

Polished CORNERS



QUONDAM FRANCIS HOLLAND CLARENCE GATE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

2010 MAGAZINE



Dear Quondam Members,

Meeting "polished corners", especially those who have not visited the school since the end of their own school days, is one of the many enjoyable aspects of being Headmistress at Francis Holland. At our regular 11+ open days, mothers of prospective pupils often marvel at how much the site has expanded and developed since they themselves were at FHS. The school's recently updated website www.francisholland.co.uk, especially the Quondam link, is also proving a useful point of contact for past pupils who have lost touch with the school.

In June, I was lucky enough to accompany two FHS sixth formers, Elena Georgiou and Isobel Apter, to 10 Downing Street. The girls were representing the Alexandra Rose Charity – the "Charities' Charity" – and helping to launch its annual fund-raising day by collecting donations from the newly elected Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On seeing Isobel and Elena, The

Right Honourable George Osborne exclaimed, "Ah yes, Francis Holland School. My mother went there!"

A wide number of charitable activities has long been one of the characteristic features of the school and dominates much of the activity beyond lessons. This July, for the fourth successive year, senior pupils (and five members of staff) devoted time from their summer holidays to FHS Summer Camp: a residential activity holiday week held at Sayer's Croft in Surrey for children who are under the care of Westminster Social Services.

Beyond the many UK charities that we support every year, we have a strong link with the St Amedeus School in Moshi, Tanzania. Miss Gallagher, a current member of staff, spent the summer term on secondment at St Amedeus and we were delighted that Father Faustine, the Headmaster of the school, came to visit us in London for two weeks, in June.

The main school play, directed by Mrs Oakley was a memorable production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Our annual joint choral concert performance with Harrow School at the end of the Easter term was Bach's B Minor Mass: thanks to indefatigable rehearsing by Mrs Rolfe Johnson, our choir rose to the challenge of this demanding and wonderful work. Sport continues to be a very important part of school life and our Sports Afternoon in Regent's Park, culminating with a staff versus sixth form rounders match, has become a popular fixture in the calendar in the final week of the summer term. The

PE department will lead a sports tour to South Africa during October half term, playing netball and hockey matches against local teams.

The invaluable support given to the school by the Quondam Committee is hugely appreciated. The honour of receiving the Quondam Travel Scholarship, which is open to Sixth Formers, and the Junior and Senior Quondam Essay Prizes is very much sought after by the girls. It is always a huge pleasure for me to meet members of Quondam, not only at the annual Quondam lunch in November, but also at other school functions. Following the success of last year's event, the Parents' Association will again be hosting a Christmas Fair in school on Saturday November 20th from 2–4pm: Christmas puddings, home-made cakes and a wonderful array of festive gifts will be available. It is always a pleasure to see Quondam members at the School Carol Service which this year will be held at St Cyprian's Church at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th December. Advance details of all major school events can be found on the school website: www.francisholland.co.uk.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you over the coming year; my warmest thanks to all Quondam members for your continued interest and support of the school.

Vivienne Durham
Headmistress

Quondam Committee from 2010

Vivienne Durham	President / Headmistress
Alison Edelshain née Day	Chairman
Susanne Nedas née Quastel	Joint Secretary
Vivien Rose née Lind	Joint Secretary
Jeannine Addinall	Deputy Headmistress
Benita Mathews	Treasurer
Nadia Demetriou Ladas	Magazine Editor
Diane Andrews née Miller Jeanette Cumine née Clark Carol Michaelson née Day Jennifer Purchase née Shier Julia Strauss	

Contact

Quondam \KWAHN-duhm; KWAHN-dam\, adjective:
Having been formerly; former; sometime.

We do love to hear from you so please let us know about any change of address, and email addresses in particular would be of great use in keeping the database relevant and up to date. The Quondam community thrives on the news of its members, so feel free to submit news and photographs at any time of the year.

Nadia Demetriou Ladas

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Acknowledgements

Quondam would like to thank the parents of FHS pupils for their support.

Ho Ho Ho

Francis Holland Christmas Fair

Saturday 20th November 2010

2 - 4pm in the school hall.

Organised by the Parent's Association with the help of volunteer girls and teachers, the FHS Xmas Fair has gone from strength to strength. Offering the usual yummy festive food, there are also many exciting present buying opportunities or good old self rewarding treats available, from luxury scarves to decorations. All this surrounded by the warm glow of home made food and drinks, a nail bar, a fabulous raffle and musical entertainment to boot! And don't forget you can have a clear conscience in engaging in all this consumption - all proceeds go to charity.





Letter from the Quondam Chairman

Alison Edelshain née Day

Dear Quondam,

Along with everyone else, especially those of us who are no longer “in the first flush of youth”, I can’t believe a year has passed so quickly and it is time again to write this letter. Science (and logic) informs us that we can depend on 24 hour days and 60 minute hours; yet we all know how at the beginning of a holiday, the days to be anticipated seem to stretch ahead, while the days at the end of the holiday, seem to pass much more quickly. This elusive nature of time was one of the themes captured so well by the essays entered for the Quondam Writing competition this year which the Committee had the privilege of reading and judging. When we selected the title “Time”, we knew this would stimulate a wide range of treatments and we were certainly not disappointed. The natural creativity of FHS girls showed in the imaginative and stimulating interpretation of the title and the entries from girls of all ages proved to be both entertaining and persuasive. We therefore offer our heartfelt congratulations to Hannah Davidson for her winning Senior Prize essay on the experiences of a middle-aged businessman and a schoolgirl as they each board a train and view each other through very different perspectives and to Sara De Giorgio for her winning Junior prize entry on the agony of waiting for an injection.

Time also feels very relevant when reading some of the letters provided in response to our request for Reminiscences relating to “Lessons Learned While At Francis Holland.” A few of these recall times which seem very different from today, including memories of having to wear berets and being forbidden to eat ice-cream in school uniform. Others, such as Miranda Pinch’s, recalling being bullied and unappreciated, refer to experiences we like to think are less likely to happen in today’s more supportive climate. On the other hand, those letters recalling inspired teachers and long-lasting friendships will resonate equally well with current girls. In particular, reading Lucy Itkin’s letter stating how she believed that the lessons learned at school had helped her to succeed in her working life, perhaps contributing to her recent public recognition and the award of an OBE, can only be described as inspiring. It is with pride and pleasure we also read of the award of an MBE this year to a former member of staff, as advised by Barbara Bell in her news update. What great achievements for them both and we hope they don’t mind if we ask to bask somewhat in their glory!

