

Class of 14



Ron Berry  
[OL Liaison]

# Old Leicestrian Newsletter

This has been a busy and successful year for the Old Leicestrian Association. We have been trying to find events that will draw people in from a variety of age groups and interests. The Carol Service is the main event of the Advent Term and this year we had a record number of OLs and staff attending. The most pleasing aspect of the Carol Service was that there was a significant number of younger OLs and that, I think, is an indication of the health of the Association. The 5-a-side football has also firmly established itself in the OL calendar and is greatly enjoyed by those who enter a team (including the staff, who generally 'could do better').

In March we hosted a lunch for the parents of the first pupils to attend the school in 1981. We were delighted that over 60 parents and teachers from that time were present and it was obvious that there was a lot of goodwill and fond memories of the old place. Next June there will be a gala lunch for the pioneering pupils of the first 5 years to mark the 35th anniversary of the founding of the School.

The London Drinks continues to be popular with OLs and staff alike, although numbers were down a little this year. As I write this we are close to the date of the Sports Reunion and I can already say that there will be a goodly number of former first team players attending.

The School continues to grow in numbers and reputation. At present the Senior School has

825 students and the total for senior and junior is 1216. Those leaving this year will be the first who did not know the old building, so a significant landmark has been reached. The picture below shows the plan for the extension which will be finished for the new term in September. It will include administration and senior management offices, a science workroom, a lecture theatre, some new laboratories and classrooms as well as a 6th form lounge (I am sure many of you will regard the latter as long overdue).

The old buildings in town have recently been at the centre of the Richard III celebrations, with the St. Martin's Building (just over the wall from the car park where the remains were discovered) being converted into the Richard III Visitor Centre. Some time ago the St Nicholas Building became the Cathedral and Diocesan Centre and the St Katharine's Building was converted into the Buddhist Centre, with a good cafe in the old library that you might like to drop into.

Finally, some of the students who have visited Auschwitz have proposed that a Peace Garden be established at school. To quote their proposal 'This will be a quiet place of contemplation where people can sit and reflect'. The location of this is to be outside the School Library, facing the village of Great Glen. The OL Committee has agreed to pay for 2 stone benches for this garden, and they will carry a plaque remembering staff who have passed away, namely John Christie, Barbara Harper and Bryan Shaw.



View from South West



View from North West

# Valete: so it's 'Goodbye' from them!



Alexis Williamson

I joined LGS after being a student at Loughborough University for 4 years, where I did a Geography & PE degree followed by a PGCE. I joined LGS in 1999 straight out of university as a very young 22 year old.

Both my parents were head teachers and loved their jobs. This was a pretty big influence on my decision to become a teacher (and the fact that they got long holidays!) However, my mum and dad were pretty adamant that I was going to become anything but one. The compromise was that I did a joint honours degree which included Geography with PE. I chose to teach PE because of my love of sport, especially the playing of hockey at a high level. Being dyslexic I struggled with academic work but sport was my release as I was pretty good at it so to me it was the obvious choice.

I am moving to London where the role I shall be taking up is that of Director of Sport at Sutton High School in south-west London. It is an all-girls school and I will be responsible for all the sport for students aged 3 to 18.

Whilst at LGS there have been some highlights for me, including taking the 2007/8 U18 Hockey team to National Indoor finals; taking the 2006/7 U18 Hockey team to the Midland Finals and losing to Repton (with all their internationals) on penalty flicks; taking 47 pupils to Singapore and Malaysia and everyone coming back alive; and completing my Masters while working full-time.

There are many people on the staff that have become friends who I will miss, but I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

One thing I won't miss is the Tuesday afternoon games registers!



Nick Perry

I began my teaching career in 1981 at Aylesbury Grammar School in Buckinghamshire. It was there that I first developed my interest in writing educational software. This was at a time when a school considered itself fortunate to have more than a couple of computers and a well specified machine had a 2 MHz processor, 32 kB (yes kB!) of RAM, a display resolution of 640x256 and no hard drive (programs and data were stored on an audio cassette tape). After four years, I left teaching to join an Oxford University spin-off company which produced molecular modelling software for chemical research. I then spent the next 18 years working for a number of software and pharmaceutical companies, variously involved with software development, user training and drug discovery research. When my Cambridge-based biotech employer ran out

of venture capital, I decided to return to teaching and hence arrived at LGS in 2003. I soon realised I was the only one in the department who knew how to switch a computer on and thus became responsible by default for all things digital. I indulged my other passion (for sport) by taking over the Badminton Club in my second year and built it up to run a total of six teams for the last few years. Throughout my time at LGS I have been struck by the fantastic atmosphere within the school, in the staffroom, in the student body and between the two. I have really enjoyed the whole experience and hope, in retirement, to continue developing educational scientific resources as well as using my new-found leisure time to travel extensively.

