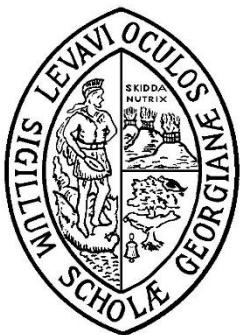


Old Georgian News



St George's School

The Old Georgians Association



December 2025

Old Georgian News

Welcome from the Head

Andy Ford

Georgian Newsletter December 2025

The end of term has arrived quickly, bringing to a close a remarkably busy and brilliant few months. Alongside the core business of teaching and learning, mock examinations and UCAS applications, the life of the school has been enriched by lots of trips, activities and fixtures. Grant House took an early lead in the Endeavour Cup following their success in the House Music Competition, which once again proved to be a highlight at the end of the last half term. *Fame the Musical* was a brilliant whole school production and the school marked a moving Remembrance commemoration on the MUGA in November.

We remain very proud of all that takes place at St George's, including the strength and distinctiveness of our school. It was therefore particularly pleasing to welcome *The Good Schools Guide* to the school this term, and to see their visit result in such a great review. They end their review saying:

“You can’t go wrong with any of Harpenden’s state schools – and they all have a distinct offering. This is the ‘traditional one’, with its old-world buildings, tweed blazers, rugby, boarding and chapel all contributing to the more serious, heritage feel. Academically top of the pile too. Families couldn’t be prouder of St George’s if they tried.”

As the term draws to a close, we have also enjoyed many of our much-loved traditions. The Junior Carol Service showcased the talents of our younger musicians, while the Senior Carols last Sunday, led by the Senior and Chamber Choirs, was a beautiful and uplifting service. We were especially delighted to welcome more than 150 people to the OG Carol Service; it was a pleasure to reconnect and to see this event continue to grow year on year. The singing of *Assurgit Skidda* at the close was full of spirit.

We now look ahead to the Christmas break, as pupils and staff disperse for a well-earned rest. On behalf of the school, I wish you and your families a happy, restful and peaceful Christmas.

Kind Regards

Andy Ford
Headteacher

Old Georgian News

Development Office Updates

Save the Date

Giving Day 12th February 2026 – Help us Raise Funds to Refurbish the Assembly Hall

Super Saturday 21st March 2026 – Join us for a morning of Lacrosse & Rugby

Founders Weekend – 27th & 28th June 2026 – More details to follow

It was heartwarming to see such a large crowd of OG's at the annual carol service on Saturday. Being welcomed back into our candle lit chapel reminds us that we are all part of the history of our brilliant school, however small a part we may have played. The chapel really is the beating heart of our school. I'm always struck when students who moaned about chapel attendance whilst at school reflect that it is often the place they miss most. When the busyness of work takes over from the rhythms of school life often that time in the day to sit and reflect is lost. It was marvellous to see it looking radiant on Saturday and filled with such vibrant worship.

I often reflect that Christmas is a time to reflect on family. In our modern world families come in all shapes, sizes and designs. But whatever form yours takes there will always be some common bond that binds you together, and it is the same with our school family. We may come from different generations and have inhabited the school in different times, but whenever we get together we are reminded that there is a distinct 'Georgian' bond which enables us to understand and love each other's stories and experiences. It was great to see some new faces back at school on Saturday as well as some who are now more familiar.

On Saturday we came to reflect on that Christmas story, a child born in a stable; a series of visitors both of humble and of not so humble origins, but all welcome, a joyous mother and both a earthly and Heavenly Father. An event which promised peace, joy and forgiveness. Let's pray that in our hurting world those messages shine through again this Christmas time.

I hope that your own Christmas offers a time for reflection; some fun; some great food and a dose of peace, joy and forgiveness.

With warmest greetings at this Christmas time,
Helen Barton
President of Georgian Association

Last chance to collect your exam certificates!

