



CAMPING AT LA  
GRANDE FETE VIVE LE  
TOUR YORKSHIRE



ANITA'S BIRDS EYE  
VIEW OF LIFE PUTS  
YORKSHIRE ON THE  
MAP



JAMES CONNECTS  
MEDICAL STUDENTS  
ACROSS THE GLOBE



BARONESS PAULINE  
NEVILLE-JONES  
FROM CIVIL SERVICE TO  
CYBERSPHERE

Issue 02 | Autumn 2014

The magazine for LGS, LGHS & GSAL Alumni

# Memento

“A young Irish nurse, a VAD, announced that here clearly was a German spy, who should not be allowed to live – advice fortunately ignored by the excellent surgeon.”

HARRY FINDS LOVE  
WITH NURSE WHO  
CONDEMNED HIM  
AS A SPY



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### Message from the **OGC President**

We have had another busy and successful year and thanks must go to the members of the Old Girls' Committee and Louise Marshall, for their work and support.

There have been a number of events throughout the year. The Old Girls were represented at the Remembrance Day Service by Joanne Pellow, vice president of the Old Girls' Club. We now have a stone in place in the Port Cochère, as a lasting reminder of the service given by Mafalda Whittaker, an old girl of Leeds Girls' High School.

Some 30 Old Girls and guests enjoyed afternoon tea at Bettys and a talk by Chris Scaife on the history and work of Robert Thompson, The Mouseman of Kilburn. The 20th anniversary of the 1994 leavers of Leeds Girls' High School and Leeds Grammar School was held in March and proved to be very successful and a fantastic evening.

I must thank Jackie Chalmers for organising the two London Branch meetings a year. In autumn members, including friends and family gathered at the Friends' Meeting House for a meeting which included a DVD and talk from Thelma Ruby on her long career in musical theatre.

I was able to attend the meeting in April at the home of Lady Solti, where Jane Bower

was guest speaker and kept us entertained with a spirited talk on her life in the arts.

As well as the talk by Jane, Nigel Underwood, husband of June née Rhodes (OG 53), showed a CD that he had compiled, featuring London branch archive photos acquired from members over many years.

A donation of £305 was made to the Solti Accademia de Bel Canto in Tuscany as a thank you to Lady Solti for hosting the spring meeting. Two separate donations of £250 were also made towards a bus pass fund to help pay for the travel expenses of a GSAL bursary student.

The Old Girls' annual day of golf and walking was another great day, rounded off by a celebration dinner.

Looking to the future, our continuing links with Malawi remain important to the school and the next trip will be summer 2015. The students are already planning ways to raise money for their visit and are excited at the experiences that lie ahead of them.

It has been a real pleasure to meet so many Old Girls this year and I look forward to meeting more of you in the year to come.

**Chris Bamforth**  
President, Old Girls' Club



## Message from the OL President

The 2013–2014 year was another busy one for the Old Leodiensian Association. The events list started with the OLs Down Under Dinner at The Melbourne Club on November 22. It is delightful to see links like this being established and we wish all the very best for the coming year to all far-flung OLs wherever they are.

The OLA Leeds Lunch was held on November 29, with attendee numbers continuing to grow encouragingly. The 2014 lunch will be held at Aspire on November 28. The OLA London Dinner on February 21 welcomed ERA Foundation Chairman Sir Richard Brook (OL) as guest speaker and as an added bonus, raised £900 for the GSAL Bursary Fund. The 2015 dinner will be held on March 20.

Over 100 family members, friends, former colleagues and players made the inaugural Briars–Hill Memorial Cricket Match at GSAL on May 4 a highly successful event, at which Steve Kershaw's outstanding performance earned him Man of the Match acclaim. The event also proved an ideal opportunity to renew links with many former LGS staff and planning is now under way for the next event, with the aim of encouraging continuity between OLs and GSAL leavers.

A Leeds Grammar School plaque is now proudly displayed in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, in commemoration of the OLs lost in action during the 1914–1918 war. In addition, former LGS staff members John Davies and Neill Hargreaves are searching out LGS archive information on those who were killed, as well as those who faced the daunting task of 'carrying on' afterwards. A book recording the history of the Old Leodiensian Association is in planning, to include chapters incorporating this information. GSAL is planning a number of initiatives to commemorate the centenary of the start of WW1, including an online roll of honour. Visit [www.gsal.org.uk](http://www.gsal.org.uk) for more information.

Key tasks for the year ahead include the continuous updating and adding to the database of OL members' details and bringing together groups of OLs in a variety of ways, with the aim of maintaining comradeship, memories and shared values. If you feel that you would like to help with any aspect of this, please get in touch with me or any of the OLA Council members.

**Tristram Hope**  
(OL 1971 – 1981)  
President, Old Leodiensian Association



## Peter Jolly is Chairman of School Foundation

Dear Old Boys and Old Girls,

Greetings and for those new to the status, welcome. Please remember, there is no escape – you have been and therefore you are one and perhaps the school can be forgiven for regarding you as an ongoing resource. It is a resourcefulness for which I wish to thank you.

Thanks are due to many alumni who have given their time and professional insight in enhancing a range of educational events.

We are grateful for the response to our request in the last issue of Memento for bursary support; that response helped raise over £80k and will enable four additional children to come to GSAL who would have been unable to do so otherwise.

The difference made is significant: 13 children who are joining Senior School this

September are from families whose income is below £32k pa and indeed five of them meet the government's definition of living in poverty.

Bursary students notably appreciate and make the most of the opportunities that the school provides. This year, typically, a number represented Leeds, Yorkshire and the country in a range of academic, sporting, and co-curricular competitions. They bring credit upon GSAL; they make it a richer place to be. They add to the school's ongoing strength and reputation.

I should be delighted to hear from anyone feeling able to support in any way. We have even taken the liberty of enclosing a donation form should you wish to use it.

With Kindest Regards,  
**Peter Jolly**



# OL Harry finds love with nurse who condemned him as a spy

A love story between a First World War officer and the nurse who condemned him as a German spy has been uncovered by a team of Leeds University students researching what soldiers at the front missed about home.

Captain Harry Oldham, a former Leeds Grammar School pupil, served on the Western Front as a company commander in the 9th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment.

Gravely wounded during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917, he ended up on an operating table in a York military hospital, muttering in German.

Harry describes how “a young Irish nurse, a VAD, announced that here clearly was a German spy, who should not be allowed to live – advice fortunately ignored by the excellent surgeon.”

Months earlier he had used his ability to speak German to save the life of a wounded enemy soldier, but found himself in the same predicament.

The story was discovered by five undergraduates among the University’s vast Liddle Collection of First World War papers. In Harry’s account of his near-fatal wounding on the notorious Passchendaele Ridge in October 1917, written half a century later, he tells of being ordered to attack at dawn in “vile and impossible conditions ... up to our knees and backsides in mud” and describes the assault as a ghastly failure.

Captain Harry Oldham

He received serious wounds to the abdomen and spent a day and half lying in a mud-filled shell hole with five of his men, all of whom died.

At one point, a group of German soldiers stumbled across the British officer. One was about to bayonet Harry when he was stopped by a superior – “probably thinking it was unnecessary, as I imagine I wasn’t looking all that good.” Stretcher bearers with white flags eventually brought him in with other survivors of the battle.

Harry’s story has a happy postscript. Having survived the war, he married the Irish nurse Heather Orloff in 1919 and they had three children. In 1969, he wrote: “A few months ago, that seemingly murderous-minded young Irish nurse and I celebrated our Golden Wedding.”

The couple emigrated to Canada where Harry eventually managed the British Trade Centre in Vancouver and was awarded a CBE. He died in 1973, and his

wife died five years later.

The war had a considerable influence on the life and work of the Leeds Grammar. Some 770 Old Boys served and, of those, 129 lost their lives.

Many Old Boys distinguished themselves during the course of the conflict and received awards for gallantry. In all 80 decorations, including eight DSOs and over 40 Military Crosses were made to former pupils and staff.

Every month the *Leodiensian* magazine listed Old Boys who were serving and those who had fallen. According to teacher Hilda Christie: “During a weekday service in the Chapel in my early days, the head used to read the list of all those serving, until the list got too long, then he read about a quarter of it each time. He always read the list of those fallen, using full Christian names. He had a beautiful voice; I remember the catch in it when a new name was added. Each death was a personal loss to him, and his sympathy overflowed...”





Captain Harry Oldham (centre left) with his regiment.

## OGs play their part in war effort... at home and abroad

The story of service by the former pupils of Leeds Girls High School while, in some senses less immediately obvious, was no less important.

On the outbreak of war the headmistress, Dr Lucy Lowe, arranged a holiday course for the first two weeks of September for all girls above the age of 16. This consisted of training in nursing, first aid and invalid cookery and was attended by over 70 girls, including a number of Old Girls.

The work of the Guild of Charity, set up by Miss Powell to help raise money and to work with associations connected with

young children in Leeds, was also extended to meet the needs of the war effort. Substantial sums of money were collected; large amounts of sewing and knitting completed both for the poor and soldiers and much time was spent organising play afternoons for refugee children.

