

# OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 13 2023

Stockport Grammar School

04 ➤

## ***The school sports story***

A history of winners at sports day

08 ➤

## ***Gordon Marsden***

Sharing his experiences

17 ➤

## ***Summer BBQ***

Together again at SGS



FOUNDED IN 1487





# HEAD'S WELCOME

As another busy Academic year at SGS draws to a close, it has been fantastic to see so many pupils embracing educational opportunities with such enthusiasm. Lessons, talks and competitions have supported the vibrant intellectual life of the school. Last year's public examination results, the first set to be awarded on the basis of examination performance since before the ravages of covid, were excellent with the GCSE results the best in the history of the school. In the co-curricular programme, the sports teams have been very active, with over 1,000 sports fixtures played. The school concerts have all been well-attended and the standard of music making has been extremely high. In Drama, performances of 'The Wind in the Willows', 'Dido & Aeneas' and 'The Play that went Wrong', as well as a Dance Show, have showcased the acting talents of many pupils. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme remains very popular with more than 250 pupils involved at all levels of the Award.

It has been wonderful to see so many Old Stopfordians attending the Remembrance Day, the Carol Service, the Founder's Day Service, Shaa Lunch, the reunion event in the Goldsmiths' Hall in London, and the Summer Barbecue.

The school remains committed to fulfilling the wishes of our founder Sir Edmond Shaa, to transform the life chances of children in Stockport through education, and I am most grateful to all the Old Stopfordians who have given so generously to our Bursary Fund. I am also grateful to the Old Stopfordians who have helped the school community in other ways, through offering careers advice or providing work experiences to our pupils.

I am retiring at the end of this academic year, after five happy years at Stockport Grammar School, and I wish the whole school community every success for the future.

**Dr Paul Owen**  
Head of Senior School



**Krishanthi Carfrae**  
OS 2004

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stockport Grammar School is delighted to welcome Krishanthi Carfrae (OS 2004) as Old Stopfordian President for the 2023-2025 term.

Krishanthi is a loyal supporter of Stockport Grammar School as both a donor to the Stockport Grammar School Bursary Fund and as a contributor to our careers activities.

Professionally Krishanthi is a Cities Advisory and Economics Associate for Arup, which provides design, engineering, architecture, planning and advisory services across every aspect of the built environment.



**When I was first approached regarding whether I would like to become the new President of the Old Stops I was initially flattered, but wondered what I could bring to the role.**

**"I thought about the role models that I had growing up and whether they looked and sounded like me; they didn't, there were very few women and hardly any women of colour. Reflecting on the proposition to become the new OS President, I realised that I wanted to show the young people in the school that people from diverse backgrounds can, and do achieve positions of leadership; that representation and diversity really matters; and that there will always be a place for them as part of the SGS community, long after they have finished their studies and gone on to great things.**

**"During my two-year Presidency, it will also be the 20th year since my cohort, OS 2004, left the school. I'm sure many of you, as I do, don't feel old enough to have reached such a milestone and it would be great to reconnect with as many of you as possible. Time at SGS really does leave an imprint."**

Thank you to our retiring President Clare Francis (OS 1994), for her support of the school, and in particular her assistance with careers advice and social media.



# Contents



## REGULARS

Head's Welcome	02
President's Message	03
Welcome to our new Head	09
From the Helm	10
Where Are They Now	12
SGS Community	16
SGS Highlights	19
In Memory	22
Announcements	23
Dates for your Diary	24



## FEATURES

History of Sports Day Winners	04
Sixth Form Common Room Memories	06
Chair of Governors Christopher Dunn	07
Gordon Marsden	08
Alison Jones	11
Bursary Fund	18
Welcome Aria	18

### Join the Old Stops' Community on social media

- Old Stopfordians
- Stockport Grammar School
- @stockportgs
- /stockportgs





# SCHOOL HOUSES HISTORY OF WINNERS AT SPORTS DAY

Towards the end of the Summer Term, pupils took part in track and field events to earn points for their Houses during their Sports Days.

Second Year pupils were the first year group to head outside and compete. The first hour was for field events whilst the second focussed on the track.

Cheered on by a vocal crowd, Warren took top spot (243 points), Arden and Nicholson tied for second (225) with Vernon finishing fourth (198).

Special mentions go to Molly Mills, who broke the Second Year records for javelin (28.12m) and 300m (44.44 seconds) and Chris Parikh who clocked a record time of 41.77 seconds in the 300m. Molly's achievement broke a 38 year-old record held by Natasha Hanks in 1985!

Third Years were up next and, as with the Second Year competition, Warren came first. Vernon nabbed second, Arden grabbed third and Nicholson brought home the minimum Fallows Shield points.

The Fourth Year Sports Day competition saw Nicholson take maximum points. Warren finished second, Arden third and Vernon fourth.

There was extra cause for celebration as Arden broke the Fourth Year record for the Boys' 4 x 100m. The record of 48.90 seconds, which had stood since 1988, was usurped by the new record of 48.81.

Lower Sixth students were the penultimate year group to compete for Fallows Shield points and Vernon saw off the challenge of Warren (second), Nicholson (third) and Arden (fourth) to claim top spot.

The day was made even more memorable as three new records were created. In the Boys' Shot, Isaac Deans's 13.50 m effort beat the previous record that was set 45 years ago in 1977 when C Peck won the title with a distance of 12.81m.

The 1989 Boys' 1,500m record of 4:27:30 minutes was smashed by Tom Manton as he clocked an impressive 4:22:57. In the Girls' 300m, Amy Jack beat the five-year-old record of 51.30 seconds as she crossed the line in a time of 50:27.

First Year Sports Day was the final competition to take place and the girls and boys demonstrated wonderful athletic ability as Nicholson topped the standings. Warren came in second, Vernon finished third and Arden ended up fourth.

