

Old Lancastrian Club NEWSLETTER



2023



The Quarme Album, 1858

From the Editors	2	Two Monarchs	45
From the OLC President	3	Masters Remembered	48
From the OLC Secretary	4	Staff Leavers	51
From the OLC Treasurer	5	Eric Taylor: Reminiscences	56
From the Headmaster	6	Further Reminiscences	64
Club News	7	Sixth Form Awards	66
The School	12	From the Archive	74
OL News	22	The Quarme Album	81
An OL Remembered: Lieut. Edward Keir	24	From <i>The Lancastrian</i>	84
An OL Remembered: Edward Hughes	29	Obituaries	88
A High Sheriff in the 2020s	30	Identification Parade 2023	91
The Royal 'Grammer' School	33	OL Dinners	92
A Headmaster in Court	34	OLC Contact Details	96

To the best of the editors' knowledge, the materials reproduced in this not-for-profit magazine are either in the public domain or are reproduced with permission from copyright owners. We have made the effort to adhere to known copyright, but due to the age of some of the records

and photographs, or to other factors, it has not always been possible to establish the identity of rights owners. Any inadvertent oversights notified will be duly credited in next year's issue. The old newspaper extracts used are courtesy of the subscription-payable British Newspaper Archive.

For many years the *OLC Newsletter* has been published and posted in May, but as notified in an e-mail to the Club's membership in June it will henceforth appear in the Michaelmas Term. This decision enables us to include details relating to the whole of the Club's presidential and financial year as well as the School's academic year.

This *Newsletter* is the fourth to have been produced by OL editors since the Development Team requested help from the Club so that they could focus to a greater extent on their School-related work, and we are now well versed in the complexities of ensuring its publication. Last year's eighty-page magazine was favourably received. This edition, which covers the period from May 2022 to August 2023, is twenty percent larger; two OLs have paid for the cost of the extra pages so that an increased number of extended articles could be published. We are grateful to them for their generosity.

As usual we include news of the School, of Sixth Form Awards, of OLC Grants and of OL Dinners. Also present are the customary *From The Lancastrian* and *From the Archive* articles. The OLC Treasurer and OLC Secretary have sent in their annual reports, as have the OLC President and the Headmaster. In a change from established practice, it is intended that the detailed OLC Accounts and the OLC AGM Minutes will be placed in the OLC area on the LRGS website.

Three OLs have combined to write an extended appreciation of one of the School's most enigmatic masters, Eric Taylor (59-95). Another former master, Douglas Cameron (53-90), was remembered last year when OLs gathered for the interment of his ashes on the Douthwaite Field; at a reception held later that day in the Assembly Hall a tribute was delivered by Stuart Westley, and it is reprinted in this edition. Valedictory articles for some long-serving members of the Common Room who left or retired in 2022 and 2023 are also printed, although others opted for 'no publicity'.

Readers may recall that an article about Lewis Isaacs MP (1844) was included in the magazine a couple of years ago; it dwelt at length on the trial of his paramour, Fanny Cornish, who was accused at the Old Bailey of attempting to murder him. In this year's issue we include another interesting court case. Following extensive research, the appearance of the Rev J H Shackleton Bailey (Headmaster, 1912-39) before the Lancaster Borough Police Court in 1915 is examined; charged with the assault of a boarder, the case received national publicity at the time.

Chris Critchlow (62-69), who was appointed High Sheriff of Surrey in 2022, has written about the shrievalty and his year's tenure of that office. Admitted to LRGS as a day-boy, he became a boarder at the start of his Lower Sixth year. After reading Law at Exeter, Chris was called to the Bar, and from 2008-16 was Resident Judge at Guildford Crown Court. He has served as a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey from 2009 and was President of the OL Club in 2018-19.

Aspects of the School's history are covered. The existence of a hand-written and hand-illustrated account of the consecration of Christ Church was drawn to our attention by the Rev Carol Backhouse; it includes LRGS-related material of which the School was hitherto unaware and on which we report. The acquisition of the First World War medals of E H Keir (1907-14) is an opportunity to remember his service, and the private purchase of two photographs of boys who were at LRGS in the mid-1870s enables us to put faces to long-forgotten names.

The year included the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II shortly after her Platinum Jubilee, and the Accession and Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Given the School's close connection with the monarchy we devote three pages to commemorating these events.

Among other deaths in 2022-23 were those of Air Vice-Marshall G C Lamb CB AFC (34-41) and A M Joyce (Headmaster, 72-83). An obituary of the former is included, as well as a brief one of the latter. A full tribute to Tony Joyce, who died shortly before we went to press, will appear next year.

As always, we are grateful to all those people, whether OLs, staff or others, who have submitted material for inclusion, and we invite contributions for our subsequent editions. Should you wish to write an article or have any suggestions to make, please consult us at olcn@cantab.net in the first instance. Digital photographs for our consideration are always welcome, but please ensure your e-mail attachment is sent using the 'Actual size' option, even though this limits the number of images that can be attached to a single e-mail. We would also be pleased to hear from OLs who might like to place advertisements in the magazine, enabling us to defray its cost. Thank you.



Friday 7 July 2023 — Founders' Day Dinner and the end of my year as President of the Old Lancastrian Club. The dinner this year was a splendid occasion at Lancaster Golf Club, Ashton Hall. Before the meal I spent a few minutes looking at the Board of Past Captains and saw the name of Mr Banks Lyon, of the family which founded that splendid shoe shop in Church Street (still thriving). It brought back memories of the annual visit for new Start-Rite school shoes and the much-anticipated foot X-ray machine (The Fluoroscope) experience. Imagine what Health and Safety would have to say about that now!

It was a real pleasure to serve as the OLC President, albeit tinged with sadness following the untimely death of my predecessor Alan Snowball during his year of office.



Phillip Sycamore CBE and Mike Barton CBE QPM DL

The year began with the Founders' Day dinner at the Midland Hotel in Morecambe. A memorable evening and an opportunity to catch up with friends from over the years. Seeing Peter and Gillian Mawby there was a lovely surprise.

The year promised to be a busy one with several Branch dinners but, sadly, industrial action on the railways and decisions not to go ahead with the Cambridge and Leeds dinners limited the opportunities to meet with OLs around the country.

The first outing was to the Manchester dinner at Hotel Football. A very well-attended and enjoyable evening. Interesting and challenging vehicle access from the dual carriageway. I fully expected a traffic ticket in the post but was spared.

Then to Durham to the appropriately (in my case) named 'Honest Lawyer' hotel. My wife, Sandra, joined me and we were made to feel very welcome. It was good to see a few OL Durham undergraduates there and I know that Mike Barton, who organises this event, is keen to encourage more of them to become involved.

Sadly, the London dinner was cancelled because of a rail strike, the Cambridge dinner did not go ahead, and the Leeds dinner was postponed.

Mike Barton as Vice-President attended the East Lincs dinner on my behalf — my thanks to him.

I was very much looking forward to the Oxford dinner in May and to seeing Barry Wild, my old friend from Scotforth C of E Primary School and LRGS, who organises the event.

It was not to be as, once again, industrial action on the railways scuppered my plans.

Sandra and I spent some time in Australia earlier in the year. There was a tentative plan for an OL gathering of some sort in Sydney but, for all sorts of reasons, not least the cost of internal travel and the enormous distances involved for many of our Australia-based members, this did not materialise. Nevertheless, we met up with and spent quality time with our dear OL friends Chris Knott and his wife Karen and Paul Wellings and his wife Annette.

None of the OL activities could happen without the enormous enthusiasm and commitment of Martin Alexander, the Club's Chairman. My thanks to him for all his support throughout the year.

The School is in great spirits and it was a huge privilege to have served as your President.

And so back to 7 July. A happy handover to my successor Mike Barton. I wish Mike and his wife Maggie an enjoyable and successful year.

**Phillip Sycamore
(62-67)**



The 2022-23 academic year was a busy one for the Committee. We held our four scheduled meetings and the Annual General Meeting, and we also met informally when necessary. Following our recommendation last year, an amended Constitution was adopted at the AGM in 2022; the main changes were to adopt more-stringent procedures for the award of grants and to make some alterations to the number of years which members of the Committee could serve.

One of the main challenges facing the Club is to increase its membership, particularly of those who leave at the end of the Sixth Form, and I am pleased to report that 142 UVI leavers were signed up in the Summer Term, a number which is by far the highest on record. There was considerable consultation with the School about how best to structure recruitment. After a Leavers' Assembly at which membership was promoted by Chris Pyle, Craig Atkinson and Olly Jacques, an OLC-funded Leavers' Breakfast was held in the City View café; dozens of standing order mandates were completed, and ties were issued to those becoming members. About forty Sixth Formers had already joined earlier in the term. The morning having been a great success, it is intended to use a similar format in future years, albeit with minor improvements.

I mentioned in my report last year that we had invited two young OLs, Damon Hall (10-12) and Ollie Jacques (06-13) to attend our meetings so that we can consider how the current range of events could be extended to cater more effectively for OLs of all generations. Both Damon and Olly are on the staff at LRGS. Olly was subsequently elected to the Committee at the 2022 AGM and Damon has had his co-option renewed for the current academic year. Additionally, one of the 2023 Upper Sixth Leavers, Heather O'Brien, has been invited to attend our meetings, and a further invitation was extended to one of the first Sixth Form girls to enter LRGS when co-education was introduced. We very much hope that the Committee's membership will better reflect the age range of the Club's membership.

Inextricably linked to recruitment is ensuring that current pupils are aware of our existence and of how we help LRGS. When grants are made to departments, to teams and to the School, the awards are publicised on plaques, signs and tour kit. Those who are in receipt of Sixth Form Awards are asked to compile reports, accompanied by photographs, and to present Assemblies. A prominent, OLC-branded gazebo has been purchased for use by both the School and the Club, and two Club noticeboards are due to be placed in the Sixth Form block for OLC-related material.



Finally, I would like to thank members of the Committee for their hard work, and am particularly grateful to the Club's Chairman, Martin Alexander, for his support. We now look forward to what we hope will be another productive and successful year for the Club.

Paul Andrew (69-76)

Forthcoming Dates

Dates of dinners and other events will be publicised during the year. It is hoped that a pre-Christmas event will be held in Lancaster on Friday 22 December to coincide with the universities' holiday period. The following dates have been confirmed at the time of going to press:

AGM & Founders' Dinner

Friday 5 July 2024
Lancaster Golf Club

Founders' Day Service

Saturday 6 July 2024
Lancaster Priory



The Old Lancastrian Club Gazebo on the Douthwaite Field

With the publication of the *Newsletter* moving into the Michaelmas Term this allows me to bring the Accounts right up to date to the end of the financial year to 31 August 2023. This means I am reporting on two financial years in this summary.

The accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 show a surplus of £1060, much less than the previous year but entirely down to an increase in successful applications for Sixth Form Awards following the Covid-19 pandemic. Grants to the School were also substantially lower than the previous year.

The accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 show a much-improved surplus of £6862, although it must be noted that as no *OLCN* was produced and no administration was provided through ill health, the figure should really be an accounting loss rather than a surplus. The accounts do show a healthy bank balance and in future the Sixth Form Awards will be rather more limited to reset the financial balance.

I am not anticipating a surplus in the current financial year as we will find that commitments to pay for the magazine and the large grant of £12,500 to the Upper Courts all-weather surface will have a considerable impact on our finances.

There continues to be a significant number of members paying annual subscriptions of £5 and £10, and I would ask

all members to check their current Standing Orders and revise this sum to £15 or more which will delay any review for an increase across the board for membership.

The Annual Dinner and AGM moved to Lancaster Golf Club this year. Although this year's dinner shows a significant deficit in the accounts, the monies for the event have not been fully consolidated and will be reflected in the current financial year's figures.

Grants to LRGS represent nearly all the outgoings this latest financial year, showing the Club's commitment to the continued growth and enhancement of the School. Details about these grants can be read on pages 7-11 of this magazine.

Finally, applications for Sixth Form Awards over the past two financial years produced excellent candidates and presentations, and this was reflected in the successful pupils being collectively awarded £12,000.

Simon Corless (78-83)



From the OLC Committee

As reported elsewhere in this edition, significant expenditure has been incurred by the Club over the past three years. A major grant of £12,500 was given to the Upper Courts Appeal, and an increasing number of awards were made to academic departments, sports teams, and individual pupils. Such grants, together with other initiatives being undertaken, have helped to raise the profile of the Club and to increase our membership.

Your Committee is determined to continue to support the School to the best of its ability and we now wish to appeal to your generosity to help us to do so. Many of you will know that the current recommended OLC subscription is £15 per annum and that hard copies of this magazine are posted to all those who pay at least that amount by Standing Order. For those members who pay the older rates of £10 and £5, and the handful of Life Members who paid a guinea some decades ago, the *OLCN* is available to read via a link on the LRGS website.

Despite significant inflation since the last subscription increase to £15 a few years ago, we have decided not to alter the current rate. However, if you would kindly consider voluntarily amending your Standing Order to a higher amount of your choosing it would be most appreciated. Furthermore, we would encourage those of you who may have let your Standing Orders lapse but who are still receiving hard copies of the *OLCN*, to either re-establish a

new mandate or to let us know that we no longer need to post the magazine to you.

If you already have a Standing Order and use online banking, please alter your mandate online. If you do not use online banking, please write to your bank and ask them to amend your Standing Order with the amount of your choice. Should you not currently have a Standing Order, the details needed are the Account Name: *Old Lancastrian Club*; Sort Code: 05-05-55; Account Number: 19377355. To help ensure the accuracy of our records, it would also be extremely helpful if you would notify us of any changes at: olcn@cantab.net

Thank you.





Schools exist to make the future better, one pupil at a time.

Today's LRGS pupils are growing up in turbulent times. They see climate change, war in Europe, and a cost-of-living crunch on one side; artificial intelligence and the mixed blessings of social media on the other — amongst many other challenges.

Against that background, however, their energy and initiative seems almost endless. This is seen brilliantly in their charity fundraising and volunteering. For Lenten Charities this year pupils created, bought and sold numerous items (not all sugar-related); prefects volunteered to be the targets for wet sponges; others led sporting contests from tug-of-war to FIFA; one pupil was sponsored to sleep in a tent for a week (in February!).

A challenging context sharpens our focus on what matters. Our job at LRGS is to provide an excellent education to every single one of our pupils — boys and girls, boarding and day.

Part of that is about helping them to master the facts and skills required by exam boards. It has been fabulous to celebrate the impressive success of the 'Class of 2023' in this summer's GCSEs and A-levels.

An excellent education does much more than that, however. In and out of the classroom, through our culture and relationships, staff work to shape the most positive values as our pupils develop and grow: *Praesis ut Prosis*.

One OL who was also an LRGS boarding parent wrote recently: "My son is thrilled to have made his first-choice university. But much more than that, his time at LRGS has provided him with the confidence, friendship and direction towards the best start in adult life."

Above all, we aim to create the leaders of tomorrow who will have a positive impact on the world, locally, nationally and globally. I know that many Old Lancastrians are working directly to do just that.

Others give us the language to face the challenges of the age. Brian Ashton, of England Rugby fame, teaches the ABC of leadership:

Ambition, Belief, Courage. Kevin Roberts, former CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi, says: Don't think of this as a VUCA world — volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous. See it in super-VUCA colours: vibrant, unreal, crazy, astounding.

In that same spirit of optimism and possibility, I am very grateful to the Old Lancastrian Club and to individual alumni for your outstanding support for the School. Students have benefitted hugely this year from OLs who have given talks and careers advice, for example. The Club provided financial support to activities including netball, cricket and rugby tours, and to Sixth Formers' travel plans. It also made a particularly generous donation to our inaugural Giving Day. This has now allowed us to upgrade the Upper Courts into a much more effective all-weather sports surface for recreation, Games and PE. It is hugely appreciated.

The children of today make me optimistic about tomorrow. They are learning the ABC of leadership in abundance. They will find plenty of "super" in the "VUCA"!

Dr Chris Pyle



Commendations in the Miller Room

Club Grants

One of the purposes of the Club is to consider requests for financial support from the School, and we are pleased to report that a significant sum has been distributed since May 2022.

By far the largest of these grants was the £12,500 contributed to the Upper Courts Project for an all-weather, multi-purpose surface. A grant of £1,500 was made towards the Cricket UAE Tour and another of the same amount to the South Africa Rugby Tour. Girls' Netball received £825 for kit. £550 was given to the Art Department to fund most of the cost of repair to the pottery kiln. Biology benefitted from a grant of £150 for the framing of photographs by Scott Abraham (07-14) to promote the study of the subject, and also from a further sum

of £375 to pay for beekeeping training for five members of staff. The newly formed Politics Department was given £400 to pay for books, electoral maps and framed prints. Two defibrillators were donated to the School at a cost of close to £2,000, forming part of a national programme of public access defibrillators.

Applications for Sixth Form Awards in 2022 and 2023 were of a high quality. All those who were short-listed attended an OLC Committee Meeting where they gave presentations and answered questions. Given that Covid-19 caused significant disruption to the lives of pupils in recent years, the Committee decided to grant more Awards than usual. Reports from some of those who benefitted can be read on pages 66-73.

Kiln Grant

Chris Bagnold writes: Sculpture is a deeply-rooted human practice. Precisely when it was that human beings started making objects we now class as art is not known, but objects such as the [Stadel Cave Lion Man](#) are determined by carbon dating to be between 35,000 and 41,000 years old; Lion Man is the oldest-known example of an artistic representation and the oldest confirmed sculpture. In our own times, sculptors such as Grayson Perry, Anish Kapoor and Antony Gormley carry the sculptural torch forward and continually develop and extend ancient traditions.

The art curriculum at LRGS contains some mandatory sculptural components. Year 7 pupils create sculptures evoking human emotions with reference to the forms of the Lewis Chessmen or architectural gargoyles and grotesques. The idea of these projects is to allow pupils to design and make an original piece of ceramic sculpture, connecting with aspects of human feelings while learning to apply essential techniques for clay modelling. These ideas and techniques are extended in Year 8, when pupils investigate the relationships between sculpture and architecture. Some of the late Sir Anthony Caro's works were dubbed 'sculpi-ecture' and there is something of this idea in the Year 8 project. Year 8 pupils also have a go at making non-ceramic, mixed-media sculpture with reference to the tradition of *objets trouvés* and the work of the artist Kurt Schwitters.

The value of working artistically in three dimensions can hardly be overstated. Imagine a civilisation with no three-dimensional aesthetic sense or no



Grant for Netball Kit



Grant for Netball Kit



Defibrillator Grant



Grant for Biology Area: Before



Grant for Biology Area: After



Open Day



comprehension of how the management of objects in space can impact on human experience; or imagine a school of architects entirely inexperienced and unschooled in sculpture. One shudders to think. The sculptural projects at LRGS

— especially the ceramic projects — form part of the bedrock of a rich artistic education. As all ceramic pieces must be fired if they are not to crumble, we require a fully functioning kiln. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of

the Old Lancastrian Club for their grant — thank you for helping to ensure that pupils continue to receive a diverse and meaningful education in art.

Editor's note: An OL, Edward Hughes (65-72), one of the UK's most talented studio potters, is remembered on page 29.

UAE Cricket Tour

Matt Rosbottom writes: In February 2023 thirty-eight pupils and six staff embarked on a ten-day tour of the United Arab Emirates. We toured with three teams — a First XI, a Second XI and an U16 XI, and in total played seventeen matches, amassing 2,218 runs and taking 117 wickets. The boys were exposed to a variety of formats of the game — 40-over cricket, T20s, and the Hundred — and were fortunate enough to play on different types of wickets in both daytime and day/night cricket under floodlights. Four fifties were scored, Josh Wills made a century, and twelve different pupils gained invaluable experience as a Captain and a leader.

Off the field, the boys were able to go on a desert safari, cycle around



UAE Tour: Grand Mosque Visit



UAE Tour



UAE Tour: Watching a Match



UAE Tour



UAE Tour: OLC Logo



UAE Tour



UAE Tour



UAE Tour: Staff

Beekeeping Grant

Jonny Millatt (89-96), Head of Biology, writes: The LRGS Apiary project continues to grow, and as Mrs Hargreaves and I become more experienced we can start to involve more children in an LRGS Bee Club this academic year. Mrs Hargreaves (who lives on a farm) has set up five hives already in her first year of beekeeping whilst we are the leads of the one hive at LRGS.

This year has been all about health and safety, making sure our risk assessment and protocols are robust before we involve pupils. Our hive was established in spring of this year (2023) and hence we are about to approach our first winter.

Five members of staff completed the basic British Beekeeping Association ten-week theory training course through Lancaster Beekeepers, funded by the OLC. Three staff then went on to complete the ten-week practical training (funded by Lancaster Beekeepers). The School is now a member of Lancaster Beekeepers, and hence BBKA, which helps with insurance, access to bee inspectors, advice, further training, mentors, etc.

We have embedded some lessons about bees into the KS3 curriculum and have run a World Bee Day with external visits and speakers, which the pupils really enjoyed. We have run bee treasure hunts around the School, and involved parents who baked cakes and donated herbs for our herb garden. Our No-Mow zones also raise awareness of wildflowers and pollinators, while supporting our LRGS bees. Being close to Williamson Park, the bees have plenty of local resources in which to forage.

We have not yet completed a whole year of beekeeping and so we still have things to put into practice, especially looking after the colony over winter. All being well, our single hive will need splitting next spring and we will grow to two hives in 2024.



Beekeeping: No-Mow Area



'Bee Happy' Cakes



Beekeeping: Training



Open Day, 2023



Beekeeping

I would like to pay tribute to Calvin Routledge (CCF) who continues to tend the gardens around the School and helps provide flowering plants for our bees. He is passionate about supporting biodiversity and invests a lot of his own time to the benefit of LRGS.

During the recent Summer Term, DCH and I sold 'ice pops' in the glorious weather to help fundraise to support the project and we will look to continue with other ideas and also involve pupils because beekeeping is not a cheap project to run. We hope the School can continue to 'bee happy' for a long time to come. Thank you to the OL Club for supporting our initial training and hence their support in establishing the first LRGS Apiary.

Politics Grant

Jamie Reynolds writes: As a new department, with a newly refurbished teaching room, we are very grateful for the grant the OLC were kind enough to bestow upon the Politics Department. Some of the money has been used to purchase four superb infographic election maps of 1979, 1997, 2010 and 2019, with the aim of reinforcing the study of these elections as case studies of: voting, party election strategies and the demographic patterns that emerge upon analysis. We have also invested in new frames for a gallery display of the key thinkers and figures in the syllabus, including former Prime

Ministers, ideologues, and serving cabinet and shadow cabinet ministers. We are awaiting the installation of new picture shelving and the fixing of the larger frames.

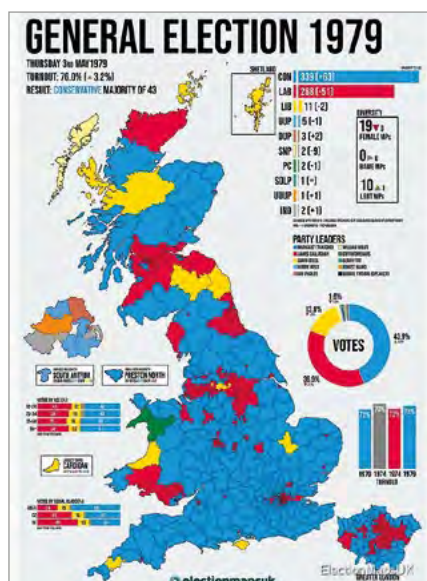
As part of the grant bid, we also appealed to OLs for any relevant books, and we were fortunate to receive two generous donations. Our library is now looking rather healthy, containing well over 200 books, with US, Global and European politics all well represented.

Rugby Tour Grant

Alex Loney writes: Overseas touring has been a significant part of the School's rugby for many years, and the 2023 tour to South Africa is a fine example of why providing our rugby players with this once-in-a-school-career opportunity is enriching on an individual level, while offering a sporting experience that is completely new.

The touring party consisted of 71 players from Year 11 and the Sixth Form, and ten staff members. This tour could be the biggest overseas sports tour that LRGS has delivered (records still need to be verified), but it was certainly one of the biggest single sport tours to go out from the UK this summer according to our experienced tour provider, Edwin Doran. The fact that so many boys wanted to engage with a major tour is testament to the work that is done here every season. After the Covid-19 pandemic, the support from pupils, staff and parents has ensured that rugby-playing numbers have remained high, with many after-school hours being dedicated to Saturday fixtures most weekends until February in the Lent half-term and beyond.

Over seventeen days we visited various locations in South Africa. The first stop was the High Performance Centre in Pretoria. Many international performance teams and touring schools have used the HPC as a kickstart to refine rugby preparation using their dedicated facilities. While in the area around Johannesburg and Pretoria we had a stadium tour of the iconic Loftus Versfeld, cultural experiences with The Winnie Mabaso Foundation and at the Apartheid



Politics Grant: Poster



South Africa Rugby Tour



Rugby Tour: Surfing Lesson



South Africa Rugby Tour



South Africa Rugby Tour: Table Mountain



South Africa Rugby Tour

Museum, and some high-octane fun at the Gold Reef City Theme Park.

A final excursion of this leg of the tour was a visit to the Mabula Game Lodge in Bela Bela where we were extremely lucky to spot the 'big five' on the two game drives. The local rangers were very knowledgeable, answering the many questions from a group of curious teenagers (and slightly older staff!).

After seven days, the second leg of the tour took us to Cape Town. Here, the natural landscape was now much wetter and greener, especially on the rugby fields, as opposed to the dry and dusty conditions we had left behind. Again, there was a superb mix of rugby and excursions. The main trips included a Cape Canopy Tour at the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve; a visit to Table Mountain and a coach tour of the Cape Peninsula; a surfing lesson at Muizenberg Beach; shark cage diving and whale watching in Hermanus; a shark lab visit; and a boat trip to Robben Island. Unfortunately,

none of the three separate groups managed to get a shark sighting while cage diving, due to the now well-known issues of Orca Whales terrorising the local shark population. This in itself was interesting to hear about via our guides/experts, but the day was made slightly better with some sightings of Southern Right Whales in Hermanus Bay. In better news, the tour party did have a fine day for 360° views while on the top of Table Mountain, and there was plenty of success on the surfing front with some skilled surfers among the group. Throughout the tour we were able to enjoy team meals (plenty of Braai options!).

On the rugby front, the tour comprised four fixture blocks, with four teams playing two sets of fixtures, which then moved to three teams for the last two blocks to allow players to remain fresh and to account for the expected bangs and bruises. The four fixtures were against Harlequins RFC (Pretoria), Wonderboom HS (Pretoria), Connect

Academy (Cape Town), Bredasdorp HS (Western Cape). Overall, all the players were a credit when training and taking part in matches. Out of fourteen fixtures, the playing record was won nine and lost five.

It cannot be left unsaid that outside all the amazing excursions and off-field moments, the success of the rugby is really what defines a tour overseas. This box was firmly ticked, and all the teams, which would not have formally played together throughout the regular XV's season, quickly built a remarkable team spirit which enabled some impressive rugby to be played. Regardless of a team ending with a win or loss, each individual fixture had moments of LRGS showing the South African people the level of skill, physical attributes and determination that is often seen at the Memorial Playing Fields when back home. Many scorelines suggest that the try count was high, for which the players deserve credit. Without doubt, the South Africa 2023 Tour was built on team unity and support, both on and off the pitch.

Development

In December 2022 it was announced that LRGS was one of 239 schools which were successful in applying to the Government's five-year School Rebuilding Programme which focuses on large-scale refurbishment and rebuilding, and which it is hoped will bring major investment. Further good news was received at the end of the academic year when it was learnt that the School had been placed in Group One, ensuring that work on the project would start immediately, rather than being required to wait until 2025 or 2027. It is expected that the work will include a mix of new buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings where feasible.

There was however some disappointing news recently about one of the School's Victorian buildings: the Swimming Bath had to be permanently closed because of the failure of the pool plant and the long-term running costs. The adjoining building, the Greg Gymnasium, also of a similar age, was mothballed a few years ago.

The loss of the Swimming Bath and the increased number of pupils were factors in the decision to launch a drive to raise money for an all-weather, multi-purpose surface for PE and Games on the Upper Courts, which would also be used during morning break, lunchtimes and for after-school clubs and groups. An appeal was launched for £75,000.

The Old Lancastrian Club provided £12,500, as did The Friends of LRGS. A legacy received by the LRGS Charity from an OL and donations made to the Douglas Cameron Memorial Fund were also allocated to the project. On 24 May there was a 'Giving Day' which helped to ensure that the target was reached, donations being received from 208 individual supporters. Pupils also threw themselves enthusiastically into a variety of fund-raising initiatives, including a Staff vs. Pupils Tug-of-War competition which was reportedly both very popular and tribal.

The School is enjoying success in its aim to increase the number of 'pupil premium' applicants. Just six percent of pupils currently fall into that category, but having lowered the entrance examination pass mark by five percent for those who qualify for a pupil premium grant, it is anticipated that about eighteen percent of Year 7's six-form intake in September 2023 will do so. The grant is funding for schools which is intended to improve educational outcomes for pupils who are disadvantaged, whether by income or family upheaval.

Ofsted

An Ofsted boarding inspection took place in the Summer Term, 2023. Inspectors spent three days at LRGS for a routine zero-notice boarding inspection; they spoke to many boarders, and to staff, governors and some parents, and also checked many of the behind-the-scenes



Senior Prefects, 2022-23: Toby Rose, Victoria Manifold, Oliver Biswas (Head of School), Ben Parkinson

systems in boarding. [Ofsted judged](#) the boarding provision as outstanding in every category.

Staff Changes

Two long-serving members of the Common Room retired in 2022. Ian Ralston (71-78) joined the staff in 1987. Not only did he have major roles to fulfil, most notably in boarding and as Head of Middle School, he also taught Economics and played a key part in the sporting life of LRGS. David Ashbridge, who taught English, started teaching at the School in 1996, making a wide contribution to its life. Others to retire were Emma Novell of the Drama Department who worked in different roles to enhance the cultural and creative side of LRGS, and Sharon Ibbotson and Sarah Jones from Learning Support. Holly Taylor (Classics) moved to Westholme School. Two Sports Graduates, Alex Eastham and Matt Garrod, left; the former planning to train for teaching, and the latter to take up a role with Sale Sharks Academy.

Another long-serving member of staff to leave was Jenny Cornell, latterly the Development Director for many years.



Upper Sixth Leavers: Class of 2022

She led fundraising for capital projects and was involved with multiple initiatives, most notably the InspirUS outreach programme; Jenny was also responsible for helping to build up and maintain a vibrant alumni network.

New staff joining in September 2022 were Allen Martin (Head of Sixth Form; Economics and History); Jenna Doswell (PE and Games); Kate Hall (English); Thomas Hynes (Physics); Caroline Withnell (Chemistry); Harriet Butterfield (Drama); Henry Higginson (Graduate Sports Coach); and Freddie Deeks (Sports Coach). Margaret Sinclair returned as a boarding matron. Several existing colleagues took on new roles, including Sarah Haigh (Deputy Head — Academic); Richard Mellon (Assistant Head — Timetable & Progress); Sarah Boak (Head of Middle School); and Barny Calvert (Head of Mathematics).

At the end of the Summer Term 2023, Hugh Castle (Head of History), Georgie Introna (Mathematics) and Cath Mossop (Food Technology) retired. Emma Lamb (Director of Music), Steve Foy (Cricket), Robin Walkden (Mathematics) and Patri Penarrocha (Spanish) left for new pastures.

Prefects

2021-22's Head of School (Tom Duke) and Deputy Heads (Clement Mok, Travis Taylor and Poppy Watson) ended their term of office in May 2022. The new Prefect Senior Leadership Team of Oliver Biswas (Head of School), Victoria Manifold, Ben Parkinson and Toby Rose then took up their roles for 2022-23. They in turn were succeeded by Ishmael Wadee



Boarders, 2023

(Head of School), Marnie Lusardi, Joe Pearson and Matt Whittle in May 2023.

Sixth Form Leavers

The last official day at LRGS for 2022's Upper Sixth was on 12 May. A Leavers' Buffet Lunch was hosted by the Old Lancastrian Club, and it was followed by an Assembly. The arrangements for 2023 were changed so that an Assembly in Christ Church was followed by a Leavers' Breakfast, again funded by the OLC, on 5 May.

New Pupils

New pupils in September 2022 included the Year 7 cohort, and forty boarders

of various ages to the three boarding houses; students arrived from thirty-five schools to join the Lower Sixth, including the largest intake of girls since co-education was introduced in 1919.

Saturday Schools

Following the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the first Speech Day since 2019 was held in Ashton Hall in the Michaelmas Term, 2022. The guest speaker was Paddy Earnshaw (91-98) whose themes included having fun, being authentic and showing vulnerability. Failure is not final, he told pupils, with stories of some mistakes he made along the



Upper Sixth Leavers: Class of 2023



Speech Day, 2022



Speech Day, 2022



Speech Day, 2022



Founders' Day, 2023



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 2022



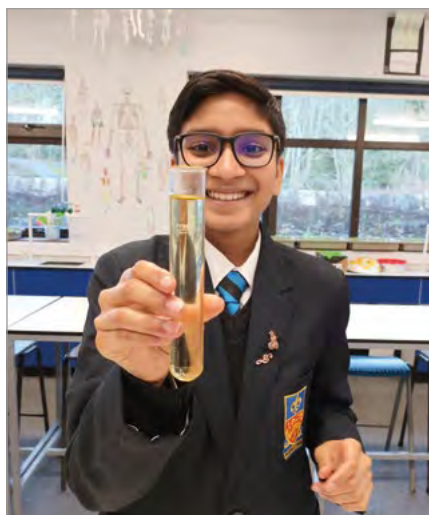
Open Day, 2023



Open Day, Biology Department, 2022



Advertising for Open Day, 2023



Stem Club

way. Other guests included Lord and Lady Shuttleworth. As customary, the LRGS Big Band entertained everyone.

July 2022 saw the welcome resumption of the annual Founders' Day Service at Lancaster Priory. Also taking place in that venerable setting was December's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Pupil Recruitment

Open Days for prospective day and boarding pupils took place on Saturday 18 June 2022, and on Saturday 17 June earlier this year. All current pupils (except Year 11 and the Upper Sixth) were involved on those days – mainly as tour guides and as helpers in classrooms and extra-curricular activities. There were Sixth Form Open Evenings for Year 11 pupils and their parents in October 2022. An A-level taster day was held for day and boarding applicants in January 2023. [A new video](#) was commissioned to promote boarding.

Academic

At A-level and Pre-U in 2022, 185 candidates were entered for 588 examinations. There was a pass rate of 99.3%. 32.8% of the entries were graded at A* and D1-D2; 62.9% of the entries were awarded A*-A or D1-M1 grades; 76.9% received grades of A*-B or D1-M2. Thirty-two students achieved at least three A* grades or the Pre-U equivalent. This was the year group whose GCSE exams were cancelled in 2020, and whose Sixth Form years included restrictions and remote learning. Twelve of those leaving in 2022 were awarded Oxbridge places.

180 candidates sat 1812 GCSE examinations in 2022. The overall pass rate at grades 9-4 was 98.4%; 63.2% of all examinations were graded 9-7; 41% were graded 8 or 9 (the old A* grades); 22% gained the very top grade 9s. Twelve pupils achieved Grade 9 in eight or more subjects, including five with nine Grade 9s and one with all Grade 9s.

At A-level and Pre-U in 2023, 199 candidates were entered for 626 examinations. There was a pass rate of 99.7%. 16.6% of the entries were graded at A* and D1-D2; 48.2% of the

entries were awarded A*-A or D1-M1 grades; 70.4% received grades of A*-B or D1-M2. Seven pupils achieved four A* grades and ten others achieved three A*s. Six of those leaving in 2023 were awarded Oxbridge places.

