

THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2015



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Georgians Autumn Reunion Agenda

On Saturday 12th December 2015

Lacross Vs School Team

From approximately 2.00 PM a Team of Old Girls will play the current School Team!

TEA & CAKES will be served from 2.30pm-3.30pm

Christmas Carol Concert

From 3.30PM in the Chapel for all ages followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

The Committee would like to hear from any Georgians with suggestions for other reunion events that they might like to attend whether on site at the School or off site. The increase in social media means that a lot of Georgians are in regular touch with each other and so may not feel the need to return to the School; however it's always nice to see old faces.

We hope to see many of you stay after the across and attend the Carol Concert!

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Chairman's Update

Welcome to the 2015 Autumn Georgian Association newsletter.

I am once again delighted to be re-elected as the Georgian Association Chairman in September and am really looking forward to our this years earlier Carol service and an excellent Lax match where I hope to see many of you.

The Archive project is making progress, with a new opportunity to share the school's history using the Internet being worked on – more about this later in the newsletter.

June saw a new format for Georgian Association members – by combining the resources and activities of the school PTA fete, we were aiming to integrate more traditional association activities into the same day to provide entertainment for all comers.

Sadly, after many hours planning and an early start getting everything ready on the day, the heavens opened and despite true Georgian high spirits meant we were forced to cancel our cricket match, and fete goers were few.

As ever, there was an excellent choral workshop and evening performance, and I was lucky enough to meet some new faces at the BBQ in the evening and take stock of how we could make the combined Founders and benefactor's weekend of greater appeal.

More details will follow, but please save the date for the Weekend of 10th, 11th and 12th June 2016.

On Saturday 19th December, the school will once again take on the might of the Georgian Association Lacrosse team. The school team will be looking for revenge this year after a sound thrashing in 2014.

Traditionally Carol services were held in the mid-afternoon, and to encourage more people to attend, we will be starting the Carol service at 3.30, followed by refreshments from 4.30pm. This revised start time will give the Lacrosse players and supporters some time to recover from their match before taking part in some hearty singing to warm them up!

Enjoy the rest of this newsletter, and look forward to seeing many of you in December.

Dan Hitchen
Chairman
Georgian Association

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President's Letter

Dear Georgians,

The Editor is breathing down my neck again – who would be an editor with such a bunch of reluctant contributors!

I closed my last letter with an appeal to you all to help by sending in reminiscences and news of your doings that will show what an eclectic and diverse group of people Old Georgians are. This was demonstrated yet again when Dilys and I attended the Senior Prizegiving and Speech Day recently. The lists of further education courses that were announced as the prizes were given out was impressive in its diversity.

The prizes were presented by Prof. Ruth Newbury-Ecob, an Old Georgian and Consultant Geneticist at Bristol University Hospital. She spoke about the need and the opportunities, particularly for girls, to take up the so-called STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). A recent survey found that boys are five times more likely than girls to be engineers. This is despite evidence that many girls enjoy science at school.

As an engineer myself this is a subject close to my heart. There is a national shortage of qualified engineers and it is getting worse. There are grand schemes to build the infrastructure that the country badly needs but there is also a severe shortage of people to do it. This is only going to get worse as time goes by and the population increases. It also means that salaries are likely to be affected by the shortage – not necessarily a bad thing!

Speaking from my own experience, the challenges that arise in a civil engineering career, especially if you can manage to get abroad for some of it, are always new and exciting. You never meet the same problem twice and all give a great sense of achievement when solved. I spent some twelve years working overseas and wouldn't have missed any of it for anything. The satisfaction of actually building something from scratch in a place where nothing in the way of infrastructure exists has to be experienced to be believed. I must admit, though, that the opportunities for doing this are diminishing as time goes by and the wilder places get developed. Initially I tried an office job with consulting engineers designing structures for two years, but then joined a contractor as I wanted to be the one who actually built whatever the project was, not just designed it. I never regretted the move and can only recommend the experience, now having lived and worked in countries as varied as Nigeria, Argentina and Hong Kong.

There is no area of our lives that isn't affected by science. There is a STEM subject and career out there for everyone, whether you are analytical or creative. It is important that we support today's young people, nurturing their curiosity and encouraging them to pursue their interests and help find the right one for them. In the future they can embark on fulfilling and exciting careers and help shape the world around them. It's up to you as parents and grandparents to supply that guidance.

May I offer you my best wishes and hope that we may meet at the Reunion in December.

