

WOLDINGHAM

woldingham sacred heart association news

Life

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MOTHER SHANLEY



reuniting and rekindling
friendships
the world over

WOLDINGHAM SACRED HEART
— ASSOCIATION —



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WOLDINGHAM SACRED HEART
— ASSOCIATION —

CONTENTS SPRING 2013

- 2 Chairwoman's Report - and dates for your diary
- 3 President's Report
- 4-13 WSHA Awards - reports from last year's recipients
- 14 Catherine Leatherbarrow - awarded top medical scholarship
- 15-17 Old Girls' Day 2012 - see photos from last year's event
- 18-20 Reunions
- 21-22 AMASC report
- 23-24 News from the provinces
- 25-26 Farewell to Dominic Murtagh and Elsie Sebastian
- 27-28 School news roundup
- 29-30 Leavers' Destinations 2012
- 31-34 In memory of Mother Shanley RSCJ - Headmistress, 1947-1967
- 35-36 Gemma Goodfellow - White Iris Flowers
- 37-38 Alice Hues - Great Minds tuition
- 39-40 Lucille Howe - Author
- 41-42 Mary Reynolds Thomspson - Wild Spirit
- 43-44 Tara Meran - Slacks & Co. London
- 45 Marilu Wren - Ocky Olly
- 46 Sophie Plender - Studio with a view
- 47-48 Alex Gambrell - Charity Rally
- 49-50 My olympics experience - Reports from the greatest show on earth
- 51 Vicky Chitty - The road to Santiago
- 52 New Alumnae website
- 53-54 Year Reps needed
- 55 Year Reps directory - Helping you keep in touch with your friends
- 56 Christmas Carol Service
- 57-60 Weddings
- 61-62 Births
- 63 Announcements
- 64-66 WSHA news roundup
- 67-69 Directory - WSHA Entrepreneurs Business Forum



CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT 2013



A year ago I was full of nerves at the thought of chairing WSHA with over 5800 members and an eclectic committee. However, miraculously those nerves have turned from fear to positive energy and I feel honoured to Chair WSHA. A huge thanks goes to my supportive and active committee. It is wonderful debating matters and making decisions with them, the Head, past nuns and staff, fellow alumnae and two Sixth Formers. I have been involved with two year rep meetings in London, the School carol service at Westminster Cathedral followed by the drinks reception, the careers fair in March and Old Girls' Day at Woldingham.

We are revolutionising WSHA with our new database. Katie Hogben is at the heart of our association, she is my righthand 'marvel' and your main contact. Katie is coordinating endless meetings, reunions and updating 'old girls' contacts daily. We need to get as many of you as possible online!

Our aim is to make WSHA a user friendly tool for you all, so that you can keep in contact with your Woldingham roots and us, and be part of an amazing association of 'old girls', meeting not only old friends but also making new contacts, just as I have.

A particular mention and thanks to Susannah Jayes and Yvonne Porter who came forward to start working on the School's archives. An exciting and overwhelming project!

It only leaves me to thank Katie for putting this magazine together and working so hard to reunite so many of us. All my best wishes and prayers to you all.

Jane Pendered

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Reunion and AGM

The WSHA 2013 Annual Reunion and AGM will take place at Woldingham School on **Sunday 12 May 2013**. More details to follow on page 15.

Christmas Carol Service and Drinks Reception

After the success of the last two years, we hope to continue this event annually. More details to follow.

1958 - 1961 Reunion

October - for further details, please contact Fiona Wright on **01273 842131** or email **alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk**

50 Year Reunion - Class of 1963

September - more details to follow

40 Year Reunion - Class of 1973

Saturday 4 May 2013

If you are interested in hearing more about this reunion please contact Carry Field on **carry@thefields-home.co.uk** or Isabel Lougee (née Hutton) on **lougeefamily@btinternet.com**

30 Year Reunion - Class of 1983

For more details about this reunion, please contact Susan Rothfield on **srothfield2002@yahoo.es**

20 Year Reunion - Class of 1993

For more details about this reunion, please contact Sahmira Fernando on **shamirafernando@googlemail.com**

10 Year Reunion - Class of 2003

For more details about this reunion, please contact Charlotte Scott on **cejscott@hotmail.com**

Year Rep Meeting

November - date to be confirmed
We are hoping to put many more events in the diary, so we will keep you informed about any new ones.

For more information on the events, please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or **alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk** or visit our website **www.woldinghamschool.co.uk** and click on the Alumnae tab.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013



Dear WSHA Members, does it seem like a year has already gone by? It certainly doesn't to me.

2012 was a very exciting year for Woldingham School. When I joined the School in 2007, I was determined to improve the academic reputation of the School, working alongside its

teachers and staff. Today, five years on, I am pleased when parents, colleagues and occasionally a particularly well-researched child, venture to comment on our success.

In February 2012, the Independent Schools Inspectorate placed the School in its top band 'excellent' (equivalent to Ofsted's 'outstanding') in all areas of activity: pupils' achievements and learning; curricular and extra-curricular provision; spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils; pastoral care; boarding; governance; and leadership and management. Nick Waite, our Deputy Head, coordinated this process and did a stellar job at collating all the necessary information and organising staff, to ensure the Inspection Team were able to access information quickly and at the level of detail required for such an intense and thorough examination of our staff, girls and collective efforts.

2012's public examination results were a testament to the hard work of both pupils and teachers. 52% of GCSE grades were at A*, 79% A* or A, and a truly remarkable 92% of all grades were A* - B. 15 girls achieved 10 A* grades or better; 1 girl got 14 A* grades; 2 girls got 12 A* grades; 7 girls got 11 A* grades; 5 girls got 10 A* grades; 12 girls got straight A* grades and a staggering 34 girls achieved straight A*s and As. At A level 83% of girls achieved A*, A and B grades. 29% of the exam cohort smiled all the way to their Universities with straight A*s and A grades!

I am delighted to inform you that five of our current U6th girls have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities; the offers are as follows:

Sandy Downs - PPE at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Kitty Grady - Modern and Medieval Languages, Jesus College, Cambridge, Victoria McGowan - Law and Law Studies in Europe, Pembroke College, Oxford, Fannie Ng - Engineering at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge and Katie Wong - Music at Queen's College, Cambridge.

Although it is still early days in the application cycle, a third of our UCAS applicants have already received offers from all five universities. We are also particularly pleased with the quality of institutions offering places in Science subjects, for example, four offers received from Imperial College. In addition five offers from UCL to read Architecture and various Economics-related subjects have excited the recipients.

Furthermore, a strong showing of offers from Bristol, Bath, Warwick, Exeter, York and many other Russell Group universities confirm that our students are making strong and appropriate choices of courses and institutions. Our Performing Arts profile has attracted offers for Drama from Exeter, Royal Holloway and Bristol, with Arts Ed offering a one year foundation to an aspiring actress.

Continuing on this academically buoyant note, this is the first academic year when we have been able to offer a WSHA Award, the payment of one term's Day fees, per academic year, for the duration of a girl's education at Woldingham; exclusively for the daughters or granddaughters of Woldingham School and Convent of the Sacred Heart alumnae. I am delighted to say, that at the time of writing this, the WSHA Committee has just chosen its first ever recipient.

In 2012 we said 'goodbye' to two long-standing members of the Woldingham School Community: Dominic Murtagh, Assistant Head and Elsie Sebastian, Chaplain. Dominic retired at the end of the summer term, after 28 years at the School. Elsie, however, did not retire, even after 20 years of service! Elsie is a member of The Teresian Association, and is currently working at The Teresian School, Dublin as their Pastoral Care Officer.

The Woldingham School Foundation is delighted to report that since its inauguration in 2011, it has already raised £250,000 towards its target to establish a significant Foundation Bursary/Award Fund. The Committee has high hopes that at some stage in the near future a number of girls will attend the School because of the generous support from the wider Woldingham Community. The Foundation Committee will work hard to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to allow the most talented and deserving girls to access the 'world of opportunities' at Woldingham.

2012 saw the completion of the new Exam Centre, which was constructed on the site of the antiquated 'huts'. Frankly, there is no comparison! The new Exam Centre can sit 100 plus girls at a time, in the best of conditions and it also boasts a brand new ICT facility with 23 terminals.

On a final note, it was a real pleasure to welcome so many of you to the annual Christmas Carol Service, held at Westminster Cathedral. We filled the Cathedral with song and with girls, staff, teachers, families and friends of the School! Afterwards, we retired to the home of the London Scottish Regiment on Horseferry Road, Westminster. There, we enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and some conveniently sized mince pies. This year, unlike in 2011, both parents and alumnae shared the same drinks reception, and this proved a thoroughly delightful occasion. I particularly enjoyed listening to a current Year 9 responding to a 1960s Leaver's description of their school uniform (back-in-the-day). I'm convinced the Year 9 pupil in question now has a more accurate perspective of her uniform 'fate' and will in fact appreciate how contemporary and comfortable her kilt really is!

And on that note, I wish you all a wonderful 2013 and look forward to our paths crossing in the future. With best wishes,

Jayne Triffitt

WSHA BURSARIES

As we receive more requests for Bursaries each year, the WSHA Committee have decided to implement an application process. Funds will be allocated each year for these bursaries, but each applicant will have to go through the new application process.

All applications for funding must be received by 2 September 2013, and these will then be assessed by the Committee at their autumn meeting. For further details, and an application form, please contact the Alumnae Development Officer on alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk

WSHA/RSCJ Charity Bursary This is a sum of money available to help and encourage a member of the Association to assist with the work of the Religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart in one of the overseas communities which support the less privileged. The sum of money is to be used to contribute towards travel and living expenses of the successful candidate, so that she is able to live and work with the community for a minimum period of six months. It is likely that the sum awarded to each successful candidate will up to the sum of £1,000. If you are interested in applying for the WSHA/ RSCJ Charity Bursary the preliminary application form should be sent to the Chairwoman of WSHA, via the Alumnae Development Officer on alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk

WSHA Bursary For career development, the WSHA Bursary is open to any WSHA member, of any age. Members should apply in writing, outlining their need and educational plans to: **Chairwoman of WSHA, c/o Woldingham School**. Applications will be assessed by the WSHA Bursary Committee.



WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

Scholarships of £500 may be awarded to Sixth Form students to assist and develop their post A-level plans. These awards are conditional on the successful candidates wishing to retain their membership of WSHA after leaving Woldingham.

Applicants should firstly consider their contribution to Woldingham during their time at the School by demonstrating their involvement in spiritual and community life both in and out of School, their academic commitment, charity related fund raising through year group or house effort, and the encouragement of younger members in those groups.

Further details and an application form are available from the Alumnae Development Officer on alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk



WSHA BURSARY AWARD

CELINA KELLY - LIVING WITH THE MASAI

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work and live amongst a Masai community in rural Kenya



I was amazed to discover that I was able to apply for the WSHA Leavers' Scholarship even though I left Woldingham in 2006, and thanks to WSHA's generosity I was able to go to Kenya.

Having landed in Nairobi, a very bumpy five hour ride started with the driver informing me that he had to go quickly 'to make the holes better', but as we

got closer I became less concerned with the precarious driving as my eyes strayed to the horizon level and I found myself distracted by the surrounding panoramic views.

My first day in Kilmanjo was all about meeting the villagers and being shown around the school. The school has 400 children aged between 3 and 11. There is also a senior school next door which they can move on to.

'He collapsed on the ground out cold'

Both schools were very nicely kept but lacking content, such as chairs, tables and books.

As we walked around they brought to my attention that I wasn't going to be able to teach, as the government had banned holiday classes. I was very disappointed by this as I had been looking forward to teaching fifty six-year-olds! On the tour I went past a building which also looked very well maintained but was empty. The man guiding me said it used to be a kindergarten classroom but was now unused. I started thinking it was a shame this building could not be utilised in some way.

The next thing I knew, I was driving back along the bumpy road to the nearest town called Nanyuki, a speedy two hours away, buying 200 books for a mixture of ages and interests. With help from the Education Officer Kingore, we placed colour coded stickers on all the books to make it easy to shelve them, logged them on my Mother's old laptop which she had donated, placed a library 'due back' card inside a prescription envelope (which I'd persuaded the pharmacy to part with at very low cost) and stamped them with the new 'Kilmanjo Community and School Library' stamp which we'd also purchased in Nanyuki. As it slowly came together it was magical to see Kingore's face. He was an inspiring man who was motivated, enthusiastic and cared so much about the children of his community. He was very proud of all our work and kept inviting people from the village to come and have a look. We decided that we needed to make our new library a more inviting experience, so we encouraged many children to come and help us paint a mural of their local environment.

I managed to learn a fair amount of Swahili after going over each animal about 50 times! They enjoyed the holiday activity and although not teaching it was great to have some time with them. To complete the project we decided to make a flower bed circling the whole building. Doubtful that it will make Chelsea flower show but I'm sure the children (and the goats) will enjoy it.

Every day I experienced something that beats the standard London day. One particular memory that will stick with me for a long time was an experience on the way home from school. I was taken to a Masai celebration where I felt very out of place being the only tourist in a sea of impressive red Masai robes. The men were jumping in a circle incessantly chanting and I thought it was too much of a 'Kodak' moment and one I couldn't pass up and so I asked if I could take photographs.

Unexpectedly, my camera flashed and the Warrior who had been jumping high (very high) in the centre of the circle pushed his way out of the group, charging at full pelt with a spear in either hand heading right for me. I took cover behind someone standing beside me and watched him fly past. About 10 metres

later he collapsed on the ground out cold. I was told that he had been snapped out of a trance by my flash and it is their natural instinct to defend the circle of warriors. The reason he collapsed was because he had been singing and jumping for six hours, and was in a trance. He didn't have the oxygen to make a sprint which was why he had fallen unconscious. I found out later that night that his name is 'Spear Warrior'!



One of the main projects Kingore had recently introduced was to increase the number of girls in schools. This is a huge problem in rural villages such as Kilmanjo as they are required in the home and to look after the families' cattle. They have been making an effort to follow up absences and have recently built a boarding house for girls whose parents have said they simply don't want them if they can't work. This normally doesn't last long and they are taken home after a few days but it is good to have somewhere for them to stay. The boarding house can also be used for children who had to walk over three miles to get to school, so that they didn't have to go home every night.



Thanks to the grant given by WSHA I was able to donate the remaining money to a girl called Elisabeth Lipanae at Karamugi High School who needs funding for this year's fees. She will send me a letter at the end of this term to let me know how she is getting on along with her latest report card.



WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

EMILY OLIVER - 4 WEEKS IN ECUADOR

Working as a volunteer English teacher in a school on the Arajuno Road Project



I was warmly welcomed in Puyo in Ecuador after the worst 12 hour bus journey of my life; no sleep and blood everywhere after a broken glass bottle was thrown through an open window hitting a man on his head. An Ecuadorian man had arrived on the smallest scooter I had ever seen - I did not think I would fit on it, let alone the three bags I was carrying as well. However,

we managed the journey without event and arrived relieved at a small, basic volunteer house.

The project was called the Arajuno Road Project because it supplied volunteer English teachers to a selection of schools along the Arajuno Road (the only road through the rainforest). Additionally the project undertook conservation work and we helped the locals with sustainable farming techniques for subsistence farming. I did three weeks of teaching and one week of farming. During the mornings we taught or farmed. The afternoons were spent planning lessons in line with the curriculum, holding informal classes and once a week having conversation classes with the local English teachers.

My days started early with a wake up call. At 6am we were on a very crowded, stuffy bus on the way to school. I was amazed at how much respect the children had for the 'teachers'. They all wanted to come up to us and shake our hand and say 'good morning teacher' - not that they knew what it meant as we found out in a test later! Teaching was hard because even though my Spanish course in Buenos Aires was extremely helpful I was not fluent by the time I got to Ecuador. However, 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' came in very useful and teaching the children helped me to improve my Spanish so by the end of the month I was fluent in conversation.

The project was one of the hardest and most rewarding experiences I have ever had'

I was very glad to be able to put my musical skills to use too; I taught a young girl to play 'Mary Had A Little Lamb' on the recorder. It was a very rewarding experience knowing that you had taught someone a new skill.

However, it was not all easy. The children spoke next to no English and it was at times a real struggle. On one occasion I spent ages trying to teach a six-year-old to count to 10 in English. Even so at the end of all the practice he looked at me as if I was asking him to jump off a cliff rather than count - thank Goodness for 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'.



Some students worked really hard and you could see that they were much brighter than the rest. They aspired to move away from Puyo and to go to university or work in the city. However, it is not as easy for them as it is for us because their English teachers are unqualified volunteers who spend relatively short periods with them. Also there is not always a reliable stream of volunteers. That is when you realise how lucky we are and how good our education was.

The project was invaluable and one of the hardest and most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I learnt so much about living in the Amazon and about a life that was so completely different from my own. By the end of the four weeks I had got used to the fact that there was no joining roof to our house and that many of the children would not know what a chair was in Spanish because they didn't have any chairs in their house.



I cannot thank WSHA enough for supporting me through the Spanish course in Buenos Aires as this enabled me to take part in the project work. Not only did I teach the children but I also got a lot back myself as I am now fluent in conversational Spanish. A skill I hope to keep up for the rest of my life.

WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

LAURA ENDICOTT - IN MOZAMBIQUE

A month spent at a Whale Shark conservation project in Mozambique



In my summer holidays once I had taken my A-levels, my friend and I travelled to Mozambique to take part in a Marine Conservation project for a month. This month turned out to be the best month of my life. Obviously I was a little apprehensive about travelling to Africa for a month and not really knowing what to expect but with hindsight I think that worked to my advantage.

We booked our project through Real Gap which is primarily a gap year organisation but also offers excursions for a shorter duration. There were 10 volunteers in total, living in a fairly large house right next to Tofo beach. There were three main aspects of my month there that made it just so good and hard to leave:



The place We were based in Tofo which was half an hour away from a larger town, Inhambane. Tofo is a stunning 8 km stretch of sandy beach located on the southern coast in the Indian Ocean. The weather was idyllic the majority of the time; sunny and hot and as we spent most of our time outside, this allowed us to use our days to the fullest. However there were a few days when we had a torrential rainstorm. To my surprise this did not prevent us from our project work and instead of diving



on these days we visited the local school and orphanage in Inhambane. It was uplifting seeing the children so happy and full of life even when in such poverty. We spent hours playing with them and one girl gave me a hair braid! Inhambane was a bustling town with

plenty of markets and cafés but nothing compared to the tranquillity of Tofo. The local market of Tofo was captivating; locals selling little wooden masterpieces, batiks, bracelets and shells.

