



OL News

For the Old Leightonians and Friends' Community | 2017



Leighton Park
School

Reflections from the Head



This term has been jam-packed with events including the Big Bang STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) days, trips to Woodbrooke Quaker Centre, a new-look Fryer Festival and a fantastic Music for a Summer's Evening set in beautiful sunlight with a backdrop of Old School and the emerging new Michael Malnick Centre. These initiatives are clear evidence of the exciting developments underway at Leighton Park to prepare our students for a successful academic future full of possibilities.

In the final days of term we held orientation days for students joining the school in September. With a record number in Year 7 and increased numbers in Year 9 and Year 10, the next academic year is already looking exciting and challenging.

The Development Office has continued to organise a number of wonderful events and, as always, it gives me great pleasure to see so many members of our school community return to the Park. As well as Old Leightonians and Friends, this year we welcomed former staff and former governors. My colleagues and I were thrilled to see some familiar and some not so familiar faces from the past.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the school in so many ways, especially those who have supported the important new Bursary Fund, which was officially launched last September to help more students enjoy the advantages of a Leighton Park education. The school is keen to widen access as far as possible to those who otherwise would not be able to come to the school.

Finally, after five happy and fulfilling years as Head at this amazing school I have decided to retire at the end of August 2018. I hope there will be an opportunity over the coming year to welcome many more of you to the Park.

Nigel Williams

The image on the front cover shows a student driving the Greenpower Project electric-powered car, built by a group of 25 students from Year 7-11. Read more on in the School News section on page 13.

As always it has been an incredibly busy year. Of particular note, the building of the Michael Malnick Centre (the new music and media centre) began in earnest at the end of last year.

This has led to exciting solutions having to be found for well-established events. The senior school production of Georg Büchner's 'Woyzeck' was a triumph, with wonderful action and circus skills displayed in a Big Top situated in the grounds. House Music had to limit numbers in the Hall and, due to demand, was live-streamed to Peckover Hall for students and parents to enjoy. Members of the school community are welcome to events such as school productions. Please do let the Development Office know if you'd like to come so they can ensure your ticket.

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Chair of Governors

The Summer term at Leighton Park is dominated by examinations and this year has been no exception. There's been plenty going on outside the exam hall too, including successful educational events, visits made in the UK and abroad and several excellent concerts and productions. The diversity of everything our students do and the energy and enthusiasm with which they do it is a constant source of inspiration for me.

I'm happy to say that work on the new music and media centre has made good progress with the facility scheduled to open in spring 2018. We have chosen to name this building the Michael Malnick Centre. The late Michael Malnick was a successful actor who attended Leighton Park during the 1940s thanks to bursary support. He left a substantial legacy to Leighton Park's bursary fund and I'm grateful that his executor has agreed that we may recognise his generosity in this way.

Increasing the Bursary Fund is a priority for Leighton Park. Like me, some of you will recently have been contacted by current or former students as part of a telephone campaign to raise funds. Thank you to all who spoke with our callers and for your generous donations. Many of you help the school in other ways, by giving our students career advice or work experience or simply by telling people about the school. Thank you all very much for your support in whichever form you give it.

Next term will be as action packed as this one. The Governors have several major topics, chiefly finding the right person to succeed Nigel Williams as Head when he retires next summer. Preparations will also continue for the school's next major building project, new indoor sports facilities.

On behalf of the Board of Governors I send you our best wishes

In friendship

David Isherwood (F 2000)

Development update

Alumni relations and fundraising

The Development Office is now in contact with the whole school community as well as Old Leightonians. This includes parents, former parents, former staff, staff, former governors, governors, widows of former staff, friends and students – indeed, anyone who has a connection to the school. Everyone will have an opportunity to be communicated with and invited to events, if they wish.

Events

We are moving towards a wider range of events to engage with different groups of our community. This academic year we held the first afternoon tea for OLs in their sixties, and a Former Staff and Former Governor's lunch, both at Leighton Park. Another first was the Under 30s event in London. These events were well received by guests and it was particularly lovely for current staff to see so many familiar faces at the former staff event.

The annual reunion was another tremendous day. You will also see that there is now a Former Parents' book group. Read more about all these events on page 4.

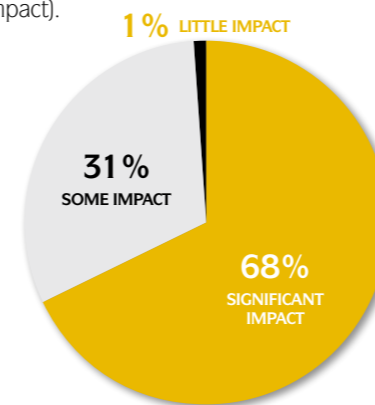
Coming up this year

We are planning to hold more events by era, with dates in the diary for another tea for OLs in their sixties and the first drinks evening for OLs in their fifties. A jazz evening by **Dominic Aldis (R 1979)** will be open to all. We are also branching out overseas with events in Hong Kong and Australia. More information on all of these can be seen on page 4.

The Development Office is also working on next year's reunion, which will be held on Saturday 12th May. We are trying to ensure we are in touch with as many '8s' as possible, so please do share who you are in contact with as this will help us organise a wonderful and memorable day for you.

OL surveys

Thank you to everyone who completed this year's online survey. We were thrilled to receive 606 responses with updated information. We learnt how Leighton Park has impacted the lives of OLs (68% significant impact, 31% some impact and 1% little impact).



We are in touch with 132 people who we know to be Quakers. 444 OLs have told us that they received a bursary or scholarship.

We are in contact with 4,759 OLs and in total 8,376 members of the whole school community. We are always looking for ways to re-engage with those we have lost touch with. We often reconnect through contacts of OLs so this is why we ask who you are in touch with.

Online community platform

We are excited to let you know that we will be launching an online community platform later this year. This is something that OLs have been asking for over the years. It will allow members of the community to contact each other directly if they wish. It will also enable the whole school community to engage around features such as careers, mentoring and networking; for example allowing a young OL to make contact with others about careers advice in a chosen field of work. You'll also be able to sign up to events, post photos and join discussion forums. More details will follow on how you can join when it is up and running.

Fundraising

This year we officially launched our Bursary Fund, held a successful telephone campaign, and raised £21,500 from the Class of 2017 Leaver's Gift. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to the school in the last year. Read more about our fundraising on pages 18-19 and see a fuller report in the next Annual Report.

Visiting school

We welcome OLs and other members of the Leighton Park community to visit the school at a time that is convenient. We do urge you to contact the Development Office in advance of arriving as visitors are not allowed to walk around the school premises unaccompanied. It is necessary to sign in at Reception in Old School on arrival. Please contact the Development Office at development@leightonpark.com or call 0118 987 9648, so that we can ensure that you have an enjoyable visit. Thank you.



Your news

Would you like to be featured in a forthcoming OL e-newsletter or magazine? You can update your peers on what you have done since school, and if you wish, share any memories of your time at Leighton Park. If you get married or have a baby, we'd love to hear. Please do send your contributions. Thank you so much to everyone who sends in their memories and updates. They are lovely to receive and share with the community.

Celia Blakeway-Phillips
Head of Development
development@leightonpark.com
 0118 987 9648

Which 'Class' are you in?

It has been drawn to our attention that some people don't know what we mean when we talk about OLs' 'Class' of. Your 'Class' is the year that you graduated from Leighton Park after sitting A-Levels, or would have done if you left before A-levels. So if you left after A-levels in 2000, you are in the Class of 2000. If you left after O-Levels/ GCEs in 2000, you are in the Class of 2002 as that is when the rest of your year graduated. The letters and dates after people's names in our newsletters refer to their House and 'Class of' year.

Events

Dates for your diary

Sat 16 th Sept	OLs v LP Mixed Hockey
Thu 21 st Sept	OLs by Era - Afternoon Tea in London (for ages 60-69)
Wed 27 th Sept	OLs by Era - Social Drinks in London (for ages 50-59)
Thu 5 th Oct	Jazz Evening with Dominic Alldis (R 1979) at the Pheasantry, London – All welcome
Thu 5 th Oct	Talk by John Allinson on “The Still Small Voice of Calm: Leighton Park at Times of War, Conflict and Tension”
Wed 11 th Oct	Former parents’ book group
Fri 13 th Oct	Exhibition Rugby Match: Leighton Park 1st XV v Reddam House at Reading Rugby Club
27 th -29 th Oct	Reading Charity Art Fair at Leighton Park (including art by Leighton Park students)
Thu 23 rd Nov	JBH Competition. If you are interested in being on the judging panel, please get in touch
6 th -9 th Feb	Senior Production, Parade
Sat 12 th May	8s Reunion

For more details and to sign up for any of these events, please visit www.leightonpark.com/ol-events or contact us on development@leightonpark.com or 0118 987 9648

Overseas events

Australia

Mark Simmons (Senior Master and Head of Middle School) will be visiting Australia as part of a sabbatical in Spring 2018. He is planning to hold an OL and Friends’ drinks evening in both Melbourne and Sydney, likely in the last couple of weeks of February.

