

OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 8 2018

In this issue...

PROFESSOR VIKAS SHAH MBE

**SPOTLIGHT ON WEST END
STAR SARAH KATE HOWARTH**

SCHOOL NEWS



FOUNDED IN 1487

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Headmaster's Welcome

Thanks to the support of all sections of the school community and The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Stockport Grammar School is now as successful as it has ever been – in the number of boys and girls we educate, in terms of academic results, in extracurricular sport, music and drama and in the quality of facilities and working relations which exist in the school. We continue to build for future generations not only in bricks and mortar but in more cerebral materials – our academic curriculum and personal development programmes are constantly developing to shape and meet the changing needs of our pupils.

Whilst we may know little of our Founder Edmond Shaa – we do know that he had a sharp eye to shaping his own career. Adept at navigating the machinations of political patronage at the end of the Wars of the Roses, he was very careful to tie his colours to the future – he was a survivor in a dangerous world – managing to maintain his influence with three, very different political masters, Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII.

Shaa would, I am sure, be both delighted and surprised, not only in the survival but by the strength and vigour of his creation today. He was, in many ways, the personification of social mobility. His intention was to provide opportunity to present and future generations of children in the town of his birth, to offer them an education appropriate to their needs and aspirations irrespective of social background, a journey which took Shaa himself from the valleys of the Pennines to the Guildhall of the City of London. The equality that matters is not that of outcome or provision, but

that of opportunity. We are here – we have always been here – to serve the children in our community. It isn't tokenism; it's what we do. Whilst Shaa's crest – the badge of his school – may be gilded in gold – the youth of his home town, historically, has not been.

In the medieval period of history much scientific knowledge was developed by alchemists. Men who tried to find a formula that would transform ordinary materials into gold. As a goldsmith Shaa had, of course, punctured the myth of alchemy – but we want his school to preserve it in human form.

Winston Churchill put it this way: 'The further back you can look, the further forward you are likely to see.' Schools are – in essence – about the future not the past, about people not about buildings, about raising up not levelling down, about removing barriers to progress, about opening closed minds. The real task of teachers is to encourage each pupil to grow as an individual. Schools should be places where we can search together for the secret of a successful and happy future by offering the uniquely precious opportunity, the expression of confidence which fortifies self-belief and helps a child to develop his or her own very special talents – whether in academic study, in music, in art, in drama, in sport – so that they can realise and fulfil the promise which lies in each of us. Ultimately we compete against our present selves rather than against other people.

I do hope that you will find enjoyment, encouragement and inspiration in reading this publication.

Andrew Chicken

A Year in Office

Serving as President of The Old Stopfordians' Association over the past year has been a privilege. Hardly a week seems to have gone by without the chance to attend an event at school displaying the wealth of talent and the breadth of opportunity to demonstrate pupils' abilities.

As the last academic year drew to a close, I attended the exhibition displayed by the Art, Design and Textile department and was amazed by the variety and standard of work on show.

Featuring strongly throughout the year have been the number of drama, dance and musical performances which have impressed. The termly concerts in particular include such a diversity of musical genres.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at Stockport Grammar goes from strength to strength. It was tremendous to see so many involved and it was a pleasure to be able to attend the Awards Evening.

This is something I feel particularly associated with as a regular helper and assessor. It takes me back to my trips to Wasdale Camps that nurtured my love of the outdoors.

In November, the School Remembrance Service was a fitting tribute to the former Stopfordians lost in conflict. This was followed by lunch in The Hallam Hall where all those names are recorded.

The Golf section remains active with several competitions arranged throughout the summer. I had the pleasure of participating in The Oppida Cup held at Stockport Golf Club.

The Association is in transition at the moment and progress is being made to take the Old Stopfordian community under the umbrella of the External Relations Department. I would like to express my thanks to Rachel Horsford and her team for their efforts and to the continued support of fellow committee members.