Two 4 x 100m relay records from 2009 were beaten during the event. The Girls' B team smashed the previous record of 67.00 seconds with a time of 64.55 whilst the Boys' B team clocked a time of 63.60 – beating the previous best of 64.10.

## LONGEST STANDING RECORDS

UNBROKEN	BY OLYMPIANS
<b>Senior Girls' High Jump</b> 1.55m E Snell 1986 (37 yrs)	<b>Second Year Boys' 1500m</b> 4:36.48 R. Millington 2003
<b>Senior Boys' Discus</b> 30.10m C Peck 1976 (47 yrs)	<b>Fourth Year Boys' 1500m</b> 4:21.0 R. Millington 2005
<b>Senior Girls' Javelin</b> 31.85m P Setchfield 1985 (38 yrs)	<b>Fourth Year Girls' 1500m</b> 4:51.0 J. Coulson 2005
<b>Senior Boys' 100m</b> 11.19 M Frost 1999 (24 yrs)	<b>Fourth Year Boys' 800m</b> 2:07.8 R. Millington 2005
<b>Senior Boys' 400m</b> 54.2 J Critchlow 1984 (39 yrs)	<b>Fourth Year Girls' 800m</b> 2:23.3 J. Coulson 2005
<b>Senior Boys' 800m</b> 2:05.2 J Jowet 1973 (50 yrs)	
<b>Senior Boys' 200m</b> 23.2 P Gardener 1969 (54 yrs)	



## SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM MEMORIES



On SGS Community we shared a photo from 1981 when Stockport Grammar School had recently welcomed its first cohort of girls after previously being an all-boys school for almost 500 years.

The common room was situated down a set of stairs from the main hall. In fact that area received a face lift last summer and now houses several meeting rooms while the Sixth Form Common Room is located in place of the former Sixth Form Quad, next to the Edmonds' Café and a separate study room.

The common room was the social hub of the Sixth Form – a place where you could catch up with your friends, listen to some music, and maybe even finish your homework from the night before.

We asked our SGS Community if they had any memories of the space, and the time spent there while they were at school...

For many Old Stops, music was the strongest memory.

Max Pell (OS 1979) and Neil Ferguson-Lee (OS 1979) remember a variety of music being played on the communal record player – including Led Zeppelin and the Police as well as Thin Lizzy whose album 'Renegade' was released in 1981.

As well as a place for studying, the common room provided a space for the Sixth Formers to relax and socialise between lessons.

James Fletcher (OS 1994) remembers:

“**Seabrook crisps for breakfast and furiously doing the previous night's homework before lessons.**”

John Bates (OS 1982) also remembers a dart board behind the stairs and playing the game 'Killer'.

Andrew Richardson (OS 1982) replied that

“**'Killer' was the only game everyone could join in with. Contract bridge was popular with some. Not forgetting the Rubik's Cube.**”

Danny Adamson (OS 1988) also recalls playing an old pub game:

“**A spot of push penny was always fun. We knew how to live in the 80s!**”

Helen Bates née Kear (OS 1983) remembers social events at the school. She said:

“**The Sixth Form Christmas Dance was in the Hall upstairs with drinks and 'chat' downstairs. 1981 – I was in the second intake of girls into the Sixth Form!**”

## Christopher Dunn

Chair of Governors, Lawyer  
OS 1976



Christopher (right) at the Opening of the Sixth Form Centre in 2022

### What are your first memories of SGS?

I was only 5 years old, and I liked it straight away. I enjoyed a lot of subjects and had good teachers and good friends. In the Senior School, I did quite a few co-curricular things - rugby, athletics, debating, the literary society and school librarian. My Dad died when I was sixteen and school was very supportive and kind.

### How did you decide you wanted to become a lawyer?

I'd done a few visits to courts and solicitors' offices and there were also various glamorous TV programmes that were nothing like reality! I studied Law at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Following professional training at the College of Law in Chester, my training contract was in London. I enjoyed London, although it wasn't nearly as clean and prosperous as it is now. Trainee solicitors then got a grossed-up student grant but were expected to dress like city gents! I also lived and worked in the Midlands for a few years before moving back to the north-west in 1987. One of the best things about being a lawyer in practice is the interaction with people.

### When did you return to SGS?

In 1997, the firm I had joined were in merger talks. I noticed a member of the negotiating team for the other firm had an Old Stopfordians' umbrella! That was Richard Rimmington (then Governor, later Chairman of Governors). Richard asked me to functions at SGS and I met the Head, Ian Mellor.

Chair of Governors  
Christopher Dunn  
is retiring from the  
Board after 12 years  
as a Governor and  
9 years as Chair.  
Christopher is a  
corporate lawyer  
and a Partner with  
Gateley PLC.

My son Jeremy came to the Juniors when he was 7. At 11, he was offered a place at SGS and at Manchester Grammar School – I was delighted when he chose here.

### What have been your highlights on the Board?

I have gained a real appreciation of the skill set needed by the SLT. Appointing senior leaders, including Heads has been very important. A highlight was after the Inspection when the Inspectors read out what they were going to put – it was heart-warming and well-deserved. Throughout, the Board of Governors have had a great skill set and it has been a pleasure working with them.

Covid was a highlight of a different kind. SLT had to reassure parents, provide the best education possible and deal with constantly changing guidelines. I think all the staff did a really good job and the pupils responded very well to that.

Jeremy enjoyed his time here as well; he was a Senior Prefect and did lots of co-curricular stuff.

It's been very nice to give something back for what the school has done, both for me and for him.

