

Polished CORNERS



QUONDAM FRANCIS HOLLAND CLARENCE GATE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

2009 MAGAZINE



Dear Quondam Members,

This has been a busy and eventful school year. The eagerly awaited new rooms in the Gloucester Wing began to be used in the autumn term, when we took possession of the additional Art Studio on the top floor. By the beginning of the summer term, the entire building was complete, in good time for the official opening by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester on May 6th. Amongst the many Quondam members present that day, it was wonderful to welcome Mrs Pamela Parsonson and Miss Sifleet, Jennifer Anderson, Gwyneth Young and Alison Edelhain. At an open evening in June, one of our few male members of Quondam returned visit to the school; now grandfather to Ellie Marks, a pupil in the Thirds, he had been a pupil in the former prep school, when it still admitted boys.

As ever, charitable commitment continues to dominate much of the activity beyond classroom lessons. A significant number of sixth formers volunteer to help on a weekly basis in neighbouring primary schools and we value our ongoing link with the Jack Taylor School, for children with special learning needs, in Swiss Cottage. Last December, Miss Dickens, Head of Italian, accompanied by Ms Hack, Head of Geography, and a team of senior girls went to visit the school we are sponsoring in Moshi,

Tanzania and helped to paint some of the rooms! This July, for the third successive year, senior pupils and four members of staff devoted a week of their summer holidays to FHS Summer Camp: a residential activity holiday held at Sayers Croft in Surrey for children who are under the care of Westminster Social Services. Three fund-raising events stand out as high points amongst hundreds in the past year: the annual sponsored walk in Regent's Park undertaken by the whole school and many canine friends; a sponsored sky dive by some of the more intrepid teaching staff and several sixth formers; "FHS Has Talent" – our contestants which put the television programme in the shade!

Amongst the enormous number of extra-curricular activities this year, there were several new events, including a Science Fair for the Lower Fourths in late June and an extra summer term school play, *The Tempest*. The main school play last autumn term, directed by Miss Williamson was a superb production of *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard: two casts performed twice in the four- night run. Our annual joint choral concert performance with Harrow School at the end of the Easter term was Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*: 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; four girls currently play county netball for Middlesex; other CG pupils are in the top ten nationally for sports such as ice-skating, swimming and skiing.

As ever, there were many visits and trips for students in every year of the school. However, amongst this year's more far-flung trips were a Geography trip to Iceland; a Spanish department trip to Gredos; a History department trip to Ypres and the WWI cemeteries and a ski trip to Canada.

I am indebted to the Quondam Committee, for their invaluable support of the school, in so many ways. 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 21st 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 will this year be held at St Cyprian's Church at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th December. Advance details of all major school events can be found on the school website:

www.francisholland.org.uk.

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

Vivienne Durham
Headmistress

Quondam Committee from 2009

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.

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Acknowledgements

Quondam would like to thank the parents of FHS pupils for their support. The Editor would like to thank Old Girl Oonagh Connolly of C&C Design Ltd for her assistance in laying out this issue.

ST CYPRIAN’S APPEAL

APPEAL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE HIGH ALTAR AT SAINT CYPRIAN’S, CLARENCE GATE



You will remember the beauty of our neighbouring church, where all our services and many of our concerts have taken place over the years, and with which we have a very strong relationship.

The whole church, including the High Altar, was designed by Sir Ninian Comper and completed in 1903. Both the Dossal and Frontal (back and front) of the High Altar are in severe need of restoration, which is now being carried out. The grime and cracks in the paintwork on gesso which are the legacy of 106 years will disappear through cleaning and restoration so that the original colours and splendour of the gold are again brought out. The Frontal shows the tree in the Garden of Eden with Adam, Eve and the serpent, and the Dossal above and behind the Altar shows the tree’s continuation

as the Tree of Life, with Christ on the Cross and the saints. The Dossal will then be suspended in such a way that it no longer has to bear its own weight, and both Dossal and Frontal will be varnished for protection for the future. If you would like to help by a financial contribution in the restoration of this unique work for future generations, please contact Jeannine Addinall at the school, or Elizabeth Masson at Saint Cyprian’s, 020 7258 0724, about the High Altar Conservation Fund. www.stcyprians.org.uk.

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Letter from the Quondam Chairman

Alison Edelshain née Day

Dear Quondam,

I am writing this just a few days after returning from a fascinating trip to the Baltic states. As with any holiday, one of the great pleasures is getting to meet new people and I was very happy to have shared the often very moving and disturbing stories of what had happened during the war years in Lithuania and Latvia with another “polished corner”. Joan Mushin (née Behrman) and her husband Alan were among the other members of our intrepid and enthusiastic party. It was a lovely opportunity to get to know Joan and the wonderful description of Joan’s Class of 1958 Reunion can be found later in this magazine.

This year, for the school at least, has been dominated by the building and then completion of the new ‘Gloucester Arms’ wing. Quondam members were well represented at the official opening on the 6th May 2009 and many of us were privileged to be introduced to the Duke of Gloucester who officially opened the wing. It was a memorable day and the new wing’s rooms looked extremely impressive.

Earlier in the year, we were busy judging the entries for the Quondam Travel Fund and the Essay Prizes. The Quondam Committee were very pleased to award the main Travel Fund prize to Marium Sherwani to assist her plans to research the effects of altitude in the Himalayas. Marium also intends to help teach English in the local villages on completion of her scientific research. The Committee also decided to award an additional sum to provide some support to Iona Denniston, who is volunteering in a babies’ home in Uganda helping to care for some of the children orphaned through Aids.

The judging of the entries for the Essay Prizes was as hard as usual. This year we had moved away from the original travel theme and invited the girls to write on “My Hero / Heroine”. We received some fascinating entries and the heroes and heroines celebrated ranged from the girls’ parents and grandparents to local people who had done something exceptional as well as more well-known individuals such as Nelson Mandela and even Simon Cowell! After some very close voting among the Quondam Committee, the Junior Prize was awarded to Daphne Milner for her essay on Rosa Parks and the Senior Prize to Sophie de Beistegui for her essay on Philip Pullman. Our congratulations go to everyone who entered and especially to the winners. Next year’s essay title will be “Time” and we look forward to reading some more excellent essays. The Committee also took the decision to raise the amount available for these prizes and it is hoped that the £750 available for the Travel Fund and the £50 and £25 each for the Senior and Junior Essay prizes will further encourage some inspired entries.

The Quondam Committee were also sorry to learn that St Cyprian’s, the school’s local church, was struggling to find the £20,000 needed to repair its altar. Since there is such a long-standing and close relationship between the church and the school, the committee decided to not only make a £500 contribution towards the St Cyprian’s fund, but to also offer a free advert in this magazine so old girls who wished to make an individual contribution or who could help with identifying sponsorship opportunities could help St Cyprians. Please see the advert on the facing page.

