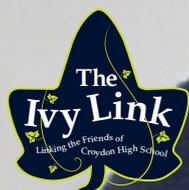


Remembering Dorinda 100 years on



The Ivy Link Magazine 2018



Dear Friends



It is hard to believe that we are preparing for the summer break after my second year as Headmistress at Croydon High School. I can assure you that I feel the same sense of passion and excitement for this wonderful School as when I first arrived and I am so proud of this community and its remarkable girls.

It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at Ivy Link events this year. I would like to thank our wonderful Ivy Link Coordinator, Karen Roe for her continued commitment and her relentless enthusiasm in bringing us all together to maintain the momentum of this very important community. I particularly look forward to the Ivy Link lunch and to celebrating special anniversaries with many of you.

The year has been a fruitful and busy one with much to celebrate. Academically, the School is thriving. Our GCSE results were the best in a generation with nearly 50% of all grades receiving the top A* grade and our A levels results impressive, as always.

We launch a new subject in September. Enterprise Technology combines the rudiments of computer science, such as programming, with skills like teamwork and problem solving and – crucially – creativity. Thank you to those who have supported us in this initiative so far and we would welcome further support from anyone with skills or experience in this area.

Our girls continue to excel in sport, drama, music; you can imagine my delight when a Croydon High girl won the GDST Young Vocalist of the Year! Charlotte goes on to study opera at the Royal Academy of Music. Those of you who enjoyed our

Dear Ivy Linkers



Welcome to the seventh edition of the annual Ivy Link Magazine. It has been a privilege to connect with so many of you over the last year and to hear your fascinating stories; both of your lives now and your memories of school days at Croydon High.

We are very fortunate that members of the Ivy Link community are actively involved in school life, from sitting on our Governing Body to helping with practice interviews, attending productions and concerts, joining reunions and supporting careers events. We are extremely grateful.

This year the Magazine celebrates our first Headmistress, Dorinda Neligan, who led the school from 1874 to 1901 and went on to be prominent in the suffragette movement. Dorinda built a firm foundation for the school and her progressive views influenced girls not just during her Headship but also continues to inspire girls now

spectacular production of 'Joseph' in February will have seen Charlotte perform as the Narrator. As one of you remarked to me, "You would be forgiven for thinking you had just seen a professional performance."

It has always been a strong feature of our School that alumnae give back to the network's future members. Thank you to Suzie Kundu (2001) Materials Chemist, Science Presenter and Teaching Fellow at the Department of Materials, Imperial College London who delivered our Lower School Prizegiving speech. Grateful thanks also to Caroline Handley (James) (1996) Senior Developer at the Financial Times who presented prizes at Senior School Prizegiving. The huge careers' convention in January was well populated with Ivy Link members and our careers' breakfasts typically featured alumnae mentoring our girls through career exploration and networking. Your newest recruits, our "Year 14s" came back at Easter to talk to Year 12 about life at university. Our Crystal Ivies, as they have become known – those who have been at Croydon High since Nursery or Reception – came together for lunch to reminisce and celebrate their time with us. They join an alumnae network that continues to be recognised as one of the strongest and most vibrant in the country.

Please consider yourselves very welcome at school functions, plays, concerts and open days. We are always delighted to see Ivy Link members at alumnae events designed to keep you in touch with each other and with us.

Whether you were at Croydon High in Selsdon or at Wellesley Road, this will always be your School and you will always be made to feel very welcome!

With very best wishes
Emma Pattison

and I am sure into future generations. I hope you enjoy reading these pages and if the contents spark memories of your own, please do share. It is you who make the Ivy Link family what it is. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed information and news for this year's edition, especially your favourite teacher memories! My thanks also to Emma Pattison for her support and to Fran Cook for her constant encouragement and inspiration.

Finally I would like to recognise our fantastic prefect team for their unending help, especially Alumnae Prefect Abigail Hughes.

We are currently in touch with over 4000 alumnae from the class of 1932 through to our newest class of 2018 and it is our aim to reconnect with many more. Please do help us in our endeavour by encouraging your friends who are not yet in touch to contact us via the ivylink@cry.gdst.net or at the school on **020 8260 7531**.

My very best wishes
Karen Roe

My Favourite Teacher

Earlier this year we asked if you had a favourite teacher?

This request was accompanied by a photo of teaching staff taken in 1974, the 100th anniversary year of the school.

Katharine Haynes 1974

This photo of 1974 brings it all back as though it was last week! 1974 was my upper 6th year, although I went into 3rd year 6th to do Oxbridge entrance so I didn't leave the school until December of that year. As a scientist, my favourite teachers were Miss Ellis, 1st on the left, second row, who taught chemistry, and Miss Gregory, in the third row, who taught biology. They were simply inspiring, and so very dedicated. Miss Bannister, front row 2nd from left, taught RE. She explained all Jesus' miracles in terms of psychology, which may have influenced my interest in psychological aspects of physical illness during my career as a GP.



Regretfully I have to say we made fun of many of these wonderful women. They shine out from the picture now as incredible role models for young women, inspiring us with a desire to succeed in our careers and be independent. My friends became doctors, lawyers, dentists, and scientists. Our Head, Miss Cameron, was a chemist. It is said that when the new school was being built at Selsdon Park she refused outright to have any domestic science classrooms in the plans, replacing them with the large science block. She was a very strict Head, but I remember one of her announcements with amazement.

The drive to the Selsdon Park Hotel runs through the school grounds as you know; Miss Cameron spoke severely to us, saying that complaints had been made by hotel guests and we were NOT to sunbathe 'in our underwear' within sight of the drive!

Looking back I can hardly believe that this meant we WERE allowed to sunbathe in bra and knickers in other parts of the school grounds! I have to confess I hated one of my maths teachers so much that one night as I did my homework I wished she would die!

The next morning in assembly Miss Cameron made an announcement that began 'I'm sorry to say that Miss... will not be with us.' A horrible chill ran down my spine! What had I done! Fortunately it turned out this teacher had only gone into hospital for a routine operation. Ever since then I have been very careful what I wish for! (I am not naming this teacher so as not to cause offence. She was in fact an excellent maths teacher).

Sarah Runchman (Hyde) 1975

Miss Hopkins Biology Teacher in 1969/70 approx. She was truly amazing and fired us with enthusiasm for 'all living things'. She was the most caring form tutor I ever experienced. She had a great amount of time and energy and ran the school guide group for a while. I filled a sink by mistake with blotting paper and some horrible dye in a Biology lesson, she tapped me to tell me off and I returned the gesture!

We both ended up laughing. Lovely lady.

I am still in touch with her, she went on to have a career as an educational psychologist. I went on to do a Biology degree, teach and work for The Kennel Club. Now I work for the National Autistic society and often think she fired in me that love of animals and that compassion for people in life who have been dealt a very rough card. The other teachers who showed care and compassion were Miss Robertson and Miss Ellis. Thank you Miss Hopkins (now Mrs Cousins) you were and still are a truly unique inspiration.

Liz Forrai 1976

Many favourites, how to choose! They were so important in my life, to the person I am, I would find it hard to put into words and if I did I'd need a book to recount all the stories and precious life gems they gave us, wonderful, wonderful people & teachers, I could never thank them enough. I can only hope that in my friendships and careers I have managed to continue on a little of what they gave me. A special mention should be made of Miss Gillian Ellis and Miss Ann Parkin.

Hilary Blumer 1968

Oh what memories your picture has stirred! On this picture I can see four teachers who had a big influence on my life! I was a CHS pupil from 1954-1968 (one year more than most) and remember vividly Miss Bolwell taking me to see my sister in her classroom when I arrived at the Elms before starting at the school.

This made me very happy and relaxed about starting school. Then there is Miss Perriam, form mistress in transition, who had a nature table in the corner of the classroom at Wellesley Road, of course. All pupils were invited at the weekend to bring in a leaf, a twig, flowers....anything that could be displayed and discussed.

This kindled in me an interest in botany that lasted until A levels. Also I spy Miss Porteous, whose kind and patient approach made maths interesting and understandable. And finally Miss Gregory, who was my form teacher in the sixth form and taught me Biology A levels (alongside Miss Davies). She encouraged me to apply for University. I didn't think I was bright enough. So six applications were made...and I received five offers! Heavens! I was so surprised.

But my favourite is not on this picture. Miss Cotton – a wonderful teacher - encouraged me to stay down and repeat a year. I didn't want to do this because of losing friends, but I had missed so much schooling for ill health and was struggling. She promised she would look out for me, and promised to be my form teacher for a second year. So I agreed! It was the best decision ever. When she retired she moved to Bewdley in Worcester and was involved in running a donkey sanctuary but sadly she died fairly soon after retiring.



Thanks to all of them.

Ella Jones (Briggs) 1965

Miss Elsa Cameron was a fairly formidable woman. She was Headmistress while I taught in the Junior Department. One time, just after I'd come back from Sheffield, she must have seen me -probably at an

Assembly. I was 'sporting' a black eye having pulled my suitcase off the train rack and it had hit me in the eye. She asked me how I'd come by the 'shiner' so I explained. She then looked at me quizzically and said, is that really what happened? Being fairly naive I assured her that yes, I'd had an accident. Only years later I realised that she thought I'd been hit by a boyfriend or some other individual. I'm not sure what she'd have done about it if the black eye had been 'given' to me but she was obviously concerned that a young member of 'her' staff could have been deliberately injured. I think this shows what a compassionate woman she was.

