



The Ivy Link Magazine 2016



Dear Friends



As I write this I am finding it very hard to believe that it will be my last message as Head of Croydon High, to you, the Ivy Link community. Just over six years ago, I joined this school from another GDST school, Nottingham High. I recognised a similar ethos;

similar 'types' of girls and teachers and the same passion for educating young women. But I also realised, and this realisation was to grow over the following years, that there is a 'uniqueness' about Croydon High.

I was immediately impressed by the girls, indeed, it was meeting them when I was given my first tour around the school, that made me decide I was going to pull up my distinctly Northern roots and make the move 'down South'. Meeting members of the Old Croydonians, who had done such sterling work in maintaining a successful alumnae organisation, was my first introduction to the history of the School. I realised very quickly, that this group of women represented a strong and inspiring network and I wanted to engage with them and learn more about their connections with this school. I am extremely grateful to Mary Knight and her team, who worked with us to establish the Ivy Link and enabled us to take on the administration that they had shouldered for so long.

In the past six years there have been many highlights; the 140th anniversary concert at Fairfield Halls in 2014 was truly memorable with so many from the wider school community coming together to acknowledge a very proud history. Seeing our own Alison Maguire recognised as the

GDST's Alumnae of the Year in 2015, against some hugely impressive nominees, was another great moment.

I feel Alison embodies so much that is great about this school; commitment, energy and resilience - even under the most difficult of circumstances.

Establishing the 1874 Foundation and giving friends and alumnae the opportunity to support the school financially, was a major step and one that was not taken lightly. However, the response has been humbling with so many taking the opportunity to donate or to offer support for the school's aims in other ways, often through sharing their time and invaluable experience. Through this I have learned how much Croydon High means to so many people and I believe that this sense of pride is also displayed by the current generation of girls.

Other highlights have been the small everyday events that all teachers recognise. The achievements of individual girls, the camaraderie of the staff room, the relief at reaching the end of another term! That sense of relief for me this term will be more than tinged with a very real sense of sadness. I feel confident that Emma Pattison, my successor, who takes on the Headship in September, will also recognise the 'uniqueness' of this great school and will come to love it, as I have.

It has been an absolute privilege to meet and get to know so many of you over the last few years. Thank you for welcoming me in to your community and I wish each and every one of you the very best for the future.

As I go back 'up North', I know that a part of me will always be Croydon High.

Debbie Leonard



Dear Ivy Linkers

It is that time of year again when we look back at all the special events that have taken place both in school and within the Ivy Link community. Increasingly, school events also involve our alumnae as so many of you are

getting involved and supporting us with careers advice and mentoring and are coming back to school to attend concerts and exhibitions, often acting as inspiring guest speakers. We are very grateful. We always particularly enjoy witnessing your own reunions as you meet up with old friends at occasions such as the Summer Lunch.

This is our fifth annual Ivy Link magazine - which is hard to believe - and we hope you will enjoy reading some stories from the past and sharing the memories sent to us over the year. We are always delighted to hear from you and to pass on your news. I would like to take this opportunity to

thank our first Alumnae Prefect, Hannah Lipczynski, who has been such a great supporter of events this year and has really enjoyed meeting so many interesting and inspirational women who, like her, are true Croydon High girls.



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 ivylink@cry.gdst.net or at the school on 020 8260 7531.

And please make a note in your diary that next year's Summer Lunch will be on Saturday 17th June 2017.

With very best wishes

Karen Roe

1966 and all that...

For some, 1966 brings back memories of Beatlemania, Swinging London, Harold Wilson and, of course, England lifting the World Cup. For others, 1966 will always be, the year Croydon High moved to Selsdon! Our cover picture shows the iconic green doors of the school at Wellesley Road which closed for the last time in this year. We asked you to share some of your memories of the great move and it was fascinating to hear how clear and vivid those memories are.

Dr Anne Tuffill (1953 to 1967) writes:

I was one of the Prefects who helped to pack and unpack many of the items during the summer holiday of 1966 for the move to Selsdon.

You might have thought the old school desks would have looked odd in the new building, but as it was still not finished when we arrived in the summer holiday of 1966, quite frankly, everything looked odd! The Assembly Hall in the Senior School had no floor, and I remember watching the builders bring in an enormous flexible pipe through the gap that would become a window; the pipe was directed into the well of the hall as the liquid concrete poured out. I thought it would never be finished in time as this was happening on the day before we were all due back for the new academic year!

It was all a bit of a rush because the move had been brought forward. There were enormous pile-drivers putting in the foundations for Norfolk House at the other end of Wellesley Road near the traffic lights. Every time the driver brought the massive pile down, it felt like an earthquake in the Senior School and I think it undermined the foundations, making the damage sustained from the direct hit (bombing during the war) worse than ever.

I was actually in the Basement cloakroom in the Senior School, when a large section of the staffroom wall became detached and fell into the room. It made a noise like thunder and it was a miracle that nobody was hurt. The dust was incredible, and we were all coughing and spluttering, as we were down there getting changed for hockey. This was the last straw and Miss Cameron said we could not stay there for another term so we would move during that summer holiday instead of the following year!

All the Prefects were supposed to help with the packing up, but quite a number had family holidays booked, so only a handful of us "reported for duty" on the first day of the summer holiday. I had been the Elms Prefect and used to read a story to the Kindergarten and Transition (the youngest little girls) during their Rest Period after their lunch. They all had a rug from home to lie on in the Gym and many of them dropped off to sleep! Anyway, I was given the task of sticking a coloured label to every single little desk and chair but this was not as easy as it sounds. I was told to put the label in a particular place and I had to climb over all the pieces of furniture which had been stacked on top of each other in what I felt was a singularly unhelpful way. It took a lot of effort to scramble around each classroom in turn to attach a label in the

designated place. I completed Kindergarten, Transition, Junior I and Junior II in the Elms. As nobody had turned up for the Homestead, I did that too (two classrooms for Junior III and two for Junior IV). This took the entire first week.

On the first day of the second week I had to report to Miss Baker (Head of Physics) as I was taking A Levels in all three Sciences and so could be expected to know what I was doing with the apparatus! We had ten tea chests and I had to pack them all carefully, wrapping the apparatus in newspaper and wood "wool" (no bubble-wrap in those days!) We had a number of little earthenware bottles containing Mercury to pack. This was used in a number of experiments, although I know it is not allowed today as the vapour is toxic. I made sure the corks were pushed in tightly and had to seal them with molten candle wax. Miss Baker asked me to put them in different crates because Mercury was very valuable. She nailed down the lids ready for the removal men, but by the time I opened them in the labs at Selsdon, every single bottle of Mercury had been stolen. Miss Baker was extremely put out, as you can imagine.

I began to store all the apparatus in the cupboards, some of which were small ones beneath the sinks. These were intended for items that were often used and would be readily available for us to practise our experiments that would be tested in the practical examinations. I opened the first cupboard and stared inside in some dismay as there was no U-bend fitted to the sink above. I checked the others and every single one was the same and lacked the vital U-bend. I said I had better not put anything in the cupboards yet as presumably the plumber would be coming back at some point. Miss Baker was less than delighted when she found out that the contract plumber had gone and had clearly forgotten this unfinished job.

I was allowed to go into the (still unfinished) Sixth Form Common Room to have a morning break every day. While I was sitting there one day sipping my coffee, I saw a man in overalls carrying a large soft canvas bag walking through the rooms collecting all the wall clocks. One of the other workmen asked him what he was doing; "I have to collect all the clocks as they are the wrong type" he said airily. He was never seen again, and neither were the perfectly suitable clocks! Unfortunately nobody had identity tags in those days and the thief just breezed in and took the lot!

The memories of this significant year continue overleaf...

Goodbye to the buildings in Wellesley Road,
Goodbye to the lorries carrying their load,
Goodbye to the cranes that swing to and fro,
Goodbye to the street where all the cars flow,
Goodbye to the Senior School, Homestead and Elms,
Goodbye to the place where we've enjoyed ourselves.

Joanna Donaldson J. IV 9. Age 10 years

Moira Fraser (1966 to 1973) was one of the first intake to the 'new' school...

I started at CHS as an 11 year old in September 1966 on the first day that the school opened on the Selsdon site. I remember being very excited and admiring the newness and modernity of the buildings although I couldn't understand why we entered the building via the small door to the left and below the front door instead of entering through the main front door. In the part of the building above the front door there were two staircases and they were one way up and one way down. I thought that was fun.

