



An Evening with *The Old Blues* *Alumni of Blue Coat Church of England Comprehensive School*

Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.00p.m.

St. Matthew's Church, St. Matthew's Close, Walsall, WS1 3DG

Eileen Johnson

of Walsall, and June Barbara, née Lawrence; b 13 October 1950; Educ Bluecoat School Walsall, Walsall Coll of Art, Sandwell Coll of Photography; m 1981, Bill Johnson; 2 da (Laura b 1979, Bobbie b 1985), 1 s (Martyn b 1983); Career trained as photographer Rubery Owen & Co Ltd 1968-73, chief photographer Wolverhampton Education Authority 1973-74, chief photographer Simon Livingstone Studio 1974-75, Eileen Mason Photography 1975-; memb Professional Photographers of America 1985, Craftsman with Distinction Guild of Wedding Photographers 1993; Awards Guild Wedding Photographer of the Year (National Award) 1991, 1993 and 1995, British Inst Portrait Photographer of the Year (Midland region) 12 times in past 15 years, winner BIPP Midland Wedding Portfolio 1999, 2000 and 2001; FBIPP, FRPS, FMPS; Recreations theatre (keen amateur actor), drama, opera, comedy, movies (from old English black and white films to modern blockbusters walking in Wales with our dog, French food and Indian curries; Clubs Walsall Rotary Club; Style— Mrs Eileen Mason; Eileen Mason Photography, 120 Lichfield Road, Rushall Walsall, West Midlands WS4 1ED (☎ 01922 625229, fax 01922 613937, e-mail eileenmason@cablenet.co.uk, website www.eileenmasonphotography.co.uk)



Eileen Mason
FBIPP, FMPS, FRPS

Talks about her career journey from Blue Coat to running a business for the past 40 yrs. Becoming the First Lady to break the glass ceiling dominated by Men in the Photography qualifications professional bodies.

Leigh Pomlett

Graduated from Liverpool University in 1980 in Business Studies and joined the then Government owned National Freight Consortium as a Management Trainee.

Leigh then went on to progress to Operations Director for the largest UK Transport company, BRS.

He continued to progress in various roles which included the Global President for Exel Logistics based in Detroit US.

He then returned to Europe to lead all of mainland European Operations. This was leading the business across 20 countries with 23000 people. He also became the Chairman of a joint venture in Japan at this time. Following an acquisition by DHL, the largest logistics company in the world, he took the role as CEO for Europe, Middle East and Africa. This including chairing businesses in Israel and Oman. This business employed 52000 people with a turnover in excess of \$4billion.

In 2008, it was time for a break from business and travel and he took a year out. The year was spent qualifying as a pilot which he did. Following the rest he joined Ceva Logistics and again led the European business. He was also appointed to the Board of a Chinese business based in Shanghai.

At this time he also joined the Board of his beloved Walsall Football Club fulfilling a life-long ambition. He also took the Chair of the FTA body that represents 18000 operators to the UK Government. During this time he spent time in Select Committees in the House of Commons and Lords.

He became the Chairman of Walsall FC in August 2019 and in the last year brought in new investment from the USA. Today he is Co-Chairman. In addition, he owns a restaurant business in Lichfield and Barton called the Pom's Collection.



Kevin Davis

As a social entrepreneur, and non-exec in the fields of education, employment, and community empowerment, Kevin has been the Group CEO of the Vine Trust since 2010, a development trust, which occupies the space where the business, public, civil society sectors meet.

With nearly 10,000 students in its Mercian Trust, the Multi-Academy Trust he co-founded, and now Chairs, Kevin is passionate not just about the 3 schools he set up, but also the MAT's 9 schools, to help them follow the vocational path that best suits each student.

Kevin is founding Chair of the Ladder Apprenticeship Foundation and its regional newspaper campaigns and awards, that champion apprenticeships, locally nationally.



Adam Mountford

Adam Mountford was educated at Blue Coat Church of England School in Walsall from 1983 becoming Head Boy. On leaving Blue Coat he studied Modern European History at the University of Warwick.

In his last week at University, Adam began a job at the BBC Radio station in Coventry as a sports presenter before working across CWR and BBC WM as a presenter and commentator.



In 1998 Adam began working at BBC Sport in London where he was part of the 5 Live Sport team and became the Golf producer before starting to work in Cricket in 2002.

Since 2007 Adam has been the producer of the iconic Test Match Special running the programme both in the UK and on overseas tours including 5 Ashes series and 10 World Cups

Chloe Hale

Chloe Hale left Blue Coat in 2012 and went on to study Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. As the first generation in her family to go to University, and one of only a small handful in her year group, she discovered that the transition and path to University was much smoother and more expected for her more privileged University peers from more affluent areas.

After graduation Chloe dedicated her career to creating opportunities and experiences for young people from the working-class background she came from, to support them to make aspirational decisions and reach their potential. Chloe worked her way up in the Higher Education Sector, securing the position of Outreach Manager for Aston University aged 24. From there Chloe went on to work as the Learning and Participation Manager for the £120 million government-funded festival of creativity: UNBOXED. She supported 1.8 million people across the UK to experience large scale awe-inspiring projects in Arts Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Chloe has just started her most recent role leading the Learning and Participation Programme for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic games, where she will enable millions of the UK's most disadvantaged young people and their families to get active and enjoy the physical, mental and social benefits of engaging in an active lifestyle.

Chloe credits her love of working with diverse communities and her passion to create extra-curricular experiences for young people to the formative experiences and opportunities she had at Blue Coat.