

OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 9 2019



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BAULKWILL**

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Headmaster's Welcome

It is a huge privilege to be the 54th Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know staff, parents, pupils and Old Stopfordians over the last few months. The warmth of the school community, the huge academic ambition and the enthusiasm for excellence in extra-curricular activities are obvious.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but rather the lighting of a fire."

This quotation is usually attributed to WB Yeats although it has none of the slow and beautiful lyricism that characterises his poetry. A more plausible attribution is to Plutarch, the 1st century Greek philosopher and biographer, who hoped to encourage people to ignite their own intellect and think confidently for themselves. Whatever the origin of the phrase, it is hard to argue with the sentiment; education is not merely about mastering a series of facts and ideas to be assessed through a written examination that tests memory as much as understanding.

Instead, education is about giving young people a wide range of experiences to inspire them and about equipping them with the motivation, study skills and character to learn effectively and follow their own ideas; of course, anyone capable of this will have little difficulty in mastering a public examination syllabus. It is clear from the stories of Old Stopfordians highlighted in the coming pages that public examination success opens opportunity for the next stage of life, and is essential, but it is character and skills, derived partly from education, that ensure success in life.

Seen through this lens, co-curricular activities are more than just pursuits for the enthusiasts; they offer the chance for pupils to uncover and develop new talents and learn skills that will often transfer to other areas of life.

Schools are communities and the discipline of working with other people, possessed of different views, priorities and skills is another key part of education. House events, charitable fund-raising and the School Council allow pupils to invest time and energy for the sake of a larger entity than themselves and find how much more 'we' can achieve compared to just 'I'.

Since September the pupils have thought about the importance of five key character attributes, how they benefit us in life and can be developed:

- 1. Enthusiasm:** approaching activities or tasks with optimism, energy and excitement.
- 2. Grit:** persevering with things when they are difficult and picking yourself up after set-backs (Vincit Qui Patitur).
- 3. Curiosity:** being interested in things for their own sake and noticing patterns and anomalies and asking great questions.
- 4. Community Ethos:** being grateful, being interested in the achievements of others and in serving others.
- 5. Social Intelligence:** being aware of the feelings and motivations of others and using these insights to cooperate and to navigate social situations.

I think that the School's founder Edmund Shaa would have been delighted by our appreciation of character. A man who rose from apprentice Goldsmith to membership of the Privy Council and was able to navigate the choppy political waters of the end of the Wars of the Roses, with such a deft touch, would have demonstrated all of these traits. Edmund Shaa's school continues to offer real education to its pupils.

Dr Paul Owen
Headmaster



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President's Message 2018-19



Tim Stretton pictured second from the left.

As I come to the end of my term in office as President of The Old Stopfordians' Association, I cannot believe how quickly the two years have passed – a sure sign that the time has been both busy and enjoyable. Over the course of the past 12 months I have had opportunities to revisit many of the events I had enjoyed the previous year but also many new and varied occasions.

As always, the Music department is very strong with concerts for all levels of ability. This year's Spring Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music was wonderful.

There continues to be a broad range of activities for all pupils to participate in from sport and outdoor pursuits to drama and art. My thanks to everybody for inviting me to attend.

Being an Old Stopfordian, hopefully does not mean one feels old, rather one feels proud of being part of Stockport Grammar School's heritage and still feels involved, to whatever degree, in its future. For this reason, as an association we took the decision to embrace a new chapter and rebrand in the form of The Stopfordian Committee, set up in conjunction with the school and its External Relations department.

Alumni are now dispersed far and wide across the country and globe. Reunions are a wonderful way to meet and catch up outside your immediate friendship circle.

The Stopfordian Committee are very keen and open to suggestions for new events or venues. If you have any ideas, let us know.

In 2018 we were lucky enough to enjoy the setting of The Goldsmiths' Hall for our Summer Reunion – so relevant to our history. An evening reception enabled many who live in the south or are constrained by work to join together for a few hours to enjoy drinks, canapés and explore the Livery Hall, Drawing and Exhibition rooms. I certainly enjoyed seeing people I had not met for years and combined it with a day out in the capital.

In line with tradition, the Old Stopfordian Dinner took place on the evening of Founder's Day. This year's dinner was as always, a very enjoyable and convivial evening. It also provided the opportunity to introduce the new Old Stopfordian President – Mr Graham Earles. I wish him all the best for the coming year.

June heralds the annual Reunion Barbecue held in the Main Quad. Last year was well attended and blessed by fine weather. It aims to get together particular year groups but is also the perfect occasion for anybody to arrange a visit.

The External Relations department are always keen to hear from former pupils or staff with their latest news. Visit the school website or email via externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk or give them a call on 0161 419 2408.

Tim Stretton (OS 1982)

Mike Baulkwill

OS 1988

Mike Baulkwill has led an exciting career as a pilot in the Royal Air Force. Most recently, in his role as Station Commander at Coningsby, he flew a Hurricane aircraft on the RAF 100 Flypast over London to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

Throughout his distinguished career in the RAF, Mike has had the opportunity to travel the world. He continues to enjoy his role in the services and last summer he had the privilege of flying a Spitfire, adding to his list of flown planes which already includes Harriers, F16s, Typhoons, Spitfires and the Hurricane.

Can you tell us about your role in the RAF 100 Flypast.

Royal Air Force Coningsby is the largest Typhoon base and home to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight,

so once the idea for the flypast was agreed, I knew that our Station would be providing most of the Typhoon aircraft and almost all of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight aircraft.

As the Station Commander, I did have a choice to either fly a Typhoon or fly a Hurricane. I elected for the latter since so few pilots get to fly them and on the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force, to fly this iconic World War Two fighter seemed an amazing privilege.

