



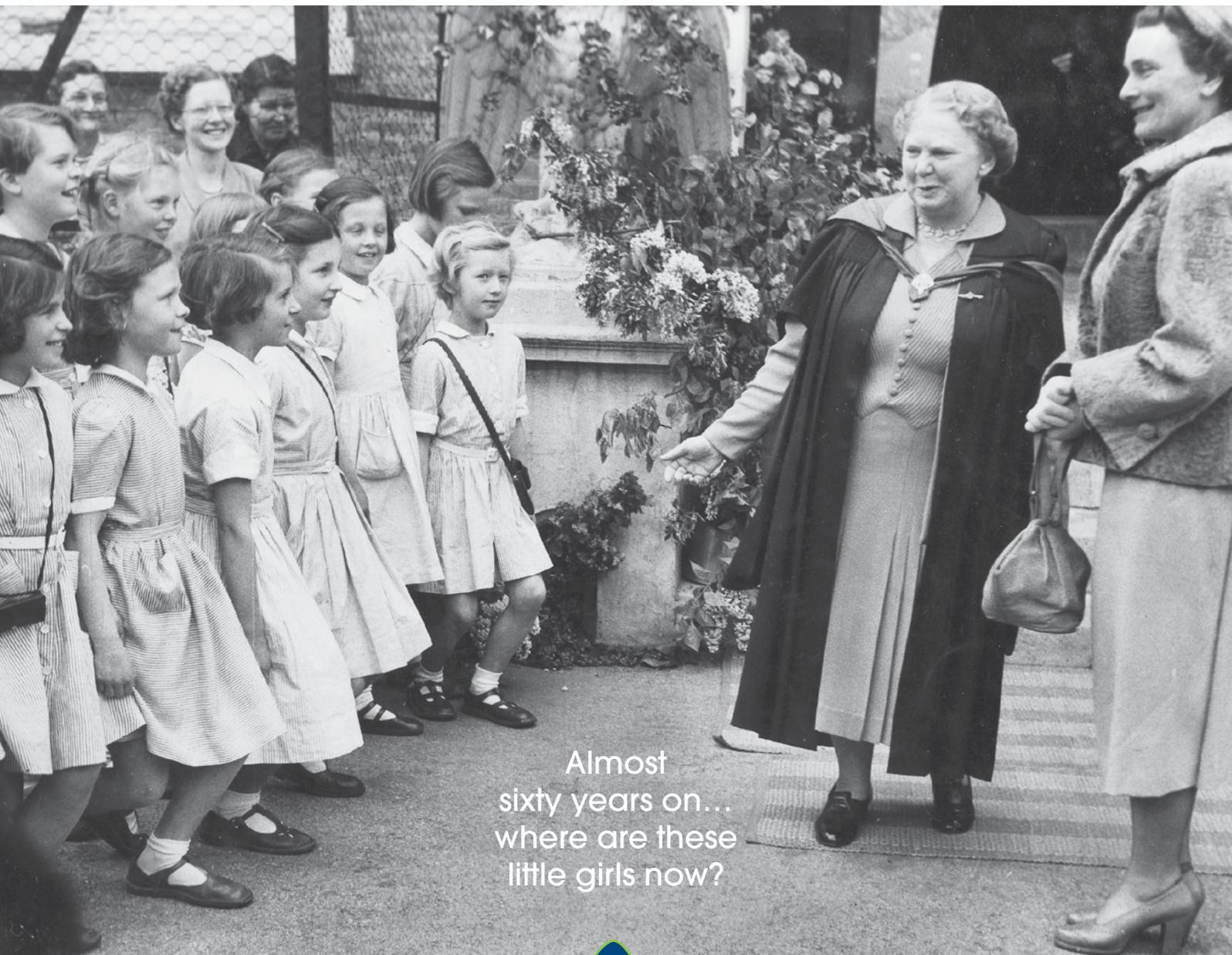
CHS

Croydon High School  
ESTD. 1874

---

# The Ivy Link Magazine 2013

---



Almost  
sixty years on...  
where are these  
little girls now?



## Dear Friends and Alumnae,



It seems very hard to believe that another year has passed and that once again I am writing my letter for the second issue of The Ivy Link magazine.

They say time flies when you're having fun and certainly this academic year has flown and has been full, not only with fun, but with

achievements and occasions that I have been extremely proud to witness. Croydon High, I am delighted to report, remains a vibrant community and the Ivy Link network is becoming ever more connected to the life and the aims of the school. I have had many opportunities to meet 'Ivy Linkers' at school events, often when they have been giving generously of their time and expertise to support the girls, for example at our careers events. We really are most grateful for this.

What always strikes me, when I speak to alumnae or indeed read letters that they have sent to me, is how many of them mention the many opportunities that the school gave them and the encouragement that they received to aim high and never to allow themselves to be hindered by their gender. It is a theme that has continued through generations and it is central to the message that we give

## Dear Ivy Linkers,

As we approach the annual summer lunch on Saturday June 8th, I am looking forward to seeing many of you again and also to putting new faces to names, as I meet those of you with whom I have been in touch with via email and post over the last year. It has, as always, been a real pleasure to be connected to so many interesting and inspiring women, all of whom share this link with Croydon High School.

We have been delighted with the growth in interest in our facebook page and our Twitter feeds - it feels very good to be 'liked' and re-tweeted! Modern technology is wonderful of course, but nothing beats opening a letter from one of our alumnae or from an ex-member of staff and to read about their fond memories of



our girls today. We want them to believe that with hard work and dedication, they can achieve whatever they aspire to and we are committed to helping them do just that.

A name that is mentioned repeatedly when I meet alumnae of a certain age is that of Dr Margaret Adams - or Fanny, as she is usually affectionately referred to. Miss Adams was Head from 1939 to 1960 and during those significant years, she steered the school through some monumental events, including of course, the Second World War and the evacuation of her pupils to both Eastbourne and Llandeilo. This year sees the 30th Anniversary of her death, but I am fully aware of how alive she remains in the memories of her pupils who speak so warmly of "their Head". We have chosen a photograph for the cover of this year's magazine which show Miss Adams on the day, in 1954, when she welcomed the Duchess of Gloucester to the school to mark its' 80th birthday. Next year we celebrate Croydon High's 140th birthday and I hope there will be opportunities for us all to join together and celebrate the legacy of Miss Adams and many others like her who have contributed to the history of this remarkable school.

I would like to thank you for your support this year and my best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy summer.

Debbie Leonard



school days and their wish to stay connected. We are always pleased to hear news of the important events in your lives.

My thanks as ever to Mary Knight, who has been unstinting in her support for all we try to do and remains a valued source of advice and knowledge. When we were trawling the archives prior to an event earlier this year, we came across a Prizegiving programme that named Mary as the recipient of a special award for Service to the School, in her last year here (when she was also Head Girl.) Well, that service has certainly continued and we are very grateful.

Please do continue to spread the word and encourage fellow alumnae and friends to join The Ivy Link.

With very best wishes,

Karen Roe, Ivy Link Co-ordinator

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TO LEARN FROM CROYDON HIGH

Over the last academic year, Croydon High School has been participating in an in-depth study of what it is that makes girls perform better in school.

The school, along with its' sister GDST schools, Putney and Sydenham, has been recognised as a centre for excellence in terms of our teaching methods and the learning environment we have created for girls.



Heidi's caring environment

This valuable research, which has been instigated by the Girls Day School Trust, has involved Cambridge University's Faculty of Education sending observers in to the school to spend time with both staff and girls.

