



Reuniting the Georgian family with each other and the School in order to strengthen our community and enhance educational provision for the future through charitable giving.

# Welcome

To the spring edition of Reunite

Plans for the events and activities for the school's 150th year are gathering pace, making for a very busy and exciting couple of months ahead, to ensure everything is organised and in place.

A number of celebratory events have been organised and you can read all about these on page 4. We kicked off anniversary events last year with the Gala Ball, held at the Grosvenor House on the 17th November. We had over 700 Georgians attend a magnificent evening.

As we launch our 150th anniversary celebrations in September, we invite you to reflect on your own personal memories of your time at St George's and share them with us. While teachers and uniforms have changed over the decades, anyone who has been a part of our community can testify that this school brings out the best version of yourself.

To all our alumni, staff, parents, grandparents, current students and friends, thank you for helping to make St George's great for the past 150 years! Now, it's time to celebrate! We hope to see you all at one of our exciting events planned over the next few months.

When planning our 150th anniversary we thought that the most fitting celebration would be to provide our Georgian community with an inspiring state-of-the-art, and much needed Activity Centre. One of the main features to be installed, and to our mind one of the most exciting, will be the glass sports floor. We would like to invite each and every single Georgian to help us by funding a square foot, and I do hope you will consider joining in. You will find a leaflet with further information inserted into the magazine. All donors will be recognised on an interactive touchscreen when the Activity Centre is officially opened on Sunday 14th June 2020.

**With our kind regards and best wishes**

Caroline, Melanie, Nathalie and Amy

The Development Team

Pictured below (L-R): Nathalie Scott, Amy Dunton, Caroline Long, Melanie Gordon-Hughes



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LinkedIn is a great business social networking site. Follow St George's Weybridge, Alumni & Parents



Facebook

Keep up to date with Reunite news and events. Follow us on @stgeorgesreunite



Twitter

@stgeorgesreunite

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St George's Weybridge is a Registered Educational Charity no. 1017853

## GDPR



The Development Office communicates with the whole Georgian Family. GDPR legislation means that we need you to say yes to receive emails from us. We hope you will agree that it's a great way to communicate; saving waste, money and time.

For more information about how we use your personal data please see our Privacy Notice on the Reunite website or the School website. If you have not received any online communication from us in a while it's probably because we have not received your consent – you can consent by either calling us on 01932 839352 or by email – [development@stgeorgesweybridge.com](mailto:development@stgeorgesweybridge.com).

Please SAY YES! DON'T MISS OUT ON EVENTS AND UPDATES

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Lizzie Bailey (OG '09) read more on page 40





# Celebrating 150: what's planned?

To celebrate the achievement of 150 years of continuous Josephite education, we are planning a variety of events and activities over the next year. We hope that there will be something for everyone and hope to see as many members of the Georgian Family as possible.



Historians for the College. The first panel was installed in late March 2019 and will be updated every three months.

As well as reflecting on the past, we are also looking towards the future. We will be holding two symposiums in May 2019 and May 2020 for current students and academic staff to examine and discuss the future of education and the relevance of the curriculum. We are hoping these sessions will provoke meaningful questions and encourage our students to think about future generations and what a 'perfectly balanced' education will mean to them.

To mark St George's official birthday on **Monday 19th August**, Father Martin will be presiding at Mass on Sunday 18th August in the College Chapel at 2.30pm. Everyone in the Georgian community is welcome to attend and it will no doubt be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate 150 years of Josephite spirit.

To recognise the achievements of different generations of Georgians, we will be installing a series of 'Generation Panels' along the school corridors. Each panel will cover a 30 year generation, linking significant events at the school with contemporary national and global events. These have been chosen by members of the History Club for the Junior School and by A Level



We have also planned a calendar of events and activities for the next school year, starting in September 2019 which include:

-  **Vespers and Benediction at Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 12 September at 3.30pm.**
-  **Two performances of a specially commissioned libretto in December 2019 at The College Chapel and, in January 2020, in St George's Hanover Square, London**
-  **'Holding Hands across Weybridge', which will involve pupils at both the College and Junior School joining together across the town in October 2019.**
-  **The official Opening and Blessing of The Activity Centre on the College site to be held on Georgian Family Day on Sunday 14 June 2020. A Mass celebrated on the new glass floor in the Activity Centre by Bishop Nicholas Hudson of Westminster (timings to be confirmed)**

Further details of these events will be released soon but please do get in touch if you have any questions. We look forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary with you.

# Celebrate 150 Gala Ball

The Celebrate 150 Gala Ball which took place in November 2018 was a huge success. The evening was hosted by Old Georgian, Chris Jansen, who kept the room entertained and amused with his witty comments and comedic style.

We were delighted to have over 700 Georgians attend including current and former parents, Old Georgians spanning many generations and staff members. It was a truly wonderful evening and was the perfect way to kick start our 150th anniversary celebrations in style. Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraising activities which were held on the night. All of the proceeds went towards the Activity Centre.

“

“Thank you for an epic and surreal night which I shall never forget. The food was amazing, Chris was the perfect choice for a host, who performed with charisma and distinction, and the opportunity to see so many people who were almost instantly familiar was enriching” **Old Georgian Andrew Smith '85**

“

“Everyone is talking about what a wonderful time that they had and one of the recurring themes is how special it was to have such a wonderful mix of Georgians, old and new all celebrating together! I was driving Joe back to University earlier today and that was what really shone through for him. Joe has a very strong group of friends from St George's and that means the world to him, but what really struck him was how he is not unique in this – to see so many people from those like him, who have just left, to those who were pupils as early as the 60's having a great time together, just made him realise what a great institution St George's is!” **Past Parent, Davina Davie**



## ST MAUR'S REUNION



**Date:** Saturday 11th May  
**Time:** 3.30pm – 6pm  
**Venue:** St George's Junior School

## Class of 1969 REUNION Celebrating 50 Years!



**Date:** Saturday 18th May  
**Time:** School tour at 11am and lunch at 12.30pm  
**Venue:** St George's College  
**Cost:** £20 per person for a three course lunch and wine

## Class of 1979 REUNION Celebrating 40 Years!



**Date:** Saturday 18th May  
**Time:** School tour at 11am and lunch at 12.30pm  
**Venue:** St George's College  
**Cost:** £20 per person for a three course lunch and wine

## Class of 1989 REUNION Celebrating 30 Years!



**Date:** Thursday 23rd May  
**Time:** Drinks 7pm Dinner 8pm  
**Venue:** Queen's Head, Weybridge  
**Cost:** £35 per person

## Class of 2009 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!



**Date:** Sunday 23rd June  
**Venue:** St George's College  
 The Class of 2009 are invited to attend the Annual Georgian Day to celebrate their 10 year reunion.

## SCHOOL REGATTA



**Date:** 1st July  
 OGs are invited to participate in the Old Georgians' vs College regatta race. Support along the river is most welcome

To RSVP to any of the above events please email [development@stgeorgesweybridge.com](mailto:development@stgeorgesweybridge.com)

For more information about all upcoming events please visit the Reunite website: [www.stgeorgesreunite.com](http://www.stgeorgesreunite.com)

If you would like to receive regular emails about all our events please ensure you consent to be added to our mailing list – you can do this by emailing the Development Team. **Please say YES!**



## Netherlands REUNION

**Date:** Thursday 16th May  
**Venue:** George WPA, Willemsparkweg 74, 1071 HK Amsterdam  
**Time:** 6pm drinks, 8pm dinner

Join OGs Matt '85 and Nynke '87 in The Netherlands for a fun and informal get together. Whether you are living there or just visiting, they would love to meet up with you. If you would like further information please contact Matthew by emailing [matthew@boatfield.eu](mailto:matthew@boatfield.eu) or Nynke [nynke@vandervan.com](mailto:nynke@vandervan.com)



# LONDON LUNCH 2019

WEDNESDAY | THE ROYAL THAMES  
**05 JUNE | YACHT CLUB**  
 12 NOON | **£45<sup>.50</sup>** per person for a three course lunch and wine

The Over Sixties Lunch is one of our most popular reunions. Enjoy a delicious three course meal and wine and enjoy catching up with many familiar faces. There will be a cash bar for all additional drinks.



St George's  
WEYBRIDGE

# ANNUAL GEORGIAN DAY



Sunday 23rd June 11am - 4pm



Please join us for a relaxed and fun day in the beautiful College grounds with your Georgian friends.

Old Georgians, Current Georgian Families, Current Staff, OG Parents, OG Staff and your families are all welcome.

**Activities to look forward to include:**

- Classic Car show
- Mass in the Chapel
- OG vs College Cricket Match and OG vs College Tennis Match
- 26ft Climbing Wall, 90ft artificial caving system, Aerial Archery, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Ice-Cream

**Refreshments**

\*Lunch \*Cash Bar \*Afternoon tea

## Classic Car Show -

if you would like to be an exhibitor please contact Melanie at 01932 839352

To find out more and to confirm your attendance, please visit the Reunite website: [www.stgeorgesreunite.com](http://www.stgeorgesreunite.com) or contact the Development Office on 01932 839352 or [development@stgeorgesweybridge.com](mailto:development@stgeorgesweybridge.com) for more information.

Please can we ask that you RSVP for catering purposes.



# The Class of 2008

**Celebrating 10 Years**

21st September 2018: Bar Elba, London

**Attendees:**

Tom Ackerley, Nicholas Arnot, Belinda Ball, Benjamin Banurji, Jonathan Booty, Leah Bramwell, James Chard, Graham Cox, Jessica Dale, Jeremy Fleming, Daniel Hine, Christopher Hope, Tom Jamison, William Kee, Emma Kramer, William Lawes, Stephanie Lewin, Paul Lloyd, Scott Macaskill, Kate McDonnell, Christopher McDonnell, Richard Miller, Tom Parrish, Ben Peake, Adam Pearce, Martin Plowden, James Pryor, Nicola Smith, Tom Sutton, James Taylor, William Thompson, Jack Tolliday, Katrina Ward, Matt Willis, Richard Wing, Andrew Wooldridge, Timothy Wootton, Jack Wren and George Youngs



Bernie Hodgson, Mark Brodermann and Steve Jefferies

# The Class of 1978

**40 Year Celebration**

24th November: Hand & Spear, Weybridge

*"It was like old times all over again. We felt like long-lost friends meeting up. It was so good to see many of our former classmates"*

*"This gathering was unlike those schooldays when some classmates were shy and reserved. This time around, everyone was very open. We're mature adults now and can talk about anything and everything. We hit it off instantly, teased each other and cracked jokes"*



Robert Kirk, Christopher Cardona & Katie Cardona (née Winfield)



Robert Poundsford, Tony Mitchell, Tim Harlow and Francis Maguire

**Attendees:**

Yvon Antoni, Fr Martin Ashcroft, Sarah Bennett (née Talbot), Mark Brodermann, Tony Byrne, Christopher Cardona, Katie Cardona (née Winfield), Philip Clothier, Quentin Croft, Suzanne Crouch (née Bates), David Debono, Sue Dodson (née Close), Mark Dudzinski, Stephen Forrest, Micaela Frow, Lynne Gurney, Caroline Guy, Timothy Harlow, Bernard Hodgson, Kerry Jefferies (née Leeper), Stephen Jefferies, Robert Kirk, Francis Maguire, Michael Meade, Joe Minerva, Tony Mitchell, Fiona Moore (née Dennis), Sue Moore, Sean Neary, Brian O'Gorman, Karin O'Sullivan (née Dunsombe), Andrew Percival, Nicholas Peri, Robert Poundsford, John Price, Stephen Rampton, Timothy Reilly, Fr Aidan Rossiter, Brigit Sapstead-Cree, Colin Scott, Timothy Stanton, Peter Trimming and Nicholas Watson.



Caroline Guy and Karin O'Sullivan

# So what have the class of 1978 been up to these past forty years?

We asked a few to fill us in:



Tony Mitchell

**Tony Mitchell** left St George's in 1978 and returned to Hong Kong. He retook Physics in Hong Kong and managed to get into Hatfield Polytechnic where he gained a BSC. Hons in Human Biology.

Tony eventually succumbed to an offer of an interview in the City from the President of his cricket club and got into Insurance Broking with Sedgwick.

He married Fiona in 1986 and they moved to Hong Kong in 1989 to work for Jardines, still within the insurance broking side. Tony and Fiona had three children in Hong Kong, Charlotte, Sarah and Alastair and they then moved to Singapore in 1996 just before the handover. He continued on in the insurance broking space in Asia for many years and he still lives in Singapore and he has just started a risk and compliance consulting business. Tony has retired from triathlons but still enjoys to ride his mountain bike and plays a lot of golf!



Micaela and her partner Sue

**Micaela Frow** studied for a degree in Hotel Management at the University of Huddersfield and then spent the first 15 years of her career in the hotel world, working for Hilton International in London and Europe. Following this she set up a successful computer software company,

Wallchart International, in the UK. As Sales and Marketing Director, she developed international business with major corporate clients including the BBC. Micaela has also passed the WSET Advanced Certificate (Wine and Spirits Education Trust) examination and has excellent knowledge of local Loire wines and producers. Micaela and her partner Sue, moved to France in 2004 and set up La Grande Maison d'Arthenay / Loire Wine Tours. They will be delighted to welcome all members of the Georgian Family to come and sample their beautiful Vineyard B&B and even take a Wine Tour or two. You can visit the website here: <https://www.lagrandemaison.net>.