The feeling of pride across the whole station of 3,400 people was immense, we ensured that the 22 Typhoon aircraft RAF 100 formation and the Battle of Britain were fully trained and ready to go. That said, what made it even more demanding was that we had a squadron deployed on operations, flying operational missions over Iraq and Syria as well providing 24/7 Quick Reaction Alert aircraft at Coningsby for defence of the UK. It was a team effort throughout and the station delivered outstanding success.

What path did you take after leaving SGS?

I wanted to study engineering and I was interested in maths so Aeronautical Engineering at Bristol hit the mark. Whilst at university I met up with my cousin who was by then a pilot in the United States Air Force. He encouraged me to look into joining the Royal Air Force and so whilst at Bristol I joined the University Air Squadron and took my first steps into becoming a pilot. Now, some 27 years later I'm still loving it.

How did your time at SGS help prepare you for the exciting life you've had?

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at SGS, the school gave me the chance to take part in a broad range of activities, from the Choral Society run by Mr Towers to cricket tours run by Mr Dunkerley. The support and hard work given by the highly professional set of teachers was impressive and this coupled with those broadening opportunities taught me about service, professionalism and commitment – three key parts of being a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force.

Share with us your fondest memories of your career so far.

One of many that springs to mind, is my first landing back on HMS Illustrious in the Gulf following my first operational sortie over Iraq. I was a new Harrier pilot at the time and to land back onto the ship as the number eight aircraft behind seven others was challenging to say the least. Coming to the hover alongside and then moving across to the deck with seven other Harriers on the small deck ahead was both demanding and slightly daunting. I landed safely but had definitely used up a few heartbeats whilst watching the fuel reduce at an impressive rate with nowhere else to land.



"I flew a Spitfire for the first time last summer. The joy of flying this historic aircraft was simply mind-blowing and never to be forgotten. The opportunity to fly a single seat WW2 fighter with so much history and importance was a true honour, a pilot's delight to fly, with crisp handling and impressive power, I could see why it had such relevance during the War."

New judges join Albert Johnston Award panel



Two previous winners of the Albert Johnston Travel Award will be joining the Award's judging panel next year.

Hayley Shepherd (OS 2007), who travelled to Jordan and Jerusalem when she received the award has very fond memories of the experience and is excited to watch other pupils get similar opportunities.

Since leaving SGS, she has graduated from Durham University where she read Ancient History and after working a ski season, Hayley gained an advertising graduate placement at Mullen Lowe.

She now works for a start-up brand purpose consultancy, which has clients such as Mars and L'Oréal and she has just been made 'Head of People'.

Oliver Hopwood (OS 2003) graduated from Warwick University with a BA in French and German and went on to work in children's services in central London implementing the Every Child Matters agenda.

After working for an anthropologist doing ethnographic research in hard-to-reach communities, he moved back into the public sector and worked on user-centred service design in gangs' services, sexual health, social care and housing.

Most recently, Oliver moved into teaching, he trained in the East End at Mulberry School for Girls and has now started at Westminster teaching French, German and Arabic.

Greek adventures for travel award winner

Upper Sixth student Aidan Hall is looking forward to visiting Athens and the Saronic Islands this summer to explore a modern European city and the birth place of Western analytical philosophical and political ideas after winning this year's Albert Johnston Travel Award.

Aidan, who has an academic interest in Philosophy and Politics and a curiosity for Greek and Southern European culture, will examine the significance of the capital city's place as a model for modern democracies around the world.

Whilst in Athens he will visit the Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Aristotle's Lyceum, the National Garden, various agoras and the suburb of Plaka, the oldest district in Athens.



From the Helm

At the AGM on Thursday 10 May 2018, the committee of the Old Stopfordians' Association voted to dissolve the Association and to combine its activities with the External Relations department of the school.

This decision marked the end of several years of discussion and deliberation in which various options were explored.

Needless to say the final decision was taken with heavy hearts but with the knowledge that in its new form the committee could extend the opportunities for Stopfordians to maintain the friendships and contacts made during their time at SGS.

It would also continue to encourage former pupils to support the activities of the school in the way it had always done. In influencing the decision, a number of factors were taken into account.

One very significant factor has been demographic. For many years, the number of Stopfordians remaining in, or returning to, the Stockport area has dwindled as exciting opportunities have seen alumni scatter across the UK and beyond.

The effect of this has been two-fold.

For a long time the Football and Lacrosse clubs, life blood of the Association, able to recruit new members to the committee and provide a ready source of officers, no longer exist and while the Golf Society still manages to field teams for competitions, its numbers too are falling. The London Branch of the OSA regretfully called time on its Annual Dinner due to low numbers.

For several years the committee has found it increasingly difficult to recruit new members locally who have been able to commit to meetings and the organisation of events and activities.

A second factor is the way in which communication methods have changed and the provision of time and resources needed to keep in regular touch. This has proved an increasingly difficult issue for the Association Committee to resolve. In 1992, when a simple computer database of members was introduced, it was in effect just an electronic version of Richard Reeman's card index. In those days, and until 1998, membership was voluntary and the numbers involved were substantially fewer.

A third factor is that, over recent years, the External Relations department have been increasingly providing much of the administration for Stopfordian events, continually improving methods of communication in a very effective and professional way and organising increasingly popular Summer Reunions. The department now has the staff and resources to deliver information to our former pupils in a way that the OS Committee could not begin to replicate.

So we bring to a close an Association which has been very successful in its own right, as well as a substantial ally and supporter of the school, but introduce a new arrangement which will build on strong foundations and look to the future.

So how will this work? There is to be a new Stopfordian Committee chaired by the External Relations Director. This will be an advisory committee and recommendations would be considered by the External Relations Committee of the school. Membership will not require election and attendance will be open to any alumni, former parents, staff, Governors and the Head Boy and Head Girl.

There will not be a structure of Officers but members may take responsibility for specific areas such as finance, particular age groups or geographical areas. The flexible membership of this committee is designed to facilitate a range of views and ideas from all those who would wish to contribute.

Meetings will be held termly with one of these taking place on the day of the Retirements and Reunion Barbecue (or a similar event) so that former pupils can contribute their ideas in person.

