

OL NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLD LEYSIANS

SPRING 2026 | ISSUE 55



LIGHTING THE WAY

Cutting edge design and technology from Buse Gürbüz

'MY HOGWARTS'

Legendary country music producer John Boylan returns to The Leys

LES MIS AT THE LEYS

Behind the Scenes with Tess W

TEA WITH MR CHIPS

A Balgarnie time capsule unearthed



MESSAGE FROM THE OLS President

Dear Old Leysian

I would like to say how honoured I am to serve as your President this year. Following on from Stephen Ludlow's fantastic work during the School's 150th anniversary is somewhat daunting, but I aim to engage your interest and encourage your participation in Old Leysian events. I hope you will take the opportunity to get involved and renew old friendships.

When I arrived at The Leys, my mother advised me to "remember as much as you can about your school days, because they will be some of the best of your life." Fresh from Common Entrance, with O and A Levels ahead, I was not entirely

convinced. However, looking back now, those years hold some of my fondest memories – partly thanks to good-humoured mischief, but primarily for friendships, many of which still endure.

After The Leys, I completed a BSc in Industrial and Business Systems, then an MBA and MDip at Cardiff. While there, I set up a publishing business to support a friend's cancer research. Work then took me to London, first in men's retail and later into graduation services. I am married with three children, all Old Leysians, and am proud to be a Freeman of the Drapers Company and an Honorary Fellow of Birkbeck, University of London.

The Old Leysian Society and the School offer many chances to reconnect, including the Cambridge and London Drinks, Annual Dinner and Reunion – this year for those who joined between 1990-1999 – and OL Cricket, Rugby, Golf and Real Tennis. At the time of writing a rowing event is planned for 25 April, organised by OL Alistair

Washbourn. In the past we have run shooting days and walking weekends, and I would love to hear from anyone keen on a clay shoot, a driven day, or a walking weekend with different route options.

New ideas are always welcome, especially if you are happy to help make them happen. The more chances we have to meet, the stronger our community becomes.

Thanks to extra sponsorship, this year's OLS Annual Dinner will be held at Drapers Hall in London on Friday 4 December, with subsidised prices of £65 for under 30s and £85 for others. It is a stunning venue, just a short walk from Liverpool Street. For convenience if coming straight from work, the dress code will be lounge suits. Please rally friends, book early, and enjoy an evening of shared memories.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming year and hearing your ideas. Please feel free to contact me at jamesmids@icloud.com

James Middleton, North A 1982-87

OL UPDATES & CELEBRATIONS

From new arrivals to weddings and reunions, there has been much to celebrate across the OL community.

CONGRATULATIONS

It has been lovely to welcome back three members of the Common Room after their maternity leave: Hannah Cox to coach Netball, and Rebecca Howarth and Anna Divito in the English Department. Anna will also be returning to her role leading Barker House.

Baby Lily May Divito was born on 7 May 2025 at 8.16 pm. Mum Anna Divito, HsM of Barker, said: "May' as a middle name has family resonance for both of us, although it's also convenient given Lily's timing! We're currently settling in well as a family of three."

Baby Isabella Chloe Colborne made a safe arrival on Monday

27 October 2025. Mum Sophie, Music Department Administrator, said: "We are very much in the baby bubble! Ben is enjoying his paternity leave and Charlie is besotted with his little sister."

Rebecca Howarth, Teacher of English, was proud to announce the safe arrival of William on 2 April 2025 – his big sister Esther's second birthday!



Lily May Divito



Isabella Colborne

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Liz Walden & Karen Sears

On the cover

A Solihull salver for the victorious Old Leysian Golfing Society

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NIC TAN, MOULTON/SCHOOL 2010-17

Nic contacted us with the lovely news that he and his fiancée Lily had married last summer, relocating from Malaysia back to the UK. The couple are now living at Denstone College in Uttoxeter, where Lily is teaching. OL wedding guests included Hannah Tan, Dale 2010-15; James Pring, Moulton/School 2010-17; Emma Schaertlin Coffey, Moulton/Barrett 2010-15; Charlie Milsom, School 2012-17; Tim Tan, School 2007-12; Joseph Willmott, North A 2012-15; Georgia Howell, Barrett 2012-17 and Natsuki Barclay, School 2012-17. Also in attendance was Alastair MacGregor, CR 1977-2008, a close friend of the Tan family and guardian to Nic and Hannah during much of their time at The Leys.

The bride and groom with Alastair MacGregor

(MARTIN) SIMON SMITH, WEST 1976-81



Simon (left) and Nick, reunited after 44 years

“On a recent business trip to Adelaide I met up with my old Water Polo and CCF Stores buddy Nick Setchell, North A 1976-81. Shortly after leaving school Nick, originally from Australia, returned to Adelaide with his parents. We lost touch, until I visited in November and tried Googling ‘Nick Setchell Adelaide’. Up popped his business, RealTimeCEO, a financial software company, and within a couple of days we were enjoying a fabulous meal overlooking

the Great Australian Bight, reminiscing about our school days and holidays together, remembering many of the characters of the day, accompanied by some surprisingly good Australian wines. This was the first time we’d contacted each other for around 44 years. A couple of days later I met his delightful family at their home in Adelaide. What a great time. I’m hoping he’ll visit the UK soon. It’s amazing how the bonds forged at school last the passage of time.”

TOM WILSON, WEST 2008-13

“Charlotte and I were married at Upcote Barn near Cheltenham on 20 July 2025. We were lucky to have so many family and friends join us, some

travelling from as far away as New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Seychelles. We had a fantastic day and the British weather played ball, thankfully. Dad sang during the ceremony which was beautiful and drew the most tears for the day! We enjoyed a BBQ lunch, garden games, a brass band, a tattoo artist (who was wildly popular!) and some alpacas (a little nod to our time in Peru!) OLS attending included Dougie Turner, Liam McKeown, my sister Hannah, Dad and me.

“Since leaving the UK in 2020 we have taught in an International School in the Seychelles and a girls’ school in Lima, Peru. We’ve loved both countries, learning a great deal, and feel lucky to have experienced very different parts of the world. Peru has been particularly interesting – such a diverse country geographically



Tom Wilson with Mrs Charlotte Wilson

with deserts, rainforest, mountains and fascinating history. We’ll soon be moving back to the UK as I’ve accepted a job at St Mary’s Ascot.”