Finally, it is always with great sadness we have to include some obituaries. This year we have included several inspiring memories of Theo McComas (née Brown), who was appointed Head of English soon after the end of the Second World War. The different accounts all share the same recall of the brilliance of her teaching, combined with the true warmth of her character which clearly inspired deep and long-felt loyalty and respect. We have also included the official obituary of Anne Mustoe, former Classics and Economics teacher at FHS. Who can fail to be inspired by her determination to follow the historic routes of the world, travelling as a lone cyclist across some of the toughest landscapes known to man? Our sympathies reach out to Elizabeth Rolfe Johnson on the recent death of her husband, Anthony, a highly respected tenor and also a good friend to FHS. We also extend our sympathies to the family of Vic Sherrifs, the school former caretaker, whose support I recall so clearly at many Parents’ Association and Quondam events held at the school.

REMINISCENCES

What were the important 'lessons' you learned at school, and what were the punishments you would rather forget!

1955

Sally Adams

At my previous school I made the mistake of saying that I didn't believe in God - for which I was punished by being forbidden going to Brownies and made to feel dreadful. It made me realise that when I went to my next school aged 10, FHS, religious and Church of England, that I should keep my mouth shut, which I did, more or less. Miss Joslin was headmistress, and had been trained as a physicist. When in Lower V we listened in Mr Michael Clark's lessons to a radio programme called 'Religion and Philosophy' where the anthropomorphic idea of God was discussed - and we were invited to accept or reject this - but still I did not reject this in public, as it were.

Some years after leaving FHS, and after Miss Joslin had retired, I learnt from another Quondam member that Miss Joslin herself was not really a 'believer' (it must have gone against her scientific training). I was shocked, but somehow pleased. And I wish there had been a chance to have a real discussion with her.

Now I am a grown up I personally could never believe in an anthropomorphic God - or one who cares about our concerns. But if the term 'God' can be broadened to include the extraordinariness of our existence, this complex world, the solar system and beyond, and the 'why' of the universe - then I might, at a pinch, be considered a 'believer' in God. Does this count? What would Miss Joslin have had to say? What 'lesson' should I have learnt?

1957

Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat

I don't remember any punishments at FHS except the fear of being caught in school uniform eating ice cream in the street after swimming or anywhere else for that matter. I don't know what would happen to one if caught but we were sure it would be terrible. Miss Joslin believed in discipline and could be a fearful sight. There were house captains and prefects who were responsible for discipline mainly in name only. The food at lunch was the

main punishment with having to eat a spoonful of everything, some ghastly cabbage or other. Sometimes it seemed the main "lesson" was to behave above all else. It would have helped to have had some direction for life after school.

1969

Miranda Geraldine Pinch née Geraldine Rosoux

Dear Quondam

Thank you for the opportunity to do something I have wanted to do for many years, but had never really felt inspired to do before.

You ask; what were the most important 'lessons' I learned at school and what were the punishments that I would rather forget? Where to begin - there are so many of both! Sadly my time at Francis Holland was not a happy one and unfortunately for me it was an unusually long one. I was just four and a half years old when I first arrived at the school in 1954. I can still remember the first day. The school looked so grand and I was so proud to be coming to it. For the next fourteen years - yes, fourteen years, I arrived by the number 13 bus every day! How symbolic of 14 years of utter misery is that?

From day one I was teased mercilessly. When new children joined the class they were told they would be shunned if they befriended me. I was physically and emotionally bullied in the playground and I gave my possessions away for a few hours of truce at a time. For me Francis Holland was much like St Trinians without the laughter. I can even remember rolling between the desks of the classroom as a girl tried to pull out my hair. She was eventually expelled, but very little compassion was shown towards me.

As I reached my teenage years I was informed by various school staff that as I could not spell, I would never hold down a job; that as I was not very good in the traditional subjects I would never get to university and that basically I was a failure. I had, however come top of the form in Physics and Chemistry, but those were boys' subjects and there

were no facilities for me to go on to do 'O' or 'A' levels in them. I will always wonder how things might have turned out had I continued with the Sciences.

In the end I gained 7 'O' levels and 4 'A' levels and eventually went to the University of Warwick, where I discovered that I was valued and capable. I was terrified when I was told by my tutor that I was expected to gain a 2.1. I had a huge inferiority complex and lack of self-esteem that has plagued me through much of my adult life. These feelings were not just caused by the school; they were unfortunately also a product of a very difficult home life.

So what did I learn? I learned that children desperately need to be loved, heard, encouraged and praised. I learned that getting none of those things nearly made me into a monster because as I got older and more confident I became in danger of becoming a bully myself. I learned that people, who others despise for whatever reason, behave as they do because they are hurting and vulnerable and that they need befriending and protecting not castigating.

Above all I have learned a great deal about forgiveness. Forgiveness is not about forgetting, but resentment holds onto a pain that is self-destructive. True forgiveness is about acceptance and a desire to see good come out of a terrible situation. It is about growth and moving on.

It took me many, many years to finally get beyond the damage of my childhood, but maybe because of it, I am now a Social Worker and have spent time in the occupied Palestinian territories doing human rights work. I have been happily married for 35 years and have two adult, intelligent and well motivated children who I hope know how loved and valued they are.

So the biggest lesson of all is perhaps that no matter how ghastly a situation may be, it is possible to turn it round and to see it as a refiner's fire out of which gold can be formed. I am who I am now because of the nature, the nurture and the belief in the inherent goodness of all things that I now hold dear.

Jeannine Addinall, Deputy Head writes: I think it says a great deal that people have felt able to speak up for the first time in many years about their difficult experiences. I think we can be courageous enough to admit that mistakes were made in the past and that we need, as with all history, not to forget, precisely so that they are not repeated. I am confident, however, that it doesn't reflect the really happy careers of more recent alumnae. We are talking here about the past – the school just isn't like that now and has many accolades for the level of its pastoral care.

1973

Vivien Rose née Lind A Lesson In "Injustice"

One form mistress towards the end of my time in the junior school was Miss Fraser who was from New Zealand. She obviously had a great passion for her homeland as every subject she taught had a New Zealand slant to it - whether it was history, geography, literature or even music. In music we only sang Maori songs and these had to be sung at the same time as swirling Maori poi balls. Word must have got round the school that some of us were no longer amused with this daily taste of the Antipodes. I believe it was Miss Melchior (head of the junior school at the time) who came in one morning and very innocently asked if there were any girls that had become bored by Miss Fraser's slant on teaching. Having been brought up at home and encouraged by Francis Holland to always be honest, I was one of the first to eagerly put my hand up. I was followed by three others – although I am sure we weren't the only four to feel this way. The class was then told that the following week there would be an outing to the Commonwealth Institute – except for the four who obviously weren't interested and they would remain behind at school to work. This was an appalling reward for encouraging honesty and a perfect lesson in "injustice". Far from teaching me to "keep my mouth shut" in the future it only encouraged me to continue to speak out – regardless of the consequences. Maybe not such a bad lesson after all!

