The Old Aysgarthian Association
News and Events Winter 2025

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OLD AYSGARTHIAN ASSOCIATION













Dear OA,

On Thursday, 19th December 2024, the Aysgarth community gathered for the annual OA Carol Service in the School chapel, a popular event celebrating the start of the Christmas season and the enduring connections among Old Aysgarthians.

This year's service was led by **John Walker** (Former Teacher & Hon. OA), who delivered a moving sermon. Drawing on the rich tapestry of the school's history, he shared stories of staff and pupils, weaving together the many links that unite the Aysgarth family across the generations. His thoughtful words served as a reminder of the deep bonds and strong memories forged at the school, both for the children and staff.

The service featured wonderful organ music, by **Sir Tom Oakshott Bt.** (Former Teacher & Hon. OA) and talented

musician **Rufus Hornyold-Strickland** (2013–18) on the trumpet.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, including OAs and their families and we look forward to seeing many of you for the OA London Drinks in October (see below for more details).



Save the Date for London Drinks - Thursday 9th October 2025

We're excited to announce our bi-annual Old Aysgarthian Association Drinks Party in London on Thursday, 9th October 2025! More details will follow, for what is always a fantastic evening of reconnecting and reminiscing with fellow OAs. In 2023 we welcomed over 100 OAs, and we can't wait to build on that this year.

Mark your calendars—we'd love to see you there!



Remembering Charlie York (2012 - 2017)

It is with great sadness we report the death of Charlie York on Tuesday 21st January, aged just 20. Charlie bravely lived with and battled against Cystic Fibrosis since birth and many OAs

and former parents will remember the extraordinary race he won during Sports Day 2015, just months after undergoing a double lung transplant. This remarkable achievement epitomised Charlie's strength of character and steely resolve, which helped him tackle the challenges this cruel disease threw at him. The family will be holding a private funeral in February and hope to have a memorial service later in the year, to celebrate his full but short life.







John Ellener



John Park

Two Johns, 120 Years Apart: A Snapshot of Aysgarth's Heritage

It's not every day you stumble across a moment in history captured twice, 120 years apart. In the first photo, taken outside the newly built Aysgarth School, we see John Ellener—an employee who worked for the school when it was still at Aysgarth Falls. A man of many talents, John was described in the school magazine as a "guide, philosopher, and friend to all." His trusty horse and carriage symbolised the school's modest fleet at the time. After 26 years of dedicated service, John retired in 1908.

Fast forward to today, and another John stands in front of the school, continuing the tradition of excellence. John Park, who joined Aysgarth in 2016, serves as Estates Manager. But his role goes far beyond managing the grounds. A favourite among international pupils for his airport transfer duties and his leadership of the Remote-Control Car Building Club, John is a modern-day embodiment of dedication and connection.

While the horse and carriage have made way for a fleet of four 17-seater buses and a school car, the spirit of service and friendship remains timeless at Aysgarth—thanks, in part, to two remarkable Johns.



Robert (Roy) Joicey Dickinson *pictured on the back row, 4th from left*

Finding Sporting Heroes: Aysgarth's Olympian and Rugby Pioneer

Robert (Roy) Joicey Dickinson (1901–1981) was the eldest of five brothers to attend Aysgarth. Likely our first Olympian, Roy competed in the high jump at the 1924 Paris Olympics, representing his country with distinction, though no medals were won.

Edgar William Elliot (1888–1892) who became our first full rugby international! Representing England in four matches during the Home Nations Championship from 1901–1904. His two-try performance in a thrilling 14-all draw against Wales in 1904 showcased his talent. A proud member of the renowned Barbarians touring team. Edgar was also a right-handed batsman and made his debut for Durham in the 1897 Minor Counties Championship against Northumberland.



OA University Meet Up - Oxford

We're really looking forward to meeting up with our younger OAs in Oxford at the **Turf Tavern on 25th February**.

Through planning for the event, we've connected with 13 OAs currently studying in Oxford, however, it's not too late to get involved! If you'd like to join us, please email Debbie on dstanford@aysgarthschool.co.uk.



Update from School

The Senior Chapel Choir and our Ripon Choral Scholars had a fantastic tour in Liverpool! They performed a lunchtime concert at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and joined the Gentlemen Lay-Clerks for Choral Evensong at the Anglican Cathedral—a truly memorable experience.

Looking ahead, nearly 100 pupils are gearing up for an exciting ski trip to Italy in March!

Meanwhile, our pupils continue to shine, earning scholarships to leading senior schools. A special congratulations to Eddy, who has been awarded the Michael Palin All-Rounder Scholarship to Shrewsbury—a perfect fit for an Aysgarthian! Other scholarships have been awarded to Radley, Oundle, Ampleforth, Sedbergh, and Barnard Castle.



Aspects of Aysgarth, School Ties, Books, Scarves and now a Framed Print!

Visit the OAA shop here, to buy Old Aysgarthian merchandise.

We're thrilled to announce a new addition to the Old Aysgarthian merchandise. Now available: a beautifully detailed 30 cm x 23 cm (40 cm x 33 cm framed) print of Aysgarth by the talented Laura Wallace (sister and wife of OAs as well as a former parent). A perfect keepsake for any OA! - £125 including postage.



Basil Frost (1941- 1945) looking at his team photos during a recent visit

From our Achivist

"Your time at Aysgarth holds a special place in our history, and we believe that preserving those memories is invaluable. Whether it's photographs, memorabilia, or personal anecdotes, each piece contributes to the rich tapestry of our shared experiences.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any memorabilia or photographs you'd like to share, or if you simply want to reconnect and reminisce about old times.

Yours, Ted Haslam, Archivist -
thaslam@aysgarthschool.co.uk



Aysgarthian Magazine & Keeping In Touch

We are finalising the 2023/2024 Aysgarthian magazine and gathering information for 2024/2025 so if you have got engaged, got married, had a child or anything else you would like to share from changes in careers to experiences, please get in touch.

If you have moved, please update your details with the Old Aysgarthian Association here.

Kind regards,



Simon Price (82-87)

OAA Chairman

OLD AYSGARTHIAN ASSOCIATION

Aysgarth School Trust Ltd

If you would like to update your contact details, please complete the online form - https://www.aysgarthschool.com/oaa/oaa-membership

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