

“What did you glean for your future life?  
Remembrance dear and friendships true,  
As strong when clouds come as when skies are blue,  
And courage for the way and hope for every day,  
From the School of the Ivy Green.”

*Extract from the school song written by former Headmistress Miss Marion Leahy 1902-1924*



**The Ivy Link Magazine 2019**





## Dear Friends



The Ivy Link has long been a very important part of life here at the School and we enjoy strong relationships with alumnae of the School of all ages. Since I joined the School in 2016, I have been very proud to work with Karen Roe, who received a much deserved promotion this year and is now the Ivy Link

Manager. As always, she is responsible for the production of this excellent magazine and I am sure you would join me in thanking her for her tireless efforts in helping us all keep in touch.

Over the last academic year, we have been particularly proud that the Ivy Link has helped the School shape an important part of its curriculum in the form of our new subject for years 7-9, Enterprise Technology. This has been of significant strategic importance and girls have very much enjoyed being encouraged to be creative using new and emerging technologies, drawing upon content from across the curriculum. We were delighted to be named as one of the 'Schools to Watch' by EduTech50 this year, a noteworthy success, particularly given this initiative is only 10 months old. Congratulations and thanks go to Head of Enterprise Technology, Rob Brady.

I wrote to you last year to tell you that the School's GCSE results in 2017 were the 'best in a generation'. I am delighted to say that last year (2018) they were even better and A level and EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) results also typically very impressive.

Other significant initiatives this year have included a complete re-think in terms of the way we test girls upon entry to the School; we are looking for girls who demonstrate talent and ability that is raw rather than rehearsed; candidates cannot prepare for our tests, even with extra individual preparatory tuition! The academic standard remains exactly as it always has been with an additional emphasis placed upon academic curiosity and the desire to enjoy the extensive enrichment on offer at School.

140 girls from Years 5-13 were involved in the annual musical, Hairspray, and the sublime performances from the Music Department this year have impressed greatly. We welcomed back three alumnae to support the performance of Fauré's Requiem at our Easter Concert; Charlotte Clapperton (2018) joined us from her course in Opera Studies at The Royal Academy of Music, Abi Coskun (2017) from Durham University studying Anthropology and Archaeology and Emma James (2018) from The University of Warwick studying History. Charlotte and Emma also supported our traditional Christmas music in the Croydon Minster along with Amy Marsden from her Drama and Music course at Royal Holloway, University of London, Sam Martin from the University of Breda (Netherlands) studying Game Design & Architecture and Elizabeth Lovering from University of Southampton studying Psychology.

It was also wonderful to see so many alumnae in the congregation at The Minster and we would encourage you all to come next year for a festive welcome and traditional 9 Lessons and Carols on Wednesday 11 December or, indeed, to any of our concerts or performances throughout the year.

I would also like to thank those of you who continue to support the development of the School with your generous contributions both to the 1874 bursary programme and to other initiatives and to acknowledge a generous legacy left to us by a former parent which will go towards improving facilities and equipment for our current students.

I am thrilled that Croydon High's Emma Vetriano is a finalist in this year's GDST Alumna of the Year Award. You can find out more and how to vote on page 9.

As I mention every year, this will always be your School and you will always be made to feel welcome if you come and visit!

With very best wishes  
Emma Pattison

## Dear Ivy Linkers

I recently received a letter from Cheryl Giovannoni, Chief Executive of the GDST, congratulating me on ten years' service. For eight of those years I have connected with you, the Ivy Link community, encompassing thousands of interesting and inspiring women; I thank you for making my job such a pleasure and honour.

So, welcome to this, the eighth edition of the Ivy Link magazine and thank you to each person who has contributed news, fascinating stories and snippets of interesting information. Technology is fantastic of course, but nothing beats opening a letter or receiving a call to hear fond memories of school days. One such letter resulted in a wonderful discovery of the life of Edith Brown; I hope you enjoy her story on page 26.

Increasingly, school events involve our alumnae as so many of you support us with careers advice and mentoring, return to school to attend concerts and exhibitions and act as motivating guest speakers. Please do continue to spread the word and encourage fellow alumnae and friends to join The Ivy Link.

My appreciation, as ever, to Emma Pattison and Fran Cook for their continuous support and encouragement.

Thank you also to our fantastic 2018/19 prefect team for their unending help, especially outgoing Alumnae Prefect Piya Varma. I hope many of you have the pleasure of meeting our incoming 2019/20 prefect team at future events especially new Alumnae Prefect Esther Green.

With my very best wishes Karen Roe



Karen with her Ivy Link prefects Esther 2020 (left) and Piya 2019 (right)



# Celebrating 70 years of German Exchange with Clara Schumann Schule

This year marks 70 years of exchange trips with Clara-Schumann-Gymnasium (Clara Schumann Schule). We asked for your memories and photos of your German exchange with Clara-Schumann; we received some wonderful accounts...

## GABRIELLE SINGLETON (POCOCK) 1953

It is really surprising to read of the 70th anniversary of the programme of school exchanges with Clara-Schumann. I wonder why in 1951 Deirdre Borthwick and I were sent, by ourselves, to the school in Soltau 'auf der Lüneburger Heide' midway between Hamburg and Hannover and not to Bonn, though we did go, with several others, to Bonn in 1952.

All I remember of the trip was that some of the older girls got together with a party of British schoolboys on the cross-channel ferry and the train and for the first time I saw, on the neck of one girl, a love-bite though I didn't know what it was then. I think that, instead of being unaccompanied, as in 1951, we had a teacher with us, but I'm not sure.

Originally I was to be paired with Marie-Louisa, Marli, whom I really liked, but ended up being paired with Gabriela just because of our names. I can't recall their surnames nor even that of the Croydon High girl paired with Marli though all four of us usually went around together. Gabriela's father was a bank manager; she was an only child. The school was run on a shift system to accommodate

the number of pupils and we began early and finished about midday. Also, it was a hot enough summer for 'heat holidays' so possibly we didn't spend much time in school anyway!



A favourite pastime was eisbummeln, visiting a series of ice cream parlours and at each buying for a Pfennig or two a differently flavoured water ice. From Bonn we all went on an excursion down the Rhine - many castles!

## MARGARET PATER 1957

I went on my first exchange in 1955 after only two years of German. That year we were only a very small group - two or three from Croydon High School - but Miss Jackson travelled out with us and delivered us to our host families. I was assigned to a family with four children of whom Marlies was the second. When I arrived, her elder brother was in England but there were plenty of



people in the house, including her grandmother. They lived up on the cliff above Oberwinter and the view across the Rhine was impressive, especially the number of coaches on the goods trains running along the other bank. I had never seen trains with up to 50 coaches!

During my four weeks there, I talked very little. In a largish family, the conversation is quick and

plenty of people do the talking. But I listened very hard and, when I got back to England and the pace was slower, I found I could speak German quite fluently. Marlies had come back with me and one day, we went to the open-air swimming pool and got talking to a young family sitting on the grass nearby. While Marlies was in the water, I mentioned that I had been in Germany for four weeks and the woman was shocked at the idea of being in Germany even ten years after the war. Fortunately, I was then able to introduce her to Marlies so she got a different impression of "the Germans".

I was happy to be able to do another German exchange the following year (1956). This time the girls from the Clara Schumann Schule came to England first and Ilse stayed with us. When we travelled back together, the Croydon group was much bigger this time - about 15 girls - and I suppose there was a German teacher travelling with us. But, as I had done the journey before, I was put in charge of the Croydon High School group for the return visit!

Ilse's family lived in Bonn and her father had a wine and spirits shop and insisted that I try a little Danziger Goldwasser, of which he seemed to be very proud, with little bits of gold leaf floating in it.

Of course, I learnt some more German and in this family had more opportunity to speak myself.

Ilse's elder brother was also in the house. He was then studying medicine but had been recruited into the army just before the end of WWII at the age of 16 and then came into Russian imprisonment. (In both families I counted myself lucky that they had not suffered directly under the British.) We discovered that Ilse and I had had measles at just about the same time towards the end of the war. But, while I was in relative safety, she and her family were fleeing from the advancing Americans over the Rhine. The family also took me to Cologne and up the cathedral tower. I was really shocked to look down on extensive war damage all around the cathedral eleven years after the war had ended.

I now live in Greifswald in Northeast Germany. I have met a couple who moved here from West Germany some years ago and discovered in conversation that Annerose was a former pupil of the Clara Schumann Schule and she also did an exchange with Croydon High School some years after me – in the late 1960s.

#### **JOY LAWRENCE (ADAMS) 1959**

I well remember my exchange with the Clara-Schumann-Schule in Bonn in the 1950s. It was a great experience and a happy time. (I went on to study German at university). I have stayed in touch with my exchange partner Krista ever since that first visit. Letters, Christmas cards, lots of family news have passed between us and I have enjoyed visiting her quite a number of times, most recently just two years ago. I hope the partnership between the schools will continue to flourish for years to come.

#### **BRENDA HANSON (PADDON) 1960**

I was interested to read of the link which continues with the Clara-Schumann-Gymnasium in Bonn. In my day we knew it as the Clara Schumann Schule and I took part in an exchange in 1958 and 1959. I was taught German by Miss Margaret Jackson from 1956 to 1960.

When Ulli Richter (my exchange partner) was a child during the war their family had had to flee from the Sudetenland on a journey which took them through the forest where they hunted for wild berries and mushrooms. By 1958, just 13 years after the end of the war, they were living in a beautiful, newly built house in a pleasant area of Bonn. Her father was a lawyer and accomplished musician. I am still in touch with her after more than 60 years and we exchange news every Christmas. She is now an eminent poet and authoress, Ursula Haas.

An article appeared in the General Anzeiger on 21st August 1959 about our exchange visits and the outings down the Rhine and to Cologne which the town had generously funded.

On 25th August 1959 there was an account of the opening of the Beethovenhalle to which senior pupils in the Bonn schools were invited and we were included in the invitation.



Brenda Hanson (née Paddon) with Ulli Haas (née Richter).

In 1959 people were not so twitchy about risk assessments and there had been a serious family need which prevented our German teacher from accompanying the group to Bonn. That year we travelled out under the care of the German teachers and on the return journey, I (aged 17), was made responsible for the group travelling home. Everyone found this quite acceptable and we did not lose anyone on the way!

I am delighted that German is still being taught at Croydon High School and that the link with the Clara-Schumann-Gymnasium still continues.

#### **URSULA HAAS (RICHTER)**

##### **Brenda's exchange partner**

I am really touched by your email and your memory of those happy times, we had together in Croydon and Bonn long, long ago! I would be very pleased, if you could send me the article I link from your Croydon High School reporting on a school exchange between Croydon High School and my Clara – Schumann Gymnasium in Bonn. We have been friends for 60 years, our friendship is a present!

#### **HILDEGARD HILLA (SCHULT)**

I am Hildegard, Ulli's school friend and exchange friend of Sheila Parker (Durman 1958) We stayed friends all our lives, took part in our weddings, once passed our summer holidays together with our children in Cornwall, and kept on visiting each other if possible. These long and intense times were wonderful, of course only if we were lucky and felt at home with our families! I only took part because I was so bad in English and my parents thought it better to send their girl over, maybe it helps her for better results! And so, it did in two ways: first of all I met a wonderful family I kept in touch with all my life and secondly I became a teacher of English for many generations of students

Sheila came over to visit us only a couple of years ago and we warmly remembered the beginning of our friendship with our first exchange 1957/58! Nice to have got in touch with you after all these years.