# In Memoriam:

Professor Trevor Kerry and  
Richard Longson

## **Dr Meurig Thomas / Nov 1934 - April 2015**

Dr Thomas came to Leicester Grammar to teach Physics in 1995, having retired as Head of Physics at Nottingham High School for Girls, where he had been since 1985. Previously he had served in the Royal Air Force as Squadron Leader in the Education Branch. He was both assiduous and organised in his professional life, and committed to communicating his subject to his students. He was much respected by both his students and colleagues. He also had a deep concern for wider educational issues and in particular for the importance of the

role of Grammar Schools. Having retired from teaching at LGS he completed a Doctorate in Education. He returned to LGS as an invigilator and enjoyed the camaraderie of the Staff. He developed strong and lasting friendships with many he came into touch with in different walks of life. He was also very much involved in his local community. He remained to the end an officer and a gentleman; upright and ethical; wedded to his Welsh roots and forthright in his views. He is much missed by his wife, Merle, his family and many friends.

David Whittle  
[Director of Music]

## **Bryan Shaw / September 1951-May 2015**

I have to say that working with Bryan was never dull. Those who knew him will not be surprised if I say that there were times when I could have cheerfully throttled him (not that the urge ever lasted long), but he was the best colleague I could have had for 20 years as we developed the music department at LGS.

First and foremost, he was a magnificent oboist. I never ceased to wonder how such a bear of a man, with hands and fingers gnarled and bent by years of repairing cars and motorbikes, building planes or building anything (plus numerous accidents, of course) made such an exquisite sound on the instrument. He was also a magnificent teacher, enthusing and encouraging

pupils of all levels to find their musical voice on whatever instrument.

And he was such a character, with a legendary ability to cause chaos – although everything seemed to make perfect sense to him. I recall ringing up one Saturday afternoon, many years ago. His wife, Julie, answered the phone. I asked if I could speak to Bryan. 'If I tell you,' she said, 'that he went out on his bicycle at 9.30 this morning to get a pint of milk and I haven't seen him since, you won't be surprised.'

Bryan was wholehearted and generous. He deserves to be remembered as one of the vital figures in the establishment of the school.



# News: OLs on Film

Katie England  
[OL Administrator]

The Class of '15 will see some very talented film-makers take their next step into the big wide world.

Since winning a national competition in 2013 run by Parliament to create a film 'for young people, by young people', Harry Ashman, Harvey



Kingsley-Elton and Jeremy Worsfold have honed their camera work by producing a couple of fantastic films promoting 'A Student's Perspective' of both the Senior and Junior School.

The OLs were lucky enough to have Harvey, Harry and Jeremy follow us for a year attending OL events, speaking to OLs, former staff and former parents. The Association is now the proud owner of a short film entitled 'Partnership for Life' which can be viewed on the School website and on Facebook. The latest leavers are the first cohort not to have known the old school buildings, an odd thought for many of us! With regard to their futures Jeremy is off to study Physics, Harry Journalism and Harvey is off to University in New York to continue with his passion for film-making. We wish all our Class of '15 the very best as they start the next phase of their life.

# News: Mr King is HM in HMC!

Chris King [Headmaster]

HMC is a professional association of Heads of the world's leading independent schools, and has been providing support and advice to Heads for more than a hundred years, having been founded in 1896. HMC members lead schools that are distinguished by their excellence in pastoral care, co-curricular provision and classroom teaching.

John Sugden was the first Head of Leicester Grammar School to be elected as a member of HMC because it is a Heads' association. Therefore the school itself is not a member although we talk loosely of 'HMC Schools'. I followed him into membership in 2001 and since then I have been variously, Chair of the East Division, Chair of the Professional Development Committee and last year I was elected as its Chairman for the academic year 2015/16.