Or on **Twitter** @frenchwinetours  
**Facebook:** La Grande Maison d'Arthenay  
**Instagram:** @la\_grande\_maison\_loire

**Yvon Antoni** attended the University of Miami in Florida after leaving St George's in 1978. He graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor's in Business and a Master's in Finance. Yvon then returned to Trinidad where he worked in the Banking industry for just over two years at which point he decided to return to the UK to pursue a more international banking career.

Between 1987 and 1998, he worked in London in the City in numerous investment banking positions which were primarily associated with front office Capital Markets activities. His final position was as Director of Capital Markets Sales at a Japanese Bank. Towards the end of 1998 Yvon was offered a great opportunity to work in Luxembourg. He moved there in early 1999 and he has lived and worked there ever since. He currently works at BNP Paribas heading the Asset and Liability Management business for the bank.



Yvon Antoni

**Mark Brodermann** completed a Business degree when he left St George's. He then went into the Army serving in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards for 11 years and was fortunate to work and visit 16 countries during his service. Mark's business career included time with Whitbread, Priory Healthcare and various consultancy businesses.

He now runs a Utilities Consultancy. Mark was married and he has three children, one who works for Virgin Atlantic, another a newly qualified doctor and another studying at Durham University. At the moment he lives and works in Birmingham.



Mark Brodermann



**Stephen Rampton** completed a four year degree in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College. He has a daughter, Charlotte, who is now 23 from his first marriage. Stephen spent 15 years working as a Design and Manufacturing Systems Engineer for Dunlop, Lucas, Chloride and RWE achieving Chartered Mechanical Engineer status along the way.

In the 90's he took a Master's degree in Information Systems at UMIST and then started a second career in implementing SAP software for companies all over the world. He is now a Director for Olivehorse Consulting Limited – a specialist in Supply Chain Planning software with retirement planned for 2020! He lives in Wokingham with his wife Tracy where they enjoy the gym, tennis, their allotment and local pubs and restaurants.



Stephen's wedding last year, with his wife Tracy, daughter Charlotte and her boyfriend Freddie



Tim with his wife Belinda and their daughter Amelia

**Tim Harlow**, took a year out after the Oxbridge term before going up to Oxford to read Biochemistry at Christ Church. With no obvious career path, but keen on the property/buildings business, Tim

was encouraged by his father to consider becoming a Chartered Surveyor. So, he returned to studies for an additional three years at the Polytechnic of Central London (now Westminster University) resulting in a 2:1 in Urban Estate Management in 1985. He has spent 34 years working as a property consultant. In 2014 Tim was recruited into the Global Corporate Real Estate team at HSBC Bank where he remains today. Tim is the Global Head of Portfolio Optimisation, Workplace Strategy, Estates and Transaction Management. He is married to Belinda and they have two daughters, Poppy and Amelia, who are taking A levels this summer. They live in the beautiful Surrey village of Shamley Green where he is now Chairman of the Village Fete Committee. They have three black working cocker spaniels.

**Lynne Gurney** studied law at Leeds University and the College of Law in Guildford following which she worked in London for several years. Lynne, David and their two young children, moved from London to Suffolk 25 years ago.

The older two children are now independent adults. Our third child was born in Suffolk and is still at school. Lynne continues to work as a solicitor with her own small High Street practice in a market town (best known these days for its Castle on the Hill!).



# Class of 2018

19th December at Bar 39, Weybridge

In December we were delighted to be able to catch up with over 80 young Old Georgians in Weybridge.

Following their first term away from St George's it was great to be able to catch up and find out how they were enjoying their university courses, or other exciting ventures.





# Sydney Gathering

**Attendees:**  
 Greg Byrne (OG '83), Jonathan Cooke (OG '88), Mac McKeon ('59), James Newell (OG '11), Michael Prescott (OG '09), Simon Terrell (OG '72) and Justine Von Reibnitz (OG '94).



Mac McKeon and Dick Von Reibnitz



Simon Terrell, Justin Von Reibnitz and James Newell

Dick (who is a former member of staff) and Pam Von Reibnitz who are both OG Parents visited Australia over Christmas and the New Year.

While they were there they very kindly organised to meet up with Old Georgians and their families over lunch in Sydney.

Dick and Pam also got together with Geoff Parmenter (OG '86) and his sister Maria Parmenter (OG '89) and their parents who they had not seen for many years.

Dick also managed to visit James Gibson (OG '71).



Geoff Parmenter (OG '86), Maria Parmenter (OG '89), Dick and Pam



James Gibson (OG '71) and Dick

# Undergraduate Dinner

On Thursday 28th February the Development Team visited Bath and invited the Bath and Bristol undergraduate students together with Old Georgians who live in the area to dinner.

Amongst the group there were students who are currently studying Aerospace Engineering, International Management with Modern Languages, Law and Chemistry.

**Attendees:**  
 Matt Dowthwaite (Bristol Undergraduate), Jamie Madath (OG '93), Tom Mason (Bath Undergraduate), Ryan Notter (Bath Undergraduate), Robert O'Farrell (OG '67), Matthew Richardson (Bristol Undergraduate), Bella Rodrigues-Mendes (Bath Undergraduate), Peter Smith (OG '74), George Stratford (Bristol Undergraduate), Ian Weatherseed (OG '02) and Joey Willis (Bath Undergraduate).





## Learning to Work Conference

With so much choice facing students when looking at higher education and employment, it is never too early to start exploring the variety of options.

By providing information and impartial support, we can help students to make the right choices for them. On Monday 10th December, we created a special careers event aimed at helping Fifth Year students to explore their future work choices and in turn provide guidance on their A Level choices.

We are aware that the world of work is a bit of a mystery at this stage and whilst many of our students might know what their family members do, there are many jobs and careers, particularly in business and industry that are hard to understand at 15 and 16.

The Learning to Work Conference aimed to help de-mystify the world of work and some of the routes to get there. We partnered with the Learning to Work non-profit organisation to support our objectives and offer our students access to a panel of recent graduates and

apprentices who work for a number of local companies and organisations including McLaren, O2, Cisco, Jacobs, BA, Runnymede Council and VM Ware.

The students experienced sessions on how to prepare for future interviews; the importance of work experience; how organisations are structured and how to network to create future opportunities.

**Our Fifth Year students asked fantastic questions in both a Q&A panel session and in breakout workshop groups. We hope they felt inspired to take the key learning points home to discuss with their parents in time for the Options process.**



## Young Doctors Lunchtime Lecture

In December Old Georgian Elliot Sharp (OG '15) presented to our Fourth and Fifth Year aspiring medic students. This was a great opportunity for them to hear first-hand how a young Georgian is finding Medical School.

### Elliot Sharp (OG '15)

In early December 2018, I returned to St George's College to motivate and guide future medics at the College where I studied from 2007-2015. Since graduating I now study medicine at Brighton & Sussex Medical School where I am in my fourth year. It was fantastic to be welcomed back to the College with open arms and to see how it has gone from strength to strength.

Whilst at St George's, I was fortunate enough to be in one of the first cohorts of the Future Medics Programme led by Mr Freddie Laughton. The guidance provided by the programme was pivotal in my success when applying to medical school; without it,

I am certain I would not be where I am today. Some of the highlights included taking part in entrance exam courses, mock interviews, we learnt about the skills required of a doctor and spoke to a range of St George's alumni now in the field of medicine.

The experience of talking to St George's graduates whilst on the programme was fantastic as they knew exactly what it was like to be in my shoes and could tailor their advice to suit my needs perfectly. The memory of these wonderful experiences is what encouraged me to return to St George's to help develop the aspirations of future medics at St George's.

Mr David Green and Miss Rebecca Potter who are now the joint co-ordinators of the Future Medics Programme are both previous teachers of mine, having taught me at A Level and GCSE respectively. This master duo has done nothing but succeed in their new roles. The current cohort of future medics has all had interviews at medical schools with two students receiving multiple interviews.



I delivered a lecture to the younger cohorts of future medics in the Chapel at St George's to help keep up the momentum of the programme and encourage new applicants to join. There was something for everyone during the talk. I spoke about background and how I got to the fortunate position I am in, I then highlighted what students can expect when studying medicine and finally I delivered concrete guidance on which steps to take next when applying to medical school. I hope everyone who attended was able to leave having gained a valuable insight that would have not been possible otherwise.

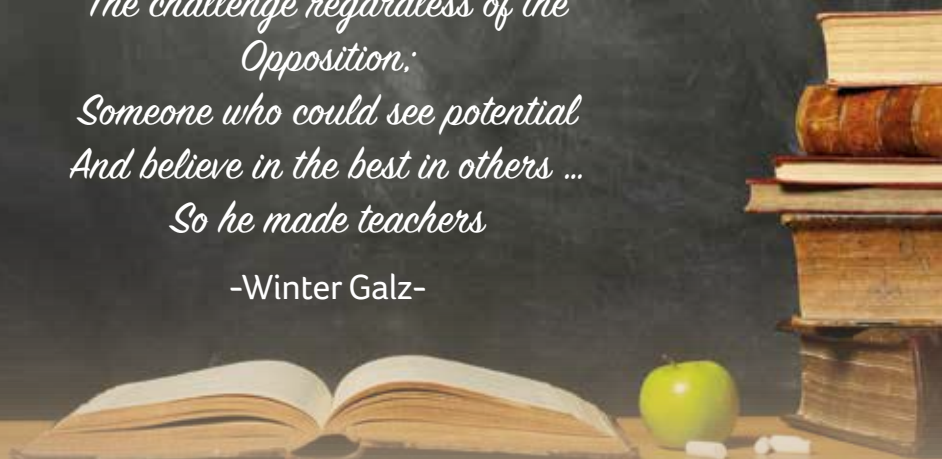
Returning to St George's College was an overwhelming positive experience and I would encourage any and all alumni to reach out to staff to see what they can offer.

If you would like to attend a future careers event or find out more about the programme please contact [careers@stgeorgesweybridge.com](mailto:careers@stgeorgesweybridge.com) or 01932 839499.

## God Made Teachers

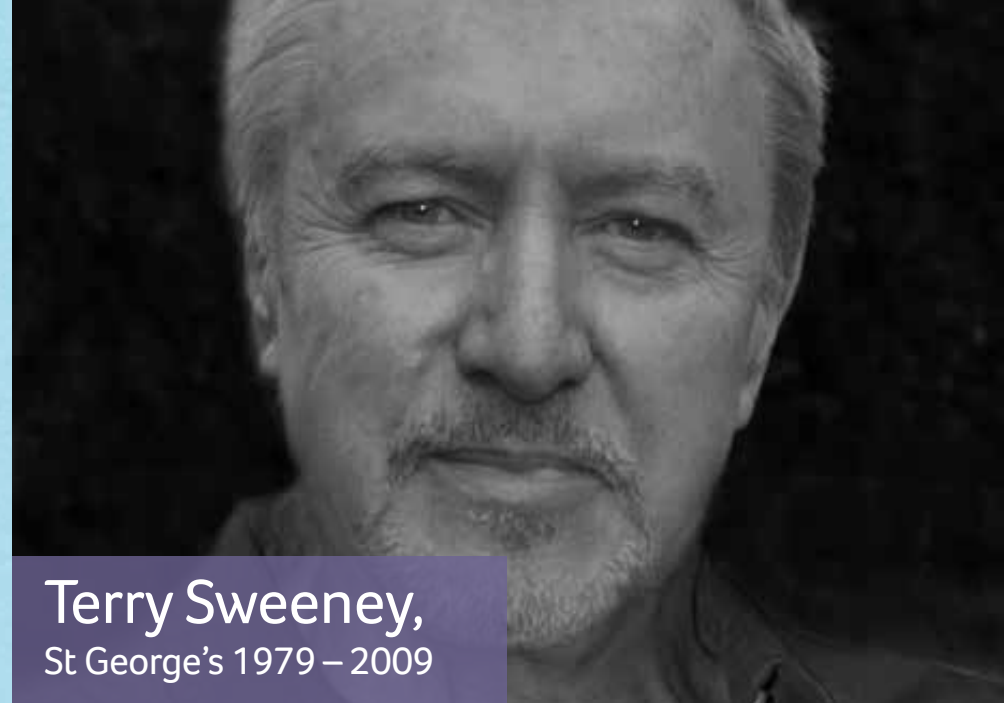
*God understood our thirst for  
knowledge, and our need to be led  
by someone wiser;  
He needed a heart of compassion,  
of encouragement, and Patience;  
Someone who would accept  
The challenge regardless of the  
Opposition;  
Someone who could see potential  
And believe in the best in others ...  
So he made teachers*

-Winter Galz-



Over the years, we have seen so many wonderful members of staff walk through the corridors of both St George's College, the Junior School and St Maur's Convent. Each and every single one of them have helped to educate thousands of Georgians over the past 150 years. To each and every member of staff ... thank you.