If you are living in Australia, please let the Development Office know so that you can be included in the invitation.

Hong Kong

Building on the success from three years ago, we’re planning to hold a second social/networking event for Old Leightonians who live in Hong Kong. Other members of the school community who are in the area will also be invited.

We are planning to hold the event in October/November and are currently looking for a venue. Might you have any ideas for a nice location to hold a drinks and canapes reception? Are you a member of a country club that you could recommend or perhaps even help sponsor?

If you live in Hong Kong please let the Development Office know so that you will be invited. Please let us know of anyone else you are in contact with also. There is a Facebook page called ‘Old Leightonians in Hong Kong’ where there will be further details.



7s Reunion

On Saturday 20th May, we welcomed 65 Old Leightonians back to Leighton Park with their partners and families for the 2017 reunion. The classes of 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007 spent a day catching up with old friends, looking at photos and reminiscing about their time at school.

Among others we welcomed back a large cohort from the Class of 1967, rallied by **Oliver Heal (S 1967)**, who drove to the reunion in the 1926 Sunbeam that he had left Leighton Park in 50 years earlier; the first girls to join Leighton Park from the Class of 1977; and OLs from as far and wide as Nigeria, Canada, the Netherlands and Spain.

“Really fun experience. Great to relive old memories and see such old familiar places.”

Frances Dixon (R 2007)

“Some of my closest friends came to the reunion and I haven't seen them for twenty years.”

Regina Kaldre (R 1997)

“I returned to Leighton Park for the first time with some reservations. In the end, the day exceeded my expectations in a welcoming and relaxed way. Meeting old friends after 50 years proved friendly, informative and at times a little surreal. It was a great day with a mix of nostalgia, a look into the future of Leighton Park and the dredging up of forgotten memories with my contemporaries.”

John Steevens (R 1967)



“An amazing trip down memory lane.”

Will Steynor (F 1967)

“It was good to catch up and the day was much better than I had expected (feared!). Fascinating to hear of others' lives. It was the first time I have been to Meeting for Worship since I left school; it was really special. The person who showed us round the new Reckitt really went out of her way to explain and show us everything, which I thought was first class.”

Andrew Turner (F 1967)

“It was wonderful to see everyone and hear what they are all up to. An incredibly friendly atmosphere. I felt immense gratitude for going to Leighton Park and having the kind of parents who chose this school for their children as it is unique with respect and people at the heart of it.”

Mica Jones (G 2007)

8s Reunion

Next year we'll be holding a reunion for the classes of 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 on Saturday 12th May. If your year group completed A-levels in one of these years, then this reunion is for you. Do make sure we have your up to date contact details so you don't miss your invitation! If you are in touch with any of your peers, we'd love to hear from you as we are not in contact with complete year groups. We'd like to invite as many people as possible to make it a great reunion for you!

Vintage Tea (Over 70s)

‘Hello Young Man’ was the greeting when **Lyn Wilson (S 1950)** met **George Bateson (R 1950)**. They hadn't seen each other since 1950. 15 Old Leightonians attended the afternoon in a heatwave. Two thirds of guests attended the annual tea for the first time, and tours for those who wished to be shown the school grounds were given by Fryer students before the tea.

Robert McTear (G 1952) had been back to Leighton Park once at the end of the 1950s. “It was a beautiful day like today. I have thoroughly enjoyed the event. The two tour guides were really well grounded and one was very good at talking about the five Quaker principles.”

There was high praise from the OLs for the tour guides and **Roger Baldwin (G 1959)** said that the student who showed him around should have ‘double credits’.



Former staff and governors' lunch

On 11th May, 86 Former Governors and Former Staff and their guests returned to Leighton Park to catch up with former colleagues and see how the school had changed. The group included staff who had left the school over 40 years ago as well as those who had only recently moved on. There were Governors who had been on the board as far back as 1970, two former heads **John Chapman** and **John Dunston**, and two of our longest serving staff members, **Keith Walshaw** and **Trevor Craddock**, who both taught at the school for over 30 years.

Guests were updated about the school's developments, were diverted around the building work of the Michael Malnick Centre on tours, and attended a wonderful Meeting for Worship. A good time was had by all!

60s afternoon tea



Last September, we held our first Afternoon Tea for OLs in their sixties. Congregating in Peckover, 37 OLs and guests chatted over tea and were enthralled by a display of old photos from the era. There was also an opportunity to have a tour of the school led by Fryer students. For many of the guests, it was their first time back at Leighton Park since they left over 50 years ago. We welcomed OLs from all over the UK, but particular note must go to **Julian Davis (F 1969)**, who came with his wife from Canada!

We will be holding another event for this era on Thursday 21st September, this time in London.

"It was great to catch up with some old faces and to see we're not entirely in our dotage yet! Also wonderful to see the Park again and especially Old School - I haven't been inside since 1971 so you can imagine it brought back many memories!"

Michael Burton (S 1971)



"It was such a joy meeting former colleagues."

Eve Giblin (Games and PE, 1992-2016)

"It was good to see the school in great shape and be guided by younger pupils who are so proud of their school."

Paul High (Former Governor, 2006-2012)

"Days like today are a reminder that you are a small part of something much bigger than yourself."

Geraint Thomas (Head of Drama and Theatre Studies, 2005 – 2016)



Michael and Bridgid Sewell with Keith Walshaw

Under 30s social/networking

The first OL Under 30s social/networking event took place at Champagne Charlies in London on Thursday 30th June. A mix of 29 OLs spanning over twelve years attended the inaugural event. We hope to organise more of these over the coming years, and are planning to venture north! If you have any suggestions for venues in Manchester or Leeds, do get in touch.

"The evening was fantastic. It was lovely to see OLs both from my year and from other years that I didn't know so well. I can't wait for next year's reunion. Every time I go back to Leighton Park it feels like I'm going home."

Sami Kanza (R 2008)

"It was great to reconnect with old alumni and friends. Especially seeing other years, getting to see where people are at with their professional and personal lives, and hearing about Leighton Park. Really appreciated the event!"

Frank Khan Sullivan (S 2008)



Former parents' book group

Some of our community have missed the parents' book group that they used to attend while their children were at Leighton Park, so a new group has been set up for former parents. Their first meeting was in June in the school library. Nine people attended, including one whose son left 22 years ago! They are planning to meet again on 11th October. All former parents are welcome whether they were part of a previous book group at the school or are a newcomer.

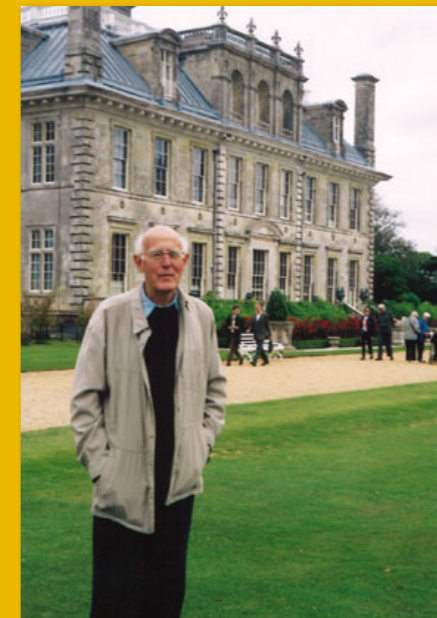
OL News

John Gunnell (R 1944) told us about his memories of school and life after Leighton Park:

"At the age of 90 I still have vivid memories of my wartime experience at Leighton Park. I remember firewatching from the Masters common room, watching German aircraft from the dormitory in Reckitt House alongside a German refugee whose name I remember as Gluksmann. I remember acting in "The Tempest" as Prospero opposite Michael Malnick's Caliban."

In 1943, **Mr Castle** recommended I go to Oxford for an interview for entry in 1944, but the President of St John's suggested I go up in 1943 so I would have at least one year there before being called up for Military Service, in case I was killed at the front! I spent three years in the intelligence corps, and then 12 months at Bletchley Park. When Japan was defeated, I was sent to the Army of Occupation in Austria to use my knowledge of German in political intelligence.

In 1947, I returned to St John's to complete a degree in Modern Languages. I taught in France and Germany, and then settled back in England to teach at Repton School and Epsom College, where I introduced Russian into the curriculum. I married my wife who was a nurse at Epsom College in 1959 and we have two sons. I am now retired and spend my leisure time learning Russian."



Sagar Rana (R 1957) studied art at Worcester College, Oxford. In June of 1959 he married Brinda. They have a daughter and two sons. Sagar returned to Nepal in the years of deep turmoil. His sympathies were with the democratic movement, and he joined the Nepali Congress in the mid 1970s. He has held several positions since then, including Head of Department of International Affairs and Secretary General of the Centre for Consolidation of Democracy. He has recently written his first book, *Singha Durbar*, an authentic historical narrative about the Rana regime of Nepal. It is available on Amazon and reviewers have said it "reads like a thriller".

