

OU

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UPPINGHAM

1584 Forward

Welcome to the OU magazine



From the Editor

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest issue of the OU magazine and, as always, extend my thanks to everyone who has contributed news, stories and memories for us to share.

This year we hear from **Professor Hilary Griffiths (SH 62)** in *Behind the Baton: My Life in Music*. As we

approach the 150th anniversary of Uppingham's migration to Borth, we look back at this pivotal chapter in the School's history. From the archives, Jerry Rudman also brings to light a remarkable set of letters from 1933, capturing an unexpected gathering of OUs in Alexandria, Egypt, aboard *HMS Glorious*.

Alongside these features you'll find the ever-popular *Who What Where* – with a wide range of news from across our community – a showcase of OU entrepreneurs making their mark in business, as well as heartfelt tributes to OUs and staff in our In Memoriam and Staff Remembered sections. We are also delighted to feature **Anna Champion (L 95)**, who draws on over 20 years of coaching experience in *Your Guide to Workplace Success*, offering valuable advice to accelerate your career.

It has been wonderful to see OUs across the globe reconnect at events this year, and the OU team have greatly enjoyed meeting many of you throughout 2025. Our events photos are testament to how much fun OU get-togethers are! Looking ahead, we are excited to share a full calendar for 2026 – highlights include a formal dinner at the School in April, the ever-popular Norfolk Dinner in May and the glamorous London Dinner at the Mandarin Oriental – moving to a June date for 2026 – as well as a special Celebration of the Girls' Houses in the summer, too. We very much hope you will join us.

Finally, please do keep in touch. We share regular news and updates via OU social media and always enjoy hearing from you at ou@uppingham.co.uk.

With best wishes from all at Uppingham.

Jo Franklin (OU Manager and Editor)
on behalf of the OU team

OU is the annual magazine for former pupils of Uppingham School.

We also send out an annual e-Newsletter in the Spring – please ensure your email address is up-to-date by emailing ou@uppingham.co.uk.

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If you are receiving multiple copies of the OU magazine to your household and would prefer only one copy, please let us know.



Our cover photo celebrates two stalwarts of Uppingham's teaching community who have each dedicated over 50 incredible years of service to the School.

Read more on page 4.

For a longer read, scan the QR codes with your smartphone camera to view extra content on the OU website.



Message from the Headmaster

Writing in 2025, it feels as if the first half of this decade has probably been one of the more turbulent periods Uppingham has experienced. We started the decade locked down under Covid-19 restrictions, unsure what controls on travel and behaviour meant for boarding schools. Then, since 2022, global political and economic turbulence has impacted us all, wherever we live in the world. Today, the political climate in the United Kingdom is as challenging for schools like ours as it has ever been.

In amongst all the apparent doom and gloom there are positives. We know our school has a strong sense of philosophy and purpose. We know the vibrancy of our community spirit is palpable to anyone who visits Uppingham. We are fortunate to have a community of alumni who treasure, support, and advocate for our school. Families are drawn to Uppingham, and the School remains effervescent with over eight hundred and twenty pupils enjoying the experience of living and studying here.

Nevertheless, we have to be ready and willing to adapt. Since Covid, the expectations of our families have changed. The affordability of boarding fees is even more difficult. The independent school market is increasingly strained. And, most importantly, we have to envision an educational experience that adequately prepares young people for the uncertainties of the future. All of which means standing still whilst hoping everything will be well is not a sensible option.

Last year, we opened Li Kwok Po House, our first dedicated day house. Now in its second year, LKP is growing and flourishing. This September we opened a lower school in Lorne House. Twenty-four pupils joined in September in years seven and eight, ahead of their six or seven year journey through Uppingham. As more families relocate to live closer to Uppingham, the lower school in Lorne is likely to be an increasingly attractive entry point for families whose children start as day pupils and move into boarding as they mature.

We have seen more families drawn to sixth form boarding. As you know, The Lodge has been a happy destination for



sixth form girls for many years. This September, Farleigh has undergone a deep modernisation and now has fifty-five single bedrooms for sixth form boys. Packed to the gunnels this year, Farleigh allows older boys to move into full boarding and enjoy a sixth form immersed in the Uppingham experience.

This summer, we were delighted by the public examination results. Over the past two years, our pupils have achieved 85% A*-B at A level and BTEC, placing us very well nationally when compared with peer schools. Our GCSE results were equally impressive, with 67% of grades awarded at '9-7'. This means that over two-thirds of this year's GCSE results were at least an 'A' grade against the old measure.

Importantly, these academic accomplishments do not come at the expense of our holistic approach; in fact, we would assert that those fabulous results come about *because* of the richness of our educational philosophy. From an outstanding choir tour to Uppingham Cairo, to genuinely one of the finest school productions of *Romeo and Juliet* I have seen in the theatre, to our shortlisting for Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement, we have much to be proud of. If you would like to keep abreast of the many achievements of our pupils, I would encourage you to follow the School's Instagram account.

We do value the support and friendship of the OU Community enormously and know we are privileged to have such loyal alumni. With your continued encouragement and involvement, Uppingham will continue to thrive. During challenging times, our whole community joining together sustains and inspires us as we navigate the future.

Dr Richard Maloney



Visiting Uppingham

We are pleased to welcome OUs visiting the School and are happy to arrange a tour of the campus when possible.

Due to School regulations, we are required to request advance notice so that arrangements can be made and visitor badges provided.

Please email ou@uppingham.co.uk before your visit so that we can plan accordingly and welcome you on the day. Thank you.

Uppingham's Arts Programme

Uppingham's calendar is full of musical concerts, drama performances, and opportunities to experience the high

standard of music and theatre at the School today. With high-energy jazz evenings, outstanding Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra performances and, of course, choral recitals too, many of the School's events are open for OUs to come and enjoy.

View the calendar via the QR code or on the Uppingham website: uppingham.co.uk/community/arts-programme



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THE 50 CLUB

Honouring Uppingham's Half-Century Heroes

Our cover photo celebrates the formation of The 50 Club – in recognition of two stalwarts of Uppingham's teaching community who have each dedicated over 50 years of service to the School. We suspect it will remain a small and elite group for some time to come with such longevity being very much a rarity.

Jerry Rudman

Jerry arrived at Uppingham in September 1971 and has since shaped the lives of countless OUs. He joined the School to teach Geography and PE and rose to become Head of PE and Chair of the Independent Schools' PE Conference. However, these posts in no way do full justice to his service. We would challenge anyone, probably Jerry included, to enumerate the number of climbing, canoeing, and skiing trips he embarked on, all around the globe, from the Peak District to China and from Iceland to Borneo.

For 17 years, Jerry was Housemaster of Meadhurst, before moving to the role of Registrar, and later Overseas Liaison – where he could indulge his passion for Chinese art and culture with frequent visits to Hong Kong and the mainland. Since then, he has turned his talents to the School archives, curating exhibitions and bringing order to decades of material. Today, if there is something you want to know about Uppingham's history, Jerry is the man to ask.



Richard Boston (B 56)

'Tricky' Boston (also affectionately known as 'Dicky B') has an even longer history with the School. Although Jerry preceded him as a teacher – Tricky joined the Common Room in 1974 – his Uppingham story began as a pupil in Brooklands back in 1956.

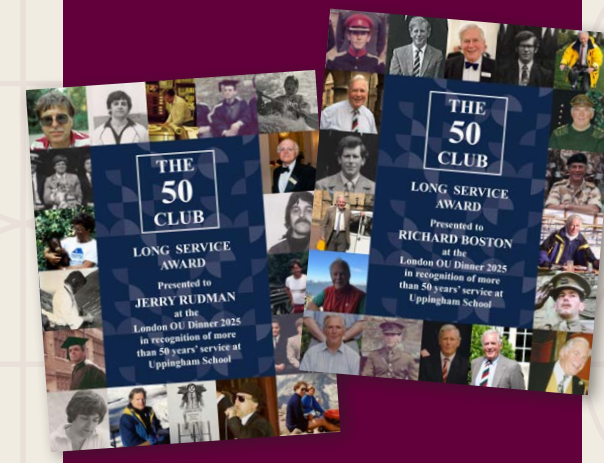
Tricky first taught Biology, Chemistry and Geography, drawing on his agricultural background, before gravitating towards Geology, but, as with Jerry, it is outside the classroom where his influence has been most keenly felt. The CCF has been at the heart of Tricky's career. He was Commanding Officer from 1978 to 2004, during which time he forged strong links with our affiliated Regiment, currently the Royal Lancers. He took cadets on camps to Bermuda, Australia, and New Zealand. His summer camps with regiments in Germany remain legendary, as does his cameo in the BBC's 1979 drama *Testament of Youth*.

In 1983, he returned to his old house as Housemaster of Brooklands, a role he held for 17 years, whilst still hosting CCF mess nights, running the School Fire Brigade and Lower School ski trips – often resplendent in his silver all-in-one ski suit and a Father Christmas hat.

Other expeditions have included the 1984 Borneo trip with Jerry, and personal trips in 2008 and 2010 to the Antarctic and the Arctic respectively. Even now, Tricky continues to run the School Bar and diligently reports for duty nights as a boarding house tutor in School House, where he has been since 2000, as well as continuing to enjoy his role as Secretary of the OU Association. Anyone who attends OU events will know that his stamina for an OU get-together seems limitless.

The 50 Club Tributes

At this year's London Dinner on 6th March, Jerry and Tricky were presented with individual long service awards and unique '50 Club' ties by the Headmaster. The standing ovation and prolonged applause that followed spoke volumes – a fitting acknowledgement of the respect and gratitude felt across the Uppingham community for their extraordinary service. And, in true Tricky and Jerry style, for some light-hearted fun, they happily posed for a photo opportunity with Waldorf and Statler – Jim Henson's much-adored characters, created in 1975.



Who What Where

1950s

Denis Pannett (F 53) generously donated two of his iconic oil paintings to the School archive collection, in tribute to those Uppinghamians who flew in the Battle of Britain. The paintings are displayed in the entrance to the School Library, hanging opposite the WWII Memorial.



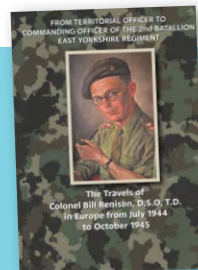
Spitfire IXs of 611 Squadron
'Climbing Over The Coast'.



Hurricanes Returning Home.



Read more via
the QR code.



Andrew Renison (F 54) is proud to announce the publication of his father's remarkable World War II diary. **John D W Renison (F 1922)** completed the manuscript in 1946, capturing vivid first-hand accounts of his wartime experiences. Nearly 80 years later, Andrew has meticulously transcribed the diary, preserving this compelling piece of history for a new generation.

The book is now available for purchase priced at £20.00, plus postage and packing. Please contact Andrew directly on sandarenison@btinternet.com for further details.

Robert Buchanan (WB 55) has a long association with Uppingham, following in the footsteps of his father, **Robert Chilton Buchanan (WB 1924)**. His uncle, **Richard Hornby (also WB 1924)**, was also an Uppinghamian, but was tragically killed in action during World War II.

Robert has many fond memories of the School, not least watching his son – also named **Robert (B 90)** – represent Uppingham in the 1st XI cricket team for three years. An accolade that would surely astonish his own contemporaries, as he humorously recalls spending all five of his school years in the bottom game!

The family's deep connection to Uppingham continues through his granddaughters – **Elsa Waterhouse (C 21)**, now studying History of Art at Edinburgh University, and her younger sister, Willow, who joined the School in Constables in 2024.

Robert was a local country solicitor in Ripon – third generation – and has been retired for some time.



Robert Lee (WB 57) embarked on a remarkable journey during the 2022/23 football season: to watch a match at all 92 English league football grounds in a single season. Along

the way, he also witnessed a lifelong dream come true – Manchester City FC completing the Treble (Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League). His unforgettable experience is captured in his book, *All 92 (And the Treble)*, now available for purchase online through Troubadour Publishing.



Congratulations to **John Suchet (Fgh 57)** on receiving a Presto Music Award at the end of 2024 for his book *In Search of Beethoven: A Personal Journey*.

Part biography, part memoir, and part travelogue, the book draws on John's distinguished career as a foreign correspondent and news anchor to explore how Beethoven's music has accompanied him through the highs and lows of life. Tracing the composer's footsteps, John takes readers on a journey – both literal and symbolic – and illustrates the transformative power of great music through his own experiences as a devoted Beethoven aficionado.

Nicholas Watts (H 57) won the 2024 Arable Farmer of the Year at the British Farming Awards dinner held in Birmingham last October. An environmentalist as well as a farmer, he commented: "The best thing about the award is that I am not the farmer who ploughs closest to the hedge or dyke, with the biggest fields. I am a man who has large hedges, wide margins and looks after the wildlife." It is refreshing to see that the judges now recognise that the best farmers are those who care for our countryside.



Many congratulations to **Brian Yates (WB 57)**, who was awarded an MBE for services to consumer protection in His Majesty The King's Birthday Honours in June 2025.



Sir Tim Melville-Ross (C 58) has published his first book, *Tough Choices*. While sifting through old family papers during Covid lockdowns, he was inspired by the stories of his father and grandfather – lives marked by drama, conflict (often with each other), courage, and a shared drive to make something of their lives.

With significant gaps in their histories, Tim's wife offered the suggestion: "Why not make them up and call the result a novel?" rising to the challenge, he enrolled in a creative writing course and set to work. Like many first-time authors, he then faced the daunting task of finding a publisher. Encouraged by the story of JK Rowling's persistence – approaching 20 agents before finding success – he eventually secured support from UK Book Publishing, an associate company of Amazon.



Now aged 80, he hopes his story might inspire others to pursue long-held creative ambitions. "Like me, you may have thought about writing, but never did," he says. "Give it a go." *Tough Choices* is available to purchase on Amazon.

1960s



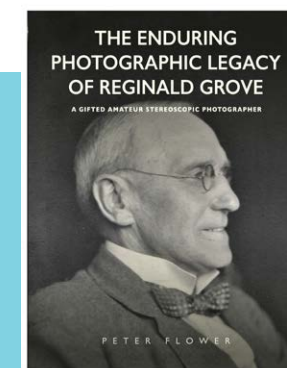
Ken 'Mike' Cottam (C 60) wrote to the OU team to share his news, recalling with great fondness his four wonderful years of music at Uppingham. During that time, he was a cellist, a drummer in both the military and concert bands, an organist, and a chorister, all under the expert guidance of Robin Wood, Jim Peschek, Nancy Unwin, and Vivian and Jill Bean.

After leaving school in 1964, Mike pursued farm management at Brooksby Agricultural College. Then, in 1967, he travelled to Canada for a sabbatical year, working first at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and later in Montreal during Expo 67 as a guide, as well as working in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and in a veterinary surgery. During his 15 months there, he also joined Christchurch Anglican Cathedral as a chorister and sub-organist.

Mike went on to work with the Ojibwa in Northern Ontario, as a cowboy on a 15,000-acre ranch in Saskatchewan, and later on a dairy farm near Calgary. Returning to Brooksby, he graduated in 1970, married Caroline, and pursued a career in dairy farming while staying active in music, founding a rock band and conducting the Haverfordwest Operatic Society.

In 1990, he changed direction completely, leaving farming to study theology at St Michael's College in Cardiff. He was ordained in 1993 and subsequently served for 23 years as vicar of Llangadog, Gwynfe, and Llanddeusant. Whilst there, he founded the large symphony orchestra Symphonica Tywi and mixed voice choir, Cantorion Tywi.

Now retired in Pembrokeshire, Mike continues to conduct the orchestra, nurturing young talent and celebrating his Uppingham roots.



Peter Flower (L 60) has published his fourth and final book about his grandfather, **Reginald Grove (R 1883)** titled *The Enduring Photographic Legacy of Reginald Grove*. His previous three-volume biography chronicled Grove's life – his school days at Uppingham under Thring, student years at Cambridge, medical training at Guy's, and his career as a GP in a rural practice during the late Victorian and Edwardian periods.

In addition to his work as a family doctor, Reginald Grove was passionate about 3D (stereoscopic) photography. He was elected President of The Stereoscopic Society in 1925, a position he held for 23 years until his death in 1948. Elected a member of the Royal Photographic Society, he was a regular exhibitor at their annual exhibitions in the years up to World War II. He became well known for the quality and composition of his work – particularly his character studies of countryfolk, many of whom were his patients. Examples of his photography are now held in the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York, the J Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The Enduring Photographic Legacy of Reginald Grove features over 150 photographs and is available from The Brown Dog Bookshop at www.browndogbooks.uk.

After seeing adverts for the London Drinks at the Hippodrome in September, **John Gillespie (H 62)** shared an interesting story. The Hippodrome is on the corner of the block known as Cranbourne Mansions – for many years the headquarters of Moss Empires, a theatre group run by John’s grandfather, **Richard Gillespie (H 1894)** and his brother **Frederic (H 1896)**, between 1920 and 1945.

The top floor of the building served as accommodation, where Richard spent much time with his family, including his three OU sons: John’s father **Michael (H 1925)**, **John (H 1928)** and **Paul (H 1932)**.

In the 1960s, while articled as a clerk at Gillespie Brothers, John found himself auditing for hours in those same offices – remarkably, many of the staff who had worked for his grandfather were still there, with plenty of stories to share. He recalls being told by his late aunt that during the Blitz, the family often took shelter under the bars of the Hippodrome!

Journalist and writer **John Duckers (M 64)** met with **Peter Wall (Fgh 60)**, a former partner of law firm Wragge & Co – now part of Gowling WLG – at a journalists’ charity lunch at Edgbaston Golf Club in November. The event featured a talk by Martin Brunt, crime correspondent with Sky News, and it raised several thousand pounds for charity. Peter is a long-standing member of the golf club.



L to R: **John Duckers (M 64)** and **Peter Wall (Fgh 60)**.



Peter Henry (C 68) and **Graham ‘Sam’ Blyth (L 69)** enjoyed a thrilling day of aerobatics over the Isle of Wight in Peter’s 1943 US Army Boeing. Peter was unfazed, but Sam admitted he needed a couple of pints afterwards, just to get his heart rate back to normal!



In May, **Nigel Griffiths (LH 65)** successfully completed the Fougères Rally in his Alvis Grey Lady Saloon.

The Fougères Rally is organised by the *Association Automobile et Patrimoine du Pays de Fougères* (APPF). Each year, it begins in a designated location and either

heads toward Fougères or, every other year, is based in a different region of France. Nigel has participated regularly since 2001, after meeting the organiser while living just outside Paris.

This year’s rally started in Saint-Lô, on the Cherbourg peninsula, and wound its way to Fougères via scenic routes. Over 170 cars signed up, with Alvis and Singer honoured as the *marques d’honneur*. A total of 45 Alvis vehicles took part.

Over the course of a long weekend, Nigel and his wife travelled 469 miles door to door. The Grey Lady left its mark along the way – thanks to its built-in anti-rust system, a little oil was left wherever they stopped! The journey wasn’t entirely free of mechanical hiccups: a leaking gasket around the fuel pump led to the aroma of petrol and ethanol seeping into the cabin, and a grinding noise emerged from a rear wheel. Still, not bad going for such a classic vehicle.



Nigel Griffiths (LH 65) at Chateau de La Bourbansais, around 43 km from Fougères.

1970s

Congratulations to **Sir Stephen Fry (F 70)** who was awarded a knighthood in the King’s New Year Honours in late 2024 in recognition of his services to mental health awareness, the environment, and charity.

In March, pupils and staff were incredibly honoured to welcome Sir Stephen back to Uppingham. He delivered a thought-provoking and enlightening talk to the Lower Sixth as part of the School’s Wellbeing Lecture Series.

Following the lecture, Sir Stephen returned to Uppingham Theatre, where he met the inaugural recipient of *The Sir Stephen Fry Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre Performance*, **Ned Ferguson (M 20)**. He also enjoyed a tour of the theatre building, revisiting some familiar rooms from his time as a pupil. We extend our enormous thanks to Sir Stephen for a memorable and engaging visit.



Tim Heilbronn (L 70) embarked on a six-day, 122-mile trek along the Fife Coastal Path in May. He was joined by a team of friends whose average age was an impressive 71 – the eldest turning 81 shortly after the walk. Their aptly named challenge, *Just Coasting Along*, aimed to support children at risk of falling short of their potential. The group were thrilled to complete the journey, raising nearly £8,000 to fund breakfast clubs for disadvantaged children in the local area.



In his latest book, *Gimson’s Heroes*, bestselling author **Andrew Gimson (WB 71)** celebrates the extraordinary lives of 50 remarkable individuals who dared to defy convention and reshape history. Ranging from Boudicca to Nelson Mandela, Andrew portrays these figures not as flawless legends, but as vibrant, determined people whose stories stir the soul. From Horatio Nelson’s bold defiance of orders to Grace Darling’s courageous rescue amid a deadly storm; from Florence Nightingale’s pioneering nursing reforms to Nelson Mandela’s historic struggle against apartheid – these are tales of courage, sacrifice, and originality. A witty and compelling tribute to those who dared to go further than most would ever imagine, it is available to purchase online.

Following the publication of **Tim Halstead’s (Fgh 72)** last book, *More Than Victims of Horace* (2023), he has contributed to several works, including *London Pride: The London Territorial Force in Peace and War, 1908-1921*, *Volume 1* and *Turning the Tide*, for which he wrote a chapter on the German Spring Offensive of 1918. He is currently collaborating on another title with his son, also a historian and author, focusing on two OU contemporaries: **Brian Horrocks (SH 1909)** and **Eric Dorman-Smith (LH 1909)**.

