



The Notes • The official journal of The Dunstonian Association



Winter 2020



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Front cover artwork: John Russell 1989

Welcome from the Chair



In what has been a challenging and frustrating year to date, many of us have had a little time on our hands to dig out our photograph albums and memorabilia and indulge in some good old fashioned nostalgia. As a historian brought up under the guidance of "ROD" Hughes and Peter Thompson, your Chair has certainly found a certain comfort in doing so, when faced with an ever-changing present and an uncertain future. There is therefore a generous sprinkling of "looking back" in this edition of The Notes, ranging from a description of what happened when the College opened its doors on 2 October 1888, to a history of lacrosse at St Dunstan's, to a topic that never fails to stir the passions - the history of the house shields.

From a personal point of view, I am sure that Iain Macdowall's piece on

the Capital Radio annual disco, held for a few years in the late 1970s, will evoke vivid memories among my contemporaries!

Despite being unable to organise physical events during the last few months, your Committee has remained busy, exploring ways of bringing to life the extraordinary amount of archive material in our possession.

As a first step, we have decided to digitalise the Chronicle and make every edition available on our online platform, SDConnect. This task will take a few years to complete but in the first instance, all editions of the Chronicle since 1960 will soon be published, so please look out for further information in the regular newsletters on how to access this material. If by chance you do not receive the newsletter, please contact the Dunstonian office at dunstonians@stdunstans.org.uk

Life, however, is not just about looking back. There is a constant evolution in education and this has always been the case at St Dunstan's. For those of you who have to hand a copy of L.F. Morris's "A History of St Dunstan's College", you will find the following under his chapter on C.M Stuart (Headmaster 1888 to 1922):

"The idea that pupils should actively participate in all school work appealed to Stuart, who always urged that science was something that one did and not

something one read about or watched being done".

This pioneering spirit remains visible with the development of the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths facility ("STEM") as well as the new Sixth Form Centre and Junior School.

As the Headmaster explains in this edition, the creation of "The Plaza", is under way, while it is hoped that the final phase - the extension of sporting facilities including re-siting of the Fives courts - will start before too long. We are determined to carry on providing a first class education for future Dunstonians and ensure that CM Stuart's pioneering spirit lives on. On page 38 you will find more details about the future developments and, should you feel able to do so, how Dunstonians can contribute to their funding.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Committee and, in particular, Isabelle Blake-James and Iain Macdowall, for their unstinting efforts over the last year and to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful, if rather different, festive season.

Albam Exorna!

David Edwards ('83)

Chair of The Dunstonian Association

DUNSTONIAN NEWS



WHAT ST DUNSTAN'S HAS MEANT AND GIVEN TO ME...

Roy Payton ('53)



I am very grateful for this opportunity to be able to explain the important role that my education at

St Dunstan's College has played in my life.

I have enjoyed a fantastic life, full of colour, fun and challenge. The road has sometimes been bumpy and quite daunting, but very rewarding. Sir Winston Churchill once said that, "Success in life is experiencing a series of failures without losing enthusiasm."

This was very appropriate when our PE Master, Dicky Ellerby challenged us to walk round the gym on our hands. After many failures, I finally succeeded and Mr Ellerby presented me with a half crown, stressing that he never thought anybody would ever achieve it.

I found my time at school inspiring, motivating and character-building and I learned that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. To be different. Being different separates the best from the rest – if you always act normally you never know how great you could have been.

Life generally is rather like climbing a mountain, but never let the peaks get too high or the troughs too low.

Having discharged my duties towards my family, as a husband and father to

my three sons as I grew older, I wished to achieve it with dignity and a feeling of being worthwhile.

At the age of 68 I nervously attended a Waitrose interview...and got the job! I wanted to be the best checkout worker ever and in my opinion, I was! I achieved some top sales recognition, even though I was only a part-time partner, out of 91,000 - most very much younger than me. I thought that was pretty good! I won an award from the John Lewis Golden Jubilee Trust (right), to work with a charity of my choice – I chose *Children with Cancer*, as my daughter died from cancer at only 12 months old.

I made successful presentations to Rotary – WI and other institutions and raised substantial funds for the charity - could I have done this without the confidence St Dunstan's gave me - I think maybe not?

After ten years at Waitrose I decided to retire, but I still at the age of 78 had a strong desire to feel useful and worthwhile, so with this in mind I took up roller skating! After many thrills and spills I finally mastered the art. I fell in love with every dustbin on the seafront as I hadn't learned how to stop! People walking their dogs on long leads, became the bane of my life.

I raised funds for childrens' charities, with my late daughter in mind and proudly appeared on BBC News (see Youtube/ Google Roller Roy)

I became known as Roller Roy and was described as "Possibly the oldest ukulele

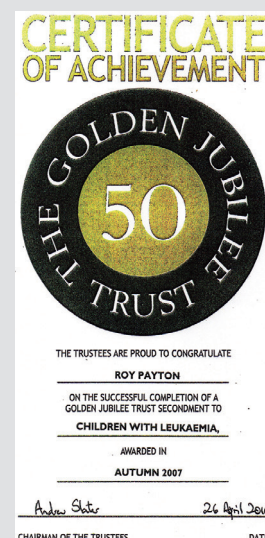
playing roller skater in the world with a parrot on his shoulder"

Eventually I injured myself and needed to move into assisted living accommodation - and then LOCKDOWN happened. I remembered what I had learned at St

Dunstan's - motivation, inspiration - when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I set myself various challenges at my new home, Bernhard Baron Cottage Homes and since lockdown I have walked more than 1.5 million paces - equal to 620 miles; read 12 books; written 5 poems and learned 10 new songs on my guitar. Plus I've lost almost a stone in weight!

Finally as I reach the age of 84 on 21st October 2020 (Trafalgar Day), I keep with me the coffee table I made at school (pictured right) - under the beady eyes of Sam Maslen, some 70 years ago!

I will finish by saying good luck to all students - future and present and to all Dunstonians everywhere and remember - nothing succeeds without enthusiasm - always have a positive attitude - learn to be different - don't wait for the storm to pass but learn to sing dance or even skate in the rain!



Matthew Wood

Matthew Wood, once Director of Music at St Dunstan's College, was ordained deacon in Sheffield Cathedral, on 20 September 2020.

He is to serve in the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor. The Bishop who ordained him was Sophie Doncaster.



Dr David Jefferys ('70)

Past President of the ODA

As the Senior Vice President of a Global Pharmaceutical Company, the pandemic and lockdown has meant a very busy period, but of virtual meetings and no international travel.

Chairing the Regulatory Science Committee for the Internal Industry Association (IFPMA) which covers vaccines and interactions with the WHO has also been challenging. This gives a unique international view of the impact of Covid -19, to set alongside his local perspective as chairman of the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board and a Governor of Kings College NHS Trust.

However, living up to the College motto of *Albam Exorna* and filling in some space on the shield, the pandemic has seen David licensed as a Lay Minister (LMM) in the Anglican church, by Bishop James of Rochester, in a virtual service in May and appointed as a member of the Court of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.

To keep fit, David has increased his running, often from Bromley via Catford and has seen first-hand the work and progress on the new College extension.

Roy gets rolling for charity
Waitrose worker hopes to inspire others as part of UK Older People's Day

By MARIA HUPP
Email: m.hupp@eastbournepress.co.uk
Telephone: 01323 814464

For some, retirement is a chance to put your feet up and spend the days indulging in all the hobbies you never had time to do while working. Not for Roy Payton, though. Roy is setting an example of how to make the most of retirement and hopes to use UK Older People's Day as a chance to inspire others to do the same. Older People's Day is a national celebration of the achievements of older people.

John Lewis partnership, which gave him the opportunity to work with the Children with Leukaemia charity and raise money by way of seminars. For Roy, this was a very special role as his daughter died from leukaemia when she was only 12 months old. Now, he hopes to use the free time away from Waitrose to do even more fundraising for Children with Leukaemia, while having as much fun as possible. The 77-year-old has taken up roller-blading in his twilight years and hopes to use skating as a way to sum up his life and bows, as well as swimming in the sea most days. Roy said, 'Retirement offers older people the chance to 'rev up' rather than slow down, to invest in themselves and seek adventure - all with confidence and experience and attitude. Thinking and acting differently separates the best from the rest. If you always try to be normal, you will never know how amazing you could have been.' Visit www.olderpeoplesday.co.uk for more information.

Roy is simply magic

Our Measuring the Magic scheme is fast approaching a total of 1 million Magic Alerts - and Eastbourne Partner Roy Payton is responsible for more than 200 of these alone. Which, considering the sheer volume of Partners in Waitrose, is a remarkable achievement. Roy, who works in Customer Service, has received the impressive number of alerts despite only working two days a week, with an additional day every other Saturday. 'My reaction to receiving so many alerts is complete joy and satisfaction,' says Roy, who also wrote a poem, 'Life at the Checkouts', which we wrote about in a previous issue of The Chronicle. 'They're confirmation of a job well done by the people who matter - Waitrose customers.' Comments have ranged from 'Roy makes every customer feel important' to 'his made a difference to a difficult day' and 'he's kind with a lovely sense of humour'.

What's the secret to his success? 'I'm just myself,' he says simply. 'I don't know how to make my service stand out, but I have empathy for my customers. I want to help them in every way I can. I don't see my role as a job, I see it as a chance to help people. I've signed up 86 customers to my Waitrose in a single day. But it's the Magic Alerts that Roy is most proud of. He says, 'They give me a sense of achievement and a sense of purpose. It's a real buzz to know that I've helped someone. It's a real buzz to know that I've helped someone. It's a real buzz to know that I've helped someone.'

Caring
For the carers...

You hardly know us and yet you care
If we are lonely or in trouble, you are always there
You are like Angels without wings, sent from heaven above
And through this poem, we say thank you and send you our love

We have memories galore of friends and family and our life from the past
Those memories we will cherish and forever will last
But it is our life now that we need to address
And for your help and kindness again, we say thank you and God bless

You should be proud of what you do and who you are
In modern day language you are a 'real star'
You make people happy and feel very worthwhile
You are kind and caring, with your own personal style

Thank you for looking after us...we shall never forget
Please take care of yourselves, we are so pleased that we met

By Roy Payton
June 2020

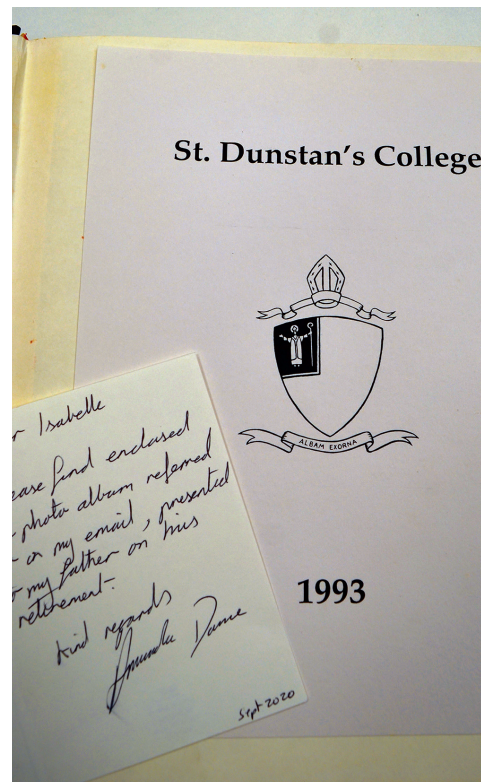


ANDREW OSAYEMI ('01)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER 2020

Our Black History Month virtual assembly was led by an Old Dunstonian, Andrew Osayemi - who left a very successful career in Investment Banking, to set up a TV Production company. He produced the comedy show, Meet the Adebanjos, which was loosely based on his life as a British child growing up in London with African parents. It is now available on Netflix and we would encourage you all to give it a try!

He encouraged students to be a part of the change that they want to see, and make a contribution! We were delighted that he was also able to come into the College to deliver live, socially distanced assemblies, to individual year groups. He shared his life experiences and challenged them not to give up on their hopes and dreams when confronted with the word 'no'. I'm sure the students will remember the phrase, 'don't dwell on no, focus on earning your yes' long after they leave the College.



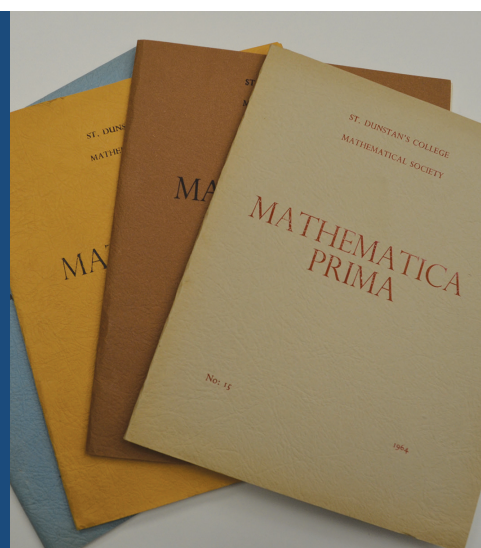
Amanda Dance donates her father's leaving gift to the Archives

In September 2020 the Archives office was contacted by former Headmaster Brian Dance's daughter, Miss Amanda Dance, who wanted to donate her late father's retirement gift: a photo album of all tutor groups in 1993.

Mathematica Prima

Geoffrey Hall ('64) wishes to transfer all the editions of Mathematica Prima to electronic form, so that they can be accessed via the Dunstonians website.

