



Range High School

Alumni Newsletter 4 - Dec 2022



Dear Alumni members

**A quick word of thanks to everyone who has contributed to this year's newsletter.
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Judy Lowe



Headteacher's Message

Dear All,

I hope you are well at this time and starting to look forward to some festive activities with your families.

As we approach the end of a very busy term here at Range, it's worthwhile to consider how good it is to have life back to normality without the restrictions of Covid affecting the day to day life of the school. Just in the last few weeks alone we have had many day trips to the theatre, to Liverpool, to local venues for additional curricular input as well as residential trips to Iceland, to Auschwitz, to London and to Shropshire. On top of all of that our busy sporting calendar is back up and running with fixtures across a wide array of sports taking place, when not affected by the adverse weather; school really is offering a full extra-curricular package across the board. I am grateful to the staff, including our student teacher colleagues, who regularly put on these extras to support and encourage our students to get fully involved in the life of the school. One recent highlight worthy of praise was the production of Romeo and Juliet – an amazing performance using full Shakespearian language throughout. The cast of students from across year groups wowed two packed audiences. It was truly a great accolade for our Performing Arts team as well as our brilliant cast of students. It really is good to see the extra curricular side of life in school thriving once again.

I thought you may also like to know that our Ofsted rating is now back to Good following a very rigorous inspection and that our students at both A-Level and GCSE have produced record results for the school following the recent examinations. We remain firmly on our trajectory of excellence doing all that we can to ensure the very best outcomes for all of our young people.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and interest in your 'old' school. I look forward to meeting at least some of you in the months to come.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all of us here at Range High.

Mike McGarry



Alumni Association Committee Members

Neil Fyfe

Marc Hearn

Amy James

Judy Lowe

Mike Mercer

Stevyn Monaghan

Neil Oxton



PE & Expressive Arts

Art, Craft and Design

The Art department is still a creative hub at the heart of Range High School. We have a busy and bustling department where pupils come to eagerly learn about Art and Photography and also attend many of the extra-curricular clubs we have to offer.

We have 3 art teachers, Edwina Fox (Head of Art and the PE and Expressive Arts Faculty), Cathy Davies and Carmen Lewandowska who deliver our exciting and media rich curriculum. Julia Swift is our talented art technician who is also part of the Range Alumni, graduating from Range Sixth Form in 1987.

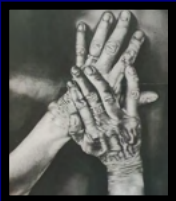
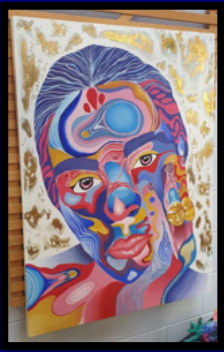




One of the more recent additions to our department in the Mac suite for GCSE and A level Photography students. The Photography courses at both GCSE and A level are very popular and pupils love to take photos and then edit them in Photoshop. Further additions beyond our curriculum include the Creative Council, this is a group of pupils who enjoy the arts and help with any of the performances and transition activities we have on such as making the set for the production, designing posters or working the lights and sound equipment.



We still have a very wide spreading artistic reach and the school has a dedicated gallery outside of the staffroom and displays are always changing and being updated to showcase pupil work.



Our dedication to community spirit means we are full each lunchtime with pupils engaging in the clubs we have on, whether students are doing course-work catch up or painting a Christmas card design, they are happy to be working in a friendly and inclusive department where the artistic magic happens.



Faculty Leader/ Head of Art
Mrs E Fox



PE & Expressive Arts

Physical Education

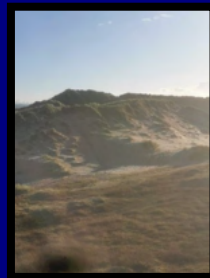
Physical Education is an important part of our school curriculum. As a school, we value Physical Education for the part it plays in physical, social and mental well-being. We want our pupils to experience a wide range of activities and sports and in turn, we want pupils to develop a love of physical activity and see this as something they will want to continue to do once they have left school because it contributes to their overall well-being. We aim to educate our pupils of the benefits of regular exercise and also develop their skills in areas such as teamwork, co-operation and resilience.



