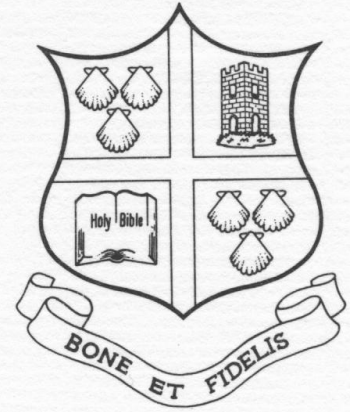


Old Grovian Association

Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, W. Yorks BD10 0NR Tel: 0113 250 2477

FOUNDED 1890



E-mail: oga@woodhousegrove.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY 11th November 2021

Given the current situation regarding Covid-19, this year's AGM was held via written reports and virtual motions

1. **Chair's Remarks**
Via written reports
2. **Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting**
The minutes were approved through an online Survey Monkey

Approved by Roger Davy 47-57 Seconded by David Cope 66-73
3. **Treasurer's Report**
Via written report
4. **School update**
Via Written report
5. **Report on Southern and other Scholarship Funds**
Via written report
6. **Election of Officers for 2021/2022**
Officers for 2021/22: Chair - Miss Sarah Pickles, Chair Elect - Mr Anthony Cadman,
Treasurer - Mrs Vanessa Bates, Secretary - Miss Alice Ainsworth Xaipete Editor - Mrs Sam Cadman
Agreed by Survey Monkey
7. **Date of AGM 2022**
13th November 2021 (subject to restrictions)
8. **OG RUFC**
Via written report
9. **Foundation**
Via written report



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021 – Comments from the Chair

I was honoured to be asked to take on the role of Chair of the Old Grovian Association – but 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. In fact, when I mentioned to my brother, also an Old Grovian, that I was taking over from Keith his words to me were ‘Good luck, that’s like taking over Man Utd from Sir Alex Ferguson!’

The Grove has been a part of my life since I was 12 years old. I continue to have a very close network of friends that I made at the school and 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 is 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 online development is the school’s Digital Archive, featuring pictures of school life from across the years. This will feature a Search function enabling users to look for pictures for a certain year – or even a certain person! This will be a constantly evolving resource with new pictures being added on a regular basis. I understand that Login details will be sent out to Old Grovians very shortly – watch this space!

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.

Sarah Pickles (87-94)



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021: Headmaster's Report

The last academic year saw the best of times and the worst of times. Just as it had been worldwide, this was a year of great anxiety and uncertainty for the entire Grove community. However, it is clear that the resilience, positivity and creativity demonstrated by our pupils and staff, who adapted superbly to these unique circumstances, was quite outstanding. I have been enormously proud of them all and genuinely enjoyed watching them rise to the challenges and do things they did not believe they could, or would ever have to, do.

Trying to find the time and space to reflect on all that has happened, whilst so much is still happening, is not easy. However, I see this process of reflection as being hugely important. What we have to accept is that Covid-19 has changed things; and we should try to resist just going back to how it was, and instead work to embrace positive changes we can make. Our pupils and staff were much more adaptable to change than we might have expected before the pandemic.

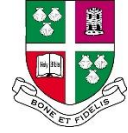
Perhaps the greatest success over an incredibly challenging period was that pupils and staff simply found ways to carry on, to keep learning, to keep smiling and to make the best of the situation. The outcome, quite remarkably, has been that the gap in attainment amongst our students was much narrower than expected – particularly when compared to their maintained sector counterparts – to the point where there is plenty of evidence of significant progress was made during this unsettled period.

Much has been written about Teacher Assessed Grades replacing Public Examinations. Given that the approach to determining grades in 2021 was different from any previous summer, the overall grade distribution in 2021 was always likely to look different from 2020 and years when exams took place. It is, therefore, difficult to draw comparisons with previous sets of results. However, it is very important to stress that while these grades were 'teacher assessed', they were very much the results of our students' own work in the final part of their courses.