The things I liked the most were the grounds, the courtyard (which I thought of as the drama courtyard) and the spanking new laboratories, the like of which I had never seen before. I didn't like the showers or the Assembly Hall, where we had to sit on the floor.

I liked the classrooms which were light and airy. The desks, I think, were old because they had come from the previous site.

I visited Miss Cameron twice in her office during my time at CHS and thought her office was splendid. Later on when I reached the sixth form, I found the sixth form suite very impressive and I enjoyed wearing muffti and having Wednesday afternoons off.

Ruth Morris (Bernstein, 1964 to 1971) moved with the school and remembers her trepidation over getting to know the new surroundings...

I remember moving to Selsdon with the school in 1966 – it seemed like an awfully big adventure and very exciting, if a little daunting.

After all, I had only just got used to finding my way around the school in Croydon, since I had joined in 1964.

I remember thinking that the country surroundings were a different world and how would I ever manage to get there and navigate a new building!

The Archbishop of Canterbury laid the Foundation Stone, if memory serves me correctly- a very old man to us little girls! We had a sense of something momentous happening, even at such a young age.

For Felicity Hawke (Millward, 1973), the move made her journey to school a very easy one...

I lived in Selsdon – Upper Selsdon Road – and attended the Homestead for a year, travelling in by bus. So when it hool. I think the older girls went in for a few days before we did, to find their way around. We were the babies, and therefore arrived a few days into term.

I remember being quite overwhelmed at the size and newness of the building. Our classroom was in Room 45, at the far left hand end, but we had to get to know the rest of the building quickly.



Senior girls were on duty at class changeover times to help the lost, and I remember with two friends, trying to get from one room to another, wandering around the building for maybe 10 minutes, and eventually discovering that the room we wanted was immediately above the one we had just left. I'm not sure if the teacher believed us when we said we couldn't find it!

I also remember Miss Cameron instilling into us very early on that we were to always use one staircase for going up and the other for going down. **(ED: a rule that still applies today on K block!)** and that we must look behind us at swing doors, to make sure there was no-one following us. If there was, we were to hold it open for them – a habit I still keep today after 50 years!

I have memories of learning to curtsy for the visit of the Duchess of Gloucester. I think one of the PE staff taught us.

It was very useful living so close to school, just seven minutes at a brisk walk. I timed it to the nth degree! It also meant that friends would often come round after school.

My mother Margaret Millward was the first dedicated librarian in the school, starting in 1973 I think. She worked there until 1984.

The following anonymous poem appeared in the 1966 School Magazine and we would love to know who wrote it!

Answers on a postcode to Karen Roe please...

WHEN WE GO TO SELSDON

I hope we shall be allowed in the woody bits of ground.
 I hope we can have some nesting boxes put up so that we can watch birds.
 I hope we take Mr. Gallagher's cat and Pets' Corner with us.
 I hope Andy will have a kennel.
 I hope we get netball posts with round metal rings and nets.
 I hope the cloakrooms won't be so dark.
 I hope we won't have to sit on the floor in the Hall.
 I hope we can kneel in Prayers.
 I hope the school stage will have good lighting.
 I hope we take the clocks that tick over every minute.
 I hope the stationary cupboards will be large enough to take everybody's books at the end of term.
 I hope the desks will be large enough for me to get my knees under.
 I hope, for the sake of my stockings, that we shall have new chairs and desks.
 I hope we won't have to go outside in the rain to get to distant parts of the building.
 I hope there will be distant rooms for exams.
 I hope there will be some rooms where the French department can try out their tape-recordings.
 I hope the building will be warm in winter.
 I hope I can find a cup of tea in school.
 I hope there will be air-conditioning so that I don't have to keep on opening and shutting windows because I'm tall.
 I hope I won't have to stand on the smaller members of the form to get near my peg in the cloakroom.
 I hope there won't be bottlenecks like the one outside 21.
 I hope there will be lots of little odd places like the Hut and Cottage and House.
 I hope that the Homestead grounds are next to ours.
 I hope we take the Homestead eagles with us.
 I hope they let Miss Tebble take Homer.
 I hope there will be lots more buses.
 I hope there will be bus-stops with shelters outside the school.



I shall miss dashing across Sydenham Road in games gear.
 I shall miss the view down Wellesley Road from House 2.
 I shall miss watching the passers-by in the dinner-hour.
 I shall miss the big Croydon shops, especially at Christmas time.
 I shall miss the easy access to Croydon Library, the record library, the Fairfield Halls, the lunchtime concerts.
 I shall miss being at the centre of things, and the trains and buses.
 I shall miss being near my friends in other schools.
 I shall miss the Gallery room and the spiral staircase in the Library.
 I shall miss the tablets and plaques and society noticeboards and posters all along the main corridor.
 I shall miss the old wall round the hockey pitch.
 I shall miss the lived-in atmosphere of small, awkwardly-shaped rooms.
 I shall miss sitting by the fire in the A.B.L.

Alexandrina (Ina) Burdett (1967) remembers the light...

I was 15 when we moved to Selsdon. My first impression was how light this new rambling building was especially compared to the two years I had spent in Room 27 at the old building (in the dark and gloomy basement!).



First day at the new school

Dr Caroline Kitcatt (1973)

I see that you are celebrating the move to Selsdon in 1966. I expect you have these photos which were published in the Croydon Midweek. I am not in the pictures, although I was there, as indeed I was when the Foundation Stone was laid. I moved with the school from Wellesley Road, and I started in the Senior school in 1966.

The picture bottom right, of the Duchess with three pupils shows my classmates (from left to right) Gillian Bulley, Christine Adams and Clare Allen-Jones. Sadly Gillian and Clare are no longer with us, but I am still in touch with Christine. She remembers this visit, as do I.



Remembering Miss Cameron

Our school has been led by a number of remarkable women. From the first Head, Dorinda Neligan in 1864 to our present Head, Debbie Leonard, they share the common characteristics of strength, integrity and a passion for education. Of course, every generation has 'their Head' to whom they feel a special connection and for Di Clarke (Singleton) and her classmates, this was very definitely Miss Cameron. Di was the instigator of this article which gathers together memories of Miss Elsa Cameron who was Head from 1960 to 1974 and who masterminded the move to Selsdon.



Di wrote to us and said:

The students of my era were very blessed with our two Head Teachers, Dr Adams and Miss Cameron (although we probably didn't realise it at the time!)

I have the contact addresses for about 70 of our year and we are all in touch in various ways, and inextricably linked by our shared school days. When we get together our conversation is often about staff and Head Teachers – there were certainly some strong and charismatic women in our lives.

When we celebrated our 25th anniversary of leaving the school – 22 years ago! – about fifty of us turned up and we were so excited to have Miss Cameron there. We all have lovely group photos of her standing in the centre of our chattering group. She was very good at remembering us...and at making it look as if she remembered us, even if she didn't!

She and Dr Adams were certainly tremendously influential in motivating the outstanding Science

scholars in my year, and, I am sure, in other years. Many of my year went on to become doctors and consultants and are still working at a high level in their fields.

It is hard to believe that it is the 50th anniversary of the move to Selsdon. I have memories of the Stone Laying Ceremony, which include getting soaked in the rain – not even Miss Cameron could arrange the weather!

I remember our first introduction to her at Assembly when I was in The Homestead. She seemed very slim and very "posh!" She was very much the opposite of Dr Adams in appearance and in demeanour. Of course, she was famous for having her poodle, Andy, in school with her, and during the early years in the Senior School, she was the figurehead who took Assembly and shook hands at the end of every term with each of us.

But she was scary...Such power in such a small woman! In the 6th form you got to know her much more, and realized she knew rather more about you than you would have liked! She delighted equally in all successes – even my O Level Maths retake thrilled her! I remember standing in her office while she ripped open the results envelope whilst still wearing her coat!

I have been a teacher all my life and have worked with some great Head Teachers. I am also a School Governor and so I work closely with Heads. Looking back, I see all the qualities of great leadership in Miss Cameron and Dr Adams, and of course Miss Mark, who was our History teacher before she became Head. I am sure they all had far less access to the courses and management training that Heads these days are obliged to attend. The fact that they all still figure so strongly in our memories is fitting testament to their qualities.