We recently caught up with a few and they have very kindly filled us in about their time at St George's and what they have been up to since.



**Terry Sweeney,**  
St George's 1979 – 2009

**How did a former L.A. garage band singer and harmonica player find himself running the Art department at St George's College? How did he progress from the Teen Screen Awards at the Hollywood Palladium to charity fundraisers in St George's school hall? How did this restless immigrant from the mean streets of post-war Liverpool find himself in the Surrey suburbs?**

I saw the ad for a part-time art teacher at St George's College in the Times Educational Supplement in December 1978. My wife and I had just arrived in London from Los Angeles with the intention of exploring my homeland for a year. A part-time job might pay the rent while I looked for a 'proper job' in an art college? I was interviewed by the Headmaster, Fr Christopher, who was charming and gracious and offered the job to someone else who, unlike me, possessed English qualifications. Fortunately the successful candidate changed his mind a week before the new term began and out of desperation, Fr Christopher asked his secretary, Anne Ward, what he should do. She told him that the rather eccentric American gentleman with the mid-Atlantic drawl had been calling every day to inquire if a decision regarding the art position had been made. "He sounds keen. Why not offer it to him?"

So I got a temporary gig that turned into a permanent one, and one year turned into 30. Why? The students – simple as that. With very few exceptions, they were a pleasure to teach. Bright, engaged and energetic with a lack of arrogance or sense of privilege that was truly refreshing. The ethos of the College, engendered by the Josephites and perpetuated by such exemplary teachers as Frank Ahern, Margaret Louise Frawley, Dick von Reibnitz and Charlie Rice, encouraged the students to never lose sight of their individuality while contributing enthusiastically to the communal spirit. One of the prize-winning GCE students from that first year was Julian Hyzler (OG '83), who returned to the College a dozen years later as an accomplished graphic designer to help me transform the art department into a centre of excellence, a reputation it holds to this day.

Since retiring from St George's, I've been painting full time, exhibiting and running workshops in England and France. I'll be forever grateful that the College gave me the opportunity to learn on the job and find in teaching something mutually beneficial for myself and the students.

## Frank Ahern, St George's 1976 – 1987

I went to university to read medicine. However, before my first year was out, I had seen the light and made the difficult decision to switch to English, much to the alarm of my doctor father. I quickly became so consumed with the subject that I knew I wanted to remain in close contact with it beyond university. The best way, I decided, would be by becoming an English teacher. I have never for one single moment regretted either decision.

St George's was my second teaching post, following a five-year stint at a five-hundred-year-old grammar school in Berkshire. My eleven years at the College were amongst the happiest of my life. I ran a department that was full of passionate, committed English teachers, most of whom preferred discussing literature at break times to football, or rugby

or the previous night's television. I made friendships with staff and pupils that have endured to this day. I look back with enormous fondness on the relaxed but purposeful atmosphere that pervaded school life at the time.

I left St George's to make a sideways move. It came at the suggestion of a former pupil of mine, one Michael. He had rung me up one evening to suggest that I apply for the Head of English post at Canford.

I took over a fragmented department with none of the collegiate sense I had found at St George's. Six years later I became Director of Studies, in effect the academic deputy. This was a role that had none of the cosiness of a department. In a department all the members are pulling together for a common purpose.

When you are line-managing heads of departments, each fighting his or her corner, your role becomes more akin to that of Henry VIII trying to bring the robber barons into line. And I had the added delights of writing the timetable, a logistical task that saw me drawing on the scientific mind that had seen me through my A level years.

I was Director of Studies for 14 years, and then – bang – I was at retirement age. Nature abhors a vacuum and I do, too; so I negotiated a stay of execution. I would do a little bit of sixth form teaching and would become the school archivist. Both activities would prove to be a joy. I had never lost my love of teaching; and I became absorbed in discovering what was in the Canford archive. This was not a huge amount and none of it had been even as much as indexed. I added to the collection, catalogued it, and wrote regular pieces in the alumnus magazine to broaden the interest in it. It was a wonderful job. I was a one-man band, working in splendid, unmanaged isolation. The emails I received were invariably from happy punters who were enormously grateful for the photos I had sent them, or the research I had done for them. No more the brickbats from complaining parents or unhappy staff that had been my daily lot as Director of Studies.

And then another milestone emerged. I finally left Canford in the same month as my seventieth birthday, after 30 years at the school. But, as I have suggested, I hate doing nothing. In the six months before retirement I started writing a novel that had been brewing in my mind for a year or two. Its central character is a school archivist – now there's a surprise! – and the plot concerns a possible scandal that the school has covered up to protect its reputation and the future career of one of its glittering alumni. And there are many literary references in it, too – another surprise! A Parcel of Fortunes was published at the end of 2017. I took huge pleasure in writing it, but I have to admit that I remain an impoverished retired school teacher...Now that isn't a surprise!

Impoverished? No, that is simply not true. I have lived a rich, fulfilled life, with all kinds of blessings. And I still look back on my time at St George's as my halcyon teaching days.



Frank on a trip to Cliveden



The English Department – Brian O'Gorman, Auden Witter, Steve Walford, Will Gatti, Frank Ahern and Shelagh Frawley



## Anthony Smith, St George's 1975 – 1997

### 1975

Invited by Fr Peter to teach Mathematics and Games at St George's

### 1978 – 1983

Master i/c dayboys (Years 8-11)

### 1978 – 1985

Shared 1st XV coaching, firstly with Brian O'Gorman and then Fr Paul

### 1983 – 1997

Joint Deputy Head, firstly with Jim Mackintosh and then Peter McLaughlin

I remember my time, and ex-colleagues and students (it would be invidious to name names in either case) at St George's with great affection, although most people will recall that during those years the College underwent many very significant changes, which inevitably placed considerable pressure on the Governing Body, the Senior Management Team, the Teaching Staff and therefore, understandably, the students.

Away from the day to day routines, particularly memorable events were: three "Across" visits to Lourdes, Speech Days in the huge marquee, many "D of E" Gold Award camps on Dartmoor, 1st XV tours to Wakefield, Belmont Abbey, Belgium & S.W. France, and prefects' training days and not to mention 20 years at the wheel of a 52 seater!

I retired in 1997, and what a very great pleasure it has been to observe that St George's, in true tradition, has adapted wonderfully well to all the various challenges facing it, and continues to offer a superb education to aspiring youngsters of all ages.

Since moving to Dorset in 1998, I have variously held the following posts: Vice-Chairman of the village hall committee, since 2011 I have organised the Poppy Appeal for West Stour and two adjacent Villages, Footpath Officer for West Stour, long-standing membership of the PCC (which continues) and Secretary of Shaftesbury Arts Centre. Anthea and I have continued to pursue our interest in "Amdram", my most enjoyable roles being the Dame in "Jack & the Beanstalk", Bossy in "Snow White" the Colonel in "Allo Allo" and "Something's Afoot", and Captain Mainwaring in "Dads Army". Anthea was most recently terrific as Mrs Wilberforce in "The Ladykillers".

Other activities which have given, and continue to give much pleasure/satisfaction have included reading and recording extracts (both of us do this on a monthly rota) from local newspapers, the Thumbsticks then posted to about 75 blind or partially-sighted clients, rambling (not as in this resume!), the gym, and driving for the local Car-Link scheme, ferrying mostly elderly clients to the GP, hospitals (as far-flung as Dorchester and Southampton) shopping, hairdresser etc. Of coincidences there have been many, the most extraordinary being meeting the aunt of three OGs, Henry, Christopher & John Hayes, whose father (Harry, I think, living in South Africa) is also an OG! So far, my diary shows in excess of 550 "jobs" done since 2011.

Anthea and I have also found time for some wonderful holidays, most notably to New Zealand in 2003 and 2016 (much of these seven weeks were with Ken Marsh (OG '59) and his wife Sue), and Canada in 2010; all three courtesy of Trailfinders!!

So, many, many thanks to St George's for its very considerable part in this story, and very best wishes for your future.

## Margaret-Louise O’Keeffe, St George’s College 1977– 1983 and OG ’70

In 1960 my brother, Patrick, won an 11+ place at the College. We had just moved from Tyneside and were adjusting to life in the south. Patrick’s four sisters started at St Maur’s Convent and I was there when, in autumn 1967, nineteen girls joined St George’s for a few A-level subjects. Father Peter, Headmaster, and Sister Marie, Headmistress, had planned the integration of some classes, possibly inspired by Susie Senior’s wish to do A-level Economics, not available at the Convent, but taught by the legendary Jim Mackintosh at the College.

With Susie and Anne Turvey, I did A-level History with Father Walter and Dudley Woodget. The boys always took the back seats so we were stuck at the front; they slowly adjusted to our presence – one boy took a whole term before he addressed a word to us! Most subjects and sport were still taught at St Maur’s where I did English and French. Anne and I spent a lot of time cycling back and forth between the two schools. Gradually, girls became less of a novelty and played a full part

in College life, participating in debates, drama productions and St Vincent de Paul work. One of my satisfying memories is of a Sixth Form sponsored walk from Weybridge to Pinner, fundraising for Shelter.

After A-levels, I stayed on for the Oxbridge Term, and was taught by Father Christopher. Six days a week, three girls and a few boys had three-hour-long lessons in his tiny study and were enthralled by his incisive analysis of literature and superb fluency of expression. The excellent English teaching we had already enjoyed from Betty Bentley had prepared us well and all three girls won places at Oxbridge.

After my English degree at Cambridge and my MA in History of Art from the Courtauld Institute, London, my career at St George’s began with two terms in 1976, and then full-time from September 1977. One of very few women on the staff, I taught English, History of Art, Religious Studies, girls’ hockey and football, and was a Sixth Form tutor and eventually joint Director of Sixth Form Studies. I accompanied school trips abroad: Paris, Moscow and Leningrad, Lourdes with Father Paul and the Across Jumbulances. I organised memorable study trips for my art historians and, with the support of wonderful colleagues like Auden Witter and Harry McHugh, took groups to Florence, Siena, Pisa and, one year, Rome too.

I remember my time with great fondness: a compassionate ethos created by the Josephites; kind and considerate staff; an outstanding Head of Department, Frank Ahern; hardworking pupils who also had a sense of fun. I also enjoyed working with my mother, Jane Frawley, appointed the St Maur’s Mistress in charge of Girls. Later, my sister, Shelagh, joined the English Department.

I continued teaching: at Warwick University; as Deputy Head for thirteen years at Princethorpe College, a Catholic, co-educational, independent school near Rugby; as a freelance lecturer. I have just completed four years of research on the Great War for weekly articles written by David Hargreaves: our work is available at [centuryjournal.com](http://centuryjournal.com).

I married Dermot O’Keeffe, also on the staff at St George’s, and left in December 1983. With three children and five grandchildren, my life is greatly blessed.





# The Art Department prides itself on developing students who are independent and creative.

Introduction by Tom McIlwaine

Our team of teachers work exceptionally hard to make sure that they deliver a broad, exciting and hopefully inspiring curriculum all the way through the school. The aim of our teaching is that each student should find their own voice and learn to express their ideas creatively. Each year we have a strong batch of students successfully applying to creative degree courses. It's an absolute pleasure to regularly meet up with OG's, to see the work they are creating and to talk about the subject.



**Rosie Minney**  
(OG '15)

Fresh out of a stint as an expatriate at an international school in Switzerland – where art is dismissed as wholly extra-curricular – walking into St George's' vibrant art department as the only new kid in Fourth Year was truly extra-sensory and honestly, overwhelming.

I wasn't to know that by the time I left St George's in 2015 it would have morphed from Aladdin's Cave into something of a second home. However, despite four years of lessons, countless lunchtimes and an evening spent there, and the near omnipresence of my classmates I'd rendered immortal in acrylic paint adorning the walls, the Art Department power to thrill, seduce and surprise never diminished, and without it and its magnificent staff, I would be little more than the trembling

fourteen year old who could just about recite the primary colours that first walked through those doors.

Despite being utterly enamoured by the little haven nestled in between Woburn Gym and the athletics track, and being awarded an academic scholarship for the Sixth Form, I did initially have vast reservations about pursuing a career in the arts. So much so, in fact, I had a deferred place at Manchester University to study History and it was only through encouragement from Mrs Williams, Mr McIlwaine and Miss Butler that I applied for an Art Foundation course, to see if my mind could be swayed.

**It could. I was offered a place at the highly competitive and then little-known Royal Drawing School Foundation Year in East London, where my wealth of artistic know-how was so greatly enriched I forsook my place at Manchester and reapplied to study Fine Art, successfully landing myself a place at my first choice university, Newcastle.**

It's a hideous cliché, but that first semester at university is about little more than saying Yes. I threw myself into student life, dabbling with the Theatre Society as a prop designer and even hosting a student radio show, but writing for the student newspaper The Courier's Arts and Culture section really aroused my interest, putting into action both my love for art and my flair for the written word – I was teetering on the edge of an essay-based degree after all! – as well as giving me a pragmatic view of how I could attempt to make a career out of my chosen degree.