The researchers have investigated, amongst other things, how girls learn. By identifying what Croydon High does differently, they hope to make recommendations on what should be incorporated in to educational policy to optimise a learning environment, thereby enabling all girls to achieve their full potential.



All smiles at Croydon High's Sixth Form

One of the many initiatives that the researchers found interesting is the school's GO-ON programme (for girls in years 10-13) and the GO-BEYOND programme (for years 6-9). Designed specifically to stretch and inspire, these courses offer the girls an opportunity to learn about and to experience age appropriate subjects not covered in the usual curriculum. Last year's programme included a trip to the London Coliseum to see Tosca, a debate about the impact of The Beatles on pop music and a study of War Art and its relation to poetry, politics, philosophy and history. The girls are introduced to the

subjects and then encouraged to go away to research and form their own opinions which they present back to the group.

Head of Sixth Form, Heidi Mester has facilitated the programme She says " Girls achievements are all around us. Girls' schools dominate the exam league tables and girls are increasingly represented in the professions. It would be easy to take this state of affairs for granted, and just assume this is the natural order of things, requiring little fresh thinking from schools or teachers. The idea behind the Cambridge Project, of which I was a small part, was to challenge this potential for complacency, and examine in a systematic way what really makes girls' education work so that we can drive standards higher still."

The evidence gathering at the various schools took place over a period of eight months and the analysis was then carried out at Cambridge.

Heidi continues, "There were so many aspects of the research process that I found fascinating. The main thing, noticeable in every lesson I saw, was the supportive environment that enables the girls to be themselves and not feel pressurised to conform to stereotypical expectations. This had a very obvious and beneficial effect on the girls' confidence and ability to articulate their own opinions. I noticed an interesting duality in the make-up of many girls; they are fiercely competitive, but in a single-sex environment their natural approach to any task or problem is to be collaborative which is of obvious benefit to all. I learnt so much to take back to my own teaching and am determined that intellectual curiosity and a love of learning should thrive unapologetically alongside courage, individuality and self-belief."

The findings of the project will be presented to the GDST this autumn. These will be invaluable in further refining classroom practice so that girls in the Trust's care - and in all-girls schools beyond - will be able to achieve even more in the years to come.



Happy girls learn best

## TABITHA TAKES ON OPERATION RALEIGH

When I left Croydon High in 2011, I would never have imagined that in a year's time I would be taking part on a Raleigh International expedition to Borneo. Travelling anywhere outside of Europe was a step too far for me. Yet after a series of fortunate events I ended up spending five weeks in Sabah, living in the jungle and carrying out a biodiversity survey.



In my second term at Warwick University I was offered a place on UBS Horizons, the programme that offers sponsorship towards a Raleigh International Expedition and an internship.

Raleigh International currently works in Borneo, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, India and Tanzania, where the charity carries out community and environmental projects with the help of young people aged between 17 and 24. Projects include building gravity water feed systems, houses, kindergartens, schools and toilets. Environmental projects involve carrying out biodiversity surveys and conservation projects. These projects are often in remote locations and venturers have to adapt to living with the bare minimum.

Once I arrived in Borneo, my fellow venturers and I undertook a couple of days of intensive training, involving a jungle trek and lessons on how to dig a long-drop, assess rivers and use the radio. I was then placed on the environmental project; a biodiversity survey and gazebo build. My project group were to carry out biodiversity surveys in two locations in the Pitas region in land owned by the Asian Forestry Commission. Our work would ensure that these areas were identified and maintained as High Value Conservation Forest and not logged. We were to build the gazebo at our first location for the establishment of a conservation research camp.

The building work was led by a local carpenter called Simon. Initially he seemed to be able to carry out all the necessary tasks by himself and we stared in amazement at his handiwork. However, soon enough he had us all sawing, sanding, nailing and painting. We completed the gazebo build within a week and christened it the "Gibbon Gazebo", after the gibbons that woke us up every morning as they called out to one another.

The two biodiversity surveys were led by an Asian Forestry Commission Officer named Philis. The survey at Coupe 1 was along a trail where we set up four or five nets to catch birds and bats, and a number of traps to capture mammals. We checked these three times a day, discovering a number of beautiful species. In nine days we recorded



30 species of bird and 6 mammals. Personal highlights for me were the black and yellow broadbill and Malay civet.

We carried out a similar operation at our second location where we set up nets and traps along two trails. One trail we nicknamed "Wet and wild", as it was along a river and impossible to walk along without at least one of us being leeches. The other trail was nicknamed "Special K" as it went up part of Mount K. On this survey we discovered 13 species of bird and numerous mammals, mostly rats.



My favourite species on this survey were a blue banded kingfisher, a crimson winged woodpecker and a female Asian paradise flycatcher.

Whilst carrying out the project we lived in very basic campsites. We slept in bashes (what I can best describe as reinforced hammocks), went to the toilet in a hole in the ground and showered using a gravity water feed system or in a nearby river. I adapted to jungle life better than I could have ever of imagined. By the end, I was jumping at the opportunity to use a long-drop rather than a toilet!

Once our project was complete we were treated to a 7 day adventure trek - a fun version of the Duke of Edinburgh! We did not trek for as many hours, we had guides, so did not have to navigate, and the walking was often interrupted by challenges such as catapulting, bridge building and puzzles. followed by welcome prizes such as doughnuts and bananas. Every night we stayed at a different campsite and had to set up our hammocks, radio, dig a long drop and cook dinner over a fire. Although testing at times, it was overall an enjoyable challenge and a great way to finish off the five weeks.

Sitting in the library at Warwick writing this surrounded by students using computers, Ipads, Ipods, mobiles, books and even the large number of toilets, makes Borneo seem like a dream. However, my Borneo adventure shall forever be imprinted on my heart and it serves as a constant reminder of my responsibility as a global citizen to care for both those around me and for the planet.

*Membuka hati anda kepada alam sejati (Open your heart to the universe).*

## KEEPING ART IN THE FAMILY



two years ago, came back to support her younger sister Sarah who is in Year 11 and whose outstanding GCSE work was on show.

Jennifer left Croydon High having studied Fine Art, Mathematics and French at A-Level as well as AS level Chemistry. A typically well-rounded Croydon High girl! She told us how she felt that the Fine Art course at Croydon High School really enabled her to explore a wide range of media and after careful consideration decided that a Foundation Course was not the best choice for her. Following a lot of thorough research, she came across a 'BA Design and Colour Technology' course at The University of Leeds. This seemed ideal for Jenny as a key focus of her artwork had been colour and it evidently was of great interest to her.

On finishing her second year at Leeds, Jenny had discovered there is a lot more to colour than meets the eye. " Jenny won a 'Print Futures Award' in 2012, awarded to people who are pursuing or who intend to pursue, a career in the Print or Graphic Arts industries and which will help her to fund her studies. Jenny collected her award from The House of Lords in July.

She was also offered a Year in Industry at a Multi-national Brand and Packaging Design Company called 'Matthews Brand Solutions' where she was looking forward to furthering her understanding of the design world in a business environment. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, this placement fell through at extremely short notice leaving Jenny in a difficult situation.

In a very short period of time she had to find somewhere else gain experience or else return to University for her final year. It was particularly inconvenient as she had all her Student Finance arranged and had put a deposit down on a house in Leeds. So if she was to find another placement, the location had to be in Leeds.

