

Fettes College

Old Fettesian Association

Old Fettesian Newsletter

No.70, July 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard Llewellyn (Mo 1987–1992)

Welcome to the 2025 Newsletter. The Old Fettesian Association has had another busy year, from the wonderful Commem and London Carol Service to our regional events round the world. There has also been an increase in the use of the Fettes Community Portal, fettescommunity.org, where you can get in touch with your peers, access the Digital Archive and participate in the Career Partnership programme.

Over this year we have worked with the Committee on developing the OFA set up and I am extremely grateful to them all for their insights. We want to give you more visibility of the Committee itself and the OFA's objectives. To begin, we are introducing the Committee to you on this page.

We also followed up on the Fettes community survey last summer, in which you were asked what you, as Old Fettesians, wanted from being alumni/ae of Fettes College. Unsurprisingly, you all value connection and many want opportunities to get together both in person and virtually for business and for pleasure. You value insightful events and social gatherings, both formal and informal. You want to hear about the Fettes of today and also really enjoy sharing your Fettes nostalgia at reunions!

To this end, we will continue to develop our programme of events and the Fettes Community Portal content and functionality. Please make sure that you have registered and that you keep your contact details up to date.

As world news and events shake and shock our economies, I would encourage all to support Fettes and

(Old) Fettesians where they can, whether offering support to OFs through the Career Partnership programme or through a philanthropic gift to the school. Also, if you have access to venues in key locations that we can use, please let us know!

At Commem 2024, **Vikki Halliday (née Cleghorn) (CE 1990–91)** was voted on as Vice President, **Ric Clark (KI 1989–94)** became Treasurer and **Lorna Duff (née Bennett) (AR 1988–93)** became Secretary. I look forward to working with them in the coming months, before handing over Presidency to Vikki at Commem 2025.

It has been an honour to be President of the OFA. I look forward to keeping in touch at events and Fettes occasions in the years ahead.

Floreas Fettesia!



Richard Llewellyn, President of the OFA
President.OFA@fettes.com



MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICER

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with gratitude for the warmth and generosity of the Old Fettesian community. It has been a real privilege to get to know so many of you, whether through events, visits back to Fettes or conversations over the phone.

One of the greatest pleasures of this role has been listening to your stories, your memories of school days, and your hopes for the future of the OF network. Each interaction has helped shape my understanding of the strength and character of the Fettesian spirit. I've learned a great deal from you, and it's clear to me that the bonds formed here, between individuals, across generations, and with the College itself are remarkably strong.

This past year has been filled with memorable moments, from Commemoration Weekend and regional gatherings to more informal catchups over coffee. It has also been a year of learning: about the traditions we honour; the connections

we hold; and how we can continue to grow and support each other.

Looking ahead, there will be new opportunities to connect, celebrate and support. Whether you're nearby or many miles away, Fettes remains a place that binds us, I have enjoyed working with you all and I look forward to what the coming academic year will bring.

Kind Regards,



Cameron Todd, Alumni Officer



INTRODUCTION TO THE OF COMMITTEE

Vikki Halliday (née Cleghorn) (CE 1990–1991)
Vice President



The OFA means a sense of belonging and community to me, being a fantastic way to keep friendships and memories of a wonderful time at Fettes alive.

I love hearing from all generations of OFs at events and sharing in their stories and memories, bringing a collective sense of being part of a wider family .

Ric Clark (KI 1989–1994)
Treasurer



Being at Fettes was an amazing opportunity for me. It's my 'castle on the hill' (Ed Sheeran). The OFA isn't just a series of networking or social events but also an opportunity to connect properly, and sometimes for the first time, with people that you have may have known for many years. Older, wiser (maybe), and collaborative, there are many things that we can learn from each other.

I love getting to an OFA event to see old friends and make new ones. These are both times to reminisce and times to have your eyes opened to new ideas and possibilities. Making sure everyone is included in those conversations is very important too.

Lorna Duff (née Bennett) (AR 1988–1993)
Secretary



The OFA supports local initiatives to bring Old Fettesians together and ensures OFs have information about events involving their year groups. The OFA represents Old Fettesians across the world and has a network of very supportive regional reps to ensure gatherings are welcoming to all attending. Having attended a number of events over the years it is a pleasure to be involved with the committee.

It is always lovely to catch up with familiar faces as well as meeting new OFs.

David Hay (CA 1991–1996)
Edinburgh Regional Rep



To me the OFA acts as a gateway back to Fettes, a re-connection to old friends and a host to an array of annual events.

The best thing about attending an OFA event is meeting people; I'm always fascinated by the colourful variety of directions that OF's lives have taken and the interests that are being pursued.

Nine Milne (née Wanendeya) (AR 1983–1985)



I can (somewhat) articulate after all these years why I have engaged with the OFA. I am grateful for my time at Fettes and the OFA is an entity and community that reminds me of that.

I realise how lucky I have been, particularly when I return to the part of Uganda where my family is from. At OFA events so during discussions with other OFs, no matter what era, they are similarly 'chuffed'. This reminds me of that privilege and gives me a sense of grounding.

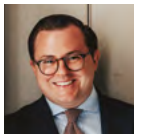
Cordelia Pilz (née Harrison) (AR 1982–1984)



The OFA is the glue that sticks OFs together; to each other, to the Fettes Community and to the place in which they spent significant time.

The opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones; we all have something in common and that makes it easy to connect. It is great to swap stories of school life and learn what OFs have done with their lives since leaving Fettes.

Urosh Teodorovich (INV-KI 2001–2008)
London Regional Rep



To me, the OFA is a great connector. Through all its behind-the-scenes efforts, the OFA helps bring all of us Old Fettesians together, long after we've left school.

You never know whom you'll catch up with or meet for the first time. It's always interesting hearing people's school stories and finding so much shared experience – sometimes across many decades!

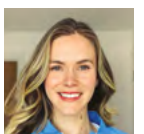
Nigel Shepherd (MO 1975–1979)
Southwest Regional Rep



The OFA provides that link from my school days to the present. I find it fascinating how Fettes changes but does not change. The new Wellness Centre (as an example) is still the San and the medical staff will still have that backbone of steel so essential for treating recalcitrant young people – *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.

That everyone has a fascinating story to share, bonded by that common thread of excessive amount of sport and gloriously unhinged members of staff.

Abigail Gliksten (AR 2009–2011)



I enjoy connecting and re-connecting with OFs. It is amazing how no matter when you left there is always a common thread to start a conversation.

VISITING FETTES

Old Fettesians and their families are most welcome to visit Fettes. Whether you want to wander through the grounds, return to Chapel or visit your House we now need you to book in advance.

Access to the campus has changed in recent years and is now via the West Gate off Crewe Road South, this is a safer vehicular entrance and exit for everyone and has enabled the construction of our Gatehouse security hub.

Not only do the Fettes security staff keep our students safe, they also coordinate a multitude of deliveries to our campus. When you arrive, they will welcome you and check you in.

If you are planning on coming to visit Fettes, please email ofa@fettes.com or phone us +44 (0) 131 311 6741. We can then liaise on the finer detail and enter you into the visitor system. This means that when you arrive you will be welcomed appropriately for your visit.



Fettes Festival

-2026-

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 30th May 2026

COME TO FETTES AND ENJOY THE CAMPUS
CATCH UP WITH FETTES FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

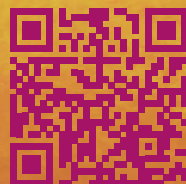
Lots to do

GET YOUR FRIENDS TOGETHER TO PLAY OR WATCH
SPORT (CRICKET • TOUCH RUGBY • TENNIS)

FAMILY TRAIL • TUG OF WAR • FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

AND SAY FAREWELL TO HEAD, HELEN HARRISON,
AS SHE PREPARES TO RETIRE FROM FETTES

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW WHEN TICKETS GO ON SALE
SIGN UP TO BE KEPT INFORMED:



EVENTS PROGRAMME & CLUBS

We know that you like to be able to plan ahead. The below list of events were confirmed at the time of going to print. New events will be added to this during the year, especially regional ones. All events require you to book in advance. Bookings can easily be made online or by phoning the office.

To see an up to date events programme with links to book please visit www.fettescommunity.org/events

If you need help to make a booking please contact the office +44 (0)131 311 6741.

Events

Fettes in Conversation with author **Alex Starritt (MO 2001–2004)** – Thursday 18th September, 2.00–3.30pm, in the Library at Fettes College. Come back to Fettes and hear about Alex's new book, *Drayton and Mackenzie*. Book tickets in advance.

Commemoration Weekend 2025 – Friday 26th–Saturday 27th September.

We look forward to welcoming Old Fettesians back to Fettes to celebrate. **We extend a special invitation to the Leavers of 2020, 2015, 2005, 1995, 1985, 1975 and Newmen of 1965, 1955, 1945 and 1935 to reunite at this year's Commemoration Weekend.**

On the eve of Commem there will be **OF Drinks** – Friday 26th September, 6pm onwards in Brewhemia, Market Street. Book tickets in advance.

Commemoration Weekend – Saturday 27th September

- OFA AGM 12.15pm–12.45pm – This will be in person and online on Zoom. Book tickets in advance.
- OF Lunch in the Dining Hall – 1pm. Book tickets in advance.
- Lower Sixth Careers Insight Lunch with OFs back for Commem. 12.30pm–2pm. Book tickets in advance.
- 1XV vs. Robert Gordon's College – kick off 1pm, Bigside.
- House visiting and scheduled school tours during the afternoon.
- OFA Commemoration Chapel Service, 6pm–6.40pm, Chapel.
- OFA Commemoration Drinks Reception & Dinner (black tie) – 7pm, Dining Hall. Book tickets in advance.

The Class of 2000 special 25 year reunion – Saturday 27th September. The Fettes Class of 2000 are hosting their own 25 year reunion to coincide with Commemoration Weekend. They will be joining daytime events at Fettes and hosting their own drinks party at the New Club during the evening of Saturday 27th September. Book tickets in advance.

Fettes College Open Day – Saturday 4th October. Are you considering admissions to Fettes for your family? Come and tour the College or the Prep School and find out more about entry to the school. Saturday 4th October. Book attendance in advance

Fettes College Giving Day – Wednesday 29th–Thursday 30th October. Wherever you are in the world, OFs, current students and their families will take part in this fun 36 hour fundraising initiative for Fettes. Look out for emails and follow social media to take part in our challenges seeking donations before the clock counts down.

Oxbridge Practice Interviews – 4th November & 5th November – if you would like to offer Oxbridge applicants an academic practice interview please email fettes.community@fettes.com

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November – Fettes College Chapel and afterwards at the War Memorial – please email fettes.comunity@fettes.com if you would like to attend.

Career Insight – 5th, 6th and 7th – Wednesday 12th November, 6pm, The Upper. Speak to students about your career in a networking format. Sign up in advance.

OF Edinburgh Festive Drinks – 6pm, Thursday 11th December. Book tickets in advance.

London OFA Carol Service – Thursday 18th December, 7pm – St Michael's Church, Chester Square, SW1W 9EF. Book tickets in advance. To sing in the OF choir, indicate this in your booking.

Higher Education & Career Expo – Friday 13th February 2026. If you would like to speak to students about your career in a networking format please sign up in advance.

Fettes College & Friends of Fettes College Inc. events in North America (East Coast) will be will be during April. Book tickets in advance.

Fettes Festival – Saturday 30th May 2026. Come to Fettes and enjoy the campus. Catch up with Fettes friends old and new. Get your friends together to play or watch sport (cricket/touch rugby/tennis). Family trail. Tug of war. Food and refreshments. And say farewell to Head, Helen Harrison, as she prepares to retire from Fettes. Book tickets in advance.

Young OFs insight session with U6th Leavers – Wednesday 1st July 2026. Book tickets in advance.

Clubs

To get involved in the OF Clubs, please email to find out about the fixtures or performances.

OF Golfing Society – email ofgolfsociety@fettes.com

Old Fettesian Touch Rugby in London – email fettes.community@fettes.com to be added to the player list to be kept informed of games and playing opportunities.


Fettes Community Choir in Edinburgh – rehearsals are on Saturday mornings during term time. Please email fettes.community@fettes.com to be kept informed of the rehearsal schedule.

OF Shooting Club – email fettes.community@fettes.com to hear about the shooting dates at the Grassie Shooting range at Fettes. It is also hoped that shooting at Bisley can recommence in Summer 2026.

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Your events

Sort by: Active

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Fettes in conversation with author Alex Starritt

18 September, 2025
14:00 - 15:30 (UTC+1)

[REGISTER](#)
- 


Commemoration Weekend 2025

26-27 September, 2025
Edinburgh, UK

[REGISTER](#)
- 


Fettes in Conversation with Composer Lorne Balfe

26 September, 2025
17:00 - 18:00 (UTC+1)
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK

[REGISTER](#)
- 


Old Fettesian Association AGM

27 September, 2025
12:15 (UTC+1)

[REGISTER](#)
- 


Fettes College Open Day

4 October, 2025
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK

[REGISTER](#)
- 

London OFA Carol Service

18 December, 2025
19:00 (UTC)
St Michael's Church, Chester Square, Chester Square, London,

[REGISTER](#)
- 

Fettes Festival 2026

30 May, 2026
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK


[REGISTER](#)

POST EVENT

JUN 2025 -

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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- Fettes in Conversation with Composer Lorne Balfe**
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK
- Fettes College Open Day**
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK
- Fettes Festival 2026**
Fettes College, Carrington Road, Edinburgh, UK
- Commemorative Weekend 2025**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2024/2025

Autumn Term

I hope you will see that the Autumn term was busy and successful with many traditions from your time at Fettes alongside some new ones! House spirit remains a huge part of the Fettes of today, none more so with House singing or the Steeplechase.

Following the English examination curriculum of GCSE, and by offering the dual pathway of both A Levels and the International Baccalaureate, in the Sixth Form, Fettes has a global perspective inside and outside the classroom. We are a top 10 IB school in the UK. We were listed as Scottish Independent School of the Year for Academic Excellence by the Sunday Times and a top 150 private School in the world and top 25 UK Senior school by Carfax Education. Fettesians thrive in our full-boarding environment.



- 1 Fettes student received Bronze Medal at International Olympiad in Brazil
- 2 Fifth & Sixth Form Ceilidh
- 3 Scottish Independent School of the Year for Academic Excellence 2025 in *The Sunday Times*
- 4 Teams from 3rd Form to Upper 6th competed in the Scottish Schools Rugby Conference
- 5 Our School Play, *Animal Farm*
- 6 Fettes hosted the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships
- 7 450 Fettesians participated in the annual Steeplechase
- 8 Autumn Concert 2024
- 9 1912 Society Pipe Band Concert
- 10 Advent Candlelit Eucharist in Chapel
- 11 The Forty Club selected Fettes as their Scottish School of the year
- 12 Sixth Form showcase for Extended Essay and Extended Project Qualification topics
- 13 Fettes named top 150 private school in the world and top 25 UK senior school, by Carfax Education
- 14 House Singing Competition 2024
- 15 Fettes wins U18 Independent Boarding Schools Hockey Tournament





Spring Term

The relatively short spring term was action packed with student effort inside the classroom, with the all important trial exams. This term, hockey is the major sport for boys and it did not disappoint, with the U18 boys retaining the Scottish Cup and the U15 winning the plate. The girls had a great lacrosse season too, with the 1st team and the U16A winning the Sixes Tournament. This term saw the whole school participate in the charity runs, running 5k, 10k or half marathon distances to raise money for chosen House charities. We also had tremendous effort for our Supertroop charity, where the Lower Sixth in particular lead a 24-hour fundraiser, a real test of endurance, motivation and leadership. There were concerts and House competitions and our Chef won School Food Chef of the Year. The food at Fettes is now wonderful!



- 16 37th annual joust with the Jesters. Singles and doubles Fives at its best!
- 17 Senior School Burns Supper
- 18 1st V Basketball team secured top spot in the Edinburgh division of the Scottish Independent Schools Basketball cup
- 19 Fettes chef named School Food Chef of the Year
- 20 Lower Sixth A-Level students won first prize in the *Concours de la Francophonie*
- 21 Piano Competition Final
- 22 24-Hour Cyclethon for Supertroop raising more than £10,000 and cycling 10,000km
- 23 Charity Runs
- 24 House piping and drumming competition
- 25 Sixth Form students won the Edinburgh group in the Náboj international maths competition
- 26 Spring Concert in St Cuthbert's Church
- 27 Fettes wins U18 Scottish Hockey Cup Final for third consecutive year
- 28 Iain MacLeod debating final
- 29 Fettes Student presents TEDx Talk, *Rebuilding More Than Cities: Architecture as a Tool for Resilience and Identity*
- 30 Middle School Play – *Bleak Expectations*



Summer Term

This review is being written in the last week of term, so we have yet to have Founder's Day, but the exams are finished and the marquee is up. Edinburgh has had great weather this term, so we really have been making the most of our spectacular grounds and getting out and about across Scotland. The Third Form have just come back from a tremendous field week at Dalguise and earlier in the term a team of Lower Sixth students and staff excelled winning the Scottish Island's Peak race - 160 nautical miles of sailing from Oban and running up mountains on Mull, Jura, and Arran. Turf and the Pavilion has been busy with cricket for the boys and the girls, with the girls winning the Scottish Cup at U18 and U15.



- 31 IB art exhibition
- 32 Whole School BBQ
- 33 Fettes student in the top three winners of the Yale International Relations Association Global Essay Competition 2025
- 34 The 1st XI Football team won the final of the Lothian Schools Plate
- 35 Mile Relays

- 36 Fifth Form Social on the Head's Lawn
- 37 Fettes wins Scottish Islands Peak Race
- 38 CCF Leavers Parade
- 39 Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle
- 40 Cricket vs MCC

- 41 Singing Competition
- 42 Fettes has been accredited by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)
- 43 Third Form Field Week
- 44 Girls win U18 and U15 Scottish Cricket Cup
- 45 Sports Day



THE HEAD'S REPORT

The composition of my contribution to this newsletter falls every year in the final week of the summer term as we gear up to saying goodbye to another cohort of Upper Sixth leavers. Within a few days, they will have all their celebrations behind them and, as they leave our ranks, they will at once join yours and become Old Fettesians themselves. Now I am ending my sixth and penultimate year of Headship, I find there is a danger of repeating myself but I remain more certain than ever that Fettes is a school that matters not just to current families and staff but to you, the Old Fettesians. I hope that you too are proud of your school and of the intelligent, curious, creative and kind Fettesians who head out into the world on each Founder's Day. You will no doubt recall the day of your own departure but now you form part of a remarkable global community who provide support and friendship to each other and who help us promote life at this great school.

You will perhaps have just read about some of the achievements of the year and it is always my pleasure to reiterate those. But as I seem to have been saying quite often this year, in a challenging political and economic landscape for the independent sector in education, I'm pleased to say that Fettes remains strong but not immune. We are ensuring we maintain the excellence of a Fettes education, continuing to be innovative and to move forward, whilst also making sure we run the school as efficiently as possible.

I'm excited to confirm that our Prep School will be taking a pre-prep class from September with the introduction of the Hive, for children from 4½ years old. Boarding remains strong across the Prep and the College, with more than 70% of our students boarding in the senior school. And while I'm dealing in statistics, I'm always happy to confirm the continuing academic excellence of a Fettes education: 82% of the class

of 2024 secured a place at their first-choice university, across the UK and the world. 22% gained A* at A Level or 7 at IB; 55% gained A*-A at A Level or 7/6 at IB; 38 Average IB points. We celebrated our GCSE grades too: 24% of GCSE grades were 9 while 72% of GCSE grades were 9-7. I am hopeful that we will see similar figures this summer for our 2025 leavers. But, of course, we understand that statistics tell only a fraction of the story of what constitutes a Fettes education; a glance at some of the other achievements and events of the year give a somewhat fuller picture.

It remains a huge pleasure for me to meet and re-meet Old Fettesians in the course of the year. This year, beyond Commem, I've been fortunate enough to attend gatherings in London, the USA and Bermuda where I see OF interest and loyalties burning bright. I hope those will be further kindled by this wonderfully thorough newsletter and that you will, where possible, be able to connect with your Fettes friends during the year ahead, perhaps at one of the many OF events planned around the world. We will also be hosting a Fettes Festival at the college on 30th May 2026. I have wonderful memories of the last one and hope that this one will give the whole Fettes community another chance to get together on the campus and enjoy watching or participating in many activities from your school days, from tug of war to tennis or cricket. I would love to welcome you and your family back to Fettes to enjoy a summer's day in old, familiar surroundings. It will also give my husband Rob and me a chance to say farewell before I retire from Fettes in July 2026, after thirty years at this great school.

In the meantime, it remains the greatest of honours for me to continue to lead Fettes forward. Floreas Fettesia!

Helen Harrison, Head, Fettes College





FROM FETTESIAN TO HOUSEPARENT

Jamie MacKenzie (INV-CA 1996–2003) (Staff 2024–present)

Could you share a bit about your journey since leaving Fettes and what led you back?

After Fettes, I studied History at the University of Manchester before returning to Edinburgh to start thinking about my next plan of action. I didn't really know what I wanted to do career-wise, so I decided to do a CELTA course and teach English in Japan (being half-Japanese, I have family there, so this was an opportunity to go and spend some time with them and learn more about that side of my cultural identity). It was in Japan that I fell in love with teaching (teaching all ages – from children as young as two to adults as old as 90). After nearly two years in Japan, I returned to Edinburgh and worked at Basil Paterson for a bit teaching English there before taking a year out to go live and work on a small sailing yacht in the Caribbean alongside an OF friend, **Oliver Cotterell (INV-GL 1996–2003)**. His father wanted to sell his yacht, so I went out to help get it ready and sail it from St Kitts and Nevis to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands where it was registered to be sold. I never took a gap year before going to university, so I suppose this was my gap year, because when I returned to Edinburgh I managed to get a part-time job at Loretto teaching English as a Second Language, which soon turned full-time and I ended up as Assistant Housemaster in one of the boys boarding houses. I completed my PGCE through the University of Buckingham and started teaching History alongside ESL. I helped coach hockey and cricket and eventually became Housemaster for my final two years there. I was at Loretto for 10 years and felt that it was the right to make a change and the opportunity to become Head of ESL down at Framlingham College in Suffolk came about, so my

family (my wife and daughter, Cara, who was nine-months old at the time) moved during the summer of Covid and I started my tenure as a Head of ESL teaching the majority of my lessons via Microsoft Teams! Whilst at Framlingham, I was an Assistant Housemaster for a year and then took on the role of Head of Years 10+11 in my final two years there. During the last year at Framlingham College, we had our son, Fionn.