### HEATHER GLOUCHKOW (DAVID) 1960

I was part of the 1958 exchange and my German partner was Ingvelde Jadatz. She had a passion for history - and a smile that would light up the room! We became instant friends and had a wonderful summer exploring London and Bonn and their histories. I didn't go on the second exchange because of a family crisis at their end, and they passed me on to a friend whom I started visiting that Christmas.

Ingvelde and I remained very good friends and I have visited her and her family in Brussels many times. She was a policy analyst for the European Union and her husband was a surgeon. In 1982, when my son was 16, he and Ingvelde's son did an exchange on exactly the same basis as we had done, and a couple of years later, her younger son came to visit us here in Canada.

I should also mention that the friend whom I visited that Christmas became a regular visitor to our home - and ended up marrying my brother! So, I think I can safely claim that the school exchange system had quite a big influence on my life.

### RUTH WARREN (COPPING) 1960

My friend was Herta Kaumann, and I have not been in contact since school. I remember my trip to Germany - a visit to a monastery in the local mountains, a concert in the courtyard of a palace in Bonn, the bus trips up to the Venusberg where Herta's family lived - father a PhD scientist living in a luxurious apartment which contrasted, in my mind, with UK choice of individual detached family homes, usual among my UK friends. I don't remember much of the school, and I would have found that tough since I was not a real German speaker, having only done two terms in the fifth form of "German for scientists" - a prediction which was right off mark, seeing how science is universally published in English language journals if it is worth reading.

(Ruth was also involved in the French exchange with a pupil at Lycée Fénélon in Paris resulting in a life long friendship.)

### MARY BEAL (DULLEY) 1968



I shall always be grateful for the first-rate tuition I received at Croydon High School in French, German, Latin and Art, which provided me with a lasting foundation for my future path. My German exchange, a pupil at the Clara Schumann Schule in Bonn remains one of my oldest and closest

friends. This friendship led to the opportunity to attend art history lectures and seminars at Bonn University throughout the Winter

Semester of 1968-69 (when student fees etc were very low) which was valuable for my later career.

The headmistress of the Clara Schumann Schule Frau Dr. Schlößer set up the exchange with Croydon High School with the then headmistress Miss Margaret Adams. They were remarkable women and many generations of both schools can be grateful to them for this link.

### LAYLA SHAH 1968

Shireen Shah writes... My sister Layla Shah went on the exchange in 1967 and met Christoph Kraemer a student there who became an artist. They wrote to each other over the years and despite marrying other partners, eventually got together 20 years later in Hamburg and finally married in Bristol where I was living!

Layla worked as an architect in Britain, Kuwait and Hong Kong. She was a lecturer and freelance architectural critic for The Architectural Review, World Architecture, Space Hong Kong and other international English Japanese and German publications. Her books included China's New Dawn & Berlin in the series Modern Architecture.



Brit and Brown was her first published novel with second book Die Welt ist Kälter ohne dich (The World is Colder without You) written in memory of Christoph who died in 2010. Layla tragically died of Motor Neurones Disease in 2015.

### SALLY BUTCHER 1975

I did my first exchange back in 1971, with the lovely Tessmer family. My exchange partner was Kristin, and she had a (non-identical) twin sister Katrin. They were both keen horse riders, as was I, but I confess they were both much better than me! I had a fabulous time staying with them, which began a life-long interest in Germany and the German language, which I still speak fairly fluently. I went back to stay with the Tessmers the following year and for a third time once I had finished my A-levels, and a stint working in southern Germany during the summer holidays.

From Croydon High School, I went on to college to train as a bilingual secretary, and subsequently had a career spanning over 40 years in various sales management roles for several German, or international organisations, using my German all the time. It stood me in very good stead over the years. I retired at Christmas, but I'm keeping up with it, by teaching Beginners German in my area, which is giving my grammar a thorough revision, at the very least. Kristin and I lost touch over the years, but I still think of them fondly from time to time. That school exchange was the first step to my career with German, for which I am grateful to this day.

## JACQUIE BAKER (THOMAS) 1979

I first met my German Exchange in April 1975 and we are still in touch today. My best friend and I were paired up with the Plagge Sisters and stayed at 100 Zeppelin Strasse in Venusberg, the road was since renamed Robert Koch Strasse for political reasons. They were quite a traditional family and we were whisked down to Koblenz as part of our stay, returning with lots of typical Easter gifts. We went out to north Germany to celebrate their parents' silver wedding anniversary in very traditional style a few years later.

My exchange partner moved to America for a year's schooling in Arkansas and subsequently emigrated to California to run her own business and now owns a farm.

It was and is a hugely rewarding friendship; she brought her children to stay with me in the mid 90s and my husband and I stayed with her and her family in 2006 on our USA tour. How lucky were we to be paired up.

## BETH – 2019 GERMAN EXCHANGE

The German Exchange exceeded my expectations. Before meeting Lara, my partner, I did not know how well we were going to get on or communicate. However, after her stay with me in London, I was certain that the trip to Bonn would be great. I chose to go on the German Exchange to improve my German.

At first, it was hard to understand my exchange family as none of them spoke English, but after a short time, it got easier. The trip was also very enjoyable. The people were lovely and we did a different activity every day. I would go on the exchange again as I really did enjoy every minute of it and my partner and I became very close. We still speak every day.

*Vielen Dank für Ihre wundervollen Beiträge!*



Head of German 1987-2000 Helen Gibbons and current Head of German Richard Symes taken at the Ivy Link Tea Party March 2019



# Walking the Talk



From left to right: Ailsa Wood (Physics) 1983-2004, Caroline Heath Head of Physics 1983-2004, Hilary Lambert Head of Classics and Head of Year 1977-2008, Judith Forshaw Head of English 2000-2017, Diana Stainbank (Chemistry) Deputy Head 1989-2004, Linda Eells (Chemistry) Senior Teacher 1976-1990, Linda Sinclair (German) 1988-2004. Thank you to Julia McKnight (Maths) Director of Studies 1990-2, for the photo.

**W**hen I retired in August 2004, I planned to walk the London Loop, in stages, with a friend. At least five of us retired that year and when my colleagues got wind of what we were intending they asked if they could join us. This, dear reader, was the start of something that is stronger today than it was in its infancy.

The first walk was on 14th September 2014 when five of us walked the 10 miles from Uxbridge Lock to Moor Park. During the next two years as we completed the long-distance footpath in fortnightly stages our numbers grew, as others who had retired before us joined in. We completed other long distance paths including the Croydon Border Path, the Lea Valley walk and the Thames Path over the next few years. Currently we are intermittently walking the Greenwich Meridian Trail. We went from Peacehaven to a triumphal entry into Greenwich last year and we began the northern part by walking from Greenwich to Stratford on April Fools' Day.

Somewhere during the fifteen years, we decided to walk every week. Having exhausted most of the accessible long-distance paths, we decided that during each walking "term" we would each take responsibility, in turn, for a Monday walk, by undertaking planning

and research and leading it on the day. This pattern has served us well and we have a good mix of interest walks in London and country walks where we often get very muddy but have great views.

Our little group has grown to 19 as the recently retired have successively joined us. We have celebrated the births of numerous grandchildren, rejoiced at the success of replacement hips – all those years of pounding the classroom floor has taken its toll! We have celebrated notable birthdays.

Of course, the walks are not hazard free. Bulls are always a problem. One lunchtime, I'd just sat down and was unwrapping my sandwiches when I was conscious of a breath behind me. I turned and saw a bull peering over my shoulder. We made a swift but dignified retreat from the field.

The walks are always great fun. We never stop talking and there is much laughter. There is a huge feeling of support and camaraderie amongst people with a shared history. Incidentally, it's also a very good way to keep fit. I can recommend it for retirement.

**DIANA STAINBANK**

# GDST Alumna of the Year

## Croydon High's Nominations 2019



**EMMA VETRIANO**  
2006  
(SHORTLISTED  
AS A 2019  
FINALIST)

Emma Vetriano is fast making a name for herself in the sports industry, as a Global Partnerships Manager at Electronic

Arts' (the digital entertainment business, and creator of the EA SPORTS FIFA football video game), and has been awarded the accolade of Sports Industry NextGen Leader 2019 – a highly prestigious award for any young professional in sports business.

She started her career in the sports industry as a rugby player, referee, coach and analyst, before becoming the first female member of a Match Officials team at a European Rugby Champions Cup Final in 2015, and then moving into the football world. As EA SPORTS Global Partnerships' Manager, she works with the Premier League, the EFL, Chelsea FC, Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Manc City player Kevin De Bruyne and Manager Pep Guardiola.

More than this, though, she is passionate about equality in sports, and campaigns tirelessly – from tackling homophobia in football to encouraging more women to become competitive FIFA players. She is co-founder of Women in Sports Business, a member of Women in Football and a former 30% Club mentee, which stands for gender balance in all industries.

Croydon High girls have benefited from Emma's input at Careers events particularly at a recent Network Breakfast, which allowed students to explore new possibilities for their careers.

The winner – who will be announced at the GDST Annual Reception on Thursday 19 September 2019 will receive £500 to donate to a charity of their choice. **To vote for Emma please go to [www.gdst.net/alumnae/awards](http://www.gdst.net/alumnae/awards)**

### EMMA'S TOP TIPS

- Have an end goal; it makes you approach every task (even the most mundane) with passion and focus
- Treat the cleaner/waitress with the same respect you would a CEO/client
- It's okay to fall or make a mistake, it's how you pick yourself back up and learn from your failures that truly matters



Emma Vetriano at the Croydon High School Sixth Form leaving dinner and dance with Oliver Sergison (Trinity, 2006)







### SUSIE MA 2007

Susie came up with the idea of selling a natural body scrub when in the sixth form at Croydon High and then gained her degree whilst working on her business, Tropic Skincare.

In 2011 she came third overall on The Apprentice BBC television program. In 2012, Tropic Skincare was launched as part of a 50/50 partnership between Susie and Lord Sugar.

Susie won three Stevie Awards for Women in Business in 2016, with a further five in 2017. The Stevie Awards are given annually in America to recognize accomplishments of companies and business people worldwide.

In January 2018, Susie secured a spot on 2018 Forbes 30 Under 30 list. In 2019 she opened a brand new HQ in Croydon saying the building had been a dream of hers for years. Tropic Skincare, is now one of the fastest-growing companies in the U.K.

Tropic became a certified CarbonNeutral company in 2018 aiming to be a force for good beyond beauty and help create a healthier, greener, more empowered world.

Susie took on the Strive Challenge raising £50,000 for Big Change "Investing in the next generation is what helps to shape our future." In addition, since partnering with the Winnie Mabaso Foundation, Susie and Tropic Skincare have raised over £60,000.



### CLAIRE DUNN (NORRIS) 1994

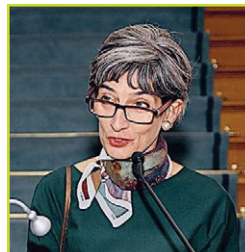
Inspired by her teacher Mrs Roberson, Claire studied biology at Oxford University, with a view to saving the planet! This led to research expeditions to Jamaica and the Seychelles, before taking up a marine research assistantship in Papua New Guinea with Cornell

University. She saw first hand the devastating impact of unregulated activity by multinational mining and forestry conglomerates.

