



Ron Berry

Old Leicestrian Newsletter

This is a year of great change for LGS, with the retirement of 5 long-serving members of the teaching staff, with a total length of service to the school of 116 years. I am one of them. After 30 years of teaching at the school I have finally decided to hang up my white-board pen. Having been part-time for the last 3 years, this change will not be too traumatic for me.

Prior to my appointment at LGS, I had taught at Wellingborough School and Bedford Modern School. In my penultimate year at BMS I undertook a teaching exchange with a Canadian teacher for a year. We exchanged jobs, houses and cars, but sadly not salaries which were much higher there at that time. I notched up 30,000 miles in his car in the 12 months, visiting many of the best geographical sites of North America. It certainly gave me an opportunity to test my geographical ideas and understanding, and was great fun.

The School has changed greatly since 1984 when I was appointed as the first Head of Geography in the history of the School. It has grown from a small school with a less than certain future into a school that can hold its own among the nation's finest. While teaching methods and the location and buildings of the school have changed, its character still reflects its Christian ethos. I obviously have many memories of my time here, and have enjoyed meeting all the people I have taught.

Highlights for me have been the events I have organised. These have ranged from the field courses in Snowdonia and Germany during the time I was Head of Geography to the Sponsored Walk around Rutland Water when I was Senior Housemaster, culminating in the long-running Year 9 Strasbourg exchange and cross-curricular field trip (which was later relocated to Normandy). I have derived great satisfaction from my teaching

and from my time as a member of the School Choir.

There is not room for me to expand on this, but I will naturally miss the cut and thrust of the classroom. However, my post as OL Liaison Officer will give me a platform to continue organising events and to maintain contact with you all, both staff and alumni. May the Old Leicestrian Association continue to grow and flourish!

OTHER NEWS

Nick Donnelly and his wife Sarah (who teaches at the Junior School) have also decided to leave us. He taught at the school from 1992-96 and left to teach in Kenya and then New Zealand. On returning to England he came back to us in 2003 and has been a dedicated member of the Geography staff as well as running the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. I am sure that many of you have had first-hand experience of D of E and will have fond memories of Mr Donnelly. He will leave a big gap to fill. I hope he will write an article for next year's Newsletter on his first year back in New Zealand...as long as he doesn't make too many of us jealous!

Also leaving the school are Mrs Clerissa (Leney) Green who is moving on to be Head of Physics at Wisbech Grammar School and Miss Vicky Brown who is moving to The Becket School, Nottingham as Deputy Head of MFL.

Finally, we heard with sadness of the recent death of Mr Peter Farrant who taught at the Junior School for many years until his retirement. He was a key member of the drama production team and those who were taught by him or who were in the shows he was involved in will I am sure remember him with affection.

Valete... so it's 'Goodbye' from them!

David Roebuck

In 1973 after a brief flirtation with work in industry and research I at last found something that I really enjoyed and decided upon a career in teaching. In September 1974 I took up post in a very large city comprehensive school in Coventry and as one of 25 probationary teachers had an eye opening introduction to the teaching profession. After three years of crowd control, dealing with ROSLA pupils and being in charge of corporal punishment for my House, all of which I was quite good at, I decided that a change of scene was required and much to my mentor's dismay I moved into private education at King Henry VIII School, also in Coventry. After five fantastic years during which I had responsibility for large seventh term Oxbridge sets I was appointed as Head of Chemistry at Barnard Castle School in County Durham, a boys boarding school, where I allegedly "revolutionised the teaching of chemistry" and built a large, very successful and widely recognised department. After nine years and just weeks after narrowly missing out on being appointed to a similar position at Manchester Grammar School I arrived for interview at Peacock Lane and was immediately struck by the wonderful sense of purpose and ambition of a young school that was going to make its mark and I pretty much immediately decided that I wanted to be a part of the LGS story. It has been a wonderful 23 years in an outstanding school, department and faculty and

although I was tempted to move on a couple of occasions I am more than pleased that after 40 years of teaching my career has come to a close at a school in which I have had so much fun (apologies to some of my long suffering colleagues), taught so many memorable and talented pupils and made such good friends.



