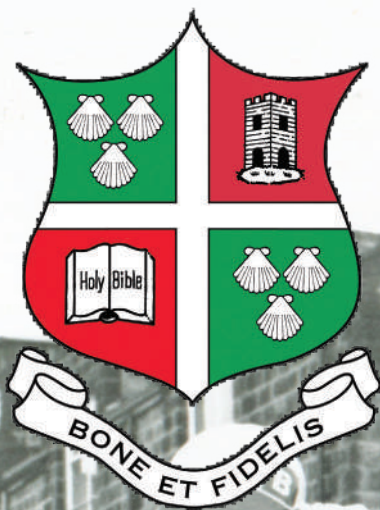


Χαίρετε

Winter 2019/20



Moving forward whilst building on the foundations of the past!

The Newsletter of the Old Grovian Association

Issue 30 Winter 2019/20

Welcome From The Chair

Keith Jones (St 78-16)

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Faye Hutchinson for all her enthusiasm and work over the last 12 months. I wish her well in the future and shall hope to see and catch up with her at future Old Grovian events.

The Old Grovian Association was always a body that I knew, once retirement day came, I would get involved with in some shape or form. The fact that I am now in the Chair for the next year is indeed a great honour and is the end result of a great deal of work and persuasion from a certain close friend and individual who will remain nameless!



Those who know the School well, will appreciate that my links with Woodhouse Grove go back a number of years, “too many” I hear some of you say. I genuinely believe that this length of involvement can only be a positive advantage to the role. During this time, I have forged strong bonds and connections with numerous former parents, students and staff and I hope that these relationships will enable me to represent the views and wishes of the OGA to both the School and other related organisations. I am very much looking forward to catching up with Old Grovians that I have not seen for a number of years and to welcoming new members into the Association.

Alongside an established programme of events, the calendar continues to evolve in order to seek to meet the wishes of a wide generation of Old Grovians. This varies from reunions to business networking events, to sporting occasions and I would very much like to encourage a wider depth of support for the variety of events that are held throughout the year. I believe Old Grovians need to feel welcomed and encouraged to attend these gatherings especially if they have not been for a number of years or in some instances never at all. In order to promote re-engagement, the School would welcome and be happy to host either friendship groups or broader year group reunions in order for you to catch up and discover what has been happening since leaving school.

Communication is pivotal and useful in engaging Old Grovians and social media has helped greatly in recent years with the use of Facebook (Old Grovian Association) and LinkedIn (Old Grovian Business Network). In addition, the role of our secretary, Heather Garner, must not be overlooked and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking her for her support and work in this role over a number of years.

Old Grovians should be very proud of their former School and where possible continue to take a keen interest in the various aspects of the all-round education a school such as Woodhouse Grove provides for its pupils.

The School, and education itself, face some very stern challenges in the years ahead but I know and can reassure all Old Grovians that the strong reputation of Woodhouse Grove School is in very good hands, thanks to a very diligent and caring Headmaster, ably supported by a hardworking and professional academic and support staff.

I look forward to seeing and catching up with former pupils and friends in the coming year.

Keith Jones

Cover Page Photograph

Our cover photo takes us back to 1988 with the laying of the Foundation stone for the then Woodhouse Grove Business Management School but what is now known as the Greenwood Building, which houses Modern Languages and IT departments along with our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre on the ground floor. The Sixth Form Centre proved an excellent venue for the 2019 OGA AGM where we were delighted to welcome OGs from a number of generations.

The two central figures of course are DA Miller and Mr GB Greenwood who need no introduction. In an issue of *Xaipete* that acknowledges the service of David and Kathleen Miller, it is fitting that we recognise the vision of Brian Greenwood and David Miller in driving forward large-scale transformational projects such as this.

FOUNDATION Update

Thank you to all who have supported the Woodhouse Grove Foundation this year and acted on our plea for help last year-“Update, Engage and Commit”. Our focus remains Bursary fee support, though we do of course remain receptive to offers of support with regards all projects and assistance for the Grove.

Bursary Fee support in its own right enhances the school and in effect has been the mainstay of this community since its inception. Exclusively for the education of Methodist ministers’ sons from 1812-83, there were of course no fees due. From 1883 onwards when entry to the reformed School was widened, fee support through Scholarship and Bursary remained and is still vital today. Funding of places via government and local government “Direct Grant” and the “Assisted Places Scheme” gave the school a valuable socio-economic diversity in addition to raising standards of achievement. Since the ending of such support the school has maintained a firm resolve to remain accessible to all social groups and has proven stronger as a result.

While pledges to the Foundation are now moving well beyond the £100,000 mark, we do want to significantly build on this momentum. It has been an active year with regard to events, functions and numerous Old Grovian visits to the School (more details of which you will be able to read about in the articles that follow). We have established a business partnership and are looking to develop our relationship building amongst potential corporate partners. We have also been working hard to strengthen our social media following and profile on Facebook and LinkedIn. We have dealt with numerous family heritage queries throughout the year and have been busy establishing a Digitised Archive resource. Increased communication with our Old Grovian community has been an important factor in our work along with a large amount of data ‘cleansing’ and validation.

Achieving a 6-figure sum with regard to the amount raised over the past 2 years is encouraging and positive. However, this should be regarded as a starting point moving us towards a potential endowment fund. This would help achieve a sustainable pathway for the future of a greater number of potential Grovian pupils and also assist in ensuring the diverse composition of the school. As a Methodist school it is a priority that we take a lead within our local community. In recognising that the funds raised so far are significant, analysis shows that this has been achieved during this period through the direct support of around 3 dozen individuals or organisations. There is more to be done to get the message of our purpose across.

Yes, the School is in good shape and the value of our Bursary programme to this end should not be underestimated. Of note, among a fine set of exam results last year, some of our highest achievers were bursary students.

Independent Schools are frequently in the political firing line and this seems to remain the case despite redoubling of efforts to be proactive within our local community. Our facilities are open for regional usage and the School manages neighbouring council recreation facilities. We have increased the availability of Bursary fee support to pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and have undertaken valuable outreach work in the surrounding area.

Current fee-paying parents have chosen to shoulder a long-term commitment concerning School fees, so it is to our alumni and friends we turn, to seek to engage in our quest for additional assistance. It can be stated that OG parents have already “paid their dues” and that OGs might thus feel absolved of responsibility to help but I would hope they would share with me a sense of obligation or “social or cultural remittance” as former pupils. In particular, I would beseech those who in the past benefited from scholarships at the School or support through the grant schemes to consider helping by “Paying Forward” so that a future generation can enjoy the life transforming opportunities that a Grove education brings. These were pupils who also gave the School its uniquely diverse culture and atmosphere. We seek to retain this as a contemporary strength and not be an elitist school solely for the privileged. We remain a school true to its firm, yet humble Methodist origins, yet proud of our diverse cultural, social and religious composition.

We need your help! Any amount, large or small, will go towards making a transformational difference to the lives and prospects of future Bursary recipients as well as securing the heritage of the School. The table below indicates how a regular standing order donation can soon add up. Our aim is to enable all Grovians to feel able to support our Bursary project. “Gift Aid” compounds the impact of whatever level of donation is made and will leave a lasting legacy in transforming lives and securing the heritage of the School.

Monthly Donation	Per Year	Gift Aid at Basic Rate	Donation Grossed Up
£	£	£	£
10.00	120.00	30.00	150.00
25.00	300.00	75.00	375.00
50.00	600.00	150.00	750.00
100.00	1200.00	300.00	1500.00

The Woodhouse Grove School Foundation needs your help! I speak to very few Old Grovians who do not empathise with our objectives, but mindful of the “Everybody, somebody, anybody, nobody” story with which many of you will be familiar, I fear some Grovians may be reluctant to commit to supporting the cause. Possibly concerned about either a complicated process, or perhaps that the amount they are able to pledge might not appear significant, or possibly in the hope that that others will rescue the situation. Collectively, we can all make a difference. We are an “equal opportunities charity”. Please be assured that all gifts are valued and will help make a difference.

E.R.Howard (71-78, St 82-)

Thank you to our benefactors 2019/20

Not Just Travel
Friends of WHG
R Davy
J Maney
P Heyes
A Shorey
S Utting
L Tischler
Anon
ER Howard

Alan Sunderland
Mark Rotheram
Paul Sampson
Will Coker

Reunions & Gatherings



Natwest Cup Semi Final, Allianz Park, March 2019

March saw the Woodhouse Grove First XV reach the semi-finals of the Natwest Cup and the occasion provided an excellent opportunity for an impromptu reunion within the walls of the Saracens Boardroom. Despite losing out in the end to a well-accomplished Warwick side, it was pleasing to see several OGs looking resplendent in their School Colours.

Pictured L-R: Stuart Nesbit (OG 82-93), Paul Sampson (OG 84-96), Richard Emmott (OG 76-87)



Manchester & Cheshire Reunion – April 2019

Tuesday 30 April 2019 saw the 87th Manchester and Cheshire reunion held at the Malmaison Hotel just a few yards from Picadilly station. Amongst the group seated around the table were contributors both past and present to Xaipete and a few had brought along some fascinating documents and photographs dating back several decades. Plenty of stories were told, reminiscences shared, and the current OGA chair, Faye Hutchinson, spoke sincerely about the ongoing importance of keeping our connections going. James Lockwood gave an informative update on the current status of both the School and the national perspective. Roger Howard then spoke about the ongoing work of the Foundation. The date is already confirmed for 2020 so get Tuesday 28th April into your diaries!

Pictured L-R: James Lockwood (OG 86-92, St 16-), Faye Hutchinson (OG 94-01), Roger Howard (OG 71-78 St 82-), David McCarthy (St 53-92), Peter Heyes (OG 55-61), David Butterworth (OG 52-60), Stuart Wright (OG 60-69), Robert Udy (OG 63-70), Roger Davy (OG 47-57), Malcolm Overend (OG 47-56), James Lonsdale (OG 52-59), Stan Utting (OG 46-50), Hugh Knowles (OG 49-54), Sarah Lockwood (St 18-)



WGS Foundation Golf Day – May 2019

We were delighted to welcome 11 four balls to Headingley Golf Club on Friday 17th May. The weather held out and the introduction of a Halfway House proved a popular addition to the day. A more informal evening format was introduced where attendees were invited to a roast sandwich and buffet followed by a healthy putting competition which raised some much needed funds and garnered the worthy winner a healthy magnum of Champagne! Well done to current parent Tim Liptrott and his team (pictured above) who were worthy winners and walked away with the top prize and a winning score of 95 and to Alistair Davison who was the winner of the putting competition.



Leeds Drinks – June 2019

Brainchild of last years OGA Chair, Faye Hutchinson, Thursday 13th June saw the hosting of the inaugural Leeds Reunion Drinks at the Lamb and Flag in Leeds.

Despite the relentless downpour, it was a lovely evening and a great chance for some reconnections both old and new!

Pictured L-R: Johnny Abraham (OG 94-01), Michael Allewell (OG 94-01), Roger Howard (OG 71-78 St 82-), Stuart Barker (OG 87-92) and James Lockwood (OG 86-92, St 16-)



Summer Reunion – June 2019

A beautiful summer's day saw our Grovian community out in force. With emotional leavers from 2019 mingling amongst OGs of all ages, there was entertainment both on and off the cricket field!



London Reunion – Thursday 19th September 2019

September saw another convivial evening at Doggetts Coat and Badge on the Thames. Great to see many of the "usual suspects" in attendance along with some first time attendees, in several cases rallied by **Gbenga Rotimi (OG 80-88)**. Star of the evening was **Geoffrey Newton (OG 38-47)** who enthralled the gathering with his recollections of Grove life before and during the Second World War, including Royal visits and what were likely ration-breaking celebrations when Dr Towlson (and thus the School) were elected into HMC membership. Thanks to all who attended what was a fantastic "cross generational" event!

Pictured L-R: David Palmer-Barnes (OG 84-89), Faye Hutchinson (OG 95-01), Roger Howard (OG 71-78 St 82-), Lesley Tischler (OG 86-88), Andrew Rhodes (OG 82-87)



Pictured L-R: Gbenga Rotimi (OG 80-88), Enahoro Edgal (OG 81-85), Miabie Koko (OG 79-86), Dayo Oluyole (OG 82-85), Sheni Adeniran (OG 86-88)

Xaipete Winter 2019/20



Old Grovian Weekend November 2019

We were delighted to welcome close to 100 OGs over the weekend including a number from the class of '91 who we gather enjoyed a rather fluid evening on Saturday! Particular thanks go to Reverend Atkins and the Grove musicians who put together a poignant service of remembrance and thanks too to Dan Nulty, Brooke Donkersley and Joe Bedford for convening competitive Old Grovian sports teams!

Pictured L-R: Roger Howard (OG 71-78 St 82-), Andrew Allison (OG 82-91), Michelle Davison (OG 84-91), James Richards (OG 83-91), Toby Waterhouse (OG 80-91), Keith Jones (St 78-16), Rachel Richards (nee Baxter) (OG 84-91), Ali Riley (Nee Cheesman) (OG 89-90), Helen Gingell Chauvet (OG 84-90), James Lockwood (OG 86-92, St 16-), Andrew Thompson (OG 84-91)



Dubai 7s

Always great to hear about Grovians getting together. Craig Miller kindly sent us this through from the Dubai Sevens at the beginning of December 2019!

Pictured L-R: Andrew Jackman (OG 80-87), James Spilsbury (OG 86-89), Craig Miller (OG 77-88), Rory Fidler (OG 78-87), Roger Harrison (OG 81-88).



December Leavers Reunion – Class of 2019

The class of 2019 (pictured) were reunited in December to catch up on news and goings on. It was lovely to see them and hear what they've all been up to in their first term after leaving the Grove!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...