1978

Lucy Itkin née Gampell OBE

I spent 10 years at FHS, so the school played a huge part in my formative

years. Looking back now the things that I believe have stayed with me, and influenced, me have been:

- a) the amazing impact inspirational teachers had on pupils (I'm thinking particularly of the formidable head of the junior school – Miss Melchior – and our wonderful history teacher in senior school Miss Blunt);
- b) the determination not to be put off course by a less than positive teacher, if you feel you have a passion for something (in my case Italian);
- c) and the importance of good friends to support you and have fun with.

I believe I applied all these 'lessons' in my working life, seeking to inspire others by being passionate and creative on how to present issues and ideas; building a strong and co-supportive work team; and not giving in to negativity and setbacks – be it from the media, politicians or even at times, family who didn't always see eye to eye with my chosen career path (prisoners' families).

In terms of punishments I would rather forget, thankfully I don't think we were subjected to any truly humiliating or terrible punishments. However, at 14, having to wear berets and capes certainly felt like a punishment that we all wanted to escape and were duly disgruntled when the Headmistress refused our personal petition to have them scrapped!

1988

Nadia Demetriou Ladas

It's really funny, but I have only just come to realise that it's not the institution you attend but the quality of the people you interact with that provides the best lesson. Overall FHS certainly gave me a feeling of empowerment, that I could do anything I choose with my life, that nothing should hold me back, whether I was a woman, rich, poor, plain, pretty, English or foreign. These lessons only became apparent once I started university, and all that I had taken for granted came up in sharp relief. But the most important lessons I learned came from individual teachers. Mme McPherson telling me that I should accept criticism with more grace, Miss Blyth's intellectual rigour and discipline in making History come alive and be relevant without the aid of modern gimmicks, Miss Rudzinska's warmth and interest in every pupil as a person and not just an exam grade, and finally

Miss Pinchbeck. She inspired me to devour books and plays, gave me real psychological insight, as well as a slightly cynical spin on things. I spent years having dreams with her as the figure who's approval I most needed to have. I hope I have lived up to her expectations.

1990

Holly Piercy

FHS is a very special school. Because of its small size, it is very community based and at least you recognise everyone's face in the corridor, which makes it so different from other schools. Despite the size, there is a phenomenal amount of activity, with pupil-run after school clubs, trips abroad, drama productions, debating and awe inspiring visiting speakers. FHS allows everyone the opportunity to shine, with students being big fish in a small pond, rather than being stifled in a larger environment. My years here shaped who I am as a person, giving me a rounded education and the confidence to go out into the world and implement the skills I learnt at school, which teaches not just knowledge, but a way of life.

1996

Imogen Vickers née Wood

Miss Williams taught me how to write an essay and enjoy a wide range of literature. I remember the kindness of teachers like Madame Gustave. I also learned not to take a second helping of pudding, when Mrs Sullivan told me off for being unable to resist more lemon meringue pie! Most importantly I learned that friends made at school continue to be friends for life.

2010

Ali Gillum, Head Girl

School is obviously an important part of growing up. You spend well over 1000 days at secondary school over seven years, and it's very different from primary school. What makes FHS so different is the atmosphere. A school is not just a building but a result of the girls and teachers and the friendly and buzzing atmosphere they jointly create. I remember feeling sorry for the girls who were leaving when I was in the first year, and now feel sad that I have joined the ranks of the 'poor girls' who have left. I am eternally grateful for the woman FHS has helped me to become.

FROM THE STAFF ROOM ... by Jeannine Addinall, Deputy Head

Staff Who Have Left

Miss Marianne Williamson

Miss Williamson has this summer retired after a most distinguished teaching career. She came to Francis Holland as Head of English in 1992, and is an absolutely inspirational teacher of great intellectual calibre and enthusiasm. Her ability to communicate this passion for English is clearly demonstrated by the numbers of former pupils who are in touch with her, several of whom have come back to judge the School Drama Competition. Her reading of Chaucer and the range and depth of her knowledge are both legendary, and as if all this were not enough, she has edited the outstanding school magazine throughout her time here, instituted and run the Tennyson Prize for reading poetry, directed several school productions including the masterly two-cast 'Arcadia', run and reorganised the School Drama Competition and taken many exciting school trips, including the unforgettable weekends in Stratford-on-Avon. Those who know Miss Williamson well will realise that her retirement is so full of interesting plans that the word is wrong. 'New life' is more like it. We thank her warmly and will miss her very much indeed.

Rev'd Jennifer Locke

Also retiring from teaching- but continuing to run a very busy parish- is Rev'd Locke, Head of Religious Studies. Again, Rev'd Locke has had a most distinguished career and her teaching has been of exceptional calibre. In addition to this she has wrought welcome change in the services at St. Cyprian's, reinstating the School Confirmation this year with the Bishop of London, our Patron, presiding, and has revolutionised the role of girls and women in the Communion Services. We wish her the very best of luck- again, retirement is the wrong word!- and thank her hugely for all she has done.

Mr Crispin Davis

Mr. Davis, Head of Chemistry and Head of Science, is going on to higher things! He has been appointed Deputy Head at Licensed Victuallers' School.

Mr. Davis has been a teacher of such presence that some girls have referred to his delivery as 'the voice of God.'! He has carried out the huge job of running the whole Science Department exceptionally well, and it has grown under his guidance. If we ally to this the fact that he was trained by Betty's of Harrogate, no less, to make chocolates, and has regularly used these skills to benefit clubs and charity events at FHS, you have some idea of how much we will miss him- good luck!

Miss Maria Dickens

Miss Dickens has been Head of Italian since 2006, and is now going on to become Head of a Modern Languages Department. She has made a huge contribution to school life with her energy and commitment, not only through her teaching which has made Italian so popular and through her inspired running of the Department, but as Deputy Head of Sixth Form and as the forger of the link between St. Amedeus School in Tanzania and FHS. Miss Dickens has run many successful school trips, not least one to Tanzania. Her enthusiasm and unstinting hard work have made a huge difference to school life. We congratulate her on her new appointment and also on her forthcoming marriage this summer.

Mr Michael Grant

Mr. Grant has been Head of Art for the past two years, and is leaving for a post nearer home. His teaching has led to large numbers taking up Art at examination level, and his inspiring assemblies on different aspects of Art will be long remembered.

Rev'd Jude Bullock

Rev'd Bullock has taught RS part time at the school for a number of years, and during this time has conducted services at St. Cyprian's, where he has delivered memorably inspirational sermons. We hope he will continue to go on doing this when he can - I already have him booked in for the Harvest Festival! His intellect, acumen and laterally thinking approach have benefited the school enormously, and Sixth Formers have found discussions

with him in Ethics lessons stimulating for year after year. We wish him well.

Miss Marta Calvo

Miss Calvo, who has taught French and Spanish with great success at FHS, is leaving to become Head of a French Department. She has been an excellent form tutor and has been involved in a number of trips, most recently to Normandy.