Charles Paterson

I came to Leicester Grammar School in 1983, after six years at Tiffin Boys' Grammar School in Kingston upon Thames. I was at first the only full-time Classics teacher, with the Headmaster, John Higginbotham, and the school's music specialist, Dr Helen Roberts, filling up the timetable, but by the time I relinquished the post of Head of Classics in 1989, the Department had three full-time staff, was well established at GCSE and A-level, and had run successful trips to Greece and Italy. From 1986 I had also been Head of Middle School (Years 9-11), but in 1990 I was appointed as the first Director of

Studies. Perhaps more important to me, though, was that from early on I had been directing the School Choir, which I continued to do until 2010. Residential choir trips to Strasbourg and Hereford Cathedral, and full Music Department trips to Prague, Budapest, Holland, Scotland, Ireland and Cornwall have provided me and my colleagues with vivid memories and countless anecdotes, and even choir practices in school were often eventful. I have also enjoyed sharing lessons with many characterful students over the years, and am always pleased to see them again and share reminiscences.

Valete cont...



Steve Harrison

Prior to applying for a post at Leicester Grammar School in 2006 I had followed the fortunes of the school since its foundation in 1981. I also became aware as the school grew that there were considerations to move to a new site. Largely through articles in the Leicester Mercury I knew that Great Glen was a possible location. As a resident of Oadby since 1976 and having a daily commute of 64 miles round trip to a school in Northampton since 1996, the prospect appealed to me.

So in 2006 I joined the English Department at LGS, having two years at the old city site before

the move to Glen Rise. I have to say that overall the move to the new site has been advantageous in so many ways, for the school in general and for me personally.

However, it is something of a paradox that many of my memories of the school are connected with the old site, maybe stirrings of tradition, the quirkiness, the proximity to what the city offered - warts and all! I will no doubt be reminded of the roguish sense of camaraderie when I anticipate that a colleague, whilst signing my leaving card, will ask me whether there is one 'd' or two in 'riddance'!

Dave Gee

My career started with an interview with the local careers adviser, and it went something like this: 'Can you mend a bicycle puncture?' 'Of course... with the aid of a couple of tablespoons from the kitchen.' 'Right my lad, it's an engineering apprenticeship for you.'

At sixteen I landed up at Wadkins Machine Tools, where I completed the apprenticeship and after a few years teaching apprentices, and setting up machinery for customers including the MOD, I moved on to Leicester University

X-ray Astronomy Department where I made experimental parts for satellites. Several years later I moved to Loughborough University where I joined the Ergonomics Team, working on chair design, looking at the best type of armchairs for care homes.

In 1980 I gave up work and became a student. At that time there was a government sponsored scheme to bring engineers from industry, into teaching. The training was intense, and we were then let loose on students - first of all as a student teacher, in Mansfield, and then as a 'Newly Qualified Teacher' at two schools in Leicestershire, ending up as Head of Technical Studies, as D&T was referred to at that time.

Nine years later I saw an advert for Leicester Grammar School, which was wanting to start D&T. This was totally new to a lot of staff and parents, and there was a big PR job to do. The move to the new site enabled the Department to develop further with two workshops, purpose built textile and food rooms and a CAD room with 3-D printing. What a difference from the starting point of having to evict/ask politely for two classrooms to be cleared and knocked into one! The added space at long last allowed us to start a large project and the Kit Car Club was born. I am hoping that next year, the school will start its third kit car.



Old Leicestrian Awards

Katie England

This year the OL Gap Year Award has been won by Harriet Lovett and Mariam Patel. Harriet is volunteering for 4 months as a health care assistant in the Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh and will be assisting a



Harriet Lovett
[OL14]

qualified healthcare worker recording case histories and talking to patients and their families. In addition to this she will be volunteering in a childcare centre in Palumpur which supports children who have special needs and learning difficulties. She will also be hoping to shadow the physiotherapists at these centres as this will provide her with exciting and diverse work experience for her UCAS application to study Physiotherapy or Radiography at University on her return.

