

EXE.

#ISSUE 02

exeter college 

THE EXETER COLLEGE MAGAZINE
FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FROM STUDENT TO SKIPPER

MEET CONRAD HUMPHREYS

MY EXETER COLLEGE:
AN INTERVIEW WITH WILDWOOD KIN

AROUND THE WORLD:
HIGH FLYING TRAVEL AND TOURISM ALUMNI

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN GILBERT



GET IN TOUCH   
alumni@exe-coll.ac.uk

WELCOME



AS PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EXETER COLLEGE, IT GIVES ME ENORMOUS PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR SECOND ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE.

As well as being Principal, I am also very proud to be able to say that I too am an alumni of the college. I very much hope you enjoy reading your magazine and about all the reasons why your college is exceptional.

As you will read, the last year has been an outstanding one. It is impossible to include all of the many achievements, awards, personal successes and celebrations of our students, staff, alumni and friends. The stories included in this edition are just a snapshot of the fantastic, positive things that happen at college, including the opening of a world-class 3G pitch to our being ranked 9th overall out of FE colleges in England for achievement rates for Apprenticeships. I'd like to thank everyone who makes this college exceptional.

Following last year's spectacular launch dinner and the publication of our first alumni magazine we have been contacted by lots of our alumni. It is therefore, our plan to celebrate each year, a particular area or vocation, starting this year with hospitality, catering and all things food and drink related. In this issue, we have featured photographs from our college archive. Please do let us know if you have memories of Exeter College. We'd love to hear from you.

In this edition of the magazine we have been able to interview just some of our outstanding

and inspiring alumni, including Conrad Humphreys, triple round the world sailor, and the hugely talented Wildwood Kin.

At Exeter College we are proud to be able to say that we have many thousands of alumni and friends who are part of a local, national and global community. We believe that coming to Exeter College is just the start of what is an enduring connection to our very special college. As well as being a place where lives are transformed through the power of education, our college is a place where lifelong friendships are made, and memories are formed.

As a college we are proud of the success of our students and through the creation of an active alumni, we hope to celebrate this success over time as the careers of our students develop and excel.

It is always a pleasure to speak to someone with a personal story and connection with our college. I do hope our magazine sparks some memories and inspires others to get back in touch.

We very much hope you enjoy reading about your fellow alumni and friends in our magazine.

JOHN LARAMY
PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Harry interviewing Conrad Humphreys at Exeter Quayside

STUDENT PROFILE

HARRY ADAM

Harry Adam is studying for an FdA in Journalism with our Centre for University Level Studies. You can read his work on pages 8 and 24. In September he will start at the University of Exeter, studying English. Harry says:

WRITING IS THE ONLY THING I USE MY IMAGINATION FOR - IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO BE CREATIVE.

EXETER COLLEGE TOPS LEAGUE TABLES...AGAIN

In November it was announced that Exeter College has, for a second consecutive year, been placed at the top in an annual league table of colleges published by FE Week, a leading publication focused on the further education sector.

The table was compiled using a points based system, with points awarded against a number of key criteria published by the Department for Education (DfE). The index included scores for learner and employer satisfaction, as well as taking into account information about young and adult learners' progression, post-college.

Exeter College was placed at the top of the table which included over 200 further education colleges.



WORLD-CLASS, COMMUNITY ACCESSIBLE 3G PITCH OPENS

In March community sports clubs, together with civic and community leaders, gathered to



celebrate the official opening by Exeter College and Exeter City Council of the new world-class 3G pitch at the college's Exwick Sports Hub in Exwick.

The all-weather surface is already being used by a host of local community groups and clubs at the grassroots for a range of sports and wellbeing activities.

TOP 10 FOR APPRENTICESHIP ACHIEVEMENT RATES

Apprenticeship achievement rates at the college have been measured at 83.1% for 2016/17, significantly higher than the national average of 69.1% for FE colleges.

Out of FE colleges in England, Exeter College is ranked 9th nationally overall in the Top 10 for achievement rates for Apprentices, according to statistics released by the Department for Education (DfE).

COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS BEST EVER ACADEMIC RESULTS

Last summer the college and its students celebrated the achievement of exceptional A Level results, with this year's students setting a new college record for achieving the very highest grades.

A record number of the top grades (A*, A, B) were awarded to students at the college, with

an incredible number - 57% achieving the very highest levels of achievement.

International Baccalaureate (IB) students also celebrated a 100% pass rate with an average score of 34 points, some way above world average and the best results in the college's 19 years of delivering the IB.

The number of students awarded straight A* and A grades rose to a remarkable 80, with an amazing 165 students achieving A* grades in total.



NEWS IN PICTURES



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- 1> Keri and Marie, apprentices at Exeter City Council, compered the Apprentice and Employer Awards
- 2> SAKS winning Apprentice Hannah Wightman with her employer and family celebrates at the Apprentice and Employer Awards
- 3> Students studying Graphic Communication celebrate at graduation
- 4> The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Exeter, Councillor Ms Lesley Robson and Karime Hassan, Chief at Exeter City Council, at the graduation procession through the city
- 5> The final performing arts production for this year was 'Oh! What a Lovely War' at the Barnfield Theatre
- 6> Students came back from the UK Premier Young Culinary Contest with an impressive haul of medals
- 7> In January students celebrated their successes at our annual Student Awards evening
- 8> Graduates from the Michael Caines Academy celebrate at the annual dinner at @34
- 9> Staff and students celebrate the college restaurant @thirty-four, being awarded the prestigious AA College Rosette Award

GET IN TOUCH



For more information on these news stories and for the latest college news, follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook by searching **Exeter College**.

For more information on any of these stories, please visit our website: exe-coll.ac.uk/news

FROM THE ARCHIVE



DO YOU HAVE MEMORIES OF EXETER COLLEGE?