PE lessons

As our pupils move from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4 we introduce a greater element of choice and focus on introducing pupils to activities that encourage an active lifestyle and positive well-being.

In addition to core PE, Years 7-11 pupils can also opt to study GCSE PE and/or Cambridge National Sport Science, GCSE Dance in Years 10 and 11 and A level PE or the newly introduced Cambridge Technical Sport and Physical Activity in Year 12 and 13.



Cross country routes



Currently we have an extensive Extra-curricular programme running with activities taking place for everyone to take part in across all year groups. Students can take part in a recreational capacity or in a competitive capacity representing the school in the sports teams. We have Key Stage 4 and 5 students actively involved, supporting our younger students as Sports Leaders. External coaches have been involved in the running of clubs, which has given students opportunities to receive high quality coaching.

The Fitness Suite



Head of PE— Mr Adam Owens, (Range High School Student 1997-2004)



News of Former Staff

Mrs Mo Miller

Head Teacher 2004—2009



Sad though I was to leave such a wonderful school I knew I was ready for the next phase of my life. I had become a grandmother and longed to be able to help care for her. As a mum of two boys a granddaughter was such a great gift. I have been proud to teach my three grandchildren to be water confident and how to use the library-two essentials of life.

At first I worked part time as a consultant helping heads in other schools to develop good practice. That was a pleasing way to end my career and I hope I was able to pass on some of what I had learned as a head for the benefit of others. It was wonderful to be in control of when I worked and to put behind me the long working hours of headship.

I think I have learned a lot about myself, some of it surprising but I am shocked that the number of books I have read hasn't increased as I thought it would.

My main discovery is that I love learning and being in a team. I sing in two choirs, play for two crown green bowling clubs and run a volunteer group in my local library. I lead the group representing patients at my GP practice and I have taken courses in local history, art, film, palaeontology and Italian and my other passion is growing vegetables on my allotment.

As I write this I can see why my house is no tidier than when I was working!



News of Former Staff

Mrs Christine Wolf - 2004—2020

Office & Examinations Manager



The past: I joined Range High School staff as PA to the Headteacher and Office Manager in 2004. Some years later, I became Exams and Office Manager, until in July 2020, I took early retirement from my post at Range.

The present: In August 2020, I moved with my husband Simon, to live in rural northern France. We live in Mayenne, (the same department as Dick and Angel, but we don't live in a chateau!). Our decision to move was prompted by our desire to retain our rights under the EU, meaning we had to move here before 31st December 2020, when Brexit removed the rights of British people to live and work in the European Union unconditionally.

We now reside in a small village, we have a Maire, a supermarket, a bar, a restaurant, a pharmacie, a health centre and a bakery. We are a small community (last census 1,200 – about the same size as Range!), made up of approximately 10% British people, 90% French people including a number of Ukrainian families. The community spirit is strong, our French and English neighbours have been very welcoming and supportive, and there are many ways to contribute to life here, by joining associations supported by the commune and events organised by the commune and the comité des fêtes.

The surprises:

The French love administration!
There is much paperwork to do and keep and systems for everything.

Our allotment





There is a routine to the usual French day, breakfast is early, most workers will start at 8am, although shops do not usually open until 9am. Most shops, offices and businesses will close at 12 noon or 12.30pm and not re-open until 2pm or later. They will then work until 7pm. Lunch is generally the main meal of the day for French people. Quite a lot of restaurants will not be open in the evenings or weekends.

On bank holidays, (Jours fériés), most businesses and restaurants will be closed. It is very quiet everywhere, it is not a shopping day. (I suspect in major towns and cities this may not be the case).

Community and family are very important in France.



