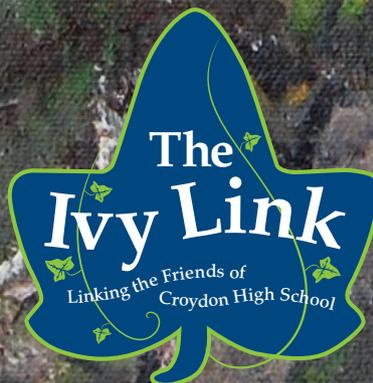

The Ivy Link Magazine 2012

One generation plants the trees;
another gets the shade.

Chinese Proverb



Dear Friends and Alumnae,



It gives me great pleasure to be writing to you all, in this the first issue of *The Ivy Link* magazine. It marks the end of the first year of this newly named association, which has brought together members of the Old Croydonians Old Girls Association and other alumnae as well as ex-staff, parents and anyone else associated with our school over its long and happy history.

It has been a busy year for everyone at Croydon High, as every school year tends to be, but I can certainly say that one of the highlights has been the renewal of relationships with so many of our 'old girls'. I have been delighted to meet you at a number of school events and to hear from you by post and email, often with offers to help or be involved in school life again in a variety of ways.

It is with this in mind, that we chose the artwork for the front cover of our magazine. The beautiful painting was produced by one of our Year 11 girls, Lorna Cook, as part of her GCSE assessment.

We felt both the tree and the Chinese proverb perfectly represented the importance of deep roots, growth and the aspiration to benefit future generations which so many of you share.

Despite having been here for only just over two years, I believe that there is something very special about this school community. As I said at the annual lunch last June, I know Croydon High is already in your blood and I can already feel it seeping in to mine.

I am extremely proud to be Head of this school with its long and impressive history and I look forward to the future with optimism and the belief that we will continue the traditions of excellence that you have all been a part of.

Thank you for your support this year and I hope to have the opportunity to meet many more of you in the year ahead.

With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy summer.

Debbie Leonard



Dear Ivy Linkers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Ivy Link.

It has been such a pleasure to be in touch with so many of you over the last year and to hear your fascinating stories, both of your lives now and your memories of life at Croydon High.



It simply would not have been possible to have started the Ivy Link without the wholehearted and generous support of Mary Knight and fellow committee members of the Old Croydonians.

Mary, in particular, has been a regular advisor and sounding board and we have come to the conclusion that there is very little she does not know about Croydon High!

Our facebook and Twitter pages have generated a good deal of interest and this has been a really valuable way of receiving instant feedback from those of you who use social media.

Please do continue to keep in touch, to send news of your reunions and other important events and I look forward to meeting and hearing from more of you in the year ahead.

With very best wishes,

Karen Roe, Ivy Link Co-ordinator

Congratulations to alumnae Susan Ma and Dr Patricia Hamilton, who against a very strong field of candidates, were nominated for the GDST Alumnae of the Year award. The winner will be announced at the Annual Reception for the GDST, which is after we go to press, but whatever the result we are extremely proud that they have been recognised in this way.

CROYDON HIGH LINKS THE PAST AND PRESENT

Sally Nicholas (Class of 1953) let us know that her friend Prue Sizeland's (Morgan Class of 1953) mother, Mrs Norman, (a Croydon High alumna of the 19320's) would be celebrating her 100th birthday on 2 April 2012.

Such a wonderful milestone could not go unmarked and we understand that Prue's mother was delighted by the bouquet of flowers sent on behalf of all of us now at Croydon High.

In a lovely thank you letter, Prue shared another story of the extraordinary links in the Croydon High family. She wrote: "Presumably my mother is one of the oldest of the Croydon High School ex pupils still alive, and in that respect, you might be interested in the following story which happened to me at a recent dinner party in Chichester."

Mrs Sizeland was telling another guest, Annie Arnold, that she had just moved her mother down from Croydon and Annie replied that she knew a little about Croydon as her mum had been to Croydon High School. On hearing that Prue and her mother were also alumnae, Annie Arnold asked: "What was your maiden name?" "Morgan" Prue replied.

"How extraordinary!" said Annie "So was my mother's ...she was Enid Morgan".

After some clever research of the family history by Annie's husband, it was discovered that her mother Enid had actually been at Prue's parents' wedding in Sanderstead and that they were actually long-lost first cousins who had no knowledge of each other's existence! This was because their fathers had

been estranged during World War II. Prue's father was posted abroad with the RAF for most of it and Annie's poor father was killed by a bomb outside the Shirley Poppy in Croydon on 22nd October 1940 whilst on Metropolitan Police Reserve duty.

We also learned that Prue (with her pregnant mother) went to Canada right at the beginning of the war, as her father was so concerned about their safety. They knew no one there and were only allowed to take £25 with them! Her mother gave birth to Prue's brother, in Canada, on the 22nd October 1940, the very same day as the baby's uncle (Annie's father) was killed in England. What a sad and remarkable co-incidence.

Annie and Prue now live only a few miles apart in Chichester and she tells us that it's been the most wonderful experience finding each other. They are first cousins once removed. Annie's mother, Enid (now Plant), was also at Croydon High School... probably in the 1940s.



YOU HAVE HAD THE REUNION...NOW WRITE THE BOOK!

