

# THE RED ROSE

## 2026



# 100 Years of KGV

# THE RED ROSE

**2026**

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## CHAIRMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION

### KGV Old Boys' Association

T P Spencer (24) W Beetham (25) R E Sanderson (26-7) C I Minshull (28)  
 S J Hargreaves (29) A V Cunliffe (30) W M Towers (31) A V Cunliffe (32)  
 R E Sanderson (33) A D Sawyer (35) P Slater (36) G K Bridge (47)  
 D F Sutton (48) P Slater (49) T E Booth (51) G P Wakefield (52)  
 L Duckworth (53) J W Lord (54) J Edwards (55) S C Wilford (56)  
 K Rostron (57) J R Edwards (58) R A Lloyd (59) H E Nettleton (60)  
 G Barnes (61) G Walton (62) H Long (63&4) M B Enright (65)  
 H Evans (66) A V Langfeld (67) A Fairclough (68) H J M Royden (69)  
 D Brown (70) R Abram (71) S B Rimmer (72) A J Chandler (73)  
 J R N Petty (74) S B Fletcher (75) J N Rostron (76)  
 C W Jerram (77) E G Cowen (78)

### The Old Georgians' Association

T H Dutton (79) G Livesley (80) M M Lockyer (81) R Fletcher (82)  
 J C West (83) J J Marriner (84) G T Seed (85) M J Waring (86)  
 R A Barnett (87) B M Rimmer (88) J R Pilling (89) P D Bagshaw (90)  
 R C Fearn (91) E A Ogden (92) J R Elliott (93) R O Jeffs (94)  
 M J Fearn (95) A Bond (96&97) C Threlfall (98) M R E Hyde (99)  
 G F Dixon (2000) S L Bond (01) A D Hughes (02) J P Marsh (03)  
 K F Edwardson (04) D Burton (05) R Abram (06) D Lonsdale (07)  
 Catherine Lapsley (08) Janice Darkes-Sutcliffe (09&10) D Lonsdale (11)  
 N Spencer (12) M Duffy (13,14) M Day (15,16) R Ellis (17)  
 D Harrison (18, 19, 20, 21) G Cox (22, 23) Sarah Lapsley (24, 25)

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2025-26

PRESIDENT	Michelle Brabner
VICE PRESIDENTS	Former Chairmen & Presidents
CHAIRMAN	Sarah Lapsley
VICE CHAIRMAN	Dave Harrison
HONORARY SECRETARY	Martin Fearn
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Jonathan Elliott
HONORARY TREASURER	David Lonsdale
RED ROSE EDITOR	Jonathan Elliott
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Neil Spencer
WEB MASTER	Matthew Duffy
COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE	Pam Shea
FOUNDATION TRUSTEES	Catherine Lapsley & Neil Spencer
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Former Chairmen & Co-optees

## EDITORIAL

Dear Old Georgians

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026! AND A HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY to KGV!

Elizabeth Windsor, Norma Jean, David Attenborough and our very own KGV, all made their debut on this earth in 1926. The opening of King George V Grammar School for Boys was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. We did have the Centenary celebrations in 2020 (well actually 2021 with the pandemic delay) to celebrate the opening of the original Boys' School. But why not celebrate two birthdays?!

2025 was a good one for the OGA with several activities socially plus some big commitments to the college and students. The dinner went well with a surprisingly entertaining speech from the Head of UK Water! Who would have thought it! No slight on you Mark, it's the job title! The golf saw great weather and David Lonsdale expertly carried out the Master of Ceremonies role for the quiz night.

It is fantastic that so many have engaged physically, both local members and those that travel. What is a shame from my perspective is the minimum interaction from the membership with content for the Red Rose. As in previous years I have had to prompt and chase and a BIG thank you to those that have contributed.

The Red Rose was discussed at several committee meetings. Is the magazine still reaching our members or going to "No Longer At This Address" destinations? While we do have several hundred active email addresses, we get little feedback from those addressees. We also had to consider the production costs.

We have therefore decided that this (2026) edition will be the last one that is produced and sent out to the current mailing list. The cover reflects this, showing six previous editions of the school, college and association publications: 1920 (the very first); 1926 (the first of the grammar school); 1979 (the last of the grammar school); 1980 (The Georgian, the first of the college); 2001 (celebrating 75 years of KGV); 2020 (the first centenary).

The Red Rose will still be produced, but made available, digitally, to the membership, on line only, at the OGA web site.

If you do still want a hard copy to be sent to you, we are requesting that you place your order for 2027 by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. We ask that you pay £5 to cover production cost and postage for that edition. Future editions, if required, will require repeat payments each year. To make sure that we have the correct details, we ask you to

- 1) Make your payment to the account details stated on the inside back cover, putting in a reference of "RR27" + your name.
- 2) Email Jon Elliott ([jonelliot61@hotmail.com](mailto:jonelliot61@hotmail.com)) to confirm when you have made your payment, including your current postal address.

Thank you and I hope to see you at one of this year's events!

**Jonathan Elliott – Red Rose Editor**

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Old Georgians!

Now that all the Christmas and new year festivities are behind us, I hope you are looking forward to the year ahead. This is going to be a big year for Southport as we host the Open Golf Championship and Southport launches its first ever year of culture. An exciting year ahead for the town.

May I thank Mark Fletcher once again for his informative and entertaining speech at the Annual Dinner in April 2025 and also thank Dave Harrison for hosting another successful event that was enjoyed by all at Hesketh Golf Club.

May I say how absolutely delighted I am that Patrick Maguire has agreed to speak at this year's annual dinner which is to be held once again at Hesketh Golf Club on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

Patrick grew up in Southport and did his A levels at KGV Sixth Form College going on to become the Chief Political commentator for The Times and co- author of Left Out, the history of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party and Get In, the Sunday Times best selling account of Sir Kier Starmer's rise to power.

Joining Patrick will be a cohort of younger members of the OGA many of whom will be new to the dinner. Their youthful energy and enthusiasm will be most welcome on this special occasion. My hope is that they enjoy it so much, they decide to join for future events and become active members of the Association going forward.

In November we held the annual quiz at S & B once again, expertly compered by David Lonsdale. Thank you to Jacob Lea for devising the questions and creating the quiz. It was a pleasure to welcome many members and guests to a fun packed evening and please make a note in your diaries for this year's quiz at S & B on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of KGV.

On behalf of the OGA, I would like to formally recognise with much appreciation, the donation of old boy, David Brown whose thoughtful legacy to the Association covered the entire cost of renewing one of the sports fields at KGV Sixth Form College, meaning that countless young people will benefit going forward from his generosity.

I hope to see you at the dinner on 2nd April 2026. Thank you to the OGA Committee for your support and contribution to the work of the Association and to Jonathan Elliot for his invaluable contribution to the Red Rose which is such an important lifeline for the organisation.

I expect to be handing over the baton this year to a new Chair. It has been a privilege to hold the position. I have met some lovely people and had the opportunity to rekindle old friendships. I wish the Association all the very best going forward and look forward to my continuing membership.

***Sarah Lapsley (KGV College, 1981 – 83)***

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Old Georgians,

What an incredible year it has been at KGV Sixth Form College! From exciting new partnerships and inspiring lectures to creative showcases and hands-on experiences, 2025 was packed with opportunities for our students to learn, grow and shine.

We began the year with the launch of our Elite Sports Programme, designed to support students with exceptional sporting potential. Partnering with TERA Fitness, a local private gym and PT studio in Southport, we introduced monthly sessions to help students build strength, flexibility and fitness knowledge. Meanwhile, our Year 12 Chemistry students took on the challenge of the Royal Society of Chemistry UK Olympiad, the UK's leading chemistry competition, tackling a two-hour written paper with confidence and determination.

January also saw visits from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, offering invaluable insights into the application process, A Level choices, and life at two of the world's most prestigious institutions. Their sessions with students, parents and local Year 11 schools helped demystify the Oxbridge journey and inspired many to aim high. Our A-Level Art students enjoyed an inspiring trip to London, exploring exhibitions such as Tim Burton at the Design Museum, the Taylor Wessing Photography Prize at the National Portrait Gallery and the Wildlife Photographer of the Year at the Natural History Museum, alongside visits to the V&A and Tate. Back on campus, February half-term brought a splash of colour as our reception and link building got a facelift – new décor, vibrant colour schemes, and even neon lighting!

March was all about innovation and empowerment. Our Science Department welcomed three esteemed doctors from Oxford University – Dr Dale Maxwell, Dr Ali Kay and Dr Hans Ng – for an interactive talk on genomics and personalised medicine. Our T Level students hosted the Next Gen Energy Interschool Competition, encouraging younger students to tackle sustainability challenges through interactive activities and employer-set problems. To celebrate International Women's Day, we launched the first-ever Dr. Natalie Kenny Lecture Series, featuring three incredible women: Emma Stewart (EDI Officer at Sefton Council & KGV alum), Dr. Natalie Kenny (CEO of BioGrad & KGV alum), and Sarah Jackson (CEO of Hatter's Digital Agency). Each shared inspiring insights on gender equality, inclusivity and authenticity in their industries. We wrapped up March with Brain Day, a celebration of neuroscience and psychology that got everyone thinking!