Mariam is also travelling and is intending to undertake 4 weeks of work experience at a local hospital in the eastern province of Zambia. Whilst there she will observe working in a difficult environment with



Mariam Patel
[OL14]

limited resources and see how a third world health care organisation operates and how it contrasts with the NHS. After this period of time in Zambia Mariam has a trip planned to Malawi, the birthplace of her parents. On her return she intends to go on to University to study medicine.

Jubilee Sailing Trust : London to Aarhus



Rachel Maddock
[OL90]

SV Tenacious is a 3 masted tall ship, 65m long. She is owned and operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust, a charity which promotes sailing for people of all ages and abilities. I joined the ship at the West India Docks in Canary Wharf and met the rest of the voyage crew. We had a specific time slot in which we could leave due to tidal levels and so we started motoring down the Thames that afternoon and anchored a mile off Southend for the night. The next morning we motored out into the North Sea and finally set some sails. The sea was choppy throughout day and night and many of us started to feel queasy; it was a relief to berth up in Harlingen (Holland) two days and one night later. We went ashore for the night, though our bodies still seemed to think that we were at sea and it felt like the ground was moving beneath us.

We set sail again the next day and this time we had a four day and three night stretch ahead of us en route to Aarhus. The time passed quickly in a blur of watches, happy hours, mess duty and sail setting. During that time, my friends and I decided to climb the mast. It was a little breezy at the top but a great feeling to have done it.

By the third day of this stretch, we had sailed into the Baltic Sea and were nearing Aarhus. We eventually berthed up on the day we had planned.

We had arrived at the first host port of the tall ship races 2013 and majestic tall ships from all over the world had gathered en masse alongside. Festivities were high and there were many open ships to look round during the day. By far the highlights were the crew parade and the crew party on the last day. All the crews paraded through the port and streets of Aarhus, chanting and singing sea shanties and went on to the party after in the city hall.

A group of us were doing our Youth Leadership @Sea qualification, so on top of the usual challenges of life at sea, we were set extra tasks like the storm plate test, the emergency steering procedure and we had to take charge at the bracing stations on one occasion.

Nine days after joining in London, we left feeling jubilant and with some great memories.

Transport Record

Adham Fisher
[OL'03]

Since leaving LGS I have become involved with the peculiar pastime of trying to go to every station on a rail network. This is all well and good, but when it's in a single day, the stakes are raised somewhat.

The Guinness Record for travelling the London Underground is the ultimate commuting endurance test. Planning for it often goes to pot as every day there can be delays and service suspensions. To achieve the goal, the trip has to



be timed down to the second; one missed train can spell the end of the line for that particular attempt. One must change trains as quickly as possible in order to catch the earliest next possible one, therefore hurrying through stations is necessary and fitness can be useful to deal with the almost insurmountable escalators. Bathroom breaks and procuring refreshment can be a gamble.

And that's just off the trains. When on them the short amount of time between stations means no relaxation. Writing down each station name, the arrival and departure times and photographing the signs is taxing enough, without having to continually reassess the route based on the current time and position.

Obviously I'm not good enough because I have never been successful. However, after many failures on the London Underground, I started to try the same thing elsewhere, and strangely, that's when the interest really started. My being interviewed on television in Toronto for riding the subway and attempting their record is probably something none of my peers would ever have imagined I would do. So, where next??