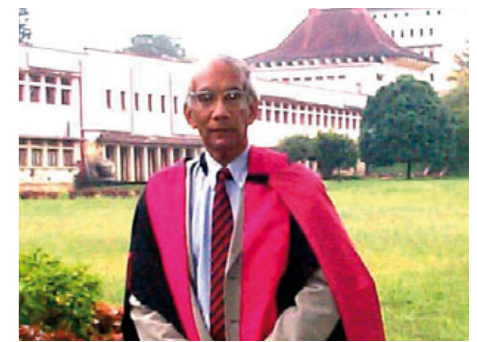
Matthew Wright (S 1964) went to Byam Shaw School of Art, then to the Royal Academy School in Piccadilly. He taught for a year and a half at Westminster School, then started to do drawings of his local area, Hampstead. He exhibited at the Perrins Gallery in Hampstead for around 30 years drawing commissions of streets in the area.

As the market for original prints started to die, he began to turn his drawings into cards. They are stocked in Waterstones, mostly in London, with drawings of the area around a particular store. He also paints and has a gallery in the south of France in a very artistic town.

Matthew visited Leighton Park in March. We are delighted to be selling some of his watercolours of Leighton Park in the form of cards, postcards and pictures.



*"My art started at Leighton Park. **Robert Gillmor (G 1954, Head of Art 1959-1965)** was my inspiration."*



Arjuna Aluwihare (R 1957) studied medicine at Kings College, Cambridge. He has held many medical and surgical posts in Sri Lanka, England and Kuwait, as well as visiting hospitals in over 25 countries. In 2004 he retired from his position as Professor of Surgery at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, where he was also Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the University Grants Commission. After retiring, he spent two years as a consultant in Crewe.

He has been a member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Advisory Committee of Health Research of the WHO, and was President of the Sri Lanka College of Surgeons and National Academy of Sciences. He has written widely on electron microscopy, surgical matters, community, education, and human rights.

The Sri Lanka Government honoured him in 1998 with the title Vidya Jyothi for outstanding contributions to Science, the country's highest national honour for science. He married in 1966 and has four children. Arjuna said his year at Leighton Park encouraged 'out of the box' thinking and inspired him to work in Sri Lanka.

Roger Hickenbotham (S 1967) has had a very interesting and happy life. He got a job in his home town as a hospital porter at Leicester Royal Infirmary after leaving Leighton Park with no A Levels. He loved working in a hospital, and decided to combine this with his school hobby, photography. After two years studying photography at Bournemouth College of Art, he was offered a trainee medical photographer post back at Leicester Royal Infirmary. In 1984 he was asked to move into a new video production unit in the hospital and from 1996 headed the unit. He retired in 2008 and now spends his time administering a family charitable trust.

Roger married in 1973. Sadly he and his wife lost their first child to cot death but they went on to have five daughters, and now have four grandchildren. Unfortunately his marriage ended after 30 years. He now has a new partner who is Austrian.

Roger told us: "Apart from cousins, I have not kept in touch with anyone from Leighton Park which is sad. I have fond memories of so many people. I really enjoyed the recent reunion. It was lovely to see the Park again and to meet up with old friends not seen for 50 years."

Oliver Heal (S 1967) spent several years in France and Germany after Leighton Park before returning to London to do a retail management course. He spent the next 12 years at Heal's Tottenham Court Road, working his way up from trainee to director and eventually chairman. The late 70s and early 80s were an awful trading period. Heal's lost money and in 1983 were taken over. Out of a job, Oliver went back to Germany to run a company distributing furnishing fabrics to retailers. In 1990 he moved to Brittany to marry Annik who lived there with her three daughters, and in 1991 they had a son.

After ten years working for fabric companies in France, they moved back to the UK to Oliver's family home in Beaconsfield. Oliver went back to college to do a Furniture Conservation and Restoration degree, followed by a PhD. He published his thesis on Sir Ambrose Heal and the Heal Cabinet Factory in 2014. He now spends his time running a holiday cottage converted from their old stables, doing a bit of furniture restoration, trying to restore a 1914 Sunbeam motorcar (and keeping two others running, see page 4) and researching his next book on Louis Coatalen, who was Chief Engineer at Sunbeam, and also Annik's grandfather.

Michael Marriage (F 1970) was at Leighton Park during the 1960s. An old teacher told him it was the most difficult time in education with revolution in the air. He remembers one Collect when a pupil played 'The End' by the Doors, which includes themes of incest and matricide, at full volume, not at all to the amusement of **John Ounsted**, the headmaster.

After Leighton Park, Michael worked on farms for a year and then did an agricultural engineering course at Berkshire Agricultural Collage. Aged 20 he got a job working for Oxfam in West Africa, developing simple tools and techniques for cultivating rice and other crops. When the post ended after two years, he drove a motorbike west to east across Africa, including taking a raft 900 miles down the Congo River only to arrive two days late for the Mohamed Ali fight in Kinshasa. Wanting further adventure he then worked in Iran moving heavy equipment around the country and in Saudi Arabia unloading ro-ro boats.

This wide experience led him to explore different types of agriculture and food production systems. Michael converted the family farm to organic agriculture in 1978 and set up his own flour mill, Doves Farm Foods Ltd. The company has expanded considerably. It now employs over 80 people, buys a range of grains from UK and overseas farmers, and is a brand leader in the specialist home baking market. Michael has sat on Soil Association committees for organic agricultural standards and on the Ethical Trade Committee, and was a founder of British Organic Farmers.



Peter Dobbs (1972) served in the British Army's Parachute Regiment for three years before becoming a hostage negotiator in Central America, where rebel Marxist groups were waging guerrilla wars against government. Peter spent five years advising families and multinational companies on how to respond when their relatives and executives had been kidnapped. His longest case was 21 months, but he says he never had a victim killed through frustrations of the kidnapper over negotiations.



In 1987, he gave up working on the front line and set up a kidnap and ransom arm for Insurance firm AIG back in London. He later started his own company, Asset Security Managers, which has won a Queens Award for Export, and went on to establish the special risks division at Aon, which became a £30 million a year business. He finished his career as Head of Piracy and Kidnap & Ransom at Catlin Insurance, Lloyd's largest insurance syndicate.

In 1998 he appeared in a Vanity Fair article, which caught the attention of film director Taylor Hackford and inspired the film Proof of Life, starring Russell Crowe as Peter. Peter now spends his time skiing and climbing at his mountain chalet in France or lecturing on the 'Art of Negotiation' and 'Dealing with Pirates' at venues around the world.

Clement Kwok (F 1977) recalls his school days with great fondness, playing tennis, squash, basketball and bridge for the school, and being Head of Field House. It was his first time living away from home overseas and the experience shaped his development.

After graduating from the London School of Economics and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, Clement spent many years as an investment banker and then finance director of Hong Kong's railway company, before settling into his present role as Group Chief Executive of Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, where he has worked for the past 15 years.

He returned to Hong Kong 30 years ago and lives there with his wife of 33 years, Serena. They have two sons who live in London. He is not in touch with many OLS and would welcome hearing from old school friends.

Edward Marriage (S 1979) visited Leighton Park last October. After 30 years at the BBC, Edward recently left his position producing Radio 5 Live's rugby coverage all over the world. He said **Tony Duckering** taught him the love of film. At a loose end when he left school, Duckering said to him "you love talking to people, have you thought about working for the BBC?"

Edward and his brother **Simon (S 1974)** often talk fondly of their school days. Their father **Henry (S 1943)** also loved his time at Leighton Park. Edward is in contact with **James Balkwill (S 1979)**, **Richard Davies (S 1979)**, **Steve Wiseman (G 1979)**, **Jeremy Addicott (S 1979)**, **Frans Berkhout (S 1979)** and **Paul Barden (S 1979)**. He said he was looking forward to updating them on the changes in School House and telling them how he chatted with us in the former boys' kitchen, which has changed out of all recognition.



Peter Nienow (G 1983) has been awarded the Polar Medal for his pioneering research into the effect of climate change on glaciers and ice sheets. A glaciologist at Edinburgh University, Peter has spent over two decades working in the Arctic, living in a tent on barren ice sheets for weeks at a time. The Polar Medal is given by the Queen to those who have undertaken expeditions in extreme hardship to advance knowledge of the polar region. It was first awarded in 1904 to reward Captain Scott and his team. Congratulations to Peter on this wonderful achievement!