Miss Nina Webb

Miss Webb has contributed a great deal to the school as a much loved teacher of Biology and form tutor to the Thirds, but also as the member of staff who founded and ran the very popular Equestrian Club [no mean feat in central London!] She organised riding at local stables and in Hyde Park, took trips to the Horse of the Year Show and ran and accompanied a riding holiday. Equally unforgettable are her many starring roles in charity shows and staff pantomimes. We wish her luck in her new post.

Mr Rod Morris

Mr. Morris has made a great contribution to the Music Department, not only as an inspiring teacher but in almost every concert given by the Department, whether in St. Cyprian's, Harrow Speech Room, the School Hall or further afield. He is going to teach Music in far warmer climes than these. Again, his performances in staff pantomimes are legendary. We will miss him very much.

Miss Cara Bain

Warmest thanks to Miss Bain for so successfully covering Miss Gallagher's absence in Tanzania.

Ms Clare Overton

Many will remember Ms. Overton, the perpetually cheerful and impeccably organised Art Technician who also had, thanks to her efficiency, the vital responsibilities for school lettings and stationery. She returned with her family to her native Scotland earlier in the year. We are eternally grateful to her!

Warmest congratulations to Mrs Kate Oakley on having completed twenty-five years' outstanding service to the school. She joined the English Department in 1985 and is legendary for her innumerable school plays and musicals as well as her teaching of English and Theatre Studies. She is also Head of Careers and PSHE, both of which were described as 'outstanding' in the 2008 ISI inspection. Her role as Educational Visits Co-ordinator has received similar accolades.

We have been delighted to hear all the ongoing news from St. Amedeus School in Moshi, Tanzania, where Miss Kirsty Gallagher of the PE Department has been spending a term teaching at the school and helping out at the orphanage associated with it. For the last three weeks of term we were visited by the Headmaster of St. Amedeus, Father Faustine Furaha, who attended a variety of lessons, contributed in the most interesting way to PSHE classes and gave an inspiring assembly showing us all that the children were achieving. He also enjoyed the London experience, including a visit to Lord's and a ride on an open top bus!

Messages From Staff

Jennifer Hillman 1969

I taught at the school from 1966 to 1969, before I was married. I then was Miss Jennifer Glass, and found myself plunged into the position of Head of Music. It was my first job, and was to have been one of teaching A-Level and Piano, but there was an unexpected retirement of the then Head of Dept during the summer hols, so Mrs Brigstocke asked if I would take on a little bit more! I enjoyed my spell at FHS, particularly the unexpected pleasure of teaching the "prep" girls (the tinies), and the satisfaction of the O- and A-level work. I went on briefly to Homerton College to lecture, then back to London to marry, and to begin a longstanding connection with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where I was a Professor of Musical Studies and of Piano. More recently I have been continuing my teaching in a private capacity. I must just add that in those days I was very grateful for all the support and advice given to me by Miss Siffleet. I haven't seen her since, but I shall not forget her kindness.

Barbara Bell 1983

My exciting news is that I have been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to local and national education. I will attend an investiture at Windsor castle in November! I was Head of Classics at Francis Holland in 1978-1979.



Kate Oakley in her garden

I applied to teach English at FHS in the spring of 1985. I was about to marry Michael and live in Berkhamsted and, because I could not drive at the time, I rather fancied the idea of commuting to London. Twenty-five years and two children later, I am still commuting, but from leafy Sussex instead of Hertfordshire - see photograph. What have I learned from my years at FHS? Well, I have discovered the thrill of bringing plays all the way from page to production; I have discovered the joy of exploring new 'A' level texts in the company of bright North London girls, and I hope, in recent years, I have learned a better work-life balance, with family, music, skiing and gardening playing a bigger part than before, keeping school work in its proper place as a satisfying means to an end, but not the be-all and end-all. FHS is a fantastic place to work - I thrive off the creative energy and occasional quirkiness of the place. I am grateful to Miss Holt for appointing me, even, if only because, as Elizabeth Pinchbeck once said, "you're religious and the other applicants weren't!"

Other News

Sadly, Mr Vic Sherrifs, our beloved caretaker, died earlier this year after struggling bravely with serious illness for many months. He was, and I feel still is, the 'genius loci', the spirit of the school. If you had a broken locker or your school trip arrived back on a Sunday night and the school needed to be opened up, Vic was always there for everyone. We miss him very much indeed.

We are also saddened by the recent death of Mr. Anthony Rolfe Johnson, husband of Mrs. Elisabeth Rolfe Johnson, Head of Music. Extremely highly regarded throughout the world for his lyrical tenor voice, he nonetheless found time to help FHS in so many ways, and was one of the kindest people I have ever known - he wore his fame very lightly. He had also been ill for some years. Our thoughts are with 'Mrs. RJ' and their three children.

Travel Fund Report

Iona Denniston

I was based in Moshi, Tanzania from January to July 2010. The school that I taught in for 3 months was an hour walk from the hostel I was staying in. It is an English Medium School where all lessons were, fortunately for me, taught in English apart from the Kiswahili lessons. All the older children were fluent in English and the younger ones were learning very quickly. It was a relatively rich school where the majority of the kids had to pay to go there. However, if their families were unable to afford the fees they could pay in kind, by giving fire wood, maize etc. It was a fairly well equipped school, with blackboards and chalk, and books and pencils for the children. I taught Maths to Standard 2 and Maths and Science to Standard 6, this is aged about 7 and 10-13 respectively, as well as teaching any classes if a teacher didn't turn up, was ill or had marking to do. All the children were enthusiastic, co-operative and loved learning so it was a pleasure to teach them.

The biggest difference I found about the school was that when we first arrived there were hardly any extracurricular activities. The school day was from 8am till 3.30pm with a half hour mid morning break for porridge and a one hour break for lunch. Other than these breaks, the children would do academic work all day apart from half an hour a week's sport – which was only 'free time' in the playground. However, by the time we left, they had introduced Debate and Art into the timetable which the children loved as a break from normal schoolwork.

Twenty of the children from this primary school stayed at the Headmaster's house as boarders. These kids had to go straight back to the house after school, and weren't allowed to leave the compound at any time apart from on Sunday to go to Church. Therefore, in our spare time on weekends, we went to their house with playing cards, games and laptops, to give them a bit of a break from studying or doing their chores which they would otherwise have had to do.

As well as visiting the kids, we would also go and see other parts of Tanzania on the weekend. We went to waterfalls, national parks, the coast and even got invited to a Maasai wedding which was an experience I will never forget. A goat was sacrificed and we were given the intestines and other unidentifiable parts to eat. This, we understood, was a great honour! The dinner was followed by dancing and singing with everyone in their colourful tribal clothes and the bride wearing a purple dress with a special white beaded head piece. I met Fr. Willi on a few occasions, and went to St Amedeus to meet the pupils and see how Francis Holland has helped build the school. I was also lucky enough to have 5 free days when I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. The fabulous views from the top made the pain worthwhile.

