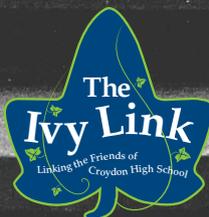




The Ivy Link Magazine 2017



Dear Friends



It is with great pride that I write my first letter for the Ivy Link Magazine as I come to the end of my first year as Headmistress at Croydon High School.

I joined the School in September 2016, having left St John's School,

Leatherhead where I was the Deputy Head (Academic). Prior to that, I was Head of the Faculty of Languages at the prestigious girls' school, Guildford High, where I taught and led languages in both the Junior and Senior Schools. I joined Guildford High from Caterham School where I was Head of Year and teacher of French and Spanish and joined Caterham from The International School of Paris. I also worked in a state school in Leicestershire after completing my teacher training. I loved teaching from my first moments in the classroom as a teacher of English in France and Spain and feel very lucky to have worked in such excellent schools with talented and dedicated colleagues.

My desire for Croydon High is to achieve excellence across the board, in all that we do, to become unequivocally the very best school in the area.

My predecessor left our School in a very strong position and we are therefore well placed to achieve this and to face the challenges of the future. One of her greatest legacies was the development of The Ivy Link community which is now regarded, and rightly so, as one of the strongest alumnae networks in the country. It is a fantastically vibrant organisation, nurtured here at school superbly and quite tirelessly by our Alumnae Coordinator, Karen Roe.

I know you would wish for me to thank Karen on your behalf for all she does for the Ivy Link.

I have greatly enjoyed meeting many of you over the last year at careers and networking events where so many of you contribute by giving your time and expertise or at social events when it has been a pleasure to hear your stories of our School in times gone by. It is now obvious that the traits I have come to recognise in the current generation of Croydon High girls actually form part of the DNA makeup of the School! Our girls are – they always have been – confident and compassionate, engaged and ambitious and they inspire us all with their achievements and aspirations, their character and talents.

Please do consider yourselves very welcome to attend school functions, in particular some of the Ivy Link events, designed to help you keep in touch with each other and with us. Even for those of you who fondly remember the School's Wellesley Road site, I am sure you will still find plenty on our campus to remind you of your time at Croydon High and will appreciate the work that our ambitious programme of enhancement and excellence has already achieved. We are confident you will agree that the ethos and 'feel' of the School has not changed and that the Croydon High spirit lives in on generation after generation.

I hope to be able to meet as many of you as possible in the future and encourage you to stay in touch. This will always be your School and you will always be made to feel very welcome!

With very best wishes

Emma Pattison

Headmistress



Dear Ivy Linkers

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Ivy Link Magazine. We are so grateful to all who have contacted us in the past year with news, stories, achievements and all manner of 'snippets' that give an ever-increasing picture of bygone

days at Croydon High School. This is the largest edition so far and contains further recollections of the move to Selsdon from Wellesley Road 50 years ago; I almost feel like I was there myself! We hope you enjoy reading these and if the contents spark memories of your own, please do share. In addition, we would be happy to receive news of reunions and other important events.

As always, it has been a real pleasure to connect with so many interesting and inspiring women, many of whom have

attended events here at Croydon High School. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our amazing prefects, who serve at so many school events, especially our Alumnae Prefect 2016-17, Aleksa Grzesik (pictured left) who remarked recently that "The Ivy Link events are my favourite, and I cannot wait to come back to future reunions myself as an alumna!"

Thanks also to our Headmistress Emma Pattison for her support and particularly to Fran Cook for her unending help in all matters Ivy Link.

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**. You can also find us and 'like' us at www.facebook.com/croydonhighivylink or follow us on twitter at [Twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyL](https://twitter.com/CroydonHighIvyL)

With very best wishes

Karen Roe

Celebrating 50 years in Selsdon

So many people have written with their memories of "The Great Move" to Selsdon in 1966. There are certain recurring themes (mud, curtseying, getting lost...) and it is wonderful to picture the excitement of the girls as they explored their beautiful new school. We wonder what our current girls will be remembering fifty years from now. What memories are they creating for themselves?

Ella Jones (Briggs) Former Staff member from 1969-1972 writes:

Many thanks for the most interesting 2016 Ivy Link Magazine. It brought back very happy memories as I joined the Junior School staff in January 1969 so could appreciate the wonderful new school. Miss Cameron was Headmistress and Miss Bolwell Head of the Junior School. They are in one of the photographs along with Kindergarten girls and the Duchess of Gloucester.



AS THE Duchess of Gloucester enters the school she is escorted by the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Maurice West. One of the first people to greet her was Dame Edith Anderson, chairman of the Girls' Public Day School Trust. The headmistress, Miss E. B. J. Cameron, guided the Duchess on a tour of the classrooms. Above she stops to chat and below meets 18 year old Mary Brewer at work in a science room and some of the junior school pupils. Right: Teacher Miss M. Liddle welcomes the Duchess to her class.

The Duchess was Patron of the GPDST following Princess Louise, one of Queen Victoria's daughters. Incidentally, Miss Cameron may have come from Roedean and wanted Croydon 'gels' to imitate them, at least in speech, but she herself was a product of the Trust having been educated at The Belvedere School, Liverpool. It was good to see that Margaret's (Walker) legacy was acknowledged with a gathering at CHS. I also knew Mary French who used to come over to the Junior School and take the girls for PE. Her daughter was educated in the school.



Catherine Robinson (Thomas) 1977 writes:

My abiding memory of the last term at Wellesley Road was being allowed to paint on the walls of the classroom because the building was going to be demolished when the school moved to Selsdon. I think we painted animals and plants.

I also remember when the new school was opened by the Duchess of Gloucester and we all stood outside and then the Duchess toured the school. My younger sister Elizabeth, who was in Kindergarten, had her picture on the front page of the Croydon Advertiser talking to the Duchess.



Victoria Bignell (Stone) 1974 writes:

The photo of Miss Cameron with, I believe, the Duchess of Gloucester, at the opening of CHS in Old Farleigh Road, brought back many memories for me. I remember being taught by our PE Teacher, Miss Jones, how to curtsey for the special occasion. We all lined up along the entrance to the Junior school and curtsied as the Duchess walked by. Great excitement! I did my entrance exam and interview at Wellesley Road but actually started CHS in 1966 in Junior 1V. Everything was so exciting and new.

Miss Storr was the Head of the Junior school and also our form teacher. Not everything was completely finished and the automatic bell system to announce lesson time was not working. Instead a hand bell was rung on one level and a gong on another. I don't remember being chosen for this task, but was always keen to be picked. Miss Storr would use her watch to keep an eye on the time! We were not allowed to use the buzzer on Miss Storr's study door. She said it made her 'jump' - so we had to knock then she would 'buzz' us into her room. We all thought this was very funny.



1965-66 - 1st netball team

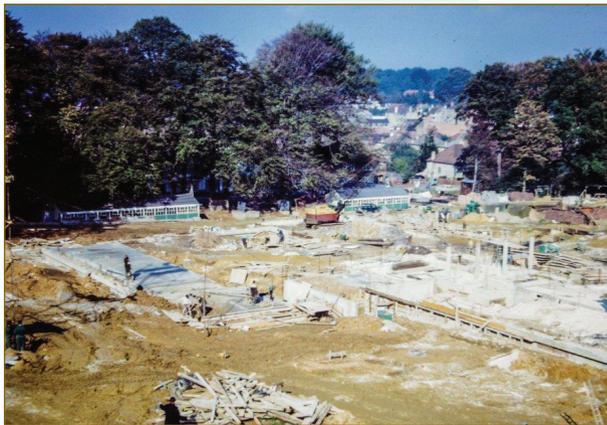
Diana Bains (Warren) writes:

I taught for the last four years at Wellesley Road, teaching PE. throughout the whole age range which I thoroughly enjoyed. Liz Robertson took my place and took my 1st Netball Team to the National Finals which they WON. Great news and particularly for me. I am still in touch with the Henley family. My daughter spent five happy years at the school when based at Selsdon. All the best to all who may remember me.

1965-66

Julia Maginnis (Kallend) 1980 writes:

I was the eldest child in a young family living in Old Farleigh Road, whose parents watched the beautiful new school being built along the road. When it came to the time for me to start school, my parents put me forward for a place without much expectation and were delighted when I was accepted.



I started in September 1967 and even though it must have been the second year of use, everything still seemed new and lovely. At 5 years old, you may think that we didn't appreciate that, but you take your cue from the adults around you who clearly loved the new teaching environment. I do remember the little toilets, reading corner, colour factor etc. with great fondness. I'm still in regular touch with two friends from that class!

Genevieve Maitland 1973 writes:

Practising curtseys like debutantes in the Senior school hall in Wellesley Road, staring up at the mahogany honours boards. Standing on planking, precariously rocking on satisfyingly deep, squelchy mud that seeped into the diamond patterned Clarks (aspirationally cool) or ghastly round toed Start-Rite (hideously uncool) shoes.



HRH MADE HER WAY THROUGH THE MUD TO THE FOUNDATION STONE

Freshly laundered uniforms, with hems having been established at precisely two inches above our knees when kneeling thus avoiding both mini (knicker flashing) and maxi (ankle flashing) skirts.



Wondering how the Royal Party would get on with the mud (we assumed some form of red carpet but hoped against hope it was merely laid over the squishy mud so that they and the staff might slip, slide, totter and suffer like us).

The terrifying Miss EBJ Cameron, standing hawklike watching over us for miscreants and strangely deferential to Dr Adams (who had an altogether cosier and less forbidding appearance).

Genny Dixon (Venning) 1973 writes:

I moved from The Homestead in Croydon up to Selsdon as a first year in 1966, so it was a hugely important move for me. We had all been to visit the new site with Miss Warlow, when the Duchess of Gloucester unveiled the Foundation Stone so there was a great sense of anticipation for two years before the move. Then suddenly there was a whole new building complex in place. The new building was lovely, there was the promise of a swimming pool soon to be ready, a science block, language labs, drama studio, art, music and practice rooms. So many choices at break time - the drama courtyard, cricket pitch, hockey pavilion. Bus stops just at the bottom of the hill.

One bus to get home. No more long walk along the main road from East Croydon station. Having our skirt lengths measured by Miss Dales – no more than 4" above the knee. So much was new to us – as much to do with our move from Junior to Senior school as the move to the new building. Watching Gordon Banks and Stoke City practice on our hockey pitch when they stayed at Selsdon Park Hotel.

And by Sixth Year, options to learn riding or golf virtually on the doorstep. Happy days!



Felicity Hawke (Millward) 1973 writes:

I lived in Selsdon – Upper Selsdon Road – and attended The Homestead for a year, travelling in by bus. So when it was announced that the school was going to be built just up the road, my parents and I were delighted. 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! 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, and 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.

