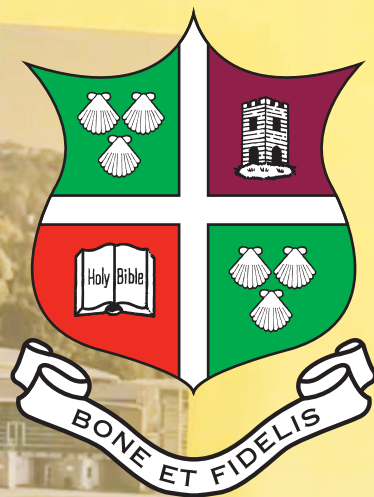


# Χαίρετε



The Newsletter of the Old Grovian Association

Issue 34 Winter 2023/24



## Welcome from the Chair



As newly appointed Chair of the Old Grovian Association I am aware that I am following the 'font of all knowledge' of all things Grovian, our outgoing Chair, Anthony Cadman.

I would like to thank him, not only for his work for the Association, but also for all he has given the Grove; as a student, as a staff member, and, as an Old Grovian.

I am very honoured to take up the role of OG Chair, having started at The Grove as a member of staff in 1982, alongside Kath Dawson, Heather Garner, Roger Howard and Christine Elliot.

I am very keen to follow up last year's key events - the golf day with over 40 OG participants and the tour reunion dinner where we welcomed over 100 Old Grovians, former

staff and current staff - with more opportunities to get together. With that in mind, I can confirm that we have booked this year's golf day for Sunday 19th May 2024 at Rudding Park, Harrogate.

I am also delighted to share that the London Reunion will take place on Thursday 18th of April. I am also looking at organising a local Quiz Night, and would love to encourage Old Grovians with an interest in music and the performing arts to attend the Summer OG weekend or maybe a dedicated event.

I hope that many of you have been scouring the school's Digital Archive which features pictures of school life from across the years - always fun to spot yourself and old school friends with 'of-the-time' hairstyles and pushing the boundaries on how to make the uniform 'cool'! The archive is constantly evolving with new pictures being added on a regular basis.

I am looking forward to my year as Chair and hope to see many of you over the next few months at our Old Grovian events and reunions, a good opportunity to see if those interesting hairstyles from school days are even still possible given the changes in hairlines for some of us since then!

In the meantime, I wish you and your families all the best for the coming year - and I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Xaipete!

**Tony Zammit (st82-08)**

All tickets available at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool)



## THINKING OF HOLDING AN EVENT WHY NOT USE WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL AS YOUR VENUE?

### Book our facilities

- Theatre with full lighting system
- Sports Hall and Fitness suite
- Swimming Pool
- Outdoor Netball and Tennis courts
- Indoor and outdoor cricket nets

### Host a celebration

- Bar and Catering
- Dancefloor
- Seating from 50-500
- Chapel for Weddings and Christenings

### Hold a Residential Camp

- 3 Boarding houses, 100+ beds
- Less than 1 mile to Apperley Bridge Station
- Leeds Bradford Airport just 4 miles away
- 3 meals per day served in the Dining Room/ Canteen

### Hold a corporate event

- Auditorium, with seating for up to 220
- Seminar room, with space for 60
- A range of classrooms and audiovisual equipment

To find out more about the different options we have for your hire, email us or visit our website.

Email: [hireus@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:hireus@woodhousegrove.co.uk)  
<https://www.woodhousegrove.co.uk/conferences>

## OG Rugby Sevens Report



The end of the 21 / 22 season brought a close to 15 years of Old Grovians Rugby in the Yorkshire leagues competing as a 15 a side team. After a period of reflection, a small group decided to try to see if there was still interest in playing but as a touring 7s team instead of a full XV side.

We are very pleased to say that the interest was overwhelming and resulted in the team making their debut in the summer at the Jungle 7s hosted at West Park Rugby Club in Leeds. Three teams were entered into the competition, one in each of the following categories; Elite, Open and Social. The Open and the Social teams won the plate in their categories and the Elite team, having beaten the Army in the last play of the game in the semi-final, lost in the final by 2 points to a touring Fijian team (that had 5 full internationals in their team!). The Club went on to enter a few more 7s tournaments, winning at Otley after beating the world famous 7s team 'Samurai' in the final, and then reaching the final at a tournament at Ilkley Rugby Club. We are delighted to share that over 55 former pupils represented the OGs over these three tournaments, including 5 former 1st XV Captains.

The money the team raised through these tournaments was donated to the school and has been used to purchase a video camera to film games and has contributed to the new electronic scoreboard.

The future seems bright for the OG 7s. For the 2024 season we have already been invited to play in Melrose 7s, Scotland in their Invitational Tournament, which is a huge privilege. In addition to this, we will play two local tournaments at West Park Rugby Club and Ilkley Rugby Club before venturing further afield to London. The grand finale will be taking two teams to Dubai at the end of 2024 to enter the famous Dubai 7s Tournament. We will enter teams in the International Open and the Social Tournament. We are hoping to build and be even more successful on the pitch and hopefully raise more money off the pitch."

**John Hinchliffe (83-94) & Matt Gaffney**

## First Grovian at The King's Coronation

We were delighted and proud to watch Old Grovian, General the Lord Houghton of Richmond, carry part of His Majesty's Regalia to the altar for the Coronation Service on Saturday 6th May 2023. An incredible achievement to be part of this momentous occasion.

The Lord Houghton of Richmond, who was Chief of the Defence Staff 2013 - 2016, bore the Sword of Temporal Justice and we believe this to be the first time a Grovian has been involved in any Coronation ceremony.

**General the Lord Houghton of Richmond (66-73)**





THE OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# Old Grovian

# Golf

# Day

**SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024**  
**RUDDING PARK GOLF COURSE**  
**START TIMES FROM 12pm**

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**£200 FOR A 4 BALL**

*Includes 18 holes of golf, a bacon butty on arrival and food at the end*

**INDIVIDUAL FULL DAY TICKET £50**  
**DINNER ONLY TICKET £15**

For any Rudding Park Golf members please select the option for how many club members you have playing within your 4 ball for a reduced price.

Buy your tickets at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool>



# The David McCarthy Theatre

(st53-92)



On Thursday 30th March 2023, at the end of the Spring Term Concert, The Grove Theatre was officially renamed "The McCarthy Theatre". For older generations of Grovians, David McCarthy requires no introduction; however, for those joining the school in the 30 years that have passed since his retirement....

As the young Cambridge graduate stepped off the train at Apperley Bridge station in September 1953, little could he have imagined that the school where he was hoping to serve a mere one term's teaching practice would, 70 years later, be naming its theatre in his honour.

The then Headmaster, Dr Pritchard experienced first-hand David's passion for drama through their joint work producing "The Scottish Play"; and having successfully showcased a vast array of talents, David commenced a full-time post at the Grove as teacher of English and Assistant House Master in Vinter House. The rest as the saying goes, "is history"!

Throughout his career at the Grove, David's approach was unique, contrasting with the traditional dry, taciturn approach associated with boarding schools and schoolmasters of this period. His list of achievements and posts he held remains beyond compare. His length of service (39 years) is in itself a great testament, but these do not do justice to the quality of his work or the fondness, affection and respect in which he was held by pupils, colleagues and parents.

The 1992 edition of "The Grovian" magazine contained over four pages of coverage of David's 39 years of service and reminds us of the gala week celebrating David's retirement, which culminated in an end of term concert held in the gym of that time, this being the very same facility, redeveloped and repurposed, which today constitutes "The McCarthy Theatre".

Guest of honour, of course, at the End of Term Easter Concert (2023) David McCarthy, accompanied by his wife Liz, and one of three stepdaughters, Louise (nee Ambler) and 2 grandchildren. After an informal pre-event welcome from one of his former pupils and fellow "Vinterite" James Lockwood, at a small gathering in the Rawson Room, David responded in his own inimitable, humorous, self-deprecating style, showing himself still to be the master of the "mot juste". Later he modestly acknowledged a moving ovation received from the packed theatre, a number of whom would, of course, be too young to know about why this honour was being bestowed on this still handsome, upright gentleman approaching his 92nd year.