For those of you who have ever said, "We should write a book about this..." please take inspiration from Margett McConnell (Beale) Catherine (Kate) Madinaveitia (Templeton) and their peers, who have actually done just that. At a small reunion in 2006, the ladies began to plan for a bigger event to mark their 50th anniversary.

After much hard work to track down former school mates, 60 girls met for lunch on June 4th 2011 in the lovely garden of Margett's West Sussex home. More details of the reunion can be read in our Reunions feature, but what came about as a result of this gathering was a book of memories and stories

compiled and edited by Catherine Madinaveitia. The book is a fascinating account of their school life – even if you don't know the girls in question – and if you do, then it is wonderful to hear their stories of life after Croydon High.

Copies of the book, *Moving Swiftly On – the 50th reunion; life stories and memories of Croydon High girls 1947-1961*, are available from Catherine – nandcmadina@dslpipex.com – we hope that it may inspire more of you to consider doing something similar as a way of preserving those wonderful shared memories.

Girls who are going places...

In recent years, we have developed what you might call a catchphrase here at Croydon High: Girls who are going places, go to Croydon High.

It seems to have caught on and we feel our alumnae exemplify this idea magnificently. They have certainly Gone Places ... be it academically, geographically, in business, the arts, politics – it sometimes seems that in every sphere of life there is a Croydon High girl representing us!

There are so many stories we could include here, so forgive us for only featuring a few which we thought represent the huge variety of paths our girls have travelled. Please do keep sending news of where you are and what you are doing. We have another magazine to fill next year!

Dr Kim Barrett, Ph.D (Class of 1976) is Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of California in San Diego. Kim responded warmly to a recent email, saying she had such happy memories of her time at Croydon High that she would be happy to help if any girls were considering heading to the United States for college.

Kim is the recipient of the prestigious 2012 Bodil M. Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award and tells us that when she received the award she made prominent mention of three of her own key mentors from Croydon High days- Elsa Cameron, Ann Parkin and Gillian Ellis.

Her nomination for the 2012 Mentoring Award reads "Kim brings a great heart to all her endeavors through her passion for science... and most notably

to the countless individuals she has touched with her compassion and willingness to help, be they humble undergraduates or senior professors.

Her generosity is well known and was notably recognized by the San Diego Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA), who presented her with their prestigious "Heroes with Hearts" award in 2007 to acknowledge her many, often unheralded, services to the CCFA at both local and national level.

In addition to being an incredible role model for women in science, Kim has been selected as the President- Elect of the American Physiological Society and will become President in 2013.

Congratulations on your many achievements Kim; Croydon High is very proud of you.



Elizabeth McDowall started at the Homestead in 1953, entered the Senior School in 1955, and left in 1962.

She recalls that the first time she ever felt thrilled by writing was in the Homestead with her teacher

Miss Prout. Elizabeth remembers, "We had been on a school visit to the Tower of London, and had to write a story based on that visit. I felt totally inspired. Later, Miss Duncan was also a great inspiration. She was very patient with my old fashioned literary tastes."

Elizabeth's latest novel (published by Macmillan 1st March) is called *The Prince Who Walked with Lions*. The story is about the son of the Ethiopian emperor Theodore, who died during the British Abyssinia campaign in 1868. The little prince was only seven at the time, and was brought to Britain and more or less presented to Queen Victoria.

Elizabeth told us about another of her books

published by Frances Lincoln, entitled *Shahnameh, the Persian Book of Kings*. Elizabeth explains that this book ... "is a retelling of the great ancient Persian epic poem, lavishly illustrated by an Iranian artist, Shirin Adl and geared to 8-10 year old readers."

Both books should be available from bookshops (to order, if not in stock) and on Amazon. Elizabeth has written many other original novels (mainly for older children and young adults) including retellings of stories and her work has been translated into about 25 languages.

Ten years ago, Elizabeth travelled all over Ethiopia, to the remotest regions, to collect stories from Ethiopian storytellers. The aim of this was to produce readers in simplified English for Ethiopian schools. The stories are now all available to read online (and to listen to, in the voices of the storytellers in a variety of Ethiopian languages.)

The website is www.ethiopianfolktales.com



Sharmila Prabhu (Class of 1998) responded warmly to our request for alumnae to attend the February Careers Convention. "It's hard to believe that I left CHS over 25 years ago!"

With a degree in accountancy and post graduate qualifications in marketing, Sharmila joined Crown Agents, an international development company, seventeen years ago, "My travels have taken me to our offices across the world, in USA, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Europe and Russia. I was also based in Nairobi for two years, visiting and working in 11 African countries. Since Nairobi, I worked in Washington DC, USA, for a year. I have now been back for four years and am responsible for business development teams in 16 countries worldwide. If you were looking for a CHS girl who has "gone places", I certainly have the passport stamps to show for it!

Looking back, I was very fortunate to have a supportive and encouraging family that never let my gender determine my outlook. I believe my CHS friends have similar experiences – one's a civil engineer in Africa, another is a medical physicist in New Zealand, another is a biochemist and another a geophysicist. Some of these are now also juggling careers and families. At school, extracurricular

activities, such as cricket and DoE Awards (Gold Award Holder), were important for me, providing balance to the academic studies and broadening my outlook."

