THE OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 2025



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING MY BROTHER HOME

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BOB ANDREWS



BOB ANDREWS
CHAIRMAN
OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

Welcome all

The gatherings of Old Wandsworthians in 2025 once again appear to have been very successful. The DPML on Saturday 1st February was well attended but it should be noted that this event remains essentially a memorial lunch to our late friend Dave Pollard. The fact that we show an England International rugby game afterwards does not make this a rugby event.

The Choir Reunion on Saturday, 20th September was enjoyed by all participants and there were new faces at the Remembrance Service at Saint Cecilia's on 7th November. Our guests enjoyed food and beverages afterwards at a local hostelry in Southfields.

Trustees also attended various school events including sports awards, celebration awards and the Saint Cecilia's Carol Concert.

Next year we are also adding an additional event – the OWMT 30th Anniversary dinner and dance at Fulham Football Club, in the new stand development overlooking the river. We have already sold many tickets for this event, which is on Saturday 6th June 2026. If you have not attended any of our events before, perhaps you could add these to your diary for 2026 and take advantage of an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones too … Don't be shy!
(If you have any suggestions on how we can improve or develop these events please let me know.)

As a postscript to the last Newsletter in 2024, and in memory of the late Dick Moody, going forward our educational grants will now be known as the 'Professor Dick Moody Educational Grants'.

On a personal note, it is now three years since my retirement and I can't believe where all that time has gone. Some of my fellow Trustees have clocked up a few air miles in the last year. I managed two holidays, a week in Fuerteventura and an eight-night trip to Edinburgh and the Highlands, both of which I would thoroughly recommend.

It was good to see England Rugby improve their world rankings due to some excellent wins in the Autumn Internationals. I watched the Australia match with a few of the lads in Dorking and returned to the Alexandra in Wimbledon to watch the New Zealand game. On arrival, a couple of the guys said they needed to avoid the eight pints they had managed in Dorking. I then purchased a round of drinks and commented back, 'It was nine pints!'. Those nine pints cost me £54.00, back in the late 70's I would have got change from a fiver!! The New Zealand win did bring back wonderful memories of 'The Alex', watching England winning the World Cup in 2003 and Chelsea winning their first Premiership in 2005 – great days!

I must thank my fellow Trustees (Les, Roger, Alan, Chris, Andy and Femi) for regularly attending our meetings and for their efforts over the last year. A special mention must be made to Les for his commitment to the tasks he has set himself.

Seasons Greetings to you all.

Bob Andrews

H.R. KING AWARD
PRESENTATION EVENING
— SAINT CECILIA'S 2024 & 2025 —

On 8th July 2025 Andy Archer and Femi Oresanya represented the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust at the Saint Cecilia's School end of year awards evening. They returned to our former school site to present the H.R. King Award, named after Hubert Raymond King, a visionary headmaster of Wandsworth School (1932–1963).

It was an unusually long evening as the school decided to move the event from the end of autumn to the end of the summer term. As a result they were celebrating two years of award winners in one evening.That notwithstanding, it was a wonderful evening where pupils across the whole school were celebrated and congratulated for academic, sporting, music and drama achievements. Duke of Edinburgh Award winners were also recognised.

The 23/24 winner of the H.R. King Award is Nikita Karnaushenko.
His citation read:
After coming to the UK due to the war in Ukraine, Nikita took it upon himself to set up a Ukrainian club for all of the Ukrainian pupils that were displaced due to the war. Not only did this add a bit of joy for these pupils, but it allowed them to forge some great friendships during such a difficult time.

The 24/25 winner of the H.R. King Award is Rosie Leadbeater.
Her citation read:
Rosie has been one of two Chaplaincy reps this year, leading a team of volunteers who help at Christian Union and arrange prayer and praise sessions after school. The Chaplain regularly shares the hugely positive impact Rosie has had in cultivating worship in the Sixth Form. Katie's impact has also spread into music where she has built a strong worship band vibe for a variety of events throughout this year.

Nikita was unable to attend the ceremony, but Rosie was on hand to collect her award.



Andy and Femi with H.R. King award winner Rosie Leadbeater

The guest speaker was a school parent, Mr Peter H Oliver ACE, a celebrated film and TV editor who had recently won an Emmy for his work on *Baby Reindeer*. His emotional speech focussed on believing in yourself and not giving up on your dreams.





LES HERBERT
SECRETARY
OLD WANDSWORTHIANS MEMORIAL TRUST

Greetings to all Old Wandsworthians

I must start by saying that my health this year has been reasonable and stable and I hope that all OW's have had a similar year. Sadly, the one thing we all have in common is 'we are another year older', where does the time go? All the Trustees send a heartwarming message to you and all the family.
As we know, with time passing us by, we sadly lose our friends and former pupils of the school.
This year has been no different, and we would like to pass on our condolences to all the families of former Old Wandsworthians who sadly left us in 2025:-

Dave Pitchley
Passed away January 2025

Keith White
Passed away July 2025

Andy Smetham (Headmaster)
Passed away December 2024
I have mentioned Mr Smetham because we had already printed our 2024 Newsletter at the time of his passing and I want to make sure everyone was aware.

As many of you know already, the Trust has a great grant application scheme, which has helped many of our children, and now grandchildren, with some financial support for further education and sporting courses. You will read in the newsletter several reports from young people who have completed their courses and others who are still studying.
We currently have 17 young people who are on the scheme, many are grandchildren of former Old Wandsworthians. Our latest applicant is the granddaughter of the late 'Jake' David Stewardson, who was killed during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. This is absolutely lovely to see, especially as his daughter never really got to know her father. Please remember this scheme is there to help the children and grandchildren of all former pupils of the school.
(All applications are sent to me and my details are on the form which can be found in the Downloads Section on our website.)

Our events for the year normally start with the Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch which was held at Imber Court back in February. It was once again a brilliant day as we had over 140 former pupils and members from both the Choir and Rugby sections. There is still room for a few more tables and the Trust would love to see more attend if possible. (full report on p12.)



The Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch, February 2025

There are also other events organised throughout the year by Old Wandsworthians and the Trust would like to thank them too, especially Martin Saxby who helps organise the choir reunions (full report on p10) and Tony Watts, who organises a gathering of former Old Wandsworthians from the rugby club ... which I have joined in the past and is a very sociable event.

We would also like to thank the many people involved with the Wandsworthians RFC who are helping keep the rugby club going. This season

THE OLD WANDSWORTHIANS
MEMORIAL TRUST
1996

FUNDRAISING & DONATION SCHEME

The Trust's Fundraising and Donation Scheme, which we launched back in 2012, helps with the ever-lengthening list of requests from our members. Apart from having the satisfaction of helping many deserving causes, you will also have the chance to win £250 from our prize draw. The winning ticket will be drawn at the annual Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch.

To help the Memorial Trust Fund, please send instructions to your bank, and set up a monthly Standing Order for £5 by filling in the Mandate which can be found on our website (select Main Heading 'Trust' then 'Trust Info' and click 'Donation Scheme').

This small amount can make a big difference to the Trust's ability to fulfil their grant requests. We thank you for your continued support.

25/26, they are being hosted by Imber Court, where they will play all their home fixtures. I know they would love to see former players go and watch a game and even join them in the bar for a drink. The facilities are excellent, both on and off the field. We wish the club great success in their new home.

