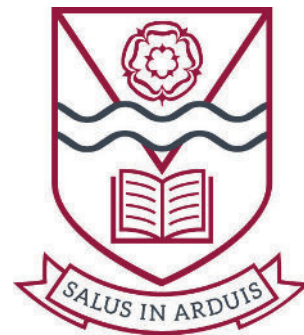


THE OLD Wellingburian NEWSLETTER

November 2022 | The Old Wellingburian Club | Est. 1897



The President writes:

It might seem eccentric or even perverse for an OW Club President to start his message with a fulsome hymn of thanks to his predecessor. However, our immediate past President, Julian Amey, is the only peacetime OW President to have served a consecutive two-year term of office.

Julian took over as President in November 2019 and four months later the country was under lockdown and restrictions which continued on and off until the end of last year. The Club was unable to meet in person, social and sporting events were cancelled, and as best it could, the Club moved online. Julian has steered the Club through the unprecedented years of the pandemic with tenacity, determination and not a little panache. We are truly grateful to him for his leadership and for the skilful way he has supported the Club in its transition to meeting once again face-to-face.

It was entirely appropriate, therefore, that this year's OW London Dinner in March, was exceptionally a joint event, with Julian and me co-hosting some over 100 guests at the House of Lords.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Ellis QC MP (81-86, Pl), who was at the time Minister for the Cabinet Office and Her Majesty's Paymaster General, was our guest speaker, delivering a speech to the Club with his inimitable charm and style. Michael has now been appointed His Majesty's Attorney General for which many congratulations.

It was delightful to be able to gather at the School for the OW Summer Luncheon and splendid to meet and hear from one of the Club's oldest members, David Widdows (44-48, G), who gave an amusing impromptu speech about his wartime experiences at the School, and the less than tempting meals served to boys – fish head pie anyone?



Peter Crisp

The Club continues to support the School with employability and careers advice. I delivered a lunchtime workshop to sixth formers (Years 12 and 13) on routes into the legal profession and was hugely impressed with the students – a very smart, focussed and engaged group of young people. Please do contact the School's Head of Careers, Alexandra Arber, via Debbie Whittemore if you are able to support this excellent employability initiative by sharing your expertise and knowledge.

The Club's sporting activities – including the Golfing Society, the OW Rifle Club, Cricket, Football, and Hockey Club – are very active and it has been heartening to see them bounce back to full strength after the pandemic.

Remembering the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1965



As I hand over the Presidency to Jon Morris-Smith (76-86, Pa) I offer my thanks to OWs, the Club Committee, the Headmaster and School staff, Neil Lyon and Debbie Whittemore, for your support, friendship and generosity.

It has been a genuine pleasure over my year as President to meet so many OWs across the generations and listening to and sharing stories, I am struck that, for most of us at least, we remember our time at the School with genuine gratitude for the way it has enriched our lives and empowered us to become who we want to be.

Peter Crisp (73-83, Pl)

The Headmaster writes:

2021-22 started in an upbeat manner, freed from many of the pandemic-related constraints placed upon us before the summer. There was no laxity, but the students and staff were able to breathe more easily (aside from the emergence of Omicron) and enjoy a much more natural school experience. September 2021 also saw us welcome a record number of new students to the School – 110 in total – as we continued to attract more families to Wellingborough.

The School's confidence and desire to progress was encapsulated by the publication of its latest five-year Development Plan, setting out a number of bold and stretching targets, and allowing us to re-articulate our core values of Excellence, Independence, Empathy, Dynamism and Inclusivity. We also began a strategic masterplanning exercise, Project Copernicus, working alongside consultants to reimagine the site through the next three decades. The plan itself has now been published and demonstrates how the School intends to develop a number of its facilities whilst staying true to much of what OWs will remember and cherish.

The School did not, however, need Copernicus to kickstart its building programme. The Sixth Form Centre has just come into use, and our community has been made aware of the next building projects: a year-round Nursery and a Technology Centre. This accompanied a

significant renovation of the Upper Prep Hall, made possible by a significant bequest by former teacher Mickey Prall, who many OWs will recall fondly.

Much has changed in the classroom of late. Every year group in the Senior School has seen changes to its curriculum, most notably Year 9, where the mini-options system was introduced in September.

In the Prep School, the launch of the International Primary Curriculum and the International Early Years Curriculum was a resounding success.

The School's feeling that was on the up was tested in March, when we welcomed an Inspection Team. As well as finding the School compliant in all regulatory matters, the Inspectors delivered (for the first time in our history) a verdict of Excellent – the highest possible judgment – in both areas of the Education Quality Inspection. Importantly, the School recognised itself in the final report and was proud that what we hold dear was witnessed and evidenced by the Inspectors.

Our co-curricular programme was back to normal by the summer. Over 600 children represented the School in sport; large scale music events returned; there were Prep and Senior drama productions; Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expeditions took place at all levels; and there were trips galore including to Norfolk and Oxfordshire for Prep pupils and a catch-up opportunity for both Year 9 and 10 pupils to visit the First World War Battlefields.

Years 13 and 11 sat public exams for the first time since 2019, benefiting from all of the support put in place across the previous two years. At A level, students achieved record results. University destinations stretched from Newcastle to Exeter, Belfast to Norwich, to undertake courses from Accountancy to Yacht Design; other students were able to take up high quality apprenticeships or confirm their place in the workforce. At GCSE, the results again represented a record in an exam-based year, a hugely impressive haul which allowed the vast majority of pupils to gain entry to their preferred courses.

The ripples from Covid will undoubtedly continue to affect schools and students; Wellingborough is not complacent and is acutely aware of needing to maintain the excellence of its pastoral care in order to underpin the progress made by the children in its care. It is, however, buoyant and vibrant, alive to the opportunities that exist and how to ensure that its students are able to capitalise on them. The School has made great strides in the most extraordinary of circumstances and is ready to develop even further in the coming years.



Andrew Holman, Headmaster

Your Committee

For the 12 months starting November 2022 your Committee is led by Jon Morris Smith (76-86, Pa; President 2022-23) alongside Peter Crisp (73-83, Pl; Past President), Richard Jackson (70-81, St; Treasurer), Neil Lyon (80-85, W), Simon Marriott (60-71, St), Joe Smith (98-05, PS), Sophie Timms (82-92, W), Rosie Turner (05-14, N) and Debbie Whittemore, with Clive Westley (59-64, F) and Julian Amey (57-67, G) in attendance.

Your Committee meets five times each year, usually by zoom. We have one vacancy and would be delighted to hear from anyone who might have the time and interest to join. Please contact Debbie for more information.

Are you on LinkedIn?

There are now more than 800 OWs on the "Wellingborough School – Old Wellingburians" network on LinkedIn, an increase of more than 100 in the past year. It is a great way of finding out what others are up to and where they work, reconnecting with old friends, and reading periodic posts from the Club and other OWs.

The OW London Dinner 2022

More than a hundred OWs enjoyed the chance to dine on the terrace of the House of Lords in March, and it was a joy to be able to hold the first OW London Dinner since 2019. Immediate Past President Julian Amey (57-67, G) and the incumbent President Peter Crisp (73-83, PI) co-hosted the evening, with Rt Hon Michael Ellis MP (81-86, PI) as the guest speaker.