Any advice for the CHS girls of today? "A good education doesn't guarantee anything, but it has given me choices and opportunities. Experience is invaluable and as much as it's hard to acquire this, especially in today's economic climate, anything you can do will serve you well in the future. Also either learn from others or teach yourself the art of applying your knowledge and experience to the current context/job. In the business world, you'll find people respond more willingly and will engage and involve you more if you can contextualise than if you just quote the theory.

Any regrets regarding my time at CHS? I wish I was better at French and that I had taken History. When I was at school, I saw languages as being one dimensional, with little appreciation of just how much of the world and opportunities open up to you if you can speak the language. As for History, likewise - I only saw its relevance as an academic subject – not as the basis of much of the politics that surrounds us in the modern world, especially outside Europe. That and a passing knowledge of football would have helped (despite being more of a rugby and cricket person myself) – football is the language of Africa!"

Dr Janet Few (Braund) (Class of 1974) has just published 'Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors'; a social history of the Stuart era. At school, Janet studied A Level history with Miss Green, whom many Ivy Linkers of a similar vintage will remember.

Discover what our Jacobean ancestors would have worn, what they would have eaten and how they would have lived. There is a chapter on medical practices and one on the medicinal use of herbs, complete with handy 'cures' and recipes.

As Janet says, "Next time you catch plague or have a pain in the head, you will know where to turn!" Copies can be obtained from Janet - contact janettefew@hotmail.com though copies will eventually be available on Amazon.

Janet spends three days a week as an historical interpreter at the tourist attraction 'Torrington 1646', an entertaining and amusing insight into life at the time of the English Civil War, where she puts aspects of her book into practice. So if you are in the area – call in and say hello to Janet!



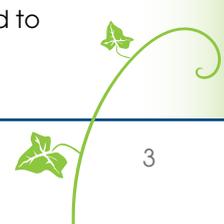
We were delighted to hear Susie Ma (Class of 2007), announce that she will be going into business with Sir Alan Sugar.

Susie had obviously impressed Sir Alan during her time on The Apprentice and despite her coming third overall, the business tycoon made no secret that Susie was someone he would like to work with in the future. Apparently it was Susie's tenacity that helped secure his support.

Lord Sugar said, "After The Apprentice final, I mentioned Susan as someone I'd be contacting in the future. Well, I did contact her and then she didn't leave me alone until I invested in her! She has impressive enthusiasm and work ethic as well as a fantastic product and I am confident in her ability to make a success of this venture."

Lord Sugar is investing in Susie's skincare company, Tropic, which she set up during her time in the Sixth Form here at Croydon High.

Good luck to Susie from us all – we look forward to continue watching her go places!



MEMORIES...OF THE WAY WE WERE!

In any community, it is shared memories that bind it together and this is particularly true of a school community. We have really enjoyed hearing those memories from you over the past year – whether in person or via letter or email. Here are some of them which we hope will prompt some more memories – please send them to us!

Gloria Parker (Sanson – class of 1947) called in to school with her husband Dennis and brought some very precious mementoes of her school days to share with us.

Gloria recalls, “When I was at Croydon High School in the centre of Croydon, I did a lot of classes in the Air Raid Shelter as there was a lot of heavy bombing due to the Airport being so close. I often travelled to school during a raid and we were not allowed to be late.

School uniform was very strict. We always had to have our hats on, no colours on our socks and of course give up our seats on the bus.

One year we were allowed to have a dance, but not permitted to ask any boys – we danced with each other!”



Gloria went on to travel extensively and told us fascinating stories of her years abroad and in particular of the time she met Sherpa Tenzing in India, just after his successful ascent of Everest with Sir Edmund Hillary. She

spent time at his home and saw the many gifts he had received following the climb and was even allowed to see the climbing equipment they used.

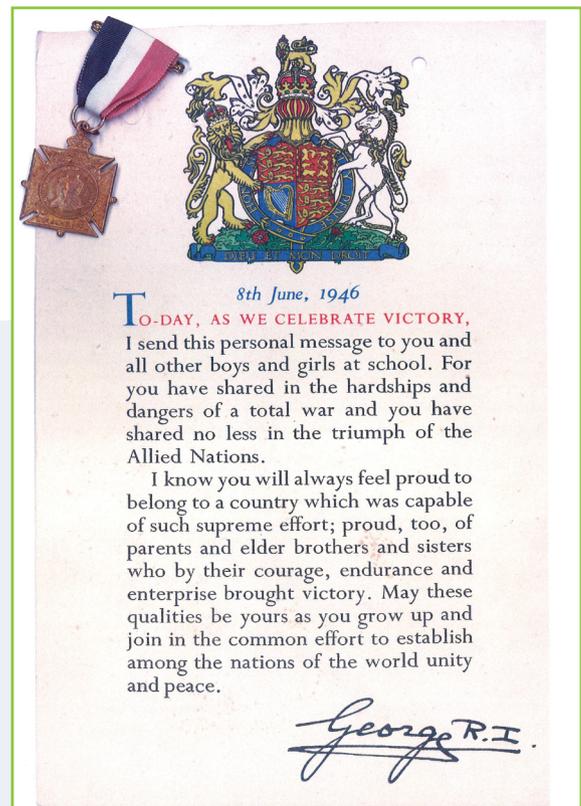
The War years obviously had a huge impact on the lives and education of many of our girls, but those we have talked to seem to have very positive memories of the time and how everyone just ‘got on with it’. Gloria brought in a very special card that every child had received from His Majesty King George, to mark the end of the war years.