What will this mean? I will use my best endeavours to promote all the areas where HMC seeks to make an impression and in doing so the profile of Leicester Grammar School will be raised further. A number of articles have appeared in the TES and national newspapers, most recently in The



Telegraph quoting and/or referring to me and the school. For such a young school to have a Head elected to this position is without precedent and although the time commitment is significant I believe the benefit to LGS will be great. We know already how good we are but to be publically linked with some of the top performing schools should encourage future staff and pupil applications at an even higher level in the future. My Conference will be held over four days in St Andrews this October so keep an eye out for reference to it in the national Press at that time and in particular for me in a white vest and shorts running on the West Sands to raise money in support of UNICEF's campaign to eradicate preventable diseases.

## Sport: Varsity Fencing

Alex Schlindwein [OL'14]

This year I was introduced to the ridiculously intense rivalry that exists between Cambridge and Oxford Universities. This is a rivalry that seems to be engrained into students from day one for reasons that are beyond reason but are somehow irresistible all the same. Many will have witnessed this during the annual Varsity Boat Race but that is nothing compared to the sheer passion and raw emotion on display in Varsity Fencing. On Saturday 7th March 2015 it was the 108th Fencing Varsity match, a true spectacle which even boasted a live YouTube stream to catch every moment of this epic battle. After the introductions and formalities were out of the way it was down to business. This was a team fight in the form of a relay with 3 fencers on each team having to fence each of the other team once, first to 5 then 10, 15, 20 and so on. I felt confident on the back of winning

the Individual University Championships a few weeks earlier but it was a nervy first fight and I just about scraped a 5v4 win. As I came on for my second fight we were losing 14v20 but I managed to put together a great performance to win decisively 11v2 against the Oxford captain, bringing the score to 25v22 in our favour. We pushed on from there and I closed the last fight out to give Cambridge a 44v33 win in the end. There was plenty of success for Cambridge in the other events too making it a clean sweep and a brilliant day for the light blues.



# A Step Back in Time

We looked back at this article by John Izbicki of the Daily Telegraph written after his early visit to the school. His article, which appeared in the edition of 28 September 1981, under the caption 'Pilgrimage to Leicester', is worth quoting as it reminds us of what an adventure it was. How times have changed!

'Leicester Grammar stands between the Cathedral and the bus depot, with the Tudor Guildhall on one side and the less attractive, but generous Holiday Inn (which allows pupils to use its swimming pool) on the other ...

During my visit I found it hard to believe that this independent grammar school had not been going for years. Only the workmen, scurrying among freshly painted, high ceilinged rooms, suggested that something new was taking place. The library, for example, had plenty of shelves but few books (Goethe shone out from the modern languages section). Cardboard boxes, once filled with tins of Heinz soups now with books donated by well-wishers, littered the floor ...

The atmosphere was calm and the 100 boys and girls being taught by a dozen dedicated

teachers were at ease with each other and the staff, and looked completely at home in their new surroundings ... Mr Higginbotham told me 'There hasn't been an independent grammar school in Leicester for the past forty years and we're particularly proud of what we have achieved in so short a time'.

Certainly the pupils reflected this pride. Well scrubbed and in new uniforms specially designed for the school, they spoke freely on how much they liked the teachers and the school. Could it have been the novelty of the place? I doubt it. For everyone seems to have been caught up in the net of excitement.

Even Mrs Cufflin, wife of the Chairman of the Trustees, has joined the workforce. Daily she prepares and serves lunch-time food at a cafeteria in the school. An ample French bread 'continental sandwich', filled with fresh ham, other meats, or cheese and salads, costs 35p; yoghurt 15p. Surprisingly the cafeteria makes a profit of about £30 a week, which helps to pay for books.'

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## Invitation from Our President

Tim Cawston  
[OL President]

As President of the OLs I invite any of you who joined LGS in the first five years of its existence (1981-85) to a special reunion on Saturday 18th June 2016. None of us were aware back then of how the school would develop (or indeed survive!), but 34 years down the line it has become something very special and you all played an important part in that journey. You will have an opportunity to look around the new school facilities and most important of all be able to reminisce about the "old days" and catch up with former classmates and staff alike. I do hope that you can put the date in your diary and I look forward to meeting up with you again.