I now live in Eastbourne. It was only since moving here and reading the CHS book that my parents had been given when I joined the school, that I saw a picture of Dr Adams striding across the threshold of the school buildings where she had evacuated CHS during WW2, and I realized that it is The Cavendish School, a stone's throw from my house. Whenever I visit the school I feel glad to be walking in her footsteps!

Irene Eltringham-Willson (1968) remembers her kindness...

One strong memory is Miss Cameron's kindness to me when, very new to the school aged 11, I felt quite unwell. My



Dr Adams and Miss Cameron

mother was sent for in order to pick me up, and I was told to wait in Miss Cameron's office. She was very sympathetic, telling me I did look very sickly and hoped I would recover soon. As a newcomer to the south from Newcastle on Tyne, I found her very reassuring.

Other memories of her include her little poodle dog called Andy, who was always present in her office, which was large with a view over what is now the Whitgift Centre.

The move to Selsdon came as we entered the Sixth Form and I recall being entranced by the spacious sixth form common room provision and modern loos!

Roz Wilkinson (Sievers 1958-68) also recalls that air of authority

Even after 50 years I can clearly see her now, so she must have made quite an impression on us. Miss Cameron was tiny and even fragile in stature, but had a presence that commanded total authority, particularly when she swept along a corridor at Wellesley Road engulfed in her large black gown. She had joined CHS after a period as Head of Science at Roedean, the girls' boarding school known for its impeccable academic and social credentials. With this experience under her belt, she set about refining her new brood. Any of her 'gels' (as she called us) who did not speak passable BBC English on arrival in the senior school, were required to attend elocution lessons, in place of exciting weekly outings to Croydon swimming baths, until their accent met with her approval. Astonishing as this may sound today, I don't think it occurred to anyone to question it at the time. By and large, we just did what we were told.

Some years later, I had reason to be grateful to her for steering me through a nerve-racking moment in my otherwise undistinguished school career. Once a week, the daily morning Bible reading was given by a school prefect in assembly, in front of the entire Senior School. When my turn came, Miss Cameron retreated to her huge wooden chair on the platform and I stepped up to the lectern in front of her, to discover with horror that the Bible placed there earlier by a fellow prefect (and yes, I still remember who) was open at the wrong page. I froze in disbelief and, as panic mounted, I tried desperately to locate my much rehearsed passage, only too aware of several hundred pairs of eyes watching me in total silence. Suddenly from behind me a voice of calm said 'Let me help,' and Miss C sorted it all out in a trice.

Dr Fionna Moore (1968) has many memories of Miss Cameron. She says she held her in huge respect and believes it was only after she left school that she realised just how kind and compassionate she was, as well as being such an insightful and driven individual. She recalls...

When I was about 14, I had a 'St Paul on the road to Damascus' moment and decided that for reasons that I cannot now imagine, I should go and tell Miss Cameron this. I have absolutely no idea why this seemed so important to me and why I thought she would be in the least bit interested. So I made an appointment to see her during one morning break. The important thing was that she listened, understood and talked through my strengths and weaknesses, so that I came away feeling supported and

with a plan for the future. And she certainly didn't make me feel this was not following the usual chain of command!

I remember how she referred to us as her 'gels' and recall her hopes and expectations of us. And, looking back, I realise how much that must have influenced us.

She never understood why sport was so important! She was happy to congratulate us on our successes, but I don't think she really felt it was appropriate for potential academics to spend so much time pursuing hockey, cricket and netball!

And I remember Andy – that dreadful, unfriendly and smelly poodle that we all tried to ignore!

(And yes...I did pursue medicine as a career and am still doing so!)



Chrissie Mobbs (Vanstone-Walker 1968)

was particularly keen that Miss Cameron's legacy was celebrated and reading her story we understand why. Thanks to Chrissie for sharing such personal memories that demonstrate just what sort of a person Miss Cameron really was. Chrissie wrote, Outwardly, she may have seemed a steely, cold character (were not all Head Teachers in those days)? But I knew the caring, softer person inside.

Without furnishing too many personal details, I had dreadful home problems which were affecting my school progress enormously. At the time of the run up to my GCE exams, I was beside myself with unhappiness and often desperate not to return home.

To my astonishment, she took me into her home for the run up and whilst I was taking my exams. OK, she was still a little steely at home, but she also showed great kindness. She left me a cold supper for each evening and it was the first time I had felt secure for many a year.

Plus, she made me walk her poodle, Andy, every day...how clever of her to try to take me out of myself. And of course I was made to go to bed early each night with none of the disturbances I had come to dread. If it were not for her, I would have probably had a nervous breakdown, and would most certainly have failed my exams. I know I would never have gone on to be the successful business person (Chairman, Non-Executive Director etc) that I became.

A Family Affair

Five generations of Croydon High School

For Lucie Stranack, who was one of our Senior Prefects this year and who will be sitting her A Levels this summer, it must feel as if Croydon High is in her DNA. Her younger sister, Claire will move in to the sixth form in September and she will be the latest of five generations of the family who have attended the school!



Lucie told us about the family connections:

"When we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the school in 2014, it made me reflect on my family history. With fourteen people attending the school, over five generations, I can certainly say I have roots in Croydon High!

Louie Docking was the first person in my family to attend the school. She joined in 1878 while Dorinda Neligan was Headmistress. She was sister-in-law to my great great Grandmother, Lilian Allen, who also had Miss Neligan as a Headmistress and who always told my grandmother how strict she was.

Mollie Docking (my great Grandmother) had very happy memories of Croydon High, although at one point was summoned, with her mother to Miss Leahy's office, to be told that Croydon High was not the place for naughty girls and that she should mend her ways if she wanted to stay. However, she could never remember what she had done to receive the warning! Mollie was very fond of quoting 'first form girl in your big new school, what have you learnt of its life and rule' from the school song. Her husband, Edward Wagstaff and his brother and sister (Arthur and Mary Wagstaff) attended Croydon High, although the boys were only allowed in Kindergarten, Transition and First form.

In 1948, my Grandmother Ann Wagstaff, joined Upper 2 (which is now known as Year 5) and was apparently very like her mother, as only a year later it was suggested that her 'high spirits' may be better catered for in a boarding

school. However, after severe warnings from home and with a healthy fear of Dr Adams, she continued at CHS, directing her energies into hockey, tennis and school productions. Eventually she was chosen to be a Prefect, as it was said she would be experienced in spotting trouble makers lower down in the school!

My aunt, Sally Stranack, joined Croydon High in 1970 and fortunately broke the tradition of troublemaking. She recalls that in Years 3-6 the girls had 'rest' after lunch, where they all lay down on blankets in the Hall and listened to a story read by a teacher. This was once disrupted when a girl screamed as a mouse scurried over her leg! She also remembers when the swimming pool was built although it wasn't ready when they arrived back at school in September.

As the girls now had swimming on their timetable, they spent their lessons practicing 'jumping in' by jumping off benches onto the floor! Sally was at the school during the Centenary Year and remembers practicing her gym display, although there were frequent bomb scares due to IRA activity, so they often had to evacuate and practice their display outside.

