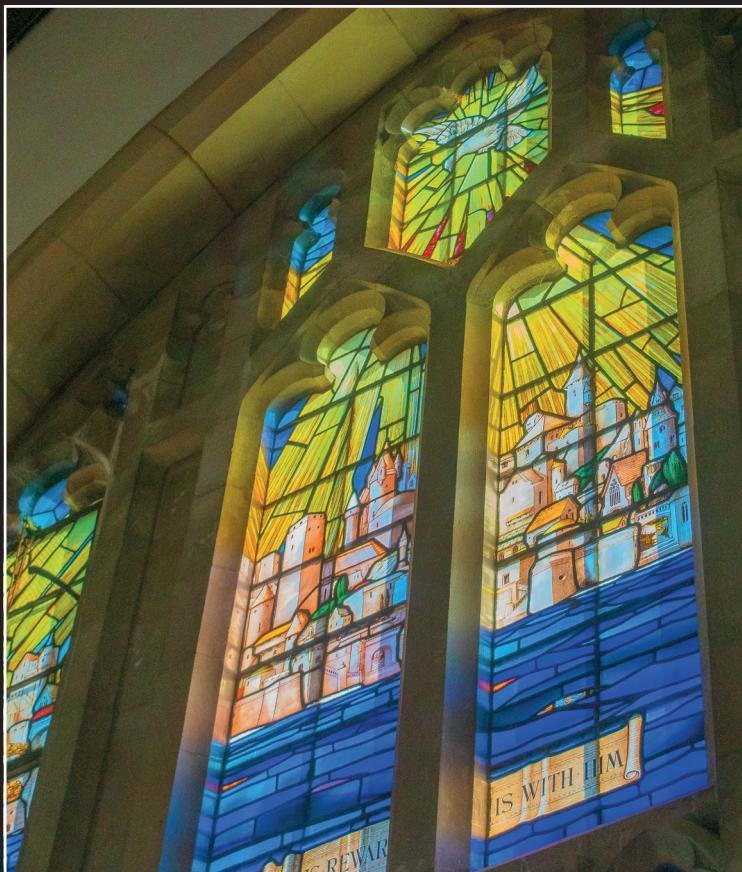




Old Greshamian Magazine



November 2025 • Number 164

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Old Greshamian Magazine

November 2025 • Number 164

Cover: Detail from the Chapel east window, created by Reginald Bell (1886 – 1950), a noted manufacturer of stained glass. The striking design was suggested by the architect, Maxwell Ayrton (1874 – 1960). It shows the City of Peace surrounded by a deep blue sea, with a Dove of Peace overhead. (Photo: Lucinda Robb)

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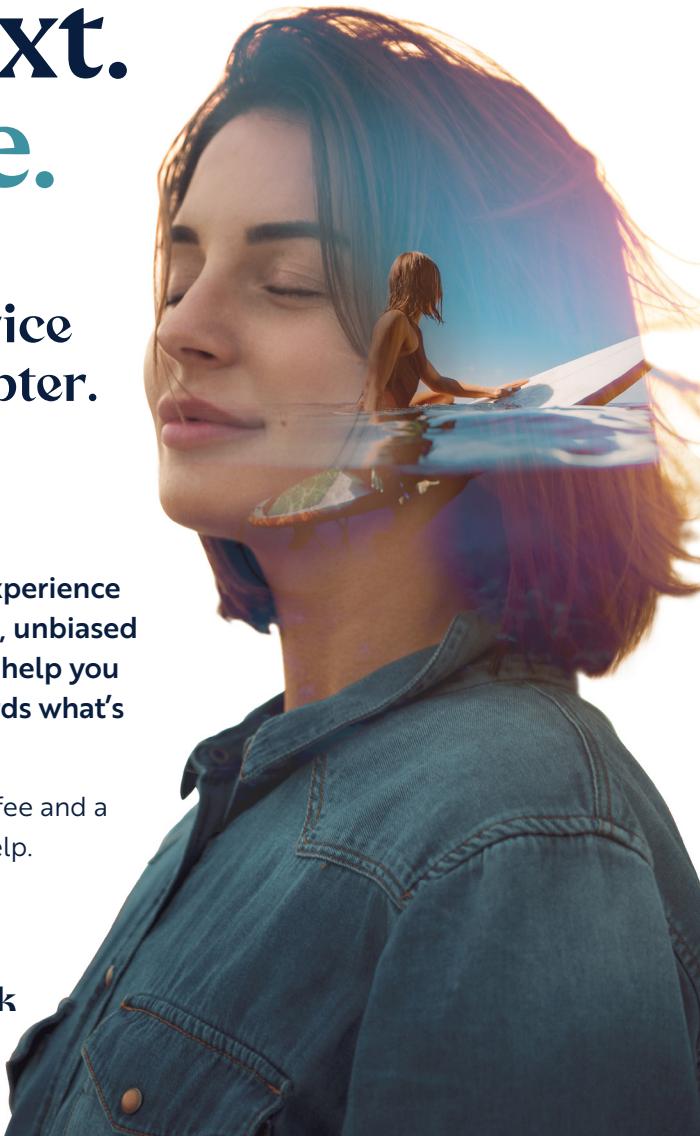
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Old Greshamian Club Committee

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Chairman: Howard Olby (howardeolby@hotmail.com) (K & F 1987 – 97)
Treasurer: Kate Olby (née Seymour) (kolby@greshams.com) (C & O 1991 – 98)
OG Governor: Charlotte Coventry (née Goff) (c_coventry@hotmail.com) (O 1996 – 01)
Club Secretary/Alumni Manager: Jo Thomas-Howard (jthomashoward@greshams.com)
Staff Representative: Mark Seldon (mseldon@greshams.com) (S 2002 –)
OG Magazine Editor: Richard Peaver (rpeaver@greshams.com) (S 1971 – 2009)

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Samuel Dacre: sam@marinepowerltd.co.uk (T 1991 – 96)
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James Morgan: morganntp@gmail.com (C & W 1980 – 89)

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From the Chairman of The Old Greshamian Club

Dear OGs,

Welcome to the 2025 Old Greshamian Magazine.

I write this as the leaves start to turn and autumn knocks on the door in North Norfolk. It seems only moments ago that the last edition dropped through letterboxes, but so much has happened since. Whilst the world continues to throw up many curveballs politically, economically and socially, I am pleased to say that the School continues on an even keel and recognition of current pupil and OG achievements is widespread.



The Club is in good form and this year has been replete with a large number of regular and new events for OGs both locally in Norfolk and across the world. I have enjoyed attending many of the reunion events held at School and meeting up with OGs in some of the strangest places. We remain particularly keen to hear from “lost” OGs and help them reconnect with the School and fellow OGs. With this in mind, our club Instagram account ([@oldgreshamianclub](https://www.instagram.com/oldgreshamianclub)) has recently gone live so please “follow” us for regular OG news, forthcoming events and reunions. And of course, do send in details of your achievements or adventures so we can share with everybody.

I must convey my thanks, as ever, to Richard Peaver for his work in editing the plethora of contributions and articles in this magazine. Also, particular thanks to Mary Cockayne who has stepped in to help support the Club administration and reunion events for the majority of this year. There is much that goes on behind the scenes at OG HQ and I remain grateful to all the Club Committee members and those who actively contribute.

Finally, our next London Drinks event at Fishmongers’ Hall will be held on Thursday 5th February 2026. I do hope to see many of you there. Details of how to book your tickets are in the “Forthcoming Events” section.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.

Best wishes,

Howard Olby (k & F 1987 – 97)

From the Headmaster

Welcome to the magazine which documents the year and activities of the OG Club. Gresham's continues to thrive and we are currently enjoying some record examination results along with strong opportunities in the co-curriculum. This means we are full and thriving, despite the best efforts of the current government!

Please do come and visit at any stage to see the developments that are in place; you will be most welcome.

With all good wishes,



Douglas Robb



Abbreviations

OSH	Old School House
H	Howson's (originally called School House)
W	Woodlands
F	Farfield
T	Tallis
G	Girls' House (later became Oakeley)
O	Oakeley
E	Edinburgh
B	Britten (later became Queens')
Q	Queens'
A	Arkell
k	Kenwyn (Junior School, then Prep. School)
c	Crossways (Junior School, then Prep. School)
o	Old School House (when part of the Junior School)
B	Bengal Lodge (later became Farfield)
D	Dayboy (pre-war)
N	Newquay dayboy (during the wartime evacuation)
S	Staff



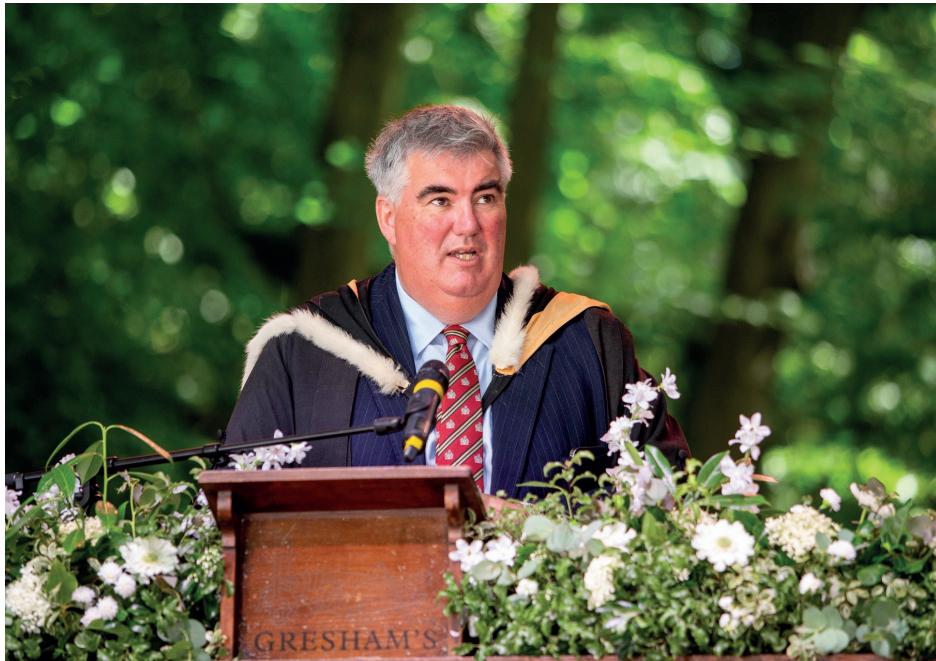
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Headmaster's Speech Day Speech, 2025



The Guest of Honour at Speech Day was Baroness Batters, former President of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales. This is an edited version of the Headmaster's speech on that occasion.

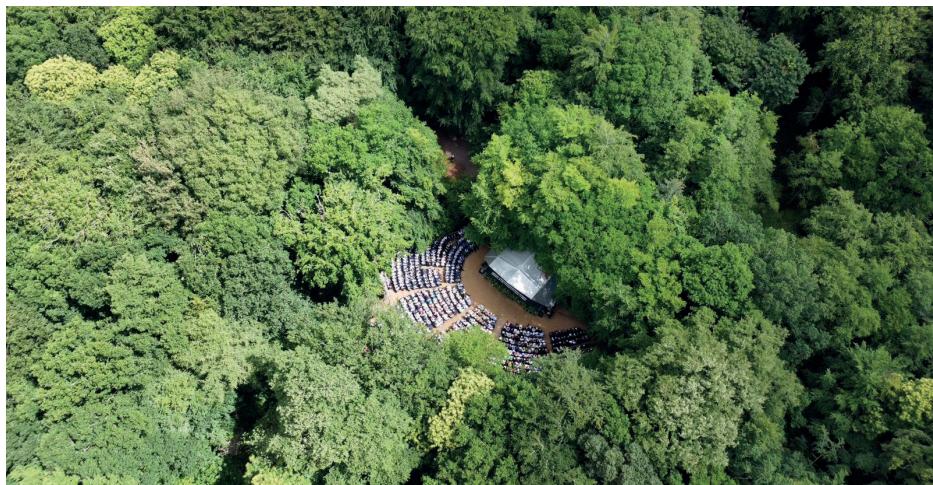
Baroness Batters, Prime Warden and Lady Fish, Mr. Chairman and his fellow Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen - good morning and welcome to Speech Day 2025.

This has been an extraordinary year. I stood here last year and wondered whether Mr. Punch or Mr. Judy would win the general election the following week. As we all know, Mr. Punch won and installed an entire "punch gang" in government who haven't really stopped swinging punches ever since. It is an uncomfortable position to be pilloried and vilified by a Secretary of State who is meant to represent children's interests but instead seems to consider independent schools to be the major problem, rather than part of any imagined solution. There has been much angst and brow-beating in the independent schools sector about how we have failed to make our case, or engage with this government; however, I would argue that it seems that the debate ended for our Chancellor at a chess tournament in 1990, or perhaps for our Secretary of State for Education at Oxford in 2001; long before your children were born.

In the face of this ideological onslaught, Gresham's has remained as optimistic and forward-looking as possible. We have rolled up our sleeves and got on with it. The strategy to deal with cost pressures has been bold and decisive. It has involved taking as much pain onto the school and trying to insulate parents as far as we can, whilst looking forward in the medium term and beyond to remain well resourced. The recent letter from the Bursar set this all out in clear terms and I know that this was well received by parents. We are so fortunate to have been able to invest so much in our estate and our education over the past decade: a classic case of fixing the roof while the sun has been shining. This has placed us in such a strong position both regionally and nationally that we continue to rise in reputation, and, more importantly, in the quality of the education on offer here.

I would like to thank the Governing Body at this point, and particularly the new Chair, PJ Marriage, who as Chair of the Finance Committee over the last decade has been at the heart of this clear and decisive decision-making. We are fortunate to have such a capable and engaged group who steer the school so well. Whilst I am talking about governing, it is important to recognise the contribution of Dr. Susan Rubin. Sue has overseen the safeguarding at Gresham's for the last seven years and has been a superb "critical friend" to our in-house team. I would like to ask you to join me in thanking all of them, but particularly Sue for their time, commitment and wisdom. Could you also join me in thanking Lottie Webster for her brilliant chairing of Friends of Gresham's School (FOGS). Those who have benefitted from the alcohol-filled golf cart, known as the "booze buggy", circling on match days will agree that she has been a fantastic leader, and I thank her for all of her efforts.

I now turn to the staff Common Room, who of course are the absolutely key players in driving educational standards here. They work hard, know their stuff and care deeply about your





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children. Gresham's now offers children a range of opportunity and a depth of care which is extraordinary, and we can only do that because of the dedication of staff. A number will be leaving at the end of the year. There is both the usual rhythm of staff moving on, but also several who are leaving because of the cost-cutting measures that we have put in place. This has been a tricky and difficult time for everyone, but leaves us in a strong position for the future.

Grant Morgan returns to South Africa after two dedicated seasons as cricket coach. Gerald Womack leaves due to ill health after two years teaching Physics. Clare Hayes returns to Switzerland after five years teaching German. Jamie Sharrock moves on to Bradfield College after six years as Housemaster of Woodlands. Rob Hazlewood moves to the Cayman Islands after teaching Physics for seven years. Bill Robinson retires after teaching Computer Science for eight years. Emma Whittle is moving back to Lancashire after nine years teaching Psychology here. John Wheeler retires after ten years teaching Chemistry. Charlie Mack moves back into the commercial world after ten years teaching Economics. Justin Myers retires after 23 years as a Music Technology teacher, and last but by no means least, Mary Myers retires after 25 years as a Learning Support teacher. I wish them all happiness in their next chapters.

I would also like to thank all of the support staff at this point: the Bursary team, who have been wading through the increasingly complex finances; I know Kate Olby will one day be able to find the HMRC so-called helpline amusing, but not just yet. The Estates team, who make the school look so wonderful. The cleaners, who work so hard all year, and the catering team who look after us all every year...



Finally, of course, I move on to the pupils. We have dispensed with the bulky and expensive Speech Day booklet this year which highlighted every pupil, and so you will have to wait until *The Gresham Magazine* is published early next year for an overview of the year. I will not name names, as doing so will undoubtedly disappoint those who remain unmentioned. Safe to say the reason I work in this school is to talk and engage with the young people. They fill me with humour, optimism and hope for the future. I would like to thank all of the leavers of 2025: you are superb, and are now well set and ready to leave - exactly what a good education should do for you. I wish you all every success and happiness in the future. Please do let us know how you are getting on in the big world of opportunity that awaits.

As you all enjoy your lunch, I would make a familiar plea to the young people: it is very important that you acknowledge the opportunity that your parents have given you to attend this School. Please do find a moment to say thank you. They really will appreciate it, and you certainly owe it to them. I want to thank all parents and grandparents for your continued support of Gresham's and for placing your trust and confidence in us to educate your child. Whilst the challenges to the sector are substantial, I believe independent education has never been more vital or valuable. I hope you all manage to have a lovely summer. If you are leaving us, please do carry Gresham's in your heart and if you are returning in September, I will look forward to seeing you - smart haircuts and all.



Reunions and Events in the Past Year

London Drinks



The grand setting of Fishmongers' Hall was the backdrop for the London drinks party in November 2024. Some 280 OGs of vintages ranging from 1955 to 2024 attended, along with ex-members of staff and the former Headmaster Hugh Wright and his wife Jill. We look forward to the next London drinks, which will take place on Thursday 5th February 2026.



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Class of 1985 Reunion



The event began at noon on Saturday 17th May and we were still going eleven hours later. There was an excellent turn-out of 36 OGs, many of whom had not seen the school, let alone one another, for four decades. We were welcomed to an almost unrecognisable Gresham's with the dazzling additions of the Dyson, Auden and Britten buildings; conversely, we looked no different. Welcome drinks and re-introductions were enlivened by the presence of former teachers Mr. Peaver, Dr. Horsley and Mr. Benson; a loud and lavish lunch in the Auden was followed by tours of the school – the chapel a cause of particular nostalgia and leading to a burst of song by former choristers – and many trips down memory lane. Finally, we adjourned to The Feathers for more stories and more drinks. Many thanks to the OG Club for superlative organisation and most of all to all who came: it was a truly joyous day!

Melissa Masters (O)



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Class of 1990 Reunion



It was with considerable anticipation and not a little nostalgia that alumni of the “Class of 1990” returned to Gresham’s, on Saturday, 14th June, for a long-since planned but very overdue reunion. Originally planned for 2020, to coincide with the 30th anniversary since we left school in 1990, advanced plans for that event had to be cancelled, regrettably, in March 2020 following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of “lockdown”. Whether it was the collective need for time and space to recover from that national curfew, or just that everyone loves a round number (!), it felt even better for those of us able to finally gather in person and in familiar surroundings, for our 35-year reunion.

From the “Class of 90 WhatsApp” created back in 2019, I am delighted to report that 68 of the original 82 “souls” remain within the group and keep the collegiate community spirit alive and kicking (as well as one might expect in the digital world, for “a bunch of olds”)! Of these, a total of 33 were able to attend the day’s proceedings, with several more expressing heartfelt regret at being unable to join us due to prior commitments. It is a testament to the enduring bonds within our cohort and with the school, that some travelled from as far as Vietnam and the United States, simply to be together for this much awaited reunion.

The festivities commenced with a welcome reception and buffet luncheon in the reception area of the Auden Theatre – a relaxing opportunity to reconnect and marvel from this vantage point, at the incredible new facilities nearby that have risen up in place of the old Biology building, “Scruff Shacks” and Portakabin 6th form “Bop” of our day. (Didn’t our 6th form year launch “The Bop”?!). For those among us who had not been back since leaving in 1990, there was not a little awe about the many ways in which Gresham’s has both preserved

its traditions and flourished anew – evidenced by the Auden Theatre and its celebrated acoustics, alongside the a state-of-the-art music department; the Dyson STEAM building, fully embracing its founding vision for both art and the sciences; new (to us) cricket pavilion and all-weather sports pitches all confirming what many of us were privileged to experience at the time, but may have not been aware of then, in the way our “wiser” heads will know and appreciate today – which is how Gresham’s seeks to set itself apart through its commitment to excellence across a wide range of endeavours that make a young person whole.

Welcome speeches by Ed Margetson and Headmaster Douglas Robb were gratefully received, so thanks to both for making the time and effort to join and welcome us. Many were also pleasantly surprised to see several of our former teachers from the 80s also making time for us on the day – hats off and gratitude to Richard Peaver, Dr. Tony Leech, Adam and Jill Edwards (née Flowerday) and Katie Walton.

Post-lunch, the time-honoured tradition of the obligatory “year group shot” on the Chapel lawn, which resulted (somewhat predictably!), in shots that lay somewhere between the formality of “shot1” and the anarchy of “shot2”! Our huge thanks go to the OG development team’s Ed Margetson, Mary Cokayne and Richard Peaver, who gave generously and graciously of their time to offer guided tours through “cherished-in-the-mind” settings for those of us who made the journey “home”: the Chapel, including a musical interlude on the newly-positioned chapel organ by you-know-who! If anyone knows the name of that very rousing piece of organ music we used to exit chapel to, after services, PLEASE direct message me, it’s been an unscratched itch in my head for decades! (*I wonder if this might perhaps be the Toccata from the Suite Gothique by Boëllmann? – Ed.*), Big School and especially for the opportunity to revisit our former boarding houses, where we were also graciously received by present-day staff. The courteous attentiveness and genuine interest shown in our recollections were most sincerely appreciated, lending the authentic sense of community that I suspect many of us had been hoping for, as we reminisced and retraced our youthful footsteps through familiar corridors.

For 26 of us, the camaraderie continued into the evening, as we gathered for dinner at the sometimes infamous, but always much-loved Feathers Hotel. Here, with much laughter and affection, the revelry lasted well into the night, demonstrating that enduring power and spirit of old friendships rekindled – and cemented, I have no doubt, by the new memories forged.

From the shared conversations, photos and comments, from both those who attended and those who couldn’t this time, the 1990 Leavers’ Reunion really felt in many ways like a beginning not an end, which is not something we’d necessarily have expected or taken as a given after the passing of 3+ decades. This surely speaks to the success and ongoing value of the reunion as something worth investing time and effort towards. Well organised, warmly hosted and deeply nourishing in its own way, I’d like to extend heartfelt thanks to

the school and to all who contributed to the day's success. As I said in a thank you card, the school's willingness to support events like these and its enduring commitment to creating a lasting sense of community can be a source of great comfort (and a reminder of the riches of community, heritage and friendship), if we allow it to be, in an increasingly challenging and sometimes crazy world. Fingers crossed our joyful occasion inspires still more Old Greshamians to come together, and that our next gathering be not long in the offing.

Nick Seecharan (k & W)

Class of 1994 Reunion



An Edinburgh House photo!

The Class of '94 gathered at Gresham's in November 2024 for what turned out to be a truly unforgettable 30-year reunion. From the moment old friends began arriving, it was as if the years melted away. Laughter and shouts boomed across the parade ground, stories grew taller with every retelling, and nicknames long thought retired made a triumphant return. The years of career paths and family life were swiftly forgotten as the Class of '94 seamlessly reverted to their 17/18-year-old selves. The following morning, however, reality reasserted itself in the form of many pale and fragile figures in Holt attempting cooked breakfast in Byfords and Horatio's.

Huge thanks must go to Jo T-H and Mary for their superb organisation and for herding us all back together with such style. Special appreciation also to the former staff members who came to see us — Miss Haines, Doc Horsley, Mr. Heaney and Mr. Peaver — whose presence meant the world and reminded us just how formative those school days were. Thank you also to Gresham's for supporting the event, and for sending Howard Olby to represent the OGs — we were all delighted to see him.

A wonderful celebration of old friends, enduring memories, and the place that brought us all together. Here's to the next one — when we will all be over fifty...

Jo Beardshaw (née Papworth) (E)

Class of 2000 Reunion



It's hard to believe it's been 25 years since the "Class of 2000" stepped out of the gates of Gresham's and into the world. On 7th June 2025, some of us OGs reunited to mark the occasion with a return to our old stomping ground.

We gathered at the CFB for a nostalgic school lunch, which felt like stepping back in time, though with a fresh appreciation for the upgraded menus! A tour followed, taking us through well-worn, familiar corridors and also into transformed and new spaces. Some boarding houses have had a full glow-up, whilst others retain their original features. Big School, still wonderfully familiar.

We thoroughly enjoyed the new Music Department, now complete with a full studio (and café!), and all loved the idea of escaping the world for a day and getting lost in the music. The Dyson Building is impressive, and we were genuinely inspired by the creativity on show from the DT and Art pupils. It wouldn't be a complete visit without popping in the Chapel, where we all remember spending our mornings together, and loved an impromptu burst of song from a few of the girls remembering their choir days.

A wander through the woods led us to the outdoor theatre and the amazing tree-top rope course and climbing tower, though of course we couldn't be there without remembering the dreaded cross-country and some other woodland extracurriculars that shall not be mentioned. We wrapped up with drinks and cake at the Auden Theatre, poring over old yearbooks and photos that the team had thoughtfully laid out for us. Needless to say, there was

much laughing about the antics of our teenage years. Remembering the good times and contemplating the impact that our experiences had on who we are today.

For many, it was a nervous return. Would we slip into old roles? Reignite old insecurities? Thankfully, it was the opposite. Easy conversations, genuine connection and shared reflection. So much so, most of us carried on at the King's Head in Holt for another couple of hours afterwards.

We may not have had everyone there, and those absent were certainly missed. But this get-together reminded us that while new friendships are of course wonderful, there's something uniquely grounding about the ones who knew you way back when. Here's to not waiting another 25 years.

Sophie Stardust (née Jewry) (O)

Class of 2005 Reunion



The “Class of 2005” reunion brought together around 20 Gresham’s alumni for a brilliant afternoon of reconnecting and reminiscing. Held in the Auden Theatre foyer, the

afternoon was a wonderful reminder of the lasting connections formed during our time at school over two decades ago. We enjoyed a tour of the impressive new facilities, including the Britten and Dyson buildings, as well as the more familiar boarding houses, chapel and Big School. Christmas drinks are already being planned so we look forward to the next gathering!

Arabella Stickler (née Peaver) (c & E)

Class of 2015 Reunion



It was wonderful to see a very large cohort from the “Class of 2015” returning to Gresham’s for our 10 year reunion. Thank you, all, for making such an effort to travel back to Holt for the occasion – some even travelling from abroad!

We enjoyed a tour of the school, exploring the many new facilities and renovations built since our last Speech Day, and relished the chance to visit our old boarding houses. We ended our tour in the chapel for a rousing congo practice with Mr. Jones, including all the favourite hymns (read: “chapel bangers”). Next followed drinks and food in the Auden Foyer, some garden games on the lawns and plenty of opportunity to catch up with old friends.

Thank you to the OG Club and Development Office, as well as numerous current Gresham’s staff, who facilitated such a fantastic day for us. Particular thanks go to Grace Redmayne, who led the planning for us all – the event was a great success and would not have happened without her.

Esme Standen (née Haywood) (c & E)

Forthcoming Events

Class of 1995 – 30-year reunion on Saturday 29th November 2025.

Class of 1986 – 40-year reunion taking place on Saturday 6th June 2026.

London drinks – Thursday 5th February 2026 at Fishmongers' Hall, London.

If you would like to organise a reunion in 2026, please get in touch (ogclub@greshams.com).

Class of 2016 (10-year reunion)

Class of 2006 (20-year reunion)

Class of 2001 (25-year reunion)

Class of 1996 (30-year reunion)

OG Masonic Lodge

Freemasonry, one of the world's oldest fraternities, takes its roots from the craft guilds of the Middle Ages, whose members, like today's freemasons, enjoyed guidance, encouragement and support from their more senior fellows. The essence of freemasonry is to teach its members good citizenship, humility and self-knowledge. Practising these values leads a freemason to become a more useful and respected member of society.

The OG Lodge was founded in 1939, to enable OGs and their guests to convene quarterly, and to be reminded of the timelessness of these masonic values, which we acknowledge through the ritual of our meeting ceremonies. Afterwards, we enjoy each other's company at relaxed and sociable dinners. Generations of old boys, both in Norfolk and throughout the world, thus sustain their personal friendships, and a continuing interest in the well-being of the school. From its foundation, this momentum has been maintained with a steady influx of OGs and masters joining our Lodge.

Characterising the moral code of freemasonry are three cardinal principles: brotherly love, relief and truth.

Brotherly love means that a freemason shows tolerance and respect for the opinions of others, and behaves with kindness and understanding to his fellows.

Relief implies that freemasons are taught to practise charity, and to care not only for themselves and their immediate family, but also, within their individual means, for the community as a whole.

Truth is our quest for awareness and enlightenment. Self-recognition of personal

strengths and weaknesses encourages behavioural patterns that maintain a freemason's self-respect and reputation within his community.

The OG Lodge meets four times per year, three in London (January, April and September) and one at school in June. We have some 20 members across a wide age range of past pupils who all thoroughly enjoy each other's company, take part in ceremonies and enjoy dinner afterwards. We don't have a fixed location for dining in London, preferring to vary with numbers attending and for variety. As members of the Public School Lodges' Council as individuals and a group, we have links to other similar Lodges and regularly meet jointly with the Old Rugbeians Lodge. The June meeting always has a formal dinner at the school, to which we invite family and other guests.

Whilst previously our membership was restricted to old boys and staff, we are now able to accept members with any connection to the school. Should you be interested in joining either freemasonry or the OG Lodge, please contact either:

- Richard Odling – Secretary rjodling@gmail.com
- Ian Barber – Worshipful Master ian.barber@mapartners.co.uk

Richard Odling (OSH 1985 – 90)



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Development and The Gresham's Foundation

Dear Old Greshamians,

I'm delighted to say that it has been another successful year at the School: Gresham's pupils have achieved a great deal both in and outside of the classroom; there have been further developments across the whole site; and, so importantly, we have continued to see a heartening show of engagement and generosity from the entire School community, which helps to ensure Gresham's can fulfil its charitable objectives and remain a most impressive and all-encompassing school.



Ed Margetson

Academic Success

On the academic front, we were thrilled to be named the top school in the county for "Value-Added" performance at both A Level and International Baccalaureate (IB) and are placed among the top ten independent schools nationwide. Value-Added measures the progress pupils make compared to their prior attainment. This is a reflection of the exceptional teaching and support you continue to find at Gresham's.

