



Lancaster Royal Grammar School

State Day and Boarding School for Boys 11 to 18
Coeducational Sixth Form

ALUMNI

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

November 2020



A warm welcome to you from LRGS.

This is the longest term and every day really counts at the moment, particularly for our Year 11 and Upper Sixth pupils as they prepare for exams and life after LRGS.

Schools are also powerful places for remembrance. An unbroken chain links stories of loss to our lively pupils today. They sat where we sit; they walked up the hill we know so well.

At Speech Day in 1945, the Headmaster at the time stated, "It was a strange feeling to come back in September at the beginning of this new School year, the annual Springtime of every Schoolmaster's and every Schoolboy's life. To consider planning for the future instead of for the next day was a most unusual experience."

Spring will come again. Hold that hope!

The latest Headmaster's letter to parents can be found [here](#)

As always, we love to hear from our LRGS community so get in touch with [your news](#), be sure to update us of any [change of details](#) or feel free to visit us if you are in the area!

With best wishes,

Dr CJ Pyle

Headmaster

LRGS Updates

Routes Geography Journal

Congratulations to Upper Sixth student, Rebecca, for her recent essay entitled "Does globalisation lead to good health outcomes?" which was recently published in Routes Geography Journal. You can read Rebecca's essay in full [here](#).



National Geographic UK

Congratulations to Joshua, whose photograph has been selected by National Geographic UK to promote a new project which aims to put the mental wellbeing of teenagers in the spotlight.

The idea of using photography as a medium for expressing feeling is the thinking behind of a new initiative supported by some of the UK's leading photographers. Its aim is to challenge young people between the ages of 11-18 to consider the emotion behind making an image. Their entries will be submitted for consideration as part of a national exhibition scheduled for 2021.

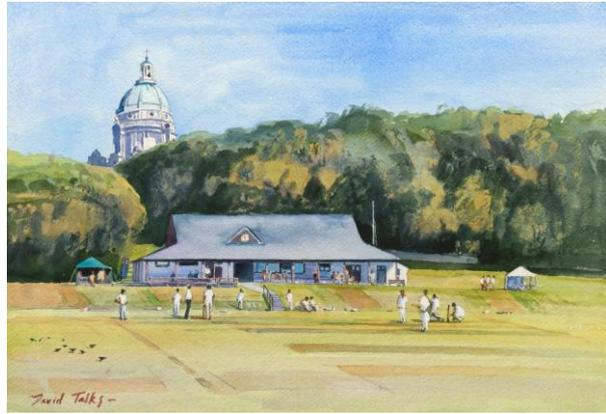
Joshua, shows a face in darkness illuminated by a band of light. "I feel isolated by the restrictions of our world right now. My photo illustrates the struggles of lockdown, how it feels like we are trapped inside. The light cast across my face represents an opening of a door... a barrier between myself and a place of light, which is a metaphor for how I feel."

Cricket on the Douthwaite

If you haven't completed your Christmas shopping yet and would like to buy a print like this, it costs £45 or £35 depending on size and can be ordered today. Postage is £7.50 for the small print and £12.50 for the large print.

Payment should be by cheque payable to LRGS. Please put in an envelope addressed to A Talks at Lancaster RGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EZ.

Please email atalks@lrgs.org.uk for further details.



The sale of the print will raise funds for LRGS school cricket and the Geography Department.



Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Limited edition LRGS print

If you would like to buy a limited edition print like this one then it costs £35 it and can be ordered today.

Size: 15"x10" Postage is £7.50.

Payment should be by cheque payable to LRGS and in an envelope addressed to A Talks at Lancaster RGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EZ. Please email atalks@lrgs.org.uk to order a print or for more details.

Armistice Day

On the 11th hour of the 11th day, the Combined Cadet Force came together to remember those who sacrificed their lives for us in a commemorative outdoor service. School fell silent for 2 minutes.