E. H. "Harry" Shewell (OG 22-29)

Last year the Foundation were contacted by a local historian who was undertaking work at Hirst Wood Burial Ground, next door to Nab Wood Cemetery. Among the overgrown graves being uncovered was one which included the word "Xaipete", a quick search on the internet directed him to Woodhouse Grove!

Harry was one of 4 brothers who all were all Grovians. Tragically Harry died aged 15 of rheumatic fever in 1929 and in 1930 his family presented the School with a magnificent silver swimming trophy which we still compete for today in the Annual Interhouse Swimming Championships. This year it was won by Vinter.

In 1992 the daughter of C. A. Shewell presented the Alan Shewell Prize to be awarded on Prize Day each year in memory of Charles Alan Shewell (1920-28). Alan followed his older brothers W. P. "Paul" Shewell (1919-26) to the School, while H.T. "Hugh" Shewell joined in 1934, leaving in 1941. All 3 remaining Shewell brothers enjoyed successful careers beyond School and were prominent Old Grovians, serving as scholarship trustees for the Pritchard Book Fund, while Paul was also a driving force behind the RHD Gaul Memorial Book Fund. All of these funds are now of course administered by the Southern Trust. Additionally, Alan Shewell was OGA chairman in 1959.



The WGS Foundation have visited the grave of Harry Shewell and have commenced work to ensure it appears as this family who have proven great friends of the School would wish.



Hugh Myers Dickinson (OG 30-35) The Oldest Grovian...

In the last edition of Xaipete we pondered whether **Hugh Myers Dickinson (OG 30-35)** could be the oldest living OG. To date, no one has stepped forward to dispute this fact and we were recently delighted to pay a visit to Hugh along with **Hugh Knowles (OG 49-54)** and **Roger Howard (OG 71-78, St 82-)**. Here we tell a little more of Hugh's story...

Hugh was the eldest of three boys born at Woodlands Farm, Otley Chevin. Hugh's two brothers Joe and Austin were twins. They had a sister, named Irene who sadly died of consumption as a young child. The three boys enjoyed life on the farm. Their father was also called Hugh Myers, born in 1836 in Yeadon, baptised on Christmas Day 1836. He died aged 91 at Woodlands Farm having married the boys' mother Mable Annie when he was a sprightly 79 years old! Upon Hugh senior's death, the boys were sent to the workhouse at Exley Head, Keighley. In this harsh environment, the brothers were made to polish floors and clean corridors on their hands and knees.



Church in Oakworth was no doubt a form of release and all the boys enjoyed attending, they all sang well and had an enduring love of music undoubtedly stemming from their time spent in Church. Enter the Dickinson family. TB Dickinson was a prominent figure at the Chapel and a lay preacher. Thomas took a shine to the brothers and to Hugh in particular and took him under his wing leaving the twins behind who were then later transferred to the YMCA in Bradford where they took up positions in engineering and went to night school in Keighley. (It was under Thomas Dickinson's care that Hugh was then able to attend the Grove where he developed many interests which he carried with him throughout his life.) When war broke out both boys joined the services, Joe joined the Army Signals Core and Austin joined the RAF serving in Aden. Hugh being a conscientious objector was dispatched to London to help with the evacuation process.

In closing, his family remark that there is so much to say about what a wonderfully inspirational man he was and still is. His attendance at Woodhouse Grove School was not wasted, many are indirectly the beneficiaries of his education and time spent here.

Brian Greenwood (OG 34-45)

August 31st 2019 saw the happy occasion of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Brian and Enid Greenwood. Family and friends gathered together to celebrate at Hollins Hall in Hampsthwaite. FB Ayers (OG 37-46) was the sole surviving groomsmen and of the two surviving bridesmaids, Mrs Cynthia Whitfield (widow of TV "Tom" Whitfield OG 37-45) was also able to attend. Amongst the many well wishes, Brian and Enid were delighted to receive a card from The Queen. As many readers will know, Brian's association with the School spans an incredible 85 years and he is of course our Honorary Life President. Congratulations to Brian and Enid!



Geoffrey Newton (OG 38-47)

It was at this year's London reunion that Geoffrey told the assembled throng that he never received his colours blazer due to the outbreak of war – we felt it fitting that Geoffrey duly received his blazer in time for his 90th birthday – the photo below shows him in action with his well-deserved stripes!



Keith Loudon (OG 45-50)

Keith visited the School in June 2019 and whilst still a very active Chairman of Redmayne Bentley he was awarded the OBE in 2015 for service to Business and the Community. Keith is extremely interested in the development of young people and has promised to visit the School again and hopefully experience some of the debating and similar activities being undertaken.

David Whitney (OG 45-54)

I left the Grove from the sixth form in 1954 with no A levels due to spending too much time on the tennis courts instead of in academic revision. I was determined to pursue a career in the textile industry so enrolled on the diploma course at Leeds University. Fortunately, the first year of the diploma course was the same as for the degree course and included maths, physics and chemistry to A level standard. At the end of the first year therefore, I re-sat my A levels and got sufficient grades to be able to transfer to the degree course. I graduated in 1958 after an additional year of research in textile finishing. Later in the year, I was fortunate enough to get a job with a local company (Scapa Dryers Ltd) who manufactured paper machine felts and I spent nearly forty years pursuing a very varied career. I married my wife Wendy in July 1964 and we had two sons Simon and Mark. In 1967, the Company persuaded me to help set up a quality control and service lab at their American plant in South Georgia. While I was there, I was offered a permanent job in the USA and in 1968, we moved to South Georgia. I spent five very productive years in America travelling widely to our material suppliers and customers. We returned to the UK in 1973 and for the next twenty-five years, I covered the role of technical manager, which involved a wide range of responsibility from product development and quality control to sales and customer service. I retired in 1998 and since then have pursued a variety of activities including stamp collecting, encouraged by A.E. Booth while at the Grove, cycling, foreign holidays and investigating our large family tree. It was while doing this that I was given a hint as to why I took so readily to textiles as a livelihood since my paternal great grandfather was a silk weaver in Macclesfield and my maternal great, great grandfather was a handloom weaver near Glasgow.

Graham Lockwood (OG 62-69)

Graham has updated us with news of his retirement in 2015 and that he would love to get in touch with friends and Grove contemporaries he may have lost touch with. After leaving the Grove, Graham joined Armitage & Norton Accountants and in 1979 moved to Abraham Moon & Sons Ltd. (Guiseley), moving through accounts to Finance Director, Production Director and Deputy Managing Director. Busy in retirement he is undertaking a Masters degree in British History and researching First World War history alongside archive work relating to textiles. 60s Grovians please let us know if you would like to reconnect with Graham.

Alistair Jacques (OG 69-79)

Alistair remains keen to drive forward a "Class of 79" reunion. His initial concept of a 40th anniversary get together was most positively received by fellow ex pats. Timing appeared an issue, but he would welcome contact from any OGs interested to discuss details of venue and date and can be contacted at alistair.jacques@gmail.com. Settled in the US since 1987, Alistair is now retired following a career in IT. Married to Karen, they have 2 children, Nick 21 and Sophie, 16. (see photo over page). Alistair is in contact with a number of contemporaries including **Steve Wood (OG 72-79)** who is



based in Arizona. Steve has kindly forwarded a photo with his brother **Ken Wood (OG 72-76)**, (see below) taken at Ken's 60th last year. **Mark Hainsworth (OG 72-79)**, now in South Africa and **Philip Vidal (OG 68-79)**, living in New Mexico, were among the other ex-pats enthusiastic to return once a date can be set.



Rick Emmott (OG 76-87)

It has been a busy year for Rick. After working recently in the forklift business and making a strong recovery following a double hip replacement, Rick has joined the ranks of the self-employed and modestly as ever describes himself as the best boss he has ever had!

Simon Parson (OG 82-84)

Simon writes to tell us that he has recently been appointed Regius Professor of Anatomy at the University of Aberdeen. This historic (1863) position was conferred by the Scottish Government and HRH Queen Elizabeth. Simon is currently the only Regius Chair of Anatomy and one of a handful in any subject across the whole of the UK. In addition, Simon is President elect at the Anatomical Society, which is the oldest subject specific association of its kind in the UK. Simon is married to Jessica and they have a 2-year-old son called Finn!



Lesley Tischler (nee Gibson) (OG 86-88)

Back in September **Lesley Tischler (nee Gibson) (OG 86-88)**, a stalwart attendee at the Annual OGA London Reunion took time out of her hectic schedule coaching Saracens Benecos Mavericks U21 and "Poly" netball clubs to visit the Grove and lead several "Masterclass" coaching sessions with both junior and Senior Grove Netballers. All this despite being on crutches and wearing a foot brace due to a stress fracture of the heel. A fine example of the WGS Foundation's principle of "Paying forward" to the current generation of Grovians. Recovering well from the stress fracture Lesley is in training for the London Marathon in April and is running on behalf of a mental health charity www.sportingmindsuk.org who work in support of positive mental health in performers aged 16 to 30. Let's try get as many Grovians as possible backing Lesley for this worthy cause.

Col. Nigel Rhodes (OG 82-87)

On a beautiful late autumn day, "en route" to the funeral of Keith Ryder and ahead of schedule, the Headmaster and Roger Howard stopped off at a café out on the Yorkshire Wolds, which on closer inspection appeared to be more than popular with a group from the motorcycling fraternity, many of whom appeared to bear striking similarities to some of the cast of the movie "Easy Rider". Reassuringly, they also happened across a distinguished looking, high ranking officer of the British Army, in full military uniform, who along with his driver had (fortuitously) stopped off at the same venue and were also heading to the same sad occasion. After entering the café with some trepidation they were warmly received and enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce.

Colonel Nigel Rhodes finished an 18 month tour in Kabul as Chief Plans in Headquarters RESOLUTE SUPPORT, the NATO mission in Afghanistan and is now based in Catterick serving as the Commander of the Army in the North East and Deputy Commander of 4th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade is one of three in the Army held at readiness to deploy overseas and has troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and shortly Mali. Nigel also commanded the military response in support of the Local Authority and Emergency Services during the recent floods in Doncaster. As a Yorkshireman and member of the Yorkshire Regiment he is making the most of being at 'home', allowing him to indulge a little more time in his farming interests. He still enjoys his shooting and remains a reasonably active sportsman. He is married to Liz and has three children.

Lucinda Yeadon (OG 87-97)

Luci visited the School in January and met up with a number of her former teachers including Mr Crawford (pictured left). Now established with CEG, it is hoped that Grove 6th Form students might enjoy opportunities within their apprenticeship programme.



Taken at this year's family fun day and Summer reunion, the picture above shows 5 OGs from left to right as follows: Chris Chua, David Palmer-Barnes, Nick Chua, Claire Garratt (nee Hansen) and Andy Garrett who kindly sent in the photo. All were from the class of 89.

Dan Hardy (OG 90-01)



I followed my brother (**Nigel Hardy, OG 91-98**) down to Sheffield age 18 and I've now been here 18 years. I studied medicine at the University of Sheffield and after graduating, completed my junior doctor and GP training also in Sheffield. I have been a fully qualified GP since 2011 working in inner city areas with high levels of social deprivation.

I am married to Jan, a Lancashire girl who works as a paediatric hydrocephalus specialist nurse at Sheffield Children's Hospital and we have 2 kids: Jessica is 6 and Ben is 4.

I enjoy playing squash in my spare time and with the Peak District just a half mile from my house, regularly go for walks and other outdoor activities with the family.

Gareth Main (OG 91-02)

Gareth visited the School in September 2019. Still a devoted Castleford Tigers fan, he was very impressed to see the new facilities developing at the School.

Nigel Hardy (OG 91-98)



After completing his A levels, Nigel studied for a BSC (Hon) Biomedical Sciences degree at Sheffield Hallam University. On completion, Nigel embarked on a career in Pharmaceutical Research spending 7 years in Canterbury, Kent working in both Vaccine Research and Drug Metabolism at Pfizer. Following this, he spent 3 yrs in Basel, Switzerland working in Cellular Biomarker Development at Novartis. In 2012, after deciding bench science was no longer a career he wished to pursue, he moved back to his roots and began a career as a Wool Trader, following in the footsteps of his father and Grandfather. He now lives in North Leeds and is happily married with two young boys who are both keen swimmers (naturally) and enjoy most other sports.

On his swimming prowess, Nigel comments: "I haven't swum properly in 20yrs! Last two major competitions were the Commonwealth Games trials in 1998 and the UK University Student Nationals in 1999, finished 7th. Not sure I've done a length since!!"

Andrew Shorey (OG 93-00)

Environmental consultant for a global environmental management consultancy and still loving living up in Edinburgh.

Deming (Charlie) Zhang (OG 00-02)

Charlie got in touch earlier this year to let us know that he is now teaching in China! Never did he think that when he left the Grove 17 years ago that he would end up in Education himself.

Ricky Tso (OG 02-07)

Ricky Tso visited the Grove with his wife in early December 2019. Now an airline pilot, Ricky was pleased to meet up with several former teachers and was delighted to see former class mate **Sami Harder (nee Briggs OG 00-07)** now on the staff. (see photo below)



Ravi Singh (OG 03-10)

Ravi visited the school before Christmas, having just received his PhD at Leeds University and ahead of taking up a post as Research Associate and Laboratory Manager (Chemistry) at Imperial College, London.

Matt Cook (OG 03-04)

Matt is currently playing for Castleford Tigers in the Super league. Matt married Amy back in 2013 and in addition to rugby, Matt is currently mid-way through an OU Business Management degree.

