



NEWSLETTER

President's Message

I'm writing this from Washington DC, where Union Jacks still flutter along Constitution Avenue following the historic visit of King Charles III. The visit marked the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence and reinforced the enduring friendship between the United States of America and the United Kingdom. It feels especially resonant for the Old Blue community to have had CH'S Royal Patron here in the same month we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Christ's Hospital transatlantic exchange program between CH and the Bryn Mawr and Gilman schools of Baltimore - our own contribution to the special relationship.

That special relationship, as our guest speaker Miriam McKay (CH Treasurer and Hertford Old Blue) so eloquently put it, is the result of slow, subtle, cumulative and potent partnerships and alignment. This spirit was evident in the gathering that brought 40 Old Blues and friends including several former exchange students from all three schools together, to renew friendships and forge new ones. An excerpt from Miriam's remarks can be found in the pages of this newsletter along with other updates about the FCH board and a note on the passing of Jim Compton (Mid B 1942-1948).

A top priority for the FCH Board this year is to help build and strengthen the US Old Blue (USOB) network by providing local opportunities to meet and socialize with other USOBs. Please keep an eye open for information about such opportunities. We hope you will participate and enjoy spending time with USOBs from various eras as much as we do.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at fchusa.org/contact-us/

With warmest regards and thanks for your engagement with FCH and Christ's Hospital.

Sally O'Brien

Sally O'Brien (Knatchbull-Hugessen, 5's, 70-77)
President, Friends of Christ's Hospital

Celebrating 20 years of the Transatlantic Schools Exchange

From 1938 until 1974 Christ's Hospital welcomed 21 American boys as visiting students under an English-Speaking Union exchange program, the British-American Schoolboy Scholarship. Back then the Americans at CH spent a full year at the school as Button Greicians and served as House Monitors with all the privileges and duties of those ranks. Many sat for A-level exams. A number excelled in sports and played on school teams. One of them, J. Kenneth (Ken) McDonald (Lamb B 1950-51) has been a regular participant in Friends of Christ's Hospital (FCH) events, and in 2025 celebrated the 75th anniversary of his transatlantic adventure!

In 1957 the late James Bell (Maine A 1957-58) spent a year at CH. It was this rich, eye-opening and diverting experience that inspired Jim, some fifty years later, to encourage the CH alumni community in the US to consider establishing a program that could provide other Americans with the opportunity to experience Christ's Hospital and the UK. The exchanges would be shorter, lasting for about a month, would involve both male and female students and would take place during the Americans' junior year of high school. It would also involve Christ's Hospital students spending time in the US in their program partners' homes and schools.

Since 2006, 21 Gilman boys, and 19 Bryn Mawr girls have spent time at CH, partaking in its unique traditions and history - and building enduring relationships with their British counterparts. Similarly, 41 Christ's Hospital boys and girls have been afforded the opportunity to be embraced by Gilman, Bryn Mawr and their host families for a truly American experience. This program, which encourages curiosity and understanding across borders, is a tangible manifestation of the special relationship forged between the UK and the US over the past 80 years. In a world that is so fractured and divided, it is more valuable than ever. We are enormously grateful for the support of the schools, the host families and the donors who have ensured that it has flourished for the past twenty years and look forward to its continued success.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program, a dinner was held at the Mount Vernon Club in Baltimore, MD on April 28th. It was attended by Old Blues, current and former exchange students, their family members, faculty from the schools and supporters and friends of Christ's Hospital.



Current and Former Exchange Students



Back Row: Tyler Alfriend (Gilman 08), Taylor Adams (Bryn Mawr 08)

Middle Row: Kylie Taylor (Bryn Mawr 19), Sophia Rothwell (Bryn Mawr 26), Evie Duckworth (CH 23), Ama Adu-Gyamfi (CH 26), McKenzie Tebo (Bryn Mawr 23), Isaac Hewton (CH 26), Gabriel Romero (Gilman 26)

Front Row: Nik Feldman (FCH Board; Gilman 13-14), Sally O'Brien (President, FCH), Jonathan McMaster (Gilman 07)

Americans at CH

Jonathan McMaster, the first exchange student from Gilman arrived at Horsham in 2006.

"I played football (soccer) almost every day. The World Cup was on and everyone was going crazy. I played in the school's band. I ran 100 m dash on a grass track. I even met a Member of Parliament. But the best part of the trip was simply talking to new people. I once had a four-hour conversation with a group of Grecians about the differences between the US and the UK. We talked about sports, money, hip-hop, culture, racism, girls, cars, anything. Every student I met at CH took nothing for granted. They all knew what a great opportunity they'd been given. I was given a great opportunity to go to Gilman and an amazing opportunity to spend my summer in England."

