



Oliver 'Felix' Wissenbach

100 SCHOOLS PROJECT



23rd August 1994 - 10th September 2019. 9150 days on Earth.

10th September 2020

First and foremost, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Today will be one of quiet reflection. It's exactly **one year to the day** since we found our beloved Oli lying peacefully at the bottom of a swimming pool. On 10th September 2019, our lives, and the lives of anyone that knew Oli, changed forever. There's been lots of talk of 'the new normal'. In our case, our 'new normal' started 365 days ago...

Since his death, we have found tremendous solace in the progress we've made in raising funds to build 100 Schools in his honour. Today not only marks the anniversary of that fateful day, it also represents a momentous day - because as you read this, **we are breaking ground on our first school**. Situated in Fadie in Mali, some of Oli's ashes will take their place at the school and a personal dedication to Oli will be shared. You can read about this on page 2.

It doesn't take away the pain of losing Oli, but knowing that we are honouring his memory and making him proud in a progressive, practical way that will change the lives of so many has helped enormously. It also continues to help us work through the healing process and dig us out of the grief that at times can feel so overwhelming. We continue to be committed to bringing something positive out of something so all-consumingly painful.

Your response to our mission to build 100 schools in Oli's honour has been nothing short of amazing. We're humbled by the fabulous progress we've been able to make with your support.

In the period between Oli's tribute on 2nd October 2019 and the end of February 2020, through pledges and fund raising we raised enough money to build an incredible **25 schools**.

We did this through publishing Sam Leaper's first Little Book of Wisdom, donations, purchases of Oli's inspiring artwork, goods from his collection and fund-raising activities. The Magnificent Seven Chefs event at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in its own right enabled us to fund 13 schools, more details overleaf.

We also had two further significant fund-raising events planned for late March (The Coeur Blanc Ski Challenge) and April (The Holland & Holland Shoot) that were projecting us being on track to have funded between 40 and 50 schools in total. **But, then came COVID...**

Just like almost every other charitable organisation, fund-raising plans and activities were appropriately

placed on temporary hold. So, our focus as a family turned to other healing activities, including creating 'Oli's orchard' and, on what would have been Oli's 26th birthday on 23rd August 2020, welcoming a new member into our family - who you will enjoy 'meeting' on page 6.

You've probably heard the phrase 'grief is the price we pay for having loved'. It's been hard, very hard. But, as we think back and reflect on the last 12 months, we know that wherever Oli is, he will not only be beaming with pride that, in his own words, we are ensuring that the "world is better because he was here" (but we're doing so with just a little bit of "screw it be a unicorn" thrown into the mix!)

In some ways, it feels like so much has happened, in other ways it feels like life has stood still. Every action we've taken in the last 12 months has been driven by the fact we want Oli to be as proud of us as we are of him - a huge challenge. However, we hope you agree that we're getting somewhat close.

COVID may have temporarily slowed our ability to achieve our goal of building 100 schools in Oli's honour - but it has in no way diminished our determination to finish what we've started.

With your support, we know we can do it.

Today we publish Oli's second book and launch a special 'brick campaign' - more details overleaf.

So, as you sit back and read the rest of this newsletter and the great things Oli has inspired, we hope you too will be able to take a few minutes of reflection - and think about what's possible in the next 12 months...

**Thank you again for your support.
And, thank you Oli. We love you.**

*Love Stefan, Diana, Alex & Max
XXXX*



Today, 10th September 2020, a milestone day –

Our first build commences!

Whilst COVID may have temporarily slowed our fund-raising activities, we didn't want it to slow the ability for our schools to provide much needed education and support to communities that need it most.



So, it was with a great deal of sorrow, and pride, that last week, we decanted 10 phials of Oli's ashes and posted them to Burkina, Malawi, Mali, Nepal and Nicaragua.

Our first 10 schools under Oli's 100 Schools Project are about to be built!

Wonderfully, the first ground break will be at Fadie in Mali, today, the anniversary of Oli's death.

