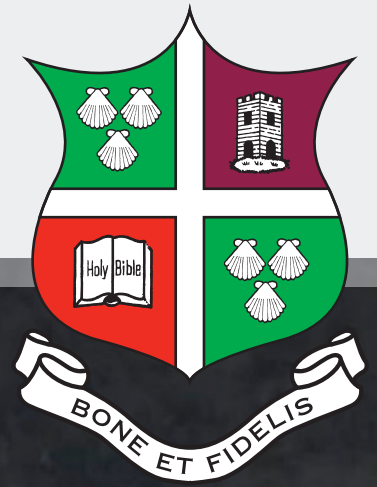


Χαίρετε



Welcome from the Chair



I'm really proud to have been asked to be Chair of the OGA for the 24/25 year. Since leaving in 1997 the school has remained incredibly important to me and our family. I continued to return to the school for the Autumn rugby fixture for many years until the body started to grumble when it came to getting up for work on a Monday morning! I played rugby and coached the Old Grovians rugby team over a 10 year period, during which time we had great success. With the help of some great people we have pivoted to a very successful 'OG7s' team winning silverware out in Dubai this year - please follow the team on the various social media channels and offer your support and encouragement!

I got married at the school in 2007 and am really proud to say that my wife is now Deputy Head and our two children are following in my footsteps as Grovians. I think it really says everything about how brilliant the school is when I see so many Old Grovians amongst the parents on the sidelines at the various sporting fixtures and watching the amazing theatre productions.

Given the political climate I don't think there has ever been a more important time for Old Grovians to remain in contact with the school and support in so many ways. I've seen Old Grovians have been in school giving talks to students about their career path, offering apprenticeship schemes, coaching sport and offering financial support. If you feel you can support the school and its students in any way please do get in touch with the school or myself and I will happily arrange for you to be put in contact with the right people.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's events and hosting the golfers amongst you on the 4th May at Bradford Golf Club. It was a great day in 2024, there were a wide variety of handicaps and abilities so please arrange a 4 ball with your friends and come along!

There are also plans afoot for a reunion dinner later this year. The last dinner in November 2023 was a huge success based around the Tour Reunion theme. This time it would be great for you to just create your own table theme and bring together a group of friends from your year, production cast, sports team, tour squad - whatever it may be.

I saw a few people I hadn't seen since our tour in 1997 at the dinner and it was great to see them and laugh at some of the tales that some had forgotten!

Please do come and say hello the next time you see me either around school or at the reunion events, it would be great to speak with you and find out how you are doing, young or old.

Dan Nulty (90-97)

All tickets available at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool



Dan as Mr Putney in the WGS play 'Was He Anyone?'

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• woodhousegrove.co.uk/old-grovians

Introducing...

Eve Corry, Development Officer at Woodhouse Grove



Eve Corry & Family (st24-)

We caught up with Eve to find out about her personal interests, her family life, career background and of course some of the exciting development plans she has at The Grove.

Tell us about yourself

Hello, I'm Eve, and I live in Calverley with my husband Jim and our two children, Sidney (10) and Stevie (7). I'm a very creative person, with a strong passion for music and the arts, and I love expressing that creativity through various aspects of my life. One of my favourite hobbies is cooking, particularly Eastern dishes, and I'm inspired by chefs like Sabrina Ghayour and Yotam Ottolenghi. I enjoy running, CrossFit and yoga to recharge and rebalance.

Professionally, I've worked in the charity sector for the past 15 years, working for Age UK Leeds, Candlelighters Trust and The Give A Duck Foundation. I've had the opportunity to work across various departments, but for the last six years I've focused specifically on development, events and income generation. This experience has equipped me with the skills to manage diverse projects, build strong relationships and raise funds, all of which are fundamental skills I will apply in my role at Woodhouse Grove.

What interested you in this new role?

Living locally, I have always admired Woodhouse Grove and the positive impact it has within the community. When I saw the role advertised, I immediately knew it was a perfect match for my experience and skillset. I thrive on challenges and take great satisfaction in helping others achieve their goals. My determination drives me to find solutions and push through obstacles, especially when it comes to supporting others in their success.

One of the things I enjoy most is meeting new people and building meaningful relationships. I truly believe that every conversation has the potential to lead to new opportunities, and I'm always excited to discover how I can contribute and collaborate with others.

What do you aim to achieve in 6 months and in 12 months?

Since joining in November, I've been on a mission to meet with as many Old Grovians as possible to deepen my understanding of the school and its community. I believe building strong relationships is key to making a positive impact. Within the first three weeks, I set up the online donation page on the school's website, ensuring it's easy for people to support by making a one-off donation or via regular giving.

Looking ahead, my main priorities are to generate income by growing the Regular Giving Programme and the Fidelis Legacy scheme, launching an online shop for Old Grovian merchandise and increase the numbers of Old Grovians attending the events/reunions. These are just a few of the initiatives I'm excited to bring to life, and I'm eager to continue finding new ways to engage the Old Grovian network and drive support for the school.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I've had a passion for music from a young age, learning to play the electric bass guitar at the age of 11. This led me to pursue a 2:1 BA Hons degree in Jazz Studies, which further fuelled my love for music. During my time at secondary school in Shropshire, I had the incredible opportunity to join the big band 'Adjazz'. We toured Florida, completing 24 gigs in 21 days—a truly unforgettable experience.

Upon returning to the UK, we were fortunate enough to perform on Blue Peter—and yes, I still proudly have my Blue Peter badge to this day!

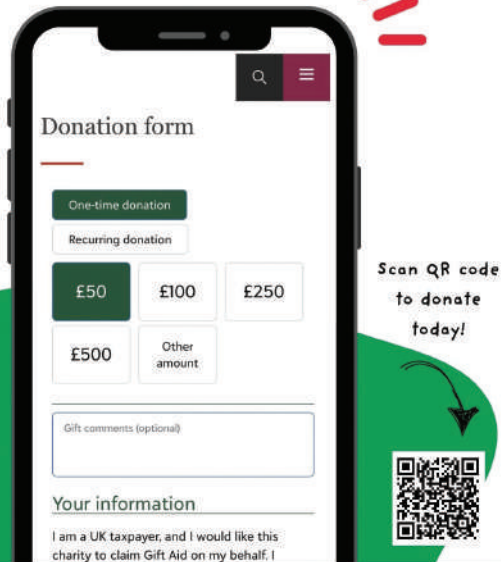
OLD GROVIAN MERCHANDISE
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ONLINE SHOP
coming soon
SPRING 2025



Online Giving now live!

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Make a gift today at www.woodhousegrove.co.uk/make-a-donation/



Regular Giving Testimonial



"I support The Woodhouse Grove Foundation because I believe in giving young people the opportunity to experience this exceptional school. Regular giving is manageable, it might amount to the equivalent of a round of drinks, yet by numbers of Grovians acting similarly we can make a huge difference, helping ensure that current and future students, who might not otherwise have had the chance, can benefit from a Woodhouse Grove education." - ER Howard (71-78, st82-)

Sign up for Regular Giving today by visiting:



www.woodhousegrove.co.uk/make-a-donation/

Expand Fundraising Initiatives



Launch an annual giving campaign including a regular giving programme. Develop major donor and legacy programmes. Set up online giving on the WGS website and reach a broader supporter base.

Strengthen Alumni Relations



Host a series of OG events throughout the year, increase attendee numbers. Enhance communication methods via newsletters and social media. Develop opportunities for OGs via the Alumni Volunteer Network to offer mentoring and career support to current students.

Optimise Donor Stewardship



Personalised engagement and impact reporting to share updates on the impact of donor support with a particular focus on the bursary programme. Recognise and honour donor contributions to inspire further involvement from the Old Grovian community.

Development Plan 2025

**Plus lots more going on behind the scenes!*

OG Sevens Report



2024 has been another huge step forward for the new OG Sevens touring rugby team. After the sad end of the 15-a-side team in 2022 it seemed that it was the end of OG rugby beyond school, however I don't think any of us could dream of how successful the initiative has been.

