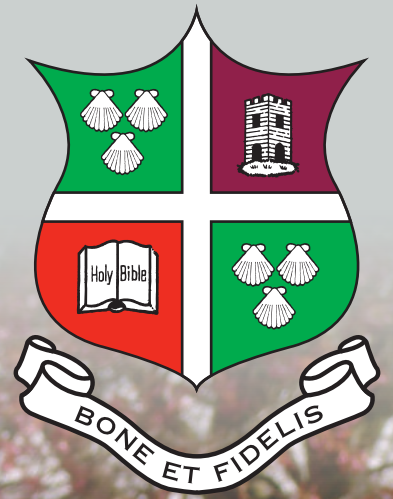


Χαίρετε



The Newsletter of the Old Grovian Association **Issue 32 Winter 2021/22**

Welcome from the Chair



Sarah Pickles (87-94)

As newly appointed Chair of the Old Grovian Association I am aware that I have very big shoes to fill. I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Keith Jones, not only for his work for the Association but also for being a true inspiration to all of us who have had the privilege of knowing him over the years. I know it has been a huge disappointment to Keith to have not been able to attend many of the planned events over the past few years. Hopefully this year we should be able to re-start these and make them bigger and better than ever!

The Grove has been a part of my life since I was 12 years old and I continue to have a very close network of friends that I made at the school. I am very much looking forward to organising Old Grovian events for the coming year, including working with the school to arrange Decade Reunions. I would like to encourage all those wavering about attending such reunions to come along – not only are these gatherings a lot of fun, it's actually quite humbling to realise what a wonderful community we have – and what a great privilege it is to be part of something so special. Speaking to colleagues, it's amazing how many people don't have such fond memories of their time at school and it's important for those of us that did to remember and cherish it.

The events of the last couple of years have really highlighted to me the importance of staying in touch with old friends – even when this had to be done via the dreaded Zoom. Whilst online teaching and learning are far from ideal, the use of technology over the last year has enabled us Old Grovians to experience current school life in a way that was previously not possible. As someone who very much enjoyed sports, performing arts and being part of the Choral Society when I was at the Grove, I have particularly enjoyed the online music collaborations that the school has produced. If you have not yet seen these, I would encourage you to take a look on the Woodhouse Grove YouTube channel.

Another exciting recent online development is the school's Digital Archive, featuring pictures of school life from across the years. All Old Grovians now have access to this and I hope that many of you have enjoyed using it, as I have. This will be a constantly evolving resource with new pictures being added on a regular basis. If you have not yet received your Digital Archive Login via email, please fill out a "Keep in Touch" form on the Woodhouse Grove website.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming year – either in person at events and reunions, or online within the Archive! In the meantime, I wish you and your families all the best for the coming year – and I hope you enjoy this latest edition of *Xaipete*!

Sarah Pickles (87-94)

Honorary Old Grovian....



There are very few people, that are not actually former pupils, that have done as much for the Old Grovian Association as Heather Garner.

Heather started taking the minutes at the OGA AGM in November 2000 to support her husband David (st71-02) who was in the role as Secretary. Following David's tragic death in 2002, Heather took over as Secretary.

After a staggering 19 years as OGA Secretary, Heather retired from the post last year after retiring from her position in the school in 2018. Her commitment and dedication to the Association has been truly phenomenal. It is fair to say that without her organisation, communication and passion for all things Grovian, many of our Old Grovian events over the years would not have been so successful.

Looking back through the OGA events sign in book, it was hard to find an event in the last 20 years that Heather did not attend! We know one of her particular favourites was the Scottish reunion where the whole family enjoyed time in the Highlands; but she always attended the Lancashire Reunion, the recently introduced Leavers' Reunion held at Christmas, along with all the annual reunions at school.

Heather has been a member of the Grove community for over 40 years and throughout that time she has given hours and hours of her time to support the school and the Old Grovian community. Her kindness, excellent organisation and support will be sorely missed.

We thank Heather for her 'bone et fidelis' service to the OGA and we hope that when restrictions lift we can thank her formally for her incredible and lengthy service to the Old Grovian Association.

Thank you Heather.

FOUNDATION

Update

The WGS Foundation has 'opened' again after a period of disruption due to the pandemic. We thank all of our supporters who have continued to donate through this difficult time, showing true empathy and support from our community.

Whilst specific fundraising projects will start to gain momentum throughout the year, the Foundation has received legacies, one off donations and several new donors have signed up to regular giving via standing orders over the last 12 months. The Foundation principle of "Paying it Forward" will be driven through our social media platforms and further communication over the year.

The events calendar of the OGA and Foundation remains on hold but we are hoping to release a programme of events for 2022 shortly; including a Golf day and a number of decade reunions at school along with regional events.

Ensuring our database is kept updated remains a priority and we will continue to drive this through media posts and Xaipete. Without the various events and reunions normally held throughout the year, our ability to connect physically over the last 18 months has been limited. We therefore urge the OG community to use whatever means they favour to "Update, Engage and Commit".

We are delighted to announce that our archive digitalisation has now launched. We hope that this fantastic resource will be welcomed by generations of Old Grovians.

As we have emerged out of Covid there have been some changes to the School Foundation Office. Roger Howard has stood down in his full time role as Foundation Director but will still be present on the Grove rugby pitches as he takes on the coaching of the mighty 2nd XV. Mrs Sarah Lockwood has moved departments and is now supporting the school Admissions team. We thank Roger and Sarah for their tremendous work for the Foundation over the last 3 years and I am sure we will see their faces at events in the future. The School Foundation will now be run through the Marketing department, led by Old Grovian and current Director of Marketing & Commerce, Sam Cadman (89-96, st10-).

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.

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 goal 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.

Sam Cadman (89-96, st10-)

iam
kind and generous.
I am Grovian.



**WOODHOUSE
GROVE SCHOOL
FOUNDATION**

Every gift matters and with your help we can build an even better future for all our Grovians.

Your help and support is invaluable; without it we would not be able to assist the growing numbers of pupils who could not enjoy a Woodhouse Grove education otherwise.

Read 'how you can make a difference' by joining other Old Grovians who are giving a monthly amount to the Foundation....

woodhousegrove.co.uk/old-grovians/waysofgiving/
foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

woodhousegrove.co.uk

Mr. G. Brian Greenwood

1927- 2021

Pupil 1934-1945

Governor 1959-1969

Chairman of Governors 1969-2009

Honorary Life President 2009-2021

ΧαίΡετε!



**1945 Rugby 1st XV Photograph -
Brian is second from the left on the centre row.**

As the school finished for the summer term in July 2021, the whole school community was saddened to hear that Mr Brian Greenwood had passed away. He held the role of Honorary Life President for his invaluable contributions to Woodhouse Grove School. On Saturday 2nd October the school was honoured to host a Thanksgiving Service in the school Chapel for all his family, friends and the Grove community.

The Service was carried out according to Brian's wishes; David Greenwood (Brian's son) welcomed the congregation, the Headmaster wrote the following welcome and delivered a reading and former Headmaster, Mr David Humphreys delivered a poignant and reflective eulogy.

'Anyone who knows anything about Woodhouse Grove will know that the School was very much Brian's 'kingdom'. The School's motto, Bone et Fidelis – Good and Faithful – is taken from the New Testament's Parable of the Talents and reminds us that we all have gifts and that we need to work hard to improve and develop these gifts because one day we will have to give account for what we have done with the opportunities, talents and abilities we have



Brian's Retirement Dinner at the School in 2009.



**Opening of the Greenwood Wing at Brontë House 1974.
Brian located front left.**

been given. Brian certainly used his extensive talents freely and unstintingly to promote the School and enjoyed a continuous association with Woodhouse Grove for more than 85 years.

He was the youngest pupil ever to join the School upon the opening of Brontë House in 1934 and left the Grove in 1945 having been its longest serving pupil – 11 years and one term. From 1945, Brian was an active member of the Old Grovian Association and



**Opening of the first Sixth Form Centre.
Brian located front right.**

served two terms of office as its Chairman. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, he was the School's lacrosse coach and referee having formed the Old Grovian Lacrosse Club in the 1950s with his former school friends.

In 1959, Brian was invited to join the School's Board of Governors before becoming Vice-Chairman in 1964. In 1969, he succeeded Sir George Martin to become Chairman of Governors, a position he held until 2009. He holds the distinction of being the longest serving Chairman of Governors to have held office in any Public School. Upon his retirement from the Board, Brian became the School's very first Honorary President, a role he held for the rest of his remarkable life.



