

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



September 2024

Welcome from the Head

Andy Ford

Georgian Newsletter – September 2024

What a fantastic welcome I have had in my start at St George's as its new Headteacher. When I first visited St George's I was, quite simply, blown away by the student leaders that I met, and by the quality of interactions I had with pupils and staff.

Great Schools are rooted in their values, are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive communities where learning is a lifelong journey, relationships are built on trust and respect, and integrity guides all that they do – St George's demonstrates this every day!

So who am I? I was born in Essex, grew up in Ely where I was a chorister at Ely Cathedral, I went to Kings Ely an all-through school. It gave me a broad education instilling in me the value of sport, outdoor education, music and life as a border. I then went to Durham University and studied Theology. I have been teaching for eighteen years having trained in the North East, then working at the boys School in St Albans before moving to Berkhamsted School.

I am married to Kate and we have two boys, Isaac and Gabriel. We are embedded in our local community of Redbourn, as a family we are highly involved in St Marys Church where we all sing in the choir and play various roles with the charity and PCC. Outside of that, I am involved with Rugby refereeing for the county. I'm a Saracens fan, and a Watford fan. I also love to read, especially books where I can escape to a completely different world.

Throughout my own education, and then working in schools, I been fortunate to be been part of schools who have had rich histories, traditions and heritages. I have seen how these can be used to galvanise, motivate and inspire the community. There is something hugely important about being part of something greater than oneself, and St George's is very much more than any one individual. We are all stewards of St George's, charged with making it the best place that it can be before passing it on to the next generation.

I hope to see some of you at the OG Carol Service on the 14th December and have the opportunity to hear about your time at St George's and where life has taken you since leaving.

Kind Regards

Mr A Ford, Headteacher

Updates from the Development Office

Save the Date

Sunday 10th November 9.30am - Remembrance Chapel, everyone is welcome



Saturday 14th December 2024

Lacrosse OG match v 1st team 12.30pm—2.00pm

Old Georgian Carol Concert by candlelight - 3.00pm followed by refreshments.



The Old Georgians

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 know the 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.



If you would like to organise a reunion in conjunction with the school for your year group then please email development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

On the Grapevine

Founders Weekend 2024



The OG's were the winners, they batted first and scored 178-6. The students chased and were all out for 95. The game was played in great spirits and highly enjoyable. Some excellent performances from OG's as well as students.



On the Grapevine

Founders Weekend 2024

It was great to see so many OG's at Founders Weekend, whether you took part in the cricket, enjoyed a school tour, relaxed in the sunshine with a Plmms or came to Sunday Chapel we hope you enjoyed the weekend.

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM I would like to announce that Helen Barton was voted in as the new president of the Old Georgian Association and I look forward to working with Helen at OG events in the future.



On the Grapevine

Dear Georgians

I'm sitting here writing this in the early evening sunshine of a warm September day....with not a care in the world!

As all of you have experienced there comes a time when you need to wave goodbye to StG's and start on a new adventure. For me that glorious moment came on the 31st August 2024 - my last formal contracted day of work as Headteacher at our amazing school. So just like you I am now an "old" Georgian!

With the sad passing of Ian Hemming last year we lost our leader, and strangely enough at the AGM I was the only person to put my hand up to take over the very large shoes that Ian left behind.....and large shoes they are indeed. I think they gave me the title of "President", which sounds very grand, but actually the title doesn't matter, this is all about continuing to play a part in our wonderful community; to continue to meet those of you who have a connection with our school; to hear your stories and to marvel at the places; jobs and families that you have created since you left the school gates. We LOVE hearing your news.