With true Croydon High determination and resilience, Jenny set about emailing the contacts that she had made at the Print Futures Award Event in the House of Lords earlier the same month. She kept in close touch with her Tutor, who contacted a company in Leeds that had taken on two Leeds students in previous years. A

We are always delighted to see and hear from our 'old girls' and to find out what they are doing out in the world. At this year's summer Art Exhibition, Jennifer Cannon who left Croydon High School

telephone interview was all that it took to convince the company to offer her an initial three month placement at the company, Outside the Box, which coincidentally happened to be a five minute walk from her house in Leeds. In Jenny's words "...everything happens for a reason!"

We spoke to Jenny again after she had been there nearly seven months (she managed to get her contract extended to a nine month placement) and she seems to have gained a great insight into the business world. Her experience has given her a broad overview of the process that is carried out within creative agencies. Since doing the placement, Jenny says she has realised that her skill-set is, in actual fact, best suited to an account management role. "Before the placement I would never have considered this as a career path for me, as I envisaged it being solely number crunching. I am now aware that there is much more to it than that and you are in charge of all the jobs that run throughout the business. There is creative involvement as you direct and guide the creative team to ensure that their artwork fits the given brief, yet there is also a lot of academic skill required to keep stretching the brain! It is a challenging position as you are constantly interacting with clients over the phone, online and in meetings but I love the fact that every day is different and that even though it is office based you can often be off across the country to meet with clients."

For any artistic girls considering career options, Jenny has some good advice. "If your talents lie in Art and Design and you really love being creative there are loads of opportunities out there in so many areas. Aside from Fine Art courses there are lots of vocational courses such as 'Graphic Design' and 'Design and Technology Management' that concentrate creative skills into design work and understanding of design software that will be useful in the industry."

That artistic gene is obviously strong in the family as Sarah's work also attracted lots of interest and many admiring comments at our Summer Show last year. Sarah and Jenny are pictured her with their proud mum Gill - also a Croydon High girl!

*Congratulations to both girls for their hard work.*

### Date for Your Diary

The Art department at Streatham & Clapham High School is making plans to host the first GDST-wide Art Exhibition between the 15th and 19th October 2013. On the evening of Thursday, 17 October, the school will be welcoming visitors from across the Trust, (staff, parents and pupils), alumnae, former staff, press and VIP's. Additionally, the exhibition will be open to visitors on the Wednesday and Friday afternoon and on Saturday 19th October during the day.

For more details, please contact the school's Marketing Manager, Allison Johnson at Streatham and Clapham High or by email - a.johnson2@shc.GDST.NET



## The Croydon High School Scholarship Trust

The current Scholarship Trust Committee remains dedicated to the underlying aims of the Trust which was established in 1937. Whilst awards are no longer linked to financial need, they still firmly promote and recognise academic excellence, through the provision of Sixth Form Scholarships and numerous academic awards, including the Ransford Scholarship. This particular Scholarship is approaching its 70th anniversary in 2014 and the Committee felt it was an appropriate time to look back and try to assess its impact on recipients over the last seven decades.



Miss Ella Ransford, Head, 1925-1939

Whilst digging through the treasure trove that is the Croydon High archive, we discovered a cache of thank-you letters from recipients of the Ransford Scholarship. Since 1944, this award, named in honour of the third headmistress of Croydon High, has been presented annually by the Scholarship Trust to the top scholar of the year.

This gave us an idea. With the 70th anniversary of the Ransford Scholarship approaching, we thought it would be interesting to contact as many Ransford Scholars as we could find addresses for and to ask them for their memories and any advice to current students. We were delighted with the warmth and the speed of response we received and we'd like to share some of these responses with you.

### How did you spend your award money?

*"I used the money to buy Charlie, my own skeleton. He not only lived in my cupboard throughout university, but has lived with both my sons who are now doctors too."*

**Janice 1969**

From Oxford in 1986, **Samantha** wrote, "I have used the money for an Oxford Latin Dictionary...a book which I certainly would not have afforded under my grant."

Today Samantha has her 'dream job' ... "I work for the Oxford English Dictionary and I revise the histories of English words that derive from Latin and Greek...not everyone's cup of tea, but it is certainly mine!"

### What did receiving the Ransford Scholarship mean to you?

*"Enormous pride and a sense of indebtedness to those who had pioneered education for women. Looking back to letters which I wrote at the time, I see that it was not only the award, but the generous good wishes and encouragement from the Trust which was quite overwhelming. I was determined to make the best use of my opportunities and not to let anyone down!*

*And I was able to buy my own copies of books, including the mammoth Greek lexicon - which I still have!"*

**Mary 1964**

### Memories of Croydon High?

*"...the staff performance of '1066 and All That' which was great fun and enabled us to see our teachers in a new, more relaxed light..."*

**Jeanne 1944 and also mentioned by Jenny 1954**

*"I remember once talking to Miss Cameron in her office when I was Head Girl and she was complaining about the girls running down the drive to meet their boyfriends at the gate. I made a mental note to ask mine to wait around the corner out of sight!"*

**Janice 1969**

*"...we repainted the Sixth Form common room dramatic colours (I remember flamingo featuring large)...even Dante's bust got the treatment."*

**Prue 1957**

*"Wonderful teachers - the awesome Miss Adams, before whom parents quailed and whose ultimate reproof was to declare behaviour to be 'low tone'. I seem to remember that this included waving to boys from Trinity Whitgift from the sixth form common room. Miss Tebble (geography) with her little stuffed alligator, called Homer, on the window sill. Madame Donovan who entertained us - and got complaints from Miss Turner who was teaching maths in the next room - when she brought in her guitar and taught us a French drinking song, of which the last line, I recall was 'et la tête sous le robinet'.*

*Mollie Hunt, despairing at my lamentable fielding, shouting across the cricket pitch, 'Just stop the ball with some part of you!' (I had previously watched the wicket-keeper leave the field with blood emerging from her teeth and was not persuaded.)*

### Advice to today's girls?

*"Find what makes you happy and work at that, and don't be afraid to change direction if it doesn't seem to be working out."*

**Jacqui 1976**

*"Never underestimate your good fortune in being able to attend a school like CHS. Take every opportunity offered to find and develop your own capabilities."*

**Jeannie 1944 - (together with Betty Peel, the very first Ransford Scholar)**

*"Work hard, ask for help when you need it, don't try to be perfect! Take hold of every opportunity, give things a go. Remember - even on a bad school day - you're in a great place."*

**Claire 1985**

### Have you ever wondered what the Scholarship Trust does?

The Scholarship Trust promotes academic excellence through the provision of Sixth Form Scholarships and numerous academic awards, including the Ransford Scholarship.

We also manage the Peggy Guillou legacy, donated in memory of a former CHS music teacher.

*Miss Bannister, lovely RE teacher who had to take a deep breath before deciding that a biblical lady was a 'fallen woman'! Margaret Ross, teaching Greek in the attic of the sixth form house, newly returned from the hairdresser and warm from the dryer, desperately trying not to nod in the afternoon sunshine as we struggled with our first conjugations.*

*Miss Marston, lean and dark, and great friends with Miss Mark, (later to become Head) who was auburn and short. Miss Marston told us that she had once lost Miss Mark in Harrods. Miss Mark was apparently wearing a fur-coat and Miss Marston had described her missing companion to the lift attendant as 'small and brown and sort of covered in fur'. They were all a joy and I owe them so much."*

**Mary 1964**

This generous gift specifically supports music activities and, at present, all Year 3 pupils are offered free violin and cello lessons.

Whilst the music programme is well funded, the academic awards, originally funded by parental subscriptions are, in this difficult economic climate now subsidised solely by declining investment income and occasional donations. As a result, the financial value of the Awards is not as generous as it once was. We are a small Committee and fundraising is always a challenge, but donations can make a huge difference to our work in helping support the next generation of Croydon High girls.

