



CHS

Croydon High School
ESTD. 1874

The Ivy Link Magazine 2015



Dear Friends and Alumnae,



The 140th Anniversary year is coming to an end as I write this and I am delighted to report that it has been happy, eventful, celebratory and above all, I hope, an appropriate recognition of the wonderful history and

bright future of our school. You will be able to read about some of the significant events we have enjoyed in this edition of the Ivy Link Magazine, so I will simply take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to making it such a momentous year.

The year will be marked with a number of permanent and very visual reminders in the form of several stunning stained glass window panels and the eye catching sculpture called "Knowing Ivy" that now adorns the wall



outside the Senior Hall. These pieces of work came about following the Creative Arts week in the spring term, when the girls worked with members of staff and an artist in residence, to create some thought provoking and very beautiful pieces of art. We hope they

will all be installed by the end of the term and that you will be able to see them on your next visit to school.

In school, the girls have continued to achieve great

things at all levels, from the youngest in Nursery to those who are ready to sit their final examinations and take flight. We have enjoyed watching wonderful dramatic



performances, listening to sweet music, cheering fabulous sporting performances and marvelling at the artistic talent blossoming in the school. It is really inspirational to see what these girls are capable of. I am always equally awed by the achievements of the Croydon High girls who are already 'out there' and making a difference in all walks of life. Rarely a week goes by that we don't hear from somebody; sharing news and often volunteering to come in and offer support and careers advice to the 'current crop'. It is always much appreciated.

The 1874 Foundation appeal

I hope you like the stunning Ivy photograph on our front cover which was taken by Millie Mensah from the Class of 2006 I met Millie at our Winter Fair last year where she was exhibiting her work and I admired this particular image. I find I always notice Ivy now! Millie told me that she found her creative streak later in life after taking a photography class in 2013. At school, she was always more passionate about English and History. Her main interests are fashion, portrait and street photography so she is always looking for new subjects and locations to shoot - she will be shooting her first wedding in August and we wish her well with that. I believe Millie's contact details are in our Classifieds section of this edition if anyone would like to get in touch. We are always happy to promote our alumnae's endeavours.

Once again, my thanks go to everyone in our community for their support for Croydon High School in this very special year and may I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Debbie Leonard



Dear Ivy Linkers,

Another school year is drawing to a close and once again it has been a very full and exciting one at Croydon High, with plenty of opportunities for alumnae of many year groups to re-connect with each other and with their school. It is always a pleasure to

put faces to names and to see such happy faces as old friends reunite.

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed information and news for this year's edition of the Ivy Link Magazine. We are always delighted to hear your

reminders and to pass on your messages to the rest of the community. Our numbers are really growing, through a combination of word of mouth and use of social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Please do encourage your friends who are not yet in touch to contact us via the ivylink@cry.gdst.net or at the school on 020 8260 7531. You can also find us and 'like' us at www.facebook.com/croydonhighivylink or follow us on twitter at twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyl

It has yet, again, been a real privilege to be connected to so many interesting and inspirational women who share the Ivy link.

With very best wishes

Karen Roe

CELEBRATING OUR PROUD HISTORY IN A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On November 26th 2014, our school marked its 140th anniversary with a spectacular performance at Fairfield Halls, Croydon. As well as countless proud parents, the sell-out show was attended by large numbers of ex-pupils and ex-staff, including former Head Lorna Ogilvie. Dr Tim Miller, Chair of Council at the GDST and CEO Helen Fraser also joined us to mark this very special occasion.



The audience were treated to a memorable night in every way; as the school's Music and Drama departments combined to stage a production which charted our journey from the founding of the school in 1874, in North End, Croydon, to our second home in Wellesley Road (now the site of Apollo House) and then, in 1966, to our present home in Selsdon. This journey was brought to life in a special video made for the evening which can be viewed

The school archives provided treasures of all kinds; photos, poems, and stories that brought the past to life and enabled staff to recreate the school story in a dramatic, moving and totally authentic script. References and reminiscences obviously brought back vivid memories for many in the audience who had lived through those days, including evacuation in WW2 - the school was badly damaged by a "buzz bomb" in 1944 - and Croydon in the swinging sixties, when urban development and growing pupil numbers forced a move to the current leafy, 20 acre site in Selsdon.

The Drama was interspersed with music through the ages and included impressive renditions of Zadok the Priest, John Rutter's Birthday Madrigals and a stirring performance (with full audience participation and Union Jack waving) of Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory. The choir and orchestra numbers swelled for some performances, as the girls were joined on stage by boys from Whitgift and Sutton Grammar schools. The Croydon High Community Choir and Orchestra,



including staff, ex-staff and pupils and parents, was formed especially for this occasion and produced a particularly memorable performance.

Girls from Reedham Park School, Purley, St David's College, West Wickham and Warringham Park School also joined the performers, representing the strong links Croydon High has always enjoyed with local schools.

Narration for the programme was provided, in part, by ex-staff members and alumnae, including the Stranack family (more of them later in this edition of The Ivy Link magazine) who have sent five generations of girls to Croydon High. Another 'old girl', a contemporary of Jacqueline du Pré, together with her daughter Jane who teaches in the Juniors and grand-daughter Alice (currently in Year 7) introduced the tribute to our celebrated alumna who attended the school in the 1950s. The cello ensemble's performance of Libertango: Piazzola showed how the du Pré legacy is thriving at Croydon High.

As always, Croydon High girls rose to the occasion and from the youngest on the night - Year 3 - right up to the impressive young women of the Sixth Form, they demonstrated just why the school enjoys such an enviable reputation for all-round excellence. The youngest girls, from Nursery to Year 2, were not there (too late on a school night!) but made their presence felt in a delightful video wishing their school a Happy Birthday. Amongst many memorable moments, it is hard to highlight only one, but for sheer energy, glamour and faultless delivery, the 'Fashion Through the Decades' dance routines performed by the Sixth Form were outstanding. Well over 100 girls danced their way from the '50s to the 'noughties' accompanied by music that had the delighted audience cheering their approval.

From the first Head, Dorinda Neligan, a formidable character and active Suffragette, who believed passionately in opportunities for women, to our current Head, who is equally passionate about the aspirations of the girls in her care today, Croydon High School has a remarkable history. At the end of the show, Debbie Leonard raised a glass to toast the next 140 years and challenged the girls to go out and make that history by seizing the many opportunities available to them.

It was a night to remember and to celebrate and this was certainly done in style.

Who do we think we are? A short history of Croydon High School

Our school opened its doors for the first time on 14th September 1874, at The Chestnuts, North End, Croydon, with three teachers (including the Headmistress) and 31 girls. Croydon High School for Girls was the third school in an historic experiment in girls-only education by the Girls Public Day School Trust. Croydon High was placed under the 'command' of Miss Dorinda Neligan, a formidable character who had served with the Red Cross in France during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 and legend has it, had been left in sole charge of the wounded at Metz. Croydon High quickly established itself, despite protestations from local residents that a girls' school would bring too much noise to the respectable and sleepy Croydon community!