As a head I always used to hope that through your time at school you would create friendships that would last a lifetime, and over my 19 year connection with the school it is great to hear that for many of you that was true. We hear on the grapevine that many of you still meet - we'd love to see the pictures of your group gathering; that some of you get married - we'd love to see those to; that some of you have garnered the entrepreneurial steak and have set up your own business - so tell us what you make/ do and we'll give you a free bit of advertising; that some of you have found work in far flung places; and that many of you have started families yourselves and now find yourself back at school as a parent in your own right. Over the coming months there are some great opportunities to reconnect with us, one of which will be an invitation to "OG's New G parents coffee morning, keep an eye out for the date. So if you are an OG who is a current parent - make yourself known to Sue MacKenzie - we'd love to invite you for coffee, cake and a chat, and perhaps an opportunity to meet with some other OG's of your era. To keep things simple we are using the "development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk" email for both Sue and I. Then hot on the heels of coffee is the OG's Carol service on the 14th of December at 3.00pm. A fab opportunity to come and sing your heart out in our glorious candle lit school chapel.

Keep in touch....we'd love to hear from you.

Best wishes

Miss Barton

President of the Georgian Association!

On the Grapevine

THIS WEEK WE ARE CELEBRATING OLD GEORGIAN, POLLYANNA HOPE



We were thrilled to hear that ex-student Pollyanna Hope, 19, was performing a solo dance routine at the homecoming event for Britain's victorious Paralympians as they returned from Paris. The event took place at the 16,000 seater Utilita Arena in Birmingham and was screened by Channel 4.

Pollyanna, herself an amputee, was an amazing dancer at school as well as a brilliant student leader and a role model to others through her service beyond self and positive attitude. Well done, Pollyanna. We are very proud of you.

On the Grapevine

Maro Itoje

Former Harpenden junior Maro Itoje named Saracens captain.



Maro Itoje has been named as Saracens skipper ahead of the new Premiership season. Picture: RHIANNA CHADWICK/PA (Image: Rhianna Chadwick/PA)

Saracens are keeping the captaincy of the club on the shoulders of another former Harpenden Rugby Club junior and ex-St George's School pupil.

Maro Itoje has been confirmed as the man to officially take over from Owen Farrell, himself a former pupil of the Sun Lane school and another who graced the turf at the Redbourn Lane club.

Itoje, who also played for Old Albanian, has signed a new long-term deal at the StoneX Stadium as he looks to add to his 181 appearances so far.

And the 29-year-old, who made his debut for the club in 2013, could not hide his pride at the news.

On the Grapevine

OG Natalie O'Brien



Natalie and Jack have reached the final of Channel 4's 'Double the Money'. Image: Natalie O'Brien. (Image: Natalie O'Brien)

A Harpenden entrepreneur has spoken of the 'whirlwind' journey that has taken her and her partner to the final of hit Channel 4 show 'Double the Money'.

Natalie O'Brien and her partner Jack Visick have made it through five intense rounds ahead of the final, where they will launch their own coffee brand.

The 27-year-old grew up in Harpenden, going to St George's secondary school before moving to Brighton for university where she graduated with a first class degree in international events management.

Old Georgians



Graham R Coveney St George's 1971-1974

I started my working career on a building site, as assistant to the engineer telling builders where to dig/build as a holiday job aged 15 at RAF Hendon, London.

My next work experience was in Newcastle, painting fiberglass skylights, gave me Dosh for college,

While at College I worked in the Rusacks Marine 5 Star Hotel in St Andrews washing up (aerodynamics of circular discs) and prepping afternoon teas.

Moved up to erecting scaffolding aged 21 after leaving College whilst looking for a proper job..

Then joined BAe Warton as a graduate stress engineer working on Tornado, and Jaguar composite wing A/C.

Projects that I worked on included, the space shuttle, air released weapons, A300, and VC10 tanker.

Moved to Bristol at S&H and worked on Submarines for MoD, initially U boats, but also O & P, & S & T, nuclear power stations and bulk handling machines, worked at S&H for 7 & 1/2 yrs.

Returning to BAe at Filton to work firstly on A330/340 A/C Checkstress, then on single aisle A320 A321, A319 A318, and A300, A310, and Concorde as a Loads engineer.

Then to my Last post as a Test engineer involved with Major Fatigue tests of A330/340 EIS, A340-600, A380, A300F, A400M, A320ESG, A320MLG ESG, A380MLG, and Nimrod. Became Union rep for the Office, and a STEM Ambassador (Women in engineering, and Teaching reading in junior school), also Joined Airbus choir (first time singing, since School choir)

Think I've earned retirement for a while at least to catch some breath.