My words cannot do justice to his impact on the school, but his ethos and approach should be what we seek to

emulate and ensure remain embedded in our culture. In his role as House Master and Second Master he sought to inculcate an attitude among pupils and staff which I believe in so many ways encapsulates his immeasurable influence as more than academic teacher, musician and sports coach.

As we seek to continue maintaining a kind and happy school where pupils feel safe and valued, his influence remains firmly with us today.



Extracts from the Grovian 1992:

*"Woodhouse Grove has been fortunate in the last 100 years to have had many long serving members of staff who have given a significant portion of their working lives to the school. None though has been more committed than David McCarthy who gave us all his working life and looks set to give a large part of his retirement. The Governors are profoundly grateful for all he has done for the school."*

*He is a cultured man with a love of literature in all its forms. This love quickly communicated itself to his pupils, and many of my generation of Grovians owe much of their introduction to poetry and prose to him."*

## John Brodwell, serving Governor in 1992

*"... David McCarthy served the school in a far greater number of ways than any other member of staff; coach of every cricket and rugby team; regular umpire; tireless referee, and later secretary, selector and chairman of Yorkshire 16 Group Rugby; Business Manager of the Canadian Rugby Tour; Convenor of Old Grovian teams; Assistant Secretary of the Old Grovians; Editor of The Grovian; House Tutor in three different houses; Housemaster of Vinter; Teacher of English, Latin, Music, Religious Studies, General Studies, and latterly Linguistics; Chapel Organist; Head of English; Director of Music; and Second Master."*

*Above all, David McCarthy is a quintessential Christian servant, bone et fidelis, who has unstintingly given his formidable array of talents to his pupils, to his players of both sport and music, to his school and to his church, following the example of Johann Sebastian Bach-Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam."*

**David Miller, Headmaster (1972-91)**

**Article by ER Howard (71-78, st82-)**

# my time

## at Woodhouse Grove

### An Old Grovian's reflection...

Streaming means something different now from when I was at school. Then, it meant sorting wheat from chaff, or boys from ... other boys. My year's intake was large enough to have three parallel forms. Previously boys had progressed through 1 to 5A but now they switched to the initial letters of the school's name. I was allocated to 1W. There was a 1G, and also 1S. And so, things progressed until we'd taken our O-levels in 5W, G and S.

On the first day of the first term of our first year, some of the boys knew each other from their joint time at Brontë, but I'd come from a state junior school and everything was a bit new to me.

The curriculum included academic subjects. These real thinking subjects, like maths, English, French, Latin and the likes, sooner or later saw the complement re-apportioned into sets ... C, B and A.

So ubiquitous were they that the initial W, G and S sub-apportionment soon paled into insignificance. Boarders had their house common rooms and, for the rest of their scholastic existence, mixed with who they got along with. Dayboys returned home at the day's end. But, as a form, we rarely saw one another once morning registration had been completed.

I was in C-set games, whose streaming was solely done for the purpose of picking the Under-13s side. Having cherry-picked the best rugby players for that purpose, come the summer term, they were occasionally at a loss to get A-set rugby players to know their silly-mid-off from their googlies. The A-set games/C-set maths partnering was something I, therefore, didn't share and I instead basked in the obscurity of C-set games coupled with A-set pretty much everything else.

The next target was to get A-grade exam results in A-set whatever, and this (or a very commendable B) and the greatest hopes of course resided in the A-set. However, in one subject, we did actually sit all together as form 1W, 2W, 3W and, finally, 4W right the way through to O-level: scripture.

Not a career subject qualitate qua, but, then again, modern languages aside, what at school level is? The fundamentals of what I've deployed as professional skills in adulthood were mostly learned in adulthood; because, contrary to what we learn in school, fundamentals are not building blocks. Rather, they are what a subject boils down to. And any chemist will tell you that what goes in at the start of an experiment is a far cry from what the experiment boils down to as its end result.

What scripture boils down to is perhaps less relevant in terms of professional education. It's what it boils down to in the individual that matters. To some, that's a graded certificate; in others, the stuff of life itself. Streaming would never alter that. Besides which, how could they tell a group of youngsters that some know God very well and others ... won't make the grade?

Graham Vincent (73-80)

## 10km a Day for 10 Days!



Our hearts have been touched over Christmas by Old Grovian (and current WGS Head of Rugby) Joe Bedford (00-02 st13-) who ran 10k a day for 10 days to raise money for Cancer Research for his father-in-law, who sadly passed away on day 7 of the 10k a day challenge.

In 2021, Joe ran nine kilometres over nine days, and wanted to take it one step further this year. In his words, "In 2021 I was raising money to buy a defibrillator for the cricket club and for the juniors. This time round my father-in-law has been terminally ill with melanoma, it has been a real challenge. I'm not a massive runner but I wanted to do something that would help my mental capacity as well as physically".

Joe ran his last 10k on New Year's Day and as a community we send our congratulations to him on the incredible amount of money he has raised. Our thoughts also go to the family as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

A total inspiration.





## THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS



**Boarders in the Sunday suits**

These few words are not just to remind those Grovians who shared the life of the School with me from the late 1940's to the late 1950's but hopefully they may interest a younger generation too. Sadly now a reducing number of my contemporaries will remember the Grove as it was in 'our day' and if you have not returned for some time I urge you to do so and you will find a school with most of the buildings we knew still there but the whole co-ed estate now enhanced with modern facilities of the highest quality and a tangible vibrant atmosphere and a continuing caring ethos.

Until the modern bottom drive was built to the sports complex some years ago, the only way to enter the school was down the back drive via the narrow entrance next to the Queens Hotel and alongside one of the lodges which face on to the busy Apperley Lane. There is still the drive to the front of the school but that way then was strictly 'out of bounds'. To attend the Chapel every Sunday morning and evening we walked the familiar way but prefects were allowed to use the rising path around the Mound. The original wrought iron gates to the front drive were taken away during the '39-'45 war until the present ones were given in 1960 by his family, as a memorial to G R Holt who had come to the Grove in 1899 and later for many years he was a very supportive Governor.

In our day, and I don't want this to sound like a Hovis advertisement, we had to walk down the drive past the 'San' and then by the now built-on laundry field where generations of Grovian scouts practiced wood crafts and learnt camping skills then under the friendly encouragement of Lindsay Makinson, the scout leader, and senior resident and art master.

Buses carrying teams home from 'away' matches emptied at the top of the drive and it was always exciting to hear the 'school shout' as the members entered the playground to signal a victory or if we were all in the Dining Hall, from the end of the corridor just outside the Head's study.

"Who are we, who are we, we are the Grove boys, Grove boys, Grove boys, we make no noise, no noise, no noise, who are, who are are!"

During frosty and snowy days in the winter months an ice slide would often be made which extended the full length of the playground and perhaps thirty or more intrepid Grovians would hurtle down at once, often ending up in a tangled heap at the bottom end before they rushed back to have another go. I don't remember anyone breaking a limb. I suspect 'health and safety' concerns may now restrict that exciting 'sport'.

The main access to the school was off the playground and through the then Covered Shed passing the 'backs', that less than salubrious but necessary school facility, and so into the Quad. On laundry days, perhaps a dozen wicker baskets would be stored in the Shed awaiting collection. The robust, plain speaking physics teacher and rugby coach 'Willy' Windle, used to park his car in there and on one occasion as he was setting off home to Timble he found that all the baskets had been piled all around his car so that you couldn't see it. It would be insensitive to record his verbal comments!

The Shed also gave you access to the Memorial Hall which has now been incorporated into the English department. The Hall, with its shining parquet floor and windows opening on to the Quad, was used for exams and important school events such as Prize Day and school plays. Once a year a school dance was held there which was the culmination of the regular ballroom dancing classes held weekly in the winter terms. With some gentle encouragement from a few house prefects the floor on those occasions was polished by perhaps ten juniors kneeling in a long line across the room each armed with a cloth and dollops of red floor polish, moving slowly



forward rubbing vigorously. Perhaps it was an example of Grove 'character building' but I remember the ultimate shiny surface being quite lethal but no doubt helped to impress the many young lady partners from the Dorothy Braybrooks dancing school in Bradford with the dexterity of our reverse turns!

