

# Memento

The magazine for LGS, LGHS and GSAL Alumni

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The inspiration behind  
Neom Organics

## **Craig Rose**

Doctor aims to make seaweed  
the food of the future

## **Thelma Ruby**

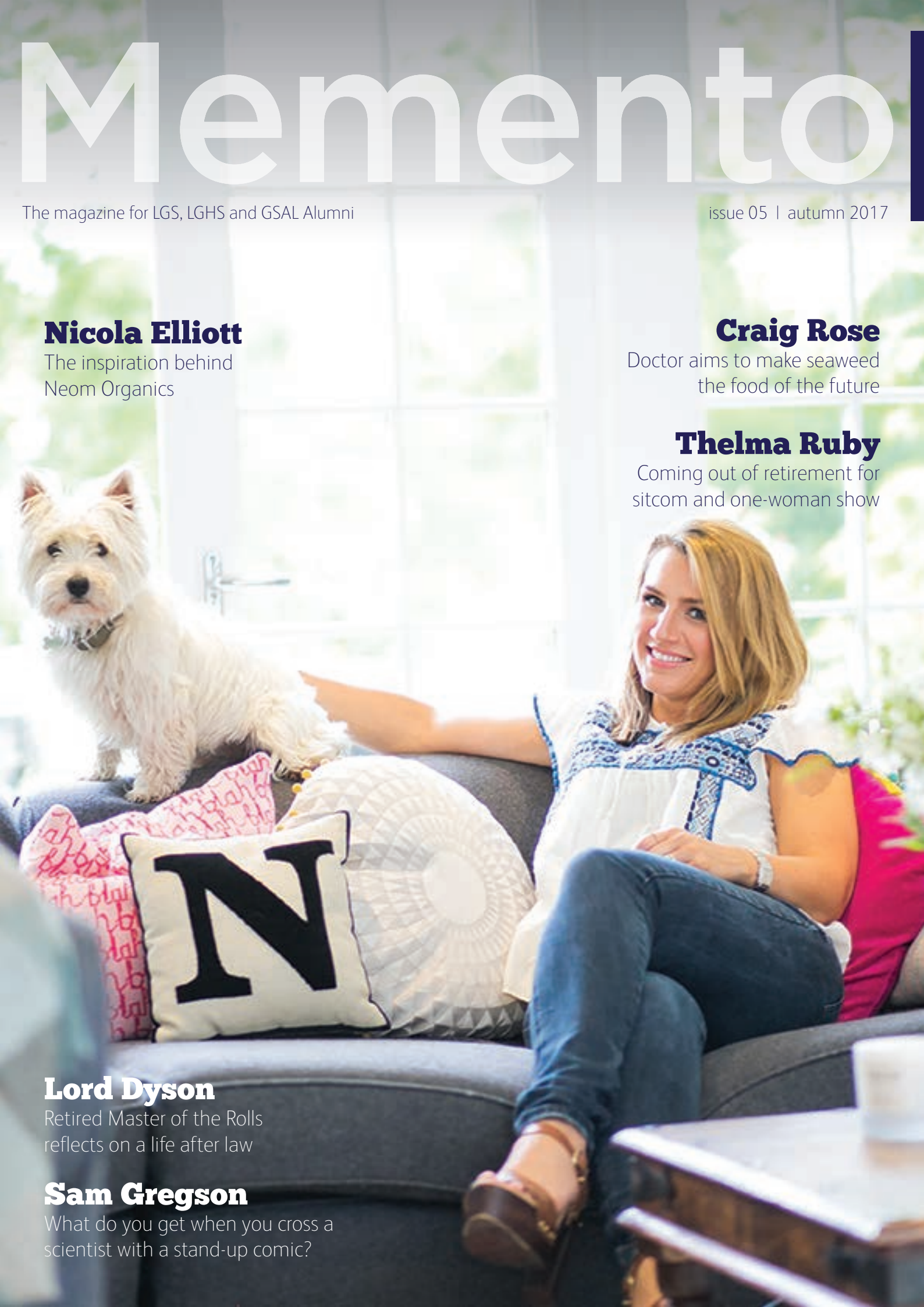
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# Welcome to the latest edition of Memento

**I**t is humbling to read this edition of Memento as there is so much to celebrate with you all, not least the alumni honours awarded for service to the community in this year's Birthday Honours' List – a current governor and several old boys and girls saw their long standing commitment marked in this way and we could not be more proud.

You will be delighted to hear that this sense of achievement and service continues to run at the core of The Grammar School at Leeds. Two stories alone that I could highlight from the many that occur at school concern Aadi Attari from Junior School and sixth former Shaheen Alghofari.

Aadi was shortlisted for Children's Mayor of Leeds. He stood for office on a manifesto of creating greater awareness of different cultures and religions. Over 100 children from 49 Leeds schools submitted manifestos, and Aadi was one of just 12 candidates selected to stand.

Shaheen established a fitness club for local Syrian refugees to make new friends and develop their English skills. As a keen swimmer he is well aware of the benefits of regular exercise and the 1½ hour circuit training sessions he set up regularly attracted around 15 Syrian teenagers, who are all working hard to learn English and study at school after the trauma of leaving their home country.

We also sent students to Malawi for our biennial trip supporting schools and orphanages, a long-standing project for our sixth formers to prove that putting others first is an active choice for many of our students. And then, just this autumn, another alumnus, Miles Falkingham, flew to the British Virgin Islands as part of Team Rubicon UK to help the volunteer relief effort after the devastation caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Even though Miles left school in 2009, he has given up a week's annual leave ever since to help at our summer scout camp.

It is so powerful to be able to highlight the work of our alumni to our current students and it ensures that the very best features of LGS, LGHS and GSAL continue as we all appreciate, first hand, what a positive impact we can have on the lives of others - in small and large ways, now and in the future.

Sue Woodrofe, Principal



# Nicola Elliott

## the inspiration behind Neom Organics

**When Nicola Elliott (OG94) came up with her idea of launching a wellbeing brand of essential oils and candles, she was looking for the perfect antidote to a busy life which was becoming increasingly stressed and anxious.**

**N**ow 11 years later, Neom Organics has tapped into the zeitgeist of a generation for whom wellbeing and mindfulness is becoming a new way of life.

Nicola was in her late 20s, working a 60-hour week as associate editor of Glamour magazine in London, when she realised that her intense, fast-paced life was beginning to take its toll.

She said: "I looked around the office and realised that it was full of women feeling the same way I did. We were all stressed, struggling to sleep and probably neglecting our wellbeing. It was the modern malaise."

She had started training as an aromatherapist and nutritionist after work, so began creating essential oil blends and tinctures for colleagues.

The combination of her upbringing in an entrepreneurial family and her experience as an editor on a number of glossy magazines had given her the ability to spot a gap in the health and beauty market. It was obvious to her that the products had to be 100 per cent natural and, where possible, organic to actually work. Also, her essential oil blends had to look good as well as do good.

She said: "Eleven years ago, what was available to buy in the shops

was pretty uninspiring. The choice was either something glam that was full of synthetic chemicals or head to a health food shop, buy something with great organic credentials but stuffed in a brown paper bag."

She and her business partner Oliver Mennell started off producing five candles, the first on the market to be made with 100 per cent natural wax and pure essential oils. Fast forward to 2017 and Neom now has three dedicated stores – two in London and one in Leeds – with a fourth London store due to open soon. Neom products are also stocked in 400 stores across the UK and sold in 17 countries.

Now a mum of two and living back in Yorkshire – Neom's headquarters are in Harrogate – Nicola is still hands-on when it comes to running the business and continues to be involved in product development and talking to consumers, as well as working on content for the website and Neom books.

And having returned to her roots she looks back fondly to her days at Leeds Girls' High School.

She said: "LGHS was a really inspiring place to be. We were taught 'do what you do and do it well' and I think that's such an important message to teach.

"When I look back at school I think of Mrs Staveley, a German teacher who had the ability to inspire. I have very little use for German now but

Mrs Staveley made it interesting and that's the real testament of a good teacher if they can inspire their pupils."

In Neom stores, customers are offered help and advice with what is bothering them and it is this aspect of the business which really inspires Nicola today.