Peter Crisp, Michael Ellis and Julian Amey



1960s vintage: Peter Geiringer, Angus Cookson and Peter Cordrey



1970s vintage: Marcus Horrell, Peter Walton and Ian Macleod



1980s vintage: James Copson and Andrew Cross



1990s vintage: Mark Bolar, Tom Mitchell, Ben Barringer and Bill Hunwicks

The OW London Dinner 2023

The 2023 London Dinner will be at the National Liberal Club on Friday 10th March. The new Club President Dr Jon Morris Smith (76-83, Pa) will be in the chair; please contact Debbie to reserve a place.



Moving on

The School said farewell to several members of the teaching staff and support staff this year, and many OWs will be thankful to them for all they did. Among them were Mrs Liz Barnes (Finance Officer, 2001-2021), Mr Lee Hilton (Staff 2002-2007; Director of Sport 2012-22) and Mrs Alison Holley (Head of Classics, 2000-22). Full tributes will appear in *The Wellingburian* magazine.



Liz Barnes



Lee Hilton



Alison Holley

OW Profile: Sophie Timms (82-92, W)



Sophie will be serving as the OW Club President for one year from November 2023.

After leaving Wellingborough, Sophie studied Politics and French at the University of Bradford and the Institut d'Études Politiques in Strasbourg and then joined the Federation of Small Business. She then spent over 20 years in the City, working in public and corporate affairs and communications roles, prior to joining the construction company Kier, where she is Corporate Affairs Director and a member of the Group Executive Committee.

In 2019, Sophie was awarded the Freedom of the City of London for services to Diversity, was named in 2022's PR Week UK Power Book and is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR). She has one daughter and had two siblings at the School, Harriet Timms (81-86, M) and Colonel Giles Timms MC (82-87, PI).

In her spare time, Sophie has competed in a number of national and international triathlon and swimming events including the 2015 Age Group World Championships, all made possible by the rigour of cross-country and open air pool training in her schooldays!

On her appointment as President-Elect, Sophie says: "It's an absolute honour to be asked to be OW President for 2023-24. I have been a member of the OW Committee for a number of years and love the connection it and the OW events give me to Wellingborough, where I spent a very happy decade during my school years.

I always try to describe what Wellingborough gave me as great opportunity, great grounding and friends for life. It's great to meet up with old faces at an event and reminisce about school life and shared experiences. The London Dinner this year at the House of Lords, after two years in lockdown, was very special and, as always, the contingent that spilled over to the pub afterwards was a solid number!

That said, the Club doesn't always get the numbers at events that it would like to and, for my tenure as President, I will be looking to make sure the range of events we offer are as appealing and as inclusive as possible. As my day job is in Communications, I'm also keen to make sure the channels the Club uses cater for everyone. I'd love to hear from OWs about anything they'd like to see more or less of so please contact me on: sophieatimms@outlook.com."

Dates for the Diary, 2022-23

OW London Drinks: Wednesday 30th November

OW Oxbridge Dinner (Peterhouse): Friday 13th January

London Dinner (National Liberal Club): Friday 10th March

OW Winter Sports Day (football and netball): Saturday 11th March (TBC)

OWs -v- School Cricket and Hockey: Friday 23rd June (TBC)

Class of 2018 Reunion: Saturday 16th September (TBC)

Club AGM: Saturday 11th November

Annual Dinner (School): Saturday 11th November

Personalia

Well done to Hamza Yassin (04-08, G) for agreeing to take part in the popular BBC programme *Strictly Come Dancing* this autumn. As reported in the 2021 edition of the *OW Newsletter*, Hamza is a noted cameraman and presenter of wildlife programmes, and recently fronted the Channel 4 documentary *Scotland: 'My Life in the Wild and Scotland: Escape to the Wilderness'*. In his own words: "I am absolutely over the moon to be joining *Strictly* 2022. Never in a million years did I think I'd be on such a cool show. I've been watching it for years and I can't believe I'll actually be there dancing live in front of the British public. My dance skills are currently at the level of '1970's disco vibe' but I'm ready to work hard."



News from the legal world. James Browne (79-86, W) is now a Recorder on the North Eastern Circuit and Rupert Higgins (76-87, St) is a Recorder on the Midland Circuit.

Many congratulations to Peter Cullimore (46-55, Pa) on being awarded the MBE in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to the provision of Social Care in Beaconsfield.

Matthew Fellows (99-10, C) has completed his PhD at Oxford and has been appointed as a Research Fellow in the Department of Computer Science, specialising in Reinforcement Learning. His sister Lucy (05-12, N) has graduated with a second degree at the Courtauld Institute in fine art easel restoration and is now working in London, restoring arts of work.



Back in November 2021 several OWs enjoyed the opportunity to dine at St Peter's College, Oxford for the annual OW Oxbridge Dinner. The Headmaster (centre) is seen with Julian Amey, Alastair Kidd, Max Buckby and Peter Crisp. The 2023 Dinner will be held at Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Well done to Joe Stockdale (04-18, C) on winning a bronze for Team GB in the World Equestrian Championships in August. The team has secured a place in the 2024 Olympics after their epic performance. Joe had originally planned a career in cricket, after playing in the School XI and then appearing for Northants Academy but took up professional show jumping after his father – the Olympic showjumper Tim Stockdale – passed away in 2018.



In May we received a visit from Adam Barringer (86-95, St). He writes: "It was such a memorable and fun occasion to visit the School whilst visiting the family in the UK from Australia – a real walk down memory lane. As an OW from the 1995 vintage, what struck me most was how much had changed, but yet how everything still felt in place. This is a huge credit to the School and the Foundation Office for ensuring that the legacy of the School lives on, and that the names and memories of so many great teachers and students are celebrated. An absolute blast to walk through the corridors where so many of us spent our formative years and recall the names and faces. It was also lovely for Debbie Whittemore to help me realise how many sports teams' plaques I had nearly made it onto. Clearly an all-rounder, me. Hopefully I'll be able to combine my next trip with one of the OW dinners and catch up with my era."



Congratulations to Rt. Hon Michael Ellis QC, MP (81-86, Pl) on surviving the demise of Boris Johnson. The Conservative MP for Northampton North was appointed as Attorney General by the short-lived Prime Minister, Liz Truss.

Rev Richard Coles (70-78, W) retired as vicar of Finedon this year, and his congregation presented him with a delightful work of art by the ceramic artist Philip Hardaker. His latest work of fiction, *Murder Before Evensong*, has been well received by the critics.



Personalia continued overleaf...

Personalia continued...

In the summer David Dicks (51-59, Pa) showed round the School Kathryn Cooper, the daughter of the late John Edwards (43-52, G), who had passed away in 1981. Kathryn lives with her family in Australia, and she enjoyed the chance to look in the Archives Room and learn all about her father's sporting prowess. The gene has been passed to Kathryn's son Isaac, who swam for Australia in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



And congratulations too to Lewis Gore (00-10, PS) on his wedding to Scott, at which several OWs were present, including Katie Wales (02-10, M), Charlotte Stevens (03-10, M), Jethro Warren (99-10, PS), Sam Crosby-Browne (05-10, PS), John Penman (96-01, PS), Matthew Palmer (98-10, G), Kristina Mulvihill (98-08, W) and Emma Buckley (06-13, N).



