

OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 7 2017

In this issue...

MEMORIES OF IAN MELLOR

**SPOTLIGHT ON
SOPHIE SKELTON**

SCHOOL NEWS



FOUNDED IN 1487



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Headmaster's Welcome

As I write we are in the midst of the annual pupil recruitment process. The decisions taken by both families and School change lives. Whilst politicians and media commentators continue to question the right of independent schools to exist at all, places at Stockport Grammar School continue to be keenly sought.

Regrettably access to the education we offer is now restricted by affordability as much as by aptitude. Whilst our Founder Edmond Shaa's career in the City of London may have been gilded, the streets of his home town have never been paved with gold. Today's Stockport is not noted for its population of plutocrats and oligarchs.

The strength of our school lies in its social diversity. The Bursary Fund seeks to ensure that talented boys and girls from all sections of the local community can make the most of their gifts both inside and outside the classroom. The equality that matters is that of opportunity not of outcome.

The fruits of that diversity are reflected in the experiences and achievements of Stopfordians, both young and old, as mirrored in the pages of this publication. I hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Andrew Chicken
Headmaster

A Year in Office

OSA President David Garrett (OS 1981) looks back on the school year



As I reflect back on this my second and final year as President, I am reminded of how fortunate we are at Stockport Grammar to have so many talented and able pupils and encouraged that the School continues to afford so many diverse opportunities for our young people to showcase their talents and abilities, both collectively and as individuals.

It is clear to see the enjoyment and pride that the pupils take in performing at their best for their School. The excellent academic, sporting and musical achievements come through the commitment and dedication of the pupils but it is also recognised that this wouldn't be possible without the expertise and encouragement of the very dedicated staff. Recognition of everyone involved is so important and therefore my thanks go to you all. Rest assured that Old Stopfordians across the generations, close to home and far away are very proud of what they see and hear.

Of course the opportunity for taking pride in the School extends long after one has left school. It was humbling to see so many Old Stopfordians who attended the Remembrance Day service, still wearing their medals with pride. We were fortunate to be taken on a most informative tour of the House of Lords and Commons through the generosity of Old Stopfordian, Gordon Marsden MP and what better way to celebrate the centenary of the move to the Hallam site than our annual dinner, attended by over 90 Old Stops.

As I complete my term of office, I would like to thank you all for the support, help and assistance that I have received during the time that I have served you. I would ask you to give a warm welcome to your new President, Tim Stretton, who takes over from me in April this year.

Finally, I would particularly like to thank the members of the Old Stopfordian Committee who have worked so hard this year to ensure that the legacy of the Old Stopfordians is secure for future generations through closer collaboration with the School's External Relations Department.

Founder's Day 2017 at St George's Church



From the Helm

We have become accustomed today to politicians and businessmen declaring their intentions and 'doing what it takes' to achieve them. In that respect the events of the 1480s displayed similar patterns when our Founder was at the centre of controversy and intrigue.

Sir Edmond Shaa was clearly a man who had decided he wanted to make his mark. At an early age his ambition tempted him to migrate from Stockport to London where he became a member of The Goldsmiths' Company, subsequently rising to distinction with a rapidity that can only be described as meteoric. In 1474 he was elected Sheriff, and within the following eight years became, in turn, Alderman, Knight, Jeweller to King Edward IV and Lord Mayor of London.

In 1483 the King died suddenly, his two sons being both minors. Sir Edmond, by virtue of his office, was very deeply involved in the national disturbances arising out of the subsequent struggle for power.

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, had intercepted Edward, the young rightful heir on his way to London. As Protector to the minor, Richard was welcomed outside the city by Sir Edmond Shaa who rode at the head of a great procession of public officers and five hundred prominent citizens.

Richard was far from satisfied with his title however and it soon prompted him to make a bold bid for the throne itself. To attain this end Shaa was made a Privy Councillor and his brother, a noted preacher and also a native of Stockport, was prevailed upon to preach a sermon at St Paul's Cross in favour of the claims of Richard to the throne.

On July 26 1483, Sir Edmond, supported by the Duke of Buckingham, headed a deputation offering the crown to Richard. At the subsequent festivities, Sir Edmond claimed, by virtue of his high office, the rank of King's cupbearer which included the right to retain the gold wine cups used at the coronation banquet.

The disappearance of the young Princes, whose claims to the throne were stronger than Richard's, generated great suspicion. The citizens showed signs of open rebellion which was only quelled by some five thousand troops raised by Richard for the purpose.

His financial resources were inadequate for the task however and, in exchange for cash, he gave over to Sir Edmond a great amount of crown plate and jewellery which increased substantially Sir Edmond's fortune. He retained his influence at Court and his rank of magistrate until the reign of Henry VII who confirmed him for the third time in the office of King's Jeweller. He died on April 20 1487, high in office and the possessor of a very considerable fortune.

The committee of the Old Stopfordians has been considering the possibility of combining their activities with those of the External Relations Department of the School. The staff of the ERD has for some time now provided much of the administration for Stopfordian events and improved communication to all of you through letter, email and social media. The office has been particularly successful in organising summer reunions on an annual basis, London events and in expanding the range of articles and news through the publication of Old Stops' Review.

The OSA committee continues to run the Annual Dinner which has retained its traditional following but with the welcome addition, each year, of a number of younger Stopfordians.

The new arrangement would not signal the end of an OS committee which still has a very valuable role to play in steering decisions and directions.

This is an excellent opportunity to remind you all, particularly younger OS, that we would welcome anyone who feels they can make a contribution in any way to the new arrangement to get in touch with the External Relations Department – details on the back page.

By Archivist Stuart Helm



Christine Kolbe (OS 2001)

is helping to champion the rights of women around the world in her role within the Government's Department for International Development. Her job sees her working to bring an end to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. Christine spoke to Old Stops' Review about the path she took after leaving Stockport Grammar.

What path did you take after leaving SGS?

I didn't leave school with a clear sense of what I wanted to do next. I ended up at Nottingham University studying Sociology and combined it with modules in Politics, Business and Philosophy. I left with a First Class Degree and was awarded the Arthur Radford Prize for best performance.

After a stint travelling, I did a course in Conflict, Security and Development at King's College London at the same time that stabilisation and development operations were going on in Iraq and Afghanistan. Within six months I was working for a development consultancy in Basra which was followed by two years in Helmand before I was offered a job with the Department for International Development (DFID).

How did you get into your current job?

I always had my heart set on working for DFID but it's a competitive organisation to get into so I started as an administrator in a private sector international development consultancy taking all the opportunities I could to

get new experiences, especially overseas. I quickly came into contact with others at DFID and three years in, came to hear about a job opening in my area of work. I took a gamble and left my job for a short term contract at DFID. Fortunately, that paid off and I'm still working there today.

What is a typical day in your current job like?

