

Polished CORNERS

QUONDAM FRANCIS HOLLAND REGENT'S PARK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



2019 MAGAZINE

Dear Quondam Members,

Such is the peculiar nature of school years as opposed to calendar years that it is already the fifth academic year in which I have had the pleasure to serve as Headmaster at Francis Holland School. That means that the current Upper Fifth were only in the Thirds when I arrived here in January 2016. My goodness, how the time flies by!

This newsletter allows its readers to look back on the year just finished and on to school days, which in all cases are now in the past and in some cases now a very long way behind us. Let me hearten you by sharing a snippet from a card which I received at the end of the Summer Term. In the form of a handwritten note from the parents of a girl who had just completed her seven years with us, I was delighted to read the following lines:

"Our daughter chose FHS herself, over places and scholarships at other schools. We were delighted that she did and she and we have never regretted it. It is tremendous to see what accomplished and confident individuals FHS's winning combination of academic rigour, tolerance, kindness and imagination produce."

A personal highlight for me of the last twelve months was undoubtedly the service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in February 2019. I was delighted to see so very many Polished

Corners there alongside the parents and pupils. After the majesty and celebration at St Paul's, the serious business of marking the occasion of our 140th year was brought to a close and it became time to consider the present day and the future of the school.

This year, with my colleagues and with the girls, we have chosen four words, four values if you will, which we see as the lodestars by which we must set the course of the good ship Francis Holland. They are Knowledge, Compassion, Spirit and Perseverance. It is my determination that whatever good actions we take in the interest of the school, we should measure our success by how much closer we come towards reaching these stars and these four nouns are fast becoming part of the everyday vocabulary around the school. Indeed, the Deputy Headmistress has just introduced a new grey skirt which features four red buttons – one for each of the values of the school.

This year also, there has been considerable investment in the school site: a newly-refurbished science laboratory, a brand new drama studio in the basement of St Cyprian's, a new courtyard garden in front of the school and considerable investment in the library to create a multi-purpose space which is suitable for study and also for guest speakers, drinks receptions or

presentations. A newsletter such as this equally allows its readers to look towards the future. The plans for the current academic year are drawn together into the following themes:

- Inspiring pupils and staff
- Encouraging teamwork and leadership
- Valuing our environment
- Strengthening procedures

If you would like to hear more about these or about any other aspect of school life, please do come along to the annual Quondam Lunch on Saturday 9th November. I will also be able to tell you about the visit of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mulally DBE, who is coming to Francis Holland School in October.

Before I sign off this year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank your outgoing Chairman, Alison Edelshain, for her distinguished service to Quondam. Furthermore, I would like to welcome the new Chairman, Susanne Nedas. Both are women of great distinction who fully merit the epithet of "Polished Corners". The school is in good heart and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Fillingham
Headmaster

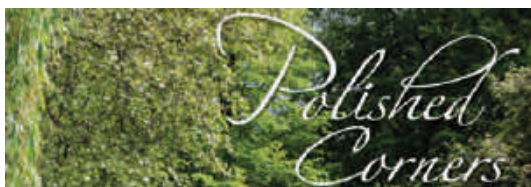


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HISTORY BOOK

First published in 2015, 'Polished Corners, A History' can be purchased at the special price of £20 by email at quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk



Q

Quondam\KWAHN-duhm; KWAHN-dam

adjective:

Having been formerly;
former; sometime

KEEP IN TOUCH TODAY!

There are three main ways to keep in touch with our alumni community:

QUONDAM ALUMNI NETWORK

The best way to keep in touch is to join the Alumni Network. Here you can update your contact details at any time. You can also connect with former classmates and staff, and see all the photos, videos and news stories we post about our wonderful alumni community!

Join here: <https://alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk>

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have a Facebook page dedicated to our alumni which you are all encouraged to 'Like'! We also have an alumni LinkedIn group too. Finally, follow the school on Instagram and Twitter @FHSRegentsPark



@Francis Holland Regent's
Park Quondam Alumni
Association



Francis Holland Regent's
Park Alumnae Association



@FHSRegentsPark



@FHSRegentsPark



EMAIL AND POST

You can always contact us directly by email:

quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk

or by writing to:

Alumni Relations Officer,
Francis Holland Regent's Park,
35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA

You can reach the Chair of Quondam,
Susanne Nedas, by email:

quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk

QUONDAM COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT/HEADMASTER: Charles Fillingham

CHAIRMAN: Susanne Nedas née Quastel (1971)

JOINT SECRETARY: Alison Edelshain née Day (1972)

JOINT SECRETARY: Vivien Rose née Lind (1974)

TREASURER: Benita Mathews née Thomas (1970)

ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER: Claire Brazer

Jeannine Addinall, Former Deputy Head (2011)

Isobel Apter (2011)

Jeanette Cumine née Clark (1954)

Nadia Demetriou Ladas (1988)

Nina Edelshain (2007)

Felicity Forde, Former Pastoral Deputy Head (2017)

Georgina Guy née Nedas (1995)

Maria Hadjipateras (1979)

Jennifer Purchase née Shier (1973)

Manuela Robson (1989)

Lucinda Sanford née Nedas (2000)

Julia Strauss (1987)

Alexandra Whyman (1998)

LETTER FROM THE QUONDAM CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Polished Corners,

In 1988, the late Gwyneth Young began her Chairman's letter: *"This is written in the aftermath of the General Election. Margaret Thatcher begins her third term as Prime Minister, and whatever one's individual political views may be, anyone concerned about the future of independent schooling must breathe a small sigh of relief!"* Here we are thirty-one years later, very much holding our breath again.

In my first letter to you as your Chairman I would like to pay tribute to Alison Edelshain (née Day) for the enormous amount of time and effort which she devoted both to Quondam and the school during her highly successful eleven year tenure. She served as a Governor during this period so the Trust also had the benefit of her exceptional expertise. She is an extremely hard act to follow: if I am able to achieve but a fraction of her success I shall be very gratified.

I joined Francis Holland School at the age of five in 1958 with Miss Eagles at the helm. A temporary Head, Miss Burke, was followed by the glorious and dynamic Mrs (later Baroness) Brigstocke. I left in 1971 but within a few years I was back regularly for the School Birthday. Our daughters, Georgina and Lucinda, were educated at Francis Holland so I was involved once again from 1987 to 1999, during which time I chaired the Parents' Association, under Mrs Parsonson and then Mrs Low. I was involved with fund-raising for the Swimming Pool Appeal and the Millennium Library Project. My association with FHS continued through the Quondam Committee, working with Mrs Durham and now Mr Fillingham as Headmaster. Under the leadership of all these multi-talented and hugely successful Heads, our school has gone from strength to strength whilst maintaining its warm, caring and friendly atmosphere that I hope you remember.

The saddest event for Quondam this year was the untimely death of Gwyneth Young. She was a truly Polished Corner who served her school both as a Governor and Chairman of Quondam for an inordinate amount of years. Benita Mathews, Jeannine Addinall and I went to her Memorial Service which was an uplifting service, befitting of such an accomplished and beloved lady.

It was such a pleasure to tell Ruby MacGregor that she had won the 2019 Travel Scholarship. She was thrilled and told me that she had been at Francis Holland on a full Bursary and how much she has appreciated her excellent education. It is the Committee's ambition to establish a Quondam Sixth Form Bursary so that we, Polished Corners from the past, can fund the two-year long Sixth Form education of a deserving pupil. We will get in touch as soon as we have something up and running. Any suggestions would be very much appreciated.

The title for the 2019 Quondam Writing Competition was 'Artificial Intelligence' and we had several interesting entries - both in verse and prose. The creative ways in which individual writers tackled this topical subject was a tribute to all of them. After careful considerations, we awarded the top prize in the Junior Category to Amaya Collier-Wright and that in the Senior Category to Jessica Flood. The winning entries are on the school's website. The theme of the 2020 competition will be 'Whatever Next' - particularly relevant as the 31st October 2019 approaches!