172 candidates sat 1750 GCSE examinations in 2023. The overall pass rate at grades 9-4 was 97.5%; 61% of all examinations were graded 9-7; 39.3% were graded 8 or 9; 19.5% gained the very top grade 9s. Twenty-five pupils achieved Grade 9 in seven or more subjects, including eleven with nine or more Grade 9s.

It was reported in the Summer Term of 2022 that pupils enjoyed academic success in Biology Olympiads, the Maths Challenge and the Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition; the latter's challenge centred on making the perfect fish and chips, and a School team was declared the RSC Analytical Division North West Region Champions.

In the 2022-23 academic year there were various individual successes, including Henry Coates, Ernie Collinson and Matthew Nickson (Lower Sixth) who were awarded prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. A hundred pupils sat the UK Senior Maths Challenge. There were Gold Medallists in the British Biology Olympiad and some excellent performances by Year 10 biologists in the Royal Society of Biology Challenge. Three A-level Business Studies pupils won the 100-Day Entrepreneurship Challenge organised by Lancaster University Management School; they designed an eco-friendly, compostable dog waste bag.

The Senior Quiz Team made it through to the finals of the National Senior Schools' Challenge Quiz to compete against seven other finalists at The Hall School, London, at the end of June 2023. LRGS was the only state-funded school in England to qualify for the final, having beaten four other schools.

Sport

LRGS was awarded the School Games Platinum Mark Award in 2022 in recognition of its provision and uptake in sport and celebrating the activities

that are provided to help keep young people active. Less welcome was the increasing difficulty in funding the costs incurred in attending away fixtures, especially given some of the distances which teams need to travel, and so sponsorship of cricket and rugby fixtures was sought.

Cricket

The 2022 season saw 119 fixtures played and some outstanding individual and team successes. In particular, the First XI had an incredible year, enjoying memorable victories over the MCC, the OLs, and Sedbergh; in total they played nineteen games and won seventeen, scoring four centuries and seventeen half-centuries. At the Royal Grammar Schools' Festival, played at High Wycombe, they won all five fixtures, amassing 754 runs and taking fifty wickets as they claimed the Festival Trophy for the third time in four years. Captain Freddie Deeks led the team superbly, and Josh Wills collected the Player of the Festival Cup with standout figures of six wickets for eleven runs against the hosts, RGS High Wycombe.

Some junior sides reached the day of the Lancashire Cup Finals, and Charlie Parkinson was selected to captain Lancashire U15s and to represent the North of England. Faizan Ghumann also represented the County and made fifty runs on his First XI debut vs. Merchant Taylors' while still in Year 9. Will Beeden (UVI) scored 178 vs. Bolton, and Alfie Moffat (U15) a century vs. Woodhouse Grove.

The Douglas Cameron Award was presented to Joe Pearson for his outstanding batting achievements in the First XI during the season, scoring three fifties and two centuries, one of which was a match-winning innings against the MCC.

More than a hundred fixtures were played in the 2023 season. There were some outstanding individual and team successes, and two out of every three fixtures played across the School were won. The First XI were joint winners of the RGS Schools' Festival, and the U15s won the Lancashire Cup and were runners-up in the Northern Schools side



GCSE Results Day, 2022



GCSE Results Day, 2023



A-level Results Day, 2022



A-level Results Day, 2023

of the National T20 Cup. A tour of the United Arab Emirates was undertaken during the February half-term holiday.

Skipped by Freddie Whatmuff, it was another pioneering season for the LRGS First XI, concluding as joint winners of the RGS Schools' Festival, the fourth time in six years that they had their hands on the Festival Trophy. Individual First XI highlights were four centuries: one scored by Faizan Ghumman (a Year 10 pupil), two by Anupam Tripathi, and one by Joe Pearson. Two five-wicket hauls were taken by the insuppressible Anupam Tripathi, one by Charlie Parkinson (6-7), and one by Joe Wills.

There were tremendous wins for the First XI against Sedbergh (for the second year running), King's Macclesfield, Cheadle Hulme (twice), Woodhouse Grove, Birkenhead, Rossall, Kirkham, RGS Guildford, RGS High Wycombe, RGS Newcastle and RGS Colchester. Defeats only came at the hands of the MCC at the start of the season and in the National T20 Cup away at Manchester Grammar School. The latter was a pulsating game of schoolboy cricket, but sadly we just ended up twelve runs short, and MGS went on to the National Finals Day at Oundle in July.

Members of the squad have represented county sides this summer: Charlie Parkinson (Lancashire U16), Faizan Ghumman (Durham U16 and Cumbria U18), Joe Pearson (Cumbria



Lancashire Cup: U15 Champions, 2023

U18), Freddie Whatmuff (Cumbria U18), Josh Wills (Cumbria U18) and Ernie Collinson (Cumbria U18).

The Douglas Cameron Award was presented to Faizan Ghumman for his outstanding batting achievements in the First XI during the season and his contribution to the U15 team in their T20 Cup run. In total Faizan scored 845 runs in twenty-one innings, averaging 47, and he also took thirty wickets at an average of 11.63. He was the School's leading wicket-taker and run-scorer in the 2023 season, although only currently in Year 10.

Rugby

The 2022-23 season was another thrilling and busy year. The cornerstone once more was the impressive number of pupils playing in competitive fixtures, ranging from a First XV to U12D. A particular mention to the U14C and U15C teams who played fixtures; this age group can often be the first signs of dwindling playing numbers across schools' rugby, so to maintain three teams at this age is a good indicator of playing-number strength.

The season once again had Saturday blocks against established rugby-



Douthwaite Field



RGS Festival Winners, 2022

playing schools across the North of England: King's Macclesfield, RGS Newcastle, Kirkham, Barnard Castle, QEGS Wakefield and Stonyhurst, to name a few. However, the full programme of fixtures, both midweek and weekend, provided competitive and exciting rugby throughout, allowing LRGS rugby players to make progress through the season.

Playing under lights at Fylde RFC, the First XV achieved a fourth straight Lancashire Cup victory, coming on the back of an unbeaten run from early November. The Second and Third XVs had good seasons that contained a mix of youth and experience. The U16s had mixed fortunes but managed to battle to hard-fought wins against St Peter's York and RGS Newcastle. The U15s made it to an RFU National Quarter Final for the second year running, but again, could not progress to the last four and lost to a good Norwich School team. Unfortunately for the U14s, they fell one short and lost their Lancashire Cup final after a fine season that saw only two losses in fifteen matches. The U13s and U12s regularly managed to get three teams out for fixtures which allowed the youngest players to demonstrate



Lancashire Festival U12s Winners, 2023

their pride and passion for the blue and black jersey. The U13Bs had an unbeaten season and the U12As only suffered one defeat all season, along with Lancashire Festival success.

2022-23 saw a milestone being reached for LRGS rugby when the first-ever Girls' XV fixture took place, the opponents on this historic occasion

being Stockport GS. Disappointingly, it was not possible to arrange any further fixtures with other potential opponents.

There were the usual individual successes. LRGS players were involved in the Sale Sharks Academy programme from U14 to U18, along with county representatives at U17 and U18 level. Many players are aiming for



First-ever Girls' Rugby Fixture, 2023



AKS U13s Winners, 2023



Rainbow, Memorial Fields

representative honours, and hopefully some of those returning for 2023-24 can continue their progress both in the Academy and County system.

There were many team successes. RFU Schools National Plate: U15 Quarter Finalists. Lancashire Cup: First XV, Winners; U16, Quarter-Finalists; U15, Semi-Finalists; U14, Finalists; U13 One-Day Festival, Third-place play-off; U12 One-Day Festival, Winners. Rugby Sevens: U15 Giggleswick Sevens, Winners; U14 Wirral GS Sevens, Plate Winners; U13 AKS Sevens, Winners; U13 Wirral GS Sevens, Winners; U13 King's Macclesfield Sevens, Plate Winners; U13 Rosslyn Park Sevens, Unbeaten; U12 Manchester GS Sevens, Winners.

Rowing

2022-23 was another very busy and successful year for LRG SBC. The beginning of the year saw a great crop of new Year 9 rowers take up the sport and we regularly had about ninety rowers on the water each week. The gym was busy and extra water sessions were well attended.

The Michaelmas Term saw us racing at Agecroft Head, Northwich and Head of the Lune. Many medals were won and crews showed lots of promise for

the season ahead. We finished the term with our inaugural Christmas Pudding Regatta to give the new Year 9s their first taste of racing; it was a memorable event which required us to break the ice in the river before we could go afloat!

The Lent Term saw our Year 9 group get their teeth into racing properly. At the Junior Head North our J18 4X- set the fastest quad time of the day and the North of England Head yielded medals for our J17 4X-. A Red Rose event saw LRG SBC convincingly retain the Ralph Cup vs John O'Gaunt BC. This also involved our first-ever Sixth Form girls quad racing and representing the School. The term culminated with us taking five quads to Eton Dorney to race the Junior Sculling Head. A great experience for all involved.

In the Summer Term we had a very successful day's racing at Lancaster City Regatta, winning multiple medals across all age groups. Talkin Tarn Regatta saw lots of crews make finals and compete very well, but we had to wait until one of the final races of the day to get a win from our J18 4X-.

The year finished with our annual BBQ Regatta. As usual this was well



J18 Quad, Talkin Tarn Regatta, 2023



Year 11 Quad, 2022

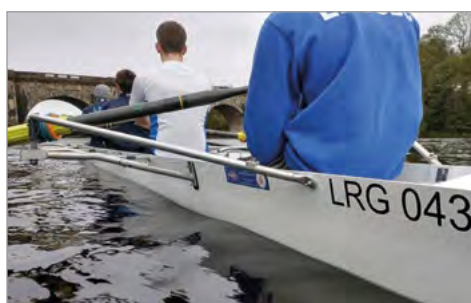
attended and saw fast, frantic racing over a 300m course with rowers mixed up across all the age groups. As per tradition, rigger jiggers were awarded to winning crews and most improved rowers in each year group.

Netball

The First Team gained promotion to Division One in the Lancaster &



Rowing on the Lune



Rowing on the Lune



First Christmas Pudding Regatta, 2022



Rowing on the Lune



Girls' Netball, 2022



Girls' Netball, 2023



Senior Netball Team, 2023 Tour



Set Run, Year 11, 2023



Inter-Form Climbing Competition, 2023



Junior Athletics, 2022

Morecambe Ladies' League after an unbeaten 2022-23 season and will be the only school there. They also undertook an inaugural tour to London in the February half-term holiday.

Various

Year 8 Orienteers were British Schools Champions in Michaelmas 2022. In the 2021-22 year, the First XI Football team won the inaugural league against QEGS Blackburn, Westholme School, St Wilfrid's Blackburn, DACA and Stonyhurst. In the Summer Term of 2022, Athletics teams won gold or silver in all age groups in District Championships. At Sports Day, Hayden Mills (L6) was Victor Ludorum and eight pupils broke School records.

2022 saw James Kay (Year 7) become a North of England RYA sailing champion, and Tomáš Grime (Year 11) won a regional tournament to qualify to play doubles at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon. Pentathlete Kirsty Maher (U6) was victorious in the U19 World Laser Run Championships in Lisbon in the Michaelmas Term, and Oliver Ablett (Year 10) represented England in the World Junior Curling Championships in Finland.

CCF

The CCF continues to recruit well, operating three sections from LRGS and LGGS: Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. At the start of the year there were approximately 40

RN, 110 Army and 70 RAF cadets. Lt. Col Rowe is Contingent Commander, responsible with RSM Routledge (School Staff Instructor) for running the Contingent.

The Navy is commanded by Lt. Hamilton, assisted by Sub Lt. Shaw from LGGS, with Mr Prince as a civilian instructor (CI). The Army is commanded by Captain Atkinson, assisted by Captain Channing, Lt. Wareing, Lt. Edge from LGGS, RQMS Powell, CI Morrell and CI Kaley. The RAF is commanded by Flight Lt. Williams from LGGS, and he is assisted by Pilot Officer Thomas and CI Noon. This was Mr Thomas' last year and we are fortunate to receive the help of CI Roch as his replacement.

The Contingent had its own Remembrance Parade on the Tuesday before Remembrance Day; we then took part in the Parade around the town on the day itself. Easter Camp was adventure training in Wales based at Capel Curig Camp, where we ghyll-scrambled, abseiled, coasteered, built rafts, swam, orienteered and walked up Tryfan amongst other things.

The Navy went sailing at Killington Lake on four separate occasions throughout the year. It also organised a TriDive session and enjoyed an evening of celestial navigation at sea.

The Army competed in the Brigade Cadet Skill-at-Arms meeting at Altcar in September. The October Field Day was at Halton Camp, followed shortly by the self-reliance expedition which also allows boys to gain the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. In January, Exercise Night Owl took place in Knots Wood. The March Field Day was a shooting camp at Altcar. In April the Army conducted a blank-firing exercise at RAF Spadeadam. Those senior cadets who joined the Army Gold Duke of Edinburgh Scheme conducted their practice expedition in the Lake District in June. This year's Army Summer Camp was split 50:50 between an exercise at Ripon and training at Halton Camp.



CCF Halton Camp, 2023



CCF Annual Prize-Giving Parade, 2023



Duke of Edinburgh Award, 2022



CCF Summer Camp, 2023

The RAF enjoyed training at Inskip in November before being runner-up in the Regional Air Squadron Trophy. They went on to gain a very respectable eleventh place in the National Finals. RAF Annual Camp was at Lossiemouth, an operational Typhoon base.

Charity

Some Year 10 and Year 11 pupils took part in a Hopewalk in October to increase awareness of mental health and well-being, while raising money for the Papyrus charity. In the latter part of the Michaelmas Term staff grew moustaches for Movember, a charity for men's health, and boys in Storey House completed a swimming challenge to raise over £240 for the same cause. There was an Elf

Run in aid of St John's Hospice, a Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children, and donations were made to Morecambe Foodbank. Dylan Hay (Year 7) undertook the National Three Peaks 24-hour Challenge.

The traditional fundraising for the Lenten Charities in 2023 was very successful, with £25,961 being distributed to Cancer Research UK, Human Appeal, Money for Madagascar, St John's Hospice and Team Reece. This was the second-highest amount raised to date. There was the annual Set Run and a Lenten Charity Concert; at the latter there were performances by the Choir, Big Band, Strings Group, and other solos, duos and ensembles. In addition,

many creative and entertaining ways were employed to raise money, and particular mention should be made of Mr Rafferty whose haircut raised more than £700. The forms who topped each year's totals were 7T, 8G, 9S (highest overall), 10B, 11T, L6JR and U6AEW.

Trips and Visits

Lower Sixth students travelled to Paris in May 2022 to debate historical topics with students from France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands; this Parallel Histories event marked the first international trip since February 2020 when the outbreak of Covid-19 severely curtailed travel. A group of Sixth Formers travelled to Cyprus to take part in an EntreComp Certificate



CCF Best Year 9, 2023



Army Section Leavers, 2023



CCF, Ben Nevis, 2022



Year 11 vs Staff, 2023



Clubs & Societies Fair, 2022



Lenten Charities, 2023



A-level Biology Practical, 2022



Year 9 Boarders, July 2022



Music Recitals, 2022



Community Christmas, 2022



Field Trip, 2022



Year 7 Residential, 2022



Strolling with Shakespeare, 2022

training event; they were delighted to be joined by Will Whitton (14-21), who is studying Medicine at the University of Nicosia.

The Year 7 outdoor residential trips to Patterdale resumed in July. There were also Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and a Sixth Form trip to Oxford University. History students visited Ireland, and their Parallel Histories debates were featured on

BBC Northern Ireland TV news. There was a Geography trip to Iceland, and on a field trip to the River Wyre a Lower Sixth pupil spotted a rare pink grasshopper.

The 2022-23 academic year saw pupils sea-kayaking in Mull, a ski trip to the Austrian Alps, the usual Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, CCF camps, and Year 7 residential camps. French and German exchanges took place.

Drama and Music

In 2022 there was a Summer Concert in Christ Church, and Lancaster Castle was an inspiring setting for a music and drama event, *Strolling with Shakespeare*.

2022's Michaelmas Term saw the LRGS Choir placed third in the Lancashire Choir of the Year Awards, and they were the winners in the People's Choice Award category.

Douglas Cameron was remembered on 7 May 2022. The sun shone as Paul Fitton (61-67) delivered a tribute. Doug's ashes were interred on the Douthwaite Field by Jerry Duerden (68-75). The ceremony was followed by a gathering in the Assembly Hall where the main speaker was Stuart Westley (58-66). There were tributes from, among others, Ian Whitehouse (Staff, 82-19) and Bob Reeves (Staff, 67-70).

Tim Murrell (87-89) was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2022, being awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal. JUO, now 2nd Lt. **Ewan Powell** (12-17) was photographed on the front page of *The Times* leading his half company at the 200th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. **Max Rowe** (16-23) and **Ewan Powell** received Lord Lieutenant's Commendations for Meritorious Service from the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth; **Thomas Starr** (15-22) also received this award but *in absentia*.

Paul Hodgson (03-10) gave a presentation to King Charles on the latter's first public engagement after the Coronation. The King was visiting Cambridge University's Whittle Laboratory where Paul works as a technical lead.

In 2022 **Mark Houghton** (77-83) embarked on a year-long charity paddling challenge in the Lake District for the mental health charity CALM; his aim

was to paddle every single body of still water in the Lake District, approximately 120 locations in all. Mark has completed similarly ambitious charity challenges in the past, including a solo 400-mile walk from France to Lancaster to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society in 2015 and being the first person to run the Morecambe Bay Cycleway in three days the following year.

The Northern Company of Actors, set up by drama teacher Nici Marriott in 2022, raised over £2000 for St John's Hospice and Rosemere Cancer Foundation in their recent production of *Hangmen*, staged in local pubs in Lancaster. Four OLs, **Morgan Cvetkovic-Jones** (08-15), **Rowan Harris** (08-15), **James Smedley** (96-03) and **Nick Rafferty** (96-03), starred in the show. Nici said: "The Company came about from a desire to give local actors the opportunity to perform in alternative venues and share their passion for performance with the local community whilst simultaneously raising money for local charities close to our hearts."

Zach Beresford (11-18) was Movember's ambassador for Cardiff University in 2022. He personally raised £921 after walking sixty miles in memory of the sixty men lost to suicide every year. While he was ambassador, Cardiff University became the sixth-highest fundraising university in the UK with a total of £48,015. **Paddy Earnshaw** (91-98)

completed a 24-hour 'danceathon' for B&Q's Raise the Roof initiative to support Shelter UK.

In February 2023, **Ben Cottam** (95-02) wrote and presented an episode of *The Essay* for BBC Radio 3. In a fourteen-minute programme, *Walking the Causeways*, he crossed to Sunderland Point and visited the grave of Sambo, a young slave. The cover photograph on BBC Sounds was taken by Giles Story (95-02). [The programme is available online until 2024.](#)

"I'm not opposed to education, *perse...*" wrote **Lincoln Allison** (57-64) in an article, [Down with Skool](#), in *The Critic*.

Patrick Dransfield (75-80) launched his audio book, [Inner Circle Book One: Duel of the Sorcerers](#), in July 2022. Set in Liverpool's Chinatown in 1916, the hero is a trainee lawyer, Welsh-Chinese and Liverpool-based Paul Tian-Kermode.

Hosted by **Geoff Ellis** (72-79) and Esher Cricket Club in July last year, the **Old Lancastrians of London Cricket Club** (OLLCC) beat the LRGS Staff XI with a score of 203-5 and one over to spare.

The OL Cricket Day at the Douthwaite Field on 26 June 2022 saw over 450 runs scored, including three fifties and several sixes. The 2023 OL Cricket Day took place on 23 June. The OLs having been in the driving seat, the match was drawn, rain having stopped play.



JUO, now 2nd Lieut. Powell



Cast of *Hangmen*



Duke of Edinburgh Awards, 2023



OL Cricket Day, 2022



OL Oarsmen, 2022



OLs at the Malcolm Doley Memorial Concert, Lancaster University, 2022



OL Cricket Day, 2023

Josh Lancaster (02-09) smashed the previous world record of a single-arm dumbbell, lifting 96.7kg on his first attempt in June 2022. **Mark McCafferty** (12-19) was named as Lancashire FA Young Coach of the Year runner-up. Mark has coached at Bowerham Juniors FC for five years.

Lt Commander **Michael Quinn** (97-04) gave a talk to the Upper Sixth in April 2022 as part of the John Gardiner Lectures programme. He shared his military and leadership stories and experiences with the pupils.

Subhash Chatterjee (20-22) was named as one of Lancashire Business View's fifteen people aged under thirty-six who are leading the way across the county. The founder and Managing Director of One SC Media, his company continues to go from strength to strength in a very competitive industry. Subhash has spoken at multiple events and is a trustee of the youth charity Escape 2 Make.

Hamish Glenn's (96-03) brewery, Hackney Church Brew Co., took home the title for the UK's Best Independent Craft Brewery Taproom at the SIBA

National Independent Beer Awards, which took place at BeerX in Liverpool.

Ben Layton (95-02), **Paul Hutchison** (95-02) and **Michael Jones** (95-02) cycled the Way of the Roses, sponsored by Fentiman's Botanically Brewed Beverages. **Peter Houghton** (95-02) drove the support vehicle. Readers of this magazine may recall that Ben, Paul and **Johnny Clark** (95-02) completed a bike ride through Belgium in memory of Martin Sutherland (95-02) in August 2019.

We were pleased to receive correspondence from **Brian Whittle** (46-53). Having read last year's obituary of John Taylor (45-53), he recalled that they were contemporaries who were Full Prefects, not only in the School but also in School House. On leaving LRGS, Brian and John both read Economics and Law at Cambridge University, so saw each other on an almost daily basis.

Brian reminded us that John played chess to a professional standard, giving presentations at the Guildhall at Cambridge, and being awarded a Half-Blue. Brian, who was Captain of the First XI at School, also remembered that John

and his brother David (46-56) were a formidable pair of cricketers who could contain the score and get prize wickets when facing some of the outstanding players in the fixtures against schools such as Manchester and Leeds.

Seeing the photograph of Greg Holdcroft also stirred Brian's memory. He recalls a photograph, which he lent to the School, of Greg Holdcroft (Staff, 30-63) who taught him French. Taken in 1939 in front of a large house at an RAF training centre for Reserve Officers before they became operational, Greg is shown as a Flight Lieutenant wearing a Navigator's half-wing, and Brian surmises that Greg probably saw significant service in France. Greg, he remarked, was always kind and caring to those boys who suffered a family loss, often giving them one of his many ties.

Finally, Brian was moved when reading the article about L/Cpl Frear (59-64) because it reminded him of how he nearly met his own end while doing National Service in Trieste at the south end of the Iron Curtain; he was in Military Hospital for a couple of weeks, having had a lump of shrapnel embed itself in his neck.



E H Keir: First World War Officer

Martin Alexander writes: In the autumn of 2022 the OLC Committee's attention was drawn by John Gedge (72-79) to the impending appearance at a Spinks auction in London of the medal group and a glazed and framed photograph of Lieutenant E H Keir (1896-1917), the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and Royal Flying Corps. Research revealed that the medals had come to market in the same auction as — by separate Lot — those of Keir's air observer/gunner, Captain Cyril Walter Carleton Wasey MC (1893-1917); he'd already won the French Croix de Guerre in 1914; he joined 16 Squadron in September 1917. The latter, an Old Etonian, was an officer in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who transferred to the RFC, and who was aged twenty-four years at the time of his death.

The two young officers were killed in action when their RE.8 spotter aircraft — a slow, poorly armed and already obsolescent type used for reconnaissance and artillery observation over and behind the Western Front trenchlines — was intercepted and shot down on 28 October 1917 by a German aircraft near the Franco-Belgian border.

Edward Hugh Keir had been born in Huddersfield, the son of Samuel Keir, Secretary of the Royal Albert Institution in Lancaster. Educated at LRGS (1907-14), he commissioned from the School OTC into the Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Serving with the 3rd Battalion, Keir transferred to the RFC in March 1917; after qualifying as a Pilot, he was posted to 16 Sqn on 4 August 1917. Having trained in 1914-15 at St Omer base aerodrome, and initially equipped with woefully ponderous and ill-protected BE2c machines, 16 Squadron by spring and summer 1917 was undertaking Corps artillery observation duties. In May 1917 it had been re-equipped with barely more advanced RE.8 aircraft, command passing to an outstanding officer, Major Charles Portal (1893-1971), later Marshal of the RAF Viscount Portal of Hungerford, Chief of the Air Staff from 1940-46 and one of Britain's greatest 20th Century air commanders and staff officers.

But what by summer 1917 was Keir now doing? We first catch a glimpse across the mists of 106 years on 24 August, thanks to the fact that he and Observer, 2nd Lieutenant G T Cooke, submitted an Air Combat Report after flying an artillery patrol. Their mission had commenced at 5.45 a.m. when they took off in RE.8 serial number 4258 armed with one Vickers machinegun and one lighter-weight Lewis gun and climbed to a height of 6,000 feet above Lens. This was no Sagittarius Rising (ref. Cecil A Lewis's famous memoir of the Great War in the air, published 1936), but a world much more prosaic.

For Lens was an ugly northern French mining town of red-brick terraced houses, pithead winding gear, chimney stacks and slag heaps. Such a vista beneath their biplane's wings



1914-18 War Medal, Commemorative Plaque, Allied War Medal

can leave little doubt that Keir and Cooke were glad to be aviators, spared what Captain J C Dunn called “the war the infantry knew” which was a ghastly battle-scape of mud, trenches, broken buildings, shattered tree stumps and filth. Nonetheless, the skies above Artois and Picardy held danger for the RFC men. Keir’s and Cooke’s Combat Report for 24 August 1917 recounts their attack by an ‘Albatros’, a German scout-plane (a fighter-interceptor in modern parlance), with “two front guns set at an angle”. Smaller than the bulky elongated two-seats-in-tandem RE.8, this adversary was agile in manoeuvre and a potentially deadly threat.

Let us read how the short action unfolded by quoting Keir and Cooke more fully:

“While we were patrolling over Lens at 5.45 a.m. an Albatros Scout dived on us out of the clouds firing several rounds; he was engaged by Lewis Gun and after 97 rounds turned East, dived for his own lines and was lost sight of in the ground mist.”

The aerial skirmish had been short: the Lewis machine gun was drum-fed with .303 ammunition, its bullets identical to those of the standard-issue British infantry Lee Enfield SMLE Model 1907 rifle. Each drum held 47 rounds. So Keir’s gunner-observer, 2nd Lieut Cooke, must have emptied and changed two drums and started into a third before their opponent broke away and dived to safety. It is a short, straightforward, laconic account left to us. Not atypical of most such unemotional after-action reports and squadron logbooks, three years into this exhausting, endless, attritional conflict. Yet in the 16 Squadron Mess in the evenings, and high above during the daylight, Keir must during this high summer and autumn of 1917 have forged partnerships, perhaps even budding friendships — first with Cooke and then with Wasey, and perhaps other RFC crew, as they roared airborne on their vital work to enlighten the army planning staffs and spot for the guns.

Often penetrating far behind the German front-line and reserve trenches to range and adjust the British guns in counterbattery fire, these RFC men — some barely more



Lieutenant E H Keir

than boys — played essential parts in the fast-developing British concept of coordinated all-arms battle. Major Portal, 16 Squadron CO, more than led by example. He was often in the air himself and was awarded the DSO (Distinguished Service Order) on 18 July to go with the MC (Military Cross) he had received six months earlier. The citation for Portal’s DSO — and he subsequently won a second award or ‘Bar’ — singled out his “splendid example” as an inspiration to such as Keir, Cooke and Wasey, the inexperienced aircrews, Portal for “many months’ doing magnificent work in cooperation with the artillery”.

But little over two months on, Keir and Wasey embarked on their fateful and final mission on Sunday 28 October 1917 in RE.8 A4426, taking off at 15:10 hours for an artillery observation sortie to Lens and going down shortly after 17:00 and burning at Carency, north of Mont St. Eloi (a much-used landmark for pilots on this sector of the front). The *Eton Chronicle* records that:

“Their machine was attacked by two Hun scouts and they beat them both off, Cyril [Wasey] having fired 250 rounds before he was shot in the head. The machine returned under control until the last 100 feet and the Pilot when picked up was found to have been slowly strangled with a wire that had been shot loose [probably a wing-to-fuselage or strut-wing brace, of which the RE.8 had a



An RE.8



We deeply mourn the death of Lieut. Edward Hugh Keir, R.F.C., in his 21st year. Keir was a boy of much promise, of sterling character, and one who always tried to do his best. While at School he gained the Queen's Prize, passed the Higher Certificate Examination twice, and was prominent in games, obtaining his football colours. He was also one of the earliest members of the O.T.C., in which he took the greatest interest. Keir was given a commission as second lieutenant in December, 1914, and joined the 9th Battalion, Royal Lancaster Regiment. He went to Swanage and Wareham with the Reserve Battalion, and was for some time engaged in training Reserves for the front. On account of his aptitude for this work, he was selected for the Staff of the Southern Command School of Instruction of N.C.O.'s at Tidworth. In March last he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, and obtained his "wings" after training in France and Lincolnshire. He left for the Western front on August 4th, and was there engaged in patrolling a section of the line and in artillery observation work. Keir and his observer brought down a German "Albatross" only a few days before his death. Our sympathies go out to his parents in their sad bereavement.

The Squadron Commander wrote as follows:—"I am writing you a few lines just to say how very sad we all are at your son's death. As I expect you know, he was attacked in the air to-day at 3-45 by a German scout, and after putting up a very fine fight was at last brought down. I have seen his body this evening, and he looks quite peaceful and happy, having been killed instantly. His observer, Capt. Wasey, was also killed, shot through the heart. It may be some small comfort to you, as it is to me, to know that he died fighting, and suffered no pain. He was a splendid boy, keen and energetic, and a pilot of great promise. He was immensely popular, and I feel that I have lost a personal friend, as well as one of the most promising of my pilots. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your great loss.—Yours, very sincerely, C. F. A. PORTAL."

His Flight Commander also wrote:—"I presume by this time you have been notified of the death of your gallant son, Lieut. E. H. Keir, in action, and have also been given details of how he met his death. As his Flight Commander, I wish to tender to you, on behalf of all ranks, our deepest sympathy in the irreparable loss you have sustained. He was a most gallant and capable officer, and one of the most charming of comrades. His loss to the service is a real one, but to us and to you it is a personal one also. We all join you in mourning his loss." Writing with respect to the interment, which took place on the 30th October in the British Cemetery behind the front, the Brigade Chaplain states that it was attended by many brother officers, and adds:—"I know how much he will be missed by his comrades in the Squadron. It is at any rate some slight consolation to know that he gave his life whilst performing his dangerous duty most courageously."

The Lancastrian, December 1917

great many, attached hazardingly close to the crew's cockpit.]"

The shooting-down was attributed to Hauptmann (Captain) Julius Buckler (1894-1960), a famous First World War 'Ace' of Jagdstaffel 17 eventually credited with bringing down twenty-nine Allied aircraft and seven observation balloons. Indeed, Buckler was one of just four Germans in 1914-18 to earn the Pour le Merite (the 'Blue Max') and the Military Merit Cross. Buckler was regrettably good at his deadly job, survived and lived till 1960; Keir and Wasey's RE.8 was Buckler's 20th 'Kill'; he notched his 21st and 22nd the next day, 29 October 1917. Seven RFC airmen died on 28 Oct 1917 (two of them Keir and Wasey). Eight more were killed the following day i.e. this rate of British daily loss in the skies was 'par for the course' in this last phase of the Third Ypres fighting.

Wasey and Keir are buried in Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension in Northern France. The Wasey medal group included a posthumously-awarded MC and a French Legion d'Honneur, and made the pre-auction Spinks Catalogue estimate of £4,000.

The OLC Committee authorised bidding at the auction for the Keir medals and memorabilia. To generate funds a number of current OLCs generously donated, and to this sum was added a grant authorised by the OLC Committee. On the day of the auction the LRGS bid was managed thanks to the experienced collector of medals and awards, Colonel Dr Nicholas Thorn, a former Commanding Officer of the CCF at LRGS, sometime Head of English and renowned authority on orders, medals and decorations. Despite serious competition — the identity of rival bidders remaining confidential to the auction house — the Keir Lot was purchased for £1,900.

E H Keir: Schoolboy

An archivist writes: Edward Hugh Keir, whose First World

War campaign medals and Great War bronze memorial plaque (commonly if grimly known as a 'Death Penny') have recently been acquired, was born on 10 November 1896. His father was Samuel Keir, Secretary of the Royal Albert Asylum.

Keir was admitted to LRGS as a ten-year-old day-boy into Form I on 19 January 1907, during the headmastership of the Rev Herbert A Watson (1903-12). He had previously been educated privately, at Mr Blanchard's School, an 'Intermediate and Preparatory School' in Fenton Street. Keir left LRGS on 20 December 1914, when he was in Form VI, after Watson had been succeeded by the Rev John H Shackleton Bailey.

The family were listed as living at 6, Lily Grove, Lancaster, later moving to Rossmore, on Scotforth Road.

Academic

Given a Junior Exhibition by Lancashire County Council in 1910, Keir was also awarded a Queen's Prize (Under 15) by the School in 1911. In 1912 he was entered for the Oxford and Cambridge Lower Certificate, gaining distinctions in Arithmetic, Additional Mathematics and Geometrical Drawing. In 1913, and also the following year, he sat examinations for the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate, being awarded a 'Special Mention' in Mathematics in 1914.

Rugby Football

The Michaelmas Term of 1914 saw Keir being awarded a Colours Jersey for rugby, a sport then played only in the first term of the academic year. In *Characters of the XV*, an annual report in *The Lancastrian*, he was judged to be "a much improved forward with lots of 'go' — good in the loose and tackles fairly well." His weight was 10st. 5lbs.

Whewell Society

Keir played an active part in the Whewell Society's meetings which took place on Saturdays. He is first recorded as speaking in two of the five impromptu debates held at the Society's thirty-third meeting in February 1912, supporting the motion "That Rugby Football is preferable to Association", and contributing to the debate "That it is a mistake to wear caps or hats". During the remainder of the 1911-12 Session, he also spoke against the coal-mines being nationalised.

1912-13 saw Keir opposing the motion "That this House is in favour of conscription", and the *Whewell Minutes* also record that he "introduced an appalling string of epithets" when he spoke against women being given the parliamentary vote. He was later elected as Treasurer for the 1913-14 academic year.

In the 1913-14 Session he argued that civilisation had increased the world's happiness; that forcible feeding should not be approved; that the Boy Scout movement is highly beneficial; that nations should combine under



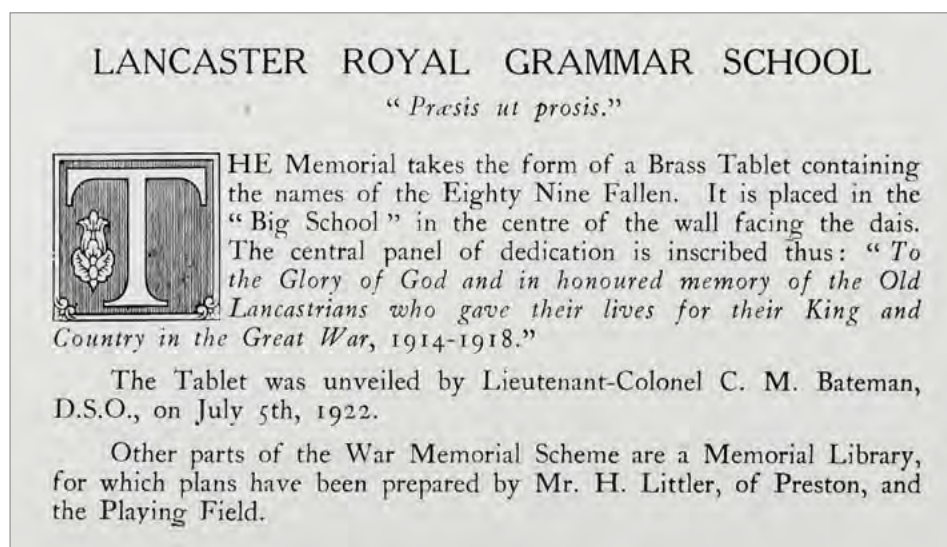
E H Keir (centre), Rugby Football First XV, 1914



Marshal of the RAF Viscount Portal of Hungerford, Courtesy of The National Portrait Gallery, NPGx163256



Aubigny Cemetery



British Public Schools' War Memorials (1927)



C M Bateman, 1901

one central government; and that games should be compulsory. *The Lancastrian* records that "Keir was filled with righteous indignation at the idea" that cats should be taxed.