**"Half of women say they don't take enough time to look after their health and wellbeing. If left unchecked that can really impact on long-term health and seeking new solutions is what keeps me inspired."**



# From sea to store

## Doctor aims to make seaweed the food of the future

**Dr Craig Rose (OL96) is on a mission to make seaweed the food of the future and ensure its place as a key element of our everyday diet.**

**J**ust two years ago the marine biologist set up Seaweed & Co to supply seaweed ingredients to food and nutrition companies.

Already his client list includes the likes of Sainsbury's, Batchelor's and The Food Doctor, with distributors across Europe, the USA, South Korea, Israel and Australia.

Craig, who studied marine biology at Newcastle University followed by a Masters in marine technology and a PhD in marine science, is passionate about the health and nutritional benefits of seaweed... as well as its sustainability.

He said: "It doesn't require land, fresh water or fertilisers - the three main things that make land-based farming unsustainable."

Craig researched the benefits of seaweed for several years before setting up the company in North Shields with high-quality in mind, investing in both production and education, and sourcing his seaweed from the waters of the Scottish Outer Hebrides

He said: "I was a director of a consultancy firm in Newcastle and I was managing a large scale commercial research and development project looking at turning seaweed into fuel. From this, I met the guys at Hebridean Seaweed Company and realised there was a large opportunity for seaweed for food and health. The benefits of seaweed are endless."

Craig took advantage of funding available to young businesses, ranging from Virgin Start-Up loans

to Innovate UK research grants and funding from the Department for International Trade (DIT). This has enabled him to set up and develop his company to where it is today with a patent pending seaweed supply, global distribution networks and collaborations with leading universities.

He has also taken up the opportunity to speak at the House of Lords about his business and he readily attributes some of this drive and success to his education at LGS.

He said: "An aspect of school which became increasingly apparent after I left to go to university was the instilling of aspirations and self-belief. That was invaluable."

Now, with a view to developing his business further, he will use the

DIT funding to visit South Korea later this year. While there he plans to research products, meet his distributors and explore new business opportunities in the Asian market.

Looking further ahead Craig also has plans to expand from being a business-to-business supplier of ingredients, to moving into branded products for consumers.

He said: "Seaweed is no longer something to be hidden away in niche health shops, but something everybody can and should access on their supermarket shelves."

**"Seaweed is THE food of the future and we want to help people understand it, use it and love it."**





# Helen reflects on Latin American career in ecology

**As a 10-year-old, Helen Coles (OG73) received a copy of the book *A Zoo In My Luggage* in her Christmas stocking, sparking a lifelong interest in Latin America and a desire to see armadillos in the Argentinian pampas.**

**T**hat early interest developed into a 33-year career as an ecologist which has taken her to Brazil, Panama, Cuba, Argentina and Galapagos.

And her work with the Global Environmental Finance Unit (GEF) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has involved her in many environmental and sustainable development projects in the Latin America and Caribbean region over the last 25 years.

Now Helen Coles de Negret, who is married to a Colombian ecologist, has retired from her role to spend more time with family (she has an 18-month-old grandchild) as well as in her garden in Panama. She also plans to write a book with her husband on a year in a Panamanian garden.

She said: “We have a large garden right next to the forest so gardening isn’t quite the same as in England - we do indeed have armadillos digging up plants, as well as large iguanas eating our hibiscus and just too many ants eating all they can find!

“We now have 160 species of plant in the garden and have seen over 150 species of bird so that really keeps me busy.”

However Helen says she will always be an ecologist and plans to do some consulting work next year as well as work on reviews and publications.

Helen, who studied biology at Southampton University, followed by a PhD in applied ecology, marked the end of her 25-year career with the UNDP in an afterword for a recently-published book, *Voices of Impact: Speaking for the Global Commons*.

She has seen many changes from those early days working to set up the first environmental unit in a UNDP county office in Brazil in 1989 where she and her colleagues were regarded as zealous environmentalists.

Among them are the recent implementation of projects to conserve high value forests by setting sustainable harvesting limits, and implementing public policies for non-timber forest products that improve livelihoods of rural farmers, to supporting the

Brazilian Rural Society in forested areas to strengthen supply chains for deforestation-free soya; entire states addressing land degradation as part of their development plans; and national policies being developed for environmental management in the indigenous lands that cover 12 per cent of Brazil.

She said: “Bringing about this change of mind-set has been a slow process. When we first started implementing GEF-funded projects in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, this work was not generally seen as central to the development agenda – many viewed the projects simply as environmental interventions.

“The other thing was that many of our earlier projects were site-specific, and this was not enough to sustain benefits over time. The contrast now is that GEF investments are used to address problems more holistically and systematically – either through successive projects, each focusing on discrete parts of a problem, but building on each other to complete a bigger picture;

or through larger, multifocal projects that address several inter-linked issues at multiple levels.”

Helen said that long-term benefits to people are now recognised as being at the centre of sustainable development, and it is this that generates long-lasting environmental benefits at local and global scales.

She said: “The most successful projects have been those with clear leaders or champions of the cause – people who are passionate about what they are trying to achieve, and persistent in doing so; those who have the tenacity to get a project approved and to implement it, against all odds.”

And the work has not been without its pressures and, sometimes, dangers.

“Many times, I have worked with champions who have gone the extra mile – dodging protests and burning tyres to get to meetings, or making late night calls and working on weekends to deal with emergencies or simply successive projects.

**“Many times we have seized an opportunity – a new law, a partnership or just good political timing – to make a project happen. I think that the single clearest thing I have learnt is that people matter, and the partnerships that they can be build. Ultimately, it is people who make policies and bring about change.”**







# Thelma comes out of retirement

## for sitcom role and one-woman show

**Actress and comedienne Thelma Ruby (OG39) admits she is having something of a renaissance . . . at the age of 92.**

**H**aving thought she had retired at 88, Thelma has been busier than ever this year.

As well as appearing in a new ITV sitcom, she has also received one of the Oldie Magazine's coveted 'Oldie of the Year 2017 awards', and is reprising her acclaimed one-woman show.

She told Memento: "I'm so lucky to have a job at my age – and one that I absolutely love."

When she was approached last year to return to the King's Head, a fringe theatre in London, with her acclaimed one-woman show, she was initially concerned that she wouldn't have the stamina.

She said: "I had to be on stage with a pianist for about an hour

and 20 minutes with no break. I didn't know if I could still do it, but I couldn't resist the challenge."

Her comeback with the autobiographical collection of songs, sketches and extracts from her fascinating life in show business resulted in a series of six shows at the King's Head plus a special performance at school in September.

While enjoying the thrill of a live audience again, she was amazed to be asked to read for a TV sitcom set in Yorkshire.

Bad Move, written by and starring Jack Dee, alongside fellow stand-up performers Miles Jupp, Kerry Godliman and Seann Walsh, is about a couple who are struggling after moving from the city to the country. Thelma was delighted to

discover that her character, Alice, would add to their discomfort.

She said: "It's a wonderful part, very funny. I play a terrible old lady who lives in the village and takes advantage of everybody!"

"It's a long time since I've filmed and I'd forgotten how much fun it is with the camaraderie of the actors and crew."

Being back in Yorkshire gave Thelma the opportunity to visit The Grammar School at Leeds where she reminisced about her days at Leeds Girls' High School with Principal Sue Woodroffe.

She said: "I loved the school and received a very good education. In my heart I always wanted to be an actress but I was desperately shy as a child so I never said it, not even to my parents."

She appeared in two plays at school, but it wasn't until she was evacuated to America that she took drama as an option at college.

"I think if I had stayed in England I wouldn't have had the courage and I would have done what my parents wished for me which was to marry a nice Jewish doctor or lawyer from Leeds!"

In a long and varied theatre career spanning 70 years Thelma's highlights have included appearing as Golde alongside Topol in Fiddler on the Roof, as Mistress Quickly to the Falstaff of Orson Welles in Chimes At Midnight and with Dame Judi Dench in Cabaret.