What we love:

- The food, the wine and the cheese.
- The weather is generally kind, with temperatures a little warmer than Cornwall.
- We are surrounded by the countryside, imagine the Yorkshire Wolds, without the traffic. We have big skies and big views. We see many hawks, herons and egrets, cattle and occasionally deer and wild boar.
- The roads are quiet making driving easy and enjoyable, and the cycling is great (especially good on an electric bike in the hills).
- It is very dark at night and as most houses have shutters, there is not much light pollution, on a clear night, the night sky is spectacular.
- The support from friends and neighbours is unconditional and common.
- The pace of life is slower, generally no one is in any hurry and they would love to have a conversation with you.

We do miss our friends, family and colleagues since moving to France, but we equally love our life here, it was always our dream and now we are living it.



News of Former Students

Jennie Aitken -2002-2009 - Sefton House



I (was) Jennie Aitken, now married, but thanks to my cousin's wife, the name lives on in Formby!

Anyway. I went to Range from 2002-2009, I think we were the last year before the uniforms changed from black to navy blue. I remember using tipex to write LFC on my blazer when they won the Champions League in 2005, it never came out in the wash.

We were also the year that ruined the glorious sporting reputation of Sefton House. I played for Sefton in every house sport, but can't remember ever winning anything. A lot of change happened in those seven years, I think... we went from being able to buy pizza and chips and burgers every day to paninis and pasta pots, thanks to Jamie Oliver. I used to live for the grab bags that came with a booty, and the flapjacks.

As for prom, we spent our whole school career building up to that moment where you pull up to the school gates in your limo/ hummer of choice and step out in your glad rags. Naturally it was pouring down and blowing a gale when we had ours!

Luckily I have pretty good memories of school, and I have plenty of family and friends who also went to Range. Thanks to social media I can casually stalk anyone else who I don't actually see or keep in touch with...

I somehow made it to university at Sheffield Hallam (aka party uni) and studied Journalism.

I live in Staffordshire with my husband and one year old son. I've been working in radio for the BBC in the midlands for 9 years, as a reporter and newsreader, and now a video journalist.

Happy to help out any current or past students looking at getting into the radio/ tv industry, it can be a tough one to crack!