At the end of the 1913-14 Session, he was elected Secretary for 1914-15, but resigned prior to starting his term of office. Before leaving in December to take up an Army Commission, he was one of the pupils who spoke in an impromptu debate that "unloosed much eloquence" among the attendees. Incidentally, the proceedings of the motion, "That persons under twenty-one should not smoke", were to be referred to in the Lancaster Borough Police Court the following term. In another debate, Keir wondered why ghosts appear only at night.

Drama

It was customary in the early 20th Century at Speech Day for a few pupils to present selections from a play. In 1913 Keir played the character of Sir Anthony Absolute in Sheridan's *The Rivals*. The following year he was one of those who appeared in scenes from Goldsmith's comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*.

School OTC

In the first half of 1914, War Office approval was given for the formation of a Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps. The sixty-strong Contingent began to parade for drill on Wednesday afternoons, and there were exercises on the Town Moor. During an appalling rainstorm, the Contingent led the Mayor's procession on Mayor's Sunday in May 1914.

With the advent of war in August 1914, the Contingent suddenly had a new *raison d'être*. The first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant W R W Deed, left for active service with the King's Own, sending back letters from the trenches with news, especially of Old Lancastrians serving with him. Some of these were senior boys who had briefly served in the OTC during its first summer term before

entering the forces on the outbreak of war. Three of the Contingent's first cadets, S K Bates, A F Metcalfe and E H Keir were commissioned in the autumn of 1914, the latter into the King's Own, with whom he remained until 1917.

After leaving LRGS, Keir visited the School on at least two occasions, in the Lent and Summer Terms of 1917, shortly before he was killed while on active service with the Royal Flying Corps in October. The letter of condolence from his Commanding Officer was published in *The Lancastrian*, and it has the added interest that it was written and signed by Major Charles Portal.

E H Keir Memorial Prize

The E H Keir Memorial Prize was first presented in 1919, and copies of the Speech Day programmes show that it was presented by S Keir Esq.

In 1960, the Prize was endowed by a Trust Scheme dated 27 June. Three donors, at least two of them family, provided money for the "foundation in perpetuity of a prize or prizes consisting of books to be presented to the boy or boys who in the opinion of the Hm. has or have rendered the most useful service to the School during the preceding school year". It continues to be awarded every year.

Editor's note: Following the auction purchase, a small display in tribute to Keir the schoolboy and Keir the officer was organised to accompany 2023's Speech Day and Prize-Giving in The Ashton Hall.



1914-design Shoulder Title



1914-design Cap Badge

Edward Hughes (65-72)

Last year we published a photograph of Barry Gregson with Queen Elizabeth II in the Assembly Hall on the occasion her visit in 1969. Gregson, who taught Pottery, was pictured showing the Queen the gift which he had sculpted to mark the School's gratitude to her for being present at our quincentenary celebrations of the Gardyner Endowment. Also photographed with the Queen, but this time in Big School, was Edward Hughes, a Fifth Former; they are pictured viewing an exhibition of ceramic work.

The latter photograph prompted one of the archivists to remind the editors that Hughes, who was later to become one of the country's foremost studio potters, owed a debt of gratitude to Gregson. Hughes later recalled:



Edward Hughes

"I was first hooked on pottery as a young boy at school. I was very lucky. Lucky like so many people who have come across an inspirational teacher, who changed the direction of their life. At the age of twelve, thirteen, fourteen, I was shown a new world. It was a world I really knew nothing about, but one which I, to this day I never regret.

That teacher was Barry Gregson."

Having been introduced to potting by Gregson, Hughes was immediately enthralled by its qualities; indeed, so much so that he insisted on studying Pottery at A-level, despite the advice of the Headmaster. After leaving LRGS he went to Cardiff School of Art, before studying for a degree at Bath Academy, Corsham Court.

After a period with Ray Finch at Winchcombe Pottery, Hughes secured a Japanese government scholarship, spending eighteen happy months at art school in Kyoto. After a successful one-man exhibition, he set up his own studio by Lake Biwa with his wife, Shizuko.



Dish in the V&A Collection, London

Following five years of well-received exhibitions in Japan, he returned to England in 1984 and settled in the Lake District with his wife.

In 1991 he moved to larger premises at Isel Hall near Cockermouth, converting the old stables into a workshop; here he built a large gas kiln which he fired up about four times a year. Most of his pieces — such as jugs, mugs, bowls, dishes and platters — found a ready market in Japan, being acquired by housewives for use in the home. Recognising the importance of his work, other pieces were acquired by the V&A, Ashmolean and Fitzwilliam museums.

Born in 1953, Hughes' life was unfortunately cut short by a mountaineering accident in April 2006. In an obituary in *The Independent*, Emmanuel Cooper wrote:

"In many ways, the potter Edward Hughes is one of Britain's unsung treasures — his pots were better known in Japan than in his own country. Inspired like Bernard Leach before him by the pots and philosophy of the East, in particular Japan and China, Hughes brought together the contemplative, quiet qualities of Oriental work with the vigour and energy of slip-decorated earthenware in pots that were fired in a reduction kiln to high temperature. His sensitive shapes and deep, rich, earthy colours are a harmonious and pleasing blend of influences from contrasting cultures."

Editor's note: We would be interested to hear from OLs who possess examples of Edward Hughes' work.



The Queen and Edward Hughes, 1969



I was invited in late 2017 to have my name put forward in nomination as the High Sheriff of Surrey for 2022-23. The office is non-political, unpaid, and is the oldest secular office apart from the monarchy, dating back to Saxon times. The Sovereign appoints High Sheriffs by using a bodkin to prick a hole next to their name on that year's list shortly before their Installation. On 24 March 2022 at Guildford Cathedral I was installed, swearing an oath of allegiance to the Queen, after which my predecessor hung the Surrey Badge of Office around my neck.

A male High Sheriff must purchase Court Dress, which is a made-to-measure velvet outfit — designed early in the 19th Century — that consists of matching breeches, waistcoat and tailcoat, lace cuffs and jabot, stockings, white gloves, black patent-leather pumps with silver buckles and a cocked hat. It is worn on ceremonial occasions, along with a rapier in a scabbard on the left hip, or on visits when the hosts request it be worn. Lady High Sheriffs wear an outfit which includes a large hat with a large feather. In my year there were almost equal numbers of men and women appointed across the fifty-five counties of England and Wales.

No 2022 officeholder foresaw the demise of HM The Queen on 8 September, which happened so soon after the joyous June Platinum Celebrations, or that we would therefore have the historic duty of formally announcing the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III on Sunday 11 September. I read it on the steps of

Guildford Cathedral, then handed copies to the Mayors and Chairs of the eleven Boroughs of Surrey, who duly read it out at their Town Hall or other civic venue.

Scir means shire, and there were shires in southern England in Alfred's time in the 9th Century. By 959, when Edgar became King, they were across the country. The Saxon *scirgerefa*, became known as the Shire Reeve and then the Sheriff, and the King's Reeve was known as the 'High' Reeve. The role primarily involved the collection of taxes for the King and the administration of his hundred courts. Sheriffs in the 11th and 12th Centuries became very powerful and they could raise a group of men to enforce the law, a posse (qv the Sheriffs of the Wild West). In 1215, of Magna Carta's sixty-three provisions,

twenty-seven of them concerned the sheriffs, some of whom had become corrupt, perhaps like the Sheriff of Nottingham who, legend has it, fought Robin Hood.

Henry II set up the Assize Courts in the 12th Century and thereafter until 1972 puisne judges travelled to the principal cities and towns of England and Wales to try the most serious crimes, the felonies. The Assize Judge would be met at the county boundary by the sheriff's knights, who would protect him until he left the county. The Crown Court Act 1971 ended the Assizes, replacing them and Quarter Sessions with Crown Courts. The High Sheriff's Association was created and the High Sheriffs continue to support the forces of law and order, all the Courts,



Signing the Condolence Book



Issuing a Copy of the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III



Chris Critchlow in Court Dress



Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III

Judges, JPs, Police, Prison and Probation Services. The High Sheriff organises an Annual Service for the Judiciary and also hosts a dinner for them. He usually visits all the courts: Crown, County, Family, Coroner's and Magistrates'. He may have the pleasant task of presenting a High Sheriff Certificate and a cheque for £750 (which comes from a special



Receiving the Surrey Badge of Office



Procession



The High Sheriff of Surrey's Badge

fund) to any member of the public who has helped in the apprehension of an offender by their bravery and public-spiritedness, as nominated by the trial judge.

The High Sheriff's Association recommends that office holders have a theme for their year. My theme was 'Against Abuse, for Recovery'. I supported the Refuges for Women in Surrey which give a home to those who have fled violent partners, and charities and organisations helping victims of abuse. Baroness Helena Kennedy KC, a distinguished barrister who has worked tirelessly for victims and women's rights, accepted my invitation to speak at the University of Surrey about domestic violence. I visited and gave some recognition to volunteers and charities helping those adversely affected by the pandemic and lockdowns, particularly those suffering mental health difficulties. High Sheriffs are now encouraged to use social media to publicise what they do and in particular the work of the charities they visit. I wrote about a hundred articles for the High Sheriff of Surrey website, usually accompanied by photographs. My assistant put out that material on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Using the articles and other material I have produced a book, *The High Sheriff's Tale*, about my year of office, using Carnegie Publishing of Lancaster.

High Sheriffs receive invitations from many different organisations as well as from the civic authorities — the Mayors and Chairs of the Boroughs, and the Chairman and also the Leader of the County Council. They can be proactive and ask to visit those to whom they wish to give some recognition. They will encounter many who are giving great service to their community and can select some to receive a High Sheriff's Award Certificate. I was delighted to award twenty-two such certificates. I had over 250 engagements in my year, plus quite a number of Zoom and Teams Meetings: so it was a very busy time for one who'd retired

in 2016. My wife accompanied me on about two-thirds of my visits. I went to food banks, Community Fridges, Community and Family centres, warm hubs, care homes; to the premises of charities helping the homeless, those with mental health difficulties, or recovering alcoholics or drug addicts.

I visited the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service on several occasions and presented awards. I met the Chief Constable of Surrey Police and the most senior officers several times, and most of the eleven Police Borough Commanders. I travelled to the HQ of Crimestoppers, the national charity which takes around 600,000 anonymous calls a year, and to those of the Police Federation and Police Care UK, all three being in Surrey. The High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex and I made joint visits to Gatwick Airport to see their special fire and police stations, and to the location of the Surrey Air Ambulance at Redhill.

My Garden Party was in June at the School of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Surrey campus. I invited twenty charities to set up stalls and my guests, who came from across the county, were able to find out about their work. I also hosted four dinners, each for ten guests, in the fields of domestic abuse, secondary education, sustainability and mental health. They enabled the exchange of information and ideas at an informal meeting. The number of contacts the High Sheriff makes during the year means he acquires lots of information about what's being done around the County and he can put people in contact with others in the same field.

The first High Sheriff of Surrey Charity Golf Day was held on 6 June and raised £28,000 for the High Sheriff Youth Awards charity, the only charity directly supported by the Surrey High Sheriff. Each year about £50,000 is given out in grants up to £5,000 each to support charities or organisations helping young people to stay safe and be aware of criminals.

I arranged a Law and Order Conference at the University in November, at which three speakers discussed *The Criminal Justice System: what might be done better?* Mike Barton CBE DL, an OL and former Chief Constable of Durham, Peter Dawson, Director of the Prison Reform Trust and a former Surrey Prison Governor, and Chris Daw KC from Manchester, advocated some serious changes in drugs legislation and the sentencing of offenders.

The Knife Angel, a 27-foot-high statue made of about 100,000 knives given by Police Forces to an iron works in Oswestry, stood outside Guildford Cathedral during March 2023. Its message is peace and it also aims to warn youngsters about the dangers of violence. I assisted with a programme of events linked to the Knife Angel, including a mock Crown Court sentencing of defendants guilty of fictional crimes of violence, with the senior local judge presiding.

Each High Sheriff can choose how much to do and how much to spend during their year. However, it is not about the number of visits, the amount spent, nor is it a fundraising office. It's an opportunity to help others by recognising the work of those giving support to people in need, and through

one's theme focusing on an area in need of support. The shrievalty assists the Sovereign and his representative in the county, the Lord Lieutenant. It was a great privilege to be High Sheriff of the county in which I have lived since 1980 and to learn so much more about its administration and its people. It was uplifting to hear what caring, unselfish, men and women, (and sometimes children, such as young carers) are doing for others, usually as unpaid volunteers or for little financial remuneration. Without all their work, many would be suffering greater hardship and distress.

Editor's note: Chris Critchlow (62-69) is the latest OL to hold not only the office of High Sheriff but also that of Deputy Lieutenant. Since 1850 at least five other OLs have done so: for Lancashire, James Williamson, Baron Ashton (1851-55) and Herbert Storey (1863-65); for Westmorland, William Paget-Tomlinson (mid-1860s); for Cheshire, J F T Royds OBE (1877-86); for Londonderry, Alexander Clark (mid-1850s). Other former pupils have held the office of High Sheriff or Deputy Lieutenant, but a complete list is impossible to compile because in the first six centuries of the School's existence the names of only 750 pupils are known to us.



Wendy Critchlow and Chris Critchlow



The Knife Angel's Installation



The Knife Angel, Guildford Cathedral



The Knife Angel, Guildford Cathedral



Bus Stop, 2022

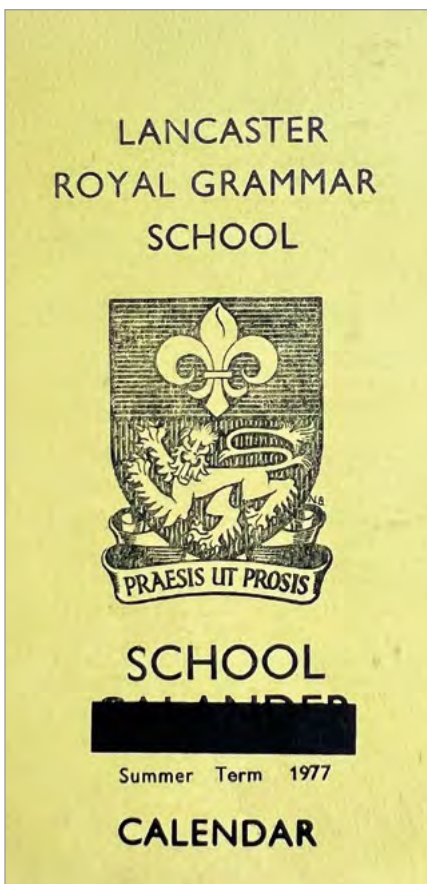
There was considerable amusement at the School in May 2022 following the installation of bus-stop signs by Lancashire County Council (LCC) outside New Building. A photograph of one of the signs was tweeted by Chris Pyle, which attracted the attention of the media including the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *BBCNWT*, *Lancashire Telegraph*, and the SWNS newswire service.

The Archive holds examples of local newspapers making the same mistake. Indeed, a particularly careless report in the *Lancashire Daily Post* managed to include not only the correct use in its headline but also an incorrect one twice in its very first sentence. And this all-too-frequent error can also be seen on a ceramic mug commissioned by LRGS a couple of decades ago.

The LRGS Twitter account tweeted LCC: "please write out Royal Grammar School 50 times!", and they replied: "Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This schoolboy error does certainly not meet Lancaster Grammar's exceptionally high standards. We will correct this mistake and replace the bus stop plates over the coming days."

A further common error is evident on a School Calendar. OLs of the mid-1970s vintage may recall the embarrassment when the largely boy-run LRGS Printing Press produced a Summer Term 'Calander', necessitating overprinting when the mistake was noticed.

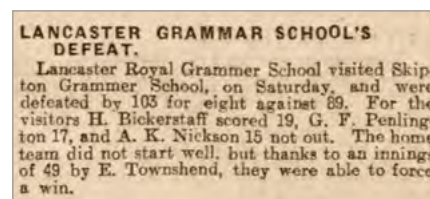
On the theme of signs, two further photographs have been drawn to our attention, both in Wales. The one of the Headmaster requires no explanation. The other, of a street sign in Merthyr Tydfil, was sent by David Robinson (94-01). He comments: "The Welsh word for Lancaster is 'Caerhirfryn', which I guess describes the origins of Lancaster: Caer — fort; Hir — long; Bryn (fryn) — hill. If any of you visit Merthyr, may I recommend a visit to the Brecon Mountain Railway, and Cyfarthfa Castle — they've got a fab museum and art collection!"



School 'Calander', 1977



Lancaster Gazette, 13 September 1856



Lancashire Daily Post, 5 July 1926



The Headmaster, Chris Pyle



Ceramic Mug



Home from home in the Valleys



Among the many documents in the Archive Room is the draft text for the 1969 *Quincentenary Volume*. In his role as Editor, J L Spencer (Headmaster, 61-72), made various amendments to it, often after consulting other people; however, although many minor alterations were made, little of real significance was changed.

The exception was the omission of a reminiscence written by Sir Sidney Ridley (1914-21). Unfortunately, there is no annotation to show why it was excluded, whether for lack of space, or in consideration for the then still-living children of the Rev J H Shackleton Bailey (Headmaster, 1913-39), or for some other reason.

Ridley had written: "For some months 'student unrest' has featured prominently in the headlines, and though it refers mainly to the Universities, it takes my mind back to an incident at the School during the Great War of 1914-18. Smoking was an offence; if caught, one took six of the best with as much equanimity as one could muster, and hope that one would not be caught out again.

I think it was in 1916 ... that a boarder was caught smoking. The caning was administered by the Headmaster, Shackleton Bailey (Fetters), with such precision that the offender's rump was badly scarred. To the boys it seemed that the punishment was far more severe than the offence merited, and a Housemaster called Long even ventured to remonstrate with the Head. The Head's popularity mark dropped to zero, and that of the Housemaster went surging upwards.

Suddenly, one morning as the Headmaster was entering the Big School from his study, someone started hissing

quietly. The hissing stopped as the Head reached the dais, from which he cast a severe eye around the assembly ... But on each subsequent day, when the Head appeared, hissing broke out, while any appearance of the sympathetic Housemaster was greeted with acclamation.

There was a novel turn in the course of the morning assembly when each sibilant occurring in the hymn was converted into a prolonged hiss. The Head found it impossible to single out offenders, and after two or three days, he decided that the best course was to cut out morning assembly and prayers; so we were met at the main gate on arrival at School, and directed to proceed straight to the appropriate classroom. We were most disappointed at being deprived of our daily fun, but as the Head henceforward kept very much in the background, there was nothing much to be done.

At the end of the term the Housemaster who had protested about the incident left the School — it was not known whether he resigned or was asked to leave. The parents of the boy filed a court case for assault, but the Head was successful in defending himself, and when the next Term started there were soon plenty of things to occupy our minds and interests, and the 'revolt' faded away."

Ridley's account helps to place in context two published references to the use of corporal punishment at LRGS in that decade. First, writing for the Michaelmas 1972 edition of *The Lancastrian*, the Rev J B Franklin Cheyne BEM (1915-23) described the ritual associated with public canings in Big School:

"If I remember rightly, these public thrashings were (apart from Prize-giving) the only times when masters wore their mortar boards. I may be wrong about this, but the boy himself always had to bring the chair and the three canes from the Head's study before the matter could be proceeded with. On the first occasion at which I was present, Feters (The Rev. J. H. Shackleton Bailey, M.A.) administered the punishment himself, breaking two canes in the course of the 13 strokes; on the other occasions, Sergeant Suthers deputised."

Second, R R Timberlake (Headmaster, 39-61), wrote in his memoirs (*Memories, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, 1939-61*) that Shackleton Bailey's:

"firm discipline had led him into trouble over the caning of a boy when an angry parent took him to court ... After this episode, which brought him, I gathered, considerable unpopularity in the School itself he adopted the practice of delegating the task to Sgt. E.V. Suthers the P.E. instructor".

A third source, an unpublished letter from the School's historian Athol Murray (42-49), donated to the Archive in 2019, included the comments:

"Bailey also had a reputation for harsh discipline ... I think it was Holdcroft who recalled people saying, 'If you have a son you can't handle send him to Dr Bailey'. I was told that his original and very obvious nickname 'Shackles' was changed to 'Feters' or 'Fets' as the nature of his regime became apparent. I saw a press report from 1916 where a parent took him to court for excessive punishment of his son. The case was dismissed but the fact that the father had been a pupil of Pryke (not one to spare the rod) suggests it wasn't without foundation.



The Induction of the Rev J B Franklin Cheyne as Rector of Milton Keynes and Broughton, 1951

When I was in School House the older boarders believed that Bailey had been banned from caning boys, perhaps not to their advantage as he delegated this to the fearsome Sergeant Suthers."

Exhaustive attempts to find further relevant material in the Archive proved fruitless. It was puzzling that the sole Governors' *Minute Book* for 1909-15, a professionally printed record, did not contain any references to the incident, and very little other paperwork survives from that period. A trawl by a volunteer through microfiche copies of the *Lancaster Guardian* in Lancaster City Library yielded nothing, though it is possible that a decision was taken by the OL owners of the paper, the Milners, not to report the case. Fortunately, however, important sources have recently been found.



(Sir) Sidney Ridley (1914-21)



The Rev J H Shackleton Bailey

First, online searches of the subscription-payable British Newspaper Archive threw up over a hundred relevant articles, the vast majority in UK provincial newspapers. Frustratingly though, the first few dozen reports were rather brief and either left various questions unanswered or occasionally gave unbalanced accounts, and in one particularly sensationalist headline there was a reference to 'the birch'. Furthermore, the articles did not always tally: the number of strokes supposedly given were, variously, 'over a dozen', 'fifteen', 'seventeen', 'twenty', or 'upwards of twenty'; the place of punishment was either a dormitory or a study; and the nature of the alleged injuries varied. It was only on reading the *Lancashire Daily Post* (4 March 1915) that an extensive and highly informative account of the day's court proceedings proved particularly valuable.

Second, a visit to the Lancashire Records Office was highly productive. The original hand-written and unredacted Governors' *Minute Book* for 1912-22 is held there on loan from the School, and it was found to contain much relevant documentation.

These discoveries enabled further research to be undertaken in the School Archive. Registers, both published and unpublished, provided information about the people involved, and photographs enabled faces to be put to names. *The Lancastrian*, the Whewell Society's *Minute Book*, various rule books, published histories of the School, and some published and unpublished reminiscences provided extra context. An obituary of one of Shackleton Bailey's sons gave a useful insight into Shackleton Bailey himself.

Before recounting and considering the events of February and March 1915, some comment on Ridley's, Franklin Cheyne's and Murray's recollections is necessary.

Ridley's recollection of the date is slightly wrong, as Shackleton Bailey appeared before the Lancaster Borough Police Court in 1915, not 1916. Second, considering the evidence heard by the Bench, it may be thought to be an exaggeration to say that "the offender's rump was badly scarred". Finally, given that the Housemaster was suspended almost immediately, it is perhaps doubtful that he could have appeared often to be greeted with acclamation, unless he remained living on site or in the locality.

Franklin Cheyne entered LRGS as a day-boy on 22 April 1915, about seven weeks after Shackleton Bailey's appearance in court, and it is therefore possible that

his recollection of seeing the Headmaster issue a public thrashing in Big School is mistaken. Would it have been wise for Shackleton Bailey himself to have administered a thirteen-stroke caning in front of the whole School so shortly after his appearance before the Bench and so soon after the recent insubordination he faced during Assemblies the previous term? Perhaps Franklin Cheyne only ever saw Sergeant Suthers carry out public canings, but having heard about the court case, incorrectly thought that he had remembered witnessing the Headmaster doing so.

However, it is possible that before delegating beatings to Suthers, Shackleton Bailey might have thought it appropriate to reassert his authority by issuing one or more such punishments, especially after being given full backing by the Governors. This interpretation is supported by a reminiscence written by Frank Lister (1915-20) in 1991. A boarder in School House, he wrote: "The term before I came there was a court case ... Such was Bailey's personality he still carried on with the beatings although later on he delegated this job to Sergt. Suthers." Regrettably, no Punishment Books are available to provide a definitive answer.

Murray's information is also partially incorrect: the event occurred in 1915, and the boy's father had attended the School during the Rev Thomas Faulkner Lee's headmastership (1850-72), not that of the Rev William Pryke (1872-93).

It is hardly surprising that the court case was so widely reported, given its nature: illicit smoking by a boarder; a boy wearing two pairs of trousers; a minimum of twelve strokes administered by a clerical headmaster to the

bare backside of a pupil who was allegedly being held down by at least one prefect; a housemaster resigning and travelling to the Midlands to inform the father, and who had himself been reprimanded for administering corporal punishment without having the authority to do so, and who was allegedly trying to poison people's minds; an aggrieved parent who was an old boy of the School; and a boy allegedly being told he would be a worm and not a British boy if he couldn't take a thrashing. All these and other details were included in the *Lancashire Daily Post's* report.



Big School, used for Morning Prayers

USE OF THE CANE.

GRAMMARSCHOOLMASTER SUMMONED.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT CASE AT LANCASTER.

SEQUEL TO CIGARETTE SMOKING.

At Lancaster Borough Police Court, to-day, the Rev. John H. Shackleton Bailey, M.A., B.D., headmaster of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, was summoned for common assault by caning a boarder named Harold James Atkinson, the proceedings being instituted by the boy's father, Dr. Robert Atkinson, of Smethwick, Birmingham.—Mr. Gilbert Jordan, barrister, Manchester, instructed by Mr. E. G. Clark, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. E. W. Wingate Saul, instructed by Mr. A. Sewart, defended. Mr. J. T. Sanderson, solicitor, Lancaster, held a watching brief on behalf of the housemaster.

There was a large attendance of governors and of the general public. The magistrates on the bench were the Mayor (Councillor W. Briggs), Messrs. E. B. Dawson, T. P. Greene, T. Cardwell, E. G. Smith, J. Heald, R. Wilson, W. Hamer, R. Gregson, and Dr. Barling.

Mr. Jordan said the case was one of some seriousness because it involved the question of the amount of corporal punishment which a headmaster was entitled to administer. There would not be much difference as to the law of the matter, but he submitted the punishment was not such as one might expect a boy to receive who had done wrong. In other words the punishment was excessive and unreasonable. The boy had been at the school for over a year. He was in the second term of his second year, and a boarder. His housemaster was Mr. Long, and on January 28th Mr. Long caught the boy in the act of smoking, or in such circumstances as made it clear he had been smoking, the boy admitting it. He was reported to the headmaster, who was the only person in the school who administered corporal punishment. Any breach of discipline was reported to the headmaster. The boy was caught smoking on the 28th January and the punishment was inflicted four days later on the Monday, after due notice.

That punishment was the subject of the present charge. The boy was taken to the headmaster's study, two house prefects were sum-

moned. The boy had put on two pairs of trousers. The headmaster directed the prefects to take down the boy's trousers, and they held him. He was put across a chair, and one prefect held him by the head and the other by the feet. The master then caned him, and he received over a dozen strokes. When the headmaster desisted the boy said he felt if he had done any more he should have broken down altogether. In the process of caning the defendant used two canes, one thicker than the other. The thicker cane was used first.

The boy spoke to the Housemaster that night, and the following day the Headmaster told Mr. Long he had given the boy the best thrashing he ever gave a boy in his life. Mr. Long tendered his resignation in circumstances which would be explained. Mr. Long saw the boy's father, a medical gentleman of Birmingham, and he examined the boy nearly a week after. The results were still visible. The serious results were that there were three wounds. On the left buttock there was one wound which even then had not healed. On the right buttock there were two other wounds. In three places the skin had been broken and formed a scab. Lest parental feeling should be biased he took the boy to Dr. Dean, and he corroborated the father that the punishment inflicted was not reasonable. The boy was taken away and the effects of the strokes were visible some time afterwards. On February 13th there were still four marks visible and on February 20th there were two marks visible.

THE BOY'S EVIDENCE.

The boy, Harold James Atkinson, said he was 16 years of age last November, and had been at the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster, for a year and two terms. Mr. Long, one of the assistant masters, who acted as house-master, found him smoking a cigarette on January 28th, and reported him to the headmaster. On January 30th he was told to go to the headmaster's study at 1.45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1st. He went to the study, and was held by two prefects over a chair. He would think he received 17 strokes. He had put on two pairs of trousers. He felt rather faint after the thrashing. That night he spoke to Mr. Long. During the week the headmaster asked if he had written home about the thrashing. He said he had written home saying he had been caught smoking and had to be thrashed. He did not write home about the details of the caning. The headmaster had told him if he did write home about it he would be a little worm and not a British boy if he could not take a thrashing.

Cross-examined, witness said there was another boy thrashed after him. The boy might have been only 13 years of age. He also had been smoking. Boys had smoked at school in the previous term and during that term. He knew it was wrong to smoke, and also he knew he was disobeying his father. He knew now that Mr. Long had informed his father of the thrashing. At the Whewell Debating Society in October Mr. Long had spoken in favour of smoking by boys before they were 21 years of age. He felt sore from the caning, but nothing more. He had been caned before for reading "trashy"

novelettes. He then received four strokes but not on the bare skin.

Mr. A. E. Long, assistant master at the school was at the time in question housemaster. He reported the boy and on the following Monday he was thrashed. On Tuesday morning he spoke to the headmaster about other matters, and the thrashing was mentioned. The headmaster made the remark that "The little beggar came to me with two pairs of trousers. I made him take them down and gave him the soundest thrashing I have ever given any boy in my life." Immediately afterwards he resigned the position as house master. On February 6th he went to see the boy's father.

By Mr. Wingate Saul: He knew smoking by boys was a serious offence against discipline. He knew of the injurious effects of smoking by boys. He remembered an impromptu debate on October 24th on the question "that no one should smoke before the age of 21 years." He took part in the debate.

SPEECH ON SMOKING.

Mr. Wingate Saul: Do you think it is proper advice to give to boys, for whose welfare you are responsible, that they should smoke before 21 years of age?—Circumstances are difficult.

Do you think it is proper advice to give to boys, for whom you are responsible?—It was not advice.

What was it?—It was a speech.

Do you wish to quibble in the matter, sir? Do you think it a proper speech to make to small boys?—It was a humorous speech with the intent of keeping the debate going.

Humorous speech! do you call it? Do you think it proper humour to indulge in to boys of 13 years of age, and perhaps less than that? Do you think it a proper speech to make?—Under the circumstances perhaps it was not. You must consider all the facts of the case, and that it was a debate. The boys were good enough to laugh at some of the things I said. I drew the argument from rather humorous points.

Continuing, witness explained that he referred to babies putting their fingers in their mouths, then a teat, and later a cigarette, and that was the only argument he used. It was not logical, of course, but it kept on the debate.

Further cross-examined, witness said he had got into trouble about administering punishment. He had no feeling in the matter. His only grievance, if any, was that he did not understand that to box a boy's ears was to be considered as corporal punishment. He had gone to Birmingham in regard to Atkinson because he thought he could tell the facts easier than he could write of them.

Further cross-examined, witness said he told the headmaster that if he thought he would punish the boy in that way, witness would not have sent him for punishment. He should think five or seven strokes were sufficient.

Because the boy told you he had received 20 strokes, was that the reason you went to see his father?—No.

What was the reason?—The headmaster's words were part of the reason, and a sense of duty to humanity was another.

Do you think that comes well from you, to talk about humanity, when you box a boy's ears and cause him to have an abscess on the ear?—Yes.

Re-examined by Mr. Jordan: He went into the Whewell Society's debate whilst it was in progress to see one of the boys. The discussion was flagging, and he merely took one side.

Mr. Wingate Saul, interposing, elicited further that no complaint was made by witness as to the punishment inflicted on another boy, the reason witness gave being that this boy's parents lived in Russia. He wrote as to the punishment inflicted on Atkinson: "I consider the punishment you inflicted on Atkinson to be unjust, cruel, and inhuman."

"HAD A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN."

Dr. Robert Atkinson, of Smethwick, near Birmingham, said he was an old boy of the Lancaster Royal Grammar School, and that was the reason why he sent his son there. On February 6th he received a visit from Mr. Long, and he came to Lancaster the same day, and examined his boy in the presence of the headmaster on the following day. He found seven weals on each buttock, about a quarter of an inch in width. In three places the skin was broken and quite unhealed. He told the boy to pack up, and took him to see Dr. Dean. He had a photograph taken of the boy. He considered the punishment excessive. The boy told him he had been punished, but not to what extent.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wingate Saul, witness said he was at the Lancaster Royal Grammar School in 1868-9. Caning was not then in vogue at the school. He had written previously to the headmaster about his boy reading trashy literature, and took no exception to the punishment then inflicted. When Mr. Long told him his boy had received upwards of 20 strokes he said he should at once take him away. If the boy was dazed the next day he should consider the punishment had affected his mental health. He had never accused the Headmaster of brutality, but he considered the punishment excessive.

Dr. C. W. Dean, Lancaster, said the boy was brought to him by his father on February 7th. He found seven bruises about a quarter of an inch in width and about two inches in length on each buttock. In three of those the skin had been broken. He had heard that the punishment was inflicted on February 1st. That was six days before. He considered the amount of force used must have been considerable.

By Mr. Wingate Saul: Caning generally left a mark.

When you spoke of the skin being broken, you do not mean that it was broken sufficiently to draw blood?—I do.

Witness added that as to the injury which smoking caused in boys of that age he should think in many cases it had no effect at all. There was not much nicotine in cigarettes. Punishment inflicted on the buttock was less dangerous than upon the hand. He was at the school in his younger days, but caning was only practised for serious offences, and never on the bare skin.

THE DEFENCE.

Mr. Wingate Saul said that cases of that sort were of modern date. In their day they received their caning and nothing more was said about it. In the present case he did not blame the boy for those proceedings. He had given his evidence most fairly, and had taken his caning for a breach of school discipline like they expected boys to take their punishment. First thoughts were often best, and it was evident that for the first fortnight the father of the boy did not contemplate that action. He did not or would not tell them what changed his mind, but it was apparent from the case as it had developed as to who was really the prosecutor. Mr. Wingate-Saul dwelt upon what he described as the exaggerations of Mr. Long, who had gone to see Atkinson's father after the boy had written suggesting that no fuss should be made of the thrashing and that he would tell them all about it when he saw them.

If Dr. Atkinson really thought the boy had been inhumanly treated, it was inconceivable that he should allow a fortnight to go by and do nothing in the matter. The man who was responsible for the prosecution was Mr. Long, who inflicted corporal punishment against the rules of the school, and then had the effrontery to charge his head with treatment which was cruel and inhuman because he had been reprimanded and had a grievance. He had done his best to poison the minds of the people of Lancaster against the headmaster, and he was responsible for the whole prosecution, which should never have been brought.

The practice of smoking had been going on for two terms. As to the canes used the heaviest was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and two were used because one got frayed at the end, and the Headmaster thought the frayed end would cut, so he did not persist in its use. As soon as the boy left the Headmaster's study he went for a walk in the park. If the caning had been excessive the boy would have gone straight to his cubicle.

The whole future of Mr. Shackleton Bailey hinged upon that case. For some years he was a chaplain and instructor in his Majesty's Navy. From there he was appointed head of the modern side of Rossall School, and came to Lancaster when the Royal Grammar School had fallen upon rather evil days. There were no longer any boarders, and the number of day boys had diminished. Since he took the school in hand the number of day boys had nearly doubled, and the boarders had come in good numbers.

HEADMASTER'S STORY.