# Lord Dyson reflects on a life after law

**Lord Dyson (OL61) may have retired as Master of the Rolls, the most senior civil judge in England and Wales, but he is still in huge demand after a long and distinguished career in the law.**



Lord Dyson with students and teacher Sam Yates at the launch of The Grammar School at Leeds Law Society

**H**aving stepped down last year, he has returned to 39 Essex Chambers, which he headed up from 1986 to 1993, as an arbitrator and mediator.

As a highly respected barrister and retired judge who has had significant influence on the development of many branches of civil and public law, he is currently working on a number of high profile inquiries.

And on a visit to GSAL this year to launch a law society for students, Lord Dyson spoke to Memento about his successful career and the difficulty in slowing down.

He said: "I've worked so hard for so long that I couldn't just do nothing, although I would like

to have the time to do more travelling."

Also, as an accomplished pianist who trained with Dame Fanny Waterman while at school, he wants to become more involved in music again.

As John Dyson, he attended Leeds Grammar School from 1951-61 before studying classics at Wadham College, Oxford, - a decision that he believes was the right one.

He said: "In hindsight I am really pleased that I didn't study law at university as I enjoyed classics, philosophy and ancient history. I didn't have any overriding passions, so it gave me the chance to study what I enjoyed.

"As this was in the days before conversion courses, I knew very little law when I came to the Bar. I had just read a few text books at home, so that was a disadvantage

for a time as a pupil barrister."

He joined Keating Chambers in 1968 and was appointed QC in 1982, joining 39 Essex Chambers in 1986 until his appointment to the High Court in 1993.

In his long judicial career Lord Dyson decided many cases across the whole range of civil law including contract, construction, commercial law, international law, public and human rights law, and many of his judgements are frequently cited as precedents.

Having worked on so many cases, he finds it difficult to choose favourites, although he is proud of the work he carried out for the Football Association (FA) in the wake of the Hillsborough disaster.

He said: "I steered the FA towards making submissions to Lord Taylor over the future of football this century. One of the most

important changes to come out of it is that we now have all-seated stadia."

He says that he never courted publicity however it was inevitable that his work would attract media attention. None more so than when he acted for Dave Clark, the 60s pop star-turned-musical director, whose musical Time had not done as well as he hoped. He blamed negligence by the Dominion Theatre box office and, with John Dyson as his QC, won £600,000 damages.

Despite his illustrious career, Lord Dyson's advice to GSAL's students who are considering a career in the law was self-deprecatingly simple.

"Essential skills," he said, "are common sense, an ability to get on with people and be a good listener."

# Honours for alumni

## Judith is awarded a CBE . . .

**C**ouncillor Judith Blake (OG71), the first female leader of Leeds City Council, has been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Judith, who has served as a councillor for 21 years, received the award in recognition of her service to local government. She was elected as the first ever female leader of the council in 2015 when she introduced a 50/50 gender representation in her Cabinet.

Her time as a councillor has seen her have responsibility for a wide range of portfolios including planning, education and leisure.



## . . . and an OBE for Kathryn

**K**athryn Cearns (née Verity) has been awarded an OBE for voluntary services to government financial reporting.

Kathryn (OG82), who was chairman of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board to HM Treasury for six years, received her award in the New Year's Honours and was presented with it by Prince William at Buckingham Palace.

She said: "I am very pleased to get the OBE, not least because it highlights the contribution that can be made to civic life on a voluntary basis. In particular, I undertook the role because of the importance in government producing high-quality accounts, which allows MPs, the press and the public in general to hold the government to account.

"The OBE reflects the importance others place on that too."

Kathryn is a chartered accountant, now a self-employed consultant, specialising in advising and writing on financial reporting, auditing, company law and corporate governance.



## Barry returns to Leeds for honorary degree

**C**ongratulations to Barry Cryer (OL53) on his honorary degree from the University of Leeds.

Comedian and writer Barry, who is now in his 80s, has been awarded a Doctor of Letters from the university.

On leaving LGS, Barry enrolled on an English degree course at the university but, before completing his studies, he was spotted by an

agent during a performance at the City Varieties Music Hall and moved to London to pursue a career in comedy.

During his career, which spans six decades, he has written for comedy greats including Morecambe and Wise, Tommy Cooper and The Two Ronnies. He continues to perform regularly on the BBC Radio Four panel show I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue.





# Particle physicist sees the funny side of science

## What do you get when you cross a scientist with a stand-up comic?

**Students at his old school found out when particle physicist Dr Sam Gregson (OL02) introduced them to his revolutionary way to make people laugh while they discover the wonders of science.**

**T**he 32-year-old Cambridge graduate returned to perform his comedy show Ministry of Sense: Hunting the Higgs, delivering plenty of laughs while they found the Higgs Boson particle for themselves.

Sam has been entertaining audiences with his unique brand of humour since he took to the stage of Bright Club five years ago, a Cambridge-based venue where academics explain their research using stand-up comedy.

As part of his PhD, he worked in the control room of the CERN laboratory in Geneva where he again got the chance to appear on stage, this time at a CERN comedy night which aimed to broaden the appeal of science. That show played to an audience of 300 with 10,000 people watching it live online and Sam was well and truly hooked on the combination of comedy and science.

His own interest in science began at Leeds Grammar School where he studied on a bursary. Growing up in Bramley, in a single-parent family with his brother and late sister, he admits that if his mother had not entered him for the school's entrance exam, life would have turned out very different.

He said: "It was the beginning of a chain reaction, if you'll forgive

the physics reference, which ended with a PhD at Cambridge University and the opportunity of a lifetime to study at CERN. It wasn't just the quality of teaching at the school which made the difference. There was a myriad of other factors which all played their part, like brilliant



sport facilities which helped keep me fit and motivated and the lab equipment which helped keep up my sense of intrigue and fascination with physics. And of course the teaching itself inspired me to learn in new, exciting ways that I've never forgotten."

Now with his PhD completed and living back in Leeds, Sam has

dedicated much of his time to science outreach, working closely with his former school and other schools to make physics more accessible through workshops and comedy.

He has taken his show on the road, travelling the UK with four fellow



scientists Matilda Hay, Dr Aidan Randle-Conde, Jordan Porter and Dr Suzie Sheehy, appearing in pubs, clubs, festivals, theatres, and secondary schools.

Sam said: "The use of stand-up comedy allows scientists to engage with audiences who may not attend the usual lectures and exhibitions and

helps bring cutting-edge science more into the mainstream spotlight.

It also helps to break down the negative stereotypes that may go along with working in science."

During the show the audience is in charge of making one of science's greatest and most exciting discoveries. Using their own smartphone or tablet, they have direct access to the Large Hadron Collider data at CERN and play interactive games to help solve problems and create mock proton-proton collisions live.

To add to the fun, the show is divided into sections with the distinctive voice of actor and comedian Stephen Fry summing up what the audience has just seen and giving them a taste of what's coming next.

Sam has also recently appeared alongside Professor Stephen Hawking in a film on YouTube, performing a series of fun challenges designed by Professor Hawking to demonstrate how life came to be.

**Sam said: "If I can present science in an easily digestible way which will also make people laugh, then I'm happy."**

# Emily commemorates Passchendaele and pays personal tribute to OL



Herbert Cheetham's grave with school cricket cap



Emily Ball

**Sixth form student Emily Ball had the honour of representing her country at this year's commemoration service in Belgium to mark the centenary of Passchendaele: the third battle of Ypres.**

**A**nd while there she took time out to visit the grave of OL Herbert Cheetham after researching him in the school archives. Herbert, from Roundhay, was just 20 when he died at Passchendaele while trying to save the life of a comrade on the battlefield and was awarded a medal for his heroism.

Emily said: "I found Herbert's story deeply moving. Not only do I have a relative who was killed in WW1, but the tragic story of Herbert's outstanding, selfless bravery provided a sense of both school and age-related connection."

At the graveside of the cricket-loving Herbert, Emily found an LGS cricket cap from the 1914-15 1st XI which a group of GSAL students had left there while on a recent battlefields tour.

She was selected to take part in the commemoration ceremony by the National Citizen Service (NCS) as part of a group of young people representing the nation's youth at The Menin Gate, Cloth Hall and Tyne Cot cemetery. During the event she stood alongside senior royalty and politicians from the UK and Belgium, including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and PM Theresa May. She was also the official wreath bearer for Nepal.