*Jonathan Lee (OS 1983) will succeed Christopher as Chair of Governors in September 2023.*



# Gordon Marsden

Member of Parliament 1997-2019  
OS 1973



When Gordon joined SGS with a scholarship from Cheshire County Council, he could not have imagined that this was the start of a journey that would take him to Oxford, Harvard, Eastern Europe and on to Westminster as an MP in 1997. When he left SGS, Gordon studied at New College, Oxford, gaining the top First-class degree in History across the university in his year. Gordon continued his studies at the Warburg Institute and then at Harvard University.

He was elected Labour MP for Blackpool South six times in General Elections. Gordon left Parliament in 2019 but remains "very hands on" in public life and campaigning, particularly in education. As Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Further Education and Skills, he created a Lifelong Learning Commission which delivered widespread recommendations. In December 2020, along with colleagues from the commission, he set up a national Right to Learn campaign. Gordon has recently given written evidence from Right to Learn for the Parliamentary committee on the Lifelong Learning Bill currently going through Parliament. Last November, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University.

Where does the strength of this conviction come from?



**I was the first person in my family to go on to school till 18 and to university - my grandfather was a boilermaker all his working life but who loved historical novels (that's where I get it from); my father, who had to retrain in the mid 1960s - a lean time for my parents - having lost his job as a steam/ diesel engineer when those industries shrank, and over 20 years I taught adult learners, especially women, who had missed out earlier. That's what drives me - I am a historian and treasure the past, but also want to see more opportunities for younger and older people, both face to face as well as in the digital world, in the decade ahead. I am hugely grateful to all the people - not least from SGS - who over the years have inspired and encouraged me to achieve those goals."**

During his time at SGS, Gordon recalls enjoying humanities and science. The arrival of Ian Mathieson on the staff saw Gordon have the opportunity to perform in his productions of controversial plays: 'Luther' by Osborne and 'Son of Man' by Potter. He was also a member of the Christian Fellowship and was integral in inviting Journalist and House of Lords member, Joan Bakewell, to speak.

He said: **"She was at the height of her powers and certainly made quite an impression!"**



L-R: Duncan Woodall, Gordon, Bill Tobin in 'The Government Inspector'

Our thanks to Gordon for visiting school in November and sharing his experiences with pupils. Visit [community.stockportgrammar.co.uk](https://community.stockportgrammar.co.uk) to read more about Gordon's time at SGS and the experiences that followed - in Central and Eastern Europe; as a PR Advisor saving truck manufacturing jobs and the Foden brass band and launching English Heritage; as editor/publisher of History Today; as a tutor for the Open University; and his distinguished Parliamentary career.



## SGS IS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NEW HEAD

The Governors are pleased to announce that they have appointed Sarah Capewell as Head of Stockport Grammar Senior School from 1 September 2023.

Sarah is from Cumbria and was educated at St Bees School and the University of Edinburgh where she read Classical Studies before qualifying as a teacher at Cambridge. She taught Classics at Sevenoaks School before moving to Felsted School as Head of Classics and then being promoted, first to Assistant Head and then to Deputy Head.

Sarah Capewell said: **"I am humbled to have been given the privilege and honour to lead Stockport Grammar School: a school with such a rich history and exciting future. It has been a joy to get to know the pupils, staff and governors throughout my appointment process and I look forward to getting to know the school, and all those connected with it and the local community, over the coming months."**



## From the Helm

# A 'Gramer' School for the 'Towne of Stopford'

Sir Edmond Shaa's 1487 bequest to pay the 'salarye' of an 'honest priest', 'a discrete man and conning in Gramer, and be able of conning to teche Grammer' who would 'teche allman persons children and other that woll com to hym to lerne' was the starting point for the principle that pupils should be able to attend Stockport Grammar School without cost to their parents.

Throughout its history, the school has tried to fulfil that principle whenever possible and it continues to seek out ways to make provision for pupils who would otherwise be unable, for restricted financial means of their parents, to take advantage of the educational opportunities that the school has to offer.

From the mid-1940s, the school received a grant enabling the Governors to offer a quarter of the places annually, either free or assisted, for boys from the areas of adjacent Local Education Authorities. For those whose parents paid fees, a system of fee remission was in operation, whereby only those with income above a certain level paid the full amount.

In March 1975, the Governors, in the face of educational plans to introduce comprehensive education, announced that the school would go 'Independent'. And the provision of bursaries was to become an increasingly central policy of the school in the years to come. The first initiative was to establish the Stopfordian Trust to provide bursaries. By the end of 1975, more than £13,000 had been raised.

A new Assisted Places Scheme was introduced by the government in 1980, enabling the school to offer a number of publicly funded assisted places on a means-tested scale based on the school's entrance exam results. The scheme enabled the school to offer around 40 assisted places each year (1991 figures).

The government abolished the scheme in 1998 but the Governors were determined to continue to offer places to children whose parents would be unable to afford fees. In September 1999, the decision was made to launch a Bursary Fund requesting support from Old Stopfordians, parents, friends of the school and charitable trusts. In March 2003, there was an inaugural lunch to mark the newly formed Edmond Shaa Society. The Society was formed to encourage members of the SGS community to make a bequest in the form of a legacy. This was also the year of the first annual Bursary Golf Day. Both the Lunch and the Golf Day continue to run, this year marking their 20th anniversary.

Alongside this, the school's commitment to the town of Stockport continues to expand with primary school maths and art competitions and drama visits, a secondary school science competition and community use of sports facilities amongst the initiatives.

At 11+ the school now receives over 10 times more requests for means-tested assistance than it has funds available, with just 13 bursary places available for the 2023 intake. The need for support from the wider SGS community and those of us who benefitted from a 'Stopford Gramer' education is greater than ever.

**Stuart Helm**

OS 1964

School Archivist



## Alison Jones

Podcaster, author,  
and publisher  
**OS 1987**

Alison Jones joined SGS as part of the first cohort of girls. She highlights English as having been her strength at school and, following her degree at Edinburgh University, this love of the written word was the springboard to her chosen career.