One Belgian family was entirely kept by the school, another partly kept and, early in 1918, the school undertook the charge of a Serbian girl whom they supported for six years.

By the end of 1914, seven Old Girls were nursing soldiers at Cookridge Hospital and one was working at the Belgian Clothing Department.

One Old Girl wrote to Dr Lowe of her experiences of nursing in the Military Hospital in Colchester: "Before Christmas we were terribly busy with convoys of wounded Belgians and British. I shall never forget the first lot of Belgians, two hundred and fifty. They arrived sometime during the night. Not only were all the wards filled but we had beds along our two immense corridors. In my first four months

I treated one hundred and two men, having every variety of disease – sprains, fractures, rheumatism and unhealed wounds".

Throughout the war many girls were involved in nursing both at home and in France, and later, worked in the WAACs and WRNS. Old Girls also had clerical and administrative jobs, many in Government departments such as the War Pensions Department.

Dr Lowe was immensely proud of the war work of Old Girls and reported news of them regularly to the Governors.



Head Dr Lucy Lowe, photographed at her desk.





# Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones: from civil service to cybersphere

As a schoolgirl at Leeds Girls' High School in the 1950s, Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones could not have imagined the high-tech world in which she would one day forge her career.

Her work has taken her from the Foreign Office to the City of London, and to the heart of government dealing with national security as new threats emerged from the onward march of technology.

Pauline broke the mould from the start, as one of just two in her year to attend Oxford University during an era when vocational training such as secretarial or nursing courses was the norm for girls leaving school.

Coming from a medical family, she might however have been expected to follow in the footsteps of her late father, her mother and her stepfather. Her mother was a consultant anaesthetist at a time when women found it tough to reach that level.

Pauline said: "It was an example in the family of what a woman can do; I suppose I was also motivated by the desire to keep my father's name alive in wanting to achieve something too. I knew from an early age it wouldn't be all that easy as a woman."

Reflecting on her secondary education at LGHS, Pauline said: "Although quite strait-laced and conservative, the school concentrated on some real priorities. The atmosphere for taking intellectual and other development seriously was there, and I was fortunate that in the sixth form we had extraordinarily good teaching."

Pauline's interest in international affairs had been initially sparked by a guest speaker at school, and she made a successful application to the Foreign Office after reading history at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. However she had also won a postgraduate Harkness Fellowship, so first she headed off to the US to further her studies in history.

She said: "The scholarship allowed me to travel around the US and in many respects I grew up in those two years. It was the Kennedy era US – a very inspiring, self-confident, ebullient period in the country.

Then began a series of Foreign Office postings in the US, Rhodesia and Singapore, a secondment to the EC budget commission and senior roles in London. She left in 1996 to pursue a career in the City, and in due course was appointed to chair the board of a Ministry of Defence

agency during its privatisation as QinetiQ.

After stepping down in 2006, Pauline was asked by David Cameron, to help re-energise the party's defence and foreign policy, a project which led to the establishment of the National Security Council. After the 2010 election Pauline was appointed as a home office minister dealing with security and counterterrorism, a brief with a significant focus on the cyber threat.

Pauline explained: "The government was alert to technological solutions to security problems and we came into office with a determination to do something serious. However, a major challenge is the scarcity of talent in this area – half a million people are needed to close the skills gap.

Cyber security work has been an activity without much public awareness, but it's now becoming a recognised profession with associated qualifications. Pauline is now a patron of Cyber Security Challenge UK, which promotes career opportunities in the area of cyber security, through learning initiatives and competitions for individuals and schools.



## Vive Le Tour Yorkshire, vive La Grande Fête

Yorkshire has been in the grip of Le Tour de France fever for the past year...and GSAL was no exception.

The school was in a prime position to enjoy this once in a lifetime event, with the cyclists due to pass the school gates en route to the official race start for Stage

One at Harewood House.

When *le weekend* finally arrived, GSAL families and friends flocked to Alwoodley Gates for La Grande Fête, which combined a grandstand view of the parade and the peleton with a day of fun activities for all ages. There was a real festival atmosphere,

with over 500 hardy souls starting the party early by camping on the sports fields the night before.

Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL, said: "We knew Le Grand Départ would be something special, right on our doorstep. La Grande Fête was our celebration, and enabled our charity and business partners to benefit from the world's largest annual sporting event coming to Yorkshire. We are delighted that our partners seized this opportunity and we are particularly grateful to TD as the event sponsor. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of our partners. As well as raising £10,000 for our bursary fund, La Grande Fête will be remembered by everyone for years to come."



OLs enjoy La Grande Fête with friends and family. They are (L-R): Martyn Maynard; Iain Morton (OL92); Matthew Ridley (OL92); Gerry Samuel and Lydia Ridley.

## Hat trick of awards for Gary after Le Tour to Yorkshire



The view from GSAL as the Tour de France peleton passes.

Gary Verity (OL83) has been presented with three awards in recognition of the part he has played in bringing Yorkshire to the attention of a national and international stage.

He was named Regional Director of the Year and given the Yorkshire Institute of Directors' Lifetime Achievement for his contribution to business and his leadership. He also received an honorary degree from the University of York.

At the annual Director of the Year Awards, Dominic Geary, MD, of Carat Media, who chairs the judges, praised Gary's leadership, vision and courage in steering Welcome to Yorkshire through some tough times to establish the region on the international stage and his planning skills for aspiring to win the prestigious Le Grand Départ for Yorkshire.



# Anita's bird's eye view of life puts Yorkshire on the map

Artist Anita Bowerman (OG78) is putting Yorkshire on the map with a series of intricate paper cuts featuring some of the county's most beautiful attractions.

In the last couple of years the landscape painter has turned her talents to the delicate art of paper cutting, using just fine paper and a scalpel to create her designs.

Her gallery, The Dove Tree Art Studio in Back Granville Road, Harrogate, features her full collection of original paintings, paper cuts and limited edition prints, including her distinctive landscapes and trees, as well as her series of paper cuts of York, Harrogate and Ilkley.

Anita, who opened the gallery almost three years ago, draws most of her inspiration from the Yorkshire landscape and towns. However, her route to becoming a successful artist and gallery owner has been an unconventional one.

Despite a lifelong love of art, Anita chose a career in retail when she left school and spent a number of years working in some of London's best-known fashion houses before finally becoming an artist.

And she firmly believes that this circuitous route is the key to her success.

She said: "If I had gone straight to art school after my A levels I would not be doing what I am today. My experience of retail and business has enabled me to make a success of being an artist."

Added to that is a tenacity which she puts down to her education.

"Being a pupil at Leeds Girls' High School made me determined to succeed. I was never going to take no for an answer!"

Anita, née Small, started at Rose Court at the age of three and continued at LGHS until her O-level year, before transferring to Park Lane College to take her A-levels. She chose to do a shorthand and typing course alongside her A-level art and English as it was 'regarded as very useful in those days.'



Anita in her gallery.

Following an HND in retail and business studies at Newcastle Polytechnic she moved to London and a job at Burberry's as an assistant designer, helping to stage fashion shows and working on photo shoots with renowned photographer Lord Lichfield.

This was followed by a job with House of Fraser as an assistant merchandiser, before being appointed buyer of ladies' accessories at Liberty's.

She said: "It was my dream job. I was just 25 years old and was travelling all over the world sourcing accessories with £2 million to spend."

All this time she had continued to paint and have lessons with a contemporary artist. Her work started selling in galleries, she had an exhibition at Christie's and the World Wildlife magazine took some of her prints and sold them as limited editions.

However when her 'southern' husband Peter was offered a job in Harrogate 11 years ago,

Anita happily returned to her Yorkshire roots.

Her paintings continued selling well through galleries but with commission fees of 40-50 per cent she realised that it was time to combine her artistic talent with her shrewd business acumen – and open her own gallery.

She bought her studio at auction and spent six months renovating it in a French atelier style with quirky touches like chandeliers, hand painted tiles and a grand piano rumoured to have been played at the opening ceremony of the Eiffel Tower in 1889.

With the ground floor of the gallery given over to displays of her work, Anita paints in the upstairs studio where she also runs a range of art courses throughout the year.

She said: "All of the things that I have done in my life have prepared me for this moment – business, retail and art."

For examples of Anita's work and details of her art courses, visit [www.anitabowerman.co.uk](http://www.anitabowerman.co.uk)



Pam Zinnemann-Hope.

A moving love story, which began in Germany in the 1930s and ended in Leeds, has been brought to BBC Radio 4 by two former LGHS pupils.

However writer Pam Zinnemann-Hope and radio producer Janet Whitaker only discovered that they had been at school together while working on the production of the play *On Cigarette Papers*, the traumatic story of how Pam's parents fled Europe for England just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The afternoon play, which was broadcast earlier this year with a cast including Greg Wise, Emma Fielding and Eleanor Bron, was based on a book of poems by the same name, which Pam wrote following her mother's death in 1990.

Pam and Janet met through a local music festival which Janet runs in Dorset where they both now live.

