

# Polished CORNERS



QUONDAM FRANCIS HOLLAND CLARENCE GATE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

2013 MAGAZINE

## Dear Quondam Members,

It is always a real pleasure to welcome "polished corners" back to their school and we have had several Quondam visitors during the course of the year. Current pupils always enjoy meeting "old girls" and delight in recognising a face from the past in one of the many whole school photographs, which are displayed outside the library, in the main corridor. 450 pupils and all the staff celebrated the 135th anniversary of the school with a whole school photograph in Regent's Park earlier in the summer.

Possibly the aspect of 21st century school life that most amazes Quondam members is the proliferation of activities and opportunities, beyond the classroom. Beyond the sixty+ clubs, choirs, and societies every week, which are held before school, at lunch times and after school, this academic year there have been trips to the Paralympics, a sports tour to Sri Lanka, a Geography trip to Iceland, a Spanish trip to Salamanca, a History trip to Vietnam and Cambodia and many, many more besides.

As you will read in this newsletter, Miss Joanne Green, who is well known to generations of "polished corners" retired in August 2013. At the retirement party in her honour, the Chairman of Governors, Mrs Catherine Longworth, joined me in paying tribute to Jo's exceptional service to Francis Holland School since 1977. Having initially been appointed by Miss Ann Holt to a part-time position in the Geography department, Jo rapidly became Head of Geography, then introduced Economics as an A level subject and also led that department. During the 1980s, Jo deputised as Deputy Head during Jeannine Addinall's



Miss Green, with Mrs Gillies and Mrs Forde

maternity leave. More recently, Jo was the very first Deputy Head of Sixth Form. In her final post, as Academic Deputy Head – and a key member of the school leadership team – Jo has overseen the significant rise in the school's academic profile. The spontaneous standing ovation for Jo Green in the final assembly of term left no-one in any doubt of the depth of affection and respect that Jo commands from all who know her.

My sincere thanks to Mrs Nadia Ladas Demetriou who has been an excellent editor of the Quondam newsletter for several years. It is a sign of our online age that Mrs Helen Forbes, the new editor of this Quondam newsletter, is currently living in Moscow. However, rest assured that anything for inclusion in the next Quondam magazine can still be sent via the school office. The school website ([www.francis holland.org/nw1](http://www.francis holland.org/nw1)) has details of current school events and a designated Quondam

area. I look forward to meeting many of you at the next Quondam Lunch and Reunion on Saturday November 9th.

With very best wishes,

**Vivienne Durham**

Headmistress

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Saturday November 9th 2013

Netball	10am
Quondam AGM	12 noon
Lunch	12.30 for 1pm

### Carol Service

#### Monday 16th December at 6.30pm

– This will be Mrs Rolfe Johnson's final Carol Service, as she will be retiring at the end of the Autumn term. Do come along and join in the carol singing, and the mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall afterwards.



## Quondam Committee 2012

**Vivienne Durham** - President/Headmistress  
**Alison Edelshain née Day (1972)** - Chairman  
**Susanne Nedas née Questel (1971)** - Joint Secretary  
**Vivien Rose née Lind (1973)** - Joint Secretary  
**Benita Matthews (1970)** - Treasurer  
**Nadia Demetriou Ladas (1988)** - Quondam Administrator  
**Amanda Triccas** - Deputy Head  
**Jeannine Addinall** - Honorary Staff Member  
**Diane Andree née Miller (1954)**  
**Jeanette Cumine née Clark (1954)**  
**Sarah Glace née Gheiace (2003)**  
**Georgina Guy née Nedas (1995)**  
**Carol Michaelson née Day (1960)**  
**Jennifer Purchase née Shier (1973)**  
**Julia Strauss (1987)**

## Acknowledgements

Quondam would like to thank the parents of FHS pupils for their support. Thanks also to Amanda Triccas and Jeannine Addinall for their contributions.

## Thank You Polished Corners

How do you teach Careers? This was the question that puzzled me when Mrs Durham asked me to take over as Head of Careers from Elaine Kelly six years ago. The solution is, of course, to ask the experts. Representing a huge range of careers, our 'old girls' offered inspiring glimpses of life after FHS. Vibrant young advertisers Alex Gluck, Flo Clive and Marie El Khazen, came to share their experiences in different areas of the business, from accounting to television work; Andrea Zeimer spoke about her work organizing events for the Whitechapel Art Gallery; Peta Cornish represented by United Agents (apparently the company which also has James McAvoy on its books) was besieged by dreamy eyed budding thespians eager to hear her thoughts about the tough reality of acting on television and stage. Sophia Anderton, Assistant Manager of the editorial Production Department at the Royal Society of Chemists, was enthusiastic about opportunities for scientists; Sabeena Obaray, a registrar in A&E at The Royal Free Hospital, passed on valuable advice to would-be medics. Dr Rosemary Mackey, Director of Mackey Krakoff, Healthcare and Management Consultants USA, a distinguished Oncologist with a long career in the USA, was also due to join us, along with her husband Dr Irwin Krakoff, also a cancer specialist; however, they were trapped by the arrival of heavy snow on the Eastern seaboard and were unable to fly to London in time, so we very much hope to welcome them on another occasion. Also in the field of health care, we were joined by Abigail Mance, a Speech and Language Therapist at Great Ormond Street, and Diana Goldin, an Occupational Therapist in both the NHS and private sectors.

Alison Edelshain née Day introduced us to the business of recruitment with a fascinating PowerPoint presentation. Rania Tadross from Ince and Co. LLP offered superb advice to girls thinking about Law. Sharmee Mavadia, née Shah and about to give birth to her first baby, shared tips on setting up your own Public Relations business. Natalie Goldin, Head Concierge at the London Metropolitan Hotel in Park Lane, shared her insights into high-end hospitality.

Ladies, I really cannot thank you enough. You made me realize what an untapped mine of inspiration Quondam is. There is a special connection between past and present members of the school: listening to guidance from a polished corner, it wasn't hard for girls to imagine "This could be me in a few years time", and to balance the dream with practical insights heard from the experts.

Kate Oakley, Head of Careers

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## Quondam

*We do love to hear from you, so please do communicate – especially by email, keeping us up to date with your news, change of address etc. Please feel free to contact us at any time of the year.*

### Helen Forbes

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## LETTER FROM THE QUONDAM CHAIRMAN

**Alison Edelshain née Day**



Dear Quondam,

Despite realizing that 2013 cannot stand up to comparison to the brilliance of the Jubilee and Olympics' year, London is still an incredibly exciting place in which to be based. Francis Holland girls are so very privileged to have all the opportunities, which London's cultural and sporting scenes can offer and on reading about the activities of the current girls, it is clear that they are continuing to take full advantage as much as we all did during our time as students.

Within the next year, there will be some changes at Quondam. Very sadly, Nadia Demetriou Ladas has stood down from her role as Quondam Administrator and Editor of this magazine in order to spend more time with her family and running her own business. We are very grateful to Nadia for the enormous contribution she has made to Quondam during the past five years, especially for making this magazine such an attractive and interesting read and for assisting the school in updating the all-important database of former pupils' contact details. At the time of receiving Nadia's resignation, I have to admit to wondering where on earth I was going to find someone who loved the school as much as she did and had her strong organisational skills. Then Vivienne Durham informed us that Helen Forbes, currently Head of Sixth Form, was leaving the school after the end of this summer term as her husband had been appointed to a role in Moscow and wanted to find a way to keep in touch with the school where she had been so happy. We are delighted to welcome Helen in her role as the prime link between former pupils and staff, promoting opportunities for Quondam members to keep in touch, including the production of this magazine and the organisation of the annual lunch. So any future queries on Quondam activities should be directed to Helen at: [helen.forbes@fhs-nw1.org.uk](mailto:helen.forbes@fhs-nw1.org.uk). Helen will be regularly visiting the UK and so will be able to attend our committee meetings and use her personal knowledge of recent leavers from among both the girls and staff to help strengthen their links with the school.

