



The Ivy Link Magazine 2020



Ivy Link Lightens the Lockdown Load

More inside...

Dear Friends



I am sure that in my now 4 years of headship, I have used phrases along the lines of 'a year like no other' a number of times. For example, in 2017 when our GCSE results were the best the school had seen in a generation. Or, in the summer of 2019, when amongst numerous other sporting accolades, we won the GDST swimming and athletics championships and Year 7 and 8 became

National Finalists taking 12th position in England for Track and Field. In reality, our incredible school musicals, carol concerts, MUN debates and many other special events means every year feels exceptional.

2020 has undeniably been 'a year like no other' yet even it has a certain precedent. As we moved the school from the physical building to our online Guided Home Learning programme in March, I was reminded by Karen Roe – with her usual exquisite sense of timing – that the great Fanny Adams' first job as Headmistress of Croydon High in 1939 was to evacuate pupils to different parts of the country, protecting them from perceived dangers as war broke out.

I have wondered many times if Miss Adams could possibly have been half as proud of her new school as I have been of our Croydon High during the lockdown period and since. The coming together of a community in crisis, the absolute insistence upon the highest standards of delivery for our pupils, the determination to offer the very best and most varied provision possible have both overwhelmed and humbled me and the leadership team. An incredible staff team kept each other (as well as pupil and parents) positive, thriving and happy in such challenging circumstances. What kept the community alive was that thing which we can never actually describe, the Croydon High 'spirit'.

One highlight for me – and a time when that 'spirit' was evident more strongly than ever – was the alumnae lunch, celebrated as a virtual aperitif and attended by so many proud alumnae. 'Zooming' as we did, over a glass of something chilled, allowed us to connect in a completely new, equally authentic and in some respects more meaningful way. It allowed those who

could not have attended otherwise to see old friends and it ensured the focus was on conversation, not our lovely lunch! It is certainly a way of connecting with distanced alumnae that we wish to maintain. Karen's different initiatives over lockdown, including simple gestures such as writing to more senior alumnae as they went into self-isolation, make us all very proud of this very special group.

We were also very grateful for alumnae input on the programmes we delivered to students during lockdown. Determined to encourage our examination year groups to face their suddenly altered futures with a sense of ownership and confidence, we took a few weeks to finish the GCSE or A level courses properly, before moving on to bridging work aimed at preparing Year 11 pupils for A level content and the mind-set needed for success, while also starting research for their Extended Project Qualifications.

For the Upper Sixth, I put together the Limitless Learning programme, bringing together GDST pupils from across the country into seminar groups with specialist GDST teachers and alumnae, giving them a flavour of university study and helping them get started on their reading lists while in lockdown. The GDST Limitless Learning programme now includes a further 10 initiatives for 2020-21, including outreach to local state partnership schools, harnessing the power of the GDST to enhance the offer in each individual school. Out of difficulty came great opportunity; I am so proud of the GDST and grateful to the many teachers and alumnae who helped deliver this exciting programme.

These are exciting times so do, I urge you, consider volunteering your own specialism in the coming year. Perhaps you could contribute to the Be Who You See careers forums or this year's round of University Bridging Seminars. You might also consider logging on to GDST Life or Rungway (see the article opposite for more details) to offer valuable expertise and experience and help shape and guide future GDST alumnae.

Wherever you are or aren't able to be involved, please remember that this will always be your school and you will always be welcome here – virtually or otherwise so do keep in touch. Times have changed and the way we do some things will never be the same again, but the spirit of our wonderful school and its remarkable pupils and alumnae remains as vibrant and strong as ever!

With very best wishes

Emma Pattison

Dear Ivy Link Family

Welcome to the ninth edition of the annual Ivy Link Magazine which traditionally would be on its way to you at the end of the summer term. This year, however, has been a little different...

2020; a strange and challenging year. It was incredible to see how Croydon High adapted to a turbulent world with Coronavirus. Emma Pattison, alongside her fantastic Senior Leadership Team, seemed to consider every detail, both large and small as we adapted to a new way of school life. Uninterrupted education for pupils continued and the well-being for all was paramount. My heartfelt thanks as always for Emma and Fran Cook's continuous support, particularly during this time.

One of the real lockdown 'bonuses' for us at school has been the increased contact we have had with so many of our alumnae. It has been fantastic to receive email messages telling us your news, to see your responses on social media to our posts and to receive support from so many for mentoring and careers events. Your video messages for the class of 2020 and your input into many of our co-curricular activities (such as the amazing Arts Week) made an enormous difference. We are so grateful to all who have contributed time and energy or who have simply sent us their good wishes. This unique relationship between our school and our alumnae is very important to us.

I am certain that bygone Headmistresses would be proud to see Croydon High continuing in the same resilient spirit in which it first began in 1874. Talking of resilience, I hope you enjoy reading the WW1 VE day memories; a special thank you to all who have shared their stories of another challenging time in our history. Please do continue sending your memories, news and achievements to us as we love to hear from you. This year's edition of the Ivy Link Magazine is certainly a bumper one – the longest since its inception, containing lots of news, fascinating stories and interesting snippets.

It has been a privilege to keep in touch with members of our community in increasing numbers and especially to remain connected and supportive of one another over these last six months. Let's hope we can all see each other in person before long! Take care and stay safe.

My very best wishes

Karen Roe

Alumnae Relations Manager



Our NETWORK is our superpower

A message from Jackie Ashe, Head of Alumnae Engagement Girls' Day School Trust.



However you look at it – from the perspective of the GDST's family of schools, or our alumnae network – the past few months have demonstrated that when we pull together, great things can happen. Our schools, led by Croydon High School, showed this with the groundbreaking Limitless Learning programme for pupils across all GDST schools; and we're doing the same with our alumnae community.

The key here is connecting people. Because when you put the ability to connect directly into people's hands, the community builds organically, and the power of that community increases exponentially.

Here are a few examples of how we've been doing this.

It started with **GDST Rungway** and our Chief Executive's ambition to connect "each girl with someone in the network". Introduced in 2018, GDST Rungway opened the door between sixth formers and alumnae, and gave students an opportunity to ask questions about study, careers and life beyond school to women who've already had these experiences.

Two years on and Rungway has some 2,500 users, and literally hundreds of conversations happening every month.

Fast-forward to 2020, and 'business as usual' suddenly no longer existed. The world was turned upside down by coronavirus, and GDST alumnae responded emphatically. Offers of help came flooding in from around the globe – practical and emotional,

from PPE supplies to support with home schooling, and so we set up **GDST Helps**, a Facebook group, to connect the help to the needs. It attracted more than 1200 users in just a few weeks, and reinforced our view that if you give a GDST alumna the means to contact others, then she'll do just that.

And now, excitingly, we're able to offer this on our own platform. As of September 2020, **GDST Life** is there for you: the GDST's alumnae community online, giving you the power to make your own connections, find friends, get involved in mentoring, join like-minded people through networking groups, sign up for events, follow news and much more. And as in so much of what we're doing right now, it plays into the idea that when we pull together – the might of all of our schools and alumnae brought together in one place – the opportunities for our members become...well if not limitless, then certainly huge.

The GDST has an alumnae network of more than 70,000 women – one of the largest of its kind anywhere in the world. That's 70,000 women, from all walks of life and around the globe, who are there to support and inspire each other.

As the GDST's Head of Alumnae Engagement, the fact that I get to facilitate this makes it, for me, one of the best jobs around.

So if you haven't tapped into the alumnae network lately, do take a look, and see what's there for you now. You're already part of this awesome community – maybe now might be a good time to see what it can do for you.



app.rungway.com/gdst/request-invite



facebook.com/groups/gdsthelps



Empowered women, *empower women*



STEAM BREAKFAST NETWORKING EVENT

One of the most important transferable skills highlighted by employers is networking. In order to develop this valuable characteristic in our girls, we invited 14 delegates including 5 alumnae and 4 parents, from a variety of Science, Technology, Engineer, Art & Mathematics (STEAM) related careers, for breakfast in November 2019. The aim was to give the girls the opportunity to hear about the range of options available for those who continue with STEAM related subjects. Girls heard about career pathways, medical summer schools and work life balance. Our alumnae were especially passionate about encouraging girls into STEAM related careers.

CAREERS CONVENTION 2020

“Exceptional” and “informative” – just a couple of the adjectives used to describe our amazingly successful Careers Convention in March 2020. With over 75 delegates – 12 of whom were alumnae! – and over 180 Croydon High pupils, parents, friends, and pupils



from local schools, it was one of our most successful Careers Conventions yet.

The selection of areas covered by the delegates was wide-ranging, almost an A-Z of careers from Accountancy to Veterinary Science. Prestigious companies such as Deloitte, G&T, Heart, HMRC, L’Oréal, Mott Macdonald, and Sainsbury’s were out in force, bringing their expertise, information, and freebies! Career areas included Engineering, Healthcare and Science, Law, and Retail, to name just a few.

UNI ALUMNAE TEAS WITH L6

June 2019, we hosted our annual “Tea with Alumnae” event as part of our Pathways Mentoring Programme. This aims to prepare our Lower Sixth for their next steps, sparking their curiosity and encouraging enthusiasm for the future that lies ahead. Our recent alumnae ranging from girls in the class of 2016 to those who left in 2018 came out in force to support the younger members of the Croydon High family. These young women were superbly accomplished and ably placed to support their Croydon High comrades, as they make these life changing decisions. All gave valuable insights about apprenticeships, interviews, courses they study and/or the university they attend.

The afternoon began with our alumnae introducing themselves; some read out letters written to their “17-year-old selves”.



A Speed Networking activity followed, giving students the chance to network, mingle with, and generally exploit the apprenticeship, university and subject experience of our undergraduate alumnae. Of course, Croydon High’s famous brownies were aplenty!

OXBRIDGE TALKS

A group of Year 9 and Year 10s were treated to a talk by Class of 2016 alumnae Honor Clapp and Hannah Lipczynski who unravelled the mysteries of life and study at two of the country's most prestigious universities. Honor has just graduated from Cambridge with a degree in Philosophy, while Hannah has just completed her degree in English at Oxford. After a discussion led by Deputy Head, Dr Purvis, we had an inspiring question and answer session that helped pupils understand what it is like to study at Oxbridge, the independent learning required and some of the aspects of preparation necessary to face up to the daunting interview and admissions.



PATHWAYS

Our Pathways Mentoring Programme is specifically designed to support students through their sixth form years. The programme guides students to choose the right degree, enhance their UCAS applications, obtain relevant work experience and ultimately bridge the gap between sixth form and university, apprenticeships or working life. We are grateful for the support and input from the alumnae community...



Faaria Satvilker 2015

Faaria studied GCSE and A Level 3D Design, deciding to carry on her passion with a product design degree at Nottingham. It was a four year course with a year in industry where Faaria worked for a graphic design company in London. She came in to talk about her course and brought in her portfolios, models and course specifications. Faaria talked about the idea process, making models and using CAD to create her drawings and images of her final product which was a standing up dressing table. She showed both her major and minor projects and discussed students' projects with them, it was lovely to see her and to see her fantastic work.



Emma Gillgrass 2000

Emma is currently working as a Primary Care NHS Manager and spoke with a group of Sixth Formers who have an interest in working in the medical field. Emma's overall message to

the students is that those who enter any area within the NHS will be rewarded with a career that makes a real difference to people's lives but that they must also be able to adapt to change as the sector is in a constant state of flux; as old roles are phased out new ones are created.

Marylka Gowlland 1999

Marylka, a current Charity Fundraiser and previous Theatre Manager, spoke with a group of girls who are in the creative and open pathway group. Marylka's overall message is that transferable skills are an important asset. Even if you are unsure of what you want to do now as a career, skills developed through education, and in particular the confidence instilled at Croydon High, can prepare you to face anything!



Morayo Adeagbo 2018

Morayo visited the L6 Pathways group to share her experiences of applying for Drama School and what she has been up to since she left Croydon High. Morayo was refreshingly honest about the knock-backs and disappointments she received throughout U6 in her quest to find somewhere to train as an actor. Her resilience and fighting spirit shone through, as she shook herself off after each rejection, picked herself up and went back for the next round. After two years of study, Morayo is now auditioning for professional work and finds she is so well-prepared to deal with the uncertainty of every audition because of those earlier trials which really helped her to be "real world ready." Morayo recently performed in Greenwich Theatre's online premiere of Berkoff's *The Secret Lovelife of Ophelia*.



Antonia Pollard 2018

As a part of the University Sheffield studying Physics, Antonia is a Science and Engineering Champion and was eager to inspire and enthuse students from her old school. She shared her experiences of the course and university life through a presentation to students on the STEM pathway.

ALUMNAE INSPIRE PUPILS DURING ONLINE ARTS WEEK

Croydon High Arts Week was about 'celebrating diversity, inclusion, culture and creativity'.

The theme for the whole week was 'Great minds think differently' and each day there was a different focus: Great minds think compassionately, creatively, collectively, to the future and critically. There was an opportunity for students to experience a mixed curriculum week and to have their voice heard through speech, language, art, drama, music, geography, history, science, maths and economics. All year groups explored a variety of topics such as BAME, LBGTQ+, refugees, environment, imagination, sport and politics.

Lockdown certainly did not prevent Arts Week – all assemblies, workshops etc. went online and included 10 inspiring alumnae presenting assemblies and workshops. We even had a group of young reporters who received a journalism crash course first thing Monday morning from Mrs Roe's daughter Emily, TV Producer/ Reporter - Reuters News Agency and alumna **Farrah Jaufuraully 1996** (below), Freelance Edit Producer, who, whilst working on Grow Your Own with Alan Titchmarsh, managed to find time to send her top reporting tips.



Carys Marsden 2018 and **Morayo Adeagbo 2018** read and performed a beautiful and powerful poem for the 'Great minds think compassionately' Monday assembly.



Blanche Brown 2017 created a presentation about the amazing artist Kehinde Wiley and videoed herself talking through his work and inspirations, she discussed how and why he paints the subjects he does and talked about his historical influences.

Lisa Powers 1973 was interviewed by Mr Thorpe and Mr Flowers for Monday's LBGTQ+ workshop and PRIDE tea party. Lisa, as well as being a GDST Alumina of the Year finalist, is a lifelong, highly influential social activist, co-founding the social justice and equality group Stonewall.



Anna Mazzola 1996 launched Tuesday's assembly giving top tips on how to create characters and new worlds; setting the girls up nicely for the Script Writing/Character and Narrative Workshops taking place that day. Anna explained how she creates the characters for her non-fiction books and how she uses history books and art books to research fashions, cities and the economy etc., to help her understand her characters. She also talked about how long it takes her to write each book.