There will continue to be a President of Old Stopfordians who will have a tenure of up to 2 years and the committee will continue to organise the Annual Dinner. The financial affairs of the old Association will be transferred to the school, but any money will be held in a separate account and allocated to specific projects determined by the committee.

Best wishes

**Stuart Helm, Archivist
(Former Head of Art)**





**Chris
Bowers
(OS 1983)**

Chris Bowers has travelled the world as a BBC World Service correspondent, he's become a champion for human rights and most recently he's taken on a challenging role as the political adviser for Chevron.

Whilst at SGS he had a busy school life. Cycling the 8.5 miles from his house to the school each way, Chris got involved with all aspects of the school including theatre, featuring in the school performance of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' and football with the Old Stops. He was successfully awarded the Albert Johnston Travel Award where he travelled to Greece – the trip helped spur on his enthusiasm for travel. Chris then went on to study at Edinburgh University.

He said: **"When I graduated from university, I spent a year not knowing what I wanted to do. What I did know was that I liked politics, writing and telling a story. I also aspired to travel and live abroad."**

But it was a chance meeting at an SGS reunion that set him on the path to become a successful correspondent for the BBC.

After making a business connection at the reunion, Chris started his journalism training and wrote for the Manchester Evening News before making the leap to broadcast journalism.

During his time with the BBC, Chris navigated war-torn countries where he reported on historic events including the fall of Kabul to the Mujahideen. Then following the collapse of the Soviet Union, he set up and reported from the first BBC office in Central Asia, in Tashkent from 1992-1993.

His career then took a new path when he was recruited by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). This led to a harrowing 18 months working in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide, before re-locating to UNHCR's HQ in Geneva.

From there he went on to join the British Foreign Office with HM Diplomatic Service in 2000.

He explains: **"I worked on human rights and did four years at the British Embassy in Moscow running the internal political team and then the commercial service team."**

Then I made the move back to London where I started working as deputy head of the Middle East Group and then HM Consul General in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

"The reason I switched from being a journalist is that although you can report and tell stories, you don't necessarily affect or influence change."

He is now in London advising Chevron, a US oil and gas major company, on political issues that might affect company business in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

He commented: **"I have nothing but happy memories from my time at SGS. The teaching and ethos was superb and perhaps most importantly the friends I made in the Sixth Form have become friends for life."**



Persephone Hotchkies (OS 2018)

Persephone Hotchkies (OS 2018) left SGS just a short while ago to study English Literature at Durham University and now she's already producing a play called 'Bedlam' which will be performed in August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is one of the biggest celebrations of arts and culture on the planet and thousands of visitors flock to the city to take in the delightful strands of creativity.

Whilst at SGS, Persephone took advantage of the wide variety of co-curricular activities available. Working backstage at school productions, joining the highly successful Young Enterprise team and taking part in Model United Nations, she made great friends and could explore her passions for theatre and creativity.

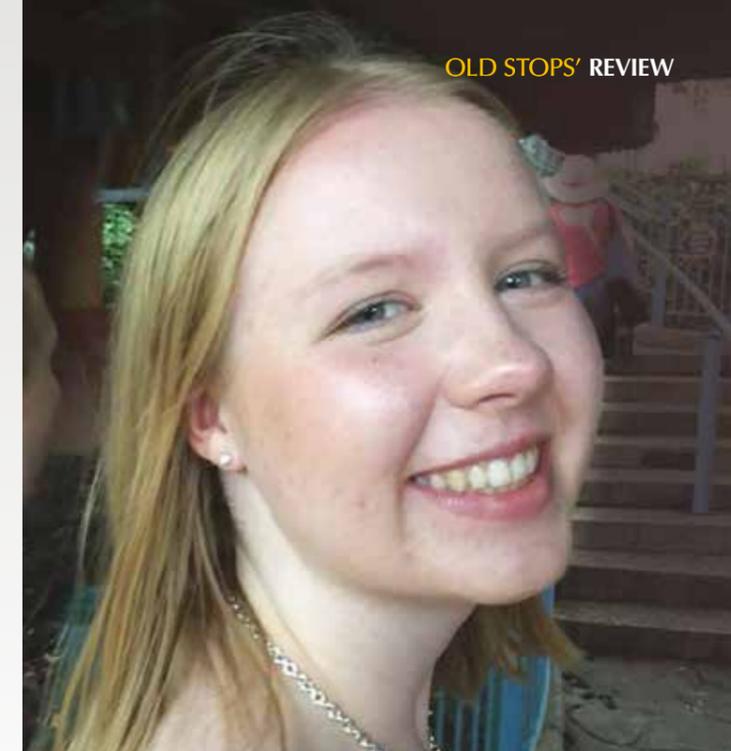
She said: **"I co-directed and produced the Lower Sixth play-in-a-week in 2017, which proved to be an immensely useful and fun way of learning the basics of putting on a play. I also had a minor role in helping backstage in the school production of 'Annie'."**

'Bedlam' is set to immerse audiences in the infamous Victorian asylum, where identity becomes a distant memory in cycles of routine and human cruelty.

Rooted in history, Bedlam follows the journey of a subversive young woman as she uses her deep friendships with other patients to cultivate the beginnings of a revolution. In her attempts to disrupt the asylum's rigorous orders, she brings them into danger of even more horrific treatment.

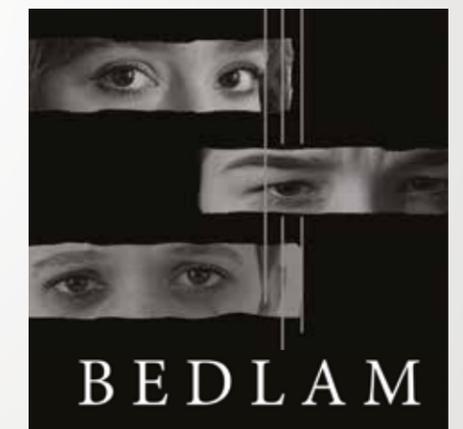
"I co-directed and produced the Lower Sixth play-in-a-week in 2017, which proved to be an immensely useful and fun way of learning the basics of putting on a play."

