



OL & GSAL MAKE BIG
PLANS FOR **LE TOUR**
DE FRANCE YORKSHIRE



JOANNE HARRIS
REMEMBERS GOOD
TIMES AT LGS



RICKY WILSON JOINS
THE VOICE



GSAL POETS MEET
THE MASTER AS **TONY**
HARRISON RETURNS
TO LEEDS STAGE

Issue 01 | Autumn 2013

The magazine for LGS, LGHS & GSAL Alumni Memento

“Leeds Girls’ High School made me think that I could do anything... it instilled me with a self-confidence that I have drawn on throughout my life.”



MARILYN STOWE:
A LIFE IN THE LAW



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Welcome to Memento

Welcome to Memento, the newest addition to our alumni publications, supplementing our Beyond GSAL e-newsletter. Both Memento and Beyond GSAL are a celebration of the proud traditions of Leeds Grammar School, Leeds Girls' High School and more recently The Grammar School at Leeds.

In this edition, the feature on Marilyn Stowe demonstrates the long-lasting impact of a first-class education and how one person can overturn an injustice. On a similar theme of the impact of an individual with a vision, enthusiasm and dogged determination, the Tour de France comes to Yorkshire next year largely due to the efforts of OL Gary Verity, helped by a number of alumni.

These achievements and that of many alumni are a constant source of pride and admiration. As a Leeds loiner myself I'm honoured to represent the school at events across the city and the region where it plays an essential role in working with people and organisations to further the area as a place to

live, work and be educated.

One of the challenges this region faces is increasing aspiration and educational outcomes for children, particularly from poorer backgrounds, so I'm delighted that Peter Jolly in his role as chair of the Foundation is committed to growing the school's bursary fund.

I was reminded of the importance of bursaries during a conversation with Jill Wood, head teacher of Little London, an inner city primary school serving some of Leeds's most challenging communities. She explained how difficult it can be to offer the range of learning opportunities that schools serving a more affluent catchment take as the norm. Jill believes that every child should have a chance to visit the seaside, go to the theatre, learn to ride a bike and sleep in a tent but when finances are tight these do not figure high on people's agendas.

We are helping to redress some of these inequalities through a number of outreach projects such as the maths challenge and poetry slam. These help inspire young

people and give them the confidence to apply to GSAL, so Jill and I are both delighted that one of the pupils from Little London, who took part in the maths challenge, has been awarded a bursary and is now at GSAL.

I hope to share other stories on the impact of bursaries with you in future editions of Memento. If you would like to help more children come to GSAL please complete the enclosed donation form.

We would love to hear from you so if you have any news or photos please share them with us. Either email them to alumni@gsal.org.uk, or post them to Helen Clapham, Director of External Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds LS17 8GS.

I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at one of the many events we are organising over the next twelve months.

Helen Clapham

Director of External Relations



Message from the OGC President

I am writing this while looking forward to what promises to be another lively and eventful year.

This year has seen the introduction of the electronic newsletter which goes out twice a year. The focus is on news and events, with links to the website so that articles can be read in more detail. The newsletter is distributed to all alumni for whom we have an email address. If you know Old Girls who have not yet forwarded their email addresses, please encourage them to contact Louise Marshall in external relations on 0113 229 1552, or email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk

Last October we had a visit from some Old Girls, led by Gwen Turner. The 49ers enjoyed looking round the site and visiting the archives room. It was lovely to have the opportunity to have coffee and share some of their memories. Their energy and enthusiasm was inspiring and the term

'Old Girls' seems a misnomer.

A new event for last year was the Leeds Alumni Lunch, which was held in November and it was wonderful to see a number of Old Girls attending. Details of this year's event can be found on the Events Calendar on pages 22 and 23.

I am often asked if our links with Malawi are still strong. The answer is most definitely, yes. Barry Brindley started the connection at Leeds Girls' High School 25 years ago, and at the end of last term yet another party of students set off. They had a fantastic trip and have returned to school inspired and their lives forever changed by their experiences there.

I am frequently coming across Old Girls and it's always a pleasure to hear their stories, so I hope to see you at one of our events this year to hear many more.

Chris Bamforth

President, Old Girls' Club



Message from the OL President

My first duty in taking up the baton as president of the Old Leodiensian Association is to express heartfelt thanks to my predecessor David Bell for the splendid work he has done over the past three years in steering the OLA through a period of significant change. His selfless contribution has been all the more remarkable given the persistent illness of his wife Kathleen, and it would be sorely remiss of me to let this opportunity pass without expressing our admiration to both of them for bearing up so well with never a word of complaint. David of course stays on the strength of the OLA Council in the capacity of immediate past president, where his calm influence and clear thinking will continue to be highly valued.

The year 2012 was the last when Old Leos walked out of the doors of The Grammar School at Leeds and into their bright, promising futures. All OLs can take great pride in knowing that they form part of the original foundation upon which the School's spectacular successes are now being built, and in noting the remarkable academic and sporting achievements of the new generation of GSAL pupils and alumni. The phrase 'Floreat per Saecula' has never rung more true!

Meanwhile, the OLA moves on into

another year and different ventures, maintaining its organisational independence, and the camaraderie of its membership of influential figures in Leeds, Yorkshire and far beyond, through events such as the Leeds Lunch and the London Dinner.

Key tasks for the year ahead include updating and adding to the database of OL members, and bringing together groups of OLs who are able to contribute a little of their time and knowledge of their chosen career paths to provide 'real life' experience in support of different areas of the School's teaching curriculum, as well as helping to advise pupils about possible directions for their future. If you are an OL, and feel that you would be able to help with this hugely valuable work, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any of the OLA Council members.

Lastly, my thanks go to the GSAL external relations team for their continued assistance, without which none of these ambitions could be realised.

With best wishes

Tristram Hope
(OL 1971 – 1981)



Peter Jolly is new Chairman of School Foundation

Peter Jolly, retired senior deputy head, is returning to take an active role in the life of GSAL.

He has been appointed chairman of the Foundation of Leeds Grammar School (LGS) and Leeds Girls' High School (LGHS) by the trustees.

With almost 40 years' experience at the school, he has remained a stalwart supporter and has great confidence in the foundation's future vision.

The Foundation of GSAL was established in 2005 from the Foundations of LGS and LGHS. With their origins steeped in the philosophy of a free grammar school, both LGS and LGHS provided places as part of the direct grant and assisted places schemes. Since the demise of those schemes LGS, LGHS and now GSAL have raised bursarial funding independently to provide places across the whole community irrespective of domestic wealth.

Last academic year the school provided £1m to help 225 academically talented pupils from low income backgrounds. To increase that provision, significant fund raising events are planned and Peter is also hoping to meet alumni at events and wants to hear from former pupils who are willing to support the foundation.

He said: "Many alumni have supported the school over the years and their generosity has enabled dozens of children to join the school".

Marilyn Stowe:

a life in the law

Marilyn Stowe, described by The Times as 'one of the most formidable and sought-after divorce lawyers in the UK' attributes much of her grit and determination to her education at Leeds Girls' High School.

Here, the founder of Stowe Family Law LLP, reflects on her life in the legal profession for Memento.

Her record of success is considerable and started with the building of Stowe Family Law into the UK's largest specialist family law firm, with offices in Yorkshire, London and Greater Manchester.

This would be achievement enough for some, but Marilyn has also channelled her considerable energy into campaigning for the rights of families in crisis and held a number of high profile posts within the legal world, including heading up the accreditation system for family lawyers on behalf of the Law Society.

Add to that the major part she played in unearthing much of the evidence that freed Sally Clark, the mother wrongly accused of murdering two of her sons; the three books she has written; plus her blog which has 50,000 followers a month and it leaves you wondering where she finds the time to be the resident lawyer for ITV's This Morning and Daybreak.

Marilyn has a passion for justice and the confidence to stand up for what she believes in. Much of that, she says, comes from a first-class education.

"Leeds Girls' High School made me think that I could do anything," she said. "Its high educational standards and discipline made me tough as a person and it instilled me with a self-confidence that I have drawn on throughout my life."

Marilyn Morris, as she was then, joined the school at the age of 11 and from LGHS went to Leeds University. Following her graduation she spent a year teaching at the University of Le Mans in France, before returning to Leeds and qualifying as a solicitor.

After her marriage she joined her husband Grahame, also a solicitor, as a partner working in a converted shop in Halton, east Leeds. She was not particularly interested in a serious career, but saw it as a job until she had the children that they wanted. However, as she admits, life doesn't always follow a plan and she had just one son, Ben, in 1988.

Following Ben's birth, she decided to return to her legal practice and soon found her general high street firm specialising in family law.

She said: "At this stage I had not really done family law, but I found the stress of commercial litigation too much after having a child. For me, family came first and I had to be able to juggle my work with looking after my son."

At a time when the majority of solicitors were still men – of 120 students in her year at university only 12 were women – Marilyn started to attract women clients. This coincided with an increase in the divorce rate and clients began coming to Stowe Family Law from all over the country.

Fast-forward 25 years and Marilyn now has five offices in Leeds, Harrogate, Hale, Wilmslow and Gray's Inn, London, with plans to open more in the south. The firm is renowned for the work that it does in divorce as well as other areas of family law, including international family law, prenuptial agreements, cohabitation rights, domestic violence, mediation and rights for grandparents.

She said: "I can't believe that I have the firm that I have. It is full of young, dynamic lawyers who really care about what they do. Family law is vastly different today to what it used to be. With gay parents, surrogacy, biological parents, non-biological parents, we don't have that formal structure anymore and family law is trying to catch up."

Her latest book *Divorce and Splitting Up: Advice from a Top Lawyer*, published this year, tackles the issues with practical advice including checklists, case studies and FAQs. All proceeds are going to the Children's



Society charity.

Now as she looks back on a long, successful career in the law, her son Ben, who attended Leeds Grammar School, is setting out on his own legal career.

Asked what she is most proud of in her career, Marilyn pauses before saying with a smile: "I would like to think that I have left something behind for posterity and that I have made a real difference to family law. That would make me proud."

Marilyn on school

Marilyn has fond memories of her time at Leeds Girls' High School and the opportunities it gave her.

She said: "I am eternally grateful to my parents for the sacrifices they made to send me there.

"My mother really wanted me to go to LGHS. I remember being daunted by the

entrance exam as I found it tricky and I didn't think I would pass, so I was knocked out to be told that I had a place."

One person who stands out in her memory is English teacher Sheila Downes.

She said: "She was fantastic and really inspired me. I remember she used to give us pieces of Shakespeare to learn over the weekend and would often pick me to recite them on a Monday. It taught me always to be prepared!"

Marilyn on the Sally Clark case

Over the years Marilyn has dealt with many high profile cases and clients. One that stands out though is the part she played in securing Sally Clark's release from prison following a conviction for the murder of her two baby sons.

Marilyn had always been fascinated by the case and firmly believed that the conviction was unsafe.