It was through weekly contributions to the newspaper, traipsing around every cultural venue in Newcastle and relaying my opinions back to the student editors that I stumbled across an invitation to write for Corridor8, an online platform for contemporary art and writing in the North of England. After giving the website a once-over and confirming that yes, this is legitimate and people who aren't students are published on here, I swallowed

self-doubt and pinged off examples of my writing to the regional editor. Before I knew it, I was interviewing the likes of 2017 Turner prize-winner and MBE Lubaina Himid and attending press openings to events such as Bloomsberg New Contemporaries and the Exhibition of the North, rubbing shoulders with journalists from major UK newspapers.

My experience paid off when, last summer during a two week long work shadow at Phaidon art publishers, I begged the Digital Editorial Director to let me write something for the website in between my disseminating endless cups of tea to various others in the office. He lauded the small text so much so that I was invited back later that summer for a two week paid role, where I was working fast-paced, creating succinct yet interesting articles and blog series that would hook the reader and keep them interested in the company's new publications. The experience unveiled the world in which my invested interest in the arts can be applied fruitfully.

I also plump up my bank account by regularly undertaking paid painted commissions of customers' children and pets, as well as successfully selling a lot of the work I've created at university.

**But the first steps have only just been taken. I'm writing this from my apartment in central Warsaw, where for the last five months I have been studying painting – and being bitterly reminded on a daily basis how lazy the Brits are as my French, Italian, Israeli, Turkish and Greek friends converse with me in flawless English. I still have another year remaining at Newcastle and who knows what will happen after that; but one piece of knowledge I can confidently impart is to not allow anyone to tell you art won't get you anywhere. At the end of the day, no matter what the subject, all a degree is, is a piece of paper; it's what you do with it that makes the difference. (Paint a picture on the back of said certificate; the world is your canvas – and art supplies are expensive.)**



**David Coe**  
(OG '14) Cobalt & Coe

The question of what to study after St George's was a difficult one for me to answer. I was torn between my two passions; Chemistry and Fine Art. By studying both at A-level I continued to explore my knowledge, skill and love of both subjects. However up to that point they remained mutually exclusive. Eventually I decided to follow a more academic path into further education, accepting an offer to study an undergraduate Master's Degree in Chemistry at Hertford College, University of Oxford.

During my A2 year at the College, I realised that the two subjects actually complement each other. Art not only gave me relaxation from studying science and maths, but advanced my 3D thinking; a quality needed to succeed in Chemistry. It was at this time when my wonderful Art teachers, Mrs Williams and



Miss Butler, inspired me to investigate this interaction within my artistic portfolio. With my strong scientific understanding of different chemicals developed within the Chemistry department, I produced my first artwork using raw chemicals. This concept still inspires me five years on.

St George's prepared me for University by giving me the confidence, ambition and perseverance to make the most out of an opportunity, enabling me to achieve my academic goals at Hertford College. However, St George's also nurtured my creativity. During my degree I continued to develop my artistic understanding by attending life drawing classes at the Ruskin School of Art. This allowed me to develop a creative and innovative approach to problem solving, which proved vital for the Oxford tutorial system.

After conquering the fundamentals of Physical, Organic, Inorganic and Mathematical Chemistry within the first two years of my degree, it was time to specialise. With a

keen interest into how molecules interact I investigated subject areas such as natural product chemistry, advanced synthesis, functional organic polymers, materials chemistry and molecular spectroscopy. I was struck once again with the connection to Art, and gained a vivid understanding of the synthesis of dyes, the potential uses of certain metals and materials and what makes an element or compound have colour. The element **Cobalt** fascinated me due to the huge variety of colours its compounds possess; pink, blues and yellow to name just a few!

For my master's project I mitigated the chemically induced bitter taste of a novel health-related drinks product, which has now been released in the US. The commercial considerations within the project encouraged me to contemplate how I could commercialise my combined interest in Art and Chemistry. Having graduated with a first class Chemistry degree, I now have the knowledge, skill and originality to introduce you to '**Cobalt & Coe**'.

Cobalt & Coe provides a commission based service to generate bespoke Art and focusses on exploring the interaction between Art and Chemistry. Being trained to identify shapes and movement in Organic Chemistry, understand media and materials in Inorganic Chemistry and captivate colour in the laboratory, my artworks are truly unique.

I am currently working on two collections. The first, 'The Periodic Table', utilises

chemical mixed media on filter paper to create an elemental composition of energising abstract Art. The use of laboratory-based tools in the application of materials enables the evolution of art on the paper. This occurs through the reaction of molecules, as inks infuse and salts crystallise.



The circular artworks range in size from 15 cm in diameter to 32 cm and the colour composition can be guided by the client.

The second, 'The Gold Collection', works with acrylic on canvas and explores the enhancement of colour, texture, light and shadow using gold leaf. This collection has proven ability to provide commissions with great sentimental value. Examples include a large scale painting of a client's wedding bouquet, a memorable holiday view and beloved pets. Being able to choose the image special to you, your family or friends, along with the size and colour palette enables Cobalt & Coe to mark any occasion.

My artistic ambition catalysed by St George's College and my scientific curiosity developed at Oxford University provides you with the ideal opportunity to collaborate with more than just an artist. For more information surrounding the bespoke service offered by Cobalt & Coe please visit the website below and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

[www.cobaltcoe.com](http://www.cobaltcoe.com)  
[cobaltcoe@gmail.com](mailto:cobaltcoe@gmail.com)

## Kate Hughes (OG '14)

My time spent at St George's was very special indeed, and looking back now, the support I received was particularly unique. My passion for Art at GCSE and A-level geared me towards doing an Art Foundation year at Loughborough University. While the experience was fantastic, it really dawned on me why I originally loved art so much... because of the St George's Art Department, my inspiring teachers, and the scope and flexibility given to me at school to create anything I desired.

My favourite art project at school, aside from painting myriad portraits, was my coursework piece in A-Level year. It was here I was given the flexibility and support from my teachers and the school's technicians

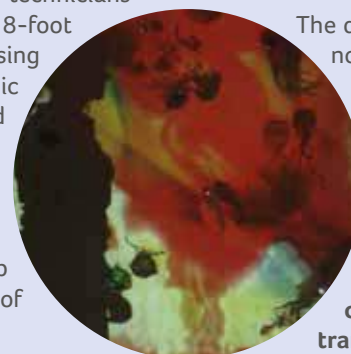
to construct an 8-foot installation, using liquid psychedelic video imagery and intricately moulded recycled plastic, to create an immersive aquatic installation to represent the deep unknown depths of the ocean.

I carried this interest I had of the "unknown" into my foundation year, where my final piece was a mixture of medias, including photography and the manipulation of materials to create microscopic imagery that leaves the viewers guessing.

Since my Art Foundation year, I changed my path to study International Business at Loughborough University. While I relished in art at the start of my academic journey, I soon learned that I needed the next big challenge, and business captured my attention. I am now in my final year at Loughborough, after just completing a year in industry working in Balham, South-West London, as a marketing assistant for Hayman's of London, a local London Gin company. Despite my business-oriented job, I somehow managed to weave my passion for art into the role. When the firm was going through a complete re-branding, I designed the new capsule for one of the three core gin bottles in the Hayman's range.

The directors took on my design ideas, which now cover the Hayman's Old Tom bottles sold to over 41 international markets worldwide. This was definitely my proudest achievement during my placement year.

**I firmly believe my ability and love for art stemmed from St George's, so truly have them to thank for the creative skills I have been able to transfer into my university and work career. With graduating from university on the near horizon, I definitely am looking to find the time and opportunity to pick up a paintbrush and canvas again, as well as consider my love for art in my future job search.**



# Jeremy Peachey

(OG '85)

I was sitting in the careers portacabin sometime in the winter of 1984, with Mr Ian Collis, who was the Maths and Career's Master. We were perusing my draft UCCA form, wondering what to do at University with A Levels in Art, Biology, and Geology. "Do you enjoy gardening Mr Peachey?" asked Mr Collis. "Well, yes, actually..." I replied, convinced of my response given my self-proclaimed status as head grass cutter at the family home in Weybridge.

35 years later, here I am; Landscape Architectural Director at The Pegasus Group in our Birmingham Office. We are a 300 strong multi-disciplinary company, working in planning; urban design/master planning; and Landscape Architecture. I've been here 13 years now; and it's only my second job, the previous one lasting 17 odd years. I still enjoy the profession, especially its variety, the people you meet and opportunities to travel. Good work, Mr Collis!

Upon leaving St George's College and veering slightly from Mr Collis' advice, I did a Town Planning degree at UCL. This provided the framework that I consider essential for all built environment professionals, and after a 'year-out' at a Landscape Architectural company in London, I went to Manchester University in 1991 to do a two-year Master's degree in Landscape Architecture – and I haven't looked back. So, what is landscape architecture? Is it just gardening? Well, yes and no. It shares commonalities, including understanding materials, planting species, aspects of physical geography, and design principles generally. Landscape architecture is broader in scale, essential to the planning process,

and generally more varied. When you tell someone you are a Landscape Architect, they typically look puzzled – oh a gardener...? They often presume. So, I explain; have you seen the disguised buildings and green roof gardens at the Gloucestershire Gateway Motorway Service Area on the M5? Yes they say. Have you walked down the pedestrianised Staines High Street? Yes, they say. Have you seen the Shangri-La Holiday Resort in Muscat, and the pool decks, gardens and sports facilities there? No, but I've seen pictures they say. Have you ever run at the Cambridge Athletics Centre? Yes, they may say. Have you seen grounds, car parks and gardens of the Pfizer Pharmaceuticals HQ at Walton oaks, Surrey...?

Well, all that is the work of a landscape architect. Guess who? Designing external areas



and spaces for town and city centres, schools, universities, sports clubs, hotels, offices and company HQ's, housing developments and motorway service areas is part and parcel of a landscape architect's every day work. It helps to appreciate art, and have a keen eye for design – good hand drawing skills always help, as does an appreciation of horticulture



and the history and physical geography of the environment in which you are working. When I first started, it was all about Rotring Pen drawings, coloured with pantone felts – plans, sections, 3D sketches and occasionally, water colours. Nowadays it's more about Computer Aided Drafting (CAD), Photoshop, visually verified photomontages etc. Computer reigns as king, as it does everywhere nowadays.

But there cannot and never will be a substitute for simply drawing on a piece of tracing paper to convey your design thoughts and ideas. I have been very lucky to visit and work in places from Scandinavia, across Europe, the Middle East and (only more recently) China. Appreciating the different cultures and the way in which people work is a huge learning curve – as are the varied ways in which people appreciate, learn from and value their environments and public spaces. But design, especially landscape architecture can cross international boundaries without any fuss or trouble. Yes, the plants we use in the UK are different from those we use in the Middle East – and in the hotter climates, a knowledge of irrigation techniques is essential.

From battling it out with Planning Barrister's in a planning inquiry to receiving permission to build, to inspecting semi-mature trees in two feet of snow in Sweden, to nearly catching malaria on the Nile Delta on a site visit, I have to say I've enjoyed my career to date.

**Looking back at what I learnt at St George's College, with specific reference to what I have been doing for the last 30 odd years, three thoughts come to mind:**

1. Doing an oil painting with Mr Vernon-Smith, my Art Teacher, that included an Agave – Mr Vernon Smith constantly reminding me that the shape, form and stature of the Agave plant was key to the success of the painting;
2. Mr Passant and Mr Hinder in Geology A Level advising which rocks were often used in building construction and design; and
3. The Late Father Andrew in Biology stressing the importance of understanding plant relationships to soil.





## Lizzie Bailey

(OG '09)

I always knew I wanted to do something creative and thanks to the teachers at St George's that encouraged me to do so, I followed my heart and went on to complete an Art Foundation year at the University for the Creative Arts. I experimented in many art forms including fashion, fine art, graphics and animation, but eventually found an eye for spatial design and interiors, possibly influenced by moving house nine times whilst still at school. The opportunity to redesign each bedroom 'boosted my portfolio'.

A year later, I studied Interior Architecture and Design at Nottingham Trent University, spending a year in industry at an architects practice in New York. I eventually landed a job at one of London's top Architects, Foster + Partners, working in the Materials Research Centre. This involved creating material palettes for architects, liaising with suppliers on their latest products from fabrics, glass, stone and furniture, to running stress tests and finding the most innovative



and sustainable materials from salmon skin leather and mushroom packaging to 3D printed concrete.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time here and had the opportunity to work on some amazing projects from the Bloomberg Building in London to the new Apple stores and Headquarters in California.



After a few years I wanted to try something new and went to work in the events industry for Event Concept & Veevers Carter. There was a tremendous amount to learn, in a vastly different field, but I was soon drawn into the world of events & floral design. I am now fully immersed in the occasional 5am start and learning from one of the most influential women in the industry – Ming Veevers Carter – and can truly say that I love my job.

On a daily basis, through mood boards and sketches, I am working on and designing some of the most amazing events across the UK; creating floral arrangements, installations and sculptures in a variety of fabulous venues including The Natural History Museum, the V&A, Tate Modern and even Downing Street.

