

Archbishop Myers And St Mark's Past Pupil Association Newsletter 2016



Welcome from the PPA Committee

Dear Past Pupils and Teachers

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of the St Mark's Past Pupils Association Newsletter, the LAST ever issue that will be printed in hard copy.

Going with tradition, you will find the enthralling contribution from the PPA Chariman, David Sheath, and an inspiring snapshot of the past year in the school from Headmaster, Paul Enright.

In a year where we have seen St Mark's placed in the top thirteen comprehensive schools in the country, there have been more positive changes to the school including the building of a new theatre in the old gym. Read all about it in Veritas, the school's online magazine either via the link if you are reading this newsletter online, or via <http://www.st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk/newsletters>

We were saddened to hear of the passing of retired teacher Tony Patterson in October 2015. Our condolences go to his family.

As always we have news regarding past pupils and teachers.

We regret to inform you that this will be the last HARD COPY newsletter we intend to publish. Both in an effort to reduce costs and to get with the times, we will from now on only be producing digital copy newsletters available to view via the School's website via the following link:

<http://www.st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk/Past-Pupils>

All previous years' editions will be filed here too.

Ideally we would like the PPA to move to be part of the social media forums already so heavily used now by past pupils (such as Facebook). If there are any past pupils who can help the School set up and co-ordinate a St Mark's Past Pupils site, then please get in touch with the School to discuss it and help make it happen.

Finally we are pleased to inform you that we are planning a reunion for 2016. Read on for more information.

Please keep updating us with your email address and news on the form at the back of this newsletter.

Hope you enjoy this last hard copy edition of the newsletter.

Happy reading!

Anne Kearney

Matilda Goes

PPA Chairman's Report 2016

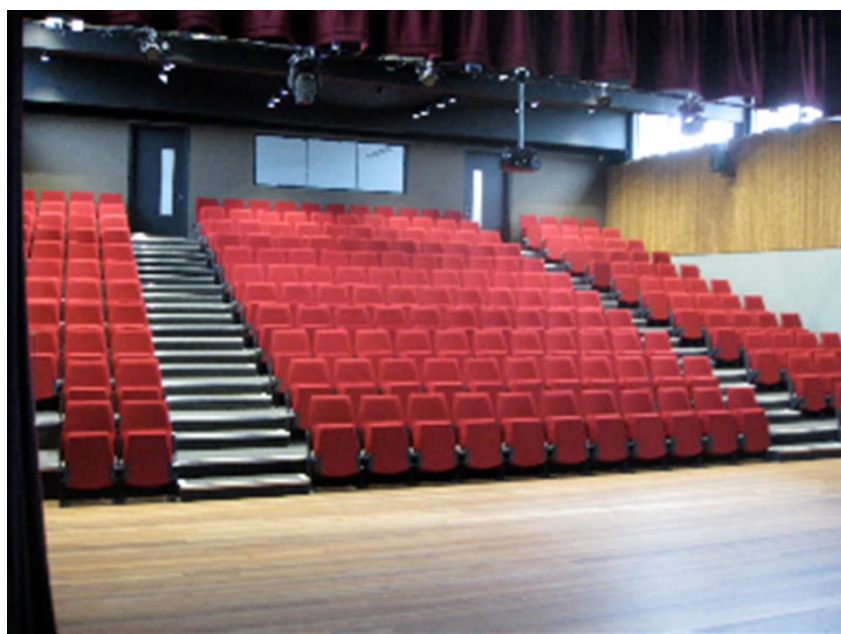
Dear Past Staff and Pupils,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in good health and spirits. 2016 promises to be quite a year as we ponder the merits of whether or not to remain in the European Union. I am sure that if you are like me, you will want to hear the arguments on both sides before making a decision that will have profound implications for the future of this country. Sadly I fear that much of the debate will be overshadowed by the emotional issues of mass migration which will stifle reasoned discussion. We have all been shocked and horrified by the terror, violence and scenes of devastation that appear almost nightly on our TVs, accompanied by the misery and desperation of the poor innocent people caught up in the conflicts. Let us hope and pray that this year we will finally see a peaceful resolution to what has been a dreadful period in the history of the Middle East.

