

# WOLDINGHAM

News and reviews from Woldingham School and Alumnae | September 2015



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## AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD



**I**t gives me great pleasure to write for the first issue of the Woldingham School Magazine combined with the WSHA magazine. It is fabulous for our pupils and parents to be able to see what is happening in the lives of the Old Girls and for the Old Girls to find out what the pupils are up to!

The last year has been full of great energy and excitement. We have initiated a programme called THRIVE to build character and resilience in the pupils and to teach them the best possible study skills. This programme moves on this coming year with a Parents' Conference in October to help parents understand better the issues facing teenagers and how best to help them. The arrival of Fr Gerry Devlin as full-time Chaplain and Priest has meant that the liturgical life of the school has grown and the spiritual and pastoral support given to the girls has been enhanced. Fr Gerry is also in charge of the Community Outreach programme which enables girls to provide service in our local community. We are thankful to WSHA for their generous gift of new hymn books for the Chapel and the Auditorium which have arrived for the start of this term. We look forward to seeing as many parents and old girls as possible at our Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 7 December at 2.00pm.

The examination results this summer were some of the best ever, with Woldingham moving up in the league tables for both GCSE and A level performance. At A level 58.9% of all the grades were A\* and A and 23.2% of the grades were A\* grades. A staggering ten girls achieved

three A\* grades or better. At GCSE 76.2% of the grades were A\* and A with 41.7% of grades at A\*. These were the second best ever GCSE results. We are very proud of the eleven girls who will be starting at Oxford and Cambridge this year, studying a variety of subjects including Architecture, Modern Foreign Languages, History and Theology.

In July we said goodbye to five retiring staff who have given many years of service to the school. Keiran Smith, our wonderful Catering Manager for 28 years, had overseen the planning and building of the new dining room and kitchen. Yolanda Mulhern, the Head of Spanish, was an inspirational teacher and head of department for 18 years. Elizabeth Williamson, the Head of Classics, has overseen a real growth in the interest in Latin and Greek in her 17 years with us. We also said goodbye to Maia Walmsley and Trish Frisby who have given great service as the Head of EAL and the Head of Learning Enhancement respectively.

The outgoing Upper Sixth Ribbons team declared that their mission was to serve the school. Their leaving gift in July was a tree in the playground and a substantial donation to a Sacred Heart School in India. They were an academically gifted year but it is their heartening call to service which will have the most lasting effect on the world that they move into, first at university and then in the workplace and in their homes.

With very mixed feelings, I have started my ninth and final year at Woldingham School leading up to my retirement from Headship. It has been an enormous privilege to lead two schools and I am so proud of what the girls and the staff here have achieved. I am very thankful to the Governors, Parents, Staff and Girls for their support to me over the years. I wish the school community all the very best for the future under the new Head.

*Jayne Triffitt*





# SCHOOL NEWS ROUND UP 2014-2015



## September 2014

September began with the annual Year 11 Art trip to St Ives, Cornwall. Despite the seven-hour coach journey, the trip was extremely enjoyable for all who went and included a trip to the Tate Gallery and several exciting (and slightly messy) workshops!



**Also in September**, each year the house festival brings anticipation and competitive house-spirit, and this year was no exception! The theme of 'Continents of the World' meant Barat drew America, Stuart portrayed Africa, Digby represented Europe and Duchesne depicted Asia. With an energetic and enthusiastic performance, Barat was awarded the title of 2014 House Festival champions.

## October 2014

October was a hugely significant month for all members of the school as we came together to celebrate Janet Stuart's life on the centenary of her death. The celebrations included a fascinating talk by Sister Wilson RSCJ and a whole-school mass.

**Also in October**, throughout the October half-term, despite Year 11 mocks looming, a group of enthusiastic hockey and netball players jetted off to Trinidad and Tobago for a tour. The tropical climate made for fantastic competing and all the girls had a wonderful time.



## November 2014

The Autumnal Soloists' Concert proved to be an evening filled with moving and entertaining performances from girls across all years of the school. It was a great evening of rhythm and musical passion.

**Also in November**, the highly anticipated WPSA bonfire and fireworks show was a thoroughly enjoyable event for all families and friends who attended. Each house cheered as their imaginative Guys were displayed!



## December 2014

The senior production of 'Cabaret' was a professional and exciting performance. Despite their busy schedules, the sixth formers managed to encapsulate their characters extremely effectively and captivated all members of the audience.

**Also in December**, the school Carol Service was an uplifting and well attended event. The beautiful singing of the numerous school choirs provided a moving end to an exceptional year.





### January 2015

In January, Year 7 students spent the day and evening practising and performing at the Young Voices event in London's O2 Arena, along with some 7,000 pupils from over 120 schools. This year the children performed with Urban Strides - Street Dance specialists - and Lucy Spraggan, a contestant from the X Factor in 2012. They sang around 14 songs and had a thoroughly enjoyable time, supported by many parents and staff.

**Also in January**, and inspired by BBC's Question Time, we decided to hold our own version of the show here in the Valley. It made for a great night of political questioning, a welcome break in the middle of the week and a great starting point for the passionate discussions that kicked off later in the boarding house.

### March 2015

In March, Elise O'Connor from Year 10 organised a fundraising drive for Head Smart, a charity which undertakes research and aims to raise awareness of brain tumours in children and young adults. Year 10 supported Elise and Head Smart by taking part in a crazy hair/hat/ bandana day. The generosity of the girls and staff was remarkable.

**Also in March**, we were delighted to welcome Sister Cecile Meijer RSCJ to the School. The NGO Representative of the Society of the Sacred Heart at the United Nations, Sr Meijer, has a law degree from The Netherlands and practised as an international human rights lawyer before entering the Society. She gave a fascinating talk, outlining the history, role and purpose of the United Nations, explaining the Millennium Development Goals for completion this year and the new programme for 2016-2030, which will be based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



### February 2015

In February, Years 7 and 8 created their own International Afternoon, with each group of Year 7s taking turns to visit a country (Year 8s), to find out as much as they could about each country. They were given specially made passports, in which they wrote answers to facts, phrases and songs about the countries they visited before getting their passports stamped. Truly the Marden girls can now call themselves globetrotters having visited seven countries in one afternoon!

**Also in February**, Upper Sixth Geography students took part in a conference on Fracking, hearing arguments from Professor Michael Bradshaw, Nick Wright, Tony Bosworth, a campaigner from Friends of the Earth, and Hamish Wilson representing the oil companies.

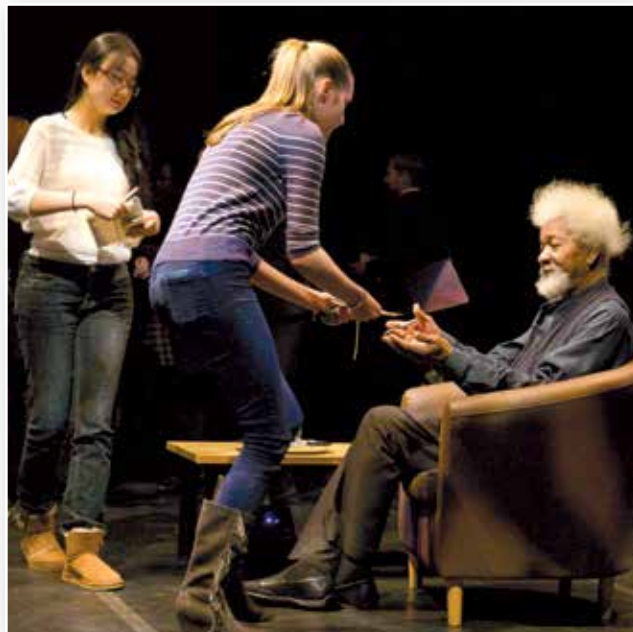


### April 2015

In April, the Greenwell Society was pleased to welcome Sam Gyimah, Conservative MP for the Surrey East constituency since 2010, to speak to the Sixth Form and some staff during lunchtime. After an introductory speech we were fortunate that Sam had time to engage in a Q&A session where a wide range of topics - from the emergence and future of new political parties to the daily life of a PPS - were touched on.

**Also in April**, and inspired by Year 10 student Victoria Wei's research trip to Bijie, China, last summer, our Chinese Club in school continued to create links between Woldingham and Bijie and to show in very practical ways our concern for the many children who have been left behind in rural poverty, as their parents seek work in the big cities. Having written letters (in Chinese and English) to the students Victoria visited we were delighted to receive photographs in return.





### May 2015

In May, the winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka, visited the school and spoke about literature, politics and his hopes for the youth of today. The auditorium was packed with students, teachers and parents who all benefitted greatly from Professor Soyinka's words of wisdom.

**Also in May**, after scooping first prize for the Christopher Tower Poetry Competition for her poem 'The Forensics of Salt-Licking', Isla Anderson from the Lower Sixth was invited to take part in BBC Radio 3's inaugural 'Young Artists Day', celebrating young talent across a range of creative disciplines. Isla was interviewed and read her poem on Bank Holiday Monday, the first of two Woldingham students to be interviewed on Radio 3 this year! The second Pasha Orleans-Foli was interviewed on the occasion of playing a world premiere at the BBC Proms in August.

### June 2015

In June, the Woldingham summer concert took place with terrific performances from the students. In the second half all the girls in Year 7 were involved in a wonderful production of HMS Pinafore. Whether as enthusiastic Sailors or Lively Ladies, all the girls gave spirited performances. Soloists sang beautifully and were very confident and animated.

**Also in June**, Sports Day was a great success with some fierce competition throughout the day. Stuart were crowned winners, with Duchesne 2nd, Barat 3rd and 4th Digby. The Victrix Ludorum was tightly contested with eight girls all in the running. The top two were split by just one point and Isabelle Agahowa emerged victorious! Second place went to Oli Fowara who also broke the school's Senior 100m record with a time of 12.33.



### July 2015

In July, Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a successful cross-curricular week. This year's theme was famous women and role models within the various subject disciplines, with each subject choosing a key female figure to explore. Girls studied the contribution made by Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin, Nadia Boulanger and Jessica Ennis Hill to name but a few. The girls enjoyed a variety of lessons and were impressed by the many successes of these women. We hope they too will be inspired to become role models also!

**Also in July**, the Sacred Heart Leadership Conference was very inspiring. The students evaluated who they thought were good leaders, the skills and characteristics of a leader and what kind of leader they thought they were. The exercises resulted in them finding areas or traits that they want to work on. They also enjoyed meeting the head girls and boys in our fellow Sacred Heart Schools.



### August 2015

In August, 13 girls took part in the Operation Wallacea Science trip to Madagascar, over two and half weeks. It was an experience of a lifetime with the girls getting involved in ecological surveys of lemurs, reptiles birds and amphibians. The living conditions were basic but gave a real insight into the lives of the people of Madagascar. Some of the highlights included handling a bird of prey, chameleons and snakes and, on the last evening, swimming in the sea (Mozambique Channel) and being invited to dance at a local wedding ceremony.

**Also in August**, the students received another wonderful set of GCSE, AS and A Level results. The details are set out in the main body of the magazine so read on!





## ACADEMIC REVIEW

**A**cademically Woldingham continues to go from strength to strength. The academic results this summer were again excellent. At A level the girls attained a 100% pass rate. 23.2% of the grades were A\*, with 58.9% of the grades being A\* and A, resulting in a 2% improvement on last year. 10 girls achieved a stunning three A\* grades or more with Lucia Keijer-Palau attaining a fantastic four A\* grades. No fewer than 24 girls achieved straight A\* and A grades. Seven students in Upper Sixth entered for the Extended Project Qualification and we are thrilled with the six A\* grades and one A grade awarded to them. The Lower Sixth results for the AS examinations are also excellent. Just over 20% of the cohort achieved at least four grade As or more, with 30% gaining at least three grade As.

This year our students have again secured places at top universities in this country and abroad. The most popular destinations for our girls this year tell their own highly successful story:

- Cambridge - with 7 girls securing places
- Durham and UCL - 5
- Oxford - 4
- New York, Bristol, Leeds & Southampton - each with 3 students

In addition to the 11 Oxbridge places, we have had worldwide success with 5 students gaining places at US universities (Dartmouth College and a Sports Scholarship to Wake Forest University in addition to the three places at New York University) and another five going to universities in Canada (Toronto), South Africa (Cape Town), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Australia (Monash) and Romania. Our girls will be studying a phenomenal range of subjects, ranging from Architecture to Accounting and Finance, from Biochemistry to Business & Management, from Engineering, English and Economics to Geology, Psychology and Theology.

At GCSE level, 76.18% (including WJEC Latin) of all grades achieved were at A\*/A and a stunning 41.68% of the grades at A\*. The A\*/A results are the second best ever for

the school. We are thrilled with the pass rate of 99.27% of grades at A\* - C. Special congratulations must go to Tilly Ramsden-Board who achieved a stunning 12 A\* grades and to Florence Budge, Alannah Coakley, Rebecca Goldsmith and Emma Norman who each achieved 10 A\* grades. Ten girls attained at least 9 A\* grades in total with 23 girls managing a string of straight A\* and A grades.

However, Woldingham's academic achievements are by no means limited to the results tables, and this year we have put on numerous fantastic events including 'Teachers' Question Time', 'Just a Minute' and 'Are You Smarter than a Mardener?'. Furthermore, we have welcomed speakers from all domains of work: Wole Soyinka, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, spoke to us about his amazing life; Sam Gyimah, our local MP and a Minister for Education and Childcare in the current government, visited twice; Habiba Balogun talked to the girls about women in the world of business; and Donald Sammut about the inspirational work that he undertakes with leprosy sufferers in Nepal. Woldingham's own have also taken to the stage in our lunchtime lecture programme, with not only staff but students too having the opportunity to speak about their personal interest areas – ranging from the politics of remembrance to beekeeping.

Many individuals have also shone this year, especially our poets. Sarah Adegbite won first prize in the Brighton Festival Peacock Poetry Competition for the 11 – 14 age group, and Isla Anderson won the Christopher Tower poetry competition (among many other awards), beating over 700 other entries. Isla read her poetry on BBC Radio 3, the first of two students this year to be interviewed on national radio this year, Pasha Orleans-Foli also being interviewed on Radio 3 when, hugely impressively, she played in a world premiere at the BBC Proms. Not only did she make her Proms debut and her BBC Radio debut at the age of 16 but she also played the BBC commission entirely from memory.

It has been a particularly busy year of extra-curricular activities all round, with new activities such as Ballroom Dancing and Sign Language being introduced, to add to the vast array already offered. The latest academic phenomenon is debating. The Sixth form Interhouse



Debating Cup has become one of the most fiercely contested awards and the junior clubs have never had such enthusiastic attendance. You can read more about the school's debating success further on in this magazine. Other successes have included everything from the Salters Festival of Chemistry to the Articulation art history speech competition.

The launch of the THRIVE programme has gone well this year. Next term we will be taking this a step further by having a THRIVE education day for parents featuring two

eminent speakers: Karl Hopwood, an e-safety expert, and Dr Aric Sigman, a leading psychologist and author who also lectures in UK medical schools and the NHS.

All sorts of other initiatives have been launched this year, ranging from summer research projects at the Royal Marsden to an animal behaviour research project linking Year 10 students with Professor Victoria Braithwaite of Penn State University in the USA. 2015 has been an exciting year and the new academic year looks set to be more exciting yet.



# ART REVIEW

A report by Charlotte Reay, Head of Art, and Ellen Yiu, Art Ribbon (2015-2016)

Once again the art students have produced fantastic work at GCSE and A Level and we thank those who celebrated it with us at our Private View events. The A Level work in particular this year has been outstanding with the most varied and ambitious pieces to date! We are delighted that six students are going on to study at Art Foundation courses, one student to study Fashion Management, one for Fashion Marketing and two to read Architecture, with a special mention to Varisa Kasemkomase who is going to read Architecture at Cambridge.

In addition to all the successful work produced at Key Stages 4 and 5 we have seen some fantastic and exciting work at Key Stage 3 ranging from Year 7 Matisse-inspired ceramic tiles, Year 8 colourful painted self-portraits to Year 9 giving us a fashion show in their wearable sculptures. In Art Club, students created innovative lino prints and clay heads inspired by German Expressionist woodcuts. The scholars and Gifted and Talented students have had the privilege to take part in a variety of workshops from designing posters for Chinese children, wedding dress making with toilet paper and bin bags, to a drawing workshop with a dancer, considering the cross fertilisation of music, art and dance in response to Kandinsky's ideas surrounding synesthesia.



Sixth Form students have worked with Purdy Fitzherbert and Eleanor Watson, both previous Woldingham School alumnae and currently practising artists, as well as having bookbinding workshops with Jessica Gaten, a London College of Communication graduate. They enjoyed trips to the V&A, Tate Britain and The Natural History Museum. The highlight was certainly the Alexander McQueen exhibition at the V&A. We must also not forget the wonderful annual St Ives trip for the Year 11. These trips continue to be an integral part of our creative experiences. Greg Humphries an environmental artist from St Ives also led a workshop during the Summer term, involving students in Years 7 and 8 to produce an aboriginal-inspired sculpture trail through the grounds.

It has been an action-packed year and I would like to thank the art staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the students! Please check out the new art blog - [woldinghamschoolartdept.blogspot.co.uk](http://woldinghamschoolartdept.blogspot.co.uk) - our platform to showcase the outstanding work of our creative students. Stay in touch!



# DRAMA REVIEW

A report by Lyn Mann, Director of Drama

**W**hen most people look back at their time at school there will be certain key moments they will always remember vividly. For many it will be when they took part in a school play. Long after they may have forgotten the facts and lessons learnt in class, their moment upon the stage will burn brightly in the memory.

Recognising this fact and the huge importance of the Arts, in 1999 the Millennium Centre was opened at Woldingham School and the very first production took place on the stage of the 600 seat state-of-the-art auditorium the following March 2000. This production was 'Tongues of Flame' which was a play specially commissioned by the school. The playwright David Cullcutt took on this massive challenge first visiting the school in February 1999 when, instantly inspired by the valley, the first seeds of 'Tongues of Flame' were sown. Within a week he had an outline of the plot and there followed a stream of emails of draft scenes and ideas. Judith Brown wrote at the time "It is a real sign of technology that most of our communication and the entire script was sent by email!" How quickly we forget, whilst constantly moaning about our cluttered email boxes, how innovative and revolutionary the sending of information electronically was then. The play was cast before the Christmas and the rehearsal process started in earnest in January 2000. It was directed by Judith Brown, who was at that time Head of Drama, with Musical Direction by Simon Rushby.

It was an enormous undertaking involving over 250 girls in all the various aspects of this astonishing play. In the programme notes Judith said "Tongues of Flame is a dream-play. We have tried to create a piece of Total Theatre where all aspects of the production – music, lighting, design, physicality in performance – are as important as the spoken word... it is a powerful script and I hope that, by our production of it, a little something in each of you will be changed."



It clearly succeeded if the excellent review at the time in the 'The Stage' is anything to go by and it set the benchmark extremely high for Woldingham School Drama in the Millennium Centre and there it has stayed.

Since then over 37 productions have taken place on our stages including 15 Musicals and Operas, eight Elizabethan plays, eight traditional fairy stories plus an assortment of comedies, tragedies and reviews spanning all styles and eras of theatrical history. Each and every one of them memorable for those hundreds and hundreds of Woldingham girls who have taken part both onstage and backstage.

I actually joined the Drama Department in 2000 and so have witnessed every wonderful, heart-stopping and exhilarating moment. The highs, the lows, the moments when it looked as if it couldn't possibly all come together, the long weekends and the endless late nights are indelibly etched on my memory. And at the centre of all those thrills and spills are the performances, the talent and the 'stars' of each and every show.

Having directed over 17 of the productions myself have I a favourite? Well, I always feel so immensely proud of our multi-talented casts and crew that whichever play we are working on is the favourite. So why do we do it? Why do we put ourselves and our students through the massive amounts of hard work, emotional turmoil and exhaustion? Because there is nothing, absolutely nothing like that moment of quiet excitement and anticipation as the lights go down in the auditorium and you are about to see "another opening of another show"!



## Plays performed at Woldingham School 2000 - 2015

Animal Farm  
Arabian Nights  
Ash Girl  
Bacchai  
Bartholomew Fair  
Beauty and the Beast  
The Boyfriend  
Bugsy Malone  
Cabaret  
Canterbury Tales  
Daisy Pulls it Off  
Farndale Avenue  
Townswoman's Guild  
present The Mikado  
Faust  
The Firework  
Maker's Daughter  
Grimm's Tales  
Hiawatha  
HMS Pinafore  
Honk  
Joseph and  
his Amazing  
Technicoloured  
Dreamcoat

Jungle Book  
Little Shop of Horrors  
A Midsummer Night's  
Dream (2007, 2013)  
Oliver Twist  
Peter Pan  
Return to the  
Forbidden Planet  
Scary Play  
Sleeping Beauty  
Sweet Charity  
Sweeney Todd  
Shock 'n' Roll Show  
Thoroughly Modern  
Millie  
Tongues of Flame  
Whale  
Where there's a Will  
Shakespeare Season -  
The Tempest, Twelfth  
Night, Macbeth and  
Romeo and Juliet  
Wind in the Willows  
Yerma



# MUSIC REVIEW

A report by John Hargreaves, Director of Music

**W**hat a fantastic year in music this year. We staged the usual events: the Autumn Concert, the Spring Concert, many solo recitals and concerts, Scholars' performances, and the House Music Competition. The level of performance at Woldingham improves from year to year with amazing performances at all these events. This was also seen at Key Stage 3 where the end of year exam this year included a solo performance from every girl. Again, the standard was incredible and this is because Woldingham girls have pride in all they do: it was so inspiring to hear the students practising in the weeks running up to the recording sessions.

A highlight was the Carol Service at Central Hall, Westminster. This is one of the most prestigious places at which we have performed in recent years. I was extremely proud of our singers and players, and proud too that we involved students from St Francis and Beechwood Sacred Heart Schools.

In January Year 7 all sang in the 'Young Voices' event at the O2. They continued their run with a fine rendition of HMS Pinafore in June, in a collaboration with the Drama Department. Earlier in the academic year, the senior students in both departments performed 'Cabaret' - one of the greatest shows ever written.

The Flute Ensemble, Piano Trio, String Quartet and Amaris took part in the Coulsdon and Purley Music Festival, coming away with a number of trophies, awards, commendations and medals.

Woldingham was host to 7 schools in January as part of a Surrey Music Hub concert. Each school performed a couple of songs and all sang together in 3 final numbers. This was such a lovely event for us to be a part of, and we are aiming to repeat it next year.



We look forward to a long break and holiday; we really do, but I am already excited by the prospects that the forthcoming year holds for music. We will start to redevelop the working spaces - classrooms, recital room, and ICT provision - and there are a number of exciting projects ahead of us. In order: a Solo Concert, the Autumn Concert, the Carol Service, and auditions for Face the Music in the Autumn Term; the Scholars' Concert, Face the Music, Year 7 at the O2, the House Music heats and final, and the Spring Concert all in the Spring Term; and, in the Summer Term, the Lower School drama production, the Upper Sixth leavers' concert, the Summer term music Concert, and the Summer Music tour.

We are also launching a non-western music ensemble. A number of our girls from overseas play instruments that are rarely seen in concerts of western classical and popular music. We are aiming to bring these together for a bespoke ensemble and also to integrate them into a full orchestral piece. It is an exciting time to be in the music department!



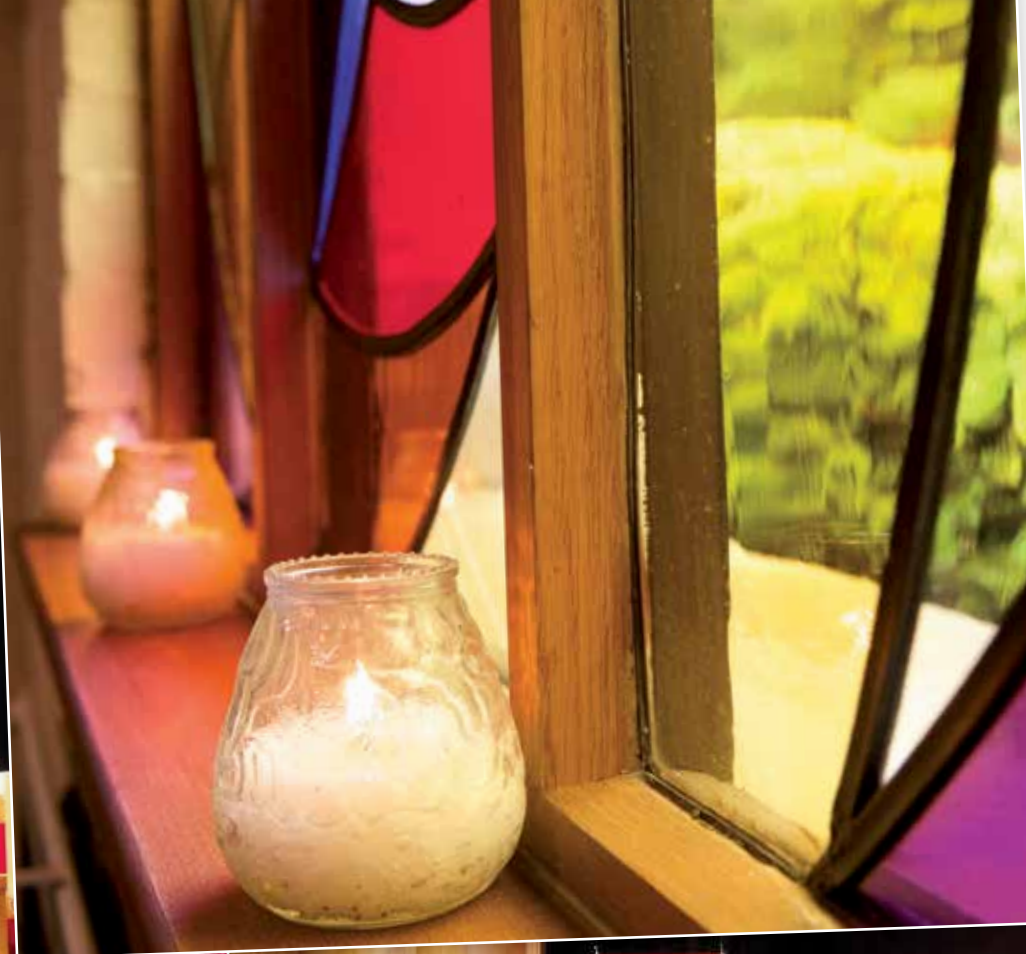
# SACRED HEART REVIEW

A report by Fr Gerry Devlin, Chaplain

**I**n my first year as Chaplain I have been very pleased with the number of students and staff involving themselves in the work of Chaplaincy, which is central to the life of the School, providing ongoing pastoral care and support for students, staff and parents. The Chaplaincy is committed to creating a welcoming and caring community which is continually reaching out to others. This year students have been encouraged to actively develop their skills and talents creatively in serving each other and the wider needs of society; my hope is that students will leave Woldingham and go on to assume active leadership roles within the Church and society.

