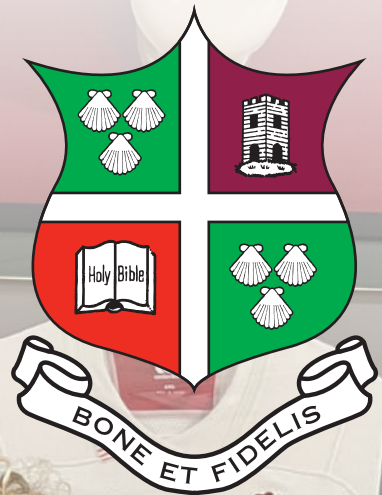


# Χαίρετε





## Welcome from the Chair of the Old Grovian Association



**Anthony Cadman (87-94, st01-)**

I am delighted to have been invited to be Chair of the OGA for the 2022/23 year. This is an association that is close to my heart having been fully involved in OGA events since leaving the Grove in 1994. I think I have played in the Old Grovian cricket fixture every year since leaving school, convening the team and playing in the annual rugby fixture for 25 years. I felt 25 years was long enough and younger players needed to take up the mantle, which I think my body is grateful for. However, the new touch and pass innovation that took place at the November reunion has tempted me back out of retirement! I was also involved in the Old Grovian Rugby Club, playing for several enjoyable seasons and I am very sorry to hear the sad news about the club having to scale back operations this season.

With regard to some plans for this year, I would very much like to run a joint event with Sarah Pickles (OGA Chair 2021/22) in the Spring Term. The plan is to run a 1990's reunion, hopefully attracting members of our year group back to school after almost 30 years. Yes 30 years!

Secondly, I have organised a golf day at Bradford Golf Club on Sunday 7th May. I hope that this day, which is nicely followed by a bank holiday, will attract Old Grovian golfers young and old. Holding the event on a Sunday afternoon should also allow those with other commitments on Saturdays to take part along with giving teaching staff the option to enter a team. More details and how to sign up for this event can be seen on the next page.

Finally, I am delighted to be hosting a reunion dinner on Saturday 11th November, the night before the Remembrance Weekend and OGA Reunion. There will be a 'Sports Tour' theme to the evening but the event will be open to all Old Grovians regardless of their involvement in tours. Tickets are available now and this event is open to all. It would be great to see some tables of tourists that I toured as a pupil with to Canada in 1993 along with groups that I took on tour as a member of staff over the years.

Now that the Pandemic is having far less impact on social gatherings, I hope that this year will see a regeneration of interest and engagement in the OGA and I look forward to seeing many Old Grovians throughout the course of the year.

**Anthony Cadman (87-94, st01-)**

## Reunion Events Calendar

### Old Grovian Golf Day, Bradford Golf Club Sunday 7th May 2023

See advert on page 3.

### Summer OGA Reunion Sunday 2nd July 2023

An informal family event; watch the cricket and tennis, enjoy the bbq, inflatables for the children and the bar is open all afternoon. The event starts from 1.30pm.

### London Reunion Thursday 28th September 2023

This event had to be cancelled in 2022 but, after many successful events, we want to get together as many OGs who live in the 'big smoke' as possible in 2023! This is an informal event and we welcome OGs of all generation to come along, share a drink or two and network with other OGs who call London home – plus a few that come down from Yorkshire!

### Tour Reunion Dinner Saturday 11th November 7pm

The OGA Chair, Anthony Cadman, welcomes any former pupils back to the school for a 'Tour Reunion' dinner. Having been on tour as a pupil in 1993 and then having the privilege of going on 5 International School Tours as a member of staff, he knows how special tours are and how they are one of the most memorable times at the school for former pupils. Although we know 'what goes on tour stays on tour', we think this will be a great night to share some of those memories and re-engage with former school friends. Old Grovians from all generations are welcome. Why not get a table together with friends from your tour? We would love to see you at this event.

Tickets available now at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool)

### Old Grovian Drinks in Leeds Date to be confirmed

Whether you regularly come back to our reunions or haven't been back to the school since the day you left, we would love to see you at one of our events. All our events are very informal and whether you come on your own, or with a group of friends from school, we are sure you will have a great time. We will be in touch again soon with more details about our 'Grovian Annual Fund' and our Events Calendar. In the meantime, please follow our Facebook page – Old Grovian Association - for up-to-date information on the school and the Foundation.



**Canada Rugby Tour 1993**

# FOUNDATION *Update*

The Foundation is delighted to be back up and running and, in conjunction with the Old Grovian Association, is delighted to host a full calendar of events for the year. Along with hosting a number of reunions at the school and beyond, the foundation will be focussing on three key aims over the year.

The first aim is to reconnect and engage with alumni from across the ages. We will be increasing our email communication to provide more frequent updates that are more tailored to your time at The Grove. This will be supported on our social platforms and on the OGA section of the school website. This communication will allow us to promote our various reunions and events but will also give us important feedback on what events our alumni want going forward; so we can shape the events programme for the coming years. We will also continue to use postal communication for those who we know prefer to receive updates this way. If you do not receive emails from the Foundation, please ensure we have your most up to date email address by completing a 'keep in touch' form on the school website.

Our second aim is to provide a sustainable income stream to the Foundation that can be used to support transformational bursaries; to give children from all walks of life the opportunity to a Grove education. We know that times are challenging but this income stream is crucial to the school's ethos of providing education to all.

We gratefully thank those Old Grovians who regularly give to the Foundation; those that give regular monthly amounts and those who get in touch to offer donations to specific causes - your support is incredible. All donations however big or small are used to make a difference to a child's education. Over the coming months, we will be launching a 'Grovian Annual Fund' where we hope to encourage more Old Grovians to set up regular giving to the Foundation. This will be accessed entirely online and will give you different options to choose where your money will be utilised, with an option to support our bursary appeal, along with options to support different school projects. More information on this will be coming shortly.

The final aim for this year is to re-launch our legacy campaign, Fidelis. We will be sending out further information on our legacy programme, including the tax benefits of leaving a legacy to the school in your will.

The most important element of the Foundation and, indeed, the common aim of the OGA, is to see our alumni. We hope that over the year you will take the opportunity to come back to the school or attend an Old Grovian event elsewhere.

Sam Cadman, Director of Marketing & Commerce (89-96, st10-)

A poster for the Old Grovian Golf Day. At the top is the Old Grovian Association crest. Below it, the text reads: 'THE OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS', 'OLD GROVIAN GOLF DAY', 'SUNDAY 7TH MAY', 'BRADFORD GOLF CLUB, HAWKSWORTH', 'START TIMES FROM 1PM'. A red line separates this from the ticket information: '£200 FOR A 4 BALL', 'Includes 18 holes of golf, tea/coffee and butty on arrival and dinner at the end'. Below that, 'INDIVIDUAL FULL DAY TICKET £50' and 'DINNER ONLY TICKET £17.50'. At the bottom, it says: 'For any members of Bradford Golf Club please select the options for how many club members you have playing within your 4 ball for a reduced price.' and 'Buy your tickets at [ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool](https://ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool)'. The poster is decorated with golf clubs and golf balls.

THE OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

## OLD GROVIAN GOLF DAY

SUNDAY 7TH MAY  
BRADFORD GOLF CLUB, HAWKSWORTH  
START TIMES FROM 1PM

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**£200 FOR A 4 BALL**  
*Includes 18 holes of golf, tea/coffee and butty on arrival and dinner at the end*

**INDIVIDUAL FULL DAY TICKET £50**  
**DINNER ONLY TICKET £17.50**

For any members of Bradford Golf Club please select the options for how many club members you have playing within your 4 ball for a reduced price.

Buy your tickets at [ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool](https://ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool)

## Digital Archive

Don't forget to check out the WGS digital archive, which can be found in the Old Grovians section of the school website. We have added new records to the digital archive over the past year so be sure to take a look.



To access the digital archive you will need a username and password, which were sent via email when the digital archive was first launched. If you do not remember the username and password please email:

**[foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk)**





## Rugby Star Returns to WGS

On the 12th November 2022, as staff and students were preparing for Open Morning, halfway across the world, Old Grovian Ellie Kildunne (11-16) scored the opening try in the Rugby World Cup final. Despite Ellie putting England ahead early, the team ultimately narrowly lost out on the tournament win to the home team New Zealand.

A few weeks later, the school was thrilled to welcome Ellie back after she returned home from New Zealand.

As a student at Woodhouse Grove, Ellie was heavily involved in the school's sports programmes and has gone on to find major success in Rugby. Ellie has played for the England Rugby team since 2017 and has made over 30 caps for the national team. She has also been a part of two Six Nations winning teams and was part of the England 7s team, which qualified for the 2020 Olympics.