As during past years, your Quondam Committee enjoyed selecting the winner of the Quondam Travel Fund. The 2013 winner was Tace Morgan for her plans to attend the World Scout Moot in Canada. Tace is a Queen's Scout herself and believes the sessions on how to assist in disaster relief and the sharing of ways scouting is organized in different countries will help her in her role as a Peer Educator within the Scout Movement in the UK. We shall look forward to reading about her experiences on her return. For now, we are happy to print the summary of last year's winner, Rebecca Lumley's experiences at the St Amedeus School in Tanzania, where she has clearly put the funding to excellent use to the benefit of the students there. Normally we would also announce in this magazine the winners of the Quondam senior and junior writing prizes. Sadly, this year the committee did not feel there was a worthy winner from the smaller than usual number of applicants in either category so no winner was declared. We are hoping that next year, better advertising of the competition will attract a stronger response and will look forward to reading some excellent contributions on the chosen subject of The Great War.

This year's magazine theme of School Meals has produced some wonderful memories. I have to admit to smiling when reading the reminiscences of former students who, like myself, were advised against asking for an unladylike "large" helping – so we asked for "ordinary" size instead, which acted as a code for "large"....! Warm memories of Mrs Sullivan are included (and I also recall a very helpful Mrs Pickford). The kitchen staff were important to all of us – and still are! I suspect many of us who left rather a long time ago would be impressed by the range of choice and the quality of foods offered to current girls by Steve and his very capable team. Indeed those attending our Quondam November lunches will have had direct experience of his skills and our own memories of the food we were served when at the school many years ago, will not stand up well to the comparison, however much we recall specific dishes with sentimental pleasure. As usual, it has been a great pleasure reading the news of those who have left, from Jean Jaffa's write-up (who attended the school in the 1930's) to much more recent leavers. We would encourage you all to send us your news each year and use the magazine to reforge links with former school friends.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at The Quondam Lunch on 9th November 2013.



# REMINISCENCES

## School Meals

### Louise Coxall née Nicol 1949

School Meals? I always felt a little left out because my mother insisted I come home for lunch. We lived near Mme Tussaud's so I suppose it was reasonable, but regardless, I always felt my friends were having more fun at school than I was at home. It's possible that mine were better, cooked by my mother, because I never heard many flattering reports of what my classmates had eaten that day.

But now comes the unforgettable part. On several occasions I did stay for lunch and the most memorable part was "lamp post pudding." This was a steamy poly pudding, beige coloured and full of suet, and yes, resembling a lamp post. I really enjoyed it and wolfed it down because it was a dessert I didn't get at home. We must have had an hour and a half for lunch because Ann Bristow, and her cousin Beryl Isaacs also went home for lunch, and they had to take two buses to get there. But most girls had lunch at school and next time round, I'll stay for lunch too.



### Sally Williams née Harris 1950

'My 'claim to fame' re cooking is demonstrating Cake Icing on the QE2 in 1983 and on p.70 of 'Consequences' - 'Mémor of a Dowser' there is a photo of the scale model of that famous ship, the plans drawn by my eldest son, a

Naval Architect. I also for ten years was the Tutor for Cake Decoration at the wonderful Earnley Concourse, Chichester.'

### Susan Levitt née Falk 1951

I do remember lunches in the old dining room which was situated upstairs at the front of the building. Miss Joslin, the headmistress, used to invite girls to sit at her table which was rather terrifying as the tables were quite small. We all queued at the hatch and were helped to really rather nice lunches considering my time was just after the Second World War. We enjoyed ourselves and generally behaved reasonably well except for the odd pea throwing!

### Sally Adams 1955

For many years, a member of the catering team, Mrs Penny, served for lunch (1st Floor, 'big' and 'little' dining rooms.) She was always very friendly and liked to chat. It was a joke between her and my good friend and contemporary, Penelope (Penny) Newell-Price (née Cove Smith) Head Girl at FHS 1954-55 – that they shared the same name – so at lunch time it was 'Hello Penny' – 'Hello Penny'. I was sorry I was only a Sally.

Miss Joslin, our Headmistress, invited us to make suggestions for school meals (which I always liked – 'starving by 1.00pm!'). I suggested for dessert ice cream with hot golden syrup. It was a success. The syrup went into long, sticky strands on the freezing ice cream. Why not try it again, now?

### Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat 1957

We all lined up and were assigned tables with a staff member or senior at the head. We were expected to have a spoonful of everything which was enforced. Post war food was awful. I was there from 1946 -57 and I became an early vegetarian. I can't imagine that anyone was able to skip off to lunch out of school.

### Frances George née Wishart 1961

Stews, boiled cabbage and boiled spuds – delicious. Fish on Fridays – a nightmare. And as a special treat – occasionally a roast – fantastic. Can't remember any of the puds which speaks volumes. I think ice cream came with the roast. The kitchen staff? Round and smiling and it didn't pay to fall out with them. Used to slip out to buy sarnies at the deli off Baker Street and eat them in Siddons Lane. For some reason the door into Ivor Place was always open.

### Eleanor Allen née Schacke Andersen 1964

I remember a lot about school meals at Francis Holland. I was not one of the school's high achievers, but eating was something I excelled at and lunch was usually the day's high spot for me.

We would line up in the top corridor upstairs either at 12.20 (early lunch) or at 1.00 (main lunch). The former was in the Little Dining Room, now a classroom, on the upper corridor. The latter took place in the Dining Room, now the staffroom. It was a somewhat sedate affair, high back chairs at well-polished tables, each place laid with a paper napkin, knife, fork, spoon and small fork. We filed in, and each table filled up in random order so that you could find yourself at the top table which on a Wednesday would mean you had a chance to chat up Mr Crisp the chaplain, at a table with a mistress at the head which could be a bit awkward if you'd just had a detention in her subject, or with a prefect which was wonderful if it was the one you had a crush on! After grace was said there was a great shuffling as we all sat down except for the girl at the end of each table. She would go and queue up at the hatch to collect the food from Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Penfold and then stagger back to her table with a tray load of serving dishes. Each of us in turn passed our plates to the prefect or mistress requesting "small" or "ordinary". We passed the two vegetable dishes from person to



person, helping ourselves. Then we waited to be told we could start eating. We also handed round the plate of white bread which we would place on our paper napkin and break off dainty morsels. We were not encouraged to use this as a "pusher" or to wipe up left over gravy, French style, but in the small dining room where there was less supervision we could mould it into pellets and flick at unsuspecting diners at neighbouring tables burying our faces in our food so as not to show our guilt. When we had finished our first course we would wait patiently to see whether there was any food left for second helpings. Then we would pass our plates up to the front and another girl would have to take ten dirty plates, quite a load for an eleven year old, back to the serving hatch and then collect the pudding. At the end of lunch, the plates and dishes were returned to the hatch and we waited for the command to stand and file out.

