OLD MILLFIELDIAN SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2024

Welcome to the OM Autumn Newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the highlights from the OM community over the past few months, including the most recent OM news and forthcoming events.

We are appreciative of our alumni's continuous engagement and will always be in amazement of your remarkable accomplishments. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us so that we may also celebrate your achievements, as we always enjoy hearing about them and sharing them with the community.

90th Anniversary Events

MILLFIELD'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2025, Millfield will commemorate its 90th anniversary and there are numerous ways to participate in the celebrations.

What can I do now to get involved?

1. Email us with your 3 favourite members of Millfield staff during your time at the school.
2. Share with us your Millfield memories and photos of your time at the school by filling out this form.
3. Send in a video of yourself wishing Millfield a "Happy Birthday!" to the OM Office email below.

Please be aware, any content that you send in may be used across our social media platforms. If you wish to remain anonymous, please disclose this within your email.

To get involved please email us directly: omoffice@millfieldschool.com

90th Anniversary Events

FOUNDERS DAY EVENTS - GET INVOLVED

OM Open Art Exhibition - 26 Feb - 22 Mar 2025



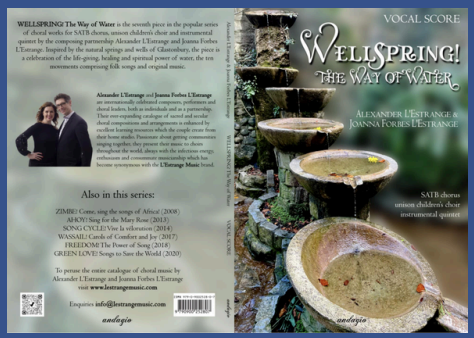
ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS UNTIL 12 JAN

In celebration of Millfield School's 90th Anniversary, the Atkinson Gallery invites Old Millfieldian artists to take part in a special open exhibition.
Whether you're an emerging talent or an established creator, we welcome submissions from all artistic backgrounds and mediums.

Go to our website for more details and to submit your work by clicking here.
© Imogen Hogan, Fisherwoman

Wells Cathedral Concert - 1 Mar 2025

Calling all OM Choral Enthusiasts!



We would love for you to film yourself singing one of the SATB parts of movement 6 - 'Still Waters' – We will then create a film of OMs to perform alongside the live musicians in Wells Cathedral.

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: 4 DEC 2024

Calling all OM String Players!



Clive Hughes, Head of Strings, would like to extend an invitation to come along and perform in the 90th anniversary concert commemorating the founding of Millfield School.

EXPRESS INTEREST BY: 29 NOV 2024

For full details and how to get involved in the Well Cathedral Concert, please click here!

90th Anniversary Events

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Sydney, Australia - 22 - 24 Aug 2025



A once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy three days with Old Millfieldians in one of the most exciting cities in the world. Come and connect with old friends and make some new ones. We welcome OMs, and partners, from across the globe to attend.

Click here for more information and to register your interest!

!! MORE 90TH EVENTS TBA !!
To ensure you are receiving comms about all upcoming events, please be sure to update your details with us here.

OM of the Year

★★★★★

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

It's that time of year again, where we begin to recognise the amazing achievements of our alumni. Nominations open until November 4, 2024.

Do you know an exceptional OM who has excelled in their career or made a remarkable difference in their community? If so, please nominate them here. Let's celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni together!

2024 Leavers

WELCOME TO THE OM SOCIETY

We are delighted to welcome the newest members to our alumni community, the 2024 leavers. Your journey has just begun, and we are excited to see how you will continue to grow and make an impact in the world. As you embark on your new chapters, remember that you are part of a vibrant and supportive network. We encourage you to stay connected, share your experiences, and take advantage of the resources available to you.

OM Community News



ARTWORK COLLECTION

There is still artwork being held that is available to be picked up.

This message is for all A Level Art, A Level Photography or BTEC Art & Design students who left between the years 22-24, and GCSE Art 23/24 leavers.

- 23/24 leavers – Your work is available to collect until October 2025.
- 22/23 leavers – Your work is available to collect until October 2025. Please note, if you studied BTEC Art & Design, your work will only be available to collect after November 4th, 2024.

