

# **Archbishop Myers And St. Mark's Past Pupils' Association newsletter**

## **Summer 2017**

## Welcome from the PPA !

Dear Past Pupils and Past Teachers,

Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of the Archbishop Myers / St. Mark's Past Pupils' Association Newsletter.

This is the second edition of the new "electronic only" copy of the **PPA newsletter** in a move to save on the costs previously incurred with the postal newsletter.

The bits of feedback we have had (on Facebook) support the new newsletter format and the more up-to-date content. So that is good news.

The School's main website link is: <http://www.st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk/>

Please do let us have any news for the next summer issue or any details of events you are arranging locally or friends you keep in touch with or want to link up with and we can add it to the newsletter. Contact: [matilda.goes@gmail.com](mailto:matilda.goes@gmail.com)

THANK YOU for all your ongoing support years the years.

The PPA.

Anne Kearney, Matilda Goes and David Sheath.



## PPA Chairman's Report 2017



Dear Past Staff and Past Pupils,

I am writing this brief report from Malta where I am on holiday for a few weeks. The weather is scorching hot and today reached nearly 40c . The sea though is lovely and fresh. I still managed to play golf even though it is so hot. There has been a general election in Malta just 5 days before our election in England. However, unlike the UK, the Maltese Labour party was elected again with a landslide majority. The Maltese are very politically conscious and the turnout to vote is always above 90%.

Joseph Muscat is the Prime minister and he is also this year president of the European Union. The Maltese are very unhappy that we voted for Brexit as they are very Pro-European and also very Pro-UK. The country has benefited enormously from EU funding and this can be seen particularly in the improvements to the roads.

As for my health, after a difficult year, I am pleased to say that that things are going well and I feel fine apart from arthritic knees which are quite a common complaint when one gets to my age!

A sad event that I attended earlier this year was the funeral of Fred Bowden a former Chairman of Governors at St Mark's. Fred was a great supporter of the school as was his dear wife Jean who ran a very successful parent association for me. The Bowdens had 3 children at the School - John, Anne and Lucy. I was fortunate to have Fred as my Chairman at a difficult time in the early 90s for the School when we were desperate for more funding in order to accommodate a rising roll and improve our facilities particularly for science and the 6th form. Fred and the governors backed my interest in Grant Maintained status which would have freed us from LEA control and provide substantial more funding.

Hounslow LEA clearly were concerned as was the Diocese that we were about to opt out of LEA control. As a result we were promised their support for a government building grant. The consequence of this was that the governors stepped back from opting out and with the backing of Her Majesty's Inspectors and under the local MP Patrick Ground, we received a government grant of over 2 million pounds that

enabled us to build a magnificent state of the art science centre and re-house the 6th form in the more spacious and appropriate St. Michael's Centre. This was a huge boost to the School and was a catalyst for tremendous improvements in academic standards and rising expectations that has given St Mark's a national reputation as one of the top comprehensive schools in the country. So, thank you Fred for you have been very much part of the success story that is St Mark's. May you rest in Peace.

Best wishes to you and your families for a very happy summer season.

David Sheath

## Paul Enright - Headmaster's Report Summer 2017

Dear Past Pupils,

I have enjoyed reading all the news about Past pupils and Staff in this Summer edition of the Newsletter. I hope the move to a digital only version of the Newsletter will increase the readership and contributions in the future.

I am completing my sixteenth year at St Mark's and I increasingly feel like an "old boy" myself. I was talking recently to former member of staff Mike Murphy who is now 76 and finally on the point of retiring from St Michael's Catholic School in Garston (although they still want him to continue with various commitments). We discussed how St Mark's feels like home to so many former staff and students. It becomes part of your DNA. It is tremendous that so many of you retain a strong interest in the School, are willing to share your news and enjoy participating in Past Pupils' activities. This is one of the key ingredients that continues to make the St Mark's family so strong.

Do have a look at our latest edition of Veritas on the School website to catch up on all the news about the School this term.

Best wishes for the Summer,  
Paul Enright

**We have a dedicated page for the Past Pupils New and newsletters at:**

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



## Financial update

### PPA account closed and funds transferred to the School

The PPA wishes to advise you that our independent PPA account with Lloyds was closed in March 2017 and the funds confirmed as “transferred” to the main School account in May 2017. We do hope you are as happy with the solution and outcome as we all are.

