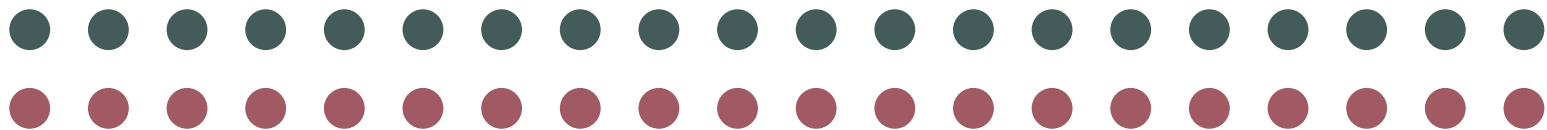


OR



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Welcome



Welcome to this, the first separate OR and the first dissemination of OR news for far too many years. Rockport will have changed considerably since many of you were at the school and it is only appropriate that the Old Rockportian Club also reinvigorates itself and adapts to the 21st Century; we hope that this magazine will be the beginning of much greater reciprocal communication between ORs and the school and that this will appeal to ORs of all vintages.

The process of making contact with you all has been a gargantuan project and has involved countless emails, Facebook chats and 'friend requests'; we trust that being pestered by 'Geoffrey Bing' hasn't been too much of a nuisance! Please do keep sending in your news and make sure that we have your up-to-date email address so that we can send you eNewsletters in the future.

We hope that you enjoy your OR magazine and an enormous 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed articles, photographs and information.

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Message from the Headmaster



In the School Magazine of Easter 1913 Founder and Headmaster Geoffrey Bing commented on the newly-formed **Old Rockportian Club**:

"To Old Boys we try to provide a link with their own past, a link with each other, and a link with the school which watches their doings with an unfailing interest, and hears of their successes with a pleasure and a pride, which numbers cannot diminish and time cannot quench."

In 101 years those aims of the ORC have not changed, and nor has the motivation of the school to follow the progress of Old Rockportians. When I took up post here, I was immediately impressed by the interest shown by staff in following the progress of their former charges and also by the frequency with which those former pupils come back to visit. My weekly Newsletter

often refers to the achievements and whereabouts of ORs and the 'bush telegraph' works to keep me informed to a certain extent. The impressive list of Rockport alumni now displayed in the entrance hall (and on Wikipedia) has also generated a lot of interest and discussion, but these things alone do not tell the whole story and nor do they reach out to all ORs. That is why this magazine and the initiative that it represents is so important to all of us at the school.

On my travels around the UK and beyond I regularly encounter former pupils both at social events and at conferences and I am always pleased when an Old Rockportian seeks me out to make himself or herself known to me. Indeed, perhaps what strikes me most of all when I meet ORs is the enthusiasm with which you as former pupils talk about your days at Rockport, and the affection that you clearly have for the school. At our leavers' Assembly each June I often say 'You may leave Rockport, but Rockport will never leave you', and it is true. This magazine is just a timely reminder of that fact. I urge you to take up this opportunity to help us at the school re-engage with all our alumni and so to forge new links between ORs and Rockport that will be strong enough to last a lifetime.

George Vance
Headmaster



Rockport in Evolution

Rockport Golf Academy

Rockport has always excelled with its sports teams despite the small class sizes, but what it has never exploited are the beautiful greens and lush fairways of some of the world's best golf courses.

The sport, commonly described as "a game for life", is in Rockport's DNA. Old Rockportian Harry McCaw was the first Ulsterman to captain The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in its 250 year history.

With so many great golf clubs on our doorstep, a history of past pupil success and Rory McIlroy hailing from Holywood, we can't see a good enough reason not to get out on course!

For all the aforementioned reasons, we're delighted to have announced the launch of the first school-based golf academy in Ireland. We will be encouraging aspiring golfers to develop their skills and game whilst receiving a first-rate international education at the same time.

Golf has never been more popular and is seen as a business, social and life skill. Learning the basics and/or developing a more serious approach will enable Rockport pupils to establish golf as part of their future.



Round Square

Round Square is a world-wide association of schools on five continents sharing unique and ambitious goals. Students attending Round Square schools make a strong commitment, beyond academic excellence, to personal development and responsibility. Rockport is now a member of the organisation and its ethos is an integral part of everything that happens at the school.

As a member, Rockport now has the opportunity to arrange local and international student and teacher exchanges on a regular basis between their schools. Rockport pupils also have the opportunity to participate in local and international community service projects and conferences.

This opens up a vast array of opportunities for our students and has been a big part of the school's progression. Keep your eyes peeled on our website and our social media profiles for regular updates.



OR News – Summer 2016

Name	Years	News
1945		
Robert Frazer	1945-1951	Has retired and is living in South Africa.
1947		
Ian McBride	1947-1953	After leaving the Royal Air Force, worked for eleven years in aviation training support before setting up his own consultancy – which he still does – albeit at a reduced capacity!
1948		
Stuart Montgomery	1948-1954	Founded Stuart Montgomery International Timber Agent in 2003, having over 40 years of experience in the timber industry. He is based in Uxbridge.
1951		
Robin Merrick	1951-1956	Is still practicing as a solicitor in Dublin, albeit on a freelance basis.
1952		
David Crawford	1952-1956	Worked at Queen's for five years before moving to Canada. He retired from McGill University in 2001, after thirty years, and became the university's first Emeritus Librarian and moved to Toronto.
1955		
Tony Merrick	1955-1958	Spent his career as an Architectural Technician restoring old buildings. He retired in 2004 and now spends much time pursuing his interests in photography and local history.
1956		
Christopher Beatty	1956-1960	Has retired from the Civil Service and is living in Wales
1958		
Alan McFarland	1958-1963	Recently contributed to BBC's 'The Traveling Picture Show,' with Gloria Hunniford: old family cine-camera footage included a number of glimpses of the children at Rockport. Alan's wife, Celia, teaches at Rockport.
1959		
Clive Corry	1959-1964	Began his career as Sales & Marketing Director at J.P. Corry & Co., Ltd., in 1968. He left in 1994 to set up business on his own with his wife, Gillian - Self-build Ireland, Ltd. - a successful exhibition and publishing company with 18 employees. He recently completed a second self-built home. He still enjoys 'messaging about in boats,' cycles to keep fit and, when time permits, plays golf and tennis.
1960		
Michael Steele	1960-1965	Amongst a number of other interests, is an Antiquarian Bookdealer. He has three children and four grandchildren, all of whom are based in London.
Christopher Steele	1960-1966	After some years abroad, he now lives in Fife and works in the Oil Industry, finding time for the occasional round of golf at the R & A, where he is a member.
1967		
Tim Beattie	1967-1969	Lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife, Liz, and 'three student offspring'! He is Vice-President of DHL's Supply Chain in Australia.
Stephen Carey	1967-1973	Is a GP in St Andrews
1968		
Nicholas Lee	1968-1974	Is a dental surgeon in Sheffield

1969

Charles Haskins

1969-1975

Writes: 'Things are somewhat unsettled in South Sudan at the moment so it's difficult to write at great length. I am the Country Director for Fondation Hironde, a Swiss NGO which sets up and operates media in conflict, post-conflict and other fragile environments. In South Sudan, we run Radio Miraya in partnership with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). I am based in Juba. I have two children, Emma (21) and Sean (20), who live in Paris. Prior to working in Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan, I spent twenty years working in advertising radio and television in France. Prior to that, I was a dairy farmer in Wicklow, for seven lean years. Although I had no particular aptitude for French when I was at Rockport I think Mr. Armstrong would be intrigued by my progress since. My interest in journalism and history springs directly from the influence of Michael Williams. Over forty years later, I am still producing "reams and reams of wet flannel". Although I hope that these days it is objective, non-partisan and truthful wet flannel.'

1970

Peter Carey

1970-1972

Is working in retail sales in Indiana, USA

1971

Fenton Parsons

1971-1977

Over the years he has played rugby, golf and has competed in various motorsports. His main hobbies these days are sailing, motorcycling and music. He drums in his own band, Blues Direct. He lives in Hollywood and has three teenage children.

1972

Gareth Evans

1972-1975

Is working in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development managing European funds. He lives in Dundonald.

Neil Mackenzie

1972-1977

Lived in Kenya for twenty years, working first as a teacher and then as a sports management consultant. He now lives in Adelaide, Australia, with his wife and two children, where he runs a golf club.

1974

**Sarah Jenkinson
(née McFerran)**

1974-1977

Currently teaches German, French & Spanish at Bristol Cathedral School, where she is also tutor to the choristers. She also manages to fit in time as Akela of a local Cub pack and a mother to four sons!

1975

Michael Appleton

1975-1977

Re-trained as a Psychodynamic and Contemporary Psychotherapy and now works in IMPART, an NHS high intensity service specialising in personality disorders.

William Foster

1975-1977

Has taken early retirement and is living in Newtownards.

**David (Dudi)
Appleton**

1975-1982

Is an acclaimed film writer and director, based in London. His first film, 'A Short Homecoming', was based and filmed around Strangford Lough, and his award winning, 'The Most Fertile Man in Ireland', was set in Donegal. Among his credits are 'Silent Witness'.