This summer's A Level, BTEC and IB results were equally impressive: IB pupils achieved a 100% pass rate, with an average score of 37.2 out of 45 – our second-highest in 18 years of offering the programme and significantly above the global average; A level pupils are celebrating having achieved some exceptional results – 43% of pupils were graded at A* or A, well above the national average of 28%, while 88% were graded A*-C, continuing the trend set by last year's cohort; and pupils are also celebrating the School's best ever BTEC results, whereby 43% achieved the highest Distinction Starred grade, which is a significant increase from last year's 13%. Our congratulations to all recent leavers on their results.

Developments and changes

As you will know, we are in the fortunate position of relocating the Prep. School to Holt Hall, which we were able to acquire in 2023 thanks to Sir James Dyson's further and quite remarkable support. The move has been rescheduled from September 2026 to September 2027 due to unforeseen delays. This is a real shame, but necessary, and will ensure the new school can successfully open at the start of an academic year, thereby giving pupils and staff the best possible beginning in their new home.

We have also seen changes in the leadership teams at both the Prep. School and Nursery and Pre-Prep. We bade a fond farewell to Cathy Braithwaite – who led the Prep School with great care and distinction for seven years – but are delighted to welcome Sarah Hollingsworth as the new Head of the Prep., bringing her warmth and vision after serving as the Head of the Nursery and Pre-Prep. for nine years. Furthermore, and in a rather special moment in the School's history, I am sure you will be delighted to hear that OG Sophie Stephens (née Morfoot) (E 1996 – 2001) has stepped into the role of Head of the Nursery and Pre-Prep., having been the Deputy Head since 2023.

The OG Spirit

The Old Greshamian Club's programme of reunions and events was as full as ever this year, with eight year group reunions at Gresham's taking place and other OG meet-ups happening both here and around the country. In total, more than 300 OGs came back for their class reunions. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially to those OGs who helped organise these occasions.

Bursaries, scholarships and other programmes – your impact

With regards to the Gresham's Foundation, our second Giving Day in March saw another display of great generosity. Over £100,000 was raised for the Gresham's Foundation Bursary Fund during the appeal. This support is vital and helps to open doors for talented pupils who would otherwise be unable to join the School. Our sincere thanks go to all the Old Greshamians, parents and friends who donated during Gresham's Giving Day 2025.

The Bruce-Lockhart Endowment Fund, which has now been supported by over 300 donors, enabled the School to offer the first Bruce-Lockhart Award in September 2023. This full bursary supported a 6th Form pupil from the local area who is now set to go and study at Cambridge University – a testament to the life-changing impact a bursary at Gresham's can have on a young person. The next award has gone to a Year 9 boy and it will support him throughout his time at the School.

Additional and significant support towards overseas scholarships, the hugely impressive STEAM outreach programme – which sees more than 35 local state schools and their pupils come to the School each year – as well as a recently devised and fully-funded AI Fellowship programme, are just three other areas and programmes that donors have supported this past year.

Gifts in Kind

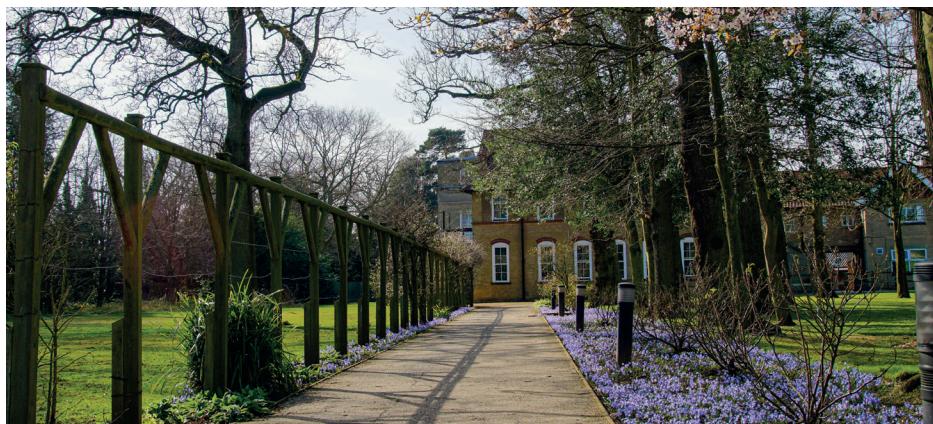
I would also like to draw your attention to some wonderful gift in kind donations that we have received. The Sir Colin Anderson Memorial Trust commissioned two striking wall rugs that are now hanging proudly in the Dyson Building. These were designed by two Year 11 pupils and crafted by Deirdre Dyson's team. Our Agriculture programme is also developing fast thanks to the support of families and businesses who have donated farm animals (lambs, chickens and pigs) and equipment to the School. The BTEC in Agriculture course at Gresham's provides young people with a comprehensive introduction to farming and business, giving them an excellent foundation for the future.

You can read more about the wall rugs donation and unveiling on page 51. I am sure you will agree these donations and that towards our Agriculture programme are fine examples of how gifts in kind continue to play an important role in the development and enhancement of Gresham's.

As we look back at the past year, we are reminded time and again of the strength and generosity of the Gresham's community. Whether it is through sharing time, talent, or resources, Old Greshamians continue to help shape the School whilst staying connected to its past.

Thank you for your support.

Edward Margetson
Director of Development
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emargetson@greshams.com





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The Gresham's Foundation

We would like to thank the following Old Greshamians, Parents, Governors, Staff, Friends and Organisations for their donations to the Gresham's Foundation over the past year.
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Careers Department

What a fantastic year it's been for Careers at Gresham's – and once again, we are so grateful for the incredible support from our Old Greshamian community. From Academic Enrichment talks for 6th Formers to the buzzing bi-annual STEAM Careers Fair in The Dyson Building, your contributions have helped make a real difference. Highlights also included the inspiring Agriculture Conference, our ever-popular Business Breakfast, the IWD Panel, the Post-18 Options Conference and invaluable support through mentoring, gap year guidance, degree apprenticeship advice, and work experience placements.

OGs have kindly given their time via Teams calls – whether with individuals or small groups – offering insights into specific sectors, the Armed Services, summer jobs, or personalised career support. Your willingness to share your time, expertise, and experiences continues to grow – and it's truly appreciated by both pupils and staff. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped this year. If I've missed your name or input in this note, please accept my sincere apologies.

If you'd like to get involved in future events or initiatives, please do email me at sosborne@greshams.com – I would love to hear from you.

OGs who have helped the Careers Department over the past year

Michaelmas Term 2024	
Cecily Rainey	Discussion re setting up work experience programme with Saachi Yates
Harry Todd	Talk about his experience as a "Gappie" with The Geelong College, Australia
Duncan Baker	Academic Enrichment talk on Politics and his own journey
Tilly Mann	
Lucy Reader	Academic Enrichment talk on their respective university studies and onward journey
Joe Nash	
Soji Ajayi	Academic Enrichment talk for Black History Month
Maria Butcher	Talk to music pupils on her degree study at BIMM and onward career
Grace Redmayne	Teams call with U6 pupil: Engineering Software Development
Simon Whitmarsh-Knight	Discussions meetings on a talk to 6 th Form on business, fashion, sustainability
Jason Berry	Help for 6 th form pupil sourcing financial work experience in China
Calvin Chan	
Group Captain Matt Peak	
Adam Mehers	
Jack Spencer-Ashworth	Exhibitors at the 2024 biannual STEAM learning careers fair in The Dyson Building
Zhihao (Henry Li)	
Lizzie Bennett	
Zuleika Gerrish	

John Cushing	Drama students' opportunity to attend Thursford Christmas Dress Rehearsal and Show
Charles Cushing	
George Cushing	
Izzy Symington	Discussion re Gap year skiing in Japan
Ollie Smith	Discussion re postgraduate sports employment
Lent Term 2025	
Zak Kemp	Agriculture Conference – Apprentice with Holkham Farming Co.
Charlotte Coventry	Agriculture Conference – Veterinary & Livestock
Joseph Beardshaw	Agriculture Conference – Grain Trader
Finley Willcox	Agriculture Conference - Junior Agronomist
Arthur Willcox	Agriculture Conference – Agriculture Undergraduate at Newcastle University
Matilda Craven	Discussion re History of Art at the University of Cambridge (Trinity College)
Lara King	Teams call with 6 th Form pupils: gap year travels with Gap 360 in Ghana
Lisa Simon	IWD Panellist – The Language of the Workplace
Charles Howard	Assistance to U6 pupil on Project Management Degree Apprenticeship
Charlotte Coventry	Business Breakfast – Farming – Foxburrow Farm
Ian Barber	Business Breakfast – Accountancy – M&A Partners
Hugh Rich	Business Breakfast – Broking/Investment – OAK Securities
Frankie Sutton	Business Breakfast – Wealth Planner – Succession Wealth
Jack Small	Business Breakfast – Property Specialist – Sowerbys
Henry Baker	Business Breakfast – Head of Business Development – C T Baker Ltd
Tim Armstrong	
Summer Term 2025	
Benjamin Shrive	Discussions re talk on careers in computing /IT
Tom Rawlings	Financial planning opportunities talk and helping Bristol University postgraduate
Soji Ajai	Assistance with financial work experience
Dulcie Osborne	Q&A with pupils about her Law degree study and career journey
Camilla Foster	Offer of help to current pupils interested in Dentistry
Jonathan Beckett	Support to OGs & current pupils: work experience and yachting opportunities
Colonel Paul Clayton	Online talk to pupils interested in the Armed Forces and Defence Sector
Edward Rich	Post 18 Options Conference: Gap year insight
Joel Philpott	Post 18 Options Conference: talk on Music Technology, Salford University
Beth Dunk	Post 18 Options Conference: talk on Pharmacy degree UEA
Genevieve Iles	Post 18 Options Conference: talk on medical student at UEA
Erin Lowe	Post 18 Options Conference: talk on studying Law at University of Leeds
Work Experience Summer 2025	
Sam Matthews	Work Experience with Stockbrokers Barratt & Cooke, Norwich
Edward Sidgwick	
Jonathan Beckett	
Charlotte Coventry	Work Experience with Foxburrow Farms

Sue Osborne

Head of Careers, Academic Enrichment Talks coordinator, STEAM coordinator



Honours and Distinctions



Richard and family supporters

Richard Millman (k & T 1970 – 77) won the 2025 US Masters 65+ Squash Championships. In the past, Richard has won nine US national titles, four Canadian national titles and a British national title. He has been ranked in the top two in his age group for over 20 years and has been recognised for his sportsmanship and his promotion of the game, not only in the United States, but worldwide. Richard and his wife, Pat, became US Citizens in 2013.

Professor Roderick Watkins DL (H 1978 – 82) was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire in 2021. Roderick went to America for his undergraduate education, gaining a BA in Philosophy and a BMus in Composition from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in Ohio. Thereafter, he returned to the UK to undertake an MMus and PhD at the Royal Academy of Music, followed by a year at IRCAM in Paris. His teachers included Hans Werner Henze, with whom he went on to collaborate closely on a number of projects throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.



Roderick

Roderick's particular interest is in digital sound synthesis and the combination of acoustic and synthetic timbres. His compositions have been performed and broadcast across Europe and the UK. His opera *The Juniper Tree*, commissioned by the Munich Biennale and co-produced with Almeida Opera, IRCAM and the London Sinfonietta, was premiered in 1997 in Munich and London – and called “a triumph” by *The Times*. Other works include *Labirinto* (Montepulciano Festival, 1991), *Red Light* (London Sinfonietta, 1998), *Still* (Britten Sinfonia, 2000), *Trace* (Ensemble Intercontemporain, 2010) and *Lament* (Amsterdam Cello Octet, 2011).

Since 2019, Roderick has been Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University, which he first joined in 2014 as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Arts, Law and Social Science, before being appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) in 2015. Prior to joining ARU, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Canterbury Christ Church University, where he was appointed Professor of Composition and Contemporary

Music in 2005. In other roles, he is a Director of Cambridge Ahead, Cambridge Network, the ARC Universities Group and University Alliance, and a Governor at the College of West Anglia. He was a member of the Advisory Group for Lord Stern's Review of the Research Excellence Framework (2015 – 16), and the Research England/UK Working Group developing the Knowledge Exchange Concordat (2018). He was for many years a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College, and has wide-ranging experience as a trustee or board member of a number of arts, education and charitable organisations.

Anna McFadyen (O 1990 – 92) received a Special Recognition Award from the Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GLOBALWIIN) at the “Women Driving the Growth of Sustainability, Responsible Innovation & Inclusivity” Conference in October 2024, the Award citing her “tenacity and innovative achievements”.

Brad Smith (k & W 2001 – 11) won the English Open for Golfers with a Disability for the second successive year at Ramside Hall in Durham in June 2025. A talented golfer since



Brad

his early teens, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer at the age of 22, resulting in his having to adjust to life as an amputee. During his rehabilitation, returning to golf was a source of motivation and over the subsequent eight years he has gone on to achieve much success in the sport. He believes golf should be included in the Paralympics.

Beth Dunk (c & O 2013 – 20) graduated in 2025 with a 1st Class MPharm from the University of East Anglia. She was also awarded the Prize for Drug Delivery by the School of Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Pharmacology.

Poppy Robinson (O 2016 – 21) graduated in 2025 with a 1st Class BA in Modern Languages (French and Russian) from the University of Bristol.



Beth

Jasmin Taylor-Riches (c & O 2015 – 22) was awarded a 1st Class at the University of Leeds for her biomedical science degree dissertation entitled “Validation of three putative bone metastasis targets of Endo180 induced by basement membrane stiffness, OGN, ECM1 and ECM2, and their impact on survival in breast cancer”. In her project she investigated three targets found in the cellular membranes and managed to prove that

one of them (ECM1) is present at high levels in triple negative breast cancers, whereas it is not present in less aggressive tumours. Jasmin intends to develop her research further at postgraduate level.

Elyzia Wong (E 2018 – 22) graduated in 2025 with a 1st Class LL.B (Bachelor of Laws) at Durham University. Her dissertation was titled “For the Sake of Financial Stability: Are Central Counterparties and OTC Derivatives Markets Ready for EMIR 3.0’s Active Account Requirement?”.



Nathan receives his honour from the Lord-Lieutenant

Nathan Liberman BEM (S 2010 –) has been awarded the BEM for services to the community and to the NHS in North Norfolk. Nathan is a volunteer community first responder at the East of England Ambulance Service and has been called out to over 7,000 emergencies during his 17 years' service, being particularly busy during the pandemic.











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Engagements, Marriages and Births

We are delighted to announce these happy events. It is assumed that when they are published in the press, or on social media, OGs are willing for us to record them in the Magazine.

Engagements

Thanesh Armugam (k 1990 – 98) is engaged to Lauren Seeney.

Sophie Stardust (née Jewry) (O 1994 – 98) is engaged to Steve Bennington.

Olivia Collinge-Gawn (c & O 1997 – 2011) is engaged to **Ben Chandler** (H 2005 – 10).

Sam Elsby (k & T 2000 – 11) is engaged to Carys Blundell.

Nathan Lomax (k & T 2006 – 13) is engaged to Nicky Burgis.

Joseph Rounce (W 2009 – 14) is engaged to Giselle Marquez.

Marriages

Jan Faulkner-Smith (W 1984 – 87) married Sophie in October 2024.

Charlotte Hodgson (c & O 1993 – 2002) married Sean Jermy in September 2025.

Celia Dupont (c & B 1995 – 2005) married Charlie Mortelman in June 2025.



Sean and Charlotte



Charlie and Celia



Lil and Dave



Charlie and Alice

Lil Rice (O 2003 – 07) married David Cross in September 2024.

George Cushing (W 2005 – 10) married Mimi Emmett in March 2025.

Charlie Fiddian (k & H 2003 – 11) married Alice Fellows in July 2025.

William Briscoe (F 2009 – 12) married Scarlet Donohoe in June 2025.



Tom and Rachel

Thomas Mawson (k & F 2000 – 11) married Rachel Morley in February 2025.



Scarlet and Will

Sophia Haywood (c & E 2006 – 13) married Joe Cook in August 2025.



Amelia and Alex

Alex John (F 2008 – 13) married Amelia Wallis in May 2025.



Sänziana-Dana and Aaron

Aaron Agboola (F 2008 – 13) married Sänziana-Dana Poponete in October 2024.



Grace and Jamie

Grace Pitkethly (c & E 2003 – 15) married **Jamie Farnell** (W 2010 – 15) in September 2024.



Icona and Rupert

Rupert Knight (k & F 2008 – 15) married **Icona Francavilla** in October 2024.

Tom Lomax (T 2010 – 15) married **Georgia Beckett** (E 2012 – 17) in August 2025.

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Jade and Joseph

Jade Munro (O 2013 – 15) married Joseph Lee in September 2025.



Rob and Tilly

Rob Woodhouse (k & H 2007 – 16) married **Tilly Ward** (O 2012 – 16) in June 2025.



Harriet and Samuel

Harriet Kemble (c & B 2001 – 16) married Samuel Towers in August 2025.



Annabelle and Will

William Retter (k & F 2003 – 18) married Annabelle Hill in December 2024.

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Verity and Moritz

Verity Wills (E 2015 – 20) married **Moritz Kessler** (F 2017 – 20) in April 2025.

Births

Congratulations to **Will Mellor** (k & T 1988 – 99) and **Lucy Tufts** (O 2001 – 02) on the birth of Charlotte Coco in November 2024.

Congratulations to **Tim Gates** (k & T 1995 – 2002) and Isabelle on the birth of Carmen Arabella in March 2025.

Congratulations to **Iain Heaton** (F 1996 – 2002) and Laura on the birth of Benjamin.

Congratulations to **Joel Levitt** (k & T 1997 – 2003) and Sarah on the birth of Cooper in January 2025.

Congratulations to **The Hon. Oliver Dannatt** (H 2001 – 03) and Chloe on the birth of Alfred Patrick in November 2024.

Congratulations to **Jeremy Elliott** (F 1999 – 2004) and Holly on the birth of Theo in December 2024.

Congratulations to **Celia Mortelman-Dupont** (c & B 1995 – 2005) and Charlie on the birth of Harry Oliver Dudley in September 2024.

Congratulations to **Georgina Nicholson** (c & E 1992 – 2006) and Joe on the birth of Rapha Jude Haworth in January 2025.

Congratulations to **Letitia Randell** (c & B 1998 – 2006) on the birth of John.

Congratulations to **Matt Hartley-Stevens** (k & T 1996 – 2007) and Kate on the birth of Kota Raffy in December 2024.

Congratulations to **Rowan Glennie** (k & T 1998 – 2007) and Tilly on the birth of Bobby Olive Donohoe in June 2025.

Congratulations to **Edward Sidgwick** (T 2005 – 10) and **Sophie (née Mullan)** (c & E 2004 – 11) on the birth of Imogen in September 2025.

Congratulations to **Victoria Mardle (née Taylor)** (B 2008 – 13) and George on the birth of Edward Nicholas Jon in September 2024.

Congratulations to **Nathan Gautry** (F 2008 – 13) and Barbara on the birth of Maeve Louise in April 2025.

Congratulations to **Alice Gill** (c & O 2007 – 16) and David on the birth of Lily Alison Elizabeth in July 2025.



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OG News

CELEBRATING PEACE, HOPE AND UNITY AT GLASTONBURY 2025

19TH JUNE 2025



Gerald Holtom (OSH 1924 – 31) designed the peace symbol which featured in front of the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury in June 2025.



Reggie on air

The June 2025 obituary for the ITN reporter Sandy Gall in *The Daily Telegraph* made a euphemistic but affectionate reference to Gall's sometimes well-lubricated colleague the late **Reginald Bosanquet** (N 1944), who would regularly appear on screen to read the television news "alarmingly refreshed"!

HRH the Duchess of Kent, who died in September 2025 aged 92, attended Gresham's for 6th form studies while a pupil at Runton Hill School. OGs of that era will remember her as Katharine Worsley.



Mike Pemberton (OSH 1950 – 55) found a photograph of four Greshamians on the loose in London in about 1955. From left to right, they are (probably) **Mike Chapman** (W 1951 – 54), **Michael Gerson** (W 1951 – 56) and Mike himself (cigarette nonchalantly in hand). A professionally trained actor, Mike has recently achieved online fame in later life, having gone viral as "The Norfolk Grandad" on TikTok. His most viewed video, "Impression of a Horse Scared by a Fast Car", featuring a pair of

clattering pots and some very convincing whinnying, has clocked up some seven million views. In another video, Mike imitates a Formula 1 warmup, revving up an imaginary car's engine using his mouth. On seeing this, the F1 driver Lando Norris commented: "To be fair, not bad."

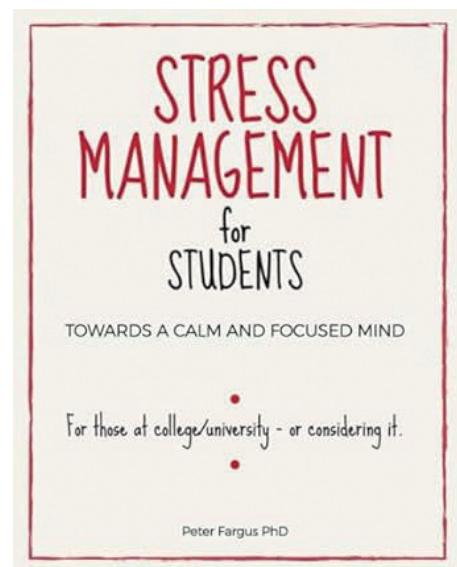


Tony Walker (k & OSH 1952 – 58) made a sketch of the Old School House during a visit in 2023, subsequently creating a detailed picture of the main building (now, of course, the Pre-Prep. School).

Sir Stephen Frears (F 1954 – 59) directed an acclaimed Channel 4 dramatisation of the 1989 television interview that was conducted by the journalist Brian Walden with Margaret Thatcher shortly before her resignation.

Oliver Linton (F 1960 – 65) retired as Head of Physics at Wolverhampton Grammar School in 2005. Since then, he has spent much of his time writing books on Mathematics, Physics, Cosmology and Philosophy. Three books have been published by Wooden Books, *Fractals, Numbers and Functions*, and a fourth is on the way: *Spacetime*. In addition, he has self-

published four more titles, all of which are available on Amazon: *A Rollercoaster Ride Through Relativity*, *In Search of Reality*, *Puzzles and Paradoxes in Relativity and Cosmology* and *An Intelligent Layman's Attempt to Understand Consciousness and Free Will*, all of which are also available for free download on his website www.jolinton.cu.uk. He would welcome correspondence with any OG with similar interests. His email is joliverlinton@gmail.com. Oliver lives with his wife in Cumbria.

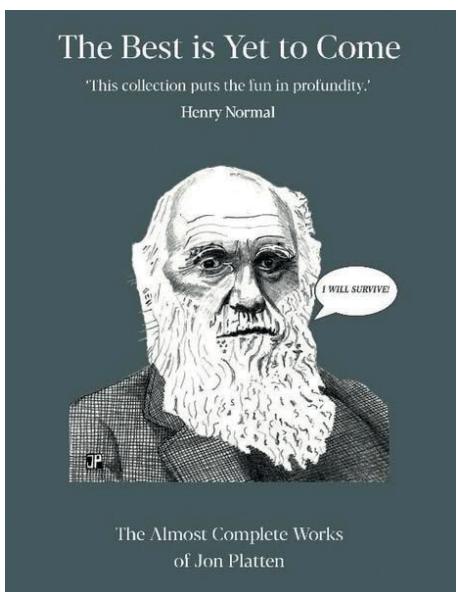


Dr. Peter Fargus (F 1966 – 69) is a psychologist specialising in managing well-being and motivation at work. He has studied at four universities in the UK and Europe and has taught undergraduate and postgraduate students as a lecturer and tutor. He has recently self-published a book, *Stress Management for Students: Towards a Calm and Focused Mind*, which is available on Amazon and has already

received numerous five-star ratings from both Britain and abroad.



Nick Catchpole (T 1969 – 71) was surprised and pleased to receive a plaque from the PGA to mark his more than 50 years' career as a Pro Golfer. It is shown here together with the PGA Trainee of the Year that he won in 1974, the first time it had been awarded.



Jon Platten (F 1974 – 79) retired from teaching in 2017. At that stage he was Principal of Open Academy Norwich, where he oversaw a doubling of the GCSE results, a large increase in student numbers and 100% of students going into education or employment with training. All this was achieved in a school with significant levels of deprivation. Prior to that, he had been Headteacher of Alderman Peel High School in Wells. At the time he left, it was one of only four state secondary schools in Norfolk judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. Since retiring, he has kept busy but earlier this year was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In February he underwent surgery and currently the cancer is undetectable. He has just published a collection of poetry called *The Best is Yet to Come*, which, as well as chronicling the cancer experience, addresses themes as diverse as climate change and British puddings. The book is available from Amazon or directly from Jon.

Dr. Phil Dawson (H 1978 – 79) competed alongside his brother **Robin** (H 1981 – 82) and their teammate Jeff Roth in the United States Adventure Racing Association National Championships in September 2024. They spent the first 12 hours sharing the Snowshoe West Virginia area with Hurricane Helene. It was, Phil says, “epic”!

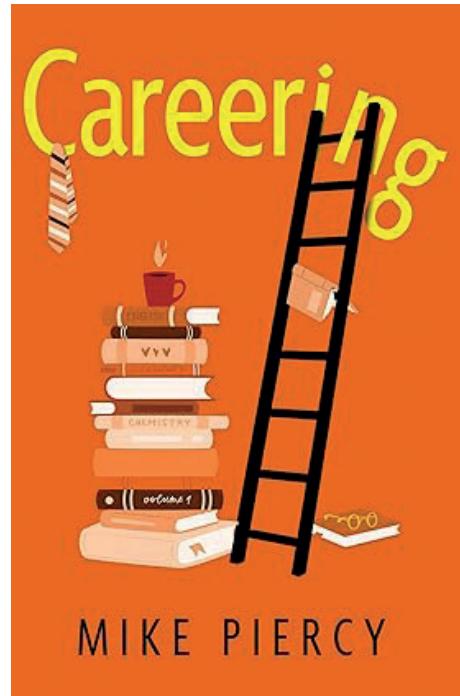
Michael Piercy (c & OSH 1970 – 80) retired in 2023 after many years as Headmaster of three prep. schools, latterly The New Beacon in Sevenoaks. He enjoyed a career that he found immensely rewarding, albeit sometimes challenging, especially during the Covid pandemic. He



Mike

was much influenced by the inspirational teachers he had at Gresham's, citing especially **Graham Smithers** (S 1964 – 2004), **Steve Benson** (S 1963 – 84) and **Michael Allard** (S 1959 – 93). Mike modestly (*and probably unjustly! – Ed.*) claims that he was not a top-flight pupil academically, but feels that this gave him a particular empathy with children who find academic work less appealing!

In retirement, aside from his work as an educational consultant, Mike has found time to self-publish a wide-ranging book, *Careering* (Amazon 2024). It follows his journey in education from Gresham's pupil to school Head, via work at eight different establishments, culminating in 25 years in headship, and offering insight into leadership and the challenges faced by those running schools. As a Governor of Sedbergh, Mike has first-hand insight into



the challenges faced by a combined prep. and senior school in a rural setting.

Commodore David Pond MBE RN (Retd) (S 1978 – 80) has been working in a civilian capacity with Ukrainian NGOs and recently delivered a further vehicle to a medical battalion operating in the east. The punishing terrain in which these vehicles work means they are regularly off the road needing significant repair, or become fit only for scrap. David was also able to provide emergency medical supplies to the Hospitallers Ukraine Aid, who continue their courageous work to rescue people from the combat zone. He also delivered more EcoFlow Power Banks to hospitals. During David's first night in Kyiv, six civilians were killed in a high-rise

residential building and 33 were injured as 352 Russian drones and 16 missiles targeted the city. He has become acutely aware of the mental and physical toll the war is taking on the population, as well as their extraordinary courage and resilience.

Oliver Marlow (c & H 1973 – 81) is Head of External Relations at Eastbourne College and continues to teach English after serving as Head of that Department for some years. Prior to his time at Eastbourne, he was Deputy Head at Barnard Castle School.

Andrew Ford MVO (OSH 1980 – 82) retired from the Diplomatic Service in June 2024. He and Deli celebrated 30 years of marriage shortly afterwards and are enjoying planning the next 30.



Ken in his younger days

Ken Taylor (S 1971 – 83) turned 90 in 2025, the occasion being marked by a fullpage spread in *The Times* sports section celebrating his achievements as an England cricketer as well as a skilled footballer, playing for Huddersfield Town, Bradford and Sligo Rovers. He made his first appearance as a cricketer aged 16, playing for Yorkshire, winning his county cap at 21 and subsequently opening the batting for England against India in 1959. In 1964, he made 160 against the visiting Australians.

Christopher Deane (H 1979 – 84) has served for 32 years as the National Farmers' Union East Norfolk Group Secretary but is now stepping down to work with his brother **Nicholas** (F 1975 – 80) in the family's farming and contracting business. Chris was awarded the President's Cup at the Stalham Farmers' Club's annual dinner in April 2025.



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

Espen Rønneberg (H 1980 – 85) lives with his family in Fiji, where he is Senior Adviser, Climate Change Multilateral Agreements, for the Pacific Community. He has written extensively on the implications of climate change on the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS). An earlier newspaper article about Espen, when he lived in Samoa, appears later in this edition. As

a Norwegian Army veteran of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), he was invited by the Deputy Prime Minister to attend the ANZAC Day commemoration.



Espen



Unveiling a hanging

Airlie Inglis (née Carver) (O 1980 – 85) is a Trustee of a fund set up by her

grandfather, and governor of the school, Sir Colin Anderson, with the intention of beautifying the school premises with works of art. The Fund recently paid for two wall hangings, designed by pupils and created by the Deirdre Dyson Carpet Company, to be placed in the Britten Building. Airlie and her mother, Mrs. Rose Carver, duly unveiled the splendid hangings in May. For more than forty years, the Sir Colin Anderson Memorial Trust has commissioned multiple pieces of art for the school, including the bouncing ball structure by the Parade Ground, the Auden and Britten stone pillars by the Chapel and behind the Auden Theatre, and the stone hand that lives outside the Cairns Centre, to name just a few.

