

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



Four generations of Monk House Captains at Super Saturday!

May 2023

Welcome from the Headmistress

Helen Barton

Georgian Newsletter – Spring 2023

Welcome to the OG newsletter. I always find that Spring brings with it a sense of optimism and hope. New life seems to be everywhere as the lambing season starts and the trees come into bud. Outside my window at school a magpie has started to build its nest in the old walnut tree and elsewhere a carpet of blue is emerging as the bluebells start to flourish.....life seems to be good. But in amongst that optimism there is also a sense of concern within our profession. For the first time in a long time, members of the teaching profession have chosen to take Industrial Action. At first glance this could be seen to be about pay, but scratch under the surface and you will find that this is about recruitment, retention and funding for education in general – as a profession we are seriously worried about the sustainability of the quality of education we hold so dear. It has not been an easy time to manage in school, but as always StG's has shown its community spirit. On a more happier note Winter Finals Day, now with a new snazzy name of "*Super Saturday*", we saw our pupils display a great deal of friendly (??!!) competition on both the lacrosse and rugby pitches. Whilst the warming coffee and the amazing "hog roast" enabled those of us who cheered from the side lines to remain warm and well fed! It was great to see so many OG's at the event and it was lovely of you to touch base with us at the OG stand.

Its been great to hear your news and views coming in through email and the conversations we have when we meet in person. We love hearing about where you are now and what you are up to. We know that many of you have taken Dr Watts mantra of going out and changing the world to heart, whether that is through your personal interactions with people or through your wider work and community actions. Whatever you are up to we would love to hear from you, so touch base...tell us a story or let us know what you are doing now. We would love to keep in contact.

Here's hoping that we will either hear from you or see you in person in the not too distant future.

Best Wishes

Miss Barton



Updates from the Development Office

Founders Weekend 1st & 2nd July 2023

Saturday 1st July

- School Fete, come and see us to have a school tour, chapel talk and meet up with old friends. Take a trip down memory lane.
- Old Georgian Cricket match - Please do email in if you would like to take part.
development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Sunday 2nd July

- Chapel service and Old Georgian AGM, come along and reconnect with the school and your fellow Georgians, everyone is welcome.

The Old Georgians need you!

Would you like to form a group to organise an event, are you able to volunteer a few hours of your time to the committee? Could you provide a talk to inspire current students, or write an article for the newsletter?

This is a really exciting time to get involved as we revitalise the association, so If you could help rejuvenate the Old Georgians then please email:-

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Georgians Harpenden



oldgeorgians100



On the Grapevine

Herts Year 7 Maths Challenge



12 very eager year 7 Mathematicians took part in the Herts for Maths Team Challenge. St George's entered three teams, who have been training hard in preparation for the event. Out of 15 schools who entered our heat, all three St George's teams were placed, with the co-ordinator stating that the average score for the heat was higher than the previous two.

Congratulations to all who took part. Team 2 (Emily, Daniel, Heather and Lucca) and Team 3 (Barney, Suzy, Francesca and Bryony) were placed joint 3rd and Team 1 (Rachel, Eloise, Mel and Sam) came first. All our year 7 teams worked brilliantly together and the teachers agreed that several of the rather tricky questions were handled extremely well by the teams. We look forward to seeing what happens in the final next month.

Louise Rhys, Maths Dept

What did you learn today ?”... “Not much...”

Don't believe a word of it. The Maths department now has up in their corridor these amazing graphics showing the entirety of the GCSE maths course. We should be really proud of how hard our students work to master these skills, and I am in awe of the teachers who can hand-hold them through that learning. It's easy to think of Maths as challenging, when really it's all do-able once your eyes are opened up to the ways through it. Very cool that the whole course can be expressed on just 5 A2 panels. Great job !



On the Grapevine

Holocaust Chapel



This year is the 78th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. 78 years ago Russian troops, journeyed across Europe, fighting as they went from the Russian homeland to their ultimate goal of Berlin, where they finally came across the huge complex that were the Auschwitz camps, including Auschwitz main camp, a converted Polish army barracks and the purpose built death camp of Birkenau, built three miles away and known today as the biggest killing ground of History. The journey that those troops had taken crossed battlefields and sieges, death and destruction, but despite the horrors that they had witnessed on that long terrible journey, they were still utterly shocked by what they encountered. The primitive camp, the emaciated bodies that littered the area, the ruins of Gas Chambers and Crematoria, remnants of factory methods installed to kill millions, the piles of clothes, shoes, food, money and belongings, stolen from those who were murdered in this horrifying culmination of Hitler's war against the Jews.

