



St Leonards
St Andrews, Fife

eNews



December 2022

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► Festive Greetings from St Leonards

With the festive season upon us, it has been wonderful to welcome many of our Seniors back to St Leonards for our recent Christmas events - the school Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church and drinks in Bishopshall boarding house.

For our current pupils, too, the Autumn Term, and in particular the past few weeks, have been bustling with activity and brimming with seasonal cheer. Hockey with tinsel-covered sticks has been played on the Astroturf; St Nicholas Day was celebrated in St Leonards Chapel, led by our German Sixth Form students; the Parents Association hosted a superb Christmas Fair in the Junior School; and Holy Trinity fell silent to the first solo verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, at the school Carol Service.

In this edition of our Seniors Newsletter, we are pleased to share highlights and updates from our global alumni network, announce details of our upcoming programme of Seniors Events for 2023, and launch the latest edition of the *St Leonards Gazette*, just in time for some festive reading.

A digital Christmas Card to all our Seniors is enclosed below - with season's greetings from all at St Leonards.

[Merry Christmas from all at St Leonards](#) - [Click to view](#)

As ever, we are always pleased to hear from Seniors with news and updates to share. You can contact The Seniors Office at seniors@stleonards-fife.org or telephone +44 (0)1334 472126.

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With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

The Seniors Office

Seniors Events Programme

Looking ahead to the New Year, we are delighted to announce our Seniors Events' Programme for 2023. We look forward to welcoming Seniors to these events, and are thrilled to be able to relaunch this programme in full for the coming year.



Seniors Edinburgh Drinks Reception - Wednesday, 1 March 2023, 5.30pm - 7.30pm at The New Club, 86 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2BB. Tickets £15.

Seniors Drinks Reception in London - Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 5.30pm - 7.30pm at London Scottish House, 95 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2DX. Tickets £15.

Class of 1993 Reunion - Saturday, 3 May 2023. More information to follow.

Class of 2023 Drinks Reception - Tuesday, 23 May 2023, 5.00pm - 7.00pm in The Green Room at St Leonards.

Seniors Reunion Day - Saturday, 27 May 2023, 10.00am - 3.00pm at St Leonards, St Andrews, KY16 9QJ.

Further details can be found on the events programme below. Please note, all events must be pre-booked at seniors@stleonards-fife.org, providing details of any dietary or mobility requirements.

[Seniors' Events Programme 2023](#)

New Alumni Relations Officer

We are delighted to introduce Rebekah Norman, who has recently joined the team at St Leonards as the new Alumni Relations Officer. Bekah works with the Director of Development, Rev'd Giles Dove, and is looking forward to meeting many of our Seniors at upcoming events.



An alumna of Moorlands College, Bekah holds a First Class BA Hons in Applied Theology and has worked with both adults and children in various capacities, most recently in Vancouver Island, Canada, where she led a Christian gap year course focused on leadership development.

St Leonards Gazette

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we are pleased to share with our Seniors the latest edition of the St Leonards Gazette, covering the 2021-22 academic year. You can read all about 'a year in the life of St Leonards' in this annual publication, linked below.

[St Leonards Gazette 2021-2022](#)



Seasonal Celebrations

It was a pleasure to host our Seniors at the school Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday, 14 December, and afterwards at Bishopshall for a festive drinks reception.

A recording of the Carol Service, and also the Christmas Mix Concert, from the Music School Auditorium, are included below, which we hope you will enjoy tuning in to.



[St Leonards School Carol Service - Watch Now](#)

[Christmas Mix Concert - Watch Now](#)

Christmas Drinks in Bishopshall

What a wonderfully festive evening we enjoyed in the Drawing Room of Bishopshall, welcoming back a number of Seniors for a Christmas Drinks Reception at St Leonards.

Our thanks to all those who joined us for wine and nibbles after the Carol Service, and we look forward to hosting more such occasions in the year ahead.



National Awards

This year has been one of great success for St Leonards, from a record school roll to two national awards, in recognition of the outstanding boarding provision and student experience.

First came the news that St Leonards had been named winner of the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) *Boarding Research Award 2022*, focusing on boarding and wellbeing. This accolade highlighted the work around mental health and wellbeing in our boarding community, in particular by Mrs Jenn Murray-Turner, Housemistress of Bishopshall.



Then, in October, St Leonards was named the *UK's Independent School of the Year 2022 for International Student Experience*, at the Independent Schools of the Year Awards ceremony. The Head, Simon Brian, attended the reception at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in London, and received the national award on behalf of all at the school.

Most recently, earlier this month St Leonards was named one of Scotland's top independent schools for International Baccalaureate / A Level results, ranked number one for the equivalent of A*-B grades by The Sunday Times' *Parent Power* guide.

May St Leonards continue to go from strength to strength.

Priorsgate at St Leonards

St Leonards is pleased to announce the launch of five luxury self-catering apartments - *Priorsgate at St Leonards* - which are available to book now: perfect for a stay in the heart of St Andrews.



