



# Cranbrook School Parents' Association

Issue 20 - November 2019  
Welcome to the **November 2019 CSPA Newsletter** containing topics you will find in more detail at [Cranbrookschoolparents.com](http://Cranbrookschoolparents.com)

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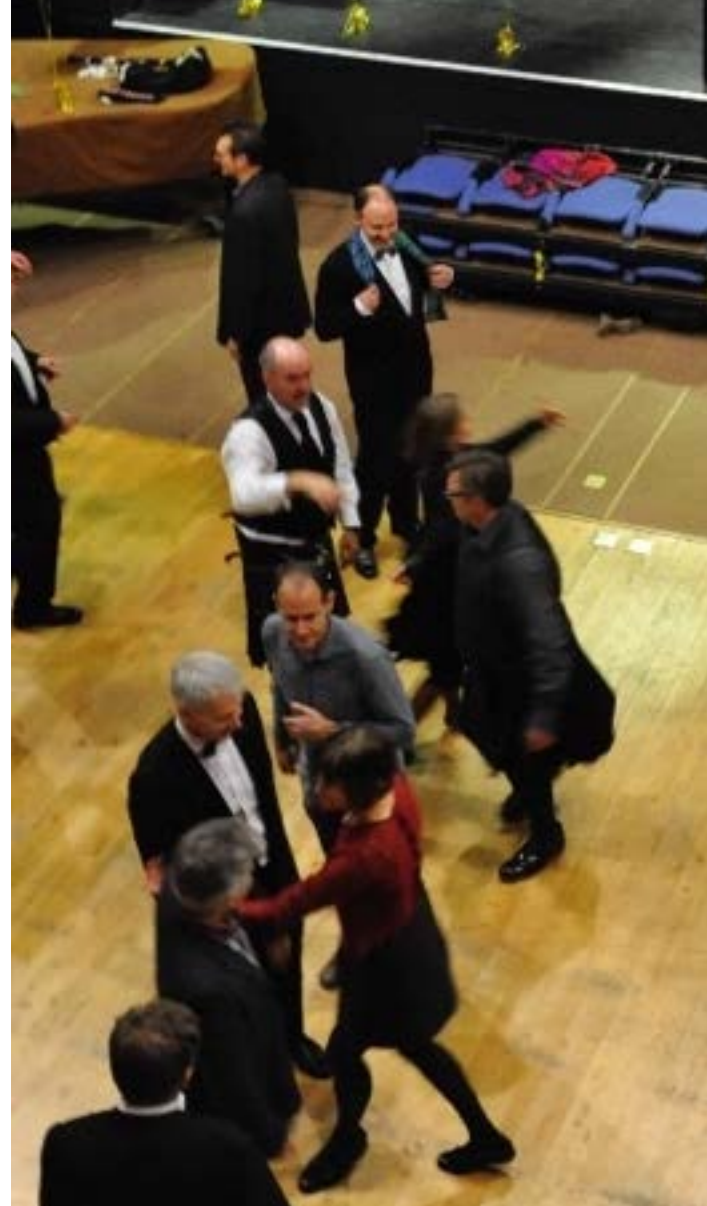
## Do you want to become a Neuro-Ninja?

Then come along to the **Queen's Hall Theatre** to hear educational expert and self-confessed brain-nerd **Andrew Wright's** entertaining insights on how to get the best out of your brain. The seminar – called the **Neuro-Ninja Toolkit** – is the first of eight sessions aimed at adults and students, designed to transform them from “brain slaves” to “Neuro-Ninjas” with advice, tips and tricks that promise to bring new life to everyone's grey matter. Intrigued? Then make a date and bring your children and friends along on Tuesday December 10 for the first seminar which starts at 7pm (not 7.30pm as stated on the CSPA website video). Tickets are £5 for adults (students are free) and can be bought via the [CSPA website](#).

## Burns Night Supper turns up the heat

2020 promises to get off to a sizzling start with our annual **Burns Night Supper** – one of the highlights of the CSPA calendar. Kick up your kilts, search out your sporrans or simply pop on your party gear for an evening of jigs and reels with Scottish country dancing preceded by a sparkling wine reception and three-course feast that guarantees to keep the Celtic spirit flowing. This Caledonian bash kicks off at 7pm on Saturday January 25 in the **Queens Hall Theatre**. Don't miss it. Tickets costs £30pp and go on sale on **December 1** – and you can book them here on via the [website](#).