The Trustees continue to build their relationship with Saint Cecilia's by attending events and sponsoring pupils. There are individual achievement awards and support for sports equipment and other special projects. In recent years the Trustees have helped out by attending mock interview training sessions and social events, which include presentation evenings and the Christmas Carol concert.

We are very thankful to the school for being our custodians of our War Memorial to which we have added two additional names this year.

I must mention our main event for the Trust, which is the annual Service of Remembrance. It took place on Friday 7th November at the school. We had close to 30 OW's and their partners, plus over 75 Year 7 pupils and staff in attendance.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the Trustees, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Les Herbert (Secretary OWMT)

ANY EXCUSE ...

Tony Watts organises a couple of lunches each year for people he played rugby with.
In December the group (with an average age of 78.2) had lunch in Brick Lane and afterwards a few concluding beers in Dirty Dicks (nothing implied of course) on Bishopsgate. Tales of the old grammar school were told with reminiscences of using a building in Garret Lane when the new school was being built.



OWMT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

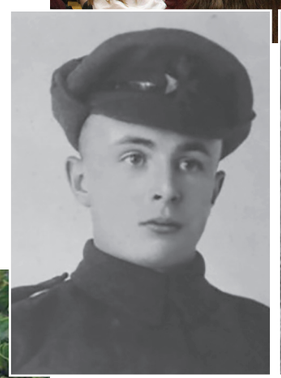
SAINT CECILIA'S 2025

Our annual Service of Remembrance took place on Friday 7th November at Saint Cecilia's School. We had 30 Old Wandsworthians and partners in attendance and around 80 year 7 pupils, 6th formers and teachers.

This year was a special service with the unveiling of plaques for two former pupils who lost their lives in other conflicts. The event was opened by Assistant Headteacher Ms Lee who welcomed everyone to the school. This was followed by OWMT secretary Les Herbert, who started to explain to the pupils of Saint Cecilia's why there were strange people wearing funny striped blazers attending the memorial service of boys belonging to a school which closed over 30 years ago.



He then went on to show the students original photos of the young men who lost their lives in both wars. This also involved telling stories about these men and the impact it had on their families, especially Harold Dukes-Smith and John Lander, who were both killed in action defending Malta.





Former pupil Vernon Wadsworth 18, killed in action 1916



Les then did a short history lesson on the siege of Malta, explaining how this was such a hard-fought battle with many civilians and military personnel killed. The island and the people of Malta were awarded the George Cross in 1943 for their bravery. Les also explained how he and his wife travelled to Malta on holiday in October to find the war memorial of the two ex-pupils and lay crosses on behalf of the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust.

Back to present day and Les asked the pupils a question: 'Does anyone know what took place back in June this year in relation to the Remembrance Services?' Many hands went up and we got the correct answer: 'It was the 80th anniversary of VE Day'. He then mentioned that today we are also laying a wreath to remember VJ Day, as the war did not end until the Japanese surrendered in August 1945. Sadly, we have four names on our memorial plaque of boys who lost their lives fighting during the conflict with Japan and we also wish to remember them.



James Brown – February 1942 (age 21)
Phillip Booth – August 1943
Douglas Gibbons – January 1945 (age 22)
Desmond King – December 1945 (age 20)

As mentioned earlier, this was a special service and Les explained the reason why. In recent years we have been given names and new information about two other former pupils who lost their lives in military service. The Trust wanted to honour these young men, add them to our roll of honour and unveil the names on the war memorial.

RONALD DAVEY – Korean War 1951

Ronald left Wandsworth school in the late 1940s and joined the Royal Navy. He served on *HMS Glory*, where he was a Sub-Lieutenant. His ship joined the United Nations force to help bring peace in the Korean war (1950 –1953). Ronald was an observer, flying in a twin-seater Firefly aircraft. During a sortie in poor conditions, the plane he was in had a rocket assisted launch failure. The aircraft did not have enough airspeed to fully take off and unfortunately crashed into the sea. The rescue party managed to save the pilot, but sadly they believe Ronald did not get out of the cockpit. He and the plane were never recovered.



DAVID (JAKE) STEWARDSON – Northern Ireland 1971

David left school in 1960 and joined the army. He served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a disposal expert. He died of wounds from a booby trap bomb. David had only been in Belfast 10 days when he attempted to diffuse a bomb left outside the Castlerobin Orange Hall in Lisburn. As Captain Stewardson tried to cut into the package, the bomb exploded. This type of bomb was a new development and was christened by the bomb disposal teams as a 'Castlerobin'.

He was the first bomb disposal officer to die during the Troubles.

Lieutenant Colonel George Styles described Capt. Stewardson as "' dark, smooth-haired young officer with fine chiselled features'.



Following the presentation Les thanked all the Old Wandsworthians and their partners who came along to support the occasion and also gave a huge thank you to the school for allowing us to hold this event.



We then started the Service of Remembrance, which was opened by the new chaplain, Sanique Douglas, followed by prayers. She asked all present to remember those who have been affected by all conflicts both past and present.

After the chapel service, the wreath laying party of the Old Wandsworthians, several pupils and teaching staff moved downstairs to the War Memorial. The chaplain led the service and started with a prayer, followed by 'A Word of Hope' read by the Head Boy, another prayer read by Deputy Headteacher James Robinson and finally the reading of the Commitment by Les.

"THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."







After the prayers we formerly unveiled the two new plaques next to the main memorial honouring Sub-Lt Davey and Capt Stewardson.

We were also privileged to have the sister of Sub-Lt Davey and her son Keith at the service and asked Jean if she would lay the wreath in memory of her late brother. Jean was very emotional, as was Les, especially when she thanked us all for 'bringing her brother home'. The Head Girl laid the second wreath on behalf of Saint Cecilia's school.

The last post was then played superbly once again by 16-year-old pupil Félix Steculorum, who has done so for the past 5 years.



84-year-old Jean, laying the OWMT wreath to honour her brother



The two new plaques next to the main memorial

After the service everybody moved into the school refectory for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet and chat with the students. This is always a nice part of the day, finding out about school life and the aspirations of the young people going forward.

On behalf of the OWMT I wish to thank all the Old Wandsworthians and their partners for supporting this special event, and also a huge thank you to Saint Cecilia's for organising the memorial service at the school, in particular Ms Lee (Deputy Headteacher), Sanique Douglas (Chaplain) and James Robinson (Assistant Headteacher).

We look forward to seeing you all next year with hopefully more new faces attending.

The provisional dates are Friday 6th or 13th November 2026.

Warm Regards,
Les Herbert (Secretary OWMT)





A TOTAL OF 98 PUPILS AND STAFF MEMBERS LOST THERE LIVES IN WWI , AND A FURTHER 54 IN WWII.



WANDSWORTH SCHOOL CHOIR
REUNION LUNCH
SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL

It was a delight to meet again in Saint Cecilia's hall for our reunion. The location is ideal, the staff are very supportive and the food was particularly good this year. Numbers held steady, as a few regulars were unable to attend, but others came along who we had not seen for some time. The oldest member of the choir present was Mike Coysh who joined Wandsworth in 1954, along with several of the 'younger' members who were at the school when it closed in 1986. We also had a couple of former teachers, John Tobin and Roger Savage, along with a surprise drop-in by Len D'Cruz, who still lives opposite the school.

