

# The Old Warwickian



**WARWICK**  
SCHOOL

SPRING/SUMMER 2026 | ISSUE 49

[www.oldwarwickians.org](http://www.oldwarwickians.org)  
[www.warwickfoundationconnect.com](http://www.warwickfoundationconnect.com)



# Recent Events

## 2023-2025 Leavers' Drinks

It was great to welcome back some of our young OWs for end of term drinks in Warwick Hall.



Thomas Smeeton, Will Chesser and Assistant Head of Sixth Form Ashleigh Kirby



Matthew Dennes, Henry Fifield



Henry Jones, Vijay Mehta, Will Dodsworth, Tom Sarson-Hurst



Oscar Walmsley-Jones, Sam Crowley, Arun Gadhary

## Past Presidents' Lunch

There was a great spirit of camaraderie and reflection as a number of Past Presidents of the Old Warwickian Association gathered for lunch at The Cavalry & Guards Club in October. Kindly hosted by 2025 OWA President Jamie Barr, the event brought together generations of OWs who have each played a part in strengthening the OWA and keeping the school spirit alive.

See the full list of OWA Past Presidents at [www.oldwarwickians.org/presidents](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/presidents).

ChatGPT suggests the following collective nouns for a group of Past Presidents:

- A legacy of Past Presidents
- A wisdom of Past Presidents
- A toast of Past Presidents

Further suggestions welcome – email [owapresident@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:owapresident@warwickschools.co.uk)



Brig James Cook OBE (2024), The Hon Sir David Foskett (2000 and 2014), Maj Gen Mike Huntley CB (2013), Jamie Barr (2025), David Stevens (2008), James Barker (Head Master), James Uffindell (2026), Jim Button (2023), Capt Ian Thorpe RN (1997), The Hon Sir John Cavanagh (2009), Gavin Neath CBE (2012)

## OWs in Hong Kong

OWs and former students from King's High and Kingsley enjoyed a fun evening connecting and reconnecting at Mr Wolf's Restaurant in Hong Kong in September. They were joined by Head Master James Barker, Head of Boarding David Bull and Student Recruitment Manager Henry Xia.



Marco Chan, Alaric Chan, Bryan Chan, Adrian Leung, Aaron Fung, Jordan Yim, Clement Ng, Michael Choi, Alex Lau



Bob Chapman, James Barker (Head Master), Tayma Page Allies, Katie Potter, Rachael Desgouttes, Gail Southward, Ben Wiggins



Timothy Yuen, Thomas Chan, Kenneth Wan, David Bull, Alvin Yeung, Jacob Lee, Rudy Yuen

### Warwick School in Hong Kong

Watch out for news on the launch of our new OW and Warwick School Community network in Hong Kong.

# OWA Annual Dinner

6 September 2025 – The Pyne Room, Warwick School

It was great to see OWs of all ages, as well as a number of current and former staff, at the 2025 Annual Dinner.

The 2026 OWA Dinner will be a more relaxed and casual affair after the Anniversary Reunions on Saturday 6 June. Book your place now at [www.oldwarwickians.org/2026AnnDin](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/2026AnnDin)



John Rowe and John McCulloch



Jack Thornton and Chris Davis



Maj Gen Mike Huntley CB, Graham Carter and Tim Harry



Helen and Ed Leaf and Robert Hudson



Tony Sparks and David Phillips MBE



The Head Master thanked Steve Tubb for his five years as OWA Chairman



Tony Clewes, Tim Harry, Colin Edwards, Mark Hughes, Martin Short, Gareth Jones



U6 Prefects, L6 Pianist Jason, Head of Sixth Form Craig Bennett and the Head Master



Coten End childhood friends Christopher Wade, Jamie Barr and Dave Edwards



Ian Clements, Reeve Martin, Matthew Thatcher and Laurence Price



2003 Leavers with Gervald Frykman



Geoff Tedstone, Owen James, Head Master James Barker and Steve Tubb

## OWA AGM 2025

6 December 2025 – Warwick School

The 2025 OWA AGM took place in the Conference Room at Warwick School on 6 December. Reports were received from the Chairman and Treasurer, and OWs reflected on a full calendar of OW events and activities organised by the Alumni and Development team.

Sincere thanks were extended to 2025 OWA President Jamie Barr for his enthusiasm and commitment during the year. Steve Tubb was thanked for his tremendous work and support for the School and the Association over his five years' service as OWA Chairman.

### The following were elected to the OWA Committee 2026

President – James Uffindell (WS 1992-97)  
Chairman – Owen James (WS 1993-03)  
Treasurer – Arun Sachdev (WS 1991-2002)  
Head Master – James Barker (WS 1991-97)  
Secretary – Anne Douglas.

The committee retained the option to co-opt members.

### President Elect 2026 (to serve as President 2027)

Dr Matthew Boulter (WS 1978-85).

# Regional Events

## Birmingham Bash

Despite the weather warnings of Storm Benjamin, 14 hardy souls attended the ninth annual OW Birmingham Bash, with drinks at The Old Joint Stock pub, followed by lunch at San Carlo Italian Restaurant.

The Birmingham Bash is typically attended by those who left the school in the mid-1960s. The group were particularly pleased to be joined by two “elder statesmen” – Peter Gedge who left in 1957 and Peter Baird who left in 1961. Special thanks to Clive Boast for kindly organising these regular Birmingham lunches.



Clockwise from bottom left: Steve Chamberlain, Mike Galbraith, Peter Turner, Ian Thorpe, John Hill, Nick Willson, Nick Madeley, John Davidson, Martin Newman, Clive Boast, Richard Gething, Peter Gedge, Peter Baird and David Summers



Peters Gedge and Baird



Four of the six members of D Dorm 1956 (the youngest dormitory in the Junior Boarding House): Nick Willson, Mike Galbraith, John Davidson, Clive Boast

## Norfolk OWs

OWs in Norfolk have enjoyed further gatherings. In October lunch was held at The Carpenter’s Arms at Wighton, near Wells-next-the-Sea.

The cathedral city of Norwich hosted the spring 2026 lunch – this time at The Red Lion at Bishopgate.

The lunches are relaxed opportunities to enjoy great food and company while discovering school and a number of local connections and coincidences.



Geoff Davis, Sarah Whitehouse (Alumni Officer), Tony Crockert, Nigel Evans, Tim Harris and Marcus Flint at The Red Lion, Bishopgate, Norwich



Richard Thornton, Marcus Flint, Andrew Sawyer, Tony Crockert, Tim Harris, Nigel Evans, Julian Bates and Geoff Davis

## Wessex OWs (WOW)

The 2025 autumn gathering of Wessex Old Warwickians took place in Bournemouth (where it’s always sunny, even when it rains!) on 10 October.

OWs were treated to a guided tour of the wonderful home and collections of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. Completed in 1901, this dream house on Bournemouth’s East Cliff, overlooking the sea, was given by Sir Merton Russell-Cotes to his wife Annie for her 66th birthday. Called East Cliff Hall, the house was an extraordinary, extravagant birthday present, and Annie and Merton filled their exotic seaside villa with beautiful objects and art from their extensive travels across the world, and lined the walls with a remarkable collection of British paintings.

After a short stroll along the seafront, OWs regathered to enjoy lunch at the award-winning West Beach Restaurant.

As we go to press, Wessex OWs are heading to Bath for a visit to the Roman Baths followed by lunch at Woods, one of Bath’s finest independent restaurants.