**35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**  
at Leicester Grammar School

The OL Association invites Old Leicestrians who started between 1981 and 1985 to remember and celebrate their school days

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
from 11.30am onwards to include a buffet luncheon

**Guest Speaker, OL President Tim Cawston**

£15 per ticket, partners welcome  
To book your place please contact:  
Katie England t : 0116 259 1900 e : [englandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk](mailto:englandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Please do pass these details onto any contact you may have.

# Reunion: OL Carol Service

23rd December 2014



Madeleine Swan, Ron Berry, Jenny Henderson,  
Charlotte Wills



George Lyons, Callum Corley, Henry Green, Isaac Parker



Kate Sykes, Sarah Wolloff, Nicola Siddall,  
Kate Robinson



Rachel Maddock, Emmeline Edwards, Claire Formoy



Emily Hunt, Rebecca MacTaggart, Lauren Ramsbottom,  
Rosie Hampton



Ed Picciano-Moss, Fraser Nisbet, Sophie Jefford, Emma  
Turner, Joe Fletcher, Robin McFarland



Will Davison, Rhondell Stabana, James Jameson, Jacob  
Marlow, Zain Rizvi



Harry Penfold, Will Marriott, Will Alloway, Freddie  
Stevens, Jack Clark, Charlie Thacker

# Reunion: Pioneers Lunch

20th March 2015

Charles Paterson

On this (fortunately) sunny Friday the pavilion was filled by a large gathering of parents who had enrolled their children as the first pupils of Leicester Grammar School in September 1981, along with some of the staff who had taught them during the School's first 5 years. It was a convivial occasion, with much reminiscence over lunch about those early days. Tim Cawston in a short speech paid tribute to the courage of those who were prepared to make what was at that time a very risky choice about the education of their children. Some archive recordings of the

TV news coverage of the opening of the School were shown, along with the recent videos about LGS and the OLs made by Harvey Kingsley-Elton and his team. The event included a tour of the new School site led by Chris King, the Headmaster. There was universal amazement at the extent and quality of the present facilities and by how much the School has developed since those early days. However, many parents agreed that their children's memories of the old School were very fond despite the lack of facilities.

We feel privileged to have been parents of the Day One pupils and know that, had our sons or daughters not been to 'the School', they would not have achieved their full potential -

**Jan & Graham Langley**

We felt extremely proud of the progress that the School has made since it first opened -

**Sue & Tony Sansome**

The School has obviously gone from strength to strength and long may it do so. I think we were all proud that we had played a small part in the beginnings of this - **Betty Ramsey**

It was a delight to see what has been happening since those very early days back in 1980/81 ... the foresight of those who oversaw the foundation of the School and the faith that everyone, including parents and teachers, had in each other at the start of the venture was wonderful -

**Marilyn & Frank Ogden**

It was very good to see faces that we had not seen for a long time -

**Ruth & Chris Buckingham**

It was an impressive experience to see how the School has developed since its modest beginnings in 1981 - **Hilary Lewis**

The Pioneers Lunch was a really delightful occasion. I could hardly believe the progress that has been made since the School first opened -

**Anne Dawson**

We thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the School and it was wonderful to see the progress that has been made, although we still hold fond memories of the old School - **Sally & Patrick Flint**



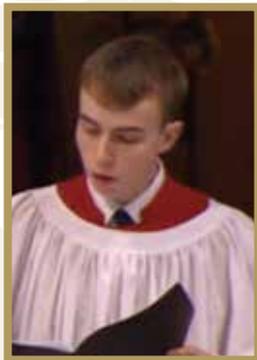


# RICHARD III & THE OLS

Dominic Veall [OL'14]  
[Choir Member]

It is an extremely rare occasion for the lost body of a monarch to be discovered, so who could believe that King Richard III of England was found buried in a car park so close to where most people reading this used to walk between lessons? Myself and other Old Leicestrians - Deborah Worsfold [OL'14], Hollie Burton [OL'13], Reuben Oreffo [OL'13] and Richard Paterson [OL'03], and former Classics teacher Charles Paterson, were fortunate enough to be able to return to Leicester Cathedral Choir and sing in the services dedicated to King Richard's re-interment (a service of Compline, the re-interment service, and the service revealing the tomb). The fact that

these were broadcast live on Channel 4 added pressure to this historic event. A long series of rehearsals and a major revamp to the interior and exterior of the Cathedral all played a role in the preparation for the week, and the tombstone of Richard can now be found towards the east end of the Cathedral. Musical highlights for me included singing a solo in a medieval trio piece, and the challenging anthems 'Take Him, Earth, For Cherishing' (Howells) and 'Ghostly Grace' (written by Judith Bingham specially for the re-interment service). All those involved agree that singing such complicated and emotional works at these unique services was a remarkable and unforgettable experience.