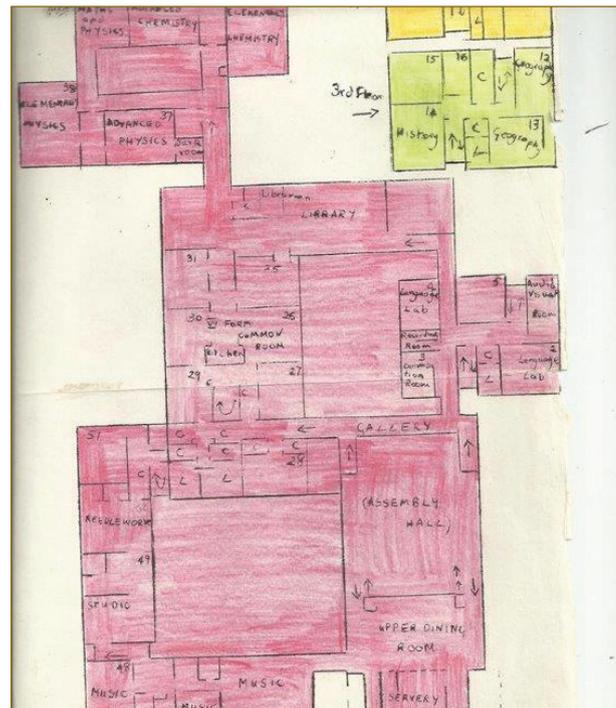
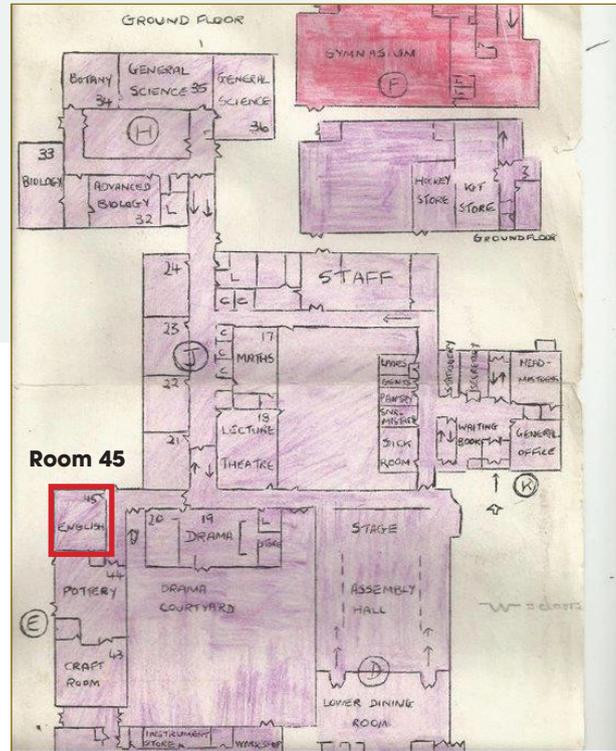
Jan Holland (Crick) 1972 writes:

Is it really 50 years?! I was in the 2nd form when we moved and I remember being quite sad to leave the old historic school, which I loved as it was like all the school stories I had read! But the facilities at the new school were great, apart from the fact they dropped cooking which I had been looking forward to as I did not enjoy sewing! And I loved the freedom of the grounds to walk around and sit out in the summer.

Jan would like to be in contact with former classmates – please contact ivylink@cry.gdsf.net if you would like to be put in touch.

Fiona Campbell 1972 writes:

My sister and I joined Croydon High (in 4th and 2nd year respectively) in 1966, going straight into the new building. Although, as a new girl, I was understandably prone to getting lost initially, I remember the first few days as a time when everyone lost their way in the new building! So it seemed easy to fit in - a welcoming way to start at the school.



From Library to Learning Resource Centre

Croydon High's modern Learning Resource Centre is well equipped, spacious, colourful, filled with light, and full of flexible spaces to allow girls to work, engage with resources (print and electronic), connect with each other, relax and read. It's a little different from the past, even if we go back just a few years prior to the major refurbishment in 2012 when the LRC was still known as the 'library' and its dark furnishings, crammed wooden shelves, and institutional carpet conveyed a more solemn mood.



1900s



1959



1966?

Past student **Felicity Hawke (Millward)** 1973 recalls the mid-1960s and early 1970s before there was a dedicated librarian. She remembers that the library was looked after by the history teacher Miss Green. Sixth formers volunteered to look after a section of the library, as subject librarians, and because I was one of only three studying music, I took on that responsibility...

Miss Cameron talked about the difficulties they were having keeping the library in a good state of repair. When Felicity mentioned her mother's interest in the library, Miss Cameron seized the opportunity. In 1973 Felicity's mother, **Margaret Millward (Wallace)** 1942, became the first paid librarian, working part-time.

Felicity adds that much of the stock was in poor condition, some subjects had not had any new books for years....and the catalogue was hopeless!

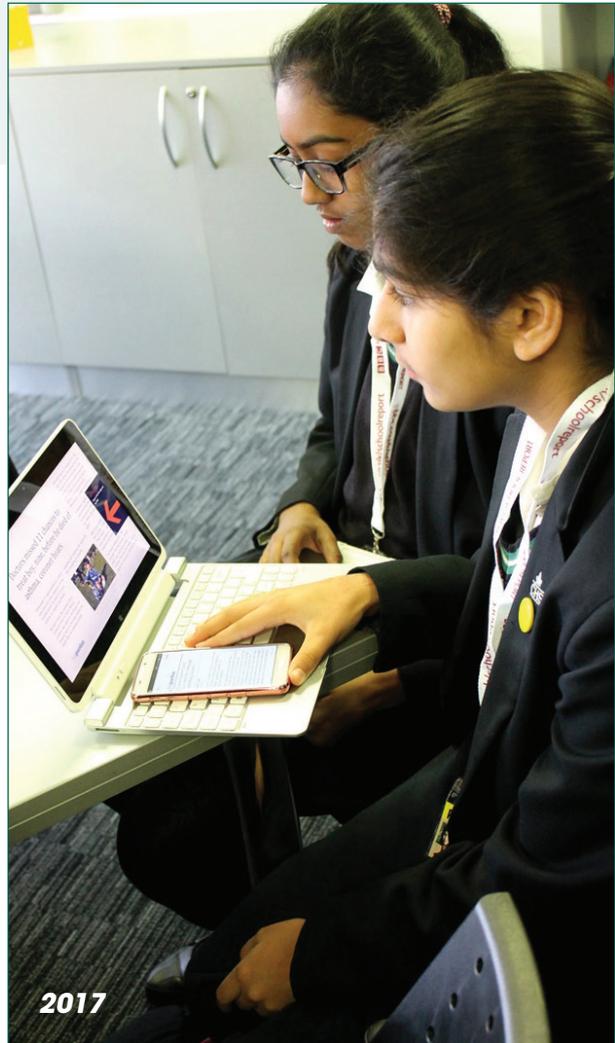
We have a lot for which to thank Mrs Millward; she worked tirelessly (without any heating in her office for many years!) sprucing up the library and helping to make it more user-friendly, until her retirement in 1984.

Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963 takes us further back to 1959 when the school building was in Central Croydon, and the gymnasium (previously the school hall until 1924) in Wellesley Road was transformed into a new library during Miss Adams' reign - mind 'workouts' rather than body workouts! The 'new' area was aptly named the 'Margaret Adams Library'. It was a great improvement on the previous library which was mainly used for senior girls. Mary writes that the very old library...was on the main corridor and



1974

Mrs Millard, 3rd row back, on the left-hand side in a bright red jumper, just behind the young woman in the white polo-neck.



probably was the size of two classrooms...there was a very quiet and sober atmosphere. The middle school library was tucked away in the attics and was tiny and so hardly used.

As the 'Margaret Adams Library' it was relatively new and many of the fittings and fixtures were transported to Selsdon to be used there, notably the spiral staircase to the gallery which can be seen in one of the photos. The staircase however was not used in the new library but formed part of the art room and is still there today. The chairs and tables, many with the names of donors on small metal plaques were moved, along with all the books.

We may ask ourselves What is a Library? A cathedral to knowledge, a warehouse of books, a storehouse of ideas, a meeting place, a transmitter of civilization? Perhaps all

these elements have been important over the years. We need to remember that the libraries of the past have had, and will continue to have, an important influence on the changing, fluid 'resource centres' (or whatever name you wish to give these dynamic places of challenge and learning) of the present and future.

Karen Abrams, Librarian, June 2017



The Power of the Network

Once again this year, we have been overwhelmed with offers of support from our alumnae, particularly when it comes to careers advice and mentoring.

Head of Careers, Susan Gower has a growing database of names, representing a huge range of careers and she often says that when an email goes out asking for volunteers, the first responders are usually Croydon High girls. Thank you all and if you would like to help with future careers events, please contact sgower@cry.gdst.net

YEAR 10 ENJOY A TASTE OF NETWORKING AT THEIR OWN ALUMNAE BREAKFAST



Year 10 arrived at school bright and early one morning last June for their first experience of a Networking Breakfast. Five of our alumnae had agreed to come and help us, including **Angharad Thomas OBE** 1994 (Head of Drugs and Firearms Licensing - Home Office), **Alicia Luba** 2009 (Senior Consultant at Dukes Education), **Freddie Fayd'herbe De Maudave** 2012 (Strategic Communications Graduate Consultant), **Kome Emuh** 2006 (Associate at Goldman Sachs) and **Emma Lucas** 2012 (recently graduated from Manchester in Spanish and Japanese).

The visitors moved from one group to the next, "speed dating" style, and the girls picked up contacts, advice and inspiration from our enthusiastic volunteers. Year 10 asked mature and relevant questions, highlighting their excellent communication skills.

CREATIVE NETWORKING



In December 2016, we widened the net and invited over twenty delegates from some of the more 'creative' professions, including Art, Graphics, Theatre, Music, Photography,

Journalism, Marketing, Law and Consultancy, to network with girls from Years 10-13. The delegates included alumnae **Kate Desbottes** (1974), **Amelia Maher** (2011) and **Chandana Shankar** (2007), as well as parents, relatives and friends. The girls enjoyed finding out more about potential careers

and asking delegates about their lives and jobs on a day to day basis. The delegates were all very impressed with the maturity of our girls and with their questions about work/life balance. The girls threw themselves enthusiastically into the conversations, some walking away with business cards, work experience and offers of jobs. The enthusiasm from both sides helped to make this morning a fantastic success.

CAREERS MASTER CLASS EVENING

In February 2017, we held our biennial Careers Master Class Evening. This evening is quite different to the Careers Convention held on alternative years, in that the seminars offer a more detailed and focused opportunity to delve into a particular career area. This year we introduced a new element; the chance for parents to hear important information about preparations for university, including student finance, (ably led by UEA) and Apprenticeships. The latter are increasing in number and importance, and offer a real alternative to the traditional route to university. Over 150 girls and parents from Years 9-13 came to hear talks from our eleven speakers. Our delegates came from very different career areas, including Art, Law, Journalism, Medicine and Pharmacy.

Special thanks to alumna Katie Maude-Barker (2004) and all the delegates who gave their time so willingly.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UNIVERSITY...BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK!

Our Year 11 and 12 girls also attended a networking event with some of the more recent alumnae of Croydon High School. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to learn more about life at university and also about a wide range of courses that the 'old girls' are currently studying. It was an afternoon filled with enthusiastic conversation, fun-filled laughter and delicious cakes! Thank you to the 18 members of the Classes of 2015 and 2016 who gave of their time to help inspire us all.



Reunions

THE IVY LINK SUMMER LUNCH 2016

Another very happy occasion when we welcomed alumnae from all age groups, including a large group from 1971 who were celebrating the 45th anniversary of leaving school.

It was also an opportunity for the Ivy Link Community to say goodbye and thank you to Debbie Leonard who has done so much to reinvigorate the alumnae network.



A TOAST TO OLD FRIENDS!



A FINAL FAREWELL FROM DEBBIE LEONARD



THE CLASS OF 1971 REUNITED

THE IVY LINK SPRING TEA PARTY 2017



Our new Headmistress, Emma Pattison, hosted her first afternoon tea for our senior alumnae and friends of the school, an event that is always a highlight of the year. As ever, our guests were a group of inspiring women, with fascinating stories to

tell of their time at school and their lives now. This year's event was held in the Junior School for the first time, allowing the ladies to see a new part of the school and, more importantly to meet some of our Junior girls. They arrived to find tables set with a delicious traditional afternoon tea and bunches of daffodils everywhere, reflecting the blossoms outside on what was a particularly beautiful Spring day.

The ladies spent a delightful couple of hours reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates and sharing memories. The new and the current Prefect team mingled well with our guests, engrossed in tales of Croydon High in bygone days. Our Alumnae Co-ordinator, Karen Roe, welcomed the ladies and introduced Emma who spoke warmly about how impressed she has been with the strength of the network and about her plans for the school.