L to R: Dougie Turner, West 2008-13; Liam McKeown, West 2008-13; Hannah Wilson, Moulton/Dale 2005-11; Tom Wilson, West 2008-13; Simon Wilson, CR 2005-14

WEST HOUSE GATHER FROM FAR AND WIDE

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1970-75 West House year group leaving The Leys in the Centenary year, Robert Norfolk organised a reunion which took place on 8 August 2025 in a private bar in London. 12 of the 16 surviving friends travelled from all corners of the UK, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and France to be there; a remarkable achievement. Robert commented: “We were all great friends at school and the passage of time hasn’t changed that at all. It was wonderful to all be together again, recounting our shared experiences.”



Back row, L to R: Martin Oh; Geoffrey Eu; Andrew Johnson; Barry Tattersall-Walker; David Wilks; Piers Keenleyside; Craig Howell-Williams. Front row, L to R: Lee Mun Tuck (School House guest); Paul Miller; David Aspinall; Robert Norfolk; Gareth Edwards; David Pickles

TEAM ASHKERTON COMES TOGETHER FOR RYDER CUP VICTORY!

Ashley Silverton and Ian Ashken, both Fen 1973-78, spent a great weekend catching up and witnessing “an epic golf contest” at last year’s Ryder Cup. Ashley said: “We were so pleased that Europe managed to ultimately crawl over the winning line having gone out so hard and so early!”

Ashley (left) and Ian celebrating at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, New York



From left clockwise: Rod Ashby-Johnson, School 1957-62; David Lane, East 1956-60; David Weatherby, School 1957-62; Andrew Hunter; Chris Reddall, East 1957-62; Terry Dash, North B 1955-60; Anthony Yates Watson, East 1957-62

GOING STRONG 61 YEARS ON

“Our 61st reunion was held over lunch at Brown’s Restaurant in Cambridge, with seven of us attending. We enjoyed the food and the ambience, and are keen to arrange another gathering for the over-80s. Chris Reddall was nominated to make the arrangements – for the first time in 61 years!”

Andrew Hunter, East 1957-61

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Jan Miszewski, North A 1971–73

Jan visited from the US last October with his wife Sheri, a retired special needs teacher. The couple, who met 10 years ago, were given a tour by Vicky Harvey and Liz Walden. After The Leys, Jan studied Economics at UCL but says his heart has always been in the countryside. We visited some of Jan's favourite spots on the school grounds – including our marvellous rugby pitch – and enjoyed hearing about his life farming in Iowa.



Jan and Sheri outside North A

Chi Weng Ma, Dale 2011–16 & Chi Pui Ma, Dale 2018–20

The sisters visited from Macau last September, and were excited to revisit their favourite haunts including the Music, Chemistry and Art Departments where they reminisced happily with some of their former teachers. Chi Weng, a Leysian organ scholar, said: "We truly enjoyed being back at the School, and I especially loved having the chance to try out the new organ in the Chapel. I am currently doing a PhD in hospitality, looking at how new technologies such as AI are shaping tourism and service experiences. Chi Pui has now completed an

exchange in Manchester and is back in Shanghai continuing her bachelor's studies."



Chi Weng (left) and Chi Pui with Andrew Harmsworth outside the Thomson Building

Jonathan Parkyn, Fen 1984–89

Jonathan visited The Leys in December, en route to his son Harry's interview at Pembroke College. Jonathan studied French and Drama at Queen Mary College, London and now works as a writer for film, TV, books, magazines and – as he puts it – "anyone who will still pay me for words".

His credits include multiple episodes of CBBC's BAFTA-winning sitcoms, *So Awkward* and *Hank Zipzer*, though he suspects he may forever be remembered for his 2009 book *Cats with Guns*, which continues to haunt him on Google. Jonathan was proud to show Harry around his old school, revisiting plenty of (mostly) happy memories along the way. When asked what he thought of the place, Harry's verdict was succinct: "Hogwarts."



Jonathan and Harry outside Fen House

2025 School Inspection

By Dr Clare Ives, Head

To celebrate our recent inspection success, and mark the end of The Leys' 150th anniversary year, each member of staff was presented with a specially commissioned tumbler featuring the school crest and the motto '150 years of being exceptional'.



The commemorative tumbler given to all Leys staff

I am delighted to share with the Old Leysian community the outstanding outcome of our recent Independent Schools Inspectorate visit. The report offers an affirming picture of the School today, concluding that The Leys meets all regulatory standards and highlighting the exceptional quality of life and learning here.

We were especially honoured to receive **two Significant Strengths**; one for the remarkable work of our Art Department, and another for the welcoming, inclusive culture that supports pupils to become "exceptionally thoughtful and considerate citizens." Even one such

commendation is rare; two places The Leys among a very small number of schools nationally.

These findings reflect something Old Leysians know well: that The Leys is defined by the character, commitment, and compassion of its people. I am enormously proud of our pupils, whose enthusiasm, creativity, and kindness were so clearly recognised. Equally, the hard work of staff and their everyday commitment to the wellbeing and progress of every young person, shines through every page of the report.

As a community, we can take great pride in this moment. Thank you to all Old Leysians for the part you play in sustaining the spirit, legacy, and values of The Leys.

A Letter from Mr Balgarnie

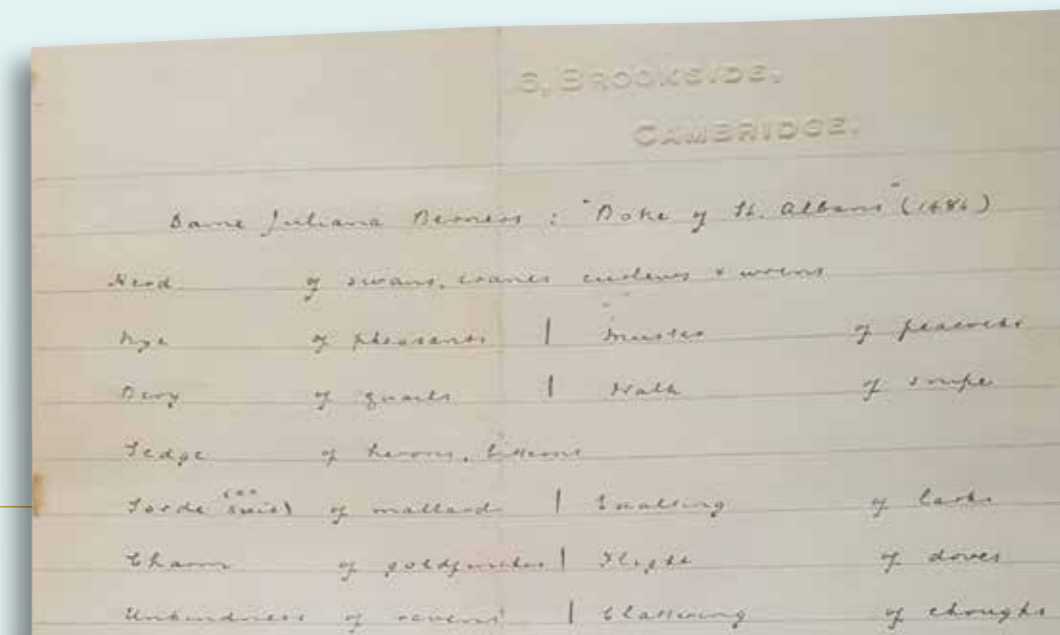
Tim Allebone, North B 1967–72

In 1939 my late father, Richard Norton Allebone, North B 1937–40 was invited to tea with Mr Balgarnie at 6 Brookside, over the road from The Leys. They discussed the recently released film, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, starring Robert Donat and Greer Garson, and my father remembered Mr Balgarnie saying, 'They gave me a very nice wife'. In actual fact Mr Balgarnie never married, so this was artistic licence on the part of MGM. I gather the exterior shots of the School were filmed at Repton, as the producers didn't feel that the buildings at The Leys were particularly photogenic.