On Sunday 27th January we held a Chapel service to commemorate the Holocaust and the deaths of over six million Jews. I talked in the sermon about the remarkable journey through the war years of a survivor, Kitty Hart Moxon, who through luck, but also thanks to an iron will and a dedication to life, managed to survive the deprivation of the Lublin ghetto, Auschwitz for two years, slave labour and an enforced death march. Kitty's story is a remarkable story of survival and all those in the congregation were very moved by it. The pupils listened intently and learnt as to why it is so important that all of us never forget to remember. The junior and senior choirs sang two hauntingly beautiful pieces which very much reflected the mood of the service. Though Kitty was unable to come due to ill health, we were honored that her son and daughter in law were able to attend the event and light our candle of remembrance on her behalf.

Kitty's journey to, through and from Auschwitz is a remarkable one and it reminds us of both the horrors of the Holocaust and also of an incredible spirit and will to survive against all the odds that Kitty demonstrated every day. So many did not make the journey to liberation. Many died of starvation, of work, of disease or in the gas chambers. A journey of annihilation - for this is where so many journeys ended and if Kitty's journey teaches us anything it is this; her journey, that journey, their journey must never happen again.

Mr Hollingsworth

Assistant Head Teacher

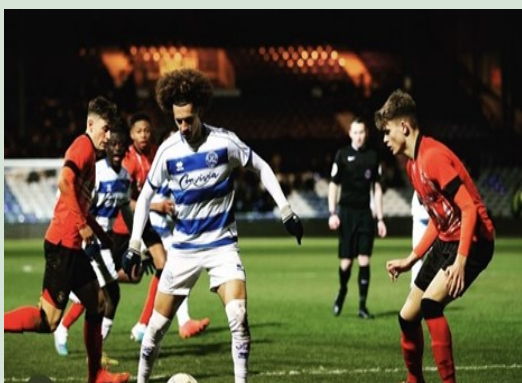
On the Grapevine



Awards in the Chapel

We were very proud to celebrate the success of our year ten students completing their Bronze DofE. 155 students from the year group have completed the full award so far; 4 students have achieved the Certificate of Achievement and 8 more are due to complete the award very shortly. Our completion rate so far is 93% (the national average is 34%) so well done to all of our students for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. Together, they have contributed 2328 hours of volunteering to the local community. What an achievement!

A big thank you must go to all of the staff who help organise the scheme and volunteer their free time to assist in the expeditions. We couldn't do it without you.



Congratulations Jacob!

Well done to Jacob Vickers (Year11) who played for Luton Town FC U18'S in the 5th round of the FA Youth Cup against Preston North End at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday. They suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat but Jacob should be very proud of his recent performances; we look forward to watching his footballing career progress. To the right is a photo of Jacob in the previous round against QPR.



On the Grapevine

Debating Success

We were proud to host Katherine Warrington, Roundwood Park and Sir John Lawes for the Harpenden schools debate competition in a packed old library on Monday. The contests were fiercely fought with high quality discourse on show from all four schools. It was great to showcase St George's debating and a fantastic experience for all debaters and our new debate captains - Sophie C and Emilie Z were fantastic ambassadors for St George's.

There are a number of other exciting debate competitions coming up, including house debating beginning on 13th March. Watch this space and follow [@stgeorgespolitics](#) on

Instagram for updates. Jamie Ellis



News from our Old Georgians

Obituaries:

Liz Morgan - Liz was a boarder between 1967 –1972

Sadly Liz passed away in February 2020.

Alexander Douglas Bourhill 1926— 2023

Our father Alec Bourhill always had fond memories of his time at St George's, and still drank coffee from a mug with the school logo.

Helping with the harvest during evacuation of some of the pupils to Devon in WW2 gave Alec a first taste of agriculture. With his wife Pearl he built up a herd of Jersey cows, of which they were very proud. They ran the dairy farm in Surrey until retirement in their early 60's, when they were able to fulfil their desire to travel. Alec was able to remain living on the farm until he passed away at the age of 95 years, leaving a daughter, son and three grandchildren.

Linda Heggie and Ian Bourhill

Alec very generously left the school £1000 in his will which the school will use for the benefit of the current students.



Old Georgian News



OG - William Thomas

Here is a little resume of William's progress and future engagements.

Will has just returned from Rouen Opera as Snug in a Midsummer Night's Dream and will be travelling to Japan tomorrow to play Colline in La Boheme for the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival. Will has qualified for the last sixteen to sing in the live finals of Cardiff Singer of the World in June. His concerts include Handel's St John Passion with the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra/von Steinacker and Narbal Les Troyens with the Monteverdi Orchestra/Sir John Eliot Gardiner. Later this year he will perform in Peter Grimes at La Scala, Milan. Future seasons see him his debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and he also returns to the Opéra National de Paris.