Today, and at the ground-breaking of every one of 100 schools, the following dedication to Oli will be shared:

Our first 10 schools

BUILD SCHEDULE

Mali

Fadie - 10th September 2020

Boundio - 14th September 2020

Neguella - 17th September 2020

Tienko - 17th September 2020

Nicaragua

El Guayabo - 21st September 2020

Burkina

Kouri - 24th September 2020

Koubounga – 29th September 2020

Malawi

Mphowe - Date TBC

Kayereka - Date TBC

Nepal

Piplasaini - Date TBC due to monsoon season

GROUND BREAKING DEDICATION WORDING:

This school is dedicated to Oliver Felix Wissenbach - who was just 25 years old when he died on the 10th September 2019.

Oliver was a teacher. He was passionate about learning and people fulfilling their potential.

Before he died, he wrote that his number one wish was to leave the world a better place because he was here.

Because of his wish, and the support of many wonderful people, this school can now be built.

With Oli looking down on us smiling, let us build this school together and make a difference now, and for many generations to come.

The sustainability and success of the schools is due to a unique proven approach and partnership between buildOn, local government and the community. Equal numbers of girls and boys are educated, and many schools operate adult education programs. Our schools will break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations, transforming the lives of the attendees and the communities they live in.

Current COVID restrictions mean that, for now, school builds cannot be attended, but we will be sharing plenty of footage

and photos through social media as the builds unfold.

In 2013, all five of the Wizzies travelled to Jumbo in Malawi for our family school build. You only have to see the joyful look on Oli's face and those of the children in Jumbo to know the impact we're having right now, today, in Fadie. **It can't help but make you smile – as does the knowledge that we will be replicating those joyful smiles on children's faces in each of our 100 School communities.**



Anyone that knew Oli will have absolutely no doubt that the world is better because he was here – and now from today, many thousands of people, of both current and future generations who didn't know him, will be living proof of the legacy he has left behind him and carrying forward his passion for learning and teaching.

We're sure that wherever he is today, that same joyful smile will be beaming.

25 SCHOOLS: How we got here!

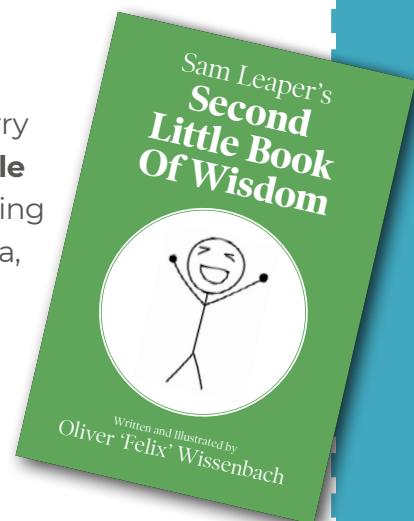
FUND-RAISING

Sam Leaper Book

In the days following Oli's death, we discovered his incredible writing on Quora under the pseudonym of Sam Leaper. Before we reached his tribute on 2nd October 2019, with the help of our friends Dan Sullivan, Babs Smith and the team at Strategic Coach, we created Sam Leapers first Little Book of Wisdom. Since then, we've sold over 5,000 of copies and received feedback from many people on the positive impact Oli's words had on them.

Today we publish Oli's (sorry Sam Leapers!) second **Little Book of Wisdom**. In working through his work on Quora, we found he had written enough posts to create just one more book.

Order yours today at oliverwissenbach.com

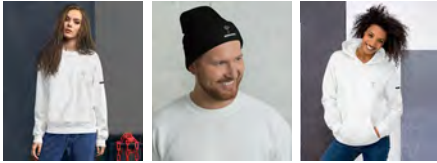


OLI'S COLLECTION

SAM LEAPER

by

OLIVER 'FELIX' WISSENBACH



Oli's collection was created in response to numerous requests for his quotes. We think it's the perfect way to update your wardrobe, look cool and spread Oli's wisdom – while at the same time knowing all profits contribute directly to the 100 schools project.

Oli was an extensive traveller. By including some of his ashes at each of the school builds, we're posthumously helping him to continue one of his passions. And, if you're willing, you can help us do the same.

