



# THE OLD PALUDIANS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

## WELCOME TO THE 2022 REUNION NEWSLETTER

**I**t is roughly a year since the last Newsletter. Some people have curtailed their activities, post Covid, and therefore say that they have little to write about.

However there are a lot of brave souls who have written in and we have been most grateful for that. We love to hear stories about your school days and your reminiscences. Please look out for a couple of memories from Daphne Middleton who must be one of our older members still writing in!

We have some articles as a response to our previous Newsletters, some memories of school, a section for Slough High School and a large, but necessary, section of 'In Memoriam' this time.

The Headmaster has filled us in with current developments in the school.

Covid seems to have left some people a little con-

fused as to whether they should go out and mix with others or not. I am hoping that this will not affect the Reunion and we will have the usual number of members in attendance. It has been three plus years since our last reunion, which makes this one very special. I know that I am looking forward to seeing everyone who will be there.

Meanwhile I hope that you all enjoy the current Newsletter. It is the only way that some people have of keeping in touch with what is happening in the school and to their old classmates.

My very best wishes,

**Glenys Laws** (nee DICKINSON 1959-65)

*Editor*

## MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

I suspect it's a testament to the dire straits the world (and possibly even the Association) finds itself in that I became Acting Chair on the long overdue retirement of Ron Fidler, four years after he commenced his one year term(!) It's been a difficult few years but it's greatly to be hoped that we are now per ardua and heading speedily ad astra (sorry – couldn't resist).

I'm pleased to report that we still have a strong and engaged Committee and are looking firmly to a successful and engaged future for the Association.

Plans for a March Reunion, three years after the last one in 2019, were of course scuppered by the advent of the Omicron variant of Coronavirus. The committee made the decision to accept the slot for a summer Reunion in July, at short notice, when it was offered on the basis that it was important for us to resume the tradition rather than let it lapse for yet another year.

2022 is an important milestone for the Association. Not only is it 110 years since the founding of Slough Secondary School but this is also the 40th anniversary of the final year of Slough High School for Girls and Slough Grammar School for Boys.

As it happens that final year was also my first year at the school. I remember well, arriving just in time (there were scurrilous rumours of lateness but nothing was ever proved), searching for Mr Hillier's (a tweed-wearing Geography Master with a strong west-country accent) class and finding myself in a bewildering soup of unfamiliar buildings, giant intimidating sixth formers who'd not been told the 70's had ended, characterful teachers and staff (putting it mildly), a terrifying new second deputy head called "Mr Rogers", and a really excellent academic and school environment. Mr Rees, who spent the entirety of our first Latin lesson, regaling us with stories of his exploits as a secret agent with accompanying Kung Fu illustrations and casually mentioning at the very end of the lesson, as we were leaving, that we "should probably learn amo" in time for the next lesson. Special mention must go out to the school restaurant as well which still served those excellent school lunches I remember so wistfully. In September of the same year we returned to a reunified Upton Grammar School – but that will be next year's fortieth anniversary.

For the Association, this year has seen us in something of a holding pattern. We've continued to collaborate strongly with the school. Although we've not run the usual grant process this year the Association has funded the Old Paludians Essay Prize, a number of academic prizes for speech day and there are plans for a dedicated Old Paludians Screen in the school to display archive photos and material from the Association to deepen and strengthen the ties between current and future Old Pals.

It has been a priority for the Committee to ensure the longevity of the Association and that work continues. It's important for the Association to widen its sphere of activities to bridge the gap between current and future Old Paludians. Where previous generations relied on the Association to help maintain contact and organise the Annual Reunion for example, more recent generations already have the tools to do that. We have an amazing body of people in the Old Paludians and where the Association can be of real value is in nurturing the esprit de corps which will enable the Old Paludians community to help guide, advise and assist future Old Paludians as well as each other.

I'd like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support, assistance and hard work this year and I'd like to extend an invitation to any members who would like to join the Committee or even those who have harboured dreams of leadership to get in touch.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at July's Reunion and AGM. A report will follow in due course in a future edition of the Newsletter and on the website.

My very best wishes to you all. Ad astra!!

**Rajesh Sharma**

SGS/UGS1981-1987

## RON FIDLER



As acting chair I took over from Ron Fidler who finally retired four years after agreeing to take the role on for one year. I'd like to take this moment to pay tribute to Ron and his sterling efforts on behalf of the Association over the last few years but also across his lifetime.

When Ron stepped down, and we informed the school, they were so moved that they honoured him with the UCGS Honorary Fellowship Award – given to a person or persons for their outstanding commitment and contribution to our school.

Ron attended Slough Grammar School for Boys as a student between 1943-50

It's clear from the archives that he was an active member of the school community throughout his time there and an athlete of some distinction. Ron also started his Old Paludians career in 1949. Some highlights....

**1947** Cricket Third Eleven – a bowler of some distinction / second in the 100 yards /first in the Relay for Gray House

**1948** Second Eleven Cricket Team / Second Eleven Football / Won the relay again for Gray! / Matriculation (top) standard in School Certificate.

**1949** Prefect / Revived Dramatic Society: Windsor Castle by L. du Garde Peach - Played Earl of Salisbury and The Farce of The Worthy Pierre Paulin - Tibald Lambkin / Second Eleven Football / First Eleven Cricket team – CAPTAIN! / Old Paludians Junior Social Club – Treasurer

**1950** First Eleven Cricket Team - Awarded Colours / Left school to go into business. In the 1950s Ron represented the Old Pals in county sports, notably hockey and in the spirit of service, typical of the man, agreed to umpire games after he decided to stop playing hockey and continued to be an active member of The Old Paludians Association and a member of the Committee through the 1950s. Ron's business career continued apace. He joined Black and Decker in 1955 and eventually became the President and Chief Operating Officer of what was then a large multinational company valued at over a billion dollars (now \$30 billion) in the early 1980s.

Ron has stayed active throughout his life. He continues his business interests, stepped in to become Chair of the Old Paludians Association and despite only promising a year, has stayed on for several years only finally retiring this year after making a huge contribution to stabilising the Association and expanding and deepening the ties between the Old Paludians and the School.

Such is his value, that the other members of the committee finally acquiesced to his resigning as Chair but would not agree to let him leave the Committee, from where he will continue to contribute to the school community.

As Chair of Governors I sent the following statement:

“Ron is the best of us. He is a testament to the quality of person this school aims to develop and has always aimed to develop. A well-rounded individual who makes the most of his talents to become a productive, engaged, contributor to our society.

I got to know Ron when I joined the Old Paludians Association a few years ago. It is testament to the longevity of the school community, that although we were separated by several decades we actually had teachers in common. I immediately warmed to him. Ron is an impressive person but he's also kind, considerate and thoughtful and for someone who previously employed tens of thousands of people he is surprisingly reasonable but determined when he needs to be. He is a great leader and I've learned a great deal from working with him.

The principles of this School are Unity, Curiosity, Growth and Service. Ron exemplifies all of these and has done since he was a student. I'm proud to be associated with him through the School and the Old Paludians Association - and you all should be too.”

The Association and the school community has been blessed with a number of people over the years who have exemplified all that is best about us and I know not all of them have their efforts recognised. Ron deserves this small tribute for all that he has done and the person that he is but I'm sure he would not mind me saying that this tribute to him is also a tribute to those like him who have been part of our community.

Many thanks Ron.

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our school values of Unity, Curiosity, Growth and Service permeate all our work and the activities and opportunities we provide to our students. I want to take this opportunity to thank all former students of this school for their ongoing support and encouragement. Your commitment to helping us to grow and develop is a source of inspiration to me as Headteacher, but also provides our young people with relatable role models and invaluable support that they truly value. Thank you for all you do for our school community.

