

THE RED ROSE

2019

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FORMER CHAIRMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION

KGV OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

T P Spencer (24) W Beetham (25) R E Sanderson (26-7) C I Minshull (28)
S J Hargreaves (29) A V Cunliffe (30) W M Towers (31) A V Cunliffe (32)
R E Sanderson (33) A D Sawyer (35) P Slater (36) G K Bridge (47)
D F Sutton (48) P Slater (49) T E Booth (51) G P Wakefield (52)
L Duckworth (53) J W Lord (54) J Edwards (55) S C Wilford (56)
K Rostron (57) J R Edwards (58) R A Lloyd (59) H E Nettleton (60)
G Barnes (61) G Walton (62) H Long (63&4) M B Enright (65)
H Evans (66) A V Langfeld (67) A Fairclough (68) H J M Royden (69)
D Brown (70) R Abram (71) S B Rimmer (72) A J Chandler (73)
J R N Petty (74) S B Fletcher (75) J N Rostron (76)
C W Jerram (77) E G Cowen (78)

OLD GEORGIANS' ASSOCIATION

T H Dutton (79) G Livesley (80) M M Lockyer (81) R Fletcher (82)
J C West (83) J J Marriner (84) G T Seed (85) M J Waring (86)
R A Barnett (87) B M Rimmer (88) J R Pilling (89) P D Bagshaw (90)
R C Fearn (91) E A Ogden (92) J R Elliott (93) R O Jeffs (94)
M J Fearn (95) A Bond (96&97) C Threlfall (98) M R E Hyde (99)
G F Dixon (2000) S L Bond (01) A D Hughes (02) J P Marsh (03)
K F Edwardson (04) D Burton (05) R Abram (06) D Lonsdale (07)
Catherine Lapsley (08) Janice Darkes-Sutcliffe (09&10) D Lonsdale (11)
N Spencer (12) M Duffy (13&14) M Day (15&16) R Ellis (17) D Harrison (18)

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2018-19

PRESIDENT	Anne-Marie Francis
VICE PRESIDENTS	Former Chairmen & Presidents
CHAIRMAN	Dave Harrison
VICE CHAIRMAN	Ron Ellis
SECRETARY	Martin Fearn
TREASURER	David Lonsdale
RED ROSE EDITOR	Jonathan Elliott
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Neil Spencer
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Jonathan Elliott
WEB SITE MANAGER	Matthew Duffy
COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE	Pam Shea
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE	Catherine Lapsley
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Former Chairmen & Co-optees

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Old Georgians

It is my pleasure to report on a very successful year for our students and staff.

Since my 2018 letter, I am delighted to be able to outline the tremendous strides we have made toward securing our vision of being an outstanding organisation.

The student numbers have grown once again and the College is busier than ever. Classrooms are full of eager learners and as academic standards continue to rise, teaching and learning is challenging and dynamic. I walk through lessons every week observing teachers facilitating advanced level learning and it is a great privilege to see the skill and expertise so many of our staff possess.

In evidence we once again celebrated excellent A Level success with 30 subjects getting a 100% pass rate and a good proportion of students receiving the highest possible grades. Over 100 students secured their place at their first choice of university and we are confident that the experience gained here at KGV stands them in excellent stead for their next educational adventure.

As ever we are committed not only to learning inside the classroom, but also to offering a wide range of life enhancing experiences and our students have had lots of opportunities over the past 12 months. In that time, they have had the chance to travel to Krakow, London and Barcelona! They have camped out for Duke of Edinburgh and participated in fundraising for charities including Yellowhouse in Liverpool and Galloways in Southport. Sporting successes have been at a National level and the College has hosted a rolling programme of music concerts as well as the annual College production which this year was Little Shop of Horrors. Art and Design students have visited a wide range of exhibitions as well as hosting their own end of year show. There really is never a dull moment!

You may have noticed the improvements being made to the College grounds and building and it is not just the exterior we are beautifying! There is a new reception area and meeting space and the Learning Centre has been refurbished to include a new teaching space. There has also been the acquisition of several thousand pounds' worth of new laptops. Our Sports students have new changing rooms and the sports hall has had a face lift, however, I think the creation of the MUGA (multi use games area) has been the icing on the cake for our talented sports students. We are planning for more investment and strive to ensure our students have access to the very best facilities possible.

It is hardly surprising then that student satisfaction surveys indicate students enjoy their time at College and feel safe, secure and confident about their next steps. It is a short period of time spent doing A Levels but is a life changing two years for many and you the old Georgians are proof of how lasting the memories can be.

Thank you for your continued support for the College and my very warmest wishes to you all.

Anne Marie Francis - Principal

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Old Georgians

This will be a rather brief report as I am only just getting to grips with my role as Chairman. However, it is already clear to me just how important the efforts of the dedicated OGA committee members are to the smooth running of the Association.

It is good to report that 2018 seems to have been another successful year.

The annual dinner was held at Hesketh Golf Club, following the Bob Abram OGA golf tournament. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening after the tension of sitting through the preceding annual meeting waiting to discover if my nomination would be accepted. Despite some mumblings from people I had previously thought of as friends the meeting agreed to my nomination, much to my relief.

I hope to be able to contribute constructively to the work of the Old Georgians during my term as Chairman. As a teenager and pupil in the 1960s I feel that I am part of an (almost) lost cadre of Old Georgians. We were probably the first substantial group to move away from the town and there was an underlying feeling of irreverence towards the establishment. One of my aims during my stint as Chairman will be to try to reignite the interest of the 1960s pupils in the Old Georgians' activities.

The annual quiz was another success although it would be good if we could attract more participants next year.

The 2019 annual dinner will again be at Hesketh Golf Club although, after the recent trial of staging it on a Saturday, we are now returning to the previous traditional date of Maundy Thursday (18 April) and it will again be preceded by the golf tournament.

Preparations are underway for the Centenary Dinner in 2020. We are hoping to attract a large number of Old Georgians and partners for what we hope will be a memorable celebration of the school and its essential contribution to the development of so many young people over the years.

I look forward to the rest of my term as Chairman and I hope many of you will continue (or commit) to support the activities of the Association.

Dave Harrison - Spencer's, 1962-1969

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2019 Red Rose.

Last year I asked the question “Are we running out of steam?”.

The words echoed back were ‘certainly not’, but, sadly, actions speak louder.

The attendance at the dinner dropped again with the reason being placed on the date, or specifically the day – Saturday. Regardless of which Saturday and the generous amount of notice given, it appeared to have little positive effect. Thus as of 2019, the dinner date is returning to Maundy Thursday. We have had over 350 different people attend over the last 10 years. Here’s hoping you all come back!

I also requested more information for the ‘News’ section. While this has picked up slightly, I am sure that more of the 1500+ on the membership list could consider a

more regular correspondence to the Red Rose. Believe it or not, people are interested in you! Whether reading this on line or hard copy, please email me to let me know you have seen the 2019 edition.

Terry Fleetwood’s “Class of ‘74” is one exception. The group now has 60+ members and they meet on a monthly basis. If each year group for those aged 55 to 65 could do the same that would significantly increase the interest and activity. So come on – who wants to be the next Terry Fleetwood?!

We are now only just over a year away from 2020 and the Centenary celebrations for KGV. The Centenary Dinner will be held on **Maundy Thursday, April 9th 2020**. Please book this into your diary NOW. Don’t disappoint yourself with an ‘I forgot and promised to babysit’ reason for not coming along and enjoying yourself. If you can all come along in 2020, think what a fabulous night that would be!! Getting your group together can take a couple of months, so why not use 2019 as a rehearsal?!

Please keep in touch. Make sure we have your current contact details and email. We send out bulletins every quarter, so if you haven’t been receiving them, we don’t have your current email address

PLEASE REMEMBER – THE OGA STILL NEEDS YOU (to engage)

All the best!

Jonathan R Elliott – RR Editor (Gears 1973-1980)



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Dave Harrison - Chairman

I was born in 1951 and brought up in Southport. Both my junior school, Norwood Road, and virtually the whole of KGV have been demolished since I left. That is probably a fitting tribute to my academic prowess. The highlight of my time inside the school was almost certainly persuading my first girlfriend to dance with me at the school dance.

Most of the other highlights related to sport - rugby and cricket for the first team - including being the proud captain of the winning Spencer's rugby and cricket House competitions. I really looked forward to Geography lessons as that enabled me to gaze out towards the playing fields and further on towards Meols Cop Girls' School.

I think it is fair to say that I did not realise my academic potential although I did really enjoy my time at the school and I am eternally grateful for the values that the school helped me to acquire. Additionally, I made so many good friends and I am pleased that I still see many of them on a regular basis.

I left in 1969 to pursue a career in professional football with Shrewsbury Town; originally I was supposed to go as a 16 year old but I managed to break my leg and ankle playing football helping out a friend for one of the local Boys' Brigade teams. The journey from Portland Street fields to the hospital in a motorcycle sidecar was a fairly surreal experience. Anyway, despite a promising start to my "career", including playing at Villa Park and playing against players such as Ernie Hunt, Len Cantello and "Big" Jim Holton, I was released by manager, Harry Gregg, after 3 months.

An offer to return to KGV to finish my A levels, and play some more school sport, just didn't seem attractive after my footballing experiences so in October 1969 I took a temporary clerical job in the civil service in Liverpool's Liver Building. Over 40 years later, in April 2010, I retired from my role as Partnership Director of the North West Development Agency in Warrington. The Government announced the abolition of the agency less than a month after I retired; Impeccable, if fortunate, timing on my part.