At our May meeting we discussed how Quondam could increase the scope and extent of its current activities so that it could strengthen its bonds with, and be of greater benefit to, our school. Your Committee would welcome your views on possible activities and events you would like to see included or ideas for the 2020 magazine - please do email me at quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk with suggestions. We are looking for some new members for the Committee, especially leavers from 2000 onwards and/or with particular expertise relevant to Quondam. We now have one committee meeting each term so that matters can be discussed and implemented more rapidly.

Alison and I attended the Annual Association of Representatives for Old Pupils Societies ('AROPS') Conference in Oxford. It was interesting to hear what other associations are doing, and how they are coping with current issues such as GDPR and keeping in touch.

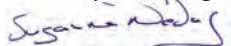
During the year the Careers Champions and Mentoring Programmes have continued to grow. A huge thank you to all the Polished Corners who gave up their time to give their support to each other and to current pupils. Please do volunteer if you can.

Your Committee and the school are trying hard to locate those for whom we have neither a postal nor an email address. Do please encourage your school friends to look at us on Facebook at Francis Holland Regent's Park Quondam Alumni Association and, most importantly of all, to register on the Quondam Network: <https://alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk>

After two years as the Alumni Relations Officer for both Francis Holland schools, Alistair Brown has moved to new pastures. We thank him for all he did for Quondam. His successor is Claire Brazer, whom we warmly welcome and applaud her successful immersion into all things. Three of our esteemed Committee Members have retired this year - Carol Michaelson (née Day), Sumita Honey (née Ghosh) and Diane Andree (née Miller). We thank them most sincerely for all they have done for Quondam and will miss their sage advice.

Please do try and come to the Quondam Lunch on 9th November - it would be so lovely to see you. It really is a case of the more the merrier.

With very warm regards,


Susanne Nedas (née Quastel)
quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk



Susanne Nedas



squashed in the organ gallery at the back of the church and having to sing either by candlelight or torchlight, which added to the magical effect of it all - I especially loved singing the harmonies of "Three kings from Persian lands afar". They were lovely productions and certainly enhanced our anticipation of Christmas.

Jane Rae (née Boreham) **1976**

The most magical thing about Christmas at Francis Holland, Clarence Gate was Miss Dickie's Nativity Play which in the 1970's took place in St Cyprian's on a stage erected in front of the beautiful rood screen. Miss Dickie's love of the Early Renaissance inspired the production, with each part of the story shown as a tableau.

These tableaux, the costumes and the wonderful gold wings of the angels resembled paintings by artists that Miss Dickie loved including Fra Angelico and Filippo Lippi. The school choir sang from the organ loft and there were always haunting solos. For me, it signalled the start of Christmas and conjures up very happy memories.

Holly Mumford (née Piercy) **2003**

Every Christmas at FHS we would sing Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'. About eight of the Chamber Choir would proceed into St Cyprian's Church with our candlelit procession of the Hodie. We'd have to start singing on the street outside the school – picking the note we wanted to start on whilst standing outside on the pavement – before filing in youngest first, eldest at the back, with our candles lit, hoping that they didn't drip too much. Everyone would be so still as we came in. It was very beautiful and was always such an honour to be one of the few asked to do it.

There was normally some kind of performance on the final day of term, such as a panto, often accompanied by the wearing of an outlandish Christmas jumper! Christmas was a particularly busy time of year for me as a member of the Chamber Choir: there were so many performances, including journeying up to St John's Wood to sing carols at an Old People's Home.

I can still recite every word of the songs we sang each year at the carol concerts. Benjamin Britten's Balulalow is a lullaby that I sing to my children to this day.

Robina Manger (née Fairburne) **1962**

In the Junior School I was playing the Angel Gabriel with my friend / best enemy and second Angel. We were sat on a step ladder with me at the top and her on a few steps below. At some point I was to open my arms out as wings and she, as a lesser Angel, was to cross her arms. When the moment came she stole my thunder and also opened her arms. I was so cross that I gave her several hefty kicks.



A festive Christmas lunch enjoyed by pupils in 2000

Benita Mathews (née Thomas) **1970**

My Christmas memories at FHS revolve around the Nativity Plays and Carol Services held at St Cyprian's Church in the mid to late 1960's. One year I was playing the part of Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother, wearing an incredibly unflattering costume in a rather drab brown, with a headdress similar to a nun's wimple, the overall effect of which was only to accentuate my plumpness! All the costumes that year were in rather subdued colours, but they were very effective in highlighting Mary and the angels.

Many years later in an art gallery somewhere in Italy, I suddenly recognised the same tones and costumes in a Nativity scene, with a startlingly similar looking Mary to the Sixth Former who'd played the part, by some famous artist. I realised then how cleverly Miss Dickie (our Art teacher, who produced the Nativity plays in those days) had based our production on the painting. I also recall singing in the choir for numerous Carol Services and Nativity Plays - for the latter, we were all rather

Jeannine Addinall, Deputy Head 1983-2011

My memories of what were always magical Christmases in school go back to 1981 and forwards to 2012, so I cannot record them all, but here are a few recalled moments in time: earlier days include the eagerly anticipated Monday of the last week of term, when decorations could be put up in classrooms, and staff and pupils wove their way between low-hanging garlands of paper chains and glitter while cards piled up on desks; the school postbox, covered in festive red paper, having already been in operation for a couple of weeks.

One of the most creative decorations I ever saw in the school was in a room on the top floor with a trapdoor, from which an enterprising Sixth Form had suspended Santa's legs and boots plus his sack, just as though he was coming down the chimney at that moment! There was always Christmas lunch for the school, complete with crackers and seasonal music, and the two carol services, on an afternoon and evening in the last week of term, at St Cyprian's Church.

The evening service was always popular with alumni, and we began serving mulled wine and mince pies back in the Hall afterwards to allow them - and anyone else who wanted to come - to catch up in a convivial atmosphere. The final service of term at St Cyprian's was always for Advent, and therefore fairly staid, until we managed to persuade the church dignitaries that it was our last spiritual celebration as a community before Christmas. From then on we were able to sing carols and have a more musical and inclusive time in church on the last day.



In all my time at FHS the last day also featured the Staff Panto, an ill-kept 'secret' with one rehearsal after school in the Hall, policed against inquisitive pupils by teachers at the closed and black-papered doors who hurried them on their way home. Everyone knew perfectly well what was happening, but it was all part of the tradition. Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Babes in the Park, Wizard of Oz, Snow White - the list goes on. The shows reflected current trends, so Darth Vader and light sabres were seen on stage, Snow White [I think] crossing an imaginary Regent's Park and remarking, 'It's an awfully long way from Harvey Nick's', trod the boards, and Mrs R-J, her daughter Eli and Rod Morris, a music teacher, appeared in a mock up of an aeroplane advert as the plane and two air stewardesses. Other highlights include Mr Adrian Smith

appearing in his wife's wedding dress [possibly as a fairy godmother?] and, as the format allowed for departments to act in their own separate scenes, many motley dwarf/gnome crews consisting of mathematicians/ MFL teachers/ classicists and the like.

I will close with two musical memories of more recent years, both the brainchildren of Mrs RJ. One of the assemblies of early December was run by the Music Department and included the most beautiful instrumental and sung seasonal music, plus readings, performed by members of the school. The stage in the Hall was filled with poinsettias and Christmas greenery, and candles were lit. This was another magical, and deeply reflective, moment.

The assembly on the last day ended with a rousing rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' orchestrated by Mrs. RJ. Every section of the school had its own part to sing, and Five Gold RINGS, [BLING,BLING,BLING] complete with huge cut out paper rings, sung from one of the balconies, quite literally nearly brought the house down.

I haven't the space to write about the terrific Christmas Fair, which of course still continues!

Left, Form III, Christmas 1989



NEWS FROM POLISHED CORNERS

1960-1980

Cynthia Prince née Haslam 1967

c.pike252@btinternet.com

Just a short note. Having reached the grand old age of 70, I thought I'd update any friends who may read this. I am in regular contact with Vanessa Bourne née Taylor and Cordelia Lamont née Llewelyn. Had a lovely stay and catch up on memories with Vanessa in Wales last summer. We try (with others) to meet up annually. We'd love to find Susie Berg and Janet Bielenky but so far no luck. I'm still doing some teaching, known as the oldest ever in the school I work in. Perhaps FHS gave me staying power.