Professor Anthony Trace KC (WB 72) is Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Business and Law at St Mary’s University. He has also been named Mediator of the Year 2025 and continues to serve as Head of Mediation at Unity Legal Solutions.

In February, **Carl Islam’s (M 74)** eighth book, the 2nd Edition of the *Contentious Probate Handbook*, was published by the Law Society of England and Wales. An authoritative guide that covers all aspects of law and practice related to probate disputes and now available for purchase on Amazon.



Congratulations to **His Honour Judge Dennis Watson KC (M 76)**, who was appointed Captain of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in September. His appointment followed the Club’s traditional Driving-in Ceremony on the first tee of the Old Course, after being nominated by the past Captains.

Tim Gittins (Fgh 77) was appointed CEO of Roadchef in April. The company is renowned for its successful partnerships with leading brands such as Costa Coffee, LEON Restaurants, McDonald’s, and WH Smith, and for its world-class workplace culture – recently earning a prestigious 3-star accreditation from Best Companies, the highest standard for workplace engagement.



L to R: **Peter Martin (H 79)**, **Peter Davies (L 79)**, **James Pearson (F 79)** and **James Averdieck (F 79)**.

The OU team was delighted to connect **James Averdieck (F 79)** with contemporaries during a visit to Hong Kong in April.

1980s



We are delighted to announce that **Andrew Webster (SH 80)** has been appointed Uppingham's Director of Music from September. Andrew studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he has also served as Professor of Clarinet since 1994. For eight years, he was Sub-Principal Clarinet with the English National Opera Orchestra and spent 12 years as Principal Clarinet with the Glyndebourne Touring Opera. He has also performed as Guest Principal Clarinet with many of the UK's leading orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Andrew joined Uppingham's Music Department in 2013 as Head of Wind, Brass, and Percussion, later taking on the role of Assistant Director of Music (Instrumental). Many will know him through his dynamic work as conductor of the School's Symphony and Jazz Orchestras. His immense talent, expertise, and deep understanding of Uppingham will ensure that the Music Department continues to thrive in an exciting new era.

This appointment follows the departure of **Andrew Kennedy (F 90)**, who concluded his time at Uppingham at the end of the summer term. He has accepted the position of Head of Singing at Oundle School, further expanding his teaching portfolio alongside his work as a soloist and musician. The School is deeply grateful for the enthusiasm, expertise, and inspiration he has brought to our community over the past six years, and we wish him every success for the future.

Johnny Wheeler (Hf 80) is delighted to share that the new Mr.Wheeler wine app has arrived on both Apple and Android platforms. The team at Mr.Wheeler wine would love OUs to give it a try and are offering an EXCLUSIVE £30 OFF your first in-app order.



More details are available at mrwheelerwine.com/ou-app and via the QR code.

Exclusive £30 OFF Your First Mr. Wheeler App Order

Use promo code OUAPP30 for £30 off



Georgie Radford (NH 19) and **Ashley Grote (Hf 95)** – running the race for the 10th time.

We were pleased to support OU runners with small donations via the OU Charity Fund. For anyone planning their own fundraising activities, please get in touch with the team on ou@uppingham.co.uk and share a link to your fundraising page.

T: **Alex Patterson-Appleton (Fd 82)**.
B: **Ashley Grote (Hf 95)**.



Gurdev Mattu (WD 84) has released his first book, *Earth 2035*, written under the pen name Tom Orrowchild. This thought-provoking non-fiction work examines humanity's role in the survival of the planet and its ecosystems.

Blending philosophical reflection with scientific insight, the book explores the urgent challenges of climate change, overpopulation, unsustainable growth, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It introduces the concept of the "Logic of Scale" encouraging readers to recognise their part in succession, sustainability, and responsible decision-making.

With a focus on global cooperation and practical solutions, *Earth 2035* serves as both a warning and a call to action – for the sake of future generations and the survival of life on Earth.

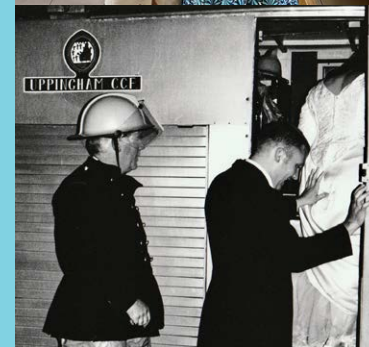


Hall. The audience was treated to a captivating water and fire-themed programme, which included a solo piano transcription of Stravinsky's ballet *The Firebird*.

Sarah Perceval (née Pattinson, Fd 86) and her husband David celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a special return visit to Uppingham. They were married in the School Chapel in July 2000 by former Chaplain, John Bainbridge, with their reception in the OSR and Undercroft.

The couple fondly remembered their unique departure from the celebrations – courtesy of Mr Boston's fire engine – making for an unforgettable send-off!

Sarah is the daughter of **Simon Pattinson (WB 52)**, long-serving former member of staff.



The Constables '86 cohort – **Rupert Wood, Ben Helps, Myles Bray, Julian Tolhurst, Luke Schuberth, Chris Whyles** and **Rob Perkins (C 89)** – successfully completed the *Lord's SleepOut* in February, raising over £6,000 for the 'Gandon Prodger Legacy Fund'.

Nick Gandon, a member of staff at Uppingham from 1979 to 1993 and their former Housemaster in Constables, was the driving force behind the challenge. He established the fund alongside his good friend Simon Prodger, who sadly passed away in 2023.



During his time at Uppingham, Nick was closely involved in coaching and developing both cricket and hockey. He passed away the day after the SleepOut, about which Rupert commented: "It was in some respects serendipity, clearly showing all the hallmarks of his determination, resilience and enthusiasm, he had lived by all his life." A tribute to Nick can be found in the *Staff Remembered* section of this edition.

Charlie Bennett (LH 87) has become the 8,066th registered person to complete all 282 Munros – Scottish mountains over 3,000 feet high. The official record is 30 days, but Charlie admits it has taken him 30 years! Along the way, he has worn out seven pairs of walking boots, five pairs of poles, five waterproof jackets, three pairs of waterproof trousers, one daypack, three bikes, and consumed 163 pork pies. He has faced every kind of weather, from deep snow, 80 mph winds, and wind chills of -20°C to sweltering days of over 30°C.

He was joined on various occasions by **Toby Crew, Edward Timpson, Robert Winter (all LH 87)** and **Tom Styles (WD 87)**.

Charlie's hiking journey began in 1988, when he, Toby, and Edward walked the Southern Upland Way on a school trip with former staff members Dr Martin Roberts, Robert Rust, and David Shipton. In 1990, he and Toby also completed a route from Fort Augustus to Cape Wrath with the same staff. Looking ahead, Charlie plans to give talks on the Munros and the benefits of walking for mental health. Further climbing trips are also in the pipeline.



Charlie Bennett (LH 87) on *Sgùrr a' Ghreadaidh* (973m), the highest peak in the northern half of the Cuillin Ridge.



L to R: **Toby Crew, Robert Winter, Charlie Bennett, and Edward Timpson (all LH 87)** on *Càrn Dearg* (1,034m) in the Ben Alder area, 2021.



Matt Walker (SH 87) and **Jon Chapman (L 88)** reunited at a recent London conference. Now working in related fields – with John leading AON’s broking team for construction insurance across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, while Matt is a construction disputes lawyer for K&L Gates, advising on matters including construction insurance disputes. The pair enjoyed reconnecting after many years.

Andrea Cockerton (J 89) is leading a bold project to transform one of the City of London’s most overlooked architectural treasures into a world-class venue for music and social impact.

The church of St Michael Paternoster Royal has a history second to none. Founded by Dick Whittington in 1422, it was rebuilt by Wren after the Great Fire of London, bombed in WWII, and has stood empty for the last five years. Andrea, an arts entrepreneur and founder of Dosoco, the not-for-profit music foundation, is spearheading a plan to take on the lease of the Grade I listed building and bring it to life as a philanthropic venue – for concerts, immersive music experiences, corporate events, the arts, and more – with profits reinvested into projects that use music for social good.

The plans for the church are made possible by its unusual layout. In addition to a beautiful nave with stunning acoustics, it has five floors of reception space and two storeys of storage space, unheard of in a City of London church. Surplus income raised will scale up Dosoco’s work: funding music therapy for children on the autistic spectrum, choirs for people living with dementia, instruments for disabled musicians, and more.

Since leaving Uppingham, Andrea’s life has remained centred around sound and music. She was a choral scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, founded the sound collective *We Are Sound* (which has featured Stewart Drummond on occasion!) and created the groundbreaking immersive production *in the dark*. Andrea says: “The confidence I developed at Uppingham – and the sheer quality of music-making I was exposed to – has formed the basis of all the projects I get involved with. I am incredibly grateful!”



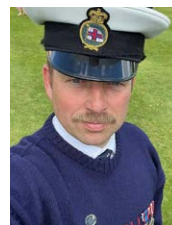
The foundation needs to raise £6m to acquire and adapt the church and is currently looking for both corporate and individual patrons and supporters who want to leave a cultural and social legacy in their name in the heart of London. Read more via the QR code or email andrea@thedosocofoundation.org.



Viewers of the BBC’s period drama *King & Conqueror*, released in August, may have recognised an OU amongst the cast. **Elliot Cowan (M & L 89)** appears as Sweyn, the elder brother of Harold Godwinson and son of Earl Godwin. Sweyn is portrayed as a reckless and ambitious nobleman, whose repeated clashes with King Edward ultimately led to his exile.

The series brings to life the epic events of 1066 and the brutal battle for a kingdom – a clash that would define a country, and a continent, for the next thousand years. The full series is available to stream on *BBC iPlayer*.

1990s



Last year, **Andy Cameron (Fgh 91)** had the honour of attending a special reception at Buckingham Palace by royal invitation from His Majesty The King. The event celebrated 200 years of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and recognised long-serving crew members, including Andy, for their dedication and service.

In September 2024, brothers **Jody (Fgh 92)** and **Caspar Wood (Fgh 93)** took on the IRONMAN Wales Course in Tenby – widely regarded as one of the 10 most demanding triathlons on the planet. They undertook the challenge to raise funds for The Institute of Cancer Research and The Royal Marsden, continuing their support for the charities following the loss of Jody’s daughter, Artemis, to juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia in November 2019.

The course includes a 3.8 km swim in the Bristol Channel, a 180 km cycle through the rugged hills of Pembrokeshire, and a full 42 km marathon run. This year’s event was made even more punishing by stormy weather and rough seas, but the brothers persevered, crossing the finish line together in just over 14 hours.

Thanks to the generosity of their supporters, Jody and Caspar raised an incredible £50,000 for their chosen charities, supporting vital research and care for children facing cancer.



Jody (Fgh 92) and Caspar Wood (Fgh 93).

Tom Glover (WD 93), managing director of British clothing brand Peregrine, was proud to be presented with the King’s Award for Enterprise in International Trade at Windsor Castle in June. Tom re-established Peregrine in 2003, building on the family heritage, and went on to purchase a UK factory in 2012. The brand is now stocked by over 200 international retailers, including Selfridges, Le Bon Marché, and Nordstrom.



The King’s Awards, established in 1965, are the UK’s highest business honour, celebrating innovation, sustainability, and social impact. Peregrine’s recognition highlights its enduring legacy, commitment to quality, and success on the international stage.



In March, **Gareth Holwill (B 94)** performed the UK premiere of Arvo Pärt’s *Fratres*, for guitar, string orchestra and percussion, in a concert held at Douai Abbey with the Berkshire Youth String Ensemble. Gareth is currently Head of Guitar and Piano at the Berkshire Music Trust.

Victoria Siddall (L 94) was appointed Director of the National Portrait Gallery, London, in August 2024. Victoria has been a key figure in the arts for more than two decades, working mostly in the commercial sector. In 2012, she rose to prominence after launching Frieze Masters, going on to become global director of the contemporary art fair, which takes place in London every October, and has offshoots in New York and Los Angeles.

She is a passionate advocate for accessibility and sustainability in the arts, and her appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the Gallery as she brings her vision, expertise, and commitment to celebrating portraiture and cultural heritage.

In early November, **Fergus Chamberlain (WD 96)** embarked on a remarkable personal challenge, trekking 100km across the scorching sands and rugged dunes of the Moroccan Sahara Desert. He undertook the journey in support of Maggie’s Cancer Care Centres, a charity that provides free, vital support to people affected by cancer.

In February, **Tilly Fuller (née Watson, J 96)** cycled 400km across Cuba, from Havana on the north coast to Trinidad on the south, in support of Art for Cure, a charity that raises funds for cancer research and support. For Tilly, a novice cyclist, the challenge was tough: the route was long, undulating, hot, and marked by uneven road surfaces.

She reflected: “I had to dig deep into my mental and physical reserves, driven onwards by the thought that with each pedal stroke I was closer to completing the challenge, in memory of my father, who died in March 2023.” She added: “It was a fabulous adventure from the very start – from training rides through the country roads of Suffolk, meeting a variety of people each with their own reason for cycling, to experiencing life in Cuba. I was fortunate to be joined by a fellow Uppingham parent, Katie Webster, so we took the Fircroft flag on tour with us!”



Charlie Peach (B 96) enjoyed reconnecting with his former Housemaster, **Richard Boston (B 56)**, during a visit from Australia for a family reunion. He was joined by his wife Edwina and son Angus – who particularly appreciated a slice of chocolate cake from Baines Bakery!



Alexandra Stewart (née Stephens, J 96), has had two more children’s picture books published this year: *Race to the South Pole: A two-sided story* (Thames & Hudson, October 2025); and *Little Myths: Loki* (Hachette, August 2025). They are available to buy online or in bookshops.



Katie Webster and Tilly Fuller (née Watson, J 96).



Photo credit: Matthew Schipper.

Robin Beer (B 97) is one of the few British clowns to perform with Cirque du Soleil, where he plays *The Voyager*. With a background spanning music, mask work, and devised theatre, Robin brings humour, warmth, and a distinctly British spirit to the role. The show has captivated audiences across more than 40 countries and has been seen by over seven million people since 2009.

Cirque du Soleil have announced that the brilliantly reimagined OVO – a joyful, acrobatic celebration of the insect world – will be playing at the Royal Albert Hall from January 2026.

Dom Carter (B 97) has composed a new choral work, *Requiem Aeternam*, which was performed for the first time in July at West Buckland School in Devon, where he now works as Director of



Prep School Music. Dom conducted the performance with an 80-strong choir and full symphony orchestra, the North Devon Sinfonia, to an audience of over 400 guests. The work has been picked up by Kevin Mayhew Publishing and can be found at www.kevinmayhew.com/collections/pre-orders/products/requiem-aeternam. Coincidentally, West Buckland School's Director of Music is another OU, **Nick Smith (SH 84)**.

It was great to welcome **Oli Carter, Digby Reed, Allan Pickering and Chris Hurden (M 97)** back to Uppingham in August (L to R in photo). Chris commented: "It was such a wonderful experience, as so much has changed, but the heart and character of the School and our old House have remained much the same."



Billy Hanrahan (WB 97) has worked as an international teacher for nine years, in Qatar and Singapore, and he is delighted to share that he joined Uppingham Cairo in August as Junior School Form Teacher and Head of Junior School Digital Learning.



In March, **Mimi Poskitt (L 97)** was appointed Managing Director of Sheffield Documentary Festival (Sheffield DocFest). As one of the world's most influential markets for documentary projects, DocFest champions and showcases the breadth of the documentary form – film, television, immersive, and art. Joining from Imagineer Productions, where she was Executive Director, Mimi brings extensive strategic leadership experience, both nationally and internationally, along with a deep passion for storytelling.

Excited and honoured to take on the role, Mimi described it as a wonderful new journey, celebrating the power of documentaries to engage, inform, and inspire audiences around the world.

Nick Southern (SH 98) successfully completed the sale of his business, Davis Site Security, to VPS Group in January.

The UK construction industry suffers annual losses exceeding £800 million due to equipment theft, vandalism, water damage, and fire. As construction activity continues to rise, securing valuable assets is more important than ever.

After seeking a strategic partner who shared his values, Nick is delighted to have formed this positive partnership with VPS Group, paving the way for the future growth and success of the business.

Will Beckingsale (C 99) visited Uppingham in September with a group of 30 pupils from St Hilda's, Buenos Aires, where he is Head of Secondary School. The group were offered a warm welcome and the trip provided a great experience for pupils from both schools to practise their language skills.



Sam Hatt (F 99) has been appointed Head of School at St George's College North, a leading co-educational boarding school in Buenos Aires – the very school that first drew him to Argentina.

He would be happy to explore opportunities for OU Teaching Assistant placements at St George's; please get in touch via schoolforlife@uppingham.co.uk if you'd like us to connect you.

Sam is excited to continue strengthening ties with Uppingham, following his visit to the School with pupils last year, confirming plans are well under way for a Rovers Tour in January 2026; and he looks forward to welcoming a group of Uppingham pupils to Buenos Aires on an exchange visit also next year.

2000s



Clare Brownlow (née MacMullen, L 00) has developed a truly unique style in her wildlife paintings. Working exclusively with pheasant tail feathers and inks, she has held solo exhibitions in both Edinburgh and London and has also exhibited her work across the globe. She has twice been shortlisted for *Wildlife Artist of the Year* and has collaborated with prestigious brands including Pol Roger, Purdey, and Schöffel, amongst many others.

Clare accepts commissions of all sizes – both private and commercial – and her work extends beyond board and canvas to bottles, lamps, designer handbags, and even leather jackets. Her social media offers a vibrant glimpse into her art and life and is well worth following. She is also in the process of launching a new website, due to go live at the end of this year.



If you are interested in a commission, do get in touch soon as her waiting list fills up quickly. Her catalogue is available to view via the QR code.

Instagram [@pheasantfeatherart](https://www.instagram.com/pheasantfeatherart),
clare@clarebrownlow.co.uk,
www.clarebrownlow.co.uk

Toby Bennett (LH 01) announced in May that he has joined Buoyancy Aerospace as their Global Chief of Staff and Managing Director.



Photo credit: Hannah Cole.

Ros Canter (L 02) achieved an outstanding triumph this September, winning the Defender Burghley Horse Trials for the second consecutive year on *Lordships Graffalo* – the first horse ever to win both Badminton and Burghley twice.

Ros's golden season has also included victory at Badminton 2025, the European Individual Championship, Olympic Team Gold in Paris, and success at Luhmühlen – all building on her title as World Champion in 2018.

The Uppingham community also warmly congratulates Ros and her family on the happy news that she is expecting her second baby in early 2026.



Theo Allthorpe-Mullis (SH 04) reported that, since leaving Uppingham, "life has carried me along like a swimmer in the rapids. I married, moved to the United States, divorced and came home (lessons there). I then served for seven years in the Metropolitan Police

Service in a variety of units: emergency response, domestic violence, missing persons and ended my career there as a field intelligence officer in counter-human trafficking. In August 2024, I resigned from the police to become a journalist and, after a chance meeting with the war reporter John Sweeney, I went with him to Ukraine. Now, my work is focused on the struggle to defend democracy and the planet. I write the SubStack 'Dictators v Democrats' and host the podcast: Dictators v Democrats: Why We Fight, where I interview freedom fighters. I was voted 'most likely to lead a revolution' in the 2009 leaving book. In many ways, I am determined to fulfil that prophecy!"

The sixth OU Guards Officers' Dinner, organised by **Richard Phillips (B 04)**, took place at the Cavalry and Guards Club in May.

Following this, those who watched the annual Trooping the Colour Parade, marking the King's official birthday in June, may be interested to know that **Will Vail (Hf 12)**, of the Scots Guards, and **Bertie Tweed (F 15)**, of the Grenadier Guards, both participated in the procession.



Front, L to R: **James McLeod (C 75)**, **Richard Boston (B 56)** and **Richard Phillips (B 04)**
Back: **George Cazalet (M 02)**, **Bertie Tweed (F 15)**, **Will Vail (Hf 12)**, **James Brown (SH 99)**, **Will Hogarth-Jones (WB 05)** and **Alex Wilson (LH 05)**.



Jake Sutcliffe (LH 06) is a garden designer working in both the UK and Portugal. Collaborating with designers, architects and craftsmen, he places a strong emphasis on ‘sense of place’, creating outdoor spaces that positively impact local ecology.

In January, Jake was commissioned by Newby Hall, Yorkshire, to design and supply planting for their national Cornus tree collection. Working with head gardener, Lawrence Wright and RHS mentor, Helen Bainbridge, he went on to create a striking woodland-themed display for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May, earning a prestigious gold medal. www.jakesutcliffstudio.com

In the photo Jake Sutcliffe (LH 06) is on the left, with Lawrence and Helen.



James Boulter (Fgh 07) is a leading talent agent at United Talent Agency, representing global stars around the world. He has secured over \$200 million in

endorsements and brand partnerships, expertly expanding his clients’ commercial ventures. James shares a strong work ethic with his sister, tennis star Katie Boulter, who both view their work as a privilege and “a healthy obsession”. Though their careers differ – Katie’s being very much in the public eye – James thrives behind the scenes, crafting strategies to elevate talent. He balances his demanding career with restoring vintage cars and playing tennis, a passion that runs deep throughout their family.

