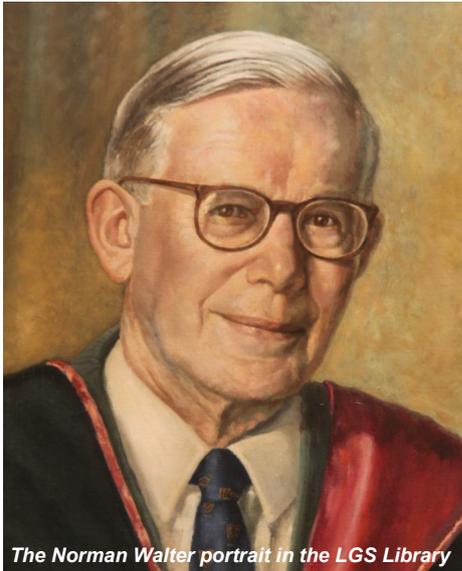


Quad

No 2 Autumn 2012



The Norman Walter portrait in the LGS Library

Head-to-Head in Sri-Lanka

Paul Fisher meets the heritage of Norman Walter, Headmaster 1959-73

foundation (1872) and still has 800 Christian boys among its huge total of 3500.

My main purpose was to see what

they had made of Norman Walter in his first headship before he came to Loughborough in 1959 and how they had preserved his memory ... and in this I was not disappointed. It was clear from the portrait in the Library to the

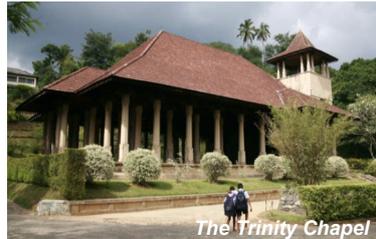
plaque on the wall of the block named for him that he remains very much part of the school still. His name and photograph feature prominently in the entrance hall and the written record of his five years as Principal describes a time of astonishing achievement and educational advancement, the result of his energy and focus on matters both practical and intellectual.

At the centre of the school was the most beautiful Christian Chapel, open at the sides to the elements and based on the traditional Sinhalese Audience Hall with its forest of stone pillars. The graceful rafters and tiled roof were Norman

Walter's contribution and it was very easy to stand in the beautiful space in front of the empty benches and imagine Norman addressing his boys.

Before leaving I was able to meet the current Principal,

easy to imagine Norman addressing his boys



The Trinity Chapel

Brigadier Aryatne. His rank and soldier's background emphasised similarities and a difference between LGS and Trinity. We share impressive memorials to the dead of the two world wars but at Trinity a very recent memorial had just been established to the dead of what they call "The Thirty Years War" in which fifteen of their former pupils had been killed serving in the armed forces. *Respice finem*, look to the end, is the school motto and it sits well with the palpable national consensus to put the civil war behind them and bring the country together. In this, as in all other ways, Trinity expects its boys to be taking the lead.

Paul Fisher

to see what they had made of Norman Walter in his first headship

It took all morning to drive the 100 miles or so from Aluthgama on the south-west coast of Sri Lanka to Kandy in order to visit Trinity College, Norman Walter's former school.

On arrival I was met by the Principal's secretary and introduced to my guide Shane De Silva, Master i/c of Cricket, a Christian, teacher of Theology and Boarding House-master - a formidable and familiar range of responsibilities.

Cricket, it was clear, was of the highest standard here but when I met the school librarian and was taken round the prized school archives, I realised we had much more in common. Three-quarters of the Sri Lankan population are Buddhists but Trinity is a Christian



The Sign on Norman's block

Time gentlemen please - for Pullinger and for pupils



The Pullinger Block goes to the scaffold

LGS has always prided itself on the absence of bells at the beginning and end of lessons. Now the big new clock in the Sixth Form Centre, gift of the OLA, keeps pupils punctual. Behind Red House the time has finally come for the Pullinger Block to go to the scaffold - and to rise again as the final member of the Science and Mathematics Park.



The new clock in the Sixth Form Centre

The First 100 Years of the OLA *gleanings from our magazine*

Neil Rowbotham



First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, London in 1883

The Association was formed on 14th January 1887 at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn but not all went smoothly at the beginning. It began a magazine "The Loughburian" which the school took over in 1891 but then it died and was resurrected by the Association 8 years later. The Association itself seems to have run out of steam during the First World War (no surprise there!) but was revived in 1920 and has served OLs continuously ever since .



A Smoking Concert

Old Boys' Days featured heavily from 1920 onwards – often involving cricket matches versus the school, swimming galas and tennis tournaments. Later Triennial Reunions replaced the "At Homes". Various clubs have been started with a pattern of an early blossoming being followed by leaner years – all shown by soccer, tennis, swimming, badminton and cricket. There were some intriguing activities – the 1933 Smoking Concert and the 1934 Flannel Dance were two which caught the eye.



Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, Fleet St, London today

The 1934 London Dinner was held at "Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese" in Fleet Street with intriguing details. The main course of a pudding of steak, kidney and oysters was followed by pancakes and toasted cheese. It was pleasing to see that "there was an ample supply of sawdust on the stairs".



The Colgrove chair in the Burton Chapel - 1931

The magazines show a number of projects supported by the Association: a chair in the Burton Chapel was dedicated to Mr. Colgrove; a War memorial Screen in the Parish Church as well as a bronze tablet in school; pullovers sent to OLs who were prisoners of war and a 100 cigarettes sent to all OLs serving overseas. An appeal led to an annuity being set up to provide an income for Mrs. James, widow of a long serving staff member, but she didn't live long enough to enjoy the benefits.



The School Gates - 1964

The Loughburian reports, "The school now possesses a pair of handsome gates presented by **WA Deakin (1902-10)** who has done so much for the Association over the years. Each gate is embellished with the school crest and the work was executed by **Mr Ken Ward (1952-84)** of the school staff."



Lemyngton Street on the corner of Beacon Bingo today

Lemyngton Street in Loughborough, was named as such after pressure from the Association in acknowledgement of the contribution of Ralph Lemyngton to the founding of the school. It seems that the school arms are those of Ralph Lemyngton, the first feoffe (trustee) of Thomas Burton's Charity and Loughborough's most prominent citizen of his day. The Association still features his arms on its badge although the school adopted a stylized logo some years ago.

Dinner Fit for a Lord The OLA dinner at the House of Lords 26th October 2012

The dinner was over-subscribed but I was lucky. It doesn't come much posher than this. It was faultless.

My guided tour was led by **Stephen de Winton (1970-78)**. In a miasma of self-importance I wanted to show off and state that I had been to the House of Lords before but our guide gently revealed my ignorance and thankfully filled all the gaps about our Mother of Parliaments. A uniformed gentleman asked us to wait, (over-long?), before entering the Lords' Chamber which gave me a teeny bit of sympathy with ex Chief Whip Andrew Mitchell.



Lord Elton speaks to the OLA

I cannot speak for the Home and Attlee Rooms but mercifully the heating was kept low on the Cholmondeley Terrace where I was. It gets hot in a dinner jacket!

Food delicious - not too much. Service - excellent. Wine, "House Red" – geddit?

Lord Elton (1962-67), our host, taught history at LGS (and for some reason taught me RI). He gave a speech of clarity and sagacity on politics and education. We were encouraged to claim there is no guarantee that privilege fosters wisdom. We are lucky that Lord Elton, an hereditary peer, is a man of intellectual standing who is permitted voice and influence in our country and who was given a leg-up by fortune of birth. The OLA should publish his brilliant speech.

Bill Brookman (1966-73)

The Other London Dinner



We always knew that the class of '82 were a bit unusual and some of them are determined to remind us why. When the venue for the annual OLA London dinner (the House of Lords) was announced, everyone else responded by booking very quickly. But some folks decided to book a non-refundable hotel in London and then wait several weeks before getting round to booking the dinner itself. Unfortunately, all the spaces had been filled by then so, determined not to waste their hotel rooms, they decided to get together anyway and proceeded to round up a few mates to join in. A spokesman, who asked to remain anonymous, gave an exclusive insight to *Quad*. "When we realised we'd missed the dinner, we did spend several months wondering whether we could slip into the House of Lords anyway but once we realised that most of us could no longer fit into our DJs, we gave up and decided to concentrate on finding somewhere which allowed late night drinking instead. Apparently it was after 1am by the time they chucked us out," McCunn continued, "though luckily the Travelodge did have a 24 hour bar." As far as we can tell, they all enjoyed themselves and there is a fair chance they'll be at the real OLA London dinner next year if anyone else wants to take the risk of joining them.

Paul McCunn

Where are they now?



After leaving LGS **John Aram (1984-92)** moved to Madrid as Head of Creative Arts at the British Council School. He writes, "In 1996 I moved with my wife, Véronique, to Switzerland where she began working as a translator at the World Trade Organisation. I worked as a jazz musician and have recorded with some of the "living" jazz greats throughout Europe and the US. The last five years I have been working, touring and recording with Phil Collins. I continue to teach at the International School of Geneva, where I am Head of Music. Please check out my website www.johnaram.com and send me a message!



Denise Squire (1991-2005) reports: "I left LGS to take on the role of Mum. With my husband Richard we now have two young boys, Jacob who is almost 7 years old and attends Fairfield Prep school and Austin who is 2. We live in Leicester but travel to the Endowed Schools daily with Jacob and so still have close ties with LGS."