Will Beeson (k & F 1978 – 86) is the founder of Holt Padel which opened in July 2025 with brand new, state-of-the-art canopy-covered padel courts. **Richard Millman** (k & T 1970 – 77) is the resident coach at Holt Padel. Will and Richard hope to form an OG Padel squad to compete in future UK Padel Schools Alumni Championships and other tournaments. Please email ogclub@greshams.com if you would like to be involved in OG Padel.

Soji Ajayi (F 1984 – 86) returned to the school in October 2024 to talk to the Year 13 (3rd Form) pupils, reflecting on balancing culture and opportunity, and his journey of perseverance, identity, and the pursuit of excellence – all delivered with a message of embracing



Soji

positivity, understanding and being happy with your own identity.



Ben

Ben Tufnell (k & F 1979 – 87) curated a show for the contemporary art gallery

CLOSE in Somerset in September 2025. Ben is Director of Parafin, an independent art gallery in London. Previously, he was a Curator at Norwich Castle Museum, Tate Britain, and Curator and then Director of Exhibitions at Haunch of Venison, London. Since the mid-1990s, Ben has curated or co-curated over 100 exhibitions and has contributed essays and texts to numerous magazines, catalogues and books, focusing in particular on artforms that engage with ideas of landscape and nature. His books include *Land Art* (Tate Publishing, 2006), *On The Very Edge Of The Ocean* (Tate St. Ives Research Series, 2006), and *In Land: Writings Around Land Art and Its Legacies* (Zero Books, 2019). He has been longlisted or highly commended for the BBC Short Story Award (2022), the Sean O'Faolain Short Story Prize (2022), The White Review Short Story Prize (2021) and the Disquiet Fiction Prize (2020). In 2022 he was shortlisted for the Society of Authors' ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award for short fiction. His debut novel, *The North Shore*, is a work of gothic literary fiction, published by Fleet Books (Little Brown) in 2023.

Emma Armitage (née Bowett) (O 1985 – 87) took a degree in hospitality management, married and moved to Kent. After having two children, including **Jack** (T 2014 – 16), she trained to teach and moved back to Norfolk eight years ago. She teaches at OneSchool Global in Swaffham, where one of her colleagues is **Angela Knight** (S 1990 – 93), former Edinburgh House Tutor.



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Ben Soppitt (k & W 1982 – 89) lives in California. He laid a new gravestone in 2024 for his grandfather at the British War Cemetery at Basra in Iraq. Ben's grandfather died in 1941 whilst serving in the Royal Artillery. This is the third largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, holding over 5,000 graves from both world wars. Badly damaged during the Iran-Iraq war, and again later during the two Gulf wars, it was cleared by the CWGC, then abandoned, and now lies in an extremely dilapidated state, with not a single grave marked. Ben was the first member of his family to visit the site, and had been planning this trip for 30 years – originally with his father, who died a few years back. He has a Facebook page (Friends of Basra War Cemetery) dedicated to the Cemetery and has received many requests for photographs of individual grave locations – a hard task when the site is at present a largely empty muddy field. **Simon Kinder** (S

2003 –) was able to inform Ben that there is one OG commemorated on the memorial, **Lieutenant and Adjutant Leon Asher Soman** (o & W 1902 – 07) of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and previously the Norfolk Regiment and Canadian Army, who was killed by a sniper in March 1917 and who has no known grave. Information about Leon was gathered as a result of a History project at the school and can be read online at www.greshamsatwar.co.uk.



Leon Soman



Mark Joll (c & T 1982 – 91) hosted a visit in December 2024 from Year 13 Business classes to his firm, Sponge, to learn about their marketing and production functions. The pupils were particularly delighted with the mixed box of delicious, fresh brownies they each received, printed off in a customised Gresham's box!

Dr. Jan Jansen (W 1989 – 91) continues to live and work in the United States, as a trauma surgeon and academic. His research is focused on clinical trials, in patients with severe haemorrhage and traumatic brain injuries. His spare time is spent with his family, and skydiving. Last year, he obtained his Accelerated Freefall instructor rating. He also continues to work on his swooping! (In a previous existence, Jan served two tours in Afghanistan as a British Army reservist in the Parachute Medical Squadron and was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.)



Ralph Fiennes and Miranda

Miranda Raison (E 1990 – 91) will appear in April 2026 opposite Ralph Fiennes at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in a new play by David Hare, *Grace Pervading*. Fiennes will take the role of Sir Henry Irving, while Miranda will play Ellen Terry ("Miranda Raison – a rare marvel" – *The Observer*,

"Miranda Raison – a gorgeous performance" – *The Financial Times*; "Miranda Raison – exceptional" – *The Guardian*.)



Michael Allard (S 1959 – 93) and **The Rev. Angela Dugdale MBE DL** (S 1992 – 97) came back to school in January 2025 to talk about their memories of the 1990 choir tour to Odessa – an unusual destination at the end of the Gorbachev (pronounced "Gorbachoff") era. This visit resulted in an exchange visit from Gordienko Children's choir of Odessa. Whilst the Greshamians experienced dreadful food and bedbugs and saw first-hand the contrast of black-market riches and stark poverty, they performed to capacity audiences in Odessa's Opera House and newly-reopened churches. The repertoire of choral music required the assistance of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, to be performed. All in all, it was an eventful and memorable October half term.

David Carmalt (k & F 1986 – 94) and his wife, January, have launched a Norfolk clothing brand, "Spotted-Seal" (www.spotted-seal.co.uk), inspired by, and celebrating, their favourite corner of England. It was while walking along



Beeston Bump in 2024 that they had the idea of creating a brand of “fun”, functional, coastal lifestyle wear celebrating Norfolk and its famous fin-footed pinnipeds! With an emphasis on making ethically and sustainably, Spotted-Seal aim to produce as much as possible in the UK. They were selected to sell at the Sandringham Motor Pageant and Holt Sunday Market, and also featured as a regular pop-up in Holt during the summer.



“Long Heart” by Molly, 2022

Molly Fallon Bernstein (E 1993–94) gained a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in painting from Kansas State University. She currently advises and teaches in the Department of Art at Kansas State University. Her husband, also an artist, is a Professor at the University. They recently moved to a house that allows both to have dedicated studio spaces. Molly’s work from the Cryptogamic Botany Company was featured in Martha Stewart Living Magazine. (*Cryptogamic Botany is the field of study of spore-producing plants and similar spore-producing organisms.*). Among other experiences, Molly has been variously a display coordinator at Anthropologie in Seattle, a children’s librarian, a permit holder for collecting roadkill, and a herbarium technician. She was unable, for obvious reasons, to attend the “Class of 1994” reunion in October 2024, but was pleased to see the photographs of the occasion on the OG Facebook page. She still has some of the art she made at Gresham’s and remembers being there “as if it was almost yesterday, even though it’s been over 30 years... Many great memories”. She would love to connect with any contemporaries from her time at Gresham’s.



The photograph shows Molly and fellow A Level pupils, including **Alison Cass**

(née Braybrook) (c & E 1987 – 95), **Chris Gadd** (k & H 1987 – 95) and **Chris Barclay** (H 1990 – 95) in a 1994 Mathematics class of the legendary **Graham Smithers** (S 1964 – 2004)!



Lou Simpson

Louise Simpson (S 1992 – 96) has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of The British School of the Netherlands, following a number of years as Head of Exeter School. A former House Tutor of Edinburgh House, she remembers her time at Gresham's with great affection.



Jen at the BAFTAS

Jen Townsend White (c & O 1990 – 97) was nominated for the BAFTA Entertainment Craft Award for her work as the Special Effects Supervisor on "Strictly Come Dancing". Although she didn't win, she had a wonderful few days attending the Pre-Ceremony BAFTA TV Party at The V & A Museum and at the ceremony itself. Jen has worked on the show since the first series (with a short break to have her children) but has since then been back at work for the last ten years.



Sophie (R) with fellow riders

Sophie Stardust (née Jewry) (O 1994 – 98) joined 51 others in March this year on the Sisterhood Rickshaw Rally, taking six days to 1,000km coast-to-coast across south India by tuk-tuk. The women spent between six and twelve hours per day on crazy roads, starting from the centre of Chennai and finishing in Panaji in Goa. The purpose was to raise money for women and girls in Chennai, in collaboration with the local Round Table and Women's Circle. The riders raised over £130,000, which will provide training rooms for young women, classrooms for underprivileged girls and anaemia care for new mothers. Literally thousands of females will benefit

from these facilities over the course of the coming years.



Blair

Blair Barrows (k & W 1992 – 99) studied Politics, Philosophy and Sociology at the University of East Anglia before embarking on a career in events and event management. He founded and ran his own events company for over seven years, before returning to academia, gaining a MSc in International and Festival Management at Edinburgh Napier University. He has since then held several roles within Edinburgh Festival organisations and charities in the areas of venue management, staff management and project delivery. He is currently Programme Executive for Adam Smith's Panmure House, a holding of Heriot-Watt University Business School.

Tanith Harvey (née Wilson) (B 1998 – 2000) runs an equine and animal photographic company in partnership with Mark Harvey. Over the last 15 years,



their company has gained a prestigious reputation and two of their pieces have been purchased by the National Portrait Gallery for their permanent collection. In addition to commissions, Mark and Tanith have released fine art collections entitled "In Flight" and "Raptors", including several images which have been featured in National Geographic, Telegraph and Thames & Hudson publications. Their latest project deals with the diversity and personality of the Sausage Dog in @project_dachshund, which is a photographic collection of all the variations and quirks that define this breed. This will culminate in a published art coffee table book. More of Mark's and Tanith's work can be found at www.mark-harvey.com.

Suzie Sinclair Hamill (c & B 1991 – 2001) is General Manager at Society, Kirkcaldy's largest nightlife venue.

Emily Johnson (c & E 1993 – 2001) has worked in banking for many years, running large teams, typically in the area of Operations, where teamwork, values, and helping people get a start in their careers is fundamental to her work. She says that it is unusual in her industry not



Emily

to be motivated by money and power, and has made a point throughout her career of supporting diversity and equal opportunity. After school, she studied History at the University of Manchester, subsequently working at the Royal Bank of Scotland, where she stayed for 14 years – thus, to her satisfaction, proving wrong her first boss at RBS, who said she would never make it in finance, and “should go and work in a library”! Instead, she progressed to become RBS’s Relationship Director for North-West corporate businesses. After a period as Head of Operations and Commercial Director at Shawbrook Bank, she has since 2022 been Head of Operations in Allica Bank, managing a team of about 350 people in Operations, that being a natural home for her interests in both fixing things and running teams. She generously says she was inspired by the role models she had at school!

Sophie Stephens (née Morfoot) (E 1996 – 2001) has been appointed Head of Gresham’s Pre-Prep. School and Nursery from September 2025.



Sophie

Dan Summers (T 1996 – 2001) was selected to represent England at the Anglo Celtic Plate 100km, which took place in May at Mallory Park racecourse in Leicestershire. This competition sees teams from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland compete for the Anglo Celtic Plate. It also counts as the British 100km Championships.



James Nichols (k & H 1989 – 2003) and his brother **Tom** (k & H 1991 – 2006) kindly provided hay bales for use in “Gritty Grasshopper”, an all-ages, inter-House assault course-type competition including shooting and a mudrun, based around the adventurous training area in the school woods and run by the Head of Adventure, Geography teacher and ex-paratrooper **Dan Majid** (S 2020 –).



James

James Corley (F 1999 – 2004) is a playwright, screenwriter and filmmaker. He studied acting at LAMDA. His first play, *World's End*, closed the King's Head Theatre's Queer Season in 2019 and was voted Theatre Weekly's No.1 Best Off West End Production of the year. His second play, *What it Means*, based on Merle Miller's seminal 1971 essay *What it means to be a Homosexual*, premiered at Wilton's Music Hall in October 2023. *The Guardian* called the adaptation “vital theatre”. In 2023, James contributed to *Twenty-Eight: Stories from the Section 28 Generation*. His award-winning short film, *The Scene*, premiered at the BFI Flare

LGBTQI festival 2020, was shortlisted for the Iris Prize Best British Short 2020, and was nominated for Best Short Film/ Best Director, winning Best Acting at the 2021 Cinalfama Lisbon International Film Awards. It went on to stream on All 4 for a year. James teaches playwriting and acting for adults with autism at Community Focus in North London and across the criminal justice system for Synergy Theatre Project. He is a BAFTA Connect member.



Sparklet

Henry Harston (W 1999 – 2004) runs his own boatbuilding business, Broadland Boat Builders, in St. Olave's, South Norfolk. Last season, he completed a two-year project, restoring the Broads racing yacht *Sparklet*, a rig gaff cutter which had been

built in 1905. An article about this work appeared in the international magazine *Classic Boat* and as a result, Henry's firm was shortlisted for the Restoration of the Year Over-40ft Award, in which they competed alongside famous and iconic international yachts.

Hamish Kerr (W 1999 – 2004) gained two MSc degrees, one from King's College London and one from the University of Plymouth. At King's, he was awarded the Wheatstone Prize in recognition of achieving the highest mark for his 4th year Master's project, based upon speech acoustics and the development of a new speech-recognition software. At Plymouth, he achieved the highest exam results for both Mechanics and Modelling and was the winner of a competition to describe the scientific operation of a prototype Wave Energy Converter being tested at the University wave tank. Having embarked upon a career as an oceanographic engineer and data analyst, he has made a radical change of tack and now lives in Marseille, working as a composer of electronic and orchestral music. He has 15 years' experience of producing and composing in many different musical styles, such as film scores, electronic dance music for independent releases, epic cinematic music for films and games advertisements, as well as lighter pieces for television advertisements. His eclectic musical background ranges from digital dub/reggae to epic orchestral trailer music, and everything in between. Hamish's productions have been heard in DJ sets and on the radio waves worldwide, and

he has been featured on numerous vinyl record releases.



Max60 Caribbean team

Sam Foster (H 2002 – 05) took part in June in the 2025 International Cricket Council Men's T20 World Cup Americas Regional Final in Toronto, playing for the Cayman Islands against Canada, Bermuda and Bahamas. He was also selected to take part in the MAX60 tournament in July in the Cayman Islands.



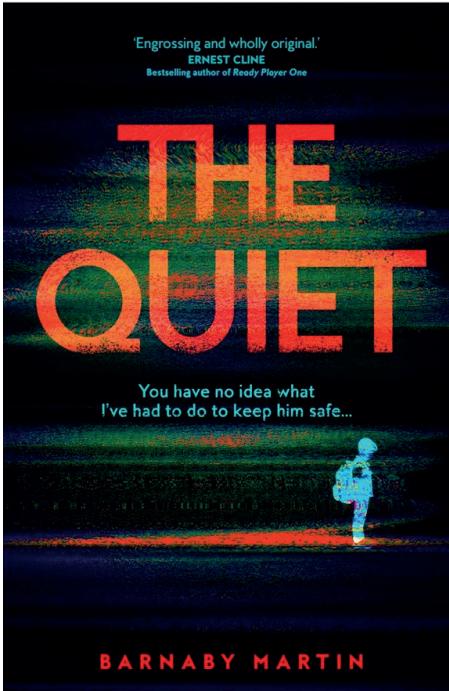
Deaglan and product

Deaglan Hall (W 2004 – 06) has been in business with a partner for the past eleven years, but in late 2024 he branched out on his own and launched The Forequarter Butchery in Bungay, Suffolk, specialising in dry-ageing, locally-sourced beef, as well as offering free-range pork, chicken and lamb.



Dominic and his supporters

Dominic Bosher (F 2002 – 07) achieved 1st place at the Australian 100km Championships in February 2025, with a winning time of just over seven and three-quarter hours, well clear of his nearest rivals. Almost half of the runners dropped out along the way – hardly surprising, since the temperature at the start was 28°C. Not being an Australian citizen, Dom is not, alas, eligible for the official title of Australian Ultra & Trail Runners Association National Champion!



Barney Martin (k & F 2002 – 09) has written a debut novel, *The Quiet*, published by Pan Macmillan in May 2025. The book touches on many themes – our relationship with our past selves, the evil that can spring from good intentions, the joy and solace of community – but at its core, it is a novel about a parent's love for their child and the lengths to which we will go in order to protect the ones we love most. "An intellectually compelling, emotional and timely read. Martin has taken a motif of dystopian writing and films – a single parent and child – and has reworked it within a fresh landscape. *The Quiet* is a feat of writing that foregrounds the value of kindness and communication in a world bent on segregation and misinformation." (The Bookseller)



Hannah Clark (c 2003 – 09) has opened a new shop in Holt, The Scented Barn, which won a Theo Paphitis Small Business Award in February 2025. The Scented Barn was a Norfolk finalist for the Muddy Stilettos Lifestyle Award for the third year in a row, and is a two-time winner for the best lifestyle store in Norfolk with the Award.



Rupert and Jess

Jess Conway (née Cabbell Manners) (E2004 – 09) and her twin **Rupert Cabbell Manners** (T 2004 – 09) represented Gresham's in the Norfolk Superhero Challenge in June in aid of the Norfolk Community Foundation's "A Better Childhood" mission.



Harry

Harry Whittaker (k & T 2003 – 11) visited Holt in October 2024 to talk about the *Seven Sisters* series, written by his late mother, Lucinda Riley. Harry, who is co-author with his mother of the international bestseller *Atlas – the Story of Pa Salt*, has now reworked an earlier novel by Lucinda, *Hidden Beauty*, renaming it *The Hidden Girl* (Pan Macmillan 2024).

Fen Sanderson (E 2007 – 12) owns Country House Flowers, a floral studio located in Holt. To mark British Flowers Week in June this year, the studio launched a series of immersive floral



Fen

experiences that championed sustainable British-grown flowers.



Daniel

Daniel Thomas (H 2010 – 12) was a contestant on the new ITV show, "Dress

the Nation". The show meets nine budding fashion designers competing to secure an exclusive mentorship with M&S, as well as have their winning design sold at their stores.



Jeremy

Jeremy Quartermain (S 2007 – 13) has been appointed Headmaster of Bradfield College, following seven years as Head of Rossall.



Harry

Harry Agnew (k & T 2000 – 14) was told in July 2024 that he might have just 24 hours to live. Lying in a hospital bed, he had to say his goodbyes to his family, his girlfriend, and to the life he thought he would still have ahead of him. Despite this terrifying situation, he had some very clear thoughts. He was building a career at Heinz, working with a great team and a

fantastic boss. But deep down, he knew he had other passions to explore and if he got through this crisis, he would do so. Accordingly, he moved to Zimbabwe to launch a business, Bush Bottles. With every product sold, they fund the collection of 5kg of plastic by Ele-Collection, an organisation dedicated to tackling the huge problem of plastic pollution in the African bush. This initiative is not just about collaboration, but is also aimed at supporting local innovation, creating jobs, and turning waste into opportunity, rather than a problem.

Robert Wilson (T 2009 – 14) made a brief appearance in Season 4 Episode 2 of “Clarkson’s Farm” on Amazon Prime Video.

Tammy Wong (c & B 2008 – 15) has been selected to represent Team GB in Olympic weightlifting.



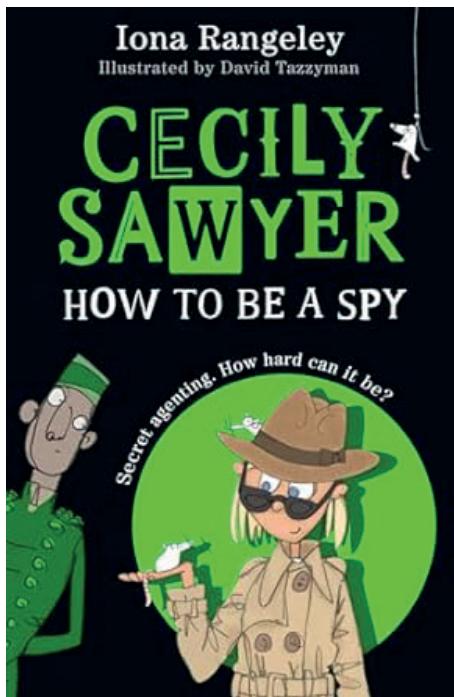
Matthew Bromham (H 2010 – 15) and his teammates, the Deep Blue Crew, raised money for Tusk Trust, My Name'5 Doddie Foundation and The Clocktower Foundation, by undertaking a gruelling challenge. Matthew writes: “This past Christmas, I had the privilege of taking part in an unforgettable adventure: rowing 2,800 miles across the

Atlantic Ocean from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua. Alongside three teammates, we completed the crossing in 39 days, 6 hours and 55 minutes, finishing in 2nd place overall. Entirely self-sufficient, we lived off rehydrated ration packs, desalinated seawater, and the occasional fresh fish. We endured extreme conditions – towering 25ft waves, intense storms, relentless headwinds, and even a broken tiller. At times, we were becalmed on a flat, mirror-like ocean, and for three days, a Saharan sandstorm left everything hot, sticky and coated in dust. Despite the hardships – and each of us losing around 12kg – the experience was filled with awe-inspiring moments: watching whales breach beside the boat, dolphins dancing through the waves, skies lit up by stars, and sunrises, and sunsets like nothing I’ve ever seen. More than just a test of endurance, the row raised over £130,000 for charity and revealed what we are truly capable of when pushed to our limits. It was, without a doubt, the adventure of a lifetime”.



Matthew (2nd L) and his crewmates

Harry Simmons (k & W 2007 – 16) graduated in 2024 with a BSc in Sport, Fitness and Coaching from The Open University.



Iona Rangeley-Wilson (c & B 2008 – 16) has had a new book published by Harpercollins, *Cecily Sawyer: How To Be A Spy* (“A delight” – *Sunday Times*).



Pieter

Lieutenant Pieter Myburgh (2017 – 19) is a troop leader in The Royal Scots Dragoon

Guards. In 2024 he was appointed as an Equerry to Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent, and in that capacity laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of His Royal Highness on Remembrance Sunday.



Luke Nash (k & W 2006 – 20) was a member of the Durham University Challenge team that was pitched against Oriel College, Oxford, in October 2024. Oriel won by a small margin.



Aria

Maria Butcher (“Aria”) (c & Q 2015 – 21) has brought out a debut single, “Rectify

Your Soul" on Pastiche Records. Described as "a remarkable new talent in the neo soul / jazz scene", her work has been aired on BBC Radio 6 and playlisted on Jazz FM as Track of the Week. After graduating from BIMM University, she has performed at venues such as Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, Pizza Express Soho, and The 606 Club. Her debut single is described as "highlighting her powerful vocal range, insightful lyrics, and refined musicality".



Kate and her teammates

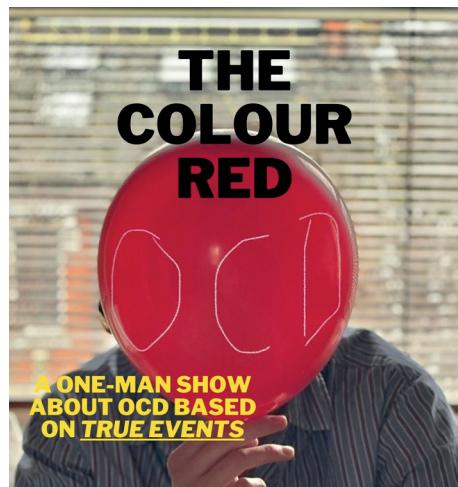
Kate Willis (c & O 2016 – 21) ran for Team GB in the European Under-23 Cross-Country Championships held in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2024. Her team won the Gold Medal, beating all the other European countries. Kate qualified for the British team by previously coming 2nd at the British athletics cross challenge in Liverpool.

George Waddison (W 2016 – 21) has launched an AI automation agency, CloudburstAI, aimed at helping businesses unlock the power of artificial intelligence in practical, everyday ways. CloudburstAI works with companies to streamline workflows, cut admin time, improve customer communication, and build smarter internal systems. The agency also partners



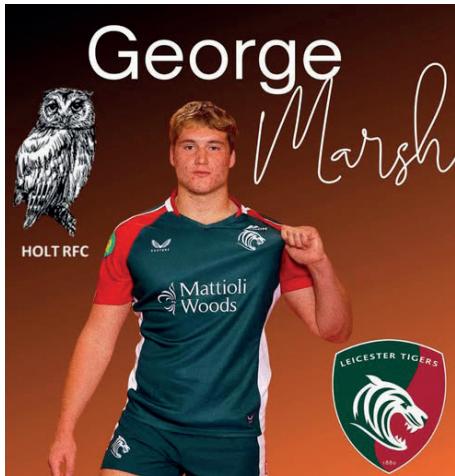
George

with IT and web providers, giving them the ability to offer AI services to their own clients without needing an in-house team. Having graduated in Computer Science from the University of Southampton, George is now focused on expanding CloudburstAI across Norfolk and the UK. He would be delighted to connect with any OGs interested in exploring how AI could benefit their business or partnership network.



Spike Cook (k & W 2017 – 24) took his one-man show, *The Colour Red*, to the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2025. It is a powerful piece about how a man really feels, as he takes the audience through “all the crazy ups and downs that come along with having severe and enduring OCD”.

George Marsh (k & H 2020 – 24) made his debut for Leicester Tigers in September 2025. He has also been selected for inclusion in England U20s head coach’s elite player squad for the 2025/26 season. George graduated from the Tigers Academy at the end of the 2024/25 campaign, having previously represented England at U18 level.



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A Norwegian in the South Seas

*This 2019 article from ABC News (Norway) has kindly been provided – and translated from the Norwegian – by **Marek Tachezy** (T 1980 – 86).*

For nine years, **Espen Rønneberg** (H 1980 – 85) negotiated climate, environmental, and other issues at the UN on behalf of the small Marshall Islands. Now, he has made Samoa his home and is helping many island nations in the fight against climate change.

In the early 1990s, I was astonished to discover at a UN meeting on climate and the environment in New York that the delegate from the distant island nation of the Marshall Islands was actually a Norwegian — Espen Rønneberg, the brother of Norway's top tennis star at the time, Morten Rønneberg. And who else should appear in December 2018, when the climate-vulnerable island states held their high-level meeting during the climate negotiations in Poland? None other than a tanned man dressed in what I imagine must be a typical South Pacific shirt. Yes, it was Espen Rønneberg, who now works for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The headquarters of SPREP is in Samoa, but it also has offices in Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.



“A kind of Nordic Council,” Espen smiles, after a meeting where ministers from some of the world’s most climate-threatened nations have just delivered their heartfelt appeals to the rest of the world. “I trained that

one. And I remember her as a child diving into the water from my shoulders,” he says, pointing to a minister from one country and an expert from another — both from small island nations scattered across the vast Pacific Ocean.

Rønneberg himself has now settled in Samoa, where he lives with his Samoan wife and their two children, who have both Norwegian and Samoan names: daughter Amalie Penina (“Pearl”) and son Nicholai Taulelei (“Good Climate”). “There are many inter-island marriages. My mother-in-law is from the Cook Islands,” he shares. (*Espen actually now lives in Fiji – Ed.*)

Interestingly, Espen Rønneberg is also the cousin of Norway’s former Finance Minister, Siv Jensen.

For 26 years, Rønneberg has worked for the Pacific island nations, spending the first nine years as a delegate for the Marshall Islands on climate, biodiversity, maritime law, and nuclear disarmament. He initially studied economics in England and the United States. “Completely wasted. Modern economic



Espen (L) at a meeting in 2014

theory is useless in these island nations,” he says. “It’s a different world. Politics is largely about family ties. It’s democratic, but you often end up electing your relatives.”

In Rønneberg’s part of the world, it’s 29°C year-round. “We live a bit up in the hills, where there’s a nice breeze,” he says. But the differences from Norway go beyond just the heat — Samoa is 13 hours ahead of Norway in time. “You have to get used to not always finding what you need in the store and buying as much local food as possible, because imported goods are very expensive. You have to be flexible. Things take time. I try to make Norwegian dishes now and then, but I can’t always get what I need. Rutabaga is impossible to find.” Last Christmas, Rønneberg attempted to make *ribbe* (traditional Norwegian roast pork belly). “We ended up buying a whole pig and roasting it on a spit,” he laughs.

Now, Espen is the only Norwegian living in Samoa. Previously, there was one other, as well as his mother, sister, and brother, who lived there for a few years. Traveling to Norway is a long journey. But he still visits from time to time, most recently with his whole family in October. “The easiest route is to fly via Hawaii to the U.S. West Coast and then continue. But you have to leave on a Friday — that’s the only departure of the week.”

Samoa is lush and green. “But we have problems with invasive species, aggressive tree species taking over the landscape,” says Rønneberg. “After each cyclone, we notice that the new species advance.” Cyclones hit Samoa regularly. “I’ve experienced terrible cyclones. That’s why I live up in the hills. I’ve seen what happened to my friend’s house down by the shore...”

Sailor, Artist, Traveller and Author

*A former Naval officer observes the Gold Rush
in early California.*

There was a time when two of the most popular books for young people were *The Children of the New Forest* and *Mr. Midshipman Easy*, by Captain Frederick Marryat CB FRS RN (1792 – 1848), the former work having been written when the author was living at Langham, near Holt. It has been said that *The Children of the New Forest*, set during the English Civil War, was instrumental in fixing in the public mind the popular image of dour and stern Roundheads, as opposed to the romantic and colourful Cavaliers. *Mr. Midshipman Easy*, by contrast, was a semi-autobiographical tale of a young Naval officer's adventures in the early 19th century, loosely based on Marryat's own experiences. Aside from his popular writing, Marryat was a successful inventor (on the strength of which he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society), magazine editor, artist and naturalist, having identified a new genus of gastropod.

Marryat and his wife Catherine had seven daughters and four sons, two of whom, **Samuel Francis** (known as Frank) and **Frederick**, attended Gresham's, both joining the school in 1830. The latter was born in 1819, while Frank can only have reached the tender age of five years old when he accompanied his brother, since he was apparently born in 1826 (the School Register gives his date of birth as 1825). Frank completed his education in London and Paris, before following Frederick into the Royal Navy in 1840 as a midshipman.



HMS Samarang in the Bay of Biscay on her passage home



Dyak women



Procession of the Sultan of Gonong Tabor

From 1843 to 1847 Frank served on board HMS *Samarang* in the East Indies on a surveying expedition, and in 1848, having returned home to Langham, published an account of his experiences in his book *Borneo and the Eastern Archipelago*, illustrated by his own sketches made during the voyage.