Share them with us at exe-coll.ac.uk/alumni
or email alumni@exe-coll.ac.uk



- 1> Chefs at work in the old kitchens
- 2> A mystery photo from the archives
- 3> The old Hele Building being demolished in 2005 to make way for the new
- 4> The college restaurant in 1964
- 5> Students on the steps of the old Hele Building
- 6> Students celebrating a hospitality awards evening in 2002
- 7> A sample menu from the college restaurant in 1964
- 8> An old postcard - Hele School from the air
- 9> A classic results day photo
- 10> The old student kitchens in 1966, long before the Laurence Building existed
- 11> An old postcard - Hele School in 1912



MY MUTINY JOURNEY

FOR A SAILOR RENOWNED FOR COMPETING IN EXTREME SOLO SAILING COMPETITIONS LIKE THE VENDEE GLOBE, LA SOLITAIRE DU FIGARO AND TEAM EVENTS LIKE THE VOLVO OCEAN RACE, HUMPHREYS IS REMARKABLY EVEN KEELED.



Conrad Humphreys: award-winning sailor; conquering the BT Global Challenge in 2000, the Transat Jacques Vabre, and coming in the top 5 positioning in countless other races all over the world. He was recently voted as one of the top 50 most influential people in the south west by The Herald.

Calm and unassuming, he seems contrastingly modest when discussing his most recent project – going on the road with a boat he acquired from his appearance on the Channel 4 series ‘Mutiny’; where along with a crew of eight other men they re-enacted the gruelling voyage of William Bligh and sailed through South East Asia in a seven metre boat, mimicking not only the journey’s path but everything down to the rations and subsequent malnutrition.

Despite the ordeal, he decided to purchase the boat from the production company and set himself on the road:

“We’ve created a legacy project, called the Bounty Project, and we’re taking the boat to schools, taking young people out in the boat to give them a living history programme”, which he is funding with his partners through an online Kickstarter company so he can bring the project around the country. It’s something he has great passion for, saying it’s “rewarding to do projects of that nature, and there’s so much interest from young people - so it’s good to give them a chance to experience it first-hand.”

Having inspirational figures to guide you at the start of a career is immensely important. Conrad says; “I think of my own sailing career and I was inspired by people like Robert Knox-Johnston, Pete Goss, some of the real maritime heroes which lead on to a fulfilling career - so it’s good to do those sorts of projects.”

Selling sailing to aspiring children perhaps feels like second nature to Humphreys, who after spending a large part of his sailing career convincing sponsors to fund his racing career, entered into sports marketing – helping aspiring athletes secure funding from potential partners.

“In the sailing world” he tells me “you have to become quite adept at not only the running and sailing of a boat and campaign but also raising money. And so over the years I’ve had to learn about sports marketing and the benefits of why sports sponsorship, and why sailing, is a good property to invest in - to convince companies that it’s the right choice”. In the world of competitive sport, an athlete must have dual careers he explains: “You become not just a sailor, you have to become someone who can make these things a reality.”

This is no doubt why Humphreys decided to help other athletes avoid this dichotomy with sports marketing - where you must focus not on your sport but on the ability to sell your dream.

“I was very nervous of it at the beginning standing in front of a boardroom presenting; literally telling them about a project that would involve me sailing around the world. I find it a lot easier talking about other people and other projects, rather than standing there and talking about yourself - but it’s a necessary evil.”

“In many ways you had to learn the skills to be able to do that. As time moved on I really enjoyed it. What I’ve enjoyed most is really understanding what makes it work for a brand and looking across all the facets of why sponsorship works - from employee engagements and leadership right the way through to brand positioning and the social-environmental benefits of what sailing offers.”

To create the Bounty Project, Humphreys had to harness his knowledge of sports marketing to a different medium; not to a boardroom, but to a digital landscape trusting in the

interest of strangers on online crowd funding websites. "It's my first Crowdfunder, I have to say it's only the first week but it's as much work as organising and pitching to a company.

"It's actually going to take a bit of both. I think we'll probably get about halfway with friends and family and the public but we're also going to need some business to tip it over the edge."

Humphreys perhaps sees part of his roots in sports marketing as his education; namely his time spent at Exeter College studying Communication and Media Studies, P.E. and Maths at A Level: "In some ways probably the most useful has been the media studies. I've a real interest in media and presenting, but I can see both sides. Sometimes you really need to work with the media to get the best for your sponsors and so on...learning to write in different points of view and communicate through different mediums and to different audiences has been the most useful."

Although, by his own admission he perhaps wishes he could have gone back to study subjects that are more aligned with the interest he's developed after his sailing career; namely the study of film and photography and emphasising the media portion of his studies.

"I love taking pictures so I've a real interest in photography. I think if I came back to college I would do much more in terms of digital media, photography, film making and using the creative software which I use a lot now, but I've never had any formal training with it. The great thing is, with the online tools at your disposal, you can work anywhere really, and it's a great skill to have."

When considering his interests in marketing and media it's hard to see how P.E. was as influential in Humphreys' career outside of his sporting achievements, but the crux of his education he says is the transferable skills he gained throughout his studies.

"I have done, over the course of my career, a lot of coaching; and again some of the elements of sport coaching are relevant to business coaching or any other form of coaching. So it definitely has had its uses."

In a twist of fate, as a board member for Sport England, Humphreys took his place on the other side of the marketing table and became responsible for the funding of up and coming sports groups and aspiring athletes.

"We presided over a time in the south west that was really interesting" he says, "because if you look at the makeup of the south west the traditional sports are there but they're actually not as popular in some ways as surfing for example. Surfing's not been given the attention that it really deserves nationally, so we had a little bit of autonomy to support sports that reflected the region.

"If you look at physical activity now which is a big issue, a huge issue for the NHS and the government to tackle, you can't discount sports like surfing because they account for mass participation in the south west. They are also proving important in terms of tackling mental health problems."

When you consider Conrad Humphreys career as a world class sailing champion and competitor, the owner of a sports marketing company and a former board member of Sports England, it's hard to connect the achievements to a small city college in the south west. I ask him, was it really that influential considering the work he's done in comparison to his own admission that if he could go back he would have re-focused his studies at Exeter?