**Brontë House Opening photo circa 1934.
Brian is the fourth boy from the left on the front row.**



**Brian in his role as Chairman of Governors with David Humphreys
and current Chairman of Governors, Alan Wintersgill.**

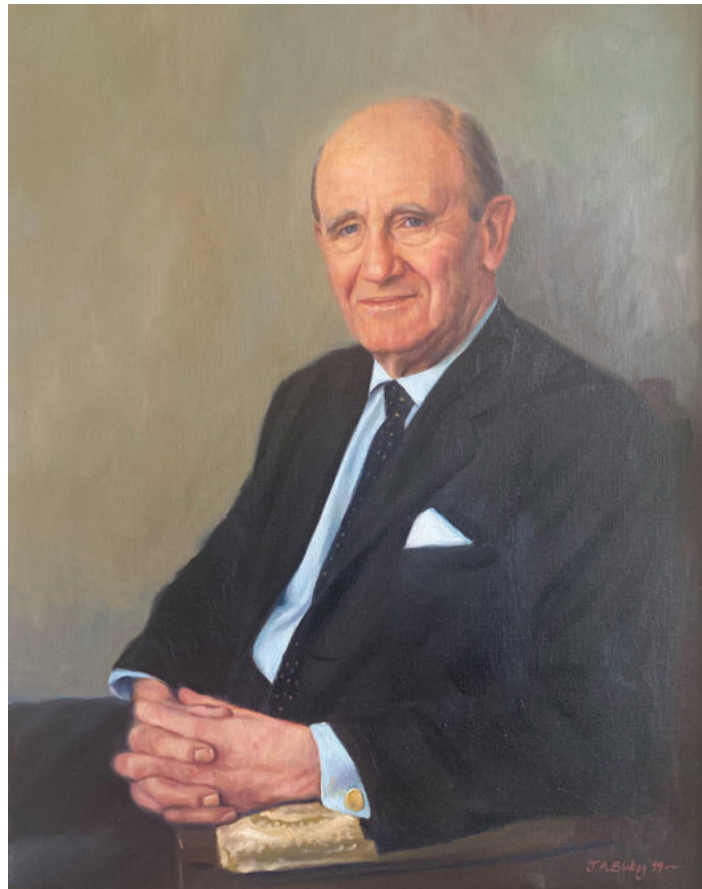


**Brian and Enid at the School's
Bicentenary Celebrations in 2012.**

Brian has left Woodhouse Grove with a rich legacy that will long outlive the decades he spent building it up. No one can deny the fact that he was a 'good and faithful' servant who will be sorely missed by all members, past and present, of the School community.

On a personal note, it was a great pleasure and a privilege to have known Brian for over 35 years – as a pupil and, more recently, as Headmaster of the School he loved so much and supported so fervently.'

Mr James Lockwood, Headmaster (86-92 st16-)



Extract from the Eulogy at the Thanksgiving Service held in the school Chapel 2nd October 2021

Over the nearly 211 years of Woodhouse Grove's history, the school has faced many challenges and the fact that it thrives today owes much, I believe to three people: Arthur Vinter, Clifford (Pop)Towlson and Brian Greenwood And the greatest of these, it seems to me, is Brian Greenwood The first two were Headmasters of exceptional quality (and served the Grove 31 and 28 years respectively) and they personally steered the school through some very rocky moments and existential threats to the school's survival but in Brian Greenwood we have had a benefactor, a supporter, a governor and friend whom we will always remember with admiration and affection.

And so ... we celebrate the life of Brian Greenwood, it was a life very well lived and worthy of celebration. Many of us here today have had their lives enriched by knowing Brian – he added value to so many encounters. Always positive, always encouraging and always KIND.

"Well done, good and faithful servant, "Bone et Fidelis"

Mr David Humphreys, Headmaster 1996-2015

Joe Bedford's RFU Council Election

I was elected by the Rugby Union clubs in Yorkshire to represent them on the RFU Council in March 2021. The RFU Council governs the game of Rugby Union in England and there are currently 61 elected members from varying Constituent Bodies (CBs) throughout the country. Yorkshire provides two representatives as it is such a large CB. I have been elected for a three-year term and the most you can do is three terms of three years, so nine in total. My term officially began in August 2021, and I have so far attended two formal RFU Council meetings at Twickenham in October and November. I also attended the England v South Africa match on the Saturday after the November meeting, which culminated in the RFU's 150th Anniversary Dinner.



England
Rugby



I feel very privileged to be in this position and it is great to be able to give back to the game that has given me so much as a player and a coach. I feel I can provide a perspective from the grassroots and within the dressing rooms of school, club, and representative rugby within Yorkshire. As part of the role, I am a member of the Yorkshire RFU committee and I attend bi-monthly committee meetings to provide feedback from the RFU, help to make decisions and support the game in Yorkshire.

Within the RFU Council, I have attended several different sub-committee meetings which govern certain aspects of the game. So far, I have attended the Education and Age Grade and Game Development groups, with a view to joining one of them in 2022. I have also been part of a working group looking at player return within the men's community game and how we can boost playing numbers and availability post-covid. We provided feedback to council on how to move forward with this and the RFU will implement measures in the new year to help improve the outlook.

I am really looking forward to the next few years on council and hopefully I can play a small part in shaping the game of Rugby Union in the future.

Joe Bedford (00-02, st13-)



Moh exceeds expectations in his first McLaren year

Old Grovian, Moh Ritson successfully completed his A-levels in the first year of the pandemic. The Covid chaos also forced a sabbatical from his career in motorsport. However, he came back fighting in 2021, returning to professional racing for one of Britain's fastest growing race teams, Paddock Motorsport, in their McLaren 570S.

Moh received instruction from McLaren pro-driver, Euan Hankey and the team is run by ex-IndyCar and 24hr Le Mans winner, Martin Plowman, alongside Strictly Come Dancing winner and Emmerdale star, Kelvin Fletcher.

Moh's season started 'virtually' with a range of E-sports competitions. Moh and his team achieved virtual podiums in the 24hr Le Mans & 6hr Nurburgring, and a few months later, they achieved an overall victory in the virtual 24hr Daytona race.

On his first race weekend of actual racing, Moh achieved a 2nd place finish in the McLaren. As the season progressed, Moh achieved a total of 3 wins, 8 podiums and 1 pole position, which allowed the team to secure 2nd place in the GT Cup Championship at the end of the year.

"To achieve my first official win in my car racing career this year was amazing. It was even more satisfying to reach this success given the high level of competitive racing."

This collection of results earned Moh an invitation to compete for a place on the exclusive McLaren Driver Development Programme. Moh was one of 14 drivers selected from around the world to undergo 3 days of rigorous testing under the close eye of McLaren professionals. The assessment included time spent with key motorsport personnel, including the CEO of McLaren, a panel interview, an F1 standard fitness test, simulator test and two days of on-track racing challenges.

"The assessments were some of the hardest I have ever experienced but simultaneously thoroughly enjoyable and a priceless learning curve for me."

In 2022, Moh will be competing in the McLaren again in the same championship, with the goal of winning it this time.

Moh Ritson (13-20)



Bradford Pals



Although I left WGS in 1977, it would be true to say that I owe everything I would become to WGS - though specifically from my very last week when I watched a television documentary on the Battle of the Somme, where I first heard the story of the Bradford Pals! Never being taught anything at the Grove about the Great War, and the internet then not even being a dream, it was a long and very difficult road back then to somehow acquire a working knowledge of the story of the Great War. However, my time at WGS had given me the determination to succeed, and my knowledge became sufficient to meet and talk with some of Bradford's surviving WW1 veterans.

I have guided the school's annual History trip to the WW1 battlefields in the past. One year this involved the stories of John and Jasper Whitehead, named on the WGS memorial. I had been researching them for their relative, not connected to the school, who came along on the trip too. John (Capt. 'Jack' Whitehead, RFA) once had a memorial cross placed in a cemetery near Ypres by his men; a cross that had since been lost. The family had a photograph of the original cross; this photograph not only enabled me to make an exact copy of the original - but also to determine its exact original location. On the battlefields trip, past and present Grovians placed that new cross for Jack, our fellow Grovian, in its original location once more. This cross is still carefully tended and looked after at a location within the Ypres Salient. By way of thanks, members of the present Garnett/Whitehead family initiated the annual 'Whitehead Trophy' for current WGS pupils, a prize given to the pupil producing the best research report on a family member who served in the Great War, the legacy of a Battlefield Tour I previously led for them.