Our Sacred Heart goal for this academic year was Social Awareness and students have actively embraced the community projects which have been organised: helping pupils with their reading in local primary schools; visiting local nursing homes; working in charity shops; serving tables and entertaining parishioners in the local parish and organising a lunch for the elderly at the School; working in the Cardinal Hume Centre for homeless people; providing food and toiletries for local food banks and night shelters; serving the School community as musicians, sacristans, ushers, readers and singers in the School chapel; fundraising for local, national and international charities. During the season of Lent we raised £1,950 which was matched by government funding and brought our total to £3,900.

On Friday 21 February we welcomed Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue to Woldingham and twenty four students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two other students celebrated their First Communion and another student received the Sacrament of Baptism.



The Leavers' Mass was celebrated in the School Chapel followed by a reception in the Goddard Room which was a fitting end to the time spent at Woldingham for Sixth Form students who have enriched our community in so many different ways.

There have been many encouraging signs of staff and students working together in collaboration with the Chaplaincy to develop and foster all that builds up and sustains a community which is positive in its outlook where people take time to look out and care for each other. As Blessed Mother Teresa once remarked; "In this life we cannot do great things, we can only do small things with great love"; that is certainly what happens each day here at Woldingham.



# SPORTS REVIEW

A report by Caroline Treacy, Director of Sport

**I**t has been another busy year for Sport with over 350 fixtures being played in 7 major sports across the three terms. Woldingham Netballers have been coached by Super league netballer Alice Ewer and had the opportunity to go to the Copper Box to watch an awesome display of skill and prowess on court from the Super League teams, Surrey Storm and Hertfordshire Mavericks. From those beginning their representation on the netball court at U12 level to those leaving us after 7 years of representing the school on the 1st and 2nd team, all have enhanced their skills and fitness on court. Each team has had impressive victories, with highlights such as the nail-biting District Senior final where for the first time in the district's history our 1st team battled with RGS through extra time to narrowly lose in the golden goal phase of play. Many of the U15 and U16 Netballers also reaped the benefits of the superb netball and hockey tour to Trinidad and Tobago which saw our A netball team undefeated despite the physical competition we were faced with.

The Hockey season was also a success and included very enjoyable tours to Rome with the Seniors and Chester with the Year 8s. Both age groups were very successful against their rivals, winning 5 out of their 8 fixtures. The U13 B team won their district competition beating Reigate Grammar convincingly and the Senior 1st and 2nd XI came 2nd in their retrospective district competitions. The Senior B team also came second in the Indoor District competition. The girls have trained extremely hard and shown great commitment to their teams.

The summer term brought a huge amount of success with Woldingham continuing to show strength in both track and field athletic events. All squads have competed in the Lewis League inter-school competitions with much success. The Under 12 athletes have continued to improve their performances: for the majority of the team, hurdles, the javelin, discus and shot putt have been new experiences and skills to master!

The team finished 3rd in their Lewis League and 7th in their District Championships, while the Under 13 squad have built upon the skills they gained last season, finishing runners-up in their Lewis League.

The Under 14 and Under 15 squads rose to the challenges in their Lewis League competitions each finishing in 2nd place. Both squads competed at their District Championships held at K2 in Crawley in May with some very impressive individual performances: in the Inter Girls Holly Castle won the javelin, setting a new school record and Grace Flanagan was 2nd, Olayemi Fowora was 2nd in the discus, Joanna Sinnos was 4th in the shot putt; in the Junior Girls Georgia Velasco won the shot putt and Olivia Foster was 2nd in the long jump.



Both relay teams ran blistering times in the 4 x 100 m finals in their age groups, both finishing in 2nd place. As a result girls from both teams were selected to compete in the South Surrey team at the Surrey Schools Athletics Championships in June at Kingsmeadow, Kingston. Ellie Arnfield from the Lower Sixth and Charlotte Stewart from Year 11 were also selected on their performances this season. Despite the level of the competition and quality of the opposition at this level, all our athletes performed well, five being placed in the top six in their event. Ellie Arnfield set a new personal best time in the 400 m Hurdles final and finished 3rd. From these championships Surrey then selects athletes to compete in the South East Schools Championships. Our congratulations to Olayemi Fowora who, coming 4th at Kingsmeadow, was selected to compete for Surrey. Three school records have been broken this year by Holly Castle (Javelin), Ellie Arnfield (400m hurdles) and Olayemi Fowora (100m).

Two hundred students have participated on the regular tennis coaching programme over the year, with over 90 girls involved in weekly team training. Mr Rae has managed to cram 45 matches into only 8 weeks, giving our girls lots of opportunities to play. Internally the girls have played in singles and doubles tournaments as well as the House Competition. There have been a number of notable results with the U15A team coming runners up in the district, and the U14's reaching the semi finals of the Sussex County Doubles competition. The rounders teams also achieved successes at the District rounders competitions with titles going to the U13B, U14A and U15A teams. The U15's then went on to represent the district at the County finals where they missed out on the County title by just half a rounder.

So all in all it has been a fantastic year for Sport at Woldingham with much to look forward to in September.



# MY YEAR OF DRAMA

A report by Gabriella Gilliat



**M**y drama this year has had many ups and downs. Coming to the end of performing in my first year with West End Kids (WEK), a London-based song and dance troupe, I have had the most amazing time performing at exciting events such as West End Live,

Move IT, Festival of Flight, National Armed Forces Day and Voice In A Million. We have also performed at a number of national charity events at venues including The Royal Albert Hall, Olympia, Leadenhall Market, the Under Globe, as well as the Savoy and Waldorf Hotels. The way many of the Charity Balls are themed and decorated is truly amazing. We tend to learn medleys to suit the theme of the events and are currently performing numbers from Broadway/ West End musicals such as the Producers, Tarzan, The Lion King, Into The Woods, Alice in Wonderland and Whistle Down The Wind. This means we have met an extremely busy rehearsal schedule with performances most Saturdays and 9-hour rehearsals every Sunday (with a bit of homework in between)!!

Topping the year was our recent nerve-jangling performance in Trafalgar Square at West End Live, where we performed in a line up with current West End Shows such as Billy Elliot, Les Mis, Wicked and Matilda. We went on stage after Avenue Q! In the summer I am really looking forward to WEK's 3 days of performance at Camp Bestival in Dorset, which is a family-themed festival. To appeal to the children we are performing numbers from the Lion King, Tarzan and Alice In Wonderland in the most amazing costumes - I just hope it's not too hot! I will also be spending some of my summer performing with the Youth Music Theatre UK in their new production of the Midnight Flower Press which will involve a crazy 2 week intensive residential course followed by 3 performances.

My 30 strong fellow cast will rehearse, live and sleep the production 24/7 – mad but fun! Earlier in the year I was also lucky enough to do a spot of filming with a new BBC 1 production which was quite an experience. All of this has had to fit around Woldingham's production of Dark River, so it has been a pretty busy time for me but all great fun.

To be involved in all of these performances, I have had to go through rigorous audition processes and when people see the finished performance they often do not understand the lengthy and nerve-wracking audition process that precedes the intense rehearsal schedule. Every audition is different depending on what you're auditioning for. West End Kids holds national auditions 3 times a year, at which hundreds of hopeful children aged between 10-18 years old aim to impress the singing and dance directors in their initial 3-hour slot. I first auditioned for WEK when I had just turned 10 and it was one of the first auditions I had ever been to.

Last September I was delighted to successfully audition for the main troupe. However, the day of the auditions was just the start. Having successfully got through that, I then had a 3-week trial, where I had to attend 9-hour sessions every Sunday and my ability to pick up a large volume of new material and retain it was tested thoroughly. It was an exhausting process. Even now I am in the troupe, every term several members are called back for recall auditions with all the new hopefuls if they have not been working hard enough or if their song or dance standards appear to be slipping. You are never safe as there is always someone else out there ready to take your place!



YMT UK audition thousands of people aged 11-21 years old and last year auditioned at 24 cities, which is a huge undertaking. They have about 6 productions of varying size casts, some mixed and some single sex casts, with performances at Arts Festivals all over the country. The audition is a 3-hour workshop where you are assessed by directors, choreographers and composers. They are looking for triple-threat people - those performers who can impress in drama, dance and singing and they all assess how well you can act in a team. I was so happy when I got the letter saying I got into one of their production called Cori Cave, but was very disappointed when I saw that it overlapped with West End Kids in Camp Bestival. However, I was extremely lucky, as when we told them I was already committed to Camp Bestival, they made another offer to me for a different production called The Midnight Flower Press which looks really exciting.

I also auditioned for National Youth Music Theatre, which similarly auditions nationally. They hold audition workshops which last all day. There are three sections; singing, where you have to come with a prepared 2-minute song that you have to perform in front of everyone in your group, dancing, where we had to do an improvisation to a unknown song and were then taught a dance, and finally acting, where we had to show many acting skills like improvisation, script reading, devising a piece and working as a team with other people. I did get a recall for NYMT; however unfortunately I didn't get a part this year. So better luck next time.

I have learnt lots from my drama this year. I have made lots of new friends, learnt new skills, felt rejection and learnt how hard you have to work to do well. I also think I became a lot more organised in the process too.



# BRITISH U14 SKIING CHAMPION

Olivia Foster

**T**ignes, France. Easter 2015. Imagine the scene. Multicoloured helmets. Azure skies. Red and blue gates stapled into the cold white paper of the mountainside.

One run. One championship. One winner.

Olivia Foster of Year 9 was ready for this. Now aged 14, she had started skiing at the age of two and begun racing competitively at the age of nine. But this was her biggest test yet. The British Championships. The Giant Slalom. One race. One run. One chance.

As the clock beeped down, she steeled herself, placed her poles carefully over the start wand, and then she was off. Weaving left, then right, clipping the occasional gate in an attempt to find the fastest racing line. No opportunity to admire the view. No chance to hear the cheers. No time to make even the tiniest of mistakes. One minute of pure adrenalin and then the finish line blurred past in a flurry of speed, snow and skill. A great run but, having qualified with one of the highest scores, she was among the first to ski. Now the anxious wait began.

Challengers came. Challengers went. Gates were clipped. Gates were flattened. Olivia remained out in front.

And then the final racer crossed the line, but not quickly enough. Olivia Foster was the British Under 14 Giant Slalom Champion. What a day!

So, what's next? Well, 13 weeks of training a year for a start. She has a fitness test every 12 months. She has a strengthening and conditioning coach. She has a club. In Austria.

All of which means a lot of hard work. But what's really impressive about Olivia is not just her ability or her determination but her groundedness. She just gets on with it, balancing work and sporting commitments in two countries.

Are there more challenges? Of course. At 18 she can start racing downhills. And then maybe it's World Cups or the Olympics. Time will tell. For now the British Under 14 Championships is more than enough.





# ACTING THE PART

## AUDITIONING FOR THE GUILDHALL

A report by Clara Day-Lunn



**A**t the start of the Easter holidays, I took myself to The Guildhall School of Music and Drama to audition for their Junior Programme. As I approached their newly built glass-structured building in the heart of the City housing its state-of-the-art facilities, I was

feeling extremely excited but, I must confess, a little nervous. As with any audition, you want to impress, and auditioning for one of the most prestigious drama schools in Europe, I certainly felt the pressure.

As I walked in I was met with a sea of nervous faces all eager to succeed, as was I. The audition was totally group based, so it was important to show my teamwork skills. There were around thirty people in the group, and although everyone was aware of the competition, everybody was really friendly.

The audition involved a number of very unusual group tasks, including “act as the colour blue”, but I threw myself into them and it turned out to be great fun! During the audition I was put on the spot when a Guildhall tutor asked me to do an improvisation in front of the group imagining I was terrified of a chair – weird I know! However, there was no time to think and I made myself believe that I was genuinely terrified of this chair. I think my performance was more comical than terrifying as the tutors started laughing.

When the two hour audition came to an end, I had to wait until May to hear if I had been accepted. A couple of weeks later I received a letter saying that I had been accepted onto the course and I would be starting in September with the classes taking place on Saturdays. I was so pleased to hear I had been accepted, and I cannot wait to start - I’m so excited to learn many new skills such as intense improvisation and physical work and to be part of such a great organisation.

As a member of the Picturehouse Cinemas group, I was contacted last year and asked if I was interested in applying to be part of their new promotional advert that is shown before every film at every cinema in the group. Of course I was thrilled at the prospect of this opportunity, and had to submit my CV to the company. I was then sent an email to say that my application had been successful and filming would take place in November at a location called Peckham Asylum, which is a late Georgian disused chapel in South East London that was once a retirement ‘sanctuary’ for pub landlords.



We were told we had to wear spring-like clothes but it was freezing in the cold London air. The space in Peckham had been transformed from beautiful stone relics into an amazing atmospheric pop-up cinema with popcorn, candyfloss and a bar area to really set the cinema scene. We were told to smile and look as excited as we could if we wanted to be in the final cut – it wasn’t very hard to look excited because being around all the cameras and fairy lights was a truly unforgettable experience. When the advert was released, I was delighted to see I had made it into the final cut and would be on the screen at my favourite cinema for the rest of the year!



# A PERSONAL PILGRIMAGE

A report by Winfred Wright



The Camino de Santiago, or way of St. James, is approximately 800km long and takes an average walker about one month. That requires very comfortable shoes! And, of course, an average distance of some 25km per day in often inhospitable, mountainous terrain.

The destination of the Camino is the cathedral at Santiago, which is said to house the relics of St. James himself. The scallop shell, often found on the shores in Galicia, Spain, has long been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago and I wear a silver one around my neck. It is tarnished and worn now after 5 years of wear. The distinctive grooves on the scallop shell are said to represent the many routes to Santiago.

Our Religious Studies project, and the walk of my grandparents, led me to think about undertaking a Pilgrimage myself and a brief feature on breakfast television which I half watched while I packed my bag for school one morning gave me an idea:

"Gran, it's me, Winifred. Shall we go on a short Pilgrimage, just the two of us, to Turin?"

Why Turin? Well, Turin is a great place to visit. It is famous for the football teams Juventus and Torino. It is also the headquarters of three large Italian car manufacturers - FIAT, Lancia and Alfa Romeo. The famous gianduja, the hazelnut and chocolate paste which is the origin of Nutella, and which I was probably eating on toast that very morning while I packed my school bag, comes from Turin. But none of these prompted our visit. We went because Turin is the home of the Shroud of Turin and that was to be the focus of our Pilgrimage. We weren't going to walk or have a tough journey there but we were going to visit in the spirit of Pilgrimage with the intention of....with the intention of...to be honest, we weren't sure what our intention was when we departed but we were certain of what we had achieved when we returned....

First of all, what exactly is the Shroud?

The Turin Shroud is a linen cloth, approximately 4.40 metres long and 1.13 metres wide, woven in a herringbone pattern, on a primitive loom using a basic thread and an irregular technique.



We were on a different kind of Pilgrimage where we chose instead to walk for hours by the River Po, to just be with each other in a beautiful city, to spend time in the many churches in the centre of Turin and to calmly approach the culmination of our visit - the viewing of the Shroud itself.

We read all the guide books but we actually focused upon some words of scripture - the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapters 15 and 16, and in particular:

"When Pilate learned of the death of Jesus from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph of Arimathea. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock."

Some words of Pope Francis were helpful: "I join all of you gathered before the Holy Shroud. This face has eyes that are closed, it is the face of one who is dead, and yet mysteriously he is watching us, and in silence he speaks to us. How is this possible? How is it that the faithful, like you, pause before this icon of a man scourged and crucified? It is because the Man of the Shroud invites us to contemplate Jesus of Nazareth."

Other Popes before Francis have said and written similar things. In other words, it doesn't really matter whether this cloth actually did cover the face of Jesus Christ. What matters is how it makes you feel and what it makes you think about.

When I saw the Shroud, I felt that I could certainly imagine Jesus wrapped in that very cloth. Scientific dating of the cloth suggests otherwise but that did not matter to me - I could certainly feel that I was in a spiritual place, with a spiritual relic and that I was close to God.

I remembered the words of one of the pilgrims from Santiago: "When we started, we did not know exactly why we were doing it. We just put one foot in front of the other. When we got to the cathedral, we simply sat down and we counted our blessings."

In going to Turin, I experienced my own Personal Pilgrimage. No, I had not walked 800km, but I had travelled a long way to see and feel something special and, after a few wonderful and spiritual days with my beloved Gran, I too counted my blessings.

The very first mention of the Shroud which, according to tradition (more on that later), bears the image of Christ after he was lifted down from the Cross, dates back to 1353 when a man called Geoffroi de Charny donated the Shroud to the Church of Lirey in France. The Shroud was a sheet which he claimed had been used to wrap up the body of Christ. A century later, in 1453, the Shroud was purchased by the Duchy of Savoy and it arrived in Turin, the capital of the Duchy, in 1578.

1578 was the year of the Shroud's first public display. 2015 has been the year of the Shroud's tenth public display. You do not need GCSE Maths to tell you that the chance to see the Shroud at first hand is therefore a once in a lifetime opportunity and only then if you are lucky enough to be able to get a ticket.

The 2015 Exposition began on 19th April this year and culminated with a visit by Pope Francis on 21st June. I was fortunate, with my Grandma, to be able to visit on 27th May 2015 and it was an experience I will not forget.

There was a huge amount of information - historical, religious and scientific - available to the visitors to the Shroud Exposition. We read a bit but found some of the arguments to be overwhelming and overly detailed. This was not a visit where we felt we needed to have answered the question to which many visitors seek an answer - was this cloth really wrapped around the body of Jesus Christ?

What question are these brief sentences the answers to?

They are comments from real pilgrims arriving at Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 2010 when asked the question why they undertook their personal Pilgrimage.

As part of our Year 9 Religious Studies curriculum, we girls each compiled a Pilgrimage project and sought to answer these very questions - what does it really mean to be a Pilgrim and why does an individual undertake a Pilgrimage?

As part of my project, I looked at the walk tackled by my maternal grandparents in 2010 to mark my grandfather's 75th birthday - not just any walk - but a famous walk all the way from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain - following the Camino de Santiago.



# PASHA AT THE PROMS

A report by Pasha Orleans-Foli

**A**fter having already organised a trip to Salamanca where I was looking forward to doing work experience for a week (which ideally was to be in a music shop), I was completely dumbfounded when I received a call from my dad on the minibus to school for a HMS Pinafore music rehearsal, revealing that I had been successful in the audition I had submitted to the “BBC Inspire Scheme” programme a few weeks earlier, which meant that I would be playing at the Proms! Applicants between ages 15 and 23 had to send in a video audition of themselves playing an extract of the piece that we hoped we would be playing - “Smatter Hauler”. This was a newly commissioned piece for the BBC, by contemporary composer Anna Meredith, which was to be played by the Aurora Orchestra and inaugural members of the ‘BBC Proms Youth Ensemble’ from memory.

Although the extract was remarkably short, it proved to be quite challenging for me on the clarinet seeing as it had to be played at a high speed, with confusing tonguing, and the order of notes proving to be awkward to work my fingers around. But after slowly building up the speed, and practising a little bit each day as a distraction from exams, I was able to play it reasonably well by the end of week and was delighted I had achieved what seemed impossible when I was sent the email from the BBC with an audio recording of the extract. Having completed what seemed like my umpteenth video recording of myself sitting in my bedroom playing the extract of the piece, my self-confidence quickly changed to exhaustion, frustration and dissatisfaction with my efforts. Being the perfectionist that I am in music, I felt that none of the takes were good enough and felt doubtful that I would be successful. Nonetheless, I submitted a video and proceeded to focus on my GCSE and work experience preparations.

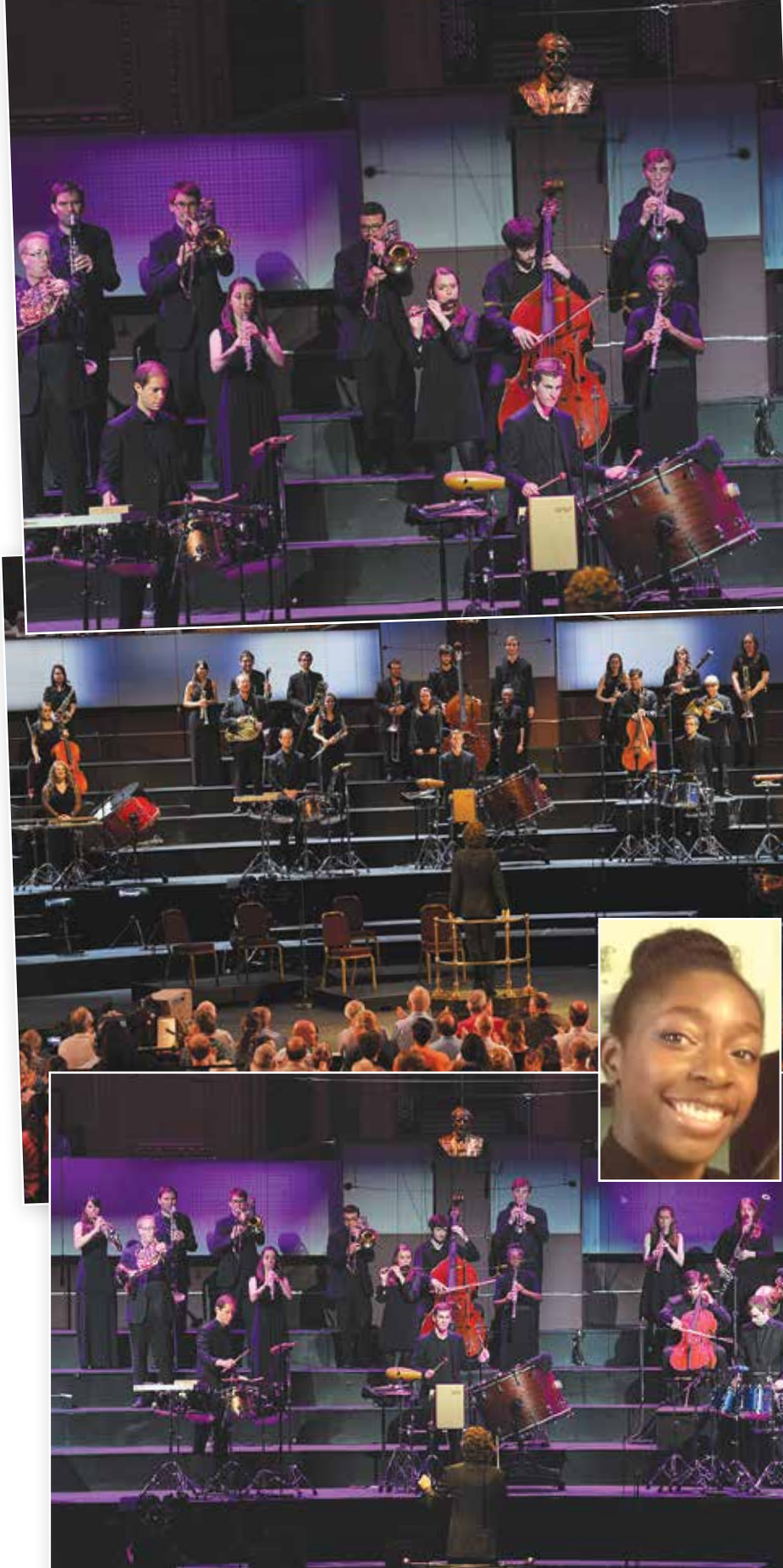
As part of our brief, we had to memorise our individual parts before the first rehearsal, and so upon receiving the sheet music through the post, I had exactly 3 weeks to learn it. This seemed daunting at first seeing as it was

nine pages long and involved many technical difficulties. Thankfully, I had my Guildhall teacher Peter Sparks to guide me in terms of both the memory process and improving my technique. I am uncertain of how my family managed to remain sane as I walked around the house humming and playing the piece loudly each day, with it being so intense (yet exciting) - it is not exactly your run-of-the-mill ‘Moonlight Sonata’ by Beethoven!

On the day of the first rehearsal, I felt rather daunted to be in the company of such a well renowned orchestra and players of such high standard who were from a wide range of youth orchestras and ages; I was one of three 16 year olds who were the youngest of the group. Additionally I felt insecure as to whether I had adequately prepared for the piece, and it was clear that the other players felt the same way after our introductions to one another. This worry quickly faded after the second take and I relished the synergy that we quickly obtained as a newly formed ensemble. The enthusiasm of the conductor Nicholas Collon and composer Anna Meredith made us more relaxed and boosted our confidence. Nick had already successfully led the Aurora Orchestra in playing Mozart’s entire 40th Symphony from memory in the BBC Proms 2014, and I felt privileged to be able work alongside such accomplished musicians. It was obvious that Anna Meredith had a clear idea of how she envisaged ‘Smatter Hauler’ to be played.

“Smatter Hauler”? you may be thinking, which was my same reaction. The Smatter Haulers: literally, hauler of smatter. This was a term that she borrowed from a Sherlock novel that she had read and is a Victorian term for a gang of handkerchief thieves (try saying that rapidly – you can’t!). In her explanation of the title, she says, *“Think less about the snotters..more about the skulduggery and the looting.”* (BBC Radio 3 interview).

We were also fortunate enough to be able to play in some of the most amazing venues such as the BBC Maida Vale Studios (during which we received special passes which I’m not ashamed to say that I asked if I could take home!)



where other orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra were also rehearsing for the Proms. Henry Wood Hall and Blackheath Halls were the other venues we were privileged enough to rehearse in. In addition, I found that the 5 rehearsals that we had were just as scintillating as the main performance, as both Anna and Nick had new and fresh ideas about how they wanted certain parts of the piece to be played, whether it was altering the style of glissandos on the trombones, or a change in articulation during a musical motif.

Seeing as we had individually learnt our own parts so thoroughly before the first rehearsal, it meant that the remaining rehearsals were spent making tweaks and perfecting sections, as opposed to still finding ways to help with memorising. Nevertheless, Nick Collon gave us a unique (and slightly peculiar) way of remembering a rhythm in the last section of the piece when the ensemble returns to playing in unison. He used the phrase “A big red bus” for the main rhythm and when other rhythms were added in between, the phrase would change to “A big red wiggly wiggly red bus...A big red wiggly wiggly wiggly wiggly red bus” etc. as the section progressed. Despite him making the entire ensemble sing the rhythm to this phrase in rehearsal (which was highly embarrassing for us all), we found ourselves singing it together backstage before the performance which was fantastic.

My biggest highlight of the experience I’d say, is when one of the BBC staff approached me and another young musician the day before the performance and asked if we would mind doing a brief interview about our experience for BBC Radio 3, to which I replied “Why not?” I was shocked that I could even get the right words out of my mouth since I was completely and utterly overwhelmed with joy during the entire interview.

The day of the performance arrived and I am not afraid to admit that I was absolutely terrified! However, once we were all up on stage and playing, the nerves quickly vanished and I found myself enjoying myself immensely – to play in such a vibrant, buzzing and high-spirited atmosphere alongside some of the most talented musicians I have ever had the pleasure of working with (let alone having it broadcast on BBC Four) was an absolute dream come true! If I had the opportunity to do it again, there is no doubt that I would jump at the chance to experience what I did this summer.