The Easter holidays were filled with revision sessions and term kicked off with our final Open Evening of the year. As exams approached, our Student Support Team went above and beyond to reduce stress, hosting events like visits from Natterjack Alpacas, drop-ins from Kooth and Beekind, and special enrichment sessions.

In May, we welcomed Dr. Tom Crawford, Oxford mathematician and YouTuber, for an engaging lecture on how maths can help clean up our oceans. His enthusiasm showed students how equations can solve real-world problems. Our Psychology and Criminology students took a fascinating trip to Shrewsbury Prison, exploring its history, prisoner cells and even old-school torture devices!

After a busy exam season and May half-term revision, June brought WelcomeFest, our annual event for incoming students – a day of taster sessions, campus tours, and meeting future teachers. July was all about creativity and achievement: our Creative Arts Showcase wowed audiences with stunning student artwork, and Boss It Week gave Year 12 students real-world challenges from local employers, from designing

biodiversity-friendly gardens to pitching ideas for Southport's new Marine Lake Events Centre. Our School of Medicine students spent an intensive week at BioGrad Education in Liverpool, gaining hands-on experience with emergency medical procedures, venesection, cannulation, ultrasound, suturing, and fracture management – all vital skills for future medics.

The summer brought exciting news for KGV and the wider Southport Education Group as we announced a brand-new partnership with Southport Football Club. This collaboration will see a significant investment in our sports facilities, with the playing fields at KGV undergoing a complete transformation. Soon, we'll have two full-size football pitches and one 9-a-side pitch – top-quality facilities that will be used by our students during the day and serve as the official training ground for Southport FC. This incredible regeneration has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Old Georgians' Association and the KGV Education Foundation, whose commitment to our legacy and future continues to make a real difference.

Our first-year students also had the chance to visit the University of Cambridge Open Days as part of our Oxbridge programme, giving them a taste of what life could be like at one of the world's leading universities. August brought the excitement of Results Day, where we celebrated the fantastic achievements of our students, followed by enrolment and welcoming our new intake. We also reintroduced A-Level Economics to our curriculum and launched a new timetable that gives all students Friday afternoons free – a welcome addition to their week.

Amid these positive changes, we were deeply saddened to share the passing of Clare Peacock, a much-loved maths teacher at KGV Sixth Form College, who passed away in August following a short illness. Clare dedicated a significant part of her career to the Southport Education Group, serving as Head of Maths at Southport College between 1986 and 2006, and teaching A-Level Maths at KGV since 2023. A dedicated, friendly, and passionate teacher, Clare will be greatly missed by her colleagues and students alike.

As autumn arrived, the pace didn't slow down! September saw a cross-college visit to Edge Hill University's HE Fair, giving students a chance to explore future pathways. Our Art students enjoyed creative trips to Liverpool galleries and Hesketh Park and even took part in a one-day workshop with Marvel Illustrator Tim Quinn – an unforgettable experience for budding artists! Health and Social Care students headed to Liverpool John Moores University, where they tried their hand at drawing blood on a venepuncture arm, explored cutting-edge VR technology, and gained a deeper understanding of health careers. Meanwhile, English students discovered the magic of the printing press at Southport College, bringing literature to life in a whole new way.

November was packed with enrichment opportunities. Our UPS students welcomed visits from the Merseyside Police Force Careers Team and the Army Elite Skills Activities Team and marked Remembrance Day with a special activity in the Link. Fifteen of our law students took part in the Bar Mock Trial Competition Regional Heats at Liverpool Crown Court, stepping into roles as barristers, witnesses, jurors, and even court clerks – an incredible real-world experience! Maths and Further Maths and Physics students were treated to an inspiring talk from Tom Rocks Maths on "Million Dollar Equations," showing how mathematics shapes the world in unexpected ways.

The term also saw the launch of our new UAL Drama course, with rehearsals in full swing for a festive performance of *Rapunzel*, staged during the last week of term. Our School of Medicine students continued to thrive, attending specialist talks from ex-



KGV alumni including Amy Farquardson, a trainee Cardiac Physiologist, and Dr Ryan, a GP, who shared insights into careers in healthcare. We're proud to report an increase in early university entries too – seven for Medicine, two for Veterinary Science, one for Dentistry, and four Oxbridge applications!

From football partnerships and creative workshops to courtroom drama, cutting-edge science, and festive performances, 2025 was bursting with opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and shine.

***Michelle Brabner, Southport College Principal***

## MEMORABILIA

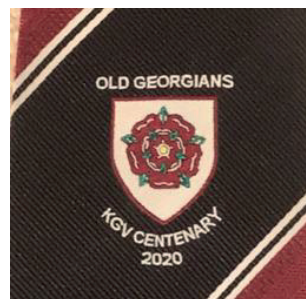
In addition to the regular Old Georgians ties (£7.50), we still have the specially commissioned Centenary tie available to purchase.

Many were purchased prior to and at the dinners and these beautiful and high quality ties are still available should you want one.

They are priced at £12.50 (plus £2.50 p&p).

For the commission, we adopted a full colour logo of the Tudor Rose, taken from the Grammar School blazer badge of the 1970s.

We have retained the traditional school colours, which were also adopted by the College in 1979. The main body of the tie includes a 'ghost'



## KG V: 1926 - 2026

### **“Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday KG V!”**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2026, it will be 100 years since the official opening of the Boys' Grammar School on Scarisbrick New Road.

The OGA has confused some, not least itself, over how do you have two centennials for the same establishment?

Well, a decision was made just after the first world war to change and enhance the education system across the country. As part of that, Southport applied to join the revolution and to open a new boys' grammar school. Permission was granted and funds were raised, but clearly it would take some time to find our build an appropriate structure to house the new school.

In 1920, Southport was ready for the establishment and so The Southport Municipal Secondary School For Boys opened at the Woodlands, situated on Albert Road. The foundation, in principle, was laid for the full grammar school. 110 boys started under the first headmaster, George Millward, along with six other members of staff, who all lent their names to the new school 'houses'.



**The original staff at the front door of Woodlands**

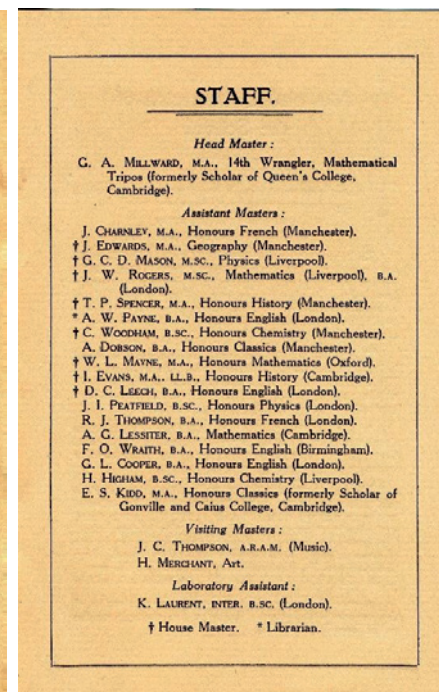
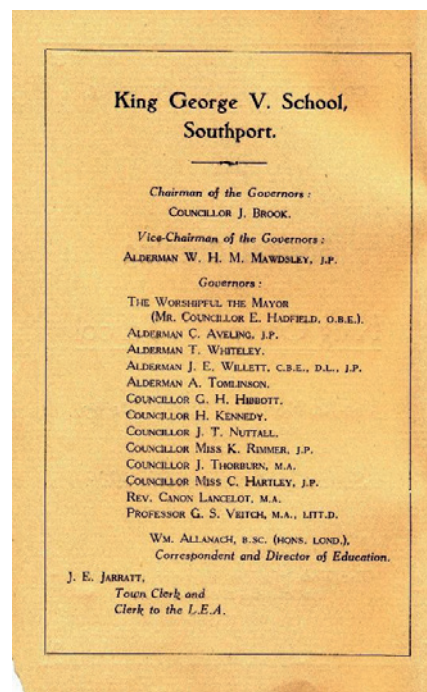
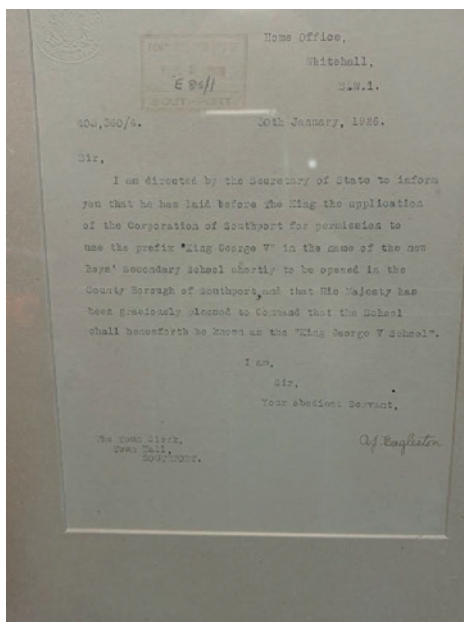
At the start of 1925, a significant event took place. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, David Alexander Edward Lindsay, the 27<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford and 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Balcarres, laid the foundation stone. The stone is on display at the college, located next to the stone inscribed to commemorate the opening of the school in 1926. They were placed either side of the main door.