James was recently honoured to be included in the *Vogue Business* 100 Innovators list, commenting: “Any recognition like this reflects the extraordinary clients, colleagues, and partners I get to work with every day – it’s a privilege to build alongside them.”



At the start of Autumn Term, **Flynn Le Brocq (Hf 08)** joined Uppingham as Director of Admissions,

succeeding Charlie Bostock, who has retired to Somerset after 16 years of dedicated service to the School.

As an OU, Flynn is already a familiar face within our community and brings a wealth of experience from the arts and music sector. After reading Music at the University of Edinburgh, he went on to hold senior leadership roles with some of the UK’s most distinguished ensembles and festivals. Most recently, he served as Chief Executive of the London Mozart Players, following earlier positions as General Manager of the Southwell Music Festival and the Oxford Bach Soloists, and as Company Manager at Nevill Holt Opera.

Reflecting on his new role, Flynn said: “The School has always held a very special place in my heart, and I look forward to meeting current and prospective families to share with them the unique spirit and opportunities that Uppingham has to offer.”

Congratulations to **Rowena Matterson (Sa 08)**, **Lucinda Price (Sa 08)**, **Annabel McLean (C 08)**, **Charlie Newman (NH 08)** and **Willa Mackenzie Smith (Sa 08)** for completing the Three Peaks Challenge in May. A gruelling 24-hours climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, which they achieved with 16 minutes to spare. They raised funds for the Lady Garden Foundation, in memory of their dear friend **Emily Plane (C 08)**.



Alistair Garfoot (SH 09) committed to running four ultramarathons this year to raise money for Alzheimer’s Research UK, in memory of his grandmother and aunt, both of whom died with dementia.

The challenge included two 50-mile runs, completed in March and May; a 75-mile race across the Isle of Skye, also in May; and the finale – a 100-mile run with a 6,000m elevation gain through the Brecon Beacons (about 70% of Everest’s height from sea level). Alistair successfully completed the final race in July, running through the night to cross the finish line in 32 hours.

Reflecting on the experience, Alistair said: “I’ve always chased the uncomfortable; you discover parts of yourself when things get tough, and doing hard things builds transferable resilience for life more broadly.” Acknowledging the support he received, he added: “To truly push your limits – physically, mentally, or otherwise – you need a stable base, with friends, family and community at your back. This support absolutely skyrockets your confidence (or perhaps delusional self-belief!) and your motivation to succeed. I’m hugely grateful to everyone who helped make this crazy idea happen.”



Through his endeavours, Alistair raised nearly £7,500 for the charity – a cause close to his, and many others’ hearts. If you would like to help him cross the £7,500 mark, please see <https://bit.ly/agruns100> or scan the QR code.

2010s



Freddie Tucker (B 10) has embraced an exciting opportunity to relocate to Sydney, taking on a new role with fintech firm Ebury,

servicing institutional clients with FX risk management in the APAC region.

When he’s not pounding pavements in the Central Business District, you’ll likely find Freddie at a Lions or Ashes Test match, or out on the golf course. He’s also taken up the local sport AFL (Australian Football League, for the unacquainted), joining a local team and playing on weekends.

Feel free to contact Freddie if you’re in the area – freddietucker1997@outlook.com.

It was great to catch up with **Freya Twigden (J 10)** at Uppingham in October 2024. She kindly offered pupils the chance to sample her Fix8 and Fibe drinks during their morning break. The event was a great success, and the catering team now stocks both options in the Buttery. It was wonderful to see that Uppingham connection in action!



Congratulations to **Jamie Conway (WB 11)** who was appointed Director of Music at RGS Worcester from September – a move that brings him a little closer to his Gloucester roots than his most recent post at Rugby School, where he has taught music since 2022. Jamie is well known to many in and around Uppingham as the Conductor and Musical Director of the Rutland Choral Society.



Thomas is seated at the front, on the far right-hand side.

In his spare time, **Thomas Stroude (SH 12)** volunteers as an Adult Instructor with the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force and, this summer, joined a group of 14 adventurous teenagers on an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

On 26th August, after a six-day climb, the team successfully reached the summit of Africa’s highest peak, standing 5,895 metres above sea level. The two-week expedition pushed the cadets to their limits, testing resilience, teamwork, and determination. Beyond the climb, the group also devoted time to giving back, visiting a Tanzanian orphanage and engaging with the local community. For the cadets, the expedition left a deep and lasting impression. Thomas is proud to have played a part in their journey and hopes the trip will inspire other Cadet Contingents to aim high with future expeditions. He would also like to encourage OUs to consider volunteering their time to ensure cadets have the opportunity to develop skills and participate in these life-changing experiences.



We often hear of new OU connections being forged by chance, and **Ida Weatherall (C 13)** and **Stephanie Chan (C 14)** were delighted to discover that one of Ida's colleagues at Corney & Barrow is also an OU. They met **Bryce Fraser (WD 76)** – now in his 31st year with the company and Managing Director for Scotland and the North of England – at an event in Hong Kong, where Ida relocated last year. She now sells wine to private clients in the city. Stephanie is also based in Hong Kong, where she practises law as a corporate associate at Norton Rose Fulbright.



Gregor Woolgrove, Max Hawker and Duncan Anderson (all WD 19), pictured from left to right, received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in May at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace.



Zara Tweed (J 14) completed the gruelling Lakes Traverse, a 100km ultramarathon through the Lake District in April. Despite initially doubting whether she could cover the distance, she committed to the training and successfully crossed the finish line. She commented: "The race was physically demanding, but more than anything, it tested my mindset." "My mantra was simple: *keep moving forward*," she reflects.

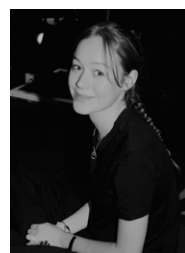
The same mindset has shaped her career, too. Formerly working in the prison service, Zara experienced one of the most emotionally and physically demanding environments of her life. Now pursuing a legal career, she's navigating the challenges of training contract applications with the same resilience.

"Whether it's a race, a role in criminal justice, or the pursuit of a legal future, the principle remains the same: show up, stay steady, and lean on others when it counts." Her advice for anyone facing a difficult path? "Whatever your own challenge looks like – just keep moving forward."

In September 2024, **Cameron Cowie (LH 16)** successfully completed the Weymouth 70.3 Ironman triathlon – a gruelling event comprising a 1.9 km swim, 90 km cycle through the scenic Dorset countryside, and a 21 km run along the iconic Jurassic Coast. After months of dedicated training, his hard work paid off as he crossed the finish line in an impressive 5 hours and 56 minutes. A remarkable and proud achievement.



2020s



At the beginning of November, **Rosie Morgan-Males (L 21)** directed *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller at the Oxford Playhouse in a week-long run on the Playhouse's

main stage. The production brought Miller's tragedy of family, love, and betrayal to life for audiences. The slot was the most sought-after directing opportunity in Oxford student theatre, but it was staged with the resources and production values of a professional show – a rare chance for a student company to create work on this scale in collaboration with the Playhouse's creative team.

The production was a co-creation between the Oxford Playhouse and Labyrinth Productions, the company Rosie has been building during her time at Oxford and which she intends to continue after graduation, hoping to move into directing theatre and film professionally. She commented: "I first encountered the play at Uppingham, so it's a full-circle moment to be staging it now with such a strong cast and crew. I can't wait to share the work with audiences – and hopefully see some familiar faces there."



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Uppingham by the Sea



Boarders at Mrs Aitken's house in Borth.

150 Years Since the Great Migration to Borth

In the spring of 1876, Uppingham faced a crisis that threatened its very survival. Typhoid fever had swept through the town, claiming the lives of both pupils and staff. The drains, cesspits, and wells of Victorian Uppingham were a lethal breeding ground for disease and, by early March, it was clear to Headmaster Edward Thring that if the boys returned once more to the School, the institution he had built up with such vision and determination would collapse.

Then came a bold idea. "Don't you think we ought to flit?" asked one Housemaster. And so, in an extraordinary act of courage and imagination, Uppingham decided to relocate – lock, stock and cricket roller – to the Welsh seaside village of Borth.

Thring was no ordinary Headmaster. Appointed in 1853, he had transformed a small country grammar school of 43 boys into a flourishing institution of 300 pupils, with a national reputation for progressive teaching and a breadth of curriculum that included modern languages, science, music, and practical skills such as carpentry. By 1876, Uppingham was admired across the country, but the typhoid outbreak brought it to the brink of ruin. With his characteristic resolve, Thring gambled everything on what became known as "The Great Experiment".

Housemasters had been sent out around the UK in search of the perfect location for the evacuation. It was on 15th March 1876, Thring and his colleagues found Borth: a remote village on the Cardigan Bay coast, with a large hotel, a string of cottages, and space enough to create a new school in exile. Within days, contracts were signed. By 27th March, a train of 18 trucks carried beds, desks, books, and even the cricket roller westwards. Masters and boys followed soon after. Against all odds, on 5th April, 297 of the School's 300 boys reassembled in their new seaside home.

Life in Borth was unlike anything Uppingham had known. Lessons took place in hastily built classrooms, cottages doubled as studies, and flags rather than

**Thring gambled
everything on what
became known as
"The Great Experiment"**

bells signalled the rhythm of the day – as bells were no match for the noise of wind or roar of the sea. Beyond their studies, boys roamed the hills and rivers, scrambled on rocks, and played cricket and football against other schools. They endured Welsh mutton-heavy meals, braved storms, and even outbreaks of scarlet fever, yet the spirit of freedom, trust, and camaraderie made the year unforgettable.

For the villagers of Borth, the arrival of nearly 300 English schoolboys could have been disruptive. Despite some communication difficulties early on, in this predominantly Welsh-speaking area, relations improved no end when pupils used their cricket roller over a field near Bow Street, making it fit to host cricket and football matches for the

*Schoolboys on Borth
seafront in 1876.*



first time. From that point on, the schoolboys were active in the village's sporting life and they contributed to a number of match wins during the 1876-77 season.

They cemented their place in the hearts of locals further when, in January 1877, a violent storm battered Borth. Once it had passed, the boys and masters threw themselves into the recovery, helping villagers to rebuild, clear the roads, and restore their all-important peat fuel supplies.

In April 1877, as the School prepared to return to Uppingham, the people of Borth presented a heartfelt tribute: no offence had been given, no disorder caused, and only kindness shown. Thring, often a stern figure, was deeply moved. "Never in my life have I had such testimony to the School which I cared so much for," he said.

The Borth episode lasted just one year, but it became a defining moment in Uppingham's history. Each year thereafter, Thring led a service of thanksgiving for "that strange flight, the home we found, the strange return". A tradition which continues in Chapel even now.

One hundred and fifty years later, the story still resonates. It is a tale of courage, leadership, and resilience in the face of crisis – a reminder that education is not only about what is learned in books, but also about the values forged in adversity: trust, kindness, and the strength to adapt.

Uppingham's move to Borth was, in Thring's own words, "a great deliverance". The story remains a great inspiration and the special bonds of warmth and respect, forged between these two distant and very different locations, endures to this day.



The Cambrian Hotel, where most of the boys boarded, in 1876.



1876 School House at Borth.



Scan the QR code to
read an extended feature
on the OU website.

Announcements



Hatty McShane-Smith (Sa 01) married Sam Davy in Oakham on 31st May. She said: “It was a lovely surprise to see Stewart Drummond, my former teacher and band master, as my wedding chauffeur!”



Fleur Owen (née Cazalet, L 05) and her husband John are delighted to announce the arrival of their second child, a daughter, Clementine, born in June. She is pictured with her big brother, Billy.



George Jackson (LH 08) married Amy Marshall in Peatling Magna, Leicestershire, on 14th June. OUs **Jamie Hooper (LH 08)**, **William ‘Jack’ Jackson (LH 10)** and **Charles ‘Pip’ Jackson (LH 15)** were ushers.

On 30th August, OU couple, **Flynn Le Brocq (Hf 08)** and **Emily Power (J 11)** were married at St Gabriel’s Church in Pimlico with the reception held at The Musicians’ Church in Holborn. There were many OUs in attendance including **Nick Grounds (WB 81)**, **Fiona Bettles (Fd 86)**, **Dan Banbury (F 08)**, **Benedict Flinn (SH 08)**, **Sasha Cohen (J 11)**, **Alice Mills (Fd 11)** and **Elizabeth Morgan (J 11)**.



Polly Holmes (Fd 09) married Joshua Duarte on 2nd August in Worcestershire with lots of Uppingham friends present.



*L to R: **Polly Bowman (Fd 09)**, **Olivia Birks (Fd 09)**, **Sophie Penny (née Oliver, Fd 09)**, **Claudia Pert (Fd 09)**, **Emily Crane (Sa 09)**, **Guy Dunkerly (M 78)**, **Sophie Batcup (née Meager, Fd 09)**, **Louisa Parsons (Fd 09)**, **Tara Patel (Sa 09)**, **Kiki Dalrymple (née Norman, NH 09)** and **Tessa Cooper (Fd 09)**.*



Sophie Oliver (Fd 09) married Charlie Penny on 5th July, in Twywell, Northamptonshire.



*Front row L to R: **Claudia Pert (Fd 09)**, **Polly Bowman (Fd 09)**, **Sophie, Louisa Parsons (Fd 09)** and **Kiki Dalrymple (née Norman, NH 09)**. Middle row L to R: **Olivia Birks (Fd 09)**, **Sophie Batcup (née Meager, Fd 09)** and **Polly Duarte (née Holmes, Fd 09)**. Back row L to R: **Tara Patel (Sa 09)**, **Emily Crane (Sa 09)** and **Tessa Cooper (Fd 09)**.*



Shirley Koo (L 10) married Kevin Wong in the presence of friends and family at Knebworth House in Hertfordshire on 25th May. The day consisted of a mix of Chinese and English celebrations followed by an evening reception held at a Chinese restaurant in London.

Emma Hill (J 11) and **Ned Southall (LH 10)** were married on 20th September. Both Emma and Ned are the children of OUs, **Marcus Hill (C 79)** and **Philip Southall (LH 74)**. Despite atrocious weather the day was a fantastic celebration and attended by 38 OUs.



In Memoriam

We are sorry to announce news of OUs who have passed away.
Our condolences to their family and friends.

Peter Jackson* (SH 40) February 2025	David Quinnell (WD 50) November 2024	Bruce Macmillan (H 59) October 2024
Maurice King* (WD 40) August 2024	Michael Scott (LH 50) August 2025	Peter Morrell (WB 59) February 2025
Gerald Bunting* (B 41) May 2025	James Bemrose (SH 51) May 2025	Lindsay Berry (H 60) September 2024
Peter Lawrence (WD 42) June 2024	James Chatterton (SH 51) August 2024	James ‘Ross’ Garratt* (H 60) December 2024
Kenneth Stern* (Fgh 42) December 2024	Jim Bolland (L 52) May 2025	Jerome ‘Jerry’ Batty* (Hf 63) January 2019
John Godrich (WB 44) February 2025	Peter Harman (SH 52) June 2025	Geoffrey Berriman (Hf 63) March 2025
Sir Colin Corness* (M 45) June 2025	Philip Oglethorpe (Hf 52) January 2025	Michael Thomson (F 63) October 2024
John Measures (LH 45) February 2025	Neville Hulme-Vickerstaff (WD 53) January 2024	Nigel Heath* (Fgh 64) October 2024
David Parry (WD 45) June 2024	Timothy Nelson (LH 53) July 2023	Brian Setchell (WD 66) November 2023
Humphrey Sladden* (B 45) April 2025	Chris Churton (B 54) May 2025	Gregory ‘Greg’ Sohns* (LH 67) October 2024
Clive Birch* (Hf 46) April 2025	Andrew McCullough* (F 54) December 2023	Paul Webster (C 67) October 2024
Geoffrey Boston (C 46) September 2024	Malcolm Morgan (SH 54) December 2024	John McKenzie (LH 68) September 2025
Jeremy Barlow (Fgh 47) April 2025	James Johnson (SH 55) December 2024	Anthony Wood (B 70) April 2024
John Hall (L 47) November 2024	Jonothan Robertshaw (H 55) December 2024	Sam Rudder (F 71) February 2025
Geoffrey Hargreaves (F 47) February 2025	Anthony Neilson (B 56) September 2025	Russell Smith* (M 73) September 2022
William ‘Bill’ Leach* (L 47) March 2025	Anthony Russell* (M 56) July 2025	Helen Wigglesworth (Fd 76) November 2024
Richard Spencer (L 47) December 2023	John Sayer (SH 56) April 2025	Chris Standing (H 78) June 2025
Barry Fox (WB 48) April 2024	Richard Elliott (Hf 57) January 2025	Edward Billington (B 79) February 2025
Guy Clayton (SH 50) February 2025	Richard de Willermin* (Fgh 58) February 2024	Gavin Walker (L 80) July 2025
Edward Hamilton (M 50) June 2023	Jonathan Edwards (LH 58) May 2025	Tom Amos (B 85) June 2025
Christopher Lupton (WD 50) June 2024	Simon Cooper* (M 59) April 2024	Tim Meeks* (Fgh 90) January 2025
Robert Manning (H 50) May 2025	Andrew Harvey (SH 59) February 2024	

* We are pleased to include obituaries supplied by family members or friends of the deceased.
If you would like to submit a piece for a future OU magazine, please see the OU website/get-in-touch for details or contact a member of the OU team who will be pleased to help, ou@uppingham.co.uk.

Obituaries



**Peter Jackson
CBE (SH 40)**
By his nephew
Miles Ruffell

Peter Jackson was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk, in 1927. Educated at Aldeburgh Lodge (now Orwell Park) and later Uppingham, he formed a lifelong friendship with **Neil Dallas (WD 39)**, with whom he co-founded the Old Uppinghamian Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. After National Service with the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1948, he read Law at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, though modestly described it as “a poor degree”.

In 1948 Peter became a director of Lowestoft Herring Drifters Ltd, founded by his father. The company later became LHD Group and relocated to Shetland, where he served as Chairman until 2007, ensuring it remained locally owned. Qualifying as a solicitor in 1953, he practised at Ellis & Fairbairn, Thames Ditton, becoming a partner.

He met his wife Ann Ruffell, a Junior Wimbledon player, at Felixstowe Tennis Tournament in 1948. They married in 1954, beginning a shared lifelong passion for tennis and farming. Both became Members of the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC).

In 1967 Peter joined the Milk Marketing Board, serving as Managing Director, Deputy Chief Executive and Chairman’s Special Adviser until retirement in 1987. He co-founded the Trehane Trust, supporting scholarships in the dairy industry, and later directed British Food and Farming Year 1989, working closely with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. His services to agriculture were recognised with a CBE in 1990.

Peter also played a major role in rural and youth organisations, including the Farmers Club, the Rural Youth Trust and the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs, where he served as President.

Tennis remained central to his life. He served on the AELTC Committee, from 1977 to 1990, chairing the Ground and

Long-Term Development Committee during the construction of Court 1 and other major facilities, later becoming Vice President. He was also deeply involved in ‘The Pubs’ (Public Schools Old Boys Lawn Tennis Association) and was an Honorary Member of international clubs in Dublin and New Zealand.

In Suffolk, Peter helped restore the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, and enjoyed a quiet retirement with Ann until her death in 2022. Known for his kindness and generosity, he supported countless young people. He was a good friend and confidante to all those whose personal and professional lives he touched.



**Maurice King
(WD 40)**
Adapted from
online sources

Maurice King died in August 2024 aged 97. He was a doctor and writer who dedicated

his life to improving healthcare in developing countries.

Born in Hatton, Sri Lanka, in 1927 to Hugh Christopher King, a colonial forestry officer, and Eleanor de Winton, Maurice was educated at Arnold House preparatory school in Wales before attending Uppingham. He went on to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he achieved double firsts in natural sciences, then training clinically at St Thomas’ medical school and specialising in pathology.

His career began in Africa in 1956, where he worked as a pathologist in Kitwe, Zambia, and he later worked in Uganda spending time in remote mission hospitals. It was there he recognised there was a critical absence of practical literature for medical care. He described it as “an empty space on the bookshelves of the world... that badly wanted filling”. His response was to convene a conference of experts and compile their knowledge into *Medical Care in Developing Countries* (1966), a practical guide for non-specialist practitioners on

organising clinics and treating complex conditions with limited resources. The book was translated, reprinted multiple times, and sold over 50,000 copies.

Over the following decades, Maurice lived and worked in Zambia, Indonesia, and Kenya, producing books on nutrition, primary childcare, mother care, surgery, and anaesthesia for developing countries.

In 1970, while living in Zambia, Maurice married Felicity Savage, also a doctor, who later co-authored *Primary Child Care* (1978).

After 30 years working abroad, he moved to Leeds University in 1986, as reader in the department of community medicine and general practice. Over the following two decades, he increasingly focused on demography and population control.

His jobs brought great satisfaction and commenting in a short memoir he sent to the Uppingham archives in 2014, he said: “One’s back went into them 1000%, regardless of any personal gain or ambition, however unpleasant or menial. Be prepared to do anything. No honest work is demeaning.”

Maurice had a remarkable life and made a great contribution to medicine globally. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is survived by his wife, Felicity, and son Ben. His son Dominic died from motor neurone disease in 2019.



Gerald Bunting (B 41)
By his son Mark
(Hf 72)

Gerald Bunting was born in 1928. He went to Terrington Hall Prep School in Yorkshire, and

on to Uppingham in 1941, where his brothers **Derek (B 45)** and **Edward (B 49)** also attended.