## STAFF AND STUDENT LECTURE SERIES

**T**he school has enjoyed unprecedented levels of academic success in recent years with stunning GCSE and A Level results being achieved. One significant by-product of this academic highflying has been a renewed determination on the part of the school to develop academic curiosity outside the confines of the classroom and a corresponding surge of interest from the students in a huge range of topics. Blue sky thinking has become mainstream.

Nowhere has this scattering of wavelengths been more apparent than in our lunchtime lecture series. Giving teachers free rein to enthuse (for 25 minutes) in the setting of our glorious auditorium on a topic of their choice has pulled in the crowds and made for fascinating viewing. Taking centre stage this year have been Miss MacLean talking about 'Monstrous Meres and Mirrors: The Place of Monsters in the Anglo-Saxon Consciousness', Miss Noble talking about 'Downton Abbey: Fact or Fiction?', and Mr Ceska talking about the Czech Republic (and Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Moravia, Bohemia, and Moravia). And it's not just the teachers who have exchanged the classroom for the lecture theatre. Mr Brown made a triumphant exit from the theatre technicians' box to deliver a spectacular lecture – and I'm choosing my words very carefully – on 'Colour – is it just a pigment of your imagination?'

But the real break from tradition this year has been the student lecture series. Proving the (very few) sceptics wrong, our Upper Sixth delivered lectures on everything from the Septuagint to the Politics of Remembrance, from 'Murders, madness and mistresses: an exploration of women in tragedy' to 'The European Witch Craze 1450 - 1750', from 'A History of Pan-Africanism' to 'Bees and the Real Big Society'. The buzz has been amazing.



The breadth and depth of knowledge displayed by these students was phenomenal but there was more to their lectures than mere knowledge. Poise. Clarity. Wit. You name it: they had it. And, what's more, they had the audiences they deserved. Hordes of students from all year groups giving up their lunchtimes to listen to lectures? Welcome to Woldingham 2015.





## EXTENDING OURSELVES THE EPQ AT WOLDINGHAM

A report by Fionnula Kennedy, Head of Sixth Form (2011 - 2015)



Of course, we have also to be realistic about the undoubted pressures of A Level work as it stands, and for many the EPQ is an unrealistic dream. However, this year seven valiant warriors reached the final test of the presentation of the project and we have our fingers crossed for seven very high marks indeed. Subjects this year included: Nicole Boyd reaching the peak of her passion for rocks (seriously) by looking at the evidence for life on Mars; Lucia Keijer-Palau furthering her unusual (and, Dr Murphy would say, worrying) interest in Enoch Powell; Laura Pepera preparing to study Science in Toronto by examining the composition of the Aids virus; Susannah Peppiatt exploring the Septuagint and its impacts on our understanding of biblical texts; Susie Triffitt taking on the small question of the existence of God; Izzy McParland making the most of her Psychology studies by looking at issues associated with special educational needs; and Ali Hunter very topically addressing the idea of the remembrance of war and, in particular, its portrayal through film.

The diversity of the topics alone tells its own story about how alive and well scholarship is amongst our girls in the Sixth Form, but those lucky enough to attend the evening when all eight presented their projects will also be able to testify to the confidence, wit, enthusiasm and energy of these young women. We are repeatedly warned of the dumbing down of youth due to the impact of the internet and social media in particular. Well, these girls are using the internet to read secondary criticism on JSTOR, or to watch university lectures online, or to remind themselves of the Harvard referencing system, and all of this can only be fantastic preparation for university life and the further academic challenges they will face.

We hope that the EPQ will continue to flourish here at Woldingham, and that girls lower down the school will be inspired by the Upper Sixth and their achievements.

**F**or those who have not heard about the EPQ – or the Extended Project Qualification – there is only one thing you really need to know: it's brilliant. The project gives Sixth Form pupils the opportunity to complete and be rewarded for work that is entirely independent; indeed, it is clearly stated that staff mentors may give only the most limited guidance and support, and that the subject of the project cannot have anything whatsoever to do with A Level curricula. 5,000 words on something which you are passionate about and research and complete entirely by yourself? Before university? Sounds pretty brilliant to me.

## SIXTH FORM DEBATING

A report by Fionnula Kennedy, Head of Sixth Form (2011 - 2015)

**I**t seems strange now to think that, four years ago, the Sixth Form Debating Society consisted of two girls and the Head of Sixth Form. From that unpromising beginning, the Society has grown and prospered beyond expectation and we now see debating of an extremely high standard as well as capacity audiences in our 'chamber' of the Goddard Room, as well as during the external UNA debates, in which competition we were semi-finalists this year.

To be able to think on one's feet and express an opinion confidently, as well as listen carefully and pick up on inaccuracies and inconsistencies, are skills that will be crucial to our girls as they head out into the world of work and indeed university. And, my goodness, our debaters have these qualities in spades. From the cool, calm and collected Charlotte Burrows, recipient for the second year of the award for best speech, to the fiery and often hilarious Ore Ogunbiyi, the Sixth Form are now equipped with the poise and confidence to debate with the best of them, and I am looking forward to visiting a Student Union or two in the near future as they take these skills even further.

Debates have ranged from our membership of the EU to whether it is indeed true that 'all you need is love', and highlights have to include Amelia McKey on whether the sexualisation of pop stars is a positive thing for women (passionate to the point of being scary), Susannah Peppiatt and Lucia Keijer-Palau fighting metaphorically to the death in the Inter-House final in their roles as summarisers, and Sarah Mant proving that being a scientist and an economist is a pretty deadly combination. We shall all miss Susie Triffitt bowing after each joke, Susannah's 'notebook of doom' and Emma Hammond-Walker's quiet but deadly points from the floor. Our new Lower Sixth Debaters boldly took to the floor this year and will be crucial to the new season, with particular notice going to Siobhan Obi and Josie Gilbert, both of whom performed in the final with real steel.

Congratulations to Digby for winning the biggest (literally) trophy of the year – at last their cabinet looks full – and good luck to all debaters, both those moving into the Upper Sixth and those moving on to university.





## AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY RESEARCH AT THE ROYAL MARSDEN

**F**our of our students were in the happy and privileged position this summer of being able to carry out research at the Royal Marsden, a world-leading cancer centre specialising in diagnosis, treatment, care, education and research. One of them, Aurora Guerrini of the Lower Sixth, tells us what she learned.

For about 1 week this summer I was able to see what I could possibly be doing in about 5 or so years: I was given the unique opportunity to work and assist the team at the Royal Marsden, Sutton in the Colorectal Unit headed by Professor Gina Brown.

When I first arrived I thought I was going to have a hard time, being around professionals in their field and being a burden to the rest of the team, but almost immediately they tried to make me an integral part of what they were doing. On my first day, I was given the often undervalued job of auditing reports on patients given by doctors and seeing whether or not they fitted the criteria and parameters set by certain agencies.

At first this may sound very mundane but it is possibly one of the most important things one must do when running a hospital that places people's lives in its hands. Auditing is an invaluable tool which helps you check to see if what you are doing is correct, while also helping you to see where you can be reporting more thoroughly to enable the treatment to be precise.

After my first day, I got to talk to Ph.D. students from Imperial College about their research areas and was able to help them by finding articles and medical cases needed to either prove or disprove their theories. I would say the most important lesson I learned from this opportunity was something that one of the PhD students said to me: "Study what you like and turn that into something that can make a difference" and it certainly rang true for everybody I met at the Royal Marsden. Each person was uniquely tasked with a job that had to be done with extreme care and precision or else the rest of the work would never be able to make a difference.





# XENIZONTA

A report by Roy Peachey, Head of Higher Education

This year we have launched our own online journal, Xenizonta, which is designed to bring school, universities and the world of work together. Featuring articles from students, teachers, alumnae, a parent and a governor, Xenizonta is breaking down barriers as well as pushing the boundaries. We present here two of the articles from the first edition but the full e-journal is available on the publications page of our new school website.

## 'Shakespeare and Comic Timing' by Emma Corrin

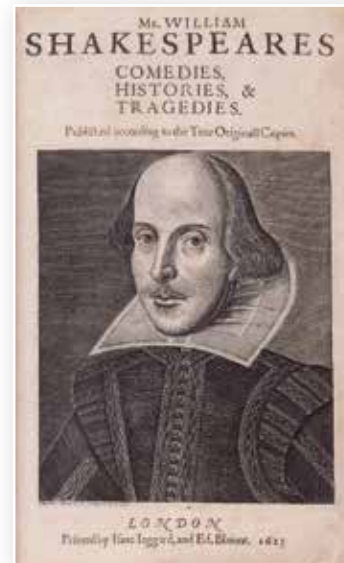
In the wise words of director Peter Hall, 'In Shakespeare's house of language there are no forbidden rooms.' When it comes to this Elizabethan literary prodigy, we must understand he was the unconscious inventor of both the modern tradition of characterisation and of naturalistic speech. With respect to language, it is to Shakespeare that we owe the invention of many of the expressions, colloquialisms, phrases and speech patterns we use today. Sadly, however, as much as we see his influence reflected in parts of our language, we cannot hope to find the authenticity of the performance as Shakespeare himself would have seen it; history holds that forever secret. But this is healthy: in order for society to advance language must change; language cannot lie dormant any more than the world can lie dormant.

As in Shakespeare's time, we live in a world of inconsistency, vulnerability and diversity. This, I think, was something Shakespeare understood entirely, revealing unusual foresight for a writer of his time. In my studies over the summer at Lamda, the head of drama, Rodney Cottier, said something profound, giving new dimension to my understanding of Shakespeare's work: through his writing, Shakespeare was telling us that man and speech are at the centre of the world. To exemplify this, he created a circular performance space which he called the Globe; he placed man, the actor, in the centre, and gave him lines to speak in the form of the iambic pentameter -

a measure of speech that mirrors the human heartbeat. In this way, Shakespeare's works dynamically explore the extremities of human nature - creating the richest source of literary analysis for centuries' worth of students, worldwide; however, one theme usually overlooked is comedy, more specifically the skills needed to perfect comic timing in the context of Shakespeare's verse and prose.

To begin to explore comic timing in all its depth, a distinction needs to be made between comic timing and slapstick comedy. Both combine to fall under the umbrella that is the genre of comedy; however, the two could not be more contrasting in the effects they deliver to the audience and the technique they require from the actor.

Slapstick comedy originated from Comedia dell'Arte, a form of drama dealing with stock character and exaggerated physical activity. We can see this translated into plays through the history of theatre and, in Shakespeare's work, through characters such as the court fool and the jester. For instance, in *Much Ado About Nothing* we have Dogberry, in *Henry IV* there is Falstaff, and one well-loved and aptly named fool is, of course, Bottom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Whilst slapstick comedy is shown through Shakespeare's characters, more obviously it is seen in his plot lines. Take *The Comedy of Errors*, for example, with its many chase scenes and beatings. Equally, there are cases of mistaken identity which feature in many of Shakespeare's plays, most notably *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It*. Most importantly, the emphasis is on the exaggerated nature of Slapstick



Comedy, making it stand out from the intricate and delicate nature of comic timing; what Robert Maslen calls 'the precariously contingent state' of the comic moment - and his description is very apt.

Across Shakespeare's comedies, predictably, we witness his fascination with the comic moment and enjoy the skilled penmanship with which he uses it; 'the jest out of time, the joke that goes too far.' Yet it appears also - and somewhat less predictably - in his tragedies, working to diffuse tension - for example, the pranks played on Othello by Iago, the crazed laughter by Aaron in *Titus Andronicus*. What Maslen goes on to develop in his writing is an argument for the narrow margins by which tragedies and comedies are separated.

When it comes to comic timing, it's all in the rhythm and the language, the feel of the line that is intrinsic to an audience's understanding and entertainment.

### The comedy lies precisely in these elements:

- The language in the verse or the prose
- The iambic pentameter or lack thereof
- Expression and physicality used

Without proper attention to these three key aspects, an actor will fail to deliver the correct comic timing and the audience will miss the punch line. Actors need constantly to consider their audience and never more so than when performing Shakespeare's verse. We have all been in a Shakespeare performance where a line is spoken on stage, but only a few laughs have arisen from the audience - most probably from those with an appreciation of Shakespeare sufficient to pick up the intricacies and deeper meaning of his writing; however, for the most part, audiences rely on the careful crafting and delivery of lines in order to access the comic effect Shakespeare intended.

*You FEEL the rhythm of the line building. You sense it's trajectory, how it's unfolding. You know where the up-and-coming comic word should fall given the expected beat of iambic pentameter. But you change it. You skip the beat, or slow it down, or quicken it. The momentary change creates dramatic tension. You place your word, comic in its emphasised position.*

To try and exemplify the nature of comic timing. I will use dialogue from *The Taming of the Shrew*, the first meeting of Katharine and Petruchio. I performed this scene during a Shakespeare course at LAMDA last summer. Our director began by asking us to translate Shakespeare's verse into our own language, teasing apart the meaning behind each line. From this came our sense of how we wanted the comedy in the scene to come across, how to use the language most effectively for a contemporary audience. We then examined the rhythm, tempo and pause in this scene, noting how it follows iambic pentameter to begin with and then, as the energy of the scene escalates, changes and becomes more irregular - this irregularity lending itself to the comic timing of the last lines of the scene. Once confident with the timing of the lines we moved on to creating the scene physically. We decided on minimal movement, so that attention would be drawn to expression and the language itself.

Petruchio: Alas good Kate. I will not burden thee. For knowing thee to be but young and light -

Katharine: Too **light** for such a swain as you to catch. And yet as heavy as my weight should be.

Petruchio: **Should be - should buzz!**

Katharine: Well ta'en. And like a buzzard.

Petruchio: **O slow-winged turtle**, as he takes a buzzard.

Katharine: **Ay. For a turtle he takes a buzzard.**

Petruchio: Come, come, you wasp. I'faith, you are too angry.

Katharine: **If I be waspish, best beware my sting.**

Petruchio: My remedy is then to pluck it out.

Katharine: Ay, if the **fool** could **find** where it lies.

Petruchio: Who knows not where a wasp does wear his sting. In his tail.

Katharine: **In his tongue.**

Petruchio: **Whose tongue?**

Katharine: Yours, if you **talk of tails**. And so **farewell**.

**I have highlighted in bold the words or places in which I played with rhythm, tempo and pause which provided an opportunity for comedy.**



The scene itself is one extended example of comic timing and how to use it well. Kate and Petruchio demonstrate some vocal sparring: they play with words and, indeed, with rhyme and sound in a battle of oneupmanship. The key to mastering the comic timing in this scene is to keep the lines flowing fast and the energy heightened. Katharine's replies must be immediate, especially when encountering lines such as 'In his tongue'. A short line here means quick delivery. Katharine is about to leave and so this is her final stab at dignity, preserving her voice in the argument. The energy should climax and her words should quickly follow his, but with deliberate enunciation. Even with no prior knowledge of the context of this scene, it will be obvious that Petruchio is trying to woo Katharine and she is 'having none of it'. On account of this vocal sparring the scene has to move swiftly, and each line delivers another dig, another insult or another observation all shown through an actor's use of rhythm, tempo and pause.

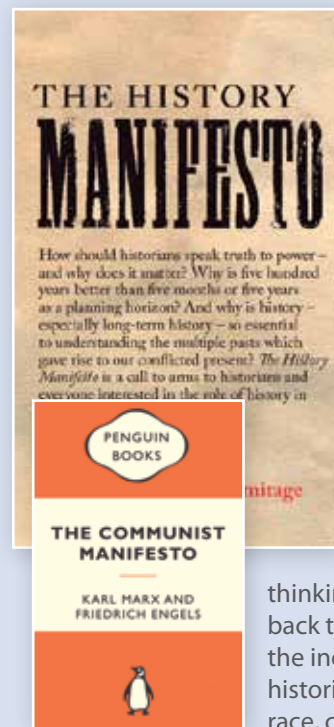
For example: **'Should be – should buzz'**

This is one of my favourite lines in the dialogue. Shakespeare has given the actors repeated 's' and 'b' syllables accompanied by the last word of the line 'buzz' - such an exhilarating sound that is comic in itself, giving the actor an opportunity to really use the line to full effect. What Petruchio is saying here is: 'Should be? Maybe you should be the subject of some buzz.' To which she effectively replies 'buzz off buzzard' - of course incorporating his use of the word 'buzz' into a new insult of her own, comparing him to a stalking bird of prey. Therefore in this line the comic timing is found through the emphasis of the word 'buzz' and the use of the alliteration given by the playwright.

One final consideration to consider is the aspect of 'addressing' - to whom the line is spoken. Addressing a line to the audience is often used in performing comic scenes in Shakespeare. It breaks the fourth wall and includes the audience in the action, often increasing the comic effect as the character confides and rhetorically asks an opinion of them. One example of this is found in As You Like It, when Rosalind, disguised as a boy, realises the female Shepherdess has fallen for her. This realisation is relayed

to the audience, 'Od's my little life. I think she means to tangle my eyes too.' Another example is from the same scene with Petruchio and Kate when she has accused him of looking like a crab apple. He then replies, 'what, you mean my face?' to which she sarcastically retorts, 'well aimed of such a young one!' Here she is patronising him, saying 'what a clever child he is.' If we direct Katharine's words to the audience, then she is not only patronising him but also humiliating him, sharing her 'roll of the eyes' moment with the audience, including them in the joke and increasing the comic effect. (For additional information on an actor's preparation of comic timing please see Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie's Shakespeare Masterclass which can be found on Youtube) If I can end with one obvious, but irresistible truism: for comic timing, it all lies in the delivery. In the acting. No surprise.

### 'The History Manifesto: A Review' by Lucia Keijer-Palau



According to Jo Guldi and David Armitage the spectre that is "haunting our time" is not, as it was when Marx and Engels wrote *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848, the spectre of communism but 'the spectre of the short term'. The basic premise of *The History Manifesto*, Cambridge University Press' first open access project, is that we 'live in a moment of accelerated crisis that is characterised by the shortage of long-term thinking.' This shortage is traced back to roughly the 1970s with the increased specialisation of historians to certain fields - gender, race, class - which 'reflected a call

of conscience, a determination to make the institutions of history align with a more critical politics'. Specialisation came at the cost of a longer-term vision.

They contend, however, that the *longue durée* is experiencing something of a revival, one which is linked to global issues such as inequality and global warming. We are, further, told that in this "age of global warming and coming wars over land and water, histories of class struggles over resources and their distribution, within societies and among them, are needed now more than ever." The notion is vague, as are other parts of the Manifesto (how long, exactly, is their proposed *longue durée*?) but it does seem fair. Their final chapter and discussion on the possibilities for historians created by the rise of technology and 'big data' are genuinely exciting: the opportunities arising from the use of 'tools that synthesise enormous amounts of data' seem near endless.

With the General Election having recently taken place, the most obvious large-scale synthesising of data is that of opinion polls, notably on the New Statesman's May 2015 website. The last five years have been virtually unique in British constitutional history in that the date of the next election was known from the get-go, making Guldi and Armitage's suggestion that we are living 'in the age of the permanent campaign' all the more pertinent. The necessarily forward-looking language of political campaigning - from New Labour's 'Things Can Only Get Better' soundtrack in 1997 to the Conservative's 2015 Manifesto with its promise of 'A Brighter, More Secure Future' - obscures the long term trends that have risen in the public consciousness this Spring. Guldi and Armitage's call to a return to the long term and the need for historians to take an active role in public debates could not be more timely: to understand the surge in support for Scottish Nationalism we need to look not just to the Scottish backlash to New Labour or the devolution debates of the 1970s but to the nature of the Union of 1707 and what bound it together afterwards; if, as Linda Colley argues in *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837*, Empire and enemies were central to constructions of Britishness, is there a distinctly postcolonial aspect to growing cries for Scottish Independence?

For all its imperfections *The History Manifesto* is both timely and necessary. Historians ought to speak truth to power and have much to contribute to the all too often short-termism of public debate and policy making. That the project was Cambridge University Press's first open access one is a bold and interesting move in itself and it will hopefully set an example for many other works and projects as too should websites such as History and Policy ([www.historyandpolicy.org](http://www.historyandpolicy.org)) which "publishes high quality historical research freely accessible online and creates opportunities for historians, policy makers and journalists to connect." The History Manifesto itself can perhaps be seen as a manifestation of a pre-existing turn to the long term - or at least of the diagnosis of short-termism. It is, as such, a welcome - if in places problematic - addition to the debate."





# NOBEL LAUREATE FOR LITERATURE

## WOLE SOYINKA

An interview by Ore Ogunbiyi, Deputy Head Girl (2014 - 2015)



**O**re Ogunbiyi, one of our Deputy Head Girls, interviewed the 1996 Nobel Laureate on the occasion of his visit to Woldingham School. We present a shortened version here.

**What was your time in solitary confinement like?**

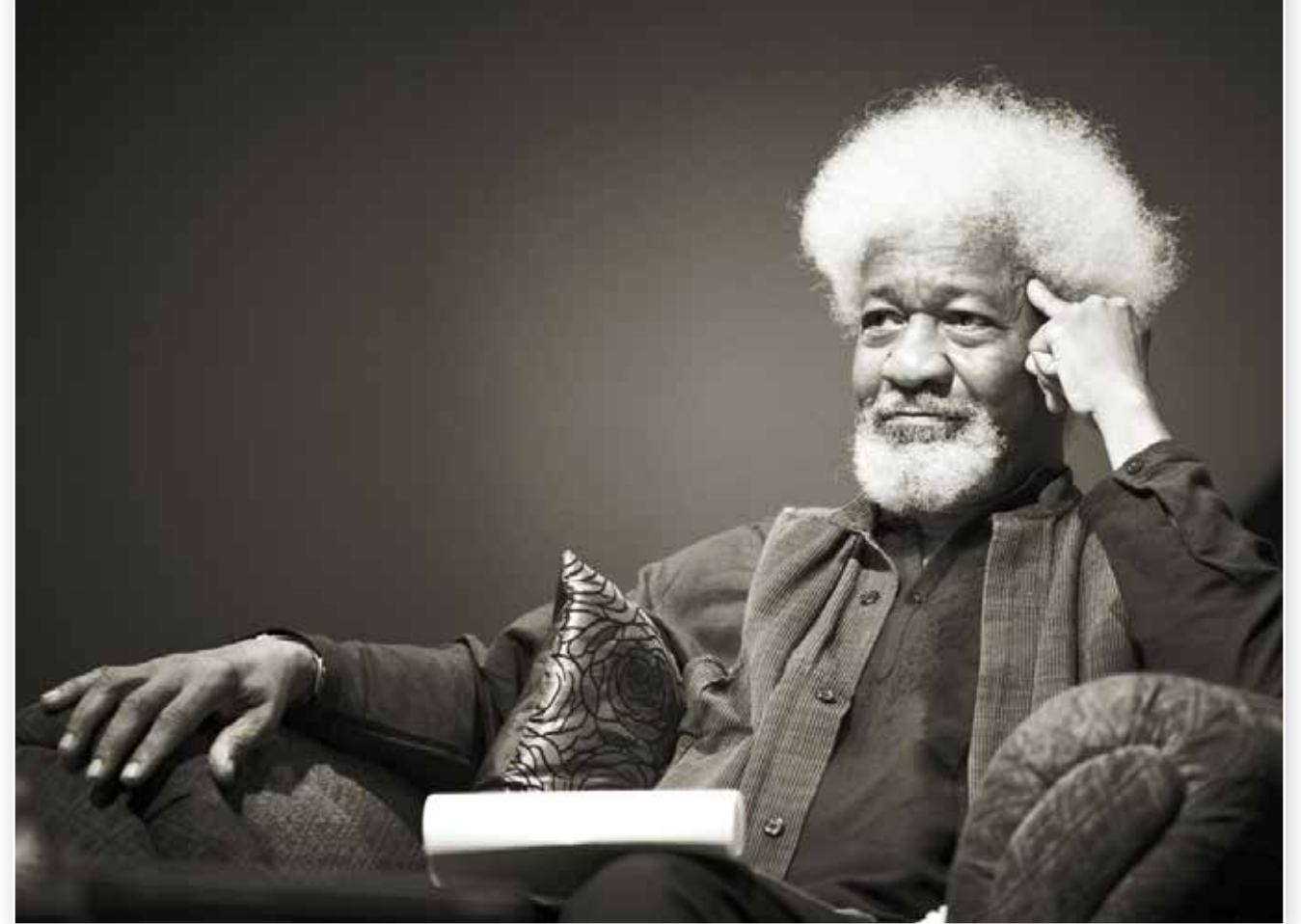
Ooof. You begin with a very large question. Well, the first sensation was one of disbelief. The human being is normally a social being, generally. In fact it is from being social that one looks for isolation, as a relief from being a social being. Commitments, whether family, domestic, collegial, professional, et cetera. So the sensation of being not in control of your own existence, not being able to choose, whether you want to be social at one moment, and then on your own at the other, just compelled to rely totally on yourself, it was a very strange sensation, and then, you get used to it. You say, okay, this is where I find myself, I must now deal with the microworld whose only citizen is you. And so, you begin to be creative, inventive; little little things become the minutiae of existence, become the very pillars of existence. The material which you have, whether it's, you know, cigarettes, toilet paper, whatever, you then think, automatically, spontaneously, to what use can I put these to enhance my existence because these are your sole companions. It was particularly hard because I'm a person of books and I was deliberately deprived of any form of book; deprived of any form of writing material, so you begin to be very ingenious, more creative than you ever were because it's now a matter of survival. Your mind. You realise the purpose, why you were put in solitary confinement: to destroy your mind and you make up your mind – that mind will not be destroyed. That basically is it.

**How, if in any way at all, has being a Nobel Laureate affected you and your work?**

Ooh my work? I don't know. But me, personally, the only way I can sum up the Nobel Prize in Literature is to quote Bernard Shaw. You know the origin of the Nobel Prize? Nobel who was the inventor of dynamite which was the great grandfather of all explosives, and [Bernard Shaw] said: "I can forgive the mind which invented such a destructive instrument as dynamite but it takes a most diabolical set of mind to invent the Nobel Prize for Literature." That is my summation of how the Nobel Prize has affected my life. It has widened my... my constituency was already intolerable enough but now with the Nobel Prize for Literature especially, I just find it's expanded and the demands for my existence, the expectations, and I don't mean literary expectations – if I don't want to write, I don't write – but the expectations; social, political expectations, the expectations from within one's immediate and enlarged constituency, whether the African continent, whether the world of the deprived, the world of victims, the persecuted, things which basically have nothing to do with literature. So I, on the one hand, I don't object to winning the prize in any case. The money was very, very useful although it's all gone! But what it has done to my life, in terms of demand, I agree with Bernard Shaw.