They also talked about collective nouns and, a few days later, my father received a letter from Mr Balgarnie containing a list of such nouns. I found it in his papers after he died; it's an interesting document, showing how language changes over the years. As my step-daughters

have no connection to The Leys, in due course I expect I'll donate it to the School's archive for future generations to read but, in the meantime, I hope you find some of these examples interesting.

Mr Balgarnie's list of collective nouns, stamped with his Brookside address



The Duchess of Kent and the Legacy of The King's Building

By John Harding, CR 1968-2005

In tribute to the Duchess of Kent, who passed away on 4 September last year, John Harding takes us back over the history of the Kent Room and its unique place in the story of the King's Building.

The Duchess of Kent was married to Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, a grandson of King George V. Her connection with The Leys lies in her opening of the Kent Room, which is named after her. This is singularly appropriate as it is located within the King's Building, itself named in honour of George V.

The King's Building, opened by George V in 1914, was designed by Sir Aston Webb, and is probably the most distinguished building in the grounds. Webb is celebrated for his public buildings which include, in London, the Admiralty Arch, the Victoria Memorial in the Mall, and the East Front of Buckingham Palace. In Cambridge his finest work is Westminster College, at the junction of Queen's Road and Maddingley Road.

Originally, the King's Building housed the Library and five classrooms, K1-5. K2-5 still exist but K1, a large classroom opposite the Library, eventually became the Kent Room. Formerly used for early morning punishment 'drill' (writing lines) and exams, by the 1970s it had become largely unused. The decision was made to refurbish it as an all-purpose meeting room as part of the Centenary

HRH Duchess of Kent with John (left) and Alan Barker, admiring John's exhibition which included a chamber pot!

celebrations, and the Duchess of Kent was invited to open it at Speech Day in June 1975. The Headmaster, Alan Barker, asked me to organise an exhibition there to celebrate the first hundred years of the School, so I had the pleasure of showing the Duchess and the Headmaster around the displays. The exhibition remained in place until Old Leysian Day that September.

The Kent Room continued to host meetings, social occasions, exams and performances. It was subsequently re-opened as an extension of the Library, with expanded computer facilities, on Speech Day 1998 by Baroness James (P D James). By then, the Gym had moved to the new Sports Hall (also opened by the Duchess, in 1995) and the Old Gym took over the Kent Room's former role. This refurbishment was partly funded by OLS from the Pitlochry era.

Pupils sitting an exam in K1 c.1959, later the Kent Room



The King's Building today

SPOTLIGHT

Lighting the Way

From early days experimenting with printmaking at The Leys to cutting edge fabrication techniques, **Buse Gürbüz, Barrett 2008-11** has evolved into an accomplished and versatile designer whose work encompasses architecture, innovative lighting technology and interior design.

I attended The Leys and St Faith's before finishing Sixth Form and going on to study Architecture in Brighton. My interest in the arts was something I quietly developed in the Art Department, particularly the etching and printing work we did in Years 10 and 11. I later received an art scholarship to The Perse, where I completed Sixth Form. My years at The Leys were formative: being exposed to a wide range of artistic mediums early on proved invaluable during my architectural studies.

In 2016, I began my Master's at the Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL and was part of the first cohort to use UCL's new workshops at Here East in Hackney Wick. There, I was introduced to cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, including welding, 3D printing and robotic fabrication. We worked closely alongside PhD students researching the future of these methods, which was an incredibly inspiring environment.

After graduating, I worked at Jason Bruges Studio, known for interactive installations that combine robotics, lighting design and art. I contributed to major projects including a robotic installation for the Tokyo Olympics and a permanent light installation beneath Wembley Park that interacts with passers-by.

I then spent a year working with Es Devlin OBE, one of the leading voices in contemporary set design. As a designer, I contributed to several high-profile projects, including Adele's *One Night Only* show at the Griffith Observatory and the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Arab Emirates, where we designed a rotating building within Dubai's Hatta Water Dam. I was also the lead designer working one-to-one with Gary Barlow on his West End show *A Different Stage*.

In 2019, I secured my first major interior design project: a three-storey headquarters for Cambridge Spark, an AI and data analysis education company. I went on to found my own practice, Interior Design Cambridge, and have since delivered over 30 projects across London, Cambridge, Amsterdam and Istanbul. Through this work, I discovered

a passion for interior design that brings together my background in architecture, making and technology with the opportunity to work closely with clients on the spaces they inhabit most - their homes.

In 2023, I appeared on *Interior Design Masters* with Alan Carr on BBC One. It allowed me to work alongside incredibly creative people from a wide range of industries and connect with designers at the top of their field. Following the show, I felt a renewed pull towards making - something first developed during my time at UCL.

In 2025, I launched my lighting brand, Desmo Concept, with a friend. The studio focuses on innovative lighting design using 3D-printing technologies combined with more traditional methods. We now have our own laser cutter, CNC machine and casting capabilities in-house - and, honestly, it's a lot of fun. Alongside this, I'm regularly featured in *HomeStyle* magazine, contributing bi-monthly advice on interior styling and practical ways to improve the home. I'm also planning to launch a personal Substack to expand this into a blog, sharing further insights into homewares, styling and interior design more broadly.



We Did It!

By Sarah Proud, Director of Development

The Leys' 150th Campaign for bursaries beat its target, creating bursary places.

2025 was a big year for the Old Leysian community, many of whom turned out to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the School in various ways, from visits to the School and attending events including the 150th Reunion, to joining me and the Head in Hong Kong and sharing stories for our very special 150th Commemorative Magazine.

Nothing we did will resonate further into the future, however, than the 150th Fundraising Campaign and the opportunities this will create for children to enjoy a Leysian education. We set an ambitious goal of £150,000, with match funding to run alongside it provided by a generous donor from the Old Leysian community.