As you can see, we have continued to improve the quality and content of this magazine. Under Nadia Demetriou Ladas’ enthusiastic and discerning eye, the former “Newsletter” has become the “Polished Corners” magazine that you can see today. Our thanks to her for all her hard work. However, due to technical difficulties, we experienced some severe problems with the Quondam e-mail address during June and July and we are very sorry if we have consequently missed some of the news entries which had been emailed to us. We will be very happy to print these in the next magazine.

Finally, it only leaves me to remind you that we will be holding the Quondam Reunion Lunch (preceded by a very brief AGM) on Saturday, 7th November 2009. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and to showing everyone who wishes around the new wing.

How To Organise A Reunion With Style And An International Flavour



1958 Ski Trip. Back row from left: Janet (Henry) Politi 1st, Rosamond (Machray) Wheeler 4th (back to camera). Front row from left: Ann (Wigg) Charlton 2nd, Alison (Baxter) Brooke 4th, Diana (Wilson) Carlton 5th.



In the grounds of the Feather Bed Inn, Vermont. Front from left: Rosemary, Roz, Ann, Celia, Alison, Diana, Janet. Behind: Wheeler and Joan.



From left: Ann, Celia, Rosemary, Roz, Alison, Wheeler, Diana, Janet, Joan.



Well polished corners! Front row from left: Celia, Di, Rosemary, Alison. Behind: Janet, Roz, Ann, Joan, Wheeler.

By Alison Brooke

Present: Alison Brooke née Baxter, Diana Carlton née Wilson, Ann Charlton née Wigg, Elizabeth Cowndon née Wheeler, Rosemary Mackay née Wiggins, Joan Mushin née Behrman, Janet Politi née Henry, Celia Read née Vaughan-Lee and Rosamond Wheeler née Machray.

“I can quite easily put a date and place to the start of this memorable and glamorous reunion of the class of 1958. It is harder to track the gathering of momentum that led to the arrival of nine of us, mostly with our husbands. However the husbands were a big bonus, with their photographic skills, their baggage handling skills, their tolerance of our giggles and recognition that this was something really special in our lives. Janet brought her older sister Elizabeth Balcon (Puff Henry as was), who added a special dimension to our memories. Five years ahead of us, she was a contemporary of Penny Cove-Smith, Clare Hilton and Clare Tomlinson.

Almost all the credit for this remarkable reunion went to Rosemary. In December of 2007 at a lunch where Rosemary had flown in from New York and Diana from Australia, she remarked that a 50th reunion needed to be made into a special occasion. Our brains got into gear but nothing much surfaced until she said “well you could all come to NY where Irv and I could host you both in NY and in Vermont”. The idea shocked us with it’s audacity – high jinks in NY, our mouths both metaphorically and literally dropped open. There was a very long pause before Di remarked, “Jim and I would simply love it” – Di, ever was and still is, the enthusiast. The rest of us were put on the spot thinking ‘well if she can travel from Australia to the US, we’ll be sissies if we refuse to get there from the UK?’ Slowly each one of us admitted it was an extremely attractive idea. The beginning of October was chosen because this is the time that ‘leaf peepers’ come to see the autumn colours in Vermont.

From the first Rosemary led us, drip feeding us ideas by means of emails. As time went on she tactfully nipped at the laggard’s heels.

The class of 1958 is not totally out of touch with the techniques of modern communication, though in my case, I limp along, gnashing my teeth, as my computer deskills me time and time again. However, there was a plus side to computer failure – I did get the cheapest New York hotel accommodation by phoning!

New York was such an exciting place for us all – culture and shopping during the day and elegant meals hosted by Rosemary and husband Irv at night. Rosemary’s choice of restaurants was impeccable and our meals were quite delicious – positively not a mouthful tasted like a school lunch in the 1950s. For one evening, the dress code was ‘cocktail dresses and men in suits’, which put us on our mettle and many an eye catching little number was bought.

Celia, looking stunning and fit, gave us one of our biggest surprises saying “I think I better sit down now and rest my two new hips.” Wheeler has honed her ex-head girl public speaking skills and gave a hilarious thank you speech after the meal was over.

Shopping for some centred around the search for Tummy Tuck jeans called “Not Your Daughter’s Jeans”! These were billed as ‘less controlling’ and therefore, more comfortable for the grandmothers that we all are. Rosemary, the amazing woman that she is, spent her time working while we spent our time sight seeing in NY, and she was heard saying when our visit was nearly at an end “Well I’m off to Bloomingdales tomorrow to get myself a pair of those jeans with sparkles, cos if Di has sparkles I think I better have sparkles.”

Rosemary and husband Irv showed dedication and great stamina when driving us to their Vermont home. A seven and a half hour drive each way is no mean feat when you are driving a rented minibus (Rosemary) and heroic when you drive a four wheel drive vehicle (Irv) which is piled high with luggage with two strangers at your side and you are 85 years old and about to have a serious heart operation. Vermont’s scenery and colouring were splendid.

The highlight of our visits to Rosemary’s very attractive house was the display of old school magazines plus items of school uniform. It was so funny to read about Janet and Katherine Pilcher getting their gym colours aged 11 years. We were reminded of former hilarity in class with Miss Brown (English teacher) when Janet reread out her poem/ blank verse account of advertisements of that era. Irv gave me great pleasure with his sayings and account of the button he is prone to wear which says “Repeal the XIX Amendment” – for those not in the know, the XIX Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” We stayed in the Feather Bed Inn, which was a delight with it’s enormous feather filled duvets plumped up in the middle of old fashioned style beds. What a contrast the inn was to our previous room – two stories of wood panelled rooms and stairs, a folksy style with the most appetising breakfasts.

As we neared our destination, after the trip to Vermont, the downside of New York character was evident. We went into a gas station and our intrepid driver Rosemary joined the queue and moved with great difficulty towards the petrol pumps. The gas station was on a corner and there were in-coming and out going taxis and cars from both streets. We became boxed in at the pumps. Just as the pump became free a car screeched forward in front of us and we halted bonnet to bonnet, but they were nearer to the pump. Invectives of varying degrees of strength were hurled at the occupants of the car. We realised that we could be the centre of a total impasse if yet more cars lined up in front of us. Intrepid Di Carlton jumped out to hold up all comers. There were calls from the back of our people carrier “Come back, you’ll be knifed!” With true grit and nerve Di flew to the offending motor and with non-aggressive body language asked them why the heck they were where they were. She then held up further away drivers, which did the trick.

CLASS OF 58

I think the reunion was all about renewing and reviving relationships. It was a joy to be able to remember old times and to translate the intimate knowledge we had of each other as teenagers. Gone was the elasticity of youth – we had been pinned down by titles such as ‘mother’, ‘wife’ etc. We learnt to appreciate and admire what we had made of our lives. FHS may have played an important part in our early development but there was such a lot to catch up on and it was a fantastic setting and time to do it in. We owe Rosemary and Irv a huge debt of gratitude.”