Representatives of the Senior school then spoke movingly about their experience of Holocaust Memorial Day and gave an impressive presentation on the CHS First Give project they were involved in this year, linking them directly with local charities.

Finally members of the Junior school Jazz band gave some wonderful individual performances on piano, cello and violin which the Ivy Link ladies obviously really enjoyed.

THE IVY LINK NEW YEAR REUNION



We were delighted to welcome back girls from our 'Class of 2016' to enjoy Prosecco, Croydon High's famous brownies and a good catch

up, following their first term out in the world. All the girls seem 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. Everyone is doing really well and 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 very proud of all of them.

Other school events made more special by our Alumnae



PE PRESENTATION CELEBRATION 2016

On a rather wet summers evening last June, the PE department hosted their annual PE Presentation celebration. This year guest speaker, alumna **Hanne Davis** 2006, raced over from Wimbledon



Tennis where she was broadcasting for the BBC to present our awards and speak about her own sporting

experiences. She shared her memories of PE lessons and representing Croydon High in many sporting fixtures, and recalled a story about being told off for pulling out of a fixture, for which she said she never failed to attend any fixture after that ever again! Hanne went on to tell us about how she wasn't the best student at sport and never won any awards, but that she has continued to keep sport as a major influence and source of enjoyment in her life. Her message was clear: sport is for everyone of any shape, size, age, or ability and it's great to play it with anyone who shares your interest and passion.

A CELEBRATION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL SUCCESS 2016

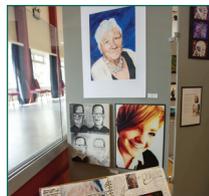


The hall was packed to capacity in September, as we celebrated GCSE and A Level successes. There was a marvellous atmosphere of pride and anticipation as girls received their

certificates and awards in front of a proud audience of parents, grandparents, relatives and friends. We welcomed back **Alison Maguire** 1994 (and GDST Alumna of the Year 2015). Alison spoke movingly and inspiringly of her work with "The Lily Foundation" which is championing research and support for those affected by Mitochondrial Disease. What she has achieved since leaving Croydon High has had an impact on so many lives and her international involvement in this sphere is truly life changing.

The girls were inspired by her central message that life will present many turns along its course but it is their response to these challenges and experiences that will really shape the people they become.

ART AND 3D DESIGN EXHIBITION 2016



The Summer Art and 3D Design Private View was a fabulous evening, celebrating not only the incredible work of our Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A Level artists, but also the work created by 'up and coming' artists in the Junior school. The work on

display was truly inspirational, with pieces ranging from lights, tables, jewellery, architecture, chairs, sculptures, paintings, textiles, ceramics and glass work. It was lovely to see former alumnae Art students **Ellen Prizeman** 2015, who started her Fashion and Marketing Degree in Leeds in September, and **Georgia Sims** 2013, currently in her second year at Rochester University studying Men's Tailoring, and enjoying a five month apprenticeship at Saville Row.



JUNIOR LAMDA GIRLS

A large number of certificates went to our very successful LAMDA girls (last year's Year 3 and 4) who took exams in the Summer Term.

Their teacher, **Ros Broyd (Willey)** 1973 has maintained extremely high results for many years, but this year's 100% distinction rate takes the biscuit. The skills of voice projection and presentation, as well as the confidence required to perform at a distinction level, will stand these girls in good stead for future drama work and public speaking in all forms. Well done to all our girls receiving certificates this week and well done to Mrs Broyd!



WELCOME BACK TO DR KETTLE

In October 2016 we welcomed back **Dr Louise Kettle (Sullivan)** 2002 who is now Assistant Professor of Politics at Nottingham.

Louise gave a talk to Years 12 and 13 in their tutorial session on the rise of Daesh (otherwise known as 'Islamic State') in the Middle East and then took questions from a very attentive audience.

A FITTING END TO WORLD BOOK DAY 2017

World Book Day in school concluded with the visit of two of the UK's most exciting young writers, alumna **Anna Mazzola** 1966 and Sarah (S.D.) Sykes. Both Anna and Sarah have received national recognition for their recent work. Anna's first novel 'The Unseeing' was published last summer to critical acclaim. Sarah's first two novels have also been widely praised. Anna and Sarah gave an enthralled audience (including many former teachers and alumnae) some fascinating insights into the world of books and publishing. Afterwards they signed books and chatted. It was a delightful evening and a fitting end to a full day of literary celebrations.



L to R English teachers Judith Forshaw, Jonathan Vickery, Gill Sharpe, Anna Mazzola, Janet Pascoe and Veronica Duggan



When news of the event was posted on social media, along with this picture of English Department staff past and present, it generated the biggest response we have ever had to our Ivy Link posts, when we posed the question "How many English teachers do you recognise?"

Here are just some of the many comments...

Kate Buckley ~ Ahh English A Level. How we laughed; uncontrollably getting the giggles, we must have been so annoying!! Please don't anyone correct my grammar!!

Indika Sarathchandra ~ Mrs Pascoe is quite possibly the most patient person ever. That I managed to get a B in my English Language GCSE is all down to her.

Sally Casterton ~ Great memories of A Level English that have stayed with me since 1996...

Danielle Davies ~ Mrs Sharpe doesn't seem to have aged at all! I have more grey hair than her and she taught me nearly 25 years ago.

Justine Allam ~ That's what I was thinking!

Natasha Parry ~ Mr Vickery from some very memorable Latin lessons... apologies!!! And Mrs Sharpe - a legend!

Justine Allam ~ Mrs Duggan and Mr Vickery - both my form tutors too. And Mrs Sharpe! Happy memories from a scarily long time ago!

Kitty Howie ~ Mr Vickery and Ms Forshaw... a big part of the reason I did English at university!

Amy Harker ~ Mrs Duggan was my first form tutor

Camilla Jane Bowry ~ And mine

Justine Allam ~ And mine!

Emma Ward ~ Mr Vickery, Mrs Forshaw and Mrs Pascoe!! Miss all of them greatly!

Eleana Sanford ~ Mrs Sharpe. The woman who taught me such a valuable lesson in assertiveness.

Kirsty Hall ~ Wowzers! I took A Level English with Mr Vickery & Mrs Sharpe (92-94) and Mrs Duggan was my first form tutor (87)!

Sarah Bolt ~ Mrs Sharpe & Mr Vickery. Is it really almost 26 years?!

Claire Rushworth ~ Wow... 22 yrs on... Mrs Sharpe & Mr V! As well as Mrs Duggan & Pascoe, lovely pic & fabulous teachers all x

Sarah Bevan ~ Oh wow!! Lovely to see them ! Xxx

Kate Buckley ~ Amazing!!

MEETING OLD FRIENDS ON AN AUTUMN DAY IN CAMBRIDGE



A small group of Year 10 and 11 girls enjoyed a beautiful sunny autumn day in Cambridge learning about the university. We spent the morning at Churchill College, one of the most modern and largest colleges. Girls were told about the uniqueness of the Oxbridge system and encouraged to choose a degree subject which they passionately wanted to study.

Dr Jonathan Padley, Churchill's admissions tutor, is visiting Croydon High in the summer term when more girls will have the opportunity to hear about applying to Oxbridge. In the afternoon, some of our alumnae who are currently studying at Cambridge (**Honor Clapp** 2016, **Olivia Jenkins** 2013, **Jessica Payn** 2013 and **Lizzy O'Leary** 2013) gave the girls a tour of other colleges and answered their questions, encouraging them to apply!



CHEMISTRY IN ACTION

December saw the Year 12 A Level chemists spend a day at UCL, listening to a variety of entertaining lectures as part of the 'Chemistry in Action' program.

The most interesting talks, which captured both our hearts and our noses, were 'the Science of the Scent - capturing new smells' and 'Living in a Material World' which was presented by alumna **Sujata Kundu** (2001).

By the end of the day the girls reported that they all felt much more appreciative of Chemistry as a subject and for the immense impact it has on our daily lives.

MAKE THE FUTURE LIVE

Year 5 and 6 had a wonderful time in May at the "Make the Future Live" festival hosted by Shell at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, exploring bright ideas for a lower-carbon energy future. They were inspired with innovative ideas of cars powered by salt water, generating energy using gravity, the use of waste to create energy efficient buildings, turning motorways into energy highways and powering the world using coffee.



A particular highlight was when a group of Year 6 girls bumped into alumna **Amanda Manzoni** (1987) who is now the Vice Principle of Human Resources at Shell.

Amanda wrote afterwards and told us "It was really wonderful to meet the children; they were an absolute credit to the school. Quite emotional for me, as we were escorting some of the CEOs and senior business champions from organisations such as Unilever and Heineken, to see all these amazing girls lapping up the 'Make the Future' environment."

And in other news...

Thank you to those of you who have been in touch over the last year with interesting stories and snippets of news, which we are always happy to share with our Ivy Link Community. We hope you can relate to some of these items and that some of your own happy memories will spark as you read.

A SMALL WORLD

Valerie Winter (Waters) 1954 wrote,

I must tell you about a strange coincidence in connection with the sale of my bungalow here at Polegate. In the course of conversation, it emerged that the lady buying it, Susan Ward, also went to Croydon High! Of course, she is a good deal younger and was at school when Miss Cameron was Headmistress and left from the 5th form."

STILL IN TOUCH AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Gloria Parker (Samson) 1947 wrote, "Thank you for your kind birthday card, which is much appreciated. I also heard from my friend in South Africa, and we are in regular contact with each other. She was a pen-friend, found for me by Croydon High during the war, and we have been in contact all these years. She became Headmistress of a school out there and we have exchanged visits many times."



CAN YOU DATE THE SCHOOL BADGE?

Sixth form student Blanche Brown came across this school badge and posed a question regarding the date of the badge. We asked former OG secretary **Mary Knight (Hermes)** 1963 who advised that this was her blazer badge when at school which was used certainly from the 1950s. An earlier blazer badge was a single Ivy leaf which was kept and used in the 1960s for first team Colours.



GRADUATION MESSAGES ON FACEBOOK

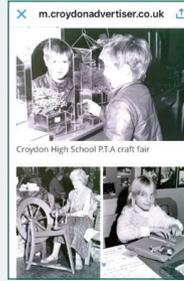
Lucy Clements 2013, "The only person who could possibly have been more excited about me graduating yesterday is in this photo. Hats off to Mummy C for putting up with everything I've thrown her way. Couldn't have done it without her and the rest of my family unit, fantastic friends and tutor Rob Jackson. Big thanks also to Croydon High for getting me here to begin with!"



Emma WARD 2013, "Yesterday I graduated from the University of Roehampton with a first class honours in Primary Education

specializing in Mathematics! I have now officially joined the world of teachers! I would like to say a huge thank you to all of my teachers from Croydon High School. I would not have been able to reach my dream without you all! I hope that I will inspire my pupils the same way you did me! Thank you!"

ALSO ON FACEBOOK



Sarah Webb (Taylor) 1990

wrote, "A work colleague of mine saw this today and spotted



me - I'm the small blonde in the very bottom right part of the photo. I was demonstrating lace making at the school Craft Fair in 1984."

SOME GOOD ADVICE

We recently came across some of the information we received when we contacted previous Ransford Scholars in 2013. We love this piece of advice from **Claire Dillamore (Bickerstaff)** 1985 given to today's girls: 'Work hard, ask for help when you need it, don't try to be perfect! Take hold of every opportunity, give things a go. Remember - even on a bad school day - you're in a great place.' Good advice for all!