If you do now wish to make a donation in the future, please make any cheques payable to St. Mark’s RC School and mention “PPA” in the covering letter or email.

THANK YOU.

PPA.

**Contact:**

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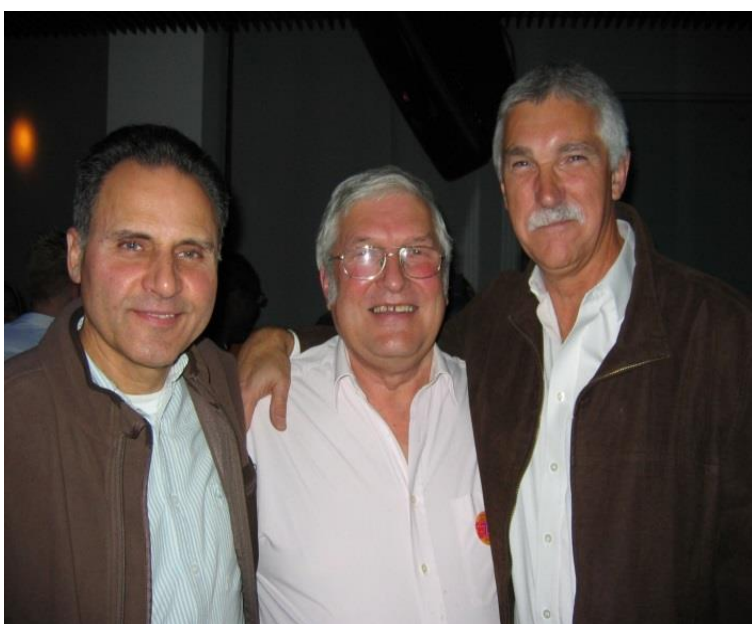
## Past Pupils' News

### 1960's leavers



A photograph sent in by a regular contributor to the newsletter content and the PPA fund – Mr ROY STAPLETON – 1960s' leaver. Roy says "Holy Poop.....who are these guys.....Mr Ashkettle (RIP -passed away last night 1st Nov 2016) is back row 3rd from right, next to a young Des Vertannes on the front row 2nd right is Steve Barker ?"

Maybe you recognise yourself or someone else? Please send in some names and news items related to this photograph. Thanks Roy, as always!



ALAN SHANNAHAN (middle) and school friends at his birthday celebration. All three were 1960s leavers. Thank you for the photo.



The above photograph, a class photo from early 1960s, was sent in by PHILIP A GREEN (back row first on the right). Philip says, "I will try and recall as many names as I can but please bear with me as it was 55-odd years ago, especially if one of my old schoolmates gets to see the photograph and I've forgotten their name or got it wrong!" We are sure you will be forgiven Philip as it is a lovely memory that you are sharing with all of us.

So here are the names that Philip thinks he remembers. Maybe you can fill in the "?". Please send your answers to us. We will update in the next issue.

Back row L to R: Peter Cathrow(?), Christopher Peck, David or Michael Geary(?), Philip Reynolds, Brian Powell(?), Bernard Gutzewski, Alan Rice, Christopher Blackwell, David Stewart(?) & myself.

Middle row L to R: ?, ?, Jane Moore(?), Helen ?, Paula Cathrow(?), Cynthia Burgess, Theodora Parish, ? Front row L to R: Ann Edwards(?), ?, ?, Moira ?, ?, Carol Legg(?), Marion ?, Una Walsh, ?

Thank you Philip for sending in the photograph.

Email from **Philip A Green**

## **Archbishop Myers Sep'60 – Jul'64**

I attended Archbishop Myers from September 1960 until July 1964. Having worked for a month shy of fifty years (September '64 – August '14) I am now enjoying my retirement as I felt fifty years of toil and paying National Insurance was long enough. 😊

I have lived and worked in South Wales for thirty five years now, following a total of eleven years service in the army, etc, mainly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment.