Joey Atkinson (OG 04-11)



Joey graduated with a 1st in Biomedicine from Northumbria University in 2014 and immediately started a PhD in Biochemistry after getting an offer to apply for funding from one of her undergraduate lecturers. Joey has Mrs Ainscoe to thank for studying Biomedicine in the first place as they spent a long time

together working out what would be the best course for Joey to take. The PhD focused on pesticides to target poultry red mite (title of thesis is 'Mapping, characterising and targeting acaricide resistance in the poultry red mite *Dermanyssus gallinae*')

The photo is of Joey graduating with her PhD alongside her boyfriend and Old Grovian **Oliver Riley (OG 04-11)**. Oliver is a commercial project manager at Siemens. He left University after a year to work for Siemens and do his management accountancy qualifications at the same time. Together Oliver and Joey are living in Newcastle with their miniature dachshund Mabel and are still in touch with many of their Grove contemporaries.

Imogen Amos (OG 04-19)



Imo competed in the Theatre Dance Council International (TDCI) Champion of Champions 2019 at The Marine Hall Theatre, Fleetwood, representing her dance school ADS. She had qualified in the Senior Tap and Modern sections and not only did Imo win the Senior Modern Champion of Champions Grand Final with her amazing Mockingbird Dance choreographed by her Dance Teacher at ADS, she then danced again against the 3 other genre Champs of Champs and won the overall Senior Bursary Award.

Imo was presented with a wonderful trophy, shield, cash prize and a scholarship to a Summer School in London. The perfect end to Imo's incredible Championships journey!

Annabel Harrison (OG 09-16)

Annabel was excited to report that she had just finished her year abroad and was looking forward to starting her final year at Durham University where she is studying Modern Languages, French and Spanish. During her year abroad, Annabel studied at the University of Burgundy for the first term, followed by a term in Barcelona! Following that, she travelled to rural Peru where she volunteered in a school teaching English for 8 weeks.



We would be delighted to hear from you and would welcome updates from as many Grovians as possible for next year's edition.

Retirees

Elizabeth Ainscoe - 1998-2019

Elizabeth Ainscoe started at Woodhouse Grove in September 1998 as a part time teacher of Biology and retired 21 years later in July 2019 as Assistant Head, with a list of jobs and responsibilities that would make anyone quail. I had the privilege of knowing Elizabeth for the last seventeen years of her tenure and I was constantly struck by her honesty, integrity, common sense, and ability to keep on top of everything. Surprisingly, her desk was a terrifyingly chaotic scene of tottering piles of paper that looked like an avalanche was imminent. Somehow, and much to my amazement, she could always find whatever she was looking for. There was a glint in her eye and a triumphant look when the desired piece of parchment was spotted peeking shyly out of a tottering pile and dragged out into the light of day. Her inbox was much the same.

She cared very deeply for the pupils and had an unsurpassed knowledge of UK universities and their recruitment foibles. She assiduously gathered information from a multitude of sources - including the throw away remarks made by foolishly off-guard dons, professors and admissions tutors - and filed them away. I am reasonably confident that her internal filing system was more orderly than her desk, or at least I hope so. Elizabeth was made head of Biology in September 1999 and enjoyed the challenge of increasing the popularity of the subject and seeing many pupils go on to study biology or related subjects at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. All pupils benefitted from her insight, sharp intellect and truly all-encompassing subject knowledge. I would often ask about something in biology that had piqued my interest and I was always given a very clear explanation, and yes, the reverse of an envelope was often involved. To paraphrase one of our bright but not always perfectly behaved sixth-form boys, "it took us a while to realise how awesome Miss is, but we did". Students appreciated her knowledge, compassion and intelligence. They also respected her immensely: a glance from Miss was often all it took for a young person to stop whatever minor felony they were carrying out, adjust their dress and apologise. There was also a sharp



sense of humour and a wry appreciation of the vagaries of life as a school teacher. It is Elizabeth's great capacity for empathy that enabled her to allow pupils to fulfil their potential, despite sometimes severely adverse circumstances. I cannot imagine how many young people have been pleased to find her in her office in the sixth-form centre, late into the evening, and

benefitted from sound advice. I can perhaps begin to imagine because I, too, have on occasion been the beneficiary of her advice.

Elizabeth was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2018. She underwent several months of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy with characteristic stoicism and was even a little proud of the tattoo used to assist with beam alignment. Recently, we went for a walk on Ilkley Moor and it was a delight to be able to have a long chat and admire the views; we were lucky: it was a lovely day. Neither of us spoke much on the uphill bits but she was in good health and high spirits. I will miss Elizabeth's presence in school greatly, but I am cheered to think of her enjoying time with her grandson, time in Scotland and time supervising her husband's golden eagle watching exploits and trying to teach him that not all plants are weeds. 'Good and faithful' does not even come close to describing Elizabeth and her service to the school.

GDW



Richard Johnson – 2006-2019

Never forgotten (or forgiven)!

After 13 years at the Grove, Richard 'the Maverick' Johnson decided to try ventures new and moved to Poland to teach English in July 2019. He has been involved in all aspects of school life over the years and will be missed for his sartorial elegance, as well as his commitment to the English, Media and PE departments.

To list just some of his roles, demonstrates how so many in our school community have benefitted from his time and expertise over the last 13 years, both in and outside of the classroom: English teacher, teacher in charge of Media Studies, minibus driver, rugby coach, school photographer, cricket coach, film club organiser, tour manager extraordinaire; this is in addition to the numerous school trips he has supported and helped to organise, including: Iceland trip, Barcelona swimming trip, staff charity cycle event and his beloved Uganda and Ethiopia charity trips. As a rugby coach (U12B) his pre-match talk may not have been particularly inspirational, "Enjoy yourselves and try not to drop the ball too much" but was extremely apposite! As a cricket coach (U14) he enjoyed unprecedented success as winner of numerous and successive Yorkshire Regional Lord's Taverners Trophies illustrates. As a racegoer however, his tips were less successful. This flaw was also compounded by a particular incident at Ripon, when in the role as staff stakeholder he chose to ignore the agreed choice of thoroughbred (and of course ultimate race winner) and place a not inconsiderable amount on an equine specimen more suited to the South Bay at Scarborough.

Both staff and pupils can vouch for how generous Richard was in giving his time for others, from last minute attendance on a school trip to driving the minibus to pick up students from the

airport, Richard has been the member of staff everyone turned to. His commitment and loyalty to the Grove have never been in doubt. We hope that Richard enjoys his new experiences in Poland and becomes as important a member of their school community as he was here. Bone et fidelis.

L O, ERH



David Bonny – 2009-2019

The role of a school chaplain is not that easy to comprehend or articulate, and job descriptions do not really tell the full story.

From my experience, the primary responsibility of a school chaplain is to provide the spiritual support to the school community in which they serve. This, of course, involves bringing a faith presence to their role in school – keeping the rumour of God alive. The challenge is how to do this effectively; particularly amongst such a diverse community as that at the Grove. I would suggest that this is achieved by caring for all constituencies – students, staff and parents – morally, ethically and spiritually; regardless of any faith issues.

The school chaplain must be able to turn their hand to any number of day-to-day problems affecting their school's community, and must be able to communicate effectively with an extremely varied group of people. In addition to which, a really effective school chaplain needs to have the courage of their convictions to tell the Headmaster when they believe he has got something wrong!

For the last decade, I believe David Bonny has ticked every box on this list, and much more besides. He has been the spiritual conscience of the school and has been a calming presence in all areas of school life. David's sensitive and pragmatic approach has been hugely admired, as has his wisdom, compassion and integrity. His quietly assured and measured approach to supporting the Grove's pastoral dimension and his commitment to boarding has been hugely valued.

On behalf of the whole school community, past and present, we thank David for his unstinting service and wish him – and his greatest supporter, Chris – every happiness, fulfilment and success in the next chapter of his ministry in the Uttroxteter section of the Trent and Dove Methodist circuit.

On a personal note, I would like to thank David for his unstinting support and guidance; it has been a real pleasure and privilege to work alongside such a caring and compassionate human being.

JAL



The Frost Report

Having joined the staff at Woodhouse Grove in September 1986, Ian Frost decided to retire from his full-time role after 33 years (100+ terms) of outstanding service. A Boarding Master, Housemaster of Vinter House, Head of Year, PE and Games teacher, Head of Boys' PE and Master i/c Cricket, not to mention a sports coach, and sports tour and ski trip veteran, Ian fulfilled a breadth of roles with characteristic professionalism, passion and drive. The inevitable affection Ian holds for the school is mirrored by the thousands of students who have benefitted from his assorted skills as both coach, mentor and teacher.

Outlined below are a few reflections from Ian on his time at The Grove in an interview with David Wood (DNW St 87-18).

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

As a Yorkshireman born and bred, was Woodhouse Grove on your radar at all before you applied for a job here?

As a schoolboy I attended Normanton Grammar School and in what was probably my final year I recall playing rugby against a team called WGS, coached by an unusually vocal, enthusiastic man in moon boots with a Welsh accent. Sadly, we lost to a golden try in extra time. At the time I didn't know the significance of this chance meeting with the Mr JK Jones. I had also played cricket against Roger Howard whilst I was completing my teacher training at Madeley College. A rather fortuitous, and very rare, visit to the sub's bench meant I avoided getting a taste of the "Directors" aggression in a rugby match against St Johns in the same year! Still, his behaviour in the bar afterwards taught me all I needed to know!

So, it was Keith Jones who interviewed you some 7 years later?

Yes. I met him and the HM in 1986, David Miller. I'm not sure how I got the job because I wore white socks on interview and sported a particularly dodgy moustache. I can only think that not many people applied although I do know that my old PE teacher from Normanton, Alan Jubb had told JKJ that I was, "a nice ball player but not too keen on the physical". It was probably a fair description but I like to think that Keith must have seen some potential all those years ago.

How different to now was the environment you found yourself in?

Very different. In September 1986, Keith was Head of Games, Master i/c Rugby and 1st XV rugby coach. Roger Howard was Master i/c Cricket and Heather Senior was the solitary female PE teacher. There was no PE office to develop our now famous collegiate atmosphere! There was no Sports Hall, no 25m swimming pool, no climbing wall, no all-weather pitch, only 2 concrete cricket nets and no fitness suite. However, back then I was the owner of a rather sexy moustache, and a 30" waist, and became affectionately known as 'snake hips'.

You were also a boarding master, living in school accommodation.

Yes. Whilst it would feel very strange now, there is no doubt that working in Boarding helped me get to know the school, and to settle in very quickly. Tony Zammit was head of boarding then, and a gentleman called Steve Burnhill, now a school governor, was also on the staff.

Happy days for you, then, not least because you met your future wife Belinda during your first years here?

Actually, I first saw Belinda on interview in June 1986 and then we obviously met when I started in the September. Towards the end of my familiarisation day, a few weeks after the interview, I noticed a cricket match on the 1st XI pitch. Rather quirkily the U12's were playing the grounds/caretaking and catering staff at cricket. I couldn't help but notice a rather attractive young lady going out to bat in particularly tight white jeans and blonde hair!

I would find out in September when I arrived at the Grove that she was the fairly new Catering Manager 'Miss Goldie'. I managed to work a bit of magic, and the rest, as they say, is history.

PE/GAMES and SPORT

You worked throughout your time at The Grove with two similarly long serving stalwarts of WGS sport in Keith Jones (JKJ) and Roger Howard (ERH).

It has been a privilege to work alongside two Woodhouse Grove legends in JKJ and ERH for 33 years and counting. You will notice that with my RIF initials it appears that one of the provisos for long service is having parents who did not really know what to call you, and you end up being known by your middle name!

I think another proviso must also have been rapidly thinning hairlines.

As Head of Cricket you were also lucky enough to be assisted by several impressive Professionals in the cricket department. Any thoughts on these gentlemen and what each of them offered?

Initially we employed part-time coaches who were usually young overseas cricketers from Australia or South Africa. In 1995 I was informed that Frank "Typhoon" Tyson (Northants and England) was available, and he came to the Grove in 1995 and 96. It created massive interest in the press. In his day he was described as "box office" – perhaps the fastest bowler England ever produced.

Graham Roope (Surrey and England) followed Frank – the first ever full time Coach/Groundsman. Graham got on extremely well with the boys and toured Grenada in 2004.

Arnie Sidebottom (Yorkshire/Orange Free State/England) has been the coach for the last 13 years and has made a significant contribution to the development of cricket at the Grove. Hopefully he will continue for a few more years!

Thinking through your coaching, and leading many successful sides in both cricket and rugby, can you identify the side or sides that you are most proud of?

Rugby: There have been a number of undefeated seasons which were all memorable. The current (2019/20) U12's are an outstanding group, as was the current U14 team when they were U12 two years ago. Last year's 1st XI were also an outstanding undefeated U12 team back in 2012.

Cricket: The 2014 team without doubt! National Champions – beating Tonbridge and Millfield in the Finals Day at Arundel Castle CC in Sussex. In the same season winning all 18 completed matches with Dylan Budge, the Captain, being named the Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

Whilst it might be invidious to highlight specific individuals, any players/innings/moments that really stand out?

Andrew Bairstow in my first year as Master i/c Cricket (1994) scoring 166no at Batley GS.
Nick Lindley scored 171 v Silcoates in 2007 with Tom Dalton also making 144 in the same match.
Dylan Budge scored 102no and 153no in the final match (2 day) of the 2013 season to break Andrew Bairstow's 1st XI batting record!
Dylan Budge and Bailey Worcester playing for MCC Schools at Lords – Bailey as captain.
Dylan also went on to play in the victorious Scotland team against England in June last year. ERH and myself were fortunate enough to attend.
Another massive high point was when Ajmal Shahzad was selected as the first Yorkshire born Asian to play for Yorkshire and then a number of years later, in 2010, playing test cricket for England.

Apologies to any former 1st XI player whose magnificent innings I have not mentioned. There are so many.

Touring must have been a real highlight for you during your time at The Grove; visiting some fabulous parts of the world.

