ALSO INSIDE:
1987 REUNION, HIGH FLYERS’, TURKISH AMBASSADOR,
GETTING TO KNOW YOU, OGA SPORTS AND EXAM CELEBRATIONS
Welcome to the 2014 edition of Reunite

This is a magazine for all Georgians: Old Georgians of all vintages, staff and former staff, parents of both current and former pupils and friends of the College. It is difficult to believe that this is our 12th edition of the Reunite magazine. We began in the spring of 2007 with a booklet that was only eight pages long, and the magazine has grown substantially in content over the past few years that we were producing in excess of 66 pages. We are proud to announce that we will now be producing the RU magazine twice a year; one in September & Georgia Boatman and one in March.

It has been a busy year for the Development team. We’ve been delighted to meet so many Old Georgians, parents and friends of the College over the past year through a wide variety of events. Thank you to everyone that has attended and offered assistance at one of our career evenings. To those that have also offered mentoring, you have provided such a wonderful opportunity for the students. You can read all about the career programmes on pages 14-17. We hope that everyone who has attended one of our reunions has really enjoyed meeting each other and we can only encourage you to join us again at a future event – please bring a friend! A full report on all our reunions over the past year can be read on pages 6-11.

We are very pleased that the introduction of anniversary reunions for specific year groups has taken off so well. This year both the Class of 1979 and 1987 met up and reminisced about their time at St George’s, with the Class of 2004 due to meet in November. During 2015 there will be an anniversary reunion planned for both the Class of 1975 and 1980. We do, however, encourage many year groups to get together at the Annual Reunion which takes place in June. Please contact the office if you would like to act as a class representative and help us to organise this.

We’d like to thank all those who have so generously made donations to St George’s in the past and over this past year; we are very grateful for your support. You can read further information about the ways your donations have benefited St George’s children later in the magazine.

Please keep an eye out for our regular e-news or visit the website. Over the coming months we will be launching a new online archive containing fully searchable magazines, documents and photos spanning the whole history of the School. If you have any material you would like to share with us we would love to hear from you.

Finally, welcome to our newest Old Georgians, the Class of 2014. They join a thriving Old Georgian community with more than 11,000 members spanning over 78 different countries.

Caroline Long, Melanie Gordon-Hughes & Georgia Boatman

CONTACT US:
THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Mrs Caroline Long
Development Director
Mrs Melanie Gordon-Hughes
Development Assistant
Miss Georgia Boatman
Development Assistant
T: 01932 839352
E: development@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesreunite.com
Office hours: 8.00am–5pm
Monday to Friday all year
(except Public/Bank Holidays)
The Development Office,
St George’s Weybridge,
Weybridge Road, Addlestone,
Surrey, KT15 2QS, UK

THE CONGREGATION OF JOSEPHITES
For information about the Josephites and their work in Belgium, England, Africa and the USA,
www.josephiteweb.org

OLD GEORGIANS’ ASSOCIATION
E: oldgeorgiansassociation@gmail.com

ST GEORGE’S COLLEGE (11-18)
T: 01932 839300
F: 01932 839301
E: contact@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesweybridge.com
St George’s College,
Weybridge Road, Addlestone,
Surrey, KT15 2QS, UK

ST GEORGE’S JUNIOR SCHOOL (3-11)
T: 01932 839400
F: 01932 839401
E: contact@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesweybridge.com
St George’s Junior School,
Thames Street, Weybridge, Surrey,
KT13 8NL, UK

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

Re-unifying 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE –
04 2014 / 2015 Diary Dates
05 Who has been reunited during 2014?
12 Who has visited St George’s?
14 Focus on Careers & Networking
18 Fundraising Report
20 Community News
23 Little Pieces of History
30 OGA Club News
32 OGA Sport News
40 Getting to know you
54 Announcements
56 Fondly Remembered
60 School News

REGULARS
56 Getting to know you
58 Announcements
60 School News

Twitter @stgeorgesru
Facebook
LinkedIn

How do you read your issue of Reunite? In the sunshine in Sydney, at your desk in Denmark or with your mum in Manchester? We would love to know. Tweet us (@stgeorgesru) the most inventive way you’ve read your RU magazine and make sure you include #OGsHowDoYouReadYours.

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Mrs Caroline Long
Development Director
Mrs Melanie Gordon-Hughes
Development Assistant
Miss Georgia Boatman
Development Assistant
T: 01932 839352
E: development@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesreunite.com
Office hours: 8.00am–5pm
Monday to Friday all year
(except Public/Bank Holidays)
The Development Office,
St George’s Weybridge,
Weybridge Road, Addlestone,
Surrey, KT15 2QS, UK

THE CONGREGATION OF JOSEPHITES
For information about the Josephites and their work in Belgium, England, Africa and the USA,
www.josephiteweb.org

OLD GEORGIANS’ ASSOCIATION
E: oldgeorgiansassociation@gmail.com

ST GEORGE’S COLLEGE (11-18)
T: 01932 839300
F: 01932 839301
E: contact@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesweybridge.com
St George’s College,
Weybridge Road, Addlestone,
Surrey, KT15 2QS, UK

ST GEORGE’S JUNIOR SCHOOL (3-11)
T: 01932 839400
F: 01932 839401
E: contact@stgeorgesweybridge.com
www.stgeorgesweybridge.com
St George’s Junior School,
Thames Street, Weybridge, Surrey,
KT13 8NL, UK

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

Re-unifying 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE –
04 2014 / 2015 Diary Dates
05 Who has been reunited during 2014?
12 Who has visited St George’s?
14 Focus on Careers & Networking
18 Fundraising Report
20 Community News
23 Little Pieces of History
30 OGA Club News
32 OGA Sport News
40 Getting to know you
54 Announcements
56 Fondly Remembered
60 School News

REGULARS
56 Getting to know you
58 Announcements
60 School News

Twitter @stgeorgesru
Facebook
LinkedIn

How do you read your issue of Reunite? In the sunshine in Sydney, at your desk in Denmark or with your mum in Manchester? We would love to know. Tweet us (@stgeorgesru) the most inventive way you’ve read your RU magazine and make sure you include #OGsHowDoYouReadYours.
Information about our events can be found on our website, along with an online booking facility. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

www.stgeorgesreunite.com
Tel: 01932 839352

Oxford Reunion

On Wednesday 7th May, 13 Old Georgians (including two spouses) attended a reunion dinner in Oxford at the Head of the River Bar and Restaurant. Four of the alumni who attended the dinner are currently students studying at Oxford University and Oxford Brookes. The reunion dinner was a wonderful opportunity for OGS of different eras to mix and share their experiences.

It was an incredibly enjoyable evening, with everyone enjoying their meal, wine and good company. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Who has been reunited during 2014?

DINNER

South Regional Reunion

Date: Wednesday 15th October 2014
Venue: Prezzo Restaurant – Westover Rd, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2BZ

CITY Networking

Date: Thursday 6th November 2014
Venue: Corney & Barrow, 10 Paternoster Square, London, EC4M 7DX

Class of 2004 Reunion

Date: Friday 21st November 2014
Venue: Browns Restaurant, Covent Garden, 82-84 St Martin’s Ln, London, WC2N 4AG

Space is limited – first come first served

Class of 2014 Reunion

CHRISTMAS Drinks

Date: Wednesday 17th December 2014
Venue: Slug and Lettuce in Weybridge

EXETER Regional Reunion

Date: March 2015
Further information to be confirmed in 2015

OVER 60S London Lunch

Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2015
Venue: Royal Overseas League, St James’s, London
Further information will be sent out in 2015

Class of 1975 Reunion

Date: Saturday 13th June 2015
Venue: Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, City Road, London, EC1Y 2BQ

“Where better to head on a wet Thursday night in the City than Corney & Barrow’s for a warm welcome from Melanie and Georgia and a catch up with 14 Old Georgians who left the school almost 30 (gulp) years ago but still hold it close to their hearts. Memories were revisited, news was shared and old friends remembered. Hopefully more from 1983 next time!”

Victoria Nicholson (nee Bond)

Attendees:

1983, 1984 & 1985 Leavers’ Drinks

On Thursday 8th May alumni from the 1983, 1984 & 1985 year groups got together for an informal drinks gathering at Corney and Barrow in Paternoster Square, London. Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a great success.

Attendees:
Who has been reunited during 2014?

1987 London Reunion

We had a fantastic get together on the 6th February, bringing together over 40 of us from the Class of 1987 for supper and drinks at the Fire Station restaurant, Waterloo. It was great to see so many old friends and note that the boys had generally aged significantly more than the girls in terms of physical appearances but with the opposite applying in terms of mental age! Diego Sanchez, coming all the way from Santiago, took the prize for the longest distance travelled with Lizzy Aindow a close second, coming from Jamaica.

Great fun and we must do it again before the next 25 years are up!

Written by Simon Henderson

Rowing Regatta

On Monday 30th July the annual St George’s Regatta took place at the St George’s Boat House in Walton-upon-Thames. Despite the very wet weather the races were thoroughly enjoyed by parents, teachers, students and Old Georgians.

The races started at 1.30pm as everyone lined the banks to support the competitors in a variety of team and single races. The final race was between the St George’s Boys and the Old Georgians. The latter team had never rowed together before, with some of them not having rowed for years, making for an exciting race. Sadly the OG’s were unable to hold onto their title this year, as they raced against a very strong College crew, but they have vowed to come back stronger next year.


1987 Sydney Gathering

On Monday 3rd February six Old Georgians from the Class of 1987 living in Sydney, Australia also met up for a reunion – not wanting to be left out of the London gathering. Tim Richards said “It was great to catch up with great mates in Sydney after 26 years, it felt like we had left school only last week, there were lots of memories to share.”

At the London reunion, Simon Henderson read out a letter to his classmates from Alex Regan, in Australia.

Visit our website at www.stgeorgesreunite.com to read Alex’s very entertaining letter.
Over 60s
London Lunch

On Wednesday 4th June another very successful Over 60s lunch was held in London. We are happy to confirm that the Royal Overseas League has been booked for 2015 – so do put the 3rd June 2015 in your diary. This year we had a record number of 79 guests attend and we are sure as the lunch grows in popularity that this number will continue to steadily increase each year. Lunch began with a very special presentation to John Champion (1965), OGA Chairman, who retired after 20 years of service earlier this year. A collection was received from many Old Georgians in gratitude for everything he has done with such dedication. It was presented to John at the lunch by John Padovan who said a few words of thanks on behalf of everyone.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We would be so pleased if you could pass the word on and encourage more of your school friends to join – let’s make 2015 a year to remember!

First time at the Over 60s lunch
by Martin Baker 1957-1962

I had been thinking about attending the reunion lunch for the past couple of years, so at a recent meeting with John Lawes, who was in my class, I was persuaded to come this year.

On arrival on a damp and overcast day at the impressive Royal Overseas League I was warmly welcomed by the Development Team and before I had even found the bar I had seen two name badges I recognised and introduced myself. In both cases they were older brothers of the friends I knew.

I did meet a few people I knew before we sat down for lunch and it was great to be able to catch up on our experiences over the past 60 years. The lunch was excellent with very good service. My table had OGs from years before and after mine and it made me realise that reunions like this gives us a chance to meet people who you would not have known at school but with whom one has the common interest of St George’s College.

After lunch and some entertaining speeches I renewed some old friendships. On the way home John and I reflected on an excellent day and resolved to do it again next year when I hope to get to know more OGs.
The sun shone brightly in Weybridge as the Headmaster and Development Team welcomed back over two hundred alumni (and their families) to the Annual Reunion on Sunday 22nd June 2014.

All members of the Georgian Family from OGs and OMs to parents and retired staff were invited.

The reunion commenced with Mass officiated by Fr Aidan Peter Rossiter cj (1978). It was a beautiful service with about 30 in attendance. Tours of the College were led by Fr Martin Ashcroft cj (1969) and Elliot Neame (2011), with alumni getting an opportunity to see how the College has changed since their student days, with some alumni not having been back to St George’s for decades. Most noticeable to many was the addition of the Henderson Centre, overlooking the Orchard Pitch, which provides state of the art classroom and meeting rooms for Humanities and the Sixth Form.

A BBQ lunch then followed, where alumni caught up with friends and reminisced about their time at both St George’s and St Maur’s. A massive thank you must go to the catering team who put on the most delicious lunch. The children were once again treated to having their faces painted – Tracey performed creative magic on the day and there were many little dragons, puppies and butterflies, and even Olaf the snowman from the film Frozen was seen running around. The bouncy castle kept many kids active, and many parents, were wishful for a turn too! Giant Jenga, hoola hoops, mini cricket, mini golf and space hoppers are some of the games to name but a few that were used to entertain the younger guests.

Afternoon tea was served at 3.30pm were a heavenly arrangement of cakes, scones and sandwiches were enjoyed when Alumni and their families were also provided with an opportunity to peruse through memorabilia – including sport team photographs, school photos, Old Georgian magazines, St Maur’s material and Reunite literature.

Thank you to both Elizabeth Dymond (Bennell) and Simon Baynham for organising peers from their respective years to attend the Annual Reunion. Elizabeth helped to organise a get together for the St Maur’s Class of 1983 and Simon encouraged his peers from the St George’s Class of 1969 to attend.

If you would like to act as a class representative for the 2015 Annual Reunion please can you get in touch with the Development Office.
The Development Office always encourages any member of the Georgian family to come back to St George’s Weybridge and visit! It is the perfect way to share with your family an important part of your past and to relive your memories! The tours can be adapted to what you would like to see. You are welcome to visit any time of the year. We recommend you email the Development Office at development@stgeorgesweybridge.com or call on 01932 839352 to book in advance, to ensure that someone will be there to take you on your tour. This year the Development Office welcomed a number of visitors back.