2025 WOWs at the Russell Cotes Museum, Bournemouth

# Forthcoming Events

## OW Anniversary Reunions

1956, 66, 71, 76, 86, 96, 2006 and 2016 Leavers

**Saturday 6 June 2026 – Warwick School**

1956, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016 leavers, and a number of staff who taught them, are warmly invited to this year's OW Anniversary Reunions on Saturday 6 June. These reunions are for those who left at the end of the U6 in those years, plus classmates who may have left earlier.

**Time:** 14:00-17:30  
**Venue:** Warwick Hall  
**Dress:** Casual.

Meet back at school for drinks, a welcome from the Head Master, tours of the school and complimentary refreshments. There will be a card bar.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

While there is no charge for attending, please register at:  
[www.oldwarwickians.org/2026reunions](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/2026reunions)

## OWA Annual Dinner

**Saturday 6 June 2026 – Warwick School**

The OWA Annual Dinner, normally in December, will be brought forward in 2026 to the evening of the Anniversary Reunions, giving all reunion attendees and other OWs the opportunity to enjoy each other's company back at Warwick School.

### Timings

**19:00** Drinks  
**19:30** Four-course dinner with a card bar and opportunity to mingle  
**23:30** Carriages.

**Dress:** Casual

### Tickets

£40. Payment details will be sent with booking confirmation.

Please book at [www.oldwarwickians.org/2026anndin](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/2026anndin)

## CCF Open Afternoon

**Friday 5 June 2026 – Warwick School**

Our CCF, at its peak numbering 340 students and 18 staff, usually meet on Friday afternoons. On Friday 5 June OWs are offered a unique opportunity to visit and see what happens on a usual Friday afternoon:

### Timings

**14:15** Arrive and sign in at Warwick School main reception. Visitors must be registered and escorted at all times.  
**14:30** Enjoy watching the CCF Parade on the Plaza outside KHS  
**14:40** Cup of tea in the Shared Sixth Form Centre  
**14:50** Tour of student CCF activities including the range, field craft and flight simulators. And the CCF Corps of Drums will be practising!  
**15:30** Sign out.

## OWA President's Dinner

**Thursday 5 November 2026 – London**

To build on the success of previous dinners, and to try something a little different, we have gone for a weekday evening this year.

We hope this will appeal to an even broader audience of OWs and also make it easier for fathers of young children to pop in after work rather than having to come into London, especially at the weekend.

The aim is to have a relaxed, engaging night, where you can meet up with old friends, plus make some great new connections. A number of subsidised places will be offered to younger OWs.

**Save the Date:** Thursday 5 November, 19:00

**Venue:** Central London restaurant – an excellent and fun venue

**Dress:** Relaxed – come as you are.

For the time being, please save the date in your diary and full details will be announced shortly.

[www.oldwarwickians.org/2026PresDin](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/2026PresDin)

## OWA President 2026

### James Uffindell, WS 1992-97

James is a technology entrepreneur and the UK's leading expert on Gen Z talent. James started his first business in his student bedroom while at Oxford. He later sold the business to a private investor. In 2013 he founded Bright Network, a high-growth technology platform that uses 300M+ data points and insights to build the workforce of tomorrow. Bright Network employs 100 people, supports over 1M graduates and works with 300+ of the world's largest employers including Google, Bloomberg Goldman Sachs, Accenture and PwC.

James is a regular media commentator and speaker and has been featured in *The Economist*, *Management Today*, *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as on BBC (Radio and TV), Sky News, Channel 4, CNN and ITV.



James Uffindell

## OW Washington Drinks

**Wednesday 13 May 2026, 19:00-21:00**

James will be over in Washington in May and warmly invites any OWs to meet up at Martin's Tavern, 1264 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20007. If you'd like to join him and fellow OWs please contact him on [owapresident@warwicksschools.co.uk](mailto:owapresident@warwicksschools.co.uk)

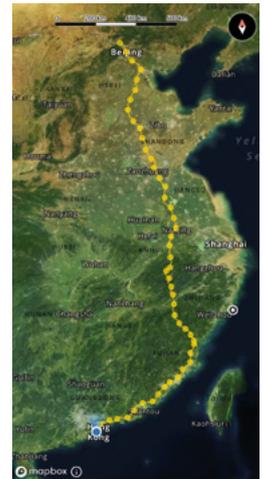
### Save the date!

**OW London Drinks – Thursday 7 May 2026**  
[www.oldwarwickians.org/2026London](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/2026London)

# An OW's extraordinary run across China



2,500km done



The 3,140km route from The Great Wall to Hong Kong

## From the saddle to the finish line

Sport has a way of changing a life. For Jo Lodder (WS 1982-87), that change first came with a fall. In 1996, a serious riding accident broke his back and brought his career as a professional jockey to an abrupt end. Years later, during COVID, sport changed his life again. Jo discovered running, transformed his lifestyle, and found a renewed sense of purpose rooted in resilience and helping others.

That journey led to an almost unimaginable challenge last autumn: running 3,140km in 60 days from the Great Wall of China to Hong Kong. At 55, it was a relentless physical and mental test, marked by injury, exhaustion, doubt, and long days where simply taking the next step felt like an achievement.

But this story is about far more than running. It is about people. It is about villagers in remote communities who, seeing a runner in bright pink shorts pass through their towns, responded not with suspicion but with warmth and generosity, offering tea, smiles, and genuine curiosity. For some, Jo and his team were the first outsiders they had ever met.

Above all, it is a story about friendship. About the unbreakable bond with fellow runner John Fan, the tireless support crew who became family, and the nine students from Hong Kong and their teachers who joined sections of the journey. Together they talked, laughed, struggled, and learned, discovering that a shared challenge builds confidence, resilience, and mental strength in ways few classrooms ever can. The run became a powerful reminder that friendship and community are often the strongest foundations for good mental health.

Against all odds, the team crossed the finish line at Hong Kong's New Kai Tak Stadium. Their shared achievement stands as a reminder of a simple truth: with purpose and the right people beside you, it is possible to go further than you ever imagined.



John and Jo



Digging deep, side by side



Another pair of trainers



Run China Run, 985km and 3,000km trainers

## OW News

### An Encounter with the end of the British Empire

Robin Rhoderick-Jones (WS 1949-56) returned to Warwick School for the first time in almost 60 years to talk to a packed classroom of students about his military career in an 'Encounter with the British Empire'. Robin joined The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in 1962 and soon saw active service in the Borneo campaign. In 1967 he flew army helicopters for The Queen's Own Hussars in Aden during its last six years as a British colony. He commanded The Irish Hussars 1979-81, during which he led a multi-national component of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force which supervised Rhodesia's first full elections, leading to the creation of Zimbabwe.

Since retiring from the army in 1988 Robin has published seven books, including his latest, *Peace and War*, a copy of which he kindly donated to the school library.



Robert Hudson, Robin Rhoderick-Jones and John Jefferies

### Ralph on tour with the RSC

Award-nominated actor Ralph Davis (WS 2003-14) has taken on the role of Hamlet with the RSC's touring revival, which visits Truro, Bradford, Norwich, Nottingham, Blackpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, York and Canterbury between 24 February and 25 April 2026.

Ralph says "Hamlet changed my life as a little boy. I used to make the pilgrimage to Stratford every few years to watch various heroes of mine climb the mountain of the part. The fact that I am going to get to go on that journey every evening whilst travelling round the country at the same time is completely thrilling."