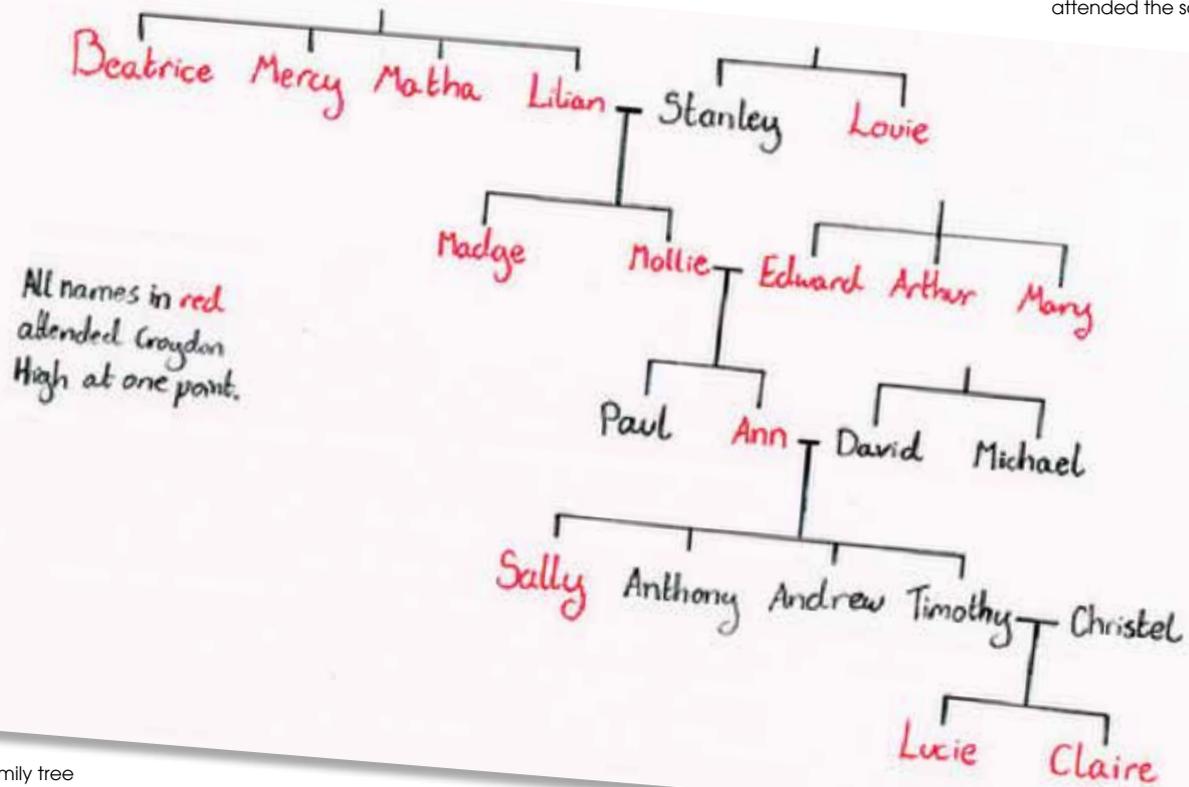
Claire and I are the fifth generation to attend Croydon High and we have quite a legacy to uphold. As I reach the end of my years at Croydon High, I'm left wondering how many future generations will attend the school. I suppose that's down to us!

Lucie Stranack (Year 13, 2016)



YOUNGER PUPILS IN ST. LEONARDS

My great Grandfather in St Leonards when he attended the school



My family tree

A Powerful Network

This has been a particularly exciting year in school, in terms of the opportunities created for current girls to interact with professionals (including many of our alumnae) and to gain valuable careers advice from them.



Stem Breakfast

In December 2015, we held our first networking breakfast, welcoming a number of eminent specialists in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) sectors to deliver a powerful and inspirational message.

The speakers, who included a number of CHS alumnae promoted the diversity of employment opportunities available to young women within these professions. Girls were invited to hear more about the training and the work the speakers are involved in and – importantly – to network with the guests afterwards.

Mrs Gower, our Head of Careers, said: "It is important for girls to gain networking experience and build up all the 'soft skills' that employers really value and which may give them the edge when it comes to interviews." Mrs Leonard was delighted with the number of girls who opted to attend, saying: "It was great to see them all listening so attentively and then mixing with the speakers so readily, asking great questions and starting to make contacts that could really impact on their future careers."

Our Careers Convention in March 2016 was another chance for alumnae to come back to school and share their knowledge and many of them responded to our call!

"Buzzing, animated, informative and immense" – these were just some of the adjectives used to describe the event. With 92 delegates, 20 of whom were alumnae and over 300 girls, parents and friends, it was our largest ever Careers Convention. The careers that were covered by the delegates were wide-ranging, almost an A-Z from The Armed Forces to Veterinary Science.

Prestigious companies such as Price Waterhouse Coopers, Deloittes, EY, HSBC and Rolls Royce were out in force bringing their expertise, information and (excitingly) free pens! Delegates spoke informatively on Engineering, Healthcare and Science, the Police, Law, Journalism and Fashion, to name just a few.



Victoria De Silva (Britten, 1997) and Helen Butterfield (Cattell, 1993)

High profile Universities such as Oxford and King's College London, and Gap Year providers provided a colourful display in the Hall. Our girls turned out in huge numbers, arriving early, eager to sample as many careers as they could. They planned their evenings, armed with their programme and career workbooks which provided sample questions, helping them record their research and note down their new contacts. Delegates were certainly glowing in their praise of the students, commenting on how eloquent our girls were during their conversations. They are most certainly equipped with the skills, talents and qualities to ensure that they will be highly successful professional women, following in the footsteps of so many before them.

UCAS BEGINS FOR YEAR 12 – April 2016

In April, we officially launched Year 12s preparations for Higher Education, with a presentation led by Jade Wheeler, from Surrey University, on how to choose your subject and applying for competitive courses at university. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, with four of our recent Alumna; Emily Beck (Leeds), Sarah Cannon (Birmingham) Rhian Elias (Leicester) and Natalie Haden-Scott (Loughborough) all offering advice about the application process and their own experience of university life. Year 12 asked relevant and interesting questions and appreciated the opportunity to receive information from the "front-line". Our young alumnae were, as always enthusiastic and keen to support the younger girls.

OPENING DOORS TO HER FUTURE - AN EXCITING CAREERS INITIATIVE THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

A major initiative in our Junior School this term has been to introduce the girls to the world of careers, in an age appropriate way. This was sparked by a comment made by Helen Fraser, Chief Executive of the GDST at the organisation's summer conference, when she said that it was never too soon to introduce girls to the possibilities in terms of their future careers.

Throughout the spring term, all year groups enjoyed activities, assemblies and events focusing on the variety of opportunities that will be available to them in the future. Parents came in to school to talk about their jobs and the girls' knowledge increased enormously. The emphasis was on encouraging them to believe that there is no such thing as 'jobs for the girls' or, indeed, the boys.

The finale of this campaign was a fabulous event on a Saturday in early May called **#I could be an Engineer**. Over 70 girls from Years 4-6, each with a parent (80% of whom were Dads, Grandads or Uncles!) attended a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of engineering based activities, 'hot seat' Q&A sessions with alumnae now working in the field of engineering and two excellent key note speakers. Professor Tim Broyd, incoming President of the Institute of Civil Engineering, spoke to parents about the importance of encouraging their girls to



Dr Suze was a great inspiration

consider STEM careers and alumna and science presenter Dr Sujata Kundu, (who describes herself as a nanochemist literally & professionally) spoke to girls and parents with great enthusiasm about the many advantages and possibilities a STEM career can offer.

Our thanks to Dr Suze, Aimee Davies, Shirin Yoosoofsah and Dr Ann Muggeridge and of course Dr Tim Broyd (husband of alumna Ros Broyd, Willey, 1973) who gave up their time so generously to inspire both parents and girls.



If you would like to offer careers advice at events such as these, our Head of Careers, Susan Gower, would be delighted to hear from you. Her email address is s.gower@cry.gdst.net

Events and Reunions

Throughout the course of the year there have been a number of other events at the school, where alumnae young and less young, have come back to school to share reminiscences and rekindle friendships.



IVY LINK TEA PARTY

In May, Mrs Leonard hosted her annual afternoon tea for senior alumnae and friends of the school. As ever, our guests were a group of inspiring women, with fascinating stories to tell of their time at school and their lives now. Many of the ladies, who have

reconnected, through the Ivy Link, over the past few years, expressed their appreciation of all Mrs Leonard has done to move the school forward, whilst retaining the core ethos which is still so important to them.

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. The new and the current Prefect team enjoyed tales of Croydon High in bygone days and we tried to imagine how it would be for them in 52 years' time, when (hopefully) they are enjoying reunions like this one!

IVY LINK CHRISTMAS REUNION

In December, we were delighted to welcome back girls who left the Sixth Form in the summer and this year we were joined by the class of 2010! Mulled wine, mince pies and a good catch up were the order of the occasion. Everyone is doing really well and it was touching to hear from the girls how much they miss their Croydon High family.

CLASS OF 2005 REUNITE

The class of 2005 organised a 10th anniversary reunion in October at school. Fifteen girls arrived with their 'picnic' lunches, some with family in tow. For the majority, it was the first time they had returned to school since 2005 and the photos and magazines from the archives brought back many memories. Former Deputy Head, Diana Stainbank joined the reunion and Mrs Leonard also met the girls and brought them up to speed with all the latest Croydon High news. Their afternoon would not have been complete without a tour of the school and all were impressed by the developments. Each and every one was buzzing after the tour as they bid farewell and left with their goody bags with promises and plans to meet again at the Ivy Link Summer Lunch.

