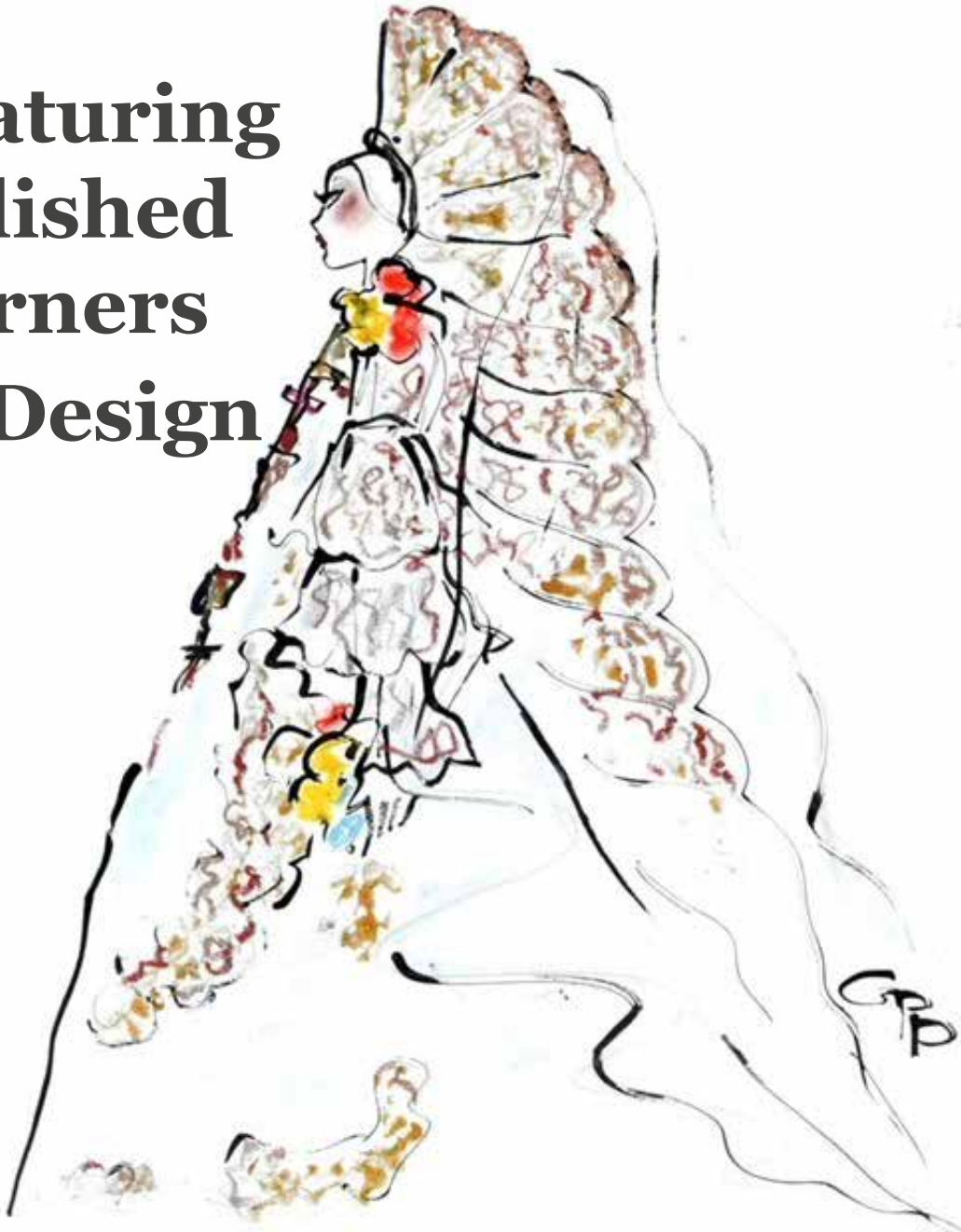


Polished **CORNERS** 2022

**Featuring
Polished
Corners
in Design**



**In Memory of Her
Late Most Gracious
Queen Elizabeth II
1926-2022**



God Save the King



The Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Francis Holland Schools have long held a special connection with the Royal Family, as our founder Canon Francis Holland was appointed Chaplain to Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's sense of service, duty and integrity is therefore embedded in the Schools' core values, and our entire FHS Community was deeply saddened to learn of her death.

Your Quondam Committee was about to start its Autumn Term meeting as the dreaded announcement flashed up. The Committee stood for a few minutes of silent prayer, some with tissues in hand, before unanimously agreeing that the meeting should continue. It is a meeting none of us will ever forget. After, at Felicity Forde's suggestion, a few of us went to Buckingham Palace just to 'be near'.

The next day Headmistress, Mrs Woodcock led a poignant assembly in which we observed a minute's silence, sang "I Vow to Thee My Country" and listened to the National Anthem. Pupils were reminded of Her Majesty's momentous 70-year reign, pledging herself to a life of service when aged just 21.

As a mark of respect for Her Majesty's passing, the Union Jack on the School's flagpole was lowered to half-mast upon the announcement, before being raised temporarily for the proclamation before returning to half-mast for the period



Francis Holland Mourns Her Late Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

of mourning. As both the School and Quondam community join together in mourning, our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this difficult time. May Her Majesty rest in peace.

Polished CORNERS 2022

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Front cover illustration for Christian Lacroix, 2009, by Polished Corner Gladys Perint Palmer

Letter from the Headmistress



Welcome to the 2022 edition of Polished Corners Magazine and I am honoured to be writing my first letter to you as President of Quondam.

I am writing this letter from my new office and I cannot tell you how excited and delighted I am to be here. I am very much looking forward to getting to know the whole school community over the coming days, weeks and months.

During the summer I enjoyed reading as much as I could about the school and its history, in particular Pamela Hartshorne's 'A History of Francis Holland School, Regent's Park'. There is so much that is special, precious and unique about this school and it is wonderful to know that the history of the school plays such a pivotal role today. I have also made the most of the building being quiet so that I can get to know my new second home as fully as possible before the new academic year begins.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled that Linhope House is now open and ready for generations of sixth formers to come. In last year's edition of Polished Corners Magazine, page 5 reported that the 'green light' had been given for converting Linhope into a school and here we are today with it ready to open its doors. I hope that you will be able to come and see it in due course and share in our delight at being able to have this incredible additional space at

the school. There has been extraordinary activity and hard work over the summer to ensure a prompt opening of Linhope House and this building is incredibly impressive and will provide an enviable base for A Level study.

I begin my time at Francis Holland knowing that I succeed a long line of impressive Heads, including of course the wonderful Mr Fillingham. He has been extraordinarily generous towards me, welcoming me with open arms since my appointment was announced, enabling a very smooth and productive handover. I thank him not only for this, but for all that he has done for the school during his tenure. I am honoured to be following in his footsteps, and in those of other great Headmistresses of Francis Holland School.

I very much hope that you will take the time to read the interview later in this magazine which I really enjoyed taking part in and which I hope gives you a little more information about me. In the meantime, I am looking forward to my first committee meeting on Thursday 8 September, and even more so to the School Birthday Lunch on Saturday 5 November. I look forward to meeting many of you then and getting to know the wonderful, polished corners of Francis Holland, Regent's Park.

Katharine Woodcock

Katharine Woodcock, Headmistress

Letter from the Former Headmaster

Dear Fellow Members of Quondam,

Thank you for your wonderful send-off from my presidential term of office which doubled up as my welcome amongst your ranks as a full member of the association. Long live Quondam!

It gives me great pleasure to write to you from the West Midlands where I am enjoying a sabbatical term in preparation for my new job as Executive Head at Solihull School beginning in January 2023. I spent nearly seven years at Francis Holland and this letter is to update you on some of the extraordinary successes and amazing goings-on during the last academic year.

The return to school in September 2021 really was our first post-covid experience. We were able to sing the school hymn together in assembly on the first day, we were all able to eat together in the Dining Room again and the girls were able to mix with other year groups again. This meant that the programme of clubs came roaring back and there were nearly 100 all-in-all. Did you know that the school has a Diversity Club these days? It also has a Mythical Monsters Club which offers extra classics for younger girls and a new Chess Club was launched part way through the year. Did you play chess when you were at FHS and did you love the Classics? Both are thriving now, as you would expect.

A real highlight of the year came in October



with the grand opening of the new drama studio by Hollywood actor, Damian Lewis. He came to open the facility which is named after his late wife – The Helen McCrory Studio Theatre. The room is where the lecture theatre used to be on the first floor. Perhaps you can picture the red benches and the raked floor? Both have come out and the room has become a black box which boasts lighting rigs, a modern sound system and mirrors all along the back wall which can be revealed or hidden with blackout curtains depending on the activity in the room.

The new studio theatre was paid for by donations from parents and friends of the school as part of the Acceleration Project. This initiative demonstrated the school's determination to emerge stronger from the coronavirus pandemic. Over that summer of 2021, with monies collected in from donations, the school was able to refurbish both music rooms, the main art room, the girls' toilets in the basement as well as the drama studio. Without the financial boost, the works would still have taken place, but spread out over four years – hence the name, Acceleration Project.

Elsewhere in the calendar of the year, it is certainly worth mentioning Sports Day which, this year just gone, took place at a proper athletics track in Finsbury Park. In fact, it was quite a year for sports and the girls notched up some significant wins in both netball and hockey against old rivals

such as Queen's College, South Hampstead and our very good friends at Sloane Square. On the other hand, there is one piece of sports news which may disappoint a number of readers: after a three-year hiatus the annual Sixth Form versus Staff netball match took place again and resulted in an absolute drubbing for the girls. More training required.

The return of the annual inter-house debating competition and the drama competition were also very welcome. At FHS, the House System is still relatively new and the academic year 2021/2022 saw it go from strength to strength. New elements were added and the most significant of these was the Inter-House Music Competition at the end of the Spring Term.

Each House offered four pieces: a classical, instrumental solo; a classical, instrumental ensemble; a choral performance with no fewer than four parts; and a song of their own choice performed by the entire House – a joyful and engaging noise. House spirit is thriving at FHS and a fourth House was chosen by the girls. It is Neptune and it joins Mars, Saturn and Jupiter to compete for the one-armed House Points Trophy this year.

Finally, I will mention that we received a visitation from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate in March 2022. We had a gruelling four-day inspection with a team of six inspectors which led to a judgement of "Excellent" in all categories. As Polished Corners, of course, you already knew that your school is excellent – it always has been.

The school was in good heart as I left it for the last time at the end of the Summer Term. I will follow the progress of FHS with its fabulous new Headmistress, Mrs Woodcock and I will always hold the school

very dearly in my thoughts.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fillingham'.

Charles Fillingham



Inter-House
Drama
Competition
Middle: Helen
McCrory Drama
Studio
Bottom: sports
day 2022



Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Polished Corners,

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Katharine Woodcock, as our new President and the seventeenth Head of Francis Holland, Regent's Park. Please turn to page 16 to read more about Mrs Woodcock. You will all have the opportunity to meet her at the Quondam AGM and Lunch on Saturday, 5th November.

At the end of the Summer Term we said farewell to our first male President, Mr Charles Fillingham. We owe him a huge vote of thanks for his unstinting support of, and belief in, Quondam over the last seven years.

Despite the storms of the last three years, Mr Fillingham has achieved so much for our School. Under his talented Leadership, our School has acquired a new Classics Centre, the Ivor Place Seminar Room and his grand finale, Linhope House, Francis Holland's new Sixth Form Centre.

Huge applause goes to Charles and his team, who have ensured that the renovations of Linhope House were completed in time for it to open to the incoming Sixth Formers of 2023. Anyone who has dealt with builders since Covid will know that achieving building deadlines falls just short of performing a miracle!

Last week I had a meeting in Linhope House As I walked from the meeting back to Baker Street Station passing an FHS office, the Classics Centre, and the Gloucester Arms,



now a long established part of our School, I realised what a lovely campus we now have! Even more reassuring was that I bumped into Mrs Woodcock and Mr Nicola Gridelli, Head of Sixth Form on the pavement which demonstrated how easily all parts of our School are linked.

I know you will all be proud to know that our School passed its recent ISI inspection with flying colours and was reported as "excellent" in pupils' academic and other achievements as well as in personal development. This is a huge accolade.

It was also selected as a finalist out of 700 applicants for the Independent Schools of the Year Careers Award.

Many congratulations to the pupils and their teachers who achieved outstanding results in their Extended Project Qualifications, A Level, and GCSE examinations this year. You will see the impressive University entries on page 80.

Quondam has its own exciting news! Our very first Quondam Sixth Form Scholar has begun this September term. I am sure you all join me in wishing her an exciting and

successful two years at Francis Holland. A huge thank you to all who supported this venture. The fund for our next Scholar in 2024 has already kicked off! Please do support us if you can. Please learn how the first Quondam Scholar is doing on the next pages.

Quondam has donated £1,000 to Linhope House and, together with the Parents' Association, has pledged to sponsor the purchase of a bench in Canterbury Cathedral in memory of our founder, Canon Francis Holland.

We are a very special Club, one of the oldest clubs for past pupils, with an exclusive membership comprising those who attended Francis Holland, Regent's Park and all our teachers who are Honorary Members. I have received several emails and letters this year from PC's who have kept bonds going for decades. It is never too late to reunite! Please do email Claire Brazer at quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk if there is anyone you would like to contact and she will do her best to put you in touch.

We send many congratulations to former Head, Mrs Vivienne Durham on her marriage this August to Mr Terence Chapman.

We send belated condolences to former Head, Pamela Parsonson, on the loss of her husband Stuart, aged 90, in October 2021, and to all our members who have been bereaved.