She said: "It goes without saying that it was very upsetting – the most poignant part was when the 54,000 poppies, one for each soldier without a grave, fell from the top of the Menin Gate. It has been an amazing, patriotic experience that will stay with me for a lifetime."

Emily credits GSAL teacher Steve Dunn and school archivist John Davies for inspiring her and helping her prepare for the trip.



# GSAL plans year of celebrations to mark 10th birthday



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
AT LEEDS

Be Inspired



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
AT LEEDS

Be Inspired

Voting will  
open in  
spring 2018.

**I**t may seem like only yesterday since Leeds Grammar School merged with Leeds Girls' High School to form The Grammar School at Leeds but 2018 sees the school celebrate its 10th birthday.

And the milestone anniversary will herald a year of celebrations with a calendar of cultural and sporting events at GSAL, running alongside get-togethers of students, staff and alumni.

Over the coming months we will be contacting you with details of

our plans to commemorate the anniversary and celebrate the rich history of the school. Keep an eye out for invitations, mailings, news in Beyond GSAL and posts on Facebook and Twitter, to keep up to date with our exciting programme of birthday events.

And it goes without saying that we would love you to get involved too. If you are planning a reunion in 2018 or have any ideas for celebratory events, please get in touch [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk)

## Searching for four generations . . .

**Here's one for the family album as the Dyson family get together for a school photo spanning three generations.**

**J**ohn (OL61) and his brother Robert (OL64) met up for the camera at school with Robert's sons Andrew (OL91) and Nick (OL92) and his daughter Alex Serr (OG96). Also there were Andrew's sons Thomas who is currently in Y9 and Freddie in Y5, along with Nick's twin sons Adam and Samuel who are in Y4.

The Dyson family are proud of their strong ties with LGS, LGHS and GSAL and share fond memories of their schooldays.

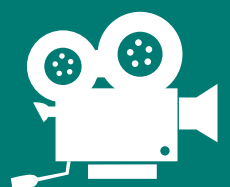
As we celebrate GSAL's 10th birthday next year and the rich heritage of the three schools, we would love to hear from other families where three, or even four, generations attended the school.

We would also like to hear from alumni who married one another.

If you are part of a 'school' family, please get in touch or send us your pictures by email [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk) or by post Alumni Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Leeds LS17 8GS.



Three generations of the Dyson family are back (L-R): Robert, Alex, Andrew, Nick and John; front (L-R): Thomas, Adam, Freddie and Samuel



## Schooldays on film

**D**o you have any film footage of your days at school? If so, we would love you to share it with us.

To mark our 10th birthday and to celebrate the history of the school, we are

creating a film compilation of life at LGS, LGHS and GSAL, covering as many eras as possible.

If you have any video footage or cine film of your days at school, please get in touch. You can email us at [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk) or send film by post to Alumni Relations,

The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Leeds LS17 8GS.

If sending film on tapes, please ensure that you include an address for us to return them to you.

## Could you be one of our Leeds Luminaries?

### Launch of alumni achievement awards

**We are launching an annual awards scheme to honour high-achieving alumni of LGS, LGHS and GSAL - with nominees and winners voted for by the alumni community.**

We are searching for alumni whose achievements in their chosen field inspire others to succeed. This is your chance to honour fellow alumni for successes which embody the school's core values of excellence, inspiration and citizenship.

The first awards will be presented in 2018 to mark GSAL's 10th birthday and nominations are now open in the following categories:

- Science and medicine
- Business and enterprise
- Arts
- Sport
- Rising star (for alumni under 30)
- Charity and community
- Lifetime achievement

Submissions must include the name of the nominee, the year they left school and their current occupation. This should be accompanied by a written summary of their achievements (maximum 200 words) explaining why you believe the nominee should be chosen to receive a Leeds Luminaries award.

Nominations can be made by email [alumni@gsal.org.uk](mailto:alumni@gsal.org.uk) or post to

**Alumni Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds,  
Alwoodley Gates, Leeds, LS17 8GS**

**Closing date December 31 2017 at 5pm.**



“Alzheimer’s - we can cure it” with Dr Sam Cohen

**C**onfusing Alzheimer’s with ageing has cost decades of research time into a disease which can be treated and cured, according to researcher Dr Sam Cohen (OL05).

Dr Cohen was speaking to an audience at GSAL where he was giving the seventh in the Mark Bailey lecture series, which was established as an annual public lecture in honour of the former head of Leeds Grammar School and GSAL.

Dr Cohen said: “It is 116 years since Alzheimer’s disease was identified, yet it remains one of the biggest medical and social challenges of our generation and we have done little to address it. Alzheimer’s patients can’t speak up. Their carers are too worn out to advocate for change. I believe it really is down to us. Together we

have to speak up for them and together I’m confident we can find a cure.”

During his talk Dr Cohen explained the background to this lack of progress in tackling Alzheimer’s and outlined the work that he and a team of researchers are doing at Cambridge University.

Following 11 years at Leeds Grammar School, Dr Cohen completed a degree in physics and a PhD in biophysical chemistry from the University of Cambridge, and is now a research fellow at St John’s College, Cambridge. He is a lead author of a study published in 2015 in the journal Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, which identified a crucial molecule that could slow the accumulation of the protein tangles in the brain that cause Alzheimer’s disease.

Gideon appointed Queen’s Counsel

**G**ideon Cammerman QC (OL90) has been made up to Silk at a ceremony at Westminster Hall in London.

Highly experienced in handling fraud, regulatory and disciplinary cases, Gideon is cited as a leader in his field by his firm, Chambers and Partners, and has appeared in many high profile criminal cases in recent years.

Gideon was born in Reading and attended LGS after the family moved to Leeds. From there he studied at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, before attending bar school.

OL in ground-breaking heart scan trials

**P**rofessor Oliver Rider (OL96) is one of a team conducting potentially lifesaving research on behalf of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) into a faster and more accurate diagnosis of coronary heart disease.

A two-minute heart scan which will give doctors’ a view of the heart never seen before is being tested on patients who are undergoing treatment for the disease after the BHF awarded Oliver and his colleague Professor Damian Tyler £305,000 to carry out the research.

Cardiovascular (heart and circulatory) disease causes more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK, killing more than 160,000 people each year. But this death rate could now be reduced by the two-minute scan.

Oliver said: “This new scan would give doctors images of the heart in a detail they’ve never had before, enabling them to make better decisions for patients about their risk and need for treatment.

“Coronary artery bypass surgery and angioplasty already provide really effective treatments for heart disease and this will help us better identify those who could most benefit from them.

“It has the potential to become the gold standard for heart imaging.”

Former sapper Miles aids hurricane-hit British Virgin Islands

**F**ormer sapper Miles Falkingham (GSAL09) has joined a second wave of volunteers in the British Virgin Islands to help in the relief effort following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Just five days after leaving the 24 Commando Engineer Regiment, he flew out of Brize Norton as part of Team Rubicon UK which deploys emergency response teams of military veterans and first responders to disaster areas.

Miles is now working alongside other relief agencies, local authorities and residents to storm-proof shelters for the islanders as well as securing debris, clearing roads and assessing schools which have been badly damaged.

He said: “I want to use my skills and experience now to help others. I have a certain skill set which can help communities on the ground, so this work with Team Rubicon UK is a really worthwhile use of my time and effort.”

Team Rubicon has been given the lead on getting schools in the region up and running again and Miles is helping to convert a warehouse, installing power and water to enable 700 students to sit their exams.

Miles has left the army to pursue a career in the humanitarian sector while also studying part-time for an MSc in disaster management.

Since leaving school he has given up a week of his army leave to return to help out at the annual scout camp. As an explorer leader with the Scouts, he also assists the 10th North Leeds Scout Group, teaching navigation and survival skills, and focusing on youth development.

One of his former teachers, Anne Williams, said: “Miles is an inspiration to us all. He is very tough and extremely kind and we are so proud of what he is doing.”