I spend a lot of time writing briefing documents for Ministers who are responsible for negotiating on or speaking about the Government's work on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage and answering parliamentary and questions from members of the public on these issues. I work closely with the UN who DFID provide funds to on these issues and I'm responsible for ensuring our £70 million investments are used to maximal effect. That involves lots of calls and emails, monitoring visits to some of the 24 countries where our programmes operate and the occasional trip to New York to meet with the UN. I also work with other Government Departments, like the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and activist groups from civil society who are all involved in the effort to end child, early and forced marriage and FGM at home and overseas.



What would you say has been your greatest achievement in your current job?

DFID is a very collegiate organisation and my work on child marriage and FGM is part of a bigger team effort. In 2014, I had the opportunity to help lead the DFID, Home Office and Nike Foundation team that put together Girl Summit 2014, a major international event which UK and UNICEF hosted in London to galvanise action to end FGM and child marriage. Hundreds of Government officials, NGOs and activists attended from all over the world making 180 commitments to action. From this event, the UN's global programme on child marriage was launched which the UK, Canada, the EU, Italy and Netherlands all provide funding to. One year in, the programme has reached more than a million girls and six of the programme countries now have governmental national action plans in place to end child marriage.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get into your line of work?

My main advice would be don't give up! Think creatively about how you get experience. Not everyone has the resources to volunteer overseas or work for free so consider other ways to build your skills. Get experience in teaching with a view to becoming an education specialist in developing countries. The Government now also supports a great international volunteering scheme, International Citizen Service (ICS), for 18-25 year olds that brings together young people from the UK and developing countries to volunteer in some of the poorest communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. You don't need cash, skills or qualifications to apply for ICS – just the ambition to make a difference.



Ian Mellor ***(1946-2016)***

Charismatic, inspiring, popular and highly respected, Ian Mellor served as Headmaster at Stockport Grammar School from 1996 to 2005.

Ian was born in Oldham and educated first at Alexandra Park Junior School, where he met Margery Ainsworth, who was later to become his wife and devoted companion. They had three sons and seven grandchildren, a close family which was always the focus of his life.

He went on to Manchester Grammar School and then Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read French and German.

Choosing a career in education, Ian was a charismatic, inspirational teacher first at King's School Chester, followed by Head of Department posts at Kirkham Grammar School and Bristol Grammar School. He then served as Deputy Head at Sale Boys' Grammar School until he was appointed to his first Headship at Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich.

With his appointment as Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School in 1996, Ian gained the distinction of leading one of the oldest schools in the country.

Ian was a man who quickly and unassumingly absorbed the culture of a school and was able to move forward while others would still be finding their feet. He was essentially a giver. This was partly because he was self-reliant and resilient but also because he had no great sense of position and importance.

On his retirement in 2005, Chairman of Governors Richard Rimmington wrote that

"He possessed the precious asset for a Headmaster of a great love of children and an overwhelming desire for them to do well in school, to enjoy school and to be equipped for the big wide world when they leave".

He was totally lacking in pomposity or sense of status – finding as much pleasure in running his under 13 cricket team as in attending dinners at the Goldsmiths' Hall or reporting to the governing body on progress on the next phase of the development of the school.

He was generous in his praise of others, always willing to see the best in people and genuinely admiring and appreciative of those who had skills which he did not possess. Wherever he worked he received and deserved respect.

At Stockport, Ian was a passionate and enthusiastic advocate of bursaries in order to maintain the social mix and fabric of the school, to maintain academic excellence and to give the same opportunities to children as he himself received and he energetically promoted the recently introduced Bursary Fund.

He showed a determined and particular vision for IT. When he joined Stockport in 1996 the school had just a small number of computers. He argued passionately from his earliest days that there needed to be a massive investment in IT and persuaded the Governors to spend more than £1 million on hardware, software and infrastructure in order to ensure that pupils could benefit from the latest technology. By 2005 the school had over 300 PCs, laptops,

printers, whiteboards and scanners with more to come.

Although he was essentially a reluctant public speaker, but a talented and much admired one, Ian held strong views and was forthright in expressing them. He had no time for what he perceived to be political correctness in the educational system.

He made no attempt to hide his frustration with league tables and educational targets set by successive Education Ministers. Equally he was irritated by the inexcusable variation in standards of marking by the Examination Boards which took forever to correct.

Ian's interests were wide-ranging. He had been a keen football player in his younger days, and he maintained his enthusiasm for cricket and particularly football, as a lifelong and loyal Oldham Athletic supporter and season ticket holder at Boundary Park.

He was a brilliant and almost fanatical bridge-player, remembering details of hands which he had played months or even years in the past.

He enjoyed the challenge of quizzes, setting and running quiz matches for the Stopfordian Parents' Association and taxing both friends and family with questions which he had spent many hours researching.



He was a knowledgeable collector of both stamps and records and the walls of his study at home were lined with a vast array of hit singles on vinyl.

He was also a self-taught pianist, frequently launching himself with gusto into a repertoire which ranged from hymns to boogie-woogie. At the end of the school day, when almost everyone else had gone home, he could often be heard performing a loud and spirited concert on the school organ.

Upon his retirement in 2005, Ian and Margery moved to the village of Whittington in Shropshire, both becoming committed members of the local church.

Ian joined the governing bodies of three schools, clearly gaining most satisfaction from his close association with Whittington Primary School.

Sadly, his long-term plans were cut short just four years after retirement by a devastating illness, which he bore with typical stoicism, good humour and determination for six years until his death. He will be remembered with affection and gratitude by all those colleagues, pupils and friends whose lives he touched.

Compiled by S E Helm from the thoughts and recollections of M Harris, S Burgoyne and D Walmsley.

Former pupils were also asked to share their memories of Ian.

"It was with great sadness that I heard of Ian's death. I had become friendly with him initially through a mutual love of football and cricket. We often communicated by phone or email and sometimes through face-to-face meetings. Ian had very strong views which I was allowed to air also if I disagreed, but there was to be no criticism of his beloved Oldham by an 'outsider'.

"Sport was by no means the only subject of discussion, there was also politics, especially education of course. I enjoyed his trenchant criticisms of the political "meddlers" and Whitehall decision-makers; I usually found myself nodding in agreement! It was a privilege to be in the company of such an intelligent man, but more importantly he was such a lovely man with a very friendly manner. I think that SGS should be proud to have had such a man as its Headmaster."

Barry Rickson (OS 1954)

"I had been trying to reach Mr Mellor for a while to thank him for some words he said to me on my A level results day in 2004. I had a first choice of Durham to do French and Russian and needed an A and two Bs but only got three Bs and they wouldn't admit me. I said to him I was going to take a year out and resit my French to try and gain an A. He said: "Why? We all know you want to be an actor so why are you going to spend a year working towards something you don't want? Go and be an actor; don't do what you think the school would want to see in numbers of students at good universities. Do what you want to do." So I did and am currently finishing a contract in the West End musical *Wicked* and did a year on the UK tour previous to this. I always wanted to thank him for those words. Who knows where I'd be and what I'd be doing now if he hadn't said that."