Having spent over 40 years studying the Great War, with an emphasis on Bradford's soldiers, I realised that I could not tell their stories, especially that of the Bradford Pals, forever. I contacted

Donna with the idea of making a film at the school telling the story of the Bradford Pals whom had so influenced my life when 17 at WGS. The story I put together is new, from my own research, and tells their story in a way you will not find in a published book. The film involves the Headmaster, staff and pupils of WGS telling the story of the Bradford Pals that I had written for them. Underlying all, the story of 16/772 Cpl Allen Lee who joined the Pals in September 1914, went to Egypt with them in 1915 and was wounded in the 1st Bradford Pals attack on Serre on July 1, 1916. Lee would return to France to the 2nd Bradford Pals and ultimately to the Leeds Pals, with whom he was captured in April 1918. Allen Lee died in July in the prison camp hospital, a fact not communicated to his wife, Lily, until a plain postcard came through her letter-box from Geneva, literally as the church bells were ringing to celebrate the Armistice. Her husband would not be coming home.

Three of the pupils involved in the film were past winners of the Whitehead Trophy, and those taking part each read their individual parts in chapel - but they did not do this in order, and no one heard the whole. Between each part are photographs and objects that once belonged to the Bradford Pals that I have collected over the years, the participants handle and look at them - but maybe not fully understand their significance to the story. One of the final photographs used in the film is of 2/Lt John H. Robinson of the 1st Bradford Pals who attended Woodhouse Grove and was killed in action at Serre on July 1. His father, JH Robinson Snr, was President of Bradford Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in the formation of the Bradford Pals battalion in 1914.

The overall film will be both a fine tribute to the Bradford Pals and my legacy to the school for all the school gave me back then and in more recent years. The film is planned to be shown every five years.



Unlike that young man all those years ago completely shell-shocked in his final days at the Grove - no one again will leave the Grove without at least hearing the powerful story of the Bradford Pals!

David Whithorne (70-77)

WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



David Beardsall (64-72)

I have recently completed my training as a Methodist Local Preacher and had my accreditation service on 3rd October this year. So I am now a fully qualified local preacher.

Should anyone wish to contact David please email:

foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk



Ian Frost (st86-20)

Ian Frost received recognition from the MCC at their Players' Dinner at Lords last year.



He received his 100 game cap from Claire Connor, the First Lady President of the MCC.

Andrew Smith (82-95)

In September I was elected as Lord Mayor of Westminster. As a ceremonial first citizen, my role is to be a representative voice of the city to the community and voluntary sectors, business, and the diplomatic community. As part of the role, I serve as the Deputy High Steward of Westminster Abbey. This means that I outrank everyone apart from the Royal Family when I attend events. It is a strange feeling to see the Prime Minister standing up when I have entered the Abbey for services marking national events!

My aim during my term in office is to help support the idea of civic engagement and the importance of a sense of belonging to a place and its history. Clearly Westminster has a long and fascinating history which is so entwined with our national life, but it also has a very strong community life. My focus will be to support those organisations which support community engagement and give back to the communities they operate in.

Since I moved to Westminster nearly 20 years ago it has always frustrated and saddened me that, despite Westminster having some of the wealthiest areas in the world, it also suffers from a significant amount of poverty. The charity that I am supporting as Lord Mayor is a small Westminster based one called Westminster Befriend a



Family, which helps families and young people facing social isolation and deprivation to broaden their horizons through education and employment.

Dino Kania (84-89)

The T&A wrote an article on me with reference to the companies that I own, in-particular my favourite, Classic Car Lab. The article ran before I contracted Covid, during which I spent several weeks in ICU. I am still in recovery and I thought this may bring a smile to somebody's face, as I am very grateful to the school - and in particular to Mr D Miller - who was the Head at the time, for giving me the tools that I need to tackle life. I was at Woodhouse Grove at the same time as one of your Governors, Dr K Johall, who is still a dear friend of mine.



Nick Wheelhouse (85-92)

Whilst at The Grove it was Doc Wilson who persuaded me to go and study Biological Science at University. I did my undergraduate degree in Newcastle and, after finishing a PhD in Aberdeen, moved to Edinburgh where I held research positions at the University of Edinburgh and then a Scottish Government research institute working on infectious diseases of livestock, several of which can cause disease in humans (zoonoses).

I've been working at Edinburgh Napier since 2016, where I've been lecturing on the ways zoonotic diseases emerge and perhaps there's a few of our graduates who now realise that their lecturers did know a thing or two! I'm now an Associate Professor in Microbiology and Deputy Director of the Centre of Biomedical and Global Health within Edinburgh Napier, managing projects within the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Julia Day (92-97)

I've been studying part time at the University of Exeter (whilst teaching English at a vocational college in Norway), and recently completed my MEd (Master of Education) in TESOL, graduating with distinction. My dissertation, on the learning strategies of dyslexic English language learners, was dedicated to my husband and "to all at Woodhouse Grove, who helped me get where I am today: Χαίρετε!"



Lucy Holloway (93-07, st16-)

In August (on her 30th birthday) Lucy Holloway swam the length of Windermere, 10.5 miles. Lucy raised £1370 for Kirkwood Hospice, which holds a special place in her heart as her Grandmother passed away there and she has previously volunteered in their charity shop.

Lucy said "I have always been a keen swimmer but swimming the 10.5 mile lake, the largest natural lake in England, was an enormous challenge and I was both extremely excited and apprehensive about it. I actually swam it in 6 hours and 33 minutes and felt incredibly proud of myself and delighted with all the support I received. Best 30th birthday ever!"



Will Watson (93-03)

As part of my training to be a cardiologist, I took time away from front line medicine to do a PhD at the University of Oxford - or a DPhil as they call it there. I spent just over three years researching new treatments for weak hearts, learning research skills and cutting edge techniques at the Oxford Centre for Magnetic Resonance Research. I finally submitted my thesis in August and after a successful viva was awarded the degree! So, I can now chart my academic trajectory as Brontë House, Woodhouse Grove, University of St Andrews, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford!

In April last year, I had to put my PhD on hold as the NHS was calling for extra help. I volunteered to work in intensive care as I had some experience at registrar level but little could prepare me for what would happen next. As numbers ramped up, I traded recruiting patients to our MRI based heart failure project for 13 hour shifts in the ICU for a long five months. We did what we could but it was a scary time; we lost many patients while fearing for our own health. As time has gone on, treatments and decisions about how we treat Covid have evolved and we slowly got better at it. Things settled, although again in early 2021 I was called back for a second time to help out. As I write this, I am wondering if it will happen again, and things look very uncertain.



Now I am back in Cambridge, training at Royal Papworth Hospital, the heart and lung center. I am hoping to take up an appointment as a consultant in heart transplantation in a few years' time, although the past couple of years have shown us that it is never easy to know what the future holds.

Mary Greaves - Former School Governor

A party was held at the Chevin Country Club and Spa to celebrate the birthday of centenarian Mary Greaves. The party was attended by the current Head of Governors Alan Wintersgill along with other past governors as well as many friends and family. Mary was born in the west of Scotland, went to the University of Edinburgh and was then directed to Crompton Parkinsons, Guiseley, during the Second World War, later working at James Ives. She then remained in Ilkley where she raised three children. Mary was the first woman to join the governing board at The Grove, and held the position for a number of years as well as being a Justice of the Peace. She has been happily retired for many years.

Family, friends and former colleagues travelled from Spain, Sussex, Hampshire, London, Scotland as well as locally to wish her well.

Tom Laughton (00-05)

Joe Mazingham (current Grovian) won the U14 National Tennis Championships in August. I've coached Joe since he was the age of 6! This included a number of sessions last year in the freezing cold on the WGS netball courts during the second lockdown! I also got married last September, to Aimée.

Chrissie Hanson (00-15)

Chrissie graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2018 with a First Class degree in English Literature and Philosophy before going on to study a Master's degree in International Law, Ethics and Politics, where she achieved a Distinction. Studying at Birmingham since 2015 has been an incredible experience for Chrissie, who fully immersed herself in university life. Along with her studies, Chrissie has formed many fabulous friendships and has embraced everything the university has to offer with its vibrant social scene.