My public sector career took me from Liverpool to jobs in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Australia before returning to the North West - Liverpool (again) and then finally Warrington. As a civil service generalist, I enjoyed a wide range of jobs but mainly relating to economic development, international trade and aid as well as regional and urban policy. Whilst working in Australia, I was responsible for aerospace industry policy which was particularly fascinating as it was at a time in the early 1990s when Australia was in the process of moving its main trade ties from the UK and instead aligning itself with nearby South East Asia.

And in several of my other roles I was able to travel extensively on government business to places such as India, Zimbabwe, Egypt, USA and most of mainland Europe.

That taste for travel has grown since retirement and my wife, Pauline, and I have made a concerted effort to spend the kids' inheritance by holidaying extensively, often accompanied by golf clubs. Annual trips to Florida, Dubai & Abu Dhabi and Turkey have been supplemented by many other vacations.

The biggest highlight was almost certainly in 2010/11 when we returned to Australia to follow the Ashes tour to Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. And the best experience of my life - apart from the day I got married and birth of our two children (Pauline is reading this over my shoulder as I type) - was at the MCG on Boxing Day 2010 when, in front of almost 90,000 spectators, England bowled out Australia for less than 100 and Strauss and Cook comfortably passed that total without losing a wicket. Just before the close, there were about 20,000 left in the ground with hardly an Aussie in sight!

Our two children, John and Laura, are currently pursuing quite different careers. John is close to setting up a hydroponic agriculture business in Singapore/Malaysia and Laura is running a pub in Cark, near Cartmel. The Rose and Crown is well worth a visit.

Sport has been a constant in my life, playing my last game of cricket at the age of 59 and football at 58. And I wonder why my knees take so long to get moving every morning.

Returning to my time at KGV, I was captain of the first pupils' team to play football against the teachers. A great initiative thanks to the enthusiastic support of Stan Rimmer much to the chagrin of Geoffrey Dixon.

I now have to rely on golf for my sporting fun and I hope to continue to play the game - I'm a keen member at Hesketh Golf Club - for many years to come.

Mark Day - Chairman 2015&2016

Before my family moved to Southport in 1973, I grew up in London (where I was born) and Birmingham.

I joined the boys' grammar school half way through the autumn term in the middle of one of Mr Hodgkinson's French lessons. I was 12 years old and already 6ft tall with a few whiskers, a deep voice and a cockney accent. As such I was rather conspicuous amongst my fellow students which, whilst being a little embarrassing, did allow an advantage on the rugby field (until my peers annoyingly caught up with my early development).

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at KGV. I was in Evans house and became house captain during my final years. I played rugby and cricket for the school. I even managed to do half a length of Butterfly in one of the house swimming galas at Victoria baths.

Academically, I somehow found myself in the "x-stream" and achieved some reasonable O levels – but then managed to flunk my A levels. The extra year afforded by the x-stream fortunately allowed me the opportunity to re-sit my A levels. The silver lining to this was that my "extra year" coincided with the opening of the sixth

form college, when girls arrived at KGV for the first time. On balance, I think this was probably my favourite year at the school.

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After KGV, I scraped into Leeds University where I spent some wonderful years obtaining a degree in Civil Engineering.

Following university, I trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young in London. During this time, I met my wife to be, Tracey (a Geordie) and we were married in Newcastle in 1990. In the same year, a chance opportunity arose in Ernst & Young’s Liverpool office and as a consequence my new wife and I moved back to Southport where we have lived ever since.

After leaving the accountancy profession in 1992, I worked in a number of financial and general management roles for various businesses around the North West. For the last 7 years, I have been working for a care organisation that supports people with profound learning disabilities and complex needs in Chorley and Leyland.

Tracey and I have two children, Natalie (who also went to KGV College) and Lucy.

Aside from my family, my great passions are rugby (which started at school), golf (I have been a member at Hesketh Golf Club in Southport for many years), and caravanning (which I’ve only recently been become brave enough to tell anybody about).

My lifetime ambition remains to play rugby for England. I have recently bought some new boots; last week managed to run around Hesketh Park without stopping and hope to be selected for the Six Nations squad in a few weeks’ time.

Matthew Duffy - Chairman 2013 & 2014

My name is Matthew Duffy, and I attended KGV from 1988 to 1990 after spending my secondary school years at Birkdale High. Whilst at KGV I studied Maths, Further Maths and French and went on to do a degree in Business and Computing at the University of Salford. The group of friends I made at KGV are still my closest friends, and as a recent evening out proved, while we have aged physically, mentally we are still aged about 12.

I’ve held a variety of jobs through my career, mainly in IT Project Management, but branching into some fun endeavours such as working in a hotel, governor of a primary school and a lot of travelling around the world. I’ve been involved with the committee for a few years now and set up and maintain the Old Georgians website (www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk), for which contributions are always welcome.

I live in Southport, have two children, Harry & George, and am currently working for the Civil Service. I can't say which department, but I am definitely not a spy.

Jonathan Elliott - Chairman 1992

Chris, Martin and David are contemporaries of mine, starting at KGV in 1973. There were many more ups than downs for me at School and I generally enjoyed my time under the guidance of first Geoffrey Dixon and then David Arnold. I went on to Manchester University and obtained an Honours Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. That led me into a career in computing, which morphed into I.T. I now have the role of technically managing multiple million pound projects into a variety of customers.

As a Mancunian I am a life-long supporter of and season ticket holder at Manchester United, through the thin of the 70s and 80s and the thick of the Fergie years. I am also an FA Referee and have officiated at Haig Avenue on a few occasions.

I have 'trodden the boards' and run the SM desk on many occasions, as an original member of the Southport Youth Theatre Workshop back in the opening year of the Arts Centre in 1975, SDC, Garrick Players, Manchester Youth Theatre and Manchester University. That also gave me the confidence to apply for and appear on 14 different TV game shows over the last 25 years.

I have been married to an Old Georgian, Vanessa, for 31 years; have two children, one an Old Georgian and 3 grandchildren.

Ron Ellis – Chairman 2017

RON ELLIS – GUIDE TO SUCCESS

My philosophy of life is try everything. Ignore people who say you can't do it. Never mind making a fool of yourself. Never mind failing. People who don't try will always regret it and never know what heights they could have achieved.

- 1959 I left KGV having scraped through six 'O' levels. Told I'd never make a journalist. 'Quiet lad like you should work in a library'.
- 1967 Since doing a degree in Librarianship, I have had 14 books published, by Headline and Alison & Busby (10 crime novels, 1 novel, 2 poetry books and a social history of Southport) and set up my own publishing company (Nirvana Books) featuring books by Spencer Leigh, Joan Rimmer, Kate Ellis, etc.

- 1964 Bitten by the showbiz bug (this was the era of Merseybeat), I set myself up as a mobile D.J.
- 1975 Became Northern Promotions Manager for Warner Brothers Records then formed Northern Disco Promotions, setting up British tours for various acts including Viola Wills, Mary Stavin (Miss World), etc.
- 1965 I wanted to be a singer but was told I couldn't sing. Neither could I play an instrument or read music.
- 1979 I recorded a song I wrote called 'Boys on the Dole' which, released by Lightning Records, reached No 9 in the New Wave charts. Other songs I wrote were recorded by, among others, P.J. Proby and Judge Dread.
- 1968 Looking for a subsidiary income, thinking I could not make money in showbiz forever, I decided to invest in property although I had absolutely no experience of building or property management.
- 1988 I now owned 62 flats in Southport but sold them all to buy 10 flats in Canary Wharf, London.
- 1978 Having just got married, I took a job as a Sales Representative.
- 1986 I retired after 13 years as Area Sales manager for CCH Editions (International Tax and Law publishers)
- 2018 I am now 77. I am currently in my 9th year as Arts Editor for Champion Newspapers and 23rd year as Football Correspondent. I also do after dinner speaking and poetry readings.

REMEMBER THIS. Enjoy life. Take the risk to do what you want to do. The big decisions and events in life often happen by chance. Call it luck. Call it fate. The trick is the recognise them and take the opportunity to grasp them with both hands. Remember... not everything comes off but so what? Just try again.

Stan Rimmer - Chairman 1972

I served my teaching apprenticeship at challenging secondary schools in Liverpool before a permanent appointment at Liverpool Collegiate. They were very good years. Eventually I re-joined my alma mater, where on Geoffrey Dixon's insistence, I became Honorary Secretary of the KGV Old Boys' Association at the AGM on 9th April, 1965.

Since then it has been my privilege to organise 41 Annual Dinners, introduce Maundy Thursday as an immovable feast in 1972, when I held the chair for a year, and more recently give minor assistance to the redoubtable Jonathan Elliott in most of the last ten.

My wife, Pat, became an honorary Old Georgian when she joined the English department in 1975. We have three daughters who are all Sixth Form College alumnae. Two of our three sons-in-law are alumni of the original grammar school.

We enjoy regular visits to and from, our six grand-daughters, all in their twenties, and spread far and wide. Also our three teenage grandsons, living in Scotland and participating in sport, especially rugby and soccer, with the same enthusiasm and pleasure that I was privileged to experience.