OL Returns



Harry Ellis
[OL'00]

Harry Ellis [OL'00] has joined the PE Department at LGS after calling time on his playing career for Leicester Tigers, England the British Lions. Harry said 'I am very pleased and grateful for the opportunity to undertake my teaching training in physical education here at Leicester Grammar School. I have very fond memories of my time here as a pupil from 1997-2000, and look forward to contributing in some way to the continued success of the school this year'. We also welcome Rachael (Swanick) Kendall [OL'92] from September to the English department. Harry and Rachael join other OLs Zoe (Cosciani) Williamson [OL'91], Katharine (Staunton) Douglas [OL'92], Darren Pilbeam [OL'96], Carl James [OL'00], Nicky Ward [OL'05] and Peter Cox [OL'07] on the staff.

Glastonbury



Izzy Marie Hill
[OL'11]

With the festival season well underway the OLs are proud to say that Glastonbury 2013 saw Izzy Marie Hill [OL'11] make her debut on the BBC Introducing Stage. Her performance can be seen on our Facebook page.

Reunion

Dinner Sept 2013



Peter Handford, Martin Wallace, Estelle Williamson, Carl James, Andrew McKinley, Patrick McKinley and Dave Roebuck



Richard, Katriona Ormiston, Andrew Picknell, Peter Cox, Annie Allum, Catherine Jones, James Rich, Sarah Clay, Jasmine Parker



Zoe Williamson, Anne Marie (Smith) Jenks, Clare (Parker) Geraghty, Charlotte (Smith) Rhodes, Franz Evertt, Matthew Brunning, Elizabeth Southwick, Laura Marriott-Clarke and Katharine (Staunton) Douglas



Chris Shaw, Matthew Shaw, Holly Adderley, Angela Ewington, Jonathan Ewington, Dave Gee, Tim Cawston, Bryan Shaw and Julie Shaw



Ron Berry



Ron Berry, Suzanne Doyle, Devlin McStay, Laura (Parkinson) Norton, Ian Norton, Sarah Naylor, Jo (Newberry) Spokes and Charles Paterson



Darren Pilbeam, Sam Chawner, Solomon Wittering, Alison Lauder, Joseph Kluger, Amanda Wright-Kluger, Richard Yeomans, Andy Sobek and Caroline Oates



Bryan Shaw & Angela Ewington

Carol Service, Dec 2013



George Summerton, Tom Clay, Myles Keable, Asheesh Gogna and Sam Lovett



Will Holley, Rhondell Stabana, Beccy MacTaggart and Philippa Bliss



Alex Williamson, Tim Cawston, Ben Morris, Ella North and Dan Thacker



Rory Walkinshaw, Jess (Hickman) Kirby, Henry Green, Josh Ring and Callum Corley



Rhoda Sell, Alex Munro, Kirsty Munro, Matt Bolton, Tom Queally and Sam Ryall



Jonathan Faire, Jack Lewis, Brigid Clay, Chris Goodfellow, Robert Berkeley, Vaila Ormiston and Katriona Ormiston

OL London Drinks, May 2014



Class of '04, May 2014



Judith Hughes, Rozanna Madylus and Julian Griffin



Helen Lindley, Holly Hunt, David Wills and Jenny Stones



Kunaal Mistry, Zahir Karim, Peter Handford and Anuj Chahal



Emily Orton



Clare Wilson, Kiran Parmar and Simon Murphy



Malcolm Gray, Simon Murphy and Ron Berry

LGS Choir Reunion

June 2013

Charles Paterson

On Saturday 21 June about forty former Choir members, from all periods over the last thirty years, gathered over drinks on the refectory terrace for an afternoon of music-making and socialising. After an excellent buffet lunch we were joined by some current choristers to rehearse a variety of pieces from the Choir's repertoire, all requested by those attending. There was a break for a tour of the new site, then an audience of families and staff arrived for tea, scones and strawberries followed by an informal performance: it is a tribute to those present that the high quality of this was achieved in such a short time. The proceedings were rounded off with the performance of a witty piece specially put together by Jeremy Skertchly [OL'97], putting tunes from familiar Choir pieces to words written for the occasion, setting the seal on an afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Careers

OLs @ the Careers Convention, October 2013

Thanks to all the OLs who took a stand at last October's Careers Convention and to everyone who has supported LGS as a visiting speaker.