The season started off for us in April when we were invited to play at the world-famous Melrose 7s competition which is the oldest 7s competition in the world. We went there with high hopes but realistic expectations with a squad of 14 - 8 of which went to Woodhouse Grove School - to take on sides from around the world, with a draw that pitted us against the winners from the previous year - the formidable Monaco Impis. Much to the surprise of the crowd who were asking who the OGs were, we managed to race our way to victory thanks to a hat trick of tries from OG Ben Magee (07-14). We went on to beat another full-time team called The Lions before losing in the semi-finals to Shogun rugby who had pretty much a full international squad. This really elevated our profile and allowed us to build momentum into our 2 local tournaments at Ilkley and West Park where on each occasion we managed to put out 4 teams. At West Park, we won the Elite cup, the Open Cup and the social plate with George Worthington (18-22) outstanding all day.

At Ilkley we got pipped in the final of both the elite and social tournaments but yet again walked away with the social plate trophy and one of the proudest moments of the season came when Ben Turpin (16-22) was called up to the GB squad and played for them in the Euros in Croatia. We entered our final competition in July in London and again we lost to another formidable Shogun team in the quarter finals of the elite, but yet again we managed to walk away with the social plate.

We've had 68 players play for us this summer, 46 of which are ex WGS lads, 7 of which have previously captained the school.

We ended the summer season with a Ball that had 250 people attending, all willing to support the OG7s.

We finished the year by taking two teams to enter the Dubai 7s in the International Open and International Social. We had a fantastic trip and made memories that will last a lifetime.

We look forward to reporting hopefully more success next year. If any OGs would like to help on or off the field with the OG7s, please get in contact with John Hinchliffe (83-94).

Matt Gaffney, OG Sevens

THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS



It is not an exaggeration to say that if any of you are fortunate enough to visit The Grove after an absence of several years, you will be amazed at what you see. I confirm that the tangible ethos of the school remains as strong as ever, as of course do many of the older buildings that we knew, but the modern facilities now provided for the present-day youngsters at Brontë House and for older Grovians 'down the Lane,' are outstanding, compared to 'our' day. Not that we noticed, we were Grovians of an older generation and accepted everything as it was ... though the tepid temperature of the bath water on winter Monday evenings in the Basement in the 1950's is unforgettable!

I arrived at Brontë House in the autumn term of 1947, the youngest of three Davy brothers and with Keith and Peter, some years older than me, the three of us overlapped for nineteen years from 1938 until 1957. After five years as a day-boy I chose to become a boarder and because of the family connections I joined Vinter in September 1952 for a further five years.

I remember my initial anxiety, soon displaced, on my first night in the New North senior dorm with a crowd of another thirty boys in our cast-iron-headed beds with a grey blanket and our own warming travelling rugs. Next door through a substantial partition was the junior dorm, New South, with another thirty youngsters so there were about sixty of us sleeping in proximity with access separately to about a dozen washbasins and four loos. Each bedside had a wooden locker and down the center of the rooms there were large blocks of individual pull-down lockers for our personal use, mostly containing clean socks, a black tie, and a white shirt which had to survive being worn on three successive Sundays before they went to the laundry.

In my first year we had three prefects in charge, George Howard, Peter Senior and David Whitney and there was always a general hubbub before 'lights-out' at ten o'clock. Many of us then continuing to read with the aid of a torch under the bedclothes, or late on Sunday nights if you had a portable radio and ear phones, listening to the 'Top Twenty' from Radio Luxembourg.

I was responsible on one occasion for incurring the Head, Dr Pritchard's severe wrath. Unknown to me, he was holding a meeting one morning after breakfast for Vinter juniors in their dorm next door when I innocently played on my record player at full blast, Doris Day's "Love Me or Leave Me." We went to bed in silence for a week!

Night time 'fire practices' were held at least every term after lights-out when with some trepidation we hurried down the outside two flights of the steep metal fire escape in dressing gowns and slippers to congregate in serried rows in the playground to be counted. We learned to anticipate when the practice would be held because we were instructed to always check if the fire door was unlocked before breaking the glass on the fire door key box—glass was still quite costly in those years, not long after the War. One of the prefects checked every night to see if the master in charge of fire practices, Ronald Bolt, had crept up the fire escape to unlock the door to prevent the glass being broken!





As I read the 'Groviaan' I am very impressed to see details of the many overseas sporting and musical tours shared by today's Grovians. I am sure that nowadays every tour is meticulously organised and risk assessed. Once again it is not fair to compare what happened seventy years ago but just to say in 1955, I joined a school party for a summer holiday in Innsbruck in Austria. We all met in London and caught the ferry to Ostend where we joined a Belgium bus with a canvas roll-back roof and the uniformed driver who told us that he had instructions to take us to Austria, but he had no idea how to get us there! We were in the charge of masters Ronald Bolt, David McCarthy and 'Joe' Shepherd and they managed to buy some maps and took it in turns to guide us across France and Germany although we found ourselves on the wrong side of Lake Konstanz and luckily to avoid a hundred mile detour I was able to donate a German twenty mark note to pay for the bus on a convenient ferry. After a memorable stay in the Tyrol where Hugh Knowles and I caused some concern by getting lost on a mountain we returned safely, staying a night in Nancy in France, in a one-star hotel where access to the bedrooms was through the projection room of the cinema next door... absolutely true...they were showing Gregory Peck in 'The Purple Plain'!

Later in my career, as a House Prefect responsible for Old North junior dorm, I faced the daunting prospect of an emergency escape route: a large circular canvas tube stored by the double windows overlooking the playground, a staggering fifty feet below. When the alarm sounded it was the responsibility of perhaps five senior boys to open the normally well-fastened window, securely fasten the tube to cast-iron hooks in the wall and throw it out to another group of seniors waiting far down below who would drag it to the appropriate, not too steep angle.

We dorm prefects then had to 'encourage' eleven or twelve year-old juniors to quickly climb on a chair and feet-first, enter the tube which was about three feet in diameter and after letting go, the youngster would hurtle down in a few seconds to be caught by those waiting down below. The exercise was quite an ordeal for some, but perhaps later on they thought of it as a fine example of Grovian character building! I never saw this escape route used in a real emergency, but I wonder if those hooks are still in the wall in that Old North former dorm?

At that time too there was the Vinter tradition for every new member of the House, at the end of their first term, to sing a song to the whole House when standing alone on the central dorm lockers. Obviously, it was an ordeal for most younger members, but it was the House 'rite of passage' and invariably the efforts were greeted with many kind cheers!



So memories of the Grove still come flooding back to me after many years... the chore of collecting fortnightly on Wednesday evenings the 'bundles' of clean clothes from Veronica Whitely in the Linen Room situated above the smoke-filled Georgian-doored staff room off the Quad; having to wear my school cap with its metal prefect's badge, when off the premises, in my last year, even when I was Head Pre; the semi-sweet smell from oranges, stale cake and home-made jam in the room where our tuck-boxes were stored; being weighed and measured at the end of every term, the details to go on our reports; the youngster who 'ran-away' and began to thumb a lift down by the Bridge and the first car to stop was Dr Pritchard in his fawn Austin A90, SRA 610; the mad hustle around the tuck shop door waiting for 'Daddy' Booth to open-up so we could buy Smith's crisps with their blue 'twist' of separate salt, 'Tizer' and 'Portello' drinks and with our sweet coupons, chocolate, 'on the ration'; and running, two steps at a time, right up the Vinter building flights of stairs; and of course listening with a mug of coffee to the LP's of 'The Boy Friend' and 'Salad Days' with my fellow Vinter prefects in David McCarthy's room, late on Saturday evenings.