She had a stern exterior and no-one (especially me, a young teacher in her first post) would have dared to defy her but she knew individually, her girls and staff and cared for them all. This was when the school numbered over a thousand pupils but she came each week to take a Junior School Assembly and so got to know each girl from a young age. I have been lucky in that attending a Trust school (Sheffield) as a pupil and having Miss Marianne Lutz as my Headmistress and then to teach under Miss Elsa Cameron's Headship I have had two women who were very passionate about girls having a good academic education and also who stressed the values of consideration and help to others.

Perhaps this also comes from their own education as both Miss Lutz and Miss Cameron attended G(P)DST schools in Wimbledon and Birkenhead respectively. I can't say this is an amusing story about staff but I think it shows a side to Miss Cameron which her restrained and quiet demeanour hid.

Alexandrina Burdett 1967

Miss Jackson was inspirational, arousing my sluggish brain to learn and even enjoy German and Latin. In subsequent years the Latin stood me in good stead to learn Spanish, living as I do, in the Canaries. Her enthusiasm and gift for explaining grammatical points were, over the years, unforgettable.

Anna Freeman 1963

My favourite teacher was Miss Cotton who so ably taught me Mathematics during my time at Croydon High. I believe her first name was Constance, and constant she proved to be for me and a good influence. She wore her silver grey hair tied back in a bun at the nape of her neck with a narrow black velvet band around her head. One of the most recognisable mistresses at school with a ready smile of encouragement and reassurance for all her pupils. She was so helpful and understanding and managed to help me to gain my pass in Maths at GCE 'O' Level. I can remember now her face lighting up when she heard of my success in passing the exam and maybe just a hint of surprise! I was one of many that she helped. A lady of character, without doubt!

Ruth Funnell (Bismire) 1963

Miss Tebble – who can forget her cry of “Fresh air kills thousands daily” as she rushed to close the windows at the start of lessons. Her other line was “A map is a thing of beauty and a joy forever”; a misquote from Keats corrected memorably in “Dregs” magazine. There were other “favourites” but her humour stood out. Dregs was produced by a group of sixth formers, starting in 1960 or thereabouts. It was a fun mag for internal circulation with a lot of jokes only intelligible to those at CHS at the time. Does anyone still have a copy?

Penny Taylor (Lapper) 1962

Miss Pullen was my form teacher in my first year in Senior School and all I can really remember about her was that she was a very kind person. I was only 12 and coming from a service family I'd been to five different schools before settling down at Croydon High. To me she was the epitome of an ideal teacher in my juvenile mind. Miss Marsden was not only my form teacher in the third form but also my inspirational history teacher and she imbued in me an everlasting love of history. Enough for me to pass that love on to my son who now has a successful career as an archeologist.



Miss Marsden is in the centre and Penny is middle row 2nd from right

Another small fact about my life in CHS Junior School – for a very short time I was in the same class as Jacquié du Pré. I do remember her but she was smartly whisked away to study the cello elsewhere.

Linda Hepner (Roer) 1957

Miss Mary Duncan, our English teacher, who spent 40 minutes describing the film *On the Waterfront* to us. It was not only an exercise in descriptive vocabulary, but a complete eye-opener as to the artistic value of films.

There were other wonderful teachers. Miss Jackson (kind and thorough) my French and German teacher; Miss Kershaw (who taught how to examine each word of Balzac in French in depth); Miss Buss, who saw I loved Shakespeare and lit every lesson with delight; and Miss Woodward who let me into the choir, much against her better judgement, but for which I am still truly grateful! And our Head, Miss Adams, who led the school with a formidable presence and a twinkle in her eye. I love them all.

Farrah Jaufuraully 1996

Mrs Sharpe (English) for inspiring and really understanding what interested the teenage mind.

Mrs Loewe (English) for making sure we truly understood Shakespeare.

Mr McVicar (Chemistry) for taking the time to make sure we understood those chemical formulas.

Mrs Davies (Music) for not minding that I was a hopeless case at reading music.

Miss Silcox (Human Biology) for making science accessible and giving us the time if we really didn't understand.

Mrs Lee (Geography) She LOVED her subject and made sure we went into exams armed with the best examples. She was very thorough.

Mrs Tiltman (French) was super-sympa and my favourite form teacher.



Anna Mazzola
@Anna_Mazz

Follow

It was my school English teachers, in particular Susan Loewe, who encouraged me to study English. I still remember her lessons. She died in 2015, the year before my debut novel came out, but the rest of the team turned up when I came back to give a talk. [#TeacherAppreciationDay](#)



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ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: Croydon High's Nominations 2018

DR MARY BAINES (SILVER) 1950

Nominated by Karen Roe – Alumnae Relations Officer at Croydon High on behalf of the class of 1950



Dr Baines worked at St Christopher's Hospice alongside the late Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement in the Sixties. Having been a medical student with Dame Cicely Saunders, Dr Baines was invited to join her on the staff of St Christopher's and, she did so in 1968, despite medical friends saying it was professional suicide.

After undergoing training, observing how a similar team operated at a hospital in New York, and gaining funding, the small team – consisting of Dr Baines, Dr Andrew Hoy, one nurse, a social worker and the hospital's chaplain – started to operate. And so, the first home care service was born in October 1969, a model for the UK.

Within six months, the team had been able to discharge so many patients, who could either benefit from life-extending treatment or receive pain relief at home, that an outpatient clinic and home care service was set up. By the third year, the team included four specialist nurses and cared for 20 patients in the hospital and 40 outpatients. As the first team of its kind in the UK, they received many visitors and requests for advice from medics across the country.

Dr Baines went on to support the creation of the team at St Thomas' in 1977. At a recent celebration of 40 years of palliative care there, Dr Baines explained how she learnt more about pain management and cancer treatments when she shadowed Dr Bates at St Thomas' and realised that their combined knowledge had a great benefit to patients. This led to Dr Bates starting the palliative care team at St Thomas'.

By 1988 around 20 palliative care teams had been created in the UK. Without the initial team, the vital role of palliative care clinicians may never have been fully recognised and applied.

Palliative care was recently named as the 22nd King's Health Partners' Clinical Academic Group (CAG), in recognition of its unique and outstanding offering in clinical care, research and training.

Dr Baines is also co-author of *Living with Dying: A Guide to Palliative Care* with Dame Cicely Saunders and Robert Dunlop.

In 1968 Dame Cicely gave Mary and her team two aims – to look after the people on the wards and at home, but also to change the world's view of dying. Dr Baines has helped to do just that. From such a small beginning, she has been instrumental in seeing Dame Cicely's vision develop into a worldwide movement (including resource-constrained countries) affecting the life and death of millions.

As people live longer with more treatments, Palliative Care is increasingly vital to improving health care quality, and helping people to live well. It is a vital and core part of Health and Social Care, and the NHS. As voiced by the Cicely Saunders institute:

**'You matter because you
are you, and you matter all the
days of your life'.**

Thank you to Dr Mary Baines for her magnificent work that has changed lives, at the end of life, all over the world.

DR KAREN MORTON 1973

Nominated by Janet Dagley (Pearce) 1973



Karen and I first met at the age of eleven when we were both placed in the same form as part of the September 1966 intake to begin our seven years' secondary attendance at Croydon High School GPDST in its newly-constructed Selsdon buildings which, along with extensive sports grounds, had that year relocated from its previous Wellesley Road site. Even then she was exhibiting unmistakable signs of charismatic leadership quality. Despite taking very different academic paths (not to mention possessing polar opposite attitudes to application) we remained firm friends throughout this period. Since that time our immediate contact has been limited unavoidably as a result of the constraints associated with various factors such as study, work, family and above all geographical location but we have nevertheless maintained a long-distance relationship based primarily on shared memories of those early school days.

During the latter part of her CHS attendance, Karen was awarded a travel scholarship to Tanzania which necessitated an unaccompanied journey to a hitherto unknown destination (Mwanza) and practical experience once there helping Dr Richard Evans in his work as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. Her days were spent weighing babies and giving vaccinations, but at night she went into the main hospital with Dr Evans and on one occasion witnessed a 14-year-old die of postpartum haemorrhage.

This event proved formative and one to which Karen has attributed the determination of her future career, along with the unwavering support of her inspirational science teachers.

After becoming Head of School, she secured a place at Cambridge University to study medicine and subsequently trained in Cambridge, Oxford, at Queen Charlotte's, St Thomas's and the Chelsea Hospital for Women. She has since achieved a long and successful career in both the NHS and private sector, becoming a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in 1991 based at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford and is a member of numerous professional bodies. She has also given a number of television and radio interviews. Not content with these notable achievements, Karen decided to diversify by first introducing an essential travel pack in 2013 and has now launched an online medical helpline providing specifically tailored advice and guidance to subscribers. In order to execute this endeavour, she had to learn a completely new set of skills such as IT, business and marketing.

Karen is now one of the most respected practitioners in her field. The fact that she has decided to translate the lessons learned in many years of practice into a communication technology delivery system for medicine demonstrates the characteristic energy and enthusiasm with which this individual is associated.

Her philosophy as in life is to help people get on with their lives as quickly and healthily as possible. While working within the NHS and believing in it passionately, she has observed first-hand that it is swamped with demand. With a mission to redress the gender pay gap or as it should really be known the gender career progression gap by addressing women's health issues quickly and effectively (as it is her contention that this is often what holds them back), technology in the case of Dr Morton's bespoke design is the enabler.

In addition to three grown-up sons, Karen's family includes a stepson and daughter but she also manages to enjoy golf, tennis, bridge, music, football, laughter and fun. She has always attributed her life achievements in great part to the outstanding education she received and stated recently on social media, "Going to Croydon High School with a free place from the 11+ was the making of me. Thank you!". I rest my case.