\*We're also looking for raffle prizes, so if you have any donations (perhaps unwanted Xmas presents!) – please contact [CSPA Chair Henrietta King](#).



## A football fixture to remember



The **Joe & Freddie Memorial Football Match**, in tribute to former Cranbrook School pupils **Joe Atkins** and **Freddie McLennan**, is taking place on Saturday December 14. The CSPA will be running a refreshments stand serving hot drinks and cake to the many visitors expected to attend to remember these exceptional young men who tragically died in Bolivia while on their gap year in June.

Proceeds from the day will be split between two charities set up by Cranbrook School alumni: **Football Beyond Borders** and the **Sam West Foundation**.

We are asking for cakes to be donated for the event and these can either be left at **Barham** on the Friday (December 13) or brought along to the **Astro pitches** on the day. We also need volunteers for the stand during the day, which kicks off at 11.30 and finishes at 3.30pm. If you can assist, please [contact CSPA chair Henrietta](#). For more information [see this website](#).

## 'Tis the season of giving – so remember The Giving Machine



One parent has already raised £35 in just a few months . . . if 500 Cranbrook School families did that over the festive period, it would net more than £17,000. What a Christmas present that would be – and for no effort!

Calling all Christmas shoppers . . . turn your festive shopping into a seasonal gift for Cranbrook School by using [The Giving Machine](#) and [Amazon Smile](#).

It's an easy way to raise money at the click of a button whether you're stocking up on Xmas treats or splashing out on festive gifts, as a percentage will automatically be donated to the CSPA. Simply register with the sites and submit Cranbrook School Parents' Association as your chosen charity. It's even easier if you download the **Shop&Give** app which automatically ensures donations are made.

[All the details on the website](#).

## Fill up on festive treats

Add extra sparkle to your Christmas shopping by snapping up **Cranbrook School themed goodies**. You can bag some of our special **Quincentenary items at special prices** with a box of six glasses for £30; leather-bound commemorative coasters for £3 each or two for £5. Alternatively, treat yourself (or someone else) to stylish woollen scarves in smart school colours of burgundy, gold and black, which are now an optional part of the school uniform, and cost £28, plus natty silk burgundy ties for £25.

Order through the [CSPA website](#) **ParentMail** or via the **Second-Hand Uniform Shop**.



## A Quick Recap . . .



**October's Apple Fair** proved to be a core earner for the CSPA thanks to the fruitful efforts of the team led by **Emma Dear**. Our stall enjoyed brisk business with sales of school merchandise, raffle tickets, refreshments and a Count the Apples competition. In all, **£230** was raised, some of which will be donated to the **Sam West Foundation**.



**Negotiating the perils of the digital jungle** was the key message of **social media experts Emma and Charlotte Robertson** at last month's well-supported **Digital Awareness UK** talk. Parents were warned about the dangers of the online world, how exposed children are to unsafe influences and how best to safeguard against this.