Mark MacMahon (1954)
Mark visited the College on the 28th November 2013. Mark went straight into medicine and was a doctor by the age of 21. He was a keen sportsman during his time at St George’s and played for the Rugby and Hockey 1st teams. Mark was also the House Captain of Petre. During his visit we managed to find his name on the board in the Red House.

Simon Forster (1984)
Left St George’s in 1984. Simon visited the College on Thursday 6th November. Simon lives in Austin, Texas where he works as a Chiropractor. During the tour Simon was delighted to find himself in several sporting pictures and enjoyed talking about his time at school with Fr Adrian.

John Wilson (1964)
John and his wife Diana came for a tour of the school on the 22nd May. John’s great uncle, Joseph Wilson who attended St George’s College, died during WW1 in 1917 and his name is displayed on the war memorial in the chapel.

David Hoyland (1953)
David visited the College on the 21st May. David had lovely memories of his time at St George’s College. He believes his time at St George’s set him up for his life in the big world! Thank you David for treating the Development Office to some wonderful cakes which were enjoyed with tea after the tour.

William (Bill) Marsh (1961)
Bill and his lovely wife Sylvia visited the College for a trip down memory lane on the 28th May 2014. Bill and Sylvia were the lucky recipients of a guided tour of the Josephite area, where they got to see the Josephite library, common room and the former Presidents office, with compliments of Fr Jude McHugo. He has a lasting feeling of gratitude that he was so fortunate to have been able to attend St George’s College.

Gordon Hewitt (1966)
On Friday 4th July we met with Gordon who is a former alumnus and staff member. Gordon was visiting the UK from Malta, where he has been living for a number of years. During his stay, he was playing cricket for the MCC. Gordon informed us that while the Chapel was being built they performed a fundraising activity by selling bricks at six shillings and each boy that bought a brick had his initials carved on it. They are on the inside cavity of the wall.

Bernard Dennis-Browne (1954)
Bernard visited the College on the 1st August. Bernard’s hobby is film making and he is currently filming an interview with Fr Jude McHugo.
FOCUS ON CAREERS AND NETWORKING

Liberal Arts Careers Evening

On Tuesday 11th February the Careers and Development Departments welcomed ten professional guest speakers to the Liberal Arts Careers evening. The guest speakers were made up of Old Georgians and current parents. There were just over 60 students who attended mainly from the Fifth Year, but the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth were represented too.

Martin Eito, Fifth Former commented on the evening “With a range of different people involved in a variety of careers there was something for everyone to be interested and learn from. I found the people chosen were extremely helpful in suggesting what we should do to achieve these jobs, not just their way but other possible paths to go down. As well as this being helpful, they really motivated me to want to work hard and do something I love, and aspire to be like some of them who had achieved incredible things in their lives, such as meeting Nelson Mandela, or being part of one of the most famous marketing schemes ever.”

Guest Attendees: John Carlin, Janine McKelvey, Lynette Pitzolu, Andy Prendergast, Edward Harvey, Gail Graves, Caroline Wylde, Angie Wiles, Joe Lee and Margot West.

High Flyers’ Careers Evening

On Tuesday 18th March, we welcomed 17 guests comprising of Old Georgians and current parents to the High Flyers’ Careers evening at the College. The guests all represented International and Blue Chip companies. They met with our Fifth Year, Sixth Form and a small handful of Fourth Year students, and they were able to give the students a good understanding of what it is like to work in these large companies. We had companies such as Goldman Sachs, BDO, British Airways and the Royal Bank of Scotland being represented.

Lower Sixth Student, Adam Casey said “The High Flyers’ Careers evening provided a great opportunity for students like me to hear from some of the top professionals in a wide variety of careers. Although many of the guests were senior in their companies, they provided some valuable information and were willing to speak with such enthusiasm how they began their journey in a variety of fields. This gave us an valuable opportunity to see the ways in which our future careers could unravel.”

Guest Attendees: Richard Adams, David Bicarregui, Ashley Carter, Patrick Childs, Tina Culpin, Michael Davie, Chris & Helen Fells, Nick Foster, Geraldine Fox, Steve Humphries, Nick Kent, Mick McTeir, Jason Napier, Loraine Raincock, Simon Rowell and Nick West.

Lecture Programmes

Are you interested in participating in a lecture programme with our Lower Sixth students? Do you think you can offer an interesting and charismatic presentation that can hold young students attention and help expand the students’ knowledge of the wider world?

The lecture does not have to be careers focused – just interesting and engaging – enough to ‘open up their minds’! The lecture programmes will take place to the whole Lower Sixth on alternate Tuesdays between 11.30am and 12.30pm. If you are interested or would like further information please can you get in touch with the Development Office on 01932 839352.
On Friday 20th June the College hosted the Annual Fourth Form Careers Convention.

We had 17 stands representing careers such as; medicine, law, engineering and sport. Our presenters came from the parent body, Old Georgians and the local business community and their wealth and depth of experience was greatly appreciated. The students found the day extremely rewarding and eye-opening, not least in discovering the range of career paths within a profession. The event serves as a catalyst to encourage students to start thinking about their future in light of having to make their A Level choices in the following academic year.

Environment and the Sciences
21st October
(7pm – 8.30pm)
For students interested in either the Environment or the Sciences (including anything medical related).

Languages Convention
23rd October (7pm – 8.30pm)
This convention is for our Third, Fourth and Fifth year students. Our aim is to build awareness of languages in terms of importance to universities / employers and also simple cultural rounding.

Future Career Events
We are actively appealing to our Georgian Family to assist us in a variety of career related events for our current students. If you are in a position to offer your expertise at any of the following career evenings please can you get in touch with Caroline or Melanie in the Development Office who will be able to offer further information.
Fundraising at St George’s Weybridge

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to support St George’s this year. We are committed to saying thank you and by contributing to a student’s future at St George’s we automatically welcome you into the Friends of St George’s Weybridge.

Here you will be publicly acknowledged as a donor, unless requested otherwise, you will be sent reports, updates, photographs and any other items about the projects that you are supporting. Over the past few years we have been raising funds to support Assisted Places at St George’s. This year, thanks to the incredible support of the Georgian community, we have been able to fund two full places and a further place in 2015. This will mean three children, whose parents would not be able to consider independent education because they are unable to pay fees, will benefit from a St George’s education.

Over £360,000 has been donated by the Georgian community which will pay 100% fee remission for those three students from 11 to 18 years old. This is the first time we have been able to do this and we are so grateful to you for making this possible.

Thank you on behalf of the recipients of the Assisted Places for your generosity.

As a member of the Georgian Family we hope you are aware of the community spirit of the school and its unique ethos. Every year St George’s families generously support a variety of projects to enrich learning, add additional equipment to science, art, sports, music and drama or provide additional learning opportunities beyond the curriculum.

There are always more projects than the operating budget can cover and with the major buildings projects already planned by the Governing Body we face an annual challenge to provide additional finances for the more modest projects highlighted for the SGW Friends’ Fund. Unless we divert funds away from the essential major building projects, many of these projects would have to be put on hold or could not be provided. In recent years SGW Friends’ Fund projects have included the Chapel stained glass windows, a weather station, an ICT suite, a grand piano, a new running track and playground equipment.

By supporting the SGW Friends’ Fund we can provide the very best in facilities which will mean that many more St George’s students will benefit now and in the future. If you would like to donate please contact Caroline or Georgia at SGWFriends@stgeorgesweybridge.com

SUPPORTING A BALANCED EDUCATION

Leave a gift in your will to St George’s Weybridge to support future generations of Georgians.

It is not without good reason that legacies are often called “the greatest gift of all”. What could be more selfless and generous than to make a gift for which one cannot be thanked upon receipt?

After protecting the interests of family and friends, many choose to remember St George’s with a gift in their Will, reflecting their support and affection and their wish for the School to continue to flourish and provide the very best preparation for life for future generations. A legacy can help to ensure that, for generations to come, St George’s is able to compete with its peer institutions on all fronts and maintain its status as one of the leading independent schools in the country.

If the time is ever right to include a gift in your will to St George’s Weybridge, please add a codicil to your latest will. Whatever support you can give, small or large, will make a difference.

For further information please contact:
Mrs Caroline Long,
Development Director,
St George’s College, Weybridge Road,
Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2QS
Tel: 01932 839341
Email: clong@stgeorgesweybridge.com

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to support St George’s this year. We are committed to saying thank you and by contributing to a student’s future at St George’s we automatically welcome you into the Friends of St George’s Weybridge.

Here you will be publicly acknowledged as a donor, unless requested otherwise, you will be sent reports, updates, photographs and any other items about the projects that you are supporting. Over the past few years we have been raising funds to support Assisted Places at St George’s. This year, thanks to the incredible support of the Georgian community, we have been able to fund two full places and a further place in 2015. This will mean three children, whose parents would not be able to consider independent education because they are unable to pay fees, will benefit from a St George’s education.

Over £360,000 has been donated by the Georgian community which will pay 100% fee remission for those three students from 11 to 18 years old. This is the first time we have been able to do this and we are so grateful to you for making this possible.

Thank you on behalf of the recipients of the Assisted Places for your generosity.

As a member of the Georgian Family we hope you are aware of the community spirit of the school and its unique ethos. Every year St George’s families generously support a variety of projects to enrich learning, add additional equipment to science, art, sports, music and drama or provide additional learning opportunities beyond the curriculum.

There are always more projects than the operating budget can cover and with the major buildings projects already planned by the Governing Body we face an annual challenge to provide additional finances for the more modest projects highlighted for the SGW Friends’ Fund. Unless we divert funds away from the essential major building projects, many of these projects would have to be put on hold or could not be provided. In recent years SGW Friends’ Fund projects have included the Chapel stained glass windows, a weather station, an ICT suite, a grand piano, a new running track and playground equipment.

By supporting the SGW Friends’ Fund we can provide the very best in facilities which will mean that many more St George’s students will benefit now and in the future. If you would like to donate please contact Caroline or Georgia at SGWFriends@stgeorgesweybridge.com

SUPPORTING A BALANCED EDUCATION

Leave a gift in your will to St George’s Weybridge to support future generations of Georgians.

It is not without good reason that legacies are often called “the greatest gift of all”. What could be more selfless and generous than to make a gift for which one cannot be thanked upon receipt?

After protecting the interests of family and friends, many choose to remember St George’s with a gift in their Will, reflecting their support and affection and their wish for the School to continue to flourish and provide the very best preparation for life for future generations. A legacy can help to ensure that, for generations to come, St George’s is able to compete with its peer institutions on all fronts and maintain its status as one of the leading independent schools in the country.

If the time is ever right to include a gift in your will to St George’s Weybridge, please add a codicil to your latest will. Whatever support you can give, small or large, will make a difference.

For further information please contact:
Mrs Caroline Long,
Development Director,
St George’s College, Weybridge Road,
Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2QS
Tel: 01932 839341
Email: clong@stgeorgesweybridge.com

If the time is ever right to include a gift in your will to St George’s Weybridge, please add a codicil to your latest will. Whatever support you can give, small or large, will make a difference.
The Infant Jesus Sisters of Weybridge  Written by Fr Jude McHugo

Nicholas Barré a religious priest of Rouen, Northern France, founded the Infant Jesus Sisters in 1662. Much later in 1892 an Irish and French sister came to England from Singapore to begin a ‘mission’ here. One of these – Sister Augustine McSweeney – is buried in Weybridge cemetery. Their school in Thames Street was established in 1898. I learnt from Sister Mary that they were expected to “serve the Lord with a heart devoted towards their pupils” who in turn were expected to relate the same towards those among whom they lived.

My first sight of the sisters was in 1944 when my sister joined the Sixth Form in company with Mary-Ange Pepper and Francine Johnson. I noted that pupils could not just gain house points for good behaviour and study but also for their deportment! We have never been a sporting family so you can imagine my surprise when my sister won a hockey cup! A feature of the summer sports day was the staff slow race (over 25 yards) when the winner was the last teacher to cross the finishing line.

Later as a priest in the 70’s I followed in the steps of my Josephite confreres taking my turn celebrating Mass for the sisters and the school. I hold many happy memories working with Sisters Ita, Helen, Beatrice and Mary in planning the class Masses. In particular, there was a grand celebration for Nicholas Barré when the girls ‘performed’ a beautiful liturgical dance at the offertory – all dressed in dazzling blue – arranged by Sister Helen. I was privileged to preside in Westminster Cathedral at a Saturday evening Mass when Bill Hayward conducted the choir with the usual high standard of singing.

I can relate in a special way Isaiah’s words: “you are precious in my eyes” with the elderly and sick sisters who lived in the convent. Sister Juliana would recite for me a whole chapter of St Mark’s Gospel that she had learnt many years ago at school. I have to smile when I remember hearing the confession of a profoundly deaf sister (who told me she used to work in the laundry). This had to be in a room well away from the rest of the community! There were two sisters who had suffered terribly out in Malaysia during the 2nd world war. In spite of all they had endured there was a sense of peace in their room. I found it difficult to hold back a tear at their funerals as they had been so courageous.

On Sunday mornings the sisters would make available their classrooms for the children from the local Jewish synagogue to have their weekly lessons. The community were well known in the local area and Sisters Martha, Mary, Regis and Paul were among those who would regularly visit lonely and housebound people and even take round hot meals when required. Sister Kate who was both a Marie Curie and a Macmillan nurse would support those who needed palliative care.

In the late 50’s Canon O’Connor, the Woking parish priest saw the need for a primary school. Being Irish he knew the sisters well and sought their help. So it was that on May 20th 1958 St Dunstan’s school opened in Onslow Crescent under the leadership of Sisters Conrad and Zeta who for several weeks would catch the 437 bus from the Ship to get across to Woking. Today it has developed into a very popular school with three form entry.