He won the Selwyn Geography Prize in 1943, was House Captain of Brooklands in 1945, and a School Praepostor. In 1946, he was called up for National Service and went to Mons Officer Cadet School, where he was trained by the renowned

Regimental Sergeant Major Brittain. After he was commissioned, he was posted to the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt in 1947.

Following demobilisation, he studied law in London and Guildford, qualifying as a solicitor and joining the family firm of Gilbert Bunting and Co. in Hartlepool in 1952. Gerald was a keen golfer. He also played rugby for Hartlepool Rovers and cricket for the Durham Pilgrims. He served for eight years in the Territorial Army as a captain in 508 Field Squadron Royal Engineers.

His voluntary work with the NHS for 30 years saw him serve as Vice Chairman of the Hartlepool Health Authority from 1982 to 1990, and later as Chairman of the Northallerton Ethical Committee from 1992 to 2001.

In 1988, he served as President of the Durham and North Yorkshire Law Society and was also appointed Deputy Lieutenant (DL) for Cleveland. When that county ceased to exist, he was appointed DL for North Yorkshire. His family law firm merged with Tilly Bailey and Irvine in 1990, and Gerald retired in 2000 at the age of 72.

Gerald always talked fondly of his time at Uppingham, and the fact that **Bryan Matthews (SH 30)** taught us both geography amused him hugely. Dad was a family man, with an inquiring mind and a lifelong love of history, politics, and current affairs – I am sure much of this came from his Uppingham education. His Thanksgiving Service, held in St Gregory’s Church in Bedale, included music from John Rutter and the Uppingham School Choir. He is survived by his widow, Diana; sons, Nigel and **Mark (Hf 72)**; daughter, Jane; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



**Kenneth Stern
(Fgh 42)**
By his daughter
Melanie Fletcher

My father, Kenneth Stern, who has died aged 96, arrived in England in 1939 as a

10-year-old refugee from Nazi Germany.

Kenneth was born into a middle-class, non-observant Jewish family in Hamburg, the second son of Ilse (née Schoening) and Walter Stern. Always adaptable, he quickly came to love his new country, being baptised into the Church of England and learning fluent English (although a dear friend once observed that he had “lost his German accent and never quite found an English one”).

From Uppingham Kenneth went to read law at Worcester College, Oxford, then became a member of Lloyd’s of London, working as an insurance broker alongside his father at Bleichroeder Bing until retiring in the mid-1970s.

Kenneth’s life changed radically on retirement. Friends he made while walking William (a handsome Dalmatian dog) in Hyde Park introduced him to the Hyde Park Estate Association (which he chaired from 1995 to 2000), and the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (which he chaired from 2000 to 2005, helping to increase their membership from 250 to 1000). He attended church locally, and was elected to the London Diocesan Synod of the Church of England.

Kenneth also became heavily involved in the life of the City of London, and in 2004 had the privilege of arranging for a delegation from the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce to join Sir Michael Savory’s Lord Mayor’s Show, recognising the centuries-old ties between London and Hamburg. He was very proud indeed when in 2014 the Hamburg Senate awarded him the Silver Portugaleser, one of its highest honours, for his work in fostering links between the cities.

Kenneth’s time at Uppingham included the notoriously cold winter of 1947 and he more than once told me how, on the pretext that it was easy to wrap up in sweaters but horrid to wash in cold water, he ensured that Farleigh voted for hot water rather than heating... then promptly studied for his exams in the bath! He retained a deep affection for

the School, and enjoyed meeting fellow OUs at events, particularly at the annual Over 60s Lunch, until he was too frail to attend.

His marriage to my mother, Elizabeth (née Benett), ended in divorce. He is survived by me.



**Sir Colin Corness
M 45)**
By his nephew Mark

Sir Colin Corness was born on 9th October, 1931. He died on 25th June, 2025 aged 93.

After graduating from Uppingham in 1951, Sir Colin went on to read law at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Subsequently, he entered the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar in 1956. He later obtained an MBA at Harvard Business School.

He went on to enjoy a highly successful business career, serving in senior roles across numerous major companies. He was Managing Director of Redland from 1967 to 1982, Chief Executive from 1977 to 1991, and Chairman from 1977 to 1995. He also held Directorships with Chubb, WH Smith, Courtaulds, SG Warburg, and others.

Sir Colin served as a Director of the Bank of England from 1987 to 1995, as Chairman of the Nationwide Building Society from 1991 to 1996, and as Chairman of Glaxo Wellcome from 1995 to 1997. He was a Trustee of Uppingham between 1996 and 2000, and in 1994 was awarded an honorary DBA by the University of Kingston.



**Humphrey Sladden
(B 45)**
Provided by his
daughter Hannah
Stubbington

Humphrey Paul Sladden was born in Leicester on 6th October 1931, the middle son in a close-knit family. The Second World War shaped his early years and, during

the family's move back to Leicester, he gained his first taste of farming, raising hens and rabbits to support the war effort. He attended Uppingham in 1945, which he loved, especially for its sport, and he fortuitously chose farming and woodwork as his senior subject options. His nickname was, fittingly, 'Eager'.

After an unhappy start as an office boy, he began farming in Somerset, developing a broad range of skills, later working on a farm on the Leicestershire/Northamptonshire border where horses were still in use. In 1953, he joined Church Farm, Harting, working under Ken Bawtree and eventually becoming manager. Farming then was labour-intensive, but mechanisation gradually transformed operations. In 1956, he appeared in the BBC film *An English Village*, showcasing rural life.

In the early 1950s, Humphrey met Ann, a schoolteacher, and they married in 1957, raising three daughters – Mandy, Kate, and Hannah. The couple were inseparable and deeply involved in village life, from the Parochial Church Council to the Harting Festivities, the Playing Field and Horticultural Committees, and later the Parish Council, where he became Chairman in the mid-1970s. He also served as Secretary of the Harting Old Club for 40 years.

He championed local initiatives, including founding the village minibus scheme and one of his most inspired ideas was to move the 'Harting Festivities' back into the village streets, boosting funds for community projects.

In the 1970s, back problems ended his farming career. Turning to his love of woodwork, he trained in furniture restoration at West Dean College and set up his own workshop. In 1980, he returned to West Dean as a tutor, later leading the department, and became a lifetime member of the British Antique Furniture Restorers Association.

Even in retirement from 1996, he remained active, becoming a trustee – and later chairman – of the Edward Barnsley Foundation. His community

service earned him three invitations to Buckingham Palace and, in 2013, the British Empire Medal.

Humphrey's life was defined by optimism, enthusiasm and service. Remembered as kind, intelligent, and endlessly energetic, he was the 'beating heart' of Harting. He now rests beside Ann in the village he made his home from age 22 and chose never to leave.



Clive Birch (Hf 46)
Abridged from
obituary written
by Clive

Clive Birch, once the youngest newspaper editor in the UK and known as England's 'man about towns', died on 29th April aged 93. A publisher, author, and historian, he transformed local history, creating museums, heritage halls, and guiding design education.

Born in Edgware in 1931, the son of Raymond Birch CBE of Birch Bros Ltd, Clive grew up in Hampstead and Cornwall. At Uppingham, he was a recorded solo chorister and fast-tracked to higher certificate English but didn't go to university as it was unaffordable. He opted for a year's National Service in the RAF, turning down a three-year aircrew commission, then spent two years in what he described as 'undistinguished service stopping planes hitting mountains' in radar before starting a career in journalism. At 24, he became editor of the *Bucks Examiner*, winning national design awards, and later held senior roles at the *Illustrated London News* and other publications.

In 1972, he restored his 1695 Bucks farmhouse and delved into local history, leading to *The Book of Chesham* and the founding of Barracuda Books. Over 40 years, he published more than 500 nationwide titles, and over 700 editions, including wildlife, sport, transport, and military records, and the *Nature of Britain* natural history series, which won a European conservation award. Clive's Town Books combined thorough

research with pictorial illustrations for the popular market, emphasising clear writing and practical indices over academic footnotes. He met royalty regularly, with Prince Charles writing three forewords and the Queen Mother commissioning works.

Clive's interest in heritage extended beyond publishing. He founded the Buckingham Heritage Trust, restored the Old Gaol and Chantry Chapel, and created the North Bucks Museum and Tourist Centre. He served on the Futures Board of London's Transport Museum and authored numerous works on transport design, including 11 RCA yearbooks, *Carr & Carman*, and his WWII novel *Gulag to Gold*. At 92, he wrote *A World of Wheels*, chronicling his family's bus and mailcoach firm.

Clive was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Society of Antiquaries, Master of the Worshipful Company of Carmen three times, and a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art, advising international vehicle design students. He received the Princess Royal Gold Medal (2008), Carmen's Lifetime Achievement Award (2019), and was appointed MBE in the Millennial New Year Honours for services to Buckingham heritage.

He married three times and is survived by his third wife of over 40 years, Carolyn Doble, four children, two step-children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



To read Clive's full version, please visit the extended content page on the OU website, available via the QR code.



William 'Bill' Leach (L 47)
Adapted from an
obituary published
online, shared by his
good friend Peter
Johnson (Hf 50)

Bill Leach, passed away on 30th March 2025 aged 91. A lifelong figure in Newmarket's racing community, Bill was best known as the

owner and manager of Meddler Stud in Kentford, carrying forward the legacy of a distinguished racing family.

Born into a household steeped in thoroughbred history, Bill was the grandson of Felix Leach, who trained in Newmarket from the 1890s and became renowned both for his horses and his larger-than-life personality. His father, Henry 'Chubb' Leach, trained top-class sprinters including Mickey The Greek before handing the reins of Meddler Stud to his son in 1970.

While Bill chose not to follow his forebears into training, he shaped Meddler Stud into a respected breeding and boarding enterprise. The stud farm stood notable stallions such as Will Somers, Nelcius, Most Welcome, Pretendre and Tutankhamen (who was imported from America). It was also among the first large-scale boarding studs in Newmarket, housing Sheikh Maktoum al Maktoum's Gainsborough Stud yearlings for many years. Though much of the land was later sold, the heart of Meddler continues today as part of neighbouring Lanwades Stud.

Bill was admired as much for his character as his achievements. Jovial, generous and deeply sociable, he was a natural host with a gift for laughter and storytelling. A successful businessman beyond racing, he also took an active role in local politics, serving his community with the same good humour and integrity that marked his personal life.

He is survived by his wife, Bente, their children Charles and Tania, and four grandchildren.



Andrew McCullough (F 54)
By Julian Royle (F 51)

Brought up in Norfolk, Andrew enjoyed a distinguished and wide-ranging musical career. A music scholar at Uppingham, he played clarinet in the school orchestra before joining the National Youth Orchestra. He went on to study in Vienna and at the Royal College of Music.

In 1966, Andrew moved to Australia with his wife, Pippa, performing with all the Australian State Orchestras before returning to England in 1970.

His subsequent freelance career saw him work extensively with the London Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, under celebrated conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Claudio Abbado, André Previn, Leopold Stokowski, Sergiu Celibidache and Sir Charles Mackerras.

Alongside performance, Andrew was a dedicated teacher. He was appointed Professor at the Royal College of Music, taught for many years at Eton College, and served as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. His passion for inspiring young people led him to give over 40 lecture-recitals in the UK, USA and South Africa.

His recordings include *Music of the Orient Express* and *The Mystery of the Universe*, the latter featuring words by Professor Charles Handy and narration by Dame Judi Dench.

I was delighted when Andrew and Pippa moved to Woodbridge, where he performed a number of House Recitals.

Andrew died on 3rd December 2023 and is greatly missed by his family and friends.



Rt Revd Dr Anthony Russell (M 56)
Adapted from
online sources

The Rt Revd Dr Anthony Russell, died on 9th July aged 82. Known as Tony to his family and friends, he was a distinguished churchman, academic, and agriculturalist, a devoted husband to his wife Sheila for 58 years, proud father of four, and grandfather of nine.

Born in 1943, Anthony was the eldest of three children. Educated at Uppingham, St Chad's College, Durham, and Trinity College, Oxford, he gained a D.Phil. in the sociology of religion before training for ordination at Ripon

College, Cuddesdon. His Uppingham contemporaries, who named him "The Bishop", seemed to foresee his future calling.

Ordained in 1970, he served rural parishes in Norwich and Coventry dioceses, alongside his work with the Arthur Rank Centre. Coming from a farming family, he was deeply rooted in countryside life, writing influential books such as *The Clerical Profession*, *The Country Parish*, and *The Country Parson*. A founder of the Rural Theology Association, he was a leading voice in shaping the Church's role in rural communities and later served as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Consecrated Bishop of Dorchester in 1988, he served 12 years before becoming Bishop of Ely in 2000. He guided the diocese with wisdom, dignity, and calm authority. His quiet leadership style – listening first, speaking with measured insight – won deep trust. He was respected for his presence, humour, and gift for encouragement.

Away from public life, Anthony was known for his sartorial elegance, wearing ties even while gardening or skiing. In youth, he was an enthusiastic drummer, delighting parishioners when he performed at a village play. He was also dedicated to education, serving as President of the Woodard Corporation and governor of Radley College.

Anthony Russell was a man of faith, learning, and humanity whose ministry left a lasting mark on Church and society.



Richard de Willermin (Fgh 58)
By his friend Howard
Richardson

Richard de Willermin was born in France to Anglo-French parents, who moved to England with their five young children shortly after the end of World War II. Home for this close-knit family was a country house on the edge of a North Cotswold village.

Richard and his younger brother **Edouard ‘Teddy’ (Fgh 60)** followed their elder brother **Rodolphe (Fgh 54)** to Uppingham, where Richard’s passion for classical art, literature, and music was nurtured alongside the usual academic studies. After A levels, he gained further inspiration from attending specialist classes in Zurich, Florence, and Madrid, interrupted only by a couple of years of compulsory French military service. By the time he graduated from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London (where Anthony Blunt was his director), he was fluent in five European languages and impressively versed in their cultural heritage.

Richard then joined the Antique Painting department at Christie’s and was sent to open their office in Madrid. Because of restrictions on art exports from Spain, this proved to be a daunting task and, by the time Christie’s abandoned the venture, Richard had married his Spanish wife. Together, they decided to settle in El Escorial, an easy commute to Madrid, where he established an independent gallery and auction house specialising in Spanish, Flemish, and Italian art from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Latterly, because of his unrivalled knowledge – supported by a prodigious memory and a vast personal library – Richard was much in demand to catalogue and value private collections, both in the capital and in rambling fincas across the Iberian Peninsula. Occasionally, he came across misattributed paintings, previously valued at under €2,000, that he identified as works by Goya and Velázquez. When the canvases were eventually sold for millions at auction, the Spanish government exercised its legal right to match the highest bid. They now hang in the Prado as a testament to Richard’s unique prowess.

Richard received only a modest fee for his expertise but, like many generous people, he had little interest in amassing a personal fortune. His many friends will cherish memories of strolling with him through rooms at the Prado, where he could bring the dulllest painting to life with his detailed knowledge. Honesty,

integrity, and loyalty – coupled with an infectious sense of humour and a healthy dollop of intolerance – were the hallmarks of a personality that enriched the lives of all who knew him well.

He is survived by his devoted wife and their four daughters.



Simon Cooper (M 59)
Adapted from
online sources

Simon Cooper was a distinguished hotelier whose career spanned more than five decades, three continents, and five major brands. He passed away on 24th April 2024 after a battle with cancer.

Born in Essex, Simon moved to Canada in 1972 after earning his MBA, beginning his career as a management trainee at Montréal’s Château Champlain. He went on to hold leadership roles with Delta Hotels, Marriott Hotels of Canada, Dan Hotels in Israel, and Omni Hotels. In 1999, he joined The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, becoming president and COO the following year. Under his leadership, Ritz-Carlton expanded globally, introduced Ritz-Carlton Residences and Ritz-Carlton Reserve, and earned top accolades from JD Power, The Luxury Institute, and Condé Nast.

In Canada, Simon played a key role in establishing the Canadian Tourism Commission (now Destination Canada) in 1994, strengthening the country’s global tourism profile. In 2021, Hotelier magazine recognised his lifetime contributions with its Pinnacle Award.

Colleagues across the industry regarded Simon as an innovative leader, a generous mentor, and a highly experienced and accomplished professional whose influence raised standards worldwide. His career was marked not only by business success but also by his ability to inspire teams and foster excellence wherever he worked.

Most recently, he led Simon Cooper & Associates, a Maryland-based consultancy, and advised on major hotel

projects internationally while serving on several boards.

Simon is survived by his wife, Marcelle; children Helen, Susannah and Jason; four grandchildren and a wide circle of friends and colleagues around the world.



James ‘Ross’ Garratt (H 60)
By his wife Jan

Ross Garratt, who lived in Pershore for 40 years, passed away on 9th December 2024.

After Uppingham, he read English at Southampton University and went on to a successful career as a secondary school teacher, beginning at The Skinners’ School in Tunbridge Wells and concluding as Deputy Head at Prince Henry’s High School, Evesham.

Ross devoted much of his life to public service. He served as a magistrate in Worcester and as chairman of the youth bench; he also chaired the governing body of his local school.

He met Jan in Tunbridge Wells, and together they raised two children, Ed and Kate. A keen sportsman, Ross played county-level bridge throughout his life and had previously competed in county golf and rugby. He remained a lifelong supporter of Northampton Saints, reflecting his roots coming from a shoemaking family from Northampton.

Ross was predeceased by his older brother, **John Garratt (H 53)**, in 2014. He will be remembered for his dedication to education, community and family.



Jerome ‘Jerry’ Batty (Hf 63)
By Abboudi Hoss (Hf 62)

Jerry arrived at Uppingham for the Autumn Term of 1963, doubling the number of non-British students in Highfield! I was excited to no longer be the only ‘outsider’, and we quickly became inseparable friends – a boy from Lebanon and an all-American exchange

student, discovering the traditions of an English public school in ‘Sixties Britain’.

An excellent sportsman, Jerry was an imposing presence whether on the pitch or in the pool. A true all-rounder, he was a member of the Rugby 1st XV, broke several school swimming records, and at the same time remained a committed American Football player back home. His athletic talent flourished in parallel with academic excellence.

An Ivy League gentleman scholar, Jerry left Uppingham for Brown University, where he read law and became the captain of the Brown 1967 football team, as well as a member of The Brown Athletic Hall of Fame. After leaving Brown, Jerry enjoyed a distinguished and successful 45-year career as an attorney for Hinckley, Allen & Snyder in Providence, where his specialty was real estate law. Recognised both regionally and nationally in the United States, Jerry received numerous professional awards and honours.

I was saddened not only by Jerry’s passing in January 2019, but also that I did not learn of it sooner. A friend who had meant so much to me died without my knowing for several years. Thoughts echoed by another dear Highfield friend, **Ian Macfarlane (Hf 61)**: “Jerry really was a first-rate chap – a shame we have only just found out.” Yes, a first-rate chap indeed, of whom I have only the fondest of memories. So, from Highfield to Elysian Fields – farewell, Jerry.



Nigel Heath (Fgh 64)
By his wife Jenny

Nigel inspired many people with his positive attitude to managing an inherited neurological condition, which only affected him in later life. He continued with many community-based activities and was an active member of the OU Masonic Lodge. This year he faced the additional challenge of a brain tumour yet continued to regale us all with his smile.

Nigel died peacefully at home in October last year.



Gregory ‘Greg’ Sohns (LH 67)
By his wife
Averill Babson

Gregory Ernest Sohns of Darien, Connecticut, died suddenly on 1st October, 2024, he was 74. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Averill Babson, and their three daughters, Olivia, Antonia, and Juliet; his five grandchildren, Henry, Theodore, Arthur, Aidan, and Eleanor; and his sister Sandra.

Greg attended Uppingham as an English-Speaking Union scholar in 1967 and very much enjoyed his time in Lorne House, keenly participating in the debating and current affairs societies, representing the School chess and bridge teams and being a member of the Nettleship Society. His affection for Uppingham stayed with him and he became a regular and welcome face at OU reunions in New York for the rest of his life. On one occasion, Hugh Jackman attended one of the Uppingham events in Manhattan, and – charmingly – Greg was perhaps the only person in the room who did not know who he was.

Greg was a law graduate of Christ Church College, Oxford (1968), and the University of Virginia School of Law (JD 1975), after which he practised as a corporate attorney for over 30 years in New York City. He was a committed member of American Friends of Christ Church at the University of Oxford and a long-time member of the University Club of New York.

Greg will be remembered for his love of family, generosity and consideration of everyone he met, his sense of humour, devotion to learning and scholarship, his stories and use of language, and for his love of Shakespeare and JS Bach. Greg’s family have kindly given their support to debating, music and theatre at Uppingham in his memory.

International Development Director, Patrick Mulvihill added: “Despite only being at Uppingham for one year, Greg always retained fond memories of his time in Rutland and was an anglophile for the rest of his life. He was a welcome presence at many OU

events in New York over the last two decades, fascinating to speak to and always gracious and entertaining. Greg and his wife Averill never travelled to Uppingham during their marriage, but we were delighted to see Averill at the School in September. Having been supporters of Uppingham for many years, we will be working with Averill to commemorate Greg’s name at Uppingham, beginning with a new Debating Trophy for the annual House competition.”



Russell Smith (M 73)
By his brother
Clive (M 68)

Russell Smith died at home on Bowen Island, BC, Canada, on 25th September 2022 after a year-long battle with oesophageal cancer. He leaves behind his wife, Gillian, and their five children. Russell was the younger brother of **Clive (M 68)**.