In December I had the pleasure of attending Prize Giving at St. Mark's. Former pupil Dr JOHN ASHLEY was the guest speaker and presented the prizes. I always get a great sense of pride and satisfaction in seeing former pupils returning to their Alma Mater after distinguishing themselves in their careers.

Head teacher Paul Enright has established a wonderful tradition of inviting former pupils to present the prizes at the annual prize giving and this can be so inspiring to the current pupils present on these occasions. Once again, St. Mark's continues to be a beacon of excellence in the academic world, with its students recording some of the finest GCSE and 'A' level results in the country. I noticed last autumn that the Sunday times had placed our school as the 13th best comprehensive in the country. Congratulations to Paul, staff and all the pupils on these wonderful achievements.

Of course it is not only the academic successes of the school that are to be applauded. To listen to the Head teacher's report at Prize giving, you will realise that there is so much more to life in the school. To be a St. Mark's pupil these days with such a vast array of extra-curricular activities available, (which have been enhanced by the building of a wonderful 200 seat theatre in the old gym, must be so exciting and rewarding.



Kerry Sullivan Theatre

In October, I heard the sad news of the passing of Tony PATTERSON (former Head of Boys P.E.). Unfortunately we received the news only the day before the funeral so we were unable to get an email out to the former pupils and staff who will remember 'FLOSS'. The funeral took place at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines on October 22nd and due to the late notification, only CHRIS ORR, MIKE MURPHY and myself were able to attend. Tony was one of the few remaining staff who would be able to recall the early years of Archbishop Myers.

Golf and soccer (watching not playing!) continue to be my main two interests – although my new granddaughter Eleanor (now 16 months old) is a bundle of mischief and is providing my wife and I with a lot of joy on the days that we babysit. I wish I could say the same for my golf and beloved Arsenal. Both at times have been so frustrating and once again it looks as though Premiership and European success has passed the Gunners by. My tip is for Spurs (our arch rivals!) to overtake Leicester and win the title. Funnily enough, Leicester has always been my second team as I was born there. My mother, when pregnant, was evacuated to Leicester in 1944 at the end of the war from North London due to the threat of the buzz bombs that were raining down on London at the time.

Finally, can I thank ANNE KEARNEY and MATILDA GOES (nee D'Silva) together with PAUL ENRIGHT and the admin staff at St.Mark's for their tremendous and loyal support in ensuring that we have a Past Pupils Association and an annual newsletter that goes out to 100's of former pupils and staff. Again we can only do so much and need your help in providing news items and finance (!) to keep things going.

My best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy 2016.

David Sheath

Chairman

St.Mark's Past Pupils Association

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St Mark's Past Pupil Association



Paul Enright's Headmaster's Report

As always, it is a pleasure to write a few words of introduction for the Past Pupils Newsletter. You remain important members of our wider school community and, as well as looking back on your time here with fondness I hope you maintain an interest in the current and future progress of St. Mark's.

We returned to some outstanding examination results, the best in Hounslow for 'A' Level and in the top 5% in the country for value added at GCSE (Ofsted – RAI-SEonline). A combination of these 'A' Level and GCSE results placed St. Mark's 13th in the Sunday Times list of top Comprehensive Schools. Congratulations to all the students who sat exams in the Summer and well done to staff and parents who did so much to support them.

On 4th February Sam Gyimah MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education wrote to congratulate the School on winning an award in the Key Stage 4 category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2016. He stated that 'It is clear that your staff have provided your disadvantaged pupils with a good start in life.' This is a high priority for all Catholic Schools and something we make a big commitment towards at St. Mark's.