Chris Threlfall - Chairman 1998

As the curly permed sage Kevin Keegan recently quoted, "If you live in the past, you die in the past" – a dramatic reminder not to wallow in old times and to live for the future.

I consider myself lucky to be an Old Georgian. From 1973 I was a member of Edwards's house headed by the legendary Eric Gale – and leaving the newly mixed Sixth Form College in 1980. Onto Sheffield Polytechnic for a degree in Urban Land Economics and a career as a Chartered Surveyor including a sandwich year at the Hatch and Fielding office on Lord Street. After a few years London experience working for the Crown Estate and family trusts in the West End, I persuaded the lovely Yvette to a better life up North. We have two daughters, Katherine and Suzanna. I work for myself in Manchester and live in Greenmount, Bury. I'm lucky enough to travel to France fairly often, walk Lulu the dog in surrounding countryside, occasional golf, swim, and voluntary work.

KGV formed a large part of early life and established happy memories for me – accepted not for everyone. I don't wish to live in the past but it's been a treat to meet older and younger OGs and to have enjoyed great times with OG related activities. I hope the continued activities of the committee allow me and others to dip in and out of the past as often as they wish.

Other regular committee members include:

Duncan Burton, Martin Fearn, Ronnie Fearn, David Lonsdale, Eric Ogden, John Pilling and Neil Spencer

OLD GEORGIANS' NEWS

Ed - This section may seem to be a little short of content (it is!), but we also now have the "Letters to the Editor" section, where more information on fellow OGA members can be found.

Graham Cox (1974-80)

Graham featured in the 2018 RR in the article about game shows. Subsequently, he took part in 15 to 1. He won his episode and made it into the Grand Final.

OBITUARIES

Harry Chadderton (1938-2017)

Harry attended KGV from 1949-1956. He passed away on 13th October 2017 aged 78 years.

Dearly loved husband of Sheila, very dear father of David, Michael and Paul, a dear father-in-law to Debra, Girlie and Suzanne. A proud and loving grandad to Jamie, Thomas, Jessica, Noah and Megan.

Alan Chandler (19-2018)

Alan was our Chairman from 1973-74 and the Treasurer for several years. His health over recent years had not been good and his engagement with the association limited. He will be missed and the good wishes of the committee go to his family.

Arthur Davidson (1926-2018)

Arthur passed away in January 2018 aged 91.

He was born in Liverpool, raised in Southport and fought his first parliamentary elections in Blackpool South in 1955 and in Preston North in 1959. He was the second of three children, born to Abraham (Abe), who ran a carpet manufacturing business and Rose (nee Spieler). His father was born in Russia and came to the UK as a child.

The family moved to Southport on the outbreak of the second world war, fortuitously as their previous family home was bombed shortly afterwards. Arthur joined the merchant navy towards the end of the war and celebrated VE Day in May 1945 in Times Square, New York, aged 18. Although born in 1926, he took two years off his age when he was 40, just after reaching Westminster.

He attended Liverpool College, and King George V, and resumed his education after his wartime service, reading law at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a lifelong sporting enthusiast, winning his Blue as a member of the Cambridge athletics team, and he was captain of athletics at Trinity. His later sports were rugby, skiing and tennis – the latter of which he continued playing into his 80s.

He also developed a love of theatre and jazz as a student and had a keen interest in horse racing, with knowledge of racing form which he deployed to considerable effect at the bookmakers. He was a lifelong supporter of Liverpool FC.

Arthur was one of the most experienced media lawyers of his generation. He was called to the bar in 1953 and was still working regularly within weeks of his death.

He won the Lancashire seat of Accrington in the 1966 general election and began his long association with Fleet Street as the backbench libel lawyer on the old London Evening News.

His professional expertise covered issues of legal complexity in sport and politics, as well as publications, and he was a respected authority consulted by leading sporting figures and politicians. He had a contacts book that was the envy of the business and reflected his gregarious habits, his huge range of interests and his immense popularity.

By 1983 he was shadow attorney general, but his promising political career was cut short at that year's general election. His parliamentary constituency, redrawn with new boundaries as Hyndburn, became more of a marginal and he lost the seat after six counts. The result was the last in the country to be announced and Davidson lost by 21 votes.

Arthur was married for two years to Honoria "Stevie" Nugent, and re-married in 1983 to Joan Ferguson, by whom he already had a son, Joel. He also adopted Joan's daughter, Moon. He is survived by Joel and Moon, by his grandchildren, Shoshanna and Esme, by his sister, Harriet, and his brother, John.

Arthur Davidson, lawyer and politician, born 7 November 1926, died 16 January 2018.

Full obituaries are available at the following links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/jan/29/arthur-davidson-obituary>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/obituaries/obituary-arthur-davidson-1.460283>

Brian Rimmer (1932-2018)

The editor received an email from Steve Rimmer and the reproduction of it in full follows...

Jon, could I please advise in advance of the Maundy Thursday dinner that one of the Old Georgian Chairmen (1988), and my father, Brian Rimmer, died this morning at Southport Hospital three weeks after suffering a stroke.

I don't know the exact 5 years that he was at KGV but he was born on 26th May 1932ip pupil. Ronnie Fearn would be able to suggest exact dates.

He was in Evans house and was a scholarship pupil who were rather looked down on by fee-paying pupils and certain teachers at the time.

I will give you a full account for the Red Rose at a later date but a brief summary would be

- Did National Service with the Royal Engineers. He came second in a group of 50 who were given a Maths test and thereby avoided being sent to Korea. Instead he was sent to SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) where he was tasked with drilling a unit comprised of one soldier from every unit of the British Army which was a challenge because they all marched at different speeds. Solution ? They all marched at the speed of Royal Engineers which is the slowest of them all ! I'm not sure how that helped the progress of the Korean War but they all had to do what they could.
- He played Rugby for Saracens (3rd team admittedly) and once famously turned up for training in plimsolls. Having completed his National Service he returned, to Southport supremely fit and strong and played with Southport RFC which was predominantly composed of fee paying former pupils of KGV. Payback time - they bounced off him when they tackled him.
- worked for British Rail until 1992 first as a civil engineer (he could claim that he built, repaired or blew up every bridge on the North Wales coast and from Crewe to Carlisle) and after he fell and broke his knee when inspecting a bridge he was appropriately made a safety officer inspecting railway workshops.
- served as a local councillor continuously for over 43 years in Southport up to 2011 in the same ward as Ronnie Fearn.
- He served as Chairman or President of countless local organisations, charities and schools over the years.
- In 1985 he became the first Liberal Mayor of Sefton and completed over 1,000 engagements in one year (including a "Vicar of Dibley" five Christmas dinners in one day). No-one has ever come remotely near to that before or since. The Southport Visitor wrote a Leader column headed "The People's Mayor" in tribute. It chokes me with pride every time I read it.
- He could write and deliver a hell of a speech - both serious and comical - and could converse as easily with Royalty as the ordinary man, or woman, in the street.
- He was a man of strong principles which has been passed on to me.
- A hugely proud Lancastrian although his wife, Rita, was from Wakefield. He always referred to this as "missionary work" (or maybe that was the position I was conceived in, I can never be quite sure !). I followed his example by celebrating Lancashire Day (27th November) every year.
- He will be massively missed by a lot of people

Not sure that was "brief" after all. Sorry.

Obviously too soon to know when the funeral will be. What I do know is that it will be a hell of a party afterwards. He requested 12 bottles of whisky to be laid on !

Kind regards

Steve Rimmer (Evans 1971-78)

Roger Shaw (1944-2018)

Roger Shaw passed away on 11 August 2018. He attended KGV from 1955 to 1962.

He spent the majority of his working life in Marketing with major companies spanning the States and UK. Towards the end of his career he set up his own consultancy company based in Shiplake, Oxfordshire, operating throughout the Thames Valley area.

His interests were extensive with playing and refereeing rugby, as Commodore of the Henley Offshore Sailing Club, Opera, Golf and latterly as a speaker on various historical events on the local circuit of clubs and groups.

His funeral took place at the Henley on Thames Rugby Club.

Alan Wright (Rogers friend and contemporary)

KGV Archive & Memorabilia – 2019 Update

All of the school photos that we currently have are now uploaded to the new web site: www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk The only possible exception would be 1940, but it is not known if a photograph was taken that year. In addition, each is now printed and framed.

We are slowly but surely scanning in all of the school Red Rose magazines. Please go onto the web site and have a look through your school years. For those seeking former classmates, this is a good way to collate your list of names and then start your Facebook search!

We are also receiving further donations of caps, ties and blazers. If you have any that you no longer wish to retain, please let us know.

The Association offers its' thanks to Denis Pullman, who is possibly our most senior member, for adding two more blazers to the collection.

Sometime in June 1974.....

'A' levels done, it's sunny. A motley group of lads are scrimshanking in front of the common room. Some are enjoying dodging the sharpened steel star weapons that Angus is flinging into the gable wall of the old cricket pavilion, some are picking bits of Monksy's shin skin from the garden wall and a couple are contemplating forthcoming fortune that seven years at KGV has prepared him for (oh! what a giveaway). For all though it was time to move on.

Sometime in October 2016.....

One Terry Fleetwood, unleashed by the powers of Facebook, started to send 'Friend Requests' to unsuspecting 'Old Boys' in his year who had spent the last 42 years getting on with life and minding their own business. In amongst scenes of puppies getting stuck in toilet rolls and other 'Epic Fails' who could have possibly foreseen what frivolities would unfold when they innocently accepted Terry's request? Where that little 'Wave to Terry' would lead? How quickly would our serenity be shattered?