Geoff currently holds the editions for 1961, 62, 63, 64, 65. The archive at St Dunstan's College also holds the edition for 1967. The earlier editions are likely go back to 1951. If any reader holds these, or editions for 1966 and later years, please get in touch with Geoff at: geoff@moreton-hall.com



Arthur Jackson '62

- writing about Tom Randall

In the Summer edition of The Notes 2020, a small note mention was made of Tom Randall, who was one of the younger members who went to war with the BEF and the 91st Field Artillery Regiment.

Tom's job was to keep the wire contacted between the battery and the Forward Operation Placement, with forward Artillery Personal who laid the shot when fired at the enemy. Tom was asked to check the line, as there wasn't a reply from the FOP, so off he went running the line. They used a stick with a ring, so if there was a break it could be repaired. He went quite some distance and got to the FOP, found no one there so called the line, but got no answer back - they had to check in case it had broken. So Tom went back to the battery and although there was no break, there was also no sign of any guns or anyone to be seen. They had bugged out and forgotten about him. He didn't know where they were, so off he went and joined a large number of BEF soldiers. He pushed off with a few others, rather than with the large group of soldiers. Enough to say, he was eventually captured and ended at POW camp in Polish Silesia.

His first job was making potato clamps which meant he ate very well, until the Camp Guards realised. His next job was down the mines, taking the coal out. The seams were very small and they had to creep and wiggle their way in to break the seams. Not correct by Red Cross POW laws. He, and one of another POW saw the Russians getting very close and decided to escape. There was chaos by the Germans so they got away. Needless to say the Russians were rather busy with other things, so they continued going east until they were captured and taken as spies because the Russians didn't understand English. Tom tried using his school French, which the officer understood and they were both sent off. Because they didn't smoke themselves, they had a large amount of cigarettes to use as currency. Eventually they ended up at Odessa where they managed to get a ship back to Liverpool.

Tom got home to demob at Crystal Palace, in the same demob of the house that Tom's father was demobbed in WW1.

JOHN BURRELL ('51)

Memories of St Dunstan's 1945

In 1943, as an 11 year old pupil in a London County Council primary school in Thatcham (Berkshire), I won a place at St Dunstan's but was allowed to spend the following two years of the War at Newbury Grammar School. I joined the Third Form at St Dunstan's in September 1945 and my brother, Laurence, also joined in the following year.

I became the School's librarian and was twice awarded the School prize for Latin.

On leaving the Upper Sixth in 1951, I was articled for 4½ years to a solicitor in a small private practise in Westminster and attended the Law Society's School of

Law for two periods of six months. I qualified as a solicitor in 1956 and went to work for the Country Borough of West Bromwich as an assistant solicitor. In 1957 I married John Fitch's sister Valerie. We went on to live from 1963 in a Worcestershire village and had four children. My hobby was, for many years, stage lightning in venues in the West Midlands – most often at the Swan Theatre in Worcester. Family holidays were mostly spent in hired narrowboats on canals.

I was successively Assistant Solicitor, Senior Assistant Solicitor, Assistant Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk at West Bromwich. I obtained a Law Degree (L.L.B) as an external student of the then University of London and later qualified as a Chartered Town Planner (LAMTPI and later LMRTPI). In 1969 I was appointed as the Secretary and Solicitor for the just created West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive (WMPTE). As such, my name was on 1800 buses in the West Midlands. I was later appointed as a Director of WMPTE.

When privatisation of the bus services of all the PTEs occurred in 1987, I received a retirement package and pension and went to work part-time as a solicitor – first for a private solicitors' practice in the market town of Tenbury Wells in North Worcestershire and subsequently, back in local government, for the City of Worcester.

Following retirement from practise as a solicitor in 1996, I became the Clerk to the Governors for two different primary schools in Worcestershire that were owned by an independent educational trust.

Later I became a member of an advisor to, and on occasions, an advocate at public inquiries for a number of inland waterway societies. I was awarded the Inland Waterways Association's top award for 2001.

Special Prizes			
English . . .	Presented by the Headmaster . . .	B. P. STANLEY	
Spoken English:			
Upper School: Barnes Memorial . . .		J. M. PRESTON	
Lower School: Anderson Memorial . . .		M. E. REED	
First Forms: . . .	Presented by Arthur Skeffington, Esq. . .	IC	
History . . .	Howard Memorial . . .	S. M. ANDREWS	
Latin . . .	. . .	J. A. BURRELL	
French . . .	. . .	W. WHITE	
Russian . . .	. . .	J. M. PRESTON	
Mathematics . . .	Mitchell Memorial . . .	D. W. MANNING	
Physics . . .	. . .	J. F. DIX	
Chemistry . . .	Armstrong Memorial . . .	A. W. HEAD	
Zoology . . .	. . .	D. W. WEBB	
Art: Upper School . . .	. . .	F. W. MUSSON	
Lower School . . .	. . .	C. R. TURTLE	
Craft: Upper School . . .	. . .	K. A. L. PIMM	
Lower School . . .	. . .	D. ANDREWS	
School Captain . . .	Presented by the Old Dunstonian Association . . .	A. W. HEAD	

Lockdown and Reigate evacuation

The year 2020 will no doubt primarily be remembered for the global impact of Covid-19. While the health and economic effects of the virus have not been experienced by all, the impact of lockdown on everyday lives has been a near universal experience. This is not the first time that life at St Dunstan's has experienced a significant dislocation, however. On September 2nd 1939 (the day after Hitler invaded Poland), the school was evacuated to Reigate in Surrey and subsequently, in 1941, to Caerphilly in Wales. During the wartime period, the school was used as a first-aid post, decontamination centre and reserve depot.

Fortunately we have an excellent record of SDC life during evacuation, as it was recorded in three brief volumes of "The Story of the Evacuation of St Dunstan's College", published in 1940, 1941 and 1945. It is unclear who the author of these booklets was, but they offer a remarkably philosophical (and at times poetic) insight to the school's wartime years. While evacuation and lockdown are not strictly comparable experiences, many of the emotions, routines and phenomena depicted in the "evacuation" booklets will strike a chord with a population that has recently been through lockdown.

THE FIRST DAY

While lockdown did not involve a physical relocation, many of us on March 23rd 2020 will have shared the evacuees' feelings of uncertainty about the future:

The trek to Forest Hill station, heavily burdened as we were, took about half an hour. To 99 out of every 100 of the party, their destination was unknown and none could tell for how long the kit he carried on his back would be his all. In spite of the familiarity of the road, its unvarying Victorian villas, and its tram lines all the way, the marching column was pervaded by an irresistible feeling of adventure - more fitted to emigrant pioneers than to refugees.

IS IT NECESSARY?

As with lockdown measures, some initially questioned the necessity of evacuation. In 1940, however, it was definitely a case of 'the calm before the storm':

Our days 'til now had been troubled by only the most distant echoes of war and in some quarters the whole policy of evacuation had been questioned, on the assumption that because nothing had happened, nothing would happen.

BUBBLES

Just as in 2020, although for different reasons, the school found itself operating in 'bubbles':

The school is at present divided into three watertight compartments. Boys and masters in one part, seldom meet those of another; each section lives in a little world of its own. In our "tripartite" existence, forced upon us by circumstance, there lies a real threat to our corporate life.

COPING

The impact of lockdown on people's mental health has been well documented. The evacuees noted that much depended on one's ability to adjust and adapt:

“

The surroundings (in Caerphilly) were strange; the people were strange; our own homes were no longer, as at Reigate, easily accessible. How we fared depended a good deal on what kind of people we were individually and on how well we could adjust ourselves. It is hardly surprising that as time passed, there was the widest divergence of opinion about the Welsh and the billets, and about Londoners and billetees.

”

THE FUTURE

We will no doubt all share the evacuees' desire to avoid a 'next time':

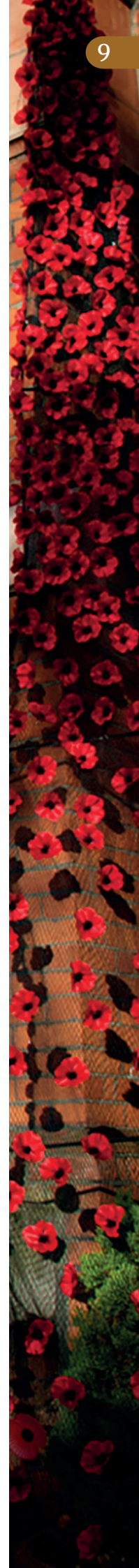
“

Things will never be the same again – why should they? Tradition would be a poor thing if it did not grow and broaden down from precedent to precedent. We cannot be static, we must move; we can even, some say, progress. It is noticeable at least, that in these strenuous days 'Time' never flies in the old cowardly fashion; he always 'Marches On'. It will need all the strength we have preserved and acquired in evacuation to keep up with him and try, if possible, to influence his course before his rather unreliable sense of direction drags us off into a 'next time', which would be a great deal more unpleasant than 'this time'.

Evacuation is over. It had its points; but points, we are told, have no magnitude. We want to avoid 'next time'. We must get to work at once.

We end at a new 'Beginning'.

”



THE SHIELDS OF

A brief history of the house system and house shields

A house system was not established at St Dunstan's until 1914 (the college's Trustees had originally rejected a house system, noting the "invidious distinctions and favouritism" it could potentially create). When a house system was finally implemented, house names initially reflected the geographic provenance of each pupil (Lewisham, Hither Green, Bellingham, Catford, Sydenham, Forest Hill, Ladywell and Brockley). Those from further afield were attached to their nearest district. One of the main problems of this system was the imbalance of numbers and the corresponding disparity in talent amongst the houses (for example, in its first year, Catford house managed to lose all of its seven rugby matches, conceding 597 points in the process).

In 1919 the system was revised to give each house a better chance of success. The eight houses were allotted equal numbers and, no longer having any geographical basis, were renamed after eight of the 233 Old Dunstonians who had lost their lives during the First World War - M Lane, F.H. Johnson VC, W.U. Ross, W.H. Griffiths, A.L. Thomas, G.R. Goosey, D. Wilson and R.C.R. Bennett. Thomas (back row, middle) and Wilson (middle row, far left) can both be seen in the photo of the 1910 Lacrosse team, above right.



In 1989 it was decided to reduce the number of houses from eight to four. The new houses were named after the first four Headmasters of the College: Stuart, Forder, Usherwood and Hecker. To ensure a degree of continuity with the past, the previous houses were amalgamated, rather than broken up (Goosey and Wilson became Stuart, etc). Continuity has been further maintained by each new house generally adopting the symbol from one old house and the motto from the other and, to the extent possible, a merging of the two previous house colours. Details of the colours, symbols and mottos of the previous and current houses are shown in the table below:

Old House Name and colour	Symbol	Motto	Combined House Name and colour	Symbol	Motto
Goosey	A crown	<i>Fidem serva</i>	Stuart	A bishop's cross	<i>Concordia valemus</i>
Wilson	A bishop's cross	<i>Concordia valemus</i>	Forder	A ciborium (cup)	<i>Meliora sequor</i>
Thomas	A ciborium (cup)	<i>Surgite</i>	Usherwood	A bishop's crozier	<i>Progrederere</i>
Bennett	A quill and scroll	<i>Meliora sequor</i>	Hecker	A bishop's mitre	<i>Non sibi sed aliis</i>
Ross	A bishop's gold ring	<i>Progrederere</i>			
Lane*	A bishop's crozier	<i>Virtutem Quaere</i>			
Griffiths	A bishop's mitre	<i>Semper audete</i>			
Johnson	A cope and cross	<i>Non sibi sed aliis</i>			

(* you would be forgiven for wrongly assuming, as I have always done, that the Lane house colour was white rather than black)

ST DUNSTAN'S

ALBAM EXORNA



Restoring the shields

The shields that have recently been restored are not those that form part of the War Memorial (left), but are those that have adorned the Sixth Form Library, (latterly the Learning Resource Centre) since its construction in the mid-1950s. The designs represent a slight departure from those in the Great Hall, in that the background colours are half house colour/half white - no doubt as a nod to the school's motto, 'Albam Exorna'.

At the beginning of the year, the shields were stored in the Archives Room and had not been on display for a considerable time. Many had been 'refreshed', with some quite bold colour choices, in a range of paints - including a bright green powder paint and yellow gloss! There was a thick layer of white gloss paint on the right hand side of each shield. Two of the scrolls had been broken and the gold-carved text had either faded or been crudely painted, with enamels.

The plan was to work on them over the Easter Holidays, but going into lockdown in March, meant that sourcing paint proved quite tricky. I had plenty of time to sand back and prepare the surfaces, carve and attach new scrolls. I took the opportunity when the lockdown lifted to have paints mixed in as close a shade as I could, to the original layers. This was difficult with some of the colours, but I chose 'heritage' colours, where possible - rather than being guided by the 'bold' remains on some of the shields.

Two of the eight shields were more recently crafted, having been made from pine, with plastic fittings at the back, rather than the hand-made brass plates. These were more crudely carved than the original remaining six, but I tried to soften some of the harder edges and make them 'blend' more sympathetically with the others. I replaced the plastic fittings with brass and polished all the other fittings - despite them being on the back, never to be seen!

Once the layers of colour had been applied, it was the antique gold paint that brought the shields back to life. The intricately carved emblems suddenly became more three-dimensional and the text was readable once again.

It was an enjoyable privilege to work on the shields and restore them back to their former glory, where they can be on display in the College once more.

Jo Langthorne

(Progress of the restoration can be seen on the next page.)