Ian Hemmin
53 Tuffnells Way, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3HA
Tel: 01582-760117

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News from the Founders & Benefactor's Weekend Held on 13-14th June 2015

Well, what a busy but wonderful weekend it was for us at the school.

Rain may have stopped play for the Georgians cricket match but it certainly didn't stop the fun continuing.

On the Saturday afternoon whilst the PSA Fete and Cecil Grant Dog Show were in full swing, Georgians from the Choral Society were busy rehearsing for their evening concert, whilst others enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat in the Georgians marquee.

Following the concert, the evening BBQ gave Georgians an opportunity to take a breather and enjoy catching up on old times.

There was a wonderful Founders Service on the Sunday morning followed by tea & cakes and the Georgians AGM.

These are a few of the pictures taken over the weekend. [Click here](#) to view more on the school Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Pamela Bainbridge & Lorraine Kyriacou
Development Office



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Georgian Reunion Choral Workshop 2015

The Choral Workshop at this year's Reunion, although again missing some regulars - "*save the date, 10/12 June 2016*"! (see below)* was again successful and much enjoyed by all.

The Workshop was directed by Russell Tucker with Matthew Harrison as accompanist, to whom a big "thank you" for their efforts and expertise.

The principal works performed were:

George Frederick Handel: The Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah

Samuel Sebastian Wesley: Blessed be the God & Father

Charles Villiers Stanford: Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in C major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Movements from the Requiem

Handel's Hallelujah Chorus was programmed as it was also to be the anthem at Sunday morning's

Thanksgiving Service. It went well on both occasions, but being especially memorable with a rousing rendition on the Sunday morning. It was good to have the Headmaster singing with us.

Stanford's C major setting of the Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis, being largely unknown to many of the singers, was given a lot of attention, and really came good in performance, which was especially rewarding for us all.

The Wesley and the Mozart were well-known to most of the singers, so we were again able to produce decent performances.

The Saturday afternoon was wet, but many more turned up for the Concert than had been the case in recent years and were appreciative of the performances. This augurs well for the decision to bring the Reunion forward to mid-June to coincide with the new Founder's Day. Despite the almost continuous rain, there were many more folk attending, so next year's event, on 10-12 June 2016* will be similar, with the PSA holding their Fete on the Saturday afternoon, and the cricket, hopefully, taking place as usual. Given fine weather, there should be many more people around which should help all the activities.

Our thanks go to Pam Bainbridge and Lorraine Kyriacou in the school office, Doug Hose, the assistant bursar, the duty caretakers, and lastly, but by no means least, to Rosie Horne (Briggs) and Alf Peck (Waterfall) for again being the ultra-efficient Harpenden "go-fors"!

In spite of the wet weather, we again enjoyed great fellowship, super music-making; and all for £25. What more could one reasonably ask? See you next June!

Graham Pauncefort OG (1949-1958)

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“Never work with Children or Animals”

That’s what they say. Well, we at Cecil Grant decided to fly in the face of this advice. At the Founder’s Day celebrations on 13th June in celebration of our £2million milestone we held the first ever “SCRUFFTS!” Cecil Grant Fun Dog Show. It was miserable rainy weather but St George’s families and their 4-legged friends came out in force!

Categories were:

- x Obedience/Best Trick
- x Waggiest Tail
- x Dog the Headmaster would most like to take home
- x Dog that looks most like its owner

We were delighted with the interest on the day and had 27 furry competitors. The Headmaster (a dog lover and owner of 2 dogs himself, which were banned from entering) did a sterling job meeting the dogs and judging their tricks which ranged from singing the national anthem to a biscuit on the nose for 10 seconds!

We knew these things can get competitive. Mr Storrie had been telling anyone that would listen that his dog was hot favourite. But we did not expect that someone would actually dress up as a Labrador to win the “Dog that looks most like its owner” category!

Anyway, it was great fun and we are already planning another doggie event next year.

Niki Kirby

Georgian (1980 – 87) and Chair of Cecil Grant Founder’s Trust

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News from the School

HEADMASTER'S REVIEW

The 2014-15 academic year certainly got off to a notable start with an Inspection by Ofsted in the second week of term. Following a rigorous two day inspection by a team of five inspectors, St George's was judged to be outstanding in 'Overall Quality of Provision' and in all the individual categories. The staff and students are to be commended for this achievement as it is their hard work and dedication on a daily basis that has been recognised and acknowledged in the Ofsted report.