Jane Harris (Denbin) taught at Croydon, but went to Streatham Hill and Clapham High School, as it was called then. She started school in 1947, without school uniform of course, because of the war. In

fact, she says, when her school uniform actually arrived she could hardly be persuaded to take it off!

She remembers the school shop was Daniel Neal in Portman Square

Blanche Wakeling (Wood – class of 1947) also shared some wonderful memories and reminded us that though some things change, many remain the same. The Trinity boys still cause a stir at Croydon High! Blanche said “I was at the school in Wellesley Road. Many of our lessons during the war years were held in the reinforced cloakrooms during air raids. It was an interrupted education and I always marvel at how well we coped and how well we did in our later careers. The Sixth Form had rooms at the top of the building - they were probably the bedrooms of the servants who lived in the house when it was privately owned. The building, of course, had been extended and changed many times once it became a school. I remember we used to open the windows and wave and shout to the boys of Whitgift Middle School (now Trinity) which was opposite us in Wellesley Road. Now the Whitgift centre occupies the site. Of course, we were spotted and received a good telling off but that did not deter us or future Sixth Formers!



SHARING GREAT MOMENTS IN HISTORY

In January of this year, we received an email from Christine Hogh (1958) telling us that she was going to be on the Radio 3 breakfast show in a programme entitled "Your Call". Christine told us that she would be talking about her memories of how Miss Adams broke the news of the King's death to the school on February 6th 1952.

This prompted us to think, in this special Jubilee year, about what other memories our alumnae share of the momentous historical events of the last sixty or seventy years? So we asked you...and you told us.

Anne Matthews (Class of 1955 who also taught at Croydon High between 1973 and 1987) was kind enough to share the transcript from her diary from the day the King died.

February 6, Wednesday

Scripture. Janet and I are more interested in our Greek Testaments than in the lesson! Latin. Do oratio obliqua again. About fifteen minutes after the beginning of the lesson, a message comes that we are all to go to the gym. We find that the gym is quickly filling up with Vths, Vths and Vths. Curiouser and curiouser! We decide that it must be something important, as it is only very rarely (if ever) that we are called out of lessons like this. It seems ages before Fanny comes. She says that there is sorrowful news for the whole nation. "Who?" we think, or "What?" We soon know. King George died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham this morning. We have a short prayer, and return to our lessons in a very subdued way. The King, dead. It seems unbelievable, but it is only too true. He had been very ill. The staff obviously knew already, as they all looked extremely serious.

Over dinner, we discussed the News. Elizabeth II – how strange it seems!

February 7, Thursday

Everything is still very subdued today. I meet Shirley and Margaret on the way to school. We are very quiet, which is unusual, knowing us. We discuss the various changes which will be caused by the King's death, and then lapse into silence again. After a

minute or two, I say, "Silence reigns. Most peculiar for us!" Shirley smiles and says she was just thinking what it must be like to be told that you are Queen of England. Rather an awe-inspiring thought, and we discuss Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Anne and Queen Victoria.

Heather Midwood (Class of 1961) contacted us on Facebook to say she also remembered the day very well. Heather wrote: "Sadly I wasn't able to listen to Christine's R3 talk, but I clearly remember that day when I was in The Elms. Miss Bolwell called all the classes into the Hall, and we sat in silence as she announced the news of the king's death in solemn tones. We then all had to sing "God be in my head" as it was his Majesty's favourite hymn! It seemed such a serious and gloom laden event to a 9 year old."

Fran Gillespie (Class of 1962) recalls how she joined The Homestead soon after the Coronation in 1952 and remembers how the school magazine of that year had accounts from the girls who had joined the crowds on the approach to Buckingham Palace. She also remembers what she calls 'a charming pencil drawing of the lion and the unicorn being spruced up for the big occasion'. We found the drawing (see back cover)!

Fran also remembers the Duchess of Gloucester visiting the school for its 80th birthday celebrations. She was chosen to present a bouquet and to make a little speech of welcome and recalls how one of the teachers gave her curtsying training beforehand! The letter from the Duchess is still proudly displayed at school today.

Christine Evans (Class of 1948) recalls..."On the Queen's Wedding day in November 1947, which had been declared a public holiday, those of us in VI (third year sixth) who were taking Oxbridge entrance exams had nevertheless to attend school.

I clearly remember our surprise at the end of a session to find some of the staff (in particular Miss Jackson our form mistress and Miss Smith, Head of French) in the VIth form common room (normally a no-go area for staff) making coffee to revive us – extremely welcome and revealing of another caring side of them not normally so apparent!"

FROM CROYDON TO BLOOMSBURY – THE JOURNEY TO PUBLICATION

Jane Rusbridge (Winchester – Class of 1975) has been an Associate Lecturer in English at the University of Chichester for the past ten years. As well as being a mother of five children, she is also a successful writer with Bloomsbury about to publish her second novel in August. She told us about her journey...

Here I am, aged about fourteen, in my Croydon High School uniform, shaking hands with the judge of the Rotary Club's Creative Writing competition. It's the early 70s. On the far right is Miss Leyland, Head of English. Hidden away in my blazer pocket is my prize-winning piece on 'The Responsibilities of Teenagers', written in turquoise Quink and folded into quarters.