GDST SIXTH FORMERS OFFERED EXCLUSIVE CAREERS INSIGHT

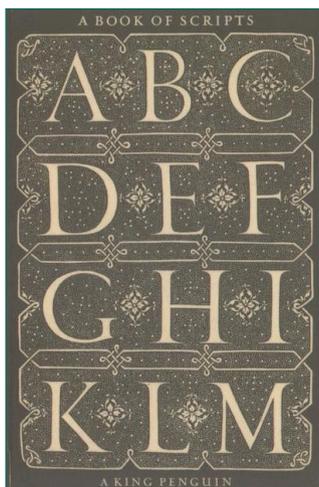
In the summer of 2016, Sixth Form students from schools across the GDST network were offered the opportunity to look at working life inside a range of prestigious employers including Aberdeen Asset Management, who offered an exclusive look behind the scenes at their business. During the Career Insight Day, students were given the opportunity to ask questions of employees at different levels, tour the business and take part in a career development workshop, covering topics such as the job application process, presenting and commercial awareness. **Lydia Buttlinger** 2000, Group COO Business Services at Aberdeen Asset Management is pictured here speaking to students from a wide range of GDST schools.

REUNITED IN SINGAPORE!



Fiona Herbert (Brew) 1997 wrote, "Just received your newsletter email and we thought we would send you a pic of us reunited in Singapore! Back row L to R: Su-Lin Garbett-Shiels (Garbett) 1998, Sara Walker (Hopley) 1998, Fiona Herbert (Brew) 1997, Eileen Strange 1998, Back row L to R: Susanna Hopley 1997, Emily Davidson 1998.

DO YOU REMEMBER ITALIC CLASSES?

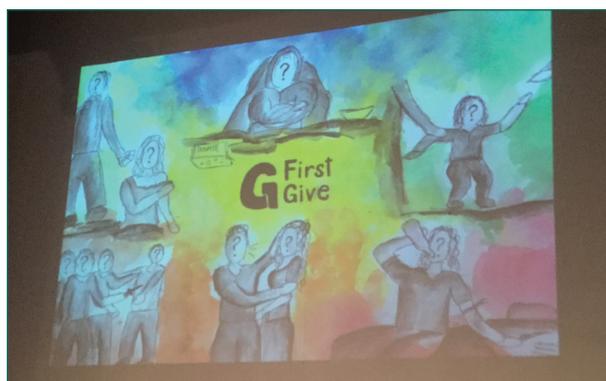


Alison Kynaston Jones (Henry) 1974 wrote, "I found this (see picture) online through a friend's blog quite by accident. It was the Italic textbook that we used in the mid 1960's. In those days, Italic classes were mandatory and part of the syllabus. The link must have been through Elsa Cameron who was the former Head of Rodean. The author of A Book of Scripts was Alfred Fairbank who, like Samuel

Pepys, spent most of his working life as a naval administrator in London. Pepys's famous diary gave a firsthand account of events such as the Great Fire of London, but Fairbank's legacy may well prove to be even more long lasting.

During his time at the Admiralty, Fairbank spent his leisure time learning to produce illuminated manuscripts and established a reputation as a calligrapher. Around 1920 he came across some manuscripts from the Italian Renaissance in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Fairbank decided that the best qualities of these scripts could be amalgamated into a simple modern hand, giving an elegant and contemporary solution to the problem of writing quickly, fluently and legibly. He called this new hand, 'italic'. After the Second World War he founded the Society for Italic Handwriting which aimed to improve the nation's handwriting by aspiring to the standards of the Renaissance Italian masters. When he retired from the Admiralty, Fairbank

moved to Hove, in Sussex, and taught at Brighton College of Art from 1955 to 1966. He also taught italic writing to student teachers. The Art College Bar in Brighton played a special part in my life. In 1978, I was a postgraduate student at the Teacher Training Department, which by then had moved even further up the hill, close to Sussex University. I wish his italic writing classes had been part of the PGCE syllabus; at least I would have learned something useful. Fairbank developed the first italic nib and devoted most of his time to improving the handwriting of the British public through articles such as 'A Graceful Cure for the Common Scrawl: A Fair Italic Hand'. Despite his efforts standards declined steadily as schoolchildren in the 60s and 70s were left to develop their own individual handwriting styles. Today, most people know italic as the little slanted I that sits between B and U on the MS word menu bar."



MIND IN CROYDON

Margaret A. Pater 1957 wrote, "I have just received the e-mail GDST magazine and - naturally - looked at the articles concerning Croydon High. I was particularly interested to see that some Year 10 and 11 girls have chosen "Mind" as the charity they want to focus on. "Mind in Croydon" was launched by Norah Croft (Luke) 1933, who was an Old Croydonian, and my mother, **Peggy (Margaret) Pater (Furtado)** 1930 - also an Old Croydonian - was its chairman for many years. I was aware of what they were doing then but more from the "wings". As far as I can tell from my mother's memoirs, it started as a branch of the Mental Health Association in 1967.

The Nearly New shop in Purley was the main project to raise money which then was invested in acquiring houses in which people who had (had) mental health problems could live in shared accommodation out in the community, rather than in some mental care institution. When my father retired - he was not an Old Croydonian! - he helped with logistics and checking on the housing and furniture, as far as I am aware. I believe there is a written account of Mind in Croydon produced by Norah Croft."

See also the memory pages of this magazine where Margaret shares her memories at Croydon High School during the 40s and 50s.



Hattie Moore, Head of RS wrote, "Girls in Year 10 and 11 worked on a project called CHS First Give. They thought about social issues in our local area and learnt about the charities that work to address them. The girls then went out into the community to meet these charities and put together inspirational presentations in which they championed their particular chosen charity and the work they do. The presentations were judged in year groups and the winning teams competed in a School Final for vital funds for their chosen charity. The girls advocating Mind in Croydon did a fantastic job and as a result had a place in the School Final. The judges (a panel of six) were so impressed, and awarded third place to the girls!

All of the presentations (there were nine in total) were brilliant, and the judges had a very difficult job, so they really did do well. The final amount that the girls donated to Mind in Croydon after whole school First Give fundraising was an impressive £375."



SHOLA'S 40 CHALLENGES

Shola Rogers (Feyishola Apena) 1994 wrote, "As a former Junior and Senior school student at CHS and a keen netballer, I have fond memories of my time at school and it was absolutely delightful to take part in the reunion netball competition held two years ago. I do hope that a similar thing can be organised again in the not too distant future. Miss Robertson (or Liz as she insists I call her now)

was and still is an inspirational coach who developed my love of the sport. I endeavour to pass that passion on to the girls that I now coach at Wandsworth Netball Club along with another former Croydon High student, Chris Graham (Cashman) 1993. This year I am turning 40, along with my husband, and we have set ourselves a target of completing 40 challenges by the time we are 40. This involves partaking in 40 different sports/exercise classes, visiting 40 different counties, reading 40 books, scoring 40 consecutive netball goals, memorising the 40 British monarchs, etc.

Ultimately, we are raising £4000 (40 x £100) for Depaul UK homeless charity. We are just past the midway point with less than six months to go with 17 November being the deadline. Please visit our webpage to support us and see our progress - www.justgiving.com/shobar"



Book Corner

DIARY OF A WARTIME AFFAIR

Margaret Esiri (Evans) 1959 wrote, "I thought I would acquaint the alumnae network with the forthcoming publication of a diary of my mother's that I have edited, together with my brother. It was published by Penguin on 3 November 2016. My mother **Doreen Bates** 1924, was a pupil at Croydon High School and the introduction to her diary describes in her own words her experience as a pupil there in the early 1920s - 'My two years in the Sixth Form were a revelation and I enjoyed every minute...'

Her younger sister also followed her to Croydon High School, as did I many years later. My daughter was at Oxford High School and her daughter and one of her nieces are currently pupils at South Hampstead High, so you can see that many of the girls in our family have benefitted, or are benefitting, from a GDST education!



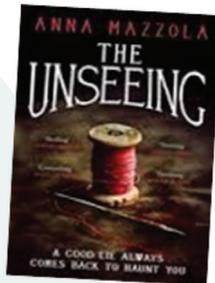
PENGUIN PRESS RELEASE: *London in 1934. Clever young civil servant Doreen Bates is working in the same office as E, an older married man. In the years just before the war, they develop an irresistible attraction to one another and strike up a passionate affair. Doreen records it all with startling candour in her diary - secret midnight walks, countryside escapades and stolen moments of*

intimacy. But Doreen starts to long for a child with E. Despite all the taboos of the time, and against the wishes of E, she is determined to become a mother - even though she knows that her decision will provoke anger and shame from her family, friends and colleagues. Eventually she gets pregnant and is amazed when twins are born during the war. However, Doreen faces an uncertain future - will E ever leave his wife and join his new family? This is the story of a young woman forging her own path in a period of turbulence and uncertainty. Doreen Mary Bates, the author of this diary, was born on 25 April 1906, the first child of Rosa and Wyndham Bates. When Doreen joined the Inland Revenue, E had been working in it for several years and was married to Kathleen, a ballet teacher. Doreen Bates' children, Margaret and Andrew, edited this diary.

THE UNSEEING by ANNA MAZZOLA 1996

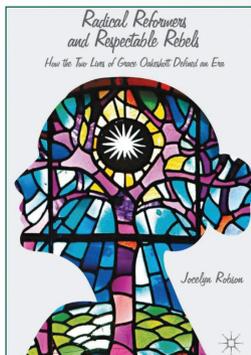
Victorian London is not a pleasant place if you've been convicted of a crime, particularly if you're a woman, and if the crime is murder.

Sarah Gale, seamstress and mother of one, is sentenced to hang for the brutal killing of her common-law-husband's lover. Edmund Fleetwood, idealistic young lawyer, is asked to investigate Sarah's petition for mercy. Based on an actual case, this is a thrilling novel with lots of last minute twists and turns.



See also events page for an account of Anna Mazzola's visit to Croydon High on World Book Day.

RADICAL REFORMERS AND RESPECTABLE REBELS: HOW THE TWO LIVES OF GRACE OAKESHOTT DEFINED AN ERA



With grateful thanks to Mary Pat Larman, mother of **Bridget** (2011) for bringing this to our attention.

Author Jocelyn Robson visited the archives at school when researching her book about

Croydon High alumna Grace Oakeshott. Below is an extract from Jocelyn's website about her book. More details can be found at <https://jocelynrobson.com/finding-grace-2/>

In the summer of 1907, an English woman, Grace Oakeshott, staged her own death. She left her clothes in a pile on a French beach, discarding them like the skin of a former life, and then she fled with her lover to New Zealand.

Jocelyn writes "I was hooked on Grace's story from the moment I first heard it. Certainly, she was what biographers call 'an unknown' but she had done something extraordinary and I could not wait to know more. New Zealand is as far away as you can go from England. Some of Grace's contemporaries believed it was a kind of paradise, a beautiful Utopia where they could start again and build a new society free of old world inequalities and social class distinctions. It is also my home country and as I dug into Grace's story, I realised that the roots of my interest in her lay deep. I was reared on tales of daring and courage, those of the early travellers and explorers, who like Grace threw caution to the winds and set out to cross the world. But you don't have to be a New Zealander to find yourself caught up in Grace's story. Which of us might not want to start again, to set aside an old life with all its mistakes and wrong turnings and re-invent ourselves? It is harder to achieve now, of course, but in Grace's time, when communications were slow and unreliable, you had a fighting chance.

I initially came across Grace Oakeshott in an academic journal. She had been behind the setting up of the London trade schools for girls in the early 1900s and in her professional life, she was clearly visible. She lived in interesting times, when many women were challenging their inferior social, economic and political status. As a member of the Women's Industrial Council, she documented working conditions for women, kept minutes of meetings and published reports.