The original foundation stone, retained at the college.

Just over a year later, on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1926, a letter from the Home Office was received at Southport Town Hall, confirming that the King 'commanded' that *the school shall henceforth be known as the "King George V School"*.



The new building was not quite ready for the start of the 1926 academic year, but on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 1926, the Headmaster led the staff and boys on a 'march' from the town centre to the new site, where the opening ceremony then took place.



The magnificent new building on Scarisbrick New Road



The proceedings are poetically described in this extract from the December 1926 school Red Rose magazine. The aforementioned 'gold key' is also shown, rescued a few years ago by and now securely in the possession of, Old Georgian, John Rostron.

### THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL.

In serried ranks the School waited ; waited, while the autumn sun moved slowly over the sky, tinting the whole scene with a delicate, mellow splendour. There was beauty in the way the light fell on the building of most unpoetical brick ; there was beauty in the listless way the wind filled the flag with an alternate ebb and flow ; and beauty may have been discovered among the spectators and the School, as they stood in serried ranks.

But there was pathos, too, although the majority felt only the beauty. Was there not a suspicion that these fine, rosy-cheeked, curly-haired boys were being metaphorically butchered to make a Southport holiday? Had they not been dragged away from their games of snap and ludo to stand in the serried ranks which I have already mentioned? The words of the poet-peer came to the minds of many :

" Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die."

For two paragraphs the School has been waiting for the arrival of that respected Earl who was to open our new building on . . . But I need not go into details, for is it not all written in the card for the 3-15 on Oct. 16th?

All things come to an end, even waiting. Lord Derby, to put it racily, started well up to time. After making a tour of the paddock, during which the House Masters and House Captains were presented to him, he finished well in the straight, just managing to beat the Mayor by a short head. Then arose a cry, "*Linguis animisque favete!*" A figure, bearing a golden key, was approaching the Earl, while everyone waited in awed silence. Was it old Janus, obliged to forego one of his two faces owing to the increased cost of living? Could it be the god of doors, whose name is enshrined for ever in the opening month of the year? But nay, away with such idle fancies! The figure was not any god of ancient Rome, but an architect of the modern Rome. In a few moments the deed was done, the School was opened.

The scene changes from the campus to the Assembly Hall ; the autumn sun ceases to take any interest in the proceedings. We sing, and we are sung to by those whose

treble voices have not yet reached the sere and yellow leaf. The Mayor did his part in the usual manner of mayors, and then Lord Derby arose to speak. He gave no high-falutin phrases, no pious words of admonition, but, like another long-dead member of the British peerage, he came home to our business and bosoms by giving us memories of his own schooldays. His words will long remain in the hearts of his hearers ; he said something which they will not willingly let die. Whenever they are perplexed by the elusive Horace, or lost in the impenetrable thickets of Tacitus, they can always obtain comfort from the knowledge that Lord Derby is a fellow-traveller on the same boat.

All is now over but for the cheering, and the reward of that cheering—a whole day's holiday. An apt speech by the Head precipitated more acclamation, and while the welkin still rang, Lord Derby left the platform. The School was now open, and we were free to walk through its halls of concrete and Dorking brick, without any fear of being arrested as trespassers.

S. H. F. J.

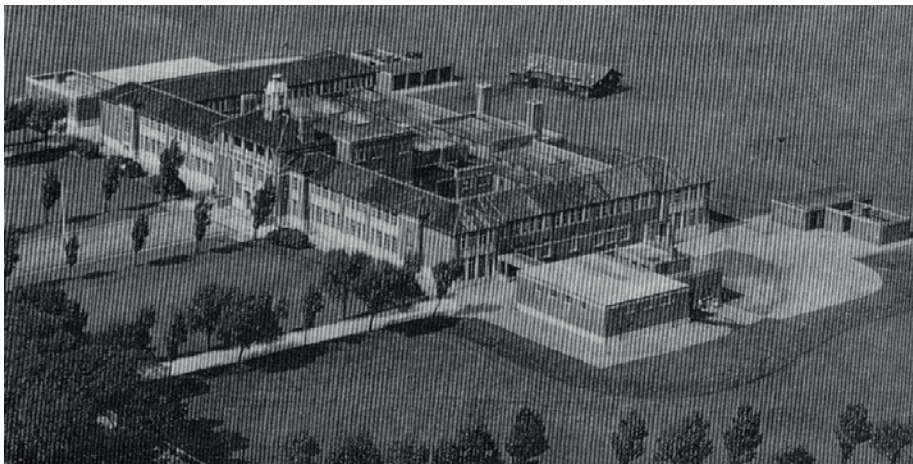




A bust of the King was commissioned and this is on display in the college to this day.



Clearly, the second world war had a devastating effect on the Alma Mata of the school. Those who perished are commemorated and remembered on two boards that are also displayed in the college.



Over time, further buildings were added. The canteen and kitchens can be seen in the fore ground of this picture. The new geography block is still under construction behind them. To the west of the original building is the new gym and additional academic rooms, including woodwork and metal work. It is not clear what the four 'garages' actually were, but at some point the chemistry labs were located in this area.

In the Geoffrey Dixon era, pieces of furniture were commissioned. They were made by a local carpenter, who personalised them with his trade mark 'mouse'. Geoffrey Dixon had a lectern made and it is still in use today, sometimes making an appearance at the annual dinner. A chair can still be found at the college to commemorate the life of Ivor Evans, one of the original members of staff.



There are many significant dates in the life of the school, too many to notate in this production. But some of the highlights are:

- 1921 – The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the new school magazine “The Red Rose” was published
- 1949 - The second headmaster, Geoffrey Dixon was appointed.
- 1976 – The third Headmaster of the school was appointed, Dr David Arnold.
- 1977 – The last intake of new boys.
- 1979 – The new Sixth Form College came into being, with young ladies joining the ranks of students at the ‘new’ KGV.
- 1982 – The original building is demolished.
- 1983 – The first female Principal is appointed, Geraldine Evans
- 2020 – Centenary of The Boys School opening
- 2026 – Centenary of KGV Grammar School for Boys opening

The OGA Red Rose from 2001, expertly edited by Paul Bagshaw (RIP), has greater detail of the history and is worthy of your time to consume. This link will take you to the online copy on our website. There are many more photographs also on the web site.

<https://www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk/styled-4/index.html>



## OBITUARIES

### John Booth (Leeches, 1964-70)

On our first day at KGV John Booth sat next to me, we became lifelong friends. He seemed to know all about KGV, perhaps gleaned from older brother Dave. John was a gentle giant in our class and, you could not miss him. Surprisingly agile, he loved cricket at school and rather fancied himself as a batsman and slip fielder.

After O'levels, John decided that sixth form was not for him and he obtained an admin position at a local engineering company after school. He immediately hated office work. Escaping, to obtain business qualifications at Salford College of Technology (now part of Salford University), he became Union President. People recognised his warmth and interest in helping others which was to become his trademark. Going out with John as a student should have carried a health warning alcohol seemed to have little effect upon him, unlike his drinking partners.

John had a mixed career working for some major companies but never fulfilled his true potential. Divorced with a son Mathew, he finally moved to Clayton le Dale near the Ribble Valley. It was here he came into his own taking over a local tours company, Red Rose Tours. He loved it, leading coach parties around beauty spots in the area. Customers enjoyed his banter and encyclopaedic knowledge of North Lancashire. I don't think he saw it as work. He never retired even bravely fighting off prostate cancer during Covid.

John suddenly died in March 2025 at the age of 72 from a deep vein thrombosis following a long flight from America (John's hobby was travelling the world) with his partner Sue. We tried to make his funeral a celebration of his life; that is what John would have wanted. I will miss his strong handshake and bear hug whenever we met. That first day, 61 years ago, seems like yesterday.

**Alan Dickinson**

BOOTH, John, L6Sp. L. 1964-70 (G.C.E. O4), Cricket Full Colours 1969-70.

**Red Rose, December 1970**

### Adrian Brown (1946-53)

Hi Jon,

*I have just received the 2025 Red Rose, which has prompted me to get in touch. Apologies for the delay.*

My dad, Adrian WA Brown died on 29.03.2024 in Warrington after suffering for a few years with dementia. He was an ex-pupil of KGV, a member of the OGA and until latterly a regular attendee at the annual April dinner/walking weekends.

He grew up in Ainsdale and Birkdale and had fond memories of his time at KGV, especially playing rugby. He met my mum at a dance at Southport's Floral Hall, and he worked as a power station engineer initially at Southport PS, then after moving to Warrington at Fiddlers Ferry and Bold PS.