Alumni News

Thank you from the Year 7 Stamp Club

Andy Talks and the members of the Year 7 Stamp Club would like to say a big thank you to OLs Gordon Low (60-65) and Colin Hayton (60-67) for their very generous gifts to the school stamp club following the recent appeal featured in our last Alumni newsletter. A "New Age Stamp Album" was also received but sadly with no indication who it was from, if this lovely donation was from you or you know who sent it in, please let us know as

we would love to say thank you properly!
If you have any stamps that you would like to donate to the Stamp Club, please send them to school for the attention of Mr Talks.

Rev. Alan Cliff

It is with great sadness that we report that OL Reverend Frank Alan Cliff (44-54), died peacefully in his sleep after a long illness, on 26th October 2020, aged 84 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Rosemary, four children, nine grandchildren and brother, OL Ken Cliff (dates).

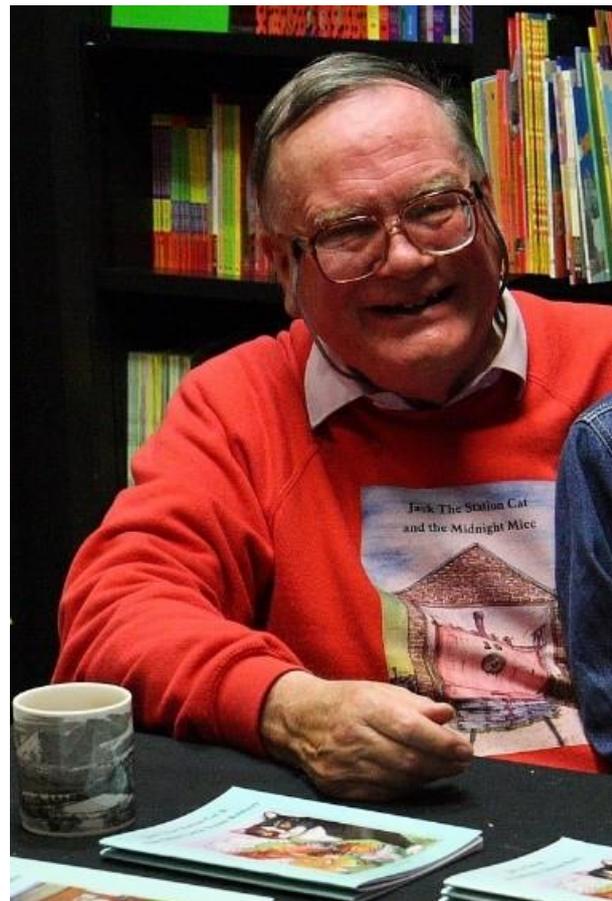
Alan left LRGS in 1954, having gained a place at St John's College, Oxford, to study law. These were difficult times for him and after gaining his BA, he went on to study for and gained a diploma in Theology. He then decided to enter the Methodist Church to become a minister. He was accepted and then studied Theology at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Dogged by poor health Alan had to take early retirement. He and Rosemary moved to Rhyl where they remained for 33 years, where his passion for Railways saw no bounds. Alan then wrote over three hundred articles for model railway magazines including 'The Chronicle of Lock's Siding' and the 'Jack the Station Cat' series of books, proceeds from which went to a number of charities.

Alan remained active and kept up with his railway enthusiasm through his publications of the booklets "**Jack the Station Cat**", based on the antics of his own cats and his knowledge of railways. He was pleased when one of the Royal family bought some copies of these books for their children. He reminded me that he was a Master of Arts, from both Oxford and Cambridge, which had made him very proud!

Sadly, Alan died after a long period of chronic illness. He will be remembered as kind and generous, one of life's true gentlemen and will be hugely missed by all his family and many friends.

Our thoughts are with Alan's family and friends at this sad time.