The Exams Office has been storing uncollected GCSE and A Level certificates from previous years for some time and are planning a clear out. According to JCQ regulations, we are not obligated to store certificates beyond 1 year after they have been issued. If you or your child did not collect your certificates, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange collection, or we can post it to you for a fee. Our email is examsoffice@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk. You can find further details on the [school website](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

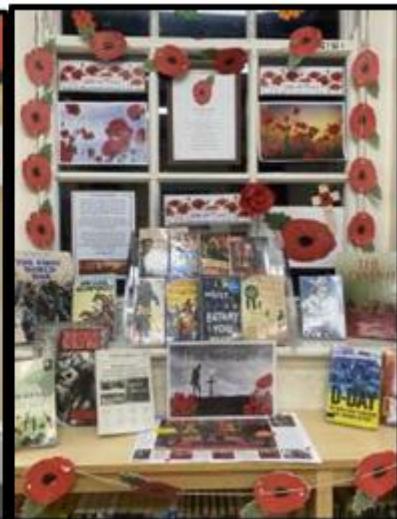
Old Georgian News

St George's News

Images from Remembrance Day



□



St George's News

From Big Apple to Capitol Gains!



Written by Zoe B (Y13): The USA Politics, Economics and Business trip was an unforgettable experience: full of learning, memorable experiences and lots and lots of walking!

In New York, we toured around the United Nations building, where we gained insight into the inner workings of global politics, followed by a walking tour of Wall Street. We also took in many of the city's famous sights, including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Grand Central Station, cycling around Central Park, and a visit to the Top of the Rock's observation decks. Additionally, we observed a poignant visit to the 9/11 memorial museum and walked over Brooklyn Bridge with breath-taking views. We were lucky to enjoy several memorable trips, such as a visit to Macy's, time in Little Italy and an incredible night watching 'Six' on Broadway.

After New York, we travelled through Philadelphia to reach Washington DC, where we saw iconic American landmarks, including the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. We also had the opportunity to visit the White House, the Capitol and the Supreme Court which all brought to life our studies of the US government.

We were also fortunate to have a question-and-answer session with political journalists working within the US, bringing to life the reality of American politics and journalism, and to celebrate a few birthdays in a truly memorable fashion. We finished the trip with a visit to Georgetown.

It was fantastic and illuminating to see and visit so many landmarks and institutions that we study as part of our courses. A massive thank you to Mr Reynolds and Mr Ellis for organising the trip, and to Mr Day and Mrs Potter for making it possible - their coordination and enthusiasm made it an incredible experience.

St George's News

Rugby Friday Nights Light Up

On Friday 14th November 2025, St George's 1st XV came out with a mission – to break the 13-year cycle of not securing a victory over St Albans School (SAS) in what has become *the* local school rugby derby. It was a wild night under the floodlights, bringing together a combination of rain, momentous support for both sides (plus a band!) and some tense and electrifying rugby.

Albert NK described the match: "It was a 'brutal' first half. The match kicked off at full pace, with huge tackles from both sides and whilst St George's looked more dominant physically, punching holes in the SAS line and controlling territory early on, but ill-discipline cost them valuable points. Two penalties in dangerous areas suddenly handed them the lead by 14 points. Soaked and punished for errors, St George's heads could have dropped. They didn't. Instead, St George's spotted space, made a clean line break, chipped ahead, and won the foot race to touch down followed by a secure conversion for a halftime score of 14-7.

Whilst the second half saw St George's put on a tireless onslaught of attack, the points just wouldn't come. Then in the final minutes of the match, St George's gave their all, breaking through the SAS defence to score and convert and bring the score line to 17-14. The atmosphere was alive with cheers of support to drive the St George's boy's momentum. And it worked. A penalty came moments later securing a draw... but a draw against St Albans wasn't what St George's had trained for. With a penalty advantage, a high cross field kick was launched and plucked from the sky to be taken over the try line and see St George's 1st XV break the cycle and win the match 19-17".

This was an evening to remember, particularly for parents who have been at the school for many years watching their boys play rugby in St George's colours and a moment to celebrate the sporting effort, resilience, and determination of the school. The support from fellow students (from both schools), ex-students, the teachers and parents and siblings, was an example of how St George's is not just a school, but a community.