It was Miss Neligan's tenacity and drive that clearly shaped the early school, establishing its initial curriculum with such diverse subjects as Military Drill, Deportment and Divinity. The school grew and in May 1880 it became necessary to move to new premises at 36 Wellesley Rd, the site remembered so fondly by many of our alumnae.



The School at Wellesley Road

Miss Neligan's legendary reputation has stood the test of time within the Croydon High community; she was a unique Victorian Headmistress whose own, sometimes combative relationship with the GPDST, manifested itself in a number of ways, including a belief that her school was to be run without the need for rewards and punishments to govern her girls. Instead, she maintained that the joy of knowledge would be reward enough and her own intimidating persona an effective deterrent for any wrong doing.

Miss Neligan remained Head of Croydon High for twenty seven years and after retirement, so incensed at the long delay in giving women the vote, she became an active member of the WSPU (The Suffragettes). On one occasion, she protested by refusing to pay her rates and on another, whilst marching with Emmeline Pankhurst, a policeman was assaulted, but no charges were made and Miss Neligan herself escaped prison (presumably because of her age!) We like to think that this sense of justice and equality of opportunity has been passed down through generations of Croydon High girls - although we always stress the importance of operating within the law!

Our school has always been at the forefront of creating opportunities for girls. In 1885, hitherto almost unheard of for girls, Chemistry was introduced to the curriculum. Of course, at the beginning, no practical work was allowed - it was far too dangerous! But the attitude to experimental science was changing, and in 1902, about a year after Miss Leahy succeeded Miss Neligan, a science demonstration room, forerunner of the laboratories, was built. Amongst Miss Leahy's legacies to the School was writing the words for the first School Song, The School of the Ivy Green. The music was written by Mr H.L. Balfour, who was Music master at the time.

'What did you glean for your future life?

Remembrance dear and friendships true,

As strong as when clouds come as when skies are blue,

And courage for the way and hope for every day."

From "The School of the Ivy Green."

In the early days, Croydon High girls did not wear uniform and photographs show them very decorously attired in the fashion of the time. By 1896, moderately short skirts were allowed for those girls who attended Swedish drill classes. Even in 1918 the gym mistress was requested to wear a long raincoat over her tunic when moving around the school! Hemlines go up and down but our girls are encouraged to wear their uniforms with pride always remembering that they are ambassadors for the school wherever they go.

During its first quarter century, our school moved from its original premises; during its second the new premises on Wellesley Road were extended greatly and survived the First World War. The Jubilee was celebrated in 1924 and with the third quarter century a new era began, under the headship of Miss Ella Ransford.

Miss Ransford's headship covered the thirties, when there was high unemployment and financial difficulty in the country as a whole. It saw the rise of Nazi Germany and again the clouds of war. Even before the advent of war with Germany in 1939, plans were already afoot at CHS for contingency, should war break out. Numerous letters from Miss Ransford to the parents exist, many of which were kept on file but never sent. These show that despite the threat of mass civilian destruction, everything possible was being

done to ensure the Croydon High spirit would survive and most importantly our girls' education would continue.

Miss Ransford retired in 1939, having established the School Scholarship Trust to help with the continued education of girls, initially for those who had left school. When Miss Adams arrived to take over the leadership of the school, the Second World War had already begun. She had just evacuated the Queen Mary High School from Liverpool and she travelled to Croydon to find not 800 but 54 pupils, for many girls had already been sent away to safe districts.

Miss Adams had to act quickly to preserve the life of Croydon High, evacuating part of the school to Eastbourne and part to Llandilo in Wales. It was in Wales that her inherent 'Churchillian' style of leadership came to the forefront, when first arriving on a dark and rainy Welsh evening, it is said she marched her small band of girls to the local Town Hall, gate-crashing a council meeting, with the immortal words 'I am Miss Adams, Headmistress of Croydon High School'.

By 1944, the school had established itself back in Croydon, not knowing that once again South London would be at the forefront of the war when Hitler unleashed his V1 and V2 rockets. It was during this period that our school endured one of its darkest days when it suffered a direct hit during the school day.

It was Miss Adams who, after the war, led the building programme, expanding the school in every way. She developed new aspects of the curriculum and brought Croydon High safely through a time of national austerity. In 1954, Croydon High celebrated its eightieth birthday with a Grand Fete, attended by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester and alumna Sheila Sim, the famous actress and wife of Sir Richard Attenborough. The event raised an impressive £950 for the stage fund. But that was not enough for the indomitable Miss Adams.

The school library was small and accommodation for science inadequate. Miss Adams had been cherishing a dream and by 1959 it became reality; the gymnasium was transformed into a magnificent library and thanks to the enthusiasm she engendered, gifts to furnish it and fill its shelves came pouring in.

Meanwhile, visionary industrialists raised the Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Science to help to provide laboratory facilities for independent and direct grant schools. Croydon High School benefited and the physics and chemistry block, for which the Fund provided half the money, was opened by Sir Alexander Fleck, Chairman of ICI, on 10 March 1959, the day on which the Margaret Adams Library was opened. When Miss Adams retired in 1960, her portrait, painted by Edward Halliday, was hung in the library which bore her name and today it graces the entrance to the new Sixth Form centre, displayed proudly with her fellow Heads.

By the late 1950s post-war Croydon was changing fast as the Council commercialised the centre of the town with massive urban development. During this time the school continued to grow, amidst increased traffic and the deafening sounds of demolition and mushrooming



Lessons in 1914

office blocks. It was clear that a new site would have to be found in more quiet and spacious surroundings. With the support of the GPDST, local business leaders and parents, on 21 October 1964, the Duchess of Gloucester laid the foundation stone with the Archbishop of Canterbury's blessing and then in September 1966, the school opened in unfinished buildings on its new green and pleasant site in Selsdon. Throughout the 1970s and 80s our school continued to grow, with a successful fundraising campaign that resulted in the construction of our swimming pool, the celebration of our first 100 years in 1974 and the establishment of the new GCSE examinations in 1987 under the leadership of Miss Mark.

The energy and spirit of successive Heads meant that growth and progress continued and today we have, amongst other things, a superbly equipped sports complex, a bespoke sixth-form suite and impressive music and art facilities. Over the last four years the Junior School has been fully refurbished; creating a learning environment that the girls themselves have helped to design, including a multi-sensory 4D room.

There have been numerous refurbishment projects throughout the Senior school, all enhancing the girls learning and (school) living environment. The original 1960's roof has served us well, but has been fully replaced this year and fundraising is underway to build a sports pavilion that will not only improve facilities for the girls, but will also be open for use by the local community. This outward looking approach has been a key feature of our school from its earliest days.

Croydon High School continues to top local league tables in terms of academic results, but equally importantly our girls and our alumnae are out in the world making a real difference in all walks of life. We believe they all carry the spirit of Croydon High with them.