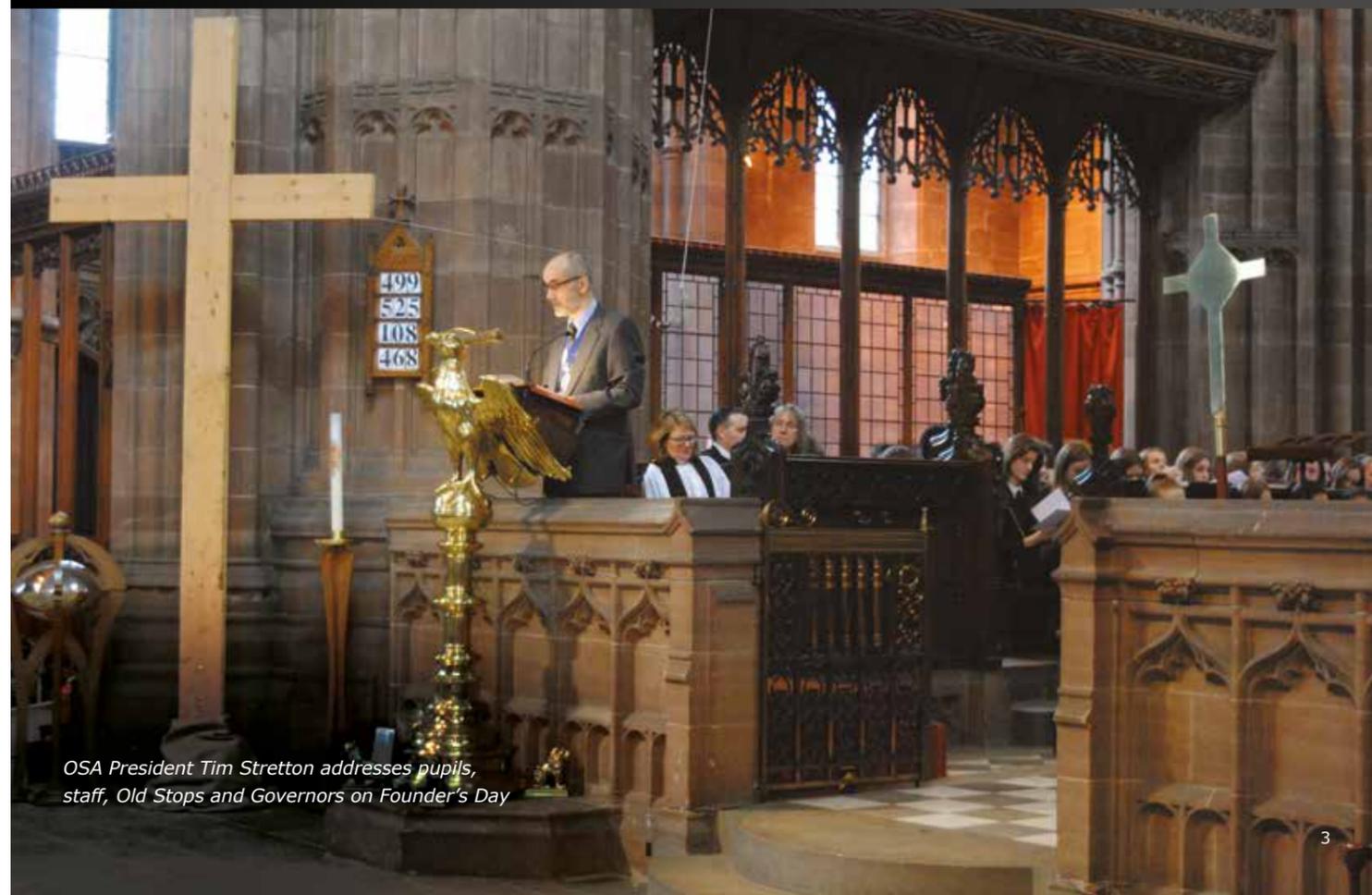


OSA President Tim Stretton (right) with former President David Garrett

The Annual Dinner was, as always, held on the evening of Founder's Day in the Hallam Hall at school. This always makes for a very convivial evening to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances. So too is the reunion barbecue held in June.

I wish you all well.

Tim Stretton (OS 1982)



OSA President Tim Stretton addresses pupils, staff, Old Stops and Governors on Founder's Day



From the Helm

Over recent years, Stopfordians have reflected on the life of Sir Edmond Shaa and paid tribute to his vision in founding Stockport Grammar School. However, we should not forget a more recent benefactor without whose financial support the school might not have survived the proposed move to Mile End - Ephraim Hallam.

In the last quarter of the 19th century the school endured fluctuating fortunes in respect of numbers of pupils.

However, shortly after Mr A E Daniels was appointed Headmaster in 1903, demand for the liberal education the school provided increased substantially. It soon became apparent that the school had outgrown the possibilities of the site at Greek Street and plans were submitted to move to Mile End, one of three sites initially considered.

The cost of these new buildings was to be £30,000. The Greek Street buildings were sold for £5,000 but, apart from some funds from minor benefactors and gifts from Old Boys,

there was still a substantial shortfall. The balance of the cost was born by the Ephraim Hallam Charity.

Ephraim Hallam was born in Stockport in 1812 and, as a young man, quickly showed a determination to work extremely long hours journeying daily by foot to Quay Street College in Manchester to study Latin and Chemistry.

In due course he abandoned the profession of Chemist and Druggist upon his inheritance of a small cotton-waste business hitherto conducted by his father. Over time he transformed this small concern into a great factory at Heaviley where he soon amassed a handsome fortune. He was a member of the Board of School Governors from 1885.

After a long life distinguished by business success, private benefactions and municipal honours, Alderman Hallam died on Christmas Day 1897 leaving his wife but no children and a fortune of some £150,000 to establish a charity.

By 1912, the interest alone on the funds amounted to £18,500 and this sum, one of the first acts of the charity, was given to the Governors of the Grammar School for the new building.

The foundation stone was laid by Mr. W B Hodgkinson J.P., who was not only the Chairman of Governors of the Ephraim Hallam Charity, but Hallam's personal friend and Executor.

During the construction 1914 - 1916 a further interest of £4,000 was given so that in total the school was a beneficiary to the extent of £22,500, some two-thirds of the total building cost.

The Hall was dedicated to the memory of Ephraim Hallam. His portrait and that of his wife hang in the Governors' Room.

By Archivist Stuart Helm (OS 1964)



Staff photograph from 1992. Do you recognise any of your teachers?

Digital Archive

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Stockport Grammar School's move to the Hallam site in 1916, the Old Stopfordians' Association pledged an initial generous donation enabling the school to establish its archive materials through an online collection which is accessible through the school website. The site, which is managed by SDS Group, contains all back copies of *The Stopfordian* magazine, school publications and a selection of archive photographs. The balance of the whole school photographs and a range of additional images of school life will follow shortly.

We are very thankful to our Archivist, Mr Stuart Helm, for co-ordinating the project, and to the Old Stopfordians' Association for their generous donation.

We hope that the online collection will be expanded as funds become available and we welcome the donation of photographs and memorabilia from Old Stopfordians to add to the school archive. The School digital archive can be found in the Alumni section of the school website at www.stockportgrammar.co.uk



Pupils on a camping trip in the early 1950s. What was your favourite school trip during your time at SGS?



The 1st XI Hockey squad from 2010/11. Were you on a sports team at SGS?

Sarah Kate Howarth

(OS 2009)

The Band was 2017's biggest musical theatre success story and it's showing no signs of slowing down in 2018 as it hits the West End and makes a return to Manchester. It also won CityLife's Best Theatre Production Award and a film version is in the pipeline. The stage show follows five teenage girls, united by their love of a boy band, as they grow up in Manchester.

Sarah Kate, who starred in many musical productions during her time at SGS, spoke to *Old Stops' Review* about her role in *The Band*, what the future holds and how her school days helped to prepare her for what lay ahead.

Can you tell us about your role in *The Band*?

The Band is written by Tim Firth and features the music of Take That. The musical also stars the winners of the BBC1 talent show *Let It Shine*, which aired in early 2017. I play the role of Claire Proctor, a 16 year old athlete who hopes to compete in the Olympics. *The Band* opened at the Opera House in Manchester in September 2017 and has been touring the UK ever since. It's the fastest selling theatre tour in history and I'm so thrilled to be a part of it.



How have you found the experience so far?

I have been involved in the show since its initial workshop and press launch back in March 2017 and it's been amazing to have seen the show at each stage of its development, from the original concept to the finished product. From listening to one of our tracks being played by Elaine Paige on BBC Radio 2, to sharing the stage with Take That and Lulu at the Manchester Opera House, to seeing the smiles on people's faces at stage door – the whole experience has been a dream come true.

What path did you take after leaving Stockport Grammar School?

I read French and English Literature at the University of Edinburgh and spent my third year abroad at the École Jacques Lecoq in Paris, a drama school that focuses on physical theatre and improvisation. After university, I undertook a postgrad in Musical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music.

It took six rounds of auditions over the course of three months – a slightly nerve wracking experience to say the least – before I found out via my agent that I had been offered the role in *The Band*. As you can probably imagine, I was over the moon!

Do you think your time at SGS helped you achieve your success?

My time at SGS definitely cemented my love of music – and in particular, of musical theatre. I remember our school productions so vividly as they were always the highlight of my year. The very first school play I did was *Peter Pan* in which I played Wendy Darling and I've been hooked on acting ever since. We were lucky to have such passionate and dedicated teachers who were willing to devote so much of their time after hours into making each production a huge success.

What's next for you?

Once the initial tour has finished, *The Band* is going to transfer to London, which will be my West End debut. I feel so lucky to be part of a show with so much heart and I am delighted that it's been so well received.



