

# OLNEWS

SPRING 2021 | Issue 45



**A Brush with the Past**  
Allan Brigham remembered

**Spotlight**  
Jo Smallshaw flies

**The Community Fund**  
Swinging into action



### Message from the President

Dear Old Leysians,

I was a little surprised but honoured to be approached to become President of The Old Leysian Society and it is a privilege to take on this role for the next year. I look forward to meeting old friends as well as making new ones during my term of office. I very much hope that more OLs of all ages will attend the social functions and events that are planned and that they will be well supported.

My five years at the School were thoroughly enjoyable mainly because of my passion for playing sport. I was indeed fortunate to have Neil White, a former Olympic hockey player, as my housemaster and sports coach. He had a great influence on my choice of career, and I followed in his footsteps by also playing international hockey, representing Wales between 1973 and 1980.

After qualifying as a Physical Education and Geography teacher at Reading, I returned to Cambridge to teach at St Faith's School. I remained there for my entire career of 42 years taking on various roles. I am so grateful to The Leys for the education and preparation I received for later life.

The Leys continues to be a thriving community, even in the present unprecedented times, due to excellent leadership and the dedication of staff who continue to inspire pupils to achieve their full potential and prepare them for their future. I encourage you to look at the school website for more information about OL events and sports clubs.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming year, in the meantime please follow the rules, keep yourself and others safe.

**Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966-71**

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# OL Updates



**Eliza McAlpine, Dale 2007-12**

“Moving to Paris after graduating from King’s College London was an easy decision and I have very much made a home for myself here. That is not to say that British soil,

smells, culture, as well as that good old “stiff upper lip”, do not go amiss. However, an infusion of both British & French has come to be, for me, the most perfect cup of tea.

I spent a little over two years at Danone within Global Talent & Learning, a period which accelerated my growth and learning of the HR function. In December 2019, I joined Chanel as an HR Manager. Little did we know what was to come, however, I must say that joining a company as the world was on the brink of a global pandemic was a great challenge, one that may not resurface in such a way again in my lifetime. Perhaps that is one Covid-related thing I am grateful for!

In my own words, Chanel resembles a close-knit family, very much like that of The Leys; its foundations are built on heritage, creativity and boldness, and effervesce across the House from the moment you step inside. It is a privilege to work so closely with such passionate people who are some of the brand’s strongest allies.”



**Mark Emerson, West 1992-96**

Mark has recently embarked on a new start-up business venture called Explore Consulting ([www.exploreconsulting.careers](http://www.exploreconsulting.careers)) to ‘fix recruitment’ for management consulting firms. Their mission is to make consulting careers accessible to all people regardless of their background, and to help consulting firms to connect with talent more effectively.

Mark comments: “It’s been a brutal year for students, graduates and job seekers, so we organised a free event to help people learn about consulting careers as a force for positive change. Inevitably, the path of life can be bumpy, but those who navigated the storm of 2020, will likely be more resilient and feel a renewed sense of hope as we slowly emerge from this pandemic.”

**Tom Wilson, West 2008-13**

“My move to the Seychelles to start a new teaching job has been a fantastic experience. Returning to the classroom to teach after a term of online learning in the UK was a great relief and the pupils were very welcoming. As I write this, we have returned to online learning. Teaching remotely on an island in the middle of the Indian Ocean has its fair share of challenges, but these are offset by late afternoons spent snorkelling, hiking through the hills, and cooking fresh fish. Since securing the job last February, there was always a degree of uncertainty as to whether my girlfriend and I would be able to move out here, however, having reflected on the long journey to get to this point, we feel very lucky to be in a country which has provided the opportunity to experience stunning beaches, adopt two kittens and learn to scuba dive. I miss life in the UK a great deal and being far from family and friends has been difficult, but I am looking forward to returning (fingers crossed) in the summer and catching up with everyone.”



Tom enjoying the beautiful beaches of the Seychelles



**Tochi Ugo-Beke, West 2008-13**

Since leaving The Leys, Tochi has successfully completed an undergraduate degree in Geology at UCL, followed by a postgraduate degree at Imperial College London. He currently works as a Geologist in the London Office of Oando PLC which is one of Africa’s leading energy solutions providers.

Tochi graduating from Imperial College London

**Will Hooley, Barker 2007–12**

“Change can be exciting, especially when you have the opportunity to move to one of rugby union’s great establishments, Saracens. I have greatly enjoyed playing rugby at Saracens, albeit in the strangest of times when rugby as a sport has been up in the air. Summer 2020 gave me the exciting opportunity to play in the Gallagher Premiership; games were played behind closed doors, but the intensity and joy of the premiership nevertheless made it feel great to be playing again. Towards the end of 2020, uncertainty was looming as we started to prepare for the championship season. Unfortunately, as the pandemic

continues, there is still no formal start date for the league. Pre-season games took place however and I even managed to play a game in front of a thousand people; it felt extremely refreshing to hear supporters back in the stands. It still remains uncertain when normality in the rugby world will resume. In the meantime, I continue to write for national publications such as The Guardian and I was recently awarded a First-Class degree in Sports Journalism and Broadcasting from the University of Staffordshire. I am ultimately in a fortunate position and look forward to the future.”



Will playing for Saracens

**Amelia Paltridge, Fen 2011–16**

“Just over two years ago, I was offered a place at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and I have spent every moment since being incredibly grateful for the opportunity and the world class training. Being one of only fourteen classmates from an original 2,500 applicants, the whole experience has been a crazy whirlwind of education and fun. I have certainly come a long way from my dorky days in *Chicago* on The Leys’ Great Hall stage! I recently started my third and final year at the school and I had the pleasure of playing the lead, Bathsheba Everdene, in the stage production of *Far from the Madding Crowd*. It was an intense process given the constantly changing Covid-19 guidelines and there were times we weren’t even sure it would go ahead.

Some of the cast even moved in with each other to form a bubble and slept on sofas, to ensure we could touch each other during the show! The performance was live streamed, so there was also the challenge of adapting our acting to suit both stage and screen. Despite these additional struggles, it was so exciting to be able to perform live theatre in these times; it had been ten months since we were last on stage. What was wonderful about the livestream was that we had friends and family all over the world watching who would not previously have been able to do so, including many of my old Leys mates!”



Amelia in action



**Sophie Moore, Dale 2004–09 & Ruairi Fitzpatrick, West 2002–09**

got married on 19 September 2020 at the Chelsea Old Town Hall Register Office. It was a masked ceremony and was attended by 14 people. The wedding was the highlight of the year for the couple and their families. Sophie and Ruairi have recently moved into a house in West Hampstead which they had been renovating for 18 months. Sophie is a merchandiser for Browns Fashion and Ruairi is a Chartered Surveyor at Colliers. **Harriet Cookson, Dale 2004–09** attended the wedding as Sophie’s bridesmaid, and **Jamie Bolton, West 2002–09** attended as Ruairi’s Best Man.

**Samantha Adebayo, Fen 2009–14**

Since studying Media Communications and Journalism at Buckingham University, Samantha has entered the world of fashion as Creative Director of the clothing line Gëto, which she started in the Summer of 2019. The name Gëto was inspired by Samantha’s love of hip-hop music, namely the Geto Boys, and by the international misconception of Nigeria as a ghetto. Gëto challenges this misconception by producing high-quality clothing sourced and made in a developing country. With three collections completed and shipping internationally, she is currently working on her fourth collection to be released in early 2021. In late 2019, Samantha was invited to the UNESCO African Designer’s Summit during Paris Fashion Week and she has recently styled top African artists such as Burna Boy, Dbanj and Tems.

To view Samantha’s latest collection visit [www.getoworld.com](http://www.getoworld.com)



**Bodun Adebayo, North A 2008–13**

Bodun studied Business Management at Reading University followed by a master’s degree in Management at UCL and went on to work as a Business Developer for a Trade Finance company based in Lagos and London. He currently contributes articles to *Engineering Sports* which is a content-led sports empowerment brand that exists to reverse engineer the status quo of sports in Africa. The brand was born out of necessity due to the increase in the number of athletes of African descent opting to represent other nations in their respective sports on the world’s biggest stages. Bodun’s recent article explores why no female athlete has a signature shoe with a sports brand.

**Sophie Mead, Fen 2007–10**

Sophie has very kindly been helping upper-sixth pupil Victoria R with her veterinary medicine application for the University of Cambridge. Victoria only had great things to say:

“Over Michaelmas term I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Sophie ahead of my interviews for VetMed at Cambridge. In our first meeting, she told me about the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on veterinary practices. In the meetings that followed, we discussed the best approach to the interviews and identified key ethical issues, including intensive farming and the culling of mink. In our final meeting, we did a mock interview so I could practise stringing together my ideas into natural, flowing answers. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Sophie; she is a wonderfully genuine and kind person, and her constructive feedback and encouragement helped me to arrive at my interviews as well prepared as possible!”