Adam Boulter (G 1989) has spent his life in tension between two callings: to be a painter and a priest. He trained in Fine Art but in his thirties finally admitted that he was called to be ordained into the Church of England. After his training, he worked in a very mixed parish in London with the extremities of wealth and poverty (and found a lot of misery and joy in both!). He then moved to the Middle East where he was the port chaplain to Aqaba in Jordan. His work was mainly with sailors, many of whom had suffered from piracy attacks off the coast of Africa or from appalling working conditions. "We found a wonderful culture that quietly welcomed us while being in the eye of both military and political storms that have ripped across the region. I found myself having to be a mixture of a priest, a counsellor and a union representative." Adam has recently moved to France where he is the Anglican chaplain to Poitou Charentes. He has three young children and is still painting.

Nabila Maida (R 2003) lives in Abuja, Nigeria. She is married and has a son. She studied Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, and now works as an investment promotion officer, which entails marketing Nigeria as the preferred investment destination in Africa. In this role, she gets to discuss important global issues with people of various cultural backgrounds, and has had the opportunity to visit many places and immerse herself in different cultures.

She told us: "Leighton Park played a key role in shaping decisions later in my life. Coming from boarding school in Nigeria, it was a unique experience for me, but with the help of my house mistress Elaine and teachers, I made significant progress in my academic and social activities. I enjoyed every bit of my time there, from Collect to the photography classes I took. We had the best desserts in Reckitt and to this day I have not tasted a better banoffee pie. I always recommend Leighton Park to Nigerians looking to study in the UK. My younger brother **Abdullahi (F 2009)**, a few of my nieces and friend's younger siblings have attended based on my recommendation.

I am still in touch with **Aqilah Zainulabidin (R 2003)**, **Zakiyya Ahmed (R 2003)** and **Naqiyah Ishaq (R 2004)**. Aqilah and I went to Imperial together and graduated on the same day. We met up again last year in London when I came for a work trip. I often visit the UK, and have been back to Reading a couple of times. I haven't visited Leighton Park, but hope to soon."



Jesse Dunford Wood (G 1996) has been busy since leaving Leighton Park as Head Boy. He did a foundation course at Wimbledon Art College with **Patrick Kanjanahattakij (F 1996)**, and then took a year off to travel in India with **Furdy Kuyper (S 1996)**.

Back in the UK, he planned to do an art degree, but got sidetracked washing dishes in a fancy restaurant, and hasn't left the kitchen since. He cooked in fine dining establishments from Scotland to Devon, Sydney to Chicago and New York and landed back in London with a job as Big Chef at the National Gallery. He opened a foodie pub in Notting Hill in 2010 and then replaced that for another in Kensal Rise called Parlour in 2012. Parlour has been included in the best 50 Gastro Pubs every year since opening. Away from the restaurants and pubs, there have been a few TV appearances, he is a regular contributor to various cookbooks and magazines, and in 2017 he will be publishing his first cook book "Cow Pie and Other Stories".

He married another Jessie in 2010 in a ceremony taken by his housemaster from Grove House, **Stephen Field**, and is father to twins. Life is rich, exhausting and never endingly challenging.

Iwei Lim (1997) has been back in Malaysia ever since graduating from Leeds University in 2001. She currently works for Colgate-Palmolive in Marketing. She is married with two children aged seven and five.

Charlie-Rose White (S 2009) got married in January 2016 to her husband Daniel and has two little girls who are four years and four months. "Rather late to report I know!"



Dom Smith (F 2010) went to Southampton University to study Sports Coaching and Development. Afterwards he fell into a job in sales in a jewellery shop where his watch was being mended. He began studying alongside his work, and has recently become a gemologist. Dom visited Leighton Park in June for the first time since he left.

Harry Burdon (S 2011) is an Economic Consultant in competition economics, which he says is a niche industry. He is pursuing as he says 'earning to give', donating a share of his income to charities as part of the Effective Altruism movement. His hobbies are work(!), and if time, photography or chess and sometimes wild camping. He is in touch with **Chris Watson (S 2011)**, **Lottie Dodwell (S 2011)** and **Jake Cyriax (F 2011)**. He recounted at the OL Under 30s event that he met Lottie at Towersey Folk Festival, and as a result of that meeting he came to know about and become a student at Leighton Park! He recalls "I was known for eating the most food in the whole canteen!"



Adam Stokes (S 2015) is at the University of East Anglia studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He is considering becoming a teacher and came back to Leighton Park to shadow **Shazia Taj** and **Paulo Arruda** in the Beliefs and Values department. He said "I had a wonderful experience. I watched Year 9s work on their Global Issues project, which showed how talented and passionate students at Leighton Park continue to be. I sat in on lessons and experienced the classroom from the teacher's perspective. Experiencing the school's Quaker customs, such as Meeting for Worship and a moment of silence during lunch, was a brilliant feeling and something I had missed. I also had the surreal experience of being allowed into the staff room, which I had never been able to do as a student. Returning to Leighton Park and experiencing what made the school so special to me has been brilliant."



Asha Sumroy (R 2016), former Head Girl, who left Leighton Park last summer, spent her gap year in Israel on an education and leadership programme. She has been involved in the writing of a Jewish songbook called Ruach 5777. The Songbook has worldwide distribution and will be used in progressive synagogues across the globe. She was nominated for the Jewish News' "Thirty under 30", and was named next to Daniel Radcliffe in the "journos & creatives" section.



Thank you for your news and memories. We will also be including longer versions of some of the updates here in the next e-newsletter in the New Year. If you have sent us an update and it is not featured here, it will be included in a forthcoming e-newsletter.

If you don't receive our twice yearly e-newsletters, sign up at www.leightonpark.com/ol-news

Friends' News

Madge Stables, who lived at Leighton Park for many years with her late husband **Len (Former Teacher and Housemaster of Reckitt, 1940-1975)** turned 100 this year! Happy Birthday Madge!



Madge previously told us: "Len and I came to Leighton Park in 1941 just after we were married. In those days there were just 120 boys and two boarding houses. We had three children, all born while we were at Leighton Park. Our son **Roger (R 1961)** attended the school. **Hoppy** taught our children to swim. I remember there were frogs and beetles in the pool. Leighton Park was different from other schools – there was a small community." Madge shared more of her memories in the February 2017 e-newsletter.

Bob Boyd (first Head of Fryer, 1985-1989) left Leighton Park to become Head of Gosfield School. In 1994 he moved to Derbyshire, where he has lived ever since. There he joined the By Design Group as Education Manager. They run regional Big Bang Fairs, various programmes with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and the National Citizens Service, and a goalkeeping course for Premier League clubs. He has coached and managed his local rugby team in Belper, and now coaches athletics at Repton School, while still working part time for the By Design Group.

Ian House (Head of English 1973-1997) told us about his life since leaving Leighton Park: "Too young to drift into retirement, I taught English as a Foreign Language in Moscow, Budapest and Prague, mainly to ambitious and hard-working people who were seeking to improve their lives in the new post-communist world. It was an exciting change from the relatively closed and prosperous world of Leighton Park and it was chastening to know that some students were spending a third of their salaries on a weekly lesson or two.

During my working life I managed to write no more than two poems a year. On returning to England, I found the poems were flowing and I have been writing steadily ever since. I have had two collections published: *Cutting the Quick* (2005) and *Nothing's Lost* (2014).

Almost ten years after I left Leighton Park, I realised something was missing from my life: sitting in silence with other people, the still centre that Meeting for Worship provides for all at the school. I started going to the Quaker Meeting in Reading and have been steadily drawn into quite a heavy involvement with its various activities."

OL Sport

OL Cricket Club



An informal gathering took place in February to celebrate 40 years of the Old Leightonian Cricket Club. Members of the OLCC met in Puttenham, just outside Guildford, at the pub where two OLs first formed the club in 1977. Since then 190 OLs have played for the club plus 10 Honorary Members.

Other events this year have included the OLCC Golf Day; the annual game against the School team in which **Nick Hayles (R 2008)** became the 24th member to play 100 games for the OLCC; and Leighton Park Cricket Week, in which the OLCC competed in a fantastic T20 Tournament against Earley CC and a Leighton Park select XI made up of staff and students affectionately known as 'The Parktimers'.

The OLCC President's Match was held on Sunday 25th June. The game was in memory of long term OLCC member **Maurice Houghton (R 1959)** who sadly died in 2016. A period of silence was observed in front of the pavilion and Maurice's long term partner, Viv Jameson, financed a lunch and tea in his memory.

At the time of going to press, the OLCC are off to Devon for the second time on a four day tour, staying at the small village, delightfully named Sheepwash.

Hockey and Football

OLs came back to the school on Saturday 4th March to play against the student Hockey and Football teams. The student hockey team beat the OLs 3-1. The OLs won the football 3-1.

"It was great to see so many OLs. There were two very competitive fixtures that were closely fought, and it was good to see a win for both sides."

Jeze Belas, Director of Sport

The next OLs vs LP Hockey Match is on Saturday 16th September. Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2uN5SBx>

Get involved in OL Sports!

Are you passionate about sports? Would you like to help keep the OL sporting community thriving? We are looking to appoint OL representatives for Football, Rugby and Hockey to help organise teams and arrange fixtures.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, please get in touch.