Anna Mazzola

Croydon High 1988 - 1996

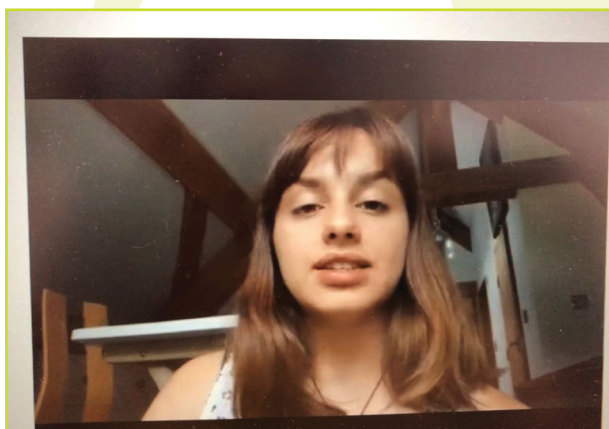
A Level English, French, Music, Government & Politics



Georgie Syms 2013 organised numerous fashion resources to support students in the extremely popular Tuesday workshop. Topics included fashion designers, textiles and patterns, fashion illustrations and costume design.



Siena Cornish 2019 Siena (below) created some amazing resources for bird and bee houses for Thursday's workshop, Supporting Your Environment Through Design. She used some of her own drawings and presented some of her degree drawings to explain different techniques.



Demi Alexandrou 2016 gave a presentation entitled 'Great Minds Think to the Future'. Information highlighted the background to her degree project plus her masters in Sustainable Design, explaining the purpose behind her research.

Kitty Howie 2011, who is now a member of our English department, organised the Friday challenge 'Great Minds Think Critically' giving pupils a structure on how to research and plan and deliver a 5-minute speech confidently.



G D S T Alumna of the Year

Croydon High's nomination shortlisted as a 2020 Finalist

LISA POWER 1973

Lisa is a lifelong, highly influential social activist, co-founding the social justice and equality group Stonewall. She has campaigned for LGBT+ equality for over 40 years.

She spent 14 years volunteering on Switchboard, the LGBT+ hotline and as Secretary-General of the International Lesbian & Gay Association was the first openly LGBT+ person to speak on gay rights at the United Nations in New York. As Policy Director of Terrence Higgins Trust, the leading HIV and sexual health charity, she oversaw successful campaigns to improve the rights and protections of people with HIV and continues to advise THT in a voluntary capacity. She is currently a Trustee of Queer Britain (the forthcoming LGBT+ museum) and Chair of the global HIV Justice Network. She was awarded an MBE in 2011 for services to sexual health and the LGBT community.



The Ivy Letters Project

A recent National Literacy Trust report found that two-thirds of school-aged children had never written a letter simply for pleasure.

When was the last time you received or wrote a letter if at all?

Those who have done so report the process makes them feel happy, and specifically, they really like the thought of making the recipient happy.

There are some amazing references to letters in history, in fact, we wouldn't know nearly as much about the past if it wasn't for letters.

The Ivy Letters Project launched in the autumn term of 2019. Year 5 and Year 9 pupils were allocated an alumna who attended Croydon High during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. They researched and considered what similarities and differences there would be between then and now. The girls then wrote letters full of information about themselves including plenty of questions for their alumna. You can imagine the fascinating knowledge and experiences they discovered from this process and the sheer joy they spread across the alumnae network.

In this day and age, we are used to instant responses; texts, snapchat, emails, social media. But now Year 5 and Year 9 learned to be patient and waited for their replies with great anticipation. They were not disappointed; As the letters arrived, Mrs Roe bundled them together in green ribbon for each form group. We even had

Ivy Letter monitors! We did not know when or how many letters would arrive but were hugely encouraged by a majority response! The Ivy Letters were opened and shared in form time. The letters revealed the changes in school life that have taken place over the years, notably school dinners! Stories of life during WWII, some sad, some happy, some funny, were all appreciated.

Some have continued writing to their new pen pals; Christmas cards, Easter cards and even emails during lockdown.

We intend to continue with the project over the next few years until all alumnae from the 40s, 50s, and 60s have received an Ivy Letter. We are, after all, one big family!



BIRTHDAY CARD PROMPTS MEMORIES

Every year we send birthday greetings to our more senior alumnae. Each card is usually sent by post but due to lockdown, email was utilised for the latter half of this school year. This year's card showing an aerial view of the school in Wellesley Road provoked many memories...

JUDITH WILSHER (PROUDFOOT) 1960

Thank you very much for the photographic birthday card of the old school. The photo also shows my birthplace, which was a nursing home in Sydenham Road, just beyond the main building of the Senior School, so it was a particularly appropriate birthday card. When my sister was born in the same nursing home 8 years later, I was in the Junior school. My mother sent a message that I should go to the school field at lunchtime and she would hold up the baby to the window of her room across the other side of the road. As well as being a pupil at Croydon High from 1948 to 1960, I was on the staff for many years, retiring in 2001. My little sister Lesley Proudfoot, also attended Croydon High leaving in 1967.

MARGARET CASHMAN (ABBOTT) 1953

Thanks so much for taking the time to send me a birthday card today. The card with an aerial view of the School was most appropriate for me as it covered the period when I was a pupil there. I could pick out the Homestead and the hockey field where we could play cricket as well, and where I won a prize of 10 shillings offered by a Father of a pupil for any one, who, in a match scored a six by hitting the ball over the wall round the field! When I was first chosen to play for the first Eleven cricket team, my Father offered to buy me my first very own cricket bat, as he knew it would take me a long time to save up all my pocket money of 2 shillings a week or whatever I got then.

ANNE BULL (KENT) 1956

What a very kind idea. It's such a good view of the school as I remember it. Those were the days and such very happy ones. I was there from 49/56, almost still recovering from wartime. We used to sit in the VIth form house, which is near the right hand corner of the photo, a semi-detached property showing darker than its neighbour, from where we could see the boys at Whitgift Middle school on their playing fields. It livened up the history lessons! We always changed for gym in the downstairs cloakroom, wearing aertex shirts and navy shorts. My friend discovered on one occasion that in a hurry to get to school, she had picked up her father's pants instead of her shirt. Hilarity all round!

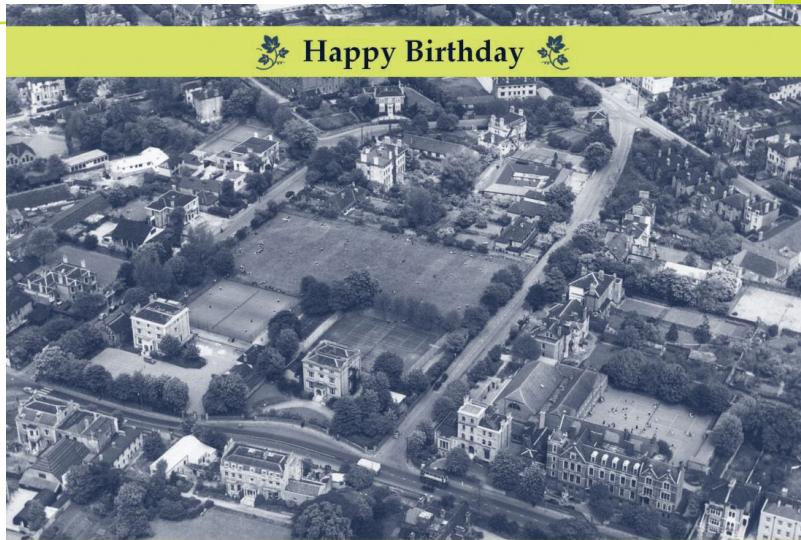
SALLY MILNER (WILLMOTT) 1954

Thank you very much for my Birthday greetings, especially the photograph of the school buildings. I have begun to write notes for "my Memoirs" as my children and grandchildren have been asking questions, particularly about the Second World War and my experiences of that time. So I have been thinking a lot about Croydon High, but had no photos to show them and I am delighted to have one of the school I went to, before the move to the new site, that I haven't actually visited. Again many thanks for this wonderful photo, more exciting than a normal Birthday card to me!

DAPHNE MACCALLUM (BUNCLARK) 1955

Thank you so much for my birthday card. How well I remember Croydon High as it used to be. We were so happy in the Homestead

Happy Birthday



Aerial view of Croydon High School, Wellesley Road, Croydon (circa 1950s)

with Miss Howse, our Headmistress. I especially remember Miss Johnston who challenged us to keep a Nature Diary every day of our school holiday. This has been a lifelong habit passed on to my children and grandchildren too!

JANE WADE (MARLAR) 1955

Thanks so much for your birthday greetings. Loved the photo of the Wellesley road school as we lived opposite the main school building. My father was Headmaster of Whitgift at the time!

ANN HATHERILL (CARTER) 1955

Thanks for your message and card. I love the photo, memories come to me of the advanced chemistry lab with all the chemicals arranged on the mantelpiece from when the room was lived in. Some of the chemicals were deadly but that's how it was. Our teacher was Miss Harrison- never got on with her as she wanted me to do Chemistry at University but I wanted to be an engineer but out of the question as there were no lady engineers in those days and only one medical school in London took on girls - Royal Free. I applied to UCL and KCL for Physics, Kings said they had no girls on pure science course. UCL offered me a place straight away and offered to send me to the Engineering Dept for an interview but admitted I wouldn't be able to get a job, so I stuck with Physics and taught Physics and Maths until I had my children. I have done Maths tuition for over fifty years. Another memory re the photo is sitting up in the sixth forms rooms on the top floor of St Leonard's I think it was called and watching the Whitgift Middle School boys playing cricket, rugby etc. on what is now the Whitgift Centre.

JEAN CLAYTON (ETHERIDGE) 1952

Thank you so much for my birthday card. It took me back a few years!! When you think we used to play hockey, cricket, and rounders on the one field over the year. The batting wicket must have been a bit rough. We still enjoyed our sport and I played all of them particularly tennis for many years after I left school.

JOAN CROW (ABBOTT) 1950

Thank you for the birthday card you so kindly sent. It's given me so much pleasure picking out the areas of CHS we knew so well. Brought back many happy memories (and one not so happy regarding walking along Wellesley Road just before the flying bomb dropped!). Also remember being invited to go there after the school had moved out: We were allowed to draw all over the walls - or whatever else took our fancy!

VICTORY IN EUROPE

“Victory in Europe has come, sirens and shelters no longer figure in our daily routine, glass will soon appear in all our windows, and by September numbers will be up to pre-war levels. So, after six long years of waiting, we may look forward to normal conditions. Throughout these difficult years the Staff have displayed great courage and ingenuity in tackling the fresh problems that kept cropping up and, thanks to their devoted service, unflinching cheerfulness and inspiring influence, we have been able to preserve the traditions and ideals of the school”

Margaret F. Adams, opening paragraph of the school magazine 1945.

As we celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE day in May of this year and later VJ day in August, we were particularly keen to receive memories from those in the Ivy Link community who experienced these exciting historic days in 1945.

ANN COOK (WARREN) 1957

I was only just 6 years old on VE Day but I do remember one thing – I was over the moon about the war ending because I would no longer have to put on my Mickey Mouse gas mask, which smelt horrible and made me feel very claustrophobic!

MARGARET COLLINS (SHORT) 1957

I was born just 4 months after the start of the war, in Croydon, the second and rather late child of Richard and Mary Short. I had a sister nearly 15 years older than I who was not overjoyed at my arrival. When I was just a few months old I was taken by my mother’s sister to live in Hexham in Northumberland.

My Father was an engineer and was a member of the Home Guard. My sister was a secretary at an engineering company in Croydon and she often told me later that all of the welders were women!

Just before Christmas 1944 I was brought back to Croydon to live with “strangers” as I was due to start school in January. My extraordinary upbringing made me very independent as there was no-one at “home” to whom I felt close.

I remember the 8th May 1945 very well. I was not made to go to bed at the usual time and my sister, Kathleen, and her friend, Joan, went out celebrating and stayed out all night. To a 5-year-old this was amazing. Mother was furious and spent most of the time saying what she would do when they returned.

A few weeks later there was a march-past of servicemen in London and I went with my parents and an aunt and uncle to the Mall where we watched the procession not far from the King and Queen. I remember distinctly sitting on the shoulders of my uncle so that I could see the soldiers and the royal family.

JOAN CROW (ABBOTT) 1950

I do remember VE Day, that in the evening we went to our local square in Carshalton to celebrate!

RUTH MARTIN (POYNDER) 1950

I certainly remember VE Day and it was celebrated with a big bonfire at the beginning of Manor Way, South Croydon, on a triangle of green grass. A neighbour of ours had kept some fireworks for all the length of the war and we watched them blow up - something I had never witnessed before. We were told by the Government not to put an effigy of Hitler on the bonfire but this was done and great cheering was the order of the day...I was 13 years old and very excited, having been used to bombs, blackout covers for windows and searchlights in the sky and witnessing dogfights (Spitfires attacking incoming German fighters) – spending nights inside a Morrison shelter (a metal, big table with metal wire netting sides) or tracking up to a bomb shelter built by our neighbours through a gate at the top of the garden – with metal helmets on in case of harm from shrapnel from the sky...It was a very exciting day. I remember asking my parents – “when will this war end?” – some years before it did!

BRENDA HANSON (PADDON) 1960

One vivid memory I have from my childhood was when I was three and we lived in Glasgow at the time. I remember being in a crowd of happy people in May 1945 when Victory in Europe (VE Day) was celebrated. There were crowds of people everywhere in Glasgow city centre and I remember sitting on my father’s shoulders and seeing sailors and soldiers linking arms and cheering, singing and dancing. The crowd all joined in a sort of conga dance and there were smiles on everyone’s faces.

ANN TURNBULL (ANDERSON) 1956

I was 7 on June 1st, and my greatest memory is of having red, white and blue ribbons on the end of my plaits and of my father running up the Union Jack on the flagpole in our garden.

No idea why we had a flagpole! There was also a big party in Burgh Heath on the Heath.

CLAIRE MURPHY (STAPELEY) 1952

I started in the Elms, then the Homestead then finished after the Upper 5th in the main school. Our Head Mistress was Margaret Adams who always wore her black gown and was a very imposing figure. My memory of VE Day celebrations was of a country dancing afternoon in the main hall with our parents watching from the balcony.

JEAN CLAYTON (ETHERIDGE) 1952

I remember the street parties near us but not one on our road. I think we were reluctantly allowed to join one. The best thing that happened to me in 1945 was winning a scholarship to Croydon High. It changed my life and gave me opportunities I would never have experienced otherwise.

ELISABETH OHLENBERG (WILLIS) 1949

In 1945 I was 14. I had been at Croydon High School since I was 11. Each day I walked from the bus stop down Wellesley Road – and each school day began with Assembly – does anyone remember Miss Adams taking her notes out of the long sleeve of her academic gown?

Now I am retired and living in Connecticut and 88 years old. I remember the time we were evacuated – and the times sitting in class and hearing V2s exploding and hoping my family was safe. The end of the war was wonderful. My father was a priest in a new parish with a temporary wooden church in a closely populated suburb. All the church windows were blown out by bomb blasts and had been boarded up.

The war ended and there was a service of Thanksgiving. The church was full and hundreds of people were outside. The boards on the windows were pushed out so all could hear and sing and join in the incredible thankfulness of Peace again.

ENID THORNTON-SMITH (CANNONS) 1953

I started at Croydon High in 1942. I was one of those evacuated to the Alice Ottley School in Worcester during the Summer holidays of 1944. Three days after our arrival our home in Langley Oaks Avenue was destroyed by a flying bomb. My sister then a baby was there with our mother. The result was my sister developed a mastoid and was in Croydon General Hospital on VJ Day. She was, in fact one of the first civilians to be treated with penicillin.

