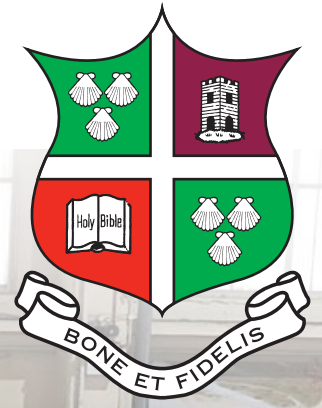


Χαίρετε



Cover image courtesy of Primetime Media.

Welcome From The Chair

Keith Jones (St 78-16)

The past seven months with the Covid-19 pandemic situation has meant that we have been living in a very worrying and difficult world. We have missed out on so much such as catching up with families and friends, going to the theatre, browsing in retail shops and for many including myself missing out and having to postpone that long awaited summer holiday in a warmer climate. Having said all this and being that I am now officially an OAP, my lawn, hedges and flower beds have never looked better as a result of hours of TLC in the lockdown period. Small consolation I hear you say and we all look forward to the day when the vaccine roll out is complete. I fear that this will be the only acceptable solution that will give people the confidence to return to what is classed as "normal life" again - if life can ever return to normal again when working from home and wearing face masks becomes part of daily life.

I have to report that due to Covid-19 the various OGA calendar of events for last year did not take place due to safety reasons. With this in mind I was very honoured to be invited at the recently held committee meeting to Chair the organisation again for the coming year. This is a role that I am delighted to accept and I very much hope that we will be able to restart and meet once again at events in the not too distant future.

I reiterated my comments from last year's AGM and that is to encourage a wider depth of support for such events such as the already well established reunions, year reunions and the very popular and successful Golf Day held at Headingley Golf Club. Old Grovians need to feel welcomed and encouraged to attend or even help arrange these important events especially if they have not attended for a number of years or not at all. The OGA organisation and the school would welcome and be happy to host year reunions or a 'group of friends' reunion in order to catch up with various pathways and successes in life since leaving school.

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

Stay safe and look after each other.

Keith Jones (JK)



Cover Page Photograph

Old Grovian Emma Wilkinson (01-08), a reporter at ITV News Calendar, busily conducting her interviews for ITV with the Red Arrows.

Squadron Leader Steve Morris, Red 9 and Squadron Leader Tom Bould, Red 1 outlined what a strange year 2020 had been for the display team but that they were looking ahead to 2021 with optimism. Imagine Emma's surprise when she discovered that the newly promoted Red 1, Tom Bould was also an Old Grovian!

Cover image courtesy of Primetime Media.

FOUNDATION Update

While much of the work of the WGS Foundation has been disrupted now for the best part of the year some significant and gratifying progress has been made. Donations received continue to grow steadily and this hopefully indicates the empathy that Grovians have for the aims of the Foundation. The current balance stands at close to £150k.

Whilst specific fundraising projects will follow in due course as times improve, donations received this year include legacies, one off donations and several new donors have signed up to regular giving via standing orders. All combine to make a significant contribution to our aim to make a difference through the principle of "Paying it Forward".

Although the events calendar of the OGA and Foundation remain very much on hold, the WGS Foundation Office (now slightly relocated to allow even closer collaboration and support with Marketing & Commerce Dept) reopened at the end of the summer. Obtaining updates from Old Grovians remains a priority. Without the various events and reunions normally held throughout the year, our ability to connect physically is limited. We therefore urge the OG community to use whatever means they favour to "Update, Engage and Commit". Social media engagement continues to grow, and we will look to enhance this further in the coming restricted months to engage more widely in a virtual atmosphere.

The email account: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk remains a reliable means for more detailed correspondence and photos, along with of course traditional mail or telephone.

Projects listed to be revitalised in due course include an informal style Scottish Reunion, potentially a South West reunion and perhaps overseas gatherings, as travel and number restrictions ease. Once School reopens to groups of visitors, hosting year group reunions would be welcome opportunities.

Archive Digitisation having been placed on hold will be another project reopened during 2021.

Ensuring our database is kept updated remains a priority. Please do feel able to contact us to enable us to have the most accurate information with which to act upon and communicate with.

The support received by the Foundation during the pandemic encourages us that our project is well established and heading in the right direction. The goodwill evident within the OGA community offers immense potential. Our aim now is to reinforce knowledge of our aims and beliefs regarding Bursary fee support. Now, more than ever the School remains committed to enabling pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the opportunities on offer at the Grove.

The Foundation Team

Thank you to all our 2020/21 benefactors, your support is invaluable.



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@woodhousegrove.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

The Headmaster's Reflections on a year like no other ...

Monday 16 March 2020 started like any other Monday of a Spring Term at the Grove. Meetings first, followed by our weekly Whole School assembly in the Sports Hall – we no longer have an Assembly Hall, alas, the Memorial Hall is now the English teaching corridor, and there is no other venue that can accommodate nearly 1,000 people.

During the Monday morning staff briefing, yes, the coronavirus was discussed, and plans were already being made to allow overseas boarders to go home early. However, the major issue on the agenda was school trips over the Easter holiday, including the triennial netball trip to the Caribbean; would they or would they not go ahead? Looking back, how naive were we to ever think that these would run...

Then, of course, came the news we were not expecting until the end of term; schools were told by the ineffectual Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, to close their doors from Friday 20 March, and all summer public examinations would be cancelled. Before we all left for what, at the time, was an unknown period, I addressed the staff in the Grove Theatre. I spoke a lot about waiting to receive more clarity from Government and specifically the Department for Education, that clarity is still sadly lacking.

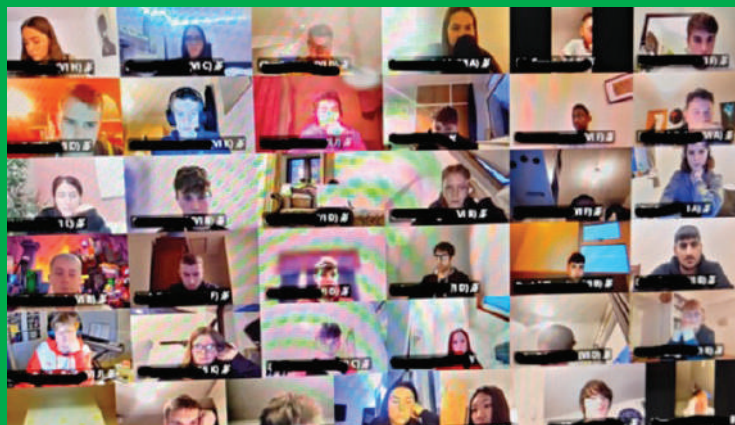
And then the children and staff departed, and the very steep remote learning curve began...

Staff worked incredibly hard over the Easter holiday to further refine our remote education planning and delivery. In just a few weeks we had to radically and rapidly transform the school's operations, furloughing a huge number of support staff, sending pupils home and switching to online teaching. Other departments, such as HR and Finance, had to adapt to using remote practices, whilst a much-depleted grounds and maintenance team worked tirelessly keep on top of things – believe me, the early months of lockdown were real grass growing weather!



Of course, the biggest challenge was the unknown. Recognising that the whole country was in a difficult situation and having to find a way of teaching and staying in touch with our young people, whilst managing our fixed costs, retaining our staff and keeping the school in sound financial shape. Whilst school closures had been on the cards for some time, news of the cancellation of exams came as a total bombshell and it, quite understandably, left our Year 11 and Year 13 students and their parents feeling very upset, angry, confused and even more anxious.

The events of lockdown have made us starkly aware, if we were in any doubt before, that schools, teachers, parents and children have been locked into a system in which the overriding aim has become success in exams. Many schools and children are assessed and judged almost entirely upon exam results. However, as Grovians, we know that exam results say nothing about quality of scholarship, creativity, or humanity. In the absence of examinations, we did our very best to be responsible and evidence-led with our Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and rank orders. At the same time, there were legitimate concerns about the potential for grade inflation and the absence of standardisation in the calculation and award of the grades which meant that a mix of CAGs, rank orders and statistical moderation was deemed necessary. Until the U-turn, of course...



Remote Learning Provision

I am resourceful and resilient

There was lots of talk of standards falling as a result of exams being “devalued” but little talk of the state of mind of our young people having lived through such testing times and no talk, at the time of writing, of reforming the whole system of exam tyranny; no talk of easing the burden on teachers and young people, of making more room in maintained sector schools for a wider curriculum, like that offered at the Grove, that includes more sport and arts for all, and that allows children from all backgrounds the time and space they need to find their voices, to grow in self-worth and confidence.

Notwithstanding the exams fiasco, we were, of course, rightly proud of our A-level and GCSE results and the achievements of our young people. As ever, in any exam season there are winners and losers, but usually on the back of the students' own efforts, not by the whim of a system which was designed to safeguard the big picture and in the end safeguarded no one. The remote learning was effective for the vast majority of our students across the wide age and ability range. Yes, we could definitely have done some things better, however, when

our students sought help, teachers were quick and responsive to meeting their needs, and our young people were very appreciative of that. So, overall, I think the academic position of all the Grove's pupils, who committed sensibly to their online learning during lockdown, was defended.

I am not so sure; however, I could say the same for the vast majority of children in the UK. During the months of lockdown, whilst all of us were struggling to hold ourselves together, forgotten were the needs of the people who needed us most, the most vulnerable, the young. A recent report has stated that our teenage children are the unhappiest in Europe. So, I say, let us use this opportunity to think otherwise about how we are educating our children and reduce our reliance on an absurd and rigid system of education so dictated and dominated by examinations. Much was done following our last great world upheaval – the Second World War – a determination to right wrongs that saw the opening of schools free to everyone, the establishment of the National Health Service and the creation of the United Nations. None of these institutions were perfect, but we should certainly ask ourselves where we would be without them.

