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Celebrating 100 years of the House System at the London Reunion 2026

On Thursday 30 April, Old Grovians gathered in Soho for the London Reunion and it was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout at our new venue De Hems Dutch Cafe Bar - our best-attended London gathering yet, with OGs attending from every decade from 1960-2020!

This year's event also marked a special milestone as we celebrated 100 years of the reformed House System, including 50 years of Towlson House. Unsurprisingly, House rivalry remains as strong as ever, with plenty of spirited conversation and friendly competition throughout the evening.

The reunion was a fantastic reminder of the enduring strength of the Grovian network and the lifelong friendships formed at The Grove. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new connections and celebrate together as part of this landmark year in the School's history.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening such a success. We hope you enjoyed the chance to catch up, share memories and be part of another special moment for the Grovian community.

To celebrate 100 years of the House System, we're hosting a special event at The Grove - House Party on 3 July. Tickets are now available, so spread the word to your OG friends, House friends and even your House rivals - we hope to see you there!

OLD GROVIANS • FORMER PARENTS & STAFF • STAFF • PARENTS

Join us to celebrate

100 YEARS OF THE GROVE HOUSE SYSTEM

FRIDAY 3RD JULY

7PM-LATE • WOODHOUSE GROVE BAR • DJ • £20 INC. WELCOME DRINK & FOOD

HOUSE PARTY

FINDLAY • ATKINSON • SOUTHERNS • VINTER • STEPHENSON • TOWLSON

2026 – the year of celebration, community and giving back

Head of Development & Alumni Relations Eve Corry (st24-) reflects on the power of the Grovian community as the School prepares for its first-ever Giving Week and a summer of celebration.

Over the past year, it has been wonderful to see so many of you reconnecting through events, reunions, networking opportunities and new initiatives. Whether attending a Coffee Morning, tuning into Grovian Voices, joining us for an event or simply getting back in touch with old friends, the sense of community and shared pride in The Grove remains as strong as ever.

This summer marks an especially exciting milestone as we launch the School's very first Giving Week from 27 June - 3 July. Giving Week is a celebration of everything that makes the Grovian community so special - the friendships, opportunities, traditions and experiences that connect generations of pupils and staff. Most importantly, it is an opportunity for us all to come together and give back.

To make a regular contribution or single donation visit: woodhousegrove.co.uk/make-a-donation/
Alternatively, please call 0113 250 2477.

Every gift, no matter the size, will help ensure future generations can experience the same support, encouragement and sense of belonging that so many Old Grovians speak so fondly about today. The Giving Week online donation page will launch on 27 June. Please give what you can and help us make an impact.

Giving Week will conclude with 'House Party' on 3 July. With a live DJ, bar, great food and plenty of House spirit, it promises to be a fantastic evening back at The Grove. Tickets are now available, so spread the word to your OG friends, House friends and rivals alike - we hope to see you there! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



£26

Average amount of monthly gift

£550

Average amount of one-off gift

2

Gift in Will pledges received

Cricket Tour Memories

Written by Year 12 student, OG Ambassador Harry Edwards

The senior cricket tour, most recently taking place in Barbados and St Lucia last summer, is a truly unforgettable opportunity to enjoy the best of sport and culture. This long-running tour provides a lifetime of memories for those who travel, and for many is a final chance to participate in school life before becoming an Old Grovian. Last year, 21 students and 3 staff enjoyed an incredible trip, with the highlights including playing at the Darren Sammy International Cricket Ground, and a night at the renowned Oistin's Fish Fry. The 12-day trip also finished with a day-long catamaran



experience, where the students enjoyed snorkelling and relaxing in the volcanic mud baths of Sulphur Springs.

Share your tour memories: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

OGA Feedback Survey 2026 – What You Told Us

Thank you to everyone who took part in the OGA Feedback Survey; 113 responses were received.

An overwhelming 90% of respondents said their main motivation for staying connected to The Grove is rooted in nostalgia and cherished school memories - something we know lies at the heart of the OGA. We also received valuable suggestions on how we can improve. Many of you highlighted a desire for:

- More year group reunions
- Greater networking opportunities i.e. year group social networks
- Archive / Heritage events

Alongside this, we were delighted to receive plenty of positive feedback about what we're already doing well. Watch this space - we're excited to put your ideas into action!



OGA Events

Coffee Morning - Tuesday 10 March 2026

Bathed in spring sunshine, our Spring Coffee Morning at The Grove on 10 March welcomed 22 guests from entry years 1935-1979, including Old Grovians from York and Bolton, former staff and parents.