Dad was a keen gardener and bee-keeper and was a sun worshipper, enjoying holidays abroad. Dad's ashes were scattered in the dunes at Ainsdale in Nov 2024. His favourite place!

**Regards,  
Gill Brown**

Brown, A., 1946-53.—Edwards', Upper VI Sc. B, G.C.E. (A3, 05) 1951-53.  
Cornett, L. P. 1946-53.—Edwards', Upper VI Sc. B, G.C.E. (A3, 05) 1951-53.

**Red Rose, December 1953**

### Cyril Jeffrey Fox MBE(1945-52)

*Dear Jonathan,*

*My father Jeffrey attended KGV from 1945 through 1952. He passed away in August 2024. We have just received the latest edition of the Red Rose and felt that Dad would like his obituary to appear in the magazine if that would be possible? The text below was featured in one of the armed forces magazines for his work as chair of an ex-serviceman's association and I wondered if that would be suitable?*

*Many thanks for your help.*

*Kind regards*

*Jared Fox*

Jeffrey was born in Manchester in 1934, the only child of Joseph Louis Fox and Helen (ne Bieber). Helen was born in Poland, and the family had arrived in Newcastle in the early 1900s. Some years later her father was sent to Liverpool on family business where daughter Helen met Joseph. They married in 1928.

After attending KGV, Jeffrey went on to study pharmacy at the University of Liverpool. His 'National Service' in 1953 saw him drafted into the Royal Army Medical Corps. Bizarrely, he missed serving in Korea because of a medical condition he was suffering from at the time, but ended up in charge of sports for the whole of Southern Command. "I must have done a pretty awful job," said Jeffrey, "because when I was demobbed they rang me up at home and asked me to go back for six months as a civilian!"

Jeffrey worked for four years in Toronto, Canada before arriving in Newcastle in 1961 and two years later married Estelle Collins. In 1968, son Jared entered the world.

Jeffrey was now in the food business, founding the Moulin Rouge restaurant and also providing the catering for the Gosforth Squash Club among others. He was a founding member of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain in 1973.

It was a busy period, yet Jeffrey found time to serve as Honorary Treasurer and Council Member of the United Hebrew Congregation for 16 years, the Vice President of the Jewish Welfare Board for 25 years, a Director of North East Jewish Care, and Vice President of the Newcastle Jewish Housing Association for 30 years. He also managed to squeeze in being Chairman of the North-East Variety Club of Great Britain as well as a board member of the UK Variety Club. He raised large sums of money for under-privileged children and organised the provision of many minibuses to schools and other children's organisations.

When most people start thinking about retirement, Jeffrey embarked on a new venture... joining AJEX. "We had a chap who was chairman of the Newcastle branch and every year he nagged me to come to the parade and I kept saying don't be daft, I would feel like a fraud. I haven't contributed, I didn't fight in the war. Anyway, he persuaded me, and I went down and I realised I'd made a terrible mistake and that I should get involved." He was co-opted on to the Executive Council, later becoming deputy Chairman and then being elected Chairman in 2012. During his time at AJEX he was determined to maintain its aims and objectives for as long as possible. Jeffrey steered AJEX through many changes, including the transfer of the Jewish Military Museum to the Jewish Museum, the streamlining of the Head Office administration, including the upgrading of the IT systems, and the re-organisation of the management structure. In 2015 Jeffrey was invited to join the Armed Forces Jewish Community, which represents those Jewish men and women currently serving in HM Armed Forces, and was elected Honorary Secretary.

Jeffrey, as he was more commonly known, was unique among those who have held the post of National Chair at the AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women) in that he was called back to serve a third year following the usual two and that speaks volumes.

In 2015 he was awarded the MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) M.B.E. for services to AJEX and other charities. Not bad for a man who was originally reluctant to join.

Jeffrey passed away peacefully on Monday, 19th August 2024 aged 90. He is deeply missed by wife Estelle, son Jared and grandsons Cameron, George and Sholto.

Fox, C. J., 1945-52.—Mason's, Lower VI Special, G.C.E. (06) 1952.

**Red Rose, December 1951**

## **Peter Hulme (Grears, 1955-62)**

*We received the following from Geoff Stocker as we were about to go to print.*

I am sad to report the passing of Peter Hulme following a severe stroke, at the age of 81. As his demise is very close to the press-date for the Red Rose, I will not have time to do his obituary the justice it deserves, so a full story will appear in the following Red Rose.

If any contemporaries would like to send me their recollections/reminiscences for possible incorporation, please send them to me by email at: [gsto2512@aol.com](mailto:gsto2512@aol.com)



Peter at a recent OGA dinner

## **G A Stocker (Spencers 1955-1962)**

BROWN, D. A., 1959-62—Edwards, W. I.  
HULME, P. M., 1955-62—Gears's, U6MSch (A4,O3).

**Red Rose, March 1962**

## **Ian Judge**

Ian was born on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1946 in Southport and was adopted in infancy by Marjorie and Jack Judge, who ran a confectioners' shop. Ian was educated at KGV but left aged 14 to work in the rates office, take part in amateur theatre and design window displays for a local department store. Five years later, in 1969, he won a place at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London, where he trained as an actor. Graduating in 1971, he worked around the fringe and regions until offered an assistant director's post by [Terry Hands](#) at the RSC in 1975. He stayed for five years.

Ian also directed plays and musicals in London, Stratford and regional theatres, including greatly-admired stagings of *West Side Story*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint*, *the Smell of the Crowd* and an Olivier-nominated production of *Showboat*. In the world of opera, Ian enjoyed worldwide success, finding himself in demand across the globe for upwards of 30 years. He enjoyed long associations with the Royal Opera, English National Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Australia, the Mariinsky Theatre, Teatro Colón, and Los Angeles Opera (where he directed the North American premiere of Franz Schreker's *Die Gezeichneten* in 2010 — a project that revived a long-



suppressed masterwork and stimulated scholarly and public interest in Schreker's music).

In the course of an illustrious career, Ian worked with some of the major theatrical figures of our time, including Sir Michael Redgrave, Sir Derek Jacobi, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Dorothy Tutin, Imelda Staunton, Sir John Tomlinson, Plácido Domingo, Anna Netrebko, and Rolando Villazón.

He lived in Chiswick for 35 years, prior to his passing on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Full obituaries can be found in the national press.

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/oct/09/ian-judge-obituary>

### **Jim Marsh (Masons, 1954-61)**

*James Peter Marsh (Jim) was born on February 9th, 1943. He passed away on November 9th 2025. He has the grateful thanks of the committee (and especially those of mine, Ed) for his assistance in gathering the troops for many years and joining us at the annual dinner. Jim was a stalwart of the Old Georgians and will be missed by many.*

*His close group have put together this tribute for the Red Rose. Thank you.*

Jim was known as Peter Marsh in his early days and until he went to KGV. I remember his Mum, Dot, always calling him "our Peter".

I first met him at the age of 6, in 1949, at Farnborough Rd School in class one alpha. Miss Lewis was our teacher and Arthur Loveridge the Headmaster. I may have met him even earlier because he went, for a year or so, to my aunt's nursery school at Clive Lodge in Birkdale, but I don't remember him there.

He was already an excellent sportsman, especially football and he played in Farnborough Rd "A" team for 2 years captaining the side in his/our 4th year when we played Norwood Rd in the final of the Duddy shield at Haig Avenue, losing 2-1. He played right wing with Peter Rostron inside right.

In 1954 we both passed our 11+ to go to KGV where we met up with Dave Keeley and a year or so later Chas Martin. Both Chas and Jim were in Masons House and they always beat most others including Edwards which was my house. Rather bizarrely, Jim started his KGV career in 2A, in spite of his academic talent. This mistake was however soon corrected and he was moved to the Trans stream.

Unfortunately, he suffered a serious abdominal injury playing rugby for the U13's at Bishops Court in Freshfield and spent several months in the Infirmary. He didn't play rugby again for at least 2 years. Jim excelled at both cricket and athletics, especially the long and high jumps, and he captained the cricket 1st X1 for 2 years. When he was allowed to play rugby again, he played full back in the victorious 1st XV 1960/61, captained by Chas Martin, under the tutelage and guidance of Bob Abrams and Eric Gale.

He got into Oxford University, St Edmund Hall (Teddy Hall), in 1961, reading History. He won a "blue" at soccer, where the team was trained by (later Sir) Bobby Robson. He played at Wembley in 1964 but sadly lost 3-1 to Cambridge. He obtained a first in history and later was awarded an MA in a ceremony at the Ashmolean.

We met up quite often during those years when he returned to Southport and on our annual pilgrimage to London to watch the Rugby League Cup Finals at Wembley. The least said about those visits, the better.

Jim married Diane Todd in August 1968 and they had two wonderful children, Andrew and Sarah, and all his grandchildren

He played cricket for S&B 1st X1 captaining the side 1970/71 and rugby for Southport 1st XV after leaving Oxford. He played alongside Barry (Jud) Hurst, Peter Rostron, Dave Keeley, Chas Martin, John Rostron, John Kermode, myself and many others. He taught History, first of all at Prescott Grammar School before moving to Hutton Grammar School, becoming Head of Department.