With the pandemic now beginning to be controlled, we hope, this is surely the time to turn the page and to think again about education, to think child first and focus on the joy of teaching, discovering and learning, taking away the fear. Yes, we have to test, but testing is not educating. We need time and space in a school day to expand the horizons of our children, to deepen and widen their understanding of themselves, of each other and the world about them. They do not need algorithms that are not fit for purpose. Indeed, we have to question altogether the usefulness of so much data gathering from Early Years right through school life; data which is used to predict and determine a child's future. Are we educating our children or programming them?

Over the course of the lockdown period and earlier in the current academic year, I have been overwhelmed by the many acts of kindnesses I have witnessed, and indeed received. Of these, some of the most touching and generous gestures have come from current parents and Old Grovians who, in these most challenging and extraordinary of times, have made donations to the Woodhouse Grove School Foundation. Since its formation in 2018, under the leadership of Roger Howard, the Foundation has worked vigorously to further develop relationships with the school's Alumni body. In this relatively short period, the Foundation has reconnected with countless Old Grovians and raised a considerable amount of money – in excess of £150k – to create bursary funding to support local children whose parents would not otherwise be able to afford the fees. Never has this kind of support been needed more.



Prolonged anxiety, prolonged uncertainty, prolonged isolation and inactivity was hard on all of us, but for many children lockdown was traumatic. We all know how important simply being with friends is to children; how their lives revolve around friends and school, and teachers. All the normality of life stopped overnight. Instead, many children, including those who live within a very close proximity to the Grove, found themselves cooped up, with parents weighed down with worry over the pandemic, over family and friends who might be sick, with money worries, with the prospect of looming unemployment. These are the kind of local families that the Foundation seeks to support.

Every donation matters, no matter how small. Collectively, small contributions can make a huge difference; as can larger one-off donations, regular payments via standing order, or legacy giving – it all adds up! So, please, if you can, do consider donating to the Woodhouse Grove Foundation so that future generations can have the same life changing opportunities that we were all afforded at this very special school.

Sadly, owing to the current situation, we are not able to run our normal programme of gatherings and reunion events. However, we very much hope to resume normal service as soon as it is safe to do so and start to rebuild the Old Grovian community in which we are all a very special part.

Community is one of the greatest antidotes to insecurity because it speaks to us of the assurance that we are all in it together. This is what makes the Grove such a special place; to paraphrase the poem etched on the back of our school prospectus, "Grovians are all individuals, yet they are part of something incredible".

Thank you for being part of something incredible during these unprecedented times.

Xaipete!

James Lockwood (86 - 92, St 16 -)
Headmaster

A Day in the Life of a Grove Teacher during Lockdown

Here our Director of Sixth Form lets us in on what was a typical day for him during lockdown....

6:15am - Start the day as you mean to go on, an outdoor run.

7:30am - Set up on a make shift desk in the spare room. Open emails, Firefly and Microsoft Teams.

8:30am - Midweek catch up with the Sixth Form staff over Microsoft Teams.



9:30-9:45am - Live form time with Year 12 students over Microsoft Teams.

9:45-10:00am - Live form time with Year 13 students over Microsoft Teams.

10:00-10:30 - Attend and support a Live Year 11 to Year 12 enrichment session.

10:30-10:45 - Live weekly assembly to Year 12.

10:45-11:00 - Live weekly assembly to Year 13.

11:00-11:15 - Coffee break and fresh air in the garden playing with Reggie the dog.

11:15-12:15 - Lesson prep on firefly and recording a lesson with another teacher for later in the week.

12:15-13:15 - Lunch and time away from the laptop!

13:15-13:45 - Attend and support a Live Year 11 to Year 12 enrichment session.

14:00-15:00 - Live GCSE lesson to the students that are available.

15:00-16:00 - Check in with the Sixth Form staff to see if there are any major concerns or areas to work on for the next day.

16:00-17:30 - End of the virtual school day. Attend any CPD opportunities such as TeachMeet via TEAMS. Plan for the next day making sure all tasks are set and Live lessons are set up.



17:30 onwards - Try to exercise in the evening for the 2nd time in the day and to stay away from a screen. Cooking a Pizza on the new Pizza oven helps me relax after a busy day!

Chris Softley (St 14-)

WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



Hugh Myers (30-35)

We are delighted to report that our Oldest Old Grovian is keeping well and proud to be retaining his title as the oldest living Old Grovian. The photo below was taken in November 1934 and shows Hugh standing 5 in from the left.



Robert Hartley (50-54)

Robert has recently got in touch with us and would love to hear from any of his Grovian contemporaries. Please email foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk and we will forward your details to Robert. Now retired, Robert worked as an Engineering Draughtsman at Landis Lund Ltd in Cross Hills near Keighley with fellow **OG David J Mitton 56-61**. Happily married to Sheila since 1968 Robert's main interests over the years have been playing competitive crown green bowls, collecting old toy trains and having a keen interest in the music of Glenn Miller.



Gareth Cunningham (60-68)

Gareth recently got in touch to tell us that he and wife Viv have relocated to the wide skies of East Anglia after 20 very happy years in Cheshire. Gareth is happily retired and keeps busy flying his light aircraft out of Old Buckenham and can be seen riding his Harley around the lanes of East Anglia. He also has a share in a narrow boat and takes at least one long-haul holiday a year.

David D Tattersall (73-80)

David got in touch to let us know he is now working in the USA following a 30 year career in the pharmaceutical industry, having worked in China, the UK and now the US. He is keen to get in touch with any OGs who were at the Grove between 1973 and 1980 and in particular if anyone knows the whereabouts of **OG Phil Long (73-80)**. Please email foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk to get in touch with David.

Douglas Briggs (80-87)

Douglas recently got in touch to update us that after 15 years in Qatar it was time to move back and is now working at Monmouth School for Boys.

James Richards (83-91)

James recently undertook the biggest of challenges and swam the Gulf of Corryvreckan – the world's third largest whirlpool and where strong Atlantic currents and unusual underwater topography conspire to produce a particularly intense tidal race. Along with 3 other hardy souls, James was swimming to raise money in memory of his friend Captain James Spencer. You can read an account of this courageous feat on page 21.

Thomas I'Anson (85-92)

We were delighted to hear from Thomas recently who let us know what life has been like since leaving school. After leaving the Grove, Thomas went to Newcastle University, where he graduated in 1995 with an Honours Degree in Agricultural Biochemistry and Nutrition.

After a year looking for employment, in 1996 he was offered and took a job in Munich, Germany (initially for 6 months) in the food industry and got stuck (geographically) in the Munich area. He changed careers in 1998 from the food industry doing a one-year training course to work in IT and has been working as an IT Consultant for a number of different companies since 1999.

Thomas enjoys walking, good food and wine and has a great interest in aviation.

Tom Bould (88-00)

October 2020 saw Tom announced as the new Squadron Leader for the Red Arrows, Red 1. We look forward to seeing Tom flying over Apperley Bridge soon!



Lindsey Sowden Trousdale (93-98)

Lindsey messaged us to say that back in 1998 the Grove hosted a visiting hockey team from Port Elizabeth, SA. Lindsey's family hosted two players including Tammy Retzlaff (pictured second left). Having kept in touch over the past 20 years, Lindsey was delighted to welcome Tammy and her family to stay with her in the UK recently.



Lucy Follos (03-05, St 16 -)

Mike asked to marry me on Alnmouth beach in Northumberland (one of our favourite spots) on the last weekend of August. We had gone for a walk with the dogs at sunset as it was our last night away, a really lovely end to the summer holiday! We met in the dining hall four years ago and things went from there, I think it must have been luck to have been on the same lunch break that year to have met. Who knew discussing the school brownies and love of desserts would lead to becoming engaged four years on!!



Ed Fox (91-98)

Ed lives in London and retrained as a psychologist and now enjoys helping companies change, and people to achieve their full potential. He is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion in London. Ed enjoyed singing at WGS and swam for school, captaining Southern's swimming team. Ed has kept up the singing and performs in The Chaps Choir and, most recently, in The London Gay Men's Chorus. He tells us his performance as Cruella Christmas at Cadogan Hall was a highlight! If you would like to get in touch with Ed his Instagram is @ed.fox.london.



Katie Binns (93-00)

Here's an update from Katie who has recently been in touch with our Director of Sixth form about delivering an online talk to our sixth form students.....

I live in south London and am a journalist at The Sunday Times. I graduated from King's College, London, with a degree in French in 2005 and immediately moved to Vienna.

I spent four very happy years there, perfecting my German and teaching English. I returned to London in 2010 and after freelancing for various newspapers and magazines I got a job at The Sunday Times. I spent six years on the Irish and Scottish news desk, covering referendum after referendum - thanks to Mr Clay's politics lessons I was thoroughly versed in all things to do with referendums. I also thought of my time at the Grove when I worked in Berlin for three months at the German tabloid Bild - I believe I sent Mr Peel and Mr Jarvis a postcard to inform them my poor attitude in their lessons had not been for nothing!



I am in regular contact with Old Grovians Edward Fox (91-98) and Helen Moorhouse (93-00). Helen and I swam the Great London Swim a few years ago. Ed Fox, fellow OG Kieran Mitton (93-00) and I had a wonderful afternoon tea with Mr Clay at the Savoy a few years ago.

Katie and Ed recently had an article published in the Sunday Times Magazine where they undertook a 50-swim challenge, pool hopping round London. This adventure saw them swimming in moonlit lidos, rooftop wallows and skinny dipping in Bloomsbury! You can follow their adventures on Instagram @mermaidmadiaries.



Chrissie Hanson (00-15)

Chrissie graduated from Birmingham University in December 2019 with a Masters Degree in International Law, Ethics and Politics with a Distinction.

Her Masters Degree followed on from a Degree in English Literature & Philosophy, also studied at Birmingham University where Chrissie graduated with a First in 2018.

Chrissie joined the school nursery, Ashdown Lodge in 2000 aged 3 and moved up the school to Brontë House where she became Head of House in Year 6 and then on to Woodhouse Grove in 2008.