"Exeter College was hugely influential, there are certain kind of stages in your career that I think are always really influential", In part he tells me because he had "two real loves" in college: Sailing and Rugby. And as former Rugby players and England selectors were staff members at Exeter, the college was a natural fit. But in the grander scheme of things, Exeter College was influential for the role it played during his formative years:

"You always look back at those times and think could I have done more while I was at college and grabbed more opportunities. I was lucky to be surrounded by some great people who pushed me to pursue my passions. Exeter was a great place to study and I have some very fond memories from that time."

**WRITTEN BY HARRY ADAM.
READ MORE ABOUT HARRY ON PAGE 3.**

Photo credit: Channel 4



**EXETER COLLEGE WAS
HUGELY INFLUENTIAL**



PROUD TO HELP EXETER FLY HIGH

We fly to 20 routes out of Exeter airport*, connecting regional communities to the rest of the UK, Europe, and beyond. We carry almost 9-million passengers each year, over 300,000 of which fly out of Exeter Airport with us, brought closer to the people, places, and experiences they care about. This wouldn't be possible without the highly trained and ever growing workforce at Flybe.

PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE

We employ 2,400 people across our network and nearly half of our workforce is based in Exeter. Our state-of-the-art Training Academy is based at Exeter Airport, close to Flybe's world-class New Walker Hangar, home to one of Europe's leading aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul engineering facilities. It is here that, engineering students and apprentices can gain practical hands-on experience in a live engineering environment.

FLYBE DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

We offer a unique and innovative four-year diploma in Aerospace Engineering that combines a blended programme of theoretical and practical study, with

the opportunity to learn in a real hangar environment. To date, over 200 students – most of whom are from Exeter – have undertaken this course, which offers just 15 places per year. The course has an impressively high pass rate of 100%, with the majority of former students now employed by Flybe and the wider aviation world.

FLYBE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE APPRENTICESHIP

Our apprentices are paid a competitive salary while training to become Aviation Maintenance Technicians. Only 15 places are offered each year, so the competition is tough. Apprentices gain City and Guilds Levels 2 & 3 qualifications while focusing on the practical side of aircraft maintenance. Many of those who qualify as a mechanical fitter through this apprenticeship programme can go on to study to become fully qualified engineers.

PROUD TO BE A PARTNER OF EXETER COLLEGE

Working in partnership with Exeter College, we're delighted to be able to offer these unique and highly regarded training opportunities to the next generation of engineering experts.

*Chambery and Geneva are operational through winter only.



For more information on how to apply, go to
www.exe-coll.ac.uk/1618/Subjects/EngineeringAndAerospace



flybe.

Close to you

ALUMNI AROUND

THE WORLD

WE CAUGHT UP WITH SEVERAL OF OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TRAVEL AND TOURISM ALUMNI TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING NOW AND WHAT THEY LOVED ABOUT THEIR COURSE AT COLLEGE.

Elle Wynn - The course helped me massively, it gave me a great insight into the role of being cabin crew and gave me the confidence I needed when it came to the interview. I am now a senior cabin crew member at Flybe in charge of the cabin and I have been there for 5 years. I absolutely love flying, it's something I have always wanted to do, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else.



Ben Coleman - I joined the course in 2013, with huge excitement and a little anticipation as to what I was going into. Four years later, I'm flying around continental Europe with Flybe and have been doing so for over 2 years! I couldn't have done it without the Travel and Tourism course offered at Exeter College. I was even lucky enough to be awarded Exeter College student of the year in 2016, all thanks to the lecturers and staff at the college.



Rebeca Estela-Lovell - My journey to becoming British Airways Cabin Crew first started at Exeter College. Three and half years ago I enrolled on the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism (Flybe Route). This was the best course I could have done before applying to British Airways. The course teaches you important aspects of all different travel sectors which are all helpful to know when flying. The Flybe course was fantastic and I learnt a lot about the role of Cabin Crew. I don't think I would have been as prepared for my six weeks intense training course for Cabin Crew if I hadn't done the course at Exeter College. I am very grateful to all the great lecturers who helped me get to where I am.

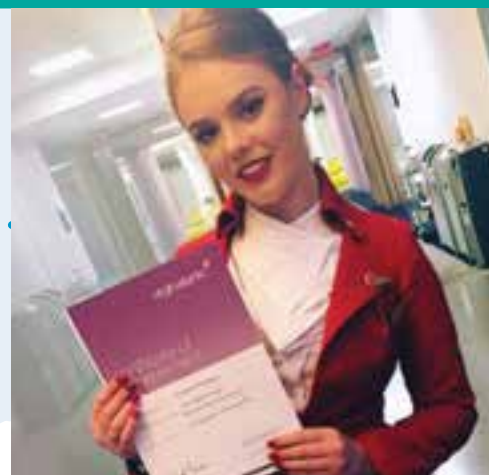


Jade Hartry - After leaving Exeter College, I got myself a job at Exeter Airport working as a passenger service agent. Working at the airport is great fun, every day is different and you get to meet a variety of different people and learn new things. The course at Exeter College helped me prepare for employment and gain confidence in myself. The support and encouragement that my tutor gave me was outstanding and I wouldn't be where I am today without the help I got.



Courtney Fairbrass - Studying at Exeter College helped me to achieve my dream in so many ways but the biggest thing it did for me was to increase my confidence. Before the course I never believed I could ever get a job as cabin crew but once I had finished the course I applied for my first cabin crew job with Monarch and got the job! I loved doing short haul because it gave me the chance to get used to the job and adapt. After seven months at Monarch I applied for Virgin Atlantic (my absolute dream) and got the job first time! I absolutely love my job and could not see myself ever doing anything else. I get to travel the world and see things I would never have had the opportunity to and I have met the most amazing people.