The volunteering Tofo beach is known as one of the best scuba diving sites in the world. So understandably we were extremely excited about diving there. Lucky for us, it didn't disappoint. We saw 15 Manta Rays on one dive and had three Humpback Whales swim over us while we were at the bottom. These two dives are extremely rare and all the local divers were very jealous when they heard about our sightings! We also saw Moray Eels,



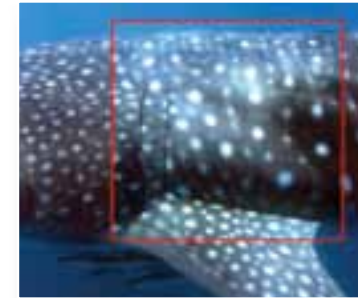
Honeycomb Eels, Mobula or 'Devil' Rays, Boxfish, a Grey Reef Shark to name a few. The conservation on our dives consisted of taking down a board with a list of 60 species of fish called 'indicator' fish and marking down which ones were present. These were

fairly common species of fish that were drawn to different cleaning stations in the reefs. A cleaning station is where the manta rays swim to literally be cleaned by the small 'indicator' fish; this consists of removing parasites and dead flesh from the Mantas. So by knowing which 'indicator' species of fish are present, researchers can work out why certain Mantas travel long distances to go to particular cleaning stations. This was the conservation below the surface, but above the surface was where it really took place.

We went on Ocean Safaris which are pretty much how they sound; we drove on a small dingy along the coast trying to spot Whale Sharks. We also saw plenty of other marine life; we saw a few Hammerhead Sharks at the surface, a Loggerhead Turtle, a few pods of dolphins and we were fortunate enough to have a Humpback Whale and her calf breach out of the water



alongside the boat (terrifying but amazing!). When we spotted a Whale Shark we would snorkel alongside it attempting to take ID shots. These were a shot of the left and right side of the shark of a specific point between the last few gills and pectoral fin. These would then be uploaded to a Whale Shark database and using a programme devised by NASA we could identify whether the shark had been spotted before and where it was. Each Whale Shark has an individual pattern of white spots that is unique to it, similar to how we have fingerprints that are unique to each of us. These white spots are joined up on the database like star patterns (hence NASA) and that pattern is the information that is uploaded. We also took part in Humpback Whale monitoring every morning and afternoon. We sat on top of the tallest sand dune and recorded the direction of the whales swimming, the type of behaviour they were exhibiting and the number of whales in each pod. The volunteering was amazing and allowed me to take part in all these different activities while knowing that I was helping to make a difference in marine conservation in Tofo. The marine researchers at Tofo are primarily the Marine Megafauna Foundation and one of the many projects they are working on is to establish international protection of the Whale Sharks and Manta Rays. The Whale Sharks are being tangled in nets and finned by fishermen to the extent that there has been a 90% decline in sightings in some countries.



The Manta Rays are being unsustainably fished and their gills are in high demand in Chinese medicine. Although my volunteering was an amazing experience it made me realise just how little the researchers have to work with and how difficult it must be to receive help internationally for such a remote place as Tofo. The Marine Megafauna Foundation is home to the world expert in both Manta Rays and Whale Sharks and so their foundation is worth supporting!

The people I met so many lovely people in Mozambique, the volunteers on our project were all so friendly and it was great to spend a month with them. At the end of the project I left with invitations to go and stay with them in Amsterdam, Australia, Denmark, Canada and even an invite to one of their weddings! As we spent a lot of our time at the local diving centres we met lots of scuba diving instructors with houses in Tofo, so often had meals and tried surfing with them! When we weren't volunteering we were having campfires in our garden, watching the sunrise on the sand dunes, playing volleyball, sampling some of the amazing Mozambican cuisine and the incredible Mozambican nightlife (London cannot compete now!) or just relaxing on the beach reading.



'A breath-taking experience, my friend and I are already planning our next visit'



WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

SO YUNG WONG - TEACHING ENGLISH

Participating in a Voluntary English Teaching Camp in China



Thank you so much for awarding me the WSHA Leavers' Scholarship as I left Woldingham School in 2009. I have just graduated with a 2.1 in Business Administration from the University of Kent, Canterbury. I am currently doing a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) course in London at the University of Law (previously known as "College of Law"), and the prospect of becoming a solicitor is very exciting to me.

The WSHA Scholarship has meant so much to me in many ways and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the WSHA Committees once again. That, coupled with the on-going support from the Woldingham Community, has gone a long way towards helping me realize my dream – successfully completing a university degree. In addition, I would like to thank my parents for their support and encouragement throughout my education, starting with their decision to send me to Woldingham. I hope I can repay them by serving as a good role model for my young sister and brother.



Deep in my heart I know that I will always have a home at Woldingham. On the many occasions that I have returned to visit, I felt very welcomed and proud to be a Woldingham girl! As some of you are aware, my Dad was diagnosed with nose cancer when I first came to Woldingham to do my GCSEs. I had a difficult time; coping with the new environment as I tried to settle in, making new friends as well as facing the new academic challenges. I was very grateful for the support and care that I received from the Woldingham Sacred Heart Community, as well as Miss Vernon, for being my personal



tutor when she was with Woldingham; Mrs Triffitt, Miss Sebastian and many other teachers and friends, which allowed me to surmount the challenges and achieve the results I needed to get into University. It was during these troubling times that I found faith and was baptized before leaving school. I will always remember and am blessed to have Mrs. Triffitt for being there to support me on my Confirmation and Baptism in Oxted.

In retrospect, it may be strange to admit that I do miss the restrictions very much, as the discipline instilled in me at Woldingham kept me focused while in university. Having such good role models in the past has helped me set my moral compass to navigate a modern university life.

You will be pleased to know that I have used the scholarship money of £500 to participate in a Voluntary English Teaching Camp at XiJiang Middle School in China in June 2012, right before my graduation.

The aim of the camp was to encourage grades 1 and 2 secondary students to learn English, utilizing the movie 'How to Train a Dragon', to inspire them to have a positive attitude while overcoming life's obstacles. My role as an assistant teacher brought me close to the students, who showed their appreciation in so many simple ways.

My brief stay at the camp was enough to ensure my desire to continue with voluntary work in the future.

The unforgettable experience I had on this project has provided me with a good training ground to shape my own personal development both physically and spiritually. The camaraderie with my fellow participants was phenomenal and their encouragement throughout the trip has really reinforced the theme of the camp: 'Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude'.

I am looking forward to where the WSHA Scholarship is taking me. But even during these exhilarating times, I am grateful for the grounding that I have got while at Woldingham, as it stood me in good stead.



WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ALICE MCVICKER - ART FOUNDATION

WSHA Scholarship used to buy costly and much needed art materials



O I was thrilled to receive a WSHA scholarship at Prize Giving on my last day at Woldingham School in 2011. During my time at Woldingham, I really nurtured my love of art and invested much time in the art block and attending life-drawing classes. It spurred me on to apply for an art foundation course at the City and Guilds of London Art School. Having gained a place,

I was very happy to learn of the WSHA scholarship fund and I decided to apply to help me invest in the costly and much needed art materials I would need.

A year further on, I am delighted to report that the Foundation year was all that I hoped it would be. I developed my drawing, oil painting, printmaking, and art history among many other things. The resources made possible by the scholarship helped me in these early days to buy necessary equipment and I really loved my year, so much so that I have embarked in the BA fine art degree here too and am continuing to relish my art in the first year here at City and Guilds.

Here is an example of my work to show you what I am up to. Thank you for the opportunities the scholarship helped me to achieve.



TOP SCHOLARSHIP FOR CATHERINE LEATHERBARROW

Recipient of the Imperial School of Medicine's prestigious Fleming/McCowan Scholarship



On 23 March 2012 I received the ominous e-mail subject line that Sixth Form students across the land anticipate with a mixture of excitement and dread - a UCAS track update : adrenaline surging, I summoned the courage to read the words which would determine my future - I had an offer to study Medicine at Imperial College London.

This was followed a week later by a letter which read: "The Selection panel was very impressed with you at interview and have recommended that you be considered for a scholarship". The joy faded just a little when I was told that I would have to write a 2000 word essay over the summer holiday to compete for one of only a few scholarships of generally small monetary value, though with obvious prestige.

I was presented with the question: "Describe what you think will be a typical doctor's day at work in 2050. Which illnesses are they most likely to see?" I immediately saw the word 'describe' and recoiled from the idea of flowing prose, but the concept of changing illness prevalence grabbed me and I eagerly began my research.

Taking the advice of Confucius - "Study the past if you would define the future" - I wanted to make a comparison between today and 40 years ago to see how far medicine has evolved and to give insight into where the next 40 years will lead us. Using data to give a quantitative prediction into 2050 was relatively straightforward, but for the rest of the question there was one slight problem; my knowledge of a 'typical doctor's day' was rather limited. Research bearing very little fruition, I cast about for alternative sources of information and found an ideal resource: a trainee general practitioner. During a fifteen minute interview we discussed her perception of the current role of a GP which allowed me to reflect far more clearly on how this could change in the future.

I reached the conclusion that the role of a doctor will be greatly influenced by the projected increases in both obese and elderly populations and the implicit medical problems of these groups, as well as the advent of new treatments and the greater assistance of computer-based technology. In addition, there will be illness prevalence changes which are likely to include an increase in allergic disease, an increase in antibiotic resistant strains of disease and possibly even the introduction of as yet unknown illnesses.

One thing that seems unlikely, however, is that patient contact will cease entirely. While it may be an exaggeration, it is said that "the art of Medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease" (Voltaire). While many other aspects of a doctor's day will undoubtedly change, this will still be as relevant in 2050 as it is today.

As much as I enjoyed the experience and hoped that my essay would be of comparable standard to the other entrants, I was never holding my breath to wait for the verdict - a very good thing as the decision took longer than expected to be announced. Finally it came. I was awarded the Fleming/McCowan Scholarship, the most prestigious scholarship the Imperial School of Medicine bestows and the most lucrative. A student budget celebration of MacDonald's has never tasted so good.

'The art of Medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease'



WOLDINGHAM OLD GIRLS' DAY

Sunday 20 May 2012

Old Girls' Day this year took on a slightly different guise. Gathering as usual, over coffee and pastries in the Millennium Centre, many year groups were represented, including a large contingent of leavers from 1992, 2000 and 2002, a great many of whom hadn't been back to Woldingham since they departed! Mass was celebrated together with the current boarders, during which a tribute was paid to Mother Shanley, much loved and respected Mistress General of the then Convent of the Sacred Heart 1947-67, and who passed away on 4 March, aged 107.

The weather was at least dry, if a little chilly, for the walk to Marden where lunch was held, affording an opportunity for the alumnae, families, staff and Religious to enjoy the new dining facility there. Announcements and the AGM took place in the same area, once guests had eaten, in an effort to ensure those with young families could take part more easily. There was plenty of entertainment to keep the children busy during the afternoon, including giant bubbles and games on the Pergola Lawn, a mini petting farm with baby animals in the 'Donkey Field' and our regular face-painting artists.

Tours of the boarding areas and classrooms were arranged, for those who wanted to see how much the accommodation had changed since they were students here. Tea and cakes accompanied fond farewells to Dominic Murtagh (Assistant Head) and Elsie Sebastian (Chaplain), both of whom have been stalwarts at the School for 28 and 20 years respectively.



1992 leavers



2000 leavers



2002 leavers

OLD GIRLS' DAY 2013

Everyone's invited and it's free!

For your diary, the next Old Girls Day will take place at Woldingham School on **Sunday 12 May 2013**.

The plan for this year is as follows:

10.45 am Welcome address from Jane Pendered and Jayne Triffitt

11.00 am Mass

12.30 pm Lunch in Marden House

2.00 pm Afternoon activities including, children's entertainment, year group reunions, school tours etc

3.00 pm AGM

3.30 pm Afternoon tea

5.00 pm Finish

Please bring your family – the more the merrier!



1976 leavers



1992 leavers

BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINE REUNION

By Hugo Lesser

We met on the evening of Saturday 31 March at the Hipodromo San Isidro, the Jockey Club racecourse just out of town, where betting systems were debated, tested and honed with varying degrees of success. Suffice to say any winnings were requisitioned for the bar bill. Following the last race we adjourned to a much vaunted new restaurant overlooking the racecourse, however on arriving we found ourselves to be the only people there. Thankfully, rather than being a reflection of the quality of the restaurant, we had simply arrived early at 9.30pm, and by 11pm or so the place was in full swing.

The following day, we joined the Buenos Aires French community for Mass in French in a chapel in the Belgrano neighbourhood, after which we reassembled at Pyers Griffith's house in San Isidro for an asado (Argentine barbecue). The weather was superb, as was the company and food. A special mention must go to Pyers and Maria Pia Griffith, who took on the organisation of the asado themselves. The other special mention goes to Pere Jean de Montalambert (who attended a Catholic prep school in England), for saying Mass and grace.

A fantastic time was had by all, and plans are already under way for an expanded event in 2013.



1958 - 1961 leavers

LONDON

REUNION '58 - '61

By Fiona Wright

At the end of October we held our usual Reunion, at The Bridge in Barnes. It was on Thursday 25 October. I had wondered about having a reunion with so many other opportunities to meet up in 2012. However a number of people said they would like to come.

Unfortunately, five people had to cancel for various reasons in the last 24 hours – some on the actual day. Those who did attend had a very pleasant time, as always.

We hope to hold another Reunion this year – God willing – and will contact people later on.

Again, anyone who was at Woldingham in Mother Shanley's time is welcome. If you would like to come, please phone Fiona Wright on 01273 842131, or contact Katie Hogben, the Woldingham Alumnae Officer, by phone – 01883 654307 or e-mail alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk, and she will pass the message on.



Argentina



2000 leavers



2002 leavers



Seated on bench on left in red jacket : Grania Fraser (née Stewart-Smith). Back row - left to right : Jenny Gilbey (née Price), Prue MacGibbon (née Scholefield), Pippa Bellasis, standing, Mary Hargroves, seated (née Pertwee), Anna Burrage leaning (née Wild), Sonia Nettelmann (née Nares), Alison Hunter-Gordon, Angela Cable (née Hay) and Patsy Cave (née Lillywhite). Middle row seated on ground : Livvy Gillespie (née Hay), Rosalind Macfarlane Reid, Danny Musson (née Huelin), Sue Sayers (née Stokes-Rees) and Suzie Marett-Crosby (née Marett). Front row : Sarah Brett (née Whinney), Elisabeth Bellord (née Henault), Pinny Lacon (née Stevens) and Clarissa Roe (née Kershaw). Inset - left to right - Jenifer Gilbey (née Price), Alison Aiken and Angela Cable (née Hay).

LONDON REUNION '62

By Mary Hargroves

As it was the 50th Anniversary for the Class of '62, I decided, as Year Rep, that we should celebrate. Some had not seen any class mates for 50 years, whereas others were in regular contact. Over that time we had been scattered to the four corners of the earth, yet when we met it was as if we had never been apart. A true sign of friendship and ease in each other's company.

So that those who came from afar could combine Old Girls' Day and our Reunion, I chose the weekend of 19 - 20 May. Our kind host was Pippa Bellasis who loaned us her lovely house and garden in Fulham. Imagine the decibels rising as each 'girl' arrived. The joy at seeing long lost friends was palpable. There were 21 of us who sat down to a delicious Golden Anniversary feast with messages of good will pouring in from those who were unable to attend.

The basic year for most of our class was 1944, with a few born earlier and later. So, I plan to arrange another celebration in 2014 to mark reaching the next big '0' birthday. How time flies.

Those present this time were: Alison Aiken, Pippa Bellasis (host), Elisabeth Bellord (née Henault), Sarah Brett (née Whinney), Anna Burrage (née Wild), Angela Cable (née Hay), Patsy Cave (née Lillywhite - co-Year Rep), Grania Fraser (née Stewart-Smith), Jenifer Gilbey (née Price), Livvy Gillespie (née

Hay), Mary Hargroves (née Pertwee - Year Rep), Alison Hunter-Gordon, Pinny Lacon (née Stevens), Rosalind Macfarlane Reid, Prue MacGibbon (née Scholefield), Suzanne Marett-Crosby (née Marett), Patricia Moor (née Wolseley), Sonia Nettelmann (née Nares), Clarissa Roe (née Kershaw), Sue Sayers (née Stokes-Rees), Claudia Scott-Moncrieff (née Petre). A good turn out.

LONDON REUNION '66



LONDON REUNION '84

By Joanna van der Lande

It all started with a growing realisation that we have a big reunion looming and our database wasn't as good as it could have been. Harriet van der Lande (née Wylie) and Joanna Wilson (née van der Lande) are sisters-in-law and so thought that a joint effort of keeping tabs on our

year would have been a breeze.... well 28 years later a few have fallen by the wayside. However, with the assistance of modern technology and a good many of our year keeping in touch, we managed, with a little encouragement, to have 35 of us attending the wonderful carol service held at a packed Westminster Cathedral on Monday, 10 December with drinks afterwards and the Territorial Army Headquarters in Horseferry Road.

There were plenty of others who couldn't make it and who wanted to be there. We are heartened to know that two old girls intended to spend Christmas together in Australia with their families while two others have recently met up in the US. There had been a certain amount of trepidation as the Carols and reunion approached as was revealed in several email exchanges. On the day we all found ourselves looking round the Cathedral to see who else was there from our past, some of whom hadn't been seen for nearly three decades. Aside from the odd, 'oh yes, of course it's you' we all looked pretty recognisable (and pretty good really!) and there were many enthusiastic greetings! We gathered at the back of the Cathedral afterwards and made our way to the Territorial Army Centre for the reception. Sr McGreal and Sr Austin were also in attendance, both of whom were from our era and it was really lovely to see them and looking so well.