Oliver Evans (OS 2004)



Sophie Skelton

(OS 2012)

Sophie declined all of her university offers to pursue her acting dream and it's a decision that paid off as she sees her career go from strength to strength.

The 23-year-old, who is also a trained singer and dancer, has appeared in a number of TV programmes, including *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *Waterloo Road* and *Foyle's War*.

One of her most recent projects has been playing the title role in *Ren*, an action adventure web-based series that has won a clutch of prestigious awards.

Sophie, whose parents Simon and Ruth are both toy designers, has appeared in a number of films including *Another Mother's Son* alongside John Hannah, Amanda Abbington, Susan Hampshire and Jenny Seagrove. The film, which is due for release next year, is based on a true story and set in Nazi occupied Jersey during the Second World War.

She also played the female lead in *Blackbird*, a psychological horror that follows the story of Rose, a Russian trafficking victim. Last summer she filmed in Bulgaria for a remake of the 1985 film *Day of the Dead* in which she again plays the lead character.

Early last year came the announcement of Sophie's biggest role to date when *Vanity Fair* magazine revealed she would be joining the cast of Amazon Prime series *Outlander*. The show – based on best-selling books by Diana Gabaldon – has been nominated for a clutch of Golden Globes, BAFTAs and Emmy Awards as well as being commissioned for another two series.

Sophie has a number of exciting projects coming up in the future. To keep up to date, follow her on Twitter @skeltonsophie or on Instagram (sophie.skelton).



Anil Ruia

(OS 1974)

With commercial interests across the globe, Anil is a highly successful businessman with a commitment to public service and the development of the north west.

Hailing from Bombay, Anil was one of Stockport Grammar School's first Indian-born pupils.

Now a Director at Botraco, a business that imports, distributes and converts textiles, Anil says he has nothing but fond memories of his time at SGS.

"I loved the school for all that it did for me and I certainly think it greatly assisted in my development through not only gaining knowledge through

excellent teaching and learning but also in developing my confidence for the challenges that lay ahead and still do.

"I was distinctive in being one of the first Indian born students at the school and I never recall any bullying or discrimination. The only slight problem being that the then Headmaster Mr Scott somehow always remembered my name which certainly put me at a disadvantage!"

After leaving SGS, Anil went on to study for a law degree at King's College, London, and is also a chartered accountant.

He recently retired as Chair of the Board of Governors at the University of Manchester and is currently a Board Member of the Higher Education Funding Council in England and the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

In the past, Anil has served as a Board Member of Arts Council England, the North West Development Agency, the Manchester Asian Business Forum, M2002 Limited, National Museums Liverpool, The Manchester Grammar School and The Commonwealth Film Festival together with a non-executive directorship at Granada Television Ltd.

Stuart Jones

(OS 2010)

After leaving SGS, Stuart completed a Psychology degree at Loughborough University but he knew that football was his real passion.

Alongside his studies, Stuart completed a series of FA modules and when he moved to London after graduating he took a number of grassroots coaching roles.

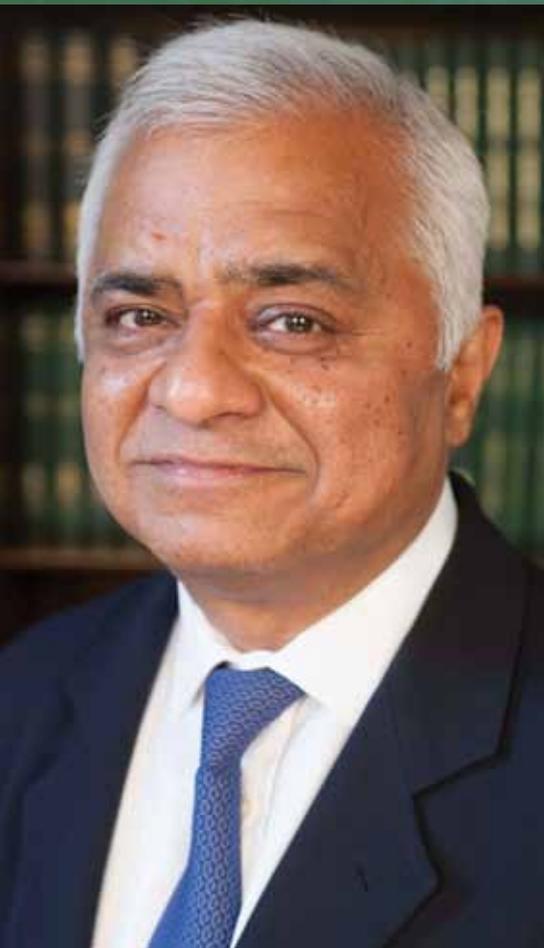
In February 2015, Stuart was offered a position at the Millwall Centre of Excellence as U13s coach. Shortly after, he completed the UEFA B course to boost his list of qualifications.

He spent the following year working for both Millwall and Chelsea's academies until he was offered the position of Girls' Academy Manager of Millwall Lionesses, making him one of the youngest managers in the country.

In December, he was appointed Assistant Manager of Millwall Lionesses Development Squad.

Millwall Lionesses has a proud history and tradition within the women's game and was the first Girls' Centre of Excellence, laying down the blueprint for how all other Centres have been run.

During his time in charge, the Lionesses have spawned seven new international players and the club has obtained Tier 2 Regional Talent Club accreditation from the FA.



In October 2002, he was elected President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry and is a past High Sheriff of Greater Manchester.

Anil has received honorary doctorates from the University of Bolton and the University of Manchester. In January 2001, he was awarded the OBE for Services to Business.

At school, Anil's favourite subjects were Maths, Geography and History and he vividly recalls going to London to compete in a national Bridge tournament.

He also enjoyed the excursions on offer, saying: **"I loved the camping trips to Mull, Corsica two or three times and Greece. I was part of the pioneer group to Wasdale and went on many occasions. I think the viewpoint was that if Anil can manage it then everyone else will easily cope!"**

Anil and his wife Manju are based in Didsbury but travel a lot. Their sons Akhil and Ankit own a tea business and live in Calcutta with their families.

Where Are They Now?



Adrian Lord (OS 1985)

has recently fulfilled his ambition to record an album of his own piano compositions. The recording took place at the stunning location of Crear in Western Scotland. *Journey - Twelve Romances for Piano* was released in September and Adrian enjoyed performing it at venues across the UK in the run up to Christmas. Further information is available at www.adrianlordpiano.com.