Did I read it aloud, to the audience? I don't know. Memories of the occasion are scattered, insubstantial as confetti. I do know it was to be almost twenty-five years before I won another prize for writing. What took me so long?

As a child I loved reading, and English was the only school subject at which I was ever any good. Although it was unusual in those days to be able to mix 'A' levels in arts and sciences, at Croydon High I was able to take 'A' level English alongside Chemistry and Biology. I harboured a secret desire to study English at university which I wasn't confident enough to pursue. Instead, I went to teacher training college, gained a B.Ed (Hons) and was teaching at Rowdown Primary school in New Addington by the time I was twenty two. I've



remained a teacher most of my adult life. While the children were small I ran a preschool group, and fully expected to return to primary teaching when my youngest started school until, by chance, I heard about the creative writing department at our local university. In my thirties, I was much bolder than at seventeen; I decided to have a go at that English degree, after all. And I loved every minute – how could I not?

My life was filled with books, books, and more books! I read while I stirred the pasta for the children's tea, talked about writing over coffee, wrote essays late into the night. I chose to study part-time, but even so it was sometimes tricky to juggle work, lectures, essays and exams, as well as the hurly burly of life with young children.

The degree took six years – the children were all teenagers by the time I'd finished. I was forty. To my surprise, I won the Philip LeBrun prize which is given to the student with the highest mark in creative writing, a prize which gave me the confidence to apply for the MA in Creative Writing, and to accept an invitation to become an Associate Lecturer in English at the University of Chichester. The shift from pre-school to undergraduate teaching was exhilarating and challenging in about equal measures.

There is much debate about the teaching of creative writing but, at one level, writing is a craft. I was a novice. The more experienced practitioners, both the tutors and the authors of books we were encouraged to read, had skills I could learn and needed to develop. Ongoing support from practising writers can also aid the development of that 'state of preparedness' conducive to creative work which Stanislavsky says is so important. At this time, I craved a place to write, away from the general hubbub of family life, Woolf's 'room of one's own'. My husband bought me a shed which we put right down at the bottom of the garden. I painted it blue.



The walk down the garden was an effective removal – mentally, emotionally and physically – from the house. From the shed it was impossible to hear the phone, or even the doorbell. I was there to write; nothing else.

I began to have some success with short stories and poems in national and international competitions, and was published in various anthologies and magazines, but I'm a slow writer and, for most of my forties, writing still felt like something I did 'just for me', something that had to sneak into the time left after university work and family commitments. Occasionally, for weeks or even months at a time, it

got squeezed out altogether. The novel I was working on grew only very slowly. My 'lucky break' did not come until 2007, when I was fifty. I'd sent literary agent Hannah Westland, of Rogers, Coleridge and White, my not-quite-finished novel, and she phoned within a week to say she loved it. I cried!

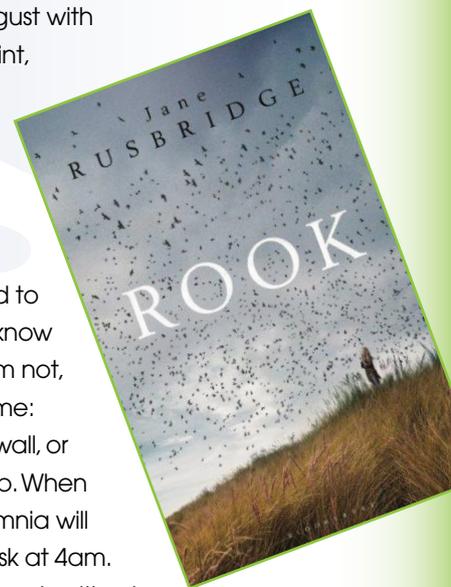
Bloomsbury was one of the first publishers to show an interest in *The Devil's Music*, my debut, and to my delight they offered me a two book deal. *The Devil's Music* was published in 2009 and nominated for the 2011 International IMPAC Literary Award. My second novel, *Rook*, is released this August with Bloomsbury's new literary imprint, Bloomsbury Circus. The imprint will create books as collectible objects, and *Rook* has a beautiful cover. It's an exciting time.

Now, writing is no longer pushed to the sidelines. Often it's hard to know when I'm working and when I'm not, because ideas come at any time: while I'm driving, or painting a wall, or cooking. It's not a 9-5 kind of job. When I'm deep into the process, insomnia will have me awake and at my desk at 4am. One of the things I love most about writing is research, the acts of discovery combined with the 'magic' of synchronicity when everything falls into place and you see where the story is going.

Rook explores the mystery surrounding Harold II's burial place, the hidden histories of the Bayeux Tapestry, and the connections forged through three women's secrets, past and present. For research, I read books about 1066 and the Bayeux tapestry, I went up to the Royal Academy to hear gifted young cellists play, and to Norfolk for 'rooking' trips where I fell in love with rooks.

I read archives held at Bosham church near where I live, and discovered some fascinating local traditions, or oral myths. I met inspirational people, without whom the book would not have been written. So, my working life does not involve sitting alone in a garret, waiting for inspiration – it's a lot more fun!

Jane's second novel, Rook, will be published in August 2012 – it is definitely on our reading list!