Looking back over fifty years I have happy memories of school food- the macaroni cheese was a particular favourite, as was the spotted dick served with dark brown sugar. However, after all this time some questions still remain unanswered: did a green apple and two gingernuts really count as a pudding? Was Mrs Penfold always in a bad mood? Why was the treacle tart made with dessicated coconut? Were potatoes necessary with risotto? Why did the serving spoon always slide into the dish of baked beans? Lastly, how many bite-sized portions is it possible to get out of an individual ice cream bar to share out for second helpings?

### Jane Rae née Boreham 1976

Unlike some of my friends, I really enjoyed the school lunches and remember the macaroni cheese and delicious sponge puddings with custard. Our favourite cooks were Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Piggott who were always kind and friendly, if firm. Unlike the Sixth Form we were served by a teacher who sat at the head of the table and asked us how big a helping we would like. Our answers had to be "small" or "medium" as "large" was considered an unladylike response.

### Violanda (Mo) Percival née Goulandris 1976

Mixed memories of lunch at FHS. The

food was great, especially the roast potatoes and the excellent macaroni cheese. Not so pleasant was the regular spectacle of a couple of poor eaters who were repeatedly hauled up to the top table and were forced, through their tears, to finish what was on their plate; like a scene from *Oliver Twist*, but in reverse. One of my most vivid memories!

### Uzma Sheikh née Peracha 1988

I want to share a short episode about lunches at school. We discovered that Shepherd Supermarket down the road was selling baked white rolls with a small piece of cheese for 50p and started to take a rota in buying them between 5/6 of us. One afternoon as I had hidden rolls and cheeses in my cardigan I came back to school and ran towards my classroom. Miss Holt saw me and stopped me and said 'No running in the corridors, please.' In this time all the hidden booty fell down and even she didn't know what to say then!

### Sarah Lou Lewis née Stirling 1988

I remember queuing for lunch and I remember sitting down to eat it. I don't remember the food at all and can't decide if that is because it was good enough not to have worried about or so dreadful that I've eradicated all knowledge of it! I think probably the former. You asked if we have gone on to make a career linked in any way to the catering industry.



Well, I can't exactly call it a career, but I do make celebration and novelty cakes, which fits into the category of catering. I don't have a website (yet - it's been in the pipeline for about a year!) but I have an open facebook page: [www.facebook.com/xoxoxCelebrationCakes](https://www.facebook.com/xoxoxCelebrationCakes).

I studied Art for one of my A-levels at FHS and although I went on to do a degree in business, I suppose my creativity never left me. I only started a couple of years ago, but I really enjoy what I do now. I was even lucky enough to make a cake for the parents of one of my old school friends which was lovely.

### Imogen Vickers née Wood 1996

Reminiscences of school meals: the bread rolls! We loved them! And I remember my friend Jessica asking the dinner lady for the recipe for chocolate crisp. But oh, those horrible red buckets for clearing the plates. We loved school meals and definitely didn't even think of going to the cafés nearby. Lunch at school followed by Regent's Park, in threes!

### Lauren Kay-Lambert 2011

The last few minutes leading up to lunch were always pointless as students busily packed up their files and textbooks and subtly slid them into their bags. With the desks completely cleared, the teacher would inevitably give out the homework. Would it be worth taking out diaries to write down the assignment or risk remembering, in order to get to lunch faster? The latter, definitely! If the clock hit 12.50 and students still remained in their classrooms, they would stare at the teacher like starving prisoners being locked in their cell. Teachers who let their students out on time, or even early, had a much greater chance of winning the much-coveted 'favourite teacher award'.

Class over, the race for the lunchroom began. The small ones had an advantage: speed. Leaving the rest to use a combination of walking quickly and the occasional sprint down the hallway – when the teachers weren't looking – to catch up. Once at the lunchroom the issue of the forbidden bags needed to be resolved expediently. Open bags full of valuables had to be dumped in a corridor or locker top.



## REMINISCENCES *continued*

Finally, and only after having being made to wait an eternity outside the lunchroom, convinced that the teacher on door duty had it in for you, the real problem started. What to have for lunch? The Fajitas (too messy) or the sausages (but you were only allowed two) or perhaps the safe option: baked potato with cheese and beans. The pressure was enormous and you were often forced reluctantly to let students in front while pondering your final decision. You realise that you're already sweating so the only option is to go for the Fajita, as a little arm juice won't make much of a difference to your appearance. Lunch chosen and a hundred napkins collected, the hunt for a seat ensued. Finding one without spilling water over your plate and napkins was always highly unlikely. Students ate strategically slowly whilst looking back at the lunch queue. The accepted philosophy being: 'I had to wait for a seat, now you lot can suffer.'

When the time finally came to relinquish your seat the tedious task of clearing your plate began. The queue was long and there was always a few 'cutters' to deal with. A subtle shove usually taught them a lesson. A teacher cutting in however was a different proposition, you just had to let them in - sucking up was essential. Once at the front it was a simple task to stare down any would be competitor who dared to clear their plate before you. With a long perfected technique, you emptied your tray expediently before giving a little, better luck next time smile to your beaten opponent and a thank you to the staff behind the washing up station. With the rushed eating experience finished there was now time to relax and spend the rest of the break doing absolutely nothing, except think about doing it all over again at 12.50 tomorrow.

### Jeannine Addinall Deputy Head 2012

In some ways I must have had more to do with these than many people over the years. When I arrived, back in 1981 from teaching at a comprehensive school in Hertfordshire, where there was a large canteen style lunch room, I was surprised and charmed to find the same system operating at FHS as I had experienced as a schoolgirl back in the 1960s. At the head of every table there presided a sixth former who acted as mummy and doled out the stew and rice pudding for each individual sitting 'below the salt' on her table. There was no choice, but the menu was different on every day of the week. This did not, however, vary from week to week. Monday was a roast dinner, Tuesday was shepherd's pie and Friday was graced by a strange hybrid called a fish sausage, with real Home Made Chips. Glorious! Staff ate separately in the staff room, where furniture removals took place on a daily basis to make the repast possible. [There were far fewer staff than there are today.] The appetising smell of the food grew less appealing as it hovered lingeringly above our marking in the early afternoon.

This system had its pros and cons. Advantages- the really outstanding plain English cooking of a talented team of cooks- it was positively addictive-and the quirkiness of it all. It had outlived its time, however. Disadvantages- it took no account of individual dietary requirements or tastes, and was hard on the kitchen staff, especially when setting up lunch in the staff room. It was not really ideal for the inexperienced hands of the Third who brought the hot trays of hotter food to the table for Sixth Form Mother to dish out. More than one pile of rhubarb crumble ended up on the floor amid tears [the classic English puddings were also to die for and would be very much on trend today.] I am reliably told by a Polished Corner that the Siege Perilous was next to the Mother, because this then meant you had to clear the table at the end. People tried desperately to avoid this privilege.

Times changed, as they do, and the

lunch room became self service, with staff and pupils eating together. Salads appeared, but strictly only with ham, cheese or tuna, ready plated next to half a tomato, a lettuce leaf and a thick roundel of cucumber. There was no question of a salad bar or having salad with hot food! Different chefs brought different ideas with them. I remember one man who was very keen on offal- stuffed sheep's hearts, kidneys, almost anything short of the animal's feet. Fortunately there were now choices, and it didn't take long for him to see that this was not a choice that would catch on any time soon.

I was really thrilled when I was asked by Mrs. Low, my third Head, to liaise with the chefs. This is like sending a half French person [which I am] to heaven. On the verge of the millennium I can still see myself and Sarah, the first chef with whom I worked, vowing to 'bring the salad bar into the 21st century.' So we did, and it has got better and better. I was very lucky indeed to work until retirement with the fabulously talented Steve and Mos and their wonderful and loyal team. Imaginative vegetarian options abounded, the classic puds remained but were supplemented by the most wide ranging plates of cut fruit I have ever seen, and new and delicious recipes appeared daily. We had come a long way from the wilting trio of lettuce, cucumber and tomato. School Council made suggestions- we had Fajitas Fridays for a while!