Rebecca Geddes (OS 2001)

is well on the way to achieving her goal of a career in veterinary academia. After leaving SGS, Rebecca went to Queens' College, Cambridge, to study Veterinary Medicine. As part of her degree, she intercalated in History and Philosophy of Science, obtaining a BA in Veterinary Medical Sciences in 2004. She went on to obtain VetMB (the veterinary degree) in 2007 which enabled her to become a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS). Following graduation, Rebecca went into small animal practice in Macclesfield where she stayed for three years. It was here that she became interested in medicine, as opposed to surgery, and completed a certificate in feline medicine. In 2010, Rebecca moved to London to undertake a PhD in the disruption of calcium and phosphate that occurs in cats with chronic kidney disease. This saw her spending four years at the Royal Veterinary College researching and writing her PhD. Rebecca then decided to pursue a career in veterinary academia which requires clinical specialisation similar to becoming a consultant in the human medical field. To achieve this, she stayed at the Royal Veterinary College, undertaking a one year internship followed by a three year residency in veterinary internal medicine which she is due to finish next year.



Robin Walton (OS 1954)

now lives in Natal, South Africa, with Bridget, his wife of 50 years, and has recently retired from his post as Director of the Pietermaritzburg Choral Society. Music was an early passion for Robin and he embarked on a Music degree at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, after leaving SGS. Four years of teaching in the UK followed before Robin moved to a teaching post in Kenya. In 1971, the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg offered him a Lectureship in Music. He stayed there until retirement 30 years later. During this time, Robin obtained a PhD and served as Editor of South Africa's first Musicological Journal. In 2006, Robin received an honorary Associateship of the Royal School of Church Music at Llandaff Cathedral. He now plays organ at the Hilton Anglican Church.



Neil Jones (OS 1967) was elected President of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand for 2016. He has been Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Chief of Hand Surgery at the University of California since 1993 and previously served as President of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery in 2008-2009. He is one of only a few surgeons in the world to have developed extensive expertise with microsurgical toe-to-hand transfers to help patients who have sustained traumatic amputations of their hands or children born with deformities. Each year he travels to Cambodia, India or Myanmar on volunteer missions to provide reconstructive hand surgery to both children and adults.



Chris Jones (OS 1999)

took up a coaching role at the school giving pupils a valuable insight into life as a professional rugby player. Chris, who currently plays as a lock or flanker for Yorkshire Carnegie, was nominated for the 2003 PRA Young Player of the Year Award. He made 12 appearances for England from 2004-07 and was named Sale Sharks' Player of the Year in 2006 and 2008.

Peter Duff (OS 1986) is Chairman at Shoosmiths LLP after previously serving as Partner at the firm and then Practice Group Head. Before he moved to Shoosmiths, Peter was an employment solicitor at Eversheds in London before becoming an Associate at Baker & McKenzie. After leaving SGS, Peter completed a degree in Medieval and Modern History at King's College London before he went on to study for his law qualifications. He now lives in Nottinghamshire with his wife Jenny and twins Jasper and Tegan.

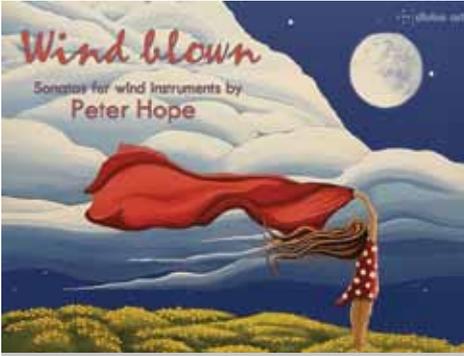
Amanda Vaughan (OS 1993) is now an IT and Telecoms Management Consultant at Hudson & Yorke where she sells and delivers projects to FTSE 100 companies and large European organisations. After graduating from UMIST with a degree in Electronic Engineering and gaining an MBA from Edinburgh University, Amanda started her career as an IT and Telecoms engineer before moving into procurement and vendor management.

Nigel McGown (OS 1960) is on the hunt for a copy of the BBC's recording of the SGS Evensong which was recorded in the mid-1950s in the Hallam Hall. Nigel had a copy of the recording but has misplaced it. He said: **"The prestige of our Music Master - and of the choir bathing in his reflected glory - had been enough to convince the BBC to do an outside broadcast which was highly unusual and difficult in those days. It would be nice if the recording could be electronically resurrected and made available as a download."** If anyone has a copy of the recording, they are asked to email externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk.

Liza Vul (OS 2015)

has been nominated by Warwick Athletics Club to compete at this year's London Marathon. Whilst Liza is running the race primarily in a competitive capacity, and is aiming to finish in under three hours and 30 minutes, she is also raising money for mental health charity Mind. To support Liza's fundraising efforts you can visit her JustGiving page here www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Liza-Vul1





John Turner (OS 1961)

appears on a new CD composed by Peter Hope. The Threnody which John performs was written in memory of former SGS pupil, teacher and Governor Nicholas Henshall. John played the piece at a celebration concert for Nicholas which was held at St Mary's Church. *Wind Blown: Sonatas for Wind Instruments* is available at www.divineartrecords.com.

Rupert Battersby (OS 1978)

joined Cheshire Constabulary after graduating from Manchester University with a degree in Combined Studies (Italian, French and Linguistics). After seven years serving on foot patrol and as a response driver, Rupert spent 10 years with the traffic division before being moved to a specialist enforcement unit then joining the Air Support Unit. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2006 and worked in the custody unit until retirement in 2011. Rupert published an autobiography – *Prisoners, Property and Prostitutes* – under a pseudonym and then later wrote a book about his family's hat business. Rupert is married with two children.



Joanna Boon (OS 2013)

is a final year student at St Andrews majoring in International Relations and Comparative Literature. She is a journalist at Salutions magazine group and The Modernist in Manchester as well as working part time with the BBC. At university, Joanna is Business Manager for student newspaper The Tribe and has also founded her own magazine called Label as well as a company of the same name that runs body positive fashion shows, theatre shows and art events.



Nicola Gradon (OS 2008)

completed her first half marathon in the Great North Run in September. She finished the race in two hours and 23 minutes. Nicola decided to tackle the run to support Breast Cancer Care and her fundraising efforts generated £565.

Stephen Ramsay (OS 1983)

is currently working on power generation projects in Africa. He is employed by a London-based company called Globeleq, of which 70% is owned by the UK Government and 30% owned by the Norwegian Government. The company owns and operates eight power plants in South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. Their next step will be to build much needed facilities in sub-Saharan Africa. Stephen is Globeleq's general counsel and compliance officer.

Joseph Higginbotham-Jones (OS 2008)

is now a Junior Doctor at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Whilst studying Medicine at the University of Birmingham, Joseph took part in a six month lab project investigating a possible new leukaemia treatment and his findings were published in the Haematology Journal. Joseph is planning to take a year out to go travelling when he finishes his foundation training in August before he applies to train as a GP. Outside work, Joseph recently got engaged to his girlfriend Christie Hardy and hopes to get married next year.



Easter Reunion

The Class of 1984 enjoyed an Easter reunion with their families to celebrate turning 50. Attendees included Dana Slade, Bob Brooks, Iain Tittle, Phil Wright, Martin Smith, Jeremy Blood, Justin Sluce, Graham Brown and Sophie Rushton-Smith. The group spent the weekend catching up and even had a go at quad biking. Bob Brooks' wife treated everyone to a specially made SGS reunion cake.