Kane Barker - The first time I went on a plane, I just knew all I wanted to be was Cabin Crew... so I applied for the Cabin Crew Course at Exeter College, it was the best thing I ever did! I got a really good insight into the industry. We even got the opportunity to work at the Flybe Academy. After that I landed myself a Cabin Crew job with Thomas Cook Airlines and I couldn't have done it without the help of the course and not forgetting the tutors hard work.



Carly Macdonald - If it wasn't for this course and the amazing lecturers I wouldn't be where I am today. Each day and flight are different, whether it's a short haul to Manchester, or a long haul to Singapore. I can't imagine doing anything other than this now. Flying gives you a sense of freedom and you can't complain when you get to see the world for free. The course taught me so much, both theory and practical skills, and without it I am confident that I wouldn't have had the knowledge or skills to be able to demonstrate my suitability.



AN INTERVIEW WITH

WILDWOOD KIN

A HARMONIOUS FOLK TRIO, WILDWOOD KIN ARE MADE UP OF TWO SISTERS; BETH AND EMILIE KEY AND THEIR COUSIN MEGHANN LONEY. BOTH BETH AND MEG ARE EXETER COLLEGE ALUMNI AND SPEAK FONDLY OF THEIR TIME AT COLLEGE.

The band released their first album, *Turning Tides*, last year and have since been enjoying a whirlwind of success, including being signed to Sony's Silvertone label. We caught up with Beth to talk about her time as a music student at college and to see if she is enjoying the ride!

What are your favourite memories from college?

My favourite part of college was definitely my music classes. Getting to work with other musicians and write and create music together was so much fun, I really miss it! I loved our final performance at the Exeter Phoenix, it was a special and memorable show.

All three of you play instruments, was this something you developed at college?

At college I mainly sung and played the cajón, my main instrument was keys at the time but there were already a lot of keyboard players, so I used to mainly play cajón, a bit of guitar and a bit of bouzouki. Meg, our drummer, played and sung in college which helped develop her skills. I first picked up the bouzouki during my college years and now I'd probably say it was my main instrument. I'd say that taking a music course at college helped to develop my musical ability and inspired me to pick up and experiment with other instruments and sounds.

How did your time at college help you in your career? Was there anyone in particular that encouraged you?

Music performance helped me grow in confidence and write my own music and develop those skills in song writing. I was encouraged a lot by James Tarling and Martin Cartwright.

Did you always know this is what you wanted to do?

We've always loved singing and performing together to family, I never dreamed it could be a career.

How did you find your sound? Was it something that evolved naturally or were there certain types of music that influenced you?

The harmonies are the core part of our sound and I think when we started we didn't really know which direction to go in. The music we listen to really influenced it. When we were younger we listened to a real mix of stuff like James Taylor, Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins – we've got quite a mix of taste in music. Our producer

really helped us with that, he sort of showed us what was possible that we didn't really know we could do. We had to work hard on what to put around the harmonies to make it individual. Our producer helped to set us apart from other musicians but it was a natural progression because we haven't tried to be something we were not. The album has really helped with that, I think we all enjoyed finding our sound and writing this first album.

You guys have been to Nashville recently and performed with Seth Lakeman, tell us a bit about that.

Nashville was incredible! We weren't sure what we'd make of it before going, but we came away feeling so inspired and we can't wait to go back. It has such a good vibe.

Performing with Seth Lakeman has been great for us. He took us under his wing as a young band so we feel really privileged to have toured so much with him as his support band as well as singing in his band. It's been great experience and exposure for us. It was great to collaborate on his recent album and to work with Ethan Johns who produced the album.

What are your plans for the future?

We've just finished our first ever headline tour, and now we're working on new songs for the next album. We are playing a lot of festivals overseas this year so we're looking forward to that!

Any tips for students following in your footsteps...

We played a lot at open mics at the Exeter Phoenix and local festivals, it's a good place to start and Exeter is a great city for music. Get involved with as much as you can, go out and meet people. Teachers and lecturers will guide you but don't be afraid to ask questions. If you sign up for enrichment then you can chat to people and find people with things in common with you.

Just perform as much as you can, get your name out there and get involved. Don't say no to opportunities. Don't hold back. Build up a fan base. Write songs as much as you can.

Photo credit: Rhodri Cooper @ rhodri cooper.com



For more information on Wildwood Kin, including their tour dates for 2018, please visit their website at wildwoodkin.com

A SPOTLIGHT ON

OUR HOSPITALITY ALUMNI

WE SPOKE TO A RANGE OF OUR HOSPITALITY ALUMNI, FROM A HEAD CHEF TO A HOSPITALITY AND BUTLER MANAGER, TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY REMEMBER FROM THEIR COLLEGE DAYS AND WHAT ADVICE THEY HAVE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS HOPING TO MAKE IT IN THE INDUSTRY.

SUE MINETT

Sue Minett attended college from 1986 to 1988 and has been in catering ever since. She ran her own franchise tea room at National Trust's A La Ronde for six years. She now runs her own mobile cream teas and bakes business which was nominated as one of the top cream teas in Devon by the Western Morning News. She learned at college that "preparation and organising yourself are key to a successful business." Sue says she loved college, especially meeting new people, some of whom she is still friends with now. "My advice would be to find what you are passionate about and you will be great at it. Follow your heart and the rest will follow."

suziesuescreamteas.co.uk



MATT MASON, HEAD CHEF AT JACK IN THE GREEN



I THINK MY TIME AT COLLEGE WAS SUCH A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I CAN TAKE FROM IT WAS ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WE WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO HAVE FUN WHILST LEARNING. *Matt Mason*



"I would encourage all of the hospitality students to remember that this industry is not for the short haul but more of a marathon, things do not happen overnight, be sure to stay true to your beliefs - believe in yourself, trust your instincts and just try to find the best in yourself every day and have faith that with the right mentor, support and encouragement you can enjoy a lifetime of success and fulfilment doing something you love!"

MATTHEW BALMAN, HOSPITALITY AND BUTLER MANAGER

Matthew studied at college from 2002 – 2005. He has worked at Buckingham Palace as a footman and then senior footman.