Our current Head, Debbie Leonard, has a vision and a determination that Miss Neligan and Miss Adams – indeed all her predecessors – would wholeheartedly support. She is committed to building on Croydon High School's long and proud reputation, for inspiring independent, forward thinking young women, who are well qualified in every sense to take on the challenges of life.

The Evolution of a Croydon High Girl

by Janisha Perera (with grateful thanks to all the members of The Ivy Link community who so kindly shared their memories with her.)

Growing up, Croydon High has been like a second home to me but even I (an honorary member of the nursery class of 2002!) am struggling up to keep up with all the changes in the school. After taking a trip back to the juniors to say a final farewell to Mrs Back and Mrs Putman, I got lost somewhere between the renovated reception area, the wonders of the 4D room and the revamped playground.

On April Fools' Day, when the prefects were due to walk into Assembly, they had been exchanged with the prefects from Whitgift School. That didn't go down well with Miss Cameron, our Headmistress!

a time when the very thought of knee high skirts was regarded as outrageous, translating Virgil was compulsory and school 'discos' consisted of ballroom dancing! Thousands of girls have walked in and out of our doors, during different eras and from different backgrounds and one day when we return as old girls who knows what we will find of our alma mater? CHS has lived through the eras of the suffragettes, the Cuban Missile Crisis and even the legendary Spice Girls and whilst our ethos remains deeply rooted we are constantly evolving. Meeting some of our 'old girls' through the Ivy Link network gave me a sense of the school as it was in their day.

I learned one thing that has remained the same throughout the decades is the excited anticipation, tempered with a hint of dread, of entering Year 7. Finding "your group" as well as your way around K block seems like an impossible feat for every 11 year old girl. Along with developing her ability to navigate around the school, a CHS girl also adopted a hatred for her school uniform, but even our blazers do not receive the kind of maltreatment hats did back in the '50s's. Although a navy velour or white panama seems rather trendy nowadays, then they were discarded at every opportunity!

Fashion at CHS took a major turn when the Swinging Sixties brought about a whole new breed of Croydon High girl: a hooped petticoat wearing, bouffant bearing (think Dusty Springfield) teenager with rock and roll running through her veins. As expected, once the miniskirt came into fashion girls vainly tried to hitch up their skirts and they weren't the only things that got higher! Apparently a ritual measuring of heels took place daily!

Croydon High continues to adapt to new technology and ever changing circumstances as every great school should. But, believe it or not, there was once

Our memorable moments as a year group were mostly confined to field trips, with the rule that what goes on during the field trip stays on the field trip! If you're really curious, check out the 2001 Leavers' Yearbook!

There were some real characters like eccentric teacher, Miss Trebble, who had a stuffed alligator in her room called Homer... and she used to talk to it!

Just like our mock elections we hold, old Croydonians were keen to participate in discussion of the tense international affairs of their time and many favoured CND (the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) whilst some budding politicians even went on the Aldermaston marches! It seems the social impact of the 60's also left a memorable mark on CHS as Mrs Di Clarke explained. "Life for girls was more innocent, more sheltered to begin with, then the 'Swinging Sixties' gave us a greater degree of independence and the freedom to express ourselves; great advances were being made in literature, art, music, fashion etc.

Women were achieving and encouraged to achieve in all spheres, particularly in what were seen as male professions. My head teachers, Doctor Adams and Miss Cameron, were both scientists. The school produced some wonderful scientists and doctors. It was a very forward thinking

school; it showed us that there were no barriers to achievement."

The "agonising evenings" of ballroom dancing with Trinity at Wellesley Road, under the close surveillance of matrons, soon disappeared and as alumna Dr Sujata

Kandu put it, "the highlight of the social calendar" (aka the Fashion Show) became a 'rite of passage' for a CHS girl.

Additionally, the custom of blaring out music during lunchtime hasn't died out through the years but the genre certainly has changed! Today's sixth formers prefer Beyoncé to The Kinks and Tiger Tiger to the Orchid Ballroom!

When I asked the old girls about their time at CHS each came up with a very different view, many had funny anecdotes and memories of their own traditions but each and every alumna agreed that the ethos remained the same. "CHS girls have independence, confidence, opinions and diplomacy. I teach a fair few girls here at Imperial College and it makes me quite proud!" CHS girls go on to great things, such as renowned politician Dame Marion Roe, celebrated actress Dame Lilian Braithwaite and famous novelist

Catherine Christian but these women, like us spent much of their childhood waiting, running for and missing buses, receiving school reports crowded with the word 'potential' and sitting in the very same assembly hall in the very same school.

We share a very strong and powerful bond.





THE 2014 IVY LINK CHRISTMAS REUNION – HOT CHOCOLATE AND CUPCAKES

At the end of the autumn term we were delighted to welcome back girls who left the Sixth Form in the summer of 2014 for our annual Christmas reunion. This year we were also joined by the class of 2011 after three years out in the world. Hot chocolate, cupcakes and a good catch up were the order of the occasion.

For the class of 2014, it was a question of finding out about how their first few months at Uni or in work had been, and for the 2011s, discovering more about their achievements and future plans. All the girls seemed happy, and it was lovely to see them in such a familiar environment and obviously pleased to be back at school and with each other. It was touching to hear from several of the girls how much they miss their Croydon High family. We hope that they will remain in touch and continue to let us know how they are getting on.



Once a Croydon High girl... always a Croydon High girl! We are still very proud of all of them.

THE ANNUAL LUNCH

On Saturday 14th June 2014 we welcomed around 130 guests for our annual Ivy Link lunch. The weather was kind, the Pimms and wine flowed,



and the tongues certainly wagged in a delightful buzzy atmosphere of reminiscence and reunion.

A strong contingent from 1954, 1974 and 2004 joined us – all celebrating big anniversary years – and all said the same thing that it was as if

they had never been away from each other. We also had some ex-staff and they were warmly welcomed by the 'girls' who seemed to really enjoy chatting to them.

We had picked up, via Facebook conversations on our Ivy Link page that the Class of '74 were trying to remember the school prayer that they would have said each day and they were delighted when Mrs Leonard read the entire prayer out after we discovered it in the archives! It was a touching moment to see all these ladies joining in with this prayer and there was a tear in many



an eye. Mrs Leonard gave an update on school news and introduced the Prefect team who each spoke about what they hoped to do once they leave the Sixth Form.

Mr Divall then spoke about the developments to the History curriculum and thanked those

who had already come forward with material and offers to assist with oral histories and information.

After a delicious lunch, many took the opportunity to have a tour of the school given by our 'charming and impressive' Sixth Form girls and, as ever, the most requested visit was to the staff room (always out of bounds to a school girl!).

We received a number of warm letters and emails thanking us for the day and commenting very positively on the atmosphere, the welcome and, particularly, the current CHS girls they met.