**I still dabble in fine art and my family proudly display my paintings on their walls. With several commissions it's difficult to keep up with friend and family demands. One day I would love to have my own art studio and event space combining the two things I love most – Art and Design.**



**Nynke Van Der Ven (OG '87)**  
Art Historian & Chinese Art Dealer

After having attended various English schools since I was six, I joined the St George's College Sixth Form and decided on A-Levels in History, History of Art and Economics and Politics. I cannot remember exactly why I choose History of Art, perhaps because I was creative but not a creator (I was never any good at making art).

Nevertheless, I think I must have always enjoyed beautiful things and studying them in the context of history. Applying for university, I opted for Sociology & Psychology at Exeter; as a fall-back second choice, I also applied to do an MA in History of Art at Leiden University in The Netherlands. After attending introduction days in Leiden, I decided it would be a good experience to go there for a year, but ended up graduating there. My Dutch was initially very rusty, but luckily quickly improved – so I now also have the added bonus of being fully bi-lingual. Certainly knowing any second (and third!) language remains a massive asset for getting on in the world. What I certainly learnt, is that even though something new can be

daunting, it has always proven worthwhile exploring these alternative paths, enriching me in some way or other.

Despite loving my studies, I never really envisaged a career in the museum or art world, as this seemed a bit old-fashioned and dull. But my first job was actually back in London doing arts PR, a perfect combination of art and communication – my other favourite thing – and not in the least stuffy! My following jobs were back in Holland: press relations with an antiques fair organiser (TEFAF Maastricht), then I went into event management for a private bank. Both these jobs were in the field of communication, but always closely aligned with the art business.

After my two children were born, my husband asked me to join his company Vanderven Oriental Art – an international dealership in Chinese antiques based in the town of Den Bosch (or s-Hertogenbosch) in the south of Holland. Even though it is not always straightforward working with your spouse, it has the advantage of flexibility of easily combining work and family. It has also provided the amazing opportunity to work in a very international business, dealing with beautiful things on a daily basis. It always feels like a privilege to walk into a gallery full of stunning objects each morning. Chinese art is a diverse field, obviously including a lot of blue & white

and coloured porcelain; but there are also jades, bronzes, ancient terracotta, soapstone, wood and an array of other fabulous artefacts. The earliest pieces we deal in, date from as early as the Neolithic period (5.000 BC) up to the 19th century. The smallest piece of jade in our collection is just a few centimetres in size and the largest Ming sculpture weighs in at a huge 300kg. The variety of objects is just immense – so it never ever bores and I am still learning every day.

Initially I was only involved with the marketing and events side of the business, but in more recent years I have been doing more academic research. Amongst other things, I now write and our in-depth themed catalogues. They are a huge undertaking, but so worthwhile and, more importantly, I really love this scholarly aspect of my work. My renewed academic endeavour, has brought me back full-circle, drawing me back to the field of history of art once again. I now regularly go on courses or to conferences, to keep up abreast of the latest research and knowledge in our field.

Because Chinese art is sold and collected all over the world, I am lucky enough to also travel a great deal. We go to fairs and events in New York, London and Hong Kong. But also travel to Paris, Brussels, Madrid and Lisbon – or wherever our clients reside – to bring them their acquired objects. In spite of perhaps first appearances, the art business is actually a dynamic one and has many facets. Our international dealings require good general business sense, as well

in-depth knowledge to underpin what we are selling. Another aspect of our business is the care of the objects themselves; such as the conservation and restoration, as well as the complex logistics of transporting fragile items across the globe.

One of the underlying tasks of an art dealer, is to promote the appreciation of art and antiques in the long term. Not only to attract new buyers, but also generate enthusiasm amongst the next generation for a career in the art world.



To that end we are continuously look for fresh ways of promoting and presenting our collection. For example our recent collaboration with an interior designer for the refurbishment of one of our gallery spaces into a contemporary interior. This with the idea of bringing objects to life for a younger generation, which is a vital part of keeping our business alive and up-to-date for the coming years!

[www.vanderven.com](http://www.vanderven.com)

#vandervenorientalart





## Anika Patag (OG '11)

My degree show with the Mayor of Brighton

After leaving St George's with an Art Scholarship, the only thing I knew I wanted was to endure in the Art's world. It was only when I studied at Central Saint Martins for a foundation course that I found a passion for 3D design. I had a wonderful tutor, Kathleen Hills, who challenged our approach with materials and was the one who taught my preliminary skills in the workshop. Kathleen Hills is a renowned ceramist producing an impressive range of beautiful lighting products for Asos headquarters, The Heron Tower Café and Whistles amongst others.

Central Saint Martins shaped me into becoming a designer, something I had never considered. Throughout St George's I thought my path was set to become a Fine Artist. Even

though I still love to draw realistic portraits in my spare time, CSM helped to adapt my skills to other areas in craft.

I went on to get a 3D Design and Craft degree from University of Brighton. The course allowed us to experiment and delve into four main materials; Polymers and Composites, Ceramic, Metal and Wood. I found myself drawn to the wood workshop at the very early stages of the course – an area of expertise which I ended up specialised in. Again, it was thanks to my tutors, Gareth Neal and Stefano Santilli, who inspired me to explore wood and opened and embedded an interest in craftsmanship in furniture.

My final degree project was based on identifying forecasted trends within fashion and interior design. This was embodied in the use of floral forms – an element that ran throughout my furniture. This captured both aspects' predicted trends for the upcoming years. My research covered an array of traditional craft – exploring the various layers of furniture making through joinery, upholstery and printing techniques.

**My small furniture collection included a dining chair, a loveseat sofa and a console table – all of which I manually cut from a tree, turned into planks and assembled into functional objects. After graduation, I proudly exhibited my collection at the 'New Designers' exhibition – thankfully receiving a very warm response.**

It wasn't long after I graduated that I accidentally fell into Design Consultancy. For the next three/four years I have worked with well-established, high-end,

and global furniture and interior brands: Camerich and Staffan Tollgard. Having a profound understanding of the construction of furniture, materials and finishes, thanks to my degree, it became a natural fit selling and supplying furniture to retail and trade clients.

At Staffan Tollgard, I began my career by helping run their multi-brand Design Store, with only one other person. As a company, we represent over 150 different furniture, lighting and accessory manufacturers from around the world. I spent two years working in the Design Store – predominately working on residential projects.

I am still working for Staffan Tollgard and am thrilled to be building their new Contracts Division together. Exciting projects include Odeon Cinema, We Works and various hotels around the UK and internationally.

**My journey so far has been pleasantly unexpected, and I continue to look forward to what the future holds for me.**



## Tracy Cox (OG '09)

Art is an incredibly competitive industry but my time at St George's was hugely beneficial in helping me get to where I am today. The skills and techniques taught by the art department to develop my drawing, painting and mixed media methods are something that I still get complimented on within my portfolio, especially the life drawing!

Studying an unusual combination of Art, Maths and Geography for A-Level, I wanted to pursue studies and a career within the art industry. I went to Loughborough University to initially do a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design as I was unsure which pathway of Art I wanted to follow. This was an extremely beneficial year as it allowed me to try out a variety of different options, building on my skill set and learning new things. I then progressed into studying my degree, Textiles: Innovation and Design at Loughborough University. In my second year I chose to specialise in Printed Textiles, and I have loved learning a whole new technique of screen printing, from preparing repeat designs to mixing coloured print pastes. While studying, we were involved in some exciting competitions with Ted Baker, Hallmark and just recently in my Third



Year, Standfast and Barracks, a fabric printing company which I was announced a winner of for my interior print collection.

**I am going into my final Semester of University and looking forward to completing my final major project to display in the University Exhibition in June, combining everything I have learnt from both St George's and University. I then plan to move into a career in interior design ... hopefully.**



## Wyatt Dixon (OG '14)

Art is often looked at as unobtainable by people who are not lucky enough to be raised with an appreciation of its myriad forms.

I was lucky enough to be surrounded by art at St George's but as an athletic type, and the captain of the 1st XV rugby team, any artistic pursuits were discouraged. The school has incredible resources for any young person wanting to follow any path and I hope that by attaching a couple images of musicians that young people currently at the school will know and admire, I can pass on the message that they can really take any path they wish.

I have worked with and photographed people I idolised long before I knew anything of St George's, with no degree. With all the pressures and voices guiding students down the early stages of their path, I would hope that they are aware that their happiness is the only thing that matters.



Riz and Sadiq – photographed by Wyatt Dixon



Avelino – photographed by Wyatt Dixon



# Thank you Georgians

# GROW

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to support St George's this year.

We appreciate all that you do to ensure we provide a perfectly balanced education to all our students now and for the future.

St George's Weybridge is an education charity (no. 1017853) and as a School we are generously supported by Georgians. Fee income alone will not enable us to achieve the ambitious plans for continued improvement to facilities as outlined in our masterplans, along with the funds needed to provide Assisted Places.

Our GROW vision outlines three different areas to support; World Class Facilities (such as the Activity Centre), Assisted Places (to be able to offer up to 100% fee remission for able children whose parents are unable to afford fees) and our Constant Fund (named after our Founder Constant van Crombrugghe) for special projects donations. St George's, unlike some schools, does not have an endowment fund to fall back on to achieve our ambitious plans; but with the help of the Georgian Family we know we can achieve even more.



89 gave   
**£10,571.25**  
 during the 24 hour Founder's Day Challenge

**552** gifts since August 2018

 **£75k** raised by the Glass Floor Appeal

 **70** Old Georgians have been married in the College Chapel


**213 alumni** live in the USA

 **93** alumni live in Australia 

**1652** St Maur's alumnae records held on our database 

**21,000** timber screws used in the Activity Centre glulam roof

 **559** members on the St George's Weybridge, Alumni & Parents LinkedIn Group

**10** trombone trailers delivered the roof beams 

Largest roof beam   
**8 tonnes**

 Facebook Post – 15/2/2019 – **Thank you** to everyone that has supported our Glass Floor Appeal – **1.3k reach with a 443 engagement**



1869 – 2019

# Your donations have helped make dreams become reality

## The Celebrate 150 Activity Centre Campaign

### We're nearly there!

Thank you to all Georgians who have generously supported our campaign to raise funds for the new state of the art Activity Centre which is due for completion in the autumn. Our aim was to raise a minimum of £7m towards the build and we are now 89% of the way there. The building construction is

progressing well. Anyone driving into the main car park at the College and looking past the White House will see just how impressive the new building is. The project is the centrepiece of our 150th anniversary which starts in September and we hope that all Georgians will want to play their part in helping us to provide the very best facility we can to ensure children can be the best versions of themselves.



Main hall looking up at the staircase



Roof in the dance studio

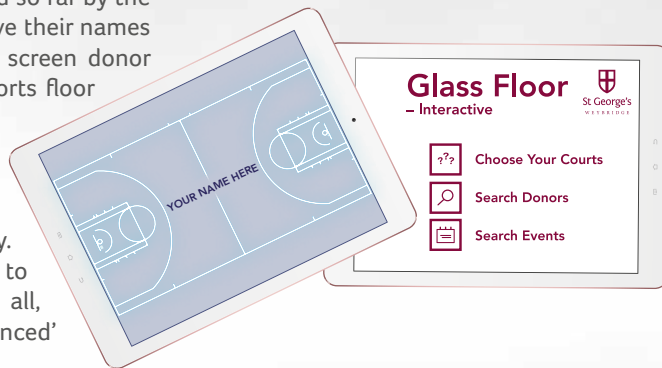




# The Glass Floor Appeal – A court for every sport

As part of the Activity Centre Campaign we have recently launched the **Glass Floor Square Foot Appeal**.

Over £75,000 has been donated so far by the Georgian Family who will all have their names added to an interactive touch screen donor board. The innovative glass sports floor with LED court lines, is one of the main features of the Activity Centre, which we believe to be the most exciting, and is due to be installed in May. The glass floor will enable us to offer sports and activities for all, exemplifying the 'Perfectly Balanced' ethos of the College.



## Your name in LIGHTS!

Fund a square foot of the glass floor for £150 (which can be spread over 10 months) and as a thank you your name will be recognised on our unique interactive touch donor display screen which will be located within the Activity Centre. Why not buy a square foot for your family or amongst a group of friends and split the cost?

As the first school in the UK to have such a floor, we will be light years ahead of our competitors.

It will be a real talking point, enhancing our reputation as a forward thinking and progressive place of education. We would love for you to become involved, and show how invested in our students we all are.

**To find out more visit [stgeorgesgiving.com](http://stgeorgesgiving.com) or call the Development Team 01932 839352.**



# Introducing the Old Georgian Lourdes Bursary Fund Appeal

To celebrate 150 years of Georgian education we are launching an opportunity for Georgians to help young OGs fund their trip on the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Since the 1920s the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in France has held a special place in the life of St George's College. Many Old Georgians will have fond memories of making the long journey to Lourdes by Jumbulance, the adapted coaches, with ACROSS, staying at L'Azastou on the outskirts of the town. Inevitably, over the years the SGCL Lourdes group has changed with the times and the group now travels as part of the HCPT Easter Pilgrimage. One of the key differences in recent years is the need to have many more members of staff and experienced helpers in the group in order to comply with safeguarding regulations and this is where Old Georgians play a vital role.