"One of my favourite moments of my career was when I was fortunate enough to fly to Malta with Her Majesty the Queen for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. This unique experience gave me the opportunity to represent my country abroad. The Royal Household is renowned for its exceptional service

and standards of which we were able to showcase amongst the fellow leaders of the commonwealth.

My advice for those considering the hospitality industry is to see it as a potential career. From head waiters and sommeliers to butlers and baristas, the industry is so vast. Your passion can shine in the hospitality sector, whether it be making a unique pulled sugar decoration piece for a buffet, sticking your neck out and recommending your favourite wine to a customer or simply relaxing the nervous couple that are spending their savings on a meal in your restaurant. Getting it right gives you an amazing feeling that you've done a good job."

 **YOUR PASSION CAN SHINE IN THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR...**
Matthew Balman



DARRIN HOSGROVE, CHEF DIRECTOR AT ASHBURTON COOKERY SCHOOL

Darrin studied at Exeter College between 1986 and 1988 and then returned as a lecturer between the years of 1996 and 2000.



"I have so many fond memories of my time as a lecturer but overall it was a fantastic learning curve to becoming a teacher. This was a turning point in my career as it

forced me out of my cooking comfort zone and helped my personal development in learning mentoring and leadership skills. At college I learnt that being disciplined and organised in your career is very important. I remember the tutors told you from the very beginning that being a chef was a lifestyle choice not just a job and you need a hunger and desire to achieve success and they were absolutely right."

ONE TO WATCH: KAYLA TUVEY



Kayla was enrolled at college as an apprentice and was then talent spotted by Deer Parks MD Mark Godfrey. She has recently won the title of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs GB Young Chef of the Year 2018, with a chance of an international title at the finals in Taiwan in September.

Currently working as Commis Chef at Deer Park Country House near Honiton, Kayla has become the youngest chef, and probably the first woman ever to win this forty one year old contest.

Commenting on her success, she said: **'It is absolutely amazing – I still can't really believe it! It is a very great honour to represent my country in Taiwan, and it will be even more special as it falls on my twentieth birthday!'**

OUR PATRON: MICHAEL CAINES



In 2016, Michael Caines MBE was announced as the first ever patron of Exeter College. The Michael Caines Academy at Exeter College was launched in 2011 and develops the next generation of hospitality leaders. The college has created the role of patron to acknowledge exceptional achievements of alumni and other distinguished friends of the college. Michael has recently been awarded a coveted Michelin Star for Lymestone Manor, just six months after opening.

Exeter College lecturer Martin Gilbert was nominated for a University of Oxford Inspirational Teachers Award by alumni Will Bentley, who is now studying at the University of Oxford. Will said: "When I first saw the awards advertised I knew I had to nominate Martin for the amazing work he does... To see him so happy on results day when he found out I got into Oxford made me very proud, due to his huge influence on my education."

AIMING HIGH

EXETER COLLEGE HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF SENDING STUDENTS TO WORLD LEADING UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE. IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS TO THESE INSTITUTIONS GROW.

We believe that, in part, this is due to the hugely popular Reach Academy. This college led academy is a unique initiative for academically gifted students which encourages students to stretch themselves academically and to aim high in their university and career ambitions.

We spoke to Reach Academy coordinator, Martin Gilbert to find out more.

"The whole idea of the programme is to give students the best chance to get into their first choice university."

There are four main themes to the academy. The team organise a range of inspirational speakers, of wide academic interest, such as politicians, historians, and even a polar explorer. In the past this has included speakers such as Jonathan Dimbleby, Rob Varley and Simon Hall. In addition, students have the opportunity

to be involved with a broad range of extra curricular clubs. This changes each year depending on what the students want to run but has included; medical ethics group, Model United Nations (MUN), law society and a Latin group. Students get invitations to residentials, masterclasses and university events such as summer schools (this year we have a record number going to summer schools) and get extra UCAS support and guidance.

Martin says; "When I talk to students that's the bit that they really value in the autumn time – the help and guidance into their first choice university." Talking about the speakers and clubs he says; "It's very fluid, it changes each year. It depends what the students want to do. That's why I love it so much because it's never the same."

Reach Academy has been running since 2009, so how has it changed over the years?

"I think we've built a scaffold now, I'm just the facilitator. When you've got an ethos of students wanting to do activities, it kind of cascades down through the 2nd years to the 1st years and then they want to do it. Then all I do is provide them with the opportunities and they just love it. MUN is a perfect

example of something that started small, it's just the students have picked it up and run with it. It's totally student led, and we now compete with private schools. Things like that I think have changed - I think they appreciate the academy for what it is, and they really get involved and that's what's really pleasing."

At the beginning of their two years the students are taken away to London on a two day residential which includes a West End show and educational visits to places such as the Houses of Parliament, the Churchill War Rooms and Buckingham Palace. They are also given a bespoke open day at University College London and the chance to speak to admissions tutors. As well as these fantastic opportunities and the chance to polish their university applications, what else do students take away from this experience?

"Firstly, whenever I speak to students at the end of their time with us, it's always been the friends they have made, the contacts they have made. It's being surrounded by students that have aspirations similar to them. The two day residential generally gets them all together. I think just being with like-minded people for 18 months is the biggest thing that shines through. What else? Confidence. Perhaps when they started they didn't realise they were as big academic fish as they could turn out to be. For me, all of those that get involved in public speaking, the skills that they develop from that for interviews is key."



Students gather to celebrate their offers from Oxford and Cambridge universities in 2017 (bottom) and 2018 (top).

REACH ACADEMY

2018



24 students received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge



13 students had offers to study medicine, five of which are at Oxford or Cambridge



An amazing 67% of our Oxbridge applicants were invited to interview



After interview a staggering 71% were offered a place

47%
OUR OXBRIDGE APPLICANT SUCCESS RATE

(compared to 16% globally)

2016/17

LAST SUMMER WE CELEBRATED SOME EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS FROM OUR A LEVEL STUDENTS.