She said: **"I'm excited not only to go to the Fringe for the first time, but also to be able to say that I'm helping to put on a participating show. It's definitely going to be hard work getting our image out there, but it's a challenge I'm ready to take on."**



Persephone and the rest of the cast and crew have worked extremely hard at this play in Durham and would love for as many people as possible to see it.

Persephone is part of the Wrong Tree Theatre, you can find them on Facebook.



"In terms of playwrights a big inspiration is probably Arthur Miller as every play I have seen or read of his has been so effortlessly thought-provoking and multi-faceted; something which I wish every show that I work on can similarly harbour. But I'm also incredibly grateful for all my English Literature teachers in SGS inspiring me to pursue English at university. "



**Portia
Hunt**
(OS 2014)

Portia Hunt has worked around the globe as a freelance photographer capturing shots of globally renowned Fashion Shows and for fashion powerhouses. But for the future Portia hopes to apply her science background to work in food security and humanitarian aid – as well as keeping up the photography.

What is your current role and what does it involve?

I'm currently finishing my Masters degree in Natural Sciences at the University of Leeds – but aside from my studies, I freelance as a photographer. The majority of my work so far has involved documenting backstage at Fashion Week in London and Paris – in-house for designers, such as Dries Van Noten, Peter Pilotto and Schiaparelli, and for magazines, such as T Magazine and Purple.

How long have you worked as a photographer? Is it something you'd always wanted to do?

My first fashion week commission was in 2015. However, it's only in the past couple of years that jobs have become much more frequent. Photography as a job was never something that I set out to do. We got a new family camera in my mid-teens, which I slowly commandeered as my own – taking photos at local band nights and asking friends to model for me. I'm interested in documenting people, the fact that it now pays too is a welcome bonus.

Tell me how you came to be a fashion photographer.

Serendipitous circumstances catapulted me into the madness of fashion week photography. I was in London trying my hand at shooting street style and by chance I got chatting to a backstage photographer. The opportunity arose to assist backstage and I couldn't turn it down. I managed to take a few shots of my own, and later sent them to a few magazines asking if they required a photographer for the following season. I got one reply, and the whirlwind of new experiences, new friendships, and lots of hastened trial-and-error learning progressed from there.

What do you enjoy about your job?

For me, it's all about the people. I love being able to work with people who come from many different backgrounds, from all over the world, and who converse in a multitude of languages. The fashion industry is surprisingly more diverse than the stereotypical view of haute couture – although of course it still has a way to go. As someone who is naturally quite reserved, photography has compelled me to break out of my comfort zone in a way that I wouldn't necessarily have done.

"I strongly believe that you make your own luck."

Describe some of your career highlights so far.

The best project I've worked on so far came this April, when I was sent to the south of France to document Hyères International Festival of Fashion and Photography for Mercedes-Benz Fashion. It was one of the most visually inspiring places that I've visited – a curation of emerging creative talent located in a beautiful modernist villa, situated on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean. Other career highlights include my first in-house haute couture job photographing Schiaparelli's Spring 2019 show and photographing backstage at the Prada headquarters in Milan for W magazine.

What are your fondest memories of SGS?

I have many cherished memories from my time at SGS thanks to the emphasis placed on extra-curricular activity alongside academic development. I significantly improved my French speaking skills on a work experience trip to Lille, and the Music Tour to Barcelona was a definite highlight.

Were you part of any clubs or productions whilst at SGS?

I played netball and tennis in my first few years at SGS, before spending more time on the music side of things – playing drums and percussion in Big Band, Jazz Band and Concert Band, and singing in Chorus. I was the Set Design team leader for the school's production of *Oliver!*, which was a very rewarding and enjoyable opportunity.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those that want to enter your industry?

I strongly believe that you make your own luck. Breaking into the creative industry notoriously requires an element of good fortune, but equally it requires making the most of the opportunities that arise. Be friendly, speak to people, be interested in what they do, assist other photographers, do favours and above all, be willing to put in some hard graft.

View Portia's portfolio by visiting www.portiahunt.com or find her on Instagram - @portiaaa

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Thea Hudson (OS 2015) & Hannah Worthington (OS 2006)

The Fit as a Fiddle Festival is the brain child of these two Old Stops. The now annual festival features yoga, meditation and fitness. Last year the festival partnered with MOVE charity – for children and young people diagnosed with cancer.

Pictured above is Thea Hudson being photographed by fellow OS Portia Hunt for OS Gwen Harris's degree show.

Louise Turner (OS 2000)

Has joined social media giant, Facebook, as Lead Litigation Counsel for EMEA in order to specialise in media and technology law.

Louise has built an impressive portfolio of work in media law since she graduated from Manchester University with a first in History.

Following her degree, she has graduated with a Diploma in Law, an LPC and a Diploma in Media Law. She joins the billion-pound social media platform following time in private practice law as a media litigator at RPC.

Stephen Wilson (OS 1994)

Recently sold his Microsoft software and services company which has gained a £40m turnover to one of the world's largest IT companies - DXC Technology.

Before selling his company, Stephen had grown the business to have more than 450 employees that were spread over five countries – UK, Ireland, US, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Stephen has thanked SGS for the valuable education he received.

Matthew Rosamond (OS 1998)

Is now the Chief Financial Officer at SEMA 4 Genomic – a health information company dedicated to improving the diagnostic, treatment and prevention of disease through deep data analysis.

Having studied Politics and Economics at Bristol University, Matthew went on to gain an MBA from New York University at the STERN School of Business.

Before joining SEMA 4 Genomics, Matthew spent 10 years at PriceWaterhouse Cooper (PwC) as a Director in Healthcare Strategy before pursuing a career as the Director of Finance and Business Development for the Learn Institute of Genomics and Multiscale Biology.