RESTORING THE SHIELDS

GOOSEY - DARK BLUE



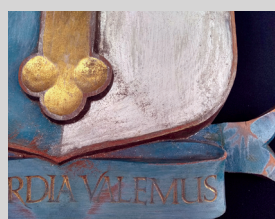
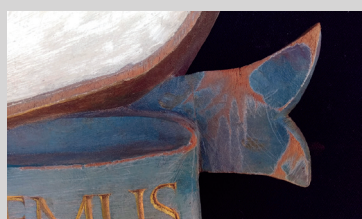
THOMAS - RED



BENNETT - PINK



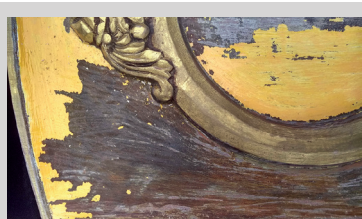
WILSON - LIGHT BLUE



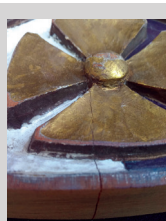
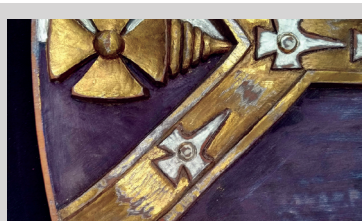
LANE - BLACK



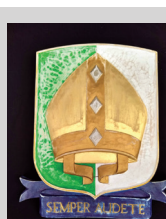
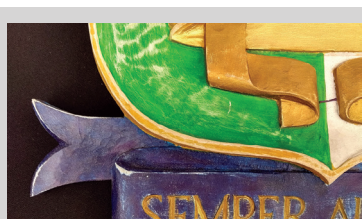
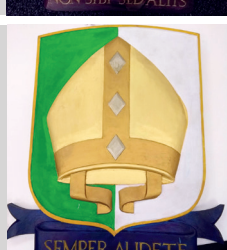
ROSS - YELLOW



JOHNSON - PURPLE



GRIFFITHS - GREEN





FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

St Dunstan's College opened its doors to new pupils on 2nd October 1888. The opening, however, was preceded by many years of planning and construction. The original Trustees were appointed as early as 1866 and the building itself was designed during the following year. The architect, Edward Middleton Barry, was also responsible for the design of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, which was reconstructed in 1857, following a fire.

The College's official opening ceremony was held in the Great Hall on Monday 1st October, 1888. This was a grand affair, officiated by Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe, an eminent barrister and scientist. During his speech he referred to St Dunstan's as "what might be said to be the first great secondary school conducted on modern principles". This chimed with the original Governors' aim that "St Dunstan's College should be in advance of the present time and should have special reference to Scientific and Technical Education".

Attendees at the opening ceremony would have seen a building that, from the outside at least, has changed little over the intervening years. The original plans include a very familiar front elevation:

Lunch was laid on for 100 guests and a special train had been arranged to transport them from Charing Cross and Cannon Street stations. Even then, however, train services were plagued by unreliability (the return journey from Catford Bridge took over an hour) and the Clerk to the Governors complained bitterly to the General Manager of the South Eastern Railway, demanding the return of the special premium which had been paid.

On the following day, 2nd October 1888, the school opened its doors to its new pupils - 91 started on that day, divided into four classes. Although the first pupils comprised a wide range of ages (from eight years two months to fifteen years four months) the

vast majority were between ten and twelve years old. One of the youngest pupils recalled that, "I was entered as a pupil at the opening of the new school, being then about eight years of age. I had to walk from my home in Forest Hill and it is interesting to remember that the first half of the journey was through fields".

Records indicate that the vast majority of the first hundred entrants to the school lived very locally: 36 were from Catford, 31 from Forest Hill, nine from Lewisham and six from Sydenham.

Presiding over the new school was its first Headmaster, Charles Maddock Stuart, who was just 31 years old at the time. By all accounts he was a stern and strict man, but he clearly had a gentler side, writing in 1892 that:

"It is possible that there is a fault in our school training, that we make too much of courage and pluck and endurance, and that we do not think enough of gentleness and forbearance and consideration for others."

Charles Stuart served as Headmaster until 1922.





CRICKET

Against all odds, the 2020 season proved a remarkable success for the Club - a tribute to the resourcefulness and commitment of its members. The season tested the determination of not just the players, but our loyal supporters, parents, partners, and most of all the committees representing the structure and sound running of our club. In the event, we came through with flying colours despite lockdown, social distancing and playing within Covid guidelines - clearly demonstrating the value of the solid foundations built over previous years.

Lockdown at the end of March hit us just as pre-season fixtures were about to begin and in the week that the club was to hold its annual awards dinner. No matches were played in April, May or June, but the easing of lockdown in early June allowed for colts training and net practice in small groups as per ECB guidelines.

As playing resumed, we were up and running with four (and sometimes five) Saturday sides and two Sunday sides. Relatively few League fixtures as such this year and, thus, no promotion or relegation. Our 3rds and 4ths played a half-season of League matches, the 3rds winning their League and remain unbeaten in League since May 2019!

Despite the curtailed programme, it was great to see so many youngsters joining the ranks of senior cricket and also the number of dads turning out.

Our planned tour to Worcester had to be cancelled, but was replaced by a Mini Festival organised over four days in August, including a well-attended Colts family Fun Day. Sunday cricket continued to flourish with Kent Development League and friendly fixtures. An extended season allowed us to extend and develop our travels to Kent village grounds well into September.



On the financial side, playing subscription levels were extremely high despite the loss of half a season, clearly demonstrating members' commitment. More importantly, they prevented any potential losses that could have emerged given the lack of socials and match fees before playing matches became possible. Player availability also proved strong, the vast majority of playing members returning to cricket as soon as permitted.

My thanks go to all those members, both seniors and juniors, who paid their subscriptions early, and those members who generously made donations or supported through the 200 club. As usual, support for activities, work parties, watching and helping when teams were short, was superb. Something we have now come to expect from our loyal and helpful membership. Maintaining a remarkable level of social and playing success despite the obstacles means that Club finances have not been affected in 2020. Indeed, we may even generate a surplus, while continuing to invest in our playing facilities.

Off the field, lockdown saw the OD Sports Club undertaking useful maintenance, principally on the toilets/showers, refurbishment of the score box and fence painting. Work also continues in the Clubhouse on internal decoration and new flooring while the New Year will see the completion of a new and extended patio.

Our planned repairs to the artificial nets had to be deferred due to Covid, but the funds are still there and work will be taking place next March, to restore our practice facilities to top condition for next season. Our 2021 project will be the purchase of a heavier roller to help get our newly re-laid square, playing to the standard that we require.

So, a testing season for the Club is now behind us and, in short, we are in good shape. We remain ambitious for 2021 and are hoping for a more a normal season - retaining our genuine prospects for further promotions, continuing to attract new players and colts, and aiming to run even more social events and competitive fixtures.

A W 'Andy' Rouse ('83)
Chairman



2020 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 (via Zoom) and approved the Minutes of the 2019 AGM, the Club Chairman's formal annual report and the Club's Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 presented by the Treasurer.

Club officials

Elected for the 2020/21 year:

President	David Edwards
Chairman	Andy Rouse
Hon Secretary	Laurence Sanders
Hon Treasurer	Peter White
Club Captain	Chris Webster
Colts Manager	Steve Wright
Chairman of Selectors	Andy Hall
Hon Fixture Secretary	Andy Hall

OD Sports Club Nominees

Andrew Ainger, Andy Hall, Andy Rouse, Howard Smith

OD House Cub Nominee	Howard Smith
Auditor	Dominic Willis

Other officials recommended to the Club Management Committee for 2020/21:

Welfare Officer	Jo Colby
Vice Chairman	Howard Smith
Team Secretary	Andy Hall
Assistant Secretary	Andy Parker

Captains Elected for the 2021 season:

1st XI	Nick Worsley
2nd XI	Dan Webster
3rd XI	Andy Rouse
4th XI	Steve Sawko
5th XI	Bob Lake

Sunday League XI	Ollie Day
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Sunday Friendly XI	Dan Baylis
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20/20 XI	Chris Webster
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Date of next AGM: 20 October 2021



Crowborough Beacon Golf Club

A number of Dunstonians made the trip to Crowborough Golf club late last month to compete for the Balding Cup with two guests accompanying the field.

Some rather bizarre conditions prevailed; meeting in the car park, dancing around each other at 2m and drinking beer behind the 18th green (courtesy of Ian and his guest) with the clubhouse firmly locked, but the weather was glorious and the golf acceptable.

On the course, I regrettably I failed to engage with the back half of the field as I set off back to Devon, but Paul Bailey and Mark Pearce did manage to commit the heinous crime of holding up the secretary and captain on the 18th tee, only for Sean to arrive at the 18th green in need of not only a beer but a barber as well. Paul Bailey comfortably took the day on 38 points, but a raft of players made it over and above 30 points.

Well done to all, we are currently in odd times and I hope to see you later in the year.

Old Dunstonians GS Autumn meeting report – Saunton Golf Club 20/21 September 2020

The ODGS made an early autumn tour to North Devon which included representatives of the OD Popes Golfing Society. In a breakaway from the normal Home Counties venue, the two day trip centred on the 36 holes of links golf at Saunton Golf Club - situated at the mouth of the Taw and Torridge estuaries in Devon, and home course of the captain elect. It was decided to play for the spring meeting trophy on the second day of the tour, following missing Rye earlier in the year because of COVID.

16 members of both Societies converged at Saunton, the weather far exceeding the quality of golf, with 48 hours of glorious sunshine welcoming the players to the famous links.

On the first day, the East course was played and local member and Society Captain, Trevor Smith, claiming top spot for the Reardon Cup with 41 points shading Paul Bailey into second 34 points. Closest to the sixth in two was Ian Pressney and nearest the pin on the beautiful 13th was Trevor Smith, with a fantastic shot to get inside some earlier super shots. The society was





**Dunstonian
Golf Society**

held in high regard by onlookers at the terrace bar by the 18th green, as the ODGS returned to the clubhouse in style. First, Paul King holed a chip shot from 20 yards off the green - to riotous applause to seal a tight match. Not to be outdone, the captain Trevor Smith subsequently holed out from the greenside bunker- much to Paul's delight and dismay in equal measure!

On the Sunday evening supper was held at the Barnstaple Hotel, maintaining strict social-distancing with tables of four. Many re-connections were made with the older members of the touring party re-establishing friendships dating back 38 years. New society members were awarded ties and multiple tales exchanged. It is rumoured some members found their way to bed approaching 1.30am.

Monday morning saw the group reduced to ten playing members for the West course but, enthusiasm was undimmed. It was shorts weather again as the society headed out first thing, with some mixed displays. However, it was again the skipper Trevor Smith on home soil who took the Heaton Caffyn Trophy from Paul Bailey again in second. Nearest the pin at the 9th was a delightful effort from the secretary Keith Norman and nearest the 15th in two was Jeremy Scott- who'd saved his best two of the day for the same hole!

With a final beer and farewell in the sunshine on the terrace all members departed for the journey home.

The next meeting will be held at Knole Park on Thursday 3rd December from 9.30 tee times and the Society welcomes all golfers to the Christmas Fayre and lunch to follow.

Trevor Smith
Honorary Captain ODGS 2020



RUGBY

With the 2019-20 season cut short by the coronavirus pandemic, each League's participants for the 2020-21 season were decided by an RFU algorithm. Demoted from London2SE, Dover and Maidstone joined our league with Ashford and Folkestone promoted to replace them. Old Williamsons, Park House and Uckfield were demoted back to their respective county leagues and we were joined by Cranbrook, Crawley and Southwark Lancers. As covid restrictions eased over the Summer, with allowance to meet in groups of six outdoors, hopes rose for the resumption of rugby and certainly of full training.

The RFU roadmap (Stages A-F) for the return to playing at this level showed three start options by which all six stages of the roadmap had to be met - September 26, November 21 and the worst case scenario January 23 2021. The first would mean a full league programme of 22 games but the date came and went. The November restart would mean a reduced season playing the five closest teams by mileage on a home and away basis but, at the time of writing that seems unlikely. The worst case scenario in January will mean the five closest teams with us playing matches on a home or away basis. With only four of the seven stages reached so far that is now the likeliest date if we are to play any rugby at all.

Pre-season training in pods of six started at the beginning of August although the

Clubhouse and bar stayed resolutely shut. Our big training Saturday with a Ready4Rugby touch rugby match with refreshments and the Heineken European Cup Final on the big screen was nearly derailed by renewed covid restrictions against a second spike, brought in at midnight the night before. However, with clement weather and the bar and toilets open, the players and supporters watched the match socially-distanced on the patio on TVs brought down by players on the day.

At the start of October, the delayed 2019-20 season AGM was held via Zoom, with a goodly number of members attending from home with the new committee, team captains and coaches elected for the new season. The Management Committee (The Executive) now has both official player and coach representation resulting in better communication, faster decision making with all sections buying in to the direction decisions taken. The players' committee will be charged with boosting player numbers at training sessions and recruiting new players.

Striking new club kit has been ordered, sponsors are in place and a new club "Country" membership is to be promoted, to help the club survive the lean times brought about by the lockdown. Hopefully, we will come through these unprecedented times in good shape with high hopes for successful seasons ahead.

Mike Rogers



LACROSSE

Then & Now...

"The game was very pretty to watch. It is played with a ball and there is much running." So was the game of lacrosse described by Queen Victoria in 1876, after watching one of the first exhibition matches to be played in the UK. A wag from St Dunstan's took a slightly different view, however, describing the game in an 1890 edition of the Chronicle thus: *"We none of us like discomfiture and, to our mind, can think of nothing more discomposing (than lacrosse), unless it be our maiden speech on a sudden call to respond at a House Supper."* Notwithstanding this, St Dunstan's enjoyed great success on the lacrosse field between 1895 and 1939.