Adam Varley [OL'06]



Charlotte Bewin [OL'02]



Kate Lee & Estelle Williamson [OL'99]



Remy Clarke [OL'92]



Charlotte Leeds [OL'03]



Ed White [OL'92]



Michael Lam [OL'07]



James Widdowson [OL'92]



Gavin Davies [OL'99]



Anoop Rehal [OL'02] & Asim Parwaiz [OL'08]



Jenny Gilbert [OL'98]



Peter Wyatt [OL'00]

Careers Business



Oscar Ford [OL'09]

I am the CEO of a technology startup, GratefulGoose.com, working within an incubator company. Since graduation from university last July, I have been working for a technology firm called Potential.co.uk, which creates and builds new web-based businesses. In November, we came up with some new concepts for websites that we wanted to try out. GratefulGoose.com was one of our ideas- a free, online wishlist website for making gift lists to share with family and friends, for events like birthdays, Christmas and weddings.

Although in its infancy, the concept is proving popular and our user base is growing rapidly. When the business outgrows our company offices, I plan to take it to London to continue to build the Grateful Goose team. I have always wanted to be an entrepreneur, growing up with both parents running a consultancy business together. There is no better way to learn business than having to run a company and the

technology industry is the perfect place to be, given its rapid growth and increased financing in recent years.

Working at Potential has been a whole new education for me, where you need to break rules and move fast in order to succeed. If you're interested in the sector, get in touch at oscar.ford@potential.co.uk.



Focus: OLs Abroad

A Move Down Under



Mark Johnson [OL '02]

Some of us will have been fortunate enough during our time at LGS to have gone on one of the sports tours to lands afar. For me it was Australia in 2002 and a trip that was in my eyes the perfect way of celebrating the end of my time at LGS (the 1st XV also remained undefeated) and left me wanting to go back there again someday. So when I was offered the chance to work out there 18 months ago, it was an opportunity I felt was too good to turn down.

Australia's economy has been one of the least impacted by the global financial crisis, propped up by its mining boom, so there are jobs available for migrants in many industries like health care, engineering, IT and in my case online marketing. So it's worth doing some investigating if you fancy a new challenge in your career.

I guess the hardest decision for me, like many others, about whether to work abroad and somewhere so far as Australia is leaving friends and family behind. My advice is don't let that be a preventing factor. You'll make new friends and Skyping old ones and family isn't so bad. And you might even get as lucky as me and meet your future wife

So, if anyone is presented with the opportunity to work in Australia then I would highly recommend it. It's true, the cost of living is a little higher, but in general so are the wages and I think the quality of life is so much better. Culturally it is not too different from the UK, which for me meant that it was easy to feel settled. And after the winter you've just had in the UK, need I say anything about the amazing weather we get here?!

Land of the Long White Cloud



Will Hunt [OL '96]

So why did we move overseas?

I've always had a bit of wanderlust but satisfied it with backpacking holidays through my twenties. Then one too many Sunday afternoons spent working spurred me into taking a year off, I met my wife and we thought "if we don't do it now, will we ever?"

Why Auckland?

Well we were after something different ... but not that different. We looked at Vancouver and Sydney but a combination of too much rain and my wife's arachnophobia eventually ruled them both out.

What do we love?

To quote a local weather forecast ... "it should be fine & sunny for the next month", a long, predictable summer makes for a very different lifestyle. I wear flip-flops to work and walk to the beach from home in about 2 minutes. And since we're in danger of becoming adults now, bringing kids up with the innate kiwi love of the outdoors and their disregard for the wearing of shoes was a factor.

What do we miss?

Old friends and family, is the obvious answer, but true. And unless you're in the market for a boat or a new drill then there is a distinct lack of stuff you can buy.

Focus: OLs Abroad cont...