If you've purchased something from Oli's collection and are grabbing the opportunity to enjoy some travels of your own; wherever you are, pack your Oli wisdom and send us a picture.

We've love to share images of Oli's words all over the world!

OUR AMAZING

Fund-raising events!



The Magnificent 7

Monday 24th February 2020 was a landmark day in our 100 Schools Project journey. For the first time ever, seven amazing chefs came together at Raymond Blanc's stunning Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons to host a 7-course lunch to raise enough money to fund 7 schools. A unique experience.

The event exceeded our expectations by some margin. We raised an outstanding £395,000, enough for 13 schools!

The chefs were incredible – but for more than just the gastronomic delight the guests were treated to. The way they wholly embraced our cause, bought huge fun and energy – not to mention just a little friendly banter - made the day the success it was.

A huge thank you goes to Paul Ainsworth, Tommy Banks, Raymond Blanc OBE, Claude Bosi, Richard Corrigan, Niall Keating and Tom Kerridge.

An equally big thank you goes to Sammy Jo Squire (the event mastermind), chef Olivia Burt, the event sponsors and attendees, and prize donors. Thank you Eveline Noort, Gary Jones, Benoit Blin and the entire Le Manoir team for hosting this event.

This event will live in the minds of everyone that attended for many years to come and created such a positive affiliation with Oli's memory. As we write this, we're smiling as we reminisce.



RHUL Men's Rugby's Egham and Thorpe 10k

A huge thank you to the entire team at Royal Holloway Men's Rugby Club who took on the Thorpe Half Marathon and 10k in honour of Oli.

They raised a staggering amount - nearly £4,500 for the 100 Schools project.

Well done boys - you crushed it!



Magic Fashionistas

The Magic Future Foundation was one of the fortunate beneficiaries of the 40th Anniversary Bodies and Co Annual Charity Fashion Show that took place at The Royal Spa Centre in Leamington in November 2019. 40 models took part in total from the age of 2 years old up to 80 years old!



Great fun was had by all and £2,500 was raised for the 100 Schools Project.

Becky Wright - thank you so much your support!

AND THE 'ALMOST HAPPENED'...

We were honoured to be the chosen charity for the 2020 challenge for this year's Coeur Blanc event in the Méribel Valley. Sadly, due to COVID the event had to be cancelled. The great news is that we will be the lucky recipients of the funds raised from the next Coeur Blanc when it's safe and appropriate to run it. The Wizzies will be represented by Stefan and Max, under the guise of 'Oli's Olympians' (a slight exaggeration of our talent!) with the challenge being completed on Oli's

snowboards – he'd have loved it.

A special thank you goes to Pierre Taylor for his huge enthusiasm and support.

Similarly, unfortunately we had to postpone our inaugural Magic Future Foundation shoot in April. Our gratitude goes to Tom Spanner for your friendship and unwavering support. **We're looking forward to it being rescheduled as soon as possible!**



FAMILY UPDATE



TWO SIDES OF A COIN

Let us gamble - the Gods said
On two things: life and death
Two sides of a coin
One with and without breath

An entrance and an exit
But perhaps not a dead-end
For a gamble can bring fortune
Death could be life's friend

The unknown after death
Does life begin again?
Two sides of a coin
We will only know when

ALEX WISSENBACH

March brought an abrupt pause to our fund-raising activities but we remained focused on **healing and creating positivity** – some good things have happened...

First, we planted a tree at Temple Fields - a wonderful sanctuary that we regularly visit to quietly remember Oli. **As the plaque says, Oli was with us for 9150 days.** It's now been 365 days since we last saw him – but he's with us every single day.

In a similar vein, we've also created Oli's Orchard - 52 fruit trees and two beehives ready for honey production in 2021.

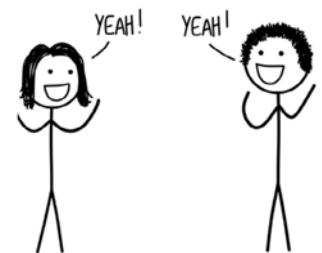
And then, on what would have been Oli's 26th birthday on 23rd August, we welcomed a new family member. His name is Ralphy and he's brought a new sense of joy to our family. He's such a character. Just look at him – how can he not make you smile!