He now lives in New York with his wife Victoria whom he met whilst studying at Bristol University and his two young children Sam and Libby.

Fresco Festival

Old Stopfordian **Natasha Sofla - Composer (OS 2013)** and **Vanessa White - Violinist** have co-founded the new music event Festival Fresco.

Festival Fresco brought the highest quality music to the heart of Altrincham's community. From classical, to contemporary, to jazz, it had something for everyone.

The festival's programme consisted of five concerts, showcasing talent from the Royal Northern College of Music, Chetham's School of Music, young local musicians, some of Manchester's top ensembles and the best upcoming composers from Manchester and beyond.



Professor Colin Powell (OS 1979)

Having left school in 1979, Professor Colin Powell attended Manchester University to study medicine and continued his love of lacrosse.

After completing his training in Manchester and Sheffield, Colin secured a prestigious Respiratory Fellowship at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

Following his time working as a Consultant in Melbourne, Colin returned to the UK in 2002 and set up a unit in The Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales in Cardiff.

After 35 years working in the NHS, Colin has gone on to become Professor of Children's Health for Cornell University and consultant at the largest children's hospital in the Middle East.

He said: **"My wife and I have two kids, one grandchild, one dog, one cat and I never want to retire. Stockport Grammar School was a great place, I loved it and it truly set me up for life."**



Louis Bloom (OS 1994)

In 2018, Louis was appointed as President of Island Records UK after spending 16 years working at the label.

Announcing his appointment to the new role, the record label praised Bloom's strong track record of success. He will now lead a restructured team into a new era at the label.

During his career at Island, including eight years as head of A&R, Bloom has signed globally successful artists including Mumford & Sons, Ben Howard and Hozier.

OS theatre director named for honour

Acclaimed Theatre Director **Marianne Elliott (OS 1985)** has received the high honour of an OBE for services to the theatre.

Marianne, who was one of the first girls to join the Sixth Form at SGS has gone on to have a hugely successful career and she is now the artistic director of Elliott & Harper Productions.

After studying Drama at Hull University, she went on to work in the media before eventually setting up her own fringe theatre company.

Based on its success, she secured jobs at The Open Air Theatre and Manchester's Royal Exchange before moving to London, where she became an Associate at the Royal Court and then the National Theatre for ten years.

Following on from the success of her production of *War Horse* at The National Theatre, Marianne went on to open the show on Broadway.

Whilst attending SGS, Marianne enjoyed Art as well as English and after a teacher told her that no one is born with a gift, they learn it – she was inspired to perfect her craft. This determination has seen her become the first woman to win two Tony awards for direction.

Amongst her growing number of accolades, Marianne has won two Tony Awards for her work as a Director on *War Horse* and the famous production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.



Determination has seen her become the first woman to win two Tony awards for direction.

Ian Hall has had global adventures, set up City and Cheshire Properties based in Didsbury and has continued to be an active Old Stop.

After leaving SGS, he went on to study Land Management at Reading and Estate management at Portsmouth before joining EMAP publishing group's Estates department. He then joined The Elliott Partnership, commercial agents in Manchester dealing with office lettings, investment and development.

It's now been 20 years since he set up City and Cheshire Properties and in that time, Ian has been involved in a number of high profile developments including the Waitrose at Broadheath Altrincham.

Outside of work, he has completed a series of challenges. In 2016 he came 60th out of 220 in the 18 day Trans-Atlantic ARC race from Gran Canaria to St Lucia.

Twenty years prior to that he successfully climbed the tough 5,895 metres Kilimanjaro. Ian is a current parent at SGS and now enjoys taking his children to the Lake District for hiking trips.

He said: **"It was great to see Dave Martin my old geography teacher at Parents' Evenings a couple of years ago and I regularly attend the Old Stops' events. I certainly got the travel bug from school and travelled round Australia for three months in 2010/2011 seeing England win the Ashes."**

Ian is pictured above, third from the right at an Old Stops cricket match which he organised.

Samuel Wright (OS 1999)

After graduating with a Masters in Mechanical Engineering in 2003, Sam entered the Royal Air Force (RAF) and has been deployed to locations all around the globe.

Now based at RAF Waddington in Lincoln with his family, Sam is a Squadron Leader for the Sentinel Surveillance Aircraft Communications Engineering Authority. They are responsible for delivering satellite communications capability and airborne network datalinks - think Wifi for military aircraft.

Over the past decade he has spent time around Europe, in the USA and has been deployed at numerous locations in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

"I have spent most of my time conducting maintenance and airworthiness of Typhoon fast jet combat aircraft and recently finished a tour as the Senior Engineer on number II (Army Cooperation) Squadron, the oldest and most senior Squadron in the RAF. If you saw the RAF100 flypast, you will have seen some of my aircraft and my pilots flying," said Sam.

During his time at SGS, Sam took advantage of the wide range of opportunities available. He enjoyed Maths, Physics, Biology and History as well as becoming a skilled Loosehead Prop and Flanker for the Rugby team.

Some of his fondest memories of SGS include Saturday home game match days, the 'legendary' 1999 South Africa Rugby Tour and Mr Cross's re-enactment of the last hours in Hitler's Berlin Bunker during a History lesson.

He explained: **"SGS helped me prepare for the challenges of adult life by instilling a sense of working hard whether that was at your subjects, sport or co-curricular activities. We were encouraged to do as many different things as possible, and to respect everyone."**

Travelling the globe with the RAF has given Sam a lot of rewarding experiences to draw on but one of his biggest career highlights so far involved working in Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

"Whilst there I was responsible for engineering and logistics during the British final withdrawal from Helmand and Kandahar province on Operation HERRICK. A particularly rewarding aspect of this was working with the local Afghan school and Fire Service to recycle and re-use all of the surplus office supplies and stationery," he explained.