Richard Paterson [OL'03]  
[Cathedral Admin Staff]

As a staff member at Leicester Cathedral, I have been privileged not only to see the story of Richard III's rediscovery and reburial unfold right from the beginning, but also to see all the resultant changes to the old School site first-hand.

unlikely rediscovery of Richard III), it's sometimes hard to believe that I actually went to school in these familiar but vastly changed surroundings.

My main contribution to the Richard III project was in compiling the service orders for the main re-interment services - A-Level Latin coming in very handy! I was also fortunate enough to be right in the thick of the re-interment itself, singing with the Cathedral Choir (along with my dad, who retired from LGS last year).

The whole week was a wonder to experience, as over 20,000 people visited the King lying in repose over just 3 days, and we broadcast a unique event to the whole world. It was a thrill to be a part of it.



into Cathedral Gardens, and the reordering of the inside of the Cathedral (all spurred on by the

Jenny Gilbert [OL'98]  
[Adkinsons Funeral  
Directors]



When I crossed the St Martin's car park to lunch each day I had no idea I was walking near the grave of a King of England, and to think I would one day be involved in the events that have since unfolded, was almost beyond anyone's imagination.

After months of planning, the day arrived and began with nervous excitement. Strangely not so much because of what we were about to do or even necessarily who we were dealing with, but because of the mounting coverage and attention the occasion had stirred worldwide. It goes without saying that it's an enormous honour and a privilege to carry a king of England and it's probably fair to say that even now I still have to ask myself 'was I really there?' 'Did that happen?'

The sheer volume of people who lined the streets was truly amazing; at times overwhelming. I'd expected the city centre to be crowded but nothing prepared me for the reception we received as we travelled through the villages en route from Fenn Lane Farm towards Bow Bridge and St. Nicholas Church. The atmosphere was extraordinary, a distinctly British mix of quiet respect and warm support.

From St. Nicholas we exchanged our motorised hearse for a horse-drawn gun-carriage and followed a route similar to the city boundary of 500 years ago.

I've been asked a few times what my enduring memory will be and I have to say the sight of my colleagues shouldering the coffin down the Cathedral forecourt and into the porch, and the sound of silence only broken by the footsteps of the coffin bearers and the tolling of the bell. On the inside I was bursting with pride (and if I'm honest relief for a job well done).



Alex Harvey [OL'00]  
[Radio Frequency  
Engineer]



I was very pleased to work on the live coverage of the Richard III re-interment, both because I had followed the story of the discovery and because of my connection with Leicester and the old school. It was great to be there again.

The broadcast facility was at the old Peacock Lane bus depot and produced the Channel 4 coverage, world feed, national news coverage and the city centre LED screen programming. I worked on the wireless cameras, seven of which provided coverage of the cortege route. The system we put in place was similar to one we

had used on golf tournaments and marathons. Reception of pictures required a crane as high as the cathedral to cover the whole route. Other wireless cameras provided shots of the services taking place inside. We had to bring a suit and tie in case there were any problems inside the cathedral on the day. I brought my old school tie of course.

It was clear from the turnout that both events had captured the local interest. There were even people sitting waiting to watch the LED screens before we had even switched them on in the morning. This was a joy to see.

# Reunion: OL London Drinks

23rd April 2015



# Reunion: Class of 2005

16th May 2015



Charlotte Wenlock, Frances Ireland, Sarah White, Jessica Hunt and Ron Berry



Luke Dekonski



Rahil Mandalia and Chris King



Mrs Duffield, Clare Wilson and Katie Langrick



Angela Ewington and Tony Duffield



Mike Cooper and Dave Roebuck



Dan Mooncie and Angela Patterson

# Business:

## Never look back and say 'I wish I had'

Jon Martinek [OL'87]