Any uncollected work by the deadline specified will be disposed of.
To arrange collection or discuss alternative arrangements, please contact artoffice@millfieldschool.com at least 7 days in advance.



OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

It was a whirlwind summer for our OMs competing in the Paris Olympics, so to celebrate the remarkable achievements, we have put together a full breakdown of the Millfield representatives at the Games, including the full schedule and results, athlete spotlights and some exclusive behind-the-scene images. Click here to read.

TEAM WILD WAVES BREAK MULTIPLE OCEAN ROWING RECORDS

OM Jessica Oliver with best friend Charlotte Harris formed "Team Wild Waves" and have broken multiple ocean rowing records. To read all about the journey and experience, Click Here!

(Image: Worlds Toughest Row, Syvret Media / SWNS)



OM Community News



WE GO AGAIN STUDIOS

OMs Arthur Lok, a former Olympian, and Tom Day, an award-winning director, founded the successful creative production studio 'We Go Again' last year.

Their first film 'Battle of the Baddest' charted in Netflix's 'Top 10 Films' during its opening week.

We caught up with Arthur and Tom to find out about their journey and latest projects via a Q&A.

Read the article here.

OM CHARLIE TOKELEY IN HISTORIC EXPLORATION IN CHILEAN PATAGONIA

OM Charlie Tokeley recently took part in a historic exploration of one of the world's largest and least explored pro-glacial lakes, Greve Lake in Chilean Patagonia - only once in record history had Greve Lake been visited. Read all about it here.





OM VISITS

We were delighted to welcome back two OMs, whose friendship has lasted since their time at Millfield since the early 70s, both of which were members of Kingweston. Will Chang (1970-74) and Martin Craigs (1969-74) were delighted to be back on site, both noting the remarkable changes to the campus since their time as students. The visit also included a tour of Kingweston, where they were met by Gavin Catto, Chair of the OM Society.

Upcoming OM Events

FINANCE INDUSTRY DRINKS



Thursday, 14 November 18:30-21:00
The Banker, London
EC4, Cousin Lane, London, EC4R 3TE

BUY TICKETS

OM RUGBY LUNCH AND GAME



Saturday, 30 November 12:30-16:30
Millfield Senior School
Street, Somerset BA16 0YD

BUY TICKETS

SAVE THE DATE:
OM Christmas Drinks London - Thursday 5 December 2024

Reunions for OMs by OMs

CLASS OF 2014 TEN YEAR REUNION



Friday, 17 January 18:00
The Lilly Langtry
19 Lillie Road, Fulham, London, SW6 1UE

RSVP

CLASS OF 1995 THIRTY YEAR REUNION



Saturday, 3 May 16:00-Midnight
Coppa Club
Coppa Club, The Great House, Sonning.

FIND OUT MORE

Past OM Events



CLASS OF 2004 TWENTY YEAR REUNION

On October 4th, the Class of 2004 gathered to cheers to twenty years since leaving Millfield. The event was held at The Sydney Arms in London and the place was absolutely booming for this sell out event. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the evening a great success. It was wonderful to watch everybody enjoying themselves, reconnect and reminisce about the good old days!

Click here to find the full album and download images of the evening.



CLASS OF 2019 FIVE YEAR REUNION

On October 11th, over 120 Class of 2019 OMs gathered to celebrate five years since leaving Millfield. The event was held at B Club London and what a night it was! Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the evening a great success. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Click here to find the full album and download images of the evening.

Obituaries

SIMON STOKES (1971-74; CHINDIT)

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Simon Stokes, who has passed away at the age of 69.



Simon excelled in athletics and football during his time at school, as well as being a very good student academically.

Over the years, he has supported the OM annual golf society day, initially partnered by his father, and more recently by his school friends from Millfield. He was running with a former pupil and Chindit Housemate when he suffered cardiac arrest.

His close OM colleagues are naturally devastated by the loss of Simon; he has been a friend to us for over 50 years. He retained a passion for sport over the years, was apparently fit playing tennis and golf regularly, and in recent years represented Wales seniors at both tennis and walking football.

Simon leaves a wife Carolè, 3 daughters, and 4 grandchildren. He will be missed by so many.