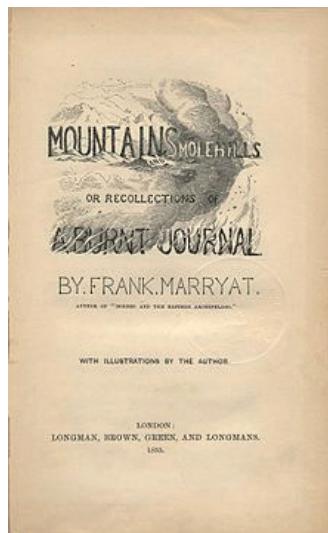
He then resigned his commission and set off for California via Panama, along with a manservant and three hunting dogs. In California, he travelled widely at the time of the Gold Rush, also witnessing the burning of San Francisco in the Great Fire of 1850.



The 1850 San Francisco fire

This provided the material for another book, published in New York, *Mountains and Molehills, or Recollections of a Burnt Journal*, and subtitled *A sportsman-tourist's chronicle of California in the early 1850s: hunting, horse races, bear and bull fights, and an Englishman's bemused comments on social life in San Francisco, Stockton, and the gold fields.*

Frank returned to England in 1853, married, and intended to return with his new bride, Frances, to California that same year. However, during this second voyage to the United States, he fell ill with yellow fever, which forced him to cut short his trip. Although he recovered, his health was seriously damaged, and he died in London from tuberculosis in 1855, aged just 29 years. His brother Frederick had predeceased him, also dying young, in 1847.



Frank seems to have acquired debts, and his father had “lived so generously and extravagantly” at his estate at Langham that the biographer of Captain Marryat states that “it follows as a matter of course that his only surviving son, Frank, found Langham a worthless inheritance”.

Richard Peaver

Soldier, Artist and Surgeon

A bearded cavalry officer is an unusual presence in the Britten Building.

Visitors to the Lennox Berkeley Room in the Britten Building might be slightly surprised to see, hanging on the wall, this full-length portrait of a luxuriantly bearded officer of Probyn's Horse, a unit of the East India Company's Bengal Presidency Army. It is, in fact, one of two surviving self-portraits of Assistant Surgeon-General John Henry Sylvester (1850 – 1903) and was painted some years after the campaigns in which he participated. The other self-portrait is in the National Army Museum. Why, the visitor might ask, is such a seemingly incongruous painting displayed in such a location? The reason lies in a family connection to **Michael Hughes** (S 1960 – 79), Master-in-Charge of Gresham's Junior School from 1965 – 78.



Michael Hughes

Dr. Sylvester trained at King's College Hospital and joined the Indian Medical Service as a civilian medical officer in 1854. He took part in the 1856 Persian Campaign as an Assistant Surgeon attached to the 14th Light Dragoons and continued to serve enthusiastically with that regiment and the Central Indian Field Force in 1857, in what is today variously known as the "Indian Mutiny", the "Sepoy Rebellion" or the "First War of Independence".

It is clear from Sylvester's memoirs that – slightly disconcertingly! – he enjoyed bloodthirsty soldiering even more than the medical career upon which he had initially embarked. Indeed, he engaged in combat in ways that would be regarded today as entirely inappropriate for a medical officer! In any event, he ended his military service as Assistant Surgeon-General, a rank broadly equivalent to Brigadier-General.



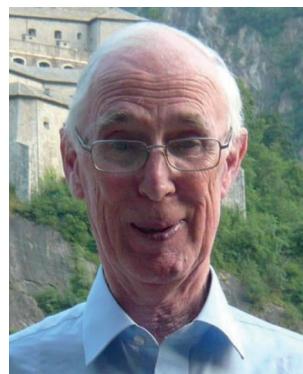
Sylvester with 11th Bengal Cavalry, Peshawar, 1862

Later he was appointed to a professorship at Grant Medical College in Bombay (today Mumbai) and was also a member of staff at the Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Hospital. After his retirement, he returned to England and devoted himself to painting, at which, as is evident from his excellent self-portraits,

he was highly skilled. He had one daughter, who was the great-grandmother of Michael Hughes and his brother, Rupert.

Michael was brought up in Portsmouth and then the Isle of Wight, where his father, the Rev. C. R. G. Hughes, was a vicar. On leaving Lancing in 1948 as Head of House, Michael was commissioned into the Royal Army Education Corps. After National Service, he went up to Worcester College, Oxford, to read Greats, subsequently embarking upon a 40-year career as a teacher. In 1960 he took up a post as House Tutor at Gresham's Junior School, while teaching Classics in the Senior School, five years later being appointed Master-in-Charge of the Junior School. In 1978 he became Headmaster of St. Wilfred's, Seaford, his final post being Director of Studies at St. Andrew's, Eastbourne. Michael retired in 1995 to Field Dalling near Holt, where for many years he played an active role in local life. He died in 2014 aged 82. At his funeral, he was described as "reserved and self-effacing, but well-liked, full of ability, conscientiousness and humour, whilst also possessing a great love of music". It seems perhaps slightly incongruous to imagine the mild-mannered Michael as being descended from his ferocious ancestor!

Michael was unmarried and was survived by his brother, Rupert Hughes CBE (1935 – 2015), another old boy of Lancing. Rupert, who had taken a First in Greats at Worcester College, Oxford, was a senior civil servant who held posts in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Cabinet Office before joining the DHSS in 1983. Within the world of Whitehall and the much wider world of child welfare, Rupert was described as "a heroic figure". His 1985 report on the wellbeing of the nation's children was published as a consultation document, and its principles and recommendations formed the basis of the 1989 Children Act.



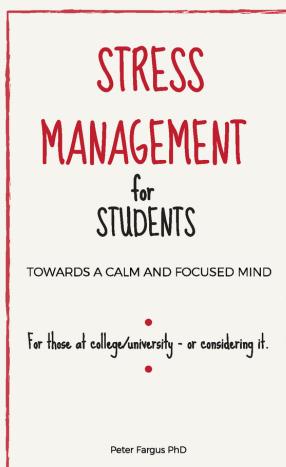
Rupert Hughes

Like his brother, Rupert Hughes was a bachelor, retiring and private by nature, but, in the words of his obituary in *The Independent*, the “very model of a perfect civil servant – wise, clear-minded, and with huge integrity”. In 1996 the Open University bestowed an honorary doctorate on him for his services to children’s welfare. He became a Fellow and subsequent Chairman of the Centre for Social Policy, set up by the social research unit at Dartington, Devon.

Rupert was Michael’s sole heir on the latter’s death, and when Rupert died in 2015, he bequeathed to Gresham’s the impressive self-portrait of their ancestor, along with Sylvester’s valuable campaign medals, together with his own CBE, all of which are also displayed in the Lennox Berkeley Room.

Rupert also bequeathed to the school various documents relating to family history research undertaken by the Hughes family. Efforts to contact other family members having proved unsuccessful so far, these have now been deposited with the Society of Genealogists in London.

Richard Peaver



5.0 ★★★★☆ (20)

Reader's comment:

- I grabbed this because my coursework was piling up and I felt completely overwhelmed. It's practical and straightforward, and it didn't waste time with complicated theories. The quick strategies for stress relief worked for me right away, especially the tips on prioritizing and planning. It feels like the author genuinely gets what student life is like. If you're feeling stressed or burned out with school, this is definitely worth checking out.

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Wilfred Roberts – “The MP for Spain”

Simon Kinder tells of a radical Greshamian parliamentarian and humanitarian who was instrumental in rescuing many endangered children from the Spanish Civil War.

Richard Peaver's article in the 2024 OG Magazine provided a fascinating insight into the life and career of **Robert Brightiffe** (or **Britiffe**), the first OG Member of Parliament (1676 - ?), with **Duncan Baker** (W 1993 – 98) the most recent, but few now recall the career of **Wilfred Roberts** (W 1915 – 19), better known in the 1930s as “the MP for Spain”.

Wilfrid Hubert Wace Roberts was born on 28th August 1900 in Boothby, near Brampton in Cumberland, and entered Gresham's aged 15 in the Michaelmas Term of 1915, becoming a boarder in Woodlands. He was the son of Charles Henry Roberts, himself a radical Liberal politician who served as MP for Lincoln 1900 – 18 and briefly for Derby 1922 – 23. His mother was Lady Cecilia Maude Howard, daughter of the one-time Liberal MP for East Cumberland and 9th Earl of Carlisle, the final Earl of Carlisle to own Castle Howard, and Rosalind Frances Stanley, Countess of Carlisle, known as “the Radical Countess”, an activist for women's political rights and the temperance movement.



Woodlands 1916

Wilfrid had a successful career at Gresham's. In 1917, he became a prefect in Woodlands. By 1918 he was clearly making his mark, performing with Woodlands in “Selections from As You Like It” as Orlando in the Theatre in the Woods, gaining the rank of Corporal in the Officers' Training Corps, winning the J. H. Simpson History Essay Prize and the A. C. Benson English Literature Prize at

Speech Day, and being responsible for the distribution and sales (price 1/3d) of the first report of the Gresham's Natural History Society.

In 1919 he unsuccessfully proposed the motion “In the opinion of this House, England should follow the example of America in prohibiting the sale and manufacture of all intoxicating liquors” (lost 10 votes to 28), spoke in another debate “That in the opinion of

this House the League of Nations is a snare and a delusion", read his paper "Wild Duck" to the Zoological Section (of which he was Secretary) of the Natural History Society (of which he was Treasurer) and represented Woodlands on the Library Committee. Unsurprisingly, he was selected as Captain of Woodlands (then renamed Headmaster's House), School Prefect, one of three School Captains appointed in 1918, and was awarded a Headmaster's Prize on his final Speech Day.

Wilfrid left Gresham's in Summer 1919, winning an Honorary Exhibition in History at Balliol College, Oxford, which won special mention from **J. R. Eccles** (S & HM 1900 – 35, his Housemaster and Headmaster) at Speech Day. Roberts attributed his success, and that of his near contemporary and lifelong friend **Tom Wintringham** (F 1912 – 15), who also won a Brakenbury scholarship to Balliol, to "our History tutor who was a little cripple only about four feet high, **C. H. C Osborne** (S 1913 – 17) by name. The latter had advanced ideas and believed in "self-government in school".



Woodlands prefects, 1919

Wilfrid contributed to the Gresham's War Memorial Fund and appears to have been one of the OGs who arranged for the inaugural dinner of the Oxford O.G. Society to take place at Balliol College in November 1919, with his History master Osborne in attendance. In 1920 his sister Winifred Roberts became the first wife of **Ben Nicholson OM** (W 1909). *The Gresham* magazine recognised Wilfrid's success in campaigning for his father's election as MP for Derby in 1922.

Wilfrid became a Cumbrian farmer and local councillor, before standing for the parliamentary constituency of North Cumberland in 1931 in the Liberal interest, losing to the Conservative candidate by just over 1,000 votes. However, in 1935 he was successful, partly as the Labour Party did not field a candidate against him, acknowledging his reputation as a Radical.

Within a year of his entering the House of Commons, the Spanish Civil War began and Wilfrid made the cause his own, hence his nickname of "MP for Spain". He led a

delegation of six Members of Parliament to Republican Spain in November 1936 and he subsequently became Secretary of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief and Joint Secretary of the Basque Children's Committee.

His concerns about the situation in Spain were shared by many OGs. His friend Tom Wintringham journeyed to Barcelona as a journalist for the communist newspaper *The Daily Worker*, before commanding the British Battalion of the International Brigade, and being wounded at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937. **Stephen Spender** (OSH 1918 – 19) also journeyed to Spain in 1937 as another reporter for *The Daily Worker*, finding himself briefly imprisoned at Albacete. Another OG journalist, **Philip Pembroke Stephens** (H 1917 – 21), reported from the conflict for *The Daily Telegraph* and was one of the first reporters to enter the ruins of Guernica with the Nationalist forces in April 1937, alerting the British Ambassador to the involvement of the German and Italian air forces in the raid. (Pembroke Stephens was later killed by a Japanese sniper in Shanghai during the Japanese invasion of China; an account of his distinguished, though sadly foreshortened, career appeared in the 2018 *Old Greshamian Magazine*). **W. H. Auden** (F 1920 – 25) also travelled to Spain in January 1937 to support the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War. Initially intending to serve as a stretcher-bearer for the Republican forces, he was instead assigned to the Republican press and propaganda office. Following his return to Britain a few months later, Auden composed the poem "Spain" to raise money for Medical Aid for Spain. Back home, Auden's friend, **Benjamin Britten** (F 1928 – 30), contributed "Ballad of Heroes", with words by Auden and Randall Swingler, to the "Festival of Music for the People", which was held in London in April 1939. Britten explained: "It seemed natural to choose a piece which could express my sympathy with the beleaguered Spanish Republic and honour a brave, unhappy people". From the Paris office of the World Student Association (RME), **James Klugmann** (K 1926 – 31) marshalled student support for the struggling Republic.

It was in the humanitarian field that Wilfrid Roberts made his decisive contribution to the victims of the conflict in Spain. Following the destruction of Guernica (April 1937), it was feared that Franco's forces, supported by Hitler and Mussolini, might bomb Bilbao next. Roberts' National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief and the Basque Children's Committee took the lead in putting pressure on the British government to allow children from Bilbao and the surrounding area (along with some teachers, priests and adult helpers) to be evacuated to Britain. Eventually the government gave permission for about 4,000 children to come to Britain and they arrived in Southampton on the SS *Habana* in May 1937. Initially they were accommodated in a rapidly assembled tented camp at North Stoneham, near Eastleigh, with Roberts one of the key players behind their reception and the establishment of the camp.



The North Stoneham camp

of the children, but the majority were handled by local committees which were formed across Britain, and which were responsible for finding accommodation and funding day-to-day living costs. The Basque regional government insisted the children live in “colonies”, in effect children’s homes, so that they could remain with siblings and friends, be educated together, and retain their language and culture. Wilfrid Roberts was one of the politicians driving these arrangements.

The Cumberland and Westmorland Basque Children’s Committee was dominated by the Roberts family. It leased the disused workhouse at Brampton as a home for 100 of the Basque children, the building opening in June 1937. Wilfrid’s mother, Lady Cecilia, organised its refurbishment with the help of local businesses and residents, and his father Charles served as Treasurer, raising money from locals across Cumberland and Westmorland.

The Committee raised money through appeals for donations, an “adoption” scheme whereby individuals and groups were encouraged to finance the upkeep of one or more named children whom they “adopted” (sponsored), and also by the children themselves, who gave performances of Basque dances and songs in people’s homes and community centres across the two counties and beyond. The children were taught by two Spanish teachers who accompanied them from Bilbao, and by a number of local teachers. One of these was Winifred Nicholson, daughter of Charles and Cecilia Roberts, Wilfrid’s sister, and Ben Nicholson’s first wife, who was a well-known Cumbrian artist and who taught the children how to paint in watercolour.



Roberts and children at Brampton © Carlisle Archive Centre

The British government insisted that this scheme should not be paid for from public money, so the NJCSR and the BCC had to rely on charitable donations to finance their operations, including the children’s eventual repatriation when the situation allowed. The Roman Catholic Church took responsibility for about a quarter

In the two years of its operation, Brampton provided refuge and care for nearly 200 children from the Basque region. In 2023, a plaque was unveiled there in acknowledgement of Brampton's role as a haven for Basque refugee children from the Spanish Civil War by one of the last surviving Basque children, 94-year-old Carmen Cid-Santibañez.

The experience of offering refuge to Basque children in Britain provided valuable lessons about the needs of refugee communities and these influenced subsequent arrangements for those fleeing persecution at the hands of Nazism from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia shortly afterwards in schemes such as the Kindertransport of 1938-39.



The 1939 Liberal Assembly, Scarborough

Always on the left wing of the Liberal Party, Wilfrid Roberts was in the 1930s a supporter of the Popular Front, which sought an alliance of left-of-centre political parties against fascism. He was commissioned into the Border Regiment in September 1940, but from 1941 to 1942 served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Liberal leader, Sir Archibald Sinclair, whom Churchill appointed

Secretary of State for Air. In 1945 Roberts took part in a mission to Moscow, met Joseph Stalin and published the pamphlet *A Liberal View of the Soviet Union* on his return.

Roberts retained his seat in the Attlee landslide of 1945, once again as the Labour Party did not field a candidate against him. However, at the 1950 general election, boundary changes led to his seat disappearing and he lost the new constituency, Penrith and the Border, to the Conservative candidate – and this time Labour fielded a candidate against him. In July 1956 Wilfrid Roberts joined the Labour Party and unsuccessfully fought the Hexham constituency for the party in the 1959 general election, though he did serve as a Labour councillor in Carlisle. He also owned the liberal *Carlisle Journal* until it ceased publication in 1969.

Roberts died on 26th May 1991, aged 90. At a time when many young people are affected by conflicts and are refugees from war, his humanitarian legacy remains as important as ever.

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Churchill at Gresham's

At the outset of the Second World War, the War Office was concerned about the possibility of a German invasion. As in previous conflicts, the North Norfolk coast was considered to be at particular risk. Accordingly, the School Governors began in 1940 to make enquiries about a possible move to a safer area. The Clerk to the Governors learned of two hotels in Newquay in Cornwall that might be available to accommodate the school. So it was that, at only half an hour's notice, the Second Master, **Bruce Douglas** (S 1921 – 63), **Colonel "Joe" Foster** (S 1906 – 14 & 1919 – 42) and **Mr. E. Dyson** (S 1919 – 42, and not related to the father of **Sir James**) set off for Cornwall to investigate. They telegraphed back: "Essentials satisfactory". Staff were instructed to prepare, in secret, lists of equipment to be taken, should evacuation be ordered. Events, however, almost overtook them. On 13th June, the Headmaster, **Philip Newell** (HM 1935 – 44) wrote to parents informing them of the Governors' decision to move to the Pentire and Bay hotels in Newquay. Forty lorries transported the school's possessions to Cornwall, and within four weeks the entire school premises had been taken over by the Army.



© IWM (H 2838)

Norwegian Campaign. The photograph, in the archives of the Imperial War Museum and dated 7th August 1940, shows the Prime Minister inspecting elements of 57 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery on the Eccles Field.

Richard Peaver

Less than two months after the school's departure, the Prime Minister visited the area to see for himself what preparations had been made to repel any invasion. Winston Churchill had only been appointed to the premiership some three months earlier, following the unsuccessful outcome of the

From the Salerooms

Ian Fleming's illustrator tried to catch a toad while drawing one of the amphibians for the James Bond series. The following article appeared in "The Daily Telegraph" in April 2025.

Richard Chopping (o & K 1928 – 35) designed covers for the 007 books, including *You Only Live Twice*, which featured a toad sitting beneath a chrysanthemum.

A first edition of that 1964 novel, which includes a lengthy inscription detailing his artistic methods and how he believed he was being scammed by the author, has now emerged. It revealed that he insisted on reading the novels before deciding on a theme, despite an impatient Fleming telling him: “You don’t want to do that, it’s all rubbish.”

Chopping, who chose the symbolic image of a large toad, wanted to sketch from a live model, and tried and failed to catch one of the creatures at a nature reserve near his home in Wivenhoe, Essex. After the failure, a friend said he could borrow her daughter’s pet toad, as long as it was returned to its vivarium when he had finished.

Chopping wrote: “Fleming had very little to do with this cover. I chose the objects and dispersed them as I wanted. He used to tell me what he wanted, but I got fed up with that and said, ‘I must read the book first’. He (Fleming) said, ‘Oh you don’t want to do that, it’s all rubbish’.

Chopping continued: “The chrysanthemum was difficult, but I had a dragonfly. But the toad did present difficulties. Eventually I found one by asking around. It came from a friend’s daughter who taught school in London. She left the key hidden of her flat and I had to pick it up from her vivarium and return it when I’d finished. It did tend to sit fairly still, but every once in a while I would look up and it had lumbered off my drawing board. I had to catch flies for it, as I am such a slow worker. For all I know, the model still lives.”

Chopping also claimed that Fleming did not pay him enough for his work, complaining that the author was “rather mean” and offered him “peanuts” for his work. He wrote: “Fleming was rather mean. When I asked him if I could have a ‘ROYALTY’ on the books instead of



him buying my pictures outright for peanuts, he said, almost before I finished my sentence, 'No – my company wouldn't wear it', so I upped my fee thereafter. But they were still cheap."

The inscription was found in a first edition of *You Only Live Twice*, which was given to a friend of Chopping's as a gift and has been put up for auction by Reeman Dansie Auctioneers for £300. The auctioneer said: "It's a very interesting item and gives us an insight into the relationship between Fleming and Chopping. I don't think they really got on, and certainly Chopping thought he was being scammed by Fleming over a lack of royalty payments for his work."

Tom Cull writes a blog for "Artistic Licence Renewed, the Literary 007 James Bond Online Magazine". He has kindly given permission for us to reproduce this extract from an article entitled "The Art & Life of Richard 'Dicky' Chopping".

Tom, a close family friend, knew Chopping very well from childhood onwards and Tom's great-grandfather also hired a young Ian Fleming to work at the family bank Cull & Co. between 1933 and 1935.



Richard Chopping © 007magazine

Richard Chopping provided the iconic original dust covers for nine James Bond novels with his art, rooted in the natural world in the *trompe l'oeil* style. His circle of friends included Francis Bacon, Kingsley Amis, Peregrine Worsthorne and **Benjamin Britten (Baron Britten of Aldeburgh OM CH, F 1928 – 30)**

Richard Wasey Chopping was born on 14th April 1917 in Colchester to a family known for their flour mills. He attended Gresham's School in rural Norfolk, where one of his teachers encouraged an interest in art. Painting would become a calling, and with the

suggestion from fellow artist and lifelong partner Denis Wirth-Miller, Chopping debuted two paintings at the London Goupil Gallery in 1939.

Francis Bacon took Ian Fleming's wife, Ann, to see his own work, Chopping recalled. "Then he took her upstairs to see mine, which was very good of him, and Ann went back

to Ian and said, 'Well, you ought to get this chap to do your next book jacket'. They met at one of Ann Fleming's artistic salons, where Fleming granted Chopping the commission for *From Russia With Love*.



Richard's original eight Bond dustcovers

Ian Fleming wrote: "The Chopping jacket was a tremendous success, both in England and America, and from that day on, he and I and Michael Howard of Cape's have devised all the James Bond jackets, which have now become something of a hallmark with the book trade and have earned prizes for Cape's." Chopping would later say: "I was quite fond of doing the early work, but it became a bore, and I hate the books. I don't like the violence. There is enough violence in the world without needing to make it glamorous."

Although he was not involved in the poster designs for the Bond films, Chopping was invited on to the set when Sean Connery was filming *From Russia With Love*. But the experience only confirmed his growing dislike of Fleming. "Sean Connery was trying to throw a hat on to a hat stand and he kept missing it. Fleming said: 'They must have scraped the bottom of the barrel when they got you', which I thought was very rude."

Sadly, towards the end of his life Chopping became quite bitter about his association with Fleming and protested about the violence in the books. The artist even claimed at one point that he would have made more as a lavatory attendant than he did from his Bond dust jacket paintings. He said that the popularity of the distinctive book covers made it difficult for him to sell his work elsewhere, as his style became associated with the million-selling books. An impressive collection of first editions of Ian Fleming's Bond novels was put on display at the Barbican in 2012. In his last years, Chopping kindly donated some first editions of his book covers, including a number of Bond classics and some paintings, to Gresham's.

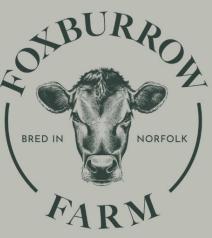


Richard Chopping © Tom Cull

Richard Chopping lived in the artists' community at Wivenhoe, Essex, from 1944 with his partner Denis Wirth-Miller (1915 – 2010). Chopping – and renowned artist in his own right Denis – lived together for some 70 years from the time that Wirth-Miller was 21 and Chopping 20. Wirth-Miller helped foster Chopping's artistic talent and both were exceptional gardeners, who lived life to the full. Chopping died in 2008 at the age of 91.

A friend and journalist at the *East Anglian Times*, and a fellow resident in Wivenhoe, wrote of them: "Many of the tales of their revelry are simply unprintable. More still, however, chronicle the two artists' kindness, lack of snobbery and general entertainment value. [...] They met absolutely everyone, of course. Of the "Great Beast" (the occultist) Aleister Crowley, for example, Dicky had said: 'Didn't we spend an evening with him in the south of France, Denis? Silly little man.' They'd been in all the right places – and quite a few of the wrong ones, too – at all the right times."

With the passing of Dicky Chopping went not only a part of the 20th century, but also a splash of vibrant colour on a largely monochrome England of his times – an England which George Orwell described as a place where, in theory, everything was forbidden but in reality anything might happen.



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Recollections of a 1960s pop group (or what might have been!)

Nick Newsum recalls the contribution his Gresham's pop band made to the culture of the "Swinging Sixties".

Browsing recently through *I Will Plant Me a Tree* – the excellent illustrated history of Gresham's School written by Steve Benson and Martin Crossley-Evans – I came across p.94. The four young hopefuls in the photo, with their “weaponry” in their hands, were members of the newly formed pop group “Highway Four”. Full of promise, high on expectation – though simplistic in their abilities – we were nevertheless going to bring our version of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones to anyone who would listen! The date? – 1965 – 60 years ago!.....what might have been!!



Highway Four

Given that the photo was taken a very long time ago, I appreciate that other recollections may vary, but I'm pretty sure that we were one of the early pop bands to be formed at Gresham's. The four band members came from different areas of the country – **Stuart (Ogden) Fell** (W 1963 – 68) (left, in picture) was actually from America (his dad was “in oil”, I think). I was next, (the cool one, with my left-handed guitar, sourced for me by **Willie Schoenherr** (S), our music teacher, for the princely sum of £10. Our drummer, **Jamie Cox** (T 1960 – 67), was from the London

area, and **Anthony Holt** (W 1962 – 65), the bassist, from Leicester. As such, the group was never going to stay together when we left school, but it was fun while it lasted!

We had the most basic of equipment, but it didn't matter. We rehearsed, made a lot of noise, did a few gigs in Big School, and even one at the girls' school Runton Hill – wow, that was “interesting”! We were on our way – though not sure of the destination!

The biggest public gig we did (actually, on reflection, the only gig), was to play in Leicester. Anthony's father was a businessman, and had “connections”! Result? – we were booked

to play at the New Year's Eve Dance at the famous local hot spot, The Trocadero Club..... tickets well-priced at 7/6d. The problem? – on finding out that one band member was from Croydon, we were advertised as “from London, the fabulous Highway Four”! Fabulous?... He had never heard us play, and we were definitely not that! We needed a plan, and fast!

We arrived at the venue in time for setting up and discovered that the warmup band had substantially more equipment than our very basic amps etc., so we blagged a story about having been on tour in Germany (i.e. as per The Beatles in Hamburg) and all our equipment was stuck in transit. They took the bait and generously offered the “top of the bill”, their equipment, and we got away with it.

In for a penny, etc., we completed the whole deception by arriving in Anthony's father's Rolls Royce! There were quite literally hundreds of partygoers waiting to get in to the venue, and our arrival merely upped their anticipation. We offered up a prayer and did our best. Surprisingly, we went down a storm, with every song repeated (several times, owing to a shortage of material). The audience had never heard of us, but we were from London, and that's all that mattered. How we got away with it still remains a mystery!

The dream of becoming the next global stars faded, of course. In 1966, our life at school came to an end – and so did the band. We all went our separate ways, and our fledgling musical careers came to an abrupt end. In the words of my parents, who had sacrificed much in order to cover the costs of my education, it was time for “a proper job”. I duly obliged and spent many good years in estate agency in the East Midlands, together with assisting my wife of 53 years, Valerie, to establish and develop a fashion and lifestyle store in Newark, which won both local and national industry awards. Having sold the business, we retired in 2015.

Business life may have taken over from musical ambition, but it never fully disappeared! Some 38 years after last playing a gig with Highway Four, I was persuaded to join (or maybe pressganged?!) by a friend to play with a band, this time on keyboards. I absolutely loved it, and for the last 22 years and counting, I have been fulfilling my aspirations. At the age of 76, I am playing in both a function band (www.freespirit.net) and a country music tribute to Shania Twain (www.linktr.ee/shanialiveuk). Our diary of engagements for events, provincial theatres and festivals extends well into 2026. It keeps me mentally and physically on the front foot, and I'll keep doing it for as long I can!



Nick Newsum (H 1963 – 66)

Nick more recently



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The Prune Game

Laurence Blackall recalls an eccentric and unofficial winter sport peculiar to the Old School House.

OSH had a house game that was played when no other outdoor sport was possible. I have no recollection of whether the other houses did anything similar. Of course, we had our own sports field and not every house did.

Others may remember it differently, but since some 55 years have passed since I last played, I crave their indulgence if they think I have mis-remembered. The game was only played when no rugby or hockey was playable on snow-covered pitches. So the prune game was only ever played in the snow. The “prune” was a deflated “old school” – i.e. thick leather – rugby ball. The boys in OSH were divided into two equal teams, each player selected by a captain, Blue and White, like the rugby shirts we wore. Each captain would alternate in picking a player until the final (usually smallest) 3rd former had been picked.

There were “goals” which were temporarily re-purposed doormats, being the large doormats from the rear and street doors of OSH. The objective of the game was to get the prune onto the other team’s doormat. The prune was ceremonially placed on a centre line drawn in the snow and distances to the mats that had been paced out by the team captains. Each team lined up on its goal line and on the blowing of a whistle, seemingly everyone charged to the middle to get first possession of the prune. It was the only time the whistle was ever heard, and occasionally the last time the prune was ever seen until the game finished.

There were hurried strategy talks before the start. Who should guard the mat? Who were to be the runners? Who would threaten the opponents’ mat? But any notion of strategy soon evaporated. There were simply no rules, no ref. and no sanctions, so what happened next was pretty much a 30-a-side pub car park fight. Off the ball incident? What ball? Late tackle? Early tackle? The prune was very seldom seen, so to keep warm, a secondary objective was to take out a few wingmen and rub their faces in the snow, and of course risk having the same done to you.