Michael at the whaling station aged sixteen

**Michael Easterbrook, School 1955–56**

After leaving school, Michael returned to Toronto to attend medical school and he spent subsequent long summers working in a whaling station at the top of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. He has recently been re-elected as President of the Western Canada Whaling Alumni Association and he is still in active practice as a Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Toronto. He is very happily married with three daughters and two stepdaughters. His 1955 Austin Healey overheats and drips oil, but it’s a Healey! He was happy to visit The Leys several years ago and see the many changes and new facilities. His visit brought back many memories and top of the list was *few things are more distressing to a well-regulated mind...* and the thousands of times he wrote it out!



**Cosmo O'Reilly, Barker/East  
2004–09**

“After leaving The Leys, I went to university to study Architecture. Whilst studying I became involved in teaching Art in prisons - Mrs Stobbart would be impressed! I loved it and found myself questioning if Architecture was for me. After I graduated, I gained a place at Cambridge University to do my PGCE and have not looked back since. At the end of 2013, I married Beth, who is also a teacher. We have now taught in the North East of England, Surrey, Southern India and this year joined Monkton Combe School in Bath where we are Houseparents of a senior boys' house. When I gained this position, some of my former teachers reached out to offer their advice which I greatly appreciated. As I considered how I would run my house, I looked back on my time at The Leys and to the Housemasters who guided me towards the individual I am today, Messrs Brown, Deudney and Meharry. I have now completed my first term as a Houseparent of School House and completely love the job. It is a wonderful opportunity to encourage the boys as they become young men, as well as eat a lot of chicken nuggets and enjoy fun times in the common room. Beth and our two dogs, Omnom and Ooty, love the school too and enjoy welcoming the boys into our home and family.”

**John Lindsay, School  
1950–54**

was awarded an MBE in the 2019 New Year Honours List for six decades of “Public and Political Service”. His honour was invested by HM The Queen at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh in July 2019.

**Other news ...**

At the cricket final in September 2020 the team were well-supported by a mixture of family and friends, among them some OLS: **Lizzie Clarke, Fen 2011–16** who is nearing the end of her course in Events Management at Manchester Metropolitan University; **Hannah Carson, Fen 2011–16** who has recently graduated with a degree in Architecture from Newcastle University and secured her first position in September as Junior Designer for a London workplace interiors company – Woodalls Design; and **Emma-Kate Barry, Moulton/Bisseker 2009–16** who is pursuing an acting career and has a couple of films under her belt already; you can see her in *Infected Love* (2018) and *Sticky Toffee Pudding* (2020), which will be on Amazon Prime in January 2021.

**Henry O'Farrell, North A 2012–17**

is in his third year of a degree in Marketing at the University of York and he has recently had a case study published in an international academic journal.

Henry writes, “During my first year at university, I completed an internship with a fantastic company, China Future Creative Class (CFCC), in Shenyang, China, where I lived and breathed every aspect of Chinese life, food and culture, falling head over heels for the country and the people. Along the way, I met some life changing friends and tried some life changing foods (duck tongues and blood jelly to name a few!). I led a team and designed a research project, entitled ‘Developments in Online, Social Media Marketing in China and the West: An Overview of Different Approaches’, that delved into the world of Chinese Social Media and mobile payment systems. After returning, I was fortunate to have this article published in the *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies* – shout out to my team in Liaoning University as this wouldn't have been possible without your hard work. I have just completed a year in industry at BMW UK as the Brand and Launch Communications Assistant and have now returned to university to complete my final year. I am excited for life after university and I am looking forward to learning more about the world of global marketing and consumer psychology.”



Henry with Professor Lisa Dong of Liaoning University



Tim made, and sold, a wooden axe head for every day in the year with the proceeds going to buy Britain's first Community Woodland

**John Fletcher, West 1960–65**

has been in touch about the Tim Stead Trust, a charity set up to save the house of OL Tim Stead MBE, North A 1965–68. He writes:

“Tim Stead was controversial and a misfit, lasting only three years at The Leys before setting off to wander France, a *clochard* for a year.

Once out of Art school, Tim settled in the Scottish Borders and, always working in wood, he rapidly developed a profoundly distinctive style in his furniture and his sculptures. He continues to influence Scottish design long after his death in 2000 at the age of only 48. Stead's affinity with wood was tactile – his exhibitions carried signs ‘Please Touch’ – but it was also rooted in the environment; he created the first Community Woodland in Britain, where children still learn weekly.

His biggest achievement was the interior of his own house, The Steading. It had been threatened with dispersal but by launching a last-minute appeal the Tim Stead Trust is preventing that and establishing a national Centre for Wood Culture. Please visit the informative website [www.timsteadtrust.org](http://www.timsteadtrust.org) and consider helping to found a monument to a most distinguished Old Leysian”.



**Richard Bentley, North B 1992–97**

celebrated his wedding to Mary-Kate O'Connor at Islington Town Hall on a crisp 2020 December evening. Even though it was an intimate affair, both Max Shepherd, North B 1993–97 and Joel Humphrey, East 1992–97 were best men with witty speeches and tall tales.

**Online Events**

On Thursday 4 March, members of the Leys Community, including pupils, Old Leysians, staff and parents, attended the Development Office's first online event, *An Introduction to Art Conservation with Rosanna de Sancha*. Rosanna gave a fascinating overview of her complex and exacting work as a Senior Paintings Conservator in the Royal Collection Trust and described the various aspects of her role which uniquely combines artistic skill with art historical knowledge and scientific analysis. Rosanna went on to explain the restoration process behind various paintings, including the beautiful works of renowned painters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer. We are delighted to report that many of the attendees found the talk fascinating and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



*Please look out for future online events with the Development Office, we would love to see you there.*

Rosanna de Sancha,  
Royal Collection Trust

# School News



## In the top five

The Leys has been named in the top five Independent Schools of the Decade in East Anglia by *The Sunday Times*' Parent Power School of the Decade list. Parent Power lists the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK based on exam results.

## From the Headmaster

Who would have thought, a year ago, that we would have had no pupils here in the Summer Term of 2020, only a handful on site at the time of writing in January 2021, no prospect of public exams in the summer for the second year running, international pupils quarantining here at School from August onwards, the School remaining open for half-terms and leave weekends, revision weeks in the summer holidays, a cricket fixture in the Autumn Term, and that we would be online for our Open Mornings, Chapel Services, Assemblies and Parents' evenings? Who would have thought we would see fit to invest in our own hospital-standard testing machine to help to protect our staff and pupils from a potentially deadly virus? None of us had ever heard of CAGs (Centre Assessed Grades) or bubbles (at least, not in the sense we understand the term today), and some of us (myself included) had never heard of 'Zoom'.

Not since the School had to relocate to Pitlochry in the Second World War has school

life been so entirely disrupted. The teaching and support staff have all shown incredible dedication and resilience in the way they have adapted to remote working and it has been a steep learning curve for everyone.

The support from parents for what we have done has been heart-warming, and our pupils bought into learning for learning's sake, completing two new courses with gusto and commitment – the *Χαιρετε* Leavers' Diploma and the Year 11 Headstart Course, themselves great examples of Leysian innovation.

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The Autumn Term of 2020 saw pupils back on site, though we had to make a huge number of adaptations in order to run the School safely, balancing the requirement for staff and pupil safety on the one hand with the wish to provide an authentically Leysian education on the other. Navigating school life was undoubtedly more difficult than normal, and the requirements of Covid safety impacted to a greater or lesser extent on all aspects of our lives. The pupils, as they have been throughout, proved themselves to be overwhelmingly praiseworthy and on-side in their adaptations to the changes required. I have been genuinely and consistently impressed by their flexibility and commitment.

These amendments and inconveniences are part of life as it is now here at The Leys but compared to many across the country and across the world, we are all aware of how fortunate we are. We have been working hard with our charitable partners to have a positive effect on those less fortunate than ourselves, not least through our collaboration with the



## Journey into Space

Two year 10 pupils, Martin and Caleb, are one step closer to having their Magtrix experiment included aboard the International Space Station. It has been provisionally accepted in the first round of the Mission Space Lab competition. Their project involves writing code which can run automatically in the Raspberry Pi computer on board the ISS.



Martin and Caleb in action

The pandemic of 2020–21 has tested The Leys' resilience and adaptability like perhaps few other crises in its history.

