



# OL News

For the Old Leightonians and Friends' Community | 2018



Farewell Nigel, Welcome Matthew!  
Mark Simmons' Sabbatical Down Under  
Girls' Cricket  
And Your News



Leighton Park  
School



# Reflections from the Head



I have found this short article one of the most difficult pieces I have had to write because it marks the end of my time at Leighton Park. It is very hard to leave a community that has been close to my heart for so long, and in which my family has lived and grown. For the last twenty four years I have been very fortunate in that I have had a wonderful job in a beautiful community and in which I have enjoyed the company of incredible students and supportive, helpful and interesting colleagues.

I have been Head of the History department, Housemaster of Field House, Director of Studies, Deputy Head and finally the Head from 2013. As a history teacher the comment from Benjamin Disraeli that he had climbed to the top of the greasy pole might spring to mind but, of course, it is instantly dismissed although I did commission the wonderful Peace Pole for the 125 celebration that now stands so beautifully in the park! I have so many wonderful memories of the students – now Old Leightonians – from all over the world whom I have taught and

looked after. For me, being part of their lives was very important. I am still in touch with many and feel that they are good friends – it is the one great advantage of social media. In recent years I have also met many more fascinating OLs who have told me about their varied and wonderful lives ranging from amazing journalistic adventures in the Middle East, how to care for the trees on the park and how to work the Heliochronometer, situated outside Peckover Hall. I have felt welcomed wherever I go not least by Graham Carter and the OL Cricket Club, who have been very tolerant of my lack of cricketing knowledge.

For the last five years I have had the privilege of leading the school and of being able to help shape its future. The school has continued to evolve and I am pleased that so many developments have taken place to ensure that it continues to provide the practical facilities and subjects needed in today's complicated world. The IT revolution at the school has meant that new subjects such as Engineering can be offered, along with Computer Science. The STEM initiative is forging ahead so that all students are aware of the fast changing world of possibilities for them. More importantly, we have continued to look at education in its widest sense; providing Food Technology and new sports facilities to raise awareness of health and well-being. The new MMC will ensure that the incredible musical and theatre talent that we have at the school will continue to grow and thrive. The Quaker values remain at the heart of all that we do at the school, they inform our thinking and shape discussions. The Quaker traditions of moments of quiet at the beginning and end of meetings, and the reflective experience of Meeting for Worship, make Leighton Park a truly special place and so many visitors feel the tangible atmosphere of calm. I will take these values away with me and cherish them.

**Nigel Williams**

## The Cover photo: Telling the time

Hundreds of feet walk past the school War Memorial Garden every day but only a handful of people know the secrets of the heliochronometer! Student **Garegin Melkonyan** has been volunteering in the Archives as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award; with the aid of some crib notes, and little help from **John Allinson** (Archivist) and OL **Graham Carter (G 1964)**, he lined up the relevant pinholes and shadows to give a spot-on time.

Installed in 1921 opposite Peckover, it is not just a simple sun dial but an elegant device to accurately tell the time within a minute. Using information such as the location's latitude and longitude, the position of true north, celestial mechanics and an astronomical formula called the Equation of Time, it gives us standard mean time.

## Chair of Governors



Dear Friends,

As term draws to a close and our students nervously await their exam results, I am struck by the dedication shown by the whole school staff in providing our students with a wonderful experience during their time at Leighton Park. Our academic staff do so much to help our students find and achieve their best and ignite a passion for life long learning. Several of our teachers will be in school on forthcoming results days, to celebrate successes and provide support where it might be needed. Just as vital are the staff who work outside the classroom; from ensuring the smooth administration of the organisation to keeping the grounds and facilities up to standard. I am grateful to them all.

At the heart of the staff is the Head. As you will know, Nigel Williams is retiring this August after 24 years at LP, five of which as Head. Nigel has contributed so much to Leighton Park. He truly lives our Quaker values in everything that he does and he leaves Leighton Park ready to face the challenges of the future. It was touching to attend Music for a Summer's Day and to hear so many warm tributes to Nigel from students, parents and staff. Many OLs will have fond memories of Nigel, as Head of Fryer, History Teacher, Housemaster of Field, Deputy Head and Head and I know they will join me in wishing him a very happy and peaceful retirement.

It is always wonderful to hear from Old Leightonians and to have them in school for reunions, to give careers talks to our students or just to say hello - I would encourage all of you to keep in close contact with the school

In friendship and with very best wishes

**David Isherwood**  
**Chair of Governors**  
**(F 2000)**

# Meet the New Head!

We are delighted that **Matthew Judd** will be joining Leighton Park School as Head from 1st September 2018. Matthew joins us with a very impressive track record of success from Haberdashers' Aske's School, where he is Second Master (equivalent to Deputy Head) and Executive Head of the preparatory school. He has been instrumental in driving academic standards whilst bringing greater focus on values education and personalised learning. Haberdashers' Aske's School is one of the UK's leading independent schools and won Sunday Times Independent School of the Year in 2017. Matthew is looking forward to meeting members of the Leighton Park community during the coming year.



Matthew said: *"I am thrilled to be joining Leighton Park school as Head to lead the amazing community with its exceptional commitment to the holistic education of young individuals. Never have Quaker principles for a mindful and reflective education been more important. I am proud to be joining a school dedicated to bringing out the best in young people in their academic and co-curricular lives at school and beyond"*

See our events calendar for opportunities to visit the school and meet him.

## Visiting School



We always enjoy welcoming OLs and other members of the Leighton Park community to visit the school. So many people came back this year: **Sipho Phiri (S 1986)**, **Oli Hewson (G 2013)**, **Steve Dawe (S 1999)**, **Billy Sy (G 2003)**, the family and friends of **Jorge Hortal (S1995)** and **Matthew Pott (G 2001)**, to name a few, let alone all of you who came to events.

Visitors can no longer walk around the school unaccompanied, for safeguarding reasons. It is necessary to sign in at Reception in Old School (the former School House) on arrival and the team will host you during your visit, or will make other arrangements if appropriate. Please contact Fiona or Penny at [development@leightonpark.com](mailto:development@leightonpark.com) or call 0118 987 9630, so that we can ensure that you have an enjoyable visit. Thank you.

## Data Protection

Many of you will have come across the acronym 'GDPR' over the last few months and been inundated with emails asking you to opt in to mailing lists that you are signed up to. The General Data Protections Regulation (GDPR) came in to effect on 25th May. This new regulation means that Leighton Park requires a specific "Opt In" from all of our community so that we can stay in touch with you. We maintain our promise that we will not pass your data to third party organisations except where they are assisting us in the fulfilment of our activities or where we are required to do so by law.

In order to ensure we comply with GDPR we contacted everyone whose email and phone number we have. Thank you to everyone who completed the online form or answered a call to confirm your details. If you are unsure if you have given your consent, please do contact us either by phone on **0118 987 9630**, by email **[development@leightonpark.com](mailto:development@leightonpark.com)**, or complete an online form **<https://bit.ly/LPOpt-in>**.

Steve Dawe



Oli Hewson



Find Old Leightonians on Facebook, Twitter and LeightonParkConnect



# Events

## Dates for your diary

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Frid 28th Sep | Friday Night Under the Lights: LP v Reddam. Come & cheer the team. Reading Rugby Club tbc. From 6.00pm.                          |
| Mon 15th Oct  | 2.30pm in the Main Hall. The Zurich Youth Symphony Orchestra perform Khachaturian's Violin Concerto and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9. |
| TBC           | 1948 Rugby Team Reunion  |
| Tues 6th Nov  | 1960s OL Drinks Reception: Meet the Head. 4.30-6.30pm  |
| Tues 20th Nov | Archives Discovery Evening 7.30pm Peckover Hall  |
| 28th-30th Nov | Treasure Island: Senior Production 7.30pm  |
| Thurs 6th Dec | JBH Speech Competition 7.00pm  |
| Wed 30th Jan  | 1970s OL Drinks Reception: Meet the Head. 5.30-7.30pm  |
| Wed 13th Feb  | Former Staff & Governors Afternoon Tea. 2.30-5.00pm  |
| Tues 12th Mar | 1980s OL Drinks Reception: Meet the Head. 5.30-7.30pm  |
| Sat 11th May  | 9s Reunion: for classes of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009.   |
| Wed 12th June | Under 30s Drinks in London. Venue tbc.   |

For more details and to sign up for any of these events, please visit [www.leightonparkconnect.com](http://www.leightonparkconnect.com) or contact us on [development@leightonpark.com](mailto:development@leightonpark.com) or 0118 987 9630.

## Music for a Summer's Day

On Saturday 30th June the school held its annual al fresco music concert as the performers and audience basked in glorious sunshine. An extra special occasion, to say "goodbye" to **Nigel Williams**, large number of OLs as well as Governors and former staff joined in. It was a concert that had the audience enthralled with the lovely backdrop of Old School House. Delicious food was in abundance and the Park was dotted with bright parasols, blankets and gazebos giving the event a real festival feel. The school Media Crew roamed the Park filming the performers, with the action on big screens for those sitting further from the Head's lawn.

Punctuated with a moving tribute to **Nigel Williams**, which featured funny as well as moving film messages from OLs, there were also speeches by Chair of Governors OL **David Isherwood (F 2000)** and Deputy Head **Karen Gracie-Langrick**. Evening turned to dusk, the large cinema screen began showing 'The Greatest Showman' for those not yet satiated by music and singing to enjoy until the credits rolled.

## Afternoon Tea at the National Gallery

13 Old Leightonians and their guests attended the 60s Afternoon Tea at The National Dining Rooms at the National Gallery in September. The tea was preceded by a private tour entitled 'The National Highlights' taking in five pictures including an Italian icon 'The Coronation of the Virgin with Adoring Saints' and Velázquez's 'The Toilet of Venus' which was once attacked by a suffragette.

A good time was had by all as we were the last to leave the premises!

## A Night at the Hong Kong Club

In November, we held an event for OLs and current parents in Hong Kong. **Dr George Koo (G 1952)** kindly hosted



the event at the Hong Kong Club where he is a member. We were delighted to welcome 46 guests

including OLs from the 1950s up to the 2010s and some current parents. It was a wonderful evening and our Hong Kong community are keen to start meeting up on an annual basis.

