

# Memento

The magazine for LGS, LGHS and GSAL alumni

issue 09 autumn 2021

A man with a beard, wearing a dark blue suit and a light blue shirt, stands in front of a bright blue door. The door has a large, ornate stained glass window with a circular design. The door is set within a white archway, flanked by white pillars with black lanterns. The man is smiling and has his hands in his pockets.

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Keynote address to students at Speech Day

## Futures Conference 2021

Alumni join students to talk about careers

## Will and James Ainsley

Brothers team up and return to their heritage

## Not yet 30

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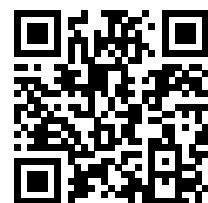
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## Fond farewells



Update your details, contact preferences or unsubscribe at [www.gsal.org.uk/alumni/update-my-details](http://www.gsal.org.uk/alumni/update-my-details) or [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk)



# Welcome to Memento

The past academic year did not shape up as any of us would have expected at the time of last year's Memento. From additional lockdowns and school closures to an array of online teaching and events, it has been a year like no other. But, as Edmund Burke tells us, the most powerful law of nature is the great law of change and schools should be places where the ability, not just to manage and cope with change but to be galvanised by it, needs to be modelled.

So as you would expect, GSAL has tried to do just that. Of course teaching was online for a larger part of last year than we might have wanted, but with the excellent technological resources at our disposal, and the dedication of our staff, the learning wasn't derailed, rather we simply moved track. However, there was much learning for all of our staff too, especially those involved in moving our usual in-person events online, and so the virtual open days, presentation evenings, parents' evenings - and everything else - began.

In addition, it was really pleasing to be able to extend the impact of our work as a result of our new foray into webinar world. One example of this was seen in the ability to invite 3,000 primary pupils from across the region to a talk by a visiting children's author - far more than we could have squeezed into our primary library in person! Similarly widespread was the impact of our GSAL Futures conference in June, with more than 30 alumni involved in speaking to our pupils, past and present, about their careers. As we continued to develop our online skills, we could not only involve one year group in school but several more, together with those youngest alumni who have recently left GSAL. This library of support is now digitally available into the future; really wonderful!

These are just two examples of our extensive outreach programme. More can be found in Beyond Our Gates, a review of GSAL's outreach work, detailing what we do and the huge impact that we have in the community.

However, some sad news comes every year when we hear of the passing of alumni, and this year we have lost four most generous and kind supporters and donors who have made remarkable contributions to the school over many years and enhanced the lives of numerous young people as a result: from bursary donations to practical help and much more besides. So in this edition we bid our own farewell to Valerie Solti, Richard Deeble, Keith Howard and Robert Tebb, with our sincere thanks for all that they have been and all that they have given to GSAL, LGHS and LGS over so many years.

A year of contrasts and I hope you will see that we have tried to follow Maya Angelou's encouragement in these unusual times, to 'live with life, to be courageous, adventurous,' in every circumstance. As ever, thank you for your ongoing support for GSAL.

**Sue Woodroffe, Principal**



# Marcus urges students to make the most of what school offers

**Marcus Mason (OL04) urged students to make the most of the opportunities and springboard provided by The Grammar School at Leeds when he addressed them at Speech Day.**

Marcus, who is deputy director of General Expenditure Policy at HM Treasury, reflected on some of his own experiences at Leeds Grammar School when he took to the platform for the annual event.

He encouraged his young audience to stay curious and pursue opportunities that fit their interests, while trying to make a difference to society. This was something, he readily admitted, that he was inspired to do during his time at school and which he has adopted into his life in general, as well as his career.

Marcus, who went on to study philosophy, politics and economics at University College, Oxford, followed by an MA in international politics at SOAS University of London, credits his history teacher, Andrew Stodolny, and French teacher, Philip Milner, of having a big impact on his life.

He said: "Mr Stodolny was a brilliant history teacher. His passion for the subject was infectious. Mr Milner also had a strong influence on me. He believed in me and I felt he was a real ally and supporter of mine at the school."

But it wasn't all study and one of Marcus's standout memories is of the 2003 school rugby tour to South Africa.

"We spent a couple of weeks getting severely beaten by far superior rugby schools," he remembers, "but the experience of travelling with team mates, staying with local families and visiting the country, was life-changing".

Marcus left school with only a vague sense of what he wanted to do with his life when, he says, he realised that he didn't have what it took to be a professional footballer! The third sector, the civil service, or international politics, had a certain appeal, and this is the route that he has taken – albeit with some unexpected turns along the way.

One of those was the opportunity to set up and lead a charity, The Creative Society, which was established in 2009 to help young people wanting to work in the creative and cultural sector. Marcus spent five years at the NGO and was its managing director.

Another was the three years that he spent working in a policy and public affairs role at the British Chambers of Commerce, where highlights included giving evidence to parliamentary committees and taking part in media engagement.

Five years ago, Marcus joined HM Treasury through an external recruitment campaign aimed at people with prior career experience and he has been in his current role, as deputy director of General Expenditure Policy, for the last two years.

He said: "My team advises Treasury ministers on capital and infrastructure spending issues. We also run the government 'spending reviews', where we determine levels of spending for Whitehall departments."

Recently his team has worked on the public spending response to COVID and delivery of the 2020 Spending Review, where around £100bn of capital spending plans were set out.

Marcus said: "It's fascinating and a privilege to be involved in addressing some of the biggest policy issues facing the country. I'm really proud of my team's work. It's a fast-paced environment, which means every day is different, and it's a real pleasure to be surrounded by smart and dedicated colleagues."



*"Mr Stodolny was a brilliant history teacher. His passion for the subject was infectious. Mr Milner also had a strong influence on me. He believed in me and I felt he was a real ally and supporter of mine at the school."*



Cover photography by Taran Wilkhu



# Futures Conference 2021

## Alumni talk careers at GSAL Futures Conference 2021

Alumni from a wide range of professions and sectors shared their expertise at a virtual careers event for students at GSAL and its partner schools in Leeds.

More than 30 alumni, all

at different stages of their careers, were on hand to offer advice and answer students' questions at the GSAL Futures Conference.

There were talks, panel discussions and workshops for

students in years 11, 12 and 13, in the biggest virtual event to be organised by GSAL, and in which alumni took the opportunity to give their time and talent back to their old school.

## Anything is possible, Alistair tells students

From the personal to the professional, Alistair Cox (OL78) shared his own highly successful career story with his vision of the world of work in a post-COVID future, when he gave the keynote address at the Futures Conference.

Alistair, chief executive of Hays plc, one of the largest recruitment companies in the world, gave an insight into emerging trends to prepare students for life in 2025 and beyond.

And his first piece of advice was: "Anything is possible if you put your mind to it. I'm a real life example of this."

He said: "What you choose to study at university and what you do as your first job, are not necessarily what you will do for the rest of your lives. Instead look at it as the first step on a long journey and one that will be impossible to predict."

Alistair studied aeronautical engineering at Salford University. He began his career at British Aerospace, moving to Schlumberger in 1982 where he held roles in field engineering, management and research science, based in Europe and the USA. After studying for an MBA at Stanford University in 1991, he worked for McKinsey & Company before joining Blue Circle Industries plc, initially as group strategy director and latterly as regional director for Asia, based in Kuala Lumpur. Returning to the UK in



Alistair Cox

2002, he was appointed chief executive at Xansa plc, the IT outsourcing organisation, before joining Hays in 2007.

With the world of work changing dramatically, he advised students to be adaptable and never to stop learning.

He said: "While COVID has brought a lot of changes to our world, many of these changes were already on the way. COVID has simply accelerated them."

"Entire industries are being uprooted. Amazon and others are challenging traditional retail; Netflix and video

gaming are changing how we view entertainment; and robotics are changing manufacturing and are now starting to change how office-based jobs are getting done.

"I have seen stats which tell us that many of the skills required by almost half the professional jobs today will have disappeared in the next five years. If you think that you have the skills required to be a lawyer, a technologist, an engineer or a doctor, then in five years you will have to update your skills to new ones that, maybe today, haven't even been thought about yet."

Alistair talked of the emergence of new industries and forecast that the technology sector, life sciences and climate change challenges will bring about opportunities. He said that, to deal with climate change, it was estimated that around 20 million jobs would have to be invented, then created, to deal with everything from renewable energy to retro-fitting old buildings to make them more efficient.

Creative arts, including theatre, screen, fashion and music, are one of the biggest sectors of the UK economy, he said, and they will also evolve in ways not yet imagined, with new business models creating thousands of opportunities every year.

## Futures Conference Profiles:



David Palmer-Jones (OL81)

David has combined a passion for the environment with a business career. He says that the environment has no boundaries and has worked in the UK, France, Sweden and Malaysia in roles as varied as operations, development and general management. He has worked for SUEZ plc since 1989 and currently sits on the management board in Paris where he is the group's senior vice-president for northern Europe, responsible for 11 countries, a turnover of £3.5 billion and 22,000 employees, all delivering water and waste services to the public and private sectors.