As a child I often saw General de Gaulle, he was visiting another French General who was living in Norfolk Avenue.

Apparently, the people at Bletchley Park tricked the Nazis so the flying bombs fell short of central London, hence Croydon suffered instead. Funnily enough I did my teacher training at Bletchley Park when it was still very much in use. Ultimately, this college has been absorbed by Oxford Brookes. Later I became one of the Open University's first students also based in Bletchley.

On V.E. Day my father took me to Whitehall where I heard Winston Churchill give his famous speech. I went wearing my Brownie uniform as I was a member of the CHS Brownie Pack.

RUTH MEADOWS-SMITH (BENBOW) 1951

In 1944 I was cycling to school, I heard a doodlebug, then the engine cut out. I kept cycling but a man told me to get off my bike and lie down. When I arrived at school in Wellesley Road the doodlebug had landed in the fields opposite and all the windows in the front of our school had been blown out. Miss Mounsey, head of the junior School, who always looked so neat and tidy, had her hair all in a mess. They couldn't believe I had cycled to school. I think Croydon had more doodlebugs than any other borough.

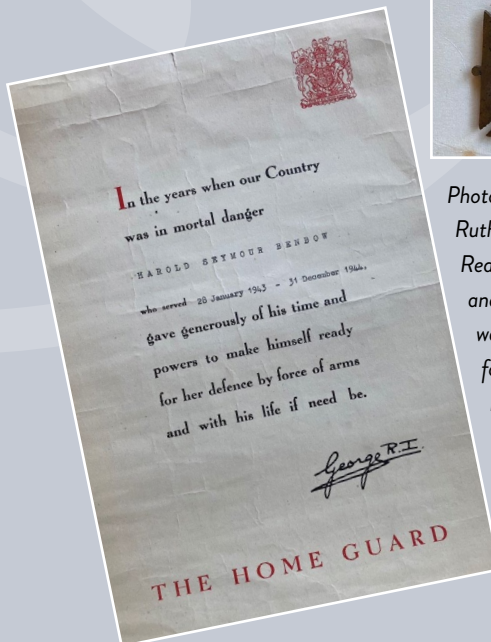


I was 6 when the war started and 12 when it finished. I remember we had a street party and because of rationing, the food was not nice. We must have been given a holiday.

A message and medal from the King was given to all children in 1946 in memory of the end of the war.



Photos also show Ruth's Mother in Red Cross Uniform and her Father who was commended for being in the Homeguard, part of the bomb disposal unit.



SALLY MILNER (WILLMOTT) 1954

We did not go to school so it was rather like a weekend day. It was a fine, sunny warm day, rather like this year's VE Day and my family, (parents and my younger sister Jane and I) had a cup of tea in the garden. As they all went indoors again I remember very clearly standing by a tall silver birch tree and thinking that it was perhaps a remarkable day in my life (the fact it was going to be my 9th birthday the following day may have etched it more into my memory!)

There were no special celebrations in our area. The houses in our road were quite spread out and there were only 6 children living in our road. We had no school in the neighbourhood hence we travelled 10 miles by train (30 minutes) to Croydon with a walk of half a mile each end. The other 4 children in the road went to boarding school. The real memories of the war at School was an air-raid when a V1 bomb (Doodle Bug) landed somewhere in West Croydon. Otherwise apart from the occasional Air-raid Practice happened, when we tramped down to the basement, both in The Elms and The Homestead where the cloakrooms were and sat under our coat pegs, things were pretty normal. I didn't move up to the Senior School until 1947.

School just continued as if there was no war on, apart from the dreary lunches. (Each week the menu was the same, so we knew what was going to be served up each day.) However, we had an adequate diet in spite of the war.

ALISON BOND 1954

We all turned 10 years old that spring, and I was in the Upper 2nds (in Ms Mounsey's Homestead). My family had returned to our home in Chipstead, late in 1944, after nearly a year with my uncle in North Yorkshire, our escape from the persistent V2s raining down on the London area. By the spring of '45 it looked as though the war was coming to an end, as the Allies raced across northern Germany. It all happened rather quickly in those days of BBC radio - no TV, YouTube, iPhone or anything visual! - then there was Churchill on the palace balcony proclaiming victory. And the cheering started.

School gave everyone two days off, and I believe the trains to East Croydon (which I took every day), weren't running on normal schedules. Chipstead was a very community minded village, and we lived on a smaller, unmade road opposite the downs. Our neighbours consisted mostly of young families, so our fathers were still off in the forces except for two older dads and one who worked in the Home office. It was the mothers who organised a big party for May 8th, but first we had to build a bonfire in our road. So fallen trees, odd branches, and wooden packing crates from new houses nearby were hauled into an untidy heap on Old Oak Avenue. We were about 15 children, ranging from several little ones of 3 - 4 to 12 year olds, and we all wore our 'best frocks,' had red-white-and-blue ribbons pinned to our chests, and danced up and down the road, waving flags, singing and cheering. Then we had a splendid tea - or it may have been before the bonfire activities - on the back porch of Keeley's house where the mothers had done themselves

proud making delicious sponge cake, rolls, crumb cake (despite tight rationing days) and we all played on their wide lawn and drank lemonade.

Later that summer (or it may have been in the autumn), the County Borough of Croydon presented each child who had attended school during the war, with a small, gilded medal on a red silk ribbon indicating we had been WW II schoolchildren.

SANDRA HOWARD (PAUL) 1958



I can't really remember VE day, I was four years old, but had turned five by VJ day and can picture being taken to the sweet shop some time later, probably a newsagent's, in fact, and allowed to have a paper screw of sherbet. It was my first ever experience of sweets and it made me feel dreadfully sick.

I had an all too brief, but very happy time at Croydon High all those years ago. It was the year of 1953/54 when rationing was almost at an end, one could get unrationed chicken, bread, potatoes and corned beef by then, and with the death of her father, George IV, early in 1952 Princess Elizabeth had become Queen. I have a vivid memory of waving a flag, watching her wonderful coronation ceremony in June that summer of '53.

Arriving at a new school for the start of the autumn term was a bit daunting and people were still talking about the terrible smog in London of the previous winter, worrying if it would happen again. The smog had killed thousands.

I'd had the previous year at Devizes Grammar School, a countrified co-ed school where I'd run a bit wild (the vicar's daughter and I were the only girls in a gang of boys to be caught smoking upstairs on a public bus) and coming to an all girl's school with an impressive work ethic was quite a contrast and challenge!

I can clearly remember quickly settling in, though, and feeling a part of the school family, but such is my dreadful memory for names and even faces it is hard to recall very clearly any of my fellow classmates and teachers. I am in my 80th year...Though I'm sure there are many of my old school mates and friends, the "class of 58", whose memories are sharper and serving them better than mine!

I was sad to leave, having properly settled in by the end of the year, but my father, who was a doctor in the Air Force, was posted to Singapore. We had come to live in Croydon while he gained a diploma at the London School of Tropical Medicine, staying with my maternal grandmother at her large friendly house in Hayling Park Road. It wasn't far from the big public swimming pool, which was a treat for me as I had become very keen on swimming on a previous posting of my father's, to Southern Rhodesia (as it was called in those days).

And so, I moved on. But that happy year at Croydon High, at my grandmother's house with its large garden and her Siamese cat who couldn't be bothered to catch mice, will always hold fond memories.

The photo shows Sandra in the arms of her mother in 1940 in Malta, a week or two before Malta was under siege and her father had to leave to join the fighting. Sandra's mother had 10 months with two young children in a sort of lockdown on the island and a desperate shortage of food.

ANN HATHERILL (CARTER) 1955

In June 1944 the first dreaded flying bombs, doodle bugs or buzz bombs began to fall in Croydon. When at school we spent hours in the air raid shelter, often not getting any lunch until the middle of the afternoon. We continued our lessons there and when there was a lot of noise from outside we would sing 'Ten green bottles hanging on the wall' to try and distract us and drown the noise.

One afternoon the siren went as a doodle bug was coming towards us. My parents and I went across our road and into the Morrison shelter in the house opposite. They were indoors and were like a very thick steel kitchen table with a wire cage around the legs. The old lady in the house had a chair in the cupboard under the stairs as she couldn't bend down to get into the shelter. We got in with the lady's daughter, pulled the wire cage shut and put our heads down on our knees shutting our eyes. We heard the engine stop and waited. After a silence the whistle started getting louder then there was a sort of muffled bang. We opened our eyes. The room was full of dust and the lady's French windows had disappeared. The houses behind hers had disappeared but we were all alive and lucky to be so. Others had not been so lucky. After raids like that everyone did their best to help each other and clear up their houses - more windows broken which had to be boarded up and more sweeping up of broken glass. Every house had a heap of glass and rubble outside. I remember being forbidden to put my hands down the sides of chairs by the cushions as the broken glass got everywhere.



The war in Europe was over at last on May 7th 1945. The people were jubilant but very tired after their constant battering and deprivation. Prime Minister Winston Churchill stood on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen. The people in most of the roads in Croydon piled up broken wood and lit bonfires.

This was not popular as it damaged the road surface. Bells which had been silent all through the war could be pealed and the BBC broadcast its first weather forecast since September 1939.

The photo shown is taken from an extract of Ann's Wartime memories written for junior school children. The full story can be found soon on our website www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/alumnae-news.

CHRISTINE HOGH (SMITH) 1958

The day arrived and the whole country was rejoicing that Victory in Europe had been achieved. However, in our home, which at that point was in Lancashire living with my grandfather, there was frustration too as my father was in India with the RAF and the war against Japan continued. My mother, younger sister and I were living in a little town, not far from Blackburn in Lancashire, called Great Harwood. We had moved from Shirley, Croydon in the middle of the Battle of Britain in 1940 when I was a few months old to join my grandfather.

On the day the war was declared to be over in Europe we all listened to the Prime Minister on the radio, or the wireless as we called it then, and many patriotic tunes were played, especially relating to the armed services. My mother made my sister and me stand to attention and salute when the RAF march was played. She then handed me the paper and asked me to read out some of the front page. I still have it, carefully kept after she died, and I was quite proud to note that it was the Daily Telegraph - quite difficult reading for a five-year-old.

Later that day there was the excitement of going to a street party, not in our road which was a fairly main one but in a quiet street between two rows of terraced houses with tables laid out all down the middle. There were sandwiches, jelly, cake and squash to eat and it looked just like the L S Lowry painting called VE Day. When I first saw that picture it looked so like my vision of my street party that I thought Lowry must have been there but I think that scene was replicated all over the country and certainly all over Lancashire where there are many such streets.



VE Day by L S Lowry

It was May and the evening light was still quite bright as we walked down the hill. Earlier, I had asked my grandfather whether we would be up until midnight and he said that we would. I was waiting with bated breath to see the fairies at the bottom of the garden, which he had assured me only appeared when the clock struck 12, but I kept that thought to myself.

On the way I spotted a big bonfire, blazing away, with a figure on top just catching fire so I said to my mother, 'What's that?'

'Oh! That's Hitler,' she replied casually.

Now, I knew Hitler was a bad man but burning him on a bonfire in Great Harwood seemed rather cruel so I fell silent and must have looked upset when she realised that I had taken her statement literally.

'It's just like Guy Fawkes,' she added hastily, and then remembered that since the beginning of the war, before I was born, there had been no fireworks or bonfires on November 5th or, indeed, any other night.

When all had been explained to my satisfaction I was able to calm down and enjoy the celebrations. The food was quite simple but enjoyable and we played games that children still love today like Pass the Parcel. Everyone was so happy that life could begin to return to normal, though I think few realised how tough that would be and how long it would take. My father didn't arrive back from India until April 1946.

However, that day, when we arrived home to 51 Park Lane, I asked my grandfather if it was midnight and he said it was (but I have no idea if this was true). I demanded to be taken down the garden to see the fairies. Needless to say, there were none and I think that was when I began to realise that adults don't always tell the truth but they are quite good at fairy tales!

Taken from an extract of Christine's VE Day memories written for junior school children. The full story can soon be found on our website www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/alumnae-news/ This account was shared in the current Junior school assembly to commemorate VE Day.

CICELY WORRALL (JACKSON) 1947

For me, VE day was a day of relief. We moved a lot during the war. In 1939 I was one of the evacuees sent to Eastbourne under Miss Adams' scheme. I was billeted with a colonel, wife and child of 7 (I was 9). This was during the "phoney war" and I returned at the end of 1939. Back I went to Croydon High School until the bombs fell in 1940 and the Battle of Britain. We escaped to High Wycombe where our family spent a year or more escaping the bombs. I was at an evacuated school, where I believe we had afternoons only lessons. When things quieted down we returned to Croydon and I returned to school (I believe I went to Purley High School). Then the Buzz bombs (V One) started and away we went again to High Wycombe. We returned when the Buzz bombing stopped, only to flee again at the start of the V2s. This rocket bombing was random and the Germans intended to land about 2,000 a day which would have devastated Britain. Luckily the allies, advancing across Europe,

captured the manufacturing site and Britain was safe again. D-day was a wonderful day for us. No visits to the air raid shelter by the side of our house. Although we avoided a lot of the war, we did have times at home when we spent hours semi-underground. So at the age of 15 our damaged house was repaired, it was back to school where I stayed until the age of 17. I hope this account gives some idea of those turbulent days and years.

MARY GIBBS (HATFIELD HATTIE) 1960

I have no personal memories of VE or VJ Days in 1945. But my experience does, in a way, rest geographically somewhere between both. I was born in India, in Naini Tal, in April 1942. In 1944, my father, who first went to India as a Government Civil Engineer in 1919, was transferred to Lucknow, the Capital of Uttar Pradesh, which we left in February / March 1945 to go on a long overdue leave in the UK. We travelled by train to Bombay where we boarded the Strath Eden, one of the many Cruise Liners that had been turned over to the Forces who, on this trip, were troops travelling home to Great Britain from the war in the East. We civilians were the lowest of the low. I remember the few children on the boat had fun pulling the safety rings up horizontal to see the red lights go on the way they would if they were floating in the sea in a rescue situation...My brother has informed me that our accommodation had not been very comfortable. It was not supposed to be a luxury cruise...

Our route took us to Aden where one sailor had to be taken ashore with smallpox, as a result of which we all had to receive shots... From there, we proceeded via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to the Mediterranean where the Strath Eden became part of the a gradually growing protective convoy of ships, military vessels of all sorts heading towards Gibraltar, the Atlantic Ocean and eventually, I assume, various ports in the UK. We landed up in Liverpool - for four days, watching everybody else get off the boat. My parents could not make contact with anyone, not then, nor later when we were to board the train to London. The war was not yet over.