Thanks to you, our amazing community of Old Leysians, as well as parents, pupils and our many other friends, we exceeded our target.



That's enough for nearly 7 110% bursary pupils!

The Future of Bursaries at The Leys



9% of pupils are currently on bursaries

7 pupils this year are receiving 110% funding (our highest level of bursary)



Our next target is to be able to welcome 14 pupils to The Leys on a 110% bursary. The cost per year for one pupil is £45,952.

Why?

The Leys can provide an educational experience that changes the trajectory of someone's life. Moreover, welcoming children who would not otherwise have access to a Leysian education strengthens our community and enriches the experience of all our pupils and Old Leysians. To hear from some of our recent 110% bursary pupils, scan the QR code or visit www.theleys.net/bursaries.



Will you help the next generation of Leysians?

If you think you would like to contribute to our bursary scheme, and help enable access to The Leys for more young people, you can donate at www.theleys.net/donate or contact us on development@theleys.net. For our friends in the USA, tax efficient giving is available via BSUF.



Particular thanks to members of our Isard Circle, who each gave at least £1,500:

Simon Airey	B	1967-1972	David Ludlow	B	1976-1981
Richard Anthony	W	1980-1985	Richard Moon	A	1963-1965
John Barrett (Former Head)		1990-2004	Laura & Mark Neville		
John Belsey	B	1963-1968	Damian Peachey	E	1985-1987
Dirk Bister & Pat Bister-Set			Martin Priestley (Former Head)		2014-2025
Martyn Bowyer	F	1974-1979	David Rapley	W	1978-1983
Richard Chapman	B	1963-1968	Norman Seow	E	1975-1980
James Cockeram	F	1968-1973	Peter Shawdon	B	1952-1957
Mike Davey	B	1959-1964	John Sully	E	1950-1953
David Donnelly	B	1958-1962	Bruce Weir	E	1946-1949
Richard Fletcher	W	1958-1963	Stuart Williamson	S	1964-1969
Daniel Holliday	B	1981-1986	Alex Wong	F	1986-1991
Richard Holman	A	1957-1962	Fawcett Charity		
Colin & Brenda Kinnear	E	1949-1953	The Kionas Foundation		
Igor Lipskii & Olga Lipskaya			2 anonymous members		
Stephen Ludlow	B	1980-1985			

“If a young person cannot see it, how on Earth can they be it?”

Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice



JOHN BOYLAN, EAST 1954-58

“My Hogwarts” –
Where the Music Began

By Liz Walden

John Boylan's life in music has intersected with some of the most influential artists, albums and movements of the past half century. A key figure in the rise of country rock in 1960s California, he has produced records for artists ranging from the Dillards and Linda Ronstadt to Boston, Australia's Little River Band and the Charlie Daniels Band; helped bring together the musicians who would become the Eagles; worked on film soundtracks including *Urban Cowboy* and *Footloose*; and earned a Grammy Award along the way.

Yet when John reflects on the origins of his remarkable success, he traces them not to Los Angeles or New York, but to Cambridge and to a school that, as he puts it, “completely turned me around”.

Below: John (centre) with the Little River Band, recording in Melbourne



Last summer, John returned to The Leys for the first time in many years and was given a tour of the School by Liz Walden, with whom he spent time chatting afterwards. The visit unfolded slowly and thoughtfully, marked by pauses, reminiscences and pertinent questions about The Leys of today. Touring East House with HsM John Johnson, he chatted easily with the current residents, at one point slipping into fluent Spanish with a Romanian pupil – a nod to both his linguistic ease and his delight in connection.

A tour of the Music Department with Director of Music Max Kenworthy proved equally absorbing. With a background in music production at the highest level, John marvelled at the facilities now available. What struck him most was not simply the technology, but the freedom it affords young musicians finding their way.



Above: John with Linda Ronstadt on receiving her Kennedy Center Honors in 2019

In Great Hall, John took a moment to sit quietly and experience the space. It was entirely in keeping with the man: reflective, attentive, unhurried.

John first arrived at The Leys in September 1954 from Buffalo, New York. His father taught at medical school there, and the family seemed settled until a sudden announcement changed everything. “In the summer of ‘54 Dad said, ‘I’m going to teach at Cambridge University. We’re moving to England,’” John recalls. “Which I resisted, of course” he adds, with characteristic candour.

Post war England felt worlds away from the America he knew. “There were still bombed out buildings here and there,” he remembers. “You could see the remnants of the war.” The distance proved transformative. “I was very provincial,” he reflects. “Coming here turned me into a world person. It was 3500 miles away; a totally different culture.”

At first, John was unsure whether he truly belonged. “They graciously let me come here. I’m sure I wasn’t that qualified,” he says, with a wry chuckle. But before long, the experience began to reshape him. He completed a year and a half before returning to the US, only to find himself drawn back again when a family situation led to his return in 1957-58. “That was even more consequential,” he says. “I already knew what was going on. I had friends. That was my best time here.”

John found that the academic grounding he had received in Cambridge carried extraordinary weight. Back in the US, the transition felt almost effortless. “I only needed to take one course to get into college: American History! For the others I just took the exams; I sailed through.”

Languages left a particularly lasting impression. He speaks warmly of Ken Naylor and ‘Dicky’ Bennett, teachers who stretched him academically in French and Spanish respectively, both of which he continued back home. “That really stayed with me,” he says. “Living in LA, there’s a lot of Spanish.”

Music, meanwhile, was making its presence known. With fellow pupil Mike Latimer, East 1955-59 John formed a small skiffle band and later performed rock ‘n’ roll inspired by the Everly Brothers. “It was fun,” he says simply. “I think everyone knew I was probably going to end up somewhere in entertainment.”

After The Leys, John studied Theatre Arts at Bard College before moving to Greenwich Village with dreams of becoming an actor. When that plan stalled, a band formed with his brother Terence led instead to songwriting and



Happy memories: John outside East House

music production, a detour that proved decisive. “As the saying goes”, he muses, “life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans”.

By the late 1960s and early ‘70s, John was deeply embedded in the country rock scene centred around the legendary Troubadour club in West Hollywood. His work with Linda Ronstadt, the Eagles and later Boston would help to shape the sound of a generation. He collaborated with prestigious music production companies including Decca Records, Capitol Records, CBS and Warner Brothers, before founding his own highly successful production and publishing company, Great Eastern Music, which remains active to this day. Over the years, his career expanded into film, television and teaching, earning him many accolades and, through his production class at UCLA, influencing countless younger musicians.

