

THE OLD GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Spring 2011

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Old Georgians Summer Reunion 2011

Main Day Sunday 17th July 2011

Due to the success of the changes made last year to the Old Georgian Reunion we are continuing to organise most of the activities on Sunday 17th July 2011. The centre of Sunday's activities will be a traditional Sunday Lunch in the School Dining Room at 12.30pm followed by all the usual other activities such as Cricket, entertainment for children, Bar, Cream Teas and School Tours.

Friday 15th July 2011

7.15pm Choral Workshop – Supper followed by rehearsal

Saturday 16th July 2011

10am Choral Workshop rehearsals continue

4.30pm Tea served in Dining Room
Art Exhibition available for viewing

6.15pm Choral Workshop Concert in the School Chapel – there will be a retiring Collection in aid of the Duggie Dawn Memorial Fund

From 7.15pm BBQ in Grant Quad / Dining Room. Bar available.

Please note that although the School will not be open on Saturday afternoon, if you arrive early for the Concert you are most welcome to listen to the rehearsals in the Old Library.

Sunday 17th July 2011

10.00am Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel with Choral Workshop Choir

11.00am Coffee in Sixth Form Common Room

11.30am Annual General Meeting of the Old Georgian Association in the Old Library

12.30pm Traditional Sunday Lunch in School Dining Room

1.00pm Cricket Match

From 2.00pm -5.00pm Children's Entertainment – Bouncy Castle
School Archive Open
Bar

3.00pm Tour of the School
Cream Teas

6.00pm Close

Come meet with old friends, take a trip down memory lane with Sunday Lunch in the Dining Room, take a tour of the new buildings, treat yourself to a delicious cream tea or Pimms, whilst watching the cricket.

Any questions – please contact Bettine Parsons bettine@bettine.co.uk

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Sunday 17th July 2011

Sunday Roast Lunch Order Form

Come and have a traditional Sunday Roast Lunch with traditional pudding served in the School Dining Room.

Groups can reserve tables if they wish. More details from Bettine Parsons bettine@bettine.co.uk

There will be a Vegetarian option available

Tickets Prices: 14yrs and over £ 6.00 4 – 14yrs £ 2.50 Under 4yrs FREE

Bar available

To pre book tickets, please complete this form and return to Ben Sweeting, Treasurer OGA, 14, Bewdley Close, Harpenden AL5 1QX with a cheque made payable to the Old Georgian Association.

Please include a self addressed envelope to speed delivery of your tickets

Name			
Address			
No of Tickets@ £ 6.00@ £ 2.50@FREE
Total	£		

Avoid disappointment – book today. Limited number of tickets

Any queries, please contact Bettine Parsons bettine@bettine.co.uk or the St George's Development Office 01582 716217

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OGA Choral Workshop

Fri 15th / Sat 16th / Sun 17th July 2011

The Music for this year's Workshop, conducted by **Russell Tucker**, will be: **Byrd**: *Four part Mass*,
Stanford: *'The Lord is my Shepherd'*, **Wesley**: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*.
Maurice Johnstone (OG): *Psalm CXXI Levavi Oculos*, composed for the Jubilee, June 1957.

This piece was 'premiered' by the School Choir of that year, which included several regular attendees of The Workshop! We have been looking for the music for years! It was never published, and we are indebted to Maurice Johnstone's daughter, Primrose Watts (OG) for a copy. It is 15 pages and we need up to 40 copies, which is the main reason for the small increase of the cost of the Workshop this year. In 2010 we sang one movement from the Byrd Mass, and we hope to do the rest this year.

Name: (capitals please)

Address:

Telephone:

email:

Voice: S A T B (please circle)

COST: £25, to include supper on Fri and a snack lunch on Sat & teas and coffees

Friday 15th July: 19.15 Supper in the Dining Hall
 20.15 Rehearsal in the Old Library

Saturday 16th July: 10.00 Rehearsal in the Old Library (with coffee break), ending 12.30 approx.
 13.00 Snack lunch
 14.30 Rehearsal in the Old Library, ending 16.30 approx. followed by a cup of tea
 18.15 Concert in Chapel followed by BBQ (see separate form)

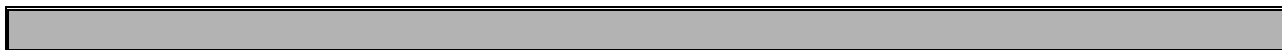
Sunday 17th July: 10.00 End of Year Thanksgiving Service in Chapel with OG Workshop Choir

Please reply with cheque made payable to the OGA to: Graham Pauncefort, Trelissa Farmhouse, Philleigh-in-Roseland, Nr. Truro, Cornwall TR2 5NE

Tel: 01872 580001 email: graham@crdrecords.com

Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE as a copy of this pro-forma will be returned to you in acknowledgement.

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Old Georgian Association BBQ

Saturday 16th July 2011 – 7.15pm



BBQ Order Form

A BBQ with burger, sausage, chops and chicken will be held in the Grant Quad (where the swimming pool used to be).

There will be a Vegetarian option.

Tickets are £ 10.00 per person including salad & dessert

Beer, St George's wine and soft drinks will be available

To pre book tickets, please complete this form and return to Ben Sweeting, Treasurer OGA, 14, Bewdley Close, Harpenden AL5 1QX with a cheque made payable to the Old Georgian Association

Please include a self addressed envelope to speed delivery of your tickets

Name	
Address	
No of Tickets	@ £ 10.00 each
Total	£

Avoid disappointment – book today. Limited number of tickets

Any queries, please contact Bettine Parsons bettine@bettine.co.uk or the St George's Development Office 01582 716217

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President's Letter

Dear Old Georgians,

In my letter to you in last September's Newsletter I wrote about the new grand piano given to the School by the Duggie Dawn Fund through the generosity of a number of individual donors, mainly Old Georgians, and by the Richard Jacquet and Harpenden Music Foundation trusts. We are truly indebted to Terry Charlston who devoted so much of his valuable time to finding us such a splendid instrument. I am now able to report on the pleasure we have had from the concerts held in the Old Library since then thanks to having it available.

In July the first professional performer was Richard Meyrick who gave an impressive display of musical fireworks designed to show off the instrument. He had been giving a master class during the day to students from Roundwood and St George's and had agreed to stay on in the evening to put the piano through its paces. He certainly did this with aplomb and was very complimentary about the instrument and spoke about the opportunities it now gives the School to host professional players – it was not what he was used to in schools.

In September the first of a series of concerts by young players was held to start raising the final amount still outstanding. This is currently about £900. We started with an offering from a couple of youngsters who have recently left school, Jocelyn Waller and Ben Charlston (OG). They gave a programme of piano duets including an arrangement of Elgar's Enigma Variations which was new to me. I was impressed and reckon they will go far. The following month a trio of young professionals played Mozart, Shostakovich and Piazzolla, finishing up with a spirited performance of Haydn's Gypsy Rondo. Great fun.

The third concert in this series was in December on a day of heavy snow - which nearly had to be cancelled after an explosion in the School's heating system a few days earlier. Thanks to the efforts of the Bursar's staff this was repaired sufficiently to allow us to go ahead, though in the evening the performers and the audience all finished up walking to School through the snow. Well worth the effort as the five performers, all recent Georgians, gave sparkling performances.

Finally, a couple of weeks ago, it was my pleasure to attend the most recent concert, arranged by the Harpenden Music Foundation and entitled "Harpenden's Got Musical Talent". They certainly proved that with their cast of youngsters, the youngest only ten years old. They were all stars of the show but the names which attracted the very full audience were Guy Johnston (BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2000) and Susanna Stranders (OG), currently working as a répétiteur at the Royal Opera House and at Glyndebourne.

Looking back and comparing my own memories of listening to the efforts of my contemporaries at school to master a musical instrument, as heard through the wall between Miss Daniels' music room and the MES where I spent most of my spare time, I must agree with the HMF today. Yes, "Harpenden's Got Musical Talent" and thanks to the Duggie Dawn Fund and to you, the donors, we've got somewhere to show it off.

I regret to say that I shall not be with you this coming July Reunion as Dilys and I will be somewhere in the Baltic on our way to St Petersburg. However, I know that Graham Pouncefort is working on an enjoyable and satisfying programme of music for the singers for their concert on Saturday, 16th July, whilst Bettine and the Committee are preparing activities especially suitable for young families on the Sunday so you can be free to roam around and meet your friends again. I hope lots of you will be there to enjoy the Reunion.

Ian Hemmin

53 Tuffnells Way, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3HA

Tel: 01582-760117

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Chairman's Letter

The Committee of your Association has been working hard reviewing last year's events and planning the summer and winter reunion events for 2011.

We are always looking for ideas to improve events and attract more people so anyone with ideas is encouraged to put them forward.

The committee has recently set up a special group to look at the way forward for the Association and recent meetings have generated lots of ideas, so "watch this space" as we go through the next couple of years.

The summer reunion attracts many visitors and the school always looks its best with the sun shining, cricket matches taking place and friends gathering to meet up; while the winter reunion, with the candlelit chapel at its heart, always creates a unique atmosphere. Both are great events to meet up with old friends so do come along.

We have some exciting ideas for the future so please always remember to look out for what is happening, come along whenever you can and if you would like us to organise something specific for you and your friends, or a year group, please feel free to contact one of the committee.

I thank the committee for all their efforts and I hope you can all come along to various events to see how much they achieve for you, so, as always; I look forward to meeting you at the next events.



Mark Pocock

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Editor's Comments

Our intention is to send out two Newsletters each year by EMAIL to those registered or by DOWNLOADING from the School Website at www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. For those without access to the Internet or Email we will be able to mail you a Newsletter on request.

THIS IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Newsletter is only ever as good as its content, so I must appeal to all year representatives and all generations of Georgians to send ideas, stories and suitable content by email to both pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk and paulstreeton@btinternet.com or by MAIL to the School Development Office, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4TD.

Please send content that can be copied directly into the Newsletter as this will ensure accuracy and make life easier for me!

Sadly I have to report that Jan Bowes Old Georgian, former member of staff and my predecessor as Editor of the Old Georgian Newsletter, died on 1st April 2011. There will be a Memorial Service at Winchester Cathedral at 2.30 on 25th May 2011

Paul Streeton (1978 -1985)

Tel: 07973 912092

Email: paulstreeton@btinternet.com

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From the Headmaster

FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY 2011 'LET THERE BE LIGHT!' STUDENTS' A LEVEL PROJECT LIGHTS CHAPEL ENTRANCE

OAK CHANDELIER HUNG WITH PRIDE FOR NEW YEAR

Marking the beginning of the new school term, former student **Dominic Green**, aged 19 and Headmaster Norman Hoare adjust the new chandelier now illuminating the entrance to the 120 year old School Chapel

Dominic designed and made the Chandelier as the main project in his A level Design course. Constructed of English Oak which he obtained through a family friend, the six lamp chandelier is very heavy and constructed of solid wood. Every piece was hand cut and crafted by Dominic in the School's Technology Centre and took according to his D&T teacher, Head of department Ian Cousins about 110 hours to complete. Dominic used cutting and engraving equipment bought by the School's charity, the Cecil Grant founders Trust.

"Without the help of the Trust over the last two years we could not have provided the specialist equipment for this kind of design project. They gave us £40K raised by parental subscription to enhance our stock of high tech equipment" said Ian.

Dominic is now studying at Derby University and returned to the school at the beginning of the term for the official photograph. He received excellent marks for the A level project and the School is delighted with the finished article.



Headmaster Norman Hoare commented

'It is wonderful to have such a magnificent piece for our beautiful Chapel made by a pupil. Dominic consulted widely before beginning his project and we are all delighted with the finished product. It has pride of place in the Cloisters a replaces a 70's style strip light.