St George's News

Year 13 visit to the British Film Institute

Nana (y13) writes: On Wednesday 12th November, we visited the British Film Institute in London for an A-Level French film study day alongside students from other schools. The day began with an engaging introduction to *La Nouvelle Vague*, followed by an interactive workshop exploring a range of film-making techniques and genres. It was an insightful experience that encouraged us to share our ideas while learning from one another. We viewed excerpts from several films and took notes in a workbook provided for us, giving us useful material to take back to school.

After a refreshing lunch break in the city, we watched *La Haine*, the film we are currently studying. Seeing it on the big screen added a new level of intensity and helped us appreciate its themes in greater depth. It was a rewarding and inspiring trip that strengthened both our understanding of French cinema and our enthusiasm for the subject.



School Hits the High Notes of Fame

The school production of *Fame* was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the incredible talent of students from Years 7 to 13. From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was swept into a whirlwind of 1980s energy, passion, and creativity that perfectly captured the spirit of the iconic musical.

The cast delivered outstanding performances, with each student bringing their own flair to the stage. Younger pupils impressed with their enthusiasm and confidence, while older students demonstrated maturity and professionalism that rivalled seasoned performers. Together, they created a dynamic ensemble that kept the audience engaged throughout.

The music was a highlight of the evening. The live band provided a powerful soundtrack, and the singers delivered every number with precision and emotion. From upbeat ensemble pieces to heartfelt solos, the musical score was executed with skill and flair, leaving the audience humming long after the final bow.

Equally impressive were the choreography and staging with our students operating sound and lighting adding depth and atmosphere to the performance.

This production of *Fame* was a true celebration of student talent, inclusion and teamwork. The students on stage looked like they were having a blast!

A massive thanks and well done to Mr Wallace, Miss Crosby-Carter, Ms Humphrey, Mr Burrett, Mis Linsell, Miss Ashwell and all the helpers on the Fame Team.



Old Georgian News



OG Will Forrester

Will leads on English PEN's literature programmes, having previously run translation and international literature work.

Elsewhere, he is a Director of Untold Narratives CIC, an Independent Expert for Creative Europe, and a judge for the 2024 US National Translation Award. He also judged the 2023 TA First Translation Prize, and was a 2022 Clore Emerging Leader and 2023 *Bookseller* Rising Star.

He edited *All Walls Collapse: Stories of Separation* in 2022, led the editorial team for *My Pen Is the Wing of a Bird: New Fiction by Afghan Women*, and his own writing has appeared in *the Guardian*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *London Magazine* and elsewhere.

Scrum-believable Scenes at St George's!



St George's Sports Hall was transformed into a fortress of rugby greatness as Saracens took the place over at half-term and we welcomed back with great pride, OG's Owen Farrell and Maro Itoje. The poor rain was our gain when the local rugby club were looking for a large sports hall to train for the match against Northampton. The team kindly donated a signed shirt that the PSA will be auctioning at the Christmas Ball!

Maro, who was a boarder at the school, also met up with Mr Pickard who provided him with a tour of the boarding house. Owen and Maro chatted with staff about when they were at St George's and how long it has been since they have been back. We hope it won't be long until they visit us again.

Old Georgian News

Class of 75 Reunion – 19th July 2025

On Saturday 19th July 2025 the culmination of nearly a year's work brought 48 Georgians who left the school exactly 50 years previously back to the Dining Room for a reunion. That was 46 pupils and 2 members of staff.

In what turned out to be the hottest year on record and in the middle of a heatwave this was the day that had torrential rain from 10am in the morning. So our plans to have a reception in the Grant Quad and a leisurely barbecue had to be hastily re-arranged and brought indoors to the dining room. The lettings team prepared the room with tables and chairs decorated in St. George's colours.



A three-person team, Bettine van Beek, Chris Dorling and Kevin Parsons were the organisers of the event. Chris had spent innumerable hours researching, emailing and messaging people to try and build up a list of the year group. He was so successful that out of a year of three forms of entry (approx. 90 to start with) he was able to get details for 97 Georgians who had, at some point, been part of our year either as a pupil or member of staff.