All exam candidates sat a series of assessments in all courses, in exam-like conditions. Grades were generated from the marks attained and the evidence the students produced. These marks were then examined through internal and external quality assurance processes. The results were better than they would have been under the stress of the full exam series, perhaps, but the results attained were testament to the hard work, determination and maturity shown by our students, despite the disruption of the pandemic, and thanks to the careful preparation and dedication shown by their teachers. We quite rightly celebrated the many highlights from these results proudly – they are richly deserved.

On Saturday 03 July 2021, the School hosted a Year 13 Leavers' Celebration. A truly memorable event at which I reflected on the fact that our 2021 Leavers' greatest legacy to the Grove lies in what they have given each other and the rest of our community. Those small but important every-day moments of kindness, friendship, and generosity of spirit. The Grove is a special place because our young people make it that way. Accepting of the fact that they are all individuals, yet knowing they are part of something bigger.

There is no escaping the fact that the Covid-19 generation of Grovians has been hit hard. In the months that have passed, they have had to adapt, learn, re-organise, re-think and re-imagine how they work. Out of war time, I cannot think of a group of young people of whom more has been asked, or from whom more has been taken. However, our students are also a generation that is politically aware, socially responsible and engaged with the world.



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021: Headmaster's Report

Like you all before them, the current crop of Grovians display energy, creativity and a sense of purpose and this has never been more evident than over the last 20 months. When they returned to school, full-time, after the second period of school closures in March, it was clear that, as a result of their enforced time away, they had a unique sense of the value, not just of education, but of community and social interaction. This could well turn the Grovians of today into a remarkable and powerful generation.

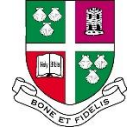
Thanks to the advent of Teacher Assessed Grades, the Summer Term was a very intense period, creating a huge additional workload for our teachers, who have also had to turn around End of Year assessments for other year groups whilst meeting tight Reporting deadlines. While setting, marking and moderating Year 11 (Fifth Form) and Year 13 (Upper Sixth) student work to assign and award Teacher Assessed Grades, my colleagues were, quite understandably, constantly questioning themselves over whether they had been following the guidance properly. They felt like this because they are dedicated, professional, conscientious and care deeply about our young people and the School's reputation. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a group of outstanding teachers who, first and foremost, believe teaching to be a caring vocation.

When stepping back and reflecting, for me, there are three key issues that come to mind when considering the School's recovery plan post-pandemic. Firstly, **Mindset**: as teachers we need to be prepared to evolve our approach to teaching. Those of us who regard ourselves as traditional in our approach need to ensure that this is not a barrier to innovative approaches, such as flipped learning and incorporating technology fully inside and outside the classroom.

Secondly, **Creativity**. There needs to be a shift away from our pupils being simply good at exams, good at answering exam questions, getting good grades and securing places in higher education. They need to be good problem finders and problem solvers. Teachers need to facilitate this problem finding which comes back to my first point about teacher mindset. Careful planning over how the curriculum is presented to pupils is required. Allowing students the time and space to go off on tangents makes for far more interesting lessons, albeit one must get through the syllabus within a given time frame. The use of Microsoft Teams to facilitate one-to-one and small collaborative groups within lessons is one example of how students can learn in the future, whilst also providing them with a taste of university style collaborative teaching.

Finally, we need to **Embrace But Not Replace!** Embrace the modern technology and ensure we develop our understanding of how it can assist with education by facilitating greater collaboration and team working. However, it should never replace the face-to-face contact which is so crucial to our basic human needs and those of our pupils. Let us never forget that teachers have the single largest impact on pupils. Teachers who love their subject and have excellent subject knowledge enjoy the company of youngsters and have remarkably high expectations of all their pupils. As I've already recorded, at Woodhouse Grove, we are remarkably lucky to have so many teachers who, first and foremost, believe teaching to be a caring vocation. We should not take them for granted.

At the end of the academic year, we said goodbye to Mr David Hole, who retired after 31 years of loyal and dedicated service. After 8 years leading the School's boarding community, Mr Vernon departed to take on a Senior Leadership position overseas.