Many congratulations to Helen Amos (03-13, W) on her marriage in January to Aydar Zaripov. OWs in attendance included her brothers William (00-05, F) and Edward (00-09, F), plus Victoria Holley (02-13, W), Eleanor Lancaster-Smith (03-13, W) and Alice McDonald (06-11, W).

Benjamin Alexander (94-99, Pl) did a magnificent job earlier this year, taking part in the Winter Olympics by representing Jamaica in the giant slalom competition. Our previous Olympians include Peter Sweetman (58-63, G), who sailed at Montreal for GB in 1976, and Anne Panter (1992-2002, N), who played hockey for GB in the 2008 Olympics. OWs from the 1950s may also recall that David Hawkes (46-57, G) was an Olympic swimming triallist.



OW Summer Reunion

The OW Summer Lunch was held on Saturday 11th June. It was fascinating to hear OWs from the Forties sharing their reminiscences (in one case, dating back 80 years to the time he arrived in 1942) with OWs from the Seventies and Eighties, and vice versa. Many then enjoyed a powerpoint presentation in the School Hall, showing highlights in the School Archives – which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2022.



Richard Jackson, Robert Sears, Linda Jackson and Simon Marriott



David Widdows (44-48, G)

From the Archives



1902: School Prefects



1912: Football 1st XI
Top: R.J. McKay, T.T. Bowyer, C.E. Brown, J.P. Pointon, H.G. Whiting
Middle: W.A. Young, F.E. Douglas, M.E. Hancock, J.H. Case
Front: B. Wright, M. Robinson



1922: Cricket 1st XI
Top: M. Seta, D.H. Burgess, W.H. Tomlinson, J.R. Hearth
Middle: G.M.H. Peck, E.H. Fryer, R.C.B. Wright, J.W. Stokes, D.G. Coney
Front: G.I. Ainsworth, H.B. Richardson



1932: Football 2nd XI
Top: D.M. Jack, H.L. Bailey, A.G. Berry, J.A.E. Watts, S.J. Parsons, G.A. Turnbull
Front: K.R.W. Shrimpton, T.G. Clarke, V.A. Maddison, T.S. Saunders, P. Corbishley (Shrimpton was killed in action in January 1940, serving with the RAF)



1942: Weymouth House
(note there were just 19 boys, a sign of low numbers in wartime)



1952: Garne's House



1962: Rugger 1st XV
Top: R. Freeman, D. Piccaver, E. Turney, T. Bell, D. Brown, J. Douglas, P. Elliott, S. Crawley
Front: W. Bambridge, J. Tarry, M. Perry, M. Bottoms, J. Guest, M. Taylor, S. Syed



1972: Garne's House Rugby 7s
Top: M. Lawson, G. Haller, S. Dolan, N. Dunn
Front: R. Allen, K. Dolan, A. Newton



1982: Netball 1st VII
Top: K. Gordon, S. McGannan, A. Mellor, J. Simpson
Front: J. Blackmore, E. Smith, S. Evans



1992: Cricket 1st XI
Top: M. Steele, S. Shah, R. Matheson, J. Wilson, K. Potter
Front: R. Armitage, D. Hallworth, R. Mann, A. Canale, M. Haste



2002: Netball U16 VII
Top: C. Kitchen, S. Misra, L. York, J. Liddle
Front: S. Bhatia, R. Bailey, C. Musson, S. Warren, V. Ireson



2012: Chapel Choir

Memory Lane



The School Hall, c.1900

We are grateful to local historian Jon-Paul Carr for supplying us with this splendid photo of the School Hall (or 'New Hall', as some older OWs still call it). Built in 1895 to mark the School's 300th anniversary, the photo dates from around 1900; it shows the walls were wallpapered and the room lit by gas lamps. The inscription on the balcony, 'Whatsoever Thy Hand findeth to do, do it with thy might' survived until the Fifties.

Thanks to those 1960s OWS who wrote in about last year's *OW Newsletter* and the unnamed person in the photo of the 1961 production of *Mikado*. Tony Coult (60-65, Pl) suggests it is N.J.H. Cooke (55-63, W).

In last year's *Newsletter* we reported the death of Peter Browning (76-98, JS Staff). One OW writes: "He was an utterly decent and fair man who worked hard to bring out the best from us, though I don't think that we were particularly appreciative of that at the time. I was fortunate to be on one of the early trips he organised on the SS Uganda, the school cruise ship. Those trips were a revelation to a bunch of 12-year-olds, and we were allowed far more freedom than would be allowed now. We would arrive in a city (say, Istanbul), be taken to the city centre and given a map. Then we'd be told to make sure that we were back by 6pm. We had a ball finding our way around and negotiating prices with the local street traders. We all made it back on time too."

Congratulations to the Northamptonshire cricketing journalist and writer Andrew Radd on writing a biography of the famous OW cricketer George Thompson (1890-93). When Thompson was named as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year for his performances in 1905, the almanack claimed that 'he stands in an almost unique position among the professional cricketers of the



George Thompson (1890-93)

present day, insomuch as he has brought a new county to the front.' Put simply, Thompson batted and bowled Northamptonshire into first-class cricket - and then kept the club there, also playing six Test matches for England in 1909 and 1910. 'George Thompson - A Very Useful Man' is published in the ACS Lives in Cricket series.

The teacher stood at the pearly gates;
his face was worn and old.

He stood before the Man of Fate for admission to the fold:

"What have you done" Saint Peter asked,
"to gain admission here?"

"I've been a teacher, sir," he said,
"for many and many a year."

The pearly gates swung open wide;
Saint Peter touched the bell.

"Come in," he said, "and choose your harp.
You've had your share of Hell."

Colin Rowe (47-56, F) writes: "For posterity I claim to have relieved Murray Witham of two sums of cash – one for the funniest remark of the year and second for espying him crossing the quad with BOTH hands in his pockets. The first was, as a cricket Colt, he on the home trip questioned the slow speed of my bowling delivery. My response was that it was too hot to bowl quickly!"

We were delighted to receive from Ian Bird (81-89, C) a 1903 prize book, signed by the Headmaster Henry Platt. This had been awarded to a pupil called H.O. Warner. In those days we were known as Wellingborough Grammar School and prize books were beautifully embossed.

Thanks to Ed Shoben (65-66, G) for supplying this image of the Tennis VI in 1966. Top row are Michael Fowle, Ed Shoben and Peter Wilkinson; bottom row Robin Gibbons, Chris Shaw and David Quilliam.



The Tennis VI, 1966

Memories of the freezing winter of 1946-47 from David Widdows (44-48, G): "The School was running out of fuel and there were rumours that we were likely to be sent home. To everyone's dismay a load of coal was delivered just in time. The gravel pits just beyond the playing fields (now the site of Tesco) froze, and we skated there every sports afternoon. We also skated on the swimming pool after swot."

1972 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Music School. It was the first of the single-storey buildings to be built between the Chapel and the San. Before then music lessons had been accommodated in a ward in the San (commandeered whenever there was a flu outbreak) or cells up in 'Heaven' in the Teaching Block. The Music School was enlarged in 2006 with the addition of a recital room, opening by former manager of the Rolling Stones, Andrew Loog Oldham (56-60, G).