Modern day lacrosse descends from and resembles games played by various indigenous communities in the eastern half of North America and around the



western Great Lakes. These include games called Dehuntshigwa'ies in Cree ('little war') and Tewaaraton in the Mohawk language ('little brother of war'). As the names suggest, the game was used to prepare warriors for hunting and battle, as well as for fun, as part of festivals and to settle tribal differences. Legend has it that it was named lacrosse by French settlers who thought that the stick looked like the staff carried by their Bishops at church, called a crozier. In

French, the crozier is called 'la crosse'. Traditional lacrosse games could last several days, with as many as 100 to 1,000 men from opposing villages or tribes participating. The games were played on open plains, and the goals could range from 500 yards to six miles apart. Michael Mann's excellent 1992 film *The Last of the Mohicans* includes a scene featuring traditional lacrosse being played by indigenous Americans. In 1867, William George Beers, a Canadian dentist, codified the game to shorten the length of each game, reduce the number of players, use a redesigned stick and a rubber ball. During the 1860s lacrosse became Canada's national game.

Lacrosse was introduced to England in 1876 by Beers and other Canadians who toured the country playing exhibition matches. A second tour was arranged in 1883, following which the popularity of the game exploded in the UK.

St Dunstan's very first Chronicle records the introduction of lacrosse at St Dunstan's: *"To supply the want of a Lent term game (in 1889), we took up lacrosse, and before the season was over, many of the team gained a fair notion of the game"*. As such, St Dunstan's was one of the very first schools in the UK to play the sport. It was actually the innovation of Charles Stuart - St Dunstan's first Head - who had seen the game played in Canada and was a



Images: Top - SDC team 1931, above - Indian ball game, left - SDC team 1891.

keen player himself. Progress was rapid, with the 1890 Chronicle recording that *"It is only little boys in the low forms who require initiation into the magic art. The rest of us are bred to the intricacies of the game, and at last we know the geography of the lacrosse field."*

Generally in the UK, lacrosse enjoyed more popularity at girls' schools, than at boys'. Consequently, St Dunstan's tended to play against local adult clubs rather than against other schools. The game enjoyed particular popularity in South East London - with the Lee Lacrosse Club being the most frequent winner of the South of England Men's Lacrosse Association (SEMLA) senior cup (known as 'Flags') between 1890 and 1950. St Dunstan's also enjoyed considerable success, with SDC and OD teams winning the SEMLA Intermediate and Minor Flags 12 times between 1895 and 1939, and a number of former pupils gaining England caps.

Due to the lack of other boys' schools in the area who played lacrosse, fixtures were occasionally arranged against girls' schools. One former pupil recalled a game in the 1920s against Blackheath High School for Girls. The boys were forbidden to bodycheck, but the girls had no such restrictions and *"they hit us unmercifully with their crosse sticks."* SDC had the last laugh, however, winning 11-2 according to a 1926 Chronicle. While details are hazy, photographic archives suggest that the budding Ru Pauls of the second XII entered into the spirit of things by playing the match in drag!

During the school's evacuation to Reigate during WWII, lacrosse was no longer being played due to a lack of fixtures. This was thought to be a temporary wartime measure, but in fact the College has not played any competitive fixtures since that time. St Dunstan's current Director of Sports, Miss Rebecca Watkins, is however actively reviving the sport and St Dunstan's students now play Lacrosse during curriculum PE lessons in the Trinity term. She says: *"It is a surprisingly fast and furious sport that requires great levels of co-ordination and a huge amount of skill. Whilst we are not a College that plays fixtures, the skills involved transfer well across out other core sports; students enjoy the variation that the sport offers and is often played to a highly competitive standard"*.



Images from top to bottom:
top - SDC team 1931, SDC
team in action, lacrosse
team featuring Thomas and
Wilson (previous House
names - see pages 10-11),
below Lacrosse 2019



Spotlight on...

Sam Hibbs ('01) Stuart House



What are your earliest memories of your time at SDC?

I joined SDC in 1994. I was in form 1MW (Marcia Whitlock) right up on the Lower School Corridor. The Headmaster was Brian Moore, and the Head of Lower School was Simon Thorogood. Perhaps the most significant thing was that SDC became Co-Ed that year.

What are your fondest memories of your time at SDC?

The shenanigans of the 6th form! The less I say the better; although I do remember some choreographed dancing to a Five track with Joe Lipton, Alex Bird and Alex Thrall, for a charity event in the Great Hall. This went down quite well if I remember correctly!

Who were your most inspiring teachers and what impact did they have upon you?

There were many! But perhaps those who stood out the most were Robin Austin, Graham Alderman and Rick Bodenham. They were all firm but fair with us, and if you stepped out of line; standby. This fostered a level of respect that remains with me today.

In Year 13, you were promoted to the rank of Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major in the Army Section. What did you enjoy about the CCF and what skills did you take from it?

I loved it! It got me hooked on military discipline, selfless commitment, integrity, and respect for others. I have just surpassed 20 years of service in the Army Reserve this year and this was all down to enjoying the CCF.

You were the Captain of Stuart House in Year 13. What did you learn from this position and how did that help you in your later life?

Yes – I was joint House Captain with Yanoulla Kakoulli. The House Master was Robin Lea. I learnt about public speaking in this position as well as tasting victory (and handling some defeat at the hands of the other houses).

If you were able to turn back the clock and repeat your time at SDC, would you do anything differently?

Absolutely nothing; teachers and students alike played a great role in shaping the people we became, and I would not want to change that.

What advice would you give to our current Year 13 students about how to prepare for life post SDC?

Life is not all about academia, but about taking opportunities and living the experience. Wherever you go onto next, take the experience of life at SDC and build upon it, get involved and always build upon making a better you. As cliché as it gets; adorn the white!

You have been heavily involved in the Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Why is that and what have you been doing?

As alluded to earlier, I am an Army Reservist, and in March I was mobilised in support of the Government response to COVID-19. I found myself attached as a planner and Assistant Joint Regional Liaison Officer to the county of Surrey. I have been working directly with the Chief Constable, Chief Fire Officer, County CEO and NHS as part of the Local Resilience Forum, assisting partners with their operational planning, conducting reconnaissance, and stress testing collaborative plans. It's been a hard time for everyone during this pandemic, but it has been heartening to work with such amazing partners who have been flat out trying to get us all out the other end.



David Trew ('76) Bennett House

What is your fondest memory of St Dunstan's?

I have so many wonderful memories of my time at St Dunstan's, from the age of eight to 18, that this is difficult to answer. I made great friendships, had excellent teaching and liked my teachers. I particularly loved my cricket. However, Fives was my great passion and I still believe that it is one of the best of all sports, so I am pleased that the tradition to develop the game continues. I was lucky to be part of a group of friends who all shared this enthusiasm; we were determined to enjoy playing and to restore St Dunstan's as a major school competitor. We formed 'a band of brothers' who played enthusiastically, competitively and successfully and were given excellent coaching by the Fives playing teachers and Old Dunstonians. In the Sixth Form, we developed rotas to coach younger boys in the lunch breaks and tried to form a great club ethos for all the teams. It is a great athletic sport for boys and girls which I hope will continue to flourish at St Dunstan's.

Who was your most inspiring teacher and what impact did he/she have on your future career?

I was at St Dunstan's from 1966-76 and it was an extraordinary place, full of teaching staff who were both interested in their profession and who were interesting characters. Apart from teaching and extra-curricular activities, many invested their time and care into my progress and development. It would be wrong just to write down a list of names, suffice to say that I have always been grateful for all the help that I received. There is one period of time however which stands out. I was 15 years old and going through a (much better recognised these days) period of anxiety and self-doubt, which had resulted in low confidence. I was helped through this by Tim Pratt, who ran the Senior Colts Cricket team. His ability to subtly blend solving cricket problems with life problems was a revelation to me and it is why I have retained a strong belief that participation in any form of organised activity is important both for personal development and in developing future career relationships.

Can you name three things that prepared you for later life whilst being a pupil at the College?

I do think that part of life's preparation was just attending a great school like St Dunstan's. A form of osmosis, if you like. The ethos of respect and behaviour, learning and also enjoyment just surrounded everyone and I'm sure that was of benefit later on, even if we didn't know it at the time! Specifically, I learnt that application brought results. It was Gary Player, the golfer, who first said that the harder he worked the luckier he got.. and he was right. I also discovered how important it is to have fun and to enjoy what you do with friends. Later on at University and in the world of work, I found this to be equally true and it has led to a happy and fulfilling career.

What impact has the pandemic had on your work and has it changed your view of the world?

I am an ophthalmic surgeon, so during lockdown there were no clinics or operating lists. Now it has rather gone the other way with a great demand both from patients who were unable to obtain treatment previously and those now seeking treatment for the first time. I don't think the pandemic has particularly affected my view of the world; it is the human condition that people remain the same and they respond to the circumstances in which they find themselves, some for the better and some for the worse. I suppose that it has confirmed my suspicion of 'big data' and computer modelling predictions.

What would be your word of advice to our Year 13 students about to embark on their adult life?

Enjoy your life and work. Both can be fun and enriching. I have found the best way of attempting this is to try and maintain a balanced, but reasoned and independent view. It's easy to follow group thinking, but try to observe and enquire about situations and people for yourself. It can be illuminating and fulfilling and helps to make sense of many apparently incomprehensible situations and ideas!



What is your fondest memory of St Dunstan's?

I think it was all the little things, like where I sat with friends at lunch time – which was the wall by the tennis courts in the summer, and the (at the time, new!) sofas in the library when it was cold. We used to have a lot of strange conversations in those places. I can also remember spending all of Year 7 carrying around every textbook for every class in my backpack like a studious little tortoise, because I was so worried that I would forget to bring in the right books! Happily, I am still close friends with quite a few people from my time at St Dunstan's – two of them were bridesmaids at my wedding a couple of years ago.

Who was your most inspiring teacher and what impact did he/she have on your future career?

It is very difficult to single out any one person, because so many teachers have supported me in different ways throughout school. My English teacher, Ms. Chandler was my form tutor in Years 12 and 13, and supported my university applications. At that time, things at home were quite difficult and turbulent; without her calm support the whole thing might have derailed. A few years later, while I was still at university, she took a group from St. Dunstan's

on a visit (to see the university, not to see me!) - we met up for a lovely cup of tea and a sandwich. Perhaps most importantly, she also taught me how to spell 'separate' with the helpful phrase: "there is 'a rat' in separate". It still doesn't make any sense as a sentence, but I think about it every time I write the word 'separate'!

Can you name three things that prepared you for later life whilst being a pupil at the College?

I can think of one thing that taught me three important life lessons! I have always hated public speaking. When I was studying for GCSE English, we had to present findings from a 15-minute discussion on Lord of the Flies, in groups of three. Our group didn't really plan their presentation, and I quietly relied on the idea that other more confident people would speak for me. That meant that when it was my turn to speak in front of everyone, I had nothing to say. I think I mumbled less than two sentences, then looked at the floor and waited for the teacher to be merciful and decide that it was over. I vowed never to be so unprepared again. While I still find public speaking scary, I took that lesson to heart and have since done it successfully many times – including presenting data at conferences in front of hundreds of eminent professors (terrifying!). That one experience taught me the importance of preparation, organisation, and finding your own voice.

What impact has the pandemic had on your work and has it changed your view of the world?

I actually changed careers right when the pandemic hit. I had been working as an academic researcher (examining brain development) but transitioned to medical writing in late March this year. Medical writers work to produce things like scientific communications, teaching resources, conference talks and journal articles across a variety of fields – from retinal diseases to oncology. Some fascinating new writing opportunities have come up around the development of vaccines for COVID-19, and we have been working closely with some of the companies who are driving those clinical trials forward. Figuring out how to communicate about such a pressing issue is challenging – especially when there has already been so much misinformation. Ideally, scientific advice is only made public once scientists are very certain and have a lot of supporting data – but by necessity, COVID-19 has required more reactivity and less certainty. This means that advice has changed rapidly. I worry about the long-term impact that has had on people's faith in scientific experts. Of course, it doesn't help that many governments have chosen to ignore the science.

What would be your word of advice to our Year 13 students about to embark on their adult life?

I think this is quite a challenging time to be emerging from school, and it is pointless to pretend otherwise. When I was at school, I had no idea at all what I wanted to do in life (and I think many people of all ages will tell you that they still have no idea!). However, if ever there was a moment to change how the country works, this is the time. To borrow a phrase from a Starfleet captain: "Seize the time. Live now. Make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again."

Malachi Connolly ('11) Usherwood House



What is your fondest memory of St Dunstan's?

This is a difficult one as I was at the college for 14 years, but I think it would definitely have to be the rugby/netball tour to Sri Lanka and Malaysia in 2010. It was the first bit of freedom and responsibility given to us as young adults to be able to explore the local area and the standard of sport played was high. I've not done anything similar to that trip since and the memories from the jungle tour will forever stay with me.

Who was your most inspiring teacher and what impact did he/she have on your future career?

Mr Elms was my form tutor and saw me through Sixth Form and the ordeal of applying for UCAS and navigating the IB. He always had a listening ear and would strive to get the absolute best out of each of us in the form. Without him I think I would have given up on any hope of entering healthcare, when my predicted grades fell short of what I needed. I will never forget his lessons on juggling my commitments with my academic work.

Can you name three things that prepared you for later life whilst being a pupil at the College?