Once again, a really happy and memorable reunion.



ELECTION DAY TEA PARTY / IVY LINK TEA PARTY

On Thursday May 7th, Mrs Leonard hosted her annual afternoon tea for senior alumnae and friends of the school. This event is always a highlight of the year, particularly for staff and sixth form girls who also attend.

The guests are invariably interesting and inspiring women, with fascinating stories to tell of their time at school and their lives now. Ranging in age from 70 to 92, (we're sure they won't mind us saying!) they all have strong connections to the school either as alumnae or former staff or, in some cases, both. This year there was a special welcome for alumna Cynthia Ehrenkrantz (Class of 1948) who has lived in America since the 1950's and is writing a memoir of the war years. She was keen to include information about her school days and this was a perfect opportunity to share stories and reminiscences. The ladies spent a delightful couple of hours reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates, sharing memories and

enjoying a really delicious traditional afternoon tea. As the event coincided with Election Day, the ladies were delighted to receive a visit from our own candidates who were standing



in our own school election. The Conservative candidate had just been confirmed as the school's choice – an early indicator of what was to come perhaps?

The new Prefect team mingled well with our guests and found themselves engrossed in tales of Croydon High in bygone days in a very happy and convivial atmosphere. Thanks to all who came and all who worked so hard to make this such an enjoyable afternoon.

GDST ALUMNA OF THE YEAR 2015



The GDST Alumnae of the year competition reveals just some of the many remarkable achievements of women who have received a GDST education. Croydon High is always well represented and this year, we were delighted that one of 'our own' had been shortlisted for this prestigious award.

In May, Alison Maguire (Chisholm, 1994) spoke to the Senior School, plus Years 5 and 6 in assembly about how she believes the school prepared her for the incredible life challenges that she was to face.

Alison graduated from Warwick in 1997 with a first class honour's degree in Biological Sciences, specialising in Medical Biology. She trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant but planned to move in to a career in medicine. Finding she enjoyed accountancy more than she expected, within five years she was running the film and media division of a West End firm until she and her husband started their family.

Life changed completely for Alison when her daughter Niamh, was born and within a matter of weeks suffered severe health complications. At age three, she was diagnosed with Mitochondrial Disease for which Alison and her husband were told there was no treatment or cure. For some, this would have meant giving up on many things but not Alison. Using her medical background, she made sure she knew everything about the condition, ensuring Niamh received the best and most appropriate treatment and lived her short life to the full. She became an expert in mitochondrial disease. Tragically, Niamh died aged just four and a half.

The day after Niamh died, Alison picked up a leaflet about the Lily Foundation, which had been set up by Liz Curtis eighteen months earlier, following the death of her eight

month old daughter Lily, from the same condition. It turned out Alison and Liz lived in Warringham and their daughters had been alive at the same time. Liz was being contacted by families asking for information about mitochondrial disease and was struggling to help, as she had no medical background. The meeting with Alison who did have this medical background and knew the condition inside out was timely to say the least. Alison started working with the charity as a trustee and realised that she could make a real difference. She left accountancy and went to work at the Lily Foundation as their Research Director.

Amongst other things, the charity raises money to fund research. When researchers at Newcastle University developed a way to utilise IVF for mitochondrial donation to prevent babies being born with the disease, Alison fought to change the law to allow this. She worked tirelessly to brief select committees, rallied the public to lobby MPs and inspired journalists to support the cause. On 3 February 2015, all of this dedication paid off when the House of Commons voted in favour of amending the law. On 24 February, the House of Lords followed suit. Mitochondrial donation is now a reality in the UK. This is a remarkable achievement, but for Alison and Liz and all who support the Lily Foundation, the work goes on towards ultimately finding a cure, raising awareness and providing support for those affected by this cruel disease.

Alison is a true example of what can be achieved if you set your mind to something. She very obviously inspired the girls during assembly at school and has volunteered to support the school in a number of other ways, including setting up work experience opportunities in research laboratories and sharing her experience of actually changing a law. Alison says she feels very strongly that she wants to 'give back' to the school that she feels gave her so much and we are equally determined to support her.



To find out more about the wonderful work of the Lily Foundation, please take a look at their website www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk

A VERY SPECIAL NETBALL REUNION

On Saturday April 18th, a very special reunion took place at Croydon High School, with members of the school's netball teams, dating back to 1971, coming back to school to compete in the annual Ivy Link Netball Challenge cup. The Ivy Link is the school's alumnae network and regularly communicates with nearly 4,000 women who attended the school, either here in Selsdon or at its original site in Wellesley Road, Croydon. Over 100 netballers took part, many of whom were taught by PE teacher Liz Robertson, who was at the school between 1966 and 2001 and took an incredible 65 netball teams of different ages to the National Finals in that time. Fifteen teams, named after the venues of the National Finals where they had competed, took part in a tournament and there were plenty of fine netballing skills still in evidence.





It certainly showed that if you learn something well it stays with you for life! The final was contested fiercely by teams from 1999 (Roedean) and 2010 (Bristol) with Roedean triumphing in a close contest.

A real highlight of the day was to see so many friends and family members: parents, husbands and children, cheering on the teams and enjoying the barbeque and bouncy castle which the school had laid on, and lots of little ones enjoyed seeing 'where mummy went to school!' It was also great to witness many happy reunions between team mates and girls with their teachers, many of whom had also returned to school for the event. A great day – and we are already looking forward to next year!



CROYDON HIGH ALUMNAE SUPPORT THE GDST ALUMNAE MENTORING SCHEME PILOT SCHEME



As part of an ongoing commitment to supporting alumnae with their personal and professional development beyond school, the GDST Alumnae Network launched a pilot mentoring scheme in 2014.

The aim of this pilot was to measure the interest among alumnae for this type of initiative and to test the processes and resources needed to embed mentoring as a key part of our alumnae offer.

To increase the chance of making good matches, the GDST team targeted alumnae (mentees) who were on a career break or seeking to progress their career to the next stage, and sought mentors who were experienced in these areas.

In total, 50 participants took part in the pilot scheme - 25 mentors and 25 mentees and we are delighted to say that four of the mentor alumnae were ex-Croydon High.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Croydon High mentors who gave their time and experience so generously.

Participants were brought together for face-to-face training and induction before being carefully matched with a partner most suited to their skills and expertise. The scheme lasted six months, with matches meeting for an hour on a monthly basis.

From beginning to end, the reaction to the mentoring scheme was overwhelmingly positive.

100% of mentees (who provided feedback) said they benefitted from being mentored and 94% of mentors (who provided feedback) said they also benefitted from the relationship too.

There seems no doubt that offering this kind of tangible support to alumnae is greatly valued and is one of the best ways to build good will and demonstrate the real value of the network.