Russell attended Stoneygate School, Leicester, before moving on to Uppingham, and later read Theology at Keble College, Oxford. There he captained the Oxford University Eton Fives team. After Oxford, and a year in the hotel industry in the south of France, he joined the family business, Brian Smith Catering Services, where he worked for 16 years, rising to the position of sales director.

In 1997, he moved to Vancouver, BC, and in 1999 he joined Odium Brown as an investment advisor, later serving as a company director before retiring in 2019.

Prior to his time at Oxford, Russell worked with Mother Teresa’s organisation in Calcutta and, while living in Leicester, volunteered as a Samaritan. Throughout his life, he had a deep love of music, owned two grand pianos, and sang with the Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir. He was also an accomplished sportsman and a particularly keen skier, spending most weekends from November to May at his home in Whistler. Dedicated to community service, Russell volunteered widely and served on many boards both before and after his retirement.



Tim Meeks (Fgh 90)
By Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)

Tim enjoyed his time at Uppingham and embraced all of the outdoor activities on offer there, including a sailing tour of North America, and proudly achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. His parents lived in Guernsey, and he often spoke of flying back to school – once even landing on the Middle.

Following Uppingham, Tim studied Business Studies at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

He began his career with PwC as a trainee accountant and auditor, later moving into senior risk management with HSBC, before taking a compliance role for a wealth manager. Based in the City, Tim and I frequently met for lunch. Alongside his career, he ran a successful buy-to-let business and undertook a major building project at his home – he was truly a polymath.

Generous with his time, Tim was active in freemasonry, supporting recruitment and attending countless dining events despite his many commitments. He married Liz, a successful City lawyer, and they had a son, Ben, who was central to his life. Tim always spoke warmly of his family and parents.

His love of the outdoors never faded: he was a keen walker and particularly enjoyed shooting. Travel and adventure, kindled at Uppingham, remained lifelong passions.

Tim was universally liked, remembered for his humour, generosity, and zest for life. It was an honour to know him; though his life was cut too short, it was life that generated much pleasure and the warmth of friendship for all those that were lucky enough to know him.

Legacy gifts are an important part of our Fee-Assisted Places programme, providing the opportunity for talented children from less affluent backgrounds to access a world-class Uppingham education; an imperative that has been exacerbated by the recent imposition of VAT on fees.

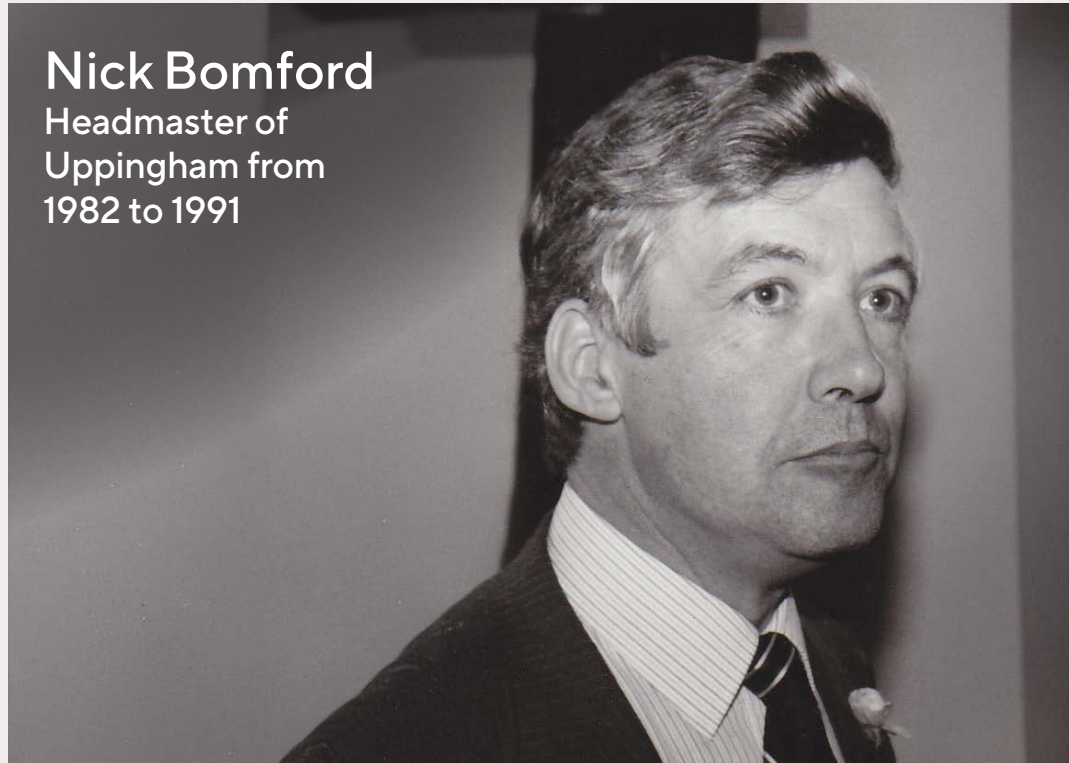


Over the last year, Uppingham is grateful to have received legacies from recently departed OUs including **Geoffrey Boston (C 46)**, **Greg Sohns (LH 67)**, **Derrick Bedwell (LH 34)** and **Martin Walker (L 67)**. A significant donation from the estate of **Percy Kennedy (H 28)** has resulted in the naming of the USSC Hospitality Suite in his honour. We were also delighted to receive support from the Sir Ronald Holroyd Charitable Trust, established by Sir Ronald after his time as an Uppingham trustee. Sir Ronald was father to **Peter Holroyd (WD 47)**, grandfather to **David (WD 78)** and **Belinda (Fd 83)** and great-grandfather to **James (LH 15)** and his younger brother Max, currently in the Upper Sixth.

If you would like to learn more about how such legacies may be used, or would like to remember the School in your will, please visit the Legacy Giving page at www.uppinghamfoundation.co.uk or contact our Legacy Manager, Sam Dewhurst on SGD@uppingham.co.uk for a confidential conversation.

Staff Remembered

Nick Bomford Headmaster of Uppingham from 1982 to 1991



He streamlined the admissions process, meeting almost every prospective parent himself. Sixth Form girl numbers greatly increased with the building of Johnson's. By 1987 three-quarters of the housemasters/mistresses and other senior staff were his appointees, and houseparents were markedly more cohesive than before. He fronted an appeal which surpassed its target by 25%, funding boarding house improvements and a lecture theatre under the Memorial Hall. Later came the Maths Block and the first Astro turf pitch.

He oversaw a re-design of the school day and the curriculum, balancing the needs of sport, the Arts (especially music) and other co-curricular activities, as GCSE was rolled out nationally. Pupil or teacher exchanges were forged with schools in at least five other countries, and the School supported Vietnamese boat people housed in Hong Kong. He also played his part in the Headmasters' Conference, four prep school governing bodies, the Admiralty Interview Board, and the Cambridge Exams Syndicate.

"We (teachers) see two-thirds of a child, and you see two-thirds. But it isn't always the same two-thirds..." so he told many new Uppingham parents gathered in the Old School Room on their first evening, and so it is for us as we piece his achievements together. Obituaries in national newspapers bear public witness to his long and distinguished career both before and after Uppingham. The moving memories of many OUs and former staff testify to his human qualities: kindness, generosity of spirit, interest in individuals and the ability to see the best in people.

What of the two-thirds seen by those of us who worked closely with him? His immense hard work: a man of stamina whose hand-written thank you letters from the previous day were always in the office out-tray by 8.30am. A modest public persona, but with

speeches, sermons and assemblies carefully crafted for every occasion. Exceptional people-skills and an ability to be comfortable in any company. His leadership of the community in a crisis including, more than once, a death.

His keen sense of timing in managing change, with a belief in evolution rather than revolution – yet much more than a mere consolidator. The care taken over big disciplinary decisions, and over references for departing leaving staff. A boarding school headmaster and a countryman to his fingertips – and a man strikingly at ease with himself.

None of this would have been possible without Gilly's total support and complementary skills. Their joint ability to work a room. Her tireless entertaining on occasions, large and small, carried out with a minimum of domestic support before Uppingham had any centralised catering provision. Her regular visits to houses. The presents bought at Mary Lloyd's shop (Minerva) to welcome every newborn staff child. Her charitable work for the Leicestershire hospice.

Finally, and personally, Nick Bomford gave me my big career opportunity as Second Master. Despite all the other calls on his time, he also gave me influential support through the downs and ups of my post-Uppingham years. You don't forget loyalty like that, and I owe him much. So do we all.

We are pleased to share a selection of tributes received after we shared news of Nick's passing in our extended content on the OU website via the QR code.





Peter Colville

By Nigel Richardson
Member of staff from 1971 to 1989

Peter joined Uppingham in 1968, the same year his father John (Common Room 1937 to 1968, housemaster of Brooklands 1948 to 1960) left. With his passing, the School loses not only a much-loved figure but also an irreplaceable link to over eight decades of institutional memory.

Peter brought with him an outstanding record. As a pupil at Rugby School, he captained both hockey and rugby, played in top cricket and tennis teams, and served as house captain. At Cambridge he read history, captained the Blues hockey side, and led a joint Cambridge–Oxford Swallows’ tour to South Africa in 1961. He also played cricket for the Crusaders. Internationally, he represented Scotland at hockey, winning 16 caps and captaining the team in 1962 to 1963. Selected for the GB squad to India in 1963 to 1964, injury denied him a place at the 1964 Olympics. Characteristically, he described that setback as “sad, but so much to be grateful for”. In total, he played hockey in 11 countries.

After teaching at Cranleigh and in New Zealand, Peter returned to Uppingham in 1968 as resident house tutor in School House, teaching both history and maths for nearly three decades. From the next-door room on the East

Block Top Floor, I saw how he successfully juggled the competing demands of classroom and housemastering, and his enthusiasm and determination to see the best in every pupil. In his final years he tutored boys in Farleigh with skill and wisdom. After that, the school wisely deployed his personal skills and professional experience as Careers Master and for five years as the Registrar for Admissions from 1993 to 1998.

Colleagues and pupils alike summed him up as loyal, generous, encouraging, and always more interested in others than himself.

OUs who spent many hours with him on the all-weather asphalt pitch or cricket wickets on the Middle will know what they owe him. So will Fircroftians of that era: he was a born housemaster, and he described that role as: “the jewel in my working life... working with Sheila in the same house doing two different jobs to the same end was exciting and very fulfilling... giving the boys the best home they could have had away from their own”.

Those who lived and worked alongside him recall his warmth, fairness, and the welcoming atmosphere he and Sheila created together. Colleagues and pupils alike summed him up as loyal, generous, encouraging, and always more interested in others than himself.

His marriage to Sheila in 1972 was transformative. Introduced at a Round Table dance by his sister Anne, Peter became stepfather to Sheila’s two teenage children, and together they built a long and happy marriage.

In retirement, Peter and Sheila first settled in Wisbech, where he served as a National Trust guide at Peckover House, before moving to Witney to be closer to family. There he became a valued school governor and an active member of St Mary’s Church. In his later years he bore increasing infirmity with grace, caring devotedly for Sheila as her health declined.

Though modest about his achievements, Peter remained deeply grateful for his family, Sheila’s unfailing support, and the love of her children and grandchildren, whom he always regarded as his own. He died in November 2024, aged 86 after a life in which many of us feel fortunate to have shared.



By Ian Rolison
Member of staff from 1989 to 2014

In 1979, fresh-faced from Oxford University – where the misfortune of a freak injury the week of the Varsity match meant failure to win a Blue, and commitment to cricket culminated in failure to secure a PGCE – Nick Gandon arrived in the English Department and as a tutor in Meadhurst under Brian Stokes. He had previously studied at Durham University, captaining both the cricket and hockey sides and, just five years earlier, in 1974, he had captained Haileybury in a drawn two-day game against an Uppingham side led by John ‘Chalky’ White (M 69). The following season he was selected to play for Hertfordshire; his last Minors game would be in 1996.

In 2013, he founded Aureus Social Ventures, an organisation dedicated to supporting charities, including those helping London’s homeless and another developing character through cricket in East Africa.

Frank Toone (SH 79) tells me that, on arrival at Uppingham, Nick would not have looked out of place in the Upper Fifth. This youthful mien and zest for life, not to say mischievous twinkle – born, perhaps, of being the younger progeny of a protestant missionary – quickly earned him the sobriquet ‘kiddie’ amongst the pupil body. By 1983 he was Warden of Balmaghie (the Sixth Form centre), having taken over the hockey from Peter Colville two years earlier. His teams mirrored the man himself: whatever they might have lacked in organisation, they more than made up for with flair, skill, and a vibrant relish of the contest.

Fortuitously, in 1984, Miss Carole Wilson joined the Classics department. Despite Nick’s disappointment that the Master in charge of hockey at Tonbridge had been passed over for the position, Carole and Nick became more closely acquainted in a Common Room dramatic production entitled *You, Too, Can Have a Body* (oh those halcyon days!) where Nick, perhaps not for the first time, had attempted the romantic lead. The couple were married after Nick’s return from a year’s exchange at Knox Grammar School, Sydney, and shortly after took up residence in Constables where they welcomed their daughters Jo and Amy. They ran the House until their departure from Uppingham, in 1993, to return to Haileybury. Though later Nick would acknowledge that his appointment as a relative tyro meant that he might have done some things differently, the House

thrived under his and Carole’s guardianship. Never one to miss an opportunity to declaim, occasionally with a degree of pomposity, he was a natural raconteur: his conviviality and generosity was matched only by the love of a good story, regaled to much laughter, often at his own expense.

After a time as Registrar at Haileybury, he was to become a driving force behind the Cricket Foundation at Lord’s, playing a pivotal role in creating and launching the *Chance to Shine* programme in 2005, working alongside Mark Nicholas, Mervyn King, and Nick’s good friend, Duncan Fearnley. Chance to Shine Chief Executive, Kate Stephens, said: “Nick’s legacy will live on through the millions of children who have taken part in Chance to Shine programmes over the last 20 years.” His influence also reached the heart of cricket’s most prestigious institution as, in recent years, he served on the MCC’s main committee.

Beyond cricket, Nick was deeply committed to social causes. In 2013, he founded Aureus Social Ventures, an organisation dedicated to supporting charities, including those helping London’s homeless and another developing character through cricket in East Africa.

It is testimony not only to his humility and bravery when faced with his terminal diagnosis but also to his integrity and humanity, both as a Housemaster and the man he became, that, on the night before he died, at a sleep-out he had organised under the stars at Lord’s for those charities so close to his heart, seven of the Constables’ 86 cohort were in attendance.

Tributes shared with the OU team following Nick’s death on 28th February are available to read via our extended content on the OU website.



Keven Johnstone

By Sam Dewhurst
Classics teacher and former housemaster of Meadhurst

Keven was a remarkable man and a consummate schoolmaster. He joined Uppingham in 2000 as Director of Sport, having previously been a boarding housemaster at Stamford. Wishing to step back from full-time pastoral care and return to his sporting roots, he embraced the new role with energy and vision. However, when a housemaster position unexpectedly became vacant in January 2001, Keven was asked to step in. Fortunately for Lorne House, he said yes, successfully guiding it with warmth and dedication for six and a half years and having a lasting impact on the pupils in his care. In that time, he remained Director of Sport and Head of Academic PE until successors could be found.

In 2007 Keven returned full-time to A level PE teaching and sport and Uppingham benefited from his extraordinary sporting prowess; he spent hours preparing for his sessions, he coached the 1st XV rugby for a few years taking them on tour, he became a Level 3 golf coach, and, at his peak, playing off a scratch handicap. He was equally adept at turning his hand to any sport from badminton and tennis to table tennis and countless others. He extracted the very best from those he taught, and ‘Super Kev’ as he became known amongst colleagues (to his horror), had the knack of encouraging others while still being quite clearly the most skilled player on the field or court and never allowing them to beat him. He always led by example, joining in with the warmups and focused on the psychology behind sport, too. He brought the Paarlauf to Uppingham when Head of Athletics. Aside sport, he was also Captain in the CCF Army section and was Director of Activities and EVC as well as a tutor in Brooklands and then West Bank.

When he and Helen were married in the School Chapel in 2014, the ceremony was conducted by the Chaplain, Father James Saunders, who remarked that it was not often one had the chance to marry one’s PE teacher. James readily admits that his own sporting achievements during his time as a pupil at Stamford were undistinguished, yet he stood as living proof that Keven had a gift for making PE lessons accessible – even for the least proficient!

Even as Keven became unwell from Parkinson’s, he continued to drive Uppingham golf forward, inspiring young



Jenny Ledger

Jenny, wife of the late Paul Ledger – Housemaster of The Hall from 1961 to 1972 – passed away on 30th July, aged 96. Jenny maintained close ties with OUs from The Hall and greatly enjoyed hosting reunions at her home. We are pleased to provide a tribute by **Richard Redmile (H 66)** and **Robin Johnson (H 67)**.

Paul and Jenny Ledger were the team which, for many, made The Hall the special place it was during the 1960s, but one had the strong impression that Jenny was an equal partner. Vivacious, a great beauty that extended into extreme old age, hugely intelligent and articulate, caring, considerate, navigating the role of housemaster’s wife, while giving that confident, feminine input in the strangely masculine world of boys who missed their mothers.

Jenny’s impact on many of us who passed through her care was profound and lifelong. Her interest never waned and long after she and Paul had left The Hall and Uppingham, their door was always open to The Hall OUs. She was always interested in hearing about what we were up to and her sharp memory recalled not just our awkward formative

UK and Uppingham golfers with the Swifts tours to the USA, competitions in Spain and, through his enduring links with the OUGS, securing the School’s first golf simulator. He was also a keen member of the Pedagogues golf society. His determination, personal commitment and finance ensured that future generations would benefit from opportunities he himself had helped to create.

The vast number of tributes received make it abundantly clear that Keven will always be remembered as a kind and warm-hearted member of the Uppingham family, who made everyone feel welcome and valued. A supportive mentor, he was patient, encouraging, and always ready to listen, inspiring pupils and colleagues alike. Keven’s cheerful nature and wonderful sense of humour brought positivity and laughter to every setting, while his dedication and commitment over more than two decades left a lasting mark on the School. Deeply family-oriented and hospitable, he fostered a true sense of home and community, earning the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

Keven is deeply missed by colleagues, pupils, and friends alike. The large gathering at his funeral was a powerful reminder of the lives he touched and the inspiration he provided. He leaves behind him a legacy of commitment to teaching, generosity of spirit and sporting excellence that speaks volumes for his humanity.

We have shared a selection of personal tributes in our extended content on the OU website via the QR code.



years, but the more recent news and stories. She was always happy to host reunions at their home and, in her 90s, was game for most things that we suggested to her, ranging from lunch or dinner nearby, to the OU Dinner at the Mansion House or dinner at the House of Lords. It was a privilege to visit her, not to talk about the past but to keep her up to date on what we were doing and to hear about her own busy life which did not seem to slow down even in her 90s. She was reliably thrilled to see you.

In life one meets a few truly remarkable people and Jenny Ledger was one such. Those of us who were in The Hall during the Ledgers’ tenure were extraordinarily lucky and Jenny’s role in that cannot be overstated. Our luck extended into being able to maintain that relationship until she was 96. Jenny Ledger’s quietly stated attributes and gifts transformed life in The Hall and made a huge contribution to some of the boys who lived there at the time. She is fondly remembered and much missed.

We are sorry to share news of other well remembered staff who have passed away...



‘Fuzzy’ Barker, as she was most fondly known, passed away this summer. She was a much-loved member of Uppingham’s Geography Department from 2002, and served as Common Room Secretary from 2005 to 2006. Beyond the classroom, she played an active role in the School’s sporting life, giving generously of her time and energy.

Alan Hancock reflected: “Fuzzy was a knowledgeable and willing colleague, very much a team player, and one who was always keen to learn. She was always happy to give her time for others – colleague or pupil – hence her election as Common Room Secretary. My overriding memory is of her great enthusiasm for everything; she simply carried people with her.”

Fuzzy will be remembered with gratitude and affection by all who knew her.



Muriel Horspool passed away on 12th January, aged 89 years. She will be fondly remembered by many OUs as former Matron of Meadhurst, in addition to other roles held at the School through over 40 years of distinguished service. **Simon Smith (M 87)** recalls:

“Muriel was a magnificent matron, affectionately known as ‘Matey’. A strong northern lady, but with a soft nature, she was constantly looking out for ‘her boys’ – a modern-day Mary Poppins-type character in disguise.”

Staff News



After 15 happy years at Uppingham we were sad to say goodbye to our School Chaplain, **Revd James Saunders**, who left the School at the end of December to lead an important parish role in Nottingham City Centre.

We wish him well at St Mary’s in Nottingham’s Lace Market, and if there are any OUs amongst that parish, we

know that they will come to appreciate him as much as our School community did.



Matron, **Rose Gilbody**, retired at the end of the Summer Term having worked at Uppingham for 30 years, and as Matron of Lorne House under four Housemasters – James Hutchinson, Keven Johnstone, Kurt Seecharan and Andrew Huxter.

We received many messages of goodwill after announcing her retirement, perfectly summed up by a former pupil:

“As you step into your well-earned retirement, I want to thank you for everything you did for us, and for the way you cared for all the LH boys. Your door was always open, offering a safe, calm, and welcoming space where we could recharge. And of course, I’ll never forget the legendary lemonade cure. Somehow, no matter the ailment – headache, stress, or some mysterious illness – that trusty glass of lemonade always seemed to do the trick!”