1981-1990

Nadia Demetriou Ladas 1988

nadia@vesselgallery.com

Surviving now having two teens in the house, and excited for a glorious summer rediscovering my Hellenic roots in the Peloponnese (via not quite as cultural Mykonos!), wouldn't it be amazing if we could have Miss Addinal as our guide? My son Nicolai has just finished Westminster Under School, and my daughter Anoushka is one year off leaving school for good. It seems history might repeat itself, we've been touring the University of Manchester and my old haunts!



Nadia with her daughter, Anoushka

Sarah-Lou Lewis née Sterling

1988 sarahlou@uk.com

My son started university last year and my daughter is starting this year. Both will be at Birmingham University which will make it handy for visiting them, but we'll be empty nesters!

My cake business is going very well. I recently made a cake for Sebastian Vettel, the Formula One Racing driver, which was quite exciting for me. It was a replica of his racing helmet.

If you need a cake, do look me up: Hugs & Kisses Celebration Cakes (xoxoxCakes) In the meantime, I'm still living in Thames Ditton, KT7, and would be delighted to hear from any FHS old girls.

1991-2000



Joanna Garzilli, pictured centre, on the Home & Family TV show

Joanna Garzilli (née Garvin) 1991

joanna@joannagarzilli.com

I was on Hallmark Channel's TV show 'Home & Family,' filming at Universal Studios Hollywood, talking about Finding Happiness in a Busy World with my book, "Big Miracles: The 11 Spiritual Rules for Ultimate Success." The book is Award-Winner in the Spirituality: Inspirational category of the 2019 International Book Awards!"

I didn't get an A in English at school because I didn't take my studies seriously. If I was speaking to teenage me all these years later I'd say: your school is a gift with many resources, don't take it for granted! Don't get distracted by dating and the London club scene! Thankfully, enough of the teachings stuck with me to have a passion for study and learning as I have matured.

Does anyone have any news of alumna Judy Knight, Class of 1956? A few of her classmates are trying to track her down! If so, please email alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Christina Scott 1993

christina.scott@fco.gov.uk

Christina Scott (1993) was appointed Deputy Ambassador to China in September 2017, and is keen to hear from any FHS alumni living or passing through Beijing. China proving quite a contrast after four years as a Governor in the Caribbean.

2001-2010



Helen Smee

Helen Smee 2007 (via Liz Rolfe Johnson)

Congratulations to Helen Smee, who will be joining the staff of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford this September. She will be taking up the position as Director of Frideswide Voices of Christ Church, the girls' choir that is to become a permanent part of the choral foundation of Christ Church. Stephen Grahl, Organist of Christ Church said, "Helen Smee is an accomplished conductor and educator, whose breadth of professional activity makes her ideally suited to being the next Director of Frideswide."

Throughout her years at Francis Holland School, she was an integral part of the Music Department, playing three instruments and taking part in the orchestra, wind bands and singing with the choir. She also accompanied the choirs on overseas tours to Venice, Boston and Krakow. She went on to study Music at Peterhouse College Cambridge, where she was the Organ Scholar, and as a post graduate she studied Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. A specialist in working with young singers, Helen is Musical Director of Highbury Youth Choir and an Assistant Conductor with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.



Grace studied Textile Design at RCA



Grace at her graduation ceremony this summer

Grace Dickerson 2014

grace.dickerson@network.rca.ac.uk

I was a student at Francis Holland Clarence Gate from 2007-2014. I have just received a Master in Arts from The Royal College of Art in Textile Design. Before this, I gained a BA (Hons) in Printed Textiles from The University of Creative Arts in Farnham.

At the moment, I am freelancing for some companies while looking for something more permanent. I have worked with Giles Miller and PriestmanGoode recently, as well as just having my final summer show at the Royal College of Art, as well as exhibitions at the NEC and Islington's Business Design Centre in the past.

I am a process-led designer who explores the combination of materials collectively. My work often investigates finding a cohesive union between often opposing surfaces, for the field of colour material finish in automotive, and space.

You can find me on Instagram @gracedickerson and my website is www.gracedickerson.com.

Liz Rolfe Johnson, Director of Music, 1980-2013

lizzie_rj@hotmail.com

The Old Girls' ensemble sang at Miss Sifleet's Memorial Service last November, including Kate Oakley (staff), Sophie Edwards (née Schneidemann), Claire Loewe, Liz Rolfe Johnson (staff), Jane Brand (née Epstein), Andree Cooke, Teresa Armstrong, Julia Strass, Jane Armstrong (née Whitlock Blundell) and Alexandra Loewe.

Some of the same girls can also be found in 1981's photograph, below, (my first year at FHS) as Mrs Noah's Gossips in Benjamin Britten's "Noyes Fludde". (Jane Brand (née Epstein), Claire Loewe and Andree Cooke.) 37 years ago!! They've hardly changed!



The Old Girls' ensemble sang at Miss Sifleet's Memorial Service last November



Jane Brand (née Epstein), Claire Loewe and Andree Cooke as 'Mrs Noah's Gossips'

Polished CORNERS



QUONDAM NEWS

If you would like to be included in the next edition, please send us your story!

CAREERS

Email alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk to express your interest and tell us more about your current employment.

Join one (or more!) career groups online:

alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/clubs

Complete an online career biography for our pupils to read:

alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/announcements

MEMORIES OF CLARE GARVIN, NÉE MACLEOD FOR HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

In December of last year Alumni Relations Officer Claire Brazer received a request from Mr Ivo Graham for memories of his grandmother, Clare Garvin, née MacLeod, who taught History at the school from 1954 to 1961. For Clare's 90th birthday, he had the idea of compiling memories from former pupils and members of staff who may remember her. It turns out that many of you do remember Clare, and with so many stories to hand, I thought it would be lovely to share them all with you here. I hope you enjoy reading them all as much as Mr Graham and Clare herself have.

Jill Stewart

Mrs Garvin was an excellent teacher and we all rapidly recognised this fact - so her classes were looked forward to and had good behaviour from the class! I remember History and English lessons in the 1950s - she brought the topics to life and generated lively discourse from us all. A lady to be remembered with much love and gratitude for all her labours.

Sue Eckersley, née Lloyd

Delighted to learn that Clare Garvin is coming up for another birthday. Many memories from school days then include Clare. From tasting my first avocado at dinner in her flat in Spanish Place to being given strict instructions as to how four school girls (Maggie Fraser, Susan Thomas, Judy Knight and I) could gain entry to Clare and Stephen's reception at the 'In and Out.' Even now the white china table lamp they, in their turn, gave to Roger and me when we married in 1966 is still going strong. Please give Clare my very best wishes.

Liz Camino, née Headley Blythe

'Never ever forget these dates,' said Miss MacLeod; 1832 (The Great Reform Act) and 1846 (Repeal of the Corn Laws) and I never have....and then she became Mrs Garvin when she married Elizabeth and Jessica's father... How one's perception of probably the most influential teacher of my school days changed! Not so much a tall imposing figure, more a 'human being'. Her effect on my thinking has persisted. How determined she was to make sure that we had, what must be the definitive model of note taking (with her beautiful handwriting; 'the Greek 'e' wow!!) My own students have benefitted over the years and, although she will have no memory of me, I'm sure she'd be glad to know I finally got some understanding of the Thirty Years War. A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Veronica Jill Leuw, née Barclay

I was in the Lower Vth when Miss Macleod (as she then was) blew into our lives as our new History teacher straight from Cheltenham. She was literally a breath of fresh air, a real contrast with the school mistresses of that era. Alive and elegant, she brought the subject to life and instilled in us a love of a subject that was

made up of the personalities and actions of people and not simply a list of dates.

Susan Mercer née Thomas

I was at FHS from the age of 4 until I left at 17, having taken History as one of my A levels in 1954. Miss MacLeod carried an air of cool confidence and treated you as an equal. She expected you to give your best and we tried to live up to that. I was always rather in awe of her. In the summer of 1954, we the VI form, challenged the staff to a tennis match. I enclose a photograph (right) with Clare in the centre. As I recall, they won!