REUNIONS

One of the most enjoyable parts of being connected to an Alumnae organisation is the opportunity to enjoy reunions with school friends and teachers. We are always delighted to hear news of these events, or to offer the school as a venue should you choose to host it here. If you would like to find out more about how we can do this, please contact Karen at ivylink@cry.gdst.net or on 020 8260 7500

This year we were delighted to be able to work with our good neighbours, The Selsdon Park Hotel, who offered a substantially discounted rate for bed and breakfast, to alumnae attending the annual lunch who wanted to make a weekend of things!



IVY LINK LAUNCHED AT OLD CROYDONIANS ANNUAL LUNCH

11th June 2011 was a very important day in the history of the Old Croydonians. At the Association's AGM, held at the school, the Old Croydonians voted unanimously in favour of dissolving the OC, with membership and all benefits transferring to a new organisation to be known as The Ivy Link – Linking the Friends of Croydon High.

This new organisation would invite membership not only from 'old girls,' but also ex-staff, parents and anyone else with a link to the school.

The AGM was held as part of the OC's Annual Summer Lunch, attended by around 80 members which hosted reunions from both the class of 1960 and 1981. It was a very happy and lively occasion with a buzz of shared memories and laughter filling the air. The mood was extremely positive with everyone seeming to embrace the idea of this new phase in their history and all looking forward with optimism to the possibilities ahead. As Mrs Leonard told the members, "You are Croydon High, it is in your blood. Although I have only been here a relatively short time, I can

feel it seeping into mine and I promise you we will do everything to move the Ivy Link forward and to reach out to more and more people who have such great regard for our school."



CLASS OF 1961

"Last summer, 49 girls from the year of 1961 met for a 50 year reunion luncheon in Margett McConnell's (nee Beale) garden in West Sussex. We were delighted that two former members of staff, Mary Duncan (English) and Mollie Hunt (Games) were also able to join us.

This reunion was the result of five years research on various Internet sites to ascertain the whereabouts of as many girls as possible for this very special occasion. A few could not be traced and sadly we learnt of the death of ten of our friends. Girls came from all over the British Isles and Ireland and some made special journeys from Australia, America and Canada.

The weather was glorious, the food delicious and the garden setting was perfect. The conversation flowed, old times were remembered, the years dropped away, we were young again and back at school!" *Margett McConnell*

HOT CHOCOLATE, CUP CAKES AND CHAT FOR OUR CLASS OF 2011

We were delighted to welcome back so many of our youngest 'old girls' to a reunion in the 6th Form centre on Friday 6th January 2012. The girls were obviously happy to see old classmates and teachers and to pass on all their news after just a term out in the world of Uni! Everyone seems to be doing well but it was touching to hear from several of the girls how much they miss their Croydon High family. They are working (and playing) hard, of course, and we look forward to staying in touch and hearing more about their adventures in the future.



VIP GUESTS COME FOR AFTERNOON TEA



On Thursday 22nd March 2012, Mrs Leonard welcomed a group of very special guests for a delicious afternoon tea at the school. They were Croydon High Alumnae and representatives of the Class of 1955 (and earlier) from the local area. The ladies were soon at ease, chatting with old and new friends over tea and cake and reminiscing about their school days. They really enjoyed browsing through a selection of photo albums put together specially for the event and had great fun identifying themselves.

Memories came flooding back and we were enthralled by some of the stories of school life during the war years.

We were particularly proud of some of our sixth form girls who joined the tea party and acted as charming hosts, talking easily with these fascinating ladies and really enjoying their stories.

It was a very happy occasion and good to remind ourselves of the wonderful tradition of this school and the remarkable 'girls' who are associated with it - then and now!

"We enjoyed meeting other Old Croydonians and reminiscing over the archive photos. We also enjoyed meeting and chatting to some of the present day pupils who were hosts. We look forward to coming to CHS again for the Summer Lunch" said Daphne and Valerie Palmer (1954, 1959).



PH SELSDON PARK HOTEL & GOLF CLUB | SANDERSTEAD, SURREY

Something special is always happening

Calendar of Events

Saturday 14th July
Dinner Dance
Dance the night away to our live band & 3 course meal
£29.00 per person

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th December
Father Christmas Grotto
The gardens of Selsdon Park shall be opened ready for the arrival of Father Christmas, who shall be accompanied by his reindeer having a well earned rest, grazing in the gardens.
£10.00 per person
Including a gift per child, face painting, indoor games, biscuit decorating, tots disco & much more.
Suitable for 2 year olds - 8 year olds
From 12 noon - 4pm
Warming refreshments available

Sunday 14th October
Wedding Open Day
12 noon - 4pm
You are invited to view Selsdon Park Hotel set up as the four seasons where our banqueting suites shall shimmer with glistening crystals, romantic pearls & sumptuous flower displays. Our dedicated team and specialised team of suppliers will be 'on hand' to discuss your special day.
Free entry

Christmas Party Nights
November & December dates available
From **£35.00** per person

Christmas Day & Boxing Day Lunch
Please contact us for further details

Addington Road, South Croydon Surrey, CR2 8VA
Tel: 0208 657 8811
www.principal-hayley.com

Girls who have gone places come back to show us the way

Anita Panchmatia helps in our CELEBRATION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL SUCCESS



Last September we celebrated the tremendous achievements of Year 11 and Year 13 students as they received their GCSE and A Level awards and prizes.

