

Memento

The magazine for LGS, LGHS and GSAL alumni

issue 10 autumn 2022



25 years at Alwoodley

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momentous move

Joining the circus

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Cirque du Soleil

Turning the tide on plastic

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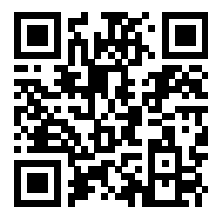
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Welcome to Memento

I find inspiration in every Memento, as we celebrate the incredible work and impact of so many of our alumni. This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of LGS's move to Alwoodley Gates and reflect on the vision required by the leaders at the time to dream big and be determined to overcome all difficulties to set up GSAL (as it is now) for maximum success, a place of opportunity and ambition where students can thrive, wherever their passions and skills lie.

So as we have come to expect, over the past year it has been a joy to see our wonderful students achieve so much as we have come out of the pandemic strictures, with some outstanding examination results and a return to a full suite of co-curricular opportunities.

From the school's perspective, our wellbeing support for students has grown further to reflect the challenges of the time, we have continued to progress our environmental credentials and our work on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Now we are daring to dream big with our own vision for a performing arts centre to complete

the original plans when LGHS joined LGS to form GSAL.

But what I am most struck by in this edition is the values-driven leadership shown in abundance. In a world of metrics and benchmarks, a school like GSAL will never lose its academic rigour or focus, but after these last few years, we have also been reminded of the importance of community, the importance of valuing others and not just self. It has emphasised the core values at the heart of a decent education.

In a letter to his friend, Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens wrote,

"Everything that happens, everybody that comes near, every breath of human interest that floats into the old place from the village, or the heath, or the four cross roads from which it stands, and from which belated travellers stray into it, shows beyond mistake that you can't shut out the world; that you are in it, to be of it; that you get into a false position the moment you try to sever yourself from it; and that you must mingle with it, and make the best of it, and make the best of yourself into the bargain."

So it is inspiring to read about Emma Tapper's eco-focused company with products aimed at cutting out plastic waste, to learn about Naomi Dickson's tireless work supporting victims of abuse and Vicky Hart from our own PFA providing uniforms for children in local schools in the midst of a cost of living crisis. But I was particularly moved by Peter Armitage's assessment that a successful business career that has led to a life of philanthropy is something he regards as 'a joy'. What a wonderful message to pass on to the talented and successful GSAL pupils of today as they embark upon their own independent lives; success takes many forms, there is joy in giving and we can all make a positive difference in this world.

Sadly, this edition also goes to print following the sudden and tragic loss of two young and talented alumna, Eshana Dasanjh (GSAL22) and Ellie Kempley (GSAL17). We stretch out our arms of love to their families at this time and dedicate this edition of Memento to Eshana and Ellie, taken from us far too soon.

Sue Woodrofe, Principal

We couldn't leave the bell behind

As we celebrate 25 years since the move to Alwoodley Gates, key staff look back on a momentous period in the school's history

A lot has changed since 1997. Back then, Leeds Grammar School (LGS) was housed in a gothic old building on Moorland Road, which dated back to 1859.

Bryan Collins, LGS's headmaster from 1986-1999 recalls his first impressions of the old school during his first job interview. "I walked around the school in the rain on a dark, chilly evening and could see at once that it was very constrained."

Though the school was full of character and many happy memories, it had outgrown its current site. The junior school was in a separate building half a mile away from the senior school and the main playing fields were on the other side of Headingley. "When it came to my opportunity to ask questions at that first interview, I asked why the school was still there," remembers Bryan.

Peter Jolly, deputy head teacher at the time recalls: "There were places that were desperate for improvement. The tiles in parts of the building were redolent of the toilets at Kings Cross station. It was obvious that it was time to start again."

Pressure to increase the number of grammar school places, along with the recognition that LGS would need £14 million to carry out essential refurbishment, led to the decision to move to a whole new site.

Bryan was in conversation with the new vice chancellor at the University of Leeds, Sir Alan Wilson and together with the governors, they negotiated a deal. The university agreed to buy the old junior and senior school buildings, along with Lawnswood playing fields and in exchange, LGS bought the university's spacious site in Alwoodley, which stretched to 127 acres and lay in the green belt.

Carolyn Lord (OG79), a solicitor who set up a specialist law practice, Wilbraham & Co with Peter Wilbraham, was tasked with seeking planning permission on the green belt site. She says: "The hurdle was high. Our job was to demonstrate that there were indeed very special circumstances for the school to relocate there."

The governors set about raising the money to buy the land. "The school formed a fundraising team, which did sterling work in raising a not insignificant total sum from a wide range of people and activities," says Bryan.

Construction of the brand-new school at Alwoodley Gates began in 1994 at a cost of £18.5 million and took three years.

Finally in the summer of 1997, it was time to pack up and move. But as Peter Jolly recalls, the history of LGS was



Former head, Bryan Collins (seated left) and former deputy head, Peter Jolly (seated right) were joined by colleagues, alumni and governors at an event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the move to Alwoodley Gates in November.

embedded within the walls of the old school building. The Old Leodiensian Association (OLA) had provided memorial stones to their peers lost in the First World War. The stones would need to be moved too.

"So we dug the stones out of the wall ourselves," remembers Peter. The stones were transported to Alwoodley where they are now displayed in the school's main reception.

Throughout the summer, the staff packed centuries of history into boxes and crates.

"The wall of the dining room had been clad in the oak top desks of ages past, engraved by annual tradition with the graffiti of the leaving cohort of U6th," recalls Peter. "It was do-it-yourself time but we couldn't leave them."

Just before they were leaving, Peter looked up and realised the old school bell was still hanging at the top of the chapel. "I said, 'what about the bell?'" and caretaker John Marsh climbed a ladder to the top of the chapel, footed by bursar John Dickson. He took his belt off and tied the bell to the belt around his neck. It must have weighed at least 250lb."

Jane Marsh, who with her husband John, was part of the school's estates

team, recalls: "It was a very tricky job tackled with ladders and a sturdy, strong belt. At one point John couldn't move either up or down the ladder. Peter shouted words of encouragement from the base of the ladder!"

The cherished bell now hangs under the porte-cochère and is rung every Remembrance Sunday and on other special occasions. Other items transported from the historical school include the stained-glass windows which are displayed outside the assembly hall, and the headmaster's chair and pulpit.

Bryan says the move made a huge difference to the school experience. He paid tribute to the teaching and support staff whose hard work over the summer helped LGS open without a hitch for the autumn term of 1997.

Peter says the move into the large and airy space felt sumptuous. "Acoustically it was like a hotel compared to the reverberation in the old building. It was a massive improvement to teaching in every single subject."

He says everyone appreciated the new school. "There would be a sea of hands volunteering to show people around because the pupils felt so proud of it."



Theatre Foyer



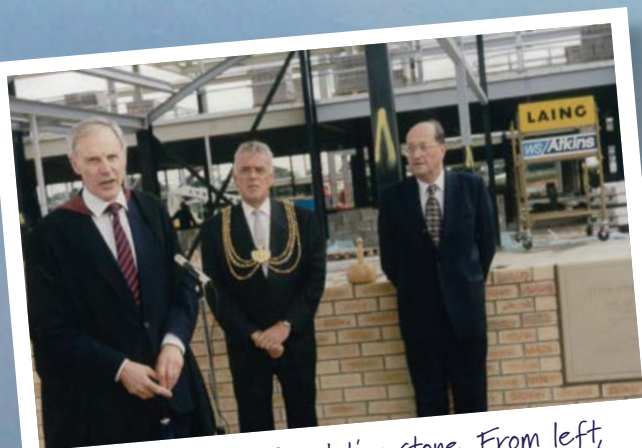
Swimming pool completion



Porte-cochère



Jane Marsh



Laying of the foundation stone. From left, Bryan Collins, Lord Mayor Malcolm Bedford and Chairman of Governors, Peter Sparling.