If there are any more of our class out there, even if you left before 1958 please get in touch. Alison Brooke née Baxter, Alison_Brooke@btconnect.com or 0208 788 2228



Oliver Brooke admiring Diana’s new hat



Wheeler and donkey in the grounds of the Feather Bed Inn



Left to Right. Celia, Ann, Janet and Joan

Reminiscences Famous School Visitors



When I cast my mind back, at the time of the HRH visit, over the past twenty-eight years – a tiny time compared with Mrs Forde’s – quite a number of names came flooding back of the great and the good who have passed beneath the Polished Corners’ portal.

Not a few of these guests had kindly agreed to judge the annual Drama Competition, still a very important part of the school year, which has for a few years now been brilliantly judged by Polished Corners who are not only making great successes of their lives but have given the girls wise, welcome and positive advice. They have been superb role models. Unfortunately this was not always the case in the past.

Miss Holt was delighted to have secured, as judge, one year, a well known actor who shall remain nameless, as they say, but for whom she had a great admiration. Equally famous for his diction and capacity for drink, he deserted Miss Holt’s official lunch to visit the pub and returned too inebriated to deliver a proper judgement. The word ‘disillusioned’ is not adequate to describe her reaction!

Happily the vast majority of our famous judges did a very good job – Mike Newell of ‘Four Weddings and a Funeral’ fame, for example. He has directed many other successful films, but I have rarely known a kinder or more unassuming man. I recall finding him sitting in the corridor amid heaps of scenery, costumes and crumpled scripts on a school bench which had been pressed into service for a play set in a park, making notes on the plays for his verdict. I tried to lure him to the quiet room and pot of coffee assigned to him for this task, but there was no persuading him. ‘No, no – this is where I’m happy. I’m at home here’. And there he stayed until he delivered his excellent evaluation and presented the well deserved prizes.

Another group of famous visitors includes those who have been kind enough to speak to the Sixth Form or the whole school, including, just to pick a few, Jonathan Miller, Boris and his father Stanley Johnson, Margaret from ‘The Apprentice’ and Tom Stoppard. The latter was excellent, but paced the Lecture Theatre back and forth while speaking in such a way that the only pearls of wisdom most of his audience were able to catch were the ones that dropped from his lips as he reached the middle of the area where he was speaking!

I have mentioned before how the cloakrooms chose to flood with raw sewage just as Esther Rantzen arrived to speak. She sat quite calmly in the front hall surrounded by the screeching of every alarm in the building. I am not sure

whose sang-froid was the greater, hers, or ours for transporting her safely and with no evidence of panic to the Lecture Theatre, mercifully at an Olympian distance from the Hades that was the cloakroom!

Such luminaries are rarely demanding in matters of sustenance, but I do vividly remember Lord Hailsham, sporting his specially made button boots, arriving when we hosted the Observer Mace debating finals. It was very important to get in exactly the right blend of single malt Scotch whisky for him. Failing to do this was not an option.

The heroes who have hosted school events for us have included Jim Carter, Des O’Connor and Loyd Grossman. Des O’Connor coped manfully when one of those pesky bottles of Highland Spring that take ages to get open and then explode in your face disgorged its ENTIRE foaming contents all over him as he ran an auction on stage in the Hall! I was, as you can imagine, really intimidated when a French food hamper I had made up for a raffle was won by Loyd Grossman of all people! The family was very nice about the home made quiche.....

The Millennium event was graced by Lord and Lady Longford, Griff Rhys Jones and Posy Simmonds, among others. Posy drew a cartoon on one of the old style white teaching boards while giving a talk which was sadly later rubbed off – we should have framed and kept it.

Memorable as ever is the visit of the Bishop and the Actress, the Bishop of London and Joan Collins, to open the swimming pool and new wing of that time. Just a little liquid on the surface of the floor covering the pool made the Bishop appear to be walking on water as he crossed it!

These are just a few of the many fascinating visitors who have been good enough to spare some time to contribute to the girls’ education. Many also have passed the door of the Gloucester Arms in its former incarnation, not least Hattie Jacques, Hughie Green and John Le Mesurier whose spirits undoubtedly remain now that the other sort have been permanently removed from the shelves!

Recalled by Jeannine Addinall, Deputy Head

Travel Fund Prize Winner 2008

Emily Seward



China. Even after four months of being completely immersed in every aspect of Chinese life I still feel I only scratched the surface.

I arrived at the beginning of January, the coldest time of year, and to my body (used to the tropical temperatures of Madagascar where I had been only a few weeks before) it felt like being thrown in liquid nitrogen. Though I had been mentally prepared for these temperatures it was still a shock. Arriving at Beijing airport I was worried and amused to find that rather than the usual lingerie adverts they were advertising long underwear instead. Just how cold was it going to be?!

Every Monday to Friday I had lessons in the morning at a wonderful language school located right next to Tian’anmen Square. It was a bit of a trek to get there from the hostel where I was living near Sanlitun. Though I took the subway on the first day, I chose to walk after that as it meant I could explore a large area of Beijing that most people never have the time to visit. My numerous walks encompassed a large number of hutongs (the ‘slums’ of Beijing). Even with my big coat and covering of nearly every exposed part of me, my walk to school was brisk as I tried to stay warm. It was fine until the wind blew and then it ate into me. As I walked along with the wind behind me, it was hilarious to see everyone walking towards me suddenly hop around and stop completely, or walk backwards whenever a gust of wind came, to stop the cold hurting their faces. It was like everyone was in a comic dance as they all simultaneously turned away and then turned back again in unison. Walking into the wind, it felt like walking into a hand pushing me back and I had to walk semi-blind with only one eye occasionally peering ahead and then retreating behind my mittens. Or I employed the Chinese technique of turning my back and waiting. The moisture from my breath condensed on my eyelashes, and when I reached school it looked as though I was wearing sparkling mascara, and everywhere I looked was haloed with rainbows, a pretty cool experience even if it did quickly melt away.

Beijing was dusty and dry. During my three months in the capital it rained only a couple of times, and before that it had been dry for nearly five months. The drought in the north of China is a big concern. The pollution wasn’t as bad as I had feared it would be. Though there were days where I could see the grime hanging in the air, it was bearable.



I was lucky that my trip coincided with the Chinese New Year so I had a week off school to do lots of sightseeing and a chance to see the legendary Chinese celebrations. The fireworks were plentiful, all I had to do was step out of my hostel to be surrounded by fire and light. They were being set off the tops of buildings, out of windows and in the street. Looking up and down, the road was one big display and the noise was definitely loud enough to drive off evil spirits, believe me!

After an amazing three months in Beijing I then travelled to Chengdu (home of the giant pandas and the giant Buddah of Leshan) followed by a longish drive to Bifengxia, a nature reserve with a panda base containing over seventy giant pandas, where I would live for the next month.

China is so vast that the move from Beijing to Bifengxia was like travelling to a different country. It was much more like the China I had expected to see. The lush mountainous landscape and clean moist air were a very welcome change and the people were hugely different, being more open and curious about foreigners, as most of them had never been out of the province.

