THE OLD
Wellingburian
NEWSLETTER

Lent 2026 The Old Wellingburian Club Est. 1897

Welcome from Charles

Warm greetings to all OWs .



I had a wonderful time last November when I visited the school to be officially elected to be the new President of the OW club.
It was a great honour for me as it was 55 years ago when I was last at the school, leaving in July 1970.

To revisit the school on that Saturday in November , brought back so many fond memories of my time there.

It was so good to see that all the original buildings and playing fields were still there.
The following day was Remembrance Sunday held at the school chapel, and I was very honoured in having the privilege of laying the wreath on behalf of the OW Club.

Our next event will be the OW London dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons on Friday March 20th.
I attended last years annual OW London dinner , where I met up with an old school friend of mine Simon Marriot . It was so good to chat about some of the times we had during our time at school.
I will look forward to seeing all those who will be attending this special event this year and hopefully catch up with some more contemporaries of mine.

Charles Keily (66-70, Pa)

In this edition



Last chance to book for the 2026 London Dinner, p4



OW's support new interschools art competition, p16



Head's update, p15

Editor's Welcome

OW Liaison, Katie Powell

As always, one of my greatest pleasures is pulling together the OW newsletter. I love hearing the news of OWs, young and old, and it is a joy to be able to share these updates with you all.

I had an excellent time attending last month's OW Oxbridge Dinner, where it was lovely to see both new and familiar faces. I am now looking forward to the OW London Dinner towards the end of the month. Back in the autumn, a colleague and I visited the venue, and it really is a beautiful setting. We received wonderful feedback from OWs who have attended their own events there in the past, so I am very much looking forward to the 20th March. We have many regular attendees joining us, as well as lots of new faces, with an age range spanning from 18 to 96. I look forward to seeing many of you there. You can find more information on how to book on page four.







Last week I had the pleasure of hosting OW Paul Blunt (51–59, Pa) when he visited the new Gateway building and met with Headmaster Simon Hawkes. Paul hadn't been back to the School in recent years, so it was lovely to sit together and reminisce about his time here and everything he went on to do afterwards. We always enjoy welcoming OWs and are happy to arrange visits wherever possible. If you would like to come in, please get in touch.

In recent months we have been particularly busy in the office as we worked with our database provider to launch our own website, which now integrates seamlessly with the database. This development came from a need to make booking paid events easier and to reduce duplication or confusion when OWs updated their details. It has also given us a dedicated space for news and, excitingly, a digital archive. You can find more details on page 3.

In the coming week, we will be updating the OW section of the main School website so that it links directly to the new site and removes any duplication between the two platforms.

As always, please keep your news coming. If you have anything you'd like to share with us—or if you spot something about an OW that we may have missed—do get in touch.

www.oldwellingburianclub.org



Update My Details *News* *Events* *Archives* *Login*

Log In

Log in to your Old Wellingburian account using the email address we have on record. On your first visit, you'll need to reset your password—this will send a link to your email, valid for 24 hours.
If we don't yet have an email address for you, please contact us so we can set this up. Logging in allows you to book events online and update your details directly in our database. If you have any issues accessing your account or using the online features, please let us know.

News

This section includes past newsletters, event write-ups, and photo galleries. If you'd like to revisit a particular event or catch up on newsletters you may have missed, you can browse and download everything here.

Archives

Our new Archives page is now live. Browse photos by decade, revisit memories, and see how the school has changed over the years. Each image includes a caption with context and dates. We will be adding new content regularly, so check back for new additions.
If you have memorabilia or photos from your time at the school, you're welcome to email them to us. We can upload scanned images to the archive, and a caption from you will help us label them correctly.

Events

This section lists all upcoming events. You can explore what's coming up, read full event details, and use our online booking system to reserve and pay for tickets. You'll receive an automatic confirmation email once your booking is complete.
The booking system also allows you to:

- Enter the number of guests
- Add dietary requirements
- Share seating preferences

Some events are not yet available through online booking, but contact details for the relevant organiser are provided. If you experience any issues with booking, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Update My Details

If any of your personal details have changed, please log in and update them online. It's especially important to keep your email address and phone number current so we can stay in touch and share news and upcoming events with you.

Upcoming OW Events



OW London Dinner

The View is home to the Royal College of Surgeons of England and The Faculty of Dental Surgery, and is just a short walk from Holborn Station.
Ticket prices include a welcome glass of champagne, 3-course meal, and accompanied wines.
Standard: £126pp
For OWs under 25: £63pp
Thank you to the OW Club for subsiding our recent leavers.
Arrivals 6.30pm
Bookings for this event close on Friday 13th March 2026 - we have limited places remaining so book now to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made at www.oldwellingburianclub.org or by emailing kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

OW Winter Sports

Saturday 21st March, 2026

The annual Winter Sports OW versus the School Netball and Football matches. Join us as a player or a spectator, matches start from 9.30am. Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to play for either team, please contact cal@wellingboroughschool.org

OW Saints

Saturday 25th April, 2026

Following on from the success of last year's inaugural event – we are once again pleased to be hosting OWs at Franklin's Stadium for Northampton Saints v Bath Rugby. OWs will be reunited for pre-match hospitality before enjoying the game. Tickets have now sold out for this event.

OW Summer Sports

Friday 19th June, 2026

The annual Summer Sports OW versus the School in Hockey and Cricket. Join us as a player or a spectator, matches start from 5pm. Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to play for either team, please contact cal@wellingboroughschool.org

Decade Reunions

Saturday 20th June, 2026

On the morning of Saturday 20th June the School will open its doors for the leavers of 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016. Reunite with your peers over refreshments before embarking on a tour of the School and a service in the chapel. We then invite you to stay for the afternoon's OW Summer Lunch. Details are currently being finalised and we look forward to sharing more information with you soon.

OW Summer Lunch

Saturday 20th June, 2026

Join us at the School for the afternoon on the 20th June for the annual OW Summer Lunch. Enjoy drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn, followed by a 2-course meal provided by the School's fantastic catering team. Details are currently being finalised and we look forward to sharing more information with you soon.

Upcoming OW Events

If you would like to attend any of the events listed below, please contact Katie at kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

Class of 2021 - 5 Year Reunion

Saturday 12th September, 2026

The annual 5 Year Reunion returns once again for the Class of 2021. Join us for drinks and a BBQ on the Headmaster's Lawn where we hope to also be joined by current and former staff from your time at the School. Details to follow later in the year.

Autumn Lunch

Saturday 7th November, 2026

Join us at the School for welcome drinks and a 2-course seated meal provided by the School's fantastic catering team. Last year this event sold out in record time, and so we look forward to its return in 2026.

Dates to be confirmed....

Business Networking Trinity & Lent terms, OW London Drinks, Benefactors Thank You

Upcoming School Events

Spring Music Concert

Monday 16th March, 7pm

Complimentary tickets are available for OWs to attend the School's annual music concert held at the Castle Theatre, Wellingborough. This is a fantastic opportunity to see and listen to the many talented musicians and drama students currently attending the School. If you would to attend, please email kpo@wellingboroughschool.org by Friday 6th March.





Saturday 4th July, 6.30pm

Wellingborough Senior School Parents' Association has great pleasure in inviting the Wellingborough School community to attend this year's Summer Ball on Saturday, 4th July 2026. This event is open to parents across the whole school, former parents, OWs, staff, governors, friends, family and Year 13 leavers.
The evening will start at 6.30pm with drinks on the lawn, followed by a delicious three-course dinner prepared by the Executive Chef, Kirstie, and her awesome catering team.
More information and tickets can be found here.

Past Events

Business Networking

On Thursday 12 February, the Foundation team hosted their termly Business Networking event in The Spencer Room, welcoming Old Wellingburians, parents, staff, and members of the wider community to connect, share ideas, and promote their business interests.

Ten OWs attended, including several for whom it was their first time returning to the School since finishing their education. OW Ankur Khajuria (04–09, C) gave a speech about his training and career to date, focusing on the development of his own business, Avance Innovations.

Careers were represented from law to landscape gardening, business support to mentoring, hospitality to architecture, and everything in between. The room buzzed with conversation as guests enjoyed breakfast nibbles and hot drinks.

We look forward to hosting our next Business Networking event in the Trinity Term — details will be shared soon.





OW Oxbridge Dinner







On Thursday 26 February, the annual OW Oxbridge Dinner was held at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The event was organised with the kind support of Clara Woodhead (22–24, N), who is currently reading Classics at the college.

There was an excellent turnout, with OWs, current and former staff, and current students who hold offers to Oxford University all in attendance. Jonathan Cox (79–86, C) delivered the toasts with great skill and helped ensure the smooth running of the evening.

We now look ahead to 2027, when the event will be hosted in Cambridge.

The Old Wellingburian Golfing Society

The OWGS are once again looking forward to a busy year of golf with three meetings alongside four competitions. All level of golfers are welcome to attend their meetings. If you are interested in attending please save the date and contact Tim Poole at poolet@utileengineering.com who will add you to the database and send the event invitation at the appropriate time.

Good luck to those representing the OWGS in Spring's busy competition calendar. The OWGS will be competing in the Halford Hewitt, Peter Kenyon Bowl, Old Pupils Centenary Salver, Grafton Morrish and Cyril Gray Foursomes.



The Old Wellingburian Masonic Lodge





By Darren Hitchcock (83-86, St) & Steve Pateman (74-79, PA)

There is something special about the bond between Old Wellingburians, and for many of us, that connection continues through the Old Wellingburian Freemasons Lodge.

Our Lodge brings together former pupils/teachers who share a desire for friendship, personal growth, and service. In the photographs, you may recognise familiar faces such as Peter Tyldesley, Peter King, and Will Kellock, each continuing a journey that began at Wellingborough, and now contributing to something that makes a real difference. The lodge also welcomes parents of teachers or students to become part of freemasonry in the community.

Together, we support charities that change lives — from TLC – Teddies for Loving Care, offering comfort to children in distress, to Maggie's Centres supporting those affected by Cancer and major community causes like the Air Ambulance. Just as importantly, we support one another.

Freemasonry is about belonging, giving back, and carrying forward values we first learned at school. If you are an Old Wellingburian or parent of an old or current Wellingburian feel called to reconnect, contribute, and be part of something meaningful, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Contact Steve Pateman on steve.pateman62@googlemail.com

OW Fundraisers



This summer, OW's Thomas Denton (17-25, Pl), Charlie Hallett (18-25, Pl) and Noah Clapcott (21-25, G) are setting out on a student charity road trip to Dubrovnik. They are taking part in Dash to Dubrovnik, a nine-day challenge in which teams travel from the UK to Croatia in a car worth no more than £500.
Their route includes iconic stops such as the Nürburgring, the Alps and Venice, giving them the chance to experience Europe in true Top Gear style while raising money for a good cause.
The team is fundraising for Amnesty International, with all proceeds going directly to support human rights work around the world. They would be grateful for any donations from the OW community, and larger company sponsorships can also include branding on their car as they travel across Europe.
Donate here:
https://givestar.io/gs/dash-to-dubrovnik-80671
For more information, please contact Thomas Denton at denton.td@outlook.com

OW takes on famous Pancake Race

Well done to Tori Kermeen (83-90, N) who took part in this year's famous Olney Pancake Race to raise funds for The Ambulance Staff Charity in memory of her father and fellow OW Michael Gent (48-58, PS).
Tori, and friend Rebecca, took part 3-legged in the race that saw them run through Olney with pancake and pan in action.
Tori said of her chosen charity, 'We did this in memory of my Dad who died suddenly last year on 14th February. The ambulance staff were amazing and really looked after us.'
Tori and Rebecca have so far raised £825, you can learn more about the TASC and donate here.



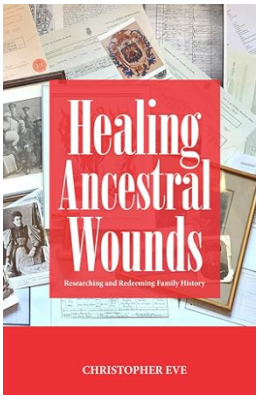
OW News



OW opens new local farm shop

Congratulations to OW Thomas White (99–04, PS) on the opening of Northamptonshire's newest farm shop, Origin Farm Shop.
Origin Farm Shop in Rushton opened on Friday 30 January and features a traditional butcher, fresh local produce, a deli counter, and more. The shop is open from Tuesday through Sunday.
This marks the third site Thomas has launched. Alongside the flagship Rushton shop, he also runs Thomas Farm Shop in Ecton and a butchery section within Whites of Earls Barton.

OW publishes book



OW Christopher Eve (71–81, C) has published a new book exploring the connection between the Christian healing ministry and the world of genealogy.
Entitled 'Healing Ancestral Wounds: Researching and Redeeming Family,' the book explores how to research your own family tree, and how to locate evidence of long-forgotten family stories.
Christopher is a practicing genealogist whose passion began with researching his own family tree in the 1980s.
The book was written and published over a six-year period, and is available to purchase in both paperback and Kindle editions here.



OW interviewed on GB News

OW Holly Mammatt (06–11, N) was featured on GB News in early February, where she was interviewed as a representative of the Royal Artillery Centre for Personal Development. The RACPD is a Forces charity that provides training, education, and career development for serving soldiers, veterans, and their families. During her time at Wellingborough, Holly was an active member of the CCF, and she has since gone on to become a Second Lieutenant in the British Army.

OW launches Thatching business



Master thatcher OW Michael Stronach (01–10, Pl) has launched his own business. Michael left the School in 2010 and, instead of taking the traditional university route, chose to pursue thatching as a career. After more than 15 years working alongside multiple award-winning thatchers, he is delighted to announce the start of his own company.
Michael said, "Thatching is an important part of our countryside, and I feel privileged to be able to carry on a craft spanning thousands of years, using a blend of both traditional and modern techniques."
Michael is available for enquiries or quotes at michael.gm.stronach@gmail.com.

From the archives

Under 13 A Tennis Team - 1999



Athletics Squad - 1998



XV Rugby Team - 1964



Under 14 Cricket - 1963



Hockey Champions - 2009



2nd XI Soccer vs OW's - September 1955



From the archives

Recently we have been lucky enough to receive a number of donations to the School's archives recently. If you have an item you'd like to donate, or digital item you'd like to share, please email kpo@wellingboroughschool.org





Thank you to the Guernsey Service Rifle & Heritage Group for kindly donating a photograph of the 1921 School Shooting VIII.

The historic 1921 photo recently resurfaced in Guernsey, and the group reached out to ensure it was returned to the School. In January the photo was shared with current students before it made its way into the archives.



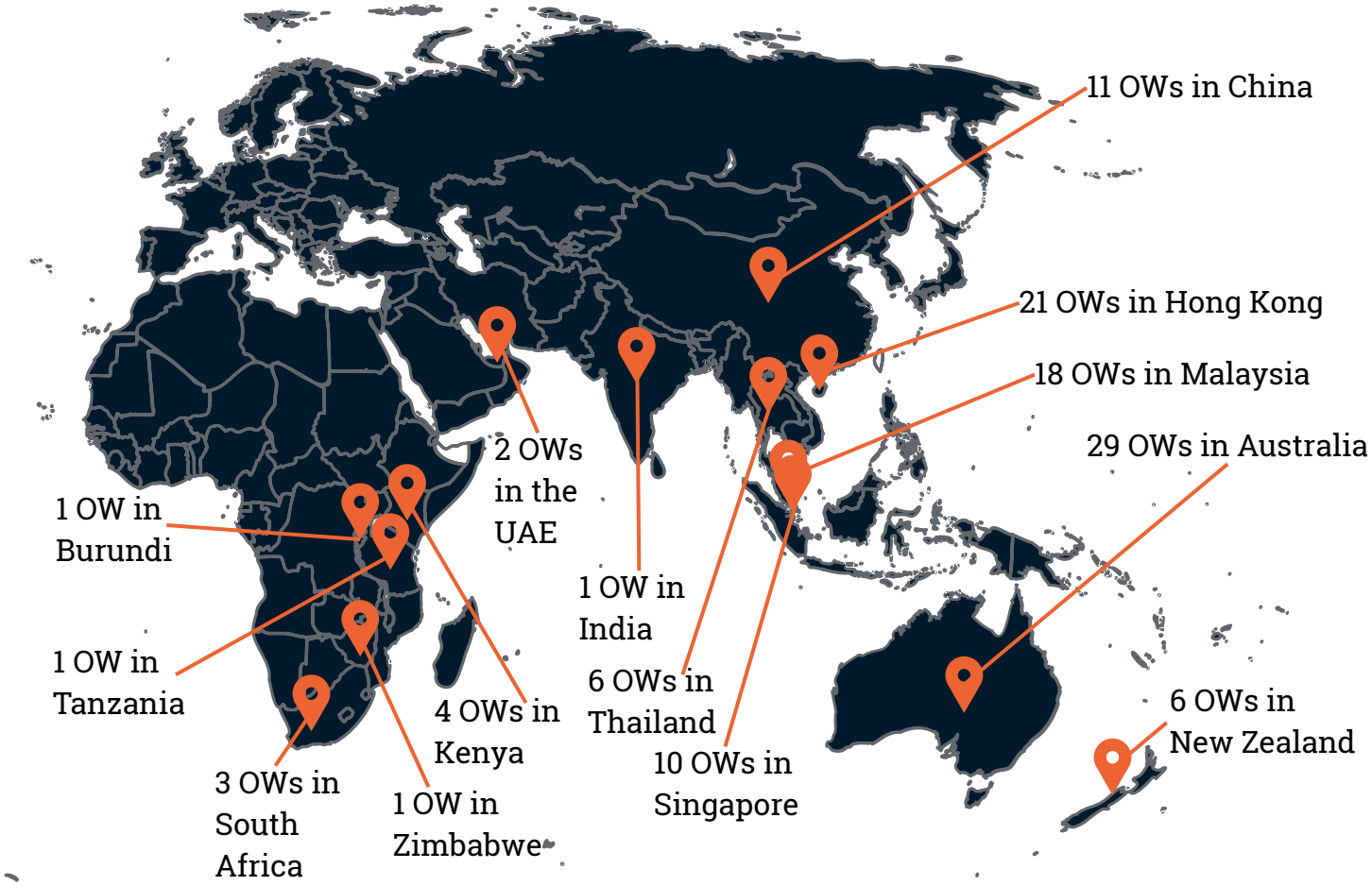
Thank you to Jerry Higgins (57-66, S) for sharing with us this fantastic, and unusual piece of memorabilia at the recent AGM.

Jerry said of the item, 'It was attached to the front of my Lambretta scooter, then my first car!'

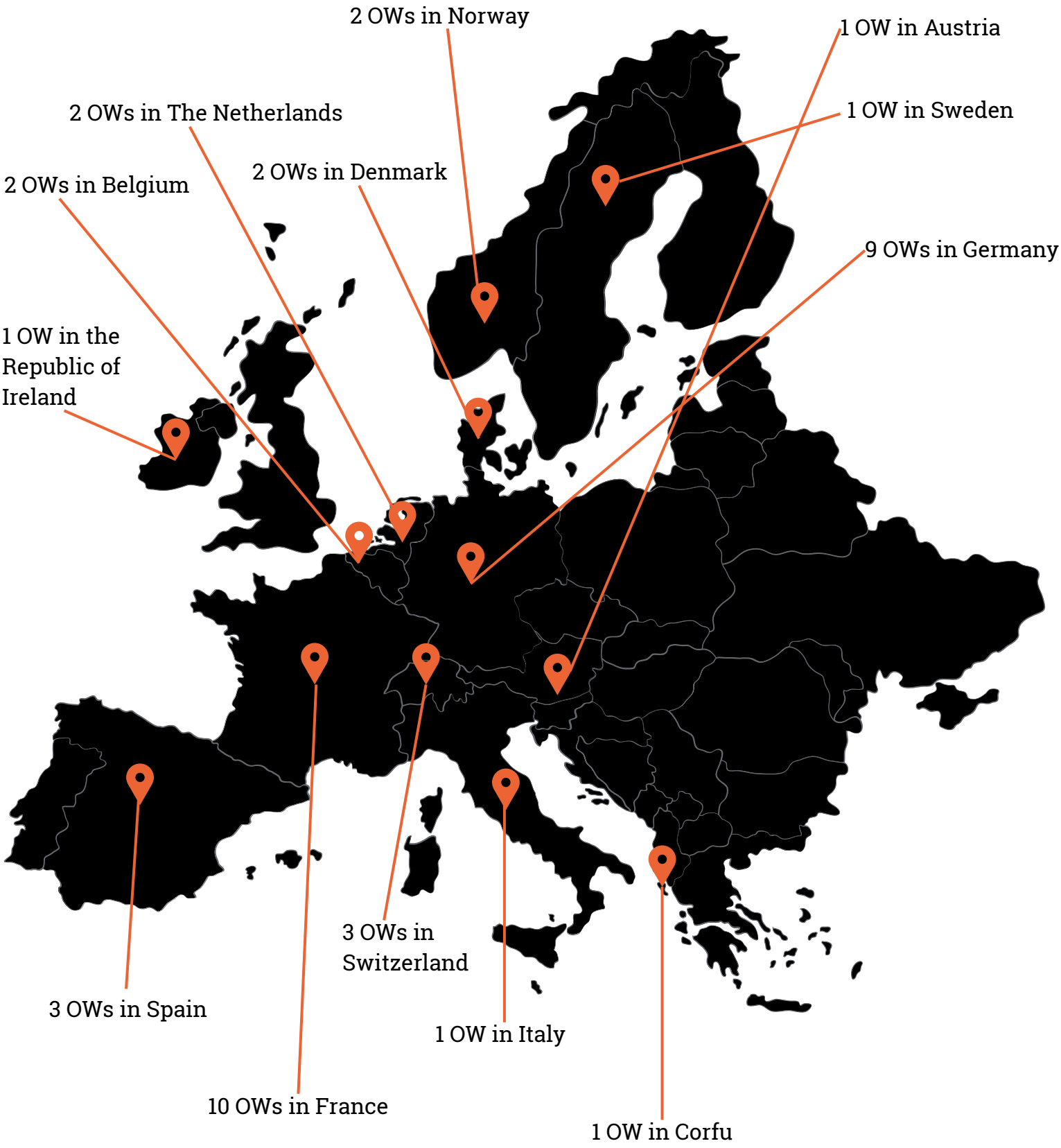
Where are OWs living?



On receipt of our last OW newsletter - a member of our international community reached out to say how interesting it would be to see where around the world our international OWs are located.
We hope these maps correctly represent our community - and perhaps in the future might encourage an OW reunion abroad!



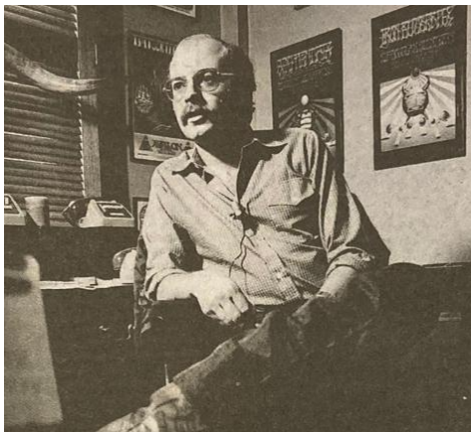
Where are OWs living?



OW News - Obituaries

Andrew Lauder (60-65)

Died 26th November, 2025



Andrew Lauder passed away in France at the age of 78 towards the end of 2025.
Born in 1947 in Hartlepool, Andrew later moved to Wellingborough School. He left Wellingborough at 18 and moved to London to look for working landing a role with Southern Music. Andrew went on to become a British record company executive and A&R manager. He was noted for his adventurous signings of bands in the 1960s and 1970s. He later formed numerous independent labels including Radar Records, F-Beat Records, Demon Music Group and Silvertone Records.
For a period he resided in Devon, before retiring to the south of France where he ran a second-hand record store.



Michael Sharp (45-52, Pa)

Died 11th December 2025

Michael James Sharp died peacefully at home, just shy of his 90th birthday. He always had fond memories of Wellingborough School, recounting many amusing tales including the "Gargoyles Club" that some unfortunate students were put in (by the masters!)

Neil Edward Wright (51-55, F)

Died 21st October, 2025

Pat Wright, Neil's wife of more then 62 years would like to notify the OW community that Neil sadly passed away in October 2025.

David Henry Deptford (48-54, Pl)

Died 5th December, 2025

David passed away peacefully on 5th December 2025 aged 88 years. Darling Husband of Jenny, dearest Father of Michael, David and Charles, loving Grandfather of Amy, Ellie, Alice, George and Ben and a Great Grandfather of Eve.

School News - Heads Update



Lent Term 2026 has been as action-packed as ever at Wellingborough. Those of you following the School on social media will have seen footage of the highly competitive (and frankly bonkers) Pancake Race just before half term. This was my first experience of the most hotly anticipated House event of the term, and as a moment of whole school community fun it didn't disappoint. In the same week I was also lucky enough to attend the Rock, Pop, and Blues concert which featured amazing performances from pupils of all ages, staff, and even a parent! There is a huge amount of talent and potential in our pupils, as you will all be aware.

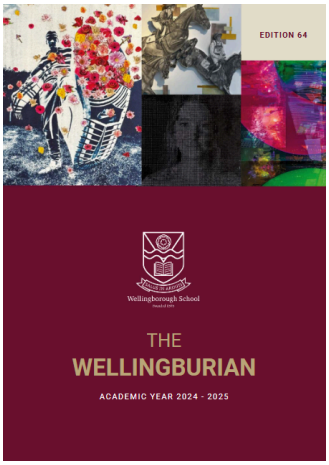
In November's newsletter I wrote excitedly about the new building, and the potential for teaching within it after the Christmas break. I can now confirm that the Gateway Building (as it has been christened) is up-and-running, with pupils enjoying Product Design, Engineering, Textiles, and Computing lessons in its fabulous learning spaces. Parents were given an opportunity to tour the building just after half term, and over one hundred accepted the invitation that also included an informal curry night and drinks in the Dining Room.

It was also a pleasure to be hosted by the OW Oxbridge alumni for dinner at Corpus Christi College, Oxford last week. We were accompanied by two of our current Year 13 pupils holding Oxford offers, which meant that Oxbridge OWs past, present, and future were in attendance. It was a wonderful evening, and a great way for some recent school leavers to build their OW network. There is, of course, another similar opportunity for OWs to come together for the London Dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons on Friday 20th March. I'll be there, accompanied by Heads of School Monpriya and Finley, and I look forward to extending my own OW network as well as catching up with some already familiar faces.



School News

Have you had a chance yet to read this year's Wellingburian? Published just before Christmas, the 64th edition of the school's annual magazine is jam packed with news from the 24-25 academic year. Click here to access the online edition.
Going forward the magazine will only be published digitally however we have a very small number of print copies still available in our office – if you would like to be sent a printed copy please let me know and we can send these out on a first come first serve basis.



Art Competition

In December the School held its Young Artists Showcase – an interschools art competition open to local students from Years 7-13 with four OWs in attendance.

The winner of the overall prize received a trophy that had been donated in the memory of former staff member Duncan Ellison by OWs.

Duncan Ellison sadly passed away in April 2025, at the age of 81. Duncan had been a staff member at the School from 1973 to 2004 and was Head of Art. As well as Head of Art, Duncan served in 6 of the Houses, assisted in the chapel, edited the school magazine, and was an outstanding calligraphist producing the prize labels for speech day. Importantly to this event, Duncan also ran an interschools art competition which is why the award was so fitting.

The OWs in attendance on behalf of Duncan were, Jeremy Peake (75-85, W), David Waller (77-81, S), and James Harpur (75-85, C).

The guest speaker for the event was OW Jessie Hillcox (01-11, W) who delivered an excellent speech about her experience of studying art at the School, in further education and the profound impact art has had on her career today.

The event was a huge success and plans have already started for the next one.

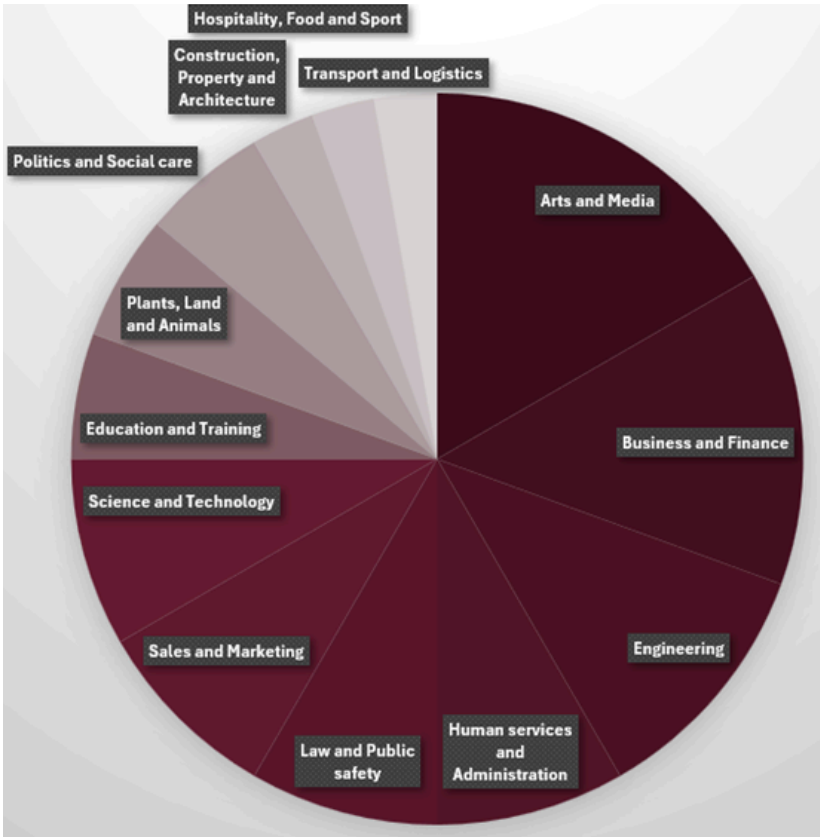


School Careers Service

Philippa Hunt - Head of Careers



As Head of Careers, I was thrilled that the revamped School Purpose is – I think – very closely aligned with the aim of Careers education. "To develop confident, rounded, and grounded young people, equipped with the empathy and energy to make a positive difference to the world" is a goal that is supported by (and supportive of) the Careers Education programme we are building. Our students have a hugely wide-ranging set of interests and passions that I am keen to support them to explore.
This pie chart shows the range of subject interests our current Year 12s have expressed, as an example:



Recent careers events at the School have included Y9 options evening, a Law-focused Careers Lunch, and celebrations of National Apprenticeship Week. I was also pleased to be able to chat with OWs at the recent business networking event and came away with some exciting potential projects and connections – it's evident that there is a real passion for giving back to the school and supporting the next generation of students.

If you'd like to share your career journey, experience, expertise, or anything else about your life that could help support our students on their own paths, please do email me via careers@wellingboroughschool.org. You could represent your company at a careers fair, be a guest speaker in a lesson or at a careers lunch, offer work experience, become a mentor to a student, or any of a number of other ways. We are really only limited by our joint imaginations!

Stay in Contact
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01933 222427
www.oldwellingburianclub.org