Niall Browne

1975-1982

Is a chartered architect and living in Lancashire

Arthur Stewart

1975-1983

Practises Law in London and is married with four sons

Joel Larmour

1975-1984

Has lived in Appleby, Cumbria – famous for its annual Gypsy Horse Fair – for the past fourteen years. He works for Cumbria Constabulary and is married with four children.

1976

Nigel Casey

1976-1980

Was British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina until January and is now back at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London.

Rupert Casey

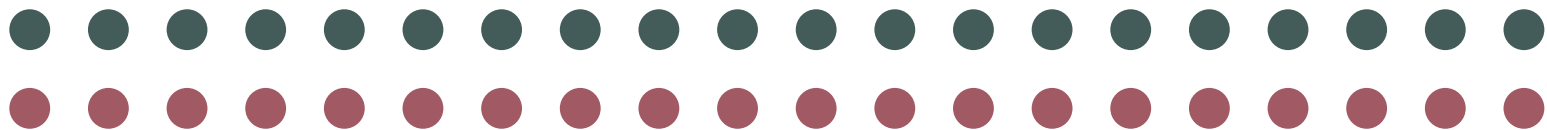
1976-1980

Is a commercial lawyer in London, living in Buckinghamshire.



Helen Gaul (née Pounder)	1976-1982	Worked in HR/Recruitment in London, Edinburgh and Belfast but gave up her career to follow her husband who was in the Forces. Since leaving service life they have been living in the south east of England, Ghana, West Africa and now in Kenya where they have been for nearly three years. They have two teenage daughters, one of whom is back at school in the UK. She fills her days doing 'parent and school stuff' and is heavily involved in Riding for the Disabled in Nairobi and some other charity things.
Nicholas McFerran	1976-1984	Married to Sam in 1999 and has three sons, born in 2001, 2005 & 2008. He is an Automotive Design Consultant working with companies such as Bentley, Lotus, Jaguar & Land Rover. He would love to meet up with any ORs living in the Cheshire area.
1977		
Karen Scott Harrison (née Scott)	1977-1981	Is currently a company secretary and has a daughter at Rockport.
Jeremy Hinds	1977-1982	Is a partner in the Belfast law firm he co-founded (www.hinds-small.com).
Jamie McConnell	1977-1982	Is Managing Director of his family's company, Pro-Pak Phoenix (www.pro-pakphoenix.co.uk) and lives in Crossgar.
Alexander Nixon	1977-1985	Is a systems programmer in London, for a firm which uses computer models to analyse market movements. He married in 2005, has three small children, and is living in Surrey.
Conor Browne	1977-1987	Is London Regional Planner for BAM Construction (http://www.bam.co.uk/), a company which builds schools, UTCs, commercial buildings, museums, hospitals and some residential projects. He manages a team of circa 10 planners, helping manage the design, procurement and build process to ensure projects are delivered on time. This involves looking to see what needs to happen, when it needs to happen and how it should happen - and then putting this information into a format that everyone can understand [the plan]. They then monitor what is actually happening against this plan, report where there may be any variance from the plan and help implement corrective measures as required. He is married to Lucy and they have three boys.
1978		
Alexandra Hughes (née Riddall)	1978-1982	Is married to Robbie Hughes, has two children and lives in Strangford. She runs a company with her husband called 'Hughes and Macleod' which makes and sell reeds for bagpipes.
Serverin Johnson	1978-1983	Is an accountant at ENVA NI, Ltd.
Jonathon McVeigh	1978-1983	Is a self-employed Health & Safety Advisor, based in Newtownards.
Juanita Sharp (née Kellett)	1978-1984	Has returned from three years in New York and is now living in Brighton.
Rosemary Christie	1978-1987	Worked as a cashmere designer and as a buyer for Jenners department store, Edinburgh, before returning to Northern Ireland and establishing her own jewellery designing business – www.clutchandclasp.co.uk
Bryanna Strain (née Nimmons)	1978-1987	Is married and lives in Perthshire.
1979		
Paul Hollinger	1979-1983	Is a company director and lives in Greyabbey
James Mavitty	1979-1983	Returned to Northern Ireland in 1996 and has been an IT consultant ever since. He is married with two children and lives in Bangor – only 300 yards from where he grew up! He still hasn't forgotten French Toast for breakfast at Rockport, nor the 10p tuck shop once a week!
Andrew Webb	1979-1984	Is Director of Product Sourcing & Supply Chain at John Hogg Group.





Alex Plows (1980-1982) ran the gruelling Marathon des Sables in 2013.

.....



Running 150 miles across the Sahara Desert was a far cry from the annual cross country race at Rockport. It's a close run thing though; I loathed long distance running as a schoolboy. I can still feel the sting of driving rain on bare legs running along the shore of Belfast Lough in a November gale - or was it March?

The organisers of the Marathon des Sables ultramarathon took as little interest in the runners' comfort and wellbeing as the PE teachers at Rockport. There was no question of running in the early morning cool. Each day's race started mid-morning - presumably so we didn't miss out on the searing heat of the midday sun.

Commonly known as the "MdS", the Marathon des Sables is a 6 day footrace through one of the most spectacular and unforgiving landscapes on Earth. For some reason this race captured my imagination as an 18 year old. Since then I have travelled to deserts in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa and never cease to be awestruck.

In the MdS, runners need to carry all they need to survive for 6 days in the desert, including obligatory equipment like an anti-venom pump and an emergency flare and food (read dried and powdered food, energy shakes and nuts). My pack started at just over 11 kg. For those with young children, this is like running up and down sand dunes with a four year old on your back...just in 50 degrees Centigrade.

As we waited apprehensively for the starting pistol each morning,

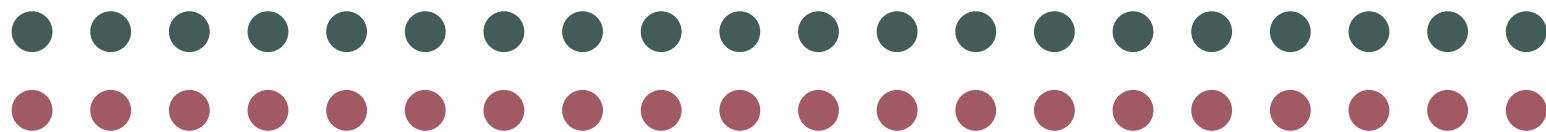
race organiser Patrick Bauer, gleefully read out a list of runners who had fallen by the wayside the previous day. Sometimes quite literally - one runner plummeted off the sheer side of a narrow mountain ridge and had to be airlifted out. Bauer also meticulously described (in French) the various danger spots of the day's race; cliffs, ridges, dunes, river beds and wadis (small desert mountains). After 5 minutes of French, the succinct English translation that followed was always the same: "Patrick says that it's hot out there so be careful!" After shaking hands nervously with our running mates (and avoiding being peed on by French runners who had no sense of shame or location), we set off on our daily marathon to the unsettling sound of "Highway to Hell" blaring from giant speakers and avoiding the dive-bombing helicopters carrying French film crews.

I say "daily marathon". Usually it was slightly shorter. But when you're running with a heavy backpack across endless sand dunes and rocky plains, climbing wadis taller than Slieve Donard (and wishing you were on Slieve Donard...in a blizzard), an ordinary road marathon seems like a fun run.

After three days of running and four sleepless nights packed into a small Berber tent not designed for the strapping Scandinavians in our tent (Tent 27), Day 4 loomed ominously. This was the "Long Day" - usually a double marathon. By this stage, some runners had no skin left on the soles of their feet and were running on sports tape and dressings applied by charming French nurses armed with scalpels and antiseptic. I was lucky not to suffer a single blister during the race, but did find my way to the medical tent after the long day. Having completed the longest run of my life (50 miles) on the hottest day of the race (54 degrees C), in 12 hours 38 minutes, I downed my recovery shake and crept into my sleeping bag. What followed was a bit of a blur but I woke up in a different tent surrounded by some concerned looking Englishmen and a French doctor waving a long tube. I had wandered into the desert in the night and collapsed - luckily wearing a headlamp so could be seen diving head first into the rocks. My first ultramarathon had taken its toll and I needed 4 litres of intravenous fluid before being discharged the next morning with a kiss on both (bloodied) cheeks from the French nurse. Luckily, Day 5 was a rest day for those of us who managed to complete the long day in under 24 hours. Some poor devils were out there for more than 34 hours!