FRIENDS OF MARGARET WALKER MEET YEAR 6 IN THEIR NEW CLASSROOMS



Following a generous legacy left to us by alumna and former staff member, Margaret Walker, we have been able to speed up the process of redeveloping the teaching spaces in the Junior School. Margaret's friends and classmates were invited in to view the completed work and to meet some of the girls who are benefitting from it. As part of the afternoon, we planted some rose bushes and spent a moment of quiet reflection, remembering Margaret and her contribution to the school, both past and present.

OVER 100 ALUMNAE GATHER FOR ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCH



In June 2015 we welcomed over 100 guests for our annual Ivy Link lunch, including large groups from the classes of 1995 and 1965, who were celebrating 20th and 50th anniversaries respectively.

There was also a good number from the class of 1983 who were all celebrating 'significant' birthdays this year. Some admitted to pre-reunion nerves but all agreed that once they were together it was as if they had never been apart – even those who hadn't seen each other for 50 years! It has become a tradition to start proceedings with the school prayer and it was touching to see how many of the ladies joined in with the well-remembered words. The lunch was

delicious and the wine flowed and there was a happy buzz of reminiscences and lots of laughter. Once again, a really successful event.

LOWER SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING

The guest speaker at our annual Lower School Prize Giving in July ceremony was Natalie Orringe from the class of 1998. Natalie left school with straight As at A Level and went to study Geography at Jesus College, Oxford, becoming President of the Oxford University Geography Club.

Natalie graduated with a 2:1, also gaining blues in hockey and football. After university, she was awarded a place on the Saatchi and Saatchi graduate trainee scheme and went on to join their PR agency, working to promote organisations ranging from the British Army to Guinness to London Fashion Week. She then left to work in Ghana for an NGO before returning to work for Westminster City Council, where she was involved in managing responses to the 7th July bombings and the Dame Shirley Porter tribunal. Natalie spent three years at a PR agency (Hanover) where she worked for a range of large businesses and pro bono causes, including acting as Press Officer for the McCann family. Eight years ago Natalie started Teamspirit Public Relations, which according to PR Week, was the fastest growing agency last year. Natalie gave an inspirational speech about how to get on in life and how being a pupil at CHS had encouraged her to aim high.

ALUMNA AMY AIDING NEPAL

Alumna Amy Legister (2013) is a second year medical student and came back to school to tell the girls about the volunteer work she will be embarking on this summer. In Nepal she will be using her medical skills to help support the victims of the earthquake. We wish Amy the very best and look forward to hearing her report back when she returns.

CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE LILY FOUNDATION

The last assembly of the spring term was the perfect opportunity to invite alumna Alison Maguire (the current GDST Alumna of the Year) in to school to collect a cheque for funds raised by our sixth form and our junior girls this year in support of Alison's charity, The Lily Foundation. Alison was delighted to receive the cheque for the impressive amount of £2,411.21. The money was raised partly by the fantastic efforts of our sixth formers at their annual fashion show. The junior school book swap also raised a significant amount and Alison expressed her gratitude for the way in which the whole school has taken The Lily Foundation to their hearts and supported it this year.

HAMIDA ALI HELPS CELEBRATE OUR GCSE AND A LEVEL SUCCESSES

As our guest speaker for September prize giving we welcomed back Hamida Ali who left CHS in 1994 to study History and Sociology at Warwick University. Since leaving Warwick, Hamida has pursued a career in tackling inequality

and discrimination in public services and their workplaces; she has worked for such organisations as Portsmouth City Council, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Metropolitan Police Authority, the BBC and currently Equity.

Having been elected as a councillor for Woodside Ward in Croydon she was appointed Deputy Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice in 2014 and Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury in 2015.

She has certainly been busy since leaving CHS! We were delighted to hear of all her many achievements which certainly inspired the girls.

JOAN CROW (ABBOTT, 1950) WROTE TO TELL US OF HER YEAR GROUP'S ANNUAL RECEPTION



On Thursday, 19th May 2016, fourteen of us from our school year met at Guildford Cathedral Refectory. We all took our School Certificate examinations in 1948 and variously left CHS during the following 2-3 years. We started meeting in 1951 - a practice we have carried on every year since - so this was our 66th get-together!

We'd be interested to know if any 'girls' from previous years have met so regularly, otherwise we might contact the Guinness Book of Records!! We have 23 names in our address book and realise how very fortunate we are that so many of us can still come to our reunions.

As you can imagine, there was no shortage of conversation and the time went all too quickly. We have already planned to meet on Thursday, 18th May 2017, this time at Colyton in Devon at the home of Joan Tunstall (née Fryer) and very much hope that at least as many of us - and hopefully more - will be able to be there.

LILLY PRESENTS SPORT AWARDS

In July, the PE department hosted their annual PE presentation evening and welcomed alumna and guest speaker Lily Rogers (2010) back to school. Lily gave us an inspiring talk about her journey from Croydon High to the England indoor netball team.

Photogate - or Spot the

Deliberate Mistake!



Cathy welcomes the Duchess in 1954

This year's copy of the GDST's Verve Magazine went out in February and, as always, it included an insert of Croydon High News. One of the news items talked about the opening of the school in Selsdon with a picture of the Duchess of Gloucester receiving a bouquet from a little girl called Cathy Burridge.

Unfortunately this picture was not in fact of the laying of the Foundation Stone but the school's 80th anniversary party in 1954, a very special occasion also attended by alumna Sheila Sim (Lady Attenborough) who sadly died this year. It was the same Duchess of Gloucester but a different girl in a different decade! Were it not for eagle eyed attention to detail that so many Croydon High girls share, we suspect we might have got away with it!

What happened as a result, however, was a lovely exchange of emails from various people who remembered both events. Thank you to everyone who contributed and we thought we would share their memories.

We were especially delighted to hear from Cathy herself - and we hope she will be pleased to hear how she is well remembered.

Cathy said...

My sister in Canada, has sent me a copy of Croydon High School News 2015.

I was amused to see a picture of myself presenting a bouquet to the Duchess of Gloucester.

Sir William and Lady Cash are also in the photograph, I have often wondered if their son is Bill Cash Conservative MP..do you know?

Elizabeth Connolly (Crowhurst 1964) recognised Cathy and wrote to say

Cathy and I were in the same form in the Senior School - she had come up from the Homestead and I had entered the school on an 11+ scholarship in 1958. Our CHS life was spent at the Wellesley Road site and we had left before the move to Selsdon in 1966. Sadly I have not kept contact with Cathy and did not take part in the 80th celebration as that was 1954 and we started at CHS in 1958.

Jennifer Welch (Pratt) 1964 saw the photo of her old friend Cathy and wrote to say...



I attended Croydon High from 1952-1964. I think that the Duchess of Gloucester visited the school in Wellesley Road in 1954, at least she certainly made a visit about that time as I was still in The Elms.

One of my best friends was Cathy Burridge, she was the youngest of four sisters who all attended the school. She had beautiful auburn hair, worn in a bob as in the photograph.

Sadly as we grew older and found ourselves in different classes with different interests, Cathy and I grew apart. But my daughter is called Catherine. I always liked the name and remember that first close friendship.

I cannot remember Sylvia Sim coming to the school but when the Duchess of Gloucester came in 1954, and my friends and I were sitting painting some unrecognisable animals we had made out of clay and the Duchess' Lady in Waiting stopped and talked to us. I don't know what she said or what we said in reply; we were probably all too overwhelmed to do much more than mutter something.

However, I do remember when King George died. Miss Bolwell, Headmistress of the Elms, called us all into the Hall late in the morning and announced the news to us. I was not quite six and in the kindergarten, so it was pretty meaningless to me, except for the solemnness of the announcement. When my mother collected me at lunch time I bounced out of school telling her that the King had died. She hadn't yet heard the news, so gave me a good telling off for saying such a dreadful thing. (I suppose she thought I'd been playing some game with my friends). However I was very insistent that Miss Bolwell had told us! She then noticed that the flag on the Gas Showroom (opposite the Fairfield Halls) was flying at half mast, so we hurried home to catch the lunch time news.

The picture also evoked many memories for Marjorie Harris (Ney 1959) and she sent a photo of her own taken in days gone by...

