



# **OLD GIRLS**

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**2010-2011**

**THE MAGAZINE OF  
STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
OLD GIRLS GUILD**

# EDITORIAL

Dear All

Thank you all for your interesting articles again this year, mostly music related I know, but I thought a choice might achieve a more varied response.

The dinner at the Mansion House, in London on 1st September was a wonderful celebration at the official home of the Lord Mayor of London, Nick Anstee, who is an Old Boy of Stamford School. The Great Egyptian Hall, where the evening was held looked extremely elegant, with round tables of eight to ten people. Thanks to Alison Eaves for her splendid report on the evening.

Please take time to review the new revised Constitution for the Old Girls Guild towards the back of the magazine. We will be voting on this at the A.G.M. before the Luncheon on 3rd July this year, so please come along if you feel you would like to comment on any of the amendments.

Apologies to the girls of whose names I have misspelt, or in one case, put a girl at a 'Re-union she did not attend'!! Whoops!! At least you are reading the magazine.

Next year the subject suggested is 'Technology – Always the way forward.' This has been suggested by the Committee as we contemplate changes in the world of communication

We do want to hear from anyone who has something to say, so put fingers to the keyboard, pen to paper – whatever you feel is your mode of communication .but let me know about it, please!

I'll take this part of my editorial to thank all the committee for their help in putting the magazine together; Anita passes on all the updated information from the girls attending (or not in some cases) the Reunion luncheon. Thanks to Daisy for collating the newspaper and letters that I can follow up; Jill and husband, Ian, who kindly take all the photos at the Luncheon - I hope I can be there for the next one! Thanks also to my friends and Old Girls who kindly read the proofs before going to print and ensure there are not too many mistakes.

I'd like to end with a big personal thanks to Jill Hamilton, as her help with various aspects of the magazine was invaluable.

**Regards**

**Bev Hopkins, Editor**

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# Committee

## STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' GUILD

### Committee 2010-2011

President: Mrs Y Powell

Honorary President: Mr Stephen Roberts (Principal – Stamford Endowed Schools)

Vice Presidents: Miss G K Bland  
Mrs P Clark  
Miss M L Medcalf  
Miss P A Tennison  
Mrs H M Tourtel

Chairman: Jill Hamilton (Betts)

Vice-Chairman: Claire Colton (Hollis),

Secretary: Anita Trowell

Treasurer: Barbara Hayre (Lilley)

Membership Secretary Anne Brown (Robinson),

Magazine Editor Bev Hopkins (Garwood),

### Committee:

Daisy Temple (Sharpe),

Dawn Gent (Hancock),

Maureen Matthews (Fox-Browne),

Patricia Hargreaves (Sumner),

Juliet Dawson (Samworth),

Iris Harris (Cliff),

Sue Bradford (Bradley),

Ann Bell (Norman),

Denise Speakman (Smith),

Diane Jackson (Jones),

Hilary Read (Woodman),

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Stamford High School Old Girls' Guild held on Saturday, 3 July 2010.**

**Members attending and apologies:** 45 apologies received.

Minutes of AGM 2009 were signed as a true record. Proposed by Claire Colton (Hollis) and seconded by Iris Harris.

**Matters Arising** – None

**President's Address:** See Report.

**Miss Craig's Address:** See Report.

**Chairman's Report:** See Report.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jill presented the report as Barbara was unable to attend the meeting. The accounts were proposed by Ann Turner (Ingram) and seconded by Anita Trowell.

**Election of Officers:**

The vacant position of Vice Chairman will be taken by Claire Colton (Hollis), proposed Anita Trowell and seconded Pat Hargreaves (Sumner). New Committee member Jeannie Reid (Woodman), proposed by Anita Trowell and seconded by Claire Colton (Hollis).

**Any Other Business**

The Headmistress, Mrs Dyl Powell, thanked everyone on the committee for all their hard work in the organisation of Reunion Day.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.20am.



# **AGM Report**

## **by Chairman – Jill Hamilton**

Madam President, Ladies

I'd like to begin by welcoming you all to the lecture theatre for this our 101st year AGM.

I would like to say how pleased I am to welcome you all today. Members have travelled from far and wide to be with us. Numbers for the day are encouraging, with just under 130 for lunch and large numbers for this evening's Barbecue being held on the playing fields at the Boys School.

I'd like to single out a few people who deserve special thanks from us all:

My first thanks go to Iris Harris who has organised all of the tickets for today's events; Iris kindly stepped in and took over the job, hopefully for many years – Thank you Iris.

Next, Clare Colton who has agreed to stand as vice chair to take over as your chair person at the next AGM – I am sure you will be pleased to hear from someone other than me at these speeches.

I would also like to thank Bev Hopkins who can not be here today but does a fantastic job as editor of the magazine.

A special thank you this year to Clare and Anita Trowell, I have been working away from home for the last few weeks and without their help today would have been very difficult for me to organise.

The Committee as ever are loyal and hard working and without them today would not happen.

Thanks to Mrs Dyl Powell, our president, for her continuing support and for the availability of the School today to enable you all to be able to see the changes that have been made and remember your days here and how the School was then.

Also thanks to Libby Craig who each year keeps you up to date with events at the junior school and will be around during lunch. There is an event at the junior school this afternoon, but I am sure if you would like to look at the school Libby will be able to tell you where you can go.

Thanks to Stephen Roberts for the use of Brazenose House for our committee meetings. Stephen is the principle of the endowed schools, he can not be with us at lunch as he is at the boys event, but anyone who has not had the opportunity to meet Stephen and his wife Joanna will be able to at this evenings BBQ.

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Bland and (Miss Tennison) to this year's event, both are always enthusiastic supporters of the Guild.

If anyone is able to help in any way with the Guild we would be delighted to hear from you, all the Committee's phone numbers are in the magazine, phone any one of us.

Penny Tinkler and the Catering staff and Ian Hall and the caretaking staff have yet again worked hard on our behalf and I am sure that you will enjoy the day.

It is Penny's first year in charge of the catering and I am sure that if you enjoy lunch she would be pleased to hear your comments. Your committee has again had a number of meetings with the Old Stamfordians and tonight's barbecue looks like being a successful joint event. We must all look to the future and remember that the 6th form of the Endowed Schools is now mixed.

Once again I commend the Foundation Trust to you, if you are unsure of the trust Rachael will be with us today and will be happy to explain about the Trust.

I wish Stamford Endowed Schools a very successful 2010 – 2011,

May Christ us Spede.

# Chairman's Address

by Jill Hamilton

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen

Last year I was able to congratulate the Guild on reaching 100 years, which left me wondering what I could include in this year's speech.

I left Stamford High School 30 years ago, and this made me start to think what life was like then.

Leg warmers and dungarees were the fashion must-haves, The Empire Strikes Back was the film of the year and the number one position in the pop charts changed most weeks.

Favourite pop hits of the year have to be David Bowie's Ashes to Ashes and The Police, 'Don't Stand So Close to Me' but who can forget St Winifred's School Choir with 'There's No One Quite Like Grandma'.

That got me thinking about the things I never imagined I would be doing 30 years later.

Top of that list has to be standing on this stage speaking to a large group of old girls; 30 years ago I would have been far too embarrassed.

This was quickly followed by the thought of calling the then headmistress by her first name, no matter how many times she tries, Gladys is very difficult to come to terms with. Is that not correct Miss Bland?

I think the thing that I am most surprised about and take most joy from is chairing the Old Girls Association. 30 years ago I don't think I realised it existed and if I did I certainly harboured no ambitions to chair the Guild.

It has been a great honour to be able to look after the Guild on your behalf for a number of years.

It is great to welcome so many of you to our reunion day.

I have a list of Principal people to thank for their support Stephen Roberts the principle of the Endowed Schools – Stephen is not with us for lunch but did send his hopes that the day was enjoyable. Dyl Powell Head of the High School who is a great supporter of the Guild and Libby Craig for all the times we have used the Junior School.

The committee are, as always, fantastic, providing support throughout the year. If any of you would like to join the committee please see one of us this afternoon or phone any of us after today – we would be delighted to welcome you.

Regarding today's luncheon, I would like to thank Penny Tinkler and the catering staff for another wonderful lunch. I would also like to thank Ian Hall and Peter Edwards for organising the seating arrangements for the Hall, Margaret Bennett our pianist for the School Song and Goldie Bardwell for doing the beautiful flower arrangements.

There is a tennis match due to start at 3.00pm on the astro-turf courts, please do go and watch the game and see the courts if you have not been there recently. Thanks to Dawn Gent for organising the tennis.

I am sure that those of you who have seen a copy of this year's magazine would like to join me in thanking Bev for all the hard work that she puts in as editor of the magazine.

Talking of the magazine, on the table today you will see that we are requesting that you leave on the back of your place card any details for the magazine. Other people look forward to reading it as much as you do, so please tell us your news however small it may seem to you.

Tonight there is a BBQ and bar on the Stamford School Field with the bar available from 6.00pm and the BBQ from 7.30ish. The charge for this is £10 per head, you are welcome to pay at the event. Why not round of the day with a BBQ listening to great songs in the sunshine.

Tomorrow there is a service in the Chapel in St Paul's Street, celebrating old girls and old boys. You are all welcome at the service.

If any of you have not had the opportunity to speak to Rachael Petrie who is responsible for the Stamford Endowed Schools' Foundation, please speak to her after lunch. She can explain what the foundation is undertaking, and what support you can give. Rachael will say a few words at the end of this speech so you will all be able to identify her.

I have pleasure in making some presentations to retiring teachers on behalf of the Old Girls.

Firstly Apple Szyjanswicz who has taught at Stamford High School for 25 years.

Next Sue Russell who has taught at Stamford High School for 20 years

Then Clare Bysshe who has taught at the High School for 20 years.

Finally Maryon Cook who has taught at the Junior school for 25 years but whose family connection with the school goes back to 1917. Maryon was at the school from 1960 to 1968 and you may remember her as Maryon Teall.

Also retiring from the Junior School but at the Old Boys' event today is Nancy Dobson.

Finally, there will be a copy of the group photographs that were taken before lunch for each of you. They will be in the classroom round the quad, the first one you come to between the hall and the dinning hall. I have to say a massive thank you to my husband, Ian and friend Lorraine who have been taking the photographs.

The School is open all afternoon, please feel free to wander. There will be drinks available in the dining room from 3.30 for any one who needs a sit down!

Enjoy the rest of the day.

Chairman O.G.G.  
Jill Hamilton

# The Headteacher's Speech Day Report, 2010 - 2011

by Dyl Powell

This year marks the first cohort of girls to go through the school whilst I have been Head. We all started as 'new girls on the block' in September 2003, some seven years ago. I am pleased to say I have cherished those years and am proud to be Head of Stamford High School and all it stands for. My report for this year, I hope, will go some way to demonstrate that the members of Stamford High School are thriving and that the School is moving positively into the future and forging ever stronger alliances within the Stamford Community.