Alison is the Founder of Practical Inspiration Publishing, a pioneering publishing partner for businesses which recently made the finals in almost every category at the Business Book Awards 2023. A veteran of the publishing industry, she worked for 25 years with leading companies such as Chambers, Oxford University Press and Macmillan, as Publisher and then Director of Innovation Strategy at Palgrave Macmillan. She regularly speaks and blogs on the publishing industry, and has served on the board of the Independent Publishers Guild and as Head Judge of the Business Book Awards in the UK.

She is also the author of two Amazon bestsellers - *This Book Means Business: Clever ways to plan and write a book that works harder for your business* and *Exploratory Writing: Everyday magic for life and work* - and is the host of The Extraordinary Business Book Club podcast.

She said:

**"I have always loved the magic of opening a book and entering another world. Being inquisitive, I wanted to learn how it works and I became fascinated by how you organise information. That's how I came to write books for businesses, because I was taking what I knew and making it accessible for other business owners."**

Speaking about the success of her business, Alison said:

**"I was a super-proud publisher at the Business Book Awards, watching Practical Inspiration Publishing title after Practical Inspiration Publishing title up on the big screen as finalists in almost every category. We had an incredible 11 books shortlisted, and it was just a joy to be in the room with so many of our authors."**

Alison recently visited school to share the ideas behind Exploratory Writing with pupils and staff.

Reflecting on her time at SGS, Alison said:

**"When I first came to SGS, I was lucky enough to receive a 50% bursary. The bursary gave me the opportunity to be pushed academically which is something I have always been grateful for. The school really opened up a lot of doors for me and offered me opportunities I would otherwise not have had."**

After her father's death in 1983, Alison was worried about whether she could continue to stay at school but was thankful after a 100% bursary was extended to her.

**"I was worried about leaving my friends and starting again somewhere new,"** Alison added.

**"Thankfully I was offered a bursary that covered the rest of my schooling. I was never made to feel different for receiving a bursary, in fact I was quite proud of it – I still am."**



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

### The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock OS 1989

On 6 September, The Queen approved the nomination of Old Stopfordian The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock to be appointed Dean of Norwich. He was installed as the 40th Dean of Norwich in January 2023.

Canon Andrew was previously the Interim Dean of Gloucester. His appointment follows the retirement of the Very Revd Jane Hedges, the 39th Dean of Norwich, in May last year.



### Laura Hall née Dixon OS 1997

Old Stopfordian author, travel writer and journalist Laura Hall née Dixon has won the Cheshire Prize for Literature for her story 'Willow: A Song of the Woods'. The story is an environmental fable for children aged 5-9.

In 2018 Laura was also commended for her play 'Wild Child', about a supernatural happening in Iceland, at the BBC World Service International Radio Playwriting competition.



Currently based in Copenhagen, Laura has written numerous books including; One Day, So Many Ways, Kinfolk Islands, TimeOut Copenhagen (2019), Footprint Reykjavik (2003-2015) and 1001 Escapes to Experience Before You Die.



### Gill Lockwood

Congratulations to former SGS Physics Teacher Ms Lockwood, who completed the 12k Total Warrior course in June in celebration of her 70th birthday. The 12k Warrior is the flagship Total Warrior event and is now in its 13th year. The 12k course is packed with the world's best obstacles such as the 'Human BBQ', 'The Plunge' and 'The Shocker'.

Ms Lockwood told us:

**"I decided to 'celebrate' my 70th birthday by doing a Total Warrior Course 12 km and 25 LARGE obstacles with a lot of water and mud."**

Ms Lockwood completed the course in a truly inspirational time of 02:03:19.70.



**"I'm appealing to a nation of animal lovers and asking people to consider if their dog could make a suitable donor. Owners should think of the huge difference they could make to another family whose pet is in need of a life-saving transfusion."**

### Ali Chughtai OS 2019

Congratulations to Ali Chughtai (pictured left) who has joined Cheshire County ECB Premier League cricket club Neston.

Ali played for Widnes last season, scoring over 1,000 runs, five 50s and a century, averaging 32.28 with the bat.

Ali, who has also played for Monton, was one of Lancashire's Academy intake for 2019 and played for Cheshire last season.



### Harvey Locke OS 1964

Old Stopfordian and former Governor, Harvey Locke BVSc MRCVS, featured on BBC Breakfast to discuss the importance of pet blood donation and the charity Pet Blood Bank UK, of which he is a Trustee.



In his interview, Veterinary Surgeon and past President of the British Veterinary Association, Harvey, noted the urgent need for pet blood donation:

**"Thousands of lives have been saved thanks to the generosity of pet owners and their donor animals; however, it is challenging to maintain blood supplies with demand and lives could be tragically lost as a result."**

After leaving Stockport Grammar School in 1964, Harvey graduated from Liverpool University in 1969 and worked in clinical practice until his retirement from full time work in 2011.

Harvey is proud that his daughter Helen (OS 2004) has followed him into the profession and now works at Woodcroft Veterinary Group.



## Nick Helm

OS 1992

Congratulations to Nick Helm who has won The Legal 500 Lawyer of the Year Award at the Northern Powerhouse Awards.

Nick is Partner at Squire Patton Boggs, a leading global law firm, and specialises as an infrastructure and energy lawyer.



Nick regularly features in Legal Directories with Legal 500 describing him as: **"a trusted pair of hands who is able to turn his skills to many different sectors and issues."**



## Julia Sutherland

OS 2012

PhD Sea Mammal Research student Julia Sutherland's research on killer whales around Scotland was recently featured in a short-film during BBC Autumnwatch.