Year 7 Playground & Clock Tower



Life in the big top



Duncan Fisher

For Duncan Fisher (OL86), running away with the circus wasn't the stuff of fiction - it was real life.

At 15, Duncan Fisher, was destined for the skies, not the circus. "I wanted to be an RAF pilot," he explains. During his time at Leeds Grammar School, Duncan was an Air Cadet, as well as a cricketer and athlete.

However, Duncan's direction changed abruptly when his application for Royal Air Force sponsorship through sixth form was rejected. "I had an allergy which put me out of the running," Duncan says. "It derailed all my plans."

"We did pantomimes with Cannon and Ball, Bernadette Nolan and Christopher Biggins: huge names at the time," says Duncan. Then the troupe was offered a nine month contract to join a circus in North America.

The circus was a "spit and sawdust" affair, run by Tarzan Zerbini. "On the first day, Tarzan said to us, 'Do you want to earn some extra money?' We said yes, obviously!"

Fortunately, Duncan was also a talented gymnast: as well as being Yorkshire champion, he was also a member of the Junior British Team. After his RAF disappointment, an opportunity came up to join an acrobatic troupe and go on tour doing a comedy trampoline act. "So I took it - I figured I could always go back to my studies later." Duncan spent over two years travelling around the UK and Europe

The group were tasked with packing up all the circus seating and loading it into trucks. After six months, Duncan was in charge of putting the big top up; within a year, he was responsible for moving the show from city to city.

At 25, Duncan had to make a big decision. "I was offered a job with a new show that was starting up, but it was just operations, not performing.

Gymnastics was all I'd ever done from the age of seven, and here I was considering giving it all up." He decided to go for it, setting him on the path to a career with Cirque du Soleil.

Travelling with the circus is a way of life, Duncan says. "Along with performers, every show has technicians, electricians, box office staff, an accountant, popcorn sellers... the list goes on." He describes the

close-knit community as a "village", with everyone connected by a common thread: courage. "Every person on a Cirque show is brave enough to do something different; to go out on the road for months or even years at a time."

Now as a senior executive, Duncan's role with Cirque du Soleil is more strategic, with a permanent base in Montreal. "I have the best of both worlds," he says. "I get to visit each show at least once a year. Between the handshaking and politics, I can get amongst the team and listen to their concerns and their ideas."

Picking out a single career highlight is impossible. Before Cirque du Soleil, it was probably producing George W Bush's 2003 4 July speech with three days' notice.

"The Secret Service threw a spanner in the works at the last minute, saying

the President wouldn't be able to deliver the speech from the festival we'd been organising," says Duncan. "They said he'd do it from a nearby military airbase - that was our only option."

"When we finally finished setting up at 3am in the morning, I rang my mum in Leeds from behind the presidential podium. It was a real, 'Mum? You'll never guess where I am...' moment."

Duncan took up his Vice President post with Cirque du Soleil in 2018, with a particular highlight being the company's first performance after the Covid restrictions were lifted.

"We put our most famous show, Alegria, on in Houston, Texas," says Duncan. After multiple standing ovations, the performers came forward to take a bow. "I was 10 feet away from the cast at the final call and could see several of them

were crying their eyes out. That set us all off!"

"It was the sadness of being away for so long; the relief after all the hard work of putting the show back together, and the sheer elation of being back on stage all rolled into one."

Finally, does Duncan have any advice for young people looking to enter the creative industries?

"Make your own luck!" he says. "There are two parts to that: firstly, promote your own brand. Network and talk to people about what you're capable of and what you want to do."

"And secondly, practise so that you're really, really good at what you do. Never stop working, and never, ever stop learning."

Photo: Alegria

Emma turns the tide on plastic waste

Shocked by the amount of plastic pouring into the world's oceans, Emma Tapper has developed her own range of award-winning eco-cleaning products sold in re-usable containers



Photography: Jenna Meeking

Emma Tapper (GSAL13) has become a true soap star after launching a range of eco-friendly cleaning products which cut out plastic waste altogether.

Emma started her pioneering green business, The Friendly Chemical Company in Yorkshire with partner Scott Rudd after the couple met at Liverpool University.

They started making eco-friendly cleaning products in their garage four years ago and are now one of the fastest growing zero-waste cleaning brands in the UK. They supply their award-winning products to more than 3,500 zero-waste, natural stores and farm shops across the country.

Under the Miniml brand, they sell eco-friendly, vegan products, including shower gel, washing-up liquid, shampoo, laundry liquid and body lotion in reusable bottles and glass containers.

Emma said: "We were both into zero-waste living at university and that's how the idea came about."

Filling up at the local refill shop, she started to question what happened to the containers once the store had finished with them.

"They told us they got recycled or thrown away so that's how the idea of Miniml was born. We thought we could do it better by collecting the containers, cleaning them and re-using them." They started experimenting in the garage, making apple-scented washing up liquid in a '200 litre drum with a paint mixer from Screwfix', which caused a few funny looks from the neighbours.

Emma added: "At the start it was Scott and I staying up late, filling, bottling and labelling everything by hand in the garage and then in our first small warehouse. We were literally there until midnight filling bottles."

They quickly found success and started supplying the expanding market of refill and 'waste not' stores sprouting up across the country in 2020.

The operation switched to a larger warehouse in Keighley and then at the beginning of this year, they moved into a 10,000 square foot warehouse in Cononley where they now employ 35 people.

Emma's company is a pioneer of the closed-loop system, meaning Miniml reuses the same materials and continuously recycles them to create new products. They clean, reuse and refill every container which dramatically reduces the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

"All of the products that get sent out can be returned to the company and cleaned and re-used," explained Emma. "So if you buy a 500ml bottle of washing up liquid on our website that can be returned to us and used again and again."

Emma says they saved 118 tonnes of plastic in 2021, the equivalent of 3.2 million bottles based on the bulk containers they take back and refill.

Household cleaning generates a huge source of waste and is one of the biggest contributors to the 14 million tonnes of plastic that ends up in the ocean every year, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"We calculate that for every 20-litre product that we sell, that's 40 bottles saved," said Emma.

In addition, the company runs on solar power and they're thinking of installing a wind turbine to boost their green energy credentials.

The company has won several awards, including the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Sustainability/Environmental Award for 2022 and was awarded Ethical Consumer magazine's best buy status for cleaning products.

The ingredients for all their products are sourced from the UK and though this makes it a little more expensive,

Emma says it's worth it to support the UK market and to reduce their carbon footprint. None of their products contain any phosphates or sulphates and their fragrances are all allergy free.

Further expansion includes the launch of a new beauty brand 'Good Human' this winter which will add face wash, moisturiser, toner and face mist to Emma's eco-friendly range.