It was with great pleasure that I welcomed Miss Sarah Outen to present the prizes at Speech Day this year. Sarah is an Old Girl of the school who left in 2003. She went on to attend Oxford University where she majored in Biology and developed her passion for the sea and rowing. In 2009 she rowed across the Indian Ocean. Alone: just her and her little boat, Dippers. She rowed over 4000 miles from Australia to Mauritius taking 124 days. Sarah is the first woman and youngest person to solo the Indian Ocean; in fact the youngest woman to solo any ocean. She is soon to be a published writer and we all await the launch of her first book in the Spring. Sarah's spirit of adventure along with her vibrant and outgoing personality epitomises what it means to be a Stamford High School girl.

My report will only touch on the types of activities and events that the girls and staff have experienced and enjoyed during the last year. A more detailed and comprehensive insert of successes has been produced for you to read at your leisure. I would also like to take this opportunity to give a 'plug' for the School website. [www.ses.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.ses.lincs.sch.uk) There was a major re-vamp of the website last summer and communication and navigation have been vastly improved. Increased traffic via SharePoint and Learning Gateway has enhanced the learning and teaching opportunities.

My report starts last summer where 67% of all grades at GCSE were A\* or A, these were outstanding and another set of record results. Of this cohort, 46 girls have achieved 9 or more 'straight A grades' or better and many others have mostly A or B grades. This gave them a solid platform on which to engage on AS courses and their future looks bright.

At A level 69% of the grades achieved were at A or B. We were delighted that many of the girls achieved their required grades. Many successful applications show the professionalism of the teaching staff and personal tutors in the advice given to girls encouraging their applications to universities that are within their reach. Again, it was pleasing on the day to hear of the vast majority of girls securing places at their first choice university. It was again gratifying to see in so many cases sheer hard work being aptly rewarded. This summer we eagerly await

the results as the new A\* category is unveiled. Although not being widely used as an entrance requirement, some girls, particularly those holding offers for Cambridge University, will be counting down the days until the results are finally posted.

These results, on paper, do portray the picture of a successful school. However, as we all know, examination successes are only part of the all round educational experience that go towards helping your daughters to become well rounded, self-aware, confident and ambitious individuals. A strong partnership between school and home is a contributing factor as is the wealth of opportunities to take part in activities and events that enrich the academic studies.

It may be strange to hear that one of the highlights of the year for the School was a boarding inspection carried out by OFSTED. It was no surprise to those that know our boarding community that it was rated as Outstanding in all six categories. It was very pleasing to get this formal recognition of the quality and care offered by our dedicated boarding staff.

Life in a school is very complex. The calendar is invariably full every week and it is not an exaggeration to say that with our boarding houses we are a 24/7 community. It is not easy to combine academic study and full involvement in school life. However there are many examples of how the girls and staff juggle their busy schedules in order to reap the benefits of the richness of opportunities on offer. I marvel at the itinerary of some individuals as they embrace the activities and thirst for more. They should be congratulated on their enthusiasm, commitment and sheer energy that abounds and in turn inspires others.

We have had some fun throughout the year. Charity events, dance and drama evening, fancy dress days – and yes the rumours were true, the Head teacher did dress up as a monkey on Year 13's last day in school. The girls have continued to throw themselves into every aspect of school life, with their characteristic competitiveness and determination, balanced by camaraderie and love of life. Charitable works and service to other have been a part of the everyday life of our community. The girls are responsive to the needs of others, with an understanding of what it is to be a global citizen with wider environmental, cultural and social awareness. Our charitable fund raising efforts go some way to demonstrating this. Our three main charities this year have been Shelterbox, as our International focus, Children's Liver Disease Foundation, the national charity and Evergreen as the local charity. Other charities such as, Help the Heroes, The Race for Life in Burghley Park, the Haiti Earthquake Appeal, Leprosy, Arthritis Care and Children in Need have benefited from pupils generosity of not only money but time and effort. The energy, enterprise and caring nature of the girls always amazes me and fills me with great pride. In total, our charitable contributions amounted to



over £7,000 and thanks go to all those, too numerous to mention individually, who contributed to this total.

The cultural and extra-curricular life of the school continues to flourish through theatre visits, field trips, debating competitions, choirs, concerts, and artwork, through continuing opportunities to travel both at home and abroad on everything from World Challenge Expeditions to India, AAAS conference in San Diego, USA, Geography Field trips, History trips to castles and the Battlefields of the Somme, planned Sports tours to Barbados and Holland and Ski trips to our extensive Language and Cultural exchange programme. This year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the German Exchange. Celebrations were held here in November and even the volcanic eruptions could not thwart the return festivities in Bonn over the Easter break.

Musically, there have been many superb performances throughout the year. The 1st Orchestra concert, the Music Festival, the Chopin Bi-Centenary Concert and the most recent SES Band Concert, to name but a few. However, the highlight, for me, was the Sir Malcolm Sargent Concert. This concert, which combines the talents of the Endowed Schools Choral Group and choirs and that of the more adult voices of the Stamford Choral Society was a splendid affair enjoyed by over 600 people and performed in the majestic setting of Peterborough Cathedral.

Our sporting fixture list continues to grow, with a new sport, indoor rowing being added. Huge numbers of pupils compete in an astonishing array of sporting fixtures. It certainly indicates the level of commitment and enthusiasm that pupils, staff and families have for school sport.

The strength of girls' football is ever increasing as the success of the U19 and U17 squads proved, by their victories in the National 6 a-side competition hosted by SHS. The selection of four of our most skilful players to the Representative England Squad that played against Australia in January bodes well for future success in the coming final of the National Independent Schools Football Cup against St Bede's.

It is not just in the major team games that the girls have gained notable success. This year the girls' Indoor Rowing teams were particularly impressive on the circuit, as have been the swimming, badminton and athletics teams, where there have been a number of exceptional individual performances. Our sailing team is swiftly becoming a force to be reckoned with and other individuals in golf, gymnastics, fencing and equestrian events are proudly flying the SHS flag.

The enthusiasm to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme is ever growing. Large numbers of girls achieved awards this year: 23 Gold, 30 Silver and 40 Bronze. Already enrolled on the course for this coming year are 26 Gold, 32 Silver and a stunning 82 Bronze candidates with many more enrolled via World Challenge, who this summer are travelling to Madagascar.

The Combined Cadet Force remains popular with many girls striving for promotion and participating fully in activities. The numbers of this voluntary contingent continue to be strong, Opportunities for roles of responsibility and leadership abound, and the diversity of activities ever widening in all three sections. Three girls, who qualified for the SES shooting team, participated in the national Country Life Small Bore competition. The teams secured 1st and 2nd place and will hopefully build on this success at Bisley later this term.

Our own Mock Election did not reflect the views of the nation as the Conservative candidate was duly elected with a large majority. Imogen McCann (Con), Emily Davies (Lab) and Grace MacDonald (Lib) ably represented the respective parties, putting forward personal manifestos and arguing the political points with great authority and confidence. All girls, from Yr 7 upwards were eligible to vote along with the staff. The campaigning was fiercely competitive.

As always the list of painting, repairs and refurbishment both in school and in the boarding houses, continues relentlessly. During the Summer break, The Art and DT departments are being refurbished with the addition of a new IT suite. The work continues throughout the year and will never come to an end, as we are strongly committed to providing a working environment conducive to positive and purposeful learning for everyone.

As always at the end of the school year we say goodbye to a number of colleagues. This year is no exception. Leaving the High School this year is Emma Rumbold, who is taking up the post of Head of Girls Sport at Bedford Modern School. Our other leavers are all retiring, Claire Bysshe, who after 20 years association with the School, is retiring from the Modern Languages Department and Sue Russell who has taught Politics for 22 years. Both have made a significant contribution over the years and we wish them a long and happy retirement and hope that they visit SHS in years to come.

Last, but not least, Apple Szjanowicz. Apple is leaving after 25 years at SHS. For the past 5 years she has been Director of Studies, a post she has fulfilled with notable intelligence, skill, patience, commonsense and integrity. Best wishes go to Apple, my personal thanks go to her for her help, friendship, support and words of encouragement over the past 7 years.

I hope you agree that the content of my report, demonstrates that the School is in strong position to build for the future. We shall strive to retain core values and aspirations whilst looking forward with ambition.

Christ us Spede.

Mrs Dyl Powell



# Report on Junior School Year 2010 - 2011

by Libby Craig



The **Junior School** has enjoyed another successful year, both academically and in sport, music, drama, art and other extra curricular activities.

During the Old Girls' AGM Miss Libby Craig (Headmistress of the Junior School) presented a PowerPoint demonstration of the many activities which the Earlybird Nursery and Junior School children enjoy.

The pictures here give a flavour of her presentation.

# Letters to the Girls!!



Thursday 1st July 2010

Dear Ms Hayze,

I'm writing to thank you ever so much for the generous amount you donated for the prize which I won at Speech Day this year, The Old Girls Guild prize. I won this prize for the best all rounder and was extremely proud to receive it.

The amount you gave was very generous and I thank you ever so much. I am going to put the money towards a world challenge trip to Patagonia in 2012 which I am looking forward to immensely.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,

Harriet Reilly

Don't forget to send new letters to [bhopkins\\_1011@hotmail.com](mailto:bhopkins_1011@hotmail.com)

# Letters to the Girls!!



Dear Mrs Matthews & Old Girl Committee Members,

Thank you so much for the Garden Tokens you kindly sent to me. Very much appreciated & I shall enjoy using them in the autumn for new bulbs, which I add to every year. I enjoy doing the pedestal & hope to be able to continue to do so.

Thank you again,

Best Wishes  
Goldie (Bardswell)

Dear Maureen and the Committee of the Stamford High School Old Girls,

Thank you very much for the Garden Gift Vouchers. I will most certainly buy something to remind me of the 'Old Girls'.

It has always been such a pleasure to come and play the 'School Song' - and meet up with old friends again.

(It just makes you wonder where all the years have gone).

Once again Dear Maureen and Old Girls of Stamford High School -

Thank you very much  
With Love  
Betty

Don't forget to send new letters to [bhopkins\\_1011@hotmail.com](mailto:bhopkins_1011@hotmail.com)



# Letters to the Girls!!



Dear Daisy,

Thank you for your letter. Our Ruby wedding Anniversary was on April 5th. We celebrated it in the historic city of Segovia. As it was Palm Sunday the processions taking place were a real spectacle.

Nunn Pamela Byham to John Nunn on Saturday April 5th. 1969 at All Saints Church Stamford. Having left Keswick Hall Norwich I worked for two years at Edith Weston School. I then moved to Ipswich where I taught 8-9 year olds. From there I moved to the Isle of Wight and set up the Junior Department of Sandown First School. My son Tim was born in 1973 on the Isle of Wight. At this time John was housemaster at Bembridge School. I thoroughly enjoyed my days as a Mum, playing on the beaches and walking the country lanes. We moved to Norfolk in 1974 and settled in the Broads area. In 1988 I became Head of Fleggburgh School and spent ten wonderful years developing the school which had doubled in size by the time I left. My second Headship was at Homefield School in Bradwell near Gt. Yarmouth. Unusually the school had an area Nursery class attached to it. Into the Nursery we admitted five children at each session with special needs. The parents and children that I met through this headship taught me an amazing amount about determination and that life is for living whatever your disability. I remained at Homefield until I retired in 2004. By the time I retired I was used as a teacher trainer across Norfolk and as an advisory head.

I now live on Mendota. Here I have co-ordinated fund raising for the Anglican Church, a self funded missionary church, set up a storytelling group for English children, sailed around the island and spent many happy hours discovering the wonderful wild flowers and walks. John is fluent in Spanish and helps with the English pages in the local newspaper.

Tim having travelled the world is the editor of Wavelength a surfing magazine and a freelance surf journalist and photographer. Like his father he has a geography degree. He is married to Emma and they live at Holywell Bay in Cornwall.

Best wishes,

Pam Nunn

Don't forget to send new letters to [bhopkins\\_1011@hotmail.com](mailto:bhopkins_1011@hotmail.com)

# An Evening at Mansion House

by Alison Eaves

When I told my husband, Michael that I wanted him to join me at an evening with the Stamford High School Old Girls' Guild and the Old Stamfordian Club, his face fell.

'Couldn't you find a chum to go with,' he moaned 'It's just, I didn't go to your school so I won't have anyone to talk to and the thought of sausage rolls and cheese and pineapple on a stick, in a school hall, doesn't exactly appeal.'

'It won't be in the School Hall.' I assured him, 'One of the Old Boys is letting us use the place he's living in and I think it'll be more than a sausage roll.' He looked puzzled and said, 'He must have done well for himself if he can cater for two hundred people at a sit down meal.'

Michael looked decidedly brighter when I met him outside the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Nick Anstee's House.

'Yes, he's done very well,' he said gazing up at the magnificent Palladian columns of the Mansion House. 'Quite some School you went to, Alison.'

I straightened his black bow tie. We'd both come straight from work, and he'd changed into his dinner suit en route from Horsham. 'Wow!' he said when he'd stopped admiring the Georgian architecture and bothered to notice his wife, 'The Fairy Godmother has done a good job, Cinders. Watch the glass slippers on the steps, we don't want to be late.'

We entered via the Walbrook Entrance, at the side of the building. Originally the stables and coach house, it was converted in 1846, to enable the Lord Mayor to come and go without being in the full view of the general public. After a brief security check (presumably for any unreturned books from the school library), we ascended the Red Stairs to the Vestibule, to collect our name tags. The guests were dressed to the nines. There was a sea of posh evening gowns and cocktail dresses, black dinner suits and, with the occasional amusingly eccentric aberration, black ties. People had travelled from all over the country and goodness knows how many were coached down from Stamford. While we were waiting we were entertained by delightful music from the current pupils of both schools. After our entrance, formally announced by the Toastmaster, we were welcomed by Mr Stephen Reynolds MA, Principal of Stamford Endowed Schools and a line up which included to my delight, my contemporary, Jill Hamilton. There we were treated to a champagne reception in the magnificent North Colonnade.

I scanned the glamorously dressed throng for familiar faces but such was the friendly atmosphere we were soon chatting away to several people and seemed to have made some new friends before managing to hook up with old ones. My husband, who had moaned that he wouldn't have anyone to talk to, had to be prised away from a fascinating conversation with Sir Mike Jackson when we were called to dinner.



If the North Colonnade was impressive, the Great Egyptian Hall, where we were to dine, was awe inspiring, based on designs by the classical Roman architect Vitruvius of Roman buildings in Egypt, with giant columns supporting a high arched ceiling.

Splendid organisation from the committee made finding our place at the beautifully decorated tables straight forward but we dared not sit down until the Toastmaster proudly announced the arrival of The Lord Mayor himself.

I wondered how many Headmasters had to 'stand on ceremony' for an ex-pupil but Nick Anstee seemed to put everyone at ease, and the Lord Mayor's Table was soon buzzing with the same relaxed chattering as ours, although it might have had something to do with a rather agreeable Chenin Blanc.

Smoked salmon, branade of cod with green bean salad, set an elegant tone to the meal, followed by a tender slow roast fillet of beef with a Madeira jus and seasonal vegetables. A lovely Rioja Navajas added a little friendly cheer and we were soon swapping stories and comparing notes. The Lord Mayor gave an impressive speech, followed by the Principal, with a witty and pertinent account of what makes the Stamford Endowed Schools such an exceptional Institution. In an impromptu reprise, we were treated to another speech from the Lord Mayor, or rather, shedding a little formality, Old Stamfordian, Nick Anstee added delightfully to the tribute.

Our coffee and handmade chocolates duly polished off, it was time for a stirrup cup back in the North Colonnade, although everyone agreed we were all too full to consider clambering into any stirrups. 'Carriages at ten thirty,' we had been informed. We said our farewells to friends new and old and realised to our dismay and embarrassment, we had not made arrangements with our footman for our coach and four. Not wishing to bother our host for a loan of his (since we live south of the river, with no off street parking and didn't want to risk the gold leaf), we descended the red staircase and went back out in to the real world.

I checked I hadn't lost a shoe and Michael smiled and said, 'Come on Cinders. If we can't find four mice and a pumpkin, I'm paying for a cab. It's been an experience we'll remember the rest of our lives.'

I'm sure all who attended would wish to thank The Right Honourable Nick Anstee for his generosity in making Mansion House available to Stamford Endowed Schools during his tenure as Lord Mayor of the City of London. By sharing the privilege of his residence granted to him in a role that dates back as far as 1189 he has helped mark another proud moment in the history of the school.





# LIVING THROUGH THE CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2010

by Judith Richards

Some of you might remember the article I wrote about living in South America, if you do you might be interested in this account of the Chilean earthquake in February 2010. The Haiti earthquake, which caused such appalling damage, registered 7 on the Richter scale. The one which hit Chile on February 28th was 1800 times stronger at 8.8 on the Richter scale. In Santiago it was 8, therefore being 1000 times stronger than the Haiti 'quake. Thank God the buildings here measured up to the task of withstanding this devastating natural phenomenon. What has been written below is pathetic really and doesn't in anyway convey the magnitude and ferocity of the earthquake we experienced. To feel the whole block of apartments where you live wobbling and shaking violently and to hear the unimaginable sound of the Earth itself in revolt puts one's life into perspective. We are nothing more than microbes on this planet and the whole of human existence could be snuffed out in an instant at the whim of "Mother" nature.

The following account of what happened was written by my husband to send round the family.

"The earthquake - what can I say? There are a few four letter words I can think of but the most appropriate are "shock" and "awe" at the sheer power and violence of the 'quake. We were rudely awoken at about 3.45am Saturday morning to find our bedroom violently shaking and an indescribable noise which one could imagine would accompany the Earth in its final apocalypse. Our bed was shuddering and vibrating with such ferocity it must have looked as if some evil spirit from a low budget horror movie had got hold of it.

In an instant we were wide awake and by the time we realised we were in the middle of a full blown earthquake there was nothing we could do about it. To jump out of bed and try and leave the apartment would have been pointless as it would have been difficult to stand and crockery and ornaments and books and foodstuffs in cupboards were all crashing to the floor creating an unseen obstacle course as the electrics had been automatically cut off and the city thrown into blackness.

At that moment it would have been nice to say that my thoughts were about my family, and protecting my wife or even that my whole life flashed in front of my eyes. None of these things passed through my mind. In fact, very little passed through my mind. The only thing I can remember thinking is that I hope it stops before the building collapses and buries us alive under the rubble.

The earthquake lasted just over 2 minutes but seemed much, much longer. I felt every second of it. I can't say I was scared, there was not much time to get scared, and when it stopped, it stopped abruptly, within a few seconds, leaving the lampshades swinging, and a quiet sense of relief that you had survived.

I thought it might be a good idea to get out of the building just in case there had been any structural damage, and told Judith to quickly get dressed, to which she quite methodically started to get undressed, taking off her nightclothes and putting them neatly on one side and putting on her day clothes, which amongst the mess took several minutes to locate. Such are women, neat and tidy to the end, no sense of urgency. After about 10 minutes, treading very carefully around broken glass, we walked down the four storeys of our apartment block and went outside. Not for long, it was cold, the building looked OK and so we went back in and went back to bed.

The next day we spent clearing up the apartment and essentially didn't venture outside. Some aftershocks were quite worrying and would, themselves, have been categorized as earthquakes. We, however, were blissfully unaware of the enormity of the quake. We had no TV, internet or telephone and the newspaper we received late in the day had been printed before the quake. Having only previously experienced tremors, I had no yardstick by which to gauge the power of the earthquake we had experienced. In the area where we live in Santiago there was little damage and I assumed that, despite its breathtaking ferocity, it was an average earthquake, similar to the one in Santiago in 1985 which caused little damage and loss of life, and so wouldn't merit much international attention, perhaps a couple of lines under the page 3 nude, especially coming in the wake of the Haiti earthquake which caused such an appalling loss of life.

It wasn't until Sunday, when a fellow expat and friend of my son, Sean, arrived at our apartment to see if we were OK, that we began to appreciate the scale of the earthquake we had just passed through. Our sons and other family members had been desperately trying to get in touch whilst we thought they might not even be aware that Chile had had an earthquake - I love irony! I have, in fact, since learnt that it was at 8.8 on the Richter scale, the 7th most powerful earthquake ever recorded! Fortunately for us, the epicentre was a couple of hundred miles south of Santiago, but even here it registered 8.0, 1000+ times stronger than in Haiti, I understand!

Now that the communication services have been restored, I can see the extent of the devastation caused by the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami. From Santiago down to Concepcion, over 1,000 will have lost their lives, it is estimated; thousands injured; hundreds of thousands have lost their homes and are living on the streets. Many areas still don't have water, electricity or gas. Many will never recover from their loss. We have been very, very lucky. Chile gets hit by a mega earthquake every 40 years, more or less. The last super earthquake was in 1960 and measured 9.5 on the Richter scale, the worst ever recorded. The next one hopefully will not be in our lifetime!

Judith Richards (nee Wheeler)

## Ties that Bind

### 1978 Cohort Re-Union by Susan Prior



About this time last year (May 2009) Claire sent an article around to us all: an article by Jeffrey Zaslow, who writes for the Wall Street Journal, called “The Ties That Bind”. In his article he talks about a group of 11 girls, now grown into 10 women, who have kept their school friendships alive: the Ames girls of Iowa. He says in his article “... [a] host of scientific studies show that having a close group of friends helps people sleep better, improve their immune systems, stave off dementia and live longer”. He was looking in to why women, more so than men, have “great urges to hold tightly on to old friends”.

It was a very apt article arriving in our inboxes as it did just as we were finalising some of the details for our own get together. From September 2009 through to September 2010 we would all be celebrating our 50th birthdays and we could think of no better way than to have chin wag with some of our oldest friends.

It meant that we would be travelling from all points of the compass. I came from Australia, Claire arrived from the United States. The others were closer to home but, still, it meant a weekend out of busy family life for us all.

So at about that time last year the date was set. On the weekend of April 17-18, 2010, we would all gather in Stamford. We weren't sure how many of us would finally show up. Some were hesitant thinking it would, no doubt, turn into a giggling session with one too many chardonnays perhaps. Or a one up-womanship contest - who had the best job, the most attractive/cleverest children, the snaggiest\* husband and so on.

In fact it turned out to be none of these things.