Although my sister Angela was very friendly with Jane Burrige all through school, Angela now lives in Israel and I don't think they have kept in touch. However, I did recently fish out the attached photograph of friends from what may be Jnr III 12 in the Homestead, taken in our garden in Sandilands in January 1950 on my 9th birthday. I can still name most of them, though not all with surnames:

One of them, Patricia Haines, who I had not seen for years,



visited our garden when it was open for the National Gardens Scheme, and we recognised each other. She is still in touch with another, Valerie Pegler, and we plan to meet up soon.

I am still in touch with my two best friends from the Senior School, Janet Courtier (née Done), Christine Locke (née Lobb) and also Joy Lawrence (née Adams).

My sister and her best friend from school, Janet Crumbie, are still best friends, despite my sister being in Israel since 1968, and they always meet up whenever Angela is over.

I did see Sheila Sim once when she visited the school, and always thought of CHS when she appeared or was mentioned on the radio, as it was drummed in to us that she was one of our most famous old girls at the time.



Duchess returns for the official opening

However, one of my most abiding memories is of Jacqueline Du Pré playing a farewell concert, with her mother on piano, prior to her leaving to study cello elsewhere. We all followed her career with great interest. Right at the other end of her life, I was lucky enough to attend one of the

last masterclasses she gave to three or four cello students in London, though she was very unwell. She too was in my sister's class at CHS. Another well-known alumna is Sandra Howard (married to Michael Howard and formerly Sandra Paul), who I knew in the sixth form when she was at CHS for a couple of years. We happened to meet a couple of years ago. I remembered her, but she didn't remember me!

So, our apologies again for the mix up... and we would love to hear from those who remember Claire Mills and the laying of the Foundation Stone but perhaps that is for next year's issue!

And in other news...

It is always a pleasure to hear from members of the Ivy Link community with news of their achievements and we are always happy to pass on messages from those who want to reconnect with old friends.

Please contact Karen at ivylink@cry.gdst.net or on 020 8260 7531 if you would like to share your own thoughts and memories.

Mary Pat Larman (mother of Bridget Larman, 2010)

who did such sterling voluntary work in our school archives, has a passionate interest in the school's history. She contacted us to say...



Dorinda Neligan's name keeps popping up!

I recently attended a talk at the Croydon Archive on Saturday. The archivist mentioned that members of the Croydon U3A group were going to research 'Women of Croydon'. She mentioned that an old girl from CHS was going to research Dorinda Neligan. If she contacts CHS, please put her in touch with me. I would be delighted to share what I know.

That same evening, I attended a two-woman play called Lady Connie and the Suffragettes at the Fairfield Hall. After the play, there was a discussion with the director and the author who wrote a biography about Lady Constance Lytton. The director mentioned that Croydon had its own well known suffragette - Dorinda Neligan. It seems a member of the audience at the matinee had mentioned in the afternoon discussion.

Interestingly, another CHS connection stemming from that play - Elsa Gye. Elsa attended CHS. She was arrested with Constance Lytton outside the House of Commons in 1909. She also served as the secretary to the Suffragette Fellowship. Hopefully another suffragette that (someday) I will get around to researching...



Dr Alison Leonard, former Head of Geography here, contacted us to tell us about an NGO which she is currently volunteering with in Tanzania. She also gave us a brief update on what she has been doing for the last 14 years

After leaving in 2002, she went on to work as a Geography teacher in several schools in London and the South East before retiring from the Geography classroom in 2015, after nine years as a part-time teacher at Westminster School in Central London. From 2006, when she took up that post, she had also been a Senior Lecturer on the Teach First Initial Teacher Education programme, again in London. Alison says it was a real pleasure to meet a CHS alumna at an event in central London, at the start of her time with the Teach First programme.

Having successfully completed her Geography in Education MA in 2004, she went on to embark on her doctorate in 2006. Alison has now had three graduations at the Institute of Education, finally completing her doctoral studies in 2014 with the first her PGCE in 1993.

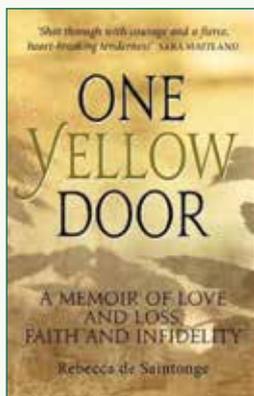


Currently on unpaid leave from Canterbury Christ Church University, Alison is working as a volunteer with the Mvumi School Trust. She shares the role of Trust Representative with husband, Hugh Morrison.

The school hosts a special unit for Visually Impaired students. While the Tanzanian Government has a Memorandum of Understanding with DCT Mvumi Secondary School the teachers are short of the specialist equipment which they need and they are under-staffed too. Anyone keen to help in this unit would be especially welcome as volunteers.

Please take a look at their web site to find out more at mvumischooltrust.org.uk

A number of her school peers spotted the review of author and alumna **Rebecca de Saintonge 's (1962)** latest book ONE YELLOW DOOR, a memoir of love and loss, faith and infidelity (Dartman Longman and Todd, Oct 2015).



Rebecca worked for many years with the BBC and Granada Television as an investigative journalist specializing in programmes on social justice, the penal system and religious affairs. Later she became a regular contributor to Woman's Hour and You and Yours.

She has also written for The Weekend Guardian, The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph, Third Way and a variety of other journals. In January 2005, Rebecca together with fellow author Alan Wilkinson founded LifeLines Press – a unique printing house that designs bespoke books of family histories, memoirs, poetry and biographies.

Our thanks to **Mayoni Gooneratne (1994)** who gave her support to sister school Sydenham High's mentoring programme for Year 12 girls, when approached by a 'friend of a friend.' Sydenham were most appreciative and shared with us Mayoni's generous response:

"I would be delighted to be of help! I am a G(P)DST girl myself and attended Croydon High from the age of 7 to 18. It was a truly formative part of my life and I always felt hugely supported by my lovely teachers. It would be a real privilege to be involved in giving something back to the Trust and hopefully show the girls what a little hard work and motivation, together with a bucket load of encouragement can do!"

The British Heart Foundation (CROYDON) needs YOU!

We received this plea for help from **former Maths teacher Barbara Forrai** who is looking for a successor to her role as Chairman/Events Organiser for the Croydon Branch of the



British Heart Foundation. Barbara writes:

"Since I retired 29 years ago, I have been volunteering with the British Heart Foundation.

Clearly, I am nearing my sell-by date and have been looking for a successor for some time but without success. At present, the Committee number 7, but nobody is in a

position to take on the post. After all this time, some new blood would be more than welcome.

It is a very rewarding hobby with good back-up. It does require somebody who is not deterred by public-speaking (school assemblies and so on), but I'm sure any ex-CHS girl would be capable of dealing with that. I have been running two major events a year, a Sponsored Swim in November and a Joyful Music Day in the Whitgift Centre in December. In addition we help with national events as stewards, but are not involved in their organisation. I'm sure there's no need to describe the work of the British Heart Foundation!"

This would be ideal for a retired person with time on their hands and a thirst for action! If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Barbara on 0208 654 5536 or by email at forraib@blueyonder.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER



We were delighted to learn that **Angharad Thomas (1994)** was awarded an OBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list. She was awarded the honour in recognition of services to the UK Pharmaceutical Industry and the Control of Drugs through her

work as Head of Drugs and Firearms Licensing at the Home Office. Angharad, who still lives in Croydon, has supported the school by offering careers advice and seminars to current students.

Head of Croydon High, Debbie Leonard, announced the news at school saying, "We are extremely proud that Angharad's work in a challenging field has been recognised at the highest level."

Congratulations also to **Sally Marks (Martin) 1972** who became Chairman of Surrey County Council in May 2015. Sally will hold the post for two years.



Belated congratulations to **Frances Elizabeth Taylor (1965)** who as Superintending Inspector of Nuclear Installations in the Department for Work and Pensions, was awarded an OBE in 2004.

Our Alumna of the Year Nominations 2016

Croydon has a proud reputation for representation in the GDST's Alumna of the Year competition and although our nominees did not make it through to the final judging this year, we thought you would like to hear who was nominated and why.



Dr Roshanthi Sathananthan (1986)

graduated from St. George's Medical School in 1991 and completed her rheumatology and general internal medicine training in 2000. She was appointed Consultant Physician

and Rheumatologist at Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust in February 2001 – the youngest person to be appointed a consultant in the Trust and is now the longest serving.