I can do it in three words - extra curricular activities. I would never have had the opportunities I had at the College anywhere else. At one point I had an extra curricular club every day after school and even one before school on a Tuesday morning! I don't think there was a better way to learn time management and prioritisation skills, whilst also socialising with different groups of people and learning transferrable skills. Nothing beats being able to talk to some of my elderly patients about their time serving in the forces and me telling them about some of the exercises and camps we went on with the CCF.

What impact has the pandemic had on your work and has it changed your view of the world?

The pandemic has changed how we carry out our duties within the hospital and has brought about a huge change in policies and procedures. I transferred to critical care three days before my unit began admitting covid patients and had what some have described as a 'baptism by fire' into intensive care nursing.

Seeing people having to say goodbye to their loved ones via video calls on tablets, has definitely made me appreciate those around me a lot more and I think it has also opened the doors to a massive shift in the mindset of many workforces. The traditional "office" doesn't seem quite as important now, and the same has been said for how services within the hospital have been streamlined and made more efficient as a result of the pandemic.

What would be your word of advice to our Year 13 students about to embark on their adult life?

Never take any day for granted as you do not know what is around the corner. But, also remember that life is there to be enjoyed. Make the most out of it, have an open mind and always learn from your experiences.

Announcements

Obituaries

J W 'John' Blake ('40)

We belatedly report here the death on 15.11.18 of John Blake at the age of 93. His son M J 'Matt' ('89) gave the eulogy at his father's funeral service which was conducted at John's request by OD humanist minister, Mark Hayford ('80). All three were erstwhile pupils of SDC's Form 1B.



'At the age of 11 John started school at St Dunstan's, a place he loved throughout his life, tinged with the regret that the school had been evacuated from Catford to Reigate in 1940. His school friends were friends for life but at 15 he returned to 63 Birchwood and completed his exams at Clerks College, Bromley, later spending two years as a Bank Clerk at the Midland Bank in Brompton Road.

John Warren Blake was the most modest of ODs - never one to push himself forward but always a tireless worker in the OD cause. He earned the gratitude of all ODs for his successful efforts to get an OD Memorial Plaque installed in St George's Church, Ypres, commemorating our fallen in the two World Wars.

We give here an edited version of son, Matt's fond words, on behalf of the Blake family.

'The family lived at 63 Birchwood Avenue in Beckenham, a house we all came to know so well. My father claimed to have a superhuman memory and remembered being pushed around Beckenham in his pram by his mother, and as a little boy, being taken to the dairy owned by his uncle Reg, to feed the horses - a memory of gentler times. His father, Jack, who we knew as Papa, was a lovely man, doubtless traumatised by surviving two years of WW1, of which he never spoke.

'In 1943 he joined the RAF and served as a Flying Officer ground staff until the end of the War when he was posted to Paris for a year, and that started the second love affair of his life. He visibly relaxed whenever his feet touched French soil, and he passed the love of France and its culture on to all of us.

'Tragedy followed his return in 1947, his mother, Dora, dying of breast cancer - something to which I suspect he never truly reconciled himself. His father Jack remarried - to Aunty Freda who we all knew - but things were not the same after the loss of his mother.

'Later he found the third and most important love of his life. He was introduced to our mother Jo, who was also in the RAF, by a superior officer who knew them both, Mr Joshua Rosenberg, known to us as 'Uncle Rosie'.

'Our parents married in 1955 and our

mother Jo was with our father through thick-and-thin throughout their 63 years of marriage. She was a Sergeant in the RAF and in charge at home, whilst our father worked in the bank.

'Sarah was born in 1959 and I came along in 1962, during which time our father studied at night to gain exam passes that led to his appointments as Assistant Manager and ultimately Manager at the Midland Bank. Indeed, he took his job so seriously that when I was 11 he gave me a bank book to account for my pocket money, but had to accept at that age I was a very poor financial historian.

'He was never that interested in sport, although he came to love international rugby in later life. However, he did faithfully follow me round to various football, rugby and cricket matches and always ensured I played in freshly polished shining boots.

'We never got to see my football team Chelsea together. The closest was my 12th birthday when, having failed to get tickets for the Chelsea v Palace cup tie, he took me to Fairfield Halls in Croydon to see the wrestling. Though obviously fixed and fake, it was the kind of theatre he regarded as sport, though he was surprised and disappointed to find out Kendo Nagasaki who fought in a mask, was in fact a car mechanic from Stoke and not a Japanese Samurai! In any event, at 4pm every Saturday, the house came to a standstill as he watched the wrestling on TV.

'He was a constant in our lives but also





had to deal with Sarah and me - not the easiest of teenagers - he couldn't understand why we needed more than two light ales on a night out.

Later, after redundancy and retirement, but never a man to sit on his laurels, he became Company Secretary to the Wildenstein family, for whom he worked for 11 years. He kept working and commuting after he and our mother moved to Woodchurch in Kent, where they enjoyed 25 years as very much part of the village community; father was a Parish Councillor and, of course, Treasurer. He finally retired at 67 and achieved a lifetime's ambition by buying a property in France - which was a flat in a block in Hardelet, near Le Touquet. He took me over there with him to see the place and to help him buy a new mattress for the bed. We met the caretaker, a classic Frenchman with a Gauloise cigarette forever stuck to his bottom lip.

'My father thought he would know where to buy a mattress so I asked him "est-ce que vous savez ou mon pere peut acheter une maitresse". The caretaker's eyes lit up and looked at my father, a quintessential English gentleman with what seemed like a newfound respect. As he left I felt things weren't quite right, confirmed

by my pocket dictionary - I had told the caretaker my father wanted to buy a mistress! Happily, I sorted things out and we had a huge laugh about it that night over a glass of red wine. At 86 he was still driving down to the south of France.

'He also came to help out me and my business partner Ken, at Cunningham Blake Solicitors driving up from Woodchurch, and working one day a week, unpaid except for petrol money.

No task was too menial: he made chasing phone calls, updated loose-leaf books, and photocopying documents whilst also enjoying reading the client's GP records with great insight and vigour. All that went on with his usual high levels of efficiency and courtesy until the journey became too much.

'After 25 years in Woodchurch, it came time to return to London to be closer to the family as his health started to deteriorate and 2013 saw a move Keston, though it proved difficult to adapt to life away from the small village community. However, with my mother's drive, they got back into life and enjoyed being able to spend time with their grand and great-grandchildren

'His last year was a difficult and exhausting time, but did allow him to live in his own house as he wanted to until the last week of his life. During his last few months, our father exhibited a sense of humour not previously noted or experienced. A camp bed meant that we could all take turns sleeping next to him downstairs.

'During one night I was with him, he called out and I asked him what was wrong. He said he thought I would have done something about it by now. "About what?", I asked. "That chap peeing up against the wall at the end of my bed, of course!" I told him not to worry and the chap was gone. "I knew you'd take care of it" he said and settled back to sleep.

'A quintessential gentleman and family man, at the end he told us how much he loved and cared for all of us. But, a Bank Manager at heart, he would fix me with a beady eye and ask "Have I got any money?" "Plenty", I said.

'The last time he was conscious, with my mother, Sarah, her children and I sat around his bed. He opened his eyes, and asked why we were all there. We told him. He chuckled and said "You're a funny lot!" He focused on us all one last time and simply said "Amazing, amazing!" and closed his eyes.

'In short, John Blake was Captain of the ship. He played a straight bat, had a safe pair of hands, played a long and productive innings, and he will be missed.



Deryk Anthony Lawrence died September 2020. A full obituary can be found in the British Medical Journal online.

Clive Brown ('71) Died September 2020. No further details known.

Donald Porte ('01) Died September 2020. No further details known.

Revd Robert Clarke



The Revd Robert Clarke, Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, died of cancer on 1 June 2020 aged 84. On leaving St Dunstan's College, he trained for the ministry some time after his National Service which took him to Kenya and Cyprus. The greater part of Robert's career was spent as a hospital chaplain and he served as Secretary to the Hospital Chaplaincies Council in Church House, Westminster. He was appointed OBE for his services to hospital chaplaincy. His full obituary can be found in the Church Times online.

G 'Geoffrey' Cox ('73) died in March 2020. No further details known.

L F 'Leonard' Mason ('56) died in January 2020. No further details known.

Dr C J 'Christopher' Thomas ('66), Chris Thomas (66), brother of Peter (63) and Roger (68), died at his home in Hereford in September following a long struggle with supranuclear palsy. He qualified from Guy's Hospital Medical School and went on to specialise in psychiatry. He became chairman of the British Psychological Oncology Group and in 1988 moved to the Stonebow Unit in Hereford as consultant psychiatrist and was subsequently appointed medical director of the local primary care trust.

We learn from his brother, Richard (Dick), of the death on 8.11.20 of **D J 'David' Currie ('57)** in Liverpool hospital after a period of ill health. He leaves his wife May and four children.

John Lewis Davies ('48) died on 30 September 2020, his funeral being held on 19 October. His career at St. Dunstan's was interrupted by the war, during which time he was billeted to various places, including Cornwall, Wales and Tenterden, Kent. He excelled in languages, in particular German; his achievements in this subject earned him a scholarship, in the form of a three-month trip to Switzerland in 1947.

During the last few days of the war, tragedy struck: his brother L.W.L. Davies, seven years John's senior and a former Head Boy at St. Dunstan's, was killed in a flying accident in Canada.

Acting against all his teachers' advice, John refused to go to university, joining instead the Civil Service. There, he rose through the ranks, later joining the Metropolitan Police Finance Dept. His last position was Deputy Director of Finance; he was offered full directorship more than once, but turned it down, as he chose to put family life first.

He took early retirement in 1989 and a year later with his wife Judy moved to Tenterden, where he had fond childhood memories as an evacuee. They enjoyed a truly happy retirement and many holidays together.

John died peacefully in his sleep. He is survived by his wife Judy, daughter Sally

and son Bill. He is remembered by all as a warm, generous man, a "true gent".

Chris Skinner died in May 2020 – no more information has been received.

Peter Clark ('50) died on 18 December 2019.

His widow writes : "Peter was always proud of the start St Dunstons gave him. After gaining a degree as a Petroleum Engineer at Imperial College he worked in many overseas postings, mainly in the Middle East taking the family with him. After retiring we settled in Western Australia. He was always keen to hear about the school and Old Boys so when he went blind it was my job to read him The Chronicle from cover to cover. He passed on the 18th December 2019."

P R 'Peter' Munns ('42)

Sadly Peter died in July 2020 at the age of 95. He was one of the older pupils to be evacuated to Reigate. He left after war had been declared and was called up into the R.A.F. and sent to Canada to train as a navigator, on his return he became a navigator on Sunderland Flying boats.

After the war he became an articled clerk with Deloittes. and joined the O.D. Rugby Club. It was not long before there was a serious girlfriend, Joan. Marriage and being an articled clerk was not a feasible possibility so with the help of an O.D. contact Peter entered the paper industry where he had a long and successful career, ending up as a director of a large Anglo-Finnish company.

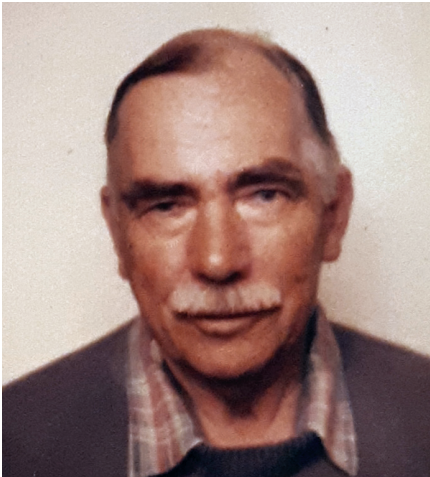
Peter played regularly for the O.D. Rugby Club. He was Master of the Old Dunstonian Lodge in 1996. He served for a long time on the O.D. Association committee and was a former president of the Association. Peter was popular and well-liked, as he was a natural gentleman. His closest friends were Arthur Waller and Ken Lovering.

He leaves his wife of well over 60 years, Joan, two sons and many grandchildren.

W P 'Peter' Roberts ('42)

We learn from his family of the death of Peter Roberts on 9 December 2017 aged 92.

Peter left St Dunstan's in 1942, after a brief sojourn as a trainee in the City, Peter joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1943 and fought in Northwest Europe. He was wounded in 1945, shortly before the end of the war in Europe. In 1946 Peter was commissioned in the 16th Parachute Battalion, part of the Indian Airborne Division, moving on to the 2nd Parachute Battalion in Palestine in 1946/1947.



After demobilisation in 1948, Peter studied Tropical Agriculture in Aberdeen and moved to Malaya in 1949. Whilst a civilian in Malaya Peter was wounded in an encounter with guerilla fighters of MNLA. Returning in 1952 on leave from Malaya, Peter met Patricia (Patsy) Hamilton from Ireland. Peter and Patsy married in 1954 in Malaya, and went on to live in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Nigeria and Ghana developing and managing the production of rubber, palm oil, cocoa and other agricultural products.

Peter and Patsy eventually retired to the West of Ireland, to Kilkeeran, on the shores of Lough Carra, where they ran a guest house (renowned by fly fishermen the world over) for many years, and where Peter could devote much of his time (never enough) to catch the elusive brown trout of Lough Carra. Peter was a renowned storyteller in both poetry



and prose, entertaining his family and friends with many witty tales and verses commemorating family and local events.

Peter rests in the graveyard of Kilkeeran, overlooking Lough Carra, etched in the slate stone from his father's birthplace of North Wales are Peter's own words.