**With your help Old Georgians can continue to play a vital role in this life changing experience.**

The Pilgrimage has been a formative influence on many Georgians. Not only do OGs give up their time to volunteer; they cover the considerable cost of the week themselves, some with the help of generous parents and others from their own savings or salary. At around £900, for many it means they are unable to offer to help. We hope to build a fund that will help to subsidise the cost of the trip so that it is not the financial commitment that prevents them from going.

Our aim is to make it possible for Old Georgians to afford to volunteer to look after Pilgrimage guests when they travel to Lourdes. The Lourdes Pilgrimage takes place annually in the Easter week. Caring for Pilgrimage guests, some with challenging needs, is rewarding for the volunteers and above all, very beneficial to those being cared for.

*"I know Chrissie is safe and happy when she goes to Lourdes. It's the sense of autonomy Chrissie feels when she goes away which brings happiness and peace of mind to our whole family".*

**Susie Willis, mother of Chrissie a Pilgrimage guest.**

**To find out more please see the Old Georgian Lourdes Bursary Appeal Brochure or visit [stgeorgesgiving.com](http://stgeorgesgiving.com)**



# Community News



In 2019 we will be celebrating 150 years since the foundation of St George's College at Croydon in 1869.

This year will be 70 years since Fr Mark Newman (OG '48) who is now living in California and Fr Jude McHugo (OG '49) joined the Josephites in September 1949.



It will be 230 years since the birth of Constant Van Crombrugge, the Founder of the Josephites, in 1789.



L-R Paul Stubbs, Greg Cole, Rachel Owens, Tony Jansen and Caroline Long

## Chairman's Introduction

Paul Stubbs (OGA Treasurer) and I had the great privilege of presenting Rachel Owens, Greg Cole and Caroline Long with a cheque for £25,000 from all the members, past and present, of the Old Georgians' Association towards the cost of the Activity Centre. The project is due for completion in October 2019 and has been the focus of a number of the staff at the school especially Greg, the Bursar. He kindly invited Paul and I on a tour of the site.

The building is, without doubt, an architectural achievement. Our tour commenced on the roof which has an amazing flow to it as we walked round from corner to corner and on entering the building we realised the considerable amount of work, imagination, skill and attention to detail that was required to conceive the idea, manufacture all the constituent pieces and finally put it all together. Greg explained that the main hall would provide the opportunity to train and play a variety of sports as well as incorporating a climbing wall. Again the attention to detail was astounding from the setting up of the correct pitch or court using the high tech glass floor to providing the correct lumens to play each sport so your eyes were not dazzled by too bright lights as you smashed a shuttlecock to being able to see a cricket ball as it hurtled towards you at 90 mph from the bowling machine.

The Activity Centre is just that and will provide facilities for dance (sprung flooring), drama, presentations, workouts in the gym, spinning, free weights, in fact pretty much any activity imaginable. If that was not enough there is an area dedicated to "mental preparation".

The school are working with OG John O'Keeffe to provide students with a program to mentally prepare for the variety of challenges that lie ahead in all areas of life. Finally there is a cafe and spectator area to relax and watch the games unfold. It is a remarkable building providing facilities for our school that will be the envy of every Independent School in the UK. The School and Governors should be congratulated for the foresight and determination to start this project and all the donors for providing the funds to complete the project.

**The OGA donation will be referenced on the donor wall. There will also be 150 tiles as part of the high tech glass floor acknowledging each Old Georgian year. Finally thank you to all the Old Georgians' Association members who have over many years paid their subscriptions to allow the OGA to make this donation.**

Tony Jansen, OGA Chairman



## OGRFC

Having achieved our fifth promotion in eight years since the Club's re-founding in 2011, the OGRFC continue to build on their burgeoning reputation within the rugby fraternity.

This is in no short due to the tremendous support that the Club receives from the College and in particular the grounds staff who prepare, without question, the premier pitch in the London circuit, our sponsor Trailfinders and the dedicated supporters who follow and cheer from close and afar.

One very special achievement is our first player to ever reach 100 appearances for OGRFC, Francesco Grosso (OG '11). Francesco has played in every single position there is on a rugby pitch for the Club and is a hugely dedicated member who in addition has the responsibility of being our current treasurer.

Huge congratulations to Francesco. Fast approaching this fantastic milestone (with 90+ caps apiece) are Chris Hanson (OG '11) and Harry Samuels (OG '13).



Francesco Grosso (OG '11)

The Class of 2018 are very well represented this season with the following players having Played for the Club; Tom Williams, Demi Obembe, Will Hilton, Joey Willis, Will Hilton, Connor Cullen, David Tarnopolski, Tom Mason and Jack Walters.

### Will Hilton

*"Old Georgians' rugby has allowed me to continue playing sport with mates from College, one of my favourite aspects of school. It has been a really easy transition into the squad with all of the boys being hugely welcoming and friendly."*

### Joey Willis

*"Playing for OGRFC is a great way of keeping in touch with your mates after school, whilst playing competitive rugby at men's level. It is even more enjoyable to play alongside Old Georgians from different year groups, not to mention playing with my own brother!"*

### Tom Williams

*"Everyone at OGRFC was extremely welcoming and instantly made me feel part of team. It has been great to reminisce in common memories of playing school boy rugby despite the ten year age gap I share with some of my teammates and I would highly recommend playing for the Club to anyone regardless of their age or ability. It has been great fun both on and off the pitch as I can truly say playing this season for OGRFC has been the highlight of taking a gap year before university."*

### Demi Obembe

*"For many people, keeping up with their sport can be difficult after leaving school, however OGRFC provided me with the perfect opportunity to do this while allowing me to play rugby with my friends again."*

Recent leavers pictured above (left to right) – Joey Willis, Tom Williams, Jack Walters, Tom Mason, Connor Cullen, Demi Obembe





OG Players Dan Boden, Greg Kovic, Ed Fry and Tim Lovegrove

## Tennis

### Are you an enthusiastic tennis player?

Are you an Old Georgian, current parent or OG parent? We would love to have more friends of the Georgian community join our tennis fixtures. If you are interested please contact Conor Boden, by emailing [c497boden@btinternet.com](mailto:c497boden@btinternet.com) or you can telephone the Development Office for more information.



## Cricket

This year sees the Celebration of 150 years of St George's and the Old Georgian cricketers plan to mark this in a variety of very special ways.

At the start of the season there will be a fun gathering for OG cricketers and friends which will be held at the OG Clubhouse on April 26th. We have our regular programme of matches and will be entering the Cricketer Trophy and making a strong challenge in this. The fixture against Weybridge CC is planned on the basis that many OGs are available on both teams as possible for Sunday May 19th. There will be two matches on Old Georgians' Day on Sunday 23rd June and we would love to see many OGs and their families coming along to enjoy a fun filled day. There will be a special match on President's Day which takes place on Sunday



Congratulations to Charlie Crossley (OG '85) who scored 100 against Old Boys from Isipithana who were a visiting team from Sri Lanka in 2018!

July 28th against the Emeriti CC and naturally all are welcome as players and spectators to all these events.

**We look forward to seeing you often during the upcoming season. Come and join the fun!**



Brian O'Gorman (President OGA and Hon. Sec Cricket)



## Golf

Captain, Adrian Macarty with winner, Jack Redknapp

**The Old Georgians' team did well in this year's Grafton Morrish, making it through and qualifying only to be drawn against Millfield who were eventual finalists losing out to George Heriot.**

The 2019 qualifying round is being held at Royal Wimbledon on Sunday 12th May, and any support would be greatly appreciated.

On Tuesday 23rd October 2018, The Old Georgians' Golf Society visited Coombe Hill Golf Club in Kingston for the autumn/winter meeting. The course was in superb condition and proved a real test. With the main trophies out of the way at the summer meeting the day was orientated around being a fun filled, friendly day of golf. It's safe to say that was achieved and the lunch afterwards was a great way to finish off the day.

The day was won by Jack Redknapp who is associated through the Old Georgians' Hockey Club. Jack was the only one to play to handicap scoring 36 points, a very impressive performance.

Kevin Ritchie, a St George's parent, came second. Congratulations to them both.



Captain, Adrian Macarty with 2nd place, Kevin Ritchie

A big thank you to all those that played especially Adrian Macarty, Society Captain, who also helped distribute the prizes.

We look forward to the spring meeting which is being held at Burhill Golf Club in Walton-on-Thames on Wednesday 24th April.

**The whole Georgian community (OGs, parents, staff) are welcome along with any guests they may wish to bring as well. If you are interested please contact Tom Parrish, tom.parrish@btinternet.com, 07900 643732.**



# CREATING A LASTING LEGACY AND MAKING DREAMS REALITY

The Celebrate 150 Activity Centre Capital Campaign

MAKE DREAMS REALITY AND DONATE AT:  
[WWW.STGEORGESGIVING.COM](http://WWW.STGEORGESGIVING.COM)



# Hockey

## The Old Georgians' Hockey Club have broken three new records in the Club's history!

The big exciting news is that our Mens'1s team won the East Conference league, putting us in the play-offs for promotion to the National Premier League. On the international Hockey forum, the OGHG name has now appeared due to Sam Ward also playing for the OGHG. What is more, our youth under 12s team won the Surrey Cup.

We are approaching the end of the hockey season. Again the OGHG is repeating the success of each of the last few seasons, with no team relegated and two or more teams on target to get promoted. This is an amazing record for our Club of eight teams.

Matt Ming joined us this season, strengthening the defence and allowing Captain Thomas Doran to play midfield. Elliot Messem added several goals. James Tindall was joined with many of his GB friends. All this resulted with the Mens'1s winning the league before the season finished, and without losing a game. Our target is to play in the Premier league (as one of the top ten clubs in the UK), hopefully next season – fingers crossed!

The Ladies' 1s team are top of their league, having been promoted last season. And the Ladies' 2s team are top of their league too!

The OGHG introduced a third ladies team this season, playing in a friendly league. We also introduced mixed teams in various leagues throughout the year. This is part of our wish to

encourage all OGs to join the hockey club for fun and social events. "All OGs" applies to the Georgian Family, so your partner etc. is most welcome.

Mike Hughes is joining the OGHG as full time Director of Hockey. Mike, an excellent player, brings a broad wealth of experience, including coaching Reading HC, winning the premier with Holcombe HC and is currently the Irish National Ladies U21 assistant coach. He has arranged for a few of us to visit clubs in Germany, Spain and Holland for ideas of how to improve the OGHG. After 6 years as Head of Hockey at St George's College, Mike says **"I am thoroughly excited at the prospect of this amazing new opportunity"**.

Our Dragons squad of nearly 300 youths is overwhelmed by being coached by several ex GB hockey players. One of these, Steph Elliot, the Director of Dragons, is loved by all the boys, girls and their parents. Steph enters a team in all local youth leagues and brings back loads of trophies. Under 12s boys won the Surreys, Under 16s boys came second in their league and the girls under 12s came fourth.

**One pleasing aspect of the Dragons success is that we have succeeded in keeping the best teenagers playing in the OGHG, rather than being poached by other clubs. This season has seen an ex or current Dragon playing in every Adult team, including the 1s. More than half of one adult team is made up of current College Sixth Formers.**

**Noel Doran 07798 678910**  
**Chairman**

“

**Matt Ming (OG '14):**

“ Hockey has been my main hobby since I can remember and playing for the College played a massive role leading up to my selection for the junior international U18 and U21 England teams. That is why being back and playing for OGs has been an amazing full circle experience at such a great club!”







## Weddings

### Matthew Bird (OG '03) and Helen McArthur (OG '03)

Matt joined Woburn Hill in 1992 and left in 2003. Helen joined St Maur's in 1996 and they were both in the fifth year when the two schools merged, although Helen didn't stay on to sixth form.

Matt and Helen were married on the 26th August 2018. Eighteen Old Georgians were present on their special day, a testament to the enduring strength of friendships created whilst at the school.

## OG Gatherings

Four Old Georgians, three from 1988 and one, from 1989 met up in London's Soho on Friday 21st December.

Whilst Jim Blackburn and Marc Ng had seen each other at the 'official' reunion for the Class of '88 last summer, and they had seen Damian a couple of years ago in Weybridge, none of them had seen Matt Kaminski since they left the College.

After leaving St George's, Matt moved to Florida where he studied at the Florida Institute of Technology and became a rowing coach.



He then moved to Tennessee three years ago to coach adults and repair rowing shells for many clubs in eastern USA and beyond. All four of the OGs were members of the College Boat Club.



September 2018 was a joyous occasion when three Old Georgians from 1976 met up to celebrate with Liz Costello (née Priestley) at her son's wedding in Auchtermuchty, Scotland.

Pictured are Liz Costello (née Priestley), Judy Molony (née Lockhart-Smith) and Paula Bowman (née Gordon).

## Achievements

### OG Cross Country

The 66th Alumni Cross Race was run on Saturday 15th December 2018 on Wimbledon Common.