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Each lantern carries the school seal created with the latest laser cutting technology and there are designs for special lamps for Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter. We see it as a real labour of love and Dominic is very happy that he has given something back to the Chapel which was so much a part of his time and his sister's as pupils of the school. Joanna has recently graduated from Leeds university with a degree in food and nutrition, and both have benefited from the School's role as a Specialist Technology College and which has just celebrated ten years of the Burgin Technology Centre's opening.

ARCHIE GETS HIS BOARD N BOOTS - 16 YEAR OLD NOW TEACHING SNOWBOARDING

SNOW HOLIDAY CHANGES HIS TEENAGE YEARS

Whilst others may Twitter and chat all their free time away for the last few years 16 year old ARCHIE GUINCHARD a Year 11 pupil at St George's School, Harpenden has spent his Saturdays and holidays perfecting snowboarding.

Frequent trips to the snow dome at Milton Keynes have allowed Archie to become one of the youngest BASI Instructors – British Association for Snow Sports.

Archie has been skiing with his family in Austria and Switzerland since he was 7 years old and was completely fascinated by boarding as a youngster, following in Dad's footsteps – he is a Ski instructor

'The course was a 5 day experience and very tiring' said Archie. He was delighted to pass and can now instruct at any indoor ski slope in Europe. Currently he works at the Milton Keynes Snow Dome at weekends but once the school holidays come he will be off to the Alps for more fun.

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Headmaster Norman Hoare praised Archie for his rare achievement.

“Not many would show this devotion to a very specialist sport and Archie has worked jolly hard perfecting his skills and teaching. His equipment is expensive and Archie has earned every penny to equip himself with this new board and boots. We celebrate all kinds of achievements at St George’s, and he is the second snow boarder of such a high standard I can remember – our first Hamish Duncan from Kimpton is already well known on the European Circuit. I am sure the future is very bright for Archie”

Monday 6th March 2011

UNIVERSITY FEES AND INTENSE COMPETITION MAY PUT TOO MANY OF THE BRIGHTESTS OFF APPLYING FOR OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

Fourteen of the brightest 15 years olds at St George’s School were given a taste of undergraduate studies during a visit to Oxford.

Headmaster Norman Hoare shared his concern however about these taster days as the future chances for so many students are not as bright as their ability.

“Will their parents be able to afford the fees at the country’s leading universities in four years time? Are we right to encourage them to go for the best even though they all have great potential and we want to keep up our tradition of feeding the best Georgians into our most prestigious universities ?

Whilst a degree is the goal of nearly all our sixth formers (and 143 went off last September to university) there is a mounting concern that the costs of an undergraduate career will be beyond some families. Parents and students will have to listen carefully to advice about costs and long term implications of financing higher Education – much more so than when fees were first introduced over ten years ago. I hope we will see an expansion of training the job as professions appreciate that entering a scheme at 18 which allows professional training and some part time release for study at different level, but the economic climate may not be right at the moment to see this. Some leading firms are doing it and we are doing what we can to direct students to be flexible approaching their options. It is a tough world for our 16 year olds who may, like their older brothers and sisters, and indeed like my own generation have grown up expecting a university place as almost ‘a right’“

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Visiting Corpus Christi Oxford this year were representatives of the current Year 10 who will sit their GCSEs in the summer of 2012. Identified as some of the school's gifted and talented they took part in a seminar about admission procedures and sixth form subject choices. Following a tour of the College with undergraduates and an impressive lunch in the Great Hall they all enthusiastically entered into the mock trial laid on by the Law department which some of the group have already expressed an interest in studying.

Alister Clarke the School's Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator who organises a wide programme for all the 160 students on the school's 'G&T' register was delighted with the day but shared the Headmaster's concerns.

"Mr Hoare is right to encourage, advise and to warn. The group I took on this visit – and I was limited with places - may be some of the best but the way forward is not easy. Competition for such a wonderful College as Corpus Christi is fierce and we have to be realistic that there are not enough places, and anyone trying for a potentially 'expensive' University has a lot to consider. In so many ways they are entering a new world which we as their teachers have also to come to terms with."

Parents' money answered desperate plea for help as school numbers exceeded planned provision.

'PARENTS HAVING TO DIG DEEPER TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS'

'HARPENDEN SCHOOL'S PROJECT ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY PARENT'S HELP'

New Sixth Form building and state of art Music Centre done 'in-house'

No government finance to support inevitable impact of school's expansion.

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Leaders of the Parent Staff Association saw for themselves the pressure that huge sixth form numbers were creating at St George's as they joined students on the first day of use of the new study facilities - provided as a result of parents' hard work and generosity this summer.

Since June 1st parents led by the Development Director Pam Bainbridge have raised £77,000 to refit the Sixth Form area with 90 study spaces, 55 new computers and a redesigned and larger Café.

£38,000 was also provided to relocate the Music department and equip it with Apple Mac computers and new recording studio.

Enjoying the attractive menu in the Sixth Form café during break and lunchtimes parents were impressed with the healthy eating approach.

PSA member Sue Clarke of Harpenden has two boys at St George's and is delighted to think that in a few years time her children would benefit from these super facilities " like many parents we supported this campaign as we want present and future students to have the best places to study, access to computers and the Internet and quiet rooms for serious work"

Headmaster Norman Hoare explained that there was no funding from local or national government to help their sixth form provision.

- *" It is frustrating that having warned that the increase in pupil numbers lower down the school over the last five years would have a significant impact on entry to our already oversubscribed sixth form, no one was prepared to listen and indeed turned a blind eye to our arguments.*
- *We have had to raise all the money ourselves, with our Foundation doing the building work for the two part project and our Summer Gifting Appeal bringing in enough cash to fit out not only the Sixth Form area but the new Music Centre.*
- *This is I regret to have say once again, **is a taste of what is to come.***
- *There will be very little available to help any schools to met the unprecedented demand for additional school places especially at the senior end.*
- *We know that Hertfordshire faces an explosion in demand for primary places but secondary schools are also under immense pressure and despite warnings from Governing bodies for some years of the consequences of expansion at secondary transfer stage, no one seems to accept that **the bulge moves through an 11-18 school.***

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- *on top of this the economic situation encourages more to stay on and the last government made education to 17 compulsory anyway – without thinking through the long term financial needs of such a policy.*
- *We are not alone in facing this predicament. All good secondaries are wondering how and where they can accommodate these senior students who want to stay on and study.”*

At St George’s Parental contributions have flowed in since June, with the PSA making a £25,000 grant to the project with the profits of last year’s events, including the annual School fete which provided over £10,000.

Development Officer Pam Bainbridge who led the Summer Gifting Campaign is delighted with the response.

- *“ Parents understood we were desperate and have continued to support us with cash donations and pledges, most of which attract Gift Aid and have swelled the coffers.*
- *Music got everything it wanted for its new centre which has state of the art recording facilities and fantastic new music studios and new offices in the converted Goddard House on the edge of the school site.*
- *This meant we can double the space for our 375 sixth formers and although we haven’t got enough space yet, it was the best we could do and the impact of this provision is amazing.”*

St George’s expanded to six forms of entry five years ago in response to community demand and as the extra 30 pupils have moved through the school most of these have stayed on into the sixth form.

The sixth form offers over 20 courses at AS and A level and competition for places for new students is fierce.

*“Whilst the Foundation’s work and Parents support has been invaluable we have not really cracked the real problem at St George’s” **commented the Headmaster.** “The school remains short of specialist accommodation and such basic provision as a decent size dining room and wider corridors to let the 1300 pupils move around safely and quickly.*

Every 50 minutes at lesson change we realise that most of the school was built for half of this number and circulation and social space is woefully inadequate.

All we seem to do if relieve pressure point after pressure point, but that is the reality of the current situation and this will remain for the foreseeable future. I really don’t know what we would do with the Herculean efforts of the Development Office to improve our lot and our parents who are behind us all the way.”

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January 24th 2011 – for HOLOCAUST WEEK

HOLOCAUST STUDIES PIONEERED BY HARPENDEN TEACHER

SCHOOL TOURS TO BERLIN RELIVE DRAMAS OF 20th CENTURY HISTORY

LEADING JOURNAL PUBLISHES TEACHER'S ARTICLE IN **SPECIAL EDITION TO MARK HOLOCAUST**

Head of History's research recognised by leading journal and used as main article in January special edition

St George's pupils' tours of Berlin provide research material for innovative approach

David Waters, Head of History at St George's school paid tribute to his GCSE pupils over the last few years who have provide him with the research evidence in developing his ideas about using a city to explain and describe the Holocaust to school children.

His work now published by the Historical Association this January forms the main article in it special Holocaust edition and has brought David much admiration.

Students at the 1300 strong Sun Lane secondary school have been visiting Berlin for a number of years now as part of their GCSE studies. David knows the city well and has mapped out a detailed itinerary to reveal the layers of the city's history and to make the tragedy of the Holocaust come alive. 'My tours take in places in addition to visits to the normal sites connected with Holocaust studies' commented David; 'what we see and uncover can really stir up strong emotions as we learn together by actually seeing areas that featured in this dreadful period of history.'

Headmaster Norman Hoare and the whole staff congratulated David on his most recent article for the Historical Association. "As Head of History the subject of 20th Century history is a major part of our work at senior level – the success of GCSE work and the Berlin visit is seen clearly in the Department's excellent results and the huge numbers who go onto study the subject at A level and then degrees in Modern History"



The photograph shows David Waters surrounded with students in Year 11 preparing for GCSE who visited Berlin last summer.

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**EDUCATION SECRETARY MICHAEL GOVE RECOGNISES HARPENDEN SCHOOL'S
WORK WITH CHINA
'CONFUCIOUS COMES TO HARPENDEN'
SCHOOL AWARDED \$10,000 TO FURTHER CHINA LINKS AND STUDIES**

Harpenden's St. George's School congratulated at a special ceremony when over 20 schools in the UK received official endorsement of a new status.

- Conferring Confucius Status on the 1300 strong Sun Lane school Michael Gove complimented St George's for its pioneering work with two schools in China and for developing the study of Mandarin.
- Since 2008 St George's has worked with an elite academy in Beijing and a school in Shandan in the remote north west of the country near the Gobi Desert.
- Headmaster Norman Hoare and International Education Co-ordinator Barbara Gerwein have visited the schools twice with Vice Chair of Governors Mrs Susan Fairbairn and a group of students and teachers.
- Thirty members of staff will have visited China by the end of this summer when the school's Scott Willis, its second teacher to win a scholarship returns from a year's study at Beijing University to strengthen St George's Mandarin speaking staff.



Deputy Head Helen Barton (pictured right) receiving the commendation from **Michael Gove** at the London ceremony, was delighted to hear how St George's work had been recognised at all levels and spoke of developments at St George's:

- *"Mandarin and China studies are exciting and well established at St George's.*
- *Our fourth summer camp party of sixth formers are preparing for a visit to Beijing.*
- *In addition 18 students are off on a three week expedition with World Challenge to Shandan in Gansu Province.*
- *We have an historic link with the province through the heroic work of Harpendonian and Old Georgian George Hogg which motivates all those who come across his story.*
- *Every pupil is introduced to his fascinating story in Chapels, assemblies and History lessons, and the exciting feature film 'The Children of Huang Shi' soon to be shown in the Public Halls courtesy of Harpenden Film Society.*
- *Money from the Chinese Government has enabled us to buy lots of resources and we expect to host our first exchange teacher from mainland China in September."*

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust awarded the School Language Specialism three years ago and St George's will once again contribute to their Annual Conference on China Studies for British schools at the Royal Academy in May.