School News

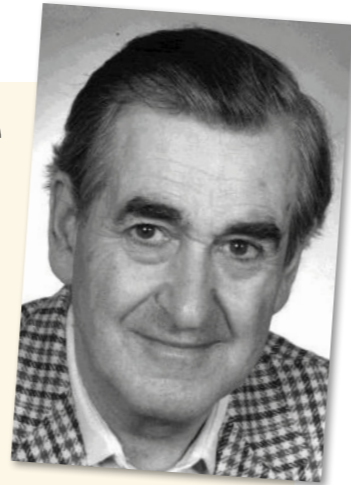


New building to be named after OL

We are eagerly anticipating the opening of the new music and media centre in spring 2018 and are delighted to announce that it will be named the Michael Malnick Centre. **Michael Malnick (S 1944)** very generously left a gift in his Will to Leighton Park, donating £755,835 for school bursaries, which helped formalise the Bursary Fund. The music and media centre has been named after Michael to commemorate his great generosity.

Michael benefited from a bursary when he attended Leighton Park in the 1940s. He went on to become a respected actor and enjoyed a long and illustrious career in theatre and film. He is probably best

known for 'The Darwin Adventure' (1972), 'Ike: The War Years' (1979), 'The Far Pavilions' (1984) and 'Goodbye Mr Chips' (1984).



The Michael Malnick Centre will extend the current Main Hall with three classrooms, seven practice rooms, a 'live lounge' and a larger improved front entrance. We look forward to welcoming members of the school community back to see the new building from spring 2018.

OL welcomes Sixth Form volunteers in Tanzania

In October 2016, 60 Lower Sixth students set out on the experience of a lifetime. Two groups travelled to Uganda and Tanzania to live, work and volunteer amongst local communities for two weeks.

The Tanzania group spent the majority of their trip at the Managhat Primary School in Babati, in northern Tanzania, volunteering with the Livingstone Tanzania Trust, a charity set up by **Julian Page (C 1985)**. The students worked hard to lay new floors for classrooms, as well as sanding, painting chairs and walls and even rescuing a lost cow from a fertilizer channel!

Julian said "The team were passionate, intelligent, thoughtful, humorous and full of beans. They had a fantastic meeting with students to discuss the nature of peace, which raised many questions about the perception that there is hatred and intolerance in the UK of people from different religions, faiths and communities. The volunteers' desire to learn about the culture and people in Babati helped to challenge this view.

Each evening the team held 15 minutes of quiet reflection and I was invited to one. Though silent throughout, it was immensely powerful. I felt so proud of the volunteers and the way they represented themselves and the school. What they achieved took great courage and will shape their future forever."

A new 'Steam Age' at Leighton Park School

In a national drive to promote STEM related disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Leighton Park are going a step further, moving into a new 'Age of STEAM', which places the Arts at the centre of STEM.

At Leighton Park, we are proud of the academic achievement of our students in public examinations, but our ethos and education go beyond grades to teach our students the flexible thinking and risk taking needed in today's complex and dynamic world. We seek to teach 'habits of mind' and give students the opportunity to gain skills subject knowledge and capabilities that will set them up for the future, making them more creative, confident, reflective, resilient and career-ready.

STEM industries are increasingly looking for employees with creative problem solving and team-working skills. To prepare our students for this, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that recognises the synergies between the sciences and the arts. We are redressing issues such as low uptake of STEM subjects by girls, and in turn art subjects by boys, inspiring our students to be skilled in both areas.

Karen Gracie-Langrick, Deputy Head (Academic Studies), has set out a vision for Leighton Park to become a centre of STEAM excellence by 2021, and we are already well on the way. The school has recently invested in a state of the art food science room and three ICT suites, and the new music and

media centre is due to open next year. Google Classrooms and Clevertouch screens have been introduced, and all students in Fryer will be issued with Chrome Books. We have also recently become accredited to deliver the BTEC Level 2 Award in Creative Digital Media Production and Film in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Beyond our own school curriculum and facilities, we are creating a network with local academic and industry partners to share our STEAM initiatives. We host a STEM Hub, attended by industry experts from Cisco, INTEL, BION, Pfizer and the Bloodhound Race Hub, and are forging partnerships with Pinewood Studios, Yamaha and the National Film and Television School.

Karen says: "We aim to become a leading and transformative centre for STEAM teaching and learning, and hope this interdisciplinary approach will inspire our students to solve the 'grand challenges' that our planet faces."



Award winning film!

A film made to promote the school has won Best Promotional Programme at The Royal Television Society East Awards 2017. The school's Marketing and Admissions team worked with Eye Film to create a film that captured the values that make Leighton Park so special.

Charlie Gauvain at Eye Film said, "Leighton Park School has a unique quality that is hard to put into words. Eye Film had the freedom to be creative and produce a script and film that would best convey the essence of the school. I don't think there's another school film quite like it and it was wonderful that Leighton Park allowed us creative free reign on the project!"

If you haven't seen the film yet, take a look on the homepage of the school website (click on the play button).



Mental Health Week

Leighton Park is well-known for the high quality pastoral care it offers to students. Our staff are best able to support the students at the heart of our community when they are happy and healthy themselves. In recognition of this, two staff members recently completed a Mental Health First Aid Course, and during the 2017 national Mental Health Awareness Week, **Gemma Sims (acting head of Biology and President of the Common Room)** organised a week of activities for staff aimed at strengthening mental health and embracing all that we value in our Quaker ethos: reflection, resilience, kindness, community and friendship.

One initiative involved creating a Tree of Appreciation in the Common Room. All staff were encouraged to write the names of colleagues who had helped them. The oak leaves and apples had been hand crafted by the students in Fryer House. It was soon apparent how hard everyone, from the domestic staff to the senior team, work to support each other.

Moving onwards and upwards

Each year two upper sixth students are assigned to the Development Office in their role as prefects. One of this year's Development Prefects **Alex Semenikhina (F 2017)** tells us how she is feeling as she leaves Leighton Park and moves on to the next stage of her life as an OL.

I joined Leighton Park in 2013 at the age of 15. It was difficult for me to adapt at first. Coming from Russia, it was a completely different culture! But thanks to the friendliness of the students, it didn't take long to settle in.

There were a lot of things that were so unusual to me. My first Meeting for Worship was a new experience but over time I started appreciating it. It is an excellent opportunity to reflect and think about what is going on in your life, which is so important in our busy lifestyle. The strangest thing was calling teachers by their first names but I have found that it creates closer relationships and improves communication. For the first time in my life, I have felt able to share my feelings

with teachers and been supported by them on an emotional level.

I have been through some tough times at Leighton Park, but they have given me essential life lessons. And all the positive emotions from events such as house talent, house music and school production make up for the sadness.

I have met great people from completely different cultural backgrounds, which has given me a better understanding of the world. I already keep in touch with those who have left and will continue when I leave Leighton Park.

Being a boarder is not always easy but it has made me independent which is important as I go on to university. After four years at Leighton Park I have learnt many lessons and gathered many memories, and feel confident in moving on to the next stage.



Greenpower Project

A group of 25 engineers and designers from Year 7-11 spent the spring term putting together a creation for the Greenpower Project.

The Greenpower Project aims to inspire young people by getting them to design, build and race their own electric powered car at some of the best motor sport venues across the UK.

Myles Nash (Head of DT) explains: "The Greenpower project is a great opportunity for students to focus on their design and technology skills and embrace engineering by looking at aerodynamics, stream-lining and their ability to manage power".



The Gentleperson's Club

This year, English Teacher **Alex Leighton** has set up a Gentleperson's Club for Fryers. The club currently has six members, three girls and three boys. So far they have learned about decorous behaviour, place settings in formal mealtimes, how to have polite conversation, and the history of manners. They have visited the archives to learn about the past and the history of the school, and have been called upon to take tours around the school. Next year Alex hopes to broaden the scope to include public speaking and community and charity work. The Development Office is planning to organise an afternoon tea in London for the Gentlepersons' Club to meet OLs and practise the skills taught throughout the year.



Park life



The Grounds Team, managed by **Tom Sheldon**, are continually working hard to make the Park a fantastic place to live and study all year round. Each member of the team of three brings their own specialities to keep the parkland maintained beautifully and with a unique and tranquil charm.

With long stretches of exam periods, and lettings during school holidays, it can be a challenge for the team to work without causing too much disruption. They are moving towards battery operated hedge cutters and trimmers, which will create less noise so will help them to work within school hours. These machines are also safer to use and will reduce the school's environmental impact.

The team are always looking at ways to reduce environmental impact. Other recent improvements include installation of a cardboard compactor at Oakview, which will reduce waste disposal costs and cut our carbon footprint from cardboard waste by 90%. **Alan Rumney (Estate Manager)** has managed the installation of a 20kW solar panel array on the roof of Oakview and we are looking forward to seeing the long term benefits of this system. New electric vehicles have been ordered to replace the diesel catering van used around the site and the caretakers' ageing electric milk float, a relic that a many former staff and OLS will remember.