This year we have bid good-bye to several staff members. Heather Maund (Art Technician), Ainhua Diaz-Crespo Garay (Spanish Assistant) Angharad Jane Packer, (Psychology), Zoe Robson (PE), Diksha Bent (Drama) and Omar Bouguerra (German Assistant). Quondam welcomes them all as honorary members and thanks them on behalf of all pupils and wishes them well.

We welcome the Leavers of 2022, be they teachers or pupils, to Quondam and wish them all much happiness and success in their onward journeys. We do hope they will keep in touch via Polished Corners magazine and via Quondam events, as well as through the Alumni Network.

No letter would be complete without a huge vote of thanks to the Trust's Alumni Relations Officer, Miss Claire Brazer, who does so much for Quondam, and to Mrs Vanessa McKinley, Director of External Relations, who gives unstintingly of her time and keeps us on the straight and narrow.

This year's magazine has been produced by Claire in good time and almost single handedly. I wish you all a happy year ahead.

With very warm wishes,
Susanne Nedas (née Quastel)

Pupil 1958-1971
Parent 1988 - 2000

Please don't forget to let us know how you'd like to receive your magazine this year! Email Quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk or contact Claire Brazer, Alumni Relations Officer, by email at Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk or by post: Francis Holland School Regent's Park, 35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA



Great News! The **First** Quondam Sixth Form Scholar starts at Francis Holland School, Regent's Park



Huge thanks go to all those who have helped enrich someone's life by funding the first Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship. (At a recent committee meeting it was voted to change the name from Bursary to Scholarship). The Scholarship is awarded to an excellent student who would otherwise not be able to attend our School. It is very apt that our first Scholar has begun her FHS education in the brand new Sixth Form Centre, Linhope House.

Though our Scholar wishes to remain anonymous, Mrs Woodcock reports: "she is very much enjoying being in our new Sixth Form Centre. She is a wonderful addition to the year group and is making strong progress in all areas of her studies. My thanks once again to Quondam for providing this student with the opportunity of benefiting from an FHS education."

The gift of education is a priceless one and it is so special that, together, we Polished Corners have made this endowment. We raised half the funds and our Emeritus President, Mr Charles Fillingham, was so impressed that he arranged for the School to match our funds.

The Future
Let's do it again and let's try and have a

Quondam Sixth Form Scholar in every Sixth Form which means our next Scholar will start in 2024. Follow bursary winner, Frances Baawuah, who has pledged the price of one cappuccino a week! Pledge £10 a month for two years. Please do help in whatever way you can and complete the form overleaf or click on the QR code below, which will take you straight to the School website donor debit form.



If you wish to make a debit or credit card payment, please visit our Just Giving page by scanning the QR code below.



Dear Fellow Polished Corners,
As we call on our Polished Corners to contribute towards the Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship I want to tell my personal story to focus minds, and highlight how impactful our contributions, large or small, can be to the education and life of those who may have not had the opportunity otherwise.

I was awarded a bursary to attend FHS in 1991 and feel incredibly grateful for the significant impact this has had on me.
I loved and cherished every minute of life at FHS. I developed critical thinking skills and self confidence by teachers who believed in me and my potential. And perhaps most importantly I made the best of friends who, 30 years on, I now call sisters. I landed my first leadership position as Head Girl, and subsequently got the grades needed to go to Bristol Medical School.

As a first generation Brit from an immigrant, working class family living in East London in the 80s/90s, where the educational opportunities were few, I very much doubt I would be where I am today without the opportunity to attend FHS. I am so incredibly grateful to the support given to me by teachers such as Mrs Forde, Mrs Parsonson, Mrs Sutton Jones, Miss Gustave and Miss Williams. Thank you!!!
Now being at Governor at Francis Holland

Schools' Trust, things have come full circle, coming back to the wonderful community I cherished so much, and being in a position to give back positively to the very institution that had such a significant impact in my life.

I am pledging the cost of a cappuccino a week (£10 a month) for two years towards the Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship. If 200 people join me in doing this for two years, it will mean another bright deserving person can have the opportunity to get a Sixth Form education in a school that thrives on giving an amazing education, coupled with the best pastoral care.

I urge you to join me - do fill in the form overleaf or click on the QR codes on the left hand page. £10 a month to possibly change the trajectory of someone's life. GiftAid it and it increases by 25% with no extra charge to you!

Please join me! Just 200 of us can achieve this! Thank you!

Dr Frances Baawuah, Class of 1998

Below: Felicity Forde, Frances Baawuah and Poppy Sebastian Montefiore



Please make a gift to the Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship

Gift Form

Please complete the relevant sections and return the whole form to:

Seema Jagdev, Head of Development, Francis Holland School Regent's Park, Ivor Place, London NW1 6XR, or Google 'Just Giving Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship', or scan the QR code to the right.

Thank you for your support.



Personal Details

Name: (please include maiden name if applicable)

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

Gift Details

I would like to make a donation to the Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship of £10 £20 £30 £40 £50 £100 (Please circle one)

This will be a single donation/a weekly donation/a monthly donation/an annual donation (please circle one)

☐ I wish for my gift to be anonymous

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Francis Holland (C of E) Schools' Trust for £

☐ I enclose a charity voucher made payable to Francis Holland (C of E) Schools' Trust (charity number 312745) for £

☐ I would like to make a donation by credit/debit card:

Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Maestro the sum of £

Card Number:

Start date: / Expiry Date: /

CCV number (last 3 digits on reverse of card): Issue number:

Signed: Date DD/MM/YY

☐ I would like further information on leaving a legacy to Francis Holland Schools' Trust

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK tax payer Gift Aid allows Francis Holland Schools' Trust to reclaim the basic rate of tax paid on your gift, increasing its value by 25p per £1 at no cost to you. If you are a higher rate tax payer, you can claim the tax relief on your self-assessment tax return.

☐ I would like Francis Holland Schools' Trust to treat this donation, and all future donations I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid donations. *giftaid it*

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on my donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 given). I understand that I can cancel this declaration at any time by contacting Seema Jagdev, Head of Development on 07709 500358

Signed: Date: DD / MM / YY

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

To: The Manager Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank/building society account number

Service User Number: 277937



Reference

Instruction to your bank or building society: Please pay CTT Charity Payments Ltd Direct Debits, from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CTT Charity Payments Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date: DD / MM / YY

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

You are invited to attend

THE QUONDAM BIRTHDAY LUNCH & AGM

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022

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

All Quondam members are welcome to attend the AGM before the Lunch commences in the School Hall.

RSVP by Friday 28th October 2022 by email, via the event link below or QR code above
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's New President in Conversation with Quondam's Chairman

Meet Quondam's President, our School's new Headmistress, in this interview conducted by Chair of Quondam, Susanne Nedas

There is, for me, always some trepidation when I walk into the Head's office. I don't know why because I have had no bad experience within it as a pupil or as a parent or as a Polished Corner! Our new President, Headmistress Mrs Katharine Woodcock, greeted me with such warmth and charm that I immediately relaxed and fired my questions!

SN It is early days but, so far, what are your first impressions of Francis Holland?

KW It is the warmest, kindest and most charming school I have ever worked in. It is undoubtedly a school where academic rigour is a given, but it is a happy school

with an incredibly strong sense of community. I have been made to feel so welcome by everyone and whilst it is of course very early days, I really do feel very much at home here. It is a very special place and I am thrilled to be here.

SN How do you think Quondam can best help today's school and serve past and future generations of Polished Corners?

KW Quondam is a hugely important part of the FHS community and I am delighted that there are such strong links with former pupils and the School today. Current pupils benefit enormously from hearing from former pupils, be it about their experiences at school or university, or about their career paths. The Quondam Sixth Form Scholarship is also a wonderful way of reaching more girls, so that the invaluable and incredible opportunity of attending this school is in reach of more pupils. I am extremely grateful to Quondam for

establishing this scholarship and it is truly amazing that former pupils continue to give to the school in such a generous way.

SN What vision do you have for FHS?

KW I am honoured to have been appointed to this wonderful school and over the coming weeks and months I am keen to watch and observe and fully immerse myself in everything that is FHS. There is so much to be proud of and my hope is that we will continue to build on the many successes of the school so that we continue to be forward thinking, whilst also holding on to and preserving all that is special about this unique school. Francis Holland is steeped in history and tradition, but is also progressive and committed to ensuring that the girls are fully equipped and prepared for an ever-changing world.

The addition of Linhope House is very exciting and now provides our sixth formers with the most enviable and impressive of

facilities, and has also enabled exciting refurbishment and reconfiguration of space in Ivor Place.

SN Do you think being an Inner-City school has challenges?

KW Every school has its challenges, but the key is to not let them be a barrier but rather find ways of ensuring that you can compensate for them in other ways. Being in central London has so many advantages and I am so pleased that the school continues to make the most of the opportunities it has on its doorstep.

SN What led you to a teaching career?

KW When I was about 14 years old I had the opportunity to teach the piano to younger children and realised that teaching was something I enjoyed. (I do occasionally play the piano but sadly not well enough to play in public!) I then taught English at summer schools whilst at university, both



in the UK and overseas. After graduating, I spent a year teaching in Prague, and on the back of this I made the decision to train to become a teacher. I come from a long line of teachers in my family, dating as far back as my great grandparents and so I can say that teaching is very much in my blood.

SN In your letter in the magazine you describe Francis Holland as your second home. Will you share something of your first home with the Polished Corners?

KW I am married with two wonderful children. My daughter is at university whilst my son is in his final year of school. As a

family, we enjoy spending time in west Dorset, on the coast.

SN I am sure our readers will be as curious as I am to know more about the tortoises.

KW We have 10 tortoises, some of whom have been in my family for years. The oldest tortoise is called Blondie and is over 100 years old. The youngest tortoises are in their twenties and are named after my children. All the tortoises have names and have specific characteristics, as well as differences in appearance. Gertrude, for instance, has a resin patch on her shell, whilst Miss Bridport has a chipped shell.

In mid-October they will be wrapped up in newspaper and placed in crates in the garage where they will hibernate until about mid-March. We have no other pets.

SN This year's magazine features our members' memories of sport. What are your memories of sport in your schooldays?

KW In my youth I played a lot of table tennis and swam competitively. I also played tennis and loved to windsurf. Cricket was also big in my family and although I was not able to play this sport at school, I have many happy memories playing cricket with my father and brothers. Today, I enjoy paddleboarding (in the summer months only!) and enjoy running and long walks. I recognise the importance of sport and keeping active and I am looking forward to attending my first fixture at Francis Holland, and seeing first-hand all the incredible sporting opportunities on offer. I am excited about the growth of both football and cricket at the school, particularly on the back of the Lionesses success at the Euros this summer.

SN Do you have any hobbies?

KW I love to read, and run regularly. I enjoy going to the theatre or attending concerts when time allows, and of course spending time with my family. In the summer nothing beats a swim in the sea or time on my paddleboard.

SN You love to read, do you have a favourite author?

KW I don't have a favourite author but I am a huge fan of 'Just William' books. My all time favourite book is 'To Kill a Mockingbird', because it had such an huge impact on me as a young person.

SN What was your hardest challenge through Covid?

KW The hardest challenge when I was

leading my previous school, Sydenham High School GDST, through the pandemic, was keeping the school community connected and together, even though physically we were apart. We achieved this by being creative and adaptive, as well as innovative. I am full of admiration not only for my colleagues for all that they did during this extraordinary time in our lives, but also for school-aged children who showed incredible strength and resilience.

SN Do you think school-aged children will suffer from educational or emotional long-term effects as a result of Covid?

KW I do believe that we are still managing the effects of the pandemic on young people, in terms of their mental health. At Francis Holland the pastoral support is second to none and we will continue to support and help our pupils as they navigate the years ahead and we are acutely aware of the impact that Covid has had, and continues to have, on them. Educationally, it is wonderful that this is the first academic year we have faced, since the pandemic began, with no restrictions or guidelines to follow and we are absolutely making the most of this! I would also like to add that I remain so impressed by the strength and resilience that young people have shown over these unprecedented times and truly believe that they could well be the difference we need right now in the world.

SN It has been an absolute pleasure to have this conversation with you. The Polished Corners will be so grateful that you have allotted time to tell us about yourself during such a very busy time for you. Thank you.

KW I have enjoyed chatting with you and am very much looking forward to meeting as many Polished Corners as possible at the Quondam lunch on 5th November.



News

Former pupils and staff share their news with our community of Polished Corners



Margaret Moss (née Fraser) Class of 1956

I have kept up with Susan Mercer (née Thomas) and Susan Eckersley (née Lloyd). I had a phone call out of the blue earlier this year from Willow McDowell (née Batt), which was a delight. This was because of the photo I had sent in to the last Polished Corners magazine of our Lower Fifth form

with our form mistress, Miss Happs.

Some years ago Jennifer née Manning wrote to Polished Corners magazine with the sad news that her husband had died and that she would like to get in touch with anyone of her year. She gave an address which I failed to take down. I meant to write and never did. Does anyone have any details of her? I do not remember her married name. Please contact Claire Brazer at alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you can help me find her.

Wendy Max (née Segal) Class of 1956

I left FHS in 1956 after completing my O levels. I live and still work in London, I am still in touch with several friends including Jill (Veronica) Barclay and some of the 'Day' Girls. I still teach the cello to lots of children at my house. I retired in 2008 after 23 years at The Royal Academy of Music. My husband and I received a card from the Queen on our diamond wedding anniversary in July this year.