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TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 2011

CRANE DESIGN IN DIRTY WASTE EXERCISE WINS TOP PRIZE

PUPILS IDEAS TO SAVE ENVIRONMENT CAPTURES DESIGNERS' EYE

GIFTED TECHNOLOGY 6th FORMERS REAP REWARD



Saving an area from environmental catastrophe won St George's students individual awards and the area's Shield at the local Rotary Technology 2011 Challenge.

Chris Grassick (right), Harry Merick (centre) and Kathryn Godfrey Evans all aged 17 and studying A level Design constructed a bridge in a gruelling day's competition to build from the most basic materials 'a crane to safely transport toxic waster from a train wreckage without loss.'

After presenting their designs to the judges they were delighted to win first prize and secure the shield for the best design.

They urged next year's A level Technology students to enter the competition because "it really stretches you into making decisions on the spot and engages you in risk taking about which we hear so much these days when planning a new idea."

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From the Development Office

A guide to leaving a legacy to St George's School (Harpenden) Ltd – 311050

If you would like to include St George's School in your will you should arrange with a solicitor either to write a Will or amend your existing Will by the addition of a Codicil. This needs to be separately signed, dated and witnessed by two Witnesses as for a Will.

If you would like to talk to us about a legacy or tell us of an intended legacy, please contact Pamela Bainbridge at pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01582 765477.

Development Office Update

Some of you may be aware that we ran the Summer Gifting Appeal earlier this year. We are really proud and happy to say that we reached a final figure of £80,451.54. I know some may say that we didn't reach our target of £100,000, but our cup is always half full never half empty!

Early November saw the opening of the new Sixth form study area, formerly the Music Department in Montabaun House – overlooking the front of the School. This work was only possible because St George's Harpenden Ltd, our Foundation had been planning this development and saving hard since the Centenary year, as they knew the bulge of students would move through the school after we expanded to take in an extra form five years ago. The summer work has transformed the area with quiet study areas and a House Captains office. Mr Simon, Assistant Head has a new office in the midst of his flock and there is an area for interviews and meetings. Mrs Priestland, Deputy Head of sixth form also has a new home in the former Chaplain's Office in the Cloisters – which has easy access to the revamped common room and new Café.

Parental contributions have paid for furniture and the 52 computers and when funds allow, more will be added to help our senior students and to relieve pressure on the School Library, so more of the rest of the school can use its facilities. Without the Summer Gifting campaign we could not have completed this and we are very grateful to all those parents who specifically earmarked their gifting for the sixth form, including those whose youngsters left us last year but wanted to leave their mark on the school for future generations to benefit.

It has also meant that since the Music department has moved over to Old Goddard House we have been able to refurbish both the upstairs and downstairs classrooms and they have been very fortunate in getting 31 Apple Mac Computers, a superbly equipped Music Technology room and a state of the art recording studio.

Pamela Bainbridge & Lorraine Kyriacou - Development Office

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THE OLD GEORGIAN ASSOCIATION

Membership is now automatic for all who have attended the school and can be accessed via the school website at www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Click on St George's Alumni to access the Webalumnus site.

Now click second grey box on left hand side "Register"

Complete new member registration questionnaire

Go to bottom of page and click submit

This information will now come to me, in the Development and Alumni Office when I will send you a username and password.

Once these have been received, you can activate your account, and then get in touch with your old school friends, look at the latest OG's newsletter or just keep up with the day to day goings on within the school.

Should you require any further assistance please call 01582 716217

Welcome to our first Annual Fund letter. This is an opportunity for all members of the wider school community to support both current and future pupils.

There is a donation form on the next page which simply needs completing and returning to me, Pamela Bainbridge.

My address is: Development Office
 St Georges School
 Sun Lane
 Harpenden
 HERTS
 AL5 4EY

**I can also be contacted via e-mail at pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk or
By telephone on 01582 716217.**

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HOW YOU CAN HELP ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Please complete the name, address and gift aid section of this form and return the form to the Development Office, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden AL5 4TD .

Cheques should be made payable to St George's School (Harpenden) Ltd

I enclose a cheque for

Bankers Order - Name and Address of your Bank

To:bank plc

Branch AddressPost code.....

Your account details:

Account numberBank sort code.....

Account Name.....

Please pay from the above account to:

Nat West Bank

21 High Street, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2RY

Sort code: 60-10-07 St George's School (Harpenden) Limited Account number: 85024112

Amount of each instalment (in words and figures)

.....

On (date of first payment) theday of(month).....(year)

And the same amount again thereafter every.....(month/ quarter/ year)

until a total ofpayments have been made

Signature.....Date

Title and full names of donor(s) in capitals.....

Address and postcode in capitals.....

.....

Current parent/ former parent/Old Georgian/Staff (please delete)

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat any and all donations that I make to St George's School (Harpenden) Limited on or after the date of this declaration (unless and until I inform you otherwise) as Gift Aid, and reclaim tax on them. I will pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax I am asking St George's School (Harpenden) Limited to reclaim.

Signature Date

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Chapel War Memorial to OG's of the Great War

Renovation and Re-Inauguration Work

Many OGs will be aware that the Chapel features a number of memorials to those who lost their lives in the Great War. These include stained glass and embossed carvings on the North wall of the Nave.

However, a key element of war commemoration has been “lost” to view for many years: 27 oak panels, each around 60cm by 20 cm, featuring dedications to those who fought, formed much of the original memorial. Some feature names well known to you, such as Goddard, Monk, and Frangcon-Davies –

“So when the time to fight it was, he waited not at all; but gay and gallant forth he went, our first to face the foe. God bless the dear old school he wrote and if I chance to fall, A Georgian will have done his best as Georgians will know”

Other panels are dedicated to the staff who fought, those who were wounded, those who won decorations, and so on. The panels were part of a frieze featuring Christ in glory before the risen sun surmounted by a rainbow, as a symbol of reconstruction.

These panels were removed due to water encroachment through the chapel walls, and a number were badly water-damaged. They have been languishing in the School Archive for a number of years guarded carefully by Mrs Weatherley, but they are now due to see the light of day again.

This is initially thanks to a benefactor who became aware of the school's rich History and the service of OGs in World War One. He was kind enough to provide a donation to fund the extensive renovation work which was needed to bring each panel back in good order. This involved not just treating and polishing the wood, but re-creating the beautiful illuminated coloured script, which had often faded to near invisibility. This work is now complete, but we are indebted to the OGA for a further donation to get the panels back on prominent view.



School Captain 2010-11 Gameli Ladzekpo with two of the restored panels

The opinion of school management was that this important relic of the school history should be in a very public spot in "Horne Passage" between Aim Higher and the Dining Room. However, this is a high traffic area, and we could not countenance the memorials coming to further damage. The OGA donation will pay for each panel to be individually framed, where possible with photos from the archive showing the student concerned both in their school days and in their service uniform. The exception will be the panels dedicated to Goddard and Monk, which will have a prime spot in the respective house areas.

Ironically, the cost of the framing work has been pretty similar to the £3000 cost of the whole original memorial at 1919 prices !

We hope that reviving this memorial, along with our annual remembrance service, two battlefields visits, 11th November silence, and support of the Soldiers' Charity on Big Curry Day, helps to keep the value and hazards of military service in the minds of modern students.

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NOW IT'S YOUR CHANCE – OLD GEORGIANS' tour planned
Unique chance to see the major sights of China and explore the legacy of Old Georgian George Hogg
EASTER 2012 : March 28th to April 11th

In January of this year every family in the school received a copy of our booklet *The Story of our Chinese Studies* which described St George's links with two schools in China and the fascinating story of Old Georgian George Hogg who devoted his tragically short life to the Chinese people.

Since 2007 we have sent students to China every summer to take part in a two week summer school organised by the Chinese Education Department and the British Specialist Schools and Academy Trust (SSAT): a fifth party leaves this July. At the same time a World Challenge Expedition of 16 Year 10 and Y11 pupils will also depart for China spending some time in the remote north western province of Gansu where Hogg's legacy survives at his former school in the town of Shandan. Our students will work with pupils in Shandan for a week.

In response to many requests for a OG/parents' tour I am pleased to say that Full Circle Travel in association with Cox & King are able to offer a special tour to China for **OG/parents only** at Easter 2012, leaving on March 28th (three days before the end of the Spring term 2012) and returning on Wednesday April 11th (term starts on Monday April 16th 2012). Full Circle Travel is a specialist firm and one of its Directors is a parent of a pupil at our school. Working in partnership we have put together a comprehensive and exciting package which will include the main sights of Beijing and other famous China landmarks in Xian and Guilin **and travel to the remote Gansu province**. This part of China lies on the Silk Road in the far North West and we will see landmarks often missed except by the more adventurous traveller to this vast country.

There will also be a number of additional events for the group when in China through the School's contacts in Beijing and Shandan. Details of these will be available when the tour is confirmed and numbers known.

This is a rare opportunity for OG/parents to follow in the footsteps of many pupils of the school and also enjoy a two week bespoke tour of the country. It will allow us to reaffirm St George's links with the George Hogg legacy in Gansu Province and his thriving school in Shandan. Anyone interested please contact Pamela Bainbridge in the first instance on 01582 716256 or email pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk for further information and cost.

Headmaster

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FILM SHOW IN TOWN TO BOOST FUNDS
16 READY TO FOLLOW STEPS OF HARPENDEN HERO IN REMOTE CHINA
SCHOOL PARTY BEGINS FINAL COUNTDOWN TO JULY DEPARTURE

Meeting regularly in the final three months before leaving for a pioneering trek in remote parts of China, sixteen St George's students begin final push with fund raising.

Film of their School Hero to be shown in Harpenden next week

'In the steps of George Hogg' is their motto as sixteen senior pupils in Year 11 and Y12 plan their three week trek to China as part of a specially organised World Challenge Expedition.

Working with the internationally renowned World Challenge organisation Headmaster Norman Hoare contacted former Head Girl Lizzie Usher (now in charge of their 'tailored' tours) to develop this summer's first school trip to Shandan.

The trip which includes the major tourist sights in China also involves mountain trekking and a week in the remote Gansu Province where the Harpenden hero's school continues to provide a secondary and technical education for a huge area. Students will work with local students and teachers on providing lessons in English which is taught at the school and illustrating life in England.

Every student has had to raise over £3000 for their place and all have been working frantically between their exams – hence why not all 16 students are in the picture as some were writing their papers – to increase the money available to the group.

Enterprising Mum Mrs Horton whose daughter Rebecca is one of the fortunate participants, has arranged with Harpenden Film Society for a special showing of the film about Hogg's work 'Escape from Huang Shi' at Harpenden Public Hall on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30 p.m. Tickets in aid of the 'Shandan 16' funds are available for £5 each via the School Finance Office (01582) 765477.

"Recently shown at Rothampstead, the film was a sell out and this is another rare opportunity to catch a stunning fiction film based on the exciting and heroic life of a Harpenden hero whose statues and name abound in a remote province in North West China.

It's a remarkable story and pupil and parent interest in our inspirational link and work with the school means the trip was many times oversubscribed and we are now organising a parents' tour to the area in 2011.



Photograph shows group leaders Jo Faulks (Maths Department) far right and Site Manager Steve Harmer (far left)

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Christmas Reunion 2010

Old Georgian Carol Service, Saturday 11th December 2010

This is now the third of the re-instated Old Georgian Carol Services and numbers are growing every year. This year the focus of the OG Carol Service changed slightly as we focused on the children in the congregation. There was a Treasure Hunt with children of all ages looking for 'presents'.

Mrs Heather Richards who led the service gave an address aimed at the younger members and later in the Service children were invited up to the front to light a candle. There was a lovely moment when a small boy of about 18 months old wandered up to the altar and sat on the steps as the Head Boy who is over 6 feet tall was reading. The small boy sat happily on the step until the end of the reading and then wandered back to his Mum.