After 4 days of running, the final marathon stage seemed like a breeze with fabulous running across plains, along dried river beds



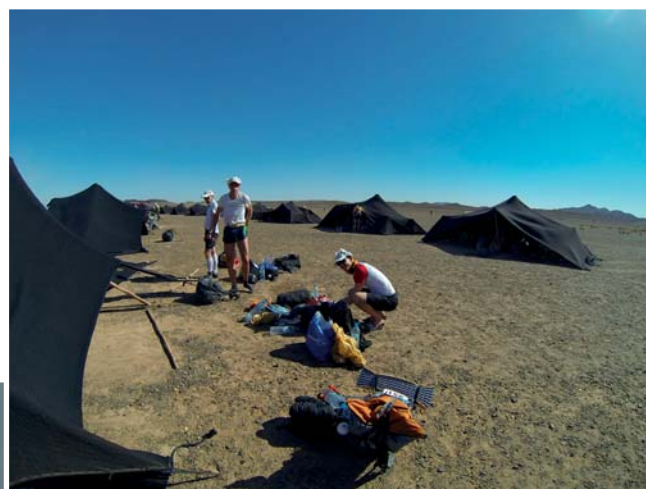


and through deserted villages. All of us in Tent 27, felt generally invincible - no bad feeling for a 41 year old lawyer normally chained to his desk! I was given a two hour "time penalty" for needing "assistance vitale médicale" in the form of intravenous fluid after the long day. The time penalty meant I dropped 63 places down the results table to 208th out of 970 finishers (54 dropped out along the way). My Norwegian running mate, Dag Thomas, came 36th so could count himself among the elite runners.

The question most people have asked me is "why?" This was a question I asked myself many times during the race. What was I doing here? What was the point in this pain? I wasn't exactly skipping lightly across golden sand dunes taking in the wonderful scenery. Most of the time all I could think of was how to put one foot in front of the other. On some days I even yearned for a hill so that I could stop running and walk. When I walked I felt the first signs of a blister developing on my feet so I started running again...

Apart from raising money for cancer research, seeing the desert and travelling with a good friend, I think the answer is "why not"? Why not challenge yourself once in a while, move some boundaries and see what you might be capable of? Like a near

death experience, I felt more alive afterwards, and it was fantastic to come home to my family in time for spring in Norway on my 42nd birthday. I had also lost more than a stone in weight, had a six-pack for the first time in 25 years and had witnessed some inspirational human efforts. There was a Paralympic triathlete, who completed the MdS on blades despite excruciating blisters on the stumps of his legs, a blind runner and his guide, and a team of French firemen who carried a different disabled child across each day's course. If they could do it then anyone could!



1980

Caroline Young (née Lusk)	1980-1982	Is Director of Accommodation & Hospitality at Queen's University, Belfast. She is married with two daughters.
Stephen Lusk	1980-1983	Has been working for Coca-Cola since 1990 and, after many moves around Europe, had been based in Berlin for a number of years. He has recently been promoted General Manager of the Singapore & Malaysia operation of the Bottling Investment Group and will move to Singapore with his wife and five children, in September.
John Orr	1980-1986	Is General Manager of Glenapp Castle, Ayrshire.
Keith Salters	1980-1987	Has two sons at the school and generously sponsored kit for the recent Malta Sports Tour.
Deirdre Gilpin	1980-1988	Is a lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy at Queen's, Belfast, where she is involved in teaching undergraduate pharmacists, and in research investigating the microbiology of respiratory diseases, such as Cystic Fibrosis and COPD. She is married with two daughters and lives in Bangor.
Harriet Kerr	1980-1989	Is living in Canada and is an IT Project Manager in Montreal.

1981

Stefano Micheletti	1981-1983	Is living in Germany. His daughter, Sophie Jade, was born on 10 th May, 2013
Gareth Gillespie	1981-1984	Is a Motor Engineer Assessor in Bangor
Jake Flanagan (Steven Kettle)	1981-1985	Finished his schooling in Plymouth before joining the Royal Navy, during which he saw active service in the first Gulf War. He then read Law at university and joined West Midlands Police. He is now a Sergeant and leads the team which responds to 999 calls. He was pleased to be able to return to Northern Ireland for the G8 Summit at Loch Erne. He is married and has three children – all of whom attend an independent school 'with many of the same values he found at Rockport.'
Tony Jordan	1981-1986	
Gavin Mackie	1981-1986	Runs the family estate, Larchfield, just outside Lisburn.
Susie Wright	1981-1989	Works for Channel 4 and is based in Glasgow:

'I'm a Development Manager in Channel 4's Creative Diversity Department. This is a unique role within broadcast for which the over-arching focus is driving the commissioning of content from new, diverse, grassroots talent from across the UK. It's part commissioning, part corporate, and I assist with delivering Channel 4's Nations and Regions remit, I manage the relationships between Channel 4 and the Northern Irish sector, but I also oversee the Northern English regions as well. The mainstay of my role is to ensure that creative talent, new and/or regional companies and under-represented groups from across the UK are connected into Channel 4. In addition to this I'm the editorial lead for the new talent showcase strand, The Shooting Gallery, which is set to return later in 2014. I've been at Channel 4 for nearly 5 years, when I first arrived I worked in the Channel 4 Commercial Affairs Department having spent 4 years working at the Northern Ireland Screen putting together funding packages for UK and international feature films and TV projects and offering support to the local industry.'

Jamie Robinson	1981-1990	Is the Founder and Managing Director of Eyekiller, an award winning website solutions company. Established in 2003, Eyekiller has delivered successful innovative digital strategies across Public Sector, Commercial, Arts and Entertainment.
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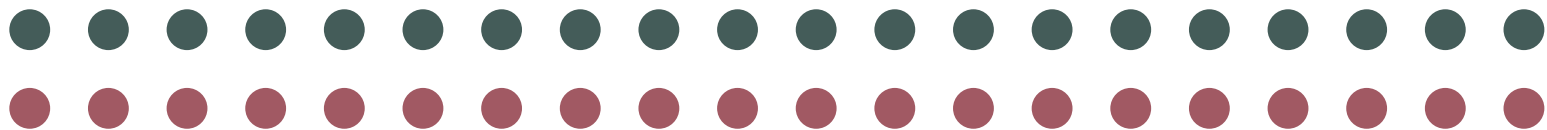


1982		
Susan Bruce (née Andrew)	1982-1986	Is a Delivery Suite Sister at Antrim Area Hospital. Her hobbies include photography and she still plays hockey for the Rainey Veterans – and teaches it every Friday at her son's Primary School. She lives on a sheep and cattle farm outside Magherafelt with husband, Ivan, and their two children.
Eden Meshida	1982-1986	Manufactures parts for the aerospace industry and previously was in Lagos, Nigeria, working on a number of civil engineering projects.
Francis Turnly	1982-1987	Is a playwright, radio dramatist and screenwriter. His stage plays have been produced at numerous theatres and he has written scripts for numerous radio and television dramas, including BBC Radio 4's supernatural thriller, 'Lullaby'. He lives in London.
Daniel Edelstyn	1982-1989	Is living in London with his artist wife and two young children. He is a film producer and director with his own independent company, Optimistic Productions (www.optimisticproductions.co.uk). They have made six films for Channel 4 and one feature documentary which has travelled the world and had a cinema release.
Graeme Fitzsimmons	1982-1989	Moved from Edinburgh to San Francisco in 2002 and works in advertising for the Daily Mail, having previously worked for the The Rolling Stone and The Atlantic Monthly. He is married to Monica, a native of West Texas, who works in publishing for Conde Nast, and they have two children Joaquin and Gabriella.
Gavin Wallace	1982-1989	Moved back to Northern Ireland from Bristol, in 2004, and is now an IT Technical Support Engineer for Concentrix EU. He married in 2009 and is living in Donaghadee.
Neville James Martin	1982-1991	Has recently been making waves in the local music scene, with BBC Radio Ulster taking a shine to his home grown mix of Blues, Soul and Funk. BBC Ulster's Ralph McLean even remarked that Neville was 'in no doubt an exceptional blues guitar player.' An album is due in July and with more and more live dates being added there will be plenty of opportunity to catch The Neville James Band at a venue near you. You can also head over to www.nevillejamesmusic.com and enjoy free listening of many of Neville's original recordings.



1983		
Andrea McGonegle (née Wilson)	1983-1984	After marrying her American husband, Doug, she took a career break and lived in the USA. She came 'home' and had two children, Eli (11) and Ruthie (8), works as a midwife in the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital and lives in Ballyhalbert.
Angharad Lovelock	1983-1985	Is living in Wales and is a self-employed dog groomer.
Claire Andrew	1983-1987	Is an Events Consultant for the family business, Andrew Ingredients, Ltd. (www.andrewingredients.co.uk), having previously worked as an Events & Marketing Executive for Cool FM & Downtown Radio. After some time in New Zealand, she is now back in Belfast but still enjoys travelling and looking after her three rabbits.