Elizabeth Cookson (née Ritblat) Class of 1957

My husband Alan died last year after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. We were married for 55 years. I continue to volunteer and play tennis and am learning Mahjong which is very popular here. The news from FHS sounds encouraging.

Rosemary Mackey (née Wiggins) Class of 1958

After I left school, I trained as a paediatric nurse at Great Ormond Street. In 1965, an interest in childhood leukemia provided an opportunity for me to work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. I have lived in the United States ever since. I ultimately got a BA in Economics and Business Administration at Fordham University in New York and an MBA from the University of Houston in Texas. Most of my career has been in the healthcare field, primarily in major Cancer Centers; however unexpected opportunities gave me the challenge of being the CEO of the British American Cowdray Hospital in Mexico City for two years and the Chief External Affairs Officer of the American Red Cross in New York. I retired in 2015 and now live on one of the barrier islands on the Georgia coast just south of Savannah. My husband, Irv Krakoff, is now 99 and in a memory care facility close to my home. We have five children between us, 11 grandchildren ranging in age from 16-35 and one great-grandchild. Life is good.

I am still in close contact with the Class of 1958: Joan (Behrman) Mushin, Diana (Wilson) Carlton, Alison (Baxter) Brooke, Ann (Wigg) Charlton, Elizabeth (Wheeler) Cownden, Rosamond (Machray) Wheeler, Janet (Henry) Politi & Celia (Vaughn-Lee) Read. Pre-Covid, we met as a group every other year but have now resorted to Zoom calls and have a WhatsApp link.

I had a significant birthday in February and my daughters came from Pennsylvania and California to give me a wonderful cocktail party at my home for 50 friends. It was a spectacular evening.

Priscilla Bernard (née Gray) Class of 1960

I live in West Hampstead, London. After taking slightly early retirement, I returned to professional acting and have been fortunate enough to work in the West End and in China. I have now given up live theatre work but continue to get the occasional job in film and TV – I had a tiny role in "EastEnders" a couple of years ago, much to my nephew's delight! Nothing spectacular has happened in the last few years. Like everyone, the lockdowns and Covid had their effects. We enjoy travelling and had a holiday in Canada this year, where we experienced the luxurious Rocky Mountaineer train journey through the Rockies. As my husband is a keen wine taster, we are spending a couple of weeks in Spain in September and exploring the Basque area there, before a wine trip. I am a member of the Hampstead U3A and do weekly play reading with them and enjoy various outings exploring areas of London, much of which is still unfamiliar to me, despite having lived there most of my life. There is still so much to explore and enjoy, if only my health and diminishing energy levels will allow! I am still in touch with Robina Manger (Fairburne), Jane Mathers, Clare Sampson (Horne) and, until her very sad death earlier this year, Cordelia McNeil (Collins). I would love to hear from other school friends, with whom I have lost touch. Please contact Claire Brazer at alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you'd like to get in touch with me.

Clare Samson (née Horne)
Class of 1960

I am retired and live in Sussex. I am in touch with Linda Hurst, Deborah Barff, Kathy Brooke-Williams and Cordelia McNeil until her recent death. Please contact Claire Brazer at alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk if you'd like to get in touch with me.

Linda S Graichen (née Hiller)
Class of 1962

Living in the UK in my original family home of 63 years, and retired last September 2021 after the Furlough scheme ended. Have come to some of the Class Reunions held at The Wallace Collection.

Kept up with the school mainly through Pauline Bravo (née Weber) when attending class reunions.

Am happy to have finally retired from my job of 36 years, and now be able to enjoy my leisure time walking my Hungarian Vizsla dog on Hampstead Heath daily and meeting like-minded dog walking friends there, as well as seeing other friends too.

My milestone to share this year is that I have just returned from a visit to Portugal where my younger son has lived for over five years, having finally been able to visit after three years (due to Covid restrictions), see his new home, and finally being able to see and hug my now eight year old granddaughter, along with seeing the newest member of the family for the first time, my four-month old grandson. It was a very special time.

I am, however, fortunate my older son still lives in London.

Kathleen Broome Williams
(née Broome) Class of 1962

I live in California, USA where I am retired.

I have three children, all of whom are in their fifties (which I think has to be some sort of milestone). I am still in touch with Frances Wishart George, Cordy Collins McNeil, Sara Meadows, Jane Mathers and Clare Samson.

Janice Stanford (née Bauer)
Class of 1966

I live in Dubbow, New South Wales, Australia, where I am now retired. Last year I was privileged to be named the 2022 Senior Volunteer of the year for the Orana



Region for Service to the Country Women's Association of NSW and the Orana region. Earlier this year I was presented with Life Member of the Country Women's Association (photographed left).

Cynthia Prince (née Haslam)
Class of 1967

I am retired, I live in Hertfordshire and have two grandsons.

Susanne Nedas (née Quastel)
Class of 1971

Jeffrey and I are both still working. Our greatest joy is our family. Every summer we hold Cousins' Chaos Club for our eight grandchildren. Above right is this year's team photo. There are two extra cousins who are not our grandchildren in the photo. The more the merrier.

Above right: Susanne Nedas with husband and grandchildren



Alison Edelshain (née Day)
Class of 1972

I am still juggling being a youth and adult criminal court magistrate with two non-executive charity directorships: as a school governor at Sarum Hall School and as Deputy Chair at West London Synagogue. More importantly I am a fairly hands-on grandma to five grandchildren with the newest just six months' old (Nina's gorgeous son, Rory). After over two years of just the odd staycation, we are tentatively starting to travel again with a noisy and busy visit with all the family to EuroDisney in May, a short visit to Israel in July and a cruise in August to the Norwegian fjords. My year are celebrating our 50 year anniversary of leaving the School this year. Anyone who would like to join the celebration, please contact Claire Brazer at Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Vivien Rose (née Lind)
Class of 1974

I live in Highgate, N6 and have kept in touch with Marion Harvey née Dreyfuss and Alexandra Wright, née Levitt. I am a proud mother of three fantastic children and even prouder grandmother to three (and hopefully more!) amazing grandchildren. I am still enjoying walking

the dog on Hampstead Heath, travelling and playing golf despite being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease early in 2020 at the start of the pandemic. So the slowness we all experienced during lockdown seems to be the new normal for me. Things could be a lot worse!

Lucinda Lubbock (née Simms)
Class of 1975

I work part-time in the photographic business and am also a Magistrate in adult and youth courts. I have four grown up children - no grandchildren yet! Ex-pupils I have kept up with are Francesca Morgan (née Pollock) and Persephone Brigstocke.

Mo Percival (née Goulandris)
Class of 1976

I am currently living in Oxfordshire, where I am currently hosting a lovely Ukrainian family of two adults, a child and two dogs! I have three adult children. I am still in touch with former pupils Michelle Cornell, Rosalind Franklin, Catherine Skinner, Maria Xilas, Katingo Hadjipateras, Lesley Keane, Zara Rankin and several others.

Sarah Eaton (née Purkis)
Class of 1982

I am living in Oxfordshire, busy looking after our garden! Both my sons (26 and 23) have now left home and live in London. My mother still lives in Marylebone so I am a regular visitor to Regent's Park. I luckily keep up with many 'old girls.'

Sara Knight (née Rudnay)
Class of 1988

I live just outside London in rural Bucks. I have my own business as a headhunter which has been going strong for the last eight years. I am married with a 13 year old

son and three step children. I can't believe I am 52! Being happy and healthy especially post-Covid is a big milestone!

Katie Fiszman Class of 1996

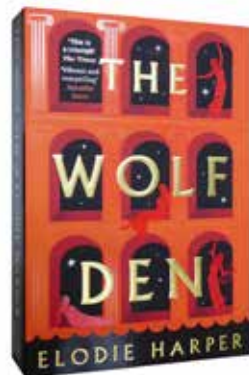
I now live in mid-Wales in a village called Llanafan Fawr which is close to Builth Wells, with my husband and children.

I'm still in contact with a few Polished Corners through Instagram - and with actual meet-ups over the last few years with Lucy Baron, Nasheed Faruqi, Mariam Faruqi, Lucy Joyce and Laura Gibson. About six years ago I was travelling to Germany with my family and by chance bumped into Julia Kelly with her family who were also waiting to check-in at the airport. I felt honoured to have had the opportunity to see Elaine Kelly after so many years and to experience one last time her smile that I remember so fondly from my days at FHS.

I'm mother to three boys who are aged thirteen, eight and six. Now that they're all in full-time education I've been able to go back to university and undertake the Fine Art degree that I left in the wings many years ago. It's certainly challenging trying to balance motherhood with my own passions but it often feels, despite the occasional high-stress moments, that these two parts of my life very much belong together. Through motherhood I've gained the confidence and grounding I needed to go back to my artistic process.

Although I haven't yet graduated, I've had a few opportunities already to show my work including with the National Eisteddfod in Wales during lockdown, and at a few different galleries across the UK. Recently I was long-listed for the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize and even though I didn't make it through to the final round, it was a milestone for me to be recognised as a potential contender and it gives me the

impetus to carry on and try to get myself out there!



Elodie Harper Class of 1998

Quondam sends belated congratulations to Elodie Harper on the publication of *The Wolf Den* last year (pictured above). It won Waterstones Fiction Book of the Month in September 2021 and was shortlisted for The British Book Awards 2022 pageturner of the year.

Emma Whalley-Hands (née Whalley) Class of 2002

I recently moved to South Africa (Durban) after four years living and working in Canada (Toronto). Am a partner with PwC South Africa, formerly partner PwC Canada, and started my career with PwC U.K. I am focused on business turnaround, operations improvement and revenue growth. I married Kate in 2014, daughter Imogen was born 2016 and son Arthur born 2022. I am still in touch with Natalie Barazzone, Vedrana Pehar, Poppy Grace who are very close friends and have kept up with others through them too.

Rhiannon Adam Class of 2003

Rhiannon Adam writes that she has just published a photobook that she co-designed and the second printing of her book on Polaroid photography was released in

May 2022. Rhiannon was the winner of The Photographer's Gallery New Talent award in 2019. For more information about Rhiannon, visit her website: www.rhiannonadam.com

Emily Berkel (née Millns) Class of 2006

I live in Squamish, Canada and work as Community and Partnerships Manager at FATMAP and my husband Nathan and I had twins Theo and Zola on 6th May 2021! I am still in touch with Nash, Natty, Annie, Alicia, Ros, Flora, Illy and Lydia.

Ramisa Yazdani Biouki Class of 2014

I live in London and work as a Commissioning and Partnerships Lead for the Voluntary Sector at the London Borough of Barnet. I have recently started that job after a successful graduate scheme! I got onto the scheme a year after I completed my MSc at LSE. I am in touch with a few close friends, and others via social media.

Hanna Bayoudhi Class of 2015



After the completion of my A-levels at Francis Holland, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in engineering which combined both my passion for maths and problem solving. I began studying Aerospace Engineering at Swansea University, where I was drawn in by the coastal location and globally distinguished department. I made good use of the societies on offer and took part in netball, surfing, mountaineering, and tennis, all of which I still do whenever I have the chance. In my second year of study, I was fortunate enough to be invited on an engineering field trip in Siavonga, Zambia with a team of student engineers and Professors. We designed a sustainable farming system (aquaponics) for a local school, and I experienced a side to engineering I had not previously considered. This was the spark that ignited my passion for sustainable engineering and international development. I was certain I wanted to use the core engineering skills I had gained at university and apply to them to development. I chose to transfer to Civil Engineering, as I felt that infrastructure development had a more direct impact on global community needs. I secured an industrial placement on a coastal defence scheme where I was able to gain on-site experience and see how a large-scale project operated. It was incredibly valuable, and eye opening.

I chose to study Sustainable Engineering Management for International Development at postgraduate level which gave me a socio-economic and political understanding of engineering interventions. On a recent field trip, supporting a government funded project in Liberia, I was able to put these skills to practice. Development projects can be highly demanding and complex, however, working hand in hand with local communities to find meaningful solutions makes them extremely fulfilling. Following my

graduation in September, I will be taking on a graduate contracting role to work towards engineering chartership. Once chartered, I look forward to continuing to work within an international development context.

Paul Tiley, former member of staff

I was Head of Chemistry at FHS for a mere four years (January 2017 to December 2020) but thoroughly enjoyed my time there and have fond memories of the pupils and staff. The emails from Quondam are a terrific way of keeping up-to-date with all that is happening so please keep them coming! I retired from teaching in December 2020.

Adrian Smith, former member of staff

Adrian Smith left FHS last summer – he'd taught English and Music for nineteen years, and been Head of Thirds (Year 7). His family have moved to Wymondham in Norfolk, where they are breathing new life into an old cottage.

Adrian writes: In March 2002, I left a Deputy Head post in Hertfordshire. I'd worked under four headteachers in four years, seen my job description changed countless times, and lost thousands of hours of sleep. It was a low point in my life: I had a teenage son to support, and no job.

Miraculously, FHS needed a part-time English teacher. I applied, interviewed and got the job. Up to that time, I'd worked in six schools; it never occurred to me that I'd stay in NW1. But in our lively, friendly school for those of all faiths and for those of none, I found a spiritual and educational home. My face fitted – it was as simple as that. I had nineteen years – and, from 2016-2021, as Head of Thirds, the best job ever.

FHS has up to forty five feeder schools for eighty pupils – many girls are the only child from their previous school. Girls and their mums and dads choose FHS because they want a living, breathing, vibrant school, and not a processing plant. Every September within a few weeks, it seems, almost everyone has settled in. The friendships made in the Thirds often last a lifetime.