## SCHOOL UPDATE

It has been a very successful year at Upton Court Grammar School. With the disruption to education and examinations of the last two years, due to the pandemic, all at the school end this academic year with an appreciated sense of normality – and the associated busyness that a usual end of term brings. This year, we launched a new school development plan which intends to deliver our revised school mission and vision:

### Mission

Upton Court Grammar School ensured all students fulfilled their academic and personal aspirations and **thrived** as successful and engaged citizens

### Vision

Future Global Changemakers

The school's strategic development plan 2021-4 has marked a departure from traditional school improvement models (focused on examination outcomes) and centres around a holistic vision for education using the metaphor of 'thriving'. We have drawn on the international research carried out by Dr Valerie Hannon, who advises the OECD and others, and having worked with her, we devised a strategic plan that seeks to empower all students at UCGS to thrive across four levels: Global, Societal, interpersonal and Intrapersonal.



### We have set ourselves rigorous success criteria for 2024:

Intrapersonal: a secure sense of self; responsibility for personal health, fitness and wellbeing	Interpersonal: respectful relationships in diverse, technologized societies	Societal: engage in a participative, authentic and meaningful democracy	Global: Acquire global competence
By 2024, all UCGS students have a clear sense of self and take active responsibility for their personal health, fitness and wellbeing so that students thrive at an intrapersonal level	By 2024, all UCGS students are able to build and maintain respectful relationships with others, including those who are different from them, in both face-to-face & online settings so that they thrive at an interpersonal level.	By 2024, all UCGS students have a profound understanding of their role as a citizen in a 21 <sup>st</sup> century democracy and have authentic opportunities to improve their community or campaign for change so that they thrive at a societal level	By 2024, all UCGS students have engaged in intercultural learning, have awareness of global issues and debates and can articulate their views respectfully and with impact so that they thrive at a global level
Key Strategies:			
Social and emotional learning	Student leadership development	Active citizenship	Oracy and Intercultural learning
Develop the UCGS Mindset			



The impact of our work in year one has been impressive. Indeed, a recent Trust Review, carried out by Trustees, governors and educationalists from across Pioneer Educational Trust reported:

“Exceptional progress has been made against the school’s development plan – the levels of thriving are very well embedded” (Trust Review, 6th June 2022)

Through our work, we have taken a number of steps to embed learning across the four levels of thriving. For example:

- We have repackaged our curriculum so that our ‘Ad Astra’ (personal development) provision aligns with each level of thriving
- Each subject discipline’s super curriculum now reflects each level of thriving
- Our pastoral programme includes a focus on a different level of thriving each day of the week
- Subject teams have engaged in collaborative professional development and learning, focusing on

trialling and embedding one level of thriving in their taught curriculum

- We have introduced a ‘drop-down day’ for each level of thriving across the year to undertake focussed learning in each area.
- In July, we planned and delivered a cross-curricular week, where students worked in multi- year house teams to engage in intrapersonal, interpersonal, societal and global challenges.

The impact of the work has been that, in addition to the usual broad national curriculum at Key Stage 3 and the English Baccalaureate curriculum in Key Stage 4 (covering maths, english, science, a modern foreign language and a humanity), all students have had a programme of:

- Social and emotional learning (intrapersonal thriving)
- Leadership development (interpersonal thriving)
- Active citizenship (societal thriving)
- Oracy & intercultural learning (global thriving)

**In addition to the above, we have introduced our UCGS Habits of Mind, which we promote in day-to- day lessons to support students to develop key 21st century skills. These are aligned to our four school values:**

Values	Unity	Curiosity	Growth	Service
Habits of Mind	Collaborating effectively Communicating with precision & respect Leading with purpose	Thinking flexibly Wondering & questioning Challenging assumptions	Learning to learn Crafting & improving Managing impulsivity & persisting	Listening with understanding & empathy Giving & receiving feedback Creating & innovating ethically

Teachers use the UCGS Habits of Mind when planning and delivering lessons and explicitly teach these all-important behaviours and invite student reflection on them. We have supported the development of the Habits of Mind through a half-termly focus on each school value and students' behaviours have been acknowledged and rewarded.

## An Enriched Curriculum

At UCGS, the curriculum is the vehicle by which we will achieve our mission and vision. We seek to go beyond the expected curriculum at every key stage to grow Future Global Changemakers:

In addition to all of the above, we have planned and delivered over 350 additional curriculum activities across academic year 2021-22, including:

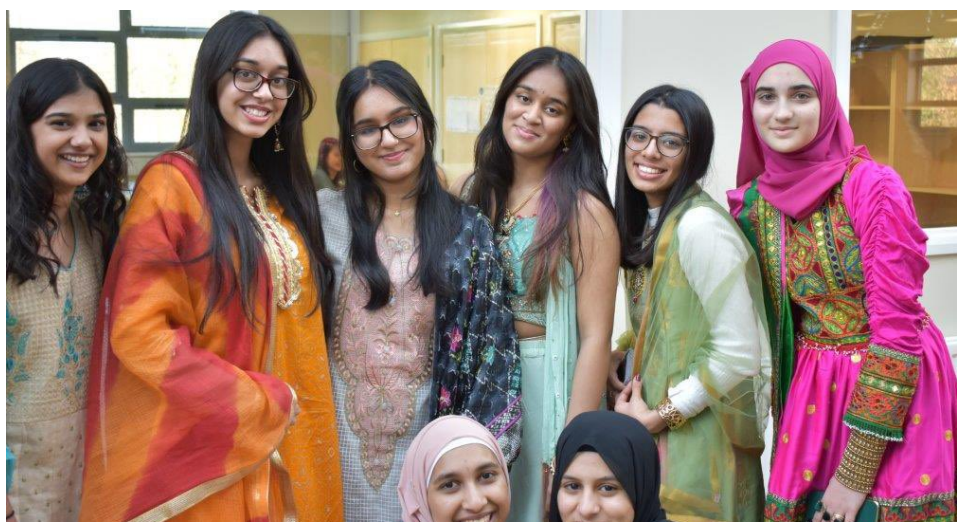
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh expeditions (Bronze and Silver)</li> <li>• Year 10 Geography field visits to Amersham and Windsor</li> <li>• Virtual ASK Apprenticeship awareness assembly</li> <li>• Scholars' talks, including student Finance, life and future post grad, alumni visits</li> <li>• GCSE Theatre Trip - Blood Brothers</li> <li>• Year 11 Exam Attack Workshop with Wayne Dixon</li> <li>• Oxbridge workshops</li> <li>• Year 12 Futures Day</li> <li>• More able event – Holocaust Talk</li> <li>• UK Intermediate Maths Challenge</li> <li>• Old Paludians Essay Competition</li> <li>• Feeding Britain's Future- IGD Employability workshop</li> <li>• Student leader training</li> <li>• Dream - a live, online performance set in a virtual midsummer forest</li> <li>• 1-2-1 - Personal Guidance for Careers</li> <li>• Liz Kessler Live Author Event</li> <li>• UKMT Junior Maths Challenge</li> <li>• Sixth Form Wellbeing Day</li> <li>• Live stream lecture on the Amazon Rainforests by Dr Beradi</li> <li>• Year 12 Oracy workshops</li> <li>• Female Lead STEM webinar</li> <li>• Inter-House debates</li> <li>• Sixth Form Consent Assemblies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Exam Stress workshop with Kooth</li> <li>• House Sports Events</li> <li>• Year 11 Geography visit to Amersham</li> <li>• Student Trip to Oxford University</li> <li>• Macbeth Theatre Visit at the Globe</li> <li>• DoFE evening with the Secretary State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport</li> <li>• KS5 Mock Bar Competition</li> <li>• Slough school Mock Bar Visit</li> <li>• Y11 Computer Science revision workshop</li> <li>• Pupil Premium Royal Parks Visit</li> <li>• KS3 Magistrates Mock Trial Competition</li> <li>• World Book Day</li> <li>• National Careers Week</li> <li>• Year 7 Sculpture Park visit</li> <li>• Spring Performing Arts Showcase</li> <li>• GCSE Drama Theatre Trip - The Woman in Black</li> <li>• Pioneer Parliament Meetings and Workshops</li> <li>• Year 9 and 10 Tate Modern Trip</li> <li>• GCSE PE Y10 Sports Leaders Trip</li> <li>• Key Stage 3 Spring Fair</li> <li>• GCSE PE Rock Climbing Trips</li> <li>• GCSE Rowing Visits to Eton Dorney</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live 'meet the employers' session</li> <li>• PE visits to Twickenham Stadium</li> <li>• The PE ACTIVE Week</li> <li>• Year 12 Work Experience</li> <li>• Year 10 Work Experience</li> <li>• Pioneer Trust Student Charity Challenge 2022</li> <li>• Y12 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge</li> <li>• Skills for Life Workshops Prize Giving Events</li> <li>• Poetry By Heart Competition</li> <li>• Twelfth Night performance - Shakespeare's Globe</li> <li>• Oracy: 'Own your Space' presentations</li> <li>• Year 10 Physical Geography visit to Amersham FSC</li> <li>• SALAD - 'Speaking And Listening All Day'</li> <li>• Euro Football Tournament to celebrate European Day of Languages</li> <li>• Remembrance Assemblies</li> <li>• Christmas Fundraising Fair &amp; Juliet Theatre Visit</li> <li>• A level Physics mechanics trip to Thorpe Park</li> <li>• Adventure Learning Day</li> <li>• Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning</li> <li>• Whole School Christmas Lunch &amp; Jumper Day</li> <li>• Computing in Action Seminars</li> <li>• PGL Netball and Football Tour 2022</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCAS Days - Create Your Future</li> <li>• Christmas Food Bank Collection</li> <li>• Cambridge Coding Competition for Schools</li> <li>• BMS Pharmaceutical Careers Talk</li> <li>• Inter-house Dodgeball</li> <li>• Fake News, Extremism and Truth Workshops</li> <li>• 11 ExamAttack Workshop with Wayne Dixon</li> <li>• Biology Field Studies</li> <li>• UCGS Chess Tournament</li> <li>• Ukraine fundraising activities</li> <li>• Red Nose Day fundraising and awareness-raising</li> <li>• Art Spring ceramic workshop</li> <li>• To Kill a Mocking Bird theatre visit</li> <li>• Maths Mechanics Practical Workshop with AMSP</li> <li>• The Curious Incident theatre visit</li> <li>• Student Leadership Training at Eton College</li> <li>• First aid training for all students</li> <li>• Y11 Prom</li> <li>• ABRSM Graded Music Examinations</li> <li>• Year 7 Harry Potter Studio Tour</li> <li>• Conservation visit to London Zoo</li> <li>• History National Civil War Museum in Newark Visit</li> </ul> |
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- A level Geography field trip to North Wales
- Year 12 and 13 Cultural Dress day
- Whole school Cultural Dress day
- Sport England Visit to UCGS
- Say Two Productions Macbeth and An Inspector Calls performance workshop
- Chemistry Top of The Bench Competition
- Youth Sport Trust Visit to UCGS
- Pioneer Parliament Houses of Parliament visit
- Year 8 More Able Art visit
- Everybody's Talking About Jamie Theatre Trip
- LGBT+ Workshop
- The Woman in Black Theatre
- Thriving and succeeding in life by being your authentic self - going to Cambridge University and careers afterwards
- Blood Brothers Masterclass
- Biology in Action Workshops
- Student Careers Interviews by Markel International
- Sports Fixtures Week with St Bernard's
- Cambridge Chemistry Race Competition
- Sixth Form trip to Brasenose college, Oxford
- Year 8 GCSE Transition Evening
- Exploring Polar Environments
- Day at Royal Holloway University's Geography department
- Employability event FBFRS
- Performing Arts Summer
- Showcase
- Getting into your top university (Presented by PIXL Associate)
- Cultural Diversity Day
- Kooth Exam Anxiety workshop
- District Athletics Competitions
- KS3 Girls' Football Club - UEFA
- Women's European Championships 2022
- MIND Mental Health Workshop
- Commonwealth Games Baton Relay 2022
- Physics Planetarium visit
- Year 12 Changing Places visit to Chalvey and Marlow
- Citizenship & Democracy Visit by Tan Dhesi MP
- Bryan Scott Znaptag career talk
- Rebecca Wilde talks Queer Studies
- Current Economic Theory Conference
- Published authors and books in the British Library

One of the highlights of the year has been commissioning student leaders from every year group, led by Head students, Maryam and Casper. Students have set up, promoted and run their own clubs and societies in a spirit of unity and service. These include subject societies, including chemistry, biology and mathematics, as well as the robotics society, the female lead society, the Islamic society and law.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Old Paludians Association for your support of our school and community. Your continued support enriches our school provision, for which students and staff are immensely grateful. I wish you and yours all the very best.

**Mark Pritchard**  
Headteacher



# RESPONSES TO THE LAST NEWSLETTER

## Linda Osborn (SHS 1955-62)

I have read the Newsletter laughed and felt sad at some who have passed away. You can't help feeling very privileged to have been part of such an incredible institution. My father was determined that I should win that scholarship to Slough High School. It has imprinted on me that a great education is what truly matters and reading extracts about the teachers and what characters they were, they were the influencers.

Joking apart, I was a Headteacher for many years and believe it or not without a good caretaker to rely on you can quickly sink. So well done to John Walsh a much valued part of the school team.

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## Bob Moss (SGS 1956-64)

As Dick Croker recalls, our German master was Mr Sonnex, a lively character with a sense of humour, and as part of the learning process we used to chant things out aloud. For instance, the German prepositions followed by the accusative case; we would chant "durch, für, gegen, wider, ohne, um" over and over again. I can still hear that chant in my head now. Some may decry this type of learning but I've never forgotten that rule. There's something else from a Mr Sonnex class which I've never forgotten either: one day he breezed into the room and announced that every boy would speak only German in that session - any use of English would attract a whack on the backside with a slipper. Three or four boys soon offended and received their dose, much to the merriment of the others. Then at some point

I felt the need to say something and couldn't put it into German, so thinking an explanatory apology would suffice, raised my hand and began "I'm sorry sir but...". That was as far as I got. "Come here, Moss," was the response, and I too received the prescribed punishment. At the time I was more piqued than pained - being something of a goody-goody. I was rarely in trouble with teachers and felt there must be something wrong! However, it was all done in a good spirit and nobody bore any resentment afterwards. Difficult to imagine anything like that happening today!

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## Athar Siddiqui (SGS 1974-78)

I loved this publication and read the articles with nostalgia.

Barry Gates (SGS 1954-1960) mentioned in his excellent article "An hour or two later, waiting for Mr. Portus to arrive for a geography lesson,...". That was interesting as I had mentioned in my article, where I was a pupil at SGS from 1974 to 1978, the same Mr Portus - I reminisced: "Mr Thompson His tory, stylish Mr Riley Maths, and the very aged Mr Portus for Geography". Mr Portus had obviously been teaching at SGS for at least 10 years by then, from the 60s or before.