Graham McKechnie, the sports editor at BBC Radio Northampton, has been researching the life of a Northampton Saints captain from the 1890s called Charles Davis. Charles was a pupil at the School from 1879 to 1884, before moving on to Oundle and then going up to Cambridge. He captained the Saints for three seasons and made more than 80 appearances. He went on to train as a solicitor and later became Mid-Northamptonshire Coroner. In the 1895/96 photo shown here, Davis is standing third from left on the back row, two along from Walter Edwards, the science master here



Northampton Saints, 1895/96

who later died at sea. It was unusual for a soccer school like Wellingborough to produce rugby players; we did not start playing rugby until the early Thirties, so it's Oundle where Charles fell in love with the oval ball. Other OWs who played for the Saints would include Gil Tebbitt (22-26, Pl), Harvey Thorneycroft (82-87, Pa) and the Waller brothers – Alex (03-08, PS) and Ethan (03-10, PS).

Five-Year Reunions

A sunny autumn weekend saw about a hundred OWs from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 year groups return for their 5-Year Reunions. They were all delighted to find their old teachers had aged not one jot!

The 2018 Leavers' Reunion is pencilled in for September next year.



Obituaries

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of all those OWs and former staff whose deaths have been notified to us since the 2021 Newsletter. Full obituaries (where available) appear on the farewell pages in the OW section on the School website.

John Aughton (46-52, Pa), Ian Batchelor-Williams (72-79, F), Richard Butcher (Chaplain, 77-83), Jeff Clark (72-79, St), Jim Elliott (52-56, Pa), Ian Ferguson (JS Staff, 55-85), Richard Grant (51-55, W), Ivan Greaves (Staff, 90-04), Garth Halestrap (56-60, St), Noah Matthews (07-18, C), Geoff Mawer (48-51, F), Harry Mead (39-45, Pa), Peter Pattinson (40-45, G), Barrie Potts (41-50, G), Andrew Seabrook (68-72, JS), Richard Swindall (42-48, Pa), David Ward (70-75, G) and John Ward (48-52, F).

Revd. Richard Butcher (Chaplain, 77-83) died in November 2021. During his time here, his study at the side of the Chapel and his house in Great Doddington were ever open, and he ran the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme with aplomb. He ran several expeditions and, as former Headmaster Graham Garrett wrote when RPB left in December 1983, it was on one of his canal trips that he acquired his dog George, who became a constant companion. We are grateful to Richard's friend Caroline Edmunds (82-84, M) for notifying us.

Jeff Clark (72-79, St) died in August at the age of 61. As a pupil he twice made it to the National Public Speaking Finals and was involved in the production of "La Belle Helene". He opened the bowling in the 1st XI for two years, as well as playing rugby for the 1st XV. He continued his love of fitness on leaving school, running the London Marathon three times, plus



many 10k and half-marathon races. Inspired by a talk at School, he studied Production Engineering at Birmingham University, and later achieved Chartered status with the Institute of Production Engineers. He worked for Birds Eye Walls (Unilever), then with Tambrands (later acquired by Procter & Gamble), before following opportunities in the Soviet Union and later France. During his three year stint in France, he studied for an MBA with the Open University. In 2002, he acquired a design and print business in Wellingborough which he ran with the help of his wife; he volunteered with the Princes Trust, delivering their "Explore Enterprise" course and mentoring many youngsters starting their own business. He leaves behind his wife Gill and two daughters, Jennie and Laura.

Jim Elliott (52-56, Pa) died in 2021, aged 81. He was born and raised in Sywell, where his father was manager of the nearby Sywell Reservoir. After marrying in 1971 he moved to Sywell himself and then became very involved with cricket and football for Mears Ashby for a number of years. He also had been a part-time ranger at Sywell Country Park and helped there on many projects as he knew more about the area than anyone else. He spent some years with Crockett & Jones, the famous Northampton shoemakers, and was chosen by the company to be featured on a television programme about their factory. He was recently honoured by having a local park and garden in Sywell named 'Elliott Park' after him. He leaves a wife Brenda and a son John. Thanks to David Dicks (51-59, Pa) for notifying us.

Ivan Greaves (Staff, 90-04) died in December, aged 82. He served on the staff as a part-time mathematician and helped to run the exam administration. Charles Linfield remembers him as "a totally unflappable man and a fine colleague." Former colleague Andrew Rome recalls: "Arriving to fill a gap in the Maths department he was immediately at home, being a gifted classroom teacher and an amusing companion in the Common Room ... As a proud son of Norwich, Ivan would frequently regale me with stories of Carrow Road and Norwich City's epic 1959 FA Cup run. This had ended with defeat in the semi-final to my team, Luton Town. But he harboured no grudge. He was keen for people to know that on his teaching practice in London he had taught one Terry Nelhams, later to become pop star and actor Adam Faith. Apparently Faith's successful career owed much to Ivan's wise advice. At least that's what Ivan suggested!"

Garth Halestrap (56-60, St) died in March, aged 77. Whilst not the keenest of scholars, he loved his time at the School. In recounting his schooldays, he regularly brought up sports, social life, eccentric teachers exercising their cars on the playing fields, and the CCF (RAF), which helped stoke his already acute preoccupation with aeroplanes. His sons Luke (84-89, F) and Oliver (87-92, F)



would follow him here, and it was a matter of family pride that two generations of Halestraps received a "damn fine thrashing" from Tom Peters. For many years he worked in the car business in Northampton, first at Baments and then at Broadway Motors. The loss of his wife Valerie in 2017 was a great blow, and Garth then threw himself into the OW Club, serving as Club President in 2018-19 and organising a splendid London Dinner at the Lansdowne Club. He settled down happily with Marion Rouse, his new partner, and his sudden death came as a great shock to all.

Noah Matthews (07-18, C) died in May 2022, aged 22. The School held a Celebration for his life in June, and more than 400 people filled the Dining Hall to remember Noah's young life. His Housemaster, Mr Hargreaves, remembers him "as a gifted student who straddled the Arts and Sciences with ease. He is remembered in House as a caring and altruistic housemate whose acting talents lit up the various stages around school. He is sadly missed."



Harry Mead (39-45, Pa) died in March, aged 94. Born in Kettering, he attended the School as a dayboy throughout the War, and was joined by his younger brother Derek (42-47, Pa). On leaving school he went to Sheffield University in 1946 to study metallurgy, first as an undergraduate and then as a postgrad. Armed with a Doctorate, he worked for 27 years as a research scientist at Imperial Metal Industries in Birmingham. He married Brenda in 1959 and they had three children. He was a very keen horticulturalist, and he and his wife enjoyed a long and fulfilled retirement in Worcestershire.

Peter Pattinson (40-45, G) died in Philadelphia, aged 94. He did well at the School, becoming House Captain of Garne's and being awarded colours for cricket and shooting. On leaving school he joined English Electric in Rugby as a trainee engineer; during his first year his was spotted



bowling his leg spin by the England leg spinner Eric Hollies, who whisked him off to Edgbaston for coaching. Within a few weeks he was playing for Warwickshire when studies and fixtures allowed it. On graduation he was posted to Australia, where he remained for fifteen years, rising to senior management and marrying Alexa McAuley of Adelaide. They returned briefly to London before moving on to the USA. He rose to become a senior executive in the global power generation industry. In retirement he and his local cricket team (the Merion Cricket Club, one of the oldest in the USA) played in a match at Lord's against the MCC, captained by Mike Gatting; Peter was the oldest person ever to have played in a competitive match at Lord's – he was 81! Our thanks to his younger brother Alistair (40-49, G) for this.