Congratulations to Notting Hill and Ealing's Dr Nirupa Murugaes, Genomics Scientist, who received the GDST Alumna of the Year Award 2018 at the GDST Summit on 13 June.

Q & A with Larissa Kennedy 2016



Ivy Link: What A levels did you study at Croydon High School and what did you go on to read at Warwick University?

Larissa Kennedy: At Croydon High, I studied French, Spanish and English Literature, and I currently read Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies at Warwick.

IL: You were always very busy when you were at school with outside interests, what were they and do you still continue with them now?

LK: During my time at school, I was a national advocate for Girlguiding so I helped to direct the organisation's research, advocacy and campaigns. My term there ended but I have continued my youth voice work as lead trustee for strategy on the board at the British Youth Council, and I get to represent young people of the U.K. as our national youth delegate to the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

IL: Are you a member of any societies and committees at Warwick?

LK: Over the past year I've been president of Warwick Anti-Racism Society and co-President of Warwick Anti-Sexism Society. I was just elected as Warwick SU's first ever Afro-Caribbean Sabbatical Officer, so I'll be Education Officer and Deputy President of our Students' Union from August. I've also been elected to sit on the committee of the National Union of Students' (NUS) Black Students Campaign.

IL: You have been voted the 63rd most influential woman at UK Unis. What led to and how do you feel about this remarkable achievement?

LK: I was so shocked to receive that & I was even more flattered to receive the NUS Black Student of Year!

IL: You received the Save the Children Jo Cox Memorial Scholarship. Can you explain what this is for and what it means to you?

LK: The scholarship was designed to enable women to attend Campaign Bootcamp – a week long, intensive residential where campaigners and activists from across the world rejuvenate

their work. I felt so honoured to receive the scholarship & the residential was a truly transformative. In all that I do now, I try to act with Jo's 'more in common' mantra in mind.

IL: You sat on a panel with Caroline Lucas. Tell us what led to this occasion and did you have the chance to chat with Caroline?

LK: Caroline and I were on a panel together for an international women's day celebration a while ago. She was absolutely lovely & gave me some tips on getting into politics.

IL: We understand that your media appearances include Sky News, ITV, BBC and Channel 4. Is this due to your role of Global Secretariat Representative at Youth for Change?

LK: I've had the pleasure of representing Girlguiding, Plan International, and Youth For Change on the news. The global secretariat role is mainly about influencing decision makers, doing outreach, and liaising with the other country teams in Bangladesh and Tanzania.

IL: It's clear to see where your passion lies. What do the next five years look like for Larissa Kennedy?

LK: Next month I'm launching my own organisation, talawa, which will aim to inform young people about political issues, inspire them by showcasing young activists, and empower them with skills-based videos and workshops. I hope the next five years will involve building talawa from strength to strength.

IL: And finally what are your memories of Croydon High?

LK: Some of my best memories from CHS are from the Skern trip all the way back in Year 7, our Sixth Form fashion shows (and the after parties!), our leavers' assembly where we reminisced about Mrs Leonard's love of resilience and Mrs Clark's mantra that we were ambassadors of the school, and countless funny memories with friends!



Reunions

Please do let us know of any reunions that you attend outside of school.

Ivy Link Summer Lunch 2017



The annual Ivy Link Alumnae Network Lunch took place at Croydon High School on Saturday 24th June 20th and as always it was a very happy occasion. We were particularly delighted to welcome 27 amazing ladies from the Class of 1957, celebrating 60 years since leaving the school. They are a very close group, many of whom attend the Ivy Link Lunch each year and who even have their own web site www.winkfieldhome.co.uk which they started over 20 years ago.

Chief organiser Ann Cook (Warren) said, "The bonds made in our teenage years were obviously very strong ones, which seem to strengthen with every passing year." Alumnae from many other year groups too enjoyed hearing from Emma Pattison, in a special lunch which marked the 50th anniversary of the School's move to Selsdon from Wellesley Road, Croydon in 1966.



The Class of 1983

Cathy Staveley (Kendall) sent us this photo of a reunion in February 2018, she said all had a really great time – it was so

good to see everyone! Attendees were Andy Merrett, Imay Chan, Lucy Gamage, Caroline Thurlow, Ann Marsh, Susan Windmill, Jane Wingfield and of course Cathy.

The Ivy Link Class of 2017 New Year Reunion



In January we were delighted to welcome back girls who left the Sixth Form last summer – the Class of 2017. Prosecco, Croydon High's famous brownies and a good catch up were the order of

the occasion. All the girls were very happy to see one another and staff alike; conversations centered on how much they are loving University life with new friends, new challenges and a variety of societies joined. Several girls talked about how much they miss their Croydon High family and how glad they are to have opportunities to return. We look forward to hearing of their progress. Once a Croydon High girl...always a Croydon High girl!

The Ivy Link Tea Party



At the end of the spring term we hosted our annual Ivy Link afternoon tea for senior alumnae and friends of the school, an event that is always a highlight

of the year. Some of our VIP guests arrived early and joined with current girls to do their bit for our Sport Relief challenge – it was wonderful to see generations walking together, chatting and sharing stories of Croydon High now and then. As one of our alumnae observed, "The buildings may be different, but the girls and the spirit of the place is still the same."

The ladies were welcomed in to the Discovery Zone in the Junior School, which had been transformed in to an elegant tea room, with tables set beautifully for a delicious traditional afternoon tea and bunches of daffodils everywhere giving us all a flavour of Spring. The ladies spent a delightful couple of hours reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates and sharing memories. The Prefect team mingled well with our guests, hearing stories of Croydon High in bygone days. Mrs Pattison welcomed the ladies, updating them on all the latest news from the school and assuring them of how much our community appreciates the support of the Ivy Link and how proud we are that it is recognised as one of the most vibrant alumnae networks in the country.

It was then time for some light entertainment. Firstly, the Junior Chamber Choir with a delightful rendition of a piece they performed recently at the Bromley Festival. Then Year 8 Senaya, Emily, Amy, and India inspired us all with their suffragette poems, written to celebrate the 100th Anniversary in February. This was followed by Sienna and Lauren who talked about their involvement in making the banner to commemorate Dorinda Neligan's part in the suffrage movement and their own '100 Banners' march in London which had clearly greatly inspired them. Finally, the Year 10 Drama students, burst in to the party and delivered a fabulous rendition of a historical piece set at the time of the movement, ending with a rousing chorus of "Stand up, Sister Suffragette" from Mary Poppins! It was all much enjoyed by our visitors who left the party wreathed in smiles and full of appreciation.

CAREERS EVENTS

STEAM Networking Breakfast



In November, with a variety of delegates, pastries, tea and coffee, we held a STEAM Networking Breakfast for students in Year 10 and above.

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. 70% of jobs and promotions are found via networking and this event allowed us to begin that network of contacts which may help us in the future. The delegates included previous alumnae of Croydon High and parents of girls at the school. From Investment



to Engineering to Computer Animation and Digital Policing, the delegates presented to us had a variety of interesting jobs which opened our eyes up to the variety of careers there are. One of the delegates, Dr Mariam Orme 1995, said "They are such impressive girls. The questions they asked and how engaged they were, fascinated me". We thank the delegates who kindly offered their time to contribute to this event, interact with us and explain their jobs and journeys. The event was very successful, and we hope to hold many more events like this in the future.

Year 13 student, Yaalarasi

Mock Interviews with Alumna Dr Ridout



On the 1st and 6th December, the upper sixth perspective medics had the opportunity for a group mock interview with Dr Cook and alumna of the school, Dr Alex Ridout 2004. These mock interviews gave us the perfect opportunity to gain a better understanding on how to portray answers and provide the information needed to

target a medical course. We were questioned on ethical topics, current affairs related to medicine e.g. junior doctors striking and practical questions such as describing pictures in detail. It was clear to see, as the interviews progressed so did our confidence.

Careers Convention 2018



"Exceptional, stunning, informative and huge" – just some of the adjectives used to describe our amazingly successful Careers Convention. With over 100 delegates, 15 of whom were alumnae, and over 350 girls,

parents, friends, and students from local schools, it was our largest ever Careers Convention. The selection of areas covered

by the delegates was wide-ranging, almost an A-Z of careers from Accountancy to Veterinary Science. Prestigious companies such as Barclays, Deloitte,



PwC, EY, G&T, L'Oréal, Mars Inc, and Travis Perkins were out in force bringing their expertise, information and freebies! Career areas included: Engineering; Healthcare and Science; Police; Law; Journalism, Marketing and Retail, to name just a few. High profile Universities such as Nottingham and Surrey, and Gap Year providers, offered a colourful display in the hall. All of our delegates were enthusiastic ambassadors for their companies and vocations.

Many came with gifts; all offered up-to-date information, leaflets and advice, invaluable to any student keen to position herself for a lifetime of success in the world of work. The commitment and enthusiasm of the delegates was clear. Some had seemingly endless queues of prospective employees throughout the evening. Some were still imparting their advice well after the event had ended. A parent commented: "There was such a fabulous mix of backgrounds and some amazing people."

Junior School Tech Day – Hot Seating Alumnae Leaders

Jenny Myring (Goatcher) 1992 and Galya Holden (Etchells) 1992 spoke to the junior school girls about their careers and how technology is an important feature in their working lives.



Neither Jenny nor Galya had any particular interest in technology during their time at Croydon High and on leaving university, Jenny and Galya explored different careers before embarking on their current professions. Both speakers explained how technology was now an important part of what they did and how the world was constantly changing and developing. Jenny stressed how it was important to keep up to date with developments and new initiatives and to accept that you never stop learning. The girls asked a range of questions from how they did their jobs to what was the most interesting thing about their profession. Girls were particularly interested to hear about website design and there was an interesting discussion about how technology would influence life in the future.