The Memorial Hall was used for many talks and events and I remember all of us boarders watching Laurence Olivier's film of 'Pride and Prejudice' there in silence because Ronald Bolt, senior maths teacher and projectionist, could not make the sound track work. 'Ron' also showed us regularly, his favourite Marx Brother's films. In the Memorial Hall we acted in annual school plays and it was quite natural that female characters would be played by boys.

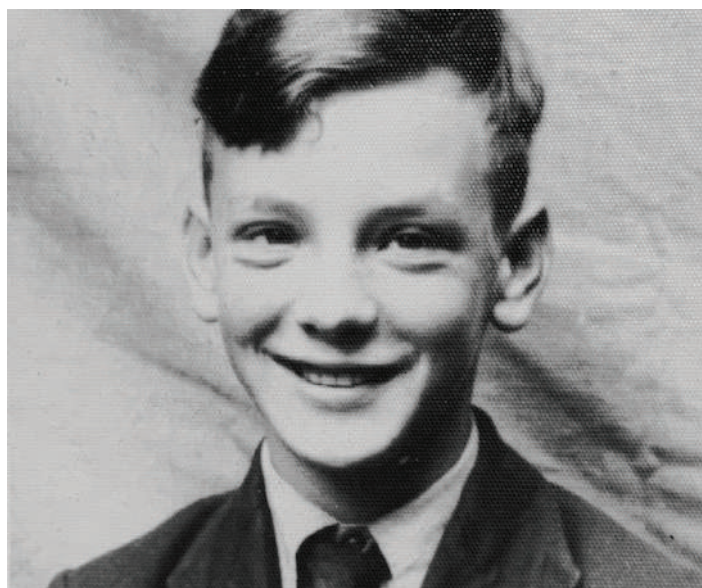


**Ice slide fun**

In no way was the Grove anything like Dotheboys Hall, in that we never went hungry but the menu did not vary very much and even now I rarely eat cornflakes as they were then served daily for breakfast together with sliced bread, butter and jam, and quite often fried bread on top of a layer of baked beans served in oval metal dishes and we would bring in brown and tomato sauce and cheese slices to enhance our meal. Rabbit pie with thick gravy and an ample pastry crust was another favourite. Of course those were the days, not too long after the war, when many items were still 'on ration'. If you were lucky you could sometimes buy fish and chips at Greengates or visit the small cafes down at the Bridge or up in Little London or risk being really 'out of bounds' by getting a bus from Rawdon as far as Harry Ramsden's restaurant at White Cross.

As 'boarders' on Sundays we wore 'Marlborough' black jackets and striped grey trousers, or grey woollen suits with a white shirt and a black tie and in the afternoon sitting at our desks in the old School room, we would dutifully write our weekly letter home. We had one official bath a week, mine was in usually tepid water in the Basement, a long way from Vinter New North dorm. Daily we learnt our lessons, some more conscientiously than others, including some taught in the 'Womery' classroom with its tiered floor, half

way up Old North stairs overlooking the playground. We did PE and games, some of us again somewhat reluctantly, with John Bairstow but in the end most of us emerged at eighteen as grateful Grovians, grateful for what the school had offered us, grateful for creating life-long friendships and grateful for being able to cope with the world outside the Grove 'bubble'.



**Roger Davy, age 11 and now**

I have been very grateful too to the Head, James Lockwood, and his helpful staff for allowing a small plaque to be placed near the 'old' organ in the School chapel to the memory of Kenneth Pelmeare who was music master and a junior rugby coach in the school from 1949 to 1959.

Kenneth left the Grove to become music master at Truro School for another twenty years. Through our close Cornish connections, my family and I kept in contact with Ken who became a Bard of the Duchy for writing histories of Cornish rugby and particularly for composing and arranging many popular pieces with a Cornish flavour for brass bands and choirs. A reducing number of us former Grove choristers remember Ken with some affection as organist and choir master.

Kenneth died in 1995 and he would have celebrated his centenary on the 1st October 2023.

**Roger Davy MBE. (47-57)**



## Sporting Excellence



**Ellie Kildunne (11-16)**

It was with great excitement and anticipation that we welcomed Old Grovian, Ellie Kildunne, as our Prize Day Guest of Honour in the summer. Ellie captivated all those present, from across the generations, with her insights into the resilience, commitment and determination that she has had to display on her journey to becoming an elite athlete and international rugby player.

Ellie's words chimed very nicely with our Grovian Values, which teach us all how to live, work and play with others in society and of being part of a community.

## Grovian Represents Our Nation at the Highest Level in International Rowing



Congratulations to Old Grovian **Andrew Mettrick (13-20)** who has won the U23 World Rowing Championships with the GB 8s squad held in Bulgaria (19-23rd July). The final race saw the GB team secure a 2 second win over USA and Germany.

Andrew has just finished his 3rd Year at Durham University and has one more year of his integrated master's degree left. He was selected for the GB U23 rowing squad early in July to attend the world championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

He is now recognised as one of the highest-class oarsmen in the country and all of the Grove community are incredibly proud of his outstanding achievement.

We send our congratulations to Andrew and the team and wish him all the best for the future.

## Iron Man Debut

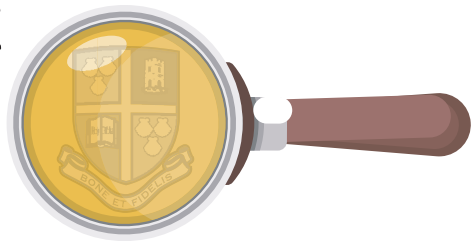
**Michael Allewell (90-01)** recently completed his first Ironman competition in Cork, Ireland, where his wife is originally from. Mike mentioned that this may surprise some of his fellow classmates as a result of his nickname at school and the fact his rugby days are far behind him!

This is a fantastic achievement and we look forward to hearing whether he takes part in any future competitions! Well done Mike.





# WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



## David Santwyk-Anderson (48-53)

"Having been a pupil at Brontë House and at WGS during the late '40s and early '50s I transferred to St Peter's, York in 1953 and left there after 'A' levels in 1957. I now live in Australia enjoying retirement at 84 years young. I set off for South Africa in 1957 to work as an underground official at the President Steyn Gold Mine in Welkom in the Orange Free State. My work as a technician took me to Uganda and Kenya where I stayed for 8 or 9 years. Following my return to the UK I was employed as a Development Test Engineer on the Concorde project at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics in Hatfield (where among others I met the famed 'Barnes Wallace' ....the bouncing bomb man). I then moved on to working as a research engineer in the Plessey organisation providing mechanical engineering support for essentially Military research projects which took me to Atlanta, USA. I returned to the UK and emigrated to Australia where I was instrumental in designing and manufacturing Diamond recovery and Colour sorting equipment for the famed Argyle Diamond Mine. With the team that carried out that project I established a business developing and manufacturing unique Xray inspection equipment for the meat export industry. During my lifetime I have also taken up flying as a private pilot together with competitive offshore sailing and ocean racing Sydney/Hobart and Tasmania West Coaster.

As for WGS, I have to acknowledge my enthusiastic adoption of Rugby Union as my favourite playing sport with thanks to Fred Whindle for that (the physics master who could draw a perfect circle on a blackboard). I am reminded of his early morning fitness runs from which he returned steaming like the trains that ran through the adjacent Apperley Bridge Station."

## Chris Woollass (63-70)

Chris Woollass has had two interesting holidays this year, with the first being 6 weeks in New Zealand with his partner. They broke their flights both ways with a stop in Sydney to see his cousin on the way there and then a stop in Singapore on the way back.

The second holiday was a northern lights arctic cruise in September, starting from Kirkenes in Northern Norway and finishing in Bergen. Unfortunately, it did not go to plan as they ran aground on a shifting sand bar in Alfafiord, Eastern Greenland making the news and the Internet.



They were not pulled off for three days and then they had to spend another day and a half awaiting permission to sail, going to Reykjavik for four nights, before being flown to Bergen.

Chris and his partner said that they still had a fantastic holiday, despite the unexpected events!

## Nadeem Sweiss (79-89)

"I have fond memories of my 10 years at Brontë and also the Grove. I currently live in Wilmslow, Cheshire with my wife Caren, a senior prison officer at HMP Styal and my two children Daisy (14) and Oscar (13) who are both studying at Wilmslow High School.