Karen Oldmeadow

I may be too late but I'd just like to say how well I remember dear Miss MacLeod! I suppose she was the only teacher I had a crush on - as did a few others! She made our lessons such fun and interesting and was always around if you needed someone to talk to. I was a bit of a rebel and her classes were the only ones I never disrupted! My best friend, Susan MacDonald, and I were devastated when she got engaged to Jessica Garvin's father! When I was 14 I was very ill with pneumonia and I'm sure Miss MacLeod contributed to my recovery by coming to visit me at home! I wish her a very happy birthday and many more!

Corinne Youngs, née MacKenzie

I attended FHS from 1953 to 1962. In those days there was a junior department to the school and we joined the Senior School aged 11. In the last year of 'juniors', for some reason a member of staff from the Senior School came down to teach us history. This was Miss MacLeod. Young, tall, beautiful with the most wonderful smile and she could certainly engage us in her history lessons. We all were under her spell and I can never thank her enough for the love of history which she instilled in me, which I passed onto my children and I now have a grand-daughter reading history at Reading. She made it all come alive and she continued to do so until she retired from teaching to have her daughter Emma. Even though she was not there for our 'O' level year - yes I did pass history!

Margaret Moss, née Fraser

There were four of us in the A-level

history class in September 1954: Sue Eckersley (née Lloyd), Susan Mercer (née Thomas and known as Spooky), Judy Knight (with whom we have all sadly lost touch) and me, Margaret Moss (née Fraser and known as Maggie). Miss MacLeod was "different", closer to us in age than the other mistresses, being only about 9 or 10 years older than we were. She had some interesting mannerisms and turns of phrase. I remember Spooky beginning to take notes one day and Miss M saying: "Susan, do not blot the virgin page." She took the Sixth Form General Essay class, attended by Science and Arts pupils, and I remember her saying there were three ways of starting an essay. I can't remember the first two, but she then went on to say: "And you can try and shock and make your readers sit up with for example the following," whereupon she turned as if to a long mirror and said: " 'Not bad', said Tanya, as she surveyed her naked body." We were thunderstruck and didn't know where to look, whether to laugh or whether to be shocked. Innocent, teenage products of the 50s that we were.

We "did" the Renaissance and the Reformation. Miss MacLeod loved the Renaissance and became quite misty-eyed about it being like a door opening onto sunshine. She spoke of "classic beauty" and, as she did so, swept the palm of her hand down the bridge of her nose. One remembers these things 65 years later. She was always good value to talk to when she was on duty in the playground or to sit next to at lunch. She seemed genuinely interested in what we had to say and what we did out of school and we appreciated that. When I went back for the centenary birthday celebrations in the late 1970s, I remember being charmed that she called me "Maggie" rather than "Margaret" and that we were to call her "Clare". In other words Miss MacLeod (by then Mrs Garvin of course) acknowledged that we had grown up and that she viewed us as adults. So nice.

Elaine Corke, née Thomas

I think it was in the Lower Third when we were told that the history teacher was unable to attend, so a teacher normally of the very senior girls would come

instead. We were nervous. Maybe we had heard from older sisters that Mrs Garvin was strict or maybe it was just her brisk confidence around the school that pre-empted any thought of mucking about. (As if we would!) She swept in to the classroom and smilingly announced that she would not begin a course of history that she might not be scheduled to finish, so instead she would introduce us to Greek mythology. Then, for several lessons in succession she kept us utterly spellbound by her brilliant storytelling. In dramatic style, although never moving from her seat, she described Orpheus' tragic attempt to rescue Eurydice, of Melanion's cunning ploy to win the race and the hand of Atlanta, of Apollo, of

marks, so I'm delighted to find that she's Clare too. We would never have dreamt of asking, nor have given her a nickname behind her back. She was always Miss MacLeod. She had that rare quality as a teacher, natural authority, as well as being such a good communicator that she's left me, for one, with a lifelong love of history. She seemed so grown up, though as it turns out only fifteen years older than us, and so distinguished that we stood in slight awe of her and would never have played her up, but stood in dread of her disapproval. She had only to appear at the door when we were being too noisy and say quietly, "My people, I'm disappointed in you," for us to hang our heads and subside. I'll always remember

and it was a lovely occasion. I remember Miss Mcleod being an inspiring teacher, who absolutely loved her subject, and hardly ever looked at a book, and taught straight from her memory. She certainly inspired me, and lots of other girls too. It was a sad day when she left. In my humble opinion, Miss Mcleod was the best teacher I ever had at Francis Holland. I can't believe she is nearing 90, I still see her as she was when teaching at Francis Holland.

Rosemary Morton Jack

Many girls had a crush on Miss MacLeod, possibly because she treated her pupils as civilised beings rather than the silly school girls which most of us were. Also she was



Clare Garvin (centre), second from left, Miss Maureen Simmons, second from right Miss Mary Curtis. Staff Vs pupils tennis match, 1954

Zeus, of jealous Hera and bold Artemis, and she had me completely enthralled. What I didn't know then was that in later life, in a career that still continues freelance (editing history and archaeology books), my love of classical history and literature would stand me in such good stead.

What I did know was that Mrs Garvin was a terrific storyteller. Later, and for far too short a time, she became our regular history teacher and her ability to recharge the past with life and colour led me ultimately to two history degrees. It seems, when I dare to think about it, a long time ago, but is still so vivid a memory. Does my career go back to those Greek myths? Who knows, but for me, Mrs Garvin was a profoundly inspiring teacher. I have a lot to thank her for.

Clare Samson, née Horne

We never knew her Christian names, just 'V.C. MacLeod' beside her homework

how she used to come in, sit down, collect herself and say, "Bismarck!" and we were in for a fascinating, articulate half hour. Or "Culloden!" And she'd stride up and down between our desks, enthusing us. Finally, "If I meet you in the street in twenty years, I'll expect you to remember the date of the Repeal of the Corn Laws if nothing else." 1846, Miss MacLeod, after rather more than twenty years - and a very happy birthday with my most grateful wishes.

Prudence Atwell, née Day

I was one of the privileged few invited to Miss Mcleod's wedding. I remember telling her that I had come straight from Girl Guide camp, and that I had used the wedding invite to enable me to have a shower in the make shift Heath Robinson shower tents - it consisted of a rope to pull, to pour a bucket of water over your head before arriving. (I am not sure she was, or was not, impressed with this admission?) She was a beautiful bride,

tall, elegant and had a silky calm voice. She taught us about the Victorians and Sir Robert Peel, and warned the entire class that if she were ever to meet any of us by chance at the weekend somewhere in London she would expect the correct answer to "when was the repeal of the Corn Laws?"

To thirteen year olds this seemed thrilling, worrying and baffling, and in my case fortunately wasn't put to the test. She told many historical anecdotes, some of which I recycled as a teacher myself. One was Wellington's solution to the tiresome birds within the Crystal Palace: "Sparrow-hawks Ma'am". Another was how Empress Eugenie, in spite of her beauty, felt the need to check over her shoulder that a chair was in place before sitting down at the theatre whereas Queen Victoria sat down in the certain knowledge that there would be a seat. All good stuff, obviously well conveyed and memorable, in spite of my generally poor academic record at school.

QUONDAM LUNCH 2019

The annual Quondam Lunch this year takes place on Saturday 9th November in the School Hall. Reconnect with former friends, make new ones and chat with the Headmaster, Charles Fillingham. A short Quondam AGM will take place before lunch, which all Quondam members are encouraged to attend. The Lunch is free, with an optional £10.00 donation on the door, but please do RSVP by emailing quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk or via the event link on the alumni network at alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/events

You are invited to attend

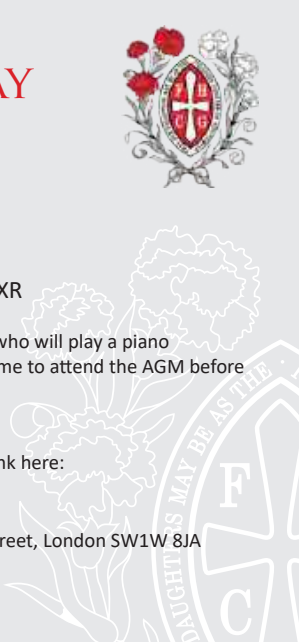
THE QUONDAM BIRTHDAY LUNCH & AGM

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019

12.00 noon AGM, 12.30 for 1.00pm Lunch
at Francis Holland School, Regent's Park, London NW1 6XR

This year we are delighted to welcome UV pupil Scarlett Brandman, who will play a piano accompaniment during the Lunch. All Quondam members are welcome to attend the AGM before the Lunch commences in the School Hall.