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Sarah Carroll (OS 1983)

Sarah, who is Managing Director of Global Multinationals for Corporate Banking at MUFG, was delighted to be included in the 2017 Financial Times and HERoes 50 Female Champions of Women in Business list!

The accolade was given to Sarah, who has been a Governor at SGS since 2003, to recognise both her efforts to champion women internally and externally, and her significant business achievements.

She believes her time at SGS was great preparation for her future career, adding: **"I was in the second intake of girls and being vastly outnumbered was perfect training for life in the City."**

At MUFG, Sarah has been instrumental in launching and growing its gender diversity employee network, Balance. Her efforts have seen employee engagement and awareness build significant momentum, while promoting a change in company culture.

Sarah has made an important contribution to female mentoring schemes and raising awareness of

diversity issues during her thirty-year career, including her previous roles at JP Morgan Chase & Co, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

She said: **"This is an incredibly humbling, proud moment. Pursuing gender diversity in an industry which could go much further in supporting inclusion and diversity has defined much of my career to-date, and will continue to do so. Every helping hand, from men and women at all levels, can make an important contribution and I am glad to be providing mine."**

Among her significant business credentials, Sarah can point to a long, successful track record in establishing and developing relationships with some of Europe's largest companies. Since joining MUFG, Sarah has grown her revenue base and client portfolio substantially and won important mandates across a broad range of geographies and solutions, including debt capital markets, interest rate and equity derivatives, acquisition finance and transaction banking.

Jessica Moore (OS 1997)



Jessica staged a four week run of her debut play, *Gin For Breakfast*, at London's Tristan Bates Theatre in September. The play follows childhood friends Jen and Robbie who are all grown-up now and galaxies away from where they imagined they would be. With their world-views set on a collision course, and their dreams imploding, *Gin for Breakfast* explores whether or not they can save themselves, and each other.

The production partnered with CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) to host after-show talks and events around mental health. After-show talks, including contributions from Stephen Fry, Frank Turner, Mat Horne, Hugo Rifkind and Oliver Kamm, were held after selected performances.

Gin For Breakfast received rave reviews from theatre critics with many saying that Jessica had managed to portray mental health issues in a sensitive and realistic light. The play also received an Offie nomination for Best New Play.

She said: **"It was incredibly exciting, and pretty terrifying, to have my first play produced. But, it was wonderful to hear the audience laugh and to see them be moved by the play."**

After leaving SGS, Jessica went to the University of Bristol to study Politics – a choice which she says was influenced "in no small part" by the Model United Nations conferences she attended at school.

On graduating, she went to law school and spent some years as a lawyer before changing careers to work in Corporate Responsibility for *The Co-operative Group*. She is now Executive Director of Corporate Responsibility at *Warner Bros*.

For the last ten years, Jessica has been embracing her love of writing and theatre. Last year, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) commissioned her to write a short film version of her first play. The short film is called *Bitter Lemon* and was screened at the 2017 RADA Festival. She has also been commissioned to write a play for this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



Geoff Downes (OS 1971)

The multi-talented keyboardist, producer and songwriter enjoyed a celebratory tour of the UK in March to mark the 50th anniversary of Yes, the progressive rock band he joined in 1980.

Geoff's musical career began when he formed The Buggles in 1977. The band enjoyed huge success with their single *Video Killed the Radio Star* – which topped the charts in 16 countries including the UK – from their debut album *The Age of Plastic*.

Three years later, Geoff joined Yes and recorded *Drama* before the group disbanded in 1981. He then co-founded Asia with Yes guitarist Steve Howe.

Over the years, Geoff has released several solo albums and produced albums for other artists including Mike Oldfield and the Thompson Twins.

In 2006, Geoff was instrumental in getting the original line up of Asia back together and he rejoined Yes in 2011. He has been a member of both groups ever since.

As well as preparing for the Yes anniversary tour – which included a date at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall – Geoff has also kept himself busy releasing new music.

Yes brought out a new double live album and Geoff released new material from his other groups, iCon Zero and The Downes Braide Association.

Speaking to Planet Rock about the anniversary tour, Geoff said: **"I feel enormously privileged be a part of the legacy of the incredible and unique line of musicians in Yes. The band has always remained fresh and inventive throughout its 50-year history, and created an amazing catalogue of music that has inspired millions from all generations."**

Where Are They Now?



Abigail Jones

(OS 2013)

launched *The Bare Minimum*, a print magazine focusing on sustainable fashion after completing a BA in English Literature at Royal Holloway – which included a year at UCLA in Los Angeles studying American Literature and French. She is currently studying for an MA in Fashion Journalism at London College of Fashion as well as working on the second edition of the magazine.

"The English department was really where I flourished at SGS," said Abigail. **"Teachers like Rayna Johnson and Ben Masters were amazing to me and I loved learning from them."**

Alex Longson

(OS 2013)

was named as Global Winner for the Social Sciences: Anthropology and Cultural Studies category at The Undergraduates Awards 2017. His submission was an edited version of his dissertation – Cinematic Representations of Scottish National Identity: Sunshine on Leith. The prize was an all-expenses paid trip to the UA Global Summit where he will present his paper to the President of Ireland. Alex graduated from the University of St Andrews with an MA in Geography last summer.

Nigel Hugh Higgins (OS 1939),

former Headmaster at Whitehill Infant and Junior School is living in Heaton Chapel and enjoys spending time with his two daughters, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Eric William Wright (OS 1971)

is Treasurer of the AVRO Heritage Museum which is based at the disused Woodford Airfield. The museum is important for education and the heritage of the aircraft industry.

Congratulations to **Nick Helm (OS 1992)** who is now Partner at Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP.

Professor Grenville Holland

(OS 1957) retired from politics and from his teaching roles last year and now spends his time as a Parish Councillor, helping out with local planning matters.

Peter Simpson

(OS 2012) is reading Graduate Medicine at the University of Warwick after graduating from Imperial College with an MSci in Chemistry and Molecular Physics and an MRes in Bio-imaging Science.

Ernie Whalley (OS 1959) is a restaurant critic for the Irish edition of *The Sunday Times*. He also speaks at food conferences and at wine tastings as well as teaching the occasional cookery class. He is currently looking for a publisher after writing his first novel.

The result may not have been what he was hoping for, but **David Roland Bishop (OS 1955)** realised a lifetime ambition by travelling to Melbourne and Sydney to watch England take on Australia in the Ashes. David is a former bank manager at NatWest.

Liz Evans née Clark (OS 2001) is now lecturing at Newcastle University after gaining a PhD in Psychology at Durham University.