There was the usual reminiscing and banter, much laughter and bonhomie. The background music included old recordings of the choir, the eldest being a 78rpm from 1957 recorded in the old school hall of *The Heaven's Are Telling*.

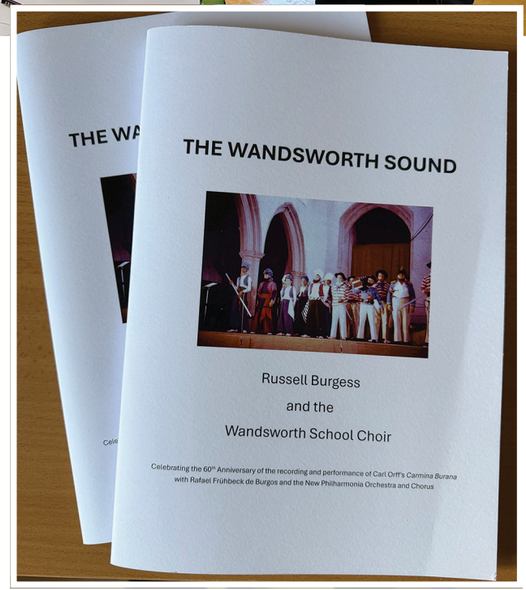
The proportion of older members is inevitably slowly declining but it was good to see a good number from Glyn Harvey's era.

There was an uncharacteristic period of complete silence from the members for over 10 minutes as we listened together to a radio broadcast from June this year. A BBC Radio 3 producer put



together an excellent piece commemorating the 60th anniversary of the choir's first professional recording and appearance, singing Carmina Burana In 1965. The producer had spoken to half a dozen of us and then woven our comments and reminiscences together with extracts of some of our recordings.

Copies of the commemorative booklet *The Wandsworth Sound*, compiled earlier this



Choir commemorative booklet

year and funded generously by OWMT were given to those who hadn't previously received a copy. A few members also brought items of memorabilia for us to enjoy and have donated them to the Choir Archive held at the Britten Pears Archive at the Red House, Aldeburgh.

Thank you to Rob Smith and Pete Love who both helped with the organisation of the reunion.

We are also so grateful to the OWMT for again supporting this event so generously, and for the personal support of Les Herbert and Roger Holland.

Martin Saxby



DPML 2025

IMBER COURT

The annual DAVE POLLARD MEMORIAL LUNCH came around again on Saturday 1st February 2025 with a gathering of over 148 Old and New Wandsworthians.

The numbers for this event grow larger each year and its a testament to the efforts of members to spread the word.



The day began early with the subsidised bar opening at 12:30pm. One of the first guests to arrive was John Pinnock, who travelled up from Eastbourne, which we can all agree is a superb effort.



More Old Wandsworthians started to arrive and the room very quickly filled with the sound of chatter and laughter as old friends caught up with each other and the drinks started to flow.



After an hour everyone was politely asked to take their seats as lunch was about to be served.

As you can imagine, it took sometime to get 148 Old Wandsworthians plus guests out of the bar and into the main hall, but eventually it was achieved.



For those Old Boys who may be reading this report for the first time and wish to attend the Memorial Lunch, please contact Les Herbert:(email) lestina@sky.com

The day is based around watching an England Six Nations rugby match on the big screen with lunch and free wine provided beforehand. There is a pay bar, but if rugby isn't your thing, then guests have been known to retire to the bar area for more catching up while the game is on!



As is now customary, Trustee Alan Bone made a short welcome speech with the usual heckles from some of the tables before him. Luckily for Alan, he had his regular heavy minders (Tony Arnold and Steve Lake) on hand to collect various fines from misbehaving guests … all in good fun I might add.

He also announced the winner of the Trust's Prize Draw. Unbelievably, for a second time in five years, fellow Trustee Chris 'Pogo' Brown's name was pulled out from the bag. To be fair, Chris did put his £250 winnings straight behind the bar for everyone to enjoy … after a bit of coaxing!







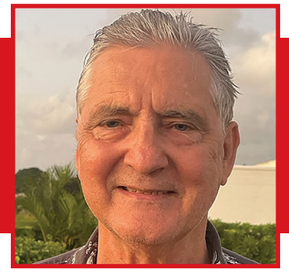


Complimentary bottles of wine were on each table as a very tasty steak pie and trimmings was served for lunch by the excellent staff at Imber Court. This was followed by a cheese board and finally teas and coffees.

As soon as the hot drinks were served, the lights dimmed and the main event was about to begin. England faced Ireland in Dublin. Everyone stood and sang the national anthem and then all settled down to watch the match. As is now also customary on these occasions England came a close second!!

After the game had finished the lights came back on and guests either stayed chatting at their tables or moved back into the bar area to drown their sorrows.

The Trustees would like to thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you again at the 2026 DPML.



MACKIE'S CORNER

OLD FRIENDS

This is in part a thank you. Though lacking genuine gratitude.
But the sub-text is of a rugby catastrophe.

The events at the Principality Stadium on Saturday, 15th March 2025 will go down in the annals of Welsh disasters inflicted by the English colonialists as our worst since that absolute bastard Edward Ist sliced and diced us like a knife through a bunch of leeks in 1277.

WALES 14 – 68 ENGLAND
15th March, 2025

I am saying it again, 14 – 68, 10 tries and 9 conversions (no penalties necessary; Fin Smith got so fed up of conversions he gave 5 to Marcus Smith). My brother-in-law, Mike Rein, who sold me the ticket, great man of schools rugby, whispered in my ear after 60 minutes, 'No refunds'. I drove 4 1/2 hours each way on the sodding M4 for that pile of poo. Have you heard of the Slough of Despond? It's just past Windsor and the roadworks go on for 19 miles …

Two bitter-sweet factual points on the 'contest': Wales not only had a fair share of ball, 50%, in fact, but 56% of the territory. I know, I know, it's hard to swallow. They held out England, after 2 early tries, from scoring for the next 24 minutes, then scored themselves to make it 7-14. The rest, as they weep, is carnage.

The papers said it was Wales' worst rugby defeat since we went down 96-13 to the Saffers in 1998. (We also lost to Western Samoa, population 220,000, in RWC in 1991. They could hardly afford boots, those guys, and it was widely commented in the social clubs of South Wales that it could have been worse, had we taken on the whole of Samoa). This sporting disaster was on its own because it was England in the Six Nations, rugby's greatest tournament.

The fact is nothing hurts more than humiliation at the hands of England. There's centuries of war, oppression, conquest and superiority (often atoned for on the rugby pitch) behind Saturday, 15th March 2025. It was men against boys, masters against pupils, nobility against the peasants, resurgent conquerors versus perennial losers. It was said in the press that the Welsh crowd peeled away ten minutes before the final whistle, but not where I was seated. Nobody in red moved. They were sat rigid in shock and disbelief. Shame hovered above. My seat was right behind the posts where England scored five second-half tries, two in the last couple of minutes. I swear that Quins knob Cunningham-South was taking the piss as he dotted down for the last time. Can we blame him? Really the referee should have stopped the fight after 69 minutes to save us from unnecessary punishment … the Sadist!