Ralph in Hamlet in Warwick School's senior production in the Bridge House Theatre in 2014



Hamlet Tour 2026 – Ralph Davis ©RSC

### Vice-Chancellor appointment



Dave Petley

Congratulations to geographer and earth scientist Professor Dave Petley (WS 1975-86), on his appointment as Vice-Chancellor and President of Nottingham Trent University. Dave is recognised widely as a global leader in the study and management of landslides.

### 1960s Coffee Morning

Six former classmates from the early 1960s were among the old boys and wives at the Fourpenny Shop Coffee Morning in October. They were (left to right) Nigel Robinson, Steve Chamberlain, Ben Kimberley and Bill Faulkes, together with James White (who had left before the photograph above was taken) and Frank Cole, who joined on a Zoom call from South Africa, where he has lived since 1974.



1960s Coffee Morning at the Fourpenny Shop Hotel

### Military Careers

Surg Lt Cdr Adam Griffiths (WS 1996-2001), Capt Rob Pickering (WS 1999-2008), AS2 Adam Thompson (Air & Space Operations Specialist) (WS 2017-24) and Sqn Ldr Marcus Hicks (WS 1990-97), with Cdr Jenna Kelway (KHS 1995-2002), spoke to students from Warwick and King's High about varied military careers, experiences and pathways.



Marcus, Adam G, Jenna, Adam T and Rob

### University Challenge



Eliot Cosnett

Eliot Cosnett (WS 2011-22) masterfully captained the winning team on University Challenge in September as the Head of the Merton team (where he returned for an MSc in Early Modern History). Before his quizzing was finally public, Elliot thanked Melvin Cooley for introducing him to competitive buzzer quizzing and encouraging his interest in it from a young age. Final score: Merton 235, Durham 120.

In the early January contest between Merton and Churchill, Cambridge, Elliot paced the team (and all participants) with seven correct starters and secured a 180-115 win for Merton – the second time that Merton has made the quarter-finals in the BBC era.

In a tense quarter-final match vs UCL the contest went right down to the last question. Colleagues in the French dept who taught Elliot were well pleased. Spoiler alert: The match vs Edinburgh was tough!

## Welcome back

It is always good to welcome OWs back to Warwick School. Thank you for popping back and, especially, to those who talk with our students about their careers, insights and experiences. Recent visitors include:

Political lobbyist Chris Guyver, WS 1969-80 gave an open and frank 'Encounter with Lobbying'



Matt Jones, WS 1987-94



Oliver Lloyd, WS 2005-10



Peter Pauwels, WS 1947-56



Robert Ibbotson, WS 1991-2002 is one of many OWs who have returned for a Business Lunch with Warwick School students. Robert spoke about his career in the finance industry and role in Private Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs.

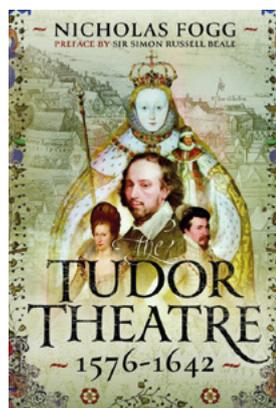


## The Tudor Theatre, 1576-1642

Nick Fogg's new book, *The Tudor Theatre, 1576-1642* explores how the Tudor theatre came to be, the tempestuous era in which it thrived, the hostility it faced and the host of personalities who created it.

The book recounts the epic and often tumultuous story of those years – the great poets and actors, the rivalries, personalities, hostility and panache that contributed to a monumental era.

Nick's varied career includes founding a charity for homeless people, working with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and at Harvard University, teaching in the East End of London and being former Mayor of Marlborough. He was awarded an MBE for services to the community.



## Wear your Flaws

2025 was James TW's tenth year of releasing music. Listen to some of his beautiful and most recent music, including *Wear your Flaws* (released late 2025) @jamestwmusic and catch up on news at [www.jamestw.com](http://www.jamestw.com). James finished the year on tour, playing his *Candlelight* original sessions in Manchester, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Sydney and Melbourne.

## 40 marathons, 40 countries, 4 months

A huge cheer for the incredible sporting challenge undertaken by Angus Read (WS 2012-21). Angus completed 40 marathons in 40 European countries in 4 months, raising over £12,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Angus's challenge started in 30C (86F) heat and ended in hospital with exhaustion when he completed his phenomenal challenge on 13 December in London. He admitted to being a bit under-prepared when he started, but said he had thrown himself "in the deep end", running a marathon on average every three days, some on planned circuits while others were made up as he went along, using the Strava app.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/angus-reads-euro-40-40-4-expedition>



Mission accomplished

## OW European Book Group

Two OW Book groups, first established during COVID, continue to meet regularly online. Since then an OW European Book Group has also been established. The initial objective of the Group was to read a novel from each of the countries in the EU. There are up to three places available for any OWs who would like to join this group, [www.oldwarwickians.org/bookclub](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/bookclub)

Please email [WSS-Alumni@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:WSS-Alumni@warwickschools.co.uk) if you're interested.

## The Lord Barrow GCMG LVO MBE

Congratulations to Lord Tim Barrow GCMG LVO MBE (WS 1977-82) who was awarded a life peerage in 2025, sitting in the House of Lords as a crossbencher. Tim, created Baron Barrow of Penrith in the County of Cumbria, was the former UK National Security Advisor, a former British Ambassador Moscow and Permanent Representative of the UK to the EU.

## Disc Golf national champion

A keen hockey and tennis player while at school, Ben Holding (WS 2016-23) is also passionate about Disc Golf and has been enjoying training hard, playing and travelling across Europe for tournaments. As national champion, Ben has had the opportunity to represent Great Britain four times so far. Firstly in Australia as part of the GB team and, last August, in Chengdu, China, at the 2025 World Games. The mixed team disc golf event involved 32 players from 16 countries. Ben, and his playing partner Rachel, played some great disc golf, losing in the quarter-finals to the subsequent winners, USA, who were top seeds.



Ben Holding © Renée Marie Martinez

## Dirty Business

Tom McKay (WS 1993-98) stars in Channel 4's powerful docudrama *Dirty Business*, which relates the tragic story of eight-year-old Heather Preen who was infected by E coli O157 and, two weeks later died, after stepping on a patch of raw sewage while playing on the beach.



Tom McKay as Mark Preen

*Dirty Business* is a meticulous, intelligent, compassionate and fearless take down of the dubious practices of privatised water companies in the UK. Tom plays Heather's father Mark and says "This is something that will make you scream with rage and cry your heart out. I was on a plane when I read the scripts, and I think the person next to me thought I was having a breakdown – it's incredibly upsetting and enraging, but there's also humour in the midst of the madness".

Watch out, also in 2026, for Tom's return as Max K in series 2 of Channel 4's six-part cyber-thriller *The Undeclared War*.

## Youngest Real Tennis champion

Vaughan Hamilton (WS 2011-18) has won his first major trophy as a real tennis professional, partnering world #2 John Lumley to victory in the British Open doubles, held at The Queen's Club in London in November. In winning this prestigious title Vaughan becomes the youngest open champion since 2016, and the youngest British Open champion this century. It marked the end of a breakthrough year for Vaughan who has firmly established himself as one of the top 20 players in the world. Vaughan started playing real tennis at Moreton Morrell while a schoolboy at Warwick and now works as a professional at Prested Real Tennis Club.