Special lunches included what has now become an annual institution- the BBQ in the playground-, Burns Night, with vegetarian haggis on offer, Chinese New Year, Midsummer Madness [turkey and Christmas pud in June] and endless celebrations of Italian, French, Spanish and Thai cooking, to name only a few.... I will always treasure the memory of the heart shaped Valentine cookies, and Steve handing out a Valentine rose to every girl and lady member of staff. Real style.

The strangest moment in all the years may have been the day when an unknown woman calmly walked in off the street, helped herself and began eating. She did seem to need it!



It is lovely to see the 'school dinners' going from strength to strength with the same invincible team. From the other end of my FHS life, I remember with affection – as will so many- the redoubtable and much loved doyenne of the lunch room, who has now left us all, but deserves to be consuming nectar and ambrosia for all her hard work and devotion to the school. That's Mrs. Sullivan, of course.





## FROM THE STAFF ROOM



**Joanne Green** retired from FHS in August 2013, having served the school since 1977. It has been my privilege to know Jo for really quite a long time- we go back, as they say, to college. There, thanks to the quirky variations in how and when you could apply to Oxbridge in those days [plus the fact that I was one of those Old For The Academic Year kids,] she was both younger than me and in the year above me! When I arrived at FHS in 1981 Miss Green was already established as Head of Economics and Geography. This would have been more than enough for most people to do, but Jo [I'm sorry, I cannot keep calling her Miss Green!] has incredible energy, and was possibly running Young Enterprise even then - what I do recall for sure is that she made most of the very professional costumes for the main school plays herself [as you do] and ran and accompanied many of the school trips with great success. No job was beyond or beneath her, and from then until now it has always been Jo who took on the thankless jobs behind the scenes that are so vital. When most performers had rushed home in triumph leaving a trail of costumes and sweet wrappers behind them, Jo cleared up and made sure everyone was safely off the premises, whether it was a play, a fashion show or any other event. I sometimes wonder how many people realise what we owe her for this over so many years, including her time as Academic Deputy Head. Few are those who realise that Deputy Headship is not all power and having your own office - it does actually include picking up rubbish from the floor that no-one else seems to see is there. Jo was one of those who did realise that it ALL matters.

Jo allies to her energy, creativity and capacity for hard work a laser mind. She assimilates and accurately deploys huge amounts of information without ever becoming muddled or fazed by it. Never was the post of Academic Deputy Head better deserved. The complexities of the overview of the curriculum, its management and that great big Rubiks cube, the school timetable, which I have reason to know is a Herculean task, have been handled like a superhero with many Special Intellectual Powers. Jo has also dealt with staff, girls and parents with care, concern and an eye to workable solutions where everyone wins.

Another reason why I have huge respect for Jo is that she is fearless in facing and speaking the truth, even where others might shy away from putting themselves in a difficult position.

How many know that she rose before five every morning to get into school, driving miles to get there? She was always the first one to arrive, that is the level of Jo's stamina and commitment. We shall not see her like again, as they say..

I shall always remember our early morning chats while getting everything up and running, and the many, many lifts she so generously gave me, and also my family, after school events -even after I broke her car window by pulling the door too hard!

The Italian for Jo Green could be seen as Giuseppe Verdi - like that brilliant composer, Jo is one of the all time greats. Good luck for an exciting future!

Jeannine Addinall



**Amanda Triccas** joined Francis Holland, as Deputy Head, from St Paul's Girls' School in September 2011. She succeeded Jeannine Addinall and rapidly became a very popular member of staff. She is a wonderful teacher, the sort where students know they are in very safe hands. She said that teaching juniors was such fun that it was a bonus to be paid to do the task. Amanda was also wonderful at giving poignant assemblies, which could also be funny, sometimes to the point where the whole school was doubling up with laughter - her Assembly on letters to Blue Peter, for example, was delivered with the timing of a professional, but - like everything Amanda does - had a very serious point to it as well.

In her two years at Francis Holland Amanda helped embed the school ICT firmly in the twenty first century. She is very knowledgeable about IT and gave invaluable advice about what would improve the school, especially in its every day communication with parents. Staff very much appreciated having a more reliable IT system with which to work. Amanda leaves FHS to move to Godolphin and Latymer, where she will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team in charge of Staff Welfare and Development, including the professional development of newly qualified teachers. She will also be able to spend more time doing the teaching she so enjoys. Amanda is wished the very best for her new job and she will be missed in the FHS staffroom.





I was lucky enough to work closely with **Helen Forbes** on the Senior Management Team for the last few years before my retirement. An outstanding Head of Sixth Form, she was never too busy to listen to the girls, and never one to watch the clock. She put the maximum amount of effort into every aspect of her job, and must have been the last to leave the building at night on unnumbered occasions. Helen has a masterly knowledge of all those in her charge, and this extends beyond the present Sixth Form to all those she has nurtured. It is wonderful that she will, after she leaves FHS to live in Russia, be in charge of Quondam Development, as she is the very best person to fulfil this role, with her comprehensive links to recent alumnae.

Helen's personal qualities are legion, and include many of those outlined in Kipling's poem 'If' - a calm approach even when all around her are in a flap and the ability to fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run being but two. I do not, however, see any mention in Rudyard's words of the greatness of being a Woman, or about Helen's equally important skills as a dancer, seen at school pantos and charity events. It is obvious that he lived too soon to know Helen.

What sums up to me Helen's grace, care and eye for detail will always be her fun introduction of Fortune cookies to the Upper Sixth's final lunch. She is, as I have already said, a great Head of Sixth Form, and brought a level head and excellent ideas to the Senior Management Team. I wish her good luck in Russia, and am delighted that I will be able to go on working with

her on the Quondam Committee.  
Jeannine Addinall

**Katherine Wright** started at FHS as Head of Biology in 2008. As an innovative and earnest member of the Science department, Katherine played a large role in raising the expectations of her pupils. Between 2008 and 2013, the number of girls taking separate sciences at GCSE level has nearly tripled. Biology has consistently been one of the most popular A Level subjects and a growing number of girls are now going onto scientific



or medical careers. She is extremely organised and efficient and has been an excellent Head of Department and Form Tutor for the younger girls. She is well remembered as leading the Animal Club that took care of a large snake. As Katherine has recently had a daughter, Ellie and moved to Oxfordshire, she has decided to take up a position in the Biology Department at St Helen and St Katherine school. We wish her every possible success and happiness in her future career and life in the countryside.

**Dr Joanne Rush** joined the English and Drama department at FHS in 2011, immediately immersing herself in all aspects of literary and thespian life. She ran Junior Drama Club and co-ran the Inter-form Drama competition as well as assisting with the main school production of *The Crucible* and, later, directing her own interpretation of an excerpt from *The Diary of Anne Frank* as part of the Junior plays in July 2012. Jo also ran Senior Literary Society and used her connections to secure speaker visits from leading academics and Shakespearean actors. All this on top of a demanding



teaching timetable with plenty of examination classes! Jo's love of literature has led her to follow her own ambitions to be a published author and she leaves FHS to concentrate on writing her first novel, set in contemporary Bosnia, and to work at City of London School for Boys in a part-time capacity.