From all corners of the globe they were drawn in. The Class of 74 straight back into the glory days of the 6th Form Common Room. This year we met up with Proey from New Zealand, Spud from Oz, Andy Holmes from Mexico, Hoggy from IoM, Steve Wainwright from Switzerland, Al Kubler from USA and Lonsey from Leyland. From far and wide they came to re-live the days when we knew the meaning of hope. When House Points actually meant something.

Well, let me tell you, it's been great catching up with everyone. Well done Terry for taking the time to track us all down. And what is rather amazing about all the reunions / piss ups that we've squeezed into the last couple of years is that everyone has gone straight back to school days and we've all glossed over the intervening 40-odd years.

Sure, many have achieved great things. Like running a nuclear submarine aground. Some are in hiding. Some have built hotels in exotic beach resorts. And some i.e. me, have just cycled across Norway in the late autumn (not highly recommended btw). High Court Judges, Teachers, Knitwear Models, Computer Salesmen, Bird Photographers.....to name just some of the careers where the Class of 74 have excelled. One of our number even commands large audiences up and down the country to listen to him recite angry poems. But at each of our gatherings - and yes, there have been many - all conversation immediately gravitates to those days between September 67 and July 74. Nothing's changed. The humour's the same. Those re-lived days are just as funny now as they were then!

Christopher Watson (Watty)

Darts - Front row left to right; Howard West, Andy McIntosh, Will Thornborough
Back row left to right; Steve Bracher, Terry Fleetwood, Ian Jones.

London get together
Left to right; going round the table

Andy Holmes, Derek Barnett, Chris Watson, Howard West, Will Thornborough, Jim Deeley, Terry Fleetwood, Steve Bell. Pete Davey



2018 – What Have I Done This Year?

What have I done this year.??

Well I decided that on reaching the once seemingly ancient 55, having dangerously high blood pressure, diabetes and anything else my quack can throw at me, I would quit the rat race, take a third of my pension and travel the UK and enjoy myself, visiting places I've only seen or read about, doing daft things In fact, midlife crisis, being a teenager again.

Blackpool pleasure beach, Alton towers, a cable ride across the Thames, watching an Atlantic Storm come in on The Lizard (this is my absolute favourite). Stonehenge, Vale of White Horse, Ely Cathedral, Tintagel, Camping for the first time.

I've lost family and a few friends this past couple of years and it made me realise how short life can be, I may not make 67 to collect my OA Pension but if I go tomorrow, I'll have no regrets, I still have a vast UK bucket list and want to visit Australia and NZ but that can wait a few years, meanwhile, Natural History and British Museums beckon, cycle the SW Coast path, Plumpton races on a Monday, all to come in the near future.

Peter Bamford, Edwards, 1974-79

-0-

Sunday 16th September dawned bright early in London as my two sisters and I (all Old Georgians') along with other family members set off from Clapham Common in glorious sunshine for the famous 56 mile London to Brighton bike ride.

We were doing it in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), an illness which had claimed the life of our dear mother some four years earlier. She would have been so proud of her three girls having so much fun cycling through the beautiful countryside of the South Downs along with thousands of others. It's a stunning ride but with some killer hills including the infamous Ditchling Beacon! Keep going - only another half mile at a 25% ascent! However you are rewarded with the most stunning views from the summit along with a watering station and the press who were eager to speak to different participants representing many varying charities, all with a story to tell as to why they were there.

The highlight was steaming down the other side of the beacon at full pelt and then along Brighton's promenade to stupendous cheers, a sense of pride and accomplishment! We may not be Laura Trott but for us three middle aged sisters, it was the best of feelings and mum would have loved to have been there taking photos!

Elizabeth Kelly (1981-83)



(Liz is far left)

Mark Day and Andy Webster (2nd & 3rd below) also took to the road, cycling from Newcastle to Edinburgh in the summer to raise money for charity.



PHOTO GALLERY

The centre pages show a selection of colour photographs from this past year's events.

OGA Golf Challenge – some of this year's challenge competitors

A – Mark Woolston, Ken Priestley, Chris Stitson, Chris Threlall, Julian McInerney, Will Thornborough, Steve Bracher, Terry Fleetwood, Dave Harrison, Andy McIntosh, Geoff Lawson, Derek Barnett

B – Ken Priestley

C – Ken, presenting the Bob Abram Trophy to the 2018 winner, Chris Stitson.

Annual Dinner

D – Chairman Ron Ellis and his partner, Ellen Campbell

E – Members of The Class of '74: Geoff Lawson, Julian McInerney, Tim Patrick, Ian Jones, Chris Watson, Derek Barnett, Dave Hogg, Richard Bradley, Rob Garner, Will Thornborough, Andy McIntosh and Terry Fleetwood

F – Former staff members: Tony Allen, David Radcliffe, Maurice Amer, Pauline Davies, Barry Mawer, Caroline Kaye, Michelle Sanderson, Hilary Anslow, David Arnold, Dave Miley

The Thornlian Society

G – The 2018 party: John Seddon (64-71), Mike Dodworth (60-67), Jim Honeybone (64-70), Geoff Wright (61-67), Doug Mellor (62-69), Joe McManners (64-69), Johnny Laws (60-67), Keith Osborn (61-67).

Quiz Night

H – The 2018 winners – Chris, Chris & Debbie Parkinson, Andy Swettenham, John Donoghue



A



B (What do I do with this?)



C



D



E



F



G



H

SOCIAL EVENTS 2018

AGM & ANNUAL DINNER

The 70th OG Annual Dinner took place at the Hesketh Golf Club, Southport, on the evening of Saturday 21st April 2018. This was the second year the dinner was held on a Saturday night and while those present had an excellent evening, the attending numbers dropped for the second year running and at the AGM that evening, the vote was taken and passed to return the dinner to the regular date of Maundy Thursday.

The Hesketh Golf Club was our new venue for this year. They did themselves proud with the venue, the service and the catering. Everyone present agreed this change was a success.

The AGM preceded the dinner and the two key variations were the election of our new Chairman, Mr Dave Harrison and the vote on the date of future dinners.

Our President addressed those present with an exceptional narrative about the College, the future and the regard held for the Old Georgians. Everyone in the room appreciated the excellent words and delivery from AnneMarie and showed their pleasure with rousing applause at the close.

Ron Ellis, as our outgoing Chairman, then continued the entertainment. Ron had alluded to his varied life experiences 12 months previously when stepping in at short notice at the Ramada and he did not disappoint. Whether it be his escorting of Miss World, or meeting the sporting famous, his anecdotes were both entertaining and amusing. For those who do not know Ron, he has an excellent method of speaking in a rather dour voice (and I mean that as a compliment Ron), but his delivery in that tone is second to none and enhances the amusement in the detail.

The evening closed with the Golf prize giving, the raffle and then the committees thanks to everyone for attending, finally wishing them a safe journey home.

The 2019 AGM & Dinner will take place on Maundy Thursday, 18th April.

The venue will again be the Hesketh Golf Club

Thanks to the following members who were able to attend this year...

Mike	Alexander	Anne-Marie	Francis	Barry	Mawer
Tony	Allen	Mrs	Francis	Julian	McInerney
Maurice	Amer	Rob	Garner	David	Miley
Hilary	Anslow	Dave	Harrison	Belinda	Miller
David	Arnold	Dave	Hogg	Tim	Patrick
Derek	Barnett	Peter	Hulme	John H	Pilling
Richard	Bradley	Keith W	Johns	David	Radcliffe
David	Brown	Ian	Jones	John H	Roberts
Ellen	Campbell	Caroline	Kaye	Derek	Salmon

Mike	Cattrall	Liz	Kelly	Michelle	Sanderson
Graham	Cox	Ian	Kettle	John	Seddon
Pauline	Davies	Catherine	Lapsley	Geoff	Stocker
Mark	Day	Sarah	Lapsley	Will	Thornborough
Alan	Dickinson	Chris	Latham	Chris	Threlfall
Jonathan	Elliott	Geoff	Lawson	Chris	Watson
Ron	Ellis	Martyn	Lockyer	Stuart	Wincer
Martin	Fearn	David	Lonsdale	Chris	Winnard
Terry	Fleetwood	Andy	MacIntosh	Allen	Wright
Mark	Fletcher	Joanne	Matthews		

OGA GOLF CHALLENGE 2018

The fifth occasion of the Annual Golf Challenge, the winner to receive the Bob Abram Trophy, took place at the Hesketh Golf Club. Attendance was again increased from the previous year, log may it continue!

On the day, good weather swept into Southport, perhaps a hint as to the several weeks of good weather to come.

The play on the course was friendly and jovial – but still focussed and competitive.

Our thanks to this year's players!

Arrangements for the 2019 playing of the Bob Abram Trophy are currently being finalised and all golfers are invited and encouraged to join us. We are holding the event On Thursday 18th April 2019, the day of the dinner.

Places may be limited so please register early: all enquiries to Chris Stitson at stitson.chris@gmail.com.

The Bob Abram Trophy 2018 (results)

- 1st place - 39 points – Chris Stitson
- 2nd place - 36 points – Dave Harrison
- 3rd place - 34 points – Chris Threlfall
- Nearest the Pin (4th) – Ken Priestley
- Nearest the Pin (11th) – Chris Stitson

QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 12th October 2018

A wet evening saw the Quiz Night take place at the S&B.