Great to remember some names of teachers that I had forgotten, eg Ingers for PE and the austere looking masters in their gowns like Mr Wharmby still there in the 70s.

It was a fabulous read.



## MISCELLANY

### Bob Moss (SGS 1956-64)

As for most of the population, my travelling has been severely curtailed during lockdown, so there is limited news to report. However, I have this year resumed a long-distance walk begun with two friends back in 2019 – the Gloucestershire Way, which takes a rather circuitous route from Chepstow to Tewkesbury. Like many such paths in this county, the waymarking is erratic, so there have been a number of wrong turns, cursing and retracing of steps. However, we now have only the final leg to walk from Winchcombe to Tewkesbury in order to complete the 100-mile journey, which takes in the Forest of Dean, the Severn Valley and the Cotswolds – some of the finest scenery available in this part of the world. Later this year my brother Stephen (SGS 1961-68) and I plan to complete the Yorkshire Wolds Way, also begun but not completed in 2019. After that, we'll have to see how many miles these aging legs have left in them!

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### Roger Colgate (SGS 1952-56)

Unfortunately I cannot attend this year but would like to send my best wishes to all that were in my year. God willing I will be attending next year.

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### Ron Harris (SGS 1941-47)

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year, but wish everyone a happy day.

I've recently spoken on the telephone to David Smith (SGS 1942-1947) and Marian Jarrett nee Smith (SHS 1943-1948). I keep in regular contact with Dave, and Marian says she is still in touch with Elizabeth Myerscough (SHS 1943-1948). We are now all in our nineties!

### David Browne (Staff SGS 1964-1996)

I would also like to report that Chris North has been elected Captain of my golf club, Gerrards Cross GC in its centenary year. He had been Chairman for several years. On the day of his 'drive-in' he and his incoming Lady Captain arrived on the first fairway in a helicopter. I cannot remember when he was at SGS but as he is in the Veterans' section it was a long time ago. Both he and his brother Andrew played cricket for the School.

I spoke to Chris North yesterday and he told me he left SGS in 1972 – 50 years ago! He even plays in the seniors section of the club – I can hardly believe it. Sadly, he told me that his brother Andrew, who left in 1970, was killed in a road accident some years ago.

It all makes me feel very old – which I am.

The Seniors Section is open to all golfers over 60. Although part of the club they have their own competitions, club fixtures etc played from forward tees (a shorter course than for club competitions). I do not belong because they tend to play at the crack of dawn – and in any case I am even 'too old' for them. There are 4 of us, all over 80 (two are 87!) who trundle round together. None of us could enter a competition as we are too feeble. Chris would now be about 68 years old and he has to enter everything, as captain. I am pleased to say that his handicap is the same as mine – 28. I have been as low as 12 many decades ago. It is unusual for a captain with a high handicap (i.e. a poor player) to be elected, so he must be highly thought of by the powers that be. As it is Centenary Year, his term in office will be very onerous on and off the course.

# MEMORIES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Don Fraser (SGS 1953-58)

On this particular day, a few of us were standing around chatting in the covered area next to the senior end entrance. Alongside us was a row of dustbins. I don't know why, but for some reason, probably my restless probing mind! I lifted one of the lids and peered inside. My idle gaze settled on a rather crumpled document which I withdrew and carefully straightened out ..wow.. it was the Master Copy of an exam paper that I was due to sit in about a week's time. Back to the bin, there were more, at least one more exam paper for our year, and a number for lower years in the school. At this great distance in time, 60+ years now, I can only remember that one paper was for Chemistry, probably set by Mr (Chemi) Morgan and the other was Geography, probably set by Mr Portus. I can't be absolutely sure, but the exam papers may have been for the 'Mocks.' I'm sure you all remember those exams in which you had to achieve a good mark to enable you to take that particular subject at 'O' level. So how did the exams go? Well, the Chemistry paper was exactly as expected, but not so the Geography paper. It had been completely rewritten. No longer was it a set of neatly typed questions, it had been replaced by a hurried, hand written, new set. Of course we never found out how Mr Portus got to know about this incredible find. I do remember that our activities did attract a number of other lads, all keen to inspect the contents of the dustbin, some lads were even making notes! I suppose someone must have seen what we were up to and reported it to a higher authority. I wonder if Dr Long was told! It would certainly have been a bit tricky to make any enquiries! One final comment, my modest bag of 'O' levels did include both subjects, but of course, those exams were set by Oxford, no chance of a peek at their exam papers before the big day!

## Malcom Hellings (SGS 1947-52)

Not only the school but the world has changed since those now, what seem to be very innocent days, back in the 1950s.

I was at the Grammar School from 1947 until 1952. GAD, was our Maths teacher for a number of years as we passed through the school. If he ever remembered me he probably would in today's parlance consider me a 'waste of space'. I did not cover myself with glory during my time in Lascelles Road. I left with a few O-levels. After National Service I had several jobs finally settling in Intertype on the Farnham Road. I had got engaged and thought I had better get some sense into my life with the added responsibilities that marriage would bring. I worked in the sales department and I can remember his wife Ruth working on the Farnham Road in the company's shipping department. I have often wondered since those days, if she ever went home and told your father about the old Grammar School boy she had met, what he would have said about me if he even remembered me.

With the coming of the computer and photocomposition, Intertype's days were numbered. The line composing machine, a marvellous piece of engineering, manufactured on the Farnham Road was soon as dead as the dodo. After leaving Intertype I joined a start-up company selling Swiss bookbinding equipment and spent 25 very happy and successful years working out of Iver. Almost every magazine or printed book would have needed Muller Martini equipment somewhere in its production. I retired back in 1997 so I have had nearly 25 years of retirement and enjoyed every minute of that time. I often wonder if I had applied myself a little more while at Lascelles Road how would my life have changed? It would be difficult to know how things could have panned out any better. The years take their toll but Julie and I are still out walking, cycling and leading group walks regularly in London. Still married to the same lady 60 + years later and we can still enjoy doing things together. I am a very fortunate fellow!

The old school has changed hugely since I was there. I would guess there were 500 students back all those years ago. Today there must be well over dou-

ble that number. There are many more buildings, not all of them very attractive. The lovely old gym has gone, the remarkable Don Luck's domain in my time, to be replaced by a very ugly box. And the worse change of all for me is that it is no longer called Slough Grammar School. The curious thing is I now live just a stone's throw from the Grammar School but somehow the name change makes it difficult to identify with my old school. I am sure that my old headmaster Nobby Clarke will be turning over in his grave because of the name change.

## Keith French (SGS 1963-70)

### The Return of Old Fears

This year I have once again found cause to reflect on my schooldays. Many people have declared that the 1960s formed the 20th century's most important decade of change. A period when youth found its voice. No longer did boys simply leave school and become men treading the paths their fathers and grandfathers had done before them, no longer were girls expected to simply learn to cook, sew and look after the children. This was a decade of change, we rebelled against the establishment aligning ourselves with the various emerging youth groups, the very existence of which put fear into the hearts of politicians the world over. A powerful lobby was speaking out and it was not going to go away. Girls' schools were gradually offering a greater range of study subjects, women at last started to find their rightful place in society gradually competing with men for the best jobs. Sadly today as we witness political changes in Afghanistan these equal opportunities are still not to be found everywhere in the world.