Red Hen project, a local charity which works with disadvantaged families in Cambridge. Meanwhile, our partnership with the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation ("Royal SpringBoard") gains momentum and remains our overarching priority in terms of the wider benefit we can provide. Our first Royal SpringBoard bursary recipient arrived in the School at the beginning of this academic year.

The pandemic of 2020–21 has tested The Leys' resilience and adaptability like perhaps few other crises in its history. My determination at the time we were locked down for the first time in March last year, was that The Leys would not merely weather the storm intact but emerge with our reputation enhanced. We are not through the crisis yet, and even with a successful rollout of vaccines it is inevitable that the impact will be felt for many years to come, but thus far my aim has, I am confident in asserting, been met. I hope that Old Leysians can feel proud of how their alma mater has coped,

adapted and flourished. "May you live in interesting times" is a phrase often erroneously claimed to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. There is no doubt that these have indeed been "interesting times" and all of us – pupils, staff, parents, Governors and friends of The Leys – look forward with mounting impatience to a gradual return to more "uninteresting times" at some point in 2021.



## Business event launches virtual careers programme

Sixth-form pupils from The Leys were given a taste of City life at a Virtual Financial Markets Careers Event. Organised by the Careers and Business Studies Departments, the event was an opportunity for pupils to take part in stock-market simulations as a trader and as an asset manager.

*OLs interested in supporting pupils with work experience opportunities or careers advice, please contact the Development Office.*

## Di checks out from the School Shop

Diana "Di" Tierney is retiring after 17 years of service in the School Shop. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time here and liked it best when pupils arrived in groups, when they would all have a laugh and a joke. The shop has changed a great deal in the past seventeen years and has recently had a re-fit. Di is looking forward to visiting friends in Scotland and Cornwall when she joins her husband in retirement.



Di in her element



Cllr. Alex Collis

### Harvest Offerings to Food Hub

Alex Collis, councillor for King's Hedges on Cambridge City Council, came to speak to the School about food poverty at a recorded Harvest Festival service in October. Cllr. Collis is manager of the Cambridge Food Hub. She told the School about its work in promoting food sustainability and food economic justice in the city. She recently led the City Council motion to back a food poverty action plan for Cambridge. In response, the School community donated gifts of food to be distributed through the Hub to Cambridge citizens in need.

### Concerto Competition

Sarah MacDonald, Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, was the adjudicator of the annual Concerto Competition in which pupils compete for the prize of the opportunity to perform with the School Orchestra in the End of Year Concert at Saffron Hall in May. The winner was James M (alto saxophone), who played Holcombe's *Concerto for Saxophone (allegro con brio)*.



Concerto Concert winner



Cricket 2020

### Cricket

The Leys has again been selected by *The Cricketer* magazine as one of its top 100 cricket-playing senior schools. The Leys has been a cricketing school since its foundation and its facilities now include a new purpose-built two-lane indoor school, four grass squares, and a top-class new six-lane facility at Latham Road. The school is also the home of Northamptonshire Cricket Club's Satellite Academy in the Eastern Region. In the Autumn Term match mentioned by the Headmaster, Issy R became the first girl to represent the 1st XI, twenty-one years after **Kendra Butlin, Fen 1994–99** became the first girl to represent the School.

### Cabaret gains big audience via live streaming

The Christmas Cabaret gained a big audience through live streaming. It was the School's first stage production since February 2020; a light-hearted blend of music, dance, and comedy sketches performed by pupils in year 11 and the Sixth form in their year-group bubbles.



Cabaret 2020



Artwork featured on calendar cover

### Virtual PDB Art Exhibition

The 2020 Virtual PDB Art Exhibition displays artworks created as part of a collaboration between Protein Data Bank in Europe (PDBe), The Art Society CANTAB, The Art Society GRANTA, and local school Art departments. Works by Leysians are featured in the virtual exhibition, and on the cover of their 2021 Calendar, distributed internationally. The project combines the fine arts and investigations into proteins to communicate the unseeable.

To view the exhibition, please visit: [www.ebi.ac.uk/about/news/announcements/PDBArt-2020](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/about/news/announcements/PDBArt-2020)

### Sailing to Success

Two year 10 pupils have been selected to join the Royal Yacht Association's eastern region training squad. This sets them on course for possible selection for UK Sailing's Youth Squads and, beyond that, Olympic Development programmes.



Sail training

# OL Sport



**Back row, from left to right: Dan Sellers, Andrew Gale, Richard Gough, Jonny Horsford, Dougie Turner**  
**Front row, from left to right: Mark Horsford, Jamie Lee, Dante O'Reilly**

## Old Leysian Tag Rugby Football Club

REPORT BY TOM ANDREWS

In the final months of 2020, The Old Leysian Tag Rugby Football Club returned to the hallowed grounds of West Ham and Canada Water to compete once again at tag rugby's top table - the modestly named Men's Super League. Bravely resisting the rising forces of "tactics", "fitness" and "punctuality" for a fourth year, the squad once again punched above their quite considerable weight.

Led, as always, by club captain Jonny Horsford, the boys recovered from a dismal start to the season to eventually tie the third-place playoff game in a 17-17 thriller, taking home a share of the bronze medal. In a league stuffed full of GB tag stalwarts, this must go down as one of the club's great achievements.

Special mention must go to Toby Stockley for his first MVP award - catlike reflexes and a relentless engine saw him carry the team through several tempestuous nights at the end of the Jubilee line. Plaudits also to Dr Mark Horsford, for juggling Tag commitments with his work on the frontline wards of North London's hospitals, and to Dougie Turner, for his contributions to the weekly match reports with his wildly popular "Dougie's Dino Facts".

OLs of all abilities would be most welcome to join in the spring for the next glorious campaign, and it would be fantastic to be able to start a Women's or Mixed team in 2021. All enquiries to Jonny Horsford: (jwhorsford@gmail.com) or Dougie Turner: (dwt1@mac.com).

## Old Leysian Golfing Society

REPORT BY NIGEL WASHBOURN

The Annual Business Meeting was held via Zoom on 17 February 2021 and was attended by nineteen members. The following officers were elected:

**President** David Page  
**Captain** Charlie Kidman  
**Vice-Captain** Richard Chapman  
**Hon Sec & Treasurer** Nigel Washbourn  
**Assistant** Nick Dendy  
**Committee** Alan Cox, Richard Endacott, James Kisby, Andrew Macalpine, Noel Page & Stephen Peak  
**Team Manager**  
 Halford Hewitt & Grafton Morrish: Nick Dendy  
**Team Manager**  
 Bernard Darwins: Tim Walton

**The Halford Hewitt** has been moved from April to 8-12 September, and the Spring Meeting will be held at Royal Worlington Golf Club, on Wednesday 13 May, booking in from 8am. Members will be sent details with any special arrangements nearer the time.

### Senior Bernard Darwin

(Over 65), 15/16 June

In the first round we have drawn **Radley at Woking Golf Club** on 15 June, play off at 10.00 a.m. *Supporters will be welcome.*

### Veteran's Bernard Darwin

(Over 75), 16 June

### Afternoon Stableford Foursomes

**Competition** when we hope to field a team.

### Bernard Darwin Trophy

(Over 55), 1/2 July

In the first round we have drawn **Harrow at Woking Golf Club** on 1 July, play off at 9.40 a.m. *Supporters will be welcome.*



For other fixtures and O.L.G.S updates, please visit: [www.theleys.net/529/leys-community/old-leysians/clubs-and-societies](http://www.theleys.net/529/leys-community/old-leysians/clubs-and-societies)

# The Music of Ken Naylor



## THE PAUL CROSFIELD CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Paul Crosfield was our Director of Studies from 2010 to 2020 during which time his contribution to the school was immense. Behind his quiet and calm exterior lay an intense drive for individual perfection and achievement. Last year, as with everything else, he fought his battle with cancer with quiet dignity and great courage. Paul was a strong supporter of all things musical, especially choral singing. He was a cornerstone of the Chapel and Chamber Choir. Who can forget that magnificent performance of C.V. Stanford's 'Heraclitus' by The Chamber Choir? The Paul Crosfield Music Fund was established by Paul's family and The Leys to offer choral scholarships, aiming to encourage pupils with choral talent, seeking to develop their skills and voices.

## KEN NAYLOR



Key to Covid-19 lockdowns has been to avoid loneliness and 'cabin fever'. Early on, a wise friend said, "only a major project will keep you sane". Ken

Naylor's music is already published in 450 pages of *Beyond Coe Fen* but for many, musical scores are but a foreign code. Hence my lockdown project: to complete *Echoes of Naylor*, an audio collection of Ken's work. All with the intent that Ken's music remains in use and is never forgotten. The *EON* CD set has over 100 tracks of Naylor's music, about half computer generated, others from recordings long saved, relocated, sponsored and instigated

to celebrate Ken's music. *EON Xmas 2020* was a Christmas CD gift to my chums, a selection of some of my favourites.