"What a great evening it was. I am close to the OLs who graduated a few years above and below me but it was nice to meet others from different years"  
**Andy Cheng (R 2000)**



## Vintage Tea

There isn't anything more perfect on a summer's afternoon than strawberries and cream, apart from maybe spending time with friends. The Vintage Tea Party for over 70s certainly filled these criteria, on a boiling hot afternoon in early July. Senior members of the school community gamely toured the school with some of the younger pupils, catching up with school news and certainly amazing the young guides with tales of past pranks! It was a chance too to say "goodbye" to Head **Nigel Williams**.

## Inaugural 50s Drinks

The first Old Leightonians' drinks evening for OLs in their fifties was held in September at Balls Brothers bar in Hays Galleria, London. 28 guests attended and there was a great buzz to the evening.

# 8s Reunion



1968



1988



1998



2008

A wonderful day for so many who travelled back to the Park. The highlight of our calendar, but don't just take our word for it:

*"It was great to meet up with people, some of whom I haven't seen in 30 yrs. Well worth the 6 hour round trip in the car!"*

**Daniel Park (R 1988)**

*"As welcoming and nice as I remembered in the days past - but certainly keeping pace with the age and progressing towards the future. I particularly enjoyed the Meeting for Worship - it is something that I only begin to appreciate its values and significance after the adult livelihood have taken over. A day well spent, with much to reflect upon."*

**David Wong (R 1998)**

*"It was a lovely day, so nice to catch up with old faces and see how everyone was doing, and to see the school again. I loved my time at LP and it's always lovely to return and see it again."*

**Sami Kanza (R 2008)**

*"It was a shock to realise that it was fifty years since we left. We have all grown older! But it was fun catching up."*

**Sir Tony Baldry (R 1968)**

*"Having very happy memories of my time at the school in the 70's I do really care about the school and hope that the school carries on with a similar positive, open minded outlook as it has at present. A very enjoyable reunion and a great pleasure to have time to talk with John Allinson. Such a great guy (yes do tell him). I like the fact that all my friends from the school have such varied and interesting lives. I think that this must reflect well on the school and the outlook on life it encouraged us to have."*

**Tony Padday (R 1978)**

*"Well designed programme with plenty of time to reconnect with year cohort and to wallow in nostalgia!"*

**Graham Baxter (F 1968)**

*"Lovely to meet so many ex-pupils and staff, see the old place, and make some new connections! Fantastically well organised, enjoyable, and fun - thank you!"*

**Simon Rolfe (R 1998)**



## 9s Reunion

Next year it's the reunion for the classes of **2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969 and 1959** on Sat 11th May. If your year group completed A-levels in one of these years, then this reunion is for you. Do make sure we have your up to date contact details so you don't miss your invitation! We'd like to invite as many people as possible to make it a great reunion for you!



# OL News

## Barry Webster (S 1946)

Qualified as a chartered accountant in 1952 then spent the next two years in the Royal Air Force. In 1954 Barry joined Royal Dutch Shell Group, worked with them in Venezuela, Qatar, Muscat and Oman, Brunei, and Argentina, until his retirement in 1982.



## Michael Bowyer (G 1947)

Michael joined the Merchant Navy and reached the position of Master Mariner. After serving for 15 years, Michael left the Navy and began his career in teaching, specialising in special needs education. Since retiring, Michael has taught navigation skills to adults. He credits Frank Walker, his maths teacher, for instilling the skills required for navigation in him. Michael has very fond memories of his schooldays.

We were thrilled to receive a special gift of a model of a merchant navy ship from Michael.

Michael's brother **David Bowyer (S 1949)** had a career as a newspaper editor whilst **Jeremy (G 1955)** became a surveyor

and estate agent. Jeremy passed away in 2013, whilst David is living in Reading.

Michael's three children attended LP:

**Philip Bowyer (G 1978)** runs a car and property business.

His daughter **Sarah (R 1981)** sadly passed away in 2016. She had a natural gift for music as well as languages, and went on to study French and German. Sarah spent some time working in Austria teaching English, before returning to the UK to work at Sony. She also sang with a band.

**John Bowyer (G 1999)** John studied media Studies at Cheltenham and Gloucester University, and is now working as an Advertising Executive. We were thrilled that John came along to the Vintage OL Tea with his Dad.

## Cyril Fletcher (R 1950)

Cyril retired from farming and is now enjoying his old age.



## David Batterham (G 1951)

"For most of my life I have been a second hand bookseller. I worked first, briefly, for Richard Booth, the founder of the Town of Books at Hay-on-Wye but from 1965 I worked for myself, escaping

from the need to have a regular job. I made catalogues that I sent to libraries and other booksellers. If asked I said I specialised in books one didn't have to read, illustrated journals, trade catalogues, fashion

magazines; no poetry, history or literature.

I got into the habit of writing to my friend the artist Howard Hodgkin describing my travels and other bizarre booksellers I visited. Years later I found that Howard had kept all the letters and allowed me to make a selection, published in 2011 as 'Among Booksellers' which was noted and praised by Alan Bennet and others.

The book is now reprinted as 'Dear Howard: Tales told in Letters' with a foreword by Barry Humphries in September. Meanwhile, any OL who is tempted to buy a copy can do so by sending a cheque for £12.95 to David Batterham, 36 Alexander Street, London, W2 5NU."

## Henry Kitching (S 1954)

"Have all the members of this illustrious year expired? No one seems to post any news, so here is my modest contribution:

Retired at 80 to devote more time to charity works. Have been a trustee of Cleveland Alzheimer's Residential Centre since its inception in the 1980s and chairman for the past 6 years. We run two excellent homes of 38 residents each and provide loving care to the end.

Am also Chairman of a small specialist charity set up by one of my late clients with the objectives of helping the deprived youngster, particularly young carers, and service personnel who have found the adjustment to civilian life difficult.

When not so occupied I do my best to manage a small moor aiming to enhance its biodiversity through good conservation practice."

## Tam Fry (R 1955)

Tam is the Chairman of the National Obesity Forum which is leading the fight to get a proper obesity strategy implemented in the United Kingdom. He is particularly passionate about the need to prevent children from becoming overweight/obese by addressing its root causes pre-conception.

As head of the Child Growth Foundation, an independent charity for children with growth problems which he co-founded in 1977, he has spearheaded the introduction of the growth and body mass index [BMI] charts, still used today to assess a child's development. He funded the charity by designing, manufacturing and marketing the equipment used by the NHS in monitoring both adult and children's growth in the community.

Having spent 25 years in BBC television production; his claim to fame was as director of the BBC's Apollo Missions coverage and being responsible for the infrastructure for its major political programmes and innovative programmes.

## John Rayne-Davis (S 1956)



"Since I retired I have had 9 books published. My tenth covers the massacres at Clifford's Tower in York of 150 Jewish people and the martyrdom of Robert Aske."

John's first book was published in 1996, "The Valley of God". Since then a further eight books including "Prayers for a new Baby" and "Margaret Clitherow Saint of York". John is actively involved in poetry and creative writing groups in York. He was

Grand Knight of the Knights of St Columba in York and was on the Executive Committee of the Walsingham Association. John is a retired marketing consultant and a company director. Having read Geology at Queen's College, Oxford, John is an ideal volunteer guide at the Bar Convent and at the Yorkshire Museum where he demonstrates fossils and minerals.

John lives in Copmanthorpe near York, married to Wendy for 45 years; they have two children and two grandsons in Queensland.

He recalls some boys climbed up in the roof of Peckover Hall and altered the clock. The headmaster Mr Ounsted admonished them and said "Tempus Fugit and don't you forget it".

#### Alan Randall (R 1956)

"I started life at Leighton Park at Frensham, before moving on to Reckitt under Colin Fawcett and latterly Leonard Stables.

Happy memories include appearing in musicals like Princess Ida and our music master, Donald Pitcher's own compositions. I can still remember one particular song word for word. Success in sport featured more regularly than academic achievements, with regular appearances for cricket's 1st XI, 2nd XV rugby and Hoppy's sports day gym displays. I'm sure 'Aren't you making a mess of it' is still ringing in someone's ears!

I attended Cirencester RAU for two years before returning home to work with my father on our family farm, which now is entirely arable with important diversification interests, having given up dairying 15 years ago. I still enjoy and feel it is very important to keep being actively involved practically as well as on the administration side; our son, Andrew definitely in charge!

With Catherine my wife of 46 years, I enjoy farming holidays all over the world as well as our 3 grandchildren. Sport is my biggest relaxation with frequent visits to Lords and Twickenham.

My final school photograph still features on our landing and from time to time I still see **Michael Hatch (G1958)**, **John Hives (R 1953)** and **Nigel Braithwaite (S 1963)**, who married one of my cousins.



#### Vernon Gibberd (S 1958)

"How much food can you grow in a year in Africa on a hundred square metres, using neither rocket science nor rocket budget, only good old-fashioned common sense? Oh, and sweat and granddad's muck 'n' magic ideas as well.

This is a question I began to explore in my rather feeble 1957 JB Hodgkin Speech Competition entry, but had to wait until liberation (once known as retirement) in 2002 after 40 years' work with some of the poorest communities in semi-arid Africa. I borrowed a typical bit of land in the semi-arid interior of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province and dug, excavating a 50 m<sup>3</sup> hafir (a lined and covered hole in the ground to store rainfall running off the veld in one of the rare storms). Collected cowpats from the veld plus additional fertility from a compost toilet and got planting, and weighing every edible item produced. Result: close to 2,000 kg in each of the three consecutive years over which I ran this trial. I added additional plots in year 2 to produce fodder for a milking cow: similar yields.

The Struggle continues on my allotments in Gloucestershire, but longer winters and lower temperatures reduce that amazing yield. But try it!"

[www.themicrofarm.com](http://www.themicrofarm.com)

#### Malcolm Brahams (G 1959)

"I was too young for National Service so I wasn't called up and went straight on to Oxford University. At just 18 I felt very young compared with 25-year-olds who had already done National Service. I became a solicitor working mainly in property work.

I stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Liberal Party at the 1966 election but it was a terrible year for the party and I gave up Politics and concentrated on my work and my family. I have three children and eight grandchildren aged 7 to 12.

In my retirement, the University of the Third Age has kept me busy. I joined their local Photography in London group and I host a discussion group usually on national Politics. My wife and I are very involved with our grandchildren. I often take them swimming and I play a very poor round of nine hole Golf with a couple of friends of similar abilities. I have a great fondness for LP and for its tolerance. Leighton Park gave me a permanent liberal outlook on life.

#### Frank Attwood (G 1961)

"The piece in the last on-line newsletter enabled me to contact Harry Wyatt, with whom I started at Grove on the same day, and we went on to share a study. He was surprised to hear after 55+ years! After university, I qualified as chartered accountant; worked in practice in variety of roles in UK and internationally."

Frank now acts as a consultant and expert witness. He is a non-executive director of several companies and was deputy chairman of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants.

#### Michael Jenkins (S 1963)

Michael married Carol from New Zealand in 1971 and has two children. Qualified as an accountant, and moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1973 and subsequently to New Zealand in 1987. He became president of ICSA, the Governance Institute, in 1999 and mostly worked with Architects and Engineers. Michael kept in touch with the late **Paul Joachim** and their firms formed a joint venture for work in New Zealand.



#### James Russell (R 1966)

"I went to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, USA, and graduated in 1970 with a BA in Classical Studies. Then to the University of Denver (Colorado) College of Law, and was admitted to the Bar in October 1973. Most of my career was as a prosecutor, at the local, state-wide, and (for the last 26 years) federal levels. Now happily retired with 2 twenty something daughters who keep me hopping.

While at Leighton Park I first heard of, and played, rugby. It became my main extra-curricular addiction. I played college and club rugby in the US, and then got into refereeing; I rose to the USA International Panel. I have since become involved with Rugby's Disciplinary Process, handling matters at the local, regional, national levels, and when appointed by World Rugby, at the international level.

I'd love to hear from oldsters from my era, especially those from (the real) Reckitt."

#### Robert Harvey (F 1967)

"I was delighted to return to school as judge for the JBH Competition in 2017: it was a particularly nostalgic occasion marking 50 years since I competed. Kojo Bentsi Enchill was the deserved winner that year and what a stellar career he has since had.

I have many memories of my time, most still pretty clear. Never a high academic achiever but I was involved in many school activities and represented LP in first team cricket and rugby.

I went on to a varied career in tobacco, wines and spirits, the golf and leisure industry, hotel and catering and electrical wholesaling. I retired three years ago. I still undertake some part time business consultancy. Otherwise I am actively involved in voluntary church and community work in our village in Suffolk. Regular games of golf ensure that I do get outside for necessary fresh air and exercise! I have been married for 44 years. We have two sons and, now, three grandchildren."



### David Welsh (G 1966)

"Brian Tomlinson was my housemaster: he didn't hold out much hope for my career prospects and I remember him saying: 'Don't worry, you will probably get something working in insurance'. It was the best thing he could have said as it made me work harder (ironically after retiring Brian became an insurance broker).

The craft workshops were very good - I particularly enjoyed doing lino cuts. There was a tradition of sending first year boys on a wild goose chase in the summer term: off we went on our bikes to Sonning to look for the treacle mines. We took jam jars for the treacle but there was none to be found! One of my contemporaries in Grove was **Faris Soubra (G 1967)** – he was from Beirut and always especially popular when his dad visited the school bearing huge tins of pistachio nuts!

Leighton Park had a very positive affect on me; the Quaker ethos attracted my dad to the school in the first place and I think it rubbed off on me. Though perhaps not teetotalism as I went into the brewing industry rather than chocolate.

After school, I went to Strathclyde University and then UCL studying Italian and French and met my wife. During the holidays I had a wonderful job taking American tourists around Europe before working in the City as a shipbroker. I wasn't any good at that and in 1977 I moved to Salisbury and started working at a newly founded brewery. In 1988 I bought out the other shareholders - 1990 legislation allowed many tenanted pubs to buy beer from independent brewers and business boomed. I sold the company in 2007 but it didn't take long for retirement to prove boring and a year later I helped set up a brewery in Battersea."



### Dik Cadbury (F 1968)

- growing old disgracefully!  
"After more than 30 years living in Cheltenham, I now live in London. I released my second album 'Winds of Change'; a self-produced CD which features ex-Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett on Spanish guitar on one song ('Thinking').

It seems that since those Saturdays in the '60s, rehearsing in classrooms with various incarnations of 'the school band' and sneaky visits to the Marquee Club in Wardour Street (after singing lessons!), I can't shake the performing bug! There will be more gigs in the New Year with former Manfred Mann vocalist Mike D'Abo, both partying and reliving the '60s with The Mighty Quintet (which he and I formed in 1985) and in trio format with Mike and Steve Degutis (MQ guitarist) at The Boisdale Club in London and possibly elsewhere. "

Dik also plays with the MQ 'splinter group' The Connection and Big Black Car. He also occasionally reunites with OL **David Chesterman (F 1968)** to jam with his blues band.

[www.dikcadbury.com](http://www.dikcadbury.com)

### Jason Strevons (R 1968)

"Much water has been passed under the bridge since LP! I pretty much relocated to the US (Northern California) in 1974, and I like it here! Lived in in San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Bodega Bay, Sebastopol, and am now up in Lake County. Work has included being in the photography business, teaching ESL, the retail trade selling specialty wood furniture. The last job I had was as a rep for a medical supplies corporation which was so

appalling I asked my boss to fire me! Now happily retired with a son living in Brooklyn who's married and they have my grandson, a fine lad!

Any OLs in the neighbourhood are welcome to drop in for tea. Best wishes to all. Love and peace!"

### Andy Nicholson (S 1968)

"Leighton Park was where I was born as my father, **Kenneth Nicholson**, was in charge of School House in 1950; he became Headmaster at the Friends School Saffron Walden. I joined Terence Conran's Habitat in 1968, a shop which was setting many new trends to unsettle the established retailers of the time. In the late 70s I set up my own transport company serving the film and photographic industry. I relished the vibrancy and enterprise that was capturing the younger generations' hearts after two world wars and much austerity. The digital age loomed with all sorts of implications for the market I was in. I accepted a short term contact with a Swiss Aid Agency, Lutheran World Federation, to assist Liberian Refugees in Sierra Leone. As I devoted the next 20 years my life to working for several International Relief organisations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Zaire, Burundi and Malawi including Christian Aid, Save the Children UK and GOAL of Ireland. My brother, **Nigel Nicholson (S 1973)** was also doing similar, based in Uganda, Gambia, Ghana and Kenya. We frequently visited one another, enjoying close family encounters in some of the most impoverished but beautiful places in Africa. What an amazing time in our lives, making lasting friendships and enduring memories of some incredible cultures, climates, flora and fauna."

Nigel returned to his base in the South West of France in the early 2000's from where he has successfully made the transition to a consultant in Livelihoods and Nutrition.

I returned to UK in 2007, with my wife, Oretha, and our young children Sally and Jamie. We based ourselves in Somerset and I eventually became a Carer for Adults with Learning Disabilities, whilst the kids enjoyed their new junior school and made some long lasting friendships. I am now retired. My main preoccupation is my family, keeping in touch with friends of all persuasions, following Tottenham Hotspur and enjoying the bird life in the area."

### Simon R Gladdish (F 1975)

Simon sent a copy of his new book to the school, a translation and some of his own poetry inspired by "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam".

Educated at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, he trained as an English Language Teacher, a profession which enabled him to live and work for many years in Spain, France, Turkey, Tunisia and Kuwait. Domiciled near Swansea since 1992, he has no plans to return Kampala where he was born. In 1999 Poet Laureate Andrew Motion wrote to him saying 'I love the energy of your poems.' Simon strongly believes that poetry ought to be enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening. His many works of poetry are available to buy on Amazon.

### Andrew Belcher (G 1978)

"I led the divisions of Hewlett Packard which produced the monitoring systems for most of the world's biggest telecom network. I recently built a luxury apartment block on Sandbanks Dorset where I now live. As a retirement job I now run a company which produces and sells top quality stand up paddleboards, called Sandbanks Style.

Any OL can get the "Friends and Family" price."

### Charles Hickman (G 1978)

*"After 27 years with a power company, I retired as Director, Environment and Emergency Planning in 2017. Currently a partner in a small consulting firm (Alliance Planning and Environmental Consulting Inc.), and helping my wife run a small commercial bakery while trying to get a small farm (60 acre) back into production. Hobbies - travel, sailing, skiing, fishing, kids."*



### Christopher Fincken (F 1975)

"I often reflect on how some of the foundations of my life since were laid down at Leighton Park. My greatest enjoyments were the various hobbies, in particular model engineering and metalwork, skills which I've used regularly ever since (thanks to **Robert Hudson**). At LP (thanks to **Richard Schardt**) I learned how to think creatively, the importance of, in Quaker terms, trying to "Let my Life Speak" and coming to terms with adversity. A great disappointment whilst at LP was failing to win the speech competition, but it is with some irony I now realise I have gone on to earn my living largely by public speaking! (Thanks to **Ian Ricketts**).

My career path has been completely unplanned and varied. Having far too much of a good time, in my "year off", I never went to my planned University. Given my lifelong interest in steam trains the offer of a job on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch railway for five years seemed too good an opportunity to miss. A few years working in the family breakfast cereal firm before moving to Herefordshire, to start a family and to continue running my miniature railway supply company.

I started working for the NHS, checking postcodes on computer systems. My career progressed, until I became the first non-clinician to be appointed a Caldicott Guardian in an acute hospital, acting as gatekeeper to the patient's information. This role evolved, and I first joined and then became chair for five years of the UK Caldicott Guardian Council, (the national body which brings to bear ethical as well as legal considerations, making fine judgements about human situations) with myriad meetings in Whitehall. I also started to write, including; "Striking the Balance" published as the national guidance for information sharing across Health and Social Care in relation to Domestic Abuse. I became an independent member of the National Information Governance Committee advising the Care Quality Commission and work, pro bono, for Marie Curie and several other charities helping them to address complex, ethical dilemmas.