Last year, we received a generous donation from the Old Croydonians for which we would like to express our sincere gratitude.

If you would like to know more about how you can help us continue to support academic excellence at the school with financial or other assistance, including legacies, donations and fundraising suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

**Please contact Wendy Marshall, Chair of the Scholarship Trust at [scholarshiptrust@cry.gdst.net](mailto:scholarshiptrust@cry.gdst.net)**



## ALUMNAE CONTRIBUTE TO ANOTHER MEMORABLE YEAR

### SUMMER LUNCH CELEBRATES PAST AND FUTURE



On Saturday 16th June 2012, the school welcomed 125 of our Friends and Alumnae to the Ivy Link's

Annual Lunch. It was a truly wonderful occasion, seeing old friends reunited and hearing memories recounted by ladies of so many different year groups.

The Class of 1987 were particularly well represented, on their 25th anniversary, with over a third of the year group attending. Noise levels from their table were particularly high! Our most senior 'old girl' was Kathleen Reynolds who left the school in 1939 and inspired us all with her spirit and enthusiasm for life. The ladies met for a drinks reception at 12.30pm, when they had the opportunity to enjoy a display provided by the GDST celebrating their 140th

anniversary, as well as our own displays that marked the history of the year groups who were attending. Everyone seemed to enjoy groaning over old photos and skimming through the school magazines of years gone by. Lunch was then served in the Upper Dining room and there was plenty of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Our outstanding Senior Prefect team were on duty, mingling with the guests, serving the older ones and generally representing the school in the best possible light. Mrs Leonard thanked them specifically in her speech afterwards and there were glowing compliments for the girls from many of our guests. After lunch the girls were available to give guided tours around the school (the most



requested place to visit was the staff room!) and the last guests left around 4.30pm, with copies of the first Ivy Link magazine to take with them. It was a long day but one that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



### SHEENA SHINES AT LOWER SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING



The Senior School's Lower School Prizegiving ceremony last July was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of many of the girls in the Lower School.

We were delighted to welcome our guest speaker, alumna Sheena Morjaria who left in 2000. Sheena owns her own

film company, a change of direction following an initial career in banking. Sheena spoke passionately about how Croydon High had helped her on her way and given her the courage to make this career change. Sheena was truly inspirational about her new career and a number of students asked for her details, following the presentation, in order to keep in touch. *Thank you Sheena*

### CHARLOTTE LEADS A CELEBRATION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL SUCCESS



back alumna Charlotte Twomey (nee Frost, 1998), as our guest speaker.

Charlotte studied French at Leeds and then went on to law school after which she took up a training contract with an international law firm and qualified as a finance lawyer in 2006. Following a successful career in the City, Charlotte has now branched out to become a lecturer in law. Charlotte congratulated the girls on their academic success but was particularly impressed by their breadth of experience and the opportunities that they have taken in their years at CHS. As she so rightly pointed out, it is that richness that will make a difference in the future and our girls have it in spades!

*Thank you Charlotte.*

### A VERY SPECIAL DELIVERY



There was great excitement in school on 14th September last year, when we received delivery of our new Steinway piano.

Head of Music, Elizabeth Cohen, abandoned her Year 12 lesson and rushed off to the front door to watch it being carried off the van and up the steps into the school. It took only 15 minutes for the three expert piano removers to assemble the precious instrument onto its legs on the stage in the hall. Before it was wrapped up in its cover and blankets, lucky Sophia Patterson from Year 4, who happened to be walking

through the hall after her very first piano lesson, was invited to show us how to find middle C. A big thank you to the PTA for their fund raising efforts and everyone who raised money especially those in the alumnae community who sent donations to sponsor a key. Your names are recorded for posterity on a large keyboard-style plaque which is displayed in the Music Room.

*Thank you.*



### SARAH WESTMAN GIVES PHYSIOTHERAPY ADVICE

Our October Careers Seminar was led by alumna Sarah Westman and was attended by an enthusiastic group of potential health care workers. Sarah was a passionate ambassador for her profession, describing how her own career, which began in Guy's Hospital, had been both varied and stimulating and inspiring the girls to think more about this hugely satisfying and rewarding career. *Thank you Sarah.*

### JACQUELINE DU PRÉ ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



Our Jacqueline du Pré Anniversary Concert on Saturday 13th October was a resounding success. And we were delighted to have such a strong representation of alumnae in the audience and also the orchestra.

Two former du Pré Music Scholars, Kimberley Wong (2005) and Caroline Wong (2008) returned to perform solos with the orchestra: Vivaldi's 'Winter' from 'The

4 Seasons' and Caccini's 'Ave Maria' and a third former scholar, Caroline Atkinson (2011) performed Sibelius' Romance Op 78 accompanied by our new Steinway. Caroline Wong also gave a performance of the first movement of Elgar's Cello Concerto, the piece with which Jackie was always associated. Our own cellists featured prominently in the concert, which began with a massed cello ensemble of 24 players, performing two pieces arranged for them by Patsy Gritton, including girls from Years 4 to 13 and a Cello Quintet with five cellists from Years 7 and 8, all of whom started learning with the Peggy Guillou Scheme. Our prized Boston Steinway piano was played for the first time in public by two lucky students and The Chamber Choir, brought the evening to a close with three songs, ending with John Clements' 'There is Sweet Music Here', a most appropriate choice for Croydon High School.

### ALICIA SHARES AN OXBRIDGE LUNCH



Seven Year 13 girls who are applying for Oxbridge or medicine were joined in the Sixth Form Common Room by alumna Alicia Luba for a picnic lunch one Saturday last November. Alicia, who had just graduated with a First in English Language and Literature from St Hilda's College, Oxford came to share her experiences, particularly of the Oxbridge interviewing process. She encouraged the girls to be enthusiastic about their subject, keep talking and to aim to enjoy the whole interview experience. Her funny stories kept everyone amused and her own enthusiasm and wise advice made it clear why she had been offered a place. *Thank you Alicia*

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT GREAT OCCASIONS

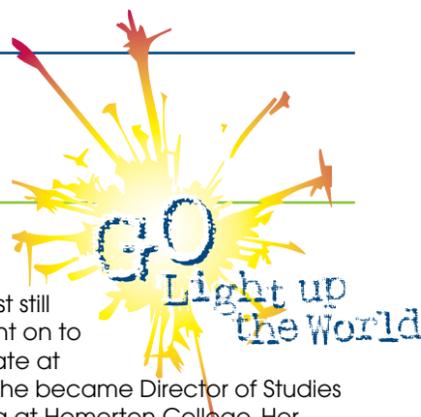
### GO...LIGHT UP THE WORLD FROM CROYDON HIGH SIXTH FORM



At our Sixth Form Open Evening in November, over 100 girls, including a significant number from local independent and maintained schools, came along to find out what makes our

**Sixth Form so special** Our main speaker was alumna Abigail Rokison (1993.) Whilst at school, Abigail, already a promising actress, appeared as Primrose in that staple of Sunday evening television twenty years ago, *The Darling Buds of May*, alongside David Jason and Catherine Zeta Jones. Despite continuing with her acting, Abigail felt drawn to academia and studied for her first degree with the

Open University whilst still acting. She then went on to study for her doctorate at Cambridge, where she became Director of Studies in English and Drama at Homerton College. Her doctoral dissertation on Shakespearean verse speaking was subsequently published and was awarded the Shakespeare's Globe inaugural Book Award in 2012, awarded to works which have made an "important contribution to the understanding of Shakespeare, his theatre, or his contemporaries" Abigail was an inspirational speaker and encouraged the girls to grasp the opportunities on offer to them and not to be afraid to follow their passions and dreams. She was also kind enough to stay and talk to parents and girls in the Common Room afterwards. *Thank you Abigail*