The “goal mats” were frequently moved – away from the action by the defenders, or closer by attackers if they were able to appropriate the other team’s mat. There were no sanctions for this blatant moving of the goalposts. In fact, there were no sanctions for anything, as a result of which the prune was generally buried under a large steaming pile of players. In my five years in OSH I don’t remember a single goal being scored either way.

We enjoyed it so much that there were suggestions that there could be a school Prune competition and indeed something else OSH could win. But that was vetoed by two different schools of thought: there were those who felt it was so good that it should be exclusively the preserve of OSH, who had a reputation to maintain as the toughest house in the school, and there were those who felt it would simply be too rough for the boys in Tallis because it lacked sophistication, subtlety or finesse. Indeed it did.

I'd be delighted to know if any other houses had an equally daft bad weather game - or if indeed anyone else had memories of the OSH prune game. On the issue of rules specifically, I would love to hear from anyone who actually thought there were any! My memory might be a bit unreliable after 56 years.

Laurence Blackall (OSH 1964 – 68)

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Celebrating 20 Years of the School Archive

This year marks a significant milestone for the School Archive, which has celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since its establishment in December 2004 (27 boxes stored in a locked room behind the stage in Tallis, overseen by Liz Larby), the archive has grown into a vital resource for preserving and sharing the rich and varied history of Gresham's School.



Over the past two decades the archive has moved location several times and expanded its collections, digitised key materials, and supported research projects, exhibitions, and commemorations. From photographs and documents to personal stories and artefacts, it continues to safeguard the legacy of generations past, while remaining a dynamic and accessible resource for the present.

As we look ahead, the archive remains committed to its mission: to collect, preserve, and share the School's heritage with pupils, staff, alumni, and the wider community. It remains a living resource, one that not only

honours the past but also informs the present and inspires the future. Here's to the next 20 years; please keep on supporting the archive, which is now based in the School Library. Please do contact Lucinda Robb if you wish to visit, access material or donate items: archives@greshams.com.

Lucinda Robb
Archivist

OG Travel Grant

Representing Team GB at FISU World University Games

The FISU World University Games is an international multisport event held every two years. Hosted in various countries across the globe, the most recent Games took place in Germany this summer, 2025. Featuring 18 sports and welcoming over 8,000 athletes, the Games attract some of the most exciting young talent in the world, including Olympic medallists. To be eligible for selection, athletes must be enrolled in a recognised degree programme, meet qualifying standards, and be aged 25 or younger. In the sport of athletics, nations can select only two athletes per event to represent their country at the games.

I completed a degree in Sports Science with Management at Loughborough College, graduating in 2024 after extending my final year to support my athletic development in sprinting. Now, I am continuing my studies with a Master's in Strength and Conditioning at Loughborough University; a programme that complements my interest in a sport-related career and enhances my understanding of the sport I train in daily.

After a successful indoor season ending in February, I set my sights on competing at the World University Games. In June, I was thrilled to receive my first call-up to represent



Harry (2nd L)

Great Britain – a dream come true for every young athlete. However, the cost of participation is self-funded, meaning athletes must cover all expenses (including travel) themselves. Despite this setback, I was extremely fortunate to receive financial support from friends, family, my university and the OG Club, allowing me to cover the costs associated. I was, and still am, extremely grateful for their help with this opportunity to run for my country for the first time.



The experience itself was nothing short of surreal, providing me with the incredible chance to compete alongside some of the world's best young athletes. I am immensely proud of my result, achieving my goal of reaching the semi-final of the 100m by securing automatic qualifying after finishing second in my heat. I was also able to cheer on the other Team GB athletes around my race times.

To any young athletes, if this experience has taught me anything, it is to take any opportunity with both hands as it might just be better than you could ever expect it to be.

Thank you again to the OG Club for all of their support in helping me reach this milestone – a dream that started during my time as a student at Gresham's.

Harry Taylor (k & H 2012 – 19)

The Philip Newell Memorial Fund

Volunteering in Kenya

I am hugely thankful to the Philip Newell Memorial Fund for supporting me to undertake a volunteering programme in Kenya. I went for five weeks, from 31st October to 6th December 2024, with an organisation called The Leap, which I would highly recommend to OGs. It was great to explore a new part of the world which was very different from Holt! I initially flew to Mombasa (via Addis Ababa), a coastal city with a population of over one million and the main port for Kenya. Our base for the majority of the time was a place called Bahari Hai near Kalifi, which is on the Goshi River and Indian Ocean coast. There were 15 of us in the group, all of a similar age. Our schedule included sea conservation, land conservation and community work.



Sea conservation

The world has lost almost 15% of all corals over the last decade or so, due to climate warming and overfishing. The work we did on the local reef included cleaning coral and sticking coral on to a brick underwater structure to support its growth and form a new coral area. This conservation work was undertaken with an organisation called Oceans Alive.

Community work

Our community work included pumping clean water and the construction of mud huts, one of which we built for the mother of one of our security guards.

Crowd Funding – one of the most positive elements of my stay was when some of us visited a local orphanage. We



were all touched by the resilience and warmth of the children we met. One of the group came up with the idea to raise funds to try to improve the children's living conditions. Crowd Funding raised £2,500 to provide new mattresses, pillows, mosquito nets and bed linen to ensure the children could sleep in comfort. It was an amazing experience.

Safari

Our group was given the option to undertake a short safari in the Tsavo Eastern Reserve, about a three-hour drive west from the coast. We stayed at four different camps and saw a wide variety of wild animals, including cheetah, leopard, lions and elephant (very close!!). We also did two cycle rides in the park.

Down time

The trip wasn't all work. We had weekends off and visited a number of places, beaches and bars! Beach volleyball was the preferred sport and the best bar by far was The Vipingo Beach Bar on the coast. A great place for a Sunrise Smoothy and Tusker beer, if you are ever passing by!

Lessons

The damage to the coral reef inflicted by climate change is a wake-up call we all need to be aware of. It was a real life lesson to spend time with the local children and learn about their lives. I learnt a lot about how African children live and how privileged we are in the UK.

Monty Stocks (H 2019 – 24)



OG Sport

OG Rugby 2025

Despite a surprising number of late withdrawals, thirty “brave” souls gathered in October for the inaugural Graham Worrall Touch rugby tournament. Whilst the thought of a game of *touch* rugby would have had GBW turning in his grave, it was just the incentive some of the more mature OGs needed to dust off the boots.

With four squads of seven and a rogue sub the rules were invented, then explained, by the day’s match official, Sam Curtis, who had been issued an off games chit by the Norfolk and Norwich Cardio unit.



What followed was two and a half hours of end-to-end rugby with all levels on display from the sublime to the ridiculous. Stevey Fields’ celebrations as he danced in untouched in the corner, only to realise he was four metres off the pitch, was a particular highlight. Ali Wallace’s decision to dummy Ru McIntyre (100m time in 2025 of 10.9secs) and go himself (100m time in 1993 undisclosed) was also a point of discussion in the clubhouse later in the day.

The results of the afternoon’s festivities (rules of points allocation available on request) were that the Anchor Spice Merchants and Gresham’s Golds drew with 3 points, The Gresham’s Grasshoppers gained 6 points, with the victory going to the Caley Farms team with 9 points. Man of the match was new staff member Dan Perry, who has been inducted into the OG family and will be an early name on the team sheet for any future fixtures.

A throng of 60+ players and supporters then made their way to their adopted clubhouse, The Anchor at Morston, where hot dogs and chips were provided, very kindly sponsored by the OG Club.

With the prizes handed out, all present enjoyed the Norfolk Wherry and assorted Roses whilst catching up with old friends and making new ones. We were delighted to also welcome Simon Worrall and Richard “the Old Coach” Brearley, one of whom had coached many of the boys, me included, 38 years ago!

Some fantastic singing followed, with the Anchor piano taking centre stage for some Adele and Amy Winehouse classics, and that was that for another year.

With the lack of any serious injuries, I am hoping that next year more people will make the decision to come and join us and help to rebuild the OG rugby day into a major event of the calendar as those of us old enough remember it in the early 90s.

Squads:

Spice Merchants: O. Harrison, D. Watt, P. Myburgh, P. Claybourn, “Gappy” Jack, B. Brownjohn, S. Fryer

Gresham’s Golds: E. Mullan, J. Small, L. Clabburn, A. Wallace, B. Withers, K. Jones, R. McIntye

Caley Farms: B. Gill, J. Marsom, D. Perry, S. Florax, H. Wallace, E. Sampson, D. Best

Gresham’s Grasshoppers: H. Steward, J. Crick, R. McKenzie, G. Williams, O. Tufts, J. Christophi, C. Mack, S. Fields

Sam Curtis (c & H 1986 – 93 & S 2006 -)

Hogs Hockey 2024 – 2025

The Hogs had another busy season, starting with fixtures on the first Thursday in September and finishing in March with 17 matches during that period against a variety of clubs and social sides. This season we had matches against the following Clubs Men’s teams: Dereham, North Norfolk, Exiles and the UEA, and we also had mixed matches with them. We also played the following social sides: the Guinness Gladiators, the Norfolk Farmers and the Old Beestonians, as well as playing a couple of games with the School. Unfortunately, we didn’t manage any matches with Norfolk Pies, Dragons HC or the Silvertops this season. As usual, the season resulted in a mix of wins, draws and losses. Hogs Hockey is in good health, with over 50 names in the WhatsApp group. One name that is still in the group, however, whose availability is unlikely on a weekly basis,

is that of Guy McNamara. Guy has been a stalwart of Hogs Hockey for the past seven years and we will miss his endless slides and commitment to the team. The sheer sound of him thundering towards an opposition defender has been more than enough to put them off and draw them into making a poor pass. We all wish him and the family well in Brisbane. Hogs on Tour 2027?

In 2025 the Hogs (and Gresham's sport) sadly lost one of its founder members, Thomas Cowper-Johnson (Tom C-J) who sadly passed away in March. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know him and play with him, will testify he was a gentleman both on and off the pitch. Known as "Grassman", he was surely one of the fastest right-wingers Norfolk hockey has ever seen. Not only was he a fantastic team man, his legendary half-time team jokes (we didn't bother with team talks) would ensure that the Hogs started the 2nd half in good spirits, regardless of how the 1st half had gone, or what the score actually was! He will be sadly missed by the whole Gresham's community.

I am grateful to the School for providing the odd player when required, and especially for providing a goalkeeper when we have been short. Henry Wanchoo (known affectionately as "One Shoe") did a sterling job umpiring for us most weeks and is a very important member of our Thursday night group. Over the course of the season, somewhere between 35 and 40 players represented the Hogs, many for the first time. I am hopeful that several of this year's school leavers will also join us next season as some of them have been regularly involved over the past couple of years.

The Hogs fixture list for 2025 - 2026 is coming together and Thursday nights are once again looking like being fun, social evenings. Which is, after all, is what the Hogs are all about.

Bob Hammond (W 1989 – 92)

OG Cricket

In a memorable encounter at Gresham's School, the youthful 1st XI took on the marginally more experienced Old Greshamians XI in a competitive yet good-spirited match. Batting first, the OGs recovered from a cautious start to post a competitive 237 for 6 wickets after their 48 overs, thanks to a superb 140 off 130 balls from Felix Flower, who rolled back the years with some towering sixes into the Reith Block, and an innings-anchoring 66 from Nick Morgan.

The school side, facing a pitch with unpredictable bounce and pace, began cautiously, but were soon settled with a series of boundaries across the brisk outfield. The opening



pair then paved an excellent foundation that ultimately led to a comfortable victory. J. Malherbe starred in the chase with a superb maiden century, displaying excellent stroke play and maturity well beyond his years. The 1st XI eventually claiming victory by eight wickets.

In summary, the day was a celebration of Gresham's cricket, past and present, and played in a spirit befitting the occasion.

Andrew Clark (k & F 2002 – 08)

OG Football

In September 2025 we welcomed an OG side to play the football 1st team in a warm-up match that was well contested and entertaining throughout. The 1st team took the lead with an excellent goal from Tamim R., but the OGs were far from easy opposition and with several Year 11 players in the side eager to impress, they came back into it when Spike Cook scored after good work from Ezra Philpott on the wing.



The OGs then took a surprise lead, with Ezra turning from provider to goalscorer, although a strong passing move led to the second with Tamim curling in an excellent equaliser. Enjoying leading the line, another controlled finish from Tamim completed his hat trick and meant the score at half time was 3-2.

The second half saw a change in formation for the 1st team, and great work from James S. led to him scoring on his debut, before Stevie C. rocked the goal with a powerful finish for a 5-2 lead. The OGs continued to battle and the excellent Amir El-Mokhtari, Toby Carter, Ezra Philpott, Jack Mellor and Toby McEwan added quality and energy to their team. They refused to give up and this was rewarded when Ezra scored his second goal for the OGs with a powerful rising shot to bring it back to 5-3.

After this, the 1st team stepped up a gear, and Connor M. scored a superb individual goal, before Will P. chipped in with two goals himself to put the match beyond any doubt. Jude Philpott ended the scoring for the OGs, meaning the game finished 8-4 to the 1st team. This was a good test for our first fixture and the atmosphere between the sides was excellent.

Tristan Philpott (S 2017 -)

The Old Greshamian Golfing Society

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I am delighted to be able to report another busy and happy year for OG Golf. Support for our fixtures has been generally strong and we continue to add new members to the Society and to forge ever closer links with the School.

As ever, we always welcome new recruits, both long-standing OGs and those who may have only left school recently – please do get in touch, details at the foot of this report.



President and Captain

We continue to receive the support of the OG Club, for which we remain very grateful.

Significant news this year is that our Society Captain, Peter Watson, was appointed Captain of the Senior Golfers Society for 2024/25, following hard on the heels of our President Jeremy Mumby in 2022/23. It is great to see our OG golfers recognised by these appointments to such a prestigious society which plays over 130 foursomes matches across the country every year.

Latest news since our last report, as follows:

- September saw our second match against the Old Norvicensians, played at Eaton where the ONs prevailed. Our manager, Adam Smith, is confident of revenge when the 2025 fixture returns to home turf at Sheringham later this year.

- Led by our Captain, Peter Watson, Gresham's have entered a team to play in the Dick Watson Trophy at Aldeburgh every October, and after near misses in each of the previous two years I am pleased to report that Gresham's won the 2025 event in mid-October, after a hard-fought final against Uppingham. A very fitting outcome for Peter who had presented the trophy to Aldeburgh GC in memory of his late father.
- The 4 Schools Match took place once again at Royal Worlington in late October, with Gresham's coming out on top after a very enjoyable day's golf.
- Peter Watson trounced all-comers at our Autumn Meeting at Woodhall Spa in early November to win the Guy Marson Memorial Trophy, scoring a stunning 41 points around one of the toughest courses in the country, well ahead of his nearest challengers.
- The 2025 Spring Meeting in March at Royal Worlington saw us compete once more for the Fishmongers' Trophy, won for the second year running by Roger Day.
- In this year's Halford Hewitt Gresham's secured an excellent victory over Shrewsbury before falling to Cranleigh in the 2nd round, an impressive follow up to 2024's progress into the 3rd round.



L to R: Boyd, Colman, Webster, J Peal, Pollok, R Stevens, Dacre, Berwick

- Progress through the qualifying rounds of the Grafton Morrish continues to prove elusive, the OGs falling 8 shots short at Worplesdon in mid-May.
- Later in the month the second annual match against the Old Leysians took place at Royal Worlington in which the OGs scored a comfortable victory.
- New recruit to the Society, Jason Sheridan, recorded an impressive 36 points to win the Summer Meeting at Sheringham in mid-June, with Graeme Pollok retaining the Senior Trophy.
- Later in the month the Cyril Gray team tasted success in the first round of their 2025 campaign, edging out Fettes before losing to Canford in the 2nd round.
- The annual match between the OGs and the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers took place at Royal West Norfolk at the end of June with the OGs securing a narrow 3-2 victory.
- And finally, eight OGs headed to Royal St. George's for our match against the Old Haileyburians which saw an excellent post-lunch performance, recovering from a 3-1 morning deficit to secure a 4½-3½ victory.

Our season finishes with the return match against the Old Norvicensians on Sunday 14th September at Sheringham, the Autumn Meeting at Aldeburgh on Friday 3rd October, swiftly followed by the Dick Watson Trophy, again at Aldeburgh on 11th/12th October, rounded off with the 4 Schools Match at Royal Worlington on Friday 25th October.



It's not all golf

Provisional fixtures for 2026

Wednesday 14th January – Halford Hewitt AGM & 2026 competition draw at the East India Club, London

Friday 20th March – Spring Meeting, Royal Worlington GC

Thursday 9th - Sunday 12th April – Halford Hewitt, Royal Cinque Ports GC & Royal St. Georges GC (practice day, Wednesday 8th April)

May, date to be confirmed – Match vs Old Leysians, Royal Worlington GC

Sunday 17th May (tbc) – Grafton Morrish Qualifying – Worplesdon GC

June 14th or 21st (tbc) – Summer Meeting, Sheringham GC

Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th June – Cyril Gray, Worplesdon GC (practice day Tuesday 23rd June)

Monday 29th June – Match vs Fishmongers' Golf Society – Royal West Norfolk GC

July – Match vs Old Haileyburians, Royal West Norfolk GC (date and venue to be confirmed)

September – Match vs Old Norvicensians, date and venue to be confirmed

Late September/early October – Grafton Morrish Finals, Hunstanton GC & Royal West Norfolk GC

September/October – Autumn Meeting & AGM, date and venue tbc

Friday 23rd October – 4 Schools Match, Royal Worlington GC

As ever, the OG Golf Society is always looking for new members, of all abilities. We enjoy our golf, the Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings are played off handicap, as are the matches, whilst the Halford Hewitt, Grafton Morrish and Cyril Gray are played off scratch. We actively encourage golfers of all ages, genders and abilities to join us, so if you are already a member but haven't been to any of our meetings, now is the time to change all that and if you are not a member but would like to join, please contact the Hon. Secretary, at the address above.

1970s OG Golf

I am delighted to report that in May 2025 our OG Golf reunion has enjoyed its fourth year at Staverton Golf and Country Club, Daventry, with a mixed group of fourteen of us, from the years 1972 to 1975, enjoying two rounds of golf over two days, together with our customary dinner. The photograph shows, from left to right: Neil Campbell, John Williams, Ian Harvey, Harry Boaden, Nikki Bennett-Baggs, Janet Campbell, Leslie Harvey, Alec Osborne, Gawain Briars, Jon Bennet-Baggs, Martijn van Buuren, Mike Rawlins, Nick Chesworth. Frank Froud, ex-Chair of the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, also attended.



Any other OGs from around that time are asked to contact me if they would like to come along next year on the 13th and 14th May 2026. It would be lovely to see more old friends, and they can come as non-golfers, or indeed just for the social. I can be contacted either through the OG Club or direct.

Gawain Briars (c & H 1968 – 76)

OG Tennis

With an all-star cast of Maurits insurance magnate Kleingeld, Alex, Benjamin Button Lamb, Tom, American tennis pro Fisher, accompanied by last-minute Old Beestonian buy-ins Hugh Crossley and Robert Carter (jnr.), it was always going to be a tough afternoon for the school. However, with strong performances from both of the school's top pairs the match was pushed close into the last round. Kleingeld, with newly slimmed-down physique, still maintained the highest ace count aged 50 and the trip in his bright blue Aston Martin was certainly the author's high point of the day! Lamb and Fisher, without whom the OGs would have suffered a heavy defeat, looked Wimbledon-ready and barely got out of 3rd gear until the last game against the school's first pair of Janes and Croot, where the rest of us were treated to a classic in the sunshine. Old Beestonians Crossley and Carter showed "green flashes" of tennis at all levels and will certainly be

welcomed back for another bite at the cherry next season. The author enjoyed his first match after a six-week enforced rest due to “cardio complications” and looked every bit the unpractised player! My thanks as always for those making the effort to attend. It was, as always, a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Sam Curtis (c & H 1986 – 93 & S 2006 –)

OGRE – Old Greshamian Rifle Establishment



Georgie

It has been another fantastic year for the Old Greshamian Rifle Establishment. We want to start by congratulating our newest member, Georgie Bohn, following her victory in the Channel Islands at the Annual Guernsey Summer Meeting. Georgie has only just joined OGRE after leaving Gresham's this year, where she was captain of the

School Rifle Club. We are delighted to welcome her to the club and see her perform at such a high standard. Having only dropped 7 points of a potential 505 over the 3-day competition, Georgie will be a huge asset to OGRE over the coming seasons.

The most anticipated event of the year was the Imperial Meeting, with over 700 competitors and lots of silverware up for grabs in the week-long event. This year, OGRE's Rich Stewart was top shot over the week, winning the Grand Aggregate, dropping just 8 points of a potential 780, outperforming some of the best shots in the world. Glyn Barnett came an extremely close second, scoring the same number of points as Rich but losing out on just 8 V-Bulls (a V-Bull is a central bullseye and is worth 0.1 points). Congratulations also to Clare Holland, Chloë Evans, Toby Little and Ben Danziger, who placed in the top 30. These results are a huge feat and build on from Chloë Evans' success last year, putting OGRE on top for two years running. We are excited to bring home the hat trick next year, firming our position as one of the best shooting clubs in the country.

Beyond the Grand Aggregate, it is the King's and St. George's Prizes that are most prestigious during the Imperial. As for King's, Glyn Barnett won both the first and second stages. Although we didn't see an OGRE winner, we were proud to find OGs made up 10% of the 100 finalists, with Ben Danziger and Rich Stewart reaching the top 10.

At St. George's, Toby Little cruised throughout the three-stage competition, winning both the second stage and the final, dropping only 1 point at 900 yards for a total of 224 / 225. In the OGRE Team competitions that run concurrently with the meeting, we were thrilled to win the Rifle Clubs (Ben Danziger, Glyn Barnett, Rich Stewart, Clare Holland), The Yorkshire Volunteer Shield (Chloë Evans, Jeremy Hinde, Nigel Stangroom, Pete Holden), The Veterans Match (Andy Thomson, Nigel Stangroom, Toby Little, Roger Culverwell, James Purdy) and the Schools Veterans Aggregate (Pete Holden, Rich Stewart, Toby Cubitt, Chloe Evans, Matthew Purdy, Clare Holland, Chris Heales, Hattie Bennett, Hamish Pollock, Jeremy Hinde).



OGRE and silverware

On the international front, OGRE has achieved a huge presence in the touring teams. Following the Imperial, we waved goodbye to Jeremy Hinde, Rich Stewart, Chris Heales, Clare Holland, Pete Holden and Matthew Purdy as they travelled to Canada with the Great Britain Rifle Team. During this tour, it was heartening to see such a healthy OGRE turnout in the Commonwealth Match with Matthew Purdy as Adjutant, Rich Stewart and Chris Heales as Coaches, and Clare Holland, Jeremy Hinde, Pete Holden and Matthew Purdy as firers. We also enjoyed seeing Norfolk comprise an entire team during one of the matches and won having dropped 0 points of 200.

In terms of selection, we have a big turnout of shooters in some of the forthcoming international tours. In the Australia 2026 Match, Chloë Evans is Adjutant alongside Pete Holden and Rich Stewart selected to shoot for the squad. Hamish Pollock will also be competing in the match, shooting for Australia. Ben Danziger and Toby Cubitt are in the GB U25 team and will be travelling to Australia to compete alongside the GB team. In the Palma Squad, which will compete in the World Long Range Rifle Championship, 11 OGREs are currently in the selection squad of 72. We wish the best of luck to OGREs currently in selection teams and look forward to seeing many represent their country internationally next year.

Clay Pigeon Shooting

On Thursday 25th September, a school team of nine pupils travelled over to Mid Norfolk Shooting Ground at Taverham to compete with 14 parents and OGs in a 50-bird sporting clay competition. After a safety brief the three teams were split equally into three groups each made up of pupils, OGs and current parents. It was fantastic to see how well everyone got on during the shooting and there were some great displays of shooting prowess over the seven shooting stands that presented a particularly challenging layout this year.

As numbers were not equal, an average for each group was calculated. This is the second year that this competition has been run, and this year the OGs were hoping to retain their title. The parents shot really well and just managed to pip the OGs and pupils to the top spot on the podium. Last year, we had a clear winner of OG Kees Jones with 46/50. This year, we had several shooters all achieving the team top score:

Parents: Average 30.4 hits, with top shots being Derek Dewson and Will Littleboy (equal high score (37). Overall cup winners.

OGs: Average 29.6, with top shots being Mark King, Henry Alston and Kees Jones (equal high score 34)

Pupils Average 28.9, with top shots being Max C, Arthur D and Sam W (equal high score 38)

Peter Detnon (c & H 1982 – 92 & S 2014 –19 & 2023 –)

Round Norfolk Relay

The Round Norfolk Relay event is a race which mirrors the county boundary over approximately 200 miles, divided into seventeen unequal stages. The race presents not only a tough physical challenge, but also a test of the organisational abilities of a club. Running over 24 hours, without a break (and carrying a baton), the event is much more than just a normal relay because it requires special preparation, planning, support and commitment. All parts of these requirements were certainly tested in the run-up to the 2025 event.

Unlike the successful early planning of 2024, my plans this year slowly began to unravel in the preparatory stages leading up to the OGs' fifteenth appearance. There were a number of injury withdrawals from our regulars at the end of August and then COVID and other viral issues wiped out even more runners. This was definitely the most stressful two weeks prior to the event that I have experienced trying to find "volunteers" to run more than half-marathon distances at short notice and at ridiculous times of the day (night). But in the end, and only three days before toeing the start line, we had a team!



Chris on Snettisham Beach

withdrawal. Chris had to balance being back at School in time to teach History, cover Open Day as Tallis Housemaster, and then manage a year group social in the evening. It was probably not the start to the day that he had planned, but all the team remain indebted to him for stepping up in the truest sense. Supporting Chris on the bike was **Dan Brighton-Watt** (W 1999 – 2004) who had kindly volunteered to sort logistics and transport for Chris. A slightly revised start line from the track this year thankfully didn't freak Chris out with the memory of nearly missing the finish line last year. We got off to a solid start with Chris keeping good pace through the marshes at Wolferton and thankfully not getting lost further up the coast. The last-minute advice to keep the sea on the left had clearly sunk in. By the time he had reached Hunstanton promenade there wasn't much left in the tank.

On the clifftops we met up with a regular Stage 2 runner, **Grant King** (k & H 1986 – 96). This was a *déjà-vu* run for Grant, with me providing cycle support for part of the stage. As we waited for Chris at the Lighthouse, we bumped into OGs **Will Stephenson** (W 1995 – 2000) and **Sam Kingston** (k & H 1978 – 86), who were running for other teams. Of course, we extended general OG camaraderie and humour, but hoped they wouldn't beat us. With the baton firmly in hand, Grant sent off towards Thornham and Brancaster where we waved him off onto the coastal path for some long miles on the never-ending sea bank. Pushing ahead to the next changeover point in Burnham Overy, we got the binoculars out to track Grant on the final few miles and thankfully he had overtaken the competition from his own running club.

The nerve centre operating from the Gresham's minibus was once again me as Captain and **Kate Olby (née Seymour)** (c & O 1991 – 98, S 2015 –) as Official Timekeeper. This year we weren't in the first wave setting off from LynnSport, King's Lynn but 5.30am was still early enough. Our first runner **Chris Cox** (S 2013 –) only offered to run this stage on the Wednesday before the event, filling in behind an illness



Grant finished in Burnham Overy

Our next baton-carrier was RNR new-comer **Annabelle Garrod** (c & E 2007 – 22), who had been volunteered by her uncle **Jason Snook** (c & W 1976 – 86). Snooky had erroneously booked a holiday over the RNR weekend but was determined not to let the team down and keep a family interest in the running. Annie was bouncing about at Burnham Overy and clearly keen to impress on her debut with some serious warm-up moves, including “shooing the chickens” – don’t ask! Annie had returned from university in Newcastle especially to take part in the RNR, showing true OG spirit. As soon as Grant was in, all we saw of Annie was the flash of her very bright pink socks as she disappeared towards the dunes. This stage is a good first “taste” of RNR, despite the sand and Annie came steaming into Wells taking us rather by surprise.



Annie and Lisa winning in Wells

Yet another year saw Team Tovey making a significant impact on the RNR. **Lisa Tovey (née Woodrow)** (E 1995 – 97) was next and husband **James Tovey** (k & T 1986–97) was again scheduled to run immediately afterwards. The Tovey children helped with logistics and encouragement and Lisa was in a surprisingly buoyant mood especially considering that today was her birthday. Another committed OG. Lisa’s familiarity with this stage no doubt gave her more opportunity to enjoy the stunning scenery through her sunglasses along the coastal path through Stiffkey and Morston. The marshals at the Wiveton café road junction didn’t need much persuading to join me in a chorus of “Happy Birthday”, which I’m not sure Lisa really enjoyed judging by the look on her face.

The marshals at the Cley changeover were happy to oblige with another rendition of “Happy Birthday” as Lisa handed the baton on to James. Despite wiping himself out on this stage last year, James seemed determined and with little between him and the North Sea he valiantly trudged on. Out of radio contact, and sight, for much of his 10-mile stage he seemed a long time coming into the fields at West Runton. He eventually bounced up the road with energy to spare, no doubt saving some of his energy for Lisa’s birthday lunch.



James and Olie at Cromer



Hughie and Oli

Snatching up the baton next was **Oli Curl** (O 2003). After a year out, Oli was back in fine form using the RNR as a warm-up for a tropical 70km race next month. This was a local leg for Oli but that didn't help settle her nerves as she paced up and down the clifftop car park. Handover done, she disappeared along the promenade, running towards her OG husband **Hughie Cabbell Manners** (T 2006 – 2011) in support on the bike collecting her on the Overstrand Road and I have no doubt that Hughie's encouragement and coaching made every undulating mile that little bit easier for Oli. Her elation at Mundesley certainly suggested so.

Setting off from Mundesley there were a few heavy drops of rain on the minibus windscreen and to the west some menacing inky storm clouds were forming. If the next runner **Victoria Neville** (c & O 1994 – 2004) and her support cyclist, **Georgie Rodwell** (B 1998 – 2002) didn't want to get too wet they needed to get a wriggle on. Just before they started, Victoria admitted that she had recently been unwell and was still recovering, but didn't want to let the team down. The ladies were all smiles for the nine miles, that thankfully didn't wipe Victoria out, but she certainly wasn't good for much for the rest of the day!