She said: "There was something that just didn't add up about the whole thing, so I wrote to Sally's husband and offered my services free of charge to see if I could

find any evidence which would help in an appeal.

"He accepted my offer and I have to admit that I made a bit of a nuisance of myself with the authorities, trying to get hold of a number of documents that had not been produced at the trial."

She was eventually given access to a huge bundle of documents which she passed on to forensic experts. Buried deep was evidence of a blood test on the second baby which proved that he had a form of meningitis when he died.

"The first I knew of it, was when I got a phone call from the forensics to ask what it felt like to be the person who was going to get Sally Clark out of prison", she said.

Marilyn on TV

Marilyn is now the resident family lawyer on ITV's Daybreak and This Morning where she comments on current legal topics. She also has a 'clinic' on This Morning once a month offering legal advice to viewers who phone in with their problems and queries.

However, she admits that getting the job came as a surprise to her.

She said: "I got a phone call completely out of the blue asking me to go the

TV studios at the South Bank for an interview. I didn't think I would get the job as I was convinced that they would be looking for someone young and blonde, so I couldn't believe it when they offered it to me!

"Now that I am doing it though, I can see why they were looking for someone a bit older and with plenty of experience. There is very little preparation time in advance, and sometimes none. It all happens live in the studio and some of the topics can be fairly controversial, like fathers' rights for instance, so you really need to be able to think on your feet."

OL and GSAL make big plans for Le Tour de France Yorkshire



Le Tour Yorkshire promises great cycling in stunning scenery.

The countdown to the arrival of the Tour de France in Yorkshire got well and truly underway when OL Gary Verity accepted the Grand Départ baton in Paris this summer.

The chief executive of Welcome to Yorkshire represented the county when he took to the podium in the French capital at the end of this year's Tour.

Just hours earlier, thousands of Britons, including many with Yorkshire Grand Départ flags and banners, lined the Champs Elysées as Britain's Chris Froome rode to historic victory, following in the footsteps of last year's British winner Bradley Wiggins.

Gary, who has played a major role in bringing the world's greatest cycling race to Yorkshire next year, said: "It's been a long, exciting ride getting to this point and now the work really begins for us all. To have a British rider win the Tour again this year is just incredible and sets us up perfectly for next year and who knows – maybe a British hat trick?"

The final day in Paris was beamed around the world, helping put Yorkshire on the world stage. Next year's Grand Départ on July 5 and 6 will see the county feature even more prominently as coverage will be shown in around 188 countries worldwide in millions of homes across the planet.

Gary and his team employed a number of high-profile tactics to fight off serious international competition from the likes of Barcelona, Berlin, Florence and Edinburgh to host the Grand Départ, the opening stages of the prestigious event.

Among them was a stunning promotional film highlighting the dramatic Yorkshire landscape, produced by another OL Roger Keech.

Yorkshire's bid was also helped by the British cycling success stories of Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish, who publicly backed Yorkshire.

Cavendish's uncle, Russell Davidson, who lives in Harrogate, was involved in the bid and was part of the Yorkshire delegation

which went to Paris with Gary Verity.

French delegates, including Christian Prudhomme, director of the Tour de France, visited Yorkshire where Gary showed them the best of the region, even stopping off at his own farm in the Yorkshire Dales.

Early estimates predict Yorkshire's Grand Départ could be worth around £100m to the county's economy and around three million spectators could line the route during two days of racing.

Christian Prudhomme, Director of the Tour de France, said: "What better way to follow a British winner than for it to begin in the UK in Yorkshire next year.

"We saw how passionate Yorkshire was about hosting the Grand Départ and we are confident it will be a wonderful spectacle."

OL Roger Keech plays key role in success of *le bid*



The man behind the making of the award-winning film *Bienvenue dans le Yorkshire* is OL Roger Keech.

The independent film-maker was commissioned by Welcome to Yorkshire to produce an inspirational film which would help sell the county to the governing body of Le Tour de France as part of its multi-million pound bid to host Le Grand Départ.

He said: "It's not often a filmmaker can play a part in helping to influence, improve and uplift the place he lives and works.

"It had to showcase the county's glorious scenery, detail the fine tradition of cycling in Yorkshire and – perhaps most importantly – demonstrate a genuine passion and commitment to hold the Tour here in 2014. It had to inspire."

The film not only helped to win *le bid* but also scooped four awards this year. It was recognised by the Royal Television Society Yorkshire Centre as Best Promotion or Commercial Production and Roger also won three other awards at the event – Professional Excellence in Post Production; Music or Use of Music; and Independent Production Company of the Year.

He said: "The film proved technically challenging, chiefly because of the source material which was original footage mixed with aerial footage and multi-standard library footage from many broadcast sources.

"It had to work on a huge screen in Paris as part of the pitch but also be intimate

enough to work on a domestic television when viewed later on DVD."

Two versions of the film were supplied, one in English and the other with French subtitles and a French voiceover.

Roger said: "This required meticulous attention to detail as just one colloquial error in the script or captions would have been disastrous. The film's success, I hope, speaks for itself. Welcome to Yorkshire's bid beat off tremendously strong international competition and next year the county will play host to the biggest annual sporting event in the world."

Peter Dodd, sales and marketing director at Welcome to Yorkshire said: "Roger Keech delivered a superb film which was inspirational in its creativity. He managed to portray the excitement of an international sporting event while beautifully showcasing the landscapes and cities the Tour would include if we were successful in our bid.

"We have no doubt that the film was instrumental in our successful bid to bring the Tour de France Grand Départ to Yorkshire in 2014."

Roger studied television production at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design in Kent after leaving Leeds Grammar School in 1972. After working in London he joined the BBC in Leeds in 1978 and worked his way up to director and producer, before leaving to become a freelance independent in 1999.

La Grande Fête comes to GSAL

GSAL will play its own key part in the Tour de France with La Grande Fête, a series of events planned to make the most of its vantage point on the official route, as the race leaves Leeds along the A61 and heads out to the Yorkshire Dales.

The weekend will kick off on Friday evening (July 4) when camping will be available in the school grounds for people who want to start the fun early and guarantee a good view of the next morning's peleton.

On Saturday, July 5 a family orientated day of activities will be held for parents, pupils, staff, alumni and others with a close link to the school. Plans include a fairground, sports tournaments, music and drama performances and other activities to create a

range of entertainment throughout the day.

Special spectator areas will also be created to enable visitors to get a first class view of the riders as they race past the school gates.

Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL, said: "This will be quite a spectacle! We really want to be a part of such a momentous occasion and to show our support for what will be the largest event to come to Yorkshire.

"We would love to welcome our alumni to join us for the event. Our plans are still in their early stages, but watch this space for more details over the coming months."



Photo: David Sandison

Joanne Harris remembers good times at LGS

Author Joanne Harris has revealed that she is writing a sequel to her best-selling novel set in an independent boys' school, *Gentlemen and Players*.

The writer, who taught French at Leeds Grammar School for 12 years and has often been asked if her fictitious school was based on LGS, told an audience at Harrogate International Festival that she was currently working on a follow-up to the 2005 book.

Before taking to the stage to talk about her work and promote her latest novel, *Peaches for Monsieur le Curé*, Joanne, who was awarded a CBE in the Queen's birthday honours this year, spoke to Memento about her life at LGS.

She said: "I had been working at a comprehensive school for a few years, so LGS was a huge change, but I loved it."

"I was one of only five female teachers and political correctness was at a minimum. I had short hair and wore a trouser suit and I remember in my first week one of the teachers insisted on addressing me as 'you boy'!"

During her time at the school she published her first two novels, combining her teaching job with writing. However, a year after the

school relocated from Woodhouse Moor to Alwoodley, her third novel *Chocolat* came out and life changed completely.

She said: "I asked the head for some time off to promote the book and he suggested that I took a sabbatical year. I had every intention of coming back but, although it was possible to fit the writing around my job, I could see that I wasn't going to be able to do the promotional tours which were expected of me."

Leaving turned out to be a good decision, she says, with more than a little understatement.

Chocolat went on to become a hit film, starring Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche and Judi Dench, while Joanne continued writing and has now published 15 works of fiction and two cookery books.

But what about those rumours that *Gentleman and Players* is based on Leeds Grammar School?

Joanne answers that all her characters are

completely fictitious, although she has admitted in the past that St Oswald's, the school in the book, has a number of features in common with the original LGS, like the Bell Tower, the games pavilion, the Porter's lodge and room 59, which was based on her room.

She dedicated the book to physics teacher Derek Fry, one of the first teachers she met on her arrival at LGS. The pair shared a joke in the corridor and they have remained firm friends ever since.

She misses teaching occasionally, she says, particularly the adrenaline rush, the Common Room politics, the feeling that she was making a difference... and the stories.

"Schools are full of stories. Some are funny, some tragic; but the constant challenge and the flow of people year after year mean that whatever happens, the stories never run out. For a writer it's a perfect environment. It's invigorating, intensely sociable and riddled with the unexpected!"

Sutton Trust identifies OLs among professional elite

A report by the Sutton Trust into the educational background of the country's professional elite has identified 19 alumni of Leeds Grammar School.

The school ranked 51st in a list of the top 100 schools producing some of the UK's highest fliers in the last few years.

OLs named in the report included Professor William Brown, master of Darwin College, Cambridge; Richard Harrington MP; Rt Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely; Barry Cryer, comedian and writer; Tony Harrison, poet; Lord Dyson, master of the rolls; Robin Blaze, countertenor and Colin Montgomerie, golfer.

The study, which is the biggest ever to look into the educational background of the nation's leading people, compiled information on nearly 8,000 people who appeared in the birthday lists of national and Sunday newspapers during 2011.

It found that although independent schools account for just seven per cent of all school places, 44 per cent of leading people went to independent school, 27 per cent to grammar school, eight per cent to a former direct grant school and 21 per cent to comprehensives and other state schools.

Out of these, some 31 per cent went to Oxford or Cambridge and another 20 per cent went to another leading university.

The profession most dominated by Oxford and Cambridge graduates was the diplomatic service at 62 per cent, followed by the law at 58 per cent and the top echelons of the civil service at 55 per cent.

Nearly half of the UK's top literary figures went to Oxford or Cambridge (48 per cent) and 47 per cent of those in financial services or the City.

Sir Peter Lampl, chair of the Sutton Trust and of the Education Endowment Foundation, said: "This analysis shows how dominant leading universities and schools remain across the professions in Britain. That's why it is so important that access to our leading schools and universities is on the basis of ability alone.

"But studies like this – and over 120 pieces of research commissioned by the Trust since 1997 – show how far we still need to go to improve social mobility in this country and ensure that every young person can achieve his or her potential, regardless of their family background."

Mike Gibbons, principal of GSAL said: "GSAL, as heir to both LGS and LGHS, is very proud of its illustrious alumni. That such a number have gone on to prominence in their chosen fields either regionally or nationally and have achieved much of distinction is to their immense credit.