After working for 24 years for all Big4 accountancy firms in the UK with two spells overseas, I took a break from working in practice and did two Finance Director roles for property companies. I was then lured back into practice and currently work as a director in a boutique restructuring and advisory practice in London where I have been for two years.

My dear late mother, Joyce Sweiss was big supporter of The Grove and came to every rugby match of mine. She sadly passed away just prior to Christmas 2022."

## Janine Allen (86-92)

Janine Marie Allen was nominated by the Governor of New Jersey, Phillip Murphy to be a Superior Court Judge. Judge Allen was sworn in, surrounded by family and friends on 20th June 2023 and has been assigned to hear Family cases in New Jersey, USA. She left WGS in 1992 and attended Leicester University, studying Politics. In 1996, Judge Allen moved to New Jersey, USA and went on to attend Seton Hall Law School where she graduated with a Juris Doctorate in 2008. She then began her legal career as a Public Defender for the State of New Jersey, defending clients who were charged with homicide, assault, robbery, drug possession, child abuse and neglect and other crimes.

Judge Allen tells us that she is honoured to have been appointed to the bench and is looking forward to a long career serving the New Jersey community as a Judge. Her daughter Emma is also an Old Grovian, attending Sixth Form until 2021. Judge Allen credits her work ethic



and independence to her time at WGS. She tells us that the structure and guidance at the Grove helped focus her energy on her career goals, while still allowing her to be her true independent self.



## Grace Ofori-Attah (92-02)

In April 2023, The Radio Times released an article about the screen writer of "Malpractice" - an ITV Sunday night drama. The screenwriter was Old Grovian, Grace Ofori-Attah, one of three children of Hayford and Agnes Ofori-Attah.

Grace trained as a medic but then changed professions to become a screenwriter. Her take on that transition was explored in the Radio Times. It quoted that: This is a great story of achievement and journey in life.

## Ed Radcliffe (95-04) and Classmates

In June 2022, Ed had his first-born child, a daughter called Lacey. This has made it an incredibly exciting year for Ed as he also qualified as a detective in the New Zealand Police in August 2023. Ed also kindly shared some recent updates of a few of his classmates from The Grove. Below are his words.

### "Nicki Robertson née Weaving

In June 2022, Nicki had her first-born child, a boy named Thomas.

### Nick Page

Nick had his second child, called Ralph in October 2023.

### Rebecca Ives (94-04)

Rebecca is too famous to remember any of her school friends now as she tours and travels throughout Europe presenting football matches. Poor girl having to watch that much sport!"

## Imogen Amos (04-19)

"I left The Grove in 2019 and went on to complete my Performing Arts degree at Bird College in London. When I graduated in 2022, I began auditioning for shows all around the UK and landed my professional debut in a pantomime in Hull that I performed during November and December 2022. In September I also auditioned for 'Mamma Mia!' for the Royal Caribbean and in October

I found out that I got the job! I would be leaving at the end of January to fly to Miami for rehearsals for 2 months before joining Allure of the Seas for 9 months until 18th December 2023!

We embarked the ship in Galveston, Texas where we did week long cruises to Roatan in Honduras, Costa Maya, and Cozumel in Mexico. We did that itinerary for 7 months and for the last two months we moved to Orlando, Florida and cruised to the Coco Cap (Royal Caribbean's private island) and Nassau, both in the Bahamas!

I have had the best year of my life making so many memories and performing in a dream musical for a living. I owe a lot of my confidence and people skills to The Grove and I am so grateful that they always encouraged me to follow my dream while supporting me so well in my academic studies."



## Fiona Bradley (06-13)

Fiona Bradley has founded her own Marketing Agency - FB Comms. In addition to this, she was named Digital Marketing Agency Owner of the Year 2023, and they were shortlisted for Best Small Agency! They have run campaigns for the NHS, Rolex, and have worked with clients in New York, LA, Miami, and Australia. They're even using Old Grovian Georgia Dixon's consultancy Access HR for all of their human resources.

In between guest lecturing for Durham Uni, Fiona is running networking events across Leeds and Manchester with The After Work Club if anyone's still local and wants to meet other business owners.





## Nicole Swinnerton (09-21)

Old Grovian Nicole Swinnerton celebrated her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award in May 2023.

Her Award presentation was held in Buckingham Palace gardens with Prince Edward, it was a wonderful occasion.

Nicole had completed both her Bronze and Gold Awards at WGS.



## Louis Moorhouse (13-20)

An incredible encounter between Old Grovian, Louis Moorhouse and the legendary singer Elton John.

As Elton John was performing, he spotted Louis in the crowd and noticed that he was blind. In a heart-warming gesture, Elton took a break from the piano and approached Louis, breaking his Covid policy for the first time in three years. He shook Louis' hand and, eager to know more about him, asked Mrs. Moorhouse for his name. Elton's next song was dedicated to Louis, making it a truly unforgettable moment.

But the story doesn't end there! The following day, Elton John personally reached out to Louis. He had taken the time to research and learn about Louis online, finding inspiration in his story and his degree in music production. Elton expressed his admiration and enthusiasm for Louis' passion for music. He even shared his mobile number and email address, encouraging him to stay in touch. Since then, Elton has reached out to Louis again, just to "check in" and continue their conversation.

What an extraordinary experience for Louis! To have his dedication and talent recognised by a music icon like Elton John is truly remarkable. We are overjoyed that Louis' passion for music has touched the heart of such an influential figure. Congratulations Louis, and may your musical journey continue to inspire others.

## James Shoesmith Evans (05-20) and Andrew Mettrick (13-20)

In May 2022, Old Grovians James Shoesmith-Evans and Andrew Mettrick went to London to receive their Gold DofE Award in Buckingham Palace. We would like to congratulate both Andrew and James on this achievement as it is a remarkable award that requires extreme dedication and determination.

Both of them are continuing their educational journey as Andrew is currently completing his Intergrated Master's Degree at Durham University and James is at Liverpool University.



## Philippa Blakeley (12-16)

Since leaving Woodhouse in 2016, Philippa went on to complete her A-levels and then went on to carry out further education at university. But now, while studying her Master's, she has also joined Leicestershire Police to be a Special Constable and is hoping to join as a regular this year if her application is successful.

Philippa informed us of the impact The Grove has had in increasing her confidence, to allow her to try new careers such as this. She was particularly grateful for her time in Atkinson House as it allowed her to try different events and discover new hobbies.



## Luca Mellor (14-16)

Ex apprentice Bradford City Football player Luca Mellor has reached out sharing his time at The Grove, having classes with Chris Softley every day!

He moved to the USA aged 18 to play "soccer" at university and has now been there for 7+ years. He got married this summer and became the head coach of a university team near Philadelphia.



## Georgiana Foster (15-18)

We would like to congratulate former pupil Georgiana Foster on her incredible university results, achieving a First-Class honours in her Agricultural degree. In addition to this, she was awarded the 'Student of the Year' Award, which is as a result of her hard work and determination throughout the course.



# Anniversaries

## Philip Schofield (43-50) and Pamela Schofield, Platinum Anniversary

James Philip Schofield (Welshy) together with his wife Pamela Rose Schofield celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary (platinum) on the 6th August 2023 with a card from King Charles. Unfortunately, Pamela passed away 31st October 2023, but Philip still wanted to share this anniversary with fellow Old Grovians.

During this time together they were blessed with three children, Karen, Richard and Pippa.



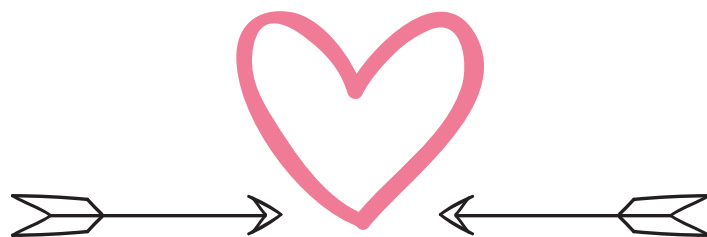
## Malcolm Overend (47-56) & Nest Overend, Diamond Anniversary

Congratulations to Old Grovian Malcolm Overend and his wife Nest Overend who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 3rd January 2023. They shared this momentous occasion with loved ones and we were informed that it was a wonderful day.