After four years of study, Chrissie was keen to gain experience in law enforcement as she had aspirations to eventually work in the intelligence sector. She secured a job working as a Public Contact Officer for West Midlands Police during the pandemic. Chrissie moved back to Yorkshire in September 2021 to be closer to family and is now thoroughly enjoying her new role at North Yorkshire Police where she is working as an Intelligence Analyst.



Louis Fraser (10-17)

Louis captained the 1st XV whilst at The Grove, with the team winning the Rosslyn Park Plate. He has now gone on to join the Royal Navy as a weapons engineer submariner.

Jibrael Malik (11-16) and Ali Ahmed (13-18)

Jibrael Malik left The Grove in 2016, and was part of WGS's unbeaten Cricket 1st XI and National T20 champions in 2014. He is now a part of the Premier Division cricket champion team with Saltaire Cricket Club, for first time in the club's history and Airewarfe T20 champions for the 2021 season.

Old Grovian and former Cricket 1st team captain, Ali Ahmed is also a member of the Saltaire side who became 2021 champions.



Ellie Kildunne (11-16)

Congratulations to Old Grovian, Ellie Kildunne who won the 2020/21 Allianz Premier 15s 'Try of the Season Award', for her try whilst playing in the Wasps Ladies Rugby Team.

James Whitcombe (12-19)

James got in touch to tell us about his Rugby career and scoring his first try for Leicester Tigers on his birthday...

I'm really enjoying my rugby at the moment and playing for Leicester Tigers. I'm surrounded by some great players and great role models, which is helping my game develop. I was really pleased to start both Premiership cup matches as it gave me an opportunity to show what I can do. I never really thought about scoring, I just thought about my personal job and doing the best I can to benefit the team - however when the chance came up, I was never going to turn it down! I couldn't have asked for a better 21st birthday present.



Daniel Francis (18-20)

Daniel Francis made his international debut for Sierra Leone against Ethiopia. This was an Africa Cup of Nations qualification group stage match. Daniel has since been selected in the Sierra Leone African Cup of Nations Squad. A great achievement and one that Daniel worked very hard for, and that is possibly a first for a former student from The Grove.



Births



Just to add to the craziness of the last 18 months, I now have a 10-month old daughter. Isla Shorey, born 12/12/2020 and technically Scottish but with strong Yorkshire connections (and some Geordie genes), loves football already!

I started my own business too and managed to get round the Celtman Triathlon in June with Old Grovians Alex Broadley and Kristian Cholmondeley. It was an absolute brute/ beautiful event up in Torridon. Hopefully, I can get into the Norseman in future years but next up is the Kalmar, Sweden Iron Man in August 2022, with a certain Anthony Ross.

Before the lockdown I managed to sneak in a trip to the Super Bowl in Miami with Rossi and Harrigan. Met up with Richard Graves and Rob Burrow pre game. Feels like 10 years ago now but I still have the memories!

Andrew Shorey (93-00)

no beer was drunk in the taking of this photo!

Marriages



Vicky Credland (92-96)

Vicky Credland married Chris Williams on Saturday 28th August 2021 at The Swan at Streatley, Berks.



Jonny Knight (08-15) and Anna Sharp (13-15)

We met at Woodhouse Grove and started dating in 2015, and recently got married on 27th October, 2021!

Debra Wood (80-81)

After 15 years together, Debra Wood (Debbie) and Ralph finally got married. Despite neither the bride nor the groom being lawyers, the happy couple got married at Middle Temple in central London. The bride decided to wear her "something blue". The honeymoon was in Florence.

It was also a big year for another reason - Debbie retired and will be exploring the world as soon as it opens up again.



Retirees

Julie Johnson (st81-21)

Mrs Julie Johnson, Brontë House's 'Queen of the Kitchen' retired at Easter after 39 years at Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House. Julie joined Woodhouse Grove in 1981, as the weekend 'Tea Lady' whilst studying at catering college, before moving up to Brontë in 1985.

Many of you may have benefitted from Julie's culinary skills over the years (a special shout out for the brownies) and under Julie's leadership, the food at Brontë has been, quite simply, excellent.

Julie's tireless commitment to the school has been inspiring and in her 40th year of service, she is a Brontë institution, with a plaque on the Dining Room wall to prove it!

Julie sounds like she has a lot planned for her retirement as she likes outdoor activities, particularly cycling, hill walking and camping and is also a keen gardener and keeps chickens.



Mr David Hole (st90-21)

Mr David Hole has been instrumental in the coordination and administration of our House system for many years. An incredible number of House events continued throughout lockdown, creating a sense of cohesiveness and community among pupils despite remote learning. We interviewed David Hole to find out how he feels about leaving.

How long have you been teaching at Woodhouse Grove?

I started teaching here in September 1990, so I have taught here for 31 years. As well as becoming the first Senior Housemaster in 2005, I also ran the school council and previously I edited News from The Grove and I coached both rugby and cricket teams for several years.

What are your favourite memories about working here?

Other than getting married in the school chapel, some of my favourite memories are being fortunate enough to go on two rugby tours, both to New Zealand and Australia with one also including Fiji. A bungee jump in Queenstown was a thrilling experience.

What has changed most about Woodhouse Grove since you started?

New Boarding House, Davy Building, Sports Hall and Swimming Pool and changes in the use of other buildings, as well as moving from three form entry to six form entry in year 7 are obvious changes. Many people may not know that when I started, we had lessons on Saturday mornings. (Also, the Headmaster was a student at the Grove when I started teaching here.)

What are your plans for when you leave Woodhouse Grove?

Plenty of reading, walking and hopefully travelling in the near future. I would love to be able to go back to New Zealand at some point with my wife and we had planned to go to Florence last summer before it was cancelled.

I would also like to do some voluntary work for a hospice.

What will you miss most about Woodhouse Grove?

I really enjoy being in the chemistry laboratory teaching pupils, particularly A-level. I will also miss being part of the House system and the range of activities and responsibilities it provides for pupils. Of course, I will miss the staff, pupils, parents and the school grounds.



Mr David Ainsworth (st06-21)

Mr David Ainsworth, retired in January 2021 having served as the Finance Director of Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House for the majority of his 14 years of employment. David oversaw all the schools' financial operations during a period of significant investment into the buildings and fabric of the school.

As well as being a member of staff, David was a parent at the school with his children attending both Brontë and Woodhouse Grove. As a parent he was involved in the school community and spent many windy, rainy, and occasionally sunny Saturday's watching the Netball and Rugby. For a number of years David was also the Treasurer for the Friends of Woodhouse Grove.

David is keen to keep as active as possible in his retirement and has a stack of books he wants to read and re read. We wish him a happy retirement.



Captured flag to be returned, as Class of 2016 return for reunion football match.



Portugal, Greece, Ilkley and Space; these are some of the unlikely locations the school flag, that was “borrowed” by the class of 2016, has visited over the past five years.

The white flag - bearing the school emblem - suspiciously vanished from the school flagpole in June of 2016. Since then, sightings have been made across Europe - leading former teacher, Roger Howard, to try and contact Old Boy Jamie Larsson in an attempt to retrieve it on numerous occasions.

Larsson disclosed, “I have been in touch with Roger Howard since I left school in 2016, he and I have enjoyed some banter back and forth regarding the school flag that went missing. How we got hold of it will always remain a secret. However, we have taken great pride in representing our beloved former school out and about, both domestically and internationally. We first gave it an airing on the Zante strip, just after we left school. It then made a couple of appearances around West Yorkshire at birthday parties in Ilkley and Headingley. Panic set in when we brought the treasured memoir to the Space nightclub in Leeds, only for it to fall into the hands of a rival school. After some gentle persuasion, we managed to convince them to hand it back. The flag also spent some time hung on my bedroom wall at university, before a group of us took it along on holiday to the Algarve in 2019.”

This Easter break, the 2016 leavers returned to school for a friendly football game held on the 3G pitch. Larsson commented, “The reunion football match seemed like the most fitting place to return the flag. We all have so many amazing memories from our time at the Grove, so it was an emotional occasion returning again. The legacy of friendships we still have from our time here is something the school deserve tremendous credit for.”