Anita Panchmatia, (Class of 2000) entertained

the audience with a really informative and enthusiastic address. With a First class degree

from Warwick, Anna joined JP Morgan, working in New York and London, and Goldman Sachs in Boston where she tutored at Harvard. Anita is now Vice President, Discretionary Business Manager for Bank of America Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and was recognised in the 2010 "35 Under 35" prize for high flying woman.

Anita inspired us all with her drive and ambition, clearly delivering the message that, with focus and determination, the world of business is indeed an exciting and rewarding place to be.

SUSIE MA JOINS OUR 6th FORM OPEN EVENING



It was less "You're fired!" and more "You're Inspired!" when old girl Susie Ma (class of 2007) returned

to talk to the girls about the opportunities for them in the school's sixth form.

Susie, who made her name as a finalist in the BBC programme "The Apprentice", spoke warmly of her memories of school, advising the girls to make the most of everything on offer to them. She stressed how the quality of teaching she received helped her achieve her dream of a

place at University College London, where she read Economics and Philosophy, but also how getting involved in extra-curricular activities, such as Young Enterprise, developed her as a person and particularly encouraged that entrepreneurial flair and a passion for business.

Equally important to Susie were the close friendships she made at the school with girls who have gone on to do great things in the fields of law, medicine and academia.

As she left, our glamorous alumna commented on how charming and well-mannered our girls had all been, and indeed they were – a credit to themselves, their parents and their school – true Croydon High girls!

ELIZABETH MAY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Elizabeth May (class of 2001) has been working in Recruitment for 5 years, having graduated from Sheffield University. As an experienced interviewer and selector of employees, Elizabeth joined us for a career seminar and was very keen to help all girls fulfil their career aspirations by discussing CVs, applications and all the skills that employers are looking for. It was an invaluable session.

JODIE SEEKS HELP WITH HER DISSERTATION

Jodie White, (Class of 2009) came back to school this year to set up a discussion between eight sixth formers for her dissertation at Bristol University, where she studies politics. Jodie started a discussion on young people's involvement in politics and about any concerns they had. Hopefully, the girls provided Jodie with some good quality material for her 10,000 word dissertation!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

We were delighted to welcome Kirsty Walker (Class of 1992) back to school this year.

After studying classics at Bristol and collecting a post-graduate journalism qualification, Kirsty is now a political correspondent for the Daily Mail. Kirsty is in constant daily contact with leading politicians and was able to fill us in on all the Coalition and Labour opposition gossip. It was a really fascinating insight into the world behind the television reports and newspaper articles.



FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

SOMETIMES IT IS WHO YOU KNOW THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!



Over the Easter holidays, a group of Year 12 politics students were lucky enough to have a tour of 10 and 11 Downing Street. The trip was

made possible by our connection with Gabby Bertin (Class of 1996) who is David Cameron's press secretary. Gabby has supported the school in a number of ways and, despite her hectic and demanding lifestyle, gives generously of her time. David Cameron was in Japan, but the girls were greeted instead by the popular Downing Street cat Larry. Gabby's tour gave them access to parts of the house only the most senior of politicians see.

"The visit brought to life our study of British politics; we were able to go into the Cabinet room and David Cameron's office, whilst Gabby gave us an insider's view to some of the relationships within the Cabinet and how well the Coalition is working. It was a truly memorable experience."

A LIFE IN MEDICINE – DR SASHA DHOAT – BART'S AND ROYAL LONDON NHS TRUSTS

Dr Sasha Dhoat (Class of 1994) began her "Life in Medicine" as a Senior House Officer in King's College Hospital.

Sasha specialises in Paediatric Dermatology, and is a Consultant at Bart's and teaches at The London Royal Free and UCL. A vibrant and enthusiastic speaker, Sasha stressed that being a medic was both a privilege and a responsibility. She gave the girls a wealth of useful interview tips and helpful websites to visit. Above all, Sasha was a charming, engaging speaker, the epitome of a



Croydon High School girl and an inspiration to all who met her.

TRUST IN THE FUTURE

A message from Robin McCallum – Chairman of the Croydon High School Scholarship Trust



The Scholarship Trust was established seventy-five years ago. Its initial purpose was to support girls attending university and the first scholarship, awarded in 1939, was shared by two girls. Imagine the cost of such an undertaking today!

Over the years, the Trust's focus has shifted more towards assisting girls whilst they are still at Croydon High, funding Sixth Form Scholarships and awards for academic excellence at AS level. The Ransford Scholarship, given to the departing 6th former with the highest academic results, recognises outstanding achievement and dedication. The Trust also sponsors Year 12 subject awards, including the Jenny Park Award for English and the Gwen Godfray Award for Modern Languages.

As Chairman of the Trust, I have had the privilege of being part of the interview panel, hearing Year 12 girls present their independent research. Fielding our razor-sharp questions serves as good practice for university interviews!

One is particularly memorable; the Humanities award in 2005. Both Kate Gillett and Sharmin Lakha spoke eloquently on the Iraq War, but from two completely different perspectives. Kate's was the dispassionate diplomatic analysis of the history of the conflict while Sharmin gave a compassionate appeal about the war's impact on families.

We often wonder what the girls who received these awards have gone on to achieve. If you were a former scholarship recipient or award holder, we would really enjoy hearing your stories and any memories of what it was like to be recognised in this way.