FHS girls are lively, interested and committed – they love books, and are a joy to teach. At last I had the chance to read Robert Cormier's 'I Am The Cheese' with Year 7.... (if you don't know it, read it!) It was humbling to walk around the corridors, and to know that brilliant teaching was going on all around. 'Value added' at FHS is astounding – unsurprising when you consider Knapp House, the Somme, Hadrian's Wall, the Rainbow Centre, afternoon trips to London; and the Science Fair, Sayers Croft, the Drama Competition, concerts and visiting speakers.

Can any other school match the FHS hymn?! And what about those things that just don't happen anywhere else: 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', fundraising for Swiss Cottage School, and the wild, outrageous staff Pantos? (Yes, I did wear my wife's wedding dress in Taylor Swift's 'Love Story').

And so, to Norfolk – no London bustle, just wide open spaces. In cities, buildings get in the way; in Wymondham, I see the sun rise, track across the sky, and set over the fields. I've planted an orchard, dug a pond, and established hundreds of hedging plants. Sam, aged eleven, can have his friends to camp in the grounds. Shortly, I start another dream job, restoring and maintaining the walled garden of a listed manor house. But still, twelve months on, each day around midday, I always think of those wonderful FHS lunches!

Former member of staff,
Adrian Smith



Derek Ward - Former member of staff

Derek Ward sends news that in 2021 he became Head of Science at St Andrews International School, Bangkok. Mr Derek, as he is called at St Andrews, taught for 13 years at Francis Holland during which time he held the posts of Head of Physics, Head of Science, and Senior Teacher.

Please don't forget to let us know how you'd like to receive your magazine this year! Email Quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk or contact Claire Brazer, Alumni Relations Officer, by email at Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk or by post: Francis Holland School Regent's Park, 35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA



Virtual Quondam Celebration



For a second year running, Quondam hosted a Virtual Reunion on Saturday, 15th January 2022

Several participants from our first Quondam Virtual Reunion had asked for this to be a regular event and thus we held our second on Saturday 15th January which was attended by Polished Corners from Canada, Ireland and America as well as Britain. The ages ranged between someone who had started FHS in 1946 to someone who had started in 1982.

One by one we all shared memories of our time at school, and it was delightful to feel the warmth and interest throughout the generations. Headmaster, and our President, Mr Charles Fillingham, told us that the school was faring very well indeed despite the restrictions of Covid, and described the newly opened Classics Centre and the recently purchased Sixth Form Centre to house the ever growing Sixth Form, now at 180. This was greeted with delight and surprise by the Polished Corners, the eldest of whom remembered there being a Sixth Form of one!

He expressed his appreciation of the support from the Polished Corners who had donated to the Quondam Sixth Form Bursary and encouraged others to contribute in whatever way they were able.

Susanne, though hoping Polished Corners will see Mr Fillingham again before he leaves in September - please see page 21 to read about Quondam's leaving party for Charles - thanked him most sincerely for his huge support of Quondam and wished him

well in his new position as Executive Head of Solihul School.

The AGM, having been held between the tea and drinks parties on 11th October 2021, meant that Saturday's event was purely social and after an hour we dispersed into "breakout" rooms with friends from our decades.

It was very special to have Mrs Forde, Miss Addinall, Miss Green, and Mrs Rolfe-Johnson, and Mr Stevenson, (former teachers) with us and I expect many pupils popped in to the "staff room" to say hello to them.

Here are some quotations from attendees:

"Just a line to congratulate you on yesterday's reunion. All organised so well and managed." Polished Corner.

"How nice it was to be part of the Zoom yesterday. Even though I did not know anyone it was nice to be a part of it." Polished Corner.

"I thought that the reunion was really lovely. I enjoyed listening to everyone's stories and it seems to me that they were enjoying themselves too." Charles Fillingham, Headmaster.

"I thought Saturday's reunion was lovely, some genuinely wonderful memories and lovely to put some faces to names." Claire Brazer, Alumni Relations Officer.

By Susanne Nedas, Chair of Quondam.

Farewell, Mr Fillingham

Quondam's Surprise Leaving Party for its first-ever male President



How do you surprise a busy Headmaster with a secret Leaving Party for him in his own school? We put an extra Committee Meeting in his diary!

really engages during sessions, he is exceptionally good at paying you his full attention and not being distracted. He is calm, assured and effortlessly in control. He is extremely popular with teachers and pupils and Polished Corners and we wish him every success as he progresses to his next school!"

By Susanne Nedas, Chair of Quondam.

The silly Chairman (me) forgot to carry the plan out in full by sending out a 'spoof' Agenda so we are not sure exactly how surprised our esteemed President was to find that a champagne reception - complete with cake - had replaced the meeting! Nevertheless, all who have attended his Prize Givings, will not be surprised to hear that Mr Fillingham did a superb job in acting as if he were truly astonished!

We presented him with a keepsake, lest he forget us! A pair of silver cufflinks, etched with the School Crest on one side and his initials on the other.

I summed up my farewell address to Charles in school report fashion: "Quondam awards Charles 'excellent' in all his skills as our President. I asked the committee to suggest adjectives that best describe Charles. Their replies were:- Attentive, Calm, Diplomatic, Empathetic, Energetic, Enthusiastic, Generous of spirit, Innovative, Inspirational, Kind, Patient, Personable, Positive, Supportive, Visionary.

To sum up in school report style: Charles



Left: cufflinks were gifted to Mr Fillingham from Quondam. Below: Mr Fillingham cutting his bespoke '7' cake



Life after Francis Holland



Felicity Forde reveals how her life has changed since leaving Francis Holland School

Felicity Forde 1974- 2017

Where do I start? I will take you back to 1st September 1974 when as newly qualified PE teacher, who was appointed by Miss Holt, I started my career at Francis Holland. Little did I know then that 43 years later I would retire from teaching, in the same school!

So, what has life been like after FHS? Having been born in the centre of London, attended school in London (I even played netball against FHS) and lived and worked in London, I rarely stayed in town for leisure purposes, as after the late nights of matches, parents' evenings and meetings all I wanted to do was 'go home'!

All of a sudden in September 2017, London took on a whole new perspective for me. After all those daily commutes in packed tube trains, I now had the time to enjoy what London had to offer! Travelling outside of the rush hour was bliss and I made full use of my freedom pass! I would regularly go into London visiting museums, exhibitions, art galleries and meeting up

with friends and retired work colleagues. I also had time to do voluntary work for my local surgery, helping the elderly with chair exercise classes. I regularly visited my local gym and continued with my love of gardening.

I have also been able to reconnect with a group of PE teachers. We meet up annually and reminisce about our three years spent together at Dartford College of Education, which is where netball was first played in England in 1895! Back in the 70's in order to become a teacher, one could attend teachers' training colleges to obtain a 'Teacher's Certificate'. It was in October 2017 that we were finally given honorary degrees from the University of London in recognition of our hard work, which would have been similar to the degree courses needed nowadays. So the highlight of my first year of retirement in October 2017 was attending my graduation ceremony!

Something that was completely new to me was also the ability to travel during

term time and during the next two- three years I certainly made the most of that opportunity. I visited Tuscany regularly to stay at an Agriturismo of a former pupil, where I was immersed into the Italian life and culture. I had wonderful holidays in Peru, Cuba, Thailand and Malaysia and in December 2019 I went on my dream holiday to South America, visiting Chile, Argentina and Brazil. The highlights being the Perito Moreno Glacier, Patagonia and the Iguazu Falls, Brazil - that's the Geography teacher side of me!

Then in March 2020, Covid struck and we all had to 'stay at home'. Like everyone else I had to adapt to a totally different way of life. Of course I did all the usual things to keep me occupied but there is one day I shall always remember. When we were allowed to go further afield for our daily walk, I drove to Pimlico, where I had lived until I was 16, parked the car and walked for 10km around the 'Streets of London' which were almost completely empty. I visited my place of birth, primary school and quietly reminisced when visiting the places where I spent my teenage years. The most surreal experience was walking around Westminster with no traffic, no tourists and very few people at all.

Then in February 2021, just as we were starting to win the Covid battle, I was diagnosed with Myeloma, which is a type of blood cancer. This was discovered after a routine blood test and I was immediately admitted to Guy's Hospital to start chemotherapy, right in the middle of a global pandemic! The gold star treatment for this cancer is a Stem Cell transplant, which I had in September at UCLH. It aimed to hit the myeloma cells with a large dose of chemotherapy, while protecting my healthy blood cells. This is done by removing the stem cells before the chemotherapy is given and then

reinfusing them afterwards. This a multi stage process and takes place over several months. This higher dose of chemotherapy wiped out my immune system, along with all my childhood vaccinations and I have to be revaccinated later this year! It also comes with more severe side effects, so this treatment is only suitable for patients who are more likely to withstand them. Although, I was outside the upper age bracket, I was accepted as a suitable candidate due to my level of fitness and in January of this year I was told that the treatment was a success and I am in remission. I like to think that my fitness level was mainly due to all those years walking to and from Regent's Park, come rain or come shine! I would like to say that the treatment, care and attention I have received from the NHS has been outstanding and to all Polished Corners who work in this profession, I have such admiration for your dedication and hard work - thank you. If anyone would like to get in touch with me regarding Stem Cell transplants please do so.

Life for me is slowly returning to normal and by the time you read this article I should be well on the way to recovery. One can never be sure what the future holds, but I have many happy memories of my life at FHS and life after FHS.

Carpe Diem!





Francis Holland Regent’s Park Alumni Network

The Francis Holland Regent’s Park Alumni Network is an online community exclusively for the School’s former pupils and former staff. On the Network you can read the latest in alumni news, developments and events and search for former classmates. The careers pages allow you to participate in our mentorship scheme, where you can mentor other alumni or request career guidance and advice from our panel of mentors. Check out our top five reasons for joining the Network, here:



Be the first to hear about new events

Be the first to hear about new events when they go live, so you can sign up before they sell out!



Careers advice from a community that wants to help

With thousands of alumni working in all different kinds of sectors, you can easily network with people in your dream industry and find out about how they got there, and what advice they would give to you.



Find out about new job opportunities

Along with networking, you can find out about new job opportunities directly from your alumni site - sometimes before they are even released externally. Get ahead by checking into your community site regularly to find out about new positions when they are added to the jobs board.



Share your story and inspire others

Overcome a big challenge? Worked your way up to your dream job? Or simply got some great advice to share? Inspire the next generation by sharing your story with your alumni community.



Stay up to date with school news

Read about developments in your school, find out how you can help support new projects, and hear the news about your old teachers! When you leave the school, you become part of our lifelong community and we’d love to stay in touch with you and share what’s changed!

Join the Network today: <https://alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk>

Urgent!

Please let us know how you would like to receive your magazine next year.

Quondam Cares for the Environment

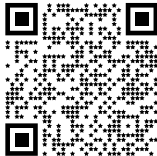
“It is the current pupils of our School who will have to live with the consequences of the damage past generations have caused to our planet.” Headmistress, Mrs Katharine Woodcock.

With this strong and real sentiment, we must act now! We need to know how you would like to receive your copy of the magazine from next year onwards.

Please tick which box applies and send by email, or post if you don’t have email to: Miss Claire Brazier, Alumni Relations Officer:

Email: **Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk**
Postal address: Francis Holland Regent’s Park
35 Bourne Street
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SPORT Through the Years at FHS



Polished Corners and staff share their memories of sport at FHS

Above: L-R: Jill Chapman, Sue Maddox, Mrs Leale, Heidi Flores, Cynthia Haslam, Vanessa Taylor, Alex Hower, Margot Bielenky and Caroline Beaver

Robina Manger (née Fairburne) Class of 1962

My first memory of the gym is lying on rugs on the floor for rest after lunch. You had to be first in the queue to get one of the few pillows. Later I never managed to climb a rope or vault over the horse. Is he still there I wonder? Netball was bearable, the best job was to bring out the oranges at a match. Once I was made team captain. We

had to go in on a Saturday morning, I felt so important, but can't remember the score so I suspect we lost.

Tennis in Regent's Park was nice, unlike lacrosse in the winter. We were cold and miserable. We were often watched by the then famous comedian Dick Bentley and other 'gentlemen'. If you managed to get round Miss Evans, the games mistress, you could go and hang about on the nearby swings.

Once I left in 1962 I have never taken part in any sport or been in a gym. I am, however, much fitter than many of my age! Could be no sports injuries.

Eleanor Allen (née Shacke-Anderson) Class of 1964

I was totally unsportsmanlike during my time at FHS (1954 to 1964). I did earn my red socks once though when we were playing St Christopher's at netball; it was an away match and they won, but the tea was good! I remember we invariably lost against Queen's College at netball; there was a team member called Vivienne Levy who was a fearsome opponent on the court. Queen's Gate were a force to be reckoned with at lacrosse. I think we had better luck against Crouch End High I remember.

It was always so cold on the lacrosse court in Regent's Park, even though we had had macaroni cheese followed by jam roly poly for lunch to warm us up.

During the winter of '63 when the lake froze over in Regent's Park and all the pitches were covered in white, we had to stay in, and the games department thought up some alternatives to fill the lesson time. We had sessions in judo and archery in the hall. I remember what hard work it was to get a toxopholy bow open and I wondered how anyone could compete seriously at archery. That was when sports at school came into its own and a good time was had by all.

Cynthia Prince (née Haslam) Class of 1967

I was very sporty and took part in many aspects of PE. Swimming was my main sport, if you look on the cups I think I won them all several times. My main rival was Polly Hawkesley in every event. When Polly moved away I was lucky enough to win so many cups. The house gala was the most important, held at Seymour Place. I have many memories, one in particular. Brian Johnson, (Clare's father) the commentator, usually sat next to my mother and gave her a private commentary on all events. Often

very funny and always honest.