Meanwhile in 1967 Sister Marie, the St Maur’s head, in conjunction with Fr Peter Murtough Cj took the brave decision to launch a joint Sixth Form on the St George’s site where in no time at all the boys ‘christened’ the new build: “the Aviary”. The girl boarders were bussed across daily by Sister Genevieve who already had much experience driving a tractor back home in Ireland. Later in 1971 the sisters opened a house at Nine Oaks, Hook Heath Woking and Sister Georgina was appointed chaplain to St John Baptist School. I visited them once for Sister Lucy’s Golden Jubilee – the sister with superb handwriting!

Rosslyn House in Oatlands village was acquired in 1973 and converted into what turned out to be a prodigious Ladies Finishing School under the direction of Mother Patrick. It attracted students world-wide. Her influence was so great that she could engage prominent figures down from town to give talks, among whom were Mother Teresa and Malcolm Muggeridge. Each September the clergy of the deanery would be invited to hold their monthly meeting there. They knew they could look forward to a splendid meal cooked by Sister Dominic which always included a delicious Pavlova made of course at Peter’s our popular local teashop. When numbers declined in 1980 they decided to close but the school hall became the local Jewish Synagogue and that is what it is today.

The sisters took heed of Isaiah’s words: “Do not be afraid – I am with you” and took on pastoral work in the parish of Thames Ditton where Sisters Adrian and Gertrude moved into their new home in Woodside Avenue until retiring back to Ireland in 1992. That same year the sisters left St Maur’s for the last time entrusting the school to lay management led by Maureen Dodds. Sister Mary remained in the cottage so she could play a full part in the parish life of Weybridge. We know she gave generous service here in many ways to quote the founder: “with a devoted heart” until the day of her death twenty years later in 2012.

The heritage of the Infant Jesus Sisters stretches backward in time and extends over four continents. We assure them of our prayers. We give thanks for their dedicated service over these 104 years as they continue, to quote Pope Francis, to bring the “Gospel of Love”, to those entrusted to their care. Nicolas Barré was beatified in 1999 in the beginning of the process that we hope and pray will lead to his canonisation.

AD MULTOS ANNOS

St Maur’s
A day in the life of Fr Martin as a Josephite at St George’s College

The seven Josephites living at St George’s spend most of their day in different ways. There is, however, a daily rhythm to community life during the week which revolves around our morning and evening prayer time together; the community celebration of Mass; and our meals. Each morning one of the priests will celebrate Mass for the community of nuns at St Augustine’s Care Home in Addlestone. The Thursday morning community Mass is celebrated in the College Chapel and it is gratifying to see the increasing number of staff and others now participating at this celebration of Mass.

Apart from time spent in community worship and prayer, I spend time each morning in silent prayer listening to God; praying the rosary and then the ‘Office of Readings’ from the official daily prayer book of the Church. A personal joy each evening is being able to spend some time quietly reading and reflecting on a passage of scripture which is then followed by some gentle spiritual reading. My last prayer of the day is always ‘Compline’, the official night prayer of the Church.

As Chaplain, my work in the College also has its own weekly rhythm in term time with the gathering of the teaching staff at mid-morning break on Mondays; the Wednesday morning Chapel Assemblies; the Thursday morning Mass in the College Chapel and the all-day student retreats on Friday. Each lunchtime the Chaplaincy exercises its ‘Ministry of the Toffee’ with some 75 to 100 students regularly dropping in for free toffee; for some these visits also provides the opportunity to talk with myself or Kate Snowden, our Assistant Chaplain.

There is, however, some administrative work that needs to be undertaken. This includes planning the various retreat programmes; preparing the celebrations of the College’s ‘Whole School Masses’ and other services; the organisation of the out-reach programme and the ordering items for ‘Fairtrade’ Tuesdays and Fridays. Happily Kate offers considerable help with the delivery of these administrative tasks.

Spending time out on the games field four times a week helping with rugby and hockey is a real joy even during the winter months when it is often cold and raining! In the summer I find it very relaxing wandering round our wonderful grounds supporting the cricket, tennis, athletics and rounders taking place. There can be few other school settings to match those at the College for watching school matches.

Outside of my work as College Chaplain, I am involved in Josephite Meetings which are often held in Belgium and I usually find myself visiting Josephites living in Africa or the USA most years. I am also involved with other schools either as a School Governor or as a Trustee of a Charity that is involved with two Academies. I am lucky enough to be invited to the various RE Unite gatherings here in the UK and even abroad (Sydney, New York, Chicago, San Francisco). It is always a joy to be involved with the Baptisms and Marriages of former members of the school while trying to be very supportive of Georgians and others who have suffered bereavement within their families.

Finally I am often asked if I miss being the Head of the Junior School to which I say ‘no’. Being Chaplain at St George’s College is a truly wonderful way of working in a school community. I have all the advantages of being actively involved with everybody connected with the school but without all the necessary administrative tasks of marking, grades and report writing. Long may it last!
Gaston Vroome

Gaston Pierre Vroome attended St George’s College between 1936 and 1940 in Kilmorey House. He died in December 2009 after a short illness, he was 86. Following his very happy days at St George’s he gained a place at Bartlett, University College London to read architecture. He was called up one year later and after training at Sandhurst was commissioned into the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment. He landed his unit in France shortly after D-Day and was involved in the gradual drive through Europe into Germany in 1944/1945, eventually being taken prisoner just before the end of the war.

He returned to England, unscathed but wiser, older and much saddened by the loss of all his friends during the war. He resumed his architectural studies and after several years qualified as an architect, a profession he enjoyed all his working life. He settled down to married life with Anne – designing and largely building their home in Oxshott, Surrey in which they lived for the first 34 years of their 58 year marriage. Gaston changed his Flemish name to Peter Frome when he married as people in England continually make speedy jokes about Vroom! Vroom! Peter and Anne had 3 children (Nicholas, Alexandra and Andrew) and eight grandchildren.

Gaston/Peter was a keen sportsman at St George’s and his particular strengths were hockey, rugby and tennis. This aptitude for all sports has been passed on to his family who also enjoy many forms of ball sports.

Lastly, as fate would have it, Gaston’s daughter Alexandra, (Mrs Alex Welford) is now working at the College as the Admissions Manager, although sadly he died before she took up the post. Nevertheless Gaston/Peter would have been so thrilled that his daughter chose to work at his old school, a place where he enjoyed much success and happiness.

Gaston Vroome

Vivian ‘George’ Mills

Michael Mills (1965) looks back over the life of his father Vivian ‘George’ Mills.

Vivian (George) Mills attended St George’s College between 1925 and 1928. He never shone academically, but he was a good all round sportsman; captain of the 1st XV in 1926, boxing champion in 1927 and a very competent tennis player and swimmer. This in itself is no great achievement, given some of the great sportsmen St George’s has produced, but Vivian, who became ‘George’ when captaining the 1st XV on the coach’s instigation; “not a very manly name for a rugby player, better adopt the name of the school”, had to fight against an important disability. He had contracted polio as a young boy and his left calf, from ankle to knee, was no thicker than his wrist! Amputation was suggested by one doctor; this was over a century ago! And fortunately, his father fought against that option.

He had an active war with The Essex Regiment and then as a Commando Major in the Burma Campaign. At his funeral, 40 years ago, a close friend who had served with him told me what an inspiration he had been to his troop, always so active, and when I replied how difficult that must have been for him as any running caused him great pain with his disability the astonished reply was ‘what disability?’

After the war he found his niche as a production manager on TV and in films. The ‘Robin Hood’ series with Richard Greene in 1955, The Buccaneers with Robert Shaw, Sir Lancelot, The Sword and the Rose, Tiger Bay, and Phaedra to name a few. Through my father I met many interesting and colourful characters and I can remember, apologies for name dropping, when John Lennon told me how fortunate I was to have such a wonderful father.

He was a diffident, self-effacing man who never complained, never spoke about the war or his ‘condition’. He was my ‘super hero’ and lived under the same roof as me. If you’ve read this far – mea culpa, mea culpa, you can reach for the box of Kleenex now!
My father heard the guns of August

María Páez Victor
Toronto, 12 February 2014

My father, Delfín Enrique Páez Chataing was born in 1899 in Caracas. His eldest brother, Jesus Antonio Páez, already a lawyer, proposed to take Delfín to Europe, to attend a Catholic school for boys in Belgium, the Maison de Melle-lez-Gand, until he was of age to enter university.

Before leaving Delfín at the school, my uncle took him aside and asked him if he really wanted to stay there, because he would happily take him back to Caracas if he felt uneasy. Delfín assured his brother that he really liked the school, being especially attracted to all the sports facilities, and he would be happy to stay.

The school, founded in 1837 by the Josephite Fathers (College des Peres Jozephites), taught sons of Belgian and international celebrities. My father particularly liked the sports at the school and he excelled at pole vaulting. Since I was the second youngest of a family of nine children, my image of him was always as a middle aged, later, an old man, so it surprised me extremely to think of him pole vaulting!

Rumours of war reached a crescendo until finally, the boys who lived nearby were sent home, but there remained a small group of foreign students who could not be sent home safely, amongst them my father. One day they were hurriedly bundled up, with their small bags, and the Fathers walked with them to the train station in a single file, along with many people who had also taken to the road. The blasts of the German guns, Big Bertha artillery and Krupp guns were heard and the crowd was tense. However, seeing the single file of schoolboys, they generously said, “Let the young boys go to the front of the queue”, and so the Fathers were able to board the boys onto the train.

As soon as they were in, the crowd learned that it was the last train that would leave town. My father was horrified to see through the window how the erstwhile serene and polite line-up turned into an angry mob. He said to me that he had never seen people rioting before and it was a fearsome sight.

The train took them to the coast to Ostend. From there my father, his teachers and his schoolmates arrived at Dover, England, joining the first contingent of the Belgian refugees.

At the Dover English Immigration office, understandably, there was huge disorder, as many people did not have proper travelling papers. One of his schoolmates became very anxious and started to cry. When Delfín asked him what was the matter the boy said he was afraid that they would imprison him because he was a Serb, and they had heard how a Serb had started the whole war by killing the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. My father told him to stick with him, that they would go in together. When asked by the official where he was from he said, “We are from Venezuela, South America.” The harried man just heard the word “America” and immediately said:

“These boys are Americans, let them in!”.
My father always smiled as he told the story of how he smuggled into England his worried Serbian friend, and that the official really did not know that Venezuela was not part of the (North) America they assumed! The young Serb turned out to be one of the remaining Serbian nobility.

The boys were taken to another Catholic boy’s school of the Josephite Fathers, St George’s College, Weybridge, Surrey. Delfín stayed there until the end of the war.

Meanwhile, in Caracas the Páez family had no way of communicating with the school. All the news they had was that the Germans had invaded Belgium and a great war had ensued. When they learned the trajectory of the German invasion went right through Ghent, they assumed he was dead. After six months, through diplomatic channels, they learned that he was alive in a school in England. The Josephite Fathers had managed to send word through the Foreign Office.

Delfín, on finishing his studies, went to live in Manchester where he worked as a bank teller at the South American Bank. He was not able to return to Venezuela until 1921 when his maternal uncle, Delfín Chataing, sent him an ocean liner tickets to Maracaibo.

For over thirty years my father went on to have leading positions in the Venezuelan diplomatic service. He never lost his love of the French language and his English ways – punctuality, understatement, tea drinking and the use of English caps. His faith inspired his many humanitarian actions. Remembering how he too had been a refugee, during the Second World War as the top civil servant in the Venezuelan Foreign Office he welcomed Dutch and German Jewish stateless refugees, and gave instructions that upon landing, they were to be given immediately Venezuelan passports. For such a service he was given the Knights Order of Orange by the Dutch monarchy.

He died peacefully at age 96.

Back in February Maria Victor sent us an article she wrote about her father, Delfín Enrique Páez, who attended St George’s during the dramatic circumstances of the First World War. She wrote the article for both her children and grandchildren and she felt that it may be of interest to many of our Alumni.
The Baynham Family

By Margaret Durnford – St Maur’s 1951

It was suggested that I should put together some reminiscences about my brothers at St George’s and also about my time as a pupil at St Maur’s.

My parents chose to live in Walton on Thames in 1922, early on in their marriage. One reason for this was that there was a good Catholic Boys’ School, St George’s College and St Maur’s Convent for girls in Weybridge. Therefore catering for any eventuality with regards to their offspring.

In the event they had three boys. Brian (b. 1921) Derrick (b. 1924) and Patrick (b. 1929) I was the ‘after thought’ in 1935. All three boys in due course went to St George’s as day boys and would cycle to school each day from where we lived in Burwood Park Road. As a family we were quite ‘sporty’ and as far as I know they all played rugby for the school teams. Derrick won the St George’s cross country race and a few years later, so did Patrick. They all enjoyed St George’s and had happy memories of their time there.

In May 1940 came the evacuation from Dunkirk. Derrick aged just 16, joined the crew of a 30ft River Cruiser, belonging to the Manager of Lloyds Bank in Walton. After joining a little flotilla in the Medway, they made their way to Dunkirk three times to rescue the stranded allied soldiers.

Derrick won the St George’s cross country race and a few years later, so did Patrick. They all enjoyed St George’s and had happy memories of their time there.

A year later in 1941 the family were on holiday in Anglesey to visit my father who was stationed there. On the 28th August there was a huge storm in Rosneigr Bay where we were staying. An RAF plane came down in the Bay; the RNLI tried to rescue the two pilots sitting on the tail of the plane and tragically eleven lives were lost by drowning in the rescue attempt. Derrick aged 17, and a friend, Stewart Wood, managed to launch a rubber dinghy and reach the plane. The boat overturned but the two boys managed to bring back the 23 year old young Polish pilot (the second pilot having been washed away,) to shore, where sadly he later died from his injuries. Both Derrick and Stewart were awarded the George Medal and the Silver Lifeboat Medal as well as receiving an engraved silver cigarette case from General Sikorski – head of the Polish Army in exile. When Derrick went to Buckingham Palace to receive his medal from King George VI – the entire school was given a whole day’s holiday.