*When comes the winter of my life,
When I have known my earthly score
I'll rest, I hope beside the church
Along Kilkeeran shore*

Peter is survived by his wife Patsy, three sons, William, David and Sean and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DA 'David' Sharman ('56)

David Sharman ('56) died on 28th March 2020, the day after his 83rd birthday, in care close to the home of his step-daughter Caroline in Sussex. His funeral being a family-only affair, owing to the imposition of the national coronavirus lockdown, was towards the end of March. We are grateful to Caroline for additional details of his life and times.

He was a high achiever at SDC. A full Prefect (today's Red Tie), he captained the College at all three of its major sports – Cricket, Rugby and Fives – and won a place at St John's Cambridge to read History.

Later, after National Service, he played rugby for the ODs, captaining the Club for two years in the 1960s, winning his Kent Rugby Cap in 1965, and was still in touch with the sport in the 1980s refereeing matches at Blackheath Rugby Club.

He always claimed that his first job after Cambridge was as a travel guide for rich Americans in London. A more conventional business career followed until he was drawn back to an academic life, during which he gained two separate Master degrees. He subsequently lectured in Personnel Development at Slough College in Berkshire, after which he operated his own independent Business Consultancy.

A first marriage had ended in divorce but some years later he met Roslyn, marrying her in December 1981 and taking on Caroline and her sister, Marina, as step-daughters. Roslyn predeceased him some five years ago.

In retirement, David's long-held Quaker convictions meant that he was, by nature, very community-minded. He had a broad range of interests and, having always lived in SE London, twice stood as a local candidate for the Green Party and gained a well-earned reputation over a long period as a local activist on environmental issues.

OBITUARY

Martin Short 1943-2020

A rare spot in his profession



In memory of the writer, journalist and Old Dunstonian, Martin Short, who has died of cancer aged 76

"I am extremely lucky to have enjoyed an entertaining half-century as a licensed muckraker, exposing scandals that people in high places never wanted the rest of us to know about," Dad told me earlier this year before his condition deteriorated.

All who knew Martin would agree he occupied a rare spot in his profession. Author of several books, an investigator and reporter for television for 50 years, he will be remembered for his seminal work in exposing organized crime, police corruption and malfeasance in public office on both sides of the Atlantic. To his friends and family, he will be remembered as a man who was wickedly funny, brilliantly eloquent, super sharp, diligent and determined, kind and concerned, joyous, and perhaps most of all, generous. Generous in the time he gave, the interest with which he listened, the passion with which he cared, and the welcome he granted to all.

Born in Wookey, Somerset in 1943 to George Short, an aircraft engineer in WWII, and Hazel, (née Johnson), a nurse, he was the youngest of three children. The family moved to South East London and after finishing primary school and taking the eleven plus, Martin attended St Dunstan's College from where he got into Cambridge to read History in 1962.

Martin had nothing but good memories of St Dunstan's. With one other boy from his primary school Deansfield, he was chosen to attend the college which was a half-hour ride away from his home on the 160 bus. He recounted to me: *"It was called a*

direct grant school: half the boys were fee-paying, the other half (including myself) were paid for by local authorities, in most cases, the London County Council. It was my first experience, however slight, of the British 'class system'."

His favourite subject was history. "I had an excellent education at St. Dunstan's," he said, *"with brilliant history teachers, Stuart Andrews and Guy Whitmarsh."*

A polymath, with an ability to absorb vast amounts of knowledge, he also had a talent for theatre and song, writing lyrics for and acting in the Footlights Revues, touring Europe with the Cambridge Experimental Theatre group in 1964, playing Falstaff, and performing at the Edinburgh Festival in 1965. His great friend, fellow actor and contemporary Miriam Margolyes called him, "a rare chap who enriched all who knew him with a smile that lit up the stage."

Indeed, it was perhaps that voice of his, once described "like poured toffee with just touch of archness" that enabled him to charm so many crooks and cops, gangsters and molls, politicians and judges in his future investigative career.

From a flat in Kennington he eventually moved north to Primrose Hill and then Hampstead in the early 70s, where he set about becoming the scourge of corruption everywhere, as well as being a prominent figure in local politics as a left-leaning liberal. A lifelong member of the NUJ he was an ardent supporter of journalists' rights.

Between 1969-84 Martin worked for Thames TV's 'This Week' and Granada's 'World in Action' as a researcher and then, on screen, as a reporter, with 'The London Programme' at London Weekend Television and Thames TV's 'Thames Report'. During his time on 'This Week' he researched an early profile of the Reverend Dr. Ian Paisley in Northern Ireland, and in 1970 investigated the Kent State University killings by the U.S. National Guard in Ohio.

His pursuit of those complicit in sleaze and vice was a never ending one. He wrote several books on British crime, the Kray Brothers' henchmen, and many more – as a child I remember being fascinated with the assortment of ex-cons who came through the doors at the family house in Cannon Lane.

Martin's book, co-authored with Barry Cox and John Shirley, 'The Fall of Scotland Yard', 1977, was explosive in its revelations of corruption in the Metropolitan Police. In 1984 he co-produced and wrote the book of the Thames TV series Bafta-nominated 'Crime Inc' on the history of La Cosa Nostra in America.

'Inside The Brotherhood', 1989, was a TV series and book on the Freemasons. The exposure of the influence of freemasonry on our major institutions – especially the police force – was shattering. Martin became the leading expert on this subject appearing on numerous television and radio programmes and was an expert witness to the Parliamentary Select Committee

on Freemasons in the Police and the Judiciary in 1996. In 1992 he produced 'The Last Days of Aldo Moro' about terrorism and subversion in Italy, a documentary The Times called "near perfect".

With that track record it's no wonder he found solace in listening to jazz, blues, soul, reggae, Latin and South American rhythms, anything by Quincy Jones, most forms of popular song and pretty much all classical music, attending as many concerts and gigs in London and abroad as he possibly could. Hampstead residents, visitors from afar and various colleagues would always end up dancing away to his broad collection of records at numerous elegant soirées, dinners and social gatherings in the house next to the Heath, hosted by Martin and his Lebanese-born wife Sana.

They met as a consequence of a research trip he took to Lebanon in the early '70s and were married in 1974 by Lebanese Shia leader Imam Musa Sadr (later kidnapped and murdered by Gaddafi in Libya). Martin was always fascinated by the Middle East and

travelled extensively throughout the region, writing a booklet for the Minority Rights Group on the Kurds and becoming an early advocate for the Palestinian cause, later helping to found the International Campaign for Jerusalem pressure group and joining the Board of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding from 2007 to 2012.

Throughout his life and from the moment he was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2016, Martin never lost his curiosity, humour or geniality, typically writing and joking morbidly throughout his treatment: *"I'm stage 4 son, you know what stage 5 is!"*

Martin is laid to rest in Highgate East Cemetery with many of his contemporaries who will no doubt welcome him into their prestigious gang. Deeply loved, he is survived by his wife Sana, children Ramsay, Alexander and Jumaan, and grandchildren, Lamia, Sami and Lorenzo.

By Ramsay Short (son)

Former Notes Editor, Bob Rangecroft also writes about Martin Short:

This is sad news and takes me back to my very earliest days at Catford - Martin and I met up on our very first day at the College in 1A. He was universally known during his time at SDC as "Gladys", a nickname which demands a little explanation.

It came about as a result of a group of us first-formers' attachment to BBC Radio's famed Goon Show. "Gladys" was one of the show's minor character played by singer Ray Ellington whose "Yes, Boss" catchphrase was always delivered in a hugely deep, strictly non-female voice. Martin could reproduce it perfectly at almost a first hearing, immediately condemning himself to being re-christened with a name which stuck fast to him down the years!

More than a few memories of those first few days and weeks at SDC stay with me, notably learning the dark arts of rugby alongside Martin. He not only excelled at what was for both of us a new sport; even at just 12 years of age, he was already well on the way to physical maturity and was considerably larger than the rest of us - a terrifying sight in full flight from his position in the front row of the scrum!

Martin's later writing and performing career came as small surprise to those of us who knew him well. His robust early performances on the rugby field (and on the trombone!) did not disguise an equally robust intellect and spirit of enquiry, so clearly revealed later in his chosen career as a criminologist.

Though not, perhaps, a completely typical OD in many ways, Martin nonetheless remained 'one of us' throughout a life of considerable achievement. Not least among his rightful claims to fame were his definitive book exposing UK police corruption published in the 1970s, an acclaimed TV series on organised crime in the USA in the 80s, and his later in-depth investigation into the notorious Vietnam Protest confrontation between students and the authorities at Kent State University, again in the USA.



A BOUT OF NOSTALGIA

Popular music in the 1970s

Teenagers growing up in the 1970s were spoilt for choice as far as popular music was concerned. Bookended by the demise of the Beatles in 1970 and the emergence of the post-punk and new romantic movements in 1979, the decade produced an astonishing variety of musical styles and artists.

As students at St Dunstan's during that era, we had a voracious appetite for music. Of course things were a lot more "tribal" back then – we would have completely failed to comprehend the "pick and mix" approach to music of today's youth. You were essentially a heavy/prog rocker, mod, punk or soul boy and common ground between the tribes was hard to find (the exception of course being Bowie, whom everyone claimed as their own).

School exercise books were an excellent outlet for expressing one's musical allegiances. The "maths book" (pictured far right) is a typical example from the late 70s. Needless to say, you had to choose your subject with care – few masters were sufficiently liberal-minded to tolerate such gung-ho defacement of school property.

St Dunstan's had its own emerging talents. Steve Nieve (born Nason) left SDC in 1975 for the Royal College of Music, and went on to join Elvis Costello and the Attractions. He has also has a prolific career as a session musician. Nason's musical moniker "Nieve" (pronounced "naïve") was allegedly bestowed by tourmate Ian Dury who had been astonished by Nason's innocent query, "What's a groupie?".....

Ralph Salmins ('82), meanwhile, has forged a career as one of the world's top rock/jazz drummers. It would be quicker to list the artists and film soundtracks that he hasn't performed with/on, than the ones he has – see www.ralphsalmins.com for full details. Suffice to say that if you have seen a Lord of The Rings, Harry Potter or recent James Bond film, then you have probably heard Ralph play. On top of his prolific session work he has had extensive spells playing with Van Morrison and The Waterboys, and is a Professor at the Royal College of Music.

Of his time at St Dunstan's, Ralph comments; "Back then

popular music was considered a strictly extra-curricular activity but my music friends and I were listening to all manner of jazz, funk and rock together and trying to work out how to play it. Andrew Wright, our long-suffering teacher, was very understanding and tolerant of our interests and always wore a wry smile when he put his head into a room to hear us playing jazz or Deep Purple! Luckily he got us through A Level and we were able to continue studying".

While musical education at St Dunstan's was firmly focused on the classical end of the spectrum, there was one incongruous musical tradition at SDC in the 70s which bucked the trend – the annual Xmas disco. An enterprising teacher (some doubts remain over exactly who, but suspects include Mr Barron, Mr Banks, Rev Preston and Mr Busk) at some point persuaded the Head that this should be a standout event and, presumably at considerable expense, hired the top DJs at Capital Radio (Nicky Horne, Roger Scott, Mike Allen) to spin the discs in the dining hall, accompanied by an impressive light show. The review in The Chronicle of the 1979 event included an evocative description of Mr Ian Burgess, "stooping somewhat under the weight of so many keys" doing a marvellous job on the lights and sound. To put this event into perspective you have to remember that, at that time, Capital Radio was the ONLY commercial FM radio station in London and its DJs were household names.

As a sideshow to the main event, local up and coming bands would play in what was the tuck shop (currently the 6th form common room). In 1975, the headliner was a then unknown Deptford band called Squeeze, who went on to have huge international success. The ticket for the 1975 "St Dunstan's College Christmas Dance" (above right) is of particular interest as it was issued to Squeeze's then manager Miles Copeland. Miles had already achieved success managing Wishbone Ash and would go on to take his brother Stewart Copeland's band The Police, to superstardom.

SDC also nurtured its own bands. Squeeze were supported at their SDC gig by Hard Core, featuring Dunstonians Graham Phebey (drums) and Glenn Baulch (vocals). Granite, another SDC band, featured Tim Atkin on vocals, Colin Colvin on bass, Nick Spahr on lead guitar and Simon Brise on drums (all '79). During their 20 gig heyday Colin recalls that they risked



"lives, limbs & reputations" in some notorious SE London venues such as the Woolwich Tramshed.

They also played a memorable set in the school tuck shop on the night of the 1978 Xmas disco (pictured right). The band has continued to play intermittently, latterly with Mike Atkin (Tim's younger brother) on guitar.