Miles Falkingham at the wheel of an aid vehicle in the British Virgin Islands

Tom honoured for helping to save man’s life

**P**C Tom White (GSAL10) has received an award from the Royal Humane Society for his part in helping to save the life of a cyclist who had suffered a heart attack.

Tom was on duty with his colleague PC Jordan Howson in Leeds last September when they heard about a suspected road accident and dashed to the scene.

When they arrived they were told by a retired nurse delivering first aid that 59-year-old Christopher Woodhead had actually suffered a heart attack while cycling a steep climb. The two PCs took it in turn to try and resuscitate

him while waiting for the arrival of an air ambulance which took Mr Woodhead to Leeds General Infirmary.

The officers then tracked down his wife Tina at work after searching for her on Facebook and rushed her to the hospital.

They found out the next day that Mr Woodhead had survived.

Tom said: “I am honoured that what we did that day has been recognised but the best outcome for me was that a life has been saved.”

On leaving GSAL Tom studied business and management at Sheffield Hallam University before joining West Yorkshire Police in 2014.



Tom is pictured (left) with colleague Jordan



Derek Fry is pictured with some of his students

Real love story inspires Rhiannon’s latest novel

**A**fictionalised account of the turbulent life of Lady Edwina Mountbatten, the last Vicereine of India, is the subject of Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang’s latest novel.

Rhiannon (OG85) traces the fascinating story of the last days of Raj from the arrival of Lord and Lady Mountbatten in India in the spring of 1947.

The Last Vicereine has been published by Penguin Random House as part of their list celebrating the 70th anniversary of Indian independence, and is described as ‘a heart-breaking story of love in the midst of tragedy’.

Royal Astronomical Society award for teacher

**L**GS and GSAL teacher Derek Fry has been recognised with a prestigious award from the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) after half a century teaching the subject.

The RAS Service to Astronomy Award for 2017 was presented to him in recognition of ‘outstanding and exceptional work that has promoted, facilitated and encouraged the science of astronomy’.

During his 50-year teaching career Mr Fry has helped thousands of pupils achieve O-level, GCSE or A-level in astronomy and physics. He has inspired many to pursue careers in science - 15 PhD

theses have been dedicated to him by former students studying postgraduate astronomy and astrophysics. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Astronomical Society and the Institute of Physics.

On joining LGS in 1987, after 18 years at Mirfield High School, Mr Fry continued to include astronomy in his timetable. Students study astronomy on a voluntary basis, giving up half an hour of their lunchtime twice a week for two years.

Mr Fry said: “I’m immensely proud to receive this award, however I regard it as a huge honour to share astronomy with such committed and talented pupils, and really it is they who deserve all the credit.”



OL appointed Government policy head

James Marshall (OL98), an English teacher-turned parliamentary expert, was appointed head of policy by Theresa May as she rebuilt her Downing Street team following the general election.

James is responsible for honing the prime minister’s new policy agenda in the very different

context of a hung parliament.

Before entering politics at the start of 2010, he was an English teacher at Shrewsbury School, one of Britain’s original seven public schools.

After leaving LGS, James read English at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and has also taught theatre studies and directed school plays at Shrewsbury.

In 2010 he was on the committee of Bright Blue, a think tank urging the Conservative party to take a more liberal direction.

In 2011, he became a special adviser to Lord Strathclyde, the leader of the House of Lords, before moving on to advise three of the Cameron government’s chief whips: Lord Young of Cookham, Michael Gove and Mark Harper.

James left government when Mrs May became prime minister and set up a communications consultancy.

In returning to the heart of government he replaces John Godfrey, a former director of corporate affairs at Legal and General.

While still at school James wrote a history of Leeds Grammar School.

Charitable foundation to be run in Robert’s memory

A charitable foundation set up by Robert Davidson (OL00) before he died last year is being run by his family as a lasting legacy to him.

life threatening and terminal illnesses.

Robert, who was 34 when he died in December 2016, established the foundation after being diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2015. His aim was to generate awareness and opportunities for people to give donations towards providing equipment to assist with caring for the individual, or support towards their care.

Within a year of his diagnosis, Robert’s wife Sariat gave birth to their daughter Maya Belle, and now she and the rest of the family are continuing the work of the foundation that he established.

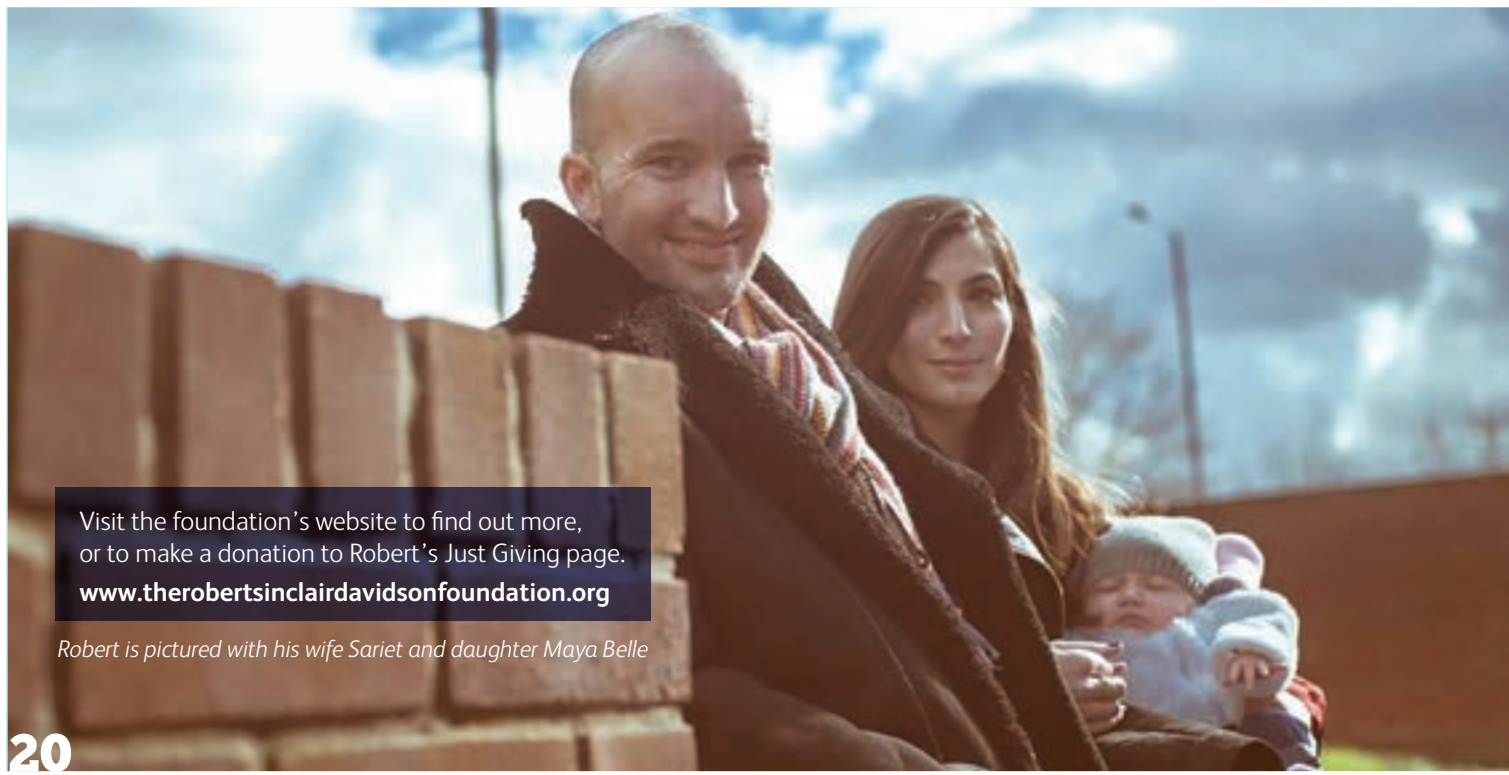
Robert’s father, Michael Davidson, said: “We want this charity to be a lasting legacy to our son and all the support that it receives is so very welcome. Although it is still in its infancy the foundation is already doing amazing things and we want to keep this momentum going.

“By making a success of his foundation we honour Robert’s memory.”