Derrick was an enthusiast with radios and would build them in his bedroom from scratch. So on leaving school he joined the Royal Signals. Shortly after that he was recruited into the SOE and had a fairly eventful War including twice being captured (and escaping!) After the War he stayed on as a regular and eventually retired as a Brigadier. Derrick’s three sons went to St George’s and so did two of his granddaughters.

Brian joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and had an eventful War including being on the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk. He was heavy weight boxing Champion of the Navy. He went into the submarine service, retired as a Captain and now lives in Australia.*

Patrick, Brian, Margaret and Derrick taken in 1987

After his National Service, Patrick lived and trained in Lincoln as an engineer with Ruston Hornsby. He married Julia Monk who had also been at St. Maur’s. His job took him all over the Middle East. Tragically he died falling from a ladder in 1999.

A year later in 1941 the family were on holiday in Anglesey to visit my father who was stationed there. On the 28th August there was a huge storm in Rosneigr Bay where we were staying. An RAF plane came down in the Bay; the RNLI tried to rescue the two pilots sitting on the tail of the plane and tragically eleven lives were lost by drowning in the rescue attempt. Derrick aged 17, and a friend, Stewart Wood, managed to launch a rubber dinghy and reach the plane. The boat overturned but the two boys managed to bring back the 23 year old young Polish pilot (the second pilot having been washed away,) to shore, where sadly he later died from his injuries. Both Derrick and Stewart were awarded the George Medal and the Silver Lifeboat Medal as well as receiving an engraved silver cigarette case from General Sikorski – head of the Polish Army in exile. When Derrick went to Buckingham Palace to receive his medal from King George VI – the entire school was given a whole day’s holiday.

Derrick was an enthusiast with radios and would build them in his bedroom from scratch. So on leaving school he joined the Royal Signals. Shortly after that he was recruited into the SOE and had a fairly eventful War including twice being captured (and escaping!) After the War he stayed on as a regular and eventually retired as a Brigadier. Derrick’s three sons went to St George’s and so did two of his granddaughters.

Brian joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and had an eventful War including being on the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk. He was heavy weight boxing Champion of the Navy. He went into the submarine service, retired as a Captain and now lives in Australia.*

After his National Service, Patrick lived and trained in Lincoln as an engineer with Ruston Hornsby. He married Julia Monk who had also been at St. Maur’s. His job took him all over the Middle East. Tragically he died falling from a ladder in 1999.

*Sadly Brian died very peacefully on the 2nd August in Sydney, Australia at the age of 92. Our thoughts are with the family.

“and me?” I went as a boarder to St Maur’s when I was six. The bombing and air raids made the journey to school as a day girl too hazardous. Being the youngest and only girl, I was enchanted having all these little girls to play with. I wasn’t very academic but made up for it on the sports field – and after the War in the lovely productions directed by Mrs Paul, our Elocution teacher, on the stage at the Oatlands Park Hotel; – A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream and School for Scandal among others.

As Weybridge was en route following the Thames to the Vicker’s Armstrong factory, – we came in for a lot of German air raids. So much so that there were steel Anderson shelters put on the ground floor corridor, each held about four of us. A fairly eventful time. Ten years later in 1951 I had a year at Rosslyn House Finishing School in Oatlands, started by the enterprising Rev Mother St Patrick. It was enormous fun and I learnt many useful skills and am still in touch with several of the foreign girls I knew there. So nothing but gratitude and thanks for the many happy years at St. Maur’s.

*Sadly Brian died very peacefully on the 2nd August in Sydney, Australia at the age of 92. Our thoughts are with the family.
INTRODUCING the OGA Committee

Tony Jansen (1983)
OGA CHAIRMAN
I started at Woburn Hill in 1976, leaving the College in 1983. I joined fellow Old Georgians John Lloyd, John Phillips and others working in the Lloyds Insurance market until 2000. Since 2000 I have worked on a variety of projects, developing strategies, raising funds and co-investing in new businesses. I have a son, Lewis (2013), from my first marriage and have recently re-married. My interests are sport, having played hockey, cricket and golf since leaving SGC, the theatre and gardening.

Ben O’Connor (1981)
OGA TREASURER
I left St George’s College in 1981, after the 5th Form, and went on to train as a Dispensing Optician. After working in the Optical Industry for a number of years I changed career paths and started working in the Education and Training sector with particular interest in National Vocational Qualifications. This saw me develop and set up a number of Training organisations until I started my own Training Company with my eldest brother. After some 15 years or more I am now selling the business so that I can concentrate my efforts in my Training Consultancy and External Moderation.

Miriam Geraghty (1981)
HON. SECRETARY
I started at St Maur’s at the age of four and loved every moment until I left St George’s in 1981. I have always thought of St George’s College as a big family and I am married to my classmate, Patrick O’Hara. We are big supporters of the Old Georgians’ Rugby and Cricket and try to go to as many matches as possible.

Brian O’Gorman (1954)
OGA PRESIDENT HON. SECRETARY OF OLD GEORGIANS’ CRICKET
I have been married to Kathleen for 52 years and we have four children and seven grandchildren. I was at St George’s as a pupil between 1945 to 1954 and I was the Captain of the School (Head Boy). I taught English at St George’s between 1962 – 1992 and I was the Master of cricket 1st XI and rugby 1st XV. I am now retired and my hobbies are the theatre (British Music Hall Society), military history, golf and the countryside.

Simon Willis (1981)
I attended SGC between 1976 – 1981. I am the father of five wonderful kids, and married to Susie Butler. Three of my boys went through the College, with one more currently still there. My little cherub called Chrissie who was born with Downs Syndrome, but not to be outdone by her brothers, now attends the Clubhouse Project. I am a sports mad dad!

Alex Willis (2006)
Alex joined the OGA after re-establishing the Old Georgians’ Rugby Club in 2010. A very proud Old Georgian with a passion for Old Georgian sport, Alex hopes that the new focus and shape of the OGA can appeal to a younger generation of Old Georgians in both a sporting and non-sporting context.

Iain Turner aka Woosie (1989)
I joined Woburn Hill as a pupil in 1982 and progressed onto the College leaving in 1989. I have many fond memories of my school days, most of which revolve around the sports fields. In April 2008, the lure of returning to the Georgian family was too strong and I was appointed Pastoral Deputy Head of the Junior School. My wife, Bridgette is Deputy Head of the Nursery and my son, Sam is in Year 5 at the Junior School, the Turners are trying to make their mark at St George’s!

Caroline Long (1989)
I joined the Sixth Form in 1987! With a background in marketing and sales, I happened upon a recruitment ad for a Marketing & Development Manager at St George’s and re-joined the Georgian community as an employee in 1998. I’ve been part of the OGA Committee since I started working at the College and in 2003 I established the Development Office to concentrate on fundraising and alumni-relations. When I’m not devoting my time to St George’s, I’m usually to be found cantering round the countryside on one of my Arabian horses, training for competitive long distance endurance rides.

Fr Aidan Rossiter
Fr Aidan Peter Rossiter CJ (1978) is the Josephite European Regional Vicar. He returned to the College in the summer of 2013 after 15 years of work in the East End of London. He sits on the executive of the Conference of Religious for England and Wales, is President of Universa Laus Internationalis (a study group on church liturgical music) and on the Historical Churches Commission of Westminster. Fr Aidan lectures on liturgy at Wonersh Seminary and is the third generation of his family to be Josephite and fourth to be educated by them.

Michael Price (1979)
After university I started work in the investment world and then set up a business as a financial advisor in Guildford. I married Lorraine in 1987 and have three sons.

OGA WELCOME

Annual General Meeting 5pm at the OGA Clubhouse on Sunday 7th December 2014.
OGRFC would go on to win all 16 of their league matches, some with the attacking flair just described and others through pure grit and determination in the cold and wet months around Christmas. The satisfaction gained from winning these attritional matches was as strong as putting 80 points on a team on a lovely crisp day and certainly showed that OGRFC had the heart and desire that maybe they didn’t have a few years ago.

As well as finishing top Surrey 4, we were also able to score the most points (628) and had the sternest defence in the league, conceding only 117 points over 16 game unbeaten season.

Next season, we will embark on a new chapter in Surrey 3. We are laying the foundations for longstanding success and will continue to do so by actively incorporating Old Georgians into the Rugby community.

In the short time we have existed as a club, the success we have achieved has been matched only by the support we have received from our supporters and sponsors and for that, the club are truly grateful and will continue to give 100% on the pitch to repay this show of support.

Rugby

All of the match reports can be read on either the Reunite website or on the OGRFC website which is www.ogrfc.co.uk. If you are interested in joining the club as a player or just want to be kept updated as to their progress through weekly match reports please email Alex Willis on alexwillis88@gmail.com

Season Report written by Mike Hawkins (2008)

Rugby is a funny old game. In a season that was made up almost entirely of success, our unrelenting disappointment that came in OGRFCs final game of the season, a 27-24 loss to Guildfordians in the Cup Final, is an astonishing reflection on the ambition within this club.

However, it must be said that this solitary under-par performance that concluded our season should not detract from an unforgettable campaign that kickstarted our journey into the RFU leagues.

Carrying on from an unbeaten run dating back to the 3rd November 2012, OGRFC were dominant in their first season in the RFU Leagues. Kicking off the season against pre-season favourites Merton in late September, OGRFC sent a strong signal to the leagues that they had arrived with a thumping 48-14 victory. Both the victory and the manner in which it was achieved, with free flowing attacking rugby, was a sign of things to come for the season ahead.
Captains Invitation

Written by Former 1983/1984 Rugby 1st XV captain Neil Strong

Many happy memories, side steps and tries from 30 yards were shared and enjoyed on Saturday 5th April 2014, when OGRFC played against Reeds Weybridge at St George’s College. Captains from present back to 1947 were all invited to watch the championship decider. Hopefully next year there will be more Captains cheering on the side-lines.

The game itself was largely incidental to the touch line chatter in catching up with old friends and team mates and many reconnections were made, not least my father, John Strong (1958), being able to connect and now see Michael Sharkey (1958) an old friend and team mate, whom he had not seen for over 50 years!

Captains present:
Patrick Hunting (Fr Christopher) 1950/51
Michael Sharkey 1956/7 + 1957/8
Sean Neary 1977/78
Martin Watson 1980/81
Martin Collins 1981/2
Neil Strong 1983/4
Neil Sweeney 2005/6
Dominic Wooldridge 2011/12

Old Georgians & supporters present included (apologies for those not listed):

Golf

The Old Georgians Golf Club has been in existence for over 50 years. There are currently two society days a year which are held at the New Zealand Golf Club in June and the Hindhead Golf Club in September (Wednesday 24th 2014). In addition the Old Georgians play in the Grafton Morrish a scratch foursomes tournament for Independent Schools. Regional qualifying at Royal Wimbledon for St George’s is in May and subject to qualifying 48 schools play at Brancaster and Hunstanton in October. To date our best performance was in 2009 when we won the Committee Bowl, the plate knockout.

If you are interested in playing golf please contact Adrian Macarty oldgeorgiansassociation@gmail.com or Tony Jansen tonyjansen@me.com

Grafton Morrish Qualifying 2014

On May 18th a six man team of Aidan Neill, Lewis Jansen, Tony Jansen, Robert Pugh, James Boase and David Burgess successfully qualified for the finals of the Grafton Morrish to be played in early October 2014. There were 22 schools playing at Royal Wimbledon and the top seven qualified.

New Zealand Golf Club 18th June 2014

The course as ever was in excellent condition. Many thanks to all those of you who attended. This year we played in the morning for The Richard Brooker Bowl and in the afternoon The John Wilson Bowl. The prizes were awarded as follows:

Richard Brooker Bowl: Mike Price (1979)
Second: Ralph Childs (1968)
Third: Adrian Macarty (1979)
Nearest the Pin: Justin Mortimer
Longest Drive: Finbar Kelly (Guest)
John Wilson Bowl: Tim McDonnell (1963)
Second: Adrian Macarty (1979)
Third: Tim Lawrence (1953)
Nearest the Pin: Tim McDonnell (1963)
Longest Drive: Ralph Childs (1968)
Cricket

All OG cricketers are most welcome to play and are encouraged to apply for the matches which offer good play and companionship. Visitors are always welcome at the games. For more information you can either contact Brian O’Gorman, OGA President and OGA Cricket Secretary on kogorman01@aol.com or Michael Price, OGA Cricket Team Secretary on michael@priceferguson.com

President’s Day Cricket: OGs v Dads & Lads
Sunday 27th July 2014

Written by Paul Robigo (1973)

The Old Georgians’ XI won the toss and skipper lain ‘Woosy’ Turner chose to bat first as the openers Stephen Marsh and Marc Ng took to the field. Ng was bowled second ball by Joe O’Gorman.

This brought Woosy to the crease and he shared a stand of 47 with Marsh before being caught by Stephen Fleming off Tony Jansen for 21. Next in was Phil Jansen who, with opener Marsh, saw the OGs through to lunch without further mishap.

Stephen Marsh – who had famously hit a century before lunch during a school match remained unbeaten on 149 when the declaration came as the OGs closed on 316 for 4 declared after further contributions by Jonny Stephens (26) and Tim Clark. Marsh’s near four hour knock was a chanceless innings of well timed cover drives and pulls through the onside square of the wicket with several lofted on and off drives back over the bowlers’ head to boot, accounting for six sixes and 13 fours. It was a real privilege to witness it.