Whilst at the Grove, she immersed herself in all the school had to offer, excelling not only with her academic ability but also in sport and the performing arts.

After 4 years of study Chrissie, with her partner Chloe, is now working in Birmingham and is looking to secure work experience within law enforcement. After this they hope to settle back in Leeds where Chrissie intends to pursue a career with the security intelligence services perhaps

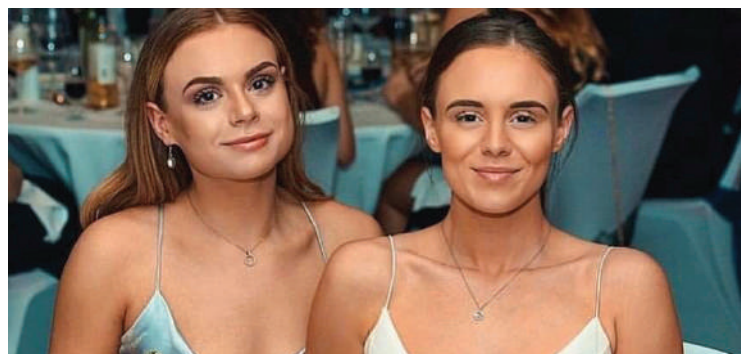


Megan Jessop-Saunders (09-16)

Megan now has her degree in Adult Nursing from Edinburgh University and has started work as a Staff Nurse at Edinburgh Royal Hospital on the Respiratory Ward.

Niamh Jessop-Saunders (09-17)

Niamh was awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Forensics and Criminology this summer from Northumbria University.



Ellie Kildunne (11-16)

Ellie Kildunne has been busy training as part of the England XV rugby squad who enjoyed Six Nations success. In this clip below Ellie is scoring for her new club, Wasps and regularly features on the Allianz Premier XV try of the week with her incisive running.



Daniel Francis (18-20)

This month, February 2021, Daniel Francis (18-20) signed to play football for German club RW Ahlen. Daniel has been a midfielder with Bradford City where he played for their U18's whilst studying at WGS for sixth form. A determined young man who overcame a knee injury at the end of last season to take this opportunity, we wish him all the best with his new club.



Abbie Nott (11-20)

Abbie is currently on a gap year, which looks slightly different to how she thought it would at the start of 2020, but is enjoying it nonetheless. Abbie had originally intended to volunteer overseas, but has decided to do this after university instead, as the pandemic put paid to doing it any sooner. Instead, she has been doing an online program called Global Citizen Year Academy, with lots of other students on gap years from around the world. This includes courses on leadership and how global societies work, which has been really interesting.

Abbie has been leading a book club with members from over 15 countries as part of this program too, which has been a great way of keeping up with English which she plans to study next year at Oxford. She has also had the chance through this to become an intern with Take Action Global, an educational non-profit, working on their Climate Action Project with classrooms on every continent.

Abbie was awarded the Friends of Woodhouse Grove's Scholarship award and will use the money towards her travel plans next year. She is hoping to au pair in Germany and has recently accepted a Camp America placement for the summer. Fingers crossed these will be possible!



Retirees

Arnie Sidebottom: Cricket Professional (St 07-20)

It is no coincidence that Arnie's time as Cricket Professional at Woodhouse Grove School was probably the most successful cricketing period in the recent history of the School. Arnie took over the role from Graham Roope in 2007, having already had an extremely successful playing and coaching career with Yorkshire CCC and also receiving an England test cap against Australia in the 80's. The timing of Arnie's appointment proved to be excellent with the School having a very talented group of young players and an excellent leader in the shape of Ben Brown. Arnie adapted quickly to the demands of school cricketers rather than those of professional players. His knowledge was outstanding and his ability to identify and correct faults, particularly with the bowlers, would prove to be most valuable over the next 14 years.



Success on the field was quickly realised with numerous Yorkshire Cup successes and several ventures to North of England finals days. The 1st XI also progressed to the North of England T/20 Final for the first time in 2012 and again in 2015 and 2016. However, without doubt the biggest achievement was becoming National T/20 Champions in 2014 when both Tonbridge and Millfield were defeated in the finals day at Arundel Castle CC with Woodhouse Grove becoming the first northern school to lift the trophy! During that season, the 1st XI also won all 18 completed matches with Captain Dylan Budge leading front the front. It was a memorable season and an achievement that Arnie was particularly proud of.

Arnie developed an additional role at Brontë House, experiencing the rewards and challenges of working with some of the youngest pupils on a range of different activities and skills. Arnie, as always, approached this with his positive and professional attitude.



The development of Association football at Woodhouse Grove gave Arnie a further opportunity to pass on his considerable knowledge acquired during a career at Manchester United, Huddersfield Town and Halifax Town. Arnie was a particularly competitive, highly motivated and vocal football coach on the touchline during the Spring Term.

During his 14 years at Woodhouse Grove Arnie was involved in four Senior Cricket tours to the Caribbean and proved to be an outstanding tourist, whilst also having to maintain a significant coverage of the highest factor sun lotion! Not particularly known for relishing umpiring duties, Arnie did take on the role during the 2019 tour to Barbados and St Lucia when the Master i/c Cricket was recovering from surgery.

I have been privileged to have worked with Arnie for the past 14 years and have many great memories that will last a lifetime. Sincere thanks to him for his effort and commitment and the huge impact that he has had on the standard of cricket at the Grove.

Bone et Fidelis.

R I Frost (St 86-20) Master i/c Cricket 1994-2019

Julie Russell (St 03-20)

Julie joined the Grove back in 2003 and she says that she only got the job of teaching IT because she could do something else: swimming. Since then, she was a one-woman department and despite several software upgrades, the hardware has remained the same: a dedicated and hardworking member of staff, guiding hundreds of students through the delights of WORD, DATABASES, ENCRYPTION, COMPUTER CODE, and ALGORITHMS.

Julie was in charge of swimming at the Grove alongside Louise Watson for many years. Many will remember the old swimming pool (now the Morton Hall) and instead of all 6 houses going at once at is it now, it was two legs of three houses. The spreadsheet of all results afterwards was a marvel of mathematical, enigmatic mystery. As part of her role on the side of the pool, Julie accompanied many swimmers to the training camps in Barcelona and Majorca. Out of the pool, she was an active member of the school's D of E (for which she is an assessor) and Adventure Days.



Colleagues who sit around "that table" in the corner of the staff room will always miss her good humour, friendship and honesty! The cruciverbalists will miss her passion for completing the Telegraph crossword.

Julie retired on her actual birthday! As a keen walker, she is looking forward to exploring more of the glorious Yorkshire countryside and embarking upon a new career in dry-stone walling!

Mr Andrew Crawford (St 91-)

Gareth Williams (St 03-20)

Gareth Williams joined Woodhouse Grove in September 2003 as a teacher of physics and KS4 science coordinator after moving from Newcastle. Within a few years he became Head of Science, a role that he performed with incredible dedication until he retired in the summer of 2020.

Gareth was meticulous in all that he did – from intricate diagrams on the board that required a qualification in technical drawing to copy, to the most admired (or feared depending on your ICT skills) colourful spreadsheets one could imagine. Pupils knew him as a caring and supportive teacher and they benefitted greatly from his sharp intellect, extraordinary subject knowledge, compassion and occasionally his dry sense of humour. In his early years at The Grove he ran the climbing club – a sport in which he and his wife were both very experienced and which took them to many parts of the world. Before school had it's own climbing wall, Gareth took pupils to Leeds Climbing wall to help them improve their skills.



Although Gareth was always professional in front of the students, there was occasionally a glint of mischievousness in his eye. When he was in that kind of mood you learnt to hide your possessions otherwise you would find your boots in the fridge, your cup of tea taped up, 100g masses weighing down your bag or your keys hanging from the ceiling. Gareth also knew how to lift the spirits of his department and, as the end of term approached and weariness had set in, bacon sandwiches were incredibly well received by all!

Gareth had a fantastic knowledge of the English language – something that he tried (and failed) to pass on to his colleagues in the physics department. He could often be found in 'Crossword Corner' completing the cryptic crossword at lunchtime with other members of staff of similar intellect. He was also Chair of the Staff Association for a few years and regularly gave his time to help others, taking extra cover lessons and additional after-school duties if anyone was struggling.

It is fair to say that Gareth has not had the retirement 'do' that he deserves due to lockdown and we hope we can celebrate his time at The Grove sometime in the future. Many pupils also missed their chance to say a proper farewell to Gareth.

Thank you for everything you have done during your time at The Grove and I now must say, Gareth, 'Uncle Gareth', 'Big G', you are a true friend and will be missed by everyone at The Grove. All the very best to you and Marina and wishing you a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Jane Edgar (St 03-)

Beauty in Diversity



I grew up in an industrial town on the North East coast in a homogenous society. Everyone I knew was white, Christian and politically left. I cannot recollect meeting anyone who was not white British until I went to high school and I was at college before I met someone of a different faith to myself. It is fair to see that my exposure to multiculturalism was limited. However, I am living proof that one's background does not have the final say on how one embraces diversity, because I believe that the societies that are the most vibrant, creative and progressive are heterogeneous.

One of the strengths of our school is that it is a very diverse multicultural community. Not only do we speak different languages, we practice different faiths, love different people, support different politics and come from different socio-economic backgrounds. As a result of this we think, live our lives, and express our thoughts differently which not only promotes acceptance, but it enables our school to thrive. I cannot think of a safer place to be exposed to such a beautifully, wide ranging, eclectic group of people to share ideas with. I love this about school life and feel that our lives are made richer through learning and living alongside a variety of different people.

This new academic year I have joined the school's 'Equality and Diversity' group and I am looking forward to the many opportunities we have at Woodhouse Grove to promote dialogue between our different faiths and cultures. Understanding comes from listening and sharing and we can learn so much from observing the friendships our young people invest their time and energy into. One of the best examples I have of this is in the girls' boarding house. On one particular corridor in Miller we have ten girls that come from six different countries, speak different languages, have different faiths, lifestyles, interests yet they have formed strong bonds and friendships. They laugh and cry together and support and encourage one another. They have much to teach society about inclusion, acceptance and love.