Celia Mackie	1983-1987	Runs her own company in Lebanon. Lynx Management is a property consulting company for the Middle East and North African region with facility management operations in Cyprus and Lebanon. The consultancy expertise covers property development structuring, asset management, project conceptualisation, management of master plan design, and project marketing and sales, with projects being carried out in Ghana, Egypt, Cyprus, Lebanon, Turkey, and the Gulf countries of Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. www.lynxco.com
Paul Brown	1983-1988	After having work overseas for some time, now lives outside Millisle, County Down. Married with three girls - 8, 5 and 3. Over the last 15 years he has been involved in the education technology industry, helping manage companies that develop software to enhance teaching and learning. Somewhat of an entrepreneur (he uses the term reluctantly!), he is founder and CEO of DisplayNote Technologies Ltd (www.displaynote.com), headquartered in Belfast, with offices in USA and mainland Europe.
Jason Johnston	1983-1988	Is a solicitor with Carson McDowell LLP in Belfast; he is married with three small children and currently lives near Banbridge, Co. Down.
Gareth Maunder	1983-1992	Is teaching English in a Kindergarten in Thailand. He lived in Germany, Lithuania, Manchester and Bangor, working as a Financial Adviser for ten years but, about seven months ago, decided that he needed a break. Although he claims to be earning the least amount of money he ever has, is enjoying more than he has enjoyed anything since Rockport!



1984		
Geoff Mitchell	1984-1986	Lives in Abu Dhabi with his wife and three children and is a Construction Project manager. He complains that life is currently difficult as the daytime temperature has plummeted to a chilly 18o!
Hans Arthur	1984-1987	Has lived in London on and off for over ten years. He returned to Northern Ireland in 2007 to help his father re-open Grace Neill's in Donaghadee, but is now back in the capital – running the famous Orange Tree pub in Richmond. It is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and will re-open as a boutique hotel in June. www.orangetreerichmond.co.uk
Mark Gilpin	1984-1988	Left the Army in 1988 and is now working with a specialist Risk Management and Security company, in West Africa, providing support to the mining industry.

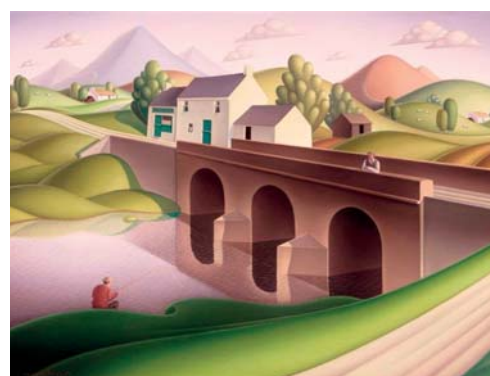
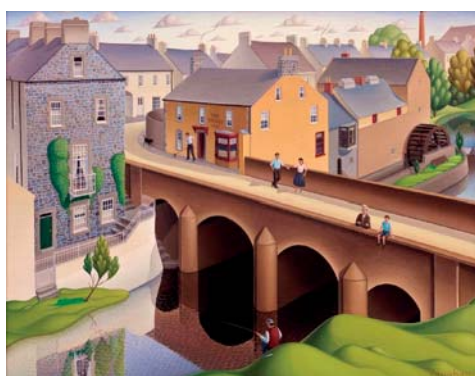


Phillip Anley	1984-1990	Is in his eighth year of primary teaching ('very rewarding but thoroughly full-time!'); he lives in Cirencester and he and his wife are expecting their second child in May.
Holly Tobin (née Mackie)	1984-1990	Is Director of Dream Escape, which provides the ultimate tailor-made travel service for leisure and corporate clients in Scotland, England & Ireland. Dream Escapes prides itself on taking care of every aspect of an experience and have an enviable reputation for creative planning & insider access. www.dreamescape.co.uk
Philip Appleton	1984-1991	Is a recruiter for Apple and is based in London.
Tori Higginson (née Corry)	1984-1993	Is the co-owner of Stamp Promotions, based in Holywood, supplying quality printed promotional merchandise and corporate gifts. www.stamppromotions.co.uk



1985		
Julie-Ann Wilson (née Anderson)	1985-1987	Is a Client Manager for Danske Bank and is living in Ballyclare.
Chris Fetherston	1985-1987	Works in the telecommunications industry and is living in Holywood.
Lisa Butler (née Neville)	1985-1987	Is a primary school teacher at Westholme Boys' School, Lancashire.

Justin Vaughan	1985-1987	Has worked full time as an artist since leaving The University of Ulster, recently returning home after several years living in Connemara and exploring the Irish landscape, a theme which has recently dominated his painting subject. A self-taught painter who sold his first oil painting at the age of fifteen, Justin's imaginative style of artwork is instantly recognisable and comprises of two contrasting themes; rhythmical Irish landscapes and colourful French themed paintings, both of which are soft and vibrant in colour and detailed in content. 'My painting style requires much patience and concentration using an old technique of under laying colours on canvas until the final smooth and aesthetically fine paint finish can be achieved, the simple line drawings that compose my paintings become careful blends of colour through tonal graduations that give an impression of shadows and distance, where everything is painted in a very controlled and precise manner.' www.justinvaughan.com
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Alice Pringle (nee Archer)	1985-1988	Is a Physiotherapist and works for her family's business, Bangor Physiotherapy Practice.
Claire Murray (née Boyd)	1985-1990	Is Human Resources Manager for a firm in Holywood.



Paddy Wallace **1985-1991** Has a distinguished Rugby pedigree. He has played professionally since 2001 and has amassed 189 caps for his beloved province of Ulster; and 30 caps for Ireland. He was selected for three World Cup squads during his career for Ireland and was part of the Grand Slam winning squad in 2009. In his time with Ulster, they have won the Celtic Cup (2003), Celtic League (2006) and were finalists in the 2011 European Cup. Recently he has been coaching the Senior Rugby team at Rockport.



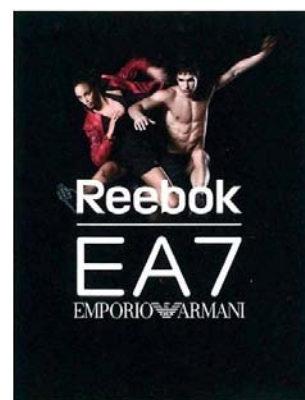
1986		
Heidi Dunn	1986-1988	Has had a colourful career as a Beauty Therapist, Fashion buyer for Diesel and, for the last ten years, has been working in the IT and Communications sector. She currently works as a Business Development Manager for an IT company - move over Bill Gates! She lives in Ballyclare with her pampered pooch!
Gavin Fisher	1986-1988	Runs an insurance brokerage with his brother, Robert (1988-1991), and they have offices in London and Newtownards. He is married with two children.
Nicholas Palmer	1986-1988	Has been married to wife, Jenny, for eight years, has two children, lives in Bangor and works in I.T.
Danny Black	1986-1989	After living in Barcelona for eight years, is now working as a broker in the City of London.
Russell Wallace	1986-1990	Is living in Perth and is General Manager of a wine company he helped to set up (www.exelwines.co.uk).
Simon Killen	1986-1991	Has been running his own company, Xzopia, for the past thirteen years. Based in the Bangor area, it provides IT support to businesses throughout Northern Ireland. www.xzopia.com
Thomas Lindsay	1986-1992	Lived in Houston, Texas, from 2009 to 2001, and is now living in London with his wife and two daughters. He is a Commodities Headhunter.
Rachel Thompson	1986-1993	Is working in the Criminal Justice system and living in Greayabbey. She owns a smallholding with several horses and competes in Show-jumping competitions as often as her job allows.
Mark Broad	1986-1994	Lives in London and is a TV Producer at the BBC.



1987		
Anna Bruce-Lockhart	1987-1988	After finishing school at Loretto, she studied at St Andrews, then taught English in South Korea and Spain. For the past ten years she has been working as a website editor at the Guardian in London, and has just moved to Geneva, where she is an editor with the World Economic Forum. She is married to Chris, a teacher, and they have two little girls, aged 2 and 3 ½. She says she is eating a lot of fondue and trying to master French!)
Xenos Foster	1987-1989	Is Logistics Auditor for News UK (formerly News International), who produce the 'Sun', 'Times' & 'Sunday Times' newspapers. He lives in Surrey with his wife and two young daughters. He is still hoping that someone can give him a copy of the 'Sound of Music' play (Rolph the mail man!) from circa 198: he distantly remembers getting a mention for it in the 'Belfast Telegraph', along with Neville Martin & Heidi Stewart.
Kerry Nevins (née Busby)	1987-1990	Was married in Mexico, in 1999, and is now working as a childminder back in Northern Ireland. She has two children.
Holly Parryman (née Smith)	1987-1991	Reports: 'I came to Australia as a 'backpacker' in 2006...not planning on staying more than a few months, I am now married to Jason, an Aussie and we have an eight month old baby boy, Thomas...the best laid plans of mice and men! I am now also an Aussie myself with dual citizenship. We live in a very popular tourist destination - Byron Bay, popular for its natural beauty and world class surf breaks. I try to get back home to NI about once every two years: we did a round the world trip with Thomas when he was four months old - visiting my parents in NI and my sister and her family in New York - a fairly challenging trip with a baby but lots of fun! I work part time as an Estate Agent...I have nothing but fond memories and lifelong friends of my time at Rockport.'
1988		
Neil Wallace	1988-1990	Is an Accountant in Holywood and lives in Belfast. In keeping with family 'tradition' he is also still playing Rugby - for CIYMS.
Philip Gass	1988-1991	Is Finance & Marketing Director at his family business, Creative Gardens (www.creativegardens.net): they currently have two well-known garden centres in Donaghadee & Bushmills and another will open at Galgorm Castle, Ballymena, in February.
Karen Hamblin (née McConnell)	1988-1991	Is living in Hereford and working as Housing Officer for Herefordshire Housing. She has a daughter.
1989		
Piers Campbell	1989-1991	Is a University Lecturer in New South Wales
Gareth Doherty	1988-1991	Is a Civil Servant and lives in Bangor.
David Killen	1988-1993	Works for Survitec Group making marine liferafts and is based in Belfast.
Jemima Eastwood	1989-1994	After graduating and returning home from London, she worked as an interior design for Gurada Design and Franklynn design. In 2013, she decided the time was right to launch her own business, J'adore Décor (www.jadoredecor.co.uk), an online retail store offering a varied selection of furniture, interior accessories and much more. Since launching last year, the business has gone from strength to strength and is able to reach and sell to the whole UK market. She is engaged to Jamie Robinson (1981-1990).
Shannon Eastwood	1989-1996	Was called to the Bar in 2007 (Inner Temple) and his first job was as Parliamentary Assistant for the City of London Remembrancer. He has lived and works in Liverpool in Liverpool since 2008 and, in October, 2013, so may move back to the Province in the near future. He married in 2012.
John Stevenson	1989-1991	Is Managing Director of electroniccentre.
Laura Bayley (née Lindsay)	1989-1993	Is married to Ben.
Sophie Appleton	1989-1996	Is working in a garden centre close to where she lives in Israel.