During her return visit, Ellie reconnected with teachers who had taught her sport, as well as many other teachers all of whom were excited to hear all about her life since leaving the Grove. Ellie kindly spoke to the Year 7 and 8s in their assembly about her experiences at the Rugby World Cup, sharing her pre-match rituals, sporting heroes and what the World Cup training camp was like.

### **When you were at school who were your sporting idols?**

"I remember doing an English assignment in Year 7 on someone you look up to. At the time I didn't watch or play rugby really so I did mine on Jessica Ennis. I still admire her because she's a very special woman and has achieved so much."

### **How do you deal with injuries?**

"I signed my first sevens contract at 18, I had just finished my A-levels and moved to London to get paid to do what I love and I got shin splints! It was really tough because I had never not been able to play and train before, but it makes you stronger in different ways. You can be strong and fit on the pitch but to be able to sit down and do the analysis and the gym work and still do that knowing that you've got six months off creates mental resilience. To stay motivated and positive while also trying to find ways to benefit your game is something that has made me the player that I am now."

### **For the World Cup, how did you deal with the pressure of having the expectations of the whole country on you and the team?**

"Pressure is a privilege. If you feel the pressure it means that the game means something to you and the people around you, I also like showing off! I like impressing people and making sure somebody in the crowd goes 'wow she was good'. I love doing things that will catch someone in the crowd's eye, even if it's just in the warm-up. Even though the pressure was a big thing we felt during the World Cup, I love it and I'd rather have a full crowd of opposition fans than play in an empty stadium."

### **Do you have any pre-match routines or superstitions?**

"I used to have a certain song I played, but now they take our phones off us before a big game. I just like going around smiling and making sure that I've seen and hugged everyone. As I run out I always touch the white line just to have that mental switch on, from going from dancing in the locker room with my friends to switched on and ready to play."





However, the highlight of the day for our Year 7 students was getting the opportunity to learn from Ellie in a rugby session during their PE lesson. Ellie looked right at home helping teach the class and was getting involved with drills and giving advice, she even made an excellent nurse in a case of two bumped heads! After their lesson, Ellie stayed to sign autographs and spoke to some of the girls about women's rugby and how to get involved, promising to come back and watch if they joined a team.

After lunch, Ellie held a Q&A session with the school's GAEP (Grove Athlete Education Programme) students, focusing on how to balance school work with the demands of being an athlete and dealing with setbacks. Ellie shared her own experiences of facing injuries and offered advice on time management and prioritisation. She emphasized the importance of setting goals, as well as the need for a support system, including teachers and family, to help navigate the challenges of balancing school and sports.

As a special gift to the school, Ellie presented Woodhouse Grove with one of her Rugby World Cup shirts, as seen on the front cover. We are delighted that Ellie has gifted us her shirt, it will be proudly displayed alongside other notable Old Grovian sporting shirts.

Ellie's visit was a great inspiration to the students and staff. Her drive and determination to succeed in rugby is evident and it's clear she will continue to be a leader in women's rugby for years to come. The school and the students are so proud of her and all of her achievements so far, we just can't wait to see what the future holds for her.







“I am extremely excited to share that dreams really do come true.”



Moh got in touch before the start of his 2022 season...

When I started out racing in a Citroen Saxo 4 years ago (almost to the day) I set my sights on racing in the greatest, most competitive championships around the world eventually. I am thrilled to say that, after successfully achieving Vice-Champion status in the GT Cup Championship last year, I have been given the opportunity to step up to the very pinnacle of British sports car racing and I will be competing in the 2022 British GT season in a McLaren 570S GT4 with Paddock Motorsport. This year will be a whole new ball game and a huge step up but I am extremely excited and can't wait to take you on the journey with me.

Our race weekends will now consist of races that last between 1 to 3 hours long, which demands more strategic thinking from both teams and drivers. The competition is even more fierce with some of the world's greatest GT drivers duelling it out for victories and we also now participate in more fan-orientated race weekends with autograph sessions, pit lane & grid walks, plus a huge range of engaging activities around the circuit.

For the 2022 season, I have founded the 'MRR Members' Club'. Members get to meet each other and experience the thrill of the races with a range of extras including behind-the-scenes access, MRR Merchandise, VIP access and a variety of member-club-exclusive content. There are three tiers of membership to fit personal preference. For more information on either this season or the MRR Members' Club, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mohritsonracing@gmail.com](mailto:mohritsonracing@gmail.com) or check out [www.britishgt.com](http://www.britishgt.com).

**Moh Ritson (13-20)**



# WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



## Denis Child (37-42)

I left WGS in 1942 at the age of 15 and immediately joined what was then the Westminster Bank in Leeds as a temporary employee. This was customary in wartime but would turn out to be a 54 year engagement, apart from 4 years in the Navy. I retired in 1986 as Director and Deputy Group Chief Executive at a time when what had then become NatWest still had an excellent reputation and remained on the Board for another 9 years. I continued to work full time till I was 70 with many appointments mainly in the City. I won't bore you with details but if you wish, details can be found in WhosWho. One exceptional job was a roller coaster ride as a founder Director of Eurotunnel. I was awarded the CBE in 1987. I moved back to Yorkshire 2 years ago to be cared for by my family and now live up the road in Rawdon.

## Donald Stephenson (57-64)

I have retired now from my professional life as an Operatic singer, and also as a Lay Clerk at Bradford Cathedral.

## Gareth Cunningham (60-68)



Gareth has been living in happy retirement in Suffolk (near Bury St Edmunds) for the past seven years. Although maintaining his links with the North of England, he also has a property in Cheshire, where he lived for 20 years. Lockdown did present its challenges (not least his catching COVID), but Gareth was able to continue with his charitable work for the RAF Association, even when isolating at home with his wife. Running and cycling keep him reasonably fit and slow down, rather than prevent, old age spread! Being a septuagenarian does not prevent him from making an annual



skiing trip to the French Alps and long-distance travel is still very much on the agenda. When the weather is fine, Gareth can often be seen in the skies over East Anglia piloting his light aircraft. Cruising the lanes on his Harley Davidson trike is another enjoyable pastime. Although it is now well over 50 years since Gareth left the Grove, he still has many vivid and happy memories of his time there.

## Robert Udy (63-70)

At the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, my wife and I started walking every day along part of a heritage trail, which is constructed on the route of an old railway line close to our home. We walked as far as a gate across the trail (see photo), a return distance of nearly 5 miles, also about 10,000 steps and taking an hour (or a little longer) to complete. So we thought it ticked all the boxes!



It was soon after this that I heard that a member of the National Executive of 41 Club (the association of ex-Round Tablers' Clubs), who lives in the Midlands, had set himself a challenge to walk 500 miles, about the distance from his home to Aviemore in Scotland, the planned venue for the 2021 National Conference. This was subsequently cancelled, "due to Covid", apart from an AGM on Zoom. Then someone heard a certain Proclaimers song on the radio, so the challenge became "500 Miles and 500 Miles More for Dementia UK", the National President's chosen charity for his year (actually two). This would allow for returning home again: 1000 miles in 50 weeks or 20 miles a week or 3 miles a day.

We completed the challenge first in 25 weeks, but we are retired, which made it easier. The lovely weather definitely helped too! I also collected more than £1,000.00 in sponsor money for Dementia UK.



## Alistair Jacques (69-79), Simon Jacques (74-83) & Christopher Jacques(77-85)



Brothers Alistair, Simon, and Christopher Jacques... each, 3 years apart... all emigrated to the USA, over 30 years ago.

Sadly, Simon died in July 2022, for the full obituary please turn to page 16.

Christopher is a graphic artist, living in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Alistair lives in a small lakeside town called Wayzata, also in Minnesota. Wayzata sits on Lake Minnetonka (the original home of Tonka Toys).

Alistair retired 4 years ago, but is still very active, spending time with his wife Karen, son Nicholas, daughter Sophie, and dog Marlo. They golf, play tennis, wake-surf, cook, barbecue, hike, ski, and really enjoy entertaining friends and family.

Alistair is still in touch with several Old Grovians and would be delighted to reconnect with any other classmates.

## David P. Whithorn (70-77)

Having made a film with WGS staff and pupils in the chapel on the 'Bradford Pals', it was shown to pupils in July - a testament to at least one OG on the school's Memorial boards! Beyond that, I have



continued as a volunteer 'community writer' (despite living in Hampshire!) for the Telegraph and Argus newspaper, producing regular special articles on the stories of Bradford's WW1 soldiers. This year too saw my 21st year selling poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - I do this wearing 'Tommy kit' - netting over £3.2k to help ex-service personnel. Away from the 'limelight', making 'trench stew' and a 'brew' on a 'petrol-tin stove' I copied from an original photograph, all helps to educate other children (and adults too!) visiting the 'trench' in deepest Kent!