This good news was followed on 18th February with a letter from Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools who congratulated the staff and students on the "very high standard of achievement at GCSE exams in 2015." He informed us that St. Mark's was placed among the top 100 non selective schools in England for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths, the percentage achieving the English Baccalaureate and the Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 value added measure "reflecting the fantastic progress made by your pupils since the end of Primary School." The School also received a Certificate of Excellence for being in the top 10% for value added at 'A' Level over the last three years.

The School's academic success has been maintained in spite of increasing financial pressures brought about by the Government's austerity measures. The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates an 8% real terms cut over the course of this Parliament. This cut will be exacerbated by the "fairer funding" strategy which will move funding away from London. Schools are reducing staffing and enrichment to meet these challenges. At St. Mark's Catholic School we are strongly committed towards developing the whole person and we will continue to prioritise spiritual, moral and cultural aspects alongside academic needs.

Do keep in touch over the coming year and we look forward to another Past Pupils' reunion in the future.

Best Wishes
Paul Enright



St Mark's School Newsletter – Veritas – 11th Edition, Spring 16

[Click here](#) to view the Veritas magazine



Past staff

Tony Patterson R.I.P. 1939-2015

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of another Archbishop Myers/St. Mark's legend. Tony Patterson or Floss as he was affectionately known by his pupils, joined the staff of Archbishop Myers in 1963 after completing his teacher training at St Mary's College, Strawberry hill and then undertaking two years National Service in the RAF 1961-1963.

Tony joined the PE Department eventually becoming Head of Boys PE working alongside Dee Murphy who was Head of Girls PE. Tony was a very popular teacher in the staffroom as well as with the pupils. He decided to take early retirement in December 1991 to spend time with this wife Emma, but sadly Emma passed away just 4 months later in 1992. Tony was a keen soccer enthusiast and took much interest in the local soccer scene. He also enjoyed playing golf in his retirement and ran two allotments.

Tony's funeral mass was on October 22nd 2015 in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines and was followed by his burial in St David's Cemetery, Stanwell.

Tony had no children and leaves behind a brother Francis (formerly Principal of St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool) and sister Maureen.

May God grant Tony eternal rest.

Jack Austin R.I.P. 1925-2015 (20th August)

Our deepest sympathies go to Jack's wife Maria and his family on his passing at the age of 90. Jack had been married for 68 years to Maria. Though never a teacher, Jack was well known for many years to staff and pupils of St. Mark's, as he ran a very efficient and popular school tuck shop at break and lunchtimes. His wife Maria was also a foundation governor of the school and had devoted many years of loyal service to St Mark's and when she stepped down, Jack took her place on the governing body.

Jack was a great supporter of the school and loved his involvement. At the end of each summer term he would sponsor a golf tournament for the staff and took part himself even though he was well into his 80's.

We shall all miss Jack. He was a lovely man, so kind, generous and appreciative in all that he did.

May he rest in peace.

David Sheath has had contact with a number of other former staff.

DIANA WYNTER has retired from teaching after 42 happy years in the profession. Those of you that knew Diana will remember her as a superb teacher, totally devoted to the pupils in her care. She is a great supporter of the P.P.A. and we hope that we remain in contact. We wish her a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

TONY McCAFFRY has sent his annual Christmas newsletter with news of his family. Though the ageing process inevitably is taking its toll, as Tony writes 'there are still rather a lot of books to read and music to enjoy, so slowing down has its compensation'.

Congratulations to Tony's wife NINA on her 70th birthday. Nina is continuing to be very active in her local community at Ashted, Surrey.

It was lovely to hear from STEVE BIRD and his wife VICKY who are enjoying retirement out in France. Both are well though feeling the aches and pains of advancing years. Like mine, their golf handicaps are going up! They have a grandson who celebrated his 21st birthday last December. That makes you feel really old!

We hear that SUZANNE O'BRIEN (former RE Teacher) is expecting her first child.