Vaughan Hamilton

## An Instance of the Fingerpost

It was a privilege to welcome art historian, novelist and journalist Iain Pears (WS 1966-73) back to school for the first time since leaving. Iain came to international prominence with his bestselling book *An Instance of the Fingerpost* (1997) and is well-known for experimenting with innovative narrative structures and for his stylish and slick prose. His most recent book is *Parallel Lives: A Love Story from a Lost Continent*.



Iain Pears and Keith Davenport

## Flying high



Andy with Group Captain Mike Jordan



Andy as a Midshipman at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

Lt Cdr Andy Holley (WS 1970-80) reached the incredible career milestone of 10,000 flying hours – over a whole year in the air! Andy joined the Royal Navy soon after leaving school and, during his 45-year flying career with the Royal Navy, has flown 12 aircraft types. His vast experience is a true asset to his current role in the Standards Team for No.1 Flying Training School.

## RMAS Commissions



Joe, Ed and Richard

2nd Lt Joe Hood (WS 2014-19) and 2nd Lt Richard Rose (WS 2013-21) follow in the footsteps of many great OWs who have trained and commissioned from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Joe and Richard are pictured with Dr Edward Flint (WS 1982-87) at their Commissioning Parade in August 2025. Ed is Head of Department of Defence and International Affairs at RMAS.

## Atlantic Mavericks Vélodyssée

Lt Col Ret'd Roy Dixon (WS 1973-81) is joining with two fellow military veterans with the average age of 65, to take on a self-supported 1,000 mile cycle challenge following the Vélodyssée route along the Atlantic coast of France from Roscoff to Bilbao in Spain. The trio are raising money for Myeloma UK and the Fisher House Foundation which provides accommodation for the families of military veterans who are in hospital.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/amv26?utm\\_medium=CF&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/amv26?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL)



Roy, President of the Warwick Branch of the British Legion, is pictured with WS Head Master James Barker at last year's Remembrance

## Why I wear my past to work

Chris Campbell (WJS 1992-97) has published a full-length poetry collection exploring fatherhood and a male perspective of family life. The 48 poems in *Why I wear my past to work* cover universal themes including life's stages and struggles, with remorse and self-questioning, while appreciating its joys. It is a book that touches on the past, its effect on the present, and the contrast between the idealised and reality of life as a dad with two young children alongside marriage, work, illness, and urban life. Chris was Highly Commended in the 2024 Cobh International Poetry Competition and shortlisted for Canterbury Poet of the Year 2023. He won Third Prize in the 2022 Shelley Memorial Prize Poetry Competition.

Chris is pictured as a Year 1 Warwick School boy in 1993, planting a tree (one of forty) to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's 40-year reign.



1993 Tree planting



## Fin Smith

No Old Warwickian magazine would be complete without mentioning Fin Smith (WS 2013-20), whose rugby career the school and OW community are following with great interest and pride. As we go to press we wish him well and look forward to seeing him in further action.



## What's the trick?

Ben Hanlin's new podcast, 'What's The Trick?' focuses on creativity and innovation. How do you take a spark of an idea and turn it into something original, finished and unforgettable?

In this new podcast series, Ben sits down with some of the world's most creative people and discusses the breakthroughs, the failures and the step-by-step hard work that audiences never see.

Join Ben as he interviews comedians, musicians, writers and content creators and asks them, "What's The Trick?".



## World's toughest row



Training underway



Not every day is calm as a mill pond

Duncan Nealon (WS 1989-96) has entered into World's Toughest Row, rowing over 3,000 miles from La Gomera to Antigua, starting December 2026.

He and teammate Darren Ariss hit all of the World's Toughest

Row's mandatory requirements a year ahead of schedule. Whilst the photos don't catalogue it (you tend not to get the camera out when you're clinging on for dear life, or swearing at a chart plotter!), training has involved pretty big weather, with strong gales and rough seas, along with equipment failures. All good preparation for what is to come. Find out more at <https://claverdonlions.com>

## Wake Up Dead Man

Leopold Hughes (WS 1999-2006), continues an amazing career as a Film Producer with the release of *Wake Up Dead Man (Knives Out 3)* which he co-produced. Screened at the Toronto Film Festival, the film was released in cinemas and on Netflix at the end of 2025.



At the London Film Festival

## Rhys Mulligan as Ron Weasley

Rhys Mulligan (WS 2014-25), features as the voice of older Ron in the new Harry Potter audiobook series with Audible. Securing a role in the audiobook adaptation of the beloved series is a remarkable achievement—made even more impressive by the fact that Rhys managed to do so while juggling the demands of his final year A Levels. With this role, Rhys adds to his resume which includes *Matilda the Musical*, *Goodnight Mr. Tom*, and *A Christmas Carol* and continues to further his passion for acting alongside his Architecture studies at The University of Liverpool.



## Trigger Point

Maanuv Thiara (WS 2001-12) returned as recently promoted DCI Amar Batra in the third series of *Trigger Point*. Batra stepped into the leadership role following the departure of Lana's former boss, intelligence officer John Francis. "It's quite exciting. Batra has had a promotion," Maanuv explained. "He's a very good detective because he's a details guy, but he's not used to being in charge, and he's not necessarily equipped to come head-to-head with such a strong personality as Lana." The new job brings intense pressure when a major case occurs before he's had time to settle in...



Maanuv Thiara, *Trigger Point* © ITV

## Wedding bells



Barney and Bethan with OW friends Fergus Wood, Rob Hazelton, Alex Domingo, Blue McWhirter, Olly Roberts, Will Stride, Sam Reay Smith and Tom Donaldson

Congratulations to Barney Sampson (WS 2007-16) who married Bethan Hudson last August. Best Man Alexander Sampson and eight OW friends were delighted to share Barney and Bethan's special day.

## The class of '69 History boys

Friends from the Class of '69 were delighted to welcome back Philip Etherington on his trip over from Perth WA. Philip, Richard Whiting, Graham Powell and Donald Agnew were joined by Roger Mitchell, their History A level teacher from 1967-69. The friends raised a glass at The Bell, Alderminster, in memory of classmate Bill Hurley who had been with them on previous occasions, but who sadly died in 2023.



The class of '69 History boys in 2025



The class of '69 History boys in 2019 with Bill Hurley, right

## Full Circle in the Alps

After more than a decade leading DM & Co, recognised among the top 2% of estate agencies in the UK, Dominic Murphy (WS 1996-2001) has stepped back into a Founder and Non-Executive role within the business and is now exploring opportunities in the Swiss Alps, where his journey in property agency first began.

Dom says: *"The past year has been one of reflection. Turning forty, getting married, and losing both my dad and grandad have been significant moments that naturally made me pause and think about the next chapter."*

*After twelve years building DM & Co, it felt like the right time to step back from the day to day and create space for new ventures.*

*Through Murfo, I am bringing together a number of projects across property, development, design and technology, while reconnecting with the Alpine property market that first introduced me to the industry.*

*It feels like something of a full circle moment, returning to the Alps where my career first began. If any fellow Old Warwickians have links to the region, or families with homes in the Alps, it would be great to reconnect."*



## Four generations at Warwick School

Nigel Robinson (WS 1955-66) was delighted to welcome his grandsons James and Edward as pupils to the school in September. Nigel, former OWA Chairman and President and Secretary of Old Warwickian Trust which supports bursaries at the school, says the boys are following in the footsteps of not just him and his brother Adrian (WS 1952-62), but the boys' great-grandparents. Harold 'HB' Robinson, joined Warwick in 1930, was Head Boy and Captain of rugby and cricket, and later was Deputy Head of the Junior School. HB's wife, Joan Orton, was a pupil at King's High School from 1928.