I knew such documents were likely to be in the public domain, and I had ready access to them in various London archives. Grace's colleagues had been devastated to hear of her 'drowning' and they recorded their deep sense of loss on several occasions. It only dawned on me that she had not drowned after all when I found online the reviews of a play written by someone claiming to be her great granddaughter in New Zealand. I immediately contacted the playwright. I never doubted the family's version of events and they could document several of their claims. Slowly I pieced the jigsaw together. The details that had been passed down to the New Zealanders through the generations all fitted with what I knew about Grace's London life. Although she had adopted another name in New Zealand, this was indeed the same Grace Oakeshott that I was interested in.

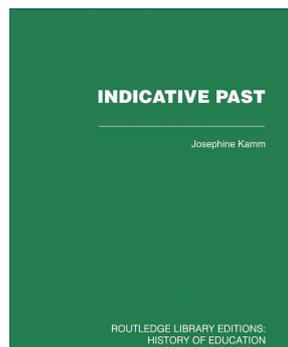
But how, over a hundred years later, could I build a sense of the person she had been, of her values, relationships and aspirations? How do you find someone who has set

out so deliberately to disappear? Grace's New Zealand family were unfailingly generous and supplied a number of leads but there were still yawning gaps. Grace left no diaries, no letters written on a beach in France, and there was no formal record of her 'death' either. In England, she left behind a husband, Harold, but there were no children and I was well into the research before I managed to locate Harold's descendants from his second marriage. To my huge surprise, his granddaughter had inherited Grace's photograph album and it was full of portraits. Though we still can't be certain who all the people are, I won't forget my feeling of amazement that Grace, despite her best efforts to erase herself, had somehow contrived to leave this album behind. Had she meant to? Finding it was both a joy and a provocation because the photographs raised more questions than they answered.

Eventually, I also tracked down some descendants of Grace's first family, those she had left behind in England in 1907. As before, I felt apprehensive about approaching Grace's relatives. How would they respond to me, a total stranger? But I was excited, too, and once again I was lucky. Drawing on the family's recollections and their unpublished papers which they kindly shared with me, I was at last able to construct some understanding of Grace as a person, and of those closest to her. Of course, there are still gaps, as in any true story, but over the last seven years, I have ridden a rollercoaster and found out much more than I ever expected to.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On 2nd August, 2017, Jocelyn will be speaking about Grace Oakeshott on the Summer Activities Course run by Croydon's U3A. Her talk will focus on Grace's early life in Croydon in the 1880s and her time at Croydon High School. She will also look at the development of technical education for girls in which Grace played a major role in the early 1900s.



INDICATIVE PAST - A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE GIRLS' PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL TRUST by JOSEPHINE KAMM

Mary Pat Larman, who has been a dedicated and invaluable volunteer archivist at the school over the last few years, brought this publication about the history

of the GPDST to our attention, saying that it contained some very interesting excerpts about refugees in war time. Mary Pat posed the question, "I wonder how many girls in total were assisted, both at Croydon High and the GDST? What has become of them? In the registration books in the Croydon High archive, there are certainly names of a few girls who joined CHS around 1939 from Austria and Germany."

We would love to hear your stories about this time and any memories of these girls.

It is good to know that, for the most part, it was a time of compassion. For example, we understand that during the First World War, Belgian refugees were admitted without fees to a number of schools. The following extracts from the book describe how the GPDST responded to world events...

'After Munich, evacuation plans were put in cold storage and life in the schools returned to uneasy normality. There was one significant change of policy: the ban on the award of Trust Scholarships to girls of foreign extraction which had been imposed towards the end of the First World War was lifted and the Council authorized the award of up to sixty entrance scholarships a year to Jewish and other refugees from Nazi persecution. Some parents offered hospitality, and by March 1939 most of the schools had accepted refugee children, either on scholarships or at reduced fees.'

There was also controversy, especially during the First World War, as the following discussion of the ban awarding Trust Scholarships to girls of foreign extraction demonstrates.

'The principal war casualties were the German-members of staff. Animosity towards everything German was a feature of the First World War, and as a result of complaints from parents a number of German teachers were forced to look for other work. In 1917 owing, it must be supposed, to information supplied by a parent, the Daily Mail asked the Council for details about the award of Senior Trust Scholarships to two girls with German-born fathers, one from Putney, the other from Notting Hill, when 'among the competitors were daughters of men who had thrown up civil appointments in order to join the Army, and whose families were, therefore, in straitened circumstances'. The Council replied that both girls had by this time left school, that there had been no such candidates in 1915 when the second scholarship was awarded, and that both had been awarded on the results of an external examination by a university body. They resolved, nonetheless, that in future girls with German-born fathers would not be eligible for Trust scholarships, a resolution which did not apparently apply to girls with English fathers and German-born mothers.'

'Public intolerance persisted even when the war was over. In December 1918 the Council received complaints from parents over the choice of a Head Girl for Streatham Hill High School. The girl's mother was English; her father, a naturalized German, had lived in England for twenty-five years and had been called up for National Service, and her brother had served in the R.A.F. She had been elected by the Assistant Headmistresses and senior girls, and the Council, advised by the Education Committee, saw 'no ground for interfering with the election'.'

Indicative Past is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of GPDST schools against the backdrop of World events.

Congratulations and Celebrations

We send our warm congratulations to the following alumnae for their many and varied achievements this year. Keep the news coming!



SUE DASSIE FORMER STAFF 1993-2011

Mrs Dassie was a star when she taught at Croydon High and she continues to be a star on track and field worldwide. Sue has sprinted for many years, but only decided to take up pole vaulting three years ago and tells us how much fun it has been flying over bars and travelling all over the world, although she still misses us all!

Sue's Results 2016/17 Season

World Outdoor Championship Perth , Pole Vault Silver and 4x100m Relay **SILVER**

World Indoor Championship - Daegu , Pole Vault Gold and 4x 200m Relay **GOLD**

World Masters Games - Auckland, Pole Vault Gold and 100m **SILVER**

LAUREN GILES 2016

Huge congratulations to Lauren Giles - selected for England Gymnastics DMT National squad!



ANGELA PETERS MBE (BRIXIE) 1960

We were delighted to hear that Angela, Chair of the Kingswood and the South East Surrey received an MBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours list (2016) for Services to Children in recognition of her work for the NSPCC.

NSPCC Voluntary Committee,



DELIA BUSHELL 1990

As Managing Director of TV and Sport for BT, Della is listed in The Guardian as one of the most influential people in sport.

She became Managing Director of BT TV and Head of BT Sport in 2014, moving from a role as chief Commercial Officer at Sky Italia.

BRIONY LAMMAS (2008)

Briony was shortlisted for the WeartheCity rising star awards in the Media & Journalism category.

She oversees production for global conferences, webcasts



FIONA BIGWOOD 1992

Fiona began riding at age seven at a local riding school and was winner of a silver medal in the team dressage event at the 2016 Summer Olympics

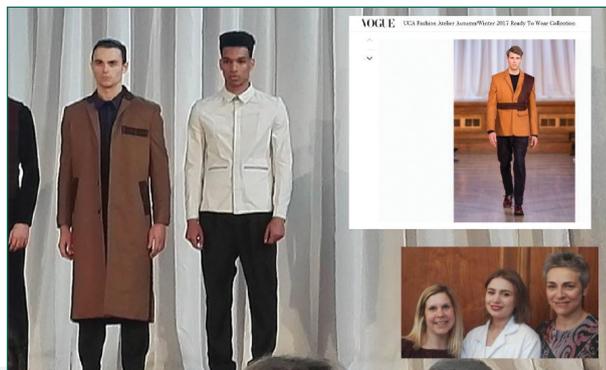
and briefings in the Trading Technology division at Incisive Media.

She graduated with a degree in English from Loughborough University in 2011. Briony currently works on events around Europe and North America, winning Incisive Media's "Event Person of the Year" award in 2014.



GEORGIA SYMS 2013 FEATURES IN VOGUE MAGAZINE

Georgia Syms left Croydon High in 2013, armed with an A grade in Art and ready to start a Foundation Course at Canterbury University of the Creative Arts. Her Foundation



Show in 2014 demonstrated her love of fashion, where she created garments inspired by musical instruments. It was no surprise when Georgia decided to pursue this passion at Rochester University of the Creative Arts, choosing to read Fashion Atelier BA (Hons). Last year, Georgia worked on the prestigious Savile Row, gaining valuable experience and skills.

On May 9th, Judith Forshaw, her former 6th form tutor, Jan Duyt, our Art & 3D Design technician and Head of Art Liz Smith attended Georgia's final degree show where her collection was inspired by 'Equestrem: exploring traditional Equestrian wear and heritage tailoring to create an innovative menswear collection.

Georgia's collection is also featured by Vogue magazine!
www.vogue.co.uk/shows/autumn-winter-2017-ready-to-wear/uca-fashion-atelier/



BARONESS GABRIELLE BERTIN 1996

You may be aware that one of our alumnae, Gabrielle Bertin, was nominated for a life peerage as part of David Cameron's Resignation Honours list. Gabrielle formally took up her seat in the House of Lords as The Baroness Bertin of Battersea on 2nd September 2016. In doing so,

she became the youngest member of the Upper House of Parliament. Gabrielle left Croydon High in 1996 and joined Mr Cameron's team before he was made Conservative leader in 2005, originally working as his spokesperson. Gabby was appointed as the Prime Minister's Director of External Relations in 2013. Throughout her career, she has offered valuable support to Croydon High School; staying in contact with her teacher Jonathan Vickery. Gabby has enabled successive groups of Politics students to benefit from trips to No. 10 as well as returning as an inspirational Prize Giving speaker. Gabby is also Trustee for the charity KIDS and campaigns for disabled children. (www.kids.org.uk)



DR SUZE KUNDU 2001 CROYDON HIGH'S NOMINATION FOR ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Describing herself as a Nano Chemist - both literally and professionally, Suze is included in the Royal Society of

Chemistry's 175 Faces of Science and is a teaching fellow at Imperial College, London. Suze divides her time between her own research and teaching science and engineering undergraduates. Suze's research involves materials that can capture solar energy and pass this energy on to water molecules, whereby water molecules are split to generate hydrogen gas; a much cheaper, cleaner and more sustainable fuel.

Suze is an ardent science communicator delivering regular public lectures at schools, universities and science festivals. She is a presenter on the Discovery Channel's 'You Have Been Warned' and a science writer for numerous websites. A vocal advocate of increasing diversity in science, she works with not-for-profit organisation ScienceGrrl; a network that celebrates and supports women in science.

Full of fun and energy and generous with her time at Croydon High Junior School's hugely successful "I Could Be an Engineer" event last summer, she inspired with her dynamism and passion and we are looking forward to welcoming her as our guest of honour at Lower School Prize Giving in July.



NATIONAL THREE PEAK CHALLENGE FOR ALUMNA JENNIFER FAVRE 2015

Jennifer Favre left Croydon High in 2015, joining the school aged four and following her two older sisters, Sadly, her

sister Nicole, died from leukemia in 2004, when she was just eight years old. In June 2016, Jennifer completed the National Three Peak Challenge, raising money for the charity, Bloodwise in memory of her big sister. The challenge consists of climbing the peaks of Ben Nevis (1,344m) in Scotland, Scafell Pike (978m) in England and Snowdon in Wales (1,085m) in 48 hours Jennifer writes: "The bravery Nicole showed throughout

her illness still inspires and motivates me to always try to do the best I can, which is why I wanted to take on such a challenge. I constantly told myself that "the higher I climb, the closer I'll be to Nicole", and that thought always kept me going. Reaching the top was the most surreal feeling and I couldn't help but sob with happiness, mixed in with tiredness and relief. We had completed Snowdon in five and a half hours, which meant that overall we managed to complete the National Three Peak Challenge in 34 hours!

I'm really pleased to say I raised £2,349.79 and I cannot thank everyone enough for their kindness and generous donations which, in my eyes, is the best 21st birthday present for my sister. I hope I made Nicole proud of me - at the top of each peak I knew she was there with me!"

We are all very proud of you Jennifer and Croydon High will never forget Nicole.