We had always wanted to move back up to Edinburgh eventually, as my wife went to university in Edinburgh and spent the majority of her adult life here, so it's somewhere we both consider home. Sadly, my father **Ian H MacKenzie (CW 1955–1959)** passed away last year and so my wife and I felt that a move to Edinburgh should come sooner, and fortunately the job at Fettes came up and was a role I have been wanting to take on again since my time at Loretto. When I had first started teaching at Loretto, I never considered working at Fettes and would probably have felt it too strange to go back and work at my old school. But returning to the school for my 20-year reunion last year and walking around the campus, it was definitely somewhere that not only felt familiar from my days as a student, but also somewhere I could picture myself working at. I'm fortunate to have known Helen Harrison when I was a boarder in Carrington, but also when she was Deputy Head when I was working at Loretto and I could see how amazing she was in that role, so it didn't surprise me that she became acting Head before taking on the role permanently. Helen has a clear vision for Fettes and it's really exciting to be on the other side of things and be a part of the staff who are helping to move Fettes forward.



This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gillman & Soame photographers



What are some of your most memorable experiences from your time at Fettes, and how have they influenced your career?

I loved my sport at Fettes and particularly enjoyed House matches, and it's no surprise that some of my favourite memories from Fettes are definitely linked to the boarding house. Growing up, our family would move country every four years or so due to my father's work as a foreign correspondent. Fettes became my constant and the boarding houses (Inverleith and then Carrington) really were homes, and getting to live with your best friends made the experience even better. I think because I had such a positive experience with boarding, I am keen to ensure I can help provide the same sort of experience to those boys in the boarding houses I have worked in throughout my career.

What are your initial impressions of Moredun as you step into your new role, and how does it compare to your time at Fettes when you were a member of Carrington?

The biggest impression I got was from my first meeting with the Moredun boys who were all so welcoming and extremely kind. I wasn't sure how I'd feel stepping into the role of HP of a different boarding house to the one I grew up in, but as soon as the boys arrived back at the start of term, they were so welcoming and the sense of community in Moredun shone through very quickly. As a student, you grow to love the boarding house that you are associated with and I never really spent much time in Moredun whilst at school, so it was initially quite strange walking around when we moved in over the summer and to see how different the layout of the House is compared to what I remember of Carrington. Don't get me wrong, I still think Carrington was the

best House when I was at school, but I am very much a Moredunian now and my allegiance and loyalty is with the boys under my care who are an incredible group and will no doubt keep me on my toes throughout my time in the House.

What aspect of being a houseparent at Moredun excites you the most?

What excites me most is getting to work with such a vibrant group of boys and knowing that I am part of their journey through Fettes. I loved my time at Fettes and I hope that I can help the boys of Moredun have a similar experience and hopefully I can be a positive influence and ensure their time in Moredun is looked back with fondness and pride.

Reflection

As I reflect on my first full year as Houseparent of Moredun, I am struck by how warmly I was welcomed into the community from the very beginning and how quickly I have come to deeply care for each and every boy. I've had the privilege of watching them grow individually and collectively, embracing all aspects of school life and facing both triumphs and challenges with resilience. Through it all, they have supported one another with genuine care, forging a tight-knit boarding house family that I feel proud to be a part of. There has been a lot for me to learn from my first year and I am already looking ahead to the start of next year and how I can continue to shape Moredun to reflect the values and ethos I hope to instil in the boys.

This has been a tremendous year for me and my family as we also welcomed our third child, Fiadh in January. The Moredun boys could not have been more welcoming.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

2025 vs 1985

With thanks to **Robert Philp (Staff 1959–1996)**, previous Director of Studies at Fettes and to **Alastair Armstrong (Staff 2002–present)**, Director of Learning & Teaching at Fettes.

Robert Philp provided us with the following recollections. Firstly, Fettes had no Director of Studies until 1983, and the housemasters (!) had some influence on the curriculum. During the late 1970s the school's finances were slightly shaky, and (though all schools felt obliged to stress their academic achievements), the need to keep up numbers was a constraining factor. After 1983 things changed steadily. The coming of the girls in the previous decade had contributed to the stiffening of the work ethic, and the school was less in thrall to the sport/work balance of earlier times. The Heads of Department were not constrained by too many regulations, and could take initiatives with a degree of confidence. The curriculum retained flexibility, and at 6th Form there was a choice between A Levels and Scottish Highers. Inspections were less important than they are today, and exam boards were less overwhelmingly prescriptive. This all imparted an energy to the school's academic life. From 1988, the involvement of Government steadily increased, and the academic scene steadily became more regularised. By 1990, a system of Appraisal for teachers was introduced.

A wide variety of teaching methods still prevailed, to accommodate the inclinations/idiosyncrasies of individual teachers, though tending towards more exposition than pupil involvement. Both encouragement and criticism were employed, perhaps slightly more of the latter than is usual today.

Monitoring of students happened through Tutors (allocated via the house the pupil was in). Any substantial concerns were passed to housemasters/mistresses. The odd 'hard case' might be raised at a full staff meeting.

As with other boarding schools, the all-round nature of what was offered meant it was important to find something every student could excel at.

Performance was results-driven and measured by 'Orders'. The stress was on effort. As today, Governors' Prizes and class prizes were made much of on Founder's Day.

'Prep' each evening (approx. an hour and 45 minutes) was spent in house and in silence. Having a substantial period of working on one's own was felt to be very important.

Alastair Armstrong provided us with an overview of the learning and teaching methods that are used at Fettes today.

A range of teaching methods are used to engage students today. There is lots of discussion and debate through skillful questioning. Entry tasks are designed to consolidate previous learning. Active learning is used placing the emphasis on the students to grapple with the material and work through problems by themselves alongside their teachers and their peers. Game-based learning features too, using technology to gain access to immediate feedback and tailor ongoing learning to the needs of each student.

A student's progress is monitored using baseline data (MidYis and ALIS) which measures aptitude, potential and progress. There is also ongoing tracking through class assessments, Trials and end of year exams. This allows students, teachers and parents to gain a clear picture of what needs to be done to progress further and implement





intervention strategies where appropriate. Readers will be interested to note that Orders are still issued but they are no longer pinned up on the notice board.

All students still have a tutor and the relationship between tutor and tutee is incredibly important in providing a weekly discussion about progress. Tutors can act as an intermediary between their tutee and relevant teachers which is incredibly helpful. The cross-curricular programme whether sporting, musical, academic enrichment, the arts or hobby based is crucial in terms of health and wellbeing as well as developing the all-round potential of students.

The all-round full-boarding education fosters a strong relationship between teachers and students and a powerful sense of mutual trust. Students have more access to their teachers outside class time. Academic Priority is timetabled on a Wednesday afternoon giving students the opportunity to drop in to a particular academic department and work through problems on a 1:1 basis.

Educational success is still measured by performance in public examinations GCSE, A-Level and IB. At Fettes we have our own Middle School Diploma which seeks to develop personal skills and celebrate achievement beyond the classroom. The wide-ranging opportunities available at Fettes from robotics club to Engineering, Enterprise and Technology (EET) to debating all help to nurture a curiosity and inquisitiveness in our students.

The act of daily preparation/Prep remains an important part of learning at Fettes, however it is no longer done in extreme silence in a heavily supervised space. Students still have studies in their Houses and everyone has a desk. There are now many shared study areas too and wifi is everywhere. Work is not always electronic, there are still many books and students handwrite and type their work. Prep is used to consolidate material from class or to pre-read and prepare for future classes. At 6th Form level, prep might be used to carry out independent research for the EPQ or EE. Within the boarding environment there is the opportunity for students to seek advice from their peers and the tutors on duty.

On a Thursday morning Chapel takes the format of a weekly assembly giving the Head the opportunity to congratulate individuals and teams on their achievements in and out of the classroom. At the end of each term prizes and trophies are awarded to individuals, teams and Houses in healthy competition. Founder's Day at the end of the Summer term is still a grand celebration of achievement for each year group and particularly for our Leavers.

FETTESIAN SUCCESSION

Parents

Graham H W Waddell (CA 1977–1982) (Deceased)
 Emma M McGrigor (née Fellowes) (MO-AR 1981–1983)
 Stuart H Buchanan-Smith (JS-MO 1976–1984)
 Felix V L Chen (MO 1979–1984)
 Peter R B Sutton (SH 1979–1984)
 Seonaid M Macpherson-Raffell (née Macpherson)
 (AR 1982–1986)
 Tom K Usher (JS-GL 1979–1986)
 Kate A Carrick-Buchanan (née Smith) (SH 1985–1987)
 Jeremy D Kilpatrick (MO 1986–1987)
 Chris D Johnston (CA 1983–1988)
 Duncan B MacIntyre (CA 1987–1989)
 Amanda A F Mair (CW 1985–1989) (Staff 2000–present)
 Gillem M Tulloch (CA 1984–1989)
 Roy M Leckie (CA 1985–1990)
 Jamie B Macpherson (CA 1985–1990)
 Mairi Mickel (CW 1986–1990)
 Johnny D Weir (MO 1987–1990)
 Caroline J Lindsay (née Donaldson) (CE 1988–1990)
 Colin May (JS-GL 1983–1991)
 Richard A N R Llewellyn (MO 1987–1992)
 Omar Quaba (KI 1987–1992)
 Vanessa L Wood (née Hendry) (JS-AR 1984–1992)
 Murdo A MacLean (KI 1992–1996)
 Andros Symeonides (GL 1992–1996)
 Rosie Frampton (CW 1994–1996)
 Becky L Ewart-White (née Larkin) (AR 1993–1997)
 Craig MacDonlad (MO 1992–1997)

Markos Symeonides (INV-KI 1993–1997)
 Wai-Shin Chan (GL 1993–1998)
 Charlotte L Gore (INV 1992–1994)
 Alexander Lyell (GL1996–2000)
 Nicola Lyell (nee Miller) (CW 1996–2000)
 Andriy A Dudko (INV-KI 1993–2000)

Grandparents

Alan A W Waddell (CA 1946–1951) (Deceased)
 Iain H Nicholson (CA 1953–1957)
 David G Johnston (CA 1953–1958)
 Ian M G MacIntyre (CA 1953–1958) (Deceased)
 Ian G Stevenson (MO 1955–1960) (Deceased)
 David E G Kilpatrick (CW 1956–1961)
 Michael G H Hendry (KI 1957–1962)
 David E Murray (MO 1965–1966)
 Chris J Hilton (KI 1963–1967)

Great Grandparents

Joseph P Maclay (CA 1913–1916) (Deceased)
 Herbert Waddell (MO 1915–1921) (Deceased)
 William A W Brown (MO 1918–1922) (Deceased)
 George C Stevenson (CA 1922–1928) (Deceased)
 Alastair MacIntyre (CA 1927–1932) (Deceased)

Great Great Grandparents

Ian MacIntyre (CA 1881–1887) (Deceased)
 James K Watson (SH 1882–1888) (Deceased)

Succession Families gathered on Founder's Day 2024



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST OLD FETTESIANS

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the Leavers of 2025 as they join the Old Fettesian Association and we look forward to seeing them at future OF events. The Leavers are warmly welcomed into our vibrant community of Old Fettesians all around the world. Fettes provides a strong foundation for the future and a family for life. Whilst for our leavers Founder's Day marks the end of their time at Fettes, it is really just the beginning of the next step in their Fettes journey.



This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gillman & Soame photographers

Alia Abu Bakar Fikri (CW 2020–2025)
 Jack Adams (MO 2020–2025)
 Alexander Adhikari (CA 2021–2025)
 Ziyad Al Mugheiry (KI 2020–2025)
 Isabelle Alexander (DA 2020–2025)
 Sam Andrews (KI 2023–2025)
 Luca Armstrong (KI 2023–2025)
 Sidar Aydin (KI 2023–2025)
 Oliver Bennett (GL 2020–2025)
 Fox Berganza Jones (KI 2023–2025)
 Gregoire Boyadjian (PS-MO 2019–2025)
 Chloe Brodie (PS-AR 2016–2025)
 Rory Brogan (PS-MO 2018–2025)
 Ava Brown (PS-DA 2016–2025)
 Ailsa Brown (CE 2023–2025)
 Sandy Buchanan Smith
 (PS-MO 2016–2025)
 Romilly Bucher (CW 2020–2025)
 Amaryllis Burnett Of Leys
 (DA 2020–2025)
 Alexander Cameron (PS-CA 2015–2025)
 Zoe Campbell (PS-AR 2014–2025)
 Hamish Chandler (PS-KI 2018–2025)
 Ayden Chen (MO 2020–2025)
 Kien Chu (CA 2021–2025)
 Fraser Cochrane (PS-CA 2017–2025)
 Vanessa Colman (DA 2020–2025)
 Maximilien Cousin (CA 2023–2025)
 Victor Dada (PS-GL 2016–2025)
 Megan Davies (PS-DA 2014–2025)
 Monty Duncan (CA 2020–2025)
 Adley Ebeh (GL 2020–2025)
 Ava Ewart White (AR 2023–2025)
 Gaia Fanton (PS-AR 2014–2025)
 Finlay Ferguson (PS-MO 2015–2025)
 Freddy Findlay (MO 2020–2025)
 Hayden Flame (CA 2020–2025)
 Archie Fraser (PS-GL 2017–2025)
 Tom French (PS-MO 2014–2025)
 Joel Gaba (AR 2022–2025)
 Finlay Givens (PS-GL 2015–2025)
 Isaac Goh (MO 2023–2025)
 Joshua Goh (MO 2023–2025)
 Nick Golubeva (PS-CE 2014–2025)

Matvei Gron (GL 2023–2025)
 Willa Hamilton (CE 2020–2025)
 Tess Harrison (PS-DA 2014–2025)
 Mairi Hillhouse (CE 2020–2025)
 Edith Hobbs (AR 2020–2025)
 Annie Jack (DA 2023–2025)
 Shope Jimoh (CW 2020–2025)
 Iona Johnson (PS-AR 2014–2025)
 Finn Johnston (CA 2021–2025)
 Noah Kaspar (PS-CE 2017–2025)
 Ritisha Kedia (DA 2021–2025)
 Chloe Kilpatrick (CW 2020–2025)
 Sophia Krahe (CW 2023–2025)
 Kalyn Kwok (DA 2023–2025)
 Max Lambert (GL 2020–2025)
 Lucia Lang (CW 2023–2025)
 Grace Law (PS-CW 2018–2025)
 Daniel Lawson (MO 2020–2025)
 Caitlin Leckie (AR 2020–2025)
 Emma Leckie (AR 2020–2025)
 Fiona Liang (PS-CW 2018–2025)
 Alec Lindsay (PS-MO 2015–2025)
 Sophia Lindsay (PS-CW 2018–2025)
 Imogen Lockwood (PS-AR 2017–2025)
 Benedict Loughran (CA 2020–2025)
 Molly Mack (DA 2020–2025)
 Geordie Maclay (CA 2020–2025)
 Iona Macpherson Grant
 (AR 2020–2025)
 Edward May (MO 2020–2025)
 Daisy McGrigor (AR 2020–2025)
 Joshua McLeod (GL 2020–2025)
 Monty Mitchell (KI 2020–2025)
 Andrew Munt (PS-KI 2014–2025)
 Tili Mutungi (CW 2020–2025)
 Motiya Muzzamil (PS-CW 2018–2025)
 Justin Nakamura (CA 2023–2025)
 Buster Nils Althen (KI 2021–2025)
 Nina Obidairo Danielsen
 (PS-CE 2015–2025)
 Ifeoluwa Oladoyin (PS-MO 2019–2025)
 Cami O'Leary (DA 2023–2025)
 Lottie Orr Ewing (PS-CE 2018–2025)
 Takuma Osumi (GL 2023–2025)

Sienna Park (DA 2023–2025)
 Andie Persaud (PS-AR 2017–2025)
 Calypso Pery (DA 2020–2025)
 Leo Pike (KI 2020–2025)
 Fergus Pim (CA 2022–2025)
 Alexander Polyakov (KI 2021–2025)
 Theo Poon (GL 2021–2025)
 Leila Quaba (CE 2020–2025)
 Hamza Rashid (CA 2023–2025)
 Teneil Reddy (CE 2023–2025)
 Hugh Ross (PS-GL 2018–2025)
 Libby Ross (DA 2020–2025)
 Iain Round (MO 2021–2025)
 Ellie Scott (CW 2023–2025)
 Mark Seager (GL 2020–2025)
 Hannah Seligmann (DA 2023–2025)
 Ali Shair (KI 2021–2025)
 Tim Shi (PS-CA 2018–2025)
 Rina Shimobaba (CW 2023–2025)
 Abby Sinclair (DA 2020–2025)
 Andrii Slipets (CA 2023–2025)
 Cleodie Stewart Howitt (DA 2020–2025)
 Flora Sutton (AR 2020–2025)
 Isabella Symeonides
 (PS-DA 2014–2025)
 Christopher Tang (CA 2020–2025)
 Laura Taylor (CE 2020–2025)
 Moritz Thieme (KI 2021–2025)
 Ella Thomson (AR 2020–2025)
 Saphira Thomson (DA 2020–2025)
 Mairi Todd (AR 2020–2025)
 Wilfred Tomlyn (GL 2020–2025)
 Thomas Usher (GL 2020–2025)
 Sebastian Vardy (GL 2020–2025)
 Kira Vinogradova (CW 2021–2025)
 Ben Wallace (PS-MO 2019–2025)
 Ryan Wang (KI 2020–2025)
 Arthur Williams (PS-CA 2016–2025)
 Audrey Wong (CE 2020–2025)
 Bethany Woodburn (CE 2020–2025)
 Nyasha Woolhouse (PS-AR 2018–2025)
 Yoyo Zhang (PS-CE 2018–2025)

INTERVIEW WITH ENGINEER DR ALISON BROWN (CA 1973–1975)

By way of introduction please provide some background on yourself.

I came to Fettes from Mary Erskine's as a 'day girl' in sixth form. I wanted to apply to Cambridge University and Fettes followed the curriculum needs to take A-levels and Cambridge entrance exams. Thanks to the great teaching I got at Fettes, I did well in both sets of exams and was accepted into Sidney Sussex College to study Engineering at Cambridge.

After Cambridge, I was given a scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to take a Masters degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics, which opened up many doors. I elected to take a position as a navigation systems engineer at Litton Systems in California who also funded me to take a PhD at UCLA. I ended up leading the development of one of the first aviation GPS receivers and pioneering the use of GPS carrier phase observations for surveying through my PhD research.

I moved to Colorado when I got married as my husband got a teaching position at the Air Force Academy. Litton asked me to stay consulting for them, and I started my company

NAVSYS. I was fortunate in winning Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) contracts which allowed NAVSYS to develop a product line and performing pioneering development in applications of GPS including the first GPS cell phone, the FAA's Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) and the first open architecture inertial PNT solution, InterNav. I am still the CEO of NAVSYS which is now focused on deploying a back-up solution for GPS, termed PNT as a Service (PNTaaS) which can operate when GPS, or other GNSS satellite signals are being denied which is currently a big problem in the eastern areas of Europe and other parts of the world.

What experiences from your Fettes time are you most grateful for?

At Fettes I was the only girl in all of my classes. This was actually great preparation for entering an extremely male dominated field at the time, engineering. While I was often 'hazed' by my class-mates I learned to deal with their razzing with humour and I think often 'gave as good as I got'. This certainly built up my self-confidence and helped me deal with difficult situations throughout my career. For example,



The Fettesiennes of 1975 with Alison Brown pictured

an important client (from Texas) once gave me what he probably thought was a compliment – “you are pretty smart for a girl Alison”. In response to the shocked silence that comment engendered, I smiled sweetly and told him “you are pretty smart for a cowboy”.

When you started out in science there were not many female role models, what inspired you to take a scientific path?

My father was an engineer, but he really tried to convince me to take a different career path as he (rightly) thought I would face a lot of discrimination as a woman. There were very few female role models when I started out in engineering. I was fortunate though to have excellent mentors, both at Fettes, Cambridge, MIT, UCLA and Litton. I still stay in touch with many of them and am very grateful for their support in developing my technical skills and their encouragement and mentoring. I think having good mentors is terribly important during career development and I encourage anyone to try to seek those out whether male or female.

What do you feel is your proudest / greatest scientific achievement?

I am very proud that NAVSYS developed the first GPS cell phone that was used to prove to the FCC that location could be provided with mobile emergency calls and resulted in them establishing the E-9-1-1 mandate. This phone is on display in the Smithsonian. I am also very proud to have been elected as an Honorary Fellow to Sidney Sussex College and as a member to the National Academy of Engineering.

Within your scientific area of expertise, navigation, what do you see as the challenges and opportunities in the next 10–15 years?

The biggest challenge is going to be transitioning from dependency on the satellite base Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to a system-of-systems approach that can provide resilient positioning, navigation and timing solutions. GNSS is now such an essential element of all systems today that loss of service, which is a real threat as proven by what is happening in Eastern Europe, has devastating economic impact. No one solution can replace GNSS but there are multiple options when this challenge is addressed through a system-of-systems approach.

What advice do you have for young engineers starting out today?