Elizabeth Pope	1989-1996	Works for Kirklees Metropolitan Council, West Yorkshire.
Tomas Reynolds	1989-1996	Competed in the Decathlon for Northern Ireland in the 2010 Commonwealth Games and hopes to be selected for the 2014 Games. He is also coaching his brother, Ben, in his quest for Commonwealth Games glory. He also has something of a burgeoning career as a model.



1990		
Stephen Knott	1990-1992	Was a Parliamentary Researcher for North Down MP, Lady Sylvia Hermon. In December last year he took up a new appointment as Executive Assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He reports that 'My job is really varied, challenging and absolutely fascinating: one minute I'm writing a brief for one of the Archbishop's many engagements and the next drafting a speech or organising a meeting. Lambeth Palace is an amazing place to work and everyone there is totally committed to supporting the Archbishop's ministry. I'm just so pleased to have joined the team.'
Luke Reynolds	1990-1998	Spent a year in Australia and is now based in Waiheke Island, New Zealand, where he is about to take the practical exam to become a registered Physiotherapist.
1991		
Leanne Anderson	1991-1996	Is currently touring Australia and is loving it! She has made her way down the Queensland coast and stayed with Barbara McKibben (née Hingston) along the way.
Jordanna Pye (née Little)	1991-1996	Is an Estate Agent and lives in Bangor with her husband and two sons.
1992		
Sophie Reynolds	1992-2000	Is working as an Associate Dentist in Edinburgh.
Robin Emerson	1992-2003	Is the Managing Director of Emerson Energy Group (www.emersonenergygroup.net) – a Mechanical and Electrical Contracting company whose clients include Tesco and Hastings Hotels. He is also involved in other areas of business including investment opportunities and is currently in the process of establishing a factory for the manufacture and sale of an environmentally friendly alternative to wooden logs and coal.
Last year he reached the I on I interview section with the producers for the television programme, 'The Apprentice'. He has also found time to get married and to help run amateur football club, 1st Bangor.		



1993		
Tiffany Brien	1993-2002	Sailor, Beauty Queen & Bodybuilder! She is a world-class sailor, has been the Irish number one in the women's radial class and is a future Olympic hopeful. However, her training has been punctuated by being crowned Miss Northern Ireland and representing the Province at the Miss World competition, and, most recently, she has been training for the WABBA 2013 All-Ireland Bodybuilding Championships. She also managed to find time to present the prizes at Rockport's Speech Day last year.
		
Daniel Gouk	1993-2006	a.k.a. Daniel James is based in London and is an upcoming singer-songwriter. He recently caused a stir as the main supporting act for Nina Nesbitt on her UK tour.
1994		
Kiera Mulholland	1994-1996	After finishing her degree at Oxford Brookes, she moved back to Glenavy and is now a Director of her family's dental wholesale business, B.F. Mulholland, Ltd. (www.bfmulholland.com)
Serena Parsons	1994-2001	Graduated from Edinburgh in 2012 with a BSc in Biological Sciences, with Honours in Immunology. She then took a year out and travelled, which entailed a Ski season and back packing around South America. As of January she has been working as an Orthopaedic Sales rep. based in Edinburgh.
Jamie Faulkner	1994-2002	After Glenalmond he went to Newcastle and continued to be involved with all things nautical. He worked on yachts for a short while before joining the Merchant Navy, and has recently qualified as a Third Officer with BP shipping. He navigates various types of oil and gas tankers around the globe.
Benjamin Reynolds	1994-2002	Has been pursuing a career in Athletics – with considerable success. He came 13 th at the 2012 World Indoor Championships and qualified to represent Ireland in the Hurdles at the 2013 World Championships – but decided that a 'ripening of abilities was needed' and didn't attend! However, he competed at the World Indoor Championships and the 2014 Commonwealth Games, in Glasgow.



Tessa Cooke (1996-1998)

started and is Director of her own company, Indigo Ivy.



I started Indigo Ivy mid 2012 after moving home to Northern Ireland from London after gaining as much experience in the industry as possible. This included working and training as a seamstress for a Menswear tweed company, working as a designer for an upmarket ladies Cashmere company and finally as office manager and events co-ordinator. This gave me experience and knowledge in all aspects of the business from

manufacturing and design to accounts and admin. 2013 was Indigo Ivy's first proper full year of trading.

My family's roots were as linen bleachers in County Antrim for over 200 years, and I wanted to revisit those roots with a modern theme, hoping eventually to reintroduce manufacturing here again once I have built the demand to a suitable level. I take immense pride in our history and have a great sense of passion and responsibility for creating something new in fabrics and clothing here in an era where the textile industry has virtually left Northern Ireland entirely.

We are fundamentally different from our competitors in three areas:

Firstly all of our products are designed and handmade in the UK. This contrasts with our UK and Irish competitors who mainly source both fabrics and manufacturing in low cost economies. UK design and manufacture allows us to place our company at the top end of the sector.

Secondly we design our own ladies tweed fabrics which are exclusive to Indigo Ivy and are made for us and us only in the UK. Most if not all of our competitors work with stock tweed designs that are available to all comers which allows us significant differentiation of our range from theirs.

Finally all the garments are designed by me, and are again therefore different from those of our competitors.

Our entire strategy is based on UK & Ireland design and manufacture to capitalise on the high end market desire for locally manufactured garments. After some poor experiences by consumers of fabrics and clothing made in the Far East, we see a strong trend developing for UK manufactured clothing.



We attend as many of the local game and seasonal fairs as we can, although the return is often limited by the footfall. This allows us to establish our brand in the local community which we believe is fundamental to our long term growth. We have also provided free garments for the gold medal winning Junior Irish Equestrian team in 2013, both to support their endeavours and promote our brand.

The endeavour to rebuild a highly regarded and high quality clothing business in a region where our early industrial history was greatly founded on textiles is my main motivation. I believe the move to lower cost centres of production is appropriate for low end garments, but that consumers actually seek locally made products for high ticket items, and it is something of a personal mission for me to reintroduce local manufacturing and to promote my business based on the rich history of quality textile manufacturing here. I have made my first significant recruitment in that my younger sister, Juliet, who was also at Rockport, has come back from London to work with me, and I greatly look forward to creating local employment and providing relevant training as my business grows to a level which will warrant local manufacture.