The trees and woodland are extremely important in maintaining the school's parkland feel, creating a natural barrier from the busy surrounding roads. These areas need to be maintained and replanted regularly. The team have had to fell many trees this year due to disease, but are replanting two new trees for each one felled in line with the Tree Preservation Order encompassing the site. Some new areas of woodland have been planted with trees donated by the Woodland Trust, and as part of the Michael Malnick Centre development, 20 new trees will be planted on Grove Field.

Tom tells us: "With the school continually looking to improve its facilities, it is imperative that we continue to replant when we can." He is looking at replanting some of the unique feature trees from the Park's heritage, and finds it useful to look at old photos of the Park in his planning. "It is important to look backwards before looking forwards" he says.

Outdoor learning



Students and teachers made excellent use of their surroundings in May, taking part in the national Outdoor Classroom Day. A Year 9 Chemistry lesson saw students extract dyes, perfumes and antiseptics from plants, which they concentrated and bottled for investigation. Geography students took part in a population change game, where they built population pyramids from cones depending on scenarios revealed on chance cards, and analysed implications to the demographics. Year 9 Biologists doing ecology studies and Year 8 Drama groups rehearsing plays could also be spotted around the Park.

Outdoor Science Club has been a big hit during activities after school in the summer term due to the warm weather we have been graced with. A favourite lesson was net sweeping in the meadows on the Park to catch and identify a variety of insects.

A warm welcome for Lebanese Quaker School

In May we had the chance to share the Quaker values that root the ethos of our community with Friends from across the globe as we welcomed the Governors of the Lebanese Quaker School, Brummana High School, located just outside Beirut. During their visit, senior staff and governors discussed, among other things, strategic development planning and inter-school teacher and student exchanges. **Celia Blakeway-Phillips, Head of Development**, shared ideas with the group about best practice in setting up a Development Office.

Quaker Cricket Festival



In the last week of the summer term, cricket teams from Sidcot, Ackworth and Bootham came to Leighton Park for our second Quaker Cricket Festival. After two days of matches, the Leighton Park team took the win overall.

Family Connections

Chris Houston, Governor and OL (S 1980) married into a family of OLS. He met his wife **Jill (S 1981)** while they were both at Leighton Park. Her father **Michael Prentice (S 1944)** and two brothers **Andrew (S 1971)** and **Robert (S 1973)** are also OLS. Chris talked to his father-in-law about his time at Leighton Park and what made him choose Leighton Park for his own children.

CH: Mike, how did your parents come to choose Leighton Park as your school?

MP: They were not Quakers but I would say they were 'Quaker-inclined'. They were straightforward people, had several Quaker friends and were very happy for me to be brought up in a kind, caring Quaker environment. They weren't wealthy but were helped with my school fees by a bursary from the Cadbury family.

CH: What are your memories of school during the War?

MP: I remember watching the vapour trails of the aircraft in combat in the Battle of Britain. It is very moving when I think back on it but as a small boy of course it was very exciting. As a sixth former, I was posted on the roof of School House to watch for doodlebugs and any fires on the Park. I only saw one but that passed over and landed with an explosion in the countryside. I honestly don't know what they expected us to do when we saw one coming!

There were some compensations. For instance, Grove House became home to a group of WAAFs (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) which was a very pleasant addition to an all boys' school.

Jo Aherne, mother of three former head boys **Trystan (S 2011)**, **Kit (S 2014)** and **Finbar (F 2016)**, tells us how it felt when her youngest son left Leighton Park last year.

"Last June, after thirteen years, the Aherne family finally took leave of Leighton Park. We had an idea of how momentous this departure would be, although ending the early morning school runs and school fees were both welcome!

The three boys (with very different personalities) all flourished at Leighton Park. Many schools talk about their mission to find and develop every child's potential but Leighton Park really achieved this for our boys – and so much more. They became part of a community and it was in the relationships with their fellow students and teachers that they truly found themselves. They embraced the Quaker values and helped us to do so too. When they each left, they were ready to go on to whatever was to



CH: So they posted boys on the roof of Old School all night to watch out for buzz bombs? I can't think how many policies that would break these days.

MP: We didn't have Health and Safety in those days, which was just as well. One of my hobbies at school was making explosives with chemicals borrowed from the labs. We used to make a compound that was completely stable when wet, but when it dried out it would explode with a satisfying bang and a violet vapour. Perfect for smearing on a blackboard and waiting for the master's chalk to cross it.

CH: And how was the food at school?

MP: Dreadful! And insufficient. Of course it was wartime so food was scarce. We had to do our bit for the war effort by growing our own food. I distinctly remember digging the school potato patch. But I also remember

an awful watery curry with bloated raisins floating about in it.

CH: Yes, they were still serving that when I was there. The food is a lot better now. All three of your children went to Leighton Park. What made you choose Leighton Park for them?

MP: We were living in Uganda in the late sixties and it was not really possible to get a good education there. As I had enjoyed my time at school and I liked its ethos it made sense to send Andrew and Rob to Leighton Park. At the time Jill joined, the school had only recently gone co-ed and, as you will remember, girls were only allowed in for the sixth form.

CH: Mike, thank you for sending Jill to Leighton Park and for sharing your memories.



come next and perhaps it is we who are now somewhat struggling.

As we begin to resurface and look back, we appreciate what a special place Leighton Park was for us as a family – and one that will continue to inform the way we look at the world. The boys made the most of opportunities that were available to them and will continue to be walking ambassadors

for all the values that we encountered when we first walked into Old School in a mixture of trepidation and hope. We're so glad we did. Leighton Park helped to shape them into young men that we're proud to call our children.

Thank you Leighton Park, we will miss you in more ways than we thought possible. But we know that we will always be welcome back!"

Obituaries

We have sadly been informed of the following deaths:

Philip Brooke (S 1937)

d 19/03/2016

Chris Day (G 1943)

d 1/7/2017

Alec Livock (R 1943)

d 25/11/2015

Terence Meux (R 1947)

d 29/05/2017

William (Patrick) Metcalfe (S 1948)

d 25/09/2016

Michael Bokitko (R 1949)

d 25/02/2017

Sani El-Darwish (R 1951)

d 18/01/2017

Henry Pitt (S 1952)

d 29/11/2016

John Waterman (R 1953)

d 26/01/2017

Henry Turtle (R 1954)

d 11/03/2017

Julian Wimpenny (S 1954)

d 07/01/2016

Douglas McPhail (R 1955)

d 01/2017

Jonathan Moorhouse (G 1956)

d 20/07/2017

Anthony Coon (S 1958)

d 17/03/2016

Gregory N Andrews (R 1959)

d 20/07/2016

Maurice Houghton (R 1959)

d 28/11/2016

Denis Jones (Bimbo) (G 1960)

d 08/02/2017

William Hoyland (S 1961)

d 15/07/2017

Henry (Randle) Feilden (F 1974)

d 2015

Helen Cadbury (S 1983)

d 30/06/2017

Sue Mitchell (G 1985)

d 03/10/2016

Lydia Koshiw (S 2003)

d 11/11/2015

Tony Driver (Former staff)

d 06/2017

Obituaries of some of these OLS will follow in next year's magazine.

Edward Williams (S 1950)

Edward attended Leighton Park as a day boarder, and always spoke with great fondness about the school and its ethos. He went on to study Physics at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, followed by Theology at Regent's Park College.

In 1956 he married Rosemary and they had three daughters. In 1959, they went to live and work in eastern India, at a university college in Serampore, near Kolkata. Many

Howard Richard Levick (R 1940)

In 1940 Dick left Leighton Park and was evacuated to the US. He returned to the UK in 1943 and served with the British Army in France and Germany until 1946. Following that he studied at the Oxford School of Architecture and then lived in London for some twenty years working, among other things, as a journalist.

He married Andrea, and drawn by a mutual interest in sailing they settled on the Isle of Wight, where they lived for 35 years. Andrea died in 1999 and Dick moved in 2010 to Shropshire to be closer to his family.

Dick's nephew John says "As a family we are all sad at his passing but my brothers and I retain many happy memories of a quirky and much loved uncle."

Joseph Whitney (R 1946)

Energetic, well loved, full of projects and stories, optimistic, fun loving and a scholar, Joe will be missed by his wife, Diana, his five children and six grandchildren.

Joe studied at Cambridge and then the University of Chicago. He worked at the University of Toronto from 1969 until he retired as Chair of the Geography Department in 1993. He was the first to introduce the study of China to the department and his research focused on the environment. Working with the Ford Foundation he established the Institute of the Environment in Khartoum in the Sudan and organised the first 'Women & the Environment' conferences there and in Vietnam.

Always on the go, even after retirement Joe was engaged in academic projects and travel. He fascinated friends and family with stories of his life, including meeting Ghandi and Sibelius as a youth and travelling around Scandinavia on a £25 scholarship at age 16.