Many of us back then lived in fear of the USSR and its political aspirations. We had read George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' and the investigative journalism of the day that had disclosed Stalin's atrocities. We had reached our own conclusions that Communism may not be as idealistic as the earlier revolutionaries had preached. However we were far from agreeing on the tactics which were being adopted by the US leaders and their allies to suppress its growth, which were costing so many young lives. An era of peaceful protest was gaining momentum. As I recalled in an earlier article, the words of David Brown, in a diversionary history lesson that had strayed from the syllabus subject, of the Romans, Normans or some other long forgotten conquerors, still ring in my ears, when he declared we 'needn't worry about the Russians it's the Chinese who we should watch out for'. Perhaps now history has proved him wrong?

I occasionally wish that we had spent more time learning about modern Europe and its politics. I could of course have gone on to read these subjects at university but by the time I reached 17 I'd had enough of school. Despite the persistent efforts of the career's officer at Slough College who, a few months later endeavoured to get me to attend an interview at Durham for a place she'd found through the clearance system, I was resolute. A whole new world beckoned.

But fast forward to 2022. Just as the world struggled to emerge from a pandemic, the likes of which it had not faced before, the unimaginable happened. On February 24th Vladimir Putin embarked on a war with Russia's neighbour, Ukraine, with devastating consequences. The fear of my youth of the prospect of a Third World War reared its ugly head again. The realisation was that this conflict was now right on our doorstep, European countries were again at war. The death toll on both sides continues to mount up daily and as I write this piece, Radio 4's Today programme reports that this conflict has led to there being a record 14 million refugees who have left the Ukraine already. Again I reflect on the past as Bob Portus, in one of his geography lessons, listed through the states that formed the USSR, I can still hear him telling us that the 'Ukraine was the wheat bowl of Russia and the Baltic states were the industrial heartland'. I can't help but wonder if Putin has his sights set on these countries as well?

This has caused me to wrestle with my conscience. Back in my youth I set out my beliefs and joined the throng of young people who wanted to make a difference by speaking out against the injustices of racism, war and advocated nuclear disarmament. Jim Wharmby's words on war are still with me 'first you can expect diplomacy when that fails, what follows is war and when that fails the opposing sides are forced to return to diplomacy again'. Wise words from a man who truly knew the horrors of conflict. Today when I'm asked 'well what do you think we should do then', I don't quite know what to say. I still see war as senseless, the misery and suffering it brings is unforgivable. Perhaps I now have to concede that a military deterrent is the only way to ensure that leaders like Putin, with dictatorial tendencies do not embark on campaigns such as this in search of some former lost aspirations for empire building. President Macron of France believed he had the ear of the Russian leader but I can't help imagining that as the pair sat at either end of the enormous meeting room table in the Kremlin, neither of them heard clearly each other's words! Macron reminded me of Chamber-

lain who, in 1939 on his return from Germany after meeting with Hitler declared there would be 'peace in our times'. Why do we all still continue to get this dream so wrong?

The news back in February and March caused me to dig out some of my favourite old protest folk songs, to relearn them and perhaps give them an airing. I changed some of the lyrics of Bob Dylan's 'Masters of War' first written in 1962, and recalled the days when I sat and sang it on a swing in our garden all those years ago. My mother declared she didn't like it, finding it depressing. Dylan of course was a young man back then, but 'my generation' are all older now and the changes I made to one verse are now perhaps more appropriate.

You said I was young,  
 You said I was unlearned  
 Well there's one thing I know  
 Now I'm older than you  
 Still Jesus would never forgive what you do

Another favourite protest song of mine is Pete Seeger's 'Where Have All The Flowers Gone'. Ironically based on a Ukrainian folk song, written whilst on a plane when heading to Oberlin College. One of very few venues that he could play at during the Macarthy era in the US. I heard Joan Baez one of the greatest female protest singers and activists say that it was Seeger who had shown her how to be a first class performer and still lead a principled life. I have tried very hard to follow these aspirations and have always sought to maintain my integrity in everything I do. Just occasionally I question the basis of this commitment.

A few weeks ago as part of my 70th birthday celebrations I was taken to Scotland to trace my maternal ancestry. I stood on the battlefield at Culloden and I looked at the stones marking the mass graves of the Clans. Here, amidst the aftermath, of the last hand to hand battle on British soil I saw where in just 15 minutes the army of my mother's ancestor's Clan lost 1500 men when Government troops simply massacred them. I could not help but compare this to the conflict in Mariupol which in just a few weeks has seen the city razed to the ground leaving immeasurable losses on both sides.

During the pandemic I had not been able to accept requests to be a guest speaker at events. If ever I'm asked again I wonder what subject I might like to share with the gathered audience? I normally try to present a humorous, light - hearted approach to my reminiscences but perhaps this year the topic

may be a little more sobering. One perhaps recalling the principles of my youth and how I hope they still stand today. As I look at our world as it is now, I might end up before I sit down or indeed conclude this reflection by citing the last few words of Pete Seeger's lyrics, 'Oh when will we ever learn'?

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## Wyn Loveday (SGS 1948-54)

I had occasion recently to go on line specifically to look up the Old Paludians having been an active member for some 20 years plus and was curious to discover if any of my old associates were still around.

I was not disappointed, although not all the news was good news. My sources of information were the minutes of the Association Newsletter of March 2019 and a selection of photos from various Reunion reports.

The Newsletter editorial immediately mentioned the name of Ian Bryant, still going strong at the age of 93 years - amazing! I had the pleasure of playing in the same team as Bronc on many occasions. His memories of SGS made very interesting reading, even though he was years ahead of me.

It was also surprisingly emotional to see the names of Bert Charman, Don Luck and music teacher Mr Harries. To these were added the sad news of the passing of old team mates Clive Toogood and John Tebbit.

Names appeared of younger players such as Rob Hannigan and all those mentioned in his short history of Slough Town Football Club. Even the mention of Dr Long brought back memories although not necessarily good ones! These are all capped, however, by the mention of GAD Dickinson the best Maths teacher that ever lived!

My own story might explain my connection with older members as well as the younger ones.

I first played football for the Pals at age 14 years while still at SGS. The initial three years was spent playing with the likes of Bronc Bryant, John Tebbit, Frank Biggs and many more.

The club then, in an echo of your present problems, felt the need to attract younger members. To achieve this we formed an under 18 side and entered the Slough and Windsor Youth Football League Second Division.

Being just eligible at 17 years I dropped out of the senior club and captained the youth side. The youngsters forming this side were lads such as Clive Toogood, Dave Windle, Norman Ward, Tony Southam, Jimmy Willis, Jimmy Clark and others, who must



**Old pals first team around 1958. Left:** Vic Buckland.  
**Back row:** (?) Turner, Alan Rackstraw, John Lewis, Ken Hall, Codge Taylor and Jim Hobbs.  
**Front row:** Tony Bridges, Myself, Ray Bush, Brian Parsons and Alun Jenkins.



### End of season supper

forgive me for not remembering all!

In that first year we swept all aside to win promotion and in the following year, with me now over the age limit, they won the First Division title and the Berks and Bucks Cup! From the initial introduction of these players and of others following them, all of them moving on into the senior club, we experienced unprecedented success winning promotions year after year and in 1963 we achieved a first for the club in reaching the Slough Town Challenge Cup Final, unfortunately losing 1-3 to Cooper's Sports.

That day we were represented by Ken Hall, Brian Anthill, Dave Ralley, Mike Gillham (Capt), Clive Toogood, Wyn Loveday, Bobby Stevens, John Hines (SGS 1947-55), Norman Ward, Tony Southam.