News of Former Students

Stevyn Monaghan 1993—2000 Weld House

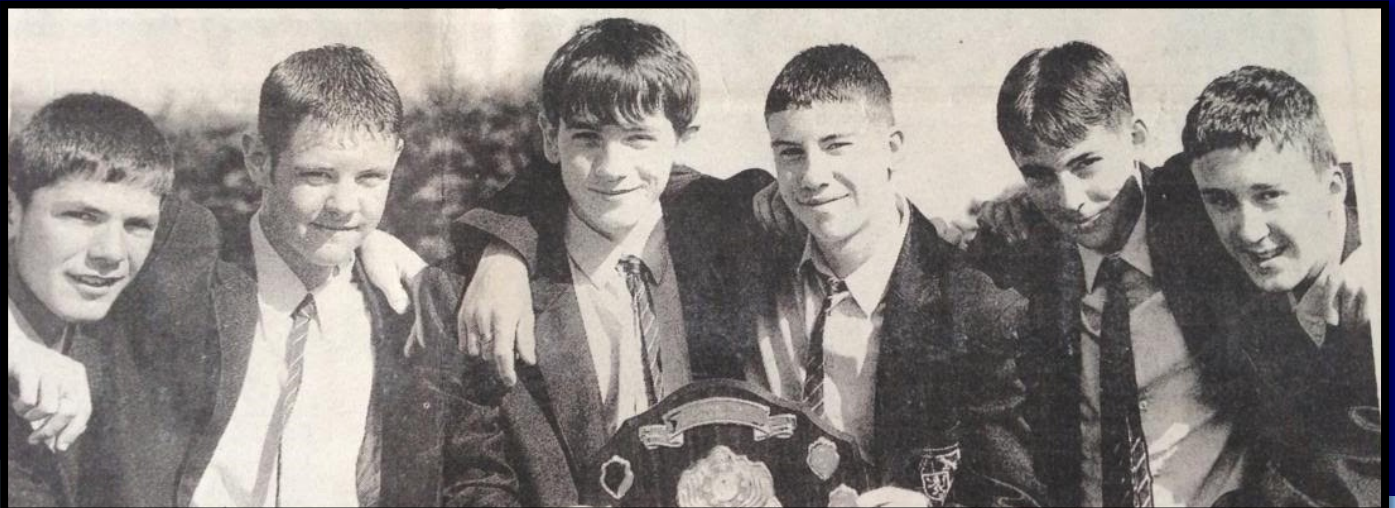


My name is Stevyn Monaghan and I joined Range High in 1993. Football was always a massive part of my time at Range, captaining the school football team and representing Sefton. I was also part of the Range athletics team and took part in the Sefton Schools' Athletics Championships at Bebington. Other highlights include being Weld House captain and Weld winning the House Shield in year 10.

Having completed my GCSE's in 1998, I stayed on at Range to complete my A-Levels and left the school in 2000. Following a year at Southport College studying an Art & Design Foundation Course, I went on to Leeds Metropolitan University

in 2001 to study Design and graduated in 2004.

Upon graduating, I worked in IT recruitment before moving into the sports industry. I'm now working as Partnerships Manager for a global creative agency called Ear to the Ground, creating sports-focussed marketing campaigns for brands including Coca-Cola, New Balance and PlayStation.



Sefton Schools' Athletics Champions



News of Former Students

Neil Fyfe 1993-1998 Weld House

I went to Range High School from 1993 – 1998 my time at RHS was a mixed bag of experiences some really good (French Exchange/ Tutor Class Trips) other not so much (Mainly exams not really my strong point). Upon leaving RHS I went on to Southport College and studied a BTEC in Engineering for 2 years. In late 2000 I started an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship in Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Engineering working for Hattersley's, a foundry based in Ormskirk that manufactured valves for all different types of industry. In early 2004 Hattersley's sadly closed down due to economic reasons so I spent the next year working in various jobs to fund finishing my college education.

Once I had gained my advanced Modern Apprenticeship I took some time out to visit Family in New Zealand which I would definitely recommend (Going to New Zealand not my family) and to do a bit of traveling. When I came back to the UK I spent some time working in pubs and going to festivals and Gigs.

In 2006 I started heading back into engineering, working first for a Racking installation company then on to a building maintenance role & warehouse supervisory role. In 2012 I moved back into industrial maintenance engineering and worked for a company based in Speke that manufactured a pesticide impregnated paper that was made into booklets that when burnt kills mosquitos in the room. In 2014 I joined a company that manufactured Casino equipment (Roulette Wheels, Chipping machines, Tables, displays and electronic roulette terminals to name a few) as a service engineer but within 2 years I had earned a promotion to Technical Support Engineer providing support to Engineers and Customers around the world. This role also meant I was able to travel across the UK and to other countries (I can definitely recommend Tbilisi in Georgia)

When the pandemic hit in 2020 I was furloughed and this meant I was able to spend lockdown looking after my eldest daughter who was 1 at the time and see her take her first steps say her first words, all the things I would have missed if I was working away, I was also able to hone my cooking skills and finally got round to finishing off the decorating in the house. So in late 2021 I made the decision to go back to Site based engineering so I could spend more time with my family.

I currently work for an Aerospace, Defence and Energy (ADE) heat treatment company based in Skelmersdale, here I work on Vacuum Furnaces and Electron Beam Welders, We heat treat different parts of equipment to extremely high temperatures so they can operate more efficiently at a higher working temperature these parts eventually end up in aircraft engines, Cars, missiles and Renewable Energy infrastructure.