We have funded all these activities from the Trust's investment income together with various donations made over the years. We would always be most grateful for any help that will enable us to continue to recognise the outstanding academic performance of Croydon High girls.

Whether you are an 'old girl' or a parent who wishes to support our efforts, every gift will help the girls at Croydon High now and in the future. A donation/gift aid declaration form is enclosed with this magazine. If you are receiving the magazine electronically and would like a form, or if you would like to tell us where your award took you, please do contact our Treasurer, Mary-Pat Larman, or me, at the address below.

Thank you very much.

Robin McCallum

Robin.mccallum@hotmail.com)

Mary-Pat Larman

mp.larman@virginmedia.com)

Date for your diary



To mark the 25th anniversary of the death of **Jacqueline Du Pre**, we plan to hold a special musical event in school on the evening of

Saturday 13th October. All are welcome but we would particularly love to see past Jacqueline du Pre scholars and others who were involved in music in the school. We will send further details nearer the time but if you would like to find out more please contact our Head of Music, Elizabeth Cohen via the school or on email – ecohen@cry.gdst.net

It is our sad duty to pass on news of those in our community who have passed away over the last year – may they rest in peace. Our thoughts are with their friends and families.

Amanda Ward (MacQueen) 1972

Amanda Ward – known as Bunty to her family and school friends - died on 27 February 2011 aged just 56. Bunty was the middle of five daughters who were all pupils at Croydon High, following her sisters Jane and Ann and then followed by Sarah and Fiona. In her early twenties she was diagnosed with MS but despite physical setbacks she qualified in medicine, moving to Carlisle in the late 1980s where she and husband Duncan worked as GPs. Sons Christopher and Alistair followed their parents into medicine while Jeremy recently qualified as a solicitor. At her funeral service, moving tributes all referred to her love of family and of life, her steely determination and the dignity and courage she showed in the face of the advancing cruel disease. Bunty relished every moment and challenge in her too-short life and, with her unquenchable sense of humour and ready infectious laughter, she was always a joy to be with and an inspiration.

Fiona Campbell (1972)

Sarah Murphy (Mason) 1970

Sarah and I had been friends since schooldays in The Elms (1958) so it has been a sad and difficult experience to watch her deteriorate so rapidly over the past few months. She was almost unbelievably brave and uncomplaining throughout her illness. The funeral was on Tuesday 13 March, when I gave a tribute to my friendship with Sarah concentrating on the early years at the High School

Sarah and I had a lot of fun organising the 1990 reunion and enjoyed attending the reunion in 2010. They were the means by which we renewed contact with several school friends. *Patricia Gilbert*

Alison Schofield (Senior) 1945

It is my sad duty to let you know that my beloved wife, Alison Schofield (née Senior), a Croydon High School alumna who was at the school during the last war, died on Saturday 5th May 2012.

John M. Schofield

Barbara Hermes (Harvey) 1933

Died in August 2011 aged 95, mother of Mary Knight, Carol Exton, Sara Millward and Jill Ramsay, grandmother of Elizabeth Knight and Hannah Mann (All OCs). Through them and the Old Croydonians she kept in touch with the school.

Joyce (Joy) Vale (Oliver) 1935

Died on October 2011, aged 93. All four of her daughters went to Sutton High School. She was a marvellous old lady with 5 children, 12 Grandchildren and 15 Great grandchildren

Patricia Flynn (Whelton) 1955

Died 17th May 2011. Patricia was also a member of the Junior School Staff and guide captain of one of the two school guide companies in Croydon (51st and 51stA, Croydon). Patricia's daughter Mary also attended Croydon High School leaving in 1985.

Patsy Bryars (1946)

Died in December 2011. She was a faithful member of the Old Croydonians and rarely missed a meeting.

Nancie Allen (Annie Crawford Allen) 1941

Died in November 2010 aged 87

Audrey Sleeman (Rugg) 1932

Died peacefully in June 2011 aged 97

Madeleine Barber (Steventon) 1943

Died in 2011

Peggy Clark (Taylor) 1935

Died in December 2011

Jean Le Patourel (Hilda Elizabeth Jean Bird) 1934

Died on January 20 2011, aged 95

Thank You

We would like to acknowledge the following legacies that have been left to the school over the last twelve months. It is always moving to receive notification of these and to hear again how important this school has been to so many people. Along with our condolences to their families, we send assurances that their generosity will benefit a whole new generation of Croydon High girls.

Pauline Valerie Archer who died in December 2011 and **Joan Mary North** who died in January 2011 and who were both Governors of the school.

Elizabeth (Betty) Porteous of the Class of 1937 who died in April 2012. A celebration service for her life will be held at St Paul's URC in South Croydon on July 5th at 2.00pm, and all are welcome.

WHAT IS THE IVY LINK?

The Ivy Link is a way of bringing together the alumnae, parents, teachers and other friends of our school. Whether you join to make new friends, to reconnect with old friends or just to keep in touch with what is happening, we hope that The Ivy Link will help you stay involved in the life of Croydon High School.

If we do not already have your details, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please email Karen Roe, ivylink@cry.gdst.net or call her on 020 8260 7500 so that we can keep you informed. You can also find us and 'like' us at www.facebook.com/croydonhighivylink

Follow us on twitter at twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyL



JUNE 1ST, 1953.

SHEILA JAMES (*VI Gen. Arts*).

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!