Oh, and did I mention that I was beaten at scrabble by a year eleven student for whom English is a second language. I not only appreciate but celebrate our diversity and thank God for our wonderful mix of unique people.

Rev Atkins (St 19-)
School Chaplain

Life in Miller during a pandemic...

The 20th March 2020 is etched into my brain as the weirdest day in my career so far; all colleagues will agree that the preceding and proceeding days are unlike any they have experienced.

To experience those few days as the Head of a Boarding house, I felt a brand new heightened sense of anxiety and tension, as our girls were dispatched to all corners of the globe – some in an incredible degree of haste and panic. After a fraught few days of phone calls to embassies, airlines, parents and guardians, all of our girls made it (eventually) to their destination. They, and us, were moving away from the safety and security of all we knew – both metaphorically and literally. Girls being turned away at country borders, having to use repatriation flights and not knowing what awaited them at the other end, were all very real concerns and hurdles to us and them.

Fast forward to September 2020, and we finally got to open our house again – to brand new and returning boarders. Life in Miller was turned on its head – the cosy chats on the sofas, the games nights, the trips to do exciting weekend events, help from the 6th formers with your Chemistry prep; even socialising with Brodwell – all on pause. We had to quickly learn to live at school in a whole new way – and wow – how they have done a fantastic job. I often think that those who knew what the “systems” were like before – be that any aspect of school life, are often hit the hardest when change happens. Boarding was no different. I have been so overwhelmed by the positivity that the girls have shown in the face of such change.

Birthdays are still celebrated, activities still happen – albeit differently – and the most fundamental concept is key to this; the adaptability and willingness from pupils and staff alike to “get on with it”. As it turns out, this isn't just fundamental to being from Yorkshire, or British, it's a people thing and embodies life here at Woodhouse Grove

Caroline Pearce (94-99, St 06-)

Head of Miller House (Girls' Boarding)



Lockdown Reflections

‘The day where all the lives over the UK came to a standstill’. On the 16th March, the Prime Minister announced the National Lockdown. It was being announced to us straight after school, so all the boarders rushed back to the House, curious and confused on what the future had ahead. We watched together waiting for those words ‘You must stay at home’ as mixed emotions flew around the room. I packed and got organised the next day as I was departing for longer than I expected.

As a local boarder I was picked up and made the long journey home back up north. On the way back home, I pondered on what was going to happen, how long lockdown was going to be, what was online school going to be like? All these emotions travelled through my head as being a Y10 student at the time it may have impacted highly on GCSEs and my future. I was afraid and excited at the same time. Luckily, I adapted to the new school life quickly, but it was very tough to start with. The atmosphere in the classroom compared to online learning was very different, in class you have a teacher to support you and one to one help, but when faced with remote learning, I was reliant on self-study.

I enjoyed this as I felt I could do the work at my own pace and really got to understand the subject specifics. As a Y10 student I faced a bit of pressure hearing that GCSEs had been cancelled that year which motivated me to work harder to improve my focus during school. I never found myself really bored at home because of where I live and siblings to keep me occupied. I watched the news most days to keep updated on current affairs, waiting to find out when I would be returning to school.

I was looking forward to going back to school as I think the atmosphere is great in and outside the classrooms. It was announced that students would return at the beginning of September. After a long five months I was finally going back to some sort of normality.

When September finally arrived, I was a bit apprehensive but excited to see my friends again. In boarding, we had to adapt to new routines very quickly, but as we were all in it together, we helped each other through. Trial exams were coming up, the other boarders and staff really helped me to maintain focus. We revised together most evenings and supported each other like brothers would. This made me recognise the value of a close nit boarding community, demonstrating resilience through unprecedented times. This highly unusual year has brought us closer together as part of a much wider Grovian family.



Samuel Sui

Year 11 – UK Boarder

Time passes very quickly, now I am nearly halfway through Year 11. After Christmas, it is mock exams. Looking back over the past 8 months, it was like a surprising movie - dramatic. From the end of March to the start of September, for me, it has been the strangest period of my life.

On the 16th March 2020, a national lock down was announced in the UK. I felt a sigh of relief and delight, this

was because school would shut down for a long time, so no work! I thought this meant a lot to me during that period, I was exhausted because of preps and lessons, but also preparing for tests and exams after the Easter holiday. So, my mind was eased and relaxed when I was packing my stuff, though the process needed to be speedy because the government announced the lock down in with very little notice to move.

I called my parents to discuss where I was going. I am an international student so I think most of you would expect that I would be going back to Hong Kong, this was not the case. They made this decision because the situation was very uncertain at the time. My family considered other factors, like the risk of becoming infected on the plane and the unbelievable price of the flight ticket!! Therefore, they decided it was better to stay in the UK. After this type of conversation, most overseas students may have had a 'mental break down', like "who wants to be stuck in a foreign country for several months and do nothing?". To be honest, I was a little bit down after I heard this news but not very stressed, this was mainly because I was very lucky that I've got my auntie, uncle and her 4 cousins living in the UK. However, it was sad when I said goodbye to other Hong Kong students because we would be separated for a long time. But I knew I would not be lonely, and that was very important.

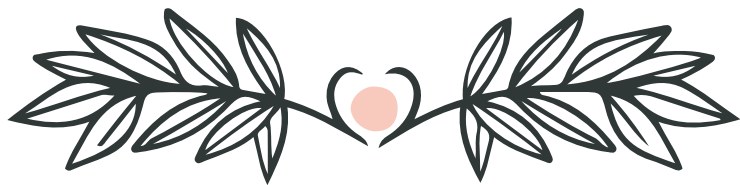
During the first few weeks in lock down (in the Easter Holidays), everything seemed perfect! I woke up late (I mean very late); no prep nor revision, some light reading and exercise. I was really enjoying the "holiday" at the beginning. But it soon dawned on me that some hard work was around the corner.

April came, school started virtual learning through Microsoft teams. This was the time I realised the purpose and the importance of lessons in the classroom. At first everything was fine, I attended the lesson, handed in the prep with no overdue, but the problem was there are some question that I didn't know how to explain to the teachers, which I could just point out when I was in the classroom, especially subjects that I was not familiar with like Geography.

I was glad that all my teachers were being very patient, and they answered every question in detail. I want to give my thanks to all my subject teachers who worked so hard to support me from afar. In July, school was officially finished, and it was summertime, everything was almost identical to the lock down period. Sometimes I did feel lonely because it was a long holiday and I was not at home, which could be tough. But I had been talking with friends that had gone back to HK, whether it was about academics or the activities they had been doing, they had always been supportive.

Finally, the school reopened in September. All of the borders had returned, although we had not seen each other for a long time, I didn't feel any strangeness, but only more united than ever before. We might not necessarily talk to each other all the time, but we could always give a hand when each other need it. This was especially true when we were doing the trial exams. All my friends would revise together (most of the time it was me helping them. But this was an example that we were "bonded" to each other, like a family.

It is nearly Christmas, some of the HK boarders are going back, some are not. I understand the loneliness when missing the chance to spend time with family. However, I am confident that things will work because we have grown to be resilient, we will be able to achieve anything when we work together because we are a Grove family.



Obituaries

Anthony James Nigel Wood (45-51)

Tony passed away on 28th March 2020 aged 85. After winning a scholarship to the Grove at thirteen he left school at seventeen to work in London in the Civil Service and to do his National Service. He returned to Yorkshire soon after and enjoyed a long and happy life.

He always spoke highly of Woodhouse Grove School and looked back fondly on his school days. He was proud that all three grandchildren could attend the school. A full obituary on Tony will feature in our next edition.

Peter Anthony Johnson (51-58)

Informed by Peter's wife Rena.

Peter died on the 15th Sept 2019. He attended Brontë House from the age of 8 and upon leaving the Grove went on to attend Bradford College. Peter then joined the family business as a coloured top maker and when his father retired he became a junior buyer at Empire Stores, Bradford and then moved to become jewellery buyer. The family business started up again with wife Rena at the helm, and they eventually ran it together from Halifax. He became a Halifax magistrate which he enjoyed and especially loved cars and following F1 motor racing. In later years he overcame cancer, but a few years after was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and dementia.



Peter leaves wife Rena, daughter Francine, son Miles and four grandchildren.

Christopher Micklethwaite (51-59)

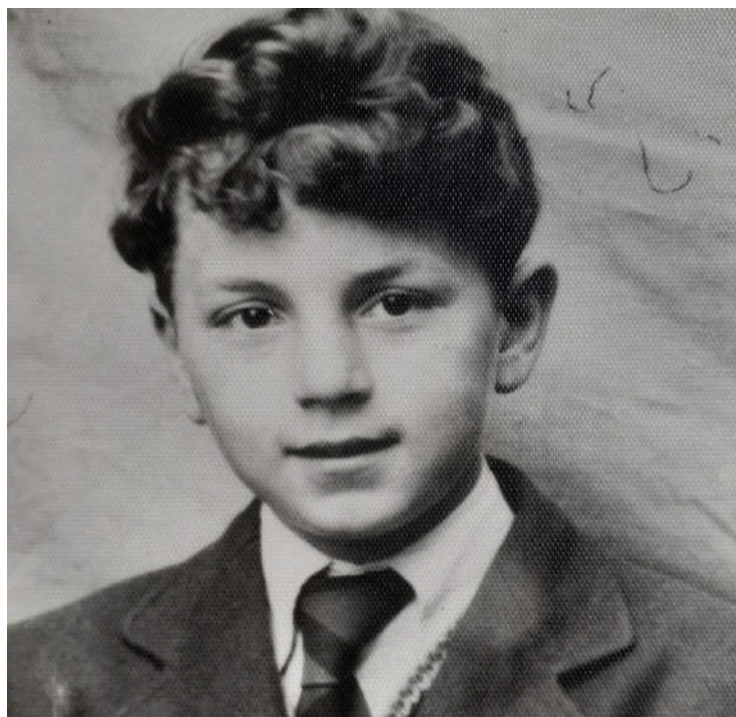
Late of Rawdon, Bradford and Sleaford, Christopher died 7 April 2020. (Informed by Andrew Micklethwaite)

Christopher had worshipped at the chapel with his parents even before joining the Grove. He hated sport, but loved art, music and theatre and, as a pacifist was relieved to miss National Service, going to Durham to read French with Latin.

