



# 100<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE FE Week

## EDITIONS 1 TO 24 — SEPTEMBER 2011 TO MARCH 2012

# FE Week

## EDITIONS 25 TO 49 — APRIL 2012 TO DECEMBER 2012



FE Week should take great pride — above everything else — in placing FE firmly on the map. Clever writing, combined with a good eye for a story, has helped to shine a light on this brilliant sector, its staff and students and the hugely important place it has in creating a better future for Britain

**Liam Byrne** - Shadow Skills Minister

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A fledgling FE Week set its challenging stall out with an ongoing campaign to increase the minimum length of apprenticeships.

Attention was first drawn to the issue in the newspaper's June pilot edition, which featured an article focusing on 12-week call centre apprenticeships.

The paper repeatedly highlighted substandard skills training during the first 24 editions and was vindicated in December, when the government increased the minimum duration for apprenticeships from 12 weeks to 12 months.

The first official edition was published on September 12 and led on then-Shadow Skills Minister Gordon Marsden's concerns that government plans to cut "red tape" around apprenticeships could undermine quality.

The paper published its first supplement in the same week, advising FE providers how to make best use of Twitter.

The following week's front page exposed a "significant" recruitment shortfall for 16 to 18-year-old learners in colleges and sixth forms.

WorldSkills London (which took place from October 5 to 8) featured in editions five and six and also a special supplement. Team UK won four gold, two silver, and six bronze medals.

The paper covered its first Association of Colleges conference in edition 10 (November 21).

The front page story for edition 12 (December 5) told how providers could miss out on vital apprenticeship funding if they were found to be poaching employers.

The hard line was taken by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) in the wake of a number of complaints from providers who had already set up agreements with employers.

The newspaper revealed in edition 16

(January 23) that Geoff Russell, Skills Funding Agency chief executive, and Simon Waugh, chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, were both stepping down from their posts.

Government plans to introduce FE loans were criticised in edition 17 (January 30) by David Hughes, chief executive of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Martin Doel, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, and Paul Warner, director of employment and skills at the Association of Employment and Learning Providers.

Then-Skills Minister John Hayes spoke in edition 19 (February 20) about the completion rate of all 16 to 18 apprenticeships having risen to a record level of 74 per cent in 2010/11, up from 72.4 per cent for the previous 12 months.

National Apprenticeship Week, which took place from February 6 to 10, was also covered in edition 19 along with a supplement, and FE Week secured an exclusive interview with new National Apprenticeship Service interim chief executive David Way during his first day for edition 24 (March 26).

The paper also produced a supplement on the FE Week and Me competition, which challenged students to write short essays about why they attended college, and another supplement on the future of skills training.



Edition 5



Edition 1



Edition 5



President of WorldSkills International, Simon Bartley, holding an exclusive FE Week t-shirt at the WorldSkills 2011 closing ceremony (from edition 6)

One of the marks of a vibrant self-improving sector is a vital and energetic trade press. FE Week has provided and continues to provide that service to the FE sector. It has increased the visibility of FE, challenged received wisdoms and stimulated debate. Here's to the next 100 editions



**Martin Doel** - chief executive of the Association of Colleges

A majority of FE professionals supported delaying or scrapping the introduction of FE loans, according to a survey of Lsect members that provided the front page story for edition 28 (May 7).

Nearly 70 per cent of respondents, who represented more than 150 different FE colleges, said the government should have prolonged the implementation of the scheme [which went ahead as planned and was launched in August 2013] or abandoned it completely.

Supplements in June were produced on the Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) annual conference and the University and College Union Congress.

The paper bid farewell in edition 36 (July 9) to Geoff Russell as chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency.

The same edition revealed Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's plans to launch traineeships.

The paper then published a souvenir edition to celebrate the end of the paper's first academic year in publication.

After the summer holidays, readers were welcomed back with a special report in edition 37 (September 10) on Matthew Hancock MP taking over from fellow Tory John Hayes as

Skills Minister. We revealed on the front page of the following edition that Ofsted chief inspector Sir Michael Wilshaw had warned colleges were at risk of focusing on international opportunities to the detriment of home-grown learners.