My first tour to Zimbabwe was a magnificent experience – Game Drives/Victoria Falls and fabulous cricket grounds. Sadly, DNW and I were denied our opportunity to bungee jump from Victoria Falls Bridge towards the open-mouthed crocodiles in the roaring Zambezi river given our responsibilities for the students. One of the burdens of being in charge, I am afraid.

All 8 Caribbean tours have been brilliant – not least because we got to play on the test grounds in Antigua. St Lucia and Grenada were unforgettable.

Touring in 1993 with rugby to Canada was another highlight – Anthony Cadman was the 1st XV fly half and JKJ and DNW the staff – we didn't stop laughing for 3 whole weeks.

IN THE CLASSROOM

What was your proudest achievement in the classroom?

Introducing GCSE PE in 1997 and leading it for 20 years was very rewarding, as was being part of the team that taught A level PE for 15 years. I am very proud to have been part of the original team of 3 which delivered A level PE, and found it particularly rewarding and satisfying. I never really thought at the start that I would be teaching A level, and we taught some impressive students. Bear in mind that there was no academic PE when I started – it came approximately 15 years into my career. We had to start from scratch, and at times I felt only one step in front of the pupils and some might say that I was only ever one step ahead. Nevertheless, it was something that brought great satisfaction and a real sense of achievement.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Any other particular memories outside the classroom?

Ski trips – Learning to ski in Italy on a school trip in 2001 was a brilliant experience, although it did contain a moment's sporting humiliation one morning on the slopes. Kevin Eaglestone and I were in the beginners' class with a few of the year 7 girls when all of a sudden Lisa Oakley (better known for her incomprehensible Midlands accent than her sporting prowess) came gliding past us with a smug smirk on her face!

Editor's note:

The use of the term "gliding" to describe the Head of English's skiing style is of course an example of hyperbole, for the benefit of

any Grovian students taught by Miss Oakley who may well not understand this particular literary term.

Staff Cricket – Was most enjoyable for many years in the early days. I played under some excellent Captains – John Clay, and to a much lesser extent David Wood.

Editor's Note:

The use of the words "to a much lesser extent" is quite clearly an attempt to belittle the interviewer. It would be fair to say that as a distinguished opening batsman, a specialist gully fieldsman, an astute captain and highly successful cricket coach, running a 2nd XI side who were unbeaten for 3 years in the 90's, means that frighteningly direct sporting comparisons will be made with RIF. The editor believes that these facts may well help explain the "lesser extent" comment to the reader. However, the editorial team decided to leave the offending words in, and allow RIF a pyrrhic victory after many years as Caesar to DNW's Mark Anthony.

AND FINALLY

My guess is that you regard the excellent reputation of cricket at WGS, standing proudly in Wisden's Top 100 cricketing schools, to be your greatest professional achievement. Am I right?

The finest achievement on the cricket field was without doubt becoming the National Schools T/20 Champions in 2014.

I must also say that I am similarly proud of the introduction and teaching of Academic PE.

THE FUTURE

And now? Are you hoping to continue playing cricket in your retirement?

Yes. I am still playing for Burley in Wharfedale 2nd XI and will continue to do so while the body allows me to do so.

What other plans do you have for your retirement?

Just to basically take things a little slower.
Some Gardening – didn't ever think I would be saying that when I was younger!
And also some rugby and cricket coaching at WGS. I have always enjoyed Saturday match days with the U12 rugby team and the 1st XI.
Mrs Frost loves walking, so that is part of the plan, but also to get to some of the parts of the world that I have not yet managed to see.

The good news for The Grove is that RIF will continue to offer his experience and expertise as a sports coach. I know this to be invaluable. I only observed RIF's achievements as a rugby coach from a distance but I had the privilege of working with him for many years in the cricket season and on tour, and there can be no doubt that his passion for the game, his dedication, his sense of professionalism, and his ability to inspire and develop young sportsmen has made WGS one of the top cricketing schools in the country. Both internally and externally, Ian was resolute in fighting the corner for cricket to ensure it has a priority and a central focus. He set very high standards, had high expectations, and the results speak for themselves.

No moustache these days, and not much hair; a slightly larger waistline, and no maroon wrangler cords that he will admit to, but I am very pleased to report that Ian Frost is in good shape.

DNW

John Robinson

CBE (OG 51-59) & Former Governor



MHA is Methodist Homes — originally “for the Aged”, hence the A, but that’s no longer used. It was founded 75 years ago to care for all people, no matter their faith or background. We serve 18,500 older people across our 90 care homes, 70 retirement living communities, and 62 live-at-home schemes, supported by over 7500 staff and over 4000 volunteers.

We’re the largest charity in the sector, and our chaplaincy service is unique: 120 paid chaplains from all denominations, led by Chris Swift, who’s an Anglican. In a typical care home, we might have 60 or 70 residents, and a chaplain for 12 hours a week to lead services, befriend people, especially in crisis, and support the staff, who are in a fairly stressful environment. We have four Roman Catholic chaplains, which I’m particularly proud of.

The chaplain is absolutely the centre of it, as a vicar is in a community. You can’t measure it, but you can somehow feel it. It costs over a million pounds a year, but in the scheme of things it’s a small amount.

All of us on the board are volunteers. We focus on long-term direction, but we ensure the highest quality day-to-day management, because we’re looking after people at a particularly vulnerable time in their life.

We have to adapt to changing demands, and remain financially viable, although government funding gets tighter. We have to maintain outstanding committed staff, and excellent staff conditions and Living Wage Commission rates.

The chief executive and I focus on relations with all denominations, as well as the Methodist Church. This had slipped somewhat, and we’re nothing without our Christian foundation. Perfection is when we have volunteers from local churches befriending residents. In Penrith, 25 volunteers come from the local Methodist church. It benefits them, too, because Christianity isn’t just about looking after your own church. We try to link up with Students’ Unions and other organisations to bring young people in.

I was very fortunate to spend much of my career working for Smith & Nephew [medical equipment suppliers] because, while it’s very commercial, it’s also focused on improving people’s lives physically, which is where my Christian faith naturally led me.

I most enjoyed the people, and building teams throughout the world, particularly strong in R&D and marketing. My proudest achievement was helping to develop from an industrial conglomerate with little overseas business a world-leading medical-device business, and it’s gone from strength to strength.

I chaired Railtrack a long time ago, because I was asked to do it, and rightly or wrongly, I believed I could help in a pretty chaotic situation after privatisation. It was interesting! The political exposure didn’t help. The switch to Network Rail probably made sense at the time, but the impatient political process made it harder, and cost a lot more money than it needed. I learned a lot.

My first role in the care sector was chairing Voyage, caring for people with learning difficulties in 450 small communities. Then I chaired the Abbeyfield Society, the second biggest charity caring for older people, from an Anglican foundation. I’m a trustee of Livability, a Christian charity caring for people with learning and often physical difficulties in schools and homes. I also chair the Hull Minster Development Trust, investing £7.4 million to make the building fit for purpose in the 21st century.

I also mentor and direct two engineering spinouts from Imperial College as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. One of them enables people to sample their own blood weekly at home during oncology, saving a lot of money and stress. The other is developing a material which radically reduces impact; so it can be used in cycle helmets and clothes, or in panties to protect elderly ladies’ hips from fracture if they fall. In both cases, we now employ 30 young people, and it’s uplifting to be around them.

I was an only child brought up in West Yorkshire by wonderful Methodist parents. My father ran a textile business. I had lots of friends, and loved playing cricket and football and roaming the fields. I boarded at a Methodist school, Woodhouse Grove, from the age of ten. The wonderful, dedicated staff, gave us very broad exposure to true education, faith, and social justice. They encouraged us to “do as much as you can, as well as you can, as long as you can”. Their influence comes out more as I get older.

I studied chemical engineering at Birmingham, where I met Doreen, who was doing nurse training. We married as soon as I graduated and we had two children. Mark has his own translation business. Karen nursed, and now she’s a teaching assistant. We’re proud of them, and of our four grandchildren — though I’ve totally failed to influence any of them to become engineers.

God feels ever present from childhood, but, of course, the relationship deepens and broadens over the years. I’ve come to know Christians through my charity work, and learned from them all, from the deep spirituality of the Jesuits and

Catholics, to the Evangelical tradition. The Jesuits and Methodists, at their best, have much in common: a real focus on social justice and spiritual care for all.

I attend our welcoming Anglican village church, but I still feel a Methodist. What's the true difference, anyway? The reasons John Wesley created a separate movement are long gone, and the issues debated now are largely about form and structure, and the preservation of what we grew up with.

My favourite form of worship, as I get older, is quiet and reflective — typically 8 a.m. communion without music. That's a long way from early Methodist experience "born in song" — but I still love singing. I increasingly enjoy peace and silence. But I love the sound of a cricket bat on ball, and classical music. I've just taken to learning the piano.

I'm not directly involved in current Anglican-Methodist conversations, but I'm vocal where I can be. The wheels need oiling somewhat. I'm optimistic but nervous, remembering what happened last time. I simply believe that there should be only one Church, but it's a real challenge to get there. Mutual recognition of ministries is a first step, but what happens on the ground — like LEPs [local ecumenical projects] — is probably more important. I don't think that the problems are so much quarrels, but deep misunderstandings and, frankly, prejudice.

There have been many issues in my professional life where I've agonised as to what I should do, and I've had to make unpopular decisions; but the big life decisions, like marrying Doreen, were really easy.

I get angry when some England batsmen don't show the technique that, in my view, they should have learned at school. But, seriously, I'm angry when people in public and business are concerned about self and not others. And I despair at the way many, and some media, just denigrate others.

I'm happiest with the family, and seeing them all in their different ways doing their best to live good and fulfilled lives. The peace and views from the top of mountains puts all my small issues into perspective. Seeing developments from things that I strive to achieve, and seeing people develop, make me happy.

And people give me hope: unsung, doing wonderful work, committed to doing all that they can for others. Staff in our care homes doing work that I'm simply incapable of doing: volunteers, school governors, churches, arts societies, Brownie leaders, coaches at sports clubs. . .

I do pray. I've used the Jesuit Sacred Space for some time. I always pray for my family, friends, and colleagues, and for areas where I may have some influence, and for guidance as to how best to handle things.

Being a restless soul, my first reaction to being locked in a church would be to get out. But, once reconciled to the idea, I'd choose to be there with my father, who died in my first year at university. He was a truly good man, with vision and huge energy. He laid the foundations. And then my housemaster at Woodhouse Grove, who is still very much alive. He wrote in my report: "Needs to learn that the more he puts into life, the more he gets out of it." That kick-started me. I'd ask them: "Can I do better?"

Thank you to John (and The Church Times-www.churchtimes.co.uk) for allowing us to publish this interview which we believe encapsulates our Grovian values and exemplifies the impact our School has on Grovians throughout their lives.

Births



On Sunday 17th November, Brontë Amber Matthews, daughter of Old Grovians **Neil (OG 97-02)** and **Emma (née Davis, OG 99-06)** was christened in the School Chapel. In attendance were her Uncles Paul and Richard Matthews and former members of staff Ian Matthews and **Bill (St 74-11)** and **Carol Davis (St 92-19)**, her grandparents.

Hadley Lauder Walker – baby girl born in April 2019 to proud parents Rob and **Zoë (nee Connell OG 93-05) Walker**.

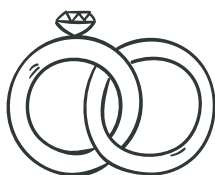
Engagement



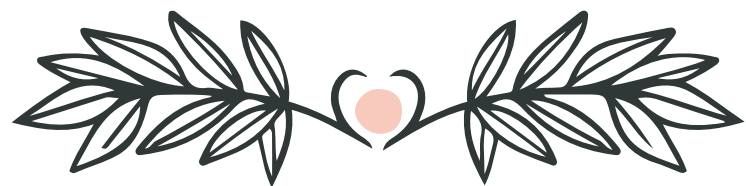
Director of Sixth Form Chris Softley and Meg Howard became engaged in May 2019 and planning is now well underway for the big day in 2021.



Marriages



Peter Wightman (St 81-01) married Dr Elizabeth Anderson on 16 March 2019. Elizabeth set up Memory Tree in 2012 incorporating 'Time Together - Time Apart', which provides tailored activities for people with dementia and respite sessions for their carers. There are currently groups in Shipley, Keighley, Idle, Low Moor and Burley-in-Wharfedale.



Obituaries

Andrew Atkinson (OG 68-77)

Informed by **Clive Watson (OG 68-77)** who Andrew was best man for. He is survived by his son Josh.

Peter Avill (OG 46-51),

Philip S Baxendale (OG 36-42)

informed in 2019 by his wife.

Sheila Black (nee Adetola) (OG 82-85)

informed in 2019 by **Gbenga Rotimi (OG 80-88)**

Arthur Charles Bottomley (OG 55-61)

Charlie and his twin brother, the late John, were the eldest children of John and the late Janet Bottomley and survived by their sister Freda. After leaving Woodhouse Grove, where they were both boarders, Charlie apprenticed as a metallurgist at Hepworth and Grandage where he worked his way up to become Senior Foreman. He was with the company for over twenty five years. He then moved his skills to Wask Engineering in Keighley where he worked in the foundry there until he retired due to ill health around fifteen years ago.

Charlie was very heavily involved with local Youth Clubs - running Ingrow St Johns Youth Club as well as being a part time DJ. When the club was taken over by the Council, he then ran Bracken Bank Youth Club. He was also a keen gardener and grew numerous vegetables, which the family enjoyed.

Charlie married his wife, Carol, in October 1970 at Silsden Parish Church and together they had two children, David and Samantha. Samantha was the first to marry and gift him two granddaughters whom he adored and would do anything for. Sadly, he never got to meet his grandson who was born a few weeks after his death.