After some cajoling and with some reluctance to put drinks down, we managed a group photo, and then we really got into the spirit of it.

Some more of our year arrived as the evening progressed, the odd one or two having been round the corner for a little fortifying drink before making an appearance (we weren't that scary were we?!). We were the last to leave the reception and then headed to the helpfully located Loose Box nearby who looked after us extremely well. I don't know what time the last one of us left but there were a lot of happy, smiling and generally quite excited women... who felt, for an evening, a little like teenagers again. Roll on 2014!



Front row from left to right : Katherine Mifsud (née Howard) holding her second child Lucia Caroline Makepeace, Laura Martin, Henrietta Wells, Lydia Allen, Victoria Fritz (née Trench), Nicola Flynn, Caroline Hyde, Carly Cushnie and Lucy Matthews. Back row from left to right : Andrea Buckler (née Hall), Rose Fookes, Elaine Sargent (née Burke), Georgie Farr, Leonie Rw, Emily Pope, Emily Clark, Samantha Nash, Genevieve Marcar, Susanna Vereker, Laura Black (née Eyles), Hannah Vines (née Lougee), Willow Blanchard, Alex Stewart, Lucia Biancardi, Claire Jenkins and Rachel Gwilliam (née Andrews) with her son Ben.

WOLDINGHAM REUNION 2002

By Emily Clark



Back row : Maria de Simon, Antonia Manley, Tid (Jeanette) Campbell Johnson, Harriet van der Lande (née Wylie), Joanna Wilson (née van der Lande), Biddy Wyles (née Walsh), Annabel Jefferson, Catie Barclay (née Walsh / Kate Terence). Second row from the back : Kitty Beamish, Honor Dean (née Holmes), Penelope Clement (née Light), Geraldine Lloyd (née Hurley), Caroline Wyatt, Marissa Harvey (née Barretto) and Francesca Nesbitt (née de Ferranti). Third row : Melissa Carter Motley, Charlotte Cooper-Kenny (née Cooper), Wanda Howard, Susannah Cove (née Jayes), Christina Ascone, Marissa Bucknall (née Smith) and Ceri Potts. Front row : Sophia Wadsworth (née Leslie), Claudia Jasper (née Edwards), Anna Fishelt (née Fitch), Katie Clark and Olivia Buckland (née Ayrton-Grime).

The year of 2002 celebrated their 10 year reunion at the Old Girls Day held at Woldingham. There was a great turn out with over 35 of us from our year group, some having travelled across the ocean to make it which was an incredible effort and highlighted what a tight year group we were. It was great to catch up with everyone, meet husbands and children and to see Woldingham again. We were given tours of the school, both Marden and Main House, visited our old dorms (The Ship

being the highlight) and even made the trek up to the swimming pool for old times sake. There have been so many changes and the school looks fantastic, with lots of happy smiling girls. It was a great day - here's to 2022!

AMASC REPORT

ENGLAND AND WALES

News from ex-pupils and students of Sacred Heart Schools and Colleges

In March last year the English schools' network coordinator, Hilary Thompson, gave us a talk at our AGM about the proposed visit of nine students from Newcastle Sacred Heart to Uganda. They were going to help with refurbishment of classrooms, the dining room and the Chapel at Kalungu. Following this talk we raised over £500 to help the students with their project.

This March at our AGM Hilary showed us a PowerPoint presentation made by the students giving pictures of their visit, showing the result of their work and how they spent some of their leisure time getting to know each other and learning about their different lifestyles.

The students spent two weeks there. By all accounts It was a wonderful experience.

At the end of the AGM we also had an interesting talk from Elizabeth McCausland (Mt. Anville Sacred Heart Alumna) about her year as the wife of the Mayor of Wandsworth last year.

In May a group of some 20 alumnae enjoyed the usual informal lunch at the Hurlingham Club. We were blessed again with lovely weather and were also delighted to welcome Paola del Prete from Naples who is the AMASC European Coordinator.

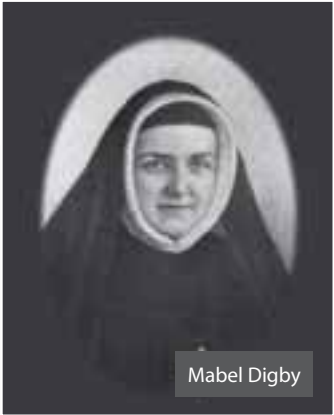


In September we had another 'Reflection Day' at Barat House, Digby Stuart College led by Sister Mary Hinde or as Sister Mary preferred to call it 'A day for me and a day for us.' It was a time to pause, share our concerns and joys and take stock of our lives in a very relaxed and informal way. After a finger buffet lunch we spent some time in the newly refurbished St Thomas's chapel and again shared some thoughts of Janet Erskine Stuart. Both she and Mother Mabel Digby are buried there. We were also able to see the recently commissioned painting by Sister Mary Stephen who is a well known ecclesiastical artist. She was given a book of Janet Stuart's quotations and chose one on which to base the painting. AMASC had given a contribution towards this.

In 2014 it is the centenary of Mother Janet Erskine Stuart when there will be events, celebrations and visits relating to this great educator. For full details of this please visit the rscj website.

The AMASC year will end with our 'formal' lunch at the Hurlingham Club which is always well attended.

Next year some of us hope to go to the AMASC Alumnae European Reunion in Vienna from 4-7 April 2013. It will be a time to look to the future whilst sharing our past and a chance to meet alumnae from around Europe and be shown some of the sights of this lovely city. Places are limited and the closing date is mid-December but if anyone is interested please contact Gillie Collyer.



SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

By Sr Monica McGreal

On looking back over the year, we are met by the powerful mix of joys and sorrows that mark life for all of us. During that time we have said farewell to four of our Sisters from the England/Wales Province and at the same time have welcomed three Novices.

In January, Sister Frances Makower, after many years of fragile health, died peacefully in Duchesne House. Born into a Jewish family, Frances became a Christian in later life and her memorial service, shared with her family and friends in the Chapel at Duchesne, celebrated both traditions.

On 4 March 2012 and at the age of 107, Sister Clare Shanley quietly passed into fullness of life. Her years at Woldingham became legendary. As Headmistress, she was a significant and formative influence and maintained long lasting and valued relationships with former pupils over many years. The two memorial Masses offered for her, the first in the Chapel at Digby Stuart College, Roehampton and the other at Farm Street, brought together a wonderful mix of people who had come into contact with Shan in a variety of situations and upon whom she had made a significant impression. The stories abounded! Both occasions were a powerful and touching expression of our shared love and appreciation of Shan.

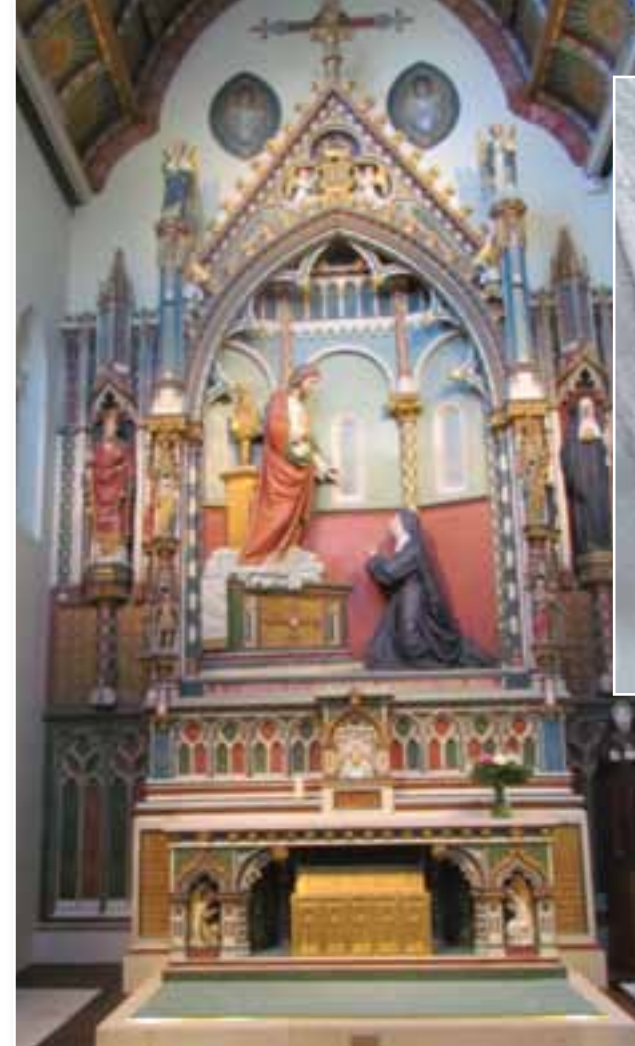
'Her years at Woldingham became legendary'

The words courageous, optimistic, enthusiastic spring to mind when thinking of Sister Mary McKeone, who died at the beginning of September. She taught English and was Head of Year 10 at Woldingham in the late 70s, early 80s.

February brought very sad and totally unexpected news of the death of Sister Kathleen Cox, a member of the USA Province. Kathleen had been at Marden as Head of Year 8 for two years, from 1980-82. After she returned to USA, she kept up a lively correspondence with Sister Goddard, and returned to stay with her at Marden Lodge and also to visit family, at regular intervals.

At the other end of the spectrum, the opening of the new Noviciate on 17 September and the welcoming of three Novices were celebrated at Stuart community

in Hayes. As Novice Director, Sister Mary Hinde is now responsible for running the formation program there. Siobhan, Katie and Karen had spent the previous year as Candidates, living with Communities in Newcastle, Roehampton and Oxford respectively. They each received a copy of the Society's Constitutions and a hand-carved medal of our symbol of the heart. These were carved from Yew by Crad who works with Sisters Stephanie Romaine and Sue Acheson at Llannerchwen, a beautiful Retreat space in the Brecon Beacons.



Sr Mimi Goddard remembers Sr Kathleen Cox

During the Summer Term in 1978 Sisters Kathleen Cox and Kathy Dolan from our USA Province, visited Woldingham. They were so taken by the beauty of the valley and the happy spirit of both Senior and Junior House that, the following year, Sr Cox wrote to Sr Mary Hinde enquiring if there was a vacancy on the Staff of Marden House. There was, so Kathleen returned as the Head of Second Year in 1980.

Kathleen was an extrovert and she settled very easily. She loved children and they very soon loved her. She was firm yet gentle, happy and caring. She looked forward, as much as they did, with joyful anticipation to the weekend rambles with Kim, the Marden House dog. Very frequently, in her free time, Kathleen would walk by herself. She was a New Yorker and the English countryside gave her new delights. In 1982, much to the sadness of all Kathleen returned to New York. But every alternate year she visited England to meet up again with her Woldingham friends. 2012 was to be the last time. Plans were being made but the Lord came for her on 12 February. She died of a heart attack early on Sunday morning.

On 25 May, the Feast of St Madeleine Sophie, the Sacred Heart Chapel at Digby Stuart College was reopened. This followed an extensive renovation during which much of its former character was restored. It was a memorable gathering, full of life and energy and commitment. It brought together many of the Team who had planned and carried out the amazingly painstaking and detailed work. Their enthusiasm was contagious and the RSCJ and friends who were present were caught up in the fascinating story of re-discovery. The prayer of re-dedication ended with the words:

"Keep us true to its founding vision and let it be a place where stranger may be welcomed and the love of God's Heart may be shared. Amen."

FAREWELL TO DOMINIC MURTAGH

Assistant Head of Woldingham School, 1984 - 2012



We said goodbye to our beloved Assistant Head, Mr Murtagh, at end of the summer term. As a tribute to his time at Woldingham, we arranged this interview with him to find out what he did before Woldingham, what he enjoyed about Woldingham and what he is planning to do after Woldingham.

When did you first start working at Woldingham? In September 1984, so I've been here 28 years. That's a life sentence!

What was your first post when you started? I came here as Head of Science - I was charged with setting up a new department; previously there had been separate Heads of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. What was quite funny was that when I came for interview none of them knew about the post, so all of a sudden I was here and I was their boss. My job was to bring them all together and unite them within one department.

What did you do before Woldingham? I was teaching at three different schools - King's College, Wimbledon for three years, St Joseph's College, my old school, for four years and Head of Physics at Purley High School for Boys for four years.

And which do you like best? Well Woldingham of course!

And why is that? Well it's a beautiful place, it has a lovely atmosphere and there's a real community here. It took a bit of adjustment for me because the other three were all all-boy schools and this was a bit different. The girls here are much more giving. I do miss the boys - the banter and all the talk about football etc. but I have got used to Woldingham and its quirks. I love it here.

Have you always wanted to teach? No, funnily enough. Teaching has always been in the family - two grandfathers, father, two brothers and numerous others (even my daughter now). I was going to be the one to do something different. I didn't know what, but it was going to be something different.

When did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher? Well, after doing a degree, you have to think about getting a job. What seemed quite attractive at the time was another year at university so I did a year's



teacher training and then sort of slipped into teaching by default. Now I'm really glad I did because I've had a happy life. I wouldn't have done anything differently.

What are your plans for the future? Oh no! I knew you were going to ask me that! Having been quite seriously ill at Christmas, the first thing will be to get myself properly fit. I've started already. I now have a better life style: I eat more healthily, I exercise and I don't get too stressed. I am going to do more walking, join a gym, play more golf and I hope to get back to skiing. Missing the school ski trip this year (I've led 21 Woldingham ski trips) was probably the worst thing of the lot. Mrs Murtagh and I have to move house (we'll be living in Caterham) so we're just going to get



ourselves sorted and then see what happens after that. Our two boys play a lot of cricket so we will certainly be watching them as much as we can. The main thing is that I'll not be working so I'll be able to relax at last. No more teaching. This is retirement. I have done 39 years so I think I deserve the rest!

What has been the best aspect of being part of Woldingham? What I love about Woldingham is being totally involved - getting to know everybody and everything that goes on, just throwing myself into everything. The more I've put into it the more I've got out of it.

What do you think you are going to miss the most? The people: the girls and the teachers.

Will you miss anyone in particular? Mrs Triffitt of course!!

What was it that made you decide that you were going to retire? Getting ill. I had bad pneumonia and was diagnosed as having diabetes at the same time. The two were sort of working against each other and I seemed to be going downhill.

What has been your funniest memory at Woldingham? During a very serious Remembrance Day assembly, I took a wrong cue and started dismissing the students before it had finished. Mr Hunt, the Bursar, who had served in the Falklands war, was just starting a reading.

What has been your best memory? I would have to say the special show put on by the whole school this week. Seeing all the girls and staff up on stage paying tribute meant so much to me. I was almost emotional!

Will you still come and visit us? Well I would love to but I think my time is over. I think Woldingham needs to move on and so do I.



- academic and social. They want to do more. Expectations are higher. Woldingham has many new buildings of course, but

How has Woldingham changed since you've been here? It has got bigger. There were only about 300 girls when I first came and now there are over 530. It is very much busier; there is a lot more going on - the girls are doing much more. From their point of view there is a lot more pressure

essentially in terms of character and atmosphere the place is much the same. Sr Hinde appointed me; a few other nuns were working here at that stage - they were all utterly dedicated. As time went on the school embraced change and brought itself up-to-date. And of course, the teachers kept getting younger!

How do you think you have changed? I have gone greyer and gained a few wrinkles but I hope that I have managed to keep my energy going until the end. Obviously, over the years I have become more confident but I don't think that I have really changed much.

Is there a message that you want to leave the Woldingham girls with? Make the very most of your time here and go for it.

FAREWELL TO ELSIE SEBASTIAN

Chaplain at Woldingham School, 1992 - 2012

After 20 wonderful years at Woldingham, our loving Chaplain Elsie Sebastian is moving on to do pastoral work in a new community in a Teresian school in Dublin. She is continuing to work as Chaplain because pastoral work fascinates her: "Sharing in the life of faith is too precious to stop doing," she says.

Elsie Sebastian came to England in 1973, when the Teresian Association, a Lay Catholic association, asked her to teach in a boarding school in Kingston. She then became Catholic Chaplain of Oxford University, with life there offering many new possibilities for her.

Elsie Sebastian joined us in September 1992, working as a chaplain and a teacher of R.E to Years 7 and 8. She loved the teaching job because children are "dynamic, creative and inquisitive". It was always important for her to share the pupils' pains as well as their times of joy. She saw it as a privilege when both staff and students came to her and asked her to pray with them. Night prayers provided a relaxing opportunity for the girls to pray for their own particular intentions and to hear one of her heart-warming and meaningful stories. She also led the CURious Club, where girls freely talked about what was happening in their lives and shared difficulties and worries with each other.



She helped them cope with their troubles by giving advice, praying with them, reading helpful passages from the Bible and, of course, providing hot chocolate and biscuits. Woldingham was a home and a great support for her. She made great friends whom she will never forget. She was happy to serve her community and she hopes to keep in touch with the school, like she has done with priests such as Fr David, Fr Sunny and Fr Tony who have moved on from Woldingham, and with other great friends she has made here.



She will not just miss the staff in Woldingham, but of course the girls whom she has 'walked with on their journeys of faith'. What was especially memorable for her were the different sacramental ceremonies she attended, such as the marriages of old girls and their children's baptisms. For her it was a lovely feeling to have taught a child about the different sacraments from First Confession to Confirmation, and then

to actually see the girls receiving them. Her best memory of Woldingham was when her first Chaplaincy Ribbon told her that she was getting married and wanted to bring up a family truly dedicated to God and the Christian faith, and to live in a community like that of Woldingham School.

Elsie Sebastian gave us an assembly on what people can do to contribute to the Olympics and when asked what she was doing she talked to us about the More Than Gold campaign among her friends and local church and explained that she was encouraging young people to join in the prayer relay.

Although she was looking forward to the Olympics, she couldn't be in London because she was in the Philippines with her family.

Her new school is a Catholic day school with pupils ranging from 2-18yrs old. She enjoys working in Ireland, as it's a new country with a different culture and, although she misses Woldingham, she is happy to be serving her community in Ireland. However, she is also looking forward to visiting the beautiful valley and friendly environment here in the future. Woldingham to Elsie Sebastian has been 'amazingly memorable' and provided by far the 'best years of her life'. She will never forget us and we will never forget her!