Sporting Highlights

Holly's Hockey GB Success

Congratulations to former pupil Holly Hunt (OS 2015), who has been selected in the Great Britain Hockey women's squad. Earlier this year she attended a three-match series in sunny Alicante with Great Britain's Elite Development Programme.

She explains:

"I am absolutely delighted to be included in the squad for the first group of Pro League games.

"Having been involved in the Elite Development Programme for the past couple of months it was a big surprise to then be selected for the senior team, however I am really looking forward to the challenge and hoping to learn a lot throughout the trip."

Sharon Withington, Head of Hockey at SGS, said:

"Holly was an outstanding and very influential player whilst at Stockport Grammar School. She was selected for the First XI whilst still in the Under 14s.



"She was three times a National Finalist and scored several of the goals when we were crowned champions. Whilst at Stockport Grammar School she played her club hockey for the National League side – Bowdon Hightown – and was awarded the Young Player of the Year Award by the Hockey sportswriters' panel.

"We are now delighted and proud to see her chosen for the full England squad, her England shirts hang proudly in school."

Memorial Cup raises thousands for charity

In September 2018, former SGS and Manchester Grammar School pupils took to the pitch to play for The Ben Stollery Cup at Stockport Rugby Club.

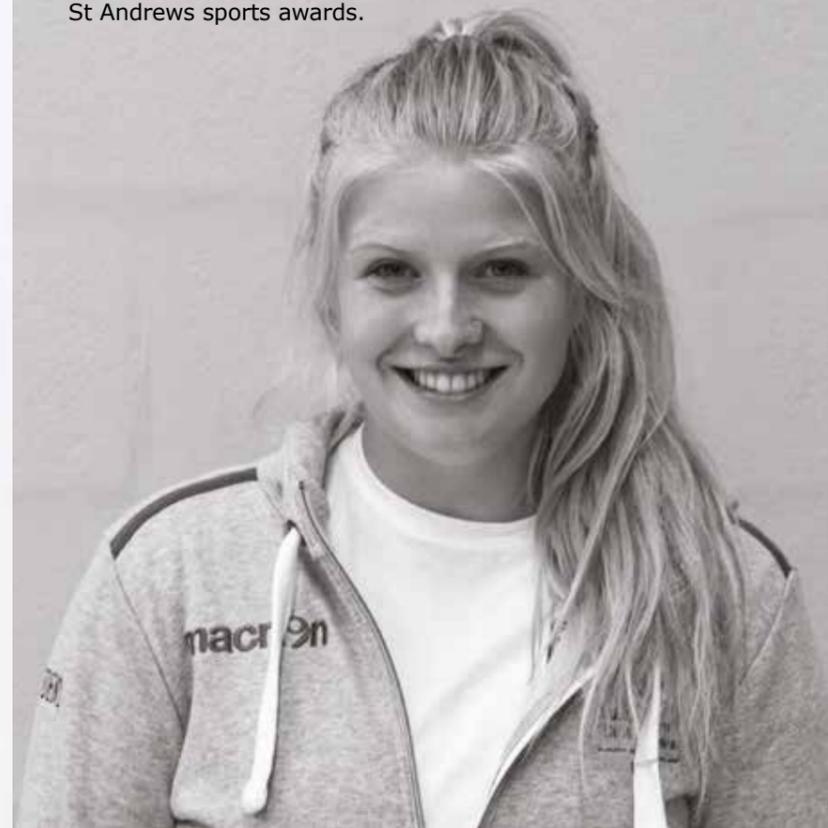
Hundreds of spectators turn out to support the game which was first held in 2015 and is played in memory of Old Stopfordian Ben Stollery.

The cup match celebrates Ben's life and continues to raise thousands for Young Minds, a charity committed to improving the well-being and mental health of children and young people.



Netballer continues excellence

Former pupil Leah Allcock (OS 2015) has been nominated in the Continued Outstanding Contribution to Sporting Excellence category for Netball at the Saints Sport - University of St Andrews sports awards.



England Rugby Sevens Squad triumph

George Chatterton (OS 2017) was selected for the England Sevens squad for the final round of the 2018 Rugby Europe Sevens Grand Prix Series which took place in Łódź in Poland on 8-9 September.

England topped their pool with two victories and went on to finish seventh in the final stage. Well done to George and the team.

George Chatterton whilst at SGS



Old Stops' Events Round up



Pupils new and old honour fallen soldiers in Remembrance Day services

Almost 100 Old Stopfordians returned to Stockport Grammar School for a Remembrance Day service to commemorate the brave men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Pupils from the Junior and Senior School also marked the occasion with separate Remembrance Day services.

The group of Old Stopfordians were joined by current Fifth and Sixth Form pupils; Hazel Grove MP, William Wragg; Cheadle MP, Mary Robinson and Stockport Deputy Mayor, Cllr Wendy Meikle on Friday, November 9 for the service.

Senior School Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen, led the service whilst School Chaplain Rev. L E Leaver led the service prayers.

Carol Service full of festival sparkle

A magical musical term of concerts and recitals came to a close with a wonderful carol service at St George's Church.

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.

Founder's Day celebrations

Chaplain to the Queen and to the House of Commons, Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin joined pupils, staff, governors and Old Stopfordians at St George's Church for the annual celebration of the foundation of the school by Sir Edmond Shaa in 1487.

On the evening of Founder's Day there was a fantastic turn out by Old Stops for the annual Old Stopfordians' Dinner.



Bursary Golf Day a hit

Twenty three teams of keen golfers took to the course at Stockport Golf Club for the annual Stockport Grammar School Bursary Golf Day in association with Brewin Dolphin.



The Bursary Golf Day, now in its 15th Year donates all of the day's profits to supporting the Bursary Fund, this year raising £9,500.

Reunion 2018

In June 2018 we saw the coming together of Old Stops, Stockport Grammar staff and friends of the school for our annual summer barbecue.