RSVP by Friday 25th October 2019 by email, below, or via the event link here:
alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/events
Email: quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk
Alumni Relations Officer, Francis Holland Regent's Park, 35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA
Optional donation £10.00 at door



QUONDAM LUNCH 2018

On Saturday 10th November, we hosted the annual Quondam Lunch for all Polished Corners, including former staff members and Ian Douglas, Miss Sifleet's nephew, his wife and friends. Polished Corners from across the years were in attendance and it was wonderful to see everyone come together and enjoy the drinks and lunch reception. Sixth Form pupils were also present, providing tours of the school for guests, many of whom have not returned to the school since leaving.

The AGM and Drinks Reception preceded the lunch, when Susanne Nedas was voted in as the new Chairman at the end of the AGM and congratulated and thanked Alison for all she had done for Quondam. At the lunch Susanne, on behalf of Quondam, presented Alison with a glass bowl engraved with the School Crest and a photobook with memories and tributes from the Committee. Deputy Head Amelia Slocombe presented Alison with flowers on behalf of the school. Alison's daughters Laura and Nina (pictured right) attended with her granddaughter. We look forward to seeing you again this November for the next Quondam Lunch.



SCHOOL BIRTHDAY TORCH CEREMONY REMEMBERED

Alumna and celebrated London artist Charlotte Halliday (Class of 1953) has written a fond recollection of her memories of the torch ceremony that made up the School Birthday celebrations. Her original letter, complete with illustration, can be seen on the right - it is transcribed below.

Is there still a School hymn? And is it sung on the School Birthday? It was part of the most important celebration of the whole year, and woe betide anyone who could not sing it by heart, because we sang it in the dark.

There would've been a Communion Service in the morning and then a netball match - Old Girls Vs Present Girls. The playground then being in the angle at the back of the school building. (I took part only for a few years after leaving but was already so unfit that I thought I was going to die on the pitch, and wondered if this would be A First.)

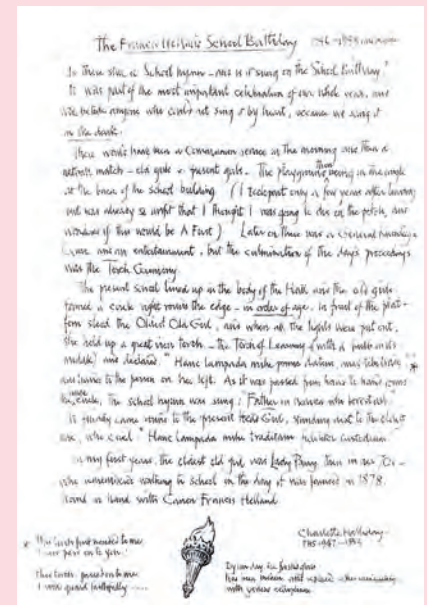
Later on there was a General Knowledge Quiz and entertainment, but the culmination of the day's proceedings

was the Torch Ceremony. The present school lined up in the body of the Hall and the Old Girls formed a circle right round the edge - in order of age.

In front of the platform stood the Oldest Old Girl, and when all the lights were put out, she held up a great iron torch - the Torch of Learning - (with a bulb in its middle) and declared "Hanc lampada mihi primo datem, nunc tibi trado" and turned to the person on her left. As it was passed from hand to hand round the huge circle, the school hymn was sung: "Father in Heaven who lovest all." It finally came round to the present Head Girl, standing next to the oldest one, who cried: "Hanc lampada mihi traditam fideliter custodiam."*

In my first years, the oldest old girl was Lady Parry, then in her 70s, who remembers walking to school on the day it was founded in 1878, hand-in-hand with Canon Francis Holland. By our day, the frosted glass had been broken, and replaced, rather inadequately, with yellow cellophane.

**This torch first handed to me, I now pass on to you! This torch, passed onto me, I will guard faithfully."*



NEW MUSICAL PIECE COMMISSIONED FOR SCHOOL'S 140TH BIRTHDAY

A specially commissioned piece of music to commemorate the School's 140th Birthday was sang at St Paul's Cathedral in February. Students, parents, alumni, staff, governors and friends of Francis Holland School came together for a special service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral.

The occasion brought to a close the year of celebrations for our 140th School Birthday.

Joint choirs of the two Francis Holland Schools, Regent's Park and Sloane Square, sang 'I will Sing a New Song', from Psalm 144, composed by Jonathan Willcocks and set around our shared motto. The choir were accompanied by our own Mr Patterson on the organ.

We're delighted to share this with you:

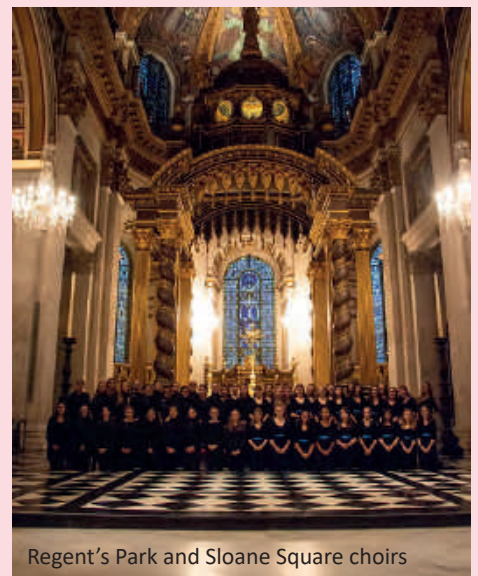
I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: and sing praises unto thee upon a ten-stringed lute.

That our sons may grow up as young plants: and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple.

Happy are the people that are in such a case: yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.

Amen.



Regent's Park and Sloane Square choirs

The reception at Stationers' Hall



Assistant Head Alex Francisco with Former Deputy Head Jeannine Addinall

THE COURTYARD GARDEN

For years, the front entrance of the school has been flanked by parked cars. With the help of generous parents at a recent wine-tasting event and alumni via our Leaver’s Initiative, we are thrilled to be able to unveil a brand new courtyard garden. Designed by three current parents, this has transformed the entrance to the school, filling it with colour and tranquility.

Mr Fillingham was delighted when a neighbour from across the street came over to comment on how the new space had changed the feel of the whole neighbourhood.

Thank you to those of you who so kindly donated. And thank you to Quondam who also generously supported this initiative, taking the overall total raised to £10,000. We hope you will be able to see this garden and the difference it has made at the upcoming Quondam Lunch.



140TH ANNIVERSARY HERONS’ FINAL DESTINATIONS

Last year, to commemorate the school’s 140th anniversary, alumni from across the globe took part in our project to send and receive five toy herons to as many fellow alumni as possible. Many thanks to all our enthusiastic Polished Corners who gratefully received the herons, photographing them in their country of residence, before sending them onto their next destination. The globe-trotting herons’ final destinations include London, Hong Kong, Italy and the U.S.



The herons were certainly well-travelled!



Majda Migliorini (above left) in Italy; Rachael Guan in Hong Kong (below). Left, Claudia Philips in Bangalore.

2019 LEAVERS' PROM



The Class of 2019 celebrated the end of their A levels and final school days at the Leavers' Prom, held this year on June 28th at the historic Stationers' Hall, in the City of London.

In what transpired to be a beautifully warm and sunny evening, the girls (many of whom attended with their parents) celebrated their successes with a glass of champagne in the courtyard, provided courtesy of Quondam, before moving inside to a short ceremony in the Stock Room.