As a foreigner in Beijing I had attracted a fair bit of attention. But since I was mainly there in winter, I was normally swathed in layers with my hair covered by my hood. By the time I arrived in Bifengxia it was the beginning of April and with no hood to hide beneath I attracted almost more attention than the pandas! That is saying something. To say that the Chinese are besotted with pandas would be an understatement. At the weekend busloads of middle-aged Chinese would pour into the centre screaming like fans at a film premier and ignoring the various signs telling them to 'keep shhhh!'. I was helping the keepers with general panda care and research. The mornings were filled with sweeping, feeding and faeces. A panda's diet consists of lots of bamboo, and the occasional apple or carrot. A little known fact is that pandas are not entirely restricted to eating bamboo, they are able to eat a range of foods, though in the wild they are normally only able to find eggs and baby birds in addition to the typical bamboo. Each panda had a different personality. Some were very dopey and docile so that I could get close and give them a good scratch (though always with bars in between). Others never let me forget that they were bears. One of them called Bai Xue (meaning white snow) was quite the escape artist. She is now older than me and hasn't got many teeth left, but a couple of years ago she managed to climb out of her enclosure and was a wild bear for over three

years. She eluded helicopter searches and only returned when she wanted to, a little thin but otherwise fine. Jin Zhu (golden bamboo) was another of my favourites. She always seemed to be hungry even though she was given more food than the others. If she saw me walking by she would get very excited, and if I were carrying food, she would hurtle into her inner den and wait for me with her mouth wide open. Her hunger was only comparable to Ling Ling's, a big male who never let me forget that I was there to serve him. If in the morning I wasn't quite fast enough cleaning his enclosure and feeding him, he would take a piece of bamboo between his teeth and play it along the bars until I gave him his breakfast.

It was satisfying to help the keepers with whom I became very close. Their dedication to the pandas was touching and it was lucky that I was conversational in Chinese as they spoke almost no English. The people at the centre were all lovely, and when the crowds came they would act as bodyguards and help keep the people and their cameras away from us. The problem was that if I agreed to pose with one group I would then be swarmed. At one point I had over twenty cameras pointing at me with queues of people waiting their turn. Their curiosity surprised me as I thought that they would have been used to seeing western people on television if not in the flesh.

The money from my Quondam travel fund paid for my food and accommodation so that I could volunteer my time freely. As it happened I had arrived right in the middle of the panda breeding season. This meant that not only did I have the delight of being with over a dozen 5-6 month-old baby pandas, but I was involved in the fascinating process of panda mating. Myth would have you believe that they are completely incompetent but this is not true. I was very lucky to have been around at this time.

My four months in China went amazingly fast. At times it was difficult being such an obvious foreigner and having to adjust to such an alien life, but it was worth it. Would I have done it any other way? Not for all the tea in China.

STAFF NEWS

Current Staff



Mrs Forde has this year completed thirty-five outstanding years at the school. No other member of staff at either of the two FHS has achieved this length of service. She began as Miss Dennis in 1974 as a member of the PE Department and has gone from strength to strength, culminating in the posts of Head of Pastoral Care and Senior Mistress. As someone commented recently, 'Mrs Forde looks younger every time I see her.' She also remembered being taught to swim by Mrs Forde and the difference she made, as she has to so many Corners both Polished and in the Polishing process. Congratulations, and thank you!

We are delighted to announce the birth of a son, Piers, to **Crispin Davis**, Head of Science, and to his wife, Sarah. Piers has already been to his first rugby match to watch his father referee a game!

We wish good luck to **Mrs Caroline Elderkin** of the Religious Studies Department as she begins maternity leave,

Last but not least, more congratulations, this time to **Mark Chiverton**, Head of Thirds and teacher of History and Politics, who married Emily this summer. Our warmest wishes go to them both.

Staff who have left

Mrs Nieves Bullock

Mrs Bullock, Head of Spanish, has been on long term sick leave since 2006 and has this year retired. She is a shining example of a teacher who

was really loved by her pupils for her ability to inspire and for her kindness and concern for each individual. Mrs Bullock began as a part-time teacher of Spanish, and, thanks to her, the subject became so popular that she rapidly became full time. We thank her warmly for all she has done for the school.

Dr Robert Chaplin

Another well loved member of staff, Dr Chaplin, Head of History of Art and teacher of Art, retired this summer. Dr Chaplin's long and distinguished career – his encyclopaedic knowledge of Art History is truly amazing – is equalled by his versatility and his kindness. He is an excellent teacher and a Sixth Form tutor who really cares about, and does the maximum to help, his tutees. Add to these qualities the facts that Dr Chaplin wrote the hugely successful Christmas staff pantomimes for many years, and masterminded the staff book club (where, again, his knowledge and reading recommendations were quite inspiring), and you have the perfect Renaissance man!

Miss Julia King

We thank Miss King, teacher of Spanish and French, for the three very successful years she has spent with us in her first teaching post. Apart from her superb classroom teaching, she has been a wonderful form tutor and involved in a number of memorable school trips. We wish her good luck in her new post and congratulate her on her marriage this summer.

Miss Danni O'Laoire

Miss O'Laoire also leaves us for a new post after three fantastic years in the Classics Department. Her inspired teaching led to record numbers choosing the three Classical subjects at examination level, and her popularity as a teacher and form tutor is well known. We wish her good luck for the future.

Dr Michele Cicora

Dr Cicora leaves us to take up a full time post after many years teaching Italian part time at FHS. His outstanding teaching in the Sixth Form, and his inimitable sense of humour, will be much missed.

Mrs Sara Wood

Mrs Wood leaves for the second time, having worked full time in the

Classics Department for many years. She returned to teach part time, and her classes have been really inspired by her teaching as well as appreciating her warmth, wisdom and extensive knowledge. She continues to work in the Classics Department at Camden School for Girls.

And, sadly,

Mrs Emma Sullivan, who ran everything in the dining room and kitchen so smoothly for so many years, has died. Mrs Sullivan returned regularly to school events and will be remembered with great affection by many Polished Corners. Our sympathies are with her family and many friends.

Messages from Staff

1965

Anne Diss née Walters

Peewit Castle, Gravel Hill, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9QU.

1991

Nick Stevenson

11 Lennard Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2UU.
mail@goblinland.org.uk

Nick taught from 1981 - 91, is now retired and would love to hear from any old pupils or colleagues.

1998

Pamela Parsonson

pam@psparsonson.wanadoo.co.uk

'I should love to hear from any Quondam Members who were at School in my time as headmistress (1988 – 1998) to know what they are up to! I live near Holt in Norfolk but still have a flat in Harrow on the Hill, and come down to it fairly regularly.'

2006

Pauline Edgar

paulineedgar@msn.com
Pauline is the principal of Queenswood.