John Gill

We were saddened to learn that local rugby legend and OL John Gill (45-52) passed away on 18th October, at the age of 86. John and his three brothers all attended LRGS, having moved to Lancaster from Ingleton, it was whilst at school that John was able to demonstrate his remarkable talent for rugby. John moved away for work, married Margaret

and had two children before returning to Morecambe where he could often be seen walking his dogs in Happy Mount Park.

Alumni Updates and Achievements



Dave Pogson - The Herdwick Tales

Congratulations to OL Dave Pogson (59-66) on the publication of his second book, 'Herdwick Tales' which comprises 26 inter-woven short stories set in the fictional district of Herdwick where the sheep outnumber the residents in winter. Many of you will recognise the imaginary setting as being parts of the immediate Bay area and the south Lakes.

Anyone who loves this part of the world but can't get out to enjoy it in the Covid crisis, can enjoy a vicarious pint of Rampant Ram ale in the Wandering Tup pub in Shepdale with Selwyn and his friends as they discuss the latest goings-on in the Town Hall across the road. It's been described as funny, illuminating and heart-warming. If they like market towns, sleepy villages, rural ways, country characters, including a drunken, brawling, dialect-speaking poet, clashes over local political issues and plots with a twist in the tale then they should find it a very entertaining read. If you would like to find out more, the book can be found in a variety of formats on [Amazon](#).

Dip in December

Alive and Kicking is an award-winning charity that delivers vital health education in sub-Saharan Africa.

This December, they're encouraging supporters to 'Take a Dip' in an outdoor body of water to raise funds and awareness for their mental health and emotional wellbeing education programmes in Kenya, Zambia and Ghana. OL Joel Phillimore (01-08) is planning to take the plunge on 19th December in Morecambe Bay and would love for you to sponsor him; or even better, join him!



To sponsor Joel, please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/akdecemberdip> and leave a message saying: 'Go on Lad!'

To join him, send an email to: joel.phillimore@aliveandkicking.org and leave a message saying: 'I'm in Lad!'



November art sale

OL Charlie Robb (06-13), an actor and artist living in London, is currently holding a Movember art sale to help raise money for male mental health by selling affordable ink paintings on paper.

You can purchase one of Charlie's ink sketches for £20- everything after postage goes to the Movember charity! Charlie has a studio in Mayfair and believes that while someone has a skill or passion, if they can use it to help benefit others, then they should. So as his exhibition was cancelled, he is channelling that passion to raise money for Movember. You can view Charlie's artwork via his [website](#) or you can email him at charlierobb.art@gmail.com or find him on Instagram [@charlierobb.art](#)

University Challenge

Congratulations to OL Owain Burrell (10-17) and the rest of the Warwick University team on their fantastic second round performance against Merton College, Oxford on University Challenge earlier this month, if you didn't see it, you can catch it [here](#).



Track Of Time exhibition

Congratulations to OL Patrick Dransfield (75-80) whose recent Track of Time exhibition at the Foreign Correspondents' Club Hong Kong raised over HK\$10,000 for [Children's Cancer Charity](#).

Thank you to everyone who supported the exhibition. You can view and / or buy additional photos [here](#). CC TDI board member Michael Lin receives the cheque on behalf of the charity.

Reunion booklets

Congratulations to the Class of 2010 and the Class of 2015 on their ten and five year anniversaries respectively. We are in the process of creating reunion booklets for both classes, if you haven't sent your update and photo through to us yet, there's still time but you will have to be quick as we are aiming to send the booklets out to you before the end of term.

Please e mail your updates and photos to the [Development Team](#) as soon as you can, we look forward to hearing from you!



Upcoming Alumni Events

Unfortunately due to the ongoing situation, the OL Committee have taken the tough decision to cancel the remainder of the 2020 OL Dinners.

We are however delighted to confirm that the next **OL Club Leeds Dinner** will be held on **Friday 4th February 2022**, further details to follow nearer the time.

Please continue to check our website and social media pages to keep up with the latest news.

[Update Your Details](#)

[How You Can Help LRGS](#)

We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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