After a welcome from the Head of Sixth Form, Mr Gridelli, Head Girl Mariam Mohammed (pictured right) delivered a confident and composed speech, giving thanks to both her fellow peers and teachers alike, before the Chairman of Quondam, Susanne Nedas, toasted

the girls' futures and stressed the importance and benefits of continuing to keep in touch with each other and the school. Senior Deputy Head Amelia Slocombe kindly stood in for Mr Fillingham, who was delayed on a train, with an excellent impromptu speech to the leavers', and presented the coveted FHS awards to the following deserving pupils:

Outstanding Contribution

Sylvia Empson

Parsonson Personal Progress Award

Lucie Rush

Polished Corner Cup

Olivia Muccio

After parents departed, the girls then quickly headed to the Livery Hall, where they danced away the rest of the evening.

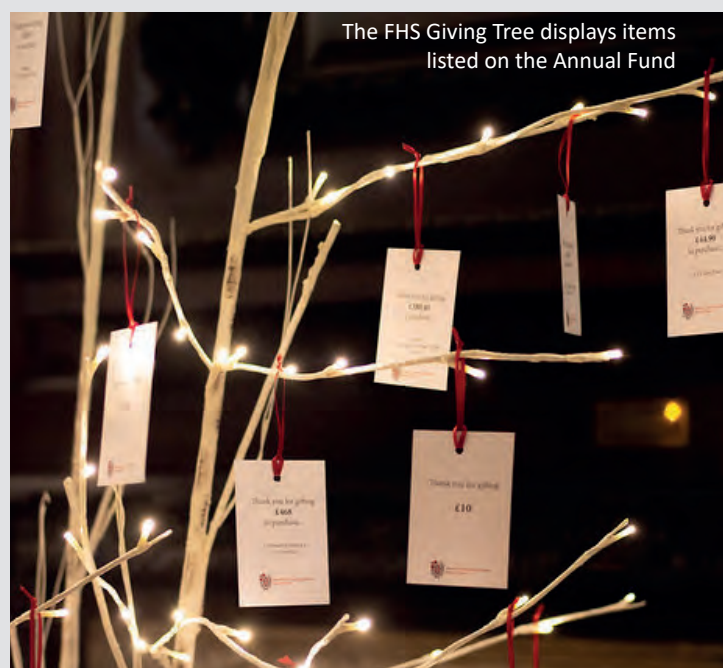


FHS GIVING

The Headmaster announced the school's new development programme, FHS Giving, following last February's Evensong at Stationers' Hall. Mr Fillingham said, "Francis Holland School has countless strengths, not least its dedicated staff, its impressive cohort of pupils, its committed parent body and its incredible alumni network. As the school seeks to move from strength to strength over the coming academic years, the FHS Giving programme offers us all an opportunity to build on our successes."

With our Bursary Fund, the Wider Development Fund and an Annual Fund, there are many ways to support the school. Your support will have a remarkable impact on the learning of current and future FHS pupils. No matter what the size of your donation, it will enable us to continue to build on our fine reputation for offering a well-rounded and high quality education.

Whether you wish to meet for a coffee or talk to us about any of the opportunities within FHS Giving, our Development Office would be happy to hear from you by email at development@fhst.org.uk



CAREER CHAMPIONS: HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

At Francis Holland, through a planned programme of Careers Education, Information and Guidance, the Careers Department aims to help every girl to develop the skills and abilities to realise her full potential and play an effective and rewarding role in wider society.

Alumni can support the school, current pupils and other alumni by becoming a Careers Champion. Champions provide a range of opportunities for pupils and fellow alumni, including mentoring, interview practice, work experience opportunities, lectures, network contacts and judging school competitions.

Our Champions cover a diverse range of industries and we are always looking for more! You can volunteer by emailing alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk or by visiting the careers page: alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/careers

Here are just some of the ways our alumni have been participating in school career events over the past year:

Industry panels

Careers-themed evenings hosted by a panel of alumni, parents or associates of the school for the benefit of Sixth-Form pupils and their parents.



Christabel Reed (2010) spoke at March's Business, Entrepreneurship & Management industry event



Tamsin Ogilvie (1988) spoke at the Cultural and Creative industries career event in May *****



In February Diana Goldin spoke at the Medicine, Research and Health career event



Joining Diana was alumna Sophia Anderton (2000) *****

Competition judging

Actor Rafaela Elliston (2012) returned to the school to judge the annual drama competition in February.



Sixth Form Lecture

Marie El-Khazen (2008) returned to the school in May to speak to Sixth Form pupils about communication styles and 'being your best self'.



LVI interview practice

Alumnae Tamsin Ogilvie and Zoe Silkstone (2013) gave interview practice scenarios to the LVI in June.



MENTORING

Over the summer we introduced a mentorship scheme whereby younger alumni can reach out for career advice and support from alumni who have volunteered to become mentors. To sign up to become a mentor or to receive mentorship please visit alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/careers. Here you will find the 'volunteer to be a mentor' and 'mentoring' panels - a great way of searching for alumni based on industry, education institution and employer.

MENTORING

A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK AND SUPPORT THE ALUMNI



MENTORING AT FHS

Our network of alumni share a similar background of excellence in their chosen industry. Many have volunteered to become mentors so that other FHS alumni can access and benefit from their strong careers advice.

ALUMNI MENTORS

Experienced alumni professionals or students who have agreed to share their skills, knowledge and experience with other FHS alumni. They act as a guide and support to their mentee in a series of informal one-to-one discussions. These discussions take place primarily on-line via email.

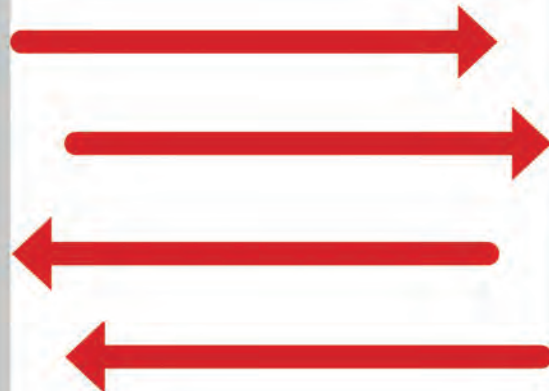
ALUMNI MENTEES

Alumni who benefit from the experience and guidance of a mentor who has knowledge of a particular industry, subject or university application process. Mentees are provided with the opportunity to take responsibility for managing their own career development.

GET INVOLVED!

You can search for mentors in the mentoring panel by job title, educational institution or industry and message them directly.

Alternatively, sign up to become a Featured Mentor via the 'volunteer to be a mentor' panel at the top of the Careers page on the alumni network.



QUONDAM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2018

Arisa Loomba, Class of 2016, travelled to Naples to volunteer with International Napoli Network

The day after exams finished, I travelled to Naples for three weeks of volunteering with an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) that supports refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with social inclusion, education, counselling and legal matters. International Napoli Network is an organisation that recruits volunteers and connects them with local charities to work on various projects including teaching English, after-school child care and NGO support.

After learning that refugee and migrant integration was the key focus of the NGO project, there was no doubt in my mind that this was the project for me. Upon arrival, I soon learned I would be volunteering with an NGO called LESS, who run numerous refugee camps throughout the city and help to house young migrants aged 18-24, support them with education and getting jobs and help to fully integrate them into society. In the run-up to World Refugee Day, there was a huge amount of organisation, publicity and sponsorship work to engage in.

By the second week, I was well into the swing of walking every morning through the Naples heat to LESS's Head Office. There we worked on preparations for the upcoming event, translated documents, worked on publicity and social media, and gaining more sponsorships. Alongside the event planning, I was also given the opportunity to work on social media and publicity for a refugee-run African and Middle Eastern restaurant in the city named Kikana.

Getting to experience the more relaxed Italian office life was so interesting,

and we had to adapt to a new way of working quickly. My boss there spoke hardly any English, and so all tasks were communicated through typing to one another on Google Translate! I learnt about the multitude of problems refugees of all nationalities face when they arrive in Europe and how NGOs like LESS house young people in 'camps' and help them to pursue education, seek employment and integrate into society.