The former head teacher and executive principal spoke on the dangers of foreign recruitment in FE at a conference organised by the Association of Colleges (AoC).

Director of operations Shane Mann and former FE Week editor Nick Linford then travelled to Spa, in Belgium, for EuroSkills.

They provided first-hand coverage of the British team's many successes (they won three gold, two silver, and two bronze medals) in edition 42 (October 15).

Tory grandee Michael Heseltine's plans to take FE funding from the Skills Funding Agency and give it to local enterprise partnerships in a "single pot" (through his report No Stone Unturned: in pursuit of Growth) was in edition 44 (November 5).

The editorial team headed to Birmingham's NEC arena on November 15 to cover the three-day Skills Show 2012 (pictured below, right), which was reported on in a supplement.



The UK squad for EuroSkills in Spa, Belgium



From left: editions 36 and 42



Edition 37



From left: The FE Week team in a temporary office at the Skills Show

### Top five most read internet stories:

- 1) Learning and skills network in administration **November 4** — 4,387 hits
- 2) Panorama takes a look at the great apprentice scandal **March 26** — 3,027 (published online following edition 24)
- 3) Unemployment 'free-for-fall' **September 29** — 3,042
- 4) Geoff Russell to retire from SFA **January 17** — 2,855
- 5) Where are the 16 to 18-year-olds? **September 15** — 2,774

### Top five most read internet stories:

- 1) Newcastle College boss accuses Ofsted of 'flaws' in their Good inspection grade **August 16** — 5,012 hits
- 2) Newcastle College cuts inspection short after 'troubling incidents' **July 17** — 4,755
- 3) Panorama to focus on Zenos, Morrison and subcontracting **April 2** — 4,624
- 4) Colleges given green light to recruit full-time 14 and 15 year-olds **December 7** — 4,606
- 5) Top principals' salaries detailed for 2010/11 **April 3** — 4,437

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE FE Week

EDITIONS 50 TO 74 — DECEMBER 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013

# FE Week

EDITIONS 75 TO 99 — SEPTEMBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014



FE Week is a constant enthusiast for all things FE, and a great place to get something off your chest

Matthew Hancock - Skills Minister

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The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) continued to advertise adult apprenticeships of less than a year, months after the government had announced plans to clamp down on short programmes.

The issue was covered in edition 50 (December 17) where further investigation had uncovered that the official NAS Twitter account tweeted a link to its vacancy matching website to 70 campsite courier apprenticeship vacancies.

The jobs, based in France, were described as fixed-term contracts of nine months and the government subsequently removed the adverts.

India was visited by Skills Minister Matthew Hancock and representatives from more than 30 FE colleges in January.

Former FE Week editor Nick Linford and managing director Shane Mann travelled with the UK delegation, producing a supplement on the subsequent launch of the Association of Colleges (AoC) in India — which was set up to help UK colleges tap into the growing Indian skills training market.

It was exclusively revealed in edition 60 (March 18) that Liverpool Community College, which achieved the highest grade almost across the board following an Ofsted inspection in early 2009, had been hit with a shock grade four result.

Mr Hancock was pictured in the same edition presenting a certificate to Manchester College graphic design student Lisa Cassidy, who created the winning design for the proposed new chartered status quality mark for providers (in a

competition backed by FE Week). The front page story for edition 62 (March 25) reported that Walsall College had received a grade one Ofsted rating — making it the first general FE college to achieve an outstanding grade under Ofsted's tough new inspection regime.

A 16-page guide to FE 24+ advanced learning loans was then published by FE Week, following the system's launch in April.

The paper reported in edition 66 (May 13) that the 11-month wait for a government outline of traineeships to help 16 to 24-year-olds to gain work-related skills was over.

They were launched three months later and FE Week, in a supplement, explained how they would work.

The front page of edition 68 (June 3) reported on the Association of Colleges chief executive Martin Doel's concern over "low levels" of applications for 24+ advanced learning loans.