Alastair Lydon

(OS 2000)

is now Lead Coach Development Officer for Barnes RFC and is building an academy for the National 2 side. After leaving SGS, Alastair completed a Sports Science degree at Brunel University, working with the England U19 rugby team as a video analyst in his final year. He spent a year as Bath Rugby Club's 1st team match analyst before retraining as a PE teacher at Liverpool John Moores University. Alastair then spent six months travelling round South East Asia before heading to Australia where he was signed for semi-professional rugby team Knox Old Boys. He worked at Knox Grammar School for a year. On returning to the UK, he secured a job as Head of A Level PE and 1st XV Head Rugby Coach at The Harroddian School in South West London. He lives with his wife Becky and sons Grant and Thomas.



Professor Aroon Hingorani (OS

1983) has been elected as Senior Investigator for Cardiology and Cardiovascular Disease for the National Institute of Health Research. Senior Investigators are among the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR. They provide research leadership, promoting clinical and applied research in health and social care. Before this appointment, Aroon was Director of the UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences. His qualifications include a BA in Physiological Sciences from Oxford University, an MBBS in Medicine from Guy's London and a PhD in Genetics from Cambridge University.

Professor Brian Whiting (OS 1958)

is now retired. He is a medical graduate of the University of Glasgow, where he spent his career. He was a Lecturer and Senior Registrar in Clinical Pharmacology from 1969 to 1977. He became Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physician in 1977 and Reader in Clinical Pharmacology in 1982. In 1986, Brian became Professor of Clinical Pharmacology. From 1992 to 2000, he was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Head of the Clinical Medicine Planning Unit.

Renowned recorder player **John Turner (OS 1961)** released his festive album *Christmas Card Carols* which includes work by the late Music Master Douglas Steele.

Tania Hawthorn (OS 1988)

is a Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. She studied Medicine at university, specialising in Psychology.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Massie (OS 2012)** who graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2017.

Martin Clark

(OS 1978) has enjoyed returning to SGS to be an external invigilator for pupils sitting exams. We are always keen to hear from Old Stops who would be interested in invigilating for us.

Victoria Wilson (OS 2000) is a singer who performs in a variety of styles, including classical, opera and jazz. She enjoys taking a well known piece of music and putting her own stamp on it. Visit www.vjwilson.co.uk

David Park (OS 1989) is Programme Manager at Viasat World. He buys and develops TV shows for international broadcast. David has previously worked at Disney, Sky and Sony Pictures.

CAMILLA POULTON (OS 1996)

Camilla is a former lawyer who now chairs the Independent Monitoring Board for HMP Pentonville in London.

She took part in a BBC feature about the challenges women face when it comes to being recruited onto the boards of public bodies.

After taking a career break when she had children, Camilla decided to apply to the Independent Monitoring Board for HMP Pentonville, which oversees conditions in the prison.

Her job involves talking to prisoners and staff about how the prison is working to ensure fair and humane treatment.

She found there wasn't much public information about the roles available and had to look at annual reports to work out what boards did.

She told the BBC: **"We need to make the work of public appointments more visible to different sorts of candidates."**



Robert Jeeves (OS 2008) set up his own mechanical engineering business – Robert Jeeves Design Ltd – after previously working for Dyson, Tiger Trailers, Whitecroft Lighting, ACDC Lighting and BMAC.

Alison Hamlett (OS 1991) is relishing her role as Content Editor for the London Marathon.



Ilona Garlick (OS 2006)

is Head of Internal Communications at the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), the world's leading independent conservation organisation.

After leaving SGS, Ilona read Archaeology and Anthropology, and then History at Downing College, Cambridge, graduating with a double first in 2009.

Following this, she spent two years working for Tesco PLC in their Corporate Affairs department, which included trips to China and South Korea for investor tours.

Ilona then became a teaching assistant and, despite enjoying this for a year and considering teaching as a career, she decided she wanted to return to the world of communications and PR.

In 2013, Ilona took up a new role for The National Trust as their first Internal Communications Consultant, based in the South West.

Since then, Ilona has held Internal Communications roles at Centrica PLC and Royal Holloway, University of London, before securing her role with the WWF.

Mark Bilsby (OS 1989)

took his lifelong love of Biology and turned it into his dream career, managing salmon in various rivers in Scotland. Mark is the River Director at The River Dee Salmon Fishery and Dee DSFB. He has over 20 years of experience as a fisheries manager. Firstly, for an environmental consultancy and the National Rivers Authority, then as senior fisheries biologist for the Western Isles Fisheries Trust. In 2005, Mark joined the River Dee Trust and Dee DSFB to undertake the executive management of these two organisations.

Catherine Harvey (OS 1996) worked in mainstream secondary schools as a science teacher, a pastoral head and a KS4 co-ordinator before she returned to university to study Educational Psychology. She now works with pupils who have behavioural and emotional needs and children that have been excluded, or are at risk of being excluded, from mainstream schools to make sure they can complete their GCSEs.

Monique Geraghty (OS 2007) works for an independent theatre productions company and assists on TV and film sets.

Rob Fulton (OS 1974) graduated from Sheffield University with a Law degree before qualifying as a solicitor in Manchester. During the course of his career, Rob worked in the aerospace industry as Chief European Counsel for Goodrich Corporation which was bought by United Technologies Corporation. In retirement, Rob is trustee of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity which operates three helicopters in the Midlands region. He also spent time lecturing at Warwick Business School. Rob has two daughters, one is an architect and one is a freelance photographer.

Flora Wilson (OS 2004)

has secured a permanent lectureship in the Music department at King's College London after gaining a degree at Cambridge University followed by a Masters and a PhD at King's College London. Flora also does education work at the Royal Opera House and stints on BBC Radio 3. She is a classical music writer for *The Guardian*, mostly reviewing opera and orchestral concerts.



CHRIS ROBINSON (OS 2012) won the British Amateur Latin Sequence Championships in October 2017. He is also currently an Associate (Trainee Accountant) with KPMG

William Easson (OS 1992) is enjoying a fulfilling veterinary career after graduating from the University of Manchester in 1997. He has specialised in small and exotic animals and birds. William has also written a number of papers and book chapters and is now studying for a Masters degree in Law.

Adrian Jubb (OS 1999) knew from an early age that he wanted to go into medical research. He now heads early development for Achaogen, a small biotech company that develops new antibiotics to treat infections due to multi-drug resistant bacteria.

Congratulations to **Antonia Heijbroek (OS 2012)** who gained a First Class degree in History and German from Durham University last summer.

The music of Stockport Grammar School's inspirational late Music Master, **Douglas Steele**, has been included in The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music's (ABRSM) new singing syllabus.

The syllabus offers a huge variety of new songs, from core classics and opera to songs from the stage and screen. It includes five pieces by Douglas Steele.

Mr Steele joined Stockport Grammar School as Assistant Music Master in 1946. He became Music Master in 1962 following the retirement of Geoffrey Verney. Prior to his teaching career, Mr Steele had attended the Royal Manchester College of Music and had a prestigious musical career.