Of course it was not only football that influenced



### Lands End and back in a weekend

the camaraderie. Once a month we held a dance at the Dolphin Hotel which was always very well attended with numbers increased by the presence of hockey club members and ex Slough High School girls.

On Sundays a group would travel to Taplow to help in the construction of the new ground and clubhouse under the supervision of Stan Jones, the man who truly kept it all going.

One last note. I think with mentioning simply for the curiosity value, 22 years ago we moved to Norfolk and whilst playing golf for Royal Norwich GC against Swaffham I was approached after the match by one of the opposition who had just heard that I had lived in Slough. The ensuing conversation revealed that we had both attended SGS.

One of the young schoolboys that we occasionally brought into senior sides was a very young and slightly built lad who we had nicknamed Little Billy Picton and it was a grown up Bill Picton that I had

now met - a small world !

Sadly I have heard recently that Bill has passed away.

I hope that my rambling has been of some interest. It has meant a lot to me to read news about my old colleagues.

Just to finish off, I attach some photos of days gone by with the Old Paludians, a great period in my life.

My apologies for the amateurish set up of the photos but it was the best I could do.

## Dick (Richard) Croker (SGS 1956 - 63)

### Detentions and Prefects.

At a time which I forget, the Headmaster gave prefects the power to issue detentions.

Some were sensible but others seemed to enjoy having that power over others. Instead of the usual warning for a misdemeanour, a detention was automatic. Needless to say I was given quite a few. It meant that the prefect also had to stay behind for an hour after school. In some we had to copy lines and in others write an essay on the prefect's chosen subject. I thought that too many people were given unfair detentions.

I made sure that I got two detentions in the same day and that meant that a prefect had to stay for two hours but often reduced to one and a half. The detentions were not stopped, so I made sure I was in detention every day, preferably doubled, but not always successful.

This carried on for a few weeks, then the powers were removed.

I was called to the Head's office because he had a daily report as part of the agreement with prefects. He said that he had noted that I was given more detentions than the rest put together and asked why this was.

I explained that my purpose had been fulfilled and he asked me to explain. I told him that some prefects were, in my opinion, abusing their authority and that I had decided to ensure that only staff were permitted the privilege.

I had achieved that objective. He did not know what to make of this and I was asked to leave.

When I entered the sixth form I was made a prefect.

There was a smoking group which met in the covered entrance to the gym hall. I was lookout, having temporarily given up smoking. I was good at my post and no one was caught. Until... The staff obviously knew what was happening (by noting the number of

butt ends? Or clouds of smoke?). One day I was not aware that a member of staff had somehow managed to get behind me. Although I had my back to a wall he pounced when I was looking in the opposite direction. I was removed and thus no warning was given to the others who had been waiting to move in. I was summoned to the Headmaster and I handed my badge back at his request.

I was well behaved in the 6th form – one must set an example.

## Adrian Platt (SGS 1959-66)

I've read with interest the stories in recent Newsletters, reminding me of staff and fellow pupils.

My memories are mixed. I joined SGS in the second year in the "temporary huts" across Lascelles Road, moving from a small grammar school in rural Somerset. SGS was a different world to me and it took some years to settle, probably not until I repeated the fifth year. Like other contributors, I still sometimes wonder what it was all about, but SGS must have been of some benefit as I spent 30 plus years as a social worker, gaining both professional qualifications and an Honours Degree along the way.

I found academic work hard, and in the 6th form Mr Doncaster's woodwork shop was a refuge that also gave me an 'O' level. He was an understanding man unlike some teachers in my early years. In the 6th form I took Economics under Mr Browne, and recall some of his - what would now be non-pc comments about how Chinese peasants grew cabbages on their homes. Major Wharmby, who took history, was a firm but fair teacher whose interest in his subject was passed on to me. Geography was my particular interest, and I recall field trips to Juniper Hall and Preston Montfort.

These were led by Messrs Portus, Evans and Strachan, who led also, with Mr Crocombe, the annual Easter Lake District visits. These gave me a life-long love of hill walking, and I recall meeting Russell Hancock (Summer 2021 Newsletter) on walking holidays later on in the Lake District, Scotland and Wales. Russell mentioned the French teacher Mr Peter Smith. I recall his restored 1930's Peugeot and particularly the Citroen 2CV he had. His driving the 2CV around an empty front staff car park in the icy winter of 1963 without losing traction fascinated me and I later owned several derivatives such as the Dyane and Ami with great pleasure.

Some of the extra-curricular activities were what made SGS survivable. The Photographic Society

members were allowed to use the darkroom behind the Biology Laboratory for film processing and black and white enlarging. I recall Mr Crocombe advising us, during our weekly sessions, and fellow pupil Stanley Mrowka who was also a regular there.

I couldn't retire quickly enough 15 years ago, and we live just inside Dartmoor National Park.

I am still in touch with Roy Alcorn, Ian Cook and Terry Tindall; we were all SGS 1966 leavers. We try to meet up annually, pandemics, health etc allowing, and usually in Bath.

### **Wanting to get in touch**

Adrian Platt would like to contact Stan (Stanislas or Stanley) Mrowka, who I believe was at SGS 1958 to 1965. (Please forward details to the Editor)

### **Wanted**

Does anyone have the September 1965 SGS whole school photograph ? I would like to acquire an original or a good quality copy. (Please contact the Editor)

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## **MEMORIES OF SLOUGH HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Jean Jackson nee Gouldthor (SHS 1947-52)**

I have many happy memories of my years at SHS. It was my third grammar school, on account of my parents moving around during the war.

Seventy years ago I began my teaching course at Whiteheads C of E college in Putney.

Miss Eileen Tucker from SHS joined as a lecturer the same year.

As I began my teaching career I joined the Old Paludians and have attended every meeting up until four years ago. There were no girls from my year at that last meeting.

Health problems restrict many activities now, but I still paint and exhibit and have recently written a book of my life story for the family.

My beloved husband Glyn died ten years ago, but our children and grandchildren are a joy.

Inevitably the Old Paludians has changed over the years, along with the march of technology. I look forward to receiving the OPA Newsletter and wish our association every success in the years ahead.

got a great telling off for running in the corridor but she didn't notice the muddy studs much to my relief. I did not tell her. How long they were there before being moved I have no idea. I didn't go to look.

One lunch break in the Summer, I was hitting a tennis ball against the wall by the gym and unfortunately broke a window. I had to go and confess to Miss Sterritt, who was on dinner duty. She was very good about it, but that was the end of hitting balls at lunch time.

I believe that these two incidents happened in 1945. I would imagine that there are probably hardly any of us left that remember those times.

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### **Margaret Paine nee Paine (SHS 1943-48)**

The last few years, for us all, have lacked a lot of social life. Myself and friends started SHS in September 1943, during the war, when times were hard.

This year is a special year and we can't meet at the reunion as we are all in different parts of the country and travelling is difficult.

This year my friends and myself will be, or are already, 90 years old. I am still in touch with Audrey Higgins nee Slaughter (SHS 1943-50), Jill Sayer nee Emmett (SHS 1944-48), Audrey Gamester nee Lines (SHS 1943-48), Thelma Ricketts nee Banister and Anne Gillett nee Hartley (SHS 1943-48) and I wish them a happy birthday together with anyone else I don't know about.

Not bad considering it is more than 70 years since we left SHS - I remember it well. I have been to most Reunions, just missing a few when I had the children - some now retired - goodness I must be old.