WHERE DID THEY GO?

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2012

Name	Degree Subject	Institution
AKHTAR Halima	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	University of the Arts London
AKIYODE Moromoke	Business Management	University of Essex
ALARCON Marta	Primary Teaching	Universidad Pontifica de Comillas, Madrid
ARNOUX Chloe	Psychology	University Francois- Rabelais de Tours
AU Sharon (Sze Yin)	Pharmacy	King's College London
BOLAND Samantha	Accounting and Economics	University of Southampton
BREEN Maisie	Theatre, Performance and Event Design	Birmingham City University
BREWSTER Claudia	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	University College Falmouth
BROSTER Georgina	Politics	University of Nottingham
CAXTON-MARTINS Olubusola	English and United States	University of Essex Literature
CHEUNG Joey (Chun Yi)	Law	University of Warwick
CLAQUE DE GOHR Fleur	French and Spanish	University of Southampton
CLIFF Louise	Anthropology	Durham University
CORREIA-VASEY Jessica	Stage Management	Birmingham City University
CURRY Constance	Physics	University of Bristol
DALLAWAY Kenna	Geography	University of Exeter
EKEH Chidalu	International Relations	Loughborough University
FAN Tiffany (Tsz Tung)	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	Kingston University
FITZPATRICK Harriet	Psychology	University of the West of England Bristol
FONDERSON Marie-Louise	French with International Relations	University of Warwick
FUNG Cheryl	Life Sciences	Chinese University of Hong Kong
GILLAN Harriet	Post Qualification Application	
GOWER Joanna	Post Qualification Application	
HAMILTON Amy	Computer Science	University of Nottingham
HAMMOND Abigail	International Management	University of Bath
HAMMOND Emma	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	City & Guilds of London Art School
HEYWOOD Katie	Combined Honours in Arts	Durham University
HITCHCOCK Phoebe	Politics	Durham University
HOWARD Harriet	Biomedical Sciences	University of Newcastle
KENDRICK Helena	Applied Social Science	University of York
KONG Margaret (Man Wai)	Biomedical Sciences	King's College London
LABI Gabriella	Post Qualification Application	
LAM Cynthia	Fashion Management	University of the Arts London
LAU Kristy (Fei Fei)	Financial Mathematics	University of Nottingham
LEATHERBARROW Catherine	Medicine	Imperial College London
LORD Cassandra	Post Qualification Application	
MA Tianyi	Statistics, Economics and Finance	University College London

MACKAY Elizabeth	Business Management	Cardiff University
MACKENZIE India	French and Spanish Language	University of York
MAULE Francesca	Geography	University of Southampton
MICHAEL-ADENUGA Afolasade	Law	University of Reading
MOK Lesley (Wan Sze)	Medicine	University of Hong Kong
NEILSON Natasha	Banking, Finance and Management	Loughborough University
NEWMAN Emily	Post Qualification Application	
NWOBODO Pamela (Chidinma)	Accounting and Financial Management	Loughborough University
OGUNLESI Mowalola	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	Kingston University
OKPU DeDe (Rae)	Business and Management	Durham University
PARKINSON Juliette	Combined Honours in Arts	Durham University
PARANYUK Olga (Olia)	Economics	City University
PEARCE Charlotte	Retailing, Marketing and Management	Loughborough University
POND Sophie	Drama (2013)	University of Exeter
PUN Cherie	Computing	Imperial College London
REDFERNE Katherine	Drama and English	Oxford Brookes University
ROBERTS Olivia	Executive PA Diploma	Oxford Media and Business School
SHAW Jennifer	Retail Management	Bournemouth University
SO Sonia (In Man)	Architectural Studies	Chinese University of Hong Kong
SONG Yeojin	Biochemistry	University of Leeds
STAGNETTO Ana	Sociology (2013)	University of West of England Bristol
STEVENS Hannah	Law	University of Bristol
STEWART Isabel	Zoology	University of Newcastle
STOCKDALE Henrietta	Post Qualification Application	
TIAN Lilly (Shu-Li)	Interior Design	University of the Arts London
THOMSON Catriona	Chemistry	University of York
TONG Vivienne (Yan Pui)	Public Health	Chinese University of Hong Kong
TSE Betty (Wai)	Biochemistry	King's College London
TYLER Amy	Philosophy	Durham University
VIEGELMANN Isadora	Medical Microbiology	University of Bristol
WAKEFORD-SMITH Hollie	Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	University of the Arts London
WALSH Isabelle	Deaf Studies	Trinity College Dublin
WINFIELD Georgina	Rural Land Management	Royal Agricultural College
WONG Joey Cho	Architecture	University of Manchester
WONG Natalie Tzee	Science	University of Hong Kong
YANG Lucy Yuan	Management	London School of Economics
YONGSAKUL Mai (Sasadhorn)	Sociology	University of Exeter
YOO Chloe (Jee Soo)	Computer Science and	University of Nottingham

IN MEMORY OF MOTHER CLARE SHANLEY RSCJ

Head of the Sacred Heart School Woldingham 1947 - 1967

Mother Clare Shanley died in March 2012 aged 107. A group of old girls whose years at Woldingham spanned Mother Shanley's time as Mistress General, got together to organise a memorial Mass for her on 2 October at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, followed by a reunion for their year groups.

We expected 150 to come along but many, many more of Shan's old girls arrived and we lost count as the church filled up and we ran out of Mass sheets. When the doors at the back of the church shut to enclose this private celebration it seemed as if twice that number were there! – a gathering all the more remarkable when one remembers that the small Convent of the Sacred Heart school was a fifth of the size of the current Woldingham School, existing as it then did as part of a fully functioning novitiate convent.

Sister Dorothy Bell, staunch supporter of old girls, represented the Order of the Sacred Heart and we were delighted to see Richard Brumby, a current governor of the School.



Father Anthony Nye SJ said Latin Mass with traditional Woldingham music including the Immaculata and hymns and Eileen Gillow, a former Head Girl, gave a wonderful tribute (which appears in full below).

As the farewell 'Deo Gratias' faded, Mass had ended and the church erupted as Shan's old girls celebrated with meetings, greetings and hugs. Probably Farm Street had never seen or heard anything quite like it!

Eventually people drifted off to their reunions including 100 who moved on to the Audley pub in Mount Street where a room had been reserved with a bar and hot food. The party room was packed and the staff worked really hard, seemingly unfazed by so many noisy women!

We are grateful to WSHA for their financial contribution towards this event which was truly unique, energetic, nostalgic and happy.

We celebrated our memories, the lifelong friendships which we had made during the 'Shan' Years and we remembered with gratitude all that was represented by Mother Shanley and the remarkable women of the Sacred Heart Order who had educated and cared for us.

*Your presence
is your gift*



Eulogy by Eileen Gillow

Shan, as she was known to all of us, was one of the most formidable – and formative – influences on all of our lives. Whether we liked or disliked her, admired her or disapproved of everything she stood for, indifference was not an option. Indeed we have no need for a special

ceremony to recall her memory. It and her influence remain etched indelibly on each of our lives. So how did we all come into contact?

Emily Clare Shanley, called Emmy as a small child, was born on 10 August 1904 in Athlone, Ireland (which was, of course, under British rule in those days). She was the sixth of seven children, but as her younger brother died, she was in effect the youngest in the family. An older brother, who became a Carmelite and later in life a bishop serving in the Philippines, and four older sisters. Her father, a GP, died when she was four and her English mother moved the family first to Dublin and then, three years later, to London, settling in Clapham. She was sent to the Convent of the Sacred Heart at West Hill and, for her final two years of schooling to Roehampton.

After she had left she kept in touch with the school, in the midst of an enjoyable social life and secretarial job, by organising its East End Club for Girls. She later wrote that this



work with desperately poor girls changed her, leading her to be more prayerful and, eventually, to realise that she had a vocation to the religious life.

She was accepted by Reverend Mother Archer Shee just as war was about to break out in 1939 and in February 1940, after the usual six months spent as a postulant, received the habit. Her career was nearly brought to an abrupt end by a bomb which dropped on the convent at Roehampton, but she emerged unscathed, protected by the table under which she had been

attempting to sleep, and was sent to complete her noviceship in Scotland. That done, and clad in her black veil, she went via Fenham to Stamford where she became Mistress of Discipline. The die was cast.

My own life crossed that of Shan in the autumn of 1946 when the school moved from Stamford to Woldingham and I joined it as one of its founder pupils. Our delayed arrival was not quite as planned. Edward's taxi, which brought us from the station, had to edge into a front drive decorated with baths and lavatories waiting to be installed in more conventional settings, the corridors were piled high with furniture, chapel candlesticks and statues, interspersed with screened-off



sections behind which the unfortunate nuns camped, making walking in anything except single file impossible, and the only heating came from smoking log fires. Collecting wood from the grounds for maintaining these was a task from which even the smallest of us were not excused. We sallied forth in that coldest

of cold winters, clad in our navy blue serge dresses, which were changed only once a term, though we did get a clean cream collar before Exemptions each Saturday. I mention these somewhat primitive domestic arrangements of the school in 1946 by way of comparison with the scene 10 years later when I left in 1956 by which time Woldingham had become one of the country's leading girls' schools. What had happened in the interval was that Shan, newly professed and returned from Rome was appointed Mistress General in 1947.

Mistress Generals were not the exact equivalent of a headmistress because they had no responsibility for the academic side of the school, this falling to the lot of the Mistress of Studies who, for all of my time and most of Shan's was the very capable Mother Binney. ▶





Shan’s role was basically to see that the school ran smoothly and without interruption and to develop its ethos: in this she relied on the three ‘Ss’ – spiritual development, social development and succession planning. All were of critical importance. The first was all pervasive and governed the timetable of our daily lives: from the holy water as we rose, through Mass, prayers, and instructions to the tolling of the Greater Silence bell at twenty-five past nine each evening, and woe betide any of us who talked or misbehaved after this and caused a nun to reprimand us thus breaking her Silence!

This of course leads us to the second ‘S’, social development, or, as it might loosely be described, the installation of civilised behaviour, a heavy responsibility delegated by our parents to the school where we spent two-thirds of each year of our adolescent lives. Partly of course this involved the maintenance of law and order among a group of energetic children. ‘Freedom with Restraint’ was her watch-cry. She liked to stress the first word to visiting parents, but I think it was evenly balanced – a view confirmed by the various emails I received from you in response to our request for your recollections of Shan. Roughly half of you, unprompted, recalled sitting trembling on the stairs outside her room having been summoned for some misdemeanour - she had, after all ‘history’ as a previous strict Mistress of Discipline – and the other half recalled sitting there happy in anticipation of a cosy chat with her at their own request. Ah yes, the cosy, relaxed chat which she steered so skilfully! She was an expert at extracting information without the informant’s knowledge and as a result was aware of just about everything going on, or planned, in the school. Things of which she disapproved were stamped on immediately, but on those which she either thought unimportant or harmless fun, a blind eye was turned, provided of course one was not actually

caught – a most valuable lesson for life of the importance of observing the 11th Commandment: Thou shalt not be found out. My own memory of those stairs is of Shan, standing in the niche on the balcony outside her room, addressing the morning and evening assemblies of the school gathered beneath. It suited her so well it was amazing to realise that it had not actually been made with her in mind!

The other part of our social development consisted in the imparting of good manners and savoir faire, twin prongs in the battle for ‘consideration for others’ and the development of ‘ease of manner’ – two of Shan’s other watch-cries. It must be admitted though that Shan was not above appealing to snobbish instincts to achieve her ends. I recall one day her ringing the bell for silence in the refectory, having first ominously shut the

doors to exclude the maids and sisters, and then telling us how disappointed she had been to hear that some of us had been complaining of the food; she would like to remind us all that in our circles it was simply not done to discuss food and she did not expect to have to remind us of this again. Nor did she; her words met with total success. The food however remained dire. (At the risk of tempting wrath from on high may I just remind you of the luke-warm hunks of cod in greasy batter accompanied by cold beetroot in vinegar which greeted us each Friday and the culinary miracle of boiled eggs at breakfast with yolks, hard as bullets, swimming in shells filled with totally liquid albumen).

And so to the third ‘S’, succession planning – ours not hers – vital for an independent school to ensure both a continuous influx of pupils to replace those leaving at the end of their school careers and an adequate source of income to maintain and develop the school amenities. Her strategy was simple: attract the best, and the rest would beat a path to her door.

Her trio of assistants in this task were Who’s Who, Debrett and Burke’s Peerage and Landed Gentry, tomes nestling on the shelf in her room. Success thereafter was dependent on her vigorous vetting process – sensibly, in those days of large families where younger sisters followed their elders through the school (and I speak as the fourth of five sisters who passed through the school in its various incarnations), the vetting was of parents, not pupils. And it worked. I think it is a measure of her success that, on the whole, we all lived harmoniously together during our school careers and that so many of us have kept up with each other since then.

In 1966, the year before she retired, the Evening Standard published an interview with Shan in its series of articles entitled The Headmistress. It was accompanied by a photograph of her in full habit and pie-frill. Asked at the end what her hopes were for the girls when they left school she replied: “I hope they will make themselves felt in their own small circle. I think they have a message for the world – of hope and of security, or perhaps I mean confidence because of their faith”. Given that the article appeared under the unrecognisable heading: “In a Surrey convent, the teaching is about homemaking and husbands” and dwells on gentle, thoughtful children in frilly blue pinafores curtsying to Shan, I am not convinced that the interviewer had really got totally to grips with her subject.

It is nevertheless amazing that such an article could appear in the daily press in the era of the Beatles, Rolling Stones, satirical shows on television, Flower Power and the Permissive Society. Society was in upheaval, but so too was the Church. The hurricane of Vatican II had occurred, leaving in its wake disruption, renewal or uncertainty depending on one’s point of view. Its aftermath heralded the second Dissolution of the Convents, if not yet of the Monasteries. For a 63 year old member of an enclosed Order, who had just relinquished a position of authority held for 20 years, it must have been a disconcerting place in which to find herself. Shan is a magnificent example to us all of how to accept what cannot be changed and to see and take advantage of the opportunities presented by that challenge. She may have abandoned her habit reluctantly and piecemeal over the following years - though not her veil, which merely appeared in modern, shortened form - but she enthusiastically embraced the freedom which the abolition of enclosure made possible. Travel was undertaken, amazingly to an ashram in India, and, more conventionally for someone whose feast-day was on that of Our Lady of Lourdes which became a holiday for the school, through her close association with the Arundel & Brighton Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Given this, it is most appropriate that we should be gathered here together for Mass for her in the Church of the Immaculate Conception and, on behalf of the Woldingham Sacred Heart Association, I should like to thank Father Pearsall, Father Nye and the Jesuits for making this possible.

What remained unchanged though was her commitment to us, her old children. Morphed from the former Mother E. Shanley, as she had always signed herself, to the new Sister Clare Shanley, she started to appear in our houses, at weddings and other social functions. Thoughts to assist our spiritual development, typed on the old familiar typewriter, were sent out to us regularly over the years. She was always there at the end of a telephone or with a letter to share our joys, offer

advice, pray when requested and above all to allay the terror of those found to be terminally ill and to prepare them for their onward progress to what she described as the fuller life of the next world.

Unlike most of us, Shan appeared to have no fear of death, regarding it as merely the means by which she would reach this promised destination. Death however appeared to be in no hurry to claim her. Those present at her 90th birthday will always remember her striding up the chapel at Woldingham to bring instant silence to our chatter; those at her 100th birthday at Roehampton will remember marvelling at her trotting down the steps in the garden, calling to Mother Moorhead to “come along”; we subsequently learnt that the secret of her mobility was tai chi, kept up till her 107th birthday. She died, peacefully, seven months later on 4 March this year.

I was about to conclude with the customary words: may she rest in peace but then thought, - “Not so fast!” I don’t think that Shan will really think that her work is completed and that she can finally rest until she has made one last effort to try to ensure that, as our times arrive, each of her old children reaches Heaven safely. Some of us have of course preceded her and will have been there to greet her; some good and pious souls will stroll the course, while others live in hope that the admissions policy will be relaxed on their day; but for others it will require a considerable amount of God-bothering. I have every confidence that Shan will prove both committed and persistent in this task. Poor God, but aren’t we lucky to have such an advocate.

As I eased into my early sixties, son launched, husband winding down, I had thoughts of slowing up a bit, more time for self-indulgence. And then I was asked to become chairman of our local hospice. A hospice that offered day and home care is on the brink of building a bedded unit in order to back up the work we do in partnership with the Norfolk NHS and other agencies. Underlying all this activity and expansion is the constant worry about raising money - but raise it we must, as we are not only the sole hospice this side of Norfolk but are extending much needed support to the Fens and North Cambridgeshire. If there is anyone out there with a similar commitment, I would be delighted to hear from them – exchanging information is the best education around.

I have pretty well given up my work mentoring graduates through the whole ordeal of the job market, but in order to keep some perspective, I continue with helping a colleague to externally evaluate publicly quoted companies (a legal requirement for them now) and give a hand to a friend who finds houses for people wanting second homes on the Norfolk coast. Above all, I keep in touch with the good old friends from Woldingham days – Virginia Ewart, Milly Scott Ellis, Bridget Gordon-Watson, Anne-Marie Masraff to name a few. Strange how a handful of years, so many decades ago, continues to influence one’s life - witness the delight with which we all fell on each other’s necks, irrespective of age or ‘year’, at Shan’s thanksgiving service. A tribute to her, and to all those other long-suffering women in black who had such input into our formative years!

Patricia Broke

WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS

Gemma Goodfellow (nee Windibank)

White Iris Flowers - Class of 1999

Some of my fondest memories of Woldingham life are of sitting in the art studio endlessly trying to complete the next bit of course work for a looming deadline. Chatting away, paint brush in hand, allowing myself to be creative. Things haven't changed much in the 14 years I have been 'out in the big wide world', although I am now being creative with flowers. This is something I have developed a huge passion for over the years and has resulted in my business, White Iris Flowers.