To understand business, she returned to London and a mergers and acquisitions job at LEK consulting. Heading to the US, she studied International Relations & Environmental Policy at Boston University, and was published by Elsevier.

Claire returned to the UK to lead a Strategy team at the Environment Agency. Moving to the Carbon Trust, she combined her love of the natural world and understanding of business to play a part in saving the planet. This work saved over a billion tonnes of lifetime Carbon from UK businesses and the public sector

Claire now lives in the village where she grew up where she runs a property investment business. She also provides accommodation for refugees through the charity Rooms for Refugee, has spent time volunteering and as a Trustee at the Caterham CAB, hosts events for the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service and works with the Eusebia Hope Foundation who provide homes, education and help to abandoned and orphaned children in Kenya.



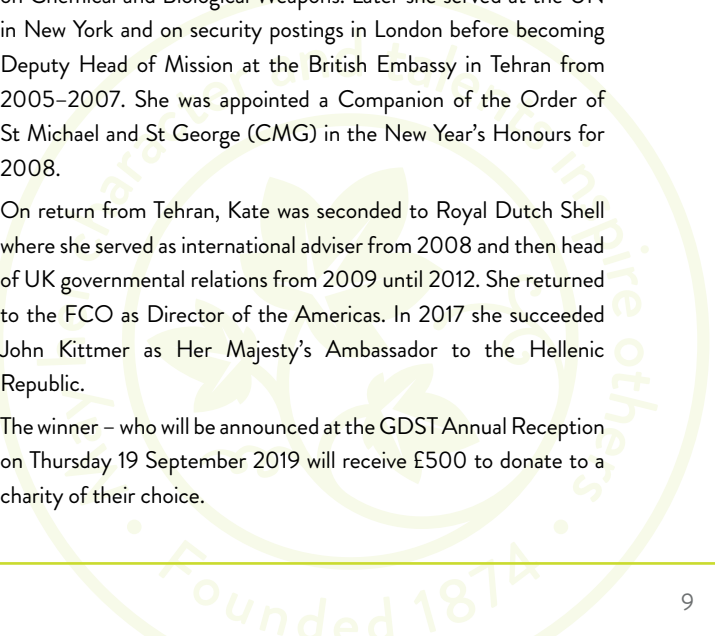
### KATE SMITH 1981

Kate joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1987, serving in Lusaka and then in London in the Central African Department. She then did a tour in Athens in 1991, and then in the Counter-Proliferation Department focusing

on Chemical and Biological Weapons. Later she served at the UN in New York and on security postings in London before becoming Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Tehran from 2005-2007. She was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the New Year's Honours for 2008.

On return from Tehran, Kate was seconded to Royal Dutch Shell where she served as international adviser from 2008 and then head of UK governmental relations from 2009 until 2012. She returned to the FCO as Director of the Americas. In 2017 she succeeded John Kittmer as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic.

The winner – who will be announced at the GDST Annual Reception on Thursday 19 September 2019 will receive £500 to donate to a charity of their choice.



# The Class of 1968

We were delighted that so many of the Class of 1968 were able to attend the Ivy Link Summer Lunch last year.

Following the lunch Di Clark (Singleton) wrote to us...

Looking around our table alone I think Miss Neligan would consider that her battles were not in vain. Even 50 years ago we followed in the formidable footsteps of Dr Adams and Miss Cameron; amongst our 22 we had 2 OBEs, one MBE, teachers, doctors, two medical consultants, a working actress with a long successful career, successful businesswomen from the legal profession, journalists, a creative jewellery designer and those with careers in public relations. However, our chat was about school, friends, the staff, Miss Cameron, Miss Tebble, and other hugely charismatic characters who shaped us.

We always thought we were a special year- who doesn't? But we certainly lived in special times, being teenagers through the years when England won the World Cup, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Woodstock and the Summer of Love, the whole "I'm backing Britain" campaign, Mary Quant - England was buzzing and leading the world in terms of music, and fashion, and its blossoming youth culture. Generally a time of great optimism. One of our number danced on the iconic TV show "Ready, Steady Go" and in later years appeared on stage as Juliet in Stratford-on-Avon. Another - a little later - was arrested for throwing flour at the contestants of the Miss World contest; not sure what Miss Cameron would have thought about that - but she might have secretly admired her spirit!

We wrote to the Class of 1968 and asked for more information concerning the path they took after leaving Croydon High.



## MARY BEAL (DULLEY)

Following Croydon High School, I took a BA and PhD in the History of European Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. My PhD thesis (on 17th-century Italian painting techniques) was published in a series entitled 'Outstanding theses from the Courtauld Institute of Art' by Garland Publishing Inc., New York and London. I then worked as a Curator responsible for research

and conservation at the Government Art Collection in London, some of these works are displayed in British Government buildings both in the UK and in British Embassies and High Commissions throughout the world. I published (and continue to publish in retirement) articles in leading academic art history journals and, amongst others, catalogues of works of art in the British Embassies in Bonn (as it was then) Paris and Tel Aviv.



## MARIAN BEAUMONT

It was at Croydon High School that I developed my love of language and languages, in particular French. In a working life that has not followed a very linear path, this has been the thread. I

have taught English as a foreign language in adult education and abroad. I lived in France for 7 years with my husband and young son, perfecting the excellent French I was taught at school. More recently, I spent 18 months in China with VSO, an organisation I first learned about at school. It took me nearly 40 years to do it, but seeds sown early can develop into action much later!

## HILARY BLUMER

I spent 35 years working in the NHS (16 years at Director level) in London, Aberdeen and the North-West of England. In my spare time I was a non executive director of a social housing company and an environmental charity. After the death of my husband and redundancy, plus more charity work with Crossroads and lecturing on palliative care, I changed tack and did a CELTA qualification, taught English to adults, learnt Spanish and moved to Madrid. I now split my time between the UK and Madrid. (Visitors to the Spanish capital from Croydon High School welcome!)

*Lesson from Croydon High: believe in yourself, go for it, anything is possible if you set your mind to it, don't let doubting Thomas hold you back...*

## JUDY BUXTON



I spent 3 years at The Rose Bruford Drama College, followed by a year in repertory theatre playing a variety of roles. This gained me my Equity card. I have done numerous series



on TV in comedies and dramas and many theatre tours in the UK and abroad. The highlight of my career so far has been 3 years at the RSC in the 80s playing wonderful roles such as Juliet, Jessica to David Suchet's Shylock, and Iphigenia in John Barton's acclaimed production of the Greeks.



The Pied Piper of Hamelin 1958 – Judy is on the right with her arm raised, Hilary Blumer is behind her; they were Verse Speakers. Di Clarke is in the front, cross-legged, playing a child, but she had wanted to play a rat!

I have very happy memories of our school plays which were of a very high standard and I was lucky enough to take part in several. The school productions I remember are *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, *The Trojan Women*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and Di Clarke reminded me we both played sea horses in *The Forsaken Mermen* when we were in the Elms or Homestead.

I have been acting now for 48 years and still hopefully going strong!

Amongst many roles, Judy played Juliet in the RSC's production of *Romeo and Juliet* with Anton Lesser, Lady Teasle in *School For Scandal* with Donald Sinden, or Ruth Carpenter with Dennis Waterman in the TV comedy series *On The Up*.

#### DI CLARKE (SINGLETON)



I have spent over 30 years teaching and still work part-time in schools, counselling and in GCSE support. I am a governor of a Multi -Academy Trust in Eastbourne. After being so happy at school and learning from the best I think one wants to pass it on and help other children to be happy, be inspired and to have the sort of

memories that I have. The apple has not fallen far from the tree!

#### CHRISSIE MOBBS (VANSTONE-WALKER)

1971-1976 Statistician then Regional Statistician, South East Thames Regional Health Authority: Medical Research, Strategic Regional Planning.

1976-1978 Assistant District Administrator (Health Care Planning and Development), St. George's Health District.

1978-1981 Director and Company Secretary, Automatic Music Company (Warner Bros.).

1981-1999 Director and Chairman of Transatlantic Specialties Inc.

Included Radio and TV appearances.

Business Advisor for the Prince's Youth Business Trust in 1993.

Appointed member of Environment and Infrastructure Subcommittee of Thames Valley Economic Partnership.

Non-Executive Director of Stoke Mandeville NHS Trust, 1995-1998

Elected to National Council of CESA (National Catering Equipment Suppliers' Association) in 1996



South Eastern Businesswomen of the Year Award circa 1996

Former Counsellor for "Samaritans"

Founder Member of Springfield Hospital Radio Station

#### ANNE WILLIAMS OBE (FREEMAN)

On leaving Croydon High School, I went to Manchester University Medical School and qualified in 1973. After junior posts in Manchester, Sheffield and Cardiff, I became a consultant physician in Newport, Gwent specializing in stroke medicine and care of the elderly with general medical intake. I became the clinical lead for stroke in Wales and in retirement am now involved with developing the Welsh stroke research hub and an educational framework for stroke in Wales. I have a long history of involvement in medical education at both postgraduate and undergraduate level and have co-authored several books. I have been honoured to receive awards by the First Minister in Wales recognising my achievements, the Presidents medal from the British Geriatrics Society and in 2012 the OBE for services to stroke medicine and medical education in Wales. It was Croydon High that gave me that good start in life...

**Just before going to print we heard that Anne has been awarded Honorary Fellowship of Cardiff Metropolitan University, congratulations!**

#### IRENE WILSON (ELTRINGHAM)

After a 35 year teaching career as a geographer, culminating as Assistant Head at Oxted School, one of the country's largest comprehensives, I decided to take early retirement and change direction, moving into gardening. I am a volunteer County Organiser for The National Garden Scheme, heading a team of 14 who regularly raise in excess of £160,000 per year; I also opened my own garden at Butlers Farmhouse, East Sussex in 2000. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Croydon High, being inspired and learning that women can do and be anything that they wish for, or dream of!



1993 25th anniversary reunion with Miss Cameron

# Every One Remembered

The Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, developed a project they call Every One Remembered, to individually commemorate over 1 million Commonwealth Service men and women who were killed during the First World War.

Last November we were thinking of those connected with our school who may not have made the ultimate sacrifice, but whose lives were undeniably altered forever by the so called Great War.



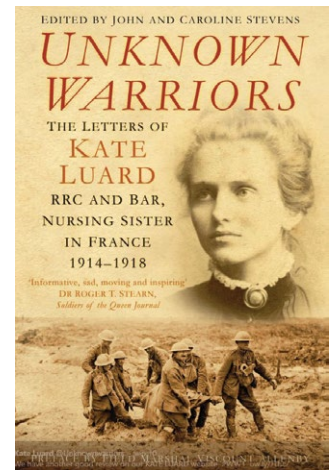
Miss RHODA BRODIE, M.B.E.  
Patrol Leader, Croydon Women-Patrols

Women like alumna Rhoda Brodie, who received an MBE for her war work from the Director General for Voluntary Organisations, and in 1915 established the Croydon Women's Patrols. The women volunteers patrolled in couples for two hours in the evening, carrying a police whistle and lantern.

Rhoda also took charge of the Sun Life Insurance Company's local Branch Office in order that a man 'might be relieved for active service'.