When **Pereira Kulatungage** retired due to ill health in April 2013, FHS lost a longstanding and loyal servant. Having joined the staff as a cleaner in 1996, Pereira became part of the caretaking team in 2007. Throughout that time he worked ceaselessly to help students, staff and visitors to school, sharing with all his beaming smile and his positive attitude. Nothing was too much trouble, or at least if it was trouble for him, Pereira never made one feel as if it were. He seemed to have boundless energy, leaping up and down stairs nimbly carrying packages and parcels. Even the least salubrious parts of the job, such as maintaining the school loos, did not bring from him any complaint. Pereira worked plenty of late evenings and weekends and thoroughly deserves a restful and, we hope, restorative retirement.  
Amanda Triccas

**Elizabeth Clarke (née Ivimy) 1988**  
member of staff (French)

My eldest son Frederick was married in September 2012 to Maria Khanina from St. Petersburg, and my second son Percy was married in May 2013 to Victoria Pilkington-Miksa, a Francis Hollander.

13 Pembridge Gardens,  
London, W2 4EA

[lizandwilliam@hotmail.com](mailto:lizandwilliam@hotmail.com)



# OLD GIRL NEWS

## 1930-1939

### 1939

#### Jean Jaffa née Gluckstein

31, Elm Tree Road, London NW8 9JR  
jeanjaffa@freeuk.com

*I'm now 87, and must be the oldest old girl – an alarming thought. Born in 1926 on the first day of the General Strike in 39 Elm Tree Road. I'm still in the same road – but for the last 52 years am in 31 Elm Tree Road. I did travel the world with my late husband (violinist Max Jaffa) when I joined him giving concerts internationally, and frequently on the BBC, TV etc. My three daughters, Naomi, Jenny and Lisa Jaffa all went to Francis Holland.*

## 1940-1949

### 1949

#### Belinda Webster née Poolman

*As I am now 81 it is time I wrote something about my time at Francis Holland before I forget all about it!*

*I first became a pupil when I was 4 I think. I began in the kindergarten and was later in the preparatory. The head of the preparatory was Miss Guy, who was sweet and kind and she was still at FHS after the war. I loved FHS from the start. I remember particularly churning cream to make butter and also using a fretsaw to make jigsaws, which was great fun. I can't remember anyone cutting themselves!*

*My best friends were a brother and sister, Peter and Diana Field. Yes, there were boys in the kindergarten and the preparatory before the war. Another great friend was a girl called Anne Steele. We all spent many happy hours together.*

*When war came in 1939 Francis Holland was evacuated to Headington and was attached to Headington School. As my mother was a widow she decided to move to Headington so that I could remain at Francis Holland. I was 7 when we*

*moved. My form's classroom was not in Headington School, but in another building.*

*In case there was an air raid there was a shelter in the garden equipped with games and jigsaws. I think there was also chocolate, in case we were there a long time. We rather looked forward to having to go to the shelter, completely ignorant of the danger we could be in if there were a raid.*

*The only lesson I remember clearly was nature studies. We would be taken for walks by our teacher. I think her name was Miss Dingle, but my memory may be wrong about this. We would walk in meadows and I remember how she would teach us about petals, stamens, etc. I loved these lessons and they gave me a love of nature I have never lost.*

*I am not sure exactly when Francis Holland in Headington closed down, but in September 1940 when I was 8 my mother and I went to Melbourne, Australia to stay with my aunt, a sister of my late father. We sailed on the P & O liner, Strathnaver. In Melbourne I went to St Catherine's School, Toorak, where I was very happy. Indeed, I felt sad when my mother told me, after the war was over, that we would be returning to London. The ship we returned on was the Rangitiki. I remember sailing through the Suez Canal on 4th April 1946, which was my 14th birthday.*

*Francis Holland had reopened again and I became a pupil there once more during the summer term in 1946. Miss Joslin, who had been Headmistress before the move to Headington was once again Headmistress. The class I joined had pupils of my age and also a year younger, one of whom was Joan Collins. At the end of the term the older girls in the class, including me, joined a bigger class with new girls of my age. I loved this class and made many friends for life. One was Nellie Jellinek. Nellie, like me, had been a pupil at FHS before the war, although neither of us remembered the other.*

*I remained at FHS until the end of my first year in the 6th form, leaving at the end of the summer term in 1949. I had loved my time in the Upper 5th. There*

*were only 9 of us in the 6th form and this was another happy time for me. While in the 6th form we went to Stratford-on-Avon for a few days with Miss Joslin and Miss Brown. We went to the theatre twice, seeing 'Cymbeline' and 'Othello', went sightseeing and rowed on the river.*

*People used to say that school days are the happiest days of your life and my days at FHS were definitely among the happiest days of my life. FHS gave me a confidence which helped me get through some difficult periods in my life, and I shall always remember with great pleasure my time there.*

### Louise Coxall née Nichol 1949

*By now I have spent most of my life in Toronto, where I still work as an actress in TV and film.*

*I always look forward to reading the magazine and I'm sorry I won't be at the lunch.*





## 1950-1959

### Susan Levitt née Falk 1951

Joan Collins appeared for 4 nights to packed out audiences at the Leicester Square theatre in her biographical show entitled 'An evening with Joan Collins.' We went to see the show; she was in perfect form, with her distinctive voice and, as always, she looked immaculate. After the show she invited us for drinks with her charming and handsome husband Percy. Joan enjoyed reminiscing about her time at FHS.

### Sally Adams 1955

69, Onslow Gardens, Muswell Hill  
London N10 3JY

### Jeanette Cumine née Clark 1955

4 Agamemnon Road West Hampstead  
London NW6 1DY  
jeanette@michaelbrownassociates.com

*Happily ensconced in West Hampstead over the past 20 years. Mother of three, grandmother to six and – can't believe it – great grandmother to one (two in July 2013!!). Still working as a PA to an architect – and enjoying it. In other words – I'm still standing! Diane Andrée nee Miller has now joined my crazy household!*

### Jill (Veronica) Leuw née Barclay 1957

36 Sussex Square London W2 2SPJill.  
leuw@googlegmail.com

*Met up with classmate Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat when she was recently in London.*

### Elizabeth Cookson née Ritblat 1957

rjcookson@aol.com

*Retired. Formerly in arts and alumnae positions*

*Lots of Brits in Houston, mainly Scots because of the oil and gas industry. So far no-one from FHS.*

### Diana Carlton née Wilson 1959

Carlton.jim@bigpond.com

*Only 16 months after my last visit to England from Australia with my husband, Jim, I was lucky enough to be in London in June. When Janet (Henry) Politi heard that I was coming, she sprang into action inviting me to dinner at her apartment overlooking the Albert Hall. Also invited were Alison (Baxter) Brooke, Liz (Wheeler) Cownden, Joan (Behrman) Mushin, Roz (Machray) Wheeler, Ann (Wigg) Charlton, Rosemary (Wiggins) Mackey, Jane (Llewellyn) Parsons and Celia (Vaughn-Lee) Read and Janet's elder sister, Elizabeth (Henry) Balcon. Those that were able to come were Joan, Alison, Liz, Ann and Elizabeth. Rosemary and Irv were on a cruise celebrating Irv's 90th birthday. Jane and Celia were unable to come and, very sadly, Roz was struck down with a nasty bug at the last minute and wasn't well enough to come, but, like a true 'Polished Corner' sent along a variety of fantastic canapés. We had such fun. Janet is a superb hostess and the dinner which everyone (except me) had contributed to was simply delicious. We drank to absent friends.*