My first job in London, after many exciting travels abroad and a degree at Birmingham University was with an events company organising, amongst other things, all the events for the Conservative Party. This was about as close as I ever got to using what I had learned from my Politics degree! I then moved on to a larger events company organising financial road shows and large awards dinners. I loved every aspect of my job and the chance to be imaginative when designing the layouts and backdrops for these functions. I was lucky enough to do some travelling with work and visit many glamorous venues in London and Europe. I have had the privilege to work with some of these venues since then, whilst arranging flowers for clients in London.

I developed my passion for flowers and floristry whilst working in events, having seen and ordered some amazing displays, and I began to take evening classes to learn the basics of floristry. I remember turning up on the first day thinking 'who does floristry courses? Am I going to be in a room full of retirees?', but I was pleasantly surprised to find a room full of people like me, eager to learn. I then just had to find lots of lovely friends who kindly allowed me to practise my skills on their wedding flowers!!



Having studied and worked for a year, the opportunity arose for me to make a career out of what I had learnt and in September 2009 I opened up a small florist shop in South West London. A huge step, hard work, fun and a lot of sleepless nights led me to complete my first full year trading, after which I married and our daughter Lucie followed shortly afterwards.

White Iris Flowers is now a well established bespoke Wedding and Events flower company working both in Central London and the home counties. Family life has meant that I have had to be a little more flexible in my working hours so I was lucky enough to be able to sell my shop to work on individual projects which allowed me to give a much more personal service to my clients. Wedding flowers is a huge part of the work I do and working with brides and their families to achieve exactly their vision is hugely rewarding. I work with the smallest and largest budgets and have worked with venues such as Kew Gardens, Hampton Court Palace and Northbrook Park in Surrey to name a few. This balances nicely with the corporate events and awards dinners I work on in the City and West End, allowing me to be varied in my ideas and approaches to what I do.

www.whiteirisflowers.co.uk

WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS

Alice Hues

Founder of 'Great Minds' tuition - Class of 2001

With my rose tinted glasses on, I look back at my time at Woldingham and see a student that was inquisitive, assertive and determined. The recollections of the likes of poor Mr Spears, Miss Quinlan and Miss Brabazon might be more like dogmatic, stubborn and argumentative.

It is only now that my work brings me into contact with children and adults with dyslexia that I can try and explain myself and apologise to those long-suffering teachers!

Academically, I was stubbornly determined, but disguised my hard work so that no one would see my struggle. I now understand that, like many dyslexic students, I had difficulty absorbing the information as my brain seemed wired in a different way. I credit my eventual exam success to some creative and persevering teachers. From Miss Hoyle, who seemed to know I was working harder than I let on, to Mr Harding who used to come and give me extra support with Maths A-level at 7:30 in the morning; I will always be very grateful.

A dyslexia label was not important at Woldingham, I had the support I needed to get my three A Grades and for that I offer huge credit and thanks. Things, though, became harder at university when that support network disappeared.

Everyone processes information in different ways; some have a preference for auditory learning, some for visual or kinesthetic. I learn best through movement and experience - I can always be relied on to navigate my way home! Unfortunately teaching in this way is difficult in the classroom.

I imagine the route to knowledge like a road map. Although the destination is the same, individuals can choose their own route. The difference between a good and bad teacher is to me like the difference between the route planner for Apple and Google Maps. One provides a number of possible routes whilst the other gives just one option.

In a classroom environment, this might be the equivalent of having a teacher that uses only rote learning or endless note writing. For some this will work, but others may need further stimulation.



Tutors have the flexibility to trial different types of learning. If a student doesn't understand something, they can tackle the concept from every possible angle with hundreds of tailored examples. Whether a child has dyslexia or not, tuition can transform the ability to learn and change lives, but finding one can be hard. Referrals and recommendations are a reliable way to find a tutor in your area, but finding a tutor is like finding a friend, the 'best' tutor isn't necessarily the right tutor for everyone! The chemistry is vital; the right role model will inspire a student in all aspects of life, not just in the classroom.

From its admissions policy to daily ethos, Woldingham educates beyond the black and white curriculum. When looking for Great Minds tutors, we look for individuals who are robust, good at forming relationships and know their place in the world. We do not make a point of finding only Oxbridge graduates, preferring instead enthusiastic, clear communicators who can motivate and inspire learning.

An important thing I have come to learn is that you do not have to be a master of the subject you teach in order to be a masterful teacher. It is far better to concentrate on understanding the individual being able to maximise their learning potential.

If you feel frustration due to a lack of understanding of your child's learning process, I can recommend reading

The Dyslexic Advantage (Brock and Fernet Eide)

Different Learners (Jane M. Healy)

How Children Succeed (Paul Tough)

If you think your child may benefit from some support where the focus is on how we learn as well as what we learn, then please contact Great Minds.

info@greatmindstuition.com

Tel. 0207 738 2067



WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS

Lucille Howe

Author of 'Bondi Blonde' - Class of 1991



Five years ago, you would have called me the luckiest lady in Lucky Land. I was living three cartwheels away from the edge of Bondi Beach, with a 'right hottie' (quote, unquote) and writing all sorts of sordid nonsense for Cosmo

magazine, Down Under, where I worked as their Features Editor. There was only one problem... I felt like I'd had a lobotomy. Starved of culture, good conversation and lively debate on anything other than low carbs v low sugar I sat down at my computer, determined to keep my brain sharp, and filed 700 words of what would be 92,000 of Bondi Blonde.

Cut to a year later and my life in the Zen lane took a swerve. I left the hottie, bringing my tan, and a gazillion pairs of Havanas, back to London, on the grounds that I couldn't sign up for marriage and kids 23 hours and £1,200 of air travel from everyone else I loved in this world.

65,000 words were now under my very much tightened belt (that's what endless beach runs, Bikram yoga and a body fascist boyfriend does for a girl) and I was stuck, unable to end in fiction what has taken such a turn in reality.

May 2010, I decided that I really wanted to revisit Cannes Film Festival so I pitched the following feature to the Daily Mail: 'Can you get your film green-lit in 48 hours' and the very clever Commissioning Ed told me to dry clean my best red carpet frock and go get 'em. After some schmoozing at the British Film Pavilion, I invited Paul Brett, of Prescience Film Finance (co-producers of The King's Speech), to see if he could eat £300 worth of lobster on the Daily Mail expense account. Fortunately, his appetite didn't stretch beyond a Tuna Nicoise, and around our third wine, he challenged me to give him my best 30-second elevator pitch on the fictional film I had come there to finance.



My neurons perked up at this stage and fought the effects of the alcohol to come up with the Grand Plan: 'Why not pitch the plot to your book, ya great drongo?' And this is where the story really hots up. I will paraphrase here, but the general response was, 'by golly I LOVE it,' at which point I was whisked to the Australian Film Commission to regale said plot to the big cheese there, and for the subsequent 48 hours, I survived on a diet of bubbles and optimism.

But first things first: I had to finish the thing. So, summer 2010 was a blur of power-writing, fuelled on midnight snacks and encouraging emails from Paul, which were the equivalent of him waving poms poms at me from the top of a human pyramid.

By the time I delivered the finished manuscript, at the end of the summer, Prescience had taken an axe to their budgets and cooled on the idea (not, however, before flying me to the Toronto Film Festival, meeting Darren Aronofsky and Danny Boyle). But – **swoon** – they had meanwhile hooked me up with the film agent at top agency, Curtis Brown, to potentially broker the deal at a later date, who had put the book in the hands of legendary literary agent, Sheila Crowley.

After 20 years of writing the call came, and from Sheila herself... would I like her to represent me? Does the Queen like jewels? 'Of course!' Sheila was, and is, everything an author could dream up in their fervid imagination re the kind of glamorous, nurturing, terrifyingly smart expert/friend you long for in this process. Long may she reign.

Initially, we got half a dozen rejections, and some bang-on notes, from her A-list of editors at the big publishers. So, I went away and revised my latest draft to incorporate some of those suggestions, took some nail scissors to chapters and pruned it into a slicker shape, and decided to e-publish myself as a sort of dummy run to show publishers what the public think.

Luckily, Bondi Blondes around the world have bought the book to bring some candy to their Kindle and rad to their iPad and I hope that even more readers get to experience Bondi Beach the way I did. It's an antipodean hot, LOL, read that explores some darker body issues along the way, so I do think it's unique among summer romances. But, most of all, I hope my real-life story inspires writers to seize the day and know that connections and opportunities might come from the most unexpected of places. The trick is to say, 'yes' as much as you can, especially to new adventures.

Bondi Blonde is available from www.amazon.com
For more info on Lucille, visit www.lucillehowe.com
and www.curtisbrown.co.uk/lucille-howe

WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS

Mary Reynolds Thompson

Wild Spirit - Class of 1974

It probably won't surprise anyone from the class of '74 that the focus of my life today is wildness! I was, after all, a wild child, always getting into trouble. But whereas wildness once meant forbidden bacchanals in the woods at school, it now means connecting to the wild earth - and in ways I never expected.

In 2001, after working over 20 years as a copywriter and branding specialist, I was ready for something different. I'd been sober for many years, gone through some tough times, and wanted work that was more spiritually meaningful. An avid hiker and backpacker since moving to California in my late twenties, I loved being outdoors, but those activities hardly seemed to constitute a career.

In 2004, however, I got lucky, discovering a way to combine my love of the natural world with my love of language. I trained as a facilitator of poetry therapy, later joining the core faculty of the Therapeutic Writing Institute.

I don't remember reading much poetry at school (Beowulf, Gibran, and Shakespeare aside) but I soon found myself enthralled by the nature poets - Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, Gary Snyder, and Joy Harjo, to name but a few. Later still, the raw poetry of the natural world was to become my primary text. The slap of water on stone, the paw-print on the path, the drumbeat of the woodpecker - all were doorways into my inner wild.

I began to develop workshops, taking participants into the forests or mountains to experience a direct connection with nature. There is something truly mystical - like the way you feel entering a favorite place of worship—when you journal or write poems on giant boulders or by night under the stars. Viewing life from the perspective of a river's flow or the patience of trees, we tap into an inner source of inspiration and wisdom, not readily available in our stress-filled lives.



Last year, my book "Embrace Your Inner Wild" was published. It was a combined effort with photographer Don Moseman, a fellow wild spirit, who spent over 30 years in San Quentin State Prison, one of the toughest prisons in America. He's been out since 1989 and walked across America three times - a total of 9,000 miles. Don and I share a belief that connecting to the natural world is essential to experiencing our inner wild in a healthy way - and to staying out of trouble!

Looking back on my Woldingham days, what I loved best - other than the lifelong friendships I made - are English classes with Ms Watkins, rambles with Sister Goddard, and drama classes with Ms Bud. Fittingly, today I spend my life holding workshops outdoors, and rambling far and wide through dramatic landscapes, pen and journal in hand. It's my kind of wild life!

Mary Reynolds Thompson (née Reynolds) lives just north of San Francisco with her husband, Bruce. She can be reached through www.reclaimingthewildsoul.com or email her at maryrthompson@mac.com



WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS



*Tara Meran
(née Freelend)*

Slacks & Co. London, Maternity Fashion -
Class of 1996



Designing and running my own business was something I had dreamed of doing for as long as I can remember. Looking back I was inspired by my godmother, who oversaw her luxury designer boutique and couture atelier, while

sitting behind her über-contemporary desk in the smartest office I have ever seen. Two floors of shopping heaven featuring designers from New York to Tokyo, the third floor buzzing with seamstresses in white lab coats presenting the latest Ungaro couture dress for a glamorous client.

My father always insisted I do a "sensible" degree, so after Woldingham, I went to Bristol to read Economics and Accounting. After graduating the one thing I knew that I didn't want was to work in a bank, and after exploring my options I was fortunate to get a place in the Buying Department at Harvey Nichols. Starting on leisure wear, then moving onto designer shoes and Modern Bridge collections I trained from the bottom up as a Buyer. This led onto a buying and merchandising position at Alexander McQueen and lastly, a position as the UK country manager for a high-end French home and nightwear brand, managing both the retail and wholesale operations.



Slacks & Co. started by coincidence, as I was toying with the idea of launching a premium quality but mid-priced (non-maternity) trouser line and started working with the renowned Savile Row tailor Edward Sexton, who made the infamous white wedding suit for Bianca Jagger. A maternity boutique owner heard about the trouser project and approached me to design a business trouser for her working customer. Not having been pregnant myself it took lots of consultations with pregnant girlfriends, but the trouser sold out in an instant and the concept grew from there with us selling to various maternity boutiques from the USA to Australia.

Since our launch in late 2009, Slacks & Co.'s offering has grown into a full collection of maternity blouses, trousers, jeans, skirts and dresses. Manufacturing all our garments in Portugal using European cloths we can ensure ethical production processes while creating a purely European product. Conscious of the fact that pregnant girls view maternity purchases as a short-term investment, we need to keep high product standards as they purchase few garments they wash over and over again. Claire, my half-sister, who joined the business in 2011 has been essential to the brand's growth, looking after the PR and commercial side as well as being involved creatively. Operationally, the business works with freelancers, wholesale agents and we outsource our online shop fulfilment to a professional warehouse.

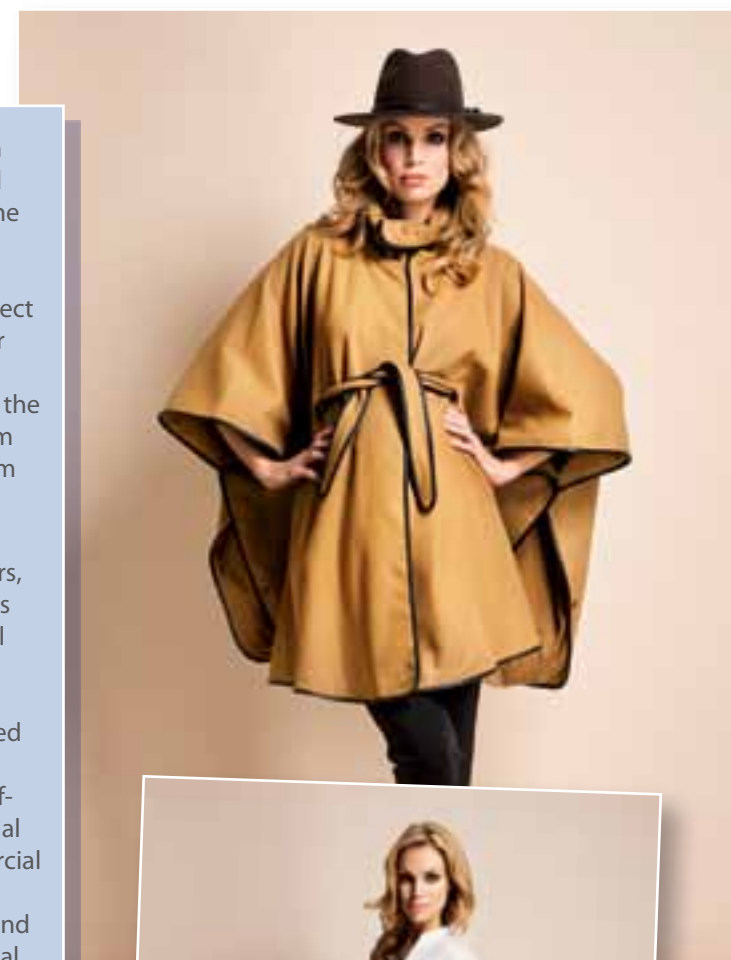
Our online store launched in 2012 and we are now focused on growing the e-tail side during 2013. In the last three years we've had many challenging moments as well as highs, from celebrity recognitions to Vogue features, but one of the most memorable being last year when Lara Levy (née Matthews class of 1996 living in New Orleans) contacted me via Facebook, saying she'd worn Slacks & Co. during her pregnancy and hadn't made the connection!

Married and currently living between London and Vienna, I juggle my time as a mother to Cecilia 3 ¾ and Heinrich 1 ½ (perfect for some Research & Development!) and the business. Designing and fitting take up 10% of my working time, while the rest is filled with photo shoots, travelling to trade fairs, purchase planning, logistics, budgeting and accounts! It was definitely worth doing that "sensible" degree!

www.slacksandco.com

Please use the 15% discount code for old girls - **WOLD2013** when visiting our site!

SLACKS & CO.
LONDON



WOLDINGHAM HEADLINERS

Marilu Wren (née Adams)

Managing Director, Ocky Olly - Class of 1987



I'm Marilu, Mum to four children and entrepreneur.

It's interesting when I look back at what brought me to this place, I find that a little piece of each part of my history has a role to play, my father's rag trade history especially. Being brought up with patterns,

fits, fashions and fabric is in my blood. Then moving onto PR & marketing and then sales. Followed by owning a second hand children's shop and finally being a mum of four children. Each path we take, our schools, friends, jobs and hobbies all build us up to be the people we become and the businesses we run.

My husband and I have had a rough couple of years, after he sustained a spinal injury during surgery, which means he now lives with debilitating chronic neuropathic pain permanently. As he is no longer able to work I had to find a way to earn money to raise our four children.

As a family we love the outdoors, and as a mum I would often come home with pockets full of treasure. Shells, muddy sticks, leaves, feathers and a host of other goodies that my children would collect while we were out.



Like all great products, the first Ocky Olly product was inspired by a need, my need to come home with clean empty pockets and, my children's need to keep exploring and collecting.

Ocky Olly, sells a range of inspiring, durable clothing and accessories for young children that capture the imagination of parents, as well as helping children to learn and have fun through play and exploration in natural settings. This is something that we feel very strongly about as there is much evidence to support the fact that children who play in natural settings are more independent and have a positive attitude towards the environment, whilst also enhancing their ability to concentrate and be more self-disciplined.

Our first product, the Smocka, is a unique and practical modern take on the traditional smock top with a retro twist. It is a durable, over-sized children's play top, with a waterproof lined front pocket made especially for little explorers who like to collect things and is made from a fleece that is wind-proof and anti-pill - just perfect for the great British outdoors. It can also be easily stored, by folding it into the pocket which keeps it waterproof, clean and dry in your bag, pram or car. After a long day exploring, the children can even use it as a pillow in the car journey on the way home. We created four styles, with more in the design stages, and are also designing a range of other products and accessories for your explorers.