Given the success of the programme, the intention is to roll out the scheme to all alumnae in 2015. If you would like to register your interest at being a mentor or being mentored, please email info@gdstalumnae.net

GDST Emerging Talent Award recognises Croydon Alumna

Congratulations to Holly Aldersley (Class of 2007) who made it through to the shortlist of the GDST Emerging Talent Award. This is a new award to help support alumnae with potential in particular fields who would not necessarily be able to do so without financial assistance.

This year the award focused on women in technology and encouraged alumnae aged between 18-30 who are working towards a future in this field and would benefit from financial support to apply. The award was sponsored by alumnae who are leaders in the field of technology (along with their companies) and their donations were matched by the GDST.

More details can be found on the GDST's website
www.gdst.net/3431/alumnae/emerging-talent-award

Here is Holly's story:

After leaving Croydon High School I went to the National Centre for Computer Animation at Bournemouth University on an academic scholarship to study Computer Animation and Visualisation. I graduated with BA (Hons) in 2010. The course included a variety of modules including Computer Science, Programming and Mathematics for computer graphics as well as the more artistic elements of Animation and visual Effects.

In my final year of university I entered a competition for visual effects. The prize was an internship at MPC one of the largest visual effects companies in London. Upon graduating they offered me a position with the company instead of an internship and I have remained with them.

Over the last 5 years I have worked on some of the latest and greatest movies including Harry Potter, Pirates of the Caribbean and Maleficent. A real highlight recently was attending the Bafta's on behalf of our team, as we had been nominated for two of our films, Guardians of the Galaxy and X-Men.

During my time at the company I have become more involved in Stereo-3D and I am currently a Stereoscopic Lead on Director Ridley Scott's latest project. I hold the title of youngest ever stereographer at MPC, and am one of only a handful of female stereographers in the world.

Holly said she applied for the award because it is her ambition to become an Independent film maker. The software licences and computer equipment required to produce Computer Visual Effects at a professional level are very expensive, and obviously the prize money would give her a real push towards being able to create her own work.

She also hopes to develop a series of tutorials to help younger visual effects artists develop their skills and hope to get more people involved in the industry. As Holly says "I believe it is particularly important to inspire and encourage young women in this field, as it is currently an incredibly male dominated industry crying out for talented women. It is an industry that I am fiercely passionate about, and I believe more women would also be if they were only made aware of the wide variety of opportunities a career in computer graphics can open up."

Unfortunately Holly was not named as the recipient of this award, but it was an exceptional achievement to make it through to the shortlist against very stiff competition. The panel reported that she was clearly very talented and would be a great role model for women who wanted to enter this male dominated industry. We have every confidence that with her passion, determination and talent this will not deter her and we wish her well.

We are sure many fellow alumnae will enjoy looking at this collection of MPC's latest work:

www.moving-picture.com/reels/our-reels/film-reel_14b9535c56e2

Or seeing a breakdown of how one of the projects was achieved:

www.moving-picture.com/reels/vfx-breakdowns/47-ronin-vfx-breakdown

Or finding out more about Holly's impressive filmography:

www.imdb.com/name/nm4192824/?ref=fn_al_nm_1

CROYDON ALUMNAE WORKING TOGETHER

With so many talented and inspirational 'old girls' out there, it is perhaps not surprising when alumnae discover that they are working alongside another Croydon High girl. We are always delighted to hear stories of CHS girls discovering they share the Ivy Link - please keep them coming!

Rosie and Justine supporting profoundly deaf children

Two former Croydon High School pupils who started at the school more than a decade apart are now working together to help profoundly deaf children learn to listen and speak.



Rosie Richardson

Rosie Richardson (1993-2003) and Justine Womack, formerly Warner, (1980-1987) are respectively clinical lead and parent trustee of the charity Auditory Verbal UK. They first met when Justine's now 9-year old daughter Martha was receiving specialist speech and language from the Oxford and London-based charity as a 3-year-old. Thanks to the charity, Martha, who was

deafened by meningitis aged 1, started school with above average speech and language for a child her age and is now top of the class in a mainstream school.

Justine said: "The amazing work that Rosie and her colleagues do is literally transforming the lives of profoundly deaf children and their families. Martha and

the other Auditory Verbal graduates continue to astound professionals with their ability to achieve at the same level as their hearing peers. It's because they, and their parents, got the right audiological and speech and language support in those early years, when it is literally a neurological emergency.



Justine Womack

Sadly, too many kids don't get the help they need, which

prompted me to get involved in the charity's efforts to change this."

Anyone who knows someone with a profoundly deaf pre-school child or who'd like to get involved or donate to the charity can find out more at www.avuk.org

Shivani Mawji (2007) wrote to us to tell us about another unofficial reunion...



The reason I write to you is to tell you about a recent occurrence which I thought Croydon High would be delighted to hear about - a coincidence that brought together three Croydon High girls. I am on the Steering Committee for Unicef UK's junior board, Next Generation London (www.nextgenlondon.com).

We recently hosted our first inaugural event, through which we raised just over £100,000 for Unicef's Children of Syria emergency fund. I was heavily involved in the organisation of the event and had been at the venue since morning, so it was a relief when the doors finally opened to guests. A very good CHS friend of mine, Annie Morrin (2007) (now a lawyer at Ashurst, a corporate firm in the City) let me know at the last minute that she would be able to attend since her horrendous hours were going to be "a little less horrendous" that day! Just as Annie and I were catching up, we both recognised somebody else.

Mari Shibata, who was at Croydon High before leaving at the end of Year 9 to pursue her passion for music, had walked through the door, armed with a tripod and camera. It turns out that CHS's piano prodigy is now a videographer and was attending as a member of the press to cover the event. It was a lovely surprise to see Mari, and to realise that we would always be connected by our time together at Croydon High despite having gone our separate ways.

I also thought it might be nice for the sixth form and the Ivy Link network to be aware of Next Generation London. We are a young professional network with the aim of raising funds and awareness for Unicef's most urgent causes. Whilst Next Generation London is only a year old, New York, LA and Chicago are a couple of years ahead of us and doing extremely well. We appreciate that young professionals cannot write huge cheques for charity, nor do they always have time to keep up to date with current affairs. What we aim to do is create a network of diverse but successful individuals 22-40yrs old who contribute £20 per month as a membership (all proceeds going to Unicef UK's Children of Syria fund.)

As well as the large event that I described above, we also run educational evenings such as a recent screening of a Channel 4 documentary 'Syria: Across the Lines', after which the director took part in a Q&A over some wine. Whilst our target market is currently for older individuals than CHS students, a strong university network seems like a natural progression for us, enabling students to start networking with ambitious and like-minded individuals before they enter the world of work.

To find out more about Next Generation London please look at their website www.nextgenlondon.com) or you can contact Shivani through the Ivy Link.



Auditory Verbal UK

Celebrating 10 years of listening, speaking and achieving

And in other news...



It is a pleasure to pass on news from our community and we are always happy to pass on messages from alumnae who wish to reconnect with old friends. Please contact Karen at ivylink@cry.gdst.net if you spot any familiar names here, or if you would like to share your own news or memories.