ANDREW PRINDIVILE (former Head of P.E.) who is now Head of St. Gregory's Catholic Science College in Kenton, has been in the news. The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has congratulated the school for achieving Gold Club status for the second time under a scheme set up by the Mayor of London to recognise exceptional schools in the capital.

It was good to see EUAN FERGUSON (Head of Isleworth & Syon) and his wife THERESE at the St. Mark's Prize giving in December. It was a very proud evening for them as their middle son James was picking up the Duke of Norfolk cup for history, and the youngest son JOSHUA (in year 12) performed a brilliant piano solo in the musical interlude. Clearly a very talented family

MIKE MURPHY (former senior teacher and Head of R.E.) is still teaching 2 mornings a week at St Michael's Garston at the age of 74. He is retiring after 50 wonderful years of teaching. His wife DEE (former Head of Girls P.E.) has taken up a new teaching post, one day a week in a Catholic primary school in Chalfont St. Peter. She is teaching each year group in turn how to enjoy liturgy. We hear that she has transformed the school already.

Past Pupils

1960s leavers

John MEADES (left 1966/7) got in touch after the last newsletter. A huge 'thank you' from the PPA team, John, for your extremely kind donation to our depleting funds.

Thank you to Roy STAPPLETON our most generous benefactor and regular contributor of news. Roy was back in the UK, from his home in the US, at the end of 2015 and managed to meet up with some old school friends. Roy also sent some photographs he got from another old school friend, Alan SHANNAHAN, who celebrated his 70th birthday in 2009.



Alan Shennan at his 70th Birthday Party in 2009

From left to right –
Mick KENNAN,
Alan SHENNAHAN,
Grahame LIMMER



1970s leavers

Pictures from Tony White who attended Archbishop Myer's between 1963 and 1970. Tony remembers Vin Classic and says, "Mr Classic was a considerable influence on my life and I was sad to hear of his passing." Tony sends his condolences to Vin Classic's family. Here is Tony's story

On leaving school in 1970 I worked for Gillette Industries on the Great West Road for 2 years. I then went to train as a teacher in Newcastle. I gained a B.ed(hons) degree and went on to a career focusing on children with special educational needs.

I married in 1974 and now have three children and five grandchildren. I am retired and now live in Lincoln. I still keep in touch with Robert SUMMERSBY, Antony ISSEYEGH and Paddy O'MARA's (the school caretaker in the 1960's) son Maurice. My sister Gwendoline still lives in Chiswick.

The pictures of the school production I sent were taken by my father. My mother kept them and I found them when we were clearing her house after she sadly died many years ago.

I remember that during the live performance of Patience a sound track was recorded over the three nights. I helped Mr Orr edit the recordings and a double LP resulted. Amazing experience for me the time. The productions were very special to those who took part.

The picture of the prefects was taken when Desmond was going to leave. I remember that the 6th form was based in temporary classrooms at the front of the school. We wore black Blazers while the lower school wore mauve. There was a great debate about whether the 6th formers would be allowed to smoke in their base area. I can't remember the outcome as I was and still am a non smoker.

I hope the photographs I provided and the notes above are of use and that they trigger some fond memories.