"This research by the Sutton Trust highlights the advantages afforded to students at leading schools and the heights that those who realise their potential can reach. At GSAL, we are aware of our obligations to try and include as many who would benefit by coming here as we can, regardless of background, through our generous bursary provision. A notable feature of this is the generosity shown by many former students who recognise the role the school played in their lives."

LGS alumni identified by the Sutton Trust as being amongst the UK's leading people:

Arthur Brittenden, former senior consultant Bell Pottinger

Prof William Brown, master of Darwin College, Cambridge

Richard Harrington MP

Rt Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely,

Sir Christopher Holland, former High Court judge

Stanley Metcalfe, former chairman of Rank Hovis McDougall

Colin Montgomerie, golfer

Vice Admiral Sir Peter Woodhead

Rev Canon Rex Chapman, former chaplain to the Queen

Sir Anthony Vineall, former chairman Teachers' Review Body

Barry Cryer, comedian and writer

Jeff Barak, former Middle East correspondent of the Jewish Chronicle

Tony Harrison, poet

Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Lord Justice Dyson, Lord Justice of Appeal

Sir Harry Ognall, former High Court judge

Robin Blaze, countertenor

Christopher Price, former MP and former principal of Leeds Metropolitan University

Sir Andrew Park, former High Court judge

Alumni scoop young entrepreneur awards

Two alumni were among Yorkshire's young entrepreneurs to win awards at this year's Insider's 42 and under 42 Awards dinner in Leeds.

Victoria Novis was named top innovator and Howard Moss received an international award at the event, part of Insider business magazine's yearly search for the next generation of young guns aged 42 and under. Victoria, who runs Euphoria Cocktails, had

her eureka moment while working as an accountant when she spotted a gap in the market as the popularity of alcopops declined.

She realised that cocktails were becoming fashionable again and created a brand of ready-made cocktails called Nuba. After securing investment for the Nuba brand, she has since sold more than 100,000 drinks at a range of outlets, including national pub chain Punch Taverns and airline Easyjet.

Howard set up Astonish, manufacturing more than 70 different cleaning products at its state-of-the-art Bradford facility. With

products available on Britain's high streets and at major supermarkets, turnover has climbed to £13.5m. Exports worth 10 million a year are delivered to 40 different countries. Having delivered 20 per cent year on year growth for the last three years, Howard plans to further develop the business by investing in research and development and building on UK market share.

At the awards dinner, held at the Royal Armouries, Yorkshire Business Insider editor Richard Abbott said that the 42 under 42 event brought "truly inspirational stories of business growth" together.

Sisters celebrate career successes. Katie awarded OBE for climate change work...

Katie White, nee Elliott has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours for services to tackling climate change in the UK and overseas.

Katie, who at 32 is the youngest person on this year's honours' list, is currently campaigns director at ONE.org, a charity co-founded by U2's Bono to eradicate extreme poverty and preventable diseases.

Katie attended LGHS before studying politics at Glasgow University.

After university, she joined Friends of the Earth as a climate change campaigner where she led the campaign for a climate change law which has significantly helped put the UK on the right footing. It was a world first of which she is particularly proud and the law has since been replicated in, or inspired similar legislation in many countries around the globe.

Since then, Katie, who lives in London with her husband Sam, has held various roles within the Department of Energy and Climate Change, including head of international and UK climate change engagement.

Speaking about her OBE, she said: "I am absolutely chuffed to bits. I feel incredibly lucky to have worked on an issue that I care about so passionately and to help place the UK in such a strong position internationally. We have a moral duty to tackle climate change but it also just makes common sense."

She also paid tribute to her politics teacher at LGHS, Mr Blackburn: "He was definitely an inspiration to me and influenced my decision to pursue politics and political issues."



Katie White.

...while Nicola is 'one to watch'

Nicola Elliott, co-founder of the home fragrance and body care brand Neom Organics, has caught the attention of the business world.

The former LGHS pupil has been listed in Management Today's 'Top 35 women in business under the age of 35'.

Nicola, whose company has a global presence in more than 20 countries and 300 stockists in the UK, was also named Entrepreneur of the Year in the Woman of the Future Awards.

The former journalist for glossy magazines Glamour and Instyle started the business in

2005 with family friend Oliver Mennell, a former investment banker. It now employs 22 people and there are plans to open its own retail store in a prime London location next year.

Neil is awarded GP of the Year



Neil photographed with sons Wilfred and Toby, just hours after Toby's birth.

York GP Dr Neil Metcalfe has been named GP of the Year by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

The award came in the same week as his second son was born, making it a double celebration for the family.

Neil (OL 1997), who qualified as a GP with distinction in July 2008, has worked at a rural practice, a homeless centre in Leeds, as a police surgeon and as a clinical research fellow in medical education and general practice.

The award citation from the RCGP states: "As well as well as generally providing high-quality care and suggesting ways to develop these services, Dr Metcalfe has specifically improved clinical care and patient services in his first five years as a GP."

It also cites an audit which he led

on whether the Ayling Inquiry's recommendations on chaperone policy in acute trusts had been implemented. This led to a follow-up study of chaperone use by hospital consultants, which was published.

Neil has worked as a peer reviewer for the BMJ and is a reviewer for the RCGP e-learning modules.

He also completed a postgraduate certificate in medical education and runs two student selected components at Hull York Medical School.

Neil is married to Harriet (nee Rollinson), a former pupil of Leeds Girls' High School, and they have two sons, Wilfred, aged two, and baby Toby.

The couple met in their first year at Birmingham University where Harriet was studying history and Neil, medicine.

OG journalist and author Helen Womack visits GSAL

LGHS alumna Helen Womack, a Moscow-based journalist and author, visited GSAL to talk about her career and discuss her latest book *The Ice Walk: Surviving the Soviet Break-up*.

Before meeting up with the students, Helen talked to Memento about life as a foreign correspondent for the Independent, the Guardian and the Sydney Morning Herald...and her love of Russia.

Helen has lived in Russia under three Kremlin leaders and in *The Ice Walk* she ventures out of Moscow and encounters the absurdities of life among the Russians. In the book she tempers her love affair with Russia with bone-chilling accounts of the hardships that people faced as the country underwent enormous changes after the

the thaw as a good thing, but in reality it can be a dangerous, unpredictable time. In the cold and dark though, lives the seed of spring."

Helen has seen it all: from Gorbachev's perestroika to Yeltsin's reforms and Putin's return to order.

This is her second book on her adopted homeland and in the first, *Undercover lives*, she detailed the story of 12 former KGB agents and their adventures in the service of Lenin and Marx.

She said: "I love Russia and the Russian people and after 20 years there I am still fascinated by it."

Helen, who left LGHS in 1974, always wanted to write and credits one of her

editing the LGHS school magazine.

She said: "Jill Fairley really pushed me, which was great. I was a working class kid from Wakefield and I didn't know what was possible. I thought I might be an English teacher, but Jill suggested that I should do something different."

On leaving school she went on to study English at Birmingham University before completing a postgraduate degree in journalism.

Following some summer work with the Bradford Telegraph and Argus, Helen's break came early in her career when she joined the international news agency Reuters in 1979.

She said: "I only had schoolgirl French and German, but they chose me for the job saying that I could easily pick up languages."

Helen was posted to Vienna and from there she travelled to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Her fascination with Russia was growing and, in her own words, she was "nibbling around its edges" for a while. After being posted to Stockholm to cover the story of a Russian submarine running aground, she began to teach herself the language.

She went to Moscow in 1985 at the start of the era of Mikhail Gorbachev whose political movement for the reformation of the Communist Party introduced the words perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) into the English language.

From 1990 Helen worked as a correspondent for the Independent. She has also worked extensively for the Guardian and for the last few years has split her time between Australia, working for the Sydney Morning Herald, and Moscow where she has a home with her Russian husband.

The Ice Walk, priced £12.99, can be purchased from www.melrosebooks.co.uk



Helen Womack

break-up of the Soviet Union.

She said: "The title of the book refers to the rivers of Siberia which freeze over in the winter to an extent where lorries can drive across them. However when the rivers start to melt, they flood.

"Like the weather, the political climate in Russia is cyclical. In the west we think of

LGHS teachers, Jill Fairley, as an inspiration.

Helen said: "When I met her she was a young teacher and I was an older pupil, so there was not a great deal of age difference. When I left school we became friends and still are today."

From an early age Helen was writing and producing her own newspapers, eventually

Lord Dyson appointed Master of the Rolls

Lord Dyson has been appointed as master of the rolls, the head of the civil judiciary in England and Wales.

OL Lord Dyson, a supreme court justice, replaced Lord Neuberger, who has become president of the supreme court.

The appointment makes 69-year-old Lord Dyson the nation's second most senior judge. Following his education at LGS, Lord Dyson studied classics at Wadham College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar in 1968.

He took Silk in 1982 and was appointed to the High Court in 1993, becoming a presiding judge of the Technology and Construction Court from 1998 to 2001. He was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court in 2010. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2001 and was deputy head of Civil Justice from 2003 to 2006.

Lord Dyson, who was knighted in 1993, gave the keynote address at GSAL's Speech Day last year.

Lord Mayor of Leeds visits her old school in its new home

Pupils, staff and governors welcomed a special 'old girl' to GSAL when Councillor Ann Castle, Lord Mayor of Leeds, visited the school.

Mrs Castle and her husband Graham, the Lord Mayor's Consort, enjoyed a trip down memory lane as they looked at magazines from the Leeds Girls' High School archives featuring their daughter, before taking a guided tour of Senior School with head boy James Roberts and head girl Charlotte Martin.

They also met representatives of the governing body, along with Principal Mike Gibbons and senior deputy head Chris Bamforth, who is also chair of the Old Girls' Club.

The visit concluded in Junior School where the Lord Mayor enjoyed learning about multiplication and division facts with Y3. In turn, the children were fascinated by the history and significance of her chain of office.

Mrs Castle, who left LGHS in 1961, recalled her days there and said that her schooling had helped in her current role.

She said: "We were encouraged to stand up straight, speak slowly and distinctly and grow in confidence.

"I am very pleased to be here today and see what the changes have meant to the school. Naturally I felt some sadness when the high school moved from the site where I spent my own school days, however the current pupils have really sold it to me this morning."



(L-R): Head boy James Roberts, Ann Castle, Graham Castle and head girl Charlotte Martin, alongside the grandfather clock from Leeds Girls' High School.

CBE for Stephen Henwood

OL Stephen Henwood was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to the nuclear industry and charity.

Stephen, who left LGS in 1971 to read economics at Liverpool University, has been chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the last five years, where he is responsible for the operation, decommissioning and clean-up of 19 legacy nuclear sites including Sellafield.

He also works on a voluntary basis with the Royal Geographical Society as honorary treasurer and sits on the RGS council alongside Peter Smith, a former member of LGS staff.

Dan graduates for a second time to take up medicine

When Dan Perren left Leeds Grammar School in 2005 he decided to study computer science at Durham University, graduating with a first in 2008.