### CLASS OF 2012 – CHRISTMAS REUNION



We were delighted to welcome back girls from our 'Class of 2012' to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and a good catch up following their first term out in the world! All the girls seem happy and settled, although a couple mentioned how much they miss Croydon High which was touching. Several of the staff commented on how much older the girls look in just a few short months – they all seem to have adapted to their new lives and feel confident that they are more than coping. It was lovely to see them and we feel sure they will keep in touch and continue to let us know how they are getting on. *Once a Croydon High girl...always a Croydon High girl!*

### A SPECIAL IVY LINK VISIT

On Monday morning 4th February, most unexpectedly, we received a visit from one of our most senior alumnae, Mrs Joyce Winbolt-Lewis. Joyce left Croydon High in 1935 and now lives in Tooting, close to some of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was accompanied by her son, Martin who explained that he was visiting his mother from York. When he had asked her what she would like to do for the day, she had surprised him by saying she would like to visit her old school. They were unsure of the reception they would receive, but we were of course, delighted to see them and to hear some tales of life under Miss Ransford's Headship. Joyce has lived a full and fascinating life and is a true Croydon High 'girl'...charming, interesting and full of enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to meet her.



### ALUMNAE SUPPORT FOR CAREERS MASTER CLASS EVENING

On 6th March, we held our very first Careers Master Class Evening at school and this was greatly enhanced by the support of our alumnae community. Over 150 girls and parents enjoyed heard talks from our 14 visitors. Our delegates came from very different but nevertheless, all interesting career areas. Some were representing a whole range of career experiences on their own! Our thanks to all the alumnae who came and gave of their time and experience so willingly.

### TEA WITH THE HEAD



On Wednesday April 20th, some of our more senior Old Girls came back to school for an 'invitation only' tea party hosted by Mrs Leonard. The guest list was made up of a random selection of alumnae of a certain age and above (and we're not saying what that age is!) who are still living relatively locally. Some of the ladies had not been back to the school since they left – and for some of them this meant they had never seen the 'new site' which has only been here since the late 1960's. There was a wonderful display of archive memorabilia from their era which everyone really enjoyed poring over before sitting down to an afternoon tea which one guest described as being worthy of The Ritz! Some of

our 6th form girls joined the party and there were some really in-depth conversations going on between the generations which was a pleasure to see. Mrs Leonard welcomed the guests and brought them up to date with events in the school, speaking passionately about the continued commitment to educating girls in the Croydon High tradition. Colin Divall, Head of History, then talked enthusiastically about his plans to develop a new Year 7 History curriculum linked to the history of the school. He asked the guests to consider ways in which they might be able to help with this project, either with photos or mementos of their time in the school or by coming in and talking to the girls about their experiences. This idea was greeted warmly and there were many immediate offers of help. It was a very happy afternoon and judging by the letters and emails of thanks that were received, one that was very much appreciated by all who came.

### FAMILIAR FACES AS OUR GIRLS VISIT OXFORD



28 Year 10 and 11 girls spent a day in Oxford in the summer term, beginning to get a taste of university life and an understanding of the application process. The student outreach officer at Lady Margaret Hall explained how Oxford, with its college system, works as a university and outlined the importance of very good GCSE grades (typically admissions tutors are looking for 6 / 7 A\* grades) as well as predictions of A and A\* at A Level. Roughly one in five applicants is offered a place so she encouraged girls to set their sights high and apply. First year undergraduates gave the girls a tour of the college, seen at its best in the May sunshine with marquees going up for their ball! Alumna Frances Gosling, a second year law student at Brasenose, proudly showed off her college and told us about her own experience of Oxford which she clearly loves. Thank you Frances. The girls enjoyed the day and all felt it was extremely worthwhile.



### GOLDEN GIRLS

Congratulations to sisters Catherine (2011) and Natalie (2012) Coulthwaite who received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards in March this year. The girls attended the Awards ceremony at St James' Palace, where they were lucky enough to meet the Duke of Edinburgh himself and they were presented with their certificates by Moira Stuart. Congratulations to them both on this significant achievement.



### OLYMPIC DANCER

Hannah Brindle (1997) contacted us to let us know that she had been a dancer at the Paralympics Opening Ceremony. Hannah appeared as one of the 'umbrella dancers' appearing in the first ten minutes of the ceremony. Hannah is a staff nurse in Paediatric Intensive Care at St Thomas' in London. She explained that an email was sent to all NHS staff asking for volunteers to be part of the Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies. After several auditions, Hannah learned she had won a part.

"There were a lot of rehearsals but the hard work was worth the effort and I enjoyed every minute of it. It was an amazing experience and I met some really special people including Stephen Hawkins. Well done Hannah – what an opportunity!

## STORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

We are always delighted to hear your news, views and memories. Please keep them coming.

### WARTIME MEMORIES

Mrs Helen Poole (1943) contacted the GDST recently with some interesting information. Helen wrote "I was part of the evacuation programme from 1939-41. The school went first to Eastbourne, and the next year to Llandilo in South Wales. From early 1939 to 1940 we had a Viennese refugee living with us who had escaped on the Kindertransport. She later went to the US where she became a well-known costume designer for films. Her name was Ruth Morley."

*Does anyone else have memories of the school's evacuation that they would like to share with us?* Our History department is always keen to hear from alumnae who are happy to be interviewed about the significant world events that they have lived through. Please do contact us if you would like to be involved – ivylink@cry.gdst.net

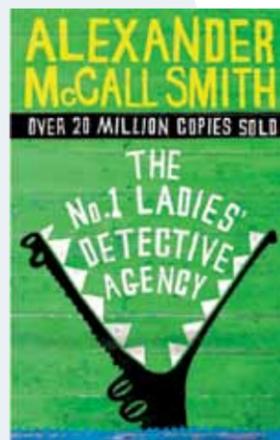
### LISA POWER, MBE



We send sincere though belated congratulations to Lisa Power (1973), Policy Director at the Terrence Higgins Trust. Lisa was awarded the MBE last year for services to sexual health and the LGBT communities.

### OLD FRIENDS

Christine Hogh (Smith, 1958) wrote to tell us that she is still in contact with school friends Rosemary Gold (Bruton) and Heather Dean (Wheelhouse) who both now live in Scotland and with whom she has enjoyed pleasant holidays. Rosemary has always been active in the Cubs and Scouts movement and as a friend of the author, Alexander McCall Smith, she was featured in one of his novels as the cub leader! We will have to re-read those novels now!



### THANK YOU CROYDON HIGH!

Olive Powell (Pendrill, 1947) wrote to us in August 2012...just to say thank you to Croydon High. Olive had just celebrated her 82nd birthday and wanted to thank everyone at Croydon High for their contribution to her education during some very difficult and challenging years.

She says "I started at Oxford High School in 1941 and then went to Croydon High School in 1942, and left in 1947 having spent a year from 1944-45 at Nottingham! I didn't go on to further education after Matriculation as there was a great demand for University places from people returning from the Services. I was just 17 by then and the prospect of spending three years in the sixth and another four training as an Occupational Therapist was very daunting. (The only overt sex discrimination I have ever had in my life was my father persuading me that as I hoped to marry some day and that I had two younger brothers, at Dulwich and Whitgift, perhaps I should leave school and get a job!) I did so and worked in the Bank of England for almost a year, by which time I was crazy with boredom! I obtained some secretarial training and worked until 1953 as a secretary to the Chairman and Managing Editor of Farmer and Stockbreeder. These were happy times and I felt I was appreciated.