I started this funeral oration for Welsh rugby with a thank you (we may actually end up with the rugby equivalent of the original 'Ashes', which were first 'celebrated' when the Aussies walloped us in 1882 at the Oval. The obituary stated that English cricket had died, and that 'the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia'). But do you know what's the worst part of Saturday, 15th March 2025? It's the unspoken pity of my English friends. Good rugby folk from England I have known for years could not even find banter to send me, I got no memes, nothing to wind me up. Christ, it was that bad. Grown, hairy men showing weird mercy, no doubt fretting for my 'mental health'.

It's the pity of friends, that's the worst result of all

They say it's the hope that kills, don't believe that; it's the pity, unvoiced, that's the dagger through the heart. My old mate, Mr Alan Bone, never short of a sporting barb or two (bless his cotton socks) was on his first pilgrimage to Cardiff for the Game of Shame: we had this post-match text exchange, which I initiated:

TM: I rang Cardiff Samaritans. The line was busy…

AB: Wow, crazy result and I chose my timing rather well to go to Cardiff for the first time!

See what I mean, English understatement laced with generosity. Boney was no doubt on his seventh Guinness when he found his phone and compassion. He's being uncharacteristically 'nice' FFS! This is not historical, it's hysterical behaviour. Aye, 15/3/25, it's tattooed on my heart, 14 – 68. It's the pity of friends, that's the worst result of all.

My brother, who also witnessed this ritual slaughter of the innocents, tried to cheer me up by saying, not to worry, the only way is up 'as we have hit rock bottom'. I lost it suddenly and bit back: 'dead-cat bounce, my arse, we probably have only landed on a lower ledge.'

Let me finish this one-off lamentation with a positive – I have seen 38 of these famous encounters and have never seen a better performance all-round by the guys in white. Against any team actually. Anyone who tries to demean this achievement is no 'rugby man'. The English defended so aggressively, they contested every ruck and maul with massive, mob-handed power and they attacked with real invention and brilliance for 82 minutes. Savour a display of rugby excellence! If England had worn black shirts with silver ferns, everybody in world rugby would have been hailing this wonderful performance. Wales did in no way roll over, England were simply vastly superior on that day of days. It was that good.

You heard it from me first. Bastards. I have consulted my diary for next year's fixture at Twickenham and, as luck would have it, I seem to have a prior engagement …

Best wishes,
Terry



Terry's favourite England & Harlequin player Chandler Cunningham-South dotting down for the last time

DESERT ISLAND DUBS

STEVE 'LAKEY' LAKE

This year the Desert Island Dubs selection is from our own man of steel and vocalist Steve 'Lakey' Lake. I think you will find this collection wonderful and perhaps a surprise. I know this took Steve a while to come up with as his last eight choices changed many times and in his own words, 'It ain't bloody easy mate'!

I hope you enjoy Steve's favourite music.



Luxury gift item with no practical use and a reading book

Gift: A wind-up radio as I cannot ever be without music.

Book: *The Governor*, the Lenny McLean biography, just could not put it down and read it at least 4 times.

STEVE'S MUSIC CHOICES:

1. LAZY RIVER by Bobby Darin released – 1961.
An absolute master, this song just lifts me whenever I hear it.

Spotify Play list track No: 1

2. RESURRECTION SHUFFLE by Ashton, Gardner & Dyke released – 1970.
This is the first single I ever bought and at the time was so different to everything else I had listened to.

Spotify Play list track No: 2

3. GET DOWN GET WITH IT by Slade released – 1971.
The sheer raw sound of Slade with Noddy Holder's voice had me hooked the second I heard it … absolute monster.

Spotify Play list track No: 3

4. CHANGE IS GONNA COME by Sam Cooke released – 1964.
The man had the smoothest voice in the business with great lyrics and that wonderful orchestra.

Spotify Play list track No:4

5. STAY WITH ME by The Faces released – 1971.
This was to me the best song Rod Stewart ever released with an unbelievable band and the run down at the end is fantastic.

Spotify Play list track No: 5

6. DANCE WITH MY FATHER by Luther Vandross released – 2003.
This song just reminds me of my old man and kills me every time I hear it.

Spotify Play list track No: 6

7. WOOLY BULLY by Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs released – 1965.
This is an absolute belter and reminds me of the Old Dubs discos at Claygate, fantastic.

Spotify Play list track No: 7

8. ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN by ELO released – 1973.
This undoubtedly is the best cover version I've ever heard, the full orchestra rock 'n' rolling is phenomenal.

Spotify Play list track No: 8



IF YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO STEVE'S PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY, JUST SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE HERE.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY!



OLD WANDSWORTHIANS BLAZER

£130

For more information on ordering please contact: Chris Brown

saintpogo@hotmail.com

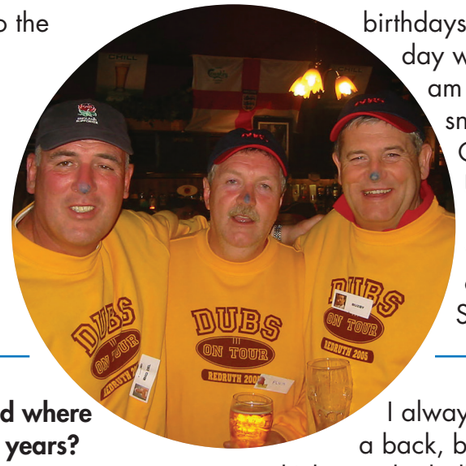
07973 744205

Pogo Interviews

IAN PLUMMER

KENNINGTON OVAL

Sibley smashes another one to the boundary in what is a cricket master class, 400+ runs for 3 in the glorious sunshine, what could be better … But unfortunately we draw the game! I am at the Oval in Kennington to celebrate the Old Wandsworthians who have reached their 70th birthdays, and may I add a superb day was had by all. However, I am also here because I need to snare my next victim for the OWMT Newsletter interview. Up in the cross-hairs this time is a Wandsworthian who is very well known to most of us, young and old alike. Step up Mr Ian Plummer.



Q1: Where were you born and where did you spend your formative years?

IP: Actually I was born in Hammersmith, so I should have been a QPR fan like you Pogo, but fortunately not. We moved to Putney and I grew up in Hawkesbury Road just off Dover House Road along with my older sister Carol and younger brother Pete. I was all set for school at Huntingfield, but Mum had other plans and packed me off to Granard instead. I remember my good friend at school was Lysle Taylor, he got fed up being called Lissal, so he changed it to Bill. After primary school I was all set for Elliott, but again my Mum did not like the school (a bit of a re-occurring theme here), and I was enrolled at Wandsworth School. I was selected for Omega form thus entered the Grammar stream.

Q2: You have been involved with all things Wandsworthians and you have contributed to the Old Dubs Rugby Club possibly more than any other, tell me about it?

IP: I started playing at school as a loose head prop forward and stayed there even though I always considered myself as a back, because I could pass and kick a rugby ball. I know you witnessed me converting my own try on tour down in Paignton in 1976, Pogo … the year of Bosley's leopards! In my Old Boy's rugby playing career I captained the 1st XV six times in my 40 seasons with Wandsworthians. I have held down every post at some time or another, apart from Treasurer. I am also fortunate to have a lifetime role as a Vice-President for Surrey Rugby. In fact, there is not much that I do not know about the club or its players. I can even reference that 'Dave (The Fly) Millen was the greatest player I never saw play'.