Dariana Safarian

76 Dalkeith Grove, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4SF. dsafarian@hotmail.com.

OLD GIRLS NEWS

1930 1939

1931
Joan Ostry née Bourne
jostry@telus.net

'I remember the headmistress, Miss Crapper, as looking somewhat severe. She was very High Church, Anglo-Catholic, and eventually went all the way to Rome. Some of the mistresses had a great influence on me, particularly Miss Selon, who gave me a passion for literature, and Miss Denton for history. Miss Lushington gave some of us a passion for Latin, but M'selle failed to arouse a similar passion for French! My time at FHS was very happy and I was reluctant to leave in 1931. My sisters Margaret and Charmian Bourne also attended the school and we made many good friends. Sadly my travelling days are over and it is a very long time since I visited Clarence Gate, lastly for the centenary celebrations in 1978.'

1939
Jean Jaffa née Gluckstein
31 Elm Tree Road, London NW8 9JR.

Jean has long retired from her singing career, and feels like she must be nearly the oldest old girl! She well remembers presenting Queen Mary with a purse when she visited the school in 1937 or 1938, and has had 3 daughters attending FHS, Naomi, Jenny & Llsa, from when it still had a junior school.

1940 1949

1949
Louise Coxall née Nicol
131 Northwood Drive, Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 2K2, CANADA
norman.coxall@sympatico.ca

1950 1959

1950
Sally Williams née Harris
Crofton Cottage, Broad Street Cuckfield, W Sussex, RH17 5DX
'I went to Antarctica in January on a small Russian expedition ship, and damaged my back. I'm now 2" shorter! Due to ice we didn't reach our destination which was where Captain Scott had his base. It was beautiful

being stranded in pack ice for a day though, with a deep blue sky and ice as far as the eye could see!'

1951
Gillian Cockburn née Pardoe
27 Park View, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1QS

'Unfortunately after spending 4 months in hospital with 2 operations for a fractured hip in 2006-7, I have not been very successful in leaving the category of somewhat handicapped. Living on my own following the death of both my husband and son, life is somewhat hard. However, I still keep in touch with Susan Levitt née Falk and Sally Williams née Harris, which is very nice.

Judith Neill née Mason
fawltj.jh@clear.net.nz

'I am still a Theatre Producer, in partnership with my husband Hugh, here in Nelson NZ. I have just finished acting in a successful season of a play called "Who wants to be a hundred? (anyone who's 99)" and have announced that I am now retiring from acting and that will be my final appearance on Nelson stages. Having played many and various characters over the years since I first arrived in 1971 and was asked to play Peter Pan, to finally this play about the retirement homes industry! Life is still full, busy and enjoyable. Still hope to visit UK, but may not be till 2010/2011!'

1955
Virginia Ayling née Davis
Nelson House, Nelson Place, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 3RT.
virginia.ayling@homecall.co.uk.

Virginia would like to hear from Felicity Crowther, Louise Klein & any others in her year.

Penny Marks née Green
32A Eton Avenue London NW3 3HL
pennymarks@richard-green.com

Penny has 4 married children, 13 grandchildren and been married since 1957! Her daughters Amanda and Melissa attended FHS in the 70's, and her grand daughter Ellie Marks began her school career there last year. She is an art dealer working with her brother and family for the last 35 years, and would love to hear from anyone in her year.

Penny Newell Price née Cove-Smith
pennynp@googlemail.com

'Still enjoying retirement. We meet up with several polished corners through the year, Clare Hilton, Gilli Kersley, Charlie Halliday to name but a few. Grandchildren number 7 and 6/9ths and are scattered round the country. We are still in touch with Miss MacGregor, now Ella Calver, in Taunton where our daughter lives. It is good to catch up with my Latin mistress, she has hardly changed a bit. Best wishes to all in my years 1945 to 1955'

1956
Jill Leuw née Barclay
36 Sussex Square, London W2 2SP.
jill.leuw@googlemail.com

Felicity Tanous née Grahame
ftanous2@aol.com

1957
Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat
15717 Bondy Lane, Darnestown, MD 20878, USA.
rjcookson@aol.com

Elizabeth is a grandma and volunteer.

Yvonne Fisher née Crisp
32 Huntsmans Meadow, Ascot, Berks SL5 7PF.
mny_fisher@hotmail.com.

Caroline Roberts née Ireland
Uwchaw'r Coed, Llanbedr, Gwynedd LL45 2NA.
caroline.ireland@btinternet.com

Caroline has 2 daughters, 1 son who tragically died aged 20 in a road accident, and 6 grandchildren. She is a retired publisher and concert agent and would like to hear from Felicity Hall, Elizabeth Garvin and Virginia Roberts.

1960 1969

1962
Frances George née Wishart
maclyn374@hotmail.com

The Hon Mrs Evelyn Singer née Kissin
45 Campden Hill Court, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7HU.
singerevelyn@hotmail.com

1963
Prudence Atwell née Day
prudence@theatwells.wanadoo.co.uk.

Living in Oxford and delighted to announce the birth of my fifth grand child this August. Being a grandmother is tiring but great fun.

1964
Eleanor Allen née Schacke Andersen
e_p_allen@yahoo.co.uk

'I am now retired, but I have retained a link with the teaching profession by becoming a governor of Lady Margaret's, Parsons Green. The School where, coincidentally, the late Enid Moberley Bell, distinguished Quondam member, was headmistress in the 1930s.'

1965
Susan Emlyn Williams née Newbald
10 Park Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6NS.
sueemlynwilliams@tiscali.co.uk

Caroline Faircliff née Machray
10 Old Forge Close, Bledington, Oxon OX7 6XW.
cfaircliff@hotmail.com

Caroline says, 'Since moving here nearly 4 years ago Richard and I have enjoyed varied new interests. Church work takes an increasing amount of my time and I manage the office comprising several local parishes. I am always pleased to hear from anyone, especially from my year.'

Sandra Heidenstam
23 Russell Road, London W14 8HU.
Tel 020 7603 2627

1968
Catherine McGowan née Coventry
113 Huddleston Rd, London N7 0EH.
catmac1706@blueyonder.co.uk

1969
Juliet Grainger née Cline
46 Gate Hill Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3QP.
jools@julietgrainger.com

Juliet is an Oncology Research Assistant.

1970 1979

1970
Constance Bierkan née Reynolds
lotsafox@gmail.com

Connie has 2 daughters Elizabeth & Laura, is a retired interior designer and would love to hear from Coby Martin, Naomi Lichtenstein, Jessica Wingert, and Sara Horsley. 'I look forward to keeping in touch with the old girls. I was Deputy Head Girl and the school's first Swim Captain, before Francis Holland even had its own pool. I was quite proud of these distinctions as I was an American matriculating in a very English school... but Heather Brigstocke (our Head Mistress) was a ground breaker and very open-minded... There's no question she ranks in the top three most influential women in my life, I was very sorry to hear of her death.'

1972
Alison Edelshain née Day
8 Tudor Close, London NW7 2BG.
edelshains@aol.com

Alison would love to hear from anyone in her year and hopes that many will come to the Reunion Lunch on 7th November.