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### **Daphne Middleton nee Shefford (SHS 1939-46)**

#### **Daphne has two tales to tell**

I was running down the junior corridor with my hockey stick in one hand and desperately trying to kick off my hockey boots. One came off easily the other was more difficult, so I gave it an extra kick and it flew off and hit the ceiling leaving a beautiful muddy print of studs. Unfortunately Mrs Sharp was sailing in my direction, gown billowing out behind. I

# IN MEMORIAM

## Peter Tyler (SGS 1946-51)

### Gerard Tyler wrote to say

I am the bearer of sad news I am afraid.

My father died on 21st. June 2022 at Wexham Park Hospital. He was 86 and had enjoyed good health until recent years when he had Parkinson's disease. He had a good life.

We have set up a web page to remember him. <https://petertyler.muchloved.com>

### Ron Fidler says

That is really sad news. I knew Peter way back in my Slough Theatre Group days when he was a tour de force at our Victorian Music Halls, mainly held at Farnham Royal Village Hall. Such a nice, friendly unassuming man.

### Ian Cairns adds

Peter used to help his wife Jean Tyler nee Ireland (SHS 1950-56) out with the arrangements for numerous OPA Reunions.

He was also a regular quizzier, with unbeatable musical knowledge.

## Dug Ross (SGS 1939-44)

A Tribute by his son to Dugald James Ross "Jim" who died on 30/11/21

### Early Life

Dad was born in Slough. He was brought up as an only child for the first 10 years, then his brother Donald was born. Dad's early years were quite tough, with both his parents doing various jobs and moving home to make ends meet, and as many people did, having to take in lodgers. Dad was ever so proud of his father and often spoke of the things Alec had done in his life, particularly his work as a carpenter, ship building on the Clyde, his military service in the medical corps in WWI and helping to build coastal defences in WWII. His hard work ethic and selfless attitude helped shape Dad into the person he was. The influence on him was equally true from his mother who was loving and kind and also hard working. Dad was most proud of the time he spent at Slough Grammar School and then as an Old Paludian in later life. The school motto fittingly, "Ad Astra" or "to the stars". Dad would talk about

how education was affected by the war effort at that time. It was these years that resulted in enduring friendships. The group included David Morgan, Tony Witchell, Geoff Taylor and Norman Taylor, who later on was best man at Mum and Dad's wedding. These friendships lasted throughout their lives and extended to wives and families and involved many parties, political debates, varied shared interests and holidays. Dad also developed his interest in science and sport at school, which included playing football, badminton and cricket. Dad would recall to his surprise that in an exam year, and given his interests, he was the only pupil to receive a distinction in art!

### Working life

Given the financial position at home Dad couldn't carry on his studies. Instead, at the age of 16, with some support from his father, he managed to get an apprenticeship at the ICI factory in Slough. This is where he worked all his life. However, it was not long after Dad started that he was called up for his National Service. He spent time at both prisoner of war camps in Suffolk and on Pall Mall, London, with the pleasure of working in an office within Admiralty Arch. On his return to ICI he started in the laboratories and worked around other departments. Dad realised to get on he would need qualifications and so attended night school to gain an HNC and then a degree. This worked and he eventually settled in the Metal Pre-treatment and the Overseas Departments. He was a member, and then retired member, of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Amongst many, Dad's most memorable achievement was his role in the team that designed, developed and manufactured the process for the two-piece aluminium can we all use today. ICI was an ideal fit for Dad. It was said he never had a day off sick in over 40 years of service. His work allowed him to travel all around the world, with some high and low points, as well as playing all his favourite sports at the excellent Duffield Park, with many happy memories.

### Married life

One hobby of Dad's was rambling, with his school friends, including jaunts up alpine mountains. One trip changed his life. A young lady had joined the group on a trip to the Peak District. It didn't take Dad long to notice her and when he realised she was struggling a bit he stepped in with help and support. This person was Mum of course and this chivalry earned her affection and they started dating on their return to Slough and the relationship developed.



They were married in 1958 at Farnham Royal Parish Church. It was not long before they had children, first Susan in 1960 and then me in 1963. The marriage lasted for the rest of his life and spanned over 63 years. We managed to hold a 63rd Anniversary celebration quietly this September.

### On retirement

Mum and Dad were fortunate enough to undertake the challenge of building a second home in Provence, France. It was a place where the family and friends would also go and visit. Dad became a member of the MCC and this allowed him to spend time at Lord's to attend some famous cricket matches and he loved these days. Even into his mid to late 80s he loved going on our family walks. He loved all the family dogs, in particular JJ. Since moving to Cheshire to be closer to us, Dad continued to get to know new people and was involved in local groups and made new friends. He loved the Bridge group, the local Ramblers and, being near to Crewe, his passion for steam trains at local groups. A noteworthy achievement of Dad's was his work for his chosen charity, Save the Children. In retirement he did much fund raising from shaking tins, door to door knocking, Christmas sales and garden parties at home. As was Dad's way he always kept a record of what had been raised. Over 25 years this total reached just over £30,000. He was increasingly poorly, especially in the last few years of his life. Dad, I believe you had a great life, and you will be missed and never forgotten. Finally, I would like to thank the staff of Sure Care and Telford Court Nursing Home for their dedication and excellence in caring for Dad at the end of his life and for the support provided to Mum and I. We will always be grateful to all of you.

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### Ian Jones/Ian Curteis (SGS 1946-?)

**Malcolm Hellings kindly sent this.**

I am a regular reader of our daily newspaper's obituaries. An obit a month or so ago caught my eye. It told me that Ian Curteis was educated at Slough Grammar School. He would have arrived at Lascelles Road a year before me in 1946. His father was a bank manager and they lived in Richings Park, which back then was a very upmarket part of the school's catchment area. In those days he was just plain Ian Jones. Somewhere along the line he fell out with his father who disapproved of the career path Ian had chosen and he took his mother's maiden name. Theatre and

acting were where he wanted to be. After National Service he worked locally for three years before going on to Queen Mary College, London to study English. After leaving university he said "his first job was sweeping the stage and making the tea for Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop company in the East End of London. I was paid £1 a week, slept on the floor of a spare dressing room and lived off little packets of chips from the fish and chip shop opposite. Lunch breaks were spent squatting on the roof of the theatre studying the play we were rehearsing, trying to understand how it was put together and why it was a great play. For to be a playwright had been the ambition since I was fourteen". In 1965 he joined the BBC as a producer and was involved in producing episodes of Z Cars. By 1968 he was a full-time writer. He became a regular writer for the corporation. Among his successful projects were Churchill and the Generals (1979) and Lost Empires (1986). For ITV an adaptation of a J B Priestley novel starring Laurence Olivier and a young Colin Firth.

In 1983 his relationship with the BBC turned sour. That year he was commissioned to write a documentary drama about Mrs Thatcher and the war in the Falklands. Ian took a sympathetic view of the way Mrs Thatcher had managed the crisis and this was out of sync with the way the BBC hierarchy thought at the time. The project was shelved and eventually a much-changed version was broadcast in 2002. This was one of the first occasions that the BBC was accused of left-wing bias.

Ian was married three times. His second wife was the novelist Joanna Trollope. Wife No 3 was Lady Deidre Hare, widow of the 7th Lord Grantley, with whom he continued the restoration of the Grantley home Markenfield Hall in North Yorkshire. He leaves two sons from his first marriage to Joan Macdonald.

I am indebted to Gwen Gale for much of the above information. Gwen also told me that Ian was a friend from school days with Susan Cooper Cronyn (SHS 1944-52), an Old Pal, the author of the Dark is Rising set of novels.