"It was such a coincidence," Pam said, "but it was only after she read my book and thought it would make a good radio play

## Pam and Janet bring love story to life on radio

that our LGHS connection came to light!

"Janet was great to work with. She's had a very distinguished career in radio drama and really knows what she's doing. I trust her judgement completely."

*On Cigarette Papers* traces the love story between Pam's German-born parents Lottie and Kurt whose relationship began in 1933 and was conducted in secret because of the political instability of the time and because Kurt was Jewish.

Pam knew little of her parent's story until after her mother's death in 1990 – two years after her father – when she came across a cache of cigarette papers in the attic. The fragile papers contained 50 pencilled recipes in Russian which her mother had collected during nine months as a political prisoner in Ukraine.

From the papers and conversations with friends of her mother, Pam pieced together the story of their elopement from Frankfurt in 1935 for what they assumed would be safety in Ukraine. However, despite being apolitical, they were arrested and imprisoned separately in appalling conditions in Kiev.

Months of starvation and hardship followed when they feared for each other's lives and thought they may never see each other again. Eventually they were deported back to Germany among a group of scientists who were considered useful to the government.

During the journey Lottie sold her jewellery to a guard at the Polish border where they

were able to secure passage to Warsaw and on to Britain.

Pam said: "They took a great risk in escaping as they did, but they had little choice as the risk would have been even greater if they had returned to Germany."

The couple settled in Headingley, Leeds, where Pam was born in 1945.

Looking back on her upbringing in Headingley and her days at LGHS with fondness, Pam said: "I started at Rose Court at the age of five and went all the way through the school. I feel very privileged to have gone to the school and I loved those buildings in Headingley with their wonderful interiors and beautiful woodwork."



Pam's parents, Lottie and Kurt.

Pam has written poetry and given readings of other poets' work throughout her life. *On Cigarette Papers*, which was published in 2012, is her first full-length poetry publication. It is available from Amazon or [www.wardwoodpublishing.co.uk](http://www.wardwoodpublishing.co.uk).

## Old girls connect over moving story

After a lifetime of working in radio drama Janet Whitaker (OG65) recognised the makings of a good play when she first read *On Cigarette Papers*.

She found the story of Pam Zinnemann-Hope's parents both touching and intriguing, and her interest was also piqued by the fact that it was set in Headingley.

"It's a very moving story and a lovely way of telling it. Working together on the play was a great experience and I have gained a

new friend."

Janet's love of drama started at Leeds Girls' High School. After school she completed a secretarial course in Leeds before studying drama at Manchester University. A stint of street theatre followed before she took a postgraduate course in teaching through drama under the tutelage of the respected drama teacher and academic, Dorothy Heathcote.

Janet then taught for four years before

joining the BBC as an education producer for schools' radio, working in London. Fourteen years later she moved to the BBC's drama department where she continued to work until she took early retirement eight years ago.

Since then Janet has continued to produce plays on a freelance basis as well as working with the Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art in Dorset, which is now in its 34th year.



# Anna's book aims to give consumers what they actually want

New author Anna Simpson (OG01) will talk about her book *The Brand Strategist's Guide to Desire* at the Ilkley Literature Festival.

Anna, a journalist and editor, will appear at Ilkley Playhouse on Saturday, October 11, at 1.30pm, to discuss her first book which was published in March this year.

The book's main thrust is that brands could gain a long-term competitive advantage by responding more directly to what people actually want. She explores the desire for community, adventure, aesthetics, vitality and purpose, and challenges brands to work with people more closely to enhance their lives in these areas.

The book also includes interviews with strategists and thought leaders, case studies, and draws on everything from Greek philosophy to the Samba schools of Rio.

For Anna, who gained a first in English and French from Oxford University, the publication of her book was a dream come true and her reasons for writing it were both professional and personal.

In her job at Forum for the Future, where until recently she edited the magazine *Green Futures* in London, she and the rest of the team are always asking how they can change systems and work differently for a sustainable future.

On a personal level she looked back at

growing up in Leeds, a thriving city with some of the best shops outside of London.

She said: "That's what people do on a Saturday...go shopping. It's a great way of spending time with family and friends but there is often a disconnect with what we go out looking for and what we come back with in our bags. That's something that has always interested me.

"I do remember as a child, sitting in Topshop looking at people and thinking how stressed they all looked!"

Brand strategists, she says in her book, need a smarter approach to desire because consumerism in its current 'shop until you drop' form rarely offers real satisfaction and is facing a crisis.

Anna, who left Forum for the Future's London office in August to work for the company in Singapore, paid tribute to the education that she received at Leeds Girls' High School.

In her book she expresses her gratitude to teacher Judith Kerr, now deputy head of English at GSAL, for her tuition and encouragement.

She said: I'm grateful for the learning culture at the school. We were encouraged to think openly and creatively and to ask questions. For me that was particularly apparent in English literature where we could engage



Anna Simpson

with great writers and, even, challenge them.

"We were often told in assembly that the world was our oyster and there was nothing we couldn't do if we gave ourselves to it wholeheartedly. I've never forgotten that."

Anna is offering a 30 per cent discount on her book, rrp £29.99, to alumni and readers of *Memento*.

To receive the discount, order through [www.palgrave.com/brand-guide-desire](http://www.palgrave.com/brand-guide-desire) and use the promotional code PM14THIRTY at the checkout.

## GSAL sponsors Children's Literature Festival at Ilkley

GSAL will once again sponsor the Children's Festival at Ilkley Literature Festival.

The event will run from October 3-19 and will feature exhibitions, talks and workshops.

For children aged 3-12 there will be favourite authors to meet, including Michael Morpurgo and Lauren Child, while a dynamic programme of activities will be offered to 12-18 year olds, including 45 free events.

As part of its sponsorship, GSAL will

host an evening with Douglas Hurd on Thursday, October 16.

Lord Hurd, who was Margaret Thatcher's foreign secretary, will talk about his biography *Disreali: or, The Two Lives*.





The Mouseman library at Leeds Girls' High School.

# The tale of the Mouseman...



One of the library chairs in the sale.





The Mouseman library at Leeds Girls' High School has a special place in the hearts of Old Girls who cherish memories of working in its beautiful surroundings.

In fact, the pleasure of finding one of the carved mice on the leg of a chair has even been immortalised by Pam Zinnemann-Hope in the opening poem of her book *On Cigarette Papers* where she writes:

*In the library where the carved mice lie in wait  
on each oak chair, I'm trying to understand  
how the cold front leaks down over me from the  
forests of Pomerania.*



Robert Thompson's trademark mouse.

The story behind the setting up of the library and Robert Thompson, the craftsman who created it, was the subject of a talk to OGs and friends at an afternoon tea in Bettys, Harrogate.

Chris Scaife, archivist at the firm Robert Thompson of Kilburn, told how the carpenter's enthusiasm for carving in English oak built into a world-renowned furniture business. He described how Robert (1876-1955), the son of the village joiner in Kilburn, developed his distinctive style, producing tactile, or dimpled, rather than smooth surfaces, using a technique known as 'adzing'. To this day the business is based in the village and craftsmen still use the same handheld tools and traditional techniques of 130 years ago.

He said: "Robert believed that whatever you do, it must be beautiful. He didn't want smooth table tops which reflected like a mirror. The adzing breaks down the reflections and allows you to see into the tree."

Chris also described how in the early 1920s Robert and one of his men were working in the rafters of a church when they stopped to watch a mouse running around. Robert then took his chisel and carved a mouse into the wood he was working on – and the famous Mouseman signature was born.

He said: "Every mouse that you find on a piece of furniture is slightly different because each craftsman's signature is slightly different."

In 1929 Leeds Girls' High School received an anonymous donation of £6,000 for 'the building of a library and provision of equipment.' The work was put out to tender and Robert Thompson was commissioned to create the interior which included panelling around the entire room, furniture and fittings.

The library was completed in 1933 and remained in use until 2008.

## ...to the sale

The sale of the complete LGHS Mouseman library drew one of the biggest crowds ever seen at Tennants Auction Centre in Leyburn, North Yorkshire...including many former pupils.

OGs, keen to own a piece of their former school or take a last look at the iconic furniture, packed into the main saleroom and spilled over into a second saleroom. They sat alongside Mouseman collectors and private buyers including one buyer with connections to Ampleforth College, which houses the best example of Mouseman ever made. Up for auction were 161 individual non-fitted items, which included 88 chairs, twelve 6' tables, four 4'6" tables, pen trays, ink wells, book troughs, card holders, librarian's desk and book trolley. Fitted furniture included the door and surround, panelling around the entire room, two fifteen-section bookcases, six non-joining bookcases and seven radiator covers.

The most expensive item was an oak-panelled librarian's kneehole desk, which fetched £18,000, while the lowest amount paid was £180 for a pair of oak pen trays. In all £244,300 was raised at the sale.

## Where is it now?

Do you own a piece of Mouseman from the LGHS library?

Perhaps you're using the pen trays, filing recipes in one of the card holders, or sitting down with a good book on one of the Mouseman chairs.