When the school broke up, I travelled with some friends for 6 weeks in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. It was fascinating to compare the neighbouring countries of Tanzania and see how they differ in development, scenery and culture. The highlights include the Genocide Memorial churches and museums in Kigali, white water rafting on the Nile in Uganda, and shopping in the markets of Mombassa. Rwanda was probably my favourite country as not only was it so interesting historically, but the environment is beautiful with lots of extinct volcanoes and lush green hills contrasting against the busy, developed city of Kigali. All the Rwandese, although slightly more closed, were very welcoming and keen to help in any way that they could. I was amazed by how developed and peaceful the country was despite the atrocities of 1994. However I couldn't help but feel that the history is so present in the people of my age and older, all of whom must have been affected in some way.

My gap year has come to an end all too soon and I can't wait to return to Tanzania for the graduation of the Standard 6 children next summer. With thanks to the generosity of Quondam, I was able to undertake activities which I would have otherwise not been able to do.



OLD GIRLS NEWS

1950 1959

1950

Juliet Sebag-Montefiore née Raphael

The Red House, Ramridge Park,
Andover, Hants, SP11 9BY
dsebag@btinternet.com

1951

Susan Levitt née Falk

35 Northway, London NW11 6PB

Susan is planning to come to the Old Girls' Reunion this November with some of her friends.

1952

Barbara Simcock née Truscoe

540 B Comleroy Road, Kurrajong,
N.S.W. 2758, AUSTRALIA

Barbara, a retired doctor, has recently moved home: "We have built on to my daughter's home near the Blue Mountains west of Sydney and now enjoy the company everyday of 4 grandchildren and Suzie and her husband Brett. We have planted lots of roses and have a shade house for my orchid collection. I am shortly leaving on a trip to England to visit my sister, Diana Hall, and her family, and am accompanied by my 20 year old granddaughter, Katie.

1954

Clare Terrel née Hilton

Manor Court, Alderton, Woodbridge,
Suffolk, IP12 3BL
clarehilton@aol.com

"I managed to spend a delightful Xmas with Penny Newell Price, née Cove Smith, and all her lovely family. Have also visited Gillian Ryan, née Kersley in Bath and had a nice stay there."

1955

Sally Adams

69 Onslow Gardens, Muswell Hill,
London N10 3JY. Tel 020 8444 4019

1956

Jill Leuw née Barclay

36 Sussex Square, London, W2 2SP
jill.leuw@googlemail.com

Jill is a retired teacher. She met up with Elizabeth Cookson, née Ritblat,

in Washington DC after 50 years, and would love to hear from Ruth Wiesner.

Wendy Max née Segal

14 Turner Close, London NW11 6TU

wendymmax@aol.com

Wendy continues to teach cello and group string, and would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

1957

Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat

Rjcookson@aol.com

Still living in Maryland, USA. Had an enjoyable visit with Jill Leuw (Veronica Barclay) in the spring. We met at the Smithsonian in Washington and caught up on a lot of news after fifty years. I would love to see anyone else who comes this way.

1960 1969

1960

Priscilla Bernard née Gray

50 Solent Road, London NW6 1TX
priscillagray@virgin.net



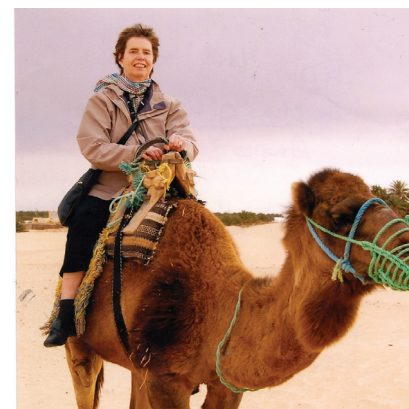
"I had an exciting start to the year, as I was offered the role of Mrs. Boyle, in the West End production of 'The Mousetrap', which was invited to perform at the Lyceum Theatre in Shanghai. It was an extraordinary experience, playing to largely Chinese audiences, with a sprinkling of Westerners. We had no idea how they would react to such a very English thriller but they were completely engrossed and laughed and held their breath in all the right places, helped by the surtitles on either side of the stage! There are actually several thriving

Agatha Christie Fan Clubs in China and they were delighted to have the chance of seeing a West End cast perform her best known play. The theatre had built the set from plans sent from London and it was a very faithful reproduction of the original at St Martin's Theatre; the only problem was that they used green wood and as the performances continued, there were occasional problems of sticking doors and pieces falling off windows, which required some ingenuity from the cast! For the first week of our stay in Shanghai we were shadowed by a Sunday Times reporter and photographer – the article finally appeared in the colour supplement several months after the event. Towards the end of the run my husband joined me and after the play was over we took the opportunity of exploring some more of China; although it was very cold, it was quite an experience to see the Great Wall under snow and travel on an overnight train from Beijing to Luoyang with many Chinese returning to their home towns and villages to celebrate the Chinese New Year!

1962

Anthea Grainger née Schacke-Andersen

Two firsts to report: a trip to Canterbury and a ride on a camel in the Sahara!



1964

Elizabeth Pamboris née Spence

10 Parkwood, Iden, Rye, E Sussex,
TN31 7XE
epamboris@backflip.co.uk

Elizabeth works 3 days a week as a School Data Manager at Rye College. 'Now leading a double life with lots of time spent at our home in Cyprus!'

1965

Sandra Heidenstam

23 Russell Road, London W14 8HU

1970 - 1979

1970

Vicky Scarborough née Vaughan - Lee

Le Hurel, La Rue du Tas de Geon, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5AN
scarborough@localdial.com

Vicky would like to know if there are any class reunions of her year group being planned.

1973

Vivien Rose née Lind

vrose@lptuk.net

1974

Alexandra Wright née Levitt

alexandra@kvish.co.uk

Alexandra is Senior Rabbi at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and would like to hear from any of her year.

1978

Lucy Itkin née Gampell

lgampell@gmail.com
tel: 07801 069238



Lucy is happy to announce she received an OBE in the New Years Honours List. The OBE was awarded for Services to Disadvantaged People, particularly in recognition of her 15 years work as Director of Action for Prisoners' Families, APF, raising awareness of the needs of families affected by imprisonment and campaigning for better services for them.

In 1987 she ran Shape East, a community arts project working across East Anglia where she pioneered many innovative projects including taking contemporary dance and music into male prisons, where she discovered her interest in criminal justice. She left Shape East in 1992 to study an MA in Criminal Justice Policy at the LSE, then becoming the first paid member

of staff of the Federation of Prisoners' Families' Support Groups - which later became Action for Prisoners' Families.

Lucy steered APF from an abstract vision operating from a desk in (and partly funded by) Save the Children to a respected and influential national organisation. The past 15 years have seen vast improvements to visiting and family contact at prisons despite the rising prison numbers. The needs of the 160,000 children a year currently affected by having a parent in prison are increasingly recognised thanks to lobbying by APF and good practice in work with these families continues to develop and extend throughout the country. This helps to maintain the crucial ties known to have a positive effect on resettlement and to decrease reoffending.