The two and three-bedroomed apartments have recently been redeveloped and are furnished to the highest standard. For further details and to book, please go to: [Priorsgate - Book Online](#) or email priorsgate@stleonards-fife.org

If any of our Seniors do plan to book and would like to arrange a tour of St Leonards on a weekday as part of the trip, please contact seniors@stleonards-fife.org to make arrangements.

Old Tom's Forgotten Course

Seniors gathered at The New Club in Edinburgh in October for a fascinating historical talk given by Jane Claydon, former Deputy Head at St Leonards, and a fountain of knowledge on the school and its past.

Jane gave a wonderful presentation entitled Old Tom's Forgotten Course and Other Stories, after which Seniors enjoyed a lunch at The New Club, with impressive views towards Edinburgh Castle.



Honorary Degree Decades On

Hilda Moore (née Hammond, BE 1936-40) was presented with an Honorary Degree at the University of Bedfordshire in September, decades after completing her studies in Physical Education.

Since this news reached The Seniors Office, Hilda sadly passed away at the age of 100, in November. A former England hockey player, Hilda studied at Bedford Physical Education after completing her education at St Leonards. She was one of more than 250 women to receive the honorary degrees following a six-year campaign to prove the three-year courses they completed were worthy of degree status.



At 100 years old, Hilda was thought to have been the oldest living recipient of an honorary degree. The photograph was taken by Judy Gorrie, former Head of PE at St Leonards, who joined the staff in 1983, and also received an honorary degree at the ceremony.

Glasgow Warriors Rugby Debuts

Two of our Seniors, Archie Clarke (2012-2022) and Alex Samuel (2009-2018), have seen further success in the world of rugby in recent months. Archie was selected for the U19 Glasgow Warriors squad in November, the team securing a convincing win against Edinburgh Rugby.

Alex, meanwhile, made his professional debut for Glasgow Warriors, dominating the pitch with his teammates to secure an outstanding 37-0 victory. These are two Senior sporting stars to watch.



Scottish Shooting Championships

St Leonards Senior Frankie Calder (2015-2022) has continued rifle shooting at a national level since graduating from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in May of this year.

Most recently, Frankie participated in trials for the Great Britain U21 Drew team and was successful, meaning they will go on to shoot in the main match against Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. A huge congratulations to Frankie on this latest achievement.



Wedding Bells

On behalf of all at St Leonards, we would like to congratulate Seniors Sophie Baillie-Zimmermann (2010) and Christoph Zimmermann (2010) on the occasion of their wedding blessing at Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews earlier this year.

Sophie and Christoph met at St Leonards, and married in a small ceremony during the pandemic before travelling to St Andrews for a blessing with friends and family. They then took a trip down memory lane at St Leonards, stopping off at Sophie's former boarding house, Bishopshall.



Glion Ambassador Appointment

Former Head Boy of St Leonards, Karajahyah Schlagenhauf (2021-22), completed the IB Career-related Programme at St Leonards this summer, and has gone on to study Hospitality Administration/Management at Glion Institute of Higher Education, Switzerland.

He has recently been appointed to the roles of Student Ambassador and Class Representative at Glion, representing the institution, leading new initiatives on campus, and promoting integration between students and the wider community. Congratulations to Karajahyah, who also took the time to visit St Leonards at the end of this term to speak with current students and staff and revisit old haunts.



Musician in Residence

Congratulations to Anthony White (OLL 2014-2017), who has recently been appointed Musician in Residence at St Leonards, in addition to his existing position as a tutor in the Music Department and in Ollerenshaw boarding house.

Anthony recently accompanied the sopranos from Classical Reflection at St Paul's Cathedral in London, playing for over 3000 people including HRH The Duchess of Wessex, the comedian David Walliams and the actor David Bradley. His special arrangement of *O Holy Night*, which was recorded for radio on Classic FM. Tune in on Friday, 23 December to hear Anthony's performance.

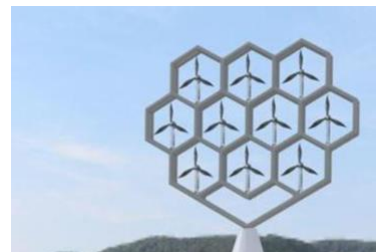


London was swiftly followed by a trip to the Czech Republic, where Anthony attended the premiere of *The Great Conjunction* at the Prague International Indie Film Festival. *The Great Conjunction* is an award-winning short film directed by Karolina Smolova - for which he composed the score.

We look forward to hearing more from Anthony, both in his role at St Leonards and in his wider musical career.

Pioneering Engineering

A Scottish university spin-out company, founded by St Leonards Senior Adam Harris (2004-2012) featured in the news recently, seeking to raise funds to further develop rotor technology that could open up the wind turbine market to manufacturers across the country. Adam's company, Myriad Wind Energy Systems, has created a simplified design to maximise the benefits of wind turbines, reducing manufacturing costs, increasing efficiency and making rotor blades fully recyclable.



You can read more at The Herald: [click here to read](#). It is always fascinating to see what our Seniors do next.