The match was played in fantastic spirit with Larsson’s XI overcoming Charlie Munro’s team by 4 goals to 3. Former head girl Rebecca Cook even made a talismanic performance in defence during the thrilling encounter.

The Class of 2016 thank the school once again for the use of the facilities, and intend to hold more celebratory matches for years to come.

Rugby Reunions

I have been trying to work out how long this group of Old Grovians have been getting together to attend an Autumn International. Having trawled through old emails I think the first fixture was Barbarians v New Zealand on 5 December 2009!

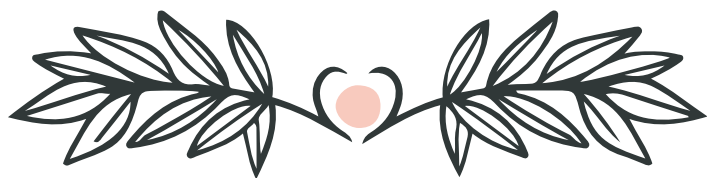
This year’s fixture, England v Tonga, was much anticipated after COVID cancelled the 2020 autumn fixtures and also our trip to watch the Lions in South Africa (the one silver lining being we were saved from a 20-hour trip via Dubai courtesy of the last-minute plans of Mr Kondras. Some things never change!)

The day started, as is now traditional, with lunch at the White Hart at Waterloo (not the White Hart at Richmond, Mr Clark!) and finished late in the evening at the Cabbage Patch at Twickenham. Somewhere in the middle there was a very enjoyable rugby match and some great company.

This year attendees were (from left to right) Nick Clark, Chris Gallagher, Ross Thomson, Martin Griffiths, Frank Griffiths, John Hinchliffe, Dan Kondras, Stuart Nesbitt and Dave Webster. England v Japan on 12th November is already pencilled in!

Martin Griffiths (86-94)





Obituaries

Hugh Myers (30-35)

Informed by his nephew Austin Myers

It is with great sadness and regret I have to inform you of the passing of our dear uncle Hugh, he passed away peacefully on 30th December 2021. He was a truly remarkable man and he has left the whole family with many fond memories. He was a compassionate man and a true gentleman, he was always mindful of the benefits of the education he received and was extremely proud to be 'The Oldest Grovian'.

To read in full about Hugh Myers please go to page 16.

Brian Greenwood (34-45)

Informed by James Lockwood (86-92 st16-)

The Old Grovian community was deeply saddened to receive news of the death of Brian on 7 July 2021 at the age of 94.

To read in full about Brian Greenwood please go to page 4.

Jack Baxter (39-47)

Informed by his nephew Keith Baxter

Jack Baxter has died, aged 92. His parents separated when he was five. In the mid 1930s he and his brother (my father) were placed in care at National Children's Homes as their mother – pre welfare state – was unable to afford their upkeep. Jack was found to be academically able and was given a scholarship to Woodhouse Grove School. He enjoyed a full school life of learning, socialising and sports. He matriculated in 1947 and was sent to Kenya for his national service, where he worked in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Returning to the UK, he trained as a teacher at Westminster College, specialising in French. He spent a year working as a teaching assistant in Cognac, France then secured a teaching job in his original home town of Southend on Sea, Essex. He taught for 33 years at Belfairs High School for Boys initially teaching French, but soon specialising in English. Among the thousands he must have taught was Steven Cottrell, the current Archbishop of York. Jack organised cricket teams, chess and skiing trips to the continent. Socially he was involved with the Methodist Church and amateur dramatics.

On retirement he became involved in family history research, at first looking at his own ancestry, but then transcribing Essex parish records from before the era of censuses. With this data he compiled lists of christenings, marriages and deaths that were published and referred to by genealogists the world over. He was honoured as a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists.

In later life he lived alone, independently and contentedly, in Hadleigh, Essex. He continued to receive Old Grovian magazines and enjoyed reading about the school and former scholars.

John Michael Warner (45-47)

John Michael Warner (born 06/04/1931) died on Sunday 24th January 2021.

Anthony James Nigel Wood (45-51)

Informed by his daughter Angela Hammond

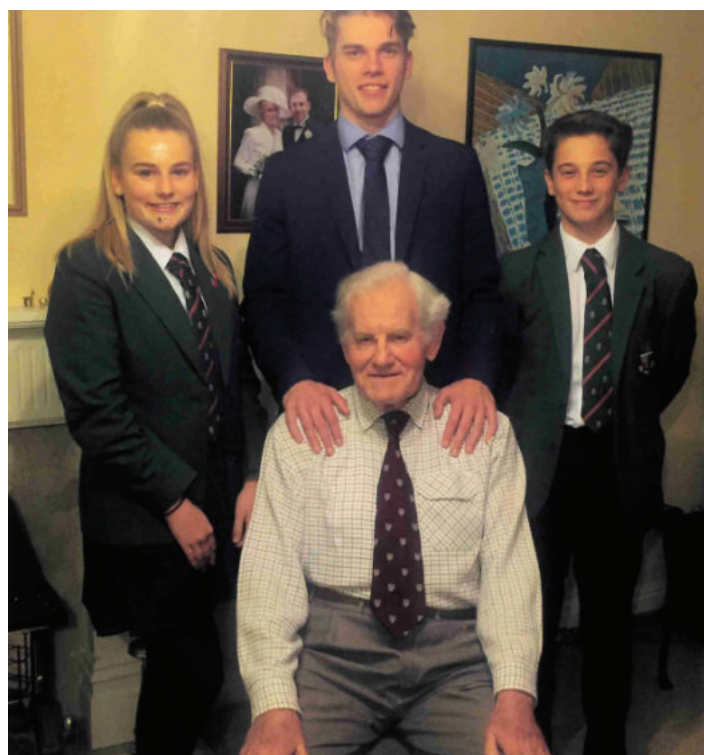
Tony was a very proud Grovian attending WGS from 1945-1951 after winning a scholarship. He loved his years at school, fondly telling us old stories of Rugby days, The Masters and watching steam trains on the railway (often getting told off!).



He was extremely proud that his 3 grandchildren could also attend, Evie from Ashdown Lodge, Harrison and Rafael from Year 5, they also followed in his footsteps being a part of Atkinson house.

He left WGS to live in London as a civil servant and to do his national service in the RAF. He later finished his career back in Bradford as an insurance surveyor, married to Ruth, for 59 years, and having 3 children.

Her relished attending any Old Grovian evening, sports day, swimming gala and concert with his grandchildren. He was an Old Grovian till the end.



Gordon Percy (1950-59)

Informed by Andrew (73-83) and Bruce Percy (74-84)

It is with great sadness that I report the passing on the 7th September 2021 of Gordon Percy, in Harrogate Hospital, from the effects of Motor Neurone disease.



He attended Brontë House and Woodhouse Grove and managed to make a stronger link than most with the school by marrying the Headmaster's daughter - Jenifer Pritchard. Apparently they met aged 11 when Gordon was tasked by Dr F C Pritchard with chaperoning his daughter to the entrance exam for the local Grammar school. Gordon always remembered his time at Woodhouse Grove with great fondness and returned to school often. He represented the OGs at cricket. He won School Colours for Rugby, Cricket and Athletics; but not swimming! In his early twenties he became a double international representing Sierra Leone at Rugby and Cricket. I would like to thank Roger Howard for representing the school at Dad's funeral and conveying kind messages from all those that remember him.



David Hall (st84-90)

Informed by David Wilberforce (st80-99)

David Hall died in the early Spring of 2021 after several months of incapacity. His last preaching appointment was at a Harvest Festival at Horbury in September 2020. His memorial service was at Trinity Methodist Church, Castleford on November 3rd, on what would have been his 80th Birthday. Sadly, his wife was in hospital at the time after two falls. To June, Simon and Beth we send our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

David came to WGS in 1984 following the ministry of Brian Coleman. He was previously Chaplain at Ashville College and moved on in 1990 to Ripon Grammar School where he eventually became Deputy Head under Martin Pearman.

He was a fine teacher and was well respected by staff and pupils. He was also a good "Common Room Man" and offered sound advice to all who sought it. His lessons were well prepared and direct in approach. As a minister he was essentially a High Church Wesleyan, an exemplary preacher and pastor; everything was well delivered for he was a man of experience, broad knowledge and a deep thinker, but never dull. His rich sense of humour was always evident.