We had to go to Regent's Park for tennis and Lacrosse. On one occasion a group of us met The Rolling Stones, and had a chat with them. Not sure we got to the lesson! I remember playing tennis with Veronica Burton, who won junior Wimbledon. Needless to say I lost! Netball was played at school on the playground. There was an incident in the flats overlooking the court which made the press. I can't remember what it was but Mrs Leale, the teacher shepherded us away very quickly.

Another memory was fencing. This sport was introduced to us, many of us were keen to give it a try after we had met the coach! Needless to say there was an ulterior motive in fencing.

I don't remember doing athletics at all, perhaps we didn't have it as part of PE. We did do a sort of cross country. I seem to remember running along Baker Street and stopping to buy sweets on the way. Definitely not allowed.

Sport was a major part of school for me. Miss Sharpe and Mrs Leale encouraged me all the way.

Below: Cynthia's name engraved on the School Sports Cup.





Left: Games Mistress Miss Leale featured in the local press thanks to her bravery.

Felicity Forde and Sue Drummond - Former Staff Members

Having worked together for 30 years here are some sporting memories - in no particular order - from Mrs Forde and Mrs Drummond!

Gym & Dance

West Side Story, The Mission and the Puppet Dances
Cabaret
Chariots of Fire - gym group routine
Vaulting - landing in the corridor outside the Library
Practising in the cloakrooms and in every nook and cranny.

Lessons & Matches

Flashers at tennis - Mrs Drummond saying "Eyes to the right"
Hailing during lessons and matches
Playing hockey on a mud pitch
Wearing hockey boots for rounders, so as not to slip on the mud
Team practice in the playground - especially GK for hockey
Indoor rounders in the hall - hitting the ball into the balcony. Are the dents still in the ceiling?
First Aid - using Resusci Anne for Kiss of Life. Recovery position.
Counting the balls after tennis
'Fake' sickness notes - especially for swimming!

Reminding girls that their tracksuit should not be worn all day and every day!
Pirates - not allowed any more!
Marking tennis ball and rounders balls with FHS
Pumping up netballs and volleyballs

Cleaning cups
Label checking
Cups, colours and sports badges.
Swimming at Seymour Baths - Mr Bush
BCGs in the gym with girls lining up on the staircase
Doubling up classes (when the hall was out of action) with 56 girls in the gym!
Putting up team lists - we really didn't like to leave anyone out, but we had to!
Finding Miss Murphy's engagement ring in the sand in Barbados!
Under 13 netball team beating LEH in the last few seconds to become Middx Champions
Lost property!
Checking for verucca's before swimming!

We both hope that you too can remember some of these sporting memories at FHS.

Below photograph: Middlesex Champions netball match, 1995

Bottom photograph: FHS staff, L to R: Joan Murphy, Emma Dollamore, Felicity Forde and Sue Drummond, 1999



Lisa Gershon (née Jaffa)
Class of 1983

I have always enjoyed sports, particularly tennis, and was championed by the wonderful Felicity Forde and Sue Drummond during my time in FHS, leaving in 1983. My twin sister Jenny was similarly smitten with the game and we have always enjoyed playing doubles togetheralbeit intermittently as Jenny has been based in LA since 1987/1988.

Indeed, I have spent the last 28 years coaching tennis at the Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club in London, myself, Lisa Gershon (née Jaffa) in the blue jacket, and my twin sister Jenny Isaacson (née Jaffa), in the white attire. We re-united on the tennis court this year both in London and during a trip of a life time to Roland Garros, Paris. This snap (below) is of the two of us, now veteran tennis players and happy guests at Le Tir Tennis Club in Paris!

Margaret Moss (née Fraser)
Class of 1956

I loved lacrosse and made it to the second and then the first team. We played of course



Lisa with her sister, Jenny Isaacson (née Jaffa)

in Regent's Park. It's all a long time ago as I was at FHS from 1946-1958. I loved the feeling of freedom with no constraining side lines. In theory one could run anywhere, as did the Native Americans, who after all invented the game. So in theory one could have made off with the ball to Queen Mary's Gardens or Regent's Park lake. One never did, but the thought lurked.

Netball was less interesting, so much more static and played in the school playground. At a certain point, (Lower Sixth maybe), if one wasn't in a team one could give it up. This I did until one time at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia when our son was posted there. I was in my seventies. On Wednesday afternoons there were lighthearted games of netball played by Embassy staff, British and Ethiopian. I went along one Wednesday to watch and an extra player was needed. I thought: why not? Rules had changed a bit, but that early FHS training stood me in good stead. Our son came to watch after work and joined his father and young sons. "Look at Granny" they cried. I'm sorry to say our son was somewhat mortified.

Polished Corners do get around !

Sarah-Lou Lewis (née Stirling)
Class of 1988



I loved sport at Francis Holland. I loved sport anyway to be honest. I wasn't brilliant, but with only 58 girls in our year, most of whom were more worried about breaking a nail than playing any sport, I was easily able to get into all the teams.

I came across many of the team photos taken during my time at FHS - I remember all the faces, but not all the names unfortunately. Hopefully some of the alumni will spot themselves.

I remember the walks through Regent's Park to get to the netball courts and hockey pitches - pitches?! Bumpy, sloping, muddy patches of grass would be a more accurate description! But I loved it. As well as chatting away to Mrs Drummond and Mrs Forde - feeling grown up because the teachers were talking to us!

Fun volleyball matches and gymnastics in the basement of the school: breaking a finger during my first volleyball match; and on one occasion being told off by Mrs Berberoam, the chemistry teacher, when arriving for an early morning gymnastics session, via the side door (which unfortunately took me right past the chemistry lab); my crime? - wearing jeans, well, it was snowing outside! I probably

shouldn't have protested (argued?!) as I was then sent to see Miss Holt, the intimidating Headmistress, and earned myself a detention!

Tennis and rounders in the summer were lovely. Being invited to a special tennis camp, including a tour of Wimbledon AE Club.

Many fond memories of my favourite times at FHS. I still love watching and participating in all sorts of sports - thank you to Mrs Drummond and Mrs Forde for helping to lay the foundations for a healthy, sporty, active life!!



Netball photo, top left: C - Alex Fernandes, GK - Oonagh Connelly, GS - Fanny Vogelius, WD - I think this is Belinda something, GD - Alexia Charalambous, GA - Me, Sarah-Lou Sterling (now Lewis)

Tennis photo, above: Standing - Sophie Walton, Julia Isaacs, Sherin Shaker. Seated - Alison Roberts, Sarah-Lou Sterling, Farah Foustok

DESIGN

Your own career

Polished
Corners share
their journey
from graduate
to design
professional



Burberry, Ink, soft pastel, charcoal & watercolour on paper by Gladys Perini Palmer

Natasha Lucas Class of 2014



I left Francis Holland in 2014, having studied Music, Art, Politics and History at A-level. Though most people will probably remember me for playing the cello and being a part of the music community, when it came to deciding what I wanted to do as a career, it was Art & Design. I didn't know much about the industry or my options at all, but I knew that UAL was the place to study and figure it out. Art Foundation courses are highly competitive, and were even more so at that time as they were free! I failed to get in to a lot of my initial choices, but managed to get a place at the London College of Communication (LCC), where I also stayed on to complete

my BA in Graphic Design. The rejection made me doubt if I was good enough to pursue being a creative, but it really was a blessing in disguise as LCC couldn't have been a more suitable college and course for the type of designer I wanted to be. The course is broad, covering core graphic and visual design principles alongside critical and theoretical studies, traditional and experimental processes and emerging technologies. The briefs were practical and tailored towards various skills for industry e.g. brand and visual identity, print and digital design, as well as information and wayfinding / spatial design. I made great friendships and built connections with my tutors, two of which have their own creative practice called MuirMcNeil. We connected over our interest in experimental type design, and I have collaborated with them on a number of typefaces over the years.

After graduating, I knew I wanted to join a small, rigorous design studio rather than work in-house or at a corporate brand consultancy. I began my career at Accept & Proceed, a full-service design studio, with long-standing relationships with clients like Nike. I worked there for 3.5 years and had a blast. At the end of 2021 I decided it was time for new challenges, like a lot of people post the height of the pandemic. I am now working at a studio called North, whom I have admired for years and I regard as one of the best design practices in the UK, so I am very happy to be here. They are responsible for building some of the most transformational cultural and corporate institutions we all experience e.g. Barbican, Southbank Centre, Science Museum, Co-op, First Direct alongside having a network of other exciting global clients. Their online profile is quite elusive, so it was difficult to get any insight into how they operate until I joined.



Emma and her adorable dog, Dahlia.
Below: Tented Bathroom and Dressing Room (above) with hanging behind the curtains

Emma Burns née Clifford Class of 1976

Managing Director of Sybil Colefax Ltd.

“I recently came across this quote from James Lees Milne:-

‘If asked to state the reason why John Fowler became such a success as a decorator I would answer tersely: because he observed. I don’t mean he merely looked at things. He looked into them. Nothing escaped his curiosity, notice and judgement.’

Looking, looking properly at things, observing, noticing and being curious are all things that will stand a would-be interior decorator in good stead. A lot of common sense too – which turns out to be a rare commodity (except of course amongst Polished Corners) is tremendously helpful. That and a love of people – the job is all

about interacting with clients, suppliers, artisans – and then diplomacy skills..... How do you gently and kindly steer your client away from an unsuitable scheme/fabric/piece of furniture and make them feel that they had come to the decision themselves ?!



Back in the dark ages when I started work it was possible to train on the job – I hadn’t been to art school or to the Inchbald School of Design, BUT I had moved my mother’s furniture since I could walk and constantly re-hung her paintings and I was CURIOUS, I questioned everything, read every book I could get my hands on – visited every National Trust property possible, and dreamt about interior design day and night. As such, and over 40 years (!!! How can I be so old??) I have amassed much experience and many skills.

To anyone hoping to have a career in interior design now, I would recommend if at all possible a really good course, learn to use CAD, learn to draw by hand – if you can sketch an idea to a client it’s the most amazing help, and realise that interior design is about 90% production and 10% design. Oh and if you want any work experience you can write to me.”

Emma Burns (née Clifford) Class of 1976
Managing Director
emma.burns@sibylcofax.com



Above: This sitting room has an awkward mezzanine which was resolved by hanging a mass of framed botanicals to form a frieze. Below: Both the card room and bar above have ceilings upholstered in antique paisley shawls. They were built from scratch seven years ago but hopefully look as if they have there for many decades.





Dining room – Chelsea Arts Club by Emma Burns of Sybil Colefax Ltd

Oonagh Connolly

Class of 1988

I have had over 10 years industry experience in graphic design and branding working with top London agencies for FTSE 100 companies and 10 years experience running my own studio. I co-founded C&C Design, a corporate branding consultancy based in Chelsea with clients in the arts, travel and financial sectors. These included the Globe Theatre, National Trust and Thomas Miller Insurance. Our expertise included designing corporate identities, literature, packaging and websites.

I have also worked as a freelance designer and project manager at Adam Ellis Studios where I created graphics wallpapers and wall art for Caprice Holdings, which included the Ivy Brasseries and Harry's Bars, as well as Young's and Fuller's Breweries. During the pandemic I designed sales and marketing co-lateral for both a film and television production company

called Dover Street Entertainment and a technology company that were both based in Soho.

Last year I expanded my skill set and branched into interior design, joining the long-established Northwick Design studios, who specialise in prime central London residential projects.

Gladys Perint Palmer

Former pupil of Francis Holland School

With an acutely observant eye that has travelled the length of the most famous fashion runways since the late 1960s, GPP enriches each of her artworks with a vitality, an energy - as if the model were walking and talking her way across the page. Her bold, incisive line captures beauty and reality in equal measure.

In the words of Valentino "...what makes a difference between Gladys' work and most of the others is that she does not draw a still subject, but her drawings have life because they capture a moment, a situation...". And it was Jean-Paul Gaultier who said "when she sketches some of my clothes, or other designers' clothes, but especially mine, I say, now I have to produce the clothes in the way that she did it. She interprets with her own personality".

These two great designers are of course correct. But more, GPP also imbues her work with the personality of her subject, capturing a moment in fashion each time she puts pen to paper and even influencing the great designers themselves. Indeed, there are few designers, editors or fashion royalty whom GPP has not known personally and for whom she has not been invited to create. From Karl Lagerfeld, who would only ever call her Madame Palmer out of respect, to Rosita Missoni with whom she has a special relationship, to Anna Piaggi, the legendary editor of Italian Vogue who gave her a solo exhibition during Milan Fashion Week in 1989 and Gianni Versace who commissioned her to illustrate his book *Do Not Disturb*. They and anyone of note in fashion recognise her unquestionable talent. That in her work is indeed the nexus of fine art and fashion illustration.

Interestingly, before the arrival of GPP very few of the great 20th century fashion illustrators were women. Previously the world of fashion illustration had been dominated by such names as Carl Erickson, René Bouché, René Gruau and Antonio. It was these important artists who had dominated the fashion pages and front covers of magazines and newspapers in both Europe and America. Fashion was worn by women but drawn by men. Things began to change with the youth quake generation in the 1960s and this is exactly

when GPP entered the field of fashion. Perfect timing. In fact, GPP has a knack for timing.