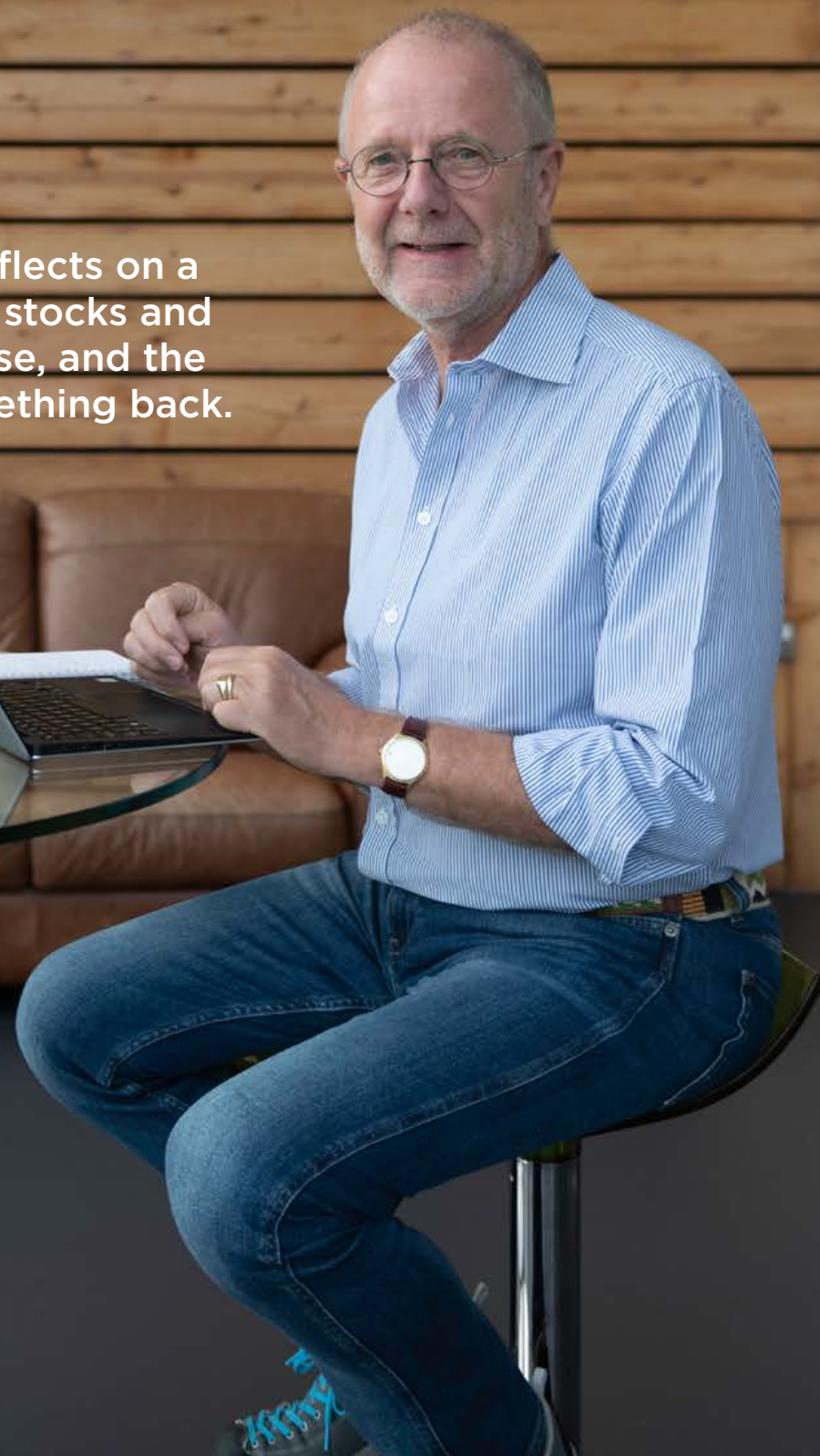
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Miniml products

The joy of giving

Peter Armitage (OL64) reflects on a career that took him from stocks and shares into social enterprise, and the satisfaction of giving something back.



As a young man leaving Leeds Grammar School with a clutch of O-levels, Peter Armitage's future was all mapped out. He was expected to enter the family business and study for his accountancy exams – the third son to “roll off the conveyor belt”, as he puts it.

But Peter had other ideas. “Not long after I'd qualified, I was sitting in a wool mill in Bradford doing an audit. It was belting down with rain when I had a phone call. It was an offer for an accountancy job in Monte Carlo for 20 months.”

Monaco gave Peter a taste for travel and adventure. “I remember watching the Grand Prix with about 17 other people crammed onto my little balcony and a teapot of gin and tonic on the go,” he says, smiling. When the contract finished, Peter came back to Yorkshire where an offer to join the business, no longer a family affair but part of a bigger accounting firm, was awaiting him.

Reluctant to commit, Peter took a job at the Leeds office of a London merchant bank, where he was taken under the wing of a veteran investor, David Smith. “I started with him in 1972, and by the end of 1974, the UK equity market index had fallen by 73%. Quite the baptism of fire! But with David's guidance, I learnt an awful lot.”

But life took a different turn again when Peter married a Swiss au pair he'd met several years earlier in Bardsey, near Leeds. Shortly afterwards, they moved to Switzerland where Peter found a job as a bond manager in Geneva.

Then there was another twist of fate involving the sale of an opera season ticket to a buyer who worked at Capital International. “My wife Christine was heavily pregnant, and five hours of Wagner wasn't exactly her idea of a great night out.” Six months later, Peter joined the company, and almost 25 years of global portfolio management followed.

But after his retirement at 58, Peter took some radical decisions. “I knew that I couldn't play golf every day, and I wanted to do something of value. Giving away money somehow didn't feel satisfying enough. I wanted to give something of me.”

And so, encouraged by his friend



Ardoch and Loch Lomond

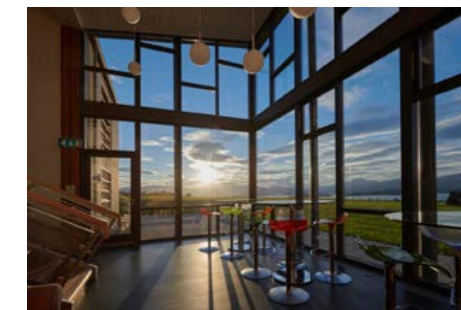
Norman Drummond, the founder of children's charity Columba 1400, Peter set up Ardoch; a residential conference and events centre overlooking Loch Lomond. The model was ‘profit for purpose’, with corporate clients hiring space for conferences, seminars and team-building events while charities received a hefty discount from

“I knew that I couldn't play golf every day, and I wanted to do something of value. Giving away money somehow didn't feel satisfying enough. I wanted to give something of me.”

corporate rates. A Leeds Grammar School friend, Robert Cockill (OL68), was brought in with his wife to manage the hospitality side of the business.

Peter's background means his particular brand of philanthropy is one with a twist. “Ardoch had to wash its face financially to be sustainable and support charities working with young people,” he explains. “Generating profit to facilitate a human impact.”

Peter recently took an even more radical decision when he decided to gift Ardoch to Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS); a process which was finally completed in 2020. An extreme move? Peter doesn't think so. “I've walked away from things all my life,” he says with a shrug. “I left the family business, I left Yorkshire for Switzerland, I left Capital where I spent 25 fantastic years. Or perhaps it's not walking away - it's walking forwards. Either way, I have my upbringing and education to thank for the fact I've always felt secure enough to take some risks.”



Ardoch viewing tower

Not religious in the conventional sense, Peter feels the spiritual aspect of his Leeds Grammar education had an impact on him which came alive later in life. “I'm not a Bible scholar, but it says in Corinthians that he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

“I think that's a verse about the joy of giving. And it really is a joy.”

PASTURES NEW

What teaching has taught me

Long-serving and well-loved members of staff reflect on their careers in the classroom

It's my life's work

Christine Jagger has been teaching science at LGHS and GSAL for 31 years.

"My father was a teacher and he said teachers were born and not created and I suppose I've come to realise that is the case.

I'm still working five days a fortnight and teaching my last year 11 class and I taught some of their mums so I feel that I'm squaring the circle.

The things I will most miss about working at GSAL are facilitating the students and assisting them to where they want to get to. I've just finished doing early UCAS applications and over the years I think I've sent off about 500 medical students to university. That's a lot when you think about it. I helped them get there but ultimately, they're the ones who have to get the grades and pass the interview. Giving them that personal confidence is what I've seen as my life's work. I've been lucky to do that at GSAL and LGHS, two very great schools.

I went to an alumni meeting of the girls from LGHS who left 21 years ago and I came out of that just overwhelmed by their gratitude and appreciation for what I'd done all those years ago.



ChristineJagger

I've also had some brilliant colleagues in all departments from the cleaning staff to estates, IT and admin as well as teaching staff. I think a very important part of LGHS and GSAL is that you have a lot of staff who've been here forever who all have a common purpose or desire.

I have literally hundreds of memories that have made me smile; school plays, Christmas time, end of term, or celebrations and school trips. I've been lucky to go to Malawi every year from 2007 to 2019.

Joyful is the word I'd use. The students have always been a joy and they continue to be so."

Every lesson has been different

Peter Spivey joined LGS as a teacher of Latin and history in 1984. He retired earlier this year.

