



Anne Millar receiving flowers at the AGM  
from President Judith Cochrane

## Thank you Anne

For many years, decades even, **Anne Millar** has been a committed and dedicated Council Member and Office Bearer.

Anne joined the Council in 2004, taking on the role of President in 2009 and then became Honorary Treasurer in 2010. A role which she held for 15 years.

Anne is a Methody Collegian stalwart and regularly attends all our events. She has been the driving force in the success of the Methody Collegians Christmas Lunch over the years. an event she managed with patience and precision. Her attention to detail as the Treasurer has been invaluable and she kept meticulous financial records and managed our banking transactions.

McArthur Nursery has benefitted from Anne's passion, acting as a Board Member for about 15 years and Chairperson for about 8 years.

Thank you Anne for your passion for Methody Collegians and your dedication as a committed volunteer on Council.

## WELCOME

Whilst the exams have finished and school breaks up for summer, the Council continues to work strategically to bolster the sustainability of the Methody Collegian community and support our membership.

We have a calendar of events planned which we hope will have something to suit all generations of members, and have plans to run some regional events reflecting the geographic location of our members.

Our membership continues to grow and we are now in the position to register all school leavers and welcome them to our Methody Collegian alumni community.

[www.methodycollegians.org](http://www.methodycollegians.org)

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Some news on our alumni:

- **Niall Annett** following his retirement from professional rugby has been appointed as an Elite Professional Development Officer with Ulster Rugby.
- **Katie Larmour** has recently made her first International debut for Irish Hockey in the tests against USA
- At the recent GolfNow Sports Awards, **Rebecca Shorten** (Olympic rower) and **Amy Hunter** (Ireland Cricket) won respectively, Sports Personality of the Year and Young Athlete of the Year
- **Anna Pim**, who founded 'at the Heart of the Game' recently won the 2025 Young Entrepreneur of the Year at the NI Regional Finals. We wish her well for the National finals.
- **Kristian Nairn** (best known as Hodor) has been promoting his candid memoir 'Beyond the Throne' at the Belfast Book Festival

If you have an alumni story to share, please email us on [info@methodycollegians.org](mailto:info@methodycollegians.org)



## Class of 2000

### A Night To Remember

On a sunny evening in early May, at Cutter's Wharf in Belfast, the Methody Class of 2000 gathered for their long-awaited 25 Year Reunion filled with laughter, nostalgia, and sparkling conversation. While Jamie Dornan couldn't make an appearance, there was no shortage of glitz and glamour as old friends reconnected and shared stories from their days at Methody and the years since.

It was a fantastic opportunity to rekindle friendships, reflect on shared experiences, and celebrate the journey from schooldays to the present. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, proving once again that the Methody spirit endures.

If you're thinking about organising a reunion for your own year group, the Methody Collegians Council would be delighted to help.

Just email [info@methodycollegians.org](mailto:info@methodycollegians.org) and we'd love to support you in bringing your class **back together**.

## START CONNECTING NOW

Methody Collegians membership is growing. Our strength will be in our numbers, and the more alumni we engage, the more we can achieve together. Whether it's through mentoring current students, offering career advice, organising events, business networking or simply staying in touch, there is a place for everyone in this community.

By appearing in the secure Member Directories which facilitate connections between Collegians, you support our aim of developing and maintaining a vibrant and global community.

Membership fees are kept to a minimum. Covering administrative costs such as the database and postage. Any surplus funds are used to support projects within the College and such donations will be shared in our newsletters and on social media.



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### TO JOIN/RENEW/UPDATE:

- Scan QR code above - pay by card, direct debit or manual payment
- Complete membership form

***\*If you have already paid for this year and want to create your online profile, contact us on [info@methodycollegians.org](mailto:info@methodycollegians.org)***



**Nigel Ringland (BBC), Rebecca Shorten and President Judith Cochran**



The guests got to know Rebecca as a very humble, accomplished young lady who has achieved lots and has a passion and drive to achieve more, and who knows Olympics no.3 is still up for grabs if she wants to take that next step.

She took questions from our guests sharing stories of Downey House, boarding and rowing at school. There was even discussion on acrylic nails for Olympic rowers!

Videos & photos from the event are on our Facebook page.

## Quarterly Lunch with Olympian & World Champion British Rower Rebecca Shorten

On 23 May we were delighted to welcome Rebecca Shorten as our guest. She was in conversation with Nigel Ringland, BBC Sport Senior Journalist.

It was a time to reflect on the impact that Methodist College Belfast made on Rebecca, and setting her onto a career as an elite athlete in rowing. We heard about the path, commitment and resilience required to make it to the Olympics (twice) and the World Championships as a member of the British Rowing team.

It would be remiss of us not to mention, Hazel Ervine from the class of 1946 who attended the lunch with her nephew. She is one of our life members and recounted tales of attending Methody during the Second World War and how fondly she remembers her time in the College. We were delighted to see her there. She joined the 'Old Girls' Association' at the age of 17.