If so, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch with your memories of the library, your experience of the sale or to let us know how you are using your piece of Mouseman. Either email [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk), or write to Helen Clapham, Director of External Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds LS17 8GS.

## Alumni are just the job at GSAL careers day

A number of alumni were among the speakers at a GSAL careers day for sixth formers.

Students packed into rooms throughout the day to hear more than 30 specialists talk on a range of subjects including their careers, current career opportunities, experiences at university and studying overseas.

Among them were alumni Adrian Stones, diplomat; Roger Keech, filmmaker; Jonathan Scott, psychiatrist; David Israel, arts fundraiser; Emily Kerr, broadcast journalist; Karandeep Soheli, recruitment consultant; Matthew Livesey, medical student; and Chessy Whalen, Oxford student.

Here we highlight five of the day's speakers



Some of the speakers and guests from the GSAL careers day. They are Karandeep Soheli, Emily Kerr, Jonathan Scott, Adrian Stones, Matthew Livesey, Josh Boulton, David Israel and Melissa Hendry.

## Adrian entertains with tales of diplomacy

Adrian Stones (OL79) drew a large crowd of students to hear him talk about his career in MI6...and he didn't disappoint with his mix of humour and anecdotes from his life working in international security and intelligence.

Also in the audience to hear Adrian was retired teacher David Jackson who taught him Russian at LGS - a language which was to prove invaluable in his career.

Adrian told the students that he had always wanted to be a diplomat as a child, so during his final year at Exeter University where he studied music, he applied to the Foreign Office. However, when he received a letter back from MI6 informing

him that there were openings there, he applied and got in.

After two years at HQ he received his first posting to south east Asia. From there he went to Washington for three years before returning to London.

It was at this point that his O-level Russian came in handy when a posting came up in Russia.

He said: "I had to get up to degree-standard Russian in just one year, so having some prior knowledge was a help."

When his Russian visa didn't come through, he spent some time in Kiev before being asked to learn Czech so that

he could work in Prague.

"I learned the language but the post in Prague was cancelled so, as is the custom when that happens, I got a lot of say over my next posting," said Adrian.

He chose Harare in Zimbabwe where he spent the next four years.

After 19 years with the British government, Adrian left to join the private sector, working for a firm specialising in commercial intelligence, where he continues to handle assignments in sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian subcontinent and the former Soviet Union.



## Jonathan tells how medical studies led to career in psychiatry

Dr Jonathan Scott (OL79) is a consultant psychiatrist with a crisis resolution and home treatment team in West London, supporting people with severe mental health problems to remain in the community.

In his career Jonathan, who helped to establish the team, has been responsible for delivering and managing mental health care both in hospital and in the community. His current role focuses on keeping people out of hospital by offering treatment and support in their homes.

However, as a medical student at St Edmund's Hall, Oxford, he didn't see himself specialising in psychiatry.

He said: "I had no concept of psychiatry when I went into medicine, but where we end up very often has a tenuous relationship to where we started."

Jonathan, whose father John Scott was deputy head of English at Leeds Grammar School, explained his choice of career to students at the GSAL careers event.

He said: "There are basically two types of healthcare work. There is the acute side, which is immediate and exciting, but I wanted to work with people who had long-term illnesses and try to help them."

## Roger's life through a lens

When award-winning film maker Roger Keech (OL72) started out on his career, regional broadcasting was still in its infancy and a whole new world of opportunities was opening up.

However, he told GSAL students that opportunities for them are even greater.

He said: "With all the technology nowadays, anyone can make short films. There is no excuse not to, so if you want to get into broadcasting you need to show evidence of your interest. You should have your own websites where you can show film clips that you have made on your phones or tablets."

He admitted that it was a hugely competitive field and anyone wishing to succeed needed persistence and to ruthlessly exploit any contacts that they made.

Roger's 40-year career started when he studied television production at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design in Kent. After working in London he joined the BBC in Leeds in 1978 and worked his way up to director and producer, before leaving to become a freelance independent in 1999.

He has 2000 film credits to his name and a number of industry awards, including four for the promotional film *Bienvenue dans le Yorkshire*, which helped bring the opening stages of the Tour de France to the region this summer.

## Chessy on studying at Oxbridge

Top tips and myth-busting formed the basis of a talk by Chessy Whalen (GSAL12) on getting into Oxbridge.

Chessy, who is currently reading history at Balliol College, Oxford, gave practical advice on getting through the admissions process, including how to choose between Oxford and Cambridge, picking a college and preparing for the interview. She said: "The interview is meant to be a challenge. Some of the questions will stretch you to think about things you've never considered. Taking time to think is absolutely fine, the silence feels a lot longer to you than to the tutors."

"The tutors interviewing you genuinely want you to do well. They will try to make you feel more relaxed so don't be surprised if their first question is a casual one about the journey to Oxford or something like that. This isn't a trick question. There are no trick questions."

She outlined a typical week for both humanities and science students at Oxford colleges, admitting that students did work hard but that there were plenty of university clubs to get involved in.

## Emily goes behind the scenes of TV news

Students were given a glimpse of the excitement and raw energy of a television newsroom when Emily Kerr (OG04) described life as a broadcast journalist.

Emily, who is currently a planning editor at ITV Calendar News in Leeds, told the students that her interest in journalism began at Leeds Girls' High School where she was editor of the school magazine.

While reading classics at Oxford University she dabbled in journalism and, on graduating, studied for an MA in broadcast journalism at Leeds Trinity University.

During that year she undertook placements at BBC Radio 4 and ITV Calendar News, where she got a job as an online producer, helping to develop the ITV news website. She then became a newsroom journalist reporting on stories and producing bulletins for the lunch and late news. In her current role as the planning editor, she finds stories for the programme to cover.

Emily talked about the excitement of dealing with breaking news and showed a DVD of a bulletin she had produced where she dealt with several late breaking stories, including news of a train crash in Grimsby where a car had been hit on a level crossing.

She explained how, as the producer on late shifts, she selected and wrote stories for the bulletin and was the voice in the presenter's ear, counting the bulletin on and off air in the gallery.

She said: "On that night I was counting down the last 15 seconds of the bulletin when I got the news that two people had died in the crash. I had to convey this information to the presenter to include in the bulletin and continue counting down the final seconds so we got off air cleanly – quite an adrenalin rush!"

*Newly-qualified journalist Eleanor Muffitt (GSAL10) reports on two Old Girls who entertained audiences at this year's London branch get-togethers.*

## That's Entertainment as Thelma looks back on her career



Thelma Ruby

West End actress Thelma Ruby (OG39) left her audience wanting more when she reminisced about the good old days at Leeds Girls' High School and shared memories of her colourful career with members of the the Old Girls' Club.

The 88-year-old actress opened the afternoon by sharing a short film that her nephew had created. The film followed Thelma down memory lane as she re-visited theatres she had performed in. It was also filled with clips from her youth and reminiscences from her family and friends.

Thelma, who recently revived her one-woman show *That's Entertainment* at London's Garrick Club, has enjoyed a career spanning more than 60 years. In that time she has performed alongside some of the greats of the acting world including Orson

Welles and Dame Judi Dench.

The Chapel Allerton-born actress was a pupil at Leeds Girls' High School for nine years before being evacuated to America with her mother at the start of the Second World War in 1939.

Recounting her days at LGHS fondly, she admitted that she had appeared in only one of the school's productions – playing Danny, the wounded soldier, in J M Barrie's *A Kiss for Cinderella*.

Thelma was caught by the acting bug when she attended New York's Finch College and, from then on, she threw herself into performing.

From her early days entertaining troops in British hospitals as part of her national service, to her one-woman show today, Thelma's credits are impressive.

She has appeared alongside Topol in the stage version of *Fiddler on the Roof*, in which she played his wife Golde four times. She has also appeared in *Cabaret* with Judi Dench, played Lily Dempsey on *Coronation Street*, and toured the world for eight years in the play *Mamma Golda* to name but a few.

Thelma also spoke about her life with her late husband, the stage director Peter Frye, with whom she co-wrote their autobiography *Double or Nothing: Two Lives in the Theatre*.

## Jane entertains with her tale of treading the boards with Maureen Lipman

Jane Bower (OG73) entertained her audience with the tale of how she ended up acting on a West End stage with Maureen Lipman.

Jane, a former teacher who now tutors at Cambridge University's Faculty of Education, has written several books and two plays.

Her talk included two performances. The first monologue *Old Girls' School Reunion*,

from the one-woman show she penned on the life and work of Joyce Grenfell, was met with ironic laughter from her audience, while the second performance, *Doctors and Diets* by Jane Draper was the monologue she performed for Maureen Lipman when they first met in June 2006.

Maureen, a seasoned impersonator of Grenfell, invited Jane to act alongside her in Jane's second play, *My Name with Yours*, which wove together the stories of Joyce Grenfell and her inspiration, Ruth Draper.

With Maureen reprising her role as Joyce and Jane playing Ruth, the play was performed at the Stables Theatre, Milton Keynes on July 11, 2010, to mark the centenary of Joyce's birth.