"Every lesson of every day has been different and it's satisfying to feel that you have made at least some contribution to the futures of the young people in front of you.

I've enjoyed working with such motivated staff and talented students. Latin was my main subject but I also taught Greek, classical civilisation, ancient history, history, English and games. One of my proudest achievements was getting some of the weaker students through GCSE Latin, in recent years I had two sets in which all but one student got a grade 9.

I remember playing staff football on a Monday after school and staff cricket in the summer. We felt a lot less pressurised in those days and had more time to relax.

The characters on the staff will always stay with me, the likes of Peter Jolly, Derek Hinchcliffe, Marshall Grainge and Derek Fry. I have been privileged to teach alongside many talented teachers, including Andrew Stodolny and Nigel Day.



From left Peter Spivey, Nigel Day and Andrew Stodolny on their last day at GSAL in 2022

What makes the school special is the myriad of activities, both sporting and cultural, that go on every day and at weekends alongside the academic work. There is a constant buzz around the place and the non-teaching staff are wonderful in ensuring the school runs so smoothly."

The interaction kept me sharp

Andrew Stodolny has retired after teaching history and politics for 38 years.

"The school has changed a great deal since I arrived at LGS in September 1984, so much so that it rather feels as though I have spent my career here in three distinctively different institutions. The grand gothic building at Moorland Road gave LGS serious gravitas and was symbolic of Leeds' status as a great Victorian city. As an historian I rather liked the patina of the well-worn floors and steps, the old gas lamp fittings on the walls, the old yellow and green tiles. With that, though, came a distinctly masculine, patriarchal and deferential ethos. By the time the school moved to its modern campus at Alwoodley in 1997 there was a greater sense of looking forward and embracing a more contemporary

ethos whilst still revering the best of the school's traditions.

The creation of GSAL in 2008 naturally took this process a stage further, creating an enhanced gender balance on the staff and ever greater diversity. This has immeasurably enriched the school and I particularly appreciate modern GSAL's inclusiveness and healthy openness to fresh ideas from across the staff and student body.

I have a rich seam of memories; 27 seasons of managing football teams; politics trips to Paris, Washington and New York and history trips to the American Deep South. Highlights include a 1997 LGS football tour to Holland where we won all three games, the 2005 California football tour, taking students inside the Bush White House, and the reaction of the civil rights history students who unexpectedly got to chat to Martin Luther King's friend in his barber shop one sunny Saturday morning in Montgomery, Alabama.

What I've most enjoyed about working at GSAL is the interaction with students – and colleagues too. I taught politics from 1988, the year it was first introduced at LGS. Politics is a field that is constantly changing, and as a teacher, I was invariably expected to have a considered view of each new development. It kept me sharp.

In retirement I am continuing to deliver talks and guided walks at the Bronte Parsonage Museum in Haworth, whilst leaving time to travel and spend time with my new granddaughter."

I've loved every minute of it

Nigel Day, teacher of English at LGS and GSAL for 37 years.

"One of the lovely things about working at LGS and GSAL was the culture which is rooted in mutual respect. What I loved about it was the sense of it being a broad church, with civilised debate, good humour and a multitude of experiences.

I've loved teaching English. I was privileged to help colleague Richard Jackson start English language A-level and I also launched English for the International Baccalaureate.

I have done a lot of umpiring and coaching over the years including the rugby U12 B team.

One of the things I'm proudest of is being involved in the house system. I was head of Neville House for many years and then head of Ermystead.

We only won the Jolly cup once but that didn't matter because we always turned up. I always told the members of the house, 'we do our best and we enjoy ourselves'. The pupils really rose to that, it was fantastic.

You could see the good-natured tribalism, energy and talent of the house system come to the fore in the choir competition. Ricky Wilson (OL96) of the Kaiser Chiefs was in Neville House and we won the choir competition the year he was conducting.

I miss my colleagues and the energy of the school but I've been there for 37 years so now it's time to put my feet up."



Nigel Day with Ricky Wilson and fellow Neville house music winners in 1994

Doctors on top of the world

Providing medical care in extreme locations



Crocodiles and jellyfish all in a day's work for Andrew

Andrew Plews (OL07) is on a high after working as a flying doctor in Darwin, Australia for a year.

As a retrieval doctor with Australia's Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Andrew provided medical services across the 600,000 square kilometres of the Northern Territory. Flying into hostile terrain and difficult to reach areas, he assessed and treated patients before bringing them back to Darwin for hospital treatment.

He flew in fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft and provided emergency care to sick and injured patients across the whole of the Northern Territory, Australia's third largest federal division.

He said: "It's a beautiful environment but can be unforgiving with temperatures frequently in the

mid 30s, high humidity and a vast array of wildlife including saltwater crocodiles, dangerous jellyfish, buffalo, and spiders as big as my hand. I now believe checking my shoes for spiders will be a lifelong habit."

Andrew graduated from Hull York Medical School in 2014 and trained in anaesthetics. He had planned to start work in Australia in 2020 but put his travel plans on hold to work in intensive care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He arrived in Australia in August 2021 on a six-month contract with CareFlight and enjoyed it so much, he arranged for his contract to be extended to 12 months.

As a flying doctor, he helped patients who needed treatment after traffic collisions, sepsis, seizures and mental health crises, as well as women in childbirth.

"I have adored my experience so far," he said. "I have travelled interstate and internationally with patients in need from stunning but generally inaccessible areas, seeing landscapes and sights that only few will have the opportunity to see. I am privileged to have worked here alongside such a wonderful team and will never forget this experience."

Andrew is currently working as an anaesthetic registrar in Victoria.

Neil's Himalayan experience helps young GPs

With reports that over a third of GPs plan to quit in the next five years, Dr Neil Rushton (OL71) is mentoring young doctors to persuade them to keep going.

Neil's own story is one of courage and endurance. At the age of 60, when other doctors may have been thinking about hanging up their stethoscopes and planning their retirements, Neil took a plane from Kathmandu to Lukla - the 'most dangerous' airport in the world - and worked as a doctor at Everest Base Camp.

Working with the Himalayan Rescue Association in Pheriche, Nepal in 2012, he treated Nepalese patients as well as trekkers suffering from altitude sickness. He was based at a hospital at 4,270m (14,000ft) above sea level.

"A lot of people walk too quickly and they get altitude sickness," said Neil. "My job was to work at the highest hospital in the world getting people onto helicopters with oxygen."

For four months he endured temperatures of -5C inside the tent and warmed himself up by burning yak dung on a camp cooker. But he said it was all worth it for the perspective.

"You'd get up every morning and look out and see Everest and you realised what a beautiful world we live in."

Before venturing to the Himalayas, Neil took up another challenge inspired by his school swimming teacher. A pupil at Leeds Grammar School from 1959-1971, he was captain of the swimming team.

"I still have my colours blazer, which was yellow, blue and silver. I looked like a joker but it set me up for a life of swimming. We were going to swim the Channel as a team in 1970, but then the teacher left and it remained in my head that one day I'd like to do it."

Ten years ago, he set off with a team of swimmers to Shakespeare's Cliff at 3am to start the challenge but the boat got stuck on a rock which lost valuable time. After 12 hours of swimming and while seeing France on the horizon, a turn in the tide meant the team had to abandon the swim. "They said you're not going to make it, so we never actually got there, but we had great fun trying. LGS set me on the right path."

Now Neil, who still works as a GP in Cullompton, Devon, is drawing on his experiences to mentor young doctors and give school lectures. A Manchester University survey earlier this year found that around 33% of GPs are likely to quit within five years



and 61% of GPs over the age of 50 plan to leave by 2026.

"I do a lecture called the Highs and Lows of a GP because my first wife died of cancer and left me with four children to bring up. She was just 50 and my youngest was only 10. I was depressed and quite angry, but then life goes on and you meet somebody new."

He met his second wife, Ceri, on a charity car rally through Mauritania. They went on to climb Mount Kilimanjaro together before setting off to Nepal.