Q3: I know you now live in West Ewell with Sally, but you brought the partying to South West London, so what about those days?

IP: I spent a lot of years in and around Earlsfield. The upstairs flat in Vanderbilt Road was particularly memorable as it used to be the meeting point after driving back from rugby at Claygate and a party or pub night in Putney was always planned. Many Dubs passed through my flats in Earlsfield and some stayed. Phil Clements moved in for the weekend and stayed three years. There were not many bars in Putney where you could drink all day although once a year the Putney Common Fair pitched up which solved that problem. It was not really until the late 1970's when Putney came into its own as a place to head for after playing rugby and Micawbers Wine Bar opened. I knew John the owner and he really looked after us. We often stayed late. The wine bar was always the first point of call at the start of the evening and usually was a great night out which could end up anywhere! On many occasions a party would usually evolve at Roger Haywood's, aka 'The Drain's' house. Talking about Roger, the other bar that was greatly frequented by Dubs was Clowns Bar & Grill which was owned by Roger and Chris 'Freck' Munton. This was the popular place to go for drinks and a great hamburger. It was also the location in the early 1980's for the 'Wendel' Challenge, where invited Old Dubs drank a series of alcoholic beverages and on completion were presented with a tie!

Q4: What about rugby tours of note?

IP: I remember my first tour with the Old Boys when I was 19 years old. We were heading to Northern France to play Arras. Arras were regional champions at the time and had the legend Andy Ripley playing in their pack. I remember when we arrived there were posters throughout the town advertising the match. We lost, but it was no disgrace, this was also the first time I had encountered the 'Methers' and they ultimately got 'wasted' in real style! Wanting to make my mark, I formed a lower budget group aptly named 'The Boys', and in 1975 we went on an inaugural tour to Perranporth where we were arrested at a camp site for allegedly setting off a fire extinguisher in the town, although we were shown leniency by the local rugby playing constabulary. Another tour of note was in 1983 when we went to Lowestoft and played some very good rugby. However, the most memorable prank was when lots of the Dubs reported to reception that their TV's were jumping channels. What they didn't know was that the Ross had found a remote control that could control every TV in the hotel. Pete took huge delight in changing the channels from outside the hotel room doors … hilarious! I have been on many tours over the years and continue to front up even now when called upon by club president, Mr Pennington. Just a bit more on the Boys: I started the initiation soon after the return from Arras and our uniforms were yellow bucket hats and Union Jack zip-up tracksuit tops. We also created a drink called the 'Blagger', aptly named after Ray 'Blagger' Edwards. It was advocaat based and it goes without saying … 'Down in one, no harm done'!



'The Boys' 1975 Perranporth

Q5: I know you also played rugby netball on Clapham Common for the Old Blues, any memories from those days?

IP: I played for the Old Blues, which was run by your dad Micky Brown. We won both the first and second divisions quite a few times, and the cup. What I remember most was the amusing ritual which happened before every game when waiting for Micky's last-minute team selection.

> 'YOU'RE PLAYING PLUM, GO AND GET CHANGED'

He was always weighing up his options on who had turned up and who was likely to turn up. You'd be standing outside the old wooden changing rooms on the common waiting for the tap on the backside and the expectant words, 'You're playing Plum, go and get changed'.

Another thing I remember about Micky was his wisdom, especially after he gave me a bollocking for being late. I gave some feeble work excuse and he said, 'Son you've got years of watching in front of you, so don't waste the time you have now to play'. That resonated with me and I think that is why I played rugby well into my early fifties.

Q6: So what about family life and having to work for a living?

IP: I met my wife Sally when I worked down in Arundel at my sister Carol and Brian's pub, as she helped behind the bar. We have been married for 36 years and have two lovely daughters, Zoe who is 34 and Jamie, 30. When it came to working for a living, I always tried to avoid it, but really after school I applied to the Imperial College in London and was offered the position of Junior Lab Technician, researching Botany. It was here where I met my great and life-long friend Micky Gover. However, my most enjoyable job was managing Clowns Restaurant in Putney that was jointly owned by Freckly and Drain. I started in Clowns as a helping hand and got my brother Peter in to help run the bar until a keg was left on, which flooded it out. We had some great times there and my favourite piece of equipment was the dumb waiter, and even though Roger hated it, we used it a lot. One time we put someone in it and when the door opened, he covered everyone with squirty cream. My current job is running my own company in the meat wholesaling business. Goodness knows when I will finally retire, but I currently work three days a week, which suits Sally and me.

Q7: You had a bit of a health scare a few years ago, so is that now a distant memory?

IP: Yeah, basically I was feeling a little out of breath on occasions and got it looked at immediately by a GP. The doctor diagnosed me as a possible heart attack risk and after a few months of analysis sent me to Kingston hospital where I underwent an 8-hour triple bypass operation. After three months convalescing, I now consider the intervention a huge success. Although I was a little disappointed recently because I always seem to come second at most things in life, and in this case Clive (The Veg) Liddiard topped me as he had a quadruple bypass … one bypass more than me!!

Q8: Both You and Micky Gover (Buz) have done a lot to bridge the gap with the old guard and the current Wandsworthians, what are your thoughts?

IP: We just really want to keep the rugby club and the Dubs' traditions and culture going. I still recollect their first Dinner and Dance of the new era had only 35 people attend, things have massively improved since then. I also have a great feeling of gratitude to the current Wandsworthians President Richard Pennington, as he nominated me for an award (Services to grass roots rugby) in 2019 at the National Rugby awards. It was hosted by Topsy Ojo at Twickenham and a number of Old Dubs came along to support and enjoy the evening. I made it to the last six and although I did not win the ultimate prize, just to be nominated and make it that far was a very proud moment indeed and one I will cherish.



National Rugby Awards night

Q9: What are your final thoughts about your life involved in rugby?

IP: Well, first things first, I heard my favourite tall story from Geoff Barber when he was caught urinating in King Georges Park public swimming pool: 'I said to the lifeguard, I saw another boy pissing in the pool and the lifeguard replies "that's nothing new", Yeah, but not from the top diving board.' I also heard my favourite rugby song *Nellie Hawkins* whilst in the clubhouse in Claygate. Seriously though, I would really like to see more of the ex-players come down and support the club, as the current squad of players are trying as hard as they can to improve their game and get out of their division. Prospects have also greatly improved lately as Wandsworthians have moved from Raynes Park and now play at Imber Court where Friday night games can be held, so come along and support the lads. The Old Wandsworthians old and new have honestly been my life, great friendships have been maintained and new ones forged. Special note here to my old friend Keith Corby 'The Tank', who sadly left us far too early. Rugby has given me a family of friends for life.


Out with Phil Clements … I still can't get rid of him!

A NEW BEGINNING

Wandsworthians RFC have a new home, a new kit and on top of all that a domestic end-of-season tour to Great Yarmouth to look forward to!

