



ST PIRAN'S

ST PIRAN'S ALUMNI

Newsletter for past pupils of St Piran's School

Spring 2023

Welcome to the latest news from St Piran's.



Charles Tippet
Chairman



Sebastian Sales
Headmaster

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to our latest Alumni newsletter, a little later than planned, but we hope you enjoy reading our updates and plans and we look forward to seeing some of our past pupil visitors again very soon.

Please do consider coming along to our Open Day —our inaugural date last year was a great success and we are pleased to invite alumni from a larger group of leavers this time around.

We are also asking more recent leavers (current Years 7-9) if they would like to come along in the afternoon for some informal cricket and rounders matches. More information overleaf.

Forthcoming Events

◆
Saturday 17th June
Alumni Open Day and Lunch at St Piran's

◆
Tuesday 31st October
Alumni Lunch at RAF Club, London

Alumni Lunch—Saturday 17th June

ST PIRAN'S
Inspiring Confidence

FORMER PUPILS WHO LEFT BEFORE 2015 ARE
CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN

Alumni Lunch

on
Saturday 17th June 2023

HOSTED BY THE HEADMASTER, SEBASTIAN SALES,
AT ST PIRAN'S SCHOOL

10.30am Arrival and coffee
11.00am Presentation from the Headmaster
followed by tours of the school with
current pupils
12.45pm Drinks followed by lunch in the dining
room
2-4pm We hope to hold cricket and rounders
matches for recent leavers in current
Years 7-9 which you are welcome to stay and
watch, followed by a match tea.

To register for this event
please click on this link:
[https://www.trybooking.co.uk/
CJBN](https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CJBN)

Please confirm your
attendance by
Friday 2nd June.

St Piran's School, Gringer Hill,
Maidenhead, SL6 7LZ

01628 594300
pastpupil@stpirans.co.uk



Booking can be made via the QR code or the
following link:

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CJBN>

From the Headmaster's desk ...



Spring is always a wonderful time at St Piran's. The beautiful plants and bulbs which have lain dormant for the winter make their appearance, filling the flower beds with colour and the tree blossom fills the air with a sweet scent. The Easter holidays is also a time when the school has a 'spring clean' and the maintenance team were kept very busy this year, making the most of the holiday time to ensure St Piran's is looking it's best. Many of you will remember play times in our Millstone area, which is looking particularly fresh after a jet wash and the flower beds surrounding the Millstone have been planted in the four colours of our Clans.

The entrance to our St Piran's Sports Centre has also had a spruce up with the addition of some information boards which have been filled with news of our sporting events and achievements.

I was also delighted to unveil the complete refurbishment of the boys' changing rooms after Easter which now has a modern and up to date feel which the girls will also benefit from when their changing area is refurbished during the summer holidays.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming many of you to our Alumni Lunch on Saturday 17th June. This was a great success last year and this year, we are also planning some sporting events and a St Piran's match tea for the afternoon. Our Upper School children will be ready to show you around the school and share their experiences with you, they really enjoyed hearing about your memories of our wonderful school. As we look to the future, I am also looking forward to sharing our plans for further development for our Upper School area with you all during this event. As we continue to grow we are planning to maximise the site space and we have some exciting ideas to share and gain your opinions on. Let's all cross our fingers for a bright summer's day, it will be great to welcome you all back to relive some of your memories.

Sebastian Sales
Headmaster

St Piran's is EXCELLENT!

We are delighted with the outcome of our most recent ISI inspection in November 2022 when the school was rated Excellent in all areas.



RAF Club lunch



Our next Alumni RAF Club Lunch will be on Tuesday 31st October in London. Arrival will be from 12noon with lunch at 1pm.

Please contact [Richard Link](#) [1950-1955] to express your interest in attending.

Recent alumni cricket and rounders

As part of our alumni open day, we are inviting back recent leavers in Years 7-9 for cricket and rounders matches during the afternoon of Sat 17th June. If you'd like to come along, please confirm your attendance below!

<https://forms.office.com/e/1CjsYY95bt>

Former St Piran's pupils who are now in Years 7, 8 and 9 are cordially invited to a

Alumni Cricket and Rounders Match

on Saturday 17th June 2023
2pm to 4pm
hosted by the Headmaster, Sebastian Sales at St Piran's School

Join us to relive some memories and enjoy our famous match tea!