During rehearsals and rewrites, Jane realised how different their agendas were for the performance: she to teach, Maureen to entertain.

Jane admitted that she agonised as the actress strayed from the facts, but eventually admitted defeat as Maureen quipped: "Look, love – if it gets a laugh, it goes in!"

The play's producer was Richard Price, a former pupil at Leeds Grammar School, who also produced *Mamma Mia* and *Oklahoma*. He told Jane that this performance would be a one-off to test audience reaction. If it was a success, he said, it would need a bigger name to sell it.

Jane said: "He asked if I would find performing the play only once deeply frustrating and disappointing. I said that I never even thought I'd meet Maureen Lipman, never mind any of this – anything was a bonus. I knew my place and my feet were firmly on the ground – good LGHS training!"



Jane pictured (front, third left) with former classmates.





Barry Cryer meets the GSAL principal Mike Gibbons (left) and David Gravells, chair of governors at Leeds Grand Theatre.

## Barry comes home to Leeds with I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue

OL Barry Cryer had the chance to reminisce about his schooldays when he returned to Leeds with the cast of the popular Radio 4 quiz show *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

The writer, broadcaster, wit and raconteur dropped into a drinks reception, hosted by GSAL, at the theatre prior to the show. He took the opportunity to chat to a number of the guests and to share school bus stories

with fellow OL, governor Peter Sparling, who was one of Barry's contemporaries at Leeds Grammar School.

Barry was back in his home city with the team of *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*, Graeme Garden, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Jeremy Hardy, chairman Jack Dee and pianist Colin Sell. They were performing to a packed audience at the Grand Theatre, as part of a nationwide tour.



Jewellery designer Andrew Geoghegan.

## National award nominations for Andrew's jewellery

Jewellery designer Andrew Geoghegan (OL92) reached the finals in two categories of the UK Watch and Jewellery Awards 2014.

He was shortlisted for both 'Designer of the Year' and 'Bridal Collection of the Year' at the awards which are run by Retail Jeweller

to celebrate excellence in all areas of UK jewellery.

Andrew, a Yorkshire based jewellery designer and founder of British fine jewellery design house, AG, has achieved notable success in recent months and is the current British Jewellers' Association 'Designer of the Year'.

He said: "I am absolutely delighted to be named as a finalist in both the awards we entered. I've worked harder than ever in the past year to continue to build the AG brand into one of true British excellence."

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## Adam graduates to top job

Adam Memon (GSAL10) has been appointed head of economic research at the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), just months after graduating from University College London.

He took up the high profile role in January, managing research projects, undertaking his own research and advocating CPS policy proposals in the media.

Adam's primary goal is to see CPS ideas turned into Government policy, so much of his work includes corresponding with MPs, as well as getting the message across through television and radio interviews, writing for newspapers and establishing a social media presence.

He said: "The role is a fascinating combination of research and politics and it's a pleasure to work alongside some brilliant people."

Adam's first experience of the CPS was as an intern during his third year studies at UCL.

Straight after his exams he interned at Barclays in their investment banking division before taking up a post with the Conservative Research Department last September.

He said: "Both jobs were incredibly valuable and I learned a lot about applying economics in the real world."

Adam's high points, include being invited to Downing Street to discuss some of the policy proposals which the CPS is currently working on and achieving media coverage in over 100 countries for a paper on entrepreneurship.

But it is perhaps his debate on BBC News with writer and broadcaster Polly Toynbee which has been his biggest highlight so far.

"I suspect she may have thought that debating with a 22-year-old economist would be fairly straightforward," he said of his meeting with the famously outspoken Toynbee, "but I think I held my ground well."

Adam is quick to credit much of his success to his teachers at GSAL where, as well as receiving a good education, he was able to benefit from the many co-curricular activities on offer. He paid particular tribute to his economics teacher Chris Law who, he said, "pushed me to be a better student."

Chris Law described Adam as ambitious, articulate, appreciative, competitive and compassionate.

He said: "My abiding memory of Adam is his engagement with the Times Target 2.0 competition, where all those qualities made such a difference to team performance and morale."

"I'm so pleased that he has ended up where he has, on a big stage, practising economics as it was first conceived: the practical pursuit of social and economic improvement, rooted in argument, evidence and an ethical perspective, and right at the heart of government."

## George Dixon: from Leeds Grammar School to educational reformer

A biography of leading educational reformer George Dixon (OL1837) has been published by his great-great-grandson.

James Dixon has written *Out of Birmingham,*

*George Dixon (1820-98) Father of free education*, chronicling the part that his ancestor played in paving the way for free and compulsory education in the 19th century.

George Dixon was born in Gomersall and educated at Leeds Grammar School from 1829 until 1837. On leaving school he spent a year in France before returning to work with his brother in Birmingham.

The book describes George's contribution to the significant achievement of near-mass literacy in Britain by the end of the 19th century.

James describes how his great-great grandfather, having achieved local prominence as a successful entrepreneur and mayor, played a critical role as leader of a campaigning group, the Birmingham-based National Education League, in persuading the new Liberal government under Gladstone of the need for action.

The resulting Forster's Elementary Education Act of 1870 was the most important piece of social legislation in the 19th century, he writes.

To find out more about George Dixon, and how to buy the book, visit [www.george-dixon.co.uk](http://www.george-dixon.co.uk)

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## Going for gold

A group of GSAL alumni had a golden opportunity for a get-together when they were awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates.

The group, who all left school in

2013, met up in London to celebrate their achievement and to receive their certificates which were presented to them by Prince Edward at St James's Palace.

Pictured after the presentation are back (L-R): Tom Hardless, Alex McFarlane, Tom Wilcox and Tom Emerton; front (L-R): Imogen Weight, Emma Dracup and Lucy Brierley.



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## Howard is named Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year

Howard Moss (OL91) has been named as Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 with his company Astonish.

The accolade was presented to him by Yorkshire Business Insider, the leading regional business to business media company,

at its annual awards ceremony in Leeds.

Astonish was described by the judges as 'an astonishing success story' after Howard bought out his parents following their 30 years in business. He immediately set about investing in new premises and a year and

£5.5m later Astonish moved into its new purpose-built premises.

The company has grown 65 per cent in the four years since the move and, this year, the business is on target to grow another 20 per cent as turnover hits £17m. His award was sponsored by BHP Chartered Accountants.

Some 150 top business people gathered for the awards ceremony and to celebrate the successes of a resurgent year in the Yorkshire region.

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## Journalist Lucy joins BBC news team

Television journalist Lucy Manning (OG93) has left ITV to join the BBC News where she will work on the senior news team.

Lucy, who studied at Oxford after leaving LGHS, will be joined at the BBC by her former colleague Ed Campbell. They were part of the ITV team which won a BAFTA for coverage of the murder of Lee Rigby.

The team also won this year's Royal Television Society's award for home news coverage and scoop of the year for the same story.

Last year Lucy was singled out for special praise by the Royal Television Society for her part in the Jimmy Savile investigation which won two journalism awards for ITV.

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## Leeds University honour for Lord Dyson

Lord John Dyson has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Leeds.

OL Lord Dyson, who is Master of the Rolls, maintains strong links with his native Yorkshire and was the keynote speaker at GSAL Speech Day two years ago.



## Telling tales out of school

Teachers can be funny, wise, inspirational, supportive, quirky – the list is endless – and everyone has fond memories of a particular teacher who was a bit of a character. Why not share yours with Memento by sending your reminiscences to [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk)

Martin Gough (OL45) has written to Memento from his home in Canada to recount an apocryphal tale from one of his favourite teachers, Mr DWL Tough who was form master of Upper 2 at Leeds Grammar School during the 1930s.

Here Martin recounts his story:

“Mr Tough was renowned for his kindness, for his collection of brass rubbings from cathedrals and churches all around the country, for being a stickler for correct grammar and spelling...and for his loathing of the Yorkshire accent, especially the Leeds variety.

“Mr Tough told us that there were many dioceses and cathedrals in England, but only one, Bath and Wells, with two units. His explanation for this was that originally there were two separate dioceses and many years ago both sees became vacant at the same time.

“The Archbishop of Canterbury had to make his recommendations for the appointment of the new bishops and first in line was a large clergyman born and bred in Leeds, who spoke with a strong Leeds accent. The Archbishop summoned him to Lambeth Palace and offered him the choice of sees. The Leeds man preferred Bath, so he said ‘Bath’, which in the Leeds dialect sounded more like ‘Buth’.

“The Archbishop was overawed by this huge cleric, and thinking that he had said ‘both’, awarded him the two dioceses to avoid any conflict; ever since that time there has been a bishop of Bath and Wells!”

## Arctic Star awarded to Tom for wartime heroism



Tom Robinson with his Arctic Star.

OL Tom Robinson has been awarded the Arctic Star for his wartime Arctic convoy duties.

Almost 70 years after the end of World War Two, the medal has been created by the Government as a mark of gratitude for the heroism shown by Royal Navy and merchant sailors, as well as members of the armed forces, in the icy waters of the Arctic region.