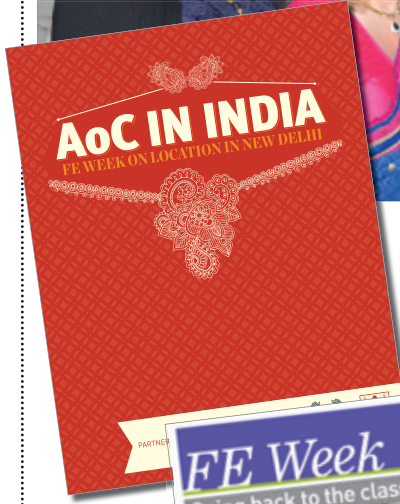
He spoke out as the Student Loans Company (SLC) revealed 338 learners had applied for loans in the three weeks after the system's launch on April 8.

The editorial team hopped on planes to Leipzig, in Germany, in July to produce a supplement on WorldSkills 2013 — where the British team won two gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

The paper returned after the summer holidays with a front page story on September 16 (edition 74) on Birmingham Metropolitan College's decision to back down on a security policy that banned students from wearing face veils.



Sue Rimmer, South Thames College, Andy Wilson, Westminster Kingsway College, Dawn Ward, Burton and South Derbyshire College, Matthew Hancock, Skills Minister, Asha Khemka, West Nottinghamshire College, Stella-Ngozi Mbubaegbu, Highbury College, Sunaina Mann, Nescot, and Richard Atkins, Exeter College at the AoC in India launch event. Inset the AoC in India supplement



Edition 66



Edition 60

FE Week has played an important role in raising the profile of the FE sector at a time of enormous change and challenge. Each edition sets out the huge impact colleges and providers make to our society and in particular how FE helps people to use learning to positively change their lives. I have also enjoyed how FE Week has kept the FE sector on its toes and helped fight for what we believe in and to ensure that it keeps providing great quality opportunities to people of all ages across the country to learn

David Hughes - chief executive of the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education

### Top five most read internet stories:

- 1) Elmfield boss quits over Ofsted's inadequate grading July 12 — 5,200 hits
- 2) Leading college falls from outstanding to inadequate March 15 — 4,629
- 3) Apprenticeship funding consultation launched July 24 — 4,165
- 4) Provider's 'appalling' pass rate May 2 — 4,086
- 5) Principal defiant after Ofsted grade four April 25 — 3,809

Congratulations all at FE Week on making it to 100. FE Week is now the must-read for anyone in the wide world of FE and especially for sixth form colleges, who can sometimes feel a bit schizoid about where they fit in the landscape. Thanks for all the stimulating, informative and relevant news and comment that keeps us in the loop. I am looking forward to the next 100.

David Igoe - chief executive of the Sixth Form Colleges Association

Unpaid traineeships lasting up to 936 hours across five months at Kwik Fit were revealed in edition 75 (September 23).

An FE Week investigation found the car servicing firm advertising "multiple" 16 to 18 vacancies "nationwide" on the government's National Apprenticeship Service website.

The advert, which said trainees would do a "maximum of 39 hours a week Tuesday to Saturday" for up to 24 weeks, was removed after FE Week started looking into the posts and reappeared later with a line saying "most weeks will be less".

A supplement was then dedicated to a fringe event run by the paper at the Labour Party's September conference, called The Future of Apprenticeships.

The event involved a discussion on Labour's proposals, announced by party leader Ed Miliband, to force companies to "train" a local apprentice for every foreign worker they take on (from September 30's edition 76). The newspaper's fringe event saw Tory Skills Minister Matthew Hancock beamed into the debate via Skype.

Elmfield chief executive Ged Syddall's decision to quit as the firm's director featured in edition 77 (October 7).

A Newsnight probe aired the following night, supported with information uncovered by FE Week, focused on Elmfield's dealings with workers at

supermarket giant Morrisons. The provider went into administration three weeks later during the paper's half term break.

The paper moved its operations up to Birmingham in November, where the team produced edition 83 (November 25) and supplements on the Skills Show and Association of Colleges (AoC) conference.

We exclusively revealed FE loans for apprenticeships were going to be scrapped in edition 86 (December 16), which Business Secretary Vince Cable then confirmed in a web story the following day.

It was all-change in the New Year as editor and founder of FE Week Nick Linford stood down for deputy editor and chief reporter Chris Henwood to take over.