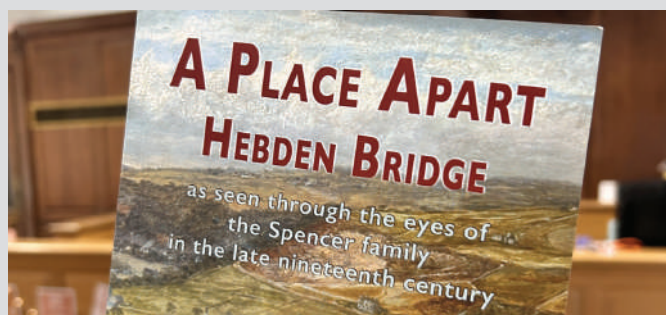
Ah me, far off days!
 "Word to give new friends our greeting,
 Word for former friends when meeting,
 Sing we all, the word repeating"

XAIPETE!

Roger Davy MBE (47-57)



New addition to our library!



Christopher Collier kindly sent in a copy of his book 'A Place Apart: Hebden Bridge' as seen through the eyes of the Spencer family in the late nineteenth century. Christopher's grandfather was a pupil at Woodhouse Grove in the 1890s.

"My grandfather's full name was Thomas Walton Spencer (1891-1894). It was his school prize from July 1892 that allowed me to make the connection. He died in his early 40s, almost 25 years before I was born (his daughter, my mother, also died in her early 40s), so I could never put to him all the questions I'd have liked him to answer. Reading about the school's history has helped envisage what his life was like back then"

'A Place Apart: Hebden Bridge...' is available to purchase on Amazon.

Prep For Life

When I was 11, I had my first Latin lesson and to be honest, was assigned the very first homework assignment of my entire life. Mr Jones was the master, and he was a fearsome hulk of a man who, even if you'd been a foot taller than his six feet plus, would have loomed over you. He'd attended Long Eaton Grammar School in the English Midlands, and would boast, with a smile, that he'd been at Eaton.



Graham from the 1979 Grovian Magazine on his own blog, showing him accept the school's election to parliament.

The preparation, or prep as it was called, was done, submitted and marked. I had done as I'd thought I was required to do, which was write out the present tense of the first-conjugation verb amare: amo, amas, amat, amamus, amatis, amant. I'd misunderstood. Jones was not angry with me, but he posed me a question: did I believe that I'd done the correct homework and that every other boy in the class had done the wrong one? Truth is, I can recite that verb still to this day, as well as fifth-declension nouns like spes—hope; and I did attain an A-grade in Latin at 'O'-level. But, in that moment, I was abashed and ashamed, and Jones gently added, "If you could do the correct exercise tonight, that will be fine."

Arthur Evan Jones was one of the most feared, the most upright, the most fair, the most honourable, the most remembered man from my school days, and we corresponded occasionally even after we'd both moved on from the school.

However, what I more than anything remember from this Latin prep incident was how he'd phrased the question. Did I think I was right and everyone else was wrong? Yes; at the time I did the prep, while the assignment was not what I then thought it was because I didn't know what the other boys were doing for their prep, I thought I was doing the right prep. And no amount of correcting things afterwards can disabuse me of that belief in the moment itself.

Moreover, it is possible to be right when all around you are wrong; to be a lone voice. A. E. Jones never told me I was wrong; he told me to think about whether I was wrong or not, and between the two is a world of difference. Because the exhortation to question one's own rightness is likewise an exhortation to question whether others truly are wrong. The things that teachers teach are not always what's on the academic syllabus, even if they're on life's.

Graham J Vincent (73-80)



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SPORTING EXCELLENCE



Alfie Longstaff

Congratulations to Alfie Longstaff (22-24) who has been selected for the England U20 32-man training squad in preparation for the 6 Nations tournament in February and March. This is an incredible achievement, and we wish you luck from everyone at The Grove.



Joe Carpenter

2024 has been incredible for Old Grovian, Joe Carpenter (17-19) who was selected for the full England Rugby Squad and played Japan in a test match before embarking on a two-test tour of New Zealand to take on the All Blacks. Joe was one of only 6 uncapped players included in the



Ellie Kildunne - Player of the World

We couldn't be prouder of Old Grovian Ellie Kildunne (11-16), who was awarded World Rugby's Women's Player of the Year!

This incredible achievement caps off a phenomenal year for Ellie, during which she was also crowned the 2024 Women's Six Nations Player of the Tournament, played a key role in England's retention of the WXV1 title, scored an astonishing 14 tries in nine tests for the Red Roses, and represented Team GB at the Paris Olympics.

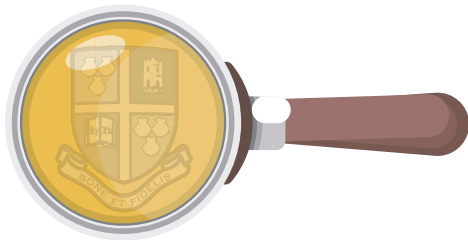
Ellie's prolific try-scoring ability and exceptional performances have established her as a leading player in John Mitchell's Red Roses squad, currently on an outstanding 20-match winning streak and tipped as favourites for next year's World Cup in England.

In the last 12 months Ellie has become one of England's most recognisable women's rugby players, and has launched her own podcast with fellow Red Rose Jess Breach.

Congratulations, Ellie! We value your regular support in school and the way that you continually inspire Grovians to excel. We can't wait to see you in school again to celebrate this truly outstanding achievement.

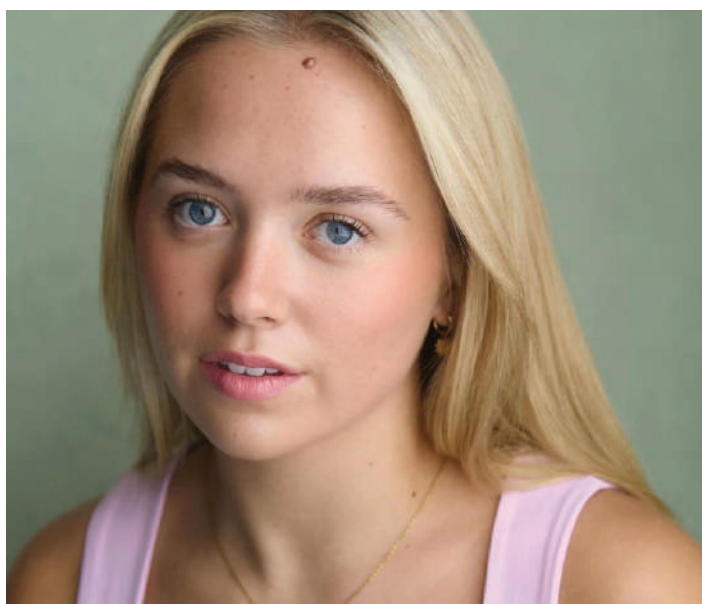
squad and we are incredibly proud of his achievement. To add to Joe's rugby successes this season, he celebrated his 50 games for Sale Sharks, proving to be a core player of the squad. Congratulations Joe, we look forward to hearing what is next for your rugby career.

WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



EAVIE AMOS (07-22)

Congratulations to Eavie Amos who made her West End Debut in November at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, performing in the Sandi Toksvig & the QI Elves present "One Night Only".



MIKE TIJSSENS (78-80)

Born in the Netherlands, Michael Warren Tijssens (pen name Mike Sens) studied at Woodhouse Grove 1978-80. He then went on to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (R.A.D.A.), London, and completed a Masters in Theatre Studies at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris. Dramaturg of the European project "Go down in legend" ("Entrez dans la légende" in French), he worked with the rock singer Bob Geldof to create the musical "Destination Tomorrow" at the Palais d'Omnisports de Bercy. Founder of Media Writers & Translators (M.W.T.), intercultural management agency, in 1994, Mike translated and adapted plays by classical and contemporary playwrights like Werner Schwab and Howard Barker. Michael Lonsdale directed his play "The Swing Bridge of the God Street", for which he obtained a subsidy from the French Ministry of Culture. Artistic director of translation systems for French theatre productions on tour in the entire world for the Association Française d'Action Artistique (A.F.A.A.), he works with directors like Robert Wilson, Claude Régy, Jérôme Savary, Peter Brook, Steven Berkoff. His work is published by Les Solitaires Intempestifs, Lansman, Théâtrales, l'Arche, Theatre & Films Books. After the film performance "The Riot of Emotions" at the Ferme du

Buisson (Marne-La-Vallée), he wrote the dialogues of "Flowers of Evil" by David Dusa (Acid program Cannes 2010). Mike directed his play "Translating Manticore" at the Grütli Theatre in Geneva, Alna éditeur 2012. As a former student of the French playwright Michel Vinaver, he also leads workshops in creative writing and literary translation with Le Sens Studio, for theatre and film schools and universities (TNS - Strasbourg, TNB - Rennes, HKU - Utrecht).