Victoria and Georgie through Paston



PJ chasing rainbows in Waxham

Up ahead at the Lessingham checkpoint me and Kate were hooking up with another first for the OG RNR Team. Long time RNR hero **Paul (PJ) Marriage** (k & T 1982-90) was now competing as Chair of Governors. Our most honourable friend had only just made it back on the team following an ankle injury and had to downgrade his stage mileage. With PJ in position, we were soon faced with the problem of missing car keys that had been left in the taxi which brought him to Lessingham. At this news my heart sank, as PJ was lined up to do a good chunk of supporting driving through the night and if he couldn't, then me and Kate would be getting even less sleep!

No phone signal made the situation even worse, but Kate put on her “problem-solving big bobble hat” and whilst I accompanied PJ on his run, she managed to formulate a plan.

By now it was mid-afternoon, and we were running about ten minutes behind schedule. PJ and I got a reasonable soaking in the storms, but thankfully most of it was held offshore. The lost key saga had yet to be completely resolved, but first we had to get ahead to Horsey and Team Hood. Our newest, and youngest, OG on the team this year was **Evie Hood** (E 2020 – 25). Evie absolutely deserves a special mention for her efforts. Originally, she was scheduled to run the leg PJ had completed (a mere 7.52 miles), but with a last-minute injury drop out Stage 9 (16.6 miles) needing to be filled, it’s fair to say that Evie took very little persuading. Ably supported on cycle by her mum **Anna Hood (née French)** (E 1990 – 93) Evie had a challenge ahead of her, but my goodness she was determined. Through some more rain and into the twilight of Gt. Yarmouth she boldly ran and here we picked up the support in the minibus as per event rules in the hours of darkness.

The last few miles towards Belton always seem never-ending and the gentle uphill didn’t help with Evie’s fatigue. She had run through several stitches and plenty of pain by now. We briefly left her on lit pavements to push ahead to the checkpoint where Anna and dad

Nick Hood (W 1990 – 95) were waiting. A sprint to the finish and an elated cuddle with Nick, she had made it. It was only then that Evie told us it was the furthest she had ever run! What a star.

Not only had Nick managed to convince Evie to run and Anna to cycle support, but now he was running the same stage as he had done the previous two years (with Anna in the support vehicle). Another fantastic family effort. Anna kept the commentary going on Nick’s run from Belton to Ditchingham, although “trotting along nicely” is probably not a compliment Nick was used to hearing. Kate and I managed to get a few rare moments to snooze in a sports field at Ditchingham before meeting up with



Evie and steaming Nick in Ditchingham



Evie being great in Great Yarmouth

the next runner. The tea-stop provided by the Bungay Black Dog Running Club was superb and the fruity flapjack helped re-energise me for the next few hours. James Tovey and son, Alistair, had now returned to help with the support driving for the next stage. Anna's regular updates towards the finished ensured that we were well in place with our next runner **Robert Hurst** (k & H 1991 – 97) for the dynamic changeover. With chest torch tested and calves stretched, Robert set off to bag another stage of the RNR in his quest to complete all of them.

Robert rapidly ran into the darkness followed by Anna in support with a well-planned vehicle changeover to the Toveys in a layby just down the road. At least I think it was well planned because I didn't see it happen and after spending ten minutes trying to find Robert and the other runners Kate and I realised we were on the wrong road! Tiredness clearly setting in already! Another brief twenty-minute catnap in a field at Scole would surely help. Not being a regular nighttime runner didn't seem to deter Robert and before we knew it, he had clocked up 10 miles and showed no sign of slowing down. Clearly the hi-vis Bear Grylls t-shirt was the right thing to wear. The Scole changeover is chaos at the best of times and we almost false started with a call from the marshals for "Team 22" instead of "Team 2". But then it was our turn, and Robert strode in looking particularly pleased with himself and fresh-faced, having maintained our ten-minute advantage.



Robert satisfied and sweaty in Scole



Kate and Dave at Tesco in Thetford

In the starting blocks at Scole was the second staff member and honorary OG **Dave Saker** (S 2010 –). Dave's taxi driver for the night was RNR faithful supporter **Simon Cooper** (c & H 1976 – 83), who had come down to earth from a gliding experience to help with overnight logistics. Stage 12 from Scole to Thetford is the longest leg of the RNR at a smidge under 19 miles but Dave keeps coming back to it year after year. Another "not quite fit" participant, Dave was nursing a calf injury but thankfully hadn't told me about it before starting. Coming out of Scole and towards Diss, it was PJ's turn to pick up the support vehicle, and by the time we found them in town it looked like Dave was getting some sort of



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Royal escort, such was the stately manner of PJ's vehicle and flashing beacon. It took a good while for Dave to reel in one of the teams ahead of us and as he entered the final few miles into Thetford the roads were getting congested with the other runners and support vehicles. Dave hobbled into the car park at Tesco having clearly expended all his potential energy Physics pun for the Physics teacher).

Up next was another latecomer to the 2025 team, but one with previous RNR experience. **Alex Hewson** (F 1998 – 2008) had offered his services as injury back-stop for what would have been PJ's original stage. Another difficult one to fill based on the mileage and time of day, 15 miles at 2am isn't high on anybody's wish list. PJ, Kate and I were particularly pleased to see the return of Alex's "arctic camo" running shorts still looking box-fresh from 2021. Spurred on by the sartorial encouragement, Alex ploughed through Thetford Forest and the rolling hills of the A134 before winding cross country towards Feltwell. A strong run all the way and by the time Alex made it to the checkpoint we were 20 minutes ahead.



Alex – fashionable in Feltwell



Mark 'fresh' pre-run at Feltwell

Our oldest member of the team, **Mark Jones** (S 1994 – 2015 & 2020 –) arrived at the Feltwell changeover with barely enough time to visit the rural ablutions and almost got caught short with Alex's explosive arrival. This is a familiar stage for Mark and why he keeps returning to do this Stage at 4.30am on a Sunday morning I will never know. Mark tells me it is the only way he can fit in a stage between musical commitments! Clearly Mark was keen to get to the finish this year and his allegro run this year saw him overtake several teams on the seven miles uphill to Wissington. Unfortunately, Mark's final few notes of the operetta were played out in a bit of a kerfuffle as neither the next runner nor the support vehicle was quite ready after being blocked in by another team.

The drama at Wissington was soon over and the baton was now in the hands of **Anthony Tovey** (k & T 1985 – 95). Ant is another RNR regular and fan of the night stages. PJ's support vehicle had now retired, and Kate and I took over the support in

the minibus. This is a glorious part of the event as the sun comes up over the fields around Denver and the A10. A quick switch to cycle support left Kate free to push ahead to the next changeover, which was going to be sooner than we thought, judging by Ant's pace. These last few stages of the RNR are difficult to manage in terms of getting runners to the changeovers in time, especially as we were now more than 30 minutes ahead of our predicted time. Little did we know how this would impact us in Downham Market.



Ant cutting off the Ouse



Louis out of Downham

Ant put in a fabulous performance, and I don't think any of us were prepared for the sprint finish towards the Heygates car park. As I pedalled hard to keep up on the bike I couldn't see our next runner at the changeover, but I could see Kate in her distinctive big bobble hat by the side of the road looking perplexed. I heard a voice repeatedly calling my name but still couldn't see our man. Then running desperately hard from behind me, still in tracksuit top carrying his car keys and rucksack came **Louis Clabburn** (F 1987 – 92). With more than ten appearances in the RNR, Louis knew the drill but hadn't run this side of the county before and had suffered some "traffic issues" getting to the start. He threw down his keys and bag and scrabbled to

pick the baton up. No opportunity for stretching or warm up, we were straight into it. By 500m in Louis had calmed down and settled to an admirable pace. With skeins of geese flying overhead, he ploughed on, gaining more time for the team as the rising sun burnt off the remnants of the dawn mist. Over the final bridge into the crowds at Stowbridge Louis had put us 40 minutes up.

Tom Ellis (k & H 2014 – 23), back from his global travels, first year at university and keen to improve on his 2023 appearance, had agreed to run the final leg for us. I'm not quite sure of the level of preparation he had engaged in, but thanks to his parents (Sophie and Phil) and some frantic WhatsApp messages around 5am he was ready and waiting in Stowbridge. He whizzed off over the bridge and was soon passing runner after runner on the footpaths towards King's Lynn. Sophie, on support cycle, provided regular updates to the rest of us who had moved ahead to the finish. Thanks

to Sophie's excellent navigation (mums know best!), Tom came storming into LynnSport having gained even more time for the team. But this is where separate social engagements on Friday and Saturday night properly caught up with him. Just before the final 100m, Tom slowed to a stop and was bent over double. Me and Kate were somewhat concerned. What was wrong? Could he finish? After a mist of enthusiasm left his body and covered the outfield, Tom was soon back to it for the final sprint to the finish. I don't think I have ever seen anyone look quite so green! Sophie informed us later there had been a few other impromptu "recovery" stops on his run in.



Tom – totally finished at LynnSport!

We finished around 49 minutes ahead of our projected time and in 38th place, which was just down on last year's performance. In spite of all the turmoil pre-event and all the chaos that unfolded during it, this was certainly a respectable effort and result for our haphazard running Club. The sleep-deprivation and slow nocturnal miles certainly take their toll, but the enjoyment, good humour and spirits of all those taking part keep us going for the near 30 hours awake. With particular thanks to all those that supported me and Kate through the night, we actually felt slightly human by Sunday evening, a marked improvement on previous years.

Next year's event is scheduled to take place on 12/13 September 2026. I am looking to hand on the organising baton to a willing volunteer and continue to support in the background, so if you are interested in taking on this wonderful challenge or getting involved as a runner, support driver please get in touch with me (howardeolby@hotmail.com) or via the OG Club.

Howard Olby (K & F 1987 – 97)



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Obituaries

Alan (Bob) Reid (W 1940 – 44) died in July 2024.

Dr. Robert Franklin (k & OSH 1941 – 48) died in December 2023.



John Gillam

John Gillam (H 1944 – 48) died in January 2025. This is an edited version of the address given at his memorial service by his nephew, Stephen Gillam:

John Gillam was born in 1930 Bungay, where his father Geoffrey was in practice. My grandmother Mary once described her labour to me: it was prolonged and then further extended because his twin brother **Peter** (H 1944 – 49) only appeared three hours later. By that time, Johnny had stolen a march and opened up a gap in worldly wisdom which Peter never really closed.

In many ways, their childhood was a conventional, upper middle-class affair – the large house, the tennis court, the garden parties, to prep. school at Gayhurst, happy holidays here at the family base in Holt. Happy, if emotionally rather stunted

by today's standards. He and Peter used to say they were really brought up by their nanny. **Anthony** (c & H 1949 – 58) was born at the outbreak of war in 1939, by which time they were living in London. Geoffrey left to serve in India. They were evacuated to Hemel Hempstead and schooling was interrupted.

At Gresham's, the twins' double act was long established: not so much Jekyll v. Hyde as Eric v. Ernie. John was the adventurer, the rascal, inclined to practical japes and less assiduous in his studies; Peter the model student, Victor Ludorum, Head of School, etc. This was, of course, a fraudulent simplification. John was a great deal smarter than he ever gave himself credit for and Peter always liked a party.

Johnny remained a step ahead. My father described a cycle trip they made to the Continent in their early teens. By the time they'd reached Dover, Johnny had spent his allotted pocket money for the two-week trip. By the time they reached the outskirts of Calais, he'd spent Peter's – on wine, if not women and song. A call to the mater guaranteed sanctuary with one of her posh friends in Paris – and the Pullman back, where no doubt Johnny had the best berth.

After a period at agricultural college near Nottingham, John taught for a year before going on to study Classics at Trinity College, Dublin. Irish society, the Guinness, the craic suited Johnny. Alongside social activities, he found time

to lead the university's squash team, regularly beating Jonah Barrington, who later became world champion. I personally never got close to getting a game off him, even after his hip replacements!

He had found his vocation and moved back into teaching, at Hawtrey's in Somerset. He married Helen Noble, whom he had met at Trinity College Dublin, in 1959 and together they established a prep. school at Beckington in Somerset four years later. From early on, they specialised in taking children with what became known as dyslexia. As a late developer himself, I think he had an instinctive feel for how best to help these children fulfil their potential.

Beckington had a distinctly Dickensian feel. Dotheboys Hall, yes, but John was always rather Mr. Micawber for whom "something would turn up" than Wackford Squeers. Those early years must have been hard work, especially with the arrival of three young children: Sarah, Harry and Liza. Marriage to Helen also brought into the family fold her cousins, the Willincks (including **Andrew**, OSH 1968 – 72), who would remain much loved and lifelong friends.

Ravenscroft School moved to Farleigh Castle around 1970 - and thrived. Friends of mine who attended had happy memories. Many pupils went on to successful careers; they remained in contact with John for the rest of his life. Here, of course, he met Anne-Marie. When they married in 1973, he acquired another daughter, **Kate** (O 1985 – 87), followed by the birth of **Frances** (O 1989 – 94).

John enjoyed the company of a wide circle of friends – and a varied bunch they were. He could, as you know, strike up a conversation with anybody. One of the more bizarre evenings I ever spent with him was at the Beefsteak Club, which met in White's off Pall Mall. These gatherings blended esoteric rituals, undergraduate japes and pulverising alcohol consumption. I vaguely remember JFRG clambering onto a bus. Whether it was on this occasion I don't know, but he was soon fast asleep and got to the end of the line well beyond his stop. Coming to, in one of his characteristically colourful waistcoats, he befriended the bus driver, who promptly agreed to drive him back to Sarah's! He always had a certain panache.

By then, he was based in France with Anne-Marie, to whom he remained ever devoted, and Jonathan, who was a stalwart support in his last years. He made regular trips to the UK – "dodging about", he called it – in that dilapidated old blue Renault van. Holt was always part of the itinerary. Here, he would meet up with OG pals: **David Hammond** (N & H 1939 – 46), **Dr. Tommy Stuttaford MP** (H 1944 – 50) and **Keith Dugdale** (F 1943 – 48). My job was to provide the whisky sharpeners before **Steve Benson** (S 1963 – 84) gamely chauffeured them from pub to pub.

Altogether, John Gillam was a most unusual man – his generosity of spirit, his good humour, his warmth, his abiding interest in friends and family, his erudition, his raffish style, his stoicism in the face of infirmity.

One of John's many longstanding friends, **Christopher Newbury** (H 1970 – 74), adds: A proud Norfolk man, John came of a long line of Skrimshire and Gillam medical men stretching back to the 18th century, long based in Holt. His mother's family, the Davieses, were Welsh seafarers who became city gents, owning shipping and aviation companies. His mother's cousin Wilfrid Oldaker, Precentor of Christ Church, Oxford, and headmaster of its Choir School, married his parents and brought schoolmastering into the family. As well as a master mariner grandfather, there was a cast of medical uncles, and one who had been a member of Lloyd George's kitchen cabinet.

By 1948, when he left Gresham's, John had decided to be a farmer and trained at Nottingham and in Yugoslavia. But on finishing his course he had second thoughts, with the help of his friend and mentor **the Rev. Charles Linnell** (S 1946 – 50), chaplain at Gresham's, and decided to try teaching. Gabbitas and Thring found him his first job at Beech Hall, Macclesfield, at £310 a term, payable at the end of each term, and he taught there for two years. His parents felt he was under-qualified for this career and talked him into going back to academic life.

While taking two degrees at Trinity College, Dublin — in Ancient and Modern Literature and in Greek and Education — John became a lover of Guinness and met his first wife, Helen Noble. On leaving Dublin, he got a job as Senior Classics Master at Hawtreys in Wiltshire, a feeder school

for Eton and Winchester, and while there taught at least two future dukes.

Ravenscroft School, at Beckington Castle in Somerset, came up for sale, having been run onto the rocks by a disastrous new owner, the number of boys down from 50 to 17. With Colonel Forber, late the Sudan Camel Corps, the Gillams bought the school in January 1963. The numbers soon recovered, and they brought in the first girls. John taught English and Latin to all ages, and Greek to the older boys. His wife launched a kindergarten and special teaching for dyslexia. In 1970, with Beckington Castle too small for a hundred children, they bought the much larger Farleigh House, a few miles away. John was still a teaching head, but his second wife, Ria, expanded and led the specialist teaching, and by 1980 the school had become a school for children with learning difficulties. The leaving age went up to 17, there was teaching for O-Levels, and Mrs. Gillam took over as Principal.

John now changed his career. He bought some 300 acres around the school, pasture and woodlands. The proud owner of a herd of prize-winning Salers cattle, he also tried some plough, with new crops that included pumpkins, and he also went into the wine trade. With a pick-up truck and the slogan "Larry's Logs Burn Brightly", he found an *alter ego* as Larry, selling and delivering firewood. Always a connoisseur of pubs, he served many around Somerset and Wiltshire, missing no chances to wet his whistle and make new friends.

The properties at Farleigh were sold around the turn of the century. John, now 70, settled with his wife at her house in Normandy, but until 2021 made many peregrinations all around England, Scotland, and Wales, visiting a vast crew of friends, relations, and Old Ravens, and also visited Australia. He became a keen family historian and found rich veins to explore, producing a book on his findings.

There was always a base at Holt, his parents having retired there to the family seat at Hill House in 1969. For some 70 years, John knew the school's heads and leading staff and was a particular friend of **Logie** (HM 1955 – 82). He was a contributor to the *OG Magazine*, writing send-offs for old friends, and looked out eagerly for every new issue. Erudite, raffish, stoical, he was always immaculately turned out, but had one eccentricity, which he said had a school origin. In the summer, he rarely wore socks, insisting that this habit came from the school chaplain in the 1940s, **the Rev. E. F. Habershon** (S 1932 – 46), who liked to point out that "Our Lord wore no socks". As Dr. Stephen Gillam said at John's memorial service in the school chapel in June, "he never really left".

Severely disabled at the end, John had to give up driving and was confined to Normandy. His memory and mind stayed clear, and his ebullient cheerfulness never failed. A few weeks before his death, his thin volume on General de Gaulle, *A Grown-up's Guide to help Children's Understanding of a Great Frenchman* was printed.

Peter Killick (k & c 1945 – 48) has died.

John Baldry (k & OSH 1940 – 49) died in September 2023.

Geoffrey Chapman (W 1945 – 49) died in October 2024.



John Fordham

John Fordham (H 1946 – 50) died in August 2024.

David Bussey Hall (F 1947 – 51) died in January 2025. The following obituary is taken from *The Landavian*: David joined the staff of the Cathedral School, Llandaff, in September 1970. Born in Suffolk, he was educated at Bungay Grammar School, Gresham's School, Holt, and Keble College, Oxford, where he read Geography. Before coming to Llandaff, he taught at Malsis School in Yorkshire (where he encountered his first school ghost!) and



David Bussey Hall

the Beacon School, Amersham. For most of his career at the Cathedral School he taught Latin and English, and for several years he edited *The Llandavian*, at another time ran the Library, and for a short time was in charge of boarding. In this role, whilst patrolling the corridors late one night, he clearly saw a figure disappear into the Headmaster's Office and followed to remonstrate; finding the office empty and with no other exits, he realised that he had met his second school ghost! He also contributed to school music, bringing jazz to school concerts for the first time

His greatest love was philology, and he had an extensive knowledge of the history and development of language; *The Llandavian* of 1993 said: "Meticulous in his own expression, he was impatient of those who brought sloppiness and imprecision to their speech or writing... and generations

of pupils benefitted from his enthusiasm for correctness and his preference for a wholesome unadorned prose style". It also described him as a kindly disciplinarian, who believed that rules were meant to be kept.

After his retirement in July 1993, David lived across the road from the school for almost 30 years, and continued the study of words, contributing fascinating articles to *The Llandavian* in the 1990s on the origin of surnames, sporting terms and nursery rhymes. He also described his great pleasure when past pupils came up to him in the street to tell him how much they had benefitted from his teaching, both at the time and since – this clearly meant a great deal to him. His last visit to the school was in 2018, when he came over for a short time to be reunited with former pupils at the dinner to celebrate 40 years of co-education.



Graham Barker

Graham Barker (OSH 1948 – 51) died in July 2024. The following obituary is taken from the Holt RFC website: One of Holt RFC's original members, Graham Barker, sadly died on 10th July 2024. Aged 89, Graham had suffered from ill-health for a

number of years, but always remained very interested in Holt RFC, and was delighted on the Club's promotion to RFU Regional 2 Anglia (Level 6) for the 2023 – 24 season, and retention in this League for 2024 – 25.

Graham was elected as the first Club Secretary of Holt RFC at the inaugural meeting which took place at the Feathers Hotel, Holt, on 30th November 1961. He played hooker in the first match of Holt RFC versus West Norfolk in December 1961 and subsequently played at Holt for the next few years. With his brother Brian, he ran a successful haulage and import/export company based in King's Lynn and Wells. He retired to Church House, Wells, where he immersed himself in his interests of collecting pictures, antiquarian books and Horatio Nelson memorabilia. He carefully catalogued and looked after his vast collection over many years.

At the 50th anniversary of the founding of Holt RFC, Graham attended the celebrations and was photographed with the team-mates who had played with him in Holt's first match. He last visited Holt RFC for a lunch in November 2022, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Dr. Neville Groom (c & W 1945 – 52) died in July 2024. He worked in General Practice for many years in Wymondham.

Richard Colman (F 1948 – 53) died in July 2025. His nephew **Andrew** (F 1975 – 79) writes: Richard was born on 10th December 1934 to Arthur and Gerda Colman in Norwich. He was the younger



Richard Colman

brother to **David** (F 1945 – 49). After being head boy at Town Close House in Norwich, he joined Gresham's in 1948 as a County Scholar. His Town Close Headmaster, Mr. Dearnley, proposed him for a Scholarship, informing **Mr. Olivier** (HM 1944 – 55) that "you will find him a most useful and promising member of school; he may not quite equal David in his games, but he certainly has a better brain"!

When at Gresham's, he developed his love of sailing that would continue for the rest of his life. He helped form the school sailing club at Barton Broad. On leaving Gresham's he then spent two years in National Service including OTC training in Aldershot, before being posted to 127 Dragon Battery, 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery in Cyprus just before all the troubles started. In Aldershot, his military career did not exactly get off to a flying start. He used to recount how he led his convoy of guns into a cul-de-sac. Not being able to reverse, all the guns had to be unhitched from the trucks, and extra men were deployed from camp to help manually tow the guns back out again. Once in Cyprus, when not on duty, he spent many happy hours sailing in the Mediterranean and exploring the island.

In 1955 he went up to Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge, earning a 1st in Natural Sciences (Maths, Physics and Chemistry) before moving on to Civil Engineering in the last year, winning the Archibald Denny Prize in the Theory of Structures. He spent university holidays travelling around Yugoslavia, the Rhine, Italy, and hitchhiking across Canada to Vancouver and back again across America by Greyhound bus.

In 1958 he started working as an engineer for Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners – working on projects including the Dungeness A Power Station, the Commercial Union Skyscraper in the City, and the M6 motorway Lune Gorge Lancaster to Sedbergh section, where there were particular concerns, as it was just after the Aberfan disaster in Wales. In 1961 he went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, completing his Master's degree in Soil Mechanics in one year, rather than the normal two.

Married in 1966 to Jenifer, he was then posted to Lagos in Nigeria for a very happy eighteen months. It was in Lagos that he acquired an African Grey parrot called Percy that would become part of the family for nearly 40 years. There was some consternation when, after 20 years, Percy laid an egg!

Upon his return from Nigeria, and not wanting to raise his young family in London, he moved to Yorkshire and co-founded what would become a successful engineering practice, Birkett Stevens

Colman Partnership. He played hockey for Harrogate HC, golf at Alwoodley, shot at Stainburn, near Otley, and took advantage of the excellent fishing near to home. His work allowed him a lot of foreign travel, which he enjoyed, working in India, the Middle East, Bahrain, West Indies, South America, Sumatra, Indonesia, and China. One of his highlights was flying with the King of Saudi Arabia's sister into the desert, where she wanted to build a new palace. One of his last projects before retiring was to test the soil underneath the new grandstands at Franklins Gardens, home of Northampton Saints Rugby Club.

In 1991 he spent six months in London, where he went to Imperial College to complete a refreshers Master's degree in Soil Mechanics. In 1998 he and his wife relocated back to Norfolk, taking on another renovation project in Wroxham. They also restored one of the first ever clinker-built day boats, powered by an old Morris Minor engine, and kept a sailing boat at Barton. He took much pleasure in teaching his grandchildren how to fish.

Failing health led to a final move to Northamptonshire in 2023 to be closer to his family, where he passed away peacefully in July 2025.

Brian Johnson (W 1949 – 54) died in February 2025. **Flemming Heilmann** (OSH 1949 – 54) writes: Born in Westminster on 22nd February, 1936, Brian Johnson died peacefully at the age of 88 in London on 10th December, 2024. A beautiful service celebrating his life was



Brian Johnson

held at St. Michael and All Angels on 8th March, 2025, attended by friends and associates from both sides of the Atlantic.

Arriving at Gresham's aged 13, he was to make his mark as an active participant in school life, in due course as Vice-Captain of Woodlands and School Prefect. Brian was an understated member of the community but convivial and well liked, with a twinkle in his eyes and a ready smile. A good student with artistic and thespian talent, he acquired skills working with watercolours under the guidance of the jovial art master **Stuart Webster** (S 1945 – 71) (who claimed friendship with the famous Norfolk-born painter Edward Seagoe). He acted in school plays directed by the dapper and quite exceptional English teacher **Hoult Taylor** (S 1928 – 43 & 1944 – 60) and he was known for his amazing imitations of Winston Churchill. Brian was not an all-round star athlete, but as a strong right wing earned his colours

on the Gresham's 1st XV of 1953-54 captained by **Andy Mulligan** (c & H 1945 – 54) (of Ireland and British Lions fame).

Although he could be self-effacing at times,² one could never doubt that Brian had his opinions, on which he would take strong positions when called for. For example, he was one of the group of four school prefects who notoriously attained audience with the Chairman of the Governors Weston Backhouse (on the very day they left school in 1954) to register their concern over certain practices of then headmaster, **Martin Olivier** (HM 1944 – 55). It turned out that they (Brian, **Napier Russell** (W 1949 – 54) as Captain of Woodlands, Andy Mulligan as Captain of Howson's and yours truly, Captain of School and OSH) were not alone – others had previously registered similar worries. Olivier was to leave Gresham's at the end of the following term.

Upon leaving school, Brian did his national service with the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) before going up to Queens' College, Cambridge, to read Economics. He had an interest in development economics and went on to advanced studies for a postgraduate degree at Columbia University in New York, where he then taught for some years. Through the 60s Brian was focused on developing economies and the financing of very early environmental projects addressing climate change. He worked under the renowned Professor Paul Ehrlich of the International Trust for Environmental Development; he spoke at world conferences calling for banks to

take a longer-term view on climate change projects. For a while he was assistant to the head of the Marshall Plan and also worked with the World Bank. He wrote profusely, including a well-received book titled *The Politics of Money*, published in 1970. He and his wife Pam (née Pomerantz), lived in sylvan Cos Cob, Connecticut, with their two children Jacoba and Duff.

Having returned to live in England, Brian married Disie (née Diana MacDougal) with whom he settled in Chelsea. He taught at the University of Sussex in the 70s and continued his advocacy for progressive financing initiatives promoting economic development and illumination of the implications of climate change.

Brian was a treasured and loyal friend of mine through nigh on 70 years, despite separation caused by obstacles of geography and disparate careers. Reunions were instantly cherished. He was always incredibly informed and incisive. The twinkle in his eye, his Churchill imitations, his sense of humour and his concern for the less fortunate had all been enhanced by experience and intelligent understanding. He developed an eye-catching flare for the sartorial – always turned out impeccably for any and every occasion.

Brian had many strings to his bow. He embraced and avidly read poetry – he could recite profusely at will. He loved gardens and gardening. He was a very accomplished painter. So it was no great shock to his friends that he and Disie should quite dramatically change direction. They

moved to south-western Tuscany, where they settled in a beautiful old farmhouse near Scansano on a sloping, somewhat neglected, property with tremendous views to the Mediterranean and, on very clear days, the distant silhouette of Sardinian mountains. At *Fonte Pitaccio*, as the property was called, they steadily built an enchanting terraced garden. Brian immersed himself in painting, expanding his talent and honing his skills with water colours, oils and also pastels. He regularly spent months working in Venice and was to exhibit successfully on an annual basis at Glebe Place in Chelsea. With Disie's agreement and direction he would dive into all manner of improvement projects in their now expansive garden or the outbuildings. He also designed and built sophisticated gardens for others, who had acquired and restored Tuscan properties. However, as age and health intervened, Brian and Disie with heavy heart left their treasured *Fonte Pitaccio* to spend sunset years in London.

Brian was yet another Old Greshamian who not only made his mark, but made a valuable contribution to society. He leaves a void in the lives of many.

Arthur (Jim) Jerwood (OSH 1949 – 54) died in January 2024.

Andrew Corran (W 1949 – 55) died in October 2024. On leaving Gresham's, he went up to Trinity College, Oxford (where he was awarded a cricket Blue in all three of his seasons) to read English. In the 1960 Oxford and Cambridge match, he took 12 wickets for 116 runs. Earlier in the season



Andrew Corran

he had taken 7 for 45, bowling unchanged through the innings, to dismiss Lancashire for 103. In the same year, he played for the Gentlemen in the Gentlemen v. Players match at Lord's. He was also a fine hockey player, narrowly missing being selected for the England team.

After leaving Oxford, Andrew moved to Nottinghamshire, having obtained a teaching post at Nottingham High School. He captained Notts in the 1962 season, when he made 620 runs and took 64 wickets in the County Championship. His best season was in 1965, when he took 109 wickets at an average of 20.30.