**Just over a month ago, presidential elections were held in Nigeria with General Muhammadu Buhari elected as Nigeria's new president. The girls are well versed in this area because we held a presidential debate and a mock election where Buhari also emerged as the winner. Are you happy with this result?**

Let's put it this way. The word happy is too strong but I'm happy that Jonathan was not re-elected because on so many levels, whether you're talking socio-economic, even of democracy itself, the regime of Jonathan was sliding fast into outright dictatorship and dictatorship from what



is supposed to be a democracy is far more pernicious than, let us say, a military dictatorship which knows itself as such and you expect nothing better and you prepare to fight that military dictatorship on the terms it has set rather than to have a regime which pretends to be a democracy and is sliding fast into dictatorship. So from that point of view, and also, from acts of inept leadership, the most obvious has been the kidnapping of the Chibok girls, when a President did not accept that these girls had been kidnapped for 10 days. With all the machinery of enquiry, the state agencies whether military or intelligence, whether SSS, ordinary police, even local police, and a Head of State does not accept for 10 days that 240 [...] schoolgirls have been kidnapped under our noses it embarrasses one as a citizen and as a parent. Now, Buhari has also, negative baggage, there's no question at all about that, but when you've accumulated that negative baggage and you look at the incumbent and what he's made of his present powers under a democracy, his opportunity to transform the nation and it wasn't transformed. Neither he did it, not his predecessor Obasanjo, Yar'Adua was a very short time, he was a very

ill man he should never have been allowed to become president, but this now was the moment when a genuine transformation, building on even their semi-inadequacies of the past, and he blew it. So, when you say am I happy that Buhari is the president-elect, no it's not happiness as such it's just a pragmatic decision that this was the better of the two options the nation was given, that's all.

**Nigeria faces all sorts of other troubles today and you've been particularly critical, as you've already discussed, of the current government's incompetence in handling the situation with Boko Haram and the rise of Islamic militancy in the Northern regions of Nigeria. How do you propose that Nigeria deals with Boko Haram and the Islamists that plague our country?**

It's unfortunate that units are springing up which call themselves Islamic, which claim the word and expression Islam. It's unfortunate, but that's what they do. The latest eruption calls itself Islamic State, for instance. It's unfortunate that the media and general discourse accept even to call them a state. They're not a state and they're



not Muslims. We're dealing, as far as I'm concerned, with outright psychopaths; psychopaths and terrorists who [are] building on religion's sentiment and multiplying its effects a thousand times. We're dealing with a movement, a religion-based movement, which considers human beings of no worth at all, unless they adhere to their particular warped version of Islam. Since they consider the rest of humanity non-human, disposable material, disposable also in the most horrendous manners: tortures, cutting their throats, as if this is a play on a stage and they glory in it, they really glory in it. I call them the narcissists of death and I believe in reciprocity. If you don't consider me a human being, I also must consider you not a human being. I must consider you sub-human. I suppose the answer to your question, with this rigmarole explanation is this, there's only one answer: we must destroy them before they destroy us. There's no in between.

#### How do you feel about Nigeria's youth of today?

(He laughs.) (He sighs.) The first thing is, Nigerian youth have been disappointed. They've been betrayed on many levels, but now, it's their turn to betray themselves and they're doing a very good job of it. They choose to be alienated; they choose other cultures because they're easier, they're more facile. The exceptions, of course, who come home, I mean, internally. They say, "Wait a minute, I have some other identity besides this one". I'm talking about, not just those who are externally, but those who are internally alienated, who just see what I call the foam, the superficial foam of culture and think that it is very cute; very advanced, very modern to follow. Additionally, when they look internally, they look at the superficial excess of those who betray society and they say, "That's the goal, that's what I want. I want my five cars in the garage even before I'm 30, before I'm 25", and so they follow the corrupt practices of even, some of them, their parents, their peers. To give an example, look at student unionism. I know what student unionism used to be like. I marched; I don't know how many times I marched with students to enforce their rights, when they're killed by police and so on, when they're betrayed by society. But today's youth, before they get me to march in their cause, I must see them, first of all, approach, shall we say, the commitment, the sensibility of the idealistic youth which I recognised before. Today I don't use the word 'youth' generically. I look at each and every individual youth and I say, "Surprise me."

#### A few years ago, you spoke of "the burden of memory". What are your current views on this?

The burden of memory still continues. Humanity can never jettison memory. Look at the recent dispute, just to move away from Africa a bit, [...] the anniversary of the Armenian massacre. Whether political arrangements are made, to obliterate the effects of certain events, and harmonise surviving entities into one, but memory remains because memory is very human. This is not just history, we're talking memory and collective memory, information passed through legends, through law, sometimes through the arts for instance commemorations – that can never be wiped away and that burden, it sometimes is irresponsibility because sometimes it is necessary to keep memory alive just in case, so you can refer to an event and say, "Don't let this happen again". History can be retaught; it can be revised but memory is very personal and when it comes together collectively, it can empower people in ways that are necessary. It can, however, become negative. There are Biafran survivors, for instance, their offspring, who suffer from the burden of memory. Some of them, creatively, others, in a rather jingoistic way, which is unfortunate. So memory is like a two-edged knife, it cuts both ways.

#### Which contemporary literature would you recommend that the girls read?

You see, when questions like that are asked, it always depends on what mood I'm in. When it comes to poetry I would immediately go for poets like Derek Walcott, the Caribbean poet, happens to be one I've been reading lately. Also, Octavio Paz whose anniversary I attended not so long ago and that took me back to him. In terms of the novel, I can never weary of re-reading García Márquez, for instance, "[One] Hundred Years of Solitude". And outside of that, novelists like Toni Morrison who's one of my all-time favourites.

#### What do you see for the future of African literature?

Oh, buoyant. I'm very impressed with what's coming out of contemporary African writers, both male and female. In fact, I have always stressed, in the last 10 to 15 years, that female writers have come to the fore in a really remarkable way. We men [...], we have to do something about it otherwise they'll outstrip us completely! But I'm very, very excited by what is coming out of young writers these days.

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AT SCHOOL

A report by Kamila Atta, International Ribbon (2014 - 2015)

### Our annual International Evening aims to celebrate the diversity and the great number of national ties that we have in our school.

We started with a parade of colourful and flamboyant traditional clothing from various countries such as Tanzania, Russia and China where the girls got a chance to show off their attire. We then had a sequence of performances: choreographed dances from Mexico and Nigeria, traditional songs and even creative role plays which encompassed visits to various countries and gave us a background to their traditional foods, languages and costumes. Through these different acts we were transported to a glimpse of life in these countries. We also had some colourful displays of informative facts and antiques from several countries such as Zimbabwe and Holland.

The International Evening is a great way to learn about different cultures and celebrate how different and beautiful all our lifestyles and customs are. I believe the girls thoroughly enjoyed the evening and had fun being volunteers in some performances or even just getting up to boogie when asked to join in.

Another event which took place earlier in the year was the International Day, exclusively for the Year 7s and 8s. This was a brand new activity brought to the Marden girls and they thoroughly enjoyed it. There are eight tutor groups of girls in Years 7 and 8 and each tutor group were given a country at random. These countries were Russia, China, America, England, Spain, Germany, Mexico and Nigeria. The girls were given the task to find out as much information as they could about their countries and represent them on International Day to the best of their ability. On International Day, every country was allocated a classroom where they could set up displays and entertain visitors. The criteria for the girls was to have costumes, song/dance and as much factual information as they could find to educate their fellow classmates.

Every country put in a tremendous amount of effort with tremendous displays of funny and educational facts and interesting props; some countries created dances to traditional songs and even sang a national song! Many of the girls put together fabulous costumes and looked like natives of their country. Some girls started to learn the native languages of the countries and greeted visitors with them. It was all very exciting and colourful. The girls were split up into two groups within their countries and were given Woldingham passports and a route so they would know when and which country to travel to next. At the end of International Day, all the dances were performed by every country so that everyone could see how much effort they put into it and the winner was then decided amongst a panel of Ribbons.

Both events, International Evening and International Day, create a bond between different cultures, helps us to celebrate our diversities but also to appreciate that we are not so different after all. I am very grateful that, as the International Ribbon, I was able to play a big part in creating international awareness and celebrating the variety of different cultures that we have in Woldingham.





## YEAR 7 VISIT POMPEII

A report by Charlotte Wallis and Meghan Whittingham

One of our favourite parts of the trip was the first day. We had to be at school at three o'clock in the morning (the teachers liked this as much as we did) in order to be on the coach to the airport. However, when we were on the plane with whatever unhealthily delicious snack we had bought, the views were amazing! We saw the Alps, clouds in lots of different shapes and lots of countries and mountains. When we arrived at the Grand Flora Hotel, we were astonished at its beauty and pristine decorations. There were flower chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and comfy armchairs and a revolving wooden door and tiled floors. Our room was awesome as well.

Pompeii itself was amazing. The houses and theatres were stunning! It was incredible to walk the streets that, two thousand years ago, would have been walked by Pompeian people going about their business. We particularly enjoyed the small theatre and the large theatre with their stepped seats and bowl shape, and the amazingly different views of the ruins when you stood on the top seat. We enjoyed learning about how you sat at the back if you were women, elderly or slaves, and how if you sponsored the play, you sat in a box above and to the side of the stage. Also, we liked the mosaics and wall paintings and noticed how red and orange colours were dominant and showed power. We also liked seeing the food shops: marble counters with terracotta pots that would have been full of food.

Our overall favourite experience was hiking up Mt Vesuvius (Mt Vesuvio in Italian) on our last day. When we stepped out of the coach round about halfway up, there was snow littering the ground, and when we trod in one particular patch, our feet disappeared due to the snow being above our ankles. We regretted this. It is very hard trekking up a rocky volcano with soggy trainers. When we did get up to the top, however, the views were breathtaking. In one direction, mountains, occasionally dotted with snow, in the other, the vast crater, smoking here and there between gaps in the rock covering the inside, and over the edge, the amazing view of a jam-packed Italy, with the main roads in sight full of mad, mid-day traffic. The sea was glittering in the distance, and, had it not have been busy, we may have had a quick nap. The only downside of the otherwise immaculate volcano was the wind. Mrs Cole and Mrs Williamson's lunch was blown away, and if you were taking a picture, you would have to be quick so that your camera did not blow out of your hands.

We were sad to go home, but were glad to see our families. We would definitely love to go again. It was a trip we won't forget.



## POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS GERMANY - MEMORIES OF A NATION

A report by Vaclav Ceska, Head of German



### 12 Stunden Deutschland Nicole Boyd

Sie begrüßt uns jede Stunde  
mit Luthers Vaterunser  
aus Gold und Messing,  
1589 fertiggestellt.

Zur Ersten, der Westfälische Frieden  
die politische Unterhaltung des Jahrhunderts  
die im Dreißigjährigen Krieg endete  
8 Millionen Todesfälle.

Bei Zwei liest Kants  
lange, „Kritik der reinen Vernunft“ 1781  
Zeit und Raum sind  
Konstrukte des Geistes.

Um Drei, 1812, veröffentlichten die Brüder Grimm  
die erste Märchensammlung  
mit 80 Geschichten  
genau genommen nicht für Kinder geeignet.

Bei Vier, signalisierte die Vereinigung  
1871 der Beginn der blühenden Jahre  
Deutschland als Führungsmacht  
z.B. in der chemischen Industrie.

Um Fünf, ging Deutschland in den Krieg  
mehr als 9 Millionen starben  
in 51 Monaten  
Europa ist für ewig geprägt.

Bei Sechs, litten die Sparsamen  
Durch Reparationszahlungen verursacht  
an der Hyperinflation 1923  
Wir beobachten den drehenden Automaten.

Die siebte Stunde währt, Weltkrieg zwei  
Von ein paar Männern verursacht  
weltweit über 70 Millionen starben  
der tödlichste Krieg in der  
Menschheitsgeschichte.

Um Acht wurde die Nation in Zonen geteilt  
Westdeutschland und Ostdeutschland entstanden  
Mit vier ausländischen Regierungen  
mit unterschiedlichen politischen Zielen.

Bei Neun fiel die Berliner Mauer  
am 9. November 1989  
dies bedeutet das neue Zeitalter für Deutschland  
als Weltmacht.

Um Zehn, 400 Jahre seit  
der Gründung der Uhr  
der Geschichte einer Nation  
voller Kultur, Leiden und Unverwundlichkeit.

Gegen Elf gedenken wir den Verstorbenen  
für wen auch immer sie gekämpft  
der Automat dreht sich wieder  
unbewusst der Vergangenheit

Bei Stunde zwölf oder null  
was bringt die Zukunft für diese Uhr  
dieses deutsche Nation, das deutsche Volk  
und das Land das alle überlebt?

In November Year 10 Germanists visited an exhibition organised by the British Museum: Germany memories of a nation. All students were asked to look at the objects on display in the exhibition and write a poem that was later submitted to a competition organised by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst in collaboration with the British Museum. The German department also encouraged students from other years to visit the exhibition and submit their poems, which could be written in German or English in a style chosen by the student. We are delighted that two students were awarded prizes in the competition. Nicole Boyd from the Lower Sixth and Ella Davison from Year 10 won prizes in their age categories and Nicole was selected to read her poem in a reception at the British Museum. Since poems were submitted from a number of prestigious institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the German department is very proud to have two winning entries among the top candidates.

### Journey to a new life Ella Davison

Wood rotting.  
Chains clanging.  
Wheels turning.

Fitting belongings in a cart,  
You can feel the frustration.  
The families pull the wood.  
Through all conditions.

Moving through towns, wheeling the rot.  
With sweat dripping off foreheads.  
They tried to stop it from breaking.  
But the unruly cart wheels.  
Shatter against the path.  
The chain pulling the sides to pieces.  
Their belongings left in the rain.





# STUART HOUSE RAISE MONEY FOR HORSE THERAPY IN NAMIBIA

A report by Alison May, Stuart House

**N**amibia reaches out to you – the vast open spaces, arid landscapes and never ending blue skies. It is a place to clear your mind and look at life from a different perspective.

Nestled down a dirt track off the main road a few miles outside the capital Windhoek is the therapeutic riding centre run by Vesta Burmeister. Growing up in Namibia, Vesta was able to ride her horse on the farm and appreciate the natural beauty of the outdoors. The effect this had on her was the inspiration behind her starting the riding centre where she could give others the same opportunity to combine horses and nature and, as a result, increase the quality of life for those less able too. Her passion to be able to use horses for their therapeutic qualities for numerous children and teenagers was realised six years ago.

When I visited her last July I met several of her regular riders. Hanro is four years of age and has cerebral palsy. He loves coming to the centre and riding Stripey, his favourite pony. It was clear that he has a very special bond not only with the pony but also with Vesta. His hour's therapeutic riding lesson starts with grooming his pony, counting each brush stroke in Afrikaans with Vesta to help stimulate his communication and verbal skills. Then once in the saddle, with the help of one of Vesta's four helpers, it is off to the schooling ring, walking through the scrub and dust in the African sunshine.

A group of guinea fowl foraging in the golden, grassy scrub are disturbed and take-off, flying noisily overhead to find a quieter part of the bush. You feel very close to nature in this vast expanse of the Namibian savannah. Once in the schooling ring Hanro sits smiling and giggling whilst Stripey is led walking, then



trotting, making figures of eight and walking over obstacles whilst singing "Hakuna Matata" with Vesta. To help with his co-ordination, mobility and dexterity Vesta puts Hanro through some exercises, throwing and catching a ball whilst he is in the saddle, which require him to twist to return the ball to the helper who is leading the pony. Working on his cognitive responses, Hanro is asked to place specific coloured rings onto a long pole beside Stripey. He is a star and completes all the tasks, still smiling and laughing throughout.

Another pupil Evan is six years old and he too has a special bond with his pony Stoepsel whom he rides each week. His riding session follows a similar format to Hanro's but, as he has a different medical condition, Vesta adapts the exercises. I was fortunate to also spend time with Carly, a delightful ten year old with cerebral palsy who has been coming regularly for her riding sessions for the last four years. Riding Sand, she is given additional support throughout by her carer. Carly's progress has been incredible and she now has increased core stability and flexibility. Due to her condition Carly's therapeutic session includes stretching exercises of her lower limbs whilst in the saddle.

The money raised (over £1,000) by Stuart House has meant that it has been possible for Vesta to improve and upgrade the riding facilities and equipment and as a result improve the therapeutic riding experience that she can offer her many pupils. We are delighted to have been part of this amazing work in our own small way.

[www.riding.cc](http://www.riding.cc)



# YEAR 7 VISIT ARDRES A RETURN TO FRANCE

A report by Annabelle Cusack

**O**n the 14th of May, Year 7 went on a day trip to Ardres, France (just south of Calais). Despite the cold and slightly drizzly weather, we all gathered excitedly at the flagpole at the very early hour of 6.30am. I was excited about the trip mainly because I would get to really practise my French which I only get to do every so often (I had insisted to my friends that I was semi-fluent as my French writing is appalling!)

I used to live in France when I was younger, in a small village called Les Vigneaux situated in a valley surrounded by snowy mountains. I went to a tiny village school that only had about 50 pupils, the same as Year 7 at Woldingham! I had to learn how to speak French by listening to what was going on around me at age three, when I started school there. I still visit to go skiing and in the summer, and I also see some of the friends I made at school.



It strikes me how different the way of life is in the remote Alps compared to suburban South East England. In France the year was divided between the freezing snowy ski season and the summer, when it's usually very warm. However for most families in England the year revolves around school holidays and work. I loved living in France because it was such a relaxed lifestyle, but I like it in England too because of all the opportunities I have here, especially at school.

At around 11.00am, we arrived at the marketplace in Ardres. Everyone strolled around the stalls lined with fresh fruit and vegetables, pausing only to take an aesthetic selfie against the backdrop of faded pastel buildings and wonderfully kept flowers in window boxes. After an hour, we started our journey to a local orchard, which was nestled within a few miles of country roads. We sat down in a large barn that was filled to the brim with boxes of juice (its contents could have hydrated Woldingham for an entire year). After our lunch of sandwich baguettes, the owners of the orchard let us try their great variety of juices and we even got to have a go making some. They then proceeded to tour us round the exterior of the orchard. On the way we passed several angry looking geese and lots of apple trees filled with ripening fruit. We learned about the eco-system needed to sustain all the different plants they were growing and about some of the local wildlife. Finally, we headed home with a coach filled with many, many litres of juice from the gift shop. Overall, it was a fun day out for Year 7 to experience French culture first hand and great preparation for those who are going to be studying the language in Year 8.

Merci Madame Poullain!



# MY FRENCH EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

A report by Winfred Wright

**T**he day dawned and I felt a mix of emotions. *J'étais excitée mais aussi tendue - I was excited but also nervous. Why? Pourquoi? The French exchange, of course!*

Le voyage s'est bien passé et je suis arrivée chez les familles Leurent-Ponche. My exchange partner, Zia, lived with her mother, brother Noé (aged 10) and half brother Thadée (aged 3). Zia had another half brother Esteban (aged 5) who lived with her father and his wife. I spent time with both families and this made my stay doubly interesting and enjoyable.

I expected the first weekend to be difficult and for me to understand little - I was right! Sometimes I felt like I had been transported to another planet. Nothing felt familiar - the food, the people, the language - they were all literally foreign to me. I kept asking the family to speak slowly and to look at me when they spoke - that helped a lot. I quickly learnt to drink the milk left over after my breakfast cereal straight from the bowl - rude at home but normal in France!

Things became easier on the first Monday. This was not just because I got to see my English girl friends. I started to understand a lot more spoken French and to feel more confident in speaking to my correspondent, her family and her friends. Little colloquial phrases helped me a lot - ne t'inquiète - don't worry!

My favourite day visit was to the town of Arras and in particular le beffroi and la cathédrale. The views from the belltower were spectacular and it was possible to look far out into the region of Nord pas de Calais. This is a very historical area of France. Indeed on the next day we learnt about the activities of the French Resistance in this area at la musée de la resistance.

After a week in France it was time to return home. I



would actually miss my new "frères" in Lille but I was looking forward to seeing my real brothers at home. Now it was Zia's turn to feel as I had done the week before and my turn to welcome her to my home as she had done for me. Au revoir Lille! Bienvenue à Woldingham!

Mme Maillot told us that she was still in touch with her English exchange partner whom she first met when she was our age. They had remained in touch, they had been to each other's weddings and were still friends now. I hope that might happen to some of us Woldingham girls who visited the Institut Croix Blanche in Lille. Time will tell, of course.

*And some additional comments from visiting French teachers, Audrey Brognart and Caroline Bart:*

"Both of us thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Woldingham School. It was an enriching experience to discover first-hand how enthusiastic pupils were and how they strive to become responsible and productive young adults. We were particularly amazed by the quality and confidence of performers in the production of HMS PINAFORE!"

Thanks again to Winifred's Mum for inviting us all to her daughter's wonderful tea party in the grounds. Yummy! Last, but not least, a big round of applause to all pupils, staff and admin. for their help and kindness in making this trip such a memorable one for us all. Merci beaucoup!"



# GERMAN EXCHANGE

A report by Vaclav Ceska, Head of German

**O**ur German School exchange with Sophie Barat Schule in Hamburg was a great success again this academic year. Here are some of the experiences of our girls who went to the “Gateway to the World”, as Hamburg is often referred to.

## Libby Wingate on her exchange family

Before my German exchange I had never left the country on my own; it was the little things that rattled my nerves. Despite first minute nerves, once in Germany the family gave me a warm welcome. My German was and still is not at all near fluent but during the times I didn't understand they were open to explain the topics of conversation. My host family made their best efforts to make me feel at home. My exchange partner, Hannah, was fairly similar to me and we watched movies, ate pizza and explored the surroundings of Hamburg. Before Germany I was sure I would feel homesick. Despite missing home I never regretted participating in the exchange. My family was very similar to my host family which made me feel at ease. The week consisted of memories that will stay with me forever.

## Marie Hilgers on German food

In Germany, the food is slightly different to England. We ate a lot of fish and meat, and being on a trip didn't often follow a proper meal schedule such as breakfast, lunch and dinner. We often had breakfast, then snacks throughout the day such as sandwiches, bread, fruit and muesli bars and a massive dinner with our host family in the evening. On Monday, the school finished at 1:00 pm, so we went to a famous German restaurant named Jim Block with some friends. I felt I had to taste some hamburgers as I was in Hamburg and they were delicious. On Thursday, we went to a typical German food place and I had a German hot dog covered with fried onion and mustard and ketchup.



The pastries in Germany are delicious and when you walk down the streets you see a lot of food stalls selling German Kuchen, croissants, bread or traditional roasted almonds and cashews. In Germany, the food was delicious and it was an amazing experience to taste it.

## Filippa Mansson on her German

Over the week in Germany my German has improved. My host family spoke German to me and when I didn't understand the parents explained it to me in English. It helped because the parents were really good at English. I learnt how to order food and be involved in the conversations during dinner and breakfast. They spoke German to me when what they were going to say wasn't too complicated. I learnt some new things to say in everyday situations such as “Ich bin müde” which means I am tired. In class all of the teachers spoke German and it was hard to understand but I understood some of the words. My exchange partner, Teresa, helped me with translating everything that the teachers were saying. On Friday we had Geography in English which I was really happy about. Overall my experience in Germany really helped me improve my German.



## Maria Chung on her exchange partner

My exchange partner was called Johanna Eipper. She had two younger sisters and two younger brothers. The family was very nice and Johanna was good at speaking English. She lived about 30 minutes away from Sophie-Barat-Schule and we took the train from Iserbrook station to Dammtor every morning. Johanna was very good at gymnastics and she tried hard to teach me some techniques. She had a cosy room and she was very excited to come to a Catholic girls' boarding school. She played the flute and she was in the music class. She was very similar to me and I liked her very much.

## Lilly Pfaff on her German school

During our German exchange, I got to experience two days at the Sophie-Barat-Schule in Hamburg. On Monday I woke up at 7 o'clock in the morning and got ready for school. My exchange partner and I walked to school and arrived at 8:05 am. When we got to the classroom, I was greeted by my fellow classmates. They were all very welcoming and very curious about me. My first class was maths. The lesson was very confusing because I had never learned what they were doing and it was hard to understand the German, but everyone was very helpful. My next lesson was English. It was very easy and fun. Maria and I got to be the teachers for the lesson and we talked about Hollywood stars. The school day finished at 1:40 pm. After school finished I met up with the other Woldingham girls and talked about our day. We had all had a great day filled with wonderful experiences.

## Sorcha Blackshaw on her favourite landmark

My favourite landmark I visited on the exchange was the beach in Travemünde. We went there by train from Hamburg on a daytrip with our group. It took an hour but it wasn't that long as we could listen to music and laugh with our friends. The beach was special because it had distinct chairs that would protect you from the cold Baltic winds in North Germany. These chairs were made of wicker and had colourful flaps which made the beach look unique. We took many pictures as a group on the beach and tried the chairs out. This was not the only landmark we saw during the exchange. We also saw the Berlin wall when we went to Berlin for the day. We went to “Die Zeit” newspaper company which publishes newspaper similar to English “The Times”. This was very interesting as we learnt about journalism and it was particularly inspiring for all the girls who want to be journalists in the future.





# DOWNHILL WITH STYLE SKIING AT WOLDINGHAM

A report by Georgie Noble

**S**kiing has always been a popular sport at Woldingham; this year has been no different with two ski trips taking place.

The first took place at the end of January and saw the Ski Team travelling to Flaine, France, to compete in the British Schoolgirls' Ski Races. While the girls were excited about pulling on the bright pink and purple racing suit and representing the school, there was also some trepidation from those who had not done much race training before. Some of these fears disappeared after a day of race training with a race instructor who helped them refine their technique. The Giant Slalom was the first race and Woldingham got off to a fantastic start with Olivia Foster not only winning the U14 competition but also recording the 4th fastest time of the day, beating girls who were up to five years older than her. The other member of the team, Sophia Vlasova and Nicole Bambroffe, also had good runs and completed both runs of the course when many didn't.

The second day of the competition saw the girls compete in the Slalom races and after a night of heavy snowfall the conditions made racing very difficult. After being shown how to do it by the former British Olympic skier Chemmy Alcott, it was over to the girls. Unfortunately Olivia's ski came off on her first run so she was out of contention for the competition but her ability was confirmed with the 4th fastest second run of the day. Again Sophia and Nicole skied very well to complete both runs finishing 79th and 102nd respectively. All three girls and the reserve Amalita Vacher, who was excellent in supporting the competitors, had a fantastic few days and were a credit to the school.



The second trip to the snow was the annual school ski trip which this year was to Serre Chevalier, France. After a season of little snow we were dubious as to what we would find when we arrived in the resort but we were pleasantly surprised when we got there, despite the thermometer showing temperatures of 15°C. We were split into four ski groups based on our ability and under the guidance of our ski instructors spent the week exploring all that the valley had to offer, including the board park, steep black runs and the infamous Smurf run which involved picking your route round snow covered boulders and through the trees. The fun didn't stop when the skiing did and after the customary trip to the Sherpa to stock up on crisps, chocolate and the odd crêpe, there were a range of evening activities put on by the staff including a pamper evening and a treasure hunt around the village. Over the course of the week all the girls showed huge improvements in the skiing, especially the beginner group who, having never skied before, made it down a black run by the end.



# LIFE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A report by Millie Yang (2010 - 2014)

**A**s I am writing this, finals are approaching, and my Freshman year is about to come to an end. Looking back, I can honestly say that this has been one of the best years of my life. I have been challenged in many new dimensions, and I see myself standing somewhere I never thought I would ever reach.

The first day of school was scary for me. I walked out of a yellow taxi thinking, "This is it, Millie Yang. You're an independent college woman. You don't have Wolders teachers to always take care of you anymore." Deep inside, I was afraid I would not fit in. I was scared because I didn't know what going to an Ivy League college meant.