St George's continues to perform exceptionally well in every field of endeavour. Academically the school's performance at A Level and GCSE continues to be very strong. As you will be able to see from our results, later in this report, St George's students continue to perform very strongly, placing the School's academic performance in the top 5-10% of schools nationally. This makes St George's performance the envy of many independent and selective (or partially selective) grammar schools. St George's is of course entirely non-selective in the Lower School intake and in the Sixth Form we will accept students on to A Level courses with lower grades than many of the local schools. This is clearly an indication that our approach works well and that as a result students make great progress and achieve well.

Education is not just about academic progress. As this report and the weekly E-newsletter bear testament, this year has been full of a rich, diverse and fun range of opportunities for everyone and our performance in other areas continue to be outstanding.

For the 4th year in a row, St George's has won the District Athletics Championship. We have a number of students participating at County level in a range of sports, National representations in athletics, diving and judo and some pupils also competing internationally in lacrosse, show jumping, judo and racquet sports.

St George's recently became affiliated to the Arkwright Scholarship Scheme and the first two students to apply were successful in their applications. This offers an additional and exciting opportunity not only to the scholars but also to their fellow students who will benefit from their experience.

During the course of the year we received a letter from Minister of State for Schools, Rt. Hon. David Lawes MP congratulating us on our academic achievement, which placed us in the top 100 of non-selective state funded schools in England and informing us that we had won £5,000 in the Key Stage 4 Category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2015 as a result of the progress achieved with the students in receipt of pupil progress.

Minister of State for School reform, Nick Gibb MP also wrote to congratulate the school on the percentage of students attaining the English Baccalaureate. Whilst this is not a key performance indicator for the school, it is gratifying that our achievement in this is recognised and acknowledged by ministers.

We had another successful year in the Dragons Apprentice competition and the four teams raised approximately £3,000 for local charities. This year one of our teams won a prize for 'most innovative idea'.

St George's won the Harpenden in Bloom Competition for Best Secondary School for the 7th year running.

House events such as House music, cross country, improvised drama, photography, chess, art, sailing and cookery took place. Other notable events in school have included the school play 'Scrooge', lower school production of Grimm Tales and the Senior Prefects Week of Fun, including me dressing up in green tights and appearing as Peter Pan.

As part of our overseas collaboration, three teams of 16 students visited Bolivia. They completed a week of project work in the country, two teams built green houses in remote village communities high on the Altiplano plain and the third team designed and delivered teaching and craft activities to street children in La Paz.

The PSA continue to contribute in so many ways to the school and we are fortunate indeed to benefit from such excellent parental support. Over £25,000 was raised and events included the Christmas Fayre, Dinner Dance, Burns Night Supper, Wine Tasting and the Summer Fete, a joint event this year with Cecil Grant Founder's Trust and The Georgian Association, for our inaugural Founders and Benefactors Day. All of which will ensure we can continue to improve our school facilities and provide resources for students that we otherwise would not be able to afford, particularly given the diminishing resources we receive from government. You will see details of projects undertaken throughout the year later in the report.

The installation of a wireless network in the Goddard block has meant that the systems are now installed and we look forward to making use of them with the purchase of departmental iPads and other devices requiring wireless network access able to now go ahead for use within Mandarin and general MFL lessons. This also means that the school wide wireless access is now near completion with provision in most areas of the schools. This gives staff, students and visitors safe and secure access to the school network and internet, making planning and delivery of teaching and learning more diverse and flexible, as well as enabling students to be more independent in their learning.

Beyond the day to day leadership and management of St George's, we continue to work in close collaboration with the Alban Federation; with two trainees, Miss Lauren Highfield and Mr Tom Bensley completing their Initial Teacher Training at St George's, with both achieving outstanding against the training standards. In our local area and consortium, work continues with Sir John Lawes, Roundwood Park, Rothamsted Research and Hertfordshire University on the application to open a fourth secondary school in Harpenden to provide for the increasing demand locally for secondary school places.

Our new school website is up and running; designed to make it much easier for us to integrate our school systems, making communication with parents easier and management more efficient, it is already proving to be more flexible as well as being more user and 'customer' friendly than our previous website.

This month I will end three years on the BSA (Boarding Schools Association) National Executive serving as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association. I will continue to be a member of the SBSA (State Boarding Schools Association) Management Committee, representing St George's interests in the association and the interests of boarding more widely through the association.

There are as always lots of challenges through the academic year and we are fortunate indeed to benefit from working with great kids, supportive and engaged parents and exceptional staff who work tirelessly to provide high quality education and vast range of opportunities for pupils to experience. It is to the staff that I would end with heartfelt thanks for all of their dedicated hard work and passion to continue to make St George's such a wonderful community.