My third birthday was a month after my arrival at my maternal grand-parents' home in Chiswick. This two-storey house stuck between two other houses in a terrace was very different from India, and the way of life, too...My grand-mother and my mother had to do all the work around the house... The strangest thing under the stairs in the hallway was a strong metal box-like "room" with a metal "roof" you could crawl into, even adults (!) which I was told was where my grand-parents used to sleep at night or take shelter during the day when the enemy bombers were flying over. The latter had ceased by March, 1945. But I remember vividly driving by deep bombsights in London - which gained their own kind of beauty, with self-seeded wild poppies and willow-herb in particular.

I do not remember anything live about the 1945 celebrations, except for what I saw in films and photos, when I was older, of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on the balcony at Buckingham Palace.



MARGARET PATER 1957

I am afraid I have no VE-Day memories to share. I was nearly 6 at the time but only remember my second brother being born on April 7th, and my family moving back to Croydon at the end of June 1945 in my father's car which had been "in store" throughout the war. It was a very hot day and the helper who had sometimes looked after us children (my 2 brothers and me) in St Albans had given us each a little bar of chocolate with orange or strawberry filling and they melted rather badly on the way! I remember my interview with Miss Henry in the Elms for entry to Croydon High soon after we arrived in Croydon and suppose I started in the Autumn term. At some point – probably the following year, we were all given a little medal on a red-white-and-blue ribbon for our contributions during the war. I was not aware of having made any!

GLORIA PARKER (SAMSON) 1947

There was a bit of a panic when war was declared, and a lot of our neighbours thinking that Hitler was about to invade, and that Southern England would be the first to be hit, many moved out of their houses and went North to friends or relations.

Croydon High evacuated girls to Wales or the United States if they wanted to go. I wanted to go to the States, but my mother wanted to keep the family together. We had lessons in the basement of the school in Wellesley Road when the air raid warning went off. We had our usual iced bun and milk in the mornings, which was welcome. Especially the iced bun!

We were expected to be at school on time, which was difficult sometimes if there had been an air raid. I had a collection of bullets and shell cases which I picked up along the road.

Croydon was badly bombed because of the airport. Our house had a lot of damage, and the windows blown in, in spite of the tape over them. Part of the roof was burnt off as well.

We had an air raid shelter in the garden, where one night we all went out for the all clear, having slept through the raid! In the end we had a table shelter, which was supposed to be strong enough to hold the house if it was destroyed. We spent a lot of the time away, and had 2 years in Blackpool. I had also been sent to a relation in Stockport for a bit, so missed a lot of my schooling.



Gloria at the farming camp

During the summer holidays the school asked for volunteers to go to a farm to help out, as most of their men had joined up. I went

and picked potatoes, which was hard work. We slept under canvas, and were paid a small amount.

HEATHER SWEETING (HARWOOD) 1957

I was born and lived in Thornton Heath South London from 1939. I have vivid memories of the Blitz years and of being terrified by the bombing raids in 1944.

The very loud sirens would sound, usually around 7pm – the long, unbroken scream warned us that bombers were coming our way and we should take shelter! We had an indoor Morrisons shelter, rather like a wire chicken run with a solid top and my brother and I dived in but we never managed to beat our dog! He heard the sirens long before we did. Then we covered listening to the bombers getting closer and closer. My brother was able to identify the aeroplane by its engine noise! The bombs came down in 'sticks' of six at a time and we would count anxiously until the last 'stick' had been dropped. I recall howling my eyes out with fear- the feeling of imminent disaster has never left me!

Fortunately, our house was never hit but we then learned of a new horror – the Flying Bomb or 'Doodle Bug'!

These bombs sounded like motor bikes coming across the sky. My father took me into our back garden to watch one of these coming over the roof tops opposite our house! He made a great description of the sequence of events that would occur when the Doodle Bug ran out of fuel- 'When those flames at the back stop, the bomb will come down nose first and hit whatever is beneath it then explode!' My father always told it as it was. He was a Policeman and stuck to the facts! We watched in horror as the bomb flew on for about half a mile and then after an abrupt cessation of the engine noise the nose dipped and with a huge explosion it landed on some houses nearer London.

When the raid was over the siren would sound the All Clear sound – an undulating scream – still loud but a welcome sound never the less.

For a few brief weeks in 1944 we were lucky enough to be offered the use of a cottage in West Sussex for a welcome break from the horrors we had endured. The cottage was in a hamlet called Ebernoe. My mother, brother and I went in a large green removal van across beautiful countryside and eventually stopped outside the cottage – as usual our dog was first out and started chasing rabbits!

My brother and I found a water pump in the front garden and a very tall fir tree! We immediately set to and climbed to the top – amazed at the quiet and distant views over a peaceful landscape. Surely this must be Heaven? A few days later and we had settled in and found the farm opposite. I started to attend the village school and would cheerfully have stayed there indefinitely.



Map of flying bomb incidents 1944

REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS



AN IVY LINK REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

We were thrilled to welcome back the Class of 2014 in September 2019 for an evening of prosecco, reminiscing and catching-up on the last five years. For many it was the first time back to school since their first reunion, Christmas 2014. However, some of our 2014 alumnae have already returned to advise sixth form students regarding University life, courses, destinations and careers. All the girls and staff were very happy to see one another and were delighted by the slide show of photographs from their school days, sparking many memories and much amusement.

THE IVY LINK SUMMER LUNCH REUNION 2019



The Annual Ivy Link Lunch 2019 took place at Croydon High School on Saturday 22 June and as always, it was a very happy occasion with 100 guests. We welcomed groups celebrating notable anniversaries including 25 ladies who were attending an Ivy Link event for the first time plus 13 former staff together with former Headmistress (1990-1998) Pauline Davies. Friends came from all over the world including France, Greece, the USA, New Zealand and Australia. Our visitors were greeted with a Pimms reception and small exhibition from the school's archives. After a delicious lunch, Emma Pattison's talked about how much we value the relationship with our alumnae, some of our current

sixth form girls introduced themselves and shared their goals and ambitions for the years ahead. Their confidence and natural charm was remarked upon by many in the audience and we greatly appreciate the girls who gave up their time and represented the school so impressively. Then there was time for tours and so many memories flooding back as alumnae walked through the corridors and classrooms.



The second ever Croydon High alumnae reunion took place in November 1886 as advertised in the London Evening Standard.



134 years later...

THE IVY LINK SUMMER ZOOM REUNION 2020

How different things are in 2020! We had received much interest for the 2020 Summer Lunch from all anniversary groups, the class of 1950 through to the class of 2000; how disappointing not to be able to go ahead with our traditional gathering. However, we considered an alternative way to meet – covid or no covid, we were going to celebrate. A Zoom reunion was offered and three year groups including 1960, 1965 and 1980 accepted the invitation, or should that be challenge! On Saturday 27 June we held our inaugural virtual reunion. Each year group arrived at different intervals and subsequently welcomed by Emma Pattison. We asked each guest to have a glass of bubbly at hand (apologising that we could not provide this for them) and a toast was made before moving each group into their own room to catch up at their leisure.

It was an absolute pleasure to host this special event and it wouldn't have been possible without such a positive response and willingness to face the challenges of Zoom; it's fair to say that we certainly all learned a few more skills! My thanks go to Mary Gibbs (Hatfield) 1960, Anita Loring (Hunt) 1960, Chris Wickham (Parr) 1965 and Kate Carding (Bowyer) 1980 for their help in gathering their classmates. Almost 70 'old' girls braved the occasion and judging from the response, all had a joyous time!



“My congratulations to you for such a successful first Zoom gathering. It was a wonderful achievement on your part and a resounding social success! “

“We all enjoyed it and I think it can be deemed to have been a great success. We have learned and gained confidence in something new. Just look at all these learning experiences.”

“It was lovely to connect with some people who I hadn’t seen for 40 years, and we had a good old chat! I have been added to the WhatsApp group, and can report that the chatting has continued.”

“What a great treat you gave us. It was all I hoped it would be, and more. Thanks for making a bunch of elderly ladies relive some very happy times in their youth.”

“I have to admit having been a bit apprehensive because I’m not an experienced “computer person”. Still, the whole experience turned out to be amazing. Many of the participants have written to me expressing their delight.”

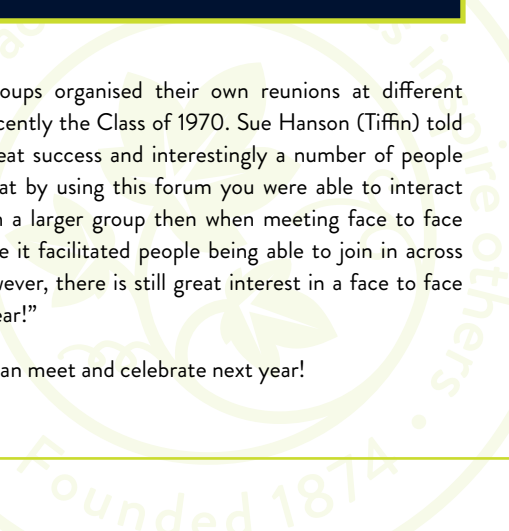
“Many of us have been in touch with everyone marvelling at what an uplifting experience it was, and remembering how enjoyable it was to see so many faces from the past.”

“It must have been a huge amount of work behind scenes and having done all that preparation you quickly put us all at ease. It is surprising how recognisable some people are after all these years later!”



Other year groups organised their own reunions at different times. Most recently the Class of 1970. Sue Hanson (Tiffin) told us “It was a great success and interestingly a number of people commented that by using this forum you were able to interact more fully with a larger group than when meeting face to face – and of course it facilitated people being able to join in across the world. However, there is still great interest in a face to face reunion next year!”

Let’s hope we can meet and celebrate next year!



Ivy Link Lockdown Life

LOCKDOWN LETTERS

Messages to our Alumnae

We made sure our older alumnae weren't forgotten as they went into self-isolation in March. We sent postcards to all those with whom we don't have existing email links plus Ecards to those we do. They were very grateful for our messages and we received numerous letters and emails in response some of which are below.

"The post has just delivered your card and as I read the reverse, I was finding it increasingly difficult to do so, on account of the tears in my eyes! I could not believe what I was reading. It is so unbelievably kind and thoughtful of you – especially as I left school nearly 54 years ago! It is greatly appreciated and I thank you most sincerely. Thank you again for lifting my spirits, even if I am in tears!"



"What a lovely picture, and thank you for your kind thoughts. I used to be the neighbourhood helper around here and it's hard to 'be helped'! I have to realise that reaching out is a two-way benefit and I am so grateful for good friends!! Thank you again"

"Thank you so much for sending an email containing useful and relevant phone numbers for one of my advancing years! I am very lucky to have family living very close by and I also live in a very friendly village where we are all looking out for each other. I will be helping to man our village helpline as I can't help the younger generation face to face at the moment. With very best wishes to all at Croydon High

"That was so good of you to send us your kind email from CHS giving us any ideas if we "oldies" needed any help with isolation from "the virus". I just thought you might be interested to see my personal arrangements for isolation which we set up here

in Chichester last week! I'm not sure though that our old Headmistress, Miss "Fanny" Adams would have quite approved of the gin!"



"Thank you. I am so fortunate and have lots of help from family and friends. I am sure our School set us on to the right way to live - giving to others - through the Guild at School"

"Thank you for your email and good wishes. I'm pleased to say that one of the many things that I learnt at Croydon High was to face a challenge with a resourceful approach. I always claim that I have never been bored! Thankfully, I am well, and I live in a beautiful area."

"Thank you so much for your very kind email. The care and love of so many at this really horrendous time is more than touching. I love the rainbow, God's sign and promise of hope for our virus invaded planet. I'm extremely well supported and truly blessed by my family, friends and church. As a Lay Pastor in the Anglican Church I now have to do all my visits by phone, not quite the same but valued. May you all be blessed and keep well at this challenging time."

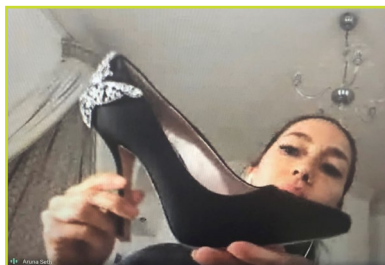
"Lovely to hear from you. During the war I used to write plays in which my friends acted. We used this money to fund the spitfire and Red Cross appeal. We are going to celebrate the end of this with a big party. We will add a stall of items made during this shut down for a good cause to help those who are being caused such unexpected suffering."

LOCKDOWN LIMITLESS LEARNING

We are very proud of a transformative Croydon High initiative launched during lockdown, which developed into a GDST-wide collaboration for Upper Sixth students in many of our sister GDST schools. Emma Pattison led this project from the start – conferring with GDST Heads around the country and recruiting GDST teaching staff, alumnae and supporters who provided

expert mentoring and tuition designed to ensure our students took control and didn't just become 'victims' of their particularly challenging situation.

The programme comprised of over 160 University bridging seminars – from Animation to Zoology – to introduce aspiring undergraduates to their chosen courses offering unique opportunities to 'get-ahead,' providing a meaningful platform for the next stage. In addition, Real World Ready Modules offered insight and building skills in areas that will really make a difference to life after school. Personal finance, cooking on a budget, communication skills, debating, public speaking – even beginners' Russian!



Aruna Seth 2000 and Georgia Syms 2013 were amongst the many alumnae who contributed to the programme. Aruna left Croydon High in 2000 and studied at the

London School of Fashion. She is founder of Aruna Seth Shoes Limited, a luxury, British shoe brand based in London. Known for her bridal line, she has been the choice of many celebrities such as Pippa Middleton for the Royal wedding, Kate Hudson, Katherine Heigl, Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey. Georgia left Croydon High in 2013 and gained a First Class Honours Bachelor's degree, Fashion Atelier at the University for the Creative Arts. She interned at Cad & The Dandy in Savile Row and has been a Bespoke Coat Maker for Sartoria Trenti since 2017.



Last year Georgia co-found Syms & Fauri, a London-based bespoke tailoring establishment for women where she is Head of Design. Students across the GDST going on to study fashion centred degrees, benefited from seminars covering internships, studying at an arts-based University, starting your own business, sustainability, CVs and marketing.

In addition to these subject-based opportunities, Limitless Learning at Croydon High also offered every Upper Sixth student the chance to connect with a recent alumna; someone following a similar study or career path to the one she might be about to embark upon. Over 50 alumnae volunteered to be part of this programme, providing invaluable advice on every aspect of life after Croydon High!

Year 11 and Upper Sixth students also received wonderful video messages of support from former head girls from Classes 2013 through to 2019.



LOCKDOWN LEADERSHIP

The month of June saw the beginning of happy junior school pupils and staff returning to school. Emma Pattison reflected on the experiences of a previous Croydon High Headmistress, Margaret Adams, who joined the school at the beginning of the Second World War. There are many fascinating parallels between Croydon High then and now - our community's enduring spirit of strength and resilience is one of them.

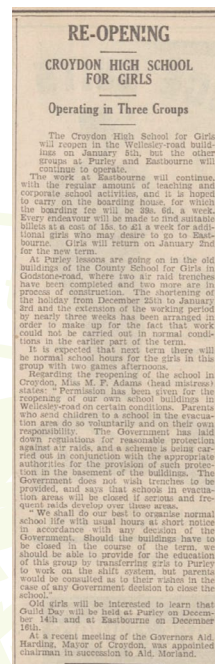


Margaret Adams lead the school during WW11. Her message in the 1940 school magazine

'Permission has been given for the reopening of our own school buildings in Wellesley-road on certain conditions.'