He was a kind, humble and gentle man who was well liked for his humour and ability to relate to everyone.

Joseph Sturge (G 1948)

Joseph came from a long line of Quakers. After Leighton Park, he spent two years in the Friends Ambulance Unit International Service in war-ravaged West Germany. With his first wife Julie he moved to Monserrat in the West Indies, where he lived for 13 years. He and Julie had two children, and he later had another daughter with his second wife Caroline.

He returned to the UK in 1974 and settled in Reading, where he renewed contact with Reading Friends and Leighton Park. After 26 years there, he moved to Malvern and in 2009 married for a third time, to Elisabeth.

happy years followed teaching Physics and helping lead the Baptist church.

Back in England in 1968, Edward became a Baptist minister in Birmingham and then Warwickshire. Edward and Rosemary forged links with local Muslims, and they all worked together to strengthen multi-faith understanding.

Edward had an extremely active life, mentally and physically (even with lifelong profound

Hans Georg Lehmann (S 1942)

Hans was sent by his parents to Leighton Park in 1937 from Germany to escape the looming threats there. His brother **Karl (G 1939)** had preceded him in 1936. Hans immediately felt at home at Leighton Park and it is hard to overstate how much he loved the school and the influence it had upon him. This came particularly through the headmaster **Edgar Castle** and his wife Mignon, whom he regarded as a second set of parents. He shared the WH Scarborough Scholarship with his good friend **John Slater (R 1942 d)** and went on to study mathematics at Cambridge. After war service with the BBC's Monitoring Service at Caversham Park, he was invited by Castle to join the staff at Leighton Park where he taught mathematics in 1946-47. Subsequently he studied civil engineering in the United States and had a worldwide career with the Danish consulting engineering firm Kampsax. Hans died aged 92 in Copenhagen, where he had lived for many years.



A Friend from Reading Meeting said "Joe was well known in a large number of circles, notably those concerned with peace and nuclear disarmament. Many of the memories Friends have of Joe have an amusing element, and he made people feel welcome and valued. He was an inspiring person who made a large contribution to the life of Reading meeting."

deafness), until two months before his death.

He will be remembered for his fascination with science, geography and current affairs; his passion for the natural world (and food!); his spiritual dedication and humility; and his devotion to family.



Malcolm Edmunds (G 1956)

Malcolm Edmunds died on 24th January 2017 of cancer. He was born in Essex into a Quaker family and Quakerism remained an important strand in his many-faceted life.

In 1957 he went to Queen's College Oxford to read Zoology followed by a DPhil on the defensive behaviour of sea slugs. In 1963 he married Janet and on completion of his doctorate, gained a lectureship at the University of Ghana. After ten happy years in Ghana, in which they had two daughters, they returned to England and Malcolm became a Lecturer in Biology at Preston Polytechnic. In times of rapid change in higher education, he was widely respected as a voice of integrity, calm and reason. He contributed to the university's growing research reputation and to a robust ethical perspective on experiments with animals. He was appointed a Professor and on his retirement in 2004, he was awarded an Emeritus Professorship.

Malcolm was a pillar of Preston Quaker meeting. He achieved much in his life, but was unassuming and always treated others with respect and consideration. He was admired and greatly liked by those who knew him and will be greatly missed by his many friends, colleagues and his family.



John Lawrence Cornell (R 1964)

Born in the States and brought over to England as a young boy, John had a youth filled with adventure, eccentricity and travels. His experiences ranged from careering around France in an old ex London cab to hair-raising Channel crossings in unseaworthy vessels, through to guitar picking with Dylan and working in Laos as a freelance photojournalist.

John was a passionate researcher and a demon fixer, traits that worked to mutual advantage for the market research software companies where John was happily

Peter Roberts (S 1967)

Peter's bother **Danny (S 1966)** wrote: Peter grew up in Oxfordshire, Baghdad, Edinburgh and London. After Leighton Park, he emigrated to Canada, where he studied medicine. He worked as a GP in a small Newfoundland outpost, then specialised in haematology, studying and working in Nova Scotia and the Toronto region.

As his school friends know, Pete was a good guitarist, pianist and singer. This enthusiasm continued throughout his life, playing solo and with many of the fine folk/blues bands in Nova Scotia. He devoted much time to friends and family, his wife Sue, and their two children.

Pete participated in sports at Leighton Park, and continued to be active - playing tennis, hiking and skiing in the Canadian forests. This active life made his sudden death at home, from a coronary thrombosis, especially shocking - we lost a great friend and quiet inspiration, much too early.



Ian Hamilton (G 1978)

Ian Hamilton (G 1978)

Friend of Ian **Martin Nickson (F 1978)** writes: There is a quote from Longfellow that reminds me of my friendship with Ian, "And the song from beginning to end I found again in the heart of a friend." I met Ian at Leighton Park, and we soon found we shared the same birthday and a love of music. We taught each other to play the guitar and ended up forming a band and playing at school dances, school meetings and friends' parties. Looking back those days spent at Leighton Park were some of the best days of our lives.

Ian was a quiet achiever and an inspiration for those of us aspiring to follow our own path in life. Whether he was painting, playing and singing in his band, organising his friends, being a husband and father or designing and building, he had vision, self belief and enthusiasm. I have many great memories of my times with Ian: the amazingly popular school dances he organised; nights at the Nags Head in Reading (one where the Headmaster **Mr Spray** walked in, saw us, then turned round and walked out never to mention the incident); reunion nights in London. We will miss you terribly Ian, our world is now a darker place without you. Memories of those good times, and the light you brought into our lives will remain.

employed for many years until he retired in 2010.

John had an insatiable curiosity and a mordant wit. He was a loyal and caring friend and was committed to his family. The Quaker movement ran as an intermittent but constantly recurring thread throughout John's life. From time spent at Leighton Park, to working at the Friends Rural Centre in India to attending numerous Meetings for Worship over the years. John was a one-off. He left an indelible impression on those who knew and loved him and will be much missed.



Peter Roberts (S 1967)

Michael Palles-Clark (Former Staff 1969-1996)

John Allinson writes: Michael died in April this year after a long and debilitating illness, bravely borne. His contributions to the school were diverse and extensive. Michael taught Biology and Zoology for many years, but many OLS will remember him as Head of Computing. Mid-career, Michael acquired an MA in Information Technology and led Leighton Park's IT revolution. From the late 1980s Michael worked with infectious enthusiasm and professionalism to enable his colleagues and students to develop their computer literacy.

Michael also worked tirelessly as the administrative linchpin and staff contact for the Old Leightonians. He helped compile an annual newsletter, and also became central to the publication of 'The Leightonian', the school magazine of that time.

Michael skilfully coached and played hockey, and led numerous camping and field trips. He was active in helping run the Bird Group and a strong supporter of the Park Advisory Group and environmental protection initiatives.

As well as a highly regarded, gifted and versatile teacher, Michael was also a happy and fulfilled family man. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family on their loss.

Supporting Leighton Park

Bursary Fund

We officially launched the Bursary Fund last September and we are very grateful for those of you who have supported the fund, or are considering doing so. So far £57,000 has been donated.

This is an account of a current parent whose son is benefiting from a bursary.

Sean's early life has been marred by some difficult events. We separated from his father when Sean was just a baby under very unfortunate circumstances. I have since been diagnosed with a neurological disability, which means I am no longer able to work.

I started to see Sean's potential early in his life. He was reading from the age of three

and loved to learn. He got high grades through primary school, but was under challenged by the National Curriculum. As he grew older I could see that he was beginning to believe his intelligence didn't matter and was becoming increasingly unhappy, unsettled and anxious.

When I attended an open morning at Leighton Park I was speechless. Never in my wildest dreams could I have hoped to find such a lovely school. I was struck with how beautiful Leighton Park was - not just the wonderful surroundings, but the atmosphere, the unspoken ethos. I wished I hadn't come as it was tortuous to find such a lovely school, knowing I could never provide this for Sean.

I tentatively enquired about the bursary system, thinking that these things only happen to other people. When we received the acceptance letter I cried for days. After all the sadness of the

previous events of our lives I couldn't put into words what a blessing it seemed.

Already, the change in Sean is astonishing. He is happy and singing, he no longer bites his nails or wrings his hands like he used to. Instead of dreading school, he loves it. He has made lovely friends and his grades have been among the highest in the year.

I am so grateful not only for the academic and pastoral aspects of Leighton Park, but also the Quaker principles. Collects and Meeting for Worship are wonderful. And Sean's housemaster is the most wonderful male role model that I could wish for in the absence of a father.

As a parent I cannot begin to tell you what this bursary means to us both, especially after everything we have been through. Never in a million years could I have hoped to be part of such a wonderful community. Sean and I look forward to contributing to it in as many ways as we possibly can. This bursary is a true gift for which we are both humbly grateful.