We started gathering at Jackie's house - she lives quite close to Stamford and works as a GP in the town. From Saturday lunchtime until late afternoon we gossiped and laughed and renewed old friendships; we ate far too much (thanks Jackie) blew out the chocolate cake and wished ourselves a very resounding happy collective birthday. We had arranged to stay at The Crown for the night and repaired to a restaurant in town.

Sara joined us there bearing something very special which we had put together for the occasion. We had decided to scan old notes, diary entries, photos - complete with mildew having been stuffed in old school trunks for the last 30-plus years - and compile them into a memory book. Old LP covers were scanned, the school song lyrics included, even an old school fee invoice and a Wembley hockey match ticket!

With the help of the Internet the book idea was conceived in Australia, put together in Singapore (thanks to Hilary who was with us in spirit) and was printed in England.

Here are some notable quotes from its pages:

November 20th 1973: in cookery we made a cup of tea (thrills! Or a cup of coffee or cocoa). Had double gym. Yuk.

February 3rd 1974: It's really boring at the weekends, we can't do anything. I think we are all going to die of boy starvation.

Thursday 13th May (1976?): In the lunch hour we had our “Making the most of yourself” assessment. She thought my nail varnish was wrong (Sh\*t to her). I didn't want to tell her that her foundation was in a line across her eyebrow and that purple eye shadow doesn't suit her at all.



L – R Sara Pease-Watkin, Heather Lockwood, Susan Prior and Julia Routen

And just a few of Claire's revealing recollections:

- Supertramp - any track;
- catering sized teapots;
- plucking our eyebrows almost out of existence;
- Famel syrup;
- brewing in the dorm and the staff not even noticing;
- Afghan coats;
- "Brassieres - seniors only" (sic, on the packing slip).

Heather's husband very kindly supplied her with a bottle of Domain Rose Vila Rivesaltes 1959 for us all to share at dinner that evening. What a lovely gesture that was.

The next morning we started to pack up, strolled around Stamford and departed ... until the next time.

The weekend was notable for many reasons. We are all able to talk easily; we all share a special bond; no one was out to impress. We have nurtured our relationships with each other over the years, coming together as often as we can. We are who we are with each other and will always be special friends.

As friends we have been through so many things together: boys, acne, puberty, sex, exams. Then later marriage, children and for some of us divorce and remarriage. We have always got along, there have been no tiffs, no arguments. We can talk to each other about anything - and I mean anything. How many friends can you say that about?

It wasn't a weekend just for memories by any means. It was a weekend for revisiting old connections; it was also a weekend for catching up on the news of our respective families - to talk about our children and the next generation. We looked forward as much as looking back.

Thank you to all of you for a very special weekend.

We left Stamford High School in 1978. Those present were: Claire Goulthorpe, Heather Lockwood, Sue Mitchell (née Brighton), Vicki Newey (née Fletcher), Sara Pease-Watkins (née Lunn), Susan Prior, Julia Routen (née Herbert), Helen Sismey-Durrant (née Sismey), Rosemary Tyson (née Tibbits), Jackie Vardy (née Barney). And Hilary Galea (née Anstead), as I said earlier, was there in spirit.

And like those women from Ames we are short one friend: Tania Jack (née Ord). She has a special place at the back of our memory book. Tania died in a tragic car accident in April 1995, almost exactly 15 years ago. We will always remember her and, as always when we get together, we drank a toast to her memory. The ties that bind ...

\*SNAG - acronym for "sensitive new age guy".

Author: Susan Prior left Stamford High School in 1978. She has two adopted daughters, Libby and Annie and is married to Brian McKenzie. Susan lives in Brisbane, Australia and is the editor of an online current affairs/political e-journal called [www.onlineopinion.com.au](http://www.onlineopinion.com.au). She can be contacted at [s-prior@bigpond.net.au](mailto:s-prior@bigpond.net.au).



L to R Helen Sismey-Durrant, Vicki Newey, Julia Routen, Claire Goulthorpe, Sue Mitchell, Rosemary Tyson, Heather Lockwood and Jackie Vardy.

# RETIREMENTS

Dear Mrs Hamilton,  
Thank you very much for inviting me to the Old Girls' Lunch and for the book token. I shall use it to get some books to read on my holiday to South Africa!

I wish the Old Girls Association every success for the future,

Sincerely

Claire Byshe

To The Old Girls' Guild,

Many thanks for a most enjoyable day on Saturday. A lovely lunch, jolly company and a generous gift: what more could anyone ask.

Best Wishes

Apple Szyjanowicz



Dyl Powell with Sue Russell, Apple Szyjanowicz and Claire Byshe



# RETIREMENTS

Dear Jill,

I am writing to thank you and the S.H.S. Old Girls Guild for inviting me to your Summer Reunion Lunch and for the very generous gift of a book token. I had a delightful day and it was a pleasure to see many of my former pupils grown into elegant young ladies! It has been a pleasure & a privilege to teach at S.J.S. for 25 years - it was & always will be a really special school,

Best Wishes,  
Maryon (Cook)

Please accept my thanks for the W.H.S. book token you sent me to mark my retirement from S.H.S. It was very generous of you as I have taught at both SS and S.J.S. but not S.H.S!

I think I will buy travel books as that is what I hope to do with my free time,

Kind Regards  
Nancy Dobson



Libby Craig and Maryon Cooke

# Reunion Day 2010

This year I have put **all** the names of the girls attending from each year at the side of the photographs as there has been confusion in the past and I do not wish anyone to feel left out.



## 5 Year Reunion

Emily Horrell, Daisy Shepard, Jessica Copley, Charlene Duddridge, Aimee Taylor, Jessica Lamb, Lucie Alexander-Orr, Sarah Armstrong and Claire Taylor.

## 10 Year Reunion

*Vaila Finch, Wendy Smethurst, Kate Gordon, Claire Morris, Katherine Clifford, Jemma Davies, Emma Wright and Carys Vaughan, Ros Watts, Phillipa Wills, Charlotte Last and Sarah Walmsley.*



## 15 Year Reunion

*Melanie Tindale and Natalie Gill.*



# Reunion Day 2010



## 20 Year Reunion

*Charlotte Bovill, Katy Ellis, Emma Crawford, Kirsten Cox, Johanna Angwin, Rae Earl-Johnson, Emily Chappell, Nicky Lambert, Anna Morris, Sarah Baker, Alison Woods, Julie Turner, Lisa Garwood, Donna Brown, Gillian Nolan, Katie Lee-Pawsey, Michala Ticehurst, Vicki Massie and Stephanie Adams. Barbara Hodges, Carrie Tout, Emma Drury, Eleanor Harwin, Vicki Robinson, Suzanne Reader and Michelle McDonald.*

## 25 Year Reunion

*Pippa Crowther, Stephanie Clipston, Pam Woodings, Kate Sanderson Claire Ryan and Dr Alison Beadsworth.*



## 30 Year Reunion

*Peta Pendlebury, Nicole McIntosh, Rachel McCallum, Fiona Harrison and Susan Thompson. Kiffy Mitchell, Caroline Adams, Sue Marsden, Allison Hinch and Kathryn Williams. Nicola Regan, Sarah Jackson, Jill Hamilton, Ann Bell and Judith Newbury, Joy Wolfenden-Brown, Karen Hammond-Walker, Alison Eaves and Julie Kibble.*



# Reunion Day 2010



## 40 Year Reunion

*Elizabeth Johnson and Gaye Woodward, Claire Colton, Jeannie Read, Jenny Spencer-Smith and Julie Houlton. Lesley Atkin, Anne Stokes, Amanda Eichler, Amanda-Jane Lyle and Jane Alderson. Allison Kerr, Janet Mills and Chris Barringer.*

## 50 Year Reunion

*Rachel Barron-Clark, Elizabeth A Astill, Kay Mordecai, Verena Burden and Ruth Ray. Janice Hamilton, Ann Turner, Mary N Harris, Rosemary Jordon, Carol Threadgold, Jane Petch, Anna Maxey, Meriel Nicholson, Jillian Taylor, Sheelagh Foulke and Judith Wade.*



Guests included, Gladys Bland, Hazel Tourtel, Dyl Powell, Rachel Petrie, Claire Byshe, Maryon Cook, Sue Russell and Apple Szjanowicz and Libby Craig.

Committee members and others present though not on above reunions included Doreen Crawford, Patricia Hargreaves, Sheila Blankley, Josephine Clementson, Barbara McNought, Pauline Wiley and Dorothy Horton.

A big 'Thank You' to all the ladies who gave a donation to the raffle this year.



# Reunion Day 2010 Pictures





# “Music: What it means to me”

A Pianist's way of life by Katharine Lam



I remember well the old, neglected piano, which stood in a corner of my Grandmother's house. Untuned and rarely played, I pestered my parents for lessons and longed to bring the instrument back to life! I knew, from the age of eight, that music and more precisely, the piano, was going to play a huge role in my life.

During my school years I was kept very busy with lessons, local competitions, choirs and orchestras (I later also learnt the cello). However, despite my underlying love of playing the piano, I still remember the occasional battles I had with my mother, when faced with, what seemed at times, to be the long, boring chore of daily practise! It taught me well that success at playing an instrument relies heavily on discipline and motivation as well as any natural talent.

My parents chose Stamford High School for me because of the excellent musical education and opportunities it offered. As we lived quite a way from Stamford it meant becoming a weekly-boarder. I will always remember the supervised evening music practice in the music school! At a time when a lot of teenagers lose interest in playing an instrument, my love for the piano only deepened thanks to my wonderful piano teacher at Stamford, Maggie Maclennan. She introduced me to evermore challenging repertoire by various composers but most inspirational to me at the time; the piano music of Chopin. I have been blessed with the best piano

teachers at each stage of my development – I owe them a lot. I have very many fond memories of music at Stamford from Choral society, Orchestras, string quartets, playing hymns in assembly, concerts, etc but the highlight was playing the Grieg Piano Concerto with 1st Orchestra in 1996 with Paul White as conductor.

Upon leaving Stamford and following a round of arduous auditions and interviews across the country, I took a place as an undergraduate at Birmingham Conservatoire. The environment at a music college is unique. All studies are tailored to deepen and develop your skills as a performer. During my time as a student my sole focus was the piano. Spending hours practicing at the piano, attending weekly master classes, performance classes, working with singers and instrumentalists, learning about musical history, composition and analysis, hearing world-class musicians perform.....all these experiences deepened my love of music and the richness it can add to your life. As the opportunities to perform as a pianist, myself, began to increase. I started to appreciate the special relationship, which can exist between the audience and performer in a live performance. There is nothing more thrilling or nerve-wracking to walk out onto a stage in front of an audience of hundreds or indeed thousands, to perform a recital or concerto entirely from memory!

When I graduated from the Conservatoire with a 1st class honours degree in 2000, I really didn't have much of an idea where my piano studies would lead me. I had enjoyed the four years and benefited immensely from the many wonderful teachers and lecturers who taught and inspired me. My weekly lessons with Professor Malcolm Wilson were fundamental in my development as a pianist as were the opportunities the piano department offers to its students. I was lucky enough to participate in numerous master classes with many distinguished pianists and had also won the Renna Kellaway Recital Prize and in 2000, the Birmingham Conservatoire Piano Prize. In short, I felt the Conservatoire still had so much to offer me.....so in September 2000 I continued my studies with the intensive and demanding DPS (piano performance) course. In addition to the course requirements of solo recitals and concerto performance, the performing opportunities increased further as I began to develop an interest in contemporary piano works including solo works with the use of electronics and also performing with and as soloist for, Birmingham's Thallein ensemble.