The GDST Alumnae Network Mentoring Scheme



Our alumnae community is uniquely placed to support mentoring – 70,000 strong, made up of women in hundreds of different paths in life, with a shared culture – a common bond – underpinning it. The effects of mentoring are powerful and far-reaching; the mentee gaining from the knowledge and guidance of someone more experienced, and the mentor gaining a fresh perspective and a sense of reward. If you would like to be involved in the scheme next year contact info@gdstalumnae.net and see also www.gdst.net/alumnae/give-back/become-a-mentor. We have five Croydon High mentees and nine mentors in this year's scheme.

“Women who go out of their way to support other women set off a ripple effect that leaves everyone better off.”

Forbes Magazine

Inspiring Insight

As part of our Pathways session, Mrs Gower (Head of Careers) and Mrs Roe (Alumnae Relations Officer) invited Croydon High alumnae under-graduates to share their individual and unique university experiences with the current Year 12. A diverse group attended ranging from those studying Politics to History of Art & Visual Culture. They led an engaging collection of presentations, describing the unique selling point of their university. A Year 12 student shared this comment, “this was a different event that allowed me to gain specific knowledge on each university from students that live and work there, instead of the university’s ambassadors”.



The alumnae showed great passion when discussing the contents of their course, their societies or extracurricular activities. The social life in each university city sounded extremely exciting! Their fresh perspectives on the positives, negatives and reality of being at university, gave us clear and inspiring insight into our potential futures at university.

Thank you to all the girls of classes 2016 and 2017 who gave of their time before returning to uni after the Easter break.
Year 12 student, Piya

Celebrating the centenary of women gaining the right to vote #vote100

6th February 2018 marked the centenary of women gaining the right to vote and at Croydon High, girls participated in many events to mark the occasion to demonstrate how proud we are of our heritage and, in particular, of Dorinda Neligan, our first Headmistress who herself was an inspirational suffragette. Some of our artists created their own suffrage banner; the History Department helped girls understand how the suffragette movement was created and how they ultimately achieved their aim. In the Library the Amnesty International group celebrated the rising status of women in the world, and in French lessons girls learned that it was not until 1944 that women could vote.

We even welcomed a Reuters film crew who were blown away by the passion and eloquence of our girls in the Sixth Form and Year 7 when they interviewed them for a news piece on young people's response to the 100th year of women's suffrage. Reuters commented on how engaged our girls and teachers are with the issues and principles of equality.

I'm sure Dorinda would be very proud to see this strength of feeling in her School. She might agree that as a society we are not there yet but she would be delighted to see how our girls develop their personal talents, inspire others and make choices free from the limitations of stereotype and prejudice.

They Rise

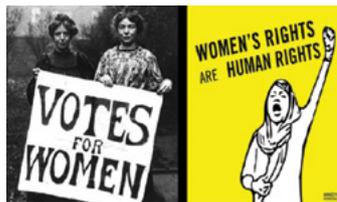
“ You may write me down in history
 With your bitter, twisted lies,
 You may trod me in the very dirt
 But still, like dust, I'll rise ”



Croydon High's Amnesty International group celebrated the rising status of women in the world, due in no small part to the struggles of suffragettes like Annie

Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst. Members of the group gave a dramatic performance of Maya Angelou's powerful poem Still I Rise. Victoria and Esther, who delivered a mindful powerpoint presentation, reminded us that, in many parts of the world, we still have a long way to go with regard to defending women's rights.

In the words of a past president of the World Bank we remember that women are half the world's population, yet they do two-thirds of the world's work, earn one-tenth of the world's income, and own less than one per cent of the world's property. They are among the poorest of the world's poor.



We have our work cut out for us! The session drew to a close on a 'Brave' note with Esther on the drums as we sang the words of artist Sara Bareilles' lyric, inspiring us to speak out for own rights and those of others:

“ Honestly I wanna see you be brave
 With what you want to say
 And let the words fall out
 Honestly I wanna see you be brave ”



A Banner for Dorinda

The art department had a really exciting visit in January from Lindsay Ould who is a Borough Archivist, part of the Croydon Museum and Archives team based at the Clocktower. Croydon High School girls were given the opportunity to create a banner as part of the '100 Banners' project inspired by the suffrage banner collection held in the archives of the Women's Library at LSE. '100 Banners' is an artistic response to the campaigns run by Suffragettes and Suffragists in their ambition to achieve women's equal voting rights.

The artistic process captures and celebrates the decorative craft skills historically associated with women's art, and explores their political and subversive potential.



Our banner was to represent the Veteran Suffragette Dorinda Neligan, our very first headmistress, who believed so much in women's rights. The original banners were not only embroidered, but were also appliqued, stencilled, and painted. Suffrage campaigners skilled in craft instructed other members and workshops were held before the processions to produce the large quantities of banners necessary to make a bold show.

The art students met every Wednesday at lunchtime to complete the banner; they were asked to bring in any material from home that means something to them or their family, especially as women are the theme. Purple material was also donated by alumnae Isabel Florence 2001 and Elinor Florence 2004.

In March, Sixth form students Siena and Lauren joined a procession with fellow banner creators at the March4Women from Parliament to Trafalgar Square which was led by Helen Pankhurst. The banners were also featured at the Royal Albert Hall on International Women's Day and the WOW Festival at the Southbank. A selection of the '100 Banners' will then be displayed at the Royal Albert Hall, the Women's Library at the London School of Economics, the House of Lords and various partner venues around Greater London during 2018. Our own Dorinda banner will be displayed at the annual Ivy Link Summer Lunch on 23 June 18.

Suffragette Poems



After exploring and performing a range of suffragette poems during their English lesson, Year 8 students enjoyed creating their own poems to capture the resilience, ardour and bravery of these inspirational women.

20th Century Women



Year 7s studied the progression of women in the 20th century – it all started 100 years ago...



The Vote

Year 10 looked at the most significant reasons that led women to gain the vote and created a living timeline of the women's suffrage movement.



Year 12 girls report on the untold story of Dorinda Neligan...



Women lobbying during "suffragette week" on Croydon High Street in 1909

Arrested in Parliament, hiding from the census, refusing to pay taxes. These are just some of the actions taken by Croydon High's founding headmistress in the cause for Votes for Women. An idol for few, forgotten by many; the first Headmistress of Croydon High School is an inspirational woman. Miss Dorinda Neligan epitomises the values we still hold today as women of the future – not only was she a pioneer

for the education of modern girls, she was also a nurse, a friend, a governess, and made a valuable and often unheard of contribution to the suffrage movement.

Raised by a strict military father in Ireland, the beginning of Dorinda's life was disciplined and conservative. However, this was not even remotely reflected in the experience of her patients or her students, who recall her sympathy and her ardent attitude to life as some of her best qualities. The first demonstration of these admirable qualities was her dedication and selfless work during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71. Miss Neligan used her last pennies to train as a nurse at the Charing Cross Hospital and after six weeks, she was posted. Despite her relative lack of experience, she was a beloved member of the Red Cross staff, a strong and powerful figure and yet a warm and empathetic nurse. It is said that she did not give in to the desire to sleep, but rather selflessly continued to watch over the wounded soldiers in her care.

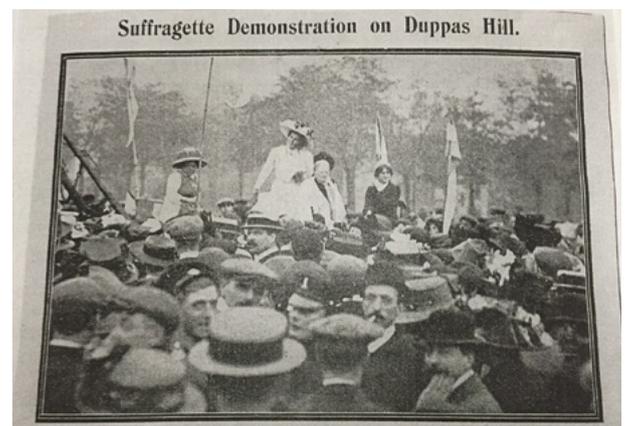
As a result, the life of a young man was saved when she discovered him in a pool of blood and instinctively took action. Dorinda described the war as 'ghastly' and made it well known that she opposed it. It was therefore of extreme importance in her eyes for women to have the vote so that wars like this could be prevented in the future. Not only was she a respected nurse, but her character also shone through when she was appointed the first Headmistress of Croydon High School in 1874. With no formal academic qualifications or experience teaching in schools, it may have been considered a bold choice by the GDPST. Nevertheless, her legacy, the essence of which is still an underlying feature of the school today, was created by her strength of personality and

her great vitality. She imposed on the girls in her school certain principles: to have ambition and drive, to value character above all else, and to remember her most potent analogy – 'no chain is stronger than its weakest link.' Her unconventional manner was that which pushed the girls to achieve – the endorsement of good behaviour and positive thinking was used in place of punishment. This created an environment of self and mutual respect and determination in the school. For twenty-seven years, she instilled this sense of hope and will in her girls until she retired in 1901. Despite her entering her 70s, it is on retirement that Miss Neligan became active in the suffrage movement, joining the NWSS (National Women's Suffrage Society) and later the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) and numerous other suffrage societies.

On 29 June 1909, Miss Neligan was part of the WSPU deputation led by Emmeline Pankhurst which marched to the Houses of Parliament to seek an interview with the Prime Minister. He refused to meet with them and they, together with more than 100 other women, were arrested. Charges were subsequently dropped.