Andrew Seabrook (68-72, JS) died in July, aged 63. The fourth son of five boys, much of his life was spent on the family farm near Kimbolton. After leaving school he joined a garage in Great Staughton, where he learned his skills of engineering, which proved invaluable when he joined the family farm after he had finished his apprenticeship. He married Caroline in 1985, and they had three sons, all of whom duly inherited Andrew's skill of engineering. He collected old motorbikes, including a 1950's Royal Enfield in perfect condition. In recent years he was diagnosed with MSA, a rare form of Parkinson's. Thanks to his brother Mark (67-72, W) for proving this information.

Richard Swindall (42-48, Pa) died in December, aged 90. The son of an OW, he was born and raised in Higham Ferrers and caught the daily train to Wellingborough on the "Higham Flyer", putting up with the traditional jeering from some locals about the wearing of straw boaters. He excelled at sport, playing first team football and rugby, and played for the Ows in the Arthur Dunn Cup final of 1951. After National Service with the RAF he worked with Pendereds in Wellingborough, and qualified as a chartered surveyor. Ultimately he became the senior partner of Swindall Pendered and Atkins, and the firm flourished throughout the county. Outside work he served on numerous committees for local worthy causes. The School always played a big part in his life: he was a governor for twenty years and then served as Chairman from 1996 for a further decade. He was also a pillar of the OW Club, serving as Honorary Secretary and then Treasurer and twice as President. Condolences to his son Mark (67-75, St) and his daughter Caroline.



John Ward (48-52, F) died in May, aged 87. His colleagues in the OW Golfing Society write: "John was a talented single figure golfer and longstanding member of the OW team which played the Halford Hewitt and Cyril Gray Competitions each year. He was part of the Nottingham old boys' group who regularly returned to play the Spring, Autumn and Long Johns meetings and latterly became President of the OW Golfing Society. Fondly known to us all as 'El Duce' for his perceived resemblance to Mussolini, he was incredibly inciteful (especially about any sport) and a central figure to all the amusing and enjoyable times we experienced as a golfing group over the years. Our thoughts go to his wife Denise and Brother Ben (51-54, F) and their families."

Fergie

Ian Ferguson (Staff, 55-85) died in November 2021, one day after his 99th birthday celebrations on the 8th. As Second Master of the Junior School for 30 years, he had a profound impact on generations of pupils, and he was the last surviving member of staff from the Fifties.

His funeral service was taken by his godson, Father William Massie (son of Allan Massie; Staff 55-66). William writes: "IGWF was born in Ferozepore in the Punjab to Major George and Agnes Mary Ferguson. An older brother, John, died in infancy and so the family returned to England when Ian was just five months old. His father, a recipient of the Military Cross in the Great War, left the regular army and became an official in the newly formed Royal British Legion. Ian was educated at Reading School and then at St John's College, Oxford. He saw action in the Middle East and Italy for two years in WW2, and to the end of his life he was capable of some fascinating asides. 'Oh, I remember Alamein. I was there'. His war ended in December 1943 in Lanciano in Umbria in a shower of German machinegun bullets."

He was transferred to a military hospital in Cairo and suffered several years of hospitalisation and convalescence. Generations of pupils will recall how the war wound affected the way he walked, and many wrote in at the time of his death: "Kind, committed, enthusiastic, his lessons were never dull... the most formative teacher in my time at the school... He led me to a lifetime love of reading and appreciation of the English language..."

For thirty years he was a force to be reckoned with in the Junior School, serving as Head of English and as Club President of Panthers, and known variously as "Fergie" or simply as "F". He spent his retirement in Castle Street and was blessed with a remarkable memory right to the very end.



IGWF with Julian Amey, 2020

A few tributes:

Stephen Gilbert (56-66, St): "I particularly recall his kindness and patience. He was also unfailingly elegant, unencumbered by his limp which absolutely nobody mimicked or commented upon ... He smoked Matinée cigarettes, very chic. Frankly, I think we all adored him. He was great friends with Lambert Musgrave, another unforgettable master, and Lambert's shockingly early death shook him a great deal, I believe."

Chris Grierson (60-69, St): "The boys could see that he was devoted to his profession and also devoted to the School. Like very many of the teachers at Wellingborough, he spent most of his career there. IGWF was the master in charge of Panthers and was regularly seen on the touch line cheering on the club's football teams. He also led one of the tutorial groups for boys applying for scholarships to the Senior School. I remember the regular meetings of my group in the study in 47 Castle Street which he shared with another kind and committed JS teacher, Lambert Musgrave. IGWF was renowned for sipping milk from a wine glass during these sessions. Lessons were never dull. He taught with verve and enthusiasm. He encouraged the boys to give of their best but those who were not paying attention might find a dusty blackboard rubber land on their desks!"

Chris Robinson (70-74, G): "Ian Ferguson was the most formative teacher in my time at Wellingborough ... His encouragement to write creatively, his opening of doors into diverse literary genres and his innate ability to speak to us as adults, were gifts for which I will always be truly grateful."

David Wilson-Johnson (62-69, Pa): – "So sorry to hear of the death of Fergie ... I remember him as quite a fearsome character, he appeared so tall to a small boy in Remove in 1961, always wearing his gown and mortar board emphasised his stature even more and made it impossible to avoid him and his Latin lessons."

Thanks also to David Clifton (63-74, St), Nick Geier (66-72, Pl), Sir Christopher Greenwood (65-73, C), Julian Harris (63-73, C), Peter Horrell (61-70, Pl), Alastair Newton (62-72, G) and Martin Wilson (51-60, W):

IGWF was one of several masters on the staff here who had fought in one or other of the two world wars, and he was the last survivor. We can only imagine what they saw and witnessed, what memories they buried deep inside. We shall not see their like again.

Around the School

Remembering our 425th Anniversary

As reported in our last *OW Newsletter*, we were delighted to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to the School in October 2020. She was here to mark the School's 425th anniversary. A plaque has now been erected outside the Chapel to mark the visit; this matches an earlier plaque recording the visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in 1996 to mark our quatercentenary.



Lovers of learning



An OW has kindly paid for replicas to be made of the stone plaques above the entrance of the Old School building in the town centre. These record donations made to the School in 1682 and again in 1715. These fine pieces of Portland stone were shaped and carved by Northamptonshire stonemasons Boden and Ward and have been erected outside the entrance to the Study Centre (the old Platt's entrance). They include the splendid inscription "I owe much to the lovers of learning, but to the philistines nothing". Food for thought for today's pupils as they head off to their next lesson!

The Platinum Jubilee



Many congratulations to the School's Estates staff for celebrating Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in such style in the summer: they mowed a Union Flag on the playing fields in an impeccable style.