The enthusiastic partakers were in place by 8pm and were 'ready for the off', which was a good job as the next two hours ran at a fair pace! There had been a lot of banter before the first round of questions and that followed a week of 'slating' on Facebook between some of the enthusiastic team captains.

The scoring format leaves the result until the very end. That in itself leads to a certain amount of competitiveness, as partakers move around the room legitimately in between rounds, but often to various shouts of 'oi!', as accusation of gamesmanship or spying are thrown around – all good banter!

Graham Cox took first (and only for the evening) prize in the raffle. Andy Maxwell enjoyed his self-massaging as he won the 'Heads or Tails' bottle of bubbly.

"The Muttley Crew" cursed at their choice of joker round, where the points are doubled, selecting the last option which gave them 7/10, where they had concluded 10/10 on the other three! 6 points missed!

"Pirates of Men's Pants" were taking part with a team of 4, but were grateful for the new handicap system that provided them with a few extra points – but sadly to no avail in the final count up.

For once, Terry Fleetwood was remarkably quiet. Perhaps it was the presence of Mrs Fearn on the team that kept him in check! Rebecca, you are welcome any time!

So, to the result. In joint second came "The Muttley Crew" and "Poodles in Brine" (**??* - please explain that one sometime Graham), both with 159 points.

Congratulations to the winners with 164 points (take note Muttley Crew), were "Eugenie's Uninvited" – Debbie and Chris Parkinson, Stan Swettenham, Chris Tinsley and John Donoghue.

Others partaking included...

Alun Davies, Neil Hunt, Chris Threlfall, Mugsie Rimmer, Bazza Mills, Matt Duffy, Neil Spencer, Kev Watkins, Dave Heslegrave, Cath Lapsley, Andy Maxwell, Will THornborough, Mike Taylor, Steve Bracher, Steve BellMark Day, Jeff Cummins, Rob Aitken, Ron Ellis, Ian Kettle, Stuart Wincer, Keith Prokop, Ian Jones, Geoff Lawson, Alistair Ford and Tim Patrick.

Thanks to those who contributed to the raffle.

Also please note the year on year support of the local Pizza Hutt, Nandos, Vue Cinema and Premier Bowl.

See you all in October 2019!!

2019 SOCIAL EVENTS

THE OLD GEORGIANS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 71st DINNER

THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2019

The Hesketh Golf Club, Cockles Dicks Lane, Southport, PR9 9QQ.

AGM

Commencing 7.15pm

Annual Dinner

Commencing 8pm

*Please note that the dinner has returned to
Maundy Thursday.*

This year we will be offering a menu choice. A standard three course (option A) will be available, but anyone paying 10 days before (received by April 8th) and stating in writing their preference, will be able to select A, B or C for each of the courses.

Starter

- A. Black Pudding Stack
- B. Fan of Melon with Windsor Fruits

Main

- A. Chicken Supreme in a White Wine and Chestnut Mushroom Sauce
- B. Herb Crusted Salmon with an Asparagus Sauce
- C. Pea Risotto w/ Poached Egg

Dessert

- A. Lemon Tart w/ Lemon & Ginger Sorbet
- B. Chocolate & Hazlenut Cheesecake

Coffee and Mints

The ticket price is retained from last year, which is £30 and tickets are available from Jonathan Elliott or Stan Rimmer. Bank transfers, cash or cheques, payable to 'Old Georgians Association', in advance of the evening please. If you do make a transfer, please ensure you put your name as the reference and email Jon Elliott to confirm.

Contributions to the raffle prizes are welcomed.

Cancellations made after **Friday 12th April** may not be refundable. Bookings must be confirmed by **Tuesday 16th April** to Jon Elliott. Any not confirmed will be released. We will accept requests after that date, but places cannot be guaranteed. Jon Elliott is on jonelliott61@hotmail.com or 07969889843. You can also contact Stan Rimmer (01704 576713).

Bank transfers can be made for your payment. Please ensure that you place your name into the reference field. You must also email Jon Elliott to confirm your place.

THE OLD GEORGIANS' **ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE**

Thursday 18th April 2019

Hesketh Golf Club

The *Annual Golf Challenge* will be held at the Hesketh once again. The competition is open to all OGA members. A trophy will be presented to the winner, with prizes awarded to lower places, the longest drive and nearest the pin.

The entry fee is expected to be **£30 per player**. This will be requested in advance of the day once the date is confirmed to ensure that we secure the course for the competition. The closing date to request a place will be **Friday April 12th**. We cannot guarantee there will be any tee slots remaining at this late date, but we will take later entries if places are still available.

Cheques should be made payable to the Old Georgians Association.

Please send you entry fee to Jonathan Elliott by April 12th. Jonathan is working with Chris Stitson (the real golfer) to organise this and you can also contact Chris for further information if required. Chris' number is 01636 830036 and his email is stitson.chris@gmail.com. Please send any correspondence by email to both Jonathan and Chris.

Please ensure that you include the following information with the entry fee: Players Name; name of members golf club; their handicap; email contact; telephone contact; preferred tee off time; preferred players (to tee off at the same time, max 4 per tee time).

The facilities and catering will be available to you, but there may be an additional charge that you will have to confirm with the Golf Club quoting our event. Please ask for Karen and mention the OGA event.

THE OLD GEORGIANS' ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 11th October 2019 (provisional)

S&B Sports Club, Trafalgar Rd, Birkdale, Southport (01704 569951)

We will be continuing with the arrangements at the S&B. Excellent bar snacks are available from 5.30pm until 8pm if anyone needs to eat prior to the quiz. Doors are open at 7pm for the quiz to start prompt at 8pm.

Tickets will be available from Neil Spencer, David Lonsdale, Jon Elliott & committee members.

Teams can be UP TO 6 members. Smaller teams can merge and you can bring more than one team if you wish. If you wish to reserve a table, please confirm by Wednesday 2nd October 2019.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Darrell Farrant forwarded on this email he received from Mike Thompson, in response to our quest for sporting stories.

Hello Darrell,

To aid your above research I thought I should let you know about a remarkable reunion I had with Tony Waiters whose piece appeared in this year's Red Rose.

Like you I was a contemporary of Tony's in the late 40's and early 50's. Remarkably, I was the preferred class goalkeeper when we played football (with a rugby ball) at break times. This is difficult to comprehend since he went on to play for Blackpool and England whilst I only made it as far as Radnor Drive with Hesketh Casuals in the Lancashire Amateur League.

In 1960 Blackpool FC embarked on a post season trip to Central Africa to play a series of exhibition matches and Tony was, of course, in the squad. Their final match of the tour was in Nyasaland (now Malawi). Meanwhile, I had completed my National Service in 1959 and agreed a 3 year contract as a Customs and Excise officer with the then Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. After initial training at Customs HQ in Salisbury (now Harare) I was posted to Blantyre in Nyasaland. It was shortly after this that the Blackpool team arrived in Nyasaland, the match took place and I met up with Tony again. My only regret was that I was not selected for the national team. I wonder if he remembers this chance meeting in darkest Africa!

Kind regards, Mike Thompson

Good morning, Jon.

I have some more information for you following a correspondence with Barrie Whittaker who was in the year below me at school but with whom I was a member of the athletics team.

Barrie was a very accomplished sprinter and long jumper and it was in this latter event that he excelled. In a match against Hutton GS in the summer of 1955 he broke the school record with a jump of 20ft.8, only to find that this was beaten by an outstanding opponent who out-jumped him by 3 inches. With his final jump Barrie produced an astonishing leap of 21ft. 4, a school record which I wonder has ever been surpassed and which was one of the best distances ever recorded in this event by any schoolboy athlete. The following year he won the title in the All England Schools Senior event. On leaving school he went up to Cambridge and was robbed of a certain Blue only by a most unfortunate injury.

My best wishes,

Darrell

Mike Hyde wrote to the Ed during the summer and I hope he does not mind his words being reproduced here, as there are many members who will take interest in his wellbeing.

Jon

Much appreciate your memo and enquiry.

I regret that I shall not be in attendance on Friday. Please give my apologies to the chairman and members present.

I enjoyed giving the OG grace and hope that practice will enable my successor to make it a notable start to the evening's festivity.

I am surprised myself at how I feel. Walking without assistance is increasingly difficult but I keep chewing the pills and life goes on.

The OG dinner was, for me, an annual event not to be missed. It had nothing to do with either the quality of the food or the speakers. It was the general bonhomie and fellowship of the reunion that made the evening. Sadly tempus fugit and all good things come to a conclusion (except John Pilling. - he will go on forever).

Do keep in touch.

Regards.
Mike

Jonathan,

I don't know what interest it can possibly be to anyone, but at 85 I am still singing in the Melbourne Opera chorus, having sung in Wagner's Lohengrin and Tannhauser as well as Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier this year -as well as addressing the Haggis on Burn's Night on board Queen Elizabeth en route from Southampton to Melbourne. (makes an interesting change from appearing In Hamish MacBeth so many years ago.)

I am more interested in hearing from my contemporaries before it's too late...

David Preston
Gear's 1944 /52

Dear Mr Elliott

My father, John Gorst, has asked me (his daughter) to respond to your letter regarding confirmation of his address. He will be 93 in November. He does not use the internet any more, so any correspondence would be best by post. He has very fond memories of his schooldays and was pleased to receive your letter.