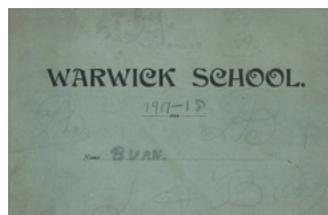


*Edward and James with their grandfather Nigel Robinson and photographs of their great-grandfather, 'HB' Robinson.*

In further Warwick Schools Foundation links, James and Edward's paternal uncle Ryan, was a pupil in the 1990s and their mother Sarah joined the Alumni and Development team last summer, a role for which she is well-prepared having first helped her father with an OW reunion 20 years ago! Sarah was baptised in Warwick School Chapel and married her husband Robert there in 2010.

Nigel said: *"I am delighted that James and Edward are continuing our family links with the school and its wonderful community. The boys are thoroughly enjoying school life and particularly love sports – playing hockey, rugby and squash. I am especially pleased that James has joined the CCF, which was one of my school highlights in the 1960s!"*

## By George



*Leslie Burn's Art Book 1917-1918*



*Drawings by Leslie Burn*

Warwick Prep former member of staff Joyce Burn (KHS 1962-69) kindly donated to the Archives a Warwick School sketchbook 1917-1918 and selection of Portcullis magazines 1915-1921, which belonged to her father-in-law Leslie Burn. Leslie, born 1902, was at Warwick School with his brother George 1913-19. Joyce's son Daniel was also at Warwick (WS 1985-96).

## An Encounter with Oscar Wilde

When John Jefferies asked the chair of the Oscar Wilde Society if she could recommend someone to speak about Oscar Wilde at Warwick School the reply was astonishing.

Neil Tittley has spent almost the last 50 years either

performing a solo show about Oscar internationally or making speeches on the subject. What is more extraordinary is that Neil was a boarder at Warwick (School House) 1957-64. The only time he had returned to Warwick since then was for a Wilde performance at the Lord Leicester Hospital in 2004.

In February, Neil returned to school for the first time in 61 years to deliver an Encounter with Oscar Wilde.



## Obituaries

**We record with regret the passing of former staff and Old Warwickians mentioned below and pass on our sympathies to their loved ones, families and friends.**

Depending on the wishes of family, obituaries will also be included on [www.oldwarwickians.org/obituaries](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/obituaries).

This is a password protected page. The email login is [obituaries@oldwarwickians.org](mailto:obituaries@oldwarwickians.org) and the password is **AltioraPeto**.

Michael L Beeston, WS 1943-48  
John Bennetts, WS Staff 1943-48  
Brian D Brooksbank, WS 1948-55  
Trevor Cardall, WS 1947-53  
Louise Fardon, WS Staff 2014-20  
Anthony Hacking KC, WS 1947-60  
Charlie Hain, WS 1999-2010  
Ellen Huitson, WS Staff 1989-2011  
John Ingram, WS 1950-56  
Eric Kennett, WS Staff 1977-90  
Michael B Mann, WS 1951-56

Anthony (Tony) A G McLellan, WS 1947-51  
David Meggitt, WS 1948-57  
John R Osmond, WS 1947-53 (Maurice) David Payne, WS 1941-48  
David F Robinson, WS 1956-63  
Capt Peter Selby, WS 1971-78  
Brig Mike Stephens, WS 1947-56  
Noel Tapper-Gray, WS Staff 2020-2025  
Peter R Wilson, WS 1950-58

# OW Sport

## OW Golf

### 2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the OW Golf Society.

We are keen to attract more OW golfers to join the OW Golf Society. Whether you've a good handicap or just enjoy a friendly round or two, Julian Marcus, Hon Sec, would love to hear from you.

E-mail: [arkvets@hotmail.com](mailto:arkvets@hotmail.com)

There are three regular events in the society's calendar:

- OW Spring Golf Meeting – usually at Tadmarton Heath GC
- OWs vs. School match – usually the end of June or early July
- OW Autumn Golf Meeting.

Also, an OW team regularly enters the Grafton Morrish former pupils competition – qualifiers take place in May (usually at Olton) and finals take place early October (at Brancaster and Hunstanton GCs).

### OW Autumn Golf Day

Stratford-on-Avon GC, Friday 19 September 2025



Malcolm Lines, Gareth Jones, Tim Harry, Richard Simmons, Iain Simmons, Piers Neville, Oliver Bates, Harry Abell, Graham Carter, Brian Woodham, Julian Marcus

Stratford-on-Avon GC played host for the 2025 OWGS Autumn Golf Day – a great day of fun, enjoyed by all. The weather was beautiful with sunny skies and light winds. This year the OW Tankards were played as foursomes over 9 holes in the morning. The usual 18-hole main event, the OW Salver, was played in the afternoon. With 7 players for the morning, and a further 7 golfers teeing it up in the afternoon, we were very happy to welcome two debutants in Graham Carter and Richard Ashworth (WS Community Engagement Officer). There were the usual quality golf ball prizes with added prizes of 2 nearest the pins, for those who were not necessarily enjoying the best of form. It gave extra incentive to aim for and rescue something from the day with one accurate shot.

#### OW Tankards

Winners – Oliver Bates and Tim Harry on 21 pts

Second – Richard and Iain Simmons on 19 pts.

#### OW Salver

Winner – Oliver Bates on 38 pts

Second – Tim Harry on 34 pts

Third – Iain Simmons on 31 pts.

#### Nearest the pin

Hole 10 – Gareth Jones; Hole 16 – Richard Simmons.

#### OW Golfer of the Year

Winner – Oliver Bates on 70 pts (32+38)

Second – Tim Harry on 68 pts (34+34)

Third – Richard Simmons on 64 pts (34+30).

### 2026 OW Golf Society Captains

Mike Barnwell has accepted the OW Captain's nomination for 2026 and Tim Harry has accepted the position of OW Vice Captain for 2026, taking up the post in 2027. We wish them every success for the coming year.



Clive Boast, Tim Shenton-Taylor and Gareth Jones

### OW Spring Golf Day

Tadmarton Heath GC – Tuesday 19 May 2026

If you'd like to play or would like further details please contact Julian Marcus on [arkvets@hotmail.com](mailto:arkvets@hotmail.com).

Everyone ALWAYS welcome, including spectators.

## OW Cross Country



Guest runner Molly, Jamie Barr, Dom Bostock, Martin Garrett, Oli Johnson, Tony McGovern and George Stingemore

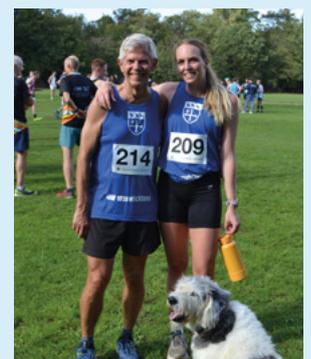
Congratulations to our OW team who ran in the 2025 Thames Hare and Hounds Alumni Race over Wimbledon Common. Special thanks to OWA President 2025 Jamie Barr who cheered on the team and provided some welcome tea, scones and homemade chocolate brownies after the race.

### 2026 Race – Saturday 12 September

The 2026 OW Cross Country Race over Wimbledon Common is likely to be on Saturday 12 September. Please save the date and run in the team if you can. We would love to field the biggest team of OWs yet!



And they're off!