DAVID P. WHITHORN (70-77)

Since becoming interested in the Great War in my very last week at the Grove (July 1977), this interest has lasted my whole life. I have kept in touch with the school over the past 20+ years via Donna Shoemith-Evans (st92-). Last year, I was made a 'volunteer moderator' for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 'For Evermore' project. As well as contributing some very special stories myself, I have moderated/published over 3,000 stories to date supplied by the general public. Sadly, during my time at the Grove I was taught nothing about the Great War, however it is quite possible that seeing the sheer number of the school's casualties on the Memorial boards (then in the Memorial Hall) and asking myself, 'why were there so many more in the 1914-18 war?' is what started all this... Keeping their names alive!

See: <https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/introducing-for-evermore-stories-of-the-fallen/>

DOUGLAS BRIGGS (80-87, ST 03-05)

I was selected to run for Wales in the M55 XC team in the British and Irish Masters Cross Country Competition. This involves Masters athletes from age 35 up, there were even some 80+ athletes in one of the races. Runners are selected from all the home nations plus Ireland. The event took place on 16th November in Belfast.

Since turning 55 in January 2024 I have been at the younger end of the age group, which helped give me an advantage plus the training and racing has been going really well all year. Selection was based on performance in local leagues and other key races. Despite not being born in Wales I was eligible for selection based on residency. I can say I was really proud to be able to pull on the Welsh vest and race against some of the best age graded runners in the country. It was a tough race and I put in the best performance I could and was happy with how I ran and supported the team.

Upcoming goals are to get selected for the M55 team in the half marathon, which takes place in Swansea in June and get selected for the XC team for 2025, when the race will be at Roundhay Park, so fingers crossed.



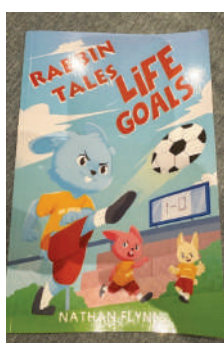
GEMMA MILLS (NEE HARRIS) (94-01)

We moved back to Zambia last year to Mkushi. We're based at Beulah Training Centre, where the main things we are doing are running a YWAM DTS (Discipleship Training School) and adventure camps for young people. When times/needs allow I'm also doing bits of teaching at Chengelo School (our local international school).



NATHAN FLYNN (17-24)

Nathan Flynn, who left Woodhouse Grove last year, has written a series of short children's books. The first was published under a traditional publishing contract with Pegasus books in Cambridge just last year. The books entitled Rabbin Tales help younger children with any struggle they may face from gender and racism through to examinations and family break ups.



OGs launch industry-leading sustainable housing development company

Three alumni of Woodhouse Grove School - Alex Morris (95-08), Matthew Worrall (03-10), and Elliot McKendrick (00-07), have joined forces to establish ICF Bondmor Ltd, a sustainable housing development firm specialising in Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). This newly incorporated company focuses on delivering superior sustainable superstructures for both commercial and residential projects.

The directors are excited about the journey ahead and hope their story inspires the next generation of Grovians to innovate and pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

For more information, please contact:

Email: info@icfbondmor.com Website: www.icfbondmor.com



Iain Thompson 90th Birthday!

Iain Thompson (46-53) celebrated his 90th Birthday in July with his family and his lifelong friend and fellow Old Grovian Ronald Reynard (47-53). Having been at school together, they were each other's Best Man, Godparents to each other's children and loved to attend Old Grovian events together over many years. However, the march of time has meant they hadn't seen each other for 12 years, so this was a great surprise for Iain and a joyous reunion for the pair of them. In the photos you can see Ronald on the left and Iain on the right. Happy Birthday Iain!

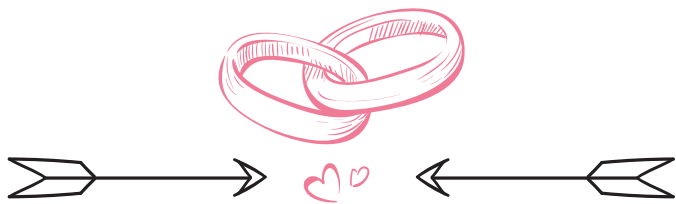


Reunion at Le Mans 24 Hour Race

We hope OGs Rick Emmott (76-86), Nick Smith (78-86) and Russell Gibson (82-87) had a lovely catch up at the Le Mans 24 hour race in September! It is always great to see OGs catching up and discussing old stories from their school days. We hope to hear from you soon!



Engagements

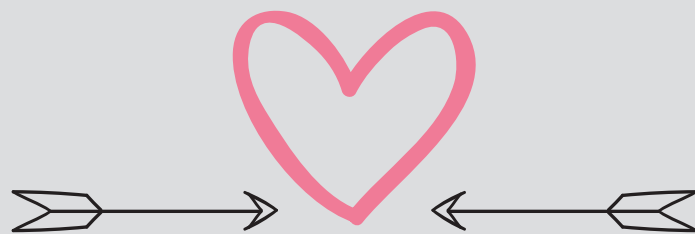


Katie Mortlock (10-17) and Max Kennedy (10-17)

We would like to say a massive congratulations to Katie Mortlock and Max Kennedy who got engaged last May on their holiday in Venice! They have been together for 8 years but met in Year 7 (of course). The wedding plans have begun and we send our best wishes from everyone at The Grove.



Marriages



Oliver Riley (04-11) and Joanne Atkinson (04-11) got married in Tarporley, Cheshire on 22nd June 2024

"We were very lucky as the sun was shining and we were surrounded by all of our friends and family (and mini dachshund Mabel). A lot of those friends are from The Grove (group picture of the Grovians included!). Simon Brau (96-11) was a groomsman and MC, Edward Morris (96-11) was a groomsman and Martyn Tattersall (04-11) and Matthew Tallant (04-11) were our best men. Oliver and I have been together since 6th form at The Grove, and we left in 2011. We are now the Atkinson-Rileys!"



Laura Myers (01-08) (now Myers-Bruin) married Sam Bruin in Haworth on Saturday 19th October 2024.

Old Grovians present: Tom Myers (96-03), Will Myers (98-05), Ben and Naomi Redhead (Littlefair) (00-07), Laura Nulty (93-00), Sam Robinson (97-07), Jen Peachey (Best) (01-08), Brooke Donkersley (93-08), Emma Clarke (Humphreys) (96-06), Sophie Bell (94-05), Kate Bloom (O'Brien) (02-04), Leah Geldeard (01-08), Rebecca Farr (Worrall) (04-11), Annie Isles (97-11), Beth Monk (staff).



Courage & Care



Major General Tim Hodgetts (74-81) and Brigadier Phil Carter (83-90) at the Commissioning Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in November 2024 welcoming new officers into newly formed Royal Army Medical Service.

Two Grovians have enjoyed long and distinguished careers as doctors in the Army, with both leading transformative change—Major General Tim Hodgetts (74-81) and Brigadier Phil Carter (83-90). They both joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and together this year they supported the formation of a new and united Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS), with Tim becoming the Master General and Phil its Head.