Mary-Ann Massumi

"My month in England taught me so much about the world and myself. I went for a cultural experience for a chance to broaden my horizons, but instead I received much more. I learned that I can stand on my own two feet. I opened myself up and tried everything that was presented to me. I'm so proud of that. I made friends with many fantastic and interesting people."

Ryan Gisriel

"Time spent at CH was a chance of a lifetime. I was able to gain an intense study of English culture and education. This experience, being alone at an English prep school, forced me to reach out and embrace new situations. The CH community was extraordinary, hospitable and amicable, marching into the dining hall with my friends in Lamb A was a remarkable rare experience."

Nik Feldman

"Never again will I be able to visit a country in the way that I visited England. ... I always felt that I was one of the "blue coats". I never wanted to go home. The friendships I made at CH are some of the most important in my life. That is the legacy of Christ's Hospital, a collection of completely unique and exceptional kids."

Blue Coats in the US

Tom Poulton (MaA, GrE 02-09)

"It was wonderful to see the differences (and similarities) in perspective and views of the people I met and stayed with. Everybody was welcoming. The American exchange was a brilliant opportunity to learn about the history of this powerful country and how it has shaped the opinions and beliefs of its people today."

Rebecca Goodmaker (CoIB, GrE 02-08)

"On my first evening, Taylor my exchange partner, invited some close friends to dinner and made sure that one person from each of my classes was there. I was overwhelmed and surprised at how the American teenage girls interacted. It was like in the movies where a group of girls all talk, almost shout, at once about completely different things but manage to keep track of what everyone was saying. I learned about US progressivism and industrialization. I had always wanted to try ice hockey and though I had only ever skated twice in my life, I was encouraged and supported in starting my new loved sport. I learned about American politics, and how a president is voted into power. I stood at the top of the Empire State building with three close friends, and what I saw will stay with me forever."

Laura Prieto (LHB, GrE 03-10)

"In English and History we would sit around a large round table and the class discussion very much felt like an organized conversation where the pupils were in control. During my second school week at Bryn Mawr, it was their annual spirit week. Every day each grade was given a different theme to dress up in. Tuesday was called decades day, which meant that each grade had to wear the clothes from a different era. Despite the rain that day, all the junior girls turned up in Togas and sandals!

Sebastian Streeting (MaA, GrE 03-10)

"I was astonished at both how different and how similar our cultures are. Having had my mind saturated by American film and media, I had a plethora of stereotypes and preconceptions that I was all too eager to put to the test. The two things that I most value from the exchange are the firsthand experience of America and of American education, and the friends I've made as a result of my time abroad."

Excerpts from the Treasurer's Address

It's a real pleasure and a privilege to be here with you to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Transatlantic Exchange between Christ's Hospital, Bryn Mawr and Gilman. I'm Miriam McKay, an Old Blue and the Treasurer of Christ's Hospital. I have served on the Council – our governing body - since 2018. In other UK schools I would be known as the Chair of Governors and in the US perhaps as the President of the School Board.

Being Treasurer of Christ's Hospital involves everything from recruiting senior staff and making sure the endowment which funds the school is well-managed, to working with the executive team to agree our strategic direction and the resources we need to deliver our ambitions.

A Tradition of Exchange

I'm conscious that I'm one of a very long line of European visitors making their way to America over the next few weeks as you celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence. In fact, links between Christ's Hospital and America go back even before 1776, to the earliest days of settlement. Hundreds of boys were sent over as apprentices in the 17th and 18th centuries, and they no doubt made use of their CH education to become eminent school masters, retailers and lawyers. With the imminent visit of King Charles – our Patron at Christ's Hospital – and Queen Camilla, we will continue to witness the bi-lateral benefit of international personal relationships and cultural exchange between Britain and the United States.



Miriam McKay (7's 76-83)
Treasurer
Christ's Hospital

'Links between Christ's Hospital and America go back even before 1776'

Why International Education Matters

These types of relationships between citizens of one country and those of another are so important because they create inter-country understanding, and foster alignment and cooperation. The impact is slow, subtle, cumulative – and extraordinarily potent. Studying abroad is one of the most powerful and reliable generators of inter-country understanding and cooperation because it creates long-lasting personal, cultural and professional ties that no treaty or advertising campaign can match.

The reflections of former students in tonight's programme demonstrate the deep personal affinity they built with their host country in a short space of time, and which will influence the way they will think for the rest of their lives. I particularly liked Nik Feldman's comment that he will never again be able to visit a country in the way that he visited England during the exchange.

We are delighted that two of our senior students are going to study at Harvard. Our deputy head, Mr. Coverdale, is a great advocate of the breadth offered by university education in the United States and is encouraging more of our students to consider the US in the future.