We had the choral delights of MusSoc (The Music Society Choir) led by Russell Tucker. The Readings were read by representatives of the Staff, Governors, Old Georgian Association, Pupils and PTA.

The Carol Service ended with a rousing rendition of Assurgit followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the newly refurbished Sixth Form Common Room. Some of you may remember this area of the school as Montauban House.

I think most Georgians would agree that the Chapel is a special place. The refurbishments that have been carried out over the past few years which include new chairs, carpet, the original tiled floor restored to its former glory and the cleaning of the paintings of St George behind the Altar make the Chapel a wonderful, magical place to start the Christmas festivities.

If you missed last year's Carol Service, this years will be on Saturday 10th December 2011 at 5pm. Do come along to enjoy the festive spirit.

Bettine Parsons
OGA Reunion Sub Committee

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Old Georgian's v School Lacrosse Match - December 2010

Final Score 18-14

This annual fixture proved very popular this year with many new faces keen to play which meant that we could field a team large enough to play outside for the first time in many years. Due to weather conditions and pitch quality we played on the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) behind the new Sports Hall which is a great facility and allowed those of us in the OG team who are maybe not so fit as they once were a more limited play area to puff around in!

This was the third match since the OG fixture was reinstated and so far the OG's have been victorious so the pressure was on to keep our winning streak going!

The School Team looked very focused as they practiced shuttles and sprinting and we were starting to feel a little nervous and apprehensive, particularly when we heard that they were having a very successful season. Oh dear the three win hat-trick looked more like pipe dream than any chance of becoming a reality!

The match started and School scored a number of goals in quick succession which made our apprehension rather justifiable ...until the end of the first quarter when we re-grouped, talked tactics and really started to put a match plan together. From then on we played out of our skins, determined to take our victory and demonstrated that 'where's there's a will there's a way'!

We were absolutely victorious final score 18-14. A very happy and tired OG Team shared old memories at the post-match tea as well as aches and pains!

We will play Lacrosse again this year on Saturday 10th December at the Winter Reunion and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join the Team. All abilities and ages are more than welcome as it is all about fun (and winning!). It is always a great event as everyone enjoys singing carols in the Chapel after the match including the School Hymn!

If Lacrosse wasn't / isn't your thing then we plan to play rounder's at the Summer Reunion on Sunday 17th July this year against School.

Contact Jo Ledsham on 07952 839423 or ledsham1@aol.com for more info on either event.

We are now on Facebook: search for OG's Lacrosse (St Georges's School Harpenden) for more info, photos from this match and previous fixtures. It would be great if we could get a group together on Facebook as that would be the most effective way of communicating forthcoming events.

Jo Ledsham

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Correspondence from Old Georgians

Peter Hall has written from Australia

I have been meaning to write for yrs now, so here goes. I had a memorable & happy time at school 1957 to 1962. One of the funniest times I remember, was the stay in the summer term, of a large Dutch boy called Kissenfenig. He used to stuff himself with jam & lemon curd sandwiches every night in Crosthwaite.

Some bright spark rolled his bed back opened the sandwiches and lay them on the bottom sheet & rolled

the blankets up over them. We were all in bed early to watch. Popeye (Mr Lindsay) called Kissenfenig to bed. He came sat on his bed and the sandwiches. Popeye, getting impatient, told him to get into bed. It was exquisite watching his face as was ordered to lie down! The same boy managed to drop into a bed of stinging nettles from the upstairs dormitory after lowering himself out the window. Someone had said Creep (Mr Cox) was coming up the stairs. (Kissenfenig belonged in the downstairs dorm.) There are many other sweet memories, hot summer days listening to I.G.Robertson practicing the Toccata & fugue in g minor by Bach on the chapel organ, watching a cricket match whilst talking to some of the Girls.

Swimming in the small pool(20yrds. long) naked in the early morning or sometimes at night shock horror! Academically I didn't feel I did very well but it was good enough to scrape into Medical School

(Guys Hospital), where for some reason I did very well and went on to become an Ophthalmologist. From Dr to Mr. (I think that is just to confuse patients).

I emigrated to Australia in 1969 mostly to surf a live in a warmer climate. Here I have raised a family & now have 6 Grand kids. Fully retired now, we spend a lot of time travelling. If you remember me & are in Australia (Gosford NSW) come & say hello.

Email hallgos@coastal.net.au

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Ken Levinson (1947 leaver) has requested that he intends to visit this Summers reunion so could anyone who new him or was a 1947 leaver get in touch with the Development office as he would love to meet up with them.

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Sent by Laurie Hubbard - The Fred David Cup and the Hockett Memorial Prize

It is over 55 years since I left St. George's in 1955 and another 63 years since I came as a 10 year old! Eight years at school then was nothing remarkable as there are contemporaries who can boast 14 years at school! But I recall these two prizes as an great honour to have received during that time. More so now than when I received them.

The Fred Davis Cup was awarded to a boy or girl on moving up from the Lower School; this was housed as it was then, plus the boys' dormitories, in the building by the cricket pitch, to the Middle School, or the main Aim Higher buildings. In old terms this was going up from Form 3A to Shell, Junior School to Senior status. Fred Davis was I believe a boy who had joined the RAF during the 2nd War as a pilot and died in action. The prize was given in memory of him, as a Cup, and receivers were given a very small silver replica, smaller than an egg cup. Alas I lost this some years later. It was given I think for the pupil whom the staff thought had progressed the most in all ways, during his/her time in the Lower School. The motto on the cup was Per Adua ad Astra, the motto of the RAF, through the skies to the stars! I was given this on Speech Day on the cricket field July 1949. I think the Visitor was the Headmaster of Monkton School, Bath, a Revd. Mr. Wigram.

The Hockett Memorial Prize was given in treasured memory of Arnold Hockett, a Georgian, who had been tragically killed in France, in, I think, 1916. This was counted as the most prestigious prize of all the many prizes, academic and sporting given any one year. It was for a Leaver who had given the most to the life of the school. It was for character, not just one aspect of life, and was a very great honour. It was given alternate years to a girl, then boy senior leaver. The whole school plus staff voted for this person. They voted therefore for two years leavers at once. The thought later on that every pupil had thought about you during the voting was very humbling. In June 1956 I received an air mail letter from Mr. Aynsley-Smith at Army Head Quarters, Far East Land Forces, Singapore, during the Malayan Emergency, where I was serving. It was a cash prize for a book of my choice. I got rid of the World Atlas when the pink bits got out of date, but have the fly page signed by Victor Goddard and Peter Gedge. Of course I was absent for that prize giving in Harpenden Town/Village Hall 1956, being 9,000 miles away. Thus I was never a Celebrity Ikon to use today's culture. No doubt that was a good thing for my pride.

This is not the time, nor is it appropriate to mention my experiences behind these two prizes. But I hope I can cause other people who had these prizes, to write. And I want to be reminded about Fred Davis and Arnold Hockett. Do we know a bit more about them, and why they were particularly remembered in this way? Do the Cups still exist? Did the Arnold Hockett prize have a Cup? Are they still awarded, and are treasured for what they stand for still? In a way they epitomised what St. George's stood for, so are or were of great importance.

Laurie Hubbard (Rev. L. A. Hubbard) Captain of the School and Head Boy, 1954-55.

And the Headmaster replies:

In response to your e mail we have looked into our records and are pleased to confirm that the Hockett Memorial Prize is awarded at Senior Prize Giving - "presented to a Sixth Former in memory of Arnold Hockett (1907-1912) and Oliver Hockett (1909-1913), two brothers who died in the First World War.

The Fred Davis cup is awarded in the Junior School for service to others - it usually goes to a Year 8 pupil.

We researched the origin of many prizes in the 1990's after a sad period when prize giving disappeared from the School Calendar and ceased to exist until it was reinstated in 1988.

There are now at least three Prize giving Services in the Chapel. Junior and Middle School in the summer term and Senior in September after the GCSE and AS/A Level results are known. On

each occasion the Chapel is full of parents, prizewinners and invited guests and the School Hymn is sung.

Patrick Storry's brilliant book '**Here I am: Send me' - The war dead of St George's School 1914-1918** has a chapter on the Hockett's. A copy can be ordered from the School for £5 plus postage and packing.

Headmaster

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Notable Achievements of Georgians

The Olive Day McAusland Prize and Bursary for Singing

My name is **Hannah Wright** and I am presently in the upper sixth. I am very honoured to be the initial recipient of the Olive Day McAusland Prize for singing.

Unaware that there was even an award for singing, I was totally amazed to have been awarded this prize at the last Senior Prize Giving back in September. Both of my brothers (Matthew – saxophone/organ and James - trombone) who have left St. George's over the last few years are also musical however I have been the only one of us who has majored in singing. I hope to go to university next year and study music and my long term aim is to become an Opera Singer.

Here is a short résumé of my singing history both whilst I have been here at St. George's and also outside of school. As you will read further on, whilst I would like my future career to focus on opera I have previously taken part in other singing genres enabling me to appreciate a wider spectrum of performance.

Out of school I belong to **Luton Youth Cantores** where I sing soprano and was one of its founder members. This is an all girls choir and we practice weekly and give local concerts on a regular basis throughout the year. Two years ago we produced a CD and we have toured both in Malta and Edinburgh singing a variety of classical numbers through to show music and some pop songs that have been arranged for girls' choirs.

A couple of years ago **I organised, hosted and sung in my own concert**. This was part of achieving my Queen's Badge in Girls' Brigade. I invited the Chamber Choir from St. George's and Cantores to come along and help me during the evening. The concert raised £800 (£400 for the 1st Luton Company of Girls' Brigade which I attend and the other £400 went to our local Children's Hospice in Luton). By raising awareness and to publicise my concert I was interviewed on the local radio station here in Luton. I was also fortunate enough to also be interviewed live on air from the Deputy Head's office here at St. George's for the national station Classic FM.

I have taken part in two **Bedfordshire Youth Opera's**. The year before last it was Die Fledermaus and last year (2010) I had the part of Barbarina, in The Marriage of Figaro. I enjoy singing opera very much and would really like to be able to become a professional opera singer in the future. Whilst I realise I have much to learn going to university, completing a music degree would be my first step along this road.

This year also saw me taking the part of Yum Yum in the school's production of **The Mikado** where our head teacher Mr Hoare took the part of The Mikado.

The biggest venue I have sung in has been the Royal Albert Hall in London. This was at a time when I was a singer with the **Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra**. Whilst they have reached the national finals on several occasions over the last few years, during 2008 however, they actually won the National Music for Youth Jazz Section out of the whole country. As a result of this achievement they were invited to perform at the Albert Hall in one of the Music for Youth concerts. That was an amazing experience to be part of an evening of music all performed by "youth" and my 15 minutes with the jazz orchestra in front of around 6,000 people was awesome.

This year I have been the **Music Captain for Watts House**. As in the last few years the Inter-House Music Competition judging evening has taken place at the Alban Arena. This year I was fortunate enough to be able to lift the trophy for Watts. This position meant that during the evening I conducted the Junior Choir, arranged the piece that this choir performed; conducted the house Ensemble and sang in the Senior Choir. There is always a tremendous atmosphere on these occasions and taking part in this event (and others) gives me a real buzz after all the practise that has had to go before enabling me to sing and perform at this level.

During February I won the **Luton Chiltern Rotary Club Music Scholarship for 2011**. Winning this competition gives me the opportunity to record my own CD in a professional

recording studio and then have this uploaded onto the internet making my music available globally. In achieving this scholarship I have to also thank my private vocal coach Mrs. Kerry Watson. The bursary obtained through the **Olive Day McAusland Prize** has enabled my continued tuition with Kerry.

So in conclusion may I take this opportunity to thank all the staff (past and present) in the music department at St. George's over the years I have been at the school and the opportunities, direction and support that they have been able to give to me during this time.

Hannah Wright

I am available for singing engagements and can be contacted on (01582) 391620.

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This article appeared in the Telegraph in February

The Daily Telegraph Friday February 18th 2011

Robert Blake

Doyen of the heavy horse world who also brought his expertise to films such as From Russia With Love

ROBERT BLAKE, who died on January 11 aged 75, was a farmer and accomplished horseman, renowned throughout the country for both his double harness pony scurrying and as an exhibitor and breeder of Percheron heavy horses.

Robert Blake was born on February 4 1935 at Dunstable, Bedfordshire, the son of Harry and Beatrice Blake, who ran a respected butcher's shop in the town. From an early age he made it clear that the shop would not be his future. Instead he chose farming, and despite pressure from his mother to join Vauxhall Motors, the area's largest employer, he stuck to his dream.

When he left St George's School, Harpenden, his mother found him a job at a local market garden, hoping that the hard physical labour and long hours would put him off the outdoor life.

Robert's resolve, however, did not weaken – not even when he sliced off the top of a finger while cutting cabbages.

Eventually his mother relented, and in 1955 his parents sold their house in Dunstable and bought Lodge Farm on the outskirts of the town. The purchase swallowed up all their money, and Blake often remarked that the only equipment he



Blake driving his team of Percherons at the Royal Show in 2003, the year in which he won a series of different championships

started out with was a wheelbarrow.

Assisted by his wife Barbara, whom he married in 1959, Blake settled down to life on the land. He had a natural flair for farming, and soon developed a love of horses. He joined the Hertfordshire Hunt and helped whip in for them over many years. In 1962, wishing to expand, he bought Nash Farm at Kensworth. He soon found an opportunity to work

with horses as a handler in a number of films, among them *From Russia with Love* (1963), *Moll Flanders* (1965) and *Dr Dolittle* (1967).

He also started showing horses in harness. Competing in ride and drive classes and FEI (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) competitions, with Barbara at his side, he won the Godfrey Davis Ride and Drive championship at Wembley

in 1972 (with Friar Tuck) and, the next year, the Pitney Bowes Championship at the Royal International Horse Show at Wembley.

In 1974 Blake started double harness scurry driving, in which a driven pair of ponies races through a course of obstacles, the winning pair being that with the fastest overall time. He won the Wembley championship on four separate occasions with the

famous pair Bubble and Squeak, as well as championships at the Royal Windsor, Royal Agricultural Show, Royal Norfolk, and Royal Cornwall. He also competed in Paris and Antwerp.

In 1982 Blake sold both Lodge Farm and Nash Farm and bought Beechwood Home Farm, Markyate near St Albans. He retired from scurry driving to concentrate on his farming, but it was not

long before the showing bug caught him again. One day he returned from the Royal Show to announce to his family that he was going to buy some Percheron heavy horses. Over the next few years he bought several more, most of them unbroken. He and Barbara broke them themselves, then showed them in the heavy horse classes: Blake was the showman, with his wife and her sister, Winifred, cleaning the leather and brasses.

In 2010 he won his first championship in the single heavy horse turnout class. His most successful year was 2003, when he won the Perpetual Cup for the best Percheron four-horse team at the Royal Agricultural Show and followed up with a series of championships at the Royal Norfolk, Suffolk, Newbury and Three Counties Shows.

After retiring from showing Percherons he judged many shows, and in 2009 – at the very last Royal Agricultural Show – judged all the Percheron classes over four days and the overall heavy horse championship.

Robert Blake, who was buried in a field at his beloved Beechwood Park Farm, is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son; another son predeceased him in 2001.

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**SORE FEET BUT HAPPY HEARTS
AS £10k FLOWS IN !**

Staff lead the way with money raised for Soldiers Charity, netting over £15,000 !

School theme of '1928' – the number of UK Service Personnel killed or wounded in the conflict with Afghanistan up to December 31st 2010 – spurs teachers and support colleagues to walk and run 19.28 kilometres round Harpenden and St Albans.

For the third year running St George's, 1300 pupils and staff at the Harpenden secondary school devoted a day to raising money for the Soldier Charity beat their previous totals and collected over £15,000.

Big Curry is a national event for the Soldier Charity: each spring and staff at the school which is one of the country's leading day and state boarding schools are devoted to the cause of supporting injured service personnel and their families.

In March 2011 a number of events were organised

16 staff took part in a **19.28 km Great Curry Run** having trained during the winter months. Led by Deputy Head Paddy Storrie who had a recent hip replacement operation, sponsorship raised £10,00 from parents and pupils

Over 40 staff walked the same route during the afternoon with friends and their dogs!

Pupils took part in a range of activities all themed around the poignant figure of 1928

- a 1928 metre no-fun run
- Doing 19 minutes and 28 seconds of army style PE
- Doing 19.28 seconds of other activities – e.g. dance, aerobics, rowing machines, exercise bike.
- Completing the army combat fitness test under the direction of an **Army PT instructor**.
- the **Army Training Regiment** from Royston Cambridgeshire ran the Y10s, whole year group of 180 students through a Leadership Challenge course
- The Liaison team for the **4 Rifles Infantry Battalion** mounted an exhibition of equipment and gave younger pupils a go on their paintball range set up on the school field

AND OF COURSE over 1000 Curry Lunches were be served special CURRY DISHES made by the School's Catering Department, with £1 from each dinner ticket going to the Charity.

In addition Cook a Curry competition was run in the Food Studies department and judged by the Headmaster Norman Hoare. Commenting on the day he said

"I rarely find myself without word where the achievements of the staff and pupils of this school are concerned, but everyone's commitment to raising funds for the bereaved, injured and families of service personnel has been amazing. Pupils enjoyed the party atmosphere once lessons had finished at noon. The staff who ran and walked the 19.28 kilometres leave me

speechless: I have seen their blisters and heard their cries of exhaustion and tiredness. But as they told me theirs' is nothing to the sacrifice others make for their country and us. That is what the day was all about. The sum raised by parents' sponsorship and through friends and colleagues speaks for itself: it is our community's recognition of the debt we owe to our Armed Services. I am so proud."

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Philip Waddilove, Old Georgian from 1995 to 2002 has just completed the London Marathon for the first time in 4 hours and 5 minutes. He ran for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and raised over £2,000 for the charity.

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Deaths & Obituaries 2010 - 2011

BRIAN SANDERS

13th November 1914 to 31st January 2011

1154 months lived, 843,500 hours lived, - 11,717 days or 32 years asleep Born in Heaton Moor near Stockport on Friday the 13th of November 1914

The youngest of five boys and one sister. Eight years separated the six, one brother (the eldest born 1906) reached 79 but the rest died younger.

Aged 7 moved to Finchley as his father moved to London to manufacture hats in Aldersgate.

Went to Saxonhurst school in Finchley and then Merchant Taylors at eleven years of age

Had very complicated appendix and had nearly 18 months of recovery.

Moved to Harpenden and entered St Georges in Harpenden in 1928 (needs checking) during the summer term. Passenger trains were running on the Nicky Line to Hemel Hempstead then!!!

Very keen rugby player and keen at cricket and swimming.

Brian's fathers business was bombed out of London and the hat manufacturing business was moved to Luton. The business was called Lionel Sanders and Co and was based in Waller Street.

The family had. an Austin Coupe car and a Bull Nosed Minor with a Dicky seat. Originally wanted to go into Dentistry but then thought he wanted his own business.

Went as an apprentice to Austin Reeds in London at a rate of pay of fifteen shillings a week (75p a week) at 18 years of age for the first 6 months then One pound for the next 6 months. He caught the 08.10 non stop fin to St Pancras every day and the 18.40 train home.

Buying was done centrally, so there was no prospect of him learning, and so father left and went to Bernard Raven in. Eastbourne where he could learn the Art of buying stock.

Father lived in Digs in Eastbourne which cost 30 shillings a week for full board and laundry.

Father eventually met his future wife Phyllis at a church ministers tea party in Eastbourne in 1938 and kept meeting at church and then he ended up camping (with other friends) at mothers fathers farm in Alfriston

Father joined the Territorial Artillery in Eastbourne as he was aware that War was imminent and rather than being conscripted into another regiment that he would not have been fond off He was called up on August the 3rd 1939. He was trained as a signaller and had to learn morse code off by heart, later he was sent to Catterick in Yorkshire so he could train others.

Father was a Gunner (not a Private, Artillery chaps were Gunners) in 114 Sussex field regiment Royal Artillery which he stayed with right to the end of the war.

Father was moved to Shrapnel Barracks in Woolwich where his Regiment was issued with new 25 pounder grans and then to Tunbridge Wells. Whilst in Tunbridge Wells and action in Dunkirk was starting the Regiments new guns were sent to France to assist with the campaign and then given up to the Germans. The Artillery Regiment were left with no guns I! The Regiment then started doing Guard duties which were later taken over by the Home guard the LLB

The Regiment then went to Wales and were re-equipped with French 75's from the first world war with steel wheels, which had to loaded up into 15cwt trucks to move them around.

Father thought that the chances of resisting the Germans were quite low.

Next the Regiment were moved to Angmering in Sussex and were the first line of defence against any invasion!!!!!!! Dads Army and all that. Relieved of that duty the Regiment got new 25's and moved to Haywards Heath, Father married his wife Phyllis on 16th August 1941 when the War was at its worst.

Mothers farm in Alfriston Sussex on the river Cuckmere was suffering bomb damage and she got shot at in a bus by aircraft as well as on the farm. Doodle bugs would routinely pass overhead on their way to London. One came down in a wooded area about 100 yards from the farmhouse.

The Regiment moved to Wimborne and Barracked in a school called Canford Public School. That is where the Regiment learnt that they were going abroad father had to collect a new motorbike — From Wimborne father had to direct the Artillery convoy to Liverpool all road signs having been removed — hence the motorbike to keep running between the rear and the front of the convoy. All of the vehicles and equipment were left at Liverpool Docks and father returned to Wimborne.

The Regiments Colonel was very keen on fitness and instructed the Regiment to march from Wimborne to a small village called Shillirtgstone a distance of about 18 miles — this was not normal for Artillery Regiments as they always went by vehicle with their equipment.

Shillingstone had a small station but one day a very long train arrived and the Regiment embarked and travelled by train, with a few breaks on the way, to Glasgow which took nearly 24 hours.

At Glasgow the Regiment boarded a ship called the Orion and they sailed out into the centre of the Atlantic and sailed to Freetown on the African Coast to refuel.

They then sailed to Capetown where two weeks was spent under canvas. All that was known was that they were obviously going to the Far East. After two weeks they returned to the port and boarded the Mauretania (36,000 tons) which was packed with troops and set sail, eventually to arrive in Bombay. There they boarded a train to Secunderbad for a few weeks and from there went to the Kola goldfields. After a while the Regiment went back to Bombay. There father found a ship that he had seen in Falmouth Rhodes in the summer of 1938 waiting to be broken up called the Nevasa. There she was at 9000 tons waiting to take father to Ceylon.

Thanks to the Americans having sunk the Japanese aircraft carriers in the battle of Midway in response to pearl Harbour the risk of them invading Ceylon was severely diminished.

Brian saw no action in Ceylon but dug many gun emplacements.

Father then ceased to be a signaller and was then sent to a Staff Gunnery course in Columbo to be trained to be a specialist to help the officers with the guns establish targets and ranges with the use of trigonometry and other means.

Father got Dengue Fever whilst on the course, which was a virus based disease spread by Mosquitos, but fortunately it was fairly mild, and went to hospital in Columbo.

The Regiment then went to the tip of Ceylon and were ferried over to India leaving father behind. Later after recuperation father boarded a sister ship to the Nevasa which had a 4" gun on it. Father was the senior NCO on the boat. Father was ordered to get gun crews together to man the gun 24 hours a day. He got the 18 men together to form three shifts to man the gun but there was not a gunner amongst them so he had to train them PDQ.

Father sailed into Calcutta and then moved up country to Ranchi and rejoined the Regiment of about 350 men. The regiment had 24 guns, each gun had a crew of six together with support, cooks, transport etc.

The Regiment then drove from Ranchi in India to Burma, about 1000 miles, nearly all of which was over unmade roads. They took sun shots with a theodolite to fix their positions in the country as maps were poor.

Father and mother were able to correspond via Air lettergrams. Naturally any reference to place names were censored but when father said in a letter that " It is not as glamorous as Peter Dawson makes it out to be" Mother asked her uncle what father meant by that and the answer was that he was referring to song by Peter Dawson called On The Road to Mandalay — so father was in Burma and the staff censoring the letters obviously did not know Peter Dawson !

Father was on another gunnery course during the battle of Imphal where his Regiment suffered their greatest losses. I regret that my tape of fathers time in the Burma campaign is unavailable but much time was spent on the Irrawaddy river, Rangoon and latterly Mandalay. I can recount some of his stories but they will take too long to piece together from my own memory at this time.

The chaps in Burma were The Forgotten Army.

Father returned home 4 years after leaving a new wife in Sussex without returning home once. He walked down the farm yard and found his wife Phyllis working in one of the barns!!

Brian and Phyllis had 65 years and five months of marriage. Phyllis was a devoted wife.

Father used to attend the Regimental reunions in Eastbourne until they were disbanded about 10 years ago.

Father returned to Harpenden and opened a shop in late November 1946 at 20 Station Road in Harpenden known as BRIAN SANDERS — a menswear business which he continued until 1980, a total of 34 years. There was still a horse drawn dairy opposite in Arden Grove — where the Royal Mail delivery lorries drive in until the mid 1950's!

Father enjoyed 31 years of retirement but osteoporosis set in 10 years ago which prevented him doing his garden which saddened him greatly.

On the 26th of October 2010 he had a fall and went to hospital for an x-ray. That proved that there was no damage but they kept him in because of a chest infection and a urinary infection. He was about to come out after 8 days but contracted pneumonia and was in for 31 days. On discharge he did well for a day or two but due to Cognitive impairment he went downhill. Mother (91) and I managed to keep him at home over Christmas but had to place him in willow Court on the 27th of December. We expected him to be there for a few months at least but he passed away after 35 days on the 31st January 2011 aged 96.

I managed to get the Royal Artillery drape for his coffin and around 130 people attended his funeral at High Street Methodist Church, the church that he had worshipped at since the day it opened.

A long term friend Ian Fulton gave the Tribute and a family friend The Reverend Robin Elphick took the service.

I was fortunate enough to record on tape his life when he was 88, but I regret one tape of Burma is missing at this time. He was saddened in his last days about the lack of Morality in this country and by the fact that the Island that he fought to save from Invasion has become home to too many from overseas who do not interact with the way of life of our Island.

Brian leaves behind his wife Phyllis, myself Michael and daughter Ann, together with grandchildren Ian, Nicola, Sarah and Peter plus Great Grandson Joseph plus many happy memories.

Written by Mike Sanders

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EULOGY TRIBUTE FOR BRIAN SANDERS

13-11-1914 to 31-01-2011

PRESENTED BY IAN FULTON

8th February 2011 @ The High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

To say a formal farewell to a friend is never easy but is also a privilege. I am grateful to the family for their trust today.

If I succeed then I am the voice of all — if I fail it is down to me.

Before everything else our thoughts and prayers are for Phyllis, Michael, Ann, Nicola, Ian, Sarah and Peter.

May all this sympathy and good will prove a raft in the difficult waters of these days. It is almost effrontery to try to encompass any life, much less one of ten decades — in Brian's case spanning from the opening months of The Great War up to space exploration moving even beyond our own universe!

He grew up in a large happy and prosperous family. Perhaps surprising to us he was quite frail and unwell as a boy in London but improved on coming to Harpenden in 1926 and at St Georges School enjoyed rugby and swimming.

He often told me of the fun he had with friends in an open roadster and at swimming parties at the Water Splash.

He decided on making his living in the clothing industry and set off to learn all steps in running a shop, starting at Austin Reeds in the West end and the City and then moving to Eastbourne where, through Sunday's at Church he met and subsequently married Phyllis.

A young man of spirit, he saw clearly that war was imminent. He joined a Gunner Regiment in the Territorial Army and when war came and he was called up, remained with them. To begin with, when so much equipment was lost at Dunkirk, training with 75's — French Artillery pieces from 1914-1918.

Having married Phyllis and had a brief honeymoon he was posted to the Far East in the war against Japan, not to be back for 4 years — typical of splendid generation of ordinary men called upon to do extraordinary things.

On his return, despite all the difficulties of those post war years of rationing and shortages, he was determined to run his own business which, through all his hard work prospered in Station Road until Brian retired 30 years ago.

Life flourished in other ways also, in particular enriched by the arrival of Michael and Ann and also by various pets such as Blacky, Sue and Tansey

Happy family life gave him a secure base to launch into outside activities.

In this very church where we are today he was a regular worshipper and for many years headed a team responsible for the collections. He was not a committee man — one being the ideal number in his view — but he acted as Treasurer of The Old Peoples Welfare and possibly the achievement from this area that he valued most was the furnishing of the Day Centre.

Rotary also provided the perfect forum for his social activities, indeed until last autumn he enjoyed a monthly pub lunch with old Rotary friends.

A full 30 years of active retirement with all the pleasures of his growing family and some travel make a happy coda to this long life — fortunately mostly enjoyed in generally good health until this last year.

Passing years allowed me to come to know Brian more closely and in our talks I heard often how much he valued his friends — many long gone but still treasured — not least Phillip Harmer.

We had hoped to have the particular pleasure today of the presence of his oldest and dearest friend — indeed his Best Man Guy Kiddie but at 95 it was in the event not possible.

There is an old saying which seems to me to be entirely appropriate:-

"To be born a gentleman is good fortune. To live a gentleman is an achievement"

To close — some words used by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939 in those dark days which many of us remember:-

" I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year' give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown' And he replied' Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God — that shall give you better than light and safer than a known way ' "

BRIAN, MAY YOU REST IN PEACE.

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Domini Stone (Nee LANG) O.G. at St Georges 1952-57

My lovely sister Domini died from cancer, aged 69, on 27th January 2011. She remained in her home in Letchworth until the end, as had been her wish, and her family were all at her bedside.

On leaving St Georges Domini trained as a secretary, working in Cheltenham, London and New York from where she travelled across America, and then lived in La Jolla, California. On her return to the UK she worked for the British Motor Racing and Sports Car Club, BBC television and then as a BOAC air stewardess, so travelling the world.

She married Tony Stone in 1970. They lived successively in Cirencester, Hong Kong, Sussex and Letchworth. To her great delight Domini's three children gave her four lovely grandchildren, who were the light of her life.

She will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.

Gail Partridge (nee Lang) OG

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David Patrick O'Brien – 1963 Leaver

David suffered a short but intense bout with throat cancer (as a secondary to lung cancer) which was only diagnosed in November 2010. He died on Boxing Day, 26th December 2010. He leaves a son Toby, 34 years, and two step-children from his wife Alwynne (also deceased). The funeral took place on 31st December in Port Macquarie (a town on the mid north coast of New South Wales) and was well attended as he was well-known as the Port Macquarie Marina Manager, as well as being a sociable person who knew how to enjoy life and had many friends.

Janet Moore (nee O'Brien)

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Angela Scoular

Angela Scoular, the actress who died on Tuesday aged 65, played Agent Buttercup in the James Bond spoof *Casino Royale* (1967) and was Ruby Bartlett in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (1969); she was also the second wife of the *Carry On* star Leslie Phillips.

Her qualifications as a Bond girl are obvious in *OHMSS* when she becomes Bond's (George Lazenby) first conquest, after writing her room number in lipstick on his inner thigh. "I used to hate chicken," she tells 007. "Used to make me break out. It was all over. You'd be surprised where."

She met Leslie Phillips in 1970 on the set of *Doctor in Trouble* (in which his character chases her character aboard an ocean liner). They met again in 1976 when they were both in the same play. She was pregnant at the time with a son by another actor, while Leslie Phillips's first marriage to Penny Bartley had foundered in the 1960s following his affair with the actress Caroline Mortimer. They began living together, but at first there was no question of marriage. When Penny was crippled by a stroke, Leslie Phillips was "pulled back into the frame" by his children and he and Angela helped to care for her until her death in a house fire in 1981. They married in 1982.

Despite Phillips's on-screen reputation as a lothario, theirs was a happy marriage. Angela Scoular went on to appear in several more films, stage productions and television series, notably as the sex-mad Lady Agatha Shawcross in the television series *You Rang, M'Lord?* (1988-93). But during her early years as an actress she had struggled with anorexia and later on she suffered from severe clinical depression which, according to her husband, meant that she lost her ability to face an audience. It was "difficult to be a character actress when you were a sex symbol", he observed.

Angela Scoular was born in London on November 8 1945 and encouraged in her ambitions to be an actress by her aunt, the actress Margaret Johnston.

She began her screen career in the mid-1960s, appearing in the long-running police drama *No Hiding Place* and taking a bit part in Ian McKellen's adaptation of *David Copperfield*, before going on to appear in her first feature films, *A Countess from Hong Kong* (1967, with Marlon Brando and Sophia Loren), *Casino Royale* and *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* (1968).

On television she appeared in series such as *The Avengers*, *Penmarric*, *Coronation Street* and *As Time Goes By*, and was Cathy in a 1967 television adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*. On stage she starred in Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, at the Criterion Theatre (1974); appeared in a production of *Hamlet* at the Cambridge Theatre (1971); in Joseph Caruso's *Little Lies* at the Wyndham (1983); and in Peter Shaffer's *White Liars* and *Black Comedy* at the Lyric Theatre (1968).

She is survived by her husband and son.

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Margaret Beazley (nee Penny): St George's 1926 – 1938

Margaret had a great zest for living and throughout her long life continued to combine her many gifts and talents that were first honed at St George's. She had a very full and active school life culminating in being appointed Head Girl. Her athleticism ensured that she became an indispensable member of various school teams including lacrosse, cricket and tennis. She played at Junior Wimbledon, and set a number of school sports records.



(Margaret is 2nd from left in the middle row)

Margaret loved music and also enjoyed taking part in school performances, including a notable version of “The Pirates of Penzance”. While she was obviously a high achiever, she wasn’t always perfect; she used to tell of the time she climbed out of a classroom window unnoticed during Latin class! Over the years her mischievous sense of humour morphed into the rare ability to laugh at herself.



Pirates of Penzance around 1936 (Margaret is on the right)

After leaving school, Margaret attended the Royal Academy of Music. Finishing her studies after the war, she went to Switzerland where she had secured a post in an international school teaching music. This position not only allowed her to continue using her talent in music but to enjoy new activities such as skiing and mountain walking.

Returning to England after some five years she was appointed Assistant Music Organiser for the county of Buckinghamshire. It was while on a family holiday to Iceland she met her future husband, Jack, who became her partner for more than 57 years.

Her life became dedicated to raising her four children, but more specifically her youngest daughter, Debbie, who was severely disabled. Despite the many challenges, Margaret remained positive and determined to ensure that Debbie would have the best quality of life possible. Margaret became well known in the local community as an energetic, practical advocate for those with disabilities. She continued her love of music by forming a local choir and playing for the local Town’s Women’s Guild. She continued to play tennis and golf for many years.