News of Former Students

Dave Thompson - 1979-1985 - Weld

I still remember my first day arriving at Range High School. The sun was glinting off all the bicycles in their stands and I could not believe how many bikes there were (mine was a Raleigh Eddy Merckx that I was very proud of!). I enjoyed most of my lessons through my years spent there, although as an act of rebellion for not being allowed to take Art for 'O' level by my parents I had a bet with a friend who could get the lowest grade in their German exam, I think I won, silly me.

We spent most of our breaks and lunch times playing football. Mr Lowdon was the PE teacher and I'll never forget the opportunity he gave us all to see if anyone could punch him in the stomach and make it hurt, none of us achieved our aim (I don't think that would be allowed now!). The cross-country runs in the sand dunes were tough but would come back as great training for later in life.

I passed with six 'O' levels and I started my three 'A' levels but moved to Norfolk mid-way through my first year. The students at the college I moved to were more into partying than academia and although it improved my social skills, it definitely had an adverse effect on my learning and I scraped through with two 'A' levels and decided a job was the best next step to take.

I worked in Gt Yarmouth in the oil and gas industry and was offered a position in Aberdeen in my early twenties. I moved up and loved it. Within a few years I discovered the wonderful great outdoors in Scotland and started my adventures in mountaineering, walking, climbing and still very much running in the hills competing in mountain ultra-marathons. I work as a Sales Director for a Global Medical, Safety and Security Services company to the Energy industry (lots of offshore wind now!) and live with my wonderful wife Anne and lovely daughter Anna (plus mad working cocker spaniel Skye!).

I will always cherish my years at Range High School for the friends I made and the great foundation it gave me in life (especially the cross country running!).





News of Former Students

David Callow - 2000-2015 - Blundell House

"I left Range High School in July 2015 after completing my GCSEs and decided to take a risk and join a newly opened Sixth Form in Liverpool. There I studied Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and completed an extended project qualification (which was by far the most enjoyable part). Having just about met the entry requirements to get into my first choice University, I then chose to decline their offer and once again try something new. As if joining a college which had yet to produce any A Level students wasn't risky enough, I then took a leap of faith and applied to the Dyson Institute to become one of their first Under-graduates.

From 18 I was employed by Dyson as a Degree Apprentice and started my four year journey working three days a week in RDD whilst studying Engineering in the other two. This work/study combination was equal parts challenging and rewarding. However, it exposed me to every corner of the business and allowed me to quickly identify what it was I wanted to do. After spending 4 months working in Solid State Battery Research, I had finally found what I had been looking for.

I graduated from the Dyson Institute in 2021 with a Bachelors in Engineering and the relief that 17 year old me had made the right decision. Upon graduating I was offered to transfer to Singapore to begin scale up activities, taking what I was doing in the lab to mass manufacture. This leads me to the present day. I have been in Singapore for 7 months and am excited to see where my work takes me over the next few years.

When I started my A Levels, like many people, I thought there was only one path for me. Take out a student loan, go to University, Graduate, and then hope to get a graduate job when I appear on the other side. If there are any parents reading this who are trying to guide their 17 year old through this difficult decision, I hope this has opened your eyes to what other options lie out there.





News of Former Students

Jacob Byrne - 2010-2017 Weld House



I loved Range High School and it still holds a special place for me. Since leaving Sixth Form in 2017, I went to De Montfort University in Leicester and studied History.

My final year was during covid and after a disruptive year I finally got my degree this year. During the summer I spent 4 months in America working as a counsellor on a summer camp which was the best decision I've ever made.

I am currently working as a Teaching Assistant in Holy Family Catholic High School in Thornton and I love my job. I work with kids who have ADHD, ASD and other issues and I feel working with pupils and seeing them succeed is extremely rewarding.

I don't know what I want to do in the future but I think I would like to stay in education, I've not left the field yet and I really enjoy what I do. I hope to take my degree further.





News of Former Students

Elliot Lanceley 2004-2009 Sefton House

My name is Elliot Lanceley and I left Range High School in 2009 and went on to leave Range Sixth Form in 2011. My tutor was Miss Hamilton (history teacher) but I seem to remember her changing her name before I left.