At the reception the current Headteacher, Andy Ford came along to mingle with the returnees and was able to get several insights into what life was like at St. George's in the mid-1970s.

We were also very fortunate to have Russell Tucker the School's Archivist help us by providing artefacts and a display of items from the 1970s from the School's

archives. We were able to look through these and it sparked several memories that we hadn't thought about for years.

Old Georgian News



Following a barbecue lunch we were lucky that the pouring rain stopped, the sun came out and as a result a group photo was possible.

After that Kevin Parsons led the group on a tour of the outside of the School Campus. A few of the attendees had not walked the grounds for 50 years, so there was a lot of reminiscing as to how the site looked back in July 1975.



After all the eating and the walking tour we had organised a visit to a local pub and 29 of us went down to the Amble Inn in Station Road for the opportunity to chat some more over a few rounds of drinks. Unfortunately, the weather turned somewhat inclement again so there was a bit of dashing in and out of the rain.

Old Georgian News

The following day a further event was organised at the Queen's Head in Southdown Road so that those with the most stamina could enjoy lunch together. There were 26 who arrived at 1:00pm to carry on chatting and even more eating...



....and stamina was certainly shown as the last of us departed at 7:00pm that evening.

It was a very successful event and we hope will spur us on to meet up a little more frequently than we have done over the last 50 years!

Chris Dorling, Bettine van Beek and Kevin Parsons

Old Georgian News

Robin Daly, OG 1966

Yes to Life: positivity and purpose from personal tragedy

Robin Daly left St George's in 1966 going on to be a founding partner in two very different businesses – the first creating custom-built joinery and furniture in the West Country, and the second delivering a range of IT Services across London and beyond – before founding the UK charity Yes to Life.

He married in 1973, moving first to Edinburgh and then to South Devon, where he and Nancy settled and brought up three daughters. They were deeply embedded in the South Hams rural community when the family was dealt a shattering blow that was eventually to change Robin's life trajectory irrevocably. Aged only nine, their youngest daughter, Bryony, developed a rare and highly aggressive muscle tumour in her calf following an accident, and, when finally diagnosed, was rushed to Bristol Children's Hospital the following day as an emergency (a fuller account of her story can be found here - <https://yestolife.org.uk/our-inspiration>). A year of intensive treatment ensued, involving extended periods in Bristol, and physical challenges that almost sapped Bryony of the will to live. She came through however, although with a severely damaged leg which was eventually amputated three years later, when she was diagnosed with bone cancer in her leg, a result of radiotherapy treatment.

This second diagnosis necessitated a further six months 'treatment, but with that completed and a high-tech prosthesis fitted, ten years of relatively normal life ensued. But this was to end abruptly in a third diagnosis – another radiotherapy-induced bone tumour – in her knee. This was diagnosed very late and treatment was unsuccessful, leading to her tragic death, aged only twenty-three.

Bryony's initial diagnosis was in the early 1990s before the internet had arrived, so despite being a family naturally interested in looking 'outside the box' in matters of health, resources were hard to come by. By the time of her third diagnosis, the internet was in full flow, and the problem had changed from dearth of information to overwhelm. Robin went in search of ways to help Bryony and came up against the vast difficulties the internet can present: distinguishing between genuinely useful information and worthless or even deliberately deceptive content; finding information that is directly relevant to a specific condition; finding resources that are within reach geographically and financially; and so on. It's not that there isn't genuinely useful information to be found, but it can be extremely hard to come by.

For all the resources and expertise that our NHS has to offer, there are still massive gaps in care, and Robin's family experienced these in a multitude of ways throughout this time. He will say that these gaps are primarily a cultural issue, rather than a question of resources as is often cited. One of the most obvious examples of this is the continuing failure to embrace the huge raft of lifestyle and complementary medicine resources that Robin found are available to improve the lot of those going through cancer and cancer treatment. Despite the ever-growing numbers being diagnosed, and the very low treatment success rates in the UK, it is being left to patients to do their own research and to fund additional approaches to improve their quality of life and treatment outcome.