Following his diagnosis, despite the loss of mobility in his limbs and no longer being able to speak, Robert used his wheelchair and computer to continue working as a lawyer and remain as socially active as ever.

His enduring wish was to help other young couples and families, who were going through similar circumstances, to take back some control in their lives.

He was aware that living with a terminal illness, or caring for someone who is, can put a strain on finances. The foundation was set up to help with money worries as well as provide grants for specialist equipment and for some much needed respite.



Visit the foundation’s website to find out more, or to make a donation to Robert’s Just Giving page. [www.therobertsinclairdavidsonfoundation.org](http://www.therobertsinclairdavidsonfoundation.org)

Robert is pictured with his wife Sariat and daughter Maya Belle

Dom helps county to ninth cup win

Rugby player Dom Hardman (GSAL15) has helped Yorkshire to their ninth Jason Leonard U20 County Championship Division 1 title at Twickenham.

With Dom playing at No 1, Yorkshire held on for a 14-7 win over Durham, despite a late comeback from the Durham side with 13 minutes remaining.

Now in his second year at Hull University, studying sports

coaching and performance, Dom is the university’s First XV captain as well as playing at club level for Hull RUFC in National 3. Hull narrowly missed the play-offs this year but the club is working hard to be promoted to National 2 next season. Dom plays at No 3 or 8 for university and No 3 for his club.

Dom is used to big occasions on the hallowed turf of Twickenham. He was in GSAL’s U15 national cup winning side when they played there in 2012.



Dom (centre) celebrates with teammates

Luke selected for World University Games tennis team



Luke in action on the court

Luke Johnson (GSAL10) was selected to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland in tennis at the World University Games in Chinese Taipei in August, winning silver with his doubles partner Jack Findel-Hawkins.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University in America, Luke has been building his professional tennis career and added the experience of the World University Games to his current schedule of competing in the ITF futures circuit. He has a current

ATP singles ranking of 1,304 and doubles ranking of 704.

Luke, who attended Clemson as a student athlete, obtained his degree while training 20 hours a week in a strong, competitive college tennis programme.

The World University Games (WUGS) is held biennially in major cities across the globe and sees athletes come together to compete across 22 sports, with the Summer Universiade the second largest multi-sport event after the Olympics.

The British tennis team joined almost 10,000 participants from over 170 countries to compete at the Games.

Olly Cracknell named in Wales Six Nations squad

Rugby player Olly Cracknell (GSAL12) was named in the Wales Six Nations squad this year after a number of impressive outings for his club, the Ospreys.

Olly, who qualifies to play for Wales through his grandfather, was one of seven uncapped players to be picked for the squad and featured in the senior squad for the first time.

He has played for the Ospreys for the last three years, signing an extension last summer, after being recruited by the former North Wales rugby supremo Rupert Moon.

While playing for GSAL in the rugby tour to South Africa when he was 16, Olly had registered on the Wales Rugby Union side and caught the eye of Moon who persuaded him to join RGC 1404, making his mark in Colwyn Bay before moving to the Ospreys.

Olly made such an impact in his first few games that he was fast-tracked into the Wales U20s.

Following his call to the Six Nations side, Moon commented: “I have been around the game for 30 odd years now and there are certain individuals out there that you just know have got it. Olly was one of those.

“You have a guy that is focused, determined and ready to make personal sacrifice. He is a classic professional.”





# Reunions

## 1966 and all that . . . as OGs gather for golden reunion

**T**here was plenty of laughter, catching up and reminiscing when a group of OGs gathered in Leeds to celebrate 50 years since entering Senior School.

The idea for the golden anniversary reunion came about when nine members of the year group met up at a London branch meeting of the Old Girls' Club

in 2014. They decided to track down as many of the 78 girls in their year as they could for a celebration and, two-and-a-half years later, Jane Houghton and Janet Cooke, with the help of Jane Bower, Kathie Bracewell, Lynsey Walford and others, traced 60 of the girls from forms UII, UIIP1 and UIIP2. Of these, 40 booked to attend a weekend reunion with members travelling from as far as Panama,

USA and Germany. The weekend rekindled many friendships and stirred old memories and, since the reunion, another three members of the year have been located, bringing the total to 64. Janet Cooke produced a year book with 56 profiles and many pictures which has been shared with all the newly discovered OGs. There is also now a dedicated Facebook group for those who want to share photos, memories

or arrange gatherings, including talk of a celebration of everyone's 70th birthdays in nine years. **The organisers are still looking for missing year members and would welcome contact from anyone who can help via Jane Houghton [jane@vgtelco.com](mailto:jane@vgtelco.com) or Janet Cooke [janetcooke99@btinternet.com](mailto:janetcooke99@btinternet.com)**



The 1966 intake pictured at their reunion

## 40 years on . . .

**F**ifty former pupils from Leeds Girls' High School have celebrated 40 years since leaving school at a special reunion lunch.

The women, some travelling from the USA, Israel, Spain and France as well as all parts of the UK, got

together at The Grammar School at Leeds to reminisce about school days and catch up on life since leaving LGHS in 1977. Amid the excitement and squeals of recognition, there was much laughter as they shared memories of teachers, fellow pupils and big green knickers (the least-loved

element of the school uniform!) The event had been organised by Carole Davies who, along with Helen Clappison and Paula Jackman, managed to track down 75 of the 'old girls' with the help of a dedicated Facebook page, leaving just 10 who couldn't be traced.

Carole said: "It was fantastic to meet up after so many years. As soon as we recognised each other the excitement was tremendous." The event included drinks, lunch, a photo session, a talk by archivist Neill Hargreaves on the Lawson Library and a hearty rendition of the school song.

## Class of '92 meet up for silver celebration

**T**his year has seen alumni from LGHS and LGS reunite to celebrate 25 years since leaving school.

OLs from 1992 met up at school for a celebration organised by Matthew Ridley with the help of Joel Ripley and an active Facebook page. Alumni, who travelled from as far afield as Colorado, Switzerland and San Francisco, were joined by

nine of their former teachers in the school's new conference suite, the aptly-named 1552 room complete with a display of archive material. Matthew said: "One thing I came away with is the strong sense of community we all have thanks to our shared history and genuine love for the school and its many facets – the high standards of education; the history; the house system; the field trips; the many extra-curricular activities and excursions. For many of us our closest friends are still

those whom we travelled through LGS with." A few weeks earlier, former head girl Penny Allen set about bringing the girls back together again to celebrate and catch up on all the news. Penny's idea, publicised through social media and the school's networks, quickly took off and old girls travelled from far and wide to meet up at the Malmaison Hotel in Leeds.

The prize for the furthest journey to attend the reunion went to Megan Anelay, who flew from Brisbane, Australia. The girls had plenty to catch up on, swapping tales of their wide-ranging careers in medicine, dentistry, law, teaching, HR, market research, the army, and also, motherhood. Some teaching staff, Janis Halliwell, Judith Kerr, Sue Matthews, Patsy Phillips and Liz Wall also attended.



All the fun of catching up after 25 years for alumnae



OLs and teachers at the 25th anniversary celebrations

## Ten years on . . .

**A** joint reunion of OLs and OGs marked the 10th anniversary of the class of 2006.

Altogether 75 OLs and OGs gathered in the school theatre foyer for the chance to renew friendships, reminisce, laugh over old photographs and catch up on each other's news.

The 2006 reunion was organised by Natasha Rosenthal, Maya Das, Emma Goldstone and Samantha Delroy of LGHS along with Max Klugerman and James Kitching of LGS.

Some of the men wore their school ties, while others had their old junior school caps, amusingly known as 'banana skins,' sitting on the top of their fully grown heads.

Among the alumni was a married couple, Rebecca Davidson-Wolf and Nik Burkoff, who met at Olivia Cummins' 18th birthday party when they were in the sixth form. The couple now live in London.

The reunion was also attended by staff members Christine Jagger, Judith Kerr and Jackie Street of LGHS and GSAL, as well as Orla Fitzsimons, Anne Williams and Jack Williams of LGS and GSAL.

Reunion organiser Natasha Rosenthal, now a senior manager working with UNICEF, said: "It was lovely to be back together, catching up and swapping stories from our school days."