Dr Philippa Brice (OS 1993) is External Affairs Director for The PHG Foundation which is a non-profit think tank with a special focus on how genomics and other emerging health technologies can provide more effective, personalised healthcare and deliver improvements in health for patients and citizens.

Beatrix Wood (OS 1983) runs her own documentary film production company, TrixPix Media Ltd.

Martha Watson (OS 2013) is now a Junior Assistant Producer at Sky Sports after graduating from the University of Bristol with a Geography degree in 2016.

The Matthew Nicholls Foundation

has been established as a charitable organisation to help in making music tuition and participation accessible for young people living in challenging circumstances.

Matthew Nicholls (OS 2011), who had been living in London as a musician, tragically died in July last year and the Foundation has been established not just as a legacy, but to create musical opportunities for groups and individuals who would ordinarily miss out.



His parents, Rachel and Rob, said: "Matthew benefitted greatly in developing his musical talent at SGS and, as parents, we experienced and enjoyed how music participation can enrich lives. However, the reality is that music education is becoming increasingly beyond the reach of so many young people."

Professor Vikas Shah MBE

(OS 1999)

Congratulations to Professor Vikas Shah who received the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for Services to Business and the Economy in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

Professor Shah, who is currently the managing director at Manchester-based textiles supplier Swiscot Group, is one of the UK's most high profile entrepreneurs and is regularly seen commenting on business issues in the media.

Over the length of his career, Professor Shah – who started his first business at just 14 years old – has mentored hundreds of young entrepreneurs and businesses and played a key role in the development of Manchester's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

As well as being a well-respected public speaker and writer, the 37-year-old is Honorary Professor at Alliance Manchester Business School at the University of Manchester and Professor of Entrepreneurship at the MIT Sloan Lisbon MBA.

Over the past 15 years, Professor Shah has become actively involved with a number of local, national and international charities. He is Chairman of In Place of War, Chairman at Manchester's influential digital culture festival FutureEverything and a trustee at Mustard Tree, which helps tens of thousands impacted by poverty and marginalisation across Greater Manchester.

He is also a member of The UK Industrial Development Advisory Board, which advises the UK Government on over £4.5 billion of investments, a board advisor on digital strategy to the British Council and a board member of the General Medical Council, advising on international services and development.

On receiving the MBE, Vikas said:

"I was genuinely floored when I received the news about the MBE, it was a beautiful and unexpected surprise. Like so many people, I do what I do in work, and in the community because I enjoy it, am passionate about it, and because I find it rewarding. Receiving this kind of recognition is humbling, especially when I read the profiles and backgrounds of so many others who have received theirs, individuals that I would look up to as inspirations in their own right. It's a long way from the shy, slightly awkward person I was at Stockport Grammar School all those years ago!"



Mary Jane Wells

(OS 1991)

The actor, writer and creative artist spoke to *Old Stops' Review* about her path since leaving SGS, the success of her recent theatre production *Heroine*, which is based on the true story of a female soldier's sexual abuse in the US Army, and what it was like to be a protester in disguise as a guest at one of Donald Trump's inauguration balls.

WHAT PATH DID YOU TAKE AFTER LEAVING SGS?

I loved Drama and English at school and I took part in various plays and productions so I knew the direction I wanted to go in. I studied Theatre and English at Glasgow University before doing a Post Grad in Acting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I always knew I wanted to be on stage, and author the content too, to be close to the heart of the creative process. My favourite things to work on are transformative stories, which can affect tangible change if possible.

WHAT LED YOU TO WRITE HEROINE?

This story simply had to be told. The woman who it is based on – called Danna Davis in the play – couldn't keep it inside. She had tried to tell her story before but without much recognition. It had originally been written as a film script and I was asked to act in it but that never got off the ground so I decided to see if I could make it work as a play. It was important to me that the process of bringing her story out into the world helped with her healing trajectory and she was so up for it.

WHY WERE YOU INVITED TO DONALD TRUMP'S INAUGURATION BALL AND HOW WAS THAT EXPERIENCE?

I was invited to the ball by a soldier who was struggling to come to terms with civilian life after serving in Afghanistan. She had seen a film I made about a friend who escaped from a cult (*Holy Hell*) and could relate to it. When I accepted the invite, I assumed Hilary Clinton would win so I was in two minds about going after the result was announced. But then I thought, how could I not? I had been clearing parties for years talking about how nothing was happening about the epidemic of sexual abuse in the military and this was the best place to talk about it, and with the right people.

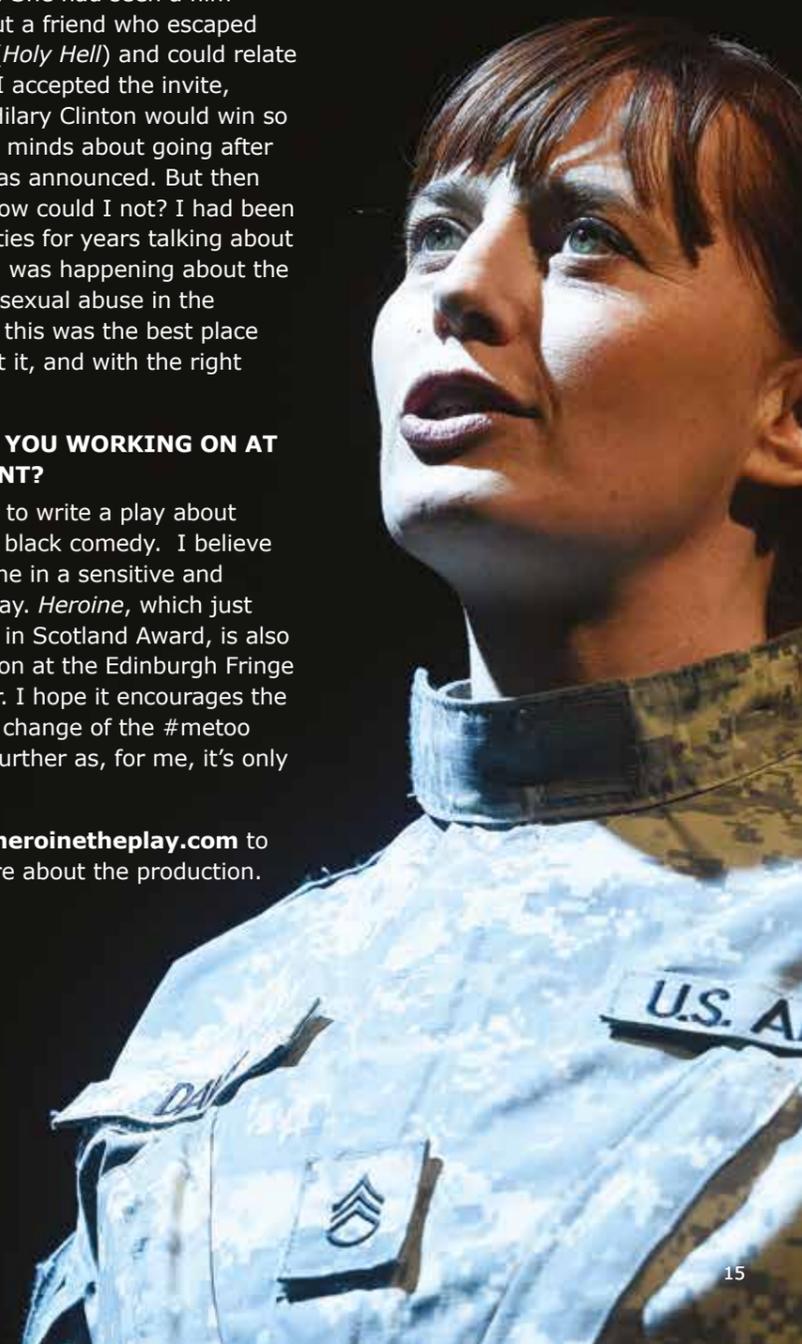
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?