Old Georgian News

Fresh from his firsthand experience of the unmet needs of many with cancer and the difficulties they could face finding relevant and genuinely useful resources to help meet those needs, Robin set out to build a charity focused on providing just this type of support, a trustworthy and centralised source of information and signposting.

Twenty years later, Yes to Life is celebrating its anniversary and has developed to become the leading UK resource for what is termed 'integrative cancer care – 'the judicious combining of conventional medicine with lifestyle and complementary approaches. Over these two decades attitudes have begun to change, and the message of the charity is starting to be welcomed not only within a rapidly growing proportion of patients, but also within medical circles.

As well as chairing the Board of Trustees and representing the charity in the media, Robin regularly engages in fundraising challenges and he is currently training for a 230k mountain walk along the Winter Way of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. You can sponsor him here: www.justgiving.com/campaign/holdmywalkingstickchallenge.

For his work supporting those with cancer, Robin was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours this January.



Robin receiving his MBE



Robin & Trustees of Yes to Life 20th Anniversary Gala

Find out more about Yes to Life at yestolife.org.uk.

Read Robin's response to receiving an MBE at yestolife.org.uk/thoughts-on-receiving-an-mbe

Listen to the weekly Yes to Life Show, hosted by Robin at yestolife.org.uk/radio-shows/

Old Georgian News



Jonathan Hartfield return to the school with his son Michael Hartfield on a trip to the UK from New Zealand.

OG Alison Langer

Please see the link below to a R4 programme aired in September in Verdi's La Traviata which features OG Alison Langer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002ht1f?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>

Old Georgian News

Beyond the School Gate

Karen Ariss



Enjoying the glorious sunshine of Essaouira Morocco having completed roof top yoga at sunrise, followed by a fabulous breakfast a small group of us head down to the beach for a dip in the ocean. Conversation is light and we chat about our past occupations and where we lived before moving to Norfolk. A member of the group says something that catches my interest, “where did you live?” I ask, “Harpden” is her reply, “What school did you go to?” I feel I know what’s coming, “St Georges”.

Since retiring from teaching three and half years ago life has changed exponentially. We relocated to Norfolk, bought a house which was a project and still is, made lots of new friends and started new interests. I joined the local fitness center and am there most days participating in a range of classes, something I never had time for when working full time and raising a family. I practice yoga twice a week and our yoga teacher runs a retreat three times a year. Something I have wanted to go on for years so I leapt at the chance. Funny how St Georges catches up with you even on a yoga retreat in an African country. It’s not the first time either.

I am also a member of dog walking group, not so long ago in the middle of Sheringham Park I chatted away with a new member, who had moved up from Redbourn. She knew St Georges very well and also two sisters whom I had taught. It was thrilling hearing how the girls were now doing and that one had just had a baby. She was able to show me photos of my old student with her new family, I was so delighted.

St Georges is never far from my thoughts as I have also been doing online tuition, some students are from St Georges and I love to hear about house events (especially Monk), and recent school trips they have been on. So even though I have not had the opportunity to visit the school since I have left I am still there throughout the school year in spirit.

Since retiring travel too has been high on our agenda, making the most of being able to get away at any time of the year has been wonderful. We have lots of plans for the future for visiting places we haven’t yet seen and you never know who you might meet in a faraway land...an old Georgian perhaps.



Old Georgian News

Obituaries

Gill Ingram

It is with much sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Gill Ingram. Gill was a loyal servant to St George's, the school at which her 3 children attended. Over a number of years, she was a member of the Governing body and later served as a Director on the Foundation Company

Amelia Freedman

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the death of Amelia Freedman, creator and guiding light of the Nash Ensemble for more than sixty years.

She was educated at St George's School, Harpenden, where she knew Graham Pauncefort, who later founded the CRD label that provided the Nash with their first recordings, and the Henrietta Barnett School in north London. Having passed her music exams, she studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where she became involved in arranging concerts and appeared as a backing singer on *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), the Beatles' comedy film."

Amelia's old friend the late Harrison Birtwistle once wrote: "Michael Tippett used to say that the world was divided between those on the side of the angels and those that were not. In the case of Amelia Freedman and the Nash Ensemble there is no question that they stand well over the line of good and are blessed with wings of gold... without question the Nash is a leading contender for top of the league, unique in its dedication to the old and the new."