This was the second year on the new course year which is now an exactly 5 miles. A good turnout with 230 men and 13 women finishers. The race is run over the common including a few small streams, a couple of fallen trees and some nasty mud covered steep slopes not dissimilar to Death Hill. The St George's team consisted of Martin Threakall (OG '00) and Gerard Thompson (OG '87). Simon Ludlam (OG '81) and Matt Crawcour (OG '84) dropped out at short notice with various injuries.



With just two runners St George's were one short of a qualifying team however Martin went around in an impressive 7 minute mile pace clocking 35:06 followed by Gerard in 40:13 a good minute quicker than last year – great running by both.

Please contact **Simon Ludlam** ([simon@ludlam.com](mailto:simon@ludlam.com)) if you are interested in running in 2019 – the provisional date is **Saturday 14th December**. There is a real mix of ages and abilities – all are welcome.



## Indoor Hockey

At the recent Indoor Jaffa Super 6s, East Grinstead were crowned the Women's English National Champions.

The side was represented by Old Georgian Abi Harper ('07) and their goalkeeper was Becky Waters, St George's Junior School's Director of Sport. The photos were taken by Peter Smith, OG '74. Peter is a Chartered Civil Engineer during the week and a sports photographer at the weekend, having covered the Hockey World Cup last year.

*"Delighted to have been involved with such a talented EG team this year. We faced injury and fitness challenges but it all came together*

*beautifully for us. Having been crowned Jaffa Super 6's Champions, I'm very much looking forward to playing in the 2020 EuroHockey Indoor Club Championships next year. I am also very excited that the pupils of St George's will have the opportunity to play such a fast and thrilling game within the Activity Centre, and I cannot wait to be a part of the upcoming celebrations."*  
Becky Waters

*"It was great to be back playing indoors again and even more incredible to finish the way we did. Becky is particularly key to our success as over the years I've become used to hearing her commanding voice keeping the team structured from the back. I'm already excited for next year's European competition & believe we can go from strength to strength."*  
Abi Harper



## Ty Francis, Current Parent

Ty Francis MBE is British-American business development executive and corporate governance expert, who after 12 years in New York City, (in senior positions at the Ethisphere Institute and the New York Stock Exchange), returned to the UK, and now advises several companies looking to expand globally.

He recently joined The Duke of York's 'Pitch At Palace' initiative as an advisor, and is an Ambassador for the International Convention Centre Wales (ICC Wales). While in the US, Ty launched the New York Welsh network and is in the process of launching a sports sponsorship initiative helping youth teams in Wales get funding globally with his wife Alayna, a PR and Communications executive at Mercer. In 2014,

Ty was appointed as a Business Advocate to the USA by Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales to promote foreign investment. He also facilitates business roundtables for the UK's Department for International Trade in North America.

**He was appointed MBE in the 2017 Birthday Honours List in recognition of services to promoting business in Wales.**

## Michael Clayden, OG '73

On Remembrance Sunday, Michael qualified as an advanced STA Level 2 Certificate teacher.

He still teaches children on a Sunday morning at Beadle's School in Petersfield and at Petersfield Open Air Pool. The advanced qualification will enable Michael to teach diving, competition starts and turns, water survival techniques and water rescues.

**Still flying the flag for the over 60's!!**





Michael Gooley and Bobby taken at the Over Sixties lunch in 2015

### Peter 'Bobby' Burns (OG '55)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Bobby on 27th January 2018. Bobby was at St George's from 1947-1955. Bobby was the Secretary to the Old Georgians' Golf Society from 1999-2010. We continue to think of his wife Judy and their children during this very difficult time.

At his funeral Bobby was spoken of as a decent, sensitive and compassionate man. Never has an epitaph been more deserved. He was a man of faith and purpose. Peter (Bobby) Burns was a pupil at St George's from 1946 to 1955 and soon made his mark especially on the sports field, where he achieved much and had a significant record, contributing to the success and wider position of the College in those years. The teams he played for were outstandingly successful. He spent two years in the first team for rugby and he gained his colours and cap for hockey as a dynamic goal keeper. In cricket he made vast numbers of punishing runs, including 141 in the first fixture v MCC.

He was also prominent in athletics and cross country. He kept rugby and cricket going after school and played rugby for Richmond, Surrey and Hampshire and he was chosen for the Barbarians (he was one of two Old Georgians so honoured). Naturally he also played these sports for the Old Georgians and as a batsman was a tower of strength, making a century vs the College (1956) and a really remarkable century against Middleton in 1963. Latterly he became a competitive golfer (running OG Golf for a good spell) but, as may be imagined, the most agreeable of companions on the course. Bobby was also a sailor of small boats.

His professional life was as a Quantity Surveyor in the Portsmouth area, extending his business interests to New Zealand and Singapore. It was significant that he had a major involvement to the Church where his funeral was held. Bobby was awarded the Papal Medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" as his Father had been earlier. He was indeed a rock of support. All Old Georgians will join in sympathy to his wife Judy, and his children Jonathan and Susie and step children, Dave and Gill. We shall miss him greatly and speak of him often in the years ahead.

**Brian O'Gorman (OG '54 and President OGA)**

### Richard (Dick) Finnis (OG '44)

Richard passed away peacefully on 12th December aged 89. Dick, beloved husband of Susan, dear father to Simon, Christopher and Sarah. A dear Grandfather of Emily, Jessica, Grace and Charlotte.

### Fr Andrew, Josephite and OG '43

Fr Andrew died peacefully on the morning of the 18th December after many months of being in a medical care home. Fr Andrew was born in Balham in 1925.

He was a boarder at the College from 1934-1943 and went on to study at the University of London (1947-1950) followed by four years studying Theology in Belgium after which he returned to St George's to teach Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Religion as well as being Day Boy Master.

He retired in 1990 and celebrated his Golden Jubilee on his ordination as a priest in 2004.

*"Fr Andrew was an inspirational teacher and helped me decide to be a doctor. He, and the wider College, had a huge influence on my life. May he rest in peace."*

**Dr Julian Barwell (OG '91)**

*"I have very fond memories of Father Andrew, whose great sense of humour and his excellent way of explaining things made his religion lessons profitable as well as entertaining. He was a great credit to the Josephite teaching community. May he rest in peace."*

**Chris Steele (OG '68)**



*"I am very sorry to learn this news. Fr Andrew was a very tolerant Day Boy Master, when first I knew him. His adjudications on squabbles, particularly runs-in with prefects, were always very fair it seemed to me but perhaps not the prefect. He used to pay us 6d for frogs for his Biology lab. Later he taught us Religion in the sixth form in a most practical and useful way - the view on capital punishment, drink driving (it wasn't called that then) and hunting spring to mind. Years later, he very kindly sent me his notes which I was able to pass to my son who was struggling with these concepts in his own sixth form seminars. A gentle man. May he rest in peace."*

**John Scott-Cree (OG '66)**

### Richard Eric Graves (OG '79)

Richard passed away suddenly on 21st November 2018. Born in Winchester in 1961, his early life was spent in Senegal and France before following his older brother Michael (OG '73) to Barrow Hills and St George's.



In the 1980's he left these shores for Canada and the USA, settling in New Jersey. Having worked for the French Consulate in New York for many years he then worked as self-employed in a variety of enterprises.

From an early age he was beset by ill health having to deal with cancer in his 20's followed by two kidney transplants. He did not let this deter him in life, enjoying his love of food and wine. He was very popular in his local community being greatly admired for his outlook on life and British sense of humour. He leaves behind his fiancé Bernadette of 33 years. They were due to get married this summer. He will greatly be missed by his two sisters and brother.

**Submitted by Michael R. Graves (OG '73)**





## John Forer (OG '49)

John Hector Forer was born on 12 February 1933 in Seaview, Isle of Wight. The family originated from Northern Italy but came to England in the nineteenth century but Dad was the typical understated English Gentleman. I attribute this to his schooling at St George's College, Weybridge. His School had a huge influence on him from his arrival there in January 1941 after the family business and home in Southsea had been blitzed; that influence remained with him throughout his life. It was also the place where he developed his life-long love of cricket and history – he later went on to gain a degree in Modern History from Southampton University (incidentally at a better grade than mine).

Growing up in Portsmouth in the 1930s and 1940s, Dad was fascinated by the Royal Navy and its role in the defence of this nation.

*"It is upon the Navy under the good providence of God that the safety, honour and welfare of this realm doth chiefly depend".*

Dad believed in this wholeheartedly and he had a passion for the Service until his dying day. He never served in the Royal Navy but was immensely proud when first I, then Duncan and finally Jonathon became Naval Officers – he always wanted to know what was going on and how we were doing. His library was full of books about the Navy and I remember fondly our Sunday evening chats about the Service over a couple of pints in the Sally Port Hotel, Old Portsmouth.

He was also a dedicated family man. His family was at the centre of everything for him. Mum and Dad were married for over 57 years. Right up to the end, Mum was a constant support to him and especially as his muscular dystrophy worsened and he needed constant nursing. He had two sons, one daughter and three grandchildren.

St George's College, Weybridge was where I believe he first developed his Catholic Faith. Anyone who knew him, knew how important his faith was to him – it was a constant part of his life and his guiding principle. His faith was unshakeable and I believe we will be justly rewarded for it.

**Written by Tim Forer, John's son**

## Sir Conrad Swan KCVO FSA (OG '42)

Sir Conrad Swan, died aged 94 on the 10th January 2019, was a Garter King of Arms, the senior heraldic authority of England. In his long service to heraldry, he acted for the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965; he was also on duty for the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales in 1969, and was Gentleman Usher-in-Waiting to Pope John Paul II during the papal visit of 1982. Knighted in 1994, Sir Conrad gained honours and decorations from many nations he had assisted – from the West Indies to Rwanda, to Norway, Ethiopia and Tonga. Of particular pride to him were decorations from Poland and Lithuania, remembering his ancestral links. Sir Conrad is survived by four daughters and a son, and grandchildren.



Photograph taken at the 2011 Over Sixties lunch

## Clive Wightman-Smith (OG '61) 1943 – 2018

Clive joined Barrow Hills at age eight in 1951 and left St George's College in 1961. His brother Barry attended the College between 1954 and 1963. During his school years Clive excelled at the highest levels of rugby, hockey and cricket. When he left the College, he followed in his father's footsteps into the building industry joining a civil engineering company where he learned practical skills which stood him in good stead during the rest of his business career in property maintenance and facilities management. For many years he managed local NATWEST Bank properties.

Whilst Clive was a fine cricketer, his main love was rugby, and initially he joined Richmond Rugby Club till he met up with members of University Vandals Rugby Football Club which became a passion of his for the rest of his life. He played for the 1st XV for many years and when his playing days were over, he took part in the general management of the club whilst playing a major coaching/managing part over many years with the Minis and junior section of the Club. His services to the Club were

recognised in 1990 when he was appointed a Vice President of the Club. He took up sailing at the age of 14, and he became very proficient as with all things he pursued in his life.

It was in the late 1960's that he met and subsequently married Heather in 1972. She joined St. Maur's Convent as games mistress in 1976 and stayed until 1997. Clive and Heather were happily married for nearly 50 years and were blessed with son Shaun who with Hannah gave them three grandsons. The three boys have already followed Clive and Shaun into rugby and will carry the name Wightman-Smith with pride.

Sadly, Clive was struck down with Parkinson's about five years ago, and from that time his health gradually deteriorated although he continued to take a keen interest in current affairs and the rugby performances of the Vandals and England.

**Clive's mother was a close childhood friend of Fr Robert Hamilton's mother, and it was poignant that Fr Robert conducted Clive's funeral service.**



Harriet Edmonds

## Harriet Edmonds (St Maur's '82)

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the tragic death of my friend Harriet Edmonds who died in 2018 with cancer.

Harriet joined St Maur's Convent aged six where we became firm friends. I remember to this day her arrival at school swinging her bag gaily along the corridor and entering our classroom ready to learn, draw and engage. As her brother Thomas said at her funeral, 'Harriet loved books.' It was her ability to grasp ideas so quickly, present them in a beautiful and engaging way and enter the classroom discussion that marked her out even at such a tender age. I remember how she used to sit in the classroom – her legs curled up underneath her (never with feet on the floor) as if the classroom was an extension of her own sitting room and learning and reading the pleasure to be found there.

Harriet's parents Jenny and Jack adopted three children – Harriet, Thomas and Rachel and their sunny presence lit up the School and reflected the love and values their warm home provided. I remember many happy days going to the family home at 'Old Farm' in Laleham and playing with Harriet by the river after school.

As we progressed up the School it was clear that Harriet possessed not only a phenomenal intellect across both the arts and sciences but also the ability to express herself naturally through beautifully written English, demonstrating an assured understanding of any subject with a fine and rare appreciation of nuance. While she was a fantastic linguist, musician, choir member and swimmer to

whom academic study came easily, she did not judge those for whom it did not, making her a popular member of the class who was easy to be with. It was no surprise to any of us when she was awarded a coveted place to read law at Trinity College Cambridge.

On graduation she moved to Paris to work for a French law firm before returning to London as Chief of Staff for the Monitor Group. This led to travelling extensively and dealing with politicians, high level intelligence officers and some Middle Eastern royalty. In her down time she was an accomplished cook and enjoyed writing.