www.indigoivy.com





Rose Morgan	1994-2003	Is in her final year reading French & German at St. Andrews. She spent last year on an Erasmus exchange at the University of Vienna which she thoroughly enjoyed.
Jessica Darnley	1994-2004	After Glenalmond, she went up to Durham and graduated from there in 2013 with a degree in Archaeology. She is now working as a personal assistant at a real estate investment company called Silverpeak Real Estate Partners.
Albert Mercer	1994-2008	Studied International Business and Chinese. He spent a year abroad in Shanghai.
1995		
Fiona Corry	1995	Having trained in London as a make-up artist, she is now chasing her dream and is training through Horse Sport Ireland to become an accredited competition coach. She is the Chef d'Equipe for the Victoria College show jumping team, who recently came second in the inter-schools championship at Balmoral Park in October.
Jessica Easton	1995-2000	Completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Manchester and is now teaching Maths at Bethnal Green Academy, London.
Fenella Darnley	1995-2002	After Glenalmond, read Philosophy & Political Economy at Exeter, and graduated in 2011. She then went to Kaplan Law School in London for two years and is now training to be a solicitor at a City law firm.
Tom Marshall	1995-2003	Is studying Business Management at Newcastle. He is currently on a placement year working as a Business Analyst for Virgin Media, and returns for his final year in October.
Alice Watson	1995-2004	When onto Glenalmond & Newcastle and, since last November, she has been working on the Charities Team at Quilter Cheviot, an Investment Management company, in London.
Jessica Hastings	1995-2005	Attended Rugby and is now in her final year of reading Law at University College London
Rowan Gibney	1995-2009	Is reading Politics at Queen's, Belfast, and did a twelve week internship at the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister as part of the course. During this time he played a role in working on the next child poverty strategy. He also became chair of Alliance Youth, the youth wing of the Alliance Party, and has also had the opportunity to work in his local Alliance constituency office.
1996		
Tessa Cooke	1996-1998	Has set up her own company, Indigo Ivy, The company recently had a stand at the annual Rockport Ladies' Lunch.
Christopher Dobbs	1996-2001	After Harrow, he studied Architecture at Newcastle, and is now working as an IT Manager for a legal practice in London.
Milo MacKean	1996-2002	After Eton he took a gap year during which he mainly worked in a Restaurant and Cookery School, but also had three months coaching football in townships schools in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He is currently in his third and final year at Cardiff University studying Politics and Modern History - and loving every minute of it.
Philippa Baird	1996-2004	Is a Racehorse Trainer in Downpatrick, having previously worked with Jonjo O'Neill in England.
Shane Cooke	1996-2004	After Glenalmond, he is now in his fourth year at Northumbria doing a degree in Estate Management. He spent his third year working for BTW Shiells estate agency in Belfast, and hopes to find work in London or Belfast next year.
Clare Haldane	1996-2006	Studied Criminology degree at Northumbria.
Megan Robinson	1996-2004	Is in second year studying Creative Media at Leeds Met (and loves it!); she hopes to be a Graphic Designer after graduating.
Isobel McClure	1996-2005	Went on to Methodist College and is currently her second year at Cardiff reading for a degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering



Connor Schelling-Tisza (1998-2006)



Connor has a burgeoning career as a model and will have been seen by many in printed and television adverts.

What did you do after leaving Rockport?

After leaving Rockport I followed a career path as an aspiring tennis professional, training and competing throughout the UK, Ireland, Spain and the USA.

How did you get into modelling?

I started modelling after a local photographer spotted me in a bar and sent my photos along to Cathy Martin, who organises fashion week here in Belfast, and I was immediately thrown into the spring shows. After that I realised that modelling was good fun, a creative and exciting industry that spans many formats – and with the opportunity to make a lot of money. I then signed with Andrea Roche Agency in Dublin, working between Belfast and Dublin for the greater part of a year, before being scouted by Elite London. I participated in the Elite Model Look competition where I spent a week in London at Bootcamp in the summer, and eventually signed a contract with them. One thing led to another and I recently spent six weeks working in Milan.

Was this something you had ever thought of doing?

I hadn't given much thought to a career as a model before as I was so focused on a career as a tennis professional. However, the Arts and Drama had always been a keen interest of mine so something within the bounds of modelling and acting had always appealed to me. Had I not chosen this career I would still be playing tennis and competing, I fell into modelling as I had injured my shoulder and I thought to myself, 'let's see where this takes me' whilst I recuperated. However, modelling seems to have taken over for the moment.

How does it feel to be in the one of the few careers where (at the top end) males earn less than females?

Ha. Well this is an interesting question. The industry is very much

based and directed towards women. The client base is huge and I believe in general women are willing to pay more for make-up, clothes, bags, hair products and so on, so it does make sense to me. There is still a great margin for men to earn. I tend to focus on what I can do, rather than compare what this girl or that girl makes next to me. Obviously it is an easy trap to fall into, one that we as a population have made for hundreds of years – but I am mindful of the 10th Commandment: 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's oxen'. I am grateful to be working and don't give it much thought to be honest.



How do you think that Rockport helped get you where you are today?

I think Rockport instilled a great work ethic in me and was a great environment to learn and grow. I believe that no matter what area you apply yourself to, with hard work and belief anything is possible.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass onto current pupils?

Believe in yourself. Do what makes you happy and find pleasure in getting your hands dirty and working your hardest, no matter what it is. It will pay off.

What has been the highlight of your career to date?

I was hand selected by John Logan, the creator/playwright of Gladiator, Hugo, Batman The Dark Knight, Rango, Skyfall, The Last Samurai and Star Trek (to name a few) for a part in an episode of a new Sky Atlantic series called Penny Dreadful, as well as working for clients such as Versace Jeans and Fendi, in Milan.

What has been the funniest moment of your career?

Working with an animal that didn't quite grasp the concept of not using my leg as a bathroom.

Who is the most famous person with whom you've worked?

Luke Evans on the set for Dracula.





1997		
Alison Turner	1997-2002	Is a Staff Nurse at the Clark Clinic at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.
Julia Clarke	1997-2005	After doing A-Levels at Methodist College, went travelling all over the world, lived in Australia for seven months. She is going to Westminster University, in September, to study Marketing – but she also has a singing agent over in the capital and hopes to pursue this avenue as well.
Victoria Murphy	1997-2006	Captained the 1 st VII Netball in her final year at Uppingham and was awarded the Sportsmanship Award for Girls.
Victoria Patterson	1997-2006	Lived in California for three months and spent a month in Thailand. She now works for Fortuna Inns, a new and rapidly expanding company which runs restaurants, bars and nightclubs.:
Thomas Crowe	1997-2007	Is currently in his second year at Leeds, reading International History & Politics.
Matthew Hastings	1997-2007	Went onto Harrow and is reading Economics at Edinburgh. He has recently travelled around India and Burma.
Molli Mercer	1997-2010	Has finished an HND at Oatridge Agricultural College and plans to travel the world.
1998		
Ted Carnduff	1998-2003	Works at South Eastern Regional College as a study support worker and student music mentor. He is also a trance/house music DJ producer with several albums and EP releases. He currently holds several resident DJ positions, including The Railway Bar (Lurgan) and Betty Blacks (Bangor). He runs his own DJ business – ‘In The Mix’ – and plays in all different types of events and venues across Northern Ireland. www.in.themix@live.com
Emily O’Dowd Lewis	1998-2003	Runs her own company, Verified Background. It started in early 2012 as a pre-employment screening company based in Northern Ireland, with an operations centre in the Czech Republic. They have a growing customer-base ranging from some of the UK’s largest and best known charities, to large HR companies in Asia and the USA, and have built a great relationship and reputation with both screening providers and clients worldwide as a diligent and friendly operation. For more information please visit www.verified-background.com
Alex Polkey	1998-2003	Is studying Politics at Bath and is heavily involved with Amnesty International. He hopes to move to work in South Africa after graduation.
Eleanor-Rose Browning	1998-2004	Is now living in Australia, working as a restaurant manager in a rural country town in Queensland.
Rob Haldane	1998-2005	Is currently at Ulster studying for a Business Studies degree. He also works in the family business, Haldane Fisher, and plays Rugby for Malone R.F.C.
Daniel Schelling-Tisza	1998-2005	Did a BTEC National Diploma in Music Practice, before being awarded a First in his BMus in Jazz, Pop and Commercial Music at the Sage (Gateshead). He then completed a Masters in Management at Durham Business School. He came back to Northern Ireland last January and is working and saving for his next venture.
Patrick Anderson	1998-2006	After attending RBAI for A-Levels, is now in his final year
Olivia McMullen	1998-2006	Did volunteer work for six months in India and Sri Lanka, and worked in an orphanage for disabled children.



Stephen McNally **1998-2006** Is in Glasgow reading Economics. He hopes to make it into the Lightweight 1st VIII during Regatta season this year.



Henry Crowe **1998-2009** Has completed Level 3 extended Diploma in IT and hopes to move on to university afterwards.

Cecily O'Dowd Lewis **1998-2005** Is at Trinity College, Dublin.

Rebekah Wilson **1998-2011** Has just finished her final year at Liverpool John Moore's (English Literature) and will soon be starting a Masters in Journalism at UU.

Chloe Hawthorn **1998-2011** Attended The Royal School of Armagh for A-Levels, has gone on to study Public Relations at Bournemouth University and is in her placement year working before her final year.

1999

Christopher Baird **1999-2002** Finished his A-Levels at Sherborne before going onto Trinity College, Dublin. While at Trinity, he became very passionate about an emerging field known as social entrepreneurship [using business skills to solve social problems] and became involved Ashoka, which actively works to assist leading social entrepreneurs across the globe to create positive social change. After working with them in Ireland for a year, he moved to San Francisco. He will graduate with a Masters of Social Entrepreneurship in August of this year. He then plans to move to London to begin work. Last year he travelled to the geographic North Pole and completed the world's most extreme marathon.





Jack Brien	1999-2002	Is in Lower Sixth at Campbell. He hopes to continue onto Queen's, Belfast, but is also thinking about taking a GAP Year to sail around the world (having got the bug during his six month voyage around the Mediterranean last summer).
Hollie Boston	1999-2003	Having completed her A-Levels at Methodist College in English, Psychology and Classics, she is now studying Music, Theatre and Entertainment Management in the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.
William McKendry	1999-2003	Is studying Business Management at Liverpool John Moore's.
Annah McKendry	1999-2004	Is at Southampton studying Criminology and Psychology.
William Rea	1999-2004	Is in second year reading Maths at Stirling.
Stephanie Fawcett	1999-2008	Is in Lower Sixth at Methodist College.