What's next adventure going to Be? Logic, says the final frontier I guess.!

Bring it on cos The "World is Not enough". A Lot going on out there !!

1. Watching red dwarf #Beatleguese ~ disappeared for 24 hrs recently, expected to go supernova soon, maybe already has, just not got here yet.

2. Meanwhile not forgetting our on Sun that's actively playing havoc to electric devices here on planet earth.

2024 shaping up to be an interesting year. Volunteered @ #Aerospace #Bristol Museum part time, and embarking on a 3rd Degree (Astrophysics at #Open University) that should keep mind & body functioning normally.

News from our Old Georgians



Lucy and Rachel—Back from playing for England in the recent u20 World Cup in Hong Kong and coaching for 2 days on the triple arrow camps to inspire the next generation of St George's students.

News from our Old Georgians



Chris Green, Teacher at St George's 1958-1965

I first saw St. George's at the end of the Christmas term in 1956. I was doing a PGCE, following a Classics degree, at Cambridge, and Mr Gedge, then Headmaster of St. George's, had come to deliver a lecture about Co-education. 95% of schools were single-sex then, but having found my all-boys public school a bit austere I thought co-education sounded a better idea. The school invited me to come and see. I had a great time, and ended up being offered a job, which I accepted with alacrity.

So in September 1958, aged 23, dead keen but fairly wet behind the ears, I began seven very happy years at St. George's. I was junior Housemaster in the boys' boarding house at Crosthwaite (then in Carlton Road opposite the railway line), where I had a small bedsitting room. I taught Latin with some French. Madame Subotic drafted me onto "la table francaise", where in the then staff room, a dozen luckless pupils ate lunch talking only French; memories of that stay with me, as when Madame told a young man "fermez la porte" and he responded with "Benedictus benedicat per Iesum Christum Dominum Nostrum", or the rather weedy boy who told me in a quiet voice "Je suis un non-fish".

I loved teaching, and had lots of really good classes. After a few years we started Greek. I had two Classical sixths, of who two went on to study Classics at Oxbridge. I organised Junior Colts cricket and Junior Colts rugby, and enjoyed all aspects of St. George's life, the Christmas Reviews, the 6B Dance, the staff v girls lacrosse match, and much more, all of it unforgettably great fun.

While I was there the school moved from being independent into the state system - a great example of how independent schools can integrate into the state system without losing character or heritage.

For me 1965 was time to move on. Since university I had been involved in the French national system of children's residential summer camps or "colonies de vacances", and had always believed British children would really benefit from something similar here. Thanks to the help of a leading educationist whose son was at St. George's, I was able to start Colony Holidays for Schoolchildren, with a launching grant from the then Ministry of Education, and a governing Council of the great and the good. I moved to Worcestershire, near the Malvern Hills, and have lived here ever since.

Colony Holidays grew fast. Some 5,000 children per annum took part in the "colonies", and hundreds of young adults trained and worked as camp leaders. To my delight a link with St. George's survived, since my friend Leslie Deane kindly arranged for me to come back and tell children and parents about Colony Holidays. Lots of Georgians took part, and I remember lots of them enjoying special holiday moments on the edge of Loch Rannoch, in the Lake District, or among the Welsh mountains.

News from our Old Georgians

Continued

After sixteen years with Colony Holidays I returned to teaching, and had twelve enjoyable years at The Chase High School in Malvern. Here I taught French and German, though after a few years we did introduce Latin GCSE in the sixth form. I produced plays, including James Elroy Flecker's "Hassan" with the award winning school orchestra playing the Delius music written specially for it, at Malvern Festival Theatre. I also organised French exchanges at Year 9 and at Lower sixth level.

Then "retirement" saw the creation of a new summer camp organisation (Colony Holidays had closed a few years after I left), in the shape of Active Training and Education (ATE Superweeks). There have been some great camps, but it is hard today to attract parents who are unused to the idea, to send their children. So, at the age of nearly ninety, I am now national Co-ordinator of The Summer Camps Trust, which aims to make going to summer camp as much a part of British children's lives as it is of American or French children's lives. It is still fulfilling, and fun. Children today need it more than ever

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me, from St George's or from Colony Holidays, or who is interested in The Summer Camps Trust. I have had a great life and enjoyed every minute. My warmest thanks to St. George's and to all the lovely young people I met through the school.