Nine students were placed at Oxford or Cambridge



165
A Level students had at least 1 A*



253 students were placed at Russell Group institutions

99.5%
OUTSTANDING PASS RATE OVERALL



219 students were placed at higher tariff universities

EXETER COLLEGE PRESENTS...

**SURROUNDED BY SHELVES OF PROPS,
FROM POST BOXES TO INFLATABLE
FLAMINGOS, CARMEN'S 'OFFICE' IS MORE
LIKE AN ALADDIN'S CAVE THAN A WAREHOUSE.
THIS BUSINESS HAS SEEN MANY
CHANGES OVER THE YEARS.**

What started as a student entrepreneurial venture is now a thriving local business, with Carmen and her team regularly providing props to successful businesses from Cornwall to Yorkshire.



After finding she was struggling with certain aspects of running a business, Carmen decided to come back to college to study for a Diploma in Business Management. She successfully graduated in 2016. "When I left university my degree didn't really relate to what I ended up doing. So I started the business and it was all fine, I kind of got along by winging it and reading lots of books. Then we had staff and I had no idea what I was doing and I got really stressed. I asked some people for help, but nothing was really giving me the knowledge that I needed. Then I saw the course at Exeter College and I only just applied in time. I felt like it was made for me – everything that we studied I bought back into the company straight away."

Walking round the warehouse with Carmen, she is understandably proud of her business and her team. "I did an HR unit as part of the course and now I feel like we have such a good team, the oldest employee has been here for 2 years and she started just as I did that unit – her interview was 6 hours long, she's amazing. Everybody is amazing – I'm so happy with everyone. I think that an element of that is understanding people. I think it just gave me confidence to be an employer – because no one tells you, no one teaches you to do it. Now I can confidently talk to my staff, it is quite empowering."

Talking about the course at college, Carmen admits it was a lot of work. "It was very intense, but in a good way. It forced me to just take in lots of information and learn and maybe read subjects that I found a bit boring but now I find kind of exciting because it makes sense. Like the HR unit – now I can see the impact on the company, I find it exciting because the choices we make impact the future."





Carmen has a clear view of where her business is going and how she is going to get there. Her passion for this job shines through, she is enthusiastic about everything in the warehouse. Her ideas for things yet to be made are infectious – her creativity just bubbles over as she tells us about an old children’s teapot that she has plans to transform. “The strategy unit on the course was also really good. I wrote a business strategy – because I didn’t really have one. I have written two more since then and the last one I wrote was 50 pages long, compared to two before college. It helped me realise the importance of knowing where you’re going. I think people sometimes blindly trundle along, which is what we were doing before. By the end of the year I need to do something about the space. We’ve got 18 months to get another warehouse – we’ve been here three years and when we moved in it was one shelf. It needs to be a substantial move and hopefully we will be there for 10 years.”

Carmen’s business has certainly grown from the early days of making customised props and buying expensive materials but her passion for what she does has not faltered. When asked what her favourite part of the business is, she struggles to answer. “There’s loads of stuff! I think it’s the products – because we make everything from recycled materials it’s a bit of an unknown. We go out foraging and find loads of stuff and come back and it’s sort of a reversed engineered process of what we used to do. So we used to decide to make something and then buy materials and then make it. Now it’s the complete opposite. We’ve got vague themes and I think it’s that mystery and excitement, not quite knowing I guess.”

Although about half of the business comes from weddings, the other half is commercial events, mainly in London. For example, this week they have hired out props to Stella McCartney. “The Royal Academy of Arts are a regular customer – storage is a problem in London which is one of the reasons why we have a lot of London customers.” They can also add household names such as Britain’s Got Talent, Children in Need, Persil and Hendricks to their list of customers. “We do all sorts. We recently did a gothic circus festival on the Isle of Wight. We’ve done some stuff for big companies like the BBC and Sainsbury’s and it’s a great feeling knowing the money is coming to a small company. It’s not being farmed out to other big corporate companies, it’s going to somewhere that’s conscientious, we’re a good employer, and we try to do good things. It makes me happy to know that.”

This job is certainly not without its challenges. Carmen and her team plan over 40 photo shoots a year. She tells us that they often shoot for summer in January which involves hiding wilting trees and dressing the grass with small handmade daisies. Carmen obviously has a lot of pride in what they do. “We’ve got a lot of vintage fairground games that we paint by hand and use traditional techniques to try and make them look as authentic as possible. I would love to have a much bigger collection of things and travel round to do a bit more buying of things from different places. I’d like to go abroad and bring back interesting things. Just doing the same thing but growing a little bit. I find it hard to part with things we have made so we need more space!”

Does she think of herself as a collector then?


“Yes I think so, but I’ll collect things in batches. So I will like a particular type of table and find a couple and then move onto something else. I don’t excessively collect one thing... except maybe at home! You never know what you are going to get next or what things are going to look like when they are made.”

Carmen is clear that she wouldn’t change how things are now, that the process of learning has certainly added value to The Prop Factory. “At this point in time we’re in such a good place with everything, I would never want to mess around with it, just in case I couldn’t come back to this point. I’m happy with the fact that it was a bit rubbish in the first place because it forced me to make it work. I don’t think some people understand the value of learning, sometimes when I tell people I did the course, they are a bit negative. I really enjoy the whole business now.”

When asked what plans Carmen has for the future, she seems to have the perfect answer and one a lot of us strive for. “I want to do this job for the rest of my life. This is my career for life and I’m happy. I don’t need anything else now.”

To find out more about how The Prop Factory could take your event to the next level please visit: thepropfactory.co.uk

I FELT LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR ME – EVERYTHING THAT WE STUDIED I BOUGHT BACK INTO THE COMPANY STRAIGHT AWAY.



TOR WATER: MAKING WAVES

JIRO WILSON IS MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THE WORLD OF WATER.