His awards include:

BBC New Generation Artist

Former Harewood Artist at the English National Opera

Winner 2021/21 Critics' Circle Award for Young Talent (Vocal)

Winner 2019 Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition

Winner 2018 Kathleen Ferrier Award

Winner 2018 John Christie (Glyndebourne) Award

Anna Patten

Old Georgian Anna Patten, in the England Women's under 23's football team scored during their match against Belgium this evening. England 4 - Belgium 1

<https://www.Englandfootball.com/articles/2023/Feb/20/england-wu23s-belgium-match-report-20232002>



Old Georgian News

Super Saturday 2023

The weather was kind to us and The Old Georgian Gazebo was not blown away. It was a great day for sport with Lacrosse and Rugby matches taking place through out the day.

A number of Old Georgians visited us in addition to current parents who are Old Georgians themselves. Thank you for connecting with us and sharing you memories.



Ian Major 1980-1987 & Andy Lea



Vicki Self 1981—1988 & Richard Taunton 1983 - 1984



Vicki and Richard revisited together after going out with each other in 1983! They took a walk through Captains grove & Monk Foyer! Great memories!

Old Georgian News

Super Saturday 2023

Our Parents who we met at Super Saturday who are also OG's!



Nick Bonner 1988—1995

Watts House captain 1995



Greg Sheppard 1987—1994

Old Georgians news

James Cooper

James Cooper attended St. George's between 1942—1951 and would like to get in touch with his fellow students. If you would like to get in touch with James then please email development@stgeorges.herts.sch and he has for us to pass his contact details.

Roger Ward

Although I am now an old fart (retired) – I left St.G's in 1973 – I do so much enjoy reading the Newsletters.....

Those were such happy years....and they equipped me well for an exciting life afterwards....after studying at Exeter. I have lived in Norway most of the time since 1979.....but also in Texas and Sweden.....and hundreds of hotel rooms in Asia! I now lead a quiet life and enjoy doing some fishing when I get the opportunity. I have a family (two sons) with four grandchildren who all live in Oslo....

I hope you will keep sending them to me....interesting to see what today's younger generation is doing... Clever people...

One day I will try and return to St.G's....a long time since I have been in Harpenden.... Living in the north I have a tendency to head further south when I take my vacations....!

Penelope nee Bray

I have a slightly different version of the disappearing Venus story.

When we discovered that Venus had disappeared, we were very upset and decided to conduct a funeral for her. We got a bench, covered it with a black cloth and some of the boys hoisted it on their shoulders. Then we went in procession behind the 'coffin' round Harpenden singing 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence'.

The following morning several members of the public rang the school to ask who had died!

Penelope nee Bray 1943 - 1957.

I should have added that it was rumoured that the headmaster, Mr Gedge, sold Venus to the garden section of Heale's department store in London, not because he thought she was immodest but because the school was short of money!

Penelope Bray 1943. - 1957.

Maurice Lazarus attended the school in the 1940's with his three sisters. He visit the school in March with his son Rupert who was visiting from Canada.

He enjoyed his trip down memory lane and it was a pleasure to meet with an Old Georgian and show him round the school.



Old Georgian News

Penelope nee Bray (1943, yes really!-1957)

Dear Editor, Thank you for the excellent most recent edition of the St George's Newsletter. I was most interested to read the contribution of OG Hazel Stevens (whom I remember well, having played in the school tennis team with her). Hazel mentions a 'friend who went out for a walk and came back with a goat'. I was one of those friends! It must have been 1956 when three of us, Jocelyn Ross, Susan Gairdner and I got permission from the then head-master, Peter Gedge, to keep a goat. I don't think he ever imagined we would find one but one Sunday afternoon we set off on our bikes and cycled to the goat lands of Kimpton. After drawing a few blanks we lighted on the Blue Cross Dogs' Home where, astonishingly, they had a spare goat. We brought her home, housed her in a rickety shed donated by another OG, a day girl called Jill Fulton and called her Deborah. She was supposed to be the school mascot and we paraded her along the 'cinder path' when the boys had a rugby match. Unfortunately she was far more interested in getting out and eating the lush grass of the playing field than in rugby and we were constantly interrupting chemistry lessons to ask the chemistry teacher, Mr Lindsay, to let his class out so that they could catch her!

I lost touch with Deborah in later life but I know she had a kid and led a happy retirement! I often think about our goat-owning days and what a remarkable tribute it was to the open-minded and generous spirit of St George's and Mr Gedge that we were allowed to keep her! Penelope nee Bray (1943, yes really!-1957).



Do you remember this statue? Can you solve the mystery.....

We have a nice mystery on our hands!

A lady at a local church on Christmas day spoke to a member of staff and said that one of her relatives was in possession of the statue pictured below. He was an Old Georgian and in approximately 1958 he and two other boys were 'expelled / asked not to come back to the school'. Their response was to steal the statue below! The lady thinks it was either in the Chapel or around the library area.

The three of them have passed the statue between themselves for the last 64 years (it is easy to transport!) . However, two of the boys have now passed away leaving the last boy / old man who is now keen to have the statue returned! When questioned by his family how he came to be in possession of the statue revealed where it had come from. He wants to stay anonymous!

Do you remember the statue and where was it located when you attended the school?

Old Georgian News

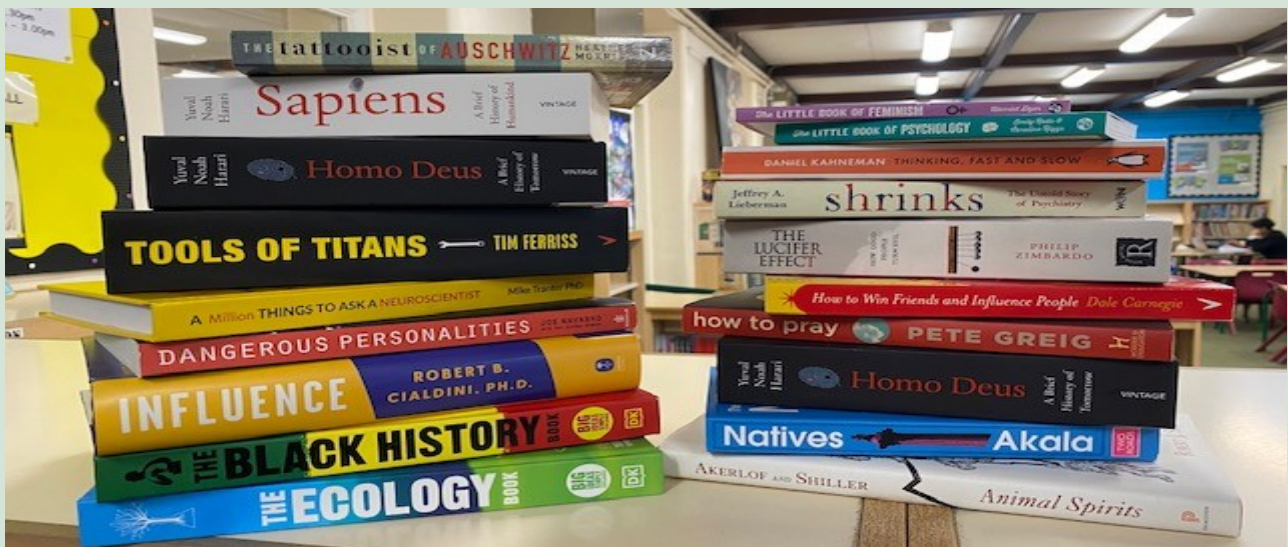


Old Georgian - Gordon Ross

Gordon now lives in Cape Town, South Africa but came back to visit the school in February. Gordon keeps in regular contact with the school librarian Caroline Marshal and has donated funds to purchase books for the library on several occasions which the school is very grateful for.

Gordon is an artist and has some great work to see. Have a look at his Instagram page [ideacircus1965](#)

Not only has Gordon donated funds to the Library but has also sent Caroline postcards from his travels around the world.



A small sample of the books funded by Gordon.

Old Georgian News

Old Georgians from between 1967—1969



Old Georgian David Cox whose father was John Cox and the boy's Housemaster and French & German teacher at the school for many years in the late 50s, 60s, 70, & 80's arranged a visit to the school for a group of Old Georgians for a school tour, chapel talk and they booked in an afternoon tea to finish their visit in the Old Library. They shared their memories of their time at school with us which we have shared below.

Jennifer Tanton 1961 –1969

"I spent many happy hours in the school chapel practicing for concerts, carol services and Sunday services. I was the lead alto in the choir and Roy Terry was a very hard task master!! Spending time in the chapel last Thursday, brought back so many happy memories and it hasn't changed a bit (apart from the memorial window which is beautiful) and the atmosphere is so peaceful."



Jill Adams 1959 - 1969 *"Wonderful years for me. Still keeping in touch with classmates"*

Anne ne Kenyon 1961 - 1969 *"Memories—bunking off Chapel, boring lessons except Biology and French! Not the best school then for academic standards but overall happy memories of hanging out with friends"*

Louisa Stobbs 1961—1967 *"Great fun, wonderful broad education, not very academic but family life in the boarding house. Very happy times"*

Old Georgian News

Memories from Old Georgians from between 1967—1969



Bernice Redmill 1960—1969

"Memories of picking mulberry leaves off the tree by the old art rooms for silk worms we kept at home. Finding a way to miss daily chapel by hiding in the cloak room despite the fact I left St George's to do a degree in Theology. "

Christine Burton 1959—1969

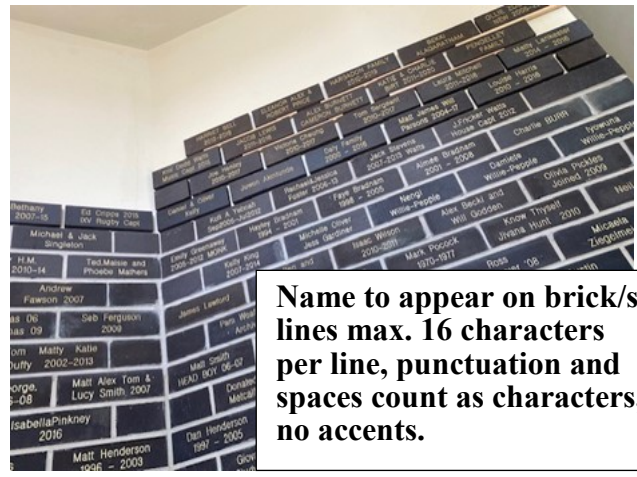
"Mainly happy memories, school was a great social experience, we didn't do too well academically! I particularly remember HST (Mr Taylor—English) and Miss Pam Weatherley. Very influential, both of them. Long summer evenings with Mirahda Basner playing Joan Baez, Bob Dylan etc. on the chapel steps. Quite a few extraordinary outings, Harry Caulo (Geog) took us to St Albans to see "The war Game" which had been banned by the BBC! And we had a trip to see Bob Dylan at the Albert Hall, all very radical for its time."

Cynthia Musgrove 1963—1968

"Watching the Sunday service from the chapel roof (gallery) going down town to get fish and chips and coming back soaked at meal time. Trying to get drunk with cider drinking through a straw in the bedroom, outing carbon paper in our shoes thinking it will make us faint! Loving Sunday breakfast, loving lacrosse, loving playing rugby against the boys, me in goal with a dustbin lid. Playing in a church with sombreros on our head, 3 of us and a guitar. Going to see BoB Dylan, the oxford and Cambridge races and sitting on lots of coins that we used to go on a fun fair nearby. We were a group in the tennis team and nearly missed the bus back to school"



Join The Legacy Wall



Name to appear on brick/s 2 lines max. 16 characters per line, punctuation and spaces count as characters, no accents.

Join Our Legacy Wall Booking Form

A minimum donation of £48 will buy a brick which can be engraved with up to 2 lines of gold lettering.

I would like to buy ☐ bricks at a cost of £48 per brick

I would like to donate £..... per brick

Total Donation £..... (Please make cheque payable to St George's School for the attention of the Development office)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Name:.....Address:

.....

.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone Number.....email:.....

I am a UK tax payer ☐

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. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1.00 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: Date:

Make a Donation

How you can contribute to the future of St George's

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the development office who will be more than happy to assist you OR make a donation using the details below.

Development Office,
St George's School,
Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 4TD
Tel 01582 765477

Barclays Bank A/C 03517586
Sort Code: 20-03-62

or development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



OGA Tie

Why don't you commemorate your time at St George's School by purchasing a 100% Silk Old Georgian Tie

If you would like to make a purchase, please complete the form below and return to:

Development Office,

St George's School,

Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 4TD

or development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Old Georgians 100% Silk Tie Order Form

I would like to order ____ 100% silk tie(s) at £15.00 each (plus P&P)

P&P national delivery: £2.50

P&P international delivery: £5.00

TOTAL: £ _____ **(include P&P)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

I enclose a cheque for the sum of £ _____

Payable to St George's School (Harpenden) Ltd

BANK TRANSFER

Sort Code: 20-03-62

Account Number: 00018414

Reference: Tie-Surname

Thank You

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/stgeorgesharpenden

twitter.com/MissB_at_StGs

The Old Georgians Association website — <https://eu.ptly.com/uk/>