Looking Ahead

So what's in store for you, Gabriel and Sophia, when you travel to Christ's Hospital in June? You will find Christ's Hospital in great shape. It always is in June. The sun seems to shine more than it does anywhere else in the UK, there's a smell of freshly mown grass and the band is busy practicing for Beating Retreat at the end of term.

There is a sense of history at Christ's Hospital - of durability, continuity and scholarship - which is balanced by the vibrancy, intellectual curiosity and endearing teenage normality of our students. Yes, we march into lunch, we aspire to high academic standards and we celebrate the success of all 10 Oxford and Cambridge candidates last year. But our alumni go on to thoroughly contemporary careers, founding tech businesses and creating charities.

Gabriel and Sophia, you are joining a school which offers opportunity to all and gives every student the chance to find their niche - in their studies, their future profession, whatever happens after school. After your exchange, you will join a wonderful network of CH Old Blues who will be with you for life. You are the latest in a long line of over 80 students to be given the wonderful opportunity to broaden your horizons through this exchange. Who knows where it might lead?

Thank You

There is a whole army on whom the success of this exchange rests. My heartfelt thanks go to the teams at Bryn Mawr and Gilman as well as at Christ's Hospital; the Friends of Christ's Hospital Board; the students and their families who have made this remarkable exchange possible and have nurtured it throughout its twenty year history. Special thanks must go to Sally O'Brien, its heart and soul, without whom the scheme would never have started, let alone lasted 20 years.

At Christ's Hospital, we often say that we transform lives one child at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time. This exchange does something just as powerful: it widens horizons one friendship at a time, dissolves assumptions one conversation at a time, and builds understanding one shared experience at a time. It reminds us that what unites us — curiosity, generosity, courage, the desire to learn from one another — is always stronger than what divides us. And it shows that when young people cross borders with open minds and open hearts, they carry home not just memories, but the beginnings of a better world.

Here's to the next twenty years of this remarkable partnership — and to the countless lives it has yet to change.

News from the School

Two Grecians Accepted Into Harvard University

Hetty (Senior Grecian) and Noah, have been accepted to study mechanical engineering and engineering, respectively, at Harvard University. They will be supported by an excellent financial aid package, covering tuition, accommodation, and additional costs.

Opening of New Track & Field Facilities

CH students have embraced the school's new track and field facilities, throwing themselves into training, fixtures and independent practice sessions. In the opening three rounds of the Sussex Independent Schools' Diamond League, new records were set by David (DG) in the triple jump, Immanuel (DG) in the 400m, Amara (LE) in the 200m and Kosi (LE) in the 300m.

CH Band in the Brighton Festival Children's Parade

On 2 May, the Christ's Hospital Band took part in the Brighton Festival Children's Parade, one of the UK's largest and most vibrant children's arts events. Photos of the event are available at tobyphillipsphotography.pixieset.com/christshospitalschool/ by entering as 'guest' (not 'client') with your email address and the password "housey".

Old Blues Tour June 22. Book here: events.christs-hospital.org.uk/events/old-blues-tour-june-2026/

The Lively Arts June 25-27. Student performances of the musical Frozen. Book here: christshospitaltheatre.savoyssystems.co.uk/

Reunions June 26. 65+ Years on Reunion. Book here: events.christs-hospital.org.uk/events/65-years-on-reunion-2026/

Old Blues Summer Heritage Day August 8. Book here: events.christs-hospital.org.uk/events/summer-heritage-day-2026/

Chairman's Corner

Since our last newsletter, we have had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Henry Young (MdA 84-91) to the Board of Friends of Christ's Hospital. Henry is an attorney and Pennsylvania Old Blue who has attended many FCH functions over the years. Henry has taken on the responsibilities of Treasurer of FCH after Keith Worker (MaB, CoIA 71-78) stepped down from the role. Keith had been Treasurer for over 11 years and provided tremendous service to FCH and to the US Old Blue Community, for which we are all extremely grateful. I am happy to report that Keith will remain as a Board Member. Please also note that, connected to this change in Treasurer, we have a new address for any mailed-in donations (PO Box 162, Phoenixville, PA 19460).



New FCH Treasurer,
Henry Young

To stay informed of FCH events and news, and meet local Old Blues in your area, please reach out to me or John Cottage at johnscottage1@gmail.com. Looking forward to meeting more Old Blues across the USA and hearing your stories as we expand our "network".

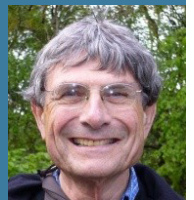
Best regards,

George Matcham (PeB, 1963-1970)
Chairman, Friends of Christ's Hospital



Remembering Jim Compton

Sadly, we recently lost a fellow Old Blue, Jim Compton (Mid B 1942-1948), who was living in New Mexico for many years. Sad, certainly, and yet there is much to celebrate about Jim's story, which is not unusual for Old Blues of his vintage. Jim is a great example of someone from a more modest background who went from CH to a top university (Oxford) and on to a successful career, in his case as an accomplished scientist. Looking back, Jim recognized how transformative his time at CH had been, he "believed deeply in the benefits of Christ's Hospital for learning and social mobility and was committed to fulfilling 'The Charge'. He donated generously to CH, including to fund other students". Jim's obituary is posted on the FCH website and is well worth the read, including for some amusing anecdotes from his time at CH.