She continued her support of the movement in more peaceful ways; challenging the law, raising awareness and contributing to the finances of the suffrage movement. Miss Neligan regularly attended meetings of the WSPU Croydon Branch and even hosted a garden party at her home, Oakwood House, 5 Sydenham Road (on the 10th July 1909, shortly after the incident in Parliament) to raise funds for the cause.

She was a prominent speaker for women's suffrage and was a key speaker at the Croydon WSPU and Men's League for Women's Suffrage demonstration on Duppas Hill in October 1910. The photograph below shows the elderly Miss Neligan on a stage in front of hundreds of men, refusing to be intimidated.



"Chronicle" Photo and Black
The Croydon Branch of the W.S.P.U. held a demonstration in favour of the Conciliation Bill on Saturday last. Some interesting speeches by such well-known protagonists of the movement as Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Braithwaite, and Mrs. Cameron-Swan, were delivered from three platforms, one of which is shown in the above picture. Reading from left to right are: Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Cameron-Swan (speaking), the veteran suffragist Miss Neligan, and Miss Vera Westwood. Prior to the demonstration a taxi-cab driven by a lady chauffeur in the regulation cap and tunic, and accompanied by another lady with a megaphone, paraded the petrol-pump forecourts announcing the event to the populace, which turned up in goodly numbers to listen to the speakers.

Dorinda is seen sitting here immediately behind the speaker

Her speech was well received by the movement, leading to congratulations during the NUWSS Croydon Branch meeting to promote Suffrage Week in November. More people in Croydon were sympathising with the suffrage demand for the enfranchisement of women but still nothing changed in the eyes of Parliament. It is unsurprising to find that Dorinda Neligan was active during Black Friday on the 18TH November 1910, and protested in response to parliamentary proceedings regarding the Conciliation Bill. Despite making it to the second reading, the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, indicated that there would be no more parliamentary time for the reading in the current session. Once again, Dorinda marched with Emmeline Pankhurst as part of the first of many WSPU deputations totalling over 300 women altogether. Events became increasingly violent and hundreds were arrested that day.

On 2nd April 1911, the Liberal government demanded every household comply with its census requirements. Suffragettes urged women to boycott this census. Some wrote 'Votes for Women' boldly across their documents, others hid in darkened houses or, in the case of Emily Wilding Davison, in a cupboard within the Houses of Parliament. Dorinda herself evaded this census. Only her lodger is listed at Oakwood House that night, demonstrating yet again that Dorinda was not afraid to take action for the cause.

Non-payment of taxes was another vehicle by which women could protest. Silver objects belonging to Miss Neligan were auctioned at least three times between 1911 and 1914 for non-payment of taxes. These were always bought and returned to Dorinda by her supporters. On these occasions suffragettes would make speeches about their cause. A silver teapot was bought and sold several times, anything to create problems for the authorities for the sake of 'the cause.' Miss Neligan was listed in the first edition of the Suffrage Annual and Women's Who's Who in 1913. Her sister, Annie, was also listed. Two weeks before the outbreak of the First World War, Miss Neligan died of heart disease and acute bronchitis at her home, Oakwood House. There was a memorial service at Golders Green and the Croydon Parish Church where the WSPU and Croydon NUWSS sent flowers to commemorate her. In addition, her political activities were recognised in Croydon and national newspapers. In June 1933, a service of remembrance was held at Croydon Parish Church and Croydon High girls gathered in memory of Dorinda Neligan. Her passion for equality for women is evident through all her actions in life whether as a devoted headmistress passionate for excellent education or as a campaigner for women's suffrage. Her contributions were worth revisiting during Vote 100 week and her legacy will never be forgotten at Croydon High School GDST.

“

*There's the Silver Teapot
There's the Silver Teapot,
Reflecting us,
Reflecting anguish,
Shine stamped to rust,
When fraternities dent me,
I just shout,*

”

Votes for women – hear us out!

Dorinda Neligan bravely refused to pay taxes and as a consequence the police took away her silver teapot. This poem represents both Miss Neligan's and the rest of the suffragettes fight for women's votes, how it was oppressed for so long and how they managed to create such a significant impact to this fight.

The silver teapot indicates equality being taken away from women. We dedicate this poem to Miss Neligan, and we are proud to be able to say she was the first Headmistress of Croydon High School.

New Zealand leading the way

Anna Freeman 1963 writes...

In the Ivy Link Magazine last year, it was most interesting to hear of biographical publications about old girls of Croydon High. In particular, "Radical Reformers and Respectable Rebels" by Jocelyn Robson of which I have purchased a copy and will be reading very soon. It is the story of Grace Oakeshott, pupil at Croydon High 1881-91, who headed for New Zealand in 1907 in unusual circumstances, to say the least.

However, I discovered around the time of purchasing the book that New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote in 1893. Surely, that in itself would have been a good match for the radical and reforming beliefs of Grace and her support for women's emancipation.

Always use your right to vote!

Verity Jones (Bates) 1961 writes...

I have a little story about my mother she should have been born at the right time to be suffragette but sadly was too young! When I was old enough to vote she told me I must never miss voting because women died for me to be able to do that. I have done the same with my daughter and now my granddaughter. I have never missed one!

Not Just Dorinda

We know well that Dorinda Neligan was both a suffragist and a suffragette. But she wasn't the only Croydon High School link to the suffrage movement. We have discovered several pupils who were also part of the movement...



Peggy Julian – a niece of Dorinda. She was raised in Bolton and attended Croydon High School as a boarder. She was a militant suffragette and active in the Croydon WSPU movement. In November 1911 she was charged with breaking a window at West End Clothiers' Company on Regent Street but was acquitted. In March 1912, she was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for breaking a glass door panel at the premises of Messrs. Johnson and Co, hatters, Regent Street.

Elsa Gye – pupil at Croydon High School and then studied violin and singing at the Guildhall School of Music. In 1907 she joined the WSPU and subsequently served two periods of imprisonment for suffragette militancy. In February 1908 she was one of fifty women arrested for trying to enter the House of Commons during the Women's Parliament. For this offence she received a sentence of 6 weeks in the second division. The following February Elsa was again arrested with 28 fellow suffragettes for attempting to enter or 'rush' the House of Commons. Although most of those arrested received a sentence of one month in Holloway for



this offence, Elsa was sentenced to 6 weeks due to her previous imprisonment the year before. From 1910 Elsa became a salaried organiser for the WSPU first in Derby, then in Camberwell.

Lady Constance Lytton described her as «a delightful girl, young and fresh-looking». In 1911 Elsa married Will Bullock who took her name and became Dr Gye. They had three sons. Elsa was one of the organisers of the dinner in 1928 to celebrate universal womanhood suffrage. In the late 1920s Elsa became secretary of the Suffragette Fellowship and was responsible for collecting much of the archive material that now forms the core of the Museum of London's suffrage collections.

Source: *The Women's Suffrage Movement a Reference Guide 1866-1928* by Elizabeth Crawford.

Winifred Patch – a pupil at Croydon High School from 1915-1918 under the famous Miss Neligan, where she was head girl at 16 and at 17 gained a School Scholarship and passed the Senior Cambridge examination and was eventually awarded a medical degree in 1896. Dr Patch was an ardent feminist with a logical brain and a longing for justice bringing her naturally into the Suffrage movement. One of the original members of the Women's Freedom League, she took interest in all its activities, joining protests, demonstrations, etc., so far as her professional work allowed.



In 1908 the logical protest of Tax Resistance specially attracted her. "No taxation without representation" seemed to her a simple duty of every self-respecting unfranchised woman. She took part in the Census protest and the famous picketing of the House of Commons, standing outside the gates of Westminster in sun and storm July – October 1909. Her responsibilities were heavy, her work unending, her professional experiences harrowing, yet she emerged with a radiant smile and bright eyes that disappeared when she laughed, and her laugh always made every person laugh.

Source: *Obituary which appeared in The Vote in 1924.*

Mary Ethel Wheeler – a pupil at Croydon High School from 1881 and later an Assistant Mistress from 1892-93. She left to work as secretary to the Suffrage Special Appeal Committee headed by Millicent Fawcett.



EMILY WILDING DAVISON.
 The World and the Flesh are out in the pack of the Epsom courses.
 Hark to their mighty shout and the thunder of trampling horses!
 Under the hoofs that crash, 'mid the frantic cries of a nation,
 Sudden flames in a flash the martyr's testification.
 "Wild, fanatical; 'cracked'" – so we with our petty vices
 Cast our stones at this act of supreme self-sacrifice!
 "Reckless, wicked, insane," so we, with a scoff and a jeer,
 Miss the reach and the gain of this reckless life-surrender.
 Is there no shame in our race for a woman so curbed and driven?
 Is there no pity or grace for a life that is freely given?
 She has offered up all on the field of the world's commotion.
 Can we shrink from the call of this selfless deed of devotion?
 ETHEL ROLT-WHEELER.

She was a poet, author and journalist with many books published. Mary's poem honouring Emily Wilding Davison appeared in the Daily Herald on the date of Davison's funeral, June 14th 1913.

Source: Wikipedia

Annie Neligan – Dorinda's sister, was a suffragist and a committee member of the Croydon NUWSS. Annie ran a boarding house for girls who attended Croydon High School and in later years lived with Dorinda at the school and subsequently at 5 Sydenham Road after Dorinda's retirement in 1901.

Do get in touch if you have more information about the suffragettes in Croydon.



Dorinda Speaks

Dorinda held and publicly shared suffrage views during her time as Headmistress at Croydon High. This is her testimony from a document called 'Opinions of Women on Women's Suffrage' published in 1878.