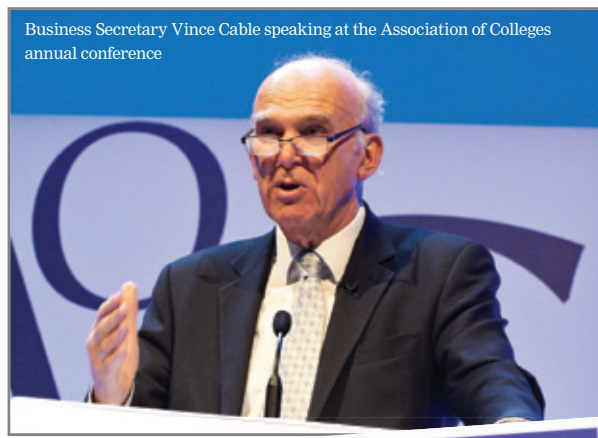
The paper also launched an intern scheme where journalism students are invited to be guest editors of a new weekly Campus Round-Up digital magazine.

The paper revealed in edition 88 (January 13) that South London college LeSoCo had crashed to a grade four Ofsted rating.

Then, in edition 91 (February 3), it was revealed that the Skills Funding Agency had published a list of 1,477 Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) level two to four qualifications which it said would not be approved for funding in 2014/15.

The paper dedicated a supplement to National Apprenticeship Week 2014 in March.

The front page of edition 99 (April 21) reported on calls for college chief executive and principal pay levels to be published amid concerns that the growth of group management structures could mean taxpayers not getting the full picture of top college earners.



Chancellor George Osborne meets apprentices at Downing Street during National Apprenticeship Week

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FE Week captures the news and views from the FE sector like no other publication. It plays an important and unique role in disseminating the latest news and issues from across the sector with detail and insight. What's more, FE Week is unafraid to publish critical and sometimes opposing views. It has raised the level of debate and scrutiny in FE. May it continue to do so through the next 100 editions

Brian Lightman - general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders



WorldSkills 2013 in Leipzig - Editor Chris Henwood (third from lower left) with British team. Inset WorldSkills 2013 supplement

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE FE Week

## CARTOONS

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Cartoons were introduced in *FE Week* from edition 48 (December 3, 2012). They have gone on to become a popular feature and, for some (so we are told), it is a badge of honour to be caricatured by resident cartoonist Noel Ford (pictured).  
Noel sold his first cartoon to satirical magazine *Punch* in 1976 and has worked for many other prestigious titles including the *Daily Star*, for which he was editorial cartoonist from 1979 until 1993.  
He said working for *FE Week* for the last 18 months had been one of his favourite jobs.  
Noel said: "It is one of those where the client and myself seem to be very much on the same wavelength. I enjoy creating

cartoons which comment on current events — having space to do that in a national publication is quite a privilege.  
"My daughter Sara, whose job [with government agency Energy & Utility Skills] brought her into contact with [Skills Minister] Matthew Hancock's department was quite jealous that I seemed to have more of an inside line to what was going on there than she did."  
When asked who he had enjoyed caricaturing the most, he added: "I've drawn Mr Hancock so many times I feel I could do him left-handed and blindfold."  
"But I did especially like drawing Michael Heseltine. He still has the same basic characteristics he had when I worked for the *Daily Star* back in the 1980s.  
"If I had to choose a favourite cartoon, it would be the Michael Heseltine one [in edition 60] as I like the character and also the depth and contrasts that the subject allowed me to put into the composition."



### MARCH 18, 2013 (EDITION 60) AELP fears for skills funding



The Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) warned government money for skills training could be spent on "building bridges or community centres" if proposals for local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) were approved.  
Lord Heseltine's recommendation for Leps to bid from a "central pot" of government cash, including the adult skills budget, came under fire from the AELP which submitted its views to the all-party parliamentary group on local growth, local enterprise partnerships and enterprise zones.