## James Gray (82-89)

James Gray became a Senior Captain at Cathay Pacific Airways, flying the Boeing 747-8. James also got married and has one son. Since 1993 James has been living abroad in Hong Kong.

## Yasmin Awan Khan (90-92)



Yas graduated from Manchester University in 1996 with a degree in business and computer science before moving to London. She then started working in project management in investment banking as a consultant. In 2011, Yas had a child and more recently moved to Dubai in November 2020. Living in a beautiful villa by the Indian Ocean open to Grove visitors! She now holds a volunteer position at the primary school as president of parent school council, and is an influencer on Instagram @dubai\_londoner with nearly 100k followers.



## Dr Ravi Singh (03-10)

Dr Ravi Singh completed both his undergraduate and postgraduate studies from the University of Leeds. Following his doctorate, he moved to Imperial College London in 2019 as a research associate/laboratory manager. He was also the course manager for the MRes in drug discovery and development. Very recently, he was made a lecturer (teaching fellow) in organic chemistry at Imperial College. His expertise is in drug discovery/development and his doctoral research is currently being filed for a patent.



During his doctoral studies at the University of Leeds, he was involved in teaching. He was part of the team who were awarded a prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry Horizon Prize for Education in November 2022, based on work done at Leeds. This was for "improving students' preparation for research in organic synthesis" where each member of the team contributed different ideas to advance student learning. Dr Singh created workshops which allowed students to apply theory into practice. This workshop idea was co-presented at a national conference, resulted in a journal publication, and has since been embedded into the curriculum at the University of Leeds.

## Amelia Lancaster (08-15)

Since I left WGS, I completed a degree in Policing & Criminal Investigation at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) based in Preston, graduating with a 2:1.

Once I had completed my degree, I went on to start my career in the Metropolitan Police Service, starting in May 2020 (peak Covid times), where I was based at Wimbledon Police Station, covering and policing the London Boroughs of Wandsworth & Merton.

After 2.5 years working in the Met Police, I have now transferred to West Yorkshire Police, where I will have finished my transferee training course and will be based at Eccleshill Police Station in Bradford. This area is one of the busiest and most challenging areas of West Yorkshire to police, however I'm very much looking forward to a new challenge.

My memories of WGS always remain fond and I look back at my time at WGS as a good grounding for my future in life. I had some of the best support from many people such as Lisa Oakley from the English department when I did my A-levels, former Deputy Head, David Wood and Spanish teacher, Helen Mitchell, to name a few. Plus, the wonderful Mr Jones.

WGS is the right environment for anyone, as there is always someone there for you and something for you whatever your interests.

I am Grovian!

## Philippa Blakeley (13-16)

Since leaving Woodhouse in 2016, I went and did my A-levels and then to University. Now, while studying my Masters, I've also joined Leicestershire Police to be a Special Constable, and I'm hoping to join as a regular this year if my application is successful.



## James Shoesmith-Evans (04-20) Andrew Mettrick (13-20)

Two Old Grovians James Shoesmith-Evans and Andrew Mettrick were at Buckingham Palace on Friday 20th May 2022 receiving their Gold D of E award. Held in the gardens with Prince Edward, it was a wonderful occasion. Both of the boys had completed their bronze and gold awards at WGS.





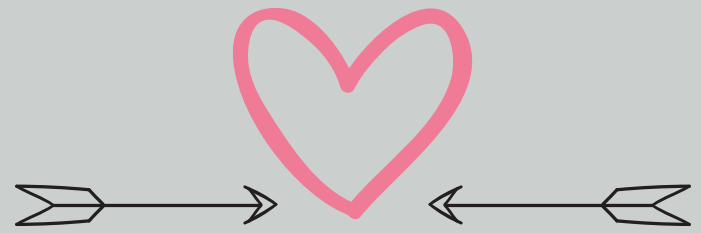
# Births



My wife gave birth to our second child, Zane Blaise, on the 8th of February 2022. We think that we are the first Lord and Lady Mayoress of Westminster to have a child during our term. Zane's middle name Blaise is after St Blaise the patron saint of wool combers. Due to the link between the wool industry and the city, St Blaise is the patron saint of Bradford.

**Andrew Smith (92-95)**

# Marriages



**Elliot McKendrick (00-07)**

We heard from Old Grovian Elliot McKendrick about his 2022 summer wedding in Italy.

"Lucy and I had quite a few Old Grovians in attendance, though Lucy herself didn't go to The Grove.

The ceremony was a quiet affair in Varenna, Lake Como, Italy. We had a big party in the UK to celebrate with many more OGs"

From left to right we have;

- Andrew Falls (00-07)
- Sam Robinson (00-07)
- Duncan Hughes-Guy (00-07)
- Georgie Starkey (00-07)
- Jen Isles (00-07)
- Lucy McKendrick (Prince Henry's Grammar School)
- Elliot McKendrick (00-07)
- William Cran (00-07)
- Soph Atkinson (00-07)
- Ben Coverdale (00-07)
- Charlotte Proctor (04-19)
- Richard Proctor (07-14)





# Retirees



**Andrew Pickles (st08-22)**

Beloved art teacher and former Head of Art, Andrew Pickles retired at the end of the 2022 Summer Term. While we are sad to see him go, we are grateful that he will still be returning to the school occasionally to share his expertise in art with current students.

Here are a few words from Andrew's colleague and friend, Jim Allison (st10-). "Having been at the Grove with Andrew for the past twelve years, I know him to be one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever had the pleasure to work alongside. He afforded this kindly spirit to staff and pupils alike; I know both have already been missing his benevolent yet sharp-witted and humorous demeanour. The quality and scope of artwork produced by students at the Grove during his time in charge has been staggering, more often than not achieving the top grades at both GCSE and A-level. He has certainly set many off on the pathway for success in the Arts and I had the pleasure to convey words of thanks from many a student both past and present on news of his retirement. Alongside so many other staff and students, I wish him the very best of retirement, knowing that actually, this is just the beginning for this talented friend to enjoy redirecting the boundless energy he has dedicated to the Grove for many years, into himself and his family. Enjoy it, mate!"

## School Chaplain



"Congratulations Rob, but what exactly will you be doing?"

This was the general, but not exclusive response from the churches I had been working with, in and around Wakefield, for the last 6 years, when I shared the news of my appointment as school Chaplain. However, many church members knew exactly what I would be doing – because they were Old Grovians or had had a friend or church member who had attended, or a relative who had passed through the school gates. They all spoke highly and fondly of WGS and Brontë House, and wanted me to know, I would be fine.

And of course, they were right. What an amazing place to be and what an honour to be able to share experiences of life and faith with pupils, staff, parents and other school guests.

Whilst this is a new venture for me as a full-time school chaplain – chaplaincy, children's and youth work is not new. I received my first License from the Archbishop of Canterbury back in 1987 and headed off to the Isle of Dogs, that great loop in the river Thames, to take up a post as a Children's, Youth and Schools Worker. I then went back into education to become a JNC Nationally Qualified Youth and Community Worker, which led to running a Christian Gap Year programme called, 'Time for God' before heading to Peterborough to manage a Christian Conference Centre and running a few Local Authority Youth Clubs. Heading north, I became the Bishop of Sheffield's Youth Work Advisor before managing several youth work projects in Schools and Pupils Referral Units for Barnardo's. Returning to my Methodist roots, I worked in several churches in north Sheffield alongside being the Chaplain to Sheffield Children's Hospital, before moving to Wakefield, where I looked after 4 churches, was a Governor and Chaplain for several schools, a Chaplain to the Mayor of Wakefield and Chaplain at Wakefield Hospice.

I hope and pray my diverse background and experience will enable me to make connections in our school, the Grovian networks, as well as in the local community.

The dust, as they say, has settled and I can see what the different parts of the Job Description look like. I do not think one area is more important than the other. The school chaplain is here to offer spiritual support to those of faith, those exploring faith and those with none. Seeing the whole school community coming through Chapel doors each week is a real joy and privilege – being gifted a moment of time each week to bring something of the God of Abraham, Ismael and of Isaac, to such a beautifully diverse group is wonderful. I am grateful to the Senior staff who share in this, alongside our excellent Music department.

I also have the joy of being part of two other teams. First is Boarding. Boys' boarding have over 40 pupils covering all age groups. We offer extra-curricular activities, space to chat and wind down, as well as formal Tutor conversations. The Second is teaching PSHEE. With my youth worker hat firmly on my head, I share experiences alongside core curriculum material and journey with the pupils looking at issues which impact every part of life.