Tony McGovern with daughter Molly and Mika their canine supporter

# OWs around the world

Our OW community spans the globe and we are currently in touch with 700 OWs living overseas. If you are living or travelling abroad and would like to meet up with fellow OWs for casual drinks, lunch or a more formal gathering, please reach out through [www.warwickfoundationconnect.com](http://www.warwickfoundationconnect.com) or email [WSS-Alumni@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:WSS-Alumni@warwickschools.co.uk) and we will help you connect.



The number of OWs residing in different countries outside the UK (March 2026)					
Australia	73	Hong Kong	260	Saudi Arabia	3
Austria	5	Hungary	2	Singapore	3
Belgium	4	Ireland	5	South Africa	9
Belize	1	Italy	3	South Korea	6
Bermuda	1	Japan	5	Spain	7
Brazil	1	Kazakstan	1	Sweden	3
Bulgaria	1	Kenya	3	Switzerland	6
Canada	37	Luxembourg	1	Taiwan	2
Channel Islands	4	Macau	1	Thailand	1
Cayman Islands	1	Malaysia	5	Trinidad and Tobago	1
China	42	Malta	1	Ukraine	3
Cyprus	1	Monaco	1	United Arab Emirates	17
Denmark	3	Netherlands	5	United States of America	100
Estonia	1	New Zealand	12	Vietnam	1
France	26	Oman	1	Zambia	1
Germany	21	Portugal	4	Zimbabwe	1
Gibraltar	1	Russia	2		

## Australia

Derek Shield (WS Staff 1985-2015) is always pleased to visit son-in-law Tristan Shippersides at Tristan's home in Springwood, Blue Mountains, Australia. Derek is pictured flanked by Richard Reynolds and Tristan Shippersides – both 1999 leavers.



Richard Reynolds, Fraser and Tristan Shippersides before the final Lions test against Australia in Sydney, August 2025.



## Trinidad and Tobago

Professor Mark Raymond PhD AA (Dipl) RIBA FTTIA (WS 1973-80) is a chartered architect and educator. He graduated from London's Architectural Association in 1989 and subsequently obtained a PhD through RMIT's invitational creative practice-based research programme in Barcelona. After graduating from the AA he worked with Norman Foster and Conran before returning to Trinidad where he established his own practice and worked on architectural and urban design commissions throughout the Caribbean.



## Singapore

As part of his Economics Degree at the University of Sheffield, Freddie Pullman (WS 2016-23) is enjoying a year abroad at the National University of Singapore and travelling in Asia whenever he has time off.



## Hong Kong

Ben Wiggins (WS 1996-06) is the senior figurehead for Chelsea FC across Asia, driving brand and commercial interests for Chelsea in the region by building, developing and executing key partnerships and fan engagement activities. Ben has been in Asia for nine years and is based in Hong Kong.



## Dubai

Dr David Cremonesini (WS 1983-90), a paediatric Consultant with allergy subspecialty, has been working at Mediclinic Parkview Hospital in Dubai since January 2019.

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



## USA (Colorado)

Life Sciences Data & AI Leader Dr Simon Twigger (WS 1980-87) has been in the USA for over 25 years and lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and three children. Simon helps life sciences organisations use their data and IT infrastructure more effectively. Simon also enjoys getting out on the trails and slopes of Colorado.



## South Africa

John Walker (WS 1943-52) recently enjoyed his 90th birthday at home in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.



## Brazil

Jason Dunham (WS 1985-90) moved to Brazil in 1996 and witnessed the influx of visitors for the World Cup and Olympics. Jason lives at the end of Ipanema Beach and owns and is Director of language school One English.



## Saudi Arabia

Lewis Galloway (WS 1994-2001) is working in strategic communications in the Gulf Cooperation Council. He works primarily with governments and strategic state-owned companies in Saudi Arabia as part of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 transformation.



## USA (Washington)

Will Todman (WS 1998-2009) is Chief of Staff of the Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department and a senior fellow in the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Before joining CSIS in 2016, Will worked at the Institute for the Study of International Migration, for the office of the UN special envoy to Syria, and at the British Embassy in Beirut.



## New Zealand

While travelling on South Island with his wife, Tim Harry (WS 1963-73) reached out to OWS and was delighted to meet up with Giles Gill (WS 1963-74).



If you are overseas and are happy to share an image and a line or two for the next Old Warwickian please send it to [a.douglas@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:a.douglas@warwickschools.co.uk)

# School News

Some of many stories from the Michaelmas and Lent terms capture the richness, ambition and spirit of Warwick School. Our pupils are embracing challenges, serving others, discovering new passions and celebrating the qualities that make Warwick School a place of character and purpose.

The Head Master says *“Their achievements – creative, academic, charitable, entrepreneurial and athletic – are testament to their perseverance and the tireless work of our staff”*.

## Serving our Community

Our pupils have continued to demonstrate remarkable generosity and leadership.

A pupil-led Art Auction by students from Warwick and King’s High raised over £4,500 for Kissing It Better, a charity dedicated to ending the isolation of old age by bringing generations together. Our schools have proudly supported Kissing It Better for over 15 years, from volunteering at Warwick Hospital on Friday afternoons, to collaborative art projects that have transformed wards and care spaces.



Foodbank Friday collections once again reflected the empathy and responsibility of our boys.

Movember charity fundraising activities, including a ‘Mo-Marathon’ and ‘Dough for a Bro’, raised over £23,000. Our first ever Mo-Marathon saw 252 boys each running 1km with their Houses, collectively covering the distance of six full marathons.



Warwick School pupils have supported younger children in local MAT schools, visited care settings through Kissing It Better, contributed to anti-bullying initiatives and championed sustainability.



## Excellence in Teaching and Learning

In the Junior School, our Year 5s investigated Newton’s Third Law of Motion by designing and launching their own water rockets.



Encounters deliver an exceptional programme of speakers from fields as varied as applied history, brain science, diplomacy and motor racing. View the range of upcoming Encounters on [www.warwickschool.org/Encounters](http://www.warwickschool.org/Encounters)



The Launch of the Warwick School Reading List is boosting literacy, sharpening critical thinking and opening doors to new ideas, different perspectives and deeper understanding.



Our current U6 have received varied and encouraging university offers, reflecting their hard work, talent, and commitment. Five students have received offers from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge this year, hoping to read: History at Churchill, Cambridge, Philosophy at Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, Psychology at Selwyn, Cambridge, Modern Languages at St Hugh’s, Oxford and Medicine at Churchill, Cambridge.



Thank you to all OWs who helped at our largest-ever Careers Mock Speed Interview event.



Three U6 students have received multiple offers to attend Music Conservatoires from September 2026, including Trinity Laban Conservatoire, the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Northern College of Music and Royal College of Music.



## Broadening Horizons

There have been many opportunities for pupils to broaden their horizons.

The whole-school House Shout and House Ensemble competitions provided enormous fun.



With Food Science now incredibly popular at GCSE, pupils enjoyed OW Nick Deverell-Smith's insights on being a chef. Nick left school at fifteen to study at Birmingham College of Food, then moved on to work in several Michelin Star restaurants before being chosen to be a Gordon Ramsey Scholar.



Our Year 7s made a winning debut in their first ever water polo fixture.



Our U15 rugby players reached the semi-finals of the National Cup on 8 March.

Trips across Europe and even to Japan have ensured pupils continue to learn far beyond the classroom.

An enormous cast of over 70 pupils presented Henry V, the joint Warwick and King's High Senior School production.



Latest episodes in the The Heaton Podcast (a discussion of History and Politics from teachers at Warwick School) include 'Prime Minister in Crisis: The JJ Hot Take', 'Trying to make sense of Trump' and 'Wellington to Waterloo'.

