

Founders Trust - 75th Anniversary

The first Head of St George's school, Cecil Grant, died in 1946 and The Cecil Grant Founders Trust was born with a legacy from his estate of £6,833.10s.6d "to form a trust for the benefit of Georgians for all years to come".

4. SUBJECT to foregoing provisions I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all the residue of my estate after payment thereof of my funeral and testamentary expenses and just debts to the Headmaster for the time being of St. George's School aforesaid to be administered as a Trust under the name of Founders Trust for the benefit of the said School.



Cecil & Lucy Grant set up St George's in 1907, having moved from Keswick. Much emphasis is placed on Cecil Grant, but the Reverend & Mrs Grant were very much a team, and Lucy's role is a bit underplayed. She too was a Headmistress in her own right until she was married in 1898, and she brought her own individual contribution ...*a great love of nature... a strong sense of humour and unusual vitality... and sincerity were the keynotes of her life*" (*The Times* 1937). In the course of their 30 year partnership, St George's grew from small and tentative beginnings, it's roll being only 59 in its first year. Today it is over 1350.

One of the earliest pieces of information I could find about St George's and Cecil Grant was a letter to the Times on 27th July 1909 with regard to an appeal for funds to buy some land for the burgeoning school, with pupil numbers already increased to 100. In 1928 it was the school's 21st Anniversary, and the cloisters linking the chapel to the main school building was created, along with 'The Captain's Grove', a group of trees commemorating the 19 Georgians killed in WW1. This was fundraised by a Bazaar, which included an exhibition of works of Art lent by Georgians, as well as a dramatic version of 'The Pilgrims Progress'. And so a long heritage of strength in Dramatic productions and Art in St George's began and endures to this day. What is also evident is a fundraising tradition and the Founders Trust continues in that same vein – still seeking funds with which to assist the school, and still being strongly supported by the present St George's team and community at large. 'Give Today for Their Tomorrow' is our current motto, and that is exactly what the Grants did with Cecil's bequest all those years ago.

Browsing through a copy of the Trust Deed it was quite by chance that I noticed that this year, 2021, is the 75th anniversary of the Founders Trust. Upon raising it with my fellow Trustees we all agreed that we really should mark this milestone in some way, hence all students and staff will receive a commemorative badge next week. A hangover from childhood days of sticker charts, our students do like a good badge! Wear it with pride. The Grants would be extremely proud of the school St George's has become. It is very fitting then that the Trust has another milestone to mark, this year we can confirm that we have raised just over £3million since 1995. Truly something to celebrate. We thank you all, our St George's family, for your continued support and endeavour to continue the fundraising with 'vitality and sincerity'.