"There's a thing I say to young GPs and it's to make sure you use your life," said Neil. "If things come along, just do it."

An inspiration: the Scouts pay tribute to the Queen

Following the sad loss of Queen Elizabeth II, long-serving Group Scout Leader Alan Naylor (OL72) explains how she inspired generations of LGS and GSAL Scouts.

The Scouts have played an active role in the school's history for more than 100 years. More than 50 alumni celebrated the centenary of scouting at LGS and GSAL last year. As one of the largest troops in the country, GSAL Scouts have an impressive number of Queen's Scouts within its ranks.

As Patron of Scouts, HM The Queen was an important role model. Alan Naylor, who has been involved in scouting at the school since he was a pupil in 1964, said: "The Queen inspired us all, as she did everybody in the country in terms of her values in her own life and her duty to the country."

He added that she carried out her duties in a similar way to the Scout's

Promise. "She was always doing her best which is part of our promise to do our best and help other people. She was somebody that I think we all looked up to as an individual."

Chief Scout, Bear Grylls led the mourning for the movement's Patron.



Queen's Scouts Daniel Turner, Jack Grogan, George Stubbs, Theo Sweeting, Suraiya Zara Hossain-Ibrahim and Daniel Houlton at Windsor Castle to receive their awards earlier this year

He said: "For 70 years HM The Queen has stood at our side, encouraging our volunteers and inspiring our young people to learn new skills, help others and shine brightly. Her sense of duty was an outstanding example to every single Scout during her long and eventful reign."

The Queen's Scout Award is now changing to the King's Scout Award and is the highest accolade for a member of the Scout movement. Twelve GSAL Explorer Scouts are set to earn the award this academic year, which follows on from a record 20 Scouts in 2019.

The award recognises exceptional achievement and has a lengthy list of criteria, including expeditions and field work, volunteering, leadership, learning a skill, physical activities and residential. The award is presented during a day of celebration at Windsor Castle.



Mark Scott

"I don't know when mine was made but I know a lot of our tabards were made for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. Mine doesn't have a label on it but it's clearly very old. It's stored at St James Palace," he added. "It's not hung up in my wardrobe!"

He is now preparing for his role in King Charles III's coronation next year.

Cost of living crisis

Alumni doing their bit to ease the cost of living crisis

Big rise in demand for abuse support



Naomi Dickson

It's nearly 30 years since Jewish Women's Aid was conceived, yet demand for support continues to climb, according to chief executive, Naomi Dickson (OG93).

The charity, which supports Jewish women experiencing domestic abuse, saw increased demand for its services during lockdown and Naomi said the cost of living crisis was expected to escalate further demand.

She said: "Running my organisation during the height of the Covid pandemic was extremely challenging – lockdown, a well-intentioned measure, was used to abuse further. We saw increased demand for our services and exceptionally high levels of destitution. Now, we are facing further challenges through the cost of living crisis which will put additional strain on already fractured

relationships, giving opportunity for more control and economic abuse."

Naomi took up her role at Jewish Women's Aid eight years ago after a career in social housing. She is also a founder of the Faiths Against Domestic Abuse Coalition and a Fellow of the Cambridge Senior Faith Leadership Programme. She was placed on the BBC's 100 Women list last year which highlights the most inspiring and influential women from around the world.

According to Refuge, one in four women in England and Wales will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Jewish Women's Aid supports more than 700 women and 150 children each year and is part of Women's Aid, a federation of over 120 domestic abuse agencies nationally which runs

helplines, community-based services and refuges.

Naomi said that whilst there was never any reason to suppose that domestic abuse is more, or less prevalent in the Jewish community than in wider society, research shows that having specialist support in place for women at their lowest ebb makes seeking help much easier.

Naomi always wanted to make a difference to the lives of people experiencing disadvantage. She said her time at LGHS from 1987-1993 trained her to look at the big picture along with the details. "The aspiration for excellence ingrained into my cohort through the school motto 'Age Quod Agis', is what set me on my path to leadership within the charity sector."

Uniform donations support Leeds families in need

Vicky Hart (OG92), who runs 2Kit, the school's second-hand uniform shop is sorting through hundreds of items of clothing to support people in need across Leeds.

The school's zero-waste initiative is helping people across the city who are struggling to afford school uniforms. Donations have recently poured in and 2Kit is giving clothing and kit to the Leeds School Uniform Exchange to help families trying to make ends meet.

"In September 2022 alone we received over 600 donations directly into our 2kit donation point," said Vicky. In August, 2Kit gave 235 items to Meanwood Community Uniform Exchange and LS16 Community Uniform Exchange at St Paul's Church.

2Kit was originally started 25 years ago to recycle uniforms and cut the amount of clothes being thrown away. A small band of volunteers processes the clothes by laundering, sewing on

buttons and repairing tears. Uniform that carries a GSAL logo or is specific to the school is sold via pop-up shops or through the email order and collect service. Old style uniform and other non-specific kit is donated, with some going to The Zikomo Trust, the school's charity partner in Malawi.

The zero-waste initiative has kept thousands of tonnes of clothing out of landfill.

Gill Coupland, co-director of Zero Waste Leeds said uniform exchanges in the city had given out 12,000 items of uniform over the summer, which is 50% more than last year.

"This summer we helped save almost 2.5 tonnes of textile waste and over 44,000 KG Co2e which is the equivalent to driving a petrol car almost twice round the world," said Gill. "None of this would be possible without people like Vicky and other volunteers around the city collecting, sorting and distributing the uniform."



Vicky Hart (OG92) and fellow PFA committee member, Keke Mokete

Vicky said: "I love that we are loud and proud about reusing uniform and clothing in general. Providing equal access to good quality uniform or clothing of any kind for everyone, not just GSAL families, is very important. It's vital we circulate existing resources to protect our environment and help families through the potentially tough financial months ahead."

The school also collected donations for the Leeds Winter Coat project and St George's Crypt Appeal.

News & Celebrations

50 years on and still the best of friends

A group of friends from Leeds Girls' High School have met up every year for the last 50 years.

After leaving school in 1972 they moved to different parts of the country, but they have kept in close contact and have met up most years since.

Patsy Fearnley (née Brown) said: "It's the highlight of the year for all of us. We used to talk about boyfriends and weddings, but now we talk about grandchildren."

Kina Loudon (née Heatley) said:

"We started meeting every New Year's Day for many years, then had a day out, then a night away, and eventually (when our children were a bit older) a weekend away every April or May." The 11 friends have been on trips to Paris, Dublin and Holland.

Patsy, who studied Sociology at Leeds University and moved to London for several years before settling in Leeds, added: "We all have very good memories of school. Your old friends are your best friends."



This photo from 2019 shows (back row left to right): Rachel Souter (née Kitchen); Kenna Worthington (née Hollington); Annabel Watkinson (née Clarke); Elizabeth Hill (née O'Neil); Rosemary Southworth; Pat Chadwick; Patsy Fearnley (née Brown); Kathleen Martin (née Smith); Kina Loudon (née Heatley) and Amanda Lindsay. Jane Holmes (née Stirk), not pictured.

Alison now a published children's writer

At school, **Alison Manning (OG93)** always dreamed of being a writer. A few months ago, that dream became a reality and Alison was thrilled to see her first book published. Her novel, *World Without Endless Sheep*, is a children's adventure story aimed at 8-12-year-olds and set in Wales.

After leaving LGHS in 1993, Alison, (whose maiden name was Grant) studied English and American Literature at the University of Warwick. She then worked for the Civil Service before taking a part-time job that allowed her to focus on her writing. Earlier this year her work was featured in two film festivals and on BBC radio. She is currently working on a rhyming story for younger children.

Reunions return



Anna Hodgson (OG01) organised a reunion lunch in September for her cohort. A group of 40 OGs were joined by Mrs Jagger, Miss Davies and Dr Motashar at the event held in the 1876 room at GSAL



OGs from the 1980 cohort celebrated a belated 40th reunion with an afternoon tea at GSAL in September hosted by **Louise Doran, née Darbyshire (OG80)**,



OLs from 1972 celebrated their 50th reunion in Headingley in October organised by **Irv Lee**.