I am hoping to write a play about dementia, a black comedy. I believe it can be done in a sensitive and respectful way. *Heroine*, which just won a Made in Scotland Award, is also going to be on at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. I hope it encourages the positive sea change of the #metoo movement further as, for me, it's only just started.

Visit www.heroinetheplay.com to find out more about the production.



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OS Sporting Highlights

Holly Hunt

Congratulations to England U21 Hockey International HOLLY HUNT (OS 2015) who has joined the Senior Women's GB Squad!

Chloe Withers

CHLOE WITHERS (OS 2012) played her fourth and final women's rugby varsity match as No. 7 flanker for Cambridge University to beat Oxford 24 - 0 at Twickenham. Chloe, who is in her sixth and final year of studying Medicine at Cambridge, was awarded Player of the Match despite obtaining a broken collar bone during the game.



The 1st XV beat the Old Boys 61-46 at the annual Old Stops rugby match



George Chatterton

Former Head Boy George Chatterton (OS 2017) was selected for the England Rugby Sevens squad for the 2017-18 season. George will play for the England Sevens squad that will compete in the Hong Kong Sevens tournament this summer.

Golf

The Society had an enjoyable season with good weather for most of the competitions.

The Founder's Day competition was unfortunately abandoned owing to heavy rain although some hardy members decided to take the opportunity of playing anyway.

The match against Bramall Park Golf Club was played at the end of April (12-a-side) in dry and good conditions ending in a win for Bramall Park.

Old Hulmeians organised the Inter-Old Boys Competition at Bramhall Golf Club in July in which teams of former pupils from six local schools took part. Old Stops provided 12 players and came third. Old Stop Mark Woodhead won the Inchley Bowl.

The annual Worth Trophy match against Old Maxonians was played at Knutsford Golf Club in August in good conditions. The total of the six best individual stableford scores from each team produced 210 points for Old Maxonians and 197 points for Old Stops so Old Maxonians won the Shield.

The Oppida Cup and SGS Championship Shield competitions took place at Stockport Golf Club in September.

Roger Coleman won the Oppida Cup, the Best Gross Jubilee Cup and the Centenary Trophy, Lewis Welch won the SGS Golf Championship Shield & School Cup and Paul Atkinson won the Mr Dunlop Cup.

Anyone wanting to join the Golf Society can contact Secretary David Withington by calling 0161 439 3073 or emailing withington.d@sky.com

Announcements

Charlotte Garvey (OS 1994) welcomed her third child, Thomas Ray Patterson, on 26th March, 2017. Charlotte is Head of Global Corporate Events at The Bank of New York Mellon.

Congratulations to **Matthew Lister (OS 2010)** and **Amy Napper (OS 2011)** who got married in December 2017.

Emman Slack née Lee (OS 2008) married Christopher Slack at Northorpe Hall in Mirfield in May 2016.

Alex Jones (OS 2013) is currently completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the University of Manchester to become a Chemistry Teacher, after obtaining a first class honours degree in Chemistry in 2016. Alex married his American fiancée on the 4th April 2017 in Kentucky.



Sarah Castro Northrop (OS 2006)

married her Spanish husband, Dr Guillermo Castro Mota, at St Alban's Roman Catholic Church in Macclesfield in September 2017. Sarah is an HR manager at AstraZeneca and the couple now live in Alderley Edge.

Deaths

William 'Bill' I Corlett (OS 1941)
26th February 2018

Dennis R Poulter C Eng, MIMechE (OS 1945)
17th January 2018

Wg. Cdr. Val Hodgkinson (OS Former Bursar 1978-1991)
26th December 2017

Philip R Bowden (OS 1951)
26th December 2017

Hannah Rachel Simmons Whitley (OS 2012)
22nd December 2017

Captain Alan Fisher (OS 1951)

Leslie J Goodwin (OS 1945)
8th December 2017

Brian Bullock (OS 1947)
7th December 2017

Mr John Durnall (OS Former Head of Geography)
4th December 2017

Ray Fallows (OS Former Physics Technician)
3rd October 2017

Dr Robert Duncan Sykes (OS 1964)
20th September 2017

Grafton Perry (OS 1948)
2nd September 2017

Matt Nicholls (OS 2011)
9th July 2017

John Clive Williams (OS 1987)
29th June 2017

Stephen T Allinson (OS 1957)
21st June 2017

Alan Gregg (OS Former Head of Biology)
20th June 2017

Clifford Bramwell (OS 1950)
20th June 2017

Christopher Knight Mantell (OS 1963)
9th May 2017

Helen Shanks (OS Former Junior School Teacher)
13th April 2017

John Draper Adshead MBE, MA Cantab, FRICS, FRGS (OS 1946)
31st March 2017

Kenneth M Leigh (OS 1946)
30th March 2017

Sophie Womack née Anderson (OS 2001)
5th March 2017

Harry Sales (OS 1934)

Tributes



John Durnall

(former Head of Geography 1961-1992)

Paying tribute to Mr Durnall, J.P. Ashcroft said, "When John arrived, Geography was a small, unimportant subject. He guided the subject through a series of fundamental changes in the seventies and eighties. John was advanced in his thinking and his progressive approach ensured that the Department adjusted quickly and easily to the new Geography. With his way of acquiring the impossible, John quickly built up a store of posters, maps, globes, books and instruments so that Room 8 became a veritable Aladdin's Cave of geographical gems. Many geographers remember "Jed" for his exhilarating and entertaining fieldwork trips at Betws-y-Coed or at Ainsdale where he would hurtle along over the sand dunes in great heat with a stick, hat and a rucksack containing a hundred essential items from Earl Grey tea bags to a whirling hygrometer."

Mr Durnall was master in charge of rugby and Housemaster of Nicholson. Outside school he was a Reader at St George's Church and a Chief Examiner on the Joint Matriculation Board at Ordinary Level.

