



SACA NEWSLETTER

February 2016

ULive in aid of the Transition Year Uganda Fund

Many alumni over the years have participated in ULive to raise funds to support orphanages and hospitals in Uganda. The night was a real reflection of the diversity of our school and there was some incredible musical talent on display..... And then there was the TY rugby team.

Well done to all involved on and off stage, it was an incredible night.



SACA Profile - Aisling Jarvis (Class of 2010)



Anybody that knew me in St. Andrews knew that I would always end up in the music business in some shape or form. I was involved in the musicals, the choir, the Music & Dance Festival and most other music events that took place at school. And with my musical background, it was no surprise to my fellow classmates that my first and only choice on the CAO was music. I applied to do Music in UCC in Cork and it was the only college audition I had done. But falling 5 points shy on my Leaving Cert to get into UCC was probably one the best things that could have happened!

Instead, I went into a Sound Engineering and Music Production course at Pulse College. I had always been interested in the production side of music and had explored it a little, making demo recordings for myself and for friends. But as I got into this course, I really began to see how much this other side of the microphone would suit me. Alongside being in college, I also slowly found myself becoming a permanent member of my mum, Moya Brennan's, band playing guitar and doing backing vocals. After graduating with my Diploma from Pulse College I continued touring with my mum but also began writing my own music.

In 2013, I started recording and producing my own songs and in September 2014 I released my debut album, "A Handful of Bad Ideas". It was received quite well worldwide and since then I have had the privilege to play solo shows in New York City, Glastonbury Festival, the UK, Germany and throughout Ireland. I started building a reputation as a sound engineer and producer as well, producing releases for artists and bands such as Eve Belle, Hvmmingbyrd, I Am the Only and even recording my mother's last collaborative album with world-renowned harp player, Cormac DeBarra. As a songwriter my mum and I wrote two songs for the most recent Clannad album, "Nadúr". I have also collaborated on three songs with German DJ, Roger Shah, for his future studio album due to be released in 2016, filming a music video for one of the songs that will be released as a single. Currently Moya and I are writing music for a kids animation TV series called "Prisoner Zero", due to be aired Summer 2016. And as well as finishing what will be my second solo album (to be out hopefully sometime in 2016); I have been busy running the record label, Beo Records, with my dad and brother.

I always found St. Andrew's such a great school to be able to express myself musically. I never felt like my creative side was ever hindered or denied while being at school, and the music department always made sure that there were events and concerts to take part in. My first experience of singing with just the guitar and myself was on the Andrew's stage in 4th year in front of all my classmates, and I could not have been more nervous. I could never deny that my wanting to be on stage performing was most definitely encouraged by the many Uganda concerts, choir performances and especially Ms. Sludd's much dreaded musical interludes during double music on a Friday. All of it has shaped me to be the musician I am today.



SACA Sports News

Ireland Cricket

Congrats to Andrew's girls Shauna Kavanagh, Robyn and Gaby Lewis and Lucy O'Reilly who have all been named in the Ireland Cricket squad for the T20 World Cup finals in India. This is as big as it gets in women's cricket and is an absolutely fantastic achievement for Ireland and the girls! Well done!



Also, a massive congratulations to current TY student Josh Little who was named in Ireland's U-19s squad for the upcoming Cricket World Cup. Here he is in the above photo being presented with his first Irish shirt from current Ireland Cricket player and former SAC pupil Andrew Balbirnie.

<http://www.rugbyworld.com/countries/italy/players-to-watch-six-u20-stars-of-the-future-53429>

Equestrian Sports

Congrats to the school equestrian team who came first in a very competitive inter school competition recently. Aisling Beecham, Izzy Alken, Ali Barrett and Siobhan Quinn took first place in the event at Killossery Lodge Stud. Well done girls!



Schools Basketball

Congrats to the Senior Boys' Basketball team and coach Conan Doyle who retained their South Dublin League title with a comfortable 58-39 win against St Columba's College.



SACA Sports News

Ireland Rugby

Congrats to Andrew Porter and Greg Jones from the 2013 semi final SCT who have been named in Ireland's U-20 6 Nations squad, a tremendous achievement! Andrew has also been named as the Irish player to watch in this years tournament by the Rugby World Magazine.
<http://www.rugbyworld.com/countries/italy/players-to-watch-six-u20-stars-of-the-future-53429>



Ireland Hockey

Well done to Gareth Watkins (2004), David Fitzgerald (2006), Stuart Loughrey (2009), Jaime Carr (2015), Alan Sothern (2007), Lee Cole (2013) and Stephen Cole (2009) who concluded their warm-weather training camp in South Africa in preparation for the Rio Olympics with a series of games against Belgium, Canada, South Africa and Spain!



Schools Rugby



The SCT unfortunately missed out on a place in the Quarter Finals of the Leinster Senior Cup after losing out to St. Michael's College 25 - 7 in Donnybrook. The support on the day was fantastic so thank you to all Alumni who were there.

The JCT lost a hard fought first round game against Templeogue College in the Father Godfrey Cup 10 -5.

An Irishman's Diary about John Allman Hemingway, Ireland's last surviving Battle of Britain pilot.

An incredible story featured in the Irish Times of the last surviving Irishman who fought in the Battle of Britain. John, an Andrew's boy, was shot down 4 times, twice in a single month but pulled through to tell his story!

Ireland's only surviving Battle of Britain pilot, John Allman Hemingway, is an exceptionally lucky man. He was shot down four times during the second World War, twice in a single month, and on one occasion he bailed out over the sea – a veritable death sentence for many fellow RAF airmen. By the time a rescue boat reached him, John was “rolling in the waves”, as he himself put it, with a hint of dark humour.