The school chaplain must be able to turn their hand to any number of day-to-day problems facing their school's community, and I hope and pray, as time goes by I will step up and fill the shoes of the many chaplains who have gone before.

On a final note, most of the school have now heard of my tentative connection with The Grove and Brontë – but in case it has not filtered through, my father-in Law, E.A Naylor (Tony) started in Brontë, with his big brother Barry coming straight to The Grove. Dates are a bit vague, but it will be around 1947. They were 'sons of the Manse', as their father was a Methodist Army Chaplain and always on the move. We have already spotted a picture of Uncle Barry in the Hastings-Long Gallery, on a trip to Switzerland and have explored the on-line archives and found Grandad Tony in Rugby and Cricket attire. Grandad has told me where the new boys got 'dunked' and where he used to sneak off for a smoke, as he felt sure this would be important knowledge for the new Chaplain!

I do have to say though, Grandad went on to become Headmaster of a secondary school, and Uncle Barry headed up the Probationary Services – so they both lived out the Grove values of serving others, that were instilled in them during their years at the school.

**Rev. Rob Drost (st22-), School Chaplain.**



# “We’re getting the gang back together”



“We’re getting the gang back together,” said the Head Boy (‘82 version). Well, sort of. There are a group of ten of us who have kept in touch – loosely – since leaving the old alma mater, with an annual golf match being a recent feature (current holders: Southernns, since you ask). Andy Tomlinson organized weekly Zoom calls during lockdown, which was a blessing, and they continue even now.

So when Mr Burnhill suggested a quick traipse around the old gaff, we thought it was a good idea and jumped. As you do with such an – ahem – respected disciplinarian Head Boy. Not everyone could make a late June Thursday afternoon, but between hip replacements, grandchildren and early retirements, we managed five takers in Messrs, Burnhill, Cockerill, Fatkin, Hammes (all the way from California, no less) and North.

Alice Ainsworth (an Old Grovian herself) kindly showed us around, for which big thanks, beginning with a cuppa in one of those rooms off the main corridor leading to the dining room that you only ended up in if you’d done something wrong. I think it was also the first time I’d ever entered the school via the main entrance, come to think of it.

All those honours boards, all those names. Plenty of representation from within our group, though I assume the Sir Henry Price Scholarship board was away for cleaning... The room seemed somehow smaller. But we recalled the ‘food’ we used to queue up for. Plum tomatoes on toast was about the only meal we could recognize. There was even a (mercifully brief) attempt at recreating the 1st XV rugby’s winning song they used to sing outside after any away win.

The Southernns dorms (creatively named ‘West’ and ‘South’) have gone now. But the fire escape off of the former that we used to send lads out to the Greengates chippy from on a Friday evening was still there, opposite where the Sixth Form Centre building (as it was in our day) stood. There was a fire there in our day, y’know. A proper one. Fire engines and everything...

Via the Vinter and Findlay common rooms – echoes of milk and biscuits and watching Top of the Pops on spring-riddled sofas long since shorn of comfort – we nipped up to where our first dorms – ‘Old North’ and ‘Price’ – had been. Unsurprisingly, they had been converted into classrooms. But we still cringed at the first-night hair brushing administered to us by Nick ‘Bomber’ Briggs and reminisced at collecting our weekly 30p pocket money from Dicky Golen. 30p. Wow.

After a parade down the corridor of Vinter and Findlay dorms, we came to the old Sixth Form study bedrooms. We even managed to take in the very scene where Messrs Cockerill and Hammes, on their last night at the school after our Leavers’ do, were involved in what can only be termed ‘an incident’ which included members of the kitchen staff, hiding in cupboards, David McCarthy, and one of our two protagonists feigning sleep, leaving the other to take the rap.

We breezed past the science labs (none of our group was especially scientific), but took in all the spanking state-of-the-art facilities, like the theatre and the wonderful swimming pool. The old pool was somewhere I spent a lot of time.

A bit of cricket apart, it was the only sport I was any good at. I could still picture it: the throwing up after training; the rats’ tails with soaking wet towels; the eyeball-popping quantities of chlorine; and the lifesaving badge involving diving for a brick in your pyjamas (still... why?), even though the area it occupied had long since been replaced.



Having also seen the old Covered Shed, peered in at where the Vinter baths had been, marvelled at the perpendicular gradient of the staircase coming down to the old Memorial Hall, recced the site of the old ‘East’ dorm, visited the library (for one or two of us, possibly for the first time), and checked out the various hiding places some of us used to sneak a cheeky cigarette, we bumped into Sam Cadman. What a good job she does for us old Grovians.

Steve has been back to the Grove many times. He was even a teacher for a while, which the rest of us still laugh uproariously at. I’d been back just twice. And then only very briefly. This tour offered a fabulous insight into how things have changed, but at the same time provided reassurance that some things remain largely the same. I started at Brontë in 1973, so we’re talking 50 years or so. The facilities now simply don’t compare.

Before venturing over to the old Queens pub (only Stef had been brave enough to do so while we were pupils, and that didn’t end well for him...) we couldn’t help noticing: where did all the ivy on the front of the building go?

*Unfortunatley Mike, the ivy was damaging the stone building, thank you for visiting, come back soon. Thanks, Alice.*

## Mike Fatkin (73-82)

Steve Burnhill (75-82), Stefan Cockerill (75-82), Mike Fatkin (73-82), John Haigh (75-82), Mark Hammes (77-82), Tony Hope (78-81), Greg Marchbank (73-81), Andrew North (75-82), Andrew Tomlinson (73-82), Anthony Walker (77-82)



# OG Autumn Reunion & Remembrance Service

On Sunday, November 13th, we held our Annual Remembrance Service and the Autumn Old Grovians Reunion. The day began with a Chapel service in the morning that was both contemplative and reflective. In the afternoon, there were sports games featuring WGS and Old Grovian teams, as well as other events for those in attendance. Overall, it was a day of reflection, camaraderie, and athletic competition. Below are the sports reports from the day, as well as a summary of the morning's Chapel service by Rev. Drost.

What a joy it was to be able to gather as a fuller community this year for our annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Chapel. The school choir led our hymn singing, under the guidance of Mr Tedd and Mr Crawford, as well as giving us two moving pieces by Henry and Malcolm Archer. Head Prefect, Will Wood, read from the Prophet Micah (Micah 4. 1-4), who challenged the Arms Traders of his time to transform weapons of war into tools to feed the hungry. We also heard Matthew 5. 1-12, the "Sermon on the Mount" where the Beatitudes challenge us to live our lives in the service of others, especially seeking to be peacekeepers. The Chaplain offered an extra set of Beatitudes and encouraged the many pupils present, to live them out alongside our school values.

The Headmaster led our Act of Remembrance, where wreaths were hung from the Honour Boards which led us to the sacred time of our Roll of Honour, remembering those connected to school who have passed away in the last twelve months, read by Mr Anthony Cadman.

Head Prefect, Isla Swarbrigg led our intercession prayers, remembering all who are caught up in conflict and violence, before we finished with the school hymn, Xaipete.

**Rev. Drost (st22-)**

## Netball

The 2022 Old Grovians Netball team was made up of three former Head Prefects: Lucy Worstenholme, Katie Mortlock, and Esther Bean, and two ex-1st VII Captains: Lucy Worstenholme and Kirsty Thomson. Additionally, the team welcomed back Daisy Culyer, Teah Colilles, Clare Humphreys, Natasha Whitcombe, and Josie Baker, forming a formidable lineup for the Old Grovians side. The school's 2nd VII faced a difficult match with many of the OG players still active with their club or university teams. The first half was closely contested, with the Old Grovians leading by 8, their defence preventing the WGS team, from getting the ball into a shooting position. The Old Grovians' experience showed in their clean interceptions across the court, which were converted by Clare and Lucy. Unfortunately, the second half was one-sided, but the WGS team fought until the final whistle. The match provided a valuable challenge for the 2nd VII and it was great to see so many recent leavers returning to the team. The final score was 15-38 in favour of the Old Grovians. - Georgie Thompson, Head of Netball (st15-)



## Rugby

We were joined by over 40 Old Grovians for the Touch Rugby 7s tournament. Four teams of leavers; Morgan (17), Worthington (22), Anderson (21) and staff all entered teams into the tournament and much fun was had, despite it being a bit overly competitive at times! Team Worthington won the competition with 3 wins and Mr Barr was awarded the Scott Eastwood-Smith fair play award for his idea to run the rugby reunion in this format. We really hope that next year we can encourage even more old boys to put on their boots and take part. It was great to see everyone back together and to share some refreshments afterwards.