Charlie Bostock retired this summer after more than 16 years of outstanding service as Director of Admissions. Charlie has been a familiar face to many Uppinghamians. Those entering the School over this period will have been enchanted by the warmth of his welcome and energising spirit. We wish him well as he steps down from his role to enjoy life in Somerset.

Phil Gomm, Maths Teacher, Director of Administration and Co-Curriculum, School House Housemaster 1995 to 2010, retired at the end of the Summer Term.

Simon Tetlow stepped down from his post as Housemaster of School House after 15 dedicated years in the role. He continues to teach in the Classics Department.

A Glorious Reunion

Letters from 1933 reveal the unexpected meeting of OUs in Alexandria

H.M.S. Glorious
c/o G.P.O.
London

25th September 1933

Dear Owen,

I thought that a short account of a meeting of some OUs at Alexandria [Egypt], might interest you. H.M.S. Glorious arrived at Alexandria on 13th September and on arrival were invited to a cocktail party and dance, to be given the next day, at the Hotel Cecil by the British Community. By a stroke of good luck, I attended wearing my OU tie. Proceedings had not been going on for long before I was asked if I was an OU. I replied in the affirmative and found that I was talking to G.R.M. Bowly - a Captain in the Warwickshire Regiment - and we were soon carrying on that conversation about Uppingham and its doings that Old Boys from any public school always will do.

Shortly afterwards I spotted another OU tie; and so, one P. Allen came into our conversation, and very shortly roped in one Pocock. We were now a cheesy party of four OUs and were busily discussing every possible aspect and event that could possibly concern Uppingham: making optimistic dates to meet at Old Boys Day 1934 and 1935 and even further ahead. The next proceeding was that Mrs Allen and Mrs Bowly were fetched to join our party and after some dancing and another spell of spinning yarns, I thought it would be a good idea to have an OU party on board, as soon as we could fix up a convenient day to show them all around the ship. Accordingly, Sunday 17th was fixed on. The party to consist of the Allens, Bowlys and Pocock. I think Pocock thought he might be lonely, so he asked if he could bring his girlfriend, who was very anxious to see over the ship, so this was duly arranged.

Accordingly at 4pm on the Sunday, this party arrived on board and came along to my cabin for tea. On the way to my cabin I was stopped by a certain Lieutenant of the ship who asked what chances he had of joining our party: apparently he had been rather smitten by the young friend of Pocock's who he had met at the cocktail party; but I discovered that he was the son and nephew of several OUs, so I passed that as a qualification and let him join up with us.

What are the chances? It's 1933, and Charles Harley Savory (M1906) is serving aboard HMS Glorious as Surgeon-Commander in the Royal Navy. Soon after berthing in the sun-drenched port of Alexandria in Egypt, he receives an invitation to a cocktail party - where he spots a familiar tie! Within hours, a handful of OUs are swapping stories over dinner, thousands of miles from home.

Charles's account of the reunion, written in a letter to the Headmaster of the time, Revd Reginald Owen, and recently unearthed in the Uppingham archives by Jerry Rudman, brings this chance meeting vividly to life - a perfect example of the power of an OU tie in forging connections.

Charles Savory's letter to the Headmaster has been transcribed for ease of reading.

Incidentally his name is Rotherham - a well-known name amongst OUs - I do not blame him for wanting to join us; as SHE was most attractive and amazing. We had tea and then climbed all over the ship with Rotherham and myself doing the showman and guide business. I don't think much was missed beyond Engine and Boiler rooms, as it was too hot to go down there, but the aeroplane hangers and various types of aircraft seemed to interest them most.

After this we adjourned to my cabin for a cocktail or two, and then had supper in the Captain's cabin, which I had managed to borrow for the occasion, after which we saw the Cinema on board, and they left the ship at about 11pm. This party was, I think, a success - although I ought not to say that as I was host - anyway that was the impression I got. I saw the Allens and Pocock again, but the Bowlys had to go to Cairo the next day. Later on, I met another OU who came on board to call on us, and that was Uniacke. I was sorry I had not met him earlier so that he could have joined our Sunday party.

That was the first time I had met so many OUs at once abroad; which I thought might interest you, so hence the letter.

I hope everything is flourishing at Uppingham and any how feel sure it is. I am now very much looking forward to hearing from my young son and his impressions of the place.

Please give my kind regards to Mrs Owen.
Yours sincerely

C.H. Savory

P.S If by any chance this letter might be useful for the School Magazine please use it.

2nd October, 1933.

Surgeon Commander C. H. Savory, R.N.,
H.M.S. "Glorious,"
c/o G.P.O., London.

Dear Savory,

I was very glad to have your letter and to hear about your party. I remember well all the OUs you mention, with the exception of Bowly, whom I ought to know as he did not leave Uppingham till 1917, and so was here a couple of years with me. The only name I miss is the name of Birley. They have lived at Ramleh for many years, and I had three of their sons in my own House together with a number of cousins. He used to be in cotton, but has recently retired; but it is a well-known name. We were out in Egypt a few years ago and saw the Allen family, and Uniacke was also there at the time. We had a wonderful month there and got up as far as Assuam, but that was in January, and I expect you have had it pretty hot recently.

The term has started well, and though I have made the acquaintance of your boy I have not of course seen much of him at present. I have no doubt that he will write to you happily. New boys seem to settle down here

very quickly. I think we shall have a pretty good XV this term. They beat my team on Saturday and showed quite good promise.

All good wishes to you and many thanks for your interesting letter,

Yours sincerely,

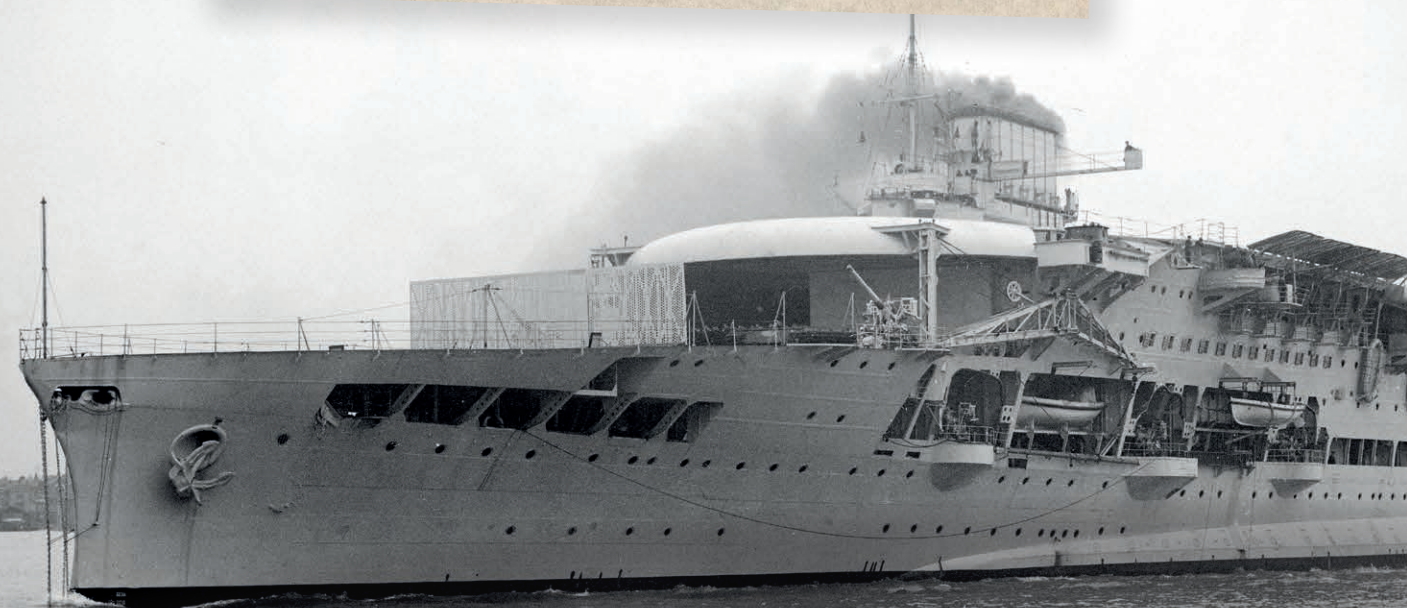
The OUs mentioned in the letters have been identified as Geoffrey Bowley (WB 1914), Percival Allen (Hf 1919), Rupert Birley (SH 1918), Robie Uniacke (SH 1920) and Richard Pocock (Hf 1925).

The sinking of HMS Glorious



On 8th June, 1940, the Royal Navy suffered one of its most devastating defeats of the Second World War when HMS Glorious was sunk. The full story can be

found via the extended content on the OU website, via the QR code.



Events

It has been a fantastic year for OU events, with memorable gatherings at the School, across the UK, and around the world. Each occasion has been a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, network and celebrate our community. If you haven't been able to join us yet, we hope to welcome you at an upcoming event soon.

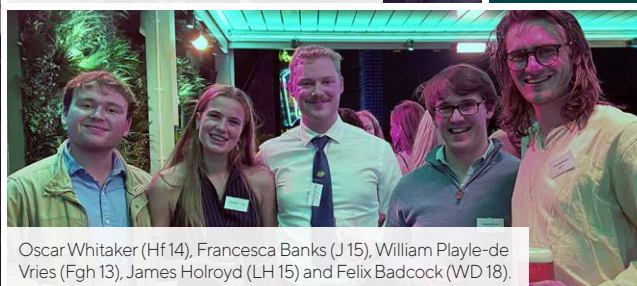
Guests are shown from left to right in each photo.



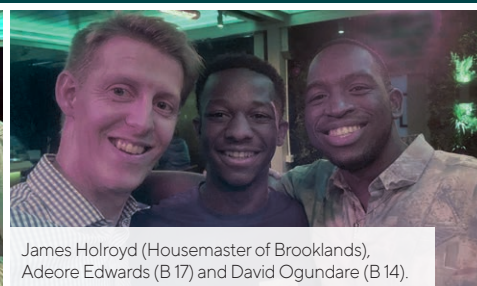
Holly Walters (J 16), Cheluchi Igweh (L 21) and Neera Cheung (L 21).



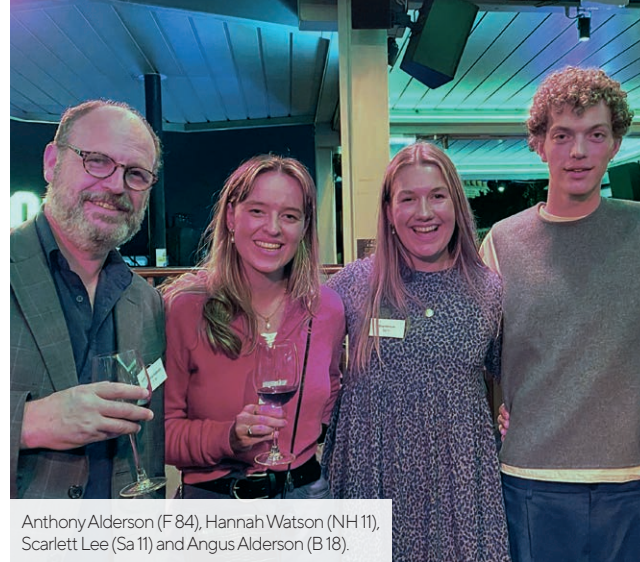
Matthew Barnes (M 78), James Morgan (Fgh 68) and David Calvert-Thomson (Hf 67).



Oscar Whitaker (Hf 14), Francesca Banks (J 15), William Playle-de Vries (Fgh 13), James Holroyd (LH 15) and Felix Badcock (WD 18).



James Holroyd (Housemaster of Brooklands), Adeore Edwards (B 17) and David Ogundare (B 14).



Anthony Alderson (F 84), Hannah Watson (NH 11), Scarlett Lee (Sa 11) and Angus Alderson (B 18).

Theatre Drinks

A superb evening with OUs of all ages and theatre staff, past and present, enjoying each other's company at the wonderful Rooftop bar of The Hippodrome in October 2024. Thanks to **Simon Thomas (WD 78)** for providing the venue.

Celebration of Rugby Dinner

Held in the Memorial Hall in November 2024, the guest list read like a roll call of Uppingham rugby history, with former 1st XV players from the early 1950s through to recent leavers. Stories were shared and friendships forged on the rugby field were rekindled.



OU team captain, David Heron (C 91).



David Dickson (Fgh 57), Nick Taylor (WD 58), David Ashworth (L 58), George Wood (LH 59), Duncan Newton (Fgh 58), Anthony Dalzell (LH 58) and Andrew Macdonald (F 57).



The front row of the 1961 1st XV in scrum position: George Wood (LH 59), Andrew Macdonald (F 57) and Anthony Dalzell (LH 58).



James Bradding (WB 11), Max Bowles (M 11) and Sam Burles (Hf 13).



David Kirk and Casey O'Hanrahan.



Jemima Myles (NH 15), Finty Willis (Sa 15) and Thea Tuckey (Sa 15).



George Fulton (C 91), Mary Fulton (J 88) and Bertie Tweed (F 15).



Front: Jerry Rudman, Anthony Chisnall (M 82), Michael Dennis (C 01) and Edward Rook (M 82). Back: James Matthews (M 88), Oliver Duckett (C 95), Nick Southern (SH 98), Grant Berry (SH 96), Chris Philpot (B 82) and Jeremy Andrews (M 88).



Freya Radford (C 15), Rosie Charlton (C 15), Isabella Wyatt (C 15), Georgina Lewis (F 15), Annie Smith (J 15) and Flora White (Fd 15).

London Dinner

OUs came together in March for a fantastic evening at the Mandarin Oriental, with thanks to our brilliant table hosts who rallied friends and made it such a special night.

Join us for the Big OU Summer Party on 4th June 2026. Save the date, reserve your tables – more details coming soon.



Thomas Jackson (SH 19), Alex Gerasimchuk (F 20), Charlie Lewis (LH 88) and Richard Wilkinson.



Alex Liu (LH 18), Maverick Chow (Hf 18), Neera Cheung (L 21), Hayden Ng (LH 18) and Yaoyuan Zhang (F 18).



Abi Briggs (née Bell, Fd 92), Andy Cameron (Fgh 91), Lou Dunipace (née Jackson, J 88), Ed Fowler (SH 85), Sarah Gullan-Whur (née Haryott, Fd 88), Emma Maitland (Starkie, Fd 88) and Anna Meadows (née Briggs, Fd 88).



Annie Smith (J 15), Camilla Tice (J 15), Katie Riddle (J 15) and Freya Radford (C 15).



Front: Ashleigh Friedlein (C 85), Sarah Gullan-Whur (née Haryott, Fd 88) and Ben Norris (M 85). Back: Mary Fulton (J 88), Ed Fowler (SH 85), Stevie Mann (B 85), Adam Duguid (B 85) and Andy Fairs (F 85).



Front: Matt Harding, Rob Moore, and Tom Anderson. Back: Jody Wood, Nick Wall, Al Rudman and Mike Johnson (all Fgh 92).

Melbourne Drinks, Australia

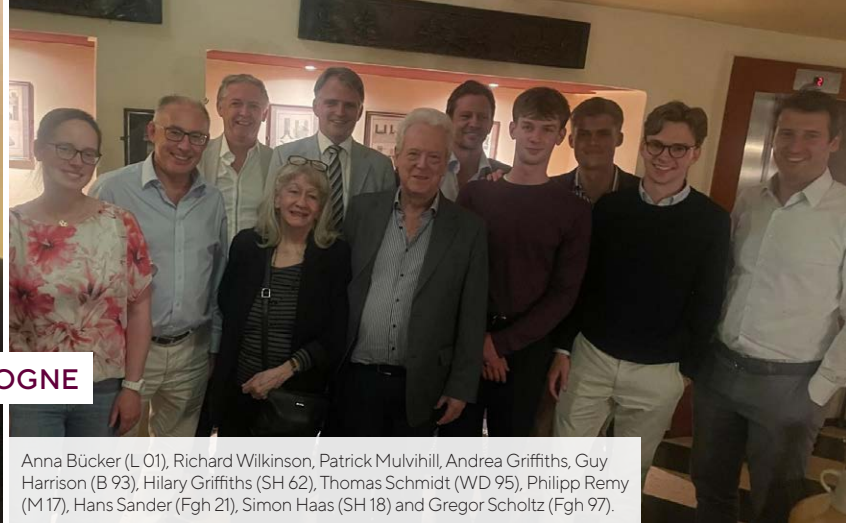
An inaugural OU Drinks was held in The Duke of Wellington Rooftop Bar in March. Thanks to **Tom Watson (M 90)** for organising the occasion.



James Whiteley (M 87), Paul Sidhu (M 84), Rob Owen (C 57), Dave Sidhu (Fgh 84), Izzy Mulvihill (NH 19), Tom Watson (M 90) and Harry Wade (F 97).



Thomas Schmidt (WD 95), Philipp Remy (M 17) and Simon Haas (SH 18).



COLOGNE

Anna Bucker (L 01), Richard Wilkinson, Patrick Mulvihill, Andrea Griffiths, Guy Harrison (B 93), Hilary Griffiths (SH 62), Thomas Schmidt (WD 95), Philipp Remy (M 17), Hans Sander (Fgh 21), Simon Haas (SH 18) and Gregor Scholtz (Fgh 97).

Germany

In May, two inaugural OU events were held in Germany with OUs in Munich and Cologne getting together with School staff, including Patrick Mulvihill (International Development Director) and Richard Wilkinson (German Teacher, Senior Admissions Tutor and Former Housemaster of Highfield).



Lawrence Lee (Hf 84), Johnny Wheeler (Hf 80) and Mark Hardy (Hf 84).



Gary Lau (F 96), Holden Chow (SH 96), Dr Richard Maloney, Dominic Wertheimer (LH 92) and Yiu Chi Mak (M 92).



Harriet Martin (NH 15) and Peter Martin (H 79)



Oliver Ho (WD 18), Jake Brunner (B 18), Charlie Vizzone (B 19), Seb Wheeler (B 21) and John Hardy (Hf 18).

Hong Kong Drinks

The Headmaster, Dr Richard Maloney, joined by International Development Director, Patrick Mulvihill, visited Hong Kong in April for a super event at the Maritime Museum courtesy of **Anthony Hardy (Hf 52)**.

Save the date!
On Wednesday 25th March 2026 we will be celebrating 20 years of the Hong Kong Friends of Uppingham with a dinner at the Hong Kong Club. More details to follow.



David Dickson (Fgh 57), Mark Pearson (L 76), Abboudi Hoss (Hf 62) and Max Tiefenbacher (LH 13).



Seated round the table from the left: Isabel Kurth, Lasse Von der Heydt (SH 15), Max Tiefenbacher (LH 13), Gemma Pearson (C 08), Richard Wilkinson, Alison Davies (Fd 89), Elaine Mulvihill and Mark Pearson (L 76).

Exeter University Drinks

Great to see so many young OUs getting together in May. A big thank you to our OU School for Life Ambassador, **David Gavins (LH 73)**, for hosting the occasion.

OU
SCHOOL
FOR LIFE



Around the group (looking at camera): Charlie Cobb (WB 18), Rosie Stephens (NH 18), Alice Clark (C 18), Leo Darwin Vogel (Fgh 17), Charles Bruce (Hf 18), Lulie Pumphrey (Fd 18), Olivia Henson (Fd 17), Bea Ingham Clark (L 18), Maude Poulter (Fd 18) and Clara Middleton (J 18).



Leo Darwin Vogel (Fgh 17), Charles Bruce (Hf 18), Tom Sykes (M 18), Enzo Radford (B 18), Ned Hercock (F 18) and Mungo Martineau (B 18).



Joss Linney (F 08) and Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76).



Jesper Lawson-Dick (SH 13), Charlie Swallow (WD 13) and Milo Linney (F 12).



Freddie Handy (B 15) and Harry Hill (Fgh 15).

Insurance Drinks

An enjoyable occasion and valuable networking opportunity held at the Barrowboy and Banker, in May. Thanks to all who came along.
If you are working in the industry and would like to hear about future get-togethers, please email the OU team at ou@uppingham.co.uk.



Hubert Eisdell (B 04), Luella Hutley (Sa 15), Angus Duff (B 15), Max Woods (B 15) and Finty Willis (Sa 15).



Sam Featherstone, James McDonald and Henry Gurney (all B 99).



Paul (B 70) and Christina Rushton with Elizabeth and Malcolm Fourie (B 74).



Adam Duguid (B 85) and Rupert Staines (B 81).

Brooklands Reunion

Held in June, it was fantastic to welcome back OUs to their old House. The archive display, compiled by Jerry Rudman, sparked lots of interest and enthusiasm with a wealth of materials on show.



Henry Alexander (B 82), Rupert Staines (B 81), Chris Philpot (B 82), Adam Duguid (B 85), Edward Strange (B 78) and Christopher Boyes (B 83) – seated in a classic school photo pose!



Edward Strange (B 78), Christopher Boyes (B 83) and Rupert Staines (B 81) immersed in the archive materials.



Robbie Robotham (WD 73), Richard Levell (H 74) and James Kirby-Welch (WD 74).



Former members of staff: Stewart Drummond, Neil Page and Paul Stocker.

Speech Day

Held on the last day of term in June, it was a fabulous day from start to finish. The pride and spirit of our community shone through in every moment.