I'm grateful that my life has led me to this point where I can design children's clothes and help them have fun, learning through nature, whilst still being able to parent my lovely children.

STUDIO WITH A VIEW

Sophie Plender

Class of 2004



More familiar with freelance writing and researching aspects of art and design from within an unheated London library, where signs reading 'keep phones on silent mode' were in Latin and a Buddhist monk teaches art history, or an old painting studio-cum library holed up in the V&A

somewhere, it was great to be asked this year to set up an intensive art course on location, as it were, in Florence.

Julia Lawrence, professional gilder and furniture restorer asked me to help launch a course to teach the art of water and oil of gilding in its true birthplace and historic centre of excellence for the medium, in Florence. Gilding, (applying gold-leaf to objects like furniture, frames and decorative architectural elements in interiors) is an art fast becoming extinct, rarely taught, except in tiny Italian family-run workshops by toothless fathers to their sons and grandsons. In order for this gorgeous decorative art to keep going, the skills need to be passed to the next generation. And where better to do this than a huge, empty, paint-stained studio on the Arno?

Our studio for the Easter Gilding Course was located on the Lungarno Serristori with beautiful views over the rooftops to the Duomo and the river: with Lucy Honeychurch's pensione from E M Forster's 'Room with a View' facing us from across the Arno.



Inside the studio, under frescoed ceilings and with a fair amount of espressos from a café below, Julia taught gilding and I taught art history to a variety of students. No previous knowledge was required but the small class size meant that Florentine based artists and university students could learn the basics of gilding – making gesso, applying bole, applying gold leaf and burnishing and polishing - at their own pace.

Artists gilded frames for their own work, and non-practitioners gilded giant shells, candlesticks, roses and a myriad of other objects chosen from a workshop down a cobbled and graffitied street off the Piazza Sto Spirito.

Gold leaf is so light any wind aggravates the laying process, so in some rooms we shuttered out breezes while students used squirrel tail-hair brushes to place 'champagne', 'bronzed' or

'lemon' coloured 23.5 carot gold onto objects.

Between long days in the studio – often up to 12 hours – I also took groups round Florence giving art historical talks leaving students coming away with a depth of understanding about the art, architecture and socio-historical fabric of Tuscany. Using

the sculpture, costume and architecture of Florence, stories of princely popes, merchant bankers flaunting their cash, controversial artists needing bailing out of jail, beautiful women being married for their money could come alive. Plus ça change!

Having lived and worked in Italy, I organised excursions to nearby villages, amphitheatres and operas, clubs, bars and palazzi to suit all ages and stages.

Julie Hadley's ever-inventive art history lessons for A and AS level at Woldingham remain one of my fondest memories of school; with her black lab Giotto (named after the fourteenth century Master painter) sitting under the desk and our school trips to Florence and Paris full of as much Prosecco as art... Her teaching certainly fuelled my early interest in art and design and prompted alternative ways of looking at the world around us through images and objects. I'm sure the Art Department has influenced many Woldingham girls' lives or careers in similarly creative ways.

Sophie Plender MA (RCA) is a freelance art and design historian who trained at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal College of Art. For information on tailor-made artistic and cultural tours in London or abroad, please contact sophie.plender@network.rca.ac.uk

CHARITY RALLY

Alex Gambrell (née Furness)

Class of 1999

For a while, Ed, my husband, and I had been looking for a challenge which would combine adventure and travel with raising money for a good cause. In Autumn 2011 we were lucky enough to be chosen for a sought after place on the Help for Heroes 4x4 European Rally to be held in June 2012 - third year of running - but this is when the hard work began! The rally is a 2000 mile drive across Europe in 4x4 vehicles over 10 days which follows the route of the Band of Brothers and takes in many important and historical sites from both World Wars. But before we could really consider the adventure of the Rally itself we needed to put our energy into fundraising which was a daunting task as neither of us had much previous experience. We set ourselves a goal to raise £5000 but were unsure whether this was realistic with six months until the Rally itself and busy full time jobs. We organised a variety of fundraising activities from collecting outside supermarkets and on high streets to cake sales and a pub quiz, as well as sponsorship and a raffle. Thanks to the brilliant team of volunteers from our families and friends who braved all weathers and to the overwhelming and humbling support of the british public we raised a phenomenal £8879.97. The 4x4 European Rally has now raised over £500,000 for Help for Heroes since its inception in 2010.

The rally itself began on Salisbury Plain on 16 June 2012 and off we set in our fully loaded Landrover (nicknamed Nelly) and no idea what to expect. After being inspected by marshalls along with 40 other 4x4 vehicles we were issued with road books containing written directions and diagrams depicting our route for the day. At this point any thoughts I may have had of a driving 'holiday' across Europe were dispelled; it felt like we were about to commence a military exercise and I was hoping my navigational skills were going to be up to the job! From Salisbury Plain we progressed both on and off road on what can only be described as the experience of a lifetime. From the beaches of Normandy to the landing sites of Arnhem to the Menin Gate in Ypres to the concentration camp at Dachau it is difficult to describe the emotional as well as physical journey that we undertook. All the teams met up at a campsite each evening and we couldn't have asked to spend our exhausted evenings with a friendlier group of people. Always ready with a beer and a spanner to aid with the running repairs caused by aged vehicles unused to high mileage. Our journey ended in Berchtesgarden at Hitler's nest which provided a poignant finale to the Rally and our journey.

Ed and I will remember our experience forever but we will also remember the brave men and women who in times past and present have risked their lives for their countries and the excellent work of Help for Heroes in Great Britain.



TEAM
NELLY



MY OLYMPICS EXPERIENCE

Jane Pendered

Volunteering in the Olympic Village - Class of 1980

I count myself very lucky to have been involved with both the Olympics and Paralympics, I was volunteering and based in The Village.

The moment the Olympics was announced in London I was on a mission to be a part of it! Sadly not competing, but if only!! Using my language skills I applied to host either French or Spanish speaking countries, and many interviews and training sessions later I ended up looking after Puerto Rico during the Olympics and Rwanda during the Paralympics. It was so exciting and I had such a varied role. I was with 3 other volunteers in both cases as both countries had about a dozen athletes. We needed to drive, organise, sew, support, greet guests, make reservations, and more. I have never cheered, clapped and cried so much! Naturally the athletes were most important, but so were their support teams, who we guided to events and around London. It was a humbling experience, especially when we met the Rwandans, many of whom were there due to the Genocide back in the 80s or due to polio.

I supported a sitting volleyball team, weight lifter, runners, hurdlers, a swimmer, wrestlers, boxers, and gymnasts. I was very lucky to see a lot of sport, one of my main passions in life. As you all know the venues were all superb as was the planning, organising and help from fellow volunteers, who were all so friendly, helpful and happy.



I really was so proud to be a part of London 2012 and to have met so many fabulous people who were all there to make our Olympics work and be the best, which they most definitely were. Roll on Rio!!!

Sarah Heilbron (née Godsall)

Being a Games Maker - Class of 1978



In September 2011, many months after applying to be a volunteer, I had the email calling me for an interview. Why did I want to volunteer? Along with the other 25,000 applicants the answer was 'to be a part of it'.

I was offered a job in the Transport department. Did this mean a car park attendant somewhere in Essex or was I going to be a driver? After the selection event, orientation, driving assessment, role specific and venue specific training I was ready to be a BMW driver at the Fleet Depot, Olympic Park, Stratford. Bring on the Olympics.

Day one arrived and I was shaking like a leaf wondering why on earth I was doing this. I hadn't driven regularly in London for about 15 years. Would I get completely lost, would the satnav work? Luckily it was still a week before the Olympics started so time to find my way around. My driving role was essentially as a taxi driver, either being on standby at various venues or to do a specific requested journey. I became very familiar with places such as the central London hotels, Heathrow, Excel, North Greenwich Arena (now known as the O2 again) and the

Olympic Park and Village. You never knew who was going to get in the car or where we would be asked to go next. I took three German Gold medalist hockey players to their base. And drove the 'Seb Coe of Rio 2016' to an event, as he had to visit every venue. Many people from all around the world were delighted to see the sights of London. It was an honour to drive them. Yes, there was a lot of waiting around, some shifts without a single passenger. But there was great camaraderie among the Games Maker drivers, never a dull moment, sharing our experiences. It was great fun using the Olympic Lanes in our special cars, driving in London won't be the same again.

Having done my 14 Olympic shifts I thought it was over but then there was a request for more drivers for the Paralympics. I was already missing the experience so went back for more!

We were very proud to be wearing the poppy and purple uniform. And could not help but smile at anyone who came near. I miss travelling to my shifts and complete strangers asking about what I was doing for the Olympics or for directions. Random people wanting their photo with me or just saying 'well done'.

I was only one of the 70,000 volunteer Games Makers that helped make it happen but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.



Susannah Jayes

Magenta Magicians - Class of 1984

In 2012 I became one of an 8,000-strong group of London Ambassadors, whose role was to welcome visitors from around the world and help them to explore London. I have never particularly enjoyed sport, but the Olympics was a great chance to get involved in a once-in-a-lifetime global event. I also think that the term 'Ambassador' must have appealed to me (Ferrero Rocher chocolates spring to mind!), so I was delighted when I was selected. The training consisted of role-playing and quizzes about London and I entered into the Olympic spirit with gusto. During one session, the London Ambassadors even set a World Record for a Treasure Hunt around London landmarks.

In June, my uniform duly arrived – in lovely shades of pink and magenta, complete with a natty straw trilby hat – and in July, as a great bonus, I attended the Opening Ceremony rehearsal at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, where I had a fantastic view of the remarkable spectacle that, a few days later, dazzled the world.

During the Games, I was based at mainly Canary Wharf and the Olympic Stadium. I had the most amazing time, I made some good friends and I have never laughed so much. We all did our best to welcome everyone, give out maps and help with their questions. One Swedish visitor randomly asked me who Henry VIII's third wife was. Hopefully my answer of Jane Seymour was correct (my History teacher at Woldingham, Miss Pooley, would have been proud that I actually remembered something from her class!). Among the many great people I met were a British Gold Medal winner from the 1952 Olympic Games and Eddie Izzard, the comedian and actor, who was Chief Games Maker. The weather was hot and sunny and all the visitors said how much they enjoyed the Games and how welcoming London had been, so it was really fulfilling to know that I had contributed to London's huge success.



After the Games were over, I was lucky enough to attend the Olympic and Paralympic Parade on the Mall, where we all had a great time cheering our heroes like Mo Farah, Ellie Simmonds, Jess Ennis and Sir Chris Hoy. What was really special, though, was how much the athletes appreciated the

volunteers' efforts and how they made a point of thanking us all. That made my day!

Mayor Boris Johnson wants the work of London Ambassadors to continue and I recently joined my fellow Ambassadors in Trafalgar Square when NFL American Football came to

town. I am so pleased that the Ambassadors will go on, because the camaraderie between the volunteers and their willingness to give up their time to represent London to the world was absolutely marvellous. For me, it was an honour to be a London Ambassador and a welcome break from my work as a picture researcher, which is mostly home-based, with not much personal interaction, so I am really looking forward to our next event, whatever that might be.

'A great chance to get involved in a once-in-a-lifetime global event'



Tory Bekker
(née Godsall)

Security at Eton Dorney - Class of 1980

I was a volunteer team leader on the security team at Eton, for the Paralympic rowing. It was a wonderful experience, which I will remember forever. I lead a team of around



25 Gamesmakers manning the security screening machines alongside army personnel from the Irish Guards. It was simply the best way to be closely involved with the Games.

THE ROAD TO SANTIAGO

Vicky Chitty (née Foster)

Walking 900km from St Jean Pierre de Port to Santiago - Class of 1976



The first time I gave the word pilgrimage a thought was in Marden House studying Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales with Sister McKeone. I loved the idea of a group of people from all walks of life, sharing stories, prayer food and drink. However until I read Paolo Coelho's 'The Pilgrimage' and Shirley

MacLaine's 'The Camino' I just presumed this was a 14th Century pastime unrelated to my hectic life bringing up four children and being an interior designer. Now, I vowed that the moment my youngest had finished school and on his gap year, I would take five-and-a-half weeks out to do the 900km walk from St Jean Pierre de Port to Santiago and then on to Finisterre.

Let me dispel a few myths. Yes, a Catholic boarding school is the perfect training ground for leaving your family and joining a community with members from all round the world. However, the Camino is utterly unique in the respect that it throws its doors open to any faith, any age, any background, any sex and there is no official starting point. The scallop is its symbol, showing a fan of roads throughout Europe leading to Santiago on the West coast of Spain. You can complete it in the orthodox way, as I did, planning nothing in advance, staying in Municipal Albergues for 5-8 euros a night and eating a Peregrino menu for 9-12 euros which is always three courses salad/ soup/ fish/ meat and potatoes/ yoghurt, almond cake and ice cream or a piece of fruit. The showers are nearly always hot and there are always washing facilities. There are also private albergues and hotels and occasionally Paradors for over 100 euros a night.

The Camino is utterly unique'



If you are injured there are taxis and buses. If you can't or don't wish to carry it, you can have your back pack delivered ahead each day, on most stretches, and you can do as much or as little of the route as you wish.



What everyone has in common is that they are spiritual and seekers. I went on my own and so fell into step with what I call my 1 May tribe. I talked and walked with Danish firemen (who said they did not pray to God but they supported him), a Boston Jewish lawyer (who had no belief but liked Spanish architecture), a Japanese opera singer, Australian nurses and even a First Nation woman carrying pacific ocean water to mix with the Atlantic. Young Germans and South Koreans are very much in evidence because of books and films made in their languages. The latter gave the road a happiness and tranquillity that is almost tangible.

I was determined that my pilgrimage would not be of the hair-shirt variety but one of joy, I had insoles made for my walking shoes which I deliberately bought 1 size too big. I wore them in for nine months beforehand. I did a day trek of the Yorkshire three peaks and then a nine day trek on the GR20 in Corsica to get used to the pack. You cannot have too little! I got my pack down to 8kg including food and water, by abandoning any books but keeping a little notebook/diary. I took an elegant, fine cotton sarong, which acted as my towel but gave me a smart option if I got invited out. Oh and some ballet pumps and a fine white cotton shirt to complete the outfit!

Highlights included the 12th Century iron cross where, in silence, people place the prayer pebbles they have carried from the beginning, the huge incense burner swinging from one end of the transept to the other in Santiago Cathedral and finally burning an article of clothing on the cliffs by the lighthouse at Finisterre (the end of the world) thereby discarding the old spirit and taking on the new, as one prepares for the much tougher Camino of life.

WSHA

NEW ALUMNAE DATABASE

by Katie Hogben, Alumnae Development Officer



We are delighted to announce that our new alumnae database is up and running! This new database has a huge amount of features and benefits for our members, making it easier for the community to keep in touch.

The new website has been integrated into Woldingham School's website, so you can keep up to date with school news.

Please visit: www.woldinghamschool.co.uk and click on the 'Alumnae' tab at the top right-hand side of the screen, along the top navigation bar.

We have made a lot of information available to the public, but to consult contact information available for you and your friends, you will need to log in.

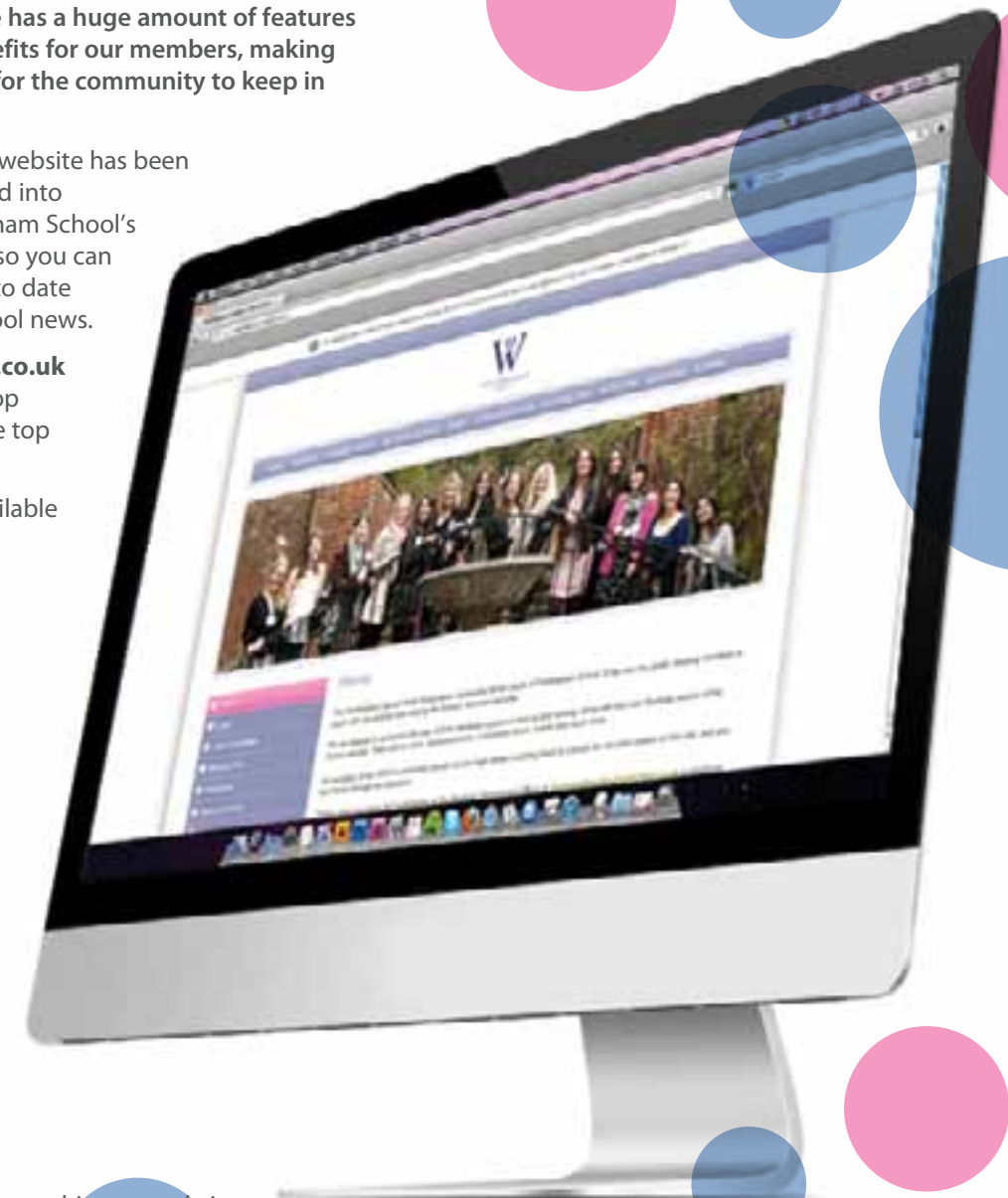
Alumnae with emails have already received login details. However, if you have not, and would like login details, then please contact the Alumnae Development Officer on alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk or call 01883 654307 and details will be given to you.