I have a close, loving family, including grandchildren, so by now theoretically I should be grown up! I passionately believe in the importance of social justice, and of the need to speak truth to power - so retirement is not yet imminent. I enjoy trying to keep a balance between nature and horticulture in our garden (thanks to John Gould & Michael Leach), trying vainly, to train my wilful spaniel, & operating my collection of steam locomotives on our ½ mile long garden railway complete with a 70-foot-long tunnel! I am current world record for endurance driving of a miniature steam locomotive. Leighton Park has a lot to answer for!"



### Thomas Atkinson (F 1978)

"From 1979 - 82 I studied Agriculture at Wye College University of London and just about got an honours degree. Until 2000 I was working in the agricultural industry selling animal feeds, mainly ruminant, and based in Dorset. After the firm I was working for was taken over I decided a change of career was worth a try. I did a Yachtmaster Course and have become a Yachtmaster Instructor. I met my wife Magdalena in Corfu and we married in 2004. We have Alexander (12), Isabella (9) and Oliver (8) and live happily in Piddleshinton, Dorset. My sailing takes me to places such as Gibraltar, Brittany, Channel Isles and the West Country."

### Simon Dry (F 1979)

*"I am proof that you can always fulfil your dreams no matter what age! If you take a look at [www.simondryart.com](http://www.simondryart.com) - you will see that the last year has taken me down another path into the art world, with a sell-out first show in Brick Lane last autumn - it was an amazing experience and I hope to be having my second show this autumn."*

Simon trained as a graphic designer, graduating from Ravensbourne College of Art & Design. He has run Drydesign in London, Dublin and Suffolk, using skills learned in this time to create SweetArt along with his wife, Vic.

### Prof Dan Reinstein (R 1980)

After LP, Dan studied Medicine at Cambridge with a two year sabbatical in between at the Berklee College of Music in Boston on a jazz diploma. After graduating in 1989 moved to New York for two years of research in ultrasound bio engineering and five years of eye surgery training. Established the London Vision Clinic on Harley Street in 2002 where he practices in the field of laser eye surgery and vision correction. Still playing the saxophone at the 606 Club in Chelsea on a monthly basis.

### Eric Gan (F 1983)



Eric started in fourth form at LP where he first learned how to play rugby. He was a member of the swimming team and captain of the basketball team. He was particularly fond of Collect and the principles of Quakerism. Eric still enjoys spending a short period of 'silence collect time' in the morning before he starts his day.

After reading Chemistry at Imperial College (perhaps with the influence of his Housemaster **Dr Walshaw**) he studied Japanese at SOAS and attended evening course at LBS. He worked for a Japanese financial institution in London for two years before moving to Tokyo in 1990 to start working for Goldman Sachs. He led many world's largest telecom IPOs (including NTT Docomo & Smartone). Eric was ranked No.1 analyst by Institutional Investors and became a Managing Director.

On leaving Goldman Sachs in 1999 Eric founded his telecom venture, eAccess Ltd. Turning profits in its second year, EAccess went IPO in 2003, the shortest corporate history ever listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. eAccess (branded as EMOBILE) was granted the 4th mobile license in Japan in 2005 where Eric continued to run as the founder, President & COO. Merging with SoftBank in 2013, the mobile service was rebranded YMobile. Eric is now serving as a Board Director and EVP of SoftBank Corp, responsible for the company's investment, partnership and business development. He is also serving as a Board Director of Smartone.



### Julian Page (G1985)

*Congratulations to Julian who has won the Social Impact category of Westminster University Alumni Awards, recognising his outstanding contribution in international development as Director of Livingstone Tanzania Trust. The award highlights how small charities can have a huge impact at community level. Working in Tanzania since 2007 to eradicate poverty through partnerships with schools and community groups, the charity has helped build 40 classrooms and 60 toilets in eight schools and provided training and support to almost 300 farmers. Julian commented*

*"As a small charity what we are doing here is developing a model that can be copied and adapted to meet the needs of other communities. Our model is inspiring people to be the change they want to see."*

A party from Leighton Park will be working with one of the LTT projects in Tanzania later this year, the third group to do so.

### Katsuko Okabe (R 1988)

Katsuko lives in Hayama in Japan. She is keen to get in touch with **Soo-Mi Park (R 1987)**, **Sarah Hely (R1988)** and **Jo Carling (R 1988)**.

Katsuko went to LP because her uncle **Martin Lorenz (F 1985)** had been there. When she arrived, her English was not very good but she picked it up quickly. She was the first Japanese student that the school had. Reckitt was great fun and she had a study with **Sarah Hely**.

Katsuko went to Manchester to study architecture and worked for a while for her father in Japan. She gave up architecture to go into teaching, working in four different places, teaching seven year olds up to adults. She likes to draw and takes a sketch book whenever she has some time or travels.

### Fredrik Buchwald (G 1989)

Fredrik went to Medical School University hospital Aachen, Germany then was a locum at Uppsala University Hospital, Kiruna Hospital (Sweden) and BAKB Hospital, Hamburg.

In 2003 he joined the Department of Neurology, Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden, becoming a consultant neurologist in 2016. He spent 2015/6 as a consultant neurologist at the Neurology Department, Christchurch Hospital, NZ.

In 2003 he married to Pamela and they have three children.

### Duncan Campling (R 1989)

**David Lloyd (R 1989)** contacted us to share sad news:

"Our good friend, Duncan Campling has been devastated by a catastrophic brain stem stroke which has left him in a long-term state of almost total incapacity. His medical care team is labelling his condition as "Locked-In syndrome": he has severe paralysis and is currently only able to communicate via eye and head movement. Duncan has full cognitive function and is fully aware of his situation. His family created a GoFundMe campaign to help Duncan and family pay for his long-term stroke recovery, to raise funds to address Duncan's long-term care needs, provide supplementary aid for his family during this period of transition and to raise funds for medical equipment that will help Duncan regain as much independence as possible. Duncan needs among others specific technology such as an eye-tracking computer system to allow communication and a specialized, motorized wheelchair.

[www.gofundme.com/fightforduncan](http://www.gofundme.com/fightforduncan)

### Katie Soane (G 1998)

"I have been living in Edinburgh for eight years, and utterly love it. My parents retired back here up here and live a mile away by the sea. I did make it back to Bernard Perrett's funeral in August 2016. Despite the sad occasion it was lovely to see various old staff, including **Dr Walshaw** and **John Allinson**

and lots of Old Leightonians from many eras. After a long time working at Sustrans (the walking and cycling charity) coordinating partner infrastructure projects, I have been working at Transport for Edinburgh heading up the delivery of their forthcoming cycle hire scheme. I have two children, Annie (5) and Edith (3 1/2), who are mostly adorable."

### Anthony Myers (R 1999)

"I have worked in Horticulture for 17 years after studying Conservation and wildlife habitat management at Hartpury College Glos. I have worked in the private gardening business in London and Edinburgh and also worked for Tresco estate on the Isles of Scilly as assistant gardener and held a head gardener position for Blair Atholl Estates in Argyll, Scotland. I now reside in Bangor with my wife and we run a small gardening firm together."

### Syen (Carey) Lou (R 2002)

"I was working in gaming industry dealing with VIPs after graduation; it was an exciting experience but also very crazy. I wanted to do something that does more contribution to people and society eventually so I started my own businesses and gradually shifted into my area of interest in wellness.

At university in the UK I started yoga and got my license in teaching aerial yoga. Macau has a couple of aerial studios where I offer workshops and classes. Professionally I am an Incentives Specialist specialized in team buildings and business events in the Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. The Macau Government sees the potential to be a more diverse destination in Asia and they are tackling this business travel sector. That has encouraged me to consider starting my own business involved in such industry dealing with global business visitors. I trust that MICE industry can offer me global network and businesses in multi-destinations."

I am taking a personal trainer course and want to see what else I can offer in the wellness area as a professional.



### The Cheng Dynasty

A delightful photo was sent in of the wedding of **Joanna Cheng (G2004)** to Steve Evans. With OLS **Jessica Grimshaw (R2004)**, **Wendy Doolin (2004)**, **Oliver Cheng (G2001)** and **Alex Cheng (G2012)**.



### **Helen Lyford Smith (R 2008)**

Helen professionally trained first with Creative Academy and later with Royal Academy of Dance. She has gone on to travel to Morocco, India, Europe, and across the USA as a ballet dancer and aerialist.

Helen has maintained her love of other art forms and has expressed herself within modelling and literature. Since 2012, Helen has been writing her blog 'Living Liberté'. Born from a belief in freedom, Helen's blog shares her experiences and philosophies to help others out of situations of personal or social entrapment. The blog is [living-liberte.blogspot.co.uk](http://living-liberte.blogspot.co.uk)

[www.helenvictoriadance.com](http://www.helenvictoriadance.com)

### **Eleanor Black (S 2014)**

"I am super excited to say that I have been chosen to go to Malawi for eleven weeks this summer to volunteer with Voluntary Services Overseas and International Citizen Service. I will be working on the APAUSE-ICS Joint Education Outreach Programme in the rural and urban community of Mzuzu. The programme aims to increase awareness among youths of STIs, HIV/AIDs and pregnancy, and to overcome problems that youths are facing. It aims to empower girls to make healthy decisions."

### **Hugh Macdonald (G 2015)**

Hugh has just released his first single 7x7 under the name Fairhazel, and is due to perform at gigs across the country. <https://www.facebook.com/fairhazel/>

### **Jordan Gage (R 2010)**

Jordan takes over as Strat, the lead role, in "Bat out of Hell" at London's Dominion Theatre from September 3rd. Currently storming the stage as the understudy lead two or three times a week, it's a long way from wowing the Leighton Park audiences as Tony in West Side Story. Jordan says "The experience has been exhilarating from the beginning of the process back in February. We've performed to Brian May on his birthday and to Meatloaf himself! The fact that I have made my West End debut in a show with so much energy and charisma is so exciting; the whole cast are some of the most talented people I've ever met. I feel very blessed!"