Nicole and Karim Bakri (Hf 91) and family.



Dick Howeson (Hf 64), Richard Franceys (Hf 65) and Andrew Mortimore (Hf 67).



Grace Gregory (Fd 14) and Archie Tweed (F 17).



Lord Nigel Crisp (Hf 65) and David Woolcombe (Hf 63).

International Development Drinks

Held in July at the Royal Ocean Racing Club, there were some great conversations throughout the evening and valuable connections made.



Stewart Drummond, David Woolcombe (Hf 63), Rebecca Lin (L 13), Dick Howeson (Hf 64) and Andrew Mortimore (Hf 67).



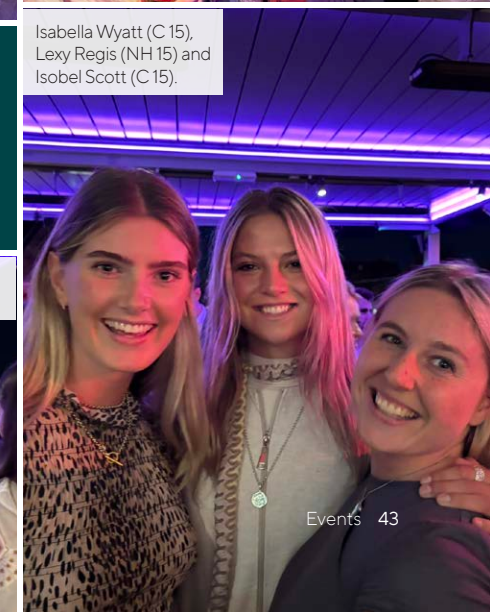
Will Knapman (M 16), Max Cheng (M 16) and Sam Martin (WD 16).



Louise Hood (née Whitlock, Fd 99) and Charlotte Mantle (J 10).



Fenella Bruce (Sa 17), Lucy Sexton (C 16), Hattie Hodges (C 16), Theo Arthur (WD 16) and Rosie Banbury (NH 16).



Isabella Wyatt (C 15), Lexy Regis (NH 15) and Isobel Scott (C 15).

London Drinks

A superb drinks party held in September at The Hippodrome's Rooftop Bar.



Hugo Bray (Fgh 16) and Isabella Mackie (L 19).

New York Drinks

An impromptu get-together in August, kindly organised by **Sarah Woodberry (Fd 82)** and **Toby Butterfield (F 79)** which followed a dinner in November 2024.



Tommy Carr (SH 96), James Gorman (F 04), Simon Prosser (F 72) and his partner Vanessa, Sarah Woodberry (Fd 82), Lily Strange (Sa 11), Justin Woddis (C 78) and seated in front, Toby Butterfield (F 79).

Over 60s Lunch

It was a real pleasure to see so many familiar faces alongside first-time guests, all reconnecting over a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon together at the Cavalry and Guards Club in September.



Anthony Taylor (B 69), David Sprake (SH 69) and John White (M 69).



Michael Bourne (L 69) and Rod Mountain (Hf 69).



David Broster (H 73), Nicholas Lurnley (Hf 68) and Mark Sanderson (SH 69).



John Millard (SH 54) and David Needham (Fgh 47).



Peter Bennett (WD 59) and David Scott (WD 58).



Brothers, Richard (Hf 72) and Mark (Hf 75) Gabbertas.

Clubs and Societies

Over the past year, OUs have enjoyed a busy calendar of sporting fixtures – the perfect chance to catch up with friends, pull on a pair of OU socks, and take part in some memorable matches. In this issue, we’re delighted to share a snapshot of the action, with full reports available online via the QR code.



To help manage rising print and mailing costs, the detailed Clubs and Societies coverage has been moved to the OU website. If you’re unable to access the online version via the code, simply contact us on ou@uppingham.co.uk and we’ll be pleased to email you a copy of the full report.



Chris Watson (M 92), Alastair White (SH 18), Simon Osmond (VVB 85), Ant Ringer (B 79), John Webster (C 70) and James Watson (L 88).

Uppingham Veterans Rifle Club

By Simon Osmond (WB 85)

The 2025 British Target Rifle Championships at Bisley, held in July, delivered a mix of challenges, triumphs, and some outstanding OU performances. The Veterans’ Match saw three full OU teams and a partial fourth, with mixed results but placing the Club sixth overall.

Weather conditions were varied, with hot practice days followed by a mix of rain, sun, and tricky winds. Across the week, OUs collected a string of notable victories and top finishes: **James Watson (L 88)** – Winner of the Conan Doyle (900 yards), **Chris Watson (M 92)** – Winner of the

Century Range Aggregate, Lord Tedder Aggregate, and Sights Aggregate, the Watson Pair – Winners of the Families Trophy, and **Ant Ringer (B 79)** – Winner of the Fulton Pairs.

Simon Osmond (WB 85) claimed the UVRC Championship 2025 (for his first time). As we go to press, Chris Watson is just returning from a Great Britain team tour to Canada for which he was vice-captain, and James Watson has been selected for the GB Rifle Team heading to Brisbane, Australia, in October 2026.

There was strong OU representation across every level of competition throughout the year, with several standout victories and international honours. The achievements of our OUs ensured we continue to fly the flag for Uppingham in the shooting world.

Events Calendar 2026

There will be various opportunities to get together with your OU friends at both social and networking events throughout 2026. More details can be found on pages 62 and 63 and via the OU website.





Uppingham Rovers Cricket Club

The 2025 season was marked by several ‘firsts’ for the Rovers, including entry into the Cricketer Cup preliminary round, the launch of an Over-50s side, and new fixtures against The Frogs and Sudbury CC. In all, 42 players represented the Club, reflecting both the strength and breadth of the Rovers teams.

For the first time, the Rovers began in the preliminary round, away to Old Tonbridgians (finalists in 2024 and 2025). The hosts made 311 for 8, and though **Harry Funnell (Fgh 13) (48)** and **Liam Tew (WD 22) (43)** battled hard, the Rovers were dismissed for 229, losing by 82 runs.

The Club’s debut in the Over-50s competition was a highlight, with the team making it all the way to the final but losing out to Bradfield Waifs. Reaching the final at the first attempt was a major achievement, with thanks to **James Beaumont (WD 88)** for leading the side.

The season brought both narrow defeats and memorable wins. The one-wicket loss to the School XI and the four-run defeat at Sudbury showed the competitive spirit of the side, while victory over The Frogs was another highlight.

The Rovers continue to seek new fixtures and in 2026 will embark on only their second overseas tour, with matches in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With momentum from 2025 and a growing player base, the Club looks forward to building on this foundation in 2026.

Over-50s Cup Final Side

L to R front: Peter Riley (M 69), Andrew Cumming (WD 85), James Beaumont (WD 88), Ed Fowler (SH 85) and Tom Hamilton (WB 87). Back: Piers Robson (LH 85), Mark Worrall (F 86), John White (M 69), Andrew Lewin (F 80), Jamie Renison (F 85) and Rob Perkins (C 89).

Rovers on Tour: From Uppingham to Argentina

In January 2026, the Uppingham Rovers will set off on a 10-day cricket tour to Argentina. The tour aims to celebrate the Club’s heritage, promote the game internationally, and support its growth in a non-traditional cricketing nation.

The tour will be based in Buenos Aires and feature seven cricket matches against some of Argentina’s most historic cricket clubs and schools including Belgrano, Hurlingham and St Albans. We look forward to representing the School away from home and celebrating the game in a country where cricket has a proud history.

The Tourists: Chris Bennett-Baggs (WB 02), Will Barrow (Hf 09), Tom Kennedy (B 06), Alex Macdonald (F 18), Archie Stroud (WD 07), Ben Kennedy (B 09), Freddie Read (M 07), Freddie Tucker (B 10), Ollie Dring (LH 19), Otto Esse (WB 08), Sam Charlton (M 12), Will Harris (WD 17), William Marriage (WD 17) and Sam Turberville Smith (B 15).



OU Rugby

The OU Rugby celebration in November 2024 was a truly memorable occasion, uniting generations of OUs for a day of competition and shared memories.

The opening match saw the OUs take on Stoneygate, eager for revenge after last year’s loss. In a hard-fought but friendly contest, Stoneygate edged victory, but the encounter highlighted the determination and camaraderie of both teams.

The day’s centrepiece was the 1st XV match versus Rugby School, marking 125 years since the two sides first

met. With strong support from OUs, parents, pupils, and staff, Uppingham delivered an outstanding performance, securing a comfortable and historic win.

Festivities concluded with a black-tie dinner in the Memorial Hall, attended by former 1st XV players spanning the early 1950s to recent leavers. Many reunited having not seen each other since their school days, sharing stories and rekindling friendships in a poignant and joyful evening.

Thanks go to all who took part, especially OU team captain, **David Heron (C 91)**, for his tireless efforts in keeping OU rugby thriving and to Ian ‘Dosser’ Smith, a rugby coach known to many OUs over the years. The next celebration is scheduled for Autumn 2026.

OU Fives

By Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)

The annual OUs and Jesters v School match took place in Uppingham on 17th November, 2024. Games were played on the Constables’ Fives Courts and on the historic Brooklands’ Courts – the oldest in the world, built in 1868. The day featured some closely contested matches, along with the usual fun and laughter.

If you’d like to play in future OU matches please contact: **Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76):** Adrian.Lewthwaite@btinternet.com **Ashley Friedlein (C 85):** ashley.friedlein@gmail.com



L to R: Ashley Friedlein (C 85), Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76), Sam Basu (Repton), Stephen Kelly (City of London), Nic Walker (Charterhouse), Clive Smith (M 68) and James Dutta (WD 86).



Newest member, James Wynne-Joyce (Fgh 22).

OU Masonic Lodge

By Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)

The OU Lodge was delighted to return to the School on 13th September for its annual Meeting and Dinner. During the evening, members presented the Headmaster with a cheque for £2,500 in support of fee-assisted places – continuing the proud tradition of giving back to the School community.

True to its reputation as the best fine wine Lodge among Public School Lodges, the evening was marked by excellent wines and convivial company. The annual event is open to all OUs and their partners, and we warmly encourage anyone interested to join future occasions.

The Lodge also extends its congratulations to this year’s recipients of the Speech Day award, *The OU Lodge Prize for Community Service Initiatives*. The £500 prize was donated to Alzheimer’s Research UK.

To conclude, it is with great sadness, we record the passing of two of our members: **Nigel Heath (Fgh 64)** and **Tim Meeks (Fgh 90)**. Both were devoted OUs, popular Lodge members, and regular supporters of the annual dinner at the School. They will be greatly missed.

For more information about the Lodge’s activities and membership, please visit: <https://oulodge4227.org> or email **Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)** on Adrian.Lewthwaite@btinternet.com.

Cross Country

The OU Cross Country run took place on 11th January 2025, bringing together participants for a challenging and enjoyable event. There was particular support for Brian Yates (WB 57) and his guest Janice Nisbet, who successfully completed the route to cheers from pupils on the finish line.

Following the run, everyone gathered in the Kendall Room for a celebratory dinner. The evening fostered camaraderie, recognition of effort, and a warm community spirit after a successful day.

All are welcome to attend, whatever your running ability. Please email the OU team on ou@uppingham.co.uk if you would like to receive information on the next event.



L to R: 2024 Routh winner Benji Maldonado (Hf 19), Angus Maloney (Hf 19), Nazar Efendiev (Hf 14) and Gareth Matthews (former staff).



L to R: Foreground: Tom Alston (SH 17), Kala Davies (Sa 17), Henry Arnold (F 01) and Lana Davies (Sa 15). Back row: David Wells (H 80), George East (F 14), Emily 'Lara' Johnston (J 03), Thea Impey (née Crawshaw, L 08), Jo Cave (Fd 89) and Simon Ward (F 75).

OU Sailing Association

By Lara Johnston (J 03)

The 2024 Arrow Trophy, held on the weekend of 5th and 6th October, was a mixed weekend for Uppingham. While the OU Sailing Team usually performs well, this time we faced challenges with a noticeably slower boat (with full water tanks) and no onboard electrics, which affected our competitiveness.

Our race was marked by a couple of mishaps, including touching a mark and a protest received on the final start line from Tonbridge School. Despite these setbacks, the weather on Saturday was spectacular, with perfect sailing conditions that reminded us why we love this event.

Although the results weren't in our favour, the weekend was still a great opportunity to connect as a team and enjoy some fantastic sailing.

If there are any OU sailors – novice or expert – who would like to get involved in OUSA regattas, David Gavins (LH 73) would love to hear from you. Please contact david.gavins@btinternet.com to get involved.



The Arrow Trophy Competition 2025 took place on 4th and 5th October. Due to content deadlines for the magazine, we are unable to publish the results here, however a full report is available to read on the OU website.

OU Hockey

This year's Hockey Festival, held on Sunday 23rd March, was a fantastic celebration of teamwork and camaraderie. A brilliant turnout of OUs reunited on the pitches for some friendly competition against current pupils, creating a spirited atmosphere throughout the day. The event had a special family feel, with different generations coming together to share in the sport. A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success.



OU Golfing Society

By Chris Gotla (H 68), Club President

The OU Golfing Society celebrated a highly successful Centenary Year. The highlight was the Centenary Dinner, held in The Memorial Hall at Uppingham on 11th July, attended by 120 members and guests. Over 80 members played at Luffenham Heath across two of the hottest days of the year, with strong support from the School and OU Association.

President Chris Gotla (H 68) welcomed guests and thanked contributors, before OUGS Captain Tim Dickson (SH 67) proposed the Toast to the Society, with a witty reply from Guest Speaker Gordon MacSween.

The Centenary programme began in April with a friendly 8–8 draw against Harrow at Royal St George's. In September, Royal Wimbledon hosted the OUGS Eagles (under 35s),

enjoyed by 14 younger members, and the Captain's Centenary Event will follow at Aldeburgh later in the year.

On the competitive front, Uppingham fielded its strongest-ever Halford Hewitt team, defeating Ampleforth and Bishop's Stortford before narrowly losing to Berkhamsted. The Bernard Darwin over-55s triumphed for only the second time in our history, while the over-65s reached their final. A youthful side also won the Schools' Putting Competition for the first time.

The Centenary has reinvigorated the Society, strengthened links across generations, and confirmed it is in excellent health. The icing on the cake came in mid-summer with the announcement that Dennis Watson (M 76) was to be the new Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the highest honour in UK golf, and only the fourth Uppinghamian to hold this office.



Dennis Watson (M 76) with course caddy Taylor Haugh at St Andrews, after his official drive-in.



The Winning Bernard Darwin Team
L to R: Eddie Allingham (H 81), Nick Freeman (L 70), Tim Dickson (SH 67), Mark Gravette (Captain Woking GC), Simon Moffatt (H 74), Stuart Lloyd (WD 74), Andrew Lewin (F 80) and Chris Gotla (H 68), President OUGS.

Behind the Baton: My Life in Music

By Professor Hilary Griffiths (SH 62)

As a British conductor who has spent nearly five decades working across Europe and beyond, I've been fortunate to enjoy a career filled with music, travel, and countless unforgettable performances. From my early days at Uppingham to conducting on some of the world's greatest stages, the journey has been rich, unpredictable, and deeply rewarding.



*The conductor's revenge. From English National Opera at the Coliseum, London, where Hilary Griffiths (SH 62) conducted *The Barber of Seville* in 2017.*

My father, a naval chaplain, was clearly convinced of the power of a musical education. He sent both of his sons to choir schools – my older brother **Mervyn (SH 50)** to St George's Chapel, Windsor, and me to King's College, Cambridge. He later chose Uppingham for us, specifically because of its long and admirable musical tradition. I benefited from some truly excellent teachers: Vivian Bean for the piano, Jill Bean for the violin, Brian Judge for the organ, Anthony 'Boozy' Baines for the clarinet, and his even more eccentric successor, Sidney Ord-Hume.

A key moment came during a piano recital in Hall given by Peter Katin. I met him afterwards, and he invited me to study with him – a generous offer I took up and continued for several years.

Despite my strong musical leanings, my father firmly suggested I gain "another string to my bow" and study something more "sensible". So, I read mathematics at Oxford for three years. But ultimately, music won out. I decided that conducting would offer me a more satisfying career, and after studying at the London Opera Centre, I spent a formative year in Italy before travelling to Germany – two of opera's greatest heartlands.

Germany has now been my home for 49 years. Over that time, I've had the privilege of working all over the world – with memorable performances in the United States, Canada, Colombia, Australia, China and Japan, and of course, extensively across Europe. From Iceland to Tenerife, Ireland to Romania – my work has taken me to most of the continent.

Some of the most meaningful chapters of my career include over 350 performances with Cologne Opera, 14 new productions at the Prague State Opera, and many years at the Eutin Opera Festival in northern Germany, from 1991 to 2024. I've also held music director posts at the theatres of Regensburg, Oberhausen, and Wuppertal.

Beyond opera, I've enjoyed conducting symphony concerts in some of the

world's most beautiful venues: the Rudolfinum in Prague, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Palau de la Música in Barcelona, Cologne's Philharmonie, and Zurich's Tonhalle. One of the great joys of being a musician is that music allows you to instantly connect and communicate – not only with fellow musicians, but with audiences too, wherever you are around the world.

I spent a formative year in Italy before travelling to Germany – two of opera's greatest heartlands.

While my only operatic role at Uppingham was singing the Carpenter's Mate in *HMS Pinafore*, I was recently reminded of another formative musical moment. At my festival in Eutin, I conducted a crossover concert featuring a big-band arrangement of Duke Ellington works, including *Golden Wedding* by Woody Herman. That piece brought me straight back to 1965, playing the clarinet solo with our wonderful jazz orchestra at the School.

Uppingham has long been a breeding ground for notable musicians. I was proud to win the Crosthwaite Sonata Prize in 1963 with the late **Peter Cropper (Hf 59)**, who went on to lead the Lindsay String Quartet. I was especially delighted to learn that the House Singing Competitions – once known as 'House Shouts' – are still going strong and stirring the same passions they did in my day. I am proud to have been part of the team that won the part-song competition in 1963, which also included **Simon Park (SH 59)**, who later had a No. 1 hit with The Simon Park Orchestra and *Eye Level*.

Looking back, I'm deeply grateful for the musical foundation I received at Uppingham. It set the stage – quite literally – for everything that followed and helped shape my life in music.

Celebrating 30 Years of the Leonardo Centre

A home for creativity at Uppingham

When the award-winning Leonardo Centre opened its doors in 1995, it marked a bold new chapter in Uppingham's history of creative innovation. Thirty years on, the building remains not only one of the School's most distinctive architectural landmarks, but also a thriving hub of imagination, expression and design.

A Pioneering Spirit

Uppingham has long been at the forefront of creative education. In 1966, it became the first school in the country to bring art, crafts and technology together under one roof with the opening of The Thring Centre. This pioneering move quickly influenced other schools, and contributed to the inclusion of crafts, design and technology (CDT) in the national curriculum.

Yet, while The Thring Centre was ground-breaking, art and design at Uppingham were still dispersed across a woodworking shop and a modest Art School – spaces fondly remembered but often described as cramped, dimly lit and scattered around the campus. The vision for a new, unified home for creativity began to take shape.



The official Leonardo Centre opening with Sir David Li, the Headmaster Dr Stephen Winkley and pupils, November 1995.



Construction of the Leonardo Centre (Uppingham Archives).



Looking Ahead

As the School celebrates this milestone, the Leonardo Centre continues to embody Uppingham's founding ethos: that creativity, in all its forms, is central to education and to life. Its striking architecture and inspiring spaces remain a catalyst for ideas, experimentation and innovation.



Photographs and stories from the OU Exhibition can be explored via the QR code, linking to our extended coverage online.



The cascade of patent glazing on the north elevation (Uppingham Archives).

The Birth of the Leonardo Centre

Thirty years later, that vision became reality. After extensive consultation with leading architectural practices, OU **Piers Gough (WB 59)** was commissioned to design a state-of-the-art building that would bring together art, design, technology and crafts under one roof.

His design was both innovative and inspiring. Flooded with natural north light – the preferred illumination of artists – the Centre's dramatic sloping glass façade created an inspiring and more immersive environment for Uppingham's creative pupils to thrive in. An industrial-style steel structure and mezzanine floor space introduced flexible, modern teaching areas, while the entrance hall doubled as a professional exhibition space.

The building was officially opened in November 1995 by **Dr the Honourable Sir David Li Kwok Po (H 54)**, marking the beginning of a new era for creativity at Uppingham.

Three Decades of Creative Excellence

Since then, the Leonardo Centre has stood as a testament to Uppingham's commitment to innovation. Pupils have benefited from the unique opportunities that arise when different artistic disciplines are taught side by side, inspiring collaboration and creativity.

To mark its 30th anniversary, on 8th November, a special OU Exhibition was held, which showcased the extraordinary breadth of creative talent amongst OUs. From painting and graphic design to jewellery, fashion, millinery and photography, the exhibition reflected not only the diversity of artistic expression, but also the enduring influence of the Leonardo Centre on the lives and careers of Uppinghamians.

The new front elevation of the Leonardo Centre was completed in 2014 as part of the Western Quad development.



Making Waves in Business



moo moda

Moomoda.com

In early 2024, **Millie Horne (Sa 18)** – almost by accident – started Moo Moda, a clothing brand selling loungewear for everywhere. She wanted to solve a problem she'd always faced: finding loungewear that was long enough to fit her tall frame. So, she decided to make some for herself!