It's late November and we're seven games into the 25/26 season. The 'Dubs' are fourth in the table, having already faced a number of heavy hitters within the Surrey 5 league. Our new home ground at Imber Court is becoming a fortress, as we remain unbeaten following two Friday Night 'Under the Lights' victories; 25–10 v Egham Hollowegians, 36–9 v Feltham RFC and a resounding thumping of Merton RFC 49–12. In contrast our away fixtures so far have been against very competitive opposition with the results not quite falling our way, apart from a really good win at Guildfordians. The club are delighted with the commitment of the lads as we have yet to field a matchday squad with less than 17 Players … a huge improvement from last season.

A fresh new kit was unveiled in the away fixture at Economicals RFC earlier in the sesason. We are pleased with the new look and as a club are extremely grateful to our sponsors who support the team. We are also in partnership with the incredible 'LooseHeadz' mental health charity whose logo can be seen on the sleeve of the new jersey.

Club Sponsors:

Blake-Turner LLP Solicitors
Epsom Bathroom Showroom
Platypus Construction
Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust

Finally after two years of international travel, the rugby club are having an end of season domestic tour to Great Yarmouth in May 2026. Fancy touring? Just get in touch!



THE PROFESSOR **DICK MOODY** EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Lucy Knott



University of Arts London

(Daughter of Tom Knott)

Dear Trustees

I was fortunate enough to receive the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust grant last winter to assist me with my beach volleyball off-season and pre-season training. I am a beach volleyball athlete who competes in the UK Beach Tour, as well as internationally representing England. I am also a student at the University of Arts London, studying BA (Hons) Fashion Sportswear.

The grant allowed me to continue training consistently, aided with degree expenses, and travel to Norway to compete in my first ever professional beach volleyball tournament.

I have used the grant to enter tournaments on the UK Beach and European Tour, as well as putting it towards accommodation costs.

The grant has also allowed me to train in private coaching sessions with international professional players, allowing me to gain invaluble experience.

With my degree, I am really focusing on sustainable, performance sportswear, looking into fabric technology, innovative designs and sustainable practices.

On the social side, the University has a large indoor volleyball community which I enjoy.

I am extremely thankful to have been awarded the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust Fund this year, it has given me many incredible opportunities which I would have not been able to experience without it, and has helped me in my beach volleyball career.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

Regards,

Lucy

Conor Oresanya



Leeds Beckett University

(Son of Femi Oresanya)

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and to provide an update on my academic and sporting progress since my last correspondence.

This summer, I graduated from Leeds Beckett University with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Quantity Surveying, achieving a Upper Second Class Honours (2:1). Following my results, I was honoured to be invited to remain at the university and pursue postgraduate studies. I have since been accepted into the Master of Science (MSc) programme in Sports Business Management. This opportunity allows me to further my academic development while aligning with my long-standing passion for sport and its professional landscape.

On the rugby front, I continue to represent Leeds Beckett University. Last season presented challenges, including broken ribs which significantly limited my playing time. However, I committed to a rigorous recovery process and was able to return for the latter part of the season, contributing to our Varsity victory against the University of Leeds. Looking ahead, I am focused on exploring professional rugby opportunities while maintaining my academic commitments.

Currently, my full attention is dedicated to my studies and rugby, and I am not in employment following graduation. The financial support provided by the Trust is therefore especially valuable. It enables me to manage travel expenses related to training and matches, and contributes meaningfully to the costs associated with my Master's programme. Without this assistance, sustaining both academic and athletic pursuits at a high level would be considerably more difficult.

I remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust. Your backing has been instrumental in my development both on and off the field, and I look forward to keeping you informed as I progress through this next chapter.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Oresanya

Ben Riley



Brighton University

(Grandson of Bob Andrews)

Dear Trustees,

Over the past academic year (2024–2025) at the University of Brighton, I have been able to grow both academically and personally, and I am grateful for the support of the grant that made much of this possible.

Academically, I completed three major exams: Understanding Finance and Theory, Digital Marketing Analytics, and my personal favourite, Business Law. Business Law stood out to me because of how it highlighted the many challenges businesses face, from the very beginning of their journey to becoming established. I found it fascinating to explore the restrictions and limitations businesses must navigate, whether through regulations or the risks of litigation, and how these legal factors shape business strategy and operations.

Outside of the classroom, I made sure to stay active, regularly running and going to the gym. I also continued my passion for boxing, not only training myself but also teaching classes for others. Helping new people learn the sport has been extremely rewarding, as I've been able to share my skills while building confidence and teamwork among those I coached.

Living in university halls this year was a new and memorable experience. Although it was considerably more expensive than my previous accommodation, the grant made it possible for me to stay there, and I am truly thankful for that support. The experience gave me more than just a roof over my head — it gave me the opportunity to make lifelong friends. Having an ensuite was also a welcome bonus!

Looking ahead I plan to use the grant to support both my studies and my wellbeing during my final year. The money will help cover living costs, allowing me to focus fully on my modules — Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Developing Professional Practice in Business, Managing Teams and Developing People, and Strategy.

The grant has already had a meaningful impact on my university journey, and with continued support, I am confident I can make the most of my final year at Brighton, both in my studies and in my personal development.

Best wishes,

Ben Riley

Alfie Baker



St. Marys University

(Grandson of Derek Wooldridge)

Dear Old Wandsworthians Trust,

I hope this message finds everyone well. As I reflect on the last few years, I am filled with immense gratitude for all the support and guidance I have received from the Old Wandsworthian community. Your support has played an important role in shaping my journey, and I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone.

Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of meeting many of you at the DPML, and I cannot overstate how meaningful these connections have been. The conversations, advice and friendship shared at these gatherings have not only been enjoyable but also incredibly valuable in helping me navigate both my academic and professional life.

I am thrilled to share that I have now graduated from university, marking the culmination of a significant chapter in my life. Thanks to your support and the lessons learned throughout my studies, I have been able to transition into the next phase of my career.

I am currently working at Tiffin School as their Head of Strength and Conditioning, a role that allows me to blend my passion for sports with my desire to contribute to the development of young athletes. I look after Year 9 rugby along with delivering S&C programs to all our sports squads. It is a truly rewarding experience to help students reach their full potential, and I am excited about the future opportunities in this field.

In addition to my work at Tiffin School, I have also embarked on my journey as a rugby coach. I have recently completed my Level 1 RFU coaching badge, and I am eager to continue developing my skills in this area. Coaching rugby has long been a goal of mine, and I am excited to apply my knowledge and enthusiasm to inspire the next generation of players.

I am deeply grateful for the support I have received, from the Memorial Trust and look forward to staying in touch and continuing to contribute to this wonderful network.

Thank you once again for everything.

Kind regards,

Alfie Baker

George Hayland



University of Surrey

(Son of Nicholas Hayland)

Dear Trust

I would like to start this report by thanking the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust for awarding me the grant for the past year. The funding was quintessential towards both my studies and sporting endeavours.
I have just finished my second year studying Economics and Finance at the University of Surrey where my final year grade was a 2:1.

The grant allowed me to purchase the necessary equipment in order to succeed at my chosen course, this included purchasing a new advanced calculator and books for my further reading outside of university contact hours. This equipment facilitated me to be able to study when away from the university, boosting my understanding and final grade.