So it was in 2003, when I finally and successfully finished my studies at the Conservatoire. The time had come for me to try to earn a living from the piano! Since then, I have been very fortunate to undertake a lot of solo piano work including recitals and concerto performances, which have taken me to some really lovely, and some not so lovely parts of the country! As I am more used to concertos with amateur and semi-professional orchestras, one particular highlight of my career so far, was to play with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and CBSO choir at Symphony Hall, as soloist in Constant Lambert's Rio Grande. It was a very special experience to play to over two thousand people with such a fantastic orchestra and in a venue in which I had hitherto only been an audience member.

I have been pleased to undertake various accompanying and duo projects recently, particularly with fellow Conservatoire vocal and string graduates. Working with other musicians is always highly enjoyable and definitely makes a change from the somewhat lonely pursuit of solo piano work! This is an area I would like to pursue further in the future.

It has always been my aim to accept a wide variety of work that has caught my interest. Over the last few years this approach has led to some diverse and some even mildly curious engagements! I have had the honour of playing for the first and only wedding to have been held at Birmingham's famous Town Hall in its nearly 200 year history. I have provided after dinner entertainment at occasionally glittering but mostly unexciting social and business functions. I also made a brief foray into large corporate promotion with a specially commissioned work for piano and children's choir for the energy giant npower. It was great to hear the track through the modern medium of Internet download! Other broadcasting endeavours have included various BBC local radio performances and interviews. My playing has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4, in a programme, which celebrated the 200-year anniversary of Beethoven's Moonlight sonata. Having often been asked by recital audiences if I have a CD available, I now have two! They cover a range of solo piano works from Chopin, Debussy and Schubert to Chick Corea, Carl Vine and Frederic Rzewski. My recordings have recently become available for download from itunes and Amazon.

Taking live music to people who don't normally have the chance to experience it has been especially rewarding for me. The work I have undertaken with the charity "Live Music Now!" has required different skills to engage with patients in hospital, residents in care homes and psychiatric units and has at times, been quite an eye-opener.

Music has also brought me back to Stamford High! I was adjudicator this year for the annual 2-day music festival and a speaker at the Career Convention day. It is great to meet and hear Stamford's budding musicians and to try and advise them on employment within music.

With the nature of freelance work being sporadic and at times unreliable, I have always valued the relative stability of the teaching work I have undertaken. I joined the piano faculty at the Conservatoire as a member of staff in 2008 and currently teach 1st and 2nd study Conservatoire students and Birmingham University students. I also teach at King Edward's High School for Girls in Edgbaston and maintain a busy private piano teaching practice. Most of my pupils are a joy to teach and it is a great privilege to be part of a young person's musical journey. As with all good teacher/pupil relationships, both parties can and do benefit from the thought-provoking, experimental and questioning environment a good piano lesson can foster. There have been many times when my own ideas and thoughts, be they musical or purely technical, have been challenged, altered or deepened through the enquiring mind of a talented pupil. I'm sure many teachers would agree that a fulfilling and worthwhile lesson often depends less on the talent of a student but more on their willingness to engage with the music, the learning process and a drive to succeed.

During the last six years since I ceased to be a student (though I am well aware learning and study are never over!) I have been surprised by the rich and fulfilling life my piano playing has brought me. It has given me the chance to meet and play alongside some tremendous musicians. Performance and the ability to create and express emotions through music is a life-affirming experience. Music has also led me to love! - it was through our own individual lives in music that I met my husband, Matthew O'Malley, the resident sound engineer at the Conservatoire. We hope to work and collaborate together in the near future performing piano works with live electronics and surround sound.

In short – I look forward to seeing where else piano playing will take me!

Katharine Lam (SHS pupil from 1989-1996)

For CDs or more info please contact Katharine at [klampiano@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:klampiano@yahoo.co.uk)

# From Accountancy to Singing

by Christine Bennett

I left school after the autumn term of 1969 and, after a couple of terms working for Horizon Holidays in London I went on to read maths at Manchester University. I took the chance, while there, of some singing lessons with (I think it was) Diane Matthews, at what is now the Royal Northern College of Music; but practising singing is always a tricky thing - it just isn't fun for others to listen to! - so I dropped out of that. But I did develop my folk-singing there, especially as part of the post-grad folk-club (even though I wasn't post grad).

After Uni, I made a career in accountancy and that profession served me well for many years: full time, part-time, temping... I joined Turnbull Associates, in Watford, in December 1998, and moved with them into the Myers Clark orbit when the firm was taken over in early 2007. Last autumn, the economic climate meant that the firm wanted to shed one of the two at my level in my department. Although my job "ticked all the boxes", I was feeling stressed by it, and decided to take the chance to be paid to leave (since our mortgage is paid, and both sons are well clear of uni).

In the context of work, I've been in the habit of saying "I can always go singing" and it dawned on me that I'd reached a "now or never" moment, so I decided to take the plunge to make it "now". I'd had a few batches of singing lessons since moving to Hertfordshire, but nothing really determined. This time, I decided to go to a local teacher, whose effect on others' voices I'd already heard and liked. My lessons started last November, and I've felt the difference, and been told that others hear a marked difference. I've certainly been invited to take on things which would never have come my way, even a year ago.

Over the years, I've kept my singing going in all sorts of contexts: folk singing, church choir, local choirs/choruses, charity concerts, occasional small solos in local choir concerts (Bushey Chamber Choir, or Bushey Festival Gala Concerts). Now I was looking for something a bit more demanding - or, at least, differently demanding.

In March, I sang a Mozart aria (Porgi Amor, from Figaro) at a local concert, and our choirmaster suddenly started to look at me in a new light! - I had been regarded as a reliable chorister, and OK for small solos, especially if the professional singers were not about. Now, I was asked to sing the big solo in the Stanford in G Magnificat at the Easter Day Choral Evensong.

This June I have been very busy. No paid gigs, sadly, but I've had some great experiences! My niece's wedding was on 5 June and, having failed to persuade her mother (my sister) to sing the wedding words she'd written for the Schubert Ave Maria, she had asked me if I would sing the piece with her mother's words, instead. No prizes for guessing that I accepted with delight. The wedding was a truly wonderful occasion, and I felt privileged to have such a special part of it. On a personal level, I was also really pleased with the amount of positive feedback I received.

On 19 June, Harrow Philharmonic Choir had its Summer Concert. That's an occasion for less formal music, and also for "party piece" contributions from members of the chorus. I offered to sing something and the conductor, John Wyatt, suggested that a traditional folk song would blend well with the programme, so I found myself singing, unaccompanied, a South Appalachian folk song in the first half. Their President is Dame Janet Baker, and she's very conscientious about attending their concerts whenever she can, and she was in the audience that evening. John introduced me to Dame Janet during the interval, and I was left on cloud nine, because she was very generous (not just polite) about my singing. She repeated her favourable comments at the choir's 50th Anniversary Dinner a few days later: I shall have to frame the blouse she touched when she put her hand on my shoulder during her speech! This is a singer whose work I have admired for as long as I remember hearing it - and whom I'd never expected to meet.

On 20 June, I was singing in an afternoon fundraiser concert for a church in West Buckinghamshire. That was a delightful occasion: a warm welcome and an encouraging audience.

The London Song Festival ([www.londonsongfestival.org](http://www.londonsongfestival.org)) - founded in 2007 by its Director and Pianist, Nigel Foster - takes place annually in June. In mid-May, I had followed up on my teacher's idea to audition to take part in the Louise



Winter Master-class on 24 June: part of this summer's London Song Festival. I was delighted to be accepted, especially as I was told "We enjoyed your audition". The evening itself was lovely. Louise Winter is really easy to be with, notwithstanding her status as an international mezzo-soprano. In the way of such things, I was able to learn, not only from my own part of the session, but also from Louis' work with the other five participants.

The month's singing finished with a local charity concert on 27 June, in my own church, where I sang Fauré's *Après un Rêve*. That was the song I'd sung as part of the French theme for this year's London Song Festival at the master-class. I felt that that additional work had paid off, because, once again, it was really well received.

Now I have to work out where I go from here. Along with the reactions of "Wow! That's great!" and (very pleasingly) "About time too!", I've also had a couple of more realistic "That's brave!" comments. I have to work out how to get myself known and how to be recognised as someone who's worthy of being asked to stand in front of the chorus that's just spent weeks rehearsing for their concert. My teacher has suggested some wise consolidation steps involving getting some qualifications. So now I'm thinking about working on music theory, to grade 5 at least, and singing to grade 8, neither of which should be too much of a problem, if I apply myself to filling in the gaps in the knowledge I have already. After that, a diploma, perhaps, to help me to feel confident in my new rôle.

I've set up my website, so that people can get to know what I can offer now, and what my voice sounds like. I can update it as my repertoire increases, and as I am able to get more sound bites recorded.

In the meantime... is anyone looking for a soprano?

Christine Bennett

Soprano

07766-445320

[www.christinebennett-soprano.com](http://www.christinebennett-soprano.com)

# Music and what it means to me

By Claire Colton

Music has always played a part in my life. I think it started with me singing 'Davy Crockett' at the top of my voice during a family visit to Ely Cathedral when I was about four. My brother was very embarrassed and my parents mildly amused. Apart from my warblings around the house there was school choir, Church choir, recorder lessons, piano lessons...nothing very dramatic there (apart from the Christmas term when Gaye Walmsley was chosen to sing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City and I was, comme toujours, the also-ran!). Miss Chant and Graham Johnstone were in charge of music at SHS and SS respectively and The Dream of Gerontius with The Choral Society was a highlight of my sixth form. As an adult I sang with Oakham Choral Society and was auditioned by Christopher Gower and accepted for the Peterborough Choral Society – but I don't recall actually participating - probably work and/or pregnancy intervened.

So it was that as a mother of teenagers I attended an NSPCC fundraising event with a friend where a big band was playing. I mentioned that I'd always wanted to sing with a big band (I had always enjoyed swing music i.e. Glenn Miller/Duke Ellington/Count Basie....my peers had been more into Pink Floyd, Cream, the Beatles etc., etc). My friend then told me that prior to marrying and having her daughter, she had been a vocalist and her aunt had been a very well-known London vocalist called Anne Lenner. The culmination of all this is that we talked to the band leader, he offered me an audition – I've Got You Under My Skin in Frank Sinatra's key! – I passed the audition and so began a somewhat tortuous journey as a vocalist. Tortuous inasmuch I was so nervous and lacking in confidence to start with (having been raised in an era of the disapproving tone (no pun intended!) 'Don't do that' and 'I think that's quite enough of that behaviour' etc., etc – how times have changed!). Anyway I started doing gigs with that big band (since disbanded – not my fault, honest!) and then small jazz outfits and other big bands, every gig a further learning curve. I'm now working with, inter alia, a semi-professional band where members have worked with some of the best known big band era icons – Joe Loss, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. My admiration for musicians has grown and grown: the hours of dedication required to achieve a professional standard, the hours of travelling to gigs whatever the weather or personal circumstances, the anti-social hours, the general bemusement when a prospective client balks at the price believing they can get a small band for little more than the cost of one vocalist with backing tracks.