Mr McGovern, Headmaster

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Great Curry Run Success

The school is very proud to announce that so far, counting gift aid and cash donations received and the Big Curry Day with the Parachute Regiment concert, the funds raised were £39,759.00.

Thank you to everyone who took part or sponsored the event; if you meant to join in or sponsor someone you can find them on www.justgiving.com/teams/greatcurryrun2015

ABF The Soldiers Charity have asked us to pass on to Georgians details of their Frontline Walk taking place from 7-11 October 2015 to commemorate the centenary of World War One.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.soldierscharity.org/events/event-item/ancestry.co.uk-frontline-walk>

Paddy Storrie, Deputy Head

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Georgian Association Archives

The project of digitizing the school's history has been progressing for over 4 years now, and despite best intentions we have hit several hurdles.

We are delighted that we are now able to utilize the Web Alumnus system to provide a secure login for Georgian Association members. It is our intention to provide the ability to view, download or order prints of images from the school's history eventually.

In addition, we will be able to provide historic documents for reference or research.

Since 1907, the archives has accumulated a lot of information – so much so that we are almost physically full. This highlighted the need to digitize this information - mainly photos and documents – and much of this has to date been scanned. Technology advances mean that most school activity since the mid 2000's is in an electronic form and can be easily added to the records.

The electronic documents we have will be further catalogued and made available – this may take a few weeks or even months – but looks very promising.

There is still a lot more to do, but with the new resources available in the association, our intention is be able to present you all with a wealth of history on line in the near future.

Dan Hitchen
Chairman - The Georgian Association

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School Review

Our pupils have achieved success in many sporting activities at District, County, National and even International level.

- x LAX South East Region Academy success selection for 2 pupils - U17s and 3 pupils U15s.
- x A Year 9 pupil who has been training with the Herts county hockey squad was selected to play for the final county team. He has also participated in a regional tournament.
- x Year 8 pupil signed for the Hornets, Watford FC.
- x 1st XV Captain in Year 13 joined the London Wasps Academy.
- x At the sailing regatta, the Commodore Shield for best individual performance by a Club Sailor was jointly awarded to 2 Year 10 pupils.
- x 2 Year 11 pupils and a Year 9 pupil all qualified for the National Athletics Finals which is an amazing accomplishment from within one school.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships

2 Year 11 were successful in their applications for support from the Trust during their A levels and to assist them pursue a potential career in Engineering & Technical Design.

Chemistry, Physics & Biology Olympiads

BIOLOGY—In this competition with 6000 entrants our pupils were awarded 2 Silver, 2 Bronze and a Commendation

CHEMISTRY— Thirteen pupils from Year 13 were brave enough to take on this challenge and were awarded 1 Gold, 6 Silver, 4 Copper and 2 Participation certificates

PHYSICS—Five Year 12 pupils were awarded 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze

Mathematics Challenge – Awards attained:

Seniors -15 Gold, 36 Silver & 57 Bronze

Intermediate—16 Gold, 34 Silver & 40 Bronze

Junior—14 Gold, 32 Silver & 27 Bronze

'Every Voice Counts'

A Year 8 pupil won a National Competition set up by the RFU in advance of the Rugby World Cup. He made a recording of himself singing Swing Low Sweet Chariot for 'Every Voice Counts'.

The Curry Day and Run for ABF 'The Soldier's Charity

Raised a phenomenal £39,759

£23,473 was donated to ABF, The Soldiers' Charity and £16,286 for this year's 'guest' charity, Médecins sans Frontières.

St George's is one of the largest single contributors to The Soldiers Charity.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

In 2014/15, 100% of the 135 pupils successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Every student who started the Bronze Award completed it. South East statistics overall show an average completion rate at 46%, so our pupils are dedicated, doing well and, of course, are exceptionally well supported by a hardworking and dedicated team of staff who give a massive amount of their own time in the evenings and at weekends to make this such a success! We are currently in first place for the South East region for participants and for completion rates.

The Gold Award is also on offer to those who have completed their Bronze award and are over the age of 16. The Gold Award will take up to two years to complete. 30 pupils in Year 13 are currently undertaking their Gold Award and are due to complete their expeditions this academic year. A further 30 pupils in Year 12 have now expressed an interest in undertaking the Gold Award which now means we have the largest number of Gold participants in the County.

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Correspondence & Achievements of Old Georgians

From Ray Hargreaves 1957

Having left St Georges in 1957, I took a brief job working for HC Janes builders working on construction sites, whilst waiting to join the Navy for my National Service. My father who was a Dentist in Luton didn't really approve of this career move since it involved driving through Luton on the back of a truck every day, whilst making comments to passersby.