Tom (OL38) joined the Civil Service

after leaving school and was serving in the Admiralty when he was called up in December 1940. He joined the Navy and trained to be a radio telegraphist, learning Morse code and coding. He was posted to the destroyer HMS Forester which was employed as convoy escort in the Mediterranean and the Arctic.

In April 1942, Tom was on board Forester as part of convoy PQ 14 going to Russia on a relatively uneventful journey when several ships were forced to turn back to Iceland because of damage caused by ice. The return convoy QP 11 was escorted by HMS Edinburgh and came under attack from German surface ships, resulting in the loss of Edinburgh on May 2, 1942, and considerable damage to Forester, with the loss of her captain and 11 crew.

The ship limped back into Murmansk for repairs, carried out by teams of Russian women welders, before sailing south. On the return journey wounded crew from the burning HMS Trinidad were rescued and carried back to Scapa Flow. Forester then made her way to Newcastle for full repairs and Tom left the ship for other postings.

After the war he married and returned to the Civil Service where he worked until his retirement in 1977.

Tom is now 94 and lives in Cheshire.

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## MBE for Peter Sparling

Deputy chairman of the GSAL's Governing Body, Peter Sparling (OL51), has been presented with his MBE by the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, at a ceremony in Bowcliffe Hall, near Wetherby.

Peter received his award in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his outstanding services to the arts, education and the community in West Yorkshire.

He was chairman of Leeds Grammar School Governing Body for 18 years, and is a former leader of Leeds City Council, an honorary alderman of the City of Leeds and is currently deputy chairman of Opera North.

Peter said: “I am delighted to be honoured in this way.

“I am particularly pleased that during my term as governor of LGS, the school moved from Clarendon Road to our current site in Alwoodley and successfully merged with LGHS to create The Grammar School at Leeds.”



James demonstrates how to use ConnectTAB to Luke, a third year medical students at Maseno University, Kenya.

## James connects medical students across the globe

Medical students in developing countries will be able to connect with fellow students around the world for advice, one-on-one tutoring and clinical instruction – thanks to the brainchild of former GSAL pupil James O'Donovan.

James (GSAL08) is the founder of ConnectTAB, a \$50 tablet which enables medical students to access each other and top educators in the UK and America.

The fifth year medical student at Newcastle University, who is currently spending a year as a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard University, came up with the idea for the product after witnessing at first hand the lack of resources and access to good training in Uganda last year.

With the help of funding from GSAL, James spent his elective period working in surgery at the Holy Innocents Children's Hospital, in Uganda, for which he had raised funds to help build in 2007 while he was still at school.

The majority of his time was spent in theatre and clinic and by the end of his visit, he felt he had a much greater insight into the challenges and difficulties faced by surgical services in the developing world.

He said: "I managed to gain experience in plastic surgery and children often presented with a variety of conditions requiring attention from the surgical team including trauma and burns. Despite the challenges faced during my elective, I had a truly fantastic experience and had the privilege of working with some wonderful doctors and meeting some fantastic patients."

James also became aware of the training difficulties faced by medical students.

He said: "Many health care professionals who study medicine in the developing world often migrate out of their home country, seeking better opportunities in developed countries. The migration adds to the cycle of not having enough health care professionals to teach students, exacerbating the student-staff ratio."

Realising the tremendous opportunity that technology provides in flattening traditional education spaces, connectTAB was born. The tablet runs on the Jelly Bean Android system and includes pre-loaded instructional videos that can be accessed in even the remotest areas.

Videos include clinical procedures ranging from how to take blood to how to do an examination of the nervous system.

He said: "The amazing thing is that because the videos are preloaded onto the tablet, they can be accessed in local villages or remote areas. We have taken advantage of existing software designed for areas with poor internet speeds and downloaded it onto the tablet and now are trying to find a way to charge the tablet using solar power."

James and a team of six, who work together on the charity project, have run pilot programmes in Malaysia and Africa so far, making adjustments based on user feedback.

At the conclusion of a recent one-month study with third year students at Maseno University in Kenya, the average observed clinical exam scores were three times higher in the group who used the connectTAB compared to the group who received regular teaching.

He said: "We strongly believe that technology can empower people in the fight against global poverty and if we can play a small role in this, it would be a success for us."

ConnectTAB is currently looking for partners and funders. To find out more email [connecttabinfo@gmail.com](mailto:connecttabinfo@gmail.com) or visit <http://connecttab.strikingly.com>



## ‘Beijing Biddies’ complete epic road trip for cancer charities

An undiminished taste for adventure is helping Edwina Sorkin (OG63) raise money for two cancer charities.

For, the former LGHS pupil and her friend Kate Sleath travelled 8,500 miles by car from Cumbria to Beijing in aid of Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Calling themselves the Beijing Biddies, the two women completed their epic journey in just 29 driving days in a bid to raise £150,000.

Edwina (née Wolfe) came up with the idea after reading an article about the annual Paris to Beijing Challenge and the two women spent 18 months preparing for the trip, including attending car maintenance classes and advanced driver training.

The pair left the UK on Edwina’s 69th birthday on May 1, travelling in a seven-year-old Nissan through Germany, Poland, Russia, Siberia and Mongolia to reach China.

To keep costs down they camped at the side of their vehicle whenever possible, even spending three nights sleeping in the back of their car in Mongolia when the winds were too high to pitch a tent.

Edwina relished the challenge, but Kate freely admitted that she found the experience difficult.

“It was an incredible journey through



Edwina (right) and Kate set off for Beijing. (Photo courtesy of criticalphotography.co.uk)

different countries and across varied terrains,” said Edwina. “Yes it was tough at times, but we kept going and we did it!”

The women’s adventure was recorded by a film crew from Cumbria TV and a documentary is currently in production. They hope that the film, plus a programme of other fundraising activities including talks and a black tie dinner, will help them reach their target over the next 18 months.

One consequence of the challenge is that it has given Edwina itchy feet. For her next adventure, she plans to drive across Australia from Perth to Melbourne – just for pleasure – but before then she has an exciting new

business venture.

Following a 28-year international career with Avon, Edwina has recently restored 270-year-old Cheskin House in Cumbria and turned it into a luxury country guesthouse.

She said: “My two challenges at the moment are to run my new business at Cheskin House and to reach our £150,000 goal for two charities which I feel very passionate about. That should keep me pretty busy!”

To read more about the Beijing Biddies Challenge, including how to donate, visit <http://beijingbiddies.co.uk>

## Rhiannon’s road to China starts at school



Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang.

A love of languages, formed at Leeds Girls’ High School, set writer Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang on the path to China and the publication of her debut novel. On leaving school Rhiannon Jenkins

(OG85) read Chinese at Oxford and sees herself as something of a pioneer.

“There was little or no interest in things Chinese in those days,” she said.

However, barely a year after leaving LGHS, aged 19, Rhiannon was studying on a British Council/American Field Service programme in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin, where she found a world of grey, black and white, just emerging from the Maoist years.

“It is funny to think that my China journey must have started all those years ago in the classrooms of LGHS under the tuition of Mrs Swallow, Mrs Thody and Mrs Whitton.

“I loved modern languages at school and took part in lots of language exchanges.”

She is still passionate about modern foreign languages and, apart from writing and researching future novels, she has been involved in China and Arabic days at her son’s school, Nottingham High Junior School, and teaches Chinese language and culture to business people via the UKTI in the Midlands.

Rhiannon’s debut novel, *The Woman Who Lost China*, published last year, is a product of more than 25 years experience of the Greater Chinese world. It tells the story of Manying and her family from the last days of the Qing Dynasty to early 21st century Shanghai.

Signed copies are available at a small discount for GSAL alumni plus P&P direct from Rhiannon at [rhiannontsang@gmail.com](mailto:rhiannontsang@gmail.com).

# ... Commonwealth Games ... Glasgow 2014

*Three alumni have taken part in this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Swimmer Sophie Taylor and diver Hannah Starling, who both left GSAL in 2013, were medal successes for Team England. Yona Knight-Wisdom (GSAL 11) became Jamaica's first-ever diving competitor when he chose to represent the country of his father's birth.*

## Sophie grabs gold and silver in Glasgow

Sophie Taylor with her Commonwealth gold medal.

Sophie Taylor (GSAL13) broke the British record to win gold in the 100m breaststroke at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

And the 18-year-old swimmer followed up her success the next day by helping England to a silver medal in the 4x100m relay medley.

In the 100m breaststroke Sophie delighted the crowd as a last-minute surge in the pool saw her beat the Jamaican swimmer Alia Atkinson to win in a personal best of 1.06.35.

She had qualified as second fastest at the semi-finals after winning her race in 1.07.20.

Earlier in the Games she came agonisingly

close to a medal in the 50m breaststroke, missing out on a podium position by 23 hundredths of a second to finish fourth. She then suffered disappointment in the 200m breaststroke earlier when she failed to make the final.

However, the teenager put that behind her to add to England's tally of gold and silver medals in the Games and show that she is a name to look out for in the future.