Following a stroke in 2012 which left him unable to walk and wheelchair-bound, he became heavily dependent on his family to take him out and about. He was an avid Keighley Cougars fan and went to every home game - something which he very much looked forward to, and something which he did until a few weeks before he died.

Keith Braddick (OG 45-50)

David L Bull (OG 56-64)

Robert Holt Clayton (OG 57-65)

He enjoyed his time at The Grove and was an active sportsman playing both 1st team rugby and cricket and was a School Prefect.

Subsequently he continued his sporting prowess playing second row for Bradford for many years and latterly coaching the juniors at Ilkley.

He worked in advertising and eventually set up his own company, which he ran for many years with his wife.

Robert passed away in October 2018 and is survived by his wife Elizabeth Clayton, son Peter Clayton, daughter Caroline Hurwood and four grandchildren.

Tom Dalton (OG 01-08)

A packed congregation including many Old Grovians and School staff attended a service of Thanksgiving for Tom's life at Pudsey Parish church in March. A renowned sportsman and accomplished student, Tom was a popular character and is greatly missed by all. His wife Natalie, parents Keith and Anne, twin brother Tim along with his number of close and supportive friends remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Michael Dracup (OG 37-44)

Informed by his brother **Peter Dracup (OG 42-46)**

Peter Edward Davis (OG 39-46)

Peter who died aged 91 in October 2019, spent his working life putting a passion for birds into practical use as a conservationist and as an eminent ornithologist. He dedicated his time and skills to saving the red kite and gained a deserved

reputation as a finder of rare birds including three “firsts” for Britain (species never before seen in the country that had wandered off course during their annual migrations). Following School, Peter did his national service with the RAF and then attended the University of Leeds, graduating with a BA in Geography in 1951. Following this, he accepted the post of warden of Lundy Island bird observatory, off the North Devon coast. After moving to Stokholm island, off the Pembrokeshire coast, he met his future wife Angela and they went on to have three children. Following a 6-year stint in Fair Isle (Britain’s best known observatory) and a brief spell at the British Trust for Ornithology in Tring, Herts, Peter realised he was unsuited to a desk job, so in 1966 the family moved to Ceredigion in west Wales, where he would spend the rest of his life.

A kind, gentle man with a sharp intellect and keen sense of humour, he also inspired several generations of birders, naturalists and conservationists, writing several books, scientific papers and journals and being appointed MBE in 2007.

Victor Farrar (OG 40-42)

Informed by his son Mark

Victor Abraham Spensly Farrar was born in Bradford on the 20th January 1929. He joined Woodhouse Grove as a boarder at the age of eight years. One of his abiding memories is of his first term and the changing room after a games lesson; he was desperately trying to get into his uniform quickly, but could not do his tie up as he had not yet mastered the technique. Acutely afraid he was going to be told off he became anxious and tearful. When asked about the tears and afraid of being ridiculed and punished, he said he had a serious pain in his stomach. He was taken to the matron and repeated the story out of fear now of also being punished for lying. The matron called a doctor and the same conversation took place. Vic was taken to hospital and had his appendix removed that night.

I don’t think Vic particularly enjoyed academic study, but he loved the social life of school, sport and rugby in particular. He only gave up playing in his mid twenties having broken various bones in numerous parts of his body, and moved on to becoming an avid supporter of Bradford Northern.

Sadly, Vic had to leave School at the age of 14 as he was somewhat inclined to bunk off school and go home to his parents in Bradford. For his own safety, his parents decided to send him to Rishworth as such adventures were much more difficult given the additional distance to the other side of Halifax.

After school Vic did his national service in the Royal Navy. Apparently, he spent 18 months painting the outside of battleships and did not find it a terribly stimulating experience.

In his working life he was employed as a manager by Bartlett and Company Insurance Brokers and later by Grattan, before becoming a self-employed retailer in Menston, Keighley, Morley and Malton.

Above all, he will be remembered as a humorous, cheerful and kind man who got on well with everyone, and also as a wonderful and much loved husband of Jean, father and grandfather.

Charles Harper (OG 46-51)

Richard Hartop (OG 46-54)

David Richardson (“Richard”) Hobbs (OG 53-59)

Informed by his son, Tim Hobbs (husband of **Sarah Louise Howson, OG 83-88**)

Born 11 November 1942 in Horsforth, before the family moved to Ilkley, Richard attended St Johns Primary School in Ben Rhydding before gaining a scholarship to Woodhouse Grove in 1953.

Starting as a day pupil he quickly moved to become a boarder and took part in many school activities, including the Science, Geography and Literary Societies. On the sporting front he was a keen member of the swim team where he was awarded school colours and joined many of the school ski trips, a sport he fell in love with and continued throughout his life.

At 16, knowing he already wanted to be a Chartered Accountant, he left WGS and following ICAEW qualification then senior management, at firms in Bradford and London, he eventually became a partner of Grant Thornton, in 1967 in Bradford, in a ‘first’ career that lasted 25 years.

During that time, he met his first wife, Jill, with whom he had a son, Tim, and daughter, Sarah. He was an avid motorsports enthusiast, initially racing Triumph Spitfires and then progressing to off road rallying in his beloved Land Rovers, with the Northern Off Road Club (NORC).

During the 1970’s and 80’s whilst working, rallying, building fishponds, doing his own plumbing, and basically putting his hand to any task, as well as encouraging both children in their chosen pass-times (spending far too much time following Tim to swimming training and competitions), he still managed to serve the OGA as: committee member, treasurer and then Chairman in 1982 followed by being appointed Vice President in 1988.

In 1992, at the age of 50 but still very much full of vigour, Richard then decided that he would change to a ‘second’ career, one that was eventually to exceed the 25 years of his first – but one that he enjoyed right up until his recent passing.

He, together with his son, took on an electrical distribution company called Office Electrics. Through their continued hard work, they grew that business, from its small Wakefield warehouse, with 6 staff, to an international manufacturing company with 250 staff, based in Wakefield and with offices in London, Sydney, Dubai and Cologne – now called OE Electrics.

Unfortunately, his seemingly limitless youthful spirit was interjected when he contracted an aggressive cancer in early 2018, but undaunted by the 11 month prognosis, he continued on a life of off road camper-vanning in Australia, cruising with his soon to be second wife, Annie, and competitive croquet, which he played both in Australia and the UK.

Defying the doctors, he kept recovering from a number of serious visits to hospital during the last 18 months, to manage to extend the initial 11 months to 22 months before he passed away, at home in Sydney, with his wife and son by his side, on 5 October 2019

He will be missed, his active and youthful spirit should have been with us for many more years.

Edward Anthony “Tony” Jackson (OG 47-54)

Following a school career at both Bronte House and Woodhouse Grove, Tony left to take up a course at Manchester College of Art, which was by all accounts a great interest of his at School along with an active involvement in the theatre (key productions include: The Boy David and Macbeth).

RSPCA-It appears Tony was a prime mover, supporting a boy called Leach in setting up an official RSPCA club in 1950, gaining the approval of the Head and support of Staff. He became Secretary and over the next few years built a thriving society with a range of stimulating trips and visits. As he left School in 1954 the School magazine thanked him for his “enthusiasm and hard work”.

After his schooling Tony would go on to secure a role in the intelligence corps and later still Tony would become a company director working in accountancy and corporate law.

Mair Parkinson (St 92-07)

Keith Ryder (St 70-02)

We were saddened to learn that former Estates Foreman Keith Ryder passed away on 30th September 2019, aged 82. Keith will remain a memorable character for many Grovians.

A proud Grovian, he served the school with great loyalty. A former National Serviceman and an apprentice “time served” joiner, Keith was never short of an opinion and this was often expressed in blunt, “forthright”, frequently politically incorrect terms. Generations of Grovians who worked for Keith as part of summer holiday “paint gangs”, held him in great affection, retrospectively recognising his (often unsought) advice as a vital insight into the real world as they progressed and made their way in their chosen fields. Over the years he gained an invaluable in depth “knowledge” of the idiosyncrasies of all the schools’ boilers, heating, water and drainage systems, all of which of course had developed in a sometimes-haphazard manner during the School’s history. More may recall the rather crudely painted sign outside his workshop “The man who lends his tools is out!”

Always accompanied by a faithful hound, he was a valued and respected resident of our community from 1970-2002. Upon retirement, Keith settled in Bridlington and enjoyed a happy and active time in the company of his loving family. His wife, Betty, daughters Sharon and Beverley, sons in law Michael and Paul, and grandchildren James, Tom, Jenny and Lydia are in our thoughts at this difficult time. We thank you for your service Keith.

John Malcolm Shaw (OG 35-40)

informed by daughter Ruth Cockerill that John sadly passed away on 16th December 2018

Rodney B Smith (OG 48-56)

Informed by A Crawford.

After his time at Woodhouse Grove, Rodney went on to teach English at Oakham School and was Housemaster of Chaplains

House there. He was remembered as being a true gentleman, who was kind, generous and very warm-hearted. He was very supportive to many pupils throughout the years, giving them confidence not only in themselves to be themselves; also to encourage them go on to study English, for example, at Cambridge. For some, he was a father figure and transformed troubled young teenage boys into confident young men. One said that it was Rod that inspired him to become a housemaster himself.

He was a dearly loved and respected member of the school.

Nigel Anthony Smith (OG 69-77)

After a school career including Bronte House, Nigel left school and joined the then Midland Bank (later to become HSBC) where he spent his whole career until retirement in 2018 as a Business Analyst.

Nigel was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, an incurable cancer of the bone marrow, in 2015. Following a stem cell transplant and as many lines of treatment that were available, he sadly passed away on 24th April 2019.

Nigel was proud to be a Grovian and talked fondly of his time at School.

Daniel N Stansfield (OG 46-55)

John Wesley Thacker (53-61)

John passed away peacefully at home in Baildon on 21st December 2019. He had been suffering from MS for a number of years becoming bedridden towards the end.

We were both great rivals on the athletics track and became the first Yorkshire Schoolboys to represent the School at the All England Schools Athletics Championships in 1960. We were members of the Yorkshire 4x110 Relay team and John himself became the All England 100yds Champion in 1965.

We also belonged to Vinter House and as well as playing rugby for the First XV as wingmen, we became School house champions at rugby. This made our housemasters, David McCarthy and Joe Shepherd very proud.

We both played in the early days for the Old Grovians RUFC. They had to list John as AN Other sometimes because he had been on trial with a Rugby League team (Featherstone Rovers) and in those days it was taboo to have played both codes.

John went to Loughborough College but had also visited me in Hull when he became a rep for Millers Oils in Brighouse and was doing business with one of our local firms. He eventually became an oncology rep for a huge international drug company. He dealt with many of the top cancer consultants and was highly respected in his field.

JWT was a great character... a wonderful sportsman and I am proud to have known him all these years. John leaves his adored wife and best nurse and carer in the world, Mary along with his family.

Obit John Mathewson (OG 51-60)

Brian Vaux (OG 49-56)

Informed by his wife Valerie, passed away on 20th March 2019

Brian was born on 6th April 1938, not quite forgiving his mother for giving birth to him in Stockton-on-Tees, the wrong side of the river from his beloved Yorkshire! Despite that, he was in all ways and to most of us a proud Yorkshire man, living a good deal of his life on the right side of the river!

He went to boarding school at Woodhouse Grove where he loved sport and represented his school in rugby, cricket and swimming carrying these activities through to his teens and twenties when golf was added too. Rugby stayed with him all his life and when he could no longer play he would watch all the tournaments, latterly on the TV but before that with trips to the main stadiums and club venues.

He was called up for National Service in the late 50's and joined the Northumberland Fusiliers. To say he was lucky in his postings was an understatement! He was sent to Germany and then to Hong Kong where he had one of the best times of his life. What single, fancy free young man wouldn't? Once again he could indulge his love of sport and represented the army in swimming and rugby.

And so demob 2yrs later and back to Yorkshire. He joined Woolworths as a trainee manager but having to work Saturday afternoons severely interfered with his rugby so he left and became a rep for a chemical company. After moving south with his job, he met and later married Valerie (in 1966) who worked for the same company. A new job brought the couple back to Yorkshire where their daughter Louise was born in 1969. A real Yorkshire lass born in Middlesbrough on the right side of the river! The next move was across The Pennines to Cheshire, luckily not to the arch enemy Lancashire, and this is where they have stayed for the last 40 years and where we started our paint manufacturing business in 1976 until our retirement in 2009.

He was a complex character with a mind of his own but his interests were many and he could converse with conviction on a range of subjects. He was a reader and a learner and his other great loves were classical music, opera and history. He could tell you anything about long ago battles, the outcomes and the people who fought them and he could be transported by music and the human voice, particularly by his beloved Mozart, who would bring tears to his eyes.

The computer and internet for him were for serious stuff, like researching and programming! No purpose-made software for him, he worked out through his own efforts the algorithms required to calculate his formulations, labels, invoices and documents to run the business.

He was a lateral thinker, loved a challenge and would work on it for hours, days, weeks until he had cracked it. Not necessarily by standard methods and some of the results were a little Heath Robinson, but they always worked!

He will be remembered as a man of many parts with a quirky sense of humour. He was a private man with moral values; a loyal friend if you deserved his loyalty. A traditional man, proud to be English. A typical Yorkshire tyke! Our Yorkshire tyke and we will miss him more than we can say!



Post-It Note wisdom!



Someone recently asked me if my role as school chaplain at Woodhouse Grove is what I envisaged it would be. I said, "No not entirely, the young people are far more open to asking questions about God and faith than I thought they would be." In fact, at times, I think the boarding students go to great lengths to present me with the most difficult theological questions they can think of, but I don't mind, because what they give me in return for sharing my understanding is very precious. The big questions of life and death are tackled with honesty and insight in a way which many of us fear.