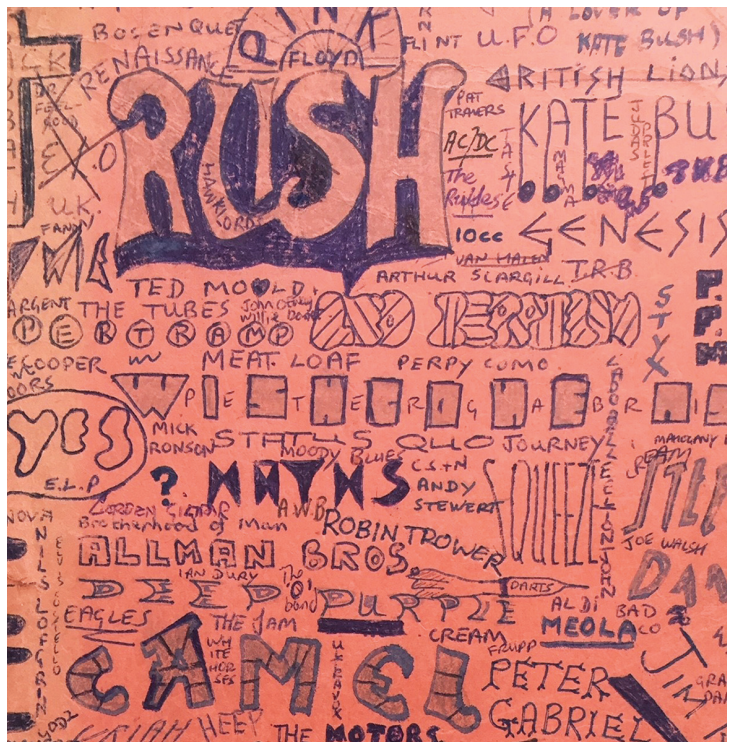
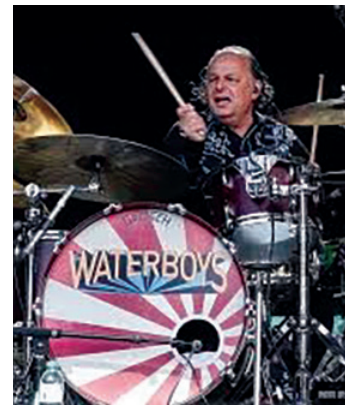


Armageddon, at the heavier end of the musical spectrum, were another home grown talent. They consisted of Steve Ball (vocals), Tim Bennett (lead guitar), Matt Jarvis (drums) and Iain Macdowall (bass) - all '81. Their legendary Little Theatre gig in 1980 was brought to an abrupt and untimely end midway through their interpretation of "Don't Fear The Reaper", when Mr Churchman discovered that they had "borrowed" his amplifier without going through the tedious formality of asking his permission first. While still close friends, their long-awaited reunion remains elusive. Other school bands of that era included Glastonbury Tor, Yellow Torch and Iron Lung, to name but a few.

Popular music in the 1970s served as a mildly subversive counterpoint to the traditional norms of the school at the time. Perspectives change, however - in 1976 punk rock was seen by some as a threat to the very moral fabric of society, but roll the clock forward to the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics and it was presented as an integral part of the UK's cultural history.

Iain Macdowall ('81)

Images clockwise from top: Armageddon, Little Theatre ticket, Granite, Ralph Salmins, exercise book cover, Steve Nieve, ticket for 1975 College dance.





SDC NEWS

From the Headmaster



Welcome to the Winter edition of The Notes. It feels somewhat repetitious to say that this term has been one like no other, but such is the pace of development at St Dunstan's College and the extraordinary additional complexities and challenges that the pandemic has presented, that it is difficult to state it otherwise.

After a summer of exam controversy, in which our Year 13 and Year 11 students were, eventually, recognised with some of the strongest academic outcomes in the College's recent history, we were thrown straight back into the pressing challenges of Covid-security. This required a huge amount of detailed planning, as we sought to strike the right balance between continuing to offer the ambitious, forward-thinking education for which we are increasingly known, whilst at the same time ensuring the site is as safe as practicable. We were able to achieve this aim through lockdown, being one of the first schools in the area to

offer a comprehensive and robust remote-learning platform, and we have continued to be as creative and courageous as we can be on our return to the school sites.

Through the incredible efforts of our dedicated staff, necessarily 'bubbling' children into year groups and conducting rigorous risk assessments, we have been able to maintain a rich diet of both curricular and co-curricular endeavour. In addition to maintaining our 17 subject-strong curriculum, in the facilities designed for its delivery, we have continued to offer around 100 Forder activities across the course of any one week, augmented by virtual concerts, drama performances and the like, wherever possible. Whilst sporting fixtures have been reduced, the sports department has continued with a particularly rigorous training programme, making full use of both the Stanstead Road and Jubilee Ground facilities. And all of this has continued alongside the outstanding pastoral care provided through our Wellness Centre. How we have needed that provision! The demand from our young people, seeking all kinds of support as they navigate the psychological and emotional complexities of this virus, is pronounced. But our support is incredibly robust. Our chaplaincy, psycho-therapy provision, nurse, peer-mentors and other staff have been working continuously, both remotely and on-site, to offer routine help and support to our young people to meet the challenges with fortitude and compassion.

Alongside the daily routines of school, our developments continue apace. The 25 million pound Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths block, along with the Sixth Form Centre and Junior School, is already offering a defining addition to our skyline. I have had the pleasure of touring a number of Dunstonians, as well as current pupils and staff, and everyone has been blown away by the scale and ambition of the project. It is without doubt going to have a transformative impact on the education we are able to offer, and is on schedule for completion in April 2021.

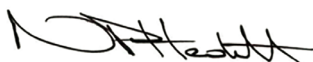
We are also starting to make significant strides in the development of our next phases. It is still hoped that The Plaza – the recreational and multi-purpose hub, in the centre of the College – will be completed this summer. It may be undertaken in a phased approach but we maintain our view that the demolition will at least be undertaken over the summer holiday period. Likewise, we are currently planning for how we migrate Music into its new home in the current Design Engineering laboratories and Biology laboratories.

St Dunstan's is at an exciting phase in its development. Over the last few years, we have been on a significant journey, reinventing ourselves as an ambitious, forward-thinking independent school that champions individuality through a liberal, inclusive ethos and a diverse, co-educational setting. An outstanding inspection report in 2019 has been closely

followed in 2020 with the school winning co-educational independent school of the year. Registrations for places have increased by more than 100% in the last six years and our whole community is excited by what the future holds for us. We believe that it is possible to champion and model a different type of independent education. One which is proud of its distinguished heritage but not constrained by it. One which has a demonstrable and tangible track-record for supporting social mobility. One that believes in the power of diverse communities to shape a broad-minded and humane future. A school that does not offer a conveyor-belt education, creating like-minded alumni, but one that celebrates individuals, who are at ease with themselves and all those around them, as a consequence of the liberal and broad education they have received at school.

I feel very fortunate to have worked closely with a number of distinguished Dunstonians, who have been so supportive in helping us realise our ambitions thus far. For those of you interested in supporting an education like this and being a part of our journey, please be in touch with us. I would love to host you back on the site for a coffee and a tour of our facilities. I am always so touched to see the impact that such visits have on alumni. I think it would be true to say that for all, the school today in many respects represents unrecognisable cultural change, but there is also something pervasive about the spirit of what makes St Dunstan's special. Is it the avant garde underdog in Catford, offering a charming alternative in an ever-changing and challenging market place?!

I do hope this update from the College has been interesting for you. I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to compile this edition of The Notes and I hope that you enjoy reading about the range of Dunstonian news and developments. Albam Exorna!



Nick Hewlett
Headmaster

Black Lives Matter Movement

Speaking about the meeting, Headmaster Mr Hewlett said:

'It was a very good first meeting of the new Diversity Working Group. It was so good to bring together former students, current parents, staff and governors to hold such constructive and purposeful dialogue.'

'We will now embark on a full audit across the school, and I look forward to updating the community in due course.'

Garvey Seaton (pictured right) comments on being part of the Diversity Working Group:

"Being part of the Diversity Working Group and connecting with alumni, parents, staff and governors has been great. In the first meeting, hearing the passion with which the various stakeholders spoke about evoking change across the College was very pleasing. As a former pupil myself, I have a personal attachment to the College and I encourage this initiative. Additionally, looking through my professional lens, I recognise that this is a great platform to identify the areas in need of improvement and make real impactful change."

Part of the remit of my coaching company is to provide support to organisations on their diversity and inclusion journey. This is done in a number of ways including workshops, presentations, diversity audits and other initiatives to help them achieve their objectives. Therefore, as a pre-cursor to the full audit, I spent a day at the College



conducting mini focus groups with a number of pupils and members of staff. In particular, it was very enlightening to hear the pupils share their colourful opinions on where they would like to see change across the school and also what they feel is going well. In my time at St Dunstan's, I did not have an opportunity to voice my views, nor did it feel that there was an appetite to listen, so it's very encouraging to see that those at the centre of our school are being given the chance to share their experiences."

By committing to taking real tangible action, the first step being the full-scale diversity audit, St Dunstan's has an opportunity to be a leader within the independent school circuit rather than following many of the 'safe' actions from the past. Amongst the staff, pupils, parents, you have a wealth of ideas and a genuine desire for improvement. Couple this with the Headmaster, who in our interactions has shown himself to be an open, passionate and proactive leader, and you have the ingredients to make St Dunstan's College a diverse and inclusive environment where the best want to come."

Independent Co-educational School of the Year 2020

Alongside Epsom College, Hurst College, Monkton Combe School, Reigate Grammar School and The Glasgow Academy, St Dunstan's College was a finalist in the Independent Co-educational School of the Year award 2020.

The College was delighted to win the prestigious title and be named Independent Coeducational School of the Year 2020.

A virtual award ceremony was held on Thursday 8 October. Announcing the winner, David Moncrieff, from Independent School Parent Magazine, explained: 'St Dunstan's College [won this award] for their renaissance education, their pupil voice and their championing of the individual.'





Black History Month

Last year, students reflected that they want to take more of a leading role in shaping the plans for the week. They were keen for the activities to be more focused on their lived experiences, rather than historical figures and events. The Afro-Caribbean Society and some of their Year 13 colleagues had the opportunity to put together the plan for the week and they have done a fantastic job. The main entrance was decorated last Friday as a celebration of black culture and the plans for the week were set.

The Monday virtual assembly was led by an Old Dunstonian, Andrew Osayemi, who left a very successful career in Investment Banking to set up a TV Production company. He produced the comedy show, *Meet the Adebajanos*, which was loosely based on his life as a British child growing up in London with African parents. It is now available on Netflix. He encouraged students to be a part of the change that they want to see, and make a

contribution! We were delighted that he was also able to come in on Wednesday to deliver live, socially distanced assemblies to individual year groups. He shared his life experiences and challenged them not to give up on their hopes and dreams when confronted with the word 'no'. I'm sure the students will remember the phrase, 'don't dwell on no, focus on earning your yes' long after they leave the College.

Another highlight was the 'Celebrating Diversity at St Dunstan's' video that the ACS produced for viewing, as a part of form time. It was striking how passionately the students spoke about their pride of being

part of such a diverse community. Another recurring message that came across was the students' desire for this celebration of not just black history, but the richness and diversity of all cultures, to be something that we continue to do right through the year. Who could disagree with them!





Remembrance Service

St Dunstan's College's annual Service of Remembrance took place on Wednesday 11 November.

The Headmaster, Chaplain, Head of School and the Chapel Choir gathered in the Great Hall for the ceremony. For the first time in St Dunstan's history, the service was live-streamed to pupils in classrooms, parents and Old Dunstonians to ensure that the service was Covid compliant.

The Chapel Choir opened the service with a stunning performance of John Ireland's 'Greater Love Hath No Man', which was followed by the opening prayer by the College's Chaplain, Canon Boswell.

During the First World War, more than 877 Dunstonians served in the forces, and St Dunstan's suffered one of the highest percentage losses of any school in the country. Tragically 277 students and teachers lost their lives during the war.

Canon Boswell reflected on this loss, saying: *'Those former students and teachers will be remembered today, they once walked these corridors, they once sat in this Great Hall as you do now. They were once here, having fun, playing football and rugby, and they faced war with courage and dignity.'*





Topping out ceremony

St Dunstan's was delighted to finally officially mark the topping out ceremony for the new development on Friday 2 October. The ceremony, which is traditionally held when the last beam is placed atop of the structure, was due to take place earlier this year, but was delayed due to coronavirus. During the afternoon, a group of junior and senior students were given a socially-distanced tour of the new build by the Willmott Dixon team and the College's bursar, Mrs Wilkins.

Speaking about the event, Mrs Wilkins said: *'Spending the afternoon with a small group of pupils and senior staff to mark the 'topping out' of our new Junior School and STEM building was an absolute delight. The pupils, who brought a buzz of excitement to the construction site, represented every key stage of the College, from Pre Prep to Year 13. We can't wait for our next visit, when hopefully coronavirus restrictions will have been lifted and we can really celebrate this huge achievement.'*





DT Table Design Project



This term, our Sixth Form DT students have been working on a table project.

The project involves the students casting a concrete top and then designing and making a frame for the top to sit on. The project lasted for five weeks and the students created a portfolio as part of their submission.

The finished projects are currently on display under the stairs, by the West Door of our Main building.

Speaking about the project, Head of DT Mr James Randall said: *'It's been great seeing the students work on their table projects from start to finish, and I hope everyone gets to see them under the stairs.'*



#HelloYellow Day

#HelloYellow day took place on 9 October and the College community came together to raise money and awareness for Young Minds - a charity committed to improving children's wellbeing and mental health. The theme for this year was hope and both pupils and staff wore yellow to show young people that they are not alone. We are working as a community, to demonstrate compassion and support young people to feel comfortable to talk to someone if they are struggling. The message of hope is particularly important in light of the pandemic and each tutor group raised enough money to ensure a Young Minds helpline volunteer is on the end of the phone to provide information and support.

In support of #HelloYellow day and World Mental Health Day, the theme for this week has been mental health. A variety of assemblies, form time activities and skills for life lessons have taken place to help students understand how to promote positive mental health and how to access support if they are worried about themselves or someone else. We decorated the lobby yellow, posted messages of positivity and signposted support on our video wall.

In the Junior School, pupils made bunting out of positive messages and top tips for positive mental health, our younger pupils met an alien and told them all about feelings. Miss Carmichael-Line was pleased to be able to inform pupils in the Junior School that a member of staff who is Youth Mental Health First Aid trained, will be on duty during break each day and available for students to talk to. Senior School students have been invited to design posters on the themes of promoting positive mental health and *who can I talk to?* and have been invited to take part in the #HelloYellow five step challenge each day. We have also been informing students in the Senior School of how to #AskTwice if a friend says they are fine, when they are concerned about them.