At that immediate moment, I was greeted by warm hugs from strangers who have since become some of my closest friends here. The happy faces, big smiles, green grass, hot weather, and starry nights in the first week all just blurred into one happy picture. I do not know when I began to dive into this community, but I know that it all seemed to have happened really quickly.

What I love most about the Columbia community is that everyone is from a diverse background. Born in New York, and raised in both Hong Kong and London, I embrace my multicultural identity as a means of understanding and befriending different people. Little did I know that I would be meeting teenagers my age who have lived in four, five, or even six countries. I began to appreciate every person I had the mere chance to interact with. Whether it was talking to a stranger in the elevator, self-prompting shamelessly during campaigning season, or helping someone move in, I found myself in many different, interesting, and memorable moments.



These moments slowly accumulated, and Columbia slowly began to feel like home to me. It has become a place where I am unafraid to seek out for what it means to be me. It is a place where I found myself discussing about what it means to be human in a 22-person Western Civilization class. It is a place where I found myself running for and winning Student Government elections. It is a place where I found myself screaming with joy because I would meet professors after professors who are attempting to use code to analyze literature. It is a place where I realized that if you try hard enough, literally anything you have ever dreamt of can come true.

College isn't easy, don't get me wrong. It is also perhaps tougher here because you have Core classes, which are mandatory classes that all Columbians have to take. Yet believe me when I say that I am glad to have read The Iliad in the first week of school. Believe me when I say that Don Quixote's knighthood encounters really made me laugh out loud. And believe me when I say that I walked out of one of the hardest writing classes of my life not wanting to leave. I saw myself in classes I never thought I would be in, and found myself slowly falling in love with learning.

By learning I do not merely mean consuming knowledge in classes. Rather, I have begun to grasp every opportunity I have to learn. I voice for students' needs to Columbia administrators. I take dance classes when I can barely move my limbs. I casually stroll around the Metropolitan Museum in New York City just because I can. I have begun to be constantly in search of learning something new.

I am extremely grateful to be where I am now, but I am even more grateful to have had Mrs. Triffitt, teachers, and friends support my decision to come here. The beautiful chapter in Woldingham School will always hold an important place in my heart, because it is a place that has geared me up, and prepared me for the bigger challenge here in Columbia University in the City of New York.





# ECOLOGICAL STUDY TRIP TO MADAGASCAR

A report by Phillip Price, Head of Science

**A** group of 13 girls from year 11 and Lower Sixth joined Mr Price and Mrs Cheesman for a two week Ecological study trip in North West Madagascar.

After quite a relaxing start to the trip in the relative luxury of the Lemur Park and Manor Rouge Hotel in Antananarivo and the tranquil yoga session on the beach at the ZahaMotel in Mahajanga, we headed off into the dry forest where we spent two weeks collecting a variety of ecological data for a variety of conservation projects. The accommodation was tented and the food was quite basic including the equivalent of doughnuts for breakfast made from rice flour and rice based dishes. However, the girls remained positive and despite a few challenges they rose to the occasion as Woldingham girls do. We experienced lemurs at close proximity and handled a variety of reptiles including some amazing chameleons. The girls were also shown how to extract birds from mist nets and ring them for future identification. The studies were interspersed with a range of downtime activities including nap times in the hammocks and water games in the river. The trip finally involved an impromptu invitation to take part in the wedding celebrations of a local couple and much fun was had by all. I would like to thank Mrs Cheesman and the girls for helping to make this a most memorable trip.





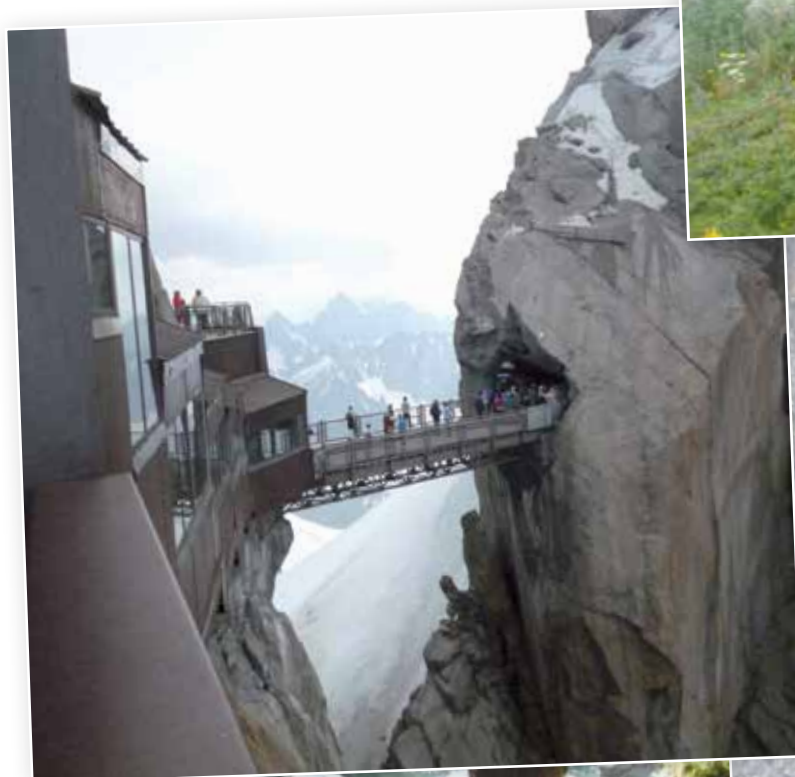
# GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO CHAMONIX

A report by Year 10 Geographers

**T**he Year 10 Geographers had a great trip to Chamonix at the start of the summer holidays. It was an action-packed trip with lots of geography and fun activities all crammed into just five days! As soon as we arrived we headed to Accro Park for a high ropes course, where we tackled first blue, then the more challenging red courses, one of which ended spectacularly in a zip wire across the lake. The evening was spent prepping for our first day of specification-related geography.

On the second day of our trip we began by taking the télécabine up to l'Aiguille Du Midi - at 3842m high, it is the closest you can get to the summit of Mont Blanc without hiking. The views were spectacular and it was the first time most of us had seen a glacier up close. We then had a three-hour hike across the mountainside to reach the Mer De Glace, France's longest glacier at 7km. This is our case study of a retreating glacier and it was great to see the evidence of this in the field. We took a short cable car down to the snout (front) of the glacier and were able to walk inside and see the ice caves. These are man-made and have to be re-cut every year, as the glacier moves up to 70m per year, altering the size and shape of the caves. We then took the Montanvers train back down the mountain to the town of Chamonix, so we could go luging before heading back to our hostel for dinner and prep.

The next day we took the cable car up to the ski area of Chamonix. There were spectacular, panoramic views. Some of us walked back down the mountain via a black ski run (without snow!) and saw some paragliders launching. We also saw some people base-jumping from the top, all of which was helpful for our work on Tourism in the Alps.



In the afternoon we took a break from working, opting to either go mountain biking or white water rafting. Everyone had a fantastic time and enjoyed the thrills of the ice cold waters as we passed through the village of Chamonix on the Arve river. We visited the Lac D'Emosson dam the following day to see how the Alps are used for hydro-electric power. This was yet another case study we had learnt in the classroom, so was well worth a visit.

On our final day and on our way to the airport, we drove through the valleys via Martigny to see examples of how farmers have adapted to the steep terrain. We saw grapes for wine and fruit such as cherries being grown on terraces down the mountainside. We also stopped at a viewpoint where we could see a U shaped valley to the north, and V shaped valley to the east. This was an excellent comparison and was a lot clearer to us seeing it in the field, rather than just learning about it in the classroom. We continued on to the Bex Salt Mine, which is another case study for us of how humans use fold mountains. Here we took a train into the mountain to learn about how they extract salt from the surrounding rock, which was really interesting. Our final stop of the trip was the Grotte De Vallorbe, some limestone caves. We took a tour through this unusual subterranean landscape and it was fascinating to see how it had developed over thousands of years.

Overall it was a great trip - not only did we have a lot of fun, it was really helpful to see at first-hand so many of the things we had learnt about in our lessons.





# POETRY SHOWCASE

**I**t has been quite a year for poetry at Woldingham. Isla Anderson has swept the poetic board, winning the Ledbury Poetry Festival Competition, the Basil Bunting Poetry Award, the Christopher Tower Poetry Prize and the Lancaster Writing Awards (in this case, for her literary criticism). In addition she has had her poetry published in Words Dance, Cyberhex Magazine, Haverthorn Magazine, Magma Poetry, Phosphene, and her criticism in Cake Magazine. These prestigious awards followed shortly on the heels of, among other successes, first prize in the Vademecum Magazine Chapbook Contest and the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award in 2014.

But Isla has not been alone: Sarah Adegbite from Year 8 has also won a prestigious poetic award, picking up the Brighton Festival Peacock Poetry Prize. And, from what we have seen of Year 7, more awards are in the offing. So please enjoy poems from Isla and Sarah, as well as a flavour of what is to come.

## Will for Song by Sofia Rooke-Ley

You cannot say you've heard a song,  
Until you've listened to the beautiful remix of a dove,  
The dove that flies through the  
Lush sky that climbs over the hills,  
The bird that shines with iridescent love,  
Love that does not burn with force,  
But burns with will:  
Will for love,  
Will for freedom,  
Will for song.

## Poem by Annabelle Cusack

Seeing at a glance  
A symbol of a notion  
Reason conquering reason.

## Birthday for a Decorative Trout by Isla Anderson

Graze me. White spirit lights  
and a mouth dull as lichen; I  
fantasise only in red. Slick skin.  
A river full of lager cans, gutting  
the trout as they hatch, pink  
-ribboned, through algae or  
lungfuls of blood. In every  
birth, some holy thing  
must tear, gilled luteum; we  
must follicle our safety as  
it comes. Belly-slow. Our  
bodies swollen fat as white  
balloons. From every hook,  
a ruptured thing; a crèche  
of stunted scales, glinting  
beads of unswum river  
through the room.

## The Boy and the Bird by Sarah Adegbite

Young, brown eyes sparkled –  
curious and innocent – at  
the spastic ball of feathers.  
it peeked out slowly,  
terror gripping every inch  
of its skinny, hollow-boned body  
“Don't be afraid.”  
the words were whispered,  
reassuringly, under a patchy blue sky  
slowly, but surely the creature  
uncurled, looked down  
then curled back up again  
A sunshine smile found  
its way onto his smooth,  
almost unblemished face  
it had looked at him  
he scrambled up the gnarled tree  
ignoring the cuts from the trunk;  
he bled; he bled for the bird  
startled beady eyes  
met his own grass-like  
green ones – were confused.  
why did he have no wings?  
Then the young creature saw  
images flash past  
blood; humans; death.  
in agonizing fright he  
fumbled backwards, aching –  
these ones had killed his mum  
the boy had not noticed  
the baby bird's distress  
was pure and honest as he said  
“I'm your friend.”  
and then, in that garden of growth,  
those three simple words  
sewed the murderous gap  
between human and bird.

## Two Poems by Cat Menzies

A sheet  
Of snowy white  
Nothingness, waiting for  
The brush of creativity.  
Paper.  
Pages of a book  
Blank as a snow-covered field  
Until they meet ink.

## Dull Dreams by Annabelle Cusack

Bright speech killing thoughts.  
Not in words, but in minutes,  
A language that takes away time.  
Iridescent persons sway beyond suffering,  
With the icy glare of the earth on their necks.  
Dizzy with imposing answers,  
To questions they were never asked.  
Fruitless lectures pass above the water.  
Until there is something, it speaks,  
Melting their headaches with silent music.  
All is as it has been,  
And will ever be.

## What speech did by Grace Main

Silenced voices, muffled screams,  
Dilapidated poems staring at the moon,  
The perplexed trees addressed the words,  
Tumbling out the sky.  
They said that speech killed the poem,  
That his inkstained spine crouched under the chair.  
His words glowed as speech killed him,  
And destroyed his thoughts.  
The imposing trees looked behind the moon,  
And saw the Quill and Poem asleep in harmony.  
The poem is no more.

## A Poem by 7A

A boat:  
A half-hearted  
Moon embedded in a  
Velvet sheet, under a diamond  
Ink stain.

## Mrs Tyrannosaurus by Charlotte Wallis

Don't forget, I need that woolly mammoth for tea.  
I'm sick of killing it myself.  
Besides, I can't trust you with the cooker,  
You'll cause an explosion.  
I don't want an extinction commotion.

## Mrs Henry VIII by Imogen Barry

Which one?  
Catherine, Catherine, Catherine,  
Anne, Anne or Jane.  
The last few couldn't travel, he was too fat to get on the train.  
Sure, he used to be dashing,  
Always on his horse.  
It's only when he finished pies  
That he felt remorse.  
Attacking France?  
Sure, go ahead.  
But Catherine or Catherine could possibly end up dead.  
You haven't got a son yet?  
Us ladies'll do just fine.  
Oi, sire, your young lad, Bess, says:  
“Dad! The throne of England is mine!”

## Mrs Newton by Charlotte Wallis & Jessica Ostler

Mrs Newton  
went for a bike ride  
in the forest, then  
crashed into a tree.  
An apple fell down and Isaac said:  
“Ouch! That hurt me!”



# ART SHOWCASE





# GCSE RESULTS 2015

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	Total	%A*	%A*+A	%A*-B	%Pass
Art	10	9	11				30	33.33	63.33	100.00	100.00
Biology	22	10	1				33	66.67	96.97	100.00	100.00
Chemistry	15	11	5	2			33	45.45	78.79	93.94	100.00
Chinese	8	1					9	88.89	100.00	100.00	100.00
Drama	6	17	3	1			27	22.22	85.19	96.30	100.00
Design & Technology		2	3				5	0.00	40.00	100.00	100.00
English Language	28	21	22	4			75	37.33	65.33	94.67	100.00
English Literature	29	30	14	1	1		75	38.67	78.67	97.33	98.67
English 2nd Language		6					6	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
French	29	4	2				35	82.86	94.29	100.00	100.00
Geography	13	22	7	3			45	28.89	77.78	93.33	100.00
German	3	2					5	60.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
History	10	17	12	4	1		44	22.73	61.36	88.64	97.73
ICT	1	9	6	2			18	5.56	55.56	88.89	100.00
Japanese	1						1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Latin Language WJEC	17	4					21	80.95	100.00	100.00	100.00
Latin Literature WJEC	10	5	3				18	55.56	83.33	100.00	100.00
Mathematics iGCSE	30	23	13	15			81	37.04	65.43	81.48	100.00
Music	5						5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
PE		4					4	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Physics	19	9	3	2			33	57.58	84.85	93.94	100.00
Religious Studies	28	38	12	2	1		81	34.57	81.48	96.30	98.77
Russian	5						5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Double Award Science	28	31	22	12	3		96	29.17%	61.46%	84.38%	96.88%
Spanish	26	9	3				38	68.42	92.11	100.00	100.00
Totals	343	284	142	48	6	0	823	41.68	76.18	93.44	99.27

**Summary**  
81 candidates  
The average number of GCSEs was 10.16  
76.18% of Grades were A\* or A  
93.44% of Grades were B or better  
99.27% of Grades were C or better

# A LEVEL RESULTS 2015

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total	%A*	%A* - A,	%A* - B	%A* - C	%Pass
Art	6	4	5					15	40.00	66.67	100.00	100.00	100.00
Art Textiles		1	1	1				3	0.00	33.33	66.67	100.00	100.00
Art History		3	4					7	0.00	42.86	100.00	100.00	100.00
Biology	2	3	3	2	1			11	18.18	45.45	72.73	90.91	100.00
Business Studies		2	3	1	2	1		9	0.00	22.22	55.56	66.67	100.00
Chemistry		2	5	3	2	1		13	0.00	15.38	53.85	76.92	100.00
Chinese		1						1	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Classical Civilisation			1		1			2	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	100.00
Design & Technology			1					1	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Economics	10	11	2	1	2			26	38.46	80.77	88.46	92.31	100.00
English Lan & Lit.		4	5	2	1			12	0.00	33.33	75.00	91.67	100.00
English Lit.	4	13	1	3				21	19.05	80.95	85.71	100.00	100.00
French	5	4	3	1		1		14	35.71	64.29	85.71	92.86	100.00
Geography	1	2	4					7	14.29	42.86	100.00	100.00	100.00
German				1				1	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Govt. & Politics	3	2						5	60.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
History	2	6	4	1				13	15.38	61.54	92.31	100.00	100.00
ICT	1	1	2		1			5	20.00	40.00	80.00	80.00	100.00
Japanese		1						1	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Latin	1		1					2	50.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Maths	9	7	7	1	3	1		28	32.14	57.14	82.14	85.71	100.00
Maths - Further	3	5						8	37.50	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Media Studies		2	5					7	0.00	28.57	100.00	100.00	100.00
Music	1	1	2					4	25.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Music Tech				2				2	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Physics	1	5	1	2				9	11.11	66.67	77.78	100.00	100.00
Psychology	1	4	3	2				10	10.00	50.00	80.00	100.00	100.00
Religious Studies	2	2	1					5	40.00	80.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Russian	2	2						4	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Spanish	7	5	2					14	50.00	85.71	100.00	100.00	100.00
Theatre Studies		1	2					3	0.00	33.33	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total	61	94	68	23	13	4	0	263	23.19	58.94	84.79	93.54	100.00

Summary	2015	2014	2013	2012
	The number of candidates was 83	75	76	77
	23.19% of grades were A*	19.75%	23.77%	19.51%
	58.94% of grades were A or better	55.56%	54.92%	55.69%
	84.79% of grades were B or better	87.65%	84.02%	83.33%
	93.54% of grades were C or better	95.06%	94.67%	97.15%
	98.48% of grades were D or better	97.94%	99.18%	98.37%
	100% of grades were E or better	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%



# DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2015

**This year our students have again secured places at top universities in this country and abroad. The most popular destinations for our girls this year tell their own highly successful story:**

- Cambridge - with 7 girls securing places
- Durham and UCL - 5
- Oxford - 4
- New York, Bristol, Leeds and Southampton - each with 3 students

We have had worldwide success with 5 students gaining places at US universities (Dartmouth College and a Sports Scholarship to Wake Forest University in addition to the three places at New York University) and another five going to universities in Canada (Toronto), South Africa (Cape Town), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Australia (Monash) and Romania. Our girls will be studying a phenomenal range of subjects, ranging from Architecture to Accounting and Finance, from Biochemistry to Business & Management, from Engineering, English and Economics to Geology, Psychology and Theology.

All eleven Oxbridge applicants were successful: Lucy Anstice and Emily Moon will be studying Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge; Charlotte Burrows and Lucia Keijer-Palau will be studying History at Cambridge; Emma Corrin will be studying Education with English & Drama at Cambridge; Sophie Harris will be studying Geography at Oxford; Varisa Kasemkomase will be studying Architecture at Cambridge; Oreoluwa Ogunbiyi will be studying Human, Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge; Susannah Peppiatt and Susie Triffitt will be studying Theology and Religion at Oxford; and Helena Rodgers will be studying English Language and Literature at Oxford. The overwhelming majority of our students gained places at their first choice university and we are extremely proud of them all.

Name	Institution	Degree Subject
Nadia Alting von Geusau		Post-qualification application
Lucy Anstice	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Kamila Atta	University of Southampton	Spanish with International Relations
Su Yeon Baik	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Desola Bamgbala	University of New York	Liberal Arts
Belinda Banda	University of Kent	Drama and English Language & Linguistics
Alexandra Basing	University of Bristol	Hispanic Studies
Emily Blackburn	University of Bristol	French and Spanish
Emma Boros	University of Kent	Drama and Theatre
Nicole Boyd	University of Southampton	Geology
Sasha Brown	University of Edinburgh	Japanese
Charlotte Burrows	University of Cambridge	History
Rosie Cardoe	University of Exeter	Psychology
Rhonda Chan	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Music
Vivian Chan	LSE	Law
Zoe Chan	University of Birmingham	International Business with Communications

Name	Institution	Degree Subject
Chloe-Anne Clacy	University of Sheffield	Architecture
Celia Clark	University of Edinburgh	Spanish and Politics
Anna Conway	Post-qualification application	
Emma Corrin	University of Cambridge	Education with English & Drama
Isabel Cowan	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Shirley Fan	UCL	Engineering (Civil)
Charlotte Fantl	University of East Anglia	History of Art
Olivia Fox	University of the Creative Arts, Epsom	Art Foundation
Marine Fremont	Bournemouth University	International Hospitality Management
Natalie Graham	University of Southampton	Sociology & Criminology
Emma Hammond-Walker	University of Hull	Creative Writing and English
Grace Harding	University of Leeds	Sustainability and Environmental Management
Sophie Harris	University of Oxford	Geography
Cordelia Hawkings	Bournemouth University	History
Aoife Hickey	University of Nottingham	Art History
Sonia Horgan-Badia	University of Bath	International Business and Modern Languages - Spanish
Ali Hunter	Dartmouth College	History
Lucy Hurman	University of Liverpool	Communication and Media
Rudi Hynes	Newcastle University	Media, Communication and Cultural Studies
Christine Ip	University of Nottingham	Nutrition and Food Science
Crystal Ip	Brunel University	Product Design with Professional Practice
Osamudiamwen Isokpan	University of Roehampton	Business Management
Larina Jiang	Monash University, Melbourne	Business
Madeleine Jobber	University of Bristol	Biochemistry
Varisa Kasemkomase	University of Cambridge	Architecture
Lucia Keijer-Palau	University of Cambridge	History
Emily Kiely	University of the Creative Arts, Epsom	Art Foundation
Clare Leung	University of the Arts London	Fashion Management
Esther Li	UCL	Applied Medical Sciences
Angel Liu	UCL	Economics
Grace Loke-O'Connor	University of Leeds	Fashion Marketing
Sophie Low	University of Manchester	Classics
Marvel Maljers	University of Amsterdam	Politics, Psychology, Law & Economics
Sarah Mant	University of Durham	Biological Sciences
Sabina Marinescu	Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Veterinary Medicine
Anna Massey	Plymouth University	Biomedical Science
Phoebe Maunder	New College of the Humanities	English Literature



# DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2015

Name	Institution	Degree Subject
Amelia McKey	Newcastle University	History
Sophie McLean	University of East Anglia	Psychology
Isobel McParland	Post-qualification application	
Charlotte McVicker	University of Durham	Music
Emily Moon	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Chiamaka Obi	University of Exeter	Medical Sciences
Catherine O'Connor	Wake Forest University, USA	Liberal Arts
Oreoluwa Ogunbiyi	University of Cambridge	Human, Social and Political Sciences
Anastasia Olkhovskaya	University of Durham	Business and Management with Study Abroad
Amarachi Onyebuchi	University of Warwick	Accounting & Finance
Ikeoluwa Otubanjo	University of Bradford	Chemical Engineering
Lucie Palmer	University of Cape Town	Business Science
Laura Pepera	University of Toronto	Biochemistry & Spanish
Susannah Peppiatt	University of Oxford	Theology and Religion
Elizaveta Rakhilkina	University of New York	Film and Television
Scout Ray	University of New York	Liberal Studies
Helena Rodgers	University of Oxford	English Language and Literature
Isabella Rooke-Ley	University of Manchester	English Literature
Sian Rumsey	University of Leeds	Chinese and Spanish
Charlotte Russell	University of Birmingham	History of Art
Amelia Schmidt	University of Dundee	Anatomical Sciences
Anna Stevenson	East Surrey College, Reigate	Art Foundation
Lucy Tarran	Post-qualification application	
Poppy Taylor-Smith	University of Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)
Susie Triffitt	University of Oxford	Theology and Religion
Grace Udale	University of Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures (with year abroad)
Ariane Vahabzadeh	King's College London	English Language and Linguistics
Lauren Watkins	University of Bath	Politics with Economics (with placement)
Alice Wilson	Royal Drawing School Queen's Belfast University	Art Foundation (2015) Architecture (2016)
Harriet Winfield	Royal Agricultural University	International Business Management
Jieying Xu	LSE	Actuarial Science
Iris Zhang	UCL	Psychology with Education
Nico Zhou	UCL	Statistics









## AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN



**A**nother very warm welcome from me, and the WSHA committee, to our new and exciting merged magazine. We've worked closely with the school to create a magazine that represents all walks of Woldingham life. Now pupils, parents and

**Old Girls can all benefit from the news, features and information across the whole school community.**

A lot of people ask what *exactly* does WSHA do? So I thought I'd take this opportunity to shed some light on our purpose and activities. WSHA, the acronym for Woldingham Sacred Heart Association, is an association that represents all Woldingham Old Girls. A subscription is taken when you join the school which is your life membership to WSHA. You will then automatically join WSHA on leaving Woldingham.

WSHA has a committee of members made up of Old Girls, past staff, current staff from marketing, Senior Management and the Sacred Heart representative. Our role is to represent, support and nurture the ongoing relationship between the school and all pupils who have moved on to their next adventure in life. The committee meets officially 4 times a year to discuss activities and proposals to benefit leavers and old girls of Woldingham in their future lives.

For example, we award the following:

- WSHA Bursaries - for old girls (10 yrs+) who require a little financial help to make a career change or re-train for a new opportunity.
- Leavers Bursaries - for Upper Sixth leavers, a financial award for those who present a convincing proposal for a special project or opportunity they are undertaking on leaving school.

- WSHA Award - for the daughter or granddaughter of a past pupil offering financial help to attend Woldingham (means tested). This is only awarded once every 3-5 years.

And, we have also recently funded the following:

- Leavers pendant - newly created solid silver heart pendant awarded for the first time to this year's leavers.
- New pews for the chapel
- New hymn books
- The school's Archive project
- Old Girls reunions - we contribute towards reunions for 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40+ year reunions. (Year Reps to contact [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk))

An important and growing area for WSHA is our Business Network. This is an enterprise network for Old Girls where, as a WSHA member, you can list your business or service for FREE, to promote to and communicate with the whole WSHA community. You will be invited to attend the Careers Fair or provide mentoring and advice to Upper Sixth girls who are considering your chosen career path. To list your business or service with the Business Network please contact [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

Don't forget to read your monthly email newsletter which is our primary communication for up to date news and information for all Old Girls.

We really hope to see you at the Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral on 7 December at 2pm. Also don't forget to make a note of the date of Old Girls Day on Sunday 8 May 2016 from 11.00am - both great opportunities to stay in touch with us and meet up with your school friends.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the WSHA committee for their valuable time, energy and support.

With very best wishes to you all.

*Camilla Mair*





## WSHA LEAVERS' BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



### WSHA Leavers' Scholarships

Scholarships 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.

### WSHA Bursaries

This is a sum of money which is available to WSHA members who left Woldingham School 10 or more years ago. The WSHA bursary is for career development or for those looking to return to education. If you are interested in applying, please be aware that all applications for funding must be received by Friday 29 April 2016, applications will then be assessed by the Committee at their summer meeting.

### WSHA/RSCJ Charity Bursary

This bursary is available to help and encourage a member of WSHA to assist with the work of the the Society of Religious 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 be up to the sum of £1,000.