Tim qualified as a doctor in London and retired in 2024 after 41 years of service, finishing his career as Surgeon General of the UK's armed forces and the elected Chair of the Committee of Medical Chiefs in NATO. Tim led the alliance's medical response to the war in Ukraine and the nation's military medical response to global crises (the evacuation of Afghanistan, Turkey earthquake...and not forgetting COVID). He established the project and secured the funding for five military rehabilitation centres to be built in Ukraine while the war still rages.



Colonel Tim Hodgetts on duty leading clinical teams in the Middle East.

Looking back, Tim's proudest legacy is the revolution in combat casualty care he led this century that has saved many soldiers' lives, with the experience now transferred to ensure parallel civilian healthcare benefits. He has invented concepts, courses, practices and equipment that

are used internationally by the public and professionals alike, and he set up an award-winning charity (citizenAID) to improve public resilience to injuries from terrorism and knife crime. In his last two years his work was recognised through being made a Companion of the Order of the Bath; Doctor of Science (honoris causa); Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine; and Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health by distinction.

In retirement, Tim will continue to 'work' as Master General Medical (an honorary role), Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands and Trustee of multiple charities, but importantly finding time to teach and write. His 37th book was launched this year at the Edinburgh Fringe as a collection of his original war poetry, with royalties to The Poppy Factory.

Phil's time at the Grove was spent as a boarder in the lower years and sixth form, spending the rest of his time as a day pupil. He studied Medicine at Dundee University, and then joined the Army, training as a General Practitioner. He has served globally, under UK, NATO and US command, including significant time in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Brunei, the South Atlantic, the Balkans and Northern Ireland. From 2008 to 2010, he led the military team in Birmingham responsible for receiving casualties back from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Lt Col Phil Carter on duty in the Middle East.

With postgraduate qualifications in primary healthcare, public health and strategic leadership, it is perhaps not surprising that Phil led a military team deployed to Sierra Leone during the 2014 Ebola outbreak; with his unit recognised with the award of the Firmin Sword of Peace. During the pandemic, he led the Ministry of Defence's Primary Healthcare organisation, ensuring the health of the Armed Forces and their continued deployability. With a strong interest in health and health threat assessment, and no thoughts of retirement just yet, Phil's current role in Army Headquarters sees him leading health policy for the Army. In 2024 Phil was appointed an Honorary Physician to His Majesty the King and a Commissioner of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

With combined service of three quarters of a century, Tim and Phil have made significant contributions to military medicine and the care of wounded soldiers. Not bad for two Old Grovians.

Tim Hodgetts (74-81) & Phil Carter (83-90)



Reunions

Class of 84: 40th Year Reunion

Nearly 30 of the class of 1984 and their partners got together in October Half Term, to mark 40 years since they left the Grove. Attendees flew in from Australia, Hong Kong, Turkey, Switzerland and all corners of the UK for an evening that included a meal, a tour of the school and a nostalgic video montage of photos covering their time at Brontë and WGS. All present thought it was a brilliant night and the Hastings-Long Gallery was a great host venue with fantastic service, food and facilities. The (very) late evening was capped off with a sneaky last orders trip to the Dog & Gun...for old times' sake.



Pictures comprise 8 of the year group who all started their journey at Brontë House many decades ago along with one of the full group in attendance.

Brontë photo: Neil Armstrong, Nick (Arthur) Padgett, Mark Busfield, Adrian Evans, David Clare, Marcus Dunsmore, Simon Parrish (who we believe to be the first Head Boy of both Brontë and WGS) and Simon Ibson.

Full list of attendees from the class of 1984 are the 8 above plus:

Tony Whittaker, John Fairburn, Dave Baker, Nick Ledgard, Akin Adegbite, Rich Gaughan, Chris North, Peter Burnhill, Will Coker, Andrew Montgomery, Alistair Wight, Michael Yeung, Sally Fox, Nicola Durham (nee Price), Sam Ferrington (nee Bolshaw) and Joanne Sexton (nee Dexter).



Ilkley Reunion

Thursday 5th December 2024 at The Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding.

OG attendees: Andy Barker (70-79), Gordon Baxter (76-80), Pete Chippindale (74-81), Mark Davy (70-80), John Dean (73-79), Nick Driver (69-79), Carl English (73-80), Graham Holdsworth (75-80), Dick Linkogel (73-80), Stuart Longbottom (72-80), Paul Morris (73-79), Tim Pratt (74-81), Keith Secker (70-79), Mike Smith (78-80), Jonathan Tearl (72-80), Mike Tijssens (78-80), Ray Wood (73-80).



Sticky Toffee Past

When the past suddenly shows up, it might powerfully jolt the present and ignite future expectations. This summer I went up to see my Woodhouse pal Gordon Baxter (76-80) in Cambridge and after forty years we spontaneously started a couple of new songs with AI, like in the old days when we played the Memorial Hall with Dutch Concert (slang for a chaotic concert...). Gordon Baxter BSc, PhD is a pharmacologist as well as a great drummer. He told me about the Christmas Dinner of the Old Grovians at The Wheatley Arms in Ilkley.

In order to drive up there, I contacted another Woodhouse pal: Mike Smith (78-80) whom I call Mike Mauritius, since this is where he came from when we met back in 1978. Even though it was wintry cold in Yorkshire he couldn't stand wearing socks as he was used to walking barefooted on the beach. Dr Michael Smith later spent 8 years as a derivatives trader in London and Tokyo, he has developed one of the most advanced financial market trading simulations currently available, ICTrader. When we were at Woodhouse we stayed in England for the half term holidays, and since we had no money we hitchhiked across the country like hungry wolves. So, this time it was sort of funny to drive up from Somerset to Yorkshire, recalling all those memories, and being able to stay in a posh hotel.

Before I came to England I was in a mess in then progressist Holland: I didn't work in school (because my hippy teachers didn't believe in education?) and was sent to a psychologist. He had this green brochure on his desk. I asked: "What is this?" He said: "I just sent a boy there, it's an English boarding school." My grandmother being English, I said: "I want to go there." And so it happened. My dad taught me how to put on a tie. I quickly dived into the English literature realm, spoofing our American teacher Mr. Silk: "Woow, that's Shakespeare man!!!" Some people seem to think a switch of language can heal you, it certainly worked for me. Seeing all the faces of my old mates forty years later was a bliss, because they still shone with humour.

Mike Sens (78-80)

Class of 1986 Trip to School

It was a pleasure to welcome back some of the members of the class of 1986 in October. Below are some words from Sarah Hattam who attended the reunion.

"Conversation flowed and a great time was had by all at the recent reunion of Old Grovians who left sixth form in 1986.

It was great to catch up on key events of the last...38 years!

One of the highlights was having a tour of the school, and we really appreciated this being made possible for us on a Saturday. It was great to see the development of new facilities and hear how different groups are able to make the most of them. There was a lot of laughter as we shared memories of our time at school together but also moments of sadness as we remembered those in our year who were no longer with us.

We all agreed that coming to the Grove had instilled a set of positive values and growth mindset which had permeated the last three plus decades and we looked back with a real sense of pride and gratitude. We are planning another reunion in September 2026 which will mark 40 years since we all left The Grove." - **Sarah Hattam (nee Nuttall) (85-86)**



OG Sevens Dubai

At the end of November 2024, OG7s embarked on their first trip to play abroad, taking two teams to play in the world famous Dubai 7s tournament. OG7s took a team to play in the socials and the Open competition. After landing a few days before the tournament and having time for two training sessions, the OGs entered the tournament with nervous anticipation with the first games on the Friday. The socials were the first to kick off and managed to win both their games, with ex pupils Louis Anderson (06-21), Freddie Zeigler (07-22), Joe Green (07-18) along with recent leaver Callum Hyland Dugbo (17-24) making a great impression. Later in the evening it was the turn of the Open team with OG Charles Morgan (12-14) captaining a team containing fellow OGs Ben Turpin (16-22), Freddy Clark (14-21) and Ben Waddington (09-17) with George Worthington (18-22) missing out through injury. The team had early disappointment against a South African development team before going on to beat a team from France to leave them still well in the hunt.