After completing her degree and spending time working in Marine Biology, Julia is now a PhD student at the University of St Andrews.

As part of this programme, Julia is conducting research at the Sea Mammal Research Unit, alongside the Scottish Oceans Institute, and is currently completing fieldwork in Shetland.



## John Benger

OS 1979

John Benger has been appointed as Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB).

After leaving school, Sir John read English Language and Literature at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge until 1982. He then took a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Worcester College, Oxford in 1983 before completing a PhD in Philosophy.

Sir John joined the House of Commons Service in 1986 and has been Clerk to a number of Select Committees and worked in a number of procedural teams. In 2019, he was appointed by the Crown as Clerk of the House of Commons.

His knighthood recognises the unprecedented procedural, logistical and human challenges faced by the House in recent years.



## Vikas Shah

OS 1999

Since the publication of his book, Thought Economics, in 2021, Vikas has continued to interview the people shaping our century including conversations with Nobel prize winners, business leaders, politicians, artists and Olympians on his website.

An entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist, Vikas started his first business aged 14 and is now CEO of Swiscot Group. He is a Non-Executive Board Member of the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and in 2021 became a Deputy Lieutenant of the Greater Manchester Lieutenancy.



## Ryan Jude

OS 2014

Congratulations to Ryan Jude (pictured right) who has become the Labour Party Councillor for Lancaster Gate ward in Westminster, alongside fellow new Councillor, Eleanor Ormsby.

Outside of his role in politics, Ryan is a Programme Director at the Green Finance Institute, where he advises the UK Government on green finance regulation, works on environmental policy and supports councils across the country on funding their climate action targets. He also presents the Green is the New Finance podcast series, showcasing leading thinking on how to mobilise capital towards a greener, more inclusive and climate-resilient global economy.



## Robert Johnson

OS 2011

Robert Johnson took his LPC at BPP Manchester. After completing his qualifications, Robert joined Gorvins Solicitors and gaining his training contract in April 2020.

Robert soon rose to Senior Associate and managed a large Conveyancing team. Just 363 days later, aged 28, he was made Partner.

This, for Gorvins, is the quickest rise to Partner known, and youngest by four years.

Robert's Managing Partner said of the news:

**"Rob deserves everything he gets and he is only at the beginning of a journey. I know how proud you are of him and I am too"**





## Founder's Day

On Friday 17th March, the SGS community came together to mark Founder's Day.

Senior School pupils and staff were joined by governors and Old Stopfordians at St George's Church for the annual service giving thanks for the foundation of the school in 1487 by Sir Edmond Shaa.

We are grateful to the Bishop of Stockport Samuel Corley for his Founder's Day address.



## Golf Society

Thank you to Andy Roberts (OS 1983) for organising the traditional Founder's Day Golf Competition held at Davenport Golf Club, which was enjoyed by 28 golfers including Old Stops and current pupils, as well as the Worth Trophy played against Old King's Macclesfield at Knutsford Golf Course. Unfortunately the weather defeated both schools, with no clear result. At the time of writing, the Golf Society were looking forward to the Inter Oldies at Bramhall Golf Club in July.

## The SGS Quincentenary Rugby Tour group return to SGS

On Saturday 25th June 2022, we were delighted to welcome back members of the SGS Quincentenary Rugby Tour group to celebrate 35 years since the tour. Our thanks to Danny Adamson (OS 1988) for organising the gathering.

We were surprised to see these original SGS shirts sported by Peter Mycock, who travelled from Australia, Mark Simpson and Phil Browne!

Ahead of the game, Former PE Teacher, Mr Steve Dunn said:

**"35 years ago Leonard Kynaston and I had the great pleasure of taking these boys on a World Tour to celebrate the Stockport Grammar School Quincentenary. Tomorrow we reunite again as good friends and brothers in arms."**



## Remembrance Day

On 11th November, staff and pupils from both the Senior and Junior Schools joined Old Stopfordians and guests to remember those who gave their lives in battle.

More than 80 Old Stopfordians attended a Remembrance Service in the Main Hall alongside the Sixth Form and guests Mary Robinson MP and Councillor Wendy Meikle. Following the service, Old Stopfordians were invited to a reunion lunch in the Hallam Hall.



## Shaa Society Lunch

SGS's annual gathering of donors, legators and supporters took place in the Hallam Hall following the Founder's Day Service. Guests were thanked by the Chair of Governors Christopher Dunn and the Head Dr Paul Owen who spoke of the great impact of the means-tested bursary scheme, before enjoying good food, conversation and the chance to explore familiar and new areas of the school.

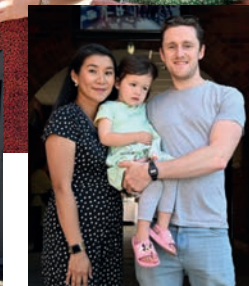


## London Reunion

On the evening of 27th April, over 100 Old Stopfordians gathered over drinks and canapes in the magnificent surroundings of Goldsmiths' Hall for the Stockport Grammar School London Reunion.

During the event, guests were delighted to catch up with their former peers and teachers. The event welcomed former members of SGS staff including former Headmaster, Mr Andrew Chicken, and Mrs Chris Muscutt, now Governor, as well as current members of staff, including Head Dr Owen, Mr Helm, Mrs Fenton, Mr Stone, Miss Reynolds and of course our Chair of Governors, Mr Dunn.

Our thanks to Goldsmiths' Hall for inviting us to the Hall for such a wonderful occasion, with particular mention to Hallkeeper Clare Breen, General Manager Marcos Da Silva and Deputy Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company, Simon Hutchinson MBE.



## Summer Reunion Barbecue

We were delighted to welcome over 200 guests to the Stockport Grammar School Summer Reunion and Staff Leavers Barbecue in July 2022, which saw us celebrate 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 year reunions for a variety of year groups, including those who missed out during lockdown.