Please confirm your attendance at the below link no later than Friday 2nd June:
<https://forms.office.com/e/1CjsYY95bt>

St Piran's School
Gringer Hill
Maidenhead
SL6 7LZ
pastpupil@stpirans.co.uk

Remembering Mrs Burnage

It was with deep sadness that we announced in August 2021 the passing of our much-loved Head of Swimming, Alix Burnage. Alix joined St Piran's on 1 September 2004 and, since then, thousands of St Piran's pupils have benefitted from her talent and verve for swimming. She also provided support to so many staff and families and holds a special place in the hearts of many. As a school, we lowered the St Piran's flag as a mark of respect.



We will be remembering her legacy with the creation of a special mosaic at St Piran's and we were delighted to welcome artist Liz Tiranti to school this term to begin work on this and it should be unveiled very shortly. Our swimming pool and St Piran's Centre will be formally named in her honour—the Alix Burnage Centre.

Book Week visit from past pupil

The children were delighted to spend some time in our outdoor classroom listening to former pupil and author, Ian Young, as he read an extract from his book 'Cry of the Norwolf'. A wintry January afternoon warranted the lighting of our fire as we gathered outdoors to listen to his story and learn more about his time as a pupil at St Piran's in the 1980s.



Ian found his name on the Chapel boards and enjoyed meeting the pupils. His visit was one of the highlights of our Book Week which also included drama workshops, reading, art and a book character dress-up day!

We love to welcome former pupils back to speak to the children about their lives and interesting careers. Do get in touch with us if you would be keen to come in and talk to the children.



The Millstone



Our annual school magazine, The Millstone, was published during the Christmas Term marking the school year 2021-22 and the many events and highlights therein. Copies are given to current families and our most recent leavers' year group. This year we have a digital copy available for those who would like to take a look.

<https://www.stpirans.co.uk/page/?title=The+Millstone+Magazine&pid=65>

Linked In



We have recently set up a LinkedIn page for our Alumni community!

Here, we will share news of the school and it provides a platform for past pupils of all ages to connect. Do take a look and sign up!

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stpiransschoolalumni/>



Obituary

Richard Ogilvie Collins, left St Piran's c 1960. Richard and his brother Anthony studied at St Piran's in the 1950s-1962, under Lowther Grendon Tippet and his key masters Mr Harston, Mr Jonas, CEV Owen. Richard was an eminent aquatic vet. Anthony passed on details of Richard's obituary from a newspaper following his death.

OBITUARY: RICHARD COLLINS 1947-2022

Fishing played huge role in Richard's varied life

RICHARD OGILVIE COLLINS, BVMS&S, MSc, MRCVS (1947-2022)

Following graduation as a vet, Richard worked in York then Duns in Berwickshire. As Richard had love of fishing, in 1981 he decided to combine his talents and his interests by beginning an MSc at Stirling University doing aquatic veterinary studies.

During his studies Richard went to Kenya, studying at a crocodile farm. On completing his degree, Richard moved straight into employment at Stirling Institute of Aquaculture for four years. He then headed to Inverness, where he worked for the Fish Diagnostic Unit of the Scottish Agricultural College, with many trips to the fish farms on the west coast (and always taking his fishing rod along, just in case).

His work there also included doing post-mortems on seals, dolphins and even whales - a far cry from the cats and canaries when he started out as a vet in York.

His work there also included doing post-mortems on seals, dolphins and even whales washed up in the lochs and firths - a far cry from the cats and canaries when he started as a vet in York.

Richard became a keen hill runner, running with the Highland Hill Runners for whom he was president at one point, and the Scottish Hill Runners. Richard took part in all the different races, such as the Carnethy 50k, the Penlands, and most extreme, The Isle of Jura Fell Race.

In 1996, he returned to the Institute of Aquaculture at Stirling University, now employed by the same department he had originally studied with, where he also joined the Ochil Hill Runners.

He was a member of Pitlochry Angling Club, The Perth and District committee member of the Allanwater Angling Improvement Association and supported the Atlantic Salmon Trust. He was also a keen wildlife photographer and developed his own work.

Richard retired around 2010 but the many years of hard punishment on the hills began to take its toll. His mobility became increasingly impaired due to skeletal wear and tear and he was unable to fish and get out to the country as was his wont.