Careers are about opportunities not whether they come along - they always will - but more about how you react to them. It was March 2003 when the phone call came. My career had progressed pretty well; coming out

of college with a marketing degree into the early 90's UK recession I had started cold calling to sell IT training -a great grounding! After 3 years a change was needed and I was successful in moving into the food side of the Mars business (think Uncle Ben's and Dolmio), working in Trade Marketing and Account Management. In 1998 I joined ASDA and 8 months later Walmart acquired the business. Having worked across the Trading Floor for 5 years in ASDA, I received a phone call in 2003 offering me the opportunity

to work on sourcing food for Walmart globally. It involved moving to Bentonville, Arkansas for two years never part of my career or family plan, a wife and two daughters now in situ) but after family discussion we agreed we did not want to look back and say 'what if'. So we packed up and moved to the US Deep South and an adventure began. Two years sourcing product on global contracts was followed by localization in the US and six years managing integrations as Walmart acquired and partnered with retailers in areas as diverse as Chile, India, Central America and China. In 2011 another opportunity came as I was asked to lead integration in South Africa and I have spent the last four years in Johannesburg working in sub-Saharan Africa across eleven countries. As I look back across visiting over fifty countries since 2003, living on three continents and managing to reach the Vice President level in Walmart, I will always say to people 'jump on opportunities' they may be uncomfortable, challenging, risky, but you only have one career and you will always feel happier looking back at the end and saying 'I'm glad I did' not 'I wish I had' ...

## OL Award

Last summer I went on an expedition with the British Exploring Society to the northern fjords of Norway, within the Arctic Circle. It started with a briefing weekend where we met our teams of ten and learnt the skills needed whilst on expedition.

This expedition of 80 people involved recording data about global warming. Once initial safety instruction had been done, we moved onto the scientific aspect of the expedition. This was done by recording the retreat of the glacier and lake

water level using a time lapse camera and observing an arctic tern colony as well as taking cores and depth measurements of the ribbon lake at the base of the glacier. We also went onto the glacier and up onto

the ice cap, which involved crossing crevasses and snow bridges.

The three and a half week trip was completely self-sufficient. It was hard work on the body due to the fact that we were camping every night, there was a lack of fresh food and the glacial melt water we used for bathing and washing was only 5 degrees.

One highlight of the trip was going into the ice caves 10m beneath the glacier where the ice was blue and smooth. Another was witnessing the glacier move when we heard a loud bang and saw a plume of snow shoot into the air over the horizon.

The debrief day at the RGS in Kensington was a great experience. I hope to continue my involvement with the BES and look forward to future expeditions. Thank you to the OL Committee for their generous donation towards my trip of a lifetime.

Jacob Marlow [OL'13]



# OL Gap Year Awards:

Mariam Patel [OL'14]

Exhausted, after a journey of twenty seven hours, I was extremely grateful for the humility of the welcome I received from the locals in rural Chipata, Zambia - home for the following six weeks. I was soon exposed to the gulf between healthcare in England and Africa the most prominent disparity being the lack of basic medical resources. The two weeks spent in paediatrics definitely had a huge impact upon me. I witnessed mothers who could not recall whether their babies had been vaccinated and generations of fearful mothers cramped in an overheated room (a far cry from the post-natal care provided back home). Shadowing the female medical department, I was present when all of the patients were informed they were HIV positive - a harrowing encounter.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have experienced first-hand the starkly realistic side of medicine: the unrelenting hours, sparse resources and overstretched yet incredibly talented doctors.



Aside from my hospital life, it was an incredible opportunity to discover the natural wonders of Africa upon my visit to Lake Malawi and Luangwa Valley in Zambia, places often frequented by my parents during their childhood.

My ambition to read medicine has been fuelled by the trip. I have a greater appreciation for the NHS, whilst having gained an understanding of human suffering and poverty. I am humbled to have visited Zambia and Malawi, lived amongst the community and to have returned to my parents' roots. Overall my trip was eye-opening, overwhelming at times, yet incredibly successful thanks to the OLs who helped make my dream project come to life.



Harriet Lovett [OL'14]

Having heard stories from my Dad whose own parents had been born in the state of Rajasthan in India, I was inspired to go and experience the culture they had been brought up in for myself and learn a bit more about my own heritage. As part of my gap year I planned on spending six weeks volunteering in various placements within Monte Hill slum village and six weeks travelling by train to experience all that India has to offer.

Mumbai airport itself was an education and within moments of landing I was soon to learn of the nonchalant way of life that became a recurring theme throughout my time away. However, I was soon making my way further south to enjoy the slightly slower pace of life and to begin my six weeks working as an English teacher. My favourite project during this time was working with the 10 women of my women's empowerment group. All of these women were forced to leave school before they reached puberty in order to get married thus missing out on developing their basic English and Maths skills.