He then applied to do graduate medicine and has now qualified from Newcastle Medical School with his MB BS Honours and a distinction – all before the age of 25!

Dan will now go on to do his foundation year jobs in Newcastle and ultimately hopes to pursue a career in academic surgery.



Dan Perren.

Ricky Wilson joins *The Voice* as judge



Ricky Wilson, best known for his exploits on stage with his band the Kaiser Chiefs, is to appear as a judge on the next series of BBC's *The Voice*.

He joins new signing Kylie Minogue and returning stars Tom Jones and will.i.am on the judging panel when the show returns to BBC One next January.

"Who doesn't want to spend their Saturday night with Kylie Minogue?" Ricky said in a statement.

"I spent last winter yelling at *The Voice*, and both Sir Tom Jones and will.i.am were total superstars. I'm just lucky the Kaiser Chiefs have rubber stamped my temporary loan!"

Ricky, who appeared with his band at the new Leeds arena in September, also took to the stage for a very different project last year when he joined the cast of *The War of the Worlds* in his first acting role.

The OL embarked on a month-long arena tour in Jeff Wayne's cult musical production, which also featured Liam Neeson, Marti Pellow, and West End stars Jason Donovan and Kerry Ellis.

Ricky played The Artilleryman in the show, which is based on the hit album created by Jeff Wayne in the late 1970s, and which was re-recorded last year as *The War of the Worlds: The new Generation*.

Liam Neeson took the narrator role, originally created by the late Richard Burton, appearing as a 3D hologram in the show, which is based on HG Wells' novel about an invasion from Mars led by 'the tripods'.

The show opened in Dublin in November and played 15 venues throughout England, Scotland and Wales in December, before touring Europe.

Portrait unveiled in honour of former head Mark Bailey



(L-R): David Gravells, Peter Holt and Mark Bailey.

There's a new face in the GSAL picture gallery following the unveiling of a portrait of former head Professor Mark Bailey.

As headmaster and chief executive of Leeds Grammar School (LGS) from 1999 to 2005 Professor Bailey took over while LGS was still settling into its new home at Alwoodley Gates. Then as head and chief executive of GSAL from 2005 to 2010 he oversaw the merger with Leeds Girls' High School to create today's co-educational school.

In recognition of these achievements GSAL's Board of Governors commissioned a portrait from artist Peter Holt, which was unveiled at a special ceremony in front of an audience of former colleagues, family, friends, governors and students.

David Gravells, chair of the governors, said that the portrait commemorated "an individual who contributed immensely to the change and development of this school, which would not be as we know it today without his input."

Professor Bailey, who is now High Master at St Paul's School, London, said: "When I was 11 years old I went to school and up on the walls were these ancient authoritarian figures; it's discomfiting to recognise that I have now joined them!"

"However it's a huge honour and I feel a sense of pride, privilege and humility as any head is only as effective as the people around him. I enjoyed my time at GSAL enormously and had a great group of colleagues. Thank you."

Peter Holt is a former commercial artist who now divides his time between teaching, portraiture and fine art.

He said: "As my first formal portrait this was a new challenge; my style is usually more relaxed. The school crests in the background are an echo of the inscriptions in Tudor portraiture, reflecting Mark as a historian and his role in bringing the two schools together."

Silver jubilee dinner celebrates special relationship with Malawi

A silver jubilee dinner has been held at GSAL to celebrate the 25-year partnership between the school and Malawi...and to raise funds for on-going projects.

A total of £4250 was raised on the night by more than 100 diners who included representatives from every tour to Malawi since 1995. Also at the dinner were members of GSAL staff, plus three generations of Barry Brindley's clan, including 12-day-old grandson Leo.

Barry, who is the school's Malawi coordinator, hosted the dinner in the Assembly Hall just days before he again lead the popular 23-day biennial tour to Malawi for 45 pupils from Y11 and the sixth form.

On the night a silent auction raised £2175 and a raffle added a further £814, with Barry's charity The Zikomo Trust pledging to double the winning bid of £750 for a John Harris painting, boosting the total to over £4000.

The projects which will benefit include: completion of four classrooms for Chimbowe Primary School, the establishment of a palliative care unit at the Malama Feeding Centre; provision of essential equipment for children's orphanages; supply of essential medicines for Kasungu District Hospital; and provision of braille equipment for MACOHA (Malawi Council for the Handicapped).

Over the last 25 years the school has been involved in many projects with its partner school Kamuzu Academy.

These include:

- The building of 16 classrooms at Chamalaza and Mbonekera Primary Schools
- The building and equipping of three school libraries
- The provision of two science labs at Mbiri Community School which, for the first time, has enabled pupils to progress to university
- The construction of four day care centres for Mary's Meals in Blantyre townships
- Supplying medicines and medical equipment to Kasungu District Hospital, Beit Cure Orthopaedic Hospital and Zomba General
- Financial support for the premature baby unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Blantyre
- The provision of braille machines and specialist braille games and toys for Chilanga School for the Blind
- The construction of and support for the Malama Feeding Centre
- Numerous bursaries and scholarships for needy children
- Financial and physical support for children's orphanages such as Open Arms, Jacaranda and the Home of Hope.

STOP PRESS... BARRY BRINDLEY HAS BEEN SHORTLISTED FOR AN AWARD AT THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL AWARDS 2013 IN THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORY ... STOP PRESS

Classic cycle ride raises funds

The end of the road... Joe (left) Charlie (centre) and James celebrate their arrival at John O'Groats.

Malawi funds have been given a further boost this summer by intrepid OLs Joe Dawson and James Horner who cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats for charity.

The duo, along with Joe's brother Charlie, a current pupil at GSAL, completed the bike ride in just 11 days, raising around £3000 to be split between the Open Arms Orphanage in Malawi and the UK charity, Diabetes Trust.

They completed the trip two days ahead

of schedule and statistics gathered en route showed that they had covered a total of 964 miles; 106 hours cycling time; climbed 13,000m, the equivalent of 1.5 times Everest; burned 38,000 calories and averaged a steady speed of 11.5 mph.

Although they could have cycled faster, they said, the idea was to cover the distance, keep together and enjoy the experience.

Completing the trip was a real challenge for

all three. Joe and James, who left GSAL in 2010, are both keen sportsmen at university with Joe rowing at Oxford and James competing in triathlons, while Charlie, who has just gone into the lower sixth at GSAL, trained for several months before the cycle ride.

Anyone wishing to donate to their charities can do so at: www.justgiving.com/JoeCharlieandJamesbikeride



GSAL announces new head boy and girl team



GSAL's head boy and girl team for this academic year is Kate Downie, Jack Harrison, Aneesah Kabba Kamara and Matthew Li.

The team went through a demanding selection process and, as well as being role models to pupils, duties will include representing the school at public occasions, such as open morning and giving the vote of thanks at Speech Day.

Speaking on behalf of the new team, Jack, the son of OL Jeremy Harrison, said: "We are greatly honoured to have been appointed to these roles. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead and being able to put back all that GSAL has given us."

Jack is a keen sportsman and represents the school at rugby, football and cricket. He was named 1st team Cricketer of the Year last year and plays for Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Matthew is a talented astronomer and has the distinction of being the first recipient of the Peter Young prize for astronomy. The award, which was set up by the class of '72 in memory of OL Peter, an associate professor of astronomy, who died aged 26,

was presented to Matthew at Speech Day 2012.

He also plays violin and currently leads the school symphony orchestra, as well as being a member of the GSAL string quartet. He enjoys debating and reached the Cambridge Union debating final earlier this year, for which he received full school colours.

Aneesah, whose mum Annabel Lee was a pupil at LGHS, is a talented netballer who has represented the school for a number of years. She is a member of the senior team which has just won the U19 Independent Schools Netball national championship, and came second in the England Netball national schools championships.

Kate's interests in school include running and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. She has completed the Leeds half marathon and recently competed in the Harewood 10km night run with two other GSAL students, winning the fastest team time and finishing as the third fastest woman runner. Kate plays guitar and helps to organise and run Band's Night and GSAL's Got Talent and is currently working towards her Duke of Edinburgh gold award.

OG Catherine helps turn French day into a tour de force

With French fever building in Yorkshire ahead of next year's Tour de France, GSAL hosted a day for primary pupils from across Leeds and Wharfedale... with help from OG Catherine Cheater, nee Sigsworth.

Catherine, who attended LGHS from 1968 to 1975, is an Ilkley-based primary languages consultant who offers advice, training and support for local authorities and schools.

She is renowned as a trainer both nationally and internationally, and is the author of Catherine Cheater Schemes of Work for French.

Catherine led the day's activities with language teachers and assistants from GSAL, assisted by a team of sixth form students.

She said: "I was really delighted to be spending the day back at my old school as it was at Leeds Girls' High that my love of foreign language learning was nurtured and developed.

"And the day itself was fabulous with a wonderful carousel of workshops for the children. From September 2014 all primary schools will have to teach a language in Key Stage 2 as part of the national curriculum,

and this is something that primary schools are preparing themselves for currently. The French day at GSAL provided very enjoyable outreach to primary schools in the local area."

During the event the children, dressed in red, white and blue, enjoyed the chance to immerse themselves in French language, culture and cuisine for a day which started with croissants and ended with crêpes.

In between, the young Francophiles took part enthusiastically in some of the songs, dances and playground games that French children might enjoy and designed traditional lily of the valley greetings cards for the Fête du Muguet, the French May Day holiday.

The pièce de résistance was a performance by Flying Theatre Company of the play *Bon Voyage*, performed in French, which kept the children entertained and engaged en route.

Joining GSAL Junior's Y5 pupils for the day were pupils from seven local schools – Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, Ilkley; St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Pudsey; Askwith Community Primary School, Otley; St Oswald's C of E Junior School, Guiseley; Little London Community Primary School, Leeds; Allerton C of E Primary School, Leeds; and Gledhow Primary School, Leeds.



Top: Y5 pupils from Sacred Heart with GSAL sixth formers (L-R): Hannah Cornish, Jack McNichol and Sarah Schler.

Above: Catherine Cheater.

Pupils inspired by OL Aaron



(L-R): Head boy Tom Wilcox, head girl Charlotte Martin, Dr Aaron Brown, Andrew Wheeler, head girl Leah Weerasinghe & head boy James Roberts.

A former Leeds Grammar School pupil inspired sixth formers at their weekly assembly when he spoke about how he became a surgeon...despite coping with cystic fibrosis (CF).

Aaron Brown, who is the first person with the condition to become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, was diagnosed with the condition when he was four days old.

The 28-year-old has a positive philosophy about life. He said: "If you want something in life, go all out to get it! Be the best you can."

This determination was really put to the test when, days before his final surgeon's exams, Aaron was rushed into hospital with

pneumonia. However, undaunted he sat his exams later in the same week.