Tragically, Hattie became ill in November 2017 and, through many months, kept hold of her fighting spirit and self-deprecating humour. She passed away in early May. Her love and flair for life and language will be sadly missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

*It is to honour her memory and possession of the finest level of academic scholarship that a Memorial Cup has been established to be awarded annually to a student or students who have demonstrated the ability to develop their natural qualities of written expression, furthered their learning and critical thinking outside the classroom and demonstrated academic excellence across the humanities including modern languages.*

It is fitting that this lasting tribute can be made to Harriet and to inspire St George's College pupils to challenge themselves individually and academically to pursue their learning to the highest level as she did. It was therefore with great pleasure that Harriet's mother Jenny and I were able to attend the School's recent prize giving when the first Harriet Edmonds Memorial Cup was presented jointly to Isobel Diprose and Madeline Patterson.

### Joanna Barrett (née O'Gorman St Maur's '72)



Prize giving 2018 – Jenny (Harriet's mother) and Maddie Patterson



Geoff with his family. Geoff is holding both the Glanvill and the Gibson Cups

## Geoff Newell (OG '73)

Former Barrow Hill's student and old Georgian, Geoffrey Newell died on 16 December 2016. He married Lizzie in September 1983.

A year later their wonderful son Joseph was born. He was the most fantastic brother to Josephine, Melanie, Katherine, Lucy and myself, Matthew. When he was boarding at St George's we couldn't wait for him to come home at weekends. He was warm, fun and popular and his school friends were regular visitors at our family home in Witley.

Geoff's formative years were full of flare, panache and great achievements, particularly as a sportsman. The Georgian frequently featured his photo along with glowing accolades. He excelled at cricket, was 'a talented rugby scrum half' and had 'a killer shot' as captain of 'the strongest team in the school'. In 1970-71 and '71-'72 he led the U15 table tennis team to victory in the U19 school's 4 a side schools league. But perhaps his greatest potential was in the game of tennis. While at St George's he was seeded at Junior Wimbledon. As a member of the 1st tennis VI the team reached the final of the Glanville cup in 1972 and in 1973 Geoff played a significant role in victoriously bringing it home.

I remember the occasion well. I was at a parents' day when there was an announcement that the tennis team were on their way back having just thrashed their opponents. A short while later the team entered the marquee bearing Geoff aloft as the man of the moment. I was exploding with pride and love.

His early working life also showed great promise. After St George's he worked as a buyer for the Anson Corporation. The company produced the first ever video digital tennis game. Geoff had good business instincts and a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Sadly, life can bring tough treatment. At the age of 19 Geoff was diagnosed with schizophrenia. His early successes are easily identified. His later ones were possibly not so obvious but no less notable. He dealt with adversity, championing the cause of individuals incarcerated in the mental health care system. Ever defiant, he never regarded himself as a victim despite his daily life becoming ever more a struggle. The family are grateful for the loving support he received from the many carers who looked after him in the last 20 years of his life.

# Graham Carey, St George's College Production Manager

After watching the school's production of Sound of Music towards the end of 2018, we were amazed by the detail and hard work that went into the stage design for this play (and many others we have seen over the years). We caught up with St George's Production Manager to find out all about his role.

Originally joining the College in 2004 and working both in the Technology and Drama Departments, it was two years before I became a permanent member of the Drama Department staff as a technician and eventually becoming Production Manager in 2008. The facilities then were basic with the theatre still having a formal raised and raked stage with an ornate plaster proscenium arch and steps at the back leading to the 'Green Room' and storage area. This all changed in 2007 when the College decided to update the theatre and remove the concave



ceiling and, with some persuasion from the Drama staff, remove the raised stage completely leaving a flat performance space. This greatly improved the acoustics and gave the College a professional open theatre space for the first time. It opened for use in 2008 and has seen some fantastic productions ever since.

I have been fortunate to work with Mark Schofield our current Director of Drama. Mark is a trained actor and also has significant experience of working backstage which has given him a sound knowledge of the practical aspects of running a theatre.

This in turn has given me the opportunity to construct some technically challenging sets knowing that there is understanding and flexibility in the system.

I have often been asked how and when a production starts and to explain the process of building the sets. As our set builds cover Drama exams, Drama scholar plays and other school performances, the preparation times and extent of set builds is very variable. For a full production in November or December the decision of which play or musical will be made in the preceding Summer Term. Once decided we have a series of production meetings where we initially discuss the bare ideas of the director's concept and vision for the play. This is where creativity and practicality are forced to merge as we conclude what can be built within the time and budget allowed.

The reality of a 100 square metre black hole we have as an empty stage and the expectation of transforming it into something spectacular is a harsh concept to come to terms with. Many pencil sketches, internet searches for suitable products and redesigns are the norm but as there are always time constraints, ordering components for the set follows immediately. If practicable, set building commences in June or July but the main build generally starts in September.

Over the years there have been many set challenges. For Terence Rattigan's 'After the Dance' we had to install a grand piano in a luxurious, fully carpeted 1930's apartment and for 'The Passion' we made a 4.5 metre crucifix that had to be carried onstage by an actor and then erected vertically after he had been attached to it. This required the installation of an electric hoist and fall arrester equipment to make the whole procedure safe.

The production of 'Tartuffe' included a water installation with a stainless steel water feature and electric pump to ripple the surface but liquid pumping reached a new level with 'The Bacchae' set, brilliantly designed by the London set designer and OG Jemima Robinson, who had conceived the idea of 7 metre sloping

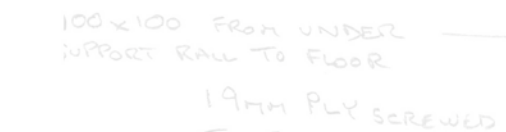


side walls down which blood would flow. This was achieved by hand pumps at either side of the stage and buckets of blood made from many gallons of diluted red children's' paint. Somehow it worked.

Our latest production, the musical 'The Sound of Music' required a staircase: not any old staircase but a tapering staircase with continuous handrails. Stair component manufacturers of course do not make parts for non-standard staircases so considerable modifications were required, the norm for most of our sets.



**All this would not happen without teamwork and the Drama Department relies on this heavily and I thank them for all their help. Along with myself we have three teachers, Mark Schofield, Lara Willis and OG Nick Bissessar, costume designer Helen Guy-Williams and lighting technician, Ollie Lisney.**



# The St George's Weybridge Parents' Association

St George's has a very proactive Parents' Association, headed by two co-chairs, Val Banks and Daniela Dionisio-Clark. Val has two daughters at the College and Dani has a son and daughter at the Junior School.

We have a team of amazing parents on our Committee and together we spend the year raising money for the school to purchase extra educational items by running various events. We have a core number of events which we run every year including, quiz nights, the Summer Fete, Summer Ball and the Christmas Market.

We also run the Second Hand Shop which is one of our largest fundraisers. All Junior School and College uniform is available along with PE kit and accessories. Please drop in on Thursdays between 2.30 – 4.30pm.

## Christmas Market 2018

Our main event of the year, the Christmas Market which was held for the first time in the Orchard Hall and Amanda Smith Theatre (as the Activity Centre is under construction). We cannot wait for the completion of the Activity Centre as we will be able to hold the event in this impressive new space. There were over 50 stall holders selling a variety of gifts and Christmas items, along with great food trucks, tombola's and cake stalls.



## Golf Day

The PA held their first ever Golf Day in November at Burhill Golf Club, with 20 parents taking part on a beautiful sunny day.

Drinks and late lunch followed in the Club House during which the inaugural St George's Cup was presented to the winner. This was a hugely successful first golf event, with all players wanting to come to the next one.



## Summer Fete June 2018

The Summer Fete last year had a circus theme and our big top circus tent was hugely popular with the children, and Mr Hudson didn't disappoint with his costume as Circus Ringmaster!

The perfect weather, great food trucks, wonderful entertainment and of course, the prosecco tent, kept people at the fete all day.

Happy children and happy parents made this a day to remember. Our next Fete is 15th June 2019 which we are working on at the moment.

## Summer Ball June 2018

Our big ticket event of the year, the Summer Ball was a fantastic evening for Upper Sixth leavers, their parents and all current Georgian parents. This was our biggest Ball to date with almost 600 Georgians attending. As ever, it was a memorable evening of delicious food, superb entertainment, games and even a gin bar! The 2019 Ball, will take place on the 29th June, and promises to be just as fantastic.



Danni and Val

## Quiz Nights

The quiz nights are our Easter Term events – again so popular that we now run a College night and a Junior School night to meet the demand for a table. Fr Martin is responsible as quizmaster for the College quiz and we have him to thank for the testing questions. Thank you to Mr Hudson for being our Junior School night quizmaster.

The funds from all of these events, plus sports tournaments and sports days we attend enable us to provide a vast array of items for the school – as requested by parents, staff and Heads. Our major purchase at the end of last year, and one of which we are very proud, is for a climbing wall which will be in the new Activity Centre. Over the last few years we have provided the hockey dugout, tennis table tables, gardening

equipment, gym springboards and mats, drama costumes, instruments, headphones and outdoor beanbags amongst other things for the junior school. Taxidermy animals, Sixth Form benches and stools, music display monitors and drama audio computers are just a few of the items we have provided for the College, and the stained glass windows in the Chapel, all very worthy additions I am sure you will agree.

**As ever, thanks should go to parents in both schools for their support and donating their time, and occasionally gifts and cakes, - we couldn't run all the events without you and we are very grateful. If you ever want to do more, just get in touch! PASGW@stgeorgesweybridge.com**

**Our Social Media pages, Facebook and Twitter are gaining interest daily, so please follow us for PA information and event updates. Facebook @stgeorgesweybridgepa. Twitter @ParentsSgw**

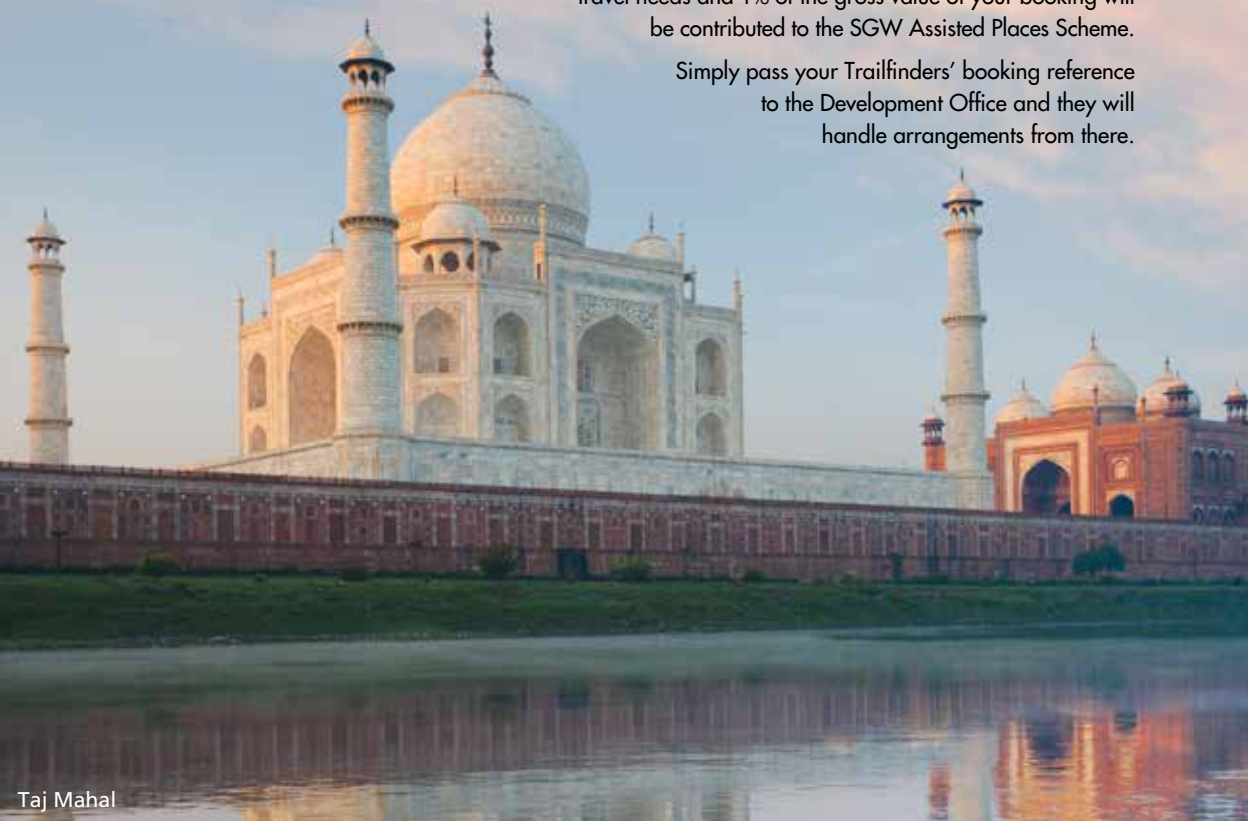


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