"Since the moment when I assumed the direction of the School, I have been privileged to have the loyal support and sympathetic co-operation of the Staff. No words can adequately express my gratitude to them and my appreciation of their devoted service. Their resourcefulness in face of unprecedented difficulties, their cheerful acceptance of hard conditions and their unflinching interest in the individual girls in their charge have made it possible for the high standards of the School to be maintained.

In spite of the uncertainties of the present, we look forward to the future with courage and confidence, believing more firmly than ever in our ideals of freedom and co-operation. The School is seeking to prepare its members to meet the challenge of the present-day world, it has behind it a wealth of



Croydon Advertiser & East Surrey Reporter 8 December 1939

traditions, it is rich in the friendship of Parents and Old Girls, its interests are in the safe keeping of the Governors. So amid the anxieties and perplexities of the war, we must strive together, to maintain the ideals and traditions which have made the School great, endeavouring to ensure that whatsoever things are true, pure, lovely and of good report may in it for ever flourish and abound.”



LIGHTENING THE LOCKDOWN LOAD

Croydon High Community Making PPE

We were so grateful to Croydon High parent John – and daughter Daisy (above) – for taking over the production of PPE for frontline workers from our Art Department. John took our school 3D printer home and made many visors for various places in need, including medical centres, surgeries, care homes, pharmacies and healthcare staff working in the local community. Alumna Su-Lin Garbett-Shiels 1998 spotted our Tweet about John and Daisy making PPE. Her first thought was for her friend and fellow alumna Shinali McCusker (Patel) 1998, a pharmacist at Sefgrove Chemist in Crystal Palace, who she knew was working without adequate PPE. We were delighted to be able to bring everyone together and our thanks again to John for supplying this precious equipment so quickly!

Georgia Syms 2013 writes...

Running Syms & Fauri, a bespoke tailoring service dependent on direct contact with the customer, meant not being able to work from home in any meaningful way, and so it was a great honour when I was approached to make scrubs for 'For the Love of Scrubs'. Not only did it give me the opportunity to use my sewing skills to help the brave staff on the NHS frontline, it also gave me the opportunity to do the thing I loved and missed. 'For the Love of Scrubs' came about due to a close collaboration between three individuals who wanted to use the rich talent of the London tailoring community to answer the desperate need for quality gowns and other PPE.

The highly infectious nature of the Covid19 virus meant that the ordinary cycle of clean scrubs had to be vastly increased in order to prevent the infection spreading. There was a vast shortage of scrubs, meaning hospitals had to contact community organisations and independent tailors individually to assist. 'For the Love of Scrubs' is an entirely organic organisation, not supported in anyway by the government, whose work is a direct collaboration between the hospitals and tailoring community many of who, such as myself, were unable to claim or receive any governmental financial support.



The community was made up of freelance tailors, dressmakers, couturiers and seamstresses who are volunteering their time. All fabric and trimmings were either generously donated by mills and haberdasheries up and down the country, through money raised on crowdfunding pages, or by volunteers purchasing their own cloth and thread. It was great to see the tailoring community coming together in such hard times to help such a vital cause even in this small way. With the oncoming economic climate set to be very turbulent, at this time the most important thing to focus on is supporting the work needed to get through this crisis in whatever way we can.

LOCKDOWN LUNCHES

Working Together in Selsdon

Croydon High was delighted to have been able to facilitate a partnership with our catering company Thomas Franks, and locally based organisations, Selsdon Contact and Jubilee Church. A team of volunteers prepared around 160 meals in the school kitchens each week for elderly or vulnerable local people and mainly those living alone. These were then delivered on Friday mornings with the help of the local fire brigade!



We were delighted to receive so much wonderful feedback from the community enjoying our weekly meals. We were even more delighted to discover that this recipient helped build the current Croydon High school site! We hope to welcome him and his wife at the school when this is all over.

“My wife and I are delighted with the meals we have received, delivered by the Fire Officers, made by the kitchen staff of the High School, and would like to place on record our sincere thanks for all the kindness shown in preparing and cooking them. I have a long association with Croydon High School, having been the Project Manager responsible for its construction from day one to the completion and handover to the Public Day School Trust, so I regard it as part of our involvement in the history of Selsdon.”

LOCKDOWN LIKES

Alumnae Love Our ‘Welcome Back’ Video

The summer term began in true Croydon High style with a staff video to welcome back the girls. Staff members lip synced to different parts of Justin Timberlake’s ‘Can’t Stop the Feeling’. We thought our alumnae community would appreciate it too and so shared the film on social media. Responses from alumnae started pouring in. Their positive feedback was overwhelming and the post received 68 likes, 72 comments, and was shared 4 times!

Here are some of their comments:

ELEANA 1995 – Think this is wonderful. It would have been so funny to see our teachers do this.

MICHELLE 1994 – Crikey, my old school’s changed a bit. I’d have loved to have seen my old teachers doing this, this is awesome!!!

CHRISTINE 1965 – As an “Old Girl” I found that surprisingly moving and I’m sure the pupils will love it. It’s difficult to imagine the staff in our time dancing and lip syncing! There wasn’t even a TV in my home until I’d taken my O Levels and then twas only in black and white, oh how times have changed.

SARAH 1975 – Wow! I wish the 60s and 70s had been like this!! Not sure Miss Cameron would approve if the gals did this let alone the staff

JACKY 1988 – Love it. Class of 1988, I don’t think Miss Marks would have appreciated this amount of fun

DIANE 1968 – Loved watching this, yep, the times they have changed! I was at the school 1957-68, best times, the school is still happy and vibrant!

JENNIE 1977 – That was great. Nothing like this happened in the late 60’s or early 70’s (1966-1976)

ALISON 1974 – One of the staff plays was Salad Days in the late ‘60’s (or was it Hair?) Miss Cameron would’ve had her poodle lip syncing to this!

CHRISTINE 1958 – As an even older girl (1951-1958) I had fun imagining some of the staff of my time strutting their stuff!

SARAH 1974 – Gosh wish I’d gone to a school like that..... wait, I did Class of 74! LOVE this!!!

HANNAH 2016 – So proud to have been a part of this wonderful school for so long. It’s this sort of infectious energy and obvious care for student morale that filled the corridors during my time there and made those 14 years some of my favourite yet.

A PRIZE WORTH WINNING...



Take risks and advantage of all the opportunities available

On a sunny Thursday afternoon in July 2019 we celebrated the achievements of members of the Lower School at Prize Giving.

After awarding prizes to a significant number of girls in Years 7-10, our guest speaker, alumna (and former Head Girl) Su-Lin Garbett-Shiels, 1998, inspired the audience as she talked about her time at Croydon High. She described the talents she developed here and how they have helped her in later life.

She has certainly put these lessons to good use with a hugely impressive career and is currently leading on climate change and environmental issues in her role in the Department for International Development. Su-Lin encouraged the girls to take risks and also to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them through their school.

You are enough

September 2019 saw public exam performances recognised for the new Lower Sixth and for the Class of 2019 Leavers. Hearing an update from Mrs Pattison reminded the hall how much is packed into a Croydon High School year, and with such success.



Guest of Honour Sarah Nelson Smith echoed the implicit learning that goes on by taking part in so much of that offering, and left the room, particularly the leavers, with five sage pieces of advice. Sarah, an alumna from 1998 with a hugely successful career within law, charitable governance and more recently author of a new book, put anecdotes to the following five “what I wish I’d known”, which bear repeating here:

If you have to do it, do so in good humour; If you don’t know, ask; Care, but not too much; Kindness enriches lives; You are enough.

AND IN OTHER NEWS...

THE CLASS OF 2020 CRYSTAL IVIES

This group of girls have been at Croydon High since either Nursery or Reception. They would normally be treated to a special lunch with Mrs Pattison followed by a nostalgic visit to their old classrooms. This year, however, Anya, Esha, Katharine and Maya were invited to a celebratory virtual Google Meet with Mrs Pattison, Mrs Bradshaw, Mrs Gower plus their nursery teacher from 2005, Mrs Grinham! Two more guests were welcomed into the Crystal Ivy 'Party' – current nursery pupil Marnie and Year 1 Lettie. Mrs Pattison asked questions about their 15 years at Croydon High and the memories came flooding back. We wish them and all the Class of 2020 well and look forward to seeing this exceptional year group at future reunions and events, once we are through to the other side!



Esha's first day in nursery and 15 years later a prefect in the Sixth Form

THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

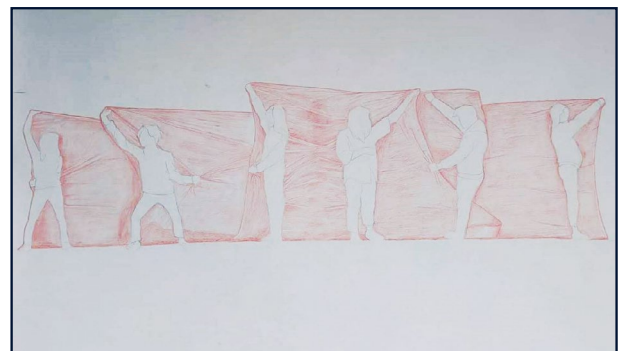


There exists a great pressure, especially towards the end of your school life, to know what you want to do in the future. It is particularly hard when considering reading a vocational subject at university, where you won't really know what it is all about until you are there, getting involved. The Architectural Drawing Summer School ran for its third year in 2019 and allows students to concisely explore the world

of architecture in just five days. I found from taking part that it tries to give an honest representation of what Architecture is like to study and put into action by conducting a variety of tasks: from individual sketches to group sculptures.

2019 saw 45 students attend the school fully funded by the project. We received bed and board in the facilities of Bruton School for Girls, worked in the town of Bruton and liaised with educational facilities and staff at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, a world-class gallery and multi-purpose arts centre.

To begin with we worked on visual mind maps to represent the town that we had walked through. Visiting Niall Hobhouse's collection of drawings by many famous architects, like Le Corbusier and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, helped us see the value of different styles of drawing. It also gave us the courage to open up our sketches afterwards when investigating the nearby area that is Shatwell farm. I most enjoyed creating group technical drawings of a specific area in Bruton, that our tutor had chosen, and responding to that by designing and making a pavilion. This pavilion could only be made of the colourful 50 x 2 metre scaffolding mesh provided and our bodies. This task looked into the hierarchy of spaces and the movement of one's body that different details could control.



It was a joy to have our work presented to the public on the last day of the summer school at Hauser & Wirth. This was an incredible experience that totally reassured me of my choice to go and study architecture at university. **Siena Cornish 2019**

MY TRIP TO FIJI



*A response from an 'old girl' who will always end up writing for the newsletter... *

This summer, after completing my first year of Uni I jetted off to Fiji for two months to have the best summer of my life. I went with a volunteering charity

called Think Pacific where I spent 8 weeks on the tiny Kadavu Island in a rural village teaching in the classroom and on the sports field. After travelling for two days to get to Fiji, Kadavu was an 11-hour ferry ride south! We were fully immersed into the Fijian way of life as we stayed with a host family for our time. I had



six little brothers and sisters aged 2-11 who all went to the school we were teaching at. During the weekday, in the mornings we would teach English, maths and reading and then in the afternoon we would coach sports. In the evenings we would have group activities with the

village 'youngsters' such as Quiz Night and Games Night. Friday would be Island Night where we drank the Fijian Traditional Drink 'Kava' and danced....a lot. Saturdays would be the excursion day so we visited a local waterfall went fishing and made Fijian mats.

This was honestly the best experience of my life, even if I didn't have a hot shower the whole of summer! I now feel like I have a family on the other side of the world and cannot wait until I can go back to my village and visit. **Erin Rochester 2018**

MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE



I'd like to take this opportunity to fill you in on all I have been up to since leaving Croydon High! I applied to study Agriculture at Harper Adams University in Shropshire after taking a year out between school and uni. Since being at Harper I have thoroughly been making the most of life! I have joined the music society

and am now secretary. We regularly perform with a band every Tuesday at an open mic night in the local town, which I am the lead singer for. We have also performed at some of the Harper balls, at times to over 2000 people!

I am very much enjoying studying agriculture. I completed my first harvest job over summer carting potatoes and onions in Suffolk, supplying many of the major supermarkets, including Sainsburys in Selsdon. If you ate any Perline salad potatoes grown by Andrew Williams in Suffolk, it is likely I moved them around on the back of a tractor and trailer! I also have a weekend job at uni working with pigs on a 2,000 pig indoor unit, and completed a week's work experience with a broiler chicken unit, producing chicken meat for sale to a wide variety of supermarkets and producers.

I completed my first year with first class results and am a scholar of the Staffordshire and Birmingham Agricultural Society, who have helped to fund me to complete extra practical courses to catch up with my peers from farming backgrounds. I am also a recipient of the Butchers and Drovers Charitable Institute Bursary,

essentially the meat industry charity who support farmers and meat producers. Through them, I have become a Young Butcher with the Worshipful Company of Butchers, a livery company in London who regularly meet each month for a court lunch in their newly renovated Butchers Hall in London. As I was one of the first five Young Butchers for the brand new club, I had the opportunity to meet Princess Anne when she came to open the new hall. She is surprisingly down to earth!

I think that the experience I had at Croydon High really helped me to become the person I am today and taught me to stand up for what I believe in. It's not always easy being a woman working in a very male dominated industry, but I haven't let that stop me!

Elizabeth Tree 2017

Elizabeth has since won the prestigious Harper Adams John Langford Award for achieving the highest attainment in academic development.

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS



We are incredibly proud of Larissa Kennedy 2016 who became President of the National Union of Students at the beginning of July 2020. She commented "We are seeing movements across the world seeking to radically transform society. This is what I see the National Union of Students UK and our 7 million members being part of." Larissa was most recently seen on BBC Breakfast discussing the way exam grades are produced this year. Larissa is also Trustee for the British Youth Council. You can follow her on Twitter @Larissa_Ken

KITTY RETURNS

Kitty Howie 2011 left Croydon High to study English at the University of Exeter gaining a 1st Class Honours. She went on to achieve 'A' grades in both her Masters level assignments and grade 1 for her Professional Practice Module at the



UCL Institute of Education. September 2019 saw her return to Croydon High as teacher of English and Year 7 Form Tutor. We are delighted to have her on board and she has proved to be a very popular colleague and teacher.



FACILITATING ELITE PERFORMANCE

As well as a Harlequins Premiership Rugby player Davinia Catlin (Monteiro) 2007 is also Director of The Winning Margin Ltd. We were very grateful to her for spending time with our Year 9-11 sports scholars sharing that the importance of quality footwear and equipment is vital for elite performance!



RUNNING FOR GREAT BRITAIN

Cat Simpson 2000 ran for GB in the IAU 24 Hour World Championship in Albi, France. This event has the same status for ultra-marathon runners as the recent World Athletics Championship in Doha. She ran an amazing 220.301 km and finished 23rd out of 147 women. She was 2nd finisher of

the British women, and the women's team were 5th.