In addition to the joy of listening to music of any genre, participating as a musician has some tremendous benefits - the humour and camaraderie during a weekend gig at a holiday venue when the 'punters' have gone to bed and the brass (trumpets and trombones) (and maybe one or two others!) get the bottles out and reminisce or put the world to rights. The buzz when a number goes really well and the applause is long and loud. The constant search for 'new' songs to learn. The glamour of glitzy evening gowns and shoes. And perhaps most of all, the belief that music keeps you young - you're always working towards the next gig. It certainly puts a smile on my face – I couldn't live without it!



# Births, Marriages, Deaths and Anniversaries

## BIRTHS

McLOREY, Kelly (German) and husband Garan, have a daughter, Elsa, born on 21st January 2010.

FRIDAY, Jenny has a boy, William George who was born on 1st February 2010

GRIFFIN, Elaine (Northern) and William have a boy, Henry James born on 10th December 2009. (Great Birthday! Ed.)

HYLAND, Jo (Newcombe) had Alexander Michael Charles on 25th December 2009.

O'DONNELL, Sarah (Priem) and Paul have a daughter, Eleanor born 10th December 2009. (Good Day – Editor)

PARKER, Emma has a son, David, born 21st October 2008.

WOODS, Alison (Grainger) had a son, Benjamin Matthew on the 10th February 2009.

## MARRIAGES

DAVIES, Jemma married David Holland on 14th August 2010.

VENKATESHAM, Elizabeth (Newman) married Vinai on 11th September 2009 at Holdenby House, Northamptonshire.

## DEATHS

CHAPMAN, Dorothy on 12th January 2010 (S.H.S. 1949 -1946)

DOLLAM, Maureen on 20th February 2010 S.H.S. 1943 -1948).

FLINT, Kathleen Helen, died on 1st March 2009.

BHASME, Jacquie (Cannard) died on 28th February. (S.H.S. 1975 – 1981)

GARDNER, Victoria (Walker) died in October 2009.

GODSLAND, Barbara (Audas) died in November 2009 aged 93. (S.H.S.1920s).

HARRISS, Norah May (Brogan) died in Eugene, Oregon on 14th November 2010.

HARVEY, Anne (Bench) died on 6th November 2009 (1955 -1966).

HAWES, Betty died in December 2009.

HENDY, Joan (Mackay) died on 20th November 2009. She had retired only one year previously from her job as Director of Early Years and Certificate

Programmes at Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies. She had received a Fellowship for her services to Early Years Education. She leaves her husband, Alan, children Mary and Adam as well as grandchildren Melissa and Isabella. It was Alan's request that she be mentioned in the magazine.

HILL, Sheila Margaret, a retired school mistress at the High School, died suddenly at her home in Market Rasen on the 22nd May 2010.

JACKSON, Maggie died in May 2009 aged 98.

MILLER, Gill died suddenly but peacefully on 15th December 2009.

PAGE Davina (Jakes) died on 23rd April 2009.

RICKETT, Edna (Dobbs) died on 28th March 2010.

ROOPE, Mary Irene died on 25 July 2009.

SCOTT, Diana (Robinson) died December 31st 2009 aged 79 years (S.H.S. 1940s).

SHILLING, Helena (Cursley) died in 2009.

WARD, Martha (Watt) died on 11th December 2009, (SH.S. 1930s)

Ex- Staff

NOLAN, Peggy died on 12th August 2009.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### SILVER WEDDINGS

CHAPMAN, Susan (Burt) celebrated her anniversary on 10 August.

CHISLET-MACDONALD, Ruth (Lamin) to Andrew, on 27th July at St Martin's Church, Stamford.

CLARE, Hilary (Wright) to John on 10th August at St John's Church, Stamford.

FORREST, Gillian (Griffiths) to William, on 21st September at St Mary, Magdalene, Yarm, Cleveland.

GENT, Dawn and John, at St Peter's Church, Caversham, Reading on 13th April.

HUTCHINSON, Rosemary (Gent) to Richard on 2nd November, at St Rumbald's Church, Stoke Doyle.

LAMB, Rosamund (Burks) to Tim on 15th June at St John the Evangelist, Ryhall.

MORLEY, Jane (Kingston) to Phil on 21st September, at Barn Hill Methodist Church, Stamford.

WHITE, (Karen) Peta (Pendelbury) celebrated her 25th Anniversary with Chris on 23rd June 2009.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

CLAPHAM, Jacqueline M.L. (Doughty) married Peter on 1st August 1970 at St. John's Church Stanmore, Middlesex.

DAWSON, Juliet (Samworth) to Geoff on 18th July at Peterborough Cathedral.

FENN, Linda (Forsyth) to John on 30th May at St Mary's church, Ketton.

WESTON, Rosemary (Dobbs) to John on 12th September at St George's Church, Stamford.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

FLETCHER, Edwina (Bos) and Jack celebrated their 50th anniversary on 4 June.

HARRISON, Mary (Bates) to Fred 16th April at the Priory Church, Deeping St James.

HINCH, Hazel (Ellis) to Frank (OS) on 16th July at St Mary's Church, Stamford.

PRISK, Jean (Avery) to Roy on 26th September at All Saints' Church Paston.

### DIAMOND WEDDINGS

CLEMENTSON, Josephine (Sibson) celebrated her Diamond anniversary with a card from the Queen.

KING, Margaret (Eayrs) to Ron on 20th April at St Mary's Church, Stamford.

ROSS, Margaret (Woods) to Anthony, on 2nd August at St Mary's Church, Stamford.

RILEY, Jean (Hill) to John Riley (O.B.) on the 13th April St. Martin's Church, Stamford.



## News of Old Girls

### 2000 LEAVERS

ALEXANDER-ORR, Lucie graduated from Newcastle University in June 2009 with a 2:1 BA Hons in Economics. She has been in a graduate scheme at KPNG in London since September 2010.

ARMSTRONG, Sarah has problems that should not be divulged here! (I think she is teasing!! Warts? Sarah?).

CLIFFORD, Katherine works for Hanover as a political lobbyist in London and is buying a house in Sussex with Nigel.

COPLEY, Jessica graduated from Leeds University with a degree in International History & Politics in 2008. She has since done her PGCE and is a History teacher at Wellington School in Somerset.

DAVIES, Jemma works in space Planning for Tesco.

DUDDRIDGE, Charlene graduated with a Bachelor of Media Studies and worked in Television & Radio production/broadcasting before returning to study Law. She is currently working in educational Resource Development.

FINCH, Vaila has lived in France since 2006 and works in Paris as a journalist for the international TV news channel, France24.

GORDON, Kate works as a buyer for Argos and has bought a house with Matt in St. Albans.

LAMB, Jessica graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in Modern Languages in 2009. She completed a Primary PGCE course last year and now works in Fulham, London.

MARSH, Claire has been awarded an Erasmus place and Scholarship to study History at the Sorbonne University in Paris for the academic year beginning September 2010.

MORRIS, Claire works as a PA for a director of product development at L'Oreal, London.

SALVAT, Anneka graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, with a BSc Econ (Hons) in International Politics and International History with

German. She now works for Keble College, University of Oxford, and lives on the Cotswold border.

SMETHURST, Wendy has passed her medical finals and started work in August 2010 as a foundation doctor. She graduated from Birmingham University, in 2004 with a 2:1 (Hons) in Psychology.

SHEPPARD, Daisy graduated from Newcastle University in 2008 and the travelled around the world with Aimee Taylor. She is currently working for a PR company in London.

TAYLOR, Aimee completed a degree and is currently working in London.

VAUGHAN, Carys works as a Sales and Marketing Manager for Kaplan International Colleges and lives in London.

WILKINSON, Emma graduated from the Initial Officer Training Course at the Officer & Aircrew Training Unit at RAF Cranwell. She goes on to further training in Portsmouth before beginning her career as a personnel support officer.

WRIGHT, Emma qualified as a solicitor in September and lives in Lincoln.

### 1990'S LEAVERS

ANGWIN, Johanna (West) married to Grant in November 2004. they have a daughter, Georgina and she has two step-daughters, Natasha and Kelly. After attaining a HND in Business & Finance at Derby University, she worked for a precious metals company (Johnson Matthey PLC) before moving to the U.S.A. She is currently not working but is a full time mother.

BAKER, Sarah (Rotherham) married Jonathan (OS.S.) in 2001. They have two children, Tammy (2007) and Lexis (2009). She is on a career break, having worked in London as a director for PWC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

BOVILL, Charlotte (Jones) married in South Arica on 1st March 2007 and has a son, Freddie and a baby born in September 2010. She worked as a director of a national facilities

management company in London and the North West. She attained a 2:1 MSc in Global Development Management whilst in London.

BRASSINGTON, Julia (Gilding) was granted Rights of Audience in the higher Courts as a Solicitor – Advocate in 2009. She is still working full time as a Duty Criminal Solicitor in Loughborough.

COX, Kirsten (Jeffries) had a son - Jimi Lee in June 2008. Kirsten now runs the European Marketing for IT Vendor CA. DRURY, Emma (Mortimer) married Craig in 2006 at Oakham Castle and has a son, George, born August 2008. They live in Cambridge. Emma works for The Guardian newspaper as their news editor on the children's news website, learnnewsdesk.

GILL, Natalie (Horton) married in 2004. She has a son, Benjamin William born 11th February 2007 and a daughter, Charlotte Rosie, who was born 16th October 2009.

HARRISON, Fiona (Maclennan) is married to David and they have four children, all educated at S.E.S. She is teaching Piano at S.H.S.

HODGES, Barbara retrained as a solicitor in Family Law and lives in London. She has two children, Henry and Ella.

LAMBERT, N J, works as a full time assistant manager in a shop in Stamford. LAMBKIN, Charlotte used to work for B.A.E. Systems.

McLOREY, Kelly (German) lives in Cambridgeshire where she works on creative projects for her website, Nest.

MORRIS, Anna (Itchen) married 26th October 2002. She has two sons, Joseph (June 2005) and Jack (October 2006). Anna gained a Bsc Hons in Environmental Science in 1993. She worked on the Tall Ship, Sy Sea Cloud as deck crew for several years mainly in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. She is presently a police officer in Portsmouth.

PENDLEBURY, (Karen) Peta (White) is self employed. She was voted on to the Board of Kinesiology Federation in

2009.

THOMPSON, Susan (Brooks) is in touch with Jayne Nind (Palmer). Susan now lives in Yarwell and is currently working for Natural England in Peterborough.

TOUT, Carrie (Knox) married Nick in June 2007. She is working in Recruitments in Winchester, having worked in London for ten years. She plays hockey for Winchester Ladies 2nd Team.

VENKATESHAM, Elizabeth (Newman) is now running Tesco Project Management training courses. She is taking an Open University degree course in Psychology.

WOODINGS, Pam is a Consultant Oncologist at the Royal Derby Hospital.

### 1980'S LEAVERS

ADAMS, Caroline (Crowe) has two daughters, Olivia and Camilla who are both at the S.H.S.