She has inevitably been in the right place at the right time from the very start of her career. GPP's fashion education commenced long before her formal schooling. In her birth country of Hungary, it was her elegant mother who first encouraged her to draw. And when she attended Saint Martin's School of Art in London her tutors Muriel Pemberton and Elizabeth Suter both instilled in her the key elements of how to draw fashion with flair, encouraging her to find her own style. The lessons learnt from these remarkable women have stayed with her and have been the foundation of her life in fashion. GPP is also known for her creative wit, equally evident in her writing. A talent that was recognised early in her career, leading to columns in Italian Vogue, Grazia (Italy) and as fashion editor of the San Francisco Examiner among others and of course a number of commissioned books. Historically fashion illustrators had been actively encouraged not to sign their names or caption their work. But GPP broke the rules, and it is rare to see a published illustration without her distinctive signature and a few witty words to accompany the drawing.

With such a long and distinguished career, GPP's work is now held in the permanent collections of museums and institutions around the world - a testament to her unique talent. A talent that continues to be as relevant today and as remarkable as her first Vogue cover over fifty years ago, when she first burst onto the scene bringing an energetic, perceptive, critical eye and confident line to the intriguing world of fashion illustration.

By Connie Gray, Gray M.C.A

Says Gladys, "We are sorting boxes and I found two school reports from Francis Holland -- when I was around 17 years old.

From the Art mistress: ".... Her drawing is still weak and lacks real observation".

"Gladys's work is boldly expressed but inability to concentrate on drawing and construction hinders development."

When asked what I liked after a fashion show, my answer would be "To WEAR or to DRAW?"

I was influenced by MATISSE and TOULOUSE L'AUTREC. They were, I believe, the roots of

FASHION ILLUSTRATION.



draw, they suggest the ART SUPPLIES I use.



Christian Lacroix, 2009 Ink, iridescent crayon & soft pastel on paper

Key Points in my ARTISTIC LIFE



After St. Martins, as a student at PARSONS, Nine pages in Harper's BAZAAR
A year later the cover of British VOGUE

Drawing of ANNA PIAGGI at a fashion show then sitting next to her as I stole someone's FRONT ROW seat. She liked it and we collaborated for years Italian VOGUE, L'Espresso Piu



Anna Piaggi

SOLO EXHIBITION IN MILAN ARRANGED BY ANNA

My drawings reflect the person the character the people I

I don't **EVER** remember NOT drawing. Before I could talk, I used to climb into my MOTHER'S lap and she would draw for me.

When I was FOUR I drew on a SWING, the ropes at an angle above below the HANDS.



Grown ups were **AMAZED**. I thought they were STUPID

How did I get into **FASHION**? By **accident**, luck, and **HARD work**

Design professional wanted!

We are looking for Polished Corners with experience in InDesign to help produce next year's magazine!

InDesign is a software application for creating printed documents such as flyers, magazines, brochures and books. It is the industry standard editing software for laying out multipage documents.

This process is used irrespective of whether the document is to be printed or downloaded.

We need part-time help from June - September 2023.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in the role, please email Quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk

Polished Dogs



We asked you to submit photos of your canine family members. Meet the 'Polished Pooches', our readers' best friends!



Alison Edelshain (née Day) Class of 1972

Rafferty (left) is a cavapoo (Mum was a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and Dad was a poodle). He is going to be ten years old next month. The sweetest-natured, gentlest and loving dog....and incredibly patient with the grandchildren (fortunately!).



Emma Burns (née Clifford) Class of 1976

Here are some very beautiful photos of the divine Dahlia pug, who looks extremely polished in all of them!

Dahlia arrived here as a puppy of nine weeks' old. She is her happiest here.

Below: Dahlia sports a leather collar with malachite stones made by Claire Fouché. It was given to me as a birthday present from my office, and it's the most beautiful collar possible, for the most beautiful black pug imaginable.



Lucinda Lubbock (née Simms)
Class of 1975

This is Barney, (pictured right) our red fox labrador puppy. Having lost our previous labrador, last year, we felt very dog-less! (all four children fully grown up), so here he is at four months enjoying the last of the bluebells.

Sara Marsh (née Lindsay-Vail)
Class of 1985

I'm attaching a photo, below, of myself with Chop. He is a two year old mastiff (part-Italian, part-South African) with a great sense of fun. Loves raw broccoli, sliced apple and belly rubs. He's a great family dog but is currently having a few minor issues with the local crows who compete with him for sovereignty of the boundary fence. I attended Francis Holland (Clarence Gate) from 1978 to 1985.



Susanne Nedas (née Quastel)
Class of 1971

Meet Portia Pug, below, who owns Susanne Nedas, née Quastel, and her family. She is thirteen and a perfect dog were it not for the moulting! Her tongue is always out and she is the most photographed dog on Primrose Hill because of it!

Meet Archie, left, who adopted Susanne and her family three years ago after he was abandoned by his owner as a one year old. Archie does not identify himself as a dog but classes himself as one of the grandchildren, never happier then when they are there to play with. Shown below in the playground of Francis Holland, Sloane Square, with Susanne and her granddaughter, Matilda, who is seven. He is proudly sporting the rosette he won for "The Dog Most Like its Human".





Vivien Rose (née Lind)
Class of 1974

My husband and I were on a walking holiday in July 2016 in the Italian Dolomites with Byron (our sixth English Pointer, pictured above and right).

Please don't forget to let us know how you'd like to receive your magazine this year! Email Quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk or contact Claire Brazer, Alumni Relations Officer, by email at Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk or by post: Francis Holland School Regent's Park, 35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA

Quondam Committee

Your Committee works for the benefit of former pupils and staff of Francis Holland School, Regent's Park, where they meet in school three times a year. Here are its members:



President, Mrs
Katharine Woodcock



Chairman, Susanne
Nedas née Quastel
Class of 1971



Treasurer, Benita
Mathews née Thomas
Class of 1970



Joint Secretary,
Alison Edelshain née
Day
Class of 1972



Joint Secretary,
Felicity Forde
*Former Pastoral
Deputy Head*



Teacher Liaison
Representative:
Amelia Slocombe



Jeannine Addinall
Former Deputy Head



Isobel Apter
Class of 2011



Nadia Demetriou Ladas
Class of 1988



Shivani Gohil
Class of 2015



Georgina Guy née Nedas
Class of 1995



Maria Hadjipateras
Class of 1979



Jennifer Purchase née Shier
Class of 1973



Manuela Robson
Class of 1989



Vivien Rose née Lind
Class of 1974



Lucinda Sanford née Nedas
Class of 2000



Julia Strauss
Class of 1987



Srutti Suresan
Class of 2014

Polished CORNERS

2023 News request

It's never too early to send us your news. It is your news which makes our magazine special and which your peers want to hear. If it makes it easier you can just reply to this questionnaire by emailing your news to **Quondamchair@fhs-nw1.org.uk**, or by scanning the QR code below. Alternatively, please post your news to:

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

Name.....

Year and class you left school

Maiden Name

Where are you living/working?

Who have you kept up with from school?.....

Do you have a job/retired/full-time parent other.....

Any milestone news to share?.....

Please do let us know which articles have been your favourites this year.....

.....

.....

Do you have any suggestions for other articles?.....

.....

.....



Scan this QR code to submit news to us directly!

My life..... at University

Class of 2021 Polished Corner, Izzy Fisher Turner attends the University of Edinburgh. This summer, Izzy produced two plays which were performed at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival



FIRE SIGNS

Hello, my name is Izzy Fisher Turner and I've just finished my first year at Edinburgh University where I'm studying joint honours of History of Art and English. After the infamous fresher term, I was keen to get into university life and I ended up doing a weekly show on Freshair Radio with a friend, and then I started to investigate the well-known theatre scene in Edinburgh.

Ultimately this led me to produce two plays at this year's Fringe festival.

I didn't have any practical experience other than doing a few running jobs on film sets and working for commercial agencies. Launching into the unknown I discovered some very exciting writers and directors on Facebook all looking for a producer. I wanted to focus on new writing and eventually became the producer of Fire Signs and The Macbeth Inquiry.

Both plays earlier in the year had been massively successful selling out at the Festival of New Theatre and The Voo Doo Rooms so the Directors and I decided to take the leap of

faith and register for Fringe.

Fire Signs is an original comedy about two students, Bobbie and Emma, encountering ghosts from their freshers' past and the trials and tribulations of their second year. We performed a two-week run at Pleasance where the highlight was undoubtedly Phoebe Waller Bridge coming to the show and saying it was fantastic - an utter treat. The Macbeth Inquiry was a re-imagining

Cholmeley Choral Society

want to *SING* ?

Fun and friendly choir in Highgate
(including FHS alumni)
warmly welcomes new members **SATB**
we meet on Wednesdays @ 19.30,
All Saints Church, N6 4QH
contact us at
www.cholmeleychoralsociety.com

of Shakespeare's Scottish classic in the modern political context, mirroring our own corridors of No.10; combining the classical script with absurd comedy inspired by Brass Eye and The Today Show. When I took on this project, I was told by the venue that as a student production we would be lucky to get 40-50% attendance, yet our show was a huge success with a capacity at 80-90% every day and we went on to receive 4 and 5-star reviews.

With one of the shows having zero sponsorship, the knowledge I have gained has been invaluable. Having to go to media meetings solo, spending hours emailing press releases, having a pint with journalists to encourage them to come to the show and

this, I think was the most humbling and character-building experience of all... Hours and hours of flyering in the rain; Fringe has been filled with so many wild and wonderful memories that I will cherish forever.

Huge thanks to the FHS alumni community who supported the project when I reached out for help. I am so grateful.

I have strong communication and organisational skills and I would be incredibly appreciative for any professional guidance, support, or opportunities as I explore other avenues of the business and the creative world in the future. My email is izzff12@gmail.com

My life..... at University

Katie Fiszman, Class of 1996, is currently an undergraduate at the Carmarthen School of Art in Wales, where she is studying Fine Art. Katie discusses the highs and lows of university life nearly thirty years on from leaving FHS

I like to think of myself as 20 years old despite being born in 1978! I'm Katie Fiszman, FHS Class of 1996, and currently one year away from finishing an



undergraduate Fine Art degree at the Carmarthen School of Art in Wales. Amazingly it has taken me almost 30 years to work out why I want to go into higher education and believe it or not, I worked it out this afternoon, about five hours before opening Quondam's invitation for magazine submissions. I'm very pleased to have a platform to share this fresh realisation.

My first time round, applying for uni (I graduated from Tufts University in 2000 with a degree in Classics) I had no sense of future prospects. Life was one big dream, and anyone who knows me knows that I did not – and still do not - have either of my feet firmly planted on the earth. The American system suited me well because the first year was electives and shopping

around – no need to declare a Major until the second year.

In my first year, I was fortunate enough to have lived next door to a fellow student who was enrolled at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, a prestigious art school that offered Fine Art degrees through Tufts University. My thought process was: 'I really enjoyed being in the art room at FHS, Miss Conway was very kind to me, and I felt happy there even when I was struggling with teenagehood. Maybe Art is a good way to go.' And so before long I was enrolled in a double degree programme, half of which I finished and half of which eventually had to wait. Before finishing the Art side of things, the dreamer in me decided that I should go and work on a farm. So I did. She then decided I should join a priest seminary and consider ordination. So I did. She then decided that I simply must become a barrister. So I dutifully accepted the challenge and was called to the Bar in 2016 shortly after giving birth to my third son.

By now, as you can imagine, I was somewhat exhausted, and slightly unsure about what was going to happen next. To my glee, while sitting in a McDonald's car park in Merthyr Tydfil (by this point we had moved to Wales), I decided it was time to

get myself back into art school – I applied as a mature student to the art school in Carmarthen and the rest is...not History but Art!

With a year to go until graduation number two, I'm questioning why, as a 45 year old, I want to complete my Art degree, especially as I no longer feel the need to obtain the qualification itself. As I said, I came to realise this afternoon why. My experience is that university offers an opportunity to engage in academic research and to learn how to think critically. It provides a framework for our individual ways of processing

Pam Millard (née Arnold), Class of 1959, highlights the challenges she faced as a student with undiagnosed dyslexia. In 2002, Pam graduated with a Distinction for her MSc in Group Analysis



I suspect the School's expectation was to prepare me for University. My requests to give up Latin went unheeded until I produced ridiculous translations into English in an exam. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. I now know I was dyslexic and I hope non-diagnosis is a thing of the past. Not only learning but also socialising was very difficult.

information and using it to advance our unique ways of understanding how the world works. It also allows us to feel connected to other likeminded individuals who have taken the time to organise their own thoughts and share them, through journals and textbooks, etc., and who can help us formulate our own ideas.

Sometimes I wish I'd realised this earlier in life but, as they say, better late than never.

I completed a business course in statistics, contract law etc. at Regent Street Polytechnic and then worked as a clerk for Heinz57. Once married with two children, I achieved a degree at the Open University in Social Sciences. Studying with others was a joy - socially and intellectually. My two sons (ten and twelve years old) came to the degree ceremony and questioned why I had not been to University straight after school. With hindsight it was educational for them – both have been to University and one is a Professor at Birkbeck, University of London.

After working in IT Security for the Lord Chancellor's Department, I went on to train as a group analyst. This included an MSc in Group Analysis at Birkbeck which I gained with Distinction in 2002. Who would have guessed? The only person might be the Elocution teacher who once suggested to Miss Joslin, the Headmistress, that I would make a good stage manager!



Quondam Travel Scholarship

Class of 2016 alumna Hanna Bayoudhi was awarded the 2022 Quondam Travel Scholarship. In May, she travelled to Liberia in her capacity as both a Civil Engineer and MSc student, where she designed and constructed a bridge, enabling local communities to gain access to essential, life-supporting services

As a postgraduate, studying ‘Sustainable Engineering Management for International Development’ at Swansea University, our course focuses on using engineering principles to increase social value in the Global South. As part of this, we collaborated with The Liberian Swedish Feeder Road Project (LSFRP). This is a development programme funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), that seeks to support access driven rural development in Liberia. The team consisted of fellow MSc students, professors, and international stakeholders.