He was popular not only in schools but in the churches where he ministered from Blackburn to London, Essex and Yorkshire. His death is a loss to his family, his former colleagues and pupils and to the Methodism. We are thankful for his example, his care and friendship for over forty years. Xaipete.

Alan 'Iggy' Igglesden (st08-15)

Iggy worked at The Grove for 7 years in the Sports Department, following a successful cricket career. He was a great part of the school community and is missed by all.





Hugh Myers (30-35)

Before his passing at the end of 2021, Hugh's nephew Austin had been in contact with the WGS Foundation to share with us a summary of his uncle's life since leaving Woodhouse Grove...

An update on the oldest Old Grovian Hugh Myers (30-35) aged 104, from his nephew Austin.

Hugh was fortunate enough to be sent to Woodhouse Grove as a boarder. He excelled at art and sports, was in the Orchestra and Choir, he attained the status of prefect and also his school colours for the first XV... He still resents the fact that because he was a conscientious objector that he was only awarded 2nd class colours instead of 1st class. (I'm not certain that this was the case but he always maintained it to be so).

He went to London in wartime and worked in the east end at Kingsley Hall in Bow, he always maintained that he was subjected to more warfare than the majority of those on the frontline. He was a very keen youth worker and a Senior Scout taking charge of large groups of under privileged youths to camps far and wide, especially in Scandinavian countries Sweden and Denmark... He eventually joined the family business in Keighley as a draper, he carried on with this well into his 70's. He was a very keen gardener and in order to fulfill his lifelong ambition designed his own home in 1962, where he began his mammoth task to layout his garden. My twin brother and I were regular visitors and helped him where we could, shifting huge amounts of soil and stone. He rewarded us with holidaying in Scotland and The New Forest annually. He was a very cultured man and introduced both my brother and I to many skills relating to outdoor activities, music, reading and horticulture. We recently came across a short video of Ghandi's visit to Kingsley Hall in Bow, where uncle Hugh was a volunteer and helped with the youth work. He also appears on the video which supports his claim that he helped to look after Ghandi.

I went on to gain a diploma of which he was extremely proud. We wandered around his garden in later years, which he tended well into his late nineties. He eventually succumbed to support in a care home in Silsden where he remains to this day. I have visited my uncle Hugh in Silsden. He is as stoic as ever and at 104 fighting the good fight. My brother and I have been sorting through his home as his return is more than unlikely.

His parting shot to me and my wife after the visit was so endearing. "We have a long association, don't we Lad." We hugged and he laughed. Of course he's very frail but his mind when stimulated is amazing.



Digital Archive Launches

Towards the end of 2021 we were finally able to launch the Woodhouse Grove Digital Archives. After a long wait, Old Grovians can now log into the online archives and view a range of documents, magazines, photos and much more.

Once you are logged into the archives, you can search by key words and dates to find whatever you are looking for, or you can just browse through the sections available. Due to the sheer size of the physical archives, not all the documents have been digitally uploaded yet, but we are hoping to slowly add more as time goes on.

If you wish to have a look through the Digital Archives, please visit the Digital Archives page of the Woodhouse Grove website, which can be found within the OGA and Foundation section. Once on the archives page, please use the login that has been provided to you via email. If you do not receive emails from the WGS Foundation and would like to, or would like to be re-issued with the login details, please fill out a 'Keep in Touch' form on the Woodhouse Grove website.





Music at the Grove

One day in the autumn term of 1947 aged nine, I can remember sitting cross-legged on the polished parquet floor in the hall at Brontë House with other new boys having a singing lesson with Ernest Moxon who, with his wife's assistance, had been master in charge during the recent War years and now, semi-retired, had returned to help with music lessons.

We had sung several times up and down the musical scale to the words "Fish and chips," when Mr Moxon paused, looked at me, smiled and said that a good substitute would be for us all to sing "Roger Davy". I suppose that is my initial memory of the important part music would play in my life at the Grove. Ten years later my final musical memory from school days was solo singing the first few bars of David McCarthy's moving 'Nunc Dimittis' with the Chapel choir at its premier on my last Sunday evening in July 1957.

I was never an instrumental musician but always enjoyed singing at the daily Morning Prayers in the School Room where the Staff Room is now situated. The Head would choose an appropriate hymn to be sung by the whole school including all the 'gowned' staff. My first year at the upper school was the last year of the then headmaster C W Towlson who had been in post since 1922. Mr Towlson had a fine tenor voice and conducted local choral societies. It was not unusual for him to interrupt the hymn and correct our efforts by singing a particular line of music with which we were not achieving his high standards. I can fully understand that subsequent Heads have not been eager to follow his example!

After three years as a day-boy in 'Atkinson' I joined 'Vinter' in 1952. I don't know if the tradition still exists but then all new boys to the House, at the end of their first term, had to stand on the lockers in the middle of New North dorm and sing a song to everyone else. This, for most youngsters, was a traumatic experience - particularly if the odd soft slipper was thrown at them during their performance - but once achieved, you were accepted as a fully fledged member of the House.

Nowadays, with the advantage of the Performing Arts Centre led by Philip Tedd, music is as ever an integral part of life for present day Grovians. Though we had fewer facilities, nevertheless every week we sang at six morning Assemblies, and we all sang at least ten hymns in Chapel every Sunday during our regular morning and evening visits. We just accepted that as part of our weekly routine.....together with dutifully donating, at the Sunday morning service, a threepenny-bit coin into the 'collection'. The coins were collected and recycled each week and the appropriate amount was always added to our termly account.

Piano lessons took place in one of the practice rooms going up the stairs opposite the old chemistry lab. I can still hear the cacophony of sound from perhaps six pianos all being played at the same time..... how did they get all those heavy instruments up that winding staircase?

The Music Society thrived on Sunday evenings for recitals and talks and there were occasional visits to St George's Hall in Bradford, perhaps to hear the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Sir Malcom



Sargent, or the Halle in Harrogate. We were accompanied by Ken Pelmear, our Cornish music master or David McCarthy. Once Ken Pelmear became quite giddy when he was overcome by the rake of the seating high up in the 'gods' at St George's and had to retire to the foyer to come round! Another time, my friend Malcolm Overend and I waited at the stage door before he arrived to get Sir Malcolm's autograph on a scrap of notebook paper and he expressed surprise that we wanted his signature before the concert.

Dark autumn and winter Monday evenings were enhanced in the Memorial Hall by the weekly visits of our ballroom dancing teacher Dorothy Braybrooks and her three young lady helpers. Oh the joy of the 78 rpm brittle vinyl records of Victor Silvester's strict tempo orchestra accompanying at least forty of us, being mostly smart and clean hand-washed, learning the waltz, quickstep, slow foxtrot and the tango and having the dizzy thrill of tentatively putting an inexperienced arm around a young lady's waist, often for the first time... Mind you, it was totally different learning the Charleston by holding on to a canvas-seated tubular steel chair..... but my 'reverse-turn' is still something to admire!

There is so much of the music we heard at the Grove which now generates a lifetime of memories. The 'Football Song', "The autumn term has passed again with heat and frost and drizzling rain...", the Prize Day Hymn, "O Holy Father, Lord of life and God of love" and the incomparable "Xaipete!" which was first heard and sung at the end of Prize Day in the summer of 1891, now one hundred and thirty years ago. When young ladies were welcomed to the Grove, John Brodwell and I, after great discussion, submitted to the Governors and the Headmaster that the second line in the last verse should be amended to "Distance from her 'kin' can sever" instead of "sons".

Those words with the wonderful melodies all composed by Frederick 'Freddie' James have resonated with all Grovians down the years.... but especially 'Xaipete!' F C Pritchard once said "That School Song has been sung on countless Grovian occasions, for once sung, it goes on singing itself!"

'Word of joy with kindness spoken,

Telling of a bond unbroken....' XAIPETE!

ROGER DAVY MBE. (47-57)

Reflections

One of the outcomes of living in the context of a pandemic has reinforced for me the belief that spirituality plays a significant role in our wellbeing.

We have lived with increased levels of uncertainty for a couple of years now and during this time I have observed the link between spirituality and positive outcomes for young people and communities, particularly in the areas of wellbeing.

Many of the Woodhouse Grove community have shared with me during my time at school that it is being connected to something outside of the chaos of the world that helps them understand themselves and gives them purpose and a sense of belonging.