Catherine Norgren
37 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, USA.
norgren@buffalo.edu

Cathy is a Full Professor of Theatre at the State University of New York – Buffalo. Currently she is an Associate Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. 'Difficult to believe that my husband and I have been in Buffalo for 20 years, and are 18 months from our 25th wedding anniversary.'

Jennifer Stephany
5 Waxwell Close, Pinner, Middx HA5 3ET

Jenny would like to hear from any contemporaries. She is a project manager in the healthcare sector, now living in Pinner 'and hoping to have more time as from 2010!'

1973
Irene Fafalios
Tripodon 20, Athens 105 - 58, GREECE.

Irene would like to hear from Dany Citroen. She is currently setting up her own Montessori nursery school in Athens.

Carole Harris
carole.harris@gmail.com

Carole has obtained a Masters degree and is now working with UNICEF in southern Sudan as a logistics specialist.

Vivien Rose née Lind
3 Grange Road, London N6 4AR.
vrose@lptuk.net.

Vivien would like to hear from anyone in her year to arrange a reunion.

1975
Lucinda Lubbock née Simms
105 Rylston Road, London SW6 7HP.
lucy.lubbock@btinternet.com

As well as being a mother and occasional art writer, Lucy has just passed the first stage of becoming a magistrate.

1976
Ruth Eaton
eaton.ruth@wanadoo.fr

Sophia Marlas née Belegris
sophiamarlas@hotmail.com

Sophia married in 1998, had a son in 1990 and daughter 2 years later, is a busy mum and publishing house rep and would love to hear from anyone in her class.

Jackie Thomas née Kleeman
7 Mount Harry Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3JH.
jackie_thomas97@hotmail.com.

1978
Caroline Braimer Jones née Phillips
28 Crediton Road, London NW10 3DU.
caroline@carolinephillips.net

Caroline has 2 daughters, with one currently at FHS, is a journalist, and would like to hear from Olivia Mann

Julia Landau
7 Grotto Road, Rondebosch 7700, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Julia is a writer/ film maker/ NGO Director/ Kundalini yoga teacher. She'd love to hear from anyone who would like to write to her!

1979
Maria Kaminaris née
Hadjipateras
1 Westbourne Park Rd, London W2 5PX.
marihadjikami@yahoo.co.uk

Merriam Stern
Flat 1, 50 Canfield Gardens, London
NW6 3EB.
merriamstern@btinternet.com
*'I went back to university and now have
a degree, a BSc in Nutritional Therapy.
I practise out of a clinic in NW London.
My website is www.bewellnutrition.
co.uk, and I would love to hear from
anyone.'*

1980 1989

1981
Katerina Bowman née Louloudis
5 Astor Close, Kingston-upon-Thames,
Surrey KT2 7LT.
tattyloulou@hotmail.com
*Tatty is a mum to Izzy and George.
She continues to work as a speech
therapist teaching children with Down's
Syndrome and runs a charity called
Twenty One & Co for children with
Down's Syndrome and their families.*

Janet Mills née Lazarus
19 Granville Road, London N4 4EJ.
millsjd@blueyonder.co.uk
*Janet is the SENCO at Highgate Pre-
prep School.*

1982
Camilla Charles née
Grafton-Robinson
The Garden House, Brashfield House,
Bicester, Oxon OX27 8RE.
camilla@mcha.co.uk
*Camilla would be delighted to hear
from anyone who remembers her.*

Harriet O'Dea née Hill
4 Hobbs Hill, Rothwell,
Northamptonshire NN14 6YG.
harrietodea@aol.com

*Harriett says 'Chickens have become
a part of our lives. We keep them,
have hatched them and now own an
excessive number of chicken themed
items!'*

Maria Pithis née Los
mariapithis@hotmail.com

1983
Sarah Clarke née Davies
New Marton Hall, New Marton,
Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3HR.
sarah@newmarton.co.uk

*Sarah has 3 daughters aged 11, 9
and 4.*

Anna Fearnall née Frangos
Cheavely Hall Farm, Aldford Road,
Huntington, Chester, Clwyd CH3 6EA.
anna.fearnall@solonsecurity.co.uk

Ruth Logue née Clifton-Samuel
21 Hammers Lane, London NW7 4BY.
ruthclogue@gmail.com

*Ruth is an educational psychologist and
would like to hear from anyone in her
year.*

Nicola Phillimore née Craven
nick@nicolagrellier.co.uk

*Nicola had a daughter called Rose in
2008, is an artist and harassed mother
of 4, and would love to hear from Sara
Laurie and Heather Greenstreet.*

1984
Rosamund Heath (née Leach)
rosamund.heath@metronet.co.uk

*'In the last year we seem to have
done lots of wonderful things. We
spent 2 weeks on Harris, Scotland last
Summer, where we had a fabulous
family holiday, then travelled to the
South of France for a week's holiday
with my mother. Our daughter started
secondary school (Cranford House,
Moulsford, Oxon) in September 08. She
has had a great year and made some
good friends. Our sons continue to
make good progress at the Whitchurch
Primary school.*



*Back to me ... having completed the
RHS Level 2 Certificate three years
ago, at long last I am furthering my
gardening education. In the summer
term 09 I completed a Drawing &
Graphics course at Capel Manor, Enfield
and will start their follow on course in
September, the first stage to becoming
a Garden Designer.
We continue to have quite a few*

*hens in the garden. The eggs are quite
something and we miss them when
they stop laying. We have also enjoyed
hatching our own chicks and seeing
them develop into hens. All part of
a rural life which also includes a large
garden and allotment where we grow
a lot of our own veg and soft fruit.'*

Zoe Manzi
*Zoe gave birth to Zachary on January
20th this year, a brother for Rudy. She
is an editor at Conde Nast, and would
like to hear from fellow classmates. 'My
lovely Mum, Jenny Manzi, passed away
in 2005. She was very fond of all of you
and had many happy memories of her
15 years working at FHS.'*

1985
Melanie Williams née Cartwright
mel@eyelevelcards.co.uk

*Melanie has 2 boys, Jake born 24/2/05
and Charlie 23/2/09.*

1986
Lizzie Peskin
*She writes that her son Milo was born
in December 2005*

1987
Nicola Broadhurst née St John Perry
63 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey
KT13 9LR.
nicola.broadhurst@mundays.co.uk

*Nicola has 2 beautiful boys, aged 10
and 11, and a wonderful husband with
whom she has just celebrated her 15th
anniversary. She is working as partner
at the firm Mudays LLP, specialising in
commercial franchising. She'd love to
hear from Grace Chang and Melanie
Cartwright.*

Sarah Jefferys
121 Wyckoff St Apt 4, Brooklyn, NY
11201, USA.
sjefferysarch@aol.com

*Sarah married in 2001, and has sons
Oscar 6, and Elliot 4, and runs both her
own architecture practice and teaches
design.*

Julia Strauss
juliastrauss@compuserve.com
*Married John Hill in 2008, and had
a daughter, Elisabeth Olivia, on 13th
January 2009.*