(christopher_michael_green@yahoo.co.uk)



Old Georgians

Cecil Grant

He chose the StG's buildings as they included a chapel, and in 1907 he moved 57 staff and students from Cumbria to the leafy small town in Hertfordshire. Cecil was a pioneer, someone who thought outside the box; was willing to take a different path to others; and in his own small way was willing to challenge the social norms of the day. He was passionate about supporting what we deemed to be important elements of British life such as patriotic service. I cannot imagine what it would have been like to have supported those members of the school community who fought and gave their lives in WW1. The conversation he must have dreaded most was telling the then Head Girl that her beau had been killed in action. But he was also willing to challenge areas of the social norm which he felt did not serve his students well.

I do not think we can underestimate how radical the idea of children from the same family being able to be schooled together really was. He served our school well, only retiring in 1936 to look after his beloved wife. His retirement property overlooked the playing fields and he remained committed to us as an Institution even beyond his death, leaving a legacy in his will that enabled the birth of the Cecil Grant Founder's Trust - an organisation that many of you still contribute to today.

Despite having a wobbly track record at times, 117 years later his school is still standing and I would hope that if he is looking down on us still he would be able to recognise some of those fundamental values, that he held so dear, alive and kicking within our community.



ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, HARPENDEN.

G. 8889

Old Georgian News



Old Georgians Maddie Robertson & Sam Mottram were married on the 10th August in the Chapel. Maddie's bridesmaids are also all OG's!



Old Georgian News



Old Georgian Tom Beecham married Sarah Hall in the Chapel on the 10th August 2024. We wish them every happiness in their life together.



Old Georgian News

Medicine and Oxbridge talks

It was a pleasure to welcome back four Old Georgians to give inspiring and informative talks to Y11-13 students. Thanks so much to Glen, Fola, Isla, Ruby and Maddie for providing such superb guidance. It was a particular highlight to see so many of our wonderful Year 11s in attendance for the Oxbridge talk.



Georgians make it onto the new town mural!

A vibrantly painted wall mural was unveiled on Thursday 22nd August in Harpenden's railway station pedestrian tunnel in Station Road. It features key people and events in the town's history and it looks stunning.

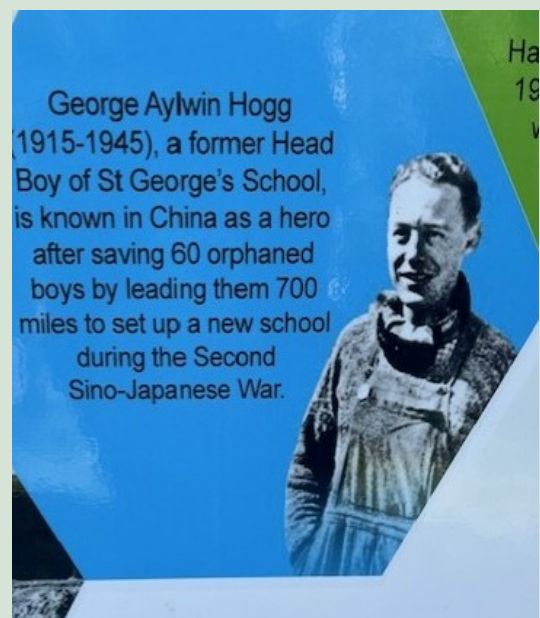


Teenage Olympic star Phoebe Gill have the mural the thumbs up. (Image: Hertfordshire County Council)

As well as our Olympian 800m runner, Phoebe Gill (above), who shone at the Paris 2024 Olympics despite being just 17, other notable OGs featured on the mural include England Rugby's former captain Owen Farrell along with George Ford and Maro Itoje.

Old Georgian News

Georgians make it onto the new town mural!



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



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

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