### WSHA Award

The WSHA Award is now in motion and we are delighted to be financially assisting Adrienne Gibbins's (née Pollak, 1993) daughter, Millie Gibbins to be educated at Woldingham. Millie started at Woldingham in September 2013 and has settled in well. The WSHA Award is a new addition to WSHA bursaries and is exclusively for daughters or granddaughters of Woldingham School and Convent of the Sacred Heart alumnae. The Award covers the payment of one term's Day fees, per academic year, for the duration of a girl's education at Woldingham. With limited resources, this award cannot be guaranteed annually.

For further details and to receive an application form for any of the above, please contact the Alumnae Development Officer at [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

## WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP LIOBA WENDLING

Fencing at Durham University - Class of 2014

**I left Woldingham in summer 2014 to read Economics at Durham University. Although I found the step up from school to University challenging at first, I settled in quite quickly and learned to love St John's College with all its old buildings, quirky traditions and amazing people throughout my first year.**

Having fenced throughout my time at Woldingham and benefitted from the balance of sport with academics, I was keen to keep up fencing at university. Thanks to the WSHA scholarship I was able to replace worn-out breaches, shoes and my glove as well as invest in a new foil before I moved up North. After accidentally turning up to a beginner's session of the University club at the beginning of term I was fortunate to be moved into the women's first team as a foilist in October and had the opportunity to train in the impressive facilities of the Maiden Castle Sport Centre. The first weeks on the team were challenging while I had to adjust to the busy training schedule and missing lectures for BUCS matches with other Universities in the North. However the many interesting and supportive people from all years and stages of study who I met in the team helped me through these first weeks. Although I can now look back on a

successful season results-wise, I am most grateful for the friendship and support I found outside my college through fencing. It has become an integral part of my university experience and I am very grateful to WSHA for enabling me to continue to fence at a high level.

Due to the generous scholarship I even had some money left over which I used to fund my involvement in a summer camp (JUKI) for disadvantaged children in my region in Germany last summer. Unfortunately for health and safety reasons I was not allowed to take my fencing kit and introduce the children to the sport as previously planned. Nevertheless we still had a great time playing all sorts of others sports throughout the two weeks. I hope to have made the children more aware of the importance of sport, as well as the joys of a less, well known one and look forward to going back there this summer.





# WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP

## ALEX BASING

Three months living and working in Zaragoza, Spain - Class of 2014

**O**n 7 January 2015 I walked through the gates at Stanstead airport, waving goodbye to an emotional mother and, in a display of typical filial affection, a brother made cheery by the idea of being the sole commander of the TV remote. I was heading off to catch a plane to Zaragoza, a city in Northern Spain, which was to be my new home for the next three months.

The landing in Spain two hours later was quickly followed by the first touch of nerves. Pilar, the mother of the family I was to be staying with, was to pick me up from the airport and this was to be my first meeting with her, and I had no real idea of what the family would be like. Would we get on? Would they (despite the excellent teaching of Señor Lopez and Señora Mulhern) understand my undoubtedly garbled Spanish? Would there be Wifi?

Happily, it turns out I had no need to fear. From my very first day in the house of Pilar, Miguel, Miguelito (little Miguel) and Javi, I felt at home. They welcomed me in with open arms and did everything they could to make me feel comfortable, from buying a kettle so I didn't have to make my tea in a microwave to including me on family film nights on a Friday evening (this swiftly became one of my favourite parts of the week). On a Sunday we would often invite the parents of Pilar or Miguel for a delicious dinner, wherein I also had the opportunity to get to know the rest of the family, each as caring and lovely as my adopted parents.

Each weekday I would travel into school with Pilar, where I would spend the morning assisting in English classes, or the arts crafts lessons that Pilar taught in English. For the first couple of weeks I spent my free afternoons exploring the city, taking note and discovering as many shops, cafés and Plazas that I could. After that I decided to try and really test my Spanish by going to see plays, such as 'La Lluvia Constante' (The Constant Rain) and films in Spanish at the local cinema.



I could write pages and pages about my experiences in this city, about my wonderful family, about my mishaps upon confusing 'cajones' with 'cojones'!, but I don't have enough space. So all that is left to do is to thank WSHA and Woldingham for providing me with the opportunity to go on this trip, and to advise you all to go, immediately, to Zaragoza. To my city.



# WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

## FRANCESCA LINSLEY

Developing a passion for photography - Class of 2014



**H**aving left the valley just over a year ago, it's a wonderful opportunity to get to talk about what I did with the money awarded to me by WSHA and Woldingham. With the money I received, I did exactly what I had said I would do with it,

and I bought myself a Canon 700D camera. I have had an eye for photography from a young age and saw this opportunity as an excellent way to practise and apply my photography skills, both with my degree in Broadcast Journalism at Nottingham Trent University, and at a personal level.

Upon beginning university, one of the first things I looked into was whether there was a good photography society. I was disappointed to find that the only one on offer was a wildlife photography society, which wasn't really the type of photography I had in mind. So instead, I conferred with a few friends of mine who were taking photography courses at my university and they told me that they had secured a job at a wedding to take photos. I saw the results shortly after, and the pictures were beautiful. I then decided to try my hand at events photography and so after I returned home for the summer holidays in May, I discovered that my neighbours were having a Christening for their two boys so I offered to be the photographer. Photography, for me, is about capturing special and intimate moments, which was exactly what I tried to achieve on this special day. Furthermore, seeing the pictures shared between family and friends after the event was very rewarding.

Although I had applied for the scholarship with a degree in Journalism in mind, I did in fact make an internal course transfer and am due to begin a degree in law this coming September. Clearly, law does not particularly coincide with photography, but I will continue to offer my photography services to family and friends as a means of earning money to help fund my degree as well as develop my photography skills further.

I'd like to thank the team at WSHA for granting me the scholarship and I will endeavor to make the most of all the opportunities that have and will present themselves to me, using this fantastic camera.



# WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

## LIESJE WILKINSON

Volunteering at the Sacred Heart School, Barcelona - Class of 2014



**I** am very grateful to WSHA for awarding me a Leavers' Scholarship and giving me the opportunity to volunteer in a Sacred Heart School abroad.

The Sacred Heart (Sagrado Corazon) school in Barcelona has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. For a few years now, the school has been running a summer camp open to their own pupils and local children in which all activities take place in English. I worked as a volunteer at the summer camp helping out the more experienced 'monitors'.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I walked into the school the first day. The other monitors were very friendly and welcoming, and came from other English-speaking countries around the world, from Canada, Ireland and the USA. I worked with the 3-5 year-old group, helping them in the various activities organised during the day, making sure to speak English to the children at all times (well, some of the time!) Each week focused on a different English speaking country's culture as a theme. We had English singing sessions, swimming at the school's own pool, playground sessions, colouring and crafts activities, and English reading sessions.



Wednesdays were excursion days. I really liked the visit to a children's farm up in the hills about one hour's drive from Barcelona, and we got to see the mountain of Montserrat along the way. At the farm the children loved holding the animals and they could enter the enclosures with the deer and some birds. All in all, it was a wonderful experience. It was lovely to get to meet people from different countries and to put my Spanish to use. I thank WSHA for giving me the opportunity of working in a different country, yet in a setting sharing the same Sacred Heart values as Woldingham.



## WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP

### ISABELLE MAUDUIT

Art Foundation at Kingston University - Class of 2013

**O**n leaving Woldingham I studied at Kingston University for one year on an art foundation. This was a hugely intensive year, working 10 till 5, 5 days a week from September until May. Luckily for me, as I was under 19, the course was free and although I still lived at home for this year, being awarded the WSHA leaving scholarship allowed me to experiment without financial limitations.

I also had a deferred place at Manchester University to study architecture. However, after my foundation I discovered this was not the path I would follow. The foundation course that Kingston offers aims to break the formulated way of thinking that most post A-level students arrive with. Having gained many skills at A level, I then had the possibility to apply them and myself in completely new ways conceptually. In the first six weeks of the course we had the chance to test drive each specialism; fashion, communication and illustration, 3D and fine art. In the end I specialised in 3D design, in part because it left the door to architecture open, but more so because we had the most fun with our projects. Each week, or every 10 days, we would be given a new brief and would end with a group presentation and feedback of our work.

My favorite project of last year was an attempt to disguise embarrassment. The brief given to the group asked us to look at points of contact, looking for opportunities of « if this, then that ». For example in my project, if you became embarrassed, then a hood would cover your embarrassment. My partner and I developed a jacket to protect you from embarrassing situations. The jacket contained a motor to which the draw strings of the jacket's hood were attached. On becoming embarrassed you simply put up your hood and pressed a hidden switch in the jacket to trigger the motor to turn and the draw strings to pull, closing the hood over your pink, embarrassed face.

Finally, developing and printing a portfolio was undoubtedly the most expensive part of my year. In addition to understanding the worth of a well printed portfolio, I also learnt how to make my work look better in print than it did in person. This came through expanding my skills in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, which has since been incredibly useful and will continue to be, as they are skills used throughout the industry.

Following such an inspiring and experimental year at Kingston, I am now studying in the Netherlands, at the Design Academy Eindhoven. By studying at Kingston I was lucky to have been able to produce a portfolio as diverse as it was, and the WSHA Scholarship allowed me to go outside of my comfort zone, sourcing new materials and seeking new inspiration by chasing exhibitions, ultimately taking me further than I had expected.



## WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP

### JENNIE MATTHEWS

Studying at the University of St Andrews - Class of 2014

**I** have spent the last year reading Classics at the University of St Andrews and the WSHA scholarship helped to cover materials for this. It was really nice having the money available to go and buy supplies whenever I needed to, particularly as I was able to choose extra modules not related to my course which I needed extra reading for.

My first year at university has been full of excitement and new experiences many of which are unique to St Andrews. My freshers' week was fun and very busy, meeting the people in my hall, bonding with my roommate and taking part in the many union events including a Ceilidh and a UV bubble party.

The union at St Andrews plays a large part in university life, as it is a very small town with only one nightclub - The Lizard. My hall was also amazing and because St Regulus Hall was catered, I have been able to meet everyone who lives there. I made such good friends this year; I have even been on holiday with some to Morocco. St Andrews is also very international with lots of students coming from America some of whom are only there for one semester. It was horrible having to say goodbye but plans are already in place to visit friends and we knew it wasn't forever.

Very quickly I became involved in university life and soon became aware of why St Andrews is called the Bubble. To this day I still have yet to meet someone at St Andrews who I don't share a mutual friend with. I was voted in as Events Officer for the university Charities Campaign and through this worked to help organise charity events, including a very successful bungee jump. I enjoyed this so much that I am now on the Executive Committee as the Events Coordinator.

St Andrews is big on academic families and I was adopted by awesome parents; they were in charge of Raisin Weekend which is a Sunday and Monday when academic children are made to drink, do scavenger hunts, go to



parties, be dressed up and then it culminates in a very exciting foam fight. Incidentally, Raisin Monday fell on my birthday. Academic incest as well as other academic sins, such as stepping on the PH outside St Salvator's quad or failing a class, result in you having to do May Dip; so on 1 May at dawn, my friends and I ran into the North Sea.

There is so much more to say about St Andrews and many more things happened, including friends from Woldingham coming to visit and the many balls. I would put this year down as one of my best ever; I really love my university and I can't wait to spend the next three years there.



# WSHA LEAVERS' SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

## KATIE WONG

Reading Music at Queen's College, Cambridge - Class of 2013

**I** am really enjoying my second year reading Music at Cambridge. I felt very privileged to be at Queens' College, one of the most musical colleges in Cambridge. With the college orchestra, I have performed *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins, *A Child of our Time* by Tippett, and most recently *Elijah* by Mendelssohn. Recently, I have conducted a newly formed women's choir called Queens' Trebles which featured Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*; and conducted *The Carnival of Animals* by Saint Saens with the MagSoc Concert Orchestra.

In my first year, I sang with the Queens' chapel choir, where we travelled across the time zones to Hong Kong for a tour and also recorded a CD at the end of the term. Singing with the chapel choir broadened my knowledge of the choral repertoire. I particularly enjoyed the consort evensongs, where we performed hymns by Byrd. Unexpectedly, as a member of the chapel choir, I was invited to sing with the Rodolfus Choir in the performance of Mahler's 8th Symphony under Esa-Pekka Salonen's conducting at the Royal Festival Hall. It was a very ambitious project. This symphony is rarely performed due to its massive scale, including 3 choirs, a full orchestra and an organ. It definitely deserved to be nicknamed 'Symphony of a Thousand'.

One of the highlights of this year was music directing the *Mikado*, a very well known comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan. It was quite challenging to work with a director, actors and an orchestra within 5 weeks of term on top of coping with the usual amount of work in the intensive 8-week courses at Cambridge. On top of that, I have also enjoyed giving a lunchtime concert at the West Road Concert Hall, where I performed pieces that were closely linked to the theme of 'Christmas'. This included extracts from Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'enfant-Jésus* and the complete set from George Crumb's *A Little Suite for Christmas A.D. 1979*.



Since the programme was relatively contemporary, the composers still owned their copyrights. The cost of getting hold of the music for the recital alone cost £100.

Winding back the clock, in the transitioning summer between Woldingham and Cambridge, I went to Luxembourg for a music summer camp, which focuses on chamber music. I was very privileged to have met Ya-Fei Chuang, a pianist based in Boston whom I will definitely meet with again for lessons.

It was since the summer camp that I have discovered my strong passion that lies in chamber music and piano accompaniment. Currently, I am enjoying the rehearsals with my piano trio, which includes my best friends that I have met in Cambridge. We will be performing Mendelssohn's piano trio in D minor and Ravel's piano trio in A minor shortly after the exams. I am looking forward to pursuing further studies in piano accompanying in master courses after the undergraduate degree. The WSHA scholarship has definitely continued to support me to have regular piano lessons in London, which pushes my performing standards.



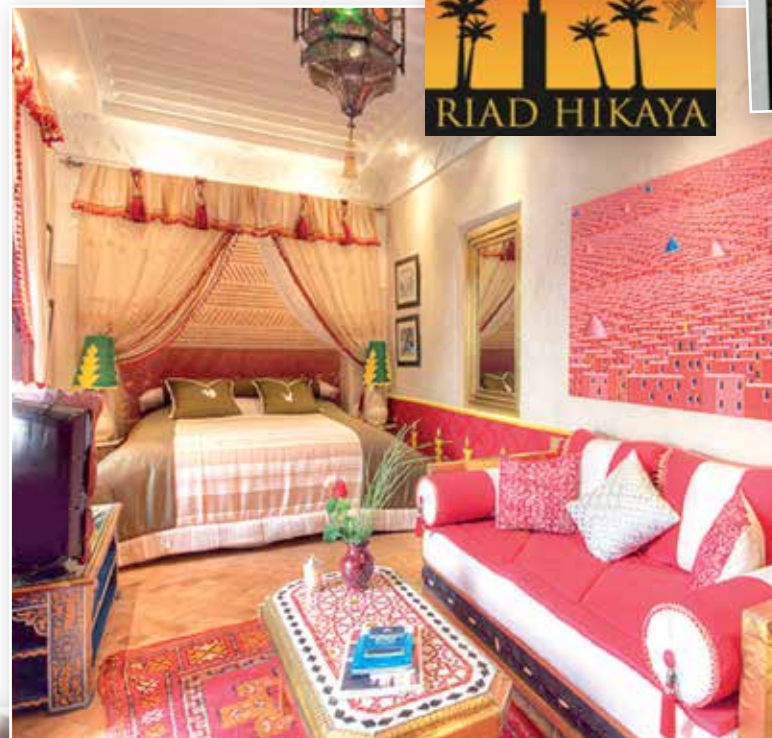
# LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL

JANE PITTAWAY

Owner of Riad Hikaya, Medina, Marrakesh - Class of 1980

**N**ever would I have dreamt whilst at Woldingham that I would end up owning a luxury boutique hotel in Marrakesh!

After 25 years as a partner in large commercial law firms including nearly 10 years in the Gulf I was ready for a different challenge. We found the perfect riad (or walled house) in the royal quarter of the medina between two royal palaces, called the 'Kasbah'. It took four years of meticulous restoration by local craftsmen and artisans, employing age old techniques and materials, to transform the riad into what it is today. John and I wanted to convey to guests the vibrancy, colour and excitement of Marrakech and to envelope them in the richness and warmth of local materials. We did not follow the current minimalist trend, choosing instead to allow the inherent warmth and sumptuousness of Marrakech to come through in the style of the décor.



John speaks French, Spanish, Arabic and the local Moroccan dialect, Darija, and we can therefore offer visitors a unique glimpse into the local culture and insider guidance and advice on the best places to see, eat and visit. We can also advise guests on the best places to shop and how to negotiate the best prices and can then arrange the shipping of any purchases which won't fit into your luggage! We are now on Trip Advisor's list of the top 20 small hotels in Africa and have won a Traveller's Choice award.

They say that travel is the best education and our daughter, Mollie, has caught the bug. Having travelled extensively including stints at schools in Marrakesh and Abu Dhabi, and with an AS in Arabic she is applying to read Arabic at University. She is about to take her gap year which she will be spending in Morocco, Spain and Ecuador. She has applied to the Moroccan Center for Arabic Studies in Rabat, the capital city of Morocco to work as a volunteer on the National Initiative for Human Development set up in 2005 by the Moroccan government to improve education, health, culture and the promotion of income generating activities for women.

Woldingham taught me to respect other religions and cultures, something which is even more important today. Marrakesh is a great example of inter-faith tolerance and respect. It has a flourishing Jewish quarter, the Mellah, and a very well attended Catholic Church too. Vive la difference!



# LADDERBACK INTERIORS

## TESSA ZUNDEL (NÉE FOUND)

Redesigning the Headmistresses's office - Class of 1981



**"Do I call her Miss?" I wondered, as I headed down the long Woldingham drive for my meeting with the Headmistress Jayne Triffitt. I'd only been back to my alma mater a handful of times since leaving: once to a school reunion, and once to give a careers talk on Interior Design. Then, out**

**of the blue, I received a call early last year from the Headmistress's secretary Liz, inviting me to meet with the Headmistress to discuss a project to redesign her office.**

Though the office had been relocated since my time, I knew the room in question and arrived with a suggested scheme incorporating colours from the garden. During that first meeting I established Mrs Triffitt didn't like retro 70's furniture and anything green, that she loved the colour blue and most importantly, that her wry humour, professionalism and warmth meant we could work together.

The brief in choosing the furniture was not just constrained by the budget. The sofas and chairs had to work in many different types of meeting, between parents, staff and students, under widely varying circumstances. The sofa had to allow a family to sit together (I pictured my mother perched on it, wincing at my erstwhile misdemeanours), and the chairs needed to be small, comfortable and with arms. Jayne explained that in her role there were "difficult" and "easy" meetings. As a mother of two myself, as is Jayne, I knew what she meant.

I sourced the sofa and three chairs from the wonderfully efficient Sofa.com and chose upholstery fabrics from them. The size of the furniture had to take into account the need for the room to incorporate a large desk as well as a small table and chairs for formal meetings and lunches. I wondered if they still had jam roly poly on Fridays.

My next task was to find a curtain fabric that would do justice to the imposing windows that look out onto the immaculate grounds. I was looking for a large design which would work with the proportions of the windows, and would comprise some blue, with warmer touches of beige and off-white to offset the walls which, after much poring over paint charts, we decided would be a restful but interesting blue, Bone China Deep from the Little Greene collection. I found a Jane Churchill fabric which, while traditional, embraced modernity. Rather apt, considering.

The building works had to start as soon as term finished in early July in order for the Headmistress's study to be up and running in time for September. The summer holidays had never seemed so short!

We were all delighted with the result. It was a really good feeling to come back to an institution I felt I knew of old, and to help move it forward, along with my relationship with the school.

And as I drove away I thought, "I think I'll call her Jayne".





# MY BESPOKE ROOM

## DIANA GREENHALGH (NÉE MACLEOD)

Affordable online interior design - Class of 1999



**T**hinking back to my time at Woldingham always makes me smile – I have so many fond memories, many of which I cannot share in this publication! Perhaps the greatest asset I have taken from my

**schooldays is the life-long friendships. To this day my closest friends are those that I made back at school, we still see one other on a very regular basis, and back in 2013 when I discussed my new business idea with them, not only were they all extremely supportive, offering help and advice, but one even became a shareholder and another my PR mentor!**

I was always creative, and remember spending hours in the art block: painting, sketching or studying the history of art. I very nearly went to Art College, but decided instead to study Commerce at University, which in retrospect, was probably an important decision. I enjoyed Business Studies at A-Level and I think that combining my artistic passion with a formal grounding in business, Economics and Management was a good move from a career perspective.

After Birmingham University I joined The Arcadia Group on their Management Trainee Programme and then went onto work at L’Oreal for 10 years. I worked in various roles in Sales and Marketing, Store Design and Visual Merchandising, and across a broad range of brands, including Armani, Victor & Rolf Fragrances, Shu Uemura cosmetics and Kiehls. At L’Oreal I also met my business partner – Laura - we were always great friends, with similar ideas and complimentary skills.



Throughout this time I was also working behind the scenes buying and renovating properties in South London, and helping friends maximise the potential of their own homes through cost effective interior design solutions.

The arrival of my two boys (George and Harry) in quick succession, prompted a re-evaluation of what I wanted to achieve in life and work. I realised that my passions are rooted in interior design, mainly how to source items on a tight budget and help friends and family to do the same. Laura and I realised that it can be a real struggle to find fun, inventive, stylish and budget friendly designs for houses and rooms, it was this line of thinking that gave rise to My Bespoke Room.

My Bespoke Room offers an easy, personalised online tool, which provides inspiration and guidance to any budget or brief. With no pushy sales tactics, no hidden costs, we source items to fit the individual brief for just £75 per room - saving people the time, hassle and stress of doing it themselves.

As we say to our customers: ‘all you have to do is fill in a short online questionnaire, then sit back, grab yourself a cuppa, and leave the rest to us. Working to your brief, we will put together a mood board, creating a virtual shopping list, sent directly to your inbox. We pick and source from a variety of suppliers, from large retailers to small independents, providing you with a unique collection of pieces, giving you multiple options for each item so you can choose your favourites. You then simply take a look, choose the items you like, the costs are updated as you go, click and purchase – ta da!’ It really is as simple as that.

It’s been an amazing first year; we have won various awards including The Junior Design Awards and Houzz Best Customer Service and Design. It’s onwards and upwards as we have signed a deal to launch MBR in the US later this year too!

Next we are on the hunt for a mentor and to expand the team, and so if you know of anyone who would be interested then please do get in touch, or simply drop me a line at [diana@mybespokeroom.com](mailto:diana@mybespokeroom.com) or visit [www.mybespokeroom.com](http://www.mybespokeroom.com)



# GARDENING AGAINST THE ODDS

## KATHARINE THOMAS

Class of 2009



**L**ast September I entered the Gardening Against the Odds Awards (GATO) competition. The awards celebrate those gardeners who battle physical, psychological or environmental 'odds', creating beauty for others to enjoy and finding pleasure and peace

through their efforts. Entries were invited from individual gardeners and groups from anywhere in the UK, and 16 finalists were featured in an article in the Telegraph titled 'Honouring unsung horticultural heroes who help Britain grow'. London Live also ran a feature on my story, as a GATO finalist living in London, with an interview and tour of my garden. As this was in April, I was fortunate to have a few leeks, beetroots, nasturtiums, curly kale and strawberry plants to fill out the raised beds, and some crocuses and tulips in window boxes to add some colour.

The awards ceremony was held in The Great Conservatory at Syon Park, home to her Grace, the Duchess of Northumberland. Each finalist received a certificate presented by actress Susan Hampshire, and I received a Special Mention and was presented with an engraved Burgon & Ball spade by the founder of Green & Blacks chocolate, Craig Sams. Afterwards, we were served a splendid afternoon tea, courtesy of Wyevalle Garden Centres and had the chance to meet the judges, other finalists and guests.



Gardening Against the Odds is about having the confidence to speak out about physical and mental difficulties, working to reduce the stigma. The finalists have all created beauty in the face of adversity, demonstrating passion, commitment, and the confidence to rise above life's challenges. I have battled through physical and mental illness after a car accident in June 2008, just after sitting my AS Levels. I have overcome chronic neck

and back pain, glandular fever, M.E., PTSD, anxiety and depression.

I feel that Woldingham taught me to be self-assured, confident, and committed to achieving my goals. Seven years on, my experiences have made me more self-aware and confident of a bright future. I have completed a BA in Anthropology at Durham University and an MSc in Spatial Design in Architecture and Cities at The Bartlett, University College London, and hope to pursue a career in people-focused planning and design.

Dealing with long term illness is particularly difficult for young people who are supposed to be in 'their prime'. Gardening has been a crucial part of my recovery from the realities of invisible, long term illnesses. Soon GPs will be able to prescribe gardening to their patients as part of a scheme called Growing Health. I hope this will change

the way people see gardening, not just as an activity in retirement, but as something for young people. You don't need a lot of space, or any experience, to create something beautiful and rewarding both for you, and for others.

For more information on Gardening Against the Odds Awards please visit their website [www.gardeningagainsttheodds.com](http://www.gardeningagainsttheodds.com) or visit my blog at [www.katharinescraftsandkitchengarden.wordpress.com](http://www.katharinescraftsandkitchengarden.wordpress.com)



# AN UNAPOLOGETIC INTRODUCTION PHILOMENA HARMSWORTH

Artist, Class of 1993



**C**reativity for me began as soon as I could draw - I loved drawing. Mum used to have to tear me away from whatever I was engrossed in at the time, to get me to eat or go to bed.

As a young child, I used to draw endlessly. I once spent the summer trying to perfect

symmetrical curves. One evening I had a friend over. I was throwing away so much paper in frustration she was horrified. She tried to stop me. I have note pads full of misaligned vase edges. In the end it wasn't a misspent youth - I wish I could show her now how well I can draw a nice curvy bottom! Very important.



Being at Woldingham introduced me to a sophisticated array of materials. It felt like water to a desert. I was also taught shading and colour mixing by Miss Fooks. OH MY GOSH! English Literature also fed my visual language, especially as brilliantly bonkers Miss Watkins loved art and would cry when she read us a love poem, and whisk us outside at the first sight of spring!

The creativity in me was like a caged lion. I wanted to find expression. The more I was given to play with, the hungrier I became for it. Painting became really hard. Everything I began had a pain barrier that needed breaking through to become anything. I knew I needed direction. I needed teaching. But who can offer help to a blazing whirlwind? It was like being born dumb. I just didn't have the vocabulary to express what I wanted to say.

A levels introduced me to oil paint. I felt like I had discovered painting with velvet, with the brilliant and very patient Anne Benton and Miss Wayman, as was (now Mrs Ross). My foundation course at Camberwell gave me an understanding of materials and finishes: soft charcoal could be manipulated to be hard and cruel. Which led me to my bottomless appetite for seeing how other artists spoke, and communicated their thoughts.