He never lost his humour and intelligent wit however and had many friends all over the country who came to his memorial supper in Dunblane.


His father was in the Navy and as such he travelled extensively as a child living in Singapore, lived and worked in many places in UK but also Kenya, visited Faroe Isles, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Tanzania, and Croatia.

He is survived by his brother Anthony, who is internationally known for his work with the Jane Goodall Institute with primates based at Tanzania, and his family.

He will be sadly missed by all his friends, work colleagues and family.

Mick Symon Dunblane

Tribute Richard Ogilvie Collins, keen fisherman, runner and photographer



1940s photos

We received correspondence from former pupil Nicholas Yool [1958-1963] along with a wonderful box of photographs taken by his father, Henry Yool, who was a master at the school in 1940. The pictures show the façade of the school buildings has changed very little in the subsequent decades and Sports Days looked to be just as much fun! The cars were certainly very impressive!



Follow St Piran's on social media

Discover what we've been doing by visiting our school social media pages!



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



And don't forget our dedicated [Alumni Linked In page](#)

Our approach to using your data

Under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), St Piran's School will process your data for the Alumni for carefully considered purposes in which we have a vested interest, as it will enable us to enhance the services that we provide to you. You have a right to ask us to stop processing your personal data and we will do so. Please contact us on pastpupil@stpirans.co.uk

Do you have a story to share?

We would love to hear about the lives of our past pupils since leaving St Piran's, particularly those with interesting careers or life paths.

Please get in touch via email to pastpupil@stpirans.co.uk with your year of leaving St Piran's; we'd be delighted to hear from you!

News of former pupils

Lane Ludwig [left 2014]

Lane Ludwig enjoyed spending Years 3-5 at St. Piran's while her family came from the U.S. to spend several years in Holyport. She recently graduated from high school in California in June 2022 and started university this past fall. She is studying Childhood Development.



Katie Haveron Jones [left 2014]

I was at St Piran's from Nursery to Year 6 and I left in 2014. I then went to Sir William Borlase's Grammar School until 2021, doing both my GCSEs and A-Levels there. I am now at Durham University in my second year, studying Spanish and Italian Joint Honours, embarking on my year abroad in both Madrid and Siena next year.

Aryan Suneja [left 2013]

Aryan left St Piran's in 2013 at the end of Year 6 and went to Royal Grammar School (High Wycombe). He is currently a third-year student, studying medicine in Nottingham University.

Xavier Davis [left 2015]

I'm now 19 and currently in my first year of university. I spent secondary school boarding at the Royal Grammar school after doing the 11+ and after achieving A levels in Maths, Chemistry French and Biology, got a place to study Biomedical Sciences at Magdalen College at the University of Oxford. I've now finished my second term there and am absolutely loving it, it's absolutely brilliant! I have also just been successful in applying for a full scholarship to spend a this coming September studying biodiversity and evolution at Stanford University in California which I am very much looking forward to. Life is all going well for me and I couldn't be happier; St Piran's really was the best start in life for me.



Julian Stocks [left 1979]



I left St Piran's for Stowe in 1979. Quite a few followed the same path in those days. My hockey, coached by Simon Edginton, continued at Stowe and in 1983 I had the unusual experience of playing hockey v Canford at Lords on the grass ahead of that years' Varsity

match! 40 years later in March 2023 the same teams had a re-match at Stowe! Please to report Stowe won 1-0. My career has been spent as a surveyor and I split my time between London and Brancaster in Norfolk not far from my brother Ben who left St Piran's in 1974. 3 children have kept me busy as well but I make sure there is plenty of time for golf, tennis and boating.....

Air Marshal Sir Ian Macfadyen [St Piran's 1950-1955]

Retirement keeps me busy. I am a churchwarden for a lovely Gloucestershire Grade One Star country church. We recently added a new set of 8 bells, cast in Italy to a UK design. I am now a trainee bellringer developing an interest generated at St Piran's! We have a son living in Savannah so Christmas is often spent there with his wife and family of three girls. This year, we added a month in Australia on an organised golfing tour. One of my most enjoyable roles is to be the President of the Lucifer Golfing Society, which has special ties with the Commonwealth. It was our Centenary tour (delayed by Covid) and included matches in Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney with our opposite numbers there. There were 41 of us on the tour including wives which meant some meticulous planning. A real treat at the end of the tour was a reception held by the Governor General at Admiralty House, overlooking the Sydney Opera House. My new knee held up well!