He has big plans and is taking the South West along for the ride. His business, Tor Water, is about to launch as we interview him so it's an exciting, if slightly nerve wracking time. "I am so scared but we've got a real chance to do something fantastic here."

So what is Tor water all about? Deregulation of the water industry came on the radar about three and a half years ago, Jiro's first thought was that this was a real opportunity to do something good. Since deregulation, businesses across the UK can now choose their water supplier.

"The security of the supply doesn't change. The quality of the supply doesn't change. What does change is the cost of the water, and your customer service. You are helping a local company to do good things."

After years of experience of working in the utilities and water industry, he saw this as a golden opportunity to do it for himself and maybe fix some of the problems he couldn't at the big companies. Jiro started the business at Exeter Science Park about a year and a half ago, a place he is clearly enamoured with and it's clear to see why. His idea has flourished from a concept into a fully-fledged business in this building. "The idea behind the Science Park is that it is for people who have ideas, start-up businesses, concepts, a product – to help those businesses – provided they are engaged in some sort of research and development. Access to an environment with likeminded people doing the same sort of thing - it helps you focus, which is great. If you can focus on what you are doing it tends to bring things forward."

Jiro talks with great passion about his ideas and plans for the future but also with frustration about an industry he has worked in for years but couldn't fix. "In so many ways I could see a better way of doing things. I was there for a number of years...where I met some really interesting people. If you're looking to innovate and deliver change and benefit, it's never going to happen."

He happily admits that he wasn't a business man when he started this venture. Jiro studied at Exeter College between 1992-1994 for a BTEC in Business and Finance and says that although he had the principles on paper, doing it is something totally different. He laughs and says: "All of the things that Exeter College taught me about Business and Finance – I wish I listened harder."

It certainly hasn't been a smooth ride for Jiro and his team and he is brutally honest about what it has taken to get to this point. "Water is taken for granted. I think what I'm trying to say to the businesses out there is we've got something here that I've put all the pain and work into, and I've suffered but I've got it this far. It's ready to launch."

All the hard work has obviously paid off, listening to Jiro it's hard not to feel enthusiastic about this big idea and to get on board. His energy is infectious and his passion to do good, to not just be another big company making money is evident. "When we start making a profit our ethos is a little different. What we want to do with a percentage of the profits is go out and find local causes and charities in the area and give them a bit of money where we believe we can make something happen. We're really looking to do something tangible. Tor Water is serving two purposes. One is in the water industry – doing it bigger, better, brighter but also once we have made some money we can reach out and really make a difference."

Not satisfied with doing the minimum, Jiro and his team are working on several other innovative projects. "We are building a piece of technology that allows customers to measure and monitor their usage. This provides some other data points around the quality of the water, the temperature, those sorts of things, on a per second basis if need be. There's a number of technical challenges around this but we've overcome just about everything. It's a great innovation and were working with a couple of other companies, a collaboration with the University of Exeter and the Met Office and Plymouth college to pull together the whole structure of this solution."

When asked if he sees himself as an entrepreneur or a conservationist, his answer is clear. "I'm not an entrepreneur... What I'm doing here is fixing a problem, because the opportunity is there. Definitely a conservationist because I dial into the idea of why wouldn't you fix something if it is suffering? If you can make something better, make a difference, then why wouldn't you try? Conservationist? Environmentalist? Yeh. I want to do some good things and with the money we make we can do some good things."

Read more at torwater.co.uk

**ALL OF THE THINGS THAT EXETER COLLEGE
TAUGHT ME ABOUT BUSINESS AND
FINANCE – I WISH I LISTENED HARDER.**

Arabella on set on
'The Man from U.N.C.L.E.'



Q&A

ARABELLA GILBERT

SINCE GRADUATING WITH A BA HONS FILM FROM WESTMINSTER UNIVERSITY, ENTERING THE INDUSTRY AS A RUNNER IN 2000, ARABELLA GILBERT HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH BOTH BRITISH FILMS AND HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS ALIKE; FROM VARIOUS 'BOND' FILMS TO 'INCEPTION', 'JASON BOURNE', 'THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E' AND 'EDGE OF TOMORROW' TO NAME A FEW, WHILE ALSO WORKING ON CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS SUCH AS 'BAND OF BROTHERS' AND MORE RECENTLY 'THE NIGHT MANAGER', WORKING HER WAY UP TO HER CURRENT ROLE OF PRODUCTION MANAGER.

While studying Film, Photography and Media studies in the mid-90s at Exeter College, Arabella's passion for film production was born from the opportunity to shadow the Unit Stills Photographer on the Devon set of 'Sense and Sensibility' while they were filming in her village. Arabella knew there was no turning back having: "fallen in love with the film industry." We caught up with Arabella to ask her a little about her time at Exeter College, what it's like working in the film Industry and how she sees it evolving.

How did your time at Exeter shape your current career; how influential was your education at the college?

I vividly remember my film lecturer asking me where I drew my inspiration from and how shocked he was to learn I had rarely been to the cinema and only sporadically watched old films on our small family black and white TV set. Without his perseverance and encouragement, I might not have realised my new-found film making passion could become the career I love.

What inspired you to enter the film industry?

A shared sense of accomplishment along with a drive to succeed in creating material that might someday inspire someone, somewhere in the world.

Was it difficult entering the film industry from Exeter beginnings considering how London-centric the British film industry is?

Yes - especially given that I was at university in the late 90's and back then internet was not something that was a readily available resource for finding and applying for work. Instead I typed and sent hundreds of letters to various London based production companies eagerly awaiting replies, which rarely arrived.

What has been the most rewarding experience in your career?

Working on studio blockbusters and being sent to all corners of the world, alongside phenomenally talented Industry leaders.

What is your favourite project you've worked on?

Gosh - I couldn't pick. I love each of the films I have worked on.

What has been the most challenging aspect of your career?

The British film industry is rather uniquely made up of a series of umbrella companies that on the whole employ crew on a freelance basis. Each time a contract ends it requires a lot of courage to market yourself to potential employers. It is always a challenge to cope with the inevitable lull after the joy of being so flat out and fulfilled whilst working on a film.