APPLEBY, Jane (Udale) Lives in New Zealand where she has been married to Kevin for eighteen Years. She is Senior Manager - Human Resourcing Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Hamilton. She is currently studying for a Masters in Human Resourcing and Organisational Development. Kevin has a travel agency, so they enjoy visiting the nearby South Pacific islands of Ratoronga, Tahiti and Tonga.

BEARDSWORTH, Alison is a hospital consultant in Emergency Medicine in Brighton. She helps to run a medical charity called 'IASIS' that has members working in Romania, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, Brazil and Ethiopia. She went out to Haiti last May.

BELL, Ann (Norman) is in touch with Deirdre McCumiskey (Woodcock). Ann is still working at Cummins in Stamford but is now part-time so she can enjoy gardening, cruises, ballroom dancing, walking tennis and bird watching. Ann coaches the juniors at her local tennis club and is on several committees including the Old Girls Guild.

BUCKINGHAM, Clare (Bailey) married to Mark. They have Beth (7)

and Jack (2),

with lots of animals, including pigs, sheep and Labrador dogs. She runs a Physio practice with her husband in Northampton.

CHAPPELL, Emily graduated with a 2:1 in BA (Hons) International Management. She has worked in Canada but now works as an analyst at Thomas Cook HQ in Peterborough.

HAMMOND-WALKER, Karen (Hammond) married to Neil and lives in Reigate. She changed her job five years ago, from pharmaceuticals to a Primary School teacher and Science Co-ordinator.

HINTON, Emma Madge has two daughters and lives in Somerset. She is a partner with her husband in their Company.

MARSDEN, Susan (Fisher) owns three shops in South Wales.

MASSIE, Vicky Lowe married Richard in 2002. They have two children, Isabelle (6) and Oliver (2). Vicky works part time as Compliance & Accreditation Manager for an Agrochemical Research Company.

McCALLUM, Rachel, (Staniforth) Lives in Reading with Angus. She has her own Holistic Therapy Practice and teaches baby massage. She learnt Scuba diving two years ago.

McINTOSH, Nicole (Thornally) has two sons, Callum who is twelve and Alastair is now eight years old.

MITCHELL, Kiffy (Murphy) has three children, all of whom are having the full S.H.S. experience going from Reception class through to the Senior Schools. Kiffy and her husband teach at the High School and Stamford School respectively.

REGAN, Nicola (Yeo) is married and working with O2.

RYAN, Claire (Lomas) is currently working at Keele University. She is married and they have two daughters.

SANDERSON, Kate is now divorced and lives in Rutland. She graduated from Nottingham Trent University in July 2010, with a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resources Management and membership of the Chartered Institute

of Personnel Development.

SIMPSON, Cassie (Allen) married Jamie in 2007 and they have two children. She works a Marketing Communications Officer for Coventry City Council recruiting Foster Carers and Adoptive parents.

WOLFENDEN-BROWN, Joy married to Richard for 22 years. They have two boys, Toby (16) and Lewis (14). Worked as an Art Therapist before having the two boys. Now works full time as an Artist in Cornwall.

WOODINGS Pam is a consultant in Clinical Oncology at Royal Derby Hospital.

### 1970'S LEAVERS

ATKIN, Lesley (House) returned to teaching in 2001 when she updated her qualifications, gaining the City & Guilds medal of Excellence for a Diploma in Teaching English in the Lifelong Learning Sector. This was cause for extravagant celebrations in London. She is attempting to complete her dissertation for the MA, after which she is looking forward to the dull, everyday chores around the house.

EICHLER, Amanda Jane (Whitlock) has a degree in Biochemistry from London University. She works part time for her husband who is also a scientist, HARRISON, Fiona (Mallenan) studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on the performer course (AGSM). She teaches the piano at S.H.S. where she has been for eighteen years.

JACKSON, Sarah has a son, Bryn born January 1998. She gained a BA Hons Degree in Psychology in 1990. She has taken early retirement on medical grounds. Sarah has a keen interest in horses and remains as active as possible.

JOHNSON, Elizabeth achieved a Diploma in Home Economics at Sheffield Polytechnic. She is a former assistant Housemistress at a school in Malvern and now works at a garden centre in Ross-shire. She has three grown-up children.

KERR, Alison (Graham) has two sons

James and Sandy with her husband, Peter. She retired from teaching at Ribston Hall High School in Gloucester in July 2010, after 13 years where she taught 'A' level Chemistry, lower school Maths and completed the timetable! Alison is now happy in her garden.

KENT, Helena (Jakins) celebrated her 33rd wedding anniversary in April 2010. She has taken early retirement, living 6 months in Florida where she enjoys volunteer work in a small dog Rescue Centre, a State Park, a butterfly garden & nursery and a 'Barefoot' beach park.

LYLE, Amanda Jane (Grant) married Nigel in 1976 and they have two girls, Christine and Bridget and a son, Tony. She works as an external verifier for the awarding body, City and Guilds.

PRIOR, Susan left S.H.S. in 1978. She has two adopted daughters, Libby and Annie and is married to Brian McKenzie. Susan lives in Brisbane, Australia, and is the editor of an online current affairs/political e-journal called [www.onlineopinion.com.au](http://www.onlineopinion.com.au).

READ, Jeannie (Woodman) gained a B Ed in 1985 and has taught in several primary schools in Leicester until 1999, including a year at a bi-lingual Grammar school in Budapest, Hungary. She has since worked for a large bank as a Customer Advisor. During this time she has been doing voluntary work helping local schools with reading and writing during the lunchtime breaks. She belongs to two re-enactment groups, one a World War Two group, the other of the Victorian period. Jeannie and her partner, David enjoy many shows between April and October, talking and learning about the history involved.

REDFEARN, Jane (Hughes) is involved in the local Rotary organisation in Somerset as well as other local groups in the community. Her daughters, Charlotte and Amy are both continuing with Postgraduate teacher training schemes.

WOODWARD, GAYE (Hocking) is now working part time teaching English to migrant workers, on a programme of short courses run by the University of Lincoln.

## 1960'S LEAVERS

BARRON-CLARK, Rachel (Osborn) and Richard have four children and live in Greatford.

BLACKWELL, Margaret (Blackwell) went on a cruise up the Norwegian Ffords with her husband last year. This year she had a hip replacement.

BURDEN, Verena (Archer) is a 'new-retired' living between Leicester and Nottingham, near to family and loving it.

BARRINGER, Chris has worked in Sales, Marketing and Head-hunting, then went to live for three years in the Mediterranean and Caribbean. She then joined the Civil service and is Head of Transportation with Health & Safety Executive, responsible for Operational Policy in Ports, Airports Road Haulage and the Warehousing Sectors. Still sailing.

CHATWIN, Ruth (Ray) left school in 1958 after 'O Levels' and went into nursing, midwifery and finally, practise nursing. She ignored the advice of her headmistress, Miss Lomax, who informed her that she would never be a nurse and would be better if she stayed on to do her 'A' levels. Ruth decided the words would never be right as she has proved them wrong throughout her career!!

FOULKE, Sheelagh (Grummitt) is vice Chairman of the Norwich Sugar craft Association, who came 1st in the East Anglian Area annual competition. Her entry was highly recommended.

MORDECAI, Kay (Robson) works as a chartered Psychologist/Psychotherapist – loved the lunch!! -Thanks.

## 1950S LEAVERS

FLETCHER, Edwina (Bos) is happily retired in a remote Scottish community.

HUNTER, Valerie (Rusdale) is involved with the church and the local Art group in her village. She enjoys visits to her daughter in Piedmonte and to Malta.

Please accept my apologies for the inclusion in last year's photo when you were absent Bev Hopkins – Editor.

LEWIS, Sheelagh (Dack) does volunteer

work for Somerset N.A.D.F.A.S. (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) where she has lectured on Oriental rugs since 1978.

PETCH, Jane is now semi retired and hoping to live overseas.

SMYTH, Sally (Smallman) is still in touch with Jill Wright, Sandy Bryne and Julie Latimer as well as Sue Harker. She celebrated her Golden Wedding in 2007. She is still volunteering at Headway in Shropshire a day centre for those with ABI (Acquired Brain Injury) as her 3rd son, Jonathan is brain injured from an R.T.A. in 1985. Jonathan married Jackie last year and successfully edits the magazine for 'Momentum', part of the Rehab UK group. Sally enjoys singing with the community choir.

TURNER, Ann (Ingram) is retiring in July 2010 after 34 years at the Stamford Library.

WILKINSON, Margaret (Sally) (Bushell). Sally would like anyone who knows her to get in touch as she has left Devon after 22 years to live in Geddington.

## 1940S LEAVERS

CRAWFORD, Doreen (Cheshire) continues to work as an Editor for a publication of school books in Pakistan.

NORTHERN, Sheila (Hayes) was widowed in 2004.



## **Other Lives, Gill Miller**

by Daniel Harris

For anyone taking up music in later life my mother, Gill Miller, who has died aged 72, is a source of inspiration. As a girl, Gill played the harmonium at her Grandma's house, learning piano and attaining Piano Grade 5 aged 16. 50 years later, having revived her love of piano playing in retirement, she passed her Grade 8 examination.

Her last fifteen years were full of music. She played for The Swan Children's Theatre and helped organise piano holidays in the Malvern Hills. Gill helped to develop the Malvern Piano Club, where people of all abilities gathered to play and discuss music. Often this was hosted in Gill and Robin's home. She organised the Malvern Town Women's Guild singing group nicknamed 'the Rocking Grannies', singing for residents of old people's homes, some of whom were younger than the choir members themselves. As secretary to Worcester Concert Club, she helped stage concerts by musicians from across Europe. Later she chaired Making Music in the West Midlands, the charity supporting voluntary music across the country.

Gill had done a great deal before these musical years. Enthralled by novels set in boarding schools and, unbeknown to her parents, she applied to Stamford Girls School, gaining the first state scholarship in the late 1940s. Academically she excelled and developed a love of theatre after performing the lead in Shaw's Saint Joan, aged fourteen. Destined for Oxbridge, her parents couldn't fund university. Instead, she worked in factories and hospitals, throwing her energies into Nottingham Playhouse, and mixing with talented Thespians including John Bird, Michael Jayston and Ken Loach. There she met Roy with whom she had three boys.

A decade later, now a single mum, she studied for her social work qualification on three hours sleep, writing essays through the night. Duly qualified and working in Runcorn she established a local branch of the single parent charity, Gingerbread and, with her partner, Duncan transformed their large garden into an allotment, selling produce to fund trips for families on her caseload. After two years in Mansfield, she came in 1982 to work in Worcester subsequently ending her social work career as District Children's Services Manager for South Worcestershire. Here in Worcester she enjoyed again her love of the theatre, performing in twelve plays in four years at the Swan Theatre and discovered her passion for music.

Gill's creativity, love for life, and independence of spirit made her an energetic and dynamic member of her community. She gave her time to voluntary activity, friends and neighbours generously, especially where it involved a glass of wine, a good chat and a great deal of fun.

She is survived by her partner of seventeen years, Robin, and her three sons, Simon, Daniel and Joe.