Having left school at 14, I never sat the old GCE's, so taking advantage of being retired I took a GCSE English course in my local tech' during 2015-2016, taking my final exam's in June of this year. Out of 200+ students that sat the exam', I was apparently the only student who gained an A\*, the foundation for which was laid at Archbishop Myers via my English teacher Michael Gaughan, plus of course a life time of constant reading.



I try & keep myself fit via three gym sessions per week, walking in the mountains and, when my ageing joints allow, playing tennis.

I hope that Friday night's reunion goes well & keep up the hard work with the PPA which is much appreciated. I am more than happy to receive PPA correspondence via email: [green528@btinternet.com](mailto:green528@btinternet.com)

I don't think there's a need to obscure my email address, nor my snail-address for that matter, just in case someone from my era spots it & wants to write & ~~abuse me~~, oops, sorry, that should have been "write & communicate with me". 😊

Where you are kindly going to post my email on the memorabilia board for Friday night, I have also attached a few phossies from my army days, just in case one of my contemporaries recognises me?

Kind regards,

**Philip Green**

Philip A Green



### **1970's leavers**

IAN FERNANDEZ, Head Boy in 1979, contacted us recently. He is one of our new entries on the email list! Thanks Ian, for giving us your email address for this purpose. Ian had heard about the last reunion via some family members but was unable to attend due to other commitments. All the same he was very keen to get in touch with a much-respected former teacher just to catch up – the PPA team were pleased to have been able to support on this occasion.

### **1980's leavers**

She was in the SHOMIT BASU, a 1980s' leaver got in touch to give us his email address so he can be added to the e-newsletter. Welcome Shomit. Send in some news so you can share with your peers.

BERNA IRELAND (nee ERBAKAN) left St Mark's in the 1980s. Berna got in touch with us, after the last hard-copy newsletter. She said "I was saddened to hear about the death of so many of my favourite teachers". Since leaving school, Berna has lived in Malta and Turkey and has married and had a baby girl named Natalie. Berna returned to England in 2000 with her daughter. Berna would love to renew old friendships. She can be found on Facebook under "Bernadette Ireland". She would love a reunion event soon so she can attend, as she missed the last one.

### **The St. Mark's School Reunions**

Andrew BASTILLE and David MACAREE held a reunion in a pub in Twickenham last month and were kind enough to email us the photos and news from that event (see following pages below).

If anyone else is planning a reunion then do let us know and we'll try and promote it to others.







**1908s leaver David Macaree has sent us lots of news.**

**He says** “.....we have a couple of our international set coming back to England this year. Rob HOLLOCKS plans a return visit in August and Michelle PALMER in September. All their friends are excited about seeing them again and hope there is a chance to have a meet up. Also we are keen to hear what our Sci-Fi playwright is up to next. Here is news from the people they met at their reunion last month.



Irene TERRONES' son is studying film studies at Southbank University and is on a tour of Europe over the summer break. He is doing very well and recently was awarded a prestigious prize- contract to create a series of short films.

David says "Although Lucy and I are divorced we are now grandparents of Alice by our daughter Rebecca last December". Alice was also recently Christened.

Julie CLIFFORD's boy got his holy confirmation this year. One very proud mum on FaceBook!. Julie is also walking Hadrian's Wall end to end this June. Some of our Year are still very sporty!

David says: I am writing a new novel, my last one Bride of Frankenstein, was published December 2015. The latest one is about 2 children surviving in a post apocalyptic world. Due out 2018.

Paul DATE (Left 1982) has just hosted his annual "Islebury Gig" this year on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July where he is a popular local entertainer- lead singer with a band "The Jam Junkies". Happy belated birthday to Paul for his birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> June (that's the same date as Barry Manilow's birthday, in case you didn't know)! A lot of St Mark's Past Pupils support Paul's band in his home town of Isleworth and we look forward to seeing David Bigwood on electric guitar and Steve Franz on drums.

Anne KEARNEY (left 1984) and Matilda GOES (left 1985) continue to keep in touch with the following past pupils, Sharon COOK (nee FOREST), Gillian KEARNEY, and Bharti PISAVADIA.



Anne and Matilda at the Robbie Williams concert in London in June 2017.

That's it for this edition. Please keep us posted with any news we should publish and have a lovely summer break until the next one!

Anne and Matilda and the PPA!