We remember Kate Luard, who attended Croydon High along with her three sisters, referring to her time here as 'a defining moment in her life'. Kate served as a nurse in the Boer War and was one of the first nurses to join the British Expeditionary Force at the start of

WW1. Kate initially worked on ambulance trains bringing the wounded from the battlefields. During the war, she was twice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the 1st class Royal Red Cross medal and bar. Kate was Head Sister of No 32 Casualty Clearing Station at Brandhoek during the Battle of Passchendaele. She is the author of two books describing her experiences.



Kathleen Mary Leeds who was also a pupil here, teaching at Portsmouth High before returning to Croydon High as Assistant Headmistress, deserves a mention. Kathleen was the secretary of the School War Savings Association that started in July 1916 and culminated in a total collection of over £6,000 in War Savings Certificates. Kathleen was also a member of the Croydon Women's Patrols. She died in 1921 and the school decided to invite contributions to a fund to provide a special prize to bear her name.



The Kathleen Mary Leeds Award for Sciences and Mathematics still exists today and was recently awarded to former Head Girl Praveena at Senior Prizegiving in September of this year.

Others include Agnes Elliot – secretary of the Southwark Health Society; Dr Olive Falk – medical officer at a baby clinic; Winifred Denham – Institution of the Baby Welcomes, district midwifery; Theodora Clark – served in hall in Katharine Street to supplement patrol work; Ethel Link – Commandant of V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Hospital; Erica Feguson – served at Belgian hospital at Calais and English hospital for French wounded at Limoges.



These are just some of the 'big names' - if you like - associated with the school and the war effort. But what is more moving in a way, is the realisation that so many of our alumnae were involved, like women all over the country, in doing far more than just 'keeping the home fires burning'.

An entry in Croydon High's 50th Anniversary Jubilee publication in 1924 sums this up:

"No reference to the war years can omit the work done by our old girls. It is with pride and affectionate admiration that we have watched their patriotic and unselfish work. I think there cannot be many forms of women's work during the Great War in which our old girls did not share. They were V.A.D. nurses; they joined the W.A.A.C.S., the W.R.E.N.S., and the Women's Air Service. They drove Army motorcars in England, France and Macedonia. They helped take care of Belgian refugees. They served as Army cooks and as voluntary helpers in Y.M.C.A. and Church Army canteens.



Peace Day Procession in Croydon July 1919. Girls in white dresses from Croydon High

They took part in munition work; they served in Police patrols. Some took the places of men in Government offices and banks, and had responsible positions; some taught boys in public schools. They worked in the Land Army at all kinds of work, including ploughing, milking, and driving cattle to market.

Our old girls came forward at the call of their country. They did their best, forgetting everything but patriotism, and they gave themselves to work which was sometimes difficult, uncongenial, and sometimes very dull though necessary. I think there were unsung heroes in many cases; for instance, those who did the hard monotonous work of hospital orderlies, and those who had never in their lives before had anything to do with cows, yet persevered in milking them by lantern light, week after week, on cold winter mornings. We have been led to admire many of our old girls, who have shown a wonderful spirit of devotion and unselfishness."

We found the final paragraph to be particularly moving especially as we felt it to be as true today as it was then.

"Can we allow ourselves to believe that some of their power to be helpful in their country's hour of need was derived from their training in public spirit as members of a large school? We trust that it may be so, and we earnestly hope that the present generation of girls and those who succeed them will be helped by their school-life to develop into good, capable, and unselfish women who will be ready and able to help in the great work of national reconstruction."

We pray that our girls will never be called upon to make the sacrifices that previous generations have made, but we also hope that the words of our school motto:

***May her character and talents inspire others - will prove to be a continued motivation to them all, wherever life takes them.***

**Ella Jones (Briggs) 1965 writes:**

During the Autumn I was busy researching the 29 men on our village War Memorial who died in WW1. Gratifyingly, on Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday we had four sets of descendants attending the service and joining us at the War Memorial. One family group consisted of over 20 descendants of two brothers killed and another person who travelled up from Oakham, Rutland to acknowledge his great grandfather's 'sacrifice'.



**And to all those who sacrificed so much...**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning**

**We will remember them.**

# Careers News and Events

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

## CAREERS MASTER CLASS EVENING



The seminars at the Careers Master Class Evening offer a more detailed and focused opportunity to delve into a particular career area. This year we enhanced the opportunities

available for parents to hear important information about the variety of routes available post A levels. These included: Preparations for University, Student Finance (ably led by UEA) and Apprenticeships led by Marianne Streete from EY. The latter are increasing in number and importance, and offer a real alternative to the traditional route to university.

Our delegates came from very different, but nonetheless, interesting career areas, including Dentistry, Engineering, Finance, Law, Journalism and Medicine. Some were parents (Mr Idiculla, father of Leila Y5 and Yasmin Y9) and others alumnae (Alicia Luba, 2009). All the seminars were extremely well received; parents praised the quality of the presentations, and students commented on the enthusiasm of the delegates; some parents were even tempted to try a new career themselves!

## NETWORKING BREAKFAST



Croydon High School's Careers Department organised another exciting networking event, bringing together professionals from a variety of creative industries for pupils in Years 10-13. Professionals

ranging from TV Directors, Architects and Journalists to Solicitors, the diverse collection of delegates were able to enlighten students on the possible opportunities, benefits and misconceptions of creative industries. Sharing breakfast with warm and interactive speakers allowed our girls to explore future career prospects and their creative interests in an encouraging environment. The positive atmosphere gave our Sixth Form an "enriching experience", said an excited Lower Sixth student who "loved talking to a diverse group of people". Our Upper Sixth expressed their satisfaction with such networking events as "it was a perfect time for consolidating ideas about future career options and university choices".

This event allowed students to realise that the creative sector is one with high job prospects and increasing job satisfaction, which has pushed them to explore new possibilities for their careers. We encourage students to make new contacts and practise communication skills at all networking events to stimulate open-minded discussions and discover new opportunities for the future.

**Piya, Alumnae and Careers Prefect 2018-19**

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY VISIT





Lower Sixth aspiring Oxbridge applicants visited the beautiful setting of Cambridge University. It was a phenomenal experience as it allowed us to get 'a feel' for each of the unique colleges that we visited, such as St. John's, Corpus Christi and many more!

At St John's we met with a senior academic to learn about the application process and life as a Cambridge student in detail, were treated to a delicious lunch and were shown around the College by a current undergraduate. We got to see the library, examples of typical student accommodation, the recreational studios as well as to visit the iconic Bridge of Sighs.

In the afternoon we met Honor Clapp, Class of 2016, in her final year at Queens. She showed us around her beautiful College, and passed on some wisdom, advice and experience from a Croydon High girl who has already been down the Oxbridge path successfully. Finally, we met the Admissions Director of Sidney Sussex, explored the intimate buildings and gardens of that College, gained some fascinating and valuable insights into how to stand out as applicants, and heard about the importance of a healthy work-life balance to get the most out of the opportunities that Cambridge has to offer. Our day was motivating, inspiring and enlightening. Understanding what Oxbridge entails, whether it is right for us and what steps we need to take to realise our ambition were our main outcomes. Certainly the reality was different from our expectations, but all in a good way.

**Esther, Alumnae and Careers Prefect 2019-20**

**THE GDST RUNGWAY MENTORING APP**



In a major move designed to enable every GDST sixth form student to connect with the GDST's alumnae family, we've teamed up with Rungway.com, the mentoring app. At the touch of a button, our students have a way of asking some of the burning questions they have about study and life after school, anywhere and at any time. The response from mentors was interesting, with one saying, "You couldn't ask these questions on a public forum like LinkedIn. The questions sound utterly heartfelt and I hope the answers are helping."

If you would like to find out more, or join the GDST Rungway mentoring community in the New Year, just follow this link: [www.gdst.net/rungway-mentoring-app](http://www.gdst.net/rungway-mentoring-app).

In January the scheme featured in The Times quoting Croydon High's Maddie: "Respondents have been really generous with their advice. I have asked important questions to which I have received answers..."

**PATHWAY CAREER PROFESSIONAL**



In 2018, we introduced the Pathways Mentoring Programme (PMP), a scheme aimed at supporting career readiness exclusively to the Lower Sixth at Croydon High. Designed to prepare the girls for a fulfilling professional life, the PMP has allowed our girls the time and resources needed to explore their chosen career areas fully. Some have found work experience, others have been able to prepare themselves for examinations needed, such as LNAT and UKCAT. All have found that they are more prepared for their future. The programme provides them with access to professionals who work in their interested career areas to provide them with specialised guidance.

To expand this scheme, we would like to invite Croydon High alumnae to become Pathway Career Professionals (PCP).

The various pathways that we offer to students include:

- Business and Finance
- Creative Arts
- International Relations, Politics & Civil Service
- Law
- Medical, Veterinary & Biochemistry
- Media & Communications
- Open (for those who want to explore multiple options)
- STEM

We know that our students will value hearing all about the choices you, as a Croydon High alumna, have made in your professional career journey and we know that your experiences will help. To find out more please email [s.gower@croy.gdst.net](mailto:s.gower@croy.gdst.net). To register please go to [www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/careers-pathways-2019/](http://www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/careers-pathways-2019/)

# Mug Shot Selfies!

In a conversation with our Junior School Deputy Head, Sarah Raja, Louise Weeks-Greener (Pettener) 1984 mentioned that she still owns and uses her 1974 centenary mug. We asked her to send us a photo and we received a wonderful selfie! This prompted to ask the Ivy Link community if they still have their special mugs...



Alison Rae (Clark) 1978 just one mug in this shot; Alison says she remembers the centenary celebration very well.



Esther Green current Alumnae Prefect with the 140th anniversary celebration mug!



Judy Gowans (Stebbins) 1977



Louise Weeks-Greener (Pettener) 1984



Janet Few (Braund) 1974



Ros Broyd (Willey) 1973 Ros has been teaching in our Junior school since 2002. Ros does not remember how she acquired a 1974 centenary mug having left in 1973! She has since donated this precious piece of crockery to our archives.

**Thank you ladies for your lovely photos! We would love to see more; send your selfies to [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)**



# Croydon High launches new school uniform!



September 2018 saw the launch of our new school uniform and very proud we are of it too. The ivy leaf logo is very prominent demonstrating its importance to us. Croydon High's first Headmistress, Dorinda Neligan, who led the school from 1874 to 1902, is credited with its association with the ivy leaf. Legend has it, that before she took a group of girls to their very first GPDST Prizegiving ceremony in London, Miss Neligan pulled some ivy from the school wall and told the girls to wear it in their hair, so that they would stand out as "Croydon High girls." Since then, ivy has played a large part in our school identity.

*We searched our archives for photos of the school uniform through the years...*



Founded 1874



# Reunions

## THE IVY LINK SUMMER LUNCH 2018



As always, the Annual Ivy Link Lunch was a very happy occasion with almost 100 guests. We welcomed groups from the classes of 1988, 1978, 1968, 1958 and 1948 celebrating notable anniversaries. We were particularly happy to welcome Jennifer Ingham from the Class of 1948, one

of our most regular guests at both alumnae events and school productions. These year groups were greeted by the sight of helium balloons as they entered the dining area in the main hall and Jennifer was particularly pleased to be able to take her '70' balloon home!