Defendant said it had come to his knowledge that smoking was getting rather frequent among the boys, and he felt he must stop it. The boy did not scream or resist when punished. It was certainly not the case that the thrashing drew blood. He had reprimanded Mr. Long for boxing a boy's ear, and he took it rather sulkily. He had no idea that Mr. Long was keeping a diary of grievances. He (the defendant) had caned his own boy in similar fashion.

After the punishment the boy and witness were quite on friendly terms. He was quite a sporting little fellow. When Dr. Atkinson left, witness said to him, "Doctor, I can't shake your hand unless you think I acted from a sense of duty." He shook hands, and seemed rather affected.

By Mr. Jordan: He did not notice if he was affected at seeing his boy's buttocks. He thought the photo rather exaggerated the effect of the punishment.

Proceeding, witness said that in no case did he raise his arm above the shoulder in striking the boy, and he gave the strokes in rapid succession.

By Mr. Gregson, a magistrate and ex-school inspector: In administering corporal punishment is it usual to bare the body?—I think there will be evidence to that effect from headmasters of long experience.

Do you often do it?—Only in what I consider serious cases, but I don't suppose I have done it more than three or four times.

Dr. Edmondson, medical officer of the school, said he examined the boy, by the request of the headmaster, on the day following the caning. The boy was seated on a chair in the headmaster's study, and appeared quite comfortable. Twenty-eight hours had elapsed after the caning when he saw the boy. There were weals, but the skin was not broken. The weals were entirely superficial. The boy made no complaint whatever. The bruising would be more apparent a fortnight later than the day after, the same as in the case of a black eye.

By Mr. Jordan: He considered the photograph showed exaggerated effect. It certainly did not appear that the skin was broken.

Miss Dewhurst said that on the day following the thrashing she examined the boy's underclothing and bedclothing, and found no signs of any blood.

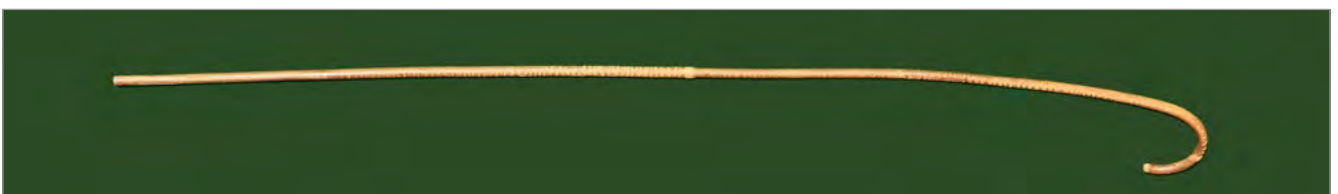
Abbott, one of the school prefects, said he did not notice the thrashing particularly.

Cross-examined: He thought he got about 15 strokes. He seemed rather pale after it.

The Bench retired, and were absent 15 minutes. The Mayor, on their return, said the case would be dismissed.

The result was received with slight applause, which was at once suppressed.

Lancashire Daily Post, Thursday, March 4, 1915



Prefect's Cane, circa 1929

Before examining how events unfolded, some background information about a few of the characters involved might be useful.

A mathematician, John Henry Shackleton Bailey MA, DD, FRGS, (Headmaster, 1913-39), was educated at St Paul's School and Worcester College, Oxford. After some years as a Royal Navy chaplain, he taught at Rossall School for three years.

Albert Edward Long, the Housemaster, was born in 1891. After St Peter's School, York (1901-09), he graduated Third Class from St John's College, Cambridge (1911-14). He joined LRGS as a full-time Assistant Master, subject to the usual probation, on 18 September 1914 at an annual salary of £130, with a yearly increment of £10. His principal duties were to teach Classics to the Fifth and Sixth Forms, to teach German, and to be Housemaster in School House where boarding had been re-established in 1913.

Harold James Atkinson (1913-15) was born in November 1898. A boarder, he was withdrawn by his father after the caning, and is recorded as formally leaving in March 1915. Henry Kirkham (1914-18), the other boy to be caned, was born in March 1902. Admitted as a boarder into Form II in September 1914, he left in 1918 when in the Upper Shell Form. William Haigh Abbott (1908-15), the prefect who allegedly held Atkinson down, was later killed in action.

Dr Robert Atkinson (left 1862), Harold's father, went up to Leeds School of Medicine and Guy's Hospital; he qualified MRCS and LSA in 1869. In practice at Halifax and Smethwick, he died between 1922 and 1927. Dr Charles Dean (left before 1878) qualified MRCP and LRCS from Edinburgh University and, later, FRCS.

Herbert Lushington Storey JP, DL (1863-65), Chairman of Governors, was an oilcloth manufacturer, colliery owner and ironmaster. He lived at Bailrigg, was a Lancashire County Cap for rugby, and was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1904.



Harold Atkinson

The defence barrister, (Sir) Ernest Wingate Wingate-Saul (left 1888), was subsequently educated at Rugby and Christ Church, Oxford. Called to the Bar in 1897, he was later appointed KC, and Judge of the High Court, Isle of Man.

The Atkinson boy, the father, the



Henry Kirkham



William Abbott

Chairman of Governors, the defence barrister, and the doctor to whom the father had taken the boy, were all educated at the School, as was the Clerk to the Governors. Five Governors were Justices of the Peace.

The punishments having been administered to Atkinson and Kirkham on 1 February, events moved with rapidity. Long, having spoken to Atkinson, saw Shackleton Bailey the following day, and the latter made his candid comment about the thrashing which he had administered. Long resigned as Housemaster (but not as an Assistant Master) on 2 February. Whether he had consulted fellow members of the Common Room cannot be ascertained. In his letter to Shackleton Bailey, he wrote:

"I herewith give notice of my resignation of the position as Housemaster. I consider the punishment you inflicted on Atkinson and Kirkham unjust and inhuman. Such a severe punishment for what is after all no serious moral offence makes me hesitate to send any offender to you for punishment. And since I am forbidden to administer this myself I am afraid the discipline of the House must suffer. I beg to report that I saw Kirkham's leg yesterday evening and saw three large weals some way below the thigh and ordered ointment for same. I trust you will relieve me of my position as soon as possible in order that I may report the matter to other authorities."

It cannot be known whether the letter came as an unpleasant surprise to Shackleton Bailey, but an immediate response was forthcoming. Dr Edmondson, the School Doctor, was summoned to inspect Atkinson, and the Matron, Miss Dewhurst, inspected the boy's clothing and bedding. Additionally, the Clerk to the Governors (and/or at least one Governor) was apprised of the situation no later than 3 February. Two Governors requested that a Special Meeting of the Governors be called to discuss the suspension of Long and Shackleton Bailey's recommendation that Long's services be dispensed.

During that week Atkinson wrote to his father to say that he had been caught smoking and had had to be caned.

When Shackleton Bailey spoke to him, Atkinson said that he had not included any details of the caning.

On Saturday 6 February Long travelled to Smethwick to see Atkinson's father, Dr Robert Atkinson, and the latter came up to Lancaster. The following day Dr Atkinson examined his son in the presence of Shackleton Bailey, told the boy to pack his luggage, and took him to see Dr Charles Dean. A photograph was taken.

Both Shackleton Bailey and Long were present at the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February, at which time the Governors dispensed with Long's services. By 10 February Long had engaged a solicitor, Mr J T Sanderson, and the latter wrote to the Governors that day.

Three days later, 13 February, a meeting of the Governors' Urgency Committee took place, at which Sanderson's letter was read. A Governor, Mr William Garnett JP DL, requested a Special Meeting of the Governors, which was held on 22 February. On meeting, Sanderson's letters were read, and the Governors resolved to dismiss "Mr Long from his position as Assistant Master and decline to state or discuss their reasons for so doing" and that his salary "be paid up to the 9th instant and that the Governors admit no liability whatever for compensation to him". It was further resolved that a Committee of Governors be appointed to deal with all questions arising on the dismissal of Mr Long, with full powers to act.

At some stage in mid-February, according to the evidence given in court, Dr Atkinson decided to institute proceedings. On 4 March, Shackleton Bailey appeared before the Bench at the Lancaster Borough Police Court, the outcome being that the case was dismissed. The first newspaper reports appeared that evening, followed by a significant number the next day and during the subsequent fortnight.

Following the verdict Shackleton Bailey wrote at least one letter to the press, to *Truth*, requesting that he be allowed a right of reply. His letter was published, but he can hardly have been satisfied with further comments made by the editor; the latter re-emphasised that he thought the Bench had reached the wrong verdict and called into question the level of intelligence of those magistrates.

There can be no question in the mind of any reasonable being that the thrashing inflicted by the Rev. J. H. Shackleton-Bailey on one of the boys at the Lancaster Royal Grammar School, and for which he was summoned for assault at the Lancaster Police Court last week, was excessive. A pedagogue who inflicts seventeen strokes with a cane on the bare flesh of a boy of sixteen for indulging in a surreptitious cigarette is not the type of schoolmaster I should care to entrust a boy of mine to, and the father is to be commended for taking action in the police court to make the methods of this disciplinarian public. Why the magistrates should have dismissed the case is a mystery.

I have received the following letter from the headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster:—

DEAR SIR,—Regarding TRUTH as a fair-minded paper generally willing to listen to the other side of the case, I venture to ask that you will insert in your next number a brief reply of mine to the strictures you passed on me this week.

The boy I punished received about a dozen to fifteen "strokes," but the term "stroke" must not be used in the prison sense of a violent blow delivered deliberately and to obtain its fullest effect, for the canes I use are only about an ounce in weight, and the "strokes" are delivered rapidly without raising the hand above the shoulder. The really important thing, however, in estimating the severity of a punishment is the after effect of it. In this case the boy's own evidence was that directly after receiving it he went to the playing field and took a walk. He ate his meals well the same afternoon, and slept perfectly the night of the punishment. Why, then, need there be any "mystery as to why the magistrates dismissed the case," or why the verdict was received with some applause in court? Those present knew, in fact, what you do not, that the charge would never have been brought but for the malicious action of a colleague dismissed by the governors.

There were no boarders in the School House at the time of my appointment two years ago, there are now a good number; the number of boys attending the school has nearly doubled since I came. Do these facts show that the boys have been treated harshly or unfairly? The very boy who was punished for smoking left a message before he went to express his gratitude for the kindness he had received here.

You may regard smoking, or, as you term it, "a surreptitious cigarette," a thing of no importance in a school; I do not. Many of the parents of our boarders would strongly object to them contracting the cigarette habit while under my charge; and, if buildings were burned down and lives lost through boys using matches carelessly in their studies, papers like yours would be the first to pillory the unfortunate headmaster who knew what was going on and did not put his foot down vigorously to prevent it.—Yours faithfully,

J. H. SHACKLETON BAILEY.

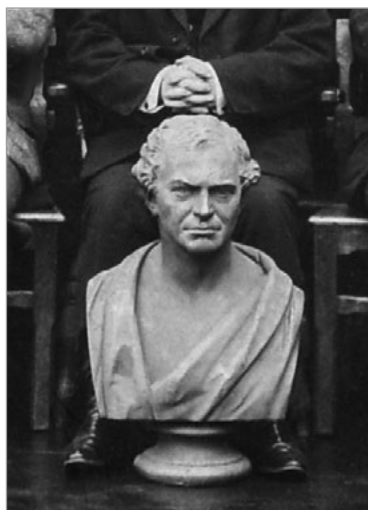
He may well have written to other newspapers. At least one national newspaper, the *Daily Mail*, which had printed a report on 5 March under the heading *Caning in Public School*, published a further article on 16 March under the same heading. It was stated in the second report: "we regret to find that our report of the case did not sufficiently refer to the evidence for the defence", and some of the key points the defence made were listed.

Meanwhile, Long's solicitors and the Governors were kept occupied. On 10 March two Governors, Garnett and Preston, requested that a Special Meeting be held on 16 March to discuss a Resolution which they had drafted. It makes interesting reading:

"The Governors of the Lancaster Royal Grammar School warmly congratulate the Revd. J. H. Shackleton Bailey upon the result of the late prosecution against him for assault and beg to assure him of their unanimous and strongest support in upholding the discipline of the School and in sternly suppressing any signs of insubordination or disloyalty from whatever part of the School it may arise."

An inference to be drawn is that perhaps not only was the boys' behaviour (referred to in Ridley's reminiscence) considered reprehensible, but that support for Shackleton Bailey in the Common Room was at the very least less than whole-hearted. Indeed, given the intervention of the Senior Assistant Master a few days later, it is possible that the Headmaster faced opposition from some or all of the Assistant Masters.

There were two meetings of Governors on 16 March. The Committee established on 22 February met first, at 9.45am. A letter from Messrs Reynolds, the solicitors now acting for Long, was read, stating their intention to commence proceedings against the Governors in respect of Long's "wrongful dismissal from the post of Assistant Master of the School".



Bust of William Whewell

At 10.00am, the Special Meeting was held. The draft Resolution, quoted above, was discussed, and an amended version was carried unanimously. It stated:

"That the Governors express their great satisfaction at the result of the late prosecution against the Headmaster (the Rev. J.H. Shackleton Bailey) for assault and beg to assure him of their unanimous and strongest support in upholding the discipline of the School and in sternly suppressing any signs of insubordination therein."

At a date which cannot be determined, the Chairman of Governors, Mr H L Storey JP DL, asked Shackleton Bailey to prepare a written report dealing with the internal discipline of the School, and on 17 March Storey requested that a Special Meeting be held on 23 March to discuss it.

The Governors met as arranged. Prior to the meeting though, Mr T N B Vincent, the Senior Assistant Master, had on 18 March written a letter to them, of which unfortunately no copy can be found. Long's solicitors had also written a further letter. The Governors resolved: "that the Headmaster be asked to read his report omitting any names of parents or others who had made any complaint or communication to him". Shackleton Bailey read it; Vincent's letter was also read, and it was then resolved to adjourn the meeting until 30 March, at which the report and the letter would be given further consideration and Vincent would be invited to the next meeting to make a statement. The Governors were also informed by Shackleton Bailey that a temporary appointment to replace Long had been made.

The Meeting was held on 30 March and the full backing which the Governors had promised was clearly manifested. In the presence of Vincent, Shackleton Bailey again read his report upon the internal discipline of the School, along with a copy of a letter he had written to Vincent; unfortunately, neither of these documents can be found. The latter then made a statement, and the two

J.W. Heath then proposed that "Persons under twenty-one should not smoke". H Milner opposing Mr. Long in a well appreciated speech, endeavoured to show that everyone should smoke before they became twenty-one. E.H. Keir, J. Thompson, W.G. Howson, Doctor Gunson and H. Milner also spoke. The motion was lost by 14 votes to 11.

Whewell Society Minute Book

J. W. HEATH next moved "That persons under twenty-one should not smoke." Such a subject unloosed much eloquence from H. Milner (opposer), J. Thompson, E. H. Keir, W. G. Howson, H. M. Docton, and J. Gunson; on voting, the "Noes" had it by 14 votes to 11.

The Lancastrian's Report of the Debate

men left the room. The report and the letter were then discussed. The Governors resolved:

"That Mr Vincent be asked whether he was prepared to support the Headmaster in the future and to undertake to work for the good of the School and so far as in his power to insist on the junior masters doing the same and that if satisfactory assurance be given, the Headmaster be asked



H L Storey JP DL

whether he is willing to give Mr Vincent an opportunity of carrying out his undertaking."

Shackleton Bailey and Vincent were then re-admitted. In what can hardly have been a pleasing experience for Vincent, he gave the necessary assurance and said that he was sorry if anything he had done had been hurtful to the School. He further undertook to see that the junior masters carried out the spirit of the above undertaking.

Whilst the use of the cane, particularly to the extent administered to Atkinson, is regarded by many today as unconscionable, its deployment over a century ago was not widely questioned in a society in which corporal and capital punishment were common. The legal prohibition of caning in schools was only phased in from 1987, finally ending in 1999. The birch, a harsher punishment than caning, was retained by Eton until the 1960s; it was also a judicial penalty until 1948 (and retained in the Isle of Man until 1976) and was available in prisons until 1962 for violent breaches of discipline. Public executions at Lancaster Castle occurred in the lifetimes of OLs still alive in 1915.

Dr Atkinson's evidence that caning was not much in vogue at LRGS when he was a boy is questionable. On the contrary, available sources in the School Archive and elsewhere show that Lee had a fearsome reputation for wielding the cane; indeed, on his retirement in 1872 he presented his best cane to his successor, saying, "There is your sceptre". Furthermore, Dr Dean's evidence that caning was only practised for serious offences when he was at LRGS is perhaps problematic; the *School Rules* (1877) show that expulsion was the most severe punishment and was automatic for smoking, stealing, entering a public house, and bringing any intoxicating drink into the School, and caning was used as a lesser punishment. The evidence of Shackleton Bailey that he had caned his own boy in similar fashion is supported by a remark in an obituary for David Shackleton Bailey (the youngest son of Shackleton Bailey) that his two elder brothers, Eric and John, "were mercilessly beaten".

It was fortunate for both Shackleton Bailey and LRGS that the case was dismissed. If found guilty the former might well have had to leave and the latter would have lost a man who was to be one of its most successful headmasters. In a meeting with the Governors in 1930 one of His Majesty's Inspectors stated that Shackleton Bailey "had done a great deal to restore and add to the reputation of the School", and the Vice-Chairman of Governors then remarked that on Shackleton Bailey's appointment in 1912 "they had expected a great deal and their hopes had been fully realised".

What were those hopes? Shackleton Bailey's determination to re-establish boarding appears to have been an important consideration. The defence barrister, Wingate-Saul, had spoken of LRGS having "fallen upon rather evil days", a reference to the declining number of day-boys and to the collapse of boarding into abeyance under Dr



T N B Vincent



Alderman Preston JP

Herbert Watson (Headmaster, 1903-12). This trajectory, an uncongenial one to many, was immediately reversed: by 1920 the number of boys had doubled, and boarders increased from nil to a hundred. Shackleton Bailey also aimed to ensure "the preservation and, if possible, the enhancing of the character and traditions of the Royal Grammar School as an old public school", and this desire to increase the status of LRGS found significant support from the Governors when, for example, he proposed in 1913 that a Contingent of the Officer Training Corps be established.

There appears to be no minuted record of disapproval being voiced by any Governor about the methods used by Shackleton Bailey to ensure discipline. Indeed, the tone was set by the Chairman of Governors, H L Storey, at Speech

1. The following resolution to be proposed by Mr Garnett seconded by Mr Preston (Vice Chairman)

The Governors of the Lancaster Royal Grammar School warmly congratulate the Rev. J. H. Shackleton Bailey upon the result of the late prosecution against him for assault and beg to assure him of their unanimous and strongest support in upholding the discipline of the School and in sternly suppressing any signs of insubordination or disloyalty from whatever part of the School it may arise.

394 That the Governors express their great satisfaction at the result of the late prosecution against the Headmaster (the Rev. J. H. Shackleton Bailey) for assault and beg to assure him of their unanimous and strongest support in upholding the discipline of the School and in sternly suppressing any signs of insubordination therein

Draft Resolution and Carried Resolution

3.—For smoking, stealing, entering a public house, or introducing any intoxicating drink into the School, a boy will be at once expelled.

School Rules, 1877

PUNISHMENT.

No corporal punishment is to be administered in any shape or form to a boy by an Assistant Master, other than the Master in charge of the Preparatory Department at Gardyner House. It is most important that this regulation should be observed.

Masters' Copy of Certain School Rules, 1930s

Day in 1913. *The Lancastrian* reported that Storey “always advocated the cane as a punishment in preference to the giving of lines, as the delinquent’s handwriting was not thereby spoiled. The cane was more efficient, too — he spoke from personal experience”. In the same year a firm line was taken by Shackleton Bailey when a series of thefts led to parents making serious representations to him; he subsequently announced that the first boy to be caught stealing would be expelled, and he was. It was also hardly surprising that when smoking became more prevalent, a strict response was forthcoming, and that Atkinson’s wearing

of two pairs of trousers resulted in a more severe punishment than would otherwise have been the case. And given that boys for various reasons are often less docile in wartime, a firmness of approach would have been welcomed by many.

His authority re-established after the court case, Shackleton Bailey later delegated canings to Suthers. The only other member of staff permitted to cane boys was the Master i/c the Preparatory Department. Assistant Masters were specifically forbidden from administering corporal punishment, although this ruling was perhaps honoured more in the breach than in the observance. Furthermore, as in most HMC boarding schools and a few HMC day schools, the prefects, both boarding and day, were given caning powers by Shackleton Bailey; indeed, they had greater official powers than the Masters. Their right to cane was widely used, and generations of OLs have spoken of how they were beaten not only for smoking but also for minor offences such as running in the corridors or talking in Morning Assembly. However, in Timberlake’s time (39-61) some parental dissatisfaction with a heavy-handed use of corporal punishment saw its deployment by prefects gradually restricted and then, with prefectorial consent, eventually abolished.

What became of Long? It was reported to the Governors on 22 June 1915 that £15 15s. 2d. had been paid to him for his services up to the date of his leaving the School and accepted by him in full discharge. He is recorded in the *Register of Masters* as leaving in February 1915, and that his next employment was at a preparatory school at Claphorn (*sic*), Crawley, Kent. From having taught in the Sixth Form at a school represented on the Headmasters’ Conference, the body representing the heads of 115 public schools, such a move might perhaps be considered a significant demotion. It would be interesting to find out what subsequently became of him.

Vincent, a popular master, who had been appointed in 1898, had a more felicitous career. It can be assumed that he honoured his commitment to support Shackleton Bailey in the future because he was soon placed in charge of the newly established Preparatory Department for boys aged eight to eleven. At his marriage in 1919 a large number of pupils and OLs turned out; Shackleton Bailey was one of the officiating clergy and he and his wife gave the Vincents a wedding present of two thermos flasks. Vincent retired in 1934. Incidentally, his own technique when caning was to use a left-handed squash player’s flick.



J H Shackleton Bailey



J H Shackleton Bailey and Pupils, 1930s



John Shackleton Bailey and Eric Shackleton Bailey (later an MP)



Advertisement, 1915



Old Side: Queen Victoria



Her Majesty The Queen



Union Flag at Half-Mast

LRGS is proud of its enduring links with the monarchy. Queen Victoria conferred the 'Royal' title on the School, and her statue stands above the main entrance to Old Side. There have been three Royal Visits in the past seventy-five years: that of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in 1951 to mark the Centenary of Old Side; Queen Elizabeth II in 1969 on the occasion of the Quincentenary of the Gardyner Endowment; and Princess Anne in

2001 for the Sesquicentenary of Old Side. The Queen's Prizes are the senior academic Speech Day prizes, and the Duchy of Lancaster appoints one of the Trustees.

There was an additional day's holiday on 3 June 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, and her seventy-year reign was commemorated at the School. The Stamp Club created two display pieces each consisting

of seventy stamps to celebrate the Jubilee, and they also sent a card to the Queen to show her their work and send her their best wishes. Three months later, on her decease, the Union Flag flew at half-mast above Old Side Tower.

Another additional day's holiday was granted for 8 May 2023 to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. As at the Jubilee, the School was decorated with bunting



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee



Stamp Club with Platinum Jubilee Designs



Bunting for the Platinum Jubilee



His Majesty The King



Celebrating the Coronation



Bunting for the Coronation



Major Ross Hold

and there were celebratory events. An official portrait of the King will soon be obtained, and many readers of this magazine will recall that LRGS already has portraits of monarchs, starting with one of George V, some of them signed.

OLs at the heart of the State Funeral

The Lying-in-State and subsequent State Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Duke of Lancaster, was an exceptionally solemn and moving occasion for the whole nation and the Commonwealth.

Two Old Lancastrians, Lieutenant Commander Michael Quinn (97-04) Royal Navy and Major Ross Hold (98-04) Royal Regiment of Scotland were central to events in Scotland and then London. Ross acted as a marshall for the Royal Family (including HM King Charles III) for the Procession-in-State along the Royal Mile to St Giles Cathedral before the Lying-in-State in Scotland (Operation Unicorn); he then acted as Officer Commanding the Royal Regiment of Scotland Marching Detachment as part of the State Funeral procession in London

(Operation London Bridge). Michael was Captain of the Royal Navy Guard as part of the Tri-Service Guard of Honour in Parliament Square for the Procession-in-State from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall ahead of the Lying-in-State and then on the day of the State Funeral.

Ross and Michael were not aware of each other's roles until they met by chance during the rehearsals for the event when all military personnel mustered in Wellington Barracks adjacent to Buckingham Palace.



Major Ross Hold (top-left)



Quinn Jnr and Quinn Snr



The Queen's Colour of the Fleet

Michael writes: I had the immense privilege of leading the Royal Navy Guard as part of the Tri-Service Guard of Honour for the two key events in the lead up to and on the day of the State Funeral. The event was a moving and emotional occasion for all involved. The Royal Navy was at the heart of this historic occasion with the State Gun Carriage at the centre pulled by RN ratings and officers, a 110-strong Guard of Honour escorting the Queen's Colour of the Fleet (which I led) and hundreds of Royal Navy and Royal Marines acting as street liners in London and Windsor, all accompanied by all the bands of

HM Royal Marines Band Service. It's a memory that will live with me forever.

Ross writes: On Operation London Bridge, I was the OC of The Royal Regiment of Scotland marching contingent. Due to the seniority of our Regiment (Royal Scots were First Regiment of Foot, 1663), we had the privileged position on the march to be just in front of the Household Division near the centre of the procession. I myself am a Major (Company Commander) in the 4th Battalion (The Highlanders), The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and on that day led twenty-five soldiers and

officers through London as a mark of respect for Her Majesty.

Editor's note: Lieutenant Commander Quinn is currently based in Bristol and his role is to deliver training solutions for new and upgrades to existing equipment being procured by Defence Equipment and Support and the Submarine Delivery Agency based from MOD Abbey Wood. Major Hold is currently resettling upon discharge from the British Army but was most recently a company commander in the 4th Battalion (The Highlanders) in the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Both men were in the same year and form as boys.



Funeral Procession, Lieutenant Commander Michael Quinn was the Royal Navy's First Officer of the Guard



Lieutenant Commander Michael Quinn at Rehearsal (centre)



Hello! 3 October 2022



A Tribute to DHC

Stuart Westley (58-66) writes: We are gathered today to pay tribute to, and to give thanks for, the life of a truly great schoolmaster. It is an impossible task, for Douglas had an endearing modesty; he did not enjoy discussion which focused on himself, he was no lover of ceremony or indeed any form of fuss. Though he would have played down that thought too, he was highly intelligent, the recipient of a First Class degree, in Donald Wilkinson's words: 'in days when a First from a decent provincial university meant something'. That intelligence was evident in a discernible impatience even in his latter years; sometimes his eyes would shift as if to say 'I know what you are going to say, and I have already considered that'. If he were here now, I suspect we would already have heard 'That's enough of that, we must be getting on now Jerry' (one of Doug's ultra-loyal friends). We should indeed be brief, but we are not getting on just yet.

My debt to Doug was probably greater than that of most. I was in his cricket team for four years, I was taught by him during the two critical Sixth Form years, he was my Housemaster and I experienced and benefited from his remarkable partnership with Jim Gledhill as managers of the Lancashire Cricket Federation teams. Others will be able to describe the remarkable skill and dedication which Doug brought to his cricket coaching, which extended over very many years, even until Doug was in his eighties. I just wish to observe that during a short, undistinguished period in first-class cricket, in itself a result of Doug's coaching and encouragement, I learned nothing of significance about the techniques of batting, bowling, fielding or wicketkeeping, nor of the tactics of the game, that I had not previously learned from Doug. We should remember too that Doug was in truth a cricketer of modest ability. Remarkably, he knew so much about what mattered within the game and he knew too how to communicate it. How he acquired that knowledge and understanding is an enduring question; it's one of the qualities of a remarkable man.

LRGS in the 1960s had some outstanding teachers and, incidentally, some in a very different category. Doug was one of the very best. His teaching was outstandingly ambitious, based on his deep knowledge of his subject and his determination to do his very best for his pupils. You just



Doug Cameron

went at the pace he set, which was very demanding; there was no choice. The explanations were clear and succinct, you could not fail to be interested, and you knew you were in very good hands. Prep assignments were substantial, utterly unreasonable I sometimes thought, and occasionally suggested, to my shame. All the work was marked and if it was not of a decent standard, you did it again and that was marked too. There was no escape. To this day I marvel at the intellectual level of Doug's lessons. On one occasion Doug let slip some horror that nobody was able to explain immediately how to obtain the quantity of the energy generated by some event, the definite integral of the power function over time, I understood the answer to have been. The point is that you were expected to know things like that and to have employed some curiosity, thinking independently it would be called today. I recall too an assumption that we



Paul Fitton



Stuart Westley



Memorial Stone, Douthwaite Field

could all effortlessly apply our sophisticated understanding of the algebra of complex numbers to electro-magnetic theory. Well, maybe? It was certainly a sweat and there were probably murmurings of complaint, but we knew that fundamentally this was enormously worthwhile and that, come the judgement day of exams, all would be well. It was.

As an aside, not many years ago a near contemporary, Jeff Beatty, observed that Doug was not infrequently late for lessons. He was, and the first lesson on Friday afternoons was often one. Why? The School then had a recently appointed groundsman, a thoroughly loyal, committed, decent man but with no background in cricket or preparation of wickets particularly. Doug would have had to guide him over every detail, and the afternoon before a home game was a critical time. Today we would accept no excuses for not arriving at lessons punctually for obvious reasons but, in Doug's case, it did not seem to matter. Probably the explanation was that the rest of the lesson proceeded at such pace that any time lost appeared to have been recovered.

Doug not only supervised preparation of pitches in addition to his coaching, he also made all the fixtures and, I recall clearly, ordered most, if not all, of the kit. Paul has already referred to the tours which Doug organised during half term in the summer. Most of us then were naturally loyal to our territory, the North-West, with little knowledge or awareness of the world beyond. Those tours provided a fascinating and important glimpse into a different world, in addition to the opportunity to assert ourselves over some well-known schools. But think of the time involved! In those days there were no one-line emails. Fixtures were made by handwritten letters, duly stamped and posted, and with a reply possibly weeks later. Who organised the transport, usually provided by willing parents or members of staff, and the accommodation? You will have guessed.

Recent research, probably in connection with the excellent account of the Headship of John Spencer, revealed that not long after Doug's appointment to LRGS in 1953, a vacancy arose for the position of boarding Housemaster. The then-Headmaster, Robert Timberlake, was reported to have hesitated over appointing Doug given his lack of any experience of boarding. The questioning was clearly wise; a casual appointment of boarding staff today would have untold consequences; things were not entirely different seventy years earlier. In the event Doug was appointed and, despite the inexperience, he proved a superb Housemaster. He knew exactly what was going on, even the most rebellious of his charges never got the better of him. It seemed that if any of us was slacking in any subject for whatever reason, Housemaster Doug would know about it, and we would soon be under interrogation. At the end of every term his Housemaster's reports would reveal deep understanding of his pupils together with his extensive ambitions for them, communicated in that impeccably neat handwriting. Did the more 'high profile' boys receive disproportionate attention? The emphatic response to that, including we hear today, is 'No'. Doug cared about all. The vital advice and guidance concerning university entrance

was provided, promptly and knowledgeably, always on the basis, spoken or unspoken, that we always aim high, very high actually. Nothing tried, nothing gained. Simple!

I hope to have communicated something of Doug's commitment to his pupils and of the sheer extent of the work he undertook on their, our, behalf. It was phenomenal. I also wish to say something of the man himself. Was Doug a disciplinarian? I sense that the instinctive answer would be 'Yes'. For instance, boarders' prep in the '60s started at 6.30pm in Big School. The boarding staff would then be finishing their supper so the first ten minutes or so would be supervised by a prefect. There was silence; we did not know which Master would arrive. When Doug appeared, you could hear a pin drop. With others all hell was liable to break out and frequently did. Regular doses of the cane were the norm then with Doug delivering a generous share. The practice would, of course, be roundly condemned, and is illegal, today. At that time regular use of the cane was pretty standard. I have no recollection of serious fear of that form of punishment and am unaware that others were significantly apprehensive. We did, of course, have the option to behave. So, it would be difficult to question the view that Doug was strict but is it accurate to categorise him as a disciplinarian? In the past, and I suggest to a lesser extent today, disciplinarians, formidable characters, among the teaching staff of schools existed quite widely, I suspect also at LRGS, but perhaps that is one for conjecture. The *modus operandi* of the disciplinarians was seldom challenged, they were content to induce fear in pupils, and sometimes in colleagues, and generally, they were confident of the virtue of their own methods. Their focus, expressed or implied, was largely on themselves.

The wiser view I suggest is to see Doug's strictness as part of his determination that pupils for whom he had responsibility achieved all of which they were capable. The success of



Interment of DHC's Ashes by Jerry Duerden

their education, in the widest sense, was not to be trivialised. It mattered to Doug massively; he was not prepared for pupils' success to be compromised by any form of messing around. Unsurprisingly, this commitment was understood and respected totally. Throughout Doug's long life you did not need to look far below the surface to find innumerable acts of kindness and generosity; of those there will be many examples in our minds today, all of which are fundamentally at odds with the stereotypical picture of the standard disciplinarian. I am told that in the later stages of his career when Doug was

Second Master, younger members of staff recognised Doug's extraordinary commitment to high standards and therefore his high expectations of them. But they were equally conscious of his interest in them, his sympathy, fairness, willingness to help and to encourage. He was a man to whom they could turn and in whom they could trust.

It is time now to accede to Doug's advice and to move on which we do in a spirit of immense gratitude to one of the greats of the School's community.

JWF

An Afternoon Tea was kindly hosted by John Fidler's relatives in the Assembly Hall in 2022. The School's longest-serving member of staff, John taught History from 1962-97, latterly as Head of Department, and was afterwards the Admissions Tutor until 2013. He was also Senior Housemaster of Vincent and twice editor of *The Lancastrian*. A CCF Guard of Honour was in attendance to

pay tribute to his long-standing service to the Combined Cadet Force. He founded the RAF Section and was its commander for twenty years before taking over as CCF Contingent Commander for fifteen years more. OLs, and former and current Masters, attended from lunchtime onwards and were able to view an exhibition of memorabilia arranged not only by his family but also by a volunteer School archivist.



Guard of Honour



Part of the JWF Display



JWF



Guard of Honour

David Ashbridge

Alistair Shawcross writes: Hailing from Carlisle and having had embryonic careers in both butchery and the nuclear industry followed by degrees at both St Martin's (now Cumbria) and Lancaster Universities, David Ashbridge was appointed as an English teacher by Headmaster Peter Mawby in 1996. Over the next quarter of a century however, his contribution to the School would extend well beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Always willing to aid colleagues Dave volunteered his time to accompany Classics trips and to assist on the Year 7 residential trip to Glenridding. His greatest service to his peers though came with a four-year stint as Chairman of the Common Room, an important but often difficult position requiring tact and diplomacy, hugely benefitting colleagues with no thought to personal gain.

The boys and latterly girls were his number-one priority and their schooldays have been greatly enriched by Dave. For over twenty years he helped to run the School's Christian Union, gave numerous assemblies and oversaw a number of clubs. His love of theatre was also shared as he wrote, directed and produced a number of plays, one even staged internationally. The joint LRGS and LGGS musicals also benefitted from his expertise behind the scenes. Corridors were enlivened by the long-running 'Poem of the Week' and one of the highlights of his legacy will be the LRGS Literature Society that he co-founded. Dave not only encouraged other staff and pupils to share their love of an author or genre, but also contributed his own lunchtime talks.

My first memories of Dave come from when I was a newly appointed House Tutor in Ashton House under the then-Housemaster Matt Buckland. By this point Dave had already served under both Ian Whitehouse and Ian Ralston and had an established chair in the duty study where we sat at lunchtime putting the world to rights. When as Housemaster of Frankland I was fortunate enough to poach him from Ashton, this lunchtime tradition continued, and I could always rely on Dave to proffer sound counsel while also completing *The Times* crossword with Nick Rafferty, James Hurrell and Andy Yelland. Dave completed his twenty-five years of service to boarding with Jonny Viney in Storey House. Hopefully his 'Screen-free Thursdays' and associated introduction to numerous board and outdoor games instilled in boys that there is a world beyond their 'phone screens.