Congratulations from everyone at Woodhouse Grove.



# Marriages



## Jennifer O'Brien (97-11) and Ashley Brear (01-08)

Two Old Grovians Jennifer O'Brien (now Brear) and Ashley Brear got married on Friday 24th November 2023 with the following Old Grovians in attendance:

Kate Bloom (née O'Brien), Gemma Wilson, Jaskaran Deu

Jake McLelland, Andy Blackburn, Emma Ambler

Roger Tattersall, Georgina Hardaker, Rachel Potter (staff).

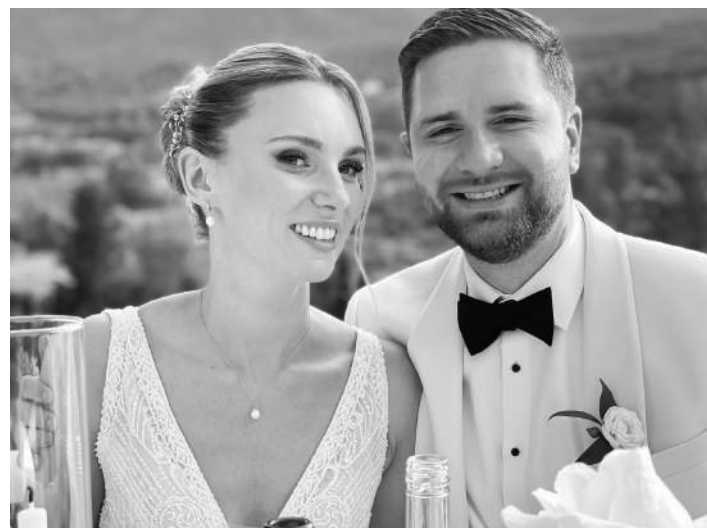
Congratulations on behalf of everyone at The Grove!



## Rebecca Worrall (04-11)

Congratulations to Old Grovian, Rebecca Worrall who recently got married on the 17th June 2023 in Tuscany, Italy. She has reported that it was a beautiful day shared with friends, family and the following Old Grovians: Laura Myers, Matthew Worrall, Annie Isles, Natasha Morris, Siobhan Fojt, Lorna Brady and Emily Killoran.

We wish you and your husband all the best.



### Ryan Young (06-13)

"This year on the 7th of July I got married in Astana, Kazakhstan to Aidana Seitkazina (now Young). We met during our masters' degrees at UCL and we are now living and working in Kazakhstan. Patrick Killoran (OG, 2013) was in attendance along with my sister Georgia Young (2020) and Abbie Nott (2020). A wonderful time was had by all with a ceremony that mixed English and Kazakh traditions. Any Old Grovians visiting the area would be most welcome to get in touch."

## Engagements



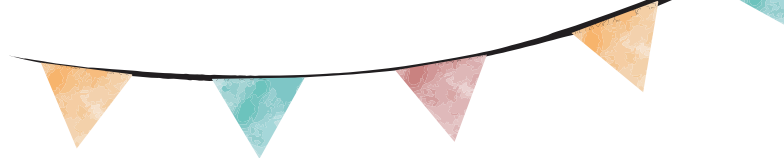
### Jack Maplesden (07-14)

Old Grovian and ex Head Boy, Jack Maplesden has recently got engaged. We were informed by his lifelong school friend, Angus Hastings (07-14), who thought Jack would love a mention in this Xaipete magazine. Jack and his fiancé, Gen Perrins are to marry in Northumberland in 2025.

Congratulations to you both from everyone at Woodhouse Grove.



## Births



### Tom Bancroft (99-06)

We would like to congratulate Tom Bancroft on the recent birth of his twins Lily Jane and George William. They were born on the 31st January 2023 which was 8 weeks early resulting in George weighing 3lb 9oz and Lily weighing 4lb 6oz.

Tom has reported that both are doing amazingly well, and big sister Florence, born Jan '21 is over the moon that she has the real thing and doesn't need her dollies anymore.

## OG Rugby



Baildon played in their first Yorkshire Cup final on Sunday 14th May and won the day with ex Grovians Jonty Glendinning, Luke Strauss, Josh Strauss, Will Eastell, Laurence Green, Jake McFarlin & Harrison Strauss, all playing a valuable part in bringing the shield home.

It is so lovely to see so many Old Grovians playing together, even years after leaving The Grove, both with ex-teammates and with other students they didn't get the chance to play with at school. It has allowed OGs to establish new relationships and friendships with ex pupils, as they will always have their love for The Grove in common.





# Reunions

## 40 & 50 Year Reunion

Informed by Richard 'Squid' Widdop (1973-1983)

"On Saturday 9th September, 7 OGs gathered at a Worcestershire Hotel to commemorate 40 years since departing the Grove and for 4 of the group, it was 50 years since commencing Brontë House in September 1973.

Many stories were shared, photographs examined and laughter filled the evening.

From left to right in the picture are:

John Keay, David Whiting, Andrew Page (BH and WGS head boy 1982-83), Andrew Percy (BH), Paul Peel (BH), Richard 'Squid' Widdop (BH) and Richard Howarth.

A special point of note is that all of the group featured in JK Jones' first ever rugby team (U13) at The Grove and were the team that he followed up to the 1st XV for the 1982-83 season.

Plans are already afoot for the 50th/60th Reunion in 2033!"



## 51 Year Reunion

Informed by Richard Linkogel (73-80)

"I am happy to report that 51 years has elapsed since we met at WGS and we marked the occasion by gathering at the Wheatley Arms in Burley, Ilkley.



We have from the left;

Neil English, Mike Smith, Gordon Baxter, Andrew Hirst Mark Davy, Ray Wood, Stuart Longbottom, Tim Pratt Carl English, Dick Linkogel, Chris Gatel, Graham Holdsworth Paul Morris, Robert Humphries, Phil Pease Jonathan Tearle, Pete Chippindale, Nick Driver Keith Secker, Andy Barker

A good night was had by all and much catching up was done, quite a few of us are now retired or about to and it was good fun to compare injuries and trade insults."

## Hong Kong Reunion - 24th May 2023

The Headmaster, **James Lockwood (86-92, st16-)** and **Sam Cadman (89-96, st11-)** were delighted to be able to host an Old Grovian Reunion in Hong Kong in May 2023, whilst on a recruitment trip to Asia. The drinks reception was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Causeway Bay and was attended by over 25 Old Grovians. It was fantastic that the event was attended by former pupils from the 60s,70s,80s,90s and Noughties! There will be more International Reunions planned for the coming years, if you live overseas and are interested in organising an event please get in touch.



# OG Autumn Reunion

Sunday 12th November 2023

## Old Grovians Rugby

On a rather wet afternoon the Old Grovians played a touch and pass fixture against a staff team. The staff team started off well taking the lead by scoring the first try. However, the younger legs eventually told, and the Old Grovians started to dominate the game through a combination of speed and superior fitness. There was some great skill on show from both sides and some excellent tries scored.

Last year's Touch & Pass format was a great success and it was a little disappointing not to have more teams join us this year. Those who had a run out this year thoroughly enjoyed themselves and even this nearly aged player who is closer to 50 than 40, enjoyed the event. I hope we can increase the numbers next year as it was really good fun!

A.M. Cadman OGA Chair 2022-23 (87-94 & St 2001- )



## Netball

The 2023 Old Grovians Netball team welcomed back a former 1st VII Captain, Laura Myers, as well as many other 1st and 2nd team members including: Isla Swarbrigg, Isabelle Teale, Rebecca Munro, Charlotte Slater, Molly Leslie, Clare Humphreys, Brooke Donkersley, Annie Isles, Emma Ambler and Alice Berkey. 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 of the game was strongly dominated by the OG team; however, the 2nd team fought fiercely to bring the score to a more even playing field in the third quarter. The game looked



even more promising for the 2nd team at the start of the final quarter; however, the Old Grovians' experience shone through with a series of clean interceptions across the court, which were converted by their fantastic shooting. Whilst the final score of the game was 36-29 in favour of the Old Grovians, the 2nd team should be incredibly proud of their performance as their cohesion was undeniable. The players of the match, chosen by Georgie Thompson (Head of Netball) and Katy Curtis (Head of Academic PE) were two OGs, Isabelle Teale and Emma Ambler, who displayed a fantastic performance throughout the game, helping secure the win for the OGs! Well done girls.