For more information about Bloodwise, and to donate, visit their webpage www.bloodwise.org.uk

WHAT JENNIFER DID NEXT!

Fully recovered from her Three Peaks Challenge, Jennifer spent Easter 2017 in India, as part of the Raise and Give (RAG) fundraising society at the University of Leeds, volunteering with the charity Snehalaya. Jennifer looked after nearly 300 long-term care children in the orphanage, taught in the slum daycare and primary school, and worked on the sustainable bio-farm. For more information about Snehalaya, visit their webpage www.snehalaya.org



SUSAN MA 2007

Following her success as a finalist on the reality series, The Apprentice, in 2011, Sir Alan Sugar became Susan's business partner in her vegan skincare brand. Tropic Skin Care Limited is a natural, vegan and cruelty free skincare company, co-

owned by Susan and Lord Alan Sugar, devoted to creating a beauty range using only the purest ingredients, with a core skincare range that is 100% naturally derived.

Susan set up Tropic in 2003, when she was just 15, with £100 borrowed from her mother. She followed a family recipe to concoct a body scrub, which she sold in jam jars at Greenwich market, south east London. She blended sea salt, patchouli and eucalyptus oils and macadamia extract.

Last year, in New York, Susan won a Stevie Award for Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year. The Stevie Awards for Women in Business are the world's premier business awards, created in 2002 to honour and generate public recognition of the achievements and positive contributions of organizations and working professionals worldwide.

www.tropicskincare.com



ARUNA SETH 2000

Aruna Seth is a designer of stunning women's shoes, worn by many celebrities such as Pippa Middleton and Katherine Heigl. In a sea of Stars and Stripes, Tiffany

Trump, daughter of the President, flew the Union Jack by wearing Aruna's shoes for her father's inauguration.

www.arunaseth.com

Thanks for the Memories

We have been delighted to receive so many letters, emails and phone calls this year from members of the Ivy Link community who would like to share their news and reminiscences of their school days. As well as preserving these stories for future generations, there is a real interest in sharing them. For this reason, we have included the full versions of many of these stories on our web site.

When we received the sad news of the death of **ELIZABETH GALLOP (TROST)** 1944, whose obituary appears at the end of this Magazine, it prompted us to look in our archives where we found the following account sent to the Old Croydonians in 1999. Elizabeth had written

"I was a CHS pupil, from 1930 until 1944. I started school at the age of 4 ½ at Purley High School, a parallel junior school to The Elms. Miss Calthrop was the Head Mistress, wearing, I recall, entirely hand knitted outfits, there was no central heating in those days.

The War changed our school lives, first we were evacuated to Eastbourne. Later the school removed to Llandilo, in Carmarthenshire. Miss Adams was an energetic Head, who somehow ran a divided school under very difficult conditions. Miss Cotton, Miss Neave and Miss Miller, not only taught us but also organised trips and amusements; they became our friends as well as our teachers. We devised a number of concerts and plays, singing songs in Welsh (unintelligible to the Welsh people). In one play I remember being Humpty Dumpty, in such a well-padded egg costume that I could not hear what anyone was saying – missing my cues.

We lived with local families, some were strict chapel people, (my friend had to whiten the doorstep before school every day). Others, like me, were in very easy-going households. Llandilo was a small town and the countryside was wonderful.

I loved every minute of my stay there. I returned to Croydon in 1943, but after such a rural life in Wales I found it hard to settle to the more formal schooling at Wellesley Road, so after gaining Matric and having two terms in the Sixth Form, I left to study agriculture at Reading University."

HELEN POOLE (CHECKER) 1943, was also evacuated from London during the early years of World War II. Her friend, Sally Vernon, sent us a report Helen had written about that time – the full report appears on the web site. Sally told us Helen is now living in a retirement home in London, Ontario, Canada.

In 1938 the preliminary preparations for evacuation of Croydon High School took place. By September 1939 everything was in readiness and on the Monday following the declaration of war on the previous Friday, our parents brought us to school carrying our small suitcases and our



gas masks, ready for our journey to an unknown destination. I had with me not only my small six year old brother, but also my friend Ruth Birnholz, a Jewish refugee from Vienna who had arrived in England the previous spring by way of the Kindertransport, organised by the Dutch.

We walked to East Croydon station and an hour or so later arrived at Eastbourne. Local billeting officers had lists of families willing to take in the evacuees. We had to wait longer than anyone else as, as there three of us, and Ruth was not a family member. Finally a place was found, with an elderly couple who had no children and who reluctantly agreed to take us, putting us in the maid's quarters.

It was not a happy situation – I think our hosts regarded us as children from the slums! After a short time I asked the teacher in charge of the arrangements if somewhere else could be found for us, and we were moved to the home of a single lady. When it was time for Christmas holidays, the anticipated bombing not having begun, we were able to go home.

Ruth's parents had been able to escape from Vienna and had arrived in England just before the outbreak of war. Kind friends had offered their home to them. So Christmas 1939 was one of the most memorable of my life, celebrated with the Birnholz family, who told us terrible tales of Jewish persecution. Mr. Birnholz's brother had been killed in a concentration camp – Mrs. Birnholz was terrified every time there was a knock at the door reminding her of the visits of the Gestapo.

In the meantime, in Eastbourne, we could hear the sounds of gunfire across the Channel – it was time for a new destination. Once again, my brother and I set off and after a long train journey, arrived in Llandilo, Camarthenshire. What a contrast to our previous experience! A banner was hanging saying: WELCOME TO LLANDILO! We were billeted with a kindly older couple who had never had children, and were very happy during the year we spent there in the small town and the beautiful Welsh countryside.

FRAN GILLESPIE (TAYLOR) 1962



Fran Gillespie kindly donated some whole School photos. Fran said "There were rumours that if one was placed at the end of a line it was possible, once the camera started rolling, to sprint round behind the assembled throng and reach the far end so as to appear in the photo twice, but we never knew anyone who'd actually achieved this! There are still a few of us from the year that left in 1962 who

keep in touch – Elizabeth McDowall (Laird) 1962 the author, Catherine Kedge (Sheldon) 1962, Helen Colvin (Howell) 1962 and myself. We were in the Wellesley Road buildings of course and Miss Cameron had recently replaced the legendary Margaret Adams as Head. I remember the Duchess of Gloucester visiting the school on its 80th birthday. I was in The Homestead junior school and was chosen to present the bouquet and make a little speech of welcome and I was given curtseying practice in the gym beforehand.

GILLIAN FRENCH (BRISTOW) 1959

Gillian noticed a photograph in the last Ivy Link magazine, sent in by Marjorie (Ney) of her birthday party. Gillian wrote "I am in that photograph. The large girl in the white dress at the back left of the picture! I have changed a bit since then!! I also have a copy of the photo and would like to send greetings to all the people in the photo who may remember me."

Marjorie Harris mentioned some names in the article - Patricia Haines, Valerie Pegler, Janet Courtier (Done),

Christine Locke (Lobb) and Joy Lawrence (Adams).

"The article about the 80th birthday brings back memories as well. I have a photo, taken by the Croydon Times, of the Duchess of Gloucester cutting the cake with Miss Cotton smiling in the background.

I think my only claim to fame at school was that I won the Somerville Science Prize in 1959 and was the first CHS pupil to do so. Miss Adams usually told people before assembly about things they would be called to the stage for, but that morning she opened the post late and hadn't told me. I was so astounded to have won I tripped on the steps up to the stage to shake hands with her and there was a great gasp from the assembled school."



JENNY RUIZ (BURTON BROWN) 1963 also found herself reminiscing when she read the latest Ivy Link Magazine. She wrote

"Good heavens, that newspaper cutting of the Duchess visiting the school brought back some memories. It must have been in 1950, when I was five; our class had our paintings up on rickety easels right in front of Pets Corner. We were of course in our clean ironed uniforms, including those absurd ties. What five year old wears a tie? Of course our sandals (or were they lace ups?) had to be polished to a high gloss.

All our clothes and shoes were too big for us, but as almost everything was still rationed, we had to grow into our shoes and everything had hems that would then be let down as we grew. I remember that the Duchess asked me about my painting and I told her that it was the sun. She nodded and moved on.

I was at school with **Elizabeth O'Connor (Wood), Jane Hansell, Marjorie Bloomer, Mary Knight (Hermes)** and lots of other lovely girls.

Thanks for the memory!

VIVIEN DOYLE (WALKER) 1962

Vivien Doyle wrote to us to tell us that she had interviewed six of her old school friends about their memories of the school when it was in Wellesley Road and these recordings, plus Vivien's summary notes, formed part of an exhibition in the Museum of Croydon, Croydon Clock Tower, Katherine Street.



Vivien and her friends have very kindly agreed that we can share these interviews – in the form of audio recordings – with the school community. They provide a

fascinating insight into the history of the school for those of us who were not there and will, no doubt, bring back many memories to those who were.

Thank you to **Vivien Doyle (Walker)** 1962, **Elizabeth Jefcoate (Horton)**, **Anna Sherwell**, **Pam Mephram**, **Ann Fairbairn (Lloyd)** and **Lesley Hollingsworth (Peake)**.

The recordings can be found on our web site www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/memories



GILLIAN NELSON (BARNES) 1950 would love to know the name of an inspirational Religion teacher who taught her for just one year at Wellesley Road. Can anyone help? If so, please let us know! Gillian wrote to say

"I have very warm feelings towards Croydon High. I was the prefect attached to the house where the youngest girls were taught and was put in charge of the library. This meant I was expected to be there in my free lessons – and 'keep order', though there was never any need for that. I was even allowed to buy books, some of which were not approved of by the teacher in overall charge!

My friends and I did not like the school lunches – who did? – and were allowed to bring sandwiches which, in good weather, we ate outdoors in a funny little, half broken down

and half pretty garden. My chief friend was Joyce Blunsden. Religion did not play much part in my life until Miss Adams gave a job to the headmistress of a school in Jerusalem, who had been summarily got rid of by the new regime in Israel. She became headmistress of Durham High, but, for one very happy year for me and Joyce, taught us religion and changed my life. Unfortunately, I cannot remember her name, but what she said... YES! She also taught the two of us Greek."

ROS FALVEY 1964 contacted us when she found an old copy of the Ivy Link Magazine from 2014. The issue contained an article by Dr Adams' nephew Colin Sandison-Smith, and a photo of Dr Adams and Miss Cameron.



Ros wrote "Just in case no one else offered any information on where it was taken, I think it was at the farewell dinner for Dr Adams, attended by staff, governors, etc. We girls got nowhere near such an event, of course, but I do recall the photos pinned up in the corridor. I have many grateful memories of "Fanny", as we called her irreverently, behind her back

- it's due to her I've followed a somewhat eccentric international career!"

MARGARET A. PATER 1957 has written a fascinating article about her memories of Croydon High between 1945 and 1958 and this can be read in full on the website. Amongst Margaret's most vivid memories are those of particular teachers and of the Nativity Play. She writes

"The only teacher from my mother's time who also taught me was Miss Cotton, the maths teacher. As she was getting older, she had difficulty seeing the fractions in the book and had to hold it a long way away or, if her arm was not long enough, ask us what the book said. She taught us some useful jingles for remembering e.g. how to calculate the area of a parallelogram.



One tradition which accompanied me throughout my time at Croydon High was the Nativity Play. It was performed every six years and had been designed by a former music teacher, Miss Percival, who had been a teacher when my mother was at the school. (I once visited her in her retirement with my mother.) The play consisted of readings, lesser known carols sung by the choir at the back of the hall and tableaux based on Botticelli paintings performed on the stage. I was in the nativity play twice. The first time when I was still in the Elms I was the cherub who answered the children looking for the Christ child.

The children entered and asked, "How far is it to Bethlehem" and I answered, "Not very far". Then the choir sang the rest of the carol as the children went in to the stall. The second time, when I was in the first year of the senior school, I was one of the two readers who stood to each side of the stage and read bits of the Christmas story.