Now 85, John remains energetically engaged, producing a new film and writing a memoir – which is sure to include mention of The Leys. “If I’m Harry Potter, The Leys was my Hogwarts!”, he smiles. “It was a seminal part of my upbringing, no question. I was a fish out of water when I arrived, but everyone was so kind. I learned so much here.”

He pauses, then adds quietly: “It really gave me a leg up, for which I’ll be eternally grateful.”



As our 150th anniversary year drew to a close, The Leys marked the occasion with an extraordinary achievement: a sold-out, four-night run of *Les Misérables* during December 2025. This ambitious whole-school production united more than 70 pupils across all year groups, a collaboration not seen on our stage for a generation. Director of Music Max Kenworthy reflects on the challenges presented by such an undertaking, and how everyone involved rose to meet them.

The music of *Les Misérables* is as iconic as Hugo's original epic novel. Its powerful and emotionally charged score delivers a sequence of instantly recognisable songs that flow seamlessly in an almost operatic style. As with the dramatic work on the production, the musical journey began long before opening night, with auditions and rehearsals running throughout the Autumn term.

Individual and group rehearsals filled activity slots each week and, gradually – song by song, scene by scene – the music took shape. The cast covered a wide range of roles, with particularly demanding vocal parts for the leads: Javert, Marius, and of course Valjean, who shoulder the bulk of the solo repertoire. All our soloists rose to the challenge superbly and embraced their moments in the spotlight.

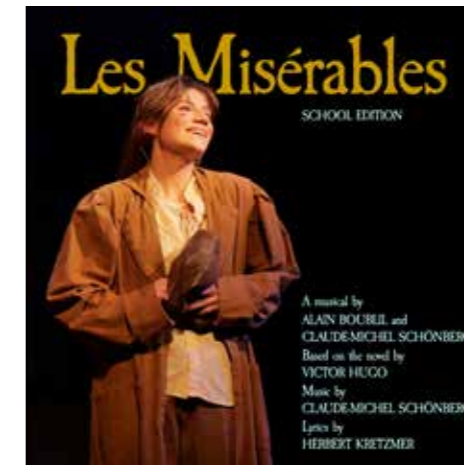
One of the main challenges was preparing pupils for roles that were double, triple, and in one case quadruple cast. Ensuring that every performer felt confident, consistent, and fully at ease in their role across all four shows required careful planning. In the end, this approach proved enormously successful: pupils learned their parts side by side, then gradually took it

in turns to step forward as soloists. Their mutual support and collaboration were inspiring to see.

Another hurdle was helping pupils move from the comfort of rehearsing with accompaniment to performing alongside a live pit band – an entirely different sonic experience and a steep learning curve. Once in costume and under

stage lights, with microphones and the stunning staging in place, they adapted remarkably quickly. The large ensemble numbers were also demanding, especially the battle scenes with their layers of sound and fast-paced action.

Every pupil rose magnificently to these challenges. My sincere thanks go to the outstanding band, to Sharon D, U6 for her enormous help as rehearsal accompanist throughout the process, and to my colleagues in the department for their unwavering support.



It was a truly exceptional production – one that will live long in the memory.

Max Kenworthy, Director of Music

Les Mis at The Leys: A Triumph of Epic Proportions



Deputy Stage Manager Tess

For Tess W, the role of Deputy Stage Manager proved an unforgettable experience.

I have truly loved every moment as a Deputy Stage Manager for *Les Misérables*. The scale of the show this year was incredible, and it was so rewarding to see everything come together for four nights. Working backstage has allowed me to forge friendships with people I might not have met outside the Drama

Department. Saying my final cues was way more emotional than I expected, but I realised that my experience backstage has played a very important role in my life at The Leys – one that I'm sure I will think about often. I'm so incredibly grateful to everyone who helped me get to where I am today and to those who showed me that not all of the fun stuff happens on stage.

Tess W, U6

OL SPORT

Unbeaten Hockey Record Stands for 100 Years

Invicti sports teams are rare. In 1973 the School was blessed with seven old hockey colours to which the Master i/c Graham Cottrell (GAC), CR 1968-77, added the best from the years below. Last June, members of that team reunited for the first time in 52 years.

GAC replaced the white and blue shirt with a striking blue and red design despite criticism from some OL traditionalists. In this and in all other respects his judgement was vindicated as his team's record in matches against eight schools and five men's teams read P13, W8, D5, L0 to which were then added five straight victories in the Oxford Public Schools Festival. With only one exception, the team fielded the same

11 players for all 18 matches, which might explain the staggering total of 57 goals with just 21 conceded.

The only other unbeaten Leys School hockey 1st XI was in 1926, meaning that the 1973 side is the only team to have achieved this feat in the last 100 years, as confirmed by school archivist Alison Lainchbury to whom the group is very grateful for researching countless Fortnightlies. In celebration, a reunion lunch in London was organised by Martin Dunkerley (centre forward) and Nigel Fletcher (wing half) whose love of hockey always only narrowly exceeded their love of food.

Tim Darby, West 1968-73;
Tim Cameron, West 1969-74;

Chris Shardlow, James Cockeram and David Sylvester, all Fen 1968-73; and GAC were also able to attend the appropriately named Boot and Flogger wine bar in Southwark which Nigel decorated with memorabilia including photographs, a team strip and hockey sticks.

All the matches and all the goals from that successful term were relived over a generous lunch and copious lashings of wine. Martin and James conducted a light-hearted review of the 1973 season, GAC replied with a short speech, and Nigel added some observations about the latter's time at Cambridge where he had won blues at both hockey and cricket. Yours truly, kindly invited to attend as an independent witness, reminded the group of what the hockey team's success had meant to the rest of the School.

We went our separate ways, promising to meet up again before long. Records are there to be broken and this group would be thrilled if any future Leys 1st Hockey XI were able to match their achievement.

If anyone has contact details for Richard Jeffreys, Anthony Soothill and Chris Robson who could not be traced please let the School Development Office know.

John Rolfe, North B 1968-73

L to R: Chris Shardlow, David Sylvester, Nigel Fletcher, Martin Dunkerley, Tim Cameron (originally Tim Kok)



OL Real Tennis Club Report

The 10th edition of the Old Leysian Real Tennis Annual Tournament was held at Newmarket Real Tennis Club, marking a small but significant milestone in the life of this established fixture. Eight Old Leysians took part, coming together for a day that reflected both the competitive character and the enduring social appeal of the game.

The standard of play throughout was high and well matched, with matches contested in the right spirit. Good sportsmanship and camaraderie were evident on and off the court, underscoring the sense of continuity that has long characterised this gathering. In the end, Nick Lloyd and Tom Hartley emerged as worthy winners, their success earned through steady play, skill and composure.

