

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



February 2024

Welcome from the Headmistress

Helen Barton

Georgian Newsletter – Spring 2024

Welcome to the Spring Term! It was great to see so many of you at the OG carol service. We continue to love meeting you and hearing your stories. School life continues to be busy. House Art has come and gone with a Watts win in the bag, and House Badminton has taken place this week. It's also been great to present Head Commendations. How many of you still have a StG's Head Commendation bookmark? Or how many still have their badge? Who of you were recipients of a Commendation, write in and let us know.

We've also had the Duke of Edinburgh Awards evening. Having to shake over 150 hands in one night is a bit of endurance event.....but it is so worth it. Tales of getting lost; over packing bags and hearing of some very exotic food combinations that make their way onto that Trangia stove always makes for some entertaining conversations. Who would think that truffle oil and pesto would be on your camp food shopping list....but hey, this is Harpenden.

There are times when I still sit in wonder and marvel at how I managed to get such a great job, and a trip to London in late December was just one of those events. It was thrilling to be invited to St James, Piccadilly to hear our own SGS Chamber Choir sing alongside the London Oriana Choir at their Christmas Carol Service. Even more thrilling when the our Chamber Choir sang a number of pieces by themselves to such a knowledgeable and appreciative audience – I was that night and still am so proud of what they, Miss Humphrey and Mr Burrett have achieved. Incredible! If you would like to hear just a bit of their brilliance, click here [please click](#) to watch some of the concert.

Let's hope that this term we continue to be surprised and delighted by what our young people achieve, through experiences and opportunities that they can enjoy. As a Headmistress in her last year, I'm off to Florence with the school at the end of February, because it is as important as adults to make memories as it is for those who are still in their teens.

Super Saturday (aka Winter finals day) is in March, if you fancy coming to watch some great lacrosse and some fab rugby then it would be lovely to see you. Both Sue and I will both be under the OG's gazebo.

Kind Regards

Miss H. J. Barton, Headmistress



Updates from the Development Office

Super Saturday 2024

Save the Date:-

Super Saturday 23rd March 2024

Come along and chat with us in the OG's gazebo and watch the school teams winters finals for Rugby and Lacrosse.

Founders Weekend

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th June 2024

Saturday—School Tours & Summer Fete

Sunday—Founders Chapel & AGM

The Old Georgians— Do you have a story to tell?

We are pleased to say engagement within the Old Georgian community is growing, if you have a story to share or would like to let us know what you are up to now then please email:-

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Georgians Harpenden



oldgeorgians100



Sign up to our Old Georgian website

Updates from the Development Office

Reunion

Were you part of the school year that started in September 1968, took 'O' levels in 1973 and 'A' levels in 1975?

*Next year it will be 50 years since most of us left the school, so to mark the occasion we are planning a reunion for summer 2025. Plans are at an early stage for a lunchtime BBQ on **Saturday 19th July 2025**. Whether you left in 1973, 1975 or at some other stage, you would be very welcome to join in.*

If you'd like to have more details as they become available, please email chris.dorling@outlook.com or bettine@bettine.co.uk to let us know.

And if you are in touch with anyone else from the year, please let them know about it.



On the Grapevine

St George's Question Time - 2023



The third annual 'St George's Question Time' took place in front of a 'standing room only' audience in the chapel in November. We had an incredibly high calibre panel, including local political candidates, national journalists, student representatives (past & present) and a stand-up comedian (combined Twitter following - 500k plus!). The event took a lot of organisation, thanks so much to all who helped out and of course we are hugely indebted to our guests for taking time out from their busy schedule.

It was described by one of the panellists as **'a flagship for any educational event'**, and our students were a credit to the school.

Jamie Ellis

Deputy Director of Sixth Form Education

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

St George's has been lucky enough to be one of 250 schools to receive some of the 2,000 KG of rope-grown mussels being donated by Offshore Shell, packed by River Teign Shellfish and delivered by DFDS.

Did you know that most children don't eat enough fish? Not here! Year 10 have been cooking Thai style mussels & conducting sensory analysis. Students showed off new skills in preparing and cooking the mussels in a Thai sauce. For many students it was their first experience of preparing and tasting mussels. This is not something we would not normally do and feedback from students has been incredibly positive and we hope, helped to diversify their palate! Many thanks go to Offshore Shell, River Teign Shellfish, DFDS and the Food Teachers Centre for this superb opportunity.

