

OLNEWS

AUTUMN 2023 | Issue 50



Give it a Tri

Fancy a triathlon?
Andy Pittams shows us
how it's done

Spotlights

Diamonds in the Dust
The Ollie Feast Summer Camp

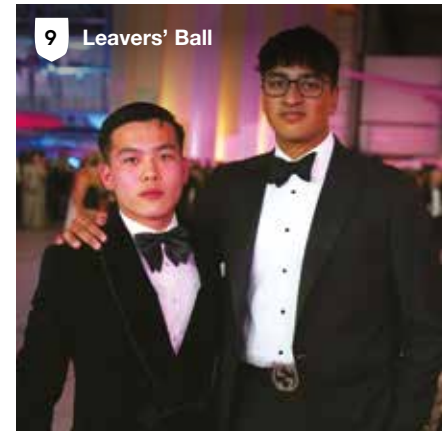
From the Archive

The surprising history
of the Leysian coat
of arms

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On the Cover

Andy Pittams, North B 2000-05

Editors: Andy Erby & Liz Walden

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OL Updates

Emma Curtis, Moulton/Dale/Granta 2005-12

"After uni I spent four years as an Army reservist in the Officers' Training Corps where I enjoyed being a section and platoon commander and travelling abroad to represent the UK on NATO exercises.



Emma on duty

I then secured a place at RAF Cranwell to undertake Initial Officer Training, but I had an injury set-back and in recovery, decided to follow in my father's footsteps and join Cambridgeshire Constabulary. I passed the police training in a whirlwind of exams and adrenaline-spiking shifts as a response officer, while undergoing the selection process again to become an officer in the RAF.

When I discovered that I had again been selected for a place at RAF Cranwell, I was faced with an almost impossible decision.

I found I could not hand over my police warrant card, even for my dream career in the military, so I finished my police probation.

I passed my National Investigators' Exam whilst serving as a Detective Constable in the Rape Investigation Team and I am currently the Officer in Charge of a case at Cambridge Crown Court. I am very proud to serve with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and I have no regrets; seeing a case of mine play out in court is exactly where I want to be!"



Archie in Colorado in 2019

Archie Auty-Jacklin, West 2014-19

"I recently started a new job in The Leys' IT department as Senior IT Support Technician. My journey with the IT Department started in Year 9 when the ICT teacher introduced me to the department. I regularly visited IT, learning about all the new projects and systems they were implementing. In Year 11 I was offered a summer work experience job with the department which must have gone well as I found myself working for them the next summer, again in 2020 (remotely) and again in 2021! Since I left, I have missed my time at the School so when I heard that there was a vacancy in the department, I jumped. It is an honour to now work in the department that I have admired for so long."

Natalina Roberts, Fen 2008-13

"In June this year, I set off to cycle 320 km around Unguja, Zanzibar's largest island, raising funds for HIPZ <https://hipz.org.uk/>. This incredible charity has played a pivotal role in reshaping the healthcare system in Zanzibar, taking hospitals from run-down buildings with no doctors to refurbished facilities with 37 doctors supporting maternity care, paediatrics, mental health and general patient services. To boost funds, I organised a charity raffle at my workplace VCCP and raised over £4000 in total.

During the trip, I was lucky enough to visit the hospitals first hand and witness their lifesaving work. The incredible doctors showed us the latest developments including a new water system, designed not just to serve the hospital, but to extend its impact throughout the entire village, providing access to clean and safe water – something we take for granted. We also had a tour of the brand new emergency department, which is now the largest on the island. It really was a trip of a lifetime."

Visit Natty's JustGiving page at <https://tinyurl.com/522ema6v>



Natty enjoying a refreshing break en route

Development Office Update

There are some changes to report in this issue. Liz Walden, Development Office Administrator and OLS Secretary; Kerry Chapman, Senior Development Officer; and Carole Milnes, part-time Events Officer, have been in post since last summer and all have been excellent additions to the Development Office team. In addition, the Archivist, Alison Lainchbury, is now formally part of our team as she has recently relinquished her responsibilities as Head Librarian and is now able to devote all her time to Archives. It has been great to have a full complement of staff and much has been achieved in this time.

The Director of Development, Donna Thomas-Watson, left in mid-July to return to work in the colleges, as Philanthropy Officer at Trinity Hall. A short list of potential successors were interviewed at the end of August and Sarah Proud, Head of Mid-level Giving at BirdLife International, has accepted the position. She will start in mid-November. Donna will be missed by those of us who worked with her, and we wish her well in her new post.

There have also been some changes to the OLS Committee. We were devastated by the death of Richard Haryott (see Obituaries), and Stephen Peak has stepped down as Treasurer. We thank them for their dedicated service and wise counsel over many years. Stephen is succeeded as Treasurer by Katherine Townsend (née Ecclestone), Bisseker 2006-11, and Max Wilson, West 2011-16, has also joined the Committee.

I have now come to the end of my five-year tenure as OLS Vice President and I will be succeeded by Karen Sears (formerly Cox), Common Room 2009-present. I have thoroughly enjoyed the varied nature of the role, but most of all, re-connecting with Old Leysians. I am sure you will extend to Karen the same warm welcome you gave me.

Andy Erby, Common Room 1981, 1983-2016
OLS Vice President

Guy Musson, West 1999-2004

Guy married Milly Stoop, Fen 1999-2004 in 2014 and a good number of OLs and Common Room were in attendance, including guest of honour Rev Dr John Barrett, who delivered the address. Guy and Milly have recently moved from Ludgrove School in Berkshire to Orwell Park School, where Guy has been appointed Headmaster. Between them, Guy and Milly have previously taught at several independent preparatory schools including The Perse, Dragon, St Faith's, Felsted and King's Ely. They are excited about being closer to family and old friends, whilst their two children, Charlotte (7) and Freddie (5), are excited to be pupils at Orwell Park.



Guy, Milly, Charlotte and Freddie

Krishan Puvvada, Barker 2013-18

"Since graduating from the University of Manchester last June, I spent three months backpacking through 13 countries in southern and western Africa, India and Nepal. Highlights included skydiving and quad biking in the Namibian desert and interviewing the chief of a tribe in a remote village

in Malawi. Upon returning to the UK, I signed for Manchester United, though sadly not as a centre forward! My role is to help the club deepen engagement with our global fanbase no matter where they are in the world. It's inspiring to meet and share ideas with fans from Australia to Altrincham, and I've even played on the pitch!"

Krishan in his element



Leighton Hughes, Bisseker 2006-11

"Since departing The Leys, I have focused on the intersection of finance, technology and economic policy. After graduating from Lancaster and then the LSE, I enjoyed working for a small, non-profit city think tank: the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. I am now the FinTech (financial technology) adviser at the City of London Corporation - London's ancient governing authority. As an economic historian by background, this synthesis - looking to future trends within organisations steeped in tradition - is interesting to me. I am often asked: 'What is FinTech, and why does it matter?' The answer I give is that FinTech is

the future of finance; it is about delivering better, affordable, and inclusive services for customers. While we cannot rest on our laurels, London is currently the pre-eminent global FinTech centre."



Leighton on a gallery tour



Kate Winchester, Moulton/Dale 2008-15

After finishing her degree during the Covid-19 pandemic, the events industry was looking like an unlikely career path. For most of 2021 Kate worked for a wedding venue in Suffolk, updating their marketing and website, before moving to London

to work as an events manager for a luxury catering company. After 18 months, Kate was offered a promotion and the opportunity to travel, and now works as the Trackside Hospitality Manager for Aston Martin Formula 1. Kate and her team travel to each Grand Prix around the world and provide high level service and hospitality to the Aston Martin race team, F1 drivers and all guests that are invited to each race. It's a glamorous and fast-paced industry but she thoroughly enjoys the experiences and challenges that each races poses!

Jolyon Mitchell, School 1977-82

Prof Jolyon Mitchell has been appointed as the new principal of St John's College, Durham, succeeding Rev Prof David Wilkinson. Jolyon is moving from the University of Edinburgh where he was Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues. He was formerly a producer and journalist with the BBC World Service.

Of added interest, Rev Prof David Wilkinson was on placement at The Leys as a Wesley House student in the academic year 1989-90.



John Scarr, North B 1949-53

is keen to hear from any old school friends and OLs living in New Zealand.

"I am now living in a retirement village just outside Auckland. I retired from work in 2022 and am now enjoying life at a slower pace. I left England in 1963 bound for Southern Africa and taught at schools in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia) and Nairobi, Kenya. I later taught in Kingston, Jamaica. I came to New Zealand in 1969, where I taught, went into business and finally became a self-employed insurance broker. My email address is john.scarr@yahoo.co.nz"

Jake Weldon, Moulton/School 2004-11

"After school I went to university in Birmingham to study History. After that I did a variety of jobs in sales and customer service before deciding, aged 27, that I would be well-suited to a career in policing. I moved back to Cambridge and I am now a part of our city centre policing team. I work with partner agencies on crime prevention as well as being a proactive officer on the front line. This suits my skillset as a people person and someone who enjoys dealing with fast-paced situations. I got my first taste of this at school in a



Jake on patrol in Cambridge

variety of performances, which gave me an early taste for adrenaline and the thrill of the unexpected."



Andrew on the West Highland Way

Andrew Ranson, East 1986-91

Andrew has recently had a busy time in his role as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London. Various lieutenantcies around London welcomed over 130 royal families as they arrived for the King's Coronation and Andrew welcomed the President and First Lady of Paraguay, the President and First Lady of Finland, the Co-Prince of Andorra, and the Prince Regent of Lichtenstein. He was required to be at the Windsor Suite at Heathrow

between 0600 and 1400 which made for a very early start - not ideal when you consider he had just returned home from completing the West Highland Way the night before! He has also received the Duke of Edinburgh, President of Creative Youth, at a dinner in Glenmore House, Surbiton. And as if that wasn't enough, Andrew is about to complete the recruits course for the Pikemen & Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company, ceremonial bodyguard to the Lord Mayor of London.

Special Events

CONGRATULATIONS

Ed Taylor, West 2003-08

On June 17 Edward Taylor married Georgia Herbert in an intimate ceremony at Cambridge Registry Office, followed by lunch at Parker's Tavern. The day finished off with an evening at the Cambridge Blue with lots of friends and family. There were several Old Leysians present, 2003-08 unless stated otherwise: Amy, 2000-06 and Will, 2003-10 Taylor; Raph Kay, 2003-07; Bex Hiscocks, 2001-08; Rory Buckingham, William Lawson, 2003-06; Arthur Sewell; Charlie Monks; Georges Fraulo; Douglas Rice; Laurie Kearns; Joe Grove; Heather Hayley (née Stephen), 2001-08; Ellie McAlpine, 2002-08; Rachel Caller (née Smith), 2001-06; and Sagan Daniels, 1998-03. The bride and groom had the most wonderful day, and they are looking forward to their honeymoon in Porto.



Emily and Eddie with L-R: Tom Hoy; Alex Cornell; Nick Waller; Paul Dennis; Zack King; Alex Goode; Amina Ispahani; Olivia Wilmshurst-Smith; Chessie Slot; Austin Jessop; Penny Jessop; Sarah Smith; Robin Woolley; David Akingbola; Nick Bolton; Gareth Hartley; Jono Rayner; Andy George, Will Heald and Arlo relaxing in front

Eddie Jessop, Moulton/North A 1998-2005

Eddie and Emily Kerr tied the knot on a beautiful summer's day in early June, in Croyde Bay, North Devon. It was a day filled with love, laughter, and lots of happy tears. The ceremony was attended by their closest family and friends including some Old Leysians who had come from far and wide. The reception was held in a stunning marquee overlooking the beach, with amazing food and live music that kept everyone dancing all night long.



Georgia and Ed sign the register

Ali Unwin, School 2000-2005

Ali's wife Kate gave birth to Oscar in February and Ali writes:

"I graduated from Cambridge in 2009 and worked in political polling at YouGov before embarking on a career in technology investment. I am currently the deputy manager of Polar Capital Technology Trust, investing in public technology companies. I met Kate at Cambridge, and we were lucky to marry at The Globe Theatre in February 2020, just before lockdown. Kate gave birth to Oscar in February this year and we currently live in North London. Oscar enjoys early mornings and being spoiled by his grandparents.

I remember my time at The Leys very fondly and am pleased to see the School continues to thrive."



Oscar in August

Visitors to the School



OLs who would like to visit the School can email development@theleys.net to arrange a visit.

Andrew Forbes-Lane, North A 1969-74

visited in May with his sister, Maggie Boepple, when she was in Cambridge on her travels from the US.

"Much of my career has been shaped by the early influence of teachers at the School, notably Stephen Siddall, Ken Naylor and Tim Ham. I read Drama at The University of Manchester and have spent my life since working in the theatre, firstly as a lighting designer and company manager and then, after five years at the Royal Northern College of Music, as a singer. My work took me all over the world including Glyndebourne, ENO, WNO and the Proms. I have now stepped back from opera and, living in Wiltshire, continue to work as a voice teacher and concert singer. I run a small choir which concentrates on singing for fun and for health. The project I am currently working on is recording a complete mix of music (classical, music theatre etc) with some of the colleagues I have loved working with over the last 40 years. I am also a visiting artist at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in Greenwich."



Muzairy with Liz Walden outside West House

Muzairy Bin Mohamad, West 1992-94

visited with his wife, Rafidah Noordin, this summer during a short tour of the UK which included London and Cambridge. Based in Malaysia, Muzairy was very excited to revisit old haunts and to see what had changed since the 90s.

"I have worked for Telekom Malaysia since graduating from university in 1997 and I was really excited to be able to visit the School again after 29 years. Our visit was part of our first overseas holiday together as a family and they loved seeing the countryside, punting in Cambridge, and seeing The Leys. I have five children; my eldest son is studying Mathematics at the University of Southampton and will graduate in 2025."



Andrew's visit prompted recollections of happy times spent at The Leys

Staff News



Neil Dix-Pincott, CR 2007–23 and **Brigid Eades, CR 2017–23**, are now married and have moved to France, near Toulouse, where Neil will be Head of Boarding & Pastoral Care at the Château de Sauveterre, Downe House School's satellite school in south-west France.



Neil and Brigid on holiday

Changes worth noting are that **Ethna Prosser, CR 2003–present**, has stepped down as Head of Mathematics, **Alison Lainchbury (née Myers), CR 2004–present**, has stepped down as Head Librarian to allow her to devote more time to her role as School Archivist, assisting with preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary in 2025 and **Alex Welby, CR 2005–present** has been appointed Head of Academic Scholarship. **Katrina Evans** from Sherborne School is the new Head of Mathematics, **Lyndsey Goddard, CR 2014–present** is now Head Librarian and **Charlotte Drinkwater, CR 2020–present** is now Head of Classics.

Meanwhile in Marketing, **Lucia Battain** has been appointed International Relations



Lucia Battain

Officer alongside her current role as Communications Officer. Her focus will be on building and consolidating relationships with overseas recruitment agents and prospective families, as well as leading on induction for international pupils.

There have also been several changes of personnel in the houses. **James Fawcett, CR 2008–present**, has stepped down as Housemaster of School House to be replaced by **Michael Newman, CR 2022–present** (Chemistry). James will continue to teach History. **John Johnson, CR 2022–present** (Drama), is the new Housemaster of East, **Ed Durrant, CR 2010–present** (Head of Outreach), is stepping down as Assistant Housemaster of West to be replaced by **Patrick Miller, Bisseker 2006–11, CR 2014–present**, (Games Coach), and his successor as Resident Tutor will be **Sam Coe, CR 2011–14, 2019–present**, (Assistant Director of Sport, Head of Sports Academy and Strength and Conditioning).



John Johnson

Oliver Layton, CR 2022–present (Classics) is stepping down as Assistant Housemaster of School to be replaced by **Bertie Beeching, CR 2022–present** (English). Other new Assistant Housemaster/ Housemistresses are **Clare Mahon, 2022–present** (Classics), in Dale, **Katie Upton, CR 2021–present** (History and Politics), in the Day Houses and **Ben Elston, CR 2022–present** (PE and Sports Science), in East.

Leavers this year include **Alex Bennett-Jones, CR 2012–23** (Head of International Support), for a belated gap year, **Richard Springall, CR 2016–23** (Economics and Business Studies), to accept a position in training and development within the Royal Navy Reserves, **Isabel Grant, CR 2019–23** (German), to focus on a change of direction into educational publishing, **Rachel Senior, CR 2020–23** (English), to teach in Rome and **Jean-Luc Hammersley, CR 2019–23** (Chemistry), to the Stephen Perse Foundation.

Congratulations to **Nick Robinson, CR 2013–present**, who has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the CCF. **Harry Wiseman, CR 1963–94** was the last member of Common Room to have held this rank.

Finally, congratulations to **Anna Garrett, CR 2016–present** and **Dom Divito, CR 2015–19**, who were married in April and exited their ceremony to the tune of ΧΑΙΡΕΤΕ, played on the organ. You can view their photo gallery here: <https://galleries.page.link/vHgVQ>



Anna and Dom at their wedding

© Gemma Holly Wedding Photography

Leavers' Ball 2023



Our Upper Sixth celebrated in style at their Leavers' Ball in the magnificent surroundings of the Imperial War Museum Duxford. It was a wonderful occasion which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils, parents and staff. Music was provided courtesy of the outstanding Julian Landymore Saxophone Quartet, and drumming/dance group African Odyssey who put our leavers through their paces. We wish our most recent cohort of Old Leysians all the very best for their futures beyond The Leys and look forward to keeping in touch for many more years to come.



Spotlight on

Ania Morrison

Diamonds in the Dust



Founder of grassroots initiative Friends for Ukraine Ania Morrison, Dale 1996–2001, talks frankly about the devastation of war, the bringing together of a huge and diverse network of people, and her life's remarkable vocation: making sense out of chaos to help others.

What or who inspired you to undertake humanitarian work?

I've always been a dreamer, but humanitarian aid was not something I consciously worked towards until Colonel Mark Cook, North B 1956–61, visited The Leys, describing his evacuation of a Croatian orphanage when it was bombed. Defying orders to pull out and abandon the children, he located BBC journalist Martin Bell, East 1952–56, who was reporting in the area and made an impassioned plea for funds. Money flooded in, leading to Mark setting up the charity Hope and Homes for Children. This inspired me and confirmed what I had always believed – where there's a will there's a way, especially if it comes from the heart. With the support of my tutor, Mr Burgess, I started an Amnesty International group at The Leys, realising that many Leysians would grow up to be influential people with the potential to make the world a better place.

How did Friends for Ukraine come about?

The mother of an OL friend needed to escape Ukraine. With my human rights and humanitarian background I had many contacts and made thousands of calls, to anyone I could think of who might have access. It took four attempts and many harrowing moments, but we got her out. Afterwards I realised – if we can get people out, we can get supplies in. I had unwittingly created a network of willing friends, and having identified their individual possibilities and skills, proposed that we join forces.

What supplies do you take in, and to whom?

We concentrate on the most vulnerable victims of war: people with disabilities; orphans; elderly people; single mothers. Needs vary seasonally and with each new crisis – the bombing of the dam in



The devastation of war

Kherson, for example, has led to outbreaks of e-coli and cholera, creating a great need for water purification tablets and vaccines. Disabled people may require bed pads or wheelchairs. Infant formula is needed as, under the stress of war, mothers are unable to produce breastmilk. Food, medication, power generators and hygiene products are always needed.

How do you run operations?

Flexibility is key. Initially, we began each week with an empty wallet and an empty warehouse, yet already I'd be organising a car. By Wednesday, after much calling, talking and arranging, things would miraculously start happening, and by Friday/Saturday we could send out one to four transports. Recently, with support decreasing, we deploy fewer transports, but thanks to the increased trust and donations from larger organisations we have more to take. Last month we despatched five cars to Kharkov in a weekend, and now it's the same for Kherson.

As our network of friends reaches deep into Ukraine, we work on a demand and supply basis, ensuring that only essential items are taken in and every penny is spent on meeting real needs.

Much humanitarian aid disappears onto the black market or is lost in hubs which lack the manpower to sort and repack everything. Aid comes in from all over the world, often as packages of mixed goods, with product labelling in many languages. We sort, translate and label products so they can be identified once delivered, which is especially important when dealing with medication. Our efforts and our trusted contacts in Ukraine mean we can still get through and guarantee that aid is delivered where needed.

How many volunteers do you have?

Approximately 20 of us are continuously involved, including a purchasing specialist, a human rights expert, a legal advisor, pharmacists, a doctor, engineers and humanitarian activists – many doubling as drivers. Around 50 more help when they can: picking things up, sorting, packing and loading.

What is it that makes your team so effective?

Apart from the cause itself, and the fact that everyone is a volunteer and a specialist in their field, I think it is about respect. I have been moved to see people coming together for a greater cause, overcoming personal and political differences. When observing the expansion of this beautiful network I would often think of the analogy 'diamond in the dust'.

Has anyone in your organisation ever been detained or hurt?

No, although I know of two tragedies from other organisations. We avoid the hottest areas whilst reaching close to the frontlines. We monitor our drivers on GPS and the local situation based on our intel there. I usually insist on a second driver. We have apps to show where bombs have recently fallen, and some of our drivers have undergone tactical evacuation. Instant reaction to our drivers' needs is vital.



Provisions ready to be loaded

Your organisational skills must be amazing!?

The way most people describe it is that I somehow manage to make things happen out of chaos. I don't always know how, but that just proves "where there's a will, there's a way".

Are you still bringing people out of Ukraine?

It happens, but not as often. For some, it is simply too hard to leave; many want to stay in their homes, especially where there are fewer attacks. Even in other areas, people stay: to help, or because they can't imagine anything else. One person I know evacuated his family but stayed to take care of his dogs who could not be evacuated.

How do you safeguard your mental health?

The stories hit hard sometimes. They can take weeks to digest, then the more you repeat them the easier it becomes. You try to be pragmatic; break the tasks down. I have friends to help out, so I can take a break. The hardest thing is being unable to help people in a desperate situation.

Do you have a message for OL readers?

Donations are always welcome. Additionally, you might work for a big company that can help – with discounted goods (food, hygiene products, power generators, etc) or returned products (shoes, sports/rehabilitation equipment). We negotiated a good price for water purification tablets from one company, were gifted petrol cards from another, and an English friend arrived with a bus full of sleeping bags, gas cookers etc. There are many ways to help – please feel free to contact me.

When the war is eventually over, where do you see yourself next?

Difficult question! I've always joked that I'm better in wartime than in peace, but it's true. Amid chaos and stress I can cross boundaries and exceed myself, but that's a tough way to live. Let's just say I hope to be able to continue helping people when they need it, without yet another war.

You can see a video message from Ania and learn more about her team's vital work at <https://friendsforukraine.pl> If you would like to help in any way, please email contact@friendsforukraine.pl

Give it a Tri!

A brief introduction to triathlon and Ironman by Andy Pittams, North B 2000–05

Having missed a couple of OL events and meetings recently due to competing in Ironman races in Europe, I was asked to redeem myself by writing an article giving a little introduction to long course triathlon and why I think you should give it a tri next year!

As the name suggests, a triathlon is a combination of three different sports, swimming, cycling and running. Technically there is no one set distance for a triathlon; however, they are typically categorised as follows:

Triathlon Distance	Swim	Bike	Run
Sprint	0.75k	20k	5k
Olympic	1.5k	40k	10k
Half-Iron	1.9k	90k	21.1k
Ironman	3.8k	180k	42.2k

To make it more confusing, the terrain for each activity can vary enormously – the swim can be in a pool, river, lake or the ocean, the bike leg can be flat or mountainous and the run can be all sorts of things. No two triathlons are the same and that is what makes it so exciting, but also potentially so accessible.

Last October I did my first Ironman 70.3 in Portugal. It was an ocean swim in the Atlantic followed by a mountainous ride above Cascais, finishing with a run along the coastline. I instantly become hooked. Since then I have competed in a number of different races, with many more planned. There is something amazing about the support, the atmosphere and the feeling of accomplishment; I would 100% recommend entering an Ironman event if you can.

Training is crucial. As a cyclist, I've competed in multiple endurance races across Europe including a stage of the 2022 Tour de France (see episode 5 of the Netflix documentary *Tour de France: Unchained*). My fitness for endurance racing was there, though the swimming and running required a bit of reintroduction. The alarm would go off most



Andy on the bike leg, Ironman Mallorca 2023

days at 4:55 am and I would be swimming, cycling or running, although during weekends I continued to ride with my cycling club. It was probably 70% cycling, 20% running and 10% swimming – but no open water swimming, which was a shock on race day! My first half marathon was the Cambridge Half, where I was pleased to see a number of current and former Leysian teachers cheering me on.

My advice to anyone interested in giving it a tri would be:

- 1. Pick your approach.** As a competitor I race the events, constantly trying to beat my time and finish in a certain position for my age category. However, I see so many people taking it on as a challenge for charity, for a loved one or just for themselves. The ultimate goal is to complete it within the race time (sadly there is a time limit).
- 2. To fail to prepare is to prepare to fail** (B House motto c.2005). Ensure that you train. Success isn't achieved on race day, it's in the many hours and early mornings leading up to that one moment. Do the distances individually so you are comfortable and remove the element of doubt.

- 3. Have fun.** Bring people with you if you can and make it enjoyable – your first event will be one of the best and most memorable days of your life!

Andy is a Director at ICAEW and sits on the OLS Committee. If you are interested in knowing more about endurance events, racing or Ironman please feel free to contact Andy via the Committee.



Swim start, Ironman Mallorca 2023

Sixth Form Work Experience

First Steps in Finance



Ted T (U6) and Joe M-K (L6) were delighted to have the opportunity to gain invaluable work experience with Cambridge's leading accountancy firm, PEM – and it has definitely given them a taste for more.

Ted: "My work experience at PEM consisted of me shadowing and helping several trainee and qualified accountants to compile real life accounts and conduct audit work for businesses both local and national.

Before this experience, I only had a rough understanding of the field and was not certain I would like it. Now my subject knowledge is a lot richer, this is an industry I know I would like to go into.

Every day I was partnered with a slightly different set of people working on a broad variety of projects, which gave me a great insight into accounting in just one intense week. I also gained hands-on experience using the specialist software, which I enjoyed.

People were very friendly and there was a good mix of banter and hard work. I also found the team very willing to answer my numerous questions.

I would really like to thank the team at PEM for such a rich and enjoyable experience. It was great to get to know everyone and their roles, and to understand more about the software they use. It has convinced me that this is a career I would like to embark on."

Ted's mentor at PEM, HollyMae Moulden: "Ted had a really positive experience at PEM – he was very willing to learn,

and asked intelligent questions at every opportunity. Given his placement was only one week, we did our best to give him a broad experience of an accountancy firm as a whole, and he was open to all challenges and opportunities. Ted acquitted himself very professionally, and was adaptable to the working environment. We hope he found this experience to be positive, and that it will guide his decision-making in the future."

Joe: "During my placement I witnessed the intricate process required for managing a firm's finances and completing audits. At first, I was simply shown the general process of how to deal with different clients. Then I was given the opportunity to work on some of the easier tasks in completing an audit, which gave me a better perspective on the complicated process and the considerable amount of thought required. Team members also taught me about the qualifications and processes required to become an accountant, which was useful as it helped me evaluate my prospective career

opportunities. Furthermore, I learnt about the structure of these corporations and how different leadership roles work. It was a great opportunity to complete tasks that actually contributed to the worth of the firm, and I enjoyed the satisfaction of providing some help. I would like to thank PEM for this experience."

Joe's mentor at PEM, Jack Elliott, Moulton/West 2010–16:

"Joe showed a strong willingness to get involved across his week with us and was open to all challenges and opportunities available to him. He was able to assist in a broad range of tasks across our audit and accounts department, and hopefully this exposure to different elements of our work will have been as positive for Joe as it was for us. He showed great professionalism and willingness to learn and understand the work over the course of the week. Hopefully the experience was constructive and useful and can help guide Joe's future career choices."



Ted and Joe

Spotlight on

The Ollie Feast Summer Camp

In memory of Oliver David James Feast, 07.09.1994 – 04.02.2015



Following this year's successful running of The Leys School Ollie Feast Summer Camp, Ollie's dad Steve and close school friend Natalina Roberts, Fen 2008-13, spoke to The Leys about Ollie's time there, his passions and values, and how these lie at the heart of a legacy that continues to offer exciting new opportunities to so many young people.

First a little bit about Ollie ...

Steve: Ollie was one of those charismatic, good-looking young men that people were drawn to. If he walked into a room people noticed him. He was passionate about sport, made the 1st teams in rugby, hockey and cricket by year 11, and opened the batting for the first XI and played No6 in the U18 Daily Mail/RBS Schools Rugby Finals winning team in 2012. He wasn't particularly academically engaged but was bright with a strong social intelligence.

Natty: Ollie arrived at The Leys in year 10, when we were already quite a tight crowd – but we all just adored him. He and I were in the same classes and got on really well. During weekends as a boarder he would sometimes stay with friends in Cambridge so our parents all knew him too. We did everything together. He had such energy and would light up the room.

What was Ollie's experience of The Leys?

Natty: He had a very happy time at school; we all did. He said he could be himself. We had some fun in our A-Level English lessons with Mrs Clark. We were quite cheeky and naughty, but when we left she confessed that she had a soft spot for us!

Steve: When Mark Slater interviewed Ollie to come to The Leys it was a breakthrough moment for him, having previously experienced only a sport-obsessed all boys' school. The ethos – doing good for others; giving back to the community – opened up a different side of his personality and he became the champion of the underdog. He could spend hours teaching someone a new skill just so they could get into a team.

Mark Slater, Headmaster 2004-13:

"Ollie was the ultimate free spirit: sometimes challenging, always charming, an utterly likeable rogue for whom I and his teachers had enormous affection! I was struck by his honesty and genuineness. He admitted he'd made mistakes and wanted to learn from them. I sensed he would gain a lot from the School, and give a lot to it: he later proved me right. The Leys was a better place for his presence among us."

How did The Ollie Feast Trust (TOFT) come about?

Steve: Natty and a small core of close friends asked if we could set up a charity, which was agreed with Martin Priestley who became a trustee and has been a fantastic supporter. The aim was to raise money to help young people, in Ollie's spirit, who were less advantaged. His old friends didn't want it to be a 'do good' charity. They wanted to afford people opportunities which could ultimately be mutually beneficial and would bring different life experiences.

Natty: Ollie was so passionate about sport and so good with people. He'd include everyone and give anyone a chance, and that's what the Trust embodied: giving people opportunities through sport and travel – the things he loved. I think that is what he'd want us to do.

What opportunities were offered by the Trust?

Steve: Travel scholarships in various fields including, for example, kickboxing, fashion/design and football coaching in South Africa. Each recipient came back and told their stories as part of the fundraising initiative, helping to raise £20,000 at a ball organised by Ollie's mum Tina, with help from Natty's mum Nadia. We also founded the summer camp, run in conjunction with local schools for youngsters aged 13-15 whose personal circumstances presented challenges. They excelled themselves in all sorts of exciting activities such as rock climbing. This is where especially Damien Rigden and then also Ed Durrant, who still run the summer camp, came on board bringing colleagues and Old Leysians with them. During every camp they email the parents each day saying how well their young people have done, establishing that essential trust.

Natty: We were lucky to go to The Leys. The whole extra-curricular programme is so well supported and enhanced, and it is great to share that. The messages back from the first year's cohort showed how much they had loved the camp.



Youngsters enjoying a range of outdoor activities at the Summer Camp

The Ollie Feast Summer Camp today

Steve: TOFT wound down three years ago, with the remaining funds handed over to The Leys so the catalytic work started could, with the School's support, continue. The whole thing flowed through, from the loss of a child, to a group of friends wanting something positive to come out of that, to registering the Trust as a charity, to The Leys now having a fund to run the summer camps. It is very important that the residual funds continue to be well-used.

Damien Rigden, North A 1998-2002; Sports Coach & HsM, Bisseker:

"We were keen to offer a summer camp that had something a bit different and exposed participants to things they wouldn't necessarily have experienced before."

Ed Durrant, Head of Outreach:

"The most pleasing aspect is the number of stakeholders involved – The Leys providing the facilities, the partner schools we couldn't do without, the staff and the volunteers."

Tom Bailey, School 2007-12, volunteer and school friend of Ollie's:

"We get great student volunteers from the School. In particular, pupils who do the CCF come in and help with loads of activities,

including a survival training afternoon. Having those volunteers is key, and will hopefully enable the camp to continue for many years in Ollie's name."

Steve: Every year I am invited by Ed and Damien to give a talk to sixth formers. The privilege they have sits lightly on their shoulders, as it should, but they can give back to others and this is where volunteers are often identified. To learn from others who are less advantaged is one of the greatest privileges you can ever have.

This year's Ollie Feast Summer Camp took place in July, with all participants happily exhausted after completing a range of activities including bushcraft, canoeing and teamwork tasks. A particular highlight was the session with Paralympian Roy Turnham who delivered a talk on Blind Football.

If you would like to make a donation to the Summer Camp fund, please contact Mary Cooksey: mjc@theleys.net

OL Sport

OLD LEYSIAN GOLFING SOCIETY

OLGS v The School, 27 April

We are pleased that this match has been re-instated following a gap of two years. Peter White, Common Room 1983–present, convened a very good school golf team and the match was won, narrowly, by the Old Leysians. We are also pleased that this year, three able recent OLs plan to join the society. This augurs well for the future.

Spring Meeting, Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club, 11 May

We had an enjoyable and well-supported day's golf and welcomed Richard Bramley, Barker 2017–22, to his first Old Leysian meeting. There were good scores all day with Richard Bramley featuring in the morning with a level par round. Alex Fox, East 1980–85, was some way ahead with his medal score in the morning and there was a close finish for the Neil White Trophy. There were further good scores for the nine holes played in the afternoon.

Ted Morel Trophy (Medal)

AJJ Fox 76-10; 66 Nett
RCB Bramley 70-1; 69 Nett (last nine)
NCD Lloyd 89-20; 69 Nett

Neil White Trophy (Stableford)

RCB Bramley 37 Points (last nine)
NCD Lloyd 37 Points
MA Elliott 37 Points

Society's Tankards (Stableford) (9 holes)

HC Blunt & SC Amey 17 Points

The Spring Meeting 2024 will be held at Huntercombe Golf Club, Nuffield, Oxon, on Tuesday 7 May.

Halford Hewitt, 30 March–2 April

We had a strong team this year helped by the inclusion of James Albery, West 2009–14, who had a timely gap in his GB Hockey commitments. In the first round we played Framlingham at Royal St. George's Golf Club and we just lost the deciding match at the 18th. We then played in the Halford Hewitt Plate against Rossall at Prince's Golf Club and again were just pipped at the 18th.

Led by Peter Hockin 12 of us scattered some of Richard Cadman's ashes at Royal St. George's at the par 5, 7th hole, where Richard had holed an Albatross in a Halford Hewitt practice round. In the final, Loretto beat Epsom.

The following played: TL Williams & JD Bareham; CA Holden & PA Quin; RJ Bentley & JP Albery; CCB Turner & AGT Petrie; SD Cooper & ARJ Smethers.

Senior Bernard Darwin (over 65s), Woking Golf Club 13 June

In our first-round match we played Harrow and through a valid cancellation, we had to concede one match. Harrow were a much stronger side and won 3-0.

The following played: PM Hockin & SJ Pattinson; CM Kidman & RJ Chapman.

In the Final Tonbridge won against Charterhouse.

Bernard Darwin (over 55s), Woking Golf Club 29 June

In the first round we played Eton, and at the short 16th, there was nothing our first pair could do about their hole-in-one! A very good match with our second pair losing on the last hole. We played well in the Plate and just missed out by one point to the winners, Marlborough.

Team: CJ Pattinson & DW McClean; TD Page & JS Edwards; CCB Turner & AGT Petrie.

In the final, Charterhouse beat Wellington.

Players wishing to join the Golfing Society please contact Nigel Washbourn. The 2024 fixture list is available to view on The Leys' website. Email: nwashbourn@btinternet.com



The teams L to R: Sam H, L6; Callum K, yr 11; Jack M, U6; Ollie S, yr 11; Oli H, U6; Henry H, yr 11; Peter White, Common Room 1984–present; Geoff Howe, CR 1998–present; Ollie A, U6; Neil Mackay, East 1969–72; Tom Williams, West 1993–96; Jak Bareham, Barrett 2006–13; Richard Bentley, North B 1992–97; Charlie Kidman, North B/Fen 1963–68; Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966–71



Halford Hewitt, team and supporters

OLD LEYSIAN REAL TENNIS CLUB

Catermull Cup

The Leys have entered the Catermull Cup (Schools' Alumni doubles tournament) for the last ten years. This year's tournament was held at Middlesex University Real Tennis Club in April 2023. 16 pairs from 14 schools were entered. There were four groups, with group winners advancing into the knockout stage. Our pairing of Will Spriggs, North A 1992–97, and Joel Humphrey, East 92–97, won their group with three sound victories over Worth, Charterhouse 1st and Charterhouse 2nd. Unfortunately, they lost their

semi-final to the eventual winners, Winchester 1st. Strategy for next year is already being discussed!

OLRTC Tournament

In November 2022, eight Old Leysians convened at Newmarket Real Tennis Club for the annual doubles tournament. As ever, it was played in good spirits and the standard of tennis was high. All matches were closely fought and congratulations go to the deserving winners Mark Elliott, Fen 1977–82, and Damian Humphrey, East 1988–93. A fantastic day was had by all.



The OLRTC team L to R: Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966–71; Tom Hartley, North B 1981–83; Mark Elliott, Fen 1977–82; Grattan MacGiffin, Fen 1985–90; Will Spriggs, North A 1992–97; Joel Humphrey, East 1992–97; Peter White, Current Common Room 1983–present; Damian Humphrey, East 1988–92

OLD LEYSIAN CRICKET CLUB



The OLCC are coming to the end of their second season in Division One of the Whiting & Partners Cambs & Hunts Premier League. The opposition has been tougher than ever, but at the end of July they were placed mid-table and look on-course to consolidate that position. A full report on the season will appear in the Spring issue of *OL News*.

TOMMY DANN MEMORIAL MATCH

The second annual Tommy Dann Memorial Match took place on Saturday 25 March, raising over £18,500 for The Jonny Wilkinson Charitable Foundation. The event was very well-attended, and the entertaining match finished with a win for Old Perseans 31–10, avenging last year's result.

Our thanks go to OLs Ed Fairey, Bisseker 2011–16, and Max Wilson, West 2011–16, for all their hard work in ensuring another memorable occasion in honour of Tommy.

The full gallery of photos can be viewed here: <https://www.stevenillingworth.com/Sports/Rugby/Tommy-Dann-Memorial/Tommy-Dann-2023/>



Will McFadyen on the attack with Finn Morrison and Harvey Jacklin in support

© Steven Illingworth Photography

TAG RUGBY WORLD



Dante, right, in action against Australia

Dante O'Reilly, Moulton/Barker/ East 2004-11

“At the end of July, I was in Limerick playing for Great Britain in the Tag Rugby World Cup. We had an awesome tournament and came away with a bronze

medal. We got a bit unlucky with our draw in the knockout stages and after beating New Zealand in the quarter-finals, we ended up facing Australia in the semi-final, who were the #1 seed going into the competition. We pushed them hard

but couldn't quite clinch it, which gave us a 3rd place play-off against Ireland which we won. The final was Australia v Lebanon (who we beat in the group stages), and Australia came out on top.”



Dante in GB kit



The team proudly sporting their medals

LACROSSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seb Howarth, North A 2008-13

Seb has just returned from representing Scotland in the Lacrosse World Championships. The US beat Canada in the final and Scotland were placed 17th in a field of 30 teams (England were 8th).

“I first saw a lacrosse stick at my university freshers' fair. I didn't really know what this strange egg and spoon-like game was. Fast forward several years and I'm touching down in San Diego to represent Scotland at the 2023 World Championships. Without much experience in the game, it was quite the learning curve. To balance a profession in sustainability consultancy with the high physical and mental demands of international sport was a shock to say the least but they do say, 'nothing worth having in life comes easy'. The experience was indescribable and one I will cherish, for as



Seb (right) in action for Scotland against Mexico

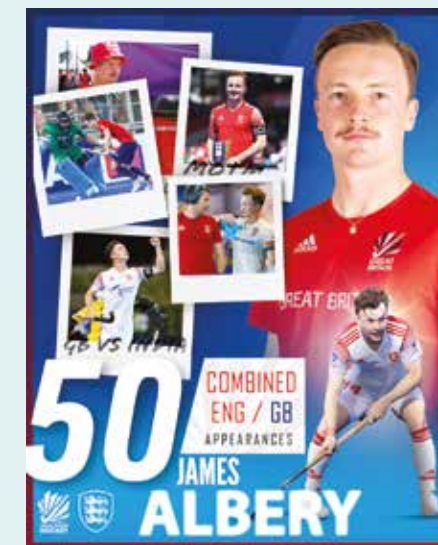
long as my concussion-riddled brain allows. I would really encourage anyone to try out some of these more niche sports when the

opportunity arises. You never know, you might be representing your country at the worlds in a couple of years!”

100TH ANNIVERSARY SPANISH HOCKEY FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

James Albery, West 2009-14, and Katie Curtis, Bisseker 2015-20

At the end of July James and Katie each played for England in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation



GB Hockey social media feature congratulating James



Katie in action for England

International Tournament in Teresa. James reached his 50th senior cap (combined GB and England) and Katie gained her first senior international cap. Many congratulations to them both! England Men finished top of the points table in

the round-robin with two draws (The Netherlands and India) and a win (Spain), but they lost in the final against the hosts. Meanwhile, England Women had a win, a draw and two losses in their campaign to finish third.

A Life in Education



David Chaplin, School 1960-65, reflects on his time at The Leys and the path through teaching that led him to found the charity Rwanda Action.

I can't say that my career at The Leys was in any way distinguished. I was no good at sport – a distinct disadvantage in what was then a “boys only” school. My only (dubious) achievement was playing the part of Cleopatra in Shakespeare's tragedy. Anthony was played by Richard Heffer who went on to have a considerable acting career, including playing the role of Major Downing in the series *Colditz*. My own subsequent acting career, resumed at Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich, my hometown, was less considerable. Once, as an armed soldier in Henry V, I became a little carried away in response to the king's encouragement to go “once more unto the breach” and my pike became tangled in the scenery, demolishing half the set.

The teacher who most influenced me was the late Colin Wilcockson. He was an able English teacher, with a particular love of Middle English. Despite going on to a distinguished academic career at Oxford he was never austere, perched on a desk among us all,



David in Rwanda

engaging us with a wonderful combination of erudition and enthusiasm.

I left The Leys to read English at Durham University, then embarked on a teaching career. After a few years, I was appointed Headmaster of a prep school in Sussex. I loved the job, working with enthusiastic children who had everything in front of them, and fortunately I had married an amazingly talented and lovely lady who for the most part ran the school.

There were some difficult moments. Once, during a boarding house inspection, the wily old inspector was touring the dormitories while my wife and I hovered nervously behind. Towards the end he reached Elephants dormitory and headed for the bed of the one boy we would rather he did not meet – in most respects a delightful young man, but not renowned for his tact and discretion. After a few minutes of conversation the inspector lobbed in the key question: “Tell me, Albert, do you ever have fire practices?”

Imagine our relief when Albert responded enthusiastically, “Oh yes! We had one last night!”

Unfortunately, he then added, “It was complete chaos.”

I was Headmaster at the school for 25 years which was almost certainly too long. Indeed, towards the end of my time there I received a letter which began, “Dead Headmaster ...” Whether a typing error, a veiled threat, or just a passing observation, it prompted me to move on. The problem was, “What to do?”

During my time at the school we had created the motto “Pro aliis optimum agere” – “To do our



best for the benefit of others.” Having promoted this with my pupils for many years it seemed right to put it into practice myself, so when the opportunity arose to visit Rwanda I jumped at it.

There is not space for me to describe my experiences in Rwanda here, but I hope to visit The Leys to talk to pupils about them. I have learned a great deal, including how overseas support can have a massive impact for a relatively modest outlay. For example, the teacher training programme we have devised and piloted is proving so successful that much of it will likely be included in the national teacher training programme.



Apprentices with disability at the village undertake work experience, a step towards paid employment

I have also learned that whilst poverty can be cruel and soul destroying, people who live relatively simple lives often have a better grasp of what matters in life than those who live in a world obsessed with getting and spending. It has been a hugely enriching experience.

To learn more about Rwanda Action's life changing work, please visit <https://www.rwanda-action.org>

Obituaries

To read the full versions of these obituaries, please visit the School website. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed document, please contact the Development Office on 01223 508545.

Nicholas Barron, West 1970-75
on 9 July 2023

An obituary will be published in the Spring 2024 edition of *OL News*.

John Graves Burgoyne, School 1958-63
on 22 April 2023

John was one of a small band of School House boys who were the despair of Ken Naylor, our long-suffering housemaster, who made heroic efforts to corral us into joining things and doing more sports. We were all irritatingly resistant to this but John was quietly the arch-individualist of the group, much happier taking his canoe on to the Cam than playing team sports.

But Ken need not have worried – at least about John. Without setting foot on a playing field, he became BSc, MPhil, PhD, Research Director and later Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University, and beyond that Professor of Management Learning then Professor Emeritus.

Alongside this, John served as Adjunct Professor, University of Calgary and Visiting



John Graves Burgoyne

Professor, London Business School. He was Policy Research Consultant to the Council for Excellence in Management and Professor of Management Learning at Henley Business School. Work took him to China, Australia, Finland and beyond.

John was at the forefront of the ever-changing principles of management and education. The list of students whose PhDs he supervised reads like a Who's Who of the management world and his book *A Manager's Guide to Self-Development* (co-written) is in its sixth edition. One LinkedIn tribute read: “He steered me through my doctorate offering little nuggets of seemingly left-field advice that often turned out to be boulders of wisdom.”

In retirement John lived with his wife Trudi beside Lake Windermere where, along with playing with boats, he started re-learning the flute. The small band of School House recalcitrants still meet in London at least once a year ... but our collective brain power is now sadly diminished.

Words by John's School House friends Roger Thomas (1958-63), Ken Organ (1958-62), Angus Whimster (1958-63) and Sam Whimster (1960-65)

David Corbett, East 1956-61
on 13 July 2023

David celebrated his 80th birthday with his family in March. He died unexpectedly but peacefully on 13 July. David was the eldest of three brothers to attend East House, followed by Jeremy, East 1961-66 and Jonathan, East 1966-71. They attended consecutively, with no gap, so for 15 continuous years there was a member of



David Corbett

the Corbett family in East House! They followed their father Ken, East 1923-27.

David's career spanned teaching, the civil service and working in the family business of agricultural implement manufacturing, before moving to work for the Ministry of Transport and finally an army ordnance depot.

A lifelong member of the Methodist Church, he enjoyed many outside interests. His passions were light music, the weather, the BBC, current affairs and sport. He used his extensive knowledge to good effect, writing a comprehensive book exceeding 600 pages entitled *Those Were the Days – with Harry Davidson and his Orchestra*. He built an extensive archive of written and recorded TV and radio programmes over more than 60 years. He also presented a weekly programme of light music for Serenade Radio until he died.

He was a keen supporter of local groups and charities, holding a variety of posts. Known by many people locally in Wellington where he lived for all of his life, David will be greatly missed by his many friends and most of all by his family.

Words by Jonathan Corbett, East 1966-71

Prof Peter Dickinson, School 1948–53
on 16 June 2023

Professor Peter Dickinson combined parallel careers in a lifetime of extraordinary musical achievement. As a composer, his wide repertoire ranged from his organ, piano and violin concertos to smaller and lighter works. As Professor Emeritus of the Universities of both Keele and London, he taught and inspired many of today’s leading musicians and established specialist expertise in American music among other fields. Peter also wrote highly regarded books on music and musicians including Lennox Berkeley, John Cage and Aaron Copland. *Words and Music*, a summary of his own career, was published in 2016. He was an accomplished pianist performing in a very large number of concerts and recordings of composers such as Erik Satie. For over 20 years he ran a music education charity formed with the musicologist Dr Bernarr Rainbow, the Rainbow Dickinson Trust, helping hundreds of musical endeavours.

Peter arrived at The Leys as a music scholar in 1948, his housemaster in School House being H S Davies who was also the Director of Music. He was a leading participant in music at the School, organising concerts and winning many competitions. He was also a Queen’s Scout in the 60th Cambridge (The Leys) troop. Subsequently gaining an organ scholarship to Queens’ College, Cambridge, he then spent three formative years in New York including a year at the Juilliard School, before beginning his varied musical career in the UK. He married Bridget Tomkinson in 1964, who survives him together with sons Jasper and Francis, School 1987–89. Peter kept in contact with The Leys throughout his life, giving his advice, time and expertise as well as making several gifts to the School.

Words by Francis Dickinson, School 1987–89



© Peter Dickinson Estate

Peter Dickinson

Charles Richard Ferens, East 1950–55
on 29 January 2023

Richard was born in 1936 in Yorkshire and attended The Leys before reading Land Economy at Trinity Hall. He started his career at Smith Woolley (land agents), living in Lincolnshire. In 1960, he married Penny and after eight years (and three daughters) they moved to Hertfordshire.



Richard Ferens

In 1975 Richard returned to Lincolnshire to manage estates and act as an arbitrator and valuer for the Agriculture Mortgage Corporation.

By 1977 he had become Chairman of the Anglian Board of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and was Honorary Secretary of their rural division.

At 21 Richard was made a life member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, forming an association that lasted over 50 years. Whilst at Cambridge he worked at the Royal Show as an assistant pig steward, progressing to manager of the Grand Ring, then Honorary Director of the show from 1982–1987. By now he was working for Strutt and Parker, advising on estate management.

In 2002 Richard felt deeply honoured to be appointed High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, supporting various charitable organisations with tireless enthusiasm. He had a passion for country life, sitting on or chairing the Lincolnshire game fairs committees.

Richard proudly received his MBE from HM the Queen in 2010. He was also appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County.

Richard was a loving and devoted family man, married for 62 years to Penny and proud of his three daughters. He never forgot his very happy and formative years in Cambridge and continued to visit throughout

his life. He was a keen fisherman and loved many other country sports.

Words by Sophie Henderson, Richard’s daughter

Christopher Paul Gane, School 1946–52
on 7 September 2022

In his latter years Chris’ short-term memory often failed, but his ability to recall familiar stories from his happy, idyllic early childhood never did – testing the patience of family and friends!

During WWII he was separated from his father, fighting in north Africa, and mother, working with the Wrens. Aged 10 he found himself boarding at Wells Cathedral school, spending holidays with grandparents.

Post-war, the family moved to Cambridge where Chris attended The Leys, studied History and Theology at Queens’ College, trained for the ministry and met his future wife, Maureen. Their relationship gave him strength to follow his calling, sustaining him throughout his fruitful, lifelong ministry.

After ordination in 1959, Chris’ ministry included working for the RAF before becoming vicar of St Paul’s, Erith, helping develop the ‘family service’. In 1971 Chris and Maureen, with their children Clare, Alison and Andrew, moved to St Margaret’s in Ipswich, their home for 17 years, then to north Suffolk.

Chris was a kind, compassionate and inclusive priest with a maverick streak. A pioneer and advocate of divorcees marrying in church, he conducted his first ceremony to the immense disdain of his bishop.



Chris Gane

Maureen’s death in 2016 devastated Chris. In 2017 he moved house to be nearer to Clare. He loved his garden, listening to music, and family get-togethers. He was delighted to meet his first great grandchild shortly before he died. He leaves a huge gap in the lives of his family and friends, but there is comfort in knowing that he is at peace, reunited with his beloved Maureen.

Words by Clare Flintoff, Chris’ daughter

Sam Grice, Common Room 1967–97
on 12 June 2023

Sam joined the Common Room in 1967 as assistant to Ken Naylor in the Music Department. He proved to be a perfect foil to Ken: he had an infectious extrovert personality, he was an outstanding trumpet player, and his background was as a bandmaster. Under his leadership the School Band was of exceptional quality. It accompanied the annual inspection parades, performed in concerts, or provided wind players for chapel performances. The climax for the band was its concert in the marquee at the tea interval in the cricket match on Speech Day, when all flocked into the tent to hear the band perform. Sam also used to lead congregational practices on Fridays before the weekend services, where again he was in his element as a showman but also in getting all to participate whether they could sing or not. His other major contribution was to establish a Clay Pigeon Society in 1976. He went on to help run the East Area Championship and then the British National Championship. The School won the East Championship five times and the National seven times. The ‘Grand Slam’ of titles was to win both of these, plus the Framlingham Invitation and the Warwick Challenge. In 1990, 1991 and 1992 the School won the Grand Slam and again in 1997. After Sam’s retirement, clay pigeon shooting finished at The Leys, but he went on to act as a coach and many members of his teams kept in touch. He was a larger-than-life figure who will be remembered with great affection.

Words by John Harding, Common Room 1968–2005

“Sam was a founder member of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) coaching committee which he served for many years. He was also a Fellow of the Institute of Clay



Sam with his labrador Raven, Christmas Day 2016 (Photo courtesy of Richard Stirland, West 1978–82)

Shooting Instructors and author of the book *Ahead of the Game*. He will be a sad loss to the shooting community.”

from CPSA website

“Sam and Ken Naylor pulled me out of the depths of severe home sickness and by the time I left The Leys I was Head of House, had been awarded a Music Exhibition and won a place in the National Youth Orchestra before entering the Royal College of Music.”

Jeremy Willis, School 1968–73

“I always remember his choir practices in the Chapel which West House always won, and he would say:

‘If in doubt ... belt it out! If you’ve got it ... flaunt it! And if you’ve not got it ... get it!’”

Richard Stirland, West 1978–82

John Conrad Hallam, School 1943–48
on 30 September 2022

Born in Louth, Lincolnshire on 29 December 1929, John began his time at The Leys in Pitlochry during WWII. He often recalled the state of the dining room ceiling by the time they returned to Cambridge, from the margarine the boys pinged up on their knives!

He had a love of engineering, often dismantling and reconstructing the motorbike he kept at school. Indeed, upon leaving, he and Roger Baker, West 1944–48, took their bikes through Europe and the Alps to the south of France, even camping in Brigitte Bardot’s garden by mistake!

Following two years’ military service, he and Jan were married in April 1953 and had four children, Judy, twin boys Crispin and Mark, East 1970–75, and Nickie.

All John’s working life was spent with Bowater Packaging, initially in Italy, then Brussels. The family later settled in Meldreth for over 30 years and enjoyed entertaining a wide circle of friends and family. In his pre-retirement years as a development director, John travelled extensively in the USA.

Soon afterwards, Jan was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and her condition gradually deteriorated until she died in 2009 after 56 years of marriage. No-one else could have shown such devotion in looking after her. As John’s mobility worsened, much of his time was spent on the computer. He never once complained and was amazingly stoical in facing his physical limitations, forever grateful and keeping an active mind.

Above all, he was an honourable, hard-working, generous and loving family man. He was immensely proud of his five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and will be dearly missed.

Words by Mark Hallam, East 1970–75



A young John in the Engineering Workshop at The Leys

Clive de Jersey Harvard, West 1953–58
on 4 August 2023

Richard Baskcomb Haryott, West 1954–59 on 24 May 2023

Dad was born in Bombay on 28 March 1941, the second of three children. Aged eight he joined his brother John at St Faith’s, before moving on to The Leys. So began an association with the School that continued for the rest of his life.



Richard Haryott

He studied Civil Engineering at Leeds, graduating in 1962 with first class honours, then began a long and distinguished career with the civil engineering firm Arup. In 1976, he moved with his family to Iran as Managing Director of Arup Tehran, leaving just before the 1979 revolution.

Outside of Arup, Dad chaired the Steel Construction Institute and was a trustee of the Construction Youth Trust, set up to help disadvantaged young people find careers in the industry.

He married Virginia in 1966, and they built their life and family in Hertford. In 1984 the links to The Leys continued when their three children – me, then my sister Jo and brother Charlie – attended the School. Jo in turn also sent her children to The Leys.

The Leysian connections didn't end here. Dad became a governor in 1985, only standing down in 2017 – placing him among the longest-standing governors ever – and then President of the Old Leysian Society. He never did hang up his Leysian boots, remaining on the Benevolent Fund and Old Leysian committees until the day he died.

Dad loved skiing, golf and anything with Peter Sellers in it, but was happiest when surrounded by his family, taking great pleasure in seeing his eight grandchildren grow up. He died very suddenly on 24 May, and we miss his love, laughter, generosity, energy ... and his ability to fix things.

Words by Jim Haryott, East 1984–89

John Richard Marshall Spink, Fen 1966–69 on 26 January 2023

John passed away suddenly at home aged 70. He was a unique character with a brilliant sense of humour and a loud laugh! It did not take him long to engage people with his warmth and enthusiasm. Each meeting with John was memorable, uplifting and entertaining.

He was a keen sportsman and, at The Leys, he was well known for his prolific goal kicking on the rugby field. He played golf to a good standard at Walton Heath in Surrey where he lived and was a playing member of the OL Golfing Society. His garden was an immaculate putting green, as good as any golf club's, and he would spend many hours practising, often late into the evening. He was also an accomplished sailor and spent much of the summer on his yacht 'Nimrod' on the river Helford in Cornwall.

John, like his father, became an art dealer and, with his encyclopaedic knowledge and love of English water colours of the 18th and 19th centuries, he had become a highly respected and leading authority, writing several books on individual artists.

John lived life to the full and those lucky enough to know him will always remember his special blend of kindness and generosity of spirit that he brought to any gathering. He will be greatly missed by his wife Michele and everyone who knew him but I like to think that he continues to laugh loudly on a celestial putting green!

RIP John

Words by Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966–71



John Spink

Michael Frank Whitworth, School 1965–69 on 27 February 2023



Michael Whitworth

Mike followed his older brother Peter as a pupil at The Leys from 1965 to 1969. The School gave Mike a world perspective, encouraged him in a sport he enjoyed and there he made lifelong friends. He could talk to anyone.

He qualified as a teacher but dabbled in many occupations, never really finding his niche.

Mike played rugby. It was an antidote to his struggles with mental health. Whenever he moved house, he joined the local rugby club because he enjoyed the camaraderie. After his playing days, he was a referee.

Naturally gregarious, he was disappointed that his recent limited mobility made it more difficult for him to meet people, so it was very much appreciated that Old Leysians took the trouble to travel to Carlisle to visit him in his last year.

In spite of his love of foreign travel, going everywhere from India to Australia and the USA, his favourite place was always Cornwall. Friends will remember happy times at big house parties there. Trevone will be his final resting place.

Mike died of natural causes and is missed by his three children, Andrew, Louise and David.

Words by Caroline Steel

Colin Wilcockson, CR 1959–1972 on 1 March 2023

Colin was born in 1932 and brought up in Loughton. He attended Chigwell School where he became Head Boy. From Chigwell

he went up to study English Literature at Merton College, Oxford where he was made a Choral Exhibitioner.

After finals he completed a fourth year doing the Diploma in Education and did his teaching practice term at Harrow School.

From Oxford, Colin went to teach English and some O Level Latin at Campbell College, Belfast. Shortly afterwards he married Pam and after four years they moved to The Leys in 1959. Colin found a kindred academic spirit in the Headmaster, Alan Barker, who appointed him Head of English and later Deputy Headmaster, both posts he did concurrently. He was an officer in the CCF and had very fond memories of going on CCF camps with Stan Whitehead and David Gardiner.

Colin was an all-round schoolmaster. He gave of his time generously to all his pupils, pastorally and academically. But it was his love for English literature which absorbed him intellectually – many of his pupils owed their life-long love of literature and poetry to him.

In 1973 he was elected to a fellowship at Pembroke College, Cambridge; it probably helped that whilst at The Leys he had also written his first academic book, *Selections from Piers Plowman* (1965).

He was appointed Tutor for Admissions and was also Director of Studies in English for many years.

Colin had a strong affection for The Leys and was proud to be the Common Room's representative Governor for many years. He always enjoyed being invited back every Christmas to the Headmaster's 'Golden Oldies' drinks party.

Words by Michael Wilcockson, West 1972–77; CR 1986–96



Colin in the School grounds

"He was an inspiring and very gifted teacher – I can remember some moments in his classes with complete clarity nearly 70 years on! – and a very kind person."

Tim Gane, East 1959–63

Richard John Winfrey, North B, 1943–50 on 31 May 2023

Richard was born in London in 1931. His family moved to Ailsworth during the Blitz and he attended Stamford School, then joined The Leys in 1943 during its evacuation to Pitlochry. Richard excelled at The Leys. He was appointed Senior Prefect as well as Chief Under Officer in the CCF, the highest rank a pupil could hold. His keen interest in the arts continued throughout his life.

Richard read History and Law at Christ's College Cambridge. He enjoyed rowing and was a strong oarsman, representing the college. In 1955 he was called to the bar at the Middle Temple, then served his National Service in Cyprus.

In 1957 Richard attended the London College of Printing, joining East Midland Allied Press (EMAP), a family newspaper

business, the following year. He and his brother Charles led the company through a period of significant growth and innovation, and he later became Chairman until his retirement.

Ever faithful to The Leys, Richard was appointed a School Governor in 1972, serving as Honorary Secretary 1976–1991 and Vice-Chairman 1987–1996. He made generous gifts to the School over many years.

In his spare time Richard loved sailing and skiing with his family. He did much for the local community, supporting local artists and serving as a churchwarden, parish councillor and Justice of the Peace.

Richard was kind, generous, hard-working and forgiving of others' faults. His marriage to Jean was full of love and happiness. With four children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren he certainly had "a quiver full of arrows". His quiet but strong Christian faith informed all of his long, full life.

Words by Ben Winfrey, North B 1983–85



Richard Winfrey



From the Archive

A confusion of stars and spurs, mysterious symbolism and a visit from the King prompting a dramatic change of design – all part of the fascinating history of The Leys' coat of arms

On February 16, 1875, Dr W F Moulton, Headmaster 1875–98, and the first Leysian cohort of 16 boys took up residence in Cambridge to found a school whose religious teaching would align with Wesleyan principles. For most of us, the mountain of tasks and processes required to establish a school from scratch can only be guessed at, but among them was the requirement for a coat of arms. In a letter from 1908, Mrs Moulton explains with refreshing practicality how she addressed this issue:

"The history is, simply, that in those early days when everything had to be made, and a good many small matters, therefore, came to me for the making, Dr Moulton asked me to design 'something simple and heraldically correct', whilst he supplied the motto. I should add that the design was submitted to a heraldic expert before it became the School crest, and approved by him."

Mrs Moulton's design (below), whilst never actually registered with the College of Arms,

was clearly well thought out in representing the School's ethos and values, as well as being visually pleasing with its striking gold chevron and blue background. The open book depicts a willingness to learn (it's worth mentioning that the university coats of arms for both Oxford and Cambridge bear the symbol of a book); the silver 'mullets' (spurs) are an emblem of preparedness, traditionally associated with going into battle but aptly applied to a readiness to study! – and the gold stars symbolise aspiration, or faith and hope in higher things. The significance of the rose is debatable: it denotes distinction and is also the symbol of England; alternatively, it could be a reference to the House of Lancaster during the Wars of the Roses, as several of the School's founders were from Lancashire.

Dr W G Humphrey, Headmaster 1934–1948, made an interesting observation in his article about this first coat of arms, originally written for *The Fortnightly* and reproduced in the 1956 *Handbook and Directory of The Leys School*:

"[It] was often copied incorrectly, the commonest mistake being a failure to distinguish between the five-pointed silver spurs and the seven-pointed golden stars."

Two such 'incorrect' copies can be found in the School Chapel, in addition to the shield shown below (left) which is housed in the Archive. A correct version can be appreciated in one of the stained glass windows of the Common Room, flanked by the School motto, with spurs and stars well differentiated and with the correct number of points. The rose in the window is colourless, which Dr Humphrey attributes to fading over time.

In 1914 the School governors finally sought approval for Mrs Moulton's design from the College of Arms, in preparation for King George V's visit to inaugurate the new Library Block. It was at this point that the familiar Leysian coat of arms evolved (below, centre), in a dramatic reworking by Sir Farnham Burke, Norroy King of Arms, and his colleagues.



Coat of arms pre-1914



Modern coat of arms



The Leys crest today



An often overlooked gem in the Common Room

Despite the striking redesign, particularly in terms of colour scheme and central feature, several elements from the previous version remain: the open book, the spur (now singular) and two red roses, now with sepals and seeds. In place of the golden chevron is a red cross, symbolising the School's Christian foundation.

The crest which was added consists of an esquire's helmet and, above it, a wyvern. This cross between a dragon and a serpent is a symbol of courage, and signifies the School's association with Methodism. In their book *Well-regulated minds and improper moments – A history of The Leys School*, Geoff and Pat Houghton explain that "All Wesleyan schools throughout the land include the wyvern in their crest". Below the shield is Dr Moulton's original motto, "In Fide Fiducia" (in faith is our trust).

The official grant and assignation of the current arms and crest were presented on 31 March, 1914, ready for King George's visit in May of that year. The document, with its impressive attached three seals, was displayed in the Old Gymnasium at the time Dr Humphrey was writing his article. It is now on display in the Archive, as is the box in which the scroll was delivered, bearing the same royal emblems.

Today, the School's coat of arms is sported on the blazers of our 570 pupils, used on letterheads, in emails and for a wealth of marketing materials, and adorns the programmes for all School events. Last Christmas, 64 Old Leysians across nine different countries bought special edition bobble hats, which they wore during this year's Giving Day to symbolise the familiar coat of arms circling the globe from Australia to the USA.

The distinctive, enduring Leys brand certainly owes much to the thrift, initiative and inspiration of Dr and Mrs Moulton all those years ago.

by Liz Walden



Scroll box with royal seals

Sources

Well-regulated minds and improper moments – A history of The Leys School by Geoff and Pat Houghton, 2000

The Arms of The Leys School by David Christie-Murray, 1959

Handbook and Directory of The Leys School, 1956 edition

OL Events 2023–24

All events can be booked online at www.theleys.net/leys-community/events

DATE AND TIME	VENUE	DETAILS
Thursday 9 November 2023 OLS London Drinks 18:30–20:30	One Moorgate Place London EC2R 6EA	All OLs invited; online booking to close shortly.
Monday 27 November 2023 OLS Annual General Meeting 18:00–19:00	Via Zoom	All OLs welcome. Details will be emailed nearer the time.
Friday 1 December 2023 London Carol Service	Wesley's Chapel City Road London EC1Y 1AU	All OLs welcome. Please book online.
Saturday 2 December 2023 OLS Annual Dinner 19:00–22:30	Newnham College Sidgwick Avenue Cambridge CB3 9DF	All OLs welcome. Please book online.
Sunday 21 April 2024 OL Reunion 10:30–16:30	The Leys Cambridge	Reunion for OLs who entered the School between 1970 and 1979. Invitations will be sent nearer the time.

THE OLD LEYSIAN BENEVOLENT FUND

The 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 who knows of someone who may qualify to receive help from the Fund, should contact:

**The Secretary, Charlie Kidman
(North B/Fen 1963–68)**

Email: charliekidman@btinternet.com

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

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

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OLS Committee 2023

Officers

President – Jo de Grey, Granta 1985–87
Vice President – Karen Sears (formerly Cox),
Common Room 2009–present
President Elect – John Rolfe, North B 1968–73
Past President – Julia Clarke, Granta 1986–88
Chairman – Jo de Grey, Granta 1985–87
Treasurer – Katherine Townsend (née Eccleston),
Moulton/Bisseker 2006–11
Secretary – Liz Walden

Committee Members

Andrew Cullen, North A 1998–03 (Singapore)
Sagan Daniels, School 1998–2003
Mark Elliott, Fen 1977–82 (Real Tennis)
James Houlder, School 1996–01 (OLCC)
Charlie Kidman, North B/Fen 1963–68
(Benevolent Fund)

Katya Kornilova, Fen 2005–09
Stephen Ludlow, North B 1980–85
(Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission)
Liam McKeown, West 2008–13
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)
Max Wilson, West 2011–16

If you wish to receive the digital version of *OL News*, please email development@theleys.net to let us know.

OL News is produced twice a year by the Development Office. If you would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the editorial team at development@theleys.net. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is 31 January 2024.



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