What started as a one-off quickly became something bigger. Millie designed a few pairs of trousers, made a TikTok about them, and within minutes 50 pairs had sold out. The next run of 300 pairs went just as fast. Moo Moda was born overnight, fuelled entirely by customer demand. "I never set out to start a brand," she admits, "but people wanted them, so the business grew naturally into what it is now."

For the first few months, Millie juggled Moo Moda alongside a full-time job. Days were spent in the office, lunch breaks rushing to the Post Office, evenings packing orders and persuading her brother to help. Her house became a mini warehouse, much to her mum's dismay. By July 2024, the momentum was too great to ignore, and she took the leap to run Moo Moda full-time.

Behind the brand lies a personal motivation. Millie lost her father when she was 18, during the Sixth Form at Uppingham. This left her feeling uncertain about her future. "I never really knew what I wanted to do in life and always felt a bit lost. But my dad and I used to come up with business ideas together when I was younger – ideas that we'd say would take over the world. I think that this is my true driving force behind Moo Moda."

Now, just over a year in, Moo Moda has grown from a bedroom project into a viral brand with over 40,000 followers. She has hosted sell-out pop-ups at universities and schools across the country, even returning to Uppingham for a hugely popular event in the School Shop. Other pop-up destinations have included King's Road, Chelsea, and Polzeath beach in Cornwall where she sold more than 3,000 products!



Have a look at **@moomodalondon** on Instagram or visit the Moo Moda website via the QR code. Millie would love to see you at a pop-up soon!

Wavehunters

wavehunters.co.uk

Andy Cameron (Fgh 91) is the founder of Wavehunters, a surf and marine company based in North Cornwall. Wavehunters has two major surf schools and surf hire hubs based in Polzeath and Watergate Bay, as well as sea safari, commercial RIB, and water taxi services based out of Padstow, Rock, and Port Isaac.

Andy started the business at Polzeath with a lot of enthusiasm, not a lot of money, but with a love of the ocean. The business has grown over the years to become the largest and most immersive surf academy in the UK, with a huge range of products, including being one of the only locations where you can train to be a surf coach. Uniquely, the surf aspect of the business has two dedicated and purpose-built facilities on two of the premier surf beaches in the UK. Alongside the beach aspect of the business, Wavehunters also operates yoga and fitness classes.

The marine side of the business has four dedicated 10-metre RIBs, focused on sea safaris and commercial work, as well as multiple 10-metre jet vessels operating as water taxis and night ferries.

Andy grew up in and on the water, and he found his niche creating and growing Wavehunters, which now employs around 75 staff. He commented: "One thing Uppingham taught me was to follow my passion and not to follow what other people's expectations are of you."



::: ZINT

zint.io

Josh Bowyer (M 98) co-founded ZINT in 2018 with Fraser Atkins, creating a sales intelligence company dedicated to harvesting business data and transforming it into actionable insights that accelerate revenue growth.

The idea stemmed from the team's own experiences in sales, seeing an urgent need for better support, richer insights, and improved data in an increasingly buyer-centric world. By bringing together top technology talent, ZINT has developed innovative, AI-powered solutions to help sales teams thrive, including its flagship Pitch Builder and a growing suite of analytics tools.

Since its inception, the company has generated over £1 billion in pipeline, increased lead conversion rates by 300%, delivered tenfold growth in referrals, and achieved a twentyfold return on investment for its clients.

With a mission to interpret the world's business information and enable profitable growth, ZINT places relentless focus on understanding client needs, providing strategic support, and creating products that simplify and enhance sales operations, while fostering a culture of innovative thinking and bold problem-solving.



To find out more, contact Josh at **jb@zint.io** or follow the QR code to the ZINT website.

Artsignal: The Intelligence Layer for the Art World

artsignal.co

After a decade building businesses in Southeast Asia, **Sam Glatman (M 03)** returned to the UK in 2021 and joined tech venture builder Blenheim Chalcot. While working at Instrumental (part of Blenheim Chalcot's portfolio), which used machine learning to predict rising music artists, he became captivated by the fine art industry's massive inefficiencies.

The art world still relies on 30-year-old price databases that simply list historical transactions. There's minimal transparency, making it nearly impossible for new collectors to navigate confidently. When generative AI emerged, Sam saw an opportunity to transform this \$60 billion market.

Artsignal is the first agentic AI technology for art and collectibles. It generates comprehensive decision-making intelligence

on any artist or artwork globally – whether the user is seeking investment opportunities, building a meaningful collection, or optimising sales strategies. Its proprietary AI analyses multimodal data including auction records, critical reviews, institutional recognition, and market signals, to deliver insights that break through the industry's traditional opacity.

The company is already validated by one of the art world's biggest players, who invested in its seed round and is rolling out Artsignal across their operations. The technology addresses the market's core problem: a two-sided crisis of confidence where buyers hesitate due to valuation uncertainty, and sellers lack confidence in timing and pricing.

From mid-September 2025, anyone can experience Artsignal's intelligence at **artsignal.co**. Sam and his team are not just digitising the art market – they are building the intelligence layer that will power the entire art and collectibles economy.

artsignal





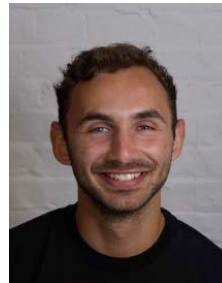
PINCH

Chef **Alice Norman (Fd 06)**, was born and raised in Suffolk and has worked in some of London's most exciting restaurants, including Cricket, Clipstone, Levan, and Emilia – where she was Head Chef. She has also cooked in Amsterdam, Bangkok, and India. The pandemic prompted her to step back from the London restaurant scene, return home to Suffolk, and study Food Anthropology at SOAS. During this time, the idea for Pinch was born – a way to showcase and celebrate the exceptional local produce around her.

Alice launched Pinch in 2021 and has since expanded it from a takeaway pastry shop into a purpose-built café, which opened this July on regenerative and organic Maple Farm, near Saxmundham.

The café has a relaxed style, serving Roman-style pizzas cooked in a Castelli oven from Rome, frozen slushies and wines, alongside Pinch favourites: crullers, pastries, coffee, and homemade gelato. Locality remains central – Alice works closely with Maple Farm's team, using their stone-milled flour, organic eggs, and seasonal produce, as well as Suffolk suppliers such as Salter & King, Pump Street Chocolate, and Fen Farm Dairy.

"Pinch gave me the opportunity to live out any chef's dream," Alice said, "being on a farm, right next to the produce we use. Being limited by what's available locally has pushed me to be more creative – but everything starts with Maple Farm and what's growing right under my feet."



TheCart: Your Personalised Shopping App

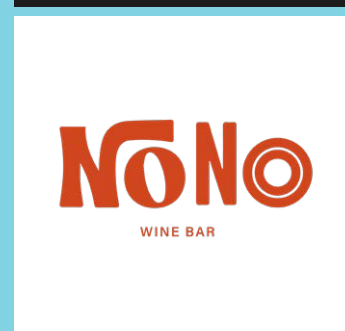
Alexander Cavadias (F 10) is CEO and co-founder of TheCart – a modern shopping platform designed to simplify the chaos of online browsing.

"I built TheCart from my own online shopping experience," Alex explains. "I was constantly discovering items across different sites and social media platforms, which meant endless tabs and screenshots – a messy, frustrating way to shop. At the same time, my background in social media marketing and running three e-commerce brands gave me insight into the challenges small and medium-sized enterprises face when targeting warm audiences."

His solution – TheCart, a central space where shoppers can save all their items, compare options, and buy when ready. The app's inbuilt AI then curates a personalised page based on each user's style preferences and interests.

Alex says: "The journey has been far from linear. It has taken a couple of years going through incubators to assemble the right tech team. But, since launching in January 2025, we've hit major milestones, partnering with brands including Tala, Acid Running, Clarks and many more."

Now in the midst of raising investment, Alex has ambitious plans for AI – particularly AI agents that would enable centralised payments on the platform. This would allow shoppers to purchase from multiple brands and websites in one place, with a single transaction. He is also seeking fashion-tech specialists to help scale development faster and more effectively.



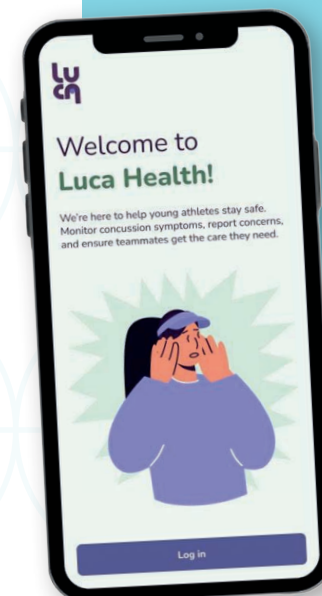
Luca

luca.health

Nick Greenhalgh (Fgh 03) is one of the co-founders of Luca Health, a pioneering healthcare service dedicated to transforming how concussion is managed in young people.

At its core, Luca is built on technology. Its integrated dashboard and app allows schools, clubs, parents and pupils to log head injuries, track recovery and coordinate communication, while seamlessly connecting families to Luca's telehealth service. Within the same platform, pupils can be seen by clinicians for rapid assessment within 48 hours and receive tailored return-to-play and return-to-learn recovery plans. By combining smart technology with clinical expertise, Luca removes the ambiguity that often surrounds concussion.

These advances in smart technology, such as AI, mean concussion management can evolve from being almost entirely subjective to one driven by data and hard science.



Luca harnesses these tools to provide schools and families with better protection and student safeguarding. For schools and clubs, Luca eases the administrative burden, supports compliance, demonstrates a genuine commitment to pupil welfare and provides an irrefutable proof of care. For parents, it means peace of mind at the exact moment they need it, and for pupils, it makes recovery safer, faster and clearer.

Nick, who played professionally for Northampton Saints, commented: "My rugby career ended prematurely through injury, but that experience pushed me towards building something positive. Luca is about putting welfare first and making sport safer without losing what makes it great."

Nick is driven by a simple vision: every child deserves access to world-class concussion care powered by technology. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

nick@luca.health



EWM FINANCIAL PLANNING



Finding gaps that others don't see

EWM

ewmf.co.uk

After 12 years in the Army, **Jeremy Heal (Fgh 98)** retired at the rank of Major and transitioned into the financial services industry. He is now setting a new standard in financial services, serving clients from offices in London, Northamptonshire, and Norfolk at EWM Financial Planning.

Together with co-founder, Andrew Kennedy (an Old Oundelian), Jeremy established EWM with a steadfast commitment to delivering truly holistic, objective-driven solutions. His military background instilled discipline, integrity, and a client-first mentality – qualities that now underpin the business.

EWM harnesses cutting-edge technology to craft a uniquely tailored client experience. Their mission is to answer each client's most important question – "Am I going to be alright?" – with absolute confidence. Whether focusing on pensions, investments, protection, tax efficiency or innovative strategies for retail clients, EWM provides trusted guidance at every stage.

To find out more, secure your financial future, and achieve lasting peace of mind, contact Jeremy directly at jeremy.h@ewmf.co.uk.

linkedin.com/in/jeremy-heal

Your Guide to Workplace Success

By Anna Champion (L 95)

Anna is the founder of The Talent Lighthouse and a recognised leader in early careers development. With over 20 years of experience, she has designed award-winning programmes and delivered coaching that helps organisations accelerate potential. Her mission is clear: to unlock talent, create opportunity, and shape the next generation of leaders.

From lecture halls to boardrooms: how to make your mark

The flood of advice begins the moment you accept that job offer. LinkedIn influencers preach hustle culture, relatives share outdated wisdom, and career gurus contradict each other daily. But what actually separates those who thrive from those who merely survive their workplace transition?

Having spent my career supporting those bridging the gap between academic achievement and professional success, I've identified three things that consistently set new graduates apart.



1 Show your curiosity

Your inexperience isn't a weakness, it's your advantage. While seasoned employees might hesitate to ask 'obvious' questions, you have permission to dig deeper and show genuine curiosity. This is especially crucial in our remote-first world, where those impromptu post-meeting corridor conversations have vanished.

Jot down queries as they arise, then schedule focused check-ins with your manager. When colleagues speak, take handwritten notes – research shows they boost memory retention by 34% over typing. This approach also demonstrates genuine engagement, which helps build your professional brand, while reinforcing your knowledge base. And don't be afraid to ask how AI tools are being used within your organisation, this shows you're forward-thinking and interested in improving efficiency.

2 Own everything – especially the small stuff

The misconception – only big projects matter. The reality – how you handle seemingly insignificant tasks reveals your ability to work and take on projects. Every mundane assignment is an audition for more meaningful work.

When given any task, confirm requirements upfront, then provide proactive updates before anyone asks. A simple "is this what you were looking for?" can save hours of wasted time. Flag potential challenges or delays and suggest solutions. After the task is complete, reflect on what you learned and what could be done differently next time. This approach positions you as someone who can be trusted with bigger challenges.

3 Connect across all levels

Your network isn't just about career advancement; it's about belonging, learning, and making work genuinely enjoyable. In remote environments, this requires intentional effort.

Remember, while AI can write a compelling email or draft a report, it's the human connection, the empathy, mentorship, and spontaneous teamwork that it can't replicate. This is where your true value lies.

Volunteer to organise team activities, suggest virtual coffee chats, or propose 'walk-and-talk' sessions. Connect across hierarchies: from fellow graduates to senior leadership. While AI can handle many transactional tasks, the ability to build rapport and trust with colleagues is a uniquely human skill that will always set you apart.

A simple "good morning" or offer to help can open doors to mentorship opportunities. Outside of your organisation, volunteer to the organisers your help with networking events. This provides the perfect opportunity to meet others in your field and ask questions whilst giving you a legitimate reason to be there and therefore a boost in confidence.

Remember – your first professional role is more than a job; it's a launchpad. While academic credentials prove your potential, it's these intentional, day-to-day actions – curiosity, ownership, and connection – that can truly unlock your career's trajectory.

Whether you are an individual, parent or employer, find out more about the coaching and skills development programmes that Anna provides at The Talent Lighthouse.



OU SCHOOL FOR LIFE

The careers and networking programme for the OU Association offers unlimited support and connections wherever you are in your career journey.

Find out more via the QR code.



A Global Perspective

By Patrick Mulvihill, International Development Director

Uppingham in Egypt



Uppingham Cairo, soon to be replicated in our second Egyptian campus.

In last year's magazine we featured the opening of Uppingham Cairo, the first Uppingham campus outside of the UK. Twelve months on and we are delighted that the new school in Egypt has had a remarkable first year.

Uppingham Cairo has rapidly built a glowing reputation, renowned for its high standards, pastoral care, culture and community. The 100 or so lucky pupils on day one have blossomed thanks to the strong leadership of Headmistress Emma

Webb and a wholly British-educated cohort of teachers, ably supported by a troop of young OU gap-year assistants. The school secured ISI accreditation under the UK Government's BSO standards in March 2025, became an approved exam centre with Oxford AQA and Pearson Edexcel, and gained membership of HMC (associate), COBIS, BSME, IAPS and AGBIS.

Beyond the classroom, partnerships with Chelsea FC, the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy, the NBA and other global brands have provided huge support for sporting development as part of the school's distinctive 'Day Boarding' model. Pupils have enjoyed over 350 weekly clubs, staged theatre productions

Uppingham Cairo has rapidly built a glowing reputation, renowned for its high standards, pastoral care, culture and community.

and music performances, and shared a memorable concert in December 2024 with visiting members of the Uppingham choir from Rutland.

With an additional 150 pupils joining in September 2025, the school is set to continue its rapid growth and is firmly on course to be one of the finest in the region. In fact, its success led to the announcement in April 2025 that Uppingham will open a second school in Egypt in 2028. Situated to the east of the old city, Uppingham New Cairo will build on our growing reputation and extend a world-class Uppingham education across the capital.



An architect's impression of how Uppingham Hung Yen will look in 2026.



Mark Glatman (L 69), Mr Pho Pham, MD of our partners VCAM, Barbara Matthews (SH 73), Chair of Trustees, and Patrick Mulvihill, International Development Director, at a ceremony to announce the school in Vietnam.

Uppingham in Vietnam

When Uppingham works with overseas partners the investment from the UK is zero and yet the returns, in time, can be substantial. Our aim therefore is to find opportunities around the world where we can partner with great companies in order to open new campuses of which Uppingham can be proud. Such an opportunity has arisen in Vietnam and we are delighted to report that Uppingham Hung Yen, on the outskirts of the capital city Hanoi, is due to open in 2026 with a second campus in Ho Chi Minh City in 2028. The British Ambassador to Vietnam, His Excellency Ian Frew, joined Uppingham's Chair of Trustees, **Barbara Matthews (SH 73)** and our hosts from Viet Capital Asset Management at a special tree-planting ceremony at Hung Yen in August, formally announcing the launch of our first school in Vietnam.

More details of our campuses in Vietnam, and indeed Cairo, will feature on our website over the next few months and we are all excited to see how they grow and prosper.

Events Calendar 2026

We hope you will be able to join us at the forthcoming events...

25th April



OU Dinner at Uppingham

In the Memorial Hall

Join us for a memorable evening in the School's historic Memorial Hall.

All OUs and their partners are warmly invited to attend a formal dinner that promises to be a truly special occasion.

Group bookings are welcome – please contact ou@uppingham.co.uk to reserve your table – and let us know if we can help to reconnect you with your Uppingham friends.



More details are available on the OU website via the QR code.



26th April

Classic Car Meet

Uppingham

We invite OUs to join the array of classic vehicles taking part in the 'Stilton Cheese Run' on national 'Drive it Day'.



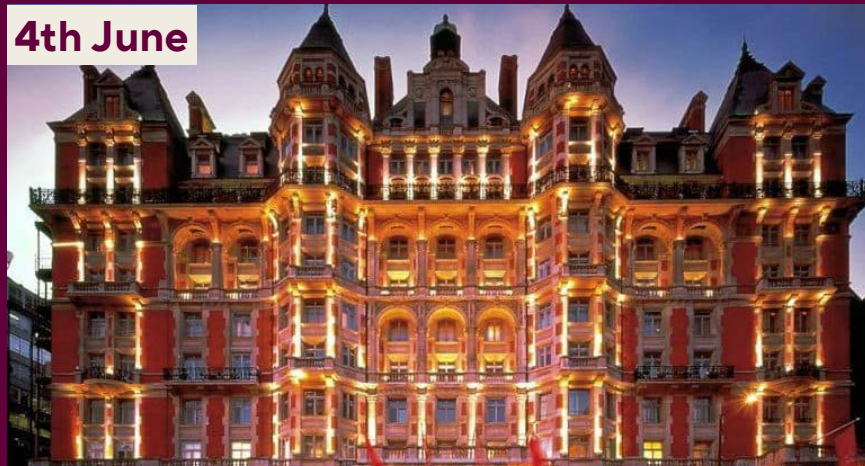
8th May

Norfolk Dinner

The Hoste Arms, Burnham Market

Known for being one of the most fun OU events and not just for those in Norfolk – all OUs are welcome.

4th June



The London Dinner 'Big OU Summer Party'

The Mandarin Oriental, Knightsbridge

The most glamorous event in the OU calendar. Same place, sunnier vibes!

Save the date, reserve your tables, get your friends together – more details coming soon.



20th June

A Celebration of Girls' Houses at Uppingham

There are some special milestones to celebrate across Uppingham's girls' Houses over 2025 and 2026.

50th Anniversary of Fairfield – opened 1975

40th Anniversary of Johnson's – opened 1986

25th Anniversary of Samworths' – opened 2001

20th Anniversary of Girls at Constables – opened 2006

21st Anniversary of New House – opened 2004

To mark these wonderful occasions, we warmly invite you – and your families – to a reunion for all the Girls' Houses on Saturday 20th June at the School.

Enjoy a tour of the School and a relaxed lunch in the Memorial Hall catching up with friends, and visit your old House, where staff and pupils will be delighted to show you around.

More details will follow nearer the time, but for now, please save the date and encourage your friends to join the celebrations.

The event promises to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with contemporaries, and we look forward to providing a really memorable day for everyone.



OU SCHOOL FOR LIFE

Please keep us updated with your professional and contact details so we can ensure you receive invitations to relevant events. Email schoolforlife@uppingham.co.uk or scan the QR code to submit your event preferences.

We hold targeted, professional events for a range of industries, which offer perfect occasions to meet fellow OUs working in your sector or to access support from experienced contacts working in the same field.



Plans are also underway for regional events in Edinburgh and Yorkshire, as well as Property Drinks in March and various sporting occasions. More events will be added to the calendar over the next few months, both in the UK and overseas.

Visit the OU website for more information olduppinghamian.co.uk



OU SCHOOL FOR LIFE

School for Life is the careers and networking programme of the OU Association, offering unlimited support and connections through the OU community, wherever you are in your career journey.

“I felt lost after graduating and the programme proved invaluable. It has connected me with top professionals and helped me to uncover what I truly want to pursue.”

“Through the extensive OU network, School for Life has introduced me to some incredible OUs and has opened endless doors of opportunity.”

“The conversations have been instrumental in helping me to understand my goals and how to pursue them. The support has made a genuine difference to my confidence and direction.”

“The programme has played a crucial role in helping me navigate the professional world by offering guidance, acting as a soundboard, and connecting me with thoughtful, experienced people.”



For further information and to get in touch please visit the Careers & Networking section of the OU website or email schoolforlife@uppingham.co.uk.

The Importance of that Uppingham Connection