Useful Links

FCH website – fchusa.org
FCH Facebook Group – facebook.com/groups/friendsof-christshospital
CH Old Blues Association website - christshospital.org.uk/old-blues/
CHOPA Facebook Page - facebook.com/CHOldBlues/
Christ's Hospital website – christshospital.org.uk

FCH Board

George Matcham (Chair), Sally O'Brien (President),
Matthew Adams, John Cottage, Nik Feldman, Geoff Hurst,
Carl Kirkerhead, Rupert Munro, Keith Worker, Rosh Wright,
Henry Young

Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 2025

FCH provides Old Blues and others residing in the US a tax-efficient way to support Christ's Hospital. As a tax-exempt public charity under sections 501 (c) 3 and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code, all donations to FCH are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Donations in 2025 were significantly impacted by a generous anonymous donation of \$2.5 million through a Charitable Foundation. We also received a special one-time donation of \$90,000 from a Hertford Old Blue. Trevor Tomkins contributed \$41,000 to the Futures 21 Fund, being the main sponsor of this campaign. Other donors with gifts over \$5,000 were received from Andrew Fyfe, Anthony Furnivall, George Matcham and Roger Thomas. Total income increased to \$2,749,162 from \$112,129 in 2024. Grants to Christ's Hospital were \$2,671,325 up from \$148,122 in 2024. Overall net expenses were lower at \$5,571 (2024 \$6,647). This was made possible due to generous subsidies received towards our dinner events (especially from George Matcham).



Keith Worker
FCH Board Member and Treasurer 2014-2026

FCH Cash Flow Statement (Year Ended Dec 31, 2025)

Opening Balance (1.1.25)	\$100,072
Income Received	
Donations	\$2,749,022
Investment Income	\$140
Total Income	\$2,749,162
Disbursements	
Grants to Christ's Hospital	(\$2,671,325)
Expenses	
Legal & Accounting Fees	\$2,175
Printing & Mailing	\$853
Insurance	\$1,033
Banking Charges & fees	\$1,510
Total Expenses	(\$5,571)
Closing Balance (12.31.25)	\$172,338

We acknowledge with gratitude the donations that Friends of Christ's Hospital received in 2025 from Old Blues and Friends

Matthew Adams	Andrew Fyfe	Paul Parker
Jack Armistead	Michael Hartley	Theresa Perlis
John Bell	Colin Hattle-Spence	Matthew Petersen
Ann Bennett	Bryan Hooper	Jane Phelan
Simon Chadwick	Geoff Hunt	Belinda Reiser
Melvyn Churchill	Richard Johnson	David Robinson
Raymond Clarke	Kate Kerr	Geoffrey Summers
John Cottage	Philip Kitcher	Patrick Ternan
Richard Dixon	George Matcham	Roger Thomas
(Legacy)	Ken McDonald	Trevor Tomkins
Michael Felix	Rupert Munro	Jo Ann Wood
Peter Fletcher	Sally O'Brien	Keith Worker
Anthony Furnivall	Jonathan Osborne	Rosh Wright
		Henry Young

We are also grateful to other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

There are a variety of ways to make a tax-deductible gift to Friends of Christ's Hospital:

Check: Please send to Friends of Christ's Hospital, P.O. Box 162, Phoenixville, PA 19460, USA

Credit Card: Please make credit card donations via the FCH website: fchusa.org/donate/

Gifts of Stock: Contact Henry Young directly at iepattoner@gmail.com. The full value of the stock at the date of transfer may be tax deductible for US taxpayers. Please consult your tax advisor to learn more.

Matching Gifts: FCH can accept all tax-deductible contributions from corporate matching gift programs. Our Federal ID number is 91-2162264 and our California Corporation number is 2350816.

Pledges: We welcome multi-year pledges of support to FCH. Please contact Henry directly at iepattoner@gmail.com

As required under US law, while the Board of Directors will always consider the expressed preferences of its donors when making grant decisions, the Board must retain discretion and control over the use of all contributions it receives.

FCH has very low operating costs and its volunteer Board directly contributes to the organization's operating expenses.

Checks written and mailed to FCH in the latter half of December, although tax-deductible to the donor, may not clear until the following year. If these amounts are substantial the grants shown on our Federal Return (Form 990) may be less than the grants actually made from the donations received.