Day 2 saw the socials lose their first game to a US army team, but the OG coach Blake Morgan (15-17) rallied the troops as we entered the plate quarter final where OGs Jack Maplesdon (07-14), Louis Worrall (16-23) and Matt Burke (16-18) stood out allowing us to win our quarter final to leave us in the semi-final for Sunday's grand finale. The Open team continued to find form and comfortably won their final group game and headed into the quarter final of the cup.

Sunday saw an ever-improving OGs social team sweep into the final and then claim their first silverware by winning against a team that contained two ex-internationals. The Open team then saw the lead change hands multiple times before finally losing to the eventual winners in a closely fought game.

The tournament was incredible and the standard was so high with each team littered with current and ex professionals, however Dubai capped off an amazing 2024 with OG7s reaching the semi-finals at Melrose and finishing in Dubai. We now look forward to the 2025 season and continuing to showcase the rugby talent that Woodhouse Grove continues to produce.

Matt Gaffney, OG Sevens



Autumn Reunion Nov 2024

Remembrance Service

Remembrance Sunday Service in Chapel is a milestone of life at The Grove. We gathered to remember, to reflect and to seek change. The school choir led our hymn singing, under the guidance of Ms Stark, with guest organist Ms Lynne Staveley. Head Prefect, Lucy Hanson, read from Psalm 25 which spoke of forgiveness and John's Gospel, read by Mr Tony Zammit (st82-08), reminded us that there is no greater love than to lay down your life for a friend. The Chaplain offered a reflection on the British TV sit-com, "Dad's Army", and how Private Godfrey, being a Conscientious Objector in the Great War, was awarded the Military Medal as a Medical Orderly. This was mirrored by the true-life story of Lance-Corporal William Coltsman, who held the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross, as a Conscientious Objector Medical Orderly in the Great War. A duplicate Army jacket of Coltsman, with his medals was on display alongside other war medals.

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, read by Mr Daniel Nulty, our OGA Chair-Elect. Head Prefect, Ayomide Solaru, led our intercession prayers, before we finished with the School Song, Xaipete!

In the afternoon, the Chaplain along with members of the school Brass Group helped lead the Rawdon Remembrance Service alongside Rev Rachel Ford, the Vicar of Rawdon. Ciaran Diston, gave the Last Post and Reveille. On Remembrance Day itself, we gathered as a whole school, under the new Covered Bolt Courts, pausing at 11am for a moment of silence, with Kira Grahamslaw (VI) giving us the Last Post and Reveille.

Rev. Drost (st22-)

Squash

We were thrilled to welcome back three Old Grovians – George Wilkinson (10-17), Finley Wilkinson (09-19), and Naomi Partridge (16-24) – to The Grove for an exciting squash match against four of our current students.

The match consisted of five competitive rounds, where the Old Grovians demonstrated their experience and skill, ultimately achieving an impressive 13-1 victory. Despite the scoreline, our students put up a determined fight and gained valuable experience from the challenge. A special mention goes to one of our students, who had their first outing on a squash court.

We hope to welcome back more Old Grovians this year.



OG Rugby Tournament

The annual Old Grovians touch and pass fixture took place on the Grainge pitch featuring a team of 1999 leavers against an OG7s staff team. The Team of 99 started off well and were led ably by Chris Gough (92-99) and Steve Brimacombe (88-99) pulling the strings, scoring a couple of tries. However, the younger legs eventually told, and the OG7s started to dominate the game through a combination of speed and fitness. There was some great skill on show from both sides and some excellent tries scored including a Matt Dobson (st17-) try that included an audacious goose step.

All who had a run out this year thoroughly enjoyed themselves with players aged 20 through to nearly 50 contributing to the event. I hope we can increase the numbers further next year! The Scott Eastwood-Smith Fair Play Award was presented to Chris Gough for pulling a team together and the OG Rugby trophy was presented to the winning captain, Jack Popely (13-20) of the OG7s.

Joe Bedford (00-02, st13-)

Netball



The 2024 Old Grovians Netball team welcomed back former 1st and 2nd VII team players, including: Isla Swarbrigg (15-23), Isabelle Teale (05-20), Rebecca Munro (12-19), Charlotte Slater (13-20), Emma Okapala (16-23), Lucy Worstenholme (06-13), Holly Barber (13-20), Summer Anderson (09-24) and Chloe Cater (09-23). The school team faced a competitive match with many of the OG players still active with their club or university teams. The Old Grovians' experience shined through with a series of clean interceptions across the court, which were converted by their fantastic shooting. The first half of the game was strongly dominated by the OG team; however, the school team fought fiercely to bring the score to a more even playing field in the third and fourth quarter. The game looked even more promising for the school team at the start of the final quarter where they managed to bring back the game to result in a 35-35 draw. The school team's young legs were undeniable and it was a well-deserved draw for both sides. Thank you to everyone who took part, we look forward to this year!

Summer Reunion



Last year's Old Grovian Summer Reunion was nothing short of spectacular! Set on a beautiful Sunday, the day was filled with music, sport, delicious food and plenty of drinks, making it a fantastic occasion for everyone who attended.

A special highlight of the day was the Old Grovian Cricket Team's victory over the school's leavers team—a thrilling match that showcased how the OGs have still got it! The tennis tournament was also a huge hit, with players of all ages taking part—even some parents got in on the action, adding to the fun and excitement.

Thank you to everyone who made the day so special. It's events like these that remind us how strong and vibrant the Old Grovian community is, and we're already looking forward to this summer's rematch!



Leeds Reunion

The Old Grovian Leeds Reunion at Friends Of Ham in October was a fantastic evening with a great turnout of alumni from various generations. It was a wonderful opportunity for Old Grovians to make new connections in the business world while also forming new friendships. The highlight of the night was the lively conversations as attendees shared fond memories of their time at school and caught up with former teachers. A successful and enjoyable evening for everyone!



OG Golf Day

Wow, what a day! Thank you to everyone who attended the OG Golf Day on Sunday 19th May, we were delighted with our largest turnout to date! 52 Old Grovians who's age range exceeded 5 decades really highlighted the strong bond that connects everyone who has been a part of our school community.

The reunion took place at Rudding Park Golf Club, which was an exciting change to our previous years at Bradford. We were extremely lucky with the weather as there was not a cloud in the sky, thus making the day even more enjoyable.

There was some incredible golf throughout the day, but there must be a special mention to Jeremy Clayton (59-69) who got a hole in one, making his travel from Swansea even more worth it!

We hope everyone who attended had a fantastic day in the sunshine with old friends and we look forward to the Golf Day this year on the 4th May 2025.

London Reunion

In April, we hosted an Old Grovian London Reunion at The Walrus and The Carpenter and it was an absolute blast!

The atmosphere was full of warmth, laughter and nostalgia, as Old Grovians reconnected with old friends and made new ones. It's events like these that remind us how strong the Grove community remains, no matter how much time passes or how far life takes us. With a wide range of ages and generations represented, the evening was a fantastic celebration of the lifelong connections and shared memories formed at Woodhouse Grove.

We look forward to this years' celebration 24th April 2025!



Giving To The Future

Ben Brown

In December, we were thrilled to welcome back Ben Brown (94-01) to Woodhouse Grove for an inspiring Q&A session.

Ben, who works for the premium sportswear brand Castore, spoke to students about his journey into the sports industry. He shared how he got started, the challenges he has faced, and the best parts of his job. Students from Years 11, 12 and 13 had the chance to ask questions, gaining valuable advice and insights into career opportunities in sport.

Later in the day, Ben visited an Enterprise class, where he spoke with students about their current topics and how they relate to real-world business. His practical examples and expertise made a strong impact, helping students connect their learning to life beyond the classroom.

We are very grateful to Ben for taking the time to share his experiences and advice with our students.

This visit is part of our project of inviting Old Grovians back each half-term to inspire students and show them the many career opportunities available in sports and beyond.