"For years I was an indifferent, if not antagonistic, spectator of the efforts made to procure the extension of the franchise to women. When I became a householder, I felt for the first time that the existing disqualification is an unjust one: and I now support the movement not merely from the desire to see justice done to a class, but in the firm belief that it will do much to raise the aims and widen the thoughts of women, a result which must benefit the whole human race."

Oct 1878



IN OTHER NEWS...

We would love to hear from you if any of our stories jog memories for you! ivylink@cry.gdst.net

CRICKET MAKES A COMEBACK AT CROYDON HIGH!



After the England Women's World Cricket Cup win last summer a lot more attention has been given to the sport of cricket. Our PE Staff attended a cricket course in the spring term which was led by **Lydia Greenway** who represented England 225 times across all formats of the game during a career spanning over 13 years. She has helped England win two World Cups and five Ashes Series, she has been England's Player of the Year and was shortlisted for ICC World Player of the Year.

And so the summer term of 2018 saw Croydon High School PE Department introduce cricket as a major sport alongside tennis and athletics. Many pupils in Year 5 to Year 9 played in their first ever cricket matches. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed learning a new sport and have practised their fielding, bowling and batting skills as well as experienced match play.

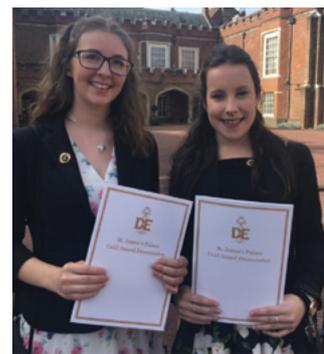
CROYDON HIGH'S GOLDEN GIRLS AT THE PALACE

Lucie Strannack 2016,
Imogen Broyd 2016,
Larissa Kennedy 2017 and
Alexandra Edwards 2017

collected their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards from HRH the Earl of



Wessex at St James' Palace. Achieving your Gold Award is a big deal. It shows that one has the skills, determination and mentality to really succeed. So it's only right that the girls enjoyed a proper celebration of their achievement. To achieve their Gold Awards the girls took on the challenge of completing the five sections of the Programme: Physical and Skills, Volunteering, Expedition and Residential. Lucie worked at Blackpool Zoo for her residential and



Imogen went to Tanzania to work in a hospital. Larissa gained her young leader qualification by running events at Girl Guides and developed her public speaking skills by being a spokesperson for Girl Guiding while also training for a colour run. Alex was committed to her Ballet and Trampoline lessons throughout and volunteered as a coach at her dance school.

The presentation was the culmination of a major challenge where the girls covered a range of activities that developed skills such as leadership, perseverance, teamwork and communication.

LONG LOST LOLLIPOP LADY



In February we invited local community groups to attend a special preview of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

What was amazing was that former lollipop lady **Daphne Hitchins** was one of our guests. Daphne not only enjoyed the show but also attended the

Ivy Link Tea Party in the Spring. Daphne served from 1984-1999 – it's good to reconnect with her after all these years.

PRODUCT DESIGN BSC STUDENT SEEKS INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

Demi Alexandrou 2016 is a Product Design Bsc Student who has just completed her second year. Demi is looking for a 10-12 month industry placement in either industrial, product or graphic design. She has experience in Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator, SolidWorks and Office applications.

A link to her portfolio and a copy of my CV is available upon request. Please contact her via ivylink@cry.gdst.net if you have any opportunities available. Thank you.

STILL SKETCHING AFTER 61 YEARS...



Heather Sweeting (Harwood) 1957 emailed a few of her drawings which we were thrilled to receive. She says 'I was a pupil at CHS in 1950 and have always loved sketching. These are just pencilled pictures of animals done in my spare time. I still work at

a local primary school where the children and I enjoy exchanging worms, daisies, ideas and sometimes conkers!!'



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT CROYDON HIGH

Congratulations to Mr Mercer, affectionately known as Lol, who has faithfully served Croydon High as resident caretaker for the last 25 years. Staff congregated at the pavilion and surprised Lol with a

happy gathering to mark the occasion. We recently came across this article in the 1999-2000 School magazine...

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR MERCER

Croydon High has been renowned for having had an interesting mix of individuals within its staff and pupils, but just as intriguing are the three men who delightfully model green jumpers around the school, come rain or shine. One of these interesting characters met up with us in a secret location to discuss his work at CHS and his role in school life.

Mr Mercer has been a resident caretaker at Croydon High for the last seven years. His time is divided between ensuring the well being of staff and girls and taking care of security and general maintenance around both the Junior and Senior schools. There are only two other caretakers employed by the

COVER GIRLS



We think we may have identified some of the girls on the front cover of last year's Ivy Link Magazine with the help of **Liz Forrai** 1976 and Liz's former neighbour **Jackie Adams** 1977. **Susan Munns**, second from the left, and the girl behind her could be **Clare Chaytow**. The girl on the right Carole – surname unknown. Can anyone shed any more light?

THANK YOU

Patricia Dukes (Henn) 1957 wrote to say 'Thank you for the very impressive lunch you organized at the 'new' Croydon High School. For me it really was a trip down memory lane as I had not seen many of the ladies present since our school days.

Also I had not been able to visit the new school even though some of my nieces and great nieces have had the fortune to be pupils. They were sisters of the Alexander family – Felicity 1975, Beverley 1981 and Angela 1985. It really is quite a campus which I look forward to exploring further in the future. It really was a very special day which was obviously enjoyed by everyone.' Patricia, you are welcome to return at any time to explore!

Ruth Meadows-Smith (Benbow) 1951 wrote to say 'I was so thrilled to have my lovely Birthday card and good wishes. I do appreciate your thoughtfulness. My goodness, I'm 85 – and in good spirits and health – and I put a lot down to my days at CHS all those years ago – especially the sports I loved so much!'

Ruth it is always lovely to see you at the Tea Party and Summer Lunch!



WHAT KATIE DID NEXT...

In February we caught up with Katie Tomsett 2014, a GDST Minerva Prize winner, to find out how she is doing.

I graduated fourth in my year at Oxford with a First, and secured a training contract in summer with Gibson Dunn after my vacation scheme. This means the firm will be paying for all my law school fees, and I will start work for them in 2020. I postponed the start date of the law conversion course, to give myself a gap year this year after the stress of finals! After my travels in South America in 2015 I really caught the travel bug and wanted to see more of the world! So from August to December I was working for Fragomen LLP, the world's largest immigration law firm, as a paralegal.

I saved all the money I earned and am now travelling in South East Asia. I am currently in Myanmar after a month in Thailand where I learned to scuba dive!

I will be volunteering at a refugee centre from next week until my Burmese visa expires, then going on to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, before hopefully doing a ski season in New Zealand from June until law school begins in September!

I remain so grateful to Croydon High and the GDST for all the doors they have opened for me. I really do think there's something special about GDST girls, and I certainly feel that the education I gained at school went far beyond exams.

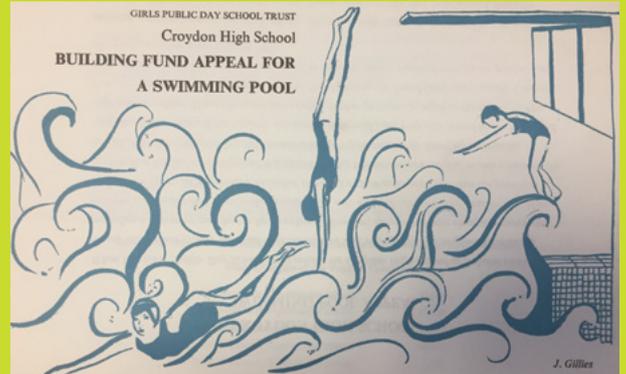
I feel that Croydon High taught me to have courage in myself and curiosity in the world around me, which led to having the confidence to travel solo, as well as to believe in myself enough to apply to Oxford. Ultimately I owe all the amazing experiences I have had over the last three years, and those I am having abroad at the moment, to the incredible community at Croydon High.

SWIMMING POOL MEMORIES

Caroline Kitcatt 1973 wrote to us following last year's Summer Lunch...

Just a quick email to say thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the lunch such an enjoyable occasion. It was very interesting to see the display and in particular memories of the laying of the foundation stone and the move to Selsdon.

I noted that the story of the swimming pool was not told, and I think it should be. When we moved to the new school we were all very surprised that there was no swimming pool, and those who remember the Croydon Baths will know why we were so upset! Anyway two girls from my year, if my memory serves me correctly this was **Marian Holland** and I think **Julia Hawkins**, set about fundraising, having gained permission to do this from Miss Cameron.



This was a huge undertaking. However, with a lot of very hard work, they were able to raise enough money to build the pool and it was completed just before we left, and they were awarded a prize or commendation for Public Spiritedness and Unselfishness.

We agree with Caroline that this effort should be recognised as part of the history of the move to Selsdon and would love to hear from you about your memories of fundraising, the building works, the first time you swam in the pool etc.

THE LONDON MARATHON



We know of at least two Croydon High girls who ran the London Marathon this year. **Briony Lamm** 2008 who ran to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK and **Jennifer Favre** 2015 who ran to raise money for Bloodwise and in memory of her sister Nicole.

Well done girls! We would love to hear from any other runners from the Croydon High community.

EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR



Lower School Prizegiving

It is always good for us to celebrate success, and last year's Lower School Prize Giving was just such an occasion. We were delighted to welcome alumna Dr Suze Kundu 2001, who has pursued an immensely successful career as a nanochemist. She is now a teaching fellow at the University of Surrey, where she divides her time between carrying out her own research and teaching science and engineering undergraduates. She proved to be truly inspirational when talking about her life and career. It is role models such as Dr Kundu, who inspire us all to greater and better efforts; the very values that we aim to instill amongst our girls.