Verity Jones (Bates, 1961) was royally recognised this year for her dedicated work with disabled riders.

"Princess Anne is President of The Riding for the Disabled Association and every year she presents Presidents Awards. Only a few of these are given nationally and I was fortunate to receive one in recognition of over 30 years dedicated service to Godstone Group. This includes instructing, fundraising and organising. They are presented by the Princess herself and I received my badge and certificate at our Regional Conference at Sandhurst in April."

Daphne Garment (Hubbard, 1953) is another dedicated equestrienne, as we heard from her husband Gordon, who nominated his wife for Alumna of the Year 2014.

"Daphne left Croydon High School having excelled at sport generally and cricket and hockey in particular, with the drive, values and determination which have made her the remarkable woman she is today. She believes it is her duty to give back to society and has chosen to do it through The Pony Club, which she believes in passionately for the way it helps shape children's characters. She has always found time to pursue her love of horses in a voluntary role as secretary of the Chipping Branch of the Pony Club since 1976.

In 2005 her service was acknowledged with the Pony Club's Secretary of the Year award presented by HRH Princess Anne. She also works as a British Horse Society road safety examiner. Her focus and determination, as well as her core values, come in many respects from the outstanding education she received at Croydon High School. She rides her horses daily, walks her dog, stays on top of the ever-changing literature on riding and road safety and still finds time to take her grandson competing whenever she can.

Wendy Wyatt (Francis, 1952) wrote to tell us of her full and active life following a 'significant birthday.' Having reached my 80th birthday in a happy and healthy state I feel very lucky. I have many interests and have for the past 10 years run the Summer School for Pianists. www.pianosummerschool.co.uk/?s=wendy+wyatt

I also play golf and a lot of bridge as well as keeping up my piano playing so have plenty to keep me busy in my 'old' age!

Patricia Burvill (Davidson, 1951) would like to re-connect with CHS girls of her year, or anyone living the Dorking area of Surrey.

Winner of UK In-House Lawyer of the Year 2014, awarded by The Lawyer publication, is Sarah Nelson-Smith (Nelson, 1998). Sarah is Director of



Legal at Kentucky-based Yum! Brands, the umbrella group for KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. Judges praised her focus on business strategy, her delivery of advice and were also impressed that she worked shifts on the shop floor, including a night-time deep-clean of a delivery store, to better understand the business and its products.



Aimee Oxley (2004) has been spending time in Uganda, studying how human actions affect chimpanzees in rainforests as part of her PhD at Oxford Brookes University.

Aimee puts her love of the rainforests down to a Year 7 geography lesson at Croydon High and now her pilot study is being part funded by the Primate Society of Great Britain, Gilchrist Educational Trust and friends, family and the public, who contributed via crowdfunder.

Dr Jane McCarthy (1987) Librarian at CHS 2004-2008

"I finished my PhD at King's College, London in Classics - I was investigating freedom of speech in the early Roman Empire and really enjoyed doing some in-depth research into Roman literature and politics. In fact, I am now teaching Classics at the Royal High in Bath so I am back in the GDST fold. I saw the CHS magazine in our staff room and it was lovely to look through and find out what's going on at Croydon."



"My name is **Gillian French (Bristow, 1959)**. Although I have only been back to one reunion, in the 1980s, I still keep in touch with friends I made at school. On leaving school I went to teacher Training College, followed by a supplementary course at Trinity College of Music and I have been teaching music ever since, except for a short spell as a tax officer in the Inland Revenue when we moved house in 1969 and there were no teaching posts available. I married in 1965 and have one son and two grandchildren. I always wanted to get a degree, so in the 1990s I studied with the Open University and gained a first class BA (Hons) in 1998. On retirement we moved to the Scottish Borders in 2000 and I continued my studies with the Open University gaining an MA in Music in 2005. Truly smitten by the studying bug I was accepted by the University of Edinburgh to research for a PhD and gained my doctorate in 2014. What next? I don't know, but I'm sure I will find something to challenge me! I'm a great believer in lifelong learning and will always be grateful to

Croydon High School for the great education I was given to start me off.

I send congratulations to the school for the 140th Anniversary. I remember the 80th birthday celebrations and still have a photograph of the Duchess of Gloucester cutting the cake.

Lily Rogers (2010) who came to our Netball Reunion in April, wrote with some exciting news

I just thought I would send a quick email to let you know that I have been selected to play for England at the Indoor Netball World Championships in Australia in October. I had trials last weekend in Leicester and found out at the weekend that I got in!!

Obviously without the Croydon High PE Department, and various coaches I have had along the way, I would not be where I am and I wouldn't have the love for sport that I have now. You were always the department who believed in me and supported me in every sport I participated in, and so I guess I owe you all my success!



Margaret Thomson (1965) wanted to share some memories and asks if anyone remembers any more details?

"I remember sports day 1953 - presumably June to coincide with the Coronation. We had a hobby horse race and red, white and blue ribbons/rosettes (something!) The hobby horses were made of a stuffed stock with a broom handle. As usual I was last!

Another memory I have of the Elms is of a fancy dress party held at Allders I think- but could have been at Grants. At a weekend? Why not at school? Perhaps it was because there were no great public rooms. 1953, 54 or 55? - earlier rather than later, I think. The costume was to cost no more than one shilling to make. Jill Maslen won dressed as a (cardboard) birthday cake! I came 2nd or 3rd as the Croydon Advertiser! The winnings might have been 2/6.

My third recollection was of a play in The Homestead. It was written by the staff and featured witches amongst other cast members - everyone who wanted to take part was included. I was a grasshopper!! Three of us stood there pretending to play imaginary violins. The music used was Soirees Musicales by Benjamin Britten - whenever I hear the opening melody I see the witches galloping across the stage!"

If anyone remembers these specific events - or others - do let us know and we will pass the details on to Margaret.

Jane Bond (Skinner, 1986) received an MBE in 2014

As Director of Property Services for the Metropolitan Police Service, Jane's work has focussed on how the Metropolitan Police can best use its estate to support policing in London.

Jane said: "I'm thrilled to have been included in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The Property Services Department that I work in is seeing a huge transformation, which is enabling savings to be reinvested back into policing. To get recognition for this is testament to how significant it is for policing in London."



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.

Margaret Walker died June 2014

Last summer we were saddened to hear the news that Margaret Walker, an alumna and former teacher had died unexpectedly. Margaret was a great supporter of Croydon High and gave willingly of her time and expertise to assist with both the school and GDST archives. Following her death, we were notified that Margaret had left a generous legacy to the school. We are extremely grateful to her and are planning to ensure her gift is used appropriately to benefit the school she loved.

Ella Jones (Briggs, 1965) sent us these memories of Margaret, her friend and colleague.