On joining the Navy I soon qualified as a frogman (the romantic name for shallow water diver) or to girls I met on shore, the SW become shark wrestler! After serving on an aircraft carrier, and frigate I then undertook an 18 months commission on, HMS Gambia a second world war cruiser, to the East Indies.

Moving back into reality, after being demobed, I then took a job in printing at, ES and A Robinson's of Bristol, through the Public schools employment bureau. After a short spell in the mail room packing parcels, they had told me that is where Mr Robinson started. What they didn't tell me was, that Mr Robinson spent only a week in the department, whilst it could be a lifetime for me!

I then was moved to packaging in Gravesend, where the idea checking valve sizes on paper sacks for the rest of my life, didn't bear consideration! The only bright spot of this career move was that I dated Miss Gravesend!

It was then that I decided that the world of advertising was in great need of my input! From the telephone book wrote off to every major ad agency. I received one reply, and this was from a publisher looking for space salesman. I had no idea what a space salesman did, but moving from Gravesend to London was a big attraction. Thus began my career in publishing.

From this company Magazine Advertising, I moved to Fleet street working on Norfolk newspaper Group, and then to the BMA, working on the British Medical Journal and specialist journals of the BMA, this was the first taste of medical publishing which was to become my lifelong career. After the BMA I then moved to Thompson newspapers, where I became publisher of two trade papers, before moving back into Medical publishing with the Haymarket group, and my boss would be the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine. I will always remember his late night visits to our office to check on the orders we had for the next edition of GP a weekly newspaper.

I was then headhunted to become Managing Director of Update Publications, where I spent five years developing the company before it was bought by Reed Elsevier.

By then I had been contacted by an American company to take over the runner of the British edition of Medical News Tribune. From this base I set up companies in the Far East, and South Africa besides launching some 14 Medical journals and medical services in these countries. This was a time of great worldwide travel particularly as the Medical Tribune group now had offices in Japan China Hong Kong, Germany France Italy South Africa UK and the USA. After 13 years I was persuaded to transfer to NY to run the US operation together with my past responsibilities.

As with a lot of moves overseas, I was aware that moving so close to the owner, who notoriously had even fired members of his own family, would be difficult and demanding, this proved to be the case and we parted company rather acrimoniously, after 13 years, with a resultant case, that finished up the NY High court. I'm happy to say we won the case, but there were many stressful months before I decided to set up a Medical Communication in Bronxville NY.

This company launched the first Managed Care publication in America and this was the start of a company that provided both medical publications and services to American Pharmacists and Doctors, besides employing over 30 people. After 21 years the company was sold, and my wife and I retired. Whilst living in Bronxville I was shocked to enter an antique store to be met by a fellow OG Jenny Peake, who was then running the store! Small world

Whilst my family still lives in Luton and I remain a dedicated follower of the Hatters, I have also become a follower of the NY Rangers Ice hockey. I have no doubt that I will always follow the British teams in all the sports in spite of now being an US citizen.

Unfortunately I have only been able to visit one OG reunion, where I was able to meet up with several class mates and friends, including Anthony Evans, Dicky Stevens, Peter Sharp Anthony Hunter, Graham Pauncefort and several more some whom I'm afraid are now deceased, here I must include Mike Frost who was a loyal friend over the years and who died so suddenly a few weeks ago after a very short illness.

I now live with my wife and two Bichon Frizzes in NC, where our daughter also lives with three grandchildren a few minutes away. We are loving the change of environment

I'm sorry if this short piece appears to be self-promoting, and it has certainly left out some great stories and very stressful times we experienced as a family .But if nothing else I hope it shows that dedication and perseverance will pay off where ever you are. Please convey to any OG who may be traveling in this part of the world that I would welcome their contacting me

From Ray Hargreaves 1957

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From Richard Wilson 1938 to 1943

I HAVE JUST CELEBRATED MY 90TH BIRTHDAY AND HAD WONDERFUL TME WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

I DO NOT KNOW IF MICHAEL BOWELY WILL BE ATTENDING. IT WAS HE WHO FIRST CALLED ME GOOFY. (I WAS FEELING VERY UNWELL AND WENT TO SANATORIUM AND HE WAS IN BED READING MICKY MOUSE MAGAZINE. I THINK HE WAS IN TWO FORMS BELOW ME, AND HE ASKED FOR MY NAME AND I COULD NOT BE BOTHERED TO TELL HIM ,I JUST SAID "I HAVE'NT GOT ONE!!!" HE LAUGHED AND SAID I MUST BE GOOFY, SO EVERYONE IN THE DORM CAUGHT ON AND IT STUCK.