The President’s XI got off to the worst possible start when Pip Clothier – opening with his son Gabriel – was brilliantly taken one handed at slip by Johnny Creber off Alexander Fleming. No wonder Pip was heard to comment as he reluctantly climbed the pavilion steps: “Four hours in the field for that!” One had every sympathy with him.

Gabriel (10) followed soon after when he too succumbed to the bowling of Fleming and when Grant Segal (4) was bowled by Peachey, the Dads & Lads were in trouble at 18 for 3.

This brought Tim O’Gorman, son of Brian and late of Derbyshire and the Duke of Norfolk’s XI to the crease to join Will Grant in a 68 run partnership to steady the innings.

Reprimanded from enunciating “the commentator’s curse” it was evident from the outset that in spite of claims that this would be his last innings as his knees have all but given up the ghost, all present were witnessing true class. Form is temporary as they say but TOG was in fine form here with his soft hands as he dabbed through the gulley or timed another beauty past the bowlers despairing outstretched hand. Class really is permanent as TOG first dropped anchor while his partner Grant peppered the boundary – in a quickfire 22 before being trapped in front by Peachey – and then accelerated to his half century with a succession of boundaries while he was joined, all too briefly by his son Joe, unlucky to be caught pulling a rank long hop from Ben O’Connor to backward short leg.

Tim dropped anchor again as he was first joined by Steve Fleming with 23 before he was bedazzled by Woosy’s perceptive off spin then Tom Fleming who blazed over the top before being caught and bowled by Jonny Stevens for a sparkling 28 to leave the Dads & Lads 215 – 7 as the last 20 overs approached.

What had looked like a lost cause in the first few overs with his team 18-3 took on a much more promising hue once Tim was joined by Tony Jansen; both taking easy singles as the field spread back on the boundary.

It was a shock when Tim was bowled by Alexander Fleming for an otherwise chanceless 143 but he had steered his side towards a position where Tony and his son Lewis – now showing his versatility with the bat in adding 12 as father and son saw the President’s XI home with two wickets to spare – Tony bringing up his half century as he carved the winning runs through midwicket for four off the last ball of the day.

President’s Day 2014 will be long remembered by all who were there but lest we forget, it was a fitting tribute to the gentleman and accomplished sportsman in whose memory it was held, Ian Marsh. God Bless you.

Sunday 27th July 2014

OGs v Dads & Lads

Written by Paul Robigo (1973)

The Old Georgians’ XI won the toss and skipper lain ‘Woosy’ Turner chose to bat first as the openers Stephen Marsh and Marc Ng took to the field. Ng was bowled second ball by Joe O’Gorman.

This brought Woosy to the crease and he shared a stand of 47 with Marsh before being caught by Stephen Fleming off Tony Jansen for 21. Next in was Phil Jansen who, with opener Marsh, saw the OGs through to lunch without further mishap.

Stephen Marsh – who had famously hit a century before lunch during a school match remained unbeaten on 149 when the declaration came as the OGs closed on 316 for 4 declared after further contributions by Jonny Stephens (26) and Tim Clark. Marsh’s near four hour knock was a chanceless innings of well timed cover drives and pulls through the onside square of the wicket with several lofted on and off drives back over the bowlers’ head to boot, accounting for six sixes and 13 fours. It was a real privilege to witness it.

The President’s XI got off to the worst possible start when Pip Clothier – opening with his son Gabriel – was brilliantly taken one handed at slip by Johnny Creber off Alexander Fleming. No wonder Pip was heard to comment as he reluctantly climbed the pavilion steps: “Four hours in the field for that!” One had every sympathy with him.

Gabriel (10) followed soon after when he too succumbed to the bowling of Fleming and when Grant Segal (4) was bowled by Peachey, the Dads & Lads were in trouble at 18 for 3.

This brought Tim O’Gorman, son of Brian and late of Derbyshire and the Duke of Norfolk’s XI to the crease to join Will Grant in a 68 run partnership to steady the innings.

Reprimanded from enunciating “the commentator’s curse” it was evident from the outset that in spite of claims that this would be his last innings as his knees have all but given up the ghost, all present were witnessing true class. Form is temporary as they say but TOG was in fine form here with his soft hands as he dabbed through the gulley or timed another beauty past the bowlers despairing outstretched hand. Class really is permanent as TOG first dropped anchor while his partner Grant peppered the boundary – in a quickfire 22 before being trapped in front by Peachey – and then accelerated to his half century with a succession of boundaries while he was joined, all too briefly by his son Joe, unlucky to be caught pulling a rank long hop from Ben O’Connor to backward short leg.

Tim dropped anchor again as he was first joined by Steve Fleming with 23 before he was bedazzled by Woosy’s perceptive off spin then Tom Fleming who blazed over the top before being caught and bowled by Jonny Stevens for a sparkling 28 to leave the Dads & Lads 215 – 7 as the last 20 overs approached.

What had looked like a lost cause in the first few overs with his team 18-3 took on a much more promising hue once Tim was joined by Tony Jansen; both taking easy singles as the field spread back on the boundary.

It was a shock when Tim was bowled by Alexander Fleming for an otherwise chanceless 143 but he had steered his side towards a position where Tony and his son Lewis – now showing his versatility with the bat in adding 12 as father and son saw the President’s XI home with two wickets to spare – Tony bringing up his half century as he carved the winning runs through midwicket for four off the last ball of the day.

President’s Day 2014 will be long remembered by all who were there but lest we forget, it was a fitting tribute to the gentleman and accomplished sportsman in whose memory it was held, Ian Marsh. God Bless you.
The Annual Reunion in June was a bitter-sweet day for the Old Georgian tennis community.

On the one hand, we were very pleased that we were able to increase substantially the amount of tennis on offer with the aim of attracting more players and encouraging anyone who enjoys playing, at whatever level, to come and join in. As a result, we had many more participants than for many years. The first matches included OGs and current students in mixed pairs playing a round robin competition and at the end of the day the OGs took on the College in a series of one-set shoot-outs. This was enjoyed thoroughly by all the players and spectators. Hopefully more and more tennis enthusiasts will join us next year for a fun and competitive afternoon of tennis on the beautiful College courts.

Sadly though, the Annual Reunion also marked one of the last days in charge of Adam Fonfe (1997) who has been the College Head of Tennis for the last six years. Adam and his wife Helen are emigrating to Australia during the summer and he will be greatly missed by many past and current tennis students, not only for his excellent organisation, insights and play but also for his charming demeanour. We wish Adam and Helen every success with their future endeavours “Down Under” and look forward to keeping in touch.

Old Georgians’ Open Round Robin Tennis Tournament

Jamie Boden & Tim Lovegrove (2010)
Jack Reardon & Paul Reardon (1974)
Ed Fry & Jay Derrick (1970)
Dan Boden & Conor Boden (1980)
Bob Pearson (1964) & Adam Fonfe (1997)
Bethan Hayward & Greg Kovic (1996)
Tom Nair & Jonathan Lytle (1987)
Jeremy Fleming (2008) & Lawrence Oldham

In the final Jamie & Tim beat Greg & Bethan

Old Georgians v The College match

OGs: Adam Fonfe & Conor Boden beat College: Jamie Boden & Bethan Hayward
OGs: Ed Fry & Neil Riley beat College: Dan Boden & Tom Nair
OGs: Greg Kovic & Jeremy Fleming beat College: Lawrence Oldham & Taylor Papworth

OGs won 3-0 and were presented with the inaugural Old Georgians’ Day Tennis Shield accepted by Conor Boden. Our thanks to Adam and Conor for their help in organising the event.
Having had a surfeit of rugby the day before with back to back Six Nations games, I was looking forward to a less sedentary Sunday with a spot of gardening either side of the small matter of Liverpool travelling to Old Trafford to achieve the double. Instead I found myself heading off to St George’s College with a fellow rugby aficionado Paul Stubbs (1980) – who, as a governor at Matthew Arnold School had earlier in the week invited the side to practice on a 4G pitch similar to the one they would be playing on. The coach picked us and fellow supporters up and headed off to the Allianz Park Stadium, home of Saracens RFC to watch the SGC Under 15s playing in the semi-finals of the NatWest Vase which took place on Sunday 16th March. In doing so, Paul and I, were not alone since Old Georgians managed to fill a minibus all on our own, accompanied by Josephite Chaplain Fr Martin Ashcroft (1971) no less – were answering the clarion call from Mark Crean, SGC Head of Rugby, to give the boys a boost following their dominant 17-5 victory in the quarter final that had been earlier streamed. Indeed, they had to lay on the minibus because there was literally no room on the 52-seater coach that met us in the College car park.

Allianz Park is a fairly impressive stadium with its 4G playing surface fully enclosed with formidable stands but all this paled in comparison with the atmosphere and noise generated by the SGC pupils, parents and others vociferously supporting the U15s in their quest for glory and a trip to the final at Twickenham. This was undoubtedly more a home game for the College as the afore mentioned supporters yelled their backing, given unreservedly by those in the main stand which included, the current captain of Esher Rugby Club Neil Sweeney (2005) and current Old Georgians RFC captain Alex Willis (2007). Sadly, the Under 15s could not overcome speedier opponents Graveney School in spite of impressive displays from half backs Harry Delaney and Rory O’Neill, the ubiquitous captain Connor Kelly and substitute Joe Duggan eventually going down 39 – 7. There was plenty of honest endeavour and they did the College proud.

From a personal point of view I was more than glad I had made the effort. I had spent Saturday with a beer or three in front of the television as first England just came up short in the Six Nations after a comprehensive drubbing of Italy; then Scotland were abysmal in making a tired Wales side look reasonable and culminating in the coronation of BOD with Ireland’s victory over a French side that almost turned up. On Sunday, we were all rewarded with some great camaraderie in the stands that put the opposition support to shame and a tremendous game of rugby from both sides. Well done boys!

Written by Paul Robigo (1973)
Written by Juan-Luis Sanchez (1991)

In mid-2011 I was talking to Framestore, the London-based film visual effects studio about leading a team to make computer generated spacesuits for Alfonso Cuaron’s existential space survival thriller “Gravity”. I’d outfitted Jedi Masters, skeletal pirates, a bouncy house elf and a couple of Terminators. Two suits, I thought, how hard can this be? The answer; fifteen months and countless late nights later, was very hard indeed.

Real spacesuits are complex and cumbersome multi layered affairs. It takes many people a long time to get one person out of a spacesuit, yet Sandra Bullock’s researcher-turned-astronaut Ryan Stone had to be seen slipping easily out of a large suit in her attractive shirt and shorts within a few seconds. We needed to dash the characters against the sides of various orbiting structures as they grasped at anything they could reach, including grabbing a strained ladders board, you slide all the way back to the start. It takes a lot of patience.

Simulation is a process where the outcome is unknown; you set up the basic conditions and rules, hit go, and watch the result like a penny coin drop machine. Small changes at the start will produce very different results over time. To see the outcome at a particular moment you can’t leap-frog ahead to it, you have to start at the beginning and let the simulation run until you reach the moment you’re interested in. If you stop a simulation while it’s running, just like the snake hiding at the end of the snakes and ladders board, you slide all the way back to the start. It takes a lot of patience.

Shots are the building blocks of a film, discrete slices of time consisting of a single camera angle ending at a cut to a different angle. A normal film might contain about two thousand shots, meaning that each piece is short enough that we can run a simulation for each shot without too many difficulties. Not so “Gravity”, which had extremely long shots stretching into minutes of uninterrupted shots of the characters in the suits. Our only option was to slice up the film ourselves into pieces that we could simulate overnight and then blend together using subtle sleights of hand, or taking advantage of the moments when one character would obscure another to perform the hand-off.

You never know where a simulation will end up and there is always a slight mismatch between the end of one simulation and the start of another. The simulation artists know where the seams are and I hold my breath in case someone spots the subtle transition from one to another. The magic trick performed, the audience claps at the illusion but the magician always feels the doves fluttering in a secret pocket.

The success of the visual effects of a film has no meaning if the audience isn’t along for the ride, which can only happen if the characters and story resonate, something that is out of our hands. You never know what will be a hit and we put the same tenacious effort into this film as with every film I’ve ever worked on. Nevertheless, it was gratifying when our work was recognised for the role it played in creating the reality that so captivated the audience.
The first English ambassador William Harbonne arrived in Constantinople in 1583, sent by Francis Walsingham to open up trade with the Ottoman Empire (in a spare moment from catching and despatching the Catholic martyrs who gave their names to the Barrow Hills dormitories I entered over 40 years ago).

My wife Maggie and I arrived in Ankara, the modern capital of Turkey, as Harbonne’s latest successor, in January. It’s our second stint; we were posted here in the early 1990s. Great country, great people, and great food – it’s good to be back.

Being Ambassador is a fun and varied job. The last six months have seen me advising a FTSE 100 CEO on export opportunities, supporting my consular team during a Chelsea-Galatasaray game, speaking in Turkish on a live TV chat show, visiting the Syrian border with Justine Greening in 40 degrees, hosting Burns’ Supper for 160 in the Residence, sitting in on a visa interview, talking to a Minister about counter-terrorist cooperation and wondering how to respond to the Turkish Prime Minister when he asked if Maggie was still of child-bearing age (I told him I didn’t think it was a very gentlemanly question – luckily, he laughed).

There are quirks and perks. It is a privilege to live in a large house full of Old Masters and antiques (but a bit weird being in such grandeur and sharing it with a constant round of people attending dinners, seminars and trade promotions). Some people insist on calling me “Excellency” or “Ambassador” (although my wife and children sadly resist). A Turkish policeman follows me around with a bulge in his armpit.