Christopher followed a Christian Vocation into teaching, serving many years at Lapage School Bradford. He worshipped at St Margaret's Parish Church in Thornbury but never forgot his Wesleyan heritage. He championed reading to children through Bradford Library and even read at public events in the Arndale Shopping Centre.

He and his late wife Jane moved to Lincolnshire in 1996 and had many contacts with their community especially through the churches, museum and heritage societies. He organised the local Christian Aid collection and taught art in the U3A. Christopher's home always resembled a grand house of about 1880 with his collection of objects, antiques and 10,000 books. However, it was a house of welcome, not only to his children (Andrew and Felicity), but to many visitors from home and abroad and, for a while, a foster child.

Christopher loved the Gospel he had heard at WGS and will be rejoicing in eternal light with Old Grovians. He leaves 5 grandchildren and a legacy of education, art appreciation and storytelling.



Kenneth A. Milnes – 1928 - 2020 School Governor

Informed by Martin Milnes (65-74)

Ken Milnes will be remembered as a hard working supporter of the School, who as governor made an invaluable contribution through bringing emphasis to the importance of good relations between the governing body and staff. He was the founder member and first Chair of The Friends of Brontë House and was instrumental in the fund raising efforts which delivered the then Cricket Pavilion under Headmaster Dick Hemsley.

Born in Bradford, it was whilst at primary school he was taught the rudiments of singing which led in time to being selected at the age of 9 for St Paul's Cathedral Choir School in September 1938 from where he was evacuated to Cornwall at the outbreak of war the following year. Singing and music were to become a significant part of his life leading to many musical productions with The Bradford Players at The Alhambra Theatre in the 1960s. One of his highlights was as the lead, Hajj The Poet in the musical Kismet, where the prominent local press wrote; "this was one of the finest performances I have ever witnessed on the amateur stage...".

After leaving Choir School in 1943 he continued his education at Denstone College in Staffordshire and then Bradford Technical College before National Service with the RAF from 1947-49; after which he began a career in textiles culminating in directorships with Bradford based Parkland Textiles Group when UK manufacturing of textiles was at its height. The Group made textiles for well-known high street multiples such as Burtons, M&S and Next who's founder George Davis visited the School by helicopter ahead of meetings at the Greengates based company. He decided that retirement was looming the day they put a computer on his desk!

Married to Anne in 1954 they had two sons, Martin and Graham, who were both boarders at Bronte House and Woodhouse Grove in the 60s-70s.

Kenneth Milnes will be remembered as a remarkable man who had an inspiring and endearing manner that always got the best out of people.



Roger Craven (52-56)

Roger's brother Martin Craven (58-62) got in touch to inform us of the passing of his brother who died on 1st February 2020. He boarded at The Grove from January 1952 until April 1956. During that time he ran away several times but after leaving school he did National Service with the Army in Germany, and then returned to Bradford to work at Christopher Pratts furniture store. He signed up at the Braybrooks Dance Academy, which he remembered from his days at the Grove, where he had the good fortune to be taught by Judy Raines. They were married in

1963, and had three children, Nicholas, Angela and Richard. He is survived by Judy, Nicholas and Angela, Richard predeceased him.

Peter D Eckersley (57-63)

Peter was born on 18th September 1945 in a Horsforth maternity hospital.

I first met him at the Grove in 1957 where he was awarded a scholarship via the entrance exams. We were in the same form. The Headmaster was Dr Pritchard – other teachers I remember were Mr Jones for English, Mr Bolt for Maths, Mr Auty for Chemistry, Mr Windle for Physics & Mr Bairstow for PE. Peter played both rugby & cricket through school. In the 6th Form he took Arts, he was always interested in languages particularly French & German. He then joined the Civil Service for 4 years, initially working as a clerk reporting on court proceedings before progressing to auditing court houses within a 150 miles radius of Leeds.

After various part-time jobs he emigrated to South Africa in November 1968 and started work at the company Remington Rand in Johannesburg as a debtor's clerk before rising to Manager which involved travel to Rhodesia & Zambia, which he loved.

In 1972, Peter returned to the UK and started work at Glens Removals as a credit manager. Eventually progressing to Divisional Manager and then onto the Board of Directors.

In March 1982, Peter met his future wife to be, Maimon whilst travelling to Singapore for a removals conference. It seemed to be the classic 'love at first sight across a crowded room'. He went back to Harare and assiduously wooed her, returning in June and marrying in July.

In 1985 they left Harare to return to the UK for a short time before opening a removals company in Lisbon, Portugal. He developed the international removals company that he owned, and was well regarded in the industry.



Throughout his life, Peter was heavily involved in cricket; playing at a club in central Harare and serving on the board of the Mashonaland Cricket Association and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union. After playing, he became an umpire rising to an official for some ECC tournaments. He was also the Portuguese cricket team manager.

Peter finally passed away on 21st September 2019, 3 days after his 74th birthday.

Peter had many adventures across the world, however, he (& I) look back fondly on our school days and now appreciate what a truly sound foundation the school.

Due to space constraints, this is an abridged version of the full obituary written by Graham Thompson (56 – 64) . If you wish to read the full account of Peter's fascinating life, please go to the Xaipete section of the school website woodhousegrove.co.uk

Lindsey Baker 1950 - 2020

Lindsey passed away suddenly last September, while on holiday in her beloved Cornwall with husband John (St 72-11). A member of the Grove resident community for 33 years, Lindsey ensured Grove Cottage was transformed from an at times draughty, cold house into a warm, welcoming family environment.

Lindsey and John raised their own three boys, Chris, Paul and Iain at Grove Cottage and it was very much "open house" for many Grove staff children who spent hours enjoying the large climbing frame located in the garden. Lindsey also took on a role as a foster carer during the late 1970s and early 80s and there may be some senior CDT students who recall being hastily re-deployed to build 5 bedframes for children who were cared for at short notice. School donated the mattresses to ensure the children had comfort in addition to a caring home. Lindsey and John met while studying to be teachers at Shoreditch, though Lindsey had previously worked as a house mother in a Children's home followed by a period of nursing at Alder Hey Hospital. Initially on moving to the Grove when John was appointed, she taught for several years in the Bradford Authority, before her fostering role and subsequent work as a maths tutor. Lindsey's cheery smile, combined with her warm and friendly nature will be fondly remembered by friends, colleagues and generations of Grovians. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and all the family, including their 6 grandchildren.



William Halstead (64-74)

Following his time at the Grove, William qualified as a chartered accountant with Coopers and Lybrand and worked for many years in their insolvency division. He later joined the family textile business working alongside his father and elder brother before becoming Managing Director. William is survived by his wife Katherine and children Thomas, Benji and Emily.



Andrew John Emmott (84-91)

Informed by brother Richard J Emmott (79-86) and sister Gillian Knowles (86-91)

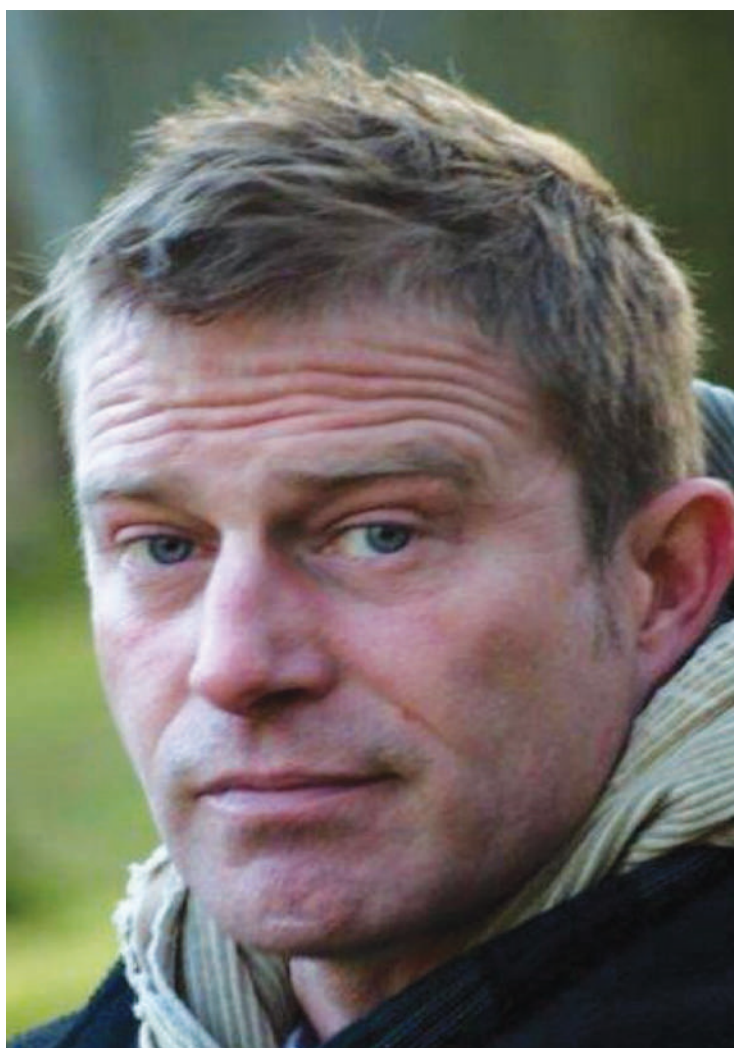
Andrew passed away in Harrogate on 21 March 2020 after a short illness aged 47. Although he lived a shorter life than most it would be fair to say that our brother lived his to the full.