The rest of my time was spent in the North, beginning with the Golden Triangle (Delhi, Agra and Jaipur) and then on to the holy city of Pushkar. I only used public transport, mainly overnight trains and sleeper buses. At times these journeys would be 30+ hours and often in VERY trying circumstances. Of course the highlight of my trip was visiting India's most iconic piece of architecture, the Taj Mahal. The day was made even more memorable for me as my dimples seemed to attract a lot of attention; I was asked to bless, kiss and pose for photographs with various family members in order to bring them luck, health and happiness.

I had an incredible three months so having to leave that beautiful country proved very difficult. I have now got the travelling bug and I am already planning my next trip to South East Asia. Finally, I am very thankful for having the opportunity to take a gap year and for receiving the Old Leicesterian's award.

# Focus: OLs in the Services



Commander  
Philip Newell [OL'88]

Phillip joined the Royal Navy as a direct graduate entry Warfare Officer in 1992. Following basic training he undertook specialist hydrographic training at HMS Drake in 1994, followed by an appointment to HMS Hecla, conducting geophysical surveys in the North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the Gulf. Between 1997 and 1999 he was appointed to HMS Scott as Operations Officer.

Qualifying on the Advanced Survey Course at the RN Hydrographic School, he completed a Post-graduate Diploma in Hydrographic Surveying at Plymouth University. On completion, he was given the opportunity to spend 2 years on exchange with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and was awarded a RAN Fleet Commander's commendation for valuable service.

On return to the UK, he was appointed to Devonport as Staff Officer Operations, responsible for the operational programming

and co-ordination of the RN survey squadron.

After a short appointment working in Defence Intelligence in Feltham, he was selected as Executive Officer of HMS Echo. In temporary command he conducted surveys in the Mediterranean, UK and around the Iraqi oil platforms.

After a short period in London back at Defence Intelligence he was selected for a second appointment as Executive Officer, this time on board HMS Scott. He successfully deployed to Antarctica and conducted deep water surveys in the North Atlantic. During this period, he was selected for the Advanced Command and Staff Course which he completed in 2013. He was selected for promotion to Commander in 2013, completed an MSc in Hydrography at Plymouth University and returned to HMS Echo for his third Sea Command.

Neill Talbott [OL'99]

Mr Longson (LGS careers advisor) once told me to "be realistic" when I informed him as an objectionable 14-year-old that I wanted to be a fighter pilot. So joining the University Air Squadron while a Maths undergraduate at Cambridge seemed a sensible first step to proving him wrong. Having graduated, I worked as a computer programmer in London until I got fed up with sitting at a desk and so I left to join the RAF full-time. After six purgatorial months of Initial Officer Training at RAF Cranwell, I was posted to work with the paratroopers of 16 Air Assault Brigade, where I completed the Parachute Regiment training course ("P Company") before returning to the RAF wishing I'd joined the Army.

The next seven years comprised extensive training on turbo-prop and fast jet aircraft and then helicopters, but before I reached the "front line" of active service the notorious RAF medical staff intervened, removing my licence to fly for entirely spurious reasons. After eighteen months of fighting the system I gave up and resigned,

then ran the Marathon des Sables to show just how "ill" I was. The RAF changed its mind but I didn't, decommissioning last year to return to geekdom as a software engineer (the new name for computer programmers, apparently). Most of my time since has been spent juggling work, long-distance fell-running and rowing coaching, as well as wishing that (just for once) I'd listened to Mr Longson.



## Focus: OLs in the Services cont...

Matt Rawlinson [OL'86]

Over 25 years I have fulfilled a broad spectrum of military activities ranging across supplying ammunition, food, fuel and equipment spares through to training junior officers, providing transport support to military and humanitarian operations and serving with the Royal Marines, as well as mentoring the Iraqi and Afghan armies. These tasks have taken me all over the world to include, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bosnia, Norway, the Falkland Islands, Poland and Afghanistan.

Career highlights are: command of 66 soldiers at 22 years of age in the 1st Gulf War; Squadron Command that included training for and deployment to Northern Ireland; serving in Canada at one of the best resourced training facilities in the World and a fantastic two-years exploring North America with a young family. I also got to form a Regiment and assist in the close-down of the UK involvement in Afghanistan, both of which were extremely professionally rewarding.

It has not been all work. I have been heavily involved with rugby throughout my career, the



highlight of which was representing the Army in the final of the World Masters Games. I have also participated in swimming, skiing, rowing, cricket and triathlon as well as adventure training from the Arctic (building igloos at -40 degrees Celsius) to the Antarctic (climbing ice walls), with plenty of warmer places in between.



Ela Stachow [OL'05]

The Royal Navy has taken me to some outstanding places and given me experiences that I could never have gained in another career. After leaving LGS, I gained my medical degree from the University of Birmingham. I then completed two 'Foundation Years' as a junior doctor in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Within months of finishing medical school I was helping to care for wounded soldiers flown home from Afghanistan on the Intensive Care Unit in Birmingham.

After my Foundation Years, I completed Officer Training at Dartmouth Naval College. Training involved 15 weeks of getting very little sleep whilst being shouted at to run up muddy hills and do 100 press-ups at 6am on freezing cold mornings, (not everyone's cup of tea but easier than night shifts working in Accident and Emergency!).

I then went to sea in an embarked Medical Officer role (Ship's Doctor). I visited 19 countries in my first two deployments. There are too many notable experiences to list them all, but I'll finish with two highlights. The first was visiting South Georgia, an Island close to the Antarctic only inhabited by 13 people, all members of the British Antarctic Survey. The second was assisting in brain surgery for a seriously injured crew-member before arranging his evacuation to the UK, then visiting him in the Queen Elizabeth hospital to find him recovering extremely well.

# Reunion: OL 5 a-side Football

Saturday 6th September 2014



The OL 5-a-side Football tournament was another success with a range of OLs and staff taking part at Goals, Leicester. Winners for a second year running were the Parwaiz brothers, Jovan Matijas, Sneh Shah and Nilesh Sisodia. Anyone interested in playing this coming September please email [pilbeamd@leicestergrammar.org.uk](mailto:pilbeamd@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

## Facebook & Twitter



The OLs are on Facebook and Twitter. Keep in touch to find details of all upcoming events, to see photos of recent ones, and to find out what's going on at school.

[www.facebook.com/LGSOLS](http://www.facebook.com/LGSOLS)

@oldleicestrians

# Reunion: OL Hockey

Saturday 13th September 2014



Back row: Millan Chauhan [OL'14], John Murray [OL'14], Tim Ringland [OL'14], Ryan Newton [OL'14], Joe Arnachellum-Owen [OL'14], Janinder Toor [OL'06], Rathan Jeyapalan [OL'06]

Front row: Jessica Ground [OL'14], Tim Obhi [OL'06], Jim Newton [guest goalie], Simran Obhi [OL'11], Amy Ground [OL'13]

Last September Mr Murray organised an LGS XI to take on an OL XI. The match was played on a lovely day on the LGS water-based pitch and finished as an honourable draw. If you would like to take part this coming September, please email [murrayn@leicestergrammar.org.uk](mailto:murrayn@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

### OL Hockey v LGS

Saturday 5th September - Leicester Grammar School

### OL 5-a-side Football

Saturday 12th September, 3pm - Goals, Leicester

### LGS Careers Convention

Thursday 1st October, 6pm - Leicester Grammar School

### OL Service of Lessons & Carols

Tuesday 22nd December, 7.30pm  
Leicester Grammar School

### OL London Drinks

Thursday 21st April 2016 - Betjeman Arms,  
St Pancras Station, London

### Parents '82-'85 Lunch

Friday 22nd April 2016 - Leicester Grammar School

### Class of '06 Reunion

Spring 2016 - Red Squirrel Café, Leicester Grammar  
School

### 35th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 18th June, 11.30am - Leicester Grammar School

## LGS Careers Convention



We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us at the LGS Careers Convention

This year's Careers Convention will be attended by a large number of our pupils aged 13 to 18. It provides a superb opportunity for businesses and organisations to market themselves to a wide audience and for the School to showcase the career achievements of the OLs! It is also a chance for organisations to publicise their industry to some of our pupils who might be considering their areas of work as a future career path.

We would like to invite you to occupy a table or stand to publicise and market your organisation or industry to our visitors. If you would like to take this chance and be part of our event, contact [Oenglandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk](mailto:Oenglandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk) for more information.