That said, quite naturally, we've also at times found ourselves at the mercy of the devastating force of grief. Adopting the following habits is helping us.

First, reading the Daily Stoic – Oli was an avid fan – and now we know why. Many words of wisdom and strength. **The second, what we refer to as the 3x3x3.** Irrespective of where your mindset is – good, bad or indifferent, each morning, write down:

- **3 things** you're grateful for right now (however big or small),
- **3 things** you need to do today.
- Then at the end of the day, **3 wins** from today.

Try it. It works.



LAUNCHING: The School Bricks' Challenge!

ANNOUNCEMENT



Building futures, brick by brick – involving everyone with the beauty of how small things become great opportunities.

A wonderful and timely fund-raising challenge that allows everyone to participate. One brick, alone, doesn't make a school – but each brick is needed to succeed. The importance of small things has never been more important than today.

Brick by brick, we'll work together to build ONE HUNDRED schools in some of the poorest and most deprived areas of the world. The children here are remarkable; they are bright, funny, engaged, interested and curious. They want to learn, and they are excited for their new school!

A school takes 3000 'bricks' to build (that's £30,000 in actual money!) – that's a lot for one person, but together we're better. Whether you take on the 200 brick challenge or gather a team for the 3000 brick challenge, you're making a real, sustainable and significant transformation to these children's lives.

Please download our fund-raising pack for the step-by-step savvy on how to kickstart your fund-raising page (it's easy!) Then, once you're all official, you'll have a link to distribute on social media and you can start to promote your cause.

Fund-raising can be as simple, direct, funny, unusual, or creative as you want it to be. The possibilities are endless, but we've included a few ideas in the pack to get you started. We'd love to hear about yours!

Use the hashtag #bricksbecomeschools and join in!



For more information or to join the challenge visit:
oliverwissenbach.com/schoolbricks #bricksbecomeschools

Some final words

We hope you've enjoyed reading this update. Selfishly for us, it's been cathartic. A year and a day ago, we could never have imagined we'd be here – but so much good has come in the face of adversity.

So, a huge **thank you** – to our growing community of supporters and to our wonderful Foundation team. Your unwavering support has already helped us to achieve so much in Oli's memory.

We, none of us, have the power to change the past, but we can change the future – not just for us but for thousands of people in communities that need it most.

As we slowly emerge from the restrictions of COVID, we're ready to start re-creating some more magic and getting firmly back in the saddle to build 100 schools to do our Oli proud.

But, we can't do it alone – we need your help. Please, get involved, spread the word and together, we will continue to make the world better because Oli was here.

thank you!

Complete our 100 Schools Project and achieve more great things!



**Oliver 'Felix'
Wissenbach**
**100 SCHOOLS
PROJECT**

GET INVOLVED

How to get involved to make the world a better place.

There are many ways to get involved and join our community.

ONE // Donate

Every penny makes a difference. Visit www.oliverwissenbach.com to make a donation.

TWO // Promote and sell Oli's Collection

Visit www.oliverwissenbach.com and buy a book, tshirt, canvas, hoodie or phone case....every item you buy gets us one step closer to another school - and all are great conversation starters!

THREE // Become a fundraising leader

Would you like to lead a fundraising campaign all focused on raising money to build a school?

Just visit www.oliverwissenbach.com to register and find out more.

FOUR // Build a school

Would you like to build a school with your family, friends or colleagues? Email carol@magicfuturefoundation.org for more information.



FIVE // Spread the word

Lets get the word out!

Please follow us on instagram and facebook and share our news far and wide.

instagram: [the100schoolsproject](https://www.instagram.com/the100schoolsproject)
facebook: [the100schoolsproject](https://www.facebook.com/the100schoolsproject)
twitter: [@100schools](https://twitter.com/@100schools)

#worldbetterbecause