Huge thanks go to two OLs and Naylor aficionados, Iain Ledingham, School 1968–73, one of Ken's stellar organ pupils, for his various choral, brass and organ recordings, and Stephen Pickett, East 1966–71 for his immense IT contribution and musical skills.

*Echoes of Naylor* is over 100 tracks (3 hours) of Naylor, a comprehensive collection of most of his music. *EON Xmas 2020* is just 25 tracks of Naylor, real recordings from '53 to '20, hopefully the best of *EON*.

A choice of one of these CDs is available to any OL free of charge. Just contact the Development Office, say which one, and they will post it to you.

There are still some copies of *Beyond Coe Fen*, 450 pages of Ken's music, manuscripts and write-ups. We will have to charge the postage cost for this tome at £9.50. The book is free, but as with the CD, a non-obligatory contribution to The Paul Crosfield Fund would be appreciated.

The books and CDs have been gifted to the School, so all and any proceeds will go towards the Paul Crosfield Fund for Choral Scholarships – a cause which I am sure would have Ken's total support.

Please contact Phillipa Graham or the Director of Development, Donna Thomas-Watson, c/o The Leys School CB2 7AD or by emailing [development@theleys.net](mailto:development@theleys.net).

**Rod Ashby-Johnson, School 1957–62**

# Leys Community



## INTRODUCING THE LEYS COMMUNITY

*Leys Community is the name we have given to our thriving network of Old Leysians, pupils, parents (past and present), staff (past and present), donors and other supporters of The Leys.*

### Leys Community exists to:

- ◆ Inspire and support our pupils;
- ◆ Keep you updated on news and developments from The Leys and the Leys Community;
- ◆ Offer careers guidance and mentoring opportunities in partnership with the School's Careers Office, and delivered through our Leys Community network;
- ◆ Raise funds for our fully funded bursary programme, The Gift of Education, ensuring we can offer disadvantaged and vulnerable young people the opportunity to access a Leysian education;
- ◆ Deliver a programme of networking, educational and social events;
- ◆ Support local community outreach projects via The Community Fund.

In this edition of *OL News*, I would like to introduce you to the most recent Leys Community development.

### The Community Fund

The Community Fund is a new initiative between The Leys & St Faith's Schools Foundation and Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission. It has been established by donations from our Leysian community and supports charity and community projects in the Cambridge area and, through the Chapel & Mission, in the area around City Road in London.



Angus dropping off his hamper

Funding is available to support a variety of projects of any size up to £5,000 per organisation per year. Larger awards may be made in exceptional circumstances where there is significant community benefit. Grants can be accessed via an application form found on the Leys Community pages of the school website.

The first of the funded projects took place over half-term in October 2020, and to date have included:

- ◆ A trip to Go Ape at Thetford for 16 students that attend The Red Balloon Learner Centre.
- ◆ A trip to the tenpin bowling alley in Cambridge for 26 children from families supported by The Red Hen Project.
- ◆ A Youth Mental Health First Aid training course for support workers from Red Balloon and Red Hen set up and run by The Leys Outreach Team.
- ◆ Support for remote learning during lockdown through the provision of Chromebooks and iPads to children without access to IT equipment.

- ◆ Provision of IT equipment for Cambridge debt charity The Money Advice Centre, to enable them to continue supporting their at-risk clients through the financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ The Half-Term Hamper project, an initiative with Cambridge community group Abbey People, to support families in need in the Cambridge Abbey ward during February half-term.

The Half-Term Hamper appeal provided an opportunity for members of our Leys Community to make a real difference to local families in need. Families, OLs and staff all donated hampers of dry goods, including ingredients for a pancake day feast. Several of our current parents stepped up to help Abbey People with the logistical challenge of delivering 50 food boxes across the Abbey Ward. It was wonderful to see 50 hampers of pancake ingredients and store cupboard basics delivered to complement the fresh fruit and veg boxes funded by a Community Fund grant.

*"The engagement with the Leys Community exceeded all our expectations, with both the generosity shown through donations, volunteer time and through online engagement."*

Nicky Shepard, CEO Abbey People

*More Community Fund applications are currently under consideration.*

We know the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced pre-existing inequalities, with the greatest impact felt by the most vulnerable in our society. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity The Community Fund provides to develop the outreach work of both The Leys & St. Faith's Schools and of Wesley's Chapel & Mission. To find out more, please visit [www.theleys.net/685/leys-community](http://www.theleys.net/685/leys-community)

**Donna Thomas-Watson, Director of Development**

# Community Connections

## The Red Balloon Learner Centre, Cambridge

Increasing numbers of young people are missing from education, not because they are disinterested in learning or have been excluded from school, but because they suffer from severe depression, anxiety or mental trauma as a result of bullying, abuse, mental health problems or other life-long conditions. The Red Balloon Learner Centres help young people who have self-excluded from mainstream school, providing education at secondary school level for students aged between 11 and 16.

Red Balloon was established in the mid-1990s by Carrie Herbert and Ruth Loshak due to an absence of appropriate education for a small but significant number of young people in Cambridgeshire. They particularly observed that young people, who had experienced bullying to such an extent that they could not attend mainstream school, were not being offered learning opportunities that matched their needs or abilities. Carrie and Ruth, therefore, set up a learning centre in their own house providing education for up to fifteen secondary age students. The fact that Red Balloon now operates five learning centres and engages a wider group of students virtually through Red Balloon of the Air clearly demonstrates not only the need for this provision but also their success in delivering it.

All Red Balloon students have access to bespoke programmes matched to their academic and wellbeing needs so that they are prepared for the next stage of their learning, be that returning to mainstream school, or advancing into further education or employment. The belief that education should be accessible for all sits at the heart of Red Balloon's work.

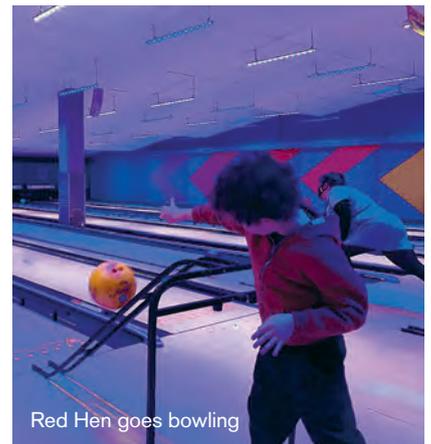
Since the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020, The Leys' Outreach Team has been partnering with the Red Balloon Learner Centre, Cambridge to help support their work with vulnerable young people. That relationship is further strengthened through a mutual



[bit.ly/leys-redballooninterview](https://bit.ly/leys-redballooninterview)

If you are interested in finding out more, you can listen to an interview between James P, Community Prefect, and David Silk in which they discuss special educational needs, the impact of Red Balloon, and how David is supporting the organisation. You can find the interview by following the link below.

connection, David Silk. David has spent over 45 years working in schools, specialising in Physical Education. He began his career as a PE teacher and later progressed to the role of Deputy Head. For the majority of this time, he has worked with disadvantaged children with behavioural, emotional and mental health issues. More recently, he taught at The Leys where he was Head of Swimming, and coached Squash and Water Polo. With support from The Community Fund, David is currently working with Red Balloon to offer the children the opportunity to participate in sporting activities which they would not otherwise have access to.



Red Hen goes bowling



62 iPads were donated to local schools and charities



### Q&A with David Bartram: Finding purpose through Social Enterprise

As part of our Community Connections initiative, we hoped to find out more about Old Leysians who have gone on to pursue careers which strive to create a positive impact on society. We were very fortunate to catch up with **David Bartram, West 1997-02** who is currently the Director of Ventures for UnLtd, the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in and around the UK.

#### Can you begin by defining Social Entrepreneurship?

It is the establishment of commercial ventures to drive societal change; the development of organisations that sit somewhere between a charitable and purely commercial model.

A good example is Harry Specters. Based in Cambridge, they make high end chocolates which they sell to corporates and directly to the public. They work with, support, and employ young people with autism, putting social rather than financial growth as their primary objective.