I hope a lot of you have seen that very publicised painting of the dog with the waggly tail and blurry feet? It's not just alive and moving, it has the character of the dog. That style of painting was part of futurism. (A fascinating and many layered movement, and one of my favourites). Futurists wanted to capture movement, but it was very much artists' response to the dawning of the age of the machine. I want to put movement into a piece, so I take inspiration from that style. This has led me to experiment further with paint effects and styles, searching for ways of communicating my sentences in a recognisable, visual format.

I next got a degree at Wimbledon studying set design. My subsequent time spent in theatre and film immersed me in a world with endless possibilities as to where doorways can lead. Beyond the wings of the theatre stage is that

magical rabbit warren: the bustling mania of grease paint, crazy costumes, mirrors and lights. Personalities and relationships. And beneath the stage are the heavy mechanisms that fly the scenery above, corridors that smell of ancient London and theatre of old.

Watching films being shot and how interiors and exteriors were in actuality, filmed miles apart; or how a seamless edit that matches up a scene could have been shot on a different day, had the same sequencing as dreams for me. It held the key to the subconscious.

Doorways, possible rooms, exits, other floors are in my work because they mirror the mind, life, a story or a journey.

I always had an insatiable thirst for painters and painting and paint. The fact that a lot of finishing was done on set suited me. Part of the love affair is with the substance itself. The evidence of the handmade is important to my style. A lot of the expression is in the mark making.

The other major influences of film and literature in my paintings, is the fourth dimension - time. Each painting is a story and a journey. It is very important that the painting is made over a period of time (which of course is unavoidable!) What I mean is: over a few days / weeks. The advantage is that one's mood changes and so do one's eyes. The painting has a more complete personality. This includes the dark and light becoming a rounded healthy person. You will all interpret my work differently, according to your own experience: the opposite way round to reading a book and creating your own visuals. My pet hate used to be the blurbs that accompany paintings, as they take away your own 'take' on a piece. In the same way that a film is NEVER as good as the book you've just read. I've written blurbs to accompany my work as, very flatteringly, a lot of you want to know what inspired a particular work. I urge you to look at the painting before you read the blurb.

Painting is better than talking to me. My inner voice has a visual expression. So these pictures are me talking, and telling you about my new home.

If you ask either of my parents, they might tell you I was born with my own personality already strongly formed, and that to call me 'headstrong' doesn't quite cut it. Copying was always out of the question. Mum said that she could always tell a Philomena Harmsworth, because it was never like any of the others.

My reasoning is that art is for everybody to understand and enjoy. It goes beyond the separate elements of the words combined with music and lighting etc of the stage, it's a deep understanding for when words fail. Paintings are less spoon-fed than most films, but a good one should be like watching TV in that a painting changes colour every day. The light makes you see something different each time you look, and a new story comes out.

I have recently had an exhibition at a Farley Farm House, home of the Surrealists. I saw the sculptures in their garden in textbooks I read at school. They filled me with silent dread. I thought I would never become a proper artist, as I couldn't understand them. When I saw them in the garden at Farleys, the relief was immense - the sculptors seemed to be having a laugh!

I met Roland Penrose and Lee Miller's son Antony, who is now running his parents home like a museum. He is continuing in the same vein: support for contemporary 'up and coming' artists (he also added 'young' to my amusement as I am nearly 40!) He gave me a solo exhibition for the summer of 2014. I made an entirely new body of work, which I do for solo exhibitions. I themed the work on my arrival in Sussex from a newcomers eyes and called it 'Philomena at home with the Surrealists'. The Mayor of Lewes showed an interest in the exhibition so I invited him to open it. He arrived in full mayoral splendour and read from Kipling's poem 'Sussex', then bought a painting!

I am now in full flow: painting every moment I get the chance, which is every day I am not marketing my exhibitions. I have had exhibitions in Dorset, Sussex and have shown in London. I have also recently completed a triptych commissioned by Halstock Cabinet Makers of England.





# A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY

## CHARLOTTE BENNETT-DIVER

Director of Golden Africa, Botswana Safari Specialists - Class of 2001

**A**s far back as I can remember, my passion in life has always been for wildlife and nature. I can still clearly remember always trying to join the 'Young Farmers' after school club and being determined to find something animal-related that would contribute towards my Duke of Edinburgh award. After completing a stint of work experience at the RSPCA and several farms, I had my heart set on being a vet, or if not a vet, then a career that involved working with animals.

However, following the career path you hope for does not always initially work out, and after leaving Woldingham in 2001, and having not taken the right subjects to pursue a career as a vet, I decided to follow in my parents' footsteps by joining the Civil Service. After an enjoyable and successful eight-year career working for various different Government departments, including the Cabinet Office and Home Office, I was presented with an opportunity to work for six months for a small independent safari company, Golden Africa, based in Botswana. As somebody well known by my friends and family for being indecisive and a bit of a 'home girl' I think I can safely say I shocked them all by announcing I was taking a six-month career break to fulfil my dream of exploring Africa and of being closer to my first passion, wildlife.

On my arrival in the small town of Maun on 19 July 2013, which is known as the 'gateway to the Okavango Delta' in Botswana, I surprised myself by immediately feeling at home. Put simply, Botswana is beautiful and has to be one of the finest wildlife destinations in Africa. The country is around the size of France, with 40% of it set aside for wildlife protection such as national parks and game reserves and, combined with a small population of around 2.1 million, you are surrounded by unimaginable vastness, bringing a sense of peacefulness and stillness which you can quite easily get lost in.



The habitats vary quite considerably from the Okavango Delta which is wet, green and lush, through to the Kalahari which can be barren, stark and harsh. Remarkably both produce striking beauty and high numbers of fantastic wildlife. Botswana was everything I had imagined it would be, and more.

Although very different to an office-based job and to life in England, when the opportunity arose to join Golden Africa as a director I did not hesitate in accepting it. My time is now spent working closely with people to plan their safaris which my partner then guides; there is something very satisfying about delivering people's perfect journeys across Africa. I am also lucky enough to join some of the trips, and to go off on our own private bush adventures from time to time.

The 10 years of my life prior to moving to Botswana showed me that whilst the path you want to take may not always be apparent, it takes hard work, sacrifice, dedication and persistence in other ways, to eventually find your way to fulfilling your dreams. It took me slightly longer to achieve my dream of working with wildlife, and at times I thought it may never happen, but now I have been through the hardest part, I would not have it any other way. I have learned through first-hand experience, that no matter what you want, if you set your mind to it, you can achieve it.

You also never quite know what is around the next corner, and as many of my friends predicted before I even left for Botswana in 2013, I am now looking forward to planning my wedding after becoming engaged on 18 December 2014 to Robert Barber, the owner and founder of Golden Africa.

For further information on Golden Africa safaris please visit [www.golden-africa.com](http://www.golden-africa.com). There is a 10% discount for Old Girls.



# MATERIAL PHARMACY

## SARAH DA COSTA (NÉE BUTCHER)

'Can we engineer therapeutic properties to soft surfaces for disease prevention?' - Class of 1985

**E**xploring the current bio-technology of 'microencapsulation', or rather, the embedding of a drug within a textile, I am interested in how soft surfaces could be used as an alternative to existing, conventional modes of drug delivery for disease prevention.

Working closely with Dr. Ipsita Roy, UK reader of Microbial Biotechnology at the University of Westminster, I have developed a bra for young women prone to developing breast cancer that has the drug Tamoxifen micro-encapsulated within it.

By developing a bio-polymer and embedding it within a bra, it is now possible to deliver the effective drug Tamoxifen through skin contact, which not only enables us to deliver the treatment at the core site, but also helps young women avoid the potential traumatic side effects of the drug when taken orally.

With this first proof of concept I aim to design a material archive of medical wearables alongside in vitro skin model research laboratory work.

The WSHA Bursary helped a great deal towards the cost of early morning commutes to London, also the contribution to the final MA 'Material Future' Show and was very useful for my input to the Catalogue.

[materialfutures.com/graduates/2014-2/sarah-da-costa](http://materialfutures.com/graduates/2014-2/sarah-da-costa)

Following this I have presented at the London Design Festival for 'Restless Futures' in their 'Disruptive Technology' section and also The Royal Society of Medicine as 'Medical Innovator' for 'Better is possible' NHS England as well as in Brussels for 'Textiles for an Ageing Society'(TAGS).

I have had citations in 'The Times,' 'The Daily Mail Online' as well as interviews with 'Wearable Technology' and 'Sky TV Italia's design series' (Vimeo).

I am currently working on seven of nineteen projects by TAGS where I hope to lead on the biomedical/design interface in soft surface behaviour and early intervention of best-practice micro encapsulated drugs for dementia which is very exciting as it will involve us collaborating also with The University of Innsbruck.

Sadly there is no funding at present to continue the drug elution and kinetics studies for 'Foxleaf' and Tamoxifen but I am continuing in my pursuit of Wellcome!

[materialfutures.com](http://materialfutures.com)

Photography by Matthais Kerfante and Sophie Rowley





## CHILDREN'S AUTHOR ANNABEL CLARIDGE

Teenage detective fights against poachers - Class of 1973



**W**hen I was at Woldingham, English was taught by our fantastic head, Pru Wilson. We also had an amazing history teacher (Miss Pooley). This combination might explain why I love these subjects so much, and why my first three children's books are about a time-travelling poodle.



The Rhino Farm is what's known in publishing as a YA, or young adult, novel, but it's really for teens and above, including adults, young and old. It's an adventure/detective story about a teenage boy, the son of a vet, whose holiday in Africa becomes a fight against poachers. I had to do a lot of research into veterinary

practice, bush planes, Huey helicopters, rhinos, and of course the poachers and the markets they supply.

My hope is that those who read the book will see what the market for rhino horn means for these fabulous animals. They might then be inspired to spread the word through social media, influential friends, whatever and whoever can make these sons and daughters of billionaires rethink their behaviour and halt the rise in demand. Without that, the rhino is heading for extinction.

You can order The Rhino Farm in paperback from any UK bookshop.

ISBN: 9780993194405

It's also downloadable from Amazon and iTunes, and you can see more about it, me, and my visits to schools at [www.therhinofarm.co.uk](http://www.therhinofarm.co.uk)

## FULFILLING A DREAM SOPHIE PLOWDEN

Writing a children's book - Class of 1985



**I've fulfilled my dream - I've written a children's book. Just typing that sentence has made my fingertips tingle. It's about a boy who finds a magic feather - he soon discovers that he can draw with it and that whatever he draws comes to life.**

But there's one problem: Jack's not very good at drawing and very soon, he's created chaos. What saves him is learning the value of friendship (I'm still in touch with the Class of '85 today) and self-belief. This is something that Mrs Keating, my art teacher at Woldingham, instilled in me. In fact, I'm now an art teacher myself. I was so sorry when I learnt she had died prematurely.

Of course Woldingham taught me many other things too: how to blur truth and fiction convincingly from an early age, that life can be enjoyable despite the constraints of authority and that an evening without alcohol can be fun, but a washing-up bowl of apple liqueur brewed under the floorboards certainly helps.

'Jack Dash & the Magic Feather' by Sophie Plowden is published on 10 September 2015.

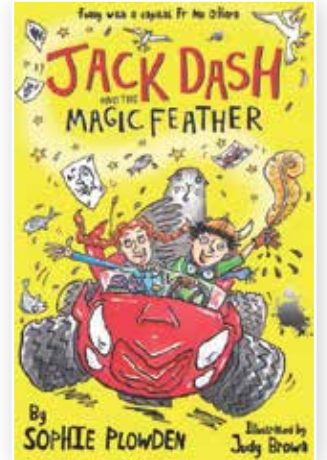


Illustration by Judy Brown



# WOLDINGHAM OLD GIRLS' DAY

Sunday 10 May 2015

**W**e were delighted to welcome back over 130 alumnae and their families, to our annual Old Girls' Day on Sunday 10 May. Past staff, sisters from the Sacred Heart and even a few grandparents joined us.

The day started with Mass, which was held in the Chapel again this year and proved extremely popular. Many of the current girls had to stand as it was so busy. We were delighted to be able to organise a live streaming of the Mass, which could be watched by Alumnae across the world. We had comments from the Isle of Man and Australia saying how much they enjoyed watching it and feeling that they were part of the day.

Everyone then walked up to Marden for the opening of the new Sacred Heart Garden. Fr Gerry Devlin, current Chaplain and Priest-in-Residence, gave a lovely blessing and dedication to the new sculpture that had been donated by the School to the Sacred Heart Sisters.

All our guests enjoyed a fantastic lunch in Marden dining room, before heading back to main house for an afternoon of school tours, childrens' entertainment, the AGM, afternoon tea and reunions.

With nearly 100 children this year, we had face painters, craft activities, a bouncy castle, sumo, circus skills and music. They were all kept busy while the alumnae could catch up with friends and look around the school again.

The classes of 2010, 1995 and 1985 held their reunions at the event and were very well attended, some reuniting for the first time in 30 years! The 1995 reunion attracted over 50, with some having travelled from Singapore, Luxembourg, Australia, Thailand and New York.

**It was a fantastic day and we hope to see you at the next Old Girls' Day, on Sunday 8 May 2016.**





## WOLDINGHAM LEAVERS OF 1985

By Facey Williams (née Edwards)

**F**or our 30 year reunion we arranged an evening in London the night before Old Girls' Day in May. We had 29 people come from all parts of the world, including Australia, Canada, Spain and the States. It was fantastic to see everyone again who had all made such a great effort to be there.

It was as if no time had passed, we laughed and laughed and were eventually thrown out of the pub at closing time all, promising to meet again before another 10 years had passed.

On the Sunday we went down to School for Mass, lunch and a tour and again spent hours talking about which rooms we'd had and how things looked different but the smells were still the same!



## WOLDINGHAM LEAVERS OF 1995

By Ping Ong-Coates (née Ong)

**W**hat a great turnout! We had more than 45 girls and their families in attendance! A total headcount of 145! I don't think Woldingham has ever had such a big turnout, and we should be proud of that!

We had art and crafts, face painting, a bouncy castle and Sumo wrestling to keep the little ones busy. The caterer (who has been there since we were in school) provided a delicious meal and we all commented that the food has improved immensely! The Woldingham school grounds are as beautiful and peaceful as ever. I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to spend my formative years in such an inspiring environment.

Thank you to everyone for making the effort to attend our 20 year reunion on Old Girls' day 2015. Girls and their families coming from all around the UK, and many flying internationally to make the day special. Gibraltar, Spain, New York, South Africa, Singapore. I think that covers it. We missed those of you who couldn't make it and we hope you'll keep in touch. Someone said she was nervous she might not be recognised, but did we really need the name tags? I think not! It was wonderful to see all the familiar faces and even better to see that the friendships we made at Woldingham have lasted two decades and many more to come. There is something extraordinary about spending so much time living, studying and playing together. The shared experiences and the bonds we formed will always be there. In most cases, the days are long but the years fly by - I can't believe it's been 20 years since we left. The hours that we spent together on Old Girls' Day were nowhere near long enough for a catch up and I was sad to leave. We may have a few wrinkles, but we also have wisdom, poise, confidence, warmth, happiness, many accomplishments and lots of children between us. Most importantly friendships through a lifetime. Looking forward to seeing you all again at the 30 year reunion and hopefully before that!



# WOLDINGHAM LEAVERS OF 2010

By Claudia Blunt

**T**riumphant turnout from Class of 2010. An absolutely spectacular day, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Very lucky to have an expert tour guide in Natalie Bubbear who was finishing up her last term on the Wold staff (frightfully grown up). We all so enjoyed seeing the various re-vamped bits of Marden and the snazzy exam halls. Gone are the days of radiators being violently pulled from the walls in all too raucous socials!

Of course, having only recently exited the valley ourselves we loved the chance to don the sumo wrestling outfits and overly enthusiastically take on the bouncy castle. The inner child in all of us came out swiftly. And Izzy Stoker and I enjoyed a hugely fast paced sumo wrestling contest which we both got a little too carried away with.

We were thrilled that Yasmine Grech managed to join us all the way from Malta as envoy to Semira Tabone Grech - we are even more excited to learn in the last few days of Simi's engagement to lovely Mo, making her the first in our year with a ring on! So, so many congratulations.

More details to follow on Part 2 of the Five Year Meet Up. Please email all enquiries to [blunt.claudia@gmail.com](mailto:blunt.claudia@gmail.com) or via Facebook.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1954-1964 Reunion

8 October 2015 - The Bridge, Barnes  
For further details please contact Fiona Wright on **01273 842131** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### Year Rep Meeting 2015

8 October 2015 - The Anchor, Southbank  
For further details please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### Careers Fair 2015

14 October 2015, 4.30 - 8.00pm - Woldingham School  
For further details please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### Christmas Carol Service 2015

7 December 2015 - Westminster Cathedral.  
There will be a drinks reception afterwards at the Horseferry Road TA Centre.  
For further details please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### Old Girls' Day 2016

8 May 2016 - Woldingham School  
For further details please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### 10 Year Reunion - Class of 2006

Details to be confirmed  
For further details, please contact Celina Kelly on [celinakelly@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:celinakelly@hotmail.co.uk) or Abbie Mills on [abbie.mills@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.mills@icloud.com)

### 20 Year Reunion - Class of 1996

Details to be confirmed  
For further details, please contact Samantha Williams on [samantha@fourcornersmktg.com](mailto:samantha@fourcornersmktg.com)

### 30 Year Reunion - Class of 1986

May 2016 - details to be confirmed  
For further details, please contact Liz Drury on [liz.drury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liz.drury@hotmail.co.uk) or Lizzy McCarthy on [mustardandliz@btinternet.com](mailto:mustardandliz@btinternet.com)

### 40 Year Reunion - Class of 1976

Details to be confirmed  
For further details please contact Katie Hogben on **01883 654307** or email [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

### 50 Year Reunion - Class of 1966

Reunion in May, date and location to be confirmed.  
For further details, please contact Fiona Roberts-Miller on [fiona@roberts-miller.co.uk](mailto:fiona@roberts-miller.co.uk)



## Marden Park

*Your own country mansion for a day*

Marden Park's magnificent mansion and elegant function rooms are available for weddings, christenings, parties and formal functions. As a member of the alumnae you are eligible for a **25% discount** on venue hire. The chapel creates a romantic setting for Catholic ceremonies, whilst the stunning rooms are licensed for civil ceremonies and provide the perfect Surrey wedding venue. Exclusively your own country mansion for a day, including a professional in-house catering team, fully licensed bar and no corkage charges.

For availability phone **01883 654185** or email [venuehire@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:venuehire@woldinghamschool.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/WoldinghamSchoolEvents](http://www.facebook.com/WoldinghamSchoolEvents)  
[www.pinterest.com/mardenintltd](http://www.pinterest.com/mardenintltd)



# WOLDINGHAM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Central Hall Westminster, Monday 8 December 2014

**W**oldingham School held its annual Christmas carol service on Monday 8 December 2014. Held for the first time at Central Hall Westminster, this magnificent venue lent itself perfectly to the service, led by the choir and orchestra.

Woldingham School was joined by the choirs of St Francis Catholic Primary School in Caterham and Beechwood Sacred Heart School, Tunbridge Wells. The singing and orchestral playing was outstanding and moving at times and the congregation of students, alumnae, parents and guests was able to participate and engage fully, having a full view of the service from wherever they were seated.

The service was followed with a drinks reception, also at Central Hall. Many alumnae enjoyed the festivities along with current students, staff and parents. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for alumnae to reunite as well as meet with current parents and staff.

**We hope to see you at this year's carol service on Monday 7 December at 2.00pm; to be held at Westminster Cathedral, followed by a drinks reception at Horseferry Road TA Centre.**





# SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

By Sr Monica McGreal

**T**he events of the past few months have been very much a mixture of looking back and remembering, and of looking forward, preparing.

Having completed her noviciate, Siobhan Burke made her First Vows on 11 April in the chapel of the community house at Hayes. She was joined for the celebration by family, RSCJ, friends and parishioners and, during the ceremony, was missioned to the community in Newcastle.

After some years of increasing frailty, Sister Denise Calder died on 20 April in Duchesne House, where she had been cared for with great kindness and understanding. Denise qualified as a teacher at Digby Stuart College, Roehampton and later, having joined the Society, spent a total of ten years teaching in Uganda and a year working in a refugee camp in Congo. Much of her work in this country was involved with issues of environmental justice and in the area of Justice and Peace.

On 25 May we marked the 150th anniversary of the death of St Madeleine Sophie - after whom Barat House was named. Sophie was 'a woman of God for the world'. Her experience of the violence of the French Revolution led her to found the Society of the Sacred Heart and to give a leadership that was centred on the love of God shown in the Heart of Christ.

During the course of this year five, members of the Province will celebrate their Golden Jubilee. When they joined the Society, the noviciate was at Woldingham and remained there until 1970. Of the five, Anne McCarthy stayed at Woldingham after her First Vows and taught in the school for some years.



In the Summer the community will be leaving Oxford where, since 1929, the Province has run a student hostel. This was originally set up as a House of Studies for student nuns attending the university and then became a hostel for post-graduate students from different parts of the world, different faith traditions and cultures. For many of them it became home-from-home and for some it was where they met their future partner in life.

Preparations are now getting under way in all parts of the Society for the General Chapter which is to be held in 2016. The theme chosen is: 'Life unfolding... Mission for the emerging Future.'



# AMASC REPORT

## SACRED HEART ALUMNI

The XV AMASC World Congress in Scottsdale, Phoenix, Arizona  
6 - 9 November 2014, report by Anna Clark (1955)

**T**he XVth World Congress took place in Phoenix Arizona at the end of last year. Alumni from all over the world attended as The United States prepared to hand over the administration of the Association to Mexico for the next four years. England and Wales were represented by our National AMASC member, Yasko Kurahachi, who lives in London but is an alumna from Tokyo. Yasko writes:

"It was the most amazing experience for me to attend the Congress in Scottsdale, as not only was I the only member from the UK but also being Japanese and appointed by Elisabeth McCausland, President of England and Wales to be her proxy holder. It was certainly a huge responsibility to take any decision upon the items on the agenda on behalf of the National President and as election of the Emeritae Members on the final day of the Congress was such memorable moment for me. Our former President, Gillie Collyer was selected as emeritae member of AMASC for her invaluable support and selfless service during these years. There was full applause from each member of the Congress and it was a great privilege to be present among other delegates. I also took part in the voting for the new World President – Marisa Moreno de Malcher from Mexico who together with her newly elected team will guide AMASC for the next four years to the Congress to be held in Mexico in 2018.

The first day started with National Presidents' Meeting, including reports from the treasurer, criteria for Emeritae Members, Stamp Fund Policy, Criteria for submission of website reports and newsletter articles.

After the Meetings, we attended the Opening Liturgy where representatives from each country carried their national flags and I, representing the UK, processed in with the Union Jack flag. Pamela Snyder, the out-going AMASC President said that this was the great thing and "being with one heart" was what the theme of AMASC was all about.

On the second day, reports of AMASC Board Members were delivered and panel presentation of Young AMASC and reports of the study plan on listening with one heart to the concern of others. Sister Conran, the Superior General of the Sacred Heart also gave a report as did Pam Snyder, Paola del Prete, the European Coordinator along with the other continental coordinators. The presentations included one on discernment, social awareness and reflection. Another entitled Healthy Waters – a global institution.

On the final day, there was election of the Emeritae Members and Presidential Team and Board Members. Marisa Moreno de Malcher was elected as the new world President President and the 2018 AMASC World Conference will be held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. The theme for the current mandate is the Legacy of Madeleine Sophie.



It was a long way to travel to Arizona for a short time but those three days I spent together with other alumni were memorable and I highly recommend young alumni to join the Conference in four years' time."

The project for the next mandate is a school, Villa Jardin, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. See website for information on the AMASC website. Besides the AMASC hospitality network [www.tripping.com](http://www.tripping.com) has just been launched. Young AMASC is also on Facebook.

Although the membership of AMASC, England was diminishing, with just 35 paid up members, it continued to organize two lunch meetings at The Hurlingham Club during the year and welcomed any WSHA members to attend these events.

Elisabeth McCausland has stepped down as President, owing to family commitments but will remain on the committee. Gilly Collyer has kindly taken over from Elisabeth. The other committee members are Anna Clark, Treasurer, Yasko Kurahachi, Ann-Marie Tighe and Anne Motion.



# WSHA'S ENTREPRENEURS BUSINESS NETWORK

**W**oldingham girls go on to pursue a variety of careers. Many have a strong entrepreneurial streak and start their own businesses. We are keen to share and promote our alumnae businesses within the community.