1988
Oonagh Connolly
oonagh@candc-design.com
*Oonagh lives in Holland Park and owns
a graphic design business specialising in
all aspects of branding.*

Nadia Demetriou Ladas
nadia@vesselgallery.com
*'Thoroughly enjoying editing this
magazine, running after my little angels
Anoushka 7 and Nicolai 4, as well as
working on redesigning my family's
hotel in Notting Hill!'*

Maria Kleonakos
marouls@yahoo.co.uk
*Maria got married on 26th June 2009
– congratulations!*

Sara Knight née Rudnay
sararudnay@yahoo.co.uk
*'My main news is I had a beautiful baby
boy in March, Samuel Jacob Knight!'*

Tamsin Ogilivie née Tillier
tamsin@nutsandboltsdesign.co.uk
*'In the economic madness of last
Autumn, we managed to sell our dear
little house on the Southbank, and
bought a complete wreck in Dartmouth
Park, near the Heath. With the help of
a lovely architect and builder we have
pulled the old house to pieces and
created, what journalists are fond of
calling 'our dream home'. We will move
in at the end of August, which will be a
joy! From which point, any FHS '88ers
are very welcome to drop in for tea!'*

Hui Cheng Tan
32 Jalan Sampurna, Singapore 268289.
dprthc@nus.edu.sg.

Juliet Wiseman née Bowyer
8 Sion Road, Twickenham Riverside,
TW1 3DR. mail@julietwiseman.com.

*'I resigned as a Senior Associate from
Norton Rose LLP at the end of my
second bout of maternity leave and
am finding life as a stay at home Mum
to Hannah (3) and Max (1) wonderfully
rewarding (if a bit hectic!).'*

1989
Miranda Cullen née Lyons
92 Settrington Road, London SW6 3BA.
mirandalyons@aol.com

*Miranda is a busy full time mother
to lively 18 month old Jasper!*

Gemma Fumagalli née Gager
fumagalli@btoopenworld.com

1990 1999

1990
Nita Amin
nita.amin@gmail.com
*Nita is a pilates teacher and had a son
born on 5 April this year.*

1991
Delia Cardnell
26 Ockenden Road, London N1 3NP.
penonpaper@hotmail.com
Delia is an artist.

1994
Rania Mahrow née Tadros
tadroses@aol.com.
*Rania is a solicitor, married Daniel
in 2003, had a son in 2006 and is
expecting another baby this September.*

Marie Papworth
Flat 2, 32 Abercorn Place, London NW8
9XP. m.papworth@hotmail.com
*Marie is the Press Secretary to the
Archbishop of Canterbury.*

1995
Anya Dillon
anyadillon@yahoo.co.uk
Anya is an Assistant Film Editor

Claire Hackett
41 Ashdale Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W,
Ireland. clarehackett@hotmail.com
*Clare is a stay at home mum to her
daughter Muireann born 28 April 2009.*

2000 2009

2000
Arabella Grainger
10 Dalgarno Gardens, London W10
6AD. agrainger82@hotmail.com
*'I'm currently working as deputy of HR
department for ITP Publishing Group,
very much enjoying working in the
media industry and HR has definitely
been an interesting career choice in
these challenging times! Have been
living in Dubai for a year, gearing up
now for the usual stifling summer
weather... as I write 45 degrees is the
average daily temperature!'*

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

An advertisement from Old Girl
Anna Hodgson née Gilbertson



Aluminium, flat-pack windowboxes
in three classic designs and three
sizes



www.Mywindowbox.com
Tel: 020 7722 8629

Obituaries



Liz Eccleshare
19 October 1921 – 8 May 2009

William Eccleshare, son, writes:
Liz Eccleshare, who has died aged 87, was an inspirational history teacher, a gregarious member of a north London liberal intellectual network and a dominant figure in the lives of generations of pupils, friends and family.
The eldest daughter of two Cambridge academics, Joan and Stanley Bennett, Liz was born in Cambridge. She read history at Girton College in the city before marrying the publisher Colin Eccleshare. They moved to London after the second world war.
Their home in Branch Hill, Hampstead, was the centre of an energetic family life where their four children were brought up, and where an endless stream of friends and relatives were entertained generously. Liz's lifelong commitment to good food was reflected in her Encyclopedia of World Cookery, published in 1958 (under the pseudonym Elizabeth Campbell) and reprinted nine times.
Her teaching career took her from private crammer to inner-city comprehensive. She joined Westminster Tutors in 1958, where she coached for the Oxbridge entrance exams, with a consistently high success rate.
In her late 40s, she entered the classroom, first at Godolphin and Latymer, then at Francis Holland, and finally as head of department at Camden School for Girls, where she had previously been both a parent and governor. In her 14 years there, she welcomed the school's change to comprehensive status and led the development of the curriculum to mixed-ability teaching. With a distinctive, gravelly smoker's voice and a fierce but good-humoured manner, she brought a rigour and intelligence to her lessons that few forgot.
In retirement, my mother remained as busy as ever. She took further degree courses at Birkbeck College in art history, worked for the National Trust at two of their sites - Sutton House in Hackney, and the Ernö Goldfinger house in Hampstead. In her last years she returned to Camden school to bring order to its archives, a project she continued until her death. She kept up her wide circle of friends and made countless new ones from every generation. At a packed celebration of her life at Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath, all were struck by the wide age range of the guests.
The sole driver in the family, she would cover thousands of miles a year in pursuit of good company and beautiful places. Few Morris Travellers can have gone a greater distance with more people across rougher terrain. Holidays were spent in corners of the west coast of Scotland or at our cottage near Dolgellau in Wales. Days were filled with a schedule of outings, picnics, wonderful cakes and intensely competitive games of Scrabble. Colin died in 1989. Their eldest daughter, Judith, was killed in a cycling accident in 1967. Liz is survived by Sarah, Julia and myself, 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



Sophie Hastings
18 July 1980 – 17 August 2008.

Paul Jones, boyfriend, writes:
Sophie was a confident, loving and caring person who was taken in her prime at the age of twenty-eight. She will be sadly missed by all those who knew her.
Sophie was tragically killed in a mid-air collision last August when she was on the approach to Coventry Airport. Sophie was being trained for a new contract to calibrate instrument landing systems by the pilot in command.
Sophie was a keen musician. She was awarded the music scholarship in 1991 at Francis Holland School. She achieved grade eight violin, grade eight piano and grade five oboe. She was a lover of animals, for this reason she became a vegetarian at the age of eight, a decision that she never went back on. After studying A levels Sophie went to study Law at Nottingham University where she graduated in 2003. Sophie had a large circle of friends. She played in the University Orchestra and was a committee member of the Gliding Club.
Having learnt to fly at Denham Aerodrome she went on to study for her Airline Transport Pilot Licence written exams which she passed at the first attempt. Having gained some more flying experience at Derby Airfield she completed her Commercial Pilot Licence, Instrument Rating and Instructor Rating all in a year, which is a big achievement. All her flying tests were passed on the first attempt.
Having instructed at Derby Airfield on single engine aeroplanes for two years she went on to fly multi engine aeroplanes at Coventry. The flying there was interesting ranging from mapping for OS to transporting fighter pilots from one base to another. She really enjoyed her job and was well on the way to becoming an airline pilot, her life long ambition.
Only two days before she died she had just completed a multi-engine instructor rating course so she could pass her knowledge and experience on to others.