6th Form Prefects

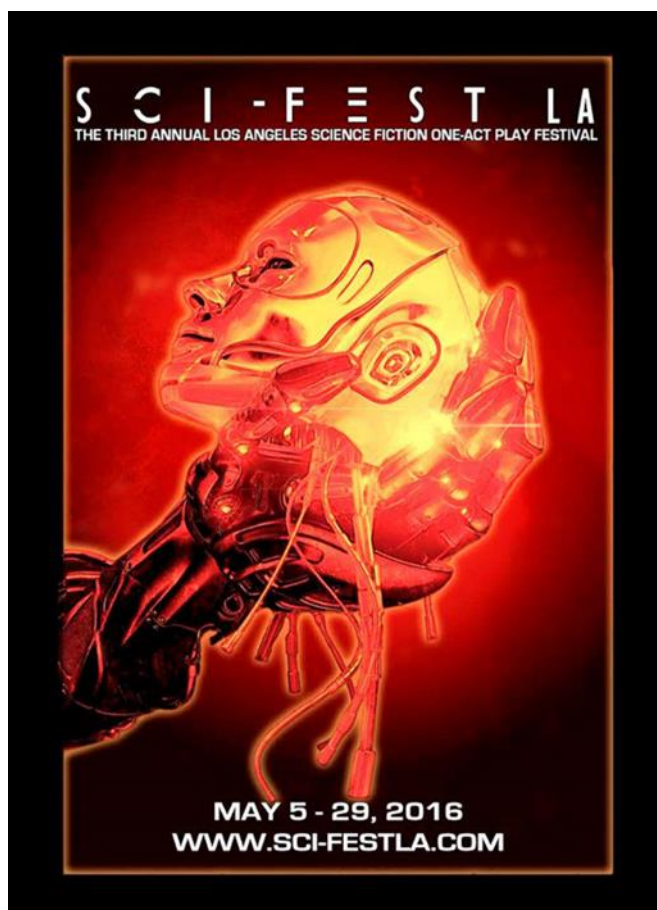
Can you name any of the pupils or staff in these pictures?

1980s leavers

Robert Hollocks

Robert is thrilled to have been selected to participate in LA's Sci-Fi-Fest in May. See advert below.

Winged Cupid, Painted Blind by Rob Hollocks: The love between two married scientists is put to the ultimate test when they are trapped in a deadly race against time.



EDWARD McCANN (80's leaver) and his Company have helped design and install the new theatre in the old gym at St.Mark's.

CLAIRE EGAN (80's leaver) has had twins – Luke and James who are now 2 years old. They have an older sister Georgia who is 15. The family live in Twickenham; Claire's brother DAVID EGAN is married to ELAINE SERGEANT and they live in County Clare, Ireland with 4 children – 2 boys and 2 girls. 2 of them are at University in Ireland. DAVID is currently designing websites.

JULIAN ULISEE (80's leaver) is working in Central London as a computer programmer. His niece JESSICA is at St Marks and won the English (senior) subject prize.

1990s leavers

EUAN FERGUSON has had recent contact with a number of past pupils. IMOGEN LAVELLE (nee HICKEY) recently had her third child (a girl to join 2 boys) and near enough at the same time became Headteacher at the Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School (Shepherd's Bush).

After having Euan as her maths teacher, KATY SHEARMAN (nee NOLAN) is now a senior Audit and Accounts Manager at Wilkins Kennedy LLP, and is also the senior auditor for Isleworth & Syon School. We hope you taught her well Euan!

Euan also bumped into DAVID AIMABLE-LINA at the side of a rugby pitch at London Scottish. Having worked away from the area, he is now back and working locally. We hear that his son Jacob is a promising rugby player, playing for the local side Grasshoppers.

Mr Murphy gives us news of EMMA WATERS (married name NEVILLE) left 2001. Emma has returned from Australia and is living in Whitton where she teaches at St Edmunds RC School. Emma has a little boy called Adam.

Mr Sheath, whilst visiting a Catholic independent school in Windsor (Brigidine School) to his surprise came across MARIA DAVY (nee ROSE) who is teaching RE and is the Special Needs Coordinator there. Maria lives in Old Windsor and has been teaching for 14 years. She has a son at Douay Martyrs School, Ickenham.