Over the last 15 years, she has built up the rheumatology team of CUH and succeeded in creating a valuable early arthritis clinic service. She has done this while having a family and going from full time to part time, but never losing her vision of what an excellent rheumatology service should be. Her leadership has led to the department being nationally recognised. She is an informal mentor to younger colleagues, always approachable and insightful.

Roshanthi was nominated by Tazeen Ahmed, Consultant Rheumatologist at Croydon University Hospital and herself a GDST girl from Newcastle High.

Tazeen said "Female medical leadership is woefully under recognised no matter which speciality and it is refreshing to meet someone who can lead without losing the personal touch. She is the first female rheumatologist I have met in my 15 year career who I can truly consider a role model.



Caron Tomsett (Pope, 1984)

was nominated by Giles Tomsett (who describes himself as 'husband and fan') for her expertise and contribution to the Law and as a role model for effective leadership of a global law organisation.

Caron has dedicated her professional life, since leaving Croydon High, to the Law. She has brought up a family and is now the Managing Partner of a legal firm based in the City of London. This firm is one of the global leaders in its field and this year she was elected to the seven-strong Executive Committee, which steers the strategy of the organisation and manages the worldwide firm.

She is acknowledged in legal circles for her expertise and is highly respected by her colleagues in London and Sheffield. She has also worked with governments here and around the world, championing Britain as a place to live and work.

Giles said, "In this year when Britain will make a key choice about its place in Europe, Caron will continue to ensure people can bring their expertise to building our economy and society."



Camilla Bowry (1998)

was nominated by fellow Croydon High alumna Louise Elliott Neal, who told us her story...

In November 2013, when faced with a collection of her son Sal's outgrown shoes, Camilla sought out charities who could donate

them to those most in need. Surprisingly, there wasn't a single organisation that could tell her where Sal's pre-loved shoes would actually end up. She decided to cut out the middle man. Having grown up in Africa, and with a network of family and friends scattered all over the world, she decided that if no-one was willing to tell her where exactly Sal's shoes would end up walking again, she would deliver them there herself. A parcel was sent to a friend overseas, who distributed them on a children's oncology ward and sent back a photograph of a child wearing Sal's first pair of shoes; Sal's pair of shoes had become another's. After initially collecting more outgrown children's shoes from family and friends, word spread and soon she was inundated with pairs of barely worn shoes; 'Sal's Shoes' had been born.

In their first year, Sal's shoes collected 4,805 pairs of shoes and distributed them in eight countries, including the UK. In their first two months of their third year they have already collected over 8,000 pairs, their network of distribution is ever expanding, and the difference the shoes are making to the new feet they find is amazing. Louise said, "Camilla is resourceful, passionate and truly inspiring. I have been following her amazing work since the inception of Sal's Shoes in November 2013."

To find out more about the charity, have a look at their website www.salsshoes.com



So, there you have it, some of the inspirational women who represent Croydon High in very different fields. We know that they are just three of many, many more who are out there and we would love to hear your stories.

Obituaries

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 and our thoughts are with their friends and families.



Janette Winifred Denereaz died 9 September 2015.

Janette was born on 18 October 1931 and lived in Upper Norwood. She attended Croydon High between 1943 and 1948, having won a scholarship.

Her ambition was to work with animals in some capacity and having gained her School

Certificate she trained as a laboratory assistant, working for the Burroughs Wellcome Laboratories. Her love of animals often conflicted with her job role and she was known to smuggle rodents home in her coat pockets once their lives as laboratory animals were supposed to end.

She married John Gale in 1955 and gave birth to her only daughter, Jacqui, in 1956. Helping out at her daughter's kindergarten and infant school, she decided that one day she would like to qualify as a teacher, an ambition that she realised when she trained as a mature student, qualifying in the early 1970s.



Janette decided that she wanted to teach children with Special Educational Needs, which she did for about ten years, until ill health forced her early retirement from the teaching profession.

A granddaughter, Sarah, came along in 1981 and a grandson, Adam, in 1984. Janette was a very hands-on grandmother. Sarah inherited her grandmother's ambition to work with children, training as a Nursery Nurse and in 2001 beginning her career in the newly formed nursery at Croydon High where she remains to this day. Janette was always very proud of this continued link with her old school.

Sadly vascular dementia was to affect Janette's life and she needed the care of a nursing home for the last five years. Her family remain eternally grateful that, despite this awful disease, Janette knew that her family members were important to her right up to her death.

Mary French died January 15th 2016.

Liz Robertson, Croydon High's legendary PE teacher, who was at the school from 1966 to 2001, wrote to tell us of the death of another much loved teacher and the pride of England Netball, Mary French. Liz said...

Mary French



Last updated at 12:01AM, February 5 2016

England netball captain who promoted sporting links with apartheid South Africa and refused to kowtow to committee rules

French, front row with the whistle, and the 1967 England netball team. She was coach on a tour to Australia that year

'You will no doubt be sad to learn that Mary French died last Friday in Mayday Hospital. She would have been 90 years old in February, and coincidentally was born the day before the All England Netball Association was formed.

Mary was at Croydon High from 1966 to 1982. Some of you will remember Mary as a Maths teacher - others as the instigator of the CHS Gym Club. Her legacy, of course, will be her passionate involvement in netball at the highest level, with the England Team. As a player, as the Captain, and still, in terms of tournament results, the most successful coach they have ever had.



Mary at the CHS netball reunion, April 2015

For my part, she helped a reluctant, hockey-playing, 21 year old PE teacher to coach a sport she had never really played much. I owe her an enormous debt.

It was so fitting that she was able to be at the fantastic 'Netball Reunion Afternoon' in April 2015 and I know she was thrilled that so many of you found the time to have a chat with her. She was always a great supporter of CHS netball and came with us on tour to South Africa in 1998. I will miss her great generosity - and her enormous netball knowledge and expertise.'

Our condolences to Mary's family and especially her daughters, Jaqi and Nicky, who were both at Croydon High.

Agatha Sadler died December 13th 2015.

Agatha, who died aged 91, was the proprietor of St George's Gallery Books.



Agatha Sadler in later life

She was born Agatha Brill on January 20 1924 in Vienna. Her father, who had been a captain in the Austrian cavalry during the First World War, was an industrialist and prominent physicist who

worked on radiation with Ernest Rutherford in Britain and Marie Curie in France. He collected Austrian and French paintings and drawings and was imprisoned after the Anschluss in 1938 and only released when he had given up his property to the Nazis.

The Brills fled that year and Agatha arrived in Britain as a teenager and came to Croydon High between 1938 and 1941. She was evacuated with the school to Llandilo, under the care of Dr Adams, who was Head at the time.

It was said that in the goldfish bowl of the art world, Agatha Sadler kept confidences.

"Every year, the same three people would come in separately and ask Agatha to select a book as a birthday present for the sculptor Henry Moore," a profile in The Daily Telegraph in 2003 noted. "Not only did she have to find something suitable, but she also had to ensure that they did not clash with each other or repeat earlier gifts."

The late art critic, Brian Sewell, was a great admirer of Agatha's and maintained that no art historian of his generation could have done his work without relying on her bookshop. "If some unknown scholar in East Germany was reputed to have written a pamphlet on Conxolus, Agatha either had it in stock or knew from which university press to obtain it," he said.

Liz Holden-White wrote to tell us of the death of her mother, Betty Brown, (Potheary, 1938).

Betty was born in 1920, so would have been at Croydon High in the early 1930s. Betty's older sister Mary Rachel, (Potheary) has also died.

Susan Loewe died June 21st 2015.



Former Head of English, Gill Sharpe, wrote to tell us of the sudden death of another Head of English, Susan Loewe.

Susan was Head of English from 1977 until her retirement in 1997. She joined CHS after a distinguished teaching career that included posts in both the state and

the independent sectors. She was a respected and much-loved teacher of her subject, which she approached with rigour and sensitivity, encouraging in girls of all abilities a sound appreciation of English Literature and Language. She particularly loved drama and produced several memorable school productions, including *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. She much enjoyed taking part in CHS staff pantos, where she would commonly play the wicked witch, with great relish. Susan occasionally suffered back pain, and some of her A-level girls will remember her leading animated discussions - whilst lying flat on her back on the floor.