# Fond farewells

## Thomas Day

**1988-2017**

**Tom Day (OL06) died in his sleep in January from an undiagnosed heart condition, just weeks before his 29th birthday.**

Here, his friend and fellow LGS student Alex Robinson (OL06) pays tribute to him.

Tom Day (OL06), or ‘Tommy D’ as he was better known, was the life and soul, not only of the party, but of every aspect of life.

His personality was infectious and he always had a beaming smile on his face. Losing Tom is not just a loss to his friends and family but is a loss to the world.

In the school year book, Tom was asked ‘what’s the most important thing you’ve learnt?’ – his answer sums up Tom’s approach to life perfectly: ‘Always be yourself and smile.’

We miss you Tom.



Tom Day

## Sir Gerald Kaufman

**1930-2017**

**Sir Gerald Kaufman (OL49) was one of the Labour party’s longest-serving MPs, entering the House of Commons 47 years ago and supporting a succession of leaders from Harold Wilson through to Gordon Brown.**

He fought his first parliamentary election in 1955 in Bromley against Harold Macmillan,

then the foreign secretary, who defeated him. He was also defeated in 1959 at Gillingham, before finally achieving election in 1970 to the safe inner-city Manchester seat of Ardwick, and subsequently Gorton from 1983. He held the seat until his death, winning a 24,000 majority in the 2015 general election, after which he became Father of the House, the MP with the longest unbroken service.

Throughout his long career in parliament, he was well known as an outspoken character.

Fellow LGS pupil Brian Cook (OL49) remembers that, even during his schooldays, he ‘had the wit, the cleverness and the abrasive turn of phrase that he showed throughout his life.’

## Sheena Katharine Devine

**1935-2017**

**Sheena Devine (OG 53) died peacefully in Connecticut on 1 July.**

Sheena was born in London and evacuated to Leeds during the blitz where she attended Leeds Girls’ High School. She was later adopted by Miss Ruth Frewer, who taught Latin and was also deputy headmistress under Miss Sykes. During the Second World War single people were able to adopt children.

After LGHS, Sheena studied at the Yorkshire College of Housecraft, or the ‘Pud School’ as it was known, and in 1959 she emigrated to New York where she met Octavio Luis Gonzalez. They were married in 1961 and had two daughters, Christina and Katie. Octavio died in 1976.

Sheena worked in the test kitchen of Ladies Home Journal and as an editorial assistant in the food department of Family Circle magazine and was famous among family and friends for her cooking skills.

She retired to Southbury, Connecticut in 1996 to live nearer her two daughters and their families.

Fellow LGHS pupil Ann Hopper (née Turner) paid tribute to Sheena.

She said: “Sheena and I became close friends after I went to live in New York in 1963 and our friendship continued after I returned to Leeds in 1981 to marry an OL.

“She was a generous and loyal friend to Old Girls on both sides of ‘the pond’ always welcoming not only them but many of their children and their friends when they were on their travels around the US during university summer breaks or gap years.”



Sheena Devine



Sheena and pictured with Miss Frewer during her schooldays

## Doreen Brigham

**1912-2017**

**Doreen Brigham, whose poetry was used for the lyrics of A Symphony for Yorkshire, has died at the age of 105.**

Doreen was born in Otley and spent most of her youth in Burley in Wharfedale. During her marriage to Joe she spent many years living

in Hertfordshire, Surrey and India before returning to her beloved Yorkshire on her husband’s retirement in 1965.

Back in her native county, Doreen began to write poetry and in 2010 one of her poems won a competition to be used as the lyrics for A Symphony for Yorkshire, a musical project by the BBC to compose something to mark Yorkshire Day 2010.

Doreen’s A Song For Yorkshire was read at her funeral at Stonefall Crematorium, Harrogate.

## Patricia Mary Mountain

**(née Walker)**

**1942-2017**

**Tricia Walker joined LGHS in the early-mid 1950s, before attending teacher training college in Salisbury where she specialised in teaching infants.**

She was proud of her achievement in getting into LGHS and praised her father for making it possible.

Tricia met her first husband John Wallis when in teacher training college. After he completed his training as a pilot in the army, they moved to Kenya where John flew for Kenya Airways and Tricia taught in an infants’ school.

When their son Charles was a few months old John, who had joined Nigeria Airways, was killed on a training flight from London to Nigeria when the plane crashed. Tricia returned to the UK and met her second husband, John Mountain. They married and had two children, Oliver and Rebecca.

She was a committee member on several charities such as the NSPCC, helping to organise fund raising events. She enjoyed playing golf and was a member of Knaresborough Golf Club.

## Roger Keech

**1953-2017**

**Roger Keech was an award-winning television film maker who spent four decades filming his beloved Yorkshire and was credited with helping to bring the Tour de France to the county in 2014.**

Roger was responsible for more than 200 productions from the region and, through his work with Welcome to Yorkshire, he captured nearly all their events on film.

Roger, who attended LGS until the early 1970s, began his professional life at the BBC as a studio assistant on Look North.

Throughout his long career as a cameraman, producer, director and editor, he worked on many documentaries and promotional films. According to his family, he was proud to have been asked back to his old school to produce the film Seize the Day for the school website.

Paying tribute to her uncle Abbie Keech (OG95) said: “Roger was a very quiet, gentle man. He was a real perfectionist and a humble man who was unable to accept the accolade that he deserved for his hard work and dedication to film and television.”

## Bobbie Caplin

**1932-2017**

**Bobbie Caplin, the Leeds businessman and successful Variety Club fundraiser, died a few days after celebrating his 85th birthday this summer.**

During his life he helped to raise millions for the show business charity organisation that supports disadvantaged children. David Niven, Cary Grant and Barbara Taylor-Bradford were among the luminaries who were drafted in by Bobbie as guest speakers

at events he organised for the charity.

In the early 1960s, he and other businessmen helped to bring Leeds United back from the brink of bankruptcy by agreeing to pay £100 to watch games from a club room in the new West Stand, in what is considered one of the first cases of corporate sponsorship in football.

Bobbie was awarded an OBE in 2003 for services to charity.

## Bernard Walmsley

**1934-2015**

**Bernard Walmsley, who left LGS in 1951, has died at the age of 84.**

One of his school friends, Raymond Airton, got in touch with Bernard five years ago after they had lost contact years ago. Here, he recalls Bernard’s sporting abilities.

“We were both House members of Clarell and in 1948 Bernard had been appointed captain of the U15 rugby team and I was vice captain. Against strong competition from the other seven school teams, Clarell went on to win the Knock-out Cup.

“Bernard was also a member of the gym team run by the ex-Olympic champion Mason Clarke, and he also became a member of the school boxing team. He encouraged me to join him in boxing and again 1948 was a successful year, as Clarell won the School Cup.

During his life Bernard was headmaster of Newberries Primary School in Radlett, Hertfordshire.

## Colin Maude

**1922-2017**

**A memorial service for Colin Maude was held at St Peter’s Church, Hebden, on 15 June – the day before what would have been his 95th birthday.**

Colin’s son John and grandchildren Kathryn and Thomas Maude paid tributes and his daughter-in-law Chris Nevis sang the American folk song I am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger.

Colin had a lifelong love of music and sang many of the great choral works with the Leeds Philharmonic Choir in Leeds Town Hall, including the annual performance of Handel’s Messiah.

He left LGS in 1939 for a job in the Civil Service where he specialised in staff training and industrial relations, eventually being in charge of more than 3,000 staff in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Colin enjoyed playing tennis and badminton into his 70s, and bowls and snooker into his 90s.

## Jean Skilbeck

**(née Smith)**

**1922-2017**

**Jean Skilbeck, or Miss Smith as she was known then, is remembered with great affection as a popular biology teacher at Leeds Girls’ High School from 1954 until around 1960.**

She was an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher who brought her personal love of plants, animals and all natural species into the classroom with skill and a desire to encourage interest and care for the environment. Her teaching was enhanced by a sense of fun and, along with her ready smile, there was always a twinkle in her eye.

Jean Smith was born in Sheffield, and, after graduating from Birmingham University, she taught at Abbeydale Grammar School in Sheffield before moving to Leeds. After her time at Leeds Girls’ High School Jean was appointed head of the biology department at Nottingham College of Education.