Andrew was a proud Grovian and would often mention it to anyone. His love of books gave him a knowledge of subjects that not many could test, and his computer skills were second to none. Everything Andrew did was to the limit, his fixation with box sets, ranging from Jorvik times to travelling at warp speed across the Galaxy gave him plenty to discuss, with spoilers being a common occurrence.

Our brother was a lovable character with an infectious smile and a laugh that could be heard far away. He loved his rugby and suffered many injuries none of which, despite the medical advice to stop, prevented him from doing so. Andrew moved to Harrogate a few years ago and he loved his walks around Summerbridge, where he lived with his partner and her children.

Andrew leaves three children, sons Joshua and Jayden and daughter Rohan. He was also blessed with a grandson, Ethan; he adored and loved them all.

The family would like to thank the School and the Old Grovian community for the overwhelming support they have received - from the Headmaster to old boys all over the world and with special thanks to Roger Howard for his support.



David Barrow – (54-59)

Alan Benson – (39-44)

Peter Bush – (49-54)

Tony Hodgetts – (43-50)

Edward John Pratt – (52-57)

Howard Robert Timperley (42-48)

Ian Mackenzie Sunderland (40-47)

Albert Moreton Ellis (37-42)

Lockdown Music at the Grove

a technical look behind the scenes

Since March 2020 music co-curricular activities have been run online, as virtual performance projects, whilst soloists have submitted files for Wednesday Break-time concerts each week.

Concerts and services were initially complex to piece together with a few false starts but there was never any doubt that the music would continue. We were asked by a member of staff whether there was something the music department could do with Over the Rainbow, which in May was starting to emerge as the anthem to support frontline workers. And so...

A backing track was created by Dr Adam Longbottom (Visiting Music Teacher, OG and Music Technology guru) whilst a storyboard of what the video might look like was sketched by Mr Tedd (Director of Music).

Dr Longbottom mixed the video and audio with a somewhat impressive track count (dwarfed only by our recent O Come All Ye Faithful project). Contributions came in from pupils, parents, OG's and staff, with the video opened by James Lockwood outside the HM's entrance and Anthony Cadman in the quad. With over 14,000 views on Facebook and 1,500 on YouTube, this was quite a popular creation!



The 'tech' specifications:

Apple Mac-Based editing, the videos were mixed in Logic Pro X for all Rainbow's audio, and Premiere Pro for the video content. Performers recorded themselves on a camera phone or similar whilst playing the pre-recorded backing track in their own headphones to ensure they stayed in time without the track being heard by the recording device. The video of the performer is then uploaded to a shared folder and each video is split into separate video and audio tracks to be edited and mixed. The audio and video are treated separately until the very last stage of the mix.

After the success of Project Rainbow, Adam Longbottom (90-00), Jonny Knight (08-15) and Tim Brickel (drum teacher) continued to edit and mix tracks for music events including Leavers' Weekend (Xaipete and The Lord Bless you and Keep You), summer concert, a drummers' concert and the Brontë House Solo Singers' Concert.

The first step to any video is the recording. During lockdown this was done with variable success by pupils own phones, but once school re-opened Miss Meredith-Walne (Performing Arts Technician) and Mr Tedd set up in quieter corners of the Davy block rather than the purpose built, but restricted space of the recording studio. The biggest challenge being to create a separate audio whilst eliminating noise from passing trains, pupils playing in the yard or even the sounds of the catering trolley heading to the HLG! Separate audio gives better clarity in the mix but require a time sync to be recorded at the start of each track (much like film clapperboards) to ensure the audio and video match up perfectly and can be stitched back together in post-production.

Once everything has been recorded, the editing starts. The video is cut up as needed and colour corrected to really make everything stand out or to tone it down in some cases! The sound quality of each video is adjusted to remove excess background noise and to bring out the best frequencies in the audio. The various videos are then layered on top of each other trying to synch them all up so they are in time to create the penultimate version of the video.

Once the audio is mixed and the videos all edited, stacked and synched the final tweaks such as logos, titles, fade-ins and outs, and overall mastering levels (a uniform volume) are added and adjusted and then it's ready to upload.

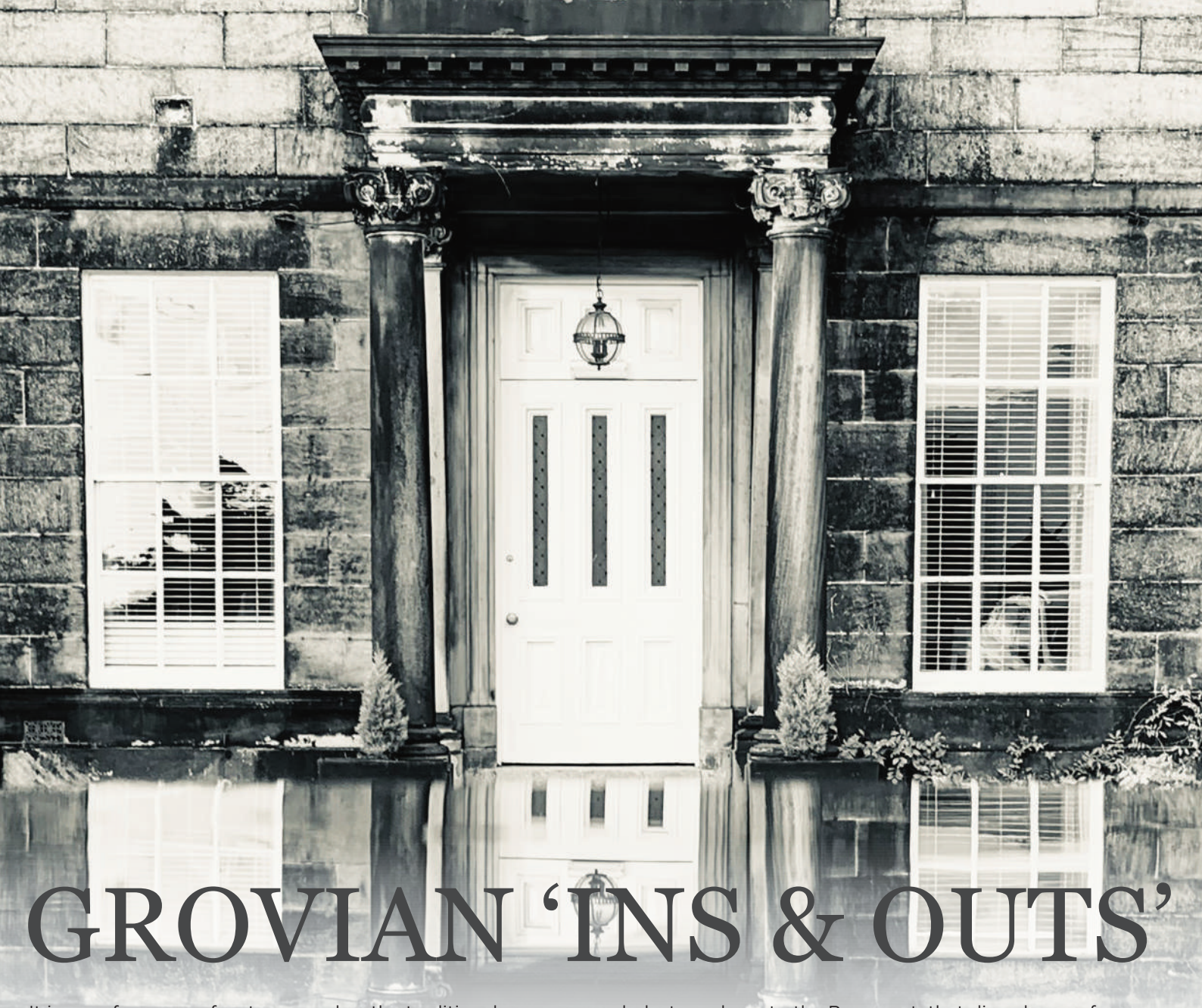
Since September the key musical projects have been a full, virtual Remembrance Day service with last post, sermon, readings and prayers alongside choral items and an organ voluntary, immediately followed by work on the Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Concert and even a short Christmas Eve Service. These items were all planned, recorded and mixed to ensure that the school can continue to perform and worship despite the restrictions on physical gatherings.

N.B. The recent O Come All Ye (Good and) Faithful project included over 200 audio/video tracks and many additional still images which some might say was perhaps more than one should reasonably be expected to record and mix; however, Miss Meredith-Walne on camera and sound duty and the 'mixing elves' Jonny Knight and Dr Longbottom worked their magic for what is an impressive result.

We hope you have enjoyed many, or all of these projects. They can be viewed on the school You Tube channel or via the School Facebook page.

Mr Phillip Tedd (St 09-)

Director of Music and The Performing Arts.



GROVIAN 'INS & OUTS'

It is easy for many of us to remember the traditional approach to the School along the front drive. I have always appreciated the iconic image that has often been used to promote the Grove, the use of the photo of the front door which stands slightly ajar as a welcome to visitors. I have used that door many times, but certainly not in my school days when it was strictly out of bounds and even now when I use it I almost feel as if I may be trespassing.

I have noticed too the out-sized wooden door handle and have wondered who made it? I can't believe it is contemporary with the door - perhaps years ago it was a product of Hector Lamb's wood-work shop?

I hope this piece does not seem too nostalgic but it is just my view of long-remembered exits and entrances at the Grove, memories which I hope will strike a chord with some of my contemporaries and perhaps for some younger Grovians as well.

From the front door you join the long, once fully tiled corridor, along which we walked three times a day to the Dining Hall with two prefects in place to supervise us, as in those days we were walking through the Head's family home. Turning right from the front door we immediately passed the Head's study which, during F C Pritchard's day, had a solitary red bulb which shone to warn everyone when he was not to be disturbed. Then through two swing doors passing the

dark steps down to the Basement, that dismal area of personal lockers and changing rooms including, in my day, a large communal bath used after rugby games. The whole area with its stone floor has a large reinforced steel girder roof as it was used as the School's air raid shelter during the Second World War.