## Squash

It was fantastic to welcome back four Old Grovians to play in the OG squash match against our current students. The OG team comprised of more recent leavers, such as James Shoesmith-Evans, Finlay Wilkinson and Robert Mitchell as well as Russell Payne who left The Grove in the 90s. The school team consisted of Naomi, Callum and Hritik who are all in their final year at The Grove.

The format of the match involved the two teams playing the best of three games with the opposing side, resulting in a total of 17 games and 8 matches being played. The Old Grovians took the victory - 14-3/7-1, however, the WGS side demonstrated a strong performance against three experienced players.

It was fantastic to see that the Old Grovians have continued to play squash at a high standard at their university or in their local area, giving their own tips and tricks to the school players. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and we would like to thank everyone who showed up to play and support. We look forward to the rematch next year!





## Old Grovian Golf Reunion

On Sunday 7th May, the Old Grovian Association held a Golf Day at Bradford Golf Club. The event was very well attended with around 40 Old Grovians, a handful of WGS staff and a couple of guests making up the 4-balls.

11 Teams took to the course in glorious sunshine, having enjoyed a bacon butty and a drink prior to starting their rounds. Despite it being relatively early in the season, the course was in good condition and was enjoyed by all who played.

Playing a 4-ball better ball Stableford format with two scores to count on each hole, the teams' scores ranged from 73 points to the winning total of 92. The top three teams were as follows;

1st placed team – 92 Points – Joe Bedford (OG & Staff), Chris Softley (Staff), Matthew Dawson (Staff) & Gethin Clarke (Guest)

2nd placed team – 87 Points – Dan Nulty, Oliver Coughlan, Ben Rhodes & James (Foggy) Phillips

3rd Placed Team – 85 points – Will Coker, Andrew Percy, Ian Lawson & Richard Widdop

Prizes were also awarded for the following

Nearest the Pin – Martyn Bray

Nearest the Pin in Two – David Webster

Longest Drive – Stuart Henshaw (Guest)

The best individual performers on the day were Oliver Coughlan and Oliver Musgrave who both amassed an impressive 40 points.

Post-round refreshments were enjoyed on the fabulous terrace followed by a meal and the prizes being awarded. It was lovely for some familiar faces to pop in and join us for a drink after the golf, adding to the atmosphere of a terrific day.

I would like to record my thanks to George Grant (OG) Golf Operations Manager at Bradford Golf Club who helped arrange the event. Additional thanks go to the team captains for getting their groups together and to Ben Brown for contributing some items for our prize table.

I do hope that this event can become an annual occurrence, and it would be fantastic to see this grow in size. To any Old Grovian golfers out there, tickets are available now for this year's event.

**A.M. Cadman OGA Chair 2022-23 (87-94 & St 2001- )**



## Old Grovian Tour Dinner

On Saturday 11th November it was fantastic to welcome over 100 Old Grovians, former staff and current staff to a Tour Reunion Dinner. The event was meant to be an informal affair where old friends could catch up and reminisce on tour stories and stories from school days. I think it achieved this aim. We had representation from across the decades with members of the 1987 Zimbabwe tour - the first major overseas tour - through to the 2015 South Africa Rugby tour. As Chair, I was pleased to say a few words and lead the attendees in a Heads and Tails game based on some tour stories. Congratulations to Jen Peachey (née Best) who won!

I must record my thanks to the Woodhouse Grove staff team who made this event possible. To Franco Caroleo, Shirley O'Boyle and Kevin Grant and the rest of the Catering Team, to Hannah Boggie our Events Manager and to Sam Cadman for liaising with table organisers and providing some fantastic archive material for the tourists to enjoy.

**A.M. Cadman OGA Chair 2022-23 (87-94 & St 2001- )**



## Remembrance Service



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

*Lest we Forget*

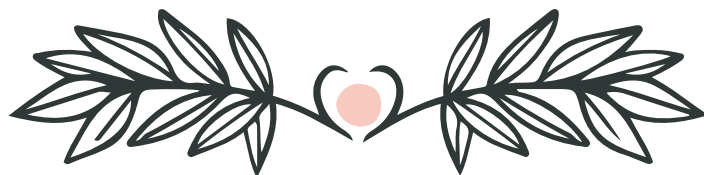
Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity where the school takes time and space to honour those who served and lost their lives in the Great War and the 2nd World War, whilst at the same time wishing for World Leaders to actively strive for Peace. We were particularly aware this year, of current conflicts around the world – those where nations are in dispute with neighbours and for those countries who have internal conflicts.

As well as laying wreaths for these 2 conflicts, we listened to the names of past Grove Pupils and Staff who have died in the last 12 months, read by incoming Old Grovian Chair, Mr Tony Zammit. This year, we were particularly mindful of losing our friend and teaching colleague, Mr Andrew Crawford, who died over the summer, having spent his whole teaching career of 32 years at WGS.

Head Prefect Callum Hyland Dugbo and outgoing Old Grovian Chair, Mr Cadman shared our Bible readings, which spoke of peace and a change in how we see 'our enemies', whilst Head Prefect Lucy Lund led the intercession prayers. The Chaplain reminded us of the whole story of why we have a National Memorial in Westminster Abbey, dedicated to the 'Unknown Warrior', where the UK is just one of over 60 nations who have similar memorials, "Lest we forget."

Sunday afternoon saw some of our school Brass Band, led by Mr Tedd, alongside the Chaplain, help the Rev Rachel Ford, new Vicar at St Peter's, lead the Rawdon Remembrance Service alongside the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, local MPs and Councillors, Uniformed Groups and Emergency Services, who all laid wreaths.

**Rev. Drost, (st22-)**



## Obituaries

### Graham Pearson (47-52)

Informed by his daughter-in-law Claire Pearson.

Graham Pearson sadly passed away on 21st October 2023 at age 88. Graham was a research chemist and then a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Defence, serving from 1984 until 1995 as Director General of what is now the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down in Wiltshire. He published widely in the field of chemical and biological weapons. Subsequently a visiting professor, he was made a DUniv of Bradford in 2018.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Graham Pearson, who will be missed by many.



### Michael John Burdett (49-55)

Informed by family member, Emma Burdett.

It is with deep sadness that the family of Michael John Burdett (49-55) announce his passing after a short illness. Michael will be forever missed but fondly remembered by his family and friends: wife Valerie, his daughters Michelle and Karen and son Neil (86-93). Not to mention his doting grandchildren Victoria, Alicia, Edward (14-) and Alexander (18-). He very much enjoyed coming along to Old Grovian days with Neil, Emma (his daughter in law), Edward and Alexander; he enjoyed seeing familiar faces, his grandsons emulating his footsteps, a good chat, cup of tea and a Grove catering treat. So, we will continue to raise a 'cuppa' for Michael and thank him for all he's done and achieved in his 85 years at all future Old Grovian events.

"Since his passing we've enjoyed reading his letter inviting him for interview, acceptance and old school reports, all handwritten and no colour coding in sight. They even include height and weight."





This photo is from Neil's wedding to Emma in 2009 which captures Michael's smile and cheerful nature when the Old Grovians who attended, posed together. (Chris Osborne, Steven Hunt, Neil Burdett, Micheal Burdett and Jason Firth).

## Richard Thornton (51-59)

Informed by fellow classmate, Duncan Miller (49-58).

We are offering our condolences to the family and friends of Old Grovian, Richard Thornton who sadly passed away in November 2023. Richard was a very familiar face in the Old Grovian Association, paying many visits to the school. His classmate, Duncan has informed us that he thoroughly enjoyed collecting old school photos, naming those in the frames. He will be missed by many.