2000

Alison Blayney	2000-2005	Is living in Wimbledon and working in central London on a Graduate HR scheme with Unilever.
Anna Clugston	2000-2005	Set up her own business in 2012 – Anna Clugston Property Services – where she completes Energy Certificates for many estate agents and private clients. She also works part-time in Home Management Services in Holywood, offering a property lettings and full management service – and is studying to obtain a technical award to complement this.
Lisa Mahood	2000-2007	Is just about to leave to work in the U.S.A. She has spent the last few years studying a foundation degree in Art and Design and aims to go back and do a teaching qualification.
Dominic Reynolds	2000-2008	Is in Lower Sixth at Down High School, working towards his AS Levels.
Georgia Cunningham	2000-2012	Is studying Occupational Therapy at Queen Margaret University.

2001

Robert Cooke	2001-2003	Moved to Strathallan and is now in the final year of his Master's degree in Naval Architecture at Southampton. He hopes to go into the offshore oil and gas industry next year.
Louisa Scott	2001-2003	Is Assistant to the Directors of Nigel Milne, Ltd., a jeweller in Piccadilly.
Eliza Kinahan	2001-2005	On finishing school at Sherborne, she took a year out to work and go travelling around S.E. Asia and is currently in her second year at Newcastle, studying Geography – with the hope of getting a placement in London this summer.
Ryan Dickson	2001-2006	Is a car salesman and is based in Donaghadee.
April Ross	2001-2006	Has a seasonal job working for Titanic Walking Tours but is currently seeking suitable full-time employment.
Allan McBurney	2001-2007	Graduated from Queen's, Belfast, in 2011, went to the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, and is not practising as a Lawyer in Belfast.
Oliver Hastings	2001-2009	Has just finished at Rugby.

2002

Turlough Convery	2002-2007	Won the Stephen Sondheim Student of the Year Competition while studying at Guildford School of Acting. Since graduating in 2013, he has been filming for Channel 4's 'Fresh Meat', E4's 'My Mad Fat Diary' and BBC Three's new series, 'Siblings'. He has also performed in the West End and is due to take part in the concert revival of Stephen Schwartz's 'Godspell', along with the original cast member, David Essex.
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Christopher Crawford	2002-2007	Is working towards becoming a Golf Professional at Knock Golf Club, Belfast.
2003		
Jenna Tipping	2003-2006	Is a Classroom Assistant at Newtownbreda High School and is also in the first year of studying with the Open University for a degree in Childhood & Youth Studies.
Michael Barbour	2003-2008	Moved to the University of Ulster after Strathallan, and is now in his final year of a degree in International Hospitality Management. He spent his third year working in a hotel in the New Forest.
Matthew Beattie	2003-2008	Is an Assistant Systems Administrator: 'I deal with certain computer problems (hardware and software), I also create and maintain programs which would benefit the company. I have started a side venture in my spare time, where I design and develop my own mobile Apps for iPhone and Android. Currently I am working on a new project but up to now I have 2 apps on both stores, I which is for the company (Beatties E-Stirling) and the other is a game which I built to help people with dyslexia, like myself, called (Spell Gazer).' He has also travelled extensively.
Mark Hayes	2003-2008	Recently graduated from Ulster, with a Business Management degree. He has recently taken up boxing at Ards Boxing Club.
Chris Rodgers	2003-2008	Is in his second year of a Web Design degree at Ulster.
Ashden Smyth	2003-2008	Is at Queen's, Belfast, studying for a degree in Nursing. She lives in Bangor and has a six month old son.
Kirstin Young	2003-2008	Is working in a casino and studying towards an English degree with the Open University.
Emma Donaldson	2003-2009	After finishing school at Dollar Academy, she was a Gap year student at Rockport. She is currently working part time as a nanny in Hillsborough and is half way through completing a foundation degree in Early Childhood Studies at Stranmillis.
Rachel Vaughan	2003-2011	After finishing her A-Levels at the Royal School, Armagh, is studying Environmental Science degree course at St. Andrews.
2004		
Kavan Bickerstaff	2004-2007	Is currently in Upper Sixth at Royal School, Armagh, and hopes to head to Imperial College London to study Computer Science in September. He thinks he might like to pursue a career in cyber security. In his spare time he programs Android games and plans to publish these on the Google Play Store at some point.
Kale Bickerstaff	2004-2008	Is currently in Lower Sixth at Royal School, Armagh.
Iona Kerr	2004-2008	Graduated with a BA degree in Early Childhood Studies at Stranmillis in July, 2013. During the course she had the opportunity to live in Turku, Finland, for five months, working in a Finnish day nursery. She is now working in Killinchy Primary School as a Special Needs Assistant. She has plans to do an Early Years PGCE, to live in Australia for some time and become trained in the Steiner education system.
Tameron Drake	2004-2009	Is doing a Sports Studies course at Southampton Solent and is also a professional ice-skater.
Naomi Gibson	2004-2010	After finishing her A-Levels at Glenlola Collegiate, she is now in her second year at Durham (Stockton campus) reading for a degree in Primary Education.
2006		
Flora Kinnaird	2006-2007	Left Tudor Hall and has spent six months backpacking around India; she has recently began reading History at Bristol.
Elizabeth Dobbs	2006-2008	Also finished at Tudor Hall and was offered a place at Manchester to study Archaeology & Art History. She has deferred entry and worked in London for five months before embarking on GAP Year travels.





2007		
Taylor Lyons	2007-2008	Not only graduated with 1st in Psychology from Queen's, Belfast, but was also presented with the UK Undergraduate of the Year by the British Psychology Society. She is now reading for an MSc in Neuroscience at Trinity College, Dublin.
Alexandra Collett	2007-2009	Finished a foundation course at Italia Conti Drama School, in March, 2013. She then did the round of auditions and was accepted to London School of Dramatic Arts for a one year intensive course and starts there in October this year – despite having had a few health worries.
Cody Peck	2007-2009	After Rockport, he returned to High School in the USA, during which time he captained the school's Lacrosse and American Football teams. He is now in his second year at Westfield State University, studying Communication.
Rebekah Magowan	2007-2010	Is currently studying a course in health and social care and hopes to go on to do Nursing at university next year. She also has two part time jobs.
Vittorio Gambale	2007-2011	Is in first year at Belfast Metropolitan College studying for an HND in electrical engineering as well as completing an apprenticeship as an electrician for a company called WMG.
Rose Lennon	2007-2012	Left Glenlola Collegiate in 2013 and finished her A-Levels at St. Columbanus High School, Bangor. She hopes to pursue a career around sign language and drama. She kindly says that 'my years at Rockport have made me who I am, and I'm truly grateful for the say I had the privilege of attending the school.'
2008		
Hannah Boston	2008-2009	Is in Lower Sixth at Hunterhouse. She has been very busy working for Cancer Research UK, working towards completing her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award this summer and playing for Malone Ladies' Rugby team.
Demi-Leigh Chamberlain	2008-2011	Went to Ratcliffe and completed a 12 month apprenticeship with WAA Business Creativity – reportedly the 8th best marketing agency outside London.
Jack Green	-2011	Recently won 1 st Prize in the all-years poetry competition at Belfast Royal Academy. His piece, 'The Drops' features elsewhere in this newsletter.
Ballanah Torbett	2008-2011	Is still at the International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
John Mulgrew	2008-2013	Is at Methodist College doing A-Levels. He recently returned to Rockport for primary teaching work experience.
2010		
Carl Elliot	2010-2011	Is in his final yearw reading for a Building Engineering degree at the University of Ulster and is also working in the sales department of Bfab steel manufacturers.



Staff News



BRIAN DONALDSON (STAFF, 1990-2015)

Before he retired at the end of term, Brian Donaldson's last ever Science class was the delightful and lively R6. The pupils were sad when they realised this would be their last class with him, as well as his last ever class and many gave him hugs. A fun Science lesson was delivered, with plenty of treats. Brian will be sorely missed by all who were taught by him and his work colleagues.

At the end of this summer term we say goodbye to our long serving Science Teacher, Brian Donaldson, as he retires from teaching after 25 years' service to Rockport. The word legend is sometimes bandied about and overused these days but Mr D's reputation goes well before him and there are indeed many legendary tales. An OR who writes to me to sums it up:

'When I think back to Mr Donaldson's lessons, I recall what a funny and engaging teacher he was. He was able to manage us pupils so well, teaching us when we didn't even realize we were learning'.

Brian served the school over 25 years and through some times of great change. His contribution has been both immense and varied, including not just the teaching of Science(s) to children of all ages up to GCSE but also playing a leading role in careers education, work experience, records of achievement, tracking former pupils, Knex Club, FI Challenge, general knowledge quizzes on Founders' Day and Newshound, as well as arranging the PA systems, sound and lighting for RDS, JDS, Speech Day, Sports Day; just to mention a few.