Engineering offers the opportunity for an incredibly creative field. Take the time to learn the fundamental principles behind what interests you as an engineer, but don't be afraid to dive in and engage in one of the many emerging fields in engineering such as bioengineering or artificial intelligence quantum technology. It is a lot of fun getting involved in an emerging technology field!



Dr Alison Brown at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering Awards

IAN MACLEOD AWARD: REVEALING THE SECRET HISTORY OF BULGARIA

Emily Blanchfield (Da 2022–2024)

Sirisha Saraswatibhatla (Da 2019–2024)



Our journey naturally began in the capital: Sofia. From the bustling central airport to deserted train carriages, it quickly dawned on us that we had already reached the peak of Bulgaria's public transport options. After the initial temperature shock of being blasted by 38°C, we tried to decipher the maps labelled with the unfamiliar Cyrillic alphabet in order to find our hotel. The overall aim of our trip was to discover the many different faces of Bulgaria's history and culture and present our findings in a photography series.

On our first day in Sofia, we began by checking into our hostel and meeting Lucio – a more than welcoming host eager to give suggestions and tips to fully and easily access the culture of the city. After travelling up to our room in the rickety birdcage elevator, we accessed a beautiful skyline view of the whole city – from which we could spot many of

the buildings we would be visiting in the upcoming days, set against the striking backdrop of the Vitosha mountains.

We began by walking around the city, visiting several religious buildings – starting with Banya Bashi Mosque – the only surviving, working mosque in Sofia since the ascendancy of the communist regime in 1946. While the redbrick exterior and peaceful atmosphere were magnificent, the real beauty of the mosque lay in its role in preserving Islamic culture in Sofia and acting as a safe haven during an unstable and intolerant time. The Ottoman style of the mosque felt like a stark contrast to the surrounding Stalinist architecture, such as the imposing Largo Buildings, which functioned as the Communist Party Headquarters.

That evening, we strolled down the bustling high street of Sofia, photographing stunning sunset views of the

golden Statue of Sveta Sofia, patron of the city, on our way to Hadjidragonov's Cellars. This traditional Bulgarian restaurant, filled with relics from old Bulgarian society, gave us the opportunity to sample Gyuvech (vegetable casserole) and Kavarma sausage, and even practice some Bulgarian.

On the second day, we set about photographing the many statues scattered throughout Sofia's streets. Some were dedicated to artists, poets, and writers, but the vast majority commemorated wars and the many soldiers who fought them, often for Bulgarian independence. One of the most memorable was the pair of white stone wings devoted to the national revolutionaries from Macedonia and Thrace, seen at the end of the series.

Our next destination was the lesser-known city and former capital, Plovdiv. If Sofia was the embodiment of communist history in Bulgaria, Plovdiv was the Greek and Roman face of Bulgaria's past. The well-preserved pillars of the Roman Philippopolis and ancient theatre, which is still in use today, were remarkable. One of the highlights of our trip was wandering down the cobbled alleyways of Old Plovdiv, lined with unique churches and vibrantly coloured houses. A tour of the well-preserved house of the wealthy merchant, Nikola Nedkovich, helped us relive the days of Bulgarian aristocracy.

A more modern landmark in the city was the Singing Fountains in the centre of Tsar Simeon Park. While the fountains provided a refreshing splash of water during the day, every night they were lit up and accompanied by live music, as locals gathered to eat, drink, and socialise. Another modernised aspect of history was a piece of the Berlin Wall, painted with a tessellation of colourful faces, starkly contrasting with its associations with war and oppression.

On our fourth day, we took a taxi outside of Plovdiv to the ancient Bachkovo Monastery, hidden in the foothills of the Rhodope mountains. Founded in the 11th century, Bachkovo has a rich history, particularly its role in protecting Jews during the Second World War, and remains a working monastery to this day. After exploring the golden interiors

filled with orthodox iconography, we faced the biggest difficulty of our trip: getting back to Plovdiv. Just as panic began to set in, we were approached by two friendly Bulgarian families who offered to drive us back. On the journey, we learned about current affairs in Bulgarian politics, the changing demographics of Bulgarian society, and their views on the war in Ukraine. We were very grateful to be shown such generosity in so little time, leaving us with a very positive view of the country's people.

On our return to Sofia, we visited three particularly significant buildings – the first of which was the patriarchal cathedral of Saint Alexander Nevsky. Its golden domes and impressive white stone arches, visible from afar, were constructed to commemorate those who died in the 19th-century Russian-Turkish war for Bulgarian independence. The second was the similarly adorned Church of Saint Nikolay Chudotvorets, and lastly, in the evening, we strolled through Central Park, alive with locals chatting and dancing at the comparatively modern Palace of Culture.

On our final day, we were sad to return to the airport, saying goodbye to a country of hospitable locals, impressive mountains, and beautiful history and culture. Having taken 5,000 photographs in total, the task of editing seemed pretty daunting!

On reflection, if we could do it again, we would have more confidence in taking pictures of locals and trying to photograph daily activities, such as women working in the markets. At the time, it was all new and daunting, but our perceptions changed as we naturally met locals eager to demonstrate Bulgarian hospitality and their family-oriented society. Our plan was also limited by visa issues, so we couldn't go as far east as we had hoped, to photograph the stories of Varna and Provadia. Nevertheless, we felt that we uncovered a considerable amount about Bulgarian history and created a photography series we are really proud of.

We are both so grateful to all of the trustees for selecting our application. We had an amazing experience and hope you enjoy seeing the series.



FETTES COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The Fettes College Community Survey was launched in May 2024 with the aim of engaging with Old Fettesians (OFs), past parents and parents to better understand their views, attitudes and preferences relating to the College, the community network and fundraising. The survey was managed by RSAcademics and the findings were presented to Fettes in August 2024. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the survey. A summary of the results is presented here.

During May and June 2024 the survey generated a response rate of 14% (with 1000 completed surveys). 282 respondents provided their contact details and permission for the Development Team to contact them about subjects they selected such as fundraising, supporting careers and providing case studies.

Overall response

- Old Fettesians 684
- Parents 197
- Past Parents 119
- Total 1,000

OF Events (alumni responses)

- 89% feel that news about fellow alumni is important or quite important
- 82% feel that providing careers support and work experience is important or quite important
- 84% feel that fostering a sense of community between the College and the alumni is important or quite important

OF Communications (alumni responses)

- 88% of alumni felt the frequency of communication from Fettes was about right
- 70% had read and found the printed version of the Old Fettesian Newsletter interesting
- 26% of alumni were aware of and used the OF Portal of which 7% had found it useful and 63% had found it quite useful

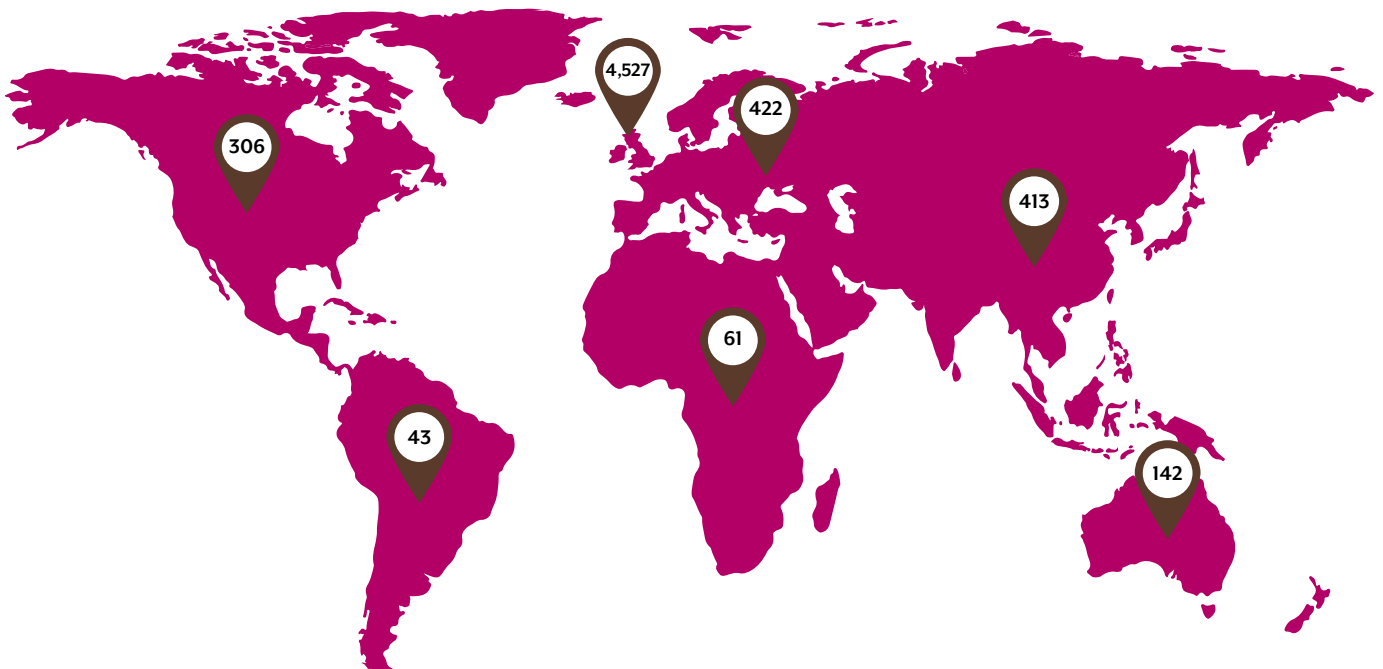
Fundraising

- Alumni and parents are, in general, in support of the full range of fundraising causes.
- Leavers from 2010+ are most interested in supporting
- 65%–68% of alumni are not in a position to donate
- 33% of alumni are not aware of legacy giving
- 4% of respondents have already left a gift to Fettes in their Will
- 52 respondents asked to be contacted about making a donation or leaving a legacy gift
- 36 respondents offered to provide a bursary case study

Alumni characteristics

- Half of the alumni who responded to the survey left the College between 1960 and 1989
- Over 90% boarded for at least some of their time at Fettes
- The percentage of international students has gradually increased at Fettes, with around a quarter of those who left the College since 2010 coming from a wide range of other countries

The global location of OFs with postal addresses



Strongest memories written feedback

Summary of main themes

- Sport – specific matches played, tournaments won, individual and team pride, camaraderie; rugby, fives, shooting, sailing, athletics
- Music and drama – memories of the choir, orchestra, Chapel and specific performances
- CCF – positive memories of taking part in activities and expeditions

Summary of main themes

- Boarding life – fun with friends in evenings and weekends, trips into Edinburgh
- Grounds, setting & location – walks to the dining hall for meals, time outdoors
- House pride – House sport, plays, feelings of community and togetherness

Summary of main themes

- Staff – many supportive, kind and memorable individual members of staff mentioned
- Academic support and challenge – foundations for future success at university, careers and life in general
- Inspiration – teaching beyond the curriculum, passionate and interesting teachers

Lasting impressions and impact of Fettes on alumni

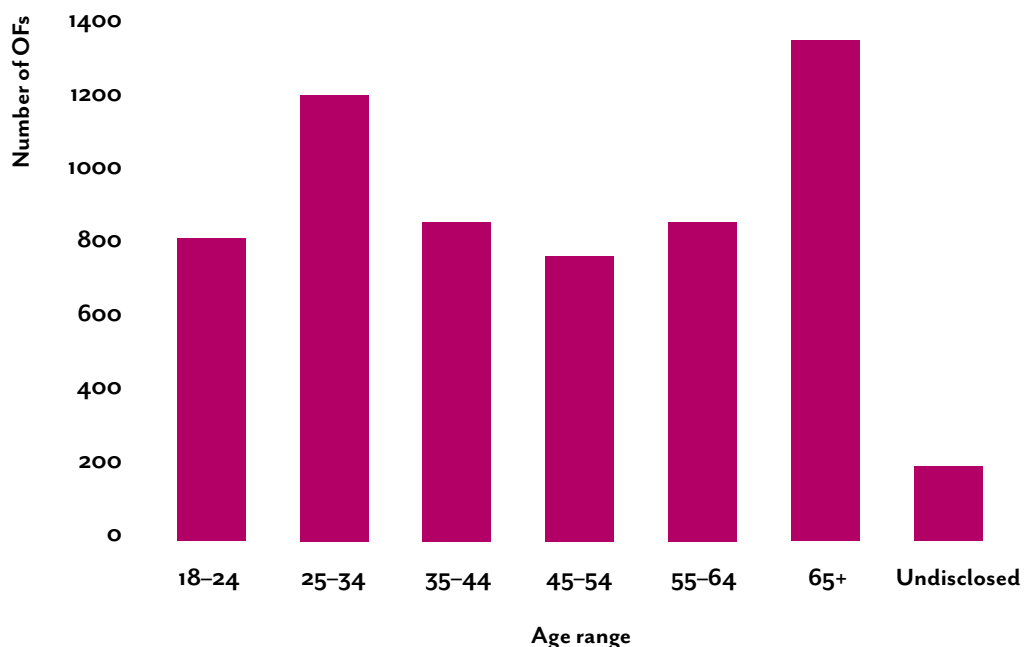
More than 80% of alumni are proud to have attended Fettes and feel that it has had a lifelong impact, with alumni of all ages much more likely to agree that the College has played an important role in their personal development than in their professional careers.

More than three quarters of those attending Fettes in the last forty years agree that it has given them friends for life, although this drops to around half of those from older generations. Those who left the College more than forty years ago are also somewhat less likely to feel valued by Fettes.

Those who left more recently are more likely to mention ways in which the College/OFA could help them to feel more connected:

- International contacts – ways of connecting with OFAs in other countries, international events
- More reunions/events specific to year groups/Houses
- More events in general
- Professional networking/careers events/groups
- More informal events
- Invites to events at the College
- More advance notice of events and lists of attendees
- Continuation of the newsletter with information about the current College, students and staff (also mentioned by some of the older generations who are interested in hearing about other alumni, photos from the archives and obituaries)

The age split of OFs



OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Region	Global region	Email address / Phone
Elena A Jacque (INV-CW 2004–2002)	NEW YORK	North America	epoleganova@gmail.com +1 267-304-9449
Nigel N Grant (CA 1949–1952)	CANADA (Western)	North America	pnigelgrant@outlook.com +60 4 922 0059
Alasdair G Baverstock (GL 2004–2006)	MEXICO	South America	alibaverstock@gmail.com +52 55 2963 3746
Donald M Filshill (CE 1949–1952)	CHILE	South America	dmfilshill@gmail.com +56 2 2207 7980
Colin G Pritchard (CW 1954–1958)	BRAZIL	South America	colinpri.alp@terra.com.br +55 119 9901 5844
Sean D Cameron (MO 1978–1982)	ARGENTINA	South America	seandcameron112@gmail.com +54 9 2262 40 9044
Barbara J Graham (GL 1975–1977)	ORKNEY	UK	bjmgraham@gmail.com +44 (0)7710 404892
Jason A Johnston (GL 1988–1993)	NORTHERN IRELAND	UK	jason.johnston496@gmail.com +44 (0) 7971 206972
Alex F Warren (MO 2010–2015)	LONDON (Carol Service)	UK	alexfwarren9@gmail.com +44 (0)7580 945895
Urosh C Teodorovich (INV-KI 2001–2008)	LONDON	UK	u.teodorovich@gmail.com +44 (0)7985 178823
Nigel R Shepherd (MO 1975–1979)	ENGLAND (South West)	UK	shepherd947@btinternet.com +44 (0)7581 008128
Norman Rowbotham (CA 1963–1968)	ENGLAND (North West)	UK	normanrowbotham@aol.com +44 (0)1539 620421
David L Hay (CA 1991–1996)	EDINBURGH	UK	davidlhay@icloud.com +44 (0) 7932 042456
Jeffrey R Giovannoni (KI 1989–1994)	CHANNEL ISLANDS	UK	jeffreygiovannoni@voisinlaw.com +44 (0)1534 484934
Norval Gough (AR 1976–1980)	SWITZERLAND	Europe	norval@perso.ch +41 76 522 26 25

Name	Region	Global region	Email address / Phone
Christopher A Milne (SH 1974–1979)	SWITZERLAND	Europe	christopher@thewiseelephant.com +41 77 513 56 68
David R Baxter (MO 1983–1988)	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (Dublin)	Europe	drbaxter1970@gmail.com + 353 1 497 0351
John H Murphy (KI 1963–1967)	ITALY	Europe	j.murphy@buroservice.com +39 348 085 1930
Nicki N Lange (CA 2008–2010)	GERMANY	Europe	bnlange4@gmail.com +49 170 4002140
Neil A Robertson (JS-MO 1973–1980)	FRANCE	Europe	neil.robertson@orange.fr +33 6 80 03 83 03
Fleur Hodgson (née Rollason) (Staff 2005)	SOUTH AFRICA	Africa	davina.louise23@gmail.com
Alexis Sarikas (MO 1978–1982)	EAST AFRICA (Nairobi)	Africa	flexnbi@hotmail.com +254 733 985610
Luke W Daly (CA 2001–2006)	UAE	Middle East	luke@moosa-daly.com +971 50 613 2681
Shizuka Harada (INV-CW 1993–2000)	TOKYO	Far East	shizy999@gmail.com +81 90 1849 2110
Bernard Fong (KI 1984–1989)	TAIWAN	Far East	bfong.ieee@gmail.com +886 900 500 210
Rory Brown (INV-MO 1990–1998)	SINGAPORE	Far East	rory@ascentawealth.com +65 8124 7339
Joseph C Ng (KI 1983–1986)	HONG KONG	Far East	joe.cf.ng@gmail.com +852 365 86185
Alice N Stevenson (AR 2006–2011)	HONG KONG	Far East	alice.stevenson@hkland.com +852 9337 2339
David Davidson (INV-KI 1961–1965)	AUSTRALIA (Vic)	Australia	ddavidson4247@outlook.com +61 (0)3 95844053
James M Purves (SH 1980–1985)	NEW ZEALAND	New Zealand	jamespurves@mac.com +64 (0) 3 539 0578

OF SPORTS CLUBS

Old Fettesian Golfing Society

Our Fettes team enjoyed a competitive weekend at the Scottish Wayfarers 2025, beginning with the traditional warm-up match at St Andrews before taking to the Jubilee course. Despite a solid win against Strathallan, we narrowly lost the remaining fixtures, placing 5th overall. Congratulations to Loretto, who remained unbeaten, and thanks to Captain **Ramsay Wilson (GI 2001–2002)** for rallying a strong squad of 16 players.

Halford Hewitt 2025

Eight of the team arrived on the Monday night for the Tuesday practice day at Royal St. Georges, won by Chris Mather and Richard Philip, followed by the traditional Captain's Lunch in the clubhouse. After lunch, we had a mixed team putting challenge with Loretto on the RSG putting green. Gavin Lawrie was the Fettes golfer to share the win. Wednesday morning's practice was won by Andrew Soulsby and Douglas Philip. As Fettes were drawn to start on the Friday, the team entered the Peter Keynon bowl, played over Princes golf course nearby. The best Fettes pair was Gavin Lawrie and Ramsay Wilson, narrowly over Chris Mather and Stan Morrison. Against St Bees in the first round, Fettes were 4 matches to 1 down at the hut, with six holes to play. Graeme Findlay (ex-Captain of Royal St Georges) arrived to give support, and his presence galvanised the team. Scott MacLennan and Rory Carnegie won four holes in a row to win 3&2 in match five, and with Chris Mather and Stan Morrison also winning, the match score stood at 2-2. It came down to Gavin Lawrie and Ramsay Wilson on the 18th, with a magnificent up and down from the greenside bunker, to take Fettes through 3-2 – relief all round!

That afternoon, Fettes faced Harrow, who had narrowly beaten Glenalmond in the morning. **Euan Mathieson (GL 1977–1982)** would have had mixed emotions, as his son was playing in the Harrow team. The top two matches were lost early, and so it came down to the back three matches. Unfortunately, a birdie on 16 by the Harrow team led to



Loretto and Fettes teams enjoy a drink together

If you enjoy golf and would like to play competitively or for pleasure the OF Golf Society can be contacted via email on OFgolfsociety@fettes.com or by contacting the OF Golf Society Secretary Andrew Soulsby on +44 (0)7984 789761

Douglas Philip and Andrew Soulsby losing 3&2, with the back two matches about even, and so Harrow ran out 4-1 winners. Harrow lost in the semi-final on Sunday morning.

Team: **Ramsay Wilson (Captain) (GL 2001–2002)**, **Andrew Soulsby (JS-AR 1973–1980)**, **Rory Carnegie (PS-CA 2015–2022)**, **Chris Mather (SH 1973–1978)**, **Charlie Spilsbury (PS-GL 2010–2017)**, **Richard Philip (MO 1976–1981)**, **Douglas Philip (INV-MO 1999–2005)**, **Andrew Morrison (GL 1990–1995)**, **Scott MacLennan (KI 2001–2006)**, **Gavin Lawrie (JS-GL 1978–1985)**



OF Touch Rugby in London

Thanks must go to Chris Aird for leading the OFA Touch Rugby initiative in London. OF players have had a successful early season in the In 2 Touch Spring Mixed League at Regents Park on Monday evenings. The season kicked off on the 28th April, the team have played each week with some good performances and lots of fun. They continue to play over the next few months in the Summer Mixed League.

The 2025 team have included:

Chris Aird (GL 2008–2012), **Millie Aird (née Brown) (PS-AR 2007–2014)**, **Tanya Proske (CW 2012–2014)**, **Hamish Dalgarno (CA 2008–2012)**, **Jack Dingwall (MO 2007–2012)**, **Hugh Dingwall (MO 2009–2014)**, **Archie Dingwall (PS-MO 2012–2018)**, **Alfie Jeavons Fellows (GL 2014–2016)**, **Zac Jeavons Fellows (GL 2014–2016)**, **Oscar Chan (MO 2010–2014)**, **Walter Ruffle (PS-MO 2018–2014)**, **Harriet Rose (DA 2012–2014)**, **Raymond Kiganda (KI 2013–2015)**, **Archie Dingwall (PS-MO 2012–2018)**, **Lewis Rasmusen (MO 2009–2014)**, **Callum Anderson (GL 2018–2020)**, **Lissy Macleod (DA 2012–2017)**, **Rory Martin (CA 2010–2014)**, **Kyle Tainton (GL 2019–2014)**, **Jerome Lam (MO 2009–2014)**, **Freddie Fuller (MO 2008–2012)**

If you would like to join the Touch Rugby group in London please email fettes.community@fettes.com with your mobile number and you can be added to the team Whatsapp group to advise of your availability each week.



Centenary Rugby Match: Fettes XV vs OF XV, 1970



OF Golfing Society winners of the Halford Hewitt, 1964

FETTES CAREER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

From career insight sessions to networking or lectures to panel sessions the Fettes Career partnership is about sharing expertise and support.

Whilst at Fettes students have career development embedded within the curriculum. When they leave and become Old Fettesians, the career journey continues with friendly real-world support available from the Fettes Community.

We are so grateful to every Old Fettesian who has offered or provided support. From a contact to a CV review or a transformative internship, this support makes a huge difference. Giving up your time to help or participate in an event is hugely appreciated.

Here are just some of the events that have run as part of the Fettes Career Partnership programme this year. In the next academic year there will be a panel event for OFs and business networking in London too. Look out for your event invitations.

Career Insight and networking for the Third and Fourth Form

Students had the opportunity to speak to OFs and parents from engineering, technology, entrepreneurship, marketing, investments, public relations, corporate communications, sustainability and human resource management.



Lower Sixth Career Insight Lunch with OFs who were back for Commem

This has become a valuable fixture during Commem and we are so grateful to all the OFs who participate. The breadth of job functions, career journeys and global economies that you all work in are invaluable topics for the Lower Sixth over lunch. Finding out how competitive University sport is at Loughborough from a five-year leaver or a tech career in Silicon valley from a ten-year leaver. Hearing about an early law career in Dubai or the challenges of an undergraduate degree at IE. This is real and relevant information and great practice at networking too.

Oxbridge interview support

Members of staff, Old Fettesians and parents once again supported local applicants to Oxford and Cambridge.

During one week in November, 48 practice Oxbridge interviews were scheduled for students from Boroughmuir High School, Broughton High School, Craigmount High School, Holyrood RC High School, James Gillespie's High School, Portobello High School, Queensferry High School, St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School, Trinity Academy, and Fettes.

Physics was the most popular course with nine applicants. There were a further five each for both



Don't forget that you can access the Fettes Career Partnership programme from the Fettes Community Portal – fettescommunity.org. You can search the directory to see who can help you or you can offer support.

Medicine and Maths, as well as applicants for Architecture, Linguistics, Modern Languages, PPE, Economics, HSPS, History, Geography, Japanese, Engineering, Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Fine Art, and English. The ratio of applicants for practice interviews at Oxford and Cambridge was equal this year. Thank you to those of you that helped with this.

Higher Education & Career Expo

Our Higher Education & Careers Expo welcomed 500 attendees in February where students from Edinburgh High Schools joined the Fettes Lower Sixth Form students and their parents to explore and consider higher education and career options.

A thought provoking panel on graduate or apprenticeship pathways was followed by insightful advice on how to choose a course of study. Our higher education fair provided access to admissions and recruitment representatives from 43 UK and International institutions. Specialist talks on Oxbridge and International university applications. Forty experts from many professions offered helpful 1-1 advice

Thank you to all the OFs, experts, students, parents, Fettes staff and Edinburgh High School staff who brought this valuable day together.

This Will Be Your World – Geopolitics

In September, the Lower Sixth participated in their first of five themed panel sessions as part of our *This Will Be Your World* Sixth Form programme. The session was on Geopolitics. Fascinating contributions were made, from our expert panelists:

Catherine Philp (DA 1986–1988) is one of Britain’s most experienced foreign correspondents, having covered five continents in nearly 25 years at *The Times*. She is currently World Affairs Editor at *The Times*. She has been based in overseas bureaus (Baghdad, Jerusalem, Beirut, Delhi, Washington, Jakarta, Phnom Penh) and reported on conflicts from Afghanistan to Colombia, winning several international press awards. Most recently she has been on the ground covering the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza as well as the impact of geopolitical shifts from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean. Catherine studied at King’s College London

Alex Parsons (KI 1986–1991) provides advice to government relations specialists and family offices. Alex graduated in Hispanic Studies from the University of Edinburgh. He worked for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office beginning with senior diplomatic postings in Santiago, Nicosia and Abu Dhabi. He has now lived and worked in the UAE and Latin America for nearly 25 years. Alex has a deep knowledge and understanding of the respective subtleties of ruling family politics in the UAE and Latin American internal politics for business.

The *This Will Be Your World* sessions are designed to provide sixth form students with an insightful, thought-provoking snapshot of the world that they will be a part of when they leave school.

After each of the panelists had spoken, we moved on to some interesting questions from the students.

This session was held in September 2024, Answers to the below questions can be heard by visiting bit.ly/3HPpcYA

- How is China’s growing investment in Africa changing the world order?
- Do you think the UN will continue to have a role in global politics?
- How do either of you think the Ukraine/Russia war will end?
- How do you view the rise of support for far right-wing political parties in Europe?

This Will Be Your World – Population

In May we were joined by our two Fettes parents who provided their views on the important global topic of population.

Professor Francisca Mutapi, global health strategist and population scientist from the University of Edinburgh with honorary positions at the University of Oxford and at the University of Ghana. Her work bridges research and policy across continents.

Giuseppe Zampaglione, development economist with an international career spanning the World Bank and teaching roles at top universities including, Princeton, LSE, and WU Vienna. His insights are as global as they are practical.

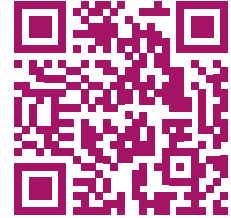
The Q&A was very insightful with students and staff asking a huge range of questions. A podcast recording of the session is available on the Fettes Community podcast. Search ‘Fettes Community podcast’ on your usual podcast provider.



If you would like to help or provide support at any of our in person events at school, or offer premises in London to host networking events please email Karen Jones, Head of Engagement – kp.jones@fettes.com

FETTES COMMUNITY PORTAL

fettescommunity.org

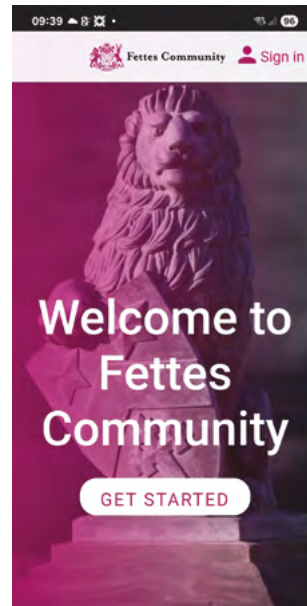


Are you making the most of the Fettes Community Portal?

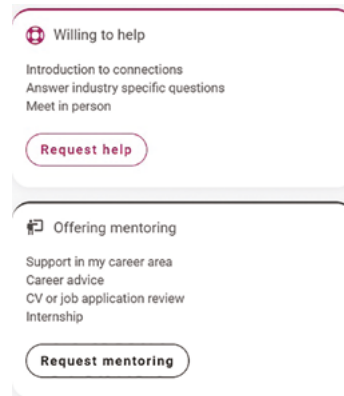
Have you visited the Fettes Community Portal recently? Have you even signed up? Just under two thousand five hundred OFs are members, why not join them? The portal provides access to the Fettes Career partnership programme, access to a directory of OFs, opportunity to join regional or specific interest groups and a calendar of events. It is also the home of the Digital Archive. It is a tremendous resource for you and a great way to keep in touch or make new connections.

There's even an app. Android users can search for *Fettes* in the play store and the app will appear. For iOS, users need to download the Graduway Community and then, once downloaded, search for *Fettes* in the drop-down list.

Your Groups



If you have yet to get started simply register and then login. You create your OF profile which you can keep up to date with your email address, contact details and address. You can provide information on your career and offer support to the Fettes Career Partnership programme if you would like to.



For those seeking help. Search the Directory by profession or location and look for the 'willing to help' banner. Click on these contacts and you will be able to see what level of support they have offered and how to contact them. We are very grateful to the 39% of OFs who are willing to help in this way.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

We have continued to add to the Fettes College digital archive.

You can browse all editions of the Fettesian Magazine, dating back to 1878 or you can review an extensive collection of sports team and House photos. There are also photos of school life, including Tug of War winners and some CCF team photos.

We also have electronic copies of three Fettes history books, Fifty Years of Fettes, One Hundred Years of Fettes and A Keen Wind Blows: The Story of Fettes College.

Old Fettesians can login or register to view by visiting www.fettescommunity.org.

If you have a photo or item that you would like to offer to the College archive, please email fettes.community@fettes.com.



THE WATT MEMORIAL TRUST

The Watt Memorial Trust was set up in 1983 in memory of **Rob Watt (SH 1911–1916)** and his wife Barbara with the aim of giving financial assistance to past and present members of both schools. The awarded grant enables recipients to “advance their education or professional training beyond the point at which public funds or university scholarships are available, or when private or family sources alone are not quite adequate for the purpose.” There have been many Old Fettesians and Academicals who have benefited from the Trust.

Rob had an outstanding career: Head of School, XV, Oxford scholar, double first in Mods and History. He became a brilliant teacher of History (with Classics and Maths when needed), a wise and compassionate Housemaster at Rugby and Rector of Edinburgh Academy. He was always devoted to Fettes, where he had been very happy. When he returned in 1967, he identified himself very much with the school, attending numerous functions, first with his devoted Barbara, later, sadly, alone. Rob was welcome in any company, among all generations.

Could the Watt Trust help you advance your education or professional training?

Are you limited in your educational pursuit by a financial barrier?

An application to the Watt Trust could support you with funding to the value of around £1,000.

The deadlines for applications to the Trust are 1st September and 1st February.

All enquiries should be made to the Secretary:

**Sophie Mills
The WS Society
The Signet Library
Parliament Square
EDINBURGH
EH1 1RF**

Email – smills@wssociety.co.uk



OF LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Barrie Lloyd (KI 1953–1958) writes that as an avid reader of *The Times* and its letters pages, he often spots letters from OF correspondents. **SRG Pratt (CW 1965–1970)** is a regular correspondent and his letters have been published on a wide variety of topics over the years, so much so that all his many published letters deserve to be collated and produced in the form of a book. A letter from **Air Commodore IA McCoubrey (KI 1959–1964)** pops up from time to time and, in March, a letter from him appeared in a column alongside one from SRG Pratt, albeit on separate issues. Both write short and pithy letters often tinged with a sense of humour.

LJ Keith (KI 1958–1964) has also been published on several occasions. Another OF, **Dr IH McKee (MO 1953–1958)**, a former MSP, has written on political, social and medical matters and **Dr JL Twist (AR 1986–1991)** on AI and creativity. None, so far as I know, have yet achieved the holy grail of a letter published in the right-hand bottom corner of the letters page. I have undoubtedly missed letters written by other OFs and it would be interesting to hear from them via the OF Newsletter correcting the oversight.



Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk

Sir, It is suggested there is little a judge can do to force a convicted offender to attend court to hear the sentence, particularly one facing a whole-life order...
SRG Pratt, 17th March 2025

Sir, Matthew Parris wants an oldie to spit in his tea (notebook, Feb 19; letter, Feb 20). I would never be so rude but would point the accusing finger at the systemic discrimination against older people, especially in the workplace...
LJ Keith, 21st February 2025

Sir, Keir Starmer continues to use weasel words in defining 'working people'...
IA McCoubrey, 29th October 2024

Sir, Your leading article about defence spending is spot on. But we must also accept that the age of Pax Britannica is past. What is needed is a radical assessment of our defence priorities today. These include defending our country from invasion, protecting our borders and working with our Nato allies to protect our wider interests.

Ian McKee, 26th October 2024

Sir, Sir Nick Clegg's comments about tech companies being unable to seek copyright holders' permission upfront to train their models are simply wrong ('Clegg backs big tech in AI rights row', news, May 23). For almost 15 years, many of the biggest tech players have had licences in place with major and independent labels covering audio streaming products. Both parties know how to negotiate deals that meet consumer expectations, embrace innovation and reward risk and investment. All we ask is that the government maintains a legal framework that enables such licensing to continue on a transparent basis for the generative AI era. The full benefits of AI to society that we all wish to see can be realised without our nation's music (and other creative arts) and its brilliant human artistry having to be sacrificed.

Dr Jo Twist, Chief executive, BPI 27th May 2025.

Fettes Shop



Gold bee necklace



Silver bee necklace



Water bottle



Water bottle



OF silk tie



Gold bee necklace



Silver bee necklace



Canvas shopper



OF silk bow tie ready-knot



OF silk bow tie



Fettes stripe toiletry bag



Gold bee necklace



Fettes stripe hip flask



Sterling silver cufflinks



Pewter quail



Gold bee earrings



Silver bee earrings



Hip flask with crest



Fettes school scarf



Umbrella

The Fettes Shop not only sells school uniform and House kit. It also sells a range of fabulous Fettes merchandise. If you would like to order any of these items or more, visit www.fettes.com/fettes-enterprises/fettes-shop or arrange to pop-in to the campus when you are in Edinburgh.



Fettes: Our Place



“It was fascinating seeing many of the same rooms and views that we see today, from as far back as 150 years ago, and spotting the similarities between them. In particular, I love the photos of Arniston and the old Arnsiton dorm.”



This beautiful coffee table book contains previously unseen images from the Fettes 150 year archive. It is an elegant hardback publication featuring photographs, printed materials and objects from life at Fettes. This 200 page book is full colour with large images and fascinating extended captions depicting much loved Fettes places and traditions that anyone associated with Fettes will recognise.

Copies are available for £25 from the Fettes Shop



FETTESIAN TRUST: WILLIAM CARNEGIE (CA 1950–1955)

On 4th October 2024 William Carnegie retired from fifty years of voluntary service to the Fettesian Trust, having been by far its longest serving Trustee. In honour of his enormous contribution he was presented with a specially-engraved wine goblet by current Treasurer of the Fettesian Trust, Amanda Forsyth (née Baker) (AR 1982–1984).



NINETY-NINE: LORN COWIE (CA 1940–1944)



At the 100th anniversary of Murrayfield Stadium, the **Hon. Lord Lorn Cowie (CA 1940–1944)**, Scotland’s oldest living internationalist, was celebrated on the pitch alongside his grandson. He was joined in tribute by the memory of two fellow Old Fettesians, **Herbert Waddell (Mo 1915–1921)** and **Phil Macpherson (SH 1916–1921)**, both of whom played in the original 1925 Grand Slam match that marked Murrayfield’s opening.

On 30th January Lorn Cowie visited Fettes with one of his grandsons to reconnect with the College grounds and with Carrington. He had vivid memories of his time at school and was such pleasurable company. He was particularly pleased to go in to Carrington to look at House photos and to meet the current Houseparent and some of the current students.

Just before going to press, Lorn’s daughter **Isabel Moloney (née Cowie) (CA 1977–1978)** wrote to us: “My father is now the oldest Senator of the College of Justice and Scotland’s oldest rugby internationalist. So we are ever so proud of him. We celebrated his 99th birthday over the weekend of 31st May and 1st June with a party at his church and a family gathering on his actual birthday, 1st June. It was a very happy weekend with almost all his family around him. He sang for the company – the Mermaid – a longstanding favourite and enjoyed all the birthday cake and Champagne!”



Carrington House, 1944

OF NEWS

1930s

Celebrating 103 remarkable years:

Donald Shaw (MO 1935–1940)

We are delighted to mark a significant milestone in the Fettesian community: **Donald Shaw (MO 1935–1940)** has become Fettes' oldest Old Fettesian at the age of 103.

Born in 1922, Donald became a Newman of Fettes in 1935, where he distinguished himself as a Begg Exhibitioner, a member of the VIII, and a Sergeant in the Corps.

Following Fettes, Donald served as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF during the Second World War and endured a period as a prisoner of war. He went on to study at Guy's Hospital, qualifying as a dental surgeon in 1949. His career in dentistry spanned four decades, including many years with the Community Dental Service, before his retirement in 1986.

Now residing in Surrey, Donald remains an engaged and loyal member of the Old Fettesian community, regularly attending OFA gatherings in London. His connection to the college is both heartening and deeply valued.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Donald on this extraordinary Milestone.

1950s

A life of curiosity and connection

John Durham (GL 1951–1956) has been a dedicated amateur genealogist since 1975, delving into the branches of his family tree with great enthusiasm. For 33 years, he served as editor and/or treasurer of the Highland Family History Society, during which time he contributed numerous articles to their quarterly journal. Many of these pieces were written with newcomers to the field in mind, offering guidance on how to avoid common pitfalls.

As noted in *The Fettes College Register 1870–1970*, John's athletic prowess at school was as a sprinter. In later life, he took on the endurance challenge of long-distance running, completing nine marathons. His final three were in Paris, Glasgow, and London, his 1986 entry to the latter marking a triumph after two years of rejection.

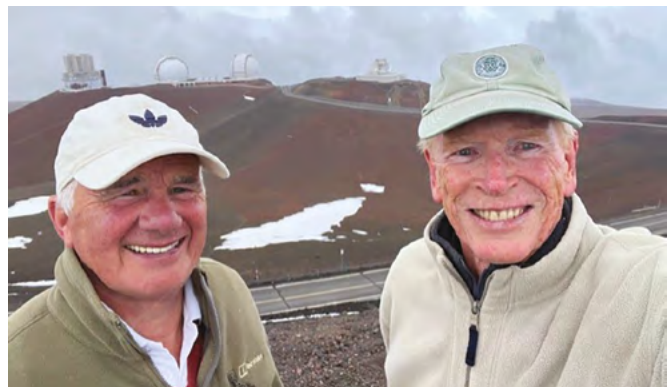
Outside of sport and genealogy, John formed a successful bridge partnership with another John, a senior physics teacher in Inverness. Known affectionately as the 'Two Johns,' the pair enjoyed great success, culminating in John being awarded a Bridge Master certificate by the Scottish Bridge Union in 1997.



John Durham awarded Bridge Master



Donald Shaw at 103 years old



Michael Spens and John Lang in Hawaii



Pictured from left to right are: Oliver Lang (CA 1999–2004), who regretted missing his contemporaries' 20-year reunion in Edinburgh; Alexis Sarikas (MO 1978–1982), John Lang (CA 1962–1967); Richard Raczowski (KI 2012–2016), Gabrielle Lang (PS,CW 2005–2015); and Fabienne Lang (CW 2002–2006)



Amanda Hay (née Mackenzie-Stuart) was the first girl at Fettes in 1970. Her granddaughter will be the first girl in the Fettes pre-Prep in September 2025

After a twenty-year hiatus from bridge, during which he and his late wife enjoyed their retirement together, John has now returned to the game. He plays twice weekly with the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Londonderry.

Never one to rest on his laurels, John has recently embarked on a new project – writing his autobiography, encouraged by several members of his family.

1960s

2025 OneOcean expedition

On Monday 2nd of June, **Charles Jeffrey (KI 1965–1969)** sent in his nautical update, sharing “the 2025 OneOcean expedition is underway, and I will be joining the leg from Nice to Ponta Delgada in the Azores. Nineteen days sailing.

“I will be on watch ‘White Watch’ from 4.00–8.00 and 16.00–20.00 in the evening. Sleeping in hammock and again, no mobile phone or internet.

“Over 70 yrs old, a doctor’s medical certificate is required. Passed!”

Standing on top of the world!

While visiting **John Lang (CA 1962–1967 and Staff 2005–2010)** in Hawaii in March, **Michael Spens (Headmaster 1999–2018)** and John visited the summit of Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii, in sub-zero weather. While the mountain is 4,207 metres (13,803 feet) above sea level, it is 9,330 metres (30,610 feet) above the ocean floor, making it higher than Everest.

Mauna Kea is a dormant shield volcano, having last erupted more than 4,000 years ago – unlike its neighbour, Mauna Loa, which erupted less than three years ago and Kilauea, in the island’s National Park, which was erupting while Michael was in Hawaii.

Old Fettesians gather in Nairobi

A cheerful group of six Old Fettesians came together on the 10th of July 2024 at the Muthaiga Country Club in Nairobi to raise a glass, Floreas Fettesia!

1970s

A Fettes double first

In September 2025, five-year-old Otilie D will make history as one of the first pupils to join the newly established Fettes Pre-Prep. Housed within Fettes Prep, the Pre-Prep will welcome children from the age of 4½, marking a significant moment in the evolution of Fettes College.

Otilie’s place in this new chapter is made all the more special by her family connection: over fifty years ago, her grandmother **Amanda Hay (née Mackenzie-Stuart) (GL-CA 1970–1972)** became the first girl to attend Fettes when the College opened its doors to female students. Now, a second generation leads the way once again.

Ahead of her official start, Otilie, alongside her older sister Isla, who is also joining Fettes, and their grandmother, visited the school for a ‘Stay and Play’ session. The family was warmly welcomed by Charlie Minogue, Headmaster of Fettes Prep, and enjoyed exploring the grounds together.

1980s

Fettes College breaks ground on new wellbeing centre thanks to generous donation

Construction is now underway on a landmark new addition to the Fettes College campus: the Allardice Centre, a purpose-built wellbeing facility made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the late **David Allardice (Mo 1978–1984)**, an Old Fettesian who passed away in 2022.

In his memory, the Allardice Centre will become a sector-leading hub for the physical and mental wellbeing of pupils. Due for completion in November 2025, the building will house the school’s relocated medical centre and bring together medical and pastoral care services under one roof. The facility will also provide space for PSHE (personal, social, health and emotional) lessons and support activities, offering pupils a dedicated environment in which to access care and guidance.



Ground is broken for the Allardice Centre



Lorne Balfé, honoured by ASCAP



OFs play at the Rugby World Cup 2024



New novel for Alex Starritt



New arrival for the Preston family

Designed with sustainability in mind, the project represents a significant step towards low-carbon operations across the campus and sets a new benchmark for future development at Fettes.

To mark the commencement of construction, a small ceremony was held with the Chair of Governors, **The Rt Hon Lady Morag Wise (Governor 2018–present)**; Head of Fettes College, **Helen Harrison (Staff 1996–present)**; Bursar, **Peter Worlledge (Staff 2009–present)**; Head of Wellbeing, **Sue Bruce (Staff 2000–present)**; and PSHE Prefects Sasha P, Anound H, Kyan T, and Georges D-B. They were joined by **Amanda Forsyth (AR 1982–1984)**, a friend of David Allardice, who held the historic silver trowel originally used to lay the foundation stone of Fettes College in 1864.

1990s

Lorne Balfé honoured by ASCAP for outstanding film scores

Lorne Balfé (JS-GL 1987–1995) has enjoyed a remarkable year, solidifying his reputation as one of the film industry's foremost composers. Recognised by ASCAP, Lorne received accolades for his outstanding work on *Argyle*, *Carry-On*, and *Bad Boys: Ride or Die*. Additionally, his compositions rank among the most performed themes and underscores in the industry, reflecting his exceptional influence and success.

OF Success in touch rugby World Cup 2024

There was excellent representation from OFs at the Touch Rugby World Cup 2024, where **Alison Freshwater**

(née Graham) (CW 1993–1998) represented Scotland in the Women's 40s team and **Celestine Cheong (CW 1995–1997)** and **Craig Samuel (KI 1997–2004)** represented England in the Women's 40s and Mixed 30s teams respectively, both winning bronze medals. Celestine's team also beat New Zealand in the round robin stages, the first time this has been achieved in women's touch rugby by a Northern Hemisphere team. Selection for this tournament was highly competitive, with months of trials to gain a place to join players from 39 countries fielding 187 teams challenging each other across seven consecutive days this Summer. Wonderful to see OFs continuing to compete at this level alongside (and against!) each other.

2000s

New novel from acclaimed author and Old Fettesian, Alex Starritt

Award-winning author and Old Fettesian **Alex Starritt (Mo 2001–2004)** has released his latest novel, *Drayton and Mackenzie*, this summer. The book follows his critically acclaimed debut *The Beast* (2017), named a *Spectator* Book of the Year, and *We Germans* (2020), which was translated into six languages and honoured with the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Alex has also distinguished himself as a translator, bringing works by Stefan Zweig and Franz Kafka to English-speaking audiences. His literary achievements continue to garner international recognition, and we are proud to celebrate his latest success.

A new arrival for the Preston family

Charlotte Purchase (née Preston) (AR 2006–2008) and her husband Jack welcomed their second daughter, Felicity Rose, in October 2024. Felicity is the second grandchild for **Nigel Preston (GL 1969–1974)** and a great-great-niece of **George Preston (SH–CW 1944–1950) (Staff 1955–1991)**.

Chris Thomson completes historic ultra-marathon challenge

Chris Thomson (INV-KI 2001–2008) has made Scottish running history by becoming the first person to run 32 ultra-marathons in 32 days across all 32 Scottish council areas. The 34-year-old completed his extraordinary feat at Edinburgh Castle, raising funds for seven charities, including Maggie’s Cancer Centre, which supported his family. Inspired by the loss of a close friend, Chris undertook the challenge to promote mental health awareness and encourage others to pursue their passions.

Owen Thomas career update at the Rep Theatre Dundee

Owen Thomas (INV-MO 1999–2005) let us know this recent career update. “After a decade of freelance work as a Stage Manager across Scotland and the wider United Kingdom, I transitioned to a full-time role with Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre. Shortly after joining, an opportunity arose to step up temporarily to the position of Head of Production. This interim role was initially held jointly for three months before I took it on independently for a further six months. Following this successful nine-month interim period, the role was made permanent. I have now served as the Head of Production for the company for a year, during which time I have overseen multiple successful productions that have performed locally, nationally, and internationally. Furthermore, I was a key member of the leadership team that produced our successful Creative Scotland application, resulting in the organisation becoming the second highest funded in the country. I continue to be based in Edinburgh, where I live with my partner and our two-year-old Border Collie”

Career update from Sukhmeet Singh

Old Fettesian **Sukhmeet Singh (INV-MO 2000–2009)** got in touch to share that “After completing my core psychiatric training, I am currently working as a Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability. I am undertaking dual training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability. Alongside my clinical roles, I have been awarded a place on the Wellcome Trust Multimorbidity Doctoral Training Programme at the University of St Andrews. Over the course of this three-year programme, my research will focus on identifying and managing multimorbidity in patients presenting to emergency departments during mental health crises. I am pleased to be combining clinical practice with academic research in a field of growing importance.”

2010s

Harry Patterson extends contract with Edinburgh Rugby

Scotland full-back and Old Fettesian **Harry Paterson (PS-GL 2011–2019)** has signed a new two-year contract with Edinburgh Rugby, keeping him at Hive Stadium until 2027. Fresh from earning his first Scotland cap in the 2024 Six Nations, Paterson has returned to form following injury and is set to play a key role for Edinburgh.

Fettesian selected for prestigious Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting

Dr James Watson (MO 2012–2014), a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UNSW Sydney, has been selected to attend the esteemed 74th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany this summer. Held from 30 June to 4 July, the gathering brings together 600 of the world’s most promising young scientists to engage with 35 Nobel Laureates.

Dr Watson is one of only ten early-career Australian researchers chosen through a highly competitive national selection process. His pioneering work focuses on developing new catalysts that convert small molecules such as CO₂ and methane into more sustainable products, an important step towards a low-carbon future.



Chris Thomson completes ultra-marathon challenge



Harry Patterson extends Edinburgh Rugby contract



Dr James Watson attending Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting

Alfie Jeavons Fellows career and Mei Jun Tan update

Alfie Jeavons Fellows (GL 2014–2016) who initially pursued a music career before embarking on an apprenticeship with PwC, and **Mei Jun Tan (AR 2014–2019)**, who completed a Chemistry degree with a year in industry before joining Wood Mackenzie as an energy consultant, kindly returned to Fettes in February. They spoke on our career panel to the Lower Sixth and invited pupils from local Edinburgh high schools, sharing insights from their unexpected career journeys and the benefits of their experiences.

2020s

Tom Speedy (PS-CA 2010–2021) has graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee with a First Class degree in Fine Art. He has been awarded an RSA John Kinross Scholarship to Florence this autumn and his work has been chosen for the RSA New Contemporaries exhibition in Edinburgh, April 2026. If you would like to follow Tom's progress and see more of his work his Instagram is [@_tomspeedy](#)

Rugby success for Phoebe Maclean Bristol

After playing rugby for only two seasons, **Phoebe Maclean Bristol (PS-CE 2012–2022)** has played two games for Hillhead Jordan Hill's first team, who are in the Women's Premiership in Scotland. Usually playing for their seconds who won their league last year.

She also played for two teams (Bishopston RFC) and (excuse the name, Tits & Tries) at the Majorca International beach rugby tournament last weekend. The Tits and Tries won their competition.

Scottish sporting success

We are proud to see Old Fettesians **Pippa Kelly (PS-CE 2013–2024)** and **Rosie Speedy (PS-CW 2013–2024)** representing Scotland in the U19 Cricket World Cup in Malaysia. Just six years ago, they were playing for our Prep 1st Cricket Team. They are truly great role models for the next generation of young girl cricketers. We wish them all the best.

Meanwhile, our lacrosse players continue to shine on the international stage. **Anna Hutchison (DA 2020–2024)**



Panelists, Alfie Jeavons Fellows and Mei Jun Tan



Tom Speedy wins RSA John Kinross Scholarship



Rugby success for Phoebe Maclean Bristol



Anna Hutchison, Scotland U20 Lacrosse



Pippa Kelly and Rosie Speedy, Scotland U19 Cricket World Cup

represented Scotland U20 in the Home Internationals in April 2025, where she was named Scotland’s player of the tournament and scored five goals against England in their final match. **Immi Cochran (AR 2021–2023)** also featured in the Senior Women’s B team at the same tournament.

Caroline Getley (AR–Da 2011–2016) and **Kai Harper (DA 2018–2020)** represented Scotland in the Senior

Women’s team, winning two of their three matches across the series. In a particularly exciting development, Kai has also been selected to join the British Lacrosse training squad – a remarkable achievement as LA2028 draws ever closer.



COMMEMORATION WEEKEND

Old Fettesians Reunite for Commemoration Weekend 2024



We were thrilled to welcome over 350 Old Fettesians back to Fettes for the Old Fettesian Association Commemoration Weekend 2024.

This memorable weekend saw special reunions for the five-year leavers of 2019 and the decade leavers of 2014, 2004, 1994, and 1984. We were also honoured to host the Newmen of 1964 and 1954, with three celebrating a friendship that began at Fettes 70 years ago!

Our community made extraordinary efforts to return to Edinburgh, travelling not just from across the UK but from places as far as the US, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, Dubai, Portugal, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Italy, and France.

Old Fettesians enjoyed a variety of events, including Friday night reunion drinks at Brewhemia in Edinburgh, a careers lunch with the Sixth Form, House visits, supporting House sports matches, and strolling around the grounds to see what has changed and what remains delightfully familiar.

The evening began with a service in Chapel, led by our Chaplain. A thought-provoking address was given by David

McDowell (Staff 2005–present), while the reading was given by OFA Committee President Richard Llewellyn (MO 1987–1992) and Head of School, Laura T. The Chapel Choir treated us to a stirring rendition of the anthem ‘Praise to the Lord, the Almighty’, by J. Neander & Tr. C. Winkworth. The congregational singing was powerful, as everyone was clearly overjoyed to be back together at Chapel.

Following the Service, a drinks reception and black-tie dinner took place in the Dining Hall, where guests were seated with Old Fettesians from their time at school. The evening featured wonderful hospitality, with speeches from the President of the OFA and the Head, Helen Harrison. The highlight of the evening was a performance by our expert pipers from the Pipe Band after a loyal toast. The night was filled with heartfelt reminiscences and long-awaited catch-ups, with some returning to Fettes for the first time since their school days.







EVENTS 2024–2025

7th June – Old Fettesian Edinburgh Lunch

Old Fettesians gathered in June for the annual Edinburgh Lunch at the Royal Scots Club. Guests were warmly welcomed, with grace delivered by **Rev Dr Peter Sutton (SH 1979–1984)**, before enjoying a three-course meal with wine, followed by tea and coffee. We were delighted to be joined by Head, **Helen Harrison (Staff 1996–present)**, who provided an engaging update on all things Fettes.

14th June – OF Drinks in Dubai

Old Fettesians gathered for an evening of drinks and conversation at Bedrock, Dubai Marina, on Friday 14th June. Hosted by Regional Representative **Luke Daly (Ca 2001–2006)**, the informal gathering welcomed around ten attendees, including **Paul Sowerby (KI 1973–1978)** and his family, **Eileen Duncan (AR 1990–1992)**, **Jenni Morrison (CW 2010–2012)**, **Charles McGlone (CA 2008–2013)**, **Charles Tuckwell (CA 2010–2014)**, **Daniel Parnaby (INV-MO 2000–2008)**, and Luke himself.

While the group didn't get round to darts or golf this year, the drinks flowed, and conversation followed throughout the evening.

Regrettably, no group photo was taken as guests arrived and departed at varying times, but a warm thank you to all who came along.

20th July – Summer Drinks in Hong Kong



Old Fettesians gathered in Hong Kong for summer drinks and dinner together. Many thanks to Joseph Ng for organising this enjoyable evening.

4th October – Commemoration Weekend 2024



We were delighted to welcome over 350 Old Fettesians back to campus for this year's Commemoration Weekend. Special reunions were held for leavers from 2019, 2014, 2004, 1994, 1984, and the Newmen of 1964 and 1954, three of whom celebrated 70 years of friendship.

Guests travelled from across the globe to join us for a weekend of reunion drinks, House visits, sports matches, and a moving Chapel service led by our Chaplain.

The celebrations concluded with a black-tie dinner in the Dining Hall, complete with heartfelt speeches, piping, and the joy of reconnecting with old friends.

8th October – Old Fettesian Association AGM 2024



On Tuesday, 8th October, the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Old Fettesian Association was hosted online, allowing as many Old Fettesians as possible to participate.

The meeting began with a welcome from Alumni Officer, **Cameron Todd (Staff 2024–present)**, followed by updates from President of the OFA, **Richard Llewellyn (MO 1987–1992)**, Deputy Head of Fettes College, **James Weatherby (Staff 2007–present)**, and Community Engagement Manager,

Karen Jones (AR 1989–1991) (Staff 2012–present).

It was an engaging and informative session, offering OFs valuable insights into life at Fettes today and the OFA's activities over the past year.

23rd October – OF Drinks in London



Old Fettesians gathered in Covent Garden on the 23rd of October. The event successfully brought together 50 OFs, from Newmen of the 1960s to the most recent Leavers of 2024.

Guests enjoyed a selection of canapés and a range of refreshments was also available from the inclusive bar. This gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for OFs to reconnect, with many stopping by on their way home from work while others had made a special trip.

The evening was well-represented by key staff members, including Director of Development **Michael Stitt (Staff 2023–present)**, Head of Engagement **Karen Jones (AR 1989–1991) (Staff 2012–present)**, and Alumni Officer **Cameron Todd (Staff 2024–present)**. London Regional Representative **Urosh Teodorovich (INV-KI 2001–2008)** also lent his valuable support and enjoyed connecting with more OFs in London.

November – OFs in Kampala

In November, the Fettes community reached as far as Kampala, where a small group of Old Fettesians gathered for an informal meet-up, kindly hosted by **Robin Kohler (CW 2022–2024)** and her family. Among those in attendance were **Sean Poole (CA 1980–1985)** and **Gismo (MO 1981–1984)**, all enjoying Fettes company in East Africa.



Robin shared, "It was so lovely to meet other Fettesians. It's comforting to have the same Fettes community feel even after I have left the campus!"

November gathering in Dubai



The Fettes community came together in Dubai on 17th November at Tagomago, The Palm Jumeirah. This was a fun and fairly spontaneous evening to co-incide with Fettes staff travelling through the region. Attendees included – **Sean Fullarton (PS-KI 2007-2014)**, **Lauren Whitelaw (AR 2009-2013)**, **Nicola Halliday (CW 2009-2013)**, **Iain MacPherson (INV-CA 1996-2004)**, **Chris Gibson (KI 1985-1988)**, **Luke Daly (CA 2001-2006)**, **Rory Daly (CA 2004-2009)**, **Ryan Li (GL 2010-2015)**.

12th December – Fettes Festive Drinks in Edinburgh

The Fettes community embraced the festive spirit once again this year with a fun evening at Tigerlily on George Street, Edinburgh.

Old Fettesians were welcomed with a drink, before gathering around the fireplace to enjoy the surroundings and each other's company.

With 40 OFs from across the years in attendance, the evening provided the perfect opportunity to come together, look back, and catch up at Christmas time.

14th December – Hong Kong OF Christmas Party

Old Fettesians gathered in Wan Chai on Saturday 14th December for a festive evening of cheer at the annual Hong Kong Christmas Dinner Party. Hosted by **Jerome Barty-Taylor (INV-KI 2000-2005)** and **Joseph Ng (KI 1983-1986)**, the event brought



together alumni from across the years for a relaxed evening of good food, drinks and warm conversation.

18th December – OF London Carol Service 2024



The Old Fettesian London Carol Service was a great way to conclude the term, bringing together over 200 members of the Fettes community in Belgravia for a memorable evening.

Organised by **Alex Warren (MO 2010-2015)**, the service was a celebration of the festive season. The Fettes Community Choir filled the church with carols whilst **Revd Dr Peter R Sutton (SH 1979-1984)** led the service.

Our readers were **Urosh Teodorovich**, Regional Representative for London (**INV-KI 2001-2008**), Head, **Helen Harrison (Staff 1996-present)**, and **Sophie Cullis (CE 2012-2017)**, **Richard A Llewellyn**, OFA President (**MO 1987-1992**) who joined the gathering in honouring this cherished tradition.

The evening finished with mulled wine and mince pies, allowing all to catch up and stay warm!

Thank you to Alex Warren and everyone involved in making this event such a success.

31st of January – Newcastle Dinner 2025

On Friday, 31st January, the Old Fettesian Association held its Newcastle Dinner at the historic Blackfriars Restaurant, bringing together OFs, honorary Fettesians, and their guests from across the Northeast.

The evening was hosted by OFA President **Richard Llewellyn (MO 1987-1992)** and OFA Vice-President **Vikki Halliday (née Cleghorn) (CE**



1990-1991), alongside Alumni Officer **Cameron Todd (Staff 2024-present)**.

Guests enjoyed a carefully curated three-course menu. The dinner provided a wonderful opportunity for old friends to meet and new connections to be formed, all in true Fettesian spirit. Thank you to all who joined us and helped make the evening enjoyable.

8th February – OF Shoot on the Grassie Range



A group of Old Fettesians, organised by OFA Edinburgh Regional Rep **David Hay (Ca 1991-1996)**, gathered at the range on Saturday, 8th February, for a friendly and enjoyable shooting session. Despite some being out of practice, the atmosphere was lively, and everyone relished the opportunity to test their marksmanship. Julie emerged as the standout performer of the day, scoring an impressive 89, the highest score recorded. The event finished with a timed shoot, adding a fun challenge and revealing that a more instinctive approach could yield similar results to careful aiming. Chaplain **Neil McCleery (Staff 2024-2025)** hosted the session brilliantly, ensuring everyone felt safe, well-directed, and entertained throughout. The enthusiasm among participants highlighted the event's success, leaving everyone eager for future shoots.

14th March – Fettes Community gathers in Dubai for rooftop drinks

Members of the Fettes community came together high above the Dubai skyline for an evening of conversation. Hosted at OAnjo on the 24th floor of the Sheraton Mall of the Emirates, the venue offered grand views over Dubai,



especially for those attending from out of the region. Many thanks again to OFA regional Rep **Luke Daly (CA 2001–2006)** for his help in organising.

Old Fettesians and friends based in the UAE and beyond enjoyed the chance to catch up and get to know others within our international network. With a growing number of Old Fettesians living and working in the region, events like these offer an important way to stay connected and celebrate our shared bond, no matter how far from Edinburgh we may be.

5th April – Fettes Pipe Band makes triumphant return to New York for Tartan Day Parade



This April, 28 members of the Fettes College Pipe Band travelled to New York City to take part in the Tartan Day parade on the 5th of April, their first appearance at the event in a generation. The trip was a blend of performance and sightseeing, with the band entertaining crowds in Bryant Park before joining the Sixth Avenue parade, led by our Head and warmly supported by OFs, members of the Fettes community and 'Friends of Fettes College'.

Many thanks have to go to **Richard Blacket (Ki 1969–1974)** who is a trustee of the Friends of Fettes College Inc., who kindly hosted members of the Fettes community for a drinks reception in his New York apartment.

The students performed a specially selected set of American favourites including *America the Beautiful* and *When the Saints Go Marching In*. Alongside their piping, they managed to get the full New York experience, visiting the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Memorial, watching a basketball game and even clocking up over 92,000 steps during the trip.

The band, which currently holds the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships Junior A Trophy, was joined by two of the College's world-class piping instructors, both of whom have competed at the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championships.

11th April – Eurozone Trip to Albi 2025



The Eurozone group had a wonderful reunion in Albi in the south of France on 11th and 12th April 2025 – their very first gathering since Dresden in 2019.

Organised by **Jeffrey Giovannoni (Ki 1989–1994)**, the weekend started with drinks on the hotel terrace followed by a simple meal of local food where, after so many years without us meeting, conversations flowed, and friendships were rekindled over a few glasses of local Gaillac wine. A few stalwarts ended the evening in the adjoining bar/nightclub until the early hours.

The following morning saw us fresh and ready to explore the wonderful Albi countryside – known as the Occitan Tuscany – with its bucolic landscapes on what proved to be a magnificent spring day.

Our first stop was Cordes-sur-Ciel, a bastide (or fortified medieval town) founded in the 1220s by the Count of Toulouse as a protective gateway to his northern territories. The traditional Saturday morning market was in full flow. A small electric train took half of us up the meandering streets to the top of the town whilst the other half undertook the steep climb by foot. The breath-taking views were well worth the effort and a welcome coffee break was taken below the 14th century beams of the covered market

protecting us from the mid-morning meridional sun.

Our next stop was the Château de Mayragues, a beautifully restored medieval castle which produces excellent bio-dynamic Gaillac wines. The Geddes family, of Scottish descent, proved wonderful hosts showing us around the restored grounds and arranging a magnificent lunchtime wine-tasting accompanied by local delicacies. Some friendly rivalry was had between Alan Geddes (an Academical, or Accies, from Edinburgh Academy) and **Alastair Morrison (MO 1956–1961)** who had played rugby against each other in the 1st XV of our respective old schools a few years earlier! Our grateful thanks to the Geddes family for being such wonderful hosts. We are informed that you can actually find their wines in Edinburgh and we can't recommend them enough.

We then finished our daytime exploring at Castelnaud-de Montmiral, another picturesque bastide perched on a hilltop, before heading back to Albi.

Our evening revelries started with drinks on the hotel terrace with **Anthony Orr (CE 1964–1968)** then leading us with the bagpipes into the formal dining room where we enjoyed a wonderful evening – including a further delicious meal of beautifully prepared local produce and wines. Speeches and toasts to absent friends were made. The evening ended much later with Anthony Orr accompanying us on the guitar to some fine renditions of *Floreas Fettesia*, traditional Scottish, Irish and English folk songs and some beautiful singing of local Occitan poems by Benjamine Giovannoni (wife of **Jeffrey Giovannoni (Ki 1989–1994)**).

The weather changed dramatically on the Sunday with torrential spring downpours but many of our party still managed to visit Albi, a UNESCO world heritage site, with its fine renaissance streets, imposing cathedral and world renowned Toulouse-Lautrec museum.

We encourage all old Fettesians, wherever you reside and of whichever age, to join us for future events. The next Eurozone gatherings are in the planning stage with Belgrade, Lisbon and Geneva being mooted as possible venues, so watch this space!

25th April – Pavillion Afternoon Tea



Old Fettesians gathered in April for a special edition of the Edinburgh Lunch. Due to good weather, OFs were warmly welcomed to the Pavillion in order to enjoy afternoon tea whilst looking out over Big Side. Hosted by Alumni Officer **Cameron Todd (Staff 2024–present)** and Head of Engagement **Karen Jones (AR 1989–1991) (Staff 2012–present)** OFs in attendance had the chance to hear updates on the school as well as talk to Director

of Development **Michael Stitt (Staff 2023–present)**. The event was well received with multiple requests for it to be repeated in the future.

8th May – Fettes Drinks in Edinburgh

The Fettes community embraced a summer evening at Tigerlily on George Street. Old Fettesians were welcomed with a drink, before being able to catch up with fellow OFs from years past. Many reunions could be seen throughout the evening and thank all for attending. We look forward to next year’s edition.

24th May – Southwest of England OF Lunch

Old Fettesians and their partners were invited to the annual Southwest of England Lunch in Bath. As noted by Regional Rep **Nigel Shepherd**



(Mo 1975–1979) It was a great success. Sixteen OFs and Partners sat down to an excellent lunch at the Bathwick Boatman. The food and company were first rate, and everyone appreciated the update on life at Fettes.



QUINTINSHILL DISASTER, 22 MAY 1915

An adaptation of a Chapel talk given by **David McDowell (Staff 2005–present)**, teacher of history & politics.

Fettes has produced many old school professional soldiers, from dynasties of highland warriors like the Macphersons and Camerons. But in the world wars we provided a lot of people who never imagined they'd find themselves at war, even if they put a uniform on at weekends and did a bit of drill with Territorials like the 7th Battalion Royal Scots, who were recruited from the shops, warehouses and docks of Leith.

Two of their officers were OFs whose families had come here to do business: **Christian Raymond Salvesen's (MO 1903–1908)** were Norwegian Lutherans and **Louis George Liebenthal's (Ki-GL 1895–1901)** father was a Jewish businessman from Germany. They lived well; you can still see Christian's house at 6 Rothesay Terrace and Louis' at 34 Regent Terrace.

The battalion's other OFs were similarly well-off; **Ronald Moncrieff Galloway's (GL 1907–1910)** family owned several grand houses in England, and **William Ramsay Kermack's (GL1900–1905)** old house at 2 Bonaly Road is now a listed building. He was an author and manager of a map-making firm; his grandparents were sufficiently important to be among the first people in Scotland to have their photograph taken, back in 1843.

They would have seen it as their patriotic duty to help out through the Territorials. The private soldiers who they commanded were often their employees in civilian life, and if the working men, some no older than sixteen, could join up, those who had enjoyed lives of privilege ought to do so too.

A hundred and ten years ago this week, this group of young men were packing up for a journey. For months 7/RS had been kicking around on coastal defence in Scotland, but now they were off on an adventure.

On Saturday 22nd May 1915, at 0345hrs, their troop special train carrying 500 men of B & C companies left Larbert station. **Lt Christian Salvesen (MO 1903–1908)** sat with his machine-gunners in the carriage next to the engine, and **Lt Ramsay Kermack (GL 1900–1905)** was a few carriages back. As it travelled through the bright dawn towards the English border the atmosphere was full of excitement; they were bound for Liverpool to sail to Gallipoli, and finally see some action.

At Quintinshill Junction near Gretna, the signalmen were preoccupied with paperwork as they changed shifts. They had forgotten that a local train was waiting on the main track, and allowed the troop special carrying the Royal Scots to go through the signals at 0645. At 0649 hrs, it ran into the other train at 70 mph. A minute later, the Carlisle-Glasgow express train crashed into the wreckage.

The troop special was an older, lightly-built train; on impact, it concertinaed from 200 metres to 60. It was also lit by gas and, thanks to the spillage of burning coals from the crash, it exploded.

The horror of Quintinshill is not really captured in the grainy photos you can see on the internet. Soldiers trapped in the wreckage begged their comrades to shoot them to put them out of their agony or to save them from being burned alive. One man found his friend's head. A survivor found a severed arm lying by the crushed wreckage of the first carriage; he recognised the tunic as Salvesen's. There was nothing else left of Salvesen or indeed dozens of other men.

There is a story that as the blackened, bedraggled, bewildered survivors, one of whom was Kermack, returned to Edinburgh, small children took them for German prisoners and threw stones at them.

Although 216 Royal Scots had been killed, only 83 were ever identified and there were only enough remains for 107 coffins. These were taken back to the Battalion's Drill Hall off Leith Walk on Dalmeny Street. On Monday 24th May, 3,000 soldiers and thousands more civilians lined the route from the drill hall up Leith Walk and down Pilrig St to a mass grave in Rosebank Cemetery. The shops were closed, blinds drawn, and the traffic stopped.

On 14th June, A & D companies, 7th Royal Scots who had been on an earlier train, arrived at Gallipoli. Less than two weeks later, at 11 in the morning on 28th June, which this year is the date of our Founder's Day, they went into action at the Battle of Gully Ravine. There wasn't enough artillery support but an eyewitness said that they still advanced, cheering and yelling. Then, he wrote, they fell in bundles. **Ronald Galloway (GL 1907–1910)** was one of 241 men of 7/RS killed, wounded or missing that day.

Alongside 7/RS were the 8th Scottish Rifles, a similar unit recruited from Glasgow's business community. Five of their eight OF officers, mostly from Glencorse, two of them cousins and one a former Scotland international, were killed and another injured, almost all between 11.00 and 11.05. **Tommy Stout (GL 1907–1910)**, the last to die, a keen rugby player and captain of the Fettes shooting team, was killed trying to rescue his commanding officer, Major Finlay; just as he dragged him to safety, Tommy's head was blown off by a shell.

In Finlay's book about his battalion, the anger at his superiors burns off the page as he blames their 'apathy and negligence' for sending his men to battle without support.

Old Fettesian **Louis Liebenthal (Ki-GL 1895–1901)** was already dead: attached to another unit, he was one of four OFs killed at Krithia on 4th June. Of a thousand 7/RS in August 1914, only 174 were still in one piece a year later. Only Kermack survived; he recovered from his injuries in the crash and was posted overseas to fight. After many adventures in battles in the Middle East for which he received the Military Cross, he lived to the ripe old age of 93, one of the last people to remember the disaster at Gretna.

We want the people on our war memorials to have died heroically or at least for a purpose. When the nation came together in London to celebrate the end of the Second World

War on 8th May, you could point to achievement – we won the war and got to live in freedom.

But all too many of our OFs in both wars, and most of those on the wooden memorial at the back of chapel, were killed in unheroic accidental ways; plane crashes, falling downstairs, run over by a taxi. The first OF to die during WW1 accidentally shot himself fiddling with his own gun. All the OFs killed on active service in conflicts between VE-Day in 1945 and February 1951 died in accidents.

At Quintinshill, the sound of the crash, screams of the injured, the explosions of the gas and then the ammunition, led local people to imagine that the Germans had invaded. And yet they came running to help regardless of the danger, not just the fire brigade but the lady who ran the souvenir shop, farmers in the fields, even the boy scouts.

The people of Leith remembered their fallen friends by paying for a huge granite cross as a memorial over the mass grave at Rosebank Cemetery, and for support for the victims and their families.

At 10.30 on Saturday 24th May 2025, as there has been for some years now, there will be a short commemoration at the memorial. Through this week there will be an exhibition in what was once their drill hall, now called Out Of The Blue, on Dalmeny St off Leith Walk.

A key organiser of these events is one of our governors, John Edward, whose great-grandfather was killed in the disaster.

And so we remember the Quintinshill disaster, as John Edward says, because people in the past died so that we could enjoy the chances we now have; we honour their memory by what we make of those chances.

We remember these things as a sober warning that none of us are so privileged that we are immune from the suffering of the world.

We remember those individuals of 7/RS because they were part of our Fettes Family, and because they connect us with our community here in Edinburgh, which they saw it as their duty to serve.

Old Fettesian Casualties Quintinshill and Gully Ravine 1915

Old Fettesians of 7th (Leith) Battalion Royal Scots in the Quintinshill rail disaster, Gretna, 22nd May 1915

- Killed: Lieutenant **CHRISTIAN RAYMOND SALVESEN (MO 1903–1908)**, died age 24
- Injured: Lieutenant **WILLIAM RAMSAY KERMAK (GL1900–1905)**, age 28; recovered and served in Middle East and France, awarded MC 1917; writer and publisher; served Home Guard WW2; died 1979

Old Fettesian formerly serving with 7th (Leith) Battalion Royal Scots, killed in action at Krithia, Gallipoli, 4th June 1915

- Lieutenant **LOUIS GEORGE LIEBENTHAL (Ki-GL 1895–1901)**, attd. 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, died age 31

Old Fettesians killed in action at Gully Ravine, Gallipoli, 28th June 1915

The only OF in the 7th (Leith) Battalion, Royal Scots not killed or injured in the Gretna rail disaster:

1. Lieutenant **RONALD MONCRIEFF GALLOWAY (GL 1907–1910)**, age 22

Five Old Fettesians of the 8th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), a Territorial unit from Glasgow:

2. Lieutenant **HEW McCOWAN (CA 1904–1908)** age 25 (a Glasgow youth club was set up in his memory)
3. Captain **CECIL DUNN MACINDOE (GL 1895–1900)** age 34 (played hockey for Scotland)
4. Captain **RONALD CHRISTIAN BLACK MACINDOE (GL 1906–1911)** age 22 (Cecil's cousin; his former home in Glasgow is now Hotel du Vin)
5. Captain **ERIC TEMPLETON YOUNG (GL 1906–1911)** age 23 (rugby international: played in last Calcutta Cup before WW1)
6. Lieutenant **THOMAS STOUT (GL 1907–1910)** age 23

A total of 23 Old Fettesians died during the Dardanelles Campaign or subsequently died of illness contracted there.



1 and 7 Battalion Royal Scots, April 1915

Highlighted from left: Lt Christian Salvesen (MO 1903–1908); Lt Ramsay Kermack (GL 1900–1905); Lt Ronald Galloway (GL 1907–1910)



SADLY DEPARTED

We would like to thank the family members, friends and colleagues who have notified us of the deaths of Old Fettesians and other friends of Fettes listed in this edition of the Newsletter. This list includes news of deaths that we have been made aware of up until the end of May 2025. If you know of any omissions, please do let us know by emailing ofa@fettes.com or calling +44 (0)131 311 6741.

FORMER STAFF & FRIENDS OF FETTES

CHRIS H CARRUTHERS (STAFF 1974–2000)

Chris Carruthers passed away on 14th October 2024.

This tribute was written by **Mark Peel (Staff 1983–2007)**

Chris Carruthers was a man who divided opinion with his trenchant views but there is no doubting his impact during his 27 years at Fettes.

Born in Dumfriesshire in 1940, Chris was raised at Malmesbury, Wiltshire, the elder son of Hew Carruthers, an RAF officer, and Pamela Isobel Torrie, an international showjumper and one of the world's leading showjumping course designers. Although Chris was an accomplished horseman himself, his sporting passions lay elsewhere – on the rugby and cricket fields where he played to a good level.

After education at Oakham School and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read Law, Chris taught at a prep school in Kent before joining Framlingham College, Suffolk in 1966. There he threw himself into the full life of the school, coaching the 1st XV rugby and the under 16s hockey and cricket, as well as becoming a housemaster.

He was equally active on moving to Fettes in 1974: a teacher of classics, a coach in all the major sports, an officer in the CCF and an assistant to Andrew Gordon-Clark in School House before taking over as housemaster there in 1978. Never plagued by self-doubt, Chris gave a strong lead to the boys, his firm rule tempered by his more sensitive side. Priding himself on knowing his charges, he went out of his way to help them, especially those in trouble, dispensing wise advice and amusing them with his irreverent humour.

On vacating School House in December 1982, Chris was appointed master-in-charge-of-games, a position to which he was eminently suited because, aside from his administrative flair and his love of sport, he approached it in exactly the right spirit. In line with his creed of excellence, his coaching expertise raised the standard of many a Fettes team, especially the cricket XIs he ran in the mid-late 1970s, but unlike some schools, he wasn't consumed by a win-at-all-costs ethos. And mention should be made of his total impartiality as a referee and umpire. Thus, he would value a plucky performance in defeat as much as a resounding win over inferior opposition. Strongly committed to the concept



that sport was for all, he managed, when coaching Miniside rugby in later years, to convince many of the laggards that they too could enjoy the game.

One of the challenges confronting Chris was raising the profile of girls' games as their numbers began to expand. Although this led to some tension with several of his colleagues, Chris was essentially sympathetic to their interests, never better illustrated than the inordinate time and effort he put into raising money for the girls' hockey tour to Japan and Australia in 1997. And when the demand for a girls' rugby team surfaced in the mid-1990s, it was Chris who stepped forward to coach them, an assignment that brought mutual satisfaction.

A supreme organiser, his annual running of the School Sports and the IAPS Sports was a model of efficiency, his crisp pronouncements on the public address system leavened with wit and humour.

In addition to running the games Chris took on the role of assistant bursar helping to keep the Fettes grounds in prime condition. These new responsibilities meant less time in the classroom and although he admitted to losing some of his enthusiasm for teaching, he could still enthral a class with his personality and humour. In an age when report writing became more verbose, Chris's reports said everything that needed to be said in a couple of lines.

In addition to his duties at Fettes, Chris was a leading figure in Scottish cricket. A former captain and president of the Grange Cricket Club, he was a respected umpire and ran the Scottish under-18s, prior to becoming chairman of the Scottish Cricket Union 1991–96 and president of Cricket Scotland 2002–03.

On his retirement from Fettes in 2000, Chris moved to Dalton in Dumfriesshire where he continued to give of himself to various activities: doyen of the local bridge circuit, local councillor, director of Annadale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust and secretary of the Decorative Arts Society. Afflicted by deteriorating health in recent years, his death in October 2024 was a merciful release. In accordance with his wishes, a private cremation was held.

A man of many parts, Chris was above all an able, dedicated schoolmaster whose gruff exterior concealed a generous nature who helped scores of Fettesians to better themselves. Not inclined to sentiment, I think he would have been touched by the many tributes to his life and legacy.

DIANA HOPE (STAFF 2007–2008)

Diana Hope passed away on the 12th of January 2025.

Diana Hope joined Fettes College as a member of the Art Department in 2007 and served until 2008. Prior to her time at Fettes, she was Head of Girls at Edinburgh Academy from 1981 to 1999. She also worked as a part-time tutor at Edinburgh College of Art from 1999 to 2007. After leaving Fettes, she continued as a self-employed artist.

ELIZABETH PRESTON

Elizabeth Preston died peacefully on 2nd December 2024.

Elizabeth was the dear wife of **George Preston (SH-CW 1944–1950) (Staff 1955–1991)** and mother of their daughter, Sophie.



George and Elizabeth were married whilst George was Housemaster of College West before moving to Kimmerghame in 1969 when George became Housemaster there until 1981. Elizabeth's commitment to Kimmerghame was deep. She worked closely with Mrs Russell the Matron, and was a problem-solver. She gave untiring help with the costumes for a number of school plays. Notable were her detailed costumes for *Amadeus* by Peter Shaffer. She inherited a rather haphazard wardrobe, but brought it into meticulous order and guarded it fiercely.

Elizabeth came from a prominent and gifted family, and she deeply admired her father, who was one of Montgomery's Major-Generals during the drive eastwards after D-Day. Having seen him off before he crossed to the continent, she never saw him again as he was killed in the push towards Berlin. His memory remained important as an inspiration to her.

During retirement Elizabeth regularly dog walked in the grounds and was a familiar face to many. Fettes owes Elizabeth a great deal.

MURRAY HILL (STAFF 1987–1990)

Dr Murray Hill passed away peacefully at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 31st October 2024, aged 70.

A much-admired teacher of French and German at Fettes, he was known for his intellectual rigour, dry wit, and deep commitment to modern languages. He is remembered as a devoted husband to Ulrike, loving father to Carla and Anna, and a proud grandfather.

OLD FETTESIANS**ROGER H MUIRHEAD (MO 1935–1939)**

Roger H Muirhead (Mo 1935–1939) passed away on 11th April 2025, aged 103.

This obituary was taken from *The Times*.

As a MAFF vet in the 1970s, he shed light on badgers' role in bovine tuberculosis. Aged 80 he was pressed into service during foot and mouth



Roger Muirhead, who has died a few days short of his 104th birthday, was awarded campaign medals for his Army service in North Africa, Italy, Normandy and Burma.

Roger Hedderwick Muirhead was born in Scotland on April 17 1921. His father, Brigadier Sir John Spencer Muirhead, DSO, MC, served in both world wars, and taught Roman law at Glasgow University. His great-grandfather, James Hedderwick, founded and published *The Citizen*, Glasgow's evening newspaper.

He was educated at Fettes and enlisted in the Army in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC), he joined his unit, part of 151st Brigade, British 50th (Northumbrian) Division, at El Alamein, Egypt, in September 1942.

He commanded a platoon in the Second Battle of El Alamein, the turning point of the North Africa campaign, and in the Battle of the Mareth Line. In July 1943, he commanded an ammunition platoon in Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. He and his men embarked from Port Said on a passenger liner before transferring to a landing craft.

He landed south of Capo Murro di Porco. There was little opposition but he was involved in a skirmish in the dark with American paratroopers who had landed in the wrong place. He said afterwards that he narrowly escaped being shot. A merchant ship which he saw being bombed was carrying all the alcohol for the Officers' Mess. He was the Messing Officer and had spent all the funds for its purchase in Alexandria.

After the fighting, he took some of his men to the top of Mount Etna and they camped there for the night. The next morning, a German bomber came over them, flying very low, pursued by an RAF fighter. Muirhead and his platoon crossed to mainland Italy with their lorries and moved up to Bari on the Adriatic coast before returning to England in December to re-equip and train for the Normandy landings.

He landed at Arramanches on August 12 1944. Within a few days he was taken to hospital with a recurrence of malaria and it was October before he was able to rejoin his unit, part of an anti-aircraft brigade, at Terneuzen in the Netherlands, on the southern shore of the western Scheldt Estuary.

He took part in the battle to open up the Scheldt between the strategically vital port of Antwerp and the North Sea to enable shipping to bring supplies to the Allies. He came across 20 Canadian Army three-ton lorries. They were under-employed and he commandeered them for several weeks before returning them to their base.

The 21st Army Group was badly in need of infantry officers to replace casualties. Muirhead was posted to the Isle of Man to re-train but in May 1945 he volunteered to serve with the RASC in the Far East. He was based at Comilla in Assam (now Bangladesh), a transit camp for the 14th Army in Burma, before moving to Rangoon. In August, the Japanese surrendered and for the next nine months he managed a British Military Government food supply depot at Teluk Anson in Perak State, Malaya.

In August 1946, he was demobilised in the rank of captain. He went up to Glasgow University to read law but he could not stand listening to lectures in Roman law by his father; after two terms, he emigrated to Canada. He returned to Britain in 1949 and went to the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, as a mature student.

For 20 years he served as a veterinary officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF). Following extensive research, he played a notable part in the identification of tuberculosis in badgers as a cause of bovine TB and in demonstrating how transmission of the bacteria could be eliminated by controlling the movements of these animals. In 1972, his findings were published in the *State Veterinary Journal*.

In 1975, he was part of a team that went to Malta to deal with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and in April

2001 MAFF asked him to help with the British foot and mouth crisis. Aged 80, he worked on farms full-time for six months. On his retirement, he was appointed MBE for his services to agriculture.

Settled in a village in Gloucestershire, he enjoyed walking his dogs and adding to his considerable knowledge of old motor cars. In his later years, he was cared for by his business partner, Peter Robertson, and subsequently by Peter's son, Jay.

JOHN A THOMSON (KI 1938–1941)

John A Thomson passed away peacefully at home in Annan on 1st November 2024, aged 100.

The Daily Record online published the following tribute.

A distinguished Dumfriesshire auctioneer, author and historian, John Alexander Thomson (1924–2024) was a man of great character and accomplishment. Born in Annan, he was the youngest of three children and followed his father into the livestock auctioneering trade, a career he pursued with dedication and innovation.

Educated at Annan Academy, Dalhousie Castle School and Fettes College, John served in the army during the Second World War before returning to work in the family business. He helped develop and expand several key livestock marts across the region, including Annan and Thornhill, and played a pivotal role in promoting the Cheviot Mule, now one of Britain's most successful sheep crosses.

He held numerous leadership positions in the profession, including President of the Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland, and was the recipient of the Farmers Guardian Auctioneers' Lifetime Achievement Award in his nineties. A keen historian, John published eight books, including the much-loved *Ring of Memories*.

He is remembered as a devoted family man, an astute businessman, and a passionate chronicler of rural Scottish life.

John's sons, **John D Thomson (Ki 1966–1969)** and **Stuart A Thomson (Ki 1968–1972)** came to Fettes as did three of his grandchildren **Peter F Laidlaw (Ca 1992–1994)**, **Louisa M McElroy (CE 1994–1999)**, **Cameron J Sharp (Ki 2016–2021)**.



WILLIAM RUSSELL ENOCH (MO 1938–1943)

William Russell Enoch passed away on the 3rd of June 2024, aged 99.

Excerpts from his obituary in *The Guardian* are noted below.

William Russell Enoch, known professionally as William Russell, was a distinguished actor with a long and varied career on stage and screen, he is perhaps best remembered as Ian Chesterton, one of the original companions in *Doctor Who*, which first aired in 1963.

A student of Fettes from 1938 to 1943, William went on to read English at Trinity College, Oxford, following wartime



service as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAFVR. He began acting in university productions alongside contemporaries such as Kenneth Tynan and Tony Richardson, and soon after enjoyed success in repertory theatre and live television. His breakthrough came as the titular character in ITV's *The Adventures of Sir Lancelot* (1956–57), the first British TV show produced in colour for the American market.

William's film credits included *Gift Horse* (1952), *They Who Dare* (1954), and *The Man Who Never Was* (1956), before taking on his iconic role in *Doctor Who*. His involvement with the show continued for decades, with a cameo appearance in 2022 making him the longest gap between appearances in the programme's history.

Beyond *Doctor Who*, William enjoyed seasons with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Actors Touring Company, appearing in classical and contemporary productions across the UK. In later years he performed at Shakespeare's Globe and in the West End. He was admired for his versatility and longevity, working well into his nineties.

He is survived by his second wife, Dr Etheline Lewis, their son Alfred (known for playing Dean Thomas in the *Harry Potter* films), three children from his first marriage, and four grandchildren.

COLIN M GUTHRIE (GL 1943–1947)

Colin passed away peacefully on the 29th of November, 2024, aged 94.

The following was written by **William Carnegie (Ca 1950–1955)**.

Colin Guthrie, who died in November 2024 at the age of 94, followed his father, **William Guthrie (GL 1906–1910) (Deceased)** to Glencorse. He was a House Prefect, but perhaps his most notable achievement at Fettes involved being with three others the 'Enemy' in a Corps exercise on the Pentlands. They were shipped out to their position well ahead of the main body who were to attack them. However once they were in position, they persuaded a farmer to give them a lift back to Edinburgh. This involved driving past the oncoming cadets and no doubt masters concealed in the farm vehicle. They then spent the rest of the day in the Monseigneur News Theatre Cinema in Princes Street leaving their rifles in the probably unattended cloakroom. History does not relate what happened when the main body attacked a non-existing enemy nor, if anything, what happened to Colin and his friends when, presumably, it was discovered what they had done.

Colin graduated in law from Glasgow University and practised as a solicitor in the city. He played rugby for many years for Glasgow Academicals as a flanker, for the First XV in the 1950s and 1960s and latterly in a Veterans' XV captained by **Alan Waddell (Ca 1946–51) (Deceased)**. He was also the Secretary of the Glasgow Academical Club itself and involved in the administration of its rugby activities. He had a son and two daughters.

ALLAN N WATSON (GL 1945–1950)

Allan Watson passed away on 25th February 2024, aged 92.

Born in December 1931, Allan entered Glencorse House in 1945. A distinguished student, he was a School Prefect, played in the 1st XI, and contributed to the Music Club and General Purpose committee. He left Fettes in 1950 having

been awarded a Science Scholarship to St Catharine's College, Cambridge. There, he achieved First Class Honours in Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos, graduating BA in 1955 and later MA.

After a period of service as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Allan embarked on a career in the chemical industry. He began at Glaxo Laboratories in 1955 before moving to the United States to join Rohm & Haas in Philadelphia in 1958. Following several senior appointments – including Sales Manager at Lennig Chemicals Ltd – he returned to Rohm & Haas, where he served as European Regional Purchasing Director from 1985 until his retirement in 1992.

THOMAS C (KIT) SWINFEN (CW 1945–1951)

Kit Swinfen passed away on 20th May 2024, aged 91.

Many thanks to Kit's wife, Judy, for contributing to this tribute.

Kit was born on 13th August 1932 in Montreal, Canada. His early education was in Fife, Scotland, where he attended Kirkcaldy High School before moving to Fettes College (1945–51), where he was a member of the shooting team. Kit and his brother were introduced to target shooting from a young age by their father, a member of a rifle club made up of former Home Guards.



From Fettes, Kit went as an Exhibitioner to St John's College, Cambridge (1951–54), where he read Natural Sciences. He later became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1970, which subsequently became the Royal Society of Chemistry.

His National Service involved a short-service commission as Instructor-Lieutenant on HMS Ganges in the Royal Navy. On leaving active service, he joined the Royal Naval Reserve, resigning in 1966 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Kit taught Chemistry at Rugby School from 1959, becoming Head of Chemistry before moving to Uppingham School in 1966. He retired in 1992 as Head of Science after 26 years. He continued to pursue his interest in shooting throughout his teaching career, regularly taking teams to Bisley and travelling with the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings) to Canada in 1989.

In retirement, Kit lived with his wife Judy in Rutland, where he was actively involved in church and village life. He became a well-known maker of jam and pickles. He is survived by Judy, his three daughters from his first marriage, a stepson and stepdaughter, and his brother, **Professor David B. Swinfen (CW 1950–1955)**.

RONALD J B HOARE (GL 1952–1957)

Ronald Hoare passed away peacefully on 4th March 2025, aged 85.

The following was written by **Donald Steel (GI 195–1956)**.

Ronald (Ronnie) Hoare was a gifted games player, a stalwart at cricket and rugby in a Fettes era when they occupied centre stage. Hockey was more of an also ran, a forerunner to later life when action reverted to golf.

It was his Senior Tutor, Dr Pratt at Christ's College, Cambridge, who once pronounced "Golf. It is not a game it is a disease".

Certainly, the theme of this tribute centres on Ronald's sporting adventure, although he enjoyed its social

aspect, too. He was welcome company, ever ready to see the funny side with the sharing of a glass or two. Friendliness was a trait that ran in the family. His father, Wilf, who was Housemaster of Glencorse before sampling the dizzy heights of Headmaster of Strathallan, was quick to offer guidance in developing Ronald's classic cover driving, always a hallmark of cricketing excellence. Ronald also fostered the magic of leg spin. In 1956, he took 6 for 39 against Watson's.

More of cricket in a minute. It was his rugby at Cambridge, a little surprisingly perhaps, that stole the show in strange fashion. At a time when Cambridge won six Varsity matches out of eight against Oxford, the sadness was he never made it to Twickenham despite playing 46 matches on the wing in the rigorous build-ups – an achievement that may never be matched. It also proved that school coaching is a great force in building ambitions to graduate to higher levels at university, club, county and even country. It is no consolation that, in the modern allowance of substitutes, a couple of on-field minutes would have won Ronald his Blue.

If his parents hadn't left Glencorse in early 1951, it is perfectly conceivable that Ronald's schooling would have been elsewhere, but this is not a tale of a might-have-been, as our admirable cricket master, Charles Whittle, made plain in *The Fettesian Centenary Supplement*: "R.J.B. Hoare, son of a former Cricket Master, W.N.S. Hoare, took over captaincy from Steel and they together with Bowman, Cumming and Bain so dominated Fettes cricket in the 1950s that I think their names must stand alone.

"1955 was graced by the Royal Visit of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip. In a match against The Masters, Hoare was batting in the middle when the Royal Party arrived at the pavilion. Hoare then proceeded to hit the bowling all over Turf, and when we finally did get him out, he even remembered to bow loyally to Her Majesty."

One of my frailties is that, for all my longstanding contact with friends, I often don't know what they do for a living. Happily, a BA in Economics at Cambridge gives some clue to Ronald's career in stockbroking, banking and eventually as Chairman of R. Hoare Assoc. Ltd. Obviously a man of many skilled parts.

However, marriage to Elizabeth and the birth of two daughters led to a deserved happy life in Norfolk, with golf thrown in at Royal Worlington where he was hugely popular. Less happy was a decline in health, latterly the source of great pain, discomfort and immobility. It was typical of a special person that he fought the good fight without complaint. In the words of the hymn which we used to sing in Chapel, 'Great is thy faithfulness'.



Five successive Captains of Cricket: Bowman, Cumming, Steel, Hoare and Lloyd

DAVID E GRAHAM (KI 1946–1950)

David E Graham passed away peacefully on the 9th of April 2024.

Many thanks to David’s wife, Kate, for writing this tribute.

David entered Fettes as a Founder. Keen on all sports but only achieved success at fives and tennis. Left school for Edinburgh University having shared the Alexander Begg Exhibition. Graduated M.B., Ch.B. In 1956 and entered RNVR as Surgeon-Lieutenant. Following various hospital appointments and periods of General Practice in Scotland he and his family migrated to Hobart, Tasmania in 1966 where he established a successful General Practice. Retiring in 2002 he became involved in various community organisations. He was Tasmanian OFA secretary. He is survived by his wife, Kate, daughter Claire, son Alan and late son John and nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

DAVID W FERGUSON (CA 1946–1950)

Dr David Ferguson, sadly passed away on 7th March 2024, aged 91.

Dr David Ferguson, served as a general practitioner for many decades, passed away peacefully. A graduate of Glasgow University, he held numerous qualifications including M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst., and F.R.C.G.P. David served as a captain in the Territorial Army with the Cameronians and worked in NHS practices in Dalbeattie and Alford. Beyond his medical career, he was a clinical tutor and enjoyed Rotary Club, golf, fishing, gardening, and DIY.

ALASTAIR H PETRIE (GL 1947–1951)

Alastair H Petrie passed away peacefully on 20th December 2024, aged 91.



Many thanks to Alastair’s daughter, Jane, for writing this tribute.

After leaving Fettes, Alastair served an apprenticeship in heavy engineering on Clydeside, with night school studies for O.N.C. and H.N.C. in Mechanical Engineering at Paisley Tech (as it was). On fulfilling his National Service duty as a Marine Engineer, Alastair joined Unilever as Sales Engineer and spent fifteen years in Africa. He married in Kano, Nigeria, in 1961 and had two daughters. He went to Saudi Arabia in 1975 and joined the early years of the oil boom which he always described as an exciting time, a time to expect the unexpected; a project to remove millions of cubic yards of desert sand to get down to fertile soil beneath, to plant wheat; the need to gracefully accept and eat the eye of a sheep, as a guest of one of the royal princes, in a tent in the desert.

In 1982 he moved to Egypt where he completed his career as Vice President of an Egyptian company. He retired to Scotland in 1994. Alastair played all the usual sports and was a keen motorcyclist. In 1975 his rescuing an old Ferrari in the desert near Jeddah attracted great interest in classic car circles. He restored the car to its original glory and kept it

for twenty-five years. His twenty-odd years in the Arab world gave him a great respect for the conservative way of life of the Arabs. Their courtesy, disciplined society, kindness to strangers, generosity, strong ties and loyalty which centre around family and religion, he believed should be an example to the West. They extended their values to employees who if loyal, became one of the family and were richly rewarded. But, he said, you betrayed their trust at your peril.

Alastair always regarded his years at Fettes as a fine preparation for life, especially for his years in the seventies in Saudi Arabia.

KENNETH W PRITCHARD (CW 1947–1951)

Kenneth Pritchard OBE sadly passed away on the 27th of January 2025, aged 91.



This tribute was compiled with reference to the *Law Society News* article published on 28th January 2025 and with contribution from Kenneth’s son, Ken.

Born into a legal family, Kenneth moved to Dundee as a child, attending the High School of Dundee before continuing his education at Fettes.

Kenneth joined Fettes in 1946 and thoroughly enjoyed his time. He met many of his lifelong friends there, including **David Taylor (CE 1947–1952)** and **Harper Cuthbert (KI 1948–1951)**, who went on to be his best man later in life. He was one of the original members of College West, created as an additional house post-war to allow expansion of the school. He cites his highlight of his school career of scoring the try that secured the College Cup for College West.

He passed his Oxford and Cambridge entry exams at the first attempt much to his own and his tutor’s surprise, but chose to study law at St Andrews University, graduating in 1954.

Following early years in private practice, he was appointed Secretary of the Law Society of Scotland in 1976 only the second person to hold the post and led the organisation for over two decades during a time of considerable change in the legal profession. His contribution was recognised with Honorary Membership of the Society in 1997.

Kenneth is remembered as a distinguished lawyer, part-time Sheriff, and dedicated public servant. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gretta, children Ken, Gavin, and Katharine, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His family, along with the many colleagues, friends, and associates he worked with over the years, will remember him fondly for his commitment to the legal profession and his impact on the lives of those around him.

NIGEL B RICHARDSON (CA 1947–1952)

Nigel Richardson passed peacefully on the 29th of March, 2025, aged 90.

The following was written by **William Carnegie (Ca 1950–1955)**.

Nigel had a successful business career, was a sociable person with many friends, a happy family man, and an enthusiastic and competent golfer.

At Fettes, he was a house prefect in Carrington House and a member of the Hockey XI, the Tennis VI, and the 2nd XV.

After school, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in Glasgow and played rugby for the West of Scotland. Despite his strong connection to the West, he then – as his son Joe said in the eulogy – ‘defected’ to Edinburgh. He married Doreen Margaret Holmes in 1960. They lived in Edinburgh, where Nigel worked for Crawford’s Bakery of United Biscuits for many years as their Financial Director.

His friendships from Glasgow endured, and they would regularly meet at Murrayfield for the rugby internationals, enjoying picnics in the car park before and after the game.

Later, he worked for the Scottish Agricultural Securities Corporation as Financial Director until his retirement in the late 1990s.

He had a son, Joe, and a daughter, Gail, as well as two granddaughters, Marcia and Eliza. He loved telling them stories about his sporting career at Fettes.

Nigel was a longstanding member of Luffness New Golf Club, where he became Captain in its centenary year. He excelled in bringing members together for both golf and social occasions, particularly the celebratory dinner, where **Donald Steel (GI 1950–1956)** proposed the health of the club. He continued playing until he was no longer mobile, but still enjoyed lunch with friends, old and new.

Doreen died in 2009, but Nigel remained socially active and became a regular at the Canny Man’s for lunch. I knew Nigel not only at school, but also in Edinburgh, particularly in the later years of his life. We enjoyed sociable lunches with **Sandy Graham (GL 1949–1953)** and the late **Kenny MacKinnon (GL 1948–1954) (Deceased)** together.



JOHN G TURNBULL (KI 1948–1953)

John Gilmour Turnbull passed away on 22nd November 2018, aged 82.

Excerpts from his obituary online. John was born in Edinburgh and educated first at Edinburgh Academy before joining Kimmerghame House at Fettes College in 1948. He went on to follow in his father’s footsteps by pursuing a career in medicine. After leaving Fettes in 1953, he studied at the University of Edinburgh, graduating with an M.B., Ch.B. in 1959, and later obtaining his D.Obst. R.C.O.G. in 1965.

In 1961, John married Marjorie, and the couple settled in Musselburgh, where John practised as a family doctor. In 1969, they emigrated to Canada, first living in Leduc and later in Calgary, Alberta. There, John established a medical practice in Braeside and served on the medical staff of both the Rockyview and Holy Cross Hospitals. He was appointed Chief of Staff at the Glenmore Park Auxiliary Hospital in 1982 and sat on the Medical Advisory Council of District 7. From 1984 to 1989, he served as a palliative care physician at the Rockyview Hospital – a role he approached with compassion and of which he was especially proud.

Beyond his clinical work, John contributed to hospital governance and served on the board of PALS, a pet hospital visitation programme. During the 1970s, he also served as a Medical Officer in the Canadian Reserves for the 2554 PPCLI Cadet Corps, for which he was awarded the Canadian Decoration.

A lifelong golfer – having played during his time at Fettes – John remained an active sportsman, enjoying golf, squash, and tennis. A member of the Canyon Meadows Golf Club, he also had a deep appreciation for music and literature. John and Marjorie celebrated their Scottish heritage with enthusiasm, attending Highland Games and hosting gatherings for the Canadian and expatriate communities in Calgary.

He is remembered with great affection by his children, Fiona and Alan; his grandchildren, Iain, Sara and Hamish; and by a wide circle of friends.

BRIAN A LEISHMAN, MBE (CE 1950–1954)

Major Brian A. Leishman passed away on 30th May 2024, aged 87.

Excerpts from his obituary in *The Scotsman* are noted below.

Born in Dundee to Archibald and Marjory Leishman (née Scott),

Brian was educated at Fettes College (CE 1950–54) before being commissioned into the British Army in 1954. His 20-year military career took him across the UK, the Arabian Gulf, East Africa, Germany and Italy, where he served as Assistant Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Rome.

In 1961, he married Renata Zini in Milan. They had two children, Alison (b.1963) and Robin (b.1965).

After leaving the Army, Brian was appointed Business Manager of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1978. Over the next 20 years, he played a key role in transforming the Tattoo into a globally recognised event, overseeing every performance until his retirement in 1998. Brian was widely regarded as instrumental in elevating the Tattoo’s scale, reach, and reputation.

His efforts were recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Box Office Management International, the Scottish Thistle Award for outstanding contribution to Scottish tourism in 1996, and an MBE for services to tourism in Edinburgh in 1997.

Post-retirement, Brian remained actively involved in the city’s cultural life, organising the Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade, serving as Chairman of the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival, and as a board member of the Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board.

Brian’s lifelong love of Italy saw him retire to a home in Umbria, where he spent many happy years until ill health brought him back to Scotland.

He is remembered not only for his service and leadership but also as a passionate advocate for Edinburgh and Scotland. He is survived by his children, Alison and Robin, their mother Renata, his partner Gillian, and his grandchildren Josh, Grace and Eddie.



I DOUGLAS LOWE (KI 1950–1955)

Douglas Lowe passed away peacefully on the 5th of January 2025, aged 87.

The following was written by **William Carnegie (Ca 1950–1955)**.

Douglas Lowe, a bright, energetic and entrepreneurial, if at times controversial, person, died on 5th January 2025. He was a member of a prominent Musselburgh family and at Fettes was a School Prefect and Captain of both the First Hockey XI and a successful Second XV.

After school he did two years National Service as a subaltern in the Seaforth Highlanders followed by four years at Clare College Cambridge and two at Harvard Business School. He then worked for the horticultural and agricultural business, David Lowe & Sons, eventually as Managing Director, until in 1977 a family decision to put it into liquidation was made.

After that Douglas had a varied career, both in business where from 1978 to 1980 he was a Director of Bruntons, the Musselburgh maker of wire and rope products, and in public service, for example as the Scottish Director of the BBC. However, his main interest from 1986 until he died was Caledonian Trust PLC, a property business which he controlled, and which made a large number of investments over the years. He sold many of these before the financial crash of 2007, but even at his end there were still others with considerable potential in the portfolio.

Douglas continued to play hockey at Cambridge, where he was regarded as an effective and rumbustious centre forward, and subsequently in Edinburgh until he was 48. For many years afterwards he was a prominent figure in the Edinburgh Northern Club with considerable influence over its successful development, including its amalgamation in 1972 with Grange Cricket Club, with whom it shared the ground at Raeburn Place.

Also, he had great affection for his Cambridge college, to which he gave sound business advice, and for Fettes, where he attended many OF dinners and other functions. In the last year of his life, he discussed the consequences of the imposition of VAT on fees and other problems with the Head.

Douglas was also sociable. This came out both in connection with Caledonian Trust, where he entertained both colleagues and other business friends lavishly, and amongst personal friends, lunching or dining with them from time to time. He married Nicky Harding-Edgar in 1968 with whom he had a daughter and two grandchildren. Sadly in 1993 they parted, and Luise Locke was his loving companion for his last 30 years.

Douglas will not be forgotten easily, and I count myself fortunate to have known him well both at Fettes and afterwards.



DONALD A GORDON-INGRAM (KI 1952–1956)

Donald Gordon-Ingram passed away peacefully on 11th October 2024, aged 86.

Born in 1938, he was the son of Major Alastair Gordon-Ingram and his wife Joan Orby Gascoigne. After Fettes Donald's National Service was with the 57 Seaforths as a 2nd. Lt. He then went on to work for the Bristol Aer. Co and stayed with the company when it became Rolls Royce, until he retired.

PETER DOUGLAS WALLS (KI 1954–1955)

Peter passed away peacefully on 13th January 2025, aged 85.

Many thanks to his son Andrew for this tribute.

Born and raised in Fife, Peter attended Fettes College, following in the footsteps of his brother **James Walls (Ki 1946–1951)** and leading the way for younger brother **John Walls (Ki 1957–1961)** before returning to work on the family farm, a vocation he continued with dedication until his retirement in 2006. Even in retirement, he remained closely involved in the agricultural world he loved.

In 1964, Peter married Roberta, and together they raised two children, Andrew and Alison. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, taking great joy in time spent with his three granddaughters, Amy, Alice and Jess.

Peter enjoyed gardening, golf, curling, and carpet bowling and especially time spent with his family.

JAMES D S BENNETT (CE 1955–1960)

James Bennett died peacefully on 25th March 2025, aged 83.

James came to Fettes in 1955, joining his elder brother **David Bennett (CE 1951–1956)** James went on to become a House Prefect, and a valuable member of the athletics team. He later gained an MA from Edinburgh University in 1964 and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in London in 1968.

The following tribute was in *The Telegraph*.

Much loved by all family members, James was a kind, generous and humorous man, a respected businessman, a keen golfer, a raconteur and a bon vivant. He will be greatly missed.

HAMISH INNES-CAMPBELL GOOD (MO 1955–1960)

Hamish Good passed away on 7th July 2024, aged 82.

Many thanks to his son Kenneth for his contribution to this tribute.

After leaving Fettes, he read Music and Physics at the University of Glasgow before moving to Germany to study conducting in Detmold. He later returned to Glasgow, where he spent his professional life as a librarian at the University of Strathclyde. Alongside this, he remained a passionate amateur conductor and musician, actively involved with numerous orchestras, opera groups and choral societies across the central belt of Scotland.

Hamish's funeral cremation took place in Poitiers on the 15th July 2024. He had been living in the Poitou-Charentes area of France for over 20 years. He is survived by his French wife, Fabienne, and his three children, Kenneth, Richard and Rachel.

ROBIN S SALVESEN (MO 1948–1954)

Robin Salvesen died on the 9th of March 2025, aged 89.



Many thanks to **William Carnegie (Ca 1950–1955)** and to Robin's son **Francis Salvesen (Mo 1979–1984)** for compiling this tribute.

Robin Salvesen, who died on 9th March 2025 two months before his 90th birthday, was a modest and unassuming man of great integrity after a successful career in shipping, devoted his life to charitable causes and public service. He was a member of a distinguished and numerous Fettes family, of whom seventeen over three generations attended the school between 1899 and 1987. Robin followed his brother **John (MO 1947–1952)**, father **Iver (MO 1916–1920)** and uncles **Christian (MO 1903–1908)** and **Eric (MO 1911–1915)**, both of whom had lost their lives in the First World War, to Moredun. In turn he was followed by his brother **Alastair (MO 1954–1960)**, who sadly died two months before him, and by his children: **Alice (KI 1978–1980)**, **Tabitha "Tibi" (AR 1979–1981)**, **Francis (MO 1979–1984)**, **Thomas (MO 1980–1985)**, and the now late **Iver (MO 1982–1987)**.

After a good career at Fettes, where he was a School Prefect, wing forward ('flanker' in modern terminology) in the unbeaten First XV's of 1952–53 and 1953–54, CQMS in the Corps, in the Athletics Team and involved in boxing and country dancing, Robin did National Service in the Royal Scots. However he spent most of his time seconded to the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment where he acted as Quartermaster, an unusual appointment for a subaltern. He then read Engineering at University College, Oxford continuing to play rugby, both for his college and the university second team, the Greyhounds. Coming down from Oxford, he went to work as a ship's engineer with Christian Salvesen, which had been founded in the early 1900s by a member of the originally Norwegian family. From Leith the firm operated a whaling business in the South Atlantic and Robin sailed there as a ship's engineer at the start of his career. He rose to the top of the shipping part of the firm and expanded it to be the largest of such in Europe carrying cargoes.

He was involved in the design of its ships, became an expert in marine insurance and was Chairman of Leith Nautical College. He was highly regarded in Leith, particularly when, after the start of the miners' strike in the

early 1980s, by gentle and reasoned argument he persuaded the dockers there, who had come out in sympathy, to go back to work. Robin became a Non-executive Director of Christian Salvesen when the company ceased to control the shipping business and so could devote time and energy to his other interests. He was a proud Old Fettesian and took pleasure in being a Governor of the school from 1975 to 1986 when major improvements in the form of the introduction of co-education and the opening of the Prep School were made. He was also on the board of Stewart's Melville.

Many charities benefited for Robin's wisdom, experience and generosity. These included King George's Fund for Sailors (now 'Seafarers'), where he stayed on as Chairman beyond what Prince Philip its Patron described as "normal retiring age" at the personal request of the Prince; the Scottish Veterans' Residence; Queensbury House, a leading Edinburgh hospital, and the Edinburgh and Borders Boy Scouts where he raised a large sum of much needed money in a short time with a few discreet phone calls. His love of nature was demonstrated by his chairing the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland and being a Director of Edinburgh Zoo. He was a longstanding elder of St Mary's Church in Haddington where he presented a peal of bells. He was also Chairman of both the Northern Lighthouse Authority and the East Lothian Conservative Party where he took pleasure in winning the vote against Independence. He was appointed both Vice Lieutenant of his county and, for many years service as Danish Consul in Edinburgh, a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog.

In addition, he was a member of the Royal Company of Archers, winning many of its medals including the Queen's Prize, the top award. Sari Clarke, whom he met at Oxford, and he were married for 64 years. They lived at Eaglescairn House near Haddington, where they provided generous hospitality. They had seven children and nineteen grandchildren. I knew Robin at Fettes, in Oxford and in Edinburgh. He did much good and benefited many people, particularly in Scotland, and I always enjoyed his company.

ALASTAIR E H SALVESEN (MO 1954–1960)

Alastair Salvesen passed away on the 9th of December 2024, aged 83.



Many thanks to **William Carnegie (Ca 1950–1955)** with help from Elizabeth Salvesen and to **Barrie Lloyd (KI 1953–1958)** for seeking contributions to write this tribute.

Alastair Salvesen, Robin's younger brother, died suddenly aged 83 while out shooting in December 2024.

He was an outstanding person, a dynamic entrepreneur, a generous philanthropist and a lover of art, who used his talents and considerable wealth for the benefit of others. Fettes was one of these. On leaving school, where he did well as a School Prefect, Captain of Athletics, Sergeant in the Corps and winner of a Duke Edinburgh Award Gold Medal, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in Edinburgh and graduated Master of Business Administration at Cranfield College of Aeronautics. After working in Canada and in an electronics business near Edinburgh, he joined the family firm, Christian Salvesen, in 1973. Ten years later he led a management buyout from it of Dawnfresh Seafoods, a processor of scampi and prawn products, in the early 1990s transferring its operation from Cumberland to Uddingston near Glasgow where he had to build a new factory after the first one was destroyed by fire. Eventually, a workforce of over 300 people was employed there. Sadly, more recently a major part of the business had to be liquidated with the loss of many jobs. In the important pre-Christmas period much of the trout harvest of one of its fish farms was destroyed because there was too much oxygen in the water surrounding it. At the same time a large number of employees would not return to work because of fear of catching Covid. However all creditors were paid in full which gave Alastair much satisfaction.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Iver, and brother Robin, Alastair became a Governor of Fettes in 1994 and for the next 22 years played an active and pivotal part in the development of the modern Fettes. During this time the Westwoods Sports Centre, Craigleith (sixth form house), Dalmeny (girls' boarding house) and the Spens Building (academic classrooms and art and music facilities) were built and the Prep School extended. He had an artistic eye, so was involved in the choice of colour schemes for the new buildings and he was determined that the latter's quality should be first class and reflect that of the historic

and architecturally important College one. In addition, he adopted a 'hands-on' approach to the contracts with the builders ensuring that the work was done within budget and on time. On one occasion, while inspecting the work on the Sports Centre, he discovered that outwith the agreed specification the builders had put a large pillar to support the roof in the middle of the hall. Alastair would not leave the site until, after referring to head office, they had agreed to remove it and find another way to deal with the roof. He was too an original trustee of the Fettes Foundation set up in 1998 to raise money for the school. He remained one until he died and gave generously to it. The Salvesen Art School in the Spens Building bears his family's name commemorating the gifts made over the years by himself and other Salvesens.

As well as Fettes, many charities benefitted from Alastair's generosity and hard work. By herculean efforts he raised enough money to fund a much needed new building in Crewe Road South near Fettes for the Fet-Lor Youth Club and he sponsored the Salvesen Mindroom Centre at Edinburgh University for research into autism, dyslexia and ADHD. He presented a new organ in honour of his parents to St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, revived the Dovecot Tapestry Weaving Studio, where art and tapestry exhibitions are held, set up Edinburgh New Town Cookery School and gave tapestries to the Festival Theatre and Scottish Opera. He was appointed CBE for services to art, awarded doctorates by Edinburgh University and Cranfield Business School and was a member of the Royal Company of Archers. His other leisure activities, as well as art and music, included shooting, sailing, fishing and farming. In 1979 he married Elizabeth Murray. They had a son and a daughter and for the past 33 years lived at Pathhead outside Edinburgh. His funeral was held in January at Humbie Kirk, East Lothian where tribute was paid to his enquiring mind, his gentleness and great kindness and generosity and he was aptly described as "a force of nature". He had many friends and we count ourselves privileged to have been amongst them and to have witnessed him in action.

BARRY CLEGG (CE 1956–1961)

Passed away peacefully on 13 February 2025, aged 82.

This tribute was written by Barry's wife, Leslie.

After a long illness, Barry died peacefully and surrounded by loving family. He excelled in an eclectic range of lifetime interests. Born in Carlisle, England, he attended Fettes College, where he was in the VI Form, a School Prefect, and a Chapel Organist. He was also awarded an Industrial Scholarship by GKN. He went on to graduate from Cambridge University with an engineering degree, followed by an additional master's degree from Aston University. He moved to Toronto in 1969 and became a software developer. He played field hockey in both England and Canada and was a marathon runner. A talented musician, he played the organ, piano, and French horn, and sang in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir for 40 years. During his retirement years he worked as a consultant in business communication and published three books of poems. Throughout, he nourished many lifelong friendships.

Barry will be missed by his loving family.

NIGEL D LAWRIE (KI 1956–1960)

Nigel D Lawrie passed away on 6th January 2025, aged 81.

This tribute was written by **Joanne Jack (néé Lawrie) (CW 1989–1991)**, Nigel's daughter.

Nigel was born and spent his childhood in Prestwick before joining Fettes aged 13, following on from his brother **Gavin Lawrie (KI 1951–1956) (Deceased)**. He really loved his time at Fettes, playing Hockey, Rugby and being part of the Kimmerghame Boxing team, where many of his favourite anecdotes originated! Nigel attended Glasgow University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse. He joined the family businesses WP Lawrie Ltd. and Gavin Lawrie Ltd. in 1971 on the death of his father, returning to live in Prestwick. He continued his love for sport, playing for Ayr Hockey Club for many years and watching Scotland at rugby, whether at Murrayfield, in Paris or Rome and always wearing his kilt. He was also a member of the local sailing, golf and Bridge clubs along with Prestwick Rotary, where he was Treasurer and an active participant up until his death.

Nigel met his wife, Marion, in 1965 on the daily 7.45am train commuting from Prestwick to Glasgow. An invitation to a barn dance led to a five-year courtship and they married in 1970. He had two daughters, Alison and Joanne, with Joanne following in her Dad's footsteps to Fettes from 1989–1991 (College West). He was a true family man and loved spending time with his three grandsons, one granddaughter and was close with his sons-in-law. He was a great fun Grandpa, often playing practical jokes on his grandchildren and he enjoyed standing at the side of a rugby or hockey pitch, cheering them on.

Nigel loved to travel and together with Marion they have been all around the world. Their most favourite adventures were in India and the Far East where they loved meeting the local children, handing out sweets, toys and pencils, and finding out about how they lived. They were keen on adventure, going off the beaten track and Nigel wrote individual postcards to each of his grandchildren from every destination. They also loved travelling in Scotland, often driving north to catch a ferry to one of the islands, and again with Nigel wearing his kilt at every opportunity.

He suffered from a few health issues over the last few years but he brushed them off in his usual manner and carried on as best he could. He had many visitors in hospital and latterly the nursing home, with one member of staff saying they had never had so many visitors for one resident before.

At his funeral, Nigel's granddaughter, grandsons and sons-in-law took great pride in carrying his coffin into and out of the church, with each grandson wearing one of their Grandpa's kilts. His daughters and eldest grandson spoke warmly of their many fond memories, funny anecdotes and about Nigel's generous and mischievous character. He was a proud Fettesian, Scotsman and family man.

JOHN M KEITH (GL 1961–1965)

Dr John Keith passed away on the 20th March 2025, aged 77.

John followed his father **Alexander M Keith (SH 1923–1928) (Deceased)** and cousin, **Lindsay Keith (Ki 1958–1964)** to Fettes. John was Captain of the Golf Team. After Fettes John studied Natural Sciences at the University of Aberdeen. He went on to become a Consultant Clinical Embryologist and lived in Queensland, Australia.

CAMERON G E LEES (CE 1963–1968)

Cameron Lees passed away on the 6th April 2025, aged 75.

Many thanks to his friend, **Timothy McArthur (MO 1963–1967)** for writing the below tribute.

Mead Lux Lewis playing 'Honky Tonk Train Blues' and Buddy Holly singing 'That'll be the Day' in the music room was my first introduction to Cameron within the first few hours of my time at Fettes – and I still listen to them today, sixty-three years later!

Cameron always had a life long passion for music of all kinds, rock and roll, choral, church music to pipe band music – indeed Cameron played bass drum in the Fettes Pipe Band and reprised this as a guest fifty years or more later. His enthusiasm for Buddy Holly was legendary and indeed became his nickname at College and he and I went to see Buddy's band The Crickets several times over the years.

Rugby was also his passion (playing for 2nd and 1st XV) both at school and after he left and he does hold a record in that he played second row for the OF XV against the school 1st XV at Commem for twenty-one consecutive years after he left with varying degrees of success and decrepitude – a record than can actually never be beaten as adults are no longer permitted to play school teams.

Cameron joined the RAF upon leaving Fettes and after his time with them joined the Automobile Association as photographer and contributor to the AA's travel guide books particularly in his beloved Northumberland and Borders of Scotland.

Supporting the Scouts was a further great interest for Cameron and he was a Scout Leader and Commissioner for the Scouts for many years in the Newcastle area and a great number of young people benefitted from his encouragement, enthusiasm and humour over his time with them.

Add in a lifelong interest in trains – both real and model – along with model making (planes and trains) and photography. Cameron could be found near railway lines in remote corners of Scotland and England in any weather

either on his own or with groups of enthusiasts waiting for the perfect shot of a steam locomotive to come in to view. His greatest aim was to have formal afternoon tea with Raquel Welch in the restaurant car of the Flying Scotsman whilst the train was climbing the steep gradient at Shap – sadly an unfulfilled dream!

Another picture I have of Cameron is sitting hunched over a model aeroplane perfecting the detail and paint finish and then photographing it for the magazine that he used to write for – attention to detail was everything.

Cameron was unwell for the last three years of his life. At his celebratory, rather than sad, funeral service the congregation went out to Buddy Holly singing ‘Rave On’ – a fitting end to his life well lived.

IAIN H MCCULLOCH (GL 1967–1972)

Iain McCulloch passed away on 28th February 2025, aged 70.

With thanks to Iain’s brother **Stewart McCulloch (GI 1965–1970)** for his contribution to this tribute.

Iain Hutchison McCulloch was a thoughtful and engaged member of the Glencorse community during his years at Fettes, remembered for his intelligence and wide-ranging interests. A student of History, Iain was active both academically and socially, participating in the History Society, Debating Society, and the Phoenix, as well as in more niche pursuits such as the Philatelic and Chess Clubs. His involvement in Outside Service reflected a strong sense of duty beyond the classroom.

On the sports field, Iain represented the school in the 2nd XI and the XV, showing a steady commitment to team spirit and physical endeavour. His time at Fettes was characterised by breadth, balance and a calm diligence which earned the respect of both peers and staff.

He is survived by his brother **Stewart McCulloch (GI 1965–1970)**, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

MWAMBU WILLIAM WANENDEYA (CA 1984–1986)

Mwambu (William) passed away peacefully on 7th January 2025 in Kampala, Uganda, aged 57, after a courageous battle with cancer.



His sister

Nina Milne (née Wanendeya) (AR 1983–1985), Angus Goldie (CA 1981–1986) and Linda Petrie (DA 1984–1986) share the following:

He arrived at Fettes for Lower VIth, armed with an encyclopaedia of jokes, great taste for music, especially if with dance moves, and a signature haircut, presumably a strategy to integrate into a ‘foreign’ boarding school after schooling predominantly in Kenya. Sharing a study with **Jeremy Featherstone (CA 1981–86)**, it quickly became the place for great tunes and dance move tuition as Mwambu patiently taught ‘Toestands’ and the ‘Moonwalk’. The Carrington 1986-ers formed a close group, with some spirited skirmishes, including one late-night encounter in the Mary Rose. Despite his love for reading and humanities, engineering, a ‘safe career’ for a family that had fled the Idi Amin dictatorship, was the goal. As well as friendships (who

attended each other’s weddings, support during his illness and more), he represented Fettes in rugby and athletics, and later acquired a Kempo brown belt at university.

He went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London, though he soon realised his interests lay elsewhere. After graduating he went into accounting at Coopers & Lybrand before a chance appearance on a current affairs quiz show set him on a new path. His win led to a role at the BBC World Service, where his sonorous voice was introduced to Africa. He thrived as a storyteller and journalist, travelling the continent to give his perspective as an African educated in the UK. His reports in impeccable grammar and nuanced syntax, were picked up by major outlets including *The Sunday Times*, *Le Monde*, Reuters and *60 Minutes*. A self-taught photographer, he never travelled without his camera.

His 1994 report on the Rwandan genocide, co-authored with Annabel Heseltine, was a defining moment. Travelling with armed soldiers to Kigali, he faced grave danger, but this work helped alert the world, during which the UN declared it genocide, changed him. Seeking stability, a couple of years later, he took a role at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London as Public Relations Officer. Sir Don McKinnon, then Secretary-General, recalled: “Mwambu could throw together a press release on his phone and ensure it landed well.”

His wedding to Charlotte, an Anglo-French lawyer and university friend, in Honfleur in 1997 was attended by fellow Old Fettesians and followed by the birth of two daughters. Nine years later, Mwambu joined Celtel, an African mobile network, and rose to Group Head, continuing on to become Communications Director at Zain. A highlight was his bi-lateral ‘negotiation’ at the founding of the Mandela 46664 concerts. His boss reflected: “Mwambu was instrumental in implementing Zain’s signature projects... culminating in Mandela Day being enshrined in the world calendar.”

Eventually, Mwambu turned his focus fully to Africa. In 2016, he founded a coffee business in his ancestral region of Bugisu, eastern Uganda. Climbing over 2,200 metres to meet smallholder farmers, he championed regenerative agriculture and promoted their work. His company planted over 12,000 indigenous trees and worked to improve coffee quality, visibility and branding: “The goal is to brand, market and sell Bugisu coffee all around the world.”

Throughout his life, Mwambu connected with people from all walks: from interviewing Heads of State, ministers and CEOs to listening to the poor, displaced and voiceless. He supported Emmanuel Jal as an exiled child soldier from South Sudan to his journey as a global artist. He was a supporter of Ugandan sport and a passionate Arsenal fan, and he loved African rhythms and stimulating discussions on geopolitics.

Even when his achievements became public, Mwambu lived by his three school mottos: *Altiora Peto*, *Nihil Praeter Optimum*, and *Industria*, with unwavering determination.



THE FETTESIAN TRUST ACCOUNTS

The Fettesian Trust was founded in 1958 and administers an investment portfolio comprising historic gifts from Old Fettesians. It is governed by a group of Trustees, all of whom are OFs, and is Chaired by the President of the OFA. The Trustees are listed on the following page and an extract of their accounts are shown below with the full, audited accounts available to view at fettescommunity.org/resources

The Fettesian Trust

Summarised Accounts (extracted from the full Report & Accounts as at 5th April 2024)

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	General Fund £	Special Funds £	2024 Total £
Income and endowments from:			
Investments	14,678	3,056	17,734
Total income	14,678	3,056	17,734
Expenditure on:			
Costs of raising funds	2,792	480	3,272
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,118	3,103	9,221
Total expenditure	8,910	3,583	12,493
Net income/expenditure before gains and losses on investments	5,768	(527)	5,241
Net gains (losses) on investments	30,621	(2,841)	27,780
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds	36,389	(3,368)	33,021
Total funds brought forward	471,838	82,231	554,069
Total funds carried forwards	508,227	78,863	587,090

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	General Fund £	Special Funds £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets			
Investments	487,441	67,172	554,613
Total fixed assets	487,441	67,172	554,613
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	23,004	12,923	35,927
Total current assets	23,004	12,923	35,927
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due			
within one year	2,218	1,232	3,450
Net current assets	20,786	11,691	32,477
Total charity funds	508,227	78,863	587,090
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	-	78,863	78,863
Unrestricted income funds	508,227	-	508,227
Total charity funds	508,227	78,863	587,090

This is an extract only from the full, audited accounts which are available at fettescommunity.org/resources. In the accounts, the heading 'Unrestricted Funds' refers to the General Fund and 'Restricted Funds' refers to the Special Funds.

OFA OFFICE BEARERS

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Lorna Duff (née Bennett) (AR 1988-1993)

Hon Treasurer

Ric Clark (KI 1989-1994)

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Messrs Chiene and Tait, CA

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David Hay (Ca 1991-1996)

Nina Milne (née Wanendeya) (AR 1983-1985)

Cordelia Pilz (née Harrison) (AR1982-1984)

Nigel Shepherd (Mo 1975-1979)

THE FETTESIAN TRUST

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Richard Llewellyn, President OFA (Mo 1987-1992)*

Vikki Halliday (née Cleghorn) (CE1990-1991), VP OFA*

Roy Leckie, OF Governor (Ca 1985-1990)*

Ian Gardiner (Mo 1963-1968)

Amanda Forsyth (née Baker), Treasurer (Ar 1982-1984)

Nichola Lyons (née Bowie), Secretary (JS-CE 1984-1990)

**Ex-officio Trustees (OFA)*

Designed by Kenneth Gray

kennethgray.design

Photography of life at Fettes today by Dougal Nicol

dougal@dougalnicol.com

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For information about life at

Fettes College, please visit fettes.com



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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE OLD FETTESIAN ASSOCIATION

This year's AGM will take place online to allow as many Old Fettesians to join us as possible.

Date: 27th September • Time: 12.15 (UK)

To sign up to join us, please visit bit.ly/ofaAGM2025

The agenda and joining instructions with the link will be distributed closer to the meeting date to those who have signed up.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE OLD FETTESIAN ASSOCIATION

By connecting with the Old Fettesian Association, you will stay up to date with news and upcoming events. Letting us know your preferred postal details helps us to ensure that this newsletter will reach you every year. The law relating to data protection changed in May 2018; we have worked diligently to ensure full compliance with these new regulations. We will continue to contact you in the ways in which we have previously, understanding that you have control over your communication preferences at any time. You can view our privacy statement here: bit.ly/FettesCollegePrivacyPolicy

Email: ofa@fettes.com

Phone: +44 131 311 6741

Fettes Community portal: fettescommunity.org



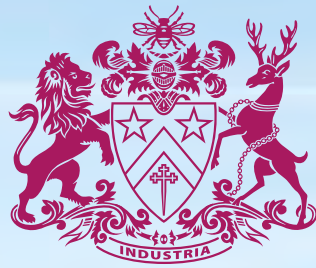
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