Nearly 40 ladies were attending an Ivy Link event for the first time, seven alumnae were also former and current parents, nine were former staff and some who were both! Friends came from far and wide including Sussex, the West Country, Yorkshire, Norfolk, Leicestershire, Cheshire, Wales, Scotland and one lady all the way from Australia; Barbara Beaumont, who left in 1965.



Amongst our guests were former Old Croydonians Committee members Verity Jones (Bates) 1961, Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963 and Ann Stranack (Wagstaff) 1957 who laid the foundations for

the alumnae network on which the Ivy Link continues to build. We were honoured to see one of our GDST 2018 Alumna of the Year nominees, Dr Mary Baines (Silver), class of 1950. Mary is Emeritus Consultant in Palliative Medicine at St Christopher's Hospice and was Co-founder and pioneer of the first hospital-based palliative home care team in the UK, which started in 1969. The Class of 1950 have met every single year since they left school, usually at one another's homes and it was a privilege to welcome ten of the group this year.

## THE IVY LINK TEA PARTY 2019

We hosted our eighth annual Tea Party for senior alumnae and former staff of the school, an event that is always one of the highlights of the year. The tables were set with a delicious traditional afternoon tea and bunches of daffodils everywhere on what was a particularly beautiful Spring day.



Our guests spent a delightful couple of hours reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates, and sharing memories. Lower Sixth girls mingled well with our guests, engrossed in tales of Croydon High in bygone days.

Mrs Pattison gave a very warm welcome, updating them on all the latest news from the school and giving assurance of how much our community appreciates the support of the Ivy Link. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the German Exchange with Clara Schumann Schule and Mrs Pattison was delighted to welcome back Helen Gibbons, former Head of German 1987-2000.

Our guests were entertained with some wonderful individual performances on piano from Year 6 Miu and Penelope, a Lord of the Flies duologue from Year 10 Emma and Erin plus two wonderful renditions of Singin' in the Rain and The Rhythm of Life from the Chamber Choir.

***"So lovely to help out at the Ivy Link Tea this afternoon and chat to some alumnae about their experiences at school and their life advice. They were a pleasure to talk to and were very gushing about the school, making me feel very proud to be part of the Croydon High community!" Josie***

## AN IVY LINK EASTER REUNION 2019

We were delighted to welcome back the Class of 2018. Prosecco, Croydon High's famous brownies with an Easter twist 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 love University life with new friends and new challenges. 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!***





# Keep your eye on the prize



## FROM SMALL ACTS, GREAT THINGS ARE ACHIEVABLE

In July 2018, we celebrated the achievements of members of the Lower School at Prize Giving.

Guest Speaker alumna Camilla Bowry 1998 re-lived her time via four choice school photos and tales of antics memorable to one or two of the teaching staff.

She then inspired the room as she spoke of her charity, Sal's Shoes, which started as a bag of pre-loved footwear belonging to her son and now collects upwards of 300,000 pairs of shoes per year and re-homes them across the globe, locally and globally.

Camilla was unassuming at the lectern, but her message was clear – from small acts, great things are achievable.



## HARD WORK + PASSION = SUCCESS

At Prizegiving in September the Class of 2018 sat in the Senior Hall one last time (until Fashion Show maybe!) to be congratulated on their achievements, and celebrate their next steps into the world.

Emma Pattison spoke about the creativity needed in the jobs of the future, whatever industry girls choose to set their sights on. Guest speaker Delia Bushell 1990, reflected on her life and career to date, noting that hard work and passion are possibly the most important factors to success and enjoyment. She also encouraged the girls to think about “Leaning In”, but knowing when to step back, presenting oneself as confident and competent without being aggressive. Delia’s engaging speech drew laughter and provoked much thought about the current status of women in the workplace. Our leaving cohort will recognise many of the attributes mentioned by the guest speaker in themselves and each other. We wished them all the very best in their individual pursuits, and look forward to them returning with advice for the next generation in the years to come.



# Anna Mazzola 1996 remembers...

**It will surprise no one to learn that I was a book-loving child. Every writer I know loved books from a very early age and most of us were writing our own stories by the age of 7.**



I recently found my first attempt at a crime novel, written shortly after I'd joined Croydon High: *The Kidnapping of Lucy*. The plot centres on the abduction of a baby and I gave it to my mum on Mother's Day. Which is disturbing enough in itself, but all the more so when you realise that at that stage I had a baby sister with the middle name Lucy. Sorry, mum.

Instead of setting me on the straight and narrow, Croydon High nurtured my strange writing and reading instincts. I returned to school to give a talk in the library with another author, SD Sykes, and found that the staff had dug up some of my early writings, including a disturbing poem called *THE TUNNEL* illustrated with skulls, spiders and monsters. My second novel also involves a tunnel and sinister creatures, so I clearly haven't moved on all that much.



## THE TUNNEL

The penetrating blackness draws you in,  
The shadows change you to a huge disfigured shape.  
Then, the darkness covers you  
The eerie sombreness absorbs you  
Into its murky depths.  
Panic rises,  
Screaming to be let out but is stifled by the dryness in  
your throat.  
The sound of feet hitting the tarmac ground resounds  
and  
Your lungs hunger for the outside air as you run on,  
Fear pounding in your ears.  
A ray of sunlight picks you out  
And you sight the outside world ahead.  
With a burst of speed you shoot out of the hole,  
Breathing heavily.  
Your legs give way  
As your eyes adjust to the brightness  
You turn to stare at the tunnel  
A never ending abyss from the inside  
A mere hole from the outside.

Anna Mazzola II 5

I have a strong memory of being found, age 9, in the art cupboard with my friend Amanda, reading *Forever* by Judy Blume and of us being sternly reprimanded. I regret nothing. I don't think children should be told off for reading, even if it is about willies called Ralph. Amanda and I later recorded our own ghost stories on tapes and screamed so much that a neighbour came round to check whether we were being murdered.

I still remember many of my English lessons, particularly those taught by Mr Vickery, and Susan Loewe, who sadly died recently. She was the first person to really show me, through close reading of texts, what language could do. I can still quote lines from Milton's *Paradise Lost* (which she taught us at A-level), yet can't remember my children's names most days.

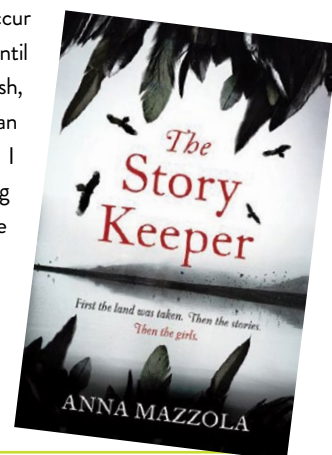
Mrs Loewe encouraged me to apply to Oxford to study English, which I hadn't even considered up until that point. Miraculously, they let me in. She and our drama teacher, Mrs Shackel, organised many drama performances, where a large part of the drama took place off stage, particularly when boys were brought in to play the male roles. Many hearts were broken during *My Fair Lady*, I can tell you.

In the Sixth Form I was awarded a prize for creativity, despite my entry being some bizarre illustrated poem about trains and pylons. My friend Kate also won an award for her artwork. We were supposed to have spent our prize monies on something creative, but I'm afraid we blew it all in Topshop.

I remember being shown around the school before I was joined by a girl only a few years older than me, and thinking how confident and articulate she was. I think that was a fair representation of most of the girls at Croydon High. We were taught to be confident; to think for ourselves; to stand up for ourselves.

I don't think I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I'm still working it out now. Although I wrote and read a lot, it somehow didn't occur to me that I could be a writer until fairly recently. After studying English, I converted to law and became a human rights and criminal justice solicitor. I now try to combine law with writing and child-wrangling. You can imagine just how successful that is.

The latest dark & chilling historical thriller from Anna Mazzola, *The Story Keeper*, is out now.



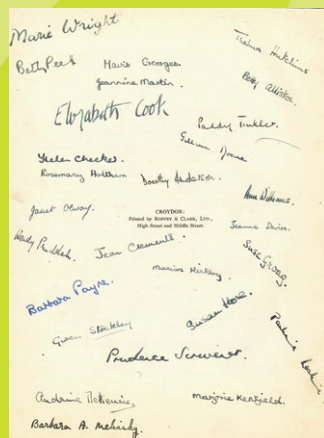


# In other news...



## MARY BARNES 1944

We are always happy to accept donations for our archives. Last year we received an email from a close friend of Mary...



"Mary was godmother to my brother and a lifelong family friend. She was born on 4th October 1925 and died in 2006. Whilst sorting her possessions we located two old school magazines from 1943 & 1944. We know that Mary was a pupil at the school and believe that she kept these magazines, as they detail briefly, what happened to her after she left school, and

went on to Kings College, University of London. The 1944 edition also has a page of signatures, presumably from her fellow pupils."

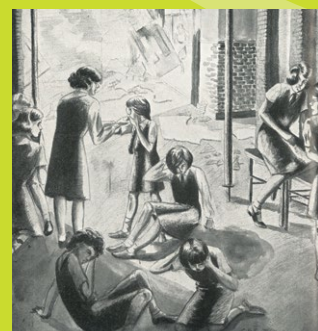
**Thank you to Rosie Langan & Peter Soffe**

## GLORIA PARKER (SAMSON) 1947

Gloria wrote to say thank you for her birthday card...

"On the date of my birthday I was on a ship going round Africa, for over two months. When in Durban I visited an old friend of mine who was, originally a pen friend found for me by Croydon High School. I think it was during the war, although that seems strange as everything was disrupted then. I was at school during the war, and my education was very unsettled by being evacuated three times. Croydon was a prime target for the German bombs due to the airport. Most lessons were taken in the air raid shelters, and I was machine-gunned at once or twice, as I walked down the road for the bus, by the Germans getting rid of their ammunition on their way home. I use to pick up the bullets when they were still warm. Our house was quite badly damaged too. Those days are now forgotten, and never known by most people.

I had three pen-friends, one Swedish boy who was in the Swedish navy and a French girl, as well as the South African one. I lost touch with the first two.



## RUTH MARTIN (POYNDER) 1950

Ruth also wrote to say thank you for her birthday card...

"Thank you so much for my lovely birthday card and good wishes - I appreciate your thoughtfulness and I was so

delighted. I am fine and enjoying life and at this time of November remembering our experiences of the Second World War, it makes me remember the days of going to the school by 64 bus during the war in Croydon - being mindful of watching out for air raids and often going into the shelter on arrival! Goodness me how lucky we have been."

The 64 bus still runs and still transports girls to Croydon High in Selsdon. No more fear of air raids; how lucky the girls of today are because of girls like you Ruth!



## A WONDERFUL CAROL SERVICE 2018

We were delighted to welcome so many parents, staff, governors and alumnae to celebrate the beginning of the festive season with our wonderful Carol Service in December 2018 at Croydon Minster. It was a treat to hear recent alumnae (2018)

Charlotte, Amy, Elizabeth and Elise join the school choirs, as they have done for many years as pupils at the School. Thank you to them for making the trip back home especially to join us.

The Minster proved a fitting venue for the occasion as, during the service, Sixth Form prefect Siena laid a wreath at the memorial plaque of Dorinda Neligan, Croydon High School's first Headmistress, thus marking the importance of the Minster in the School's history.