#### In 2012, you made the decision to leave your career in consulting. What motivated you to do this?

I pursued a career in the corporate sector, but I wasn't happy. I became frustrated by the fact that for many companies I worked with, profit was the only driver and trumped any

sort of social good. I think we have come to view it being the role of charities to pick up the pieces in our society. Relying on charities is not enough, there needs to be a more systemic approach to dealing with entrenched social issues. I became interested in the power of business to make a change. I left the city, firstly working in social investment, before joining UnLtd. We support and invest in entrepreneurs developing ventures to have a positive impact in the world.

#### What societal issues do UnLtd's entrepreneurs tackle?

We have a couple of focus areas: supporting ventures that provide training and employment opportunities for people distant from the labour market, such as Harry Specters; and supporting entrepreneurs excluded from traditional investment. Often, these are founders with their own lived experience of the social issue, an example being Jelly Drops. Jelly Drops are a super-hydrating, bite-size jelly bean for people with dementia. It was designed in response to the founder's grandmother's struggle with dehydration.

UnLtd has also worked with and supported a fantastic social business called Change Please – a coffee chain that fights homelessness. Change Please helps homeless people by training them to become baristas. These individuals are paid the London living wage, provided with a place to stay, and helped to set up a bank account. The business has continued to grow and is now working with several major corporates.

#### Do you think there is enough focus on social entrepreneurship in education?

I don't think so. I always think there is more schools and universities can do to expose young people to a variety of career possibilities. I am sure the majority have no idea my job or organisation even exists. It's vital to show the impact individuals can have in society, and to empower them to make change happen. However, at the same time we know young people are increasingly

seeking purpose in both their careers and in their daily lives. They are also demanding more from the corporates they work with and those they buy from. This greater interest in shopping at a business with a social motive reflects a positive movement amongst the public to not only shop local, but also to shop social. The appetite is there, we need to build on that.

I have done some work with a few universities to help them build and deliver social 'accelerator' and 'incubator' programmes for graduating social entrepreneurs. It's a step towards enabling individuals to deliver social change early on in their careers and, hopefully, develop social ventures on the back of it.

#### What advice would you give to young people seeking a career like yours?

First of all, I think it's important to shift the idea that only those working in the so called 'third sector' can have a purposeful career. If we're going to bring about a more equitable, healthier economy and society, we all have a role in making that happen. In terms of a purpose driven career, there are a few organisations that are worth looking at, I do a lot of work with OnPurpose which might be a good place to start.



Change Please

# Spotlight on Jo Smallshaw

Dale 1992–94



**Tell us about how you found yourself in Australia working for the RFDS.**

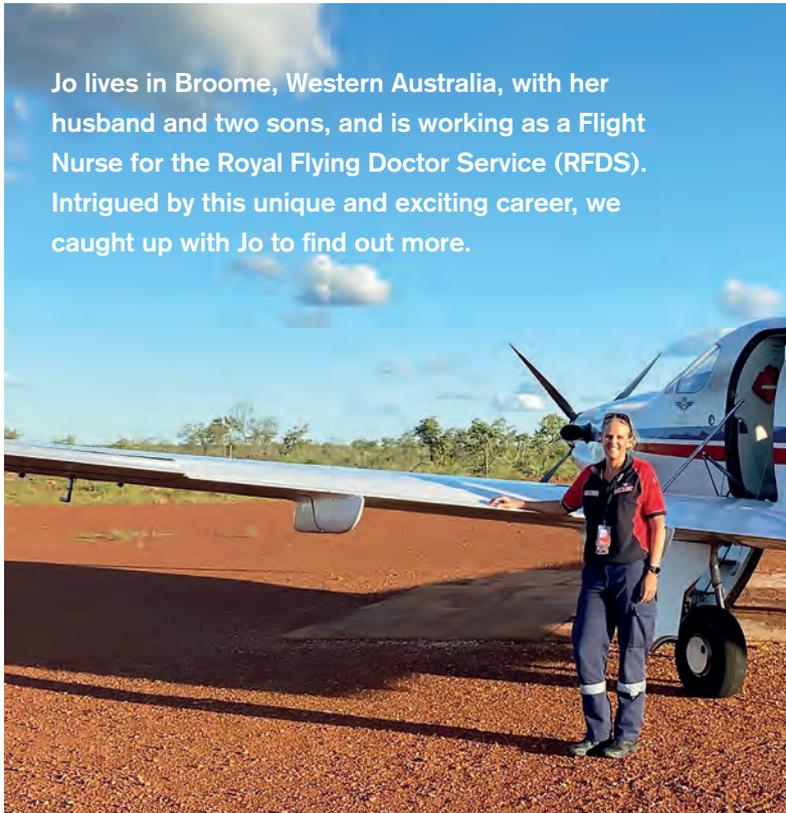
Having finished my nursing degree at Sheffield University, I desperately wanted to do some travelling to help gain further critical care nursing experience, so a couple of friends and I packed our backpacks and travelled through South-East Asia and ended up in Sydney. After three months, I decided that I needed to experience the ‘real’ outback, so I organised a four-week nursing agency contract in a little town in the tropics called Derby, located in an area called the ‘Kimberley’ which is in the far North West of Australia. It was here that I was first exposed to the Royal Flying Doctor Service; I was sent out from the hospital to collect a patient who had just been transferred in from a remote community following a venomous snake bite. This was an incredible experience and confirmed to me that aeromedical retrieval nursing was what I wanted to do.

In order to become a Flight Nurse, the RFDS require you to have dual registration in both Nursing and Midwifery, so off I went to Perth to obtain a Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery. Once completed, I was ready to go, and found myself back in the Kimberley doing the job that I had dreamed of.

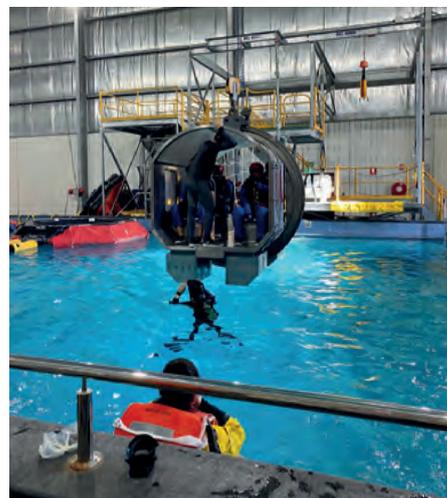
My husband, Michael, and I loved our nine years in Derby, providing our two boys Joshua and Matthew with the perfect, care-free outback childhood. In 2016, we moved down the road to Broome, where a new RFDS base was established, and has quickly become the second largest base in the state.

**Tell us a bit more about the service and its challenges.**

RFDS was founded by Reverend John Flynn in 1928. His vision was to provide a mantle of safety for the people living in the “bush” and to make sure people across the regions have access to health care and emergency treatment. We believe that everyone, no matter where they live, deserves to have skilled and caring doctors and nurses treating them during emergencies, whilst flying to specialist care. In 2019/20 the RFDS in Western Australia flew 9,012 patients over a total of 8 million kilometres, using a fleet of sixteen Pilatus PC12 and two Pilatus PC24 aircraft. In the Kimberley, the majority of our patients are indigenous Australians who have a range of complex health issues and all our retrievals are emergencies which include trauma, obstetric, paediatric, neonatal and mental health. To summarise, we are a 24/7 mobile emergency department in the skies, with incredible views out of the ‘office’ window.



Jo lives in Broome, Western Australia, with her husband and two sons, and is working as a Flight Nurse for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). Intrigued by this unique and exciting career, we caught up with Jo to find out more.



Training in the pool for underwater escape



**You clearly love a challenge and as we understand it, you now have a new responsibility which involves working on offshore oil and gas rigs. What is it like working on an oil rig and did this require any special training?**

Recently we took on the contract to conduct medical evacuations from offshore platforms in the Incthys gas fields, approximately 220 kilometres offshore from Broome. This is a very different type of retrieval in S92 Sikorsky Helicopters. It has been a steep learning curve but a welcome challenge to the team. We had to conduct offshore survival training courses which included an offshore-specific safety induction, helicopter safety and escape, sea survival, fire-fighting, and self-rescue. The most challenging part was the underwater escape training which involved a simulated ditching of a helicopter in a swimming pool, being rolled 180 degrees, and the subsequent evacuation.



Preparing for a Covid-19 transfer

**How did your time at The Leys prepare you for life beyond school?**

My time at The Leys gave me so many opportunities and skills to deal with the challenges throughout university and beyond. It was a stage in my life where I was adjusting to significant changes; not just commencing boarding school but moving from my home in Hong Kong to the UK. It was a supportive and nurturing environment, and between academic, sporting, and social activities there wasn't time to be homesick!

**What advice would you give to your Leysian self now?**

My advice would be to experience as much as you possibly can and grab every opportunity that comes your way. The Leys provides an incredible starting block from which you can branch out and follow your dreams.

**Do you have a favourite memory from your time at The Leys?**

I'm not sure I could pick a favourite to be honest! I loved every minute of my Sixth Form at The Leys, but if I had to pick one it would be memories made with my three closest friends Clare Dyson, Rachel Hunter and Anna Collett (all Dale, 1992-94). Although we live on opposite sides of the world, they are still my closest and dearest of friends.

Experience as much as you possibly can and grab every opportunity that comes your way. The Leys provides an incredible starting block from which you can branch out and follow your dreams.

# Obituaries

## Christopher Guy Aston

North B 1960–65 on 31 October 2018

## Richard Brian Batty

School 1950–53 on 4 December 2019

## Michael Bigham

East 1955–58

Our wonderful father was diagnosed with metastatic renal cancer in July 2020 and despite putting up a brave fight, was unfortunately unable to defeat the disease. He dealt with his illness and treatment with incredible courage and fortitude and was an inspiration to my brother and me. He will be sorely missed by all his family who loved him dearly and a vast number of incredible, lifelong friends.

Our father was very proud of his alma mater and spoke of it with great affection. He always told us 'The Leys was where he 'discovered sport' which may explain his captaincy of the Yorkshire Hockey Club and his passion for cricket and rugby. Our father was a true gentleman, a warm, kind and generous man with a wonderful sense of humour. He had a strong work ethic, a quiet, yet steely determination, but also knew how to enjoy himself to the full.

*Words by Vanessa Peterkin*



Michael Bigham

## Allan Brigham

School 1964–69 on 7 September 2020



Martin Bond

Allan Brigham

Allan died at home aged 69, having lived with neuroendocrine cancer for many years. He was the eldest son of Michael, School 1933–38 and brother of Robert, School 1967–71. Having graduated from Sheffield University with a degree in History and Politics, he returned to Cambridge and found a job with Cambridge City Council as a road sweeper. He realised that he was frequently giving advice to tourists and so trained as a Blue Badge guide. His 'Town not Gown' tours were always well received as were his many visits to local schools with his broom and bags of rubbish to show the children what dropping litter meant. In 2009, Allan was awarded an Honorary Master of Arts degree. Allan was working on a collection of his local history writings of Cambridge. The book *A Brush with the Past* has been published posthumously. More details of Allan's life can be found at [www.livesretold.co.uk](http://www.livesretold.co.uk) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan\\_Brigham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Brigham)

*Words by Robert Brigham, School 1967–71*

## Hugh E Busby

School 1958–63 on 31 December 2019



Hugh Busby

Hugh Elton Douglas Busby passed away in Easton, Maryland. After leaving The Leys, Hugh entered advertising as a young trainee and his career took off, relocating through various agencies from London to New York and Toronto. He then switched gears entirely and bought a gentleman's farm in the village of Kent, Connecticut. Instead of a quiet country life, his astute mind envisioned alternate energy products and the big red barns in his fields buzzed not with cows, but with the marketing and manufacture of his inventions. 74 years young, Hugh was about to walk down the aisle for the third time! He will be remembered for his rollicking dinner parties and his gentle heart. He is greatly, greatly missed by those who loved him.

*Words by Susan West*

## Roger Chapman

North B 1941–46 on 8 October 2020

Roger Chapman died unexpectedly at home, aged 92. Whilst at The Leys, the war intervened, and both he and his brother John, North B 1938–43, were evacuated to Pitlochry. Following National Service as a radar operative near Plymouth, Roger studied Economics at Emmanuel College before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

Subsequently, he became a partner in Crouch Chapman whose offices moved to just up the road from Wesley's Chapel and The Leysian Mission. From its formation in 1989 until 2006, Roger was joint trust treasurer of the Leysian Mission Wesley's Chapel Circuit and played a big part in helping the joint organisation through a period of rapid development and change after the merger of the two bodies. In 1989, Roger was honoured as an MBE for his work as secretary and treasurer of the Field Studies Council, one of the many charities with which he was involved. Roger's wife Joyce died in 2019 but he is survived by his son Bruce and daughters Heather and Bryony.

*Words by Richard Chapman, North B 1963–68*



**Edward Alister Childs**

### **Edward "Alister" Childs**

School 1942–47 on 14 January 2021

Alister attended The Leys with his two brothers, Robert, School 1939–43 and John, School 1942–47. Alister played a variety of sports at school and was tennis captain, a sport he continued into later years. All three brothers attended many reunion dinners, and Alister continued to support the work of The Leysian Mission.

Qualifying as a solicitor, Alister became a senior partner at an early age for Homes and Hills in Braintree, and was also President of the Mid Essex Law Society in the mid 1980s.

Alister met his wife Hilary in the early 1950s and they married in 1957, celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary in September 2020. They had two children, Katie and Edward, West 1976–81, and four grandchildren, Archie, Harry, Sam and Freya. Alister will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

### **Miles Coni**

East 1984–87

### **John Crocker**

North A 1956–61 on 4 September 2020

### **Thomas Cunningham**

North A 1942–47 on 7 November 2020

Tom attended The Leys in Pitlochry and later in Cambridge. He was the elder sibling of Major William G Cunningham, North A 1946–50, who passed away in June 2018. Following a short time at St Andrews University and National Service with the Army, his early years of work were spent in Montreal working for the Royal Insurance Company. He was later appointed Managing Director of his office in Edinburgh, where he finally and happily settled.

In retirement he nurtured his love for travel. Tom is survived by his wife, Anne, to whom he was married for 63 years. He and Anne have two sons, Richard and Andrew, four grandchildren and a great-grandchild. A humorous, fun-loving romantic and devoted clan man, Tom welcomed the opportunity to celebrate any family occasion and will be sorely missed by family and friends alike.

*Words from his son Richard Cunningham*



**Thomas Cunningham**

### **Tommy Dann**

Head of Rugby 2014–18 on 18 February 2021

We heard the sad news of Tommy's death as we were going to press for this edition of *OL News*. An obituary will be published in our next issue.

### **Stanley Dyke**

School 1946–49 on 27 January 2020

### **David Gardiner**

Common Room 1959–74 on 3 February 2021

David joined the Common Room in 1954 to teach Physics, having read Natural Sciences at Magdalene. He went into North A as assistant to the Housemaster, Victor Peskett, and in 1959, took over as Housemaster. He married Rosemary and they formed a marvellous partnership which created a warm family atmosphere in the House. They also ran the Saturday Club which provided tea and entertainment for elderly people in Cambridge. After leaving North A, David became Head of Science and President of the Common Room. David and Rosemary bought a house in Dry Drayton; many former members of the Common Room will remember the annual parties in their garden. Rosemary died in the summer and David, who had been ill since the beginning of the year, grew increasingly frail. He died at Addenbrooke's at the beginning of February.

*Words by John Harding, Common Room 1968–05*

### **Huw Griffith**

Fen 1977–82

Huw Griffith passed away aged just 55. His wife, Kate Bristow, wrote that the cause of his death was "a rare and aggressive cancer" diagnosed three years ago. Huw started with M&C Saatchi, the agency spun off by Maurice and Charles Saatchi in 1995 after breaking from their eponymous company. In his 24-plus years with the agency, Huw opened the Singapore and Malaysia offices, eventually making his way to Los Angeles, where he founded that office in 2003.

### **Robert Darragh Hock**

School 1949–50

### **Bill Heaney**

North A 1963–64 on 25 November 2020

### **Richard Rothwell-Jackson**

North B 1943–48 on 24 July 2020

Richard joined The Leys when it had been evacuated to Pitlochry and returned to Cambridge after the war. Following National Service, Richard went to Clare College, Cambridge, and then on to St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School. He obtained a

scholarship for a year in the USA studying and researching organ transplantation and later became a consultant general surgeon at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. He was a member of the Peel Trust for many years which provides funding and support for charities and medical research. He was also associated with scouting from the age of 8 or 9 until he retired and later moved to Devon.

*Words by Rebecca Rothwell-Jackson, Granta 1987–89*



**Kian Pang Lim**

**Kian Pang Lim**

East 1967–71

A particular highlight of Kian’s time at The Leys was being part of the School swimming team. He retired early in 1995 and spent his time traveling across South America, Mongolia and Central Asia as well as Japan, Vietnam, and Thailand.

*Words by Kian Kok Lim, East 1965–69*



**Francis John Long**

**Francis John Long**

School 1938–42 on 13 October 2020

John was a Governor of The Leys when I was appointed as Head in 1990 and he subsequently became Chairman of the Governors. He was a superb Chairman and

extremely supportive. He stayed with us overnight before Governors’ meetings and was always a most delightful and charming guest. When he retired as Chair, he continued to support his old school, travelling to Old Leysian events into his 90s.

He continued too to be a great support to me personally. When later I became Chair and then President of the World Methodist Council, he took great interest in the Council’s work, travelling to several world conferences and participating with the enthusiasm that was typical of everything he did.

My wife and I thank God for him and for his friendship.

*Words by Rev Dr John Barrett*

**Derek Man**

North A 2015–17 on 11 December 2020

Derek passed away following a battle with Leukaemia. All those who knew Derek are shocked by his untimely death. He was diagnosed earlier in the year whilst at Liverpool University. Following intensive treatment and chemotherapy in Liverpool, he was able to travel home to Hong Kong in the summer into the care of his family.

Whilst naturally quiet, Derek nevertheless settled very well into the North A community, helping to calm an otherwise enthusiastic, but maturing, peer group. He quickly showed that he was conscientious and his modest and affable nature meant that he made some good friendships quickly. He was thought highly of by others and shone a light in the house with his polite demeanour. I was very grateful for the way in which he showed his love for the community in non-ostentatious ways. He is remembered as humble and trustworthy, without a mean bone in his body.

*Words by Ben Barton, Current Common Room*

**Canon William John Milligan**

West 1942–46

William John Milligan (known as Barney) was born in Lytham St Anne’s in Lancashire. In 1946, he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read History. After two years at Cuddesdon Theological College, he was

ordained in 1955 to a curacy at St Mark’s Portsea, moving to the Diocese of Southwark to become Vicar of All Saints, New Eltham, in 1962. This was followed by eight years as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Roehampton, before Robert Runcie appointed him to a residentiary canonry at St Albans in 1979, where he stayed until his move to Strasbourg in 1986. He was awarded the OBE on his retirement in 1995, when he moved with his wife Evie to Beaminster in Dorset.

He is survived by his wife Evie and their three daughters, Lucy, Kate and Becky, and five grandchildren, Rose, William, Rachel, Daisy and Lottie.

*Words by Richard Holloway*

**John Morton Cockcroft Mollett**

North A 1941–46 on 26th September 2020

My father enjoyed his time at The Leys in both Cambridge and Pitlochry. Although not known for his academic abilities, he was a great sportsman and keen cricketer and hockey player. Playing for the first XI, he often opened the batting with George Cook. For his working life, he ran the family textile mill, Samuel Cockcroft & Co Ltd at Barkerend Mills, in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Dad talked about his life at The Leys with affection, retaining many life-long friends from his time there, including George Randall who was his best man, and he attended many OL reunions. He passed away peacefully at home. He leaves his dear wife, Eileen, three children, Janice, Nigel, Fen 1971–76, and Gillian, and two grandchildren.

*Words by Gill Haw*



**John Mollett**



John Muir

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**John Muir**

School 1944–48 on 1 May 2019

John joined The Leys while it was evacuated to Pitlochry. He specialised in French and German and produced the winning play in a competition. His education continued at St. Andrews University in Scotland where he graduated with an MA (Hons) in Economics and Political Science. John's *raison d'être* was to provide hope and joy through music and words. Despite some years of failing hearing and eyesight, he used modern technology to overcome his problems, retaining his sense of humour to the last. He played the organ for a Masonic Installation in Sydney the day before he was taken ill with cancer on 5 March 2019. He died on 1 May 2019. His immediate family, wife Barbara, son Angus and daughters Jennifer, Jacqueline and Kate, their partners and nine grandchildren loved, honoured and respected him, appreciating his sense of humour and greatly feel their loss.

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**Helen Pring**

Granta 1984–86 on 22 November 2020

Helen, or Helly as we all called her, was a corner stone of our very special Granta Girl community. Helly grew up in Paris, a city that she loved and that undoubtedly left its very stylish mark on her; Helly looked glam even in her PJs. A long loopy necklace which she used to twirl through her fingers, alongside a glamorous blonde bob, were her signature style, and remained so till the end, which came far too soon.

She will be remembered the world over for her kindness and calmness, her intelligence and wit, her joy and love, not to mention her effortless style. Three books of poetry have been donated to Granta House in her memory from her great friends in Granta, class of 84-86.

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**George Randall**

North B 1942–46 on 4 September 2020

George was a very keen sportsman and was awarded first team colours in both cricket and rugby. He really enjoyed his school days, as evident from the five-year diary he kept at the time. While at The Leys, he received the very sad news that his 22-year-old brother Alan, North B 1936–39, a Hawker Typhoon pilot, had been killed just a few weeks before the end of the war.

George ran his own business selling Morgan sports cars, which was taken over by his son when he retired. He was still driving Morgans into his nineties! George married Pamela in 1952 and they were married for 65 years.

They had three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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**Peter John Raper**

West 1961–66

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**Peter Rodger**

North A 1959–64 on 8 November 2020

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**Michael Royle**

North B 1945–50 on 3 September 2020

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**John Rycroft**

North B 1938–43 on 20 March 2020

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**Mark Sisson**

Fen 1970–75

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**Hugh Charlesworth Sykes**

North B 1957–61 on 20 January 2021

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**Richard John Tattersall**

North B 1951–55 on 6 September 2020

Following his retirement as Bursar of a prep school in Dorchester, Richard became Church Warden in Lytchett Minster for several years. He was also Chairman of the local community centre and the local magazine, and a founder member of a children's hospice. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease five years ago and the last three years have been very difficult. He will be sadly missed by so many, especially his family and friends.

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**Andrew Arnold Waters**

West 1950–55 on 11 September 2020

Andrew enjoyed his sport at school, especially cricket which he followed all his life. After school he graduated from Birmingham

University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He worked on the construction of the M1 motorway and then as a partner in the family engineering business, finishing his career in Hong Kong. In retirement he continued his long commitment to Sutton Coldfield Hockey Club where he had played for the 1st XI and was president for thirty years.

He was an active Rotarian and was a board member of the local YMCA. Living opposite the Parish church. He was also a member of the PCC for many years. He married Diana in 1963; they had two sons who gave them six grandchildren and much joy. The last few years of his life were sadly blighted by illness. He is greatly missed by many good friends and a wide loving family.

*Words by Diana Waters*



Jake Webster

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**Jake Webster**

School 2010–11 on 7 December 2020

Jake came to The Leys as an exchange student and quickly made himself part of the fabric of Leys life, in particular School House and the 1st XV rugby team, where he proved to be fiercely competitive. After his whirlwind term at The Leys, he returned to Canada where he represented the country at the U20 IRB World Rugby Trophy. He was later selected for the Canada Men's Rugby Sevens team. Jake's love of teamwork and his desire to help others lead him to work in Pickering as a firefighter. Jake was a loving husband to Maggie and proud and caring father to William and Millie. He was also a wonderful, energetic, and loyal friend.

*Words by Fraser Heathcote, School 2007–12*

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To read the full version of these obituaries, please visit [bit.ly/leys-oblutaries](http://bit.ly/leys-oblutaries). If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed document, please contact the Development Office.

# Looking Back



## From the Archive

POCKET SURVEY

IN FEBRUARY 1964, *The Fortnightly* reported on a survey undertaken in one of the houses on the contents of boys' pockets. The findings were prefaced as follows: "Of course we found the possessions such as handkerchiefs, combs, wallets, diaries, pen-knives, pens, pencils etc., but there was so great a multitude of bizarre items that for the convenience of our readers we have drawn up a chart." Here is a small selection from that list:

- ◆ corkscrew and razor blades
- ◆ tin of boot polish
- ◆ tube of Coleman's mustard
- ◆ application form for Heinz Soup Bingo Competition
- ◆ buttons and a metal dog comb
- ◆ key to a parrot cage
- ◆ Poker dice
- ◆ lighter disguised in a miniature Coca Cola bottle
- ◆ drilled .38 calibre bullet
- ◆ Ghurka 'cut-throat' knife

This gives us an intriguing insight into the lives of the pupils of 1964 and finds us speculating on the circumstances leading to the items finding their way into those pockets. The survey conductors reassure us that the items were only used for *sensible* purposes and they leave the reader with their own thoughts on the most useful items to carry: "a piece of chalk, one hair-pin, some string and one shilling." We think a 2021 survey might have quite different results!

## Tales and Recollections

We heard recently from Cindy Cole who wrote to report a living familial memory of one of the original XVI pupils and to seek more information about The Leys. **Joseph Clark Isard, School 1875–76, Common Room 1880–1918** is Cindy's great-great-uncle. Cindy was chatting with her 93-year-old mother recently, commenting that her son might cycle the 30 miles home from London to Tunbridge Wells. Her mother then recalled her uncle Joe (actually a great-uncle) cycling from Tonbridge to Hastings and back in a day, approximately 60 miles in total. Uncle Joe was J.C. Isard. Cindy's mother recalled

Joe had been Bursar at The Leys, so Cindy got in touch and we were able to pass on the information she sought. "Isn't it amazing", wrote Cindy, "that someone can still recall an early member of your school." Upon his death in 1941, around £4,500 was raised for a Scholarship Fund in Joseph's memory. This is in the region of £225,000 in today's money and a measure of the esteem in which he was held by the Leysian community at the time. In the interim, the scholarship fund has morphed into a prize for English, which continues to be awarded to pupils in each of the years 8–11.

**John Cumming, North A 1950–55**, wrote to say he had enjoyed reading Michael Oatley's update in our last issue. Michael, North B 1948–53 and John have similar dates, but John was surprised he did not remember all the teachers mentioned by Michael. One teacher John does remember well, however, is Neil White and it was his memories of Neil which prompted him to write.

"In those days, there was no TV – even in our home, let alone in the boarding houses, so out-of-hours entertainment was through societies and clubs that were organized mostly by ourselves. My major out-of-hours activity was The Stage Club where we built scenery etc. for plays, of which there could be as many as ten a year. My primary interest was in the stage electrics.

In 1950, the dimming of the stage and auditorium lights was achieved using three upstanding 3 or 4 ft water-filled porcelain drainpipes, which had a metal plate at the bottom and a second plate on a wooden stick which could be raised and lowered by a pulley system. To dim the appropriate set of lights, a thoroughly dangerous practice as the mains supply to these lights was passed through these pipes, the metal plates



**Neil White, North A 1933–39,  
Common Room 1948–82**

were pulled apart, the water acting as the conductor. It was Neil who arranged the contract to completely replace this lethal system and rewire the whole theatre to a safe standard. I was lucky enough to be invited by Neil to be involved in this work in a minor way. He conducted experiments to prevent the new fluorescent lights from blinking when the voltage was lowered and to my pleasure, he asked me to help in those experiments, which I greatly enjoyed."



The Leys Fortnightly, Vol. LXV, No. 1118

Between 1940 and 1945, The Leys was evacuated to the Atholl Palace Hotel while the School in Cambridge was used as a hospital for the war effort.

**John Goldsmith, North A 1937–41**, has been in touch to share some memories of his time at The Leys. His early life was featured in issue 15 of this publication (Summer 2010). In summary, following the murder of his stepfather by the Nazis in 1933, he and his mother fled Germany for Holland, eventually settling in Cambridge. At the age of 16, John was interned on the Isle of Man before being sent to Canada, eventually returning to The Leys in 1941. If you would like to read this article in full, please email the Development Office.

John recalls that soon after he arrived at The Leys, he was asked to write an essay for his English teacher, Donald Hughes. His command of English at that time was negligible so his mother's dental nurse offered to help and did it for him. Donald Hughes was so impressed by the essay he asked John to read it out in class. As you can imagine, this did not go well!

When **Reg Ayers, Common Room 1932–68** was transferring some chemicals from the Department to the Scout Huts for a planned firework display, John and a couple of others were helping to push the cart along when a reaction was triggered and the whole lot went up in flames. Our present-day Health and Safety Officer would be horrified!

The aforementioned dental nurse liked to drive her father's car and one day John persuaded her to let him have a go. Fifteen

at the time and with little experience, John found the car difficult to control, especially when encouraged to go a little faster and confronted with a car coming in the opposite direction and a cyclist in front of him. The cyclist ended up in the ditch (unhurt) and John ended up in court! The Headmaster was required to appear and explain this behaviour was out of character.

**Ronald Ingle, East 1940–45** wrote to share a memory of his time at Pitlochry. The OTC which had been renamed Cadet Training Corps, used to parade on the wide tarmac access deck in front of the hotel. Its Commander was the teacher Mr Rose, distinguished by his rich tenor voice. On one parade, when he commanded: "Call the Roll", a toilet roll unrolled as it flew down to his feet from the East House turret. Mr Rose was not amused!



H.J. Rose, Common Room 1921–63

### Baroness Trumpington

OLs who missed seeing this in the news in October 2020 may be interested to read that some of Baroness Trumpington's effects were sold at auction at the end of November 2020. They included a 19th-century painting of the Long Walk at Windsor, bought for £5 in an antiques shop. It is noteworthy because during a Royal Visit to The Leys, the Queen Mother admired it. However, Baroness Trumpington said she was not to be parted with it, even if gifting to Her Majesty something she had admired was the accepted thing to do. Those who knew Baroness Trumpington well can easily picture her saying to The Queen Mother; "I suppose I ought to give it to you, but I'm not going to!"

### THE OLD LEYSIAN BENEVOLENT FUND

exists to support Old Leysians and their dependents if they run into difficulties through accident, illness, redundancy or other unforeseen hardships. Anyone experiencing such hardship, or anyone who knows of someone who may perhaps qualify to receive help from the fund, should contact:

**The Secretary, Charlie Kidman  
(North B/Fen 1963–68)  
165 Huntingdon Road,  
Cambridge, CB3 0DH  
Telephone: 01223 323956  
Email: charliekidman@btinternet.com**

Any request for help is always dealt with in confidence and with discretion. *If you would like to help the Fund in its ongoing and valuable work, please contact the Secretary.*

**Any donation, large or small,  
would be a tremendous help.**

# OL Events 2021

All events listed below are subject to the ongoing pandemic and will be regularly reviewed in line with Government regulations. We will keep you updated by email and social media.

DATE AND TIME	VENUE	DETAILS
<b>April 2021</b> Assynt Golden Anniversary Reunion – take two	Assynt	Postponed again. Take three, 52 years on is planned for Easter 2022. <b>POSTPONED</b>
<b>2 May 2021</b> OL Reunion	Online	Reunion for those who entered the School in 1960–69 and all those who joined those year-groups at a later date.
<b>6 May 2021</b> Technology & Concussion Care: In Conversation with Will Hooley & Dylan Powell 18:30-19:30	Online	Join us on Zoom for for a discussion on how technology is changing concussion care in sport for the better.  To book tickets, please visit <a href="https://bit.ly/leys-concussioncare">bit.ly/leys-concussioncare</a>
<b>26 May 2021</b> OL Communion 12:45	Wesley's Chapel, London	All OLs welcome. The service will also be live-streamed. For more information, please visit <a href="https://bit.ly/leys-events">bit.ly/leys-events</a>
<b>11 September 2021</b> OLS Annual Dinner 18:30-22:30	The Leys, Cambridge	Invitations sent with this issue.
<b>10 October 2021</b> OL Reunion	The Leys, Cambridge	Reunion for those who entered the School between 1950-59 and 1960-69, and all those who joined those year-groups at a later date.  Invitations will be sent to the cohort in August.
<b>11 November 2021</b> London Drinks 18:30-20:30	The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London	Invitations sent with this issue.

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## OLS COMMITTEE 2021

### Officers

President – Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966–71  
Vice President – Andy Erby,  
Former Common Room  
President Elect – TBC  
Past President – N/A  
Chairman – Jo de Grey, Granta 1985–87  
Treasurer – Stephen Peak, East 1978–83  
Secretary – Phillipa Graham

### Committee Members

Andrew Cullen, North A 1998–03 (Singapore)  
Mark Elliott, Fen 1977–82 (Real Tennis)  
Richard Haryott, West 1954–57  
James Houlder, School 1996–01 (OLCC)  
Charlie Kidman, North B/Fen 1963–68  
(Benevolent Fund)  
Katya Kornilova, Fen 2005–09  
Steven Lev, East 1978–80

Stephen Ludlow, North B 1980–85  
(Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission)  
Liam McKeown, West 2008–13 (Australia)  
Tim Moore, East 1970–74  
Andrew Pittams, North B 2000–05  
Lucy Sales, Moulton/Dale 2000–07  
Ashley Silverton, Fen 1973–78 (OLFC)  
Nigel Washbourn, West 1951–55 (OLGS)

It is now possible to receive *OL News* electronically. If you would like to receive this version in the future please let us know.

We are always on the look-out for good high-resolution photographs to include featuring news of OLs or OL events. Please email them to us if you would like them to be included in a future issue.

If you have queries regarding any of the events please contact Phillipa Graham, OLS Secretary at: [pxg@theleys.net](mailto:pxg@theleys.net)

*OL News* is produced twice a year. If you wish to contribute to a future edition please email the editorial team at: [development@theleys.net](mailto:development@theleys.net)



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