When you first log in, you will be asked to change your password.

Please look through the section called 'Members Area'. This is where the details we currently hold for you are shown. Please look through this section and update as many details as you can.

There is lots of news, photos and events on this new website. If there is anything else that you would like to see on it, then please send your suggestions to alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk

Please keep sending through your news and reunion details, so we can keep the site alive!



WOLDINGHAM YEAR REPS NEEDED

Please help us to make sure every school year is represented



I got inveigled into writing this article by Jane Pendered, who is the current chairman of WSHA and is in my year – hence the arm twisting. She told me that they are trying to ensure that every year is represented and that as many old girls as possible are listed on the Woldingham website. There are many gaps and the only way to fill them is to get Year Reps to fill in their own years. I said I had written something a couple of years before about our 30 year reunion, but after thinking about it a bit I thought maybe I could attack this from a different angle.

It occurred to me that I might be able to get some other Reps to write at bit about their experiences which might encourage a few more to stick their heads above the parapet. So let's not beat about the bush. There are Year Reps missing and I am going to name and, hopefully, shame some of you into volunteering. The years missing Reps are: 1960, 61, 65, 67, 68, 75, 91, 98, 10, and 11. You don't have to do it alone, you can share the burden with a classmate, it makes it all the more fun.

OK, that was the stick, hopefully now I can supply various carrots. I have put them in order of years as that seemed the simplest way to sort them.

Virginia Constable Maxwell (née Ewart) - 1964

Our class was very closely linked, not least because Milly Acloque (Scott-Ellis) several years ago took it upon herself to keep us all abreast and have a sumptuous meal once a year. So we already had forged close links. When Milly called it a day, Tishy Elgar and I had one dinner and several of our class joined us. So becoming a 'Year Rep' was not so difficult as the ground was already prepared.

I have found there is a real desire, perhaps as one ages, to acknowledge one's roots - and that might explain the very strong response I have received from our class. I also think we were a very nice year!!

I doubt, if we were not in the technical age, that it would be so successful. Being able to communicate at the press of a button makes life so easy.

Nothing really hilarious to report, just a nice warm feeling.

Frances Ross (née Hunter-Gordon) - 1969

I am Year Rep for 1969 (if I remember right) and like you I live - off site - in Edinburgh. We have had 2 reunions, both in London and both of which I managed to get to. The main problem I reckon is finding a London venue when you don't live there yourself. It would be so easy if I could persuade people to come to Edinburgh.

The first was in Maggie Johnson's beautiful house. She has a huge drawing room. The next was organised by Rosalie Macfarlane and was in the house of a non Wolders friend of hers. The first was such fun that we had the next just a few years after, in retrospect perhaps too soon.

During the first one we sat in a circle and each in turn got a chance to say something to everyone. The idea was to précis the news of the 30 years or so since we left school. What we also got was some talk about peoples' memories of school. Some of this was wonderful but some was hard to hear - unhappy memories of bad treatment by us - fellow class members. I hope that the result was good - both a learning and a healing process and a strengthening of old friendships. The reason for doing the circle was that there were so many of us from all parts of the globe and so little time - not enough time for everyone to talk to everyone. Those of us coming from afar would have been happy with a long all day session or two sessions over a weekend. However the local girls seemed less able to free up diaries.

No-one should be frightened about coming to a reunion. Carline Brown who left Wolders before the last two years of school and had not kept up contact with anyone, was very nervous about coming to the reunion. She loved it of course and now has all her many old school friends back again. It is amazing how, when you all get together, the years just disappear and everyone is just the same - just grey and wrinkly and much wiser.

Melony Collins (née de Burgh) - 1970

Well we had our second reunion (40 year) in May 2010 as we decided to have one each decade, some of the girls said they thought the last reunion was last year and not 9 years ago as they had such fun!! We are about to have our 60th Birthday party and another reunion! Lots of fun and laughter.

Amanda Baer (née Rooney) - 1977

As someone who has always enjoyed social networking, being a Year Rep ticks all the boxes. It has certainly necessitated a lot of detective work. I have been determined to locate and get addresses for everyone in our year so thank Goodness for internet search engines. It is extraordinary that virtually everyone (or their relations) seem to appear on the web in some shape or form. Three girls (can we still call ourselves girls at 50 something?) have evaded me so far; like Holmes I'm 'on the case' of one girl who lived in Malta and I'm following up a lead via Facebook on another girl.

The reality is that not everyone wants to be discovered. Some years ago I was delighted to locate the address of an old girl's parents and decided to ring and ask after her. I was slightly taken aback when her mother told me that, no she wouldn't give me her address as she wouldn't want to have anything to do with us - that took the wind out of my sails!

That's the exception and old girls that have left the fold are usually delighted to be back in touch. We only have five years left to find everyone before our 40 year reunion so I'd better put the Deerstalker back on!

Fiona MccGwire (née Bisset) - 1979

The internet has transformed helping to organise events which would otherwise be pretty laborious or impossible to put together.

I've had a quick look back at my old emails and see that I sent my first one to my class mate Tufty in January 2008 asking whether she thought it a good idea to try and organise something for 2009 as it would then be 30 years since we left school. Essentially I am pretty nosy and love to know what everyone is up to, where their lives have led them and how they got there - so I was happy to get it underway.

In the end we managed to get 62 email addresses out of a possible total 76 of us and 47 turned up at a pub in London on the night, which is brilliant. Loads of 'girls' made a huge effort to be there coming from all over the UK and Europe. Debbie Francey was all booked to come from Panama, but had to cancel at the last minute as she had a car accident. It was a huge success and the noise level was pretty amazing. What was so lovely is that I felt there were quite a few friendships that had lapsed for all sorts of reasons and this was a way of rekindling them. Everyone really appreciated it and as is often the case suggested we do it annually. That would be too often but maybe once every five years is feasible, which means I will have to start the process again next year!

I can't think of anything really funny or awful that happened but am really, really pleased that we made the effort.

Francesca Potter (née Sorby) - 1980

I became Year Rep for my year (1980) about three years ago, when I realised that our 30 year reunion was coming up and that I wanted to go. After making tentative contact with those people on the Woldingham website I soon realised that if I didn't make the effort I would be going to a reunion of about 10 people, not much fun.

Having started hunting up names and emails I became somewhat obsessed with getting in contact with everyone and getting emails and post addresses so that they could hear news and receive the magazine. Since speaking to other Year Reps I gather that I am not alone with having suffered from this obsession. Quite simply it becomes great fun. You make contact with people you haven't spoken to for ages, and it doesn't seem to matter if you were great friends at school. They are just happy to make that connection. It's like having an enormous group of sisters. Sadly there are still some I haven't found and they still niggle at me.

I will admit that my attitude to reunions has mellowed over the years. The feelings at the first, 10th and 30th were pretty different, but no less valid for all that. One of the important things seems to be to at least maintain contact. The great thing about the internet is that it makes it so much easier to do that. Another thing to remember is that your membership of WSHA is paid for by your parents when you leave, and you are a member for life, whether you want it or not!

WOLDINGHAM

SCHOOL YEAR REPS DIRECTORY

Our year reps can help you keep in touch

Year left	Forename	Surname	Maiden name	Email address	Phone number
1956	Eileen	Gillow		eileengillow@gmail.com	
1957	Catherine	Mackenzie-Smith	Lyons	cmslaw@globalnet.co.uk	01873 268 089
1958	Theresa	Simpson	Hudson	theresasimpson@btinternet.com	01162 606 827
1959	Fiona	Wright			01273 842 131
1960					
1961					
1962	Mary	Hargroves	Pertwee	mary_felicity@hotmail.com	0208 788 1091
1962	Patricia	Cave	Lillywhite	patriciacave@talktalk.net	01206 262 146
1963	Alison	Cochrane	Aiken	amdaiken@hotmail.com	01890 883 799
1964	Virginia	Constable Maxwell	Ewart	v.c.maxwell@btopenworld.com	0207 720 7941
1965					
1966	Fiona	Roberts-Miller	Deacon	fiona@roberts-miller.co.uk	01306 740 851
1967					
1968					
1969	Frances	Ross	Hunter-Gordon	f.ross1@btinternet.com	0131 332 7068
1969	Rosalie	Macfarlane		Rosalie@btinternet.com	0207 385 8293
1970	Georgina	Mellows	Monro	mellows8@hotmail.com	01296 714 275
1970	Melony	Collins	de Burgh	melonycollins@mac.com	0208 780 3394
1971	Susan	Adams-Cairns	Foll	ruaraidh@adams-cairns.fsnet.co.uk	0208 674 6879
1972	Claire	Gardner			0208 442 1268
1973	Carolyn	Field		carry@thefields-home.co.uk	01323 832 174
1974	Clare	Jest	Dalglish	clarejest@hotmail.com	0208 740 4179
1975					
1976	Vicky	Chitty	Foster	vickychitty@live.co.uk	0208 876 2488
1977	Amanda	Baer	Rooney	amandabee123@aol.com	01424 892 089
1977	Miranda	Kelly	Macklin	miranda_kelly@hotmail.com	01233 770687
1978	Sarah	Heilbron	Godsall	sarahheilbron@btinternet.com	01732 463 413
1979	Fiona	McGwire	Bisset	bissmccgwire@googlemail.com	01179 497 396
1980	Francesca	Potter	Sorby	fettler29@hotmail.com	0034 971872436
1980	Elizabeth	Gross		lizgross@hotmail.co.uk	01483 574 518
1981	Sarah	Wrixon	Joyce	sarah.wrixon@salixconsulting.com	
1982	Jackie	Withers	Dennis	jawtennis@aol.com	0208 942 1575
1983	Susan	Rothfield		srothfield2002@yahoo.es	00 351 96 42447 33
1984	Joanna	Wilson-Van Der Lande	van der Lande	joanna@wilsonvdlande.co.uk	0207 371 5082
1984	Harriet	Van Der Lande	Wylie	harrietvdl@btinternet.com	01444 250 668
1985	Sarah	Williams	Edwards	faceyw@btinternet.com	01342 870 898
1985	Catherine	Richardson	Vassallo	cathvassallo@aol.com	0207 736 2969
1986	Elizabeth	McCarthy	McKeown	mustardandliz@btinternet.com	01494 773 018
1986	Elizabeth	Drury	Richardson	liz.drury@hotmail.co.uk	01483 729 621
1987	Clare	Elves	Hauptfuhrer	rcturret@googlemail.com	01753 623 623
1987	Ingrid	Baxter	Lloyd	bgbaxter@hotmail.com	0208 874 0805
1988	Helen	Moore	French	helenmlmoore@gmail.com	0208 772 1494
1989	Jessica	Sykes	Napier	tobyjess@btinternet.com	0208 673 3588
1989	Claire	Boobbyer		claireboobbyer@hotmail.com	
1990	Philippa	Ball	Sampson	truckgirluk@hotmail.com	
1991					
1992	Holly	Hamps	Straker	hollyhamps@hotmail.co.uk	01737 223 195
1993	Shamira	Fernando		shamirafernando@gmail.com	
1994	Zoe	Hawkins	Cave	zoehawkins2007@hotmail.com	
1994	Chantal	Shalhoub		babbles07@hotmail.com	
1994	Suzy	Letheren	Dewar	suzy_dewar@hotmail.com	
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1997	Kelly-Jane	Noades		kelsnoades@mac.com	07771 648 111
1997	Georgina	Cave		georgiecave@hotmail.com	
1998					
1999	Rosanna	O'Toole			01634 408 158
2000	Sophie	Carruth		carruthy@gmail.com	
2000	Eleanor	Beecraft		e_becraft@hotmail.com	01225 423 459
2001	Amelia	Blatherwick		mimiblatherwick@hotmail.com	01732 866 377
2002	Emily	Clark		emilyclark28@hotmail.com	
2002	Nicola	Flynn		nicolaflynn26@gmail.com	01483 278 700
2003	Gemma	Hall			07718 660 398
2003	Lorna	Barron			0208 789 9487
2003	Charlotte	Scott		cejscott@hotmail.com	0208 672 5422
2004	Georgina	Mew		georgina.mew@chiandpartners.com	0208 674 7631
2004	Samantha	Chitty		chittysamantha@hotmail.com	
2005	Georgina	Everington		georgina.everington@jmfinn.com	01732 700 277
2005	Georgina	Hall		g.c.d.hall@gmail.com	0207 720 8703
2006	Celina	Kelly		celinakelly@hotmail.co.uk	
2006	Abigail	Mills		abimills@icloud.com	01892 525 882
2007	Harriet	Cosh		h.cosh@hotmail.co.uk	01732 866 322
2008					
2009	Kathryn	Jessup		kj0467@bristol.ac.uk	01342 870 788
2010					
2011					
2012	Charlotte	Pearce		charlotte-pearce@hotmail.com	07506 888 522

If you would like to voluteer for a year group that currently has no Rep, please email alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk

WOLDINGHAM

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Westminster Cathedral, Monday 10 December 2012

Woldingham School held its annual carol service at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 10 December. It is the second year running, we have held it in this, the beautiful mother church of the Catholic community in England and Wales.

The entire Woldingham community had a part to play in the service, including students, staff, alumnae and governors. The congregation were joyous in their carol singing and the clear tones of the School's special choir, Amaris, resounded in the lofty vaults, with excerpts from Britten's Ceremony of Carols.

The service was followed with a reception, held at the Horseferry Road TA Centre close by, to which alumnae, staff, parents and girls were invited. Supping mulled wine and munching on mince pies, it was a happy gathering of many 'old girls' who had not seen each other, in some cases, for years, as well as an opportunity to meet with current parents and staff.



WOLDINGHAM

Weddings



1



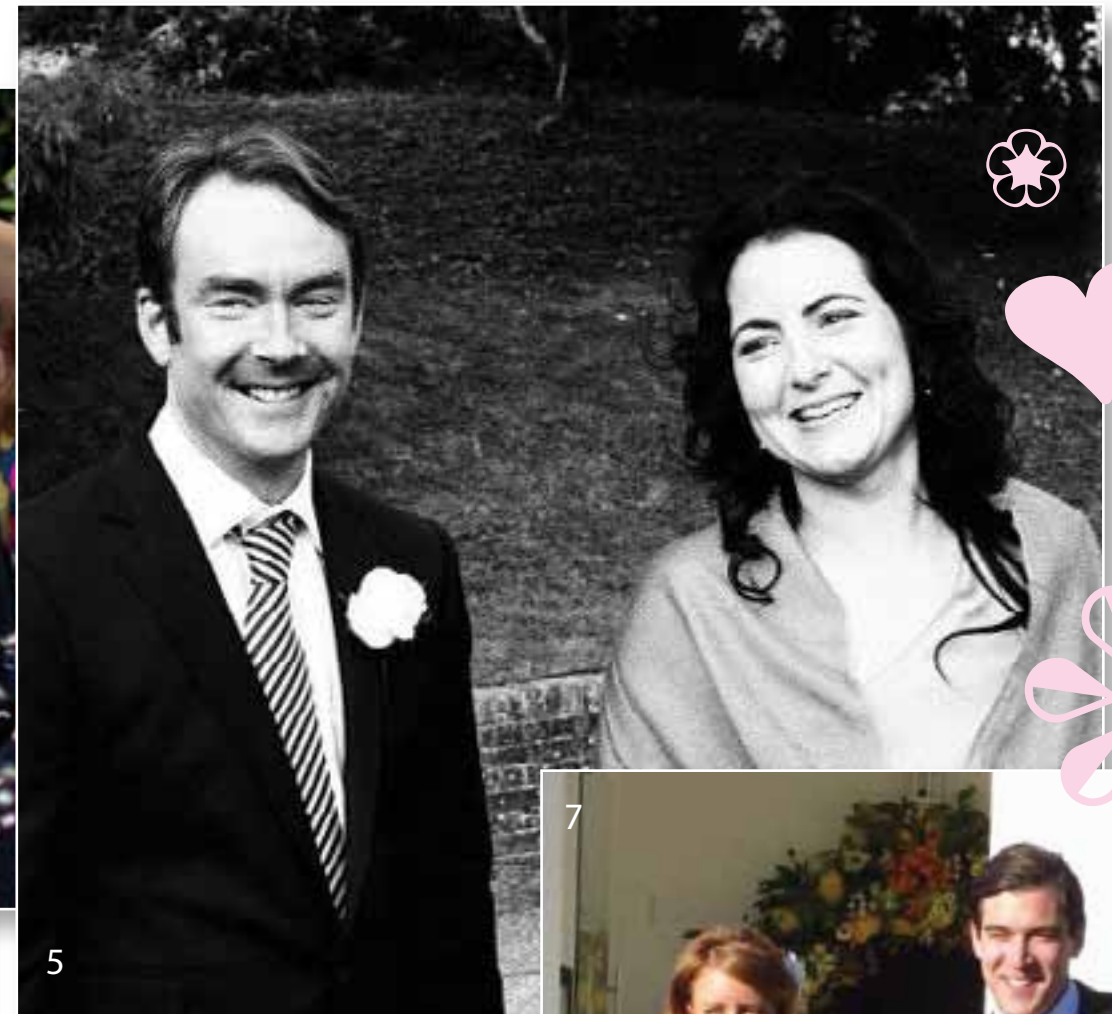
3



2



4



5



6



7

- 1 Sophie Harris (2001) married David Campbell
- 2 Catherine Vereker (2004) married Baron András Radvánszky
- 3 Michelle Tudhope (2002) married Oliver Knight
- 4 Jo Roberts-Miller (1993) married Simon Baker
- 5 Kate Blatherwick (1994) married Jonathan Bond
- 6 Francesca Miller (2000) married Thomas Forman Hardy
- 7 Eleanor Comer (2001) married Glynn Amos