Entering the Quad, the immediate building on the left is part of the original Grove estate with its Georgian symmetry, rounded windows and central door which for many years led to the overcrowded, smoke filled staff room.

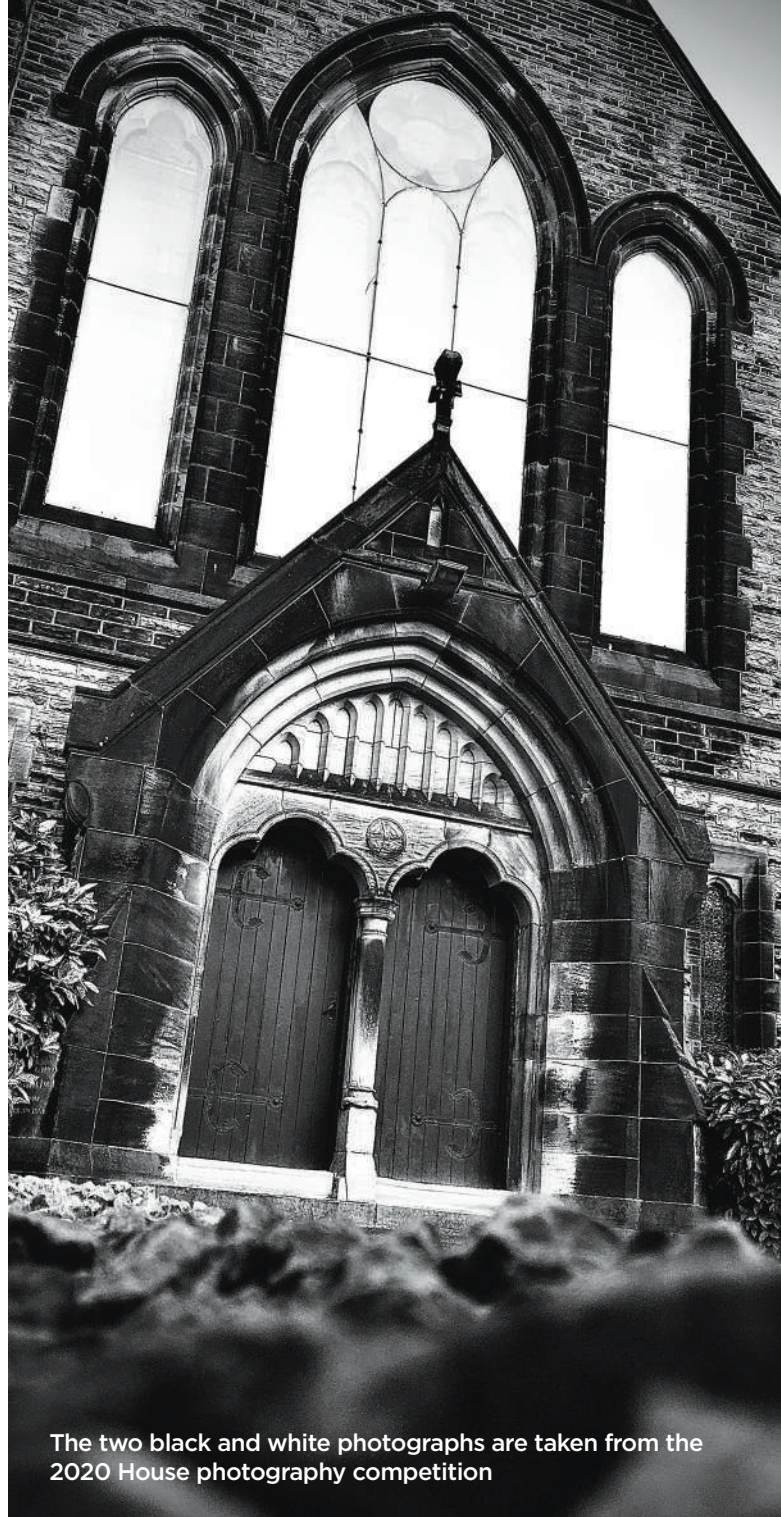
Around to the right, just past the rope for the school bell, is a blocked up doorway which was formerly the entrance to the day boy's lobby. It was also the scene of my only Grovian fight when I retaliated to an older boy who had taken a dislike to me and somehow caught him heavily on his nose.... game over!

Across the quad is another doorway up two steps, on which the prefects would congregate and have bantering chats at 'break'. In my early days, this was where the school dispensary was located, where you could be seen by Sister Hutchinson for minor ailments, rather than going up to the 'San'. Sister was a diminutive figure with a powerful personality, dressed in a traditional blue nurse's uniform complete with a white apron and long white nurse's cap, she dispensed a dark brown liquid from small wine-like glasses.

I remember it tasted like an amalgam of sweet sherry and Bovril....perhaps it was....it was just called the 'cough and cold' mixture.

Just across from that room was the door of the School Pre's room occupied during my last year by several friends including Richard Eckersal, David Dickinson, David Stephens, Tony Hitchen, Tony Beezer and myself. It was a cosy room with an open coal fire on which, with a toasting fork, we made mountains of hot-buttered toast. Occasionally, rather rashly, we made a form of primitive toffee by plunging a red-hot poker into a bowl of sugar which created clouds of smoke.... what do you mean 'Health and Safety'?

Above the door to the kitchens were two junior dormitories, West 1 and West 2, separated by a master's room. The privations being experienced by present day Grovians because of the Covid-19 virus, though extremely serious, are not entirely unique. During the autumn term of 1953 a boy went home on leave and returned to school with a highly contagious bacterial skin infection which swept through the whole school community. In those days the only remedy was to paint the affected body areas with gentian violet, a blue antiseptic dye - we must have looked quite comic. One of the Naylor brothers had his head completely shaved to aid his recovery. The two junior dorms were used as isolation wards and as we recovered we were sent home and the whole school was closed by the end of November.



The two black and white photographs are taken from the 2020 House photography competition

David McCarthy had joined the staff in September from Downing College in Cambridge for one term's teaching experience and bravely occupied the master's room which had two connecting doors between the isolation wards. FCP must have been so impressed with David's contribution during those difficult weeks because he offered him a permanent position at the Groveand the rest is history!

Finally for me, is the memory of those welcoming double Chapel doors through which we passed morning and evening every Sunday.

So much coming and going for Grovian friends down the years, so many memories!

'Word of joy with kindness spoken,
Telling of a bond unbroken.....'
XAIPETE!

ROGER DAVY MBE (47-57)



FAMILY BUSINESS HELPS THE CAUSE

OG Hannah Westbury (nee Cummins) (93-98) contacted us to give an update on what her family business, Ernest Cummins has been doing during the pandemic to aid the cause...

During Covid-19 The UK Government put out a plea to anyone who could make PPE to manufacture asap and to help the pandemic. Our machinery allowed for this and with help from a Government Advisor and some zoom meetings with

Scientists and liaison with local hospitals, for whom we already print, we began diversifying from Print into Medical products such as face visors. We called the new division www.ppemadeinuk.com.

Our Visors are designed to NHS procurement Technical data specification requirements and EU regulations. We designed two mask sizes; Junior as modelled by my daughter Annabelle Westbury and Adult size modelled by me in the local news. We produced two foam options, a wipeable version for those in industries which work under heat such as Hairdressers and a non wipeable for single use PPE and a more economical item for use in areas such as Pharmacies and medical practices partaking in Flu Jabs. We designed retail packs for Garden Centres, Shopping Centres and Chain Stores for individuals to buy who prefer a clear visor which protects against water droplets and splashes and who require air circulation therefore prefer this option to a mask. The visor allows for Lip Reading and facial recognition which is perfect for schools.

We also, as a print shop brought out a new range of cards called Unity Cards. From every pack sold, 25p is given to Manorlands, a local hospice who because of Covid were struggling and rely on sponsorship and donations and Sue Ryder shops which were closed. They are Postcards and Folding Cards with Envelopes. Little pocket hugs for people to keep in touch with loved ones when they drop their shopping off etc. These were sold in the local Post Office by Smylah and Rekha. Just a little something to brighten someone's day and make them smile. I offered an over print service for the Visors and Unity Cards which has proved very popular especially with businesses too.

I am really pleased we have been able to help the crisis in a positive manner.



Swimming the Gulf of Corryvreckan

George Orwell didn't get much wrong but the tides of the Corryvreckan nearly did for him. He was lucky to escape with his life. So no pressure James Richards (83-91).

It was James' job to tell us when it was safe to go in the water and James being a thorough planner - product of a Woodhouse Grove education? - consulted far and wide, because there is no margin for error.

The gulf of Corryvreckan separates Jura, once Orwell's home, from Scarba, two of the islands that make up the jigsaw of land and sea on Scotland's west coast. It's only a mile across at its widest... and still manages to be the third largest whirlpool in the world.

Pick your guidebook and it's described as "potentially dangerous", "very dangerous" and that's for those in boats! The swimming description of it is "only for the courageous." And four of us were swimming it in September, meeting 10.30am sharp at the north pier, Oban as we can't miss the tide.

We are experienced open-water swimmers, that's what comes of living with Loch Lomond over the hill. But the legendary Corryvreckan is a swim that challenges the mind as much as any swimming ability. Sea swimming is as different to swimming in the loch as loch swimming is removed from the pool.

We stand in the boat, wetsuits on, adjusting goggles and bright orange tow floats, and wondering how it's possible for the other side to be getting further away. Above us a pair of sea eagles fish the gulf. "An omen," decides Rachel, our spotter and another Grovian. It's vital to have a spotter, the rise and fall of the waves hide a swimmer in a moment. Every

detail matters. "Off you go," orders our skipper who knows the waters really well, "No hanging around, you've got 40 minutes."