OLs from 1958-1963 got together to celebrate their 60th reunion in the school's 1552 room. **Peter Jolly**, retired deputy head at Leeds Grammar School gave them a tour of the school.

Congratulations to...



Abbie Macleod (GSAL19) who graduated from Durham University having achieved a BA Music Hons



Jim McDonald (GSAL17) who graduated from Nottingham Vet School



Jonathan Duncan (OL75) and his wife, **Kimberley (née Estill) (OG76)** on their 40th wedding anniversary



Congratulations to **Simeon and Georgie (née Johnson) Ramdas-Harsia, both GSAL14**, who got married in 2019 and now have a daughter, Florence.



Congratulations to **Charlie Cavill and Douglas Walker, both GSAL16**, who got married last December at Wharfedale Grange. Charlie and Douglas first met in Year 12.

Send us your news!

Please send any alumni news, including graduations, weddings, anniversaries, reunions and baby photos to alumni@gsal.org.uk or phone 0113 228 5115.

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Leavers' Ball 2022

We said goodbye and wished GSAL's newest alumni good luck at a very special celebration in July.

The class of 2022 enjoyed a fantastic Leavers' Ball in a marquee in the school grounds which included a drinks reception and an awards presentation attended by their parents and teachers followed by a buffet, speeches and dancing. Here is a selection of photos from a memorable night.



Full steam ahead for LGS's Thunderbolt

Mark Batchelor (OL86) gets a steam locomotive built at school in the 1960s back on track.

Former members of the Leeds Grammar School Locomotive Club met at the Thornes Park Miniature Railway in Wakefield this summer to celebrate Thunderbolt, the LGS steam engine's return to steam, following a lengthy rebuild.

The American Wild-West style engine was built in the Moorland Road workshops during the late 1960s as a group project, then operated for the next 20 years at events all over the north of England, giving rides and raising thousands of pounds for charity. After Ken Rosewarne, head of Technical Studies died in 1989, the engine was passed to the Wakefield Society of Model Engineers, where it was used as a club locomotive.

The Wakefield Society sold the engine to John Bailiss from Leicester who improved and modified it, but then put it up for sale. By chance Mark spotted the advert and having been involved with the Loco Club in his time at LGS, felt drawn to buy the engine in August 2011.

Although able to run, the engine was effectively worn out and he decided to give it a full overhaul.



Left - right, Mark Batchelor, John Leventhall (seated), Nigel Wild, Tristram Hope, Robin Hope, Chris Taylor, David Robertshaw and Arthur Jones. Also present were David Almond and Gordon Toulson.

As a professional engineer, he started a complete ground-up restoration. He dismantled the whole engine down to the last nut and bolt. The estimated six to eight months of work turned into eight years but gradually it started to take shape.

Finally in early 2020 the last part was refitted and Thunderbolt was ready for testing, and then... the Covid pandemic struck. Mark had no access to a track until restrictions were lifted. Earlier this year, after boiler pressure tests and a trial run, the engine was finally able to haul passengers again. The first outing was at Ackworth gala, close to where Ken Rosewarne lived.

The Wakefield Society invited Mark to their open day in early August when the Thornes Park track is available to visiting engines from neighbouring clubs. Ten members of the LGS Loco Club attended, including three who built the engine in the 1960s. John Leventhall (OL72) was soon driving like a professional and Chris Taylor and Arthur Jones, both involved with the Loco Club in the 1970s and 80s, were intrigued by the adjustments Mark had made. It was very satisfying to run the engine on a continuous track for the first time since rebuild and Mark was pleased with how well it worked.

They had a very enjoyable and relaxed day with many memories shared and friendships renewed. Many were keen to come and help run the engine again in the future, so it looks like the LGS Loco Club is back in business.



John Leventhall in the late 60s

87-year-old Conrad keeps on running

Former LGS head of physics, Conrad Slater is proving that age is no barrier. The 87-year-old is the oldest runner at his local Park Run in the Lake District.

Earlier this year he notched up a personal best as he completed his 250th Park Run at Fell Foot, near Windermere. As he approached the finish, he was met with crowds of applause and a television crew.

He said: "I shall carry on until I stop, but I've no plans for stopping now. I take part in Park Run every week and it makes me very happy."

The retired physics teacher, who worked at LGS between 1970 - 1993, also volunteers as a marshal at the race once a month.



Conrad Slater

He says his wife, Jose was responsible for him taking up running when he was in his 40s. "My wife pointed out I was a couch potato and people of my age were dying through lack of exercise."

He originally took up orienteering, but when his eyesight started to fail, he

decided to focus on running. For four years he ran two marathons a year but he has gradually decreased the distance as he has grown older.

"I tried to keep running at a suitable distance and decreasing it gradually with time. I started finding 5Ks a nice distance. I was very fortunate, Park Run just came at the right moment."

When he started running the five-kilometre Park Run five years ago, he set himself a challenge to run 250 races. "It's taken me six years to get up to 250 runs, it would have taken only five if not for Covid," he said. "Provided I finish the course I get a lot of enjoyment from it and when I finish, I feel proud."

Events 2022-2023

For more details or to book tickets for any of the events listed below please visit www.gsal.org.uk/events or contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

2022

Wind in the Willows

Dates: Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 November and Thursday 1 December 2022

Venue: GSAL

Pupils in years 7 to 9 are taking part in this school production. Alumni are welcome to attend.

LGS Rugby reunion OL78-82

Date: Saturday 10 December 2022

Venue: GSAL

Time: 9.45am

Jonathan Boddy (OL80), Richard Slee (OL80) and Robert Sharp (OL79) are hosting a Leeds Grammar School rugby reunion. Watch GSAL 1st XV vs QEGs Wakefield followed by a post-match lunch and then dinner and drinks in Headingley. Bookings are open.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Date: Sunday 11 December 2022

Venue: GSAL

Time: 6.30pm

Join us for our annual traditional service - the perfect start to the Christmas festivities. Alumni are also invited to join the choir. Rehearsals take place the day before. Please email sara.shackleton@gsal.org.uk if you would like to join the choir.

2023

Staff Panto - Dick Whittington

Dates: Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 January 2023

Venue: GSAL

Oh yes it is! The legendary staff panto is back directed by Simon Knowles. Save the date. Tickets will be on sale later this month.

Les Miserablès

Dates: Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 March 2023

Venue: GSAL

Alumni are warmly invited to our annual Senior School musical production. Bookings will open in early 2023.

Spring Concert

Date: Wednesday 26 April 2023

Venue: GSAL

Save the date for our annual Spring concert featuring GSAL's music ensembles.

Summer Concert

Date: Thursday 22 June 2023

Venue: GSAL

Save the date for our annual Summer concert featuring GSAL's music ensembles.

Thinking of hosting a reunion?

If you would like some help organising a reunion our alumni team would be happy to help. We can contact your cohort on your behalf and have a range of venues and a catering service at school if you wish to hold it here. Please contact alumni@gsal.org.uk for more information.

JOIN GSAL Connect

The exclusive global networking and mentoring platform for alumni

- > Expand your professional network
- > Become a mentor
- > Offer to volunteer in school
- > Keep in touch with news and events
- > Reconnect and reminisce with school friends

www.gsalconnect.org.uk



Fond farewells



Barry Cryer at GSAL in 2018

Barry Cryer (OL53)

1935-2022

Barry Cryer was a writer, radio quiz panellist, chat show guest and a star of British entertainment. He had his first taste of the stage in a school production at Leeds Grammar School and went on to become a comedy legend, working in television and radio for 60 years. The school's funniest old boy, he last visited as the guest of honour at the Leeds Luminaries awards in 2018 which celebrated high-achieving alumni of LGS, LGHS and GSAL.

Principal, Sue Woodroffe said: "Barry had a way of making you feel at ease in his company, he wore his brilliance lightly and was always so supportive of GSAL; we will miss him hugely."