*I think it is quite remarkable that so many years after we left school there are ten of us who meet up whenever there is an opportunity. Rosemary,*

*Alison, Joan, Ann and Roz, together with their husbands, have visited me in Australia over the years and, of course, none of us will ever forget the memorable reunion that Rosemary and Irv organised for us to visit them in Vermont and New York in 2008.*

*All of us still hope that we will "find" others in our year. I had an amazing stroke of luck in May before I went to London. Jim and I had been travelling first to Morocco and then to Ireland. The main reason to go to Ireland was to try and find out more about the original James Carlton who emigrated to Australia in 1841. Irish friends of ours recommended that we stay at Hilton Park near Enniskillen where the Carltons had lived. A really wonderful place to stay; a magnificent house, built in 1734, with extensive grounds and beautiful gardens. Our hosts, Fred and Joanna Madden, were welcoming, friendly and excellent cooks. You can imagine my excitement when I learnt from Joanna that Fred's mother, Lucy, had gone to Francis Holland too. I couldn't wait to meet Lucy who, with her husband Johnny, live at Hilton Park. Lucy was very occupied looking after Fred and Joanna's two small boys so it was some time before we were able to meet up. When we did we were both excited to exchange news. Lucy and her two elder sisters, Patricia (now known as Prue) and Frances had all gone to FHS.*



*Standing left to right – Liz (Wheeler) Cownden and Ann (Wigg) Charlton. Sitting left to right – Joan (Behrman) Mushin, Janet (Henry) Politi, Diana (Wilson) Carlton and Alison (Baxter) Brooke*



## OLD GIRL NEWS *continued*

*Frances Skene!! Well, well, well. We have been looking for her for years! Frances lives in Italy and is known as Lady Wolverton. Lucy was also able to tell me that Caroline Shepley-Cuthbert's mother was still alive and had been a great friend of the late Mrs. Skene. So we are on track to find where Caroline lives! What a small world it is and an exciting one.*

*Lucy Madden was a delight and so interesting. I was sorry that we only had such a short time to exchange news. She has been in Ireland for over 40 years and has written many books – I can only tell you about one which we ordered on line when we got back to Australia, *The Potato Year – 365 ways of cooking potatoes* by Lucy Madden.*



*Diana (Wilson) Carlton & Lucy (Skene) Madden*

### **Jenny Jones née Manning 1959**

19, Latimer Close Pinner Middx HA5 3RB

*I have now been a tour guide for Kew Gardens for 10 years – having retired from Haberdashers' Aske School for Girls in 2002. My husband died in 2005. I have 6 grandchildren. If there are still other contemporaries around I would love to be put in touch.*

### **1960-1969**

#### **Ursula Lloyd née Mountrose 1961**

4 Wimpole House 29 Wimpole Street  
London W1G 8GP  
ursulalloyd@btinternet.com

*Still in full time private medical practice as a full time consultant obstetrician/ gynaecologist at the Portland Hospital. My elder daughter Wendy presented us with identical twin grand daughters Naomi and Emily in Feb 2012. She is a veterinary surgeon in Wales. My younger daughter Anne is following in my footsteps. She is a junior doctor doing her specialist training in London in obstetrics/gynaecology.*

#### **Tamandra Nichols 1961.**

3 Step Terrace, Winchester SO22 5BW.  
timandra.nichols@gmail.com.

#### **Emma Johnson-Gilbert 1965**

78 Rodenhurst Road, London SW4 8AR  
ejgathome@aol.com

*Still Head of English at arch-rival, Queen's College.*

#### **Sandra Heidenstam 1965**

23, Russell Road, Kensington W14 8HU

### **1970-1979**

#### **Alison Edelshain née Day 1972**

8 Tudor Close, Mill Hill, London NW7 2BG edelshains@aol.com

*It has been a busy year for me building up my new HR consultancy business. In addition, our son married in March of this year, which was a glorious occasion and has provided us with some wonderful memories. Partly in preparation for the wedding, I have been on a "get fit" programme, but my plans to run a half marathon were rudely interrupted by a bad fall and several broken bones in my left arm. So I am now confining my activities to the safer gym and attending training sessions for my recent appointment as a magistrate.*

*I am happy to report that 12 from the 1972 leavers met up together at a restaurant near Baker Street in February this year. We were especially delighted that Renée and Viola were able to come from the Netherlands and Germany respectively. The photo below was evidence of the good time had by all. I also had a separate lovely evening with Rekha Murjani (Assomul) and Koshu Chanrai.*



*Standing left to right: Alison Maitland, Alison (Day) Edelshain, Caroline Rolls and Matilda (Ellis) Cockbain. Seated left to right: Renée (van Wijnen) Jonkman, Andrea George, Catherine Hutchinson, Catharine (Arthur) Pitt, Viola (Jordan) Cescotti, Lucy Ivimy, Jane (Armstrong) Whitlock Blundell, Anna (Gilbertson) Hodgson.*



**Vivien Rose née Lind 1974**

14 Highgate West Hill  
London N6 6JR vrose@lptuk.net

*Our three children have all left home, are enjoying life and are all working (thank goodness!)*

*Our eldest, David, is getting married at the end of the year. I am still working with my husband, but in my spare time have taken up golf. I seem to have reached the next stage of my life!! However my school days at FHS still seem like yesterday and I would love to hear from anyone in my year.*

**Violanda (Mo) Percival née Goulandris 1976**

v.percival@pmb.oxon.org

*Working as an ISTDP therapist in private practice in Oxford.*



Rosalind Franklin and Aida Dabby (I think?) Can't remember the name of the girl in the middle.



Helen Georgopoulos and Michelle Cornell (Where is she? Would love to find her.)



Wet break-time. Me playing French elastic in the locker room.



Jane Cutner, Lesley Keane, Rebecca Harbord and Amanda Wilkinson

**Jane Rae née Boreham 1976**

4 Hobury Street London SW10 0JD  
Jane\_rae@icloud.com

**Emma Burns (née Clifford) 1976/7**

Emma.burns@sybiylcoleFax.com

**1980-1989****Harriet O'Dea née Hill 1982**

4 Hobbs Hill, Rothwell,  
Northamptonshire NN14 67G  
harrietodea@aol.com

*It was so good to see so many classmates (and teachers) at last year's reunion lunch. Everyone was instantly recognisable despite a 30 year passage of time!*

**Kitty Stirling 1984**

83 Leighton Gardens London  
NW10 3PY.  
Kitty@kittystirling.com

*I am still a full time artist. I had an exhibition at Cassian De Vere Cole Fine Art 50 Elgin Crescent, London W11 2JJ from 28th June – 12th July 2013. My website is Kitty Stirling.com. Contact me if interested in painting or old times.*

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## OLD GIRL NEWS *continued*

### Afarin Eghbal 1985

Afarin1e1@gmail.com

*Having originally graduated from Leeds University with Combined Honours History and Philosophy of Science with Psychology, and having completed a stint in stock market publishing, I decided I wanted to follow an alternative career path, one that would both nurture and allow an outlet for creative expression. I retrained, graduating with First Class Hons in BA Classic Design from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Whilst there, I experimented with film and animation, and fell in love with this medium as a means for 'telling stories'.*

*I further honed my skills on the Masters Course at the National Film and Television School. My 2011 graduation film "Abuelas" – an animated documentary exploring the plight of the Argentinians of May Square was screened at over 150 cinemas worldwide and won nearly 70 awards including a BAFTA nomination in 2012. I am currently working on making my first feature film; a live-action Psychological thriller set in London.*