You also get to “kiss hands” with the Queen on appointment. No kissing required, but you (and your spouse) do get the honour of spending 20-30 minutes alone with Her Majesty. I’d be shot if I revealed the contents of those private conversations. But I can tell you that She is indeed witty, human and very well-informed and that Our Sovereign took a close interest in Maggie’s guide-dog (who reciprocated the compliment by swigging a drink from the corgis’ water bowl on her way out). “Star” is a limelight-stealer. My favourite headline so far in a Turkish newspaper: “Star leaves Ambassador in the shade”. So true.

I mentioned Old Masters earlier. We were delighted to host Brian and Kathleen O’Gorman in the spring. Other OGs passing through Ankara please do get in touch.

Four SGC runners turned up for the 60th Alumni Race, a five mile cross-country over Wimbledon Common on Saturday 14th December 2013. It was a damp, grey, warm, day – perfect cross country conditions! Martin Threakall (2000) ran a stormer, bolting around to come in 21st with a time of 31m 8s – a St George’s record for the course. Simon Ludlam (1981), Damien Pool (2000) and Gerard Thompson (1987) followed in times of 35m 19s, 36m 54s and 39m 15s respectively.

St George’s Old Boys came 9th out of 22 teams in the open race. Top places went to Sherborne, Winchester and Ampleforth. The race attracted its most runners to date: 160. No girls from St George’s despite a good turn out from the other schools – maybe this year? Some people run it fast and some slowly but everyone runs off a few pounds before Christmas so please contact Simon Ludlam at simon@ludlam.com if you are interested in running in 2014.

Damian Pool, Martin Threakall and Simon Ludlam after the race (Gerard Thompson had nipped into the clubhouse for tea).
The Oxton Family

Written by Veena Oxton, Past Parent and Parent’s Association Chair

The Oxton family joined the St George’s family in September 1998. Tom started as a Year 3 pupil in the Junior School and Olivia joined the Upper Nursery. It was very different then, since both of them were on the site of the College. Father Martin was Headmaster and St Maur’s was still a separate Catholic girl’s school. It was the first year of the school going co-educational.

I had always wanted to be involved with school and I was a parent governor at Tom’s first school. Therefore I knew that I wanted to be part of the volunteer group of parents at St George’s. Parents have been volunteering for decades and that tradition is one of the special aspects of the SGC community.

I was a Link parent at the Junior School for Olivia’s tutor groups throughout her time and I was asked to take on the role of Secretary for the half termly meetings. No sooner had I settled into this role when the Chair announced her intention to step down in February 2013, is a full on voluntary role. I held this position for four years and stepped down in February 2013, when Olivia was in the Upper Sixth.

Life as Chair was always well supported by the Headmasters, the Bursar and Father Martin. It was a pleasure to work with them, the Bursarial staff and the very cooperative ground staff. The latter put in the hard work to make our events successful.

When I handed over the role to the current Chair, Kelly Walsh, I gained time! Tom was a keen rower and we spent many hours supporting the rowing crew from various river banks. Olivia was passionate about hockey and we were there to watch all the matches at a variety of astro pitches. Weekends were always busy with sporting events. Friendships were forged with other parents on the side-linelines or river banks.

Now that we no longer have children at the school I am adapting to my new life. My emails these days are rather boring!

I would recommend everyone to get as involved as they can with school events; it is a lovely way to meet other parents and to feel that you are giving something back to the school. I do not regret a single moment of my time devoted to serve St George’s.

For more information please visit Group 802’s website www.group802.blogspot.co.uk, and their twitter handle (@HCPT802). If you would like further information please email: hcppgroup802@gmail.com.

The group is actively seeking nurses and doctors for next year’s trip.
GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Rio 2014

Martin Plowden (2008), recently went travelling around Brazil during the World Cup with a friend. He booked into a hostel in Rio de Janeiro for a week. Mid-way through that stay, Martin met three other St George’s alumni in the hostel reception. “It’s funny how out of all the hostels in Rio, and out of all the millions of tourists who made their way over to Rio to see some of the World Cup, we ended up crossing paths at the same hostel”. The other three alumni were Sean Godfrey (2007), Mark Prentice (2007) and Benjamin Lynn.

Rio Fan Fest

Joe Lewin (2013)

Following a week-long trip to Ayia Napa in July I was shipped off to Sydney, Australia to embark on my gap year working at the King’s school. Similar to the gappies at St George’s I’ve been helping out with PE and Games as well as aiding some of the lower ability classes in Science, Maths and English. So far, I’ve had an all-round awesome experience! The teachers and students alike were very welcoming and enjoyable to work with and I’ve been able to make friendships that will last a lifetime. I took advantage of the school holidays by travelling with the other gappies to New Zealand, the Gold Coast and up the Eastern Coast on a road trip; all of which was captured on my Go Pro camera (You Tube: JoPro Lewin). Perhaps more importantly, my gap year so far has allowed me to develop into more of a mature, better organised and well-disciplined boy having been as far as 12,000 miles away from my parents for all this time. I would recommend the experience to anyone and everyone wanting to see another side of life to allow an eye opening experience just prior to university. Ultimately, I can only pose the question: ‘why can’t Uni wait a year for you to explore the world?’

MIND THE GAP!

Every year a small handful of St George’s students embark on incredibly exciting adventures during their gap years. Below are two articles written by young Old Georgians who have recently experienced their gap year travelling.
Rory Snowball (2012)

On 13th October 2012 I said farewell to my family and friends for six months and embarked on the trip of a lifetime alongside Jamie Mann (2012) and my cousin. Our journey began in Bangkok and in three weeks we explored Thailand, absorbing its rich culture. Highlights included Lopburi (a city ruled by wild monkeys), stroking a tiger, crossing the Bridge over the River Kwai, partying with thousands at a Full Moon Party at Ko Phangan, and experiencing a Thai massage in Phuket. We moved onto Malaysia, and in three weeks we relaxed on idyllic Langkawi Island, tasted the finest Malaysian food in Penang, went window shopping in the grand malls of Kuala Lumpur and made great friends in the ancient Melaka. In Singapore we went to its world famous Zoo and Night Safari before meeting a well-connected family friend who gave us VIP treatment at a swanky club on the waterfront! Not a bad way to finish our Asian adventure!

Next, we were cuddling Koala’s and feeding kangaroos in Brisbane, Australia. We flew to Cairns and then spent nine weeks travelling down the amazing East Coast. From snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef to cruising around the beautiful Whitsunday Islands and exploring the outskirts of the Outback, there was never a dull moment. My girlfriend Grace Stoneman (2012) joined us for three weeks during which time we went 4X4 off-road driving and swimming in spectacular lakes on Fraser Island. After a stereotypical ‘barbie on the beach’ on Christmas day in Noosa, we went to Australia Zoo in memory of my childhood hero Steve Irwin, surfing in Byron Bay, sightseeing in Sydney, trekking in the Blue Mountains and museum hopping in Canberra. I spent my final week in Australia alone doing excursions from Melbourne including the penguin parade on Phillip Island, travelling along the Great Ocean Road and through the spectacular Wilsons Promontory National Park and of course visiting Ramsey Street.

New Zealand was my final destination. I was joined by Huw Davies (2012) in Auckland, and two girls we met in beautiful Hahei beach, we proceeded to travel around the North and South Island for nine weeks. We learned all about Maori culture and the Haka, staying with a tribe near Rotorua. This profound experience was followed by endless activities; tubing in underground caves in Waitomo, sky diving in Taupo, trekking the sensational Tongariro Alpine Crossing and Franz Josef Glacier, bungee jumping in Queenstown, and whale watching and swimming with wild dolphins in Kaikoura! We also watched two Super 14 rugby matches in Wellington and Christchurch, and two cricket test matches in Dunedin and Auckland. What separated New Zealand from the other countries we visited however was its outstanding scenery. Abel Tasman National Park, Wanaka, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt Cook and the Bay of Islands were the most spectacular places. We returned to Auckland for our last week and finished with a trip to Hobbiton (The Shire in Lord of the Rings).

A year has passed since I returned home and looking back it almost doesn’t feel like it really happened. I feel so lucky and proud to have had the opportunity to see the world and gain the experiences I did. Consequently, travelling is now my passion, and I have been inter-railing around Europe since, and am going to Africa this summer. I cannot recommend going travelling highly enough.
Out of My Depth: Reflections on a Year in China

Cameron Henderson-Begg (2012)

When we were prepping for A-level French, we used to go once a week for a lesson of oral practice with our assistante, a lovely lady whose name I can remember but couldn’t spell for the life of me. One time she asked us if we’d ever been to France, and I started talking about the little village where my uncle lives, half-way between Poitiers and Limoges.

“Il s’appelle Adriers”, I said.

“Adriers?” she asked, sounding more shocked than if I’d told her that I went for regular teas with Monsieur and Madame Sarkozy. It turned out that she, too, knew this tiny village in the middle of nowhere. It turned out that her cousin was the pharmacist there. It turned out that I’d met him. It even turned out that I’d discussed poetry with Monsieur and Madame Sarkozy. It turned out that her cousin was the pharmacist there. It turned out that I’d met him. It even turned out that her cousin was the pharmacist there. It turned out that I’d met him.

China is an extraordinary place, and it’s been a privilege to live here. Since I arrived here last August, a year of language study under my belt and my whole life in my suitcase, I’ve done some remarkable things. I’ve been to the Forbidden City, stood on the Great Wall in the mist, judged auditions for an orchestra, even climbed a mountain. I’ve biked up into the hills behind Beijing and seen the city from above as the sun sets.

But perhaps the most extraordinary part of China has been the daftness of it. I’ve experienced a lot that, for want of a better word, I’d have to call naff. There’s that orchestra, which takes itself tremendously seriously but still rehearses in an underground car park, setting off car alarms when we play too loudly. And our translation classes, where the teacher waxes lyrical with life advice like, “You should eat fewer salty things. Lots of food today is terribly salty.” She also tends to ask bizarre questions about British society: “In England, do you make your friends at school, university or work?” I had never considered that I might want to choose one period during which to make all my social relationships, but I guess maybe I should have.

Then there was my visit to Anyang, capital of the ancient Shang dynasty and the supposed cradle of Chinese civilisation. The earliest forms of Chinese script were first unearthed here, scratched on the oracle bones that Shang’s kings used in divination. This is all terribly impressive, as is the treatment of the site: vast gates flanked by tree-lined avenues, a Museum of Chinese Writing painted from top to bottom in flashing gold. But no café. The museum alone stretches over three floors, covering three thousand years of history in sumptuous detail. But no café. There’s a shop selling themed playing cards and imitation ritual bronzes, but sustenance for the weary cultural voyager? None.

Much about China has been plain difficult. Most obvious is the smog, which has to be seen to be believed but which I would recommend against seeing. In the coldest part of the Beijing winter the sun wasn’t visible for eight straight days, so bad was the wall of pollution blocking it out. We’re not here long enough for it to take a physical toll, but the mental strain of living in the smog, of spending a year struggling to speak the language in a place where even topping up the gas is a complex performance, is exacting.

It’s at times like this that I think the small world, the connected world, might entail losses as well as gains. Around the time I was born, my stepmother and her brother were travelling in South America. Back then, you couldn’t Google what the town you were headed for looked like. The best you could do was to leaf through the binders in the next hostel, where the notes of each intrepid pioneer would tell you to go to Senor Ortena’s place in Bogota or avoid such and such a coach company. From there out everything was a total surprise. I think it’s harder now to get that kind of experience in mystery, that preparation for the unknown. A whole year somewhere, which even the most ardent Googling can’t prepare you for, is not the most comfortable way to start.

Perhaps as a result of this lack of preparedness, China has been one of the most testing experiences of my life so far. As my family members can probably affirm from wearying hours of phone calls with me, there’s been much I haven’t enjoyed. But equally there’s been much that’s been wonderful—naff as my orchestra is, it’s one of the warmest and most comforting groups I’ve been part of in years. And a dose of mild hardship has done me wonders. Being far from home, out of my depth and utterly responsible for myself has given me a clearer picture of my own strengths and weaknesses than I could ever have hoped for. This isn’t the year abroad I might have dreamed of, but I’m grateful for it nevertheless. Coming out the other side, I feel a little stronger, a little more prepared for everything to come. Our small world may still be huge, but I might be a little closer to finding my place in it.

Cameron Henderson-Begg is a member of the St George’s Class of 2012. He is reading Chinese Studies at Wadham College, Oxford.

Reflections on a Year in China

On the Great Wall
Mike Cave (2004) and Jessica Everingham

on their recent engagement. We wish them all the best for the future.

Julian (1989) and Tricia Boatfield

on the birth of their son Ethan John Scott Boatfield, born 9th January 2014.

Alexander and Robert Morgan (2001)


Robert Morgan was the Captain of the school in 2000/2001. Nick Hughes (2001) Toby’s Godfather and Lucinda Davies (née Morgan 1993) Toby’s Godmother were also present at the Christening.

Damien and Henrietta (née Brooker) Bird

On a glorious sunny July day, Father Adrian conducted a double baptism in the College Chapel for Mia and Toby Bird, the children of Damien and Henrietta (née Brooker) Bird.

This is a tradition that runs in the family, their elder sister Sophia was also baptised by Fr Adrian in the Chapel in August 2011. Both Henrietta (1994) and her brother Rupert (1992) were baptised as babies in the College Chapel, and their parents Peter Brooker (1955) and Diana married there in 1971, so there is a strong family connection.

Sadly Peter was in hospital and too poorly to come, but also attending were Richard Brooker (1961), Russell Brooker (1987), Sami Brooker (2004) and many others, including several Old Maurians. One of Mia’s godmothers is Becky Sentance (née Garland, 1992). A big thank you to Father Adrian for a warm and welcoming introduction to the Catholic faith.


