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St Leonards
St Andrews, Fife

eNews



June 2022

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In this issue

- [Summer at St Leonards](#)
- [Class of 2022](#)
- [St Leonards Prizegiving](#)
- [Summer of Celebration](#)
- [Back on Campus](#)
- [Space Man and St Leonards](#)
- [April Adventure](#)
- [Sporting Successes](#)
- [Musical Appointment](#)
- [Author & Ambassador](#)
- [Clock Tower Construction](#)

► Summer at St Leonards

The past few months have been filled with celebratory events for the St Leonards community, and we have been delighted to welcome back a number of Seniors for afternoon tea, lunch and supper with the Head, as well as for our annual Art Exhibition and for individual tours. It has been wonderful to be able to connect with Seniors face-to-face once again, and to celebrate our pupils, parents, staff and former pupils at St Leonards.

As another academic year draws to a close, reflection and reminiscence are certainly in the air but, as a community, we continue to look ahead to the future, remaining steadfast in our commitment to preparing pupils, Ad Vitam, for life, and to fostering the bonds which unite all who have lived, learned and worked at St Leonards. In that vein, we hope that you will join us in welcoming our Year 13 leavers to the Seniors community. Whilst they have reached the end of their time at school, they are now a part of the vibrant global network of alumni with shared memories and experiences of St Leonards, a bond that will continue to shape and influence them throughout their lives.

We hope that you enjoy reading the summer edition of the Seniors Newsletter.

With best wishes,

The Seniors Office

Upcoming Reunions

Seniors' Survey

A Gift in your Will

In Memoriam & Obituaries

Class of 2022

With their examinations completed, our Year 13 leavers embarked upon a jam-packed programme of celebratory events to mark the end of their time at school, including brunches, watersports, ceilidhs, and quizzes. Particular highlights included the initiation of a new tradition, the 'Quad to Birdcage' procession, with the leavers walking this iconic route to the applause of pupils and staff before pausing for a formal photograph on the Birdcage steps, as well as the return of Prizegiving to the newly-renovated Younger Hall and, of course, the Leavers' Ball at Fairmont St Andrews.



St Leonards Prizegiving

We were delighted to return to the Younger Hall for this year's Prizegiving Ceremony. It was a special afternoon of celebrations for our Senior pupils and their families, with the Year 13 students crossing the same stage as University of St Andrews graduands to become St Leonards Seniors.



Guests were welcomed by Colonel Martin Passmore, Chair of Council, before hearing from the Head, Simon Brian, as well as Karajahyah and Grace, the outgoing Heads of School. This year's guest speaker was Ellis Watson, former Chairman and Chief Executive of local publishing company DC Thomson. Prizes were presented to pupils in Years 7-13 in recognition of outstanding achievements over the past academic year, and guests were treated to musical performances from the St Leonards Choir. As is tradition, the afternoon was rounded off with delicious strawberry tarts back on campus.

Summer of Celebration

Thank you to all who attended our Summer of Celebration Seniors events. The Head very much enjoyed meeting those who have joined us for afternoon tea, lunch and dinner at St Leonards over the past few months. Drinks, scones and sandwiches were interspersed with tours of the school grounds, and the beautifully branded St Leonards tartlets were a particular favourite at the Seniors' supper.



Further details of future events for the academic year ahead will be shared in due course.

Back on Campus

It has been wonderful to welcome a few Seniors back to the St Leonards campus for tours and visits.

Charlotte Hardy Hall (née Nelson, BE 1979-83) and her daughter, Iona, returned for a trip down memory lane and a tour of Bishopshall. Whilst the house looks very different from when the sisters were at school, she did manage to spot herself in old photographs which still adorn the walls!



Since the last newsletter, we also reconnected with **Andrew Scott** (2000-2006) and his partner. After leaving St Leonards, Andrew attended the Borders College of Music and is now a drummer and session musician for a number of different bands on the rock and jazz scenes. He was delighted to bump into his former teacher and current Director of Music, Ms Love, during his visit.

If you would like to return to St Leonards for a campus tour, please contact seniors@stleonards-fife.org to make arrangements. All visitors to the school site must be accompanied by a member of staff.

Space Man and St Leonards

Did you know that the 2022 single 'Space Man', which was the UK entry to this year's Eurovision song contest, was co-written by St Leonards Senior **Max Wolfgang** (McElligott) (2000-05)? The song, performed by Sam Ryder, finished in second place with 466 points, making it the highest-scoring UK Eurovision entry to date.