Maggie and I socialised extensively with Jim and Di for many years. His talents also extended to painting landscapes and there is one of the school, as it was, which was his present to Chas on his 70th Birthday. He was also an avid crossword puzzle solver! He used to do three each day with co-crossword solver John Kermode, during summer vacs (Telegraph, Times and Guardian).

He was a great golfer, or so he told me, though he seemed to know the detailed times of the trains leaving Hillside station!

Jim more than anything else was wise, cultured, kind, even tempered and did not have a bad word for anyone. A rare human being, brilliant academically, a gifted sportsman and a damned nice bloke.

Diane died in 2014. He met up with Val, circa 2018 and enjoyed his last few years with her immensely. He was a great friend. I/we, amongst many others, will miss him terribly.

**Steve Tasker, Peter Rostron, Jud Hurst, Chas Martin, John Kermode.  
November 2025**

MARSH, J.P., 1954-61.—Mason's, U6MSch, G.C.E. (A4,06), Senior School Prefect 1960-61, Captain Cricket 1960-61, Captain Badminton team 1960, Full Rugby Colours 1960-61, Full Cricket Colours 1959-60-61, Full Athletics Colours 1961, Captain of House Cricket, Badminton and Basketball, House Vice-Captain, Junior Librarian 1960-61, Chairman Economics Society 1961, Open Scholarship in History to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford 1961, State Scholarship 1961.

Red Rose, December 1961



Cricket, 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 1960-61 (Front, Centre)



Rugby, 1<sup>st</sup> XV, 1960-61 (Front, far right)

## Graham Whyte (Woodhams, 1966-72)

Graham Samuel Murray Whyte was born in Southport on December 29th 1954 to Amelia and Peter Murray Whyte. He was the eldest of seven children.

Graham attended St. Philips Primary School before moving on to KGV where he was in Woodhams from 1966 until 1972.

He was a member of St. Philips Church Choir, often singing solo at various church services, and was also a Lance Corporal in St. Philips 1st Company Boy's Brigade. After leaving school, he spent a short time working at Cavenham's Sweet Factory on Virginia Street and, in his spare time, helped raise funds for the Local Oxfam group.

In the 1970s, he was a candidate for the Liberal Party in local elections

For a short time, Graham worked for Southport Hospital Radio. After working for the Christian Weekly News and then the Ormskirk Advertiser, it soon became clear that journalism was his passion. In 1982, he moved to Silkstone Common near Barnsley and worked for the Barnsley Chronicle before moving on to work briefly at the Sheffield Morning Telegraph.

In 1985, he bought a house in Hindley Green near Wigan, the main attraction of the property being that there was a pub on the other side of the garden fence (in which Graham installed a gate in order to make life easier). In the late 1980s, he moved to Prenton in Birkenhead and, from 1988, worked for Radio City as News Editor. He stayed there until 1999 when he was offered a job at Radio Merseyside where he stayed for the rest of his working life.

He was a keen Everton Supporter and enjoyed attending matches.

In 2019, he became engaged to Anna Petrie. They remained partners until his passing.

## **Stephen Manning**

WHYTE, Graham S. M., L6Sp., W., 1966-72 (G.C.E. 05)

Red Rose, December 1972



## UPCOMING OGA SOCIAL EVENTS 2026

### The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Challenge

## **- Thursday 2nd April 2026 -**

The Challenge will be held at the Hesketh Golf Club.

Competing for the Bob Abram Trophy, the competition is open to all OGA members. The trophy will be presented to the winner, with prizes awarded to lower places and special achievement. We have tees booked from 1100 to 1140.

The entry fee is expected to be **£30 per player**. This includes a contribution to the prize fund. Monies will be requested in advance of the day to ensure that we secure the course for the competition. The closing date to secure a place will be seven days before the event. We will try to accommodate applications after this date but they cannot be guaranteed.

Please note that we are requesting payment in advance. Payment by Bank transfer is preferred. Please ensure that your name is included in the reference and starts with “G26” (our code for the golf, e.g. **G26YOURNAME**). Please also email Chris when the payment is made.

Cheques should be made payable to the Old Georgians Association. Please send you entry fee to Chris Stitson. Chris (the real golfer) is the event organiser. You can contact Chris for further information if required. Chris’ number is 01636 830036 and his email is [stitson.chris@gmail.com](mailto:stitson.chris@gmail.com). Please ensure that you include the following information with the entry fee:

- Players Name; name of members golf club; their handicap;
- email contact; telephone contact;
- preferred tee off time;
- preferred playing partners (to tee off at the same time, max 4 per tee time).

The facilities and catering (charge applicable) will be available to you. There is a varied menu available for late breakfast or lunch. Please ask for Karen and mention the OGA event.

### The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

## **- Thursday 2nd April 2026 -**

The 77<sup>th</sup> dinner will again be hosted by the Hesketh Golf Club on Maundy Thursday.

In recent years we have twice tried a Saturday as an alternate date, but this has not had the desired effect of increasing attendance, so there is little point in trying it again as it does not achieve sufficient support, despite being requested by members.

The venue suits us well and their hospitality cannot be beaten!

The ticket price for 2026, it will be £???.?? for 3 courses and coffee/tea. Menu options will be published in the new year and choices need to be sent to Jonathan by March 27<sup>th</sup>, or the default options will be provided – [jonelliott61@hotmail.com](mailto:jonelliott61@hotmail.com).

### PLEASE BOOK EARLY!

**Please will you confirm your intention to join us as soon as possible, by email, to Jonathan Elliott ([jonelliott61@hotmail.com](mailto:jonelliott61@hotmail.com))**

Please note that we are requesting payment in advance of the dinner, from January 31st. Payment by Bank transfer if preferred. Please ensure that your name is included in the reference and starts with “D26” (our code for Dinner 2026, e.g. **D26FredSmith**). Please also email Jon Elliott when the payment is made.

Account details are on the Contacts page at the end of the magazine.

Cash or cheque (payable to ‘Old Georgians Association’) are acceptable.

Please avoid payment on the evening, but if you have no other option, please seek out Jonathan Elliott on your arrival.

**Contributions to the raffle prizes are welcomed. Please can you inform Jon in advance if you plan to donate a prize and what it might be.**

We can try accommodate requests for tickets after March 27<sup>th</sup> and we will confirm your place once received should we still have places available. Cancellations made after March 27<sup>th</sup> may not be refundable. **Please ensure that your booking/payment is confirmed by April 11<sup>th</sup>** to Jon Elliott. Any not confirmed will be released, so as not to incur a charge. Jon Elliott is on [jonelliott61@hotmail.com](mailto:jonelliott61@hotmail.com) or 07969889843.

### The 2026 Quiz Night”

## **- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 -**

The quiz night will return in 2026. The provisional date is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**.

Yes, this date is the birthday of KGV!

Please keep your eye on our methods of communicating – eMail, the website, Facebook page. We had a great turn out the last two years and it would be excellent to round off KGVs 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a great night at the quiz!

## SOCIAL EVENTS 2025

### **The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Challenge** **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Hesketh Golf Club**

The weather was glorious, the golf equally so (when you take handicaps into account) and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Hat's off to Chris Stitson for another well run event and 'Clubs Away!' to those who took part to make it so.

To summarise with the Board of Merit:

1st – Dave Harrison 38 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Martin Fearn 36 points    3<sup>rd</sup> – David Marshall 34 points

Nearest the pin prizes went to Bellinda Miller, Mark Robertson and Chris Stitson

### **The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner** **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Hesketh Golf Club**

Fifty five OGAs gathered at the Hesketh Golf Club in 2025 and as ever, a most enjoyable evening took place.

Procedure was maintained at the AGM, overseen by Dave Harrison, David Lonsdale and Martin Fearn in the absence through holiday of our Chair, Sarah Lapsley.

The events team at the golf club once again put together a splendid meal and dinner service for us. Both food and wine were fine, with the company of the gathering being exceptional all round.

Mark Fletcher was our guest speaker. The dinner menu introduced Mark as the current Head of British Water and I think the first reaction for many was a big blank! Mark very quickly filled that vacant space with a most entertaining encounter of his life and times, both personal and in his life time of working with and more recently safeguarding the UK water supply and network. I think it is safe to say just about everyone in the room came away educated on a subject that little knew about, most thought would be tedious, but in fact was very interesting and worthwhile! Mark's style enhanced the content matter exceptionally



[Mark Fletcher Discussing ARUP](#)

The above is a link to YouTube and an interview with Mark

In attendance this year:

Heather	Amer	Alistair	Ford	Jim	Marsh	Peter	Rostron
Maurice	Amer	Phil	Frampton	David	Marshall	John	Seddon
Michelle	Brabner	Steve	Grindley	Joanne	Matthews	Paul	Sternberg
Steve	Bracher	Dave	Harrison	Barry	Mawer	Chris	Stitson
Mark	Burrows	Neil	Hunt	Andy	Maxwell	Geoff	Stocker
Ellen	Campbell	Barry	Hurst	Julian	McInerney	Steve	Tasker
Mark	Day	Barry	Jones	David	Mellalieu	Mark	Teale
Alan	Dickinson	Liz	Kelly	Paul	Merone	Chris	Threlfall
Jonathan	Elliott	John	Kermode	Belinda	Miller	John	Wainwright
Ron	Ellis	Ian	Kettle	Chris	Parkinson	Chris	Watson
Martin	Fearn	Catherine	Lapsley	Tim	Patrick	Stuart	Wincer
Darren	Fisher	David	Lonsdale	Ken	Priestley	Chris	Wood
Terry	Fleetwood	Andrew	MacIntosh	Mark	Robertson	John	Wray
Mark	Fletcher	Steve	Mallinder	John	Rostron		

### **The 2025 Quiz Night**

The sequel to the epic 'Return of the Quiz', took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the S&B and what a fun night it was!! Our Chair, Sarah Lapsley, introduced the evening and our Master of Ceremonies & Quiz Master, David Lonsdale.