Refreshingly, the young people prefer to talk about God in language of love and compassion, rather than judgment and condemnation, which is to be celebrated given that many of our young people are discovering their spiritual and faith based beliefs in a post Christian society.

Worship is one of my primary roles as chaplain and each week there are in excess of 700 young people from the age of eleven through to eighteen who participate in a short act of worship. When I started my role a few months ago, I gave every student the opportunity to write on a Post-it note, one thing that they enjoyed or valued about chapel worship. Some of the responses made me smile, some made me laugh out loud, a few made me groan, but 422 of them encouraged and motivated me to make chapel worship as inclusive, participative and as engaging as possible.

What those Post-it notes communicated to me was that for many of the young people at Woodhouse Grove there is an understanding that there are things in life that are sacred. Just because they do not attend church, or another place of worship, does not mean that they don't have faith or a relationship with God.

Obviously over time and with changing cultural and societal practices, our young people will change how they practice religion, so it is a great privilege and lots of fun to try to create pathways that might lead to a positive and relevant spiritual experience. Gone are the days that young people accepted theology as a one size fits all package, which is a good thing, because it has removed some of the theological obstacles faced by previous generations. This however presents challenges of a different kind. Biblical literacy is fairly low so my starting point is constantly shifting. My response to this is to foster in chapel and around school a contextual, open and questioning approach to the Christian tradition and the life and teachings of Jesus. It is early days, but I am finding that with gentle encouragement and a willingness to listen, the young people are open to talking about and exploring matters of faith.

All that is left to say, to conclude this initial reflection on the spiritual life of Woodhouse Grove, is how exciting it is to be journeying alongside such a wonderfully diverse community.



5 life lessons I learned in Miller-Catherine Voronina

As a year is coming to an end, we tend to take stock of our experiences and lessons we learned from them. One of the experiences for me to reflect on this year is my life in boarding. Miller opened its doors for me in the most heart-warming manner, helping me to settle in a new school, a new country and a completely new environment; but I realized it was not only about that – for me, as for any other boarder, it served as a school of life. You may not necessarily apply what you learned in chemistry lessons every day, but you'll use the skills you got from boarding without even realizing it in your day to day life. So what are they?

1. Independence. Even if you don't move to another country, living away from home provides you with the level of self-sustainability you'll confidently take to university, work and adult life. In a sense, boarding is a smooth transition from "childhood", where you are in the tender care of your parents, to "adulthood", where you are in the full control of your actions, because there are still people ensuring your well-being and yet you have more decisions to make yourself.

2. With decisions comes responsibility. Responsibility to the community you are living in and responsibility to yourself to be the best possible version of yourself you can be. In this interconnected environment there will be people relying on you in one way or another, so one learns to be reliable and to responsibly treat one's little duties. This in turn builds up into a habit, a character if you want, which will then help one to achieve one's goals and successfully integrate into other environments. This is especially the case in the role of a boarding prefect, which implies developing one's leadership skills by getting even more actively engaged in the management of our little community.

3. Another soft skill you get through such experience is finding common ground with different people. With some of them you will become life-long friends, others you won't like



as much, but at the very least you will learn how to happily co-exist with people who might be very different to you: in their culture, routines and habits. You will know exactly how to behave if you then have a very quiet roommate at uni, or a particularly loud neighbour, and how to take into consideration feelings and needs of other people while still getting your work done.

4. Boarding has a lot to do with learning about other people, but even more – with learning about yourself. Through the range of after-school activities available to boarders one can discover and develop new skills, and this together with a more close interaction with others brings up one's best qualities: let it be resilience in the gym, concentration in crafts or the team spirit in the house meetings.

My Latvian Grove Adventure Mikelis (Michael) Jurevics

I have really enjoyed my time here at Woodhouse Grove School. It is an amazing school with even more amazing people! The teachers are excellent at their job; they are really helpful in lessons. Living in the boarding house has been a great experience getting to know other students from different cultures and having the opportunity to play sport with like-minded individuals. I have loved my time together with friends and staff.

From the start of the school year until December, I was living in Brodwell House sharing with another Year 12 student where most of the male boarders live. Since December I started living in the Annexe with upper sixth students, I prefer this because there is more space in my own room. It has helped me to be more independent and enabled me to concentrate on my studies.

Academically, I have been studying the following subjects; History, PE/Sport, English Language and Literature. I have enjoyed the challenge in the classroom and have always tried to do my best to make the most of the experiences here at the Grove. It was hard to study English at first, but it has got easier over time. My school friends and teachers have helped me and the more I speak English, the more confident I have become as a sixth form student.

Outside of the classroom, I have had amazing experiences with the rugby team and coaches too. I am proud to have played 1st Team rugby during my first year at the Grove. My skills are improving all the time because there is more match experience here than in Latvia. This has been the best season for the team ever so far and I am glad to have been part of that. I'm disappointed I can't play in the Schools Cup this year, but I hope the team will reach the final and win the Cup to make Grove Rugby history!

Overall, it has been a fantastic experience and I would recommend it to other European students interested in a British education that offers so much. I have lived the Grovian dream. Thank you to everyone that has supported me. I wish you all well in the future.

5. One of the most important lessons, however, is that there are always people who care about you. I cannot count all the times when a member of staff would cheer me up after a difficult day, give advice, help with academic or personal matters. This is crucial to learn that you are not alone, that there are always people to talk to and ask for help if you need it. I guess this is the main thing about Miller – this is the place where you feel loved.

Vernon's travels or why they call me "Air miles Vernon"!

Woodhouse Grove School's Commitment to International Boarding



I have always enjoyed my 21 years of teaching and my 14 years spent as a Director of Sport but it is my 36-year association with international boarding that has developed my core values and made me the teacher I am.

Woodhouse Grove School has made a commitment to maintaining the boarding community that lives at our school. We are rightly proud of what we offer and the type of pupils we attract. What has changed is that along with nearly every other independent boarding school in the UK, we now actively work with organisations and agencies abroad to attract international pupils to our school. This ensures that we have a very different offering to our local competitors but also that our "homegrown" Yorkshire boys and girls have the opportunity to rub shoulders with pupils from diverse cultures and customs, which must be a benefit to all involved.

For the last 18 months, I have had the immense privilege of taking a few international trips to market the school, build a brand abroad, work with international schools, and attend education fairs, host seminars at agencies, meet alumni and recruit boarders to WGS.

This term I have ventured from Vietnam to Thailand, taken in numerous cities throughout China and in October 2019 I took my first trip to Africa visiting Nigeria and Ghana. We are building links with all these countries but what has been wonderful recently is rekindling long lost acquaintances we had with our Nigerian pupils from the 70's and 80's. There is clearly a love for UK education in Nigeria and the Old Grovian network that came and met me at the education fair in Lagos astounded me. I would like to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome and supporting WGS on our first trip to Nigeria. I would especially like to thank Gbenga Rotimi who was instrumental in bring together the OG network. I will return again and if Roger Howard and James Lockwood have their way I am sure there will be plans afoot to host an alumni event out there in the future to bring together all our lost but loved Nigerian alumni.

Simon Vernon Assistant Head (Boarding & Compliance)

Xaipete Winter 2019/20

Sights, Sounds and..... Memories!

One early autumn day in September 1947, I arrived at Bronte House as a timid dayboy totally unprepared for the rigours of an all-boy school. I walked down the overgrown back drive, which was unkempt and uncared for as was the whole estate. The gardens and paths were still suffering from the privations caused by the Second World War that had finished only two years before. I was introduced to R F Dickens the austere sandy-haired senior master and his colleague the much more approachable David Boyle who took me into a nearby form room where at that moment there was just one boy, my friend David Dickinson, the first contemporary Grovian to whom I ever spoke.

My first term was unhappy and traumatic as I tried to settle in. I even 'ran away' as a day-boy, but looking back it was a necessary experience and was no doubt character building after the cosiness of my 'dame' school in Ilkley.

Health and Safety in playground games did not then exist and the whole school played 'conkers' as there was an unlimited supply from the many mature horse-chestnut trees. As Dinky toy cars began to re-appear we Vaseline'd their tiny wheels to make them run more speedily down the half-moon gully which ran along the steep right-hand side of the front drive. I remember at the top of the drive was a very large ornamental stone flower pot on a pedestal on which the elder of two Weston brothers one day stood till it unfortunately fell off and severely damaged his hand.

Arthur Jones, a popular history master and the Head's son-in-law, brought our lunches from the Grove kitchens every day in his pre-war Standard 10 car, on Thursdays it was always fried sausage meat and chips. He was invariably accompanied by Roger Towlson the Head's disabled and mute son. Roger was a mathematical genius, who shuffled around and sat on various chairs scattered around the Grove grounds and carried reams of paper to work out difficult calculations. At the main school he would remember the name of every boy and learn it by vigorously pulling up the neck of your shirt and reading the individual name tag, a bit intimidating for the younger ones but ultimately quite harmless. From then on if you pointed to yourself, Roger would amazingly always remember and write down your name.

During the Ashes summer of 1948 our ex naval PE master John Bairstow took great delight in trying to emulate the Aussie fast bowlers Miller and Lindwall and scared us to death batting on the Bronte House cricket pitch. We spent quieter times in our art lessons painting posters for the first post-war Olympics held at Wembley.

I moved to the Grove in September 1949 and my brother Peter became Head Prefect replacing 'Tertius' Hall after S C 'Noop' Wilson the senior master, had found him smoking in the Pre's room on Garden Party Day!

After three years, I became a boarder in Vinter and slept in the senior New North dorm with about thirty others. David Whitney was senior pre. with George Howard and Peter Senior there too. We slept in iron bedsteads with our own extra travelling rugs to keep us warm. My heavy wool blanket was actually the one my father had used in the Royal Navy during the Great War. For added comfort, we soon learnt to look for a bed where the supporting springs had worn into a more comfortable hammock shape. Once a week we had a bath and as the juniors in Vinter used the water and bathrooms off the House stairs, it was my lot and for others

to walk down and across the Quad and down again to the grubby Basement baths. I don't remember much hot water particularly after a rugby practice, it was just the way it was! At the end of each term, any new boy had to sing a song standing on the central lockers in front of the whole house, a long-standing Vinter tradition.

At least once a term there was a nighttime fire practice when the alarm and the school bell in the Quad would sound and we all had to grab our dressing gowns and slippers and go down the three-storey fire escape and parade in the playground. A key was kept in a glass-fronted box on the fire door and as in those days glass was still a scarce and expensive item, Mr Bolt, the senior maths master and also the fire-officer, would creep up the fire escape to unlock the door before the glass was broken.

Some of you who as youngsters slept in Old North dorm, which had no metal fire escape, may still remember that the frightening escape route was to slide down an enclosed canvas escape tube attached on large hooks on either side of the open window. The tube would be thrown out to a group of older boys standing in the playground, they would hold it taut, and hopefully at not too steep an angle and catch the juniors as they hurtled down three storeys to safety.

Clean clothes, 'bundles', were collected every Wednesday evening from the Linen Room, which was overseen by Veronica Whiteley. Large wicker baskets were stored weekly in the Covered Shed between the Quad and the playground ready for the laundry collection. It was not unknown in the early '50's for some unfortunate to be put in one of the large baskets and sent on its wooden runners down the long flight of the Findlay stairs which now lead to the present-day library and girl's boarding.

In my early boarding days, cups and saucers were not provided so in the Dining Hall we drank tea out of glass tumblers. Occasionally as you poured in the hot liquid from large galvanised tea-pots the glass would shatter into small granular pieces.....but that hot sweet tea particularly after a rucker practice on a cold winter's afternoon tasted like nectar!

There were various eccentrics amongst my contemporaries. John Field in Vinter was a serious railway buff and he constructed a long wooden pole, attached an angled mirror on the end and put it out of the scarcely open dorm window above his bed, which gave him the advantage of seeing approaching steam trains a mile away down the line on the Calverley curve towards Leeds.

Sometimes on warm summer afternoons when some of us were supposedly quietly studying in the library, situated then at the top of Old North stairs, we would hear noisy rushing feet approaching and Phil 'Tabs' Barraclough would run at full speed along the outside corridor and literally perform a racing dive through the open door and dramatically skim right across the polished floor!

During the Suez oil crisis of 1956, young 'Granny' Warnes who in his spare time helped in the gardens decided he would do his bit for the nation and he dug a very large hole in the school vegetable garden, convinced that he would eventually strike oil.....I don't think he was too successful.

They say distance lends enchantment but now from many years I look back on my Grovian school days with affection and gratitude. You remember the quiet Sunday afternoons after writing home, trying to keep warm by hugging large cast-iron heating pipes, which emitted tepid heat. I now cherish other memories too; of prep, detention or full school



Vinter's new North dorm taken in the summer of 1955 on a Sunday evening

assemblies in the School Room now occupied by the staff room; listening to the funeral service of King George VI in the Memorial Hall where we also saw on the school's very small TV set the first grainy pictures beamed all the way from Calais; of going 50/50 at the tuck shop when you still had some sweet coupons and a friend had some money; the lingering aroma of stale cake and oranges in the room that stored our tuck boxes; the way our heavy woollen Sunday suit jackets stuck to the back of the Chapel pews on warm summer evenings and I remember Arthur Jones pronouncing his frequent Latin grace before dining hall meals of which the literal translation was

"For what we are about to receive, we demand an explanation!"

..... and of course there are still the life-long friendships created with generations of fellow Grovians, students and staff.