The day was a great opportunity for guests to catch up with old friends, play cricket, take a tour

of the school and reminisce about old school days. Guests were also able to say their goodbyes to our staff leavers and retirees in attendance on the day, including Mr Steve 'DJ' Markham (Maintenance), Mrs Morgan (Languages), Dr Smith (Head of History), Mr Urwin (History & Classics), Mrs Vernon (Art & Textiles), Mr Wheeler (Junior School Headmaster) and Mr Young (Head of Design Technology).

## Cambridge music trip

Members of the Chamber Choir had a wonderful action-packed day as they headed to Cambridge to perform in a joint Choral Evensong Service with the choir of Jesus College in their historic chapel.

The musicians met up with recent Old Stopfordian Caitlin Cutts (OS 2021) who is currently a choral scholar at Jesus College

and Henry Brearley (OS 2015) who is now a Lay Clerk singer in the world-famous King's College Chapel Choir.

Caitlin then delivered a tour of Jesus College with one of her fellow students, before the singers from both Stockport Grammar and Jesus College took part in a joint rehearsal in Jesus College chapel.





# BURSARY FUND

**Invest in today,  
inspire tomorrow**



**S**GS was founded on an ethos of philanthropy. Sir Edmond Shaa, determined to 'give back' to his home town and improve the lives of children, founded Stockport Grammar School to nurture intellect, foster character, and provide opportunity. The regular support of so many alumni, parents and friends has been essential to providing our means-tested bursaries at 11+ and 16+. Unfortunately, we continue to disappoint many children due to insufficient funds. In 2023, we received over 150 applications for only thirteen 11+ bursary places. Stockport has some of the highest levels of poverty in the country, highlighting why our focus on providing as many transformational 100% bursaries as we can is essential.

Bursaries change lives and benefit the whole school community; they contribute hugely to the diversity and endeavour of the school. The school has for many years offered a generous bursary scheme, which currently benefits about 100 pupils in the school and has helped 330 Old Stops since the Assisted Places and Direct Grants schemes ended.

If you would like to make a gift to the Bursary Fund and help us do more to help local children who will excel at SGS, please contact Head of Development Aria Johnston or visit the Support Us pages on the website.



## WELCOME ARIA

**W**e are delighted to welcome Aria Johnston who has joined Stockport Grammar School as Head of Development.

Originally hailing from Canada, Aria has previously worked for Balliol College, Oxford and Manchester Grammar School.

Aria said:



**I am delighted to be joining Stockport Grammar School at such an exciting time. I look forward to working with alumni and the wider School community to increase meaningful experiences for pupils, expand opportunities and ultimately support the next generation of Old Stops by growing our Bursary Fund."**

If you would like to contact Aria please email [johnstona@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:johnstona@stockportgrammar.co.uk) or call the External Relations department on 0161 419 2408.

# SGS Highlights



## Wind in the Willows

More than 60 students took part in a whimsical production of 'Wind in the Willows'.

The play, based on Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel, follows the escapades of Toad, Rat, Badger and Mole as they fight to reclaim Toad Hall from the Wild Wooders.

Lower School pupils played the main roles and a number of our older pupils worked backstage to ensure the lighting, sound, costumes, make up and set were of high quality.



Fourth Year pupil, Hannah J said:

**"It has really been enjoyable working with pupils from younger years and being able to create a really inclusive ethos amongst the cast and crew."**

Director of Drama, Mr King-Sayce added:

**"The production is a culmination of several months of work from the students on and off stage."**

**"The acting, as well as the lighting, sound and costumes were of such high quality. It's been a pleasure to bring this classic children's story to life."**

**Stay connected with your SGS peers and teachers**

**Promote your business and opportunities**

**Share your news and updates**

**View photographs from your school days**

**Find career mentors**

**Hear about our latest news, events and reunions for your year**

**Update your contact details and consent preferences**

**Network for careers and interests**



Join the Stockport Grammar Community today  
[community.stockportgrammar.co.uk](https://community.stockportgrammar.co.uk)



# SGS Highlights



Images from top: Albert Johnston Award – Tuguldur Zolzaya and Charlie Harrison, Dido and Aeneas, Sale Sharks – Albert Bradshaw and Frank Chatterton, Antonia Mills Team Photo, Coronation Celebrations

## Albert Johnston Award

Each year, Sixth Form students are invited to submit proposals for the Albert Johnston Travel Award. This year's standard was exceptionally high and the judging panel therefore decided to crown joint winners!

Tuguldur Zolzaya will head to Japan after his project entitled 'The Tale Of Tanabata, Tokyo's Star-Crossed Lovers' wowed the judges.

Charlie Harrison will be able to combine his love of History and the German language – both of which he is studying at A-level – as he visits Germany following his award success.

The judging panel this year was made up of Head of Sixth Form Mr David Stone, SGS Archivist Stuart Helm (OS 1964), Bursar Joanne Clague, Governor Chris Muscutt, Old Stopfordians Hayley Shepherd (OS 2007) and Oliver Hopwood (OS 2003) and Award organiser and Psychology Teacher Mrs Hannah Larkin.

## Dido and Aeneas

A multi-department production was staged in the Hallam Hall as audiences stepped back in time to Ancient Greece to watch the musical performance of Dido and Aeneas.

The production was created collaboratively between the Dance, Music and Classics departments.

Our Chamber Choir and orchestra expertly brought Purcell's compositions to life and Mrs Downing worked with our dancers to create choreography. Classics students also created three exclusive scenes which portrayed the thoughts of Dido throughout the play.

Ben Wood, who played Aeneas said:

**"Performing in Dido and Aeneas was definitely a great experience, especially studying the Aeneid in Classics. Having the opportunity to perform as a key figure such as Aeneas was a great experience for my musical future and my Classics enjoyment."**

## Sale Sharks Rugby

We are thrilled that two of the school's talented rugby players, Frank Chatterton and Albert Bradshaw, will join the Sale Sharks Rugby Club Senior Academy next season! Flanker Frank, who has represented England Rugby 18s, and Manchester Rugby Club winger Albert have signed full-time contracts and we are excited to see how these Upper Sixth students continue to develop.

## Ben Finlay McDougall OS 2021

Ben Finlay-McDougall returned to Stockport Grammar School to deliver an in-depth and engaging 'Spotlight On...' talk entitled 'A Rollercoaster Of A Journey – My Albert Johnston Travel Award Story'.

Ben, who is currently studying at King's College London, spoke about how he adapted his original travel plan due to the Covid pandemic – making his trip European-based instead of travelling to Japan as he had originally planned.

## Countdown to Take-off

Sixth Form pupil Antonia Mills explored her interest in RAF policing and piloting careers on a residential visit to RAF Coningsby last summer, under invitation by Old Stopfordian Air Commodore Mike Baulkwill (OS 1988) and his colleagues.

The visit enabled Antonia to spend time across the base, including a Typhoon cockpit and lunch in the Officers' Mess!

Reflecting on the experience, Antonia said:

**"At Coningsby I met some great members of the RAF Police team, including a Wing Commander, who took me on an interesting tour around the base and gave me the opportunity to ask many, many questions about all aspects of the RAF and policing (which I did)."**

## Third Year Careers Day

We were delighted to welcome SGS parents and Old Stopfordians into school to share information about their careers with our Third Year pupils earlier this academic year. The career sessions offer pupils an invaluable insight into potential careers of interest which will guide them on their GCSE subject selections at a crucial time in their education.

The pupils enjoyed receiving exciting insights into some remarkable job roles and industries from emergency services, medical professions, architecture, apprenticeship opportunities, design, engineering, IT, media and much more.

Contributors to the day included Helen Baldwin née Baird (OS 2006), Nicole Baker-Tunney (OS 2017), Krishanthi Carfrae (OS 2004), Alex Collingwood (OS 2013), Marion Collins-Room (Parent), Jenson Cullen (OS 2019), Flossie Eastwood (OS 2014), Andrew Gardiner (Governor & OS 1984), Dorna Ghashghaei (OS 2001), Dominic Hughes (Parent), Ian McIlwraith (OS 1988), William Miller (OS 1989), Amy Morgan (OS 2014), Eddie Parry (OS 2018), Terence Room (Parent), Matthew Taylor (OS 2016) and Katy Thomas (OS 2015).

If you would like to support future career activities for Stockport Grammar School pupils, Rebecca Shawcross, our Alumni & External Relations Officer, would be delighted to hear from you on **0161 419 2408** **shawcrossr@stockportgrammar.co.uk**

## Coronation Celebrations

School was brightened with reds, whites and blues as celebrations were rung in for the Coronation of King Charles III.

In the Junior School, pupils were invited to dress in the colours of the flag and enjoyed royal-themed activities such as creating their own portrait of the Monarch and playing 'pin the crown on the King'.

Catering Manager Mrs Gosling had also baked coronation-themed cupcakes which the pupils enjoyed in a street party throughout the day.

In the Lower School, pupils learned about the history of the monarchy, and facts about King Charles III himself.



IN MEMORY

<b>Ernest R. Johnson</b> OS 1946 April 27 2022	<b>Bryan Little</b> OS 1953 July 25 2022	<b>Stephen Jarvis Booth</b> OS 1966 January 2023	<b>Nigel Richard Pullan</b> OS 1974
<b>Robert Furniss Riding</b> OS 1958 May 11 2022	<b>Clive Graham Stubbs</b> OS 1953 August 10 2022	<b>Christopher H. Holt</b> OS 1960 January 3 2023	<b>Ian Roger Walton</b> OS 1955
<b>Robin 'Roland' Nightingale</b> OS 1961 May 13 2022	<b>Michael T. Whalley</b> OS 1958 August 18 2022	<b>Geoffrey Ardern</b> OS 1962 January 4 2023	<b>John David Haworth</b> OS 1965
<b>Kenneth Heath</b> OS 1950 May 26 2022	<b>Max Longton</b> OS 1956 August 18 2022	<b>John Samuel Oldham</b> OS 1978	<b>Raymond Hilbre Coveney</b> OS 1958 May 22 2023
<b>Trevor Haughton</b> OS 1959 June 14 2022	<b>Connor Ormerod</b> OS 2009 November 8 2022	<b>John Stewart</b> OS 1947 February 3 2023	<b>Stephen Hadfield</b> OS 1993 June 6 2023
<b>William Tobin</b> OS 1972 July 7 2022	<b>Jeffrey Duncan Robbins</b> OS 1958 December 31 2022	<b>Ralph W. Selby</b> OS 1957 March 24 2023	<b>Robert Chandley</b> OS 1945 June 12 2023
		<b>Alan Watson</b> OS 1948	<b>J. Peter Cheslett</b> OS 1954 June 12 2023
			<b>Richard Atkinson</b> OS 1972 June 27 2023

To read more obituaries visit:  
[www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/alumni/in-memory/](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/alumni/in-memory/)

Robert Furniss Riding

When Robert Riding left SGS he went to Christ Church at Oxford University on a scholarship to study Chemistry, followed by a high-flying career in banking.

Starting his professional life at Williams Deacon's Bank, he became Finance Director at Williams & Glyn's Bank and then a Director of the former Royal Bank of Scotland as Group Treasurer. An SGS trip to Salcombe started a lifelong passion for sailing and, with a determination that this should be accessible to all, Robert spent his holidays volunteering. He became President of the Island Trust trustees, a charity providing life-enhancing, residential and day-sailing activities for young people with special needs, disabilities, and those experiencing hardship and deprivation. We are immensely grateful to Robert for his life-changing legacy which will be used to support bursaries. The Economics & Business Room will be re-named in his memory.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Pennington (OS 2008) and Kim Barr (OS 2009)

Kim said:  
Neil is now training to become a Financial Advisor and I am still loving helping all my 'brides to be' at Timeless Bride. I'm very excited to be able to choose my own wedding dress! We're now planning our wedding for June 2024 in San Diego and can't wait to become Mr and Mrs Pennington!"

Congratulations to Kim and Neil on their engagement. After meeting at school, the couple reconnected on Facebook. The couple soon became inseparable and bought a house last year. It was on a recent trip to Iceland, outside an ice cave that Neil got down on one knee and proposed.

Nikki Holt (OS 2008)

2022 was a busy year for Nikki. Not only did she receive her doctorate in clinical psychology, she also had her first baby, Clara. Nikki studied for her doctorate from 2017 to 2020, however the pandemic pushed back her graduation date. She finally graduated in April 2022, with two-month-old baby Clara in attendance.

Nikki is currently expecting her second child, due in November, whom she knows proud Granny, school librarian Mrs Holt, will dote on.

Congratulations to the happy family.



Tom (OS 2009) and Alexandra Baker wedding

We are delighted to announce the wedding of Tom and Alexandra Baker (Née Hodges.) The pair were married in Harrogate in February. Many Old Stops were in attendance, including Charlotte Baker (OS 2007), and Sara Baker (OS 2011). From 2009 were:

Matt Barker	George Coulson
Matt Thomas	Imogen Fletcher
Jamie Kershaw	Hera Warren
Max Macklin	James Needham
Peter Spinks	Jacob Duffin
Jonny Marshall	George Mellor
Richard Manion	

Staff leavers

As we reach the end of the academic year, we say thank you and farewell to the following long-serving members of staff. We wish them the very best for the future.

- Ranbir Arif**  
Senior School Biology Technician  
(Joined 2015)
- Viv Arrowsmith**  
External Relations Administrator  
(Retired, joined 2008)
- Judith Baker**  
Senior School Head's Secretary  
(Retired, joined 1988)

- Sarah Barrowman**  
Junior School Teacher  
(Joined 2016)
- Sarah Boardman**  
Head of Learning Support  
(Joined 2015)
- Beverley Cheyne**  
Junior School Head's Secretary  
(Joined 2006)
- Paul Croft**  
Site Services Manager  
(Retired, joined 2006)
- Mick Flaherty**  
Senior School Head of Computer Science  
(Retired, joined 2008)
- Margaret Higgins**  
Senior School Maths Teacher  
(Retired, joined 1998)
- Sarah Knowles**  
Junior School Teacher  
(Joined 2016)

- Lucy Lammas**  
Senior School Maths Teacher  
(Retired, joined 1987)
- Graeme McKinna-Whitby**  
Senior School Design & Technology Teacher  
(Retired, joined 2002)
- Ann Mulholland**  
Senior School English Teacher  
(Retired, joined 2018)
- Elizabeth Niven**  
Senior School Biology Teacher  
(Joined 2015)
- Paul Owen**  
Senior School Head  
(Retired, joined 2018)
- Lindsey Withers**  
Senior School Biology Teacher  
(Retired, joined 2002)



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This was the year that Old Stops came fully 'back to school' and, of course, to London. The enthusiasm to meet again, to reminisce, to share stories of SGS and beyond, and to help others has been truly amazing. For each generation of Old Stops, every square metre (or should that be square yard) has a memory attached. Perhaps at the next Summer Barbecue, we should ask you to take the tours or run a House Competition Treasure Hunt – who would be the quickest to find: the Cabbage Patch; Shaa House (not a trick question!); the illusive entrance to B1; the House crests; the Royal helipad; and the location of the Library when you were at SGS.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Bursary Fund this year; your support transforms children's lives and

their future prospects. There are so many ways to contribute to the experiences of current pupils – pages 18, 20 and 21 contain just a few examples of these. Head of Development Aria Johnston would be delighted to hear from you.

Don't forget to keep in touch with us and share your news – through the online SGS community, email, Old Stopfordians' Facebook, LinkedIn, events and reunions, the Stopfordian Committee and, of course, you can always pick up the phone or send us a letter!

Thank you to Charlotte Hutton and Rebecca Shawcross for bringing together this full and fascinating edition. We hope you have enjoyed it!

**Rachel Horsford**  
External Relations Director



Rachel Horsford



Charlotte Hutton



Rebecca Shawcross



Aria Johnston

**To contact the External Relations office email  
[externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk)  
or phone 0161 419 2408**

### STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Stockport Grammar School Buxton Road Stockport SK2 7AF  
Telephone: 0161 456 9000 Email: [sgs@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:sgs@stockportgrammar.co.uk)  
**[www.stockportgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk)**

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of Old Stops' Review, please let us know by emailing:  
[externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk)  
Stockport Grammar School is a Registered Charity Number 1120199

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Careers Convention

Thursday 21st  
September 2023, 6-8pm  
Can you represent  
your business at our  
upcoming Careers  
Convention?

### Stopfordian Committee meeting

One meeting per term

### Remembrance Reunion

Friday 10th November  
2023

### Carol Service

Wednesday  
13th December 2023

### Shaa Society Lunch

Friday 15th March 2024

### Founder's Day

Friday 15th March 2024

### London Event

Spring 2024

### The Bursary Golf Day

June 2024

### Summer Reunion Barbecue

Saturday  
29th June 2024