Alan Gregg

(former Head of Biology 1977-2003)

During his time at SGS, Mr Gregg served as Head of Biology, Head of Middle School, Rugby Coach and Trip Leader.

Peter Grant, current Head of Biology, said: "As a schoolmaster in the widest sense of the word he also contributed hugely to the wider life of the school. He took over the organisation of the Wasdale summer camps in the Lake District, helped to organise the school's ski trips and the sailing trip to Salcombe in Devon. He was also House Master of Arden House from 1979-90. For most of his years at school he was also involved in the coaching of both Rugby and Athletics.

"As Head of Middle School, he supported pupils with a great patience and insight into young people. I know too of many staff who have benefitted from his help and support through their careers whether personally or professionally.

Following his retirement, he moved to New Zealand where he served as Secretary of the local vets golf society.

Wg. Cdr. Val Hodgkinson

(former Bursar 1978-1991)

When Wing Commander Hodgkinson was appointed to the role, the school had been independent for two years following the loss of the Direct Grant status, money was still short and the administrative and financial organisation was much as it always had been. By the time of his retirement in March 1991, an Old Stop returning to his or her old school would have marvelled at the differences. The school buildings had been improved, repaired and altered; there was a major extension for the Junior School; the magnificent new Dining Hall had been built in the Senior School; the superb additions to the Hallam buildings were well underway; the school had a swimming pool; the buildings of the Convent High School had been altered and improved, and the playing fields had been extended, levelled and drained. Perhaps the most important of all, three years of girls had progressed all the way through the Senior School. While all these improvements were the responsibility of the Governors and the work of many other people, Wg. Cdr. Hodgkinson was at the heart of the decision-making and the financial control.



The Class of 2016

It was wonderful to see some of the Class of 2016 pupils back at SGS to advise Sixth Formers on their university and career options at the UCAS Conference!

Stopping By

It's always good to see Old Stops visiting school!

Nicola Williams (OS 2010) and Katie Williams (OS 2008)

Junior Doctor Nicola spoke to pupils in the Fifth Year and Sixth Form about her experiences in the medical profession.

Nicola, who studied Medicine at the University of Birmingham before securing employment at Worcester Hospital, gave an insight into what life was really like for her as a medical student, and shared some of the challenges she has faced as a Junior Doctor.

Nicola's sister Katie also paid a visit. Katie recently launched Threadgold, which provides high-end and bespoke tailoring for men. Katie graduated from Leeds University in 2012 with a First in Fashion Design and has previously worked at Fielding and Nicholson as a Tailoring Consultant.



Careers Day

We are always grateful when Old Stops come into school to talk to current pupils about their path after leaving SGS. At the Second Year Careers Day, former pupils from a range of professions – including veterinary science, fashion and banking – spoke to the boys and girls about their qualifications and jobs.



SGS Highlights



Annie Brings Musical Sunshine to the Stage

A sparkling production of the musical Annie brought together the talents of over 90 pupils from across the Senior School to delight audiences at each of the four performances.

With First Year Annabel Stockton in the title role and featuring pupils from every year of the school through to Upper Sixth, the production combined drama, dance and music to tell the well-known story along with its catchy songs.

Joshua Furtado-Mendes as Daddy Warbucks and Laura Welch as Grace took Annie away from the care of the evil Miss Hannigan played by Grace Shropshire, eventually outwitting the scheming Rooster played by Mo Al-Salam and Lily played by Niamh Johnson to reach a happy ending.

Bursting with classic tunes like *Tomorrow, It's a Hard-Knock Life, You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile* and *Easy Street*, the show was full of fun and even featured a faultless canine performance by Ralph Goddard as Sandy.

The cast on stage were supported by fellow pupils in the orchestra who provided an outstanding musical accompaniment; the Green Room Club who created sets, props and costumes; and those who worked to supply sound, lighting and stage management.

Mrs Alison Moffatt (director) Mrs Sarah Johnson (production), Mr Michael Dow (musical director) and Mrs Abi Downing (choreography) were amongst the many staff who supported the pupils throughout the production.

In the first round, they beat The Grammar School at Leeds 28-21 and this was followed by a 27-26 victory over Haileybury School which secured their place in the quarter final. A massive 39-12 away victory over Emanuel School saw the girls sail through to the semis.

Special congratulations go to Captain Libby Bowden, who was praised for her exceptional leadership, and Freya Noble, who was crowned Most Valuable Player.

Netball Team are National Champions

The U13 Netball squad had cause for celebration after winning the Independent Schools National Cup final.

The girls beat Redmaids' High School 26-25 in an exhilarating and tense match at Redbridge Sports Centre in Essex.

Along the way, the girls enjoyed some thrilling victories including a 28-27 home win against St Catherine's School in the semi-final.

Chamber Choir Perform at Christ's College, Cambridge

The Chamber Choir were delighted to visit the University of Cambridge to sing Evensong with the Chapel Choir of Christ's College.

SGS's Music Department has close links with Christ's College. Former pupil Simon Fraser is currently a member of the College Choir and is in the second year of a Music Degree at Cambridge and Director of Music, Mr Michael Dow, is an alumnus of the College.

Pupils performed Evensong by candlelight in the beautiful setting of the college chapel. Upper Sixth pupil Olivia White sang a superb solo in Stamford's *Magnificat in G* and Simon Fraser took on the challenging bass solo in the *Nunc Dimittis* in front of a congregation full of Old Stopfordians, family and friends.



A Cricket Legend Joins Speech Day Celebrations

Former England cricket captain Alec Stewart OBE was the guest speaker at the Speech Day celebrations at The Stockport Plaza.

Mr Stewart, who is the second most capped English cricketer of all time in Test matches and third most capped in One Day Internationals, visited the school in the morning to give aspiring Junior and Senior School cricketers the benefit of his experience at a practice in the nets. Mr Stewart also got to meet up with fellow ex-England cricket player and current SGS cricket coach, Jimmy Ormond.

In the afternoon, Mr Stewart took his seat on the stage at The Stockport Plaza alongside Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths Judith Cobham-Lowe OBE, Chairman of Governors Christopher Dunn, Headmaster Andrew Chicken and President of the Old Stopfordians' Association Tim Stretton.

Speaking to the packed audience of pupils, teachers, parents and governors, Mr Stewart encouraged the girls and boys to be the best that they could be by asking themselves if they have given their all to the activities and challenges they face.



Castleton Residential Fun for Junior School Pupils

Year 6 pupils had an enjoyable and action packed trip on the annual residential outing to the village of Castleton in Derbyshire.

The pupils took part in a range of activities, with the shelter task one of the favourites. The task challenged the pupils to work as a team of four to build a shelter which would not buckle as a bucket of water was thrown over it. They also learnt how to make a fire. On the second day, the adventurers climbed Mam Tor hill.