*The student's name has been changed to protect his identity

More information about the Bursary Fund can be seen at www.leightonpark.com/support-us/the-bursary-fund

Bernard Perrett Bursary Fund

Bernard Perrett (Head of PE 1967-1997) has had a Bursary Fund set up in his name to help improve accessibility to those students who on financial grounds, would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Leighton Park education.

Bernard was an inspirational member of staff and his career at Leighton Park spanned three decades. The fund has been set up as many students wanted to remember him. **Robin Kendall (R 1981)** wrote the following for all Old Leightonians and canoeists fortunate enough to have known Bernard. A longer version can be read at www.leightonpark.com/support-us/the-bursary-fund/the-bernard-perrett-bursary-fund

Bernard Perrett made an impact on Leighton Park that is immeasurable. Under his coaching and tutelage, Leightonians went on to represent Great Britain at the Olympics, World Championships and numerous other international regattas and races. By no means did all of Bernard's paddlers

win, but all tried hard and achieved things way beyond what they would have done without him.

His skill was finding pebbles and making them realise they were diamonds. It's not clear what his secret was, but part of it was that he was trusting and loyal. He believed in people that others saw as lost causes, and would go out to bat for them when nobody else would. Bernard left a lasting impression on those he taught and coached. Personally, he was without doubt the greatest teacher I have known.

Bernard himself won a scholarship to his local independent school, Dauntsey's, and it is fitting that there is now a bursary fund in his name. All students deserve to have a teacher like Bernard in their life. Your contribution to his bursary fund will bring something of Bernard to Leightonians of the future.

If you would like to join others in supporting the Bernard Perrett Bursary Fund, go to www.leightonpark.com/support-us/donate



First telephone campaign!

At the time of going to press, we have just finished our first two week telephone campaign, held in Old School. Prior to the campaign, OLS were sent a letter or email explaining that they would be called. 576 OLS were called by a team of eleven Sixth Formers and recent leavers. The campaign was not just about fundraising but also to find out more about our community. OLS were updated on developments at Leighton Park, shared their experiences at school and were given the opportunity to support the Bursary Fund. We hope that those of you who had a call enjoyed your conversation and the chance to share your experiences of school.

Aaron Stewart (F 2016) shares his experience as a caller:

"It has been really great calling OLS over the two week campaign. At first I was a bit apprehensive but it has been really rewarding speaking to OLS finding out about their time at school and their memories. Also, it has been really gratifying raising donations for the Bursary Fund."

Many OLS have told us how much they enjoyed their calls:

"Your caller was charming, I am delighted to see that you are still producing well rounded young adults." **Jason Williams (S 1988)**

"It was good to talk to a Sixth Former last night and for me to be able to reminisce about Leighton Park! Please tell him I will be sending a donation following his call." **Anthony Adams (S 1957)**

"I found it most impressive that a person of your caller's age was able to call an OL who she had never met. Please could you pass on my congratulations to her."

Francis Hewetson (S 1963)

Many of you may identify with some of the comments made:

- Loved morning Meetings and liked the sense of individuality Leighton Park provided.
- I received a bursary/scholarship and wouldn't have been able to get through school without it.
- I appreciated the call and wish to be able to help out in the future.
- There was a strong house spirit at Leighton Park and I still feel a strong connection to my house.
- I loved House Music and consider Leighton Park as my home.
- I really liked the nurturing I got from Leighton Park and am thankful to the school for making me a well-rounded individual.



Data protection

Some of you may be aware that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into effect on 25 May 2018 and radically overhaul many of our data protection rules. This will affect every organisation that processes EU residents' personally identifiable information.

The GDPR will supersede the Data Protection Act 1998 and ease the flow of data between all the EU member states. As we process information about EU nationals we will need to prepare for compliance. At the time of writing, the GDPR is very likely to be implemented regardless of the UK's planned exit from the EU.

In the coming months, we will be looking at how we gather personal data along with what permissions you give us to ensure that we are fully compliant with the new regulations. We will not pass your data to third party organisations except where they are assisting us in the fulfilment of our activities or where we are required to do so by law.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported Leighton Park over the last year. We are very grateful for all donations made to the Leighton Park Trust for the Bursary Fund, school departments and houses, Park Sustainability, the Head's Discretionary Fund, and other specific projects.

We are also grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who support us. We have benefited from a number of donations this year made through OLS' family trusts.

Whether they are one-off or regular gifts we welcome all donations, regardless of size. Participation is the key to success.

"I donate to the school's Bursary Fund because it helps widen access to the rare gift that is a Quaker education at Leighton Park"

Romney Fox (S 1999)

Please note, we have the ability to receive donations from the USA and Canada for all US tax payers via the British Schools and Universities Foundation, and for 17 European countries via Transnational Giving Europe. Further details can be found at www.leightonpark.com/support-us/donate

If you would like to discuss any area of fundraising please contact celiabp@leightonpark.com

Leaver's Gift

In the last three years we have invited parents to support the Leaver's Gift. It is a way for families of students leaving Leighton Park to show their appreciation to the school by donating their deposit to the Bursary Fund, Park sustainability, or a department or house of their choice.

This year, parents have donated £21,500 for the Bursary Fund, the Music Department, the Economics Department, the Drama Department, the Individual Learning Centre, Grove House, Park Sustainability and the Head's Discretionary Fund. Thank you to the Class of 2017!

"Thank you for everything Leighton Park has done for Will, and will continue to do for him"

Helen Mackay (Class of 2017 parent).

Archives

This year, Archivist, John Allinson, has been joined by **Penny Wallington** (former OL Relations Manager) as Archives Project Specialist. **Graham Carter (G 1964)** continues to work with them as a much appreciated volunteer assistant. The team is developing the online accessibility of the archives, which has greatly enhanced their ability to retrieve items and use them in displays and at events. Material from the archives is regularly posted on the Archives Facebook, Instagram, You Tube and Twitter pages. Do follow these pages to see photos, memories and film clips. Recent uploads include the opening of the John Ounsted building in 2007 and the opening of the original Reckitt House in 1928. Please send any enquiries for the archives team to archives@leightonpark.com.

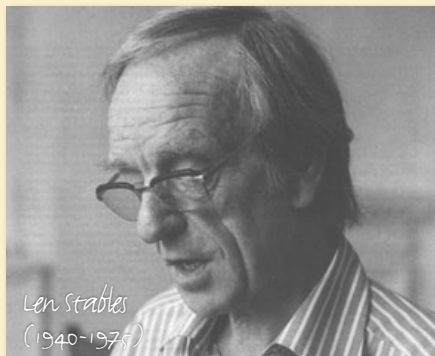
Serving them all their days

The latest exhibition in the Archives Gallery has focused on the school's longest serving teachers. This term we have celebrated Mark Simmons' move up the league table to position two! He only has three years to go now before toppling **J Knox Taylor** from the number one spot.

Here are some of the staff featured:

Len Stables (1940-1975)

Len Stables taught French and English, becoming Head of English and School Librarian. He was a much loved Housemaster of Reckitt. A flexible and gentle person, Len became a valued member of Meeting for Worship, a member of the Society of Friends, Second Master and "Senior Quaker" on the staff.



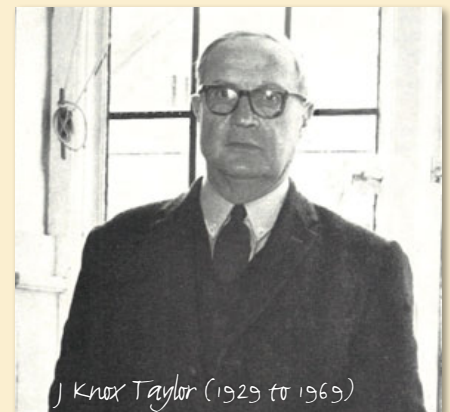
Frank Button (1940-1977)

Frank was Careers Master and Head of Modern Languages, giving a great intellectual contribution to school. Conservative in outlook, Frank was willing to accept change so was happy to be persuaded that a Language Lab was needed. He is remembered for his enthusiasm and high standards, but also for his cheerfulness behind the Bookslide, presiding over the Debating Society and running the JBH Speech Competition. "Whatever he undertook, he approached in the same straightforward, utterly dependable way. He always had time to answer the unexpected request and never more so when he became Second Master." (The Leightonian)



J Knox Taylor (1929 to 1969)

Knox Taylor taught History, Politics and Ancient History. He coached cricket, was Chairman of the Senior Debating Society, acted in staff plays and put on fascinating Mock Trials on Saturday. When he left in 1969, it was reported in the Leightonian that his contribution had been rich and varied. "He had the affectionate respect of his colleagues throughout his record period of service to the school, and never more than during his years as Second Master. His firm but kindly guidance and his deep concern for the welfare of all those serving the school community has made for unity and friendliness among them."



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

If you would like to know more please contact, in confidence:

Celia Blakeway-Phillips Head of Development
e: celiabp@leightonpark.com t: 0118 987 9648




Leighton Park
School

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