Last year Aaron was nominated by the Cystic Fibrosis Association to carry the Olympic torch in the run-up to the Olympic Games, as "a mark of his amazing determination and optimism at coping with CF"

Cystic fibrosis is a condition which affects the lungs and people who have it are also more prone to infection.

Andrew Wheeler, head of instrumental studies, taught Aaron at LGS. He spoke warmly of his memories of him when he introduced Aaron to sixth formers.

Scouts on parade at Windsor Castle

Four GSAL alumni took part in the St George's Day Parade of Queen's Scouts at Windsor Castle this year.

Ben Waller, Ben Humphris, Robert Pellow and James Nehaul, who have all completed their Queen's Scout awards, left GSAL in 2012 and are now at university.

Following the parade, which was reviewed by the chief scout Bear Grylls and the Duchess of Cambridge, the boys attended the national scout service in St George's Chapel.

Also on parade that day was another former GSAL student Chris Whitely, who attended the ceremony last year as a new Queen's Scout, and was a member of the Flag party this year.

Ben Waller is now studying mechanics and robotics at Liverpool University, Ben Humphris, theology at Exeter University; Robert Pellow, geography at Cambridge; James Nehaul, engineering, also at Cambridge; and Chris Whitely, computer science at Durham University.



Queen's Scouts (L-R): Robert Pellow, James Nehaul, Ben Humphris and Ben Waller.

Old Leos to be honoured at Ypres

Old boys of Leeds Grammar School, who gave their lives for their country, are to be commemorated close to the battlefields where they saw active service...thanks to the efforts of GSAL history students and their teacher.

Earlier this year GCSE history students visited St George's Anglican Church, Ypres, which was built as a memorial to British and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives

in the Great War, and questioned why there was no memorial to Old Leodiensians.

History teacher Sam Yates took up the cause and, using a roll of honour compiled by former school historian John Davies, found that the school was eligible to install a plaque in the church as a number of Old Leos had been on active service around Ypres Salient between 1914 and 1918.

Now the OLA Council is to fund the installation of a memorial plaque and it is hoped to have it in place when the next cohort of students visits the battlefield in 2014.

Sam Yates said: "With the centenary year approaching this is a fitting way for the school to mark the occasion, and enable OLs and current students to pay their respects."

GSAL's Business Networking Group is the place to share ideas and make contacts

Alumni and parents are going back to school to share in the current thinking on issues like effective leadership, generating business leads, influencing and persuasion skills, optimising social media and, even, likeability!

These are just some of the subjects covered at the GSAL Business Networking Group, a platform for parents, alumni and friends of the school to meet, make contacts and exchange ideas.

The group, which has just celebrated its second anniversary, has a thriving membership and a programme of free events which includes three networking evenings a year, featuring high profile guest speakers, and a number of informal 'hot topic' sessions.

Speakers to date have included entrepreneurs, networking specialists, an economist, occupational psychologist and social media expert.

Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for people to come together to network, share their expertise and pick up some first class business tips along the way.

"Our speakers are always highly entertaining and thought-provoking and we work hard to ensure that the topics covered will appeal to everyone."

The group was the brainchild of Karen Ward, teacher of economic studies at GSAL, and its inaugural meeting was held in May 2011 when around 70 people heard speaker Dinah Bennett OBE talk about the benefits of networking and how to enjoy it.

Since then speakers have included Kathy Denton, an occupational psychologist and business coach; Will King, entrepreneur and founder of King of Shaves; Paul Dunn, marketing guru and philanthropist, dubbed the 'Wizard of Wow'; James Bevan, economist; Anthony Greenfield, change practitioner; and Rob Brown, networking and business relationships specialist.

To join the group search for 'GSAL Business Networking Group' at www.linkedin.com



Guests celebrate the inaugural meeting of the GSAL Business Networking Group.

Pat's contribution to American conservation

Pat Meyer's lifelong passion for animals is helping to save an endangered species of fox in America through her conservation and preservation work.

The former Leeds Girls' High School pupil has established a reputation for her work with island foxes in California where she has formed a corporation, Friends of the Island Fox Inc, (FIF) to save the species.

Pat, nee Best, who left school in 1959, immigrated to the United States in the 1970s, working as a secretary in Los Angeles to pay for her college education.

After a number of years in human resources and administration, Pat left the corporate

world and – looking for a new adventure – joined the docent programme at Los Angeles Zoo, graduating as a lecturer and educator in 1994.

Pat first came across the plight of the island foxes in 2003 when she was doing research for a zoo lecture on ecology. She met biologist Tim Coonan who worked with the Channel Islands National Park in California and offered him help from the zoo's docents.

The island fox can only be found on six of the eight Californian Channel Islands and Pat learned that on four of the islands the foxes faced extinction due to predators and disease.

So she set up FIF to save the island fox through conservation and education programmes. The organisation has raised funds for health checks, annual vaccinations, scientific necropsies to identify the cause of mortality and 'watch for fox' road signs on Catalina Island, the most

inhabited of the islands.

Funds have also been used to fit 82 fox radio-tracking collars to enable conservationists to locate and monitor the foxes.

A fellow docent has set up an education programme and a website which is visited by 3,000 people a month. FIF is also active on Facebook and Twitter.

"We now tweet daily as foxes," Pat said, "and we have educated more than 31,000 members of the public since 2005."

In addition to her work with FIF and the Channel Islands Park Foundation Pat is also on the board of directors of Forever Friends Golden Retriever Rescue which re-homes the dogs from shelters or from owners who have to give them up.

For more information on Pat's work, visit www.islandfox.org and www.foreverfriendsgoldenrescue.org

GSAL poets meet the master as Tony Harrison returns to Leeds stage

Three GSAL poets had the honour of performing at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in a warm-up event for the acclaimed poet – and OL – Tony Harrison.

Mohammed Kundi Y9, Quentin Scobie, who has just left the U6 and former pupil Tom Jenkins, who left GSAL last year, were part of a group of five poets from Leeds Young Authors who each performed work inspired by Tony Harrison.

Harrison, who is widely regarded as the nation's greatest living poet, had returned to his home city to headline the Leeds Big Bookend Festival.

In *An Audience with Tony Harrison* he read from a book of his poems, interspersed with anecdotes about his boyhood in Leeds which included reminiscences of his schooldays at Leeds Grammar School, before answering questions and meeting the audience at a book signing.

It's now 25 years since Harrison hit the headlines when the Channel 4 broadcast of his poem *v* caused a storm of protest because of its use of four-letter words.

MPs' questions, articles in the Daily Mail and protests by campaigner Mary Whitehouse resulted in a huge TV audience for the 1987 broadcast, which went on to win a prestigious prize. The Independent printed the poem in full in its news pages to allow people to make up their own minds.

The poem was written by Harrison in 1984 following a visit to his parents' grave in Leeds where he found obscenities had been spray painted on the tomb.

He has said of the discovery of the desecration: "I'm not offended by bad language, but I think: my parents are buried here; it's not appropriate here. It made me angry."

At the start of the broadcast, Harrison can be seen walking in the snow-covered cemetery at Beeston from where he points

out various landmarks including Leeds Grammar School and Leeds University "where I got the education which took me away from this background".

The film includes a reading of the poem by Harrison in front of a live audience and, although the language is more commonly heard on TV nowadays, the power of the poem still has the ability to shock.

The celebrated poet-playwright was born in Beeston and won a scholarship to LGS. From there he went on to study classics and linguistics at Leeds University.

His plays include *Fram* (2008) and *The Bartered Bride* (1978), as well as adaptations of Molière, Greek tragedies and the Mystery

Poets head for USA poetry slam

Poets Mohammed Kundi, Quentin Scobie and Tom Jenkins have been selected by Leeds Young Authors to represent Leeds in the Brave New voices international poetry slam in Chicago.

Quentin and Tom are making their second appearance at the event, while at 14, Mohammed is the youngest British competitor at the slam in 10 years.

The team, which included two other Leeds teenagers, worked with their coach, US poet Matthew Cuban, to write and rehearse material for their trip.



plays, part of the York and Wakefield medieval Mystery cycle. His 1998 film *Prometheus* links the Greek myth with the Yorkshire mining industry and Second World War concentration camps.

Poet and 'old boy' Tony Harrison with the GSAL poets he is inspiring. (L-R): Tom Jenkins, Mohammed Kundi and Quentin Scobie.

Round-up of OGs London branch meetings

Members of the Old Girls' Club London branch have enjoyed two meetings this year with entertaining talks from guest speakers... and the chance to renew old acquaintances.

Autumn meeting

About 35 members, including friends and family, gathered at the Friends' Meeting House for the autumn meeting which included a talk on furniture designer Thomas Chippendale by guest speaker Dr Abigail Harrison Moore.

Jackie Chalmers opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, especially Margaret Bone who had travelled from Cumbria, Ruth Jowett from Stockport, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, Dr Harrison Moore and Rachel Cockburn, from GSAL's external relations department.

Dr Harrison Moore, who is acting head of the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies at Leeds University, gave a fascinating and spirited talk on the furniture designer Thomas Chippendale. She took her audience on a journey from his home in

Otley to St. Martin's Lane in London, which was the centre for furniture design in his day, to Harewood House in Yorkshire, the home of Edward Lascelles. She described how he was not only an important designer but also a good businessman, employing many workers to supply the entire fittings for a house.

Spring meeting

Members were given an absorbing insight into the career of an international head teacher when Jennifer Bray (OG 1961) described her time as head of two international schools at the autumn branch meeting.

Jennifer gave an entertaining account of the numerous challenges she encountered, and overcame, starting up a brand new school in Hong Kong, as well as those she came across at a Brussels school when faced with established traditions.

After the talk, June Underwood, nee Rhodes (OG 1953) and her husband, Nigel, showed their album of old LGHS photos which Nigel is currently compiling into a CD.

The spring meeting, which was held at Lady Solti's house, was attended by 25 members, including Carolyn Clift, née Hirst from Leeds, Sylvia Young, née Smith from Bristol branch, Olga High, née Bayliss from Cheshire, Margaret Bone, née Long from Cumbria and Judy Partridge from Somerset.

Over the year a donation of £250 was made to the Solti Accademia de Bel Canto in Tuscany as a thank you to Lady Solti for hosting the spring meeting. Two separate donations of £200 and £250 were also made towards a bus pass fund to help pay for the travel expenses of a bursary student at GSAL.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday October 26 at 1.30pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road, when Thelma Ruby will be showing and commenting on a DVD of her life in the theatre.

For more information on the London branch contact Jackie Chalmers on 01483 579343, or email jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com.



Far left: Pictured at the autumn meeting are (L-R): Rachel Cockburn, Jackie Chalmers and Dr Abigail Harrison Moore.

Left: Enjoying the spring meeting are (L-R): Christine Gibbs, nee Seal, Judy Partridge, guest speaker Jennifer Bray and Jane Pickering, nee Mackey.

OLs return to school for MCC match

Two OLs were part of the MCC line-up which visited GSAL for the annual match against the school's 1st XI, in a strong line-up which also included Paul Hutchinson, former Yorkshire and Middlesex fast bowler.