Geoff Abell (OS 1979)

is now a Liberal Democrat Councillor representing Marple North ward on Stockport Council. After leaving school, Geoff gained a Biochemistry degree at Liverpool University and embarked on a career in IT working for Granada,



Co-op Insurance and eventually IBM in Amsterdam. Despite showing no interest in drama during his school days, Geoff has developed a love for acting, appearing in productions at the Royal Exchange, Library Theatre and Stockport Garrick. Geoff says his favourite part of being a Councillor is helping people and his passion for debating began at Stockport Grammar when he took part in a mock election.

Andrew Counter (OS 2000)

read French and Russian at Christ's College, Cambridge, and stayed on to complete a Master of Philosophy and a PhD with an emphasis on inheritance in nineteenth-century French culture. Andrew was a Research Fellow at St John's College 2008-09 then a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College from 2009-12. He worked as a French lecturer at King's College London from 2012-15 before going on to be an Associate Professor of French at the University of Oxford and a Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford, in September 2015. Andrew has published a couple of books - *Inheritance in Nineteenth-Century French Culture: Wealth, Knowledge and the Family* in 2010 and *The Amorous Restoration: Love, Sex, and Politics in Early Nineteenth-Century France* in 2016.





Geoff in Limpopo-Lipadi



Driving in Limpopo-Lipadi

Geoff Peck (OS 1976)

Geoff has channelled his lifelong love for travelling into a project that is benefiting communities across Africa. Limpopo-Lipadi is a private game reserve in Botswana run by Geoff and around 100 other shareholders. The site, which employs 80 local people, is home to numerous conservation projects and a research centre that is regularly used by study groups looking at eco-systems.

The reserve has won a number of awards recognising it as one of the world's most sustainable developments and prides itself on not just helping, but involving, local people.

When Geoff, a father of three, got involved with the project in 2007 the initial aim was to return six farms to their natural state. Fast forward 10 years, the site is now 20,000 hectares of mopane bush, grassland and ecosystems along the Limpopo River.

Over the past decade, the team have re-introduced rare species such as white rhino and wild dog to the reserve and increased the numbers of elephants, lions, hyenas and giraffes. Other than necessary culling, there is no hunting allowed on the site and steps are taken to deter poachers.

Geoff said: **"At Limpopo-Lipadi, the wildlife comes first and it is the humans that are intruders – that is our ethos. Sometimes we have to cull animals but this meant that we were able to supply much needed meat to local communities during the recent drought."**

"My greatest fear is that I have bequeathed to my children that same burdensome love of the outdoors and wildlife that I have."

"To date, my contribution has been mostly financial but it remains my passion and that of my family. With luck in a few years time, I will be able to spend far more time on the reserve getting my hands dirty."

"Overall, it costs me about as much as it would to own a luxury car – I know which I prefer."

During his time at SGS, Geoff – the eldest of four brothers who all attended the school – served as Lacrosse Captain and Bridge Captain as well as being Captain of Warren House. After leaving, he acquired a Business degree from Bradford University but always knew his heart lay in travel.



Geoff and his wife



Rhino Reintroduction



Giraffe Relocation

Shortly after graduation, Geoff and fellow Old Stop Steve Roberts travelled through 13 African countries by truck before eventually arriving in Johannesburg where they met up with another Old Stop, Kevin Duckworth, to celebrate SGS's 500th anniversary.

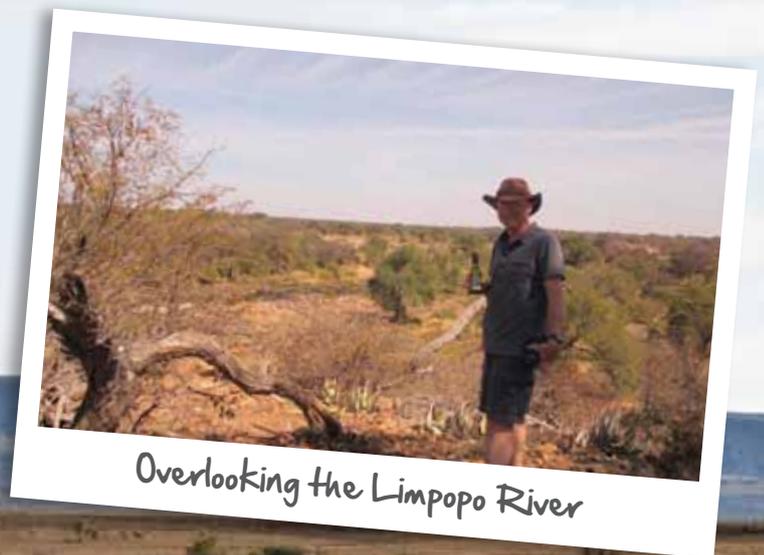
Geoff left South Africa to travel through South America where he met his first wife and the mother of his three children. The family lived in Geneva, Paris and Amsterdam before returning to the UK when the children reached school age.

During their school holidays, Geoff took his children on a range of wonderful trips including a hike along the Laugavegur trail in Iceland, fishing in Namibia, canoeing the Dordogne in central France, snow-shoeing across the southern Alps and pony-trekking the highlands of Lesotho.

He started a business in 2007 that helped large corporations with their tax technology before selling it in 2014. He is hoping to set up another company later this year.

For more information about the reserve in Botswana, visit www.limpopo-lipadi.org

**“
At Limpopo-Lipadi,
the wildlife comes
first and it is the
humans that are
intruders – that is
our ethos.**”



Overlooking the Limpopo River



Exam Memories

On the day of this year's Entrance Examination, we asked Old Stops for their memories of sitting the exam. Here are some of the responses we received to our Facebook post.

Diane Nolan – I remember getting a new outfit for the interview. It was a bottle green jacket with matching cord trousers and was the first item of clothing I remember that wasn't hand-made or from a jumble sale. My mum instructed my dad not to say anything in case he embarrassed her. I loved my seven years at SGS and still appreciate the time and care the teachers invested in us.

James Fletcher – I remember the smell of the classroom, the size of the place compared to my primary school and feeling that out of Manchester Grammar School, Kings Macclesfield, Cheadle Hulme and SGS, this was the right one back in 1987. OMG 30 years.

Christine Rogers – I did the exam in one of the first years the school admitted girls. I remember most of the questions Mrs Renshaw asked me during my interview for Sixth Form, but sadly not what I wore.

Paul Carroll – I took the junior school entrance exam in 1969 as a seven year old in the big old house – apparently I gave the big thumbs up through the window when my mum came to pick me up.

Zdzisia Krawczynska-Brzdonk – I was in one of the rooms in the English tower. I wrote a knock-off of *The Secret Garden* and we had cornflake tart for pudding. I think Gill Gibbons invigilated.

Anisha Haris – It was quite a nerve wracking experience. I wonder how different my present would have been if I hadn't passed that entrance exam.