Nigel Paddock (1974-81 and 1988-98) was, until recently, a boarding and Senior Housemaster at Oakham School. In 2011 he left the House to be in charge of the Admissions Department. His wife Jane also teaches at Oakham and their eldest son Tom has just started at University. Nigel is still involved in sport (rugby, soccer and golf) but finally stopped playing league cricket in 2010. Contact via nsp@oakham.rutland.sch.uk

In the News

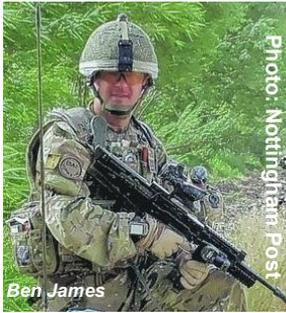


Photo: Nottingham Post

On 26th March the **Nottingham Post** reported that **Ben James** (1992-99) had been Mentioned in Dispatches for his action while commanding a foot patrol in the Surdigar area of Afghanistan in June last year. When it came under attack, "Ben took control of the deteriorating situation and, despite the incoming enemy fire landing just metres away, he stood and pulled his soldiers to nearby cover and a position where they could begin a counter attack. He then led his soldiers in a 400 metre charge at the enemy, while some of his soldiers remained to give covering fire. The insurgents were so surprised by the turn of events that they fled, with Ben continuing to chase one insurgent a further 200 metres."



Giles Upton (right) at the launch of "The Bleeding Land"

Giles Upton (1987-94) who writes under the name Giles Kristian, was all over the cover of the Writer's Forum magazine in October as he promoted his latest novel, "The Bleeding Land." "His battle scenes are bone-crunchingly good" read one review. He is clearly an OL of whom the English Department (or should it be the rugby coaches?) can be proud.

In October it was announced that **Simon Timson** (1982-89), currently head of the England development programme and science and medicine at the England and Wales Cricket Board, will take over as performance director at UK Sport, funding agency for Olympic sport. He will be charged with carrying on from Team GB's best performance in 104 years. Sports Minister, Hugh Robertson commented, "Simon Timson has an excellent track record both in high-performance sport and academically in sports science," he said. "His experience as an Olympic performance director as well as his time at the ECB, where he helped England become the best cricket team in the world, will be a big asset to elite sport in the UK as we look to move forward from the fantastic performances at London 2012."



Simon Timson

Future events

For more details please visit www.olaoga.co.uk
email honsecola@lesgrammar.org
or events@lesbursary.co.uk
or contact Hannah on 01509 638920

January 2013

Sat 25 Oxbridge Dinner, Jesus' College, Cambridge 8 pm. Open to alumni of LHS & LGS who are current undergraduates or graduates of Oxford and Cambridge Universities and those OLs and OGs living in the area. £47 (£25 students) following the Choristers' Evensong in the College Chapel at 6.30 pm.

February

Thur 21 Evening Drinks & Light Buffet Pitcher & Piano, Bristol 6.30 pm-8.30 pm. Tickets £15 (£7.50 students) OLs, OGs, former staff and parents all welcome.

March

Sat 9 Evening Drinks & Light Buffet Café Rouge, Durham 6.30 pm-8.30 pm. Tickets £15 (£7.50 students) OLs, OGs, former staff and parents all welcome.

Sat 16 The OLA and OGA Loughborough Dinner Burton Hall, 7.15 pm for 8.00 pm **Black Tie. £37.50 (£35 if booked before 16th January).**

Our guest speaker will be Giles Kristian (Giles Upton at LGS) – lead singer of a pop group, actor, model, and best-selling author. See enclosed flyer.

April

Thur 18 Drinks and nibbles at Lichfield Cathedral at 6.30 pm following Choristers' Evensong at 5.30 pm OLs, OGs, former staff & parents all welcome.

June

Thur 6 Evening Drinks & Light Buffet, London Rowing Club, Putney. Tickets £15 (£10 students) 6.30 pm-8.30 pm. OLs, OGs, former staff and parents all welcome.

Sat 15 2003 Leavers' 10 Year Reunion LES 7.15 pm Tickets £38

Coming soon - The Justice Issue!!



Calling all OLs who serve or have served as QCs - JPs - SCs - PCs - DCs - DIs - Barristers - Solicitors - Jurors - Prison Officers - Prison Visitors - Prisoners - Probation Officers - Defence Counsel - Prosecuting Counsel.

We need you to share your experience for the 2013 OLA Magazine.
Contact Hon. Editor: Tony Cox honeditorola@gmail.com