He studied economics, business administration and management at Cardiff University.

David took part in a panel discussion on sustainability with Becky Hemingway (OG08), from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts; and Jonathan Straight (OL83) a creative entrepreneur and a trustee with WasteAid.



Lucy Frazer MP (OG90)

Lucy was elected MP for South East Cambridgeshire in 2015. She is currently Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and has been Minister of State for Prisons and Probation and the Solicitor General. As well as holding various positions in the Ministry of Justice in the past, she has also served on the Education Select Committee.

Prior to becoming an MP, Lucy practised as a barrister and was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 2013.

On leaving LGHS, she says that she had a desire to change the world and, before studying law at the University of Cambridge, she undertook internships with the United Nations and the European Commission. She was also an intern with the Ministry of Justice in Israel.

Lucy took part in a panel discussion on government and politics with Adam Memon (GSAL10), special adviser to the government health secretary, Sajid Javid; and Will Kennaway (GSAL12) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Graham Lee (OL83)

Graeme is the founder and group CEO of Springfield Healthcare and has built a reputation for offering the full range of care for the elderly in the heart of the community. He grew up in a care home run by his parents, developing an empathy for elderly people and their needs from an early age. Having been a senior manager with M&S, Graeme took over his parents' home following the sudden death of his mother in 1994, modernising and bringing residents' needs to the centre of all the decisions.

Graeme launched his domiciliary business, Springfield Homecare in 1998. Springfield now has five care homes and over 800 carers across Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East delivering care in people's homes.

He shared his insight with students.



Rochelle Powell (GSAL11)

Rochelle is a pupil barrister at Temple Garden Chambers in London, where she is currently working on personal injury, clinical negligence and public law, which involves immigration and human rights.

She studied history at Nottingham University before completing a graduate diploma in law at BPP Law School. Prior to her pupillage, she worked as a paralegal with Lyons Davidson Ltd and as a paralegal

with the Infected Blood Inquiry, which was established to examine the circumstances in which people were given infected blood, or blood products, particularly since the 1970s.

Rochelle took part in a panel discussion on law alongside Judge Simon Batiste (OL91); Itohan Odukunle, director of Leeds Law Society; and Gemma Jones (OG98), head of UK compliance at Schroders Cazenove.



# Alumni go digital to keep in touch...

Alumni living all over the world have embraced technology to keep in touch with old school friends during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And as 2021 saw so many of us in lockdown, online gatherings proved a vital way of keeping in touch.

From official events organised by the GSAL alumni team to informal get-togethers on Zoom, the school's old boys and girls continued to find ways of meeting up ...albeit virtually.

Across the pond, alumni now living in the USA and Canada took part in an event hosted by Peter Jolly, which included a lively panel discussion on the immediate future after the

pandemic, plus a chance for some virtual networking.

Peter was also on hand as a strict but fair quizmaster when the alumni pub quiz moved online. Despite not being in the convivial atmosphere of a pub, more than 90 people in 23 teams battled it out fiercely and with as much spirited enthusiasm as ever. Quizzers ranged from leavers in 1967 to 2018 and joined in from as far afield as California and as close as Wigton Lane



The online pub quizzers

The Old Girls' Club (OGC) were unable to hold either of their two London meetings in 2020 due to the pandemic, so they were delighted to host more than 50 members on Zoom when GSAL Principal Sue Woodroffe was guest speaker. In a talk titled 2020 – a truly extraordinary year for our school, she provided an insight into how the school community rose to the challenges of the pandemic as well as successfully completing a move for Rose Court from Headingley to Alwoodley.

## JOIN GSAL Connect and expand your horizons



Come and join us at GSAL Connect, an exclusive networking and mentoring platform for alumni, offering members the chance to reconnect and gain access to a whole range of exciting opportunities.

### Benefits include:

- **GET AHEAD** - advance your career through exclusive connections, build your team, advertise or find new job opportunities
- **EXPAND** - leverage your professional network.
- **GIVE BACK** - introduce, mentor or recruit GSAL graduating students
- **SHARE** - use your knowledge and experience to help others progress in your sector

The newly-launched digital community enables alumni to gain access to careers advice and mentoring, share professional expertise, post recruitment opportunities and join discussion groups, as well as maintain social contact.

- **STAY INFORMED** - register for and access upcoming alumni events and stay in touch
- **RECONNECT** - find and reminisce with class mates and catch up on each other's careers

**So, whether you want to fast track your future or offer a helping hand to others in your sector, it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up, start a conversation and get networking.**

JOIN NOW at [www.gsalconnect.org.uk](http://www.gsalconnect.org.uk)

- you can sign up in less than two minutes by importing your LinkedIn or Facebook profile.

# Brothers team up and return to their heritage

The experience of growing up in the family baking business has inspired the Ainsley brothers to work together in food production.

**This year Will Ainsley (OL01) has left the fashion industry after 16 years to join brother James (OL96) who works for a food company in Norway.**

James, who has spent his whole career in the food industry, has been living in Oslo for the last 10 years where he is the chief operating officer for Danora AS, a bakery and confectionery company.

Will has now taken up a post as head of product at Danora, responsible for sourcing and creating new food products for the Scandinavian and UK markets from a global supply base.

Growing up around the family business, Ainsley of Leeds, James always knew that was the path he would take and, after completing a degree in business studies at Northumbria University, he joined the undergraduate training food division at M&S in London. From there he was part of the fast-track management scheme at Waitrose, JLP Partnership for four years before returning to Leeds as general manager of Ainsleys for the next five years.

A new job and a different lifestyle beckoned when James moved to Oslo and Danora where he oversees

the sales and operations of the business, including marketing, selling and delivering the product range to Scandinavia, the UK and other European countries.

He describes working in food manufacture and retail as 'a passion which stays with me regardless of which country I have ended up in'.

Will, on the other hand, took a different route after school, completing a BSc in design management for fashion retailing at UMIST (now merged with Manchester University).

He said: "As big brother was going down the food and family business route, I decided I should do a different industry! However, what I have learnt within fashion has been invaluable training, as the skills required to develop and retail a product are the same and easily transferable."

Will's fashion industry CV reads like a wander down a UK high street. He spent his first seven years after university in fashion buying for well-known names like Principles and Oasis, followed by seven years on the supply and manufacturing side, supplying major retailers like Arcadia, ASOS, M&S, River Island, Urban Outfitters to name a few.

After fourteen years in London, he wanted to be nearer family and nature, and decided to move to Oslo, where he has worked for the large fashion retail group, Varner, for the last two years. He said: "My ambitions have changed over the years as my priorities and values have changed. For example, moving into food was partly driven from my increasing concern over the environmental impact of high street fashion."

Plus, growing up in the family food business inspired, not only an interest in food and retail from a young age, but a love of cooking and baking too.

Never having worked together before, James and Will agree that open and clear communication, plus the setting of work and home life boundaries, are important. The Norwegian lifestyle and their shared love of the outdoors is a bonus.

James said: "We certainly have a slower and more balanced pace of life than in London, with easy access to the wonderful nature that Norway has to offer. We both love downhill and cross-country skiing, which makes the -20c winters more fun."



James (left) and Will at work



# Belated (and heartfelt) goodbye and good luck

GSAL's newest alumni were treated to a belated celebration weekend to mark the start of their journey to life after school.

Saturday evening saw the 2021 leavers' ball held in a marquee in the grounds of the school, while an afternoon tea was held on Sunday for former students from 2020.

Here is a selection of photos from a memorable weekend.

## Leavers' Afternoon Tea 2020



## Leavers' Ball 2021





# SUCCESS

## and not yet 30...

In this edition of Memento, we look at the careers of four young alumni who have achieved great success while still only in their 20s.

We asked them whether they set out with a clear career path in mind, what motivated them to succeed and how they landed their dream jobs.

## Adam's driving force is to make a difference

**While still at school Adam Memon (GSAL10) knew that he wanted to make a difference - and he was convinced he could do it through economics.**

Instead of the traditional route after university of heading to London and working in the City however, Adam entered the world of government and public policy; a job that has lead, 11 years later, to his current role as a special adviser to the health secretary, Sajid Javid.

He joined the health secretary's team in July to provide political and policy advice to help deliver the government's objectives for health and social care. And this is his second stint working with Sajid Javid, having previously acted as one of his special advisers when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2019 and 2020.

On graduating from University College London, Adam found himself drawn to government and public policy. Prior to his current post, his previous roles have included director of research for The Conservative Party; UK economic adviser to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice; economic adviser to the Secretary of State, DEFRA; and head



Adam Memon

of economic research at the Centre for Policy Studies.