## Ron Brown (SGS 1955-60)



### **Russell Hancock (SGS 1958-65) has sent in this piece about Ron Brown who died in September 2021.**

Although my contact with Ron was intermittent I had known him for many years, the earliest being when I joined his "Lion" patrol, First Cippenham Scout group. Ron was the patrol leader and (unlike myself) a proficient scouter, who kept his interest in First Cippenham Scouts throughout his adult life. He was active in fund raising to replace the old wooden scout hut with a modern structure. When I joined SGS as a timid first former I again met Ron who was probably four th or fifth form at that time (as was John Savage SGS 1955-60). Sadly Ron's health had declined during his last few years and it was some six years ago that we last met. So I prefer to remember Ron as he was many years ago on a sailing trip, skippered by my brother Richard (SGS 1943-49). In the attached pictures Ron is on the tiller and John Savage is behind in the waterproof. Ron was a good man to have as a crew member with his strength and reliability.

Ron was born in November 1944 and his working life was spent in personnel management, a natural choice for a "people person" such as Ron. A widower for many years, having lost his beloved Rita to cancer, Ron is survived by his two sons and a sister.

Simply one of this world's Good Guys.

## Shirley Knight (SHS 1942-48)

Liz van de Poll (SHS 1959-66) sent this message to us on 12th August 2021

Shirley Knight (SHS 1942-48) a former pupil of the High School died earlier this morning, peacefully at a Nursing Home in Buckingham. Shirley was 98 but still had friends in the Old Paludians. I am sorry I do not know their names.

## Roger Walmsley

### **Bob Moss said**

I've been chatting to some of my old SGS contemporaries, including former classmate (later head boy and producer of "Doctor Who") Phil Hinchcliffe, who mentioned the following:

"On a much sadder note, I'm not sure if you know that Roger Walmsley passed away recently. He was of course the much loved pharmacist in Datchet for years. I went to the funeral service at St Mary's. He was a few years older than us at SGS but if you remember he and I were involved in athletics a lot."

I offer this for inclusion in the Newsletter. I didn't know Roger personally but can remember him and his prominence in SGS athletics. He would have been at the school during the 1950s - can't be more specific, I'm afraid.

### **Alan Forbes writes**

Roger was born 14th April 1940 and died on 17th October 2021. His father was the pharmacist in Datchet village and Roger joined him in the Pharmacy in 1962. Prior to this he attended the Technical school and then Slough Grammar School.

## Denis Delaney (SGS 1949-54)

Alan Forbes is aware that a very brief notice was in the last Newsletter, but feels that he would like to add a further reference below.

I first met Denis Delaney in September 1949 on the first year's intake to Slough Grammar School. This was form 2a based in the old Nissen huts in Lascelles Road. Denis was very active in sporting activities particularly in the cross country runs, over what was the 'bumps' in Upton Court park.

Over the years after leaving SGS I used to run into him, usually in Slough High Street. In the latter years he moved permanently to Spain but came over to the UK when the Slough local elections were on

as he and his daughter were involved in these . I was sad to hear of his death in November 2020.

## David Pearce (SGS 1947-53)

### Malcolm Hellings writes

I had known David “Ginger” Pearce for over 80 years. Back all those years ago we had started nursery school together and had then been classmates at junior school and at Lascelles Road. David was our best man when Julie and I were married in 1961.

David was always a West Country man and he left the Grammar School early to work on his uncle’s farm in Wiltshire. After National Service he was back in Slough working in the family business on Slough Trading Estate. In the 1960s the company upped sticks and moved to Gillingham in Dorset. It was in this part of the world that the glove making business had started and thrived. David became, in the fullness of time, the company Managing Director and ran a successful business. It is now run by a third generation Pearce - David’s son Mark.

David and Maureen had been married for over 65 years and I was there on their “big day”. They had three children Mark and Gregory, who both run successful businesses today and a daughter Wendy who sadly passed away at a young age. He was always a very keen gardener, loved fishing, enjoyed a glass of whiskey and was very involved with the Freemasons. We had planned, and booked, an away stay together with our wives but Covid got in the way and we had postponed the event until things got easier. It was a “before it is too late” arrangement. But it never happened. David had emergency heart surgery, seemed to be recovering but there was a second crisis and unfortunately he did not get back home.

I miss our regular phone talks. David was the salt of the earth. The sad thing about getting old is that friends and relations, people who featured prominently in your life, are just no longer there.

He was born 11 March 1936 - died 4 September 2020. He was a good man!

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## Jacky Flynn nee Aubre (SHS 1951-59)

We are sad to report the death of our mother, Jacky Flynn, who died in December 2021. After leaving the High School she trained as a radiographer at the Royal Free Hospital London and having lived abroad and away from Slough, Jacky returned to radiography in 1966, working first at Upton Hospital and then Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, where she stayed until retirement.

In the 1990s she was invited to join Slough Soroptimists. On the fund-raising committee both locally and regionally, she helped organise events to support local projects such as the Child Contact Centre and Talking Newspapers for the Blind. She was immensely proud to be Club President from 2000-2001. Jacky continued to make a difference with her involvement in the Slough Link where she worked on projects bringing the NHS into the community. In 2011 she received the Slough Mayor’s prize for service to the community.

Jacky loved musicals all her life and had a passion for travel and continued to enjoy both after moving to Solihull in 2012.

Jacky touched many people’s lives; she made a big impression on whomever she met and is greatly missed.

**Kate Baerlocher née Flynn** (SHS 1973-1980),  
**David Flynn** (SGS 1975-1981) & **Lynda Griesbach née Flynn** (SHS 1977-1982, UGS 1982-1984).

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## Margaret Paine nee Paine (1943-48) has sent these two Obituaries

### Hilda Halls nee Milcoy (SHS 1932-37)

Hilda was a Slough girl who attended the High School and then became the School Secretary.

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## David Turner (SGS 1941-46)

I don’t know much about David. I believe he played cricket for SGS. He died very recently.

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## Three Staff deaths

David Browne reported the deaths below, which he thought would have occurred in, or around, January this year.

### Sheena Cater

(SHS/UGS 1977-89) Taught Home Economics

### Christine Jones

(also Christine Hounslow before re-marriage).  
Taught Business Studies

### Rhian Jones

Taught Music

# OPA ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021

## Income

	2021	2020
Reunion Day Income	£0.00	£642.00
Donations	£40.00	£1,278.00
Subscriptions	£0.00	£30.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£40.00</b>	<b>£1,950.00</b>

## Expenditure

	2021	2020
Reunion Day Expenditure	£0.00	£80.00
Reunion Lunch Account	£0.00	-£338.00
Grant for Essay Anthology	£300.00	£0.00
Provision 2021 grants	£0.00	£300.00
Stripe fees	£0.49	£6.31
Bank charges	£5.00	£0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£305.49</b>	<b>£12.29</b>

Brought forward from previous year		£3,401.98	£1,464.27
Income for year	£40.00		£1,950.00
Expenditure for year	£305.49		£12.29
		-£265.49	£1,937.71
Carried forward to following year		<b>£3,136.49</b>	<b>£3,401.98</b>
Represented by:			
	Balance at bank at 31/12/2021	£6,078.49	
	Provision for earlier years' grants	£2,300.00	
	Reunion lunch accrual 2020	-£642.00	
		<b>£3,136.49</b>	

I hereby certify that the above shows a true record of the finances of the Old Paludians Association as at 31 December 2021.

Signed.....Treasurer  
(Celia Johns) Date.....15 March 2022.....

I have examined the books and vouchers produced to me and certify, as far as I am able, that this is a true statement of the financial affairs of the Old Paludians Association

Signed..... Date.....17 March 2022.....

(Elizabeth Goodchild MAAT)