The mood of the evening was almost 'party time', but that did not prevent the serious quizzers from knuckling down and commencing the chase for the big prize! And 1<sup>st</sup> was the biggest prize we have ever given, literally!

The extension was open in the main lounge at the club to accommodate the 14 teams that took part in the evening. Sarah's nephew drove the big screen display for David, as he wove his way through the various rounds and categories.

He slotted in fun games and this kept the whole momentum of the evening going, which, given the boisterous attendance, was not the easiest of tasks!

As the final scores were drawn together, all eyes turned to the front, eagerly waiting for the result.

Runners up were Matt Greenhalgh, Martin Fearn, Jeff and their wives. Nudged out of first place by only 3 points by the Muttley Crew, who were manned by Ian Kettle, Neil Hunt, Jon Elliott and their wives/friends.

A very successful evening. Thank you Sarah for organising and David for leading!!

As for the prize – a stack of six tins of Quality Street!!



## COLLEGE MATTERS

### Boss It Week

The College held a new event titled 'Boss It Week' in June, whereby local businesses were invited to come into the college and offer advice, services or activities to the students related to recognised careers and vocations.

Law students and those from related courses took part in a Mock Trial. This was facilitated by Jonathan Elliott, using his magistrate experience to mentor and prepare the students for the task.

Unlike other trials that the students had partaken in, this trial did not have a prepared script for them to read from. Statements from the prosecution and defence witnesses were made available and council had to prepare their own questions for examination in chief and cross examination.

The students under-taking the court room roles of Legal Adviser and Usher had to prepare the court room and the running order for the trial and then manage it for the duration of the trial itself. The witnesses had to know their statements and be prepared to answer questions put to them.

Students also took on the role of being a magistrate. Once they had heard all of the evidence, they retired to consider their verdict and sentence.

The Boss It Week was a dedicated period of 5 days so the students started this work on day one. Due to other commitments, the trial itself had to take place on the Thursday, thus three days of intense preparation and practice were driven through prior to the actual trial.

The event went very well, with all taking part committing to their cause whatever it was – witness, defendant, council etc.

The quality and effort from the students was exceptional and showed the opportunity for other Old Georgians to offer their services next year for the same event.

The college has an open invitation to all Old Georgians to assist or deliver knowledge and experience in their own fields if they are of interest and to the benefit of the student community. Please contact the college for further information or refer to their web site.

## OLD GEORGIANS

### Thornley Society

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Tom Marshall who passed away peacefully in February of this year. Tom who lived in Australia most of his life still managed to make it to some Thornley meets and he will be sorely missed by all the club members.

Despite having lived in Scotland for over 40 years I had never paid too much attention to what went on north of Ullapool, I had assumed it was heather and bog, therefore I was a bit surprised when it was announced that our May meet would be based in Ullapool. In the past we had traditionally met in Glen Brittle on Skye but the huge increase in tourism has rather knocked that on the head.

So, Joe McManners, Johnny Laws, John Seddon, Keith Osborn and I arranged to meet up at a rented cottage on the shores of Loch Broom on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

For myself it didn't start well. I had decided to make the journey in my 1959 MGA and whilst driving through Glencoe I ran into the back of another car; totally my fault. As we were half-blocking the Glencoe road, the police eventually arrived and the MG was dispatched to the local garage. Fortunately, John was driving up at the same time; he picked me up and we drove together on to Ullapool.

Joe collected Johnny who had flown up from Devon at Inverness. Keith was delayed for a day.

On Monday John and Joe climbed Stac Pollaidh (2008ft) one of the fine ancient Torridonian Sandstone peak that dot the landscape north of Ullapool. Signs of the wild fires that had ravaged much of Scotland during the dry May were very apparent.



**Stac Pollaidh**

Keith's arrival on Monday evening was celebrated with fish and chips and many cans of beer.

On Tuesday we went off an exploration (by car) of the Assynt peninsular, we were lucky enough to have John as a guide as he had spent all his family holidays in the area whilst at KGV. We were somewhat apprehensive knowing of the infamous North Coast 500 where travel is now much more difficult on the many single-track roads populated as they are with Ferraris, camper vans and everything in between.

Taking the road west out of Ullapool, we passed Stac Pollaidh and the other peaks of Cul Beag, Cul Mor and the visually spectacular Suilven, eventually stopping off at Lochinver where world famous pies were sold, bought and eaten.

To stretch our legs, we took a short coastal walk at the beautiful beach and headland at Achmelvich which, even at that time of the year was quite busy for an out-of-the-way place. Then, continuing north around Quinag we admired the road bridge at Kylesku before turning south back to Ullapool.



**An Teallach**

On Wednesday the group split: Joe, John and Keith went off to climb An Teallach (3486 ft), whilst Johnny and I (the older of the Thornleas) felt that Father Time had now put such ventures beyond our reach.

An Teallach (“the anvil”) is an epic climb. With a challenging summit ridge, it is a long expedition requiring at least 10 hrs of strenuous walking and climbing.



**Joe McManners and Keith Osborn on the summit of An Teallach**

Johnny and I had a quiet, reflective day exploring the Corrieshalloch Gorge south of Ullapool. Extraordinarily deep and crossed by a vertigo-inducing footbridge, the gorge is a haven of wild life and if one is lucky enough to have Johnny as a companion, all the birds will be identifiable by sight and song.

The An Teallach group arrived back late but were welcomed back by (yet another) fish and chip supper.

On Thursday, Joe and Keith, after An Teallach were somewhat subdued and settled for a walk in the Corrieshalloch Gorge whilst Johnny and I explored part of the Broom river. John went on an 8-mile training run!

We wound up our trip with a final evening meal in Ullapool at the Shore restaurant.

We agreed to gather again in November for our later than usual autumn meet. It will be back to Langdale, the Thornleas’ spiritual home, where, 60 years ago, we enthusiastically climbed the crags surrounding the Old Dungeon Ghyll pub.





(L-R) Joe McManners, Mike Dodworth, Johnny Laws, Keith Osborn, John Seddon

## **Display Pilot**

Robert Lea attended KGV from 1974 to 1981. I recall him being a quiet lad and younger brother of David who was in my year. Although I certainly did not know him well, little did I know the career path he would choose to follow and the thoughts of envy, forty years on, that could arise!!!



**A young Flight Lieutenant Rob Lea, sitting in a Harrier GR5, waiting to receive a mission task whilst on a 1(Fighter) Squadron exercise in 1988**

Rob tells his story brilliantly in his own words in the publication “Display Pilot” (Osprey, 1994). I only recently discovered this and procured a copy from Amazon – what a great read (and fuel for my envy!). I do recall reading that Rob was displaying

his Harrier at the 1994 Southport Airshow and indeed, he did (and the 1993 for that matter)!

I contacted Rob through aviation channels and found him on a beach in the Caribbean with his wife Suzanne (investigative journalism gets you everywhere). After the initial pleasantries of communicating after 45 years, Rob agreed to me posing a series of questions to him via email, for him to review and think about over a few days. And below is his excellent response. I hope you enjoy it and potentially get hold of a copy of this book for yourself!

*Ed - Please state your name and rank:*

Squadron Leader Rob Lea

*Ed - What years were you at KGV and in which house:*

I attended KGV between 1974 and 1981: the last 2 years being at the newly opened mixed college. I was in Honeybone’s house.

*Ed - Did you have any other family at KGV:*

Yes, my older brother David was one year ahead of me at KGV. He went on to work as an administrator for the NHS. David recently retired and now voluntarily runs a large food bank distributing produce throughout Northumberland.

*Ed - Do you have any KGV 'moments' or memories' you would like to share:*

I have lots of great memories including:

- Really engaging biology classes taught by Dr Skinner who really brought the subject to life, especially the human biology aspects of the A-level syllabus.
- The loose-fitting parquet floor blocks in the corridors that rattled as we trampled up and down during lesson changes. I gather that many were sold off as memorabilia following the demolition of the old school - I didn’t manage to get one!
- And being rather too well acquainted with the edge of the Latin teacher’s ruler from being whacked on the head for no doubt unruly behaviour.