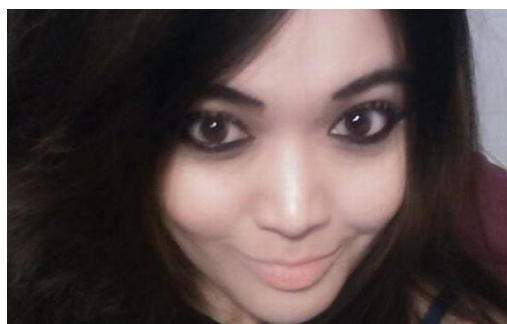
We have news of the HAWKINS and LEE families. ALEX HAWKINS (29 years old) has joined the police and is living in Whitton. His brother MATTHEW (27) has qualified as a doctor and is in his 2nd year at Hammersmith Hospital.

NICKY LEE (age 30) is married with 2 children and living in New York His sister JO LEE is married with 2 children and living in Australia.

NAOMI VENTOUR (nee COLE) got in touch with us in July 2015 to inform us of the sad and untimely passing of her younger sister NATALIE COOK (nee COLE) RIP. By way of wanting to raise awareness Naomi informed us that Natalie died in July 2014, aged 35, shortly after giving birth to her daughter Chloe, of a rare birth complication called an Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE). You can find out more at <http://afesupport.org/>. AFE is unpreventable, unpredictable and there is currently no cure. Natalie saw her daughter for 2 minutes and then the AFE set in.

Natalie was head girl at St Marks, was very popular and well loved by everyone – pupils and teachers alike. Her name is still engraved on the boards in the main hall. She left the sixth form in 1997. She was in the same year as Paul ROONEY, who passed away in 2015. Gemma CONWAY, current teacher at St Mark's, was a close friend of Natalie.

2000+ leavers



Brentford author makes Amazon bestseller lists with series inspired by London riots

Sarah Brownlee's hit novel *How the Wolf Lost Her Heart* is set in a crime-ridden London populated by 'morphers'

A [Brentford](#) author whose debut novel inspired by the London riots made the top five of Amazon's bestseller lists has penned a sequel.

How the Wolf Lost Her Heart, by Sarah Brownlee, peaked at no 4 in the US and no 3 in the UK in the Amazon bestsellers list for free dystopian fiction. The 29-year-old former St Mark's Catholic School pupil hopes to match that success with her follow-up *How The Tiger Faced His Challenge*.

How the Wolf Lost Her Heart, which is set in a dystopian future where thugs and criminals run rife, was inspired by the 2011 London riots.

"I was sitting in my house and the riots were going on outside. I thought to myself 'Is this what the city has reduced to? Violent thuggery, looting, the destruction of peoples' livelihoods, ordinary people afraid to leave their homes for fear of coming face to face with the perpetrators?'" she said.

The book follows Skye Archer, who can morph into her spirit animal at will, and the mysterious Raphael Renzo, who possesses a secret which promises restore peace to the crime-ridden city.

Her sequel, which is also aimed at the young adult market, revolves around the looming civil war between the thugs running east London and the Renzo family in the west.

It envisages a future in which [Chiswick](#) has been virtually obliterated; [Hounslow](#) is now known as the Hounslow Hamlets and, with cigarettes banned, citizens have turned to blowing bubbles to get their fix.

Ms Brownlee, who is currently writing a prequel to her first novel, revealing how a scientific experiment led to the existence of 'morphers', supplements her income from writing by working as a dog-walker and nanny.

She is also a committed animal rights activist, who has campaigned against the dog meat trade in parts of South East Asia and in particular the Yulin dog meat festival in China, at which thousands of dogs are cooked and eaten each year.

For more about Sarah Brownlee and her work, visit https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8578214.Sarah_Brownlee

ANDREW COYLE (left 2003) has just moved to Melbourne, Australia and is working in I.T. He keeps in contact with JONAH MOORE who is working in the Financial Industry in Whitton, and MARK BENTLEY who is working in construction. Mark lives in Windsor and received a 1st Class Hon.'s degree from London University.

JAMES ALEXANDER (son of Deputy Head Stuart Alexander) (left 2012) is working for a film production company in Sheffield.