Remembering Freddie Groome

In October 2021 OWs came together to remember their great friend Freddie Groome (06-11, G), killed in a motor incident in 2020: William Wykes (96-09, F), Willis Croft (00-09, G), Toby Hemsley (04-09, Pl), Alex Hunt (96-09, PS), Oscar Hills (07-09, G), Tom Austin (98-09, F), Eddie Williams (96-09, G), Chris Barltrop (99-09, C), Alan Anthony (98-09, G) and Cameron Smith (01-09, PS). The occasion was the unveiling of a bench in his memory by Freddie's father John and his brother Harry, which is now to be seen on the playing fields.



A new organ

Visitors to the Chapel have been charmed by the sight of a newly-installed Victorian organ, circa 1880, to be seen on the south wall. This complements the electronic organ (paid for by the estate of a benefactor). Director of Music Ian Runnells writes: "A friend notified me of a chapel in Thringstone, Leicestershire being declared redundant. It was agreed that we would take their organ and rebuild at the School, where pupils would benefit from playing the real thing rather than a digital. It may not be loud enough to support the heartiest singing, but is really lovely in a number of other roles, both accompanimental and solo"



The day the Queen came

In 1965 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Northamptonshire. Her visit was largely arranged by Earl Spencer, the Lord Lieutenant, who happened to be Chairman of the Governors as well. He persuaded the Palace to include in her tight schedule a quick visit to the School. The rest, as they say, is history...

Plans were drawn up by the new headmaster, John Sugden. She would arrive through the Headmaster's entrance on the corner of London Road and be greeted outside the Headmaster's House. Governors and senior masters would be introduced to her on the Weymouth Lawn, and the two senior prefects – Roger Shelton and Graham Bond would then escort her and Prince Philip around the site – via the Dining Hall, then the Chapel, then down the Senior Walk to the playing fields, then up through the grass tennis courts and off. In the event of wet weather, she would be introduced to the delights of Garne's House.

Stephen Gilbert (56-66, St): "It was, I think, a Saturday morning when I strolled into school – I was a dayboy – rather late for Chapel. I was pounced on by Murray Witham, who shoved a green card into my top pocket. 'Just the boy I want to see' he growled. I turned the card to look at it and saw written on it the word Queen. 'What does he know?' I wondered. 'We're rehearsing for the royal visit this afternoon,' Murray explained, 'and as you're the most senior boy who isn't going

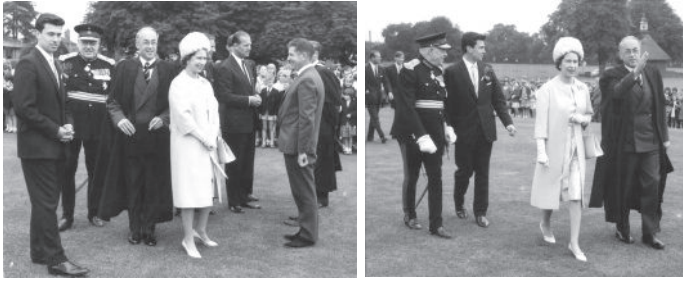


to be presented on the day, you're the Queen at the rehearsal.' This, as you may imagine, was a fairly hilarious event. Clive Reed, who was impersonating the Duke, and I were received at School House by John Sugden (who always had the gravest suspicions about my reliability). The various masters were blushingly presented to us, some of them quite touchingly nervous. We were walked round the School by Sugden and then delivered into the wonderful 1930s Rolls Royce that belonged to Derek Clare, the music master. He drove us off the premises as all the boys – only boys in those days – lined the drive and cheered. I'm afraid we favoured them with V signs. The actual visit was rather more sedate."

Roger Shelton (54-65, St): "As Head Prefect I was chosen, along with the Headmaster, to escort Her Majesty round the School, whilst Graham Bond as Deputy Head was to escort Prince Philip along with the JS Headmaster, Roland Bedford. The day for me began very early since the visit, being in July, came right in the middle of my A Level exams. The morning paper, English Literature, was brought forward to 7am. The Queen then arrived at 11am, the visit taking around an hour, and then after lunch I sat one of my History papers between 2pm to 5pm!"

Graham Bond (61-66, F): "Seeing the Queen arriving at School in the Royal Car was a spectacular sight. I think it's fair to say that we were all nervous. Suffice it to say, meeting them and speaking to them immediately put one at ease, they were normal!"





Roger Shelton: "After all the introductions, the first port of call was to the new Dining Hall. The visit continued to the Biology lab, where Mr Massie and some sixth formers were in attendance. Next was to the Chemistry lab, where similarly Mr Marson and some students were waiting. Eventually we arrived at the Chapel where the doors were open. Their Majesties were presented to Rev Basil Pitt in the porch whereupon Prince Phillip stepped forward and peered into the Chapel itself remarking 'another lot in there I suppose!' There was!

The tour continued down the Walks on to the playing fields, where there were crowds of locals waiting to see the Royal Couple. We proceeded past the Sanatorium through the rose arch, into the vegetable gardens, and up towards the Headmaster's house. Arriving at the gravel drive at the top, Her Majesty had to leave me to say farewell to some Wellingborough Council officials. The Royal cars were waiting there for the departure when the Queen looked round remembering that she hadn't yet thanked me for escorting her. So in the most memorable part of the visit for me she walked back to thank me! I then asked the School to give three rousing cheers to their Majesties. I distinctly remember thinking that I had now met probably the most important person in the world, so meeting no other person would ever faze me."

Peter Cordrey (61-65, W): "I was in the line as a school prefect (on the lawn in front of the Headmaster's House) when presented to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. His comment to me was 'I bet you spent some time practising for this occasion.' I smiled but did not advise him that there was no practice!"

Christopher Grierson (60-69, St): "I remember standing in a group of Junior School pupils to the right when viewing JGS's house from the playing fields. I was lucky to have a pretty good view. There was a Scripture class with the Chaplain, Basil Pitt (aka 'Bottomless Pitt') in the week after the visit when he described with great care how he had addressed the Queen as 'Your Majesty' and then 'Ma'am' and how she had expressed interest in the number of OWs who had fallen in the wars."

Peter Phillips (54-65, Pa): "The day was a bit of a blur, with all the anticipation and nervousness surrounding the visit. My main memory is waiting in line with Philip Gordon (master i/c cricket), myself (captain of cricket) and then Stan Bayes (head groundsman); shaking hands with the Queen before she moved along to Stan

and then a most embarrassing moment when Prince Philip arrived. 'Is cricket a popular sport?' 'As popular as any other sport, Sir' I mumbled. End of conversation, as Prince Philip moved on, no doubt hoping to discover that Stan Bayes was not such a muppet as the cricket captain!"

Bill Lewin (55-66, W): "We were lined up on the tennis courts outside the Headmaster's front door as Her Majesty walked up the courts with the Headmaster to meet senior staff and dignitaries. Earl Spencer chair of governors also walked with the Queen and the Duke. She wore a lemon outfit. So long ago."

Graham Bond: "Reflecting on that day, I realise that the Queen was only 36 at the time and what an amazing life she had in front of her. In some ways the most memorable moment for me was, when we were walking up the tennis courts towards the Headmaster's House, the Duke asked me where my mother was standing, I knew exactly. I walked him over to where she was supposed to be, only to find she had moved! It turned out she had just moved away to get a better view of him. She always regretted having done that as she missed the opportunity to be personally introduced to the Duke."