### **Mathilde Bataille (G 2015)**

Mathilde has just graduated with a 1st from Goldsmiths, University of London from the Popular Music course; she has released her first EP and "Crying in Public" was played on BBC Radio 6 recently. She is thrilled some of her music has had radio play and attention. Mathilde will be gigging in London from September and going back into the studio for another project. Visit her Facebook page, Spotify or Bandcamp page to listen to her music and find out about shows.



**Thank you for your news and memories: we love receiving them! Do send them in to the office at Leighton Park or email [Development@leightonpark.com](mailto:Development@leightonpark.com). If you don't receive our twice yearly e-newsletters, sign up at**

**[www.leightonpark.com/ol-news](http://www.leightonpark.com/ol-news)**

# Notes from a Far Off Island

## Mark Simmons

Between December 2017 and April 2018 I enjoyed a fantastic life experience on sabbatical, awarded by the school governors. I spent two weeks in the community of the Friends School, Hobart noting so many similarities between our two schools, yet recognising the different challenges each has in its local environment. Then, I took a detour from Dubai and spent twelve days in Jinja, Uganda with the Jinja Educational Trust, a charity with which students from Leighton Park have worked on the ground over the last eight years and will continue to do so in October.

I spent nearly three months in Australia, taking in the Western, Queensland and NSW coasts, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and the Great Ocean Road and the red centre.

In every respect, socially, culturally and spiritually, the whole trip made a profound impact. It was always the intention of this trip to make contact with some OLs and to host a couple of 'events'. What has happened is possibly something far deeper: I met up with 17 OLs and former parents; they have re-

connected me with people who I knew in their formative years and now, with their working lives either well established or starting to wind down, they all have a 'story' to tell. It has a special meaning when you can connect their working lives with some aspect of their time at school, be that directly through an academic link or through a hobby or other interest.

What is beyond doubt is that LP has had a profound influence on who these people have become, which, in turn, influences how they go about their lives. In their own ways they are treading happily across the world and letting their lives speak. In all cases the idea of living adventurously is very much at the heart of why they are in Australia in the first place and, in many instances, this has gained momentum depending on important career and/or life decisions they have made along the way.

Every meeting was an experience that all of these OLs appeared grateful for: not because of me, but because our very meeting made

them cast their minds back to a formative period in their lives from where they all had very clear and mainly happy memories. Hearing how Leighton Park had played such a varied and incredibly important role in the lives of a diverse group of individuals was one of the highlights of my trip; totally unexpected and totally absorbing.

As teachers, we always try to do the right thing by all students, whether that be in the classroom, on the sports field, in the house or around the school. In my working life I have tried to be no different, and the personal response I've had from all of these people has been nothing short of humbling. I have sensed a kind of deep mutual respect from shared experiences in years gone by.

I think we all look to have a purpose in what we do in this world and the experiences I have had on this trip have merely confirmed for me that, over the years, what we do at Leighton Park 'works'. I am very proud to have been some small part of that.

# Meetings with OLs

This is a snapshot of Mark's meet ups. We will keep you posted when the full range are available to read online.



**Andy Barbour (R 1982)**

Andy made a profound impact on me as an athlete because of his unstinting devotion to canoeing and his own pursuit of GB competition success. A natural endurance athlete who developed the skill and mental toughness to be the best that he could be under the guidance of **Bernard Perrett**.

Andy's canoeing success was achieved to the detriment of his school work and he gave up canoeing in the Upper Sixth to focus on his studies. This paid off for him as ended up with a 1st in Electronics at university (despite been told by his physics teacher that he would achieve a 'D' grade if he was lucky). He took off to Australia on a one-year working visa, then time in Europe and the USA before settling in Sydney; he has enjoyed major career success in IT specialisms over the last 25-30 years worldwide.

When Andy met his wife to be, they set up a business in Cairns and have a six year old son, Aiden. He has recently relocated south to the Brisbane area for a new job. Andy spoke very warmly of his time at LP and especially the impact that **Bernard Perrett** and Housemaster **Tom Patton** had on him. He felt that school taught you values that enabled you to live your own life with integrity and compassion; he valued the peace and harmony of the park. (Read more on Page 15)

Coming from Kenya, being a boarder in Reading was a chastening experience, recalling ice on the inside of the windows in his dormitory in winter. He soon settled into the community feel that existed in the house.



**Bardia Asaadi (R 1986)**

Bardia remembers much of his time at LP as the happiest time of his education. He has fond memories of the disciplined activities



**Andrew Jeffrey (F 1987)**

Andrew spoke from the heart in recalling his school days. He recalls with affection memories of Field House, of the open nature of the park and of his love of sport. He spoke very positively on the influence of **Keith Walshaw** and **Tom Harrison** (HMs in Field) and how values learned at school have remained with him throughout his adult life, values that he holds today.

Andrew was a regular member of school rugby, athletics and hockey teams. He was a quietly determined athlete and his commitment to any team could never be questioned. A competent skier, he enjoyed the school ski trips. It was good to hear that sport has continued to play a part in his life.

Whilst at University of Leeds, Andrew met his wife to be and then started his first job in marketing with Diagio, based in Scotland. He then joined Nestle-Rowntree in York and worked in their marketing department for five years. In 1999 Andrew took advantage of an opportunity of a job transfer and settled in Sydney where he went on to work for Amotts and then Coca Cola (including four years in Malaysia). In 2018 he began work with Sunrice (a rice company) as their marketing director.

Andrew's career has gone from strength to strength and today, as he says in his own words, he is 'living the dream'. He has three children and lives in Queenscliff, overlooking Manly Beach.

and Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions; he discovered aspects about himself as a person and enjoyed the camping.

A student in the old Reckitt which used to be at the far end of the park and involved a long walk to lessons, a long walk back for lunch and so on. He recalls how some students didn't bother with this journey at times but nobody ever seemed to care about their absence!

Training as a chiropractor in London, at the British School of Osteopathy, he was awarded a prize for his knowledge on physiology. He went on to post-graduate study with the



**Kat Murphy (R 2007)**

Always willing to lend a hand or to help others, Kat epitomised what LP students are all about. Her infectious enthusiasm for everything she did had a positive influence on others.

Kat studied Environmental Science and specialised in Marine Conservation, at University of Plymouth. She enjoyed diving and took her diving instructors training course. On graduating Kat worked in the area as a diving instructor for 2-3 years, but she 'got fed up with always being cold' and sought warmer climes, initially off Gozo. She grabbed an opportunity to work in Australia with both hands, in Queensland as a diving instructor on the Great Barrier Reef – nice work if you can get it! In 2017, she transferred to the lesser known but beautiful Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia and oversees diving trips from there. She has settled into life there with consummate ease!

With sister **Beth (R 2008)** working in Melbourne the girls have been able to spend time together on both sides of the country. They agree that Australia has so much to offer and are happily employed enjoying their own interests.

Having studied Fashion at university, Beth freelanced for different London advertising agencies, but when her contract ran out she made the decision to move to Australia. She is now freelancing in video and film production whilst embracing everything that Melbourne's eclectic community has to offer. This was so good to hear, a young woman making her way in the world, both successfully and happily, in a far off land – and making her mark!

Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation. After working in London for a time, he had to find a warmer part of the world to work! First Darwin, and then Sydney when he met his wife and got married; they have an eight year old son. A few years later he moved north to the Byron Bay region. He has a successful chiropractor business about 300m from a beautiful beach. He describes it as 'a good place to work'!

Bardia loves his life and looks back on his time at LP as a place that helped him achieve what he wanted academically, but also gave him a period of sustained happiness; Reckitt really was his home.



# School News

## New report names Leighton Park as best performing school in Berkshire

Leighton Park Sixth Formers achieve the best academic progress among Berkshire schools according to new Government data. The Department of Education (DfE) released information in January that aims to show the academic progress students have made since joining a school. The previous system was considered unfair by many as it took no account of students' starting levels. The new data demonstrates with greater clarity the impact a school has had on students' academic attainment. The new progress measure for A Levels gives Leighton Park a score of 0.55, placing it in the top 40 schools in England and the best performing school in Berkshire.



While all league tables must be viewed with a degree of caution, we are naturally delighted that the Government's new measure recognises the outstanding and dedicated work of the learning community.

## Michael Malnick Centre

The contractor has been busy completing the electrical, heating and mechanical installations inside the new Michael Malnick Centre for music and media. Classrooms and practice rooms are being decorated and lighting installed. External works are under way to create high quality landscaping, terracing and a new visitor car park by Grove. The outdoor theatre is taking shape with the stage area now being completed. Students are keen to get inside and start being creative in the new Radio 1 inspired Yamaha 'Live Lounge' and custom-built media room with a green screen, lighting, editing equipment and surround sound system. We are looking forward to the building opening as early as possible in the new term.

OLs will have a chance to meet the new Head, Matthew, and visit the finished building during the school year. See Page 4 for dates.



## OL Parents Book Group

"We have just finished a first full year", writes **Eme Dean-Lewis**. "Next school year we plan to meet 4 times. The group will meet in the school Library on Thursday 4th October to discuss "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver. The next meeting is Thursday 10th January. Last year we read:

- Hag-Seed by Margaret Atwood
- Elmet by Fiona Mozley
- Honour by Elif Shafak

Several members attended the book launch in London for Jenny Quintana's The Missing Girl. We also had a special event jointly with the PSC Book Group of Chris Routh (School

Librarian) 'In conversation' with Jenny which was very well attended.

New members are very welcome to join us occasionally or regularly. Contact the Alumni Office for more details."



## JBH 2017



The JBH Speech Competition saw five nervously excited Sixth Formers following in the footsteps of OLs **Michael Foot (S 1931)**, MP Sir **Tony Baldry (R 1968)** and Dame **Alice Hudson (R 1981)**.

This year's finalists and their topics were: Rhiannon 'XX or XY?', Kirsty 'Armani or Primani? Choose wisely', Faye 'Why modern feminism is wrong', Chunya 'Those who earn more should be taxed more than they are now' and Josh 'Vaccination or incarceration?'

Chunya was declared the winner for his presence on stage and the ability to respond to heckle with accurate and relevant statistics immediately.