Jeannine Addinall writes:
Sophie Hastings was one of the most inspiring of Polished Corners. Her passing was tragic and her short life packed with enough meaning and interest for the lives of three people. She achieved many things, met many people and tried to unravel those aspects of life that are mysterious and even inexplicable.
While at Francis Holland, Sophie, a lover of animals as well as a lifelong vegetarian, had two cats, Spot and Clair, whom she loved. She had been awarded the FHS Music Scholarship when she was ten, auditioning on the violin and the piano and achieving Grade Eight with distinction in both instruments. Also an oboist, Sophie participated very fully in school music, playing in quartets, orchestra and singing in the

Current Leavers

Information correct at time of going to press

Flora Allen	florarules@msn.com	Queens, Oxford, English & Italian
Charlotte Anderson	cera91@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Sabrina Brown	supersaby33@hotmail.com	Queen Mary's, London, Medical Genetics
Sophie Burstin	sophie_burstin@hotmail.com	Exeter, English
Shakira Chanrai	schanrai@googlemail.com	LSE, Politics
Michaela Chweidan	mchweidan@hotmail.co.uk	Nottingham, Business & Spanish
Amy Collins	ali.collins@virgin.net	Exeter, Classics
Joanna Coulson	jocoulson@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Eleanor Daniel	eleanor.dl@live.com	Bristol, Italian & Spanish
Iona Denniston	iona_denniston@hotmail.co.uk	Bristol, Biology
Maya Farr	maya_farr@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Amy Fass	amy_fass@hotmail.co.uk	Durham, Natural Sciences
Elizabeth Gerszt	elliegerszt@hotmail.co.uk	Nottingham, Politics
Kate Hobden	katehobden@hotmail.com	Homerton, Cambridge, Education with Music
Sophie Hytner	sophie@thehytners.co.uk	Jesus, Cambridge, Modern & Medieval Languages
Leila Jahanshahi	leila.jahanshahi@hotmail.co.uk	Warwick, Economics
Emma Kelson	emma.kelson@hotmail.co.uk	Durham, Natural Sciences
Letty Key	letty.key@googlemail.com	Fitzwilliam, Cambridge, Classics: Greek & Latin
Gabrielle Khalastchy	g_a_b_y_k@hotmail.com	Nottingham, Sociology
Daniella Krepska	dani_apple@hotmail.co.uk	Gap Year
Catherine Longley	catherine.longley@hotmail.com	Nottingham, Medicine
Charlotte McVeigh	charlotte_mcveigh@hotmail.co.uk	Nottingham, History
Valentine Miller	valentine_miller@hotmail.com	Nottingham, Geography
Charlotte Mindel	curlywhirly15@hotmail.com	Nottingham, Sociology & Social Policy
Clementine Moyes	pinstripepirate@hotmail.co.uk	Camberwell, Art Foundation
Florence Paloschi	panda_princess101@hotmail.com	Birmingham, Modern Languages
Mikaela Pedlow	mikaelapedlow@mac.com	Pennsylvania, Liberal Arts
Atyanta Reando	yantidoo@hotmail.com	Gap Year
Dana Remez	djremez@aol.com	New York
Hannah Roeg	bluebamboo@hotmail.com	Edinburgh, Philosophy
Chloe Rosser	chloerossier@hotmail.com	Edinburgh, Physics
Alice Rusbridger	alicerusbridger@hotmail.co.uk	Gap Year, Italy
Marium Sherwani	msherwani@hotmail.co.uk	Queen Mary's London, Biology
Leah Sidi	leahmilena@hotmail.co.uk	Fitzwilliam, Cambridge, English
Romilly Stebbings	romillystebbing@hotmail.com	Bristol, History of Art
Letty Steer	letty_the_great@hotmail.com	Reading, Ancient History & Archaeology
Rosanna Tredwell	rosie_t411@msn.com	Bristol, Italian
Bianca Tristao	biancatristao@hotmail.co.uk	Bristol, French & Italian
Catherine Utting	catherine.utting@blueyonder.co.uk	Falmouth, Illustration
Kate Walker	kate@walker1.co.uk	Manchester, Pediatric Nursing

Class of 1958 Reunion

**A poem after "The Song
Of Hiawatha" with apologies
to Longfellow.**

By Janet Politi

On the shores of the Big Apple,
By the shining Hudson River,
Stood the Class of '58ers,
Daughters of the age-old temple.
Polished cornerstones we once were,
Now more rounded, slightly tarnished.
50 years had sped behind us,
So much water flowed between us,
Gathered there for the Reunion.
Most of us came with a husband,
There to catch those special moments
(pretty pictures for the School Mag),
To console us should this meeting
Prove to be a dreadful letdown.
Only one was now a widow,
She came with her elder sister,
The "big girl" we'd all looked up to.
Some of us had come with snapshots
Of our children, children's children –
Of what interest to the others?
Different lives in different places.
But the moment we all met there
50 years slipped by as nothing.
Straightway we regained our
childhood,
Happy times of fun and laughter,
And we spent 4 all too short days
Giggling hopelessly, recalling
All those trivia long forgotten,
Prizes won, colours awarded
(Helped by Rosemary's mother's
hoarding
All those school reports, mags,
photos!).
Whose idea this awesome project?
Those of course who lived the farthest.
Did we think it all was worth it?
All that planning, e-mails, phone calls.
"Yes" we all agreed together,
"Now we'll keep in touch for EVER!"



Girls who attended the reunion are as follows: Joan (Behrman) Mushin 3rd from Left; Ann (Wigg) Charlton 1st on Right; Rosemary (Wiggins) Mackey 3rd on Right; Diane (Wilson) Carlton 4th on Right; Rosamon (Mackray) Wheeler 6th on Right.

Quondam Prizes

Travel Fund Prize Winner 2009

Junior Writing Prize Winner 2008

Senior Writing Prize Winner 2008

Heather Brigstocke Latin Reading Prize

Julia Campion Prize

**Sophie Hastings Bowl for junior
violinists**

Marium Sherwani UVI

Daphne Milner LIV

Sophie de Beistegui LV

Junior: Meera Santiapillai UIV

Senior: Natalia Riley LV

Zoe Silkstone UIV

Srutti Suresan LIV

Quondam Reunion and Lunch

Saturday 7th November 2009

12 Noon AGM

12.30 pm for 1.00 pm for Lunch

Please joins 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 25th with acceptances only.**

Nadia Demetriou Ladas

Quondam

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