Sophie Brown – Pretty sure I was in one of the maths classrooms around the main quad. No idea what I wore! I remember reading something out loud during my interview too.

Lisa Bricknell – My candidate number was 396. That's all I can remember.

Andy Liles – I was with Mr Boulding and I remember the maths paper was called Alice in Numberland.

Laura Kate Rodgers – I had to read the first page of *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* back in 1991.

Cara Steele – Can still remember the classroom I was in (English room then, above the swimming pool) and the people I met that later ended up in my form.

Charlotte Kelly – Unwrapping a packet of polo mints as advised by Mr Kynaston Jnr as a method of settling nerves.

Louise Faye Melconian – I can only remember the interview – 1987. Mrs Condliffe asked me to read an excerpt from a book and then quizzed me on it. She asked me "What exactly is green baize?" I had no idea at the time but I soon learnt and never forgot.

Sophie Murphy – 2nd February 1999! I remember the date so well because it was my birthday!

Lucy Elizabeth Hope – Of course, we all remember the Mars bars we got given at break!



Donald Roberts

(former Head of Classics and Second Master) died on 14th September 2016. Donald retired in 1991 after 40 years' service to SGS, as Head of Classics and latterly as Second Master. He will be remembered by many Old Stops for his thoughtful and humorous assemblies, his running of the sailing club and, early on, his contribution to school music with the organisation of recorder club concerts. He was a friend, a mentor and a colleague to so many.



Former pupils were asked to share their memories of Donald. Here is a selection of their recollections.

"I first met Mr Roberts (or Bingo as he was affectionately known) as a Latin student. I always found his classes enjoyable and fun. Later, after school life, I met Don through Scottish Country Dancing. He had a great memory for all the different dances and was for many years a hard working committee member and Chairman of the Poynton Scottish Country Dance Society, and greatly supported my late mother during her 27 years of teaching the class and later my wife Liz when she took over."

Stuart Norris (OS 1964)

"He taught me many, many years ago and won't remember me. But we have just held a 50th anniversary class reunion a couple of weeks ago, and several of us were remembering him fondly. To this day I don't know why we nicknamed him "Bingo" but he was tremendously popular and respected. Donald may not remember us, but there are hundreds of us who remember him with a huge amount of affection and will carry memories of him forever. What a fantastic legacy."

David Lloyd (OS 1971)

"I owe Donald a lot, as my recorder playing was instigated and inspired by him."

Happy memories of Davy Crockett and the Chattanooga Choo-Choo! He and Douglas Steele (totally different characters!) were both greatly influential in my subsequent life. The connection goes back even farther, as Donald's father was a Methodist minister who married my parents."

John Turner (OS 1961)

"He was my form tutor (2A) in the mid-70s. It was the year the forms were streamed and from his first greeting he removed any uncertainties or anxieties we may have had. He was genial and affable and always seemed to have time for you."

Neville Wharton (OS 1981)

"Mr Roberts' teaching influenced my life and career through simple things. As a 1st year I failed to prepare properly for one of my first Classics lessons when he suggested we read the first chapter of the textbook before the next day's lesson. I did not, which was painfully obvious when he questioned me on it the following day, and it is not a mistake I have made again. The Latin and Greek which I struggled through still helps me to this day. Lastly the phrase "highly irregular" which he liked to use often comes in handy."

John Condliffe (OS 1990)

"I feel that I couldn't let this sad occasion pass without paying tribute to perhaps the best teacher I ever had. It is 60 years ago that I was taught by 'Bingo'. He was able to make a subject that was often regarded as dull and boring into an exciting and vibrant lesson. I remember him getting the whole class to chant out loud the declension of nouns to the accompaniment of him beating time with a big stick. The stick went up and down for each case until we got to the genitive plural (puellorum) at which time he gave a huge circular flourish and the stick would whistle through the air to the delight of the whole class. I always remember Bingo even after 60 years. What a legacy! It was a privilege to have been taught by him."

Paddy Blacker (OS 1961)

"I will always be especially grateful for Donald Roberts enabling me to go to Cambridge. He was such a special teacher that he got me to a 70% pass in O' Level Latin from virtually scratch in two months! Despite all the years that have passed I still remember that brilliant, young, friendly man with whom my path crossed."

Charles Markus (OS 1960)

OS Sporting Highlights

Suki Whitehouse (OS 2010)

played Polo for Cambridge University as they took on Oxford University at Guards Polo Club in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The Varsity Polo Match is the longest running continuously played fixture in the Polo world, dating back to 1858. Suki has also been chosen to represent Cambridge in China.

Chloe Withers (OS 2012)

represented Cambridge when they played Oxford at the Women's Varsity rugby match at Twickenham in December. Unfortunately, Oxford won the game 3-0 with an early penalty kick.

Meghan Myers (OS 2015)

competed in the finals of the England Hockey Super6s Indoor Championship at the SSE Arena, Wembley, with her team Sutton Coldfield. This follows Megan's success as she captained the U18's SGS National Championship winning squad in the 2014-15 season.



Rugby
Our 2016 Old Stops faced a heavy defeat at the hands of our 1st XV. The final score was 59-5.



Ross Millington (OS 2008)

was selected to compete for Great Britain in the 10,000m race at the Rio 2016 Olympics alongside winner Mo Farah and Andy Vernon.

Holly Hunt (OS 2015)

was part of the England U21s Hockey team that finished seventh in the Junior World Cup in Chile in December. England beat the hosts 1-0, drew against Australia and finished the group unbeaten as Holly scored in the 3-3 draw vs South Africa to see them qualify second in the group going into the Quarter Finals. They went on to lose against Spain and Germany before beating USA 3-1 in the 7/8th place match.



Golf Round Up

Martin Officer won the Oppida Cup with Jonny Reeves – who also won the Best Gross Jubilee Cup – claiming second place. The Stockport Grammar School Golf Championship Shield & School Cup was won by Sam Hall and Tony Fort won the Mr Dunlop competition. The Centenary Trophy – which is decided by combining the total of stableford points in the Inchley Bowl and Oppida Cup – was won by Neil Fergusson.

Throughout the season, 26 of the Society's 55 members took part in events and they are looking for new blood to join them. Anyone interested can contact Secretary David Withington on 0161-439 3073 or at withington.d@sky.com.



Announcements

Deaths

Dr Charles Peter Chivers MBE (OS 1940) 19th February 2017

Dr Peter David James (OS 1964) 16th February 2017

Ian Shreeve (OS 1961) 8th February 2017

Paul Birchenough (OS 1973) 5th January 2017

George Birtles (OS 1944) 25th December 2016

Brian Richardson (OS 1946) 5th December 2016

Robert Hazeldine (OS 1942) 13th October 2016

David Brierley (OS 1955) 31st August 2016

Michael Holt (OS 1954) 25th September 2016

Donald Roberts (former Head of Classics and Second Master) 14th September 2016

Dr John Rimington (OS 1941)

John, a former Consultant Chest Physician & Director of the Greater Manchester Mobile Chest X-Ray Service, died on 20th December 2015.