Since leaving APF in December 2008, Lucy has been appointed as an Independent member of the Parole Board and continues to work in the field in a number of ways including promoting the implementation of the Corston Report on vulnerable women offenders, as a trustee of the Nationwide Foundation. She lives in Barnes with her husband Simon and two teenage children Oliver and Abigail. She'd be delighted to hear from old friends.

1979

Kalliopi Hadjipateras née Lemos

1 Harman Close, London NW2 2EA
kallihadji@googlemail.com

1980 1989

1980

Deborah Lynn Fricker

has died after suffering a long illness.
June 18, 1962 – January 13, 2010. RIP.

1981

Patricia Millet née Spencer

53 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 7BA

1981

Janet Mills née Lazarus

19 Granville Road, London N4 4EJ
millsjd@blueyonder.co.uk

Occupation: Senco at Highgate Pre-Prep

1982

Maria Pithis née Los

mariapithis@hotmail.com

1983

Amanda Hampton née Cowan

amanda.hampton@mossfallon.com

1987

Abigail Hercules

abi@abigailhercules.com



I am a singer-songwriter, actress and school bursar at my mothers school, Dallington. I would love to hear from anyone who knows me. Just after finishing my second album, this happened... My first child, Eloise Summer Hannan Hercules, arrived at midday on Father's Day, Sunday 20th June 201, weighing in at 7lbs 8oz (3.4kg). She was hypnobirthing at home in water, and I was brilliantly supported by two baby dads, one grandma, two midwives, two cats and one puppy, Dusty. It was truly the most fulfilling and empowering experience of my life.

As you can imagine, the music has taken a back seat, however, amazingly, I was being played some footage from the album launch the other day whilst holding Eloise and she immediately went into a completely relaxed state. I suppose she was with me throughout much of the writing, recording and performing of the album, only on the inside, so she is completely familiar with it! The power of music.

1988

Nadia Demetriou Ladas

nadia@vesselgallery.com

I'm quite surprised at how emotional I am about my son, Nicolai, starting his big school, Wetherby Pre-Prep, in September. Who would have thought that a cynical old feminist like me would be so ambivalent about letting go of her baby!

Julia Livingstone née Isaacs

2 Grove Avenue, Muswell Hill,
London N10 2AR
julia.l.j.livingstone@gmail.com

Julia is a fundraiser for charity golf days. "Our youngest, Saskia, will be taking 11+ exams for senior school. We already have our eldest, Natasha, at The Mount."

Tamsin Ogilvie (née Tillier)

tamsin@nutsandboltsdesign.co.uk

It took a year from putting our house on the market, to walking through the front door of our newly renovated 'old wreck' last Sept. It feels strange that it feels so comfortable to have finally arrived in our 'family home'. Our second baby, Phoebe, arrived in August, and now I look forward to throwing myself back into work, running my design agency.

Virginia Woolf's belief in the importance of a woman having 'A Room of One's Own' '...if she is to write fiction', has been resonating in my mind recently. I believe this view has a relevance for all women in creative arts. As I find myself with little ones and a hard working husband to look after, in a house with a mortgage and London childcare so expensive – I must fight for space and time to return to my creative work. As Woolf lectured to the girls of Newnham & Girton Colleges back in 1928 – make the most of your education and hold precious the luxury of time to develop your creative voice – life only gets more crowded as you grow older...

1989**Alex Ashbourne-Walmsley née Ashbourne**

Married Rob Walmsley in February 2010. Karen Marr, née McGrath (also 1989), was Matron of Honour.

Hui Cheng Tan

32, Jalan Sampurna, SINGAPORE
268289
dprthc@nus.edu.sg

Ruth Holmes

rlwholmes@hotmail.com

Ruth is a landscape architect, married to Giles Grange, and gave birth to Dillon in Dec 2009.

1990 1999**1991****Deborah Brett**

28 Abbotsbury Road, London W14 8ER

My partner Tom and I welcomed our second child, Hermione Havoc Ursula into the world on 24th May 2010, a sister to our 2 year old son Phineas. I intend to go back to work in the Autumn as Senior Contributing Fashion Editor at Red Magazine.

1996**Imogen Vickers née Wood**

imogenvickers@gmail.com

Married Jeremy December 2006 and has a daughter Agatha born October 2009.

She is currently an art teacher and would like to hear from anyone, particularly from her own year. Her own work can be seen at www.artatease.com

2000 2009**2001****Nicola Bell**

nicola@nicolabellart.com



I studied art for A-level at F.H.S. in 2001 and after having gone on to Newcastle University to study archaeology, followed by non-art related jobs I recently decided to focus on my art again and for the past year I have been a practising artist. I had my first London based exhibition in October last year that I shared with fellow former F.H.S. classmate Pippa Kapp – we called the exhibition Polished Corners in memory of our time at F.H.S.

I would love to see any F.H.S. girls from my year and other years and any staff members (especially Miss Conway who was my art teacher) at my up coming exhibitions. The next private view of my original works and prints is in Chelsea, London on October 2nd 2010, more details of which are posted on my website along with my portfolio www.nicolabellart.com

2002**Emma Whalley**

emma.whalley@gmail.com

Current occupation: Business Recovery and Insolvency, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Sharmee Mavadia née Shah

Sharmee61@hotmail.com

'I married in August 2008 and am currently working as a consultant for a PR Company in Notting Hill.'

Lucinda Sanford née Nedas

lucinda@ljsproperty.com

'I got married in May 08 and my husband and I are living in London, about to move into our house in SW10. I am running my own build & design company, LJS Property. I started the company 18 months ago and we do anything and everything from reactive maintenance, bathrooms, kitchens and decorating to full scale redevelopment. We are very busy and have a growing reputation, priding ourselves on our attention to detail, care and reliability as well as our design style.'

2001**Catherine Chang**

103 Buckhold Road, London SW18.
catherinefaychang@gmail.com

2006**Sophie Tunstall-Behrens**

sophietb@hotmail.co.uk

Sophie will be starting to study Biological Sciences at Edinburgh this September.

2007**Libby Gronquist**

egronqui@skidmore.edu

Calling All Polished Corners!

We are holding our next Careers Evening on Weds October 6th 2010. This event which takes place every two years, is attended by all girls in the Lower Vth to the Upper VIth. This is a brilliant opportunity for girls to talk first hand to the professionals and get chapter and verse about what different careers involve, the qualifications and experience needed, the rewards and the challenges.

I am looking to invite representatives from as big a range of careers as FHS, its parents, friends and of course its fabulous Old Girls can muster. I would love to hear from any of our alumnae who would like to talk to present day soon-to-be polished corners about the jobs they do.

The evening kicks off with a buffet supper from 6.00pm and girls and parents come in to talk to our special guests from 7.00 – 8.30pm.