Toby Jacklin (OL 04) was captain of Collingham and Linton Cricket Club for three years until 2012, while Charlie Finan (OL 06), has played for Castleford in the Yorkshire Premier League from 2005-13.

The GSAL side put up a tough fight against the MCC, losing by 87 runs at the end of the day.

The 1st XI fielded exceptionally well but it was the bowling of Tom Burton which caught the eye and praise from all the visiting players. In his debut season Tom is causing quite a stir on the circuit with his accurate off-spin bowling and the MCC match was no exception.

For his performance Tom received an MCC Spirit of Cricket cap for Man of the Match

In his end of game address MCC captain Nick Kay praised the 1st XI for their work

in the field and their dogged efforts against a strong MCC bowling attack.

In response Ben Morley, 1st XI captain thanked the MCC for the game and commented on how much the lads had enjoyed the challenge of playing against such a strong side.

MCC 201 for 9 off 48 overs

Tom Burton (Y9) 19 overs – 5 maidens – 68 runs – 4 wickets

Elliot Mason (Y12) 7 overs – 0 – 30 – 3.

GSAL 114 all out off 44.3 overs

Jack Harrison (Y12) 35

Ben Morley (Y13) 29

OGC golf walk and dinner

The OGs' annual day of golf or walking, topped off by a celebration dinner, was a resounding success.

Eighteen golfers thoroughly enjoyed good weather and the challenging course at Sand Moor Golf Club, where OG Victoria Littlewood is ladies captain.

While the golfers were battling it out on the greens, a group of keen walkers completed part of the Leeds Country Way, starting at Golden Acre Park and taking in Briary

Marsh to Cookridge.

Dinner at Sand Moor was followed by a presentation of prizes to the winning golfers by Chris Bamforth, president of the OGC.

Sue Mason was the overall winner and was presented with the OGC golf trophy. She also took the silver division, with Victoria Littlewood winning the bronze division.

Next year's event will be held at Bradford Golf Club, Hawsworth, Guiseley on Friday, May 9.



Above: Sue Mason (centre) receives her trophy from Chris Bamforth (right) with Victoria Littlewood (left).

Right: Walkers are (L-R): Shelagh Dixon, Paddie Breeze and Jane Aldrick.



Fundraising is to the fore at first golf day for bursaries

GSAL's first ever golfing for bursaries event has teed off a fundraising drive to increase financial assistance for pupils whose families need support with school fees.

School staff past and present, parents, governors and alumni met at Leeds Golf Centre to play the course in teams of four before rounding off the day with dinner and an auction of 'things money can't buy'.

Leeds Golf Centre was made available thanks to the generosity of GSAL parent and governor Naveen Ahmed, whose company Parklane Properties has recently refurbished and upgraded the complex.

The evening's auction was hosted by retired senior deputy head Peter Jolly, who has this year taken on the chair of the Foundation of Leeds Grammar School and Leeds Girls' High School.

Peter said: "The trustees of the foundation have a mission to apply our efforts in

strengthening bursarial support for those pupils, present and future, who would not and could not be at school without it. This has been the perfect setting for us to get together to raise money for a great cause and we would like to express our thanks to Naveen for making the day possible."

Speakers at the dinner included former pupils Sian Foley and Matthew Livesey. Sian, national coaching development manager for England Netball, spoke eloquently about how the support she received to attend Leeds Girls' High School had given her the confidence to pursue a career in sport.

Matthew, who is currently studying at Sheffield University, described the impact that attending LGS had on him, enabling him realise his ambition to study medicine.

The event has boosted bursary funds by around £6,000 and is set to become an annual fixture in the school calendar.

Peter Jolly and Naveen Ahmed at the golf day.



Evacuation memories of WW2...

During the Second World War a number of pupils were evacuated from Leeds Girls' High School to Bolton Hall, the shooting lodge of the Duke of Devonshire.

Despite the grand setting of the hall at Bolton Abbey life was primitive for the girls and their teachers. However, even though there was no electricity or hot water and very little heating, the girls retained fond memories of their days there.

Here Sheila Ainsley, nee Law, looks back on three years of hardship, friendships and fun.

She said: "In late August 1939, as war loomed ever closer, I was a new girl and more excited about my new green uniform than afraid of things to come. We had been told that we were to go to school each day with a small suitcase and a gas mask to await instruction about our journey to an unknown destination – but each evening we went home again!"

Not long after the start of the war the whole school was transferred to Lincoln for a term. However, the city, surrounded by operational airfields, was as much of a potential target as Leeds and the girls returned to Headingley. When plans were made to evacuate for a second time, some parents decided against sending their daughters away so some pupils remained at Headingley while others

boarded at Bolton Hall.

Out in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, without a school matron or nursing staff, the teachers took on the dual role of educating and caring for the girls.

Sheila said: "I well remember – and only now fully appreciate – Miss Bennet, Miss Swindell, Miss Thwaites and Miss Ellingham caring for us when we were sick and organising our leisure time seven days a week, as well as teaching us up to School Certificate standard.

"Lessons went on as normally as possible, although we had no science equipment so we never did physics or chemistry. Art equipment was also minimal though we did become experts in the art of heraldry as the Pugin designed drawing room had all the Cavendish ancestry depicted in their coats of arms in the stained glass windows!"

Games were restricted to hockey, which was played on a farmer's field by the river, rounders and plenty of walking. One of the teachers, Miss Thwaites, also formed a Girl Guide company and the girls completed their war work badges. This involved making camouflage nets and collecting bags of rosehips which were processed into rosehip syrup, a valuable supplement at a time when oranges were unobtainable.

Sheila said: "They were happy years. We were often cold and no doubt occasionally not very clean as we had no hot water. We were also often quite hungry but we evolved a very satisfactory method of 'liberating' bread from the kitchen and toasting it on our wooden rulers at the classroom fire. Inevitably the rulers suffered and were nearly all only nine to 10 inches long!"

Sheila and her classmates returned to LGHS at the end of the war, in time to sit the School Certificate exam. After leaving school Sheila graduated in modern languages, taught in a comprehensive in London's East End and a girls boarding school in Kent before marrying. She has lived in Salisbury for many years.

She said: "I often think fondly of LGHS, both at Bolton Hall and Headingley. They really were very happy days and I remember good friends."

...are kept alive at Junior School too



Dressed for the occasion are: (L-R) Sunanda Ganti, Hana Hassan, Aidan Boulton, Y5 teacher Victoria Kirkman, Hassan Sadiq, Alex Morrey and Adam Best.

GSAL believes it is important to remember the past, and particularly, the experiences of former pupils. So, every year pupils from Y5 at GSAL's Junior School step back into the days of evacuees, gas masks, food rationing and community singing when they visit Lotherton Hall to learn about life during the Second World War.

The youngsters, who study the topic in history, spend the day as evacuees with the teachers adding to the authenticity by dressing up in '40s clothes.

As soon as the bus rolls into the car park of Lotherton Hall the children are met by a warden who abruptly explains that they are

to walk in single file and not utter a word!

Throughout the day, pupils have the opportunity to handle WW2 artefacts, play and sing songs from the times and learn what life was like for children who lived through the war.

Y5 teacher Victoria Kirkman said: "The children thoroughly enjoy taking part in activities such as wrapping their teacher in bandages as a first aider, writing Morse codes and taking an in depth look into Lotherton Hall's history.

"It's a great way of bringing wartime alive for them."

Memories of singing for a queen

Celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the coronation this year have brought back fond memories for OG Christine Mathers.

For, as a teenager the Leeds Girls' High School pupil sang at two concerts in the city to commemorate the crowning of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

Christine, who was a member of the school choir, joined boys from Leeds Grammar

School and other choristers from secondary schools throughout Leeds for the performances.

The specially-formed choir practised for nine months before the event and sang at the concerts with the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Morris Miles.

The programme included works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Handel, as well as the prologue from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Christine said: "The whole experience was wonderful. I particularly remember the *Coronation Te Deum* by Vaughan Williams which was the most marvellous work to sing."

After leaving LGHS in 1955, Christine studied French and Spanish at Birmingham University, returning to Leeds to teach modern languages.

49ers take a trip down memory lane

A group of OGs celebrated their 80th birthdays in style with a special lunch at Weetwood Hall, a tour of GSAL and a wander through the archives of their school days.

The 49ers – named after the year they took their school certificate examinations – have been meeting up every five years since the 40th anniversary of their exams. However this latest reunion was a particularly special one with collective 80th birthdays to celebrate too.

The group all joined Leeds Girls' High School at different times – some as juniors, others as seniors – but most left in 1950 following the school certificate. The women went on to varied careers, with six becoming doctors and almost half of them still living in Yorkshire.

The idea for regular get-togethers came from Pat Turner, nee Harbinson, who now lives in France, and who instigated the first reunion in 1989. Meetings are coordinated

by Wendy Stevens, nee Watson, who was head girl from 1951-52, and who had stayed on at LGHS to do her Oxbridge entrance exam.

After their guided tour of GSAL by head girl Charlotte Martin, the 49ers spent some time in the school's archive, looking at records and photos from their school days.

Members of the 49ers are pictured after their celebration lunch.



Rowing in Leeds and the GSAL connection



Left: Pictured after their win at Strathclyde Park Regatta are (L-R): Bradley Potterton (women's squad coach), Valentina Polo (bow), Jessica Brush, Nicola Santoni, Michelle Watson (stroke), Henry Clarke (cox/women's squad coach).

Right: Members of Leeds Rowing Club are pictured, including (far right) current GSAL pupil Harin Wijayathunga.

Since Leeds Rowing Club first took to the water at Roundhay Park in 2006 it has gone from strength to strength, sending athletes to races across the country and winning at top level events...with GSAL alumni playing an important role in the club's development.

Notable contributions include Henry Clarke, who is currently ladies coach, captain of coxes and fundraising secretary; and Simon Harris, who stroked the first Leeds RC boat to race and win at Henley Royal Regatta.

Former GSAL student Joe Dawson, who learnt to row at Leeds RC, has also rowed for the past two years for the Oxford University squad and has won consecutive 'reserve' boat races for the Isis crew.

And the relationship between GSAL and rowing looks set to continue, with several of Leeds RC's youngest members currently studying at the school.

As well as the GSAL support, successes at the club can also be attributed to the hard work of volunteers and athletes from a wide range of backgrounds.

Henry said: "You could be forgiven for thinking that rowing has only featured on the sporting scene in Leeds since Leeds Rowing Club was founded.

"However, it took many years for the current incarnation of Leeds RC to take shape and its predecessors throw forward some surprises. There are several clubs documented as rowing in Leeds in the Victorian era with archaic names such as Leeds Athletic RC and Leeds Wellington ARC. Regattas of the day were well attended, and there are reports of several thousand spectators at various locations for 'Leeds Regatta' including the Aire, at Kirkstall, and at Waterloo Lake, the current home of Leeds RC."