## Laurie Falloon

**1936-2017**

**Laurie Falloon taught religious studies at LGS from 1990 to 1996.**

He was an expert on Islam, together with sometimes obscure parts of Catholic theology, and was remembered by his classes as a warm and intelligent teacher with a human touch.

Laurie was proud of his Geordie roots and a committed Newcastle United fan. He retired to Birtley, Tyne and Wear, where he died in June after a long battle with cancer. A requiem mass was held for him at St Joseph’s Church, Birtley.

## Roy Leinster

**1936-2017**

**Roy Leinster was a much-loved teacher at Leeds Grammar School from 1969-96 who will be fondly remembered by staff and students as a dedicated and successful school master with a sense of fun.**

He taught in the economics department where his high standards were met by high standards in return from his students. He was always popular in lessons and pupils enjoyed his many – mainly – Irish anecdotes. Roy was also the school’s careers master from 1973-96, was senior house master for a time and will be remembered for his leadership of Clarell House which benefited greatly from his enthusiasm and drive.

Tennis was Roy’s sport and he ran the school tennis team for a few years.

Roy had been ill for a number of years and faced his declining health with a positive and brave attitude. In 2014 he had the honour of carrying the Olympic torch into the grounds of Harewood House as part of the Tour de France in Yorkshire.

Roy is survived by his wife Anne, sons Jonathan, Norman and Kyle and his grandchildren.



From 1949 to 2011 - alumni find something in common at London event

Alumni from every decade since the 1940s to attend Leeds Girls' High School, Leeds Grammar School and The Grammar School at Leeds got together at a drinks reception at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London in April.

With ages among attendees ranging from 24 to 88, the drinks and networking event for alumni living in London and the south had wide-ranging appeal.

The event was organised by Oxford and Cambridge Club member Brian Cook, who left LGS in 1949 to study engineering at the University of Oxford.

He said "I think it's a wonderful thing if we can get people to come together across the years", adding in a speech to the room: "It's just wonderful that we got this range of ages and how, as soon as we met, even though most of us had never met before, we had something in common."

Brian later gave a tour of the Grade II listed Pall Mall building to some of the alumni.

Laura Wetherly (GSAL10), who studied politics, psychology and sociology at the University of Cambridge, said: "It was great to meet such a range of alumni from many different years of the school's history and who had such different experiences since leaving."



Pictured at the event are (L-R): Laura Wetherly, Eleanor Muffitt, Stuart Warner and Adam Sherwin

London branch gatherings: from master brewer to maestros

The London branch of the Old Girls' Club has had a busy year with well attended get-togethers.

First up in October was master brewer Genevieve Upton (OG04) whose entertaining talk followed her from her days as a self-proclaimed science geek at LGHS to her life as a master brewer and her part in the ground-breaking craft beer revolution.

As well as being a master brewer for Marston's Brewery, Genevieve is a beer sommelier, creating mixed packs of classic ales, developing menus and has also begun curating an online beer shop. She also regularly gives talks on the profession.

In April there was a superb musical recital in the studio of the late conductor Sir Georg Solti which was arranged by Lady Solti who holds the spring meeting in her London home each year.

Two young musicians, Júlia Pusker on violin and Chiyan Wong on piano, entertained alumnae and their guests with their repertoire. Julia played Sarabande from Bach's D minor Partita, BWV. 1004, and was accompanied by Chiyan on Tchaikovsky's Mélodie, Op. 42 No.3. Chiyan brought the performance to a close with Busoni's haunting Andante from the Red Indian Diary, BV 267.



Genevieve Upton is pictured (right) with Jackie Chalmers, secretary of the London branch of the OGC



Lady Solti (left) is pictured with Júlia Pusker and Chiyan Wong

Alumni events 2017-18

Events are open to all unless otherwise stated but places must be booked in advance. For further information contact the alumni relations team on 0113 228 5115 or email alumni@gsal.org.uk

David Conn - The Fall of the House of FIFA

David Conn, award-winning sports journalist for the Guardian, will be speaking at The Grammar School at Leeds in association with Milim, Festival of Jewish Words for All. All alumni are welcome. Tickets are available via www.gsal.org.uk/events

Date: Tuesday 7 November 2017

Time: 19:00 – 22:30

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds

LGHS Class of 2007 10 year reunion dinner

Old girls who left in 2007, current and former teachers are invited to attend this reunion dinner. Further information and bookings via www.gsal.org.uk/events

Date: Saturday 23 December 2017

Time: 19:00 – 23:00

Venue: Malmaison, Leeds

Alumni drinks reception, House of Lords

A networking evening open to all alumni will be held at the House of Lords, courtesy of our host Baroness Neville-Jones (OG58). Places are strictly limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are available from www.gsal.org.uk/events

Date: Wednesday 14 March 2018

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: House of Lords

Price: £65 (£55 if purchased before 31 December 2017)

LGS Class of 2007 10 year reunion dinner

Old boys who left in 2007, current and former teachers are invited to attend this reunion dinner. Further information and bookings via www.gsal.org.uk/events or James Solyom, solyom@hotmail.com

Date: Saturday 23 December 2017

Time: 19:00 – 23:00

Venue: Banyan, Leeds

OLA Annual London Dinner

All old boys are welcome to attend the annual OLA dinner. Tickets are available on www.gsal.org.uk/events

Date: Friday 16 March 2018

Time: 18:30 – 23:00

Venue: The Travellers Club, Pall Mall, London

OGC London branch - Spring meeting

All OGs are welcome to attend the OGC London Spring meeting where wine writer, Christine Austin (née Wedge, OG69), will give a talk "Wandering through vineyards – in search of a drink". Please contact Jackie Chalmers, jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com if you would like to attend.

Date: Saturday 24 March 2018

Time: 14:00 – 17:00

Venue: North London

Leeds Grammar School Back to School Day

All old boys and former teachers are welcome to return to the former home of LGS, now the Leeds University Business School, for this unique reunion. For further information and to register your interest please contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

Date: Saturday 21 April 2018

Time: 9:00 – 16:00

Venue: Leeds University Business School (formerly Leeds Grammar School)

OGC Golf and Dinner

The 11th annual Old Girl's Club reunion golf and dinner event takes places at Wetherby Golf Club. Please email alumni@gsal.org.uk or Sue Jacklin (OG70) s.m.jacklin@leeds.ac.uk for more information.

Date: Thursday 3 May 2018

Time: 14:00 tee-time followed by dinner at 19:00

Venue: Wetherby Golf Club

Alumni Leeds lunch

All alumni are welcome to attend a lunch at Banyan in Leeds city centre. To book a place or a table please contact Paul Miller, paul@blackorange.co.uk

Date: Friday 11 May 2018

Time: 12:00 – 16:00

Venue: Banyan, Leeds

Keep in touch ...

... we would love to hear your news or welcome you back to school for an event, a school tour or a reunion.

Our facilities include the 1552 and 1876 rooms located in our dedicated conference suite. Each room features memorabilia from the founding schools.

For more information, or to update your details, contact: alumni@gsal.org.uk

Memento is produced by the External Relations Team at The Grammar School at Leeds.

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# Support our Bursary Fund

**A**ttending The Grammar School at Leeds is a life-changing experience; 75% of our pupils gained A\* to B in their A-levels this year, enabling the majority to secure places at the UK's leading universities.

Attending the school has enabled our alumni to achieve success in a wide range of careers across the world.

We are able to support a number of pupils each year through the GSAL Bursary Fund – typically 1 in 6 new Year 7 pupils will receive financial support – but at least 70 talented pupils are unable to take up their offer of a place because they cannot afford the fees and we have insufficient bursary funding.

**With your help we  
can make sure fewer  
children miss out.**

Please support the GSAL Bursary Fund by completing the enclosed form or by donating online at [www.gsal.org.uk/alumni](http://www.gsal.org.uk/alumni). If you would like further information contact:

*The External Relations Team,  
The Grammar School at  
Leeds, Alwoodley Gates,  
Leeds LS17 8GS  
or telephone 0113 228 5157.*



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