## Wearing it well



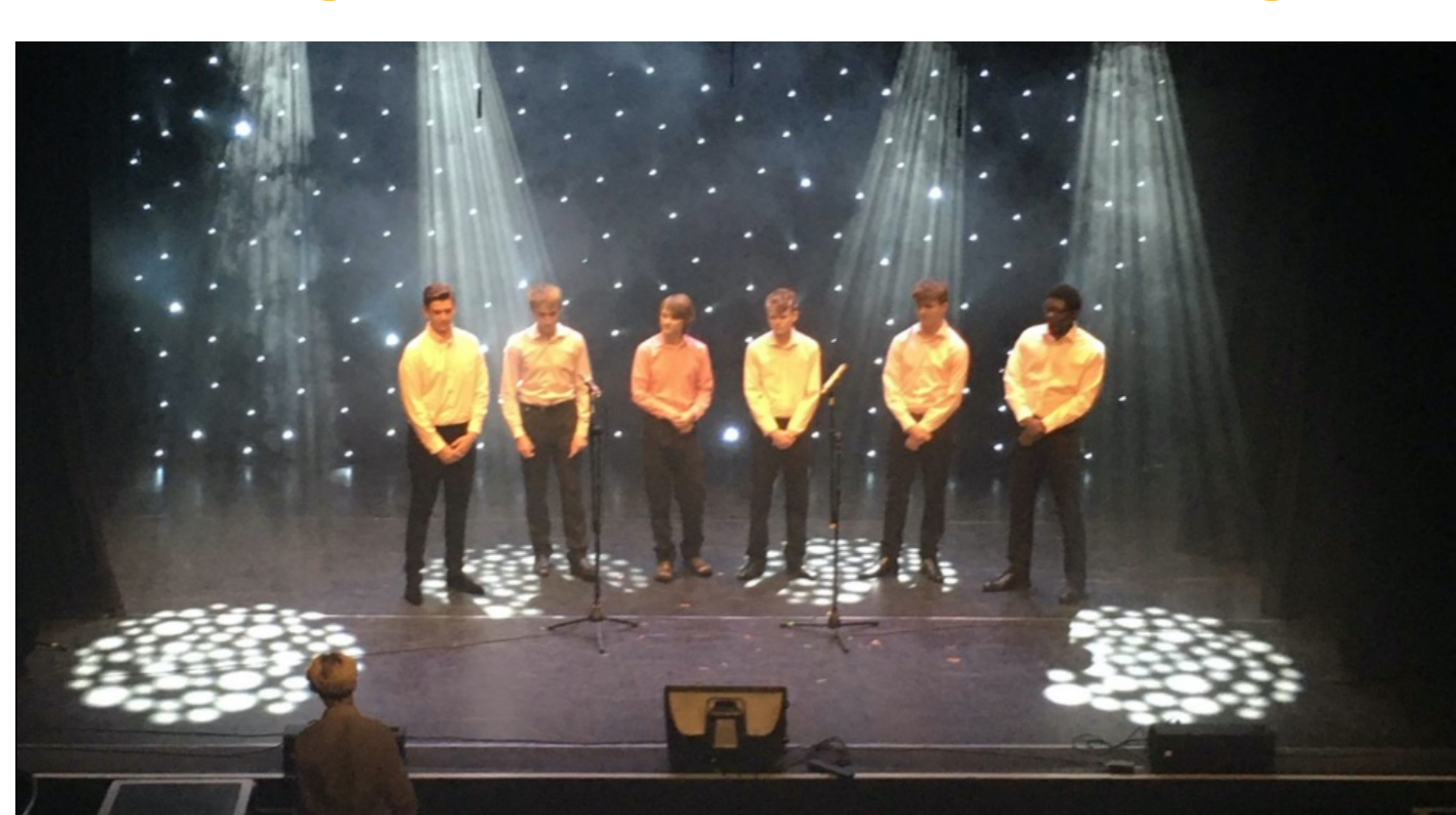
Many thanks for the numerous bags of clothes, toys and other items that parents donated to last month's **Cash for Clothes** appeal, organised by **Emma Dear**, which raised **£160**.

## Old uniforms are Africa-bound



**Zambian school-children** will soon be wearing **Cranbrook School's old uniforms** thanks to the efforts of **Second-Hand Uniform Shop** organiser **Sarah Hues** and parent **Ellen Mason**. As shirts, blazers and any other kit sporting the old white logo can no longer be worn to school, the CSPA was keen to find another use for the items, rather than letting them go to waste. As a result, the old uniforms will be sent to school children in **Zambia** via the **Kanjani Orphan Project**.

## A song 'n' dance extravaganza



This year's **DanSing 2019** yet again proved that Cranbrook School pupils are bursting with talent as it showcased their fabulous skills to perfection. The **Queen's Hall Theatre** rocked to the rafters with a diverse range of musical talents; from heavy metal and acapello to energetic street dancing and intricate ballet performances. Each act was perfectly staged thanks to the hi-tech lighting and sound equipment funded by the CSPA. Now that's something definitely worth making a song and dance about!

## Date for the diary

The **CSPA's annual general meeting** will be held during its executive committee meeting on **March 11**. If you're interested in learning more about the CSPA and how it works, please come along. The meeting kicks off at **7pm** in the **Sixth Form Centre**.

## STOP PRESS:

### CALLING NEW PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP

You may have joined the Cranbrook School community just two short months ago, or maybe last year. Your children may even have taken part in the school's hugely successful shows: **Hairspray** and **DanSing**.

Regardless, hopefully you have realised that the remarkable atmosphere of this unique school comes from its talented students, who are special in every way.

**The CSPA's aim is to support them however we can and we are asking if you, as new parents, can become more involved and play a larger part in the school community.**

As Y13 parents leave, we rely on a constant new crop of willing volunteers – without whom the CSPA could not function. We currently need parents for two sub-committees focusing on social events and education support. Is this something for you?

**Whether it is ongoing assistance or ad hoc help, we are keen and eager to hear from you. It is a real chance to make a difference and contribute to the life of Cranbrook School.**

**If you are interested, please [contact chair Henrietta King](#).**