Between working with Sajid Javid at the Treasury and his current role, Adam moved to the Competition and Markets Authority as director of economic policy before helping to set up the Digital Markets Unit. His role there was to help define the UK's approach to the regulation of Big Tech, the name given to the five

largest companies in the information technology industry, namely Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft.

"Ultimately," he said, "I've been able to do rather a lot more than I would have thought possible when I left school, and often in fascinating and completely unexpected ways. However, there's a lot more to do!"

In a career marked by many high points so far, what really stands out for Adam?

"Helping to write the 2019 Conservative manifesto, and developing a number of the economic policies in that document which the government has introduced, has certainly got to be up there."

Adam admits to being incredibly lucky to have been taught by Derek Fry, who told him that 'above all, you have a duty to be a force for good in the lives of others'.

"His injunction to do good has stayed with me and is, I believe, the essence of public service. The ability to make real change to help improve things after a period in which the country has gone through such an immensely difficult time, is what drives me the most."

## Model maker Becky lands dream job on Chicken Run 2

**For years model maker Becky Weston (GSAL10) dreamt of working for Aardman Animations, creators of some of the world's best-loved characters like Wallace and Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, and Morph.**

And this year she fulfilled that ambition when she landed a job on the forthcoming production of Chicken Run 2, the long-awaited sequel to the company's 2000 hit film Chicken Run.

With a creative career in mind, Becky completed a foundation diploma in art and design at Leeds College of Art, studied filmmaking (BA) at Kingston University and, a few years later, undertook a postgraduate diploma in model making for animation at the National Film and Television School (NFTS).

She said: "Once I discovered that model making for animation could be a career, my ultimate ambition was to work at Aardman. It felt like an unreachable goal for a long time, but I managed to get there with lots of hard work as well as a lot of help and support from family and friends."

"There is no one route to get to this job and mine definitely wasn't a straightforward one."



Becky Weston

She worked as a freelance model maker in London for a few years after university, learning on the job from other model makers and volunteering on student productions at the NFTS to gain experience.

At one point she was making wax sculptures for an interior design company, which felt very far from what she actually wanted to do.

The turning point however, was the model making for animation course at the NFTS, where she not only learned the practical skills needed but also had access to industry connections for the first time.

Following work on a Marvel film, a cereal advert and a theatre production, she eventually found animation opportunities.

Becky said: "I love that I get paid to create. Some days I'll be painting a leaf or carving potatoes from foam and it will hit me how mad and unreal and wonderful it is that this is my job."

"I love being around lots of creative minds and the fact that I'm always learning new skills and techniques. I love that I now work in stop motion animation, which still feels utterly magical to me - that animators take pictures as they gradually move a puppet and suddenly it's alive and has a personality."

And where does she see herself in five years' time?

"Still working in stop motion animation in some capacity. Failing that, just to be creating and hopefully getting paid. I'd also like to own my own chickens ...real ones!"

## Ben aims to improve access to healthcare with AI startup

**When Ben Deldar (GSAL11) was contemplating his future, he could not decide between a career in business or medicine. Now the young doctor is combining the two - working in a London hospital while setting up an AI business which aims to tackle non-attendance at medical appointments.**



Ben Deldar

Ben, who has worked as a doctor in the UK and America since 2017, co-founded the information technology business, Deep Medical, last year and is now trialling his product in three large NHS trusts.

Two hospital-based trials are running at Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals and North Midlands NHS Trust, with a community-based project at Surrey Heartlands.



He said: "I want to be involved in both tech and medicine. I feel strongly that the advances I grew up with, like the internet, mobile phones, and PCs, need to trickle through into the medical sphere.

"When I worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, I realised that a lot of people were terrified of Artificial Intelligence (AI). I decided to embrace those fears and started learning about AI and the different applications for healthcare."

Ben and a small team have developed a programme to tackle the problem of people not turning up for appointments and their initial work has been published in the

leading science journal, Nature.

With one in 12 people not showing for routine appointments and the same number missing scheduled surgery, Ben believes that Deep Medical can predict non-attendance and deal with it efficiently.

He said: "As part of our research, we are working with a team of psychologists to understand better why people don't turn up. Because of COVID-19, we have a backlog of so many patients waiting for appointments, so we need to ensure that doctors see everyone they can."

Ben, who joined GSAL for the sixth form from Wetherby High School, studied medicine at St George's

University of London, before completing a masters in imaging science at King's College London.

Following work in American hospitals, he returned to the UK and spent a year at Calderdale Hospital in West Yorkshire before moving to St Thomas's in London as a registrar. After stints working in gastroenterology and the intensive treatment unit during the first lockdown, he is currently working as a registrar in geriatrics.

Ben said: "I'm not sure what I want to specialise in as a doctor, but I know that I want to use my knowledge to effect change and make an impact."

## Julia Belle strips politics bare for listeners

**Julia Dickson, (GSAL10), who works under the name Julia Belle, says she is on a mission to make politics understandable and interesting for people who are sick of politics.**

And her latest series of podcasts, Bare Naked Politics, has not only won her a lot of fans as she explains the issues of the day, but has also been nominated for a British Podcast Award.

The idea for the series followed a conversation with an old school friend who told her she was embarrassed anytime people discussed politics around her as she felt unable to keep up.

Julia said: "Even watching the news didn't help because they assumed she knew a lot of the jargon and customs already. It occurred to me that plenty of capable people still didn't feel invited to talk about politics. So, I started a podcast which breaks it all down in a digestible way."

It was while studying politics at Warwick University, which included a year at the prestigious Science Po, in Bordeaux, France, that Julia was introduced to the world of broadcasting through a student radio show. However, with no direct route into the job that she does now, she worked without pay, made her

own videos and indulged in some blogging to get a foot in the door.

She started on a local TV station in Manchester for free, while paying the bills as a tour guide around the BBC studios in Salford. From there she worked within the iPlayer team and then the BBC events team where she helped to plan a women's networking event, which she turned to her advantage.

Julia said: "I arranged a meeting with Laura Kuenssberg, the BBC's political editor, and showed her the videos I had made in my own time. She passed them onto a producer who saw potential!"

From there Julia presented for BBC Sounds, BBC News, and BBC Radio 5 Live, alongside hosting her podcast, doing some acting, including for a satire show on Channel 4, and voice-over work.

She hosted a BBC News show This Matters in the run up to the 2019 election and currently appears on BBC 5 Live every weekend, talking to the host, Stephen Nolan, about the headlines in the next day's papers and debating with listeners who phone in. The goal is to have her own show one day.

Julia said: "I love having interesting conversations. So doing it on air is a wonderful way to turn that into a job!"



Julia Belle

Not to mention, when people tell me 'hey, I voted because I finally understand what's going on thanks to your podcast'... that's a pretty indescribable feeling."

## Angela reflects on a life in Silicon Valley



**Angela Hey (OG71) has been at the forefront of web development in the USA since the heady days of Silicon Valley start-ups and has seen the computer industry grow and evolve.**

**A 10-week summer job with IBM in America, while she was a student at Girton College, Cambridge, inspired her ambition. Now a consultant in web development, corporate strategy and technology marketing, Angela looks back at some of the highlights of a 40-year career, starting with a job at Bell Laboratories, the research arm of American telephone company AT&T.**

Bell Labs wanted one language to connect the 400 systems that ran telephone companies. It gave me two great years of flying all over the US learning how telephony worked. In 1984, the AT&T monopoly was split apart and I was examining potential ventures for the company. I wrote a memo saying that if AT&T was serious about the software industry, they should be in Silicon Valley. The next day, my boss bought me an airline ticket for a one-day return trip to California to explore opportunities and AT&T moved me there to set up a software venture with a smaller company.

A year later I realised I could earn more in a start-up and joined a company that was starting to make a document scanner. All was well until my boss, the marketing vice president, was fired. The next marketing VP spent his first afternoon on the job telling me why good marketing people get fired. After a year, a consultant was hired to figure

out how to fire me and we reached a settlement.

With a new MacPlus, in my one-bedroom flat, and \$12 left in the bank, I mailed ten fliers saying I was a 'marketing consultant in document imaging systems'. Three companies interviewed me and one gave me a \$25,000 project to look at documents submitted to the FDA for pharmaceutical approval.

Before long I'd earned enough to buy a house, rent an office, employ a secretary and hire subcontractors. I had three types of clients, venture capitalists, start-up companies and major corporations. I focused on business planning, market analysis and document imaging.

In 1991, I married and needed a job with structure. A friend asked if I would like to work for General Magic, a start-up making handheld devices. The General Magic vision was to enable people to communicate anytime, anywhere with rich applications. Even though General Magic didn't make it, the general manager of the iPhone, founder of Android and Obama's chief technology officer, all worked there.

There are things I want to do in life, and many I can only do when I am younger, so I decided to be a consultant so that I could take time off to travel with my husband. I can always work behind a desk when I'm old!

I've kept up with technology by volunteering, including building websites and developing strategies for non-profits, playing the piano in long term care communities and serving on town committees.