The grant was also used towards my participation in representing the university at tennis. I am a first team player at the University of Surrey tennis club and we experienced a very successful year. The grant went towards my tennis rackets being restrung. The strings on rackets can break easily in training sessions and matches and can accumulate a cost over the course of a year.

Throughout the year in my BUCS (British University and College Sport) matches I went unbeaten, along with our Team being promoted from South-Eastern Division 2 to South-Eastern Division 1 next season.The grant also went towards a new pair of tennis shoes after mine wore out towards the end of last season.

The grant has provided me with the ability to pursue my passion for tennis, playing more frequently and having the necessary equipment, all whilst at university studying my desired course of economics and finance as intensely as I can. I sincerely thank the Trustees for awarding me the grant and am looking forward to progressing into my third and final year at university.

Best wishes,

George

Georgia Smith



Chichester University

(Daughter of Peter Smith)

Dear Trustees

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Association for your generous grant, which has been a great support this year. Your contribution has enabled me to purchase essential musical manuscripts and consumables, which are vital to both my daily practice and continued development as a musician. In a profession where the cost of such materials quickly mounts, your support has made a tangible difference to my studies, and I am truly grateful.

This year has been a quieter one in terms of public performance — a period of consolidation rather than outward activity. With no major concert tours on the immediate horizon, I've taken the opportunity to focus on refining technique, broadening repertoire, and preparing myself fully for the challenges of my final year.

Though quieter in some respects, this has been a valuable time of reflection and growth, laying important groundwork for the future.

Looking ahead, I am excited by the prospect of performing in Venice, a project currently on the horizon and preparing for the demands of my fourth year. With the academic component of my course starting to wind down, I'll be concentrating more on performance and using the time to prepare my application for postgraduate study.

My aim is to pursue a Master's Degree in Music Therapy at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, based at the Barbican. This next step represents a personal and professional goal, and I am grateful for the Association's continued support as I work towards it.

Thank you all again.

Georgia Smith

Isabelle Walpole



University of Arts London

(Daughter of Martin Walpole)

Dear Trustees

I am incredibly grateful for the grant funding I received, which allowed me to complete my Fashion Business course earlier this year. This opportunity has had a significant impact on both my personal and professional development, equipping me with the knowledge and confidence to pursue my ambitions within the fashion industry.

Throughout the course, I gained a comprehensive understanding of how the fashion business operates. The units included: Fundamentals of Fashion, Business and Retail, Research Principles, Fashion Production, Fundamentals of Marketing and Promotion in the Fashion Industry, Retail Business Management, Innovation and Technology and Portfolio Project and Professional Development. I particularly enjoyed the modules that focused on creating digital strategies, as they helped me see how creativity and business can come together effectively in today's fashion environment.

The course not only deepened my understanding of the industry but also provided me with practical tools to help me in the future. The knowledge I acquired has been invaluable in helping me create my projects throughout the course. I have also been able to apply what I learned directly to the real world.

The funding made this experience possible for me. Without it, I would have found it challenging to access a course of this quality and relevance. It gave me the freedom to focus fully on my studies, engage with my tutor, and take advantage of every learning opportunity available. Moreover, it helped grow my confidence by interacting with my peers and presenting work to industry professionals.

Overall, the course has strengthened my career aspirations and helped me take confident steps toward building a future in the fashion industry. I am deeply thankful for the Trustees' support and the positive difference it has made in my journey.

Many thanks,

Isabelle

Will Archer



Winchester University

(Son of Andy Archer)

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to the Old Wandsworthians Trust for your generous grant. In September 2024 I started my second year at Winchester University studying Sport and Exercise Psychology – the grant has made a significant contribution towards my living costs, relieving some of the pressure of managing on a tight student budget.

Winchester continues to be a really positive experience for me. At the end of my first year I moved out of halls of residence and took a place in a shared property with six other tenants. Renting my own independent house created a different sense of freedom and a new lifestyle which I have thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to contributing towards my monthly bills, I also used a proportion of the grant to fund physical and digital textbooks, as well as specialised research software.

During this last year I have enjoyed learning more about Sports and Exercise Psychology. One of my favourite modules has been Psychological Skills, looking at different techniques and methods to overcome issues with concentration and attention, emotional control and choking in sport. I have also enjoyed Designing Interventions, a module that allowed me to work with real-life case studies. As an example, I was tasked with coming up with an intervention within a set budget to motivate 13-18-year-old adolescent schoolgirls to exercise. As I progress deeper into the subject, I am now actively considering continuing to a Masters degree in September 2026.

In addition to working hard, university rugby has continued to be a highlight of my student life. During the second year I competed in a number of BUCS matches and was also voted in as Social Secretary, helping to organise a tour to Spain. However when our first XV vice-captain got injured, I was also asked to help out with that role, too. I also enjoy playing football regularly and going to uni events on campus.

Life is busy, but also rewarding – I feel I have learned so much already since becoming an undergraduate! I would like to finish by thanking the Trust for their support with the grant. I look forward to updating you on my progress in my third year.

With best wishes,

Will Archer

Evie Hughes



University of York

(Granddaughter of Paul Davidson)

Dear Trustees,

Last year, in my first year of Law studies, the Old Wandsworthians Memorial Trust grant helped me massively. Due to the high costs of equipment at university, along with the cost of living, were it not for the assistance of the grant, I would not have been able to afford all the materials needed.

I used the money to buy textbooks and workbooks which were essential to understanding the legislature and the rules of law. I was also able to afford stationery to organise my notes in the best way for me to learn. When travelling to the library or study sessions, the grant certainly helped me with travel costs. This meant that financial pressure did not hinder my academic progress, which I greatly appreciate.

I achieved a 2:1 at the end of my first year which I am extremely proud of, especially with it being such a foreign subject to me on arrival. I was specifically happy to start researching Human Rights Law, which is my core interest. But I also found Criminal Law very interesting as it displayed just how important judicial decisions are.

In the upcoming year, I have been able to choose certain modules myself and one of those is Human Rights: Law, Power, & Global Challenges, and the other is The History of Law and the State, which I find extremely important to grasp a good understanding of how the law has shaped our society and how it continues to do so.

I believe that the continued support of the Trust would really help me further this year so that I can continue to afford the equipment needed for my course and afford specialised workbooks for my new modules.

Additionally, help with travel expenses would mean that I can continue to attend valuable study sessions when learning new difficult content and support me in my aspiration of becoming a solicitor.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and for the Trust's continued support of students like myself.

Best wishes,

Evie

Diran Oresanya



Cardiff University

(Son of Femi Oresanya)

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for once again awarding me your generous bursary. Your continued support has been instrumental throughout my second year as a Geography and Urban Planning undergraduate at Cardiff University, and I'd like to share how it has positively impacted both my academic journey and personal development.

This year, I was able to participate in a week-long field trip to Liverpool, where I conducted research on the effects of regeneration and gentrification on local communities. Your support covered travel, accommodation, and field equipment, allowing me to fully engage with the project. The insights I gained were invaluable and directly contributed to my coursework.

The bursary also supported my day-to-day studies. I was able to purchase essential textbooks, mapping resources, and specialist software for spatial analysis and data visualisation—tools that have been crucial for completing assignments and honing my skills in urban planning.