I remember bumping into you when I was working in M&S cafe in Southport immediately after I graduated university, that must have been in late 2014.

I graduated university with a degree in Oceanography but never had any interest in pursuing a career in it. I have travelled a lot in my 20's and for the last five years have been living in Canada. I have been working doing early years therapy for autistic children in Canada (I was trained by a company here and always had experience working with children).

I done this for around one year and had one or two clients who were members of the local First Nations community where I live, Vancouver. Eventually, the child and family services department within the indigenous community, who are called Squamish Nation, got wind of the work I was doing and got in touch to offer me a full time position doing similar work for them. For the past four and a half years I have been working for Squamish Nation and now work with older youth who suffer from acute mental health difficulties such as psychosis, drug addiction and general residual effects from the intergenerational trauma that their communities have experienced since colonization by Britain and France.

I plan to move back to the UK next year and start a masters degree to get on the path to becoming a child and adolescent psychotherapist within the NHS.





News of Former Students

Amy Rowe 1998-2003 Blundell House



My name is Amy James but most people will remember me as Amy Rowe.

After completing my A-levels in English Literature, Geography and information Technology I went on to study Geography at Edge Hill University. Upon graduating from University I somehow slipped into the dental sector for five years (and actually trained to become a Qualified Dental Nurse). Whilst working in this sector I returned to Edge Hill to study part time for a Masters in Management Development (whilst still working full time).

Having decided that dentistry was not the sector for me, I took the plunge and moved to the social housing sector which gave me the opportunity to use many of the skills and knowledge I had gained from both my undergraduate and post graduate degrees. I worked within Corporate Strategy and then moving on to become a Chief Executive's Personal Assistant. This particular role opened up a number of opportunities across a variety of areas including marketing and communications and governance. I worked through a de-merger and merger of various housing associations and then it was time to move on to another role. I had the opportunity to go down a few different routes but decided that governance was where I wanted to fine tune my skills and experience and thus I moved on to a governance role with a much larger housing Group.



In my time at the organisation I learnt a lot and gained some valuable skills and experience within governance. I worked through a takeover by a housing Group of the one I worked for which created one of the largest housing Groups within the North West. And then again it was time to move on.

I'm now working as a Company Secretary in the professional services sector in an infrastructure management and investment organisation looking after a portfolio of companies that are invested in a variety of areas such as education, healthcare, emergency services, defence and justice. My organisation have sponsored me to gain my Company Secretarial qualification which I am completing alongside working full time. I hope to be a fully qualified Chartered Company Secretary by 2025.

I got married in 2014 and we have a two year old Cavapoo called Bailey. One of my hobbies is running Bailey's Instagram account as he is an infuencer. We work with a number of small businesses helping to promote their products, I get a lot of joy from this and have a lot of fun coming up with ideas on how to creatively promote and engage with the Instagram community, helping businesses that were started in the first lockdown grow and thrive.

I decided to join the Alumni Association because I wanted to reignite my links with the school. Range was a massive part of my life from a baby right through to leaving in 2005. My mother was Ruth Rowe, many of you may remember her. She taught mathematics and led the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme (until 2003). So even before I officially started at Range I was often seen around the school, it was almost like my second home! Range will always hold a special place in my heart and so when the opportunity came up to be part of the Alumni Committee, I jumped at the chance. I wanted to be part of a team that would help raise funds for the school and to help celebrate the school's 50th anniversary in 2024/ 2025.

If anyone would like to reach out and contact me, they can do so via Bailey's Instagram (because that's where I spend most of my online time). His profile can be viewed via [@itsbaileythecavapoo](#).



News of Former Students

Jason Jones 1982-1989

Weld House



I remember being at Range with some great people, some of whom became my life long soul mates. Mr Walzcek was my form tutor from '82 until '87, who then taught me Economics throughout my sixth form. I learnt a lot from him, and it wasn't all just academic either. He always treated you like an adult, unless your behaviour warranted otherwise, I had a lot of respect for him and still do.