One of the ways we enable our young people to nurture their spirituality and connect with their own inner wisdom is through our gathering together in Chapel each week. We always begin with some silence and think about the situations in our world and in our lives where we long to find peace. They learn to listen to the stillness and discover the importance of forgiveness. They are encouraged to model integrity, respect, and inclusion and foster gratitude. They are taught interdependence, self-awareness and most importantly love.

Perhaps the greatest challenge we face in education today is the negative impact the uncertainty, isolation and fear of recent years has had on the wellbeing of our children and young people. For that reason, I believe that in addition to promoting the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of students we need to continue equipping them with the opportunities and resources to nurture their spiritual wellbeing.



I read somewhere that the definition for the word 'equipping' is "to supply or furnish with intellectual, emotional or spiritual essentials." It comes from the verb equip which comes from an old French word équiper which means to 'fit out a ship' ready for it to be put out to sea. Equipping our students with the knowledge that their lives are of value, that they are both part of and participate in a bigger story, I hope will give them the strength, resilience, and resourcefulness to navigate calm and choppy seas.

In the words of Father Richard Rohr, "A sign of emotional and spiritual health is when one can both give and receive in equal measure."

Rev Atkins (st19-)
School Chaplain

Old Grovian Charity Fundraising

Old Grovian Hannah Westbury (née Cummins) (93-98) got in touch with us to talk about her charitable fundraising for The Cavernoma Society...



Cavernoma Society

I am fundraiser for The Cavernoma Society, Cavernoma is a rare disorder only researched at this moment in time in the USA. The Cavernoma Society Charity offer care, therapy, support, and education of specialist U.K Neurologists and Neurosurgeons. Cavernomas are vascular malformations in the brain. Their walls are thin and due to blood flow they can end up leaking blood which causes brain hemorrhages, strokes, cognitive impairment, seizures, vision and hearing loss, vertigo and even the inability to walk and talk.

I set up a just giving page to support the Charity in 2020, as the cause is close to my heart and this year I also plan to run the London Half Marathon to raise money for the charity.



NORMAN EWART STRAFFORD (1889-1957)

WGS Music Master 1912-29

In November 2021, David Whithorn (70-77) made the school aware of the sale of the war medal of Norman Ewart Strafford, a former music master at WGS (1912-29). His medal, along with official copies of various documents, plus his 14 page service war record were purchased by the school in December 2021. There is scope for much further research here as Norman did not die in the War, but became a Sergeant and he had a prolific career afterwards as an accomplished professional musician.

Norman was a former music master at WGS (1912-29), who lived in school in Grove Cottage. He was also the organist both at Leeds Holy Trinity church (1929-50) and Hull City Hall at the time of the organ's rebuild in 1951, as well as being a minor composer. He was a noted professional musician with the Leeds Philharmonic and Choral Societies. He also conducted the Calverley Choral Society and Hull Choral Union. As well as composing anthems and songs, Strafford published one organ piece – Barcarolle in 1913.

His wife, Maud Isobel Strafford, also lived in school and was the first female teacher who took over teaching his students when he went to war. Sadly, she was 'removed' from these roles when he returned.

Norman enlisted on 11 December 1915. He was called up and attested at Leeds on 11 April 1916. He joined the 21st Battalion West Yorkshire and after training he served in France and Flanders and was made Sergeant until he was discharged from the West Yorkshire Regiment on 14 February 1919. He passed away at Whitby, Yorkshire in 1957.

Norman was the recipient of the WW1 British medal to the 21st Battalion West Yorkshire regiment (Leeds). Upon issue, Norman returned his British War medal for amendment as it had been incorrectly impressed as W.E STAFFORD instead of N.E STRAFFORD. For some reason though, he did not return his Victory medal, which remains, as issued. His service number and medal issue cards confirm that it was incorrectly issued.

Further research on Norman will continue . . . watch this space for more information as additional information is gleaned!! His medal and war records will be stored for posterity and kept within the school archives.



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021

Southerns Trustees Update



This year once again Covid restrictions prevented the Trustees experiencing their most enjoyable task of interviewing Upper Sixth leavers wishing to apply for scholarship awards. Along with their written application, candidates were asked to fill in a standard information form. These together with help from The Headmaster and Deputy Head Mr Ed Wright, enabled our decisions to be made.

In a field of excellent candidates monies totalling £3,150 were given.

The Southern Scholarship of £450 was awarded to Aisha Mian who is hoping to study Dentistry.

Two Crabtree, two Nutall, one Rex Storr, four Davy Book Funds and four Old Grovian Awards were also given.

By present day standards the amounts given do not go very far towards the costs of further education but to have one's name on Honours Boards in the Dining Hall or along The Headmaster's Corridor is something to be valued and proud of.

The Trustees wish everyone well in their future education and careers.

Investments remain healthy with over £70 000 in The Charities Investment Fund and we wish to thank the Old Grovian Association for their recent generous donation of £3 000.

Over the past years Mr David Ainsworth has looked after our finances and has advised how much we should award in total. He has now retired. The trustees wish to put on record their grateful thanks for all his sound advice and help. We look forward to working with Mrs Hainsworth, his successor. We also wish to thank The Headmaster and his PA Mrs Rachel Dodds for their hospitality and assistance.

Kath Dawson (st82-99)
Tony Bramwell (52-59)
Jackie Darwin (st02-16)

OG RUFC Update

Dear Old Grovian colleagues and friends

I'm pleased to be writing to you now that we have recommenced the rugby season following a year of fallow due to covid restrictions. It's been an incredibly tough 18 months for the whole rugby community; several players have left the game and it's been sad to see a number of clubs struggling to field sides on a Saturday. Old Grovians has not been immune to this either, but I'm pleased to say thanks to the hard work of the coaches, players, school and the flourishing partnership with Otley, we've been able to field a full side in every league game so far.



The 21/22 Season is a real opportunity for Old Grovians to consolidate, bring in some younger players before trying to push on through the leagues next season.

For regular readers of this column, you will know that the club's primary aim over the past few years has been to improve our off-field facilities to improve the experience for our players and supporters. We've now played 2 games at Cross Green, Otley - and it's been fantastic. Otley have been so welcoming, and we really do feel that it's one club with two brands. This means the players are now training on a Tuesday on Yarnbury's 4G pitch and playing home games at the brilliant Cross Green, with the intent that we jointly relocate with Otley when their new ground is completed.

As the partnership progresses, we are confident that we will have a unique proposition for rugby players in Yorkshire. Old Grovians will be aspiring to play at the highest amateur level they can, whilst providing a pathway to players who want to further their career and commitment by taking on the challenge of National League rugby. Equally, we know that not everyone talented enough to play at that level can provide that commitment, but with Grovians there is still an opportunity to play a great standard of competitive 1st Team rugby.

Kyle Dench, Otley Head coach says: "We see this as new age pathway allowing all players to find their best route into age grade rugby. We are excited to see the partnership develop over the coming months and years and look forward to seeing more ex-Woodhouse Grove players playing for Old Grovians and Otley 1sts".

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

If any Old Grovians would like to assist the club in anyway; through the week, on match days or through sponsorship, their support is always gratefully received.

Please contact OldGroviansrugby@gmail.com

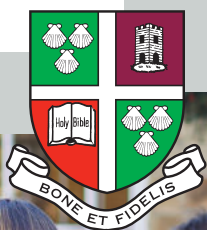
The continued support and help from the school is greatly valued and special thanks must go again to Simon Wood (Grounds) for keeping Elm Tree Farm in tip top condition. In addition to this, Dan King, Joe Bedford and Nathan Barr continue to be huge supporters of the club and we can't thank them enough.

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.

John Hinchliffe (83-94) Co-Founder of OGRUFC

School News

News & Sport



I am Grovian.