Upper School Prizegiving

With the best GCSE results since the A* was introduced, and 77% of A Level candidates moving seamlessly to their first choice University, there was much to celebrate at Croydon High's annual Prize Giving ceremony. Friendly faces returned and staff welcomed the opportunity to say a well-deserved "congratulations" to the Class of 2017.

The school welcomed alumna Caroline Handley 1996 from the Financial Times to address the girls. Her insight into the world of work, particularly computing and technology industries, was refreshing. The message that career success and a fulfilling life come from an acceptance of one's own interests, and the realization that finding these might take more than one bite of the cherry, was well received. With timely reminders about the validity of the information we consume, and the need to acknowledge our own unconscious bias, there was much for the girls to take away.

Carols at the Minster

Girls, parents, staff, alumnae and friends of the school gathered on one of the coldest nights of December, for our annual carol service. For the first time in many years, the event was held in the impressive surroundings of Croydon Minster whose acoustics enhanced the beautiful singing from the full range of our choirs, including, for the first time, the impressive Junior School choir. Soloists Charlotte, Jennifer and Emily delighted the congregation who also joined in the singing of favourite carols and listening to traditional readings, including one read by alumna Ann Stranack (Wagstaff) 1957.

A wreath including ivy leaves was laid under Dorinda Neligan's commemorative plaque serving as a reminder that the talent from which our school was founded continues to resonate through the girls today. Mulled wine and mince pies at the end set us up well for the chilly journey home

Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963, also in attendance, remembered the last time Croydon High assembled in the Parish Church, as it was then, for Margaret Casebourne's thanksgiving service, possibly in 2001 where the school choir sang John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. There would have been a service there for the 80th anniversary of the school in 1954.

Do you have any memories of Croydon High services at the Croydon Parish Church?



CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES

Dorothy Dyett (Howard) remembers...



I taught at The Elms and The Homestead from 1960-1964. In addition to my teaching duties I took over as Pets' Mistress. This involved caring for some goldfish, a terrapin (and tadpoles in the Spring). In addition, housed in hutches in the grounds, were some rabbits and a number of guinea pigs. During weekdays in term-time children were responsible for feeding the animals and cleaning out the cages. My job was to arrange the daily rosters, to order food pellets and bedding material and ensure a regular supply of vegetables and fruit. The school caretaker, Mr Gallagher, and his wife took over at weekends and were in charge of the stores. He was a former member of the Canadian Mounted Police. We shared a love of a good Malt Whisky so occasionally I would visit the Gallaghers in their home in the school grounds.

It was either Miss Bolwell or Mr Gallagher who told me the following story: When the visit of the Duchess of Gloucester announced in 1954 for the 80th anniversary, several Buckingham Palace staff appeared to sort out all the arrangements – (suitable toilet facilities for example) They alerted Miss (Dr) Adams to a glitch in the presentation order. Apparently someone on the Croydon High staff had a higher honour than hers and must, according to protocol, be presented first. It turned out to be Mr Gallagher who was sent for. He was a modest man and highly amused by the situation and the universal dismay displayed. "As I shall be opening the door of Her Majesty's car I could be presented at that point in proceedings. Would that resolve the matter?" It did. I don't recall what honour he'd received but think it was for gallantry while with the Mounties.

While not about Croydon High (staff, children, buildings) this anecdote is apposite: The blizzard that dumped a foot of snow on England on Boxing Day ushered in a spell of bitter weather that lasted, uninterrupted, for three months. Finding "greens" for the Croydon High pets became more and more difficult and expensive. Now and then I spent a weekend with my friends Jean and Leslie Salter and their three small children who lived in Reigate and I recall having a wonderful time romping with the children in the snow and crowded around a blazing fire playing Snap or Dominoes.

At Sunday lunch we ate some delicious cabbage fresh from the snowy garden.

"Would you like a cabbage to take back Dor?" Leslie asked.

"Yes please", I said. "I don't suppose you could spare another one for my pets could you?"

"Of course", but then we forgot all about cabbages until Monday morning at breakfast.

"Leslie – what about the cabbages?" Jeanie asked.

"Don't worry, I'll go out now", said Leslie who put on a woolly hat and Wellington boots and, taking a large knife rushed off to the veg garden.

"I've cut you five", he said when he returned. He stuffed them into a brown paper supermarket bag and put it into the car before driving me to Reigate station.

The commuter train was packed with the usual business men bound for London. I slung my back pack onto the rack along with their dispatch cases and clutching the paper bag stood between the double row of bowler hatted men buried behind their newspapers.

The first warning I had that something was wrong was when I felt a stream of water falling onto my boots – Disaster followed quickly as the bottom of the bag gave way allowing the five cabbages to fall out and bound around the compartment. At this point one of the men lowered his copy of "The Times" and addressed me.

"Madam, I have travelled on this train for the past twenty years but this is the first time I have been bombarded with frozen cabbages. Would it be impertinent to enquire as to the purpose and destination of your unusual cargo?"

Scarlet faced I replied.

"They're for my bloody bunnies. I'm the Pets' Mistress at Croydon High School."



A roar of laughter exploded from the men and every face emerged from behind their papers. One practical chap fished out a string bag and presented it to me. All five cabbages were safely corralled (along with the remains of the soggy paper bag) before the train drew up at East Croydon Station.

I was helped with my back pack, assisted off the train and farewelled with raised hats and beaming smiles.

My bloody bunnies earned me a lot of goodwill.



IS IRIS THE OLDEST SURVIVING PUPIL OF CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL?



Anne Savage wrote to tell us about her mother, Iris Savage (Jupp) 1937 and wonders whether Iris might be the oldest surviving pupil of Croydon High School? Iris is now 97 years of age. She attended Croydon High School between 1932 and 1937 during the headship of Miss Ransford, when the school was in Wellesley Road.

Having attended Holy Trinity School in Selhurst, Iris won a scholarship to Croydon High School where she studied until the age of 16. From a working class family, her parents were unable to

support her financially beyond this age and expected her to go out to work and contribute to the household finances. As her mother put it - she had had two years more schooling than most people of her generation! However, the education she received enabled her to secure a better job. She started work in an office where her excellent arithmetic skills were put to good use, before being called up to serve in the Army during the Second World War.

Iris remembers being placed in “yellow house” but doesn’t remember the house names that would have been used at the time. She also clearly remembers the treasured enamel hat badge which she wore, depicting an ivy leaf. She still has the book she received when she was awarded the Scripture Prize in the Diamond Jubilee Prize Giving in 1934. Its cover is embossed in gold with the Girls Public Day School Trust logo, the school’s name and motto “Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed”.

The houses were Arundel, Courtenay, Lanfranc, Stafford, Warham and Winchelsey but does anyone know the colour of each house?

SHIRLEY HOCKADAY (HOLT) 1967

In response to last year’s magazine feature concerning the move from Wellesley Road to the current campus in Selsdon...

My memories are somewhat hazy after so long, but I do remember that my friend Vivienne Crabb and I spent the whole summer holidays helping with the move. I believe that we were the only pupils involved (though I may be wrong and apologise to any others who may have helped!) – Vivienne and I were direct grant pupils from poorer backgrounds who rarely went away on holiday so the activity over that summer was a welcome diversion!

I remember answering the telephone in Wellesley Road at the start of the holidays while the teachers were presumably busy packing,

and most of the time had to tell parents of prospective pupils that everyone was busy and that someone would get back to them in a few weeks’ time!

Up at the new school I seem to remember our main role being directing the removal men to the correct room with whatever furniture or packing crate they were carrying at the time. We must have had to familiarise ourselves with the layout of the school very quickly! It was a very busy few weeks but also very enjoyable.

It was good to start the term with prior knowledge of the school buildings, but with only a year there I have always missed the shambles of Wellesley Road!

Thank you for indulging me!

GDST QUIRKY QUESTIONS

1. Which GDST school’ first Headmistress became a militant suffragette who refused to pay her taxes until she received a vote?
2. At which GDST school did Mary Berry, former judge of the Great British Bake Off, first try her baking skills?
3. Which school’s logo is Nyle ye Drede and what does it mean?
4. Lara Croft, the protagonist of Tomb Raider, is an alumna (albeit fictional) of which GDST school?
5. Roald Dahl’s childhood home, Cumberland Lodge, is now the nursery at which GDST school?
6. A Classics teacher from which GDST school wrote about the mishaps of Just William?
7. Which GDST saw an alumna go on to be a real life M at MI5?
8. Which school, in the very early days, had lessons only in the mornings as girls were considered too delicate to withstand the rigours of a full scholastic day?
9. Which school has both Professor Sprout and Professor McGonagall from the Harry Potter films as old girls?
10. Which school has a bronze seahorse sculpture in its grounds and why?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 27



Obituaries

It is our sad duty to pass on news of those in our community who have passed away over the last year.

May they rest in peace – our thoughts are with their friends and loved ones. In some cases, we have not been able to reproduce full length obituaries due to lack of space in this Magazine.

We have, however, created a page on the school website, www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/Croydon-High-Alumnae

so you can read more about the inspirational lives of some of our friends and alumnae. If for any reason you are not able to access the internet, but would like to read any of the obituaries in full, please contact Karen Roe at the School and she will be happy to send you a copy.

Jean Kimber (Lavender) 1956 passed away August 2017

Jean was born in Thornton Heath, South London, in April 1938, growing up in Grove Road, just off the A23. She attended Winterbourne Primary School, and then Croydon High from 1949-56. She went on to teacher training college at Furzedown, becoming a primary school teacher specialising in PE, at Tweeddale School, St Helier, Carshalton.