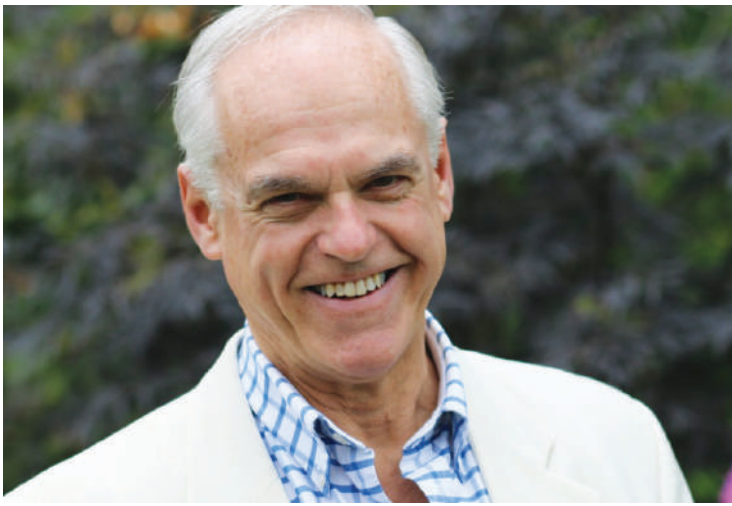
' Wheresoe'er shall be your station,
In whatever clime or nation,
There shall come our salutation
Xaipete! '

Roger Davy MBE JP - O G '47 - '57

Navigating the Winds of Change.....

I left Woodhouse Grove in 1970 to take a geography degree at Hatfield College, University of Durham, although I have little memory of any real discussion as to the purpose of this with either school career advisors or, indeed, my parents. I simply knew that I had a curiosity about the world and how it functioned, and that I had enjoyed doing my geography A Level course under the guidance of Mr Hynd. Three years later I graduated, but with the realisation that a geography degree didn't really open up a huge number of opportunities - unless, of course, you wanted to teach geography, as a number of my classmates did! An economics subsidiary course, however, which was not taught at the Grove in those days, helped me to then undertake a two-year MSc in Agricultural Economics, split between Reading University and the old Wye College, London University. In between the two periods of study I worked for three years at the National Science Research Council in Guyana.

Career options were broader in those days when just 5% of school children went to university and not so many years after "the winds of change" brought independence to former British colonies, and I was responsible for recording and summarising agricultural research initiatives over the previous 50 years. Living in Georgetown also allowed me to continue my track running and to help form and play for a British High Commission football team, captained, incongruously, by a German! And so began a



Overend Reminiscences

Recent articles in Xaipete particularly by Roger Davy made me think about my days at Woodhouse Grove and made me realise that I have not been as supportive of the OGA as I should have been. This may be in part because for many years my first loyalty was to the school of which I became the head and partly because OGA events are staged some distance from where I settled down after university.

I have so many recollections of my time at The Grove. It began in January 1947, the beginning of that terrible winter. Bob Dickens, the second master at Bronte House in which I enrolled built a wonderful sledging track in a field just across the main road outside Bronte House and also an igloo in the field inside the school gates. These activities did not last long as Bronte House was stricken by scarlet fever and so many of the boys spent much of the term in Menston Isolation Hospital. On our return at the beginning of summer we found that Bob Dickens, a keen ornithologist had acquired a live gannet that had been injured on the Yorkshire Coast and much devotion was given to this friendly bird until a full recovery was made. Bob Dickens was instrumental in encouraging boys to become ornithologists and so influenced my cousin D.A. Rushforth (46-52) that this became a lifelong hobby and he an important ornithologist at Spurn Head and the coast further north.

We boys were a little afraid of E.Moxon, the Senior Master. We slept in rooms rather than dormitories and had lessons in one of two classrooms, more like a stately home than a school. We had further links with the Rushforth family. Arthur Rushforth had been presented with a cinema projector by the Rank organisation. Approximately twice a term he would bring it to show films to the school on Saturday nights, an event much enjoyed and eagerly looked forward to by all. At the same time down at the Grove new dormitories were being built for Southern House. The bricks were provided by Rushforth of Adwalton. My grandfather's firm.

While at Bronte House we walked to the Grove Chapel every Sunday morning proudly wearing our Marlborough Suits, pinstriped trousers and a black jacket. Fortunately, hats had been discontinued by then. We also walked down to make use of the 1938 swimming pool and occasionally to use the playing fields. Bronte House had a Cub Scout Pack that met in a room over the stables and had the freedom of the grounds around the house.

Transfer to the main school was never in question and I moved up in September 1947. This was the final year of 'Pop', Dr.C.W. Towlson's Headship. The school had about 350 boys, most of whom were borders with only a small proportion of day boys largely from Bradford suburbs or the immediate vicinity of the school. Lessons took place every day of the week apart from Sunday (but including Saturday), when the whole school attended church both morning and evening. Time was free on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon, providing there was no major rugby or cricket match, and boys were allowed out of the school as far to the north and west as one could travel but no further south than the River Aire.

Under the influence of Dr F.C. Pritchard, we saw the beginnings of building expansion with a new gym and library by the time it came for me to move on in 1956. Gradually the number of clubs and societies grew providing interests for boys in the spare hours of each day. The boys were well fed, well looked after by matron and if required in the sanatorium although Dr Bedford the MO was a little bit of a sadist. The daily routine driven by the school bell hanging in the Quad: breakfast, prayers, lessons, dinner,

period of 30 years when I worked on international aid programmes as an economist in the Caribbean, in Africa and, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, in the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc.

From being shot at by a regional government minister in Sudan (fortunately the bullet went through the wheel arch of my Land Rover), to surviving Hurricane Allen whilst working in the banana industry in St Lucia, to reporting progress on a farm privatisation programme in Nizhny Novgorod to Boris Nemtsov, who was to become Russia's Deputy Prime Minister but later to be assassinated near Red Square after opposing the annexation of Crimea, life was never dull. My assignments varied in duration from three years in the NW Province of Cameroon, where there is now a low-level civil war between the anglophone minority and the francophone majority, no doubt destroying much of what had been accomplished, to six weeks preparing a smallholder macadamia nut programme in Malawi to a few days leading seminars on environmental economics in Barbados. Exotic, perhaps, but with a price to pay in terms of dislocation and family disruption, and by 2007 I decided that my 30 years on the road were at an end. Whatever one might achieve at a micro-level, there comes a time when macro-level corruption, incompetence and indifference take their toll, and whatever the failings of western democracy they pale into insignificance when compared to 40 year old presidential regimes in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. The balance to that view is knowing that I supported many a young professional in their early careers and also managed to steer through meaningful rural investments in agricultural production and marketing, in rural water supplies and in cooperative development in many countries across the world.

In 2007 came a complete change, when I became CEO of a disability training charity in Exeter. Although I knew nothing about charity management, the skills I brought, at a time of financial crisis, were those of financial analysis, priority setting and programme management and I spent eight largely happy years there before winding down with seven months part-time interim management work with the Roald Dahl Children's Charity in Buckinghamshire and a withdrawal from paid employment. Now I content myself with being Chair of Trustees of another charity in Exeter and treasurer of my local WWI memorial social club in Colyton, Devon. It's enough!

I look back on my time at the Grove with great fondness, however, and the names of Dr F.C. Pritchard, W.E.H. (Freddy) Windle, R.L. Bolt and many other teachers, as well as classmates too numerous to mention will be for ever in my memory.

Christopher Knee (OG 63-70)

There, Here and Everywhere: A Meandering Memoir. Christopher Knee, Honeybee Books Dorset, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-910616-93-2

lessons, spare time, homework and bed was not onerous and we had concessions. For example, despite having very competent musicians as parents my ability as a pianist was not great. My parents bought a clarinet but alas there was no one to teach me at the Grove. Dr Pritchard was persuaded to allow me to travel first to Leeds and later to Bradford for lessons. This was privilege indeed and I do not recall taking advantage of my travels.

The biggest influence on my life was not the buildings, the situation of the school or the friendships between pupils. It was the staff and the first class teaching they provided. Top of the list was John Hyde who taught me geography. First class teaching, a love of his subject, field trips and holidays in Europe kindled my enthusiasm for the subject and introduced me to the wide world, its peoples and its physical features. I was the first pupil that John sent to university to study geography and proud to be so. I hope my success was reward enough for him. History was my second love and two men were responsible for my achievements. A.E. Read, the 'Hun', was not only a character in his own right but was an excellent teacher, very fair but very supportive. He rode a pre-war sit up and beg bicycle to work and even came in his 1932 Austin to school on occasions. He asked the class how much shoes cost as he had not bought any for eight years and he must have worn his 1930's suit every day he was at the School. In contrast, Arthur Jones was more down to earth, less serious than Mr Read but nevertheless had that love of subject that he passed on to others. The third influence was the School Chaplain who taught a very small group of boys A-level scripture. Rev J Downes brought Old Testament history to life for us. Our



academic results were much enhanced by the ability to use the new school library for our research in respect of essays and projects.

One aspect of life at the Grove in 1949-53 was the presence of a tuck shop, efficiently run by A E Booth who also ran the Stamp Club. In addition, most boys had a tuck box kept in a

room off the Covered Shed which was usually filled every time boys went home. One of the very few tangible reminders of my time at the Grove was my tuck box. Before coming to me it had belonged to a pupil named Newton who had left the school in 1947. I still have it and use it but not for tuck.

Possible reminiscences are legion and bring a smile to one's face. The day S.C. Wilson put his pipe in his coat pocket without it putting it out and the streams of smoke issuing from it, Hector Lamb had his 'Johnnies' for every material in his workshop, the day the school clock turned red or the science sixth form wired the underfloor of the 'Wormery' to the frustration of Dr Mendel and the Half Mile Cup going yet again to Tertius Hall are just a few.

My career took me into teaching where I progressed from an assistant teacher, to a Head of Geography, to Senior Teacher, Deputy Head and eventually becoming Head of my own school. Plantsbrook School in Sutton Coldfield was and is a Comprehensive School of 1200+ pupils including a large Sixth Form. After retirement, I became an Ofsted Registered Inspector, traveling England to inspect and support schools. This was a great privilege and I met many first class teachers, devoted to their profession just like those who had taught me at the Grove.

I have not reached great heights as some of my school fellows have nor travelled to all four corners of the world but as a geographer I have seen or visited every kind of physical feature this earth provides from deserts to tundra, mighty rivers to mountain chains and have met people of many different cultures along the way.

Whatever I have achieved and which standards I work towards are a direct result of what Woodhouse Grove School taught me so many years ago. I like to think that I was able to pass on those standards and virtues to boys and girls in my own school and thus the values and standards promoted by the Grove have travelled further as a result of my time at Apperley Bridge.

J. M. R. Overend (OG 47-56)



The Woodhouse Grove School Foundation



The Woodhouse Grove School Foundation is a charitable trust formed for the purpose of organising and coordinating fundraising and development work with a specific and immediate focus on Bursary funding at the School. This funding offers life changing opportunities and also protects the unique ethos of the School.



MAKE A DONATION

Every gift matters and with your help we can build an even better future for all our Grovians. Your help and support is invaluable and without it, we would not be able to assist the growing numbers of pupils who would not otherwise be able to enjoy a Woodhouse Grove education. Collectively, small contributions can make a big difference. One-off financial donations, legacy giving or regular amounts via standing order—it soon adds up! Here are all the ways you can help make a lasting and meaningful difference:

VIA BACS TRANSFER or STANDING ORDER

Payments can be made by bank transfer or to set up a standing order to the Foundation account:

HSBC Bank
Sort code: 40-02-06
Account no: 21352806
IBAN: GB63HBUK40020621352806

Please add your surname as the reference and email foundation@woodhousegroveschool.co.uk to let us know of your kind donation.

VIA CHEQUE

Please make cheques payable to Woodhouse Grove School Foundation and send to the Foundation Office.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible for Gift Aid please complete our gift aid form (found on the Old Grovian section of the School website) and return to the WGS Foundation office. Completion of this form means that we are able to claim an additional 25% from HMRC at no extra cost to you. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you too can benefit from tax relief and companies that make a charitable donation can reduce their liability for Corporation Tax using the Gift Aid scheme.

Woodhouse Grove School Foundation

Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge,
West Yorkshire BD10 0NR

Email: foundation@woodhousegroveschool.co.uk

Tel: 0113 250 2477 Registered charity no: 1176406

 Visit our Facebook page Old Grovian Association

 Join us Old Grovian Business Network

David Miller...



Following the news in 2019 of the passing of David Miller, we were inundated with your memories and recollections of his inspirational character and we thought the excerpt below from **Debra (Debbie) Wood (OG 80-81)** gives an excellent reflection of the wide range of tributes and sentiments received...

I was so saddened to hear of the death of David Miller. Mr Miller was the headmaster when I became one of the first 6 girl boarders at WGS in 1980. I remember him giving me a stern telling off on more than one occasion but it was probably what I deserved!

I watched a TV programme back in 2003 in which people were interviewed about those who had greatly impacted their lives. For me, that person was Mr Miller. I joined WGS as a 6th former, from a state school, with only 3 O levels. At WGS, he informed me - in words of one syllable - that I would pass enough exams to go to university. Whether or not I chose to go was not his concern. It was sufficient that I left WGS with the grades to go to university. At that stage in my education, I had never considered university so it was life changing to be told that the path was a realistic option.

From that day on, I have never had to be pushed to do anything. My motivation has been self-fuelled. Following the TV programme, I wrote to Mr Miller and told him this. I received a wonderful reply, which I fished out of my papers this morning. It is dated 22nd Dec 2003. The start of his letter said

*"Dear Debra,
What a splendid surprise to receive your gracious letter. It is a rare pleasure when someone you have taught or had some responsibility for writes to give news - and even rarer (ie about 1 every 5 years) when they show appreciation! Bless you.*

I am delighted at your success; my grandmother always used to say "I know he/she will come good in the end!". She was occasionally right. Fortunately, I remember you well as an impish lass with a Lancashire accent from a town with an improbable name (Euxton) near Chorley which I had heard of."

There was a lot more to the letter - but you get the idea. Goodbye Mr Miller, thank you so much for being the most influential teacher in my life. Best wishes also to my old school friends. I think fondly of Joanne, Jeanette, Diane, Cathy and the other trailblazer girls! I hope everyone is well, happy and healthy

For further details of the order of service and eulogy from David McCarthy (St 53-92) can be found at www.woodhousegrove.co.uk

Here is a snippet from David's eulogy given to a full chapel last March....

.....Today we are reflecting upon the lives of two people very special to us. I am fortunate to have had a long association with David as colleague and friend, an association that brought me a wealth of experiences and emotions - admiration, joy, bewilderment, amusement, delight, sadness, gratitude, irritation, affection. The first experience was none of these: it was more like an electric shock. When he had been confirmed as headmaster, David had the pleasure of meeting individually future colleagues in the headmaster's study. Dr Pritchard, the outgoing head, was present, seated in a very ordinary chair to the side of the fireplace. David occupied the headmaster's throne by the table. We were introduced and I sat somewhere between the two. David opened up with, "Well, Mr McCarthy, how do you feel about being Director of Music under a musical headmaster?" This forthright opening took me by surprise, but I managed to mumble something like, "I shan't mind as long as he realises I didn't ask for the job." And thus began, however inauspiciously, a happy association that would last for the next 46 years.

Thanksgiving Service for the Life, Work and Witness of David and Kathleen Miller

(An outline) for Grovians unable to attend

Pre-service music: Processional by William Mathias

Rhosymedre by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Introit: God be in my Head by David McCarthy (st 53-92)

Hymn: Guide me, O though great Jehovah, tune Cwm Rhondda by John Hughes

Prayers: Rev. David Bonny (st 09-19)

Reading: Isaiah 40: 28-31 read by James Lockwood, Headmaster (OG 86-92 & st 16-)

Personal Recollection: David McCarthy (st 53-92)

Anthem: Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Reading: John 15: 12-17 read by David Wilberforce (st 80-99)

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth, tune Noricum by Frederick James

Sermon: Rev David Hall (st 84-90)

Hymn: Lord for the Years, tune Lord for the Years by Michael Baughen

Blessing: Rev David Bonny (st 09-2019)

The School Song: Xaipete! by Rev. Benjamin Hellier, tune by Frederic James (st 1884-12)

Benediction: The Lord Bless You and Keep You by John Rutter

Organ Postlude: Sonata no 3 in A Opus 65. By Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

The School choir were led by Philip Tedd, Director of Music (st 09-) and the Organist was Andrew Crawford, Assistant Director of Music (st 91-)

The retiring collection was in aid of The Woodhouse Grove Foundation (at the request of the Miller family).



First female Head prepares to take Brontë House to the next stage of its development

The Governors of Woodhouse Grove School have announced the appointment of Sarah Chatterton BEd (Hons) as Head of Brontë House with effect from September 2019, in succession to Simon Dunn. Sarah Chatterton joined Brontë House, the Junior School of Woodhouse Grove, in September 2015 as Deputy Head and will be the first female in the history of the school to take up the Headteacher's mantle.

Sarah was educated at Tettenhall College and Wolverhampton Grammar School. Having completed an Honours degree in Manchester, she joined Heathfield in 2001 before moving to Moorlands School, in Leeds, to take up the role of Head of Lower School. Sarah then returned to Heathfield as Director of Studies before being appointed the School's Deputy in 2014. Sarah is married to Mark and has two young children, Florence and Phoebe, who are both enjoying life in Year 1 at Brontë.

James Lockwood, Headmaster of Woodhouse Grove, said: "We were assisted in our search for a new Head by experienced recruitment consultants, Odgers Berndtson, and the Governors and were pleased with the process and strong list of candidates put forward; which included a number of serving Headteachers. After an exhaustive and highly competitive interview procedure, the unanimous decision of the Selection Panel was that Sarah Chatterton would be the leader most able to continue to strengthen and develop Brontë House."

Sarah Chatterton said: "It is an absolute honour and privilege to be appointed to lead such an outstanding school and I look forward to the challenges ahead at Brontë, particularly at this very exciting stage of the School's development."

Chairman of Governors, Alan Wintersgill said: "We are delighted to be able to appoint someone with Sarah's experience and enthusiasm. We are absolutely confident that she will provide a clear vision for Brontë House and, through her outstanding leadership skills, will carry the whole school community with her."

Team

2018-19

- 1st XV Rugby team reached semi-final of National Cup Competition 2018-19
- 1st VII Netball team won the National Plate Competition 2018-19
- U14 VII Netball team reached the National Schools Finals and finished 10th 2019-20
- Junior Girls Cross Country team are Leeds Champions, Yorkshire Champions & finished 7th overall at National Schools 2019-20
- Junior Boys Cross Country team are Leeds Champions & finished 24th overall at National School finals 2019-20
- U14, U16, U19 Netball teams play in the Regional rounds (Yorkshire) to qualify for National Schools Finals – first time in schools' history we have had 3 teams



Individual

There have been some outstanding individual achievements across the Sporting kaleidoscope involving a number of our students from varying age ranges.

Participation Rates

In 2018-19 we had 70% of the whole school population represent the School in competitive fixtures with this figure only set to rise as we continue to grow the number of teams that compete in fixtures across our range of sports.

We have continued to grow our competition offering this academic year and have entered teams to compete in National competitions in athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket (boys and girls), cross-country, netball, rugby, squash, swimming, table-tennis and tennis.

Departmental Developments

The department continues to go from strength to strength with a range of expertise and youth working together to promote PE & Sport throughout the School. A recent appointment is that of **Joe Bedford (OG 00-02)** who joins the team full-time to take on the role of Head of Rugby after 3 years as Director of Sport at Bronte House.

Old Grovians RUFC



Old Grovians RUFC was formed just over 12 years ago by three Old Grovians, John Hinchliffe, James Philips and Nick Fawcett. The club has had a very successful start to its life and now plays in Yorkshire Division 2 having started life in Yorkshire 6.

Last year we wrote about how the last 2 seasons in Yorkshire 2 have been tricky as we've come up against well established clubs such as Keighley, Moortown and Pontefract and struggled to stay in the league. I'm pleased to report that the changes we made last year have made a significant difference. The club managed to stay in Yorkshire 2 and this year we are currently in 4th position in league. It's even more encouraging to see students who have recently left Woodhouse Grove School such as Will Robinson and Tom Thorpe continue to play for the club and we have more pupils from School already wanting to join the club for the remainder of this season and into next. This would not be possible without the support of the School and in particular, Joe Bedford, Dan King and Roger Howard - the club are grateful for their continued support.

The focus for Old Grovians now has to be to improve it's facilities. Elm Tree Farm is a fantastic playing field that is incredibly well looked after by the School and Simon Wood, but we need to look at building changing facilities.

Old Grovians is currently in talks with the RFU and the School about potentially exciting next steps on this front and hope to make significant progress during the next 6-12 months. We would invite anyone with an interest in Old Grovians and particularly the rugby club with experience in these matters or indeed time to help organise and assist in anyway to contact us as all help will be gratefully received.

Old Grovians RUFC aspires to be a high quality amateur rugby club that is part of the local community and offers great coaching that has multiple open age teams. It will continue to provide a fantastic pathway to people leaving Woodhouse Grove School and the surrounding area to enjoy a healthy lifestyle playing rugby in their adult life.

To achieve the aim above the club will continue to work hard to increase the player numbers and consider all possible options to improve our facilities.

If any Old Grovians would like to assist the club in anyway, please contact: OldGroviansrugby@gmail.com or feel free to join our growing membership base by filling in an online form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5PtyQzJNar7RjOu1YENtaqWq_lgx-s1eudxFqjnSgK2o1w/viewform

Please note, joining the club will allow people to apply for England home matches in both the 6 nations and the autumn internationals. Each member who applied for tickets were allocated them this year

On a final note, we'd like to place on record our thanks to the rest of the staff at School for their continued support, without their help we would not be existence.

The Southernns Scholarship Fund

In 1921 the unexpected death of forty-nine year old Alfred Southernns, from a bout of influenza, was a great loss to the School. Known to all as 'Sam' he was a highly respected Second Master of Woodhouse Grove.

Over the next few years, mainly through the efforts of The Old Grovian Association, a sum of around £1,200 was raised in his memory. In 1931, the OGA used this money to establish The Southernns Scholarship Fund whose objective was to support Sixth Form leavers who were going on to further education.

The subscribers unanimously decided that three Trustees should be appointed by the OGA to serve for five years in order to administer the fund. After this time, if they wished, the Trustees could apply for re-election at the next Old Grovian Association AGM. A few years ago, it was agreed that the number of Trustees could be increased to four.

Today, the monies are invested in the COIF (Charities Investment Fund) and must remain intact. The interest that is accrued from this investment is used to finance the awards.

Although The Southernns is considered to be the School's most prestigious leavers award, over the years, due to the generosity of Old Grovians and their families, additional awards have been established:

The Crabtree Scholarship, afforded by the family of H. Pearson Crabtree (1913-1916) and Governor (1968-1972).

The E. Duncan Nuttall Scholarship, donated by the family of E. Duncan Nuttall (OG 1909-1912).

The Rex Storr award (OG 1951-1958).

The Old Grovian Scholarship established in 1981.

The Davy Book Fund established in 1957 by Mr Walter Davy, father of three Old Grovians.

Each year in late Spring, Upper VI leavers are invited to apply for an award by completing an application form together with a covering letter. All applicants are interviewed and then the Trustees, with the help and advice of The Headmaster, make their decisions. The names of the successful candidates are inscribed on the Honours boards, which are displayed in the Dining Hall and along the Headmaster's Corridor.

The Southernns Scholarship this year was awarded to Charlotte Proctor, who is now studying Dentistry at Leeds University.

The present Trustees are Mrs Kathleen Dawson (appointed 2001), Mr Tony Bramwell (appointed 2009) and Mrs Jackie Darwin (appointed 2017). Sadly, Mr David Littlefair has recently retired as a Trustee (appointed as Trustee 2008). Behind the scenes, David has done so much for both the School and the OGA in a number of roles. He helped to bring more than 3,000 'lost' Old Grovians back into the fold. Meeting and greeting them was his forte. His successful outreach beyond the School and the significant sums he helped to raise enabled the building of the Sports Hall and the Grove Theatre to start on time. David will remain a life Vice President of the Old Grovian Association but the Southernns Trustees will miss his service and contribution.

The Trustees are extremely grateful for all the donations and bequests that have been received over the years and continue to ensure the work of the Trust carries on.

Kath Dawson

Friends of Woodhouse Grove

For new parents, senior school can be very different from primary. The 'cosy' school gates are replaced by the school bus or a swift pick-up from the car park. Getting to know other parents can be a much slower process.

As its name suggests, 'Friends' is all about getting to know other parents and having fun at the various events we hold throughout the year. In the process we try and raise money to support a variety of school clubs and groups. Over the last 2 years, the Friends have donated funds to: Art Club, Triathlon Club, Theatre and The Hub – to name but a few! And, of course, there is also the annual Leavers' Award, a sum of money awarded to a Year 13 leaver who is going on to volunteer or charity work following School and has demonstrated their credentials as a true Grovian citizen throughout their time at the Grove.

Look out for our events on Facebook and Twitter throughout the year!



Old Grovians' Diary 2020

Manchester Lunch

Tuesday 28 April, Malmaison Hotel, Manchester – please email foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk if you would like to attend as spaces are limited

WGS Golf Day

Friday 15 May, Headingley Golf Club

Leeds Reunion/Networking Drinks

Thursday 11 June, Lamb & Flag, Church Row, Leeds

Old Grovian Cricket Match

Friday 26 June, Woodhouse Grove School

Summer Reunion and Family Fun Day

Sunday 28 June, Woodhouse Grove School (OGA T20 and Tennis v School)

London Reunion

Thursday 17 September, Doggett's Coat & Badge

Remembrance Day & November Reunion

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 November 2020, Woodhouse Grove School

2020 Leavers Reunion

Wednesday 16 December, Woodhouse Grove School

If you would like to be considered for selection for any of the Old Grovian teams (Rugby, Cricket, Netball, Tennis, Squash, Cross Country, Football) and are unsure who to contact, please email foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk



Not Just Travel



Anne Monaghan

Do you and your family, or anyone you know go on holiday?

Do you want to help raise funds for the school?

If the answers are "Yes", then contact me.

I have a partnership with the Woodhouse Grove School Foundation Trust, where every holiday booked through me results in a donation being made to assist in the provision of Bursary fee support at the School.

A holiday doesn't have to be an expensive trip abroad. I can book you a 2-night stay at the seaside, or a luxury world cruise and everything in-between.

I am here to take the stress out of searching and booking your perfect holiday, be it a Jet 2 package holiday or a tailor-made trip of a lifetime. Then, you and your family can enjoy making all those amazing memories that last forever.

If you have any connection to The Grove remember, book your holiday through me, and a percentage of my commission goes to the Woodhouse Grove Foundation. This is at no extra cost to you.

Make an enquiry now and give back to Woodhouse Grove School.

Check out our school 'Not Just Travel' website,

<https://woodhousegrove.notjusttravel.com>

Or Contact me:

Tel. 07909793683

Web. annemonaghan.notjusttravel.com

Email. anne.monaghan@notjusttravel.com

Facebook. [@annenotjusttravel](https://www.facebook.com/annenotjusttravel)



The Travel Association

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire BD10 0NR

Email: foundation@woodhousegroveschool.co.uk Tel: 0113 250 2477

Woodhouse Grove School Foundation Registered charity no: 1176406



Visit our Facebook page Old Grovian Association



Old Grovian Business Network

Remember: 1 – Update 2 – Engage 3 – Commit