Joe Bedford, Head of Rugby (00-02, st13-)



## Squash

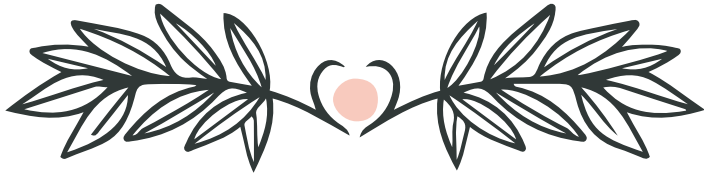
It was excellent to welcome back 10 Old Grovians to play in the OG squash match against our current students. The OG team comprised of recent leavers to Old Grovians that left in the 90s and the student team included students from Year 8 all the way through to Year 13.

The format of the match involved the two teams being seeded and each player playing 2 matches against equivalent seeds. The matches were best of 3 games and each game was played to 7 points. A total of 47 games/20 matches were played and the score ended in a convincing victory for the Old Grovians – 10-37/2-18.

Following the match, it was great to see the Old Grovians stepping back on court to play against each other and it is clear that many are continuing to play to a high level either at university or in their local area. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of squash and a great experience for our current students. We look forward to the rematch next year! - Chris Softley, Director of Sixth Form (st14-)







# Obituaries

## Dr Eric James Roebuck (41-46)

*Informed by Eric's son Jeremy*



After leaving WGS Eric went on to be a successful radiologist who pushed forward the understanding of breast cancer and particularly screening for the disease.

## Alexander (Alec) Willoughby (44-50)



Alec sadly died aged 87 on 3 June 2022 after battling with cancer and increased frailty.

He boarded at WGS and told many stories of his times there, including how he made a transistor radio and hid it in a hollowed out book, so as not to be confiscated by the teachers. He left to

join James Ives woollen mill in Yeadon and spent six years at night school in Bradford as he learnt his trade in textile design. He put his previously learnt skills to good use during national service as a radio engineer in the RAF and returned to the mill as Head Designer and then as Managing Director. After the demise of the UK woollen industry in the 1980s, he ventured into other types of textiles, managing other mills in Bingley and Bradford. He spent his last few working years as a small firms advisor - sharing his business experience and guiding people who were just starting up in their entrepreneurial careers.

He married Audrey in 1960 (who died in 2007) and has three sons: Giles, Toby and Bruce, who all attended Brontë House; and seven grandchildren who live in London, Yorkshire and Los Angeles. He lived in Menston for 58 years before moving to a retirement village in Ripon four years ago.

A service of thanksgiving was held at Ripon Cathedral and ended with a fitting rendition of *Xaipete*.

## Reverend Robert Desmond Carter (46-51)

*Informed by Peter Carter.*

Robert Carter became a pupil at Woodhouse Grove School in 1946, at a time when Britain was just starting to cast off its wartime restrictions. Pre-war school equipment and nineteen-thirties textbooks were still being used, while in the outside world, food and clothing were rationed, and many of today's "essentials" were unobtainable.

Robert commuted from his home in Eccleshill, where he was a chorister at St Luke's Parish Church.

In those days, a man's completion of school attendance was closely followed by being "called up" to a two-year period of national service. In Robert's case, this meant joining the ranks of the Royal Air Force.

On returning to civilian life, he began a career in one of Bradford's traditional industries: he qualified as a textile designer. But alongside this work he was answering his call to become a minister in the Church of England. Studies within the Bradford diocese led to training at Cranmer Hall, the theological college in Durham. Ordained in 1965, his early ministry was served in busy curacies at the Parish Churches in Otley and Keighley.

In 1973, Robert was appointed as the vicar of Cowling. Over a period of twenty-seven years, his devotion to pastoral care was very well appreciated by the village community, and he undertook his parochial duties diligently. But he also managed to find time and energy for other interests. As a cricket lover, with his playing days behind him, he became an umpire in the prestigious Bradford League; whenever the parish diary permitted, he stood in league, cup and charity matches for many seasons.

From his schooldays, Robert had enjoyed the challenges presented by quizzes and puzzles and was fascinated by the subtleties of the English language. So, he quite naturally developed a talent for solving cryptic crosswords, particularly the complex versions published in the weekend broadsheets. Then, he set himself the further challenge of progressing from solver to setter. Drawing on his specialised knowledge, he joined the select group responsible for compiling crosswords for the Church Times,

where well over a hundred of his puzzles were published before he retired.

Last year, after suffering a stroke and a further brief illness, he died peacefully, aged eighty-six, in a local care home, mourned by his family and friends.

## Michael Dawson Leigh (st69-75)

*Informed by Michael's wife, Julie.*

Michael Dawson Leigh died on August 26th 2022 after a short illness. Mike had a long association with the Grove which began when, as a student at Westminster College, he did his teaching practice there. In 1969 when we were about to return to the UK after five years at Busoga College in Uganda, he was appointed (in absentia) as a teacher of History at the Grove for the following school year.

After several happy years in that position, his career took him around the UK, culminating in his post as Principal of Southlands College, Roehampton University. In retirement, he was able to follow up his deep and abiding interest in Burma (his birthplace) by studying for a doctorate at The School of Oriental and African Studies and publishing several books on the topic. Latterly, he felt honoured to be a Governor at the Grove for several years.

## Jeffrey Alan Hodgkinson (st80-97)

*29th August 1927 – 10th January 2022*



*Extracts taken from Jeff's Thanksgiving Service tribute read by his son Richard.*

Jeffrey Alan Hodgkinson; Jeff as he liked to be known; was born on the 29th August 1927 in Leeds, the only child of Joseph and Ethel Hodgkinson. His father died suddenly when he was only 7 years old and, with no welfare system to speak of, his mother had to go out to work long hours to pay the bills.

In 1943 he was directed to pick accountancy as a career and he joined Peat Marwick Mitchell in Leeds, where he remained until 1962. His National Service in the R.A.F (1945 - 48) interrupted this first job and it was not a happy time for him.

This period, as difficult and bleak as it must have been at times for him, was, in fact, the fertile ground that fed the development of a truly courageous and loving man. At 18 he was already developing a resilience and an inventiveness in overcoming obstacles that would bring rich colour to the rest of his life. Knowingly or otherwise he lived the rest of his life dedicated to helping others.

Jeff was a tremendously loving, kind and supportive husband to Margaret, father to Richard and later in life grandfather to Elizabeth and Matthew. In his wife's later years he devoted himself to her care; through a long and painful progressive illness.

He was appointed to a financial assistant role at Woodhouse Grove School in the 1970s and he eventually became Bursar and Clerk to the Governors. It was his most loved and fulfilling job of a long career; fitting for his last post; he had reached his zenith and adored it.

He played an important role in seeing the Business Management School at Woodhouse Grove completed and he was invaluable in helping the school after a period of financial mismanagement.

He loved the staff camaraderie and he helped to oversee many dramatic improvements in the school infrastructure. He was very proud of this and he was always interested to know what was going on at the school after his retirement in 1997.

He developed close friendships with staff at Woodhouse Grove and also with Bursars of other schools in the area. Many of these friendships endured through the first part of his retirement living in York and then in North Ferriby, where he lived up to his passing.

He was an accomplished business man. Being financially secure was important to him; not for personal gratification but so he knew he could look after the ones he cared for. His support didn't stop at close family and friends. He also subscribed to a wide variety of worthy causes.

He valued his extended family, which to him included relatives, friends and acquaintances. All were extremely important to him throughout his life and remained so right to the end. He had many interests. He had a seemingly encyclopaedic knowledge of many things, often backed up by his 'little black book' containing meticulously recorded dates and figures. He was an amateur photographer. He loved maps and geography. He adored trips to Scarborough, history, theatre and film, music, motor cars, and had a fascination with roses which he lovingly tended in his garden. His main interest was following rugby league which stemmed from watching Leeds Rugby League, on the terraces at Headingley, as a child.

Memories of Jeff will be varied, individual and personal. He loved life and loved entertaining others. No matter what the challenges of age he remained grateful for all he had and not sad for what he had lost; content always just to be and serve his community the best way he could.

He had a profound humanity. He was simply a kind and lovely man who loved people and was blessed with the ability to communicate. You could always rely on Jeff. No matter what the problem, he would find a solution. His devotion, integrity, love, compassion and humour shone for many; he touched and enriched the lives of many.



## Simon Fraser Jacques (74-83)

*Informed by his brother Alistair (69-79)*



In memory of Simon Fraser Jacques born in Buckie, Scotland, to Ernest Jacques (Methodist minister) and Gail nee Slatter (nurse).