WE WENT TO PASCHOE HOUSE, IN DEVON, IN THE WARTIME AND I WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY THERE FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS.

AS I AM DEAF I HAD TO WEAR HEARING AIDS, SO DIFFERENT FROM TO-DAY'S MAKE. MY MOTHER WANTED ME TO STAY ON WHEN OTHERS HAD MOVED BACK TO HARPENDEN. IDID NOT WANT TO, THOUGH I WAS VERY HAPPY DOING FARMING, AND GARDENING IN THE AFTERNOONS.

I WANTED TO PLAY RUGBY AND BE IN THE 1ST TEAM, BUT THE MASTER SAID THAT I MIGHT NOT HEAR THE WHISTLE AND THAT GOT MY BACK UP! HOWEVER, I WAS GLAD THAT I WENT BACK AND EVENTUALLY I DID PLAY IN THE 1ST TEAM AND BECAME CHAPEL STEWARD AND A PREFECT.

I ENJOYED ST. GEORGE'S AND LIKED BEING TAUGHT BY PEAK-JONES AND HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL, MONTY.

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NICKNAMES

I wonder if current Georgians give their friends nicknames these days. I first came to St George's in September 1947, and expected to be teased for having the surname Hubbard. Would I be called Old Mother after the nursery rhyme about Henry VIII and his wives? When I got to know Duggie Dawn, the Music Master he said "We will have to call you Hubba de Pubs!" But it didn't happen.

Almost straight away I made friends with Maurice Lazarus and Alan Leigh-Browne. We were 10 or just 11 years old. Maurice came up with the idea of playing robots. "I'll be master and you will be the robots". Such spoke the future businessman Maurice became! "Alan's name is OK but Laurence isn't. I'll call you Lils" he said. So we stomped round the grounds at his command. A good game. And Lils stuck for all my 8 years at school. Apart from Registration in class first thing, when we all replied to our surnames "Adsum" (I am present), I was from then on always called Lils, even by all the staff, including the Headmaster. And so it is still with some of my contemporary OG's today!

I wasn't the only one. There was Tun, Sticky, Megan, dagwood, Pompey and others called that even today! Staff were called Prissy, Cootybags, Duggie, Pumph and others!

Is it so in a friendly way still today?

Rev Laurie Hubbard 1947-45

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I am replying to your heartfelt plea for contributions to the OGA newsletter.

As you can see from the signature page, I am still working. This is partly to fill in time (and those of you who are my vintage will know this can be a problem!), and partly to provide some much needed cash! I've had a great life, but I have spent an awful lot of money doing it.

To those who know me, it will come as no surprise that I have had two marriages, several live in relationships, and now, nearing 77, I find myself alone. But I'm not disheartened – something will happen!

The real purpose of this email is to tell a little story about coincidences. I belong to a bridge club and play very regularly. A few weeks ago I had a drink with a lady who is a member of our club and who I have known for about 35 years. The conversation got around to her children, one of whom is married to an Englishman. Where does he come from? You guessed it, Harpenden, and of course he went to St Georges. His name is Matthew Ellison and I think he was at school from 1975 to 1981. Of course I met up with him and we are planning to meet again soon. You will be very pleased to know that we sang a rousing version of Assurgit Skiddaw, and even remembered most of the words!

Many of you will know that my brother David (1952-1960) died very suddenly 2 years ago, but my sister, Cynthia (1958-1966) visits Australia frequently as her 2 children and 5 grandchildren live here.

There several OGs living in Australia and certainly one of my classmates, Sandra Waterman, lives in Adelaide. I'm afraid we have not been in touch recently, but I hope she is well.

St Georges had a profound effect on my way of thinking and my life in general. I look back at my years there with the utmost pleasure.

Malcolm Olivestone 1945 to 1956

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The School Chapel Choir – a personal tribute

I was 8 years old in 1944 when I joined the choir of Christ Church, St Albans. The next year I went up to St Paul's Cathedral choir school, which is just opposite the cathedral, to join other boys for a voice trial and written test. I wasn't accepted, as they wanted boy trebles aged 8. I was quite glad as I didn't like the idea of being bossed about by senior treble boys aged 13 or so.

I came to St George's in September 1947 and on the first morning after breakfast Mr Montauban told me that Mr Dawn wanted to see me and David Essex in the Music Hut.