## A WONDERFUL CAROL SERVICE 1951 MARGARET ESIRI (EVANS) 1959 REMEMBERS...

I have enjoyed reading the 2018 Magazine and noticed that there was an invitation to send you memories of carol services at Croydon Parish Church (now Croydon Minster). I remember the occasion - it was a bit nerve-wracking! I would have been 10 years old, at The Homestead. This prompted me to look up my mother's diary for 17th Dec 1951...

On Friday (Margaret) had a practice for the Carol Service which took place this afternoon at the parish church. She was chosen from the Junior School to read one lesson. The church was packed. I got there 3 minutes before 2.30 and hardly got a seat at the back. It was a lovely service, the sun shining through the clerestory on to the roof, the organ and, in 'There is no



rose of such virtue', the harp. The high pure singing. Margaret read beautifully...and received many congratulations afterwards. It was an experience. I wouldn't have missed it; it made me feel proud and yet very humble.

Margaret's mother Doreen bates (1924) was also an alumna of Croydon High. Doreen's *Diary of a Wartime Affair* was edited by Margaret and her brother and published by Penguin in 2016

### SYLVIA RYAN (FRY) 1960

Thank you so much for inviting me to the Carol Service. What a joyful start to the Christmas celebrations it was. The singing was beautiful – some carols I hadn't heard since my own Croydon High days and since then I have always wanted to burst into the Latin version of Oh Come All Ye Faithful! Another very long lasting memory from schooldays! It goes without saying that the organisation was faultless on the day but so much effort must have been put in beforehand behind the scenes for it to have appeared so effortless. The refreshments were excellent and the mulled wine warmed me up nicely. Please pass on my thanks to all involved and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



### ANNE MATHEWS (WILCOCK) 1954

A big thank you to the Ivy Link for my birthday card! It was such a nostalgic picture for me. The photo of the school hall was still the gym in my day, and

I remember it well. I wasn't very good at gym, but the one thing I could do, and enjoyed doing, was climbing a rope - and preferably staying at the top for as long as possible! The hall was later converted in 1959 to form part of the Margaret Adams Library.

### HEATHER SWEETING (HARWOOD) 1957

Heather still works at a local primary school and sent us this verse that she wrote for the Year 6 leavers at her school. We will share this with our own Year 6 leavers at the end of term.



Our very own Year 6 on their latest school trip together in France May 2019

### LEAVING JUNIOR SCHOOL

**So this is it! Your final day!**

**Yet something makes you want to stay  
amongst the friends you've come to know,  
and teachers too – who pulled you through  
when things were going wrong for you.**

**They saw in you the 'great inventor'  
the 'spaceman' and a 'future leader'.**

**They helped you believe you could achieve.**

**They were right all along! You made it! Well done!**

**Well, you made it so far,**

**But this is really just the start**

**of the rest of your lives – and if you're smart**

**you'll learn to take the road ahead that's straight and true.**

**You'll need your friends, so take them too. They helped you out  
when you were sad and cheered you up when things were bad.**

**They picked you up each time you fell so do the same for  
them as well.**

**This school has helped you get this far – now launch your rocket  
and head for the stars!**

### CHRISTINE HOGH (SMITH) 1958

We were pleased to put our Chair of Governors, Anthony Spiro, in touch with Chris Hogh who taught his son Simon, then seven years old, at Newland House School in the 1990s. Looking through old school reports Anthony found one dated July 1994; under "Handwriting" Chris wrote "Satisfactory, though a more rounded style would look more pleasing" Anthony confirmed "Unfortunately it's got worse and is now pretty illegible!" Dr Simon Spiro is currently undertaking a residency in Anatomic Pathology at the Royal Veterinary College!

Chris responded, "I am delighted to learn that Anthony is the Chair of Governors of my alma mater. The chair in my day was Sir William Cash, whose wife had a good line in eccentric hats!"

Of course, I was at Croydon High in the days of the redoubtable Miss (later Dr) Adams. I have much to thank her for.

The school has always seemed to be able to choose inspirational women to be at the helm and I was lucky to be there.

I have seen Simon on TV in University Challenge and Only Connect putting up pretty impressive performances.



The redoubtable Miss Adams!



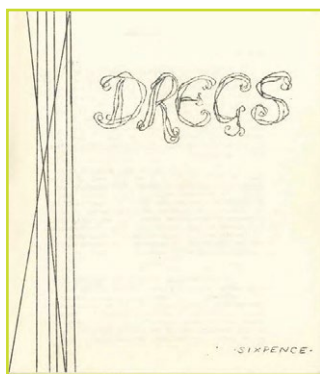


## VALERIE LITTLEFORD (WILSON) 1960

As well as the longevity of German exchange partner friendships, we also heard from Valerie who has remained friends with her French exchange partner, “When we used to take our children to France with our touring caravan we would try to see her at the family country home in Avallon, Bourgogne. Annie still lives in Paris and we last saw her there two years ago. She has never married but is much involved with her brother and sister and their children and grandchildren.”

*Do send in your memories of your French exchange experiences. Croydon High currently have an exchange programme with a school in Besançon.*

## RUTH FUNNELL (BISSMIRE) 1963



In last year's magazine Ruth mentioned “Dregs” when recalling memories of teacher Miss Tebble. 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 Croydon High at the time. We are very happy

to announce that we have since received a donation of two Dregs magazines!

## EVERTON FOOTBALL TEAM 1977



### **Get off my pitch, said the games mistress!**

Does anyone remember Miss Plant sending off Everton in 1977? Newspaper cuttings found reporting the incident state “They got their marching orders when they were found training on the school's best hockey pitch. The team were staying at the Selsdon Park Hotel just before their Cup Final Clash with

Aston Villa at Wembley. Miss Plant ordered the players off to another pitch and told them to replace all the divots before going. Another article reported “The girls showed plenty of enterprise by grabbing the chance of getting the footballers autographs!”

## LOST HOCKEY STICK CIRCA 1975-1985

Do you remember or indeed do you have a certain and very special hockey stick? Back in the 70s/80s, former parents Drs. R and JP Cruthers instituted a prize hockey stick for the most improved player of the year. Do get in touch if you have news of the stick in question! Please email [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)

## ALISON FARRAR (HUGHES) 1982

Our feature in last year's magazine sparked more memories of favourite teachers...



My favourite teachers were Mrs Oliver (1970-1983 Maths, circled in photo on right) and Mrs Dalglish (1974-1990 English).

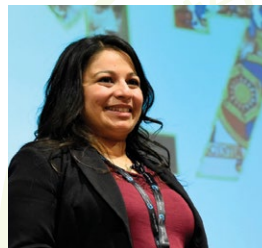
Mrs Oliver was a star in my mind as without her I don't think I would have been able to do any of the things I have done since leaving school. In my first year of A levels I was taking double maths and she taught me both sets of applied maths.

Up until the exams that year, I always thought I was good at maths so imagine my horror when I spectacularly failed both of these exams. She remained confident that I could do this and that it just hadn't clicked yet and so she gave up one morning a week of her precious summer holidays to give me one to one support to get me through it. I would catch the bus out to near her house on a Thursday morning and she drove up to the bus stop to collect me. We then spent several hours going through the work, before she dropped me back at the bus stop and I headed home. She wouldn't accept a penny for this and genuinely wanted me to succeed. And I did! When I took my mocks that December, I passed the applied maths exam with flying colours, chose to do the pure and applied Maths A level and got the grades I needed to get to LSE.

That was the start of a very enjoyable and happy career taking me through a number of roles to my current Director level role. Without her dedication and support, I would not have followed the path I have so will forever be grateful to her for that.

Mrs Dalglish was also good to me, she showed faith in me at a difficult point in my time at Croydon High and helped me learn about not giving up and not letting personalities stop you from achieving something you're capable of.

I have a lot to thank all my teachers at Croydon High but these two stood out for me.



## SUZE KUNDU 2001

**STEM: 'You can't be what you can't see'**

Women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are still a minority and often misrepresented.

In London, a group of STEM professionals including Croydon High alumna Dr Suze Kundu, have come together to raise awareness of Women in STEM online. In a BBC short film, they share some top tips on how to get ahead in the field – [bbc.in/2CNLp5D](http://bbc.in/2CNLp5D)



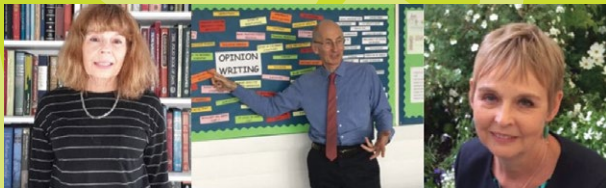
### HERMIONE BUCKLAND-HOBY (HOBY) 2003

Hermione graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2007 with a double first in English Literature. After working on the Observer's New Review section for a few years she moved to New York in 2010. She writes about culture for the Guardian, the New Yorker,

the New York Times, the Times Literary Supplement and others. She has interviewed hundreds of cultural figures including Toni Morrison, Naomi Campbell, Laurie Anderson, Debbie Harry and Genesis Breyer P-Orridge.

Her debut novel, Neon in Daylight, a two-times New York Times editors' choice, is published by Catapult in the United States and Weidenfeld & Nicolson in the United Kingdom.

She's taught in the creative writing department at Columbia University, the MFA program at Southern New Hampshire University, and regularly teaches advanced fiction workshops at Catapult. For several years she's been a mentor with Girls Write Now, a non-profit organization serves at-risk girls from New York City public high schools.



In an interview with blogger Jon Mayes, Hermione said "All my English teachers at Croydon High School were wonderful and though I'm gratefully still in touch with them, I've been unable to fully transition to addressing them by their first names, so shout out to Mr. Vickery, Ms. Forshaw and Ms. Saudek." Full interview can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2ETEjNu>

### Study English, and learn the ways of the world

How I agree with Susanna Rustin (Why study English? We're poorer in every sense without it, 11 February) A retired teacher, I hear the arguments for studying STEM subjects frequently put forward as self-explanatory. But are science graduates necessarily more employable than someone who has spent her degree years reading widely, analysing language, developing social aesthetic judgment, defending her opinions in seminars, and learning how to express them in lucid, cogent and elegant prose in weekly essays?

Many ex-pupils hear about who have arts degrees are successful in business, academia, the law, novel writing, and the arts. All university degrees give training in the discovering of knowledge, in the practice of self-expression, and in the increasing of self-confidence. What the study of English literature almost uniquely involves, however, is the vicarious experiencing of lives, relationships and times other than one's own. The student of English is brought to a knowledge of a world wider than her own, and a deeper empathy with others. The subject, after all, the human condition itself. This seems to me a priceless achievement, and one that is all too lacking in today's world, dominated as it is by values of competition and gain, and dismissive of the

government's curriculum changes, particularly for GCSE. The reversion to 100% exam assessment and the elimination of a coursework element for English language has removed the joy element. Teenagers no longer enjoy reading - in fact, most don't read at all - because it has become such a chore at school. Michael Gove, in his infamous tenure as education secretary, has a lot to answer for. In poisoning the syllabus, including the narrow-minded restriction to the reading of only British authors - thereby eliminating at a stroke great writers such as Steinbeck and Garcia Marquez - he has also poisoned today's youth against the beauty of books. Steve Mason

Steve Mason Hornchurch, Essex  
Joss Gillam makes a powerful case for music being central to the education system (Letters, 11 February), and she is an outstanding example of the value of state funding of music education. Dance, drama, art, all the creative arts, develop the brain skills she lists, most of which are, in addition, skills employees need. Quite apart from the intrinsic value of the creative arts there is considerable research evidence that pupils' engagement in them raises their performance

### GILL SHARPE FORMER TEACHER OF ENGLISH 1987-2000

Gill Sharpe former teacher of English 1987-2000

I am very pleased that the Ivy Link has chosen to republish my letter to the Guardian, because it's clear it has touched a chord with many, judging from the comments I have received from ex-colleagues, old girls, etc.