ANOTHER CROYDON HIGH ALUMNA HITS THE STRICTLY DANCE FLOOR

Anneka Rice 1977 is a presenter, broadcaster, journalist, painter and Croydon High alumna. She is most famous for hosting Challenge Anneka, a British reality game show that aired on BBC1 from 1989 to 1995. Anneka took on another challenge taking to Strictly Come Dancing 2019 dance floor with partner Kevin Clifton. Sadly, she did not wow the judges enough to stay beyond week three. In 2013 alumna Susanna Reid 1989 also partnered Kevin Clifton but this time reaching the final losing to model Abbey Clancy.



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GERMAN EXCHANGE (featured in last year's magazine)

I wanted to let you and Mrs Gibbons know I am still in touch with my German exchange partner, Christine, having first done a German exchange back in around 1992 I think - the first of very many visits in both directions over the years.



I went to her wedding, she was then one of my bridesmaids in 2014 and in March 2019 we had the latest of our visits to Munich where Christine now lives. The German exchange in our case really did forge a lasting friendship. **Janice Houghton 1995**

THE CELLIST



Alumna Jacqueline du Pré was the subject of a glorious new ballet I saw, live-streamed from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden called The Cellist. The Choreographer had created a part for a dancer as the cello Jacqueline played and their combined

dancing was amazing and very moving. I remember Miss Bolwell (Head Mistress of Junior School) and Miss Evie Periam (transition form mistress) saying how Jacqueline du Pré was rarely at school because of her intensive practice regime, even as a little girl. **Ella Jones Former Junior School Staff 1969-1972**

Jacqueline du Pré's career as one of the most gifted and celebrated cellists of the twentieth century was cut short by multiple sclerosis. She was just 42 when she died.

WET SCHOOL OUTINGS

I enjoyed reading all the Croydon High news, it is so impressive that so much is fitted into the school week! The account of wet outings reminded me of our trip to the old Wembley Stadium to see an international hockey match sometime in the '60s. It poured all day, we had to wear our hats all day - I know! Wembley did not have a roof where we were sitting, all the coaches got stuck in mud in the car park and the blue velour of my hat ran into the white hat band and ruined it! I don't remember who won the match but I do remember that a woman who played was called Melvyn Hickey - yes really "Hickey for Hockey!" **Di Clarke (Singleton) 1968**

MENS CONSCIA RECTI

I noticed a piece in The Ivy Link Magazine about another magazine called Dregs. I edited an "alternative" school magazine in 1964 when in the 1st year Sixth Form but gave it a pretentious title "Mens Conscia Recti" (a mind conscious of integrity).

I do remember each cover was decorated individually with a roller & paint in the art room, so no two copies were identical, a real labour of love. I even had recognition in my end of term report – the staff struggled to write anything good about me usually!

Chris Wickham (Parr) 1965

Do let us know if you have a copy of Mens Conscia Recti, it would be great to track one down!

GHOST WALK IN WELLESLEY ROAD

Lovely to see the Christmas posters and have an idea of what everyone is up to Croydon High. I left in 1962 and the Winter Fair poster reminded me of the fun we had when one year at a fund-raising fair we had a Ghost Walk in the subterranean stone floored cloakrooms at the old premises on Wellesley Road. They were dark and gloomy even at mid-day and we added cobwebs and plastic spiders to join the real hairy monsters that lived down there; two of us capered around dressed in black with luminous skeletons painted on our outfits, we borrowed Fred the anatomy skeleton from the bio lab and parked him in a strategic spot, and one of us dropped a pile of tin trays on the stone floor behind each visitor as they ventured in. There were various other sound effects as well and of course when teachers bravely put in an appearance they got the full works! As for old Fred, I think it has been many years since it was realised that it was very wrong for schools to use real anatomical remains and they were replaced by plastic ones. I hope poor Fred was given a decent burial.

Fran Gillespie (Taylor) 1962

MEMORIES OF 'FANNY'



I adored Miss Margaret F Adams, affectionately known as Fanny, and knew her well! I used to take her books to Assembly for her most mornings. During a Christmas holiday to Nice in 1954, who should we encounter walking along the Promenade des Anglais but Fanny! I was 12, my parents recognised her, so did I. We stopped for a chat and she asked

me what I was reading. What Katy Did...came the reply! When she retired which was when our year left, the Head Girl (I assume it was), called for three cheers for Fanny! There were smiles all round. I was one of the first students at the University of Sussex in Brighton! Where was Fanny? In Hove, so I used to see her for lunch or tea quite often. She inspired my love of travel with stories she used to tell after Assembly some days, especially about how she was the first woman to go to China after the war. Did you now she played hockey for Scotland? She was quite simply amazing.

Anita Loring (Hunt) 1960

MY FRENCH EXCHANGE IN 1954

I did an exchange with a pupil of the Lycée Fénelon in 1954, the first time I ever went abroad. We went to Paris in April for four weeks and they came to England in the summer holiday. My exchange girl, Marie-Thérèse lived in a flat several floors up very close to Notre Dame. From one window we could see the little spire in the middle of the Notre Dame roof and from the mini-balcony there was a narrow glimpse of the Seine between high buildings. One exciting moment was an evening when we had already got ready for bed but Monsieur (Marie-Thérèse's father) came in to say Notre Dame was illuminated and I must come out immediately with him to see it. So I found myself walking round outside Notre Dame with Monsieur and a jumper and coat over my pyjamas!

At first, I had some days of going to school with Marie-Thérèse. The class had to read a passage of English a sentence at a time and each time the girl who was reading pronounced "plaits" correctly and the teacher "corrected" her saying "plates". We felt we should defend the girls but I don't think we dared to speak to the teacher at the end of the lesson.

When the Lycée Fénelon broke up for Easter, the family took me to Lorraine where the grandparents owned an old farmhouse. It had not been occupied over the winter and I found a mouse had eaten into the bedding and made a nest in "my" bed.

The benefit for me was certainly that, being in a largish family, I had plenty of opportunity to hear and pick up French. I also learnt that children could drink a little red wine with water in it. And it was a new experience to have a bowl of warm milky coffee at breakfast and dip a buttered baguette into it!

Margaret Pater 1957

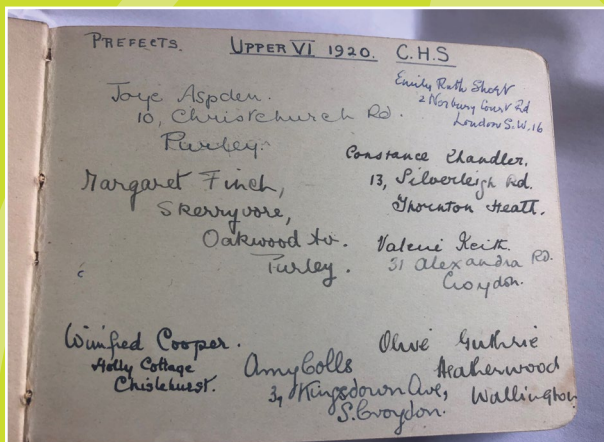


Margaret learning to play Boules

ARCHIVE ANECDOTES

Occasionally we receive a call or email to find out if we would accept items for our ever growing archives. The answer is always a resounding yes please! Behind every donation is a story...

Each donation is part of history and so we like to find out a little more about the original owner. This story is stored with the item in our archives to share with current and future generations.



EMILY RUTH SHORT 1921

With thanks to Emily's granddaughter, Olivia Cook, who donated an autograph book containing poems, drawings, personal messages and other mementos.

Emily Ruth Short was born in 1903 in Alnwick, Northumberland, youngest of three children to James Andrew Short and Sarah Heighton Short. James Short was in the Civil Service and so the family moved every time he gained a promotion. I believe that the family came to London at around the beginning of the First World War - Emily's older brother Leonard was in the Royal Flying Corps during the war, and Emily's older sister Julia Short was almost certainly at the school as well.



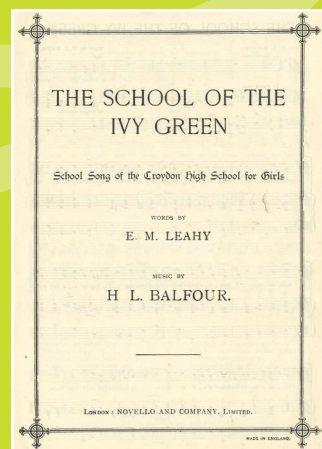
She went on from Croydon High to study Domestic Science at Battersea Polytechnic, she married Harold Edgar Campkin in the late 1920s and they had a son, Oliver, and a daughter, Marie.

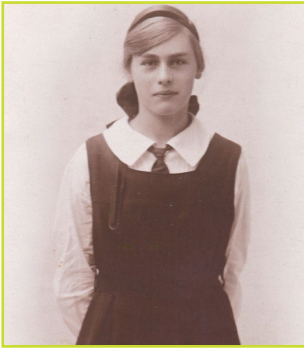
With the outbreak of World War 2, the children were evacuated to relatives in Canada and she took the post of Catering Manager to the manufacturing firm of Ruston and Hornsby in Lincolnshire, where her husband worked, and managed the Herculean task of keeping several thousand workers across several plants and three daily shifts fed throughout the bombing, the uncertainty and the worst of the rationing. I was told once by someone who had known her that "you didn't ask what went into Mrs Campkin's cottage pies, but the gravy was always worth the money, and there was usually a queue for second helpings".

After the war Emily gave up her job when her children came home. Her son Oliver was commissioned in the British Army but tragically died in a car accident at the age of 29, while her daughter Marie was the first member of the family to go to university; she became a doctor. In her latter years Emily examined Domestic Science for City and Guilds all over the country, finally giving up work to look after Marie's children, myself and my brother Andrew, to allow Marie to continue her career in the NHS which she did as a GP for 45 years.

I remember a few things she said about the school when I was a child - my primary school also had a green uniform and she used to sing me bits of "The School of the Ivy Green". She also said that the school drummed her Northumbrian accent out of her very fast - apparently this was not how young ladies spoke! She was a prefect in her final year, and said that she spent most of that year utterly terrified that the headmistress, Miss Leahy, would find out that she smoked, as this would have been an automatic demotion at the very least. Apparently this was never discovered.

Her strongest memory of the school was that the two qualities that it reinforced in her life as of utmost importance were honesty and fairness. Everything else in life was negotiable. Those two were not.





SIGRID ADAMS 1925

With thanks to Peter Austin who donated photos and a book entitled The Oxford Book of English Verse presented in 1923 and signed by Headmistress Miss Leahy.

Sigrid and her sister Margaret were born in Warlingham

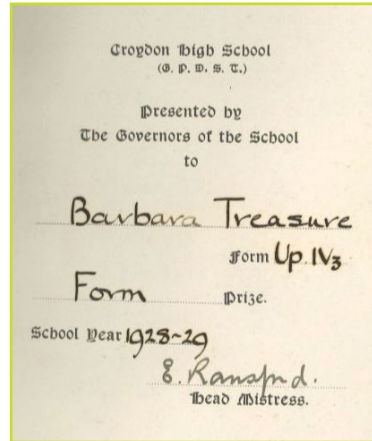
of an English father and Swedish mother. Her earliest historical memory was that of being told that the Titanic had sunk. She also remembered arriving at School in July 1916 to find that every other girl seemed to be wearing a black armband, having lost a relative in the battle of the Somme.

She was of course Swedish English bilingual, but found she had a talent for languages. Her parents divorced in the early 20's and she went to live with a French family for 8 months, adding French to her canon. Her mother, meanwhile, had taken Margaret and her brother Geoffrey back to Sweden. Margaret joined the British embassy in Stockholm, and had a long career there.

Frank and Sigrid had four children and settled in Cambridgeshire. Sigrid worked for many years fundraising for the NSPCC, and was an addict of the Times crossword. Even in her 80s she and Frank studied with the University of the 3rd age (U3A).

Sigrid's best friend at school was Mary Epps. She was a talented artist and lived in Kenya for many years before retiring to South Africa. My sister has some personal memorabilia of Mary that she would like to give to any Epps relative, should you by any wild chance have any contact details.

BARBARA TREASURE 1932



With thanks to Barbara's niece, Diana Barnard, who donated a hat pin plus a book entitled A History of English Literature presented in 1929 and signed by Headmistress Miss Ransford.

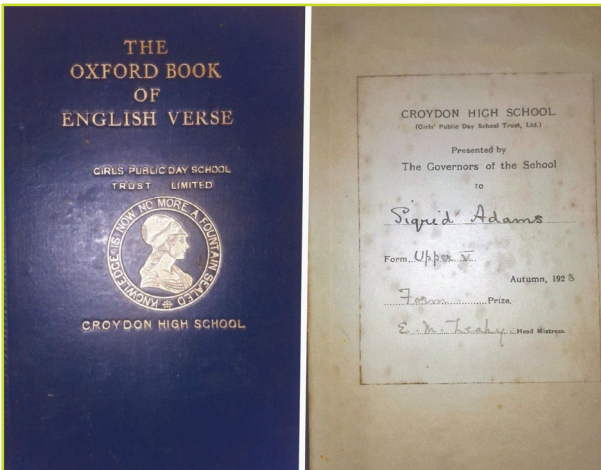
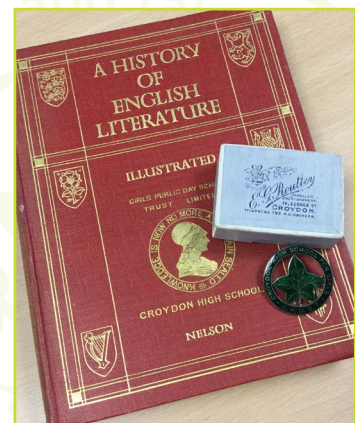
We think my Aunt Barbara Treasure left the school in 1932.

It seems she must have gone to a secretarial college and then did some kind of office work. She was married in 1939 and during the war we know she worked in (London Fire watching) during this time.

After the war she went to work for the GPO (now BT) as a shorthand typist and progressed to PA then to an Area Manager. We do know that she kept in touch with 3 of her school friends, in particular, Nora Brough who was a lifelong close friend. In later years Barbara moved to North Norfolk to care for her mother who lived to 104. Barbara died in 2001 aged 86.

My mother, Patricia Hawkins, also attended Croydon High from 1937 to 1949. She went to St James Secretarial College and went on to be Secretary to a Contract Manager at Costain Civil Engineers in Dolphin Square, London. She married my father Peter Treasure (brother to Barbara) in 1952, and in 1958 they went to live in Nigeria for about 4 years before returning to this country.

They remained living in Sanderstead until 1972, finally also moving to Norfolk.



Sigrid became a secretary at the Bank of International Settlements in Basel, and enjoyed skiing in Wengen at weekends. In those days you had to walk up the slopes with skins on your skis, so they usually managed 2 runs a day. She became fluent in German, and conversations amongst the bank staff were conducted in whatever language suited the group. In 1936 she was on a trip to England when she met her future husband, Frank Austin, at a party. After getting married in 1937, they came into a small legacy of £1000.