Whilst the activities that took place within this week continued to develop our culture of positive mental health support, we are keen to ensure that the message does not fade. Support for mental health will still be in place every week of the year. With this in mind, we will be releasing a series of videos and resources over the course of this academic year, to support mental health and wellbeing in our community. These will include tips and reminders about how to promote positive mental health and wellbeing and how to access support.



ST DUNSTAN'S 2021 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are three projects which we would love to complete by September 2021, whilst we still have contractors on site. If we can fundraise sufficient money to deliver these projects, it would prove significantly less disruptive to the pupils and far more cost effective.

If you would like to make a donation towards one of these three projects, please return one of our Donation Forms by post to the Development Office, St Dunstan's College, Stanstead Road, London SE6 4TY; you can also make an online donation via SDConnect on the "Support us" page.

All gifts, large or small, are precious and will make a difference.

1

PROJECT 1 – The Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

Built on the footprint of the old Design and Technology workshops and Science Block, we have plans to build a fabulous new theatre, music practice rooms, recital room and rehearsal studios.

Cost – £1m

2

PROJECT 2 – 'The Plaza'

We would like to landscape the centre of our College into a captivating outdoor hub, where a parade square for the CCF doubles up as a performance venue, with recreational seating positioned within trees and gardens, and where a bandstand and outdoor theatre supports our Performing Arts Department and annual Summer Festival.

Cost – £1m

3

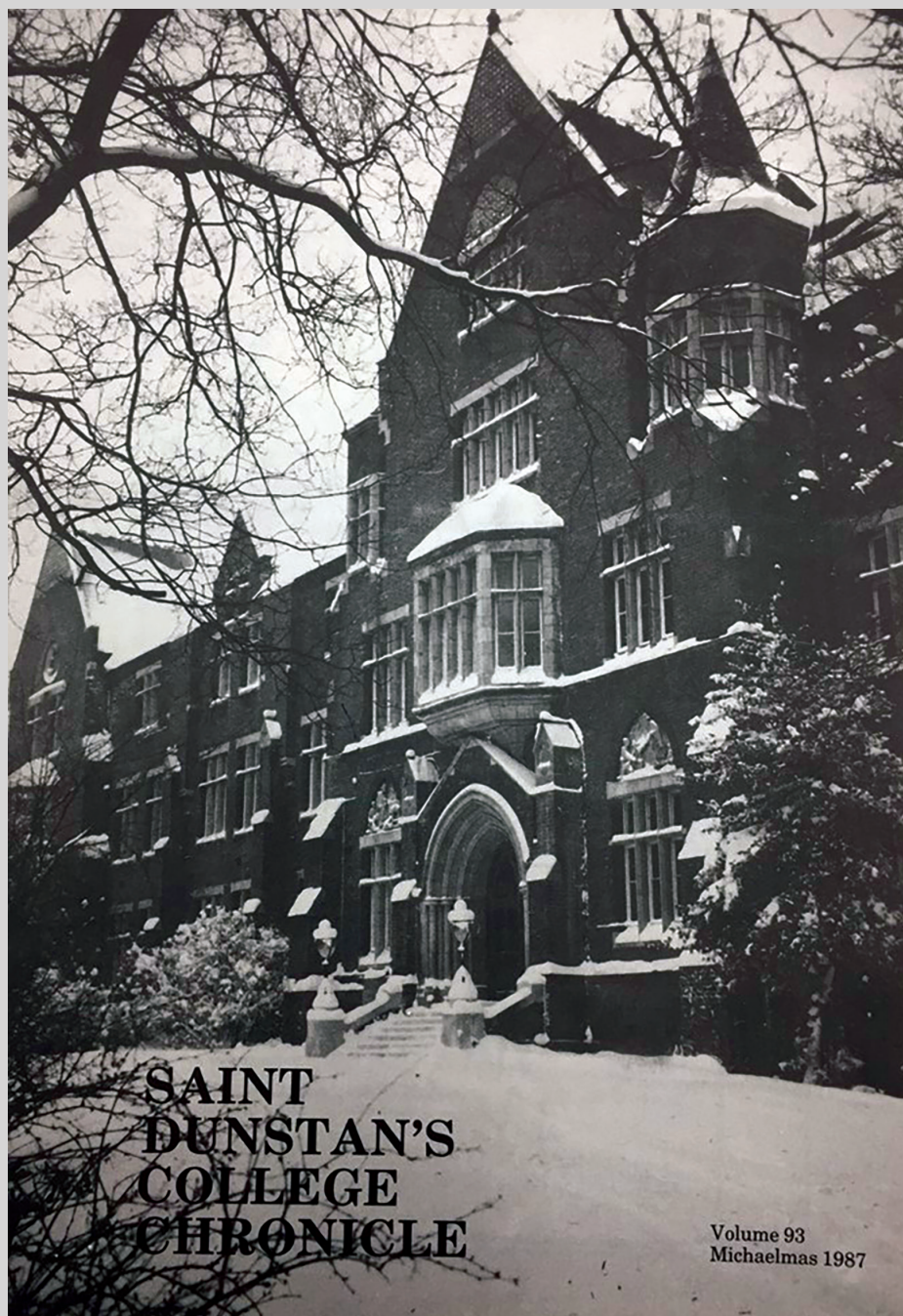
PROJECT 3 – The Sport and Leisure Centre

Our Stanstead Road site needs expanding and enhancing. The designs see the relocation of Fives into the heart of this building and dramatically improve the changing facilities and classrooms.

Cost – £2m







Digital archives

We are delighted to confirm that as of 1 November 2020, all the Chronicles between 1960 and the present day are now available online for your own perusal.

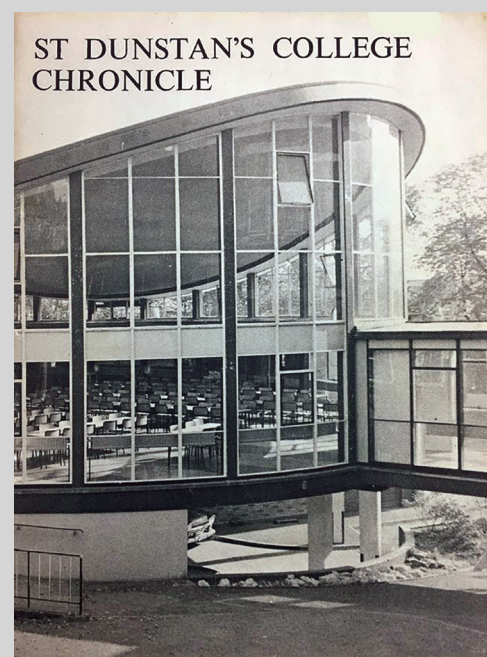
The search engine is powerful and at the click of a button you can find references to one individual or one event in all the Chronicles at once.

In order to have full access, you will need to register onto our Alumni platform called SDConnect at <https://dunstonians.org.uk>.

This is a two year project funded by The Dunstonian Association and 2021 will see the digitalization of all Chronicles between 1888 and 1960.

Also available online are the WWI rich archives from St Dunstan's, which remain available to the general public as it is of historical interest.

The Chair of the Association, David Edwards, is committed to finishing the digitalisation of all Chronicles by the end of 2021 so watch this space!





Range of merchandise



We have made the decision to postpone the launch of the branded merchandise until the new build is finished. We will then be able to use the onsite shop, where a corner will be dedicated to the Dunstonian Association, as well as have all items available for sale online on SDConnect.

The launch will be in Spring 2021. In the meantime, we thought you might like a quick peek at what will be available to purchase.



SDC Enterprises

Enterprises is the commercial arm of St Dunstan's College and is based at the Jubilee Ground, next to Catford Bridge.

The grounds are regularly used by local football clubs and state schools but can also be hired privately for a party, a wake or a wedding ceremony. The Great Hall of the College also holds a wedding licence should you wish to get married at the College itself.

Please contact our Enterprise Manager Mr Gavin Halil at: ents@stdunstans.org.uk for more information.

Or visit St Dunstan's Enterprise website at www.stdunstansenterprises.org.uk.

Please quote DUNST20 to receive a 20% discount on all bookings.

Sports Clubs

We have created three pages for each of the Dunstonian Sports Clubs namely Rugby, Cricket and Golf, with regular news about their tours, wins etc



We are open for business and for new bookings

Weddings - Birthday Parties - Corporate Away Days - Venue Hire - Sport Facilities

Find out more by visiting www.stdunstansenterprises.org.uk or by calling 020 8690 1111. We are following all Government regulations.

SDCONNECT

Congratulations

YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER OF OUR
THRIVING WORLDWIDE
DUNSTONIAN COMMUNITY!



SDCONNECT <https://dunstonians.org.uk>

YOUR PROFILE: Register your new profile online or simply synch instantly from your existing LinkedIn profile.

DIRECTORY: Find old friends or invite new connections to join you for a reunion in the UK or abroad.

JOBS and WORK EXPERIENCE: Connect with other Alumni who are offering work experience or advertising job opportunities online through the portal.

EVENTS: Find out about the increasing number of events taking place at the College or at the Jubilee Ground.

CLUBS: The DA runs various sports clubs which you are most welcome to get involved with.

ARCHIVES: Some of the College's archives have been digitalised and you will have access to them once you have signed up.

SUPPORT US: Check out our fundraising page for our 2021 campaign!

SDConnect will allow you to connect or reunite online with the wider St Dunstan's Community

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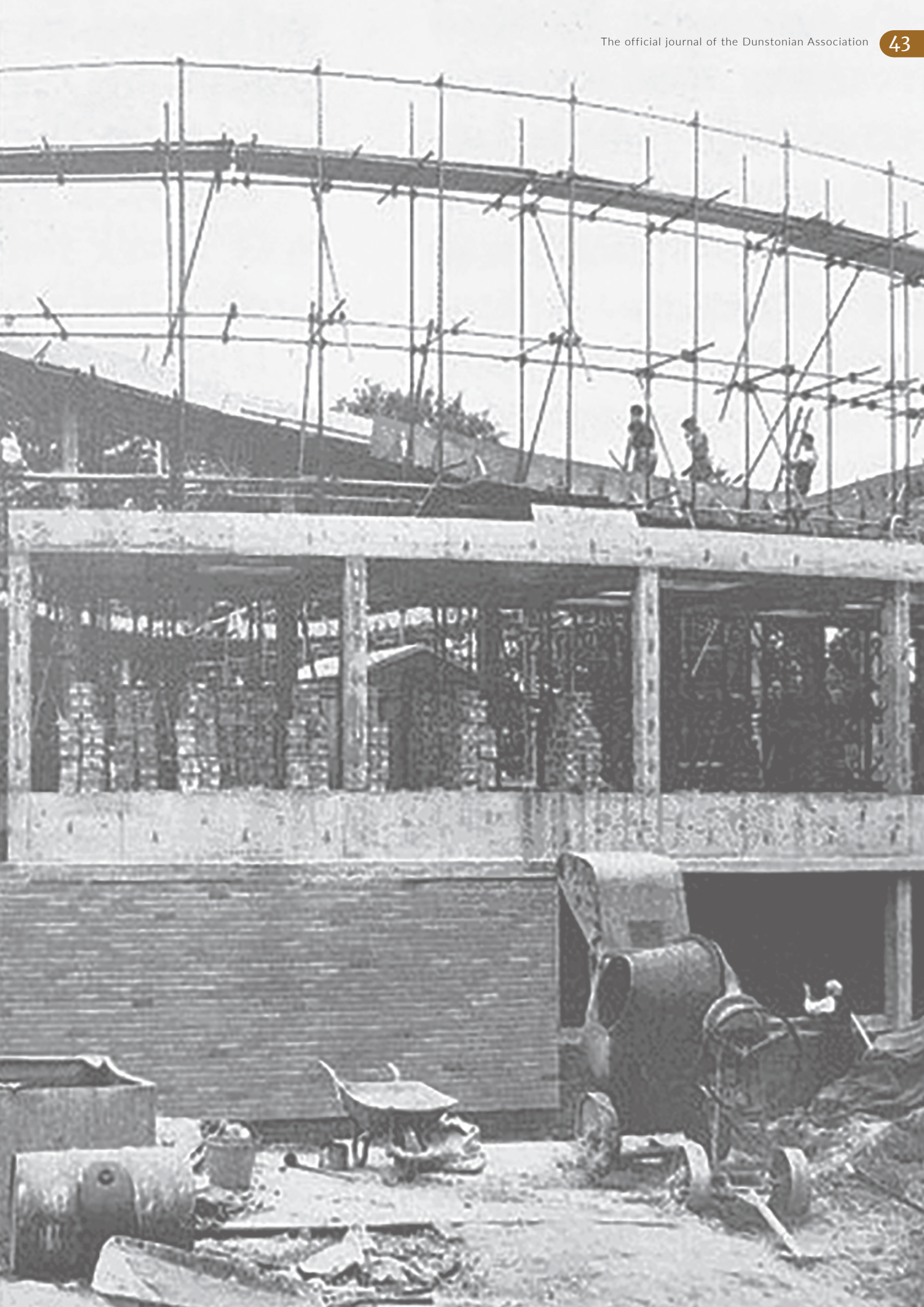
Jo Langthorne

Thank you to all Dunstonians who have generously contributed to the Winter 2020 edition.

If you would like to contribute to the Summer edition of The Notes 2021, please send your story or announcement to:

dunstonians@stdunstans.org.uk
by 1 April 2021.







dunstonians@stdunstans.org.uk
SDConnect at <https://dunstonians.org.uk>