In 1956 my son was born, and followed by his sisters in 1958, 1961 and 1963, which kept me pretty busy, but by the time the youngest was in the Nursery I wanted something more. I didn't really fancy office work (there were no childcare facilities then) and I heard of a do-it-yourself training course for mums to become Teachers! Brilliant! I was accepted immediately and went to Maria Grey in evenings, odd days and weeks when the other students were not there but the children were at school. It was quite gruelling, but very stimulating and enjoyable and my children became much more independent. I worked as a Primary School Teacher for 13 years in a difficult school in Feltham, Middlesex and retired in 1984 – partly due to ill-health.

After recovering, I joined the WI and soon became President. I joined some Federation sub-committees and trained as a Voluntary County Organiser, helping women to set up and run their own WIs. I was co-opted onto the Federation Executive Committee and was Middlesex Chairman

from 2002 to 2005. I spent many happy times at Denman College – still learning! I was widowed in 2002 and in 2005 moved to Wales to be nearer to my youngest daughter. I am still involved with WI and now with U3A and enjoying Geology (many thanks to Miss John who was telling us about Plate Tectonics in 1946, before it had a name!) I tried learning Welsh for the first 3 years I was here – but the memory...and French came first, anyway, Oh, that wonderful School trip to Paris at Easter 1947, we were there for a month, it was unforgettable. I am also helping (by writing to volunteers and keeping them in touch) a local Transition group with a project to utilise surplus food and run a little café and meeting room (the local Co-op has leased us a building, free) where soups and juices etc. can be served.

None of my children wanted to go to University when they left school, but I am very proud of my daughters who all followed my example and took up Higher Education later.

I had a very happy time in the three schools I attended. I was not a particularly talented pupil, but worked hard. I remember my schooldays with great affection and feel that the quality of my education has had far-reaching effects on me, on my children, grandchildren (8) and great-grandson. I have spent most of my life appreciating how lucky I am to have had that groundwork that enables me to keep widening my horizons. So, Thank You, Croydon High School!

With much love and very best wishes for you all in the future and may the ethos, if not the method of delivering it, remain,

Yours very sincerely, Olive Powell

*PS. I apologise for this screed and hope you will understand what I am trying to convey. Teachers very often get few thanks!*

### MARGARET'S MEMORIES

Margaret Campbell-Csillag (Jackson, 1956) shared some reminiscences when she joined the Head's tea party this year. Perhaps these will prompt some more memories from her peer group?

"Diane Jones swimming for the school even after she had had her leg amputated, quite amazing! The chaos in the Biology Lab after the locusts escaped into the room! Miss Gregory somehow managing to keep things under control.

A wonderful evening when Gerald Moore came to talk to parents, staff and girls. I believe the lecture was entitled – "Am I too loud?" Having an afternoon

rest on our rugs in the hall of the Elms! The "Ghost of the Night" the prefect who came to check on us in the Cloakroom of the Homestead! Fanny's very limp handshake, despite all the amazing things she had achieved!

### POST WAR MEMORIES

Ann Edwards (Jennings, 1954) was prompted to contact us after seeing a copy of the first Ivy Link Magazine whilst visiting her friend Barbara Baxter (Jones). Ann told us she attended Croydon High as a scholarship girl from 1948 to 1954, leaving after lower sixth. She wrote "I have great memories of school, although I hated exams, but all my life have felt the benefits of the education it offered and the all-round experiences it gave us all. Not to mention the proximity of Whitgift Middle (as it was then) and waving to all the boys as they went into lunch opposite. Our year was also asked to join with them in a play 'You Can't Take It with You'. I was given a part and needless to say, a good time was had by all and many a friendship blossomed.



### GPDST MOTTO

Gordon Garment contacted us with a query from his wife, Daphne.

"My wife Daphne (née Hubbard) was a pupil at Croydon High until 1952/53. She says she thinks the motto of the GPDST was "Knowledge shall be no more a fountain sealed", or words to that effect. Would you be good enough to let me know the exact wording, as she is meeting Mary Berry, (another GPDST Alumna) on Feb 26th and wants her to inscribe the motto in her latest book. Sixty years on from her High School days, Daphne has lived most of her life in rural Lancashire where her passion for horses has been indulged to the full. At 76 she is still competing at show jumping and dressage, She puts it down to High School training!"

We were delighted to reply and to confirm the quotation that Daphne remembered was indeed the motto of the GPDST and indeed many of its individual schools.

*The full quotation is "Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed" and it comes from the poem The Princess by Lord Alfred Tennyson.*

## EILEEN FUCHS

In January of this year, we received an email from Frank Knowles informing us of the death of his aunt.



*"My Aunt, Eileen Fuchs (nee Eileen Knowles), who studied at Croydon High School in the 1930s, died recently and I wondered if you could include a short obituary in your alumni magazine?"*

*She greatly enjoyed her time at Croydon High and I believe was Head Girl before studying History at Newnham*

*from 1938 to 1942. Her niece (my sister) Barbara Knowles followed in her footsteps, attending Croydon High in the 1970s and studying for an MA and PHD at Girton."*

Soon afterwards there appeared a number of references to Eileen Fuchs in the national media and we began to learn more about this extraordinary woman and somewhat unconventional life and career after leaving Croydon High.

Born in Ashford, Middlesex, and educated at Croydon High School, where she was head girl, Eileen Knowles read History at Newnham from 1938 to 1942. She was one of a generation of women who were not allowed to graduate with full degrees, though she did have the pleasure of attending the 1998 event in Cambridge at which 900 such women were honoured to mark 50 years from the granting of full degree rights.

Eileen graduated during wartime and worked throughout the rest of the war and during the post-war reconstruction in London as a civil servant at the Board of Trade. A talented violinist, she decided in 1953 to spend a year studying in Vienna, where

she met and married Karl Fuchs, a member of the Austrian Olympic ski team.

Together they purchased Struan House Hotel in Carrbridge near Aviemore in 1954, founded the Austrian Ski School, and for thirty years helped pioneer skiing in the Cairngorms. They were dubbed by The Guardian as the mother and father of Scottish Skiing. Their two children, Peter and Lisi, both skied at national level, and Peter competed for Great Britain at the 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics in his father's home country. Peter was tragically killed in a car crash in 1980, and Karl died a decade later. Eileen later founded the Karl and Peter Fuchs Memorial fund to help young Scottish skiers.

She died peacefully in Grantown on Spey, leaving behind her daughter Lisi, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, having inspired a generation of skiers and walkers in her beloved Cairngorms.

***"Eileen Margaret Fuchs (nee Knowles),  
b. 30 May 2020, d. 11 January 2013,  
"Mother of Scottish skiing"***

### The First Neligan Scholar

What Frank did not tell us about his aunt – and possibly because he would not have known – was that Eileen Knowles, together with Phyllis Brown, was the first recipient of the Neligan Scholarship. This honour meant that that she received the princely sum of £45 (£15 a year for 3 years) to support her studies at Cambridge. Her progress there was followed closely by the Scholarship Trust Committee as can be seen from the AGM extracts below.

As background, the Scholarship Trust was established in 1937. After two years of fundraising activity, the first Neligan Scholarships were awarded. These awards were based on academic excellence and need.