After qualification, John embarked on surgical posts at Stockport Infirmary culminating as Assistant RSO, when he developed a serious chest disease necessitating two years of treatment. He retrained in Chest Disease in the chest clinics and hospitals of Shropshire and East Cheshire.

Appointed Tuberculosis Physician and Director of Stockport MMR Service, he made this the basis of his medical career enlarging his remit to cover all Greater Manchester and expanding his organisation to five mobile and static X-ray centres and changing to

Sue Town (former Maths teacher) (OS 1947) 5th July 2016

Nathan 'Allan' Haworth (OS 1947) 19th June 2016

Bryan Twigg (OS 1945) May 2016

Howard Gregory (OS 1965) 1st January 2016

Dr Edward Peter Copp (OS 1945) 22nd April 2016

Ian Mellor (former Headmaster 1996-2005) 1st April 2016

Mark Minshall (OS 1938) 19th January 2016

Dr John Rimington (OS 1941) 20th December 2015

Evelyn Gerard Butterworth (OS 1958) 16th December 2015

Colin G. Smith (OS 1951) 15th November 2015

Peter Copp (OS 1945) 15th September 2015

selective examination of high risk and symptomatic cases thereby greatly increasing the case yields. He also saw cases clinically in certain chest clinics of East Cheshire. He carried out and published several investigations into the relationship between tobacco smoking and chest disease.

Retiring to the Isle of Man in 1983, he maintained his interest in medicine and public health, being elected a fellow of the RSPH.

John, who leaves behind Ruth, his wife of 63 years, was a very keen gardener and golfer playing into his 92nd year. He was forever grateful for his education and time at Stockport Grammar School and leaves a legacy for bursaries and scholarships.

Stopping By

It's always good to see Old Stops visiting school



Brad Lamb (OS 1998)

Brad came in to talk to Sixth Formers about his award winning IT recruitment company Venturi. Pupils were delighted to learn more about his business experience and advice, including his tips to succeed and insight into leadership.



Elsbeth Wallace (OS 2012)

Elsbeth, who now works at the University of Manchester, spoke to pupils about dinosaurs – how they died, how they are discovered and how they are put on display.



Clare Francis (OS 1994)

Clare, who is now a Director at Barclays heading customer engagement and content for a new service designed to make online investing quicker and more straightforward, spoke to Economics and Business Studies students about her route since leaving school. Since graduating, Clare has worked as a financial journalist for The Times and the Independent on Sunday as well as Editor-in-Chief of MoneySuperMarket.

SGS Highlights



Cheshire Cup Final

The 1st XV were delighted to reach the Cheshire Cup final which was played at the 12,000 seater AJ Bell Stadium in Salford ahead of Sale Sharks' home European Rugby Champions Cup tie against Saracens.

The squad kicked off their Cheshire Cup campaign with a dominant display against Wirral Grammar School as they secured a 30 point victory with a 54-24 score line.

They then faced King's School, Macclesfield and it was a much closer affair with our boys emerging victorious 18-15 courtesy of tries from George Lyth and Tom Travis and points from the boot of Pat Chatterton.

Lymm High School emerged victorious following a tense 80 minutes with the final score standing at 22-12 but our boys enjoyed their moment on the big stage.

Head of Rugby Mr Hugo Corbett said: **"The boys targeted reaching the Cheshire Cup final at the start of the school year and they have worked extremely hard to achieve this goal. The opportunity to play in a premiership stadium is one that the boys relished and we all really enjoyed the experience."**

Fourth time in the National Championships

The 1st XI hockey team reached the National Finals for the fourth successive year after coming through the qualifying rounds unbeaten and scoring 60 goals.

The girls defeated Altrincham Grammar (6-1), Cheadle Hulme (2-1), Withington Girls (8-0) and Loreto Grammar (5-1) in the Greater Manchester Round before facing Kirkham Grammar (1-1), Queen Elizabeth Grammar (4-0), Merchant Taylors (16-0) and Kings Chester (5-1) in the North West Round.

In the group stage of the North Final the squad beat Hymers College 1-0 in a close opening game before finding their rhythm and the back of the net more often against Pocklington (4-0) and Sedburgh (3-0).

In the semi-final the girls again came up against Altrincham Grammar where a determined and resilient effort saw them earn a 3-0 victory which meant that they would face Grammar School at Leeds in the final.

As full time drew near, the score was 1-1 but the SGS girls found one last burst of adrenaline and managed to score the goal that confirmed their place in the National Finals at the Lee Valley Hockey Stadium on the 1st and 2nd March.

Competing in the group stages with the eventual winners Repton School, the girls were unable to emulate their 2015 success when they gained a National title but returned to school full of pride at their amazing championship run.





Palace visit celebrates Duke of Edinburgh Award success

Old Stops Gabriella Watkins and William Sheard, Headmaster Mr Andrew Chicken and D of E Co-ordinator Mr Steve Pownall were invited to Buckingham Palace for a special event celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

More than a 1,000 young people attended the Palace for the biggest ever gathering of D of E Gold Award winners. Prince Philip and the Earl and Countess of Wessex presented the awards and Gabriella and William, who worked towards their Gold Awards whilst still at school, both received their certificates.

Mr Chicken said: **"It was an enjoyable celebration of the award's success in inspiring generations of young people to set themselves challenging goals and develop the independence and skills required to meet them."**

Stockport Grammar currently has 356 enrolments across all levels for the D of E Award. The school is a licensed organisation for the award and Mr Chicken and Mr Pownall were presented with a special plaque by Ms Roz Savage MBE; in return they had been invited to present the school's crest for display. Ms Savage holds four world records for ocean rowing, including first woman to row three oceans.

The Gold Award follows on from the Bronze and Silver Awards and takes a minimum of 12 months to complete. It is comprised of a series of sections – volunteering, physical, skills, expedition and residential – all designed to be challenging and enjoyable. Amongst the Stockport Grammar D of E adventures this summer, four Lower Sixth pupils kayaked about 80 km along the coast of the Llyn Peninsula for their qualifying Gold expedition.



Junior School pupils have a cracking time in Castleton

Year 5 children had a fantastic time in the great outdoors as they took part in an action-packed residential trip to Castleton.

The three day expedition saw the excited group travel to Losehill Hall, a Victorian gothic mansion set in 27 acres of parkland in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

Pupils explored the beautiful gardens, woods and streams and quickly got into their fun-filled programme of

activities as they panned for gold, learnt how to build dens and light fires with flint and steel before baking some bread.

The next day saw them embark on a five and a half mile walk and a visit to Treak Cliff Cavern to see stalactites and the famous Blue John stone.

On the final day, the travellers went orienteering, launched egg rockets and honed their den-building skills.