Surprise number one; it's not cold. The water's a milky green, you can see far beneath you but then it keeps going, down and down... don't think that. Just swim.

Stroke, pull, breathe, stroke, pull, breathe. Stop. Look around. Breathtaking. Never felt more alive. The waves roll in from the west. Sometimes you breathe just as one breaks and get a mouthful of salt water. A jellyfish floats by. Stifle a yelp. I'm scared of jellyfish. Stuart confesses afterwards he had to convince himself he hadn't seen a fin (orcas had been spotted in the area). The challenge to the mind. Stuart and James are making good progress. The boat's reassuring presence bobs nearby.

In sea swimming there's often a moment when you feel you're going nowhere, but this was going like clockwork. The sun shone and here comes Jura. I try to swim up to the others, but now the Cailleach Bheur has her say.

She's the goddess of winter in these parts, this is her patch. I was beginning to think this swim was easy so she gives a sign of her power. I can't stay off the rocks, the waves are too strong, cut my hand. Just a reminder of who's boss.

But it's done. The conditions were perfect, the plan perfect, the company perfect, the day perfect. And the Cailleach let us across. We've swum the Corryvreckan.

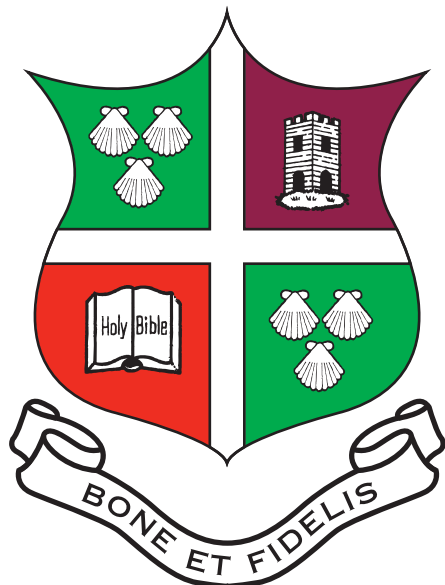
"You can plan till you're blue in the face, but the elements make it as much an art as a science," said James. "All you can do is train hard so that on the day, you fight easy."

James swam to raise money in memory of his friend Jim Simpson. And he got the tides right.

By Robin Scott-Elliot

Robin Scott-Elliot's new book, the Acrobats of Agra, an historical adventure for 9-14 year olds, is out now.





Old Grovian Association AGM 2020

Southerns Trustees Update

At the end of last year it was decided to hold the 116th Southern Trustees Meeting in late April 2020-the main business being to interview those members of Year 13 who wished to be considered for Leavers' Awards. Unfortunately the coronavirus intervened.

After receiving copies of the letters of application much later in the year, the Trustees were able, by obeying the Covid restrictions at that time, to meet up with The Headmaster and Mr. Ed Wright - Deputy Head with responsibility for academic matters.

The quality of the 23 applicants was high, both in terms of academic ability and contributions made to all aspects of school activities.

As a result, the Southern Scholarship of £450 was awarded to Esther Bean who intends to read Architecture at Sheffield University in 2021. In addition, two Crabtree, two Nuttall, one Storr, and five Davy Book Awards were given, along with four Old Grovian Awards of £250. a grand total of £3,250.

We are pleased to report that the Scholarship Funds remain healthy with over £65,000 invested in the Charities Investment Fund. The Trustees wish to thank WGS Finance Officer, Mr. David Ainsworth for his help. Our thanks are also due to The Headmaster for his hospitality and help, to Mr Ed Wright, Mrs Claire Nott for her help with the applicants and to Mrs Rachel Dodds, the Headmaster's P.A.

The Trustees wish to put on record their very best wishes to all those going on to further education or work wherever that may be and to keep safe.

Every five years the Southern Trustees must retire en-masse and put themselves forward for re-election which occurs this year. The current Trustees are:

Mrs Kath Dawson (St 82-99)
Mr. Tony Bramwell (52-59)
Mrs. Jackie Darwin (St 02-16)

All wish to stand for re-election.

Old Grovian Association AGM 2020



OG RUFC Update

Dear Old Grovian colleagues and friends,

I don't think anyone reading this 12 months ago would have quite appreciated what the next 12 months had in store for us and the wider rugby community.

The 19/20 Season: even though it finished early, was our most successful season in Yorkshire 2 as we managed to carry on building on our solid foundations. The club managed to field a 2nd team during the season for the first time in many years as we continue to attract Old Grovians back to the club. We finished 8th in the table and were confident of improving our position further during the remainder of the season.

As always, we had a few weeks where the team was thin on the ground, but I'm pleased to report that John Hinchliffe continued to prove that age is only a number as he graced the field once more.

The key aim of the club off field was, and still is, to improve the club's facilities. So we were extremely pleased to be approached by Otley RUFC to join forces with them. We were due to play out of Cross Green during the 20/21 season. Old Grovians will continue to remain a club on its own, but it will now be based out of Otley and will have full use of their existing and new facilities that are due to be built over the next few years.

The club are very excited about this move and feel that it will not only help secure the future of the club, but also provide a pathway for players leaving WGS of all abilities to play at an appropriate standard of rugby.

Further details of this exciting development will be announced in due course.

The club continue to seek out new volunteers and will welcome people who want to help us make a success of Old Grovians RUFC.

If any ex Grovians would like to assist the club in anyway, please contact OldGroviansrugby@gmail.com

The continued support and help of WGS is greatly valued and special thanks must go again to Simon Wood for keeping Elm Tree Farm in tip top condition. In addition to this, Dan King, Joe Bedford and Nathan Barr continue to be huge supporters of the club and we can't thank them enough.

Once more the club wishes to send a hearty thanks to all OGA members for their generosity and support. Without this support the club would not exist - in return it pledges to uphold the true spirit, good sportsmanship and the tradition and good name of the school.

OGRUFC

Oxford Bound

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Abbie Nott, (leaver 2020), will be heading to Oxford University in September to read English Language and Literature at St Catherine's College.



St Catherine's – or "St Catz" – is well known for its open, friendly and diverse community amongst students, fellows and alumni. As a Grovian, who has experienced a similar community throughout her school life, we are sure Abbie will feel right at home.

You can read all about Abbie's gap year in *Where are they Now* on page 9.



Politics Live Link

There has been a huge effort to ensure that academic learning, co-curricular activities and pastoral support continued throughout lockdown. There are many examples, including problem solving in maths, language puzzles, geography projects, poetry recitals and pass the ball videos and challenges. Pupils are also missing out on trips, tours and learning experiences. However, not to be deterred, if students couldn't get to the Houses of Parliament, it came to us. Y12 and Y13 Politics students attended a live online session from Parliament enjoying a tour of Westminster, including the House of Lords and House of Commons and looking at the building itself, what goes on there and its History.

Look who's back!



During summer 2020 we welcomed back Shirley Crawford (or Mama Shirls to many of you) who has returned as Resident Girls Boarding House Tutor. Mama Shirls worked here for 10 years as Senior Nursing sister before leaving to fulfil what was, for her, a God-given dream to volunteer in Uganda. Sister Crawford spent seven years there volunteering on projects that have helped to improve the lives of local communities particularly through education and medicine. She is very excited to be back but will miss the people whose lives she has helped to transform as well as the weather and the mangoes & avocados growing in her garden!

England Opportunities



Congratulations to Ned Hawker, Y13 and Harriet King Y11. Ned was selected to attend the England Rugby North U18 Development Camp during October half term and Harriet has been selected into the England Netball Roses Academy Long Squad for 2021. Ned also featured, along with Freddy Clark in the PACS top 100 U18 rugby players in England to look out for.

Netball Round-Up

Earlier in the year, our U15 netballers had a great match against Redmaid's High, Bristol and won 43-35 in the quarter finals of the ISNC Cup. They competed against a very strong St Helen and St Katherine's side in the semi final, eventually losing 25-37. A great cup run and plenty of positives to take from this experience.

Cross Country Success



Congratulations to Maisey Bellwood (already Yorkshire and Northern U13 Girls Cross Country Champion) as she came 3rd in the Inter Counties in March helping Yorkshire to team silver. A great run by Archie Peaker coming home in 28th place, meant that the Yorkshire U13 boys also won team silver.

A Word from the Professionals



GB triathlete Lucy Hall and Old Grovian, Ellie Kildunne, part of the England Rugby squad and the successful 6 Nations grand slam winners, came into school earlier in the year to share their experiences of training and competing at a high level with our Grove Athlete Education Programme (GAEP) students.

More recently, Lucy also caught up with some of our cross-country and triathlon girls for a Q&A on Microsoft Teams. Lucy talked about training, preparing for races, balancing schoolwork with sporting commitments and the opportunities for women in sport.



Our cricketers were very excited when former England Cricket Captain Sir Alastair Cook joined them for a live Q&A session via zooms. Around 100 pupils from WGS and Brontë House attended and many had the opportunity to ask their own question. Sir Alastair offered a fascinating insight in to his career as well as some great advice for our cricketers.

Since this Q&A session, Head of Cricket, Mr Borrington has launched a series of fascinating cricket podcasts with guests including;

Grovian Kathryn Leng, the first girl to represent WGS 1st XI and Test Match Cricketer for England; Derbyshire CCC's Tom Wood; and our very own Mr Bedford, Mr Mantle, Mr Howard, Mr Crawford and Mr Wenham



Friends of Woodhouse Grove

Despite lockdown, Friends of Woodhouse Grove have worked incredibly hard, particularly over the Christmas period, to raise funds for school. Recent events which raised over £2,000 include the Christmas Raffle, virtual market and the WGS 2021 calendar using pupils' entries from the House photography competition. The Friends would like to say a huge thank you for all the support they have received this year and are looking forward to seeing everyone again at FOWG events in 2021.

You can find out more about events via:
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fowg1812>
Twitter @fowg1812
Instagram fowg1812
Email fowg1812@gmail.com



Not Just Travel

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>
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Email. anne.monaghan@notjusttravel.com

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