During the initial fundraising period, the 1938 annual report stated that *'The University*

*Scholarship Fund was started with the sole object of raising money which, when invested, would produce an income of sufficient magnitude to provide Scholarships for Girls who wished to go to a University or other educational institution of a similar standard after completing the school course and who needed financial help.'*

Furthermore *'It cannot be stressed too much how important it is to-day that our best girls should have the advantages of a University career, and, in a school like the Croydon High School for Girls the material could not be better. One scholarship a year is not enough as there are usually several deserving girls who need assistance. In most Boys' Public Schools there are many Scholarships or Exhibitions available and we feel that if the Parents continue to give every support this Trust can perform a most valuable function in facilitating the higher education of suitable candidates.'*

At the Committee meeting on 23 June 1939, it was proposed by Miss Ransford that 'a Scholarship, called the Neligan Scholarship, to be the value of £50 per annum tenable for three years be awarded.' It was further resolved that 'the Neligan Scholarship be awarded to Miss Eileen Knowles and Miss Phyllis Brown, the division of the amount proposed being £15 (fifteen pounds) and £35 (thirty-five) pounds per annum respectively....'

In the 1940 Annual Report, it was stated that 'I am very happy indeed to be able to report excellent progress by the holders of the Neligan Scholarship. This is as it should be, and the Neligan Old Girls will be delighted, I am sure, to hear that Miss Eileen Knowles obtained a First in Mays and on her results was awarded a College Scholarship, and Miss Phyllis Brown has passed her first professional Examination in Dental Metallurgy and second professional Examination (Part I) in General Anatomy and Physiology. We extend to them our best wishes and congratulations.'

The 1941 Annual Report continued to report on their progress 'The Neligan scholars are continuing their splendid progress. Miss Eileen Knowles at Newnham College, Cambridge, has passed the

History Tripos, Part I, Class II and will now go on to Part II next year, while Miss Phyllis Brown at University College Hospital, has passed Parts I and II of the L.D.S. examination and now starts on General Medicine, Surgery and Conservation work. The Committee also extends to them their heartiest congratulations, and best wishes for a successful conclusion of their studies.'

Lastly in 1942 it is reported that 'Miss Eileen Knowles and Miss Phyllis Brown, the original Neligan Scholars, have completed their courses, the former with Class II, Division I, in the History Tripos, Part II at Newnham College, Cambridge, and the latter has been successful in the Final L.D.S. Part I, General Medicine and Surgery. The Committee of Management congratulates them heartily on their achievements, and wishes them every success in their future careers.'

There was keen interest in the progress of the first two Neligan scholars, thereafter no other girl's academic progress is reported publicly in such detail.

By 1944, this scholarship had been renamed the Ransford Scholarship (in honour of Ella Ransford, the Headmistress under whose guidance the Scholarship Trust had been formed). It was resolved that 'an Award, which may be of nominal amount, be made each year to the best leaving scholar and that it should be known as The Ransford Scholarship.'



*If you would like to know more about Eileen's life and work, you may be interested in the article which appeared in The Guardian in 2000, reviewing a book about her and her husband's experiences as pioneers of the Scottish Ski industry.*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2000/dec/30/books.guardianreview>

## BETTY'S LASTING LEGACY



Left to Right:  
Betty Porteous, Miss R N Pearse, Barbara Stephens, Jean Fogg

We were delighted to be able to represent the school at the celebration of Betty Porteous' life in July last year. It was fascinating to find out more about our alumna who had led such a full and active life and who lived through such momentous world events.

Born in Norbury, Betty went to school there for a short time before going in 1926 to join her two sisters, Mary and Isobel, at Croydon High School. Her older sister Mary went on to be a teacher at Croydon High.

According to her family, she was extremely happy at school and indeed once said she never wanted to leave! In her final year at school, Betty was involved with the Junior League of Nations movement which proved to be quite a pointer to her future career. Betty left school in 1937 and went to Mrs Hoster's secretarial training college in London.

Her first job was in the typing pool at the Central Electricity Board. The war saw her being evacuated with the CEB to Horsley Towers in Surrey. She continued to work her way up and was selected by Sir Stanley Brown to be his PA when he took over as Chairman of what was then the CEEB. She remained in that role with his successor Sir Arthur Hawkins, retiring in 1978 after handing over on Sir Arthur's retirement. Betty felt her Scottish roots keenly, and regularly visited Scotland. She enjoyed watching sport, particularly tennis, golf and rugby union (supporting Scotland of course - she was no doubt, cheering on Andy Murray at the U.S. Open and the London Olympics last year!). A particularly happy, yet poignant, end to the memorial service was when the Vicar encouraged us all in the congregation to dance down the aisle accompanied by Betty's favourite Scottish Country music!

Following her death, we received notification that Betty had remembered the school with a legacy in her Will. To acknowledge her love of music and the arts, we felt that it was particularly appropriate to donate her generous gift to the school's music scholarship fund. We hope that Betty would have been happy that her legacy will be used to encourage future generations to excel and to share her love of music.

*Elizabeth Duncan*  
*(Betty) Porteous,*  
*27.1.1920-23.4.2012*



## CROYDON HIGH'S OWN ALUMNAE OF THE YEAR



As many of you will be aware, the GDST has an annual competition to recognise the trust-wide Alumnae of the Year. The call goes out for nominations and we are always delighted to see the number that come through for Croydon old girls.

This year five names were put forward, each of them inspiring and worthy of recognition in their

own right. They were: Kim Barratt, Eleanor Church, Clare Gilbert, Chantal Henderson and Lynda Warren.

We understand it was a particularly strong field this year so we were delighted to hear that our own Clare Gilbert had made it on to the short list.

Clare is Professor of International Eye Health in the International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), and has been the Medical Advisor to Sightsavers International since 1995. She is a key leader who has made a significant contribution to global eye care and has put prevention of childhood blindness firmly at the forefront of the global health agenda.

Clare's research underpins the priorities of VISION 2020 the Right to Sight, and is focussed on the epidemiology of blindness in children, particularly in third world countries. Since 2006 Clare has been Co-Director of ICEH and is a member of the School's Ethics Committee and is in overall charge of the research undertaken by the organisation. She developed a classification system for the causes of blindness in children which has been adopted by the World Health Organisation and is now being used worldwide.

By 2020, thanks to the evidence built up by Clare and her colleagues, there will be widespread knowledge of the major causes, and programmes in place to reduce suffering caused by avoidable blindness in children.

Voting for the Alumnae of the Year closed on the 10th May and as we go to press we are still awaiting the results. Whatever they are, we are extremely proud of Clare and of all our nominees for their outstanding achievements.



Clare Gilbert

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.

Gloria Parker wrote to let us know of the death of two of her school friends, **Patricia Bryars** and **Jean Wincum (Smith)**. Gloria remembered that during the war, the school had sent volunteers to pick potatoes at a farm, as they were short of staff. Gloria went with Jean on two occasions and remembers thoroughly enjoying the experience. It obviously had an impact on Jean who went on to study horticulture and made a career out of it.

Gerard Woodroof wrote to tell us that his mother, **Audrey Norah Woodroof** died in March 2010 after a short illness. Much missed by family and friends. Catherine Roberts (Class of 1986) wrote to tell us that her mother, **Pamela Roberts (Johnston, Class of XXXX)** passed away peacefully on November 24th 2012.

Peter Jeffery wrote to let us know of the death of his mother, **XXXX Jeffery** on April 4th 2010. She was a pupil at Croydon High in the 1920s and early 30s, along with her sister Muriel who died in early 2012. According to Peter, his mother was very proud of her association with Croydon High and she became a Froebel teacher shortly before the Second World War. She married in 1940 and had four children, resuming work as a teacher at Croham Hurst when her husband died suddenly in 1968. She lived in Purley all her life except for the last two years when she moved to a BUPA care home in East Dean, East Sussex.