Andrew and Anne Perry [Headmaster 1972-82]

We are both in our 79th year living in Tonbridge close to our 4 children. Two are past pupils; Edward and James. The COOK business has been an important part of our life and Andrew remains a Director. There are 12 grandchildren to chase about and Andrew plays the piano and an increasingly erratic round of golf! Our e-mail is as follows if any past pupil wishes to make contact.

perryandrew893@gmail.com

Gordon Waldron [left 1979]

I have been in France on and off since 1988 and have been working in high tech and biotech companies for most of my career. I now live in the south of France near Montpellier and in New Zealand during the winter and in the Loire valley during the summer. I would love to reconnect with my St. Piran's friends and teachers again and relive some of the great memories from those days!



Megan Burnham (née Hume) [left 2008]

I have very fond memories of those days, from Sports Day to the Millstone Races, playing in the fields at Break to singing in the girls' choir, and everything in between. One thing that I'm especially grateful for is the love for physical activity that St. Piran's instilled in me. I moved with my family to the US when we left in 2008, and since then I graduated high school and college, and have received my doctorate in Physical Therapy. I married a man in the US Army, and we are currently stationed in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Here, I'm practicing Physical Therapy and promoting holistic health and fitness in Active Duty Servicemembers.



I'm also grateful for the variety of skills and passions that I was introduced to at St. Piran's. I remember especially loving science classes with Mrs. McLellan, French and Spanish with Mme. Hazine, Year One with Mrs. Avann (and the gerbils!), Year Two with Mrs. Hopkin-Jones, Religious Education with Mr. Durston-Smith, and all the art classes over the years, working with every medium imaginable! In my free time, I still enjoy pursuing art, and I frequently commission acrylic canvases. I am passionate about integrating work and play, and I am so grateful for the solid foundation that St. Piran's gave me in learning how to learn, which has allowed me the privilege of working in this profession.



Blake Powell [left 2014]

Blake Powell (20 years old on 12th June) continues at Royal Mail having joined their apprenticeship at 16. He is a fully fledged mechanical and electrical engineer having completed BTec at Distinction and will go on to study the HND in Engineering with them. He hopes to be promoted this year to team leader. He is about to complete on his first property a maisonette in Maidenhead (the advantage of not holding the University debt and his talent for buying and selling to raise capital!). He is very happy with his girlfriend of three years and they love travelling together.

Caitlin Lacey [left 2015]

I left St Piran's in 2015 having no clue where I would go with my life. I am currently studying Criminology at Nottingham University including a year working in a prison with the aim to move to Australia and become a homicide detective out there. I have spent the last 7 months travelling the world, and hope to continue that once I've finished my Masters. St Piran's gave me the confidence and help to achieve this dream and I am truly great full of my time spent there. The friendships I made at St Piran's are friendships I have kept until this day (as a 19 year old) and I would not change them for the world.

India Salt-Cowell [left 2011]



I went to St Piran's in 2010-11 and I was in year 4. I am now 21 and studying Architecture at Cardiff University.

Even though I was at St Piran's for just one year I have always had a special place in my heart for this school. It definitely taught me to strive for what I wanted through my childhood and into my adult life. Being in my final year at

Cardiff University I am planning on moving away to Australia to travel and carry on my career in a different part of the world. Architecture is an extremely tough, but rewarding degree. The work ethic and mental toughness you must have is incomparable to anything I have done before. This being said, I am eager to see where my future and this career takes me.

Brian Martin [1961-1965]

I often think of my days at St Piran's when I pass the school - which is barely recognizable from the school I attended in the early 1960s. I ended my school days at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in Marlow where I enjoyed some success rowing, Which is more than can be said for the rest of my sporting efforts, the only goal I ever scored at St Piran's was an own goal and my rugby and cricket skills were no better.

After university I went into sales and marketing managing Europe, Middle East and Africa for a US corporation. Finding my self redundant at 50 I went onto teaching intending to teach A level economics but a local prep school offered me a post to run their rowing and extra curricular programme as well as assist with marketing and occasionally a bit of teaching.

Turning full circle when I retired I am now a volunteer rowing coach at Sir William Borlase School, a watch leader on the Tall Ships taking school groups out and a coordinator for prep school ski trips to Italy.