### Sarah Lou Lewis née Stirling 1988

*I haven't been back to FHS for years. Unfortunately the annual Quondam lunch is always around my daughter's birthday which is 9th November, so she takes priority on that weekend. I don't think she'd be too thrilled if I suggested a trip to my old school as her birthday outing!*

### Uzma Sheikh née Peracha 1988

22 Elm Road, Didsbury, Manchester  
M20 6XD uzmi@lineone.net

## 1990-1999

### Christina Scott 1993

Government House Old TA The Valley  
Anguilla christinamescott@gmail.com

*I was appointed HM Governor to Anguilla, taking up post in July – only the second woman in British history to govern a UK Overseas Territory! If any polished corners are in the Caribbean, do come and visit.*

### Anna Manser née Berry 1995

annaLondonberry@gmail.com

### Imogen Vickers née Wood 1996

imogenvickers@gmail.com

*Currently teaching at Putney High School (Art and History of Art). This year also working as an examiner for A2 History of Art AQA exam. Have two children, girls aged 3 and 1 yr old. Try to keep my own art work going as well, [www.imogenvickers.com](http://www.imogenvickers.com)*



*Imogen with Agatha and Evelyn*



## 2000 onwards

### Laura Plumbly 2003

*Katie O'Connor was the bride to be (we left in 2003) and is now Mrs Katie Lake. From Francis Holland there was also myself (Laura Plumbly), Kate Harwood, Katie Lloyd and Laura Poliakoff.*

# NEWS



### Meera Rokad 2010

Congratulations to Meera, who left Francis Holland in 2010, to study Law (European Legal Studies) at Southampton University. She has been awarded the Harmsworth Major Scholarship by the Middle Temple, which will enable her to study the Bar Professional Training Course in October 2013, which is the first vocational stage for training as a barrister.



### Lauren Kay Lambert 2011

*I have just finished my second year at the University of Exeter, studying Politics and Sociology, and I'm thoroughly enjoying it!*



## OTHER NEWS

### Gwendolen Pattullo Head Girl 1917

Gwendolen Pattullo, born in 1900, attended Francis Holland and was Head Girl in 1917-1918. Her name is on the board outside the Hall.

Her grandson, Ronnie Carless, offered the school a bench, dedicated in her memory. He and other relatives of Gwen came to the school to inaugurate the bench and to talk to the current Sixth Formers about her life. Gwen lost her older brother Hugh in the First World War – he is buried at Poelcapelle cemetery, a few miles from Ypres. (FHS Students in the Upper Fourth visit the cemeteries around Ypres each year.) Gwen's sister Constance was also at FHS and was one of the first women to qualify as a doctor.

After leaving FHS, Gwen went to finishing school in Belgium for a year, and married Harry Carless of the India Police, with whom she moved to India and to whom she was happily married for 52 years. They had three children, one of whom, Hugh – named after his uncle, went on to become a successful diplomat and an explorer. Gwen returned to England during the Second World War and became a Justice of the Peace, which was an unusual position for a woman in those days. Her view of justice was firm but compassionate. When Harry returned to England, the couple lived in Sussex for the rest of their lives, providing support for their children and grandchildren.

Ronnie concluded his talk by saying that Gwen was a woman of character, integrity and dignity, with a sense of humour and that hers was a life well lived. Gwen died in 1989, in her 90th year.

### OBE for Belinda Stewart Cox

Director of the Elephant Conservation Network in Thailand, Belinda Stewart-Cox, was named on the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2012 and attended the ceremony at Buckingham Palace to receive her OBE. Belinda has spent over 25 years working for wildlife conservation in Thailand, most recently with the Elephant Conservation Network (ECN). She said "I'm thrilled that all those years of effort have been recognised in this way, but I'm also aware that I could not have achieved anything worthwhile without the kind and committed help of the many good people I have been, and still am, privileged to work with in Thailand."



### Gladys Perrint Palmer

Her book *Adam & Yves* (Firefall Media) was published on June 1st 2012. It is a tongue-in-cheek illustrated history of fashion. The text is chronological and hand-written combined with drawings that relate but are modern.



# NEWS



## DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2013

Roxaneh Afifi-Sabet  
 Florence Alexander  
 Yasmin Assan  
 Georgia Beeston  
 Yasmine Benazha  
 Anoushka Berberian  
 Olivia Boothman  
 Christina Bradley  
 Talia Brooks  
 Zoe Cannell  
 Clara Carbajo  
 Numaira Choudhary  
 Emma Dabbs  
 Marisa Goldstein  
 Alexandra Goodway  
 Stephanie Gunther  
 Helena Hensher  
 Sarah Hill  
 Caitlin Keegan  
 Natasha Kleeman  
 Rosie Lom  
 Olivia Morelli  
 Tace Morgan  
 Tara Oberoi  
 Mansi Patel  
 Cornelia Pianim  
 Roxanne Rokni  
 Miriam Sandler Chadwick  
 Meera Santiapillai  
 Zoe Silkstone  
 Aanya Singh  
 Phillipa Taylor  
 Elizabeth Teplukhin  
 Cecile Tulkens  
 Claire Walters  
 Grace Whitehead  
 Alexandra Wilson

Neuroscience, King's College, London  
 French and History, Birmingham  
 Natural Sciences, Bath  
 History of Art with Italian, Edinburgh  
 Law with French, Southampton  
 Art Foundation, Central Saint Martins  
 Gap Year  
 Gap Year  
 Chemical Engineering, Surrey  
 Classics, Balliol College, Oxford  
 History of Art, Glasgow  
 Law, Southampton  
 Neuroscience, King's College, London  
 Business, Oxford Brookes  
 Philosophy, Essex  
 Law, Durham  
 International Management and German, Bath  
 History of Art, Nottingham  
 French and Italian, Bristol  
 English, Edinburgh  
 Art Foundation, Kingston  
 English and History, Edinburgh  
 Mechanical Engineering, Newcastle  
 Architecture, Cornell University, USA  
 Dentistry, Bristol  
 Gap Year  
 Gap Year  
 Art and Design, Leeds  
 English, Durham  
 English, Robinson College, Cambridge  
 Geography, University College, London  
 Chemistry with Industrial Experience, Bristol  
 Liberal Arts, NYU, USA  
 Art Foundation, Central Saint Martins, then History, Sussex  
 English and History, Sussex  
 History, Manchester  
 Psychology, Glasgow

Leavers 2013



# QUONDAM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2012

Becky Lumley writes about her trip



**St Amedeus secondary school for boys in Moshe Tanzania was started 5 years ago with the help of funding from FHS. In this short period of time it has become the highest ranking school in Tanzania. It didn't take me long to realise why this was. The year 7s worked harder than I did for my A levels.**

Every day the students woke at 5 am for mass and a quick breakfast of porridge. This was followed by an hour of manual labour. Some of the boys use this time to wash their clothes, while others had to sweep and mop the classrooms. Lessons started at 8 am. During my stay I was teaching all of year 7 Chemistry and Biology. The class sizes were exceptionally large and I would not have been able to teach 60 boys if they had not been as attentive and respectful as they were. The Tanzanian syllabus was incredibly demanding. Some of the topics I was teaching the 11 year olds I had only learned myself in the last two years of A level, so I was pretty thankful that I had turned down the offer of teaching Physics!

In my year 7 Biology class the boys had to have comprehensive knowledge of 40 diseases, and be able to write 2 page essays on each one. My older sister, in her 5th year of medical school, somewhat struggled with this task. In Chemistry I taught oxygen and hydrogen, this in fact took me the whole 6 weeks, due to the detail that they were expected to know... Unfortunately I didn't have Miss Hotchkiss' (FHS Chemistry teacher) phone number but luckily enlisted the help of the local Head of Science to ensure my knowledge was up to scratch. The benefit of teaching

Chemistry was that it enabled me to use their one science lab. However it lacked most of the equipment I needed for experiments, so I had to be somewhat inventive. FHS is currently funding the building of the new science block, massively enhancing their facilities and hopefully improving the opportunities available to the students in science.

I also taught English classes to all forms. I was able to do team teaching with their current English teacher and also hold my own extra classes. When I organised a voluntary English class at 5pm on a Friday...I had expected 3 very keen people based on what my personal likelihood of attending extra English class on a Friday afternoon would have been. Therefore I was pretty surprised to walk into a class of 169 11 year olds who all stayed for the next 2 hours.

5 days a week I held English remedial classes for 15 students in year 7 who really struggled with English. Most of these boys had come from Swahili primary schools where they had learnt no English. At St Amedeus everything is taught in English so understandably they were failing most of their classes and little was being done about it. Over the course of my stay they worked incredibly hard and showed much improvement not only during my lessons but also in other subjects.

One of the highlights of my stay at the school was teaching sport 5 days a week to the students. They approached my lessons with relentless enthusiasm and mastered Tag Rugby, a fast moving and tactical game with ease. Most the boys played with bare feet as they had no trainers, just one of the things that we take for granted. Every Saturday

after a morning of lessons the boys had clubs. I chose to supervise dance. What I quickly became aware of was the fact that the boys were all much better dancers than myself. Even though they worked hard to help me, my skills showed little improvement over my stay. I also taught a music class to the students on Wednesday evenings, which was immensely enjoyable. This was one of the hardest parts of my week as it was the only time I taught all 400 students at once. However they were as ever respectful and many of the students had fantastic voices and even the few that didn't were always enthusiastic.

It is hard for me to explain the impact my stay in Tanzania has had on me, it was quite simply life changing. Teaching, although challenging at times, was the most enjoyable and rewarding experience. I am so grateful for the teachers and students at the school who welcomed me in to their community and Quondam for the funding that made my trip possible. The students taught me as much as I taught them....they wanted me to pass on the message Asante Sana ...which means quite simply: THANKYOU.



# OBITUARIES



## Susan Hicklin nee Barton Cox (1916 to 2013)

"Susie" A "Wacky Aunt"

Anthea Grainger wrote about her and Eleanor Schacke Anderson's aunt

She was my mother's older sister. Both attended Francis Holland between 1925 and 1936. She was Head Girl. She went on to read French at Somerville College, Oxford where she met her first husband Woodrow Wyatt. They edited four volumes of short stories together. Then, separated by the war and flouting convention, she left him and married Reg Hicklin with whom she worked at the Board of Trade, and to whom she remained devoted till his death in 1991.

They had four children. Reg was a keen amateur potter and Susie went to classes at the Central School of Art. They installed a kiln in their garden in Weybridge, which blew up one day injuring Reg quite badly. She contracted Polio which she largely ignored. She wrote numerous articles as a free lance journalist, was a JP at Chertsey from the age of 31, and later chair of the Matrimonial Court. She and Reg helped found the local Weybridge Family Planning Association. They translated *La Vie Sexuelle* from the French. Susie was Activities secretary of the local Branch of the Labour Party. She was an active member of the Spastics Society (Scope), a charity close to her heart as one of her children had cerebral palsy.

They moved to Southwold to retire. Gun Hill, a large house overlooking the sea, was renovated and redecorated for the most part by Reg and Susie personally. It became a base for family and extended family to have



wonderful holidays. For those who needed a refuge there were the converted outhouses. The Save the Children Fund received around £25 000 in donations from rent over a period of twenty five years. You played by her rules, took in and fed her overflow of guests, and accepted inspections at 8.am from a swimming suited landlady.

She gave me lessons in pronunciation for my French A level from the top of a ladder while painting a ceiling, lent us Mary McCarthy's "The Group," and refused to take it back till we had read it, which I duly did on top of a number 88 bus, and missed my stop. To the end she challenged one's comfortable attitudes, and found common ground with all except the socially blinkered.

And she found time for her old school. Susie was a Governor of Francis Holland School Trust for many years, and wrote "Polished Corners" for the school's centenary in 1978. It was not just the history of the school, but a portrait of women's education during the century. It was typical of her that she looked at the wider picture. She

did things her way.

My sister will remember her for her last remark to her, at the end of a short visit when no one was sure whether Susie was awake, and following the conversation, "When I want people's views I will ask for them". She had a humanitarian spirit that was unique, and was indomitable to the end.

**Miss V Brown** English mistress in the 1940s and 1950s has died. She was remembered as being very popular, and uniquely able to keep order – without trying. Many old girls remember her teaching with affection.

## Dr. Rosemary Lindan (née Jackson)

1404 Dorsh Road South Euclid, OH 44121 USA Passed away 9 January 2013.



# OLD GIRLS' NETBALL GAME RETURNS ON THE BACK OF LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS

**- 9 November 2013 before the Annual Quondam lunch -**

Last November saw the first ever Old Girls' netball game in Regent's Park, to tie in with the annual Old Girls' Reunion & Lunch. Due to popular demand, and in some cases competitive spirit, it is game on again this year, set for the morning of 9 November 2013, before the Annual Quondam lunch.

Last year's netball game was received with great enthusiasm, perhaps not surprisingly knowing the FHS spirit, with an impressive turnout of 20 girls spanning a wide range of years. It was a wonderful throwback to the past as we marched over to the netball courts, Felicity Forde at the helm, complete with ice pack, first aid kit and of course oranges for half time! After a lot of chatter and a substantial dose of excitement, it was gloves off, and fair to say that some of us had clearly not lost our competitive spirit after all these years!

Watched and cheered on by some of the players' children and other halves, and enthusiastic faces from the past who had turned out to watch - perhaps the sole reminder that indeed some time had elapsed since our last netball game - we attacked the game with the same effervescence as we had during our school years, albeit with a noticeably sketchier recollection of the rules, and varying degrees of fitness, but embraced with such spirit, heart and humour, in true FHS style.

The teams battled it out against each other, culminating in Mrs Forde presenting us with FHS medals which we wore throughout the lunch with pride! Later, still buzzing from it all as I reflected upon the day, I felt a warmth inside - whether from nostalgia, or the rekindling of that warmth I had felt at FHS over those seven character-forming years, I don't know, but I remembered again how fortunate, and how proud, I was to have been an FHS girl, and to still call myself one, and how delighted I was that that special spirit still prevailed.

So here we go again... knowing that some amongst last year's players will be looking to de-throne the winners, in the battle for the coveted Old Girls' gold medal...

**Manuela Robson**

## Old Girls' Netball Game

**Saturday 9 November 2013**

**PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS WANTED!**

We need 14 or more old girls willing to take part, and Mrs Forde is going to umpire for us again! We will leave the gates of FHS at 10.00 and walk over to the netball courts together, or you can meet us there, for a 10.20 start.

The game will last an hour so there will be time to change on your return to school or at the netball courts ready for drinks and lunch.

We need to gauge numbers so if you would like to play please contact Manuela Robson at [manuelaruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:manuelaruk@yahoo.co.uk) by 25 October 2013 with your year of leaving so that Mrs Forde can match us up for teams, and also to let us know if you will be meeting us at school or at the netball courts.

If you don't fancy playing, please do come and watch! You won't be disappointed!