**Rebecca with Hazel Ervine and Rebecca, President Judith Cochran and Hazel.**

# SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Further information is shared on our website and social media channels.

- **19 September 2025** - [Quarterly Lunch](#) with the Principal at Harlequins (booking is open)
- **26 September 2025** - **Captain's Day, Collegians Golf Society** at Malone
- **11 October 2025** - **Annual Dinner** in Methody
- Oct-Dec - the **Collegians Choir**
- **15 December 2025** - [Christmas Lunch](#) - in the *Penthouse Suite, Europa Hotel* (booking is open)
- **27 December 2025** - [Christmas Connections](#) drinks and nibbles Methody, 4-6pm
- **30 January 2026** - **Edinburgh Meet Up**
- **20 February 2026** - [London Meet Up](#)
- **26 February 2026** - [Annual Quiz](#) in McArthur Hall

Contact [info@methodycllegians.org](mailto:info@methodycllegians.org) for more information or visit the 'Events' section on the website

<https://www.methodycllegians.org/pages/events>

## Methody Collegians Choir

Calling all our songbirds or those who love a sing song. We're forming a 'Collegians' choir with a Christmas performance to follow.



Were you part of the Chapel Choir, Senior Girls Choir, an enthusiastic Senior Chorus participant or just a singing legend in your own shower? **Our choir needs you!**

Male, female, young, old, soprano or baritone - this is a safe space for those who love to sing.

**Sign Up NOW** or email [info@methodycllegians.org](mailto:info@methodycllegians.org)

## Annual Dinner

**Saturday 11 October 2025**



Following the sell-out success of the 2024 dinner we are bringing it back to the College for 2025.

The Class of 1975 and 1980 have some reunion tables booking for the event.

***Places are filling fast so book promptly.***

Our 'Conversations over Coffee' guests are 4 former teachers - Messrs Creighton, Kenny, McCluggage and Welshman. We are looking forward to this.

Get together with friends, family and classmates. and join us.

**BOOKING IS NOW OPEN** and selling fast.



**This event sold out last year and interest is high this year, so don't delay your booking.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Methody Collegians (\*extract - published in full on the website)  
16 June 2025 - AGM**

It gives me great pleasure to share this brief update on the continued progress of Methody Collegians over the past year. At the heart of our efforts remains a strong commitment to building a vibrant, inclusive, and global community of former pupils who support each other and our beloved College. When I took on the role of President this time last year, I was both apprehensive and ambitious, and I am delighted that as a Council we have worked to renew our organisation, to embrace the use of technology and to engage the Collegian community.

We have made significant strides in enhancing our infrastructure, particularly through the development of our member database. This long-overdue project is already helping us reconnect with Collegians across generations and continents, strengthening the ties that bind us. Our online presence has also grown considerably, with a refreshed website and active social media channels now serving as key platforms for updates, event announcements, and engagement with alumni worldwide.

Our global membership is expanding, and we are proud of the increasing diversity and reach of our network. To help connect this broader community, we have established a new events calendar featuring a range of regular meetups, online gatherings, and College-linked celebrations. These initiatives are creating new traditions that span borders and generations, rooted in shared memories and a shared future. One example of this was our NYC dinner where a group of strangers filled a room with chat and laughter within seconds of meeting. We have events planned in Edinburgh and London in the first quarter of 2026 as we aim to assist connections in other cities whilst still remaining as one association of Methody Collegians.

Our Collegians Business Network will be launched soon, and we have plans for a Collegians Choir with a Christmas performance. Our links with sporting associations, such as Collegians Golf Societies and Belfast Harlequins are also developing.

The purpose behind all this activity is clear: to foster a dynamic, supportive network of Collegians who not only celebrate our shared past but actively contribute to one another's lives and to the future of Methody. Looking ahead, our vision is to maintain this momentum, deepen engagement, and ensure that Collegians feel supported and valued—wherever they are in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Council members. Thank you for the time you have given up to attend meetings and help steer the association in a positive direction.

We have said goodbye to some of our Council this year, but are delighted to welcome a new cohort of Council nominees who reflect the full spectrum of Collegian experience—from recent leavers to long-standing supporters, and from near and far. Thank you all for being part of this journey. Methody Collegians is thriving because of you.

Warm regards, - Judith Cochrane - President, Methody Collegians

**Following our AGM we have a number of updates:**

5 new **Council Members**: Emma Cochrane (class of 2023), Anna Pim (class of 2023), Felicity Lamrock (class of 2009), Roisin Walsh (class of 1980) and Fiona Doherty (class of 1989).

Changes in Office Bearers: Peter Wilson is nominated as Vice President and Cheryl Trigg as Honorary Treasurer. All other Office Bearers remain the same.