Drama brings time to reflect

Senior School pupils delivered two thought-provoking performances of *Still Life*, a new production created to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Written and produced by Senior Deputy Headmaster Mr Howson, *Still Life* looked back to the events of 1916, balancing these with scenes set in the Elysian Fields Care Home in 2016.

The feisty characters in the Elysian Fields Care Home in 2016 were also trapped in a confined space but refusing, even as they contemplated death and ageing, to 'go gently into that good night'.

The play was devised from various sources including the works of the famous war poets such as Owen, Rosenberg and Sassoon; less familiar words drawn from the many diaries, memoirs and novels which have since appeared; and information from the school's archives on the Old Stopfordians who died in the Battle of the Somme.

1916 was a year with resonances at home and in the wider world. On the 1st July 1916 nearly 20,000 young men died. Two of them were Old Stopfordians who were serving in the 20th Battalion, Manchester Regiment: 2nd Lieutenant Frank Brooks who fell near Fricourt as he emerged from a trench and Corporal Charles Sanford, who died at Mametz. The Battle of the Somme raged on until November and more Old Stopfordians from Glossop, Hazel Grove, Heaton Chapel, Shaw Heath, Reddish, Holmes Chapel and Bramhall died. Their names feature, along with those of others, on the Honours Board in the Hallam Hall.

Old Stops' Events Round up

Reunion 2016

Staff were delighted to welcome back Old Stops, former staff and their families to the school for the annual Summer Reunion and Staff Retirements barbecue.

The event marked reunions for the following groups: OS 2006; OS 2005; OS 1996; OS 1995; OS 1986 and Old Stops who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at SGS.

It was also an opportunity for Old Stops and staff to say goodbye to three members of teaching staff who left at the end of the academic year. These were Chris Muscutt – Co-curricular Co-ordinator and Former Head of German / Vernon House; Eve Taylor – Assistant Director of Music and James Russell – Assistant Head of Sixth Form and History teacher.



Golf Day

Despite typical British summer weather, the 13th Bursary Golf Day was a huge success.

The annual event, held in association with Vernon Building Society, took place at Stockport Golf Club and saw 20 teams of four brave the downpours to tee off in aid of the Bursary Fund.

The team from R Noone & Son won the competition followed by SAS Daniels in second, the Stockport Grammar School Golf Society team in third place and F.R. Monkhouse in fourth.

A great atmosphere and fabulous food was enjoyed by all on a day that raised over £5,900 for the Bursary Fund.

Time to Remember

Pupils welcomed more than 100 Old Stops and Cheadle MP Mary Robinson to take part in the annual Remembrance Day Service.

The service was followed by a talk by current pupils who had recently visited the Somme Battlefields before visitors enjoyed lunch and the chance to hear some of the school's talented musicians in the Hallam Hall.

Christmas Carol Concert

The carol service at St George's Church brought pupils, parents, governors and Old Stops together for an evening of traditional carols and readings by pupils, alongside performances by chorus, junior chamber choir, vox and chamber choir.

Founder's Day

Rain didn't put a dampener on the annual Founder's Day celebrations at St George's Church. Old Stops joined current pupils and staff for a service that was attended by Clerk to the Goldsmiths' Company, Sir David Reddaway.

The Shaa Society Lunch

Supporters of the school enjoyed a beautiful meal in the Hallam Hall on 16th 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.

Catch up in Westminster

Two hundred Old Stops enjoyed an evening at the Houses of Parliament as part of the school's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the move to the Hallam site. The event commenced in the historic surroundings of Westminster Hall before a tour of both Houses and a drinks reception overlooking the River Thames. The evening was sponsored by Old Stopfordian Gordon Marsden who is MP for Blackpool South and he and Chairman of Governors Christopher Dunn addressed the assembled guests.

Old Stops' Dinner

Old Stops gathered for an enjoyable dinner and speeches in the Hallam Hall. This annual occasion, organised by the OSA Committee on the evening of Founder's Day, brings together friends and former classmates to share memories, good food and quality conversation.



Wasdale Reunion

A group of intrepid adventurers spent a weekend in the Lake District for the third Wasdale reunion event. The reunion, which was first held in 2007 and then again in 2012, saw former pupils travel to the Cumbrian valley from all over the UK for three days of walking, viewing the stunning scenery and reminiscing about times gone by. Many of those attending went to the Wasdale camps whilst at school in the 1980s and 1990s and became camp leaders in Sixth Form and they were

keen to pass on their experiences with some bringing their partners and children. The weekend was organised by Old Stopfordian Ian Hall and former teacher Chris Muscutt.

Undeterred by the rain and low mist, the walkers made their way to Sty Head with a hearty few, led by Robin Condliffe, continuing up the Corridor Route to Scafell Pike.

The group then reconvened in the schoolhouse where they read the logbooks, reflected on the past and noted how times have changed.



Fitting Tribute

A concert was held to celebrate the life and work of former pupil, teacher and Governor Nicholas Henshall at St Mary's in the Market Place, in April 2016.

Pupils Alex Jones and Simon Fraser performed alongside Old Stops and distinguished musicians. Those with school connections included Knight Mantell, David Bengner, Jackson Towers, Carol Condliffe and John Turner, who organised the event. The evening attracted an audience from across the UK and raised funds for St Ann's Hospice, Manchester.

The Headmaster spoke of the legacy of the school's Founder, Sir Edmond Shaa, and highlighted the importance of the centenary fundraising initiative to Shaa's vision of a school for the children of his home town. Speaking of the impact that a bursary place can have, the Headmaster said:

"For some it may even provide them with what Pablo Casals, the great cellist, described as the golden seed – 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. Bursaries do change children's lives."



Historic Heritage Open Day Tour

The school opened its doors to the public for a historic tour of the buildings and grounds as part of the national programme of Heritage Open Days.

Around 100 local residents, Old Stopfordians, history enthusiasts and families of current pupils were treated

to a "behind-the-gates" tour of one of the oldest schools in England.

The tours, given by the External Relations department and School Archivist Stuart Helm, highlighted the school's history from the foundation in 1487 and the move in 1916 to our current location, all the way through

to the recent opening of the new Woodmoor building.

Visitors also perused a display of historic images and information alongside artefacts from the school archives, before sampling some delicious baking from the school kitchen.

Dates for your Diary

Bursary Golf Day

Thursday, 15th June

SGS will hold its annual Bursary Golf Day in association with Vernon Building Society 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

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th 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 Matt Thompson at thompsonm@stockportgrammar.co.uk.

Time to Reunite

Saturday, 24th June, 12-3pm

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 – OS 2007, OS 1976, OS 1967. A Cricket match has been requested by Ian Hall (OS 1983). Old Stops will be able to say goodbye to members of staff who will be leaving the school at the end of the academic year, including Mr Howson (Senior Deputy and English), Mrs Johnson (English), Mrs Flint (English) and Mr Young (Economics and Business).



Ad Hoc Reunions

Over recent years we have hosted a number of smaller groups who have 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 **LinkedIn**

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 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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