Jean took a very active part in the life of the school, belonging to several school societies, including the Guild of Charity. A keen sportswoman, she was school and college Swimming Captain, going on to represent Surrey County. Even in later years she remained active, belonging to the sports club at Westcroft, Carshalton. The range of trophies for table-tennis and short tennis which adorned her mantelpiece are testament to her continued competitive spirit.

She became heavily involved in church life at St Mary's Beddington, being an ever-present member of the PCC as well as a representative on the Deanery Synod. She was a church bellringer, latterly the Tower Captain, and it was through this activity she met her husband Stewart. This pastime took her not only all over the country but also all over the world with tours to the USA and Australia being highlights.

Jean ran a long-standing and accomplished tune-ringing handbell group. She arranged all of their repertoire (selling many of her arrangements to other groups), and sourced performance venues.



Perhaps the strangest of these was at Downview women's prison, where a rendition of "Ain't Misbehavin'" proved quite popular!

She took a break from teaching to raise her family, moving from Carshalton to Purley. Once her children were grown up, she returned to supply teaching, notably at All Saints Carshalton, among others.

She was a regular attendee at Croydon High alumnae events, and maintained good contact with a number of her contemporaries, **Joyce Wadey** and **Anne Bull Kent** (both of whom she had known since Winterbourne Primary), **Jenny Clark** and **Margaret King (River-Pitt)**.

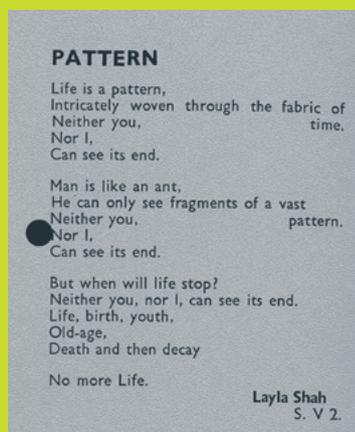
The diagnosis of an inoperable tumour in March 2017 was a shock to all who knew her and stole many years from an otherwise healthy and active life. She bore the condition, and the treatment well. Her funeral at Beddington was extremely well attended, reflecting the regard in which she was held by those who knew her.

She is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

Layla Dawson (Shah) 1968

Layla's sister Shireen wrote and asked us to include a notice of the death of her sister **Layla Dawson RIBA (nee Shah)** who

left CHS in 1968. Layla died on March 3rd 2015 in New Zealand where she had moved to be with Shireen after diagnosis of ALS (Motor Neurons Disease) in 2013. Shireen says that any friends are welcome get in touch via the Ivy Link. We recently found this poem in the 1966 School Magazine written by Layla.



Ann Williams (Darrell) 1951

After finding an invitation to the Ivy Link Tea Party last year, Ann's son Dominic informed us that his mother who attended the school in the 1940s passed away at the age of 84. He said 'In a strange coincidence, your afternoon tea on Thursday 22nd March falls on what would have been Mum's 85th birthday. Many thanks for kindly keeping her informed over the years.'

Maureen Keats (Samuel) 1956 passed away March 2018

Maureen was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya (now Malaysia). The family came home to England on leave in 1938, when she was very young, and they never returned, due to the outbreak of war. They went to live in the family home in Knighton in Radnorshire in mid Wales, while her father returned, alone, to Singapore in early 1940, as an inspector of schools. He would not let his family go with him as he predicted that the Japanese would join the war.

His prediction came true and, as a member of the volunteer reserve corps, he was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore. It was only in 1945, at the end of war, that the family discovered that he had died in 1943. Many years later Maureen returned to Malaya with her daughter Mary and visited the place where they had lived outside Kuala Lumpur, and the war cemeteries at Kanchanaburi on the railway.

Throughout the war the family lived in mid Wales. Maureen attended the local school and after the war, the family moved to London, where her mother's family had lived throughout the bombing. They settled in Sanderstead in Surrey, where Maureen's mother returned to teaching. Maureen successfully passed her 11+ in Sanderstead and won a scholarship to attend Croydon High School. She took botany, zoology and chemistry A levels and went to Bedford College, part of London University, to study Zoology and Geology. In 1959 Maureen came to Dorchester as the assistant curator at Dorset County Museum, looking after the natural history and geology sections.

She met her husband Brian, a Winfrith electronics engineer, at church. His wife had died from breast cancer, leaving him with two children; Susan and her younger brother Tim. Then in 1975, Maureen and Brian, themselves, had a daughter Mary. Whilst bringing up the family, Maureen was still active at the Museum as a volunteer first on the council and then as chairman for nearly 20 years and finally as president for four years. Maureen became a founder member of the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT). She was also chairman of the Brackets Coppice a founder member of the bat group run by DWT. For many years Maureen went and identified bats and informed and reassured householders about the bats.

Brian died in 1985, when their daughter Mary was only 10 years old. Shortly after finishing school Mary began a three year course in primary education, but, in her first year at college, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Following surgery she successfully completed her course and married, living in Weymouth. But, sadly, the cancer returned and, despite another brain operation, chemotherapy and radio-therapy, she died three years later.

Maureen moved from the family home in 2012 into a flat in the centre of Dorchester but sadly her sight began to deteriorate dramatically but only had to spend her last three months in a care home where she died peacefully on March 1st 2018. Her funeral was very well attended with friends, and representatives from the many organisations she was involved with, several of whom gave wonderful tributes at the service.

Maureen was a much loved and respected person with a wealth of knowledge who stoically battled on as she would say, taking a great interest in her five step-grandchildren and six step great-grandchildren.

Helen Holt (MacLeod) 1940

Helen passed away on 12 June 2017, aged 93, at home in Penshurst. We came across this poem in the 1940 School Magazine written by Helen.

CABBAGES.

O cabbages, who were despised by men,
Whom no one loved and all of us did hate ;
How patiently you bore the insults bold,
The piteous cries, the disappointed moans
Uttered by us, the thoughtless, careless ones.
Although with scorn and deadly venom rent,
Wrinkled and green—you were inscrutable.
At last your hour is come, you triumph now
For victory we dig ; and now on you
Depend our hopes and fears, and all our plans.
We hope and beg that you will multiply
And humbly we repent of all our scorn.

HELEN MACLEOD (*Upper V, Croydon*).



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US THROUGH THE 1874 FOUNDATION

Ayesha Afghan, Joan Angus, Suzanne Aplin, Florian Barker, Pamela Barnett, Carol Barton, Jenny Baxter, Christine Blackmore, Audrey Brooking, Jeanne Brown, Mary Burley, Maryla Carter, Eleanor Church, Diane Clarke, Jean Clayton, Frances Corrie, June Copley, Elizabeth Danbury, Una Davies, Pauline Davies, Heather Dean, Pamela Dixon, Carole Eady, Marilyn Edlin, Valerie Edmands, Christine Evans, Mary Fitzwilliams, Hazel Frith, Jean Fuller, Oyinkansola Gabriel, Jean Galbraith, Judy Gowans, Anne Grant, Marion Gratwick, Susan Griffith, Clare Halsted, Nicola Hart, Holly Hedgeland, Pam Hinton, Christine Hogh, Angela Hosp, Elizabeth Hussey, Joan Jenkins, Helen Jones, Margaret Kirk, Elena Kypri, Judith Lacy, Susan Ladd, Bridget Larman, Patricia Mason, Marion McAra, Frances Milner, Margaret Naylor, Gillian Nelson, Helen Older, Margaret Pater, Kathleen Reynolds, Christopher Ridout, Edna Riley, Catherine Shaw, Prue Sizeland, Nicola Smith, Ursula Smith, Mary Smith, Diana Stainbank, Ann Stranack, Rosemary Stringer, Jeanne Tarling, Frances Taylor, Katherine Tomsett, Susan Varcoe, Gwendolyn Veasey, Blanche Wakeling, Barbara Wallace, Angela Warren, Ruth Warren, Judith Wilsher, Gillian Zackham, Fiona Zealley and of course a number of anonymous donations.



2019 Dates for your Diary

Thursday 28 March 3pm – Ivy Link Tea Party

Saturday 22 June 12.30pm – Ivy Link Summer Lunch

**Spring 2020 – Ivy Link Challenge Cup will return to the netball courts
at Croydon High, watch this space!**

For more information about this or the Ivy Link, please contact Karen at ivylink@cry.gdst.net or on 020 8260 7531.



Thank you to our prefect team of 2017-18 who went above and beyond in serving at so many school and alumnae events. We look forward to inviting the class of 2018 to events and reunions for many years to come.

GDST QUIRKY ANSWERS

1. CROYDON (Dorinda Neligan of course!)
2. BATH
3. SYDENHAM: Fear Nothing
4. WIMBLEDON
5. HOWELL'S (which is the only GDST school in Wales!)
6. BROMLEY (Richmal Crompton – a woman)
7. NOTTINGHAM (Stella Rimington, the first female Director General of MI5)
8. PUTNEY
9. OXFORD
10. NEWCASTLE (The seahorse is a symbol within their logo, chosen because a mythical seahorse is included in Newcastle's city crest, to reflect Newcastle's maritime history.)



79 years old! Liberal Treatment

Sketch by an eye-witness of Miss Neligan's Arrest.

This cartoon appeared in the Votes for Women newspaper dated 9 July 1909, following the deputation march that took place on 29 June 1909 from Caxton Hall to the Houses of Parliament, where Dorinda Neligan was subsequently arrested.



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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy throughout the magazine, we hope you will please forgive any minor errors and please inform us of any major ones!