The third time the play was performed during my time, I was in the sixth form and supposed to be studying hard rather than spending time on rehearsals. Otherwise I might have been an angel. But I have always cherished the carols I got to know through that play and it created a mystical, reverent atmosphere."

SUE WRIGHT (TANNER) 1965, remembers the great debates and 'intellectual excitement' generated by the cramped conditions in Wellesley Road.

I left Croydon High School in 1965 - before the move. I have fond memories of the A Level courses - in the arts we were

small groups of about ten and classes were often held in the attics. Sometimes we would be crowded into small rooms that were little more than cupboards and would sit on the floor.

Those cramped conditions seemed to generate a great atmosphere. Debate came easily and we were pushed to explore in a very creative way. When I went to Trinity College Dublin for my undergraduate degree I found the courses plodding and pedestrian after my sixth form experience. I didn't really recapture that feeling of intellectual excitement until I started my PhD.

The move to new premises was really necessary - if only for reasons of health and safety (the fire exit from some rooms in Wellesley Road was across the roof!), but I wonder if that effervescent 'coffee bar' atmosphere was transposed to the new airy classrooms?

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 - our thoughts are with their friends and loved ones. In some cases, we have not been able to reproduce full length obituaries due to lack of space in this Magazine.

We have, however, created a page on the school website, www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/Croydon-High-Alumnae

so you can read more about the inspirational lives of some of our friends and alumnae. If for any reason you are not able to access the internet, but would like to read any of the obituaries in full, please contact Karen Roe at the School and she will be happy to send you a copy.



ELIZABETH GALLOP (TROST)
1944 Died January 11 2017

Sheila Collins (Cobden), a neighbour of Elizabeth's in Salisbury wrote to tell us the sad news of Elizabeth's death this year. Sheila told us "Elizabeth was an artist, sculptor, scientist, shepherd,

writer, countrywoman, pony driver, dog, sheep and horse lover and in her earlier days she loved to drive fast cars!"

Elizabeth was born in 1926 and brought up in suburban Purley, Surrey, with her elder sister Margaret, but apparently always longed to live in the countryside.

During the war, she was evacuated to Llandilo with the school, and was apparently delighted to be 'shipped off to green fields and animals' and not at all home sick!

Her mother insisted that she sent her washing home every couple of weeks by the train to Purley. With great foresight, Elizabeth would include a letter in the parcel telling her family all about her adventures in Wales, thinking it would give a window on the life and thoughts of a town girl evacuated to

the Welsh countryside. Her mother kept most of these letters which are still treasured by her family today. Elizabeth was to eventually produce a memoir of this time which is held in the school archives.

Elizabeth went to the Reading University School of Agriculture but 'being a woman' she wasn't allowed to do a degree in Agriculture so read Dairying instead. There she found she enjoyed the scientific side of her degree, so rather than continue in farming she used her understanding of cheese making and became bacteriologist at Porton Down, where she met fellow scientist Ray Gallop, who she married in 1952.

While they were courting, her husband to be recalls hearing beautiful music coming from the neighbouring house whenever he visited the family in Purley. Jacqueline du Pré, the renowned cellist and fellow Croydon High girl, lived next door.

Elizabeth lived a full and active life but by all accounts remained an incredibly modest, unassuming lady who, without any fuss, was involved in an amazing number of things. The greatest tribute comes from her daughters who wrote a full obituary that was read at the Thanksgiving Service to celebrate her life.

In their words "Her Quaker upbringing and the vast mix of people she met throughout her life, helped make her into the unassuming, independent, compassionate, intelligent woman we all remember. She could fix a car, milk a goat, restore a pony trap, write an article, thump in a post, draw a picture of your dog, read French, Latin and Welsh; with her you could have a lively political discussion, laugh at silly poems but to us she was Mum."



**FAY BUTCHER (TRENT)
1933**

Died January 9 2017

Born in Hereford in 1916, Fay moved to Croydon at 18 months old to be looked after by her grandmother while her father went to work in India. One of her earliest memories was going to the fair on the Fair Field where the concert hall now stands! Her favourite subjects at school were Botany and Horticulture which she wanted to study at university. On the day that her beloved grandmother died, she sat the entrance exam for Reading University but sadly failed it. There was no such thing as 'extenuating circumstances' then, so, after matriculation, Fay was enrolled at Kensington Secretarial College and then worked as a private secretary in London.

In 1937 she became engaged to a local Croydon boy Terry Butcher who she met at St Mildred's church youth club. They married in 1938 in the Savoy Chapel, London and had many years of happy married life, celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary before Terry died in January 2000.

In the war, Fay worked at Croydon Airport until it was bombed and then as an ARP warden in Liverpool. After early married life in Sanderstead, Fay and Terry moved to Tatsfield as their family grew and then to Oxted where Fay was to live for 60 years. She remained in her home of 22 years, Dairy House in Old Oxted, until five days before she died.

Fay was a stalwart of the local community, known and loved by so many and a faithful member of St John's, Hurst Green for 60 years. She was very much a role model and the elder stateswoman of the congregation, renowned for her wisdom and forthrightness; her great dress sense and dangly earrings.

An active member of many local organisations, she was president of Age Concern, and, as a passionate and expert amateur gardener, a key member of the Oxted and Limpsfield Horticultural Society, becoming its Honorary President in her nineties. A great lover of music, she was an avid concert goer, administrator of the North Downs Music Group and worked tirelessly for Surrey Opera. She and Terry were staunch patrons of the Barn Theatre in Oxted and keen bridge players and Fay was also an enthusiastic writer, published locally many times.

Fay was a great example of a life well lived, an inspiration to so many. Our condolences go to the friends and family

of this much loved mother of four, grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 14, who died just five weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday.



**ANGELA JACKSON
(THURMAN) 1953**

Died October 2016

Angela was a pupil at Croydon High School from 1947 until 1953. From the Sixth Form, she went to work for Shell in their Pensions Division. In 1957 she went to live in South Africa for three years and on her return went back to Shell, this time to work in their Shipping Division.

Angela married Norman Jackson in 1967 and went to live in St Albans and brought up her two children there. She was diagnosed with MS in her forties and although she lived until she was 80 the quality of her life was severely restricted.

Her husband died suddenly seven years ago and Angela elected to come back to a Nursing Home in Purley where she died in October 2016.

SYLVIA WAKELING (MANNING) 1976

Died August 6 2016



With help from Sylvia's sister Philippa (who also attended Croydon High) Sylvia's husband Jim sent us the following obituary following her death last year.

Philippa recalls: Sylvia joined Croydon High in J3, in 1967, at the one year old Selsdon site. Philippa

had joined J4 the previous year. It was an awkward journey from Kenley, especially when she started learning cello and local mums and dads formed a car pool which sometimes meant five children, two cellos and a violin made the journey together. Sylvia quickly made three firm friends - Martine Tranter, Julia Grieve-Smith and Ruth Parfitt.

Her early academic performance was a battle with the then rather poor state of diabetic control at the time but she nonetheless came to shine in science and maths, played the cello in school orchestras and sang in school choirs as a good high soprano all the way through school.

Illness at the time of her A Levels in 1976 meant that she could not follow her first choice of career in Medicine, but through a series of setbacks and opportunities she moved through mathematics and engineering to pursue a career in computing with a number of different city firms. In each place, she was highly regarded for her analytical and organisational abilities and I believe was well liked because

she was so nice in her dealings with everyone she came across.

A chance decision to take an Industrial Archaeology course in 1986 introduced her to her future husband Jim and a long and happy partnership. Together they pursued common interests in walking, cycling, world and UK travel and photography. A passion to care for abandoned and neglected cats lead to them re-homing sixteen over the years, caring for as many as six felines at a time, some with complicated health issues.

The first seven months of 2016 were a very difficult and painful time. Sylvia lost mobility with the resumption of cancer treatment with many side effects in an already complicated health situation. She had been a fighter and survivor all her life, but the struggle became too much in early August and she passed away peacefully at home with Jim at her side

Given that the prognosis when Sylvia was first diagnosed with diabetes at the age of seven was 20 years, she had beaten the odds, with her own determination and intelligence and the help, love and care of her parents, Marion and Frank, her partner Jim and her sister Philippa.

May she rest in peace.

MARGARET DALGLISH (FORMER ENGLISH TEACHER)

Died January 27 2017



Margaret was born in January 1932 in Dumfries, Scotland (birthplace of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns, whose work she later came to admire). From relatively humble beginnings, Margaret was an intelligent and determined student and having achieved top marks in her Scottish Highers she went

on to study English, Latin and French at Glasgow University aged 17. There she met Laurie, whom she went on to marry in January 1954 (both families insisting that they wait until they were 21!), and after the birth of their three children (Kevin, Andrew and Anna), the family moved to Beckenham in Kent in 1964 for Laurie's work at the BBC in London.

Margaret taught English at Croydon High in the 1970s. Her daughter, Anna, joined her to study A levels in English, French and Latin between 1978 and 1980. Margaret was very happy at Croydon High and remained there until her semi-retirement, continuing to work as a supply teacher for many years, so great was her love of teaching.

She was a popular teacher both amongst her teaching colleagues, many of whom she remained in contact with for decades after her retirement, and she will be particularly remembered for her strong Scottish accent, her inspirational teaching of English Literature, her participation in many Croydon High School staff plays, and her regular offerings of Scottish Tablet (a kind of rock hard Scottish fudge) which she made and brought in for her students. Both before and

after her retirement, Margaret lived an active and indeed adventurous life, back-packing around Turkey and the Greek Islands, travelling often to Naxos, where she and Laurie bought a small house.

They bought a motor boat and cruised up and down the Thames, visited their holiday cottage in the New Forest, and generally made the most of life. Determined as ever, she looked after her husband Laurie after he suffered a stroke in May 2012. Margaret died on 27 January 2017 after a short illness at Darent Valley Hospital and is survived by Laurie and her three children, Kevin, Andrew and Anna.



PRUDENCE SCRIVENER 1940 Died August 9 2016 aged 91

Ruth Saunders, Prudence's niece wrote to tell us of her aunt's life and death. Our condolences to her family.

She lived in London until June 2014 when she moved to a Sussex care home to be close to her family.

Prudence was born to Gilbert, a Lloyds Bank Manager and Helen Scrivener on May 12 1925. During her childhood the family lived in Havelock Road, Addiscombe,

She attended Croydon High School until 1940 and held many fond memories of her days there. She would walk to school each day with her dear friend and fellow pupil Audrey Worman. They were to become lifelong friends and never lost touch with each other. Prudence always enjoyed reading the school newsletters and liked to keep up with what was happening there.

During her school days, she enjoyed tennis and was a 'ferocious back' as part of the Junior Hockey Team. Teachers she mentioned were Miss Horam, Miss Peters, Miss Alorn and Miss Crompton. In September 1939, when she was 14, Prudence's part of the school moved to Chatsworth Place in Derbyshire, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Her diary shows that she was very homesick and missed her family terribly. This followed through into Guides which she belonged to until Summer Camp, when she decided it wasn't for her after all. However, the evacuation had its better moments too, such as meeting the Duke and Duchess and she recalled how one afternoon, the Cavendish's came to learn lacrosse.

It was during these times that she decided she would like to become a teacher and tried very hard to do well with her schoolwork, although she described herself as being 'lazy at times' and was then very angry with herself when she received disappointing marks.

After Croydon High School, Prudence went to Kings College in London followed by an initial teaching experience at Stamford Girls School in Lincolnshire. She also had a teacher exchange assignment in Spokane in 1959, travelling over to New York on the Queen Mary.

Her only main teaching position for all her working life was at Francis Holland School, Sloane Square, London, where she was the Senior English Teacher and eventually Deputy Head of the school when she retired. She taught there for 33 years between 1950 and 1983.