Andrew moved to Australia in 1965, joining the staff of Melbourne Grammar School on a teacher exchange, thus ending his first-class cricket career. On returning to England, he taught at Cranleigh from 1968 – 1995. The following extract from

a tribute written by a Cranleigh colleague appeared in *The Cranleighan* on the occasion of Andrew's retirement as senior housemaster in 1989:

"AJC's circle of sporting and other connections is legendary: but (it is based on) his capacity to get on with people. It is this talent which he has brought to bear: a remarkable insight into human nature and sympathy with what makes the young mind work...at the end of the Summer Term, over 150 old boys and parents came back for a farewell dinner: in many ways the natural culmination of so many House evenings generously hosted by Andrew and his talented artist wife Gay, who in her own right has proffered comfort and wise counsel to those who may on occasion have found a particular school day not the happiest of their lives. Neither Andrew nor the House would have been the same without her stylish and sensitive presence."

The many tributes paid to Andrew by his former pupils and colleagues on hearing of his death bear witness to the esteem and affection in which he was held by all.

Robin Baker (c & W 1949 – 56) died in 2024.

David Joice (c & F 1949 – 56) died in April 2025. His son, James, writes: David grew up at Bale Hall with his parents, four sisters and one brother. At Gresham's, he formed lifelong friendships with **Major John Child** (F 1954 – 57), **Roger Hagen** (c & W 1951 – 59), **David Stangroom** (OSH 1953 – 57) and **Peter Underwood**

(H 1952 – 56). After school, he studied at Enfield Technical College before attending Shuttleworth College, where he pursued his love of agriculture.

He began his career as a farm manager, later moving into agricultural marketing with Ciba Geigy and then Monsanto. His work took him to Brussels for two years, after which he settled in Reepham, Norfolk — where he would spend the rest of his life. Following his time at Monsanto, David founded Norfolk Agrochemicals and Hectaspan, until being forced into early retirement by his long battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

David remained deeply passionate about farming and proud of his Norfolk heritage. He played an active role in his community throughout his life: he was County Chairman of the Norfolk Young Farmers' Club in 1963, a founding member of both Holt Rugby Club and the Reepham and District Rotary Club, and contributed to Reepham Parish Council. He was also a keen bridge player and a member of the Reepham Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS).

Many will fondly remember David for his alter ego, *Ol' Parker* — a character he created to share humorous tales of Norfolk farm life. Through after-dinner speaking and events, *Ol' Parker* helped raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, bringing laughter wherever he went.

David is survived by his devoted wife, Susan Whiteside, who supported him throughout his life, their two sons, Henry

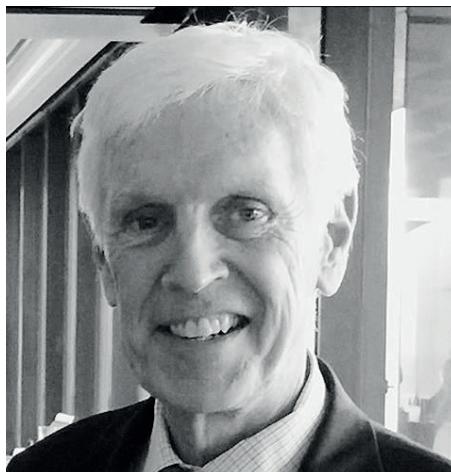
and James, and five grandchildren: Digby, Scarlet, Felix, Tess and Sylvie.

Charles Bussey (OSH 1952 – 56) died in July 2025.

David Swan (OSH 1954 – 58) has died.

Charles "Peter" Hill (c & OSH 1954 – 60) died in January 2025.

Roger Wain-Heapy (c & W 1955 – 62) died in September 2025.



Dan Gleason

Daniel Gleason (OSH 1962 – 63) died in October 2024. The following is taken from an online obituary: Dan lived each of his 80 years with boundless energy, enthusiasm and joy, treating every day as a cherished gift to be lived to the fullest. A brilliant student, writer, thinker and advocate, Dan's academic and professional accomplishments were remarkable, though he would have quickly changed the subject, were anyone to have dared remark

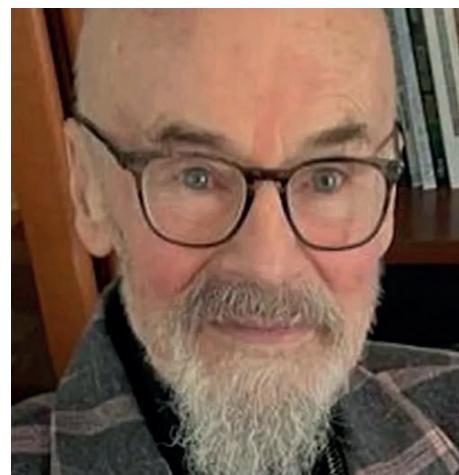
on them in his presence. Life to Dan was about experiences, not achievements; "adventures," particularly those with his family, were their own reward.

Dan graduated from The Loomis School in 1962, where his talents on the gridiron, rink and diamond, as well as in the classroom, were recognised by the school's Scholar Athlete award. He spent the next year in England, at Gresham's School, Holt, through the English-Speaking Union. In the fall of 1963, he began a seven-year run at Harvard, graduating college as an elected member of the Phi Beta Kappa society in 1967 and law school in 1970. Dan continued his legal studies with a year at an international school in Brussels. In 1972, Dan began a four-decade-long career in the Boston office of Nutter McCennen & Fish, where he served the firm in many leadership and mentoring roles. His talents in the courtroom were legendary and earned him admission to the American College of Trial Lawyers, where he served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Chapter. Dan's work brought him great happiness, as it allowed him to constantly learn, teach, laugh, serve and perform. He took particular pride in representing the underserved communities in and around Boston, including as Co-Chair of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. The many, many friendships Dan developed in the stressful and often contentious world of litigation are a testament to the integrity, kindness and excellence that he brought to his profession.

Dan's intellectual curiosity was insatiable. He was always either learning or looking

for something new to learn. History, language and music were primary among his passions and he loved to share each with those around him, even complete strangers, particularly music. No matter the occasion, if a piano or guitar were in his line of sight, it was a pretty safe bet that Dan would end up filling the room with a college fight song or a 60s ditty, played entirely by ear. True to form, when he learned of his Alzheimer's diagnosis, he responded by learning the accordion.

Dan's greatest passion was people, and none more so than his family. His impact on those fortunate enough to have known him and to have loved him was profound. But he has left us with so many memories, so many stories and such an inspiring path to living a meaningful and fulfilling life that he lives on through his family and friends.



Duncan Farquhar

Duncan Farquhar (OSH 1959 – 63) died in 2023. **Ian Aldous** (H 1960 – 65) writes: I got to know Duncan in 1963 after a CCF

camp when four of us, including **Guy Parlour** (k & OSH 1957 – 63) and **Victor Levine** (OSH 1958 – 64) decided to take a train ride to the Irish border town of Newry and hitchhike round Ireland in pairs.

The CCF camp had been an adventurous experience in itself, especially on our Duke of Edinburgh expedition led by later School Captain **Geoff Fitch** (k W 1956 – 65). We were introduced to the dangerous delights of drinking by an estate lodgekeeper and survived our Biology master **Mr. Simpson** (S) driving an army truck into a roadside rut, which ended eventually, and fortunately, in the truck flipping over into a soft roadside field. We were surprisingly unhurt, including **Rory McKenzie Dodds** (H 1960 – 64) later poet and dragonfly expert, who was in the front of the truck. Further down the road lay cliff side dangers!

The Ireland hitchhiking trip was a lot of further fun, involving: trying to kip on the floor of a drunken Irish dental technician's workshop surrounded by dental casts and accompanying frightening tools; going to a private castle where talks on Ouspensky and Gurdjieff were being held; finding Victor in great pain lying amidst straw at Duncan's aunt's farm near Limerick, I having poisoned him with my undercooked green chipped potatoes he had eaten for breakfast. We were impressed by the Irish priesthood's love of horses in a Dublin show and near the end of our journey Duncan and I on request got to sleep in the cell of an Irish police prison reserved for drunks reeking of vomit and urine. By the end of this trip I knew Duncan quite well.

On leaving Gresham's, Duncan embraced some of the hippy values of the time, especially those involving spiritual sustenance, and hitchhiked in India, Persia and throughout Europe. He settled in South Africa, working as a trainee journalist on the *Rand Daily Mail*, where he remet **Richard Curtis** (c & H 1956 – 63) who is probably one of the most travelled OGs ever, leading Land Rover parties of young punters throughout India, Africa and South America for months at a time, which he did for some ten years.

Duncan returned to England, initially embracing the punk movement, his sister having met Jem Finer of The Pogues. He then studied for a Theology degree at Canterbury, University of Kent, before training as a ship's radio operator reputedly being told by an elderly friend at a cocktail party in Chelsea (his mother's home) to "go to sea, young man". He worked on oil rigs, lighthouses and a Greenpeace ship for a while.

He was always curious about spiritual matters and the next life, such that he went to live in communes in the USA and then Canada, where he worked as a male nurse in Edmonton. He was much loved by his fellows, intrigued as we all were by his mesmerising use of English, being bored, it seemed, by simple statements. It was a shock to discover his final announcement on Facebook without any inkling of his sudden final illness: "Over the last few months, I have been physically vanishing within my extremely gentled-down range of doing the basic human identity trip.

And for the past three weeks I have been in an intensely medical concentration chamber for a rare form of autoimmune disorder which is eating me from the inside out. Today, with the loving support of my wife Meera, I have decided to take the palliative path. In all of this, without making an announcement about it, I have been blessed by love streaming in far and wide and from near and dear. In truth, all those I am knowing in love are dear beyond measure and near to the most intimate degree of sacred oneness. It's been such a dance and new music is coming in. Fate is Grace."



Nic Page

Nicholas Page (H 1962 – 66) died in May 2025. His son, Christopher, writes: It is with deep love and sadness that we announce the passing of Nicholas Fountain Page, who died on 7th May 2025, aged 76, at Swanton Care Home in North Norfolk. He was laid to rest at Blakeney Church on 30th May 2025, surrounded by family and friends.

Nicholas spent his early years in Sutton, before his family relocated to Harrogate, North Yorkshire in 1953. He was educated

at Clifton College and later at Gresham's School, where he quickly earned a reputation as a formidable athlete. His natural speed led to victories in sprint events and a key position on the school rugby team as a fast and fearless left wing.

After school, Nic's passion for cars and motorsport took root during his time with SMT (Scottish Motor Trade), where he relished driving high-performance cars along the quiet Borders roads. In 1971, he joined Chevron Oil, a role that brought him closer to his racing heroes and deepened his love for motorsport. A year later, Nic embarked on an adventurous journey through South Africa, attending track days at the legendary Kyalami Formula One circuit and soaking in the local culture.

Upon returning to the UK in 1973, Nic studied Timber Technology at High Wycombe Technical College, where he was known as the student party leader and earned multiple bursaries. He went on to have a successful career in the timber industry, rising to a managing director role with Magnet.

In 1979, Nic married Susanne, and together they built a life filled with laughter, travel, music, and adventure. They welcomed their daughter Marianne in 1981, followed by their son Christopher in 1984. Family life took them from Woking back to Harrogate, and then home again to Woking, before eventually retiring to North Norfolk.

True to form, Nic never settled for just one path. While leading his professional life,

he also followed his dream of becoming a racing driver, competing in the Alfa Romeo Championship, where he often won his class and raced at circuits across the country. He was also a talented guitarist and singer, performing with bands and duos in pubs, clubs, and local venues.

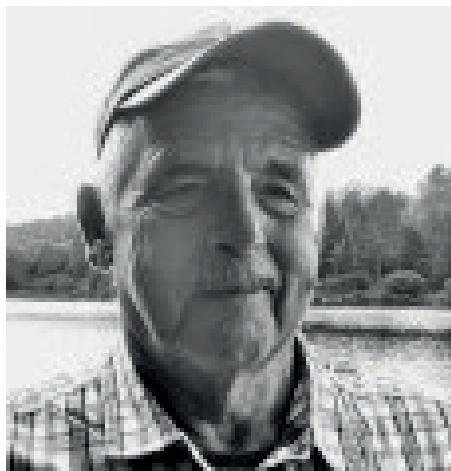
Retirement was no slowdown for Nic. In North Norfolk, he immersed himself in village life — taking the stage with the Blakeney Players, polishing his Triumph TR6 for Fakenham Car Club events, and guiding visitors at the restored Langham Dome Anti-Aircraft Trainer. He and Susanne embraced a shared passion for travel, exploring the world together — from the pyramids of Egypt, the peaks of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of Machu Picchu.

In 2016, Nic was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a challenge he met with his characteristic courage, wit, and unshakeable spirit. Though the illness slowly limited his physical freedom, it never dimmed his curiosity or humour. Right until the end, Nic found something to smile at — and gave others something to smile about too.

Nic was brave, loving, endlessly curious, and outrageously funny. He was a beloved husband, father, friend, and neighbour — and he will be missed more than words can say. A huge void is left in the Page family, but we will always savour the memories and celebrate the remarkable life he lived.

Robin Lees (T 1962–67) died in September 2024. A former English first-class cricketer,

he was born at Cranleigh in Surrey and after leaving Gresham's studied at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. While an undergraduate, he made three appearances in first-class cricket for Oxford University in 1970, against Surrey, Middlesex and Glamorgan. He scored 29 runs in his three matches, though with his right-arm medium pace bowling, he took just one wicket, that of Surrey's Stewart Storey.



Dan Carpenter

Daniel Carpenter (F 1968 – 69) died in January 2025. This obituary is adapted from one that appeared in *The Royal Gazette* of Bermuda: Born in Bermuda, and raised there and in Easthampton, Massachusetts, Dan graduated from Williston Academy in 1968. As an English-Speaking Union exchange student, he attended Gresham's School before matriculating at Dartmouth College in 1973. Dan was a devoted teacher of science at The Eaglebrook School in Massachusetts and an expert canoeist and guide through the wilderness of northern Ontario, where he had a

lifelong association with Keewaydin Canoe Camps. Thousands of students and campers from all corners of North America had the good fortune to know him as teacher, mentor and friend. During his retirement years, Dan immersed himself in his passions for organic gardening and photography of flora and fauna. He continued to spend happy summers in the provincial forest surrounding his family's island on Lake Temagami

Thomas Cowper Johnson (T 1968 – 72) died in March 2025.



Guy Page

Guy Page (T 1968 – 73) died in November 2024. His son, David, and his friend and contemporary **Iain Mawson** (T 1968 – 73) write: Arnold Guy Page, to his friends simply “Guy”, was born in St. Thomas’ Hospital, London on 9th December 1954 to David (a solicitor) and Marigold (a nurse) and lived during his childhood in South Croydon. They had a family link

with Norfolk as Guy’s grandmother was a farmer’s daughter born and brought up in Titchwell; Gresham’s was therefore a logical choice for both his and his younger brother **Neil**’s (T 1971 – 76) education.

From a young age Guy demonstrated what seemed to be a natural ability to fix things, which was encouraged by his mother who loved rummaging at jumble sales and would buy him broken radios, TVs, clocks, watches, etc., to mend. He progressed to car maintenance and must have greatly endeared himself to his sister by keeping her 1930s Austin 7 on the road well past its sell-by date. At Gresham’s Guy was often to be found in the “Scruff Shacks” making stuff and allowing his practical intelligence to develop.

A well-liked pupil, he was in the cast of the Tallis production of *Zigger Zagger* in 1969 but soon found that his practical skills were in greater demand backstage. Plays such as *Sweeney Todd*, with its complicated set including a barber’s chair that “flipped” backwards out of sight of the audience, benefited from his expertise.

Out of termtime, Guy liked nothing more than to partake in sea fishing and dinghy sailing, the latter at Sandwich Bay in the holidays and Barton Broad during termtime. As a precursor to his life-long passion for caring after others and his ultimate career in the NHS, he chose to partake in community service during his time at Gresham’s. He continued to care for others throughout his life – from his extended family to neighbours and friends.

None more so than his dear friend Peter, who suffered from polio but was treated as an equal by Guy throughout his life – from consistent meet-ups to trips to the pub. Continuing from his times at Gresham's, it was impossible not to be endeared to Guy – he would simply bend over backwards to support others wherever he could without any hint (or desire that) he expected a favour to be returned.

In the early 1980s, Guy met his life-long love, Teresa – a nurse originally from Salthill, Galway. After a proposal atop the Eiffel Tower, they were soon married and began building their life together from their first home in Kennington. Married for over 40 years before Guy's death, their journey took them from Kennington to Battersea, and eventually to the countryside. From canal boat adventures on the Norfolk Broads to Disneyland trips once their children arrived, Guy and Teresa remained side by side until the very end.

Professionally, after Gresham's, Guy pursued a career which indulged his passions for problem-solving and mechanical engineering. After a senior technical engineering role at Siemens, Guy and his family, relocated to Kent to begin work as a Head of Physical Engineering within the NHS. Part of Guy's role, initially focussed on Maidstone Hospital, was to build up a team of onsite engineering staff that could both decrease the costly dependency on US-based medical equipment suppliers for support and increase the lifespan of the machines themselves. This new in-house approach

to supporting technical equipment resulted in millions of pounds of savings, and, perhaps more importantly, significantly increased the number of patients that the hospital could treat.

Guy's team at Maidstone was one of the first of its kind and has been replicated in other trusts; with lots of the fixes and machine lifespan-extending operating procedures devised in Maidstone now commonplace across the NHS. Many of his old colleagues attended his funeral to not only show their fondness for Guy but share stories of his problem-solving attitude to engineering within the hospital. He is immortalised in the engineering team within Maidstone by the phrase "Are all Turkeys Flying?" – a question he would ask his team every morning in reference to the machines they cared for so comprehensively. Despite his retirement in 2022, the team still begin each meeting in the same way to this day, and Guy's understated, yet ultimately crucial, contribution to the equipment uptime within the NHS leave a lasting legacy of an OG able to take his passion, skill and problem-solving ability and turn them to the good of all.

From 1992, Guy and his dear wife Teresa, lived in Goudhurst in Kent – a small, community-minded village that both Guy, Teresa and their children David (born 1985) and Samantha (born 1988) integrated seamlessly into. It was noticed quickly in the village how handy Guy was – partly due to his self-imposed personal challenge each year of making his and Teresa's cars MOT worthy by taking them apart on the

street near their house! – and he was often drafted in by the school to provide various sideshows for the various village fêtes and technical support for church events.

Guy is survived by his wife Teresa, and children David and Samantha. He is missed by all but consistently remembered as a thoroughly decent, practical, caring and well-loved OG. His memory lives on through his family, friends, colleagues and the many machines across the NHS still operational past their best due to his efforts. I am sure if he was alive to this day, he'd encourage us all to Keep the Turkeys Flying!



David Bryson

David Bryson (k & H 1967 – 74) died in September 2025, after a short battle with cancer. His son, Jamie, writes: He passed away at home and was surrounded by his family. David made many good, lifelong friendships during his time as a boarder

and took particular pride from his school day achievements in the Combined Cadet Force, javelin, woodwork, music and amateur dramatics. His warm character, wisdom and love will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.



Craig Manion

Craig Manion (T 1969 – 74) died in October 2024 aged 68, after a battle with a cancer in his neck. **Nick Catchpole** (T 1969 – 73) writes: Craig was born in Sheringham on 6th Jan 1956, and was very much a lover of North Norfolk, and all it offers. He was educated at Sutherland House, Beeston (where he became Head Boy), then Gresham's. The Manion family was well known locally, as his parents,

Stuart and Zoe, owned and ran the highly successful Feathers Hotel in Holt.

After Gresham's, Craig worked with Peat Marwick in Norwich, prior to going to Bangor University to study History. No doubt influenced by parental success, he then did a hotel and catering course, and subsequently worked with Grand Met in London. Always creative, he went into marketing, becoming a partner of Watson Lane in London, then running their Norwich and Leicester branches. He started his own company in the early 90s, which was successful. "Have a break, have a KitKat" was his most effective marketing enterprise, earning the local Break Charity large, much-needed sums. This springboard helped get this wonderful organisation what we have today.

Craig took early retirement around 2002, and travelled the world extensively, enjoying the fruits of his labours. He was an extremely bright individual, with an extraordinary memory and mathematically excellent, and terrific social company. A turbulent married life, including four wives, ultimately finished with his partner Jan, whom he was blissfully happy with, so sadly to be cruelly cut short.

Craig's great love was sport. He was a talented hockey player, which he continued into adulthood with Exiles, and a fine golfer, getting down to 5 handicap. He adored cricket, rugby and soccer... particularly Yorkshire, Tigers and Canaries! He had no children, but his stepdaughter adored him like her own father. What a lovely legacy.



Robin Shaw

Robin Shaw (k & T 1969 – 75) died in September 2025. The following obituary appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*: Robin Shaw, who has died of cancer aged 66, was one of the most sought-after media litigators of his generation, renowned for his formidable defence work on behalf of Private Eye and for newspapers including *The Mirror*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

His clients all valued his unflappable optimism – if also realism – during litigation, as much as his exceptional tactical acumen and deep knowledge of the law. Though diffident, quietly spoken and unflashy, Shaw was also very good company and his dry and irreverent sense of humour could make him extremely funny. As Shaw recalled, when he told people he was Private Eye's solicitor, they tended to assume it was a full-time job, its editor Ian Hislop having featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the most sued man in English legal history. At any one time while working for the magazine, Shaw might easily have five or six complaints to deal with.

A fan of Private Eye since he was a teenager, he saw his job as facilitating

whatever its journalists needed to say. He thought it essential that such publications should exist, and professed himself “astonished by the sleaziness and corruption of some of the people they expose”. “If I were to try and make an issue of the Eye non-libellous, it would just be blank pages,” Shaw told one interviewer. “My job is to help them get away with as much as they can.” His job was also to stop libel suits from ever coming to court, and at Private Eye he was held to have changed the game by means of his robust early rebuttals. He was particularly revered at the magazine for his mastery of the legal device which Ian Hislop called the “F Off letter”, sent out to lawyers whose clients were felt to be chancing their arm with an initial accusation of libel.

These letters might ask whether the accusers had failed to realise that the article they were complaining about was a spoof, or that the law of libel recognises that statements made in jest are not actionable. “Would any reader,” Shaw wrote in one such letter, “studying the ‘Disillusion Honours List’ on page 22 believe that ‘John Prescott had been ennobled for services to his secretary’ or Michael Howard for ‘services to the Transylvanian Community and the Involuntary Blood Transfusion Authority?’”

A few cases did inevitably end up in court, notably that brought by the accountant Stuart Condliffe, who had objected to a 1992 article alleging that he overcharged clients. It was “a fairly minor issue of libel”, Shaw recalled, yet as the case rumbled on for 10 years the plaintiff’s well-known

solicitor Peter Carter-Ruck had “built it up into a case of the worst kind of libel – and had run up around £1 million of fees”. Shaw recalled: “As they went to court [in 2001], a partner at Carter-Ruck was gloating about buying a Ferrari when they won. They were acting on a ‘no-win no-fee’ basis, and they lost, spectacularly – so we bought the partner a Dinky-toy Ferrari instead.”

Carter-Ruck had long since made an enemy of Private Eye by bringing expensive lawsuits against the magazine. Soon after Shaw became the magazine’s lawyer in the 1980s, Peter Carter-Ruck telephoned and asked whether the magazine might refrain from misspelling his name, putting an F rather than an R in the Ruck. The message was duly passed on, and the following week they simply changed the misspelling (the F replacing the C in Carter this time) and used his name twice as often.

On another occasion, Private Eye received a letter from S.J. Berwin – “a big City firm that thinks it’s very smart,” as Shaw described it – following an item in the magazine’s “Slicker” column about Ladbrokes that quoted anonymous sources. The letter read something like: “We act for Ladbrokes. We’ve read this story, please advise us of your sources.” “It was stupid,” Shaw recalled. “Journalists never reveal their sources. So instead of replying we published the letter with the headline ‘F--- off’. We never heard another word.”

Robin Henry Ledgard Shaw was born in West Sussex on 2nd January 1959, the

middle of three children of David Shaw and his wife Paula, née Gisborne. His father was an accountant and business partner of the pop impresarios Robert Stigwood and Brian Epstein during the 1960s. Educated at Ludgrove and then Gresham's, Shaw began training as an accountant but soon switched to law. He did his articles at Wright Webb Syrett, where, along with Keith Schilling, he was a protégé of the celebrated show business solicitor Oscar Beuselinck, who was renowned for his fierce negotiating skill and often unprintable bravado.

Shaw was admitted a solicitor in 1983. Beuselinck's firm eventually merged to become Davenport Lyons, where Shaw was a partner from 1995 to 2014. He was then a partner at Ince Gordon Dadds until 2022, when he joined the litigation team at Wiggin.

Shaw: clients valued his unflappable optimism, tactical acumen and deep knowledge of the law. Among his other notable cases, Shaw acted for Private Eye in the 2009 Court of Appeal case when he successfully resisted an injunction against the publication of the Law Society's disciplinary rulings on its former president Michael Napier.

He successfully opposed another injunction in 2010 on behalf of HarperCollins in the High Court case brought by the BBC to prevent the publication of the autobiography of Ben Collins, the mystery driver known as "the Stig" in *Top Gear*, which was then published as planned as "The Man in the White Suit". Shaw described it as "another

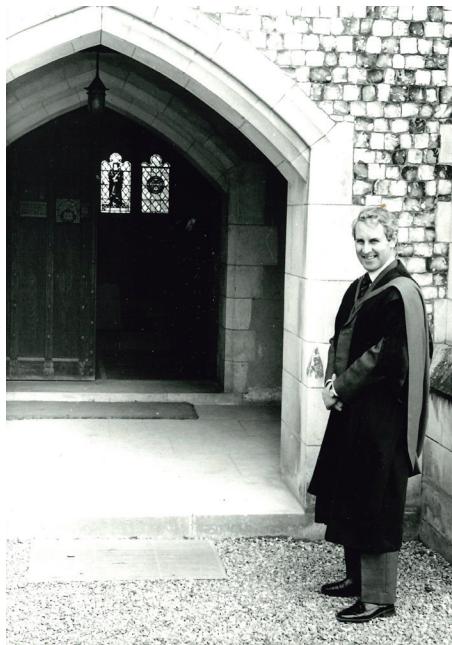
example of the privacy/confidence laws being used inappropriately to try to control what the public can be told. It is important that the media stand up to attempts by large corporations and wealthy individuals to control what is published by threats of injunctions and huge legal costs, when based on spurious grounds."

Shaw was latterly a much-loved figure at *The Telegraph*, where he is held in very high regard and in 2018 successfully saw off the injunction brought by Sir Philip Green to prevent the paper's publication of allegations of sexual and racial harassment. More recently, he was part of the team at Wiggin that successfully defended *The Guardian* in the High Court against the libel claim made by the actor Noel Clarke, whose case was finally dismissed last month.

Away from the law, Robin Shaw was an avid opera fan and a regular visitor to the Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne. He also enjoyed good food and travel, comfort and the quiet of the country. Having spent much of his childhood in Norfolk, he bought a house there with his wife Rupina, née Ahluwalia, whom he married in 2008 after they had been together since the early 1990s. Robin Shaw is survived by his wife and his mother. Both his sisters predeceased him.

John Nichols (F 1970 – 75) died in April 2024.

Lars Midthaug (H 1975 – 79) died in March 1997.



Tim Woods

Dr. Timothy Woods (HM 1982 – 85) died in September 2025. A South African Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and a Double Blue in squash and hockey, Tim Woods was appointed to Gresham's from Felsted, where he had been Head of History. He was already well acquainted with Gresham's, having often brought teams over to play at the school. Tim and Erica quickly established themselves as a friendly, kind and generous couple. He established the post of Director of Studies and was keen to expand the number of girls in the school. It was, however, always going to be a difficult task to fill the shoes of the legendary **Logie Bruce-Lockhart** (HM 1955 – 92) and after three years as Headmaster, Tim moved on to Trent College, where he was a highly respected and successful Head of History.



David Hart

The Rev. Dr. David Hart (S 1979 – 84) died in March 2024, aged 69. While on the Staff, he was ordained, becoming Assistant Chaplain, and was a popular House Tutor in Woodlands. The following obituary is taken from Union Theological Seminary, New York, where he had studied in the late 1970s, his original degree being from Keble College, Oxford.

“David Hart died in ‘Paradise’ (as he called Sri Lanka) one month before his 70th birthday. He was a very liberal Anglo-Catholic priest, gay activist, teacher, writer, and inter-faith enthusiast. While an Anglican chaplain at Loughborough University, he attended the second Sea of Faith Conference and became an eager disciple of Don Cupitt and his “non-realist” approach to religion.

David was never vicar of a parish church, but was a teacher and chaplain at various schools and universities. He

was Associate Professor in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Winchester. At Derby University, he was the founder and first Acting Director of its new Multi-Faith Centre. He tried to understand Hinduism and Islam from as close to the inside as he could, visiting Kerala with its temples and mosques frequently, and at last retiring to Sri Lanka to live with a Muslim family. He published several books on religion, the earliest, *Faith in Doubt* (Mowbray, 1993) and *One Faith?* (Mowbray, 1995) being the best. *Linking Up* (Arthur James, 1997), with its acceptance of “polyamory,” became notorious. He attended international conferences organised by the Unification Church (“the Moonies”), as well as R.C., Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Quaker, and Unitarian meetings. He was well able to believe six impossible things before breakfast, and his students always enjoyed his *joie de vivre* and valued his encouragement. His eccentric enthusiasm will be greatly missed by his many friends worldwide.”

In 2006 David converted to Hinduism, changing his middle name from Alan to Ananda, but without renouncing Christianity or his priestly orders. He was International Secretary of the World Congress of Faiths, and a Fellow of the Jesus Seminar (USA) and Samvada (India). He sought to examine the breadth of the Hindu faith as he discovered it living in India, and to show how he regarded his position as a Hindu believer as entirely compatible with being an Anglican priest in good standing with his diocesan bishop back in England. At

the time of his death, he was finalising his eighth book, *Study in Hinduism*.

In September 2014, David returned to his home in South India to take up a position as Consultant and Teacher for the Venad Education and Social Services, a registered NGO providing educational opportunities for the children of the marginalised Christian fishing communities in five centres in Kerala and one in Sri Lanka.

Peter Chalk (F 1981 – 84) died in June 2025.



Amanda Deckker

Amanda Deckker (née Barker-Davies) (O 1985 – 87) died in January 2024 after battling sarcoma. She leaves her husband, Sebastian, and her beloved dogs, Bunch and Bundle.