Thank you, Ben, for being such a fantastic role model for the next generation of Grovians!



Chloe Fairbank

A huge thank you to Old Grovian Chloe Fairbank (04-19) for visiting and sharing her expertise with our Sixth Form students! Your insights into PWC's Flying Start programme and apprenticeships in accountancy and business management were super helpful.



Becky Ives

We were thrilled to welcome back former pupil Becky Ives (94-04), now a well-known face in sports media with TNT Sports! Becky shared her inspiring journey from a Woodhouse Grove student to sports presenter, showing how diverse careers in sport can be. Our Sixth Formers and Year 10s were lucky to hear her insights and asked great questions. She spoke of her time at The Grove, and how she particularly loved representing Towlson in House Events (except for House Cross Country!). Thank you Becky for your inspiring words and story, we would love to welcome you back soon.



Obituaries

DENIS CHILD CBE (37-42)

Informed by his son Nicholas Child.

Denis died peacefully in hospital aged 95 on 22nd September 2022. He was a much-loved husband to his late wife, Pat, father, stepfather, grandpa and great grandpa. He retired from a long career with Nat West Bank as Deputy Chief Executive and held several directorships - including Eurotunnel, Civil Aviation Authority, Coutts Bank and the Research for Disabled Consumers. Having spent most of his working life in the south he returned to his beloved Yorkshire for his final years.

FREDERICK BRYAN AYERS (38-46)

Informed by his son Simon Ayers.

Frederick Bryan Ayers, sadly passed away on February 3rd, 2024. My father, along with his best friends, Brian Greenwood, Dick Atkinson and Tom Whitfield were at The Grove in the 1940s. My father was head boy and captain of a number of sports. The group of 4 were friends for life and until the last few years, regularly met for Sunday lunch.

Dad was the last to leave the group and I had many hours talking about his life, his time at the Grove, the RAF and his travels around the world on business. His fondest memories, as with many it seems, were of his time at the Grove. Of the friendships and of being a part of something that instilled a sense of belonging, of camaraderie, strength of character and lifelong bond.

So, to watch this wonderful, kind loving man, leave me was hard to bear as is all loss. His name will forever be associated with Woodhouse Grove School as his name adorns so many of the great placards around the school. To me he was just a great dad, and I think he would like to be remembered as such.

We were also informed of the passing of the below Old Grovians:

Graham Pearson (47-52)

Michael Burdett (49-55)

John Conyers (55-62)

Richard Thornton (51-58)

Trevor Smith (50-59)

Colin Emsley (44-52)

Daniel Gilliland (84-91)

Colin Emsley (44-52)

Daniel Gilliland (84-91)

GORDON FOX (50-58)

Informed by his wife Rosemary Fox.

Gordon was born on 19th March 1942 and died on 20th June 2024, he was so proud of Woodhouse Grove. Gordon's full name was Eric Gordon Fox so he may have been known as Eric at Woodhouse Grove, though he later used Gordon as his Christian name. Many years ago, Gordon organised several reunions for Old Grovians living in New Zealand, and the Headmaster of Woodhouse Grove (David Humphreys (st.96-15)) did attend one as it was arranged around his visit to New Zealand. Unfortunately the keenest members died or got too old to travel, so no reunions in recent years.

Gordon was a civil engineer specialising in public health engineering. We came to NZ in 1966. Gordon worked for what was called the Ministry of Works. In 1987 we went to Samoa as Gordon had the position of Chief Water Engineer for Samoa on a two-year contract as part of New Zealand's aid program to Samoa. In 1992 Gordon took up a position with the Asian Development Bank in Manila in the Philippines and in 1999 he transferred to the bank's regional office in Port Vila Vanuatu where we lived until his retirement in 2002. We returned to NZ in 2002.



DID YOU LEAVE BETWEEN?
1983-88
REUNION INVITE

Julian Berry, OG from Class of 1985, would like to organise a reunion for his year group (and surrounding years) at WGS in 2025!

Please get in touch if you'd like to receive an invite.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

Lasting Memories

Don Bowder (46-52)

As a day boy from a Bradford working-class family, I experienced a whole new world being among boys from all walks of life. I took part in sports, particularly cricket, and enjoyed the comparative luxury of playing on such a lovely cricket field.

Most noteworthy was how the masters became my friend and remained so until their passing. Namely, Dr Towlson, Arthur Jones (I did their income tax returns after I left school and was training to be a chartered accountant), SC Wilson and Dr Pritchard and his wife.

David McCarthy joined the Grove as I was leaving, and we are very good friends to this day. I also made friends with my schoolmates which have lasted throughout my lifetime. Trevor Bailey (48-55), Chris Hinds (52-58), Hugh Knowles (49-54), Roger Davy (47-57), Chris Crabtree (50-60) among others.

It seems to me that my time at the Grove set me on the path to a fruitful life for which I am very grateful. I should mention that I served on the Old Grovians Committee as the treasurer from 1952 to 1969 when I emigrated to Canada with my wife and children. The Committee presented me with a suitably engraved silver tankard which I use every day to enjoy my daily libation!

My schooldays were very important to me and The Grove is constantly in my thoughts.

I recently came across some school photographs taken in 1950. To make it more interesting, I am listing the names of the masters and boys in the photographs:



BACK ROW: Dawson, Stephens, Ramshaw, Parkin, Gillard, Barraclough, Holmes, Stephens, Bowder, Dickinson, Barnes, Northrop
FRONT ROW: de Jong, Knowles, Richards, Whitney, Crossley, A E Jones, Stansfield, Middlebrook, Haxell, MFC Smith, Marks



TOP ROW: H Mendel, J H Auty, A Sutcliffe, Dickens, A E Jones, Boyce, J G Bairstow, WEH Windle, H C Truman, Moxon, N C James, K Palmer
FRONT ROW: R L Bolt, A E Reed, L W Makinson, Bateson?, C W Towlson, S C Wilson, H Lamb, Booth, E Powell

Peter Ellis Returns to The Grove



It was wonderful to welcome back Old Grovian Peter Ellis (38-45) and his daughter Jane Whitehouse to The Grove for a visit in October. We were blessed with the sunshine, and it was wonderful to hear about how different the school was in the 1930s compared to today. Peter was one of a few Old Grovians in his family as his brothers Frank, Ralph and Norman also attended The Grove between 1922 and 1937.

It was lovely to meet you both and we hope you enjoyed your visit!

Steve Burnhill 60th Birthday Walk

Steve Burnhill (75-82) celebrated his 60th birthday with an incredible 180-mile walk, visiting rugby clubs and institutions that he attended throughout his rugby career. The journey ended at Leicester Tigers' Welford Road ground and included stops at Cleckheaton, Woodhouse Grove, Loughborough University, Roundhay, Sale and Rotherham.

On a local leg, Steve was joined by friends and supporters who celebrated with him along the way. He was especially happy to see Keith Jones (st 78-16) as Steve was his first ever 1st XV team rugby captain. Fellow OGs joined Steve on the way, including Steffens Cockerill (75-82) and Greg Marchbank (72-82). Jason Georgiou, a former Yorkshire teammate, attended briefly, and Dale Breakwell of Cleckheaton RUFC and Adam Walker from The Matt Hampson Foundation also joined the walk.

Steve's challenge highlights his passion for rugby and the friendships built along the way. We wish him well and hope he enjoyed his adventure!



School News

Caribbean Netball Tour



Over October half-term, 24 Sixth Form girls embarked on an unforgettable netball tour to Barbados and St. Lucia. The trip began with a warm welcome, a training session, a dip in the sea and some poolside relaxation. Their first matches at sunset set the tone for an exciting tour, with the 1st VII securing a 32-28 win and the 2nds narrowly losing 25-20.

The days that followed were action-packed. In Barbados, the team enjoyed the Boatyard Beach Club, Harbour Lights and pizza by the pool. They played a second fixture against a local club at a community sports ground, followed by a thrilling Jeep Safari and a match against the U21 Barbados trialists.