April Adventure

A few months ago, we were delighted to hear from **Sierra Peters-Buckland** (2001-2011) as she prepared to commence a 2653 mile adventure hike along Pacific Crest Trail – her wildest adventure to date, and very much inspired by her Duke of Edinburgh expeditions whilst at school! Starting in Mexico and concluding in Canada, the challenging route requires Sierra to walk an average of 20 miles per day over the course of five months. As she reached the 500 mile mark earlier this month, she took some time to share some of her updates and reflections with us:



"It seems very fitting to be writing an update right now as I passed the 500 mile marker today which, of course, means that The Proclaimers have been on repeat

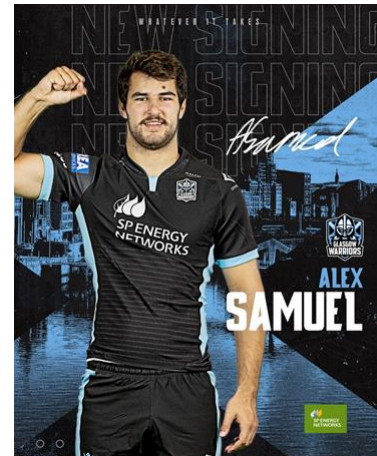
in my head! During my time in the California desert, I have learned to cowboy camp under the stars without my tent and also to identify plants such as the poodle dog bush and poison oak, and have also seen a total of 19 snakes – four of which were rattlers! Once you figure out that not (quite) everything in the desert is dangerous, it's actually very beautiful with wildflowers and wildlife everywhere. I carry everything that I need for the hike (tent, clothing, food, water) on my back, and resupply food from surrounding towns every four to seven days. We can have 20-30 miles stretches without a water source, meaning that we need to carry around six litres of fluid with us!

"In a week and a half's time, I plan to arrive at the beginning of my namesake mountains, the Sierra Nevadas. This will mark the end of the desert and is the section of the trail that I am looking forward to the most, boasting expansive views, bears, and all going well climbing the summit of Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states at 14,505ft. Over the course of the hike, I will summit the height of Mount Everest 19.6 times!"

We wish Sierra all the best as she continues her adventure hike over the coming months! If you would like to read more updates from her, you can find these on thetrek.co under PCT Bloggers and on Instagram @sierrapb.

Sporting Successes

Congratulations to **Gareth Roberts** (2006-14) who was selected to play in the Scotland Box Lacrosse Team, and **Alex Samuel** (2006-18) (pictured) who recently signed a professional contract with the Glasgow Warriors. Back in April, Alex went head to head against fellow Senior and SLM Blues alumnus Harry Mercer in the Scottish Rugby Super6 League.



Musical Appointment

Recent leaver **Kit McCarthy** (2018-20), who is studying Composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, has been appointed as an assistant orchestrator for the London Musical Theatre Orchestra. His remit was to re-orchestrate songs from Little Shop of Horrors, transforming the original piano-vocal score into a 54-piece orchestra and 70-piece chorus to allow the orchestra to rehearse and play through the musical in a day.



Kit was able to draw on his experience of playing the score at the St Leonards production of Little Shop of Horrors, staged at The Byre Theatre back in 2019.

Author & Ambassador

We were delighted to hear from **Sarah Smith** (née Mann, SK & SN 1980-87), whom some of our Seniors might better

remember as Mutley! Sarah's book *Because I Know Who He Is* was recently published by Olympia Publishers. The book (which is available to purchase online from Amazon, Waterstones, Blackwells and Foyles) provides a personal and moving insight into dementia, the illness which afflicted her father, Bill Mann CBE, who was known as 'The Numbers Mann' because of his mathematical business brain which allowed him to set up a charitable foundation, donating millions of pounds to good causes. The book not only documents her father's mental decline, but also the impact that this had on her relationship with him.



Sarah said: *"I wanted to convey that you can still have a really happy loving relationship with someone with dementia, you just have to get inside their head. And, you know, once you do that, it is a lot easier."*

Sarah has also become the first Erskine Family Ambassador, a role which allows her to share her experiences and insights with others who are journeying with a loved one through dementia. Her father entered the Glasgow Home in December 2017, and so this is a charity which is very close to her heart. She is also involved with The W M Mann Foundation, set up by her parents to support organisations within the fields of music, the arts, education, medical research and care. If you would like to find out more about her book or The Erskine Veterans' Charity, please click the links below.

[The Erskine Veterans' Charity](#)
[Because I Know Who He Is - Order Online](#)

Clock Tower Construction

The iconic St Leonards clock tower stands out on the St Andrews skyline, but compared with some of its neighbours the structure is a relative newcomer in the town. The clock tower was opened in 1901. Whereas, St Andrews Cathedral, just over the wall from the school grounds, has been on the site since 1158.



St Salvator's Chapel at the University of St Andrews, meanwhile, was founded in 1450, with restorations and rebuilds along the way as a result of the Protestant Reformation and radical alternations in the 1760s and 1770s, including the deliberate collapsing of St Salvator's original stone roof. This photograph of St Leonards, looking back towards what is now the Head's Study - formerly St Leonards House - dates from 1895, and shows the lie of the land before the addition of the clock tower as we know it today.