8



10



9



11



12



13



15



14

- 8 Priscilla Slade (1995) married Julian Sedgwick
- 9 Louisa Gibbs (2000) married Jamie Macpherson
- 10 Sophie Von Der Heyde (2002) married William Roberts
- 11 Suzanne Abusenna was married in 2010
- 12 Sarah Bruce (2000) was married on 22 December 2012
- 13 Rosamund Hase (1997) married Sam Hurst
- 14 Judy Ng (2000) was married on 6 January 2013
(pictured here with school friend Belinda Lau)
- 15 Natasha O'Connor (1994) married Angus Phillipson

WOLDINGHAM

Births

Photo by KJ Photographic



Coco and Ned Nicholson

Elias Hill



Photo by KJ Photographic

Alexandra Sham



Darcy Showell



Jacob and Samuel Beamish



Charlie Elsworth



We are pleased to announce the following births:

- Nuala Margaret McCarthy was born on 26 April 2012 to Ray and **Lizzy (née McKeown, 1986) McCarthy**, weighing in at a hefty 9 lbs 12 oz
- **Hannah Elsworthy (née Stollery, 2000)** is very pleased to announce the birth of Charlie Zack Elsworthy born 6 March 2012, weighing 8lbs 1oz
- **Kelly-Jane Noades (1997)** and Ian Granne announce the arrival of Leah Annalise Noades Granne born 18 October 2012 weighing 7lb1oz
- **Annalisa Hill (née Jensen, 1994)** and Harry Hill had a little boy, a brother for Ottilie, Elias Henry Jensen Hill - 5 November 2012 at 5am, 6lb 3oz
- On 25 March 2012 Natasha Ruby Mercado Wilcocks was born to **Olivia Wilcocks (née Mercado, 2001)**. Natasha is a sister for Daisy. Sophie Smallwood (2001) is Natasha's godmother
- On 9 October 2011, Darcy Amelia Showell was born, a daughter to **Hanna Showell (2000)** and a sister for Summer
- **Suzanne Hamid (née Abusenna, 2001)** had a baby boy in 2011, Zain
- **Camilla Beamish (née Wright, 2000)** gave birth to twin boys on 27 September 2012- Jacob Thomas (5lb 12oz) and Samuel James (6lb 8oz)
- **Anna Gordon (1989)** and Charles Nicholson had a little boy, brother to Coco, on 21 May 2012, Ned Charles Nicholson, 3.5 kg, born at 2am
- John and **Kirsty Norwood (née Paterson, 1993)** were delighted to have their first child, a son, Jack Samuel Norwood, on 4 January 2012
- **Cecily Sham (1994)** was pleased to announce the arrival of Alexandra, who was born in June 2012, a sister to Victoria who is now 4.5 years old
- **Stephanie Katavolos (née Boylan, 1988)** and her husband, James, report the happy news of the birth of their daughter, Tabitha Joy, on 5 July 2012: a sister for Leo James, born 15 July 2009
- **Philippa (née Humberstone, 1995)** and Charles Goldsmith are pleased to announce the arrival of Frederick David John, on 21 January 2012, a brother for Isabella
- On 2 February 2012, **Henrietta (née Pinkham, 1997)** and Alexander Brierley, were pleased to announce the arrival of Hugo Alan Kelson, a brother for Sophie
- On 11 June 2012, Evie Alison Mary was born, a daughter to **Rebecca (née Goldschmidt, 1996)** and Angus McIntosh

Leah Noades Granne



Photo by KJ Photographic

Please send
us all your
NEWS!

Jack Norwood



Harry and George Greenhalgh

Nuala McCarthy



Natasha Wilcocks



Tabitha Katavolos



Zain Hamid

- **Scarlett (née Hancock, 1998)** and Alexander MacEwen announced the arrival of their daughter, Clementine Grace on 16 July 2012
- Alastair and **Kate Ashforth (née McFarlane, 1986)** have become parents to a baby girl: Eloise Charlotte Maria Ashforth born on 17 September 2012
- Simon and **Rachel Gwilliam (née Andrews, 2002)** had their second son Arthur Edward Piran Gwilliam on the 3 April 2012, a brother for Benedict
- **Olivia Salter (née Nisbett, 1993)** gave birth to Emilia on the 21 April 2012
- **Charlie Eade (1989)** had a baby girl on 21 August 2012
- **Lisa Halabi (1990)** had a son called Lennox
- Sam and **Stephanie Fityan (née Duke, 1999)** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Adeline Mary Elizabeth on 22 March 2012
- Cecily Clementine was born in March 2012 to **Emily Stewart (née Hill, 1996)**, a sister for Isla and Louis
- On 21 January 2012, **Philippa (née Humberstone, 1995)** and Charles Goldsmith were pleased to announce the birth of Frederick David John, a brother for Isabella
- On 8 February 2012, **Alix (née Archer, 1997)** and Gabriel Aubert, were pleased to announce the arrival of a son Maxence 'Max' in Paris
- On 4 October 2011, **Natasha O'Connor (1994)** and Angus Phillipson were pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter Leila Grace Phillipson
- **Samantha Blazquez-Vilarrubias (1992)** was pleased to announce the arrival of Thibaud, a brother to Anabella, on the 28 September 2012
- Harry Greenhalgh born on the 19 August 2012 to Paul and **Diana Greenhalgh (née Macleod)** brother to George
- **Lucy Krigstein (née Brewer, 1992)** and her husband Adam are delighted to announce the birth of Molly Sophia on 22 October 2011, 7lb 8oz
- On 7 November 2012, **Katie (née Carr-Locke, 2002)** and Mark Weatheritt announced the arrival of Jessica Elizabeth, a sister for Charlie
- **Catherine (née O'Maoileoin, 1989)** and Sean Taylor are delighted to announce the birth of Luke Xavier Benedict on 1 February 2012

ENGAGEMENTS

- **Amelia Blatherwick (2001)** became engaged to James Barton in early 2012 and will be getting married on 8 December 2012.
- In September 2012, the engagement was announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stephan Patrick, of Sandwich, Kent, and **Fiona (2000)**, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael **Jameson-Till**, of Burwash Weald, East Sussex.
- **Julia Osinski (2003)** and Simon Connor became engaged on 16 June 2012 in Littlehampton, and are very excited about their wedding on the 13 July 2013.
- **Georgina Farr (2002)** became engaged to Richard Sutherst on the 13 October 2012 and is looking forward to their wedding on 8 June 2013.
- **Emma Beazley (1999)** and James Grant are engaged and will be married in June 2013.
- **Pearl Chan (2002)** and Stuart Alexander Charles Low became engaged on 6 May 2012 and will be getting married on 14 September 2013 in Surrey.
- **Georgina Everington (2005)** is delighted to have become engaged to James D'Arcy
- **Tamara White (2005)** is excited to have become engaged to James Marshall.
- **Marina Manners (2005)** has recently become engaged to Ben Tucker.
- In August 2012, **Jennifer Whitfield (2006)** became engaged to Richard Lane and will be getting married this August in Woldingham Village Church.
- **Nicola Biles (2000)** became engaged to Edward Plumley on 30 December 2012.
- **Rachel-Emily Davies (2005)** is excited to announce her engagement in March to Theo Gibbons.

MARRIAGES

- On 24 September 2012, **Kate Blatherwick (1994)** married Dr Jonathan Bond at Chelsea Registry Office and had a party in her parent's garden afterwards.
- On 30 June 2012, **Rosamund Hase (1997)** married Sam Hurst.
- **Astrid Charlton** married Michael Stokes.
- **Sophie Von Der Heyde (2002)** was delighted to be married to William Roberts on 29 September.
- **Suzanne Abusenna (2001)** was married in 2010
- **Jo Roberts-Miller (1993)** married Simon Baker on 16 June at St Peter's Church in Church Knowle, Dorset. Jo's Mum, **Fiona Roberts Miller (née Deacon, 1966)** and sister, **Beth Roberts-Miller (1995)** are both old Woldingham girls.
- **Priscilla Slade (1995)** married Julian Sedgwick in Bali in 2012.
- **Emma Truett (1996)** married Albert Bong on 6 February 2010.
- **Catherine Radvánszky (née Vereker, 2004)** got married on the 13 October 2012, to Baron András Radvánszky. Catherine met Andras on her ninth year in Lourdes, on Pilgrimage with the Order of Malta Volunteers. They had a beautiful day celebrating a Catholic Mass at The Church of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London and then a reception at The Landmark Hotel, Marylebone.
- **Francesca (née Miller, 2000)** married Thomas Forman Hardy on 8 September 2012 in Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire.
- **Victoria Lowry (2005)** married Duncan Brown in September 2012
- **Talula Pitcaithly (née White, 2003)** got married in 2012
- **Elaine Burke (2002)** got married in 2012.
- **Louisa Gibbs (2000)** married Jamie Macpherson in Dorset on 22 September. Four Woldingham old girls were bridesmaids, **Fiona Jameson-Till**, **Beanie Espey**, **Charlie Webb (née Cottrell)** and **Emma Shelford (née Gibbs)** and it was wonderful to be joined by so many other Woldingham Old Girls for the celebrations.
- On the 24 August 2012, **Michelle Tudhope (2002)** married Oliver Knight in West Clandon, Surrey.
- On 29 September 2012, **Natasha O'Connor (1994)** married Angus Phillipson at Farm Street Church, London.
- **Sophie Harris (2001)** married David Campbell on 28 April 2012.

MARRIAGES

- **Kate Vincent (1997)** married Paul Needham at All Saints Church, Crawley Down, Sussex on 6 October 2012. Her bridesmaids were **Hazel Thompson (1997)** and **Juliet Watson (1997)**. Also attending the wedding were **Alex Moody (1997)** and **Mrs Jane Tisshaw (PA to Headmistress 1988-2002)**
- **Sophie Keith (1981)** married Mohammed Mardini on 14 April 2012, at Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead, Sussex.
- On 15 October 2011, **Eleanor Comer (2001)**, married Glynn Amos at St. Botolph's Church, Lullingstone, Kent. **Abbie Borrowdale (née Durcan, 2001)** and **Claire Murtagh (2001)**, who were both at Woldingham, were bridesmaids.
- **Judy Ng (2000)** was married on 6 January 2013. School friend, **Belinda Lau (2000)** attended the wedding in Hong Kong.
- **Sarah Bruce (2000)** married on 22 December 2012. One of her bridesmaids was **Cecily Burchett-Chambers (née Chambers, 2000)**

IN MEMORIAM

- Old Girls- Roehampton, Stanford, Woldingham:
- **Elizabeth Gale (née Walker, 1957)** died peacefully on 24 October 2012. Excelling in all games, she was in the Advanced Gym and the Special Choir. Married to Dick Gale for 51 years, she was mother of Cathy, Nicky (1980) and Richard and sister of **Diana Corbett (née Walker, 1963)**. A wonderful friend and hostess, she passed on her love of horses and ponies to her children and grandchildren. Liz was devoted to others. As a physiotherapist, she worked for years in local hospices and became Chairman of the Trustees of The Rowans. During her own battle with cancer, Liz continued her work until she could do no more. Up to the last, she visited the hospice every day.
 - **Lavinia Fleming (née Emmet, Roehampton 1941)** died peacefully in her sleep on 20 March 2012. Daughters **Charlotte Fleming (1972)** and **Georgina Hardinge (née, Fleming, 1969)** were both at Woldingham.
 - **Marion Magrath (1980)** died on 27 April 2012 aged 50. Loving daughter of the late John Magrath and his surviving wife **Margaret (née Cramer, 1945)** and sister of Paul, Stephan, **Priscilla Wyeth (née Magrath, 1981)** and **Emma Mitchell (née Magrath, 1983)**. Will be greatly missed by her family and her many friends at home and abroad.
 - **Manon Rehman (Fawcett, 1974)** sadly died on 13 March 2012. She will be greatly missed by her parents, husband, eight children and friends.
 - **Jane Pontifex (1946)** died peacefully at her home in Farnham, Surrey, on 8 December 2012, aged 84. She was very influential in the equestrian industry. Jane was at Woldingham when the school moved there from Stanford where the school had been evacuated to during the war. She was secretary to the Old Girls Association in the late 1970s, early 80s. She was a lovely person and will be greatly missed.
 - **Mary Michell (née Dunlop, 1939)** died 6 January 2012. She had been at school at Roehampton. Mother of **Alice Shields (1974)**.
 - **Mary Tester** died on 16 December 2012. Mary left Woldingham in 1975.

- Family of Old Girls, to whom we extend our loving sympathy:**
- Roger Grafftey-Smith, husband to **Jane Grafftey-Smith (1960)** sadly died in April 2012, a couple of weeks after their golden wedding anniversary.

- Members of the Society of the Sacred Heart:**
- **Frances Makower RSCJ** died in January 2012, at Duchesne House, after many years of fragile health.
 - **Clare Shanley RSCJ**, died on 4 March 2012. Two memorials were held, one in May and another in October.
 - On 7 September God called **Mary McKeone RSCJ** to the fullness of life, just three weeks before her 80th birthday. She had battled with cancer for over fifty years.
 - **Kathleen Cox RSCJ**, a member of the USA Province, died suddenly on 12 February 2012.

- Staff:**
- **Maggie Botwright**, who was a teacher from 1987-1993, sadly died on 4 December 2012 after a battle against lung cancer.

WSHA
OLD GIRLS' NEWS ROUNDUP

Priscilla Slade (1995)

Priscilla Slade and Julian Sedgwick are expecting their first child in March 2013.

Kate Bond (née Blatherwick, 1994)

Katie and her husband Dr Jonathan Bond are moving to France this year as Dr Bond has been awarded a Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund Fellowship. He will be doing research into childhood Leukaemia at l'hopital Necker Enfants-Malades in Paris.

Rosie Cullinan (née Holloway, 1997)

We are currently living near Andover in Hampshire, although home is wherever the Army sends us! We had our son William in January 2012, a much adored baby brother for Daisy 6 and Jemima 3.

Amanda Riley (1991)

I am happily working at The Fountain Centre in Guildford, a charity offering complementary therapies, information and advice to cancer patients and their carers. I am hoping to take part in a Trek from the Dead Sea to Petra, Jordan on 19-26 April 2013 and would welcome any and all donations that anyone would be happy to give. Just go to my just giving page - thank you! <http://www.justgiving.com/Amanda-FountainCentre>

Mary Woodhouse (née Thornton, 1977)

In 2012 Mary became a granny to Hector. Mary is believed to be the first Granny in the class of 1977!

Miranda Kelly (née Macklin, 1977)

Miranda is looking forward to having another daughter getting married in 2013.

Anastasia Parkes (née Stokes, 1978)

Anastasia continues her writing career by publishing 'Stabbing the Rain' on Amazon, a collection of short stories tackling themes of Catholicism, convents, motherhood, menopause, MS, and other thorny topics! Please contact her on Facebook or @anastasiaparkes with your comments, likes or reviews! The link: <http://tiny.cc/rkqaow>

Margaret Stubbs (1959)

On Saturday 2 July 2011 Father Paul Lloyd presented the Benemerenti Medal to Margaret after the evening Mass in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Louth, Lincolnshire. Margaret was warmly congratulated by her fellow parishioners and members of her family. Pope Benedict XVI awarded Margaret the Benemerenti Medal for her outstanding and dedicated service to the parish of St Mary's and the local community.

Anna Giraldo (née Fuerstenberg, 1984)

I am married and have three boys 18, 15, and 12 and have been living in Geneva for the past 14 years, but I might come back to London next year.

Bibi Evans (née Blanger, 1960)

I am very excited to have my daughter Beatrice, Dan (husband) Eliot (daughter 5) Silas (son 3) coming back to the UK from the USA in January! That leaves my son Schuyler still in Houston but one home is better than none!!

Catie Barclay (née Walsh, 1984)

I attended Sacred Heart Convent, Woldingham from 1980 to 1984, and was known then as Catie Walsh (Catherine Jessica Judith Walsh). I am now Catie Barclay as a married name, but Kate Terence as an actress. I have a blog, about being in Hollywood, where I am based at the moment. I will be basing myself between London and Hollywood over the next three years. I remain closely in touch with Cristina Ascone (1984), who is one of my best friends and old girl, now based in Rome. Others who I have met or seen over the last 15 years or so include Caroline Wyatt, now a hugely successful BBC reporter, Kate Neely (now Poyner), Stephanie Duncan (née Lloyd), Marisa Bucknall (née Smith), Kitty Beamish, Lousie Foster, Katie Clark and Penny Light. I continue to mourn the loss of Boty Goodwin, who we lost when she and we all were in our twenties. I had great pleasure in being back in touch with our fabulous drama teacher now voice tutor, Majella Hurley. Please do visit my websites www.kateterence.com (Professional Acting) and <http://www.ktcb2012.wordpress.com> (Kate Terence's Adventures in Hollywood)



Caroline Lowsley-Williams (1980)

Life here at Chavenage (www.chavenage.com) goes on a pace. We've hosted a 'super car' event. The House is open twice a week to the general public, with the family guiding and we host numerous weddings. The house and family were featured in Channel 4's 'All in the Best Possible Taste' with Grayson Perry, who was very colourful to say the least!

WSHA'S ENTREPRENEURS BUSINESS FORUM

Woldingham girls go on to pursue a huge variety of careers. Many have a strong entrepreneurial streak and start their own businesses. We are keen to promote our Alumnae businesses.

If you would like your website mentioned in this Directory, at no cost, please send appropriate details to the Alumnae Development Officer at **alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk**

It would be wonderful if you could let us know any special offers or discounts you would like to make available to fellow alumnae.

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www.vopres.co.uk

Ginette Lytton Cobbold

(née Keigher - 1978)

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