A factor in the sport is its image as exclusive, which Leeds Rowing Club is keen to disprove.

"The University Boat Race does a lot for rowing," Henry said, "but it also goes some way to reinforcing the stereotype. For many, rowing is The Boat Race, ergo; rowing is a sport for those at a top university."

Breaking down this preconception is a communications challenge for the sport, and one that the governing body, British Rowing, is coming to terms with. At a club

level, Leeds RC caters for all age groups, sexes and social backgrounds, offering excellent value for money compared to other sports.

It is this open and welcoming policy that has been key to the club's achievements. Indeed, such is the level of success that new facilities are required to cope with demand.

Currently, the club has about 110 members, but is at full capacity, with more than 300 on the waiting list. Also, Roundhay Lake, whilst beautiful, is not an ideal location. The boathouse is small, with boats racked to the roof and the lake is only about 750m long. With most races being between 1,000m and 2,000m (and up to 7,000m in the winter season) the club faces a number of issues.

However a solution is at hand at Thwaite Mills in South Leeds, where the club has been offered a long-term lease by the Canal and Rivers Trust, alongside a 4km stretch of the Aire and Calder Navigation.

A well-used towpath and cycleway runs alongside the waterway for its entirety. As a canal, the stretch of water does not have much flow and is well-sheltered, ideal conditions for rowing. The site also has excellent transport links to major roads and is about two minutes from the M1 motorway.

British Rowing has named Leeds as one of three key strategic development areas nationally, lending real impetus to the project. The site itself will be shared with the University of Leeds, who are working with Leeds RC as project partners (university rowers currently have to travel to York).

The new boathouse project has secured lottery funding and looks set to progress over the next year, while the project partners are now looking to raise the final funds to equip the facility.

Club development officer, Julian Pearce, said: "Leeds Rowing Club sees the new clubhouse as an opportunity to work with local schools and bring more young people to the sport. The top quality venue will bring rowing to the people of Leeds, and we hope that the GSAL connection continues to flourish."

For more information about the project, or for ways to donate, visit: www.leedsrowing.org.uk/new-boathouse/

Obituaries

Douglas Proctor (1918–2013)

Douglas Proctor is a former parish constable in York.

Mr Proctor was born in Rawcliffe and attended Quarry Mount Junior School before Leeds Grammar School.

During the Second World War he served with the 8th army, seeing action in Dunkirk and in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was also present at the liberation of Belsen.

A funeral service was held at All Saints' Church in York city centre.

Dr John Merrell (1922–2013)

Former Skipton GP Dr John Merrell has died, aged 91.

He was born in Leeds and, following his schooling at LGS, he studied general sciences at Leeds University. After two years of study he was called up and saw active service during the Second World War with the Royal Army Signal Corps in Europe and West Africa.

On his return to Leeds he studied medicine and qualified as a doctor in 1951. He worked for a year at St James's Hospital before taking up a job as a GP in Skipton, where he stayed until his retirement 30 years later.

While at university John met his future wife Margaret, who was studying botany, and the couple went on to have three children, Helen, Peter and Richard. After over 60 years of marriage, Margaret died in 2010.

John leaves three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Ralph Brown RA (1928–2013)

The celebrated figurative sculptor Ralph Brown was born in Leeds, the youngest of three brothers, and was educated at Leeds Grammar School.

He attended Leeds School of Art in the forties and then the Royal College Sculpture School in London between 1952 and 1956.

Ralph Brown worked as a sculptor for nearly 60 years and was a part-time tutor at the RCA Sculpture School from 1958 for many years.

His first exhibition was held in London in 1953 and he showed work widely, with solo and group exhibitions in the UK, Continental Europe and the USA.

His sculptures are in public collections in many countries and in private collections around the world and he was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1968, becoming a Royal Academician in 1972.

In 1988 his work was the subject of a major retrospective at Leeds City Art Gallery.

Frances Deadman nee Young (1956–2013)

Just a few months before her death Frances Deadman had the pleasure of attending GSAL's Speech Day to see the presentation of the Peter Young Prize for astronomy dedicated to the memory of her brother.

It was the fulfilment of a dream of Peter's LGS classmates to establish the annual award to commemorate the life of the brilliant young scientist who died at the age of 26.

Frances represented the family at the event and watched GSAL sixth former Matthew Li become the first recipient of the award.

At the time she said: "It is very touching that Peter's classmates thought so highly of his talents. Astronomy was what Peter always wanted to do and as a founder member of the school's Astronomy Club it is fitting that a prize for this subject is named after him."

Frances attended Leeds Girls' High School, leaving in 1974 to study statistics at St Andrew's University. She spent her working life in market research.

Earlier this year she was diagnosed with cancer, having recovered from the disease several years ago.

Nigel Hepper (1929–2013)

Nigel Hepper, botanist and specialist in African flora, was principal scientific officer and assistant keeper of the herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

He was educated at Leeds Grammar School and King's College Newcastle (then part of Durham University), where he received an honours degree in botany. He began work at Kew in 1950 and continued there until his retirement in 1990, a period interrupted only by two years of national service with the RAF (1950–52). He carried out extensive botanical fieldwork and took part in botanical expeditions in West Africa to British Cameroon and later, onboard a hovercraft, from Senegal to Lake Chad. He also joined Kew expeditions to Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi and travelled to Yemen and Sri Lanka.

During his life he wrote many books and scientific papers including *Commencement of Flowering: Phenological Records at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*, which recorded 20 years' study of plant phenology which proved to be an important demonstration of the effects of climate change on plants.

His interest in history was broad ranging – from his family, to Kew, to the history of African botany.

Nigel's father kept a diary of his experiences in the Great War which Nigel edited and recently published. *Captain Hepper's Great War Diary, 1916–1919: A Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment on the Somme during the Great War (2011)* gives an interesting insight into life in the trenches. His most recent book, *Life on a Lake District Smallholding (2012)*, recounts his own experience of the Second World War, when his family

evacuated to the Lake District and formed a market garden with livestock to aid the war effort.

Jim Reddyhoff (1918–2012)

Jim Reddyhoff attended Leeds Grammar School from 1928 to 1937 becoming deputy head boy, head of Sheaf House and a cadet officer in the then Officer Training Corps. In this role, he represented the school at the 1937 coronation of King George VI.

He was awarded a natural sciences scholarship to read chemistry at University College, Oxford in 1937. At the start of WW2 he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and served in France, where he was evacuated from the beaches at Dunkirk, and subsequently in Egypt, Persia (now Iran), Iraq, Sicily, Italy and Austria.

After the war he graduated with an MA (Oxon) and qualified as a company secretary, spending most of his career in the clothing industry in Leeds. A keen rugby player, he played for the school, University College and the Old Leos and was involved with the setting up of the Old Leos Club on Crag Lane.

After retirement Jim returned to study and graduated with an MA (Leeds) in British history in 1985. He went on to research military history and its links with freemasonry, in which he had a lifelong involvement, and published papers on the subject.

His wife Margaret died in 2009. Both his sons attended LGS. Peter died in 2004 and his younger son, John, survives him.

Teaching staff

It is with sadness that we report the deaths this summer of three members of staff, both past and present.

Ian Briars (1936–2013)

Died on June 12. He joined Leeds Grammar School in 1959 and retired in 1996. During that time he was a teacher of mathematics, housemaster of Clarendon (1961–1972), games master (1973–1988) and head of Upper School (1991–1996).

Roger Hill (1942–2013)

Died on July 18. He joined LGS as a teacher of mathematics and games in 1988 and became head of cricket and commanding officer of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF).

Hugh Voddon (1958–2013)

Died on July 20. He joined the school in 2005 and, at the time of his death, he was a teacher of French and coach of rugby and cricket.

They each made a significant contribution to the life of the school and will be remembered with fondness by those they taught and by their colleagues.

Alumni events

The events calendar lists forthcoming alumni events run by, or in conjunction with, our expanding network of alumni groups. We are keen for our alumni to get together with one another and, also, to come back to school to revisit key traditions and experience some new ones.

Monday 14 October 2013

Duncan Bannatyne: Riding the Storm

GSAL is delighted to host this exclusive event in partnership with Ilkley Literature Festival. GSAL is proud sponsor of the festival which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary. Dragons' Den star Duncan is one of the headline speakers in this year's packed festival programme and talks candidly about surviving personal and professional setbacks, from divorce to the recession, and how he has adapted his life and business to new financial realities.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds

Time: 7.30pm

Booking: Tickets cost £14/12 and can be booked online at www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk or tel: **01943 816 714**

Saturday 26 October 2013

Leeds Model Railway Exhibition, Lunch and Talk with Holgate Windmill Preservation Society

This year's MRS Leeds Model Railway Exhibition takes place at GSAL on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October 2013. On the Saturday there will be an alumni lunch with guest speakers from the Holgate Windmill Preservation Society. The society was formed in November 2001 after local residents became worried about the condition of the mill. To date the society has raised over £400,000 and now, having almost completed the restoration project, the society is in a process of transition from 'preservation' to 'operation' of the mill. Guest speakers Richard and Helen will talk about the restoration project, the history of the mill and its links with LGS old boy John Smeaton who invented the five sail windmill structure on which the design of Holgate Mill is based.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds

Time: 12.00pm

Booking: Tickets are priced at £10 which includes lunch and entrance to the show. To book, email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk or tel: **0113 229 1552**. For more information visit: www.gsal.org.uk/event/leeds_model_railway

Saturday 26 October 2013

OGC London Branch Meeting with guest speaker Thelma Ruby

The OGC London Branch autumn meeting welcomes actress Thelma Ruby (OG39) as guest speaker. Thelma first broke onto the West End scene in 1948 and is currently performing her one-woman show *That's Entertainment* at the esteemed Garrick Club in London. Her talk 'scenes from a life' reflects on a fascinating 65 years treading the boards.

Venue: Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London

Time: 1.30pm

Booking: Places are **free** but must be booked in advance. To book, tel: Jackie Chalmers **01483 579343** or email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

Sunday 10 November 2013

Remembrance Day Service, Parade and Lunch

The school chaplain Adrian Roberts leads this traditional service which includes performances by the school choir, the presentation of flags and colours and the laying of wreaths by the OGC, the OLA and the current GSAL head boy and girl team. This year there will be a special service to unveil an engraved stone tablet honouring former pupil Mafalda Whitaker who died in active service during WW2. The stone has been added to the display of war memorials under the porte cochère where former pupils who died in active service are commemorated. An alumni lunch will take place after the service at 12.30pm.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds

Time: 10.00am

Booking: Places are **free** but must be booked in advance. Email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk or tel: **0113 229 1552**

Saturday 16 November 2013

OGC Bettys Afternoon Tea with guest lecture by Chris Scaife, The History and Work of Robert Thompson, Mouseman of Kilburn

On retiring to Kilburn, Chris was asked by Ian Cartwright (now managing director of Robert Thompson Craftsmen Ltd) to assist in the promotion of the firm's new visitor centre in Kilburn. Chris was asked to organise the company archives, which involved indexing the early book records and the thousands of working drawings and photographs held at Kilburn. His lecture tells the story of Robert Thompson, how his enthusiasm for the carvings in English oak developed and how he left a legacy of craftsmanship. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival and a champagne afternoon tea will follow Chris's talk in the beautiful Imperial Suite.