After arriving in St. Lucia, the girls soaked up the sun, hit the beach and had fun on inflatables until sunset. The tour wrapped up with unforgettable experiences, showcasing laughter, teamwork and passion on and off the court. Here's to the memories and friendships forged along the way!

Huge thanks to kit sponsors **JWH Tanks** owned by Old Grovian John Hinchliffe (83-94) for their support!

Costa Rica Expedition



In July, 16 students from Years 11 to 13 embarked on a 23-day adventure in Costa Rica. After exploring the vibrant culture of San Jose, they trekked through the biodiverse rainforests of Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula, surrounded by breathtaking scenery. The group then volunteered at a turtle conservation project, participating in late-night patrols, beach clean-ups and hatchery work. The trip concluded with well-deserved relaxation along the stunning beaches of the Pacific Coast.

It's a Knockout

At the start of term, we focus on helping our new boarders settle in with activities designed to familiarise them with life at the Grove and build connections with their fellow boarders. These included icebreakers, human bingo and an It's a Knockout tournament—which was great fun, even in the rain!



Our boarding team also took our new boarders bowling and into Leeds city centre, showing them where the train station is located, how to buy a ticket and generally making them more familiar with the process for future trips.

Senior Rugby Tour to South Africa



In July, the Senior rugby team embarked on an unforgettable tour of South Africa. The group of 49 students and six staff played two matches in Durban and two in Cape Town, experienced a thrilling safari, and visited iconic sites such as Robben Island, Table Mountain and Hermanus for whale watching.

Reflecting on the trip, **Freddie Brown** and **Luca Teal** shared:

“Our South Africa tour was unforgettable, creating memories we'll cherish for years. Our highlight was playing Durban High School's first XV and witnessing the sheer strength and size of a South African Top 10 school team. It was also a privilege to share this experience with last year's Year 13s, celebrating our friendships and representing the school. We're incredibly grateful for this amazing opportunity with our best mates.”

Netballers on the National Stage

Last years' netball season has, without doubt, been the most successful in the school's history, with National Cup runs across many year groups and our U19s & U14s making the England Netball Nationals again.

Our 1st VII squad made school history by reaching the final of the Independent Schools National Cup against Berkhamsted School. Despite a challenging first quarter, which meant they were always chasing the game, the girls did not give up the fight and showed true passion and resilience throughout the whole game.

Our amazing 2nd VII reached the Northern semi-final of the SNS U19 Shield despite playing against other schools' 1st VIIs in the competition and our U15s reached the last 4 in the U15 SNS Shield which took them to finals day where they ranked 4th overall.

Our U19 and U14 squads qualified for the National Finals to play against the top 18 schools in the country. They played outstanding netball against the absolute best of the best, on the biggest stage of school netball and should be incredibly proud of themselves.



First VII



U14s

Our U14s had an excellent day winning 5 of 8 of their games and finishing 6th= in the country. It was a very competitive group and the games that they lost were incredibly close!

Our U19s also had a great day at Nationals winning 4 of their 8 games and placed 7= in the country. All the girls in the U19 squad started the school in Year 7 (or before) which is a true testament to netball development at the school.

Thank you to our passionate and dedicated coaches, our parents for their continued support of Grove Netball and our Nationals kit sponsors **Brabners and Bridge-it Housing**.



Chicago: Teen Edition!

Wow! Our performers delivered a show-stopping spectacle in Decembers Senior production of Chicago: Teen Edition!

The audience was transported to the jazz-filled, scandalous world of 1920s downtown Chicago, brought to life on the McCarthy Theatre stage with dazzling energy and undeniable charisma.

Chicago follows the crimes, trials and ambitions of two women in Cook County Jail, weaving a tale that's equal parts comedy and biting satire, exposing the corruption and sensationalism of the US justice system of the era. Poppy Freeley and Scarlett Swinney shone as Roxie Hart, with Matilda Holt and Maia Robb delivering captivating performances as Velma Kelly. Their chemistry and commanding stage presence were a highlight of the production.

Other notable leads included Ash Poplar and Trey Halliday as Billy Flynn, Rakelmi Williams-Colley as Matron "Mama" Morton, and Rudy Halliday as Amos Hart, whose performances added depth and dynamism to the storyline.



The production was a true team effort, with more than 45 students contributing both on stage and behind the scenes. From the set design and costumes to the lighting and sound effects, every element reflected the remarkable energy, dedication and enthusiasm of the students involved.



Iceland Adventure

A group of 47 students and five staff embarked on an unforgettable 'Awe and Wonder' trip to Iceland, immersing themselves in the country's stunning landscapes and unique culture. With recent volcanic activity and hoping to see the Northern Lights, the excitement was high from the start.



The students visited Iceland's hot springs for a refreshing dip and enjoyed pizza, watching a thrilling Lava Show, before exploring the Thingvellir National Park Visitor Centre the next day. Despite 'invigorating' weather, spirits remained high as students explored the breath-taking surroundings.

Highlights of the trip included visits to see some majestic waterfalls, volcanic beaches, the original geyser, pony trekking and lunches in a greenhouse at a tomato farm and at the Selfoss food court.

This awe-inspiring trip left students in wonder of Iceland's natural beauty and cultural richness.



Grove Staff Leavers

We said farewell to a number of colleagues at the end of last year. Amongst them, Mr Munday, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Watson and Mrs Nott have clocked up 88 years at The Grove between them!

We caught up with them to find out about their plans.

Mr Munday

After 30 years at The Grove, I'm retiring from teaching but looking for part-time work of some kind. I have a camper van - so, with more available time, I would like to explore the mountains and coastline of the UK, and maybe beyond!

I am looking forward to seeing more of my family, but will miss the day to day contact with the people of The Grove; daily conversations and their friendship.

Mrs Hudson

I am retiring after 24 years here and have plans for more walking, swimming and maybe I'll learn a new language!

I am looking forward to a slower pace of life and having time to see more of my family and friends and in particular my grandchildren.

I will miss my colleagues very much and all the pupils and parents, both present and former, and will miss all the Grove Community. The Grove is a very special place.

Mrs Watson

After over 20 years at The Grove, I'm leaving to concentrate on my consultancy - I mainly help students with career coaching, and university and apprenticeship applications.

I am hoping I will have more time for my cycling hobby, including training for, and taking part in more races. I am also looking forward to being able to go on holiday during term time!

Mrs Nott

I am leaving to train to become an ordained Methodist Minister. I am looking forward to the challenge of learning (and becoming a student again for the next two years!) and meeting new people.

I will miss early morning swims in the school pool, Grove Singers, my colleagues, supporting students with their university applications and seeing that 'lightbulb' moment when a student understands a maths concept.



2025 OLD GROVIAN EVENTS SCHEDULE

These events are in addition to our
Annual Summer Reunion held on Sunday 29 June at WGS.



24/
APR

LONDON REUNION

Join us for drinks & nibbles at The Walrus & The Carpenter, London EC3R 8BU, on Thursday 24 April from 6pm till late. A great opportunity to meet up with fellow OGs. We'd love to see you there. Book your ticket now!



04/
MAY

GOLF DAY

Get your clubs ready for a great day of golf at The Bradford Golf Club on Sunday 4 May (bank holiday weekend). Arrival from 12noon, tee times from 1pm. Book your Four Ball today!



19/
JUN

LEEDS REUNION

Join us for drinks & nibbles at Friends of Ham, Leeds LS1 5DL, on Thursday 19 June from 6pm till late. Spread the word to fellow OGs and book your tickets. We look forward to seeing you!



28/
AUG

LEAVERS '23, '24, '25 REUNION

New event for 2025 Inviting the last three year groups of Leavers back, for a relaxed Old Grovian reunion from 6.30pm. Summer drinks on the Hastings-Long Gallery balcony, sizzling BBQ & live music to enjoy. Book now!

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR
TICKETS HERE!



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www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool