

OL NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD LEYSIANS

SPRING/SUMMER 2025 | ISSUE 53



THE LEYS GOES NORTH AGAIN

OLs retrace their fathers' wartime journey to Pitlochry

BILTONG, BANTER AND BIG WINS

The Leys conquers South Africa on Summer Sports Tour

REMEMBERING RICHARD ARMSTRONG

Tribute to a Leysian Legend

150 1875-2025
ACHIEVING THE EXCEPTIONAL



MESSAGE FROM THE OLS President

Dear Old Leysian

The Old Leysian Society Committee has very kindly given me the great privilege of being your President in 2025, some 40 years after I left the School in 1985, and more importantly the 150th anniversary of The Leys.

I was the fourth of four Ludlows at The Leys. My late father Martin, North B 1944-50, was one of the boys to join the School during the Second World War when, in 1940, it had evacuated to the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, Scotland – an event I recently marked along with the sons of two other journeying OLs, through a sequel to the 1941 film that

captured the School's move and time in Scotland (see pp12-13).

My father returned with the School to Cambridge in 1946 where it continued to thrive, as it still does, recently attaining The Sunday Times Schools Guide's accolade 'East Anglia's Independent Secondary School of the Year 2024'.

Another standout event for The Leys coincided with my final year there in 1984-85, which saw the first intake of 15 girls to join the School, who refreshingly now represent over 40% of its community.

After The Leys I took a Business Studies degree at Roehampton, an industry related Master's in Land Management at Reading and latterly an MBA at Imperial College London. On graduating from Roehampton, I bought and successfully grew a small London property business into market-leading firm Ludlow Thompson Ltd, before exiting in 2023.

Senior CR Master Neil White, 1948-82, bestowed on pupils that, beyond the classroom, The Leys taught one

how to "communicate and build team spirit" – attributes which have stood me in good stead in business and throughout life.

My position within the OLS is as The Leysian Mission Trustee, representing a landmark relationship with Wesley's Chapel and the School's founding body, the Methodist Church.

Through this year's special campaign to support bursaries, the partnership work of the School in Cambridge and London, and plenty of opportunity to serve as ambassadors by sharing your skills, experience and achievements, the 150th anniversary offers all Old Leysians the opportunity to participate.*

I look forward to meeting many Old Leysians through the remaining celebratory OL events for this special anniversary year, as publicised in this edition of OL News.

Stephen Ludlow, North B 1980-85



* To learn more, please visit the Community Connections page on the School's website: <https://www.theleys.net/leys-community>

Editors

Liz Walden & Karen Sears

On the cover

L-R Michael, Stephen and Andrew at the summit of Mount Ben Vrackie

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Catching up with our alumni and celebrating their stories

ELLIE BERISFORD, MOULTON/FEN 2007-14

2024 was a busy year for Ellie. In July, she and her partner Conor McLennan welcomed baby Theodore and in September she received The Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Award for her volunteer work with the Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force. The award recognises exceptional service among reserve forces and cadets. Ellie's cadet career began at The Leys as Head of the CCF, and continued through her gap year in the Navy section. While studying nursing at Oxford Brookes, she joined the ACF, becoming Detachment Commander at Falklands House and later the County First Aid Training Officer (CFATO). She oversees First Aid training for 900 cadets and adults, teaching from basic to full First Aid at Work (FAAW) qualifications. Ellie enjoys organising First Aid competitions and scenario training days. Currently on maternity leave, Ellie works as a school nurse at St Edward's in Oxford and assists with DofE and the CCF when possible.

Ellie receiving The Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Award



EMY ADAMSON, FEN 2013-16

"My career in TV started a few days after my 19th birthday with an internship in unscripted development. I learnt the 'ins and outs' of how to get a TV show from a simple idea to a fully fledged production. Since then, I've spent the majority of my career at a fantastic company called ExpectationTV, but I have recently moved to become a Development Producer at a very exciting company called Wheelhouse that produces shows across both the UK and the US! Throughout my career I have had many highlights, from developing two series of the quiz show *In With a Shout* to mixing daily with incredible TV professionals. I have loved my career in TV and



was honoured to be selected as a Broadcast 2024 hotshot. I can't wait to continue my journey and hopefully help to put many more shows on our TV screens!"

ANDREW RANSON, EAST 1986-91

"Remembrance Weekend 2024 was unforgettable. My wife Shernett and I received the Freedom of the City of London for our respective contributions. We attended the Silent Ceremony for the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King DL, a rather poetic and atmospheric experience, with the presentation of state symbols. The ceremony concluded, the civic party filed out to State Trumpeters and a peal of bells from St Lawrence Jewry on the other side of the Guildhall Square.

The following day, I participated in the Lord Mayor's Show as a Pikeman & Musketeer, escorting the new Lord Mayor through the city in full ceremonial gear.



Andrew and Shernett receive the Freedom of the City of London

On Sunday, as a Deputy Lieutenant in Kingston, I commanded the Remembrance Parade with 500 Reservists and Cadets and thousands of attendees. I also placed a wreath on behalf of the King. I am very happy to be starting my journey with the Order of St George."

Members Wanted

Members Wanted For Immediate Journey in support of the Special Forces Club Benevolent Fund. No wages, baking hot and bitter cold temperatures, patchy communications, no amenities, injury and ailments likely. Safe return not guaranteed. Publicity likely, but little honour or recognition on return.



James (and camel) in cheerful spirits

JAMES CALDER OBE, NORTH A 1981-86

“In a recent expedition, five of us (all ex-special forces) retraced the route taken by T E Laurence across the Nefud desert and 1800m Hejaz mountain range (twice), from Al Wajh in present day Saudi Arabia down to Aqaba in Jordan where he defeated the Ottomans in 1917. Four of us completed the 1100 km trek by camel (one was thrown off on day two and evacuated back to the USA with chest injuries), camping and enduring sandstorms and

temperatures ranging from minus 7°C to 34°C, as well as bad-tempered camels. Only one of us had ridden a camel previously and only one is likely to do so again!

The trek raised over £500K for the Special Forces Club Benevolent Fund, and was featured in both *The Times* and *The Telegraph*. Old Leysians may be intrigued by the “Shackleton-esque” advert placed to recruit anyone bonkers enough to volunteer!”

NICK LLOYD, FEN 1966-71

Nick was presented with his cap for playing hockey for Wales by Sheila Morrow, the President of Great Britain Hockey, at a ceremony in Cardiff last August. Nick made 26 international appearances over

a period of seven years during the 1970s. Wales Hockey have traced as many players as possible from the past in order to present caps as none were given until more recent times. Nick finally received his 49 years after his first game!



Nick proudly collecting his cap almost half a century after his debut

ANDREW WATSON, EAST 1972-76 AND ALBERT VAEA, FEN 1971-72

“I have been a GP in Cambridge for over 30 years, having trained at The Royal Free in London, followed by GP training in Cheltenham and paediatric training in New Zealand. I also worked as a clinical assistant in ENT at Addenbrookes. Approaching retirement, I took a short sabbatical to volunteer at the Mission Clinic in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, inspired by a former trainee. I spent two months there, handling primary care cases similar to those in the UK, but with more dramatic presentations. Whilst there I met up with Albert Vaea, Fen 1971-72, whom I have known since my days at St Faith’s and had not seen for 50 years!

Albert completed his secondary schooling in Australia. He read History at the University of Auckland, then joined the Tongan Navy; following this he joined the Tongan government, becoming the Nobles’ representative for the last couple of tenures. Albert has a large family, as is the Tongan way, and attends church every Sunday as is also the Tongan way. He was a keen rugby player at school and certainly somebody you wanted to play with rather than against, as his speed and muscle soon cut through the opposition! I will cherish our meeting, sharing happy – if somewhat faded – memories from our school days.”



Albert and Andrew, reunited after 50 years



OL guests, L-R: Sophie Arrowsmith (née Martin), Dale 2003-08; Rebecca Hiscocks, Moulton/Dale 2001-08; Rachel Bow, Fen 2003-06; Louise Beazor, Fen 2003-08; Ellie McAlpine, Moulton/Dale 2002-08; Heather Mughal (née Sills), Fen 2001-03; Edward Taylor, West 2003-08; Philip Sills, North A 1961-66; Raph Kay, North B/Bisseker 2003-07; the Bride; Georges Fraulo, West 2003-08; Thom Hope, North A 1962-66; Jake Alier, West 1999-2004; Katie Draper (née Sills), Fen 2000-05; Heather Haley (née Stephen), Moulton/Dale 2001-08; Rachael Smith, Moulton/Dale, 2001-06; Kate Alier (née McGahey), Fen 2003-08; Imogen Witt (née Hall), Barrett/Fen 2006-08

BEN SHENNAN, MOULTON/BARKER 2008-15

“When I decided to stay at the University of Oxford for a further four years of study – for my PhD in Organic Chemistry – the last thing I expected was that it would send me across the world, to the University of Tokyo. But, three years into my PhD, when the opportunity arose to undertake a six-month research fellowship in Tokyo, funded by the Japan Society for the promotion of Science, I jumped at it.

From January to June 2024, I worked with Prof. Motomu Kanai on developing a chemical method for selectively modifying amino acids in peptide molecules. This method will offer biologists a new, convenient approach to study how natural modifications, which our cells make to proteins, affect cellular processes and diseases, while also uncovering new understanding of chemical reactivity. Outside of the laboratory, it was a privilege to experience Japan’s rich culture, stunning landscapes and welcoming people.”

KIRSTEN CASSELS (NEE SILLS), MOULTON/FEN 2001-08

Kirsten and Ben Cassels (who went to The Perse) were married at St. Mary’s Church in Saffron Walden on Saturday 27 July 2024. The reception was held in a marquee at Kirsten’s home at Burtonwood Farm, Great Chesterford near Saffron Walden. It was a wonderful day attended by many of Kirsten’s OL friends. Thom Hope, who was in North A with Kirsten’s father, Philip in the 1960’s, came over from Maine especially for the occasion.



Above the clouds in Japan

A 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION – ANDREW HUNTER, EAST 1957–62

"Our OL group held its annual reunion last October at The Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly. There were only seven of us due to various difficulties, but we thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

There were some notable absences. Tony Lousada, East 1957–62, a staunch supporter of our gathering for many years is now in a care home near Harpenden. Tony was a great fast bowler for the Cricket 1st XI. Terry Dash, North B 1956–60 was

undergoing an operation. Terry was a very good cricketer, who played for Cambridgeshire. Barrie Burnet, East 1956–61, one of the original 12, recently lost his wife Lily. Andrew Graham-Brown, North A 1957–62, another of the original 12, was also unable to make the journey.

It has always been a very worthwhile gathering. We have managed to keep in touch through thick and thin. It helps to know that we have old friends we can call up and chat to or help. We still reminisce about old times – but why not!"



The reunion attendees, from front left clockwise: David Weatherby, School 1957–62; David Lane, East 1956–60; Rod Ashby-Johnson, School 1957–62; Tony Yates-Watson, East 1957–62; Andrew Hunter; James Shaw, West 1957–62. Chris Reddall, East 1957–62 took the photo.

Remembering Reverend W F Moulton, Leys Headmaster 1875–98

On the 190th Anniversary of Reverend Moulton's birth, OL Robert Norfolk, West 1970–75, laid a wreath on his grave in Histon Road Cemetery. Robert commented:

"In 2015, while I was OLS President, I laid a similar wreath on Reverend Moulton's grave on the date he died in 1898 and I made a promise to myself that I would return in The Leys' 150th anniversary year, when I realised that 2025 was also going to be the 190th anniversary of Reverend Moulton's birth on 14th March 1835.

Without Reverend Moulton The Leys would not have been founded in Cambridge and the lives of all the pupils, teachers and ancillary staff over the last 150 years would

have been entirely different. The friendships and careers over all that time would not have happened as they have, so I thought Reverend Moulton warranted a thank you from us all.

I asked Manor Florists to reflect the School's colours as best they could from the photographs I gave them and I also asked for some Scottish thistles to reflect the School's evacuation to Pitlochry. Thank you to Lisa, who created an absolutely beautiful wreath."



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Phil Lichtenberg, North A 1995–96

Phil visited on a sunny autumn day with his wife Anne-lise and sons Mathieu and Maxime, and were given a tour by Alumni Relations Coordinator Liz Walden. The family were visiting from Basel, Switzerland and Phil was keen to show his boys, now a similar age to when he was here, where he spent a year as an exchange student. Later that day the family were heading to Nottingham, where Phil was at university, to visit his old professor. These days Phil teaches marketing courses at the University of Lausanne and

Winterthur College, as well as advising biotech companies with regards to investor relations. He and his family enjoy skiing in the Alps and are planning another trip to the UK in the near future.



Phil with his family outside North A



Back in East House, L-R: Johnny, Logan and Benjamin

OLs from East House

Johnny Siripensopa, Benjamin Wat and Logan Au, all East 2018–20, visited the School in November and were given a tour by current Housemaster of East, John Johnson. John said: "It was lovely giving a tour of East to Johnny, Benjamin and Logan. They were delighted to be back and really happy and keen to talk to current pupils about their next steps and career aspirations – Johnny is studying Medicine in Thailand and was talking to current pupil Michael S about Dentistry. These types of connections between OLs and particularly international pupils are really helpful in forging strong links, and for our current international pupil body to see the results of those who have studied here."

OLS Annual Dinner

On 7 December, a small group of Old Leysians visited the School prior to the OLS Annual Dinner being held in Jesus College, Cambridge that evening, and were given a tour by Liz Walden. Present were: John Rolfe, North B 1968–73 and his wife Pam; Heath Mason, North A 1967–73; Stephen Long, School 1968–73, who had travelled from Switzerland; Brian Rushton, North B 1952–56; Patrick Shannon, North B 1973–74 and Tim Allebone, North B 1967–72.



Visitors reminisce in the Kent room

**DOUBLE
YOUR
DONATION!****

£150,000 for the 150th Year

Can you help us welcome a child to The Leys on a bursary by donating?
www.theleys.net/donate

Why support bursaries?

There is an educational gap between financially disadvantaged children and their peers. In the United Kingdom, it averages at an academic gap of 4.5 grades for 16-19-year-olds, with more than 50% of children in the most deprived areas of the UK leaving school with less than a Grade 4 (C) in English and Maths.

Many of those children are potential Leysians, with the ability that entry requires waiting to be seized. Given the chance, they enhance our community, excel in school life and can go on to achieve exceptional futures.



Scan the QR code to hear our Senior Prefects, Emily and Harry, share their thoughts on bursaries at The Leys.

What is a transformational bursary?

A transformational bursary, known as the Gift of Education at The Leys, provides 110% of the cost of a boarding place at the School, for families who could not otherwise attend. Our partner, the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation, helps match children to a boarding place at The Leys. The extra 10% pays for things like travel back and forth to home, pocket money and school trips.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, around 43 pupils at The Leys are attending thanks to a means-tested bursary. This equates to around **£735,000** of gifted fees per year.*



“We are more than just a school. The Leys is a close-knit, engaged, friendly community in which pastoral care is seen as our top priority. I often say to visitors that we see ourselves as a big, small school: big enough to offer a huge range of opportunities, but small enough that we are able to get to know individuals, with all their individual strengths and unique characters, and able to encourage them to strive to be the best they can be. The confidence which our pupils gain from this encouraging family atmosphere is perhaps the greatest gift we can offer them.”

Martin Priestley, Headmaster

How you can help change a young person's life

By donating to our appeal, you can contribute towards the cost of a bursary pupil's education. Thanks to a generous match donor, we can **double your donation****, so if you give £50, bursaries get £100!

Why at The Leys?

The Leys has a strong history of providing bursaries to enable pupils of all backgrounds to study with us.



Visit <http://theleys.net/donate> or scan the QR code to double your donation.

*Figures are an average of School years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.
**Donations will be doubled up to a total of £75,000.



“Coming to study at The Leys has been a turning point in my life which has had a huge positive impact. I am more mature than when I came, more knowledgeable and I know how to communicate and express my feelings.”

Bohdan, School 2022-24
110% bursary recipient



“The Leys has enabled me to find my voice and become much more independent ... and provided me with the support required to shape me into the person I am today.”

Zara, Dale 2020-22
110% bursary recipient



“A bursary or some sort of scheme that allows you to open your horizons is the key. We both come from inner city (my wife and I) and we both thought, ‘That’s not for me ... that’s not what someone around [me] does’. To come and have your horizons opened then you suddenly go, ‘Actually, that might be for me’.”

Des, School 1990-95
bursary recipient



“You don’t have to give a lot, a little can make a big difference. A lot of people giving a little will make a very big difference.”

Richard Anthony, West 1980-85



Scan here to view the full video of Richard speaking about why he thinks giving to bursaries at The Leys is important.

BILTONG, BANTER AND BIG WINS: The Leys conquers South Africa on Summer Sports Tour

By Barney T and Ewan S, U6

Hockey Summary

The boys began their hockey tour under the lights in the warm conditions of Johannesburg against Trinityhouse Randpark Ridge, overcoming early challenges to secure their first win. Sam D excelled in goal despite his limited experience, and the team shook off some rust to deliver a strong performance. Next, they faced Bryanston High School, running riot in the heat and altitude. Ben W bagged a hat-trick whilst 'The Poacher', Cameron F, added a spectacular goal, leading to a 7-0 victory.

In Cape Town, the boys encountered different weather conditions but maintained their spirits and performance, winning against a skilled Edgemoor team. The tour concluded at Fairmont High School, ranked 3rd in the Western Province. Despite early nerves and questionable umpiring, the boys played excellent hockey but narrowly lost. However, the team should be proud of the resilience and grit they showed in the face of a very tough opponent.

Wins: 3/4 GF: 14 GA: 5 GD: 9

Keeping their cool
in the heat

The hockey team
emerge victorious!



Proper post-match photo, mud 'n' all!

Rugby Summary

The Leys lads in blue and white flew out of the blocks with an opening 36-12 win against Trinityhouse Randpark Ridge. The game was tight and physical, but the Leysians soon showcased the joue style we always wanted. This led to some lovely 'trylights' including Cameron F's first Leysian try and Ollie E's magical effort.

Game day 2 was another cracker against Bryanston High School, with a 43-14 win. We were tunnelled onto the pitch – a first for us, and an honour. The Bryanston pack proved hefty opponents, but the Leys backs excelled, with Oliver S scoring four tries.

After a week off, the team faced Edgemoor in chilly Cape Town. Despite the muddy pitch and a brutal physical battle of a game we won 19-7, secured by Tom H the birthday boy.

For our last dance we faced Fairmont High School. On our arrival they asked, "Where are the rugby boys?", and laughed when they realised it was us. Naturally we then delivered the best rugby of our tour, winning 61-0. Highlights included Barney T's two tries in five minutes and Jack E's unstoppable run. The lads were seriously pleased with their performance, coming away with 4 wins from 4 and plenty of tries scored.

Wins: 4/4 PF: 161 PA: 33 PD: 128



Pupil-run training session at Grabouw School; a very fulfilling experience for all involved



At the Cape of
Good Hope

THE LEYS GOES NORTH AGAIN

By Andrew Holt, School 1973-78

In the summer of 2024, I had an email from Stephen Ludlow, North B 1980-85, the new OLS President. Stephen mentioned the possibility of a modern-day recreation of *The Leys Goes North*, a black-and-white film which documented the School's move from Cambridge to Pitlochry in Scotland in 1940. I had never heard of the film but, on watching the YouTube link, was impressed that it had been made by pupils at the time. Stephen knew that my father had been at the School in Scotland and I expressed an interest in being involved. I also thought that I might be able to contribute as a professional photographer who did a lot of drone work.

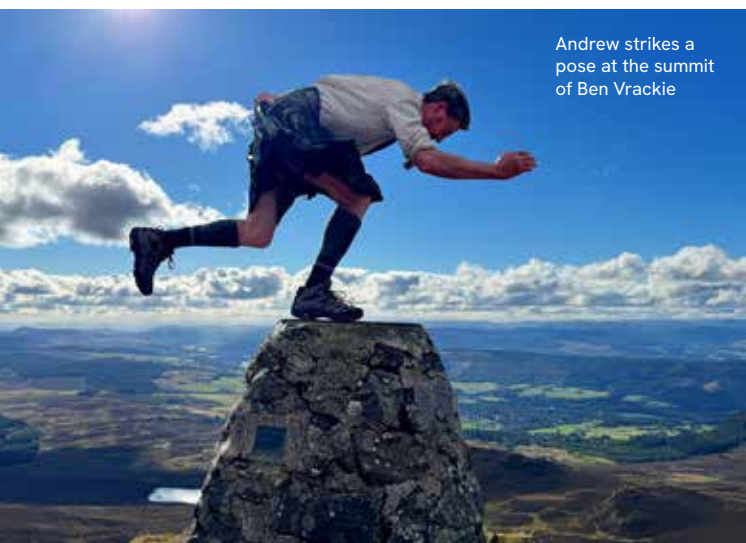
My father, James Holt, School 1942-48 had joined the School while it was in Pitlochry, as he lived in the west highlands at the time, and arrived wearing a kilt. In his memoirs he recalls his first morning after arrival when the whole school exercised by marching in houses 600 yards to the bottom of the drive and back. On their return the senior prefect shouted the command "Dis ... miss", causing a stampede for the doors, but everyone stopped dead when the Sergeant Major of the Junior Training Corps was heard to yell "Halt!" He then shouted, "I don't mean *Halt*, I want

Holt!" My father was probably rather embarrassed to find all eyes on him in his kilt as he was summoned to be weighed and measured.

Our replication train trip was scheduled for 1 October. Stephen had managed to track down Michael Holden, Fen 1969-74, whose father Paul, East 1936-41, had actually produced the original film. Not only that, but Michael had had a high-flying career in railway operation and been a board director of various railway companies. His enthusiasm for rail transport and intimate knowledge of goods yards and obscure railway paraphernalia made our journey north much more interesting!

We all met up at The Leys on the first morning and joined Alumni Relations Coordinator Liz Walden and Director of Marketing and Admissions Fane Henderson, who had organised the trip. After a tour of some school buildings and a few interviews, we set off. It was an eight-hour journey with changes in Peterborough and Edinburgh; much quicker than the train trip of 1940. The last part of the journey took us into the hills of Perthshire and along the valley of the River Tay into the highlands. The historic railway station in Pitlochry was in excellent condition and we decided to walk down through the stone-built houses of the town and up the long drive to the Atholl Palace Hotel, which was nicely illuminated when we arrived at twilight. It is a large, grand, granite-faced building on a hill surrounded by forest and was created in Victorian times in the Scots Baronial style as a Hydropathic Spa. I seized the chance to get some drone shots and we all had a good supper in the grand high-ceilinged dining room. My bedroom was in a turret!

The following day dawned with sunshine and clear blue skies and I decided to wear the same kilt my father had worn when he arrived at the School. After a good breakfast and some drone shots, our first task was a two-hour walk to the top of Ben Vrackie, a 2760 ft high mountain which features in the original film. We set off across fields and up



Andrew strikes a pose at the summit of Ben Vrackie



The indicator, photographed by Andrew from several kilometers away



Pitlochry during the wartime evacuation

the track through farmland and forestry. After the small Loch a'Choire, the path became stepped in stone and was quite steep as it approached the summit. The climb was a real achievement for Stephen who suffers from vertigo! The views in all directions were crystal clear and the cairn on the top had been presented by the family of John Gray, East 1941-46, who died while serving in the army in 1947. It was the kind of object which I could not resist climbing on top of to strike a pose I have often adopted in unusual places. It was challenging since the wind was howling over the top of the mountain and not quite suited to the wearing of a kilt!

After some photos we headed down to the Moulin Hotel for some soup and suddenly realised that we had failed to get any pictures of the bronze compass indicator and dedication on top of the cairn. It was a rather significant omission but there was no time to go all the way back. The cairn was a rather daunting 4200m away and 700m higher but I decided to risk sending the drone; it had just enough power to fly all the way there and back. Quite a satisfying thing to have done but it was probably rather a surprise for the people who were then at the top to see a drone arrive from nowhere, descend to the indicator and then fly away again!



Wartime cricket with the Atholl Palace Hotel in the background

On our way back, we visited the Black Spout waterfall which also features in the film and had a go on the hotel's small golf course which had been converted to playing fields during the School's northern sojourn. We had a good final dinner, played snooker and looked at the hotel's basement museum which has some information boards about The Leys' visit.

The following day we made the return journey south. It was a successful and interesting trip and thanks must go to Fane and Liz for all their great organisation.



Return to Pitlochry, filmed and directed by Fane Henderson and featuring some of Andrew's drone footage, can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/1048520112> or by scanning the QR code.

The Atholl Palace Hotel today



END OF AN ERA: an interview with Nigel Washbourn, West 1951–55

This February, after an incredible 60 years as Secretary and Treasurer of the Old Leysian Golfing Society, serving under five different Heads, Nigel stepped down from the role – but he isn't hanging up his golf clubs just yet!

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST AT THE LEYS, AND RETROSPECTIVELY WHAT DO YOU FEEL YOU'VE GAINED?

I was fortunate to have Neil White at Brookside for my first term and as junior Housemaster for three years – he really nurtured the House. The sports atmosphere at the School encouraged us. Every day we had to go on a run, and I always made sure I was the lead runner! I eventually made it into all the House teams. Boarding means relying on others, and I'm grateful for that experience. I made good friends, some of them lifelong.

WHERE DID YOU GO AFTER THE LEYS?

I did an apprenticeship in metallurgy, joining the family foundry business. Alongside that I continued to pursue golf. My first OLGs meeting was in 1956. I used up my annual leave initially, taking time off for golf! I also joined the Leysian Mission in 1958.

WHAT KEPT YOU MOTIVATED TO RUN THE OLGS FOR SO LONG?

The friendly atmosphere at The Leys extends into the OLGs. No organisation is any good when it's 'them and us'. There's a camaraderie among the different age groups, and it's not all about ability – everyone is welcome.



Nigel being presented with a framed list of players for the Halford Hewitt Centenary match between The Leys and Harrow, with 2024 OLS President John Rolfe, North B 1968–73

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE KEY TO YOUR VERY LONG-TERM SUCCESS?

I've been given an enormous amount of support by the OLS Committee, my wife Margaret and my family. Whenever the position came up for re-election, I was just re-elected! I know the importance of having younger players coming through, and enjoy watching the School matches to spot potential recruits.

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHTS?

Winning the Bernard Darwin for the over 50s and winning the final of the Prince's Plate against Merchiston; the Halford Hewitt Centenary last year was also very memorable. I was honoured to be invited to present the Halford Hewitt trophy one year, and the runners up salver to a great local friend of mine. I've travelled, met so many lovely people – and attended a number of enjoyable golf dinners!

AS YOU REFLECT ON THIS HANDOVER STAGE AND STEPPING BACK, HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I'm pleased that Nick Dendy will be taking over: he is a good golfer, friendly, popular and diplomatic; also very hands on. I'm sure the ethos will continue. School taught us to stick together, and what we always try to do – alongside the work of the Development team – is to help youngsters and bring them into the fold. Numbers have grown. I may have influenced the direction of the Golfing Society – I hope I have – but the motto of The Leys is as relevant as ever. In 60 years I cannot recall any major issues.

WHAT'S THE NEXT ADVENTURE FOR NIGEL WASHBOURN?

I turned 87 in March but still enjoy being on the OLS Committee, The OL Benevolent Fund and attending School events. I support the Gift of Education (the School's transformational bursary scheme), and the Leysian Mission. I am also a social member of my local golf club. I'm not sad to leave as my Leysian connections will continue.

'STRONG': TRIBUTE TO A LEYSIAN LEGEND

Richard Armstrong, Common Room 1959–90, passed away on 25 October 2024, less than 24 hours after moving into a care home.

During his 31-year career at The Leys, 'Strong' was far more than a memorable and popular teacher. He was co-founder of the Boat Club and ran the Clapham Society (local history society) as well as the Scouts (later DofE). His expeditions to Russia, France, Turkey and Italy are fondly recalled by Old Leysians who shared those adventures. When the news of Richard's passing broke, the School was flooded with tributes and memories from the OL rowing community, Assynt community and far beyond.

At last year's Assynt reunion, the OLs watched slides from Richard's collection during the evenings, and Simon James, West 1969–74 recalled how, "in our school days we used to camp by the shore of Loch Assynt on the Arvreck Castle peninsular", a tradition which only ended in 1990 upon Richard's retirement.

"Now his spirit is free to roam again to his favourite places. So, keep an eye out for him on your travels. You may spot him photographing oxlips in one of the bluebell woods of west Cambridgeshire or maybe go down the secret path in Buff Wood that few of us know to where he may be looking for the green hellebores. In the summer, whilst you travel in France, look out for him at Vezelay, or photographing the Romanesque tympana of Conques or Moissac, or

in the chancel of La Chaise Dieu with its incomparable tapestries. Or drop into the Hotel de la Poste at Corps if you are visiting the Vercors, he may just be having dinner there. Your best bet though would be to go up the terrifying road from Bourg d'Oisans to Villard, his spiritual home in France, find the easy-to-miss path to the hidden campsite and you may be lucky and find his tent. He will have been picking wild raspberries on the path up to the glacier and be boiling them up and jarring them to bring jam back to England.

But above all, come April time, you will find his tent under the castle on Loch Assynt with the wild daffodils blowing in the wind. There will be snow still on the summit of Quinag and the sun has set. It is a clear night promising a brilliant day tomorrow. It is time to turn in. Good night, dear friend, sleep well. I'll see you in the cook tent in the morning. Stephen Lowden will have the porridge on. There will be plenty of time over breakfast to decide on tomorrow's adventure."

From Richard's eulogy, written and delivered by his dear friend John Harding, CR 1968–2005. To read the full tribute, please contact the Development Office:

Email: development@theleys.net

Tel: 01223 408545.



© Matthew James

Assynt: Stong's legacy continues. OLs at Inchadamp Lodge, April 2024. Left to right: Jamie Watson, West 1973–77; Nigel Gibbons, West 1972–77; Howard Papworth, North A 1969–74; Tony Campbell, East 1973–78; Nick Goldsmith (behind), Fen 1974–79; Ed Sadd, West 1967–72; Robert Coombs (kneeling), East 1967–72; Simon James (behind), West 1969–74; Nigel Yarwood, West 1964–69; Richard Pattison (behind), North A 1975–80; Chris Bliss, East 1973–77; Philip Parker (kneeling), West 1973–78; Chris Redman, West 1978–83; Ian McNab, School 1978–83 and James Long, West 2009–14.

OL SPORT

OLs vs 1st team Netball 2025 match report



Returning from the Christmas holidays, the girls utilised their preseason training to begin preparing for the competitive fixtures to come. Following on from a successful netball season last year, our connections remained strong with one another and we quickly found our feet as a team. This led to a strong but contested win against the OL side who came out stronger than we had initially expected following

Back row L-R: Eve A; Polina F; Sofia Biggs, Bisseker/Granta 2017-22; Florence Turner, Dale 2018-23; Alex Bullen, Fen 2019-22; Olivia Bullen, Fen 2016-21; Hermi Rodgers, Bisseker/Granta 2017-22; Lucy Stephen, Barrett/Granta 2017-22; Emma Ball, Moulton/Fen 2015-22; Georgia Dudley, Barrett/Granta 2017-22; Bea Routledge, Moulton/Bisseker 2016-23; Freya H; Izzy Woods, Barrett 2018-23. Front row L-R: Issy F; Emma P; Florence C; Ella C; Charlotte C; Nina J

our convincing win the year before. The match was sociable with an underlying competitive nature between some of the girls, and highlighted our fluidity and capability as a netball side. The strength of our rotating circle and our defensive set ups showed confidence and composure, leading us to take the win 38-18.

Maddie Anthony, Fen 2014-19;
Resident Games Coach

National Voneus Village Cup at Lords

On Sunday 15 September, Foxton Granta Cricket Club won the National Voneus Village Cup at Lords Cricket Ground. Two Old Leysians played in the Final, Adam Webster, North A 2004-09 and Dougie Rice, North B/ West 2003-08. Congratulations to the School's Head of Cricket Richard



Richard in action
Kaufman who scored 110 off 84 balls, to secure the Man of the Match award. Foxton Granta chased 241 to win the cup by 7 wickets. Richard said, "It was an amazing day, the memories will last a lifetime and it was great to have my family and friends there."

Left: Proud cup winners. Richard is far left, holding the plate. Dougie Rice is 4th from left, back row, and Adam Webster is far right.

Old Leysian Cricket Club report

2024 proved to be one of our most challenging seasons yet, with the higher standard of cricket and difficulties around player availability in the first few weeks seeing OLCC off to a shaky start with some heavy

early defeats. As we approached the end of May, and with the arrival of the sunshine, both our fortunes and our availability issues improved immeasurably, and we were able to string together a number of impressive victories, inching our way back up the league table. We finished the season having played 18, winning 8, drawing 2 and losing 7, to finish 9th out of 12. Andrew Bramley topped the run scoring, with 612 runs at 55.64, and was well supported by consistent contributions from Tom Cox, Andrew Gale and Richard Bramley. The bowling was led by our St Lucian overseas player Clem St. Rose, who finished with 26 wickets and bowled very quickly all season. Clem was backed up by Andrew Bramley, with 20 wickets, and Joe Gunn-Roberts and Gus Barraclough with 19 and 18 wickets respectively.

James Houlder

The club is always looking for new players to join our ranks, and we can offer regular cricket of a good standard, played at The Leys throughout the summer. To join the club, please contact James Houlder at james_houlder@hotmail.com.



OLCC team members. Back row L-R: Ed Fairey, Bisseker 2011-16; Charlie Gale; Andrew Bramley, Barker 2013-18; Tom Cox, West 2011-16; Joe Gunn-Roberts, West 2012-17. Front row L-R: Adam Newman, North B 1992-97; Dante O'Reilly, Moulton/Barker/East, 2004-11; John Welch, North A 1993-98; Gus Barraclough, North A 1996-2001; Ric Bentley, North B 1992-97. Not in photo: James Houlder (Captain), School 1996-2001; Richard Bramley, Barker 2017-22; Andrew Gale, Barker/West 2006-11; Charles Kent; Clem St. Rose; Patrick Miller, Bisseker 2006-11; Ollie Howell, Barrett 2015-20; James Albery, West 2009-14; Dougie Turner, West 2008-13; Andy Salvesen, East 2011-13; Freddie Tucker, Barker 2014-19; Joe Davies, West 2016-21; Ed Johnson, West 1993-98



Old Leysian Golfing Society

For the latest fixtures, please see the Old Leysian Sport page of our website at <https://www.theleys.net/leys-community/old-leysians> or scan the QR code. New members are always welcome, and should contact Nick Dendy on dendynk@icloud.com



An Old Leysian Weekend to Remember

At the end of April, the Development team hosted its biggest event yet, welcoming nearly 300 Old Leysians aged 19-92, and several Former Common Room, to a special 150 Anniversary Reunion at the School. The celebratory mood was complemented by glorious sunshine, and the whole day proved a resounding success.

The same weekend, the School hosted The Perse for two thrilling back-to-back T20 cricket matches, echoing The Leys' first competitive sports match against Perse School on Parker's Piece on 12 June 1875. 150 years ago The Perse had emerged victorious: this time The Leys settled the score in both the boys' and girls' matches, cheered on by the crowd which included a number of Old Leysians. Meanwhile, on the river, a crew of rowers assembled for a rowing event in memory of the late Richard Armstrong, organised by OL Alistair Washbourn, Fen 1976-81.



Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most impactful ways to ensure the future of Leysians to come.



From beautiful and functional buildings like Great Hall, to wider-curricular activities and life-changing bursaries, The Leys today has been made possible by 150 years of benefaction.

By choosing to leave a legacy to The Leys, you could create a brighter future for the children of tomorrow, and strengthen your Leysian family today.

To find out more about how you can leave a gift in your will, or to receive our legacy brochure, email Director of Development, Sarah Proud, on slp@theleys.net or call her on +44 1223 508970 / +44 7586 529751.

Be a member of the 1875 Society

By pledging a gift to us in your will, you will become a member of the 1875 Society. Exclusively for legacy donors, this includes an invitation to a special event each year, as well as recognition in our annual impact report. So that we can enrol you in the society, please let us know if you have named us in your will.



"I have always been grateful for the breadth of education that The Leys gave to me. Legacies do not affect the donor's lifestyle and it is also a good bargain! This is why I have included a gift to the School in my will to benefit future generations of Leysians."

John Long, School 1938-42, who passed away in 2020 and whose gift helped to change the lives of bursary pupils at The Leys.



"I have decided to leave a legacy to The Leys to ensure that other young people can benefit from the same opportunities my son had, receiving a bursary and experiencing a well-rounded education in a scholastic community known for its exceptional pastoral care."

Zoe Brading is the mother of OL Duncan Casey, North A 1997-2002, and a member of the 1875 Society.

Include Their Future in Your Legacy



1885

The Leys Lacrosse XII won the South of England lacrosse championship.



1935

The Leys Hockey team toured Germany, playing four matches, winning three and losing one against Berliner SC. The opposition side was comprised of adults, so The Leys team did well to lose just 0-2.



1985

The Pitlochry 40 year reunion dinner was held at the Atholl Palace Hotel on 26-27 October.



2015

Paul Davies, Head of Biology led an expedition to Africa.
Back L-R: Jack Hayward, Moulton/North A 2009-16; Emma Davenport, Dale 2011-16; Hugh Anderson, School 2011-16; Alex Holdsworth, West 2010-15; Nick Greaves, North A 2010-15. Front L-R: Megan Brown, Granta 2014-16; Mimi Paltridge, Fen 2011-16; Charlie Kitcat, Moulton/School 2008-15; Tom Dunn, North A 2010-15

From the Archive THE LEYS THROUGH TIME

150
1875 - 2025
ACHIEVING THE EXCEPTIONAL

OLS Vice President Karen Sears explores the School archives to unearth some timeline highlights during our 150 year celebrations.

1905

HRH The Duchess of Albany, Princess Victoria Adelaide of Schleswig-Holstein inspected the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and laid the foundation stone for the Chapel.



1965 to 1967

Fen House was constructed. This was the second building the architects Beard, Bennett, Wilkins and partners had designed for The Leys, with West House being the first.



2005

The new Music School was opened by Julian Lloyd-Webber. Architects Cowper Griffith commented that "The Music School sits next to Edwardian buildings forming the historic core of the Leys campus. It is set behind mature trees, and on the open ground beside the playing fields. It is an extremely rare addition to Trumpington Street, a prominent route into Cambridge city centre".



IN MEMORIAM



To read the full versions of these tributes, please visit the School website <https://www.theleys.net/leys-community/old-leysians/in-memorial/>. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed document, please contact the Development Office on 01223 508545.

John A. Cawley, East 1954-59
on 21 November 2024



John was in hospital for observations when he suffered a heart attack on 21 November

in Glasgow. Penny and John had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were the proud parents of four sons – David, Joseph, Ben and Andrew – and proud grandparents of seven grandchildren.

John was the first person I met after going through the gates at The Leys. Although I have lived in the States for 20 years John and I have kept in touch regularly for 68 years via phone, email or Zoom. It is a friendship that we both treasured and I shall miss my great friend.

*Words by Roger Wagstaff,
East 1954-57*

Christopher ‘Kip’ Gresham, Fen 1965-69 on 23 May 2024

Kip was a renowned printmaker and pioneer in screen-printing technology. He co-founded the Manchester Print Workshop in 1975 and later established the Chilford Hall Press in Cambridge, collaborating with artists such as Elisabeth Frink and Terry Frost. In 1989, Chilford Hall Press merged with Curwen Studio to form Curwen Chilford Prints, adding artists



including Gillian Ayres and Prunella Clough to Kip’s client list.

Kip developed True-Grain, a textured polyester drafting film that revolutionised hand-drawn prints. He made over 40 editions with Eduardo Paolozzi and set up the Gresham Studio at Duxford in 1994. His collaborations expanded through portfolios for institutions including Jesus College, Cambridge, and the Freud Museum, London.

After battling an auto-immune disease in 2001, Kip re-emerged with The Print Studio, Cambridge, continuing to work with artists such as Alan Davie and Barry Flanagan. His studio pioneered digital methods to fuse drawings with complex overlapping patterns.

Born in London, Kip moved to Cambridge shortly after birth. He was the first pupil to take A Level Art at The Leys. Later, he studied Fine Art at Newcastle University and Art and Printmaking at Manchester Polytechnic. In his final decade, Kip worked on commissions for artists including Hurvin Anderson and Ai Weiwei. His prints are archived at

the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the Kassir Mochary Foundation, Tucson, Arizona.