Once retired, she became a volunteer at Westminster Abbey; her knowledge of the Abbey was vast and she enjoyed passing this on to the many visitors with great enthusiasm. She was rewarded for her services in 2011 by receiving Maundy Money from the Queen.

Her passions in life were English, Theatre and the Arts. Favourites were Shakespeare, Trollope, C. S. Lewis and Jane Austen.

Her funeral took place in September 2016, with a memorial service at St. Mary's Bourne Street, Sloane Square in October and a reception hosted by Francis Holland School and Old Girls, in honour of her greatly appreciated dedication to the school.

Prudence had a nephew and niece, six great nieces and nephews and four great great nieces and nephews who were all able to visit her. Her face would light up when a child came to see her - children always gave her the most joy.



**PAM DIXON (DOBSON)
1954, Died 2016**

Pam's husband Peter Dixon wrote to tell us of the death of his wife saying, "Pam was a total believer in the GPDST way of education and forever grateful to the

start that Croydon High gave her".

The following is an extract from her eulogy and the full version of this can be found on our website.

In general, Pam remembered her childhood as being very secure and loving time, for which she was always truly grateful.

Pam spent most of her school life at Croydon High School, from 1944-1954. She enjoyed the philosophy of an established girls school and thought of herself as an all-rounder - as well as her academic studies, she represented the school at tennis, hockey and cricket as well as drama and choral activities. She experienced something of a set-back in having to repeat her fifth year, having been placed with a year group a year older than her (being a September baby). She felt somewhat cheated by this and ultimately left school after one year in the Sixth Form feeling that she was ready to move on - a decision she often regretted. As her career developed however, what she never had cause to regret was enrolment at Froebel College in Roehampton in the Autumn of 1954. She spent three very happy years extending her knowledge of child development in preparation for a demanding career in primary education. She firmly believed in the Froebel philosophy - that the role of women as educators was of the utmost importance in the world.

Pam's first job as a qualified teacher was at Bromley High School - after two years working there and living at home, she realised she needed to go and see something of the big wide world. She moved to Richmond and worked in a tough Putney school, sharing a flat with Sally Milner - who remained a lifelong friend. She married Peter in 1962, they set up home in Twickenham and Pam worked at nearby Chase Bridge School.

In September 1964, Hugo Louis Foster Dixon was born followed by a daughter, Josephine Susannah Pilar, born in May 1968.

Pam's teaching career went from strength to strength, and she progressed through various schools including Queens School in Kew, where she became deputy head after completing an academic diploma at the Institute of Education at London University. In 1976, she became Headteacher at St Mary's and St Peter's in Teddington, and in 1982 took on what was to be her final teaching position as the Head of Junior department at Croydon High School, which she left in 1986.

Although having made the decision to stand down from roles in front-line education, Pam never lost her interest in and passion for learning - not least relating proudly to the teaching experiences of her daughter Josephine. Her immediate next move was to take a diploma in heritage interpretation at St Mary's college in Teddington. This led to her taking a job at Kew Gardens, where she worked very happily for the next 10 years, within their education and schools support team. With 10 years spent as a school governor and six years on the local authority school appeals panel, it would be an understatement to say that Pam spent a career and life in the service of the children of London.

Her love of her children, Hugo and Josephine, and later her grandchildren, was clearly evident to all who knew her. The loss of Hugo to cancer in 2010 was a devastating blow for her as a mother - and one which was a constant sorrow for her remaining years.

Pam was a woman of great intellect, keen humour and considerable human understanding - she will be enormously missed by her family and many friends.



HEATHER BETTS 1944

Heather's niece Janice Terry sent in a school letter for our archives dated July 1944 plus the following message:

Heather was born on 4 May 1927. Heather was an only child, the family were very close and

Heather had a very happy childhood.

During the war years, Heather attended Croydon High School for Girls, at that time the Headmistress was Miss Adams.

Heather loved English and Music, and achieved A Levels in both subjects. Heather then continued her studies at university, so she could follow her dream and become a teacher. Heather spent all her career teaching in girls' schools.

I remember Heather speaking very fondly of Miss Adams and saying how much of an inspiration and encouragement she was; it was her example that led Heather into teaching girls.

Heather took up a teaching post at Newstead Wood School for Girls in Orpington, Kent. She taught a young girl who was a talented musician, Heather encouraged this young girl to follow her dream, just as Miss Adams had done all those years before. The name of this young lady was Emma Johnson, who we now know as the acclaimed clarinet player.

Heather and Emma Johnson stayed in touch and Heather followed Emma's career very closely and was proud of her success. They would exchange Birthday and Christmas cards right up until Heather died.

Heather would love going on holiday to the Lake District with her husband Geoff. They would return to the Lake District on a regular basis and spend hours walking on the hills.

When Heather died her husband Geoff composed a suite of music that was called "Heather on the Hills". Emma Johnson played and recorded it and it was played at Heather's funeral.

Janice concluded her letter by saying, "It is my privilege to thank Croydon High School for encouraging Heather to follow her dream."



**JEAN JORDAN
(PACKMAN) 1951
Died July 29 2016**

Janet Houghton (1949) sent in the following obituary which appeared in The Guardian and was written by Bill Jordan following the death of his

wife in 2016. We send our sincere condolences to her friends and family.

My wife, Jean Packman, who has died aged 82, was a researcher whose work improved the welfare of children through her influence on legislation and policy in public services.

The only daughter of Lou (nee Sharp) and Sid Packman, she was the first in her family to attend university, going from Croydon High School to Girton College, Cambridge, to study history. There, she was recruited by Barbara Kahan, one of the pioneering group of chief officers appointed after the Children Act 1948, to join Oxfordshire County Council's children's department, where she worked first in residential care and then as a field social worker.

It was Kahan who persuaded Jean to undertake a research project, investigating the variations in the numbers of children in care in local authorities in England and Wales.

Her groundbreaking study, published as *Child Care: Needs and Numbers*, (1968) gained her a doctorate from Oxford University; it also opened up a new field of research and teaching. In particular, she established that local policies influenced the number of children in care more than demographic or economic factors.

Tall and with a fine voice, Jean was a talented actor and took leading roles in several productions of Shakespeare plays in college gardens during the summers of her time in

Oxford, including Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

In 1968 she moved to lead a postgraduate social work training course at Exeter University, where she remained until 1990. Modest and self-deprecatory, she displayed a warmth and humanity, along with her gift for explaining complex issues in simple language that inspired loyalty and cohesion among staff and students.

In 1975, she published *The Child's Generation, a history of children's departments from 1948 to the establishment of social services departments in 1970*. With a grant from the Department of Health, she then led a team to study policy and practice in two port cities in southern England, publishing the findings – and dubbing the cities Shiptown and Clayport – in 1986 in *'Who Needs Care?'*

This was one of a group of research projects that contributed to the new Children Act 1989.

Moving to the Dartington Social Research Unit, Jean followed this up by revisiting the two cities, to study the effects of the legislation on practice. Her final book before retirement in 1996 was *'From Care to Accommodation'*, written with Christopher Hall. The central message for practitioners of this, as of all her work, is that commitment to the needs of children can go hand in hand with encouraging parents' co-operation and offering them support, and that this may mean looking after their children away from the family home. Jean and Bill met as colleagues at Exeter in 1968 and married in 1982, buying a large farmhouse in Whimple, east Devon, where Jean excelled in offering hospitality to friends from all over the country and from wider Europe.

An energetic walker, Jean also enjoyed gathering apples from her orchard for cider-making.

Our thoughts are with the friends and families of the following alumnae who also passed on in the last year.

**SALLY MORGAN (BROWN) 1956
Died February 22 2016**

Pamela Scarratt (Hall, 1956) wrote to tell us the sad news that Sally Morgan died in the USA, where she had lived with husband David (ex-Whitgift) for years. Half her ashes were interred at her local church and the other half will be interred in St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden, Kent, July 2017.

**MARGARET GUTHRIE 1951
Died December 26 2016**

Much loved pupil and later teacher at Croydon High Junior School – our thanks to Daphne MacCallum (Bunclark, 1955) for passing on the news and our condolences to all her family.

**HEATHER MUDIE (PING) 1973
Died January 2017 in Bangkok**

**JUNE CROPLEY 1944
Died July 1 2016**

**OLIVE POWELL (PENDRILL) 1947
Died in April 2016**

**BLANCHE WAKELING (WOOD) 1947
Died in August 2016**



Photos - Then and Now

A MESSAGE FROM THE GIRLS OF 1957

Nearly 30 ladies from the Class of 1957 join us for the Summer Lunch this year, celebrating their 60th anniversary.

And this highly organised group even have their own website!

Ann Cook (Warren) 1957 writes "These photos were created for our website, which we started over 20 years ago, in an effort to locate more pupils from our year, and to stimulate them to get in touch. One lady, who had lost touch with all her CHS friends, phoned me from her home in Adelaide, Australia! The power of the internet is incredible.

Our website is: www.winkfieldhome.co.uk.

If you were in the Homestead and moved to, or started, in the Senior School in 1950, and left after 'A' levels in 1957 or before, please, please contact us.

Our group regularly attends the Annual Summer Lunch, and as 2017 is our Diamond Anniversary of leaving school, our numbers will be at least 27. We also hold smaller 'get-togethers' in more far-flung parts of the U.K. All these reunions are enjoyed by everyone. The bonds made in our teenage years were obviously very strong ones, which seem to strengthen with the passing years!"



Toni Barclay

Catriona (Toni) Scott (Barclay) was 'found' earlier this year. She has just sent us this 2015 photo of herself.



Alex Luckes



Angela Curtis



Anita Burns (deceased)



Ann Wagstaff



Ann Warren



Bridget Knott



Christine Thorneloe



Christine Townes



Chaire Spalding



Gillian Cluive



Hazel Butler



Heather Harwood



Connie Hammond



Dorothy Dunn (deceased)



Elcen Emerton



Elisabeth Smah



Elizabeth Grosch



Elizabeth Ruddock



Elsa Germany



Flavia Ite



Fleur Campion



Janet Andrews

Jean Noble (dec.)

Jennifer Gross



Jennifer Morgan

Jennifer Walsh

Jenny Cath



Jennifer Linthwaite

Judith Drew

Judith Noble



Katrina Donalson

Linda Roer

Louise Morgan



Rosemary Filewood

Rosemary Gough

Rosemary Jenkin



Rosemary Miller

Sally Burridge

Sheila Cobden



Sheila Kerr

Sheila Mansell

Sheila Pike (deceased)



Sheila Rushforth

Shirley Hayward

Valerie Rickards



Valerie Webb

Yvonne Harrold

Yvonne Slogrove



Margaret Barkow

Margaret Doctor

Margaret Jones



Margaret Pater

Margaret Stanger

Marion Hibbit



Marjorie Dove

Mary Conroy

Maureen Hoy



Pat Henn

Pat Mcandlish

Pat Redd



Pat Winter

Penny Coombs

Priscilla Mellows



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

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2018 Dates for your Diary

Thursday January 4 4pm ~ Ivy Link Class of 2017 New Year Reunion

Thursday March 22 3pm ~ Ivy Link Tea Party

Saturday June 23 12.30pm ~ Ivy Link Summer Lunch

For more information about this or the Ivy Link, please contact Karen at ivylink@cry.gdst.net or on 0208 260 7531.



Thank you to Olivia Harris, Deveshi Abbott, Lara Bower and Inaya Iqbal from Year 7 (or First Year in old money!) who enthusiastically helped us recreate the iconic photo we have used on the front cover, of girls running down the steps to the Drama Courtyard.

We would love to identify the original girls and discover the date the first picture was taken. If you have any ideas, please contact us - ivylink@cry.gdst.net or 020 8260 7531.



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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!