Margaret Walker, who died last year as mentioned in Ivy Link Magazine 2014, was a colleague when I taught at CHS in the late 1960s/early '70s. By then the whole school was in marvellous new premises at Selsdon and both Preparatory Department and Junior Department were in one building.

But, when Margaret attended the school in the 1950s, she would have been at Wellesley Road, travelling from her home in Shirley. There she was taught by among others, Miss Evie Periam (Mrs Richardson) who is still living in Caterham with her husband, Rick. The Headmistress at that time was Dr Margaret Adams.

After leaving school Margaret went to Maria Grey Training College, St. Margaret's, Isleworth, which still trained Junior and Infant teachers in the Froebelian tradition. On leaving college Margaret taught briefly at Bromley High School, GDST before joining Croydon High's staff. During this period Miss Elsa Cameron was Headmistress and Miss Marjorie Bolwell took over the running of the combined Prep and Junior Departments.

Margaret for many years taught J4 (Y6) and was very thorough with high standards. She had suffered severe, debilitating, ill-health as a child which constrained her, and she valued an orderly and regulated life, living with her parents while they were alive and then in the same home until her death.

She kept in touch with those whom she knew well and greatly helped, voluntarily, Mrs Janet Sondheimer, when the Trust Archives were housed at Croydon High. Margaret attended Shirley Baptist Church and it was there her funeral was held after her sudden and unexpected death. Croydon High School was represented and sent flowers to her funeral.

The 140 Birthday programme from last November's vibrant concert at The Fairfield Halls had a photograph of CHS' staff from 1974 on the back cover. Margaret is on this, of course, along with others such as Evie Periam (Mrs Richardson), Mrs Joan Angus, Mrs Emerald Kendal, Miss Monica Harris: all of whom once taught at the Junior School of CHS and are still enjoying a full retirement.

When I sent the 140th Birthday Concert programme and brief history to Evie Richardson she was so pleased to read about the school; both past and present. Evie was also a pupil at CHS and she too taught in the Prep Department. She remembered Sheila Simms as a pupil in the year above her and taught Margaret (Walker) in the Prep department. As Evie has turned 90 she had Miss Ransford as her Headmistress when a pupil and worked under Dr Margaret Adams and Miss Elsa Cameron.

Beryl Johnes , a former teacher in The Elms in the 1930's, died in late December 2014/January 2015 aged 103.

Dr Jean Golbraith died on 19th March 2014

Felicity Cook contacted us to say that her mother, Anne Hart (Davies), who worked at Croydon High between 1944 and 1949 had died.

Peter Smart wrote to tell us of the death of his aunt, Phyllis Elizabeth Alice May Smart who died on 20th February 2015 aged 92 after a short illness. Phyllis attended Streatham and Clapham High but was a teacher at CHS in the 1960's.

Margaret Rosemary Earl (Skelton) died 28th January 2015

Margaret's daughter Caroline Hargreaves wrote to tell us of her mother's death.



She wrote "Margaret was born on 24th October 1933 and grew up in Addiscombe Avenue, Croydon.

She went to Croydon High School for girls and then, with a scholarship, to Newnham College, Cambridge to read medicine where she was a member of the Tennis and Rowing Clubs.

She was introduced to John Earl through John's father and her father who worked together. After gaining her medical degree, she continued training at the London Hospital and at Whiston Hospital, Lancashire.

John and Margaret married in 1958 and both finally qualified as GPs.

In the early 1960's they spent three years in Uganda when John joined the Colonial Medical Service, working in remote village hospitals. Their first two children were born there and although there was no work for Margaret she did sit in on a few child welfare clinics with Dr Grace de Beer.

Returning to England, John was appointed partner at a practice in Barrow upon Soar and their second son was born in 1964. Margaret did locum General practitioner work from 1964 to 1970 then joined a surgery in Loughborough in 1970. She became a partner and stayed until she retired in 1996. Her work was a huge part of her life but leisure time was spent walking or travelling often with Margaret's lifelong friends Janno and Shirley.

After retiring, Margaret did medicals for the TA and helped run a group for the depressed and addicts. She was also the collector of village news to put in the local paper and wrote many exciting and brilliant stories and poems. Her sense of humour was fantastic, her mind quick and she was a very straight talking person. She will be greatly missed by many."

Joyce Margaret Winbolt-Lewis died 25th December 2014

In 2013, we welcomed alumna Joyce Winbolt-Lewis back to school for a visit with her son, Martin. Joyce left



Croydon High in 1935 and was a true Croydon High 'girl'... charming, interesting and full of enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to meet her. Martin wrote to us at the beginning of the year to say his mother had died on Christmas Day 2014.

Joyce was born in Forest Gate in November 1918 and attended Croydon High School for Girls (as it was then) under Miss Ransford, making several friends there including Betty Hessey and Sybil Stubbs. She first worked in the Bank of England and then Crawford's, a London advertising firm. She married Deryck in 1939 and became his secretary and then partner in his property developing business.

They lived in the South East where she had Vicky and Martin, then moved to London, and later to Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket before returning to London. When Deryck died she moved to Tooting. She experienced unprecedented change in her life with a World War, the Swinging Sixties and the digital revolution, and took them in her stride.

She loved to travel, taking many holidays with Deryck and the family, the most regular destination being the South of France. Later in life she had plenty of holidays, and was once voted 'the best dressed person on the plane' on a return flight from Naples in her late eighties! Her interests were her family, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was known as 'Ol Bean by them. She loved musicals and reading non-fiction. She did a lot of writing, but sadly did not achieve the recognition she deserved. She battled on in her nineties running the family property firm and despite encroaching blindness, was healthy until the last few weeks, enjoying every minute of her resilient independence!

Christine Hogh (Smith) and Heather Dean (Wheelhouse) wrote to tell us of the death of their friend, Shirley Hopkinson.



Shirley Hopkinson Ph.D., B.Sc died January 2015

Shirley was a lifelong Croydon resident, apart from spells working and studying abroad. Born in January 1940, she was an only child. She passed the 11+ scholarship examination from Benson Primary

School to Croydon High School along with six of her contemporaries and soon made her mark academically. In those days girls who achieved over 75% in at least five examinations were asked to sign the Honours Book and Shirley never failed to appear at Miss Adams' door.

She was also talented at art and music, singing in the choir and playing the piano well, and she was a fine needlewoman with a particular talent for embroidery. On leaving Croydon High, where she inexplicably failed the Oxbridge interviews, she took a place at Royal Holloway College to read Chemistry, obtaining a First Class B.Sc. and going on to achieve a Ph.D. at the same college.

Shirley was an able linguist and loved to travel so she accepted fellowships in Freiburg and Swansea where she perfected her German and continued to learn Welsh in honour of her Welsh ancestry. After a period lecturing in London she then took up a post as a technical translator with the EU in Brussels, where her excellent French and German stood her in good stead, and she added Danish to her repertoire when no one else in the department could do it.