Thank you
Nora Bridges

Hello Jonathan,

After reading the excellent online version of the Red Rose a little while ago I received the paper version in yesterday's post (it was forwarded from my Fife address). As already advised I am perfectly happy to only receive the online version which has the handy facility of being able to enlarge photos.

I always enjoy reading about my mates at KGV. Alan Wright who was mentioned in the latest edition actually married a girl who lived across the road near me in Crossens. I played rugby with Alan and also was a team mate in athletics in which Alan excelled. He represented the school in cricket but being big and clumsy I could only manage the scorer's role.

Keep up the good work.

Kind regards

Steve Salt (Leech's 1956-63)

Española - The St.Kilda Voyage – 1995 **by Martin Birch.**

Española - The St.Kilda Voyage

I read with much interest the article by the Thornley Society about their climbing expedition to Skye and Loch Scavaig (Red Rose 2018), and I was reminded of my voyage there in 1995. The Loch is only accessible by mountaineers and sailors, so I thought that a brief account of my voyage might complement the climbing aspects covered by the Thornleas, one member of whom, John Seddon, was a fellow pupil and senior prefect in 1970-71. For the last 30 years I have sailed and restored the Edwardian yacht *Española*. She was launched in 1902, is 50ft. in length, and is of 17 tons displacement (Figure 1). In the 1990s I sailed her in the summer months to various locations in the Celtic waters of the British Isles (the west coast of Ireland, Cornwall, and the Western Isles of Scotland), though of late my cruising is somewhat less ambitious. The main objective of one such voyage, in 1995, was to visit the St. Kilda group of volcanic islands approximately 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, and it was during our return from St. Kilda that we anchored at Loch Scavaig on the south shores of Skye. This article is a short summary of that voyage, focussing on St. Kilda and Loch Scavaig. [The full account is available in my book “*Española: Edwardian Cutter (History, Restoration, and Selected Voyages)*”, VDM Verlag, ISBN 978-3-639-34184-3, 2011.]

We departed from Preston Marina on Sunday, 16th July. The Mate (Mr. Raven) and the Navigating Officer (Mr. MacDonald), neither of whom are Old Georgians, had both joined the ship the previous day in order to assist with final preparations. The weather was settled and the passage in light airs to the Isle of Man was uneventful. After spending two nights at Peel, we departed on 18th July at approximately 1730 hours with the intention of sailing directly to Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides, without recourse to the “iron horse” (the diesel engine). However, we again experienced light airs for the first day and had only weathered the Mull of Kintyre by the following evening, though we never saw it through the murk. After another day of fitful wind, *Española* was in the vicinity of the rock stack Dubhe Artach when the wind strength increased to force 4-5. Seas were building and the weather was gradually deteriorating. The decision was made to run with the weather to Tobermory, rather than risk a direct passage to Eriskay across the Hebridean Sea. The night was black, with no moon and the vessel on a dead run with a heavy following sea. Being of the “Corinthian” era, *Española* has a low freeboard and no safety rails, so such conditions can be somewhat hazardous. However, the “old girl” is very stable, and by 0730 we were secure alongside at Tobermory.

We departed for Eriskay the next day (Friday, 21st July) at 1045. By 1230 we had cleared Ardnamurchan Point when we decided to make for Canna, which was on our current heading, and so await a more favourable wind. At 1730 *Española* lay quietly at anchor in Canna harbour. The following day (Saturday, 22nd July) *Española* departed at 1100, once again bound for Eriskay. Two hours later the shipping

forecast gave an imminent gale warning (SW8 Malin). We reduced sail and proceeded towards Loch Skipport in South Uist. By 1600 we had gained the lee of the Outer Hebrides just south of Usinish lighthouse, and we were able to make directly for the entrance to Eriskay harbour.

We remained for two nights at Eriskay (Figure 2) while the gale blew itself out. We were joined by Molita, Española's sister-ship, launched in 1898, a regular visitor to Eriskay. The next day (Sunday, 23rd July) the crew were ashore for general sight-seeing and to observe the re-enactment of the landing of Bonnie Prince Charlie on the western shores of Eriskay. That evening, there was much debate about St.Kilda in the saloon. The weather conditions were improving, and the plan was to depart after the 0550 forecast and cruise south, then west through the Sound of Barra, and then approximately north-west to St.Kilda.

The morning forecast was "wind S to SE, 3 to 4, possibly 5 to 6 later". Though the latter part was somewhat of concern, we decided to risk the passage. At 0630 Stornaway Coastguard were informed of our intentions. We departed the mooring at 0710 and cleared the harbour by 0740, making for the Sound of Barra, as planned. By 0942 Española had cleared the Sound and was west of Washington Reef with the bit between her teeth, ready for the North Atlantic. Fortunately, the anticipated force 6 did not arrive. We were averaging 6 knots and the sailing was magnificent over the long, rolling swell. We called up St.Kilda Radar (an Army base) to report our position and ask about the holding ground and sea state at the anchorage. At 1830 we experienced our first sight of Hirta which, in the restricted visibility, was all of a sudden towering above us in

The mist. At 1915 Levenish Rock was abeam to port at half a mile, and at 1945 Española was pitching and rolling to her anchor in Village Bay, Hirta.

I had written to the Scottish National Trust before our departure to obtain permission to land on Hirta. The St.Kilda group is now a wildlife sanctuary, and is one of the world's most significant breeding sites for seabirds such as gannets, fulmars and petrels. Our first responsibility on arrival was to report to the Warden, and to the Commanding Officer in charge of the Army base which supports a radar tracking station on the island. There are no other inhabitants, except an occasional group of conservationists who work on the cottages along the old 'High Street' (a line of dwellings overlooking Village Bay, abandoned in 1930, Figure 3).

The Warden and CO were extremely helpful: we were given use of the toilets, showers and officers mess at the army base - a very welcome luxury. There was one other vessel at anchor: a charter yacht from Stornaway. An anchor watch was kept that first night since we were unsure of the holding. A ground swell can build up in Village Bay which can become a severe problem in anything above a force 5, and the Warden informed us that 40 feet rise and fall was not uncommon. The St.Kilda group is very exposed and such conditions would have necessitated departing to sea and running with the weather around the Butt of Lewis, since the Sounds of Barra and Harris are impassable under such conditions.

However, Tuesday was fine and sunny and our day ashore was spent exploring Hirta (Figures 4 and 5). Spectacular were the views of Boreray and the Stacs (Figures 6) from the cliffs on the east of Hirta which reach heights of 1500 feet. Española looked so small from such dizzy heights. The geology of these islands, which were not glaciated, is different from anything that the mainland has to offer.

We were lucky, dawn on Wednesday July 26th broke to a calm, sunny day, perfect conditions for a circumnavigation of the entire St. Kilda group before our return passage to the mainland via the Sound of Harris. Española was underway at 0645. We headed west once clear of Village Bay, between Levenish and Hirta, and proceeded in a clockwise direction around the main group (Hirta, Soay and Dun). Once on the east side of Hirta, Española set course for Boreray, Stac An Armin and Stac Lee, an off-lying group about 5 miles east of Hirta. We lost all sense of scale as we approached the group, an effect enhanced by the millions of seabirds which took to the air at our approach. At 0945, on the east side of Boreray, we set course for the Sound of Harris, approximately due east. The passage over a flat sea, under a burning sun, was enhanced by the rich marine life which is typical of these waters. When about half way across, three large dolphins decided to play around the bows, the two bravest performing leaps each side of the bowsprit. They made welcome company. At 1705 we were approaching the Sound of Harris. The persistent flat calm was favourable for the difficult passage through the Sound and we were clear of hazards by 1910. Two hours later Española was at anchor in Loch Maddy, safe once more in the lee of the Outer Hebrides. Our objective of reaching St.Kilda had been achieved.

We departed Loch Maddy at 1120 on Thursday, July 27th bound for Loch Scavaig on the south side of Skye, nestled within the jagged peaks of the Cuillins. By 2130 we were approaching our destination by way of Soay Sound and at 2230 Española was at anchor in Loch Scavaig: a spectacular anchorage, one of the most beautiful in the Western Isles (Figures 7 and 8). There is a waterfall (albeit a very cold one!) which is very handy for ablutions for those with Corinthian spirit. Above Loch Scavaig is Loch Coruisk (Figure 9), a freshwater loch thought by many to be the most impressive in Scotland. The whole region is absolutely magnificent. From up above Loch Scavaig on a clear day it is possible to see the islands of Rhum, Egg, Muck and Canna in one broad panorama.

The final leg of the voyage from Loch Scavaig to Oban was completed on Friday, July 28th on a wet, drizzly day with no wind and a steady glass (of the barometric variety). The visibility in the Sound of Mull was down to about half a mile at times so we had to navigate with care. We were secure alongside the fish quay, Oban, at 2330. The following morning Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Raven departed the ship's company, and I prepared Española for yet another crew to arrive (on this occasion my two sons Aron and Lewis, then aged 15 and 12). So ended one of my most memorable voyages.

Martin Birch - Woodhams (1964-71)



Figure 1: Española sailing off Peel in 2009



Figure 2: Española (left) and Molita (right) at Eriskay (August 1995).



Figure 3: 'High Street' on Hirta.



Figure 4: Village Bay, with Española at anchor in the distance on the right.



Figure 5: Village Bay (the Skipper is in the foreground).