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021: Headmaster's Report

I cannot hide the fact that it was incredibly frustrating, and at times heart-breaking, to see our children miss out on various events and activities that, prior to the pandemic, we had taken for granted. As we all know, going to school is not just about academic achievement and narrow educational development. Children need other children and, in the vast majority of circumstances, teachers need to have face-to-face contact and interaction with their pupils. This being the case, the kind of disruption to normal school routines we saw during the periods of school closure and towards the end of the last academic year, when positive cases in school increased sharply, cannot be repeated.

Having navigated our way through to the end of an academic year like no other, in a backdrop of the easing of national restrictions and systems of control in schools, and embarked on a new academic year with optimism, it is perhaps the time to consider what the future of education will look like in a post-pandemic world. The reality is that, even now, we simply do not know what the next 18 to 24 months will hold. I am hearing calls from some that education needs to be radically different, whilst other commentators and eminent educationalists are promoting a more cautious approach of 'let us wait and see'.

While we attempt to make sense of what has happened and how to best recover from the past few months, The Old Grovian Association should be reassured and comforted by the fact that the current generation of Grovians have been remarkably well looked after and have remained at the forefront of everything the School has done in response to the pandemic.

In this context, I believe the words written by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:12 to be hugely relevant, *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"*. As are the words recorded in 1 Peter 5:7, *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"*.

For my part, I am enormously grateful for the continued support and encouragement I have received from the Old Grovian network and am very relieved that, to some extent at least, the 'reset button' has been pressed since the School's return in September; and am delighted to report that life at The Grove has felt a lot more like normal!

Sadly, owing to the ongoing situation, we are still not able to run our normal programme of gatherings and reunion events. However, we very much hope to resume normal service in the New Year. Plans are afoot for a Golf Day in May and a Leavers' Thirty Year Reunion event in the summer.

Xaipete!

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster



Mr G. Brian Greenwood

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

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 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 served two terms of office as its Chairman. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, 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, Mr. Greenwood was invited to join the School's Board of Governors before becoming Vice-Chairman in 1964. In 1969, Mr. Greenwood 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, Mr. Greenwood became the School's very first Honorary President, a role he held for the rest of his remarkable life.

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 support so fervently.

Xaipete!

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

Old Grovian Association

Treasures report for the year end 31st August 2021.

The OGA is reporting a loss for the year of £1,109

However this was after a one of donation to Southernns of £3,000 and the annual donation to the WGS Foundation to provide a bursary for the an OGA family of £3,000

The £3,000 donation to WGS Foundation was matched by the School and awarded to a pupil who's fathers (OG) income was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to put the OGA archive project on hold, however funds previously pledged totaling £5,000 have been ring fenced for when further work can be undertaken.

At the year end, the OGA can report a health cash at bank balance of c£35k

The budget for 21/22 continues to show the association making a modest surplus.



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021 – Southern Report

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 ones 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 his 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)



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021

Election of Officers

OGA Committee

President: James Lockwood (86-92) (st16-)

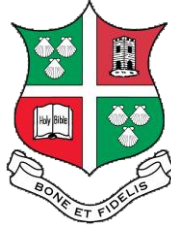
Chairperson: Sarah Pickles (87-94)

Chair Elect: Anthony Cadman (77-94 st01-)

Treasurer: Vanessa Bates (87-94) (st14-)

Secretary: Alice Ainsworth (08-17 st21-)

Xaipete Editor: Sam Cadman (89-96, st10-)



Old Grovian Association AGM 2021 – OGRUFC Report

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 continue 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 (Ground) 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) Founder of OGRUFC





Old Grovian Association AGM 2021 – 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 the true empathy and support from our community. The current account balance stands at close to £170k.

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 after Christmas.

The events calendar of the OGA and Foundation remains on hold for 2021 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 12 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 digitisation is now ready to launch and all Old Grovians will receive an email update in the next couple of weeks with access details. 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 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.