Changes to the constitution were passed at the AGM



## METHODY COLLEGIANS - A NETWORK THAT REACHES AROUND THE WORLD

### Why Join Methody Collegians? A Network That Reaches Around the World.

When pupils leave the familiar corridors of Methodist College Belfast, they step into a world full of opportunity—but also uncertainty. That's where Methody Collegians, the College's alumni network, makes all the difference. Whether moving across town or across the globe, Collegians ensures former pupils are never far from a friendly face.



Take the recent example of **Holly Hamilton, Class of 2025**, who is heading to Denver, Colorado this August on a prestigious golf scholarship. Moving so far from home can be daunting—not just for students, but for their families too. Fortunately, through the Methody Collegians network, Holly and her family were introduced to **Dr Gareth Morgan (Class of 1994)**, a fellow alumnus now based in Denver.



Dr Morgan has already provided valuable insights about the local area, offered a warm welcome, and even helped ease the transition with practical advice about university life in the U.S. For Holly's parents, knowing there is a trusted, Northern Ireland connection just a few miles away brings immense reassurance. It's a reminder that, even thousands of miles from Belfast, Methody's support still surrounds its students.

This is the power of Methody Collegians: a vibrant, global community of former pupils willing to help, connect, and inspire the next generation. From career mentoring to international relocation, the Collegians network opens doors and strengthens the bonds between alumni worldwide.

**We encourage all former pupils of Methodist College Belfast to sign up today and become a part of this growing network.** Whether you're in Belfast or Boston, Denver or Dubai, there's always a Methody connection ready to support you—and the next generation of pupils following in your footsteps.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

We encourage you to email [info@methodycollegians.org](mailto:info@methodycollegians.org) for any queries about membership, events or general enquiries. This will ensure that it is dealt with appropriately, rather than contacting an individual Council member.

## Annual London Dinner 2025

The London Annual Dinner organised by the **London Association** was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May in the RAF Club, Piccadilly. Former pupils of Methodist College Belfast gathered in style for the annual Black Tie Dinner hosted by the London Association at the prestigious RAF Club in Piccadilly. The elegant evening brought together alumni from across the generations—spanning recent leavers to those with decades of cherished Methody memories.

This much-anticipated event continues to serve as a highlight in the Collegians' calendar, offering a unique opportunity for networking, reminiscence, and celebration of all things Methody in the heart of London.

Guests were treated to thought-provoking speeches from two distinguished speakers. Principal Jenny Lendrum provided a warm and insightful update on life at the College today, sharing developments across academics, extracurriculars, and community life that reflect Methody's continued excellence and evolving spirit.



President Judith Cochrane with her daughter Emma Cochrane



Annual Dinner Guests

The second guest speaker, Alan Frame, a well-known journalist, broadcaster, and author - and a proud former pupil - delivered a nostalgic reflection on his career and time at Methody. His remarks drew admiration, and a few heartfelt moments, resonating strongly with the audience.

As the night drew to a close, there was a shared sense of pride in the enduring connections that tie past and present pupils together—regardless of distance or time. To stay informed about events like this, both in London and around the globe, former pupils are encouraged to sign up to Methody Collegians.

Whether you're reconnecting with old friends or building new networks, your Methody community is always close at hand.

## Volunteering Opportunity

### SistersIN Mentoring Opportunity

SistersIN is a Northern Ireland charity that empowers sixth-form girls by helping them build confidence and leadership skills through leadership development training, mentorship from female business leaders, and hands-on project leadership experience. Each student is paired with a mentor who shares career experiences, offers guidance, and provides real-world insights to help them grow and explore professional opportunities.

The College is now preparing for its third year participating in the SistersIN programme, which has been instrumental in creating meaningful connections and offering valuable support to our students.

The College is keen to encourage alumni to sign up as mentors and kindly asks that you select MCB as the school you'd like to support.

- **Learn more** about SistersIN at [www.sisters-in.org](http://www.sisters-in.org)
- **Apply to be a mentor** directly via this registration form: <https://www.pushfar.com/mentor-registration/NgyZluCL7h/>

**If you are on the postal mailing list, please email to get these links sent to you.**



This is a fantastic opportunity to give back to the College, reconnect with the school community, and support current pupils. Although not every alum may be paired with a College student, participation remains a rewarding and fulfilling experience, as demonstrated by the many alumni who took part last year.

#### **\*Opportunity for our female alumni only**

Contact in the school is Mr Patrick Armstrong, Assistant Principal Teacher.



Congratulations to former pupil Darryl Sloan who took home the Sir Thomas McMullan trophy at Visitor's Day hosted by the **Collegians Golf Society** at Carnalea Golf Course on 13 June 2025.. They are always looking for more recruits to join the golf society - *male and female!* More on 'golf' and Collegians Golf Society in our next newsletter.

**On behalf of  
the Council we  
wish you all a  
great summer  
holiday.**