A full tribute and reflections to Simon has been written up by close friends and OMs, Kevin Marshall, Malcolm Ball, Peter Ratcliffe and Simon Phillips, including images of Simon during his time at Millfield and onwards. Please click here to read. From reading the words of Simons close friends, you get to know that Simon was a loyal friend, devoted family man, great sportsman, a real jokester, and all round great man.

“He was one of a kind and we will all sorely miss you.”

Obituaries

RICHARD HICKMET (1963-66; ST ANNES)

We are saddened to share that OM Richard Hickmet, Conservative MP and barrister, has passed away at the age of 76.

During Richard's time at Millfield, he discovered his love for cricket, riding, and his talents as a disciplinarian. Richard first met OM Susan Ludwig, as she was then known, at Millfield. She would later become his devoted wife. They married in September 1973, and there followed an action-packed happy marriage of 50 years.

In 1983, Richard became the first OM to have been elected to the British parliament when he gained success by winning Glanford & Scunthorpe for the Tories, a career highlight for a man who cared deeply about politics. Throughout his career, he was known as a passionate debater and a skilled orator.

Richard loved and was devoted to his family. He leaves behind his wife, Sue, and three daughters: Sophie, Katie and Lucy. Please keep Richard's family and friends in your thoughts during this difficult time. He will be dearly missed by many.

A Full obituary is available to read in this article by The Times.

Richard's sister, Suzy Hickmet, recalls a vignette from his time at Millfield:

My brother's English tutor was Robert Bolt (later knighted, who wrote the screenplay of A Man For All Seasons).

Following a school performance as Becket in Murder in the Cathedral (which Bolt directed), Bolt told our mother that it was the finest amateur dramatic performance he'd ever seen.

Requiescat in Pace.

SARAH CHAMPION MEMORIAL

We appreciate everyone who attended Sarah's memorial on Saturday 21st September. If you were unable to attend, please find the filmed recording of the service here.

Obituaries

ANDREW SYMMES (1987-88; MPS, 1988-93; DAY)

We are saddened to share the news that Andrew Symmes died unexpectedly in his sleep at his home in Dandong, China on October 4th 2024, shortly before his 50th birthday.

Andrew was a very popular member of the school, first at Edgarley where his parents ran Hollies boarding house, then at the Senior School, from 1987 to 1993. He was a keen musician and basketball player, well loved for his good humour and wit; this was perhaps not always as appreciated by his patient teachers, particularly his long-suffering basketball coach and mentor, Ian Hunt!

After qualifying as a nurse he worked in London in the Mental Health field. He then moved to Hong Kong and on to China in 2010 to teach English in Dandong, where he met his wife Olivia. They married in 2013 and have a daughter Rosie who is in secondary school.

He was well known for his musical talents, particularly singing and playing the guitar and harmonica. He loved performing and was a regular at many live music spots in Dandong both individually and with his band – a hit with the locals. He always acknowledged his debt to his guitar teacher at Millfield, the late great Pat Benham.

Lindsay, Brian and Emily were able to join his Chinese family and friends at his cremation in Dandong on 20th October.

Messages of sympathy for the family can be sent via Roger Parsons: parsons.r@millfieldschool.com

To submit an obituary for an OM, please email omoffice@millfieldschool.com.

Click here to read all submitted obituaries.

OM Office News



OM LINKEDIN

Did you know? We have a private LinkedIn group that has been created exclusively for OMs to network. While there are restrictions on our other social platforms, you can utilise this platform for business advertisements and seeking career opportunities. Request to join today by clicking here.

MESSAGE FROM ANDREW COOK
FORMER OMS HEAD OF DEPT



It is with great sadness that I have moved on from Millfield at the end of the Summer, it's been an absolute honour to be custodian of the Millfield Foundation and OM Society over the last few years. Millfield is an extraordinary school, and one I've been fortunate enough to be a part of since I joined as a bursary recipient in 1987, and that is no small part to the cultural and socio-economic diversity.

Our ability to safeguard the Millfield Mix for generations to come is down to the future success of the foundation and unwavering support and generosity of our community. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredible support and wish you all the very best in your personal and professional endeavours, and very much hope to see you again at one of our events to celebrate Millfield's 90th anniversary in 2025.

Contact Details

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For more news and to keep updated in real time, join our social media pages where we frequently post about the latest OM news and achievements.
Click the icons below to join.