Judges included **John Chapman** (Former Head), as well as OLs **Robert Harvey (F 1967)**, **Rauf Bayraktaroglu (G 1991)** and **Naomi Alderson (G 2011)** who had all competed as students. Robert Harvey added

*"Returning to this event for the first time for half a century was both a nostalgic and emotional experience. It brought back memories and I could relate entirely to the contestants' state of mind. The work, preparation, anxieties and sheer drama of having to address an audience for 15 minutes. They did themselves, the school and the tradition proud."*

The standard of their public speaking was far higher than in my time. I was particularly impressed by the passion they showed towards their particular subject. That is so important from this generation. It matters not a jot whether one agrees with the viewpoint expressed, but to be grateful that the contestants are concerned and will defend vigorously their opinions. One can only hope that all the contestants carry forward this commitment in the years ahead. If so a promising future awaits".





# STEM Success

This term Leighton Park won the ICT Facility Award, sponsored by Fujitsu, at the Education Business Awards for continuing to share our knowledge and experience of engaging girls in Computer Science. School also came second for the STEM innovation Award out of 350- organisations in the Community Education Awards, sponsored by Costa.

The achievements follow Intel and IT solutions specialists, XMA, awarding Leighton Park the Ripple Effect Prize in the autumn, recognising schools at the forefront of using technology to support student learning. The prize included an HP STEM & Creative Learning Studio, worth over £20,000, which will be installed in our new STEM classroom opening in September 2018.

In July, over 200 enthusiastic students from five schools were lucky enough to hear Molecular Biologist, Geneticist and Science Communicator, Dr Emily Grossman, one of the nation's two Honorary STEM Ambassadors, deliver our inaugural STEAM lecture. Sponsored by Cisco, the lecture offered a light-hearted but insightful overview of pioneering biotechnology under the humorous heading, 'How to Build a Human.'



# #LPGirlsCan



The girls ran, kicked, batted, bowled, shot, stretched and jumped their way through the inaugural festival of girls' sport. They tried out Gaelic Football, competed in the Independent Schools' Football Association (ISFA) Girls U15 7-a-side tournament, had a rugby training session with a coach from Nomads and had a visit from Svava Sigbersdottir, celebrity personal trainer. put each year group through their paces before inflicting her infamous 'Viking Method' on some of the staff. Building on the national initiative to increase activity in young women through Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign, it began with a step challenge culminating in a 1K, 3K or 5K Race for Life. The race raised money for Cancer Research and brought together friends and family dressed in pink from

across the LP community for a sprint, a wander and everything in between, around the Park.

Next year we plan to throw this open to OLs too!

A Cricket Festival at LP for local schools offered plenty of fortuitously timed training as we hosted our very first girls' hardball cricket match against The Abbey on Thursday, which we won!

**Karen Gracie-Langrick**, Deputy Head

(Academic) added, *"I loved watching all the girls playing cricket on the 1st XI pitch - and yes, in their whites!"*

## Heads' Portrait Gallery

**Sam Heath**, Artist in Residence, was given the flattering but daunting task of painting the portrait of retiring Head, **Nigel Williams**, to join the gallery in Peckover Hall. Fortunately, Sam had just completed a couple of small portrait commissions from an exhibition last summer which convinced him he would be up to the job.

Sam enjoyed having freedom in the style of the painting; Nigel only had one specific request: the painting needed to show off the Park and specifically the Peace Pole, his pride and joy! From Christmas, Sam worked from drawings and photographs developing the piece before unveiling it to the whole school in July. Ultimately it will be displayed with portraits of the other Heads who have held the role for five years or more in Peckover Hall.



*"I'm proud of the final painting especially as I've never painted something on that scale, with such high expectations or such a specific time scale. I love that the painting will sit in Peckover Hall long after I leave the school; I've left my mark. Nigel said he loves it; I think his is probably the opinion that matters most."*



# Sport

## 50 Years Not Out

**Graham Carter (G 1964)** received a special Guard of Honour as he made his 50th appearance for the Old Leightonians Cricket Club in the annual match against school (out of a possible 54 years since he left school). One of the founders of the OLCC, his is incredible dedication to the school, let alone his weekly volunteering in the Archives. Howzat!



The OLCC batted first, the school making a good start with the OLs in trouble. Graham was presented with a specially embroidered cap and engraved glass.

The OLCC have a new website:  
[www.olcc.co.uk](http://www.olcc.co.uk)

## OLCC Report

The 42nd season of the OLCC has experienced the extraordinary weather of 2018 and so far (in August) we have had no games cancelled because of wet conditions. The fixture list runs to 22 games including 3 tours. The short two day East Midlands Tour took place in early May with games at Barby (our first in Northamptonshire) and our now regular game at Elvaston, near Derby.

The main four day tour to Devon is due to take place in late August, with one game over into Cornwall at Bude (our first in that county). In September we have a new short two day tour to Kent with fixtures near Tunbridge Wells.

The Golf Day held in March at Badgemore Park at Henley on Thames did however experience typical English weather in very wet conditions, with James Barratt winning the new "claret jug" trophy (following an unfortunate accident with the old trophy).

The 42nd OLCC annual dinner is due to be held on 17 November 2018 at Virginia Water. **Graham Carter**



## Remembering Bernie

On a bitterly cold day in January, family and former LP canoeists came together for **Bernard Perrett's** memorial unveiling. The memorial stone and bench can be found by the pond.

Bernard was an inspirational member of staff and his legendary career at Leighton Park spanned three decades. Many students wanted to remember him and raised the money to erect a memorial stone, and to establish a Bursary Fund in his name.

Bernard's daughter Katy said: "We were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness given by the staff. Every care was given and the event reflected the ethos of the school. As a family we are grateful for such a wonderful event. Thank you."

**Mark Simmons** met OL **Andy Barbour (R1982)** in Australia: Andy commented - "Bernard Perrett had a massive impact on my life. He was caring, knowledgeable, compassionate, insightful and very strong mentally. He never shouted and never put anybody down. He was an excellent man-manager, had a winning mentality, but guided you to it rather than rammed it down your throats".

Andy spoke warmly of the weekends round at Bernard's house, of the family atmosphere (there were often 10-12 of them there), of how Jan, his wife, would cook Sunday lunches for everybody, every week and how, looking back on it, it was such a massively important phase in his life. Looking back as an adult to what the family did for all canoeists with their own time, money and care left Andy eternally grateful and awed.

Andy is so grateful to **Nick Nelson-Piercy (R 1983)** and **Robin Kendall (R1981)** for their efforts in organising the recognition in school for Bernard. Sadly he (and along with some other paddlers) were unable to join the act of remembrance but through the power of Skype, were able to hear the proceedings on the Park and at the meal afterwards.



## LP's APP

The Advanced Performer Programme (APP) is designed to help take our top athletes, who perform at county level and above, to the next level in their sports.

Students have one to one gym sessions in the cardio and weights room, designed around goals the students set themselves. Each student has their own portfolio which helps them keep track of their progress and shows their progression through results taken from fitness testing carried out on a termly basis. The students have been able to learn training techniques, nutritional needs, how to correctly stretch before and after sessions and how to plan and build exercise into their weekly routine. The programme has included training at Bisham Abbey and at the University of Bath's Sports Village. Just a sample of some of the elite athletes in school include:

Head boy **Chunya Munga** is currently in South Africa with the England U18 Rugby Squad.

**Diamond Edwards** played with the England Football U15 team against Belgium this year, and is a member of Reading FC Academy.

**Kirsty Walker** came 2nd in English Schools Athletics Association U19 Cross Country, with a field of over 300.

And **Kate Hipkins** has been selected as part of the GB Kayaking Olympic Hopes Squad, competing in Poland soon. Bernie Perrett would be thrilled.



# Obituaries

We have sadly been informed of the following deaths:

**Dr John Cotes (R 1941)**

**John C Morgan (S 1944)**

**Alistair Bruce Milne (G 1950)**

**Norman Watsham (G 1954)**

**John Oliver Andrew (R 1956)**

**Former staff:**

**Robert McColl, Asst House-master  
1960-1962**

**Olivia Furnell-Ainsworth: School  
Office 2008-2012**



**Hugh Waring Maw  
(S 1938)**

After attending Leighton Park Hugh studied Zoology and Botany at Bristol University and trained as a teacher having gained exemption

from military service as a Conscientious Objector. His first teaching post was at Sidcot School. After the war he volunteered with the Friends Relief Service in Berlin and Cologne.

In 1949 Hugh married Daphne Southall and they had three children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In September 1956 he became Head at Sibford School. At the end of his career Hugh was a Principal Lecturer at the City of Birmingham College of Education on a pioneering Health Education course. Alongside his teaching he was involved with Youth and Marriage Guidance counselling.

On retirement Hugh was able to devote much of the rest of his life to continuing his service for the Society of Friends in numerous capacities from local to international levels. Retirement also brought many opportunities for travel, hobbies and writing. Hugh wrote of his love of sports, drama, music, singing, gardening and, a highlight in his life: dancing in several West End shows with the International Ballet School when he was young.



**Patrick Allen (S 1943)**

Patrick, known as Paddy, was 19 years old when he served as a first lieutenant on a tank landing craft which took part in missions to Gold Beach in 1944, carrying loads including a dangerous cargo of 206

tonnes of munitions. He took part in three more crossings in the days after D Day.

He was presented with the Légion d'Honneur at a ceremony in Norwich in February; the French government decided to award its highest military decoration on the 70th anniversary of the country's liberation to 30 veterans.

His son James recalled "He didn't talk about the war in any great detail until the 70th anniversary sparked some recollections and discussions. His reflections on the war were that it was tragic in terms of the loss of life, and as far as the invasion was concerned he felt very sorry for the French, and the impact it had on their villages and countryside."

After the war Patrick joined the family flour-milling firm of Marriages then moved to Norfolk in the 1950s to join corn merchants and millers Barclay Pallett. He later worked for Boots Farm Services advising farmers on the application of agricultural chemicals, a relatively new concept in crop management at the time.

He was made an MBE in recognition of his contribution to party political services in 1993. He was actively involved in raising money for the RNLI.

He was married to Susie for 62 years. He is survived by three sons and five grandchildren.