After leaving Leeds Grammar School in 1953, Barry went on to study English Literature at Leeds University and performed in various university revues. In 1956 he had his first taste of the professional stage at Leeds City Varieties, the music hall which hosted the popular BBC series *The Good Old Days*.

He left Leeds University after just one year and decided to try his luck in the entertainment industry. He headed for London and auditioned for *The Windmill Theatre* in London's West End where he became a stand-up comic, sharing a bill with Bruce Forsyth. He also made occasional appearances at Danny La Rue's club.

One night, David Frost spotted him on stage and invited him to write for *The Frost Report*, a political satire show which was first broadcast in 1966 and also starred John Cleese and Graham Chapman.

Though he was gaining popularity as a performer, bad bouts of eczema landed him in

hospital several times and he decided to focus on writing rather than performing on stage. By the beginning of the 1970s, Barry had become one of Britain's top comedy-writing talents. He wrote for most of the leading acts, including *The Morecambe and Wise Show*, the *Two Ronnies*, *Spike Milligan*, *Tommy Cooper* and *Les Dawson*. Often in partnership with other comedians, he penned films and sitcoms, as well as television and radio shows.

His superb comic timing was witnessed in a string of TV panel shows, including *That's Showbusiness*, *Blankety Blank* and *What's My Line*. Up until 2020 he was a regular guest on radio panel shows such as *BBC Radio 4's*

I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.

He had many friends in the showbusiness world and was renowned for his generosity and modesty. In 1962, Barry married the dancer and singer Theresa Donovan (known as Terry) and the couple moved to Middlesex where they had four children, Jackie, Bob, Dave and Tony.

He was awarded an OBE in 2001 and in 2017 he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at the University of Leeds. In 2018, the British Music Hall Society gave him a lifetime achievement award.

He is survived by Terry, their four children, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



Pip Kelsey with his Leo magazine team in 1953. Barry Cryer back row second from right.

Harry Gration (OL65)

1950-2022

Broadcaster Harry Gration was one of Britain's longest-serving regional television news presenters.

He was the anchor of *Look North* at the BBC's television studios in Leeds for almost four decades from 1982-1994 and 1999 to 2020 and won five Royal Television Society (RTS) awards.

Born in Bradford, Harry was a Yorkshire man through and through. When he won the RTS regional presenter of the year awards (2015 and 2017), the judges noted his 'emotional involvement with Yorkshire's biggest moments - notably 'Le Tour de France' and commented on his connection with viewers.

Alongside his co-presenters, he took up fun challenges and raised more than a million pounds for charity. In 2014, he rode a tandem with Amy Garcia along the route of Yorkshire's Tour de France Grand Depart. Four years later, tied to weatherman Paul Hudson, he took on a nine-day, 195km, three-legged walk across Yorkshire, raising more than £190,000 for Sport Relief. In 2018, he pushed the BBC *Look North's* red sofa around Yorkshire on an eight-day challenge, as part of the Great Knarborough Bed Race.



Harry Gration

As well as presenting local news, Harry was a sports presenter and covered nine Olympic Games for the BBC. He won two of his Royal Television Society awards for his sports documentaries: *White Rose In Africa* in 1992 and *Dickie Bird: A Rare Species* in 1997.

He also covered rugby league on radio and television and presented *Final Score* on Saturdays and *Sunday Grandstand*.

In his early childhood, he lived in a back-to-back in Bradford. His father, a chemist, managed a Boots store in the city, but promotion meant the family moved to Leeds. He attended Leeds Grammar School from 1962-65, aged 12 to 16, before moving to York where he attended St Peter's. He trained as a teacher and then became Head of History at the Rodillion School in Rothwell.

Harry joined the BBC in 1978 as a sports commentator for Radio Leeds and moved to *Look North* in 1982. He briefly left the BBC in 1994 and took a PR role for the Rugby Football League, before returning to broadcasting. He hosted BBC South Today from Southampton for four years before moving back to *Look North* in 1999 where he stayed for another 21 years. He left the BBC in October 2020, the day before his 70th birthday.

He is survived by his third wife Helen Chene, along with their three sons, Harrison, Harvey and Hamilton, as well as Hannah, the daughter of his first marriage, and Frederick and Samuel, the sons of the second.

In 2013, he became an MBE in recognition for his work in broadcasting.

Ivor Shaw (OL51)

1934-2021

Ivor Shaw ran an electrical engineering business in Central America, before returning to Leeds to open a fashion agency.

After leaving Leeds Grammar School in 1952, Ivor served in the RAF where one of his duties was at the Queen's Coronation, managing the crowds on London's streets.

He emigrated to Panama in 1956 with his wife, Jo and three daughters, where he started an electrical engineering business and was contracted to the U.S. Army and Air Force. The family lived in Panama for 10 years, before returning to Leeds in 1975, with four daughters. Ivor then opened a fashion agency and became a Spanish tutor at night school. He also worked as a radio presenter.

During his time at LGS, he was a prominent member of the school swimming team and an accomplished athlete. He swam for the Colts team before progressing to the school swimming team and was awarded school colours for swimming. He also won a double pentathlon for athletics.

Ivor is sadly missed by his loving family, his wife, four daughters and their husbands, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, all of whom he adored.



Ivor Shaw

Kim Young

1957-2022

Kim Young worked as a teaching assistant from 1997 to 2017, initially at Leeds Grammar School pre-prep and then Rose Court after the merger of Leeds Grammar School and Leeds Girls' High School. She passed away in September. The following tribute has been written by her former colleague, Judith Golby.

Kim was a very special person. For over 25 years I had the great privilege of being her colleague and the even greater privilege of being her friend.

As a colleague she was incomparable. Kim was possessed of a unique gift. Her rapport with children was such that she was able, unerringly, to identify a child in need of help be it social, emotional, physical or academic. Having identified the need Kim would, with sensitivity, kindness and good humour, address the situation and resolve it with an unfailingly positive outcome. Countless children, and their parents, are grateful to her for her professionalism and dedication. Every child to her was a special individual and every child mattered. Kim was the epitome of the true meaning of the word education, she nurtured and brought out the best in children.



Kim Young

No-one could have had a better friend: she was the most caring and giving of people and we always had such fun together. She was genuinely interested in you as a person and loved talking about and hearing about family. Her own family were so important to her and I loved hearing about them. Her appearance was never less than sparklingly immaculate and, as I often told her, she always looked 20 years younger than her real age. She was beautiful on the outside and on the inside.

Kim was most loved and most loving. She was unforgettable and will be forgotten.



Julian West with the rugby team (1979-80)

Julian West (OL83) 1963-2021

Julian attended Junior and Senior School at LGS from 1972 to 1983. He was a loyal member of Barry becoming head of house during Peter Jolly's tenure as Housemaster. Peter remembers that Julian was one of the 'school's greats'.

He said: "His offices as head of school, leader of Barry House and captain of the 1st XV speak for themselves but what we remember, and what is in the small print, is the commitment that characterised his whole being."

Julian mastered the most exquisite Leeds Grammar School handwriting learned in Junior School. If you were lucky enough to receive a card or letter from him, it was always a thing of beauty and to be treasured.

Shortly after graduating from Newcastle Dental School in 1988, Julian went to Sydney and worked for the Aboriginal Medical Centre as a community dentist, helping communities in remote parts of Australia. Julian was kind and compassionate and always wanted to help others.

In 2003 Julian returned to London primarily to be closer to his beloved parents, Joyce and Jim. He worked in Islington but regularly returned to Pool-in-Wharfedale to care for his mother and father. Joyce passed away in 2015 and in 2017 Julian moved into his father's house to care for Jim, (then in his 90s).

Julian took up gardening, growing colourful and spectacular flowers and filling the house with beautiful blooms. Julian died unexpectedly on 6 November and 18 days later, Jim also passed away.

He is survived by his brother Nigel West, sister Barbara West, uncles Ian and Roger Harris, nephew Alistair West and niece Philippa West, all of whom attended LGS, LGHS or GSAL, as did his late mother Joyce West, née Harris and his late aunt Janet Adam, née Harris.