I'm pleased to share that I achieved a high 2:1 overall this year, including Firsts in two individual modules. Beyond academics, the bursary helped me stay active in university rugby, a key outlet alongside my studies. With training grounds several miles from my accommodation, your support covered transport costs and a gym membership, helping me stay fit and improve my performance. Rugby has taught me valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, resilience and leadership.

Most importantly, your support has given me peace of mind. It has eased financial pressures and allowed me to maintain a healthy balance between academic, extracurricular and personal commitments.

Thank you once again for your generosity. It has played a vital role in my journey so far. I look forward to updating you on my progress as I begin my industrial placement year in a large multidisciplinary firm in London, before returning to complete my degree in 2026.

Kind regards,
Diran

Alex Collison Hough



University of Groningen

(Son of Ian Collison)

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to share how my time in the Netherlands has been going so far and how your grant has helped me while studying for my MSc in Supply Chain Management at the University of Groningen.

After finishing my bachelor's degree in Business Management at Oxford Brookes University with a 2:1, I wanted to build on what I'd learned and focus more on the practical and analytical side of business, which led me to supply chain management. My interest was sparked by some of the modules in my undergraduate degree, and after chatting with my parents, who both worked in the field, I realised it was something I really wanted to pursue further.

The course, which is taught in English, like many in the Netherlands, has been fascinating so far. We've covered topics like purchasing, inventory management, Microsoft Excel and data skills, mathematical modelling for manufacturing and logistics, including learning rates, logarithms, and depot routing. It's given me a solid understanding of how supply chains operate globally and how important supply chains are for businesses to become and remain successful.

I chose to study in Groningen because I wanted the experience of living and studying abroad. The Netherlands is a major hub for logistics and trade in Western Europe, and the University of Groningen has a great reputation. The city itself is lively, friendly and full of students, 40,000 of us, very clean and easy to get around. The student population is multinational. My new friendship group includes Dutch, Germans, Irish, Greeks, Maltese, New Zealanders, Canadians and South Africans. A focal point has been O'Malley's bar, where my friends and I often meet up to watch rugby and relax on the weekends.

The grant has been a huge help in funding extra resources such as textbooks, software and online materials, as well as easing the day-to-day costs of studying abroad. It's made settling in much easier and allowed me to focus on making the most of this opportunity. Looking ahead, I hope to complete my degree in 2026 and use it to work internationally or with a UK global company. Thank you so much for your support; it's made a big difference to my time here in the Netherlands.

Many thanks,

Alex

DiaryDates

Saturday 7th March, 2026

Dave Pollard Memorial Lunch

Venue: Imber Court, where we will show the Italy v England match.
(Please note Kick-off time to be confirmed).

Saturday 6th June, 2026

30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance

Venue: Craven Cottage



Friday 6th November, 2026

OWMT Service of Remembrance

Venue: Saint Cecilia's School
We have provisionally booked Friday 6th November, 2026, but there is a chance of a change of date to Friday 13th.
(We will inform you as soon as possible).



THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

ROLL OF HONOUR WW1 – 1914-1918

ASHFORD, C.A., BAIGENT, W.R., BAILEY, W.J., BEARD, H.C., BERWICK, R.G., BIRD, A.P., BLAKE, E.G., BOYCE, A.C., BREWER, R.E, BROTHERSTONE, W.J., BULL, W.J., BULLIVANT, R.E., BUNCE, J.H., BURROUGHS, C.H., CARR, G., CARRIGAN, L.P.S., CASTLE, F., CHAPPELL, F.H., CHICK, G.H., CHICK, ,T.P., CLARKE, A.G., COLLINGS, S.O., COOPER, F.N., CROCKETT, G.V., DABORN, W.G., DAVEY, G.W., DAVIS, H.V.J., DISHER, A.R., EBURNE, T.C., EDMUNDS, R.F., ELLIOTT, F.H., FINLAY, J.D., FORD, J.E., FRASER, F.L., FRINGS, E.F.H., GALLOWAY, R.A., GILLARD, J.G., GILLETT, P.H.P., HALCROW, ,A.P. ,HANSON, F.R., HARDAKER, J.K., HARDING, P.T., HARPOUR, F.C., HAVELOCK, A.C., HEARN, H.T., HENCHER, R.H., HIDER, A.L.G., HILL, H.J., HILL, ,W.S., HOLLIMAN, E.A.J., HOLLIMAN, H.F.P., HOOPER, A.J., HUNT, P.V.B., INGRAM, H.D., INGRAM, S., JEHU, F.H., JONES, R., JONES, S.J., KNIGHTING, G.T. LARKIN, M.J., LEECH, B J., LEGGETT, A.J., LLEWHELIN, E.V., LOVE, C.W.C., MCCLOY, F.C., MAYRICK, R.T., MIDDLEMASS, L.G., MILES, H.G. ,MILWARD, S.L., MILWARD, S.R., MOON, A., PAULTON, W.A., PETER, R.A., PLESTED, H.G., PROVERBS, S.E., RICHARDS, A.G., ROBINSON, H.A., RUSSELL, W., SACH, C.B., SANDERSON, C.H., SCOTT, W., SHARPE, S., SMITH, B., STRICKLAND, C.G., STUART, F., TARRANT, A.H.C., THOMAS, V.G.A., TURTLE, A.E., VENABLES, H.G., WADSWORTH, V.C., WAKELY, D.J., WALKER, A.A., WATSON, F.A., WEEKS, A.A., WESTCOTT, T.W., WHITBY, V.E., WORSDELL, ,C.L.V., YEO, A.H

ROLL OF HONOUR WW2 – 1939-1945

ASHBY, R.F., ASKEY, R.V., BOOTH, K., BOOTH, P.G.N., BRIFFETT, L.H., BRITTAIN, P.F., BROWN, J.E., BULL, P.E., CHAMPION, R.L., COLE, M.R., COLEMAN, C.L., COOPER, W.C., DAVIS, A.P., DORSETT, R.A., DUKES-SMITH, H.F, EAST, O.R., EVANS, G.A., FELGATE, A.C., GENTRY, M.M, GIBBONS, D., GIBBS, S.W.A., GILL, C.F., GRADY, D., HAMMOND, R.A.C., JONES, E.D. JOSEY, D.A., KING, D.M.R., LANDER, J., LETBE, T.J., MATTHEWS, L.S., MCNAB, I.A., MEDLAND, G.G., MORSMAN, J.M., ORMSBY, W.H., OSWALD, J.C., PEPPER, C.W.V., PETTITT, E.C., PLESTED, J.G., RICHARDS, J., RICHARDSON, G., ROBERTS, C.M., ROCHE, R.E., ROWE, G.W., SCOTT, J.A., SETTI, R.O., SHAPCOTT, J., SHAW, F.P.K., STEWARDSON, F.W., SUTTON, A.G., TELFORD, T., THOMAS, R.H., WALLEY, P.K., WEST, R.D., WILLIAMS, C.H.

ROLL OF HONOUR KOREAN WAR – 1950-1953

DAVEY, R.G.A. (SUB LIEUTENANT))

ROLL OF HONOUR NORTHERN IRLEAND – 1971

STEWARDSON, D.A. (CAPTAIN)

NEXT YEARS' SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, WILL BE ON EITHER FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH OR 13TH 2026 AT SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL.