



Old Edwardians Association
Sheffield

Newsletter September 2026



Wesley College Archive Photos from 1882

We're delighted to show some very old archive photos which have been sent to the school by John De Lucy. John found the photographs in an old family archive and they have been identified as being of KES/Wesley College. He has very kindly sent the photos to the school for the archive and we reproduce the photos below for your interest!

The photos were shot by Edward Peakome, photographer to the Queen, of Glossop Road, on 30th July 1882, during the time of Wesley College of course. John has enhanced the photos in colour and is it not wonderfully striking to see how they look in comparison?

We believe the portrait of the elderly (?!) gentleman is probably headmaster Dr. Henry McEffer Shera MA LLD who had a long period as head from 1854-88.

Can anyone identify any of the footballers? Not quite the designer strips of today for the First XI but interesting that, whilst goalkeepers didn't have a special kit in those days, some are in white and some in blue. Why would that be? Of note also, is the very casual approach to the seating arrangement. For me, anyway, much more pleasing to the eye than the stiff two rows all in a line approach of today.

It's interesting to see how the front steps have changed since the 1800s with the flower/hedge border at the bottom of the steps with a bench around it.

I'm sure you'll all agree, a great find, and we would be glad to hear from anyone who can shed some light on these wonderful photos!

Many thanks to John De Lucy!



From E. PEAKOME
Photographer
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
433, GLOSSOP RD.
SHEFFIELD





July 30th 1882.
— " —

FROM THE
STUDIO
OF

Edward Peacock

PHOTOGRAPHER TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

433, GLOSSOP ROAD,



SHEFFIELD

John Benson-Smith, a much respected man who changed many things!

These are the words of Chef Paul Kitching, Michelin star chef for over 10 years, speaking of Old Edwardian John Benson-Smith.

We're very happy to feature, this month, a piece on eminent and distinguished OE John Benson-Smith 1969-75, as a sign of the very varied and diverse talents spawned by our beloved school.

In speaking with John, it becomes very clear that he did not enjoy school at the time, and couldn't wait to leave and find an outlet for his creative talents which he felt were not being nurtured at school! Starting work as an apprentice in a kitchen though, he found his love immediately and from there there was no looking back! I think it's fair to say that now, looking back, John realises that some of the disciplines he has applied in his work were evident from his school days.

One important thing to note, though, regarding the school, is a fact which will resonate with a lot of you readers. John's father Alan, was an Old Edwardian, and more famously, his grandfather was Leslie 'Wag' Waghorn, the wonderful groundsman who looked after so many of us at Whitely Woods and gave us instruction in spin bowling! Wag retired in 1971 after 36 years service!! Happy memories for John indeed of Wag whom he remembers fondly, and he also mentions Norman Barnes as his favourite teacher. Contemporaries of John were Graham Fellowes - Jilted John, John Shuttleworth et al - and Joe Elliott - lead singer of Def Leppard.

'So why do I do it? .. easy, it's that ongoing fanatical love for the Food & Beverage Hospitality industry'.

John Benson-Smith is one of the UK's foremost consultant chefs in the sector. His vast commercial ability, managerial and strategic skills allow John to tread a far larger pattern and show off skills, insights and meticulous abilities often not associated with consultant chefs.



John Benson-Smith

John has worked with a worldwide client base in hotels, Michelin starred restaurants, gastronomy, travel, retail, theme parks, stadia, arts & culture. His career took him, on leaving King Edward's, to being further educated in the kitchens at La Napoule near Cannes in southern France, and at the world famous two and three star Michelin rated Restaurant L'Oasis under Louis Outhier. He was heavily influenced by Chef Nico Ladenis and also famous Yorkshire chef Michael Quinn.

He has collaborated with many celebrity chefs, including Marco Pierre-White, and John is described as the 'founding father of modern British Cuisine in Manchester'.

A former Chef of the Year & gold medal holder, John's award-winning background includes being a former judge on the original TV series of BBC MasterChef; spending 20+ years as Consultant Chef and Catering strategist to Manchester City Football Club; & being an original flavour designer to Walkers Sensations Crisps. Today, he remains a sought after media commentator, speaker & industry opinion former.

John now works to help international real estate and retail organisations to drive creative thinking in launching new food & beverage concepts and managing complex business turnarounds, including operational audits, investigative forensic overviews, and staff coaching/mentoring. John has worked in countries across the world including Nordic, Middle East and Europe, not forgetting United Kingdom and the Channel Islands.

Thank you John and welcome as a new member of the association!

John Benson Smith 1969-75



Why should poorer teens travel hours to do A-Levels?

Coincidentally, within the space of a few hours, two of our members shared with us a recent and pertinent post from the Sheffield Tribune. Thanks to both Ian Price (68-74) and David Cook (56-63) for sending us the news.

It's a long article so please click below to read it. I sense there are a lot of questions this article will raise. Suffice it to say here that I'm sure we're all glad the school has been able to maintain its independence!

<https://www.sheffieldtribune.co.uk/sheffield-sixth-forms/>

David Cook has also very kindly sent us a link to a piece he wrote in 2005, for Don Nicolson's archive website, on his memories of travelling to school in the 50s.

Hoc sit Omnis David Cook

A wonderful comparison!! Thank you David!

ANNUAL DINNER 2027

**We're delighted to announce that the 2027 Annual Dinner
will be held once again at Bramall Lane on
Friday 19th March.**

Following the success of the last two years, it was an easy decision for us to continue in the Tony Currie Suite again next year.

Reservation details are now up on the website. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to get straight there and please feel free to reserve you place. There is an increase from Bramall Lane this next year but we have managed to negotiate it down to a minimum and we have had to pass this on in the revised price. We hope this is not too much of an inconvenience. All funds raised, of course are ploughed back into the students and the school, and we are very grateful, as ever, to those attending.

Congratulations and thank you to John May (1964-71) who is number one on the list!!

We look forward to seeing you there! Please tell all your friends and we hope for a great turn out!

**Friday 19th March 2027
1889 Suite
Sheffield United FC
Bramall Lane S2 4SU**

**Dress: Smart/Casual
7.00 for 7.30pm
Price: £47.50
Parking on Cherry St**

Obituaries

Michael Henty (1960s), brother of Simon Henty (1968-74) died recently after a long battle with Parkinson's.

Simon has sent us the following tribute:

Mike went to Warwick University then entered the automotive industry with Digital, which moved into Hewlett Packard in London and then went to Geneva as the company expanded. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's when he was thirty eight and went to rural France with his then wife to start and run a gite/b&b business.

When his marriage ended he moved to the Languedoc, always trying to test himself but ultimately realising he could no longer manage and he returned to the UK in 2019 to be near to my wife, Jane and I. He lived with a degree of independence until 2022 when he agreed with great reluctance to move into a care home. The physical, mental and emotional toll was huge and he died on 8th May this year. He fought the wicked disease for half his life.

I wrote down for him in 2004, when he had a seventeen hour Deep Brain Stimulation operation in Grenoble, the final lines of Tennyson's Ulysses, our Dad was a Lancaster pilot in WW2 and the lines also happened to be the motto of his squadron:

" TO STRIVE TO SEEK, TO FIND AND NOT TO YIELD".

Very poignant words Simon and many thanks for your contribution!

Kathleen Auton 1988-2006 Deputy Headteacher, died on 20th February 2026

The School was saddened to hear of the death of former deputy headteacher, Kathleen Auton age 74. Kathleen retired from the School in 2006 after eighteen years. Following her retirement, Kathleen was heavily involved as a volunteer for the Chesterfield Canal Trust, becoming a Trustee and Membership Secretary and was frequently to be seen in the Trust's shop at Hollingwood Hub. Kathleen's family announced that she died in Chesterfield Royal Hospital on February 20th 2026. Her family said she would be sadly missed by her husband Rod, her step sons, step grandchildren, sister, niece, nephew and great nephews. Her funeral took place at Chesterfield Crematorium March 19th.

Membership

Many thanks, of course, to all those who have renewed subscriptions again in August. Your subscriptions, however big or small, are hugely important to the Association and to the School.

It's easy to subscribe and is only £10 minimum – [CLICK HERE](#) for the website page with application form and bank details for your standing order.

HELP WITH CONTACTS

Click below and check out our grouped years' member's lists. If anyone finds someone they wish to contact, then just let me know and I will facilitate it.

www.old-edwardians-sheffield.com/membership

Many thanks, also, to those of you who continue to take the time and trouble to advise us of email changes. It is very highly appreciated!

Our database is a live beast and we depend on you to keep us updated. Now that we have regular newsletters and communications it's even more important. We don't want anyone to miss out on news! Anytime, just send a note with any info you may have to me at:

info@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Many thanks!

FINAL THOUGHT

Thanks to you all for reading the newsletter and for your kind comments.

Miss any newsletters or want to look back over recent ones?

Then check on the website. All newsletters and other mailings are logged on the 'News' page of the website for you to browse through at your leisure.

Click here:

www.old-edwardians-sheffield.com/blog

Many thanks and hope you've had a great summer!!

Pete Kersh

Check out our new website

www.old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Old Edwardians Association

John Parr 1968-74

President

president@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Pete Kersh 1967-73

Secretary

info@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Old Edwardians Association

7 Keswick Close, NG9 3AR, Nottingham

This email was sent to [{{contact.EMAIL}}](#).

You've received this email because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)

