our community to help us mark this important date. We are hoping to have the bell that sits above the School back in operation for next year and to ring it for the first time on Foundation Day. Likewise, we would be happy to host any groups of former pupils (or parents/staff/governors) who might like to meet up again for tours and refreshments here at Cargilfield on that day.

For those of you for whom distance and commitments will make it hard to visit Cargilfield, might I suggest that you use the 19th September as a prompt to contact old school friends or to arrange gatherings and share your news? Please do continue to share updates and photos to formerpupils@cargilfield.com and to encourage friends and family to register on the former pupils' page on our website.

 **Rob Taylor,
Headmaster**

FUN IN THE SUN

Decades of Cargilfield pupils have enjoyed days out at Seacliff, Tynningame, Yellow Craigs and other beaches in East Lothian and Fife. Last year, in honour of Cargilfield's 150th anniversary, we revived this tradition and it was such a success that the start of term saw us once again head to Silver Sands in Aberdour. The children had an unforgettable time building sandcastles, skimming stones and burying teachers in the sand.



THREE PEAKS SUCCESS

In August, former pupils Edward McEwen, Alex Haston, Sholto Fursman and their friend Taylor successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 21 hours 45 minutes. They began by conquering Ben Nevis before climbing Scafell Pike and finishing with Snowdon. In total, the group ascended over 10,000 feet, drove more than 450 miles and raised over £3,300 for St Columba's Hospice.

"From Cargilfield classrooms to conquering peaks, our friendship has stood the test of time. Together, we climbed, laughed, and proved there's no challenge too great for old school friends."

Edward, Alex and Sholto.



LE COUPE AYRAL

We were delighted to receive a visit from Louis Bouchaud-Ayral and his father Christophe. Louis and his three brothers were all pupils at Cargilfield during the 1990s. The Bouchaud-Ayrals donated Le Coupe Ayral, the senior French prize, in memory of Louis' great uncle Jean Ayral. This remarkable young Frenchman began the war by joining the Royal Navy and shooting down two Luftwaffe planes from HMS Fidelity. By 1941, he had joined the Free French Forces and been parachuted into France. In April 1943 he was arrested but managed escape back to London before undertaking missions aboard speedboats in the Channel, on the Italian coast and on the island of Elba. On August 12th 1944 he once again parachuted into France where he was killed. The street in Toulon where he fell still bears his name.

WAR HERO REMEMBERED

Former pupil, Sandy Gunn has been honoured with a Memorial Garden in his home town of Auchterarder. Sandy, was a pupil at Cargilfield in the early 1930s. He was taken as a prisoner of war in 1942 when his plane crashed in Norway. He was placed in the Stalag Luft III camp, where he worked as a tunnel digger in one of the most famous events of the war, The Great Escape. Sandy was re-captured and subsequently executed by the Gestapo. Sandy's name is amongst the 190 former pupils whose names appear on the War Memorial in our Chapel.



AWARD WINNING ART

Artist and former pupil, Ruby Mitcham has had an amazing 2024 during which she was shortlisted for the Scottish Portrait Awards and nominated for Young Fine Artist. She is the youngest artist to have a piece in their current touring exhibition. Earlier in the year, she won the international BSA Best Artwork Project Award, took first place in The Caledonian Club Scottish Schools Art Competition, and was awarded the Crinan Art Residency by renowned Scottish artist Frances Macdonald. Ruby also won the Gordonstoun Senior Art Scholarship and has had a painting selected for the Society of Scottish Artists 126th Annual Exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy from 23 November to 11 December. To see more of Ruby's art visit www.rubymitcham.com

"Cargilfield is where my training began! I spent many creative afternoons in the art room and last year I exhibited my first oil painting at the Former Pupils Exhibition. Art is where I'm at home. It feels instinctive, challenging and satisfying all at once. I'm enjoying the different commissions coming in at the moment, but looking to decide on an Art School soon. Thanks Cargi for starting me out on the journey!"

Ruby Mitcham



ARCH TO ARCTIC

In 2018, former pupil Poldy van Lynden and his friend Robert McArthur set off from London's Marble Arch on a world first expedition. The mission was to get from London to Svalbard, an island in the Arctic, by human power alone. The route involved running from London to Dover; swimming across the English Channel; cycling over 2,000 miles from Calais to Tromsø, in Norway; and finally rowing 700 miles across the Arctic Seas to Longyearbyen, on Svalbard. To find out more about this epic 5,000-mile adventure, come and listen to Poldy talk in Chapel on Wednesday 20th November at 4.30pm.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 8th November

10.15am Service of Remembrance. Preacher: Mr Mark Mortimer, Warden of Glenalmond.

Wednesday 20th November

4.30pm Cargilfield Chapel Talk by former pupil Poldy van Lynden: Arch to Arctic

Friday 22nd November

2pm-7pm Friends of Cargilfield Christmas Fair

Friday 29th November

5pm Advent Carol Service.

Friday 13th December

2pm Cargilfield Former Pupil Hockey Match
<https://forms.office.com/e/8nnG3NHizp>

Friday 13th December

4pm Upper School Carol Service

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have any feedback on this issue or ideas for future issues, Please contact formerpupils@cargilfield.com. To update or amend your contact details, please visit www.cargilfield.com/former-pupils

AUTUMN TERM MOMENTS