*Ed - Can you give us a brief outline of your time after leaving KGV:*

I studied Marine Biology at Liverpool, spending the first 2 years at the main university before working at the Marine Biology Station on the Isle of Man for the third year. In my first year I joined the University Air Squadron, and learned to fly the Bulldog light aircraft trainer at RAF Woodvale under the excellent tutelage of RAF instructors. At that stage, I had no intention of joining the RAF, but I missed flying so much during my third year that I decided to try and make a career of it. I applied to join the RAF towards the end of my degree and a couple of months later found myself at RAF Cranwell undergoing Initial Officer Training. Then I had the most amazing posting to the Euro-Nato Joint-Jet Pilot Training Program in Texas, USA. Six RAF student pilots were sent there every year, joining a mix of instructors and students from all the NATO nations. Initially flying the T-37 basic jet trainer, it wasn’t long before we were strapping into the incredible T-38. Picture a 2-seat version of the pointy black enemy aircraft in the original version of Top Gun and you have the T-38. This tandem-seat, hydraulically-controlled, twin after-burning supersonic jet was a huge step up in both complexity and capability, and we all loved

flying it. It seemed almost unbelievable to find yourself speeding over the plains of Texas in something resembling a rocket ship just one year after you'd been flying the Bulldog.

On completion of the 14-month course, we returned to the UK, having been awarded our RAF and United States Air Force wings. Then began the best part of a year's training on the RAF's Hawk (as flown by the Red Arrows) at RAF Valley, Anglesey and then RAF Chivenor tactical weapons unit. From there I was posted to RAF Wittering, near Peterborough, to fly the Harrier, with a brief lead-in course hovering helicopters. Finally, after 3 1/2 years of training, my first operational tour began and so commenced my productive service in the RAF.

*Ed - Was the Harrier your favourite jet aircraft to fly, if not, which was it:*

The Harrier was by far the most enjoyable aircraft that I flew. It was a monster of a jet with phenomenal power and incredible manoeuvrability which, unlike other aircraft, could be used for air-combat (as in the Falklands) as well as ground attack and recce missions. Its extraordinary vertical and short take-off/landing capability meant it could operate on everything from grass strips, to metal pads, aircraft carriers to conventional runways, and it could drop/fire a long list of weapons. There was never any danger of getting bored and since we deployed to a huge range of theatres from the arctic circle to the jungles of Belize, it was a great platform from which to see some of the more remarkable corners of the world.



**A GR5 second-generation Harrier with its powerful Rolls-Royce Pegasus engine – here with its air-to-air refuelling probe extended.'**

*Ed - What was your proudest moment in the Harrier:*

This has to be being selected as the Harrier display pilot for the 1993 season. Just having the opportunity to fly such an incredible aircraft would have been rewarding enough, but being chosen to display it was the icing on the cake. In the end, I displayed for 2 consecutive years at more than 50 shows/year around the world.

*Ed - A lot of your flying background is well written in your book "Display Pilot". What led you to decide to write that book:*

I had never planned to write a book. The project was born out of my love of photography when an editor from an aviation publishing company came across some of my aircraft photos. He tempted me with a proposition that would enable

me to upgrade my photography kit in return for my writing a 'few words' to support my images. Six months later, the book was in print and by some miracle has sold out!

*Ed - Did you have any scary moments in any aircraft and can you tell me a bit about it:*

I have had a couple of close calls, such as a near miss with another aircraft whilst practising air combat, and a heart-stopping moment when a student tried to move the nozzle lever instead of the throttle whilst I was teaching hovering in a 2-seat Harrier.

But my closest shave occurred during a Harrier display at Pornichet, France, during my second display season. Whilst decelerating towards a beach with over a hundred thousand spectators, as I was reaching the hover, the engine had a sudden uncommanded power reduction. For a moment I thought that I'd have to ditch in the sea, but there was just enough power to very gently transition from jet-borne to wing-borne flight and ever so slowly climb away, passing low over the heads of the spectators. I subsequently heard that the crowd had loved the show and been completely oblivious to the near tragedy. Even the show organiser had no idea that the manoeuvre wasn't planned!

However, these incidents paled into insignificance in the wider context of the Harrier fleet. Of the 4 other students who completed the initial Harrier course with me, one had been tragically killed in an aircraft accident within a year of graduating and this set the scene for what was to come. The Harrier had by far the highest accident rate of any aircraft type in the RAF. To put some figures on it, during my last tour I worked as one of 2 RAF accident investigators, investigating RAF accidents worldwide. During my 3 years in post, of the 12 or so annual aircraft accidents, an average of 3 per year involved Harriers, despite Harriers making up a tiny percentage of RAF operations. I think this was simply due to the much higher level of risk associated with the Harrier's single-seat, single-engine, low-level, and sometimes night operations. The saddest part was that the Harrier world was very small and I invariably knew the pilot involved. I was glad to get to the end of that very sobering tour.

*Ed - Your wife was also in the RAF. Is it correct that she out ranked you:*

Yes, Suzanne enjoyed a very successful career in the logistics branch which included tours at the sharp end in Germany during the Cold War, as an instructor for Initial Officer Training, working alongside British Aerospace and a tour at the Ministry of Defence in London. Suzanne was a rank higher than me for a few of our 16 years and retired as a Wing Commander, at the same time as I left in 2001.

*Ed - What happened after you left the RAF:*

Throughout our married life in the service the RAF struggled to co-locate us, in fact, during our last 8 years we had never worked at the same base, and were sometimes located in different countries. Some years earlier, we had both taken up the sport of paragliding and, whilst on an RAF expedition, discovered how incredible the flying is in the French Alps. So, at the age of 38, we both took our 16-year option to leave, bought an 18-bed run down farmhouse, and set off on a new life as French residents in the Chamonix valley. Initially I worked for NetJets Europe, flying the rich and famous around the globe in the latest bizjets, whilst Suzanne started up a French fitness and sports massage business. In our spare time we worked on the property



and once it was refurbished, started a very happy, 20-year long chapter running it as a self-catering chalet.

*Ed - Do you still live in France?*

In 2012, with ageing parents, we felt the need to spend more time in the UK, and so bought a property near Bath. Ever since, we've split our time between the UK and France to keep the self-catering business going. I took up a part-time volunteer role flying cadets at RAF Colerne and later RAF Boscombe Down from which I recently retired having flown 800+ cadets over a collective period of 12 years.

*Ed - Do you still fly and what aircraft do you pilot:*

I am delighted to say that we do still fly. Five years ago, we bought our first aircraft, a Van's RV8, and what a superb little machine she is. What makes 'Ruby' so special? She's fast (220 mph), fully aerobatic, well equipped, spacious, and relatively economical. She has a range of 600+ miles at a cruising speed of 160 mph and all this carrying 125 lbs of luggage and the two of us. Also being a tail-dragger, she is well-suited to rough field operations. We have just notched up our 80th airfield, having visited numerous mainland airfields and grass strips as well a number of islands including the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and several Scottish Islands, plus 15 French airports. We absolutely love touring in her and she's perfect for our detachments to France!



**'Ruby' - our versatile Van's RV8 aircraft**

*Ed - Does your wife fly and if so, has that created any stories to tell?*

In the old days, though sadly not any more, serving couples could fly together, so I was able to take Suzanne flying .... several times in a 2-seat Harrier (a trainer version of the Harrier) and also in a Jet Provost, Tucano and a Tutor. Suzanne also flew passenger trips in a Tornado, a couple of RAF helicopters, a VC10 and Hercules. With regard to our own aircraft, Suzanne is happy filling the vital supporting role of sorting the rations, managing kit (immersion suits, life vests, supplementary air, tie-down kits etc) and leaving the flying to me. However, both of us are still mad-keen paraglider pilots each with our own gliders. As the Alpine conditions are so much better than in the UK (something to do with the weather!?!), we leave our gliders in France. Having paraglided throughout Europe, in the US and Nepal, we can honestly say that there is no better place to fly than the Chamonix valley with its cable cars and mountain trains which provide access to numerous launch sites. On well over half the days of the year, it is possible to climb above take-off, perhaps by a few thousand feet, fly for 20 kms or more, and then return to land by the chalet/car.



**Rob and Suzanne on tour in Ruby**

*Ed - Finally, if one of the restorative societies brought back an airworthy Harrier, would you volunteer to display it?*

Do you know something that I don't?

That sounds an incredible idea, and I would jump at it like a shot..... but only if it came with the extremely high standard of support (engineering, logistics, expertise etc) that was provided by the RAF. We really were spoilt when it came to support and, now that we are aircraft owners, it has become ever more evident just how precious and vital that, often unrecognised, support was.

In the absence of a Harrier, Ruby is waiting, so I'd better get back to planning our next trip.....



**Rob and Suzanne paragliding in the French Alps - July 2025**

*Ed - thank you for your time and response to the Red Rose and its readers.*

*Ed- Note to Rob. I have a spare floor tile. It is yours if you come along as the Guest Speaker to an Annual Dinner!*

## Reminiscences of KGV in the 1950s

Derek Adams' article "Going to KGV in the 1950s" prompted me to recall the 1950s.