The organisers are grateful to the School for its continued support of real tennis and of this annual tournament, which remains an important point of connection for Old Leysians. Any Old Leysian with an interest in the game, who would



2025 OLRTC Tournament Winners, L to R: Tom Hartley, North B 1981-83 & Nick Lloyd, Fen 1966-71. Trophy presented by Joel Humphrey

like to play real tennis or become involved with the club, is warmly encouraged to make contact.

Joel Humphrey, Captain, East 1992-97 & Mark Elliott, President, Fen 1977-82

OL Tag Rugby Report

The Old Leysian Tag Rugby Team spent the summer of 2025 battling the biblical downpours and punishing heat that Hyde Park invariably has to offer, in pursuit of a long-awaited piece of silverware. The joy of OL tag is seeing a mixture of Old Leysians (and friends

of the School) coming together across a mix of ages - this summer we had 2018 leavers playing alongside 2010 leavers. In prior summers, the team had consecutively gone through the season undefeated only to lose in the final (against our closest and fiercest rival) and so this year, we had a clear goal in mind. Last year, the team again

performed strongly through the whole summer, undefeated in our run up to the final. The 2025 final was played in both sharp heat and torrential rain, requiring a strong performance to beat our dearest adversary. Third time lucky, we managed to secure the trophy with a heroic performance - what a way to sign off a great summer! We look forward to going again in 2026 and of course, welcome new recruits from the School who have ventured down to London. Please reach out to Dougie Turner (dwt1@mac.com) if you are interested.

Dougie Turner, West 2008-13

OLs from left: Dougie Turner (1st); Mark Horsford, West 2005-10 (4th); Dante O'Reilly, Moulton/Barker/East 2004-11 (6th); Jonny Horsford, School 2005-10 (7th). OL squad members unavailable for the final: Ed Fairey, Bisseker 2011-16; Tom Andrews, Barrett/East 2005-11; Seb Faux, Moulton/School 2010-17; Andrew Gale, West 2006-11; Titus Waldock, Bisseker 2013-18; Dan Sellers, Moulton/School 2002-09



OL Golfing Society Report

In the Halford Hewitt we had a tough draw, losing narrowly to Repton and then Loretto (2021–2023 HH winners) in the plate. We also celebrated Nigel Washbourn's retirement as HonSec of the society with a black tie dinner at Royal St George's Golf Club.



OL team, L to R: Alex Smethers, North A 2000–05; David Page, Fen 1966–71; Jack Thomson, Moulton/Barrett 2005–12; Ric Bentley, North B 1992–97; Paul Quin, Fen 1976–81; Simon Cooper, North A 1993–98; David McClean, Fen 1974–79; Tom Williams, West 1993–96; Charlie Kidman, Fen 1963–68. Chris Holden, North A 1985–90 (not in photo)
Pupil team back row, L to R: Daniel D; Ollie S; Callum K; Harry W; Zander W-J; Geoff Howe FCR, 1998–2025; James H. Front row, L to R: Ross K; Jack C; Hamish C; Theo W

There were five matches during the season, against the School and other school societies, all of which will be played again in 2026. It is particularly pleasing to report that golf coaching for 12 pupils has been established at the School which should make future school matches increasingly competitive.

In the Grafton Morrish competition we lost to winners Radley on the last green in the deciding match. The following day, in horrendous weather,

we won the Solihull salver, beating 26 other schools, including heavyweights Malvern and Epsom, to win the salver for the fifth time.

Last year's Spring Meeting at Royal Worlington, and Autumn Meeting at Rye, were popular courses with those that played and good value for

money so we will return to the same venues for 2026.

In the 2026 Halford Hewitt we have been drawn against Wrekin at 11:30am on Thursday 9 April at Royal St George's Golf Club.

Nick Dendy, North A 1983–87

OL Cricket Club Report

Now in its 16th season as a league-playing club, 2025 presented one of our biggest challenges yet. Having managed to cling on to our position in the top league in the Cambridgeshire system in 2024, 2025 promised to be another long campaign: 22 weeks of cricket against some of the best players in the region, dealing with long days, longer journeys, overseas professionals and a very hot, dry summer.



As always, the team brought grit and determination in spades, standing toe-to-toe against some very strong sides, and recording a number of impressive victories, including great wins against Wisbech and Saffron Walden. Sadly, however, we came second on a few too many occasions, and due to a league restructuring for the upcoming 2026 season, three teams had to be relegated, and we were the third. In terms of individual performances, special mentions go to Richard Bramley (516 runs at 64.5), Andrew Gale (387 runs also at 64.5), Andrew Bramley (30 wickets at 18.13) and Joe Gunn-Roberts (27 wickets at 20.11).

The team will return in 2026, already looking forward to a slightly slower pace of cricket, and will hopefully be back to winning ways in no time.

James Houlder, School 1996–2001

Back row, L to R: Mitch Harrison (overseas player); Dante O'Reilly, Moulton/Barker/East 2004–11; Andrew Bramley, Barker 2013–18; Lisa Carter (scorer); Patrick Miller, Bisseker 2006–11; Jonty Oliver FCR
Front row, L to R: Harry Jarman, West 2012–17; Joe Gunn-Roberts, West 2012–17; James Houlder, School 1996–2001; Andy Gale, West 2006–11; Charles Kent (Old Fidelity); Chris Tapping, Moulton/Bisseker/East 2007–14

REMINISCENCES

By Angus Richard, School 1957–62

For some obscure reason my poetry and writing seems to have a public audience, which will not reflect well on the cultural legacy of Australia. The blame for this verse can be laid at the feet of my wonderful English teacher Mr C G Wilcockson and The Leys, where this alarming infliction began. Then Derek Baker and Arduous Training took me to the Cairngorms, the Pools of Dee, Loch an Eilein, Bynack Lodge and the Rothiemurchus Forest; an extraordinary and lasting gift. The recent 150 Years celebrations revived those brilliant memories and thus the verse below about the Unicorns of the Rothiemurchus. I am not yet clear as to how the unicorns became part of it.



A young Angus responding to the demands of Arduous Training



© J A Hopkirk, North A 1956–61

The Unicorn of Rothiemurchus

I can see it now as if today
Enchantment rare not far away
A Unicorn in the mist it lay
In the Rothiemurchus Forest.

Down the corries from the Pools of Dee
This haunting sight unveiled to me
As I strode beneath those ancient trees
Of the Rothiemurchus Forest.

Far from the crags Loch an Eilein lies
Pristine below those mystic skies
From the castle tower the Osprey cries –
Out to the Rothiemurchus Forest.

The Laird I met, the Earl of Mar,
Who'd traveled wide to countries far
At Aviemore with its friendly bar
With views to Rothiemurchus.