Margaret was not well for some time and passed away in November 2010. She is survived by Jack, her four daughters, nine grandchildren and one great grand child; and she is very much missed by them all.

Submitted by Jack Beazley (husband) & Alison Spray (daughter)

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Rosalind Edith Thompson - 'Linda'

Our mother was born on 28th September 1911, in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland. Her father, William Proctor came from a family of mill owners, which had operated linen mills in the town for some generations. Her mother's family ran a printing company in London, and lived in suburban Kent, and then in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. I believe her parents met while her mother was visiting a cousin in Scotland.

Our grandmother produced four children, two girls and two boys, within 5 years, and at a very early age Linda, the second child, was sent off to live with her maternal grandparents in Harpenden for several months; this separation from her parents was the first of the traumatic events my mother spoke of. However, she returned to Scotland in time for her 4th birthday, which turned out to be the next, even more traumatic event. She remembered for ever the arrival that day of the news of her father's death in the Gallipoli campaign of the first world war.

The loss of our mother's father was to shape the lives of all the family. Her mother and the children went to live near the maternal grandparents in Harpenden, and she never lived in Scotland again, although she said she carried a piece of it in her heart all her life!

One of the advantages of Harpenden was that about 10 years earlier a new school had been opened by an ideological clergyman, based on the radical principal that boys and girls should be educated together. This allowed all the children to live at home and be schooled together. Linda loved her school years – she was the brightest of the family, and sporty as well, and she loved the headmaster, Cecil Grant, whom she remembered with affection and respect for the rest of her life.

She won a place at Oxford University, but could not afford the accommodation costs, so she was unable to take up her place. Her elder brother Allan had won a place at Cambridge, and was eligible for a Kitchener Scholarship for sons of officers killed in the war, but daughters were excluded. Our mother resented the discrimination, and was something of a feminist ever after!

She went, instead of Oxford, to Bedford College, London University, to which she could commute from home. There, she was academically brilliant, graduating in 1932 with a triple-first degree in French, German and Italian. She also played lacrosse for the University and for regional teams. At this time she was also introduced to serious rock-climbing, making frequent hair-raising car trips between London and Snowdonia. This really sealed her love of mountains, and of Wales, but not necessarily of motoring!

After university, she took a secretarial course, and worked for a City legal practice for about 3 years, saving to indulge her wanderlust. Her mother had been a keen traveller, and encouraged her children, so Linda had visited France, Germany and Italy whilst at school. However, at the age of 25 she obtained an introduction to an English company operating in Shanghai, and she, accompanied by her mother, took the 'slow boat to China'. Unfortunately, they arrived just as the Sino-Japanese war was developing, and on the day that Shanghai was bombed for the first time.

All the Europeans were promptly evacuated, and the two Proctor ladies found themselves in Hong Kong. At this point they separated, my grandmother returned to England, and Linda left for New Zealand!

In New Zealand she initially worked in an office in Wellington, but was quite soon recruited as tutor to a difficult, orphaned girl, the heiress to a wealthy family, who later became the mother of the film director, Jane Campion. Linda loved this job, and her pupil, and the affection was mutual; apart from lessons, they rode horses together, and my mother corresponded until her pupil died, 70 years later! Linda joined a 'tramping' club, and enjoyed memorable holidays in the mountains, meeting several famous climbers, including Ed Hilary, the first man to climb Everest (some years later!).

Whilst Linda was at school and university, the family of a Methodist missionary moved into a neighbouring house in Harpenden. There were three children – two girls and a son, Thomas - 'Tommy', with whom my mother became friendly – he taught her to drive! Thomas studied forestry at Oxford University, and was recruited into the Colonial Forest Service, to manage teak forests in Burma, where he went in 1931.

Linda always corresponded with Tommy, and, in 1940 she decided to leave New Zealand on a trip to see him in Burma. In the event they decided to get married, and set up home in a small rural town among the native forests of Burma. David, her first son was born there in 1941.

When the Second World War spread to Asia, the Japanese invaded Singapore, and then Burma. Our mother's favourite brother, Allan, died in Singapore. It was another tragedy of her life, after the loss of her father. Tommy escaped on foot into China, after destroying everything of their home that could be of use to the invaders. Our mother and David, aged 6 months, were evacuated in an epic journey by truck, overcrowded trains, a short flight in a military aircraft, and a ship, eventually reaching Calcutta. After a short time there, another long train journey took them to a small town, Naini Tal, in the foothills of the Himalayas, where, initially, they lived in government office buildings (the town was the summer resort of the provincial government), before a house to rent was found.

Meanwhile, Tommy had found his way out of Burma, through China, and eventually re-joined Linda near Naini Tal. He became involved in military liaison and with operations for the re-taking of Burma.

Linda enjoyed her time in Naini Tal; walking to the top of the hill gave fantastic views to the high peaks of the Himalayas, and she rode horses and practised skiing! She also gave birth to me, her second son, in 1944! There were tearful farewells when, after the war ended, in early 1946 the family made the journey back to Burma. That country was devastated, but the politics had also been totally altered; Burma gained independence from Britain, and the colonial era closed. The Thompson family, like thousands of other expatriates, made their way back to England.

However, England was also in chaos, and there were few prospects of employment for our father until the Forestry Commission was properly established. He was offered a job with the New Zealand State Forest Service, so, after experiencing the terrible winter of 1946/1947, and the heat wave of the following summer, the family set off again, arriving in Wellington in December 1947.

For the next 5 years life was more tranquil for Linda, apart from raising a family, moving to Nelson, in the South Island in 1949, and resuming some of her tramping activities. Her uncle had emigrated to Nelson after the First World War, so there were relatives around. Nevertheless, my parents decided they really would prefer England, so the return was planned for the autumn of 1952. Unfortunately, Linda suffered her first mental breakdown shortly before the departure, so the symptoms may have been exacerbated by the stress, and the treatment was probably not completed. She went on to suffer intermittent mental illness for 12 more years – another of her less happy experiences.

Arriving in England in October 1952, we moved into a cottage in Yorkshire used for holidays by Tommy's family, until his employment with the Forestry Commission was confirmed, and he received a posting to South Wales. My mother was dismayed at this, but discovered the beauty and attractions of the area quickly. A small cottage on the side of a mountain, overlooking

Cardiff and the Bristol Channel, with distant views of Devon, became the family home for the next 9 years. This probably cemented Linda's taste for rooms with views, and introduced her to Wales!

In 1961 our father was transferred to Aberystwyth, and, again, Linda was sorry to move, having been resident in one home for longer than ever before, and believing that finding another to match the setting would never be possible. In the event, it was, and our parents moved into Ty'nywern in 1962. It was the start of Linda's love affair with the Rheidol Valley, which never ended.

Sadly, our parents separated within 2 years of moving to Aberystwyth, another sad aspect of her life, but she was brave and independent, and returned to secretarial work for the first time in 25 years. She worked as the departmental secretary in the German Department of Aberystwyth University for the next 12 years, making many friends among the staff and students. She also acted as secretary to the Aberystwyth Film Society at this time, reflecting her interest in 'art' films.

After retiring from the University, aged 65, and in order to improve her financial position, she successfully negotiated consent to build a new cottage on the footprint of the old Ty'nywern barn; initially the intention was to sell it, but she soon decided to design it for herself. A friend helped her with this, but she organised the construction using local tradesmen virtually single-handed, adding construction management skills to her career portfolio, at the age of 72!

She moved into Barn Cottage in 1984, and sold Ty'nywern. Her cottage became another great love of her life, and a part of her character; it suited her perfectly, and she never wanted to leave it – in her heart, she never did. She realised that living there was not ideal for her declining years, and several times she considered moving to somewhere closer to David or I; however, her attachment to everything about Barn Cottage – Wales, the area, the valley (“my valley”, as she called it), the cottage, and the variety of good friends who visited her, and with whom she corresponded religiously and at great length, as well as her robust good health - meant that staying put always won the argument.

She had always been very fit, and well into her 80s she was an energetic walker with whom no one could keep up! We walked with her in the Lake District on her 80th birthday, and on her 90th she made a flight over Snowdonia in a light plane, on a beautiful, clear sunny day, to see the mountains she loved so much, and where she had cut her teeth on rock climbs, over 70 years before!

She had always been an avid reader, and took the 'Times' every day until the day she died – is that a subscription record?! Every room in Barn Cottage had book shelves, and she had a huge collection of books, especially on mountains and climbing. Latterly, at Barn Cottage, she spent most of her time reading; she only obtained a television in 2004!

She finally decided to move to a residential home in October 2009; she had had a 'trial' there three years earlier, at Fairfield, and had liked it. A place became available in February last year, and in a traumatic 10 days we collected up items she wanted to take with her, and moved her to her new home, at the age of 98. She loved the care she received from everyone there; not just the care, but the way it was provided, and was always appreciative of everything done for her. She declined, slowly at first, but faster later, and in her last few days she had difficulty walking and slept frequently. She finally died at about 1.10pm on Wednesday 19th January 2011, of 'extreme old age' as her doctor certified.

She was a remarkable woman, not just for her longevity, but also for her breadth of knowledge, interests and activities, and for the remarkable experiences through which she lived. Her passing is truly the end of an era.

Peter Thompson, OG 1953 - 1962

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Hilary Walker (1921-2010)

Hilary Carruth Walker (née Apted) died on 22nd July 2010, following a major stroke. Held in early August, her funeral was attended by her family and by many of the large circle of friends that she had built up while living in and near Truro in Cornwall.

My mother arrived at St George's in 1931, the third member of the Apted family from Stevenage to do so. While her brother Michael died in 2002, her brother John is now 94 and still lives near Victoria in British Columbia. She was awarded lacrosse colours in 1938, and in her final year at St George's, she was appointed Head Girl and Captain of the School,

During the late 1930s, the Apteds spent time travelling in Europe: John and Michael in Germany and Hilary in France, where she stayed with different families on several occasions. Her fluency in French was noted, including on one occasion when she was involved in rescuing someone from the sea during a trip to the beach. She was also an accomplished pianist, but her ambitions in that direction were thwarted by the war.

Having joined the Womens' Land Army in Cornwall, after her parents had moved from Stevenage to Newlyn in 1940, she worked on several farms in the county before being posted to Penmount, a small country house near Truro. With the exception of a few years immediately after the war and during the early 1950s, she remained in the Truro district for the rest of her life.

Hilary met my father, Peter Walker, at St George's when they were both in their early teens; they married in July 1945 when he was on leave from the Royal Air Force. Subsequent postings included RAF stations in Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Devon and Suffolk, and after Peter died in a flying accident in 1956, Hilary and I returned to Cornwall. Peter is now commemorated by Walker dormitory in the new Crosthwaite.

Her subsequent commitments centred mainly around caring for both family members and friends, as well as bringing me up. Her choice of vehicles for travelling around the district ranged from conventional cars to the highly practical (a van) and the somewhat comical (a moped), and there must have been many drivers on the roads around Truro who recognised the backview of a rather bulky pale fawn raincoat topped firmly by an over-large crash helmet proceeding unwaveringly in front of them.

Between the early 1970s and moving into the Abbeyfield house in Truro in 2003, Hilary lived at Kemlins, a small cottage accessible only by a three-quarter-mile-long farm track. Here, she experimented with her garden, learning new skills in propagating plants while trying to keep the raspberries and lonicera in check, and the wild Cornish weeds from encroaching over the high hedges around it. With its flower beds, apple tree and summer house, Kemlins was a haven for family and friends to visit that she only gave up when tasks like stoking the coal-fired room heater and moving the big Calor Gas bottles became too much for her.