## John B. Conyers (55-60)

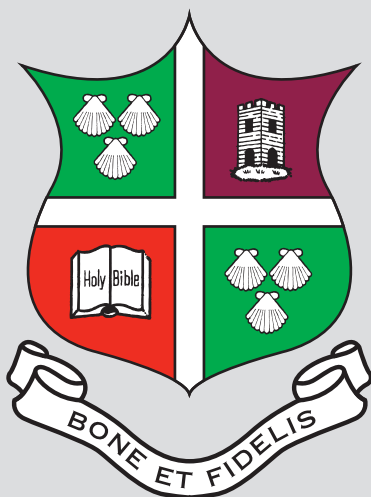
Informed by friend, Peter Wood (55-63).

The Old Grovian community was deeply saddened to receive the news of John Conyers passing in November 2023.

## Andrew Crawford 1968 – 2023 Woodhouse Grove (st91-23)

In August we lost a cherished member of the Grove family. Andrew Crawford joined The Grove in 1991. He was a much-loved member of the Music and Maths Department and was Head of Findlay House for many years. He was a loyal and supportive colleague and a good friend to many within the Grovian community. Both his funeral and memorial service at Halifax cathedral were packed with former staff, pupils and parents as well as family and friends from the many organisations with which he was associated.

His passion for Music was contagious and the legacy he leaves on the school music department and many Old Grovians will be everlasting.



We were also informed that we sadly lost the following Old Grovians;

John Berry (42-47)

Donald Richards (48-52)

Roger Taylor (50-56)

Ian G Myers (50-57)

John R Field (51-57)

John Marston (61-68)

Paul Bagshaw (86-93)

# Updates

## Au Revoir To 70 Years of Service



In July we said goodbye to a number of long serving colleagues including Mrs Hughes and Mr Jarvis who have clocked up 70 years of service between them.

Mrs Hughes recalls:

I have worked with some amazing colleagues and pupils - and some of those amazing pupils have since become amazing colleagues, including the Pastoral Deputy Head and the Headmaster!

It has been wonderful to work in such a beautiful setting; I always enjoy seeing the grounds change with the seasons.

I also have some fantastic memories of ventures outside of the classroom: French exchanges with the Lycée Clemenceau in Reims, Lower School German and Spanish trips to the Black Forest and Tarragona and Year 7 outings to Lightwater Valley all spring to mind.

A life without Woodhouse Grove is hard to comprehend at the moment although I won't miss the long commute! I am looking forward to taking life at a slower pace now and spending more quality time with family and friends as well as some charity work.



The staff outside the Lycée Clemenceau  
1999

## I think I was Born for Retirement

David McCarthy (st53-92)

Why did I spend most of my life (so far!) as a teacher? I suppose there must have been other careers that at various stages I considered more enticing, more exciting - engine-driver, bus-conductor, fighter pilot, concert pianist, but when it came down to it, towards the end of my school days, I decided to become a teacher. On reflection I suppose it must have been because of the charisma and example of so many remarkable teachers - in my infants' school in the Welsh mining village where I was born, in the junior school in North Staffordshire, the grammar schools in Newcastle-under-Lyme and Wakefield through which I progressed and then drifted blissfully through university into the Department of Education.

And so it was I joined the staff at Woodhouse Grove. At the time I had no thoughts of the future, other than preparing lessons for the following day - making sure I had enough material or quickness of wit to see me through the forty-minute lessons - and perhaps coaching the odd bit of rugby and cricket. I certainly never contemplated being anchored there for the next thirty-or-so years. Then, when the inevitable retirement arrived it was simply a case of floating from one delightful state to another.



Retirement (which is what we have to call it) has been a lengthy sequence of enriching circumstances, the best of which has to be my deciding to marry Liz, and thus acquiring not only a wonderful wife but also three matchless daughters (all Grovians, as it happens) and a most affable Labrador, Henry.

For some years, walking Henry ensured I too had plenty of exercise as he and I roamed the terrain bordering Skipton, including the towpath on the Liverpool-Leeds canal. In between times I fulfilled the office of organist at the parish church and regurgitated much of the music I had performed in the Grove chapel. Stepping down from the parish church duties (into another "retirement") I then had the pleasure of playing for services at a variety of local churches - Embsay, Linton, Brierfield. We then "relocated" to Todmorden - to the surprise of many - and settled happily in Calderdale. I had clung to the hope that



if ever I moved from one district to another, I would be able to “retire” from being a church organist, even a lowly “organist of last resort”, but the ecclesiastical world seems plagued with vacancies and despondent appeals for church organists. In Todmorden and Hebden Bridge the sirens blared again and, in such situations, “No”, however short a word, is impossible to say.

As a matter of fact, Calderdale is by no means short of culture, of music and musicians. It is, in truth, a musically rich area where we have enjoyed all kinds of musical events, choral and instrumental. Venturing further afield we go to places like Burnley and Halifax (seriously!) and on special occasions as far as London to La Boheme at the Royal Opera House and jazz at legendary Ronny Scott’s Club. Inevitably, from these heights I then descend to my own more modest efforts at the piano in our sitting-room, to strive with pieces from my gradually diminishing repertoire. The situation regains a truer perspective when I attend recitals at venues within range to be suitably chastened and thrilled by the brilliance of international celebrities, in other words, “proper pianists”.

A benefit of retirement is that it allows one to travel, if not wherever but (more or less) whenever one likes, unfettered, of course, by school affairs; and we have taken advantage by exploring the continent and flying to outposts of commonwealth as far away as Canada and New Zealand, not to mention a bizarre Las Vegas-cum-California aberration. On our travels we have admired astonishing natural sights, ‘tis true, but we always return reassured that our homely British landscapes, many within a stone’s-throw-and-a-bit, are still our favourite.

Nevertheless, the journeys that have given as much pleasure as any have been, by kind invitation, my visits to The Grove, to marvel at its expansion, to renew long-standing friendships and associations, and to refresh countless recollections of times and characters that bring my days such unmerited enrichment.

## Grant Mitchell (st94-07)

It is extremely hard to believe that it’s been 20 years since I left WGS and a lot has happened since then! I travelled home to New Zealand via an African Overland from Cairo to Capetown and along the way met Leanna, from Ireland - she decided to follow me to NZ and we were soon married with first child on the way.

I’m still teaching and am currently an English teacher at Te Wharekura o Mauao and Leanna is a Whanau First educator for Plunket, which helps new-borns and their families navigate the first 2,000 days by offering assistance in a huge variety of ways.

We now have four children, the oldest, Henry, is studying for a building apprenticeship and Charlotte is in her final year at college. Freddie is heading into Year 12 and he’s our entrepreneur and has even managed to buy a boat to take his mates fishing. Our youngest, Patrick, is going into year 8 at Te Wharekura o Mauao, a Māori immersion school. He is enjoying the challenge learning in Te Reo Māori offers and he especially loves the sport there.

It has been great to catch up with a few people over the years. The last one was Jo Wood who was visiting her family here not so long ago. We also occasionally see Ed Radcliffe, who is a police officer in Auckland, and Gemma Croxon is threatening a visit when they come to NZ for a holiday.



## David Wilberforce (st80-99)

An organist retiring after more than 70 years of playing was given a surprise opportunity to perform a farewell recital at Ripon Cathedral.

Now, he and his wife Ann, who is also a key member at West Park, will be moving to Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, so members at West Park sprang a surprise by arranging for him to play the organ in Ripon Cathedral for a private gathering of church friends.

(The Stray Ferret, 2023)





## Robert Barker (68-73)

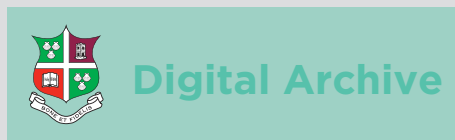
"The son of a friend of ours was playing for QEGS Wakefield at The Grove and we (my wife Jane and I) decided to go and support WGS. This was only my second time back to The Grove since leaving in 1973. After watching a good game of rugby which I am pleased to say The Grove won, we went to look around. It was quieter than I remembered - probably due to fewer boarders. There were the new buildings and big changes in the sports facilities, with more to come of both! But the school still had a familiar feel about it. We had a chat with Sam Cadman and Roger Howard. This led to a wonderful get-together with David McCarthy in Todmorden a few weeks later where they have retired. Great to see David after 50 years!"