Congratulations to Victoria Jefferies (2006) who married Richard Barlow on Saturday 24th May 2014 at the Church of the Holy Name in Esher and their reception was at Painshill Park in Cobham. Father Martin Ashcroft was the celebrant.
Dolores Connor nee Vieira (1953)
Died December 2013
Dolores sadly died on Sunday 8th December 2013, after a long fight with cancer. Dolores was born on the 24th April 1934 and was a past pupil of St Maur’s leaving in 1953. At the beginning of the Second World War, the family moved to the West Coast of Scotland, where Dolores’s younger brother, Robert, was born. Old school reports apparently describe Dolores as a highly skilful student who excelled in maths and science while at the same time showed a gift for poetry and English.

We continue to pray for her husband, Old Georgian Francis (Mike) (1950) her children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Denis Mooney (1958)
Died December 2013
Denis Mooney, died peacefully on the 10th December 2013. Both Denis and his brother Eric (1949) were boarders at St George’s College. Below is an article published in the Gloucestershire Echo on Thursday 2nd January 2014.

Village pays tribute to ‘loyal and dependable’ RAF hero

By Aled Thomas

Tributes have been paid to a former RAF officer who flew on The Queen’s aircraft and later became an active part of life in a Cotswold village. Denis Mooney was a squadron leader in The Queen’s Flight and was awarded the medal of Queen’s Flight duties, pictured standing between the Princess of Wales and a young Prince Harry.

Mr Mooney bought a house for his widowed mother in Bourton-on-the-Water while he served in the RAF as navigator in the Queen’s Flight, making more than 500 royal flights in Wessex helicopters, being promoted to Squadron Leader in 1998.

Father Ian McCarthy is Parish priest at Our Lady Help of Christians in Bourton. He said: “Mr Mooney was very active in the village. He was Chairman of the Bourton Christian Council, lay reader and Eucharistic minister. He was a very useful member of the parish and active in the church in all sorts of capacities.”

Mr Mooney suffered from ill health in the last year of his life and Josette said he spent most of 2013 in and out of hospital and moved to Jubilee Lodge nursing home. He died peacefully on December 10th, aged 72, in Cheltenham General Hospital. Father McCarthy said: “A lot of people in the village have been very shocked by his death. He was very popular.” A funeral mass for Mr Mooney was held at Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic Church in Stow-on-the-Wold on Friday 3rd January 2014.

Dudley Newbold (1963)
Died December 2013
Dudley died peacefully at home on the 5th December 2013. Fr Adrian Cadwallader (1955) was the minister at his funeral on the 12th December. His brother Peter Newbold (1961) was present and Roger Nicholas Higgins (1963) gave the eulogy.

Bernard Black (1951)
Died December 2013
Bernard died on the 17th December 2013. Bernard entered St George’s in the January of 1945 – one of quite a large group of new pupils. The War had several months to run and it was a very anxious time. But Bernard was from the start a cheerful presence, far from a hesitant new boy.

His early memory from those days was of the V1 Rocket falling on Chertsey Meads, at about 2am, just beyond the present caravan park. The blast blew in some windows, one of which was above Bernard’s bed in the lower dormitory, so that he was covered in glass. At once Fr George Kean, the redoubtable Fr President, appeared, with torch and wearing a tin helmet and a cricket sweater, urging Bernard not to move until the glass had been removed. He duly remained still but wondered how it was that Fr George knew precisely where the glass had fallen. Such was his devotion to his charges that he was perpetually alert on their behalf. These influences and examples remained with him informing his career as a most successful teacher at St John’s College, Southsea.

Bernard was a significant presence in the daily life of St George’s, enlivening the daily round of boarding school life, often holding court at a pekry gathering. He was ebullient, cheerful, despite suffering from asthma, interested and interesting, talkative humorous and alert, focusing on matters of interest, in the School and outside, qualities he retained throughout his life.

He was very keen on cricket and football, the latter not much in favour in those days, with a genuine supporter’s knowledge and enthusiasm for Tottenham Hotspur. It was his custom, as everybody had to be outside the building before morning classes commenced, to stand at the entrance to the playground, with other boarders, to await the arrival of the day boys, who were somewhat outside the mainstream of College life just then to greet them with the news and adverse results of their football teams (day boys were generally supporters and keen on football in a way that boarders were not).

Bernard acted in plays and was very active in the Debating Society (Clerk to the House) and played the piano, memorably, in the “Free Entertainment”: (By the Pupils for the Pupils) with the Harry Lime theme, from the “Third Man”, rendered with a confidence and bravura seldom equalled.

He played cricket for the 1st XI, and his skill and performance based on this enabled his play to develop in a most striking fashion after he left school. He played for Gravesend and for the Old Georgians for whom several innings were memorable in execution and stroke play, always an enthusiastic and committed supporter. He donated new sight screens to the field and donated his 1st XI sweater to a new young player who did not have one of his own.

Bernard, a vital spirit and character, has been my friend all these years and I, in company with many Old Georgians, will mourn his passing. To his widow, Margaret and his family we offer our most sincere condolences, our thoughts and our prayers.

Written by Brian O’Gorman (President OGA).

John Rogers (1938)
Died December 2013
John died peacefully on December 31st 2013 at Southampton General Hospital at the age of 91.

He was the first member of the Rogers family to attend St George’s, followed by his brother R.H. Rogers and sons Richard (1972), Neville (1974) and Paul (1976). He excelled academically and in sports, particularly rugby and athletics. After
leaving St George’s in 1938 to pursue a career in the Merchant Navy he was commissioned to the Royal Navy in 1941 and took an active part in the Battle of the Atlantic before marrying in 1946 and emigrating to the U.S. in 1947. Working in the shipping business, he continued his career in Southampton after returning to England in 1961 and eventually retired in Romsey, Hampshire, where he spent the last 34 years of his life. In 1987 he realised a lifelong ambition and graduated with honours in English Lit at Southampton University before remarrying in 1988 following the death of his first wife. After such a long and fulfilling life it is gratifying to record that the St George’s family played an essential part in his formative years. The values of responsibility and strong leadership, demonstrated by his Headmaster Father George Kean, stayed with him throughout his life.

William ‘Billy’ Ahern (1955)
Died 2014
Billy died early on in 2014; he was a very memorable and engaging character. Billy was an architect and very fine hockey player. He played for the Surrey Mens’ team while still at school and will be missed by his contemporaries. During his time at St George’s he was also a very fine gymnast. He was also a very capable gymnast winning his Colours and in the display by the Senior Eight, concluding the programme, “lived up to his reputation for causing wonder among the spectators.”

After St George’s, Tony went to Guy’s hospital for training as a dentist and practiced for many years. He often played in OG Cricket matches — adding to the day — arriving at them in a succession of elderly motor cars, which he called “Jemima” or “Bertha”, often containing several members of his team! How we shall miss him. He was one of those who, when they come in to a room everybody smiles. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow, Margo, his family and grandchildren.

Written by Brian O’Gorman (President OGA).

Patricia Ann Taylor
Died March 2014
Mother of Andrew (1990) and James (1988) died on the 24th March 2014.

The funeral took place on the 11th April and Fr Adrian Cadwallader (1955) was the minister. Richard Halliwell (OG) and Bryce Good, former Deputy Headmaster of Barrow Hills School, were present.

George Palmer (2012)
Died April 2014
George died on the 7th April 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Roger Nicholas Higgins (1963)
Died April 2014
Roger Higgins died of lung cancer on the 18th April 2014.

Andrew Dickinson (2000)
Died May 2014
Andrew Dickinson died on the 8th May 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with Andrew’s family. Andrew’s brother Philip (2002) and sisters Catherine (2005) and Louise (2007) all attended St George’s.

Dr Richard (Dick) Fawcett MA, D.Phil

Died May 2014

Dick was a person who many of his contemporaries will remember as a unique personality. He retained his boyish looks for much of his life which could make one forget his impressive intellect and awesome memory for detail on a vast number of subjects. With his sense of humour and ready laugh his company was always anticipated with pleasure.

While at school he enjoyed the standard sports and later continued for some time with tennis and golf. He studied chemistry at Keble College Oxford and then worked with BP and Wyeth before spending some 14 years in London. During which time he qualified as a Patent Agent joining one of the leading firms in that field where he was a partner. He then returned to industry and joined ICI in their plant protection division becoming a leading figure in that subject. After leaving ICI in 1985 he re-joined BP and became Head of Patents in 1989. In 1995 he was elected President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents when he gave me the honour of being his guest at their annual dinner at The Savoy.

We enjoyed countless happy times together playing sport, attending concerts and opera and generally enjoying each other’s company at social events. In 1976 he married Anne and they had a son, Richard who married and subsequently presented his parents with two grandsons in whom Dick took great pride. He lost his brave fight with pancreatic cancer on 20th May this year and will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Written by Peter Brooker (1955)

Tom Phelps-Penny
Former Teacher at St George’s College
Died June 2014

We are very sad to announce that Tom Phelps-Penny died on Saturday 7th June. We ask you to keep his wife Dada Phelps-Penny and family in your thoughts and prayers. Mr Phelps-Penny retired from St George’s in July 1996 after working at the College for 12 years. He was a highly distinguished linguist, fluent and expert in French, Italian and German.

Antony Kenney
Died August 2014
Antony Kenney died on Monday 18th August, aged 82. Antony was a member of the Board of Governors at St George’s for many years. His wife Carol, taught at the Junior School and his daughter Louise attended St Maur’s and currently teaches at the Junior School. Both his sons James and Benedict are Old Georgians. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol and the family during this very sad time.

Peter Brooker (1955)
Died August 2014

Peter died on Tuesday 19th August. Peter left St George’s in 1955 and went onto qualify as a solicitor. Between 1974 and 1992 Peter was a member of the Board of Governors at St George’s College. Peter’s son Rupert attended St George’s and his daughter Henrietta went to St Maur’s. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Diana, children, family and friends.

A memorial service will be held in the chapel at St George’s at 12 noon on Tuesday 7th October. Peter’s obituary will appear in the March edition of Reunite.

John Burke
Died August 2014

John died at St Peter’s Hospital on Wednesday 20th August. John was employed by Fr Aidan Rossiter, the College Bursar, in 1972, as a painter. John was well known in Weybridge, Addlestone and Chertsey where he attended St Ann’s Church.
2013/2014 School Captains reflect back over their year

HEAD GIRL

Kate Hughes

When I was told that I was one of the new Captains of School at the end of the Easter Term 2013, I was both delighted and anxious by the thought of becoming a new ‘face’ of the College. It’s a difficult job trying to fill the shoes of the previous captains, as we now know, in the role you build up close relationships with the Head, the Head of Sixth Form, and many other staff and students in the school. Most importantly, the relationship the captains had with each other this year felt special, as together we have had some memorable moments; presenting at the Fourth into Sixth Form evening, speaking at the Celebration of Achievements and one of our favourites being visiting the children at the Junior School. I have always loved leading, and especially working in a team, so together I could not have asked for a better role, and I thank everyone who gave me the opportunity.

HEAD BOY

Joshua Dominy

My experience as a Captain of School has been extremely rewarding, allowing me to work as part of an excellent team and enhance the link between the student and staff body. Throughout the year as School Captain, there are many different roles that have had to be undertaken, including giving a speech at Prize Giving, visiting the Junior School to build the relationships between campuses and being a role model to all peers. As part of this very important role, you attend meetings with the Headmaster every fortnight and the Head of Sixth Form every week, where you talk about upcoming events within the College, and express your views on current situations or talking points. Leading the School Council is another responsibility that enables discussion with younger peers in the College. Each Captain of School is assigned a year group from which Year Councillors meet with us once every half term to discuss issues, which we then take to the Deputy Head and Headmaster. This duty reinforces the family ethos of the school, allowing the pupil’s voices to be heard.

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Toby Marshall

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Deputy Head Boy and I am able to take a lot away from the role. In reality there was no referral to ‘Deputy’ or ‘Head’ and this I feel was the main reason that the role brings such fond memories. As ‘Captains’ we were very fortunate that we worked as a great team over the year with our various jobs and were hopefully seen as successful to many. Whilst it may sound cliché, it gave me a great opportunity to give something back to the College other than on the sports field; whether I was seen as a role model in the College or indeed on our amazing trips to the Junior School, I was proud to be recognised among the family of St George’s. At first the task of reading in front of a full chapel seemed daunting however looking back, it gave me great confidence in public speaking and I am very grateful for this life skill. Other fond memories other than the team and the Junior School visits include our meetings with Mr Peake and of course our weekly meetings Mrs Smith who we all miss dearly.

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Jessica Davie

Having now passed on our roles as Captains of School, I have been suffering slight withdrawal symptoms from my badge and my daily encounters with Mrs Smith. It has been such a fun year working with a great team and we’ve all really appreciated the opportunity to get to know Mr Peake and Mrs Smith in our weekly meetings. Throughout our time as Captains we have been involved in all sorts of different responsibilities, including running the school council, speaking at information evenings and organizing 6 live. Although my favourite thing was definitely travelling down to the Junior School, where we were made to feel like celebrities and being interviewed by the “Newspaper Club” about “Life at the College”. I have loved being part of the team of Captains and am very sad that our year has so quickly come to an end, but I’m really grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent the school in this way.
St George’s College is in the rare position of having four Heads of Biology currently at the School. Fr Andrew who resides in the Josephite Community at the College served as Head of Biology from 1952-1989. Martin Parnham, who is currently the Head of Technology at the College, served as Head of Biology from 1989-2000. Kathy York retired from Head of Biology at the end of the academic year. The new Head of Biology from September 2014 will be Michael Stather, OG 1993, who was taught by both Fr Andrew and Martin Parnham as well as working alongside Kathy York for 13 years.