He confirmed to me that he had seen,
From a ruined lodge whilst still a teen,
A Unicorn distant on the green
In the cusp of the Rothiemurchus.

More than sixty years by now have flown
Since I glimpsed that Unicorn far from home
Regal, poised, midst fern and stone
In the depths of the Rothiemurchus.

Or perhaps it's true and I'm at fault
It may have been the single malt
But steadfast I hold to the sight I caught
Years back in the Rothiemurchus.

And now I'm old, soon my time to go,
I can feel the breath of an early snow
Then I'll walk with my Unicorn proud and slow
At peace in the Rothiemurchus.

Angus Richard, March 2024

Include Their Future in Your Legacy

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.

IN MEMORIAM



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

Richard Norton Allebone, North B 1937-40 on 4 November 2004

“No obituary was published in OL News at the time of my father’s death but, with his Mr. Chips story printed elsewhere in this issue, I felt he should have one, albeit 21 years late.” – Tim Allebone



My father’s earliest memory of The Leys was the B House initiation: a mountain of

chairs piled on a table in the Common Room, with new boys made to sing from the top. His song was *Pennies from Heaven*. Richard enjoyed playing rugby, represented the School at hockey, and shot at Bisley. He also recalled having tea with W H Balgarnie (‘Mr Chips’) at 6 Brookside, discussing the MGM film *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*.

The School’s evacuation to Pitlochry meant he left early and joined Whitworth Brothers as a corn buyer. In 1942 he joined the King’s Troop, 4th Royal Horse Artillery, in keeping with his lifelong love of horses. He rode in the regiment’s motorcycle display team and was later based in Kiel at the end of the war, assigned to one of the Russian ships that crossed the Black Sea in appalling weather.

After the war he returned to the family farm, modernising arable production.

A fine shot and proficient showjumper, he helped found the British Horse Society and became one of its youngest judges. He was once asked to drive a pony to Italy for Sophia Loren’s son and to stay with the family for a time – an offer he regretfully declined, prioritising harvest.

Beyond the farm, Richard was a churchwarden, served on Wellingborough’s Rural District Council, and for over 40 years chaired Easton Maudit’s Parish Meeting. He died aged 81, leaving his widow, Peggie, and sons **Tim, North B 1967-72** and **Peter, North B 1970-73**. He retained fond memories of The Leys, and Peter and I remain grateful to him for the opportunities it afforded us.

Words by Tim Allebone

(David) Ian Anderson, West 1968-73, on 22 May 2025

Roger Arscott, Fen 1969-73, on 27 July 2025



Roger was born on 17 September 1955 and grew up in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

As the playwright David Hare said: *“It’s a wonderful fortune ... to be born somewhere boring. ... Tedium is hugely stimulating for a child’s imagination. ... For the rest of your life everywhere*

you go is intensely interesting, because it’s not Bexhill.”

Roger left The Leys for the University of Liverpool which he found ‘intensely interesting’, and he stayed on after university working with the groundbreaking Everyman Theatre in Hope Street (an area of Liverpool noted for its bohemian environment and political edge).

From here he had a few years in Friesland, Holland with the theatre company Kiss in Leeuwarden. This was where he met his wife Elise and they married in 1983. When the couple returned to the UK, they lived in London and Roger got a job at the BBC. Daughter Nynke arrived in 1991 and Anna was born in 1992. Shortly after, the family moved out to Shrivenham, Wiltshire. Some years later they relocated to Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire to take advantage of the European School where the girls went from nursery through to the European Baccalaureate. Roger took on a portfolio of freelance work as a location manager – he had several treasured projects in his beloved Liverpool and he enjoyed (and was good at) living on the edge and the creative problem-solving that the Location Manager job required.

In recent years, attending pub quizzes and hosting chess and music sessions at home, Roger became part of the Abingdon local scene – also often

to be seen sitting in his front door enjoying the sunshine and watching the world go by.

Words by Roger's sister, Ann Arscott

Bertie Bellis, Headmaster 1975–86,
on 1 October 2025

Bertie Bellis arrived at The Leys as its sixth headmaster in August 1975. As a son of the manse, his appointment represented a return to the tradition of non-conformist Methodist leadership established under the School's first four headmasters.

For Bertie, school mastering was a vocation. After graduating from St John's College Cambridge, where he had been an exhibitor in Mathematics, he taught first at Rossall and then Highgate (where he was Head of Mathematics and a housemaster) before moving to Edinburgh as Headmaster of Daniel Stewart's. There he oversaw significant new building projects as well as the merger of his school with Melville College, becoming the first principal of the combined school, Stewart's Melville, with 1450 boys.

A respected figure in the academic community, Bertie served as President of the Mathematical Association from 1971 to 1972 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1972.

Bertie's tenure at The Leys coincided with national economic challenges resulting in a series of refurbishment and reconstruction projects rather than new build. Significant latterly was the creation of Granta House and the admission of girls to the Sixth Form in



1984. At the same time an appeal was launched which led to the building of all-weather tennis courts and the construction of the Percy Rugg Centre.

The energy evident in all these projects was underpinned by what the Chairman of Governors at the time described as Bertie's "enormous thought and care and good judgement" shown about decisions involving people. This contributed strongly to, and maintained, the School's ethos of caring for individuals in a friendly and unforced way.

In all that he did Bertie was supported by his wife Joan and together they made the Headmaster's house and gardens warm and welcoming for staff, pupils and visitors alike.

Words by Tim Bellis, Bertie's son

Tanuja Bhogal (Tanya), Dale 1988–90,
on 2 January 2025

If you were at the Leys in 1988–89, you will remember Tanya. She was an iconoclast, a character, an immutably optimistic and vibrant soul. She treasured her time at The Leys. If you remember her, you'll remember her stomping about in her Doc Martens. You'll remember her fiery intelligence, forthrightness, and how articulate she was. If you had Mr Wood's History class with her, you'll remember how she simultaneously argued and flirted her way through the class such that no one else really got a word in. If you were in English with her, you'll remember how she loved Mr Siddall because she adored words as much as he did.

Tanya went to Bristol after The Leys and then went to live in Taiwan. We lost touch. But several years later we found ourselves having dinner in East Coast Seafood Centre in Singapore with our feet in the sand and chilli crab on our fingers. She was one of those people who, when we met up, would positively storm back into



my life and tell me exactly where I was going wrong. But she also had a glowing vision of anyone she loved that transcended reality.

Early last year Tanya died suddenly of multiple organ failure brought on by septic shock. How can there be a world where I can't go out for dinner with Tanya? How can I bear never again to see that better version of myself reflected back at me through her love? If you remember her, remember the nicest thing she ever said to you. She'd love that.

Words by Jasmine Montgomery, Granta 1988–90

(Timothy) Tim Budgen,
West 1953–58, on 19 October 2024



Tim was born on 11 March 1940 and brought up in Creigiau, a small village west of

Cardiff. He followed his grandfather, father and brother to The Leys. Tim remained in touch with friends he made at The Leys throughout his life.

After leaving St John's College Cambridge, Tim qualified as a chartered surveyor in London. The highlight of his professional life was putting together the scheme for the redevelopment of Spitalfields Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Having successfully seen through the relocation of the market, Tim worked for the Spitalfields Market Community Trust which was set up to distribute the planning gain money arising from

the development. He felt blessed to have such a dynamic and varied end to his working life. Tim made many close friends during his time at the Trust and enjoyed participating in a wide range of charitable projects including Spitalfields City Farm, Griffin House and the local Citizens Advice.

St Mary's Church in Barnes was a major part of Tim's life. He acted as Church Warden for five years and set up The Good Companions, a men's social club, to strengthen and in some cases create local connections for retired men. The Good Companions continues to thrive.

Tim was a father to Venetia and Charmian, a grandfather to four granddaughters and a beloved and devoted husband to Loraine, for whom he cared in later life as her health declined. He died in his sleep, comfortable at home.

Words by Venetia Budgen and Charmian Myers

D Barrie Fleet, Common Room
1980–95, on 6 September 2025



Barrie joined The Leys as Head of Classics, subsequently becoming

Director of Studies. He ran the Debating Society, inaugurated the Rugg Prize and was much involved in the musical and intellectual life of the School. He eventually left to become Director of Studies in Classics and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College. Caroline Wiedermann, appointed by him to the Classics Department and subsequently succeeding him as Head of Classics, writes:

"Barrie was quietly spoken, calm and collected, and completely in control of a classroom. He had a light-touch manner in terms of running the Department. I always felt that everything ran like clockwork

without any fuss or show. He had a great sense of humour, laughing at himself as much as anything else. He was obviously a scholarly person, yet did not push this on anyone nor try to brag. I think he used intellect and charm to get others to do what he wished. Everything was subtle and understated. For this reason, he was an ideal mentor as I started my teaching career: he gave advice not orders; suggestions not instructions. He supported with kindness and understanding, allowing me to offer opinions and try out new ideas, even if I made mistakes."

He leaves his wife, Hekka, a distinguished concert pianist, who was much involved in the life of the School during his career. Those who attended the Reading Party will remember both their contributions.

Words by John Harding, CR 1968–2005 and Caroline Wiedermann, CR 1982–2017

John Lowden, West 1966–70,
on 27 January 2026

An obituary will follow in the Autumn edition of *OL News*.

David Reed, North B 1966–70,
in November 2024 at the age of 72

Edwin (Ed) Sadd, West 1967–72,
on 20 May 2025



Edwin was born in Maldon in 1954, the second of four children of **T H Sadd, West 1926–30**. He

followed his elder brother **Alfred, West 1966–71** to The Leys, where he developed a love for the outdoors in preference to the classroom. Family holidays revolved around sailing, so to be able to continue that at school was a boon. However, the thing that most shaped his future life was scouting under the inspirational

leadership of Richard Armstrong. Expeditions to the Lake District and especially Assynt in the North West Highlands sowed the seed for his future path in life. On leaving The Leys he studied Food Science at South Bank Polytechnic, where he made the most of the further education experience which involved many hundreds of miles on his beloved Triumph motorcycles and where he added to the lifelong friendships he made at The Leys.

His next move was to buy an old Land Rover and set off across the Sahara, through West Africa to Kenya. This was followed by two more expeditions up the Nile through Egypt and Sudan, again finishing in Kenya where he married Gail, whom he had met there on the previous trip. They set up Bushbuck Adventures, running camping safaris which ran until 1998 when they returned to the UK and settled in Dorset. Back home the family history in timber caught up with him and he started a shed business in Shaftesbury which is still going to this day. His love of the outdoors was always omnipresent and he spent many hours on his allotments and was also involved in planting trees.

Edwin was a quiet person, a reluctant leader, always happy to stop and chat and lend a hand. He helped Richard Armstrong with the organisation of the Leys Assynt Reunions, and took over when Richard became ill. Edwin died on a family trip exploring the Silk Road in Uzbekistan doing what he loved: experiencing different cultures and meeting new people.

He will be missed but also remembered with love by his wide circle of family and friends.

Words by George Sadd, West 1968–73

David Tattersall, North B 1944–47,
in July 2025 at the age of 95

OL EVENTS 2026



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

THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2026

Concert for Donors & Legators – by invitation

Saffron Hall, Audley End Road,
Saffron Walden CB11 4UH

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026

OL Reunion – for OLs who joined the School 1990–99

10:30–16:45 The Leys

THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2026

OL Communion

17:00–17:30 Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road,
London EC1Y 1AU

THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2026

OLS London Drinks

18:30–20:30, venue TBC

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Cambridge Drinks

18:30–20:30 Sports Pavilion, The Leys

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026

Festive Celebration featuring The Leys Chapel Choir

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

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2026

OLS Annual Dinner

Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue,
London EC2N 2DQ, timings TBC



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 2026

Officers

President – James Middleton,
North A 1982–87

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

Chairman – Jo de Grey, Granta
1985–87

Secretary – Liz Walden

For a full listing of Officers and
Committee Members, please visit
[https://www.theleys.net/leys-
community/old-leysians/
ols-committee/](https://www.theleys.net/leys-community/old-leysians/ols-committee/)

Planning a Visit to The Leys?

We love to welcome Old Leysians back to the School. Please make sure you contact us in advance to book a suitable time to avoid disappointment, as it is no longer permissible to wander onto the site unsupervised. Please enter via the Fen Causeway gate so that we can greet you and sign you in. Thank you for your understanding, and we hope to see you soon.

Email: development@theleys.net

Telephone: 01223 508545

Alumni Organised Events

Are you organising an event for fellow Old Leysians? If so, let us know by emailing the editorial team at development@theleys.net for inclusion here.

OL Merchandise

Did you know that OL scarves, bow ties, silk ties, beanies, socks and more can be ordered online from our School shop? Browse the full collection at [https://store.theleys.net/
collections/gifts-memorabilia](https://store.theleys.net/collections/gifts-memorabilia)

If you wish to switch from printed to digital copies of OL News, or vice versa, please email development@theleys.net to let us know.

OL News is produced twice a year. If you would like to contribute an update or article for a future edition, please email the editorial team. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **31 August 2026**.

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