Jane Katjavivi (OG71) 1953-2022

Rosemary Jane Katjavivi, née Coles was a renowned publisher in Namibia and started the first Namibian publishing house, New Namibia Books.

She was also the wife of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof Peter Katjavivi. On leaving Leeds Girls' High School, Jane studied English literature at the University of Sussex in the School of African and Asian Studies, before completing a master's degree in African studies at Birmingham University.



Jane Katjavivi

Bob Bristow (OL52) 1936-2022

Thomas Jeremy 'Bob' Bristow left Leeds Grammar School at the age of 16 and worked as a cost surveyor before relocating to California and setting up a real estate business.

Bob moved with his wife, Libby and daughters to the San Francisco Bay area in the late 1970s to work in property. He set up Britannia Developments in the early 1990s and then went into partnership with Chicago-based Slough Estates until his retirement in 2007.

He also set up the Pacific Epilepsy Jobs Program in the San Francisco Bay area to help people with epilepsy access jobs.

Bob was a devoted husband for 60 years to Elizabeth "Libby" Bristow who preceded him in death by eight months. He was a loving father to Sue (Bob) and Mary and a brother to the late Michael Bristow. Bob was a proud grandfather to Matthew, Daniel, Elsa, Nicholas, Sabrina and Matilda.

Bob was the life and soul of the party and loved entertaining friends and family. At his water-side home in California, he and many guests notoriously ended up fully clothed in a nearby lagoon. His last home was in Katonah where he planted over a hundred trees. His lifelong mantra was: "There are givers and there are takers in this world." As a giver, he loved entertaining his guests and held annual soccer matches. His home, 'Bristow Lodge' was known for fine cui-sine and an endless wine cellar.

Bob had an extraordinary life and was a force of nature. He passed quietly at the age of 85.



Bob Bristow

Kathleen Tegwen-Brett (OG35) 1918-2022

We are sad to announce the death of Kathleen Tegwen-Brett, LGHS's oldest alumna.

Kathleen, who was known as Kitty, died just before her 103rd birthday at a retirement complex in York. She contributed generously to the school's bursary appeals and was a valued member of the alumni community.



Kathleen Grainge

Kathleen Grainge 1930-2022

We are very sad to announce that Kathleen Grainge died on 29 September this year in Harrogate, aged 92.

Kathleen had a long and enjoyable association with the school, commencing in 1953 when her husband Marshall joined the staff of Leeds Grammar School to teach geography. She actively supported his extracurricular weekend cricket commitments, including a tour to Wales circa 1965, with three young children in tow, when all the matches were rained out!

One of Kathleen's passions was cooking, and she loved welcoming young LGS staff and their partners for meals at the family home in Roundhay.

For several years in the late 60s she played an important supporting role with the summer school trips that Marshall and Phil Kelsey took to Norway, Switzerland and France. In the following decade, this continued with school ski trips to Romania, Norway and Italy. For many boys, these trips were their first experience of travelling to foreign parts.

For many years Kathleen and Marshall were active members of the school's Parents and Friends Association. Kathleen particularly enjoyed researching the quiz nights that she and Marshall hosted. Both were also keen participants in the annual staff plays.

After Marshall died in 1989, Kathleen continued her contact with the school, succeeding Marshall as President of the Friends of LGS. She also greatly enjoyed awarding the Marshall Grainge Cup to the winner of the annual Past v Present cricket match. She happily participated in other staff related activities, many of which involved travel. Her last visit to GSAL was in October 2019 to attend a lunch celebrating the 50th anniversary of the LGS field trip to Stromboli organised by Marshall, Ken Standring and John Edwards.

After moving to live in Bramhope in 1996, she took a great interest in many village activities, cultivating her love of lawn bowls, amateur dramatics, flower arranging for the village church and impressive performances as Santa's wife at the Christmas Fair. She still found time to play

an active role in the lives of her children and grandchildren, a testament to her physical and mental strength of character!

Kathleen touched the lives of many people, including many of the school's alumni. She will be sadly missed by her three children Andrew (OL71), Alison and Carol, daughter-and sons-in-law, her six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Anthony J Comber (OL45) 1927-2022

Anthony Comber was Archdeacon of Leeds from 1982 to 1992 and spent much of his life helping people in need.

He saw his mission as a priest to understand the needs of the people he served. As part of the Faith in Leeds groups in the 1970s, he brought together people from different denominations. As Archdeacon, he chaired the Leeds committee of the Church Urban Fund after the publication of a report in 1985 called for action in urban priority areas.

Anthony was born in Leeds to parents who were Baptists. He attended Leeds Grammar School and then studied mining engineering at Leeds University. He gained a master's in 1952 and worked in collieries in Yorkshire, spending time at the Königin Elisabeth coal mine, in Essen, Germany.

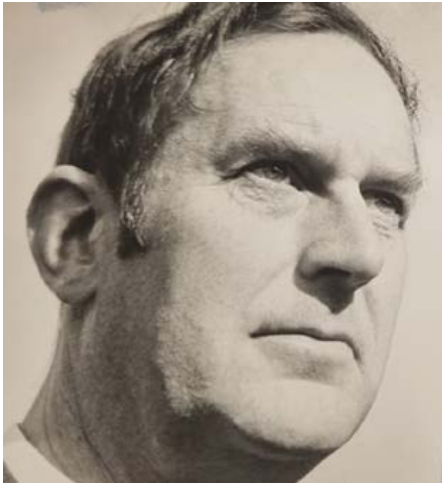
In 1953, he decided to study theology and went to St Chad's College, Durham. He completed his ordination training and spent a year at Munich University. He was ordained priest in 1957 and served his title at St James's, Manston, in Leeds

From 1960 to 1969, he was Vicar at St John's, Oulton, before moving to St Mary the Virgin, Hunslet, and St Andrew's, Stourton, both in Leeds. St Andrew's closed in 1973, and when St Mary's closed in 1975, he oversaw the building of a more modern replacement with ancillary community facilities. He was also chaplain to Crabtree Vickers, Britain's leading printing-machinery manufacturer, based in Leeds.

After five years as Rector of St Michael's, Farnley, in 1982, he became Archdeacon of Leeds, a post that he held for ten years until retirement.

A much-respected priest, he lived alone and was active and independent until the last few weeks of his life. He died at the age of 95.

His older sister, Jean, who had been a missionary in West Africa, died in 2007.



Anthony Comber

Walter Welburn 1928-2022

Walter Welburn (M.A. Oxon) was Head of French and Languages at LGS from 1962 until 1989. This obituary was written by Philip Milner (LGS, 1971-2004).

Walter was a remarkably successful teacher and head of department. He was highly intelligent, learned, witty, eccentric and kind.

The French results were usually the best in Yorkshire independent boys' schools; all levels of boys achieved; failure was almost unheard of. The languages department was very strong and highly professional.

Simon Pulleyn (OL86) who read Classics at Oxford and won the top modern languages travelling scholarship, said: "He brought everybody on. He insisted on absolute mastery of grammar and vocabulary, with frequent tests. He insisted that our command of the written language should be matched by the spoken..."

Walter was fun: he used to walk into the lessons of John Gimson, Head of German, and another free spirit, sing 'Freude!' from Beethoven's Ode to Joy and walk out again.

His literature teaching was spectacular and he taught across the range, from Racine to Samuel Beckett, and with great gusto

Walter was a product of the age when the grammar schools and Oxford University inculcated the educational ideal of education that teaching built pupils' lives to make them successful and productive members of society, and to do good. We were lucky to have known him.



Walter Welburn

John Leonard Scott 1930-2022

John Scott, Head of English at LGS 1965-1982 died on 15 August aged 92. His son Jonathan (OL79) and his daughter Kate survive him.

John was a gentleman, an erudite scholar, generous and kind, notably to newcomers finding their feet, and one of the stalwarts who were the backbone of LGS staff in those years, a great colleague.

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