Liberia’s Human Development Index positions it at 175 out of the 189 UN recognised countries. A relentless rainy

season, lasting on average six months, exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure, has left rural communities with limited access to services, contributing to a range of socio-economic issues. The LSFRP had identified that there was a need for improved water crossings for the most commonly used vehicles, the Okada (motorcycle taxi). The existing method for these water crossings was effectively large Dahoma tree (hardwood species) trunks, laid in parallel for pedestrian and vehicle access. The design was simple yet incredibly resource and labour intensive, and donors were keen to improve on this. With SIDA funding and a grant from the Wales Africa scheme, our team led the design development of an alternative bridge design

to be trailed.

A colleague and I spearheaded the design of this bridge, both being civil engineering graduates. We tested our hypothesis for the bridge design, on a five-day field trip in North Wales, using Da Vinci’s concept. A Da Vinci bridge is a self-supporting structure that makes use of interlocking truss members to form an arch. We constructed a five-metre pilot structure using locally sourced timber. We tested the bridge for failure to understand how to improve the design – from this we were able to conclude that the bridge in Liberia would have to be at least 2.5m longer, requiring larger timber members. This was bad news as it meant that the current design was unfeasible – a conclusion that was made only days before our departure to Liberia!

We set off, full of anticipation and excitement. We landed in Monrovia on the 17th May and pushed on with our project deliverables, whilst acclimatising to the intense humidity and anti-malarial nausea. Our first week consisted of meetings with relevant stakeholders at the Swedish Embassy, officials and management team at the Ministry of Public Works, and gender mainstreaming officers at SIDA. It was then on to Cuttington University, in Bong County, where the bridge was to

be constructed. As in most rural parts of Liberia, electricity was limited to certain hours due to poor infrastructure and limited resources. This resulted in slightly unusual working hours, working from 11am to 12pm, and 7pm to 10pm. Hours were spent developing CAD designs for the bridge, which was just about possible thanks to the large supply of portable chargers to hand!

Meanwhile, our project manager headed to the rainforest in ZorZor with a team of local lumberjacks to harvest and mill the timber, training them in quarter sawing techniques to maximise timber production per trunk. We then partnered with a local woodyard to cut the members, and, despite the language barrier and limited equipment, were able to have the frame ready within three days, laid out on the ground like a giant jigsaw puzzle. It was a massive achievement for both our team and Mohammed’s woodyard who, not only interpreted the engineering drawings, but developed their own unique method of production with the tools at their disposal. The construction phase was led by the local woodyard to ensure the community was driving the project as much as possible. They were more than keen to help. Construction took two days (with a few setbacks here and there!). This was a major milestone for everyone, and the basic



frame was ready for testing, and a visit from the stakeholders. It was a big relief for us all, and a proud moment seeing the smiling faces of the local construction team stood proudly on top of it.

It was then time to say our goodbyes and head back to the UK where the next phase of the project was already in progress. Testing of the bridge is currently being led by our Liberian counterparts, alongside the construction of a second bridge with slight design variations to compare results. Our team is continuing to support the project with research and development. Following on from this project my current dissertation involves analysing the bridge structurally, using computational models to see how it will behave under different load conditions. There are several other MSc dissertations that will support the project's R&D including an updated construction manual for the Da Vinci bridge and studying the long-term socio-economic benefits of the project. Supporting this project has been the most challenging and rewarding experience I have had, to date. The nature of



international development involves working with limited resources in new, and often challenging environments, whilst finding creative solutions to solve the problems that you will inevitably encounter. The project demonstrated the importance of an interdisciplinary team, whereby it would not have succeeded without the collaboration of donors, engineers, social scientists, and the local community, working together effectively to identify and solve challenges facing the community. I'd like to extend a big thank you to the Quondam Travel Scholarship for enabling me to be part of this project. It is something I think we can all be jointly proud of.

If you wish to apply for the 2023 Quondam Travel Scholarship, worth £1,000, please head to the school website below. The competition is open to all alumnae aged 27 and under, and current Sixth Form pupils. Closing date is 19th April 2023. Alternatively, you can apply by emailing Quondam@fhs-nw1.org.uk

www.fhs-nw1.org.uk/support-us/alumni-network/travel-scholarship/

Quondam Writing Competition

The theme for this year's competition was 'Clearing Out.' We are thrilled to announce the winners of this year's Writing Competition. Sonal Korlipara came first in the Senior Category with her story which delighted the Quondam Committee, who judge the annual competition. Winner of the Junior Category was an impressive essay by Freya Sabharwal. Both pupils were awarded their prize - a £50.00 book token - by former Headmaster, Charles Fillingham at the School's Prize Giving Ceremony at the end of the Summer Term.

Winner of Junior Category: Clearing Out, by Freya Sabharwal (IIH)

Whether it is clearing out your wardrobe for the latest fashion trend or clearing out your head to get rid of bad thoughts and make space for positive ones, the main reason for clearing out is to make room for something new or to change the way it was.

I have a confession to make: I really did not like that I was known during my primary school years as the 'shy and quiet' girl. I was in the same primary school for 8 years and had developed the label of being the 'shy and quiet' girl from around Year 1 (at least that is when I remember being told that I needed to put my hand up more and speak more). I tended to be reserved when I was around people I did not know that well, or when I was learning about a new topic, and I've always preferred listening to talking. But that does not mean that I am shy; I am quiet, but not shy!

During my time at primary school, and especially the upper school, I made a

real effort to be heard. I put my hand up in class, auditioned for roles in school plays (that I did not get!), stood for class councillor (I did not make it!) and for house captain roles. I was voted to become the vice captain of my house! But since I had the label as the 'shy and quiet' girl, every effort and any achievement was seen by my teachers and classmates as a 'one-off' and they continued to see me as the 'shy and quiet' girl.

So when someone mentions 'clearing out' what comes to my mind is clearing out the old 'shy and quiet' version of me and getting a chance to be someone different; as I had come to believe that to be 'shy and quiet' was a flaw and needed to be fixed.

As soon as I found out that I was going to be starting at FHS, I thought - great - now I can reinvent myself as a new 'not shy and not quiet' girl. I was very excited! I loved the idea of it, the chance of being someone different, but the best part was the whole process of starting from a blank slate and

imagining who I could become.

The excitement of a new beginning was intoxicating; it was something that I wanted for a long time - to start over and be someone 'not shy and not quiet'. So, I started working on the idea during my last term at primary school. I had to get rid of everything to do with the shy version of me and make room for the new version of me. I would not be quiet. I would be loud, funny, boisterous, and everything I wasn't in primary school!

I couldn't wait to launch Freya version 2! After all my planning about first impressions and what I would say to my new friends, I got Covid and missed the FHS open day! I finally got to meet everyone at the class picnic. I was excited and nervous. But to my disappointment, I realised that I was still the same. I preferred listening to talking, and I took my time to open up to my new classmates and teachers. But that did not stop me from trying to be 'not shy' and once school started I put myself out there: I joined many clubs, played sports, started new instruments and took part in school concerts.

That is when I realised that it's not easy to change who I am - I had built up expectations of who I could be or should be based on my time in primary school. Even though I am not the 'popular' girl I envisioned I would be, and I am still seen as the quiet girl, I am now fine with it. I am a quiet girl and that is who I am. But I am also a good friend, I am hardworking, I am funny and talkative in my close group of friends, and that's okay as that's who I am.

I realise now that it's not who I am but how I perceived myself that needed clearing out. I now perceive myself as confident; I am not shy! I have come to the conclusion that I should forget about what people think of me and focus on who I am, even if that means

I am known as the 'shy and quiet' girl. I am happy with who I am and I don't need anyone's approval. It has taken me time but I am glad to have cleared this out!

Winner of Senior Category: Clearing Out by Sonal Korlipara (LVC)

The door shuts behind me as I walk in, moaning in its croaky voice as if it is an old man begging to be closed. The whole house croaks in this way, as if it's past its ripe age and might fall apart if I tug or push anything a little bit too hard. Despite this, I have been living in this house for five years and ignoring every sign telling me to get out. It seems disrespectful if I did ever decide to leave.

I rush to the kitchen to set down my grocery bags and a bubble of dust lifts to touch my face. I have cleaned this place for all its worth and yet the dust never leaves. It is as if this house is made for haunting.

My grandparents gifted me this place once I left university. They told me that it wasn't suited to them. They needed some place happier, different. It seemed crazy to say that about such a beautiful house, but I understand now. Every time I walk through the door, a feeling hits my chest. Perhaps I am going crazy, but my insides feel as though they are twisting and coiling like vines. It feels like a ballad is slipping through my veins in some sort of melancholy curse.

I think that the dust has affected my brain.

Today I have cleared my schedule to do something that I have not done in five years. Despite cleaning the whole house, there is one place that I've avoided. I go up the croaking steps and enter the upstairs hallway. There is a ladder propped against the wall, and above are all the things I've lost interest in.

I open up the door of the ceiling and pull

myself up into the deafening darkness. I blink into it and feel the dust settling on my lashes already. I set down my cleaning supplies to fumble for the lights. My hand slides over the wall, praying for no spiders, and suddenly my fingers press over the switch. Light flashes into the room and it pours over every crevice. Somehow, the melancholy curse rests more so on my bones up here. The room is full of boxes that I've put up here over the years: mirrors, knickknacks, photos, clothes. Everything.

I walk through it all and catch my face in the mirror, it looks faded and distorted through the metal. Over in one corner is a pile of clothes that don't seem like the sorts of things you might find in present day. It looks like a vintage shop up here.

There is a pink dress, fluffed out with a netting beneath it and flared sleeves, lacy and delicate. Everything inside me tells me to put it on and then I realise those are the thoughts of a little child, raiding their mother's cupboard and finding heels. This won't turn me into a princess, but my god it feels like it.

Impulse gets the best of me, and I pick it up from the dust, batting it out. I am stuck staring at it in wonder and I know it's silly, but something about it feels alive. Hastily I put it on top of my current clothes, and while it is a bit tight on me, it fits fine. I twirl around and let the skirt ripple out. I catch myself in the mirror again and my breath catches.

Suddenly a cold sensation hits me everywhere, every bone inside me chills. It grows beneath my skin, and I feel something alive inside me. I do not know what. I turn around slowly and ignore the feeling. But my eyes snag on the mirror again, and what I see makes my heart tear. I press a hand to my mouth to muffle

the scream. Looking back at me I see a translucent face, in the same dress I am in. The dread fills my head. I need to get out of it.

And yet I cannot because as I lower my hand, I find myself flushed with the urge to dance. I spin my feet around and twirl in the dress and I must look like an absolute idiot. I do not know why this is happening but everything inside me tells me to dance. Far off somewhere I hear music. And suddenly the orange glow of the attic slips away and in comes high ceilings and waxy floors, music booming in the air. I'm sure that I'm imagining this, and yet it feels so real that I can smell the champagne in the air.

I dance and I'm swept up by someone who is too blurry to see. They take my hands and spin me under their arm, and I let them. I don't know why. A laugh escapes my throat but it isn't mine, and I am thrown into the air and I feel something that might be love but it isn't mine. A voice echoes in my head but it can't be mine. Finally, I can dance. I waited all night. All century. I waited to take your hand and instead death held his out first.

And then I feel the cold slip away from me and my veins start to warm, and the glow of the dusty attic blooms around me. The liveliness that once roamed my bones has fallen and there is something else too. I feel for the first time an absence in the house. The melancholy feeling has dissipated and left behind is just a dusty old house.

I peel the dress off of myself and then stare at it for a moment longer. For a minute my mind reels and I think to myself that I may have just seen a ghost. I tell myself that I'm a grown adult and ideas like that are much too out of date. I turn to another corner of the room, vow not to touch anything more and start to dust.

In the footsteps of Francis Holland



Back in May, former Headmaster Charles Fillingham, alongside Mrs Wynne, Mrs Forde, ex Pastoral Deputy Head, and pupils, visited the Francis Holland family grave near Canterbury



One Saturday morning last May, a small group of girls travelled down to Canterbury with the former Headmaster and this year's gap year student, Zoe Roberts, who is from Melbourne, Australia. They were treated to a guided tour of the cathedral which included Francis Holland's house, Francis Holland's seat, Francis Holland's plaque, Francis Holland's side chapel and Francis Holland's steps. It turns out that our founder was an influential Canon of Canterbury and that his life and works are still remembered and are still venerated.

Later in the day, the group went on to Godmersham to meet Mrs Wynne and Mrs Forde in the churchyard where Francis Holland, his wife and his daughters are all buried. Flowers were laid on his grave and the Mr Fillingham wrote a message

in the visitors' book. For those of you who do not know her, Mrs Forde retired from Francis Holland, Regent's Park in 2017. Prior to that she was a teacher of PE, the Senior Mistress and the Head of Learning Enhancement here at the school - an FHS career which spanned over 40 years. These days, she continues to serve the school as a member of the Quondam committee.

It is now being considered whether or not, for the school's 150th birthday in 2028 we should all travel to Canterbury to give thanks for the life of our founder and for our school.

By Charles Fillingham

Quondam, together with the PA and the School have bought a bench for the graveyard in gratitude to Canon Francis Holland - Susanne Nedas



Above: Canon Francis Holland, his wife and daughters' graves. Below: flowers were laid on Francis Holland's grave by Mr Fillingham and Mrs Forde



Announcements

BIRTHS

May 2021

My husband Nathan and I had twins Theo and Zola on 6th May 2021!