### FIRST CARTOON: DECEMBER 3, 2012 (EDITION 48) Ofsted accused of moving goalposts



Ofsted was accused of "moving the goalposts" for colleges following a damning annual report that pointed to a threefold increase in the number of colleges judged inadequate.  
Association of Colleges chief executive Martin Doel (pictured left in goal) hit out at the education watchdog after its report highlighted how 13 colleges received the lowest possible grading in 2011/12, compared with four the previous year and how, for the second year running, no college achieved an outstanding grade for teaching and learning.



### NOVEMBER 18, 2013 (EDITION 82) Powerful new FE Commissioner announced

Former South Cheshire College Group principal, Guildford College Group interim principal and ex-president of the Association of Colleges Dr David Collins CBE was appointed as the government's first FE Commissioner.  
The new troubleshooter post came with the power to call for the closure of failing colleges.  
Dr Collins is pictured as a gunslinger sent into sort out Skillstown college.



### DECEMBER 17, 2012 (EDITION 50) Camping courier apprenticeships get short shrift

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) faced criticism for continuing to advertise adult apprenticeships of less than a year, months after the government announced plans to clamp down on short programmes.  
*FE Week* found the official NAS Twitter account tweeting a link on its vacancy matching website to 70 campsite courier apprenticeship vacancies. The jobs, based in France, were described as fixed-term contracts of nine months.  
Former NAS chief executive David Way is pictured, sandal-footed, on a camping holiday.



### David Hughes cartoons — a regular cartoon face (or victim)

A regular face in *FE Week* cartoons has been chief executive of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education David Hughes.  
He said: "I have three teenage kids who make sure I don't take myself too seriously and they've had a laugh at some of the cartoons I've been in."  
"My face probably suits caricaturing because I have quite a



big nose. I think it's good to cover news in the sector with a bit of humour."  
*Here are some of the cartoons that he featured in through his role as independent chair of a steering group on the FE Guild, now called the Education and Training Foundation.*

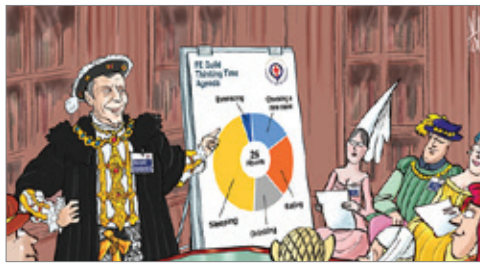
February 4, 2013 (Edition 55)  
**FE Guild countdown picks up pace**  
Providers had just three weeks to respond to a formal consultation on plans for the FE Guild — which the independent chair of the guild's steering group David Hughes conceded would be "difficult".



April 15, 2013 (Edition 62)  
**Hear our voice, the NUS tells FE Guild**  
The National Union of Students said it would continue to push for a learner presence on the board of the FE Guild, describing its lack of representation as "wrong".  
NUS president Toni Pearce is pictured with Association of Colleges chief executive Martin Doel, former Education and Training Foundation interim chief executive Peter Davies, former Association of Employment and Learning Providers chief executive Graham Hoyle and Mr Hughes.



May 13, 2013 (Edition 66)  
**Guild to meet at Windsor Castle for 'complex thinking time'**  
Twenty nine "key people" from FE were invited to eat, drink, sleep and "think" in secret at Windsor Castle about the soon-to-be-introduced FE Guild.



*FE Week* has given high profile media coverage to the hot news in our sector, both positive and negative. It has introduced expert views by sector professionals which are well read, popular and informative. The weekly celebrations of success stories, early coverage of breaking news and challenges on pertinent issues make the paper a must-read for everyone working in or interested in FE. I read it every week from cover to cover

Lynne Sedgmore – executive director of the 157 Group

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE FE Week PROFILES

## From Silver to Hancock – 100 lives, 100 profiles

Over the past two-and-a-bit years, the *FE Week* profile has become a window into the lives and histories of the great and the good.

It is very easy to label sector leaders with the roles they hold, and forget they all had lives — some longer than others — before they ended up in *FE*.

One of our greatest joys over the years has been finding out remarkable things about the people who keep the wheels turning on the *FE* machine.

Without these profiles, we may never have known which senior manager at the 157 Group spent time squatting in an Oxford college, which government body leader grew up at the height of the troubles in Northern Ireland and which MP had childhood dreams of being “tractor man”.

These in-depth explorations into the hearts and minds of politicians, principals, chief executives and governors among others offer a great snapshot of professional people when they're not at work. By asking about favourite books, dinner parties and pet hates, we get a

more rounded view than an official biography could ever paint.

Often, it's the raw emotion of some of the admissions made in the interviews which make them most impactful. The profile of Dame Asha Khemka, from an interview conducted shortly after she received a damehood, was a prime example, as was our frank discussion with Beatrix Groves about equality in the sector last January.

Our run of profile pieces started with Ruth Silver in September 2011, in our first ever edition, and it is fitting that Matthew Hancock — the man charged with steering *FE* through some of its toughest times — should be our subject in our 100th edition.

Here are our highlights from our first 100 profiles, along with a little collection of pictures that have accompanied the articles — see if you can guess who they are.

Chris Henwood

### Dame Ruth Silver – September 12, 2011 (first edition)



“Every Secretary of State I have ever worked with – and I’ve worked with them all – tries to recreate their childhood educational experience, and they do it because actually, that’s what was good for them. It’s not an imperious imposition, it is a genuine belief. But it’s not a simple question of recreating your own childhood. They’re not bloody Peter Pans, they’re politicians.”

Dame Ruth Silver told *FE Week*, in a profile interview for its first official edition, that she had been initially reluctant to head up the now-defunct Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

After 17 years at the helm of Lewisham College, she was ready for a break, but said the idea of leading a sector-led improvement body got “under her skin”.

Her unorthodoxy, she said, had been a recurring theme in her 30-year career in the sector. The trademark red curls, bold wardrobe and obsession with rosemary oil has always set her apart from the men in grey suits.

### Martin Doel – November 19, 2012 (edition 46)



“While the sector continues to deliver quality to students, it has been under resourced in comparison to other sectors for too long. How is it that 16 to 18-year-olds in particular can be funded at a rate much lower than 11 to 16-year-olds...and why is that 16 to 24-year-olds are suddenly much cheaper to train or educate than those in universities?”

This question is one which appeared to distract Association of Colleges chief executive Martin Doel when he was interviewed for a profile by *FE Week*.

The former RAF operations officer, who allowed sport to get in the way of his studies at school, said life at the AoC took a lot of getting used to – not least because of the sector’s love of acronyms.

He added: “We had LSDA, QIA, CEL and any other number of acronyms you can think of that seemed to just come and go.”

### Beatrix Groves – January 28, 2013 (edition 54)



“I remember looking at myself in the mirror and thinking to myself, ‘I can’t carry on pretending for the rest of my life.’ I don’t think it was me saying to myself that I had to be a woman from now on, it was more that I couldn’t keep it a secret any more. I couldn’t keep on lying on a constant basis.”

“Some of them [her employers] hadn’t got a clue how to deal with it because they just didn’t see it coming, which is alarming to a certain extent. For some it was a big rigmarole and for some it was, ‘Oh, you’ve got to meet with the chief executive and talk this through.’ Some were better than others but at the end of the day it proved that mostly the bureaucracy worked alright. Mostly.”

Here, Beatrix Groves, who was born ‘Bob’, discusses the issues she faced after her decision to wear women’s clothes in public for the first time in 2008.

The Institute for Learning president told *FE Week* that although she had been born a man, she had felt, since childhood, that she was meant to be female. She had started dressing as a woman in secret, but said the pretence was starting to take its toll.

Beatrix Groves

“Every Secretary of State I have ever worked with – and I’ve worked with them all – tries to recreate their childhood educational experience”

Dame Ruth Silver

“We had LSDA, QIA, CEL and any other number of acronyms you can think of that seemed to just come and go”

Martin Doel

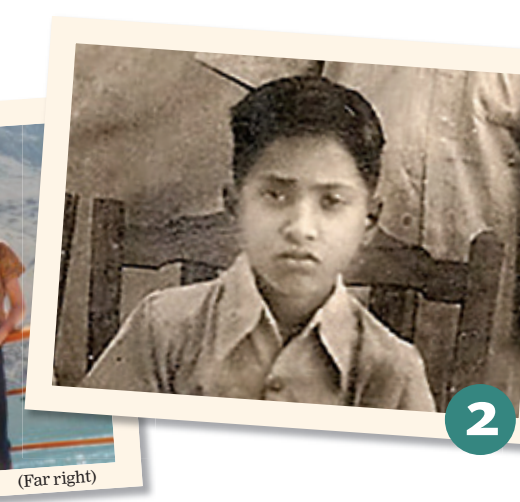
“I remember looking at myself in the mirror and thinking to myself, ‘I can’t carry on pretending for the rest of my life’”

Beatrix Groves

### Guess who?



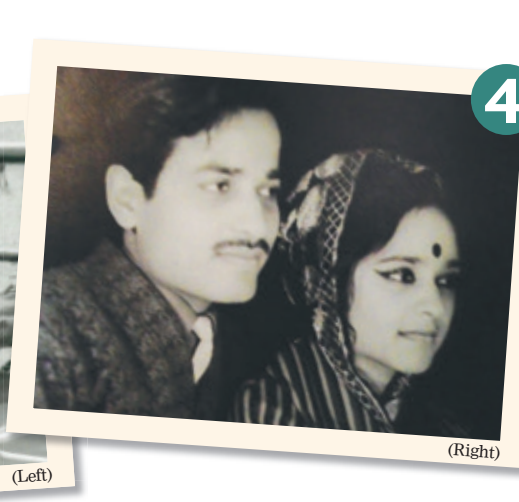
1



2



3



4

(Far right)

(Left)

(Right)

Answers at the bottom of the page

### Robin Landman – May 13, 2013 (edition 66)



“My parents were both teachers and were anti-apartheid. It was very scary. The police would raid the house, our phone was tapped and we were constantly monitored. I remember once when the police found a piece of work that my mother, who taught Latin, had marked. They saw red markings and thought they’d found a code.”

This was former Hackney Community College deputy principal and Network of Black Professionals (NBP) founder Robin Landman’s chilling recount of life as a boy in apartheid-era South Africa.

He had grown up in Eltham, where Stephen Lawrence was murdered in 1993. Three years later, he was summoned by England’s sole black principal to Liverpool and the pair set about forming a network and self-help group, eventually evolving into the NBP.

He told *FE Week* that the founding of the NBP was a “no-brainer” and said the casual racism which was rife in the 1960s and 1970s was no longer considered acceptable.

Robin Landman

### Dame Asha Khemka – January 6, 2014 (edition 87)



“I found myself at my aunt’s house. ‘I am going to put a sari on you,’ she said. Suddenly my husband’s family arrived, except for him, and were showering me with jewellery and I was engaged — just like that. It was not for about another eight or nine months that I finally met my husband. Our romance developed over time, through writing to each other initially.”

In an emotional conversation with *FE Week*’s Shane Mann, shortly after her damehood was announced in the New Year honours list, Dame Asha relived the moment she realised she was to participate in an arranged marriage.

The principal of West Nottinghamshire college and husband Shankar, a surgeon, are still happily married, and she relishes life in the top job at what she describes as “her college”. She added: “This is my community. These are my people.”

Dame Asha Khemka

### Christine Doubleday – January 13, 2014 (edition 88)



“I went to work in a hotel in Switzerland for about six months. When I came back to England, I went to visit a friend at Oxford University and never came back.

“We occupied the building [at Pembroke College] where they took their exams. I used to remember sleeping on the corridor floor for about two nights, before being removed by the university police,” explains Doubleday. “I ended up living in Pembroke College for a whole term in 1973, even though I wasn’t a student there.

“It was the first time I had experienced southern middle-class politeness. I thought I would get away with it for as long as I could.”

This was the 157 Group’s deputy executive director’s tale of life at Oxford University, albeit in an unofficial capacity.

In her profile interview, Ms Doubleday gave a fascinating account of a career training trade unionists in post-Cold War Russia, teaching literacy in colleges and working with the Learning and Skills Council.

She told *FE Week* that a fairly traditional route via the University of Leicester was circumvented by her desire to study at the “university of life” — which took her initially to Switzerland.

Christine Doubleday