If you would like your website mentioned in this directory and on our website, please send the appropriate details to the Alumnae Development Officer at [alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

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

## Alice Abel Smith (1979)

Handmade decorative bookbinding  
[www.alisonabelsmith.co.uk](http://www.alisonabelsmith.co.uk)  
T: 01865 515317  
E: [info@alisonabelsmith.co.uk](mailto:info@alisonabelsmith.co.uk)

## Giulia Adams (1982)

Interior design service  
[www.gainteriors.com](http://www.gainteriors.com)  
T: 07941 928684  
E: [info@gainteriors.com](mailto:info@gainteriors.com)

## Anna Allen (née Laan, 1992)

PR, marketing and events  
[www.laanassociates.co.uk](http://www.laanassociates.co.uk)  
T: 01908 502626 E: [anna@laanassociates.co.uk](mailto:anna@laanassociates.co.uk)

## Anastasia Baker (née Cooke, 1986)

UK's largest overnight maternity service  
[www.nightnannies.com](http://www.nightnannies.com)  
T: 020 7731 6168  
E: [anastasia@nightnannies.com](mailto:anastasia@nightnannies.com)  
Career counselling and work placements for young people  
[www.internpartnership.com](http://www.internpartnership.com)  
T: 020 7731 1402  
E: [info@internpartnership.com](mailto:info@internpartnership.com)

## Pippa Ball (née Sampson 1990)

Organic hampers  
[www.organichampercompany.com](http://www.organichampercompany.com)  
T: 07813 980353 E: [info@organichampercompany.com](mailto:info@organichampercompany.com)

## Amanda Baer (née Rooney, 1977)

Wedding and party planner  
T: 01424 892089 or 07702 919410  
E: [amandabee123@aol.com](mailto:amandabee123@aol.com)  
Facebook: Amanda Baer Events

## Sarah Bell (1979)

Technical consultancy and vine nursery  
[www.seabass.co.uk](http://www.seabass.co.uk)  
[www.sunnybankvines.co.uk](http://www.sunnybankvines.co.uk)  
T: 01981 240420 E: [sarah.bell@seabass.co.uk](mailto:sarah.bell@seabass.co.uk)

## Sarah Bird (née Wheatley, 1991)

Interior design  
T: 07973 198474 E: [sarah.dagley@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.dagley@gmail.com)

## Katherine Braine (1982)

Jewellery designers  
[www.leggeandbraine.com](http://www.leggeandbraine.com)  
T: 020 7351 2618 E: [katebraine@hotmail.com](mailto:katebraine@hotmail.com)

## Olivia Buckland (née Ayrton-Grime, 1982)

Faux floral displays  
[www.flowerstokeep.com](http://www.flowerstokeep.com)  
T: 07710 232425 E: [olivia@flowerstokeep.com](mailto:olivia@flowerstokeep.com)

## Caroline Cain (1994)

Business mentor for coaches and consultants  
[www.carolinecain.com](http://www.carolinecain.com) E: [caroline@carolinecain.com](mailto:caroline@carolinecain.com)

## Jane Carroll (1980)

Children's products  
[www.janecarrolldesign.com](http://www.janecarrolldesign.com)  
T: +353 1 2108771 E: [info@janecarrolldesign.com](mailto:info@janecarrolldesign.com)

## Kirsten Cavendish Weston Smith (née St Blaize Molony, 1977)

Film director  
[www.cavendishfante.com](http://www.cavendishfante.com)  
T: +1 310 230 5048  
E: [kirsten@cavendishfante.com](mailto:kirsten@cavendishfante.com)

## Ginette Lytton Cobbold (née Keigher, 1978)

Elizabeth Lytton - The Hotel Alternative  
Short term stays in beautiful London homes.  
[www.elizabethlytton.co.uk](http://www.elizabethlytton.co.uk)  
T: 07538 941113 (UK)  
E: [ginette@elizabethlytton.co.uk](mailto:ginette@elizabethlytton.co.uk)

## Thea Courtney (1991)

Photographer  
[www.cocoaajones.co.uk](http://www.cocoaajones.co.uk)  
E: [thea@cocoaajones.co.uk](mailto:thea@cocoaajones.co.uk)

## Neisha Crosland (1978)

Textile and surface pattern designer  
[www.neishacrosland.com](http://www.neishacrosland.com)  
T: 020 7657 1150 E: [info@neishacrosland.com](mailto:info@neishacrosland.com)

## Patricia Davidson (1973)

Website review site  
[www.thesiteguide.com](http://www.thesiteguide.com)  
E: [phd@thesiteguide.com](mailto:phd@thesiteguide.com)

## Dr Jacqui Dodds (1964)

Buddhist psychotherapist and accredited clinical mental health social worker  
[www.EastWestWisdoms.com](http://www.EastWestWisdoms.com)  
E: [jacqui@eastwestwisdoms.com](mailto:jacqui@eastwestwisdoms.com)

## Anna Eden (1997)

CEO of The Classic Cupcake Co.  
[www.theccc.com.au](http://www.theccc.com.au)  
T: +61 2 8091 5222 E: [info@theccc.com.au](mailto:info@theccc.com.au)

## Charlotte Fleming (1972)

Freelance copy writer  
[www.greatcopy.info](http://www.greatcopy.info)  
T: 01307 830331 E: [charlotte@greatcopy.info](mailto:charlotte@greatcopy.info)

## Lizzie Floyd (née Hodson, 1950)

Driftwood sculptures  
T: 01749 672737  
E: [canttypelizzie@gmail.com](mailto:canttypelizzie@gmail.com)

## Caroline Gardner (née Schenk, 1981)

Greeting card and stationery designers  
[www.carolinegardner.com](http://www.carolinegardner.com)  
T: 0845 111 8080  
E: [info@carolinegardner.com](mailto:info@carolinegardner.com)

## Catherine Garratt (1979)

Handcrafted solid wood shutters  
[www.tnesc.co.uk](http://www.tnesc.co.uk)  
T: 020 8675 1099 E: [enquiries@tnesc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tnesc.co.uk)

## Melita Glaister (née Hely-Hutchinson, 1980)

Alresford Linen Company  
Beautiful gifts and homeware, incorporating the finest Dry Cleaners in Hampshire  
[www.alresfordlinen.co.uk](http://www.alresfordlinen.co.uk)  
T: 01962 734221 E: [info@alresfordlinen.co.uk](mailto:info@alresfordlinen.co.uk)  
The White House  
The official residence of beautiful bridal wear  
[www.whitehousebrides.co.uk](http://www.whitehousebrides.co.uk)  
T: 01962 738608 E: [hello@whitehousebrides.co.uk](mailto:hello@whitehousebrides.co.uk)  
No. 42  
Ladies clothes shop  
[www.42weststreet.co.uk](http://www.42weststreet.co.uk)  
T: 01962 733242 E: [sales@42weststreet.co.uk](mailto:sales@42weststreet.co.uk)

## Louise Goldie (1981)

Yacht club  
[www.tollesburycc.co.uk](http://www.tollesburycc.co.uk)  
T: 01621 869561 E: [secretary@tollesburycc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tollesburycc.co.uk)

## Gemma Goodfellow (née Windibank, 1999)

Florists  
[www.whiteirisflowers.co.uk](http://www.whiteirisflowers.co.uk)  
T: 07855 483868 E: [info@whiteirisflowers.co.uk](mailto:info@whiteirisflowers.co.uk)

## Katharine Gray (1986)

Christian friendship service  
[www.friends1st.co.uk](http://www.friends1st.co.uk)  
T: 0121 371 0384 E: [info@friends1st.co.uk](mailto:info@friends1st.co.uk)



### Diana Greenhalgh (née Macleod, 1999)

Affordable online interior design  
www.mybespokeroom.com  
T: 07961 366185 E: theteam@mybespokeroom.com

### Eloise Grey (1986)

Fine ethical clothing  
www.eloisegrey.com  
T: 07910 963737 E: contact@eloisegrey.com

### Jane Hamerton (1977)

Gorgeous, personalised towels and dressing gowns  
www.janehamerton.com  
T: 01473 405993 E: jane@janehamerton.com

### Susanna Hammond (1985)

Home organisation and storage design  
www.sortedliving.co.uk  
T: 07855 304 570 E: info@sortedliving.co.uk

### Kate Hely-Hutchinson (1980)

High quality leather bean bags  
www.theddbag.co.uk  
T: 01732 700214 E: enquiries@theddbag.co.uk

### Alice Hues (Glover 2001)

Private tuition and specialist learning support  
www.greatmindstuition.com  
T: 020 7738 2067 E: alice@greatmindstuition.com

### Collette Hutchinson (1999)

Bespoke garden maintenance and landscaping company  
www.giftedgardening.co.uk  
T: 07814 942602 E: mike@giftedgardening.co.uk

### Susannah Jayes (1984)

Picture editor and researcher  
www.picture-researcher.com  
E: mail@picture-researcher.com

### Linda Jones (1977)

Jewellery designer  
www.wirejewellery.co.uk  
T: 01732 850727 E: linda.jones@wirejewellery.co.uk

### Vivienne Jones (1995)

Design agency  
www.jcreative.co.uk  
T: 01494 676378  
E: vivienne@jcreative.co.uk

### Pippa Kearon (1985)

Lighting designs  
www.pippakearon.com  
T: +353 066 9479173  
E: pippakearon@hotmail.com

### Ursula Keeling (1980)

Mi Cuit Foie Gras  
www.foiegrasdirect.co.uk  
E: info@foiegrasdirect.co.uk

### Katy Keen (1985)

Graphic artist and illustrator  
www.katykeen.com  
T: +1 518 231 0093  
E: kathy@katykeen.com

### Georgina King (Garnett, 1977)

Chambres d'Hotes  
www.labordeneuve.net  
T: +33 (0)5 65 22 61 68  
E: labordeneuve.cezac@gmail.com

### Giulia Landor (1973)

Yoga retreat centre  
www.insabina.com  
T: +39 340 3876028  
E: insabina@gmail.com

### Gina Landor (1974)

Arts charity  
mymlaz.blogspot.co.uk  
E: my.mlaz@gmail.com

### Jenifer Landor (1975)

Interior design and project management  
www.landordesign.co.uk/  
T: 07771 750189 E: jenifer@landordesign.co.uk

### Jo Lawrence (1990)

Plumbing service  
www.pinkplumbers.com  
T: 0845 1 668 336 E: info@pinkplumbers.com

### Ellen Leslie (1986)

Historic buildings researcher  
www.ellenleslie.com  
T: 07914 353542 E: info@ellenleslie.com

### Corinna Liddell-Gordon (1969)

Jewellery designer  
www.spenderella.com  
T: +1 805 453 2929 E: corinna@spenderella.com  
Interior Design  
www.corinnagordon.com  
T: +1 805 453 2929 E: corinna@corinnagordon.com  
Miniatures  
www.miniaturelifestyles.com  
T: +1 805 453 2929 E: corinna@miniaturelifestyles.com

### Kristina Locke (1988)

www.consciousfood.co.uk  
T: 020 7720 7099 E: info@consciousfood.co.uk

### Caroline Lowsley-Williams (1980)

Chavenage House  
www.chavenage.com  
T: 01666 502329  
E: Caroline@chavenage.com/ info@chavenage.com

### Camilla Mair (née Davenport, 1988)

Weddings, fine dining and cooks for holidays  
www.athomefinedining.com  
T: 01342 834727 E: info@athomefinedining.com

### Scarlett MacEwen (née Hancock, 1999)

Boutique catering  
www.scarlettspantry.co.uk  
T: 07733 226619 E: scarlett@scarlettspantry.co.uk

### Catharine Mayes (née Barker, 1994)

Baby and children's clothes  
www.willandsam.co.uk E: catherine@willandsam.co.uk

### Victoria and Sylvia Melian Randolph

Interior design service  
www.melianrandolph.com  
T: +34 91 319 4096 E: info@melianrandolph.es

### Tara Meran (née Freeland, 1996)

Maternity clothing  
www.slacksandco.com  
T: 07961 127359 E: info@slacksandco.com

### Jennifer Metcalfe (1973)

Bed and breakfast  
www.theoldpostcottage.com  
T: 01280 860214 E: info@theoldpostcottage.co.uk

### Pollyanna Montagu (1999)

Stationery products  
www.harmsworthfs.com  
T: 01264 811771 or 07773 797271  
E: info@harmsworthfs.com

### Mary Anne Nelson (née Martyn-Hemphill, 1976)

Unique Bed & Breakfast (Bed & Fed)  
www.petercott.com  
T: 01749 860125 E: maryanne@petercott.com

### Kelly Jane Noades (1997)

Family photography  
www.kjphotographic.com  
T: 07771 648111 E: kjphotographic@mac.com

### Rebecca Nokes (2010)

British print label  
www.ournokes.com E: rebecca@ournokes.co.uk

### Katherine North (née Foster, 1980)

Oak furniture and lamp design  
www.katherinenorthdesign.co.uk  
T: 01892 784847 E: katherine@katherinenorthdesign.com

### Ping Ong-Coates (née Ong, 1995)

Personalized children's clothing  
www.funkyfrog.com.sg  
E: sales@funkyfrog.com



### Tina Oloyede (née Joyce, 1982)

Holiday house  
www.southwestfranceholidayhouse.com  
T: +44 16 91 61 01 63 E: owner@leverger.me.uk

### Marisa Orchard (née Lesser, 1981)

Luxury handmade leather goods  
www.estados.co.uk  
T: 0800 690 6125  
E: contact@estados.co.uk

### Charlotte Pearl (née Powers, 1995)

Designer baby changing bags  
www.pinklining.com/uk  
T: 020 7034 0035  
E: info@pinklining.com

### Jane Pendered (1980)

French clubs for children, adult classes and private lessons  
www.lcfclubs.com/janependered  
T: 01580 292560 or 07789 505515  
E: jane.pendered@me.com  
Pendy's Patch – Gardening courses  
www.pendyspatch.blogspot.com  
T: 01580 292560 or 07789 505515  
E: jane.pendered@me.com

### Jane Pittaway (1980)

Luxury boutique hotel  
www.riad-hikaya.com  
T: 07718 479962  
E: Janepittaway@hotmail.co.uk

### Sophie Plender (2004)

Gallery manager  
T: 07771 717854  
E: sophie.plender@network.rca.ac.uk

### Natasha Roberts (née Calow, 1988)

Personalised gifts for all the family  
www.darlinganddarling.com  
T: 07879 992373  
E: natasha@darlinganddarling.co.uk

### Beth Roberts-Miller (1995)

Freelance makeup artist  
www.bethrobertsmiller.co.uk  
E: bethrm@mac.com

### Hanna Showell (née Dartnall, 2000)

Confident cycling service  
www.cycleconfident.com  
T: 0203 031 6730 E: contact@cycleconfident.com  
Baby to pre-schooler club  
www.getmessyclub.com  
M: 07771 641056

### Elizabeth Sieff (1994)

Luxury lifestyle privilege card  
www.littleemperors.com  
T: 0203 1784984  
E: info@littleemperors.com

### Penny Simpson (1966)

Artist  
www.paintedthoughts.co.uk  
T: 01452 279167 E: penny@paintedthoughts.co.uk

### Pippa Slack (née Smith, 1990)

Osteopath  
www.penarthosteopaths.co.uk  
T: 029 2070 8350 E: Pippa@PenarthOsteopaths.co.uk

### Alexandra Stephens (1994)

Translation service  
www.alexandrastephens.com  
T: +34 630 341 752 E: info@alexandrastephens.com

### Rosanna Stevens (2003)

Senior events manager  
www.eno.org  
T: 020 7845 9418 E: rstevens@eno.org

### Laura Sturgess (née Sefi, 1990)

Bespoke picture framing service  
www.quantockframeworks.com  
T: 07825 489798  
E: laura@quantockframeworks.com

### Candide Turner-Bridger (née Durnford, 1977)

Fine artist  
www.candideturnerbridger.com  
E: candideturnerbridger2010@hotmail.co.uk  
or turnerbridger@hotmail.com

### Katrina Trotter (née Milne Home, 1997)

Tailormade luxury holidays  
www.katrinatrottertravel.com  
T: 07990 618307  
E: katrina@katrinatrottertravel.com

### Henrietta Ussher (1985)

Children's nursery 2-5 years  
www.childrenshouseoxford.co.uk  
T: 01865 748765 E: mail@childrenshouseoxford.co.uk

### Sophia Wadsworth (1984)

Interior design service  
www.sophiawadsworthinteriors.co.uk  
T: 01580 240470 or 07885 100290  
E: enquire@sophiawadsworthinteriors.co.uk

### Charlie Webb (née Cottrell, 2000)

Online wishlist  
www.thegreedybook.co.uk  
E: charlie@thegreedybook.co.uk

### Clare Whitehead (1974)

Holiday cottage and art courses  
www.broadleyfarm.com  
and www.llanthonyart.co.uk  
T: 01873 890343

### Jo Whitworth (1975)

Garden photography  
www.whitworthgardenphotos.co.uk  
T: 01264 738074 E: jo@whitworthgardenphotos.co.uk

### Samantha Wickham (1991)

Fruitcake company  
www.thefabulousfruitcakecompany.co.uk  
T: 07867 778326  
E: info@thefabulousfruitcakecompany.co.uk

### Samantha Wickham (1991)

Holiday choral courses for children  
www.theoxfordandcambridgesingingschool.co.uk  
T: 07867 778326  
E: wickhamsamantha@yahoo.com

### Fiona Worthington (1977)

Verbier based ski company  
www.divaski.com  
T: 020 8748 6995  
E: info@divaski.com

### Marilu Wren (née Adams, 1987)

Outdoor living and beach products  
www.devonbeachcompany.com  
T: 01548 312700  
E: marilu@devonbeachcompany.com

### Tessa Zundel (née Found, 1981)

Interior design service  
www.ladderbackinteriors.com  
T: 07803 004729  
E: tessazundel@aol.com



## WOLDINGHAM WEDDINGS



Alexandra and Edward Grant



Nathalie and  
George Mawdsley



Faye and David Birrell

**Faye (née Bowden, 2005)** married David Birrell on 28 June 2014 at St Mary's, Speldhurst, followed by a reception at Honnington Farm, Tunbridge Wells.

**Louise (née Leigh, 2004)** married Andrew Ingham on 9 August 2014 in North Yorkshire, Harrogate, which is now where they live.

**Alexandra (née Justins, 2004)** married Edward Grant on 9 August 2014 at St Mary's Church in Wimbledon, followed by a reception at Hampton Court Palace. Woldingham girls played a big part in the day, with two being bridesmaids and two doing a reading in the church.

**Nathalie (née Blackburn, 2005)** married George Mawdsley in June 2015 at St Theresa's Church, Beaconsfield.

**Rachelle Grover (2003)** got married on 17 July 2015.



## WOLDINGHAM BIRTHS

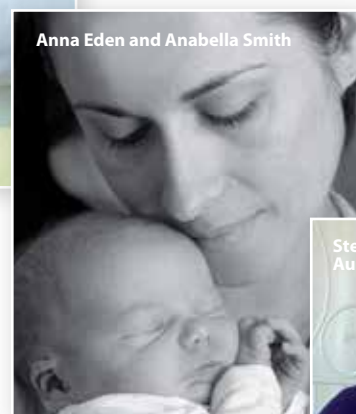
We are pleased to announce the following births:

**Susie (née Hanbury, 1996)** and Alex Hay were delighted to announce the arrival of Edward Jack David, who was born on 16 October 2014. A little brother to Chloe (6) and Billy (4).

**Emma (née Truett, 1996)** and Albert Bong are pleased to announce the arrival of Alice Emma on 2 May 2014, a sister for Olivia.



On 12 June 2015, to **Tamsin (née Sparrow, 1999)** and David Doran, twins, Montgomery Edward John and Scarlett Isabella Frances.



Anna Eden and Anabella Smith

Anabella Juliette Smith born to **Anna Eden (1997)** and Sean Smith on 3 May 2015. She joins her sister Olivia Claire-Louise.

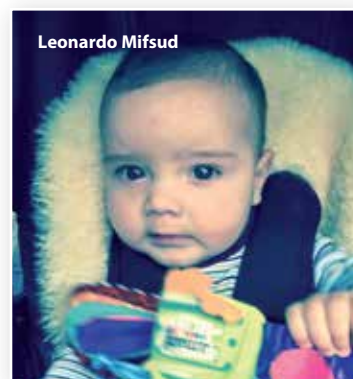


Alice Bong



Stella, Nicholas and Aurelia Mullineux

**Stella (née Shorland Ball, 2000)** and Peter Mullineux are pleased to announce the birth of Aurelia Mary Anne, on 21 July 2015, a sister for Nicholas.



Leonardo Mifsud

**Rosamund (née Hase, 1997)** and Sam Hurst are pleased to announce the arrival of Savannah Juliette Hurst, who was born on 17 October 2014. She arrived slightly earlier than planned at just 26 weeks +1 day weighing a mere 865 grams. After 4 months in hospital she came home at the end of February and continues to go from strength to strength at home.

**Katherine (née Howard, 2002)** and Michael Mifsud welcomed baby Leonardo on 20 February 2015, a brother for Raphael and Lucia.

## WOLDINGHAM IN MEMORIAM

**Alejandra Sanchez Iriondo (2017)** sadly died on 4 July 2014, aged only 13. Alejandra spent a year at Woldingham in 2012. In July 2015, a group of friends had a memorial service in her memory and planted a tree with an engraved plaque.

**Esilda Mezulianik (née Castellanos, 1946)** sadly died, aged 86 in November 2014. She arrived at Stanford Hall when she was 11. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Sadly, **Helen Culleton (née Marcar, 1958)**, died in August 2014. She was Head Girl of Woldingham and left in 1958. She had very happy memories of her days there and enjoyed meeting up with many old friends at the 50th anniversary 2008 reunion of that year group. She was married twice, having two children by her first marriage, Alexis and **Zoe Lefeuvre (née Turner, 1984)**, and one by her second, Louise Culleton.

**Isabel Claire Lougee (née Hutton, 1973)** very sadly passed away on 1 April 2015, aged 59 years. Her daughter, **Hannah Vines (née Lougee, 2002)** was also an Old Girl. Isabel and **Carry Field (née Magill, 1973)** organised the 40th anniversary reunion of their year group in 2013 and Isabel worked tirelessly to put this together. She was a very dear friend and will be greatly missed by family and friends.



Isabel Lougee (Right)

**Maria Elisabeth Goossens-Brenninkmeijer (1954)**, passed away on 9 April 2015. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.



**Victoria Ybarra, Countess de la Maza and Countess de Frigiliana (1953)**, died in Madrid on 13 July 2015. She attended Woldingham with her sisters **Angeles Ybarra (1954)**, **Rocio Ybarra** and **Macarena Ybarra**, and had very fond memories of the school. Victoria married Leopoldo de la Maza, Count de la Maza y de Frigiliana in 1957 and spent her life between Madrid and Moron, Seville, in the country. At different times she was the Vice President of Unicef Spain, Mayor of Moron de la Frontera and Member of the Andalusian Parliament. Victoria's fine daughters, **Cristina de la Maza (1979)**, **Victoria Amory (1981)**, **Almudena de la Maza (1982)**, **Silvia de la Maza (1984)** and **Micaela de la Maza (1987)** also went to Woldingham. Her two sons, Leopoldo and Ignacio did not attend Woldingham.

Family members to whom we extend our condolences :

Keith Francis Patterson Falkner husband of **Sarah-Jane (née Entwistle 1977)** died 27 December 2014, father of Kirsten Frances (2003) and Sophie Jane and great friend of many.

Our thoughts go to Joyce Pollen and her family on the sad death of her husband, Derek. Joyce was a teacher at the school for many years.



# WOLDINGHAM

## SCHOOL YEAR REPS DIRECTORY

Our year reps can help you keep in touch

Year left	Forename	Surname	Maiden name	Email	Phone
1956	Eileen	Gillow		eileengillow@gmail.com	
1957	Catherine	Mackenzie-Smith	Lyons	cmslaw@globalnet.co.uk	01873 268089
1959	Fiona	Wright			01273 842131
1962	Mary	Hargroves	Pertwee	mary_felicity@hotmail.com	020 8788 1091
1962	Patricia	Cave	Lillywhite	patriciacave@talktalk.net	01206 262146
1963	Alison	Cochrane	Aiken	amdaiken@hotmail.com	01890 883799
1964	Virginia	Constable Maxwell	Ewart	v.c.maxwell@btopenworld.com	020 772 07941
1966	Fiona	Roberts-Miller	Deacon	fiona@roberts-miller.co.uk	01306 740851
1969	Frances	Ross	Hunter-Gordon	f.ross1@btinternet.com	01313 327068
1969	Rosalie	Macfarlane		RosalieMac@btinternet.com	020 7385 8293
1970	Georgina	Mellows	Monro	mellows8@hotmail.com	01296 714275
1970	Melony	Collins	de Burgh	melonycollins@mac.com	020 8780 3394
1971	Susan	Adams-Cairns	Foll	ruaraidh@adams-cairns.fsnet.co.uk	020 8674 6879
1972	Clare	Gardner		clare_m_gardner@hotmail.com	020 8442 1268
1973	Carolyn	Field		carry@thefields-home.co.uk	01323 832174
1974	Clare	Jest	Dalglish	clarejest@hotmail.com	020 8740 4179
1976	Vicky	Chitty	Foster	vickychitty@live.co.uk	020 8876 2488
1977	Miranda	Kelly	Macklin	miranda_kelly@hotmail.com	01233 770687
1977	Jane	O'Riordan	Hamerton	janeorior@hotmail.com	01473 716641
1978	Sarah	Heilbron	Godsal	sarahheilbron@btinternet.com	01732 463413
1979	Fiona	Mccgwire	Bisset	bissmccgwire@googlemail.com	01179 497396
1980	Francesca	Potter	Sorby	fettler29@hotmail.com	0034 971872436
1980	Elizabeth	Gross		lizgross@hotmail.co.uk	01483 574518
1981	Sarah	Wrixon	Joyce	sarah.wrixon@salixconsulting.com	
1982	Jackie	Withers	Dennis	jawtennis@aol.com	020 8942 1575
1983	Susan	Rothfield		srothfield2002@yahoo.es	00351 96 424 47 33
1984	Joanna	Wilson	van der Lande	joanna@wilsonvdlade.co.uk	
1984	Harriet	Van Der Lande	Wylie	harrietvdl@btinternet.com	01444 250668
1985	Sarah	Williams	Edwards	faceyw@btinternet.com	01403 891584.
1985	Catherine	Richardson	Vassallo	cathvassallo@aol.com	020 7736 2969
1986	Elizabeth	McCarthy	McKeown	mustardandliz@btinternet.com	01494 773018

Year left	Forename	Surname	Maiden name	Email	Phone
1986	Elizabeth	Drury	Richardson	liz.drury@hotmail.co.uk	01483 729621
1987	Clare	Elwes	Hauptfuhrer	rcturret@googlemail.com	01753 623623
1987	Ingrid	Baxter	Lloyd	bgbaxter@hotmail.com	020 8874 0805
1988	Clare	Nicholson	Sefi	clare.nicholson56@gmail.com	
1989	Jessica	Sykes	Napier	tobyjess@btinternet.com	020 8673 3588
1989	Claire	Boobbyer		claireboobbyer@hotmail.com	
1990	Philippa	Ball	Sampson	truckgirluk@hotmail.com	
1992	Holly	Hamps	Straker	hollyhamps@hotmail.co.uk	01737 223195
1993	Shamira	Fernando		shamirafernando@gmail.com	
1994	Zoe	Hawkins	Cave	zoehawkins2007@hotmail.com	
1994	Suzy	Letheren	Dewar	suzy_dewar@hotmail.com	
1994	Chantal	Shalhoub		babbles07@hotmail.com	
1995	Suzannah	Stow	King	suzannahstow@yahoo.co.uk	07535 696039
1996	Samantha	Williams	Scott	samantha@fourcornersmktg.com	020 8780 3843
1997	Kelly-Jane	Noades		kelsnoades@mac.com	07771 648 111
1997	Georgina	Cave		georgiecave@hotmail.com	
1999	Rosanna	O'Toole		rosieposie38@hotmail.com	
2000	Sophie	Carruth		carruthy@gmail.com	
2000	Eleanor	Beecraft		e_beecraft@hotmail.com	01225 423459
2001	Amelia	Blatherwick		mimiblatherwick@hotmail.com	01732 866377
2002	Emily	Clark		emilyclark28@hotmail.com	
2002	Nicola	Flynn		nicolaflynn26@gmail.com	01483 278700
2003	Gemma	Hall		gemmahall@snuffbottle.com	
2003	Lorna	Barron			020 8789 9487
2003	Charlotte	Scott		CharlotteScott@RFU.com	020 86725422
2004	Georgina	Mew			020 8674 7631
2004	Samantha	Clark	Chitty	chittysamantha@hotmail.com	
2005	Georgina	Hall		g.c.d.hall@gmail.com	020 7720 8703
2005	Georgina	D'Arcy	Everington	Georgina.D'Arcy@jmfinn.com	
2006	Celina	Kelly		celinakelly@hotmail.co.uk	
2006	Abbie	Mills		abbie.mills@icloud.com	
2007	Harriet	Cosh		h.cosh@hotmail.co.uk	01732 866322
2009	Kathryn	Jessup		kj0467@bristol.ac.uk	01342 870788
2010	Isabel	Cobb		issiecobb001@hotmail.com	020 8789 4464
2010	Claudia	Blunt		blunt.claudia@gmail.com	
2010	Lucy	Young		lucy_young003@hotmail.co.uk	
2012	Charlotte	Pearce		charlotte-pearce@hotmail.com	01883 652174
2013	Phillipa	Downs		ps.downs@yahoo.co.uk	
2014	Ali	Hunter		mail@alihunter.com	



*One sees great things  
from the valley; only small  
things from the peak*

G. K. Chesterton