Kip was deeply involved in his Cambridge community, participating in the cycling fraternity, campaigning to save The Flying Pig pub, and taking an active role in St Paul’s church. He is survived by his wife, Jane Ashby, their sons Dan, Matt, Nick and Tim, and five grandchildren.

From Kip’s obituary in The Guardian, written by Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe and abridged by Liz Walden with Loraine’s kind permission

John Michael Kingsland, North B 1947-50 on 2 November 2023

Mike (Cdr, RN, OBE) passed away on 2 November 2023, aged 89. Beloved husband to Valerie (deceased), father to Felicity, Chris and James, brother to Andrew and Tina, and grandpa to Ollie. His funeral took place at Oxford Crematorium on 28 November.

Source: *The Telegraph* online

Ian Robert Philip, School 1951-56 on 30 June 2024



Ian died peacefully with his wife and daughter at his side.

Ian very much enjoyed his time

at The Leys, playing rugby in the 1st XV, being a sea scout and prefect, and serving as editor of *The Fortnightly* for two years. Following school he did his National Service in the Navy before studying Natural Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge. Journalism continued to be a major part of his student life and on graduating he moved to Aberdeen to be a journalist on the *Press and Journal*. He then moved to Glasgow to work on the *Scottish Daily Express*, during which time he met and married Jan.

When the *Scottish Daily Express* ceased publishing in Glasgow, Ian moved to the Glasgow Stock Exchange. When he retired from there, he started the third of his three careers and, together with Jan, spent the next 20 years welcoming cruise-ship passengers to Scotland. He loved this work and only stopped when ill health prevented him from continuing.

He was a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and friend. He is missed by many.

*Words by Ian’s daughter,
Judith Roberts*

Prof. Lord A. Colin Renfrew, Chair of Governors 1984-92 on 24 November 2024

Colin passed away peacefully in his sleep. A world-leading archaeologist, Colin fought for heritage and archaeological legislation in the House of Lords. Whilst Master of Jesus College he was also Chair of Governors for The Leys, which was attended by his sons Alban, East 1983-88 and Magnus, East 1989-94 and, until recently, by his grandson Charlie, Barker 2019-24.

John Scarr, North B 1949-53 on 9 September 2024

John was born in 1936 in Twickenham, Middlesex, to Faith and Leslie Scarr. The family later moved to New Malden, Surrey, then



in 1941 John was sent to live with his grandparents in Cambridge to escape the bombs that had begun to fall upon London. Here he attended St. Faith’s School, then The Leys.

The Leys was a second home to John and he loved it. He played rugby, cricket and hockey for the School. It broke his heart when, at 17, he was forced to leave.

John went on to join the Royal Artillery in 1954, and was stationed in Germany for 14 months. Returning to England, he attended Goldsmiths, University of London, qualifying as a secondary school teacher.

In 1963, after five years of teaching in England, John seized an opportunity to teach in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), exploring the continent along the way. He returned to England briefly before teaching in Kingston, Jamaica. He also worked in the film industry there before moving to Wellington in 1969.

In 1970, John moved to Auckland and started up an import company. He would eventually join the insurance industry, running his own company from 1991 until his retirement in 2022, aged 86.

In Auckland John would meet Jenny, his wife of 41 years, and they would raise their children Sarah, Matthew and Andrew. John was a dedicated

and loving husband and father, and a lover of animals. His life’s journey has left an indelible impression upon numerous friends, family members, neighbours, acquaintances and colleagues as a kind, generous, caring and genuine soul. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Words by Matthew Scarr

John Stephenson, North B 1949-54 on 13 May 2024



Upon leaving The Leys, John did his National Service and headed off to Hong Kong as a Troop Commander.

Whilst this commission was only for a few months, John had many amusing stories from his time there.

Having completed his National Service, John began his career in hatting. Coming from a family of hatters, John was passionate about the business. He spent some time learning the ropes at Brooks Brothers in New York, before starting at Christy and Co, a hat manufacturers in Stockport, initially as Export Director and then as Managing Director.

In the 1990s, John went to work at James Lock and Co, his family business, on St James Street in London, where he was Managing Director. Following his retirement, he continued as a non-executive director.

John was married to his late wife Clare for almost 60 years and had two daughters, Anna and Sarah. He enjoyed many sports throughout his life, including tennis, golf, bowling and hockey, and in retirement was never short of hobbies and interests. He also loved to travel.

Words by Anna Stephenson

OL EVENTS 2025–26



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

THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025

Cambridge Drinks

18:30-20:30 Sports Pavilion, The Leys

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2025

150 Anniversary Hong Kong Celebrations

18:00-20:00 Shangri-La Hotel, Hong Kong

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

OLS London Drinks

18:30-20:30 One Moorgate Place,
London EC2R 6EA

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025

Festive Celebration featuring The Leys Chapel Choir

18:30 Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road,
London EC1Y 1AU

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

OLS Annual Dinner

18:45-22:30 St John's College,
Cambridge CB2 1TP



The Leys, Cambridge CB2 7AD
www.theleys.net

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, Lucy Sales (Moulton/Dale 2000-07)

Email: l.sales@hotmail.co.uk

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 would be a tremendous help.

OLS Committee 2025

Officers

President – Stephen Ludlow, North
B 1980-85 (Wesley's Chapel and
Leysian Mission)

Vice President – Karen Sears
(formerly Cox), Common Room
2009-present

President Elect – James Middleton,
North A 1982-87

Past President – John Rolfe, North
B 1968-73

Chairman – Jo de Grey, Granta
1985-87

Treasurer – Katherine Townsend
(née Eccleston), Moulton/Bisseker
2006-11

Secretary – Liz Walden

James Houlder, School 1996-2001
(OLCC)

Katya Kornilova, Fen 2005-09
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
Max Wilson, West 2011-16

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development@theleys.net to let
us know.

OL News is produced twice
a year. 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 August 2025.

Committee Members

Andrew Cullen, North A 1998-
2003 (Singapore)

Sagan Daniels, School 1998-2003

Mark Elliott, Fen 1977-82 (Real
Tennis)

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