I remember being average or not quite making the grade throughout high school, and respectively just coasting through, but a highlight was always Art with Miss Pert or Mrs Hannah as well as English with Miss Sidebotham.

Leaving Range in '89 with disappointing A level grades (my fault not the School's) I embarked on resits at Hugh Baird College only to be told to either attend or leave. So I left, most probably disillusioned at the subjects I was studying and wanting a bit of money in my pocket to live a little. Looking back I think I hadn't worked out who I was or what I wanted to do, but then again I suppose not many of us had.



Artwork Beneath, 2018, acrylic on canvas, donated as thanks to Liverpool Broadgreen Hospital after receiving life changing Physio that cured years of chronic headaches that I used to suffer.

Pictured: Physiotherapist Andy and Jason (right).



My first job was working at Royal Life Insurance in 1990 where I stayed until 1995 and I fully embraced the drinking and partying culture that came with it, as well as growing my hair long and exploring the rock clubs throughout the UK and as far as Toronto and L.A. By the time I left working in Insurance I must have looked like a Guns n Roses clone with my long hair, cowboy boots and leather jacket. How times change and that all seems like a lifetime ago now, but it was during this time that I grew in confidence and realised where my aspirations lay.

In '95 I embarked on a degree in Psychology and Fine Art at what is now Liverpool Hope University. Aged 25 I was Uncle Jace to all my 18 Yr old student colleagues and so, to maximise the experience, I embraced the student drinking culture adventure, although a lot older and wiser this time. Graduating in '98 and following a brief stint back in my old insurance job assisting the downsizing of my old department, I was invited back to undertake some Statistics Research for the University Arts department where I had studied, as well as undertaking an Artist Residency where I once studied. It was my background in working with numbers from the Insurance days that got me the position, just beating some of my University arts friends to the post. It was at this time that a fellow art student and I set up a Mural painting business alongside full time work. I worked too many 7 day weeks and it took its toll. Then in September '99 I was appointed as a Graduate assistant and climbed the ladder to Arts Technician, Senior Technician and now Technical Manager having undertaken a multitude of roles; establishing and managing the University Art Gallery for ten years that included guest interviews on local Liverpool radio; leading overseas student field trips throughout Europe and managing the University's Art Collection for a short period.

As exciting this may sound, my real passion lay in my own art practice that I have continued to push since I first graduated. I am primarily a painter, both abstract and figurative, as well as undertaking other arts related projects both practical, written as well as exhibition management. Highlights have been; exhibiting my artwork up and down the country and overseas; the excitement of having my artwork published for the first time; and an installation I put together in Liverpool One's John Lewis's furniture store at the end of my Masters. Public speaking was always a part of my University role but I did find it nerve wracking when I was a guest dinner speaker at Malmaison Hotel, as organised by one of my art agents. I don't think I grasped the gravity of what art was or could be in Miss Pert and Mrs Hannah's Art classes, but they certainly laid the foundations for my true vocation in life. I have never looked back and still attempt to, whenever family life and work commitments allow, to push my art practice forward.

I now live in South Liverpool, married with two kids and continue to work for Liverpool Hope University as a Fine & Applied Arts Technical Manager / H&S Coordinator at its Creative & Performing Arts Campus.

My long hair is long gone but the love of music and the odd liquid alcoholic refreshment still continues.



Memory Lane





Future Events



1975 - 2025



We will be planning events to celebrate our school turning 50.

Updates will come out via email and our Alumni Facebook page where we will post further information nearer the anniversary date.

Flashback Friday

Join us on Facebook for Flashback Friday. Tutor groups, school holidays, prom photos and more. If you have any you would like us to show, please send them to

alumni@range.sefton.sch.uk

The Alumni

Thank you to those of you who have been in touch with school to offer support and advice to students in their chosen pathways. A further thanks to all of our former staff and pupils who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter.

Association