The Junior School Christmas concert put everyone in a festive mood.



In sport, boys have excelled in golf, skiing, cross-country, chess, and rugby.



Our outstanding musicians continue to represent Warwick proudly.



The Music Department was delighted to welcome Bridge Street Brass, a quintet from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, for an inspiring afternoon of music-making and collaboration.



## Knowing the Individual

Above all, our commitment to Knowing the Individual remains our central priority.

Benji, our newest wellbeing dog, has settled beautifully into school life, joining Agatha in providing warmth and reassurance to pupils who need a moment of calm.



Our Yondr phone-free initiative has had a powerful contribution to improving focus, relationships and wellbeing across Years 7-11.

In the Junior School, the Playground Pals initiative continues to give pupils a friendly face at break and lunch times.



# Warwick Schools Foundation and Community

The Michaelmas and Lent terms are always full of wonderful activities and events which provide our pupils with an outstanding range of experiences at whichever of our Foundation schools they attend.

## Thanksgiving

Our annual Foundation Service of Thanksgiving was held in the Collegiate Church of St Mary at the start of the academic year, bringing together pupils, staff, parents, alumni and Governors. The service provided the platform for outstanding music-making from all our schools and was an historic moment as we welcomed the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust schools to the service for the first time.



Trumpeters at the Foundation Service of Thanksgiving

Clapham Terrace Community Primary School and Nursery, Evergreen School and Westgate Primary School have each unveiled a commemorative plaque recognising their founding role in the creation of the Trust.



## Hedgerow Heroes

Warwick Schools Foundation was proud to partner with Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust to plant more than 120 metres of new hedgerow. The project forms part of CPRE's nationwide initiative, Hedgerow Heroes, launched in 2021 to support the national campaign to increase the number of hedgerows by 40% by 2050.

Around 130 pupils from Warwick Preparatory School, Warwick Junior School, King's High School, Warwick School and Westgate Primary School took part in the project through their respective Eco-clubs. These clubs champion action to protect our environment for future generations of pupils, and so they were thrilled to be involved in this opportunity.

Pupils planted 120 metres of a diverse mix of native British hedgerows. As well as contributing to the local wildlife habitats, the project aimed to inspire individuals and give a greater understanding of hedgerows and the important role they play in sustaining our environment and supporting wildlife.



Hedgerow Heroes

## The Floreat Society

In February, Warwick Schools Foundation alumni and friends gathered for our annual Floreat Society Lunch. The Society exists to thank those who have chosen to leave a gift to their school in their will, and to honour members who are no longer with us.

Emily Gladman, Head of Philanthropy, commented: *"Leaving a donation to Warwick School in your will is the best way to ensure your legacy will live on to shape the lives of generations to come. It is one of the most personal gifts you can make, and deserving of special recognition, so it was a pleasure and an honour to learn more about each person's connections to the schools"*.

A heartfelt acknowledgment to everyone who joined us for the first time this year, as well as to those who attended in remembrance of loved ones. We look forward to warmly welcoming even more familiar and new faces at the 2027 lunch.

If you would like to learn more about the Floreat Society or leaving a gift in your will, please contact Emily Gladman on [e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk) or call 01926 776403.



The 2026 Floreat Lunch

## Kissing It Better

Empowering our young people to be positive contributors to society is at the heart of our educational offering at the Foundation, and we encourage students to take part in charity work during their time with us and beyond. Over the years, many OWs have volunteered with Kissing It Better; a charity partner for all schools on our Warwick campus, whose mission is to positively impact the lives of older people and those with chronic and terminal illnesses.

This year is the 16th year of working with Kissing it Better. Students from Year 1 all the way to Year 13 continue to contribute their time to visiting hospitals and care homes to brighten up the life of residents or those who are terminally ill.

“Studying Medicine at Keele University, I genuinely don’t think I’d be here without the experience I gained through Kissing it Better – it really helped shape my understanding of patient care and is certainly helping me in my community placements. Thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of it”  
Thuwaaragan Vivekananthan, WS 2017-24

## Venue Hire

Warwick School and the wider Warwick Schools Foundation offer an outstanding collection of versatile spaces for private hire on our Warwick campus and at Kingsley School in the heart of Leamington Spa.

Our venues provide perfect choices and settings for events of all sizes from 15 to 1,000. Whether you are looking for a wedding venue, dining room, meeting space or somewhere for a large special event, our Events and Hospitality team can make it happen.

Event options include:

- Conferences, meetings and events
- Weddings and fully catered celebrations
- Dinners and special occasions
- Music performances and productions, theatre hire
- Residential events, sports and fitness activities.

Warwick Schools Foundation is one of the largest educational charities in the country. This means that the money you spend with us will help to unlock access to a transformational education for a wider range of young people than ever before. **For more information:** [www.wsvvenuesandevents.org/warwickvenues](http://www.wsvvenuesandevents.org/warwickvenues)



Learn more about our Foundation and MAT schools, life beyond school and our community activities at [www.warickschoolsfoundation.co.uk](http://www.warickschoolsfoundation.co.uk)

## The King’s Singers Charity Gala Concert

**Friday 18 September, 19:30**  
**Warwick Hall, Warwick School**

World-renowned a cappella group The King’s Singers will be performing a Charity Gala Concert in Warwick Hall on Friday 18 September at 19:30. The singers will perform a varied programme featuring ancient music all the way through to folk, jazz and pop. There’s something for everyone! The concert will be followed by a drinks reception, which is included in the ticket price.

For the group’s countertenor, Edward Button (WS 1997-2008), this is a very special occasion to be able to perform back at school and to be raising money for local charity, The Rufus Trust, of which he is a trustee. The Rufus Trust (formerly Rufus’ Friends’ Fund) provides grants to low-income families in Warwickshire who have a member with learning disabilities, allowing them to benefit from a much-needed break, holiday or trip, and giving families and carers some respite.

In 2026 The Rufus Trust is starting a partnership with Warwick Schools Foundation to provide funding for the holiday respite programme at Evergreen School, for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. Evergreen is now a member of the Foundation’s Multi Academy Trust.

Book your concert tickets from the Bridge House Theatre on <https://www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/show/the-kings-singers-charity-gala-concert/>

If you cannot attend the concert but would like to support the work of The Rufus Trust, you can make a donation at <https://cafonline.org/30000#!/DonationDetails>



# Igniting Futures

## Unlocking the next generation

Warwick School transforms lives through the power of education. We are proud to offer around 130 bursary places at Warwick and our other Foundation family schools. These bursaries enable children from a wide range of backgrounds to benefit from a Foundation education.

We want to be a force for good locally, helping children beyond our school gates to benefit from educational opportunities.

In partnership with other local schools and charitable trusts, we run science workshops, maths tuition programmes, drama, music, arts and sports taster classes. We provide free swimming lessons for local families who would struggle to cover this cost themselves, and we fund spaces on our holiday activity programme.

As a non-profit charity, and with no government funding, we contribute what we can, but rely on philanthropy to fund much of this work.