I stood by the grand piano, "Can you sing this note? Sing this scale? Sing a verse of this hymn? Then putting a Psalter in my hand and a chant book, "Sing some verses of this Psalm?" "Now go and tell Mr Montauban I want you in the choir". We sat on chairs at the far end of the right side choir stalls, right by the Communion step. That was the place for the most junior trebles! This was for whole school chapel. (The Lower School had separate services otherwise, quite often).

Treble boys' practice was at 8.15am five days a week in the Music Hut. We practised all the music for the next week, especially the Sunday anthem. We learned to sing the Psalms, using the old Cathedral Psalter (rather out of date), but by Duggie making us each sing a verse solo. Duggie's chow dog was always there; he came round and licked our knees. (NB All Lower School boys had to wear short trousers then!). Punishment for lateness was to run through the parallel line of the others, set between the door and the opposite hut door outside. You ran through as fast as possible, being slapped on the back as you passed!

Full school choir practice was on Friday evenings in the hut. But sometimes it was in the chapel. During one of these in the summer of 1948, there was a pause. Duggie had stopped proceedings. "Lils come out here!" I was startled. I walked from the most junior place towards him. "Sit here. This is your place now", he said. He put me into the gap where the leading treble had been on the organ side. His voice had broken and I was promoted. I was head treble for another four years. A great privilege! But it meant singing the solos before the whole school... "Once in royal David's city" at the back before the carol service. And that other great test "O for the wings of a dove" Psalm 55:6. With its high notes, sustained phrases and need to lock your knees and breathe deeply! Good practice for public life! But also what a privilege to sing as we all did Bach's St John Passion and have Peter Piers that great Tenor come and sing the Evangelist, and look across at him.

Four years later my voice started to slip, and Richard Gilbert and I sang Alto for the summer term in Remove (the year before GCSE), also good experience. Then on coming back next term I spoke to David Harris the new Music Master, who let me join the tenors. David also later wanted me to take the voice trial for King's College, Cambridge and I began to practice sight reading etc. and with Miss Kirkup's tuition. But as I had been offered a place at Queen's College, I wouldn't run the risk of losing both, if I turned down the first and lost the second.

Finally, I'm hugely grateful to Duggie for moving me over from learning the piano to playing the organ, altogether a different technique, and such fun and a challenge. But not such fun for me to have to play whatever hymn Miss Donald chose on Monday evenings, when she took chapel and it was David Harris' day off. Thank goodness the choir sang loudly and loyally sang over my mistakes!

But to have learned to sing and play (and to read and speak out in public) was itself a huge help later in my ministry. (And what about the Army parade ground... Abouout Turn!). Later there were places like Kenya, where I needed to lead, sing and play all in the same service.

Thank you St George's

Rev Laurie Hubbard, School Captain 1954-55. Queen College Cambridge, Wycliffe Hall Oxford.

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From An Old Georgian Down Under

Much water has now flowed beneath the bridge of common sense since I last donned the uniform of my Alma Mater, St. Georges.

The year was 1973. We were young, invincible. The world was changing. Life was exciting. And people, everywhere, were in the grip of a lifestyle revolution that promised so much.

Now, nearly fifty years later, I am able to share some revelations with you from my current country of residence, Australia.

The world did indeed change, but to one which now includes an array of portable, electronic devices, that must be surgically attached to ones person at all times, and be constantly monitored using apps and programmes that are not designed for anyone born prior to 1960.

My youthful immortality has given way to a condition of small noises emitting from my mouth every time I attempt to either sit or get up from a chair! This I find both amusing and a tad disconcerting.

Excitement is now measured by how close I can get to the jack in a scintillating game of lawn bowls on Saturday afternoon.

And the only revolution I am still a party to is the pharmaceutical revolution which continues to develop and prescribe new drugs enabling to continue to make errant noises whilst escaping the clutches of furniture. Having said that, I wouldn't change a thing.

Not a week goes past without some subliminal reference to, or recollection of St. Georges, thus was the impact my school has had on my entire life. And as a border for five years, I can say with all honesty that the lessons were both in academia as well as extra-curricular activities (say no more).

They say, once a Georgian, always a Georgian. But did St. Georges give me the skills and tools to deal with an off-beat Aussi antipodean way of life? Well, 'streuth cobber', that's for next time.

James Tustin

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From the Development Office



Pamela Bainbridge, Development Director
01582 716256 pbainbridge@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Pamela is responsible for the management of the Development Office and for the strategy for fundraising and Alumni relations.