# Norah May Brogan

by Nancy Hansen



Norah May Brogan (married name Harriss) died on 14 November, 2010, in Eugene, Oregon, USA. She was 83 years.

Norah was at school from 1933 to 1942. She would have been in the class of 1944, but graduated early to attend to her ill mother, Mary Brogan.

Immediately after WWII, Norah sailed for the USA to help her older sister, Mollie Brogan (married name Harriss), who was gravely ill. ( Mollie had also graduated from Stamford High School.) Mollie died of a heart condition in 1946.

After Mollie's death, Norah subsequently married her brother-in-law, Jerry Harriss. They lived in Saudi Arabia as well as in the USA, in California and Texas. Jerry worked as a geologist and died in 1972.

Norah is remembered as a very kind and hospitable person. Throughout her lifetime, she enjoyed a variety of jobs, starting a catering company, working in real estate, and later using her nurturing skills with eldercare.

Norah's three daughters, Maureen, Kathleen and Nancy, live in Eugene, Oregon, USA. Norah shared many memories of her time in Stamford and at Stamford High School with her daughters, who were all able to visit Stamford several times.

(S.H.S. 1933 – 1942)

Nancy Hansen – [nancyjeanhansen@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjeanhansen@gmail.com)

## TENNIS REPORT

The weather was perfect with sunshine and blue skies and how lovely it would have been to report on a win for the OGG team. However, this year we were well and truly thrashed despite some very good performances from two players making their debuts for the OGG! The pairing of Sarah Ashby (nee Lorena) and Ann Bell (nee ?) produced our only wins against a School side containing some strong players, including Kate Ainsworth (staff!) who partnered Lydia Kay who is the daughter of old girl Sally Kay (nee Gooding).

As usual I am so grateful to all the OGG volunteers and to the School girls and Kate Ainsworth for giving up their afternoon at a very busy time of the term. I have organised OGG teams to play in this fixture for over 25 years now and I feel very strongly that it should continue if at all possible. For this reason, I am handing over the team selection to Clare Taylor and Lucie Orr (SHS leavers in 2005) as they have access to Facebook accounts and a much better networking system than I have! However you can still volunteer to play via me - please do not wait to be asked.....get in touch even if you do not want to play tennis as I love to hear from you.

Dawn Gent

*There will be a Tennis match at the next Luncheon, any invitees to organise this event, please contact one of the committee or the School.*



Back row L to R Tara Gordon, Natalie Scrupps, Maria Davies, Lydia Kay, Lucy Babbs

Front row Clare Taylor, Lucie Orr, Ann Bell, Sarah Ashby and Dawn Gent

Please contact Lucie Orr, mobile 07773 112681, if you would like to play in the Tournament in July this year.

# Revision of the Constitution

The Committee has recently undertaken a review of the Constitution of the Stamford High School Old Girls' Guild. We have found many items which we consider need updating and we give below the current Constitution and then the itemised list of changes we believe need to be made. These will be placed before the Annual General Meeting in July 2011 and confirmation sought to implement the changes. If you have any comments or objections to these changes please contact me.

Anita Trowell  
email: anita.trowell@btinternet.com

## CONSTITUTION

1. **The function of the Guild** is to encourage contact between Old Girls themselves, maintain links between them and the School and arrange social events and other activities for the fulfilment of these purposes.
2. **The business of the Guild** to be conducted by the President, Honorary President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Treasurer.

### SECTION 1: OFFICERS OF THE GUILD

3. **THE PRESIDENT:** who shall be the current Head Mistress and shall Chair the Annual General Meeting. In the event of equal voting at an Annual General Meeting, to have a casting vote.
4. **THE HONORARY PRESIDENT:** who shall be the current Principal of The Stamford Endowed Schools.
5. **THE VICE-PRESIDENTS:** which shall be honorary positions and be filled by past Head Mistresses, retired members of Staff or distinguished Old Girls. The Vice-Presidents shall deputise for the President if the President is unable to attend an Annual General Meeting.
6. **THE CHAIRMAN:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for the proper conduct of all meetings in accordance with the Constitution of the Guild. To have one casting vote in the event of equal voting at a committee meeting.
7. **THE VICE-CHAIRMAN:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To deputise for the Chairman at committee meetings and to be Chairman-Elect.
  - a. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at committee meetings. An acting Chairman to be elected from those present for the duration of that meeting only.
8. **THE SECRETARY:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for the calling of all meetings, preparation of agendas and the safekeeping and circulation of the Minutes. To be responsible for all correspondence and records on behalf of the Guild.
9. **THE TREASURER:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for the financial aspects of the running of the Guild. To make all approved payments on the Guilds behalf and issue receipts for payments to the Guild. To be responsible for the maintenance of proper accounts, to furnish statements of account at all committee meetings, to prepare a balance sheet and statement of accounts at the end of the Guild's year.
  - a. An auditor to be selected by the Committee and approved by members at the Annual General Meeting, whose duty shall be to audit the annual accounts before their presentation to members at the Annual General Meeting.
10. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take



office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for all aspects of membership of the Guild and liaise with the Headmistress' Secretary, SHS Bursar's Office and Finance Office, making sure that all membership fees are paid to the Guild.

11. **MINUTES SECRETARY:** who shall be an Old Girl, elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for taking the Minutes at committee meetings and at the Annual General Meeting. To ensure that committee Minutes are produced and forwarded to the Secretary for circulation to Committee Members. To produce and publish the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

12. **MAGAZINE EDITOR:** who shall be an Old Girl or past member of staff elected every five years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for producing and publishing the annual magazine. The editor is to ensure that she regularly consults the Committee on the content of the magazine and obtains their approval for printing and distribution costs. Before publication the Editor must submit a draft magazine to the President of the Guild for approval.

13. **LUNCHEON SECRETARY:** who shall be an Old Girl: elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To be responsible for organising the Annual Luncheon. The Luncheon Secretary is to liaise direct with the Catering Officer at SHS and keep the committee fully informed and to obtain the committee's approval for the luncheon costs.

## **SECTION 2: COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES**

14. **THE COMMITTEE:** who shall be Old Girls or past member of staff, elected every four years at the Annual General Meeting. To take office immediately following the Annual General Meeting. To consist of a minimum of eight Guild Members.

15. It is expected that age and ability to serve as a committee person are unrelated but a mix of ages would seem sensible. Committee members are expected to attend committee meetings, the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon. They are to assist Guild Officers and the Luncheon Secretary when requested to do so. One committee member is to assume the duty of organising the annual tennis and hockey matches against the School.

## **SECTION 3: COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

16. The committee to meet no less than three times a year. Full Minutes to be taken and recorded at each meeting.

17. A minimum of six committee members, plus officers, will form a quorum at a committee meeting.

18. The Committee must obtain The Annual General Meeting's approval to spend in excess of £250 or any individual item, project or donation.

## **SECTION 4: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

19. The Annual General Meeting is to be held on the last Saturday of the summer term each year unless otherwise decided at a committee meeting.

20. A minimum of twenty Guild members plus officers will form a quorum at an Annual General Meeting.

21. **NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE:** to be sent in writing to the Secretary at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting, together with the names of the proposer and seconder. Only members of the Guild to be eligible for nomination and for making nominations.

22. **VOTING:** shall be by a show of hands, except at the discretion of the President at an Annual General Meeting and the Chairman at a committee meeting. When a secret ballot is deemed necessary, every question before either meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of members present.

23. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE GUILD:** the current subscription of £32 for life having been paid to the Treasurer will entitle the member to one vote at a General Meeting. This subscription will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

24. **ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION:** no amendment may be enacted or addition accepted except at a General Meeting. Any member proposing alteration shall give notice to the Secretary at least one month prior to the meeting and the alteration shall appear on the notice convening the meeting.

25. **QUESTIONS NOT COVERED BY THIS CONSTITUTION:** in case any question shall at any time arise which is not provided for in this Constitution, the question shall be determined by the committee whose decision shall be binding or unless or until varied or revoked by them.

26. Should the Stamford High School Old Girls' Guild be disbanded, any monies, which have accumulated, will be given to the School.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

**Item 2:** Remove Membership Secretary and Minutes Secretary.

**Item 9a:** To read "The books to be audited prior to their presentation to members at the Annual General Meeting".

**Item 10:** Remove.

**Item 11:** Remove.

**Item 12:** The last sentence to read "Before publication the Editor must submit a draft magazine to the Committee for approval".

**Item 13:** Remove.

**Item 15:** To read "It is considered that age and ability to serve as a committee person are unrelated but a mix of ages would seem sensible. Committee members are expected to attend as many meetings as possible. One committee member is to assume the duty of organizing the annual tennis match against the school".

**Item 18:** To read "The Committee must obtain the Annual General Meeting's approval to spend in excess of £3000 on any individual item, project or donation".

**Item 20:** To read "A minimum of twenty Guild members will form a quorum at an Annual General Meeting.

**Item 21:** To read "Nominations for the committee may be accepted any time during the calendar year but will be formally proposed and seconded for acceptance by the Annual General Meeting".

**Item 23:** To read "The current subscription of £50 for life and £15 for life (for age 60+) having been paid to the Treasurer etc...."

**Item 26:** To read "Should the Stamford High School Old Girls' Guild be disbanded any monies which have accumulated will be given to Stamford High School for the benefit of their Bursary Fund".



## **BARBECUE**



**Please contact any of the committee if you would like to attend the joint BBQ in the evening after the Old Girls reunion.**



## SPECIAL REUNIONS

These are groups of girls who went through school together. To avoid confusion, year means the year in which that particular group of girls left or would have left in the Upper Sixth. In 2011, we welcome, in particular, Old Girls who left in:

2006 (5 year reunion)  
 2001 (10 year reunion)  
 1996 (15 year reunion)  
 1991 (20 year reunion)  
 1986 (25 year reunion)  
 1981 (30 year reunion)  
 1971 (40 year reunion)  
 1961 (50 year reunion)  
 1951 (60 year reunion)

If anyone could come and help with the organisation of the Luncheon next year we are looking for new and interested girls to continue the yearly event. Although we are known as a committee, we are a group of Old Girls that enjoy the Luncheon as much as you do and we do not want it to have to finish through lack of organisational support. Also if you are interested in organising a Reunion year, please contact any girl on the 'Committee' mentioned at the beginning of the magazine.



## AGM, PHOENIX LUNCHEON 2nd July 2011

10.00 am	Coffee & biscuits	£2.00	<b>ANNUAL LUNCHEON MENU</b> (May be altered due to availability)	
10.45 am	AGM		Fresh salmon	Garlic/herb Bread
11.30 am	Pre-Luncheon drinks in the Quad if fine, if wet in the Dining Room. (Bucks Fizz or non-alcoholic Punch)		Prawns	Table Wine /non-Alcohol Punch *****
12.30 pm	Buffet luncheon in the Hall Speeches and presentations. School is open after lunch.	£23.00	Roast Chicken	Selection of Sweets or Cheese *****
			Roast Beef	
			Ham with Pineapple and Cloves	Coffee and Mints
			Vegetarian Selection	
			Seasonal Salads	
			Hot New Potatoes	
3.00 pm	OGG v School Tennis Match at the School Tennis Courts, Kettering Road.			
4.00 pm	Tea in the Dining Room			