The visit began and ended with two howlers, much to the amusement of the Royal Couple. The first was when John Sugden introduced Her Majesty to Murray Witham, Jack Blake, John Oughton, and Roland Bedford. While introducing Murray, who was then 65 and had been here 35 years, JGS muffed by saying Murray had been here 65 years. When Jack Blake was introduced, Prince Philip asked if he had been here 65 years as well.

And the second howler is recounted by Nigel Clark (60-70, F): "As Junior School Captain and Vice-Captain respectively, Peter Townsend and I were tasked with presenting flowers to the Royal visitors, a bouquet of roses to the Queen and a rose buttonhole to Prince Philip. The roses had been picked from the Chapel garden that morning. As we stood waiting for our big moment Pete noticed the greenfly. Not just one or two but absolutely covered. We were mortified, panicked even, and Pete apologised as he handed the bouquet over."



The day the Queen came continued overleaf...

The day the Queen came continued...



The Duke is renowned for posing a pertinent question or passing an apt comment. At Wellingborough School the camera caught him in deep discussion with one of the younger generation.

The Queen, as we have all heard, loved a cockup and was very amused. I recall that she was very kind, reassuring him that it was a problem with roses so not to worry. Meanwhile the Duke asked me if I knew the names of the flowers in his buttonhole, something I was not expecting. The rose was easy, but he pressed me for an answer on the supporting greenery. All I could think to say was 'it looks like a bit of scraggly lilac to me sir.' He roared with laughter. I wasn't even close, I learned later that it was gypsophila. The moment he moved on the press pounced on me. 'What did he say to you?' 'What did you say to him?' Quite the moment!"

And what a moment indeed in the history of the School, the day the Queen came.

Our thanks also to Anthony Burton, Martin Feinhols, Michael Fowle, Richard Gaunt, Peter Geiringer, John Griffiths, Jerry Higgins, Peter Horrell, John Ireland, Peter Lock, Peter Lyne, James Newman OBE, James Sheehan, Teng Khay Thio, and David Wingate for contributing to their memories of the visit.



Remembering Her Late Majesty

There are several OWs who had connections with Her Late Majesty. First and foremost was the eminent physician Sir William Gilliatt KCVO, FRCP, FRCS, FRCOG. A pupil here between 1900 and 1902, he attended Her Majesty at the births of her two elder children. Dr Richard Staughton FRCP, LVO (1951-62, W) was her Consultant Dermatologist for 30 years. John Major LVO (55-63, G) was the Agent on the Sandringham estate from 1991 to 1999. And Commander Andrew Canale RN, MVO (82-92, G) served as her Equerry from 2012 to 2015.



Sir William Gilliatt

John Major recalls: "In 1991 I had the honour to be appointed Agent for the Sandringham Estate. Much has been said about our late Queen's kindness, steadfastness and devotion to duty, I had the privilege to witness the off-duty Queen. Whilst red boxes continued to arrive daily and that work needed to be done, time could be found to enjoy the simple pleasures of the countryside. Sandringham and Balmoral provided relaxation for Her Majesty and her family. The Queen would spend perhaps ten to fifteen weekends a year at Wood Farm and of course Christmas and New Year at Sandringham House.

My earliest recollection was of Her Majesty's kindness. When my wife and I first arrived at Sandringham the house in which we were expected to live was still being renovated. Her Majesty allowed us to occupy Wood Farm for a few weeks. A comfortable small cottage simply furnished containing many royal personal treasures.

We have heard of Her Majesty's affinity and love of animals, in particular her horses and dogs. At Sandringham Her Majesty was able to enjoy seeing her horses daily at both the Sandringham and Wolferton Studs. Similarly, the Kennels at Sandringham housed the famous strain of labradors which Her Majesty worked, with huge success, when picking up on the shooting field. These dogs had the extraordinary knack of being aware of the Royal car's entry onto the estate even when the Queen was a couple of miles away. A very useful indicator to get in position to greet Her Majesty's arrival!

It was my duty to submit monthly reports to the Queen relating the doings of the estate including the births, deaths and marriages of staff, tenants and neighbours, in all of whom the Queen took a personal interest. Fittingly it was at Wood Farm, invited to lunch with the Queen, that my duties ceased at Sandringham when I was honoured to be presented with an LVO (Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order) by Her Majesty."



John Major with Her Majesty in 1994

Richard Staughton recalls: "As a Consultant Dermatologist in my early forties, I was flattered and delighted to be asked by the Royal physician Sir John Batten to accompany him to Buckingham Palace to see Prince Philip. This led on to regular visits and subsequently the great privilege of being asked to consult Her Majesty the Queen. For some 30 years, until I finally retired, I paid fairly regular visits, when required, nearly always at their various homes, both in England and Scotland, taking my nurses or colleagues when appropriate.

Over the years I was struck by their unfailing courtesy, humour and politeness. They were refreshingly straightforward to advise, which made for a long and happy relationship. In fact when I did try to retire aged 70, I was amused to get a letter from the older and still hard-working Duke asking me to reconsider. I of course did. In 2015 I was honoured to be appointed LVO. In September my wife and I made the six-hour queue needed to pay final homage to the patient I was most proud to have served."



Dr Richard Staughton

OW Sport

It has been a pleasure to see the return of OW fixtures against the School, as the shadow of the global pandemic recedes. March saw the annual football and hockey fixtures, followed in June by the hockey and cricket matches.

Master in charge of cricket, Andrew Doig, reports: "The fixture was well contested, with tradition allowing the OWs to bat first, posting a healthy 142-4 thanks largely to an unbeaten 66 from Nathan Piper. The School 1st XI made a decent fist of the chase in front of a healthy crowd who were able to enjoy a BBQ and drink, brilliantly hosted by the School's catering team. Finishing 26 runs short on 116-4 the OW XI were triumphant on this occasion. We look forward to the rematch in 2023! Many thanks to all OWs who travelled to play in the fixture or support their peers, it was great to have representation from the last decade and beyond in attendance enjoying the fixture."



1st XI OW Football

Top: Stanley Kirk (13-21, G), Nathan Piper (14-19, Pl), Josh Hewett (12-19, Pl), Jonny Clarke (12-19, PS), Andrew Magnus-George (13-20, F), Jonny Bowers (06-12, G)
Bottom: Sam Sherwood (12-19, G), Sam Cattle (17-19, PS), James Brazier (19-21, C), Harvey Lewis (12-19, C), Ben White (07-21, C)

OW 2nd Football team
Top: Charles Graham (06-20, F), Charles Langley (07-21, Pl), Will Simms (08-20, Pl), Vikram Dard (03-16, G), Felix Allen (15-19, C), Rhys Neal-Davies (06-21, G)
Bottom: James Waite (05-20, PS), Vivek Dard (06-21, G), Max Buckby (12-20, F)



OW Netball

Yasmin Dhaliwal (02-14, N), Millie Wright (16-18, W), Lily Roberts-Nuttall (13-18, W), Charlotte Lodge (15-17, M), Maisie Benham (10-21, W), Emily Bowe (01-15, M), Maisie Robinson (16-21, M), Elise Porter (00-15, M)



1st XI OW Cricket

Back: Joshua Griffiths (12-20, PS), William Hinton (14-19, Pl), Alex Mills (07-17, C), Matthew Mills (07-20, C), Adam Davies (06-21, Pl), Nathan Piper (14-19, Pl), Stanley Kirk (13-21, G)
Front: Tom Pope (09-18, C), Cameron Blake (11-20, PS), Ben Dhaliwal (12-17, PS), Matthew Chalcraft (07-17, Pl)

OW Hockey
Back (L-R): Maisie Robinson, Sophie Hammerschmidt, Anna Rowarth, Elise Porter, Becky Short, Antoinette Marchant, Ellie Garner
Front (L-R): Becky Stabler, Jess Moricca, Martha Ross, Anna Elson



OW Golfing Society

To play in the Grafton Morrish finals, which take place at Royal West Norfolk (Brancaster) & Hunstanton Golf Clubs, a team first has to progress through a regional qualifier, by way of the aggregate score of three pairs, playing alternate shot scratch foursomes, for stableford points. So there is nowhere to hide and every shot counts. The privilege of qualifying has not fallen to the OW Golfing Society for 32 years, since 1990! That team consisted of Michael Duck, John Saxby, John Gaunt, David Gaunt along with (very much younger) Chris Billson and Richard Jackson.