Reflecting briefly on Dave outside School, he had, like many, decided to cycle across the country from Morecambe to Bridlington over the course of a few



days. A fair challenge. Unlike many, he had then decided to cycle the whole route back in one day. This would be no mean feat even without the unrelenting headwind that accompanied him all day. Offering him a wheel to follow from Hawes I arrived broken in Lancaster; Dave though, wanting to see things through to the end, carried on, past home, to complete his return journey on Morecambe's seafront.

Thousands of pupils have passed through Dave's classroom door, and I am confident that even the most ardent bibliophobe will have struggled not to have had some of his enthusiasm for reading and literature rub off on them. I am sure many will also fondly remember his General Studies course on Bob Dylan, while a more select few will have been taught Religious Studies and games by him. Twenty-six form groups will also have benefitted from his wit and guidance as they have made their way through LRGS.

He leaves us to enjoy more time with Natasha, enjoying pursuits from writing to following the mighty Carlisle United and active involvement with St Thomas' church. He will be greatly missed as a friend and colleague who has given a career of service to the School, enriching the lives of both staff and pupils alike. His absence will be especially felt by Messrs Rafferty and Burns, left now to try completing the crossword by themselves without his sharp intellect and wide vocabulary. It won't be the same passing through the Common Room with one of that merry trio absent.

All the very best Dave for a well-deserved and hopefully long and prosperous retirement.



Hugh Castle

Jamie Reynolds writes: After thirty-two years at LRGS Hugh Castle retired this summer, leaving a rich legacy and a considerable hole to fill. I worked with Hugh in the History Department for twenty-one of those years, Craig Atkinson for sixteen, Jill Love for seven and Louise Wareing for five. As

a department we've seen Janet Mallows, Robin Thompson and Mike Davies leave us, but Hugh was the constant in that time, steering the ship of history in his own dynamic and bold way.

In the weeks leading up to Hugh's departure it was a pleasure to read comments sent in by OLs; to celebrate Hugh as a department at our bring-your-own leaving meal; and to meet with students from the History Society who gave their own tribute.

Hugh has had an immeasurable impact on the School, the students, the department and on a personal level. We have all benefitted from his support and it has been a privilege, when called upon, to support him.

Hugh has fulfilled a diverse range of roles at and for the School, and whether or not he's been an expert, he's always thrown himself into each of them. He came to LRGS in 1991 and like many a keen young teacher he agreed to be a live-in boarding tutor and a rugby coach, but then took up the mantle of running music and drama productions. Later he became head of department, managing old hands like Doug Walker and the corduroy legend Mike Davies. He also established the premise of the Green Team, securing funding for the School's solar panels, ran the staff welfare committee and most recently served as a staff governor.



In doing so he has provided the students with incredible energy, experience, knowledge and support. Running through comments received by OLs are remarks such as "he was a teacher who you tried your hardest for"; "it was his qualities not only as a teacher but as a man and a role model that made his classes the most anticipated of the school day, and which mean their lessons yield a continuing education"; and "the most important defining part of his character ... was that he was kind".

The experiences offered in the classroom have been diverse: blues music, piggy-back revision sessions, debates, rivers of revolution, epic knowledge grids, talking timelines and much else. It is outside the classroom though where Hugh has helped to create experiences that few History departments could match: the time-travelling abbots from Furness Abbey, replete with pieces of the 'True Cross'; cardboard carnage and Hastings re-enactments; Phrygian bonnet-wearing, Pantheon speech-making, Marseillaise chanting, sound-off shouting; scrummaging Paris trips; Irish investigations with IRA members and Orange Order oddities, and the epic storming of the Drogheda defences.

As a member of staff on those trips it has been exhausting, sometimes frenzied, and on occasion even a little threatening — in one Parisian hotel the proprietors seemed upset that we were asking for a refund when water came through the power sockets in one of the rooms! However, they have always been great fun and students returned with a deeper understanding of history and many random stories to tell.

All this energy and dynamism has contributed to building an ethos that students and staff have admired. Hugh's magic has been to bring a diverse and changing cast of characters together and make them click. This was evident to me from day one when I was introduced to Mike Davies, Janet Mallows and Robin Thompson, and would be reinforced when I was standing outside the assembly hall only months later, dressed as a Norman soldier, carrying a geography ranging pole and listening to Mark Chambers tell Hugh that it might not be a good idea to charge into the hall while the Headmaster was speaking. I suspect this



was largely down to Mark seeing Robin Thompson's yard-long 'Mule Tamer'. Despite Mark's advice we did storm the hall; no children were seriously harmed and Andrew Jarman was not perhaps best pleased, but nobody lost their job and it was clear then that I was in for more than I bargained when I accepted the job offer!

Since then, others have arrived and experienced the Castle effect and, I think they'll agree, have been encouraged to take the risks that make the department so vibrant. This is Hugh's quality as a leader, there is never a sense that staying still is 'good enough'. While Jill may have been slightly nonplussed when she arrived at the lack of trifling things like 'schemes of work' and Craig a little concerned about Hugh's fetish for graphs when he thought he'd joined a History department, he made these varied individuals a team while indulging their foibles and little side interests. It worked and the students loved it.

Without Hugh as my head of department I doubt very much that I would have done even half the incredible things that we did together because when you work with

Hugh you feel enabled to do things differently and with more risk – something LRGS more generally embraces.

Everyone who has worked with Hugh will have experienced different stories but with similar themes: huge energy, creativity, challenge, loyalty and good company. This is why when he has needed us there has never been a moment's hesitation to do what was required, nor for that matter has he hesitated to do the same for us, and I know this ethos will remain.

He will now move on to his other academic passion, Parallel Histories, which will gain from his relentless enthusiasm and drive. This project, a superb initiative which came out of Hugh's and Mike's collaboration, has now reached hundreds of schools in the UK and beyond; it has seen students debating topics such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Churchill and Thatcher's legacy. It's a perfect showcase for Hugh's talents and his commitment to making history 'live' and meaningful.

In short Hugh is, simply put, a great teacher, a great head of department and colleague, a great husband and father, and a great bloke.



Georgie Introna

Richard Mellon writes: Georgie first came to LRGS as a trainee teacher in October 2001 and made such a good impression that Andrew Jarman offered her a job for the following September. Born and raised in South Africa, Georgie and her family had first moved to London before heading north to settle in Lancaster. Initially she was one of

only a handful of full-time female teachers at LRGS and her twenty-one-year career saw her take on many different responsibilities across all aspects of school life.

First and foremost, she was a devoted teacher who continually sought new ways to improve the classroom experience for her pupils. As a pure mathematician she was keen to teach all aspects of school mathematics so under the guidance of Clive Horsford learned to teach the A-level Mechanics and Statistics courses. Richard Furlong-Brown used to request to share A-level sets with her knowing how good her resources were, and together they were a formidable team. Georgie became Second in Department in 2013, and spotting that in times of educational austerity the photocopying budget remained separate to the

department one, pioneered the writing and production of LRGS-specific workbooks for junior classes. These were developed over the coming years and were soon copied by many other departments. For fifteen years she ran extra-curricular Maths clubs, inter-form competitions and our UKMT Junior Maths Team, regularly guiding them to both local and national finals. She hosted twenty local school teams for regional heats of the competition in our somewhat unsuitable sports hall, magically transformed with a few careful touches.

Georgie's reach extended well beyond the Maths Department and an interest in teaching approaches for SEN pupils led to her completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia and Literacy. The same willingness to step up saw her develop her skills with the lunchtime swimmers and orienteers, do full shifts on the First Year Glenridding camps and be a long-standing support for the drama productions at the Grand and Dukes Theatres. The remainder of her spare time was spent coordinating the Sixth Form Mentoring Scheme, organising prize winners in the Ashton Hall at Speech Day, piloting teaching initiatives and being the staff representative for the Friends of LRGS. She became the first female Chair of the Staff Room and with the move up to City View the end-of-term parties became a more inclusive and well-catered affair.

Outside of school you are most likely to find her walking the lanes, hills and fells of the northwest with friends and family, and her latest project has been working as a gardening volunteer in The Storey Gardens, Lancaster.

We are very lucky to have teachers like Georgie and will miss her calm professionalism and willingness to roll up her sleeves when something needed doing.

Cath Mossop

Staff write: Cath Mossop came to us from Ripley St Thomas to be our new Head of Food Technology in September 2011. At the time of her appointment LRGS had no Food Technology facilities but did have some money to develop this rewarding subject, including the construction of brand-new premises.

Having heard amazing things about Cath's work at Ripley, we were delighted to acquire her services, and her first task before she even started teaching at LRGS was to design the best facility possible in City View. Working with great precision and planning every detail, Cath's expertise shone out, and the result was and still is a fantastic Food Tech area which looks as good today as when it opened.

The real challenge though was to establish a new subject which had never been part of the LRGS curriculum and to enthuse the boys so much that some would choose it as one of their GCSE subjects. Judged by that criterion, Cath proved to be a superb appointment. Inspired by her and the learning environment she created, pupils chose the subject in sufficient numbers for there to have been two GCSE sets in Years 10 and 11 for quite a few years. Cath's strengths are her passion for the subject, her relationships with the pupils, and making lessons fun but always purposeful. She encouraged the boys to be innovative and creative chefs, and to be in her classroom was a treat in more ways than one.

One of the great strengths of LRGS is in its extra-curricular provision, and the contribution Cath made here is immense. She was at the centre of organising events such as the Supper Run and Masterchef, and at the latter



the competition was fierce and the fun just as ferocious. Cath also volunteered for and took part in multiple school trips including the Battlefield trip, the Normandy trip and the Ski trip. As a residential boarding staff member, she cared for the boys in Ashton House and always had their best interests at heart, whilst at the same time valiantly teaching them to adhere to the highest standards in behaviour.



'Masterchef' 2022

Epitomising joyfulness, Cath loved to see the Staff Room bubble with energy and Prosecco, and over the years her colleagues have been treated to a plethora of mouthwatering morsels. She organised many staff competitions and nights out, and the journeys to Barrow for the staff's Christmas jolly were just one of her hallmarks.

A team player, it is no cliché to say that Cath will be greatly missed by boys and staff for her all-round contribution to LRGS.



Baking for Lenten Charities, 2022

Emma Lamb

Kim Taylor and Sarah Edmondson write: Emma Lamb joined LRGS in September 2011 and remained in post as Director of Music until the summer of 2023. During her time here it would be fair to say that she revitalised the musical life of the School with her boundless energy and enthusiasm.

With a seemingly endless list of activities, extra-curricular groups and performances, music provides a backdrop to so many of our public events. For any of you that have attended one of these — perhaps as an OL in the choir at Christmas, at Speech Day or at Founders' Day — you will have witnessed the excellent musicianship on display. One of the many highlights of the year is the Festival of Nine

Lessons and Carols, expertly led by Emma and enjoyed by many hundreds of concertgoers as a magical start to the Christmas season each year.

The choir has been one of Emma's many musical gifts to LRGS. Having missed so much through the Covid-19 lockdowns, and not one to rest on her laurels, Emma was quickly able to restore it to its former glory and in fact surpass this by taking part in the Lancashire Choir of the Year in 2022, winning the People's Choice award. The choir gained third place overall, alongside some tough competition from other well-established male-voice choirs. LRGS was the only school choir to be selected to take part in the finals, which is quite an accolade.



As well as being an excellent chorister and choir leader, under Emma's direction the Music Department has been able to thrive and grow. Always being one for new initiatives and with a zest for renewal, she modernised the curriculum with her interest in technology, leading the department to become an Ableton Tech Champion School along with becoming an affiliate Prince's Teaching Institute Department. Always seeking to grow and develop personally as a teacher, Emma set a wonderful example to those around her with organisational skills being second to none.

Emma dedicated so many hours, many in her own time, to bring music to pupils' lives. She created opportunities to find an enjoyment and confidence in making music, which has enriched their time at the School in numerous ways. She has inspired many that have been involved with music at LRGS to then continue with this throughout their lives, whether by further study at university and beyond, or as a fulfilling and enjoyable hobby.

In addition to the many music tours, concerts, joint musicals, workshop days, music festivals and other large-scale events, the day-to-day management of the department with Sarah Edmondson as a part-time teacher and a team of peripatetic tutors has also kept her busy. She also more recently set up a fabulous musicals trip to London taking in the sights of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and *Wicked*.

Emma's primary instrument is her voice — which, for those of us who have been fortunate to listen to her, is a wonderful gift. She also plays cello, piano, bass and electric guitar and ukulele, among probably many other instruments. In addition to her many contributions to LRGS, Emma is also busily involved with her church, as well as managing a family life — with husband Steve and their two children, Zack and Jess.

She leaves big boots to fill, but we wish Emma well with her future career as she moves on to pastures new at Moor Park School in Preston. We are sure that she will meet this new challenge with her usual energy, good humour and organisational skills!



We shall not see his like again

Stephen Clarke (66-73) writes: When Eric Taylor retired in the summer of 1995, John Lea wrote a [valedictory piece](#) for *The Lancastrian*. He ended with a question, 'Shall we see his like again, I wonder?' I'm sure I wasn't alone in thinking at the time, 'Probably not'. As my own teaching career moved forward and I witnessed at first hand the changes both in schools and wider society, by the time I retired in 2010 my informed reply would be rather more certain; hence the title of this piece.

In the last ten years I have been fascinated to listen to numerous Old Lancastrians recount the sometimes profound effect a particular master had, not only upon their studies but also in the wider educational sense. Such opportunities abound at LRGS, but it is that spark between two individuals that can often inspire. The origin of Eric's ability to encourage and inspire others quite possibly relates back to his own schooldays.

At LRGS he was always known as 'Ernie', although Brian Salmon preferred to call him Ernest. Long after leaving school, I discovered the name refers to the English footballer Ernie Taylor, who played in the 1958 FA Cup Final for Manchester United. The team lost 2-0 to Bolton Wanderers having been decimated by the Munich Air Disaster just months before. What is

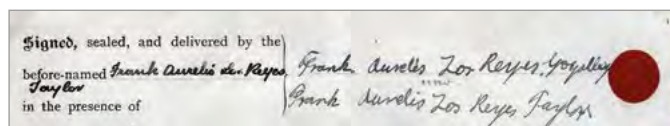


Francisco Gozalbez

unknown to generations of schoolboys is that Eric was of Spanish descent and the original family name was not Taylor. His father was born in Aberdeen in 1907, the son of a Spanish gentleman and teacher of languages, Francisco Gozalbez, and a young woman from Dundee, Elizabeth Peebles. On the birth certificate in 1907, Eric's father is named as Frank Aurelio Los Reyes Gozalbez. He was brought

up by a Mr and Mrs Taylor on a farm in the hills around Blackburn, and at the age of twenty changed his surname by deed poll to Taylor. He would not talk about this period of his life, and although Eric remembered his mother showing him a medallion bearing a coat of arms which the Spaniard had given to his son, later in life she was upset it could no longer be found.

An only child, Eric's story begins in 1935 in the mill town of Blackburn. His father owned a garage with an



associated haulage business and was an RAC driving instructor. Mrs Taylor had in her younger days worked in a cotton mill, and no doubt due to the noise of the looms, she had the ability to lip read and one apparently had to be very careful!

Education from the age of five until university entrance at the age of nineteen followed an unusual and challenging path. It is perhaps best described in Eric's own words in the letter he wrote to the County Borough of Blackburn Education Committee, on 25 August 1954 upon receipt of his A-level results.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a completed application form for a major award for me to continue my studies at Leeds University at which I have already obtained a place.

Following our conversation on Tuesday August 14th I send you a resumé of my educational career.

I commenced school at the usual five years of age at Christ Church Primary School. Due to ill health following a major illness I was sent to the Open Air School at the age of seven and stayed there until I was twelve years old. As you will see, although I sat my eleven year old scholarship exam, my chance of passing was remote since I was not following a normal school curriculum. At twelve years of age I was considered fit to go to normal school and therefore attended St. Peter's Secondary Modern School for Boys. When I was fifteen years old I decided that I would like eventually to take a science degree. The opportunity arose for me to stay at St. Peter's in a class specially arranged for boys who wished to further their education. I therefore stayed for one year and was then admitted to the Technical College at sixteen to study for my GCE.

As you will appreciate this was not an easy matter since I had not had the advantage of a Grammar School course.

During the past three years I have attended the Technical College and you will see from the attached form the results of my efforts. I shall be pleased if

my application for a major award would receive your sympathetic consideration.

*Yours faithfully
Eric Taylor*

Until 1972 the school leaving age was fifteen and most secondary modern pupils would therefore only have four years of secondary education. Due to his age Eric was admitted to a second-year form at St. Peter's, motto 'For God and Right'. At the end of each year his position in the form steadily improved, moving from eighteenth, to seventh to second. Examination marks, which were often recorded on school reports of the period, show a remarkable aptitude for science with marks of 88%, 95% and 100%. Comments from the Headmaster suggest he knew the boy was determined and would succeed.

Form 2: *Eric is making good progress, especially in English. He works particularly hard and shows great interest in his work.*

Form 3: *His progress has been maintained and he should do well.*

Form 4: *A boy who works conscientiously and is keen to study. His diligence will bring its reward.*



At the end of the fourth year those boys with ability moved into a small 'special' class to complete a fifth year that would prepare them for courses that may eventually lead to A-level and perhaps university. With the constraints we see on today's school finances,

one is left wondering how on earth this was funded! Already a prefect, Eric was appointed Head Boy and stayed for the extra year. Some remarks in his final school report make fascinating reading:

Religious Knowledge: *Shows an intelligent interest in this subject.*

Mathematics: *Eric's progress has been very good indeed. He has mathematical ability and has worked steadily and conscientiously.*

History: *A boy who thinks!*

Science: *(1st in the form) He is very interested in Science and very keen on becoming a Science teacher.*

Headmaster: *A very fine type of boy who should do well. Best wishes for the future.*

The GCE examination was introduced in 1951, and after a year at the Technical College studying Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Chemistry and Physics, Eric achieved an O-level pass in each. Two years later he passed Physics and Mathematics at A-level,

together with French at O-level. French had been a particular challenge as it had not been part of the curriculum at St. Peter's. A language pass was essential for university admission and in his determination to succeed, Eric had taken extra lessons from the headmistress of St. Hilda's School for Girls.

The letter of application for financial support submitted to the Borough Council was successful, and Eric was awarded a 'major scholarship' which covered the payment of all fees together with a maintenance grant of £235 per annum. John Lea refers to Eric's philosophy of education as being '*that boys can only get somewhere when they do things themselves*', but that unlike Eric, '*most of us lack the single-mindedness and motivation necessary*'. The path to the University of Leeds had been a difficult one, but that place had certainly been earned. It is worth reflecting that in 1954 there were only twenty universities in the UK compared with 166 today and only 3.2% of the age group were admitted compared to 37.5% in 2022.

Whilst Eric read Physics at university, he also studied Psychology and the Philosophy of Science. The History and Philosophy of Science was to become a very popular Sixth Form General Studies course at LRGS. It was at Leeds that he developed and honed his debating skills, serving for a year as President of the Student Union. He took great delight in rag-week activities, with his appearance in the procession being quite startling! He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours.



The Graduate Certificate in Education was required for a graduate to teach in a state school. Eric applied to the University's Department of Education and following the interview for a place on the course, he received a letter from the chairman of the panel.

'After your interview yesterday, we thought we had perhaps given you a false impression, so I came out to have more words with you but you had gone.'

I must emphasise that we think your unusual educational career is decidedly not a disadvantage for a future teacher, and may well turn out to be an asset.

Secondly, we considered your application very favourably and, though we can say nothing definite at this stage, we can see no reason why we should not accept you for training. Please regard this unofficial statement as confidential.'

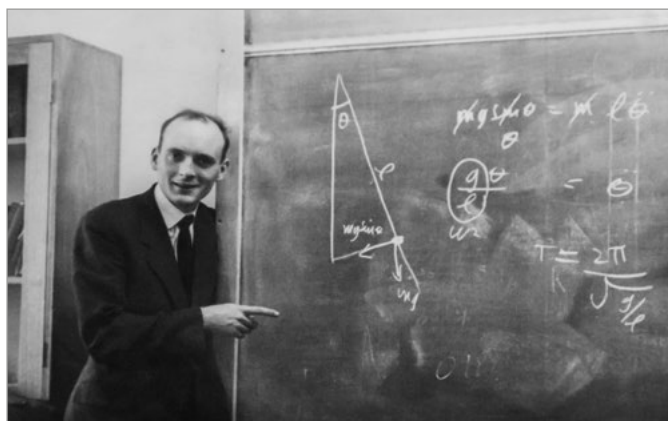


As an aspiring teacher, in February 1959 Eric was invited by Mr Timberlake to attend LRGS for interview. Perhaps the University was again approached after the successful appointment of another graduate from Leeds to the Physics Department in 1953, one Douglas Cameron. In the letter confirming

his appointment, to teach *'Physics with some Chemistry'*, the Headmaster writes *'I hope you will accept this post and be very happy here.'* The annual salary was to be £700. Correspondence regarding the deferment of National Service followed with the Headmaster observing, *'It does not seem to be a very terrible undertaking, or too unreasonable that a man should teach for two years. You will see that it does not tie you to this school, although we shall naturally hope you will be with us for that time in any case.'* The undertaking proved academic as the scheme ended in 1960.

Writing to the new member of his department, Leslie Twyford is most encouraging,

'I was very pleased to know you had accepted the post here and hope you will be very happy with us. I think you will find it a helpful and happy staff — I know I did when I first joined it.'



1959

We have not yet got out the work for next year in detail, but I can say now that you will be having some Lower Sixth and Middle School Physics. I think Mr Files is hoping to arrange some Middle School Chemistry, too. We'll break you in gradually!'

In his piece for *The Lancastrian*, John Lea recalled,

'When I arrived at the School in 1960, 'Ernie' Taylor was a figure of fun, a butt for the humour of pupils and colleagues alike. He looked like Shakespeare, though older, he dressed less than elegantly and, to a southerner who knew no better he seemed very much a northern eccentric, peculiar perhaps to Blackburn. Yet there were clues to something different.'

I think I should quickly add that Eric loved those opening sentences, and having given full account of his contribution to LRGS and life beyond, John had but one conclusion, *'How wrong we were in 1960.'*

Eric did however often tell a very amusing story of how shortly after he arrived, a certain master was approached by a small boy outside the Common Room asking to speak to Mr Taylor. The reply, bellowed for all to hear, *'Which Mr Taylor? The divine or the ridiculous?'* (The 'other' Mr Taylor was P R Taylor who taught Divinity.)

Outside the laboratory, Old Lancastrians will remember the Astronomical Society which thrived under Eric's direction, and also his contribution to the success of many school productions through imaginative set design, stage management and occasionally as producer. By the time Peter Sampson produced *The Fire Raisers* in 1965, a little more than a great set was on offer. *The Lancastrian* records, *'Possibly the most daring stage effects ever attempted in this school were used in Mr Taylor's interpretation of the fire scene. Drifting smoke, actual flames fanned by a vacuum cleaner, recorded sound effects and a nasty smell culminated in a flash, a bang, and a blackness which disappointed those who hoped the fire would spread.'*

Three years later for The Wolf's Glen scene in *Der Freishutz*, there was *'a waterfall, ghosts, explosions and*



1995

thunder together with an owl perched in a tree with illuminated, blinking eyes'. In 1986 the musical Naylor received its premiere. Written by Eric with a score by Julian Davies, it told the story of James Naylor, a religious fanatic of the 1650s whom the conservative ruling classes, Cromwell excepted, could not tolerate. The Lancastrian records, 'From an overture to a nonsense song, a modern disco sequence to a sailors' hornpipe, Naylor certainly had wide appeal. Acrobats, a marvellous mechanical donkey and a pig's trotter-eating workman brought in comedy to offset the drama. The latter was effectively portrayed when Naylor had his tongue sizzlingly, smokingly bored through.'

Although Eric taught me A-level Physics, I was neither an astronomer nor stagehand. It was after I left LRGS that I began working with him as he led a team of boys to install a pipe organ in the Assembly Hall. I was tasked with building the organ case and console, and I have a vivid recollection of us both standing in the Hall shortly after the organ had been unloaded, surrounded by pipes and mechanisms which in due course would make music once again. As we stood talking, the Headmaster, Tony Joyce, joined us and the look of alarm as he surveyed the scene was palpable. It didn't particularly help his demeanour when he learnt in response to one of his many questions, that labelling the parts was 'unnecessary'. However, he quickly recovered and expressed confidence that the project would be a great success. The Headmaster was always encouraging and took a keen interest as the work progressed. An Inaugural Recital in May 1974 was given by Dr Francis Jackson, the Organist of York Minster.

Eric had the ability to hold an audience with his speaking and debating skills. He delighted in public speaking, and together with John Lea and Brian Salmon would

sometimes take part in a debate at a meeting of the Whewell Society. These evenings served to both educate and amuse. On one memorable occasion Brian Salmon opened the debate by addressing his opponent as *'the Beau Brummell of the Physics Department!'* It is fitting that the prize endowed in Eric's name is for 'Debating in the Senior School'.

When speaking as best man at his father's second marriage in 1990 the opening was certainly amusing, although in today's context we may judge it to be almost prophetic.

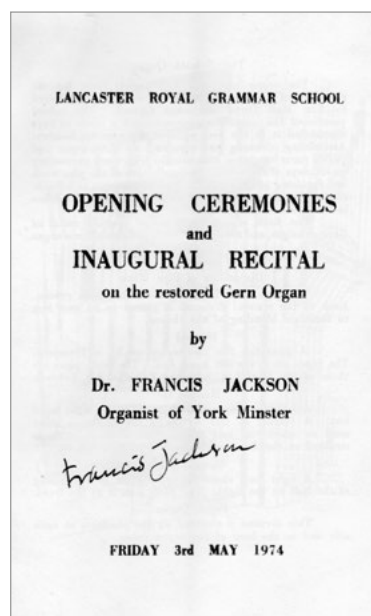
'Custom decrees it is the duty of the best man to reply on behalf of the bridesmaid or matron of honour. I say custom decrees, but for how long? Future brides will doubtless speak whilst the bridegroom sits in silence, and the bridesmaid will reply on behalf of the best man. Or perhaps bride and groom, best man and bridesmaid will speak together in perfect equality!'

As Chairman of the Common Room, Eric was in his element speaking at dinners given for retiring staff. On the retirement of Douglas Cameron, the speech was littered with cricketing metaphors, which given Eric's lack of engagement with sport of any kind must have involved considerable research. Referring to Douglas' marriage to Mary, he did of course *'Bowl his maiden over!'*

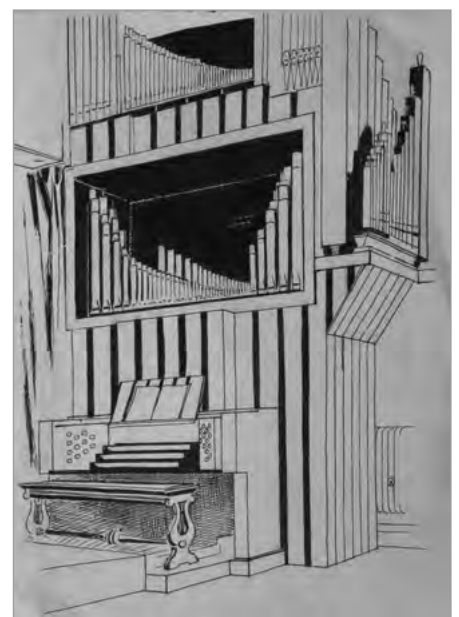
When retirement beckoned, the resignation letter to Peter Mawby was unequivocal, *'It has been a privilege to have spent my teaching career in the company of a civilised and intellectual Common Room and in the service of an institution which has never lowered its standards or wavered from the high concepts of education and dedication to the needs of its pupils.'*



Stephen Clarke, Dr. Francis Jackson and Eric Taylor




Programme for the Inaugural Organ Recital



Organ Case, Drawn by W S Rickaby

The Headmaster was generous in his reply, thanking Eric for his *'advice, support and initiative, but above all, friendship over the past 12 years. I was delighted when your colleagues elected you to join the governing body knowing that the School would benefit from your enthusiasm and judgement and I would have a friend and confidant to replace DHC. I may add that you will be sorely missed in so many aspects of school life.'*



At the Common Room dinner marking his own retirement, he began his speech  *'With deference to the sensitivities of my colleagues I would address you tonight in terms of political exactitude as Persons and Chair'.* He observed that in his introductory remarks, the Chair, John Fidler, *'a man no stranger to*

cross words' had failed to inform his colleagues that *'an anagram of Eric Taylor is a Tory relic'*. (JWF was a devotee of *The Times* crossword). Lancaster Royal Grammar School meant a great deal to the man who had spent his entire working life there.

'It's been my good fortune to have spent my working years with colleagues, who though surrounded by change, have retained a sense of purpose. In this age of trivialisation, you have taken yourselves seriously. You have sought in the classroom, application; on the games field, enthusiasm; in learning, scholarship, and in personal relations, integrity. And these qualities have ensured that for many of its members, staff and pupils, this Royal Grammar School has been a place where ambition has found a measure of fulfilment, and a place where comradeship and true friendship have been found, and I shall take away a great many memories of kindness shown and of interests shared, and without these my working life would have been very much the poorer.'

He ended by reading the poem *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost, the closing lines of which read:

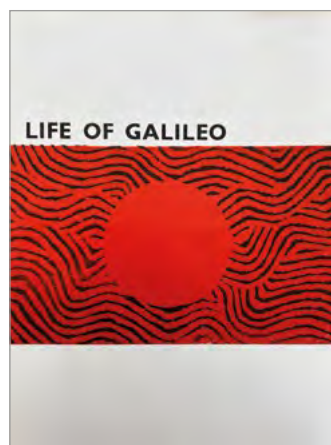
*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

My work with Eric on restoring and maintaining organs continued after the LRGS project and I count myself extremely fortunate that this remarkable man was therefore a presence in my adult life for over thirty years. Observing at

first hand his commitment to the School, both as a master and a governor, and to the churches he served as Organist and Choirmaster was a privilege. The enthusiasm for the great passions in his life of church music, country houses and fine food was infectious, and he was most generous in sharing such experiences with friends and colleagues alike. We shall indeed not see his like again.

Memories of Eric Taylor

Tim Burrell (61-68) writes: As a boarder, although I first came across Eric as my Physics master, many memories are associated with extra-curricular activities. These were the stage crew, the Astronomical Society and organ building.



Eric was often the stage manager for school drama productions, whether it was a play or the annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera. He would design and often build many of the sets, painting them for the best dramatic effect. He would have a small group of boys assist him of which I was a regular member. One production I remember very well was

the play *The Life of Galileo*. He thought the school stage wasn't big enough, but not for Eric a simple extension. Absolutely not! Eric had experience in the professional theatre where stages could move up and down, and as the drama developed ours did too. To achieve this, he employed a set of enormous boxes from the gymnasium, and these were raised up and down on ropes activated from below. I was part of the team that spent the whole play underneath these boxes, pulling my rope on cue.

Stage Manager	Mr. E. Taylor.
Assistants	T. R. Aylyffe, T. O. Burrell, D. J. Christie, B. J. Ireland, D. R. Proud, P. Van Zeller.

As a reward for our efforts Eric used to treat the stage crew to a dinner. This was either at his house or a restaurant and I remember one occasion when we were entertained at The Stork, Conder Green. My lifelong interest in cooking began with Eric, as I would sometimes arrive before the other members and help him prepare the meal. I distinctly remember learning how to make a delicious onion soup.

My backstage experience at school was sufficient to allow me to pursue this developing interest in the theatre by taking a holiday job at Morecambe Winter Gardens. There I met the lady who was to become my wife. After I left LRGS, on a few occasions Eric welcomed us both to his house although I must confess, I wasn't especially fond of the Afghan hound!



SOCIETY OFFICIALS MICHAELMAS TERM 1967	
PRESIDENT:	The Headmaster
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Mr. E. Taylor
CHAIRMAN:	T. O. Burrell
HON. SECRETARY:	J. S. W. Glassbrook
HON. TREASURER:	E. W. Fox
DEP. SECRETARY:	C. G. G. Cockbain



K. Roberts.
P. W. Sutton
P. Symonds
M. Barton
J. Ashworth
J. B. Wild
W. T. Harris
F. C. U. Forster

T. Burrell
J. Sunderland
S. Clarke
Harry Rhyll
W. I. Weir
R. W. Nicholson
G. M. Booth

P. Barton
R. A. D. Burgess
P. L. Davies-Jones
R. G. Jackson
A. H. Cameron
B. Spear
J. L. Spence
H. McKenna

W. H. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. B. Gregson
P. W. Sampson
Eric & Betty Smith
J. L. Baring
W. L. K. K. K.
Mr. & Mrs. M. M. M.
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. L.

Visitors to the Planetarium and to the Astronomical Society Exhibition

Tim Burrell Observing the Sun

For several years, I was either Chairman or Secretary of the Astronomical Society, a society with over sixty members. We had regular meetings, sometimes with a visiting lecturer. One practical activity was to monitor sunspots. As you must never look at the sun through a telescope, Eric built a device for us to do this safely by projecting the image from the eyepiece onto a paper recording sheet. Another phenomenon Eric wanted us to investigate was the variation in the earth's magnetic field. To do this he built a magnetometer and housed it in the cellar of Lee House to avoid any intrusive vibrations.

on the floor. A second dome made from white plastic let in too much light from outside which obscured the projected images. The final working model was a dome of two layers, white on the inside and black on the outside. Success!

I used to do the commentary and became very nervous when the Headmaster John Spencer arrived for the planetarium experience. Imagine, me lecturing the Headmaster! (Readers will no doubt construct their own image of JLS seated inside an inflated plastic bag! Ed.)

The annual Astronomical Society Exhibition was always very popular, and Eric proposed that we build a planetarium. The projector was a papier-mâché dome moulded on a medicine ball and mounted at the appropriate angle on a plywood base with a light bulb at its centre. The constellations were carefully pricked into the dome with a pin, and filters glued onto each pinprick to vary the intensity. The relevant planets each had their own projector tube, and the Lancaster skyline was also added. The plywood base was driven by a motor so that the night sky could be viewed over a period. The lighting could be dimmed to imitate the sunset and the stars would slowly appear. The stars were to be projected onto the domed roof of the planetarium, although the construction of that roof was quite a saga. The plan was to have a plastic dome mounted on vertical sides that about a dozen people could sit inside. Eric had a friend who was a seamstress and she machined together appropriately shaped panels to form the dome. These were then attached to the side panels which were held down by weights and the whole structure was inflated using the output from a cylinder vacuum cleaner. The prototype was fashioned out of black plastic but unfortunately this didn't reflect sufficient light from the projector. An attempt to paint the inside of the dome white to make it more reflective was a disaster; the vacuum cleaner broke down before the paint was dry and the whole thing ended up as a soggy, sticky heap

Among Eric's many talents was a great knowledge of the pipe organ and its construction. He was also organist at Morecambe Parish Church. After first building one in his own home, he went on to install a much larger one in the Assembly Hall that came from a church in Liverpool. I'd always been interested in the organ and took lessons from James Wishart-Hodgson (OL and Head of Music at LRGS) who was organist at Lancaster Priory and a



James Wishart-Hodgson (41-46)

Deputy Organist of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Eric's enthusiasm for the instrument inspired me, and years later when I moved to London and bought my first house, my dear wife agreed to me building an organ in the spare bedroom. Her only concern was that it would come through the ceiling into the dining room, although a conversation with an architect did

reassure her. I found an organ in a redundant chapel, and after a few weekends' work dismantling it and labelling everything, work began on its rebuilding. With Eric's guidance I redesigned the framework to fit it into the bedroom. Ten years later when we moved house, with Eric's help and advice the instrument was rebuilt in the garage.

My interest in organ playing and building continued when I joined the BBC's Organ Society. There was a large Compton organ in Broadcasting House that the Society rebuilt and the Society also gave me the opportunity to play a number of cathedral organs including St. Paul's, Canterbury and Liverpool.

Eric had an enormous effect upon my life, being the catalyst for lifelong interests and beginning the sequence of events which led to me meeting my wife of nearly fifty years. I shall always be grateful that I met him.

The Irrepressible Eric Taylor

Peter Kirby (68-70) writes: Eric Taylor was an irrepressible, mercurial, talkative and generous Physics master who had a hugely positive effect on my life. He was a distinctive figure in a black woollen hat (over a prematurely balding head) and leather flying-jacket (over a well-worn grey suit) as he drove up East Road in a red MG Midget sports car. The boys always referred to him as 'Ernie' and regarded him favourably because of his colourful character. I suppose that the staff had a similar view, except perhaps when he had arguments with the Chemistry Department over storage space in the science building, and when he lost a complete set of keys to the School.

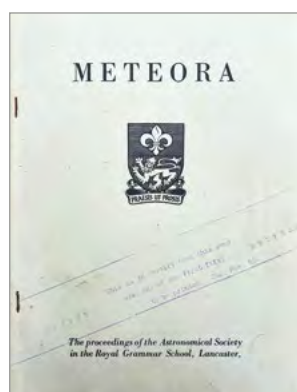
I first met ET in 1968 when I moved to LRGS from Stockport to do my A-levels. I wanted to take Chemistry and then study it at university. That choice put me into a minor class with ET for Physics, instead of the major class with Douglas Cameron. However, because of ET's enthusiastic teaching, I subsequently chose Physics over Chemistry as my degree subject. I remain hugely grateful



to ET for that significant decision and the scientific career that followed.

ET gave large amounts of his time to school activities, notably the Astronomical Society. That involved the publication of a magazine *Meteora*, evening lectures and a big event: the Astronomical Exhibition. The event was open to parents and was well received because of its impressive size and scope, although some visitors questioned the boys' ability to spell the word 'exhibition'. ET's commitment was exceptional.

In addition, ET organised the construction of a large astronomical clock with an intricate, painted face that depicted the night sky. This ambitious machine was housed in a wooden case and was fixed to a wall in the Frankland Building where it provided an impressive scientific decoration.



Occasionally, ET would indulge in gentle humour, for example his circulation of an end-of-term report form for a non-existent pupil. He was pleased with the range of responses in kind from his staff colleagues: 'very quiet in class', etc.

ET's influence on me concerned much more than Physics because of his interest in music and the theatre.

ET was a proficient church organist and played at Morecambe Parish Church. He had learnt to play as a boy in Blackburn thanks to an aunt who paid for music lessons, and because he had been attracted to the 'warmth, light and music' of the various churches in contrast to the 'endless gloom' of the town (ET's words).

He practised at home in a limited way on a tiny harmonium, but then wanted a proper instrument. He decided to build a home pipe-organ with two manuals and pedals and electric action. He bought the pipes and other components second-hand, and I built a wooden frame to support the whole structure. We worked in the LRGS Technology Centre, telling the inquisitive caretaker that we were making a dog kennel! Whilst not a craftsman himself, his ingenuity was immense. He managed to make a (mostly) workable electric action from strips of wood inset with small pieces of metal draught excluder with upholstery nails as electrical contacts!



Morecambe Parish Church
Organ Case



Three Rectors, by Chris Simpson (76-83)
(In 1983 Chris painted a portrait of Tony Joyce)



Morecambe Parish Church
1983

As a result of this musical activity, I was motivated to learn to play the piano and the organ. Although I achieved only a modest standard, the ability to play gave me enduring pleasure.

That is the second reason for my gratitude to ET. In addition, my acquired knowledge of organ-building later allowed me to save a choral concert in Oxford by making a running repair to the organ during the performance.

ET took a Physics degree at Leeds, where he had a student job working backstage in the Grand Theatre. He used his stagecraft in school plays and was praised for his skill in scenery painting. (He also painted a perspective classical scene on his dining-room ceiling at home, as a novelty!) Later, he directed school operettas, starting with *Trial by Jury* by Gilbert and Sullivan. I remember the way in which he unilaterally drafted several of us into that jury. His approach was that overall entertainment was more important than a staid demonstration of singing ability. To that end he introduced amusing stage-business, a dance routine for the jurors, and a real theatrical gloss. He was clear on the importance of audibility; during rehearsals he stood at the back of the Hall and shouted 'louder, louder'. The performance was a huge success; parents found that they actually enjoyed it!

As a result of this theatrical activity, I was motivated to be involved in student theatre, and for some years built scenery in the Oxford Playhouse and on the Edinburgh Fringe. That brought interest, fun and friendship to my life, and is the third reason for my gratitude to ET.

In 1970, ET started his biggest project of that period: to supervise the renovation of the organ in Morecambe Parish Church and its move from a confined space in the transept to an open position in the west gallery. That required planning, travel to Keighley to meet the chosen organ-builder, the coordination of church resources, and fund-raising (£3k then, equivalent to £40k today). ET applied himself with characteristic energy, commitment

and self-confidence. A cost-saving measure was to employ me to build the new organ case to his design in a simplified pseudo-baroque style, decorated with gold leaf and blue silk. The opening recital, a truly virtuoso performance, was given in August 1971 by the organist of Salisbury Cathedral and conveniently the nephew of the then Rector of Morecambe.

At a later time there was a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*, with ET at the organ. He was high above the choir, splendid in his green academic hood from Leeds, and in complete control, just as he liked! The organ was removed at the end of its working life, but the case remains to the present time and is regarded as a fine decorative piece.

I last saw ET in 1998 when my partner Anne and I visited his house in Lytham St Annes. We were entertained in a wonderful way, with conjuring tricks, a demonstration of a secret door to the backstairs, excellent home-made cakes (ET was, incidentally, a capable chef) and music from a three-manual pipe-organ in the entrance hall! This memory amplified our sadness when we learnt of his untimely death.



How can one summarise the man? He was clearly affected by a bleak childhood and sought a contrast in a life full of colourful vitality. He was a man of very many words but also many actions. He showed great dedication to the School and his other activities, and was generous to his friends. He enriched my life hugely; I received more than A-levels when I went to LRGS in 1968!

LRGS in the War

Brian Edwards (41-47) writes: I was sent to LRGS as a boarder in 1941, when boarding fees were surprisingly cheap, something like £20 a term. My two brothers, Robin and Peter, joined later.



Brian Edwards

Many of the masters were away serving in the war, so their places were temporarily taken by retired teachers, university professors or women, and they only started returning towards the end of my schooldays.

At mealtimes in the School House Dining Hall, we had someone who stood up and said a Latin grace. The food was awful, although they did their best because it was rationed. Semolina was frequently served for pudding, and like most boys I hated it. To try to make it more palatable, the cooks would colour it — we were given green, pink and even blue semolina.

A matron called Burroughs oversaw the Sanatorium. She had a little Aberdeen Terrier called Ling, and boys who were recovering were often sent to take it for a walk. One day while walking Ling, I went on a slide in the park and because it had rained heavily in the night I returned to the Sani with wet trousers and a wet blazer. Standing in front of an electric fire to warm myself, I burnt a hole in my blazer, and to avoid people seeing the damage I had to walk around with my hands in my pockets, lifting the back of the blazer up. Of course, it was discovered, and because it was wartime there were ladies from the town who came in and darned clothes; they patched my blazer for me, really quite beautifully. Our weekday uniform was a blue blazer with grey trousers, and a proper suit on Sundays when we were taken to church.



School House Dining Hall



Prep in the Bell Room

Caning by prefects was quite common, and I was once caned for changing studies without permission. They could also give lines. However, boys had the right of appeal to the Headmaster. On one occasion during Prep, for which we had to register, my voice was breaking at the time. So when 'Edwards' was called, I went 'heLLO' and the whole room burst out laughing, and I was given fifty lines by the prefect. I was so incensed that I appealed to the headmaster who let me off, saying that I hadn't done it deliberately.

R R Timberlake, usually known as 'Joss', was a good Headmaster; in fact, I worshipped him. As a privilege we were allowed to go the cinema at weekends, and RRT apparently acquired his nickname because in one of the films we saw there was an old fisherman called Joss who looked just like him. We referred to Mrs Timberlake as 'Ma Joss'.

One of my own nicknames was Dumbo, not only because I had big ears and the film of that name had just been released, but also because my initials were DB. The other was 'Slug', which I acquired because I was a slow runner.

I was in the First XV and the First XI. The thing that got me going in rugby initially was that I was tall, and therefore in the line-out I could catch the ball. I was playing for the Second XV when I was about fifteen years old, and the Headmaster and a sports master were watching. I had a very good game, jumping high and catching the ball, and was selected as good enough for the First XV.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at LRGS, and it was a privilege to be part of its history.

Editor's note: Brian thinks he is the oldest surviving Head of School. Does anyone else lay claim to that distinction?

Robert and Elizabeth Bradshaw

Peter Bradshaw (56-63) writes: When recently my watch stopped — even having been wound — I thought it might be repairable, and I took it to a local watch repairer. He examined it and asked about its history. I recalled that it had been given to my father on his retirement from LRGS, where he had worked for many years. The watch expert said, "This is a very nice watch. They must have thought a lot of your dad. Was he the headmaster?" The answer was negative: in fact, he had worked in the science laboratories assembling equipment for demonstrations by the masters. In those days teachers demonstrated things occasionally, and boys watched, and sometimes smelled. (You can take that last part of the sentence how you like!)

As reflected in articles in this magazine over the years, LRGS has appreciated the work of its employees over a long period, but for a variety of reasons the work of the academic staff has received the most attention. One exception to this was a photograph in the last year's *Newsletter* of Alf Wadsworth, the caretaker whom I remember from the 1960s. It was that photograph of Alf, an employee but not one of the masters, which prompted this small reminder of two more people who some OLs may remember, Elizabeth and Robert (Bob) Bradshaw.

As mentioned above, Bob in his long brown lab-coat prepared and cleaned equipment in all the laboratories from the mid-1950s to the early-70s. Elizabeth would have been less noticeable, unless you were a boarder who had lost a button from your shirt, ripped some item of sports gear, or had some other clothing malfunction. The 'sewing room' of the boarding house needed two people to carry out running repairs on the clothing and linen



of boarding pupils. For much of the time that Elizabeth worked there, her colleague was in fact her sister-in-law Margaret Holden. From their accounts, while they worked at their sewing duties, they also found themselves talking a lot to those smaller boys who missed home.

By now it is likely that few of the staff with whom Elizabeth and Bob worked will still be alive. Indeed, even the numbers of pupils of that period are inevitably also declining, but for those that do remain and may remember Elizabeth and Bob please rest assured that they thought you were a pretty good lot really — at least most of the time!

Aden in the 1960s

Robin Cooper (64-71) writes: I was saddened to read in last year's magazine of the death of L/Cpl Mick Frear (59-64), in Aden in 1967.

At that time my father, Robert Cooper (30-34) was a Squadron Leader in the RAF, also serving in Aden. I was a boarder in School House and remember vividly travelling out to spend the Christmas 1965-'66 holiday there, accompanied by my brother, Roger (60-65) who was then at Imperial College.

Our parents lived in a block of forces flats in a civilian area called Maalla. On the second night of our holiday there was a grenade explosion across the road. There were two main Arab groups fighting for supremacy in anticipation of British military involvement ceasing imminently: the National Liberation Front (NLF) and the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (FLOSY), both the subject of much local graffiti.

At the time that the grenade went off, it was the loudest explosion I had ever heard after the CCF 'Thunderflashes'. I

was very envious of the families who lived on the base, well protected by soldiers and barbed wire.

My father, like all the other officers living in Maalla, had to do a sentry duty once per month, being issued with a pistol and ammunition and mostly observing the street below from the roof of the flats.

On one occasion he took my brother and I to a pass leading to the town of Crater, which was off-limits to civilians. The purpose was to take some photos of the harbour as the lay-by halfway up the pass road was a good viewing point. The day after our visit to the lay-by a local man had stopped there for a rest while walking to Crater. He picked up an envelope marked 'OHMS' which had been booby-trapped and blew up in his face. I still shudder to think that this could have been one of my family.

Not surprisingly, having been out to Aden again for the Easter holidays, I was mightily relieved to receive a letter from my parents later that year to say that Dad was coming home, posted to the safer environment of Norfolk!

USA Space Camp

Mission Control, this is Fenella, reporting from Space Camp, all systems are nominal, and we are clear for a week of astronaut training at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama!

Days began promptly at 7am, with a highly enthusiastic staff member (with a call sign instead of a name) loudly chanting instructions and giving us twenty minutes to get ready and present down at the Hub, to meet our AM crew trainer, call sign 'Winter'. Breakfast was a 25-minute affair of American delicacies and was immediately followed by a range of activities. We stuck to a busy schedule all day with short lunch and dinner breaks and continued late into the evening. Each day finally ended after 10pm, with just enough time for a quick shower before lights out. There was no time to waste; every spare minute was used to teach us something new about the space program or physics. Our schedule kept us sharp and focused all day and made our military bunks and dorms feel like palaces.

My team, Alba (named after a volcano on Mars), had twelve people; I was the only 'international'. The moment I opened my mouth, my accent was noted and repeated with various degrees of success. I then took it upon myself to teach my new friends about UK favourites like beans on toast, scones, and fish and chips. They, in turn, told me about America and American culture and made some futile attempts to teach me their accents.

A large aspect of Advanced Space Camp is the mission simulations, which were my favourite activity. Each Mission simulation plays over several hours and each team member is assigned a role, like Flight Director (me!), ISS scientist and Shuttle Commander. Anything can happen on a mission, let alone in space, so we had to be prepared. We

had medical emergencies, damage to ships and mission control, and lost contact with our crew. Our Crew Trainers (known as 'Space Ghosts') meant business; they put us out of our comfort zone and pushed us, making us analyse, plan, and adapt to any situation.

As well as Mission Simulations, we did a great variety of activities. At the Space and Rocket Centre, there are models of rockets and aspects of the international space stations, which we learnt about. We did Scuba training, led by a terrifying woman from the South who gave us a quick Scuba crash course. We dived in the seven-metre dive tank and completed tasks at the bottom. We built model rockets to carry a payload (an 'egg-stronaut'); fortunately, ours had a successful mission and survived with no injuries! We also spent hours in the Museum, learning about the American Space Program and looking at their real-life Saturn V rocket on display in the main hall. Our Crew Trainers helped us through each activity, with a variety of attitudes, like Mousetrap; they approached each task as if we were US Army soldiers preparing for battle.

When the camp came to an end, I unexpectedly received 'The Right Stuff Award' (modelled after the Tom Wolfe novel of the same name) at graduation. This medal is given in honour of the early jet test-pilots, astronauts, and all those who made sacrifices in the early space programs. The winner exemplifies the characteristics of these brave pioneers: courage, integrity and excellence, and going above and beyond to make their team's week at Camp a success. The medal was presented to me by Wendy Laurence, a retired NASA astronaut who spent fifty-one days in space and travelled there on space shuttles. According to the staff, I was a true space cadet!

A week seems a short time, but I am a changed person. Thank you, Old Lancastrians, for helping me with my trip and making my wonderful experience possible.



Japan

Anthony, Alex, Isaac and Max write: During our two weeks in Japan, our adventure was packed with engineering marvels, rich historical treasures, vibrant culture, and mouth-watering cuisine. From marvelling at the precision and innovation behind Japan's cutting-edge technology

to tracing the footsteps of ancient samurai in historical castles, every moment of the trip was a captivating blend of the past and the future.

In Tokyo we explored the bright neon-lit district in the city centre, climbing the polarising Tokyo Tower; navigated

through the city's beautiful day-and-night life; shopped in the famous Shibuya district and traversed the iconic Shibuya crossing.

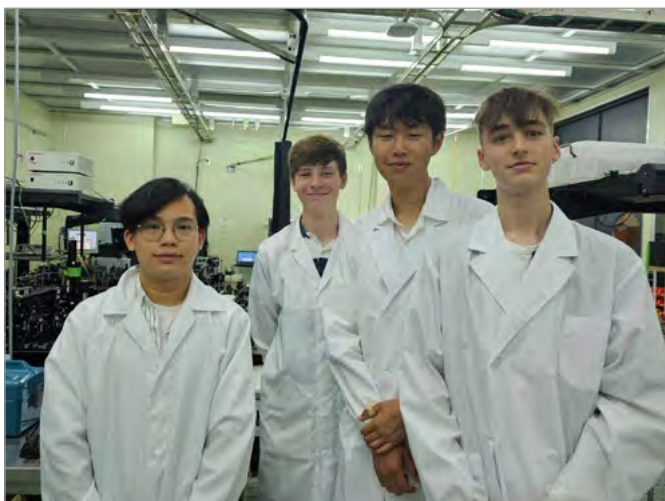
We then moved on to Yokohama, where we visited the original Nissan production plant and museum, learning about their carefully designed, meticulously engineered engines, both past and present, and about their aims for the future.

In Kyoto, staying deep in the heart of the city, we were surrounded by shrines and old buildings remaining from the Classical Heian period. We reconnected with nature, visiting the famous Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. We explored the thousand-gated Fushimi Inari Shrine deep in the woods, went to the Kiyomizui-dera Shrine, and visited the Kyoto Imperial Palace.

In Osaka, we visited Osaka Castle, a stunning castle built in the 16th Century, and Dotonbori, a modern iconic neon-light district with flashing backboards and colourful signs everywhere. However, we spent most of our time in restaurants and at street food vendors as Osaka is well known as 'the kitchen of Japan', being renowned for its iconic dishes such as takoyaki (dough balls filled with octopus) and okonomiyaki (a savoury pancake that is loaded with vegetables, egg, and options of meat and topped off with dried seaweed and fish flakes).

Last of all we visited Hiroshima, a city with a beautiful 430-year-old fort which we climbed to enjoy the view. But unfortunately, it was difficult to forget its past. We visited the Bomb Dome and the Peace Museum, and pondered how the Bomb Dome is one of the few buildings to have survived the explosion and whether it was ethical of the US to drop the second bomb. The Bomb Dome is a designated world heritage site.

The first highlight of our trip was our private tour of Tokyo University, where Reina (a research associate in the faculty of engineering, who has a passion for lasers) guided us to our first presentation in bioengineering,



showing us designs, prototypes and testing of alternative gait supports. At the second presentation we met another group of researchers focused on manufacturing. In Physics lessons we have learnt about calculation errors, but most of us didn't understand the significance of keeping errors low in practice. The manufacturing students demonstrated devices which precisely measure objects and showed how errors caused by heat, vibration and alignment could significantly impact the resulting products. We even had the opportunity to see the machining and testing equipment (though not in action), and it is through studies like these that make Japanese companies the manufacturing powerhouse they are today.



Hiroshima: Bomb Dome

The final presentation was at a high-energy laser laboratory where we received an outline of Reina's previous research: abrupt initiation of material removal by focusing continuous-wave fibre laser on glass. We were then given lab coats and lab shoes and were excited to enter the air shower and then astonished by the 'cleanroom' (a room where air particulates and chemical vapours are kept to a low level) loaded with laser lenses. After being given instructions about safety standards, we received a live demonstration of a laser in action.

Our other highlight was a private tour of the Mazda production plant in Hiroshima. There we learnt about Mazda's history of cars and motor design, and their common-platform architecture for manufacturing. We saw its production line and the concept cars and bikes that are not available for purchase (annoyingly!). Later, we toured their Mixed-Model production line. The sound of screwdrivers buzzing alongside the mechanical sound of robot arms was eye opening, as this was the first time we have ever seen manufacturing live in action; watching the robots and technicians working together was truly impressive. It was an educational and enlightening experience that left us with a deep appreciation for the artistry of car manufacturing.

On a final note, our journey to Japan was an unforgettable experience that has left a profound impact on us. As we reflect on this amazing adventure, we are left with a deep appreciation for Japan's harmonious blend of modernity and tradition, a place where engineering feats stand alongside centuries-old cultural traditions, all while savouring the delicious tapestry of flavours that this remarkable nation has to offer.

Madagascar

Ben, Jake and Lewis write: After an exhausting fourteen-hour flight with a transfer at Addis Ababa, we landed at the primitive Fascene Airport on Nosy Be (meaning Big Island) which lies off the northwest coast of Madagascar. Despite Jake's suitcase being lost on the flight, we continued to the Cambrian Hotel for the night, a sanctuary of the developed world within the shanty town of Hellville, Nosy Be's biggest town.

We spent the first evening looking around the town, buying local food and goods, and eating a local meal in a restaurant. Exploring this town was an experience in itself: it was unlike the tourist traps of many third- and second-world cities where the inhabitants constantly pester tourists. We genuinely felt like one with the residents and were treated like any other local when walking down the narrow streets, and considering the circumstances we could not have felt safer.

The next morning, we caught the first boat to Nosy Komba (Lemur Island) where we disembarked at the Marine Conservation Camp. After a quick introduction to the other volunteers, we got straight into the conservation work. The next five days were spent doing various activities from dawn till dusk.

Every morning at about 8am we would conduct an Active Turtle Survey. This involved swimming in a bassline and then recording details and taking pictures of every turtle we saw. This was the highlight of each day as we'd see a minimum of eight, which was a wonderful experience. Other tasks involved: 'Turtle Watch' (keeping a lookout from a balcony and recording how many turtles in a set timeframe are seen coming up to breathe); bamboo straw making; eco-brick making (filling plastic bottles with waste collected from beaches, for use in building structures such as lavatory blocks on an island lacking building materials); sea grass surveys; and various educational lectures. We also helped to paint a local school and to construct a new flood run-off system for the village on Ampangorina.

Having become close to some of the twenty other volunteers from different parts of the globe, it was hard to have to part ways. We all truly felt that we'd made a difference to preserving the local ecosystem and had helped

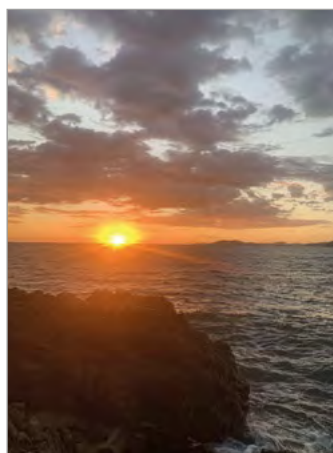
the residents to live a more comfortable life. We'd spent the week without Wi-Fi, eating only fresh local meals and with a rigorous routine — it was a week of personal growth.

Returning to Hellville for a day, we paid a guide to take us on a speedboat to watch whale sharks, and after four hours of searching we found one. Scrambling for our masks and snorkels, and with adrenaline pumping, we jumped into the water when the guide shouted 'Aller' (Go). A magnificent beast was right there, metres in front of us — a truly surreal experience, terrifying but glorious at the same time. However, it was spooked by our hasty and sudden appearance and slowly disappeared into the blue abyss of the ocean. However, fifteen minutes later we found an even bigger whale shark and did the same thing again, but more calmly this time to avoid disturbing the gentle giant. Shattered by our day at sea, we returned to the camp and the following day caught our flight home first thing, extremely disappointed we had to leave the island paradise so soon.

Madagascar, being the fourth-poorest country in the world and with fifty percent of its biodiversity being unique to the island, was an adventure like no other. Our experience was truly eye opening and was an extremely productive trip for all of us. Many lessons were learnt, and I genuinely believe we all grew as people despite being there for only a week.



Turtle Survey



Madagascar



A Friendly Lizard



Eco-Bricks

Ghana

Marcy writes: Day One: After travelling and settling in over the weekend, today was my first day in the hospital. Its condition surprised me: brick walls but peeling paint, modern oxygen tanks but limited quantities, many patients but not a lot of beds. After being assigned to the maternity ward and dropping off some supplies I had brought, I was introduced to the famous Tina. Aged 22, she was referred to as 'The Best Midwife Around Town' by all her colleagues. I can tell already why they call her that.

Day Two: An easy day spent mostly just monitoring patients and waiting for returning C-section patients. I was taught how to tract contractions and monitor heart-rate changes and what may be their cause. One of the expectant mothers had been in labour for a long time and talks of a C-section began, which excited the volunteers with the prospect of being able to observe! However, due to a shortage of resources, it was only one volunteer in the surgery room at a time.

A 40-year-old mother went into labour around midday and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Due to her age she would be classed as a 'geriatric mother' and many more tests would usually have to be run before she gave birth, but this term was unknown to Ghanaian hospitals and luckily the labour carried no complications.

Day Three: The busiest day yet. The day began with one labour, that of a petrified 17-year-old, Cecilia, who had lost her previous baby at eight months. I held her hand throughout her entire labour, saying 'Quosay', meaning 'I'm sorry'. The Ghanaian midwives taught me that they believe apologising shows that you are with the patients and that it takes away some of their pain. Cecilia gave birth to a beautiful baby girl but quickly began to bleed out. IV fluids were given, and medication to clot the blood, and luckily the cause of the bleed was easily resolvable.

The second labour of the day came in as an emergency. The woman was aged 30 years and had been mutilated as a young child, causing her a very difficult delivery. Her



In the Maternity Ward

culture meant that if she screamed during labour she would be punished, usually by abuse. Watching her in pain and unable to make any noise was heartbreaking.

The third labour was a C-section and it was my turn to observe. The 23-year-old patient was anaemic, and it was concluded she also had malaria.

Her previous three children had also been delivered by C-section. Potential complications due to her conditions were likely, so blood in her blood type was secured. Fortunately, there were no complications. I questioned the surgeon constantly and he explained every step he was going through. He even asked me if I would like to do some stitches! I said no as I thought it was unethical since I'm only 17 and very much unqualified.

Day Four: Today was about cleaning up the loose ends. All the babies and mothers had to go to a mother-baby talk and then be checked, and some babies received extra oxygen or medication. The baby I carried seemed to hum whilst my friend's baby snored like an old man.

I returned to see Cecilia today to see how she was doing. After some conversation I asked what the baby was called, to which she replied 'Marcy'. I laughed, assuming she was joking, but later that day I saw the birth certificate and sure enough there was my name! I'm still in shock.

We finished early at the hospital then went back and packed our bags ready for Cape Coast the next day.

Days Five, Six and Seven: After a long minibus journey and one book later, we arrived in Cape Coast late on Friday night. We ate at a local restaurant before going to bed ready for an early morning.

We travelled to the canopy bridges in a rainforest where we learnt about the different animals and saw some amazing views. It was incredible to observe such an ecosystem from above. In the evening we went to a local bar where we ate a traditional meal and sang karaoke.

The next day we travelled to an old castle. This was the place where slaves were stored before they were placed on boats and sent to America. We saw the chambers where hundreds of them slept in a 10m x 10m room. I found the whole experience very eye-opening and enjoyed learning the country's history.



Rainforest

South Africa

Jamie Scamman writes: The opportunity to go to the Marine Dynamics Academy in Gansbaai in South Africa to help with marine conservation was made possible due to an award from the OLC. While there I worked on a shark-cage diving boat and a whale-watching boat, collected data with the marine biologists on board, volunteered at the local African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS) and assisted dissecting a great white shark that was killed by orcas, among many other activities. I found seeing the effects of the orcas in the area particularly fascinating from a biological and environmental perspective.

There were two orcas in the Gansbaai area that had begun preying on great white sharks. Each orca would grab a side of the shark, and would pull, causing the softer underbelly of the shark to tear. This allows the orcas to suck out and eat the liver of the shark, the most nutritious part, leaving the rest of the shark to float around until it washes up on shore. While this alone is an interesting display of the intelligence and pack tactics of the orcas causing them to take down the so called 'apex predator', the great white shark, I found the ecological impact more thought provoking. Whenever a killing of a great white occurred in the area, all the others would leave.

These sharks prey primarily on cape fur seals living on Geyser Rock, 60,000 of them. With the great whites gone, the population of the seal colony only grew further. This caused increased pressure on the local colony of endangered african penguins due to competition for the same food source, as well as direct predation. The seals do not eat the penguins, but while the penguins slowly digest fish after swallowing them whole, the seals cut them open to eat the fish from their stomach. When helping at APSS, I was able to witness a scar of this sort on a penguin myself, when the penguin rescue team arrived in time to save them. The lack of great whites also led to a mesopredator species, the bronze whaler sharks, to become abundant in packs of above ten, when previously they were rarely seen at all. This allowed the local shark cage-diving businesses to stay afloat, so to speak, by diving with bronze whaler sharks during great white droughts.

If the marine ecosystem was so massively affected by the actions of two intelligent orcas, how much more of an effect do we have as humans? While in South Africa, I also saw seals and penguins tangled in plastic. The african penguin is not only listed as endangered by the IUCN due to competition from seals, but also due to competition from the fishing industry, and their burrows that



Working at the Marine Dynamics Academy

are made of guano, dried bird poo, being destroyed to sell as fertiliser. Bronze whaler sharks are hunted for their meat and sold as 'flake' due to their newfound abundance. The problem with hunting these sharks is they only become sexually mature at an age of up to twenty years. This means that even if the fishing industry stops once the population is decreased to a drastic level, the shark population will take a long time to recover. The IUCN status for bronze whalers is 'near threatened' due to this reason. The effect of the rogue orcas on the local ecosystem is large, but the effect from humans is at least comparable.

I found that the trip helped me grow not just as a biologist, but as a person as well. Spending a month in a country where you know no one and nothing is a really daunting and humbling experience at first, but by the end of the month, I would have loved to go on for longer. I came away more confident and self-assured, and the skills I learnt and experiences I had in South Africa will stay with me for a lifetime.



Great White Shark



Great White Shark

France and Italy

Rozzie Weir writes: The first step in organising my year-long trip was obtaining a French visa, and the only feasible way of obtaining one was by becoming an *au pair*. After booking all my transport and organising my travel insurance, I departed on 31 August.

The first days and week I spent settling into life in Marseille, getting to know the two children I was looking after in my role as *au pair* and contacting the charity, Ramina, with whom I had volunteered to help. Childcare is by no means always straightforward, but my host family were kind, the children were adorable — if impossible sometimes — and the work certainly gave me an insight into the life of a French family, as well as a taster of parenting, which was fascinating!

The structure of Ramina involves different 'teams'. Until Christmas I was primarily focussed on the work of the educational team, which provides French lessons for the unaccompanied minors that Ramina supports; typically aged fifteen to seventeen, there were up to twenty students in a class. I was sometimes the sole teacher, teaching a huge range of abilities: some of the young people come from francophone countries but have never been taught to read or write (which is essential to be able to go to school in France), some are anglophone with no or limited French, and some speak neither French nor English. Consequently, managing these classes was certainly a challenge and something of a baptism of fire, but one which was immensely rewarding.

In part due to this role teaching French, and in part due to my plan to study French next year at university, I decided to dedicate a significant amount of time during the first few months to studying the language. So, for the first four months I had French lessons for sixteen hours a week to maintain a high level of grammar in addition to the inevitable oral practice I had on a daily basis by living and

working there. In mid-December I took and passed an examination to prove that I have a Level C1 in the language, meaning that I am a 'proficient user of the language', as well as allowing me to go to university in France, should I wish to.

Subsequently, I worked with another of Ramina's 'teams', the '*Référents*', helping the young people find legal aid, a place at a school and accommodation if need be, as well as anything else they may require to live in France. I also accompanied them to the tests and evaluations that they must undertake to receive formal education and to have their minority recognised in France.

However, at the start of April, after several instances of lack of communication from my host family, I concluded that their requirements were not aligned with my own boundaries, and consequently informed them that I would not continue to work for them under those conditions. Naturally, this meant that I needed to find not only new work, but also new accommodation. Although I soon found a room in a shared flat in central Marseille, I quickly discovered that, with an *au pair* visa, finding a job was going to be complicated. After lots of searching and more than a little disappointment, I succeeded in compiling enough childcare and tutoring work — the only jobs I could legally do there — to pay the bills.

Despite the upheaval, I still managed to fit in plenty of time for volunteering, including some individual support for enthusiastic students wanting to study in their own time, as well as preparation of resources which can be used in the future. I am considering a career as a lawyer after university so the opportunity to undertake this voluntary work in the complex field of immigration was a privilege.

In addition to working and volunteering, I dedicated a significant amount of time to studying Italian, having some lessons for a few



months in preparation for a few weeks' stay in Italy.

Marseille as a place to live far exceeded my expectations. Before I left, many people were concerned about the level of crime or the risk of living there as a woman. However, what Marseille's negative reputation doesn't encompass is the incredible warmth of the people there and the impressive variety and mix of cultures, visible in the cuisine, the architecture, and the international community. There is also a significant artistic scene which I much enjoyed, with many museums free for students and young people. The beaches and stunning national park a short bus ride away also provided a break from the city. That's not to say that there are no risks, and I often took precautions such as travelling by bike as opposed to walking, but I felt exceptionally privileged to be able to benefit from this amazing place and meet so many people from so many different backgrounds.

Tour du Mont Blanc

Marnie, William and Sandy write: During a fortnight in August we undertook the iconic 170km Tour du Mont Blanc, with 10,000m of height gain. Throughout, we tried prioritising the environment by taking trains to Switzerland as well as raising money for Friends of the Earth, and are proud to say that we raised £1,223, smashing our £1000 target.

We began in La Fouly in French-speaking Switzerland on the north-eastern side of the massif and completed the circular route in an anti-clockwise direction. We started our first day at midday in over 30°C heat (a challenging factor and a common theme for the rest of the trip) and set off for our first campsite in Champex.

The next three days had the added challenge of mountains as well as heat. On the second day we ascended Fenêtre d'Arpette, the highest point

on the route (2665m) before Col de Balme (2195m) the day after that. These first few days were certainly the most difficult, both in terms of time and energy. It is clear now that we were not yet into the flow of long days of walking and that leaving earlier before the heat rose would have been highly beneficial.

The fourth day came as a welcome respite from the days up to then. Despite still having 781m of climb, the shorter length, 8km, meant we were able to arrive at Refuge de Flégère at 3pm, giving us plenty of time to relax. The excitement of this section also made it more bearable with two sections of ladders. All in all, this day was definitely a highlight of the trip, ending with plenty of delicious food (no cooking involved) and a fabulous view towards Chamonix and Mont Blanc massif over a competitive game of whist (a common theme of our evenings).



The heat at the start only got worse as we descended from le Brévent (2525m), the only summit of the trip, down to Les Houches and the next day Les Contamines, some of the lowest, hence warmest locations.

Unfortunately, days six to nine took a turn for the worse with Marnie falling ill on the first of them and having to take a mountain train back to civilisation and William being ill from the following day. Marnie and William completed the seventh to ninth days by taking bus and train routes to a campsite in Courmayeur while Sandy, having waited a day with us, managed to complete a whopping 30km with 1,600m climb in just one day before following on to our campsite the day after.

The weather was most definitely one of our hardest challenges and following on from the heatwave we found ourselves threatened by yellow rain warnings, snow and the possibility of mudslides. Our tenth day was a rainy and colder one (much better for walking in) up to a refuge near the Swiss-Italian border in preparation for our final ascent. Following the footprints of a few stragglers, we set off for our final day, the 2,500 metre Grand Col Ferret. With strong gusts, 0°C, low visibility and ankle-deep snow we completed the final climb, to finish the trip in a rather different environment to the one which we had begun. We finished with a massive plate of chips and hot chocolate to celebrate our long-awaited signpost to mark the end!

Thank you so much to the Old Lancastrian Club for making this brilliant experience possible!

France and Switzerland

Alexander Armer and Laila Hicks write: We would like to thank the Club for enabling us to carry out a fantastic research trip which included visits to France and Switzerland, during which we studied the effects of other countries and cultures on differing areas of France, with our main case studies being Strasbourg and Lyon.

Paris was used as a comparative location, as it provided an indication of quintessential French history. Combined with knowledge from our French Revolution A-level course,

visiting sites such as the Champs Elysees, Luxor Obelisks, and Tuileries indicated a deep sense of French pride; as well as there being a continual focus on French identity through the revolutionary period in statues and monuments, references to other cultures usually appeared to enrich the triumphs of revolutionary and post-revolutionary endeavours.

Strasbourg, however, possessed a stark notion of independence in its history, being a free city, producing their own weapons and currency, for instance. This brought the focus of Strasbourg's history away from both France and Germany, despite

amalgamating both into its culture, as the historical narrative largely promoted its individualism. In visiting many historical sites and museums, we were able to study the area in prehistory, its occupation under the Roman empire, and a chronology of its history up to the modern day. This brought many areas of interest to light, particularly the identity crisis during the Second World War, enhancing our views of the city's uniqueness.



Lyon contrasted our other case study dramatically. Although there were unique aspects to Lyon, such as the rich culture of theatre and art, which we found both in museums and the frequent art pieces seen when walking through the streets, Lyon's identity exists within the bounds of French culture.

Geneva, like Paris, was also a comparative location; this allowed us to see the other side of the same coin, since it was so inherently instilled with French culture. Thus, our research was not only enriching for discovering the history of particular case studies, but illuminated the overarching concept of the ways in which different cultures intertwine in general.

Norway

Alex Matthew writes: The generous grant given by the OLC helped me to participate in the North-West Junior Squad (NWJS) orienteering tour to Fredrikstad, Norway in August 2022.

We stayed in the Fredrikstad Skiklubb (the local orienteering club) hut, from where we trained during four of the days we were there. Most of the idea of training abroad is that you get to experience other types of terrain that you simply wouldn't get anywhere else in the UK, if not the rest of Europe. Scandinavian forest can definitely be a great challenge even if you know what you're doing. There are no large hills in the area, as Fredrikstad lies on the South coast of Norway, only about twenty kilometres from the Swedish border. One of our training sessions took place right by the sea, and we had to swim out to an island as part of the course! However, there was plenty of elevation gain, going up and over many of the little glacial ridges in the forest. These ridges mean that sometimes the forest covers everything, from sloped woodland to the marshes down below, but in some areas the treeline ends before the

top of the ridge, leaving the bedrock exposed with patches of heather in the gaps. We also found ourselves spending a generous amount of time picking bilberries (like a small blueberry), which coated the forest floor in a lush green.

To our luck, it turned out that not only was there a Fredrikstad club training session on during our week, but also the regional middle-distance championships and a large-scale relay event in which we took part. However, although we are the best orienteers in our region, we were no match for many of the talented Norwegians out in the forest.



Coming into orienteering later than most people my age, I had struggled at first to fit in with the well-established group of friends that is NWJS, and the orienteering community in general. This tour came at the perfect time for me to really dig deep into the friendships I had built with the others in the squad, and I was delighted to spend that quantity and quality of time with them and start to help out and coach some of the younger athletes too.

I hope that everyone can experience this kind of trip at some point in their life, and I thank the OLC again for their help towards this brilliant opportunity.



The Saunders

The *carte de visite* was a format of small photograph patented in France in 1854. It was usually an albumen print from a collodion negative, about 3.5" x 2", and these thin paper prints were then glued onto 4" x 2.5" cards. Several prints could be taken from one photographic plate. The reverse of the card was generally printed with the logo of the photographer or the photography studio from whence it came.

In 1860, John Mayall, a London photographer, published a series of *carte de visite* portraits of members of the Royal Family and other famous people, which helped to fuel a rapidly increasing demand not only for photographs of famous personages but also for family photographs. Many members of the upper- and middle-classes had their portraits taken for their own albums and to give to their friends. Today, such family albums are often broken up and the individual photographs offered for sale.

Many cards of famous people are named, but few family photographs give an indication of the sitter's identity. However, one of a pair of photographs recently put up for sale not only had the name of the sitter written on its reverse but also a reference to LRGS. Both were from the studio of John Davis whose premises were in Lancaster and Morecambe, and some of the Victorian rugby and cricket team photographs were also taken by him.

The named card is of Charles Stirling Saunder, photographed in October 1876, and he also appears in the other with a younger boy. In the unpublished *1872-1893 Biographical Register*, two Saunder boys are listed: Saunder *primus* and Saunder *secundus*, both of whom left before 1878. They are recorded as being admitted in 1872-73, the elder into Form IV and the younger into Form II. Few details are included in

the register because the School historian, Athol Murray (42-49), had a very limited number of sources available, none of which tended to include the pupils' initials. However, Murray added a handwritten annotation that Saunder *secundus* was 'J G' who was 'Candidate for Queens Prize 1876'.

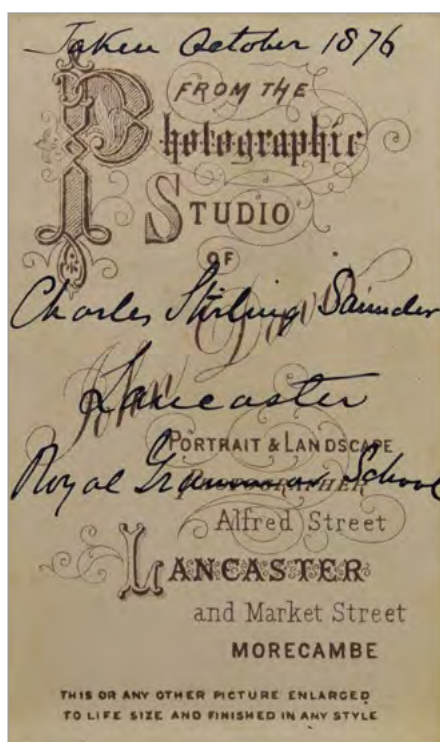
Given that the unnamed boy is clearly younger than the other, it is probably reasonable to assume that the two boys in the second photograph are brothers. A search of the internet provided possible leads to discover more about them. Two brothers, Charles Stirling Saunder and Forbes Gripp Saunder, were born abroad to a Col. Edward Charles Saunder and Mary Saunder, the former boy about 1860 and the latter about 1862. Additionally, there is archive material held by the Royal College of Physicians consisting of correspondence relating to a Dr Charles Stirling Saunder's name appearing on handbills in connection with a publication *The Principles of Electro-Homeopathy, a New Science*, by Count Cossare Mattei, in 1892. A William Lawson Saunder, possibly a relation, left the School in 1856 and was commissioned into the East Sussex Regiment.

The photographs are a significant discovery because they are now the earliest original photographs known to exist of LRGS boys, although the Archive also has a 1950s reprint of a mid-1860s photograph of six of the Faithwaite brothers. The Saunder and Faithwaite photographs are also the only ones in the Archive which show boys wearing college caps, although the headwear can also be seen in Victorian engravings and paintings of LRGS.

College caps were required wear for boys at the Royal Grammar School from 1850 until early in the 20th Century. In a letter dated 1977, the School's historian, Athol Murray, wrote:



Saunder secundus and Saunder primus



Reverse



Saunder primus



Lithograph of the School, circa 1851

“Collegiate dress (mortar board and short gown) was introduced for LRGS pupils in the reorganisation of 1850-2. I am sure it was sanctioned by Lancaster Town Council as the governing body ... Boys wearing mortarboards appear in lithographs of the old and new schools published in 1852. Thereafter the evidence is slight but there is a photo of the six younger Faithwaite brothers, all with gowns and mortarboards, dating from 1867-8 ... I should imagine that (the mortarboard) remained in use until at least the end of Lee’s headmastership but fell out of favour thereafter as the general trend in school uniforms throughout the country gradually shifted from the academic to the athletic (blazer and cap or straw hat). There is no evidence that it was ever formally abandoned ... It is possible that the mortarboard survived as an optional extra on the clothing lists (of which unfortunately we have no examples after 1872) for some time.”

Murray is possibly mistaken in his recollection about collegiate dress, given that the photograph of the Faithwaite brothers shows only mortarboards being worn; Full Prefects were certainly required to wear short black gowns from the 1950s onwards, but there is currently no



Lithograph of the School, circa 1852

1518.	SAUNDER lus.	IV.
1519.	SAUNDER <i>2nd J. G.</i>	II.
1520.	SCAMMELL.	III.

Unpublished 1872-93 Register

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAPS.
 The above Caps with the improved India Rubber Corners, in all sizes, price 4s. 6d. and 5s. 6d., at
HUDSON'S, 149 AND 150, MARKET STREET.
 Also a large assortment of Youths' SHIRTS, VESTS, COLLARS, TIES, GLOVES, BRACES, BELTS,
 &c., &c., Fancy and Plain HOSIERY in every size and make.
 Agent for Welch, Margetson, and Co.'s Registered Approved SHIRT, and the New Parisian Corazza-Shaped
 SHIRT, the best fitting Shirts made. Prices, 6 for 35s. and 8 for 45s.
 SHIRTS MADE TO ORDER ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
 Lancaster, 5th August, 1889.

Advertisement for RGS Mortarboards, 1859

Each boy is required to wear the distinctive school cap during term-time. This may be obtained at Mr. Townley's, in Market Street, Lancaster. College caps are worn on Sundays and on special occasions.

Prospectus, circa 1896-1902

photographic evidence of them being worn by boys in the Victorian period.

Further evidence about college caps has come to light since 1977. In a letter to R R Timberlake (Headmaster 1939-61) dated 1945, C Dickinson (circa 1879) recalled that the Rev W E Pryke (Headmaster 1872-93) “allowed us to wear straw hats in summer instead of the heavy regulation mortar-board”. Additionally, a prospectus which can be dated to no earlier than 1896 states: “Each boy is required to wear the distinctive school cap during term-time ... College caps are worn on Sundays and on special occasions”. It can therefore be inferred that boarders wore mortarboards on Sundays and special occasions, and day-boys for the latter. The earliest whole-School photograph, dated 1896, shows many boys wearing the weekday dress of straw boater or cap, but not mortarboards.

In conversation in the mid-1970s with an OL who attended LRGS as a boarder at the turn of the century, an archivist was informed that mortarboards were worn

at least until the end of the headmastership of G A Stocks (1893-1903), and that the School House Captain's mortarboard had a blue and black silk tassel. The wearing of mortarboards by boys was certainly discontinued by 1912 when the number of boarders had dropped to zero, and the only official headgear worn after that date was a straw boater with an LRGS hatband, an LRGS cap, or the various ‘Colours’ caps.



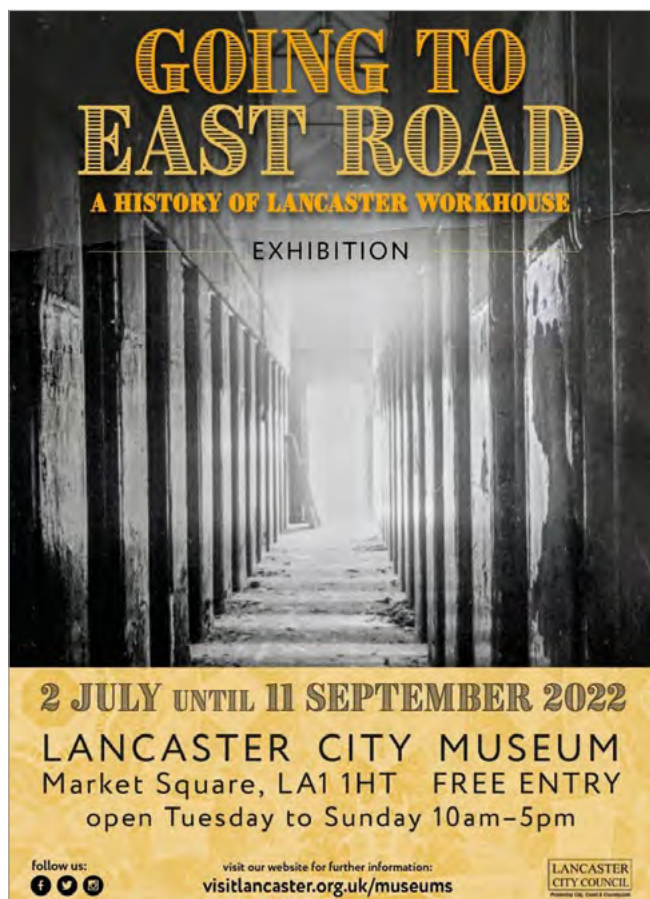
Faithwaites, circa 1867-68

The Archive's Year

Following the introduction of increased safeguarding and other measures in 2022, the work of volunteers in the Archive during the past year was on

a much smaller scale than hitherto, although off-site work on photographs continued. Research related to external enquiries largely ceased, and access to the Archive during term was only

possible under supervision. However, one of the volunteers has now completed the necessary annual training, and the incoming Head of History has kindly agreed to act as Line Manager. It is hoped



Exhibition Poster, 2022



Display in the Memorial Library, Open Day, 2023



Display for the JWF Memorial Tea, 2022



Workhouse Exhibition at Lancaster Museum, 2022

shortly to resume work on projects with some Sixth Formers.

In recent issues of the *Newsletter* we referred to help given to Naomi Parsons in her research about the Workhouse, and after a delay caused by Covid-19 her exhibition at Lancaster Museum was finally held in the summer of 2022. An article about LRGS and the Workhouse will appear in next year's magazine.

A small display was arranged for the memorial event for John Fidler, (Staff, 62-13), hosted by members of his family in the Assembly Hall in 2022, at which members of the CCF Contingent were present in tribute.

Following a request from a member of the Senior Leadership Team, an exhibition focussed on the themes

suggested — uniform, punishment, medals, food — was arranged in the Memorial Library for Open Day in June 2023. It was well-received and may be repeated in future.

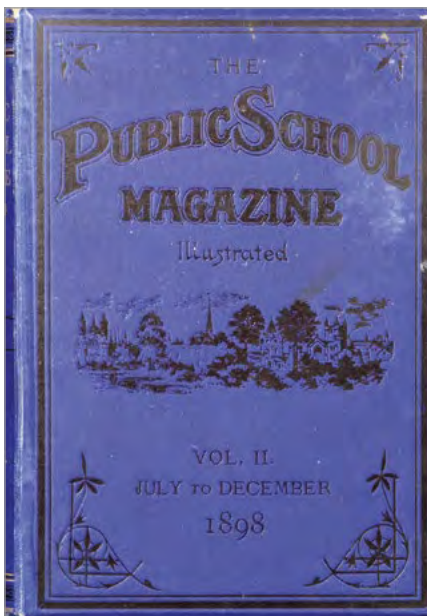
An archivist is currently locating sources to help Nigel Ingham (70-73), a Visiting Research Fellow at the Open University, in his research into how educational selection has had an impact on the lives of individuals, families and communities.

Other work is being undertaken at the Lancashire Records Office to identify School-related material, and a privately purchased subscription to the British Newspaper Archive is also proving to be of great value. It is

through the latter that we have now definitely established that all the Victorian Registers held by the Rev T F Lee (1850-72) were destroyed as valueless after his decease; the lack of these has caused historians and archivists considerable inconvenience over many decades.

Acquisitions

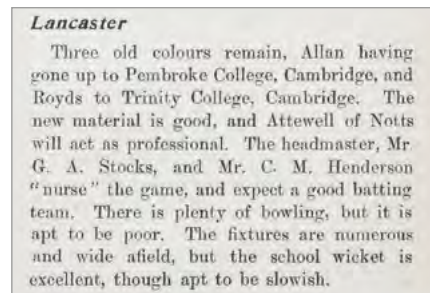
The major acquisition this year, referred to elsewhere in the magazine, was a set of architect's plans for Lee House, generously donated by Christ Church. Another item of significance, a large, signed photographic portrait of The Hon John Wrathall, the first OL to be a Head of State, was donated by Bill Eaton (56-63); it supplements his earlier gifts. Rodney Gorton kindly sent in further items relating to his



The Public School Magazine, 1898



Research with Naomi Parsons



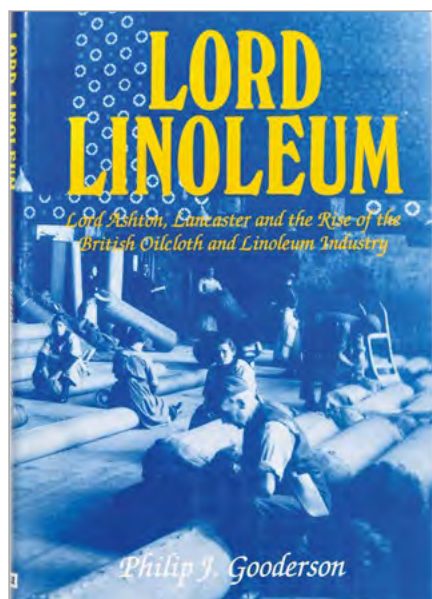
The Public School Magazine, 1898



Boy's Own Paper, 1906



Badges and Caps of Our Public Schools, Boy's Own Paper, 1906



grandfather, J K S Gorton (28-35). Chris Critchlow (62-69) donated a copy of his privately printed book, *A High Sheriff's Tale*.

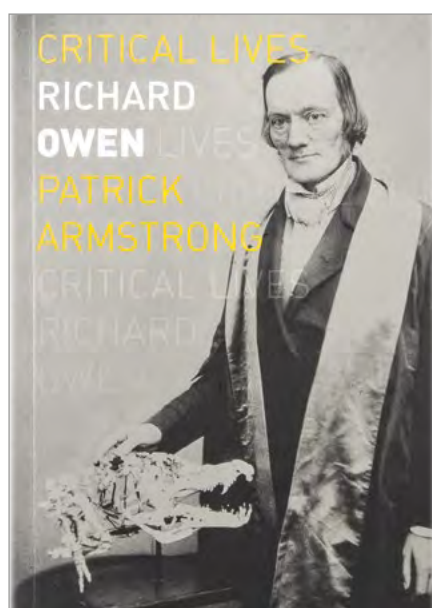
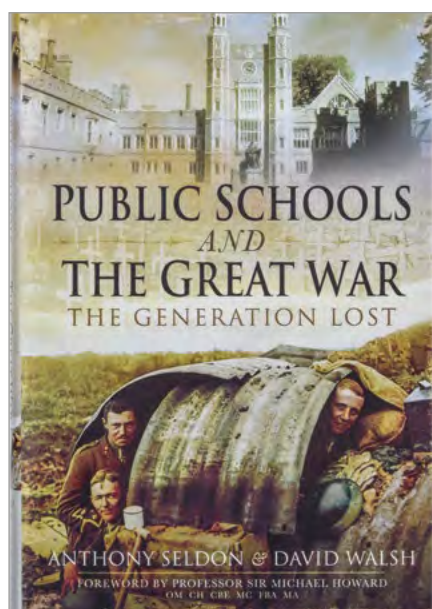
An archivist has continued to purchase many items of interest for intended donation to the Archive in due course. A striped blazer in OLC colours which was acquired on eBay is probably seventy to ninety years old. A 1970 Barbarians v South Africa programme was bought because the match was refereed by Air Commodore G C Lamb CBE AFC (34-41). A series of war-time Blue Books, Speech Day programmes and Speech Day invitations, three School Play programmes from 1943-46, and three OL West Riding Dinner menus of much later date, originally belonged to J H Maudsley (39-46) of Bentham.

Of much earlier date, and obtained from different sources, were items relating to two well-known OLs who were father and son. They include: four *carte de visite* photographs dating from the 1860s, one of which was taken by John Mayall, the leading Society photographer, and the others by companies patronised by the Royal Family; an 1892 magazine article in which the son is shown as a fourteen-year-old boy; and a privately printed autobiographical book published in 1912 after the latter's death the previous year. Given the fascinating history surrounding this family, considerable research is going to be undertaken during the academic year.

An important find was a pair of *carte de visite* photographs of boys in LRGS uniform, dating from 1876, referred to elsewhere. A brief, illustrated article about Sir Richard Owen (left circa 1819), published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1891, was acquired. A 1970 issue of a comic, *The Victor*, which detailed in cartoon format the First World War exploits of Major O C Borrett DSO & Bar (circa 1888) was purchased; to accompany it, another welcome discovery was an illustration of Borrett's encounter with the enemy, taken from a book, *Deeds That Thrill the Empire*. Two books on war themes were bought, *Lancaster at War* (2018) by John Fidler (Staff, 62-13), and *Public Schools and the Great War*, by Anthony Seldon and David Walsh.

Also acquired was a book published in 1866, *Creasy's Decisive Battles*, bound in red morrocco leather and stamped with the double-shield badge; it was presented as a prize in the same year to W A Sutcliffe by the Rev T F Lee.

Four books about Old Lancastrians were bought: *Neville Gorton, Bishop of Coventry* (1896-1902), edited by F W Moyle; *Lord Linoleum*, by P J Gooderson, about Lord Ashton (1851-55); *Critical Lives: Richard Owen*, by Patrick Armstrong, published in 2023; and a modern reprint of J M Douglas's *The Life and Selections from the*



Prize Bookplate, 1866

Correspondence of William Whewell (left circa 1810).

Further acquisitions include *A Short History of England* (1895) by the historian Cyril Ransome (1862-69), which belonging either to a 'beak' or to a boy at Eton College, and a 1958 edition of *Cannibalism and Human Sacrifice* by Garry Hogg (Staff, 1940s). *The Local Heroes Book of British Ingenuity*, by Adam Hart-Davis and Paul Bader, mentions the reason for the introduction of the Rev Henry Moule's patented earth-closets at LRGS to replace the water-closets: "the water-closets were always out of order 'by reason of marbles, Latin grammar covers, and other properties being thrown down them'."

A modern reprint of *A Narrative of the Visit of Queen Victoria to Lancaster in 1851*, originally published in 1877 by C E Quarme, a former owner and editor of the *Lancaster Gazette*, contains a number of references to the School, in particular to the masters and boys being present on a specially erected platform at Castle Park.

The Public School Magazine, (Volume Two, July to December 1898), contains a few of the School's cricket reports and some references to a Cambridge Cricket Blue, J du V Brunton (left 1886). A bound volume of *The Boy's Own Annual* for 1905-06 not only contains a story written by F H Bolton

(1875-80) but also a yard-wide colour lithograph, *Badges and Caps of Our Public Schools*, which includes drawings of the LRGS cap and the red-rose badge. A 1927 publication, *British Public Schools' War Memorials*, contains a brief section about the School's post-WWI Brass Tablet and its Memorial Scheme. *Sharpe, Paley and Austin: A Lancaster Architectural Practice 1836-1942*, by James Price, published in 1988, includes a photograph of Old Side. *The Old Public Schools of England* (1938) one of the Batsford series of books, refers to LRGS, as does Brian Gardner's 1973 book, *The Public Schools*; the latter ranks us as "one of the greatest schools of the north".

School Badges

An article in last year's magazine answered a question, originally posed in an *Alumni Newsletter*, about the use by LRGS of a double-shield badge which combined the Royal Arms and those of the Borough of Lancaster. We were able to establish precisely when the old badge stopped appearing on literature, photographs and clothing, but were unable to provide a definitive answer as to why the change was introduced. After further investigation, the reason is now clear.

Initially, a file in the National Archive looked as if it might be of relevance; however, it was closed to the public until 2037, so an application was made to have the documents released. A small fee was paid, the

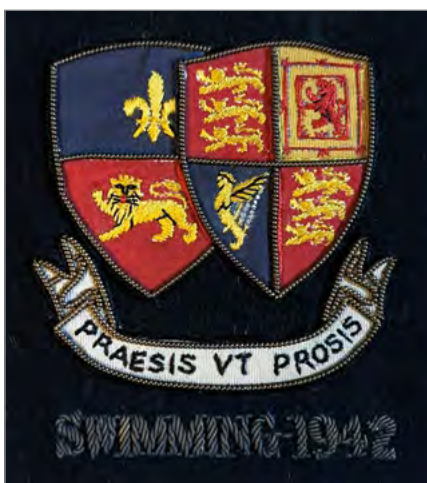
file was examined and placed on open access, and digital copies of its contents obtained.

Unfortunately, the correspondence was solely concerned with the use of the word 'Royal'. After the death of King George V in 1936, the Governors instructed their Clerk to write to the Board of Education to "enquire what is the proper procedure to be adopted in order that the permission of His Majesty the King may be obtained to the continued use of the title 'Royal'."

The Secretary of the Board then corresponded with the Home Office,

briefly setting forth the history of the title's usage at LRGS. He enquired whether it was correct to assume that no authorisation to continue using the title was required on the accession of a new Sovereign, and he stated that the Board "are aware of no reasons why the school should cease to be styled "Royal"."

The reply from the Home Office was: "I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that the assumption of the Board that authorisation of the continued use of this title on the occasion of the accession of a new Sovereign is unnecessary is correct."



Double-Shield Badge



Borough Arms in New Building, 1929

An inference is that the Governors wished to ensure that LRGS was seen to be acting properly in 1936, possibly because in 1929 they had been involved in the matter of the unauthorised use of the Royal Arms. This inference was able to be checked when a Governor's *Minute Book* was recently found to be on loan to the Lancashire Records Office.

The use of the Royal Arms was indeed discussed by them over a few months in 1928-29. On 4 December 1928 the Clerk to the Governors raised the question of the "Armorial Bearings of the School and having the same verified for the new school buildings." Considerable discussion followed and it was resolved that "the old school crest be continued if power to do so, and if not the Arms of the Borough, and it was left in the hands of Mr. Nuttall and the Clerk, to make full enquiry into the matter".

At the next Governors' Meeting on 5 February 1929, it was reported that Alderman Nuttall had met the Town Clerk, T Cann Hughes; that Cann Hughes had written to Nuttall; and

that there had been correspondence with the Duchy. Nuttall also submitted a design embodying the Duchy and Town Arms. Considerable discussion took place and a Committee of five governors was established to consider the question of the Arms to be used, to communicate with the County and to report back at the next Governors' Meeting.

When the Sub-Committee met, Cann Hughes offered "to write to his friend, Mr. E. A. Ebbblewhite, Barrister at Law, of the Temple, who had been connected with the College of Heralds and was an expert in such matters and who was also known to Mr. Alderman Nuttall." Cann Hughes subsequently sent a drawing of the proposed Arms to Ebbblewhite, together with the impressions of the Arms at present used by the School.

On 5 March there was a Governors' Meeting during which "The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Ebbblewhite to Mr. Cann Hughes relative to Armorial Bearings. After some discussion it was resolved to continue using the Borough Arms with or without supporters."

Unfortunately, none of the correspondence or proposed designs can be located, although an enquiry will be sent to the Duchy. However, given that the School immediately began to use the Borough Arms not only on its literature but also on the stained-glass windows in New Building, the advice from Ebbblewhite would almost certainly have been that LRGS could not continue to use the double-shield badge. Those Arms had been assumed by the School in the early 1850s without any right to bear them, no approach having been made through the College of Arms for a Grant of Arms. Nor would Nuttall's proposed design embodying the Duchy's Arms and the Borough Arms have had any official standing.

At the next Governors' Meeting on 23 April 1929, Shackleton Bailey suggested the "purchase of one or two extra dies for the School Arms". Dies were ordered and henceforth the Borough Arms were used, although existing supplies of bullion badges deploying the double-shield badge continued to be sold until about 1942, and the latter design was inadvertently included on School panoramic photographs as late as 1949.

Our Interesting Artefacts

The Greg Gold Medal was first awarded in 1857 by Alderman Greg, and this annual prize was subsequently endowed by a Codicil to his Will. He bequeathed to the Mayor and Town Clerk, "£150, free from legacy duty, partly for providing a gold medal (as heretofore) to be presented annually to the best and most deserving scholar in Mathematics and natural science at the Royal Grammar School of Lancaster, not exceeding 17 years of age, to be selected by examiners in the manner now prescribed for the Victoria Scholars at such School". Greg died in November 1882.

The medals were manufactured by Wyon & Co., a celebrated dynasty of coin, medal and seal engravers. The image pictured is of Old Side as it appeared in the 1850s, prior to the building of an extension to the Head Master's House and the 1877 and 1887 extensions. Unfortunately, the Archive does not possess the die used for striking the medals.

As an example of its cost, in 1934 the bill from Wyon's was £4. 5s. Od., roughly equivalent to three weeks' wages for a labourer. Since the Second World War it was not possible to provide a gold medal from the income of the trust, but the former Archbishop of the West Indies (The Most Reverend E A Dunn, 1886-89) returned the medal which he had won in 1887, to be presented temporarily to the winner each year at Speech Day.

The Archive holds three or four of these medals, although a further example which was awarded to G V Williams cannot currently be located.



Greg Gold Medal, 1887

The Quarme Album

Although the Archive holds a significant number of architects' plans for LRGS buildings, many of which relate to those on Old Side, our collection is unfortunately incomplete. However, earlier this year we were delighted to be offered the Sharpe and Paley drawings for Lee House, the 1860 building in East Road commissioned by the then-Headmaster, the Rev Thomas Faulkner Lee. Generously donated to the Archive by the Vicar of Christ Church, the Rev Carol Backhouse, the plans are a most welcome addition.

On visiting the sacristy to inspect and collect the drawings, an archivist was also shown what is known as *The Quarme Album*, the existence of which we were unaware. Holding over sixty leaves, it is of importance to both Christ Church and the School and has an intriguing provenance.

An inscription on the frontispiece reads: "Presented to Mr. Timberlake by his former Art Master. W. Dyke Carter. 1957." Timberlake was Headmaster from 1939-61 and Carter was the wartime-replacement Art Master from 1941-44. Bought from a Preston bookshop about twenty years ago, the album was subsequently donated to Christ Church;



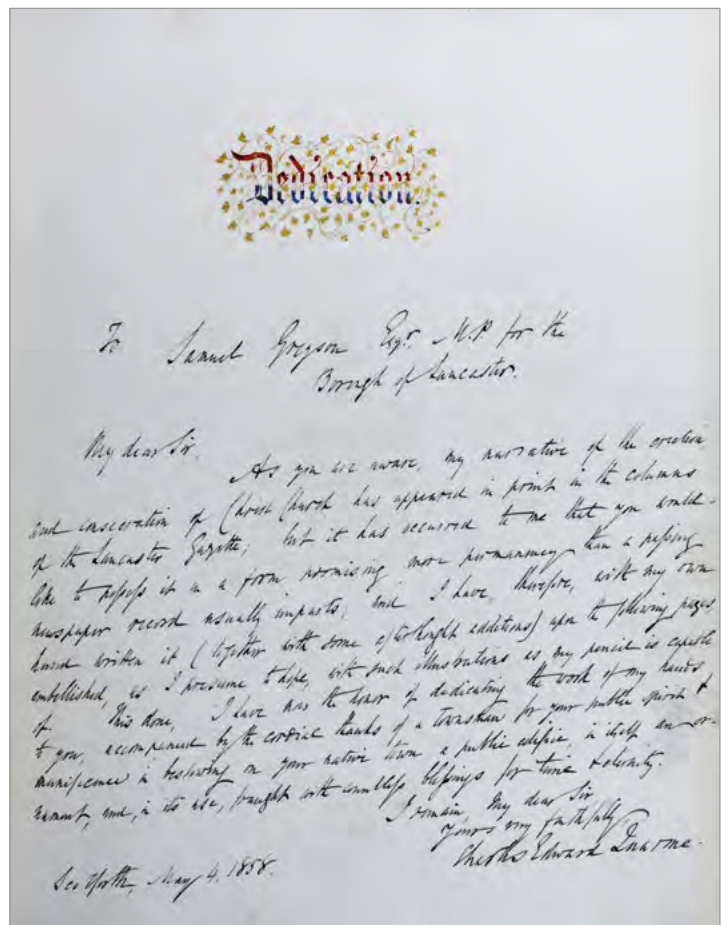
Christ Church, 1858

whether it was given away by Timberlake or sold after his death we do not know, but we were very pleased to be allowed to photograph it.

Christ Church was erected and endowed by an Old Lancastrian, Samuel Gregson MP (left circa 1800), and was consecrated in



Thought to be C E Quarme



Dedication to Samuel Gregson MP



The Royal Grammar School (left), Lancaster Workhouse (middle), Christ Church (right), circa 1878-79

1857. It originated in a desire to minister to the spiritual needs of the inmates of Lancaster Workhouse, for whom no religious services were provided by the Union. The *Lancaster Guardian* reported that it was intended to be “a comfort to the poor, a convenience to the Royal Grammar School, and a permanent blessing to the contiguous increasing population”.

From 1857 boarders attended Christ Church on Sundays, dressed in their best suits and mortarboards, and the School's ancient connection with the Priory was for some decades severed. Although no parish was attached to the church, Athol Murray's history of LRGS, in which he refers to services in the 1860s, remarks: “the services were always well attended, because of the beautiful singing of the choir, almost all of them boarders, and of one boy, Kyrle Bellew, in particular.” The School's link with Christ Church still endures, with Assemblies being held there.

The consecration of the church was reported in detail in the *Lancaster Gazette*, whose editor was Charles Edward Quarme. He had bought the newspaper in 1834, and although he sold

it in 1848, he remained as editor until 1874 when he retired at the age of eighty. A member of the local Tory elite, Quarme promoted civic pride in institutions such as the Royal Grammar School and he was also prominent in the campaign to erect a monument to those Lancastrians who died in the Crimean War.

The Quarme Album was dedicated to Samuel Gregson on 4 May 1858. Handwritten and illustrated by Quarme, it contains not only the *Gazette*'s report of the consecration, but also what he refers to as “some afterthought additions”, including a chapter about the School and complimentary references to its Head Master, the Rev Thomas Faulkner Lee (1850-72), who had been appointed to the incumbency by the founder and patron.

The text is written in a highly florid style, common at the time. The calligraphy is ornate, although on a few pages Quarme has apparently forgotten to colour some of the capital letters. The illustrations have been described as “not without artistic merit on a technical level in terms of a handmade record of the buildings. In terms of ethos and intrinsic artistic value ... the phrase romanticized Victorian kitsch springs to mind.”



The Rev Thomas Faulkner Lee (1850-72)



The Royal Grammar School, 1858

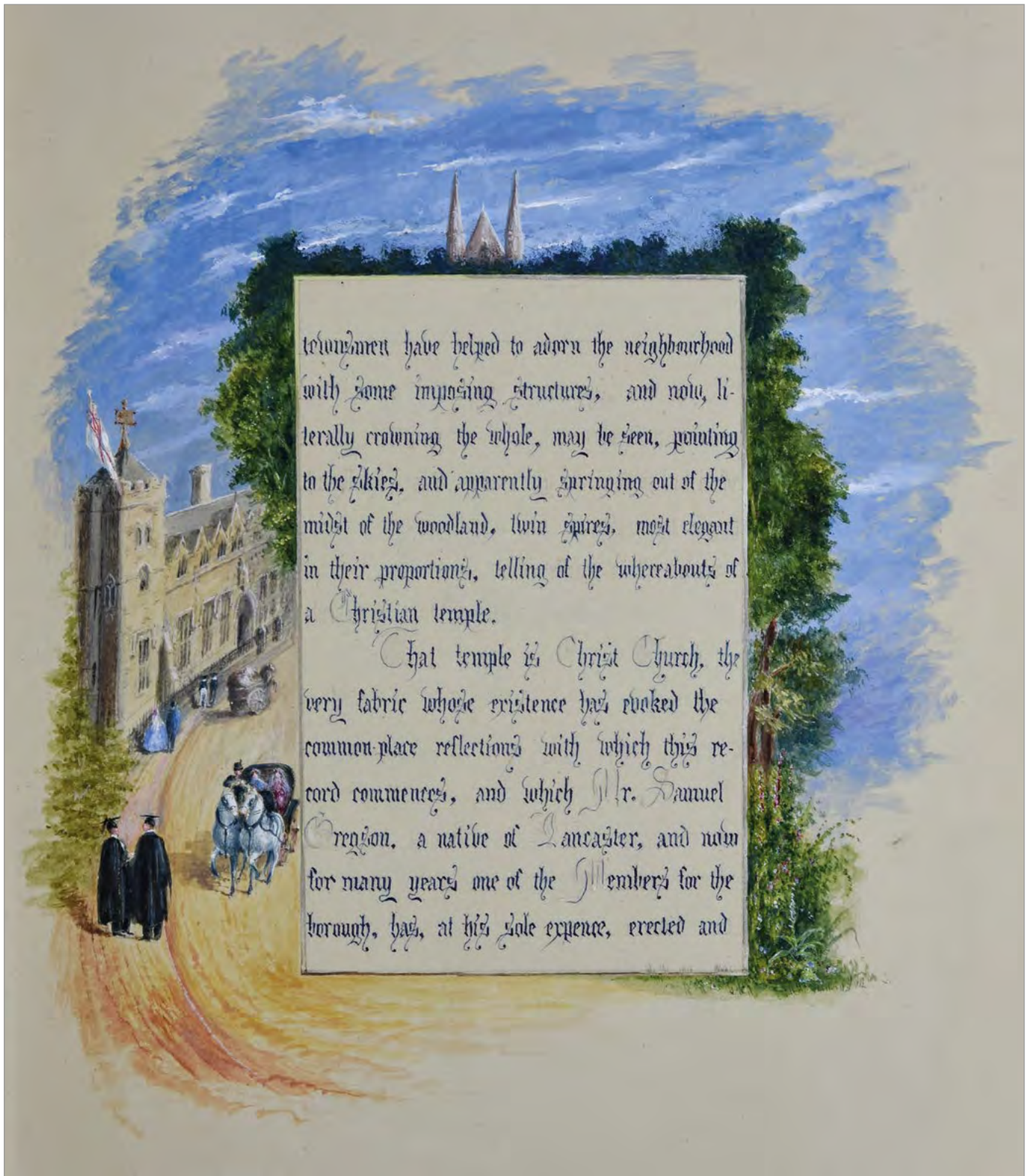
No part of Lancaster has been more improved of late years than the portion which lies adjacent to the Moor. No sooner was a spacious road thrown open in that direction than almost immediately springing up amongst the mass of forest foliage there flourishing, that goodly pile of buildings, richly harmonising with such scenery, the Royal Lancaster Grammar School. Our Roman Catholic fellow townsmen have helped to adorn the neighbourhood with some imposing structures, and now, literally crowning the whole, may be seen pointing to the skies, and apparently springing out of the midst of the woodland, twin spires, most elegant in their proportions, and telling of the whereabouts of a Christian temple.