For this article, I was asked what it was like when there were so few women in tech. Going to a school for girls, being the eldest of four girls and attending a woman's college, gender has never been very important to me. What is more important is that you have the confidence, competence and connections to compete for jobs and deliver what's needed.

My generation saw the computer industry grow and evolve. Now it's the turn of the biotech industry. My advice if you are starting out: find a large tribe to join for your first job; choose a boss who wants you to advance; and learn how to promote yourself.



Angela after completing a 12k charity run alongside the Pacific Ocean this year



# Headingley site set to become West Oaks School

Work is underway at the former Rose Court buildings, previously known as Ford House, in Buckingham Road to turn them into a specialist free school for 120 children.

The redevelopment will provide a third site for West Oaks School, a special needs school for children aged between two and 19, which already has provision at Boston Spa and Woodhouse in Leeds.

Work on the new campus, which will be known as Headingley Learning,

will retain many of the Grade II listed features of the buildings while providing therapeutic and training facilities to complement the class spaces, outside play areas, grassed sports pitch, and interactive, activity and exhibition zones.

This latest project is expected to take two years and, when complete, will house pupils aged between 5 and 16. The expansion will create one of the largest special schools in Europe with 500 pupils and 250 staff across the three West Oaks sites.



The building when it was Rose Court

# Who's that girl?

This charming photo from the Rose Court archives, which appeared in the last edition of Memento, has proved extremely popular with readers.

The little girl, who couldn't resist popping her head up to have a quick look at the photographer as he captured a class hard at work, made us all smile.

But who is she? All attempts to find out have failed so far. Do you recognise her? Was she one of your classmates? Could she be you?

If you think you know, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk) or contact the alumni team on 0113 229 1552.



# It's all change at Elinor Lupton Centre

Former pupils of Leeds Girls' High School have fond memories of the Elinor Lupton Centre, the distinctive Grade-2 listed building on Headingley Lane, which was home to school concerts, plays, recitals, choir practice and music lessons.

Now, after lying empty for 11 years, the building has taken on a new life as the Golden Beam pub, following a £4.1 million redevelopment by JD Wetherspoon.

The move to turn the iconic building into a pub was controversial with local residents, however planning permission was granted on appeal in 2019.

Any 'old girls' visiting the 500-capacity venue will notice that many original features and fittings survive, including the entrance foyer, two staircases and a glazed lantern in the auditorium roof.

# Calling all OGs & OLs...

Do you have any memorabilia from your days at Leeds Girls' High School or Leeds Grammar School?

The school archivists at GSAL are keen to build up the collection of mementoes and artefacts from both schools and, in particular, the girls' school. If you have items that relate directly to your time at school, like class photos, end of year reports, exercise books, school colours, awards or trophies, and you are happy to donate them, please contact [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk) to discuss.



Head of GSAL Primary, Gabrielle Solti, is pictured with memorabilia which she has donated to the school in memory of her mother, Lady Solti. (see Fond farewells, page 25)

# Street paintings on show in memory of Dominic

Painting on the Street, an exhibition of works by Dominic King (OL92), has been on show at the Leeds Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART) in Headingley, for six weeks over the summer, in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

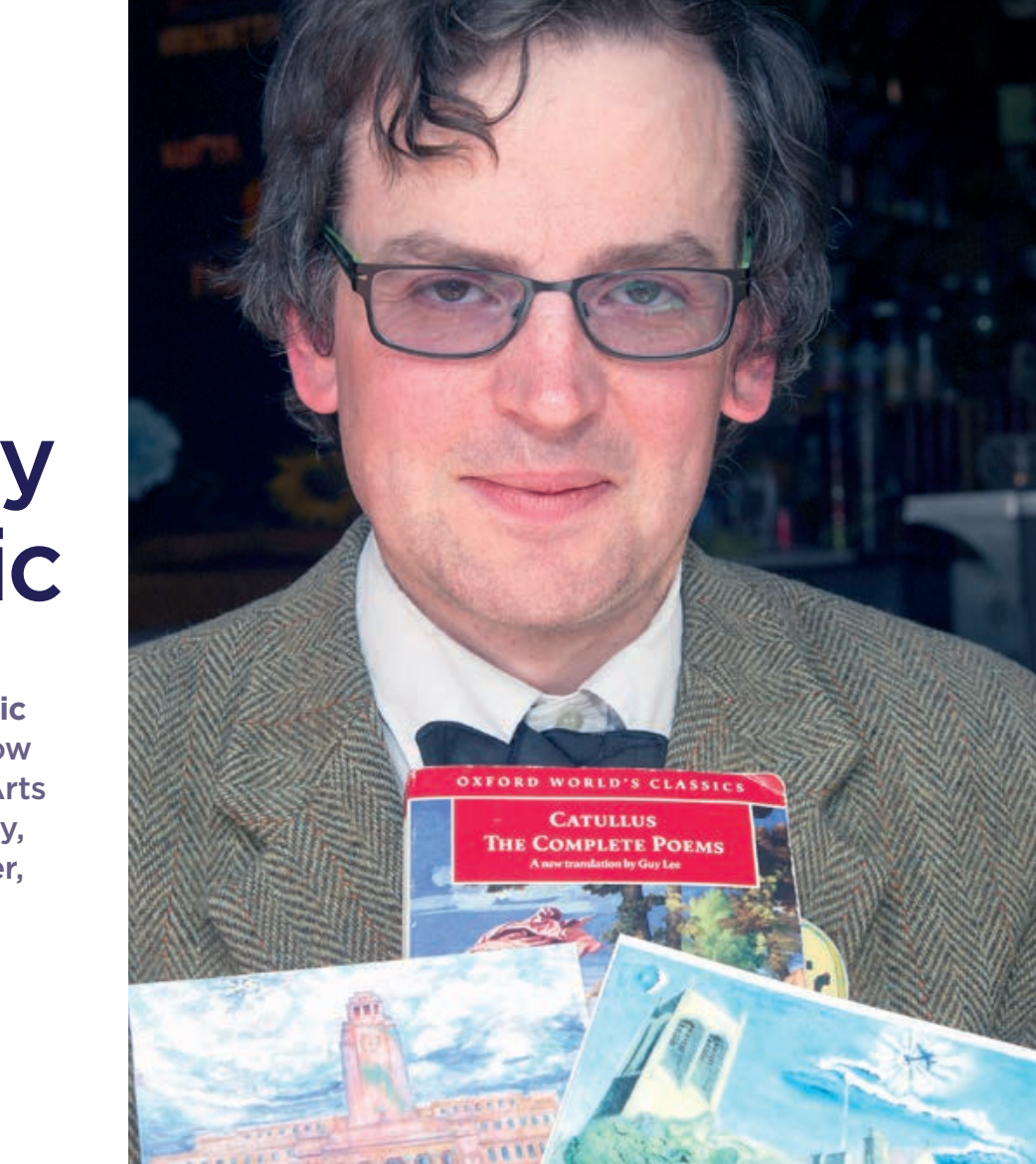
Dominic, who died of the disease in 2019, aged 46, had spent over a decade painting mostly watercolours of street scenes in Leeds, becoming a familiar figure, particularly around Headingley, where he was often photographed at his easel.

The exhibition was accompanied by a catalogue which included maps of where the pictures were painted from, and accounts of Dominic's experience painting them.

Dominic started painting street scenes of Leeds around 2004. Between 2006 and 2011 he was diagnosed with ME and then MS but, despite his progressively impaired co-ordination, he went on painting until he was too weak to continue. In 2018 he was diagnosed also with motor neurone disease.

As people got to know Dominic's pictures, friends kept urging him to hold an exhibition, but he died before it was possible. His family took up the idea of having one in his memory later, and the Heart Centre agreed. In all, 36 of his 50 pictures were included, skilfully hung in chronological order, to show the development of his style. Having them displayed together brought them to life, with their amazing colour, and made it easier to understand his idiosyncratic use of perspective than if seeing them individually.

Felicity King, Dominic's mother, said: "The exhibition proved very popular, visited frequently by people who did and didn't know him.



Dominic in a Headingley café (Photo by: Ivor Hughes)



The front cover of the exhibition catalogue shows Dominic King (Painted by Dominic King)

"The catalogue was bought and enjoyed by many, praised both for its design and the insight it provides into his life and work.

"Dominic's family are deeply grateful that he has been commemorated and his work so well appreciated in this wonderful way."



Dominic painting near St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds city centre (Photo by: Ivor Hughes)

To find out more about the paintings, or to purchase a catalogue in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, contact Felicity on [felicitysavage13@gmail.com](mailto:felicitysavage13@gmail.com)



# News

## Authors bring out new books

Four alumni have published novels this year - three former LGHS students and one from LGS.

Emily Kerr (OG04) has brought out her second novel, *Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang* (OG84) has published her third, *Jane Bower* (OG73) has seen her first children's story in print, and *Peter Armitage* (OL64) has released his first novel, based on the life of his great-uncle.

Emily, who is a content editor for ITV Calendar News, and writes fiction in her spare time, is celebrating the publication of *Duvet Day*. The romantic comedy follows a day in the life of a stressed-out lawyer as her decision to stay home from work backfires on her with spectacular consequences.

*Rhiannon* has followed up her two previous historical novels with *The Dream That Held Us*, a work of contemporary fiction set in the 1980s. The story is based on her own generation and the forces that shaped their lives. *Rhiannon*, who has travelled, lived, studied and

worked all over the world, has set her novel in Oxford, the Yorkshire Dales, Dubai and India.

Jane, who was a primary teacher, wrote her children's novel in the 1980s and tucked it away in a drawer until a combination of lockdown and retirement in 2020 made her re-read it. The book, *Thread and Thrum*, suitable for children from age seven, had been illustrated by her father Len, a trained book illustrator and art teacher. Jane was able to give her father a copy of the published book just weeks before his death in January at the age of 100.

Peter's book *Don't Go Gordon*, is described as a madcap adventure and traces the escapades of Gordon, who left England for China at the age of 20, arriving in Shanxi where the Boxers were relentlessly persecuting foreigners. Following a lucky escape, he walked in to danger again when he travelled to Russia in 1917 and faced more mayhem.



Emily Kerr with her latest novel

## James Brining recognised for theatre work during pandemic



Artistic director of Leeds Playhouse James Brining (OL86) has been named in The Stage 100 list 2021 for his work to keep theatre alive during the pandemic.

James and Leeds Playhouse executive director, Robin Hawkes, have been recognised for their work in the community during a year in which theatres across the country struggled to survive after being forced to close.

The Stage list is published each year and is dedicated to the 100 most influential people working in the industry. This year's list has been curated to honour the inspiring work of theatre makers during the COVID-19 crisis.

James joined Leeds Playhouse in 2012 (then the West Yorkshire Playhouse) from Dundee Rep and has seen the theatre through a major multi-million pound redevelopment which was completed in 2019.

His commitment to community, as much as to staging quality shows, has seen the theatre become the first in the world to develop performances aimed at people living with dementia; work with refugees and asylum seekers; the setting up of an artistic development programme for independent artists; and taking performances out of the theatre and into venues around the city.



## Naomi Dickson on BBC's 100 Women list

The chief executive of Jewish Women's Aid, Naomi Dickson (OG93), is among the BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world.

Naomi features on the list for supporting Jewish women and children who have experienced domestic abuse and for her work to educate the Jewish community to recognise, expose and prevent repetition.

She has dedicated her professional life to the work and said that she enjoyed working with women of all faiths and none, educating communities to create a world where no forms of violence against women and girls are tolerated.

The BBC has described the latest 100 Women list as highlighting those who are 'leading change and making a difference during these turbulent times.'

## Judith takes her seat in the House of Lords

Judith Blake née Parsons, (OG71), has stepped down as the first female leader of Leeds City Council to take up her seat in the House of Lords.

The newly-ennobled Baroness Blake of Leeds has joined the red benches after many years as a Labour councillor in Leeds.

On leaving Leeds Girls' High School, Judith studied at the University of Kent before becoming a teacher

and spending a number of years travelling, before settling in Birmingham. She returned to Leeds in the 1980s where she became involved in local politics in the 1990s.

Judith was elected as a city councillor in 1996, taking over as deputy leader of the Leeds Labour group in 2003. Following a six-year stint out of Leeds Council control, the party was returned to power in 2010. When the then-leader Keith Wakefield stepped down in 2015, Judith took over.

## Richard's role as High Sheriff in a year like no other

When Richard Cole (OL75) took over as High Sheriff of Rutland for 2020-21, events surrounding the pandemic conspired to make his time in office very different from the one originally planned.

In a normal year Richard would expect to support the police, emergency, probation and prison services, plus voluntary sector organisations, especially those involved in crime reduction and social cohesion.

Instead, he said, it turned into a great opportunity to shine a light on so many more community volunteers who rose to the challenge of COVID-19 by helping friends, neighbours and others less fortunate than themselves in getting through the crisis. Letters of thanks were written, good works were highlighted on Instagram and Twitter and YouTube videos spread the message of thanks far wider.

Richard, who completed a business degree on leaving LGS, moved to Rutland more than 30 years ago while working for a Swiss multi-national.

This year he took advantage of living in the smallest county in England by walking the county boundary in a week, raising funds for Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation.

Reflecting on his time in office, Richard said: "It is not about being High Sheriff but doing High Sheriff; 2020-21 proved an opportunity to do just that. Although COVID was tough for many, it was a privilege to be able to meet and thank people who had done so much for their communities. In such difficult times people showed themselves at their very best."



Richard Cole during his year as High Sheriff of Rutland



# School celebrates 100 years of scouting

A weekend of celebrations were held at Alwoodley Gates to mark the centenary of scouting at LGS and GSAL.



Reminiscing are (L-R): Mike Buswell, John Sleightholme and Anthony Lee



Group Scout Leader Alan Naylor (right) with Y13 GSAL student Josh Osborne, who is the current Unit Chair

More than 50 alumni, including one from 1959, joined around 250 former and current Scouts, as well as parents and scout leaders for two days of fun and games and the chance to camp overnight at GSAL's Scout campsite.

Helping to organise the event alongside GSAL Scout Leader, John Bagshaw was Alan Naylor, Group Scout Leader, who has been, and still is, involved in scouting at the school since he was a pupil in 1964.

John said: "This was an excellent event that showcased the impact that scouting has on young people and how the scout community see themselves as a scouting family for ever.

"We were fortunate to have great weather, a fabulous location as well as great food. The event was testament to all of the people directly or indirectly involved in maintaining our wonderful group from Beavers all the way to Explorers.

During the weekend Raiden Naylor was awarded the Centenary Tent Peg award for the most helpful Scout on camp. Queen's Scout Awards were presented to 2020 school leavers: Ben Carlin, Jack Grogan, Patrick Haywood, James Johnston, Simon Littler, George Stubbs, Daniel Turner, Paddy Tonge, and Zara Hossain-Ibrahim (received by her brother Ashaz on her behalf). Not present, but also achieving the Queen's Scout Award, were: Tom Core, Henry Dodman, Dan Houlton, Sam Knowles, Olivia Manku, Catherine Nicholas, Theo Sweeting, and Andrew Tate.

A number of leader awards included: the Bar to the Silver Acorn presented to Assistant Group Scout Leader Sandra Bavill; the Bar to the Award for Merit to Roger Illingworth; and the Long Service Award to Ann McKenna for 50 years of Adult Service to Scouting.



Jonathan Thompson, Andrew Foster, Chris Mack and Jeremy Greenwood with their Raydale peg

*"This was an excellent event that showcased the impact that scouting has on young people and how the scout community see themselves as a scouting family for ever."*



What a weekend ... Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, leaders and alumni all gathered for the centenary celebrations



Pictured after the flag break are front (L-R): Ben Brierley and Fred Kamstra; back (L-R): Denis Roberts, Jonathan Huitson, Alex Davidson and Jonathan Clarkson

Below: Queen's Scout Award recipients: (L-R): Ashaz Hossain-Ibrahim (collecting for his sister Zara), Daniel Turner, Jack Grogan, Patrick Haywood, GSL Alan Naylor, Simon Littler, Ben Carlin, James Johnston, Paddy Tonge, George Stubbs, and County Commissioner Carol Milburn





A lot has happened since the last edition of Memento when we featured stories on the amazing work being done by alumni during the early days of the pandemic and the first lockdown. Now, a year later we look at the experiences of one OG who has played a crucial part in ensuring supplies of medicines to treat COVID-19 patients.

# Charlotte plays vital role in supply of medicines during pandemic

When Charlotte Ansell, née Goldman (OG98) returned from maternity leave to NHS England and NHS Improvement in January 2020, she was working on how NHS providers can work together more closely to better meet the needs of patients.

But, within just three months of returning to the body that runs the NHS in England, the country was in the grip of COVID-19 and Charlotte was seconded to a new role. She was tasked with helping manage the programme to ensure patients with COVID-19 could get medicines they needed, which turned into a job heading up the medicines supply team for the organisation's Medicines Policy Unit.

After 20 years of working in and around the NHS in local hospital, regional and national management, research, speechwriting, policy and strategy roles, alongside degrees in policy and healthcare management, Charlotte was ideally placed for this vital job: working closely with clinicians, policy leads, commercial managers and data analysts in the NHS, as well as other government and regulatory teams that were part of the overall national pandemic response.

The programme was so successful that she now heads up a new team that helps ensure continuity of supply for medicines to treat and support COVID and non-COVID patients. As acting head of Medicines Supply Chain Policy, EU Exit and COVID-19, Charlotte and her team lead policy thinking and programme management relating to the medicines supply chain, from manufacture through to the suppliers and working with colleagues who ensure medicines get to where they're needed. It also includes briefing ministers and the Secretary of State



Charlotte Ansell

and preparing for the forthcoming COVID-19 public inquiry.