Upcoming Reunions

Reunion (for those at St Leonards 1955-60)

All Seniors who attended St Leonards between 1955-60 are warmly invited to a luncheon at the RAF Club, London on Tuesday, 10 October 2022. For further details, please contact **Lesley Gill** (née Stephen) at lesleystephen1942@gmail.com.

Reunion for the Class of 1963

Sandra Conn (née Hall) (SRE 1958-63) is hoping to organise a reunion to mark 60 years since she and her contemporaries left St Leonards. If you would be interested in catching up, please email Sandra at sandrajconn@btinternet.com – further details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Seniors' Survey

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the Seniors Survey. This has enabled us to update our records, and has also informed our planning for future events and reunions.

We are always pleased to keep in touch with our Seniors, to receive your news, and to share updates about events and the School today, whether that be through our quarterly newsletter, social media channels, events or campus tours. If your communication preferences or contact details change, please do let us know.



A Gift in your Will

As we look forward to celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St Leonards in 2027, and anticipate the decades and centuries ahead, leaving a gift in your Will is your opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the School for generations to come.

Gifts in Seniors' Wills can make an enormous impact on the lives of children who attend the School. As a School, our focus is on maximising children's learning and wellbeing. Learning happens in the classroom, on the sports field, through the performing arts, and all of it plays a part in helping challenge pupils to grow into rounded individuals that will build our society. At St Leonards, we prepare boys and girls Ad Vitam, for life in its fullest sense.

Please consider leaving a bequest to St Leonards in your Will. Your thoughtfulness and generosity could be used to enable the creation of new facilities, to provide additional support for co-curricular activities, or to enable able children from low income backgrounds to benefit from a St Leonards education.

You do not need to inform the School of your decision, although it can be helpful to ensure the school will be able to use the gift as you wish, if we are aware of it in advance.

As St Leonards is recognised as a Charity (number SC010904), your bequest will be free from inheritance tax and capital gains tax. In all instances, we advise consultation with your legal advisor when drawing up or revising your Will.

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will to St Leonards, please contact the Development Office at development@stleonards-fife.org or write to us at The Development Office, St Leonards, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QJ.

In Memoriam & Obituaries

A list of the Seniors who have died since the last newsletter is shown below. The dates they attended St Leonards and their house at school are listed and, where obituaries have been shared, these can be accessed via the hyperlinks next to

an individual's name. Should you wish to inform the Seniors Office of a death, or submit an obituary to be included in the Seniors Newsletter, please contact seniors@stleonards-fife.org.

Harriet Gash (SK & DG 1949-61) – [A Tribute](#)
Elizabeth Vice (née Wright, DG 1935-48)
Diana von Krogh (née Todd, BE 1946-51)
Elsbeth Barkes (née Hart) (SK & SN 1946-54)
John Purvis CBE (SK 1943-45) - [Obituary by The Scotsman](#)
Mary Gibson (née Anthony, SRW 1939-42)
Elizabeth Russell (née Lang, DG 1955-58)
Patricia Shires (née Dawson, APS 1942-44)
Anne Marquis (née Leete, BE 1939-45) – [A Tribute](#)
Patricia McAuley (née Taylor, SRW 1955-59)
Elsbeth Barker (née Langlands, CC 1953-57) – [Obituary by The Guardian](#)
Alison Massie (née Langlands, CC 1958-63) - [Announcement by The Scotsman](#)
Annabel Broadhurst (née Lee, CC 1964-69)
Shiona Duncan (née Scott, CC 1952-57)
Jane Cockburn (née McKerrow, DG 1942-46)
Jean Wilkie (née Clark, SRE 1948-52)
Susan Warburton (née Jenkinson, SN 1944-47)
Dr Glynn Jenkins (Staff, 2009-15)
Ann Powell (née Cordingly, SRE 1945-49)

In addition, since the last edition of the Seniors' Newsletter, the Seniors Office has been informed of the following deaths, further to the circulation of the Seniors' Survey:

Elsbeth McIntyre (née McLaren, SRW 1956-60)
Barbara Walker Trentham (née Drummond, SLF 1956-62)
Aileen Bramwell (née Lennie, SK & APS 1935-41)
(Eleanor) June Shanks (née Brodie, APN 1945-48)
Annabel Shepherd (née Higgins, CC 1953-56)
Vida Thompson (née Sloan, APS 1937-41)
Gwyneth Bell (née Wyllie, SRW 1945-47)
Heather Black (née Lawson, APS 1939-42)
Janet Glover (née Brown, CC 1968-73)
Sheila Stamp (née Mackay, BW 1974-80)
Elizabeth Anne Drummond Hay (CC 1956-59)
Elaine Sturt (née Mair, SLF 1955-1960)

The School is a private company limited by guarantee and is registered in Edinburgh with registration number SC016693. The company's registered office address is St Leonards School, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9QJ. The School is also registered as a charity with OSCR. The charity registration number is SC010904.

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