He followed his brothers, Alistair and Christopher, in emigrating to Minnesota, USA, in 1991, fully relishing the American lifestyle.

Simon was, at heart, an artist and he applied that proficiency to his work as a Faux Finisher (wood graining, marbleizing, and gold-leafing) renovating several historic homes and buildings.

He also became a well-respected fishmonger and was much loved by his customers at the sea-food business he ran in Wayzata, MN.

Simon's true passion in life was music. He wrote several songs and played in several bands. More often, he was a solo act, playing acoustic guitar, keyboards, and singing.

Simon is survived by his wife of 27 years, Lisa Chierichetti-Jacques.

## Richard Braddick (78-85)

A very proud Old Grovian, Richard died unexpectedly, surrounded by his family in April 2022, following a short illness. A Towlson day boy for the whole of his secondary school life, he threw himself into all the school had to offer in the form of sport and social activities, including several memorable ski trips. After leaving the Grove, he migrated south via Ealing College and eventually ended up in the exhibitions industry running his own successful business RB Design in High Wycombe for 20 years.



He was passionate about many things: his family, motor sport, his business, Woodhouse Grove and Leeds United (although not always in that order). Known to most after his school days as "Dickie", he was a larger-than-life character; a consummate networker, gregarious, generous and always happy to chip into a debate whether invited or not! He is survived by his wife Louise and his children Imogen, Zara and George.

There was a pride of place Grove memorabilia display at his funeral in Chiltern, which was attended by hundreds of mourners, including fellow OGs Matthew Braddick (80-87), Adrian Wood (79-85), Nick Smith (76-85), John Spooner (76-85) and Will Coker (79-84).

## Richard Long (84-94)



*Informed by his sister Caroline (92-96)*

It is with a heavy heart I break the news that my amazing big brother sadly passed away at the age of 46 on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Richard was easily the funniest and most caring person you'd ever meet, but sadly his laugh will no longer be heard. Our lives are changed forever.

Richard attended Brontë House and then Woodhouse Grove through to 6th form.



Involved in sports, rugby and swimming. He enjoyed a successful career becoming the Business & Development Manager of Croner; HR, Employment Law and Health & Safety Services. He loved the outdoors, his dogs, motorbikes and cars. A devoted uncle to my children Harry and Lottie.

In his memory we are raising money for Andy's Man Club to help men now, and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at Beckfoot School, which his niece and nephew attend, that provides the building blocks for future generations.

## Stan Dawson

For many it is hard to believe that Stan was not actually a Grovian, his association with The Grove started through his wife Kath, who was a Physics Teacher at the school and later Senior Mistress (st82-99). Stan's link with the school became much more than just an association; he was ever present at all Old Grovian events across the country and indeed at school cricket fixtures. His warm smile and fantastic memory meant he touched the hearts of everyone he saw; if the 1st XI were playing cricket at The Grove you would know that Stan would be there watching, always ready for a chat or to simply ask how you were. His support for the school and Old Grovians meant he was also on the side-line for all OGRUFC matches and the players, young and old, were grateful of his unstinted support at home and away matches. Stan will be greatly missed by the Grove community but always remembered for his support and the time he gave to the school; bone et fidelis. We are proud to call him an Honorary Grovian.

## John Johnson (st88-00)

John Johnson, who taught at Brontë house for a number of years, with Foster Watson and David Garner. After a cycling accident he was seriously paralysed and had been looked after at home by his dear wife Shelia.

He was a much loved and respected teacher and his huge contribution to the school was recognised by all staff and students.

## Simon Berry (83-88)

## David Butterworth (55-62)

## Keith Buchanan (43-50)

## Howard Chippendale (55-62)

## Christopher Hansen (50-58)

## Thomas Meek (30-36)

## Martin Taunton (st80-96)

## David Waddington (st74-94)



## A Rugby Reunion



Steve Burnhill (75-82) shared these words and photos regarding a mini Class of 82 reunion down at Twickenham.

"This is 8 of us from the class of 82 who went down to Twickenham for the South Africa game in November 2021.

Andy Tomlinson is the main driver at keeping us all connected and set up a zoom call at the beginning of lockdown and it has taken place every Friday night since!

Absent from the day below are Mike Fatkin and Dennis Walker and Mark Hammes all the way from California, who also attend the zoom meetings."



From the left:

John Haigh (75-82), Andrew North (75-82), Greg Marchbank (73-81), Andrew Tomlinson (73-82), myself (75-82), Debbie Wood (80-82), Tony Hope (78-81) and Stefan Cockerill (75-82).

## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS ON!



It's very difficult to believe that so many years have passed since, with a good deal of trepidation and actual fright, I walked down the then overgrown and unmade track which was the back drive to Brontë House, when I first arrived as a very timid nine-year-old day-boy in September 1947. I was told to sit in an almost empty classroom, the only other boy there was David Dickinson, the first Grovian to whom I spoke who was to become a lifelong friend.

I certainly was not prepared for the rigours of an all-boy environment as I had just left a cosy 'dame' school in Ilkley where in my last year I was the only boy in the class! No doubt the new environment quickly gave me the grounding I needed but the first term was traumatic, so much so that I once ran away... as a day-boy... from a PE class, but I soon settled down. The then Headmaster C W Towlson only accepted me as a day boy on condition that I became a 'boarder' when I went to the Grove. At that time there were only five-day boys at Brontë House, CWT's ambition was for the Grove to become an all-boarder school.

The senior masters R F Dickens and David Boyle had kindly natures, and the younger staff, such as Lindsay Makinson, were just starting to return from the War. Although a keen ornithologist, Mr Dickens did a lot of shouting and once a lady neighbour enquired over the garden wall if everything was alright, as she was convinced his excessive shouting was because the school was on fire.

The lunchtime meals were cooked in the Grove kitchens and driven up the Lane by history master Arthur Jones in his pre-war Standard saloon. On Thursdays, it was invariably fried sausage meat and chips.

During the Spring Term of 1948, we all had to design posters to advertise the first post-war Olympic Games held in London and during the Autumn Term that year we looked after an unusual visitor when an exhausted gannet was found way-off course on the moors above Queensbury. 'Gus' lived for a few weeks in the old changing room and some of us fed him/her fresh herrings. 'Gus' paddled and floated in the large communal bath until, apparently fully recovered, the large bird was taken to the cliffs at Scarborough for a successful 'take-off' over the North Sea.

When I arrived at the Grove in '49, my brother Peter had become Head Pre, promoted after 'Tertius' Hall had been found smoking by the second-master S C Wilson, aka 'Noop', on Garden Party day!

Although I am sure that none of us really suffered, we were Grovians of our time but until the mid-1950s some food and clothes were still 'on rations', and Grove living conditions were fairly primitive compared with today. There was never enough hot water and my weekly Monday night bath involved walking in my dressing gown from Vinter New North dorm, down the two flights of stairs, across the Quad and down the stone Basement stairs to the often grubby and barely warm baths. During the winter months, it was definitely character-building!

I always looked for a bed where the springs had almost gone, creating a hammock effect, which was very comfortable. Individual clean 'bundles' of clothes were collected fortnightly from the Linen Room, supervised for years by Veronica Whitely. Situated just beneath, off the Quad, was the Georgian doorway to the all-male Staff Room, the interior scarcely discernible through dense tobacco smoke.

My Lower Third classroom was at the bottom of Old North stairs where I often spent quiet Sunday afternoons hugging the cast iron heating pipes to keep warm. That small room later became the popular Reading Room which was full of daily papers of every 'hue', which our new Head, F C Pritchard, provided with great foresight.

I believe it is now the Chaplain's room.

Dr Pritchard, appointed in September 1950, believed we should not be idle during our waking hours, so he created 'Occupations', mostly hobby clubs, every weekday evening before Prep. which then, for all the boarders, was in the School Room. That vast space with high windows and deep window sills is now the Staff Room area. At the end was the large carved oak screen and imposing desk and chair for the Head to conduct assemblies. It commemorated the School's centenary in 1912. The Room could accommodate the whole school and teaching staff, plus a grand piano for assemblies six mornings a week. There was a central aisle and many rows of long wooden desks and fixed benches

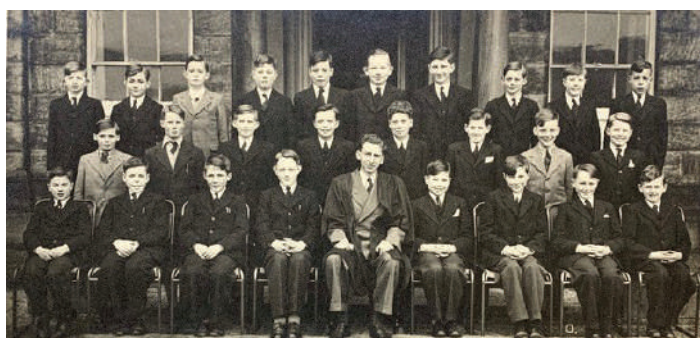


around the walls. When the School Room was modernised, beneath the old window sills were found scores of old coins which had fallen through the cracks, lost by generations of Grovians playing Shove ha'penny!