She said: "The major focus to date has been on pressures we've faced to the medicines supply chain. We've been tracking the supply of all medicines proven to support and treat patients with COVID-19 and taking action to ensure we have supply where it looks like we might run out. Similarly with EU Exit, tracking where any medicines that have been made in or distributed through the EU might, say, face delays at the border coming into the UK or whose price might increase due to, for example, additional import taxes."

Charlotte also leads a programme, working with the government, to make this supply chain more resilient in future to assure patients and the NHS can always get medicines they need, e.g. by making more in the UK.

She said: "The challenges of the role have been many and varied. This was

a new role for me in a newly merged organisation, working long hours and with people I have still never met. Due to working from home, I've never seen them below shoulder level!

"But it's also been incredibly rewarding and feels so relevant. I work with amazing people who tirelessly give themselves to the NHS for the greater good. It's been fascinating working at the cornerstone of commercial, policy, strategic, clinical and operational thinking."

She describes her colleagues and frontline workers as inspiring.

"I've always been so proud of the NHS," she said, "but particularly over the last year where NHS workers – clinicians and non-clinicians – have worked heroically to make sure patients get the treatment they need, often putting themselves at risk to do so, researching treatments and getting supplies in seemingly from nowhere."

# Sport

## Diver Yona reaches second Olympic semi-final

Yona Knight-Wisdom (GSAL13) reached the semi-final of the 3-metre springboard event at this year's Olympic Games in Tokyo – narrowly missing out on a place in the final for the second time

The diver, who represents Jamaica in competition, also reached the semi-final stage at the Rio Olympics in 2016, but he has vowed to come back stronger.

After the event he said on Twitter: "Obviously super gutted to miss out on the final again, but I know there's more to come from me so I'll take the lessons and improve."



Yona Knight-Wisdom

As the first Jamaican diver to qualify for the Olympic Games, as well as the first in the Caribbean, he has vowed that he will not be the last.

"We're here to stay," he said after finishing 15th in the semi-finals with 362.95 points. He needed to finish in the last 12 to qualify for the final.

For much of last year, Yona's training regime was drastically curtailed by the pandemic and, for a few months, he was forced to work out in the confines of his apartment in Edinburgh where he concentrated on conditioning, flexibility and visualisation.

## Harris sisters set up netball training business

The three Harris sisters Lucy (GSAL14), Rosie (GSAL16) and Molly (GSAL19) are using their experience on the netball court to help other young players achieve success.

The girls, who are all still playing netball at the highest level, are co-founders of NETU, a company offering all-round training programmes incorporating strength, endurance, flexibility, stability, injury prevention, skills, nutrition and mental wellbeing.

The idea for the business came to them during the first lockdown last March when they were all either on a break from education or furloughed.

Lucy said: "The NETU idea allowed us to keep engaged in our own sport when we couldn't access training or our teammates, and also helped us to reach out to young athletes who were also feeling isolated from the sport they love."

The new business has proved popular with several hundred athletes joining their online netball fitness programme since November. They are also running training for four elite netball performance academies from Cornwall to Yorkshire and, this summer, they staged



The Harris sisters are pictured (L-R): Molly, Lucy and Rosie

three summer camps in Yorkshire, Worcester and Jersey.

All three started playing netball while pupils at Ford House or GSAL Junior School. During their Senior School years they played a central role in the success of GSAL netballing, helping the school to success in county, regional and national competitions.

They are still playing competitive netball. Lucy, who has represented Yorkshire Jets and became a two-time champion with Wasps, is currently signed to the Severn Stars; Rosie has played professional netball for four years and has recently been signed by the new Leeds Rhinos team; and Molly is the current captain of Northumbria's National Performance League U21s team.



# Fond farewells

## William Peter O’Neil (OL75) 1957–2021

Bill O’Neil’s sudden death, aged 64, was a dreadful shock to his family, friends, business associates and all who knew him.

Bill attended both Junior and Senior School at Leeds Grammar School between the ages of seven and 18. He was a loyal member of Harrison and won colours in both rugby and athletics. He wore his colours blazer with pride and was a first-rate sportsman, not least on the wing, representing the school, the county and later the Old Leos.

With a good exam record, Bill won a place at Hatfield College, University of Durham, which he enjoyed as much as school. Again, he developed his sport – Hatfield is the premier sporting college at Durham.

After leaving Durham, Bill had work and experience in teaching, accountancy, IT sales and support and print before, 20 years ago, building his own print brokerage business fulfilling specialist and complicated print needs for clients. As all who knew Bill were aware, he was a fixer and he got things done. Many now miss his help and support, his persistence and attention to detail as well as his good nature.

Bill was a devout supporter of Leeds Rhinos and Yorkshire cricket. He looked forward to the glory days of Leeds United returning.

He is survived by his wife, Liz, his two sons, Oliver and Edward, both of whom attended The Grammar School at Leeds until recently, two step-daughters and four step-grandchildren.



Bill O’Neil

## Audrey Jackson 1925-2021

Audrey Jackson, former head of Leeds Girls’ High School from 1970 until 1977, has died at the age of 95.

Audrey is remembered as highly principled and a passionate supporter of education and of her pupils making the most of their lives. During her time at LGHS, direct grant schools were abolished by the government and when LGHS became an independent school, she was firmly of the view that places should be awarded solely on performance in entrance examinations.

She was educated at Scarborough Grammar School and, following a degree in biology from Liverpool University, took up her first teaching position at Kingston upon Hull Grammar School. This was followed by Tadcaster Grammar School,

then a move to Birmingham and a deputy headship at Saltley Green Grammar School, before she became the youngest headmistress of a grammar school when she took up the post at Bartley Green School.

Following her headship of Leeds Girls’ High School, Audrey worked for Leeds Education department assisting with university funding and research projects.

She is remembered with particular affection by her first head girl, Ann Thompson (nee Beecham), and the two enjoyed a lifelong friendship, meeting for lunch until shortly before Audrey’s death in March at a care home in Burley in Wharfedale.

Ann sent the following tribute: “I think I’m quite capable of carrying my own books into assembly, don’t you, Ann? That was my introduction to Audrey Jackson on her first day as headmistress and mine as head girl, as established tradition took a tumble in just one sentence.

“She caused me to miss a number of first periods as we chatted after assembly for far too long, but she made me feel important and invested in the school where I had studied since I was seven. She thought to invite my father to Speech Day (my parents were divorced), without telling me until he had accepted this first chance to be involved in school events. She asked me what school rule I would dispense with if I could, and then ‘cancelled hats’ as a surprise gift to me – as well as to the rest of the school – on my last day at LGHS.

“She gave a hilarious supper for the three senior mistresses and three ‘senior girls’ at her flat, during which we heard a detailed account of her numerous speeding fines: it was a little disconcerting to discover that your dignified headmistress liked to live life in the fast lane – literally.

“Audrey cared for her students and the honour of the school she led and was an inspiration for me in how to be a strong, communicative and principled woman. I feel blessed to have been enriched by her charisma for so many years.”



Audrey Jackson

## David Lorimer (OL63) 1945-2020

Moving tributes were paid to David Lorimer, a former Middlesbrough Evening Gazette chief reporter and news editor, known for his encyclopaedic knowledge and close connection to The Green Howards.

Dave, as he was known, had a 31-year career at the Gazette, beginning in 1971, and subsequently moving up the ranks from a senior reporter to news editor.

He was a much-admired and respected journalist who was fondly remembered as a proud Yorkshireman while at the helm of the newspaper.

Dave had a passion for Teesside, and the closest connection he made during his long career was with The Green Howards, now part of The Yorkshire Regiment.

He regularly followed the regiment, reporting on their tours of duty and interviewing the military personnel. He visited the XIX battalion in Northern Ireland around a dozen times, and also travelled to Cyprus, Canada, Osnabruck, Berlin, Norway, Crepon, Kenya, the Falkland Islands, Poland, Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo.

For his coverage in Kosovo, he received a North East Press Award.

When his career at the Gazette came to an end in 2001, he still volunteered to visit the battalion in Afghanistan in 2004 and, again, in 2006 in Bosnia when the battalion switched cap badges. In 2015, he was awarded an honorary 50-year membership Gold Badge for his support of the regiment.

## Derek Swain 1940-2021

Derek taught chemistry at LGHS from 1998-2008 and at GSAL until his late retirement at the age of 69 in 2009. He will be fondly remembered by the students he taught and the staff who worked with him as a true gentleman and a great teacher and form tutor. He was also at the forefront of the LGHS Christmas staff pantomimes and a participant in charity events, where he was always willing to make a fool of himself in a good cause.