**Colin Dick (G 1945)**

Colin's mother encouraged Leighton Park to support Colin's wish to go to Art School, and indeed after the war, Colin went to St Martin's School of Art in London (now Central Saint Martins). He subsequently found plentiful work as a scene painter for West End shows.

Colin married Delia in 1954; the needs of a growing family prompted them to move to the Midlands, where Colin taught art in Coventry and Leamington Spa, but without any diminution in his already prodigious output. He found subjects in traditional landscapes and townscapes, but was also intrigued by the more exotic reaches of society: the theatre, musicians, circuses, funfairs, beggars and Gypsy gatherings. A collection of his work, including watercolour drawings of buildings damaged by wartime bombing or lost in postwar redevelopment, is held by the Herbert Art gallery, in Coventry.

He kept painting until a few weeks before his death, despite ill-health. Colin's granddaughter, Rosanna, recalls Colin and Delia's belief in "the importance of keeping jolly" and Colin's mastery of "the fine art of living".

He is survived by Delia, children Sara, Oliver and Elspeth, and four grandchildren.

**Christopher Beaven Irwin OBE (S 1945)**

Awarded the OBE in 1998 for Services to Forestry, The Timber Growers Association and the Environment.

Christopher attended the Over 70s Afternoon Tea in 2016, wearing his old school tie with his school number 29. He reminisced, that both sugar and butter were rationed when he was at school and that each boy's number was on top of each little pot. One or two of the boys didn't like sugar so others would pinch their sugar by moving around the numbers on the lids.

In retirement, he used his skills seeded by LP staff Harry Stevens (Woodwork), Joslin (Metal

work and Physics) and Ricky Schart (Biology), to keep a Heritage Watermill operating in Mid Suffolk producing high quality bread flour.

**Prof David Hamilton (G 1949)**

David was a legendary sportsman at LP and Senior Prefect, a rugby player famed for his "dummy" and part of the unbeaten 1948 team. He also played for Oxford University and represented England against France in 1949.



He married Myra McArathey in 1957. After graduating at the Middlesex Hospital, his early surgical training included cardio-thoracic surgery there. He went on to Harefield Hospital, before being appointed to a senior registrar position in Liverpool in 1965.

Overseas training took him to California Pacific Medical Centre, San Francisco, after which he was appointed Consultant cardiac surgeon in Liverpool in 1968. David became increasingly involved with paediatric cardiac surgery at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital. The success of the team led the hospital to become known as one of the premier centres for surgery on congenital heart disease in the UK. In 1986 David was appointed to the foundation Chair of Cardiac Surgery in Edinburgh. He continued in that position until he retired in 1993.

Gentlemanly, unassuming, modest and supportive of his team, David was a talented surgeon and an excellent teacher. His leadership ensured that the morale of his team was always extremely high.

David and Myra moved from Edinburgh back to Merseyside on retiring, where he continued to enjoy golf, although he was increasingly afflicted by Parkinson's disease. Myra died in June.

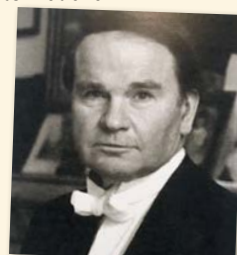
David published his memoirs "Mission Improbable" in order to raise funds for the hospital. The school has some copies if anyone wishes to buy one.

David is survived by his sons **James (G 1977)**, Alastair and Ross. His son, **Ian (G 1978)**, died in 2017.

**Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth (S 1951)**

After school, Michael won an exhibition to Magdalen College, Oxford to read Modern History, which he took up after national service as a midshipman in the RNVR, serving in the Mediterranean Fleet – an experience he often recalled with affection.

Michael devoted 37 years to the service of the House of Lords, becoming a Clerk in 1960 and rising to be Clerk of the Parliaments from 1991 to 1997. He entered the service of a House composed overwhelmingly of hereditary members, and left just before legislation was introduced to exclude all but 92 of them. His nickname was radical Mike for a time. He once performed an impromptu dance in front of ministers and was taught to sing by Gracie Fields.





In retirement he continued his public service. In 1998-99 he served as a member of the Commission on the Welsh National Assembly Standing Orders, thus beginning a lasting involvement with Welsh devolution which was enjoyable for him and profitable for Wales. Alongside his work in Wales and with the Wakeham Commission came an opportunity to engage with the academic world as Waynflete Lecturer and Special Lecturer in Politics at Magdalen College from 1998 to 2009.

In 1982 he married Emily Smith and they had three children and grandchildren, retiring finally to Sandford St Martin in Oxfordshire.

### Dr Sebastian Freudenberg (G 1953)

Sebastian studied medicine and worked in paediatrics and then in general practice. He also worked for fifteen years as a volunteer doctor with the medical foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. He was also a keen jazz baritone saxophone player.

Sebastian's parents, refugees from Germany in 1937, chose Leighton Park because of the Quakers' refugee work during the war. Sebastian always spoke with affection of his time at the school and particularly of his great friendship with **Richard Rodney Bennett (R 1953)**, which was lifelong.

In October 2017, when Sebastian had spent the morning with a neighbour (he had advanced dementia), he exclaimed 'I had such an interesting morning, it was just like being back at school, we talked about anything and everything'.

Sebastian was fiercely anti-religious but appreciated the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, truth, respect, integrity, peace, equality and sustainability, which were described by the Head in the most recent newsletter.

He died on 3rd December 2017 aged 82. He leaves his wife Sue, their daughter Helen, and two OL brothers **Michael (R 1959)** and **Christopher (R 1963)**.



**Lance Clark (S 1954)**

After school, he studied geography at New College, Oxford, where, he recalled, "I didn't learn much that was useful — except to be able to argue about things that I knew nothing about."

He met Helga Hoffman at Oxford; they were married for more than 30 years before her death and had four children. With his second wife Ying Zhou they had three children.

Lance stood down as executive director in 1987 but remained in a non-executive capacity until 1999. He took over the shoemaker Edward Green, worked for Barker shoemakers and, alongside his son Galahad, at Vivobarefoot.

His shoes adorned the feet of celebrities — he helped to popularise the classic Desert Boot—

but Lance lived modestly, drove an old Ford Focus and had ethical values stemming from his Quaker upbringing. He preferred playing tennis to attending meetings and found a deep spiritual connection painting watercolours. Some of his works are on sale in aid of Soul of Africa.

His tour of duty sparked a fascination with Africa. He spoke poignantly at Leighton Park about a visit in 2003 to an orphanage in South Africa for children with Aids; moved beyond belief, he set up Soul of Africa, a charity with the aim of generating employment for women. The re-investment of profits by the Soul of Africa Trust has helped support over 17,000 children and young people in care and education to date.

Lance Clark died 28th February, 2018, aged 81.

### John Simpson (S 1948)

A retired farmer, John had a strong athletic background originating from his time at Leighton Park. At Cambridge University he became a Half Blue. He was Midland Counties Champion in the early 1950s before his career in farming took over. John retired fully from farming in 2002 and kept fit walking and swimming. John came to farm near Much Wenlock in 1955 and was Town Mayor in 1976.

The following year he joined the Wenlock Olympian Society, and assisted in the rejuvenation of the Wenlock Olympian Games. In 1989 John accepted the position of President and his first official task was to escort HRH The Princess Royal at the 1990 Games celebrating the centenary of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's visit to Much Wenlock. In 2000 John became Vice President. In 2012 after carrying the Olympic Torch John said, "I am proud and honoured to have been chosen to represent Society members past and present."



### Nick Hudson (G 1950)

Nick described himself as 'a jack of many word trades: author, editor, typesetter, publisher, with a lifetime experience of wrangling meaning from words'. His publishing career began on an Oxford student newspaper.

He arrived in Australia in 1958 to set up the Australian arm of Heinemann Educational Books. The 1960's were all about science

books and the 1970s was the Heinemann Australian Dictionary. In 1985, he started his own company, Hudson Publishing Services. He is the author of Modern Australian Usage and a number of other books, articles, academic papers and broadcast talks.

In 1985 the British government banned "Spycatcher" by Peter Wright, which made scandalous allegations against British intelligence services. The ruling only applied in England so Nick promptly published the book in Australia.

Nick's last visit to the Park was for the JBH 100th celebrations: he and his father were the only father and son who have won the competition.

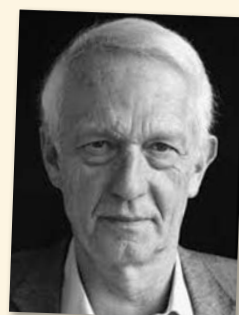
He died on 1st March 2018.

### Prof Paul Bacon (S 1956)

Paul Bacon, Emeritus Professor of Rheumatology and the first Professor of Rheumatology in Birmingham UK, died on 12th January 2018 after a short illness.

### William Hoyland (S 1961)

Bill described himself at Leighton Park, as "not terribly academic. My English teacher put me in a play and I absolutely loved it." From there he went to the Drama Centre in London. His career ranged from Call the Midwife and The Thick of It on television to Return of the Jedi and Gandhi on film. His early performances were with the Joint Stock Theatre Company, and included the part of Harry Bagley in "Cloud Nine" at the Royal Court (1979). An early film part came in the Bond movie For Your Eyes Only (1981), he was McGregor, a crew member on the British spy ship St Georges.



Bill particularly enjoyed American works — Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams's A Streetcar Named Desire, and the role of Atticus Finch, in To Kill a Mockingbird. Last year he was enjoying playing in Bob Larbey's A Month of Sundays at Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch.

Bill is survived by his wife, Carole, his sons, Martin and Tom, and his sister, Jeannie.

### Martin Gough (F 1973)

Martin died in 2017, aged 61. He graduated with a double first in natural sciences from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he also studied for his PhD (Heat Flow in Buildings, 1982). His career was in mathematical modelling for building design, most recently as technical director with the Scottish company IES, a world leader in 3D performance analysis software. Martin was married with two children and was an accomplished amateur musician, playing the violin, viola and piano to a high standard. His many enthusiasms included hill walking, the music of Edward Elgar, the mathematics of musical temperaments and the novels of PG Wodehouse.

# Networking

## Online Community Live

We have recently launched Leighton Park Connect, an exciting online platform exclusive to the Old Leightonian and Friends community. Through the site, you can reconnect with old classmates, expand your professional network, find a mentor or offer careers support to our young alumni and students, and keep up to date with Leighton Park news and events.