We wish him well in his well-earned retirement but rest assured that there will be many opportunities for Brian to come back to the school.

GV



Announcements

Marriages



Flora Montgomery (1983-1987) married Sørren Jessen on 30th August 2014

Tom Reynolds (1989-1996) married Maria Haldam-Downes, on 25th August, 2012. The service took place at Glencraig Parish Church, with a reception at Rockport afterwards. Tom is son of Josh (1964-1969) & Teresa Reynolds (both Staff) and other ORs in attendance were Reynolds family members, Luke (1990-1998), Ben (1994-2002), Sophie (1992-2000), Jessica (2001-2009) & Kirk (1960-1964), and Gary Devon (1967-1971) & Ben Pentland (1988-2001).



Louise Bradley (2004-2009) married Adrian Bell, on 24th January, 2014.

In Memoriam

Thomas Carr (1921-1923)	Feb 1999
Lord Charles Johnston (1923-1928)	2002
Howard Ferguson (1920-1922)	Nov 1999
Clare Allison (1940-1941)	2012
Trevor Boyd (1943-1945)	Dec 2011
Timothy Eves (1969-1970)	2012
Stanley Ferguson (1946-1951)	2011
Peter Gadsden (1937-1939)	2006
Alastair Macafee (1943-1948)	Jul 2010
Norman McBride (1926-1931)	2012

Engagements

Lance Hamilton (1990-2002) became engaged to Rebekah Patterson at New Year, in Morzine.

Births

Dudi Appleton (1975-1982) and wife, Emma, welcomed their second daughter January, 2014, a sister to Lali.

Xenos Foster (1987-1989) and wife, Emma, welcomed their second child, Charlotte, into the world in April, 2013, a sister to Meghan.

Tom Lindsay (1986-1992) and wife, Eleanor, are the proud parents of a daughter, Susannah, born 10th January, 2013, a sister to Alice.

Mark Broad (1986-1994) and wife, Ria, welcomed their new son into the world, in February, 2014 – another grandchild for Graham (Headmaster, 1986-1994) & Carleen.

Carrie Davis (née Fisher) (1987-1989) and husband, Mark, welcomed their third child, Evie, on 30th January, 2014, a sister to Benjamin and Jacob.

Lucinda Beaumont (née Faulkner) (1992-1997) and husband Edward were pleased to welcome their son, James Edward, into the world, on 14th February, 2014.

Ashden Smyth (2003-2008) and Aaron McDade are proud parents to Jacob William, born in July, 2013.

Sir Michael McCorkell (1932-1938)	Nov 2006
Todd McMillen (1939-1944)	Feb 2016
Anthony McMillen (1942-1949)	Aug 2015
James McVicker (1946-1951)	2007
Colin McVicker (1950-1955)	2012
David Rebbeck	Dec 2012
Dora Tucker (Staff)	
Willim Harvey (1947-1952)	Jan 2015
Ian Lamont (1931-1935)	2003



Rockport in Reflection



In the 1950s, class time took up much of the day, as it does now. They generally started after morning assembly and lasted until lunchtime with a short break for refreshments at about 10.45. Lunch was followed by approximately two hours of sport, the type of which depended on the season of the year. Tea break was then followed by two more classes or until about 5.30, after which the day-boys went home. Each period lasted for 40 minutes, and there were no bells to signify the end of each one. Prep was done at home or, in the case of the boarders, after the evening meal, and this was how most of the marks were obtained. Ten marks were usually the maximum, and sometimes twenty.

Each teacher usually had their particular room and we went to that room, depending on the subject being taught rather than each form having its room. Miss Hart taught in 'Dunbarton' which was a large World War I wooden hut with big windows and was located beside the pedestrian gateway into the yard (a garden now occupies the site). Mr. Watson taught French in the Barn, in the yard and directly opposite what is now the Tucker Hall. In my day (1955 - 58), there were between 70 and 90 boys at the school, and there were five forms, starting with, in ascending order, 4B, 4A, Shell, Second Form and most senior of all, First Form - many of the boys in that form were prefects or 'captains' as they were known. Each class would thus have approximately 15 or 16 boys. Incidentally, the name Shell is thought to be a reference to the large shell that was at the end of the main school-room in Westminster School in the 18th century.

Masters were always addressed as 'Sir', something which has since died out in most schools, and lady teachers as 'Miss' or 'Mrs.'. We always stood up when they entered the room. The staff did not wear academic gowns, but rather dressed in smart sports jackets.

Discipline did not have to be enforced frequently, but minor transgressions such as lateness or talking would earn one an order mark. Actual misbehaviour was usually rewarded with a conduct mark; this was recorded on a master sheet, kept in the main school-room for all to see. Four or more conduct marks

in a week meant a trip to the Headmaster's study on Saturday morning, where the offender would receive several strokes of the slipper (not the cane). Similarly, if one's standard of work dropped significantly, one was put on reports for a week; unsatisfactory performance was marked with 'N.S.', of which three or more resulted in the use of the slipper.

At that time, there were no teaching aids such as computers or even overhead projectors which are so common nowadays. It was up to each teacher to make the subject interesting. For instance, I found Michael Williams's teaching of history most gripping, even inspirational.

The sciences were not taught then, but the emphasis was on the humanities. Subjects were English (both literature and language), French, Latin, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Music and Art. On Saturday mornings, Mr. Bates, who ran Glencairn



Primary School (now converted to use as a private house), came down to teach carpentry in a small room next to the Barn.

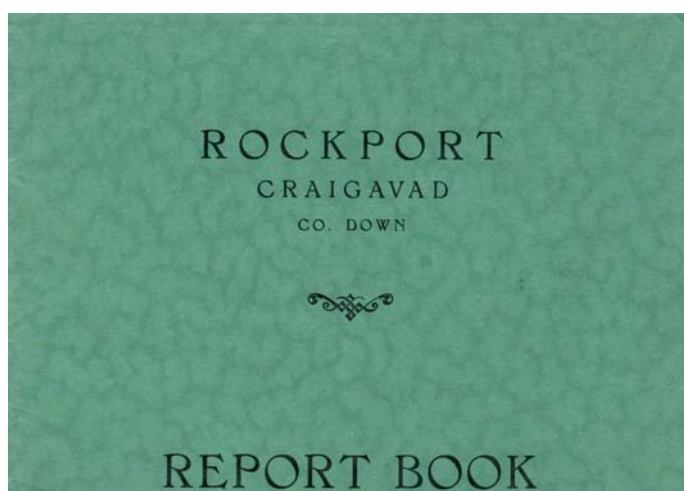
Tony Merrick (1955 - 1958).





The overarching memory of my time at Rockport is being happy in good company. In truth, looking back 60-67 years it is all a bit of a kaleidoscope, with sporting events in sharper relief than the groves of academe. I have excellent memories of the longer-serving members of staff such as Eric Tucker; Jimmy Irvine, Bill Watson and Henry Brett – in particular their involvement across a broad spectrum of activities and their rigorous application of fair play. None of this diving to get a penalty! My last memory of Eric Tucker was going trout fishing with him in County Donegal when the families were on holiday in adjoining boarding houses. As you would expect it was a thoroughly enjoyable learning experience. Some years later, whilst doing Senior Certificate at Portora, I was quaking at the knees prior to the French oral examination. Imagine my delight when, upon entering the room, I found that the assessor was none other than Bill Watson. The examination consisted of catching up on all the gossip (in French of course!) and I was later awarded a distinction. I also remember visiting HMS Vanguard, the largest ship in the Royal Navy, during a port visit to Bangor and learning that rounds from its 15-inch guns, if fired, would land in Scotland, somewhere I had never been. I was highly impressed.

Ian McBride (1947-1953)



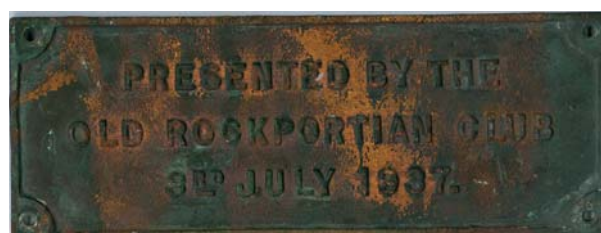
Guess who?

The school has recently been clearing out old records and these pictures were attached to pupils' transfer files. Are you able to identify anyone – or yourself?(!)



From the Archives

These plaques have become detached from the items presented to the school; for posterity's sake we would like to reunite them or, at least, be able to record on the reverse what they were. Please do let the school know if you have any idea. orc@rockportschool.com





Dates for your Diary



We are very much hoping to organise a series of OR events in the next academic year:

London Get Together

November, 2016

Founder's Day

St. Patrick's Day, 2017

Speech Day + OR Day

Friday, 16th June, 2017

Details will be sent to all ORs shortly. Please also see the OR section of the school website and the OR Facebook and Twitter pages.

HELP!



.... Please keep us updated with all your news and contact details. This can be done by email:

orc@rockportschool.com

or via the OR section of the school website:

www.rockportschool.com/orc