Throughout her life, Hilary was always inquisitive, always eager to attempt new skills. Her ideas about the layout of ancient monuments and their influence on personal character traits may have provoked some raised eyebrows elsewhere, but her concepts were always founded on common sense and sound science. She was also practical in the extreme: few grandchildren have had the opportunity to tell their friends that granny keeps a chainsaw under the bed, but that's where it lived – the garden shed was not dry enough.

Although always cautious by nature, she had no qualms about setting out on her travels if appropriate. In the 1970s, she spent several months in Canada, looking after her mother (who had emigrated there at the age of 83), and when my wife and I were living in Zambia, she not only came out to visit us there, but also came underground in the copper mine where I worked – saying that it was one of the highlights of her life. A trip to visit a friend in Finland was preceded by a study of the relevant Linguaphone courses – in this case both Finnish and Swedish.

Over the past few years, Hilary had kept active despite having some health problems. Right up to the end, she used her car to ferry other people at the Abbeyfield around Truro and nearby and, when the weather was good enough, she kept up her horticultural interests in the garden there. Following her stroke, it was clear that she understood that things would never be the same again and, ever practical, she just let herself fade away.

Simon Walker (OG, 1960-1967)

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David Olivestone OG 1951-1960

We were informed of David's recent death by his brother Michael. He will be sorely missed by his large extended family and his multitude of friends

David was a one off. He was an extraordinary mixture of charisma, charm, intelligence, business sense, generosity, bloody mindedness, and bad temper. He was well known, admired and loved in three continents. He was the darling of gossip columnists, the Mick Jagger impersonator and the night club habitu  par excellence. He was the smart businessman who built an empire before he was 30, only to see it collapse when Britain was enduring the three day working week.

I want to celebrate his life rather than mourn his only too premature death.

Where to start with the David Olivestone story? Being his elder brother, obviously I have known him all his life and have tracked his amazing passage during his period on this planet. There are so many stories and how can you condense a life which someone described as a hundred lives packed into one. However, I have picked a few which I think epitomise his character.

I had the privilege of proposing his toast at his Barmitzvah and even then I remember describing him as a "lovable rogue". Once, when he was only about eight, he disappeared one day and turned up in Bedford, which was 20 miles from our home in Luton. He had cycled there.

When he left school he spent brief periods at accountancy and stockbroking firms until, at the age of 18, our uncle, Max Rayne, saw his potential and sent him to Toronto under the tutelage of an experienced manager. There, the two of them, under the remote control of Max, oversaw the purchase and development of one of the icons of New York City, the General Motors Building on 59th Street. What a start to a business career!

He returned to London after 2 years in Toronto and embarked on a semi-professional career as a pop singer with a band called EC2. At that time, a professional band called "The Band of Angels" were looking for a replacement lead singer and offered the gig to David. Decision time – was he going to become a rock god or a businessman. The businessman won, but only in conjunction with his other love, playboy of the western world! It was the sixties and David was in his element.

And then he started making serious money. He bought the penthouse in Belgravia, the 17th century farm with a half mile frontage on the Thames, the Rolls Royce and the Ferrari. He went on trips to Rio with Roman Polanski and Jack Nicholson, he practically lived at Tramps night club and he had an incredible array of glamorous girlfriends.

When the three day working week hit, David's business collapsed, but he survived and his social life hardly missed a beat. In 1976 he married Jose and to the time of his death she remained one of his most steadfast friends despite their divorce 30 years earlier.

By this time, I was living in Australia and I missed the day to day events in David's life. However we spoke regularly and we visited each other most years, so I was aware of what he was doing.

A few highlights that occur to me. His love affair with the South of France, where he ultimately made his home. Likewise with the island of Lamu off the coast of Kenya where he visited every year for about 25 years. His love of his boat on which he ended up living and on which I had some marvellous adventures visiting Corsica, Sardinia, Elba and the Italian coast. The time when, with Roger Middleton, he promoted a Bob Marley concert at the Ibiza bullring.

One thing that does stand out was his generosity of spirit in helping any friend who had need of his time and expertise. Many have benefitted and more often than not he would ask for no reward.

His devotion and generosity to our Mother after our Father died was colossal. Cynthia and I will forever be grateful that he took on the entire responsibility of supporting her until he himself ran out of money.

Last July, Pam and I travelled to Europe and we spent a weekend in Paris with David and his lovely girlfriend, Alicia. We had a glorious 48 hours, with David at his best and most charming. It will be that memory that I will cherish most for the rest of my life.

David will be sorely missed by his large extended family and his multitude of friends. Unfortunately the book of David stories has closed, but his memory will live on larger than life in our hearts.

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Jan Bowes OG left 1955

Jan sadly died in the early hours of 1st April having been in hospital for some weeks.

As a pupil Jan was a keen lacrosse player and was goalkeeper in the 1st lacrosse X11 under the captaincy of Joy Taylor (later Captain of England). She returned to St George's to work as Matron to the girls and was Housemistress when she left in 1967 to pursue a teaching career.

She had been an Old Georgian Association Committee member and editor of the newsletter. She will be sadly missed.

Just three months after leaving school the Bowes family left Harpenden where we had lived for 16 years, to live in the then sleepy Somerset village of Pilton - 671 souls - later to become the venue for what started as the Pilton Pop Festival and which is now the Glastonbury Festival - 200 yards down the road from us!

I had told my rather splendidly Victorian father when asked what I was going to do with my life, aged 13, that I proposed to be a lady of leisure - he hit the roof! Well, I stayed at home for that first winter, mainly working in bitterly cold conditions, in the fields of our small holding. In the spring I was dispatched to Edinburgh, to the Ed. Coll. Of Domestic Science in Atholl Crescent. Here I enjoyed excellent tennis and lacrosse - the courses were good too!

Next to Kenya for a 6 month visit to my sister and her family before they returned, permanently, to the UK. I travelled a great deal - to Eldoret in an Indian bus (frightening) in a 4 seater plane (exhilarating, especially when flying across the face of Mount Kenya), and by car, of course, on unsealed and dusty roads with the ever present thought that there might be Big Game wandering about. I went to Game Parks, including Tree Tops and just admired the BIG country. A truly wonderful experience.

It was on my return, while reading a copy of the Lady in the Dentists waiting room, that I saw an advertisement for the post of Asst. Matron to the Girls at St George's. I applied, in rather a carefree way, and was amazed when Peggy Gedge rang me to offer me the job. I rose to be Matron and then, when Prissy and Miss Cross retired (Miss Wyatt had gone earlier) I became Housemistress to the Girls, and helped with girls games. John Cox was 1/c in Crosthwaite, and Jo Bondy and Ben Foley were on the Staff too!

When I left in 1967 I was earning the princely sum of £600 pa. I ran an aged Ford car, and smoked the occasional cigarette! In 1967- St. G's had become VA - I really did feel rather put upon and under-valued so, with no A levels, I got myself a place at the Bath College of Ed (Home Economics) - Teachers were in very short supply just then! - passing out 2nd of the 100 or so students of that year.

I 'taught' for a year at West Twerton Girls School in Bath - a salutary experience - and I learnt a lot. It was a badly headed *Sec. Mod* in a run down area of Bath. I lived for these three years in a lovely top floor flat in Cavendish Crescent - rent £115 pa - and the garage cost the same amount! I left WT with no regrets, but was sorry to leave Bath, I *was* rescued by Olwen Davies, at that time Head of St. Mary's Hall in Brighton (she has it that she interviewed me on a beach in Guernsey when she came for a holiday with Rosemary Osborne (*OG*) and her family) where I spent 4 happy years as a Housemistress and running my own Craft Dept. When Olwen moved to St Swithun's I, and several other members of staff, and pupils, followed *her a decent* year later.

I remained at St Swithun's for 21 years as Housemistress of High House, the last 15 years as Senior Housemistress, and the Junior in the Home Economics Dept, again running my own Craft Room. We knitted, knotted, netted and wove and it was a good life. My *Asst.* reckoned that we worked a 96 hour week in term time so it was certainly no rest cure, and fee paying parents can be very demanding! The girls, for the most part *were* fun, and many still keep in touch.

In 1975 I bought my first house, in Alresford, just 6 miles up the road from Winchester, although I spent most of the holidays in Guernsey where the parents had moved in 1967, and of course, as a Housemistress, I lived in on the job 7 days a week. What a good thing that I bought the house when I did! In 1981 I moved across the road - slightly bigger house, bigger garden, not at all overlooked and still within 400 yards of the River Arle, and beautiful *Hampshire* countryside to look at and walk over.

In 1982 my mother moved over from Guernsey - Pa having died In 1978. It was a fine arrangement and after I retired in 1995 (early retirement due to a dickey ticker), and Ma had by this time moved to the house next door to me, I could look after *her* as she became older and needed more help. She had her uses too in that she was always on hand to babysit my two Border Terriers - Polly and Bumble. She died in 2001 and is much missed.

Now I am a member of the Wardrobe Team at Winchester Cathedral - we *see* that the Choir Is always looking clean and well ironed - a member of Winchester *USA*, involved in Neighbourhood Watch, on the Committee of the St Swithun's Old Girls and now on the *OGA* Committee and Editor of the Newsletter. Every year I hire a coach and together with 35 friends we travel sous La Manche to the Cite Europe for a day's shopping before Christmas. Recently I've been kept quite busy trying to get my school contemporaries together for a reunion! Just when I will learn to say No!

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Old Georgian Accounts

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

<u>2009</u>	Income:-	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	Expenditure:-	<u>2010</u>
1	Investment income (after tax)	-	15	TocH Subscription	15
176	Profit/(loss) on July reunion	72	-	Newsletter	-
-	Raffle proceeds	82	-	Address list	-
-	Donations received	-	18	Games Secretaries' expenses	43
-	Tie sales	-	177	Secretarial expenses	60
82	Reunion bar sales	-	-	Douglas Dawn Memorial Fund	-
			-	Richard Jacquet Memorial Fund	-
			-	Cost of ties sold	-
			-	Archive materials	-
			163	Development Fund donation	-
			33	Loss on Christmas reunion	191
			173	Professional fees	-
259		154	579		309
	Excess of Expenditure over			Excess of Income over	
320	Income for the year	155	-	Expenditure for the year	-
£ 579		£ 546	£ 579		£ 309

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

<u>2009</u>	Assets and Liabilities	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	Members' Funds	<u>2010</u>
	Assets:-			General Fund:-	
21,378	Investment at market value	22,614	19,832	Opening balance	21,841
292	Building Society funds	292	-	Subscriptions received	-
436	Bank current account	243		Excess of income over	
106	Bank deposit account	106		expenditure for the year	-
57	Stock of ties	57		Excess of expenditure over	
-	Debtors – reunion bar	-	(320)	income for the year	(155)
22,269		23,312	19512		21,686
	Liabilities:-		2,329	In/(Decrease) in value of bond	1,236
(172)	Sundry creditors - tax	(172)	21,841	Closing balance	22,922
(256)	Sundry creditors - other	(218)			
£ 21,841		£ 22,922	£ 21,841		£ 22,922

I have reviewed the above Balance Sheet of The Old Georgian Association, as at 31 December 2010, and the above Income and expenditure Account for the year ended on that date, and can confirm that they are in accordance with the records and information presented to me.

6 May 2011

C. M. W. Husbands
Chartered Accountant
Honorary Auditor

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Membership News 2010 – 2011

Where are you now?

Please email me information on your own life since St George's for inclusion in future newsletters. We would love to hear about interesting experiences, achievements and memories of St George's life and beyond!!

Send them to both pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk and paulstreeton@btinternet.com or by MAIL to the School Development Office, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4TD.

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