Born in Castleford, the son of a miner, Derek credited the 1944 Education Act for the opportunities it opened up for him when he passed the new 11+ exam and went to study at the King’s School, Pontefract, then a boys’ grammar school.

Following a chemistry degree at Birmingham University, Derek’s first job was with a chemical firm in Billingham, Teesside, where he also taught night classes at Hartlepool F.E. College as an extra source of income.

He soon moved back to Castleford to work for the chemical company Hickson and Welch, where he met his future wife Delia, a secretary at the firm. His next foray into the teaching profession came when he was appointed as chemistry teacher at The King’s School, Pontefract, alongside many staff who had taught him, which he said was both daunting and enlightening! From there, Derek took up a post at Dunrobin School, on the north east coast of Scotland, run on a similar regime

to Gordonstoun, with an emphasis on healthy outdoor living.

Derek and Delia returned to West Yorkshire prior to the birth of their son Craig. Derek taught at various schools including QEGS, Wakefield, before moving to become head of science at Howden Clough, a girls’ school in Batley. Following the birth of their daughter Rachel, he spent 10 years in insurance, giving him more free time to spend with his young family.

In 1998, he returned to teaching and was appointed to cover a maternity leave at LGHS. He was so effective and popular that the girls he taught petitioned the Head to retain him.

He was a good teacher who made his subject accessible and helped many sixth form students achieve the high grades needed for medical school. He was also hugely popular as a form tutor and had an array of ties of which he was very proud, given to him as Christmas presents by his various forms.

In retirement, he followed Castleford and Featherstone rugby league teams and acted in amateur dramatics in Pontefract. He also volunteered in local dementia care homes, playing his electronic keyboard and entertaining the residents with sing-alongs and quizzes. Sadly, he himself developed vascular dementia in his mid ’70s and died in residential care, in early September 2021. Delia pre-deceased him in 2009.



Derek Swain

## Brigadier Dick Mundell (OL56) 1938-2021

Brigadier Dick Mundell, who was Colonel of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment from 1990 to 1999, has died.

He was born and bred in Leeds and joined his local county infantry Regiment, the ‘Dukes’, where he was commissioned in 1958.

Brigadier Dick served as Company commander in the Regiment from 1971-73, including the Regiment’s first two operational tours in Northern Ireland, and commanded the 1st Battalion in Germany and Catterick 1979-82, which again included two operational tours in Northern Ireland, for which he was awarded the OBE. He was Colonel of the Regiment 1990-1999.

While in the Regiment he also played rugby briefly for Halifax in the 1960s.

Throughout his service he maintained an especially close bond with his soldiers, not least for their understated Yorkshire robustness and humour.

A funeral service was held in York Minster on 24 June 2021.

## Michael Sizeland (OL51) 1935-2020

Commander Michael Dewell Sizeland, OBE, Royal Navy, (Retd), died at his home in Chichester. He attended Leeds Grammar School, leaving at the age of 16 to join the Royal Navy where he became a submariner. During a long and distinguished career, he commanded three submarines and retired in 1989, having been Naval Attaché in Oslo, Norway, for three years.



Commander Michael Sizeland

## Lady Solti née Valerie Pitts (OG55) 1937- 2021

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Lady Solti, an esteemed ‘old girl’ of LGHS and a passionate supporter of GSAL in recent years. She hosted an annual Old Girls’ London event at her home and won GSAL’s 10th birthday Leeds Luminary award for her contribution to the arts in 2018. She is pictured receiving the award from comedian and writer Barry Cryer (OL53).

Valerie Anne Pitts was born in Leeds in 1937, the daughter of William Pitts, secretary to the city’s lord mayor, and his wife Nancy (née Lee). After LGHS she studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and, following a successful early career in rep, she became a young arts journalist on the BBC’s Town and Around magazine programme.

During the 1960s she worked for North East Roundabout, the Tyne Tees Television regional news programme, as well as a host of other television work, including as Play School presenter between 1966 and 1970.

In 1964 she met the renowned conductor Georg Solti when she was sent to interview him and they married in 1967. After the birth of two daughters, Gabrielle and Claudia, she spent more time on Sir Georg’s work, forging for herself a pivotal role as they lived between London and Chicago where Sir Georg spent 22 years as musical director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Always committed to developing and supporting new talent during his lifetime, the family set up the Solti Foundation in Sir Georg’s memory to help young musicians, and this became a particular focus for Valerie in her later years, in addition to her tireless support of a number of arts organisations, both in Britain and overseas.

In her home town, Valerie had been a friend of Robert Tebb since her school days and twice joined him as compere, to his conductor, for performances at Leeds Town Hall with the Sounding Brass and Voices Amateur Operatic Society – always to capacity audiences. A good friend of Dame Fanny Waterman, she donated a prize in her father’s name to the Leeds’ Piano Competition, just as she did to LGHS, too. She was also an early and lifelong supporter of Opera North and held a reception for them in London, in the autumn of 2019.

Valerie Solti had an instinctive warmth and exuberance for life, an infectious laugh and a natural affinity to get along with people from all backgrounds, with a genuine interest in their lives and work. At GSAL, she was a supportive and inspirational ‘old girl’, and thrilled when her daughter Gabrielle was appointed Vice-Principal and Head of GSAL Primary in 2019.

She died of pneumonia on March 31 2021, aged 83, and is survived by her two daughters and four grandchildren, two of whom attend GSAL.



Lady Solti

*Lady Solti is pictured with OL Barry Cryer when he presented her with a Leeds Luminaries award for her contribution to arts and humanities*

## Dr Stanley Sheffrin (OL43) 1924-2020

Stanley Sheffrin was born in Darley Street, just off North Street in Leeds. He was the first boy from Cowper Street School, Chapeltown, to win a scholarship to Leeds Grammar School. While at the school he played rugby for the 1st XV, was captain of gymnastics and Sergeant Major of the Officers Training Corps.

He studied medicine at Leeds University, graduating in 1950 having taken a year out to take a BSc in anatomy. He was the university’s captain of gymnastics and played rugby for both the university and Medicals 1st XVs. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a junior dermatology specialist and later, during the Korean War, was dermatologist to the British and Commonwealth Forces Japan and Korea.

Stanley was actively involved in the swimming world as medical officer to the British team and officiated at county, national and international level. He loved sport, maintaining a level of fitness that was the envy of his peers and many younger friends – still managing press ups on his fingertips well into his 80s. He was a keen golfer and member of Moor Allerton Golf from 1940 until he died.

He had a dual career in medicine; one in general practice at Whitkirk, Leeds, where he was loved and respected by patients and colleagues; and



the other in occupational medicine as a medical advisor to Elida-Gibbs, the Unilever Personal Products Division, and to several other well-known companies.

He met his wife Judith in 1954. After a whirlwind courtship they were married in September 1954 at Middlesbrough Synagogue. He is survived by Judith, their children Robert and Deirdre (Dee), four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## Dr Keith Howard OBE (OL49) 1931-2021

Keith Howard was a publisher and a philanthropist who gave generously to both the arts and cricket in Yorkshire.

He was born in Withington, Manchester, moving to Horsforth as a child. During his time at LGS he was both a leading stage performer and a talented cricketer, playing for the first XI. He had a trial for Yorkshire County Cricket Club at Headingley but was ineligible to play because of his Lancashire birth.

Keith studied mining engineering at Leeds University, working in South Africa with the Anglo-American Corporation and its diamond mining arm, De Beers, before returning to the UK and becoming a trainee mining manager with the National Coal Board.

He then went back to academic life and completed a doctorate at University of Bradford Management School, later becoming the director of the school's doctoral programme in management studies.

In 1967 Keith was one of 50 academics who joined together to form Management Consultants Bradford and, in 1983, he left the university to devote himself to the business, renaming it Emerald Publishing in 2001 (an acronym for Electronic Managements Research Library Database). He bought out his fellow shareholders in 2003 to become sole owner, stepping down from executive duties in 2006 but remaining chairman of the parent company.

Personally, and through the Emerald Foundation, he donated more than £1 million a year to West Yorkshire charities in the fields of sport, the performing arts and animal welfare, including Leeds Grand Theatre, Opera North and Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Keith was awarded the Prince of Wales's personal medal for support of the arts and was appointed OBE in 2011.

He is survived by his daughter Karen. His wife Pat died shortly after him, and their son Nigel died in 1996.



Keith Howard

## Sir Harry Ognall (OL53) 1934-2021

Sir Harry Ognall was a Yorkshire-based barrister and High Court judge who played a crucial role in two of the most notorious murder cases of the late 20th century.

In 1981, he was prosecuting counsel in the case against Peter Sutcliffe, the so-called Yorkshire Ripper, when he appeared at the Old Bailey charged with murdering 13 women and attempting to murder seven more. It was his interrogation of the forensic psychiatrist Dr Hugo Milne that put paid to any suggestion that the killer was acting on some self-styled 'divine mission'.