Jungle Adventure Takes Pupils to New Heights

A group of 41 intrepid explorers embarked on an exciting expedition to Borneo where they spent 21 days trekking through the jungle, climbing South East Asia's tallest mountain, scuba diving and helping out with community projects.

We have run a trip of this magnitude for Sixth Formers every two years as part of the wider co-curricular programme on offer with the aim of giving pupils an eye opening educational experience that will support their transition into adulthood. Pupils take the lead with planning

the trip and manage their own finances, accommodation, food and transportation.

The travelling party flew from Manchester to Kota Kinabalu via Heathrow and Kuala Lumpur. Their first few days were spent in Sepilok where they were able to see orangutans, sun bears and long, pink-tailed macaques on an unforgettable forest canopy walk.

The group completed a Padi Scuba Diving course and enjoyed snorkelling amongst a host of sea creatures including black tip reef shark, turtles,

lion fish, moray eels, blue spotted sting rays, squid, lobsters and clown fish.

The highlight of the trip was a trek up Mount Kinabalu, the tallest mountain in South East Asia, with pupils pushing themselves to the limit to be rewarded with stunning views across the whole of Borneo from the summit.

A short stay in Tampat Do Aman in Kudat saw the group walk to the tip of Borneo as well as helping local labourers to complete a community project and taking part in the village sports day.



Old Stops' Events Round up



Christmas Carol Concert

The atmospheric surroundings of St George's Church were the perfect setting for the annual Carol Service. The evening brought together pupils, parents, governors, staff and Old Stopfordians for an evening of congregational carols, readings by pupils and performances by the school's choral groups.

The Shaa Society Lunch

Supporters of the school enjoyed a meal in the Hallam Hall in March. Donors and legators are also invited to an exclusive evening reception and tour of the annual Art exhibitions.

For information on ways to support the Bursary Scheme and help children from all backgrounds attend SGS, please contact the External Relations department on 0161 419 2408 or at externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk.

Old Stopfordians' Association Dinner

Old Stops gathered in the Hallam Hall for this annual enjoyable event which includes dinner and speeches. The dinner, which is organised by the OSA Committee on the evening of Founder's Day, is a chance for former classmates to share memories.



Catch Up in the Capital

Old Stopfordians, governors, staff and guests attended the London event, held at The Churchill War Rooms in May.

The sell-out event commenced with a drinks reception and a welcome from the Headmaster in the historic Harmsworth Room, featuring the stunning backdrop of a 1940s electric generator packed with LEDs, switches and dials.

Old Stops enjoyed exclusive access to the venue and explored the museum with audio guides. Guests were able to see where Churchill and his War Cabinet made their momentous decisions and look at the Map Room which has remained as it was since the lights were switched off in 1945, as well as visit the Churchill Museum which tells the story of Churchill's 90-year life.



Reunion 2017

More than 200 Old Stopfordians, current and former staff and their guests enjoyed the 2017 Retirements and Summer Reunion barbecue in June.

The event marked reunions for the classes of 2007, 1976 and 1967, as well as providing an opportunity for staff and visitors to say goodbye to members of staff who left the school at the end of the academic year, including Mr Howson (Senior Deputy and English), Mrs Johnson (English), Mr Young (Economics and Business), Mrs Flint (Learning Support) and Mr Browne (Psychology).

The event welcomed Old Stops and former staff from all generations as far back as 1945 and included an Old Stops cricket match arranged by Ian Hall (OS 1983).

John Boardman (OS 1966), the brother of late mountaineer and Old Stopfordian, Peter Boardman (OS 1968), also kindly brought in the Boardman Tasker Trust anniversary display of Peter's 1976 Changabang expedition.

Time to Remember

Old Stopfordians and dignitaries took part in our annual Remembrance Day Service.

The Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Linda Holt; Cheadle MP Mary Robinson; Hazel Grove MP William Wragg; Councillor Wendy Meikle and Dr Robina Shah, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester joined pupils in the Main Hall to show their respect for soldiers who have lost their lives.

Headmaster Andrew Chicken opened the service and current pupils gave readings before wreaths were laid by Mrs Robinson and the Head Boy, Sam Howard, and Head Girl, Emma Crook.



Rugby Lads Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

Almost 30 years to the day, the 1st XV Squad, who in the summer of 1987 were fortunate enough to tour Australia, New Zealand and USA, came together to celebrate the tour and their friendships.

Sixteen Old Boys and two Masters – Len Kynaston and Steve Dunn – came from up and down the UK and as far away as Australia and Canada for the event. During the day, boots were donned for an exhibition match of touch rugby and they were delighted to be joined by several of their children.

A celebratory dinner was held at Bredbury Hall Hotel where many a memory was recollected during the speeches and a glass was raised to absent friends.



Golf Day

The 14th Bursary Golf Day was a huge success with the team from F.R. Monkhouse taking the top spot.

The annual event, held in association with Vernon Building Society, took place at Stockport Golf Club and saw 18 teams of four enjoy a spot of sunshine on the course whilst playing in aid of the Bursary Fund. The event raised over £7,000.

Dates for your Diary

Bursary Golf Day

Thursday, 14th June

SGS will hold its annual Bursary Golf Day in association with Brewin Dolphin at Stockport Golf Club. This is an excellent opportunity for relaxed and informal networking with friends and contacts and to raise your company's profile within the school community. For information on ways to support the day, please contact Hannah Atenyam at atenyamh@stockportgrammar.co.uk.

Sixth Form UCAS Higher Education Conference

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June

Old Stops attend to give their advice on University life, applications and career opportunities in their field. If you would like to help please contact externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk.

Time To Reunite

Saturday, 23rd June

The annual reunion barbecue is always a highly anticipated event. The afternoon is a chance for old friends to reunite and share their recollections. Special requests have been made for reunions of the following year groups: Class of 2013 Reunion – marking five years since leaving SGS; Class of 2008 Reunion – marking 10 years since leaving SGS; Class of 1998 Reunion – marking 20 years since leaving SGS and Class of 1968 Reunion – marking 50 years since leaving SGS.

Ad Hoc Reunions

Over recent years we have hosted a number of smaller groups who wanted to visit the school. If you would like to pop back – for a tour, a gathering or to meet up with old friends or teachers – please get in touch and we will endeavour to arrange something for you.

Keep in Touch

There are lots of ways you can keep in touch with old classmates and teachers as well as seeing what's going on at SGS now...

 On **Facebook** there is the *Old Stopfordians* page for memories and connecting with Old Stops and the *Stockport Grammar School* page for news about the school.

 Follow us on **Twitter** @stockportgs

 Search for the *Stockport Grammar School Alumni* group on **Linked In**

Email your news to **externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk**

Call the External Relations department on **0161 419 2408**

We regularly help Old Stops to re-find old friends and we are always pleased to arrange visits for you to look around school or the archives.

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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If you no longer wish to receive a copy of Old Stops' Review, please let us know by emailing: externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk

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