On returning to Croydon to be closer to her widowed mother, she lectured in London again but finally decided to set up her own translation business which enabled her to work from home until failing eyesight forced her premature retirement. She bought a holiday home in Gloucestershire and also owned tracts of woodland on the Welsh borders which she enjoyed visiting.

She was a keen supporter of the arts and was often to be found at the Royal Opera House, the Festival Hall and many of London's theatres. Her mother had been a lifelong worker for the Red Cross and Shirley, having no close relations, decided to devote her estate to this cause in her honour.



Caroline Kitcatt (CHS 1964-1973) contacted us to say that Clare Lay (Allen-Jones) died on 2nd September 2013

Caroline wrote: I believe Clare started at CHS in the Kindergarten class in 1960 and she left in 1973.

I met Clare when I came to the Homestead in September 1964, and we were quickly in the same group of friends. We moved to the new school at Selsdon in 1966 and stayed in the same form together all through school. Clare and I studied similar subjects and were in the same groups at O level and A level. We were known at school for our avoidance of any sport as far as was possible, often 'losing' our games kit and having to spend the lesson time looking for it. But we were also very involved in other school activities related to language and literature, we were part of a group writing a magazine for the school which we laboriously ran off on a Banda duplicating machine, and were part of setting up the Trinity Film Club.

We went on the Centenary Cruise together which was a never to be forgotten experience. When we left school we both went to North London Polytechnic and shared a flat as students. Clare married in 1979 and had two children, Michael and Alex. After the death of her first husband in a gliding accident, she spent some years focusing on bringing up her children before marrying again.

Her son Michael has written these words about his mother: "Her later life presented a great many challenges, but she always put her love of her family above her own struggle, encouraging myself and my sister, and caring for her parents as their own health declined. I never picture my mother as the centre of attention, but instead a humble, gentle person full of humility. She was strong and courageous, and most often rather than making a fuss about something, she would try to step back and make a fuss of other people instead."

Pamela Harde died 17th May 2014

Maureen Goodwin (Elphick) 1950 wrote to tell us that Pamela died peacefully in Cramner Court Nursing Home, Farleigh Common on 17th May 2014. Maureen was also able to tell us some details of Pamela's life.

"Pamela was born in 1931 and joined CHS in 1936 in the kindergarten. (Miss Ransford was then Headmistress). She left from VI General in 1949 and took a secretarial course at a college in Croydon.

She took a post at Crosse & Blackwell, which later became part of Nestlé. She remained in a senior secretarial post at Nestlé until her retirement around 1996.

Her main interests included cello playing in many amateur orchestras and in chamber music groups.

She also enjoyed travelling and visited many countries including China, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, USA and Canada, as well as most European countries.

She was a good tennis player – I think she played for CHS in the '40s. Unfortunately she developed severe arthritis and these activities became impossible for her.

She remained in contact with many school friends and enjoyed our special reunions."

Patricia Sherman also wrote to tell us the sad news that her friend, Pamela Harde had died.

Patricia went on to say "I did so appreciate receiving a card on my 80th and 81st birthdays, and thank you so much that, through The Ivy Link, we can still feel part of Croydon High School, which means a lot to us."



Moira Winslow (Grey) died 5th March 2015

Lesley Sinclair wrote to tell us of her mother Moira's death as did her school friend Althea Lydon who wrote:

"No one who knew Moira, including those tasked with keeping order in

the classes she attended, could possibly forget her. She was the most alive person I have ever known.

In 1950 she was accepted by the Central School of Dramatic Art, where she was awarded the accolade of Actress of the Year. In 1953 she married Paul Winslow, the Test Cricketer from South Africa, where she lived for the next 56 years. She had her own radio programme and played a major role in a TV serial set in a mining community. Moira and Paul had four children, but tragically their second daughter died aged 18, and then their eldest daughter, their son and their two baby grandsons were all killed when a car ploughed into the parked car they were sitting in. As a memorial, Moira formed

the charity "Drive Alive" and travelled internationally to raise road safety awareness.

She was widowed in 2011 and at the end of the same year was diagnosed with cancer. Her surviving daughter brought her back to England, and after treatment at the Marsden, took her down to her home in Wiltshire where she finally died in a nursing home three years later. I shall miss her sorely."

Barbara Wallace (Ockelford) died March 3rd 2015

Edna Riley née West wrote to tell us about the death of Barbara Wallace, saying

"I am so grateful that you passed on Barbara's wish to get in touch with me after my article in the Ivy Link Magazine 2014. We have exchanged photographs and had telephone conversations about our memories. It has been very rewarding and sadly has come to an end.

Barbara's sister Jeanne has sent me a photograph of a small group of us in 1942 when we went to farm camp at Merrist Wood Farm Institute in the summer holidays. I can remember most of their names. I also remember from that stay, practising a tennis serve in the dormitory and hitting the overhead light bulb which smashed over the bed! We were so keen that we played before breakfast and before going off to do some farm work – probably weeding onions.

I wonder how many 1938 entry girls are you still in touch with."

Barbara Urban - died 19th March 2015

Lesley Taylor (Brown) wrote to tell us of the death of her sister Barbara following a battle with cancer. Barbara was at CHS between 1941 and 1948. Lesley wrote "You might like to know that at her funeral the vicar spoke about the time she spent as an evacuee when CHS relocated to Worcester (I think) for a few months late in the War. She used to talk about this as quite an adventure and being a taste of boarding school.

I know Barbara valued hearing news from CHS, as do I, so thank you for keeping us up to date with what is happening, both with former pupils and the current school."

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNA'S PARTIES

Anna Freeman (1963) 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 • www.annafreeman.com

DESIGNS ON SOMETHING

Designs on Something is a cottage industry set up by Susan Clark (1985) 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 • designsonsomething@gmail.com

YVONNE HARRINGTON

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

www.houseportraits.net • yvonne.harrington@tesco.net

SOPHIE STANES

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

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



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 25th & Friday 26th June, 7.00pm
School Summer Production of 'Annie'

Wednesday 1st July, 1.30pm
Ivy Link Open Doors

Saturday 5th December, 12.00-4.00pm
Winter Fair

Monday 14th December, Time TBC
Xmas reunion for Class of 2015

Tuesday 15 December, 7.00pm
Carol Service at All Saints, Sanderstead

Thursday 10th March, 7.00-9.00pm
Careers Convention 2016

Saturday 16th April, 1.30pm
Ivy Link Netball Challenge 2016

Friday 17th June 2016, 7.45am (tbc)
CHS & Ivy Link Golf Morning

Saturday 18th June, 12.30pm
Ivy Link Summer Lunch 2016

For more information about any of these events, please contact Karen at ivylink@croydon.gdst.net or on 0208 260 7531.



Ivy is the tree for the month of October. A tenacious plant by nature, it symbolises adaptability and a powerful survival instinct.

Ivy guards against negativity and disaster. Its power lies in its ability to cling and bind, making it a potent symbol of determination and strength.



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!