Michael Stather said of his part of his new appointment: “Biology has always been a major part of my life. As a youngster I would often accompany my father on butterfly walks, or spend the summer holidays alongside the coastline near Rampside, Cumbria, where my Grandparents lived. As an Old Georgian I had the great privilege of being educated within the stunning grounds of SGC, and have fond memories of being taught by Fr Andrew in my first year at the senior school. During my A-level studies, Martin Parnham (then Head of Biology), and Harry McHugh inspired me to become a teacher, and since working at the College (2001 onwards) I was fortunate enough to work alongside Kathy York. It is a great honour to follow on from such an illustrious group of people, and to become one of only five Heads of Biology that the College has ever had. We have a dynamic, hardworking department and I look forward to continuing successes in the future.”

Fr Andrew, Martin Parnham, Kathy York, and Michael Stather

Four Generations of Biology

St George’s College is in the rare position of having four Heads of Biology currently at the School. Fr Andrew who resides in the Josephite Community at the College served as Head of Biology from 1952-1989. Martin Parnham, who is currently the Head of Technology at the College, served as Head of Biology from 1989-2000. Kathy York retired from Head of Biology at the end of the academic year. The new Head of Biology from September 2014 will be Michael Stather, OG 1993, who was taught by both Fr Andrew and Martin Parnham as well as working alongside Kathy York for 13 years.

Michael Stather said of his part of his new appointment: “Biology has always been a major part of my life. As a youngster I would often accompany my father on butterfly walks, or spend the summer holidays alongside the coastline near Rampside, Cumbria, where my Grandparents lived. As an Old Georgian I had the great privilege of being educated within the stunning grounds of SGC, and have fond memories of being taught by Fr Andrew in my first year at the senior school. During my A-level studies, Martin Parnham (then Head of Biology), and Harry McHugh inspired me to become a teacher, and since working at the College (2001 onwards) I was fortunate enough to work alongside Kathy York. It is a great honour to follow on from such an illustrious group of people, and to become one of only five Heads of Biology that the College has ever had. We have a dynamic, hardworking department and I look forward to continuing successes in the future.”

Fr Andrew, Martin Parnham, Kathy York, and Michael Stather

Triple Colours Awarded

The rare award of Triple Colours has been made to Josh Dominy; he was presented with his cap during the end of year service on Friday 4th July.

Josh has moved through St George’s College and Junior School always in the A teams in rugby, hockey and cricket. He has captained various teams.

Josh played a leading role in 1st XI hockey over two years. His commitment was excellent and worked tirelessly for the cause.

Whilst at the College Josh has always given 100% in all the sport he has played. He is a natural sportsman and able to turn his hand at most sports. Josh is an excellent role model for others, showing what can be achieved with hard work and dedication.

St George’s College achieves record best result at Henley Women’s Regatta

Over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd June the Senior girls’ VIII embarked on a quest to be the first ever Henley Women’s Regatta winners for St George’s College, entering the Junior (U18) VIIIs event. The weekend got off to a good start with the crew named as second seed on the back of their amazing silver medal success in Championship VIIIs at the National Schools’ Regatta. This meant the girls were not required to compete in the early rounds of the event getting a free pass through to the quarter finals.

Their semi-final opponents from Branksome Hall School, Canada were set to present a tough test. They are one of the top Canadian rowing schools with over 120 female members and had beaten us in the U16 IVs event last year.

This year the girls were not to be tripped up and rowed a phenomenally mature race beating the fast Canadians to the end of Temple Island, a Henley landmark, and then punishing them thereafter allowing an easy row in for the last 500 metres. This set up a final to be the tussle of tussles against the country’s leading girls rowing school – Headington School Oxford (and National Schools gold medallists).

The girls who were 10 seconds adrift to this all conquering crew at the National Schools’ Regatta were not phased going afloat and off the start went stroke for stroke. Five hundred metres in as the pinch point came and Headington piled on the pressure the St George’s crew held up the position but were out paced by the finish line. St George’s fought gallantly to come off second but not second best.

Tracy Cox (cox), Ashleigh Mason, Alex Busch, Nuala Gannon, Jo Gannon, Eleanor Palmer, Alex Haines, Marie Crosnier and Bronte Penney.

St George’s College bt. Sir William Perkins’s School 1 and ¾ lengths, time 05:14
St George’s College bt. Branksome Hall (CAN) 2 lengths, time 05:14
Headington School, Oxford bt. St George’s College 2 and ½ lengths, time 05:06
Building work to construct a new school building at the Junior School site in Thames Street started in early July 2014 and is likely to last until January 2016. All of the new facilities will provide for existing pupil numbers at the Junior School rather than any expansion.

Intended specifically for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, the new Junior School building will offer new, modern classrooms and resource areas, a dedicated IT suite, a new assembly room, new outdoor learning areas along with other features.

The new facility has been designed to be very environmentally friendly with energy efficiency and sustainability in mind and will include low energy lighting, extra insulation and materials sourced from sustainable forests. Two of the roofs will have a ‘living’ sedum cover to ensure that they blend into their natural surroundings.

As part of the work, the existing Nursery building will also be completely refurbished and modernised to the most up to date standards with a target completion date of January 2016.

Also from January 2016, the Junior School’s front car park facing onto Thames Street will include a new coach pick up and drop off zone, which is being put in place to help ease the flow of local road traffic.

College students were reveling in their phenomenal success over the summer with the best ever top A-level results at the School: 60% of the grades being A*-A, an increase of 11% on last year, whilst 85% of the grades achieved overall are A*-B, reflecting the fact the College encourages every individual to fulfil his or her own personal potential.

Six students gained places at Oxford University in addition to two who will be attending Cambridge.

David Coe achieved 4 A*s in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Fine Art and will read Chemistry at Hertford College, Oxford. Sultan Kara (A*A*A) will read Music at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; he has led the College’s Chamber Orchestra as well as the Symphony Orchestra and was also a member of the Chamber choir that won the BBC’s Choir of the Year competition. Samantha Cone (A*A*A) will read Archaeology and Ancient History at Worcester College. Kitt McIntosh (A*A*A), a member of the College’s rugby team, is reading Chemistry at Wadham College and Jorgen Tveit (A*A*A*A), an outstanding rower, is reading Engineering at St John’s College, Oxford. Isabella Eacott’s (A*A*A*) interest in History inspired her to research Eugenics, a topic that fascinated the interview panel at Lincoln and impelled them to offer her a place at the College.

Two exceptional Mathematics students will read the subject at Cambridge; Daniel Lauber achieved 5 A*s, a remarkable achievement, and is going up to St John’s and Jonathan Utterson with 3 A*s and an A grade is going up to Peterhouse. Jessica Davie, Deputy Head Girl 2013–2014, gained a phenomenal 3 A*s and will study Art at the prestigious Central St Martin’s, London and Andrew Wright (A*A*A) is reading medicine at Southampton University.

Whilst in the GCSE examinations, St George’s improved its percentage of A* grades from last year’s 40% to this year’s 43%. The College has maintained its 100% 5 A*-C grades, whilst 42 students gained all A’s – A grades, including six students who achieved straight A’s. We look forward to watching them progress through the Sixth Form.

St George’s is ranked 67th in the Independent Schools League table results listed in the Daily Telegraph and Times and 63rd in the country for GCSE’s. These are the best ever positions achieved in the league tables!

EXAM SUCCESS!

“Heartfelt congratulations go to every single one of our male and female A-level students. St George’s College has the largest independent co-educational Sixth Form in the local area and every year continues to improve its academic results, this year being the best ever top grades at A-level and the highest number of students going to Oxbridge universities.”

- Joe Peake, Headmaster
In eternal gratitude to those Old Georgians and others who gave their lives in World War 1

Every year at St George's Weybridge, the pupils and students of the Junior School and College gather to honour and remember lives lost in military service, especially focusing on the Old Georgians who gave their lives during the two World Wars.

With a hundred years passing since the declaration of the First World War in July 1914, we have investigated what life was like at the time for Old Georgians fighting in the trenches and for students at the School through their own words in the archived editions of 'The Georgian' – the School's official publication.

By 1912 the threat of a war involving Britain in Europe and the changing face of international relations was readily apparent to students of the College. The subject was explored in detail by John Thompson, under the pseudonym Bellcosia, in the January 1912 edition of The Georgian, in his essay ‘Modern Warfare.’ Through his essay Thompson asserted that one of the key reasons for there already not being a major European war was that: “Modern warfare is so terrible that its very terror prevents great nations from going to war.” Unfortunately this proved not to be the case and the great European powers were not “restrained by the knowledge of the terrible consequences of such a conflict” as Thompson eloquently contended.

Before the declaration of war, little more was said of the diplomatic developments in Europe. The first issue of The Georgian written after the war was declared, January 1915, made very clear the attitude the School held towards the war as the editor stated: “although the War will pervade our own pages, and some of the articles written by our friends will treat about the War, we have no intention of editing a War number: we have little time to waste upon the Kaiser, and our main object, as in the past, is to set faithfully before our readers the story of our little school world.”

This edition was also the first to report on the Old Georgians at war, including those who were wounded and killed. The first Old Georgian to give his life was Paul Frachen (OG 1912) on 4 September 1914. As the War progressed The Georgian continued in this duty of documenting the involvement of Old Georgians in the war. Each issue provided a list of those who were in active service, who was in military training, who was wounded, and an honours list for those who had given their lives in service.

Aside from the record keeping, the ongoing contact between the College and Old Georgians in the trenches resulted in various accounts of life at war being published in The Georgian. These accounts helped provide an insight into life at the front for the rest of the Georgian Family. One such account entitled ‘French life’ gave a detailed account of hearing an impeding attack from the Germans: “Imagine yourself, one of a couple of hundred on the canal bank, and shells are heard coming. No one knows where; all know somewhere nearby. Everybody dives for his dugout like a rabbit hurrying for his hole.”

Another account from C. Mullin entitled ‘My Story as a Soldier’ begins with a tribute to The Georgian:

“My last packet contained the May number of The Georgian, and I was highly pleased to receive it. Sitting in my dug out in the trenches I read it from cover to cover and then turned back and read it all over again, so you can guess I thoroughly appreciated it.”

Another feature of the editorial of The Georgian during the War was the provision of updates on the larger European Josephite community. The importance of the ongoing health of the Belgian Josephites was of great concern to all of the Georgian Family at the time, as the editor recorded in 1916: “Our first duty is to thank our readers for their many inquiries about our Continental brethren”. This concern for the health of the Josephite community in Europe is testament to the strength of the Georgian Spirit, which teaches students that they are part of one family which encompasses the wider world, in the toughest of times.

Despite the initial claims that the War would not take over The Georgian, by the end of 1915 the life of both the College and society at large had sufficiently become dominated by the War that The Georgian had to follow suit. One of the most notable changes in College life reflected through The Georgian was the founding of the Cadet Corps. The foundation of a Cadet Corps was not an entirely new concept for the College to discuss as: “There had been question of it for some time past, but even the outbreak of the Great War did not bring it spontaneously into being”. Despite the hesitation and debate around the forming of the Corps, by March 1915 agreements had been reached with the Surrey Territorial Association and by mid April the first parade had taken place and official recognition from the War Office was received.

The foundation of the Cadet Corps was announced in the September 1915 edition of The Georgian. The Cadet Corps was promoted to students in The Georgian by telling them that the training would “bring out the qualities of manliness, perfect the faculties of endurance and instil a spirit of duty, order and discipline.”

Every issue from September 1915 featured extensive accounts of the performance of the cadets, including details of rifle competitions, promotions, drills, parades, in addition to photos from various activities the cadets took part in.

As the War progressed, The Georgian continued in its duty of documenting life of the students at School and the Old Georgians in the trenches.

By the end of the war 367 Old Georgians saw service, with 57 making the supreme sacrifice for their country.

The first issue of The Georgian published after the end of the War came in January 1919, the College announced its elation at the end of the war as: “Thank God, the end has come, and victory the most complete is in our hands. We approach our readers this evening – the first of many Christmas free from the horrors of world slaughter, with an intense feeling of gratitude and relief. Thank God, the war is won, and our present pupils, even those in their last year of school life will be free to carve out their careers in the honourable paths of peace.”

Whilst this information board cannot be exhaustive documentary of the lives of all of the Georgian Family during the times of the War it does provide intriguing insights. We can see through The Georgian that the Georgian Family Spirit kept the Georgian Family closely linked with each other. The concern for the wellbeing of all connected to the School was central to how the War was experienced by all at St George’s and is witness to the strength of the Georgian Family Spirit and the Josephite ethos.

Written by Sam Yarnold
Published by St George’s Weybridge. June 2014.
LET TRAILFINDERS TAKE CARE
OF YOUR TRAVELS AND SGC
RECEIVES A 1% PAYBACK

All funds go towards the SGC Assisted Places Scheme

Award winning Trailfinders can organise everything from just a flight to a complete tailor-made holiday. Their expert consultants have travelled to 96% of the world’s countries and they are on hand 7 days a week to offer advice, inspiration, exceptional service and value wherever you choose to travel.

Plus, book with Trailfinders and 1% of the gross value of your booking will be contributed to St George’s College. Simply pass your booking details to the Development Office and they will deal with it from there.

From idyllic beach escapes to chic city breaks, worldwide cruising to bespoke touring or even just a flight, let Trailfinders take care of your travels – it’s what they do!

Worldwide Travel: 020 7368 1200
Cruise Trailfinders: 020 7368 1300
First & Business Class Travel: 020 7368 1400
Bespoke Touring: 020 7368 1500

LinkedIn
LinkedIn is a great business networking social site. You can stay in touch with other Old Georgians in similar professions or offer assistance to Old Georgians who are at university or starting out in the business world. It is a great way of providing mentorship to young Georgians currently at university. Follow St George’s, Weybridge Alumni today!

Facebook
Keep up to date with Reunite news and events. Follow us on St George’s College Reunite.

Twitter
@stgeorgesru