They decided to spend it on a honeymoon, travelling round the world over the course of a year. They took a train through the Balkans, sailed by ship though Suez to Colombo (Sri Lanka), then Bali, China (under Japanese occupation), Japan, and then crossed the USA in a model T Ford. Cine film of their adventure is now with the National Film Archive.

IN SEARCH OF DORINDA!

I don't think there is an Ivy Link magazine without some mention of our wonderful Dorinda Neligan, leading nurse in the Franco Prussian War, Croydon High's first Headmistress, and, in retirement, an inspiring suffragette.

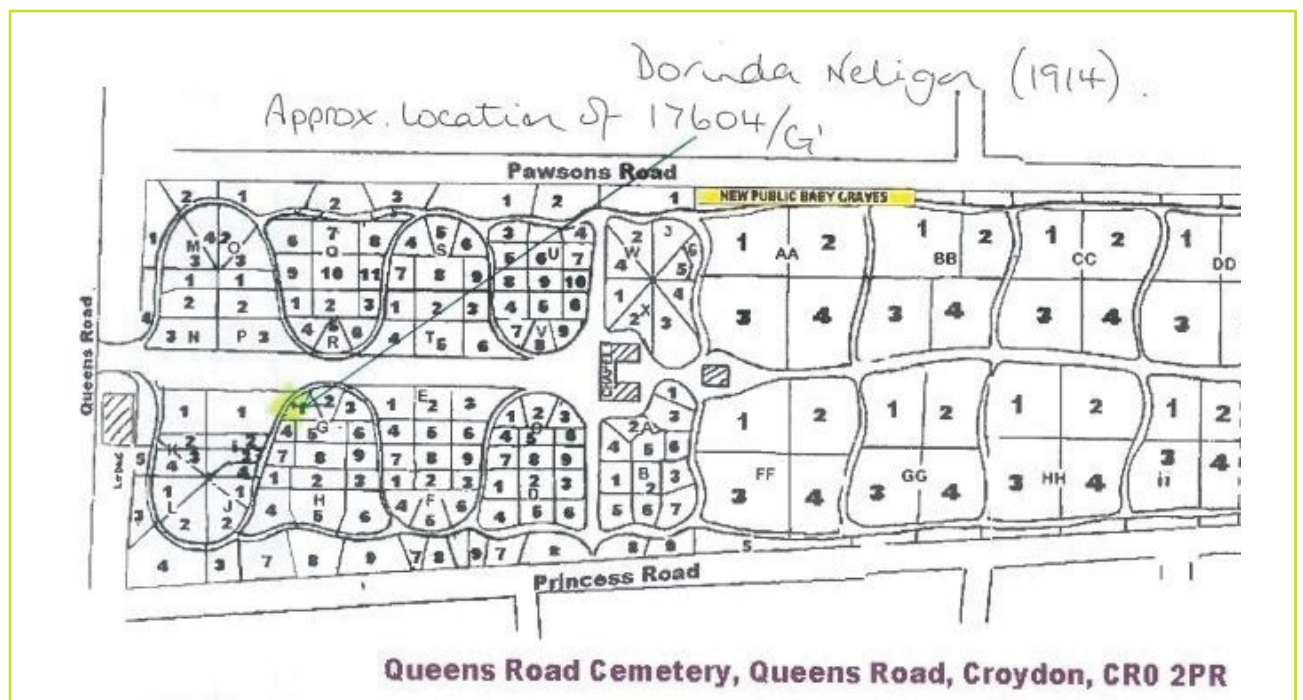
I made a journey on a sunny day in July 2019 to Queen's Road Cemetery in Croydon. It was the 105th anniversary of Dorinda's death (17th July 1914). Although she was cremated at Golder's Green, her ashes are buried in Croydon. I entered the cemetery via Queens Road with a map showing her resting place in one hand, and flowers in the other.

While there is sadly no gravestone, it didn't take long to find. There happened to be one of the cemetery gardeners across the way who came to see if he could uncover a buried stone beneath the grass, but to no avail.

We have since discovered in the National Archives online catalogue, that her grave, with many others, was cleared in 1960.

I took a moment to think about all she had accomplished and how proud she would be of today's school with her legacy living on. We are very thankful that a memorial was unveiled in the Croydon Parish Church (now Minster) by the Bishop of Croydon on 25th June 1915.

We take great pride in honouring Dorinda by laying a wreath at our annual Carol Services that now takes place at the Minster.



ANOTHER DISCOVERY ~ FROM INDIA TO CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL

Near the Pawsons Road entrance to Queen's Road Cemetery is another tombstone with links to Croydon High School and Dorinda Neligan.

All four daughters of W.C. and H. Bonnerjee were born in India and attended Croydon High School, though only Susila is mentioned on this memorial.

W.C. Bonnerjee was one of the founder members and the first President of the Indian National Congress in 1885. Born and raised in Kolkata, he studied law in England and returned to India where he spent most of his life as a barrister of the High Court. He was determined that his daughters, as well as his sons, should be educated in England and he sent his four oldest children there between 1874 and 1882, as each one came of school age.

His wife Hemangini and their youngest four children came to Croydon in 1888. The family soon moved to 8 Bedford Park which they renamed 'Kidderpore' after the area in which they lived in India. W.C. Bonnerjee continued to practise law in Kolkata, visiting his family in Croydon each autumn until finally settling here in 1902.

Kidderpore was a three storey, ten-bedroom house situated on a triangular shaped one-acre plot of land containing extensive gardens and stables. Unfortunately, today it is the site of an office building. The house was only a few minutes' walk from the original location of Croydon High School on Wellesley Road near Sydenham Road.

Nellie (b 1871) and Susie (b 1872) appear to have attended Croydon High School from the age of thirteen and Millie (b 1881) and Agnes (b 1886) started when they were about six or seven. The Croydon High School 1874-1924 Register reported that all four sisters went on to study at Cambridge and two qualified to practise medicine. This was a remarkable achievement for women in the early 1900s.

The Bonnerjee family had a close connection with Dorinda Neligan and her sister Annie as recorded by Agnes in her memoir. 'Miss Neligan...was one of the main influences of our lives throughout our Croydon days.

She and my father were great friends, as they thought alike about politics.... Irish and Indian political problems had much in common in those days and there used to be great discussions on all sorts of interesting topics whenever Miss Neligan came to see us.' Agnes also wrote 'My father admired her greatly. As has been said, he was always a great advocate of 'Women's Rights'.

When Dorinda Neligan retired as Headmistress in 1901, she and Annie stayed with the Bonnerjees at Kidderpore before moving nearby to Oakwood House, 5 Sydenham Road.

The Neligan sisters also went on holiday to Cornwall with the Bonnerjee family in 1903. And Mrs Bonnerjee and her family stayed with the Neligan sisters after Kidderpore was sold in 1908 before their return to India.

As can be seen on the Queen's Road Cemetery memorial, Susie died in 1920 in Lahore. Interestingly, a recently discovered photograph in the Women's Library archive at the LSE revealed that she was involved in the suffrage movement and served as secretary of the Ealing Branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage for several years.

Perhaps Susie was inspired by both her father and her Headmistress at Croydon High School!

Most of the above information is from 'Family History' written in 1935 by the youngest daughter, Janaki 'Agnes' Penelope Majumdar (nee Bonnerjee) and edited by Antoinette Burton.



Agnes Bonnerjee top row third from left

Bursaries – a gift that can change everything



Mrs Sam Davies
Head of Philanthropy, GDST
Portsmouth High School,
Class of 1997
s.davies@wes.gdst.net

I have a confession to make – I am not a Croydon High alumna and so am very much gate crashing your lovely magazine. I am, however, a fellow GDST girl, having attended Portsmouth High School from 1987 to 1994 and so I hope you can forgive me for turning up announced.

Today, I lead the GDST's efforts to raise philanthropic support so that greater numbers of girls and young women can access an outstanding educational experience through our needs-based bursary programme.

Back in 1987, I was living on a council estate in Portsmouth with my mum – a single parent – and my two younger brothers and a younger sister. I was given an extraordinary opportunity when I was awarded a full bursary to attend Portsmouth High School – I see that one action as the pivotal moment that changed my life and helped shape my future. And it is what I want for others like me – giving the opportunity to as many girls as possible (whatever their family circumstances) to transform their futures. This is exactly why I chose a career in educational fundraising.

The GDST has always been at the forefront of educating girls and championing opportunities for women. We stand up for all girls, everywhere, and our girls come from every walk of life. Access matters to us. Since 1998, the GDST has given means-tested bursary assistance to nearly 6,000 pupils.

In 2018-19 alone, almost 1,200 pupils were supported. This represents 11% of the students in our fee-paying senior schools, with one in four of our recipients receiving full bursaries. But we want to do more. And in the world we find ourselves in today, such opportunities are even more crucial – the pandemic has greatly exposed inequalities and research is showing that the social mobility gap has been negatively impacted.

In the run-up to 2022-23 (which marks 150 years of the GDST), we've made it our goal to significantly grow our bursary fund, so that more girls than ever can have the chance of a GDST education.

We're calling this campaign Help Girls Learn Without Limits. So, if you want to join us, and help us to open more doors in the future to many more gifted girls from less affluent circumstances, we would love to hear from you.

Book Corner



Jean Ure's 1989 novel *Plague* – eerily prescient of what the world is facing in 2020

Alumna Jean Ure, a 'Surrey Girl' who attended Croydon High from 1949-1956, once described herself as 'a bit of an oddball and quite vehemently anti-establishment'. This goes some way to explain why she ran away from school at the

age of 16; her first book (*Dance for Two*) had been published, and she feared that the classroom walls would be too restrictive for her creative spirit. After dabbling in a variety of jobs she went to drama school to escape the mundaneness of earning a living, and to have a little fun. And fun she found; she married a fellow drama student, took on some translation work in Paris for DATO and UNESCO, and continued to write with a passion.

Jean has written over 170 children's books, including *Plague 99* (renamed *Plague*) which won the Lancashire Book Award. The 1989 novel *Plague*, which tells the story of a pandemic that closes down London, is eerily prescient of what the world is facing in 2020. Jean's speciality is books for young female teens that deal with real issues like friendship, peer pressure and family problems.

Her most recent series is *Dance Trilogy*, perhaps harking back to Jean's childhood desire to be a ballet dancer (though this never overcame her ambition to write!). Her novels, which are boldly humorous and never sentimental, are popular with our Year 7s and 8s. In the Covid-19 era girls have been reading Jean's novels online.

Jean's 'anti-establishment' nature has revealed itself in her passion for the environment and animal rights, which begins at home (she is a vegan, and she offers a refuge to numerous rescue dogs and cats) and extends to wider society; she is an ardent supporter of campaigns such as Ban Live Exports; this particular campaign raises public awareness of the cruel practice of transporting live animals long distances.

We are proud to have an 'oddball' in our ranks, if an 'oddball' is someone who has confidence in herself, values 'difference', stands up for her beliefs at personal cost, nurtures her creativity and uses her gifts to the full.

O B I T U A R I E S

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



BRIDGET PELLOW (KNOTT) 1957 PASSED AWAY OCTOBER 2019

We all first met in September 1948 when we started in The Homestead, a junior section of Croydon High School. We all quickly became close friends with a favourite break time entertainment being “truth, dare or promise”. When the time came for us to move to the Senior School, Bridget’s father, a naval officer, was posted to Wellington, New Zealand for 3 years. Much to our parents’ great surprise we did manage to write regular letters, so we learned about life on the other side of the world and Bridget kept in touch with the happenings at Croydon High. On her, and her sister Rosemary’s (1955), return to Croydon High our friendship resumed as before. As well as school involvements we were also all enthusiastic members of East Croydon Lawn Tennis Club. After leaving the sixth form in 1957 Angela and Bridget started physiotherapy training, Bridget at Middlesex Hospital, and Ann trained to be a physical education teacher. During these years we met up quite regularly but after we all got married and had children we settled in different parts of the country so meetings became less frequent. However, telephone calls and more recently e-mails kept us in touch! Over the years we managed to attend each other’s special occasions as well as Old Croydonian/Ivy Link gatherings. We will miss her friendship.

With thanks to Angela Warren (Curtis) 1957 and Ann Stranack (Wagstaff) 1957.



from left to right – Rosemary Harvey (Jenkin) 1958, Ann Stranack (Wagstaff) 1957, Bridget Pellow (Knott) 1957, Jean Noble 1956, Angela Warren (Curtis) 1957 taken in late 1980s

EDNA RILEY (WEST) 1943 PASSED AWAY APRIL 2020



Edna kneeling far right second row

Edna entered the Civil Service after leaving school, worked at the War Office for two years, then joined the women’s Land Army. Marriage to a market gardener, a move to Gloucestershire and the birth of two children changed her life completely. Edna received a small grant to go to the local College of Education. After 3 years, she gained her teaching certificate, staying for another year for the BEd degree. She taught for 17 years, first as a classroom teacher, then a Deputy Head and for the final five years as an advisory teacher for Primary Science. After retirement, Edna sat for O’ Level Geology achieving an A grade then took two OU courses. She ran a wildlife watch group until she was 70, volunteered for the Gloucester Wildlife Trust, serving on their Education Committee and became a Town Councillor. At 87, she began learning Latin. A few years ago she told us “I like to think that the grounding of service to the community encouraged at Croydon High was influential in my later years. I also hope girls will appreciate that learning need never stop.”

Edna’s son Tim writes... She always had good memories of Croydon High and as a Scholarship Girl I think she made good use of her award and her education proved to be a great investment in doing exactly what it was meant to do in allowing her to go much further in life than she might have done otherwise.



HILARY MURPHY (KETLEY) 1965 PASSED AWAY JUNE 2020

Hilary was born in 1947. She started at Croydon High School in the Elms and continued through the Homestead and senior school in Wellesley Road before leaving in 1965.

The family lived in Sanderstead and then moved to South Croydon. Her much older sister Judith also attended the School.

She went to Durham University to read Geography and loved those 3 years. At Durham she became engaged to John, also a geographer, and they were married in 1970. She worked in London for the Countryside Commission, then in Cambridge. Their family consists of 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren. John worked as a teacher/housemaster/headmaster in boarding schools in Hertfordshire, Somerset, Cornwall and Hampshire. Hilary had a number of roles in some of those schools. From 1999 to 2007 she was registrar/head's PA at a prep school in Lymington. When John retired they moved to Bournemouth. One of her hobbies was quilt-making and she loved gardening.

She was a good friend to us during our schooldays and we have fond memories of her during those years. We kept in touch after we left school. One such occasion was a Youth Hostelling holiday in Yorkshire whilst we were all at University. She was able to come to the 2015 re-union lunch at Croydon High and meet a number of old school friends on that occasion.

With thanks to Frances Taylor and Susan Evans-Roberts (Moffitt) 1965.



**JENNIFER ANN
TILY (GROSS) 1957
PASSED AWAY
DECEMBER 2019**

Our friendship which spanned seven decades started in 1943 when as nervous five year olds we started our first schooling at Benson Infants in Shirley.

We travelled up the school together and both won scholarships to Croydon High School.