The Harrogate-born swimmer, who trains with the City of Leeds Swimming Club, was also one of six Leeds baton bearers for the Queen's baton relay leading up to Glasgow 2014.



# ... Commonwealth Games ... Glasgow 2014 ...



Hannah Starling.

## Hannah brings home a bronze

Diver Hannah Starling (GSAL13) took to the podium at the Commonwealth Games when she won a bronze medal in the women's diving 3m springboard final.

She performed her 'dive of the competition', according to BBC commentator Leon Taylor, for her fifth and final dive, scoring 67.50 for the forward two-and-half somersault with one twist, to score a total of 316.95.

Hannah, a student at Leeds University, was a member of Team GB for the Olympics, competing in the 3m springboard at London 2012.

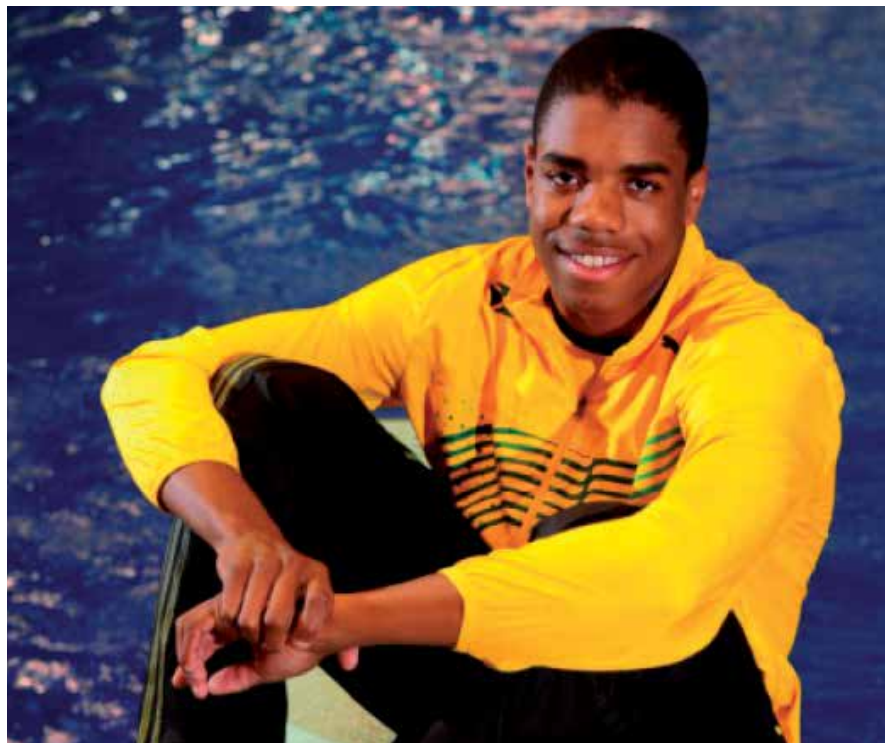
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## Yona creates history at Commonwealth Games

Yona Knight-Wisdom (GSAL11) created his own piece of Commonwealth Games history when he became the first Jamaican diver.

The 19-year-old, who chose to represent the country of his father's birth, was a great favourite with the crowds at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh where he finished just outside the medals in both his events.

In the men's 1m diving, he finished fifth from a field which included Olympic champions, and in the 3m springboard he was sixth of 12 competitors.



Yona Knight-Wisdom.



## OGC golf day, walk and dinner

The annual OGC get-together of golf or a walk, followed by a celebration dinner, was a great success... giving friends of all ages a chance to meet and catch up.

The golf match, organised by Sally Runtton at Bradford Golf Club, was a blustery affair which made the play extremely challenging. Gail Teasdale won the trophy with an excellent score and Sally Runtton finished in second place.

Golfing star of the day was Angela Harrison, née Wilkinson, who had an albatross on the fifth hole. Angela took just two shots on a par five – something golfers dream about!

While the golf match was going on, Paddie Breeze had organised a bracing walk from Hawsworth village to Spring Woods where the bluebells and garlic were in full bloom.

The walkers then headed off below Baildon Moor to Tong Park and Dam before walking back up to the village through Hollins Hall golf course and Bradford golf course.

Paddie said: "We actually delayed some of Lynne Pearson's group of golfers on the course as we crossed it and we certainly blew some cobwebs away, both with the chatter and the brisk wind along the valley."

The day ended with dinner at the Bradford clubhouse where Sally Runtton had created table settings linked to each of the four school Houses with daffodils for David, heather for Andrew, lush green for Patrick and a red cross on a white background for George.

Next year's event will take place at Wetherby Golf Club on Friday, May 8.



The walkers take a brief rest at Tong Park. They are (L-R): Patsy Meyers, Jane (Jingle) Aldrick, Paddie Breeze, Shelagh Dixon, and Pat Addinall (née Ledger)



Chris Bamforth, (left) OGC president, presents the prizes to winner Gail Teasdale (centre) and runner-up Sally Runtton.

## Cricket match in memory of teachers Ian Briars and Roger Hill

A memorial cricket match to honour the lives and work of two former LGS teachers was a huge success...and looks like becoming a regular fixture in the OLA events calendar.

The Briars-Hill Memorial Cricket Match, held at GSAL in May, was played in honour of the huge contribution to LGS and GSAL cricket made by Ian Briars and Roger Hill,

who died within two months of each other last summer.

The event, attended by well over 100 spectators and blessed by fair weather, saw the two teams produce some exhilarating performances. Iain Sutcliffe, representing the Briars team, scored 43 with a number of well-stroked boundaries, while Toby Jacklin, representing the Hill team, scored a stylish 56.

In the end it was a close-run thing with the Briars team just ahead at the end of play.

For 40 years Roger and Ian had successive responsibility as masters in charge of cricket at Leeds Grammar School from 1968 to 2008. They also made notable contributions to the coaching of rugby, as well as being distinguished members of the maths department.

## Jack and Jeremy's marathon gets kids going



Jeremy (left) and Jack Harrison celebrate after the London Marathon.

Head boy Jack Harrison (GSAL 14) and his dad Jeremy (OL77) completed the London Marathon in April to raise money for the Get Kids Going charity.

Jack, who left school this summer and will study economics and management at Pembroke College, Cambridge, was delighted to finish in 3 hours and 58 minutes after sticking with the sub 4-hour pacer throughout the race. Jeremy trailed somewhat behind but was happy and relieved to finish!

Jack said: "Taking part in the London Marathon by the capital's landmarks and in front of the huge cheering crowds was a wonderful experience".

The challenge of running 26.2 miles was made easier in the knowledge that their efforts were being sponsored for the benefit of the Get Kids Going charity, a national charity which gives disabled children and young people the opportunity of participating in sport through the

provision of specially built sports wheelchairs. The charity inspires disabled youngsters to compete in sporting events by also providing sports grants to help with their training.

"I chose Get Kids Going as I have always loved participating in or watching sport," said Jack, "and have been fortunate - along with all the participants in the many teams that I have been involved with - to have been in good health and fully-abled. This was a sporting opportunity to help those less fortunate."

To support Jack and Jeremy's marathon challenge and to help them achieve their £2,000 target, visit [www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/jackandjezmarathon](http://www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/jackandjezmarathon)

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## Olly is Ospreys new signing

Olly Cracknell.



Olly Cracknell (GSAL12) has signed a three-year deal with Ospreys Rugby.

The highly sought-after Wales U20s flanker reported for duty with his new side in July.

He said: "This is awesome for me personally, to have the opportunity to be a part of the Ospreys is unbelievable.

"First and foremost now I have to work hard to keep developing, make a good impression on the coaches and then push myself into consideration. If I'm given the opportunity to play I'll need to make sure I take it.

"Hopefully I'll add something different to the mix and the coaches will like what they see of me but I realise there are quality players and internationals in my position so I know what the challenge in front of me is. It's an exciting opportunity."

Olly has been making a name for himself in the rugby union world for a number of years. He was part of the Leeds Carnegie Academy as a teenager and toured South

Africa with GSAL in 2012, playing five games. Following that he was invited to spend 2013 with the Border Bulldogs Academy in East London where he played for the Currie Cup outfit's U19 team.

Olly, who qualifies to play for Wales through his Welsh grandfather, was invited to North Wales to sign for RGC in Colwyn Bay last December, where he caught the eye in the Swalec Championship.

Just three months later he was called into the Welsh U20 squad for the first time as he made his international debut against Scotland in March.

## Lilias, Countess of Cromartie (1918–2013)

Lilias McLeod was the eldest of the seven children of James Walter McLeod, Professor of Bacteriology at Leeds University, and Jean Garvie.

She was educated at Leeds Girls' High School before boarding at Esdaile School in Edinburgh.

In 1936 she began her medical studies at Leeds University, one of very few female students. In 1940 she married Dick Richard, a school friend of her brother. In the first years of her marriage, Dick was on active service in WW2 and Lilias was working in London as a medical officer, running family and children's clinics in Marylebone.