Please contact me on: kate.oakley@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you can offer your time and expertise



Obituaries



**Theo McComas née Brown, Head of English
8 November 1920 – 21 June 2010**

Anne White née Schmiegelow 1953 writes:

Theo McComas, then Theo Brown, was born on 8 November 1920 in Rotherham, Yorkshire but grew up at Littleover Vicarage, Derbyshire. Her father being a Vicar, she was brought up early in good churchmanship. When her older sister, swathed in a curtain, preached from the top of their staircase, Theo dutifully knelt on the lowest steps muttering and nodding all the responses and "Amens" as appropriate (as a younger sister should!).

She showed an early delight in horses, but her loving mother took exception when she found a missing Theo underneath the cart horse that pulled the daily milk wagon. Theo explained that she was only stroking the horse's belly – as she could not reach any higher!

Theo went on to Oxford in 1940 and graduated at Lady Margaret Hall with a Masters Degree in English. As World War 2 broke out she volunteered for Fire Watch duties in Oxford and served in a Methodist canteen run for the forces. One can imagine how a smile and a cheery word of encouragement from Theo at 2 am revived the weary pilots after air raids over Berlin.

At the end of the War, Theo contacted her former teacher Ivy Joslin who had been appointed Head of Francis Holland School when it reopened in London. She asked if there was a place for her there and received a telegram reading "The English Department is yours!". On joining she made lasting friends with many of the staff such as Jane Milne-Hume and Ella Calver (formerly McGregor). She had great respect for old Miss Barter the science teacher: "She has standards" said Theo approvingly.

Theo had great teaching ability, captivating her pupils in her presentation of the prescribed literature – Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats among many others. She controlled the pupils with a "no nonsense" approach and was much loved by many of them. She was known for the personal interest she took in each of them, giving them both time and

eye-contact, response and helpful suggestions. She had a great sense of humour and an incredibly cheerful approach. One former pupil, Charlotte Halliday, writes: "Theo was great! Being both kind and firm, she had a stabilising influence on me and gave us one of the most precious gifts possible: a life-long love of good English and Poetry". Another, Felicity Spencer née Reynolds writes: "Theo was an amazing teacher. Discipline was never a problem; we all so loved her classes that we were consistently attentive and responsive". Another, Margaret Harbury, writes: "Theo was an inspirational teacher and I remember her patience and humour when trying to help me..."

In 1957 Theo married Alec McComas whom she had met at a local discussion group. He was the headmaster of St. Christopher's Preparatory School, Wembley. Theo took those pupils into her warm-hearted care. They had no children to their own sorrow. On Alec's retirement about 1980, the McComas's moved to Bladon, near Oxford where they enjoyed the nearby park of Blenheim Palace and many visits from old pupils, yes, and even their families! Alec as church warden showed American and other tourists round the parish church and in particular the memorial tomb of Sir Winston Churchill, whilst Theo often made lovely flower arrangements there.

In 1987 Alec died – a loss from which Theo never recovered. Yet she continued with her warm hospitality to many and her active church work. In 2005 her ability to cope with daily requirements of her home lessened and she agreed to move to a residential home where her spacious room overlooked her beloved Blenheim Park. From there she later moved to good nursing homes, the last one in Norwich near her sister and niece. Theo died there in peace, painlessly on midsummer's day 21 June 2010 and will be remembered fondly by many.

Stina Sporning née Söderberg 1947

I have fond memories of Miss Brown during my few years in her class at FHS. She was a brilliant teacher, I can still recite some poems she taught us. I missed her so, when my family moved back to Sweden.

Juliet Sebag-Montefiore née Raphael 1950

Theo Brown was an inspirational teacher. She instilled in me a total love of words and literature that has stayed with me for life. Her manner was always gentle but was coupled with an air of quiet authority. We were so fortunate to have been taught by her.

Jill Green née Gamgee 1951

My thoughts of 'Miss Brown' or Theo as many of us came to know her later at reunions, are of someone true to herself and to her profession, a really nice teacher to be alongside. She had a delightful sense of humour and genuine respect from our class. At reunions, she and Ella née Macgregor were the centre of attention and there was lovely mutual affection between us.

Susan Levitt née Falk 1951

In 1946 FHS re-opened at Clarence Gate. Miss Joslin was Headmistress and Theo, who we knew as Miss Brown was my form mistress. How well I remember being shown to my class as a new girl, naturally feeling very nervous, only to be greeted by a pretty young woman with red hair sitting at her desk, reassuringly ticking our names off the register. Twenty one years later we were about to board the sleeper train to France when who should we meet on the platform – Theo and Alec McComas waiting to board the same train! We spent a very happy evening reminiscing about school.

Judith Neill née Mason 1951

I remember our dear "Miss Brown" at FHS 1945 to 1951, as a wonderful teacher always calm and very kind to us. She inspired and encouraged me in my love of the English language and literature, and I am sure it was through her influence and encouragement that I eventually took up a long career in acting and theatre work, eventually becoming a Director and Co-Producer with my husband of our own Theatre Company. We stage plays regularly in our city's beautifully restored 132 years old Theatre Royal, in Nelson, New Zealand.

Obituaries



Ann Mustoe, Head of Classics
May 24 1933 – November 10 2009

It is an exceptional author who can supply a book with three appendices so varied as a technical specification of a bicycle, a timeline of the life of Cleopatra and an ichthyological listing.

Admirers of the intrepid former headmistress turned round-the-world cyclist Anne Mustoe were well accustomed to such precise, detailed and charming information in the books in which she chronicled what she termed her "new career". When she resolved to cycle round the world, Mustoe was 54, somewhat overweight and unfit, and without any idea of how to mend a puncture. She had not ridden a bike for 30 years, wobbled when she tried again, and she hated camping, picnics and discomfort.

Yet, inspired by the chance sighting of a solitary European man pedalling across the Great Thar Desert while she was riding a bus through Rajasthan on a holiday in India, she "traded in the Kurt Geiger shoes and the Alfa Romeo" for a pair of trainers and cycle clips.

Her Condor bicycle, customised for her by a mechanic with a workshop in the Old Kent Road, was bought for her as a leaving present from the girls at her school, and she was still riding it 22 years and about 100,000 miles later on her last cycle trip this year.

Mustoe was born in Nottingham and educated at Nottingham High School before reading classics at Girton College, Cambridge. In her "old career" she worked in personnel and management training with the engineering company Guest Keen and Nettlefold and ran her own travel business.

Mustoe's teaching career began at Francis Holland School, Clarence Gate, North London, teaching classics and economics. Later she became deputy head of Cobham Hall, Kent, and in 1978 was appointed to the headship of St Felix School, Southwold.

While at Saint Felix she served as president of the Girls' School Association, chairman of ISIS, a Suffolk JP and a member of the final selection board for the Foreign Office and Home Civil Service, energetically promoting her school to parents around London and abroad, especially in the Gulf states, in the face of stiff competition from independent boys' schools then opening their doors to girls.