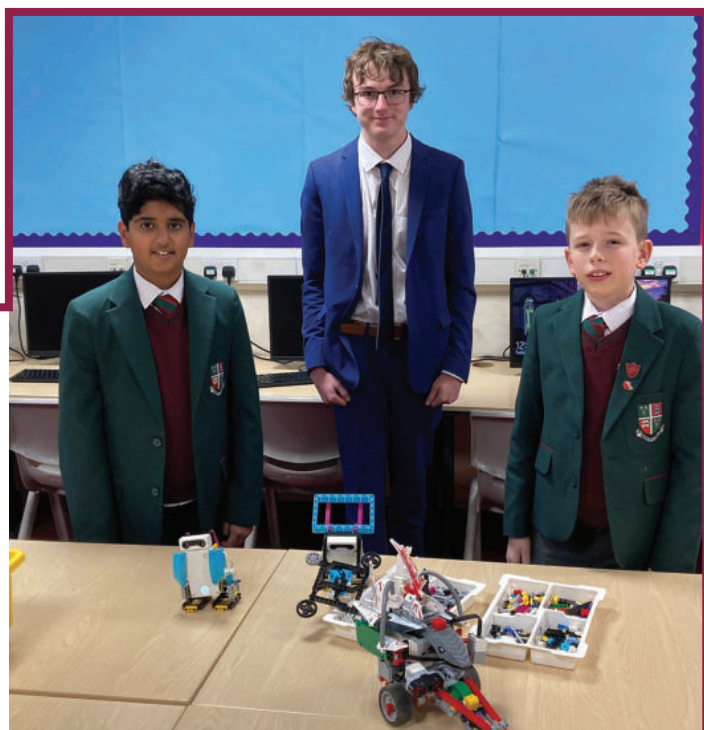
Last year a lot of work went into researching and planning for a new, whole school uniform to be launched September 2021 for pupils aged 2 to 16 years. Parents have been given a transitional period to help to reduce costs and waste. It has been lovely to see the new uniform appearing on pupils this term and it is clearly more vibrant and more suited to the modern world, whilst still maintaining the traditional school colours.

Robot Club

Robot Club, has been relaunched this academic year and is a weekly club for Years 7 and 8. Our younger members really appreciate the support of sixth formers who come along to help when available.

Recently there was much excitement and a grand unboxing of two new Lego Spike Prime sets that have replaced the venerable Mindstorms kits. Members of the club have just finished assembling them.

Now that the basic robots have been assembled, members will start to look at the different ways of programming them (e.g. Scratch, Python), then adding further functionality. The aim is to enter a team into the First Lego League which is a global competition.



Legally Blonde Jnr



School Production December 2021

Legally Blonde JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle's boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, Elle takes matters into her own hands. A collaboration of more than 30 students; primarily performed by students from Years 11, 12 & 13 with a supporting cast from Year 10 and a backstage crew from Year 13.

The production was led by Mrs Baker, with support from Ms Evers and Theatre Technician, Miss Meredith-Walne with an amazing set

designed by Mr Allison, Head of Design and Technology.

Mrs Baker said, "This was my sixth production for the school and once again, students have showcased their commitment, enthusiasm and support of one another, and created a production they can all be extremely proud of".

The audience were blown away by the energy on stage as Legally Blonde is such a feel-good show - just what was needed after such a long absence from live performances.



Green Grove Riverbank

Students involved in our Green Grove Riverbank project have been working hard this term and have cleared a large amount of the invasive Himalayan Balsam weed from the banks of the Aire. The student pioneers learned about the damage it does and how to remove it. The area has suffered from significant flood damage in recent years and a Tesco Community Grant awarded for this project will help to fund more beneficial planting on the riverbank, such as willow and fruit trees, which can improve natural flood resistance.

Fencing Club

With its reintroduction to the school last year, fencing club has grown from strength to strength and an average of 30 pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 now attend each week. Three pupils also attended an extra training session held by the Northern Sports Academy Fencing Club and trained with University of Leeds and Harrogate fencing club. Our Year 8 and 9 fencers benefit from the support and advice from Kira Grahamslaw, Year 10, who recently competed at the Cadet Epee tournament in Serbia. The first target tournament for our WGS fencers is The Yorkshire County Championships on 26th February 2022.



New Outdoor Nets

Work has started on the new outdoor cricket net project, which is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2022 season. The new 4 lane net facility will provide a high quality practice area for all of our cricketers. The winter cricket programme will commence in January, including sessions for boys and girls of all year groups. This year we have our fingers crossed for a full Summer of cricket.



National Cross-Country Finals

The Grove's cross-country squad made school history this term when all four teams qualified for the National Final of the English Schools' Athletics Association's Cross-Country Cup.

The squad had to travel to Newquay, Cornwall but the long journey did not quell their enthusiasm and the Sunday morning barefoot jog on the beach and fun in the waves made it all worthwhile.

As this was a national final, the course itself was a challenging one, with steep hills and sharp corners. The Inter Girls, were lucky enough to run in a rare glimpse of sunshine on what was otherwise a bitterly cold day.



Stand out results were Maisey Bellwood who finished 2nd in the Inter Girls race and Archie Peaker who finished 9th in the Inter Boys race.

As a school, we are extremely proud of them for reaching the national final and for running so hard on a tough course, battling their way to the finish. This is such a promising set of young athletes with a bright future ahead of them; 17 of the 24 were making their debut this season.



Boarding News



Many of you may remember Christmas events in boarding. This year the Hastings-Long Gallery looked very festive for the boarders' Christmas Ball. The catering team provided amazing food followed by singing, fireworks, candy floss and some questionable dance moves! The highlight, of course, was the post meal dodgem cars, which has been a tradition for a few years now.



It has been great to recommence with boarding trips again. Amongst other boarding weekend activities this term, boarders have travelled to Alton Towers and been locked in an Escape room in Leeds.

To beat the clock and unlock the room, they needed to use teamwork to find the clues and solve the problems!



I enjoyed working with other boarders that I don't often have the chance to spend time with. I'm really good at escape rooms and take lots of credit for us finishing 15 mins early! Chloe

The escape room was really enjoyable. It was a good time to bond with others and use my problem solving skills to complete the escape. David

Festive Meet-up



This was a festive catch up at the Stansfield Arms with a group who all left the school in 2014. We are currently based all over the country but we're home for the festive period to visit our families. Though we keep in contact it had been a long time since some of us had seen each other in person due to COVID.

Included in the photo are:

Molly King, Lauren Wood, Anna Dearden, Katie Wilson, Tom Wilkinson, Richard Proctor, Sam & Chris Pollard, Robert Bickerton (all 07-14).

Friends of Woodhouse Grove

The Friends of Woodhouse Grove were delighted to hold the 2021 Christmas Shopping Fair and have worked hard over the Christmas period to make up for events cancelled through lockdown.

£3,600 was raised through festive fundraising events that included the Shopping Fair, Christmas Raffle, Virtual Market and the FOWG Calendar 2022 using pupils' entries from the House photography competition.

£1,200 was also raised from sales of pre-loved uniform in 2021.

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 2022.

You can find out more about events via:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fowg1812>

Twitter @fowg1812

Instagram fowg1812

Email fowg1812@gmail.com



In order to reduce our carbon footprint, we would prefer to send Xaipete digitally. If you have received this copy in the post it means we do not have an email address for you. Please complete the 'keep in touch' form on the Old Grovian section of our website to ensure you receive next year's edition and for other updates throughout the year. #saveourplanet

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



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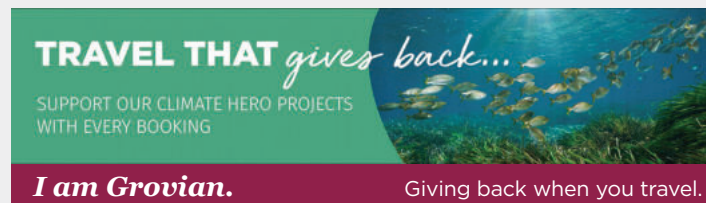
Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, most people have re-assessed their priorities. Spending more time with family and friends is now people's top priority. So, get out there, explore the world again, and make the best memories with the people you love most.

Travel can be confusing with the covid rules, restrictions and requirements constantly changing, but don't let that stop you.

- I book holidays that are ABTA and ATOL protected and are fully refundable
- I help with all the covid travel requirements, tests, and forms you need to complete.
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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, your family, and friends can make those amazing memories that last forever.

Travel that Gives Back-Give back to your School and your Planet.



I am now an ECO travel agent. I can book a range of eco-friendly resorts, focusing on holidays that protect the environment and give back to the local communities. With every booking, NJT supports 5 Carbon Hero Rewilding Projects, with our Mossy Earth Partnership. It's all about "Giving Back".

Read all about the projects on my website
<https://annemonaghan.notjusttravel.com/travel-that-gives-back>

On the topic of Giving Back, I give back to the Grove Foundation when you book your holidays with me. 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.

<https://woodhousegrove.notjusttravel.com/>

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

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<https://woodhousegrove.notjusttravel.com>

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