To follow on from mussels, we've secured a delivery of individually quick-frozen hake donated by Fastnet, as part of the Fish Heroes project giving students the opportunity to prepare and cook with fish. A big thank you to our local chippy Godfrey's Harpenden who helped coordinate the delivery.

Mrs L Bailey and Miss N Baxter



On the Grapevine

From the School Archives

St George's School Music Society Choir

This school society, known affectionately as MUSSOC, is one of the oldest existing societies in St George's. In 1912 the choir gave its first public performance, singing Handel's Judas Maccabeus in the school Chapel.

Originally the choir was known as the 'Oratorio Choir' and by 1917 'The Musical and Literary Society'. Soon after it was renamed the 'Musical Society' before the current name was taken in the 1990's. The choice of repertoire is typical of a Choral Society and there is an annual performance of a larger scale work. Recent examples include; Magnificat by Vivaldi, Requiems by Rutter and Chilcott, Samson by Handel or you may recall these performances from the 1960's; St Nicholas by Britten, Faure's Requiem or from the 1970's; Elgar's Music Makers, The St John Passion by Bach, or from the 1980's Brahms's Requiem and Handel's Messiah.

If you were involved in any performances by the choir or have any memories/photos/programmes that you would like to share then please email them to Russell Tucker at archive@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

From the very start the choir has been open to pupils, staff (including several Headmasters such as Mr Gedge and Mr McGovern,) Georgians, parents of Georgians and friends of the school. The choir has always adopted an 'open door' policy, welcoming anyone who likes to sing, regardless of ability-that's right, there are NO auditions!

MUSSOC meets at school in the Old Library on a Tuesday evening during term time from 7:45-9:00pm. Having sung at the Georgian Carol service in December we are now preparing for a performance in June of Haydn's Nelson Mass and Vivaldi's Gloria.

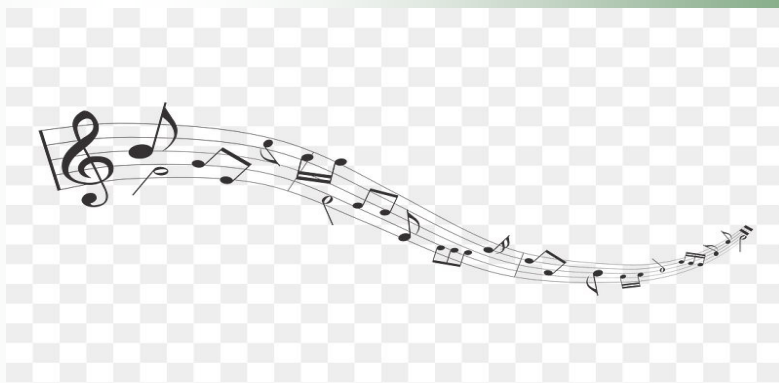
If you would like to join us on a Tuesday evening, or know anyone who might be interested, then please do come along or pass on the details, you would be most welcome.

If you would like any more information then please email Russell Tucker, at

rtucker@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Russell Tucker

Chapel Organist and Archivist



On the Grapevine

Christmas Dinner Day & End of Term Chapel 2023

December is always a busy time in the school year, our students enjoyed Christmas dinner day, do you remember your school Christmas dinner?



On the Grapevine

Football...or is that soccer?

Annabelle T. was up at St George's Park National Training Centre where she was presented with her first international shirt and wore it with pride. She had her first training session with her new teammates and made her first debut in the U15 England Schools FA team on Sunday 11th February in a friendly match against the Independent School FA U16s team. England Schools won 4-1 and she was named player of the match.



Sixth Form Leadership Conference

On Thursday, the participants of the Year 12 Leadership Foundations Course joined with over 80 students from St Columbus, Loretto, Samuel Ryder and Nicholas Breakspear to attend a Leadership Conference organised by Step. We were privileged to take part in a range of workshops led by, amongst others, Jon and Andrea Taylor Cummings from *The Four Habits*, and Helena Croft MBE, Founder and CEO of *Streetlight UK*.



'Our day started with a smooth minibus drive (thanks Mrs Tweedale!) and took us straight to our first session. With everyone split into three groups, we all had to work with students from other schools which was an amazing opportunity. We had three sessions led by guest speakers which taught us more about our personalities, how we interact with others, and influencing those in positions above ours. Even in our breaks we chatted to other people, getting to know them as we filled out a bingo sheet of abilities - the aim was to complete all 25!

'What I enjoyed most about the day was hearing everyone's thoughts during discussions, as it allowed us to get to know each other and work a solution out together. The most challenging part was talking to so many people, as it was quite daunting until you realised most of them felt the exact same way! I got to hear the opinions and stories of so many people, and once the conversations got going it was definitely easier and a lot of fun! At the start of the day, I wasn't sure what I would take away from it, but I'm very glad I took part and stepped out of my comfort zone. I learned so much about myself, one thing being that I do have the confidence to start a conversation with someone new.' Marlena Lessig

Mrs Goatly

On the Grapevine

Debating update - Mr Ellis

This half-term has been the busiest and most exciting in the evolution of St George's debating!

We are currently in the midst of our house debating competition, involving nearly 50 debaters from Year 7-13. The standard across all sections has been incredible and our guest judges have been blown away with the performances from debaters. We have been extremely fortunate to have expert debate specialists in to judge the competition, which will help our debaters hone and enhance their skills for the future.

We entered the Oxford Schools debate competition for the first time, where we joined around 30 other schools from London in the South-East to take part in one of the country's biggest debate competitions. The students who debated should be proud of being the first to represent St George's and equipped themselves amazingly well. This half-term, we also had a fixture vs STAHS which was extremely well-contested.

Next half-term will be just as busy, as we host Berkhamsted & SJL - as well as competing in the next round of the rotary competition and another series of the Harpenden Schools debate competition.

School debaters will be visiting the Oxford Union in the summer term for a debate workshop, tour and to watch a live debate in the union, which we are extremely excited by.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Reynolds & the debate captains; Heather H & Amelie S (Year 8), Clara A, Sophie C, Charlotte V & Emilie Z (Year 10) & Olivia L & Ed W (Year 12) for being at the forefront of making St George's debating an integral part of extra-curricular development. We are really excited about what we can achieve over the next couple of years.

Jamie Ellis

Deputy Director of Sixth Form Education

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Old Georgians

Christopher Pearce - Class of 2013

West End debut with Stranger Things

Old Georgian Christopher Pearce, performing under the name Buckley, makes his West End debut this year in Netflix and Sonia Friedman's critically acclaimed production of 'Stranger Things: The First Shadow'

Arriving at St George's in 2007, Chris continuously threw himself into all aspects of performing within the school, playing a variety of roles across plays and Inter-house competitions. He was made Drama Captain of Watts House in his final year.



Training at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in Acting in 2013-2016, he competed for and gained exciting opportunities to perform in the BBC Carleton Hobbs radio competition, as well as at the Globe in their Sam Wanamaker Festival.

Since graduating, Chris has performed on stages across the country and internationally. From Budapest to Ipswich, Hamburg to Frinton-Upon-Sea, he has played a variety of roles including cheeky school kids, Greek heroes, befuddled policemen and tortured invalids.



In July 2023, Chris taped for a role in Netflix's inaugural play "Stranger Things: The First Shadow". After an extensive audition process, he was blown away to be offered the role of Bob Newby. The play opened in December at the West End's Phoenix Theatre to glowing reviews. Everyday he still pinches himself to make sure he's really awake!

To anyone who's thinking of giving the gig (acting) a go, I'd say three things:

1. Be patient
2. Be kind to others and, most importantly, to yourself
3. Always find fun in it. Don't get too serious!



News from our Old Georgians

Obituaries:

Jai Nath Misra— Known as Mick was a teacher at St George's in the seventies and eighties. Mick sadly passed away in September last year and his daughter Sheila has shared the obituary that she wrote for him.

My father, Jai Nath Misra – known to everyone as Mick – who has died aged 87, was a mechanical engineer turned maths teacher who taught in schools in Hertfordshire for more than a quarter of a century.

Born in Jaipur in India, he was the fifth living child of Susheela Chaturvedi and Kailesh Misra, and grew up in Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh. His father left the family when he was two years old and he grew up with his mother in an extended household consisting of his siblings and a number of cousins, uncles and aunts.

Susheela sold her wedding jewellery to enable him to come to England at the age of 21; he took the boat from Bombay (now Mumbai) and arrived at Victoria coach station in London in 1957 with a small suitcase and broken English.

Mick's degree in mathematics from Agra University was not recognised in England, but before he could enrol at the University of London he needed to be a taxpayer for four years. He therefore took up work hauling milk churns at a dairy, as a postman and cutting sheet metal in various factories, before he was able to sign up for his maths degree.



Jai Nath Misra, in left foreground, “photobombing” Jawaharlal Nehru in 1948. He was 12 at the time and was determined to be photographed with the prime minister of newly-independent India. He borrowed a cart to travel to Delhi with a cousin, having borrowed a camera from his uncle. In 1965, at a tea dance at Chelsea town hall, he met Mary Peggie, a civil servant from Rosyth in Fife. They married in 1967 and moved to St Albans in Hertfordshire.

After his degree Mick worked as an engineer in a factory in Dunstable in Bedfordshire, helping to design and build car parts – in particular carburetors – until he was made redundant in the early 1970s. He then did teacher training at Garnett College, London, in 1973, and subsequently had a 25-year career as a maths teacher at St George's school in Harpenden, St Columba's college in St Albans and what is now Oaklands college, also in St Albans.

In 2001, newly retired, Mick and Mary moved to the village of Spexhall in Suffolk, where they spent eight happy years enjoying rural life.

In 2010 they moved to Belsize Park in north London, where Mick became a volunteer for Age UK and joined a group of UK-based Indians keen to support a new political party in India – the Aam Aadmi party – whose aims were to sweep away corruption and support ordinary working Indians. Mick went to India for three months and campaigned for the party in Delhi.

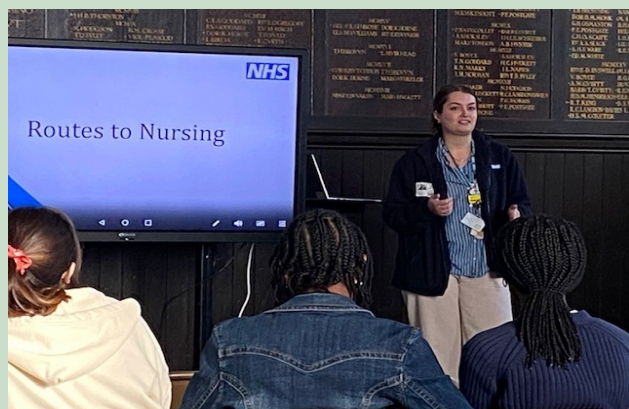
After Mary died in 2014, and in between time spent with his grandchildren, Mick threw himself into travel, including to Israel and Myanmar. In 2018 he flew to Chicago and drove around Lake Michigan, and in 2019 he took part in the huge Prayag Kumbh Mela religious gathering in Triveni Sangam, Uttar Pradesh. In 2020, aged 84, he went kayaking in the mangroves of the Andaman Islands and later that year travelled to Bhutan.

He loved turning up somewhere new, having a beer and striking up a conversation with whoever happened to walk into the room. He was especially close to my husband, Graham, who was more like a son than a son-in-law.

Mick is survived by me and his three grandchildren, Rufus, Jemima and Gilbert.

Old Georgians

Careers Talks



Florence Bishop who Left in 2017 came into to talk to our current student about routes into Nursing
NHS talk to Y12 & Y13—Routes into nursing 17/11/2023

She took a gap year before looking at nursing and has been working in nursing now for four years and is now a community mental health nurse which she finds fulfilling and rewarding.



Old Georgian Esther Hathorn provided a talk about careers in Dentistry.

Careers Fair June 2023

If you would like to offer a talk to our students or are able to spare the time to have a stand at our careers fair in June then please email jslade@stgeorges.hert.sch.uk who would love to hear from you.

We are indebted to you our alumni that make contact to offer your services with career guidance.



Old Georgian News

Visits from Old Georgians



Thank you to Louise Hotchkiss (Johnstone) who came back to visit the school from Calgary Canada.

Louise attended the school between 1976 –1979 and her Aunties also used to attend the school.



We are always delighted to see our alumni. If you would like to visit please email

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Old Georgian News



Old Georgian Carol Concert December 2023

Thank you to all the Old Georgians who attend the Carol Service, Lacrosse match and afternoon tea, it was lovely to see so many of you. We hope to see you again at Founders weekend in June.



Old Georgian News

Old Georgian Carol Concert December 2023 continued



Old Georgian News

Impact of Funding and Donations

Donations that are made to the school enable us to line our corridor with portraits of school captains since 1995.



Without these donations we would not be able to keep the school traditions and improvements going forward into the future for our current and future Georgians.

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



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