Trixie Lamb [left 2020]

Since leaving St.Piran's I have continued to go from strength to strength in my pursuit of Art studies. Now attending Claires Court school with an Arts scholarship I have already attained my silver arts club award. I will also be on the team of pupils to produce out end of year art show.

Alessandra Barrow [2004-2009]

Alessandra recently gained a Master of Research (cum laude) in Asian Studies from Leiden University, where she researched the impact of Hindu nationalism on UK politics. She also holds a BA (cum laude) in International Studies with a specialisation in South and Southeast Asia, with Hindi language, and a minor in Islamic studies also from Leiden University. Alessandra is currently part of the Communications Team at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies.



Joseph Barrow [2004-2011]

Joseph graduated with BA (Hons) in Film Making (University of West of England) last summer and following a period travelling he is now seeking openings in the industry.



George Grundy [left 1984]

I have many memories of the school, nearly all of them fond! But mainly, my time at St Piran's was the source of a lifelong friendship group that is the backbone of my life, and remains strong to this day. I don't remember it, but Michael Ward swears that on my first day at the school I

walked up to him and said 'hello, my name is George, will you be my friend?' Well, the answer was a pretty emphatic yes. I've been friends with Mikey for 41 years. He's godfather to my son and was a groomsman at my wedding. But that's not all. I became friends with Tom Headington, Patrick Williams, Fred Ward and Luqman Adejumo at St Piran's (all 1984). All friendships remain strong today. Tom was my closest friend throughout my teenage years and into my twenties. I saw all of them when I visited England last June (I now live in Western Australia) and Patchy is visiting Perth this Sunday for a few days. We always exchange emails around the date of St Piran's Day, and recently added Danny McGowan, Michael Ansell and Ed Perry to the group.

I could bore you with war stories of rolling a dozen skateboards down the driveway, laden with about twenty kids (with catastrophic results every time), the great night of the food poisoning or the sight of poor Rolf Dapper having his front teeth knocked out by a cricket ball, but I worry I might lose your interest.

I'd like to direct particularly affectionate praise on Mr Edginton, my English teacher, who I remain convinced was the spark that eventually gave me the tools to write properly. I had a book on American politics ('Death of a Nation: 9/11 and the Rise of Fascism in America') published in New York a couple of years ago, and I've just finished another novel, which I'm hoping to get published.

I'm 51, live in suburban Perth, Western Australia, married to the lovely Nelly and my kids Liv (18) and Tom (15) are just making their way out of adolescence and into the world. I own and operate a signage/advertising business, and am involved tangentially in the wine industry.

St Piran's gifted me the greatest friendship group of my life, people I value more than words can say. People I think of as brothers. Happy days indeed.

George Clarke [left 2021]

Since our last newsletter, we were delighted to hear that George appeared as Barry in scenes from the BAFTA and OSCAR winning film, Belfast. George was invited to step into this role back in September 2020 and it was great to see him on the big screen in the UK.



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Come and see St Piran's again!

Last year's Alumni Lunch was a great success and enjoyed by those who attended. Here are some wonderful messages we received afterwards along with some photos of the day.



I just want to write a letter to thank the school for putting on a wonderful school re union, the food and wine were excellent hotel quality and the guided tour by the very smart and humorous 11 year old tour guides was a hoot!

Please pass on my sincere thanks to all concerned for such a wonderful day at the Alumni lunch. It was wonderful to catch up with some of my contemporaries like Charles T, J Jackson, CS Wintle and of course Alison T!

It was even arranged for me to see the underground room where we used to hang out and dry our rugby boots more than 50 years ago, i really appreciate that and it was surreal to be in that particular room again.

...a really rewarding gathering. It was skillfully laid on by the Headmaster and as a result, most enjoyable. St Piran's is alive and doing so well!

We'd love to see you if you can make it on Saturday 17th June this year. Don't forget to sign up [https://](https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CJBN)

www.trybooking.co.uk/CJBN



Stay in touch

If you have changed your email address or would like to update your details so we can stay in touch, please let us know.

We aim to send a newsletter twice-yearly and occasionally information about forthcoming events.

We also love to hear past pupils' news!

Please send an email to pastpupil@stpirans.co.uk with your year of leaving St Piran's so we can stay in touch.