The Silver Tassie

One of our Seniors, Lydia Rayne (née Wilkie, SRE 1978-84) would love to hear from any fellow Seniors who would be interested in competing in The Silver Tassie, a golfing competition for the alumni of all-girls' independent schools.



The competition will be held at the Berkshire Golf Club on Monday, 22 May 2023, and all players must have a handicap lower than 24. If anyone would like to take part, or find out more about the event, Lydia can be contacted directly at lydiarayne@hotmail.com. Details of the competition are at: [The Silver Tassie 2023](#)

Books & Board Games

Our thanks to Sheena Christie, Honorary Senior, Assistant Housemistress of St Nicholas (1979-1996), for her generous donation of a number of books to the school archives, held in Queen Mary's Library.



The School also recently received a kind donation of the St Leonards board game, pictured here, which was made for the centenary celebrations in 1977. Thank you to Honorary Senior Flora Fraser (Assistant Housemistress SLF & SRE 1979 - 1989) for donating this and a selection of photographs to the archives at St Leonards.

We shared images of the game on our St Leonards Seniors Facebook page, and discovered that many of our former pupils had memories of it, with some even framing it for display.

Senior Spotlight

We are delighted to relaunch our Senior Spotlight feature within the Seniors Newsletter. In this edition, we caught up with Anna Filonenko (2012-2014). If you would like to feature in a future edition, please contact The Seniors Office at seniors@stleonards-fife.org. We will be happy to hear from you.



Name: Anna Filonenko (St Leonards 2012-2014)

What did you do after graduating from St Leonards? I graduated with a Bilingual IB Diploma, for which I studied English B, Russian A, Theatre, Economics, Environmental Systems and Societies and Mathematics. I then started the Combined Honours in Arts programme at Durham University the same year.

Can you tell us about your career since then? I transferred to New York University in the US after my first year at Durham and received a BA Hons in Art History in 2018. My senior thesis on Russian avant-garde art was sponsored by the College of Arts and Science. I then worked in a number of leading art institutions including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and The Armory Show in NYC.

After that, I moved to Russia in 2019 to work as a contemporary art curator and opened an art foundation, the StandArt Foundation. Having spent a lot of time around artists, I realised I'd like my career to take a more creative path.

I was accepted to one of the oldest feature film programmes in Moscow at the High Courses for Scriptwriters and Film Directors in 2021, and am now taking a leave of absence to gain experience in the film industry, working in London.

What's the best thing about your job? I truly enjoy the process of filmmaking - it's pretty much impossible to highlight the best bit.

What was the most important lesson you learned at St Leonards? No matter how lost you may feel, you always have to trust the process and you will be rewarded for your hard work.

What did you particularly enjoy at school? I was part of the theatre group and also did horse-riding, golf and ballet. My favourite teacher was Anna Beck, who still works at St Leonards now. She was so helpful when I was adjusting to a new culture. I remember I was always very much inspired by evening walks by the North Sea, looking at the stars and listening to the sounds of the waves approaching the shore. I also had the chance to introduce the Model United Nations programme to the extra-curricular activities at St Leonards! I miss the friendly and encouraging environment of the School.

What advice would you give to students interested in following a similar career path? Try to get work experience as a volunteer or intern as early in your career as possible, and treasure the connections you build.

Our thanks to Anna for featuring in our first relaunched edition of Senior Spotlight. Anna is interested in connecting with any fellow Seniors working in the film industry. If you would like to connect, please contact seniors@stleonards-fife.org

Class of 1983

Members of the graduating class of 1983 are organising a group tour at St Leonards on Friday, 9 June 2023, marking 40 years since leaving school. The tour will be followed by an evening get-together. Any fellow Seniors from the 'Class of 1983' are most welcome to attend. Please contact Nicki Notaras (SN 1978-83) at nnotaras@hotmail.com if you would like to join the group, or for any further information.



Seniors on Social Media

All Seniors are invited to follow St Leonards on social media, for news, photos and updates. We have two dedicated channels for our St Leonards Seniors. You can follow us on:

Facebook [@StLeonardsSeniors](#)

Instagram [@stleonardsseniors](#)

St Leonards School is also on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter via the handles below:

LinkedIn [St Leonards School](#)

Facebook [@StLeonardsSchool](#)

Instagram [@stleonardsschool](#)

Twitter [@StLeonards_Head](#)

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

A list of the Seniors who have died since the last newsletter is included below. The dates they attended St Leonards and their house are listed and, where obituaries or tributes 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 or tribute to be included in the Seniors Newsletter, please contact seniors@stleonards-fife.org

Jane Cockburn (née McKerrow, DG 1942-46)

Horatia Grace (née Winter, DG 1938-42)

Isobel Margaret Stewart Morrison (née Taylor, ASP 1948-52)

Sheila Scott (née Stewart, DG 1939-42)

Edith Wilson (née Witham, SRW 1912-1916)

Aileen Austin (née Stewart, SRE 1944-49)

Claire Walker (née Sanderson, SLF 1970-79)

Hilda Moore (née Hammond, BE 1936-40)

Leila Reynard (née Shepherd, SLF 1949-54)

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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