An Oxford graduate, she had a formidable grasp of all aspects of the subject, except for a weakness in spelling. She was not the only member of the English Department to encourage poor spellers to persevere in their efforts to improve: "If Mrs Loewe can learn to spell, so can you!" At her retirement, many ex-CHS A-level English candidates came to a dinner in her honour and testified gratefully to her inspiration and patience as their teacher.

We send our sympathies to her husband, David; son, Martin; and daughters, Rebecca and Harriet who are both alumnae of Putney High School.

Chris Hogh (Smith, 1958) wrote to tell us of the death of Shirley Carter (Campbell, 1958) died May 2016.

Chris said, "We were at the same primary school, Benson in Shirley, until 1950 when she moved as a fee paying pupil to CHS. I joined a year later as a direct grant scholarship girl.

Shirley was an only child and like me trained as a primary school teacher. She had three children, two boys and a

girl and several grandchildren. Having married another teacher, she had an interesting life, living and working abroad for much of it in exotic places like Papua New Guinea; her husband was a Headmaster there, I believe.

In retirement, they returned to the UK and settled in Yorkshire where her husband, Jim, set about renovating a row of three terraced cottages. Shirley worked part-time at a local school but then had a diagnosis of cancer a few years ago. She had some ground breaking stem cell treatment and battled on bravely with some good periods of remission but, sadly, Jim died a few months ago and this was a great blow to her and she died just a couple of weeks before her 76th birthday."



Grace in school uniform

Grace Fulcher (Polkingham) died September 11th 2105.

Grace's son Bill wrote to tell us of the death of his mother aged 98. She attended Croydon High School from about 1925 and left aged 17 when her mother died in 1934. Bill's wife Rosemary (Parsons) is also an old girl as are their two daughters, Kate and Jane.

Bill said "By way of connection across the years, my late mother clearly remembered being taught by Miss Roper and both Kate and Jane were proud recipients of the Eleanor Roper prize when they left School in 1999 and 2002 respectively. There are many references to Margaret Roper and Eleanor Roper in my mother's diaries. Random entry: Sat 29th Sept 1932 "Went to Miss Roper's House for an hour and twenty minutes music lesson. She has got a second hand Broadwood grand piano."

Barbara Wallace (Ockelford) died March 3rd 2015.

Jeanne Tarling (Ockelford, 1946) wrote to tell us of the death of her sister Barbara who was at CHS from 1938 to 1945. Jeanne would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers her - please contact Karen Roe at the school to pass on messages.

Dr Barbara Knowles, FRSB, MBE died February 27th 2016.

Dr Barbara Knowles, who has died aged 55, was awarded her MBE in the 2014 New Year's Honours List for Services to Science Communication and the Environment.



Most recently she combined her role as a senior science adviser to the Royal Society of Biology with enthusiastically promoting voluntary and charitable projects for meadow ecology, sustainable rural development and traditional agriculture in the Eastern Carpathians in Transylvania.

This work included submissions to the European Parliament to highlight the value of vulnerable flower-rich mountain meadows and the threat they are under from EU farming policies and globalisation.

Barbara was also one of the founding members of the Natural Capital Initiative, a body that aims to bring scientists and policy makers together to promote sustainable management of the natural world based on sound scientific principles.

Her diagnosis with motor neurone disease in 2008, and the progressive loss of her mobility and speech, in no way reduced Barbara's drive and determination to promote her ideas on sustainable development, and she inspired many others to become involved in diverse projects, including hay making festivals, wild flower conservancy and local cheese production. In 2011, she hosted Prince Charles in Transylvania to learn about hay making.

Born in Purley, Surrey, Barbara left to study Biochemistry at Girton College, Cambridge, remaining there to gain her PhD. Post-doctoral research into the workings of biological insecticides followed at Clare Hall, Cambridge, before she moved into the field of public science policy at the Natural Environment Research Council and the Office of Science and Technology.

See www.treasuresoftransylvania.org for more on Barbara's projects.



Pamela Dixon (Dobson)

was a pupil at Croydon High from 1944-1954 and Head of the Junior School from 1986-1988.

Her husband Peter told us of her death in March 2016.





Sheila Sim, Lady Attenborough, died January 19th 2016.

Sheila Sim was an actress and the wife of actor and Oscar winning director, Richard Attenborough. Born in Liverpool, she attended Croydon High during the 1930's.

She is fondly remembered by many of her peers from her time in school, and also by younger girls, who remember her attending

special events such as the 80th anniversary celebrations in 1954 and Prizegiving.

Dr Maureen Adams wrote to say, "I stayed for dinner two days a week, when we had games. The dining room was downstairs, next to the cloakrooms, and we sat at round

tables with two senior girls at each table. I always tried to sit with Sheila and her friend Jean. Sheila was always very pleasant, and not a bit stuck-up. This would have been 1938-39 when I was in Lower and Upper 1V and Sheila in sixth form. She had already done some amateur acting at a little theatre across the road from the school."

Sheila made her West End debut in 1945 in the play 1066 and All That. A short but successful film career followed and Sheila appeared in the original stage version of *The Mousetrap*.

Having said from the first that if they had children, she would put family before career she did so, to look after their three children. In 1968, Sim was sworn in as a magistrate in Surbiton, joining the Richmond bench. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Richmond Society, a group that contributed to the thinking behind the restoration and redevelopment of the banks of the Thames at Richmond.

Latter years were overshadowed by the loss, in 2004, of her daughter Jane and granddaughter Lucy in the tsunami in Thailand. Richard died in 2014, when they had been married nearly 70 years.

CLASSIFIEDS



Katherine at this year's Careers Convention

**KATHERINE HOWLETT-DAVIES (HOWLETT, 1991)
HOUSE PORTRAIT ARTIST, ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATOR AND TEACHER**

A traditionally painted watercolour or pen & ink house portrait makes a fantastic gift for someone you love. Alternatively, are you about to move and would like a memento of your home?

Perhaps you are a developer, architect, or estate agent. Katherine hand-draws and hand-paints illustrations for planning, development, or house sale purposes to maximise your sales values.

Katherine enjoys sharing her interest in architecture and teaches perspective drawing in schools, galleries and at art societies across Sussex and Hampshire.

Katherine would love to hear from you, whatever your interest in architecture. Discounts are available for CHS alumnae.

www.katherinehowlettdavies.co.uk

ANNA'S SINGLES EVENTS

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, Winchester and London.

Please call/email Anna on 07773 000733 • anna@annasparties.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

Ethical photographer - Weddings/Civil Partnerships, Events, Commissions

Discounts available for charity and public sector clients - and CHS alumnae (Sophie Stanes, 1991).

www.lifethroughalensphotography.co.uk

MILLIE MENSAH

Millie Mensah (2003) **Graphic Designer and Portrait Photographer**

Contact Millie at milliemensah@gmail.com or **07709 425 246** - website coming soon!



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

Ayesha Afghan, Joan Angus, Suzanne Aplin, Florian Barker, Pamela Barnett, Carol Barton, Jenny Baxter, Audrey Brooking, Jeanne Brown, Mary Burley, Maryla Carter, Eleanor Church, Diane Clarke, Jean Clayton, June Copley, Elizabeth Danbury, Una Davies, Pauline Davies, Heather Dean, Pamela Dixon, Carole Eady, Marilyn Edlin, Valerie Edmands, Christine Evans, Mary Fitzwilliams, Hazel Frith, Oyinkansola Gabriel, Jean Galbraith, Judy Gowans, Anne Grant, Marion Gratwick, Susan Griffith, Clare Halsted, Nicola Hart, Holly Hedgeland, Pam Hinton, Christine Hogh, Angela Hosp, Elizabeth Hussey, Joan Jenkins, Helen Jones, Margaret Kirk, Elena Kypri, Judith Lacy, Susan Ladd, Bridget Larman, Patricia Mason, Marion McAra, Frances Milner, Margaret Naylor, Gillian Nelson, Helen Older, 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, Susan Varcoe, Blanche Wakeling, Barbara Wallace, Angela Warren, Ruth Warren, Judith Wilsher, Gillian Zackham, Fiona Zealley and of course a number of anonymous donations.



**Don't forget to make a note in your diary that next year's Summer Lunch
will be on Saturday 24th June 2017.**



Croydon High School

Senior Reception

gdst



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!