On World Refugee Day we finally got to meet the refugees in three of the camps in the historic centre. I am a History student and a total cynic. But most of them sadly did not much like Italy or have plans to remain there for much longer. They had aspirations to end up in Germany, the UK, Canada or the US, where they hoped there might actually be jobs. They were wise and sharp-witted, discussing global issues and the virtues of travel in broken English and French. On the whole, Italy had not been kind to them and new threats are being presented by Deputy Prime Minister Salvini's frankly frightening policies towards migrants. I am not surprised then that they pounced on the chance to engage with Westerners that actually seemed interested in their stories. It was a chance to practice English, show pictures of their homes and families that would not be dismissed and just talk.

A group of school children attended the event at the last camp we visited, where the mayor held a creative workshop. The children were asked to draw pictures of a Naples that welcomes refugees with open arms. The images they drew left me speechless, one that sticks in my mind is a group that drew a pizza

representing the city of Naples with a slice missing. The missing slice was filled by a refugee boat sailing towards the centre. Following this, we had a performance by a band made up of migrants. The event was so hopeful, showing the wonderful work and community of migrants coming together, as well as the open mindedness and acceptance of the children we met. But two days later, whilst in the office, we learnt that the head chef at Kikana had been shot. Not fatally, but the attack was racially motivated. We, along with the LESS staff, the refugees living across the various camps, members of the public and even the children from the art event joined in a protest in the city centre. It was a privilege to attend such a wonderful and powerful demonstration.

Volunteering abroad is a fantastic way to push your boundaries and experience something new whilst still having support. The ability to spend time and engage with locals through volunteering is unique. Many formed truly special bonds with those they met on their placements and it brought a whole new dimension to travelling. In many senses I came away from my trip feeling that the work myself and fellow volunteers did had an incredibly humanising role. For me specifically, working with refugees in Europe, I felt it was part of our responsibility as Westerners to do anything we can to counter the terrible devaluation of refugee voices in Europe today. They are received here with a shocking blow to their expectations, and with refugees on our home soil I believe that we have a duty to do anything we can.



Arisa Loomba (centre) with fellow volunteers in Naples

more photos online: alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS' 2019

Abel, Lily
 Barlay, Hannah
 Bhatt, Gayatri
 Browning, Leora
 Chiriac, Ana-Maria
 Clarke, Lily
 Connolly, Emer
 Cottam, Cara
 Du Bois, Ellie
 Empson, Sylvia
 Flury-Miller, Florentia
 Franco, Emilia
 Gessous, Mina
 Gilbey, Kate
 Gnodde, Francesca
 Hayes, Isabella (Bridget)
 Jahangir, Eman
 Kaufman-Wolfe, Hannah
 Kenzie, Nula
 Khan, Sian
 Khwaja, Liya
 Lahyani, Ariella
 Lamont, Emily
 Macchi di Cellere, Olimpia
 Matanovic, Natasha
 Melwani, Shyna
 Modi, Riana
 Mohammed, Mariam
 Monnickendam, Emma
 Morrell, Yasmin
 Mukherjee, Katya
 Nardi, Allegra
 Nayak, Serena
 Pan, Wangshu (Annie)
 Pelster, Annabelle (Bella)
 Pelster, Genevieve (Evie)
 Petrushevski, Anna
 Phasouliotis, Laura
 Phillips, Jessica
 Rapp, Gabriella
 Rush, Lucie
 Salguero-Ramsohoye, Andrea
 Shah, Ameyaa
 Sodano, Constanza
 Sprosta, Ella
 Stewart-Harris, Laura
 Wang, Peisu
 Yau, Sophie

BATH
 SUSSEX
 EDINBURGH
 EDINBURGH
 WARWICK
 DURHAM
 EDINBURGH
 CITY & GUILDS
 LEEDS
 EXETER
 CAMDEN WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE
 DURHAM
 NEWCASTLE
 EDINBURGH
 EDINBURGH
 BRIGHTON
 BATH
 EDINBURGH
 ROYAL HOLLOWAY
 EAST ANGLIA
 DURHAM
 NOTTINGHAM
 LEICESTER
 ROYAL HOLLOWAY
 UNIVERSITY OF WEST OF ENGLAND
 READING
 OXFORD
 QUEEN MARY, LONDON
 BRISTOL
 MCGILL (CANADA)
 CITY & GUILDS
 REGENT'S BUSINESS SCHOOL
 BATH
 LSE
 KING'S
 OXFORD BROOKES
 MIDDLESEX
 UCL
 SUSSEX
 EDINBURGH
 NOTTINGHAM
 WESTMINSTER
 UCL
 EALING
 KENT
 MANCHESTER
 UCL
 CENTRAL ST MARTIN'S

Social Sciences
 Criminology
 Economics
 Geography
 Engineering
 Politics
 Politics
 Art Foundation
 Classic Civilisations
 Zoology
 Art Foundation
 Modern Languages & Cultures
 Physics
 Economic History
 Economics & Maths
 Sociology
 Accounting & Finance
 Medicine
 Physics
 Economics
 Law
 English
 Physics
 Drama with Film
 Biomedical Sciences
 Business Management with Spanish
 Classics
 Medicine
 Theatre & English
 Liberal Arts
 Art Foundation
 Global Management
 International development/ economics
 Law
 English with Film Studies
 Philosophy
 Biochemistry
 English
 Psychology with Foundation
 Philosophy & Politics
 Sociology
 Biochemistry
 Social Sciences
 Art Foundation
 Chemistry with Foundation
 Geography
 Maths
 Art Foundation

GAP YEAR STUDENTS TO START UNIVERSITY IN 2020

Bartholomew, Alice LEEDS
 Brown, Anna BIRMINGHAM
 Chitty, Sophia OXFORD BROOKES
 Dekonor, Iman SUSSEX

Emlyn-Jones, Alice BRISTOL
 Field-Green, Scarlett BRISTOL
 Hamilton, Zoe BRISTOL
 Muccio, Olivia DURHAM

Romano, Issy BRISTOL
 Symonds, Mel NEWCASTLE

CLASS OF 2018 UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

De Winter, Scarlett
 Gimpel-Oxinalde, Eva
 Johnson, Lael
 Kilgour, Minnie
 Leung, Naomi
 Louis, Yasmeen
 O'Donoghue, Kate

NOTTINGHAM
 DURHAM
 NOTTINGHAM
 WARWICK
 ROYAL HOLLOWAY
 EXETER
 SHEFFIELD

Psychology
 Natural Sciences
 American Studies & English
 History of Art
 Biochemistry
 History
 Geography

MISS SIFLEET'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Elizabeth Sifleet was held on Saturday 10th November. The service took place at nearby St Cyprian's Church. Miss Sifleet began her career at the school in 1956 as Teacher of Mathematics, before her promotion to Deputy Headmistress in 1966, spending a total of 27 dedicated years at FHS until her retirement in 1983.

Attending the service were members of her family, plus current and former pupils and staff. Directed by Liz Rolfe Johnson, former Head of Music and colleague of Miss Sifleet, the alumni choir sang 'Dirge for Fidele' by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Memories of Miss Sifleet were shared by Valerie St Johnston, former member of staff and colleague of Miss Sifleet and Alison Edelshain, former

Head Girl and pupil. The service was followed by the annual Quondam Lunch and AGM at the school.

Susanne Nedas, Quondam Chairman and former pupil of Miss Sifleet's said, "Miss Sifleet was one of my teachers who had the most influence on me during my twelve years at Francis Holland. Gifted with infinite patience, she managed to engage me and explain matters to me better than any others.

Classic and ageless, she was as neat as a pin and usually dressed in a tweed suit with a cream blouse, sometimes with a single strand of pearls. She was always good natured and calm; I can't think of any girl who disliked her.

Miss Sifleet simply was the epitome of Francis Holland School."



Miss Sifleet's nephew Ian Douglas with some memories of her time at FHS



Former Headmistress Miss Joslin bequeathed the above painting by the artist and alumna Charlotte Halliday to Miss Sifleet in her will. The painting was returned to the school by Miss Sifleet's family upon her passing, and displayed for all to see at the Service.