Once again we travelled up the school together until we were separated-she choosing to study arts while I chose sciences. After a while she realised she would be better off on the science side, so managed to catch up on the subjects in very short order.

Jen went on to take A-levels and gained a place at Kings college London to study maths. Here she met her future husband Chris who decided to join the RAF as an education officer. Our lives continued on similar lines as my husband was also a pilot in the RAF.

We both had our first babies in 1965. A few years later Chris decided to leave the RAF and setup his own business in computers. This meant they were living in Stamford, where her two boys went to school and she worked as a maths teacher in the sister school, Stamford Girls' High.

There was a third member in this friendship, and it was with great sadness to us both when Joan Hamer died of cancer aged 58. Jan's

main interests were reflected in the crowded church at her funeral. She played golf, bridge and was a staunch member of her church.

I will always remember Jen as a cheerful giggly friend, and feel privileged to have had such a good pal for 76 years. Dear Jen you will be missed! **With thanks to Fleur Danton (Campion) 1957.**

**JOAN ANGUS - JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER
1964-1985 PASSED AWAY MAY 2019**

Both Monica and I knew Joan from the 1970s when we all taught in the Junior School. Joan, who trained at Homerton College, Cambridge had, before coming to Croydon High, been Headmistress of a secondary Girls' School in Penge-not an easy task. She loved the teaching aspect of the job so would have, quite willingly, I'm sure, relinquished running the secondary school to be able to return to what she enjoyed most -interacting with the girls at a closer level. As well as being a form mistress Joan undertook with relish the teaching of French to the J3 and 4 girls and to younger forms in the Senior School.

She always took great interest in the J4 girls' progress through the Senior School and beyond as they began higher education and started their careers. She continued, after retirement, to support the school by contributing to the Bursary Fund.

Joan enjoyed a long retirement living for thirty years in Kent, where she was born. She took great pride in her daughter, Wendy (Alumna of Croydon High) - in her family life and career and the lives and successes of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joan had many interests: gardening, travel, WI membership and working for Oxfam in the Tunbridge Wells shop. She was also a good correspondent, writing to me regularly as we exchanged news, often, from her, about former colleagues at Croydon High.

Joan lived a full life and gave of her abilities, time and care to family, friends, and organisations. We and they will miss her greatly.

With thanks to Monica Harris and Ella Jones (Briggs) -former Junior School Staff.

**JOHN EWING - SENIOR SCHOOL HEAD OF ART
1976-1990 PASSED AWAY DECEMBER 2019**

John's son Tom writes... He had been a painter and a teacher all his life. After retirement, he carried on painting for another 28 years until the year before he died at the age of 90. He leaves a wife, son and 6 grandchildren. A former colleague remembers... He always had a great sense of humour, perhaps that's what kept him going!

John's painting of the Croydon High School in the snow still hangs in the staff room for all to enjoy.



JUDITH COMBES (AXFORD) 1958 PASSED AWAY JANUARY 2020



It is probably unusual for the spouse to be asked to write the obituary, and inevitably it will be more like a tribute, but in part it will be a tribute to Croydon High School, and Miss Adams, her ethos and teaching, which guided Judith throughout life. Such was her popularity at school that I became acquainted with several Croydon High School Alumnae over the years who became close friends.

Judith was both an academic and a competitive games player, the pinnacle of which was Captain of the 1st X1 Hockey team. She was a school prefect, gained a Croydon Major Scholarship, and won the Zoology prize.



Hockey team captain – centre front row

We met when she went to the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, prior to studying clinical Dentistry at the Royal Dental Hospital. She qualified with Honours, gaining her BDS in 1963. We married in October 1964.

After a period of general dentistry, we decided to do a postgraduate diploma in Orthodontics, and then specialise. Our first two children came in quick succession, and Judith soon went back to work and but for the fact that she had a suspected epileptic fit some eight years later, that is how it would have remained. However, with great good fortune the family was completed with our daughter.

On retirement she trained to be a Case Worker for SSAFA, the Forces charity, helping former retired people from the Army, Navy and Air Force who were in need of counsel and funds from various charities.

We had spent many happy months each year abroad, and being green fingered she enjoyed our gardens in both Somerset and southern France.

Judith was amazingly fit and agile until late in 2018 when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. In her last year she even found the energy to knit cardigans for premature babies, and play with our younger grandchildren.

She counted her blessings, and if ever a person deserved to live to pass on her knowledge, wit and wisdom to all of her grandchildren, it was Judith.

With thanks to Trevor Combes.

MADELEINE MALE SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHER OF FRENCH CONVERSATION 1964-1994 PASSED AWAY APRIL 2020



Madeleine Male was taken to St Helier Hospital with coronavirus in April of this year where she sadly passed away. Her husband, Derrick, also died a few days later of the same virus.

Madeleine was bought up in Fougères, in Brittany, so was in France for the Nazi occupation, which must have been a grim experience. The

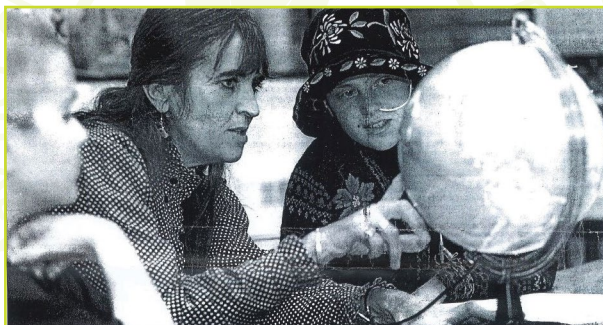
best story about the two of them is that they met as students on a cross-channel ferry, when Derrick was returning from a period of study in France, and Madeleine was coming to England to work with a family! And the rest was history! The lady Madeleine worked for was very concerned that this girl had acquired a boy-friend so very quickly.

They were both very musical. Madeleine played the viola, and they had a grand piano at home. They were regular visitors to Covent garden, Glyndebourne and the Proms, and were very knowledgeable about the world of music. Madeleine was also very skilled at embroidery.

Madeleine and Derrick's son adds... They moved to Wallington in 1958 and I lived in the same wonderful house for over 60 years. Dad continued to going to play the organ until the beginning of this year, mum was a great collector of swans, loyal friends and, latterly, great grandchildren (eight). They loved going to classical music concerts and were upset that they were unable to go to Covent Garden on 1st April due to lockdown. On his retirement from teaching Dad and Mum bought a flat in St Malo France which they went to very often for 26 years.

**With thanks to Anne Mathews (Wilcock) 1954 Senior School
Head of Classics 1973-1987.**

MARGARET CSILLAG (JACKSON) 1956 PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 2020



Margaret Csillag, co-ordinator of tuition at the Royal Marsden Hospital's children's unit, teaching geography to William and Fleur

Biochemist who brings the classroom into hospital

Yes, I want to help
 I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to the Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Clinic) for £.....
 Or, please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Amex / Debit Card

The Times Newspaper December 1995

Margaret was born in South Croydon. Unusually she was born with 4 kidneys – something she was always very proud of! In her early life she was evacuated to Newport in Wales with her grand-mother during the War.

Margaret gained a scholarship at Croydon High where she excelled. The school remained close to her heart throughout her life and she regularly attended reunions.

Her education continued at Queen Mary's College, University of London where she gained a degree in Zoology. Margaret started her first job in April 1960 with the Royal Marsden Hospital as a Biochemist. She was more likely to tell people about transporting live mice across London in her pocket for tests rather than helping to pioneer kidney transplantation!



Margaret at the 2018 Summer Lunch first left opposite her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Csillag (Burton) 1993

Margaret travelled to Bermuda to teach A levels where she also cared for toddlers who had lost their mother. Her travels took her to Montreal in 1966 to visit relatives where she worked again as a Biochemist. She married Gabor on a fishing boat in Cape Cod the same year. The family settled back in the UK in 1970 in Wallington with Margaret becoming a full time mum to Nicholas and Andrea.

Margaret returned to teaching including the one-to-one tuition of those who had been expelled from school. She was passionate about

helping these troubled teenagers.

Returning to the Royal Marsden she established a unit to meet the educational needs of children suffering with cancer. Margaret's teaching story there was featured in an article in the Times and she was also pictured in OK! Magazine.

Margaret always had a sense of adventure which started as a teenager with trips to Yugoslavia organised by Croydon High to visit a similar aged girl. They became close friends which lasted throughout their lives.

Margaret and Gabor moved to a village in East Sussex where they were able to enjoy a wonderful garden and peaceful existence. Margaret became quickly involved in local charities.

We are all aware of Margaret's long and brave battle against cancer. Her continued interest in others, optimism to the end and lack of complaining throughout was something truly special.

With thanks to Nicholas Csillag.

ROSEMARY FEW HILL (BANNISTER) 1950 PASSED AWAY JUNE 2020



Rosemary attended St David's School in Purley and was evacuated with half the school to Upton Wold in Gloucestershire. She returned just before the end of the war to attend Croydon High School, and was in St James' Park to witness V.E Day in 1945. Already learning piano, she took up the clarinet at Croydon High School. At 17, she took up a full Exhibition to the Royal College of Music where she studied with the foremost clarinettist of the day, Frederick Thurston.

After graduating, Rosemary joined the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra at the express invitation of assistant conductor Norman Del Mar. Within a year the YSO was under threat of closure from the local authority and Rosemary, together with horn-playing partner Raymond Few, suddenly had to consider other options. By 1955 they were married, enjoying an extended working honeymoon as members of the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra. On returning to the UK Rosemary freelanced with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra before being offered a position with the Festival Ballet and Ballet Rambert. The couple later set sail (with their car – and newly born daughter Debbie) to Wellington, where Rosemary played with the New Zealand Broadcasting Company Symphony Orchestra.

Returning home in 1964 she played for ballet companies in London, and the now growing family moved to Redhill. Rosemary began teaching at several schools including Croydon High. (She noted that the food was a lot better than when she had been a pupil!) From 1979, she was a long serving member of the music staff at Reigate Grammar. She was later appointed woodwind secretary for the Reigate & Redhill Music Festival. By then her three children had no choice but to be enrolled in each year's festival! Rosemary continued to perform, playing at each summer's Holland Park Opera Festival, and on moving back to Reigate joined the Crawley Millennium Concert Band and later the Band of the Surrey Yeomanry. After Ray's death, she had a happy second marriage to Robert Hill. She lived for music and was a talented, all-round musician. She died suddenly and tragically and will be sadly missed by her family, friends, neighbours and former pupils.

Rosemary is survived by her three children, Debbie, Richard and Jonathan.

With thanks to Debbie Thackeray.

SHEILA BULL 1965 PASSED AWAY DECEMBER

2019



Sheila grew up in Carshalton Beeches, and won a scholarship to attend Croydon High School. At age eleven she was already an accomplished pianist. She continued her musical studies, taking up the viola as a second instrument and playing in the

school orchestra. She studied music at Leeds University. After finishing her degree, she was advised that, as a musician, she could have a career in teaching or in the armed forces. Neither appealed, so she took a job in Harrods.

While working there, she became interested in advertising and signed up for the Watford Advertising Copywriting Course. This helped her gain her first job as a trainee copywriter at Young and Rubicam, a well-respected international agency. In her first year they took her to a conference in Venice which kindled her taste for Italy and for drinking Negroni.

It was there that she first met her lifetime partner, John Foster, with whom she shared forty-five happy years. They enjoyed trips to Italy and more recently to Cape Town.



She worked for several other agencies, before going freelance in the later years of her career. Sheila lived in West Hampstead and for over forty years took an active role in the West Hampstead Amenities and Transport group, as minutes secretary and as the author of a book on the history of its contribution to the community.

We became firm friends in our first year at Croydon High School but drifted apart during our university years. Happily, we reconnected through the website Friends Reunited, and met in London whenever I was able to visit the UK. Our last meeting was when we attended the Croydon High School alumnae lunch in 2018.

With thanks to Barbara Beaumont 1965.

**VIVIENNE BLACKBURN SENIOR SCHOOL
TEACHER OF MFL 1958-1962 PASSED AWAY
APRIL 2020**

Teacher, a trainer and an inspector of schools, Vivienne was born in Blyth, Northumberland. She attended Central Newcastle High



School and then went to Oxford University to study German and French, graduating in 1952.

Vivienne's mother died while she was at Oxford, and after graduation she elected to take a PGCE course at Newcastle University while staying at

home with her sister, Marjorie, who was eight years younger. She then taught modern languages at her own former school, Central Newcastle, for five years. In 1958 she moved to Croydon High School and in 1962 she went into the training of teachers at Stockwell College of Education, Bromley.

In 1985 Vivienne was seconded to the European Community in Brussels, charged with preparing a report, with a French colleague, on European teacher training. She visited all 12 countries. Vivienne's command of French combined with her wisdom and modesty won the respect of her European colleagues. HMIs who worked with Vivienne found her to be quietly efficient, unfailingly courteous and kind, perceptive and sound in judgment and, at the same time, a woman whose conversation was filled with infectious chuckles and a good deal of laughter.

After her retirement from the inspectorate in 1990 she completed a PhD in theology and this formed the basis of her book, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Simone Weil: A Study in Christian Responsiveness*, published in 2004. It was typical of Vivienne to take on not one but two challenging thinkers, one German and the other French.

Vivienne's lifelong commitment was to the importance of academically robust and professional training for all.

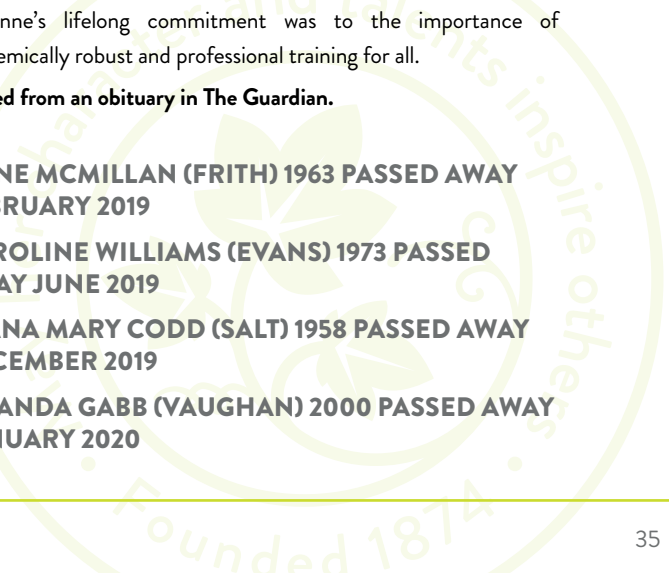
Edited from an obituary in The Guardian.

**ANNE MCMILLAN (FRITH) 1963 PASSED AWAY
FEBRUARY 2019**

**CAROLINE WILLIAMS (EVANS) 1973 PASSED
AWAY JUNE 2019**

**DIANA MARY CODD (SALT) 1958 PASSED AWAY
DECEMBER 2019**

**AMANDA GABB (VAUGHAN) 2000 PASSED AWAY
JANUARY 2020**





Future Ivy Linkers create digital rainbows for the NHS



Croydon High School, Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, South Croydon CR2 8YB
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!