### Danny's Story



*"The bursary programme at Warwick played a crucial role in my decision to attend – I consider it one of the best decisions I have ever made. At Warwick, I learned the importance of curiosity and of cultivating a broad, open-minded perspective."*

*"Financial support programmes such as bursaries help ensure that intellectual curiosity and talent, rather than financial circumstances, determine a student's future."*

Jaeyong (Danny) Han, WS 2008-15



**A wide choice of subjects**  
Supported by expert teaching



**Igniting futures**  
Unlocking the next generation



**Specialist career support**  
Preparing for life beyond school



**Music, drama, sport**  
Exceptional co-curricular provision



**Character that lasts**  
Ready for tomorrow's world

In order to help more children benefit from a Warwick education in future, we are inviting our whole community to join together to ignite the futures of the next generation.

## How you can help

On Thursday 18 and Friday 19 June 2026, we will be holding a fundraising extravaganza at Warwick to celebrate the difference we have already been able to make through our bursary programme, to thank those who have contributed, and launch our long-term campaign to raise enough money to fund another 100 free places.

Here's how you can get involved:

- 1) On 18 or 19 June, check out our 'Igniting Futures' website (we will share the link with you nearer the time) and online social media posts on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram; 'like' and share with your network
- 2) Make your own gift and post a message on our online donor wall (live from late May)
- 3) Tell others about how they can join in to give future generations from any background the chance of a Warwick education.

# Warwick School Archive

## Warwick School CCF Signals Section

Warwick School Archives has received a fascinating memoir from Nick Braine (WS 1952-60) about his time in the subterranean radio rooms underneath the main body of the school.

P N G Whitlam, affectionately known as "Peewit", ran the section. His service as physics technician, and a lot more besides, ran from 1920 to 1964. He was a qualified radio amateur, holding the callsign 6PW, which would later become G6PW. Warwick School CCF (or Officer Training Corps, or Cadet Corps, as it originally was called) was under the umbrella of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, having been founded in 1884 by a former pupil, Colonel Samuel William Cooke.

All cadets in the CCF received some sort of wireless training. At first this would have been exclusively by means of Morse Code, and contacts would have been limited to other school radio stations, discussing such interesting topics as the weather. The successful transmission and reception of signals depended on the power of the transmitter, and also the correct length (and height) of the aerial, or antenna.

The equipment that Nick Braine remembers are a Wireless Set No. 12 transmitter, and a receiver R107, both dating from the early 1940s. He recalls working in the basement: *"This fascinating underworld of the structure of the school is where one learned about the laying out, splicing together of land lines, the use of field telephones and stuff about batteries and so on. The storage of the back-pack radios used on field exercises was there, too. The cellar also became a bit of a hobby centre, with people creating crystal receivers and a few things like that. The Advanced Signals Section was in the roof next to Peewit's rooms in the tower. The main activity was a rota for the transmission and receipt of the weather reports from all the schools on net. The running of the net changed from school to school periodically. The call sign went out on the dot by reference to the atomic clock at Rugby radio station".*

The weather station was in a louvered box on the front lawn, and as far as Nick remembers, was manned solely by Peewit, as he couldn't get anyone else to do it. He passed on the details for transmission each day. The rain was collected in a graduated glass tube and Nick thinks that there was a barometer.

Nick wasn't too happy about Field Days: *"Three or four of us in the section had to lug the whole lot onto the playing field, set up a trestle table, a field aerial and a tent, hook the whole lot up and try and contact another school, using voice contacts on AM, by arrangement. Usually the connection failed or was very bad. We should have used Morse code which we could just about manage, and we would have got through. And then, of course after the whole pointless operation we had to take it all back again".*



The Wireless Set



Wiring preparations for the 1953 Coronation



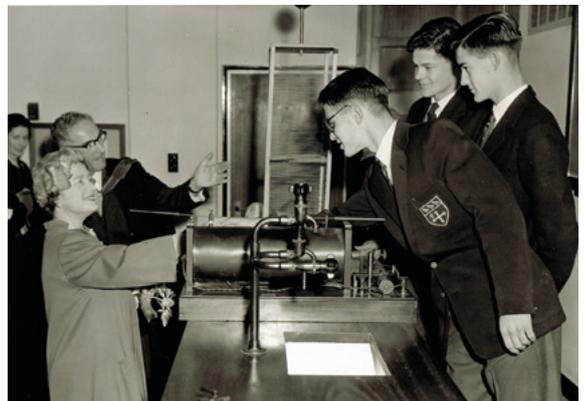
Peewit



1950s Aerial view



Radio sets



Visit by the Queen Mother in 1958 – Tesla Coil demonstration by Science Sixth Formers



Erecting wireless masts

# OW Adventures

To coincide with Warwick School’s summer Arts Festival, which has the theme of ‘Adventures’, we are putting together an online gallery showcasing ‘OW Adventures’ of all kinds.

The gallery will feature powerful images capturing extraordinary OW moments and achievements. Adventures might reflect:

- Physical feats (endurance challenges, explorations, athletic accomplishments)
- Mental achievements (intellectual breakthroughs, creative marathons, personal growth journeys)
- Unique challenges overcome
- Bold, unconventional, or inspiring life experiences
- Or just something fun.

If you have an image that tells the story of a meaningful challenge, triumph, or remarkable adventure, please email it to: [a.douglas@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:a.douglas@warwickschools.co.uk) with a sentence or two describing the experience behind the image – what made it remarkable, what it means to you. If you prefer, your image can be anonymous.

The gallery will be promoted on our school and alumni websites, in a display during the summer Arts Festival and in The Old Warwickian.



Warwick School on safari 1985



Star Wars adventures, Leo Hughes



Duncan Nealon, currently training to row the Atlantic



Hot air balloonist Marcus Green in the Alps near Salzburg en route to Italy



Alex Twist, motorcycle adventures in Nepal



WS Adventurous Training 2012



Blast Wall, Camp Bastion, from Brig (then Lt Col) Jaish Mahan, the last British Medical Commander in Afghanistan, 2014



The 1951 Cycling tour to the Rhineland



Dan Byles



Andy Alsop

# Thank you

## Thank you to every member of our community who has given back to Warwick School and Warwick Schools Foundation, in whatever ways they are able.

Earlier this year, we shared our 2024-25 Impact Report, highlighting the many ways our students' lives have been changed by the generosity of OWs and friends of the school. From widening access to education through bursaries, to being a force for good in the local community, to the ongoing impact of inspirational study spaces and creative facilities, the support of our donors continues to shape present experiences and future possibilities.

Our students stand on the shoulders of those who came before, and we are proud to celebrate what we continue to achieve together because of the generosity of our Old Warwickians.

To learn more about how giving back makes a difference to our students, see our Donor Impact Report on: [www.oldwarwickians.org/ImpactReport](http://www.oldwarwickians.org/ImpactReport)

If you'd like to discuss how you can give back to Warwick School, please contact Emily Gladman:

[e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk)  
01926 776403

or scan here to make a donation.



### 2024-25 Donor Impact at a Glance



From our latest audited accounts in 2023-24, the total spent on bursaries across the Foundation was **£1,291,620**.

**1 in 15** of our WSF senior school students receives a means-tested bursary place.



Warwick Schools Foundation

**Donor Impact Report**

2024-25



*"It's hard to say where I'd be without a bursary. What I can say with confidence is that it's*

*shaped who I am today. The confidence and life skills I have developed, the way I present myself and the way I navigate life is because of how the school supported and nurtured me."*

**David Crowther, WS 2010-17**



Nigel Robinson (left) and Clive Mason (right), fellow members of the Floreat Society, enjoyed reading Nigel Thompson's (centre) account of why leaving a gift to the school in his will is important to him, as featured in the Impact Report



Made possible by donors, the Corps of Drums has been revived, complete with new instruments, drum major staff and contingent banners

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