DR. JOHN ASHLEY attended St. Mark's from year 7 through to 6th form. After studying for a Masters in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Manchester, he undertook a PhD in Experimental Aerodynamics in partnership with British Aerospace (BAE Systems). Switching from defence to motorsport, he gained experience at a couple of smaller F1 teams, before being offered a dream opportunity to join Mercedes AMG Petronas F1, where he has been for the past 3 years as a Senior Aerodynamicist. John says he owes much of his happiness and success in completing his PhD, and finding a dream job, to another St Mark's student – his wonderful wife SOPHIE FITZMAURICE who he met on September 3rd 1996 on his first day at St. Mark's. Sophie of course is the daughter of staff member Angela who runs the Learning Resources Centre.

Life after St Mark's



DR. RAKESH JIVAN

In January Dr Rakesh Jivan joined us for a Life after St Mark's talk about his school career and how he entered into his current career as a General Practitioner. Dr Jivan gave an inspiring talk on entering a medical career through an alternative route. Despite not having gained entry into medical school the first time around, he obtained a degree in General Sciences and then continued on to undertake a degree in Medicine.

Faye Marshall (Year 12)



DR. SUSY BROEKHUIZEN

This term Dr Susy Broekhuizen, Procter and Gamble R&D Section Head, graced us with her presence to describe her experience of working with Procter and Gamble for over 20 years. She gained a PhD in Material Science and Physics from Oxford. From there she went onto to work for P&G where she was given many different roles ranging from UK Section Head of Oral Care, EMEA Whitespace expansion to being on the I-Quality Design team. We are extremely grateful to have Dr Susy Broekhuizen tell us all about her

wonderful experiences and hopefully some of us plan to follow in her footsteps. She has inspired many of our students to go into consumer product industry and even study abroad as she herself joined P&G in Germany.

Chelsea Owusu (Year 12)

Source: Veritas, Spring 2016

2016 Archbishop Myers and St Mark's PPA Reunion

Date – Friday 23rd September 2016

**Venue – St Mark's School. Bath Road,
Hounslow**

Time – 18:00 – 23:00

The PPA is pleased to welcome all past pupils and teachers to this reunion. Connect with long lost friends, catch up with teachers, and see the school with all the changes it has gone through over the past few years.

Come and enjoy a drink and a nibble to the soundtrack of your childhood.

Headmaster Paul Enright will be conducting tours of the school, so please come early.

To cover the cost of the evening we would ask for a voluntary donation of £8 per person. This would include a drink and some snacks. If you pre-pay online this would be reduced to £5 per person.

We would prefer an online donation as this would give us an idea of the numbers for catering purposes.

Please process your online payment to the St Mark's PPA bank account:
PPA account number: 72224168, Sort code: 30-94-42, BIC: LOYDGB21112

Alternatively donate via:

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Archbishopmyersandstmarksreunion>

Under Payee Reference please insert –Reunion/your name/number of people you are contributing for.

If you are available to help with the organisation of the Reunion event please get in touch with
matilda.goes@gmail.com

ARCHBISHOP MYERS / ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

**As all future newsletters will be sent by email only, please inform us of your email address.
This page is also for your voluntary donations and news.**

All donations, however small, are welcomed. Cheques should be made payable to: Archbishop Myers / St. Mark's Past Pupils' Association or cash donation to School Reception stating it's for the PPA account or electronic transfer to our

PPA account number: 72224168, Sort code: 30-94-42, BIC: LOYDGB21112

Make sure we have your details to send you up to date information and news

IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

NAME	
(MAIDEN NAME)	
E-mail	
Please tick	I am happy to receive PPA correspondence by e-mail.

YEAR OF LEAVING SCHOOL (best guess): _____

In turn please keep us updated with your news related to past pupils and past staff

Please email your news to matilda.goes@gmail.com or write to: The PPA Secretary, c/o St. Mark's RC School, 106 Bath Road, Hounslow. Middlesex. TW3 3EJ