Lorraine Kyriacou, Development Officer
01582 716211 development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Lorraine is responsible for the maintenance of the Alumni database, processing of donations and Annual Fund mailing and the day to day running of the Development Office.

We hope your time at St George's was amongst the most important and informative years of your life; helped you to establish close friendships and provided you with happy, lifelong memories.

With your support we can ensure that future generations can enjoy the wonderful experiences at the school as you did.

If you are able to make a donation, then please complete and return the form overleaf.

Development Office
St George's School
Sun Lane
Harpenden
Herts AL5 4TD

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Please complete your name, address and the gift aid section of this form and return it to the Development Office, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden AL5 4TD.

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Return to: The Development Office,
St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4TD
Tel: 01582 716211 Email: development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Deaths & Obituaries 2015 - 2016

Andy Collier

“Andy Collier 03.08.1944-28.04.2015. It is a very sad day for Andy's family, for school friends (OG's.), Leighton Buzzard Youth Theatre and all the friends he made through his many and varied interests and Societies. We have lost a dear friend, an accomplished singer, musician, composer and sportsman. All through his debilitating illness, MND, he showed courage, patience and above all a sense of humour.

Rest in peace, may your star shine brightly .xx”

From Harriet Northway

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Mike Frost OG 1949 – 1957 Monk House

Mike Frost, who died in June this year was a pupil at St Georges from (Michael, hope you can add the dates and anything else you want to about his days at St Georges)

One of Mike's main interests at school was rugby and he carried on playing during his time in the RAF and subsequently when he went to live in America. Here, in 1962, he made a friend who wanted to set up the first ever rugby club in Wisconsin. Working with Vic, he played a pivotal role in setting up university rugby clubs, establishing the first Mid-West rugby tournament and bringing rugby football to the heart of America.

Back in England, after a range of jobs including forays into the travel trade and the Milk Marketing Board, he trained as a teacher, committing himself wholeheartedly to the wellbeing of his pupils and to school life. He carried this commitment through when he retrained as a careers adviser. He worked as a 6th form specialist and then, embracing the new world of IT, he became an IT manager and dragged his colleagues kicking and screaming into the computerised working world. After his formal retirement aged 65, Mike continued to work with Mencap supporting database developments until shortly before he died.

Outside of work, Mike had many interests, spending many hours doing up many different cars, breeding tropical fish and keeping cats. He usually had a building project on the go, both at home and abroad. He developed a holiday home for his young family, enabling them to spend many sunny summers in Menorca and, later, he built a house in a remote and beautiful part of New Zealand where he and Margaret spent most winters over the last ten years.

Mike had a huge capacity for sustaining and rekindling friendships across the globe and was the hub for many of his year group at St Georges, working particularly hard to ensure a good turnout at the centenary reunion. Tributes to him highlighted his kindness, generosity, quirky sense of humour and his will always to offer real and practical help to his friends. He is sadly missed by his wife, Margaret, and his son, Tony.

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Bridget King (née Horne) OG 1942 TO 1949
Died on Wednesday, 12th August aged 84.

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Martin Buller OG 1971 - 1978

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Helen Coxon OG 1971 - 1978

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Clair Sherwood OG 1971 - 1974

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Sarah Cody (nee Andrews) OG 1969-76

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Michael Frost OG 1949-57
Passed away on 4th June 2015.

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Officers and Committee 2015

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<p>Ray McGovern St George's School Harpenden Herts AL5 4TD</p>		Headmaster	<p>01582-765477 admin@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk</p>
<p>Andy Willis</p>	(A)	Hon Auditor	
<p>(A) Elected annually at AGM</p>	(13)	Due for re-election at AGM	(C) Co-opted member

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Editor's Comments

Georgian Golf Day

I have had limited interest concerning this. However, there is a PSA St George's Golf Day at Luton Hoo on 18th October which will give me an opportunity to discuss future events so watch this space! Please email me on paulstreeton@uwclub.net if you are interested detailing your existing Handicap and any club you are currently a Member at.

We look forward to hearing from you

Paul Streeton (1978 -1985)
Tel: 07581 255300

Newsletter Content

Our intention is to send out two Newsletters each year by EMAIL to those registered or by DOWNLOADING from the School Website at www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk.

For those without access to the Internet or Email we will be able to mail you a Newsletter on request.

THIS IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Newsletter is only ever as good as its content, so I must appeal to all year representatives and all generations of Georgians to send ideas, stories and suitable content by email to georgians@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk or by MAIL to the School Development Office, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4TD.

We look forward to hearing from you

Paul Streeton (1978 -1985)
Tel: 07581 255300

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