Held in the quad with a wonderfully sunny backdrop, the event marked reunions for the classes of 2013, 2008, 1988 and 1968, and was an opportunity for staff and visitors to say goodbye to members of staff leaving the school at the end of the academic year. This included long serving teachers Tony Cheslett (Maths) and Ruth Groves (Food Technology) as well as Senior School Headmaster, Andrew Chicken.



Stopping By



Old Stop gives engineering insight

Old Stopfordian Yusuf Ramzan (OS 2009) gave pupils an insight into his career as he gave a talk entitled 'Working as a Software Engineer'.

The Thales employee talked to pupils about designing, coding and bug-fixing security software for submarines, airlines and satellites.

He also described how he was fortunate enough to receive an apprenticeship, which meant he was studying and working at the same time.

Learning about Humanities...

We welcomed back Old Stopfordian Sophia Swindlehurst (OS 2016) this year. She spoke to pupils about what it's like to study Humanities.

Sophia is currently studying philosophy and classics at New College of the Humanities in London and is set to graduate this summer.



How to land your dream job



It was fabulous to see Old Stop Ollie Cartlidge (OS 2012) back in school advising our pupils on how to land their dream job.

Ollie is currently working as a Formula One Race Strategist for McLaren F1 as part of their graduate scheme.

SGS Highlights



Magical production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Two dazzling performances of Shakespeare's comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' brought together the talents of over 60 actors and dancers from across the Senior School.

The wonderful performance was supported by the hardworking pupils in the behind the scenes team, made up of makeup artists, backstage helpers and set designers as well as lighting and sound crew.



Junior School Head receives Queen's Honour

The Headmaster of Stockport Grammar Junior School, Mr Tim Wheeler, has been awarded an MBE for services to charity and to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Spectacular Spring Concert at the RNCM

The annual Spring Concert was held at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester this year, where over 100 pupils delighted the audience with an evening of exceptional music.

String Orchestra got the show underway with a splendid performance of three movements from the St Paul's Suite by Holst.

The first half closed with an exceptional performance of the 2nd and 3rd movements of Shostakovich's piano concerto no. 2 by Upper Sixth pupil Alex Pollard accompanied by First Orchestra.

Popular girl's vocal group The MayHemiolas then stepped out to perform an eight part a cappella piece, Ave Maria by Holst. Junior Chamber Choir gave a wonderful performance of three songs with a trumpet solo from Patrick Owen. Niamh Johnson performed a solo on the flugelhorn of The Girl With the Flaxen Hair by Debussy.

Chorus brought the evening to a rousing close with a barnstorming performance of Bob Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass.



Mr Wheeler is also the Chair of the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs to children and young people with hair loss, and funds vital research into childhood cancer.

In addition, he is a Trustee of the IAPS charity, iTrust, which provides bursaries to support children who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend independent schools and helps teachers in hardship.

He said: **"The letter informing me that I was to be awarded an MBE came as an enormous surprise. I have always considered it a great privilege to be involved in education and to be able to contribute to the work of an amazing charity, the Little Princess Trust."**



Sixth Form Developments announced

SGS is excited to announce a significant development of Sixth Form facilities.

A glass roof for the current Sixth Form quad will allow the development of a large, modern and well-equipped social space for Lower and Upper Sixth Form students – further promoting the sense of community that underpins the success of the school.

Existing facilities will also be developed to provide enhanced study

spaces for the students and contribute to the school's excellent academic record.

The school will be consulting with current and future Sixth Form students on the detailed design of the new spaces to ensure that the facilities are state of the art.

Subject to planning approval and technical considerations, the project should be completed in 2020.

Double win for 'SGS Historian'

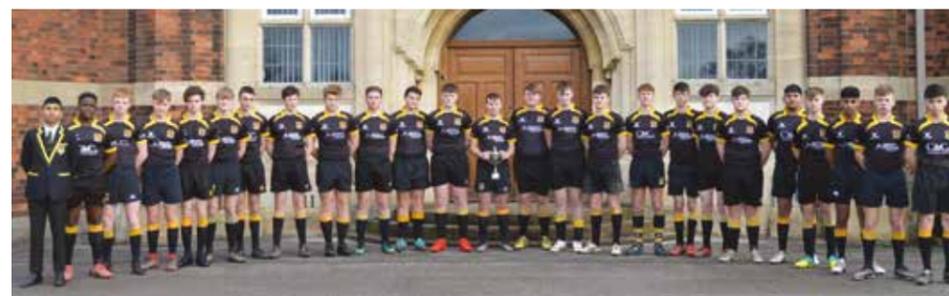
A historical magazine created by Lower Sixth pupils in the History Department has scooped a Young Historian Award for the second year running.

The latest edition of 'SGS Historian' which focusses on 'Nine Takes on Imperialism around the World' has been named joint 'Best School History Magazine' by the acclaimed Young Historian Project.

The magazine contains a book review of Robert Harris's 'Fatherland', a report on the History department's trip to Westminster and a host of articles on the topic of 'Imperialism'.



The team involved in creating the magazine are Lydia Horne, Kitty Grant, Anna Davies, Grace Patterson, Hannah Stead, Alex Billingham, Victoria Massie, Basmah Ali, Oliver Helme and Bryony White.



STEM Day inspires Junior School pupils

Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a day engaging in activities involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The day began with Poppy S's (Y3H) mum, Mrs Helen Saunders, Strategic Communications Manager at Cisco Systems, talking to the children about engineering in the real world.

The children then took part in various activities that required them to think logically, from building the tallest structure to making a helicopter and from transferring water without spilling it to creating chemical reactions. The children were encouraged to solve problems and think of solutions – placing them in situations experienced by engineers, scientists and mathematicians.

This year, every age group throughout the school has taken part in fun STEM activities, from robotic mice in Pre-Reception to a Year 6 project to build and programme LEGO robots.

Triumphant Rugby Season

Stockport Grammar School's rugby players have won the Under 16 Cheshire Cup bringing an outstanding season of challenging games to a fitting end.