Figure 6: Stac Lee, with Stac an Amin (left) and Boreray (right) in the distance.



Figure 7: Española at anchor, Loch Scavaig (with the skipper in the foreground).

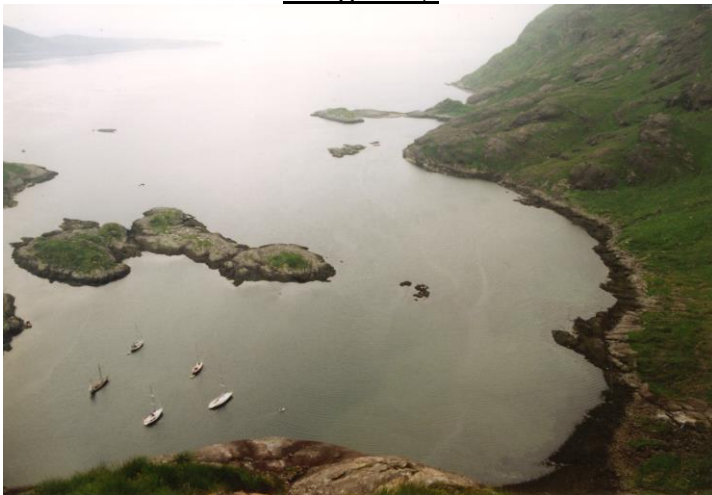


Figure 8: Española at anchor, Loch Scavaig (furthest left in the group of yachts).



Figure 9: Loch Coruisk, above Loch Scavaig.

KGV SCHOOL PLAYS – Behind the Scenes

I was interested to read Alan Halliday's reflections on appearing in KGV School Plays (The Red Rose, 2018). Please allow me to fill in some gaps.

Alan mentions the productions of 1962 and 1963 as precursors to those in which he trod the boards from 1967 to 1969. He rightly credits the actors for their performances, the English teachers who bore the responsibility for each production and the many staff who gave their time to construct sets or contribute in a range of other ways. However, apart from a brief acknowledgement of the stage electricians' contribution in 1963, I can find no reference in his piece to the unsung heroes of both rehearsals and performances, that is, those of us on the Stage Staff.

I was a member of that team for *She Stoops To Conquer* (1964), *Hobson's Choice* (1965) and *The Physicists* (1966).

It is a material fact that, as much as the annual play brought kudos to the school and allowed several individuals to showcase their skills at learning and delivering often challenging speeches, these opportunities could not have taken place without the considerable efforts of members of the backstage team.

Despite being interested in drama, during my school days I was neither capable of learning lengthy speeches verbatim nor brave enough to audition, let alone perform. Thus, it was with some trepidation that I approached George Wakefield, in 1964 initially, with a willingness to participate in some non-acting role.

Mr. Wakefield, Head Of English and Producer of that year's play, told me that I could take on the role of Call Boy, warning me that it was an onerous task. As such, it meant being responsible for getting each actor into the wings of the stage ready for his entrance at the right time. I remember this interview particularly for his use of the word 'onerous'. I hadn't got a clue what it meant at the time, but I made sure I rapidly found out!

It was indeed a backstage role of considerable responsibility which I carried out as efficiently as I could and, to the best of my knowledge, nobody missed a cue as a result. I graduated, in ensuing years, to other backstage duties, joining the team led by Stage Manager, Mr. R. Hayes, a Maths teacher who had joined the staff around 1961. Keith Sach had worked his way to becoming ASM and along with some others from our year group, including Richard Metcalfe, Ray Clarke and Nigel Dickson, we made it an annual event for our remaining years at school: shifting scenery, working on lighting or props and performing sundry other enabling tasks.

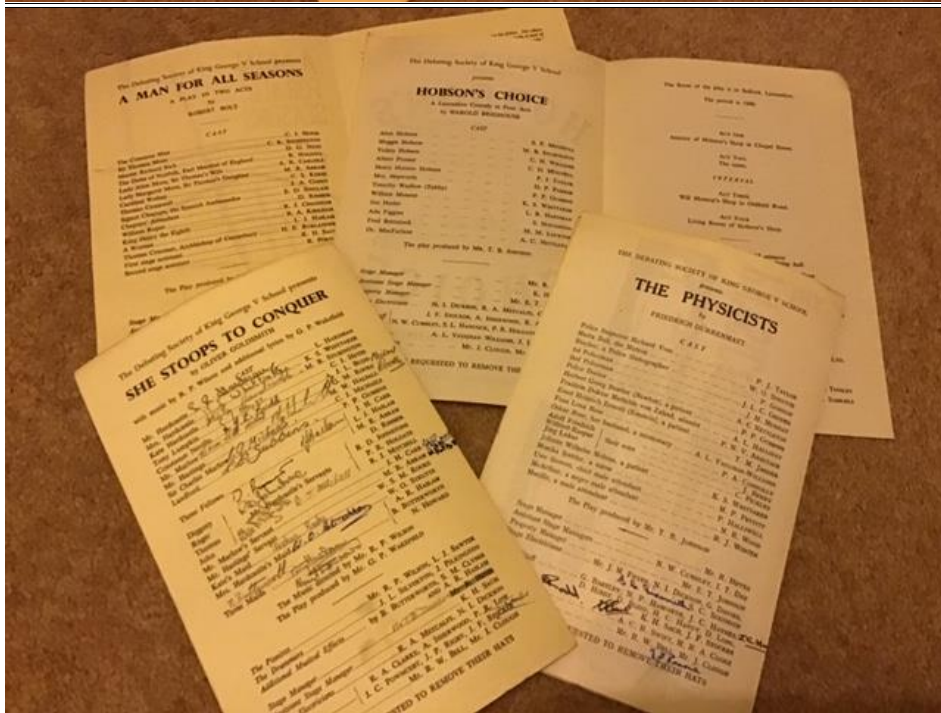
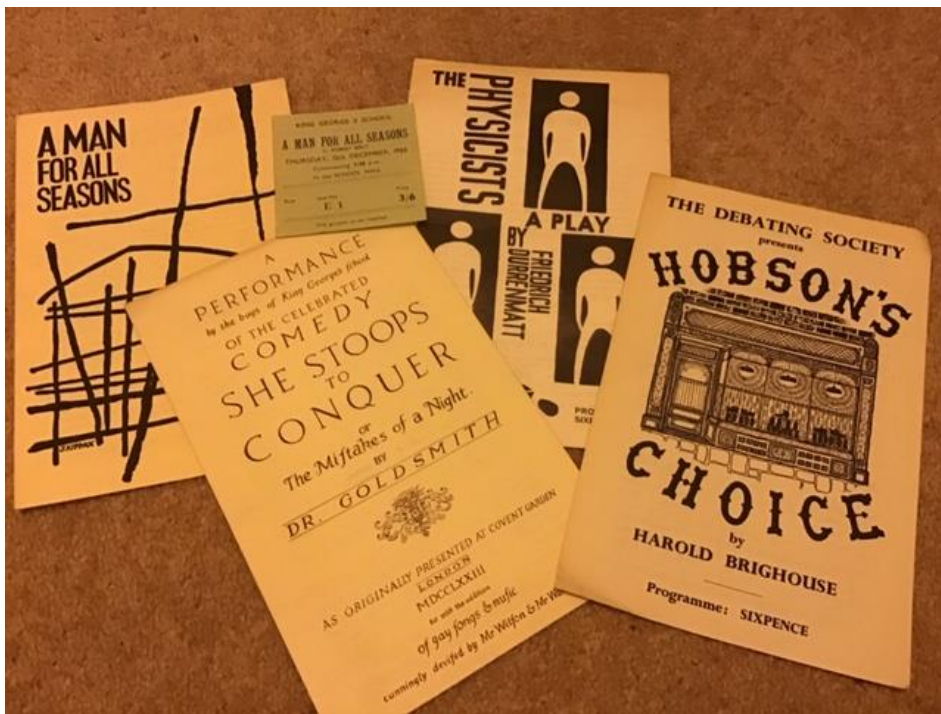
Although it was a serious business - nobody wished to incur the producer's wrath through sloppiness or error - we had great fun too. This was often at the expense of some of the actors, their lines or their delivery of such. As we grew accustomed to the plays and actors during rehearsals, we would entertain ourselves with parodies and mimicry, Keith Sach being a major contributor of these. At other times, muffled laughter would escape at the averting of some potential staging catastrophe.

Despite heightened levels of concentration, there were also the hazards of lapses in communication under the pressure of backstage silence. Indeed on one occasion, this resulted in the curtains opening prematurely after an interval, to give the audience a fleeting glimpses of Mr. Hayes, standing on a step-ladder, adjusting the placement of a chandelier. Apart from the resultant 'steward's enquiry' regarding such a disastrous breach in the chain of command, he was not at all pleased to see so many of his crew doubled up in amusement at his unscheduled stage debut, although, to give him credit, he was prepared to laugh at himself later.

So, the success of the KGV School plays wasn't all down to those boys with excellent memories who could learn speeches overnight and deliver them confidently in public. As is so often the case, everything that went on in the background and in preparation mattered hugely and, fortunately, there were those of us happy to carry out those roles.

I remain forever appreciative of my apprenticeship in stage management, putting it to good use during my teaching career. I hope those who acted went on to enjoy doing so elsewhere too. Happily also, I eventually found the courage to perform later in life, but that's a different story.