Life on the French Riviera

Kyle Barber
[OL '02]

This summer marks my two-year anniversary working for the IAAF as the Intelligence Officer of the Medical & Anti-Doping Department – the first ever such position recruited by an international sporting body. Based in Monaco, the role has afforded me the opportunity to travel to countries such as Japan, Kenya, Russia, and Ethiopia and puts me in a privileged position at the very heart of the sport that I truly love.

That said, it is hard work, with us dealing with, on average, more than a case each day of an athlete testing positive, and demanding 20-hour days during peak competition times. But, if I could ensure that athletics could be ‘clean’ of drug use, then I would readily give up my job at a stroke.

Alongside the work, going to live in another country was not something that I’d firmly considered. Yet, in the space of a matter of weeks, I was moving to the South of France



– for a role (at that time) offering only a one-year contract; and I can’t think of anything that demands one to grow up more quickly. Now, fully settled, I have a small apartment with a beautiful terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, a wonderful girlfriend, and a job I love.

Even if it is something that, like me, you have never thought to be ‘for you’, I would definitely recommend it. Life is short, and I have come to appreciate that you only get out what you put in. Take a chance if it presents itself; immerse yourself in another culture and way of life, and it will pay you back ten-fold. If all else fails, your parents will always take you back (probably)!

Vienna, Austria



Rachel Olney [OL'96]

“Create an advertisement for a new product, including as many passive sentences as possible.” This was the task my German students enjoyed last Friday morning. I love teaching German to four lively opera singing students from Italy, China, Hungary and Poland. Six hours a week teaching at Vienna’s Music University is a great balance to my other work as Representative for the Arts for OM Austria. My role within this Christian organisation is to share God’s love among musicians and through music and the arts.

On Friday, I rushed home for lunch and Bible study with musicians and artists, a small but dedicated group – from four continents! Our discussion of mourning/broken dreams in the film *Les Misérables*, in the Bible and in our lives was bilingual, to include a new Australian violinist.

In the evening, I had a four-hour rehearsal at the Konzerthaus, a big concert venue in Vienna: a beautiful setting for Brahms’ German Requiem with the University of Vienna orchestra and choir. I enjoy being leader of such a friendly orchestra.

After the rehearsal, an Iranian viola playing-friend took me home to meet her parents. So at nearly midnight, I found myself eating delicious saffron rice and listening to fascinating quarter tones and beguiling melodies, as my friend’s father played Persian violin music!

Not every day is quite as full as this, but each day I am so grateful for the privilege of combining my passions for languages, music, people from different cultures and God ... all in the beautiful city of Vienna!

Forthcoming Events



OL 5 A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday 6th September 2014
Goals Soccer Centre, Leicester



OL XI V LGS XI HOCKEY

Saturday 13th September 2014
Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen



OL REUNION

**** EVENT CANCELLED ****

September 2014



OL CAROL SERVICE

**** DATE RELEASED ****

Tuesday 23rd December 2014
Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen



OL REUNION – LONDON DRINKS

April 2015
The Betjeman Arms,
St Pancras Station



OL REUNION – OL EUCHARIST, celebrating 30 years of the Guild of Servers

**** NEW EVENT ****

Saturday 27th June 2015
Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen



OL REUNION – CLASS OF '05

June 2015
Red Squirrel Café,
Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen

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

@oldleicestrians

Hirings



We are pleased to announce a 10% discount for any OL hiring any of the school facilities for an event. From weddings and parties to concerts, drama productions or conferences, we have a wide variety of rooms of different sizes and versatility to choose from. Many of the spaces are double height with plenty of natural light, and they essentially offer a blank canvas that can be transformed providing flexibility to personalise your event. We can also offer outdoor space for the erection of marquees. Email hirings@leicestergrammar.org.uk for further information.

APPEAL

We are looking for 1st team sports captains for Hockey, Netball, Cricket and Rugby from 1981-1988. If you have any information please email oldleicestrians@leicestergrammar.org.uk

If you are interested in any event please see facebook or the school website for more information or email oldleicestrians@leicestergrammar.org.uk