I've been retired for nearly 20 years now, so I have only recently been made aware of how the numbers of girls studying A-level English have dropped. STEM subjects, apparently, rule supreme. What a shame! Vocational degrees such as Medicine, Law, Accountancy, etc. will, of course, lead to respectable, well-paid careers for girls who have a real aptitude for those subjects, but arts degrees open up too, I would argue, many wide-ranging possibilities.

I have known Croydon High Alumnae with English, History or French degrees who have attained very high positions as, variously, a leading executive in the business world, a very successful diplomat in the Foreign Office, a journalist in a national newspaper, several who work in TV, an arts administrator, a digital director (in ITV and then a national newspaper). In addition, two English graduates who became (via post-grad diploma courses) a barrister, and an accountant - and who are both now published novelists. And this is just my personal experience. I would encourage current Croydon High students to think hard when they choose their A-level subjects, and consider their future carefully. Three years is a long time to read a subject with which you have no real rapport - not to mention following a career that might not be right for you. It's your life, your future, remember.

We would love to know YOUR experiences of studying/not studying/wishing you had studied - an arts degree.



### RHEA DILLON 2014

"This Visual Artist Is Challenging British Society's Perception of Race and Gender"

Rhea Dillon, pictured here with Head of Art, Mrs Smith, graduated from Croydon High School in 2014 with an A\* in Fine Art, A in English and a B in French. She went on to study at Central St Martin's for her Foundation year and stayed there for her degree in Fashion and Communication.

Mrs Smith told us how privileged she felt this week to go and see Rhea's final degree show 'The Name I Call Myself' - a video installation in Shoreditch.

Here, Rhea speaks to Vogue about her new work, just ahead of its London debut.

### What kick-started the idea for the film, 'The Name I Call Myself'?

I went to Jamaica last year to meet my family for the first time. My aunt is a police inspector there, so I asked her if she could help me to meet up with a Gully Queen. I wanted to find out how life was for them following the shoot with Hood By Air years ago



and even the recent [British] Vogueshoot with Tim Walker. I got to talk to an amazing person called Peaches, and they said life was so much better now; they could walk down the street hand in hand. Obviously, there are still problems—they are still labelled Gully Queens, and they still live in the gully. Also, I'm part of the queer community in London. So, all these things came into play. Read the full interview at this link [bit.ly/2QEi8PV](https://bit.ly/2QEi8PV)

### THE CLASS OF 2019 CRYSTAL IVIES

This group of girls have been at Croydon High since either Nursery or Reception. They were treated to a special lunch with Mrs Pattison followed by a nostalgic visit to their old classrooms; the nursery and reception girls were very excited to see them!



**THE HADEN-SCOTTS – KATE 1984, NATALIE 2014, SOPHIE 2017, ELENA 2018**

*'Like mother like daughter'*



Sport is definitely in the blood in the Haden-Scott family. Whilst at Croydon High, mum Kate represented the school at hockey, netball, cricket and rounders.

Natalie, Sophie and Ellie joined the senior school from St David's School, Purley.

Natalie was one of our first sport scholars representing Croydon High in various sports throughout her school life. She was a role model to numerous girls, especially on the tennis court.

Sophie again proved to be a valuable team member in several sports. Her talent didn't just lie on the games field, her acting skills were fabulous and she was seen regularly on the stage in numerous drama productions. Sophie was a drama scholar, gained the Y12 Academic Scholarship and was Head Girl in her final year at school.

Ellie, like her older sister, became a Sport Scholar and again represented the school across a number of sports. She like Natalie, captained the tennis team.

In fact, between the three girls they were Senior Team Captains in tennis, hockey, athletics and netball. A true sign of their all-round sporting talent.

Mr & Mrs Haden-Scott have always supported their daughters on the side of the games field, whether it be at Croydon High, away fixtures or even the numerous long haul sports tours to South Africa and Barbados.

We were delighted to receive this wonderful bench donated by the Haden-Scott family. Numerous families will enjoy sitting and watching sport events at Croydon High in the future as the Hayden-Scotts have in the past.



**JENNIFER CAIRNS, LEAH WATKINS, REBECCA WILLANS, STEPHANIE REEVES 2019**



Congratulations to some of Croydon High School's youngest alumnae for receiving Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards at Buckingham Palace May 2019.

### WOULD LIKE TO FIND...

**ANNE WILLIAMS (FREEMAN) 1968** would like to find Helen Forth, she was living in Caterham while at Croydon High. Please email [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)

**PATRICIA BURVILL (DAVIDSON) 1951/53** would like to get in touch with her contemporaries. "I have just turned 84 and wondered how others in my year at Croydon High had fared, or if anyone remembered me. It would be good to exchange memories." Please email [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)

We were recently able to reconnect Patricia with **WENDY WYATT (FRANCIS)**.

**GILLIAN NELSON (BARNES) 1950** regrets she no longer is able to attend events at Croydon High but would welcome anyone who would like to visit her in Inverness; she has a four acre wooded garden! Please email [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)

The Ivy Link have managed to reunite many over the years; please do get in touch if you would like to trace old friends. (We do not pass on details without permission and comply with the GDPR).

# Edna's memories reveal an inspiring Passage to India

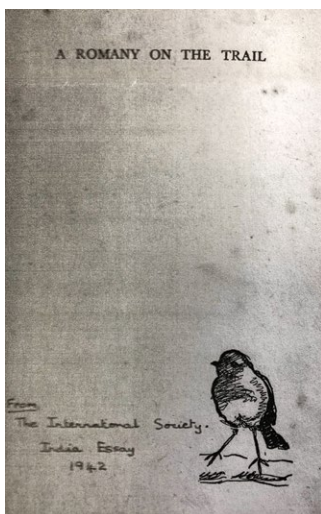


Edna is kneeling far right

**Edna Riley (West) 1943 wrote to us after watching Michael Portillo's Great Indian Railway Journeys – Amritsar to Shimla.**

"I was so pleased to see him visit Ludhiana, much was related to a Croydon High old girl Dame Edith Brown who founded a hospital and was very instrumental in training women. It was great to see the hospital and her name still flourishing."

Dame Edith visited the school in the autumn of 1938 and spoke to the girls about her work.



Edna's book prize

Edna also recalls "I remember with great enthusiasm I entered an essay competition for 'India Week' and won a book token." The prize, a nature book which she still has today, was presented to Edna on India Day 1943. Edna also won an essay prize in 'Aid to China Week', that was read on Children's Hour on BBC radio!

School Magazine 1943: On July 22, 1942, we celebrated the Jubilee of Dame Edith Brown's

medical work among the women of India. We devoted the day to exhibitions, plays and talks about India. In the morning Dr. Margaret Balfour gave us an account of the founding of the Ludhiana Hospital and Medical School for Women, and Miss Cornelia Sorabji spoke in the afternoon on the work women were doing to-day in India.

Just over £50 was made, which was sent as a jubilee gift to Ludhiana College, and is to be used for some special purpose after the war is over.

*Edna's letter inspired us to find out more about Dame Edith Brown...*

## EDITH BROWN 1882

Dame Edith Mary Brown, DBE LRCP was born in Cumberland in 1864. Her father died when Edith was five and in 1874 her mother and five daughters, including Edna, returned to the maternal home in London. Edith and her sister Lucy were amongst the first pupils at Croydon High School.



Her vocation as a medical missionary was clear to her from the age of seven when she first heard accounts of the suffering of Indian women, because of their lack of medical care.

In 1882, Edith gained a scholarship for Girton College as one of the first women to be admitted to the University of Cambridge where she took the Natural Science Tripos in 1885. After graduating, she studied medicine and qualified as a doctor in 1891.

The Baptist Missionary Society sent Edith to India that same year and in 1894, she helped open the North Indian School of Medicine for Christian Women aiming to train Indian women to serve in the field of Medical Education and Health Care Services. With no more than £50 a year donated to her, she rented a school building and took in four Indian girl students to train and work in the 30-bed hospital in Ludhiana. It was the first medical school in Asia caring for women by women. "Miss Brown's Hospital" as it was known became famous far and near and it was officially renamed Christian Medical College Ludhiana in 1911.

By 1916, the Punjab government officially recognised the college which was by then training more than 300 women in its medical, nursing, pharmacy and maternity schools.

In 1932, Edith was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire and was awarded the Gold Kaiser-i-Hind Medal by the Indian Government for Public Service in India.

Edith officially retired in 1942 aged 76, but still lectured in surgery when in her 80s. During Partition in 1947, the hospital became an emergency centre for the seriously injured. Dame Edith, at 81, was seen as a tower of strength in a disintegrating world.





It was said that despite violent street fighting, she would always walk to the hospital bearing her trademark sun-helmet and umbrella. Shooting ceased and a hush fell until she reached the safety of the hospital door. Once, a wild mob demanded that all Muslim women be handed over or everyone would be attacked. It was reported that Edith rebuked them gently and sent them shamefacedly away.



By the 50th anniversary of Edith's arrival in India, the College had graduated 411 doctors, 143 nurses, 168 pharmacy dispensers and more than 1,000 midwives.

Edith died in December 1956 in Srinagar, India, aged 92.

***School Magazine 1957:***

From the beginning, Croydon High School had always been intensely interested in Ludhiana, and the Guild sent a regular annual subscription to the Christian Medical College, and gave special contributions to the funds for the extensions to the College and Hospital.

Miss Adams, present and past members of the Staff, the Head Girl and the Senior prefect attended a Memorial Service of Thanksgiving which was held in London.

Edith's College still operates today; an acclaimed and accredited international centre of academic medicine, which now train postgraduates in medicine.

The College is situated in a large campus not far from Ludhiana Railway Station, on both sides of Brown Road.

Sources: Dr Christine A Joy, School Archivist, Manchester High School for Girls; Women Humanitarians, A Biographical Dictionary of British Women, Active between 1900 and 1950, Sybil Oldfield; Miss Brown's Hospital by Francesca French.

# Obituaries

It is our sad duty to pass on news of those in our community who have passed away. May they rest in peace – our thoughts are with their friends and loved ones.



Heather on the Royal Yacht Britannia in 2017

## HEATHER DEAN (WHEELHOUSE) 1958 – PASSED AWAY JULY 2018

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Heather Wheelhouse (or Wheelie as she was usually referred to at Croydon High School). She, along with six classmates, including me, joined Croydon High in September 1951 from Benson Primary School in Shirley having passed the 11+. In

1958 she left to read physics at Leeds University, obtaining a 1st class honours degree. She met her first husband, Hugh, there and they married fairly soon after graduating.

As a girl she was a keen guide, an enthusiastic singer and a devout Methodist. She always said that as a Christian she had tried to follow God's will for her, so, although she had great scientific promise, her paid employment was always centred around doing good for others. However, children came along quite rapidly and, after moving to Cambridge, by the end of her twenties she had three: Alison, Anthony and Jenni. Nonetheless, she was actively involved in charities working for Help the Aged and Gingerbread in both voluntary and paid roles and later for the NHS in various guises, finishing as Chief Officer of Huntingdon Community Health Council.