Miss Sifleet's Memorial Service at St Cyprian's Church

OBITUARIES

Siobhan Scrymgeour, née Llewellyn The Countess of Dundee

Known at FHS as Siobhan Llewellyn, whose sister Rebecca also attended the school, Siobhan became a designer and married Lord Dundee, residing at the family home of Birkhill, near Cupar in Scotland, which she renovated and restored to its former glory. Siobhan started at FHS aged 5 years old and was educated at the school until around 1969 before enrolling at the Inchbald School of Design in London. The Countess was a passionate supporter of the arts, most notably Dundee Contemporary Arts, and also hosted charity events at Birkhill. She

died in March of this year aged 69, and is survived by her husband and four children. To read more about Siobhan's life, please visit the link here: <https://www.heraldsotland.com/opinion/17549967.obituary-the-countess-of-dundee-designer-who-restored-birkhill-house-in-fife/>

Jennifer Purchase writes:

I certainly remember Siobhan Llewellyn, and was sad to hear of her death. Her parents and mine lived close to each other in Bayswater in the 1950's, and we used to play together in Kensington Gardens before both starting in the Kindergarten at FHS aged 5 in c.1960. Her sister Rebecca was a year younger and in the form below. They

also had a much younger sister, Sacha, but I think that she went to school elsewhere. Siobhan left FHS before O Levels, probably around 1969. I remember attending her wedding in around 1980, but we lost touch after that.



OBITUARIES (CONTINUED)

Gwyneth Young, née Walls

Anthony Young (husband of Gwyneth Young) writes:

Gwyneth was a pupil at FHS Regent's Park from 1956 to 1964 then later Chairman of Quondam from 1985 to 1994, and a Governor of the school from 1984 - 2010.

Gwyneth was the youngest of two children of Professor Eldred Walls and Dr Vivien Walls; they explained that Gwyneth was sent to FHS explicitly because they wanted the best and a school that would educate her broadly as well as fully. They knew exactly what was meant by "Polished Corners".

When it became time to choose a career, Gwyneth decided that, like her parents, she would train in medicine and went on to study at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School. At that time less than 10% of students were female, a stance justified by there not being sufficient female toilets in the building to allow more!

Whilst still a student Gwyneth married Tony Young, a fellow student. On qualification she trained as a paediatrician in hospitals in SE London, culminating in The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich. Of her three boys, one became a surgeon like his father. There are eight grandchildren.

Sadly in 2011 she began to develop the signs of dementia but still led a full life spending half of each year in her second home in France. By 2017 she had become totally dependant and was admitted to a care home just before Christmas 2018, a few months after celebrating her Golden Wedding Anniversary. She died peacefully on February 16th 2019 with her three sons at her bedside. She was just 73.

Alison Edelshain writes:

I recall Gwyneth in two contexts at the school. Firstly as a highly efficient and charming Chair of Quondam when I returned to the school for committee meetings or the annual Birthday lunch. And secondly (although only briefly as we did not overlap for long) as a member of the governing board for the two Francis Holland schools.

In both cases, my strongest memory is of someone who was quietly confident, very comfortable in her own skin and



Gwyneth Young 18th January 1946 - 16th February 2019

who was able to lead and guide others through gentle persuasion based on strong, irrefutable logic and facts. She was supremely graceful, with amazing posture and I will forever remember her wonderful shock of red hair which was always carelessly although neatly, pinned in an informal "updo".

Since I followed in her footsteps both as Quondam Chair and onto the FHS Council, she was a wonderful role model for me. I hugely admired how she managed to get across her arguments in a clear, non-combative manner and whose approach was so clearly based on the best interests of the girls. She really cared about others and this generosity of spirit seemed to underline all her decisions and actions.

Susanne Nedas writes:

I remember Gwyneth well and admired and liked her greatly. She was the epitome of a true Polished Corner. Gwyneth was our Chair of Quondam from 1985-1994. She was also a Governor of the Schools.

Benita Mathews writes:

My early memories of Gwyneth is of her in the Sixth-Form, as one of the nicer, friendlier school prefects. She wouldn't report you for running up the stairs two at a time, but be more likely to let you off! Gwyneth was appointed Chairman of Quondam in 1984, having been kept away from the school by the usual

busy round of pursuing her career as a Paediatrician: family life, travelling etc for some years. In her first Chairman's letter she expressed a sense of great privilege to take on the role and was delighted to find such a flourishing and creative school, which had grown and developed so much since she left. She clearly valued the special fellowship that FHS affords and was pleased to give back a little to the school in recognition of all the school gives us.

In fact, Gwyneth served as Chairman, most excellently and efficiently, through to 1993 and by virtue of that office, served also on the School Council, the Governing Body of the Francis Holland Schools Trust and for many more years, contributing wisdom and advice based on her professional experience in dealing with children's health issues.

During her term as Chairman she organised some lovely enamelled Quondam brooches for members to purchase. She also visited and was instrumental in having the grave of Canon Francis Holland, which is in the graveyard at the Church of St Laurence the Martyr in Godmersham, repaired and maintained. It was a great pleasure to serve with Gwyneth, who was such a beautiful, elegant and gentle woman and I shall always treasure her memory.

Both Quondam and the School Council were fortunate to have her among their membership and leaders. She was truly a very Polished Corner.



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL
REGENT'S PARK

CLASS OF 1979 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION DRINKS RECEPTION

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2019, 6.30PM
FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL
GLOUCESTER ROOM

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HOSTING A REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1979 AT FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL. GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A DRINKS RECEPTION, TOURS OF THE SCHOOL AND A CHANCE TO RECONNECT WITH FORMER CLASSMATES!



RSVP ONLINE

[HTTPS://ALUMNI.FHS-NW1.ORG.UK/EVENT/CLASS-OF-1979-REUNION](https://alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/event/class-of-1979-reunion)

MAJOR EXHIBITION CURATED BY ALUMNA EMMA MAWDSLEY

Class of 1988 alumna Emma Mawdsley (née Armstrong) currently works as Head of Collections Development and Review at Chelsea's National Army Museum, where she is curator of Abram Games' exhibition 'The Art of Persuasion'. Not only does the exhibition give a fascinating insight into Graphic Designer Games' work as 'official war poster artist' during WW2, but Emma herself is happy to speak with any FHS pupils or other alumni who are contemplating a museum or art gallery career. The exhibition runs until November 24th 2019. For more information, please visit the National Army Museum website at www.nam.ac.uk

QUONDAM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2020

The 2019 Travel Scholarship was awarded to Ruby MacGregor who will be travelling to Vietnam to work with children with special needs. We welcome applications for the 2020 Travel Scholarship: the competition is open to alumni aged 25 and below who wish to broaden their education and life experience by volunteering abroad. The scholarship aims to help those alumni who are currently in education or poorly paid employment. The closing date for applications is 20th March 2020. Email quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk to apply.

QUONDAM LUNCH 2019

Join us for the annual reunion lunch in the School Hall with Headmaster, Charles Fillingham and Chair of Quondam, Susanne Nedas. A short AGM will take place before lunch, which all members are welcome to attend. Tours of the school will be available. Please register your place at the Lunch by signing up to the event on the alumni network:

alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/events

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019

October

16 School Prize-Giving for former UVI at St Marylebone Church

17 Sponsored walk in aid of The Rainbow Centre, Sri Lanka, Regent's Park

17 Class of 1979 40th anniversary drinks reunion, see flyer (left).

November

9 Quondam Birthday Lunch and AGM

21 Autumn Concert in St Cyprian's Church

29 School play 'The Tempest'

December

7 Parents' Association Christmas Fair

12 Carol service at St Marylebone Church

2020

February

13 School Birthday Concert with parents, students, staff and alumni

March

18 Parents' Association Quiz

Please email alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you would like to attend any of the above events. Alternatively, you can view these events on the alumni website here: alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/events



2018 Travel Scholarship Winner
Arisa Loomba travelled to Italy