Venue: Bettys Tea Rooms, Harrogate

Time: 2.00pm

Booking: Tickets are priced at £25 for a champagne afternoon tea. Email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk or tel: **0113 229 1552**

Friday 29 November 2013

Leeds Alumni Lunch

Following the success of last year's Leeds alumni lunch, we will be holding the event again this year at the Food Academy, Vicar Lane, Leeds. The lunch is open to all alumni of Leeds Girls' High School, Leeds Grammar School and The Grammar School at Leeds, with a drinks reception at 12.30pm followed by lunch at 1.15pm. Lunch will be a three course meal with options of meat, fish and vegetarian for starter and main, all inspired by, and using, ingredients found in Yorkshire.

Venue: The Food Academy, Leeds

Time: 1.00pm

Booking: Tickets cost £30 for a welcome drink and three-course lunch. Book online at <https://leedslunch.eventbrite.co.uk> or tel: Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552**

Sunday 15 December 2013

Nine Lessons and Carol Service

One of the highlights in the GSAL winter event series is the annual Nine Lessons and Carols held in the school's Assembly Hall. Please join us for this traditional service which includes performances by talented GSAL musicians. Mince pies and refreshments will be served.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds

Time: 6.30pm

Booking: Places are **free** but must be booked in advance by telephoning Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552** or email louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk

Friday 21 February 2014

OLA London Dinner

The Old Leodiensians Annual London Dinner 2014 will be held at the exclusive East India Club. The evening commences with a drinks reception at 7pm, followed by the OLA Annual General Meeting. Dinner will be served at 8pm followed by an after dinner speaker. Dress code is lounge suits.

Venue: The East India Club**Time:** 7.00pm

Booking: Tickets are priced at £60. To book visit <https://oladinner2014.eventbrite.co.uk> or tel: Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552**

Saturday 29 March 2014

1994 Leavers Reunion

The 1994 leavers' committee are holding an alumni event to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1994 leavers of LGHS and LGS. The evening promises to be fantastic fun with drinks, food, dancing and an opportunity to reminisce and catch up with old friends.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds**Time:** 7.00pm**Booking:** email: classof94reunioncommittee@gmail.com

Saturday 5 April 2014

OGC London Spring Meeting with guest speaker Jane Bower

'The extraordinary tale of redundancy, Joyce Grenfell and Maureen Lipman's handbag'

Jane Bower (OG73) shares the story of her varied career in the arts, and how a series of events both fortunate and unfortunate, led to unexpected experiences never dreamed of at Leeds Girls' High School. Her talk will include photographs and a short performance. All old girls are welcome and Jane would particularly love to see anyone who was in her year!

Venue: Lady Soliti's home in North London**Time:** 2.00pm

Booking: Places are free but must be booked in advance. Please tel: Jackie Chalmers **01483 579343** or email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

Saturday 26 April 2014

OGC Bristol Branch Meeting

Any old girls living or studying in the Bristol area will be warmly welcomed at the Spring OGC Bristol meeting.

Venue: The home of Judy Witchell, nee Denton**Booking:** Please telephone Sylvia Young on **01202 395888**

Friday 9 May 2014

LGHS Old Girls' Golf, Walk and Dinner

The OG are holding their 2014 LGHS old girls' golf competition, walk and dinner on Friday 9 May at Bradford Golf Club. Participants can either enter the golf competition or join the walk, followed by dinner and prize giving in the evening.

Venue: Bradford Golf Club

Booking: Tickets are priced £47 for golf and dinner and £16 for dinner only. Please telephone Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552**

Email event updates

We email event reminders and news to our Alumni on a regular basis. If you haven't already supplied us with your email address please do so by emailing us at alumni@gsal.org.uk

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Golfing for Bursaries

GSAL's first ever golfing for bursaries event was held in June this year to increase financial assistance for pupils whose families need support with school fees. School staff past and present, parents, governors and alumni met at Leeds Golf Centre to play the course in teams of four before rounding off the day with dinner and an auction of 'things money can't buy' hosted by Peter Jolly. The event was a huge success and boosted bursary funds by over £6000. Now an annual event in the school calendar, the 2014 event promises to be even better with more golf teams and a bigger dinner and auction in the evening.

Venue: Leeds Golf Centre

Booking: To submit a team or book dinner tickets please telephone Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552** or email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk

Featured Event

Saturday 5 July 2014

La Grande Fête

GSAL will play its own key part in the Tour de France with La Grande Fête, a series of events planned to make the most of its vantage point on the official route, as the race leaves Leeds along the A61 and heads out to the Yorkshire Dales. The 2014 Grand Départ will take place over two days of the weekend July 5 and 6, beginning in Leeds and taking in Harrogate, York, Ripon and Sheffield before heading south to Cambridge and London. The celebrations will start on Friday 4 July with camping available at school. On Saturday July 5 a family orientated day of activities will be held for parents, pupils, staff, alumni and others with a close link to the school. Please join us to celebrate the Grand Départ coming to Yorkshire. Take part in the festivities and enjoy a fantastic view of the race and parade as it passes GSAL!

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds**Time:** All day with camping available the night before

Booking: To book tickets please telephone Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552** or email: louise.marshall@gsal.org.uk

Saturday 2 August 2014

Leeds Flower Show, Lunch and Talk with guest speaker Alistair Baldwin

The Grammar School at Leeds is once again hosting the Leeds Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show on the 2 and 3 August 2014. On the Saturday at 12.00pm we are holding an alumni lunch with speaker Alistair Baldwin, designer of Le Jardin De Yorkshire which was awarded the Chelsea Flower Show silver-gilt.

Venue: The Grammar School at Leeds**Time:** 12.00pm

Booking: Tickets are priced at £10 which includes lunch, entrance to the show and afternoon tea. To book please telephone Louise Marshall on **0113 229 1552**

Saturday 25 October 2014

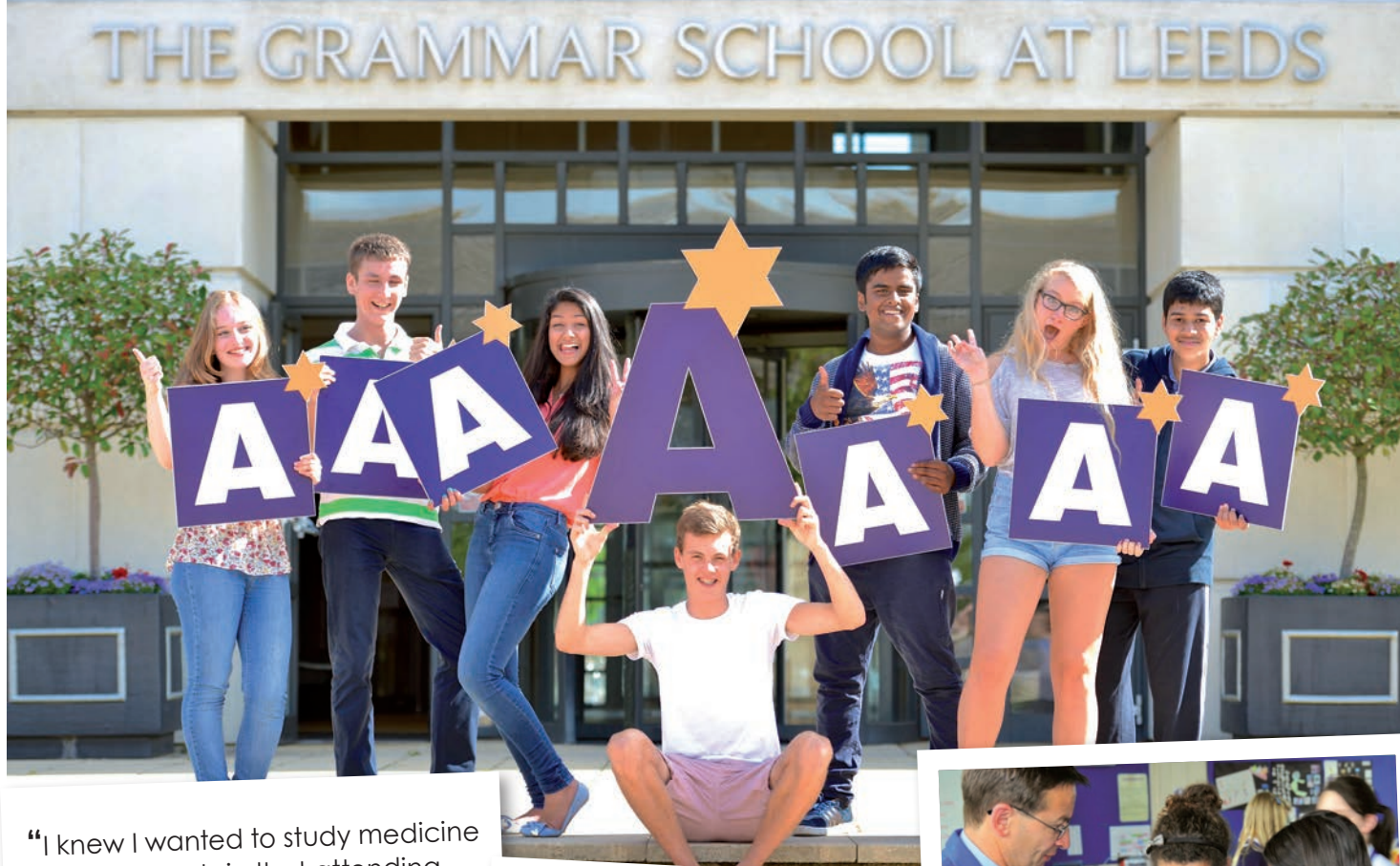
OGC London Autumn Meeting with speaker Nigel Waterson

Nigel Waterson (OL67) is former MP for Eastbourne, Shadow Pensions Minister and chairman of NOW: Pensions and The Equity Release Council. His talk is entitled *The Consequences of an Ageing Society*

Venue: Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London**Time:** 1.30pm

Booking: Places are free but must be booked in advance. Please telephone Jackie Chalmers **01483 579343** or email jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

Support the GSAL Bursary Fund



"I knew I wanted to study medicine and I was certain that attending the Grammar School at Leeds would give me the best chance of achieving my dream."

**Matthew, medical student,
Sheffield University.**



Attending the Grammar School at Leeds is a life-changing experience; 86% of our pupils gained A* to B in their A levels this year, enabling 75% 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 4 new Year 7 pupils will receive financial support - but at least 50 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. If you would like further information contact The External Relations Team, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Leeds, LS17 8GS or telephone 0113 229 1552.



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