We are delighted that Amelia gave her blessing for the group to continue under the artistic directorship of Nash Ensemble members Simon Crawford-Phillips and Adrian Brendel.

Amelia dedicated her life to music, her beloved late husband Michael Miller and her children, Andrew, Robert and Emma. She had one other great passion: Arsenal FC.

Michael Slowe

In July Michael Slowe sadly passed away at the age of 90 years old, he very much enjoyed his time at St George's many decades ago and will be greatly missed by his family.

Elizabeth Wakely (nee Aynsley Smith)

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Liz (as she was known throughout her school years), joined St George's Lower School at the age of seven. She was the daughter of the then Deputy Head and Art Teacher Philip Aynsley Smith.

From the very beginning of her school life Liz shone academically. Her ability to grasp the understanding of any project or problem was outstanding. Liz worked hard and the high standards that she set herself were always maintained.

Old Georgian News

Liz left St George's in 1960, having remained a short while after her peer group to study for Oxbridge Entrance. During this time Liz was a very competent Head Girl.

Following her school career Liz obtained a place at New Hall (now Murray Edwards) College, Cambridge University to read History. Her first employment was in Black Rod's Office, this was followed by a short spell at home caring for her young family. Perhaps it was her time at St Georges that prompted her to turn to teaching as a career. Liz spent many happy years teaching eventually becoming Head of History at the prestigious James Allen's School in South London.

Liz is sorely missed by those that were close to her at school, her fierce intellect and outrageous sense of humour offered so much.

Janet Stott (nee Potter) Val Gaubert (nee Lockyer)

Janice Hulatt

We were sad to hear the passing of Janice Hulatt who worked for the school for 25 years and retired in 2021. She worked in our catering team and especially down in the sixth-form café, which for many years was named after her because of the commitment she had to the sixth form students who loved her dearly.

Janice will remain a legend in the St George's community and will be missed by all who knew and appreciated her.



Old Georgian News

Feedback from OGs

I still enjoy the OG newsletter after so many years, and I very much appreciate all the work that goes into it. My younger brother now deceased was also an OG.

It's also gratifying to see that the school continues to thrive and produce such well-educated pupils.

With very best wishes

Ray Hargreaves



NEW YEAR NEW YOU!

Start your 2026 fitness journey at

 **ST GEORGE'S GYM**

OUR PRICES

Monthly Membership: £26.25

Joint Membership: £39.00

Pay As You Go: £6.00

Discounts for St George's Students & U18

OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday 5pm-10pm

Saturday 9am-5:30pm

Sunday 9am-10pm



St George's Sports Centre, Sun Ln,
Harpden AL5 4TD



Old Georgian News

Make a Donation

We are regularly asked how OGs can contribute into and support and help maintain the work and vision of St George's. To help you make your donation to an appropriate fund we have provided the information below.

Please consider making a gift today and help us continue to provide an outstanding educational experience.

Thank you for your continued dedication to St George's School.

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,
Harpden,
HERTS,
AL5 4TD Tel 01582 716288

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

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

By making a donation via this route you will be supporting the general work of the school and particular projects they are working towards.

Legacy Programme

St. George's is a dynamic place, and throughout its long and distinguished history, it has valued its traditions. It has also adapted to the evolving needs of its pupils and staff. As a valued member of our community, you will appreciate the significant impact of generous contributions made to the school and the difference they have made. Whether your connection to St. George's is through your children, as a former pupil, or another meaningful link, you will understand what a truly special place it is.

The collective support of past and present generations has enabled us to achieve a great deal. For example, it has funded buildings, computers, sporting facilities and equipment. Every aspect of school life has benefited from such generosity, and we now ask you to continue this vital tradition.

No matter the size, a legacy gift in your will ensures that St. George's will continue to thrive.

In addition to the tax-free nature of the donation, charitable gifts can reduce the amount of tax payable on the remainder of the estate.

For further information, please email development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Old Georgian News

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL HARPENDEN

www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/Georgians—Harpenden

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