The boys faced some talented schools during their Cheshire Cup campaign with a last-gasp drop goal sealing a dramatic comeback against Bridgewater High School and an outstanding performance against St Ambrose College.

On top of this victory, more than 20 of the school's rugby players have recently been selected for teams and training groups at club and county level.

Announcements

Memorial

Jim Swallow (Former Head of Mathematics)

Stockport Grammar School was saddened to receive the news that Mr Swallow, former Head of Mathematics, passed away on October 13, 2018.

A Memorial Service was held for Jim on November 14 at Norbury Parish Church.

Of all the tributes to Jim Swallow on his retirement, one of the most heartfelt was written by former Head Girl, Sarah Vernon (OS 1990).

She wrote:

"One of Mr Swallow's qualities is that he is so quiet and unassuming, that many pupils do not realise what an outstanding asset he has been to the school. He became Head of Mathematics in 1963, handing over to Mr Boulding in 1987 so that he could devote his last years solely to teaching Maths.

"Mr Swallow has been a really dedicated mathematician and inspiring teacher. His lessons never had a dull moment. He has always inspired tremendous loyalty from his Sixth Form, especially the further mathematicians. He joined Warren House in 1963."

"If I read out his sporting contributions to the school, you will wonder how he had time to teach. He has been in charge of tennis and badminton, taught life-saving at Stockport baths and has been greatly involved in chess."

"Perhaps his greatest contribution to us, outside his teaching, has been the foundation of the Wasdale camps and traditions. On top of that he has been on seven trips to Corsica, has accompanied Mr Towers on a music tour of the USA and has sung in the school choir. On behalf of the whole school, past and present, may I say THANK YOU, Mr Swallow – you will be greatly missed."

Deaths

Jack Hadfield
May 9th 2019

Lillian Smith
(School Cook 1991-2019)

Peter Aneurin Rowan
(OS 1956)
April 7th 2019

Ron Sharp (OS 1956)
April 4th 2019

David G Mayers (OS 1961)
March 1st 2019

Rowena Foxwell (OS 1988)
January 27th 2019

David Seddon (OS 1961)

Terrence Lockett
(OS 1950)
November 24th 2018

Geoffrey Harrison
(OS 1946)
November 13th 2018

Peter Wilkinson (OS 1952)
October 11th 2018

Richard John Parker
(OS 1974)

Roy Siddons (OS 1954)
September 20th 2018

Peter Alexander Holliday
(OS 1948)

September 20th 2018

Thomas N Mumford
(OS 1946)
September 18th 2018

James Hilton Ramsay
(OS 1945)
September 10th 2018

Alan Eric Fantom
(OS 1959)
June 29th 2018

Weddings



Congratulations to **Helen Lammas (OS 2008)** who wed Daniel Starkey on June 16th 2018.

The wedding was attended by many Old Stop 2008 leavers who took great delight in their SGS umbrellas.



Christien Mott (OS 2007) celebrated his one year wedding anniversary in September 2018.

He married Amy Mott at Wadhurst Castle in Kent after the pair met whilst at Cambridge University.

Christien is part of the senior management team at Accenture in London and Amy works for the British Government.

Former SGS teacher **Kim Bridges** wed Tony Cooper after moving to East Sussex to be nearer her family.

She was joined at the wedding by Ruth Groves, Jan Turner, Gill Lockwood, Carol Beckett, Bev Meakin, Chris Muscutt and Jane Gilbert.



Holly Rebecca Dunning (OS 2005) (nee Harling) got married on the same day as the Royal Wedding on May 19th 2018 to Thomas Dunning.

The happy couple wed at St Christopher's Church in Pott Shrigley followed by a reception at the family farm in Rainow. Many former schoolmates from SGS attended the wedding.

After SGS Holly studied Geography at The University of Birmingham gaining a first class honours degree. She is now Head of UK Retail Sales at Lotus and lives in Macclesfield with her husband, rescue dog and about 8 horses which she competes across the country.

Dates for your Diary

Remembrance Reunion

Monday 11th November 2019

Stopfordian Committee meeting

6.30pm,

Monday 18th November 2019

Carol Service

7pm, St George's Church

Tuesday 10th December 2019

Old Stopfordians' Dinner

7pm,

Friday 13th March 2020

Summer Reunion

Barbecue

12 noon – 3pm,

Saturday 20th June 2020

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 – contact the External Relations Team on 0161 419 2408 / externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk and we will be pleased to arrange something for you.

SGS Sports Reunion

Would you be interested in attending an SGS Sports Reunion? If you would like to participate – please contact Alumni & External Relations Officer Rebecca Shawcross at ShawcrossR@stockportgrammar.co.uk

Can you help?

The Bursary Fund provides means-tested assistance so that local children whose families cannot afford the fees can benefit from the excellent education we offer. Each year we receive far more applications for assistance than we have funds available.

Supporting the fund allows us to make a tangible and profound difference to the education and life chances of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Please help if you can. Further details are available on the website and from Rachel Horsford, on 0161 419 2408 or horsfordr@stockportgrammar.co.uk

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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We want to hear from you!

This year's edition of OSR is jam-packed full of exciting news of Old Stops and I am very grateful to Enfy Bosworth, Rebecca Shawcross and Holly Robison for bringing together so many inspiring and interesting stories. Please continue to keep in touch and share your news. We're always delighted to arrange a tour round school, help organise a reunion or welcome you back at one of the many Old Stop events.

The Stockport Grammar community is so much stronger thanks to the support of Old Stops – Careers Days, the Careers Convention and Work Experience are just some of the ways current pupils benefit from your experience – if you think you can help, please let us know.

All Old Stops are warmly invited to attend the new Stopfordian Committee meetings. Thank you to everyone who has attended this year and helped us to build stronger and better connections with and between Old Stops. We hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Rachel Horsford,
External Relations Director