It was a great achievement that our current team of old-timers – Chris Billson & Richard Jackson (30 points), Jordan & Sam McGuire (29) and Ollie Timm & Jonny Bowers (24) qualified in fourth place to secure a spot on the Norfolk Coast in October. This was a terrific effort amongst some pretty esteemed company.

We had a successful year in the Halford Hewitt Golf competition, with a strong team in Philip Saxby, Chris Billson, Sam, Luke and Jordan McGuire, Dominic Holden, Richard Jackson, Ollie Timm, Aemish Taylor, Giles Kellett, Andy Billson, and Martyn Allen. We won our first round 4-1 over City of London but came a close second in round two against Eastbourne, but it all came down to the last putt on the 18th at Deal which Eastbourne holed to secure a 3-2 victory. Our team grows ever stronger and younger each year and getting to the quarter finals is our goal. Next year we hope for more success in this most enjoyable of golf tournaments.



Philip Saxby, Aemish Taylor,
Dominic Holden and Jordan McGuire

The Spring Meeting was held in May at Wellingborough Golf Club. We had a reasonable turnout of 18 with the Gillett Vase going to Charlie Threadgold with 37 points. Chris Billson was close behind on 35 points with Steve Whittome taking 3rd place with 34 points on countback from Philip Saxby. Each entrant will carry forward these points to the Autumn meeting where the best combined total from the two events will be awarded the Wright Cup.

We enjoyed a very convivial dinner at Worplesdon Golf Club on the eve of this year's competition to celebrate the 50th



anniversary of the Cyril Gray, postponed from 2021 because of the pandemic. This tournament was founded in 1971 and comprises the last 32 schools, in chronological order, that joined the Halford Hewitt, the blue riband event of Public Schools golf whose centenary will be celebrated in 2024. The sole selection criterion is that you must have reached the age of 50.

The 2022 team consisted of Richard Jackson, Chris Billson, Philip Saxby, Guy Gilman, Alan Harlow, and Tim Poole. We lost 2-1 to Berkhamsted in round one with Saxby and Gilman securing our point, before defeating St Paul's 2-1 in the Plate competition.

John Panter (57-60, Pl) and
Charlie Threadgold (05-09, Pl)

OW Rifle Club

In May we shot for the Newbery Bowl, presented in 1962 by R.E. Newbery OW, MC (OW Club President 1939-49). Normally it is shot over 300 and 500 yards and we have a separate 600 yard competition. This May it was only possible for us to book 300 and 500 yard targets. So we combined the two distances available to us and awarded the Newbery bowl on the combined score. Henry Sanders (93.08v) just beat Martin Whatton (92.11v).

We entered three teams in the Public Schools Veterans. We were a little short of numbers compared to previous years. Our 'A' team scored 230.11v and came 28th out of 42 teams. Our 'B' team scored 223.11v and came 13th out of 27 teams. Finally our 'C' team (short of one member) scored 159.4v and came 13th out of 19 teams. After the match we retired to the caravan park for a most enjoyable barbeque, courtesy of Martin and Daniel Whatton.

The Humphrey Long is our final shoot of the season at Bisley and took place in early October. This competition is shot over 900 and 1000 yards. It was won this year by a new member, Ben Roe. He top scored with 98.9v, narrowly beating Russell Hodgson Jones 97.9v. Henry Sanders was 3rd with 95.12v. Ben Roe was presented with the Humphrey Long trophy by our Chairman Henry Sanders.

We returned to the School range for smallbore shooting in November last year after a long period of inactivity due to the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately, time has caught up with several of our members resulting in them not being able to continue prone shooting with us and that, along with a relatively low attendance, has meant that we are unable to support shooting on Monday evenings. We continue to shoot on Thursday evenings and members are most welcome to join us. For the first time in two years we have entered a team (and individual entries) in NLRSA competitions which we hope will encourage attendance.

John Eady



Henry Sanders with Ben Roe

Supporting the School



The School Foundation

Patron: The Rt. Hon. The Earl Spencer, DL

Chairman: Clive Westley (59-64, F)

Foundation Director: Neil Lyon (80-85, W)

Foundation Manager: Debbie Whittemore

The new Sixth Form Centre



This term has seen the opening of the new Sixth Form Centre, constructed on top of the roof of the Dining Hall. Costing £1.7 million, the funding has come from a mixture of reserves and bank loans and fundraising. We are grateful to the parents, OWs and well-wishers who have supported this vital project. The names of all donors will be recorded for posterity on a Wall of Donors in the new Centre.



Helping the next generation with Bursaries



The Headmaster writes:

"In October 2018 a local family were passing the School on the morning of our Open Day and decided to go in and take a look. They were immediately captivated by what they saw and heard but knew that they could never afford to send their son here. He seemed to have so much promise and we saw how he could thrive here.

Luckily, a group of OWs had responded to an appeal earlier that year by the Foundation Office to help re-endow the School War Memorial Fund and so we were able to offer this gifted youngster a place. This summer he secured three A grades in his A levels, a feat made possible through his own talent and determination, but also because of what this School has enabled him to experience.

It is through your generosity that this story was able to be written. The School places a significant amount of its own funds aside each year to be able to welcome talented young people, but there are always more requests than we can manage. It is always so sad when we are unable to find enough for just one more place, which is why it is so important that we're able to benefit from donors such as yourselves.

Thank you to those OWs for helping to transform the life of such a special young man.

Andrew Holman

Please contact Debbie in the Foundation Office if you would like information about supporting the School's Bursary Fund.

Saying Thank You



Our annual thanks go to the Douglas Compton James Charitable Trust, the Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, and the trustees of the Sugden Arts Fellowship for their continued generosity to the School's Bursary Fund.

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of a legacy from the estate of the late Robert Sharp (42-50, Pa); and we are delighted to report that an OW has very generously offered to fund a 100% bursary for a gifted pupil throughout their time at the School. This philanthropy is greatly appreciated.

Building for the Future

As the Headmaster reports elsewhere (page 2), the Governors have recently launched their vision for the School site over the next three decades. The plans are ambitious, aiming to combine the best of the original Victorian buildings with cutting-edge new developments fit for the 21st century.

These are exciting times for our old school.

PROPOSED
ARCHITECTURE:

