

OLD STOPS' REVIEW

ISSUE 14 2024

Stockport Grammar School

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FOUNDED IN 1487

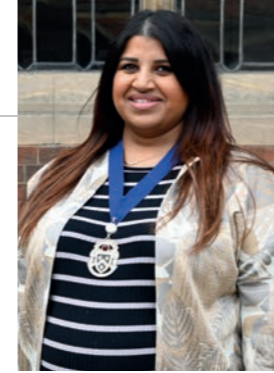


HEAD'S WELCOME

As I come towards the end of my first year as Head at SGS, it is fantastic to look back on such a busy and successful year for the school. The Autumn Term began well with a superb inspection visit from the ISI, which highlighted what a "vibrant and welcoming community" we are at SGS. Throughout the year, we have been treated to wonderful music concerts, demonstrating the strength and breadth of the talent within the school. The sheer number of pupils involved in a wide range of sports remains impressive. This year, our teams were also very successful, reaching (and winning!) national finals in netball and football in various year groups. Performances in drama and dance have entertained pupils and parents at SGS as well as wider audiences: we were treated to a hilarious performance of 'Cinderella'; then an incredibly well-crafted Dance Show, reflecting the changes in Greater Manchester over time, part of which was then performed at The Lowry as part of the Sadler's Wells 'Making Moves' platform.

I have enjoyed meeting so many Old Stops throughout this academic year. It was wonderful to see so many attending Remembrance Day and the Shaa Lunch, the Carol Service, the Old Stops Dinner, the London reunion at The Globe and the Summer Barbecue. I am grateful for your ongoing support for the school, whether that is through support of our Bursary Fund, through offering careers advice or professional networking for our pupils, or through continuing to advocate and promote the school.

Sarah Capewell
Head of Senior School



Krishanthi Carfrae née Gill
OS 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My first year in post has been a whirlwind of activity. Not only have I gotten to see life at SGS throughout my role as Old Stops' President, but I get to see the work behind the scenes through my role as a Governor. It's such a multifaceted role and one I am proud to carry out.

I was happy to have attended the Career's Convention in October with my colleague from Arup. It was lovely to speak to pupils who were interested in the world of sustainable development and to be able to give an insight into the industry. I was also impressed with the event itself, and the wide range of professionals that were there and representing other companies. Our pupils are very lucky that they have access to the event and can speak to people from the industries they are interested in.

March was a particularly busy month as the Founder's Day Service, Shaa Lunch and Old Stopfordians' Dinner followed in quick succession. So many memories came flooding back during the Founder's Day Service at St George's Church – although I still can't remember the words to the Latin chant!

It was interesting to hear Holly Hulme's (OS 2004) speech at the Old Stops' Dinner. I remember Holly from our time at school, it's always lovely to reconnect and see where people are up to now. The dinner went down a storm and we even had our own cocktail which was a nice added touch.

This year marks 20 years since my cohort, the Class of 2004, left SGS. I'm not sure about my fellow leavers, but it doesn't feel like 20 years since we left school! I know many of us have our own families now, but deep down I think we will always be 18!



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Join the Old Stops' Community on social media

-  Old Stopfordians
-  Stockport Grammar School
-  @stockportgs
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Emily Howling

Emily Howling (OS 2017) is getting hands-on with Physics.



Currently in her second year of her DPhil in Particle Physics from the University of Oxford, Emily carries out her research at CERN – home of the Hadron Collider. Emily's research centres around magnets, and she hopes to discover how to add particles into the particle collider without disrupting the ones already in the accelerator.

CERN is such an amazing place," Emily said. **"Everyone is really passionate about what they do and it's this melting pot of amazing ideas and theories. I am so fortunate to be able to research there."**

Emily recalled that her love for science was nurtured while she was at school, not only by her teachers, but by her family who actively encouraged her enjoyment of the subject.

"I have always been very curious about science and I am very lucky that I have always had such great role models in science," Emily said. **"It was never something I shied away from and so my love for it just grew and grew."**

As well as harbouring a deep love for science, Emily is also a keen musician – having attended SGS on a Music Scholarship. She plays brass instruments, and piano as well as sings.

Recently, Emily had a couple of her own compositions performed by a brass band and, closer to home, Mellor Choir.

Emily returned to SGS to deliver an interesting 'Spotlight On' talk about her life and career. Her biggest piece of advice she could offer is: **"Don't think you have to stay on the path you started on – if things go a bit off track, that's ok and if you want you can always find different routes to get you back on track."**



JONATHAN LEE

Chair of Governors

OS 1983

Jonathan Lee joined the Board of Governors in 2016 and became Chair in September 2023. Following SGS, he read Geography and then gained an MBA at Durham University. In 2017, he completed an MSt in Building History at Cambridge University.

What did you enjoy at SGS?

The sports and outdoor activities were fantastic. I went to Wasdale, sailing in Salcombe, to Mull, and on a 'Tent Trek' trip arranged by Derrick Short – we took minibuses across France and Spain to Morocco.

In Sixth Form, I was a camp leader on the Mull trip, and I valued the opportunities we were given to take responsibility – to run things and to 'give', not just to do things. That's important in education and it really influenced me. Alongside working, I volunteered as a rugby coach for 14 years, coaching boys' and girls' teams – it was great fun! And my wife Sarah and I both helped to run the local Scout troop.

Your career saw you work across the globe – how did those opportunities arise?

I like variety and I like challenge, and career-wise I chose a diverse path. My MBA thesis was on an international telecoms business. They recruited me and I ended up heading an international division. Then I was head-hunted into financial services. I worked for investment banks, pitching for and running mandates privatising European telecoms companies.

In 2000, I joined a small group in a marketing and web design business – our clients included educational institutions,

investment banks and telecoms. When I returned to financial services, I worked in venture capital – the projects were incredibly varied, one of the most memorable being the sale for £20 million to Rentokil Initial of an invention that reduced water usage while solving the common problem of blocked urinals, using biotech and benign bacteria to unblock the goo!

I then set up a financial services firm with an international team, raising money from institutions to invest in hedge funds across the globe.

When did you 'return' to SGS?

I'd kept in touch over the years, attending events and supporting the bursary fund. In 2013 I sold my business, and I had more time to do other things. In 2016, I was appointed as a governor and last September I became Chair.

The role of the governors is to ensure the success of the school now, and in the long term, as guardians of an institution that's been around since 1487. Over that long history, governors have made some momentous decisions with the ethos and sustainability of the school in mind.

SGS's academic strength is a credit to the staff and their commitment, and to the pupils' hard work. The incredible range

of co-curricular activities differentiates SGS from schools that focus purely on the academic – I remember this as the main life of the school. It's good to see that it is as strong as it ever was.

Even the youngest children in the Junior School are so fabulously welcoming, confident, happy and proud to show you their work. It is noticeable how polite and courteous pupils are across the whole school, and the ISI Inspectors remarked on this. I've particularly liked my chats with the Heads of School, Raayan and Anna, and their perspectives as Sixth Formers.

What else are you working on?

More recently, I have been much more involved in property development and management, with a focus on historic buildings. I'm now completing a very personal project – the restoration of a late Tudor building in Oundle as our family home. It's not a large building but it has been very complex! I'm also going to do another bursary fundraising half marathon with my daughter, this time in Majorca. Although I must be honest, I don't enjoy running, it's much more of a necessity given my enjoyment of good food and wine!

Oli Cartlidge

OS 2012

Rain may simply be a part of our every day lives, but for one Old Stop, it means time spent recalculating, adjusting and making quick decisions to keep his teammate, Lando Norris, in podium position – and it's all in a day's work for Oli Cartlidge.

Now a Senior Specialist Race Strategist for McLaren, Oli spends his time analysing race data and statistics to help the McLaren racing team stay on top. Decisions such as which tyres to use and when to make pit stops are all decisions Oli makes on a daily basis, and which can affect the overall outcome of a race.

"I spend a lot of time working towards a race, it's not as simple as the driver getting into the car and beginning the race," Oli said. **"I work with engineers, and analyse data and statistics in order to make sure the driver has the best race possible."**

"It's a really fast-paced role, and sometimes you have to make decisions in a split second. If it starts raining for example, I have to decide which tyres - and how many sets - are going to get us to the chequered flag fastest."

"Wet races are really challenging because most of the models I work on don't apply so you just have to adapt to what the data is telling you and look at the big picture of the race and trust your gut."

Oli came to SGS on a Bursary, and went on to study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Bath where he spent time building a race car. It was during his industry placements at Williams and McLaren where he discovered his love for the industry.



"I still am so grateful to have received a bursary while I was at school," added Oli. **"I know I wouldn't be where I am today without it, and a lot of what I do now is based around what I learned in my Maths A Level."**



"My placements in the industry were so invaluable to me and I was really lucky to work with McLaren while I was still a student. I also have a very practical mind which I think helps me in my day-to-day role as I can visualise the problems and work out how to fix them."

Through his role, Oli has the opportunity to travel from track to track with the team and has been to Australia, Canada, America and the United Arab Emirates to name a few. And it wouldn't be a story about F1 if we didn't mention Lando Norris...

"Lando is a pretty cool guy," Oli laughed. **"Although he is very driven, pardon the pun, so when it comes down to the race, he expects the best and takes it very seriously."**

"I'm really lucky to work with such a great team. I remember my first proper race with Lando was at Silverstone in the British Grand Prix and McLaren came second which was an amazing feeling!"

The 2024 F1 season began in March and will run through until December.

Old Stops in Racing

It's not just Oli who enjoys a career in the world of racing, a number of fellow alumni have helped populate the club:

Mathonwy Thomas (OS 2007)

After leaving SGS and studying Aerospace and Aerothermal Engineering at Cambridge University, Mathonwy began working at McLaren, where he worked on aerodynamics of luxury cars.

Mathonwy now works as a Principal Aerothermal Engineer at Williams Racing where he designs systems to keep F1 race cars cool while on the track.

He said: **"The challenge is to cool the car exactly the correct amount - too little cooling and it will overheat and stop, too much cooling increases drag and makes us slower."**



Peter Withers (OS 2017)

A fellow Old Stop and University of Cambridge alum is Peter Withers.

Peter developed a love for Formula One during his time at university and now works as a Senior Associate Simulation Development Engineer at McLaren.

His role involves maintaining the simulations produced from data on the race car which allows the team to quickly access stats during the race. The data can inform conditions such as which tyres to use, or how low the car should sit on the track.

Tim Glass (OS 1998)

Tim is the Formula E Broadcast and Content Director. Tim previously worked for Sky Sports for over 20 years which included six years as Senior Producer on F1. It was his team's coverage of the 2021 season which earned them a BAFTA.

At FE, Tim is responsible for the global broadcast coverage of the series which is known for its competitive and unpredictable



Peter Withers

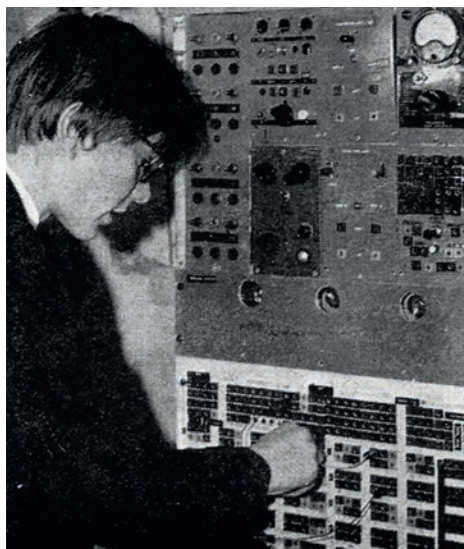
racing. He's also responsible for the presentation show and supporting unscripted content.

He said: **"I really enjoy working for Formula E, it's a broader role than I had at Sky where we're trying to grow a sport and raise global awareness. It has its challenges but it's really exciting and special to be part of."**

Cecil Kimber (1888 - 1945)

After leaving SGS, Cecil studied accountancy at Manchester Technical College. He entered the world of motorcars in 1915 after a motorcycle accident left him with life-long injuries. Cecil became the Sales Manager at Morris Garages. It was there that he developed his designs and skills and went on to create designs for the MG sports car.

By 1928, the MG Car Company LTD was created as an offshoot of Morris Garages - with Cecil as its head. Cecil went on to run the company until 1941.



From the Archives
**From Binary
 to Digital:**
*A history of
 computers at SGS*

AN ODE TO AGATHA

Computers – they are everywhere; from the billboards in Piccadilly Circus to the devices we all carry in our pockets, it's hard to escape them. This wasn't always the case, of course, there was a time where one lady ruled the roost in terms of computers at SGS... and that lady was AGATHA.

Not a normal lady by any stretch, AGATHA didn't have arms or legs, but rather dials and wires and was SGS' first computer. Built in the bedroom of Old Stop William Tobin (OS 1972), AGATHA was used to compute maths and physics equations. As an analogue computer, the students had to program her to perform specific calculations, and would feed those into the computer by putting wires between the appropriate socket on a plugboard. AGATHA was stored, very glamorously, in the cellar of the Junior School before being moved into the Senior School in 1973.

By 1974, AGATHA was getting increasingly more difficult to maintain and was beginning to pale in comparison to contemporary computer equipment such as the PDP8E.

By 1977, it seemed that AGATHA's days were numbered, with the society finding it increasingly difficult to find parts to maintain her. Indeed no mention of AGATHA, nor the Mathematics Society can be found in the Stopfordian until 1981 when the Mathematics Society became the Computing Club. It seems that our beloved AGATHA was deemed obsolete and replaced with three Tandy TRS-80 computers which look just as big and bulky as you'd expect a computer from the 80s to look!

Unlike AGATHA, the TRS-80 had a screen, and a keyboard and had up to 48KB of RAM. These were used to learn the computing language, Basic. The school also acquired a Research Machine 380-7 which was won after an essay entitled 'The use of Computers in our School' was submitted.

Now, computers aren't resigned to one room of the school – they're everywhere. Every classroom hosts a Smart Board, our Design Technology Department run CAD and CAM programs, embroidery machines, and even cameras for the pupils to watch cooking

demonstrations. In Music, our pupils use technology to study music composition and have access to hundreds of years' worth of music at their fingertips. I'm sure the Old Stops of the Mathematics Society will be happy that computers aren't always as temperamental as they were back in AGATHA's day.

The Senior School has a unique history with computers as it wasn't just William Tobin who had a fascination with the topic. Sir Frederic Williams (OS 1929) is ranked amongst our most prominent alumni. Sir Frederic invented the first computer with memory-store in its electronic circuitry which paved the way to the micro-processor. Without his knowledge we wouldn't be able to store data on computers or carry our phones in our pockets.



Stockport Grammar School Tote Bag
 A black tote bag with the school crest in yellow
£8



Old Stopfordians Bowtie
 A navy blue pre-tied bowtie with the Old Stopfordians' logo
£15



Old Stopfordians Tie
 A navy blue tie with gold accents
£20



Stockport Grammar School Pin Badge
 An enamel pin which depicts the School crest in blue and gold
£5



Stockport Grammar School Umbrella
 A large and vibrant umbrella with alternating panels of yellow and black, also featuring the school crest. Please note, this item is collection only and cannot be posted.
£20

Old Stops' Shop

We have a number of SGS-branded items that can be purchased through our online shop. A portion of the proceeds will go towards the Bursary Fund. To visit our online shop scan the QR Code.



Stockport Grammar School Notebook
 A black, A5 lined notebook
£6



Limited Edition Prints

The prints are limited edition from original paintings of Stockport Grammar School by Clifford Bayly, R.W.S. The Main Quad View from the Sports Field
£45



Junior B Class 1944-45



STOCKPORT GRAMMAR
JUNIOR SCHOOL

80 YEARS OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

This year we are delighted to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the opening of our Junior School.

Prior to 1944, Junior pupils were housed in the main school along with Seniors, and the move to a designated Junior school building became a gradual process.

Initially, during the 1930s, two wooden buildings were erected on the existing site which were allocated to the then Junior A and Junior B classes. Today, this location is where the dance studio stands. It was not until 1944 however that a completely separate building was built on a site adjacent to the main school.

Much excitement and anticipation was in the air on the morning of 8th June 1944 as pupils were told to pick up their books and head over to their brand new Junior School. The school was opened in a converted house named "Listad" on Davenport Park Road and was formed from two houses that were knocked into one, with the top floor being allocated to Music lessons. 60 pupils attended the Junior School at that time and were housed in the new building.

Over time, with the buoyancy of pupil numbers and the introduction of a Preparatory Department, Listad was replaced with a new larger, purpose-built building in 1975 which was further expanded across the 1980s and 1990s.

Eventually in 1997, the Junior School was adapted once again to eventually provide the spectacular, modern building we see today.

As part of our 80th anniversary celebrations, we asked our SGS Community to share their memories from Junior School days and we were grateful to receive such fabulous stories...

"The school yard was memorable for its ability to shred shoes when playing football, and we had access to the Cabbage Patch for football during games lessons."
Stephen Norris (OS 1972)

"I remember the fire alarm once sounding and us having to evacuate from the new escape that was on the outside of the building. The MEN newspaper sent a reporter the next day who requested a re-enactment and so we had to do the drill again with the photograph appearing in the local newspaper."
Jeremy Farnworth (OS 1953)

"I attended during the great rivalry for the world land speed record between Malcolm Campbell and George Eyston and we had great fun competing across the playground in our own imaginary racing cars."
Christopher Wilcock (OS 1948)

"I recall the Junior A form master had a habit of teetering back and forth on the edge of the small platform on which his desk was sited. The possibility of him slipping off wasn't of course his only talent but it helped to make him a popular teacher."
Denys Lingard (OS 1946)

Nice To Know - whilst historically pupils attended the School from age 6-14 years, in 1948 under the newly appointed Head, Mr William Gurney, this was changed with the minimum age for admission becoming 7, and for leaving 16 years. By contrast, present day pupils can attend from aged 3 through to 18 years.



Marianne Elliott
OS 1985

Congratulations to acclaimed theatre director and producer, Marianne Elliott (OS 1985) who has recently completed her debut film, *The Salt Path*, starring Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs. The film, set to be released later this year, is an adaptation of a memoir by Raynor Winn about a couple who lose everything and embark on a 630-mile transformative journey walking the South West Path in England. Their story is one of healing, resilience, and finding unexpected kindness in the face of adversity.



Marianne Elliott has won two Olivier awards and has won four Tony Awards; three for Best Direction of a Musical/Play and one for the Best Revival of a Play. In 2018, she was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her Services to Theatre.

Vikas Shah

OS 1999

The dance music craze of the 1990s has served as inspiration for many – not least for alumni Vikas Shah (OS 1999), who has turned his love of the genre into a thought-provoking short film.



The short film *Rose Gold*, of which Vikas was Executive Producer, is about a girl navigating the dance music scene of the late 80s, early 90s. Filmed and set in Manchester it was a real labour of love for Vikas.

Rose Gold stars local actress Chloe Lea and was filmed on location in Manchester in August and September last year.



Brian Pidgeon

OS 1966

We congratulate Old Stopfordian, Brian Pidgeon, on his incredible achievement at being nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY award for Classical Producer of the Year.

Brian has enjoyed a hugely successful career as General Manager of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic before becoming General Manager at BBC Philharmonic in 1991. During his time, he was responsible for planning concerts, working with world famous conductors and soloists as well as producing recordings.

Among his many career highlights, he had the idea of commissioning Paul McCartney to write his Liverpool Oratorio for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Talia Zelfhof

OS 2023

First Year pupils had the opportunity to speak to Old Stopfordian Talia Zelfhof who was volunteering in Sierra Leone in aid of EducAid.

During the Google Meet call, Talia spoke about what she had been up to throughout her three months in the country and introduced a few of the pupils she had been helping.

She also gave a tour of the school – including a classroom and the library – and showed the school's dog to the pupils!



Erna Sullivan

OS 2008

Stockport Grammar School is delighted to welcome back Erna Sullivan née Scurr (OS 2008) as the Deputy Head of Academic in the Junior School.

Erna was a pupil at both the Junior and Senior schools before she went on to study Classics at Nottingham University. After some time spent travelling, Erna undertook a teaching graduate scheme in Leicester before she began teaching Primary School pupils.



Sophie Small OS 2008

Old Stopfordian Sophie Small, is the owner of Sophie Small Jewellery offering bespoke, custom designed jewellery, hand-made from her workshop in rural Manchester. Sophie has always been creative and discovered her first form of expression whilst studying Art at university. She later developed her passion and dedication for jewellery whilst studying at Holts Academy Of Jewellery in Hatton Garden, London.

From the Bookshelf

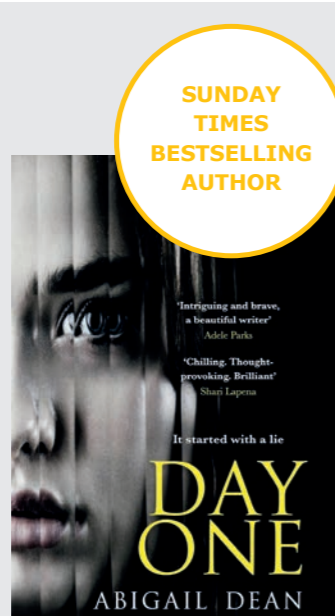
Day One

Abigail Dean
(OS 2007)
Harper Collins

A former Lawyer for Google, Abigail transitioned to becoming a full-time author after the success of her first novel, Girl A.

Her second novel asks the question: What really happened on Day One?

It follows the inhabitants of a small town as they try to unravel the events surrounding a tragedy at a school.

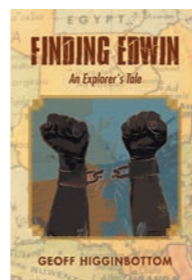


Finding Edwin

Geoff Higginbottom
(OS 1975)
Authorhouse UK

After leaving SGS, Geoff began his musical career playing the circuit of folk clubs and pubs across the North West of England.

His book tells the story of his great, great uncle Edwin Higginbottom and his contribution to an anti-slavery expedition to the river Nile in the 1870s. Taken from Edwin's diaries, the book provides detailed descriptions of his experiences across Egypt, Sudan and the Ottoman Empire.



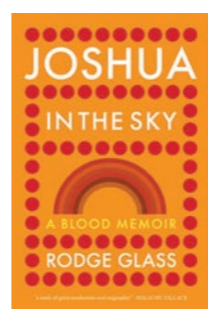
Joshua in the Sky

Rodge Glass
(OS 1994)
Taproot Press

Rodge is a successful novelist and biographer. When not writing he is also a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

His nephew Joshua died the same day he was born, from a blood condition they both share. Joshua in the Sky charts the five years around Joshua's life and death as Rodge attempts to make sense of this loss.

A family memoir and a memorial to a short life, it asks the questions: Whose life deserved to be remembered? And how?

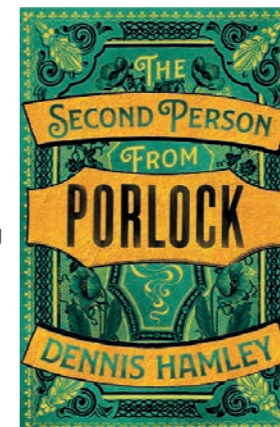


The Second Person from Porlock

Dennis Hamley
(Former Teacher of English 1960-64)
Fairlight Books

Dennis has written over 80 books including novels, short story collections, books for schools and non-fiction for all ages. He also enjoys mentoring aspiring writers, delivering courses for children and has been a Creative Writing Tutor.

His most recent book is set in 1824 and follows poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, a Cambridge scholar and a young Sicilian as their lives intersect – but will they find the answers they seek?



The House of Sorrowing Stars

Beth Cartwright
(Teacher of English)
Penguin Books

Beth Cartwright not only teaches English at SGS, but is an accomplished author.

Her second novel follows Liddy who receives an invitation to a mysterious house. While there she meets Vivienne, a beautiful, austere woman whose glare leaves Liddy unsettled; Ben, the reserved gardener; and Raphael, the enigmatic Keymaker. Together they must uncover the secrets of the house – but the house won't give up its secrets so easily...



One Day So Many Ways

Laura Hall (OS 1997)
Frances Lincoln Children Books

Laura is a writer and journalist who has written for the BBC, The Guardian, The Telegraph and the Times to name a few.

Aimed at 7-11 year-olds, her book is a celebration of life around the world and answers questions such as: What do you eat for breakfast if you live in Japan? How do you get to school if you live in Greenland? What games do you play with your friends if you live in Nepal?



Life as a Junior Barrister: In the Words of the Independent Bar

Edited by
Nigel Booth
(OS 1989)
Routledge

Nigel has been a Barrister since 1994 and now teaches Criminal Litigation at the University of Law in Manchester. He edited the book which features guidance, insights and advice for new barristers from a diverse range of backgrounds and practice areas to help shed light on what life is really like for barristers at the Independent Bar.

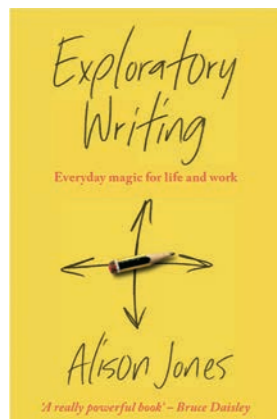
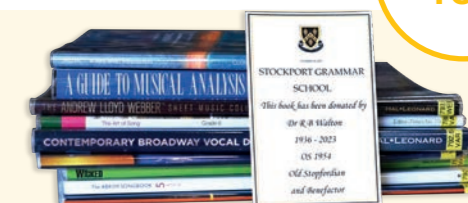


Dr R B Walton Legacy

We are grateful to Dr Robin Walton (OS 1954)

who left a gift of £1,000 in his will to support both the Junior and Senior School Libraries. Dr Walton had a strong love of music, specifically church music and choirs, which he carried throughout this life. After leaving Stockport Grammar School he went on to study at the University of Cambridge where he earned a half-blue in lacrosse and a PhD in Music. He moved to South Africa in the late 1960s until his death in 2023.

With this gift, the Library has been able to acquire new books and other reading materials for the next generation of Old Stops who share his interests in music and sport. We are very appreciative to Dr Walton for choosing to remember Stockport Grammar School in such a way.



Exploratory Writing: Everyday magic for life and work

Alison Jones (OS 1987)
Practical Inspiration Publishing

Alison is the host of The Extraordinary Business Book Club podcast, Judge with the Business Book Awards, and Founder of Practical Inspiration Publishing, a pioneering publishing partner for businesses.

In Exploratory Writing, Alison explains how to write for yourself and unlock your true meaning using just pen and paper.



STOCKPORT GRAMMAR
COMMUNITY



Old Stopfordians Gather For A London Reunion

On Wednesday 24 April, 80 Old Stops gathered for drinks and canapes at The Swan London.

The Swan London is located at the iconic Shakespeare's Globe, on the banks of the River Thames, creating a perfect atmosphere with brilliant views of the London skyline as the sun set.

From 1957 to 2019, every generation of leavers enjoyed the reunion, mingling and chatting. Half of the Old Stops in attendance left in the 1980s, with 1984, who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary since leaving SGS, the largest group of attendees from any one year. A number of Old Stops had also travelled down from Manchester to attend on the evening!



2023 Summer BBQ

Attendees didn't let a little downpour dampen their enthusiasm as they took the opportunity to catch up with old friends, reminisce about old school days and say goodbye to staff leavers and retirees, including Dr Owen (Head) and Mrs Lammas (Mathematics).

Old pictures, magazines and other memorabilia were on show in the Hallam Hall and Sixth Form Centre and a lot of the visitors

enjoyed looking at the whole school photos in the Head's corridor to see if they could spot themselves!

Children had fun on the bouncy castle and youngsters and adults alike enjoyed devouring the sumptuous food that was on offer.

2023 Golf Day

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Stockport Grammar School's Bursary Golf Day, in association with Vernon Building Society, was blessed with stunning blue skies, warm weather and a course in fantastic condition.



Eighteen teams took to the greens at Stockport Golf Club on Thursday 15th June for the annual fundraising event. Congratulations to the Littlewoods Butchers team who came first with 96 points and to team captain John Littlewood who won the nearest the pin competition at the 16th.

The event has raised over £9,800 for the Bursary Fund which supports children from less affluent backgrounds to benefit from the excellent education opportunities on offer at SGS with means-tested financial assistance with fees.

Old Stops' Dinner

We were delighted to welcome back nearly 80 Old Stopfordians, Governors, and their guests to the Old Stopfordians' Dinner on Saturday 16th March held in Hallam Hall. Old Stopfordians from 1955 through to 2021 and for the first time, their guests, joined in the evening's events with many a Shaa Martini being consumed.

Senior School Head, Sarah Capewell, spoke about leaving our legacy and the impact we have on others throughout our lifetime. In doing so, she quoted The Athenian statesman Pericles, believed to have said:

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

Guest Speaker, Holly Hulme (OS 2004), proposed the toast to Old Stopfordians and in her speech, reflected on her time at SGS. She commented: **"We were so lucky to have a raft of excellent educators, who helped shape us into individuals, conscious of our place in the world and how we improve it."**

Music ensembles shine at Spring Concert

St George's Church hosted an outstanding evening of music at the 2024 Spring Concert.

Wind Orchestra were first up and they started the concert with Giuseppe Verdi's 'Triumphal March from Aida'.

Chamber Choir then filled the impressive venue with a quartet of wonderful pieces. The opening half was closed by the First Orchestra's rendition of 'Adagio-Allegro, First Movement from Symphony No. 104' by Joseph Haydn.

Following the interval, Junior Chamber Choir displayed their burgeoning vocal talent. Three movements from Johann Sebastian Bach's 'Suite in D Major' – were expertly delivered by the gifted String Orchestra before the Chorus closed proceedings.



Remembrance brings the SGS community together

Pupils and staff across the Junior and Senior Schools held Remembrance Services in memory of those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The Sixth Form were joined in their Service by more than ninety guests including Greater Manchester Deputy Lieutenant Mr Paul Brearley JP DL, Mayor of Stockport Councillor Graham Greenhalgh, Councillor Wendy Meikle and Councillor David Wilson, Chair of Governors Mr Jonathan Lee (OS 1983) and fellow Old Stopfordians.

Head, Mrs Sarah Capewell, led the Service, with readings by Sixth Form students Luke Constantine-Williams, Grace Lorimer, Edward Griffiths and Priya Burrow. Prayers were led by Reverend Leaver. Mrs Sarah Johnson (OS 1994) played The Last Post and the Reveille, as students, staff and guests stood respectfully in silence.

1964 Reunion

On Thursday 14th March we were delighted to welcome back into school a group of Old Stops from the class of 1964, along with some of their relatives. We were also very glad to be joined by Jean Haworth and Renate James, the widows of two dearly remembered Old Stops, John Haworth (OS 1965) and Peter James (OS 1964).

The group enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by a tour of SGS which reignited fond memories from school days past. In the evening, they met for dinner at The Stanneylands hotel in Wilmslow, where they continued much reminiscing and merriment.

Lacrosse Reunion

On Tuesday 20th February a group of fifteen Old Stops gathered for a much anticipated Lacrosse Reunion at the Jolly Sailor pub in Bramhall. They thoroughly enjoyed reuniting over lunch whilst catching up on where they are now and reminiscing about SGS school days.

Careers Convention

Held every two years, the Careers Convention hosts stalls from universities and employers to help students make decisions about their future.

Old Stopfordians **Alice Dullehan (OS 2015)**, **Matt Taylor (OS 2016)** and **Isabella Byrne (OS 2022)** were among some of the 15 Old Stops who returned to School to speak about their career paths.

Alice is a Pharmacist and final year medical student at Swansea University, Matt is a Senior National Account Manager at Britvic and Isabella, who left SGS last year, returned to speak about her apprenticeship with AstraZeneca.

Many Old Stopfordians also ran stalls at the event including our Old Stopfordian President, **Krishanthi Carfrae (OS 2004)**, who is a Chartered Landscape Architect and Chartered Town Planner who leads the Cities Advisory and Economics team across the North West and Yorkshire for Arup.

Get involved

Many Old Stops have returned to school to take part in events, or give talks about their life and careers post-SGS.

If you would like to get involved, please contact externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk

Higher Education Conference

This year's two-day Higher Education conference gave students in the Lower Sixth the chance to find out more about the opportunities available to them after they leave Stockport Grammar School.

A number of Old Stopfordians returned to school to speak about their experiences.

Craig Parsons (OS 2017) and **Ben Haigh (OS 2014)** headed to a Physics lab to talk about engineering.

Craig, who studied Aerospace Engineering at the University of Nottingham, now works at Solid Solutions whilst Ben, who is a Materials Scientist at Renishaw Additive Manufacturing, studied Materials Engineering at Swansea University.

Software Engineer and Durham University graduate **Sam Arrowsmith (OS 2013)** talked about Mathematics, **Katie Hicks (OS 2020)** spoke to students about her time studying Classical Civilisation at the University of Warwick, and **Megan Callaghan (OS 2021)** spoke about apprenticeships, having taken part in a Project Management Degree Apprenticeship with Siemens via University of Cumbria.

Mock interviews

Many thanks to the following Old Stops who returned to school to help provide mock interviews for pupils who hope to study law, medicine, or dentistry at university or who have applied to Oxbridge.

Nigel Booth (OS 1989, Governor)

Alex Seabridge née Kendall (OS 2004)

Alex Whyllie (OS 2020)

Ariyan Araghi (OS 2011)

Val Ornsby née Swann (OS 1989)

Sairah Naseer (OS 2017)

Mark Sanderson (OS 1980)

Spotlight On

We run Spotlight On talks throughout the school year in the SGS Library.

These are an opportunity for Old Stopfordians to speak about their lives, careers, and interests post-SGS in addition to offering advice and reassurance that taking chances is part of being an Old Stopfordian.

Old Stopfordians **Joe Farrelly (OS 2022)** and **Faye Sanders (OS 2019)** delivered Spotlight On talks this year.

We would love to welcome you back if you would like to put on a Spotlight On talk.



"A vibrant and welcoming community"
ISI Inspection 2023

'Vibrant and welcoming': Stockport Grammar Inspection

As 2023 drew to a close, Stockport Grammar School was extra busy with a visit from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI) as part of their routine programme of inspections. Now the results are in, with flying colours!

Stockport Grammar met all the ISI standards and, across the Junior and Senior School, the report is full of praise for the school's quality of education, pupil wellbeing and co-curricular activities. 'Vibrant and welcoming community', 'children are happy and thriving', 'teaching is stimulating and elicits enthusiastic responses', 'an extensive selection of co-curricular activities', 'pupils are interested and motivated in their learning' and 'well prepared for life beyond school' are just some of the Inspectors' comments. The full report is available to read on the school's website.

The ISI is the body approved by the Government for the purpose of inspecting schools belonging to the Independent Schools' Council. Since the introduction of a new ISI framework in September 2023, schools no longer receive a grade. Stockport Grammar is one of the first schools in the North West to be inspected under the new framework.

Head Mrs Sarah Capewell said:



All of us at Stockport Grammar School have such pride in and love for the school and therefore we welcomed the opportunity for a team of inspectors to visit. It is wonderful, although not a surprise, that they identified many of the things that make this such an amazing community to be a part of. It is indeed a 'vibrant and welcoming community'!"

Stay connected with your SGS peers and teachers

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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
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SGS Highlights



Successful Scottish sports tour for Junior School pupils

Year 6 pupils spent four action-packed days in Scotland on a Sports Tour which catered for football, netball and hockey.

The tour involved daily training sessions at elite sporting venues including Celtic FC's Academy, the Commonwealth Games Stadium and the Indoor Netball Arena.

Pupils were put through their paces by coaches from Celtic and premier league netball side Strathclyde Sirens. It was a great experience for pupils to play and develop under the coaching of such highly qualified individuals.

Over the course of the four days, they enjoyed fixtures against local opposition.

The competition however didn't end on the pitches and courts – in the evening the girls and boys took part in bowling, crazy golf and laser quest.



Images from top: Junior School Sports Tour, Rugby Portugal Trip, Netball Finals, Albert Johnston Award, Classics Play Performances

Netballers impress at National Finals

The U12, U13, U14 and U15 netball teams were excited to head to Loughborough University as they took part in their Sisters N Sport Plate Finals.

Finals Day involved the top four teams from the Plate competition. To win the competition, schools had to win both their semi-final and final matches.

The U13s were elated to win their competition following two hard-fought victories. The U14s were also celebrating as they picked up the top prize, the U12s were pleased with their runners-up medals in their competition.

Finally, the U15s put in a strong showing in their competition. They narrowly lost 17-14 in the semi-final before being beaten by Rugby School in the third/fourth playoff.

Head of Netball Miss Rachel Towell said: **"Myself, the Sports department and the School as a whole are so proud of our netball players. Getting to the final four of a national competition is an amazing achievement and all of the girls showed great desire and ability each and every time they took to the court."**

Students shine in Classics Play

Sixth Form students had the Hallam Hall audience 'quacking' up during performances of this year's Classics Play, 'Birds'. The play was written by Aristophanes and first performed way back in 414BC but, with the help of Mr Alastair Thorley, our performers gave the play a modern twist.

The play follows two Athenians who decide to create a new society in the city of the birds as climate change, caused by humans, has rendered the Earth to be uninhabitable.

Filled with witty puns, bird poetry and, of course, Taylor Swift – the play was a 'hoot' from start to finish.

Albert Johnston Award

One pupil from Stockport Grammar School will head 'down under' after winning the school's prestigious travel prize.

Upper Sixth Former, Alex Hartemink, is the winner of this year's Albert Johnston Award.

Alex, who went on the school's Biology expedition to Honduras, will now head to Australia to work alongside University of Queensland PhD students at the Marine Biology

Station on Heron Island to chart the bleaching on the surrounding coral reefs and to monitor the effects of thermal stress on manta ray migration.

She is looking forward to meeting as many Australian Old Stops as possible while she is there!

Stockport Grammar is Artsmark Platinum!

The exceptional standard of creative and performing arts at Stockport Grammar School has been recognised with an Artsmark Platinum Award from the Arts Council.

The highest possible rating, Platinum is held by only a small number of schools in the country.

Rugby Portugal Trip

Rugby players from Stockport Grammar School enjoyed some winter sun as they headed to Lisbon for a five-day rugby trip.

41 pupils from Year 10 and Year 11 headed to the Costa da Caparica region of the Portuguese capital in November to play against local rugby teams, as well as enjoy the sights of the country.

While there, they played against Académica de Coimbra, Rugby Belenenses and even at the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica, the home of Benfica FC.

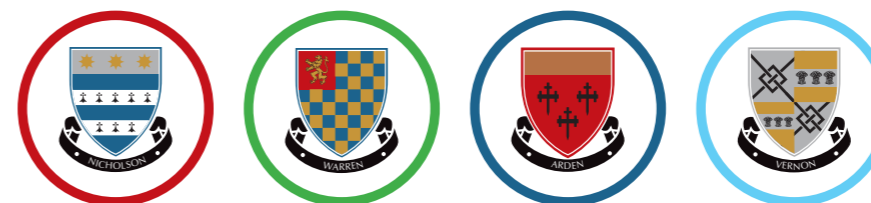
IN MEMORY

We remember the members of our SGS Community we have lost

Maurice Worthington Brice OS 1963	Alan Nuttall OS 1949	David Body OS 1955
John H Astington OS 1962	Reginald 'Reg' Holmes OS 1949	Nigel Kynaston Former Staff
Brinley 'Bryn' Robert Jackson OS 1986	John Maurice Tattum OS 1959	Charles Gordon Assioun OS 1956
Michael John Paulson OS 1960	Neil Rakestraw OS 1953	John Millington Burgess OS 1942
Noel Christopher Pollard OS 1962	Stuart Swainson Heywood OS 1966	Philip Walker Guest OS 1940
Stanley Bernard Berry OS 1950	David Leonard Mills OS 1946	Clive Rushton OS 1956
Robin Bradshaw Walton OS 1954	Ian Anthony Hamilton OS 1963	John R Street OS 1973
Nicholas 'Nick' Joseph Boyle OS 1968	Peter James Firth OS 1946	Alistair Mark Lee OS 1988
Jon Mason Governor and parent	John Brian Haworth OS 1945	Muhammad Hamas Tariq OS 2019

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

Lisa Carr Head of MFL (Junior School) Joined 2013	Mark Goddard Teacher of Maths Joined 2021	Claire Nichols Deputy Head (Junior School) Joined 2007
Laura Chandler Teacher of Biology Joined 2015	Peter Grant Head of Biology Joined 1990	Kieran Prudham Teacher of Maths Joined 2017
Laura Goddard Head of Sports Science Joined 2011	Stuart Helm Archivist Joined 2006	Alistair Thorley Teacher of Classical Civillisation Joined 1999
	Ian Killey Teacher of Physics Joined 2008	



We are undertaking a project to match all our Old Stops with their school houses. We are particularly lacking information from anyone who left school before the year 2000.

Before becoming known as Nicholson, Warren, Arden and Vernon, the houses were known as North, South, East and West. Any Old Stops who left school before the 1949 change will be automatically moved over to their corresponding house:

North = Nicholson
East = Warren
South = Arden
West = Vernon

To help gather this information you will find a postcard enclosed with your copy of Old Stops' Review, please could you fill out the postcard with your name and house information and send it back to us.

SCHOOL HOUSES PROJECT

We very much appreciate your help with this. To find out how your data is stored and used please scan the QR code.



SGS Golf Oppida Cup
18 September 2024

Remembrance Day
11 November 2024

SPA Christmas Fair
30 November 2024

Class of 2024 Christmas Drinks
18 December 2024

Senior School Carol Service
18 December 2024

Founder's Day Service
21 March 2025

London Event
Spring, Date TBC

Higher Education Conference
3 June 2025

Bursary Golf Day
19 June 2025

Speech Day
26 June 2025

Summer BBQ
28 June 2025

Supporting
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in your will

You can help to secure the future of SGS by leaving a gift in your will. Gifts of all sizes have a lasting impact on everything we can do here. Your support will ensure SGS is open to the brightest students and protect the future of the Bursary Fund or it may support future capital projects ensuring the School's facilities remain up to date/competitive.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will to SGS, please get in touch with us at externalrelations@stockportgrammar.co.uk or telephone us on +44(0)161 419 2408.

As a token of our appreciation, anyone who leaves a gift in their will to SGS will be invited to join the Shaa Society, whose members are invited to an annual event at the School.

Stockport Grammar School is a registered charity (No.1120199)

Thank you for your support



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