How important is the ability to market yourself in the film industry? Obviously, there is always an element of that in any work, but does the film industry really force one to develop that kind of self confidence in ones' abilities?

Very important; as a freelancer, you are only as good as your last job, and in order to keep working there is an element of having to re-invent yourself.

Given the recent assault scandals and discrimination towards women within the film industry at large, does this change how you feel about the industry in any way?

No. I work hard and respect my colleagues - gender doesn't come into it.

Would you encourage more women to enter the film business in order to enact change within more male-dominated cultures within the industry?

On the whole, we have a decent mix of men and women working in the industry - although perhaps there are certain departments which are male dominated, almost certainly due to the physical challenges those departments entail (such as Construction, SFX and Grip's). It appears the balance is evened out by the lack of men in other areas (for instance Make Up and Costume).

I gather historically there has been a lack of female script writers; the natural knock-on effect is that a lot of films have been written by men, and female cast end up in supporting roles. The likes of Reece Witherspoon and other leading female directors, producers and actors are starting to make a difference.

You've worked a lot on famous British films in your career, is there something special about the British film industry that makes it particularly engaging?

I always have a sense of pride working on British films, hoping they will be met by the international audience with delight.

How do you feel about the recent rise of Hollywood interest in UK based production?

It is a great thing - it is keeping the British film crews in work, our studios busy and ensuring all the associated companies on the periphery have a decent cash flow to enable upgrading of their products and services and push themselves to keep striving to remain world leaders in their chosen field.

Following on from that, how do you feel about the boozing of Netflix at Cannes and of Helen Mirren's recent comments about online streaming productions diminishing the cinema industry; do you think they have a point, or are smaller scale streaming productions giving new opportunities for smaller scale projects that otherwise wouldn't have a platform?

Netflix and Amazon are here to stay - embrace them - their funding and distribution can only be seen as a positive way forward.

What are your future plans?

I don't know what the future holds, but my immediate plans are to carry on doing what I love - I am lucky enough to be working my dream job as a Production Manager.

What advice would you give to people wanting to enter the film production industry?

Be prepared to start at the bottom, work your way up and don't try to run before you can walk.

WRITTEN BY HARRY ADAM.
READ MORE ABOUT HARRY ON PAGE 3.

60 SECONDS WITH GARETH FRY



GARETH FRY IS AN AWARD-WINNING SOUND DESIGNER WHO HELPED CREATE THE STUNNING 2012 OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY, AND MOST RECENTLY THE WEST END AND BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD.

He gave us a few minutes of his time to tell us about his career and his time at Exeter College.

What courses did you take at Exeter College and how beneficial were they to your current career?

I studied Physics, Maths and English Literature initially. I didn't know what subject I wanted to study at university so I stayed and did Psychology and Sociology as one year courses. All these courses have proved beneficial - despite failing Psychology and Sociology pretty spectacularly! I spend a lot of time working with playwrights and scripts, so the English Literature is super useful. A lot of what I do is dealing with how an audience perceive a story, and how they perceive sound, for which the Psychology was also very useful. I utilise the Physics for the engineering parts of my job.

What made you decide to go into sound design?

I was originally taken by music production, but when I discovered the live connection you get between music, sound and a live audience, I was hooked. I wasn't sure there were viable careers in the arts because of what you hear about actors struggling to get work, but there are actually lots of other interesting and well paid careers in the arts.

What has been your most challenging experience within the industry?

I think the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games was one of the most challenging jobs I've worked on. There was a lot of pressure to make something good, a lot of secrets to keep about what we were making and remarkably little time to make it happen, working around our volunteer's schedules. Pretty much everyone was a joy to work with, even during the weeks of rain which made rehearsing an outdoor show so, so much fun...

What's been your most rewarding experience?

We've just opened Harry Potter and the Cursed Child on Broadway, having opened it in the West End a couple of years ago. That's been a pretty special experience. A lot of our audience members are first time theatre goers, and it's great to show them how magical theatre can be when it's done well. Our audiences are great too, because they often know the back history of every single character who steps on to the stage and are completely invested in every character.

How influential was Exeter College - as a whole - in your life?

I'm really fond of my time at Exeter College - I learnt a lot there, about a range of things - and it really provided a springboard into the career I have now.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR EXCEPTIONAL SPORTS TEAMS AT EXETER COLLEGE. THIS YEAR OUR STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED ABOVE AND BEYOND. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FIRSTS, SUCH AS COMPETING IN JAPAN (NUMBER 1), AND ANNUAL CLASSICS SUCH AS COMPETING IN THE AOC CHAMPIONSHIPS. HERE IS JUST A SNIPPET OF WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON THIS YEAR.



FOR THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS FOLLOW
@EXECOLLSPORT ON TWITTER.

#EXECOLLPROUD





- 1> The rugby team in their kit, ready for the SANIX International Rugby Tournament in Japan
- 2> Netball team crowned regional champions at the National Schools Regional Competition with a number of players also selected for the Bath U19 squad
- 3> Exeter College named Roslyn Park HSBC National Schools Girls Rugby Champions
- 4> Ladies hockey team crowned U18 Devon Schools Champions
- 5> Three Exeter Chiefs Academy students were selected by England under 18's for their 2018 squad to train and play with other young rugby players from across the country
- 6> This year at Ten Tors we had a team successfully complete the 45 mile challenge and the 55 mile challenge and two teams completed the Jubilee Challenge
- 7> Exeter College had 72 students represent the South West team at the AoC Championships. They represented in Netball, Ladies Hockey, Ladies Rugby, Basketball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton and Cross Country. Amongst a range of great performances, the highlights for the college were ladies hockey winning gold, netball claiming silver and ladies rugby receiving silver

For more information on any of these stories, please visit our [website: exe-coll.ac.uk/news](http://exe-coll.ac.uk/news)