As a High Court judge, Harry presided over the case of Colin Stagg, who was charged with the murder in July 1992 of 23-year-old Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common. Stagg, a single man living nearby, was suspected of the crime, however in the absence of physical evidence, the police had procured a confession by means of entrapment.

Harry threw the case out and described the conduct of the police 'deception of the grossest kind'. He was vilified by sections of the press, and was not vindicated until 14 years later, when Robert Napper, who was in Broadmoor for the 1993 murder of a woman and her four-year-old daughter, admitted that he was also the killer of Rachel Nickell.



Sir Harry Ognall

Harry Ognall was born in Salford but brought up largely in Leeds, and remained close to the city.

He was one of three children, the child of Polish immigrants who had fled the pogroms.

After Leeds Grammar School he read law at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he served as president of the University Law Society and obtained a scholarship to the USA to take a Master's at the University of Virginia.

Called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1958, he did his pupillage in Leeds and became a member of the North-Eastern Circuit.

He began to specialise in criminal work, and moved in the early 1960s to chambers on Park Square, Leeds, appearing for both the prosecution and defence in many high-profile cases.

In 1983, he was elected a Master of the Bench at Gray's Inn, and knighted in 1986, at which time he was appointed to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

He retired in 1999 and became a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire the following year. He was also chairman of the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board, and vice-chairman of the Parole Board.

A long-time resident of Ilkley, he married Elizabeth Young in 1977 and had two stepsons and two sons and a daughter from his first marriage.

## Peter Hornby (OL72) 1955-2020

Peter Hornby attended LGS from Junior School to Upper 6th, entering the main school as a Foundation Scholar (awarded to the top two pupils leaving Junior School). Classmates fondly remember Peter as popular, positive, modest and extremely intelligent. He had a passion for astronomy from a young age, joining the British Astronomical Association in 1968 and immediately striking up a correspondence with Patrick Moore, presenter of The Sky at Night, asking questions and sharing observations. Along with fellow astronomers in the class of '72, he helped found the school's Astronomical Society.

He studied mathematics at Trinity College, Oxford, and, after graduating, embarked on a lifelong career in software development, where his work ranged from globe-trotting customer support services to designing software architecture. He spent most of his career with Unisys and that took him from Sheffield to London to Southern California.

During a work-related visit to Southern California in 1984, Peter met a colleague who would become his wife, Lorraine, and they set up home in Laguna Beach. Outside of work, Peter sang both classical and popular music in local choirs, and loved playing guitar.

Lorraine has donated some of Peter's mementos to the school archives, including records of the LGS Debating Society from the 1960s, and a mathematical project that was started as a challenge by Mr Everett in Junior School: the 4x4 challenge. This was to create successive positive integers starting from 1 by using 'four 4s' in some way. Peter worked intermittently on this all his life, eventually calculating every integer up to 1482, using a variety of factorial, root, and power techniques on top of simple arithmetic.

Peter died in California in October 2020, after being diagnosed with brain cancer.



Peter Hornby

## Robert Tebb (OL43) 1927-2021

In a life dedicated to music and the arts, Robert Tebb was a generous benefactor of his old school, supporting the work of the music department and helping to nurture new talent among students.

This included his funding of the Tebb scholarship at GSAL, awarded annually to a Year 6 pupil, as well as the Robert Tebb piano competition, established in 2008 for senior school students.

He had a lifelong friendship and working relationship with Dame Fanny Waterman and, for 25 years, was deputy administrator of the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, which she had founded. He was also chairman of Leeds College of Music for 25 years.

Known to everyone as Bob, his love of music started at an early age when he took his first piano lessons at the age of seven. He also had organ lessons at St Chads Parish Church, Leeds, first from the then organist Percy Richardson and later from Herbert Bardgett, who was music master at Leeds Grammar School during the Second World War.

Bob was evacuated with the school to Hartlington Hall in the dales village of Burnsall in 1940, aged 13, where he played harmonium at Burnsall Methodist Church. His first venture on stage was with his brother Brian and boys from the school for a concert party in the village hall in aid of The Lord Mayor of London's Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

In 1944, a year after leaving school, he joined the army, returning to Leeds in 1948. He worked in supermarket distribution, later becoming managing director of Leigh Lineham and Sharphouse, running supermarkets in Bradford and at various sites across East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Throughout his life music remained his big passion. In 1950 he started a concert party named The Headingley Players and, in 1961, he founded Headingley Amateur Operatic Society. Three years later, in 1964, he established Sounding Brass and Voices, a series of concerts in Leeds Town Hall, featuring a choir of 200 and local brass bands. This ran for 25 years and, along with an annual Christmas concert, was always a sell-out.

He retired from the theatre and concert hall in 2000, having conducted 50 different musicals and over 500 performances, including Songs of Praise for the BBC from Leeds General Infirmary.

As an old boy of LGS, Bob was treasurer of the Old Leos for 13 years, secretary of the Old Leos Rugby Club and founder executive of the Old Leos Club.



Robert Tebb

## Professor James Yeoman Muckle 1937-2020

Professor James Muckle was head of Russian at Leeds Grammar School for 10 years from 1964 to 1974.

He was born in Oldham and educated at Manchester Grammar School. As a student of French and German at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, his studies were interrupted by National Service in the RAF where as a radar operator he was recruited to learn Russian for the benefit of signals intelligence. When he returned to Peterhouse, he exchanged his French and German studies for Russian which he subsequently taught at Chichester High School, before moving to LGS.

He had a lifelong interest in playing the organ and, during his time at LGS, was involved with the school chapel and choir. He played music in small groups with pupils and members of staff and conducted several Gilbert and Sullivan operas, combining his skills as a musician with a flair for theatre. The latter led him to co-direct a memorable performance of Waiting for Godot and to assist with the management of a production of Antony and Cleopatra. He served as organist at a Methodist church in Horsforth and sang with the Leeds Festival Chorus. While in Leeds he took a keen interest in the Russian archive at the university and eventually registered as a part -time student to undertake research that led to the award of a PhD in 1976.

Later as a professor at Nottingham University, he published in Languages, Education and History and the Soviet-based International Association for the Teaching of Russian Language and Literature awarded him its Pushkin Medal.

A demand for books on Russian studies led him to establish the Bramcote publishing company

## Nigel Hunt (OL66) 1947-2021

During his time at LGS, Nigel was head boy and an outstanding swimmer, particularly in front crawl and butterfly. He was swimming captain at school and went on to captain Leeds Swimming Team.

On leaving school, he embarked on a career as an accountant, joining Thornton Baker in Leeds and qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1972. He moved to London in the early '70s then, during a 13-year career with United Biscuits, moved to Maidenhead where he lived for the rest of his life. Following redundancy in 1988, he landed the post of accountant at the Berkshire College of Nursing and Midwifery. His last job was with the Thames Valley Hospital at Reading, from where he took early retirement.

Nigel was involved and committed to several community organisations, including Maidenhead Rugby Club, Bourne End Badminton Club and the Bourne End Players. He was also the tannoy voice at Henley Regatta for many years.

His interest in railways began at LGS with trainspotting and engine shed trips and he was a member of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, as well as a number of railway associations in the south. In his retirement he worked with Arriva and First Group, guiding passengers from train to coach to train during railway replacement projects and sporting events, including the 2012 London Olympics.

## Tim Burgess (OL65) 1947-2020

Tim Burgess was a hotelier, businessman, special constable and lay preacher. In 2017, he was awarded an MBE for services to charity and the Church of England.

Tim was raised in Collingham and educated at Leeds Grammar School, before embarking on a career in the hospitality industry. During his career he worked at the Goodwood Park Hotel in Singapore, went on to become a deputy manager for Trust House Forte, and worked at the Savoy, the Dorchester and London's Churchill Hotel.

In the mid-seventies he moved his family to Stockholm for three years, where he worked for the Sheraton Group, before returning home to join the Burgess family firm based in Leeds and then to form his own software company specialising in hotel reservation and catering management programs. The company was granted the Royal Warrant in 1994.

Alongside his business career, he sat as a JP on the Wetherby bench for 16 years and was chairman for four. He spent time as a special constable in London, a prison visitor in Wetherby and a Sunday school teacher in his home village of Clifford.

When he moved to Cambridge in 2004, he was appointed chief executive of a Church of England charity and he sat on the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance. He then became a lay preacher and treasurer for 14 churches.

He is survived by his wife Jenny, his two sons and four grandchildren.

## Richard Deeble (OL47) 1928-2021

Richard Deeble, was a generous supporter of his school and university college throughout his life.

He was the son of a bank cashier from Cross Gates and had an older brother, Eric, who also attended Leeds Grammar School. During his time at LGS, Richard was keen on music and was honorary secretary of the school's Gramophone Society. He spent a year in the army after school before going on to study at Pembroke College, Oxford. Richard later lived in Saffron Walden.

He was a private man and, although a lifelong supporter of the school and a significant donor, we know very little about his life after leaving LGS.



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