First-time attendees joined us, OG ties were worn with pride and one guest even brought a 1957 colours blazer. Thank you to everyone for a warm and memorable morning. Join us for a special Summer Term Coffee Morning during Giving Week!



Golf Day - Sunday 3 May 2026

Despite some rainy weather, Grovian spirit shone through at this year's Old Grovian Golf Day at Bradford Golf Club. The day was filled with friendly competition, laughter and great camaraderie - one OG travelled from Switzerland to take part!

Congratulations to the winning four ball of Paul Morris (72-79), Richard Linkogel (73-80), Keith Secker (70-79) and Nick Driver (69-79), while Martyn Bray (99-01) claimed Longest Drive and Chris Kippax (79-85) won Nearest the Pin. The raffle raised £470 for the WGS Foundation!



Giving Week at The Grove: 27 June - 3 July 2026



We're proud to announce the first Giving Week at The Grove. A week dedicated to raising funds for the WGS Foundation 1812 Society Bursary Fund, please join us - Be the Difference, Be 1812.

Guided by the spirit of "I Am Grovian", this special week is a celebration of who we are as a community - past, present and future and an opportunity to come together and give back, to pay it forward and transform lives. Find out more here: woodhousegrove.co.uk/giving-week/

Giving Week events are listed below. Not local? Follow our social channels for updates throughout the week.

Dates for your diary:

- OG v 1st XI Cricket match - Friday 26 June, 11am at The Grove
- Grovestonbury Family Fun Day - Sunday 28 June, 1:30pm - 6pm at The Grove
- 1812 Society Soirée - Tuesday 30 June, 6:30pm at The Grove, Sixth Form Building *
- Coffee Morning - Wednesday 1 July, 10am - 12noon at The Grove, Hastings-Long Gallery *
- 1812 Society Summer Concert - Thursday 2 July, 7pm at The Grove, McCarthy Theatre *
- House Party - Friday 3 July 2026, 7pm till late at The Grove *

* Tickets required

To book tickets, please visit: woodhousegrove.co.uk/school-info/buytickets/ or call 0113 250 2477



Rugby Jersey: Spring pre-order

Following the successful launch of our OG Rugby Jersey in Autumn 2026, we'd like to invite expressions of interest for our Spring pre-order. Whether you missed out last time or want to grab another, now's the perfect opportunity.

Price: £55 plus postage & packaging or free click-and-collect from school.

Pre-Order Deadline: 7 June



To register your interest email: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

Grovian Voices celebrates 1 year!

What a year it's been for Grovian Voices! With 5,500+ downloads and listeners in 458 cities across 48 countries, the podcast continues to grow with daily support from our global community.

Listen now to the 1 Year Anniversary episode featuring Headmaster James Lockwood (86-92, st16-).

Thank you to all our guests and listeners - your support means everything.



Old Grovian Remembrances

As we remember our alumni who have passed, we celebrate the lives they led and the lasting impressions they made. While they are no longer with us, their legacy continues to inspire and connect us all.



Obituary notifications Nov '25 - Apr '26 :

Edward A Bell (34-42)

Ian Glendenning (74-81) DOD Sept '16

“Mindful of a home which never
Distance from her kin can sever,
Mindful of our friends for ever”

Χαίρετε



Visiting The Grove today

Old Grovians are always welcome back to the school for a tour. If you would like a tour of the school today, contact our office at foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk or call 0113 250 2477 to schedule one in advance, please provide as much notice as possible.



Mark Learmonth
(73-80)



Dominic Leclerc
(90-97)



Ruby Xiong
(23-25)



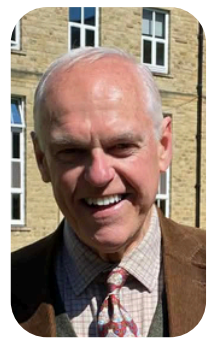
Kathryn Leng
(85-92)



Neha Kanda
(16-18)



Simon
Glendenning
(70-77)



Christopher Knee
(63-70)



A message from our sponsor, Old Grovian Keith Loudon (45-50)

Established in 1875, Redmayne Bentley is one of the UK's largest independent investment management, financial planning and stockbroking firms. We pride ourselves on personal service, building trusted relationships, and helping clients manage their wealth with confidence. Find out more at www.redmayne.co.uk

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If you're interested in sponsoring the next edition, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch via the details below.

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