That temple is Christ Church, the very fabric whose existence has evoked the common place reflections with which this record commences, and which Mr. Samuel Gregson, a native of Lancaster, and now for many years one of the Members for the borough, has, at his sole expense, erected and endowed. On Wednesday last, this very beautiful church was duly consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Manchester.

Extract from the Lancaster Gazette



Part-extract about the Royal Grammar School



125 Years Ago: 1897-98

Mr Roberts and the Rev J L Brack (left 1891) both played for the Lancashire Rugby Union XV. The Cricket XI defeated a 'fairly strong' Old Boys' XI by 46 runs; the Rev A J K Thompson scored nearly half of the Old Boys' 45 in reply to the School's 91. For the School, C C T Royds took nine wickets for thirteen runs. Prize Day was the first since the appointment of the new Governing Body. The Queen requested an extra week's holiday to commemorate her long reign. Purchase of land opposite the School was mentioned in the Head Master's report.

Walter Tosh (1894-96), Captain of Football in 1896, died of typhoid fever aged seventeen. The number of OLs studying at universities rose to twenty. 'Swimmer' suggested that Life Saving lessons should be introduced and suggested a method. His suggestion received a scathing reply from 'Tasmania'.



125 Years Ago: C C T Royds



125 Years Ago: J L Brack



125 Years Ago: W G Tosh

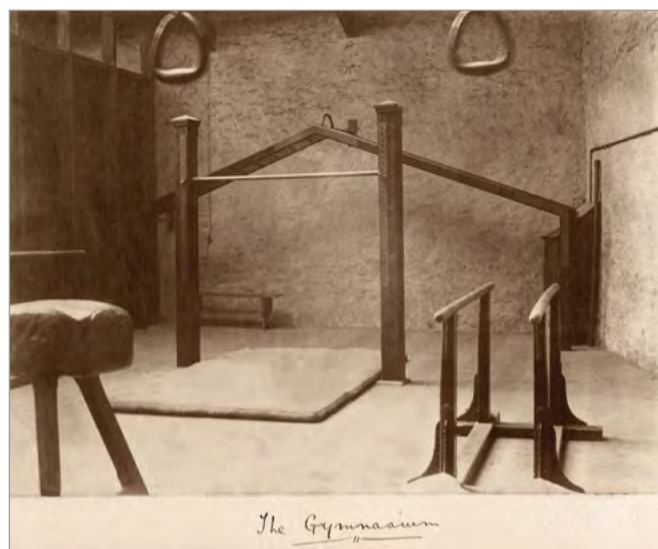
The Christmas Concert held at the Phoenix Rooms accommodated friends of the School and Old Boys, but unfortunately there was no room for the boys. Soccer matches were played during the Lent Term. The Boarders defeated the Dayboys by 4 - 2 and eight teams competed in a 'Football Sixes' competition. Gymnasium Competitions were held for both seniors and juniors. The Cricket XI, captained by J B Douthwaite, enjoyed a very successful season in 1898, with two victories against Giggleswick (the first

since 1887). The Boarders defeated the Day-boys, the School prevailed against the Masters, and narrowly defeated the Old Boys.

The Owen Society (a forerunner of the Whewell Society) held its first meetings. The hounds (senior and junior) failed to catch their respective hares in the traditional Shrove Tuesday paper chases. A Photographic Club was formed and held a competition. New to the staff were Messrs Vincent (January 1898) and Deed (April 1898).



125 Years Ago: Cricket First XI



125 Years Ago: Gymnasium

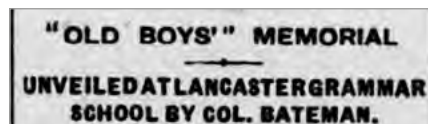
100 Years Ago: 1922-23

The Memorial Tablet to those OLs killed in the Great War was formally unveiled on OLs' Day, with the OTC providing a Guard of Honour. Three boys, S F Fawcett, R E Anderson and S G Humphreys represented the School at The Duke of York's Camp at New Romney, with Humphreys providing an account for *The Lancastrian*. 'T. P.' wrote an amusing report of the somewhat damp OTC camp at Strensall, near York: "Spoon shooting commenced". What was 'spoon shooting? The new Rifle Range was officially opened on Empire Day, 24 May 1923.

The School XI enjoyed a successful 1922 season, with seven victories and only one defeat against other schools. Particularly impressive was a nine-wicket win against Giggleswick who were dismissed for 29. Harold Douthwaite scored 123 for the OLs and took five wickets for 11, but the School just managed to hold out. Douthwaite also gained his Blue for Association Football at Cambridge, scoring a brilliant individual goal in the Varsity Match. He also played for the Amateurs of England against Wales, scoring two goals, and for the Corinthians. The 1923 season started uncertainly for the School XI with consecutive defeats against other schools, but improved form restored the balance.



100 Years Ago: Douthwaite (centre),
Corinthian Player



100 Years Ago: War Memorial in Big School

The School XV had mixed fortunes, with eight wins and eight defeats, though it has to be remembered that St Bees, Sedbergh and Rossall considered their Second XVs sufficient opposition.

The Whewell Society held several lively meetings. The proposition that 'the cinema tends wholly towards

evil' was heavily defeated, and the suggestion that 'prohibition of the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor is necessary' also got the 'thumbs down'. The motion that capital punishment should be abolished was narrowly rejected. Membership of the infant Wireless Society, brainchild of the Science VI, was by election only and entailed an entrance fee. Its first wireless behaved somewhat eccentrically, but it created sufficient interest for a lecture on the subject to be delivered to the Whewell Society. Unfortunately, S Atkinson, its guiding spirit, was a school leaver in 1923.

A couple of amusing articles appeared from the pen of H W (Birdy) Robinson (he who established the School's taxidermy displays). The Liverpool Letter made its first appearance.

75 Years Ago: 1947-48

Circulation of *The Lancastrian* had increased from 500 to 1600 since the outbreak of war. The Common Room lost its last two female members. Changes in the School timetable meant shorter Wednesday and Saturday mornings. There was some difficulty in accommodating the increased number of dinner boys. The Sixth Form increased from 99 to 127 in a year.

An exchange visit was made with students of a French Lycee at Avignon (memorable for the French



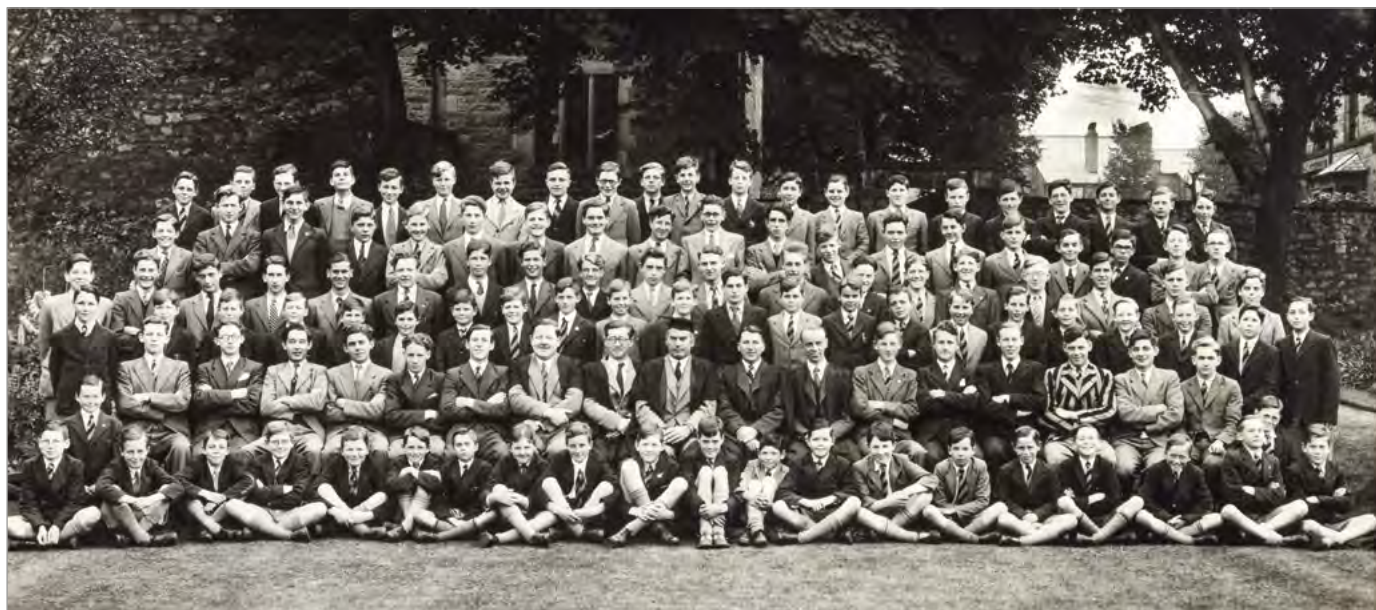
100 Years Ago: Rugby First XV



75 Years Ago: Rugby First XV



75 Years Ago: Cricket First XI



75 Years Ago: School House

master in morning assembly thanking 'Teasletwaite', i.e. R W Thistlethwaite of VBI, for his words of welcome). Some LRGS scouts attended the Sixth World Jamboree in France. For the first time in over 500 meetings thirty LGGs pupils took part in a Whewell Society debate, but to no avail as the motion that 'Woman's Place is the Home' was carried by 69 votes to 22. In another debate the house agreed that 'The only hope for this country lies in the immediate return of a Conservative Government'. The School acquired a printing press.

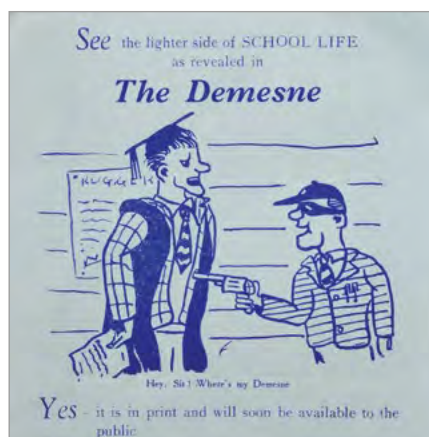


75 Years Ago: Swimming Team



75 Years Ago: Staff Play

The JTC sent one company to Warcop, another to Crag Bank (both for shooting), while another stayed outside LRGS for fieldcraft. Ten societies/clubs entered reports of their activities. The Mountaineering Club, under the tender care of Mr



75 Years Ago: The Demesne

and Mrs Files and Mr Randall, spent a week climbing in the Lake District during the summer holiday.

The School House magazine, *The Demesne*, made its first appearance. The School XV, despite lack of weight in the scrum, enjoyed a successful season. Both the School Cricket and Swimming teams enjoyed remarkably successful seasons. A team of OL golfers won the Viscount Morley of Blackburn Golfing Trophy.

The Staff, for two evenings, provided entertainment with their production of *French Without Tears*, and the School play was *The Late Christopher Bean*. A list of the School Staff (thirty-three in all) was given, with dates of appointment.

Keith Marsden broke two athletics records, but was 'pipped' as Victor Ludorum by a certain C E Parkinson.

50 Years Ago: 1972-73

Mr Spencer paid tribute to Harold Douthwaite (Dally), a sporting legend and mainstay of the OL Club, who had recently died. Spencer himself, who was taking up the headmastership of Berkhamsted, was the subject of appreciative articles by Andrew Miller and David Widdess. Leslie Twyford (Physics) and Bill Osborne (English and the CCF), both long-serving members of the staff, took well-earned



50 Years Ago: AMJ & JLS



50 Years Ago: Les Twyford



50 Years Ago:
Les Twyford



50 Years Ago:
Bill Osborne

retirement. A *Valediction for L.T.* was penned by George Watkins.

Drama included *One Way Pendulum*. The Sixth Form gained a Common Room. There was a ski-ing trip to Glenshee at Easter 1972. A certain M S Alexander wrote an article about wargaming — did he inspire the re-birth of the Senior Heritage Society? The Junior equivalent needed no such encouragement. The Astronomical, Railway and Natural History societies continued to function, as did the Computer and Electronics clubs.

Bad weather played havoc with rugby (in early 1972) and cricket, though the Boat Club and swimmers coped with the conditions admirably. The RN Section of the CCF had rather a quiet year, though it did provide the Guard of Honour for the Annual Inspection. The Army Section went rock climbing in the Langdales and the Signals Section introduced Radio 93. The RAF Section was more adventurous with visits to the wilds of Macrihanish and the Brecon Beacons.

Mr Joyce was welcomed as the new Headmaster. Bowling became a popular lunchtime sport for members of the Lower VI. Drama and music included productions of *The Fatal*

Gazogene, Sheridan's *The Critic* and (with LGGs) *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Autumn 1972 provided the First XV with better weather and some good results. The Summer 1972 Army Section camp was near Loch Earn, while the Navy Section paid visits to Liverpool, and the RAF Section enjoyed air experience at RAF Woodvale.

25 Years Ago: 1997-98

Mr Spencer paid tribute to the recently deceased Mr Timberlake. Among several changes in design was the new blazer badge, which replaced the previous red rose emblem and LRGS lettering. LRGS became one of the first to gain 'International School' status. During the year there were visits (some of them exchange) by various LRGS/LGGs groups to France, Italy, Finland and Germany, as well as receiving guests from Sweden. Nearer to home were Junior visits to Glenridding and Coniston.

The Heritage Society continued to recreate battles of the past, and the Video Club showed a variety of films, while the Star Trek Society operated a more restricted programme. The rejuvenated Environmental Society had high hopes, and fifteen pupils successfully undertook the Assessed Expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award.

Despite some low attendances the Whewell Society, with help from LGGs, held a number of debates, with decisions arrived at that paedophiles have rights too, that all workers should have equal pay (what would professional footballers say to that

one?), and that gentlemen do not prefer blondes. LGGs was largely responsible for the opposite view by performing *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* at the Grand Theatre, while other productions were *Habeas Corpus* (Alan Bennett) and *After the Ball Is Over* (William Douglas-Home). The Sixth Form and General Studies Group also entered the fray with *Zoo Story* (Edward Albee) and *A Man of Letters* (Tim Firth).

Music, both classical and jazz, was seen to be thriving, nor was art forgotten, with visits to the Tate Gallery in London, the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, and Lower Sixth Art students enjoyed an 'Artist in Residence Week' with James Bartholomew.

All three sections of the CCF were kept busy, the RN section spending time on the frigate HMS Lancaster at Portsmouth and the fast patrol boat HMS Biter at Liverpool. The Army Section went on camp to Nesscliff, near Shrewsbury, and two cadets earned six-week trips to Canada. The RAF Section continued its aim of helping cadets to learn to fly, entering various competitions, and holding camps at St Athan (Wales) and Coltishall (near Norwich).

As usual sport occupied much space. Even more impressive than the First XV's fourteen victories as against five defeats was the Second XV's seventeen victories giving them a 100% record. The First XI, with only one defeat (to Manchester GS) to eight victories, could feel pleased, but the highlight of the season was a visit to Barbados and Grenada, where, in the intense heat, two victories counterbalanced two defeats. The U14 XI had a wonderful season, winning the Lancashire Cup.

The Boat Club celebrated its Golden Jubilee with continued success, although no medals were won at the National Rowing Championships. U14 Swimmers also enjoyed a successful season with two titles at the English School Team Championships.

Clive Holden (45-54)

We regret to have to report the deaths of OLCs, former staff and other friends of LRGS. Obituaries, where received, are published (sometimes in later editions of the *OLCN*), and we welcome their submission for inclusion; if you are thinking of writing one, please in the first instance [contact the editors](#). As usual, further tributes to those who are named here would also be gratefully received for the School Archive.

Peter Baker (55-62), Edward Barlow (37-46), Brian Beatty (51-58), John Bibby (39-47), John Brooke (61-63), Nobby Clarke, William Evans (64-71), Trevor Fear (76-83), Ian Graham (54-60), Robert Kirkpatrick (43-53), Air Vice-Marshall G C Lamb (34-41), Arthur Liver (45-50), Bill MacFarlane (Staff, 58-62), Dr Peter Mason (Staff, 77-83); Rennie Proctor (51-57); Joy Saunders; Douglas Stell (Staff, 53-58), George Swindlehurst (35-41), Brian Townson (46-51), Carl Whiteside (06-13), John Zieger (46-51).



Anthony Michael Joyce

Martin Alexander writes: It was with immense sadness that LRGS and the OLC Club learnt of the death in mid-summer of Tony Joyce (Headmaster, 72-83). A minute's silence in remembrance was observed by the OLC Committee when it met on 11 September 2023, fittingly enough in the Miller Room (formerly the Joyce family dining room during Tony's Headmastership).



Tony's funeral took place on 18 August 2023 at the Oxford Crematorium. It was attended by Martin Alexander, OLC Chairman, Stephen Clarke of the OLC Committee, and Andrew Jarman (Headmaster, 01-12). Also present were some ninety other mourners including Tony's extended family and members of the Oxford Civic Society which Tony had vigorously and very effectively chaired for many years since his retirement.

After attending Merchant Taylors' School in North London, Tony studied Physics at Pembroke College, Cambridge, before securing a commission in the Royal Navy. As a young RN Lieutenant, he was one of several junior officers aboard the Reserve Fleet aircraft carrier HMS *Implacable* in Dover harbour, assigned to welcome European royal heads of state who arrived there in February 1952 just after the death of King George VI. With his brother officers, Tony accompanied the dignitaries by train to London for the State Funeral of His Late Majesty.

A notable Royal Navy career in the engineering branch occupied Tony during the rest of the 1950s. He lectured at Manadon (the Royal Naval Engineering

College in Plymouth), and reached the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. Moving into secondary education, Tony taught first at Oundle School, then at Clifton College, before being appointed Usher (Deputy Headmaster) at Magdalen College School in Oxford. From there he joined LRGS as the successor to John Loraine Spencer in 1972. Leaving Lancaster in 1983, Tony completed his distinguished school career at the helm of Plymouth College.

If Tony's physical legacy to LRGS is perhaps the modern Indoor Sports Hall (opened by Air Vice-Marshall G C 'Larry' Lamb, CB, AFC, in 1980), his true legacy lies in the School remaining a selective academic and boarding school. This was achieved thanks to Tony's political skill, his networks among the 'great and the good', and his warding off of a fierce later-1970s tide in local and central government desirous of turning every school into a comprehensive, throughout the 11-18 education sector.

A full appreciation of Tony's outstanding contribution at Lancaster will appear in the 2024 *OLCN*. For now, we offer up a wistful note of sorrow at the end of a long and exceptional life of service.

With Tony's passing LRGS and his family and many friends have lost a delightful, witty, sociable companion — and a masterful judge of what the former Conservative minister R A Butler called 'the art of the possible' in politics. Without a shadow of a doubt our School, but for Tony Joyce, would not today be recognisably LRGS.





Larry Lamb

Air Vice-Marshall G C Lamb CB, AFC (34-41), who died aged 99 on 22 September 2022, enjoyed two distinguished careers, one as an RAF pilot and senior officer, and the other as an international rugby referee and sports administrator. He was awarded the AFC in 1947 for his work developing techniques of teaching instrument-flying in a variety of aircraft; appointed CBE in 1966 for his work in Borneo at the time of the Confrontation with Indonesia; and in 1977 was advanced to CB.

Born 23 July 1923, George Colin Lamb was always known as 'Larry'. He lived at Hornby where his father owned Lamb's Garage. Larry entered LRGS as a fee-paying day-boy, and had a successful sporting career,



Larry in a Colours Blazer

being awarded Games Colours. He retained a strong connection with the School, serving as President of the OLC from 1973-74.

After joining the RAF in 1943 and training as a pilot in Canada, Larry returned to England and became a flying instructor at RAF College Cranwell, before moving to a flying training school near Grantham. In 1947 he returned to Cranwell as deputy chief flying instructor and became one of the RAF's first examiners. He then began flying two sorties a day on the Berlin Air Lift, carrying coal to the newly constructed Tegel airfield in Berlin.

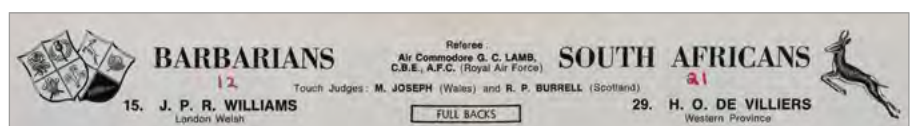
After serving in other roles, Larry was appointed Assistant Commandant at RAF College Cranwell in 1964. This was a highly satisfying posting for him given that he was able to combine the training of young officers with many opportunities to play sport.

In 1965, during the Confrontation with Indonesia, he took up the post of Deputy Air Commander Borneo. The campaign relied heavily on the use of helicopters and light aircraft to re-supply the ground forces operating in the jungle close to the Indonesian border. Heavier stores were air-dropped into clearances from larger transport aircraft. He also had responsibility for air defence, coastal patrol and reconnaissance assets.

Larry joined a team to review the RAF's command structure in 1967. RAF Strike Command was created to replace Bomber and Fighter Commands, and there was a reorganisation of Transport Command. In 1968 he was appointed as the first Air Commodore (Operations) at the new HQ Strike Command, responsible for the operational effectiveness of the bomber force, including the nuclear deterrent,



Inspecting RGS Cadets



Barbarians v South Africa, 1970

the air defence of the UK and for operational training.

In 1970 Larry assumed command of RAF Lyneham, one of the largest and busiest RAF stations. He had to organise Lyneham's change from a strategic to a tactical transport base, and the transfer of squadrons into and out of the airfield.

In 1972 he was appointed Director of Control (Operations) in the National Air Traffic Services, and two years later he was appointed Commander Southern Maritime Air Region with responsibility for Nimrod patrol aircraft and search-and-rescue helicopter operations. Prior to taking early retirement in 1978, he was Chief of Staff at HQ 18 (Maritime) Group.

Larry was appointed as one of the Rugby Football Union's three representatives on the International Referees Panel and was recognised as one of rugby's leading referees. He controlled fourteen major international matches, five Barbarian games, the University Match and some thirty County Championship games.

The Prince of Wales invited Larry to sit on the Queen's (Silver) Jubilee Committee for Sport, and then in 1985 to be a member of the sports committee of the Prince's Trust. In 1983 he was appointed as a full member of the Sports Council, serving on it until 1989.

An in-demand after-dinner speaker, his 1976 speech *In Praise of Welsh*

Rugby was relayed in full by BBC Wales. He also presented a paper, *Violence in Sport*, to the Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Congress in 1979.

From 1978 until 1989 Larry was the first chief executive of the Badminton Association of England. He created the National Badminton Centre at Milton Keynes, publicised the sport through extensive television and media coverage, obtained the first million-pound sponsorship in the sport's history, and assisted in getting the sport into the 1992 Olympic Games.

Larry was Chairman of the St George's Day Club in his retirement, raising more than £1 million for charities. He was also RAF Vice-President of the Combined Cadet Forces' Association.

Joy Saunders

Keith Saunders writes: Joy, as she was always known, was born on 2 November 1934, the younger of Robert 'Tim' Timberlake and Pippa Timberlake's two daughters. Tim was then teaching Classics at Rugby and on his appointment as Headmaster of LRGS in April 1939, the family moved to Lancaster and School House became Joy's home and playground — these memories featured in the 2022 edition of the *Newsletter*. She developed passions for music, for outdoor pursuits and for reading, under the influence of her equally well-read father. After 'matric', she went up to St. Hilda's College, Oxford, to read languages, partly as a result of the German lessons given to her by the LRGS cook, a refugee from Austria.

After leaving Oxford, she married Martyn Saunders, her childhood sweetheart from her Rugby years. Short periods in Birmingham and

in York were followed by a move to Rugby where Joy taught at Lawrence Sheriff School: she had settled on being a teacher because it was the only profession which then gave equal pay to women. In 1978 Joy became Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) for Modern Languages with a responsibility for schools in Cambridgeshire.

Joy was devoted to Martyn, who died in 2015, to her two sons, me and my brother Chris, to her four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was a talented and knowledgeable musician, playing the flute and the piano to a high standard, and was also exceptionally knowledgeable about art and natural history, particularly birds. Her retirement in Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire, was spent volunteering for the Church, travelling the world, seeing her many friends and pursuing her multiple interests.



Like her father, she had strong opinions, especially on education and politics, and enjoyed sharing them in debate with others. The lifelong passion for walking in Lakeland and the wider area continued into old age with frequent visits to Buttermere and also to Silverdale, where her father lived until his death in 1997. Her very last holiday in October 2021 took her back to her childhood haunts at LRGS and she managed, despite her illness, to walk up Arnside Knott to enjoy the views of the Fells that she had loved as a child. She died on April 28, 2022, surrounded by her family.

After gaining a flying scholarship to RAF College Cranwell, **Peter Baker (55-62)** graduated as a navigator in 1965. Tours on 9 and 27 Vulcan Squadrons followed, and in 1980 he was appointed MBE for his work in Maritime Reconnaissance.

After several ground tours and participating in three wars, he retired from the RAF as a Wing Commander and joined BAe in Saudi Arabia for ten years. On retirement he was a pillar of the local community in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. He established

the U3A in the town, was President of the Civic Society and of the Royal British Legion.

William Evans (64-71), or Willy as he was best known, was initially a dayboy but became a boarder,

joining School House as a Dark Blue. He was a popular member of the boarding house and became a good distance runner, representing the School on several occasions. After LRGS he was articled in accountancy, initially in Morecambe then in London, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and going into practice. He then moved into the construction sector as a Finance Director, latterly joining a business partner in buying and successfully turning round two security companies. Finally, he and his partner bought an electrical contracting company in Kent where Willy worked until his retirement.

Former LRGS Chemistry Master, **Dr Peter Mason (Staff, 77-83)** died peacefully at home following a short illness on 16 December 2022. Peter dedicated his entire career to teaching and eventually became Principal of Stamford Endowed Schools.

George Swindlehurst (35-41) died aged 99. A keen First XV rugby player, he was also Captain of Cricket in 1939-40. George served in the CCF Army Section and signed up as an Army Rifleman with the Lancashire Regiment in the Second World War. His LRGS background saw him progress in the Electronic Radio early developments of RADAR. He worked for RAYTHEON who developed the early warning radar for South-East UK to defend against the German bombing raids. In the Home Guard until demobbed in 1952, George married and had six boys with his wife Margaret. He was the Chief Financial Officer for most of his later career with Lancashire County Council at Preston.

After LRGS, **Dr Trevor Fear (76-83)** read Classics at Bristol where he obtained a BA, then an M Litt at Durham, and finally a PhD at the University of South California. His specialism was in Latin elegaic

poetry. He taught in several US universities and on returning to Britain became a senior lecturer in Classics and Staff Tutor at the Open University. For the twelve years prior to his death, he was also the editor of the journal *New Voices in Classical Reception Studies*.

Robert Kirkpatrick (43-53) died peacefully in Canada, to where he had emigrated in 1962. He entered teaching, and met and married his late wife, Caroline. As a retiree, Robert enjoyed spending much of his time with his three grandchildren.

John Zieger (46-51) was born in Budapest and was a barrister and member of Middle Temple.

Rennie Proctor (51-57) died in Queensland. He played rugby for the School and for the Vale of Lune, and will be remembered for his fearless tackling.

OL GOLF 2023 & ID PARADE 2023

Twenty-three golfers braved the weather for the OL Golf Day on 30 June 2023. Organised by Andrew Jarman and Luke Kettlewell, it was an enjoyable day. The overall champion was Nick Rafferty (96-03). Next year's event will take place on Friday 28 June 2024.



Identification Parade 2023



Who and When?

Successful and convivial Founders' Day dinners were held in 2022 and 2023, and the Club owes a debt of gratitude to Martin Alexander for organising them so efficiently. Other dinners held in the 2021-22 academic year were those at Cambridge, the Cotswolds, East Lancs, Leeds, London, Manchester and Oxford, four of which were reported in last year's OLCN. The 2022-23 year saw dinners held at Durham, East Lancs, Leeds, Manchester and Oxford.

For various reasons, lists of attendees and details of recent dinners are not included this year. We are most grateful to those OLs who arranged them, but particular mention should be made of Steve Aughton who has organised the Manchester Dinner for the past ten years, most recently at the spectacular Players Lounge, Hotel

Football, adjacent to Manchester United's Old Trafford Football Ground. During that decade over 400 OLs attended the highly successful and enjoyable dinners he arranged at three different venues. This year, he writes, "we hosted our own legends table, a youth team table and a good few of the coaching staff, including six current teachers, the Head, and former Head Andrew Jarman." Steve also mentioned that "among the regular toasts these included a particularly poignant one to 'The King, the Duke of Lancaster' for the first time at an OL Dinner in over seventy years". Now, after ten years, Steve has decided to hang up his proverbial football boots when it comes to organising the Manchester Dinner, and so if any OL would consider filling Steve's boots please do get in touch. He adds: "It seems as good a place as

any to issue a rallying call for future dinners as we need more attendees to ensure ongoing viability, so please do look at the regional dinner schedules and support them where you can!"

Also this year for reasons beyond the control of the editors, there are few photographs of Branch Dinners. In future we would welcome these, and they should be forwarded to olcnphotos@icloud.com. To be considered for inclusion in the magazine, they must be sent in the original high resolution, so please ensure your e-mail attachment is sent using the 'Actual size' option, even though this limits the number of images that can be attached to a single e-mail. As an example, the high-quality East Lancs photograph below was taken with an iPhone SE.



Oxford 2022



Durham 2022



Manchester 2022



East Lancs 2023

Founders' Day Dinner 2022





Founders' Day Dinner 2023





Following the Founders' Day Service, the Headmaster introduced Ian Weir (61-67) to Stewart Taylor (34-38), explaining that Stewart was a contemporary of Ian's father, Russell Weir (34-40), at LRGS. When Ian explained that Russell would have been one hundred years old this year, Stewart confirmed that he himself was a centenarian. When Russell left school he joined the Lancashire Fusiliers, later transferring to the Long Range Desert Group, serving in Italy and the Balkans.



Russell Weir



OLC CONTACT DETAILS

OFFICERS:

Club President: Mike Barton, CBE, QPM, DL, c/o Development and Alumni Office. (2024)

Club Vice-President: John Ashworth, c/o Development and Alumni Office. (2024)

ELECTED OLC OFFICERS:

Chairman: Martin Alexander, 1 Seymour Grove, Heysham, Lancashire, LA3 2JP. (2025)

Treasurer: Simon Corless, 22 Rays Drive, Lancaster, LA1 4NT. (2025)

Secretary: Paul Andrew, The Archive, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. (2025) E-mail: olcn@cantab.net

ELECTED OLC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Steve Aughton, c/o Siemens plc, Princess Road, Manchester, M20 2UR. (2026)

Paul Bradburn, 2 Dean Close, Edenfield, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire. (2025)

Richard Brigg, Conder Bank, Ellel, Lancaster, LA2 0QG. (2026)

Rod Burgess, Cantsfield House, Cantsfield, Carnforth, LA6 2QT. (2025)

Stephen Clarke, Lancaster House, 435 Clifton Drive North, Lytham St. Annes, FY8 2PW. (2026)

Jeremy Duerden, 7 Highcross Avenue, Poulton-Le-Fylde, FY6 8BY. (2026)

Peter Dyer, Knoll Cottage, 23 Lindeth Road, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0TT. (2025)

Robin Jackson, c/o Development and Alumni Office. (2025)

Olly Jacques, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. (2025)

Ian Weir, 20 Castle Park, Lancaster, LA1 1YQ. (2026)

Donald Wilkinson, Green Croft, Church Lane, Moor Monkton, N Yorks, YO26 8JA. (2025)

CO-OPTED OLC COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Damon Hall, School House, Quernmore Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EB. (2024)

Dates in brackets refer to the end of the period of office (at the AGM of the year listed).

EX-OFFICIO OLC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Headmaster: Dr Chris Pyle, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF.

Development Assistant: Lorna Lightfoot, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. Tel: 01524 580608. E-mail: development@lrgs.org.uk

BRANCH SECRETARIES:

Australia: Richard Batterley, 14 Spencer St, Moss Vale, New South Wales 2577, Australia.

Cambridge: Vacant.

Cotswolds: Graham Davies, 257 Hatherley Road, Cheltenham, GL51 6HF.

Durham: Mike Barton, c/o Development and Alumni Office.

East Lancashire: Andrew Clark, Stag House, Red Lane, Colne, BB8 7JW.

Hong Kong: Patrick Dransfield, c/o Development and Alumni Office.

Leeds: Darren Marchment, 32 Wellington Road, Ilkley, W Yorks, LS29 8HR.

London: Richard Salmon, 3 Park Lodge, Wapping Lane, London, E1W 2RN.

Manchester: Vacant.

New Zealand: Keith Aldren, 52 Scotia Street, Nelson, New Zealand.

North America: David Lamb, 817 E. Southampton Ave, Wyndmoor, PA 19038.

Oxford: Barry Wild, 11 Branch Hill Rise, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 9HN.

Should any OL wish to communicate with a specific Officer, Committee Member or Branch Secretary whose e-mail address is not listed, please contact the Development and Alumni Office. Telephone: 01524 580608. E-mail: alumni@lrgs.org.uk

OLC NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Paul Andrew, The Archive, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. E-mail: olcn@cantab.net

Stephen Clarke, Lancaster House, 435 Clifton Drive North, Lytham St. Annes, FY8 2PW. E-mail: olcnphotos@icloud.com.

VOLUNTEER ARCHIVISTS:

Paul Andrew, The Archive, LRGS, East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. E-mail: olcn@cantab.net

Stephen Clarke, Lancaster House, 435 Clifton Drive North, Lytham St. Annes, FY8 2PW. E-mail: olcnphotos@icloud.com

Clive Holden, c/o Development and Alumni Office.



Strolling with Shakespeare, 2022

OLCN Editors, Lee House,
The Royal Grammar School
East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

E-mail: olcn@cantab.net