***Jon Stocker,
Spencers, 1960-67.***



THE THORNLEY SOCIETY 2018

The Thornley Society was set up by Geoffrey Dixon shortly after his arrival as head of KGV. It was named after James W Thornley (Edwards 1934-1940) who was killed whilst carrying out a winter reconnaissance exercise on Nanga Parbat in December 1950. The early exploits of the Thornley Society have been researched and documented as part of the book "Geoffrey Dixon – Climber and Alpinist" by John Allen. (Available on Kindle 156pp £1.80). As well as being a great read for anyone interested in the hills, it gives a fascinating biographical insight into the life and somewhat enigmatic character of GFD. Dixon handed over the baton of the Thornley to Jim Honeybone on Jim's appointment as history and my form teacher (as an 11 year old "newt") in 1964. I shared his love of mountains but could not at the time join the Thornley which was restricted to the Sixth Form. The Rambling Club however was a good substitute and I recall many happy visits to Langdale, Snowdonia, Malham and the like.

Alas, just as I entered the sixth form, Jim left KGV to teach in Liverpool and I had to wait a further forty odd years before being able to join a reconstituted Thornley on a visit to Skye. We meet regularly twice a year: Skye in a pre-midge month and Langdale in November.

Our base in Skye is always the Glen Brittle campsite. It is within relatively easy reach of the "Old Inn" near Carbost and with a bit more driving, Sligachan Hotel and the Arriba Cafe in Portree. A couple of years ago we discovered the Port Na Long Hotel further along the road from the Old Inn where the food is really excellent. In Langdale we stay in a climber's hut within walking distance of the New and Old Dungeon Ghyll pubs and only a short drive from the Apple Pie in Ambleside where the Bath Buns are truly amazing. We also sometimes take to the hills. This year's Skye meet took place in the first week of May. It started with a rendezvous at Mike's house just west of Glasgow where he provided a sumptuous Sunday lunch. Then, after a pleasant afternoon drive via Fort William we managed to set up camp and make it to the Old Inn before they stopped serving.

Monday was forecast to be the best day of the week so it was a case of now or never for our planned main aim this year – the traverse of Clach Glas, often referred to as the "Matterhorn of Skye". Doug, Joe, Johnny, Keith and I set off for the drive round to Loch Slapin whilst Mike, Jim and Geoff opted for a more leisurely day walking along the Rubh an Dunain peninsula.

We approached Clach Glas via Choire a Caise and Sgurr nan Each. The weather was true to forecast and gave us spectacular views from the summit ridge across to the whole of the Cuillin range. The traverse is relatively exposed in places with a couple of awkward pitches that took time to ponder over. Time prevented us continuing to Blaven to complete the horseshoe. We stopped off at the Sligachan before joining the others at The Old Inn for dinner where we reflected on a brilliant day. Even if the weather turned nasty for the rest of the week, the meet was already deemed a success.

Next day was indeed wet and windy so it was off to the Arriba café in Portree. A visit to the Talisker distillery was then proposed, but on arrival we decided it best not to

wait 3 hours for the next available guided tour. Meanwhile it dawned on Mike that he had the option of staying at the Old Inn rather than in a sodden campsite so whilst the rest of us headed back for an afternoon in the rain he returned to the hotel and booked us a table for the evening meal.

We always like to have at least one visit up to the main Skye ridge each year so with Wednesday's forecast looking a bit more optimistic, (at least up until 3pm when hail and thunder was expected), we set our sights on Bruach Na Frithe. Finding a car parking place in amongst the crowds visiting the Fairy Pools at the head of Glen Brittle was not easy. We still marvel at the marketing power of the internet to bring people in from all over the world to see what in effect is just a pretty stream. With the exception of Mike, who had gone to take pictures for his landscape painting in Corrie Lagan, the rest set off along the Glen Brittle to Sligachan footpath via the Mawes saddle. A highlight for me was having it confirmed by Johnny and Geoff, our ornithology experts, that the bird I saw swooping above a pine forest was indeed a young golden eagle. At the Mawes Geoff and Doug continued around Coire na Creiche whilst Joe, Johnny, Jim, Keith and I hauled our way up to the summit. Mindful of the forecast and with some cumulo nimbus approaching from the south we did not linger. Breaks in the cloud gave views of the Bhasteir Tooth to the north and the rest of the ridge plus the islands beyond to the south. We descended via the snow filled Corrie Bhasteir regretting, despite the season, not packing crampons and ice axes. Doug and Geoff meanwhile drove round to the Sligachan where we finished the day just as the hail and thunder arrived

The wet weather continued until Thursday. Mike, ever the realist, decided to head for home and it was back to the Arriba café in Portree for the rest of us. One can only hog a table in a busy café on a wet day for so long, so it was a gentle wander around the headland at Portree. As a surgeon in Scotland, Joe was particularly impressed by the Apothecary's Tower above the town the purpose of which was to advertise the availability of medical services to passing ships. Returning westwards via Dunvegan in the vague hope of finding better weather, we soon abandoned any thoughts of climbing the Macleod's Tables. The Port Na Long Hotel was the venue for the evening meal which lived up to expectation with its excellent cuisine.

There was no let up to the weather on Friday so it was decided to pack up and leave the now empty campsite. We headed south in convoy to take up Mike's offer of "calling in on our way home if you want". Whether he expected this to mean 5 bedraggled souls camping out in various floors and rooms I'm not sure. But we he took us for an excellent and entertaining final meal at his local restaurant (PJ's - Helensburgh) where Jim was given his first lesson as a barista. A slap up breakfast again chez Mike in the morning concluded another memorable week.

The current membership, in alphabetical order by first name:

Doug (Mellor 1962 – 69), Geoff (Wright 1961 – 1967), Joe (McManners 1964 - 1969), John (Laws 1959 – 1967), John (Seddon 1964-1971) and Keith (Osborn 1961 – 1967) were in KGV's Sixth Form Climbing Club known as "The Thornley Society" in the Nineteen Sixties. I, Jim Honeybone (1964 – 1970), had taken over running the club when Geoffrey Dixon retired from the post. Mike (Dodworth) joined last year.



Early morning in Glen Brittle

I wake to the warmth of the sun on canvas, the crash of waves on the shore and the sweet outpouring of a skylark overhead. The incessant call of a cuckoo echoes down the glen and tempts me from my sleeping-bag. Outside, the scent of the sea and the rush of wind greet me as I follow the short trail through the dunes to the wide expanse of Loch Brittle, inhospitable when a southwesterly gale whips the sea into a turmoil, but today a calm and tranquil scene. Small groups of waders mingle together at the sea's edge searching for food - dunlin and ringed plover chase the waves while picking at sand hoppers in clumps of seaweed laid bare by the retreating tide. A redshank, the sentinel of the shore, pipes his alarm call as I approach. Oystercatchers probe for lugworms deep in the mud with their ungainly orange bills and turnstones work diligently amongst the flotsam, turning the debris to uncover a hard earned morsel. A wren sounds its clarion call from a gorse bush nearby, so loud for one so small, and a party of twite, the 'northern linnet' congregate on a wire fence hung with cobwebs bejewelled in morning dew, chattering gently amongst themselves, a bird of the far North always a thrill to see.

As I walk along the shore, a wheatear flies in front, keeping a safe distance and flashing its white rump as it flits from stone to stone. Having flown many thousands of kilometres from its wintering grounds in the sub-Saharan region of Africa, yet one of the earliest of Summer visitors to arrive on our shores, it is a sure sign that Spring is taking hold. Then I see another, and another, and soon there are seven or eight flying together, probably migrant birds having made landfall overnight nearing the end of their long journey. Soon they will pair up and build a nest in a stone wall or building or hidden amongst the coastal shingle, before heading South once more.

On a sand spit reaching into the sea where the river enters the loch, a number of gulls have gathered and a quick scan reveals herring, common, and great black-backs all taking a break from scavenging to wash and preen their feathers in the fresh water. Hooded crows wander amongst the gulls looking for easy pickings. A cormorant typifies the peaceful scene as it basks in the sun with wings hung out to dry.

I turn the corner to follow the river and watch a grey heron, statuesque in minimal motion, scanning the river bed for anything edible that might swim by. A single, clear whistle reveals a common sandpiper which flies to join its mate further upstream. Suddenly, flying high, then skimming low over the surface of the water, a commotion of fast aerial excitement. They're back! The first arrivals that will form the sand martin colony, swooping up to claim and excavate their burrows in the sheer face of a sandy cliff overhanging the river, squabbling over the best sites on a 'first come, first served' basis - a sure sign that the long days of Summer will soon be here.

Time has passed and my thoughts turn to higher matters as I view the Cuillin Ridge above, rough jagged peaks towering against blue sky, clear and beckoning, a day for action not to be missed. I head back to camp where a mug of tea is thrust into my hand, and the comforting hiss of the stove tells me the porridge pan has been activated and discussion of the day's activities is well underway. How good it is to be back!

John Laws, May 2018.

FOR SALE

Our previous stocks of memorabilia have now been depleted. OGA ties can still be obtained from Stan Rimmer. If you are interested, please contact Stan: 361 Liverpool Rd, Southport PR8 3BT – 01704-576713

Cheques payable to: Old Georgians Association. All items are Post Free.

OLD GEORGIANS TIE – Black, 2 Red & White Stripes, Red Rose £15

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www.theoldgeorgians.co.uk