She raised money to modernise the school boarding houses, strengthened the school's teaching of Latin and

reintroduced Greek, but also raised a new craft, design and technology building, and memorably entertained pupils with readings from female travellers, such as Freya Stark, who had undertaken hazardous journeys in remote areas.

The glimpse of the lone cyclist which inspired her own ambition to cycle round the world came in January 1983. She said it took her four years from that defining moment to screw up her courage, resign her job and cycle into the sunrise, but she calculated that she had no ties, her stepsons were married off, and she could just afford it if she lived modestly until her pension came through.

She set out from London to ride round the world from west to east in 1987 and completed the circumnavigation 12,000 miles and 15 months later. Her first book, *A Bike Ride*, dealt with all the preparations, route-planning, packing and budgeting, as well as the riding.

The extra dimension with which Mustoe sustained her travels was that she followed historical routes: Roman roads across Europe; Alexander the Great's route from Greece to the Indus Valley; Pakistan and India with the Moghuls and the Raj; and so on. Across the United States she followed the great pioneer trails, and undeterred by downpours, heat, political turmoil or amorous waiters, she promptly decided to do it all over again, in reverse direction.

For the second ride, and subsequent book, *Lone Traveller*, she went from Rome, following Roman roads to Lisbon, the Conquistadors across South America, Captain Cook over the Pacific, and the Silk Route from China back to Rome. Special chapters dealt with the day-to-day difficulties of the voyage up the Amazon in small cargo boats, and cycling the Australian Outback, the Gobi Desert and the Karakoram Highway.

Two Wheels in the Dust, encapsulating five winters on the Indian subcontinent riding down from the mountains of Nepal, through India to the highlands of Sri Lanka, was itself a bicycle of a book, really two books in one — marrying incidents from the ancient Hindu epic of *The Ramayana* (printed in one typeface) to the account of Mustoe's own travels in the same landscape (printed in another).

For Cleopatra's needle the indefatigable cyclist set off from the obelisk of that name on the Thames Embankment to ride back to its original location, Heliopolis in Egypt, hugging the waterways of rivers, canals, and coasts, and mountain streams for her route across the Alps, while Amber, Furs and Cockleshells dealt with what were, by her standards, three

short rides, the longest a mere 2,000 miles, in the paths of merchants in amber (the Amber route from the Baltic to the Mediterranean), furs (the Santa Fe Trail), and pilgrims (the pilgrims' way from Le Puy to Santiago de Compostela).

Finally came Che Guevara and the Mountain of Silver in which she cycled from Buenos Aires in the wheel tracks of the 500cc Norton as ridden by Che and his friend Alberto Granado in early life, and recalled in the film *The Motorcycle Diaries*. On her return route Mustoe rode back to Buenos Aires by the Spanish Silver Road from the Bolivian Altiplano.

All her incident-packed journeys were recounted in a warm, accessible, no-nonsense prose in which a wry, understated humour was coupled with indefatigable fortitude, enthusiasm and optimism, making light of robberies, injuries, freak floods, storms, desert heat waves, blizzards in the Rockies and ferocious winds in Jutland and Patagonia — and even of being knocked off her bike by a short-sighted nonagenarian in a Fiat Panda.

Mustoe cycled off on her last expedition in May this year, but became ill in Syria. She died in Aleppo (Haleb).

Mustoe was married to Nelson Edwin Mustoe, QC, in 1960. He died in 1976. She is survived by her three stepsons, one of whom is a solo round-the-world yachtsman.

Anne Mustoe, headmistress, round-the-world cyclist and travel writer, was born on May 24, 1933. She died on November 10, 2009, aged 76

This article first appeared in The Times on November 28 2009

Current Leavers

Information correct at time of going to press

Areeba Asif	areeba_asif@hotmail.com	SOAS, Politics & Law
Sabina Assan	sabina291@msn.com	Southampton, Physics & Space Science
Athina Bluff	athinabluff@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Amelia Brooks	ameliafbrooks@hotmail.com	Gap Year, Kenya
Minnie Bunker	minny_bramble@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Kaammini Chanrai	kaammini@hotmail.co.uk	Warwick, Philosophy, Politics, Economics
Celeste Chipperfield	celeste.cd@fhs-nw1.org.uk	Gap Year
Nikhita Chulani	nikhita92@googlemail.com	Southampton, Economics & Philosophy
Charlotte Clark	cvc@hotmail.co.uk	St Catherine's, Oxford, English
Violet Farkas	violet@farkas.demon.co.uk	Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Chemistry
Jessica Fletcher	jeccieflacie@hotmail.co.uk	UCL, English
Bryony Foss	bryonyfoss@hotmail.co.uk	Gap Year
Alexandra Gillum	alexandragillum@hotmail.com	Exeter, Geography
Isabel Gruber	isabelgruber0011@hotmail.com	York, Economics & Economic History
Grace Handley	gracehandley@hotmail.co.uk	Bristol, History of Art
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Miranda Spencer-Hope	mspencerhope@yahoo.co.uk	Kent, Physics
Alexandra Thompson	alexandra.thompson@mac.com	Gap Year
Candice von der Wehl	candychic92@hotmail.co.uk	Gap Year
Jamila Wingett	jamwingett@mac.com	Manchester Metropolitan, English & Film
Kitty Winslet	kittywinslet@ymail.com	Gap Year
Rosie Wright	rosiewright99@hotmail.co.uk	Southampton, Psychology
Hanmo Zhang	hanmo86@hotmail.co.uk	UCL, Biomedical Science

Quondam Prizes

This year the following Quondam prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank, on September 30th: Julia Champion Prize; Sophie Hastings Bowl; Heather Brigstocke Latin Reading Prize. The results will be broadcast online after the ceremony.

Travel Fund Prize Winner 2010
Junior Writing Prize Winner 2010
Senior Writing Prize Winner 2010

Nikhita Chulani UVI
 Sara De Giorgio UIV
 Hannah Davidson LVI



Mrs R-J, Julia Strauss and her daughter.



Last year's happy lunchers!

Quondam Reunion and Lunch

Saturday 13th November 2010
12 Noon AGM

12.30 pm for 1.00 pm for Lunch

Please join us for the annual Reception, Lunch, & School Tour. There will be a short Quondam AGM in the 'Bar' of the Gloucester Arms before lunch, to which all members are welcome.

Invitation and reply card are enclosed
– RSVP by October 31st with acceptances only.

Nadia Demetriou Ladas
 Quondam
 Francis Holland School
 Ivor Place
 Clarence Gate
 London NW1 6XR

quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Flashback

A new section to the magazine!

Please send in any old photos of you and your class to amuse, astonish and entertain!

Various shots of the Class of 88, from O to A levels. Can you recognise anyone, especially a young French teacher?

