

Oxford DNB: May 2022

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May 2022: summary of newly-added lives

The barrister and theologian, **Samuel Francis Wood**, (1809–1843), who had been influenced by the teaching of John Henry Newman, was among a group of London-based followers of the Oxford Movement (Tractarians). He was a leading member of a group who galvanized support for church education in the face of moves by the whig government to subsidize non-sectarian elementary schools. He took a leading part in reviving the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, raising funds so that the number of schools associated with the Church of England rose from 10,856 to 17,015 between 1837 and 1847, effectively forestalling the government's plans. His group also saw the need to train schoolmasters for church schools, and in 1841 acquired the premises in Chelsea for what became St Mark's College. A century later, the principal of St Mark's College was the former headmaster **James Herbert Simpson (1883–1959)**, a former pupil and schoolmaster at Rugby School. He had begun to develop a radical child-centred educational philosophy while teaching at Gresham's School in Holt, Norfolk, under G. W. S. Howson. As a schoolmaster at Rugby he trialled a limited form of self-government in the classroom which used a system of collective rewards and punishments, experiments which he had the opportunity to implement when appointed the first headmaster of

Rendcomb College in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, which opened in 1920. Throughout his career Simpson's thinking was underscored by a deep attachment to Anglican Christianity which recognized the importance of bestowing self-respect upon all children and learners.

The football administrator **William Pickford** (1861–1938) first encountered association football while working for a newspaper in Bolton, which increasingly captured his imagination and took up his time, as player, spectator, administrator, and writer. He played for a club in Bournemouth, Hampshire, where he settled, became secretary of the county football association, and took up refereeing after ceasing to play the sport. He largely earned his living as a journalist, but his literary monument was the history of the game, *Association Football and the Men Who Made It*, published in four volumes in 1906, which he wrote jointly with the sport editor of the *Football Star*, Alfred Gibson. The work was sumptuously produced, lavishly illustrated, and became very collectable. The Welsh rugby union player **Richard Morgan Owens [known as Dicky Owen]** (1876–1932), born in Swansea, joined the Swansea club in 1898, and began an amateur career which coincided with unquestionable golden ages for club and country. Swansea won their first Welsh championship in 1899, in his first season, and won five more in the following six years. After making his international debut in 1901 he played in Welsh

teams that won triple crowns and championships in 1902, 1905, 1908, 1909, and 1911. He played a key role in the 1905 victory over New Zealand that remains arguably the most significant match played by either country, and also the peak of his own career. His wider contribution to the game was to refine and define both the tactics and the position of scrum-half. The football referee **Patricia Alice [Pat] Dunn [née Thurston]** (1933–1999) honed her football skills on a recreation ground in Weymouth, Dorset, where she was employed for thirty years as an accounts clerk at the Dorset Evening Echo. Her wish to referee gained her a place in the history of the game. In 1967, at a time the Football Association (FA) did not have a rule banning women from refereeing, since it was thought inconceivable that a woman should try, she applied to take the examinations to become a qualified referee. The county association declined to accept her application, and when she eventually passed the exam, the FA simultaneously passed a ban on women officiating an FA or league match. In 1976 the FA reversed its earlier decision and Dunn was officially being allowed to officiate a Sunday league, third division game. She was the first qualified referee under the newly gender desegregated qualifications systems.

The poet and translator, **Robert John Thurlow [Jonathan] Griffin**, (1906–1990), began a career of political journalism and during the Second World War. He joined the BBC as

European intelligence officer and was at the Paris embassy until 1951, when he returned to London to make a living as a translator. His work in the 1950s encompassed Jean Giono, Nikos Kazantzakis, Romain Gary, and de Gaulle. His first collection of poetry, *The Rebirth of Pride* (1957), was followed by several more up to *Commonsense of the Senses* (1982). The playwright, **Norman Frederick [Wally] Simpson [known as N. F. Simpson]** (1919–2011), worked as a bank clerk, but later taught as an extra-mural English lecturer at City of Westminster College for twelve years. During this period he developed a personal style as a playwright, in which he became identified by some as the first English master of the 'European Theatre of the Absurd'. His high-water mark of achievement was in 1959 when the two-act play generally considered his masterpiece, *One Way Pendulum*, a surreal sitcom, opened at the Royal Court theatre. His subsequent writings, including for tv, were less successful, though there was a revival of interest in his work in the new millennium.

The actress **Carole Joan [Carol] White** (1943–1991) was enrolled by her parents in the Corona Stage Academy in Chiswick when she was nine and she had bit parts in several British films from 1955. She came to prominence when she was cast in three plays by the film director Ken Loach in the BBC's Wednesday Play series: *Up the Junction* (1965), about the lives of factory workers in Battersea; *The Coming Out Party* (1965), in which she had a smaller role; and most notably *Cathy Come Home* (1966), the pitiful story of the homelessness

of a London girl, in which the acting seemed so real that many thought it was a documentary, encouraging support for the new charity Shelter. She next appeared in a series of films, and went to Hollywood, but ended up with drink problems, and died penniless in Florida.

The botanist and microbial ecologist, **John Walter Guerrier Lund (1912–2015)** graduated in botany at the University of Manchester, and gained his London PhD for research in freshwater algae. In 1945 he joined the research team of the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) at Windermere, where his most important research involved installing what became known as Blelham tubes or Lund tubes in Blelham Tarn to collect, investigate, and experiment with planktonic algae. He made a particular study of the planktonic diatom, *Asterionella*, an important component of the spring algal 'bloom' in Lake Windermere; and his work shed light on many aspects of the ecology, distribution, population dynamics, and seasonal variations in freshwater phytoplankton. The historian of science and museum curator, **Frank Greenaway (1917–2013)**, born in Cardiff, studied chemistry at Oxford and in 1949, after a period as a schoolteacher, joined the Science Museum in August 1949, one of several museum curators recruited after the war. He became keeper of chemistry at the Science Museum in 1967. The wildlife and countryside artist and naturalist, **Gordon George Beningfield (1936–1998)**, excelled at art at school,

and took up a five-year apprenticeship in ecclesiastical art, and went on to work mainly on designs for embroidery on altar frontals and banners and for painted stained-glass. At weekends he sketched and painted in the Hertfordshire countryside, building a fast-growing reputation as a wildlife and countryside painter. His first London exhibition of wildlife paintings, in 1968, was an outstanding success, and he began to make appearances in BBC countryside programmes, as well as publishing a series of successful nature books. He appeared on BBC's Desert Island Discs in 1985.

The railway enthusiast and businessman, **Ian Allan (1922–2015)** joined the Southern Railway in 1939 as a clerk in the publicity and public relations department, where in response to enquiries about locomotives, he had the idea of producing a booklet of locomotive names and numbers which could be sold to the public. The ABC of Southern Locomotives was published in 1942, followed by The ABC of LNER Locomotives (1943), and ABC of LMS Locomotives (1943). These proved so popular that they became the first of many publications published by Allan covering railways and many other forms of transport. The ABCs were used by 'locospotters' to mark off engines as they were seen and locospotting became a popular hobby. He founded the ABC Locospotters Club, which soon had branches all over the country and by 1955 had 230,000 members. He left the Southern Railway in 1945 and soon established Ian Allan Ltd to deal with his growing publishing business.