Simon Bower (S 1986 – 92) died in January 2025. He was educated at Rugby and Oxford, where he read Music.



Simon Bower

An accomplished musician, with wide-ranging tastes, he was appointed to the staff in 1986 as Assistant Director of Music, taking over the Choral Society in addition to his academic teaching. In 1992 he married **Carol Drummond-Hay** (S 1982 – 95), the Sanatorium Sister. After leaving Gresham's, he and Carol moved to Hunstanton, where he became Director of Music at Glebe House School. A former colleague there said: "So many children who met him will have a lifelong love of music." Simon was also Director of the Hunstanton Choir and then, in 2022, the Dersingham Choir. A member of the Hunstanton Choir wrote: "Under his guidance, I enjoyed so many unforgettable moments and felt uplifted by the tuition he gave us." Another said, "He was such a talented and gifted musician, who gave so much pleasure and touched the lives of all who came into contact with him." Online tributes to him from former Gresham's pupils included: "Very sad to hear this. Mr. Bower was a brilliant man and house

tutor"; "He was a fantastic man, teacher and role model"; "Such a lovely man and great piano teacher".

Simon was a keen follower of cricket and served as Clerk to the parish councils of Brancaster and Bircham, performing the same role for a spell at Snettisham. He was awarded the Freedom of Brancaster in 2024. For her part, Carol was elected Mayor of Hunstanton in 2011 and 2014 and Borough Mayor in 2017. Simon and Carol had been planning to move to Ireland in retirement, before he was diagnosed with cancer in November 2024.



Angela George

Angela Sandell (George) (S 1992 – 98) died in February 2025. She was a former Head of Modern Languages. This is an adapted version of the address given at her funeral by her daughter, Mia:

Born in the wake of Edward VIII's abdication and just before the outbreak of World War II, Angela was evacuated to Liverpool and experienced at first hand the horrors of war. She vividly recalled coming home from school to find half of the road missing, and how her parents took in a young woman who had lost both her parents in the raid.

Angela dreamed of becoming a journalist, but her father encouraged her to pursue a career in teaching instead. The first member of her direct family to attend university, she studied French at Nottingham University, starting a lifelong love-affair with learning and teaching languages.

In 1958, she met Tony Randall. They married in 1959 and began their married life in South Africa. Over the next seven years, they had six children – more than fulfilling their Catholic duties! – before settling in Norfolk in 1967. In 1969, they moved to Mundesley, and she began her teaching career in the area, initially offering peripatetic French lessons to local primary schools, before moving on to North Walsham Secondary Modern, the Hewitt School, Sheringham High School, and Gresham's, where she was deeply respected by both staff and students.

In 1982, Angela was widowed at the age of 45. With six children, many still at home, she did exactly what she had been raised to do – get up and get on with it. She became a powerful female role model, demonstrating the ability to balance work, family and hobbies with elegance and finesse. One

of her passions was bridge. Playing in several local clubs, she developed a wide set of good and lifelong friends. She also met Alan, who would become the most enduring love of her life. Their friendship grew from being centred around bridge to include meals out, the theatre, cinema and many holidays, their travels taking them all over the world.

Angela was an active member of her book club, and her tastes were wide and eclectic. After Amazon's launch, her book collection grew even larger, making a significant contribution to Jeff Bezos's retirement fund! Her love of languages overflowed, and she learned Arabic, Italian, and Spanish. She cherished connecting with local cultures during her time in Bahrain and Jordan, where she taught TEFL.

Angela adored her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who numbered 35 jointly with Alan at last count. She was a lady, in the truest sense of the word, whose life was rich with resilience, love, and wisdom. If Angela could leave us with one lesson, it would be this: never stop learning. Explore the world. Find joy in every moment and live life as fully and courageously as she did.

Barbara Leech (S 1978 – 2001) died in October 2024. **Dr. Tony Leech** (S 1978 – 2005) writes: Barbara secured my appointment at Gresham's. We had met at Oxford University, where she read Geography, and married in 1968 after Barbara had gained a Diploma in



Barbara Leech

Education and completed her first year teaching at Kendrick School, Reading. Until the birth of **David** (k & H 1985 – 93) in 1974, and **Andrew** (k & H 1985 – 94) less than 15 months later, she commuted daily from Oxford.

Looking over Barbara's shoulder, I could see the attraction of a teaching career – combining a continuing interest in one's subject with the opportunity to engage in wider activities. After the family had spent a year in the USA and I had gained a Post-graduate Certificate in Education (superseding the Dip. Ed.), I applied in 1978 to teach Biology at Gresham's. My interview with Headmaster **Logie Bruce-Lockhart** (HM 1955 – 82) was memorable – weren't they all! He asked me what my wife did, and I told him that she had been a teacher, too. He then mentioned that he was looking for a part-time Geographer, but I told him that with a young family she had no plans to return. When I told her this, she was understandably annoyed at my assumption, so when I wrote to Logie to thank him for the interview I mentioned that Barbara might indeed be interested in returning to the classroom.

About a week later, Logie phoned home to offer me the job. Barbara took the call and, after courteously explaining that nothing she said would influence his decision, he proceeded to interview her – and offer her eight periods a week. She accepted!

Things changed, however, once we arrived in Holt. **John Walton** (S 1971 – 2010), a full-time member of the Geography Department, had become seriously ill during the summer, putting further strain on staff resources. Barbara's timetable became 14 periods a week, which she agreed to, provided all could be in the morning while the boys were at Vicky Gregory's playgroup in the Rectory. Somehow she managed that term.

Until 2001, Barbara taught around eight periods a week, mostly of Physical Geography to 6th formers but with some lower school work. During this time, Head of Geography **Ron Coleman** (S 1968 – 2000) unfailingly supported her and protected her interests. For some years she served as "third man" in Oakeley, one evening each week, to assist **John** (S 1963 – 2002) and **Jenny Rayner**. Although she avoided duties on the games field, Barbara did teach lifesaving proficiency for the Royal Lifesaving Society in the School swimming pool, both to pupils and staff through the CCF and to outsiders. She became President of the Norfolk Branch of the RLSS but always preferred hands-on teaching to administration. She was heavily involved in the Guide movement, starting a Ranger Unit in Sheringham, organising Duke of Edinburgh Awards for

all Norfolk Rangers and playing a leading role in a series of Norfolk camps, including an international jamboree.

In 2001, a long-standing back problem made it impossible for Barbara to continue in the classroom and although this ameliorated in her later years it was replaced by a Parkinson-like condition that made balancing, speaking and eating progressively more difficult. After a series of aspiration-induced pneumonias she died in October 2024 shortly after her 80th birthday.



Graham Worrall

Graham Worrall (S 1982 – 2002) died in April 2025. Graham went straight from Hurstpierpoint College in Sussex to the Army and National Service, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant

in the Royal Signals. After a brief period in industry with Proctor and Gamble, he undertook teacher training at Chester College, specialising in PE and English. Spells at St. George's, Harpenden, King Edward's, Nuneaton, and de la Salle College in Salford followed. De la Salle was then known as one of the top rugby schools in the country.

Graham's interest in rugby began as a schoolboy and led to his playing for six years with Saracens. His rugby career included a trial for the South of England against the 1963 All Blacks. However, his sporting achievements were not confined to rugby; at this time, he was also running for Belgrave Harriers, Oxfordshire and the London Counties. Later he was the ideal person to be in charge of the athletics at Gresham's for ten years. He was the holder of the Southern Counties 4 x 440 yards relay record (3 minutes and 12 seconds), an achievement which, post-metrication, will probably last for ever!

In 1982, **Logie Bruce-Lockhart** (HM 1955 – 82) appointed Graham to be Head of English at the Junior School and to take charge of the rugby and athletics at the Senior School. This was to be the start of a long and successful period for rugby and the 1st XV. Graham ran the side for 13 years and then, when many might have hung up their boots, he took over the U16As. His record of success speaks to his skill as a coach, but more particularly to his understanding of the boys and his ability to impart to the players an enjoyment of the game.

After a short period at the Junior School, Graham joined the Senior School academic staff, teaching English to all forms up to GCSE. For 22 years, his pupils continued to flourish, gaining grades that were often well above what might have been expected of them and being well drilled in the essential skills of good writing.

In 1998, Logie asked Graham and Terry to take over Farfield from **Ron** (S 1968 – 2000) and **Jill Coleman**. During Graham's housemastership, the House achieved much, both on the sports field and academically. One of the achievements of which Graham was most proud was the winning of the House Music cup! His ability to be both strict and kind led to a well-run and happy community. Visitors often commented on the pleasant and unforced courtesy of the boys. In his work in the House, Graham was, of course, greatly aided by the loving and loyal support of Terry. And **Richard Peaver** (S 1971 – 2009) was especially grateful to Graham for his sensitive and caring oversight of a dozen Edinburgh House girls who were accommodated on the top floor of the Farfield private side, a measure rendered necessary when Edinburgh numbers reached a total of 109, thus overflowing the main building.

A man of firm opinions and values, and a schoolmaster of the old school, Graham demanded the highest standards of courtesy, hard work and honesty. When pupils fell short, they were made unequivocally aware of the fact, but there was no-one kinder, or more understanding,

when a boy was in real trouble or sadness. And throughout his final illness, he retained his courage and sense of humour. He leaves his children **Simon** (c & H 1980 – 86) and **Alyson O'Sullivan (née Worrall)** (c, O & E 1980 – 88) and grandchildren **Polly Worrall** (c & Q 2004 – 20), **Conor O'Sullivan** (k & F 2006 – 21), **Phoebe Worrall** (c & E 2007 – 22) and **Marcus O'Sullivan** (k 2007 – 18).



Tom Towler

Tom Towler (k & F 2014 – 22) died in March 2025 of a rare blood complication following an overreaction of his immune system known as EBV-HLH, after he had contracted glandular fever. This is an edited version of tributes paid to him at his funeral by his Housemaster, **Dominic Atkinson** (S 2008 –), his Agriculture teacher, **James Beales** (S 2022 –) and some of his classmates:

Dominic Atkinson writes: As a Housemaster, I had the wonderful responsibility of

meeting, nurturing and watching the change in the boys over their five years. Tom was no different to anyone else who arrived back in 2017; excited, but also a little bit nervous about the next adventure post-Prep. School. **James Quick** (Prep. School HM 2003 – 18) at the end of the Prep. School had written: “His kindness and reliability will ensure that he continues to gain the respect of his peers over the coming years.” It is the thread of kindness I am sure you will hear lots of today from those who speak.

He joined what was to be an outstanding year group of pupils and what stood out was their companionship, loyalty to the house, school and above all to each other. Gresham’s “Values”, as laid out in the recently-introduced *Gresham’s Values Book*, are simple: to work hard, to take opportunities, to look smart, to be kind and to be honest. Tom embodied all of these, but especially the last two. I think that of all the values, being kind is something that actually can be so hard, especially in the teenage world of friendships, social groups and pecking orders, but Tom never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Tom flourished in the 6th Form. And he brought with him his warmth, his humour, and his spirit. His life, though heartbreakingly short, was full of love, life and enjoyment. We will always remember Tom in our hearts and in the words of a Housemaster said hundreds, if not thousands, of times, “Good night, Tom. Sleep well.”

James Beales writes: I joined Gresham’s in the depths of the Covid restrictions, to head up the then new Agriculture Programme. On day one, I met the Agri class of 2022 for the first time, which of course included Tom. Hard-working, resilient and quietly determined, Tom modelled exactly what the school is all about and is a large part of the reason why I felt so at home, so soon.

As the course progressed for that first cohort, Tom grew enormously as a student of the subject and when **Tim Hipperson** (k & H 1985 – 94 & S 2016 – 2023), the then Deputy Head (Academic) who had brought Agriculture to the school, announced that his family would like to sponsor a Speech Day prize for the subject for the first time, there was a worthy winner.

When Tom returned from his gap year working in Australia, overflowing with the new experiences he’d had, off he went to Harper Adams University, where once again he spread his wings and flew. By all accounts, he was heading for the very best of results with his degree whilst getting involved in extra-curricular and sporting opportunities – this year Tom was Chairman of the Harper Adams Hockey Club.

Tom has shown how things should be done, and in his all too short life he has left his mark on places, on organisations and, most importantly, on the people who were lucky enough to know him. None of us will forget Tom, who for me is best summed up as a real gentleman in every sense of the word.

IT *classmates recall:* Tom never failed to establish a presence wherever he went. From School in Holt, to university at Harper, farming the land in Lynn, or the vast expanses of Australia, and seeing the night into the early hours of the morning. Tom never failed to light up a room and be an important presence in any situation he was in. I can speak for everyone here that Tom was one of the kindest, most selfless human beings we knew. He threw himself into everything life had to offer. Sport and hockey were important parts of Tom's life, as shown by all the Harper University hockey club here today.

If you knew Tom, you knew he was one of the kindest, most honest, most caring and most fun people you could ever hope to meet. Tom, our prayers are with you. We will miss you, and we will never, ever forget.

Mrs. Helen Thomas (née Armstrong) died in July 2025. Her children, **Miles** (c & T 1965 – 75) and **Pat Blyth** (O 1980) write: Helen started at Gresham's in 1952 as Headmaster's Secretary to **Martin Olivier** (HM 1944 – 55). She married **Bill (W. O.) Thomas** (S 1952 – 86), Housemaster of Farfield and later the first Director of Studies, in September 1955 and lived in Cley and then East Grove North, next door to Woodlands, from 1956 – 65. She moved with the family, Miles, Pat and **Keith** (c & H 1967 – 75), to Farfield when Bill became a Housemaster until 1980. There she supported him by running the domestic arrangements of Farfield and on the opening of the Central Feeding Block as Matron. Bill

and Helen moved to High Kelling for the last few years of Bill's career and then on to Sheringham, where she was active in the Church at West Runton and then volunteering at Walsingham. Recently she stayed at Lloyd Court in High Kelling. She will be remembered for the support she gave Bill in his time at Gresham's and her religious faith. Helen is also survived by her brother, **Christopher Armstrong** (c & F 1953 – 61) and her nephews **Ben** (k & T 1991 – 99) and **Tim Armstrong** (k & T 1991 – 2002).

Mrs. Jane (Jinny) Detnon (née Bassingthwaigte) died in June 2025. Her family have provided the following obituary: Jane, as she was known then, arrived at Gresham's in 1966 after working for the Regional Crime Squad in Norwich. She was Secretary to the Headmaster, **Logie Bruce-Lockhart** (HM 1955 – 82), who wrote that she was "very remarkable" and continued, "my admiration for her courage, tough-mindedness and intelligence is unbounded". Throughout her life those qualities remained integral to who she was, along with being humble, patient and extremely kind, putting others before herself at every opportunity.

As a young professional, she was fully involved in the life of the school; she even took part in staff drama productions (a thing of the past!) and lived in the Old Bursary (later Oakeley). She met **Peter Detnon** (S 1968 – 96) at the school and they were married in 1969. She left Gresham's to have her daughter **Melanie** (c & O 1980 –

90) in 1972 and son **Pete** (c & H 1982 – 92 & S 2024 –) in 1973.

Peter and Jinny remained in contact with the school and staff – **Patrick Thompson** (S 1965 – 83) recalls her longstanding fascination with Physics and Astronomy! – and during retirement enjoyed going to various sporting events as well as musical concerts and productions in which their granddaughters, **Lucy** (c & Q 2014 –) and **Sophie** (c & Q 2014 –), were involved. Jinny particularly enjoyed the Music and Munch Programme once she had moved back to Holt following the death of her husband in 2022. She lived happily at The Beeches and passed away on 7th June 2025 after a fall. She is greatly missed.



Denise Bunkell

Mrs. Denise Bunkell (S 2001 – 2025) died in September 2025 after a long illness. She started her Gresham's journey as a parent to **Adam** (W 1992 – 97) and **Alex Jarrett** (W 1995 – 99). With the boys all grown up, she started in Oakeley House as Matron under **Fiona Gathercole** (O 1980 – 82 & S 1986 –) in 2001 and quickly became a much loved and respected force in the House. She met Groundsman **Barry Bunkell** (S 2001 – 17) at Gresham's and they married in 2012. Serving alongside her second housemistress, **Katrina Mousley** (S 2012 –), she played a pivotal role in helping to keep the House in a state of normality during the major rebuilding and renovations of Oakeley, before moving with the girls into the new Oakeley in 2017. Quite firm, with a strong character, the girls would soon learn not to mess with her! In turn she showered them with treats, plenty of anecdotes and lots of laughs. Denise supported her third and the current, Oakeley housemistress, **Olivia Ravillious** (S 2019 –) throughout her first year in the House, before moving over to the Learning Support department as an Assistant and utilising her pre-Gresham's clerical expertise with **Stephanie Gates'** team. Denise will always be remembered for her sharp sense of humour, flawless appearance and loyalty as both a friend and colleague.

Letters



Dear Richard,

I have at long last read through the most interesting No. 163 Magazine and noticed a reference to my old friend **Humphrey Hinton** (F 1951 – 56), with whom I shared a study at Farfield. This meant being careful not to touch his equipment due to the high voltage. I later shared with **Eaton**, possibly Jeremy, as we only used surnames then (*probably Harvey Easton, c & F 1951 – 58 – Ed.*). I was a, now abandoned, fag for **Sir John Tusa** (F 1949 – 54). **Colin Leakey** (F 1947 – 52) and **Keith Ecclestone** (F 1948 – 53) were both there at that time,

I went on at the age of 16 to train with builders R. G. Carters for three years. I stayed at the Norwich YMCA for a year and then moved to a flat with three friends when they increased the weekly price from 10/- (ten shillings) to 12/6. Whilst there, I cycled with another apprentice to John O'Groats and back in 13 days, totalling 1,350 miles. After joining my family business in Cambridge, I spent most weekends doing motorsport, quite successfully until I was 32. Later, I ran five marathons and many more half-marathons for charities.

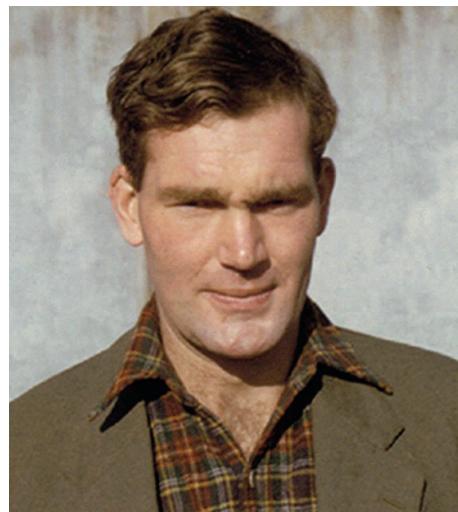
Kindest regards,

Paul Kerridge (F 1951 – 54)



Dear Richard,

Your latest excellent OG Magazine reached me just before Christmas last year and ever since I have been meaning to send you some comments about the report on **Tom Bourdillon** (H 1938 – 42).



Tom Bourdillon

What was missing from the article was that Tom visited Gresham's after he climbed Everest in 1953 and he described his failed attempt to reach the summit with Charles Evans, because of the problems with the latter's oxygen equipment. His presentation in Big School was attended by many at the school at that time, and with me on that occasion was **Rupert Champion** (W 1953 – 58), who was probably my closest friend at Gresham's. We were in the same 6th form together. Rupert was himself a keen climber.



Rupert Champion

He left school in 1958, a year before me, to take a place at Cambridge to study for a career in medicine. He was a brilliant rugby fly-half and would undoubtedly have obtained his Cambridge Blue.



Hermann Geiger

During his first summer vacation, he decided to join a team attempting to climb the Matterhorn in Switzerland. Sadly, he fell 3,000ft to his death and his body was recovered by the famous flyer Hermann Geiger. The photo of Rupert was taken

from a Woodlands house photo in 1958, and in sending this letter to you it gives me the opportunity to remember someone who was enthused to take up climbing, following in Tom Bourdillon's part of the Everest success.

Kind regards,

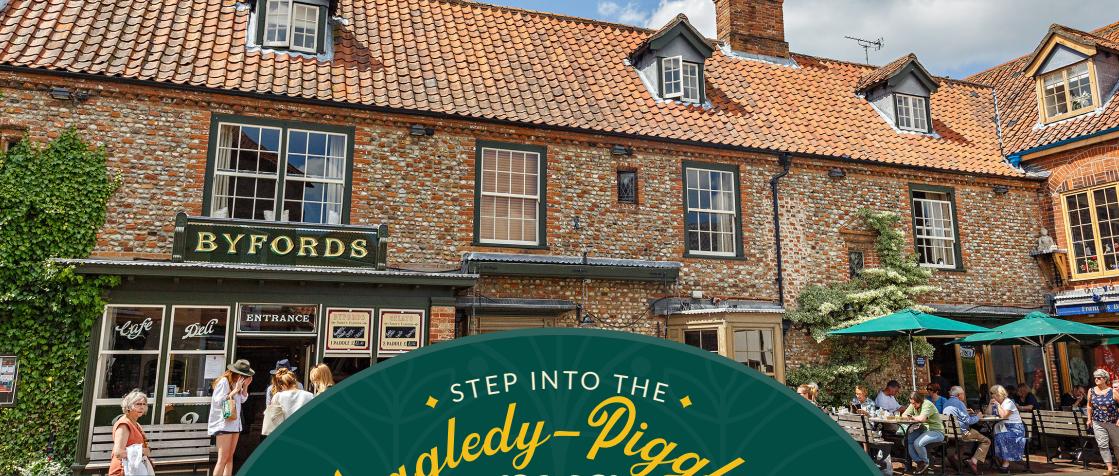
Dr. Ralph Slaughter (c & W 1949 – 59)

 Dear Richard,

I was most amused to read Robert Heppenstall's letter in the latest OG Magazine about Dr. Wilfred Andrews' silent history lesson in 1961. I remember it well! "Doc" Andrews was never a man of many words, but he certainly instilled in me a love of the subject which continues to this day. I have a couple of photos of us hard at work under his eagle eye (no idea why it was taken). The students are, L to R, Brett, Heathcote, Dunn, Wheeler, Robjohn, Heppenstall, Shawyer, Thomas ma., Thomas mi. (twins), Brett, Mussen.

In the 6th forms we had the option to play golf instead of cricket, and Brett,





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Heppenstall and I spent many a happy Saturday driving substandard golf balls into the sea at Sheringham.

Kind regards,

James Mussen (H 1956 – 61)

 Dear Richard,

I read with great interest Robert Dosser's article, 1968 Revisited, and was most surprised to find a reference to me being an Atheling in 1962 and a member of Bury St. Edmunds Rifle Club. I am still a member of this and have been for the last 40 years. I still manage to represent Suffolk in the national postal leagues, albeit the B team! I do remember Robert being a member of the Club and I think that may have been when I was Captain.

I was fortunate to go to Canada in 1962 with the Athelings, as I believe the team had been selected but a member had to withdraw. I was called to LBL's study in Howson's one evening to be told there was a place for me in the team if I wanted it as a self-funding member. A telephone

call home confirmed that I could go, and my family would pay the air fare out and the homeward journey by sea on *The Empress of Canada*. The cost was £68 for each way. When in Canada we were guests of the Canadian Army.

I was not the only member of the team from Gresham's; **Bev Hope Bell** (F 1958 – 63) had already been selected. I think this was the beginning of the rise in shooting as a sport in the school. It became easier to be excused from playing cricket on a Wednesday and Saturday to go fullbore shooting at either Horsford or Barningham. There had been another member of the Athelings in 1960 or 1961 and that was **David Hayman** (c & OSH 1951 – 61), I think.



The T38 Glider

I can add more detail to Tony Crockett's letter about the glider. I was in the RAF Section of the CCF when the glider first arrived in 1960/61. I think it came from the gliding school at RAF Swanton Morley. We were instructed how to assemble it by an RAF officer, who claimed he had flown one at 1,000ft! As Tony said, we all reluctantly pulled the bungee and had turns in the

seat. The control column was set so that only slides could take place. However, the stop could be easily adjusted so that it was possible to take off. It became my turn for a slide and to my surprise, when I pulled the control column back, the glider became airborne. I pushed the column forward as far as it would go, and hit the ground rather hard. This resulted in the apex of the A frame breaking. So that was the end of gliding for a while.

Regards,

David Bowden (H 1957 – 62)



Dear Editor,

Reading Tony Walker's article in the November 2024 edition of the Old Greshamian Magazine got me searching the house for my old autograph book. He refers to **Stuart Webster** (S 1945 – 71), our art teacher, and sure enough I found an original "J.S.W.", which I attach, together with a few other sketches by Staff members of that time.



Stuart Webster



Alec Cunningham



Dick Bagnall-Oakeley



Dick Bagnall-Oakeley

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Logan (k & H 1963 – 70)

The Old Greshamian Club

Communication and Social Media

To ensure that you receive regular communications and invitations from the Club, we need your up-to-date contact information. Changes can be made by completing the online 'Update Us' form on the website. We would very much like to keep in touch, and use email as our preferred method of communication (if we do not have your email address, then communication will be posted to you). You can change your mailing preferences or stop receiving specific communications from us at any time. **IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



LinkedIn: Exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of OGs. Please join our group: **Old Greshamian**.



Friend request us at: **OG Club Holt**: www.facebook.com/ogclub.holt



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GRESHAM'S OG CLUB

Reunions

The OG Club can help you organise a reunion event, large or small, either at Gresham's or off-site, and can probably assist with a subsidy. If you want to know more, please contact the Club.



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Pampeano belt (£50)

We have launched a new item of OG merchandise – a bespoke hand-stitched Argentinian belt by Pampeano, in brown leather embossed with Gresham's OG Club. If you would like to order, please give your waist size (in inches).



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Colour options are white, silver or grey. Bracelets come with an Osprey London suede pouch (colours vary).



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To order, please contact ogclub@greshams.com / Tel +44 (0)1263 714620.

The School Shop also stocks several different lines of merchandise. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.greshams.com/old-greshamians/shop/school-shop/>.

Advertising

This publication is sent to OGs across the globe. If you would like to advertise in the next issue, please email ogclub@greshams.com. (All artwork needs to be supplied by the advertiser.) The cost for pages 3 and 5 is £300, a full page is £255, half a page £130, outside back cover £415, inside back cover £315, inside front cover £325. For further information, please contact the Club.

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Club Overview

The Old Greshamian (OG) Club is the alumni society for pupils who attended Gresham's School. We are in touch with over 7,000 members worldwide. All leavers (across the three Schools) automatically become lifetime members of the Club. We are delighted to welcome our newest members, the **2025 Leavers** ("Class of 2025"). Membership of the Club entitles all Old Greshamians to a number of benefits and services. Here are just a few:

EVENTS – You will be invited to events, drinks parties and reunion dinners. If you wish to host your own event, either at Gresham's or in another location, we will pay for the first round or offer funds to reduce the overall cost of the event.

TRAVEL BENEFITS – We offer travel grants to pupils who wish to undertake interesting projects during their Gap Year, or any period of time after they have left school. Contact the OG Office for more information. Successful recipients are expected to write a short article for the OG Magazine.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES – OGs have access to a variety of OG sporting clubs and societies. More information is available on our website and Facebook page.

NETWORKING – We can help pupils/leavers with work experience placements, mentoring and internships. We can put you in touch with OGs working in your chosen profession and we have a growing community of OGs in our LinkedIn group.

NEWS – You will receive a copy of the annual OG Magazine and occasional notifications by email. We are always delighted to hear from you. If you have any news that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.

FINDING FRIENDS – Lost touch with friends and contemporaries? We have an extensive OG database and are happy to help you to reconnect.

OG MAGAZINE – The next OG Magazine will come out in autumn 2026. Please help to make it as interesting and comprehensive as possible, by sending to the Editor details of what has been happening to you, your friends and contemporaries. All suggestions, articles, information and photographs should be sent to the Editor via the OG Club office, or by email to rpeaver@greshams.com. **All copy needs to be in by 31st August 2026**. In order to help the environment (and reduce cost) we now send only one copy of the Magazine to each household. If individual OGs living within a household would still like to receive their own personal copy, we will, of course, be pleased to send separate ones. Please let the OG office know if you would prefer this.

COMMITTEE – The Club is always keen to welcome new members – of any age! – onto the Committee. It would also be helpful if any OG living outside East Anglia were willing to act as a 'regional contact' or representative/coordinate. Please get in touch with the Office if you feel you could help in this way.

Our Privacy Policy – This can be found online at: <https://www.greshams.com/site-services/privacy>. Separately to the OG Club, please be aware that the Gresham's Foundation and Gresham's Development Office conduct annual fundraising and marketing appeals that are sent to OGs and other members of the Gresham's community. These appeals often include requests for support of the School and Gresham's Foundation. Should you wish not to receive such communications, or should you rather not receive these types of communication by certain methods (e.g. not by phone or by post), please contact the Development Office on 01263 714529 or by emailing development@greshams.com, who will ensure your wishes are respected.



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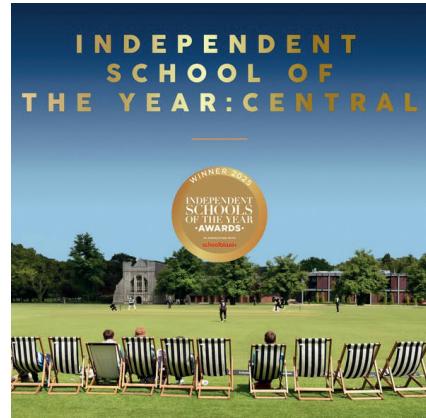


“Best Public School”

Editor's note: Just as this Magazine was going to press, Gresham's School has been named Best Public School at the Tatler School Awards 2026. Tatler's Education Editor and her team visited schools across Britain, engaging with pupils, parents and staff to uncover what makes each school special. Their rigorous process included thousands of questionnaire responses and in-depth research. The picture shows Douglas Robb with Sue Richmond (Deputy Head - External Relations) and Ben Youngs (k & T 1996 – 2006), Head of Performance Sport.

In a separate achievement, Gresham's has been named Winner of the Performing and Creative Arts category in the Talk Education Innovation in Education Awards. The judges praised the school's commitment to creativity and inclusivity across the arts.

Finally, Gresham's was named Independent School of the Year, Central category, in the Independent School of the Year Awards. The picture shows Sue Richmond and James Knight (Director of Sport).



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