## 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:

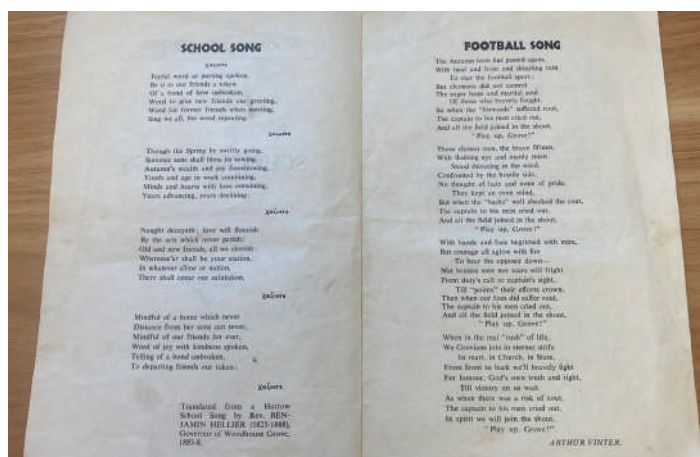
[foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk)

## Robin Bourne (51-56)

Informed by nephew, Stefan Szulc.

Old Grovian, Robin Bourne (51-56) possessed an impressive collection of old school photos and documents including whole school photos from 1954, 1955 and 1956 and an old school song sheet. His nephew Stefan was kind enough to collect and send us these documents so that we can add them to the magazine and the digital archives.

We are incredibly grateful to receive these photos, so that we can share them with fellow Old Grovians, who may be able to spot themselves, friends, or loved ones. The rest of the photos supplied by Robin will be available for viewing on the digital archive.





# School News



## Arkwright Scholarship

Congratulations to Lucy Hanson, Year 12, who has been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

This Scholarship programme is one of the most esteemed of its type in the UK, encouraging and supporting scholars into careers in the engineering professions.

Scholars gain access to a wide range of extended learning opportunities, mentoring and networking which will set them apart from their peers as they progress into engineering-based courses and careers.

Lucy has gone through a rigorous application process which included an exam geared towards problem-solving, and a demanding interview stage. This award is a real credit to Lucy's hardworking approach and recognisable talent and we are very proud of her achievement.

## Sixth Form Building

Development of our state-of-the-art Sixth Form Building is complete!

The facility is expected to be open and available for use by the end of February 2024. It will meet the needs of all our students, supporting our vision of a forward-thinking Pathways Programme.

We are extremely excited to launch this space as it has some fantastic amenities, such as:

- Seminar rooms for Business Partners to deliver career talks.
- Increased space for individual and collaborative working.
- Integrated technology for the live streaming of topical issues.

Elements of the space will have a much more corporate feel, preparing our students for life after Woodhouse Grove.

## Benefiting from Green Investment

The recent sunny weather is having a positive impact on our green credentials.

Almost 1 km<sup>2</sup> of solar panels, installed last Autumn, have cut school electricity consumption by 33% in May 2023 compared to May 2022; even dropping to zero consumption at times throughout the month.

Recent investment in an automated swimming pool cover is also starting to have an impact on reducing heating costs in the pool area.





## Year 7 and 8 Spotlight Show

At the beginning of November, our cast of super talented Year 7s and 8s braved the stage of the McCarthy Theatre, some of them for the first time!

Presented superbly by Rebecca Chapman, the performance showcased the talent of singers, musicians, actors and a dancer. The students demonstrated the Grovian Values of being committed and resilient throughout rehearsals and the show.



## Remember Me

This year's Senior Production, 'Remember Me', provided students from Years 11-13 with the chance to take the lead, be creative and demonstrate independence as they wrote their own chapter in the history books.

The title, 'Remember Me', had a double meaning. Firstly, representing the idea that the production was their opportunity to be memorialised for their talents; secondly, recognising their desire to remember significant figures from history, literature and their own life.



## England U18 Representation



Congratulations to Alfie Longstaff, who was capped for England U18 in the summer and went on tour to South Africa with the U18 squad. He has been joined by Archie Hurford, Tom Rowe and Callum Hyland Dugbo at various points this year, who have all been invited to train with the England U18 rugby squad.

Alfie said, "At the camps we split time between forwards and backs so we can focus on set pieces. This is valuable time as we get a lot of coaching points on how to improve technique. Mako Vunipola came to one of the forwards camps, where he gave us tips on scrummaging, which was great!"

Congratulations to Ned McCormack, Year 13 who played superbly for England in the U18 Six Nations Festival; awarded Man of The Match against France and scoring a try against Ireland. Ned has also signed a professional contract for Leeds Rhinos.

'Remember Me' was a raw, powerful and emotional collection of scenes, performance poetry and musical performances which showcased the range of amazingly talented performers that we have. What's more, many of the scenes were written by the cast themselves, including the powerful 'I am the Fire' by Lily Edwards, which marked the beginning of the show's finale.

The production also included a moving tribute to Mr Crawford, which came in the form of a beautiful rendition of 'True Colours', taken from one of Mr Crawford's favourite musicals: 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert'.

There were so many wonderful performances, from Winnie Offland (Y13) performing the emotional 'Where Does the Love Go', which she wrote herself, to Abigail Lewis (Y13) as the brave Antigone, standing up to King Creon (Gee Dutton, Y12) as he sentences her to death for burying her brother. Yuliia Buhera (Y13) terrified us all as Medusa and we were wowed with a spectacular interpretation of 'Six' from the musical of the same name, starring Winnie Offland (Y13), Ruby Clarke (Y13), Maidie Jennings (Y13), Maia Robb (Y12), Poppy Freeley (Y12) and Scarlett Swinney (Y12).

The show really highlighted the plethora of talent that we have here and the whole cast and crew are to be congratulated. We certainly will remember them!



## Netball Area Winners

Following the local round in November 2022, all of our squads qualified for the Regional round held at EIS Sheffield in January. Our U14 squad narrowly missed out on qualifying for Nationals, finishing 3rd in the region overall. Our U16s had a phenomenal day and finished Yorkshire & Humberside Champions and the U19s qualified in 2nd place following an incredibly intense day!

The teams travelled to the National Finals in March to play against the top 18 school teams in the country. The two squads each played in 8 very intense games at the highest level and we are so incredibly proud of them. Our U19s were ranked 13th= and our U16s ranked 9th= nationally after the event.

Our netballers also had an incredible run in the Sisters n Sport National Netball Cup with the U19s, U16s and U13s all reaching the cup semi-final! To have 3 teams finish in the final four in the country is outstanding and a definite first for Grove Netball.



Following a long and highly competitive process the following students were selected to represent England Netball Franchises on the England Performance Pathway programme. This is an outstanding achievement and is the equivalent of County representation.

Leeds Rhinos - Summer Anderson (U19), Grace Ross (U19), Georgina Rayner (U17), Lexie Cadman (PDP), Cleo Hainsworth (U14)

Manchester Thunder - Bella Strudwick (U14)

There has also been individual success for Jessica Strudwick who has been selected for the U17 Wales Team and Grace Ross who is playing in the National Premiership League 2 for Leeds Athletic Netball Club; this is the 3rd highest Netball league in the country!

## Cricket in the Caribbean

During the summer, some of our senior cricketers went on a cricket tour of Barbados and St. Lucia. The cricket displayed throughout the tour was outstanding - securing four impressive victories out of six games across multiple formats, including the excitement of playing white ball matches under the vibrant Caribbean night skies.

The tour was an incredible, fun-filled experience that the cricketers will cherish and reminisce about for years to come.



## Auschwitz-Birkenau Visit

At the end of last term, students embarked on a history trip to Poland, on a profoundly moving journey that included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Amidst the sombre atmosphere, they had the privilege of meeting a remarkable Holocaust survivor who shared her personal experiences and resilience. The survivor's words and presence served as a powerful reminder of the importance of bearing witness to history and ensuring that such atrocities are never repeated. The trip to Krakow and Auschwitz was an educational and emotionally impactful experience that will stay with them forever.



## Old Grovian Reunion Dates

London Reunion 18th April - The Walrus and The Carpenter

Golf Day Sunday 19th May - Rudding Park, Harrogate

OGA Summer Reunion Sunday 30th June

OGA November Reunion Sunday 10th November