By Emily Berkel (née Millns) Class of 2006



August 2021

Our first great-grandchild (pictured with family top right) was born in San Diego in August 2021. She and her parents have just been to see us, staying with Grandmother, Alexandra Wright (Class of 1974). I'm still in touch with six of my class from FHS more than 75 years after we first met.

By Susan Levitt (née Falk) Class of 1951



MARRIAGES

June 2022

Sarah Rick-Harris, Class of 2006, (pictured below) married Richard Braham in June. Former pupil Sogol Razi was Maid of Honour and Kreya Sivathman a bridesmaid.



August 2022

Mrs Vivienne Durham (Headmistress 2004-2015) married Mr Terence Chapman in August 2022.

Obituaries

Jennifer Gubbins (née Dearman) December 1943 - April 2021

I was very sorry to learn the sad news about Jennifer Gubbins.* Although her older brothers, Glyn and David were my contemporaries, I have happy memories of times spent in Park Square Gardens, where families enjoyed picnics and children were free, and of playing much tennis with them, except Wimbledon finals weekend when the Dearman family were glued to their black and white television! We also walked to Sunday School at All Souls, Langham Place. Hard to believe this was over 70 years ago. Please give my deepest sympathies to her family. *Full obituary published in Polished Corners magazine 2021

By Felicity Tanous (née Grahame) Class of 1956

Sally McGill (née Grob) October 1950 - December 2021

Sally was a good and loyal friend for over 60 years. We shared many parts of our lives but sadly less so over the last years while she was battling with cancer. She was immensely talented artistically, firstly as a designer and maker of elegant clothes (and made my first outfit for Ascot) but then her interests moved to painting and latterly to ceramics. A passion which she shared with her daughter. Sally was a very private person to whom family was everything and she will be remembered as a loving sister, mother and grandmother.

By Laura Royde (née Hurley) Class of 1968

Photograph, top right: Sally in her ceramics studio; bottom right: Sally as Joseph in the school nativity play.



Rosamund Alice Newman (née Holiday) October 2021



My mother Ros Newman, who died aged 82 in October 2021, was a sculptor who created human, animal and bird forms – mainly in steel – that were initially for domestic display and later for large public works.

Wearing goggles and leather gloves, and with sparks flying everywhere, she created works that were, in her own words, “conceived to deceive the eye into seeing much more than there is”.

Among her most prominent pieces was her stainless steel Flight of Birds at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, rising from and reflecting the waters of a carp pond and providing an oasis of calm for patients, staff and visitors.

Ros was born in Highgate, North London, to Ensor Holiday, a scientist, and Betty (née Rothenstein), an artist. Her maternal grandfather, Sir William Rothenstein, and her uncles, Sir John Rothenstein and Michael Rothenstein, were all artists or art historians.

After leaving school at 16, Ros attended Chelsea School of Art in London, working in various disciplines. But it was later, studying at Hammersmith College of Art, that she discovered oxyacetylene welding and developed a technique for creating steel sculptures. “Steel found me and I embraced

her with all my passion,” she said.

Ros’s first solo exhibition, in London in 1971, at the Alwin gallery, with whom she would have a long association, was so successful that shortly afterwards she bought a barn at Stibbard, Norfolk, converting it into a home and studio.

In Stibbard, the local Women’s Institute commissioned a village sign to celebrate its golden jubilee in 1976, and Ros created a piece called The Ploughman, a homage to the area’s rural heritage, which featured a real plough steered by a ploughman made of scrap horseshoes, pitchforks and other agricultural tools and machinery.

Later she moved to Norwich, where she taught evening classes and created props for Anglia Television’s Tales of the Unexpected.

Ros’s smaller sculptures used mild steel but she turned to stainless steel for larger public works. Flight of Birds was followed by a similar piece for Pensthorpe Natural Park near Fakenham, sometime home of the BBC’s Springwatch programmes, and her Seagulls adorn St George’s Park in Great Yarmouth.

She exhibited throughout the UK and also in Taiwan, where she lived for four years in the early 1990s. In 2019 she closed her Norwich studio, passing the torch and other equipment to fellow sculptor Rachael Long. Her lifetime’s work was celebrated with an exhibition, Woman of Steel, at the Fairhurst Gallery in Norwich.

Ros was married three times: to Pepe Cavilla and Barry Dawson, from both of whom she was divorced, and to Chris Wade, who died in 2017.

She is survived by her daughter, Delphi, from a relationship in the early 1960s with the musician Del Newman (whose surname she adopted), and a granddaughter, Cece. By Delphi Newman

Happy memories of a friendship of 68 years, and times spent enjoying the guitar club and things artistic, meals with Ros’s family, mad games of racing demon, an Easter weekend in Gloucestershire motoring down in her Morris Traveller (whose radiator ran out of water en route!). Later, visiting her lovely home and workshop in Norwich, with stunning, ethereal pieces in welded steel.

In 2004 a class 1956 reunion lunch in London; then our ‘trio’ reunion - Ros, Ruth Brooke (née Wiesner) and I - at Ruth’s home in Wroxham. Neither Ros nor Ruth had recognised one another when Ruth bought some of Ros’s sculpted hens, until I later asked Ruth if she was including Ros’s work in her own Ruth Lowe gallery.

As well as visiting Ros and her husband Chris, I was so fortunate to go with her and her daughter Delphi to see her wonderful retrospective exhibition celebrating her 80th birthday. A brilliant, original sculptor and dear friend.

By Felicity Tanous (née Grahame) Class of 1958

Below: Ros’s sculpture ‘Flight of Birds’ which is situated up at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital



Vanessa Bourne (née Taylor) December 2021



Above: Vanessa’s 14th birthday party in 1963: Cordelia Lamont (Llewellyn) (green check) Cynthia Pike (Haslam) (wide white collar) Jill Chapman (right of Cynthia) and Elaine Thomas (short red hair) and the late Margot Grant, née Quastel, pictured right of Elaine

Vanessa was born in 1949 into a London recovering from the Second World War. Our father was the Rector of St Giles in the Fields, a central London church on the edge of Soho, surrounded by bomb sites and areas of extreme poverty. For us, as little girls, the sights we saw, on visits to sick and needy parishioners with our mother, left a lasting impression.

Vanessa’s entire schooldays, from age five to 18, were at Francis Holland, which had been founded by Canon Francis Holland for the daughters of clergymen. She loved all aspects of school life, from ballet with Miss Pfister to piano with Miss Jordan. British Constitution was a favourite and Vanessa was amongst the first girls to attempt Russian. Art classes were with the inspirational Miss Dickie, who also led visits

to the National Theatre (in those days at the Old Vic) for the excitement of watching Sir Lawrence Olivier on stage and school trips to Italy, which opened Vanessa's eyes to the beauty of Venice and Florence. On the lacrosse field, she was a formidable goal keeper and not much got past her - a core theme that stayed with her for life. In 1966, Vanessa was made Head Girl.

In the 1960s, not every Polished Corner went to university. In fact, if a girl reached the dizzy heights of getting into Oxford or Cambridge, the school was given a half-day holiday in celebration. Vanessa trained at Mrs. Hoster's Secretarial College in Knightsbridge, which was considered to be the best in London and went on to the Conservative Research Department, where she worked for some of the brightest political brains of their generation.

Vanessa read for the Bar and on the way she met and married Merfyn, a Welsh barrister. The arrival of twins halted her legal training and then the birth of a third child led the family to leave London for the peace and beauty of an old vicarage in the middle of Wales. Vanessa embraced Welsh life, trying to learn the language and setting up The Welsh House in Llandeilo, which promoted and sold products made exclusively in Wales.

Vanessa's interest in health and social care intensified and in 1994 she became Chairman of Dyfed Family Health Service and then Chairman of Dyfed Powys Health Authority. In 1999, she succeeded Claire Rayner as Chairman of The Patients Association and campaigned vigorously for the rights of patients and their families. She became the spokesman for the Association on television, radio and in the press and her powerful interviews were memorable. One morning, when being questioned by the veteran inquisitor John Humphrys on the Today programme, her



forthright answers left him lost for words. In 2004 Vanessa was appointed a vice-president of Leonard Cheshire Disability and, in 2011, her report 'The Lottery of Dignified Care' was applauded by charities for the elderly. She was a Friend of St George's Medical School on Grenada, an island that she loved to visit.

It was only when serious illness forced her to slow down that Vanessa stood back from her campaigning work. Her search for a cure lasted many years and she would drive hundreds of miles to try every therapy that medicine could offer, experiencing at first hand the care provided by Welsh hospitals, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and the Royal Marsden. She never lost her critical eye but was fully appreciative of the excellent treatment she received. Vanessa was finally overwhelmed by her cancer on 20th December 2021, just a few weeks before the arrival of her fourth grandchild. She died peacefully, at her home in Llandovery – as she had wished.

By Mandy Strathalmond (née Taylor) Class of 1969

Susanne Nedas writes: Mandy kindly invited me to Vanessa's memorial service. It was an exceptionally beautiful and moving service. It was clear that Vanessa's warmth and charm lives on in her lovely family. So lovely to see a bevy of Polished Corners who were Vanessa's close and lifelong friends.

**Caroline Sargent (née Gant)
September 1950 - June 2022**

Caroline, daughter of Joan Trimble and Jack Gant, and sister of Joanna and Nick, died in Newcastle Upon Tyne in June 2022 after a short illness. For the last decade of her life, Caroline was a passionately dedicated initiator of the Summerhill Trust in Newcastle, created to care for the Summerhill Square, opening it up as a welcoming community resource. She was a devoted and loving friend to many, most recently in the northeast, where she lived for 22 years, and in Canada, where she lived for five.

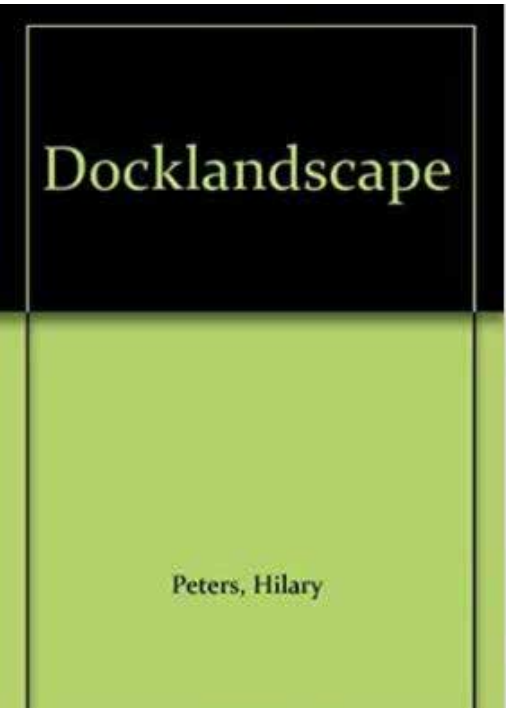
Obituary originally published in The Times and submitted by Laura Royde (née Hurley).

Hilary Peters 1939 -2022

The environmentalist and author, Hilary Peters, died in February 2022 aged 83. Hilary attended Francis Holland School before studying Theology at St Anne's College, Oxford. Hilary's interest in religions merged with a love of animals and ecology to establish one of London's first city farms in Surrey Docks. Her resulting book, Docklandscape, documents her experiences, from rearing animals in a deeply urban landscape to producing home-made goat's cheese for city workers' lunches.



Hilary Peters



News from the Alumni Network

The Frances Holland School, Regent's Park Alumni Network welcomes all those who attended the School, both pupils and staff alike. In this section, you'll see just what some of what members of the alumni community have been up to, but of course the best way of keeping up-to-date with your former classmates or colleagues is via the Alumni Network! The Network enables you to directly contact former pupils and staff and keep up to date with events, stories and news from both the school and alumni communities. You will also receive news and event invitations by email via the Network, and of course this magazine!

If you haven't already, please join us here: <https://alumni.fhs-nw1.org.uk/home> or scan the QR code below to access the Alumni Network



Alumni contact details

Stay in touch with us by email, social media or post. Details above!

Email and Post

You can contact Alumni Relations Officer, Claire Brazer, by email at alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk or by writing to:

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

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. Please do follow the School on Instagram and Twitter@FHSRegentsPark for all the latest news.



Francis Holland Regent's Park Alumni Network



Francis Holland Regent's Park Alumni Network



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Marjorie Gustave's Retirement Party

Celebrating 29 years' of outstanding service to the School

On June 10th, former pupils, together with former and current staff came together to celebrate the impressive 29 years of outstanding teaching service from Former Head of Fifth Form and Head of the French bilingual section, Marjorie Gustave.

In the School Hall - packed with over 70 guests - Marjorie, accompanied by husband Adrian, reunited with her guests (including Former Headmistress Pamela Parsonson), some of whom had flown in from France, and for many others, the distance of time had also lapsed.

Followed by a speech from former Headmaster, Charles Fillingham, Marjorie addressed her audience, fondly recounting stories from FHS: school trips (with much hilarity!), playing the violin in school concerts, and bestowing much gratitude to those with whom Marjorie has worked since she began her career at FHS in 1991. Said Marjorie, "It really was a privilege to teach at Francis Holland because I taught some very fine young ladies, some of whom are present this evening, and which means so much to me."

The evening was filled with laughter, warmth, conviviality, and joy: Marjorie was a beloved and much-admired member of staff.



Former Headmistress, Pamela Parsonson with alumna, Frances Baawuah (Class of 1998)



Former Headmaster, Charles Fillingham delivered a farewell speech for Marjorie to a packed audience, below



Class of 2022