Like many fighter pilots who survived the Battle of Britain, along with the five years of gruelling aerial campaigns that followed, John often felt death tugging at his elbow.

John was born in Dublin in 1919 and was initially educated at St Patrick's Cathedral Choir School, where he was a “very unsuccessful choirboy”, and later attended St Andrew's College.

His motive for joining the RAF was remarkably arbitrary. He had no plans for the future when he left school, and during a summer holiday with his family in Greystones his father prevailed upon him to choose a career. In December 1938, John was taken to London, given a medical examination and was then offered a four-year short service commission.

In January 1939, John began training in Yorkshire, and after a period in a flight training school, Pilot Officer Hemingway was posted to No 85 Squadron in Debden, flying Hurricanes.

When the war broke out, John's squadron was sent to Rouen in northern France and would form part of No 60 Fighter Wing of the Advanced Air Striking Force, providing air support to the British Expeditionary Force. On May 11th, 1940, during the Battle of France, John claimed his first kill, a German Dornier Do 77 light bomber which he helped to shoot down. Later that same day, John was himself brought down by enemy anti-aircraft fire and had to make a forced landing in a field. He was one of the first RAF pilots to shoot down an enemy aircraft over Europe, and was also one of the first to be shot down.

During the Battle of Britain, he was shot down twice during the month of August. The first time was while intercepting a flight of Junkers Ju 88s around 20 miles off Clacton-on-Sea in Essex, and he narrowly avoided drowning before being rescued.

The second instance was over Eastchurch in Kent while attacking Dornier bombers. While turning around to have a “second go”, John's aircraft was damaged by Dornier air gunners and bailed out over Pitsea marshes where the local Home Guard picked him up. By late September No 85 Squadron had to be withdrawn from battle since they had lost 11 pilots in action. John was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in July 1941, and was mentioned in dispatches.



Rachel Wyse on cover of Irish Country

Congratulations to former pupil and Sky Sports presenter, Rachel Wyse, who featured on the cover of January's edition of the Irish Country Magazine.

John's commanding officer was Peter Townsend, who was later vilified by the British press for his attempt to marry Princess Margaret. He described Townsend as a quietly spoken man and a "first-class wartime leader in a fighter squadron" who looked after his men and was good at recognising the signs of battle fatigue. John was declared A4HBH (grounded) for two years after an incident at West Malling where he began hallucinating while flying a Magister. He spent the interim as a flight controller, but he was always keen to back flying.

He eventually got his wish when he was posted to Italy in 1945 as a squadron leader commanding No 43 Squadron. At that time German occupational forces were retreating and John was "helping them with their retreat". During a strafing attack on a German column near Ravenna, his Spitfire was hit by ground fire and he bailed out behind enemy lines. He was cared for by Italian partisans, and after being disguised in peasant clothing, a little girl from the locality took his hand and guided him past German positions to the safety of the Allied lines. John recalled some 70 years later that he was more frightened for the life of that small child than for his own safety and he never forgot her.

John Hemingway is now one of the last members of "The Few" who defended Britain in her darkest hour and is one of only a handful of surviving Irish veterans who volunteered to fight the Nazis during the second World War.

He currently lives in Wicklow and recently celebrated his 96th birthday, a fine innings for a man who risked so much for so many.

Choons for Childline in association with 100minds!

Choons for ChildLine: Go along to Whelehan's at 25 Wexford St on 12 February for an evening of wonderful sounds to raise money for the very important children's support charity ChildLine in association with former SAC pupil Kevin Cassidy's charity 100minds. The line-up includes alumnae Aisling Jarvis, Lauren Ní Chasaide and Ailsha Davey. Doors open at 8pm.

Tickets are €5 available at www.eventbrite.ie/e/choons-for-childline-tickets-19707197759



Boyband Taken at SAC

Boy Band TAKEN came to school to perform for 1st and 2nd Year Students as part of Friendship Week at the College.

Niall Nelson (attended SAC 1928 - 1937)

We are saddened to report the death of one of our oldest past pupils, Niall Nelson who attended St Andrew's College when it was located at its first premises on St Stephen's Green. Niall returned to the College in September 2010 to cut the ribbon at the opening of the newly-built Collen Building along with the then youngest pupil at St Andrew's, Carlota Carioni.

In 1938, at the suggestion of the President of the Old Boys' Union, Niall wrote and composed the College Anthem which was sung at the 1943 Old Boys' Union Dinner for the first time.

The anthem was performed at the ceremony to mark the opening of the Collen Building and, in a letter written shortly before the opening, Niall wrote "I can't believe that when I wrote this in 1938 it would lead to the honour of opening the new building and the proposal to be aided by a 5 year old is quite charming".

Niall Nelson attended lessons at The Royal Irish Academy of Music in 1932 (at the same time as his brother Havelock who went on to win a scholarship to the Royal Irish Academy of Music and from then on it was all systems go for a musical career for Havelock including four world tours promoting opera for the BBC (N.I region) to whom he was attached until his death. Havelock had 7 Honorary Doctorates of Music).

Niall studied architecture with the eminent Dublin architect, Michael Scott. While he was a student in Dublin he was a member of the Kill o' the Grange Dramatic Society where he wrote the music for pantomimes. He was also involved with the New Playhouse Drama Group. After qualifying as an architect Niall went to London and eventually became Senior Partner of Joseph & Partners. He worked on the design of the BP Centre.

Niall and Havelock's brother Dermot also attended the College.

Niall will be sadly missed by his daughters Rosemary and Angela and their families and will be very fondly remembered by us at St Andrew's.