Each evening for an hour, probably a hundred of us were encouraged to be studious by the 'master on duty'. For some masters such as A E Reed, aka 'The Hun', that was no problem, we were always in awe of his un-smiling personality and he was forever surrounded by his own personal aroma of home-grown pipe tobacco, but for gentle Dr Henry Mendel, a war-time refugee from Germany, it was more difficult. We were not intentionally unkind but it will have been a time of penance for him as he tried to keep order.

I don't want all this to sound too much like a Hovis advertisement but after many years, certain events in my Grovian life stand out. The special assemblies announcing the death of King George VI and listening to his funeral on the school radio. A coach load of us visiting the RSC in Stratford, four days after the Coronation in 1953, to see Peggy Ashcroft and Donald Wolfit in 'The Merchant of Venice'. Chapel services and singing in the choir stalls twice every Sunday with Ken Pelmeare or David McCarthy on the organ.



At the end of each term, scores of trunks were piled up in the Covered Shed and Farmer Jukes on his tractor pulling a flat trailer, would carry them away to Apperley Bridge station. All we Vinter prefects drinking coffee and chatting in David McCarthy's room on Saturday evenings, later joined by Ken Pelmeare with his droll Cornish tales. Then Monday evening ballroom dancing classes in the Memorial Hall with Miss Dorothy Braybrook and her three young lady helpers. Ah me!



On Garden Party Saturday, if you were delegated a job you were excused lessons....one year Hugh Knowles and I carried a ladder around all morning and no one asked us what we were doing! Every day in the Dining Hall before our main meals we stood at our House tables and waited for the master on duty to say, Grace. When it was Arthur Jones' turn, he often spoke in Latin. I was always impressed until I learnt that the literal translation of the imposing words Arthur spoke was:

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

In my last year '56-'57 it was a privilege to be Head Pre. and a few times, fairly late in the evening, when I was in the Prefect's Room, there was a knock on the door and FCP, my Headmaster, informally dressed in a tweed jacket and cords, would say 'Come on Roger, come and have a cup of tea'. In his study, we enjoyed an informal chat about life at the Grove from my point of view. He never pried or wanted me to disclose any secrets, he just wanted to know a little more about the school for which he was ultimately responsible. I will always have a lasting respect for him.

I can still hear the rather mournful tone of the school clock striking 10 pm for 'lights out', and then the echo of the last train leaving Apperley Bridge 'puffing' its way down the valley to Leeds.

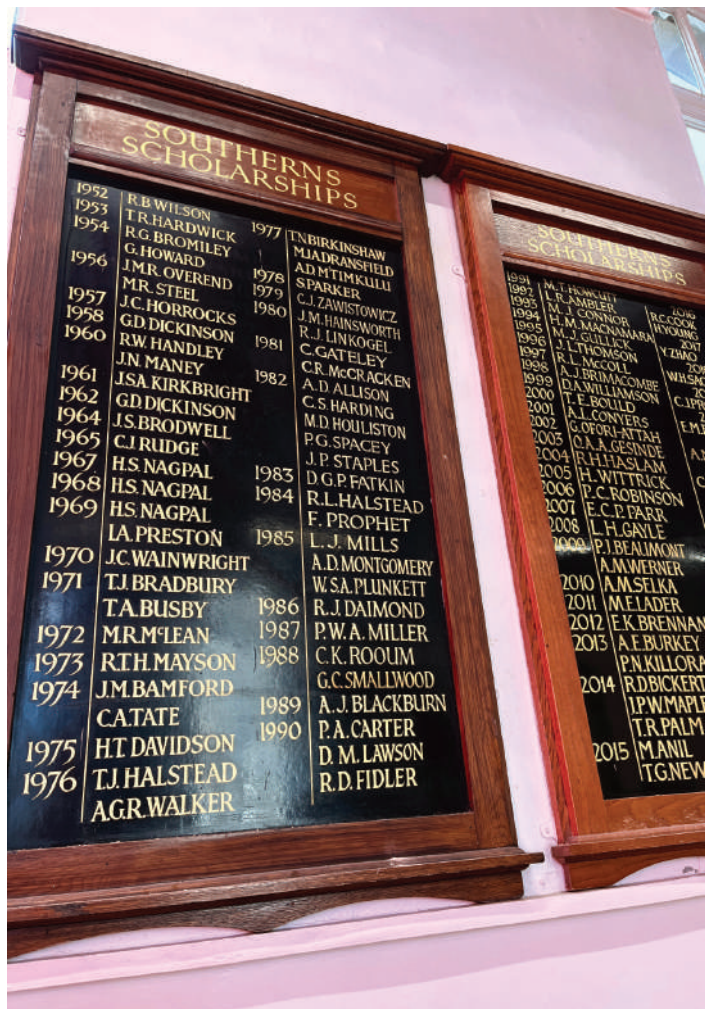
"Youth and age in work combining.  
Minds and hearts with love entwining,  
Years advancing,.... years declining:"

XAIPETE!

ROGER DAVY MBE (47-onwards!)



# Southerns Trustee Report



One of the pleasures and privileges of being a Southern Trustee is reading the letters of those applying for awards and then meeting them face to face in the interview. Sadly for the past two years because of COVID, this has been impossible.

Recently, the number of applicants each year has been around 20 and to help our decisions we have devised a short form which is to be filled in by candidates, and which along with their letters can be sent to the trustees. These have been invaluable and with help from the Headmaster and Mr Ed Wright, Senior Master, the Trustees were able to reach their decisions.

The Southern award of £450 was given to Charlie Plein, who is studying Mechanical Engineering in Zurich at the moment, a very worthy candidate. 2 Crabtree, 2 Nutall, 2 Store and 4 Davy book funds were also awarded totalling £2350.

The money we invest in the Charities Investment Fund, after an increase in value last year sadly the market value of the investment has fallen slightly this year but is still over £70,000 invested, thankfully finances are pretty healthy.

The trustees wish to thank the Headmaster and Ed Wright for their help and hospitality. And also thank Mrs Katherine Hainsworth for her advice and help with monetary matters. We wish all applicants every success in their futures.

Kath Dawson (st82-99)



## OG RUFC Update

It is with great sadness that I write this note, but Old Grovians is no longer in a position to be part of the Yorkshire leagues. Despite being financially secure, we simply do not have the playing resources to be able to play league rugby. A number of serious injuries, retirements and some local clubs enticing a number of our players with financial offers to play at a higher level have all contributed to the sad position we find ourselves in and, although we are financially secure, offering financial rewards to players is not something we've ever entertained as a club.

The last 15 years have been a hell of a ride, progressing from Yorkshire 6 through to the dizzy heights of Yorkshire 2. We are proud of our contribution to Yorkshire rugby and there is a significant number of players playing at a higher level that have come through our system. In the last 12 months we had 3 lads in the Yorkshire under 20s and 2 in the Northern Counties squad. We'd like to thank every single player and helper over the past 14 or so years. Special thanks go to John Hinchliffe who has been a real stalwart and whose idea it was to create the club in the 1st place. Ben Brown, who without him and his merry men, we'd have never progressed. Martin Whitcombe for helping professionalise the club along with Dan Nulty who also managed to stabilise us in Yorkshire 2 in his first coaching job and Andy Hinchliffe who helped us to progress even further. The list is too long to mention, but as with all rugby clubs, Old Grovians has been lucky enough to attract some fantastic players and supporters. We'd like to place on record our thanks to Otley. Last season was brilliant playing out of Otley Rugby Club, we could not have asked more from them and we wish them all the best for next season and beyond.

Sadly a combination of Covid, the continuing player drain across all leagues and levels along with the very strict registration system has finally seen us off despite the best efforts of a number of volunteers. Please apologise to the rest of Yorkshire 2 for the late notice on this, it is not a decision that has been taken lightly.

Now, it's time to reflect and see if we can get some friendlies after Christmas and we will also be looking to create a 7s team. Hopefully at some point in the future the club will be in a position to reassess if it can play in the leagues. A final do will be organised at some point, so watch this space - we want to be back when we are strong enough.