We lived in Oak Street and went over the footbridge every day to school. A small crowd was usually gathered to see "the half-eight", the 8.30am steam hauled express to Manchester, the various locomotives included Jubs, Scots and Clans.

In September 1951 on my first day we had to report to the front door, possibly the only time I used the front door (it was the original school building in those days). I was in TransX and other boys in the class included Keith Stuart (now Sir James Keith Stuart), Peter Davies who became head boy in 1957-8 and went on to Oxford, and Colin Rawcliffe who was the class hero because he was so good at sports. Our esteemed form master was Little Taff (Hubert Evans) who took us for French, Latin and Scripture. Other masters that I can remember from TransX include "Neb" Lessiter (mathematics), George Wakefield (English), Bill Marsden (History), "Teddy" Edwards (Geography), LC Hargreaves (Chemistry) and the feared Harry Smith (Rubberneck) who took PT (now called PE).

I was in Evans House, Big Taff (Ivor Evans) was the housemaster – the last of the original housemasters to retire. Among house prefects were Miles Irving (later Sir Miles Irving), Peter Brunt (later Reverend Professor Peter Brunt) and some years later Brian Livesley.

In September 1954 I was in Upper V Trans Science and we had the Boss (GF Dixon) each weekday for Physics. Little did we know that he had almost come to grief on the Zmutt Ridge of the Matterhorn only a couple of weeks before the term started (see Geoffrey Dixon, Climber and Alpinist, a biography compiled, written and edited by John Allen. For information about the biography refer to the Red Rose 2013, p 36).

In the sixth form Tom Duncan took over the Physics lessons. He later moved to the Education Department of Liverpool University and was responsible for writing and publishing books on physics and electronics.

The letter from Dorothy Hughes reminded me that one of the highlights of the school year was when the High School girls came to watch the dress rehearsal of the school play in December. The High School was then in Scarisbrick New Road. I think the tradition was stopped when they moved to Hillside.

In 1957 I had a Saturday morning job delivering for a butcher in Hart Street and I used to deliver to Dorothy's parents, who lived in Hartwood Road, they always invited me in for a cup of tea!

**John Aughton, Evans 1951-58**

## Sporting Appeal

David Brown's obituary was featured in the 2025 edition of the Red Rose. As it was written and published, the committee were unaware of a request, or perhaps bequest, that was being reviewed and prepared by David's executors. David left a sizeable donation to the Old Georgians Association. He asked that the sitting committee review opportunities in which to spend this money for the benefit of the college and/or the students and/or the association.

Fortunately for the college, this fantastic donation coincided with a long awaited, but under funded project at the Scarisbrick New Road site. The grammar school had been located on waste ground back in 1920 when the foundations were laid for the new Boy's Grammar School. Not only was it waste ground in the sense of unused, it had also been a tipping area for rubble, hard core, glass, wood and many other types of materials. This had all been compacted and the buildings and fields arose on top of it. 90 years later and all of that material had managed to move its way to the surface, rendering what were very good cricket and rugby playing fields useless, due to the danger of injury to any athlete who fell over.

By 2024, three areas had been identified for restoration. Well, it was actually one area, but suitable to resurrect three full size pitches for football or rugby. The issue was funding. Each pitch required £20,000 to be restored. In early 2025, the college asked if the OGA might be in a position to assist with fund raising. As it was, and unbeknown to the college, this coincided with David's very generous gift. A decision was made to assist by funding the restoration of one full pitch in David's name and so the project commenced in late spring and into the summer months.

The area being restored is between the college and Meols Cop School, behind where the old changing rooms used to be and runs from the area just beyond Southport's football ground all the way towards Fine Janes Brook.



It won't be completed until 2026, so as to allow the grass and supporting foundations to develop sufficiently to then be used for sporting events.

But, thanks to David Brown, a third pitch will now be available alongside the other two funded by the College. A plaque will be raised at the College to commemorate David and his exceptional gift.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jonathan,

Many thanks for forwarding the latest edition of the Red Rose. I enjoy reading the magazine. Thanks also for all your hard work compiling and editing. A couple of requests please.

Please could you send me the details for the sports field fund raising so that I can make a small contribution.

I would also appreciate the contact details for the Thornley Society or at least the dates of their 2025 meets.

If you really are trying to get all members awards I received an MBE. It was a Military MBE in 1989 for operational service. I was lucky enough to be presented the award by the Queen.

Regards,

Mark Gritten

Dear Jon,

Well done on organising the recent dinner which I enjoyed enormously.

In the Principal's short talk she mentioned that she had sent round a note asking if anyone would be interested in mentoring some of the pupils. I haven't received this note but would like to put my name forward. I wonder if some background might help?

Chris Watson MVO MSc (Hon)FRIBA (KGV 1968 to 1974)

I left KGV with a most unremarkable academic record and headed to Liverpool Poly in 1974 to do Quantity Surveying. This turned out to be rather a poor choice and I realised soon that 'QSing' wasn't my ideal long-term career. However, it did allow me to get a job with a small firm in Saudi Arabia and I was able to branch out to a more enterprising aspects of the construction industry.

I returned to UK in mid 80s and, facing a fairly quiet jobs market, I decided to enrol on the master's degree course at Reading University.

I went on to be instrumental in establishing Gardiner & Theobald's project management arm. My first major appointment was as assistant Project Manager of

the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery. This was followed by an appointment for the huge redevelopment of the Royal Opera House but funding was delayed due to hiccups in the founding of the Lottery Fund.

Whilst twiddling my thumbs in (November 1992) Windsor Castle was devastated by fire. I was appointed resident PM for the Restoration project. This amazing project was undertaken over five years: 160 separate firms of specialist contractors, 28 firms of consultants and the Duke of Edinburgh setting a very challenging pace. My role was recognised by HM The Queen in the award of Membership of the Royal Victorian Order in 1998.

After leading a number of projects - including Imperial War Museum in Manchester, Liverpool's World Heritage Site bid, Stonehenge Visitor Centre, Tate Modern - I became Property Director at Maggie's Cancer Charity in 2012 where I delivered 16 of the charity's centres around the country. On my retirement in 2020 I was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the RIBA.



The award ceremony in 1998



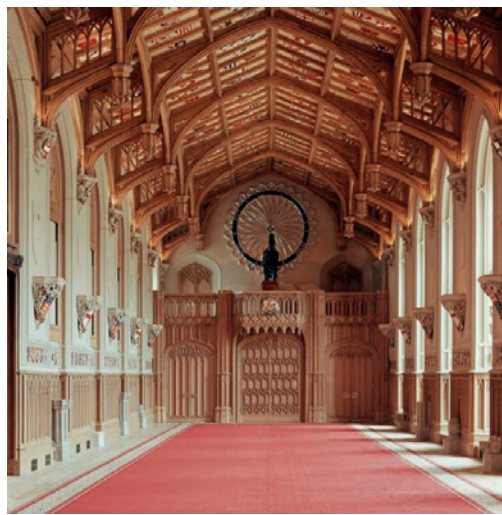
The order meets every 4 years at Windsor



St George's Hall – artists view before the fire



St George's Hall – after the fire



St George's Hall – post restoration

## HONOURS

Many Old Georgians have received honours of various types. A selection follows. Collating this has not been as straight forward as one might think, so to anyone omitted, please accept our apology and let us know. Recent additions are underlined.

### **Order of the Companion of Honour**

Kenneth Baker

### **Queens Privy Council**

Kenneth Baker

### **Life Peerage**

Ronald Fearn

### **Knight Bachelor**

James Keith Stuart

Miles Irving

### **Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO)**

Reverend Professor Peter Brunt

Baron David Brownlow of Shurlock Row

### **Commander of St Michael and St George (CMG)**

Philip McLean

### **Commander of the Bath (CB)**

Kenneth Dowling

Christopher Kerse

John Paisley

Leslie Reid

Peter Dodworth

### **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)**

Prof Roy Duckworth

Prof John Thompson

Prof John Pickard

### **Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)**

Alan Barber

John Culshaw

Benjamin Hartwell

Rev Professor Peter Brunt

Stuart Fletcher

Peter Dodworth

Peter Mark Sinclair Almond

John Uttley

Ronald Fearn

Hilary Anslow (College Principal)

Paul Davies

Frank McManus

Col (Rtd) Neil Fairclough

### **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

John Rostron

David Marsh

John Paisley

Robert Hepworth

Charles Bracken

Jeffrey Fox

Barry Klaassen

Professor Peter Stott

Mark Gritten

### **Kings Counsel (KC)**

Michael Fitton

Arthur Davidson

David Turner

Barry Searle

### **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)**

Keith Runcorn

Samuel Perry

### **Royal Victorian Order**

Chris Watson



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Sort Code: 23-05-80  
Account number: 37372595

**Website**  
**[www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk](http://www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk)**



**Facebook Group**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1953492201381113>**

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