After the war they moved to Coventry where she did locum work in casualty. Following the break-up of her marriage she returned to medicine full time, taking a number of locum jobs until she joined the Strathpeffer Practice in Ross-shire in 1961, covering a scattered rural area and driving an average 100 miles daily.

There she met Rorie, 4th Earl of Cromartie, and they married in 1962 enjoying 27 very happy years before he died in 1989.

She is survived by her two sons, Nigel and Roderick, by five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

## Nathan Gopichandran (1981–2014)

Nathan Gopichandran (OL99) died in a climbing accident in his beloved Lake District in May.

Mourners who packed into Rawdon Crematorium for his funeral service heard of his love of his family and of life itself, for his compassionate care for others and his insatiable competitive spirit expressed in rugby, cricket, trekking, cycling, running and swimming. He was also a keen musician.

After LGS, Nathan obtained a first in history at Manchester University followed by a postgraduate law degree at Leeds University before joining the firm of lawyers, Lupton Fawcett.

Donations were made in his memory to Mountain Rescue and the British Heart Foundation.

## Alan Senior (1932–2013)

Alan Senior was the former manager at Leeds Dental Hospital and the first lay person to be chairman of the General Dental Council.

He was educated at Scholes Primary School from where he gained a scholarship to Leeds Grammar School.

When he left LGS in 1948 he served his

National Service in the RAF at a number of stations around the country, before finishing at Yeadon, on the outskirts of Leeds.

After leaving the RAF, he went to work in the finance department at Leeds General Infirmary which was the beginning of a 40-year career in the NHS. He went on to work at Leeds Maternity Hospital before becoming manager at the city's Dental Hospital. He was also a founder member of the Northern Group of Hospitals.

Alan retired in 1990 and, in the same year, was awarded the MBE for services to dentistry.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, sons Michael and Peter, and grandchildren Ellie, Anna and William.

## Victor Zermansky (1931–2014)

Victor David Zermansky was born in Leeds and attended Leeds Grammar School and Leeds University, where he was president of the Jewish Students Association. Articled to Alderman Josh Walsh (a former Lord Mayor of Leeds) he passed the Law Society finals with distinction.

After National Service, where he was a sergeant in the RASC Legal Service, Victor opened his own practice in 1955. He was recognised as an astute commercial lawyer as well as being particularly sympathetic, which enabled him to build up a large matrimonial practice. He was an incisive and well prepared advocate and for a time served as a deputy circuit judge.

He served as President of Leeds Law Society in 1987–88 and was later awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for services to the legal profession in the Yorkshire Lawyer Awards. He had completed 60 years in practice shortly before his death.

Victor is survived by his wife Anita, daughters Susan and Karin, and seven grandchildren.

## Teaching staff

### Sarah Wilshaw (1984–2013)

Sarah Wilshaw was a popular PE teacher and scout leader for the 10th North Leeds Scouts at GSAL.

She became involved with the school's scout troop in 2005, having already had a number of years' scouting and guiding experience.

Just before her death in Wakefield Hospice at the age of 29, Sarah received two prestigious awards for her contribution to scouting.

She earned the Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct in recognition of her 'tremendous enthusiasm for scouting despite having to cope with a serious illness', plus the Chief Scout's

Commendation for Good Service, which is given in recognition of not less than five years' outstanding service to the scout movement.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, said in a personal letter of congratulation: "Your story is an inspiration to so many, and personifies all that is best about scouting. You are a shining example and your contribution and devotion to scouting is such an inspiration to me and many others. You should be rightly proud."

An award in her memory will be presented annually to the scout who has made the greatest contribution and shown the greatest commitment to the GSAL Troop. The first winner of the Sarah Wilshaw Trophy is Y11 student Tom Brew, who was presented with the award by Sarah's mum, Judy.

## Jean Bedford (1911–2014)

Retired head of Ford House, Miss Jean Bedford, has died just a month before her 103rd birthday.

Miss Bedford joined the teaching staff at Leeds Girls' High School in 1944 and was head of its junior school for 16 years before her retirement in 1972.

She was the youngest of three children and was born in Rawdon, Leeds. She moved to London around 1930 to train as a teacher and taught in a number of schools in the south before returning home to Leeds.

Her brother was a doctor in Horsforth and, for a while, she and her sister Barbara lived together in Horsforth, following the death of Barbara's husband.

Throughout her life she loved art and was a member of a fine art appreciation group for many years. She also had a keen interest in politics and was an avid reader of modern fiction, biographies and history.

Miss Bedford continued to live independently until the age of 101, however following a stroke 18 months ago she was admitted to hospital before moving into Ghyll Royd Nursing Home in Guiseley. She had a second stroke last summer and died in May this year.

OG Catherine von Knorring recalls her friendship with Miss Bedford which began after her retirement.

She said: "I did not attend Ford House but joined LGHS after prep school, so I don't know too much about her as a headmistress, but I remember the girls in my class were full of tales about a rather stern Miss Bedford!"

"She was a very vivacious lady, interested in the world around her, particularly politics; a great fan of Jeremy Paxman...she liked to see those in charge being held accountable for their decisions."



# Alumni events

Events are open to all unless otherwise stated. Some events are free but places must be booked in advance. For further information and to book tickets visit [www.gsal.org.uk/alumni](http://www.gsal.org.uk/alumni) or call Louise Marshall on 0113 229 1552

## Alumni Events at GSAL

Thursday 16 October 2014

### **Douglas Hurd: Disraeli: or, The Two Lives**

A special event hosted in partnership with Ilkley Literature Festival. Lord Douglas Hurd, Margaret Thatcher's Foreign Secretary and a leading Tory elder statesman, explores Disraeli's 'two lives'.

Sunday 9 November 2014

### **Remembrance Day Service and Parade**

The school chaplain Adrian Roberts leads this traditional service which includes performances by the school choir, the presentation of flags and colours and the laying of wreaths by the OGC, the OLA and the current GSAL head boy and girl team.

Saturday 21 February 2015

### **An evening with Strictly Coming Dancing stars Natalie Lowe and Ian Waite**

Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe formed a special partnership when Natalie joined Strictly Come Dancing in the seventh series. They will have just finished the 2014 series of Strictly when they join us on the 21 February for an unforgettable evening.

Saturday 28 February 2015

### **Leeds Grammar School 'back to school' event**

An opportunity to visit and tour both The Grammar School at Leeds at Alwoodley Gates and the former Leeds Grammar School site at Moorland Road.

Saturday 28 February 2015

### **1990's leavers reunion**

The Class of '90 are holding a special 25th Anniversary event which promises an evening of great company, reminiscing, food, drink and a disco.

## Event Booking

📞 0113 229 1552

## Alumni Events around the UK

Saturday 25 October 2014

### **OGC London Autumn Meeting: 'The Consequences of an Ageing Society'**

Venue: 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL  
Speaker: Nigel Waterson (OL 67), former MP for Eastbourne and Shadow Pensions Minister and chairman of NOW: Pensions and of The Equity Release Council.

Friday 28 November 2014

### **Leeds OLA Lunch- invitation only**

Venue: Aspire, Leeds

Saturday 29 November 2014

### **Bettys Afternoon Tea and Talk**

John Davies, school historian talks about Leeds Girls' High School and World War 1  
Venue: Imperial Room, Bettys, Harrogate

Friday 20 March 2015

### **OLA London Dinner**

Venue: East India Club, London

Saturday 21st March 2015

### **OGC London Branch Meeting: Three Generations of Music**

Maureen Smith (OG) talks about her mother, Eta Cohen and her own career as a solo violinist and Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music.  
Venue: Lady Solti's home in North London

Friday 8 May 2015

### **LGHS Old Girls' Golf, Walk and Dinner**

Venue: Wetherby Golf Club  
The OGC are holding their 2015 LGHS old girls' golf competition, walk and dinner on Friday 8 May at Wetherby Golf Club.

## World War 1 Commemoration Events

There will be a number of events held throughout the year to commemorate World War 1 please check our website [www.gsal.org.uk](http://www.gsal.org.uk) for the latest information.

## Email event updates

**We email event reminders and news to our Alumni on a regular basis. If you haven't already supplied us with your email address please do so by emailing us at [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk)**

# Support the GSAL Bursary Fund



“The most important thing that I have taken away from Leeds Girls is a strong work ethic and the ability to work well with others, which has been invaluable in my career.”

**Anna (bursary student),  
Charity Fundraiser.**



Attending the Grammar School at Leeds is a life-changing experience; 81% of our pupils gained A\* to B in their A levels this year, enabling the majority to secure places at the UK's leading universities. Attending the school has enabled our alumni to achieve success in a wide range of careers across the world.

We are able to support a number of pupils each year through the GSAL Bursary Fund - typically 1 in 4 new Year 7 pupils will receive financial support – but at least 50 talented pupils are unable to take up their offer of a place because they cannot afford the fees and we have insufficient bursary funding.

With your help we can make sure fewer children miss out.

**Please support the GSAL Bursary Fund by completing the enclosed form. If you would like further information contact The External Relations Team, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Leeds, LS17 8GS or telephone 0113 229 1552.**



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