Finally, we'd like to say thanks to all the clubs in Yorkshire that have embraced us and made us feel incredibly welcome over the years. We are going to miss you all.

John Hinchliffe (83-94) OGRUFC Co-Founder & Chairman



# The Grove, Music Moments

We're excited to share the abridged versions of blog posts written by two of our Old Grovians, both of which focus on their experiences with music and specifically Mr McCarthy. From reminiscing on memories of performing in school productions and competitions to exploring how their passion for music has continued within their lives after the Grove, these blog posts offer all an insight into the impact that music education can have. We hope you enjoy reading these posts as much as we did! Both blogs are available to view in full on the Woodhouse Grove School website.



David McCarthy (st53-92)

## Up Over Lane and down Wharfedale way An extract from "Reminiscences of a musical competition" by Graham J. C. Vincent (73-80).

The 55 was the longest route plied by the West Yorkshire Road Car Company. Over Lane, Rawdon, was but one fare stage of its obstacle course, but it was one that Duncan was grateful for. And Duncan was a boy that Woodhouse Grove was grateful for, for he played lead oboe in the First Orchestra, and very well he played too.

Woodhouse Grove generally put on two "public" concerts a year, autumn and springtime, apart from blasting out the national anthem and Χαιρετε, our school song, at Prize Day, and it was, as I recall, a pretty slick outfit. Pam Burrows was my oboe teacher, and she succeeding in coaching, coaxing and coxing me to Grade 3... Oboe's very tiring: you have to purse your lips very tightly and for a long time. But pursing, with whatever ease it may have come to others, proved not to be my forte. Not, that is, until the Grove came to enter a competition for orchestras some time in my 5th year.

McCarthy drilled us like troopers in preparation for the competition and had kindly dragged in some vaguely recognisable pieces from the orchestral repertoire. One of them entailed a rather skilfully executed oboe solo from our Duncan, as it happens. Never was I so glad to be shielded at the back of the harmonies with my second oboe part. Simply put: Duncan did it good, and I ... didn't. This shield, such as it was, was of ephemeral quality, alas; for at the lunchtime rehearsal that preceded our sortie to Burley-in-Wharfedale – the amphitheatre of the musical titans – news was imparted that sounded in my ears as would have a leaden cymbal crash: Duncan was ill and wouldn't be coming. Would Graham mind stepping up to first oboe?

Duncan got over whatever had lain him low and soon returned from his Over Lane residence, back down the valley and into the fold; he acknowledged with all due grace the quiet gratitude that McCarthy had kindly expressed to me, and effortlessly resumed his role as first oboe; I returned to the ranks.

## An extract from Musical Memories at The Grove by Graham Hodgson (62-69).

Arriving at The Grove for the first time in September 1961 we proudly drove up the main drive to the front door.

The choir was by far and away the most enjoyable group I joined. Two or three weeks into the term a new notice appeared on the Notice Board asking for names of anyone interested in attending the classical subscription series of concerts held at St. Georges Hall in Bradford.

Sunday morning soon came round and Chapel time and choir time plus the great sound of a full church. Page turning for Mr McCarthy became the norm.

The highlight of the Autumn Term was undoubtedly the Carol Service. The service opened with the traditional Once in Royal David's City with a treble solo for the first verse. None of us ever knew who the soloist was going to be until we were in the vestry that night. Mr McCarthy would just point to one of us and away you went. Saved on the nerves beforehand he reckoned.

The musical grounding, I got at The Grove stood me in stead. On leaving The Grove I joined the managerial merry go round of F.W. Woolworth, one of the big retail guns of that era. That gave me the chance to join a local operatic group performing many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

Having worked all around the North I eventually returned to my home city of Carlisle and the family China and Glass retail business. The musical interest then came to the fore again as we were able to sponsor 'Last night of the Proms' classical concerts at the newly opened arts venue. This led on to being able to be involved with setting up a whole season of subscription concerts just like the ones at St Georges Hall. That led on to organising two outside concerts attended by 5000 people.

Many more memorable musical nights followed including being asked to conduct The Liverpool Phil playing the Johann Strauss Radetzky March.

David McCarthy and all at The Grove lit that musical flame all those years ago and it is still burning brightly today.



# School News



## The Grove goes solar!

We are delighted with our recent installation of 546 solar panels onto the sports centre roof – almost a square kilometre of power! With the serious issue of global warming in mind, not to mention increasing fuel prices, our biggest sustainability initiative to date, made complete sense. The panels will generate 184,809kWh of energy in the first year – powering 10-15% of the school site.

Mrs Howard, our school Sustainability and Energy Officer, said:

*"I was thrilled to have the support to proceed with this installation, it really displays the school's commitment to sustainability. It is heartening to have the ability to generate our own clean, renewable energy. And, with ever increasing electricity costs, it makes financial sense too."*

Mrs Howard has responsibility for all areas of energy, waste and water across the school sites with the key aim of reducing our carbon footprint and engaging students on this issue through an eco-committee.

Other school initiatives underway include: a fourfold increase in recycling in less than a year; discounted drinks at Woody's café for pupils and staff using a re-usable cup; the Riverbank Project clearing invasive weeds and planting trees as part of flood alleviation in the area; and the implementation of a Building Management System to remotely control the heating.

## National Poetry Success

Congratulations to student Kadiatou Barry, who represented Yorkshire at the National Finals of the Poetry by Heart competition, held at the Globe Theatre in London. Kadiatou read Song (Ae Fond Kiss) by Robert Burns beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed this amazing opportunity to recite on stage at The Globe.

Grove teacher, Mrs Sharpe, entered the staff competition and actually won the National Final with her recital of Passing the Time by Caroline Bird. More recently, Mrs Sharpe was invited back to launch the Poetry by Heart competition for this year.

## The Grove's Poet Laureate



In 2022, we launched a competition to appoint the Grove's first ever Poet Laureate. The competition was fierce and there were some superb entries. After much deliberation, Lily Edwards (then in Year 10) became our first Grove Poet Laureate and wrote poems inspired by events throughout the year, such as Ink, a short poem she wrote about World Book Day.





## 2022 Leavers

We are delighted for two of our students who started studying at Oxford University in September. Lucy Hart is reading English Language and Literature at Regent's Park College and Sebastian Howles is reading Physics at Exeter College.



In addition, seven of our 2022 leavers chose to study abroad including Head Prefect, Charlie Plein, who is reading Mechanical Engineering at ETH in Zurich. This is a Bachelor degree with a year abroad, followed by a Masters and boarder, Liza Solomanchuk, who is studying Psychology as part of a Liberal Arts curriculum at New York University in Abu Dhabi.



## Sport

### Netball Success

Following on from the success of our U19 netballers who reached the National Schools Finals in March, and placed sixth in the country, for the first time at Woodhouse Grove, all three of our netball teams went through from the first round of the National Cup finals as age group category winners in November.



The U19s came out on top after three matches, despite a close encounter with Greenhead College. In the U14 category there were 6 schools entered; the Grove team dominated in 4 of their matches and it went to the buzzer in a highly fought game against Wakefield Girls' High School – with the Grove taking the win 10-9.

The U16s faced a number of teams that they hadn't played previously, but with many of them playing club or pathways programmes together, they knew the competition was going to be fierce. The team delivered a great performance across the afternoon winning all their games.

We wish all three teams the best of luck in the next round at the end of January.



Max Chaplin



Fergus McCormack

### Cricket

Congratulations to pupil Max Chaplin who, in the summer, was invited to Headingley to sign his first EPP contract with Yorkshire CCC and who, as part of the Yorkshire U14 squad, won the Royal London U14 National County Championship Final beating Surrey by 3 wickets in a very tense final.

### Rugby

Also, congratulations to Fergus McCormack in Year 12, who has signed a full-time senior contract with Leeds Rhinos ahead of the 2023 season. Fergus, who plays half-back, has spent the last two years in the club's Scholarship Programme and recorded six tries in five games in 2022. He was one of twelve players from the Under-16s to sign for the club's Academy for 2023, but this new deal will see him join up with Rohan Smith and the first team squad for pre-season.



# Boarding

A fantastic half term for our boarding pupils started with the traditional trip to Alton Towers followed by pumpkin picking at Halloween, a trampoline park visit, ice-skating and the amazing Christmas Ball weekend.



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

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# Not Just Travel

If the answers are Yes, then contact me, your personal travel consultant.

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.
- I am your first port of call should you have any queries or travel plans change.

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.***

**TRAVEL THAT** *gives back...*

SUPPORT OUR CLIMATE HERO PROJECTS  
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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.*

Check out our school 'Not Just Travel' website:

<https://woodhousegrove.notjusttravel.com>

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