Heather found great happiness with her second husband, John Dean, and together in their cottage in Bourn they shared their love of gardening, making compost and lived in an environmentally sound way. She was an expert botanist and, using her scientific skills, she learned how to spin, weave and dye. Heather was active in many organisations in Cambridgeshire and also became a Methodist Lay Preacher. Sadly her husband died as Heather was approaching retirement age and she decided to join her two daughters and their growing families in Scotland.

Alison's partner, Alistair, a talented architect, located a plot in Freuchie near Falkland in Fife with a couple of run-down bungalows and a derelict barn. Here, Heather had a most beautiful home designed and built by Alistair with geo-thermal heating, green oak beams and a sedum roof, complemented by the lovely garden she created. It was often opened to the public to raise money for charitable purposes. She was also able to enjoy five of

her eight grandchildren but was quite frustrated by the paucity of Methodist churches, especially when she had to give up driving.



The Junior Choir 1952/3 performing Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, Heather second row first right and Chris back row first from left

Heather and I were friends for seventy years, as was another alumna and fellow Methodist, Rosemary Gold (nee Bruton) who married an Edinburgh GP. We had many happy days out together in Freuchie and in Edinburgh and its environs. Heather and I ventured further afield too and she stayed with me in Richmond when she had a London commitment.

Sadly, her health began to deteriorate in her seventies and after a few months in care, she died peacefully, surrounded by her family.

She was a very kind and uncomplaining person, great fun to be with and a devoted mother and grandmother. I miss her but I am grateful for the time we had together. RIP  
**With thanks to Chris Hogh (Smith) 1958**

## PENNY SMEE FORMER STAFF 1999-2014 – PASSED AWAY SEPTEMBER 2018



Penny came to Croydon High in 1999 as a teacher of Religious Studies and then became head of department in 2009. She was a very conscientious and well organised teacher who was meticulous in preparing impressive resources and ensuring that all students could access the material.

She was very generous in sharing with colleagues and many of her resources are still being used in the department. Whilst she was head of department the take up of Religious Studies at A level increased significantly, a testament to her teaching and enthusiasm for the subject. Penny founded POW (Poverty of the World), which became a popular and influential extracurricular club, encouraging



girls to expand their awareness of global issues and to instigate campaigns. She was a much loved and respected Year 7 form tutor, renowned for being a good listener. As a popular member of the staffroom, her colleagues valued her warmth, friendship and support. Ten of her Croydon High friends attended her memorial service to give thanks for life and mourn her loss.

Penny left Croydon High in 2014 when she became ill with cancer and spent much of her retirement dealing with the disease with great grace and fortitude. When she was well, she and her husband, Paul, very much enjoyed weekends in their flat in Chichester. She also joined an art class and particularly liked working on sculpture. She was so pleased that she lived to see her first grandchild and to see her two children settled and happy in their adult lives.

**With thanks to Judith Forshaw, former staff 2000-2014.**



**SYLVIA BARNABUS  
(CHELL) 1960 – PASSED  
AWAY FEBRUARY 2018**

Sylvia was born in Orpington in 1941 and grew up in her Aunt Alice's bungalow in Thornton Heath. She was described as a model student with a love of books. She was good at ballroom and tango dancing,

netball, hockey, maths and music, having learned the piano from an early age. She was set to go to university but her father wouldn't give his permission. She worked in local libraries and met her future husband, electrician and engineer Frank, when she was 19. They married two years later and moved into Addiscombe while she did a three-year course in Brighton to become a chartered Librarian. Sylvia's son Andrew stated that "She worked her way up to become head of the BBC's library; as far as she was concerned this was the best job a librarian could get, sourcing and disseminating information across the network in the fast paced new world of television".

In later life, she became a governor for St. Mark's School, started to sing in choirs and did a number of education courses and spates of volunteering including one year when she spent Christmas day working at Capital Radio's Christmas line.

Andrew paid tribute to his mum Sylvia describing her as selfless and somehow he is "very proud of".

"She touched so many people's lives; she never stopped and lived life to the full. Independent, resourceful, strong minded and full of opinions, selfless and happy to help others before herself. She was the best mum, ever." *Croydon Advertiser, August 2018.*

**CHRISTINE EVANS 1948 – PASSED AWAY 2018**



Christine visiting Croydon High School in 2014

Christine was born in 1929 and attended Gonville Road Primary School. She won an assisted place to Croydon High School and went on to study French and German at Girton College. After graduating she took a secretarial course and worked in France and Belgium and then for some time in Jerusalem. She had an eye for detail and she was an excellent proof reader.

She loved travelling far and wide and she was a talented Scottish

Country dancer. She edited the Croydon SCD newsletter for 36 years but she also served as chairman and social secretary. She was an active member of the Croydon High School Old Girls' Association and she attended many meetings with her friend Blanche Wakeling (Wood). She was also a member of the Trefoil Guild and numerous other local societies.

Christine was a devout and active member of St Stephen's Church in Thornton Heath. She died in October 2018 at her house.

**With thanks to Ailsa Wood, 1961.**

**JEAN GREW (GRANT) 1951 – PASSED AWAY 2018**

Jean Allison Grant was born on 14th March 1934 in Woodford North London, shortly after she moved to Woodmansterne. Jean's parents were very strong characters and as an only child, she was quite shy yet strong willed. She found comfort and solace in the church, through her love of music and through some very strong and enduring female friendships.

Jean attended Croydon High School and then went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music from 1951-55 studying piano under Wesley Roberts and singing with Jean Mc Kenzie.

She was married at 27 to Dennis after having been introduced at a musical evening hosted by a mutual friend.

They set up home at 39 St. Peter's Road, instrumental in all her children's lives, with Jean teaching at Schools during the day and at home during the afternoon and evening. Brothers Neil and Iain were both born in the house with a constant musical soundtrack. Jean was determined to keep teaching for as long as she could; number 39 still fitted the bill as it had space for two pianos!

Jean was a strong feminist – one recent female well-wisher referred to her as 'formidable' – and was always interested in and particularly looking to inspire and encourage young women.

Her principle source of strength and power from her love of music. Apart from piano playing, Jean had a strong singing voice and sang in many choirs- mostly singing Alto and once even successfully performing a male Tenor part in a Croydon High School production.

Jean was bright intellectually, did not take any nonsense and was very strong willed! She also had a sharp sense of humour.

Jean was a very active member of West Croydon Baptist Church and was regularly on piano duty until her mobility began to suffer; she then became a regular member of St. Peter's Church.



Jean at the Ivy Link Tea Party 2012

Music was never far away, whether it was accompanying or performing and she has inspired many others to do the same including her own children. Her pupils were like additional children to her and she celebrated their musical achievements with the same degree of pride that she celebrated her own sons' personal ones.

*Edited from the eulogy given by Jean's son Neil Grew*

Thank you to Neil who recently donated two full bags of sheet music to Croydon High. The Director of Music, Mr Suranyi, was delighted to receive the donation; the musical pieces will be played and heard around Croydon High for many years to come.

### **SUE GARDENER (ANDREWS) 1960 – PASSED AWAY 2017**

Sue Gardener was an inspiring teacher, and among the leaders of the 1970s adult literacy campaign in the UK.

Sue shared her family's strong social and political conscience, firm views and the courage to express them. She went to Newnham College, Cambridge from Croydon High School where she was Head Girl in 1958-59, with a Scholarship in Classics, but despite a First in Prelims at the end of her first year she changed to English. This meant taking the two-year Part I English course in a single year; nevertheless, Sue got Firsts in both Part I and Part II. All this while throwing herself into student theatre, and making lifelong friends.

On graduating, she spent a year at Yale on a Henry Fellowship. Sue began teaching part-time in adult education while completing a PhD on Andrew Marvell. She went to the Merseyside WEA, committing herself to adult education. Here she developed her

major critique of current approaches to literacy and innovative teaching practices. 'My students are NOT problems. They HAVE problems', she said. 'The fire, energy, intellectual clarity and laughter' a colleague recalls, made her a natural leader in the educational campaigns of the 1970s.

Back in London Sue worked from Centreprise in Hackney, where she initiated and ran collaboratively the newspaper Write First Time. These years saw her through a succession of roles, first in the Inner London Education Authority, then Acting Head of the Westminster Adult Education Service, taking increasingly senior posts in local authority education. Always one-step ahead, she drafted guidelines, wrote key reports and led groups of volunteers to literacy work with the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and the PLO in Tripoli.

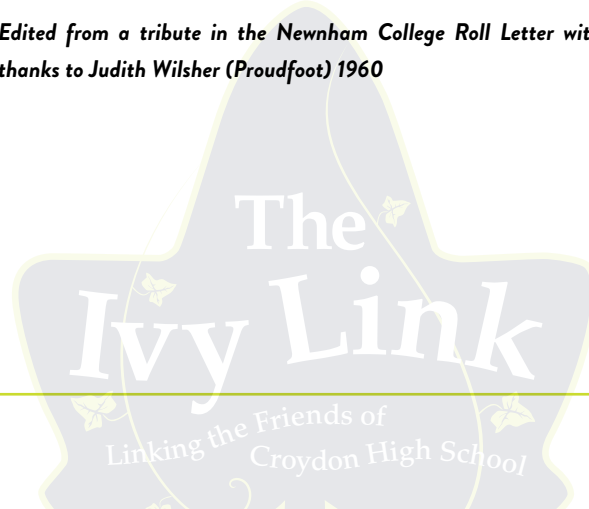
Sue had a rich and full life and had a profound influence on many people. She had a powerful belief in the possibility of bringing about change in the public life and she used her talents for the public good. She was founder member and inspiration to an important pedagogic field and a twentieth century social movement, to which she made unique and lasting contribution. 'Wherever she worked she brought insight, a burning sense of social justice and lots of laughter'. She was a wonderful friend and mentor and she was loved by many people.



She developed Alzheimer's comparatively young. Tragically, this took away the words and sentences she had used so powerfully all her life. Sue was an exceptional person, an example of the highest intelligence absolutely and unconditionally based in humanity: down to earth, delighting in life, yet with a transformative vision

of education and unsparing energy of execution. Her work and teaching have made a lasting contribution.

***Edited from a tribute in the Newnham College Roll Letter with thanks to Judith Wilsher (Proudfoot) 1960***







## **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, Paul 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, Lesley Walker, Angela Warren, Ruth Warren, Judith Wilsher, Gillian Zackham, Fiona Zealley and of course a number of anonymous donations.**



### **2020 Dates for your Diary**

**Class of 2014 Reunion – Friday 20 September 2019 6pm**

**Carol Service – Wednesday 11 December 2019 6.30pm (at Croydon Minster)**

**Careers Convention – January 2020, date tba**

**Guys and Dolls – Thursday 6 – Saturday 8 February 2020 7pm plus Saturday matinée**

**Class of 2019 Reunion – New Year 2020, date tba**

**Ivy Link Tea Party - Thursday 19 March 2020 3pm**

**Ivy Link Netball Challenge – Spring 2020, date tba**

**Ivy Link Summer Lunch – Saturday 27 June 2020 12.30pm**





Croydon High School, Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, South Croydon CR2 8YB  
[www.croydonhigh.gdst.net](http://www.croydonhigh.gdst.net) 020 8260 7500

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!