We already have over 700 members with more than half willing to act as mentors or provide career advice. It's easy to sign up so join now to see who else is on there from your year group! We look forward to seeing you on there!

### What do I do next?

- Visit [www.leightonparkconnect.com](http://www.leightonparkconnect.com)
- Sign up with Facebook, LinkedIn or by email.
- Set up your profile.
- Upload photos, post and update on the home page, join and post in any groups that are of interest to you, post on the jobs board.
- Indicate any ways you can help the online community: mentoring, advice etc.
- Use the directory to search for and 'follow' other members who you would like to connect with.



If you have any questions, please do get in touch with the office. We look forward to building a thriving and supportive community with you on LeightonParkConnect.

## OLs Support STEAM Careers Fair

Old Leightonians are always a hit with students at these events, giving workshop presentations and answering questions about their careers and even about past House Music and school dinners. The Careers Fair offered insights into professions from across the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths industries. Apprenticeship advisors such as Ask Apprenticeships also provided information and support on the various routes into STEAM related careers.

We were delighted to welcome back these OLs who generously gave up their time:

**Laura Gamble (S 2012)** has a degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of York, and is now Student Services Officer in the Admissions service at the University of Leeds.

**Jake Cyriax (F 2011)** has a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from University of Warwick. He has worked as an Assistant Mechanical Engineer at Kier on the London R7 Kings Cross building and is now working within the construction industry as a technical author for Dome Consulting.

**Sophie Wallington (R 2010)** has a degree in Geography from the University of Exeter. She secured a place on the Unilever graduate Future Leaders Programme in Marketing, giving her the opportunity to work in the UK and abroad on brands such as Dove, Wall's and Sure. Sophie is the Brand Manager of Dove & Simple Deodorants.

**Sami Kanza (R 2008)** studied Computer Science at University of Southampton, then a Masters in Web Science. She has just been awarded a PhD in Computer Science and Chemistry. Her PhD Topic investigated how to bring the power of the web to chemical research, with a specific focus on semantic



*Sophie Wallington*



*Dr Frances Dixon*



*Jeremy Frey and Sami Kanza*

electronic lab notebooks. Sami has 2 years of industrial work experience as a software developer.

**Prof Jeremy Frey (G 1976)** studied Chemistry at the University of Oxford. He is Head of Computational Systems Chemistry and Professor of Physical Chemistry at University of Southampton.

**Dr Frances Dixon (R 2007)** studied Medicine at Imperial College London. She is now working as a surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading.

**Miguel Calvo (F 2000)** has a Masters in Engineering from the University of Cambridge. He is Development Director at Linx Printing Technologies. Miguel has extensive experience in design, development and production in complex mechanical and thermofluid systems as well as low and very high pressure hydraulics in automotive, aerospace and power generation.

**Daniel Rowntree (G 1992)** studied Product Design at Glasgow School of Art, then a Masters in Industrial Design at University of Salford. He is now Module Leader for Cockpit Systems at Jaguar Land Rover with 19 years' experience in developing products from concept to market with a wide range of businesses.

## Bear with us

Delighted to welcome a new arrival to the team! This adorable little plush bear with his LP jumper has now joined the range of souvenir merchandise. £13. UK postage £2.50.



Some other lovely souvenirs include:

Matthew Wright design postcards £1 and greetings cards £2.

Matthew Wright A3 prints £20

Pewter oakleaf keyring £12

Silver oakleaf Pandora charm £20

Oakleaf pin badge £10

Striped silk tie £20

Cosy college style scarf £25.

1959 film DVD £10

Great Ideals: Leighton Park and the Great War £6.50

All items available at events or from school; to enquire about the cost of postage or to pay by credit card, just call 0118 987 9630



# Archives

## Walking cheerfully...

The annual Travel Scholarship Fund for 2018 was increased to £2000 thanks to a donation from an Old Leightonian, **Colin Garrett (G 1960)**. The bound Scholarship submissions are one of the Archives great treasures.

Colin recalls his legendary Biology teacher's words "Mr Schardt said *"One would be better off walking alone through France than taking a holiday with the family at a winter sports centre in Switzerland. We are imprisoned within the walls of our experience, we are narrow minded. Only by having a wide range of experiences can we attain anything like wisdom."*

Colin and **George Marsh (G 1961)** travelled to Israel by bus, car, train and sleeping on the deck of a cargo ship in 1960, for the mighty sum of £50.

Many years before the idea of a "gap year" was the thing, Leighton Park was encouraging its students to travel independently. An approach to life with an international outlook has always been a school trademark. The extraordinary collection of travel journals is a valuable record of changes in social and cultural attitudes, as well as marking political and geographical change. The impact of digitisation has led to an end to decades of carefully hand-drawn maps, carefully pasted photographs and stuck down train tickets and postcards, as well as neat crossing out of hand written text.

In 1925, in "The School Year", **Charles Evans**, the Head wrote "Among many kind gifts to the school none is perhaps more welcome than the recent offer to get into immediate touch with other countries on leaving the school. It is most opportune at this stage of the world's history that young men should be enabled to qualify to do their individual work in the growth of international understanding." Three awards of £50 each were to be presented.



Crossing the world, many of the trips have been thought provoking, many thrilling, and often sow seeds of a life long interest. **John Heap (G 1950)** crossed the Canadian prairie alone in the winter of 1950-51, camping out by himself in temperatures as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; his life led to influence of Government policy on the Arctic and Antarctic, and a glacier was named in his honour.

Bill Brown in "Leighton Park" writes "in 1946 with a most entertaining account of a journey made by **Joe Whitney (R 1946)** well beyond the Arctic Circle into Lapland and Northern Finland. He walked the mountains alone, and was picked up by a lorry containing unexploded shells that turned over at one place to roll with him down an embankment. He also travelled in a lorry loaded with frozen fish with a cement bag over his head and with a reindeer skin to protect the rest of his body. The roads were full of potholes, the bridges had been destroyed, it was freezing hard, there was nothing to eat and the journey lasted for 28 hours. He was expected to freeze to death."

In 1968, **Martin Lockley (R 1968)**, at the time English Schools Athletics Shot Putt champion, and **Jem Southam (R 1968)** realised the dream of going to the Mexico Olympics. At the Reunion in May, they were delighted to discover their journal and revisit some memories.



## Opening the LP Archives

For so many years hidden away in Old School House, the Archives team have been working hard to bring some of those hidden treasures blinking in to the daylight for the community to share.

There was "Explore your Archives" Week, which gave students, staff and parents a chance for a look around. A talk "Leighton Park at time of Conflict" with **John Allinson** and **Penny Wallington**, tracked the fascinating story of the school and the Old Leightonian body through the World Wars, exploring the juxtaposition of the school's Quaker roots, support of war work as well as reflecting of the school's Fallen. Did you know that Peckover was converted to become the school air-raid shelter or that the lawns and pitches were ploughed up to grow vegetables? The audience were fascinated by the display of documents and photos, and charmed by the wartime memoirs of OL **Hugh Dawson (S 1943)**.

Users of social media might enjoy LP Archives on **Twitter**, **Instagram** and **Facebook**: all ways to find out more about school's fascinating history and to enjoy some of the stories, beautiful old photos and documents being revealed by the team.

Above all, a dedicated Archives website will be going live in the autumn; OLS will be able to find school photos, team and house photos, The Leightonians or The Parks, and a wealth of fascinating other materials, which have been meticulously digitised in the last few years. Very much a work in progress, the digitisation process is a little like painting the Forth bridge!

If you would like to visit the Archives or find out more, email John on [Archives@leightonpark.com](mailto:Archives@leightonpark.com).



## Archives Evening

**Tuesday 20th November 7.30pm**

Peckover: in conjunction with the Parents and Staff Community.

Find out more about Leighton Park's history, view some of the treasures from the Archives and meet **John Allinson** and **Penny Wallington**.

# Supporting Leighton Park

Thank you!

We are very grateful for all donations made to the Leighton Park Trust for the Bursary Fund, school departments and houses, Park Sustainability, the Head's Discretionary Fund and other specific projects. Whether they are one-off or regular gifts, we welcome all donations, regardless of their size.

Leighton Park Trust has benefited from donations made through several Old Leightonians' family trusts and foundations, for which we are also most appreciative.

If you would like to discuss any area of fundraising please contact [development@leightonpark.com](mailto:development@leightonpark.com) or call 0118 987 9630



## Telephone Campaign Raises Over £90,000

Pledge and donations of over £90,000 for the Bursary Appeal over the next four years resulted from our first telephone campaign, held last summer. Your generosity means a huge amount to those students who will now be able to enjoy the unique, enriching and rewarding experience of Leighton Park.

A team of Sixth Formers and recent leavers called OLs to update them on developments at school, to find out about their experiences at school and seek support for the Bursary Fund. We hope that all of those who received calls enjoyed the experience and gave you the chance to reminisce on your own time here. It certainly left a strong impression on our callers: **Irene Burke (F 2018)** wrote:

*"The most enjoyable thing about the Telethon was that each OL*

*had a different story which they were willing to share. A clear sense of community emerged both between the calling team but also between us and the OLs. The only thing that linked us at the start of the call was the fact that we attended the same school: by the end of the call, the link was so much stronger. Some of us had offers of work experience or internships offered by OLs during the call which emphasises the nature of ex-students relationship with their school. Even those OLs who attended only for the last two years, as I have done, or*

*left at the end of year 11 were willing to spend time talking to us and hear about how things have changed since they left. Some signed up to give presentations at careers fairs or exhibitions or participate in OL sports events. The OLs I spoke to are an inspiration to the sort of attitude and outlook on life I would aspire to have."*

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the school, and well done to all the callers who did such a fantastic job building connections and raising money for bursaries.



## Leaving a gift in your Will to Leighton Park Trust is a wonderful way to make a difference to our students' futures

If you would like to know more please contact, in confidence:  
Alumni & Development Team.

e: [development@leightonpark.com](mailto:development@leightonpark.com) t: 0118 987 9630



  
Leighton Park  
School

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