Pamela Barnett (1952) had the sad duty of writing to tell us of the death of her dear friend **Janet Bunting, (née D'Olier)** who died this year.

Janet, born on 31 March 1933, owed an immense debt to Croydon High School in terms of academic development, confidence-

building and the forging of lasting friendships. She joined the school in September 1943, one year ahead of me, and remained until evacuated to Lincolnshire relatives, during Croydon's devastating doodlebug bombardment, but was back for the school's 70th birthday party in September 1944. In 1949 she participated in the first post-war school exchange with Germany, subsequently revisiting her hosts in Celle several times. In 1950 she sat the last Higher School Certificate before its replacement by 'A' Level. She was obviously a gifted linguist, obtaining a distinction in French and special credits in French and German orals, and not surprisingly she was awarded the school's Harding Travelling Scholarship, a Croydon Major Scholarship and an

open scholarship to read French and German at Exeter. She then left school and I might never have got to know her!

However, she was persuaded to return to school in September 1951 to prepare for Oxford and Cambridge entrance examinations. So it was that we worked together on our French and German, both gained places at Lady Margaret Hall and Girton, both resigned the Cambridge offer and Janet also resigned her Exeter scholarship. For three years at Oxford we worked hard but enjoyed life, now as a group of six friends who, after 57 years, still remain in touch. A first-year highlight was the group expedition to London to witness the Coronation and dance a midnight eightsome reel in the middle of the Mall!

After graduation Janet worked for Shell as a translator, but in 1957 she married Jeffrey Bunting, a fellow Oxford linguist, and became the mainstay of a loving family of four daughters and ten grandchildren. However, her linguistic gifts were not abandoned: she fitted part-time teaching and translation work into her busy family life, acted as Clerk to the Governors of a local school and kept in touch with her French contacts - very appropriate in view of her Huguenot antecedents. She also remained an enthusiastic participant in CHS year-group reunions for well over 50 years, very much enjoying the opportunity to renew acquaintances among her school contemporaries. Sadly in 1999 came the first signs of the Parkinson's disease which gradually claimed her. She spent the last four years in a nursing home, lovingly supported by her husband and daughters, and bore everything with patient dignity and serenity, helped by her firm but unostentatious Christian faith. She died on 23 May 2012 aged 79

### Mary Whorlow

Mary died in April 2013 aged 92. She was a teacher in the Homestead from about 1954 until retirement and her specialist subject was music.



### Gwynedd Mary Norman (Barnaschone)

2nd April 1912 - 12th November 2012

**Gwynedd Norman (1930?),** the mother of **Prue Sizeland (Morgan, 1953)** died peacefully in November, just seven months after

celebrating her 100th birthday in the traditional manner, with a telegram from the Queen and a party with her family.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### ANNA'S PARTIES

Anna Freeman ( Class of xxxx) organises events for single people including Speed Dating, Parties, Networking Singles and One-to-One Introductions, mainly in the Cheltenham area, with plans to hold events in Oxford, Bath, Bristol, Worcester and further afield.

[anna@annasperties.co.uk](mailto:anna@annasperties.co.uk)

[www.annafreeman.com](http://www.annafreeman.com)

### DESIGNS ON SOMETHING

Designs on Something is a cottage industry set up by Susan Clark (Class of XXXX) and her partner which they run alongside their full time shift work. They specialise in machine embroidering slogans, logos and names on just about anything, then hand finishing every item to ensure the finest quality finish.

[www.designsonsomething.co.uk](http://www.designsonsomething.co.uk)

[designsonsomething@gmail.com](mailto:designsonsomething@gmail.com).

### YVONNE HARRINGTON

Yvonne Harrington (Barnby, Class of 1974) is a full time graphic designer and part time serious watercolorist (member of the Birmingham Watercolour Society). Take a look at her web site for beautiful personalised gifts and cards, portraits and illustrations.

[www.houseportraits.net](http://www.houseportraits.net)

[yvonne.harrington@tesco.net](mailto:yvonne.harrington@tesco.net)

### TRYING TO TRACE:

**Pauline Sandeman (nee Whellock)** is trying to trace **Carole Weatherly (nee Davenport)**. They both left Croydon High between 1962-64. Any contact information to [anna@annasperties.co.uk](mailto:anna@annasperties.co.uk) or 07773 0007333

**Heather Anderton (Bright, 1972)** is searching for any information on a couple who, she believes, worked as caretakers at Croydon High when it was in Wellesley Road. They are **Nellie** and **Jack Dymore** and this would have been during the 1940s. Heather has been told that when their

daughter **Queenie** got married on 23rd May 1942, her wedding reception was held at the school. She has had no success finding any trace of the births/marriage or deaths of this couple under the name Dymore so anything which might help clarify their "real" names, birthdates or would be extremely helpful. Both Nellie and Jack and their daughter are now dead and it is their grandson (Heather's cousin) who is searching for the information.

Please contact Heather via [ivylink@cry.gdst.net](mailto:ivylink@cry.gdst.net)

## MESSAGE BOARD

### Gillian Nelson 1950 (Barnes)

Now living in Inverness - has published five novels and a book on Highland Bridges!

Bought a four acre 'forgotten' garden in the '70's and working to restore it. Open to the public since 1997, now being reorganised to suit rather ageing gardeners. Three children - eight grandchildren.

### Maureen Goodwin 1950 (Goodwin)

Still having reunions with friends who left CHS between 1948 and 1952.

### Jean Grew 1951 (Grant)

Still teaching piano at age of 79.

### Patricia Wingham 1963 (Habgood)

Two marriages, four sons, five grandchildren and two dogs. Loves gardening, cooking, eating out and travelling.

### Patricia Winter MBE 1956

Now quite disabled as a result of carrying heavy cat traps through working with feral cats for Croydon Cats Protection. Continues with voluntary cat work which involves supporting mostly old people with vet transport, holiday feeding, claw clipping and advice generally.



Three of the school's most senior alumnae light the candles on the eightieth birthday cake in May 1954. They were: L to R, Mrs E Blizzard (84), Miss G Price (89) and Miss A Price (82).

Does anyone remember anything about them and who will be lighting the candles on next year's 140th birthday cake?

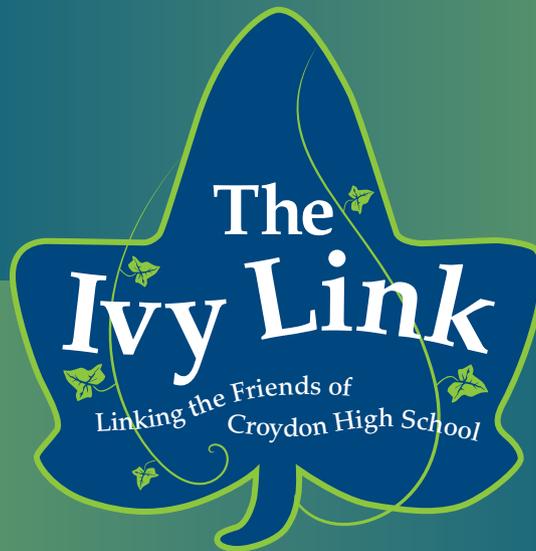
## WHAT IS THE IVY LINK?

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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/croydonhighivylink)

Follow us on twitter at [twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyL](http://twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyL)



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

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