

THE BISLEY PAVILION APPEAL

SUPPORTING THE UPGRADING OF THE 'PAV'



THE RIFLE CLUB

Gresham's School has a long and hugely successful history of Rifle Shooting. There are many reasons that can be attributed to this but one is that the School has had its own facility at Bisley for over forty years, which has played a crucial part in the School's success and the pupils enjoyment during that time. The Pavilion, or 'Pav', has been home to many Gresham's pupils during their full-bore trips to Bisley with the Rifle Club. Everyone will have their favourite memories of their time with the Club and staying in the Pav, but many will involve the sense of community and belonging that the building provides. After a long day on the ranges, it is so important to be able to have a space to come back to relax and enjoy the company of other like-minded people.

The School and Rifle Club are immensely proud of the success so many Old Greshamians (OGs) have had in competitive shooting since leaving Gresham's – many OGs have gone on to win medals for their country and also at the Commonwealth Games and World Championships – and they are delighted by the continued success of the Club and its impact on Gresham's pupils. The OGRE (the Old Greshamian Rifle Establishment) is a testament to the commitment and life-long association so many OGs have with shooting, so much of which was born out of their time in the School's Rifle Club.

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The Pav has served the Rifle Club very well but recently it has begun to show signs of its age. It has been patched up for many years but is now in need of more serious structural work. The roof of the building has reached the end of its life and the plan is to replace it with a lighter, modern and more waterproof material. The other major area of works for the building will be to replace all the windows, which now have considerably less wood in the frames than they did when they first went in.

Both areas of work will allow for the Pav to be enjoyed by future generations of Gresham's pupils wanting to be part of the Rifle Club and compete in full-bore shooting. It is a necessary development that will ensure the building reaches the high standards found elsewhere across Gresham's sport; the planned work will guarantee the Gresham's Pav is in fine shape to house Gresham's pupils for the foreseeable future.



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A R E Q U E S T F O R S U P P O R T

With planning permission in place, the total cost of the Pavilion development comes to a little over £60,000 – a not insignificant sum. The School is able to commit to funding the majority of the upgrade; however, we are hoping to raise up to £10,000 of the funds required through philanthropic support, which would be a considerable help. We would like to ask OGRE members, current Gresham’s parents, the OG community and Friends of the School if they might be so kind and show their support to help ensure these necessary developments can go ahead in the summer. These developments will benefit not only future Gresham’s pupils but also the wider Norfolk shooting community, who we hope will also be able to make use of the improved Gresham’s Rifle Club Pavilion in Bisley.



H O W T O M A K E A D O N A T I O N

There is a dedicated giving site for the Pavilion development [here](#), whereby you can donate online, keep track of progress of the appeal and see if we reach our target of £10,000. If you would like to donate by bank transfer or by cheque, or if you have any questions, including if you are looking to donate from overseas and hope to give tax effectively, please do contact the Development Office on 01263 714529 or email development@greshams.com.

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A LIFE - LONG ASSOCIATION
WITH SHOOTING

"The discipline of Target Rifle shooting offers just that - discipline. Safety, time management, distraction control, concentration, commitment, crisis management are some of the skills I've learnt throughout my shooting life. From my foundations at Gresham's Rifle Club and OGRE, to my international shooting career, I continue to learn and apply these skills, I also take them into my life and career off the ranges - as a learner or expert, you can only control the controllables."

Dr Glyn Barnett (Woodlands 1989)

"Shooting is one of the best examples of the unique opportunities Gresham's School provides; this fascinating sport fosters confidence, patience and precision that promotes strong independence, all within an incredibly supportive team environment. It is also one of the best cases of the connection that exists between the school and its OGs. I've seen so many students benefit from the platform this gives and has provided dozens with chances to represent their country - an achievement that in many cases was just a dream before encountering shooting."

Adam Partridge (Howson's 2014 & OGRE captain)

RECOGNISING YOUR SUPPORT



As with all donors who generously give to the Gresham's Foundation, and unless anonymity is expressed, supporters of the Bisley Pavilion appeal will be included on the Foundation donor list which features on the School website, in the Old Greshamian Magazine, as well as within The Gresham magazine and Speech Day programme. In addition to this, we will install a dedicated donor board within the Pav that lists everyone who has kindly supported the appeal.

It is the School's pleasure to show its appreciation to all donors and recognise supporters in this way.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHOOTING
AT GRESHAM'S

The following is an edited extract from *A History of Gresham's School Combined Cadet Force*
by Richard Peaver (Staff 1971 - 2009 & Honorary OG)

No history of the cadet force at Gresham's would be complete without special reference to the School's pre-eminence in the world of shooting. Such is the renown of Gresham's shooting that it merits a history of its own.

It was thanks largely to Mr. Bagnall-Oakeley's (OG 1918 - 27 & staff 1933 - 68) long period in charge of shooting that the rebuilding of the contingent's reputation in this sphere took place. A particular distinction was the selection of Anthony Chivers (Farfield 1950 - 55) as a member of the Great Britain Shooting Team at the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games. A similar distinction was achieved many years later, when Dr. Glyn Barnett (Woodlands 1984 - 89) won the Queen's Prize at Bisley in 2002 and again in 2003, following this up with a Gold Medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. More recently, Dr. Barnett won a third Queen's Prize in 2019 and the silver medal at the 2024 Individual World Championships.

Following Mr. Bagnall-Oakeley's retirement in 1974, Mr. J. H. Mainstone, member of the Chemistry department, took over and continued his predecessor's good work until handing over in 1976 to Captain J. H. Rowley (Howson's 1945-48) who had arrived to teach junior Mathematics, and under whose tutelage the Rifle Club entered a period of great success. He embarked with relish on the task of building up the Gresham's organisation into one of the country's most successful shooting clubs, working with single-minded determination and producing a succession of outstanding marksmen, often uncovering latent talent in unexpected places. Several Greshamians have represented their country in international competitions while still pupils. Captain Rowley encouraged the setting up of a group of OGs who, while continuing their own participation in the sport, offered encouragement and coaching to younger shooters: The Old Greshamian Rifle Establishment. Aware of the prestige that accrued to Gresham's as a result of its distinction in the world of shooting, the Governors provided unfailing moral and financial support to the Rifle Club over the years, their faith being rewarded by a seemingly endless flow of silverware and trophies into the various display cabinets and, when room ran out, the Armoury. Lieutenant N. J. Ball and his successor, Major A. E. (Freddie) Grounds, ensured that the Club's prestige remained high. A notable success was when the school won the Ashburton Shield in 2009, repeating their 1968 victory.



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THANK YOU

The Rifle Club has been very fortunate to have had the continued and unwavering support of both the Board of Governors, as well as current and past Headmasters at Gresham's who all fully appreciate the role the Rifle Club plays within the School and the clear benefits and opportunities it gives pupils. They are extremely keen to see the Rifle Club go from strength to strength which is why they have agreed that this repair work should take place.

Any donation to the Gresham's Foundation in aid of the Pavilion will be gratefully received. It will ensure the Pav can be upgraded and on par with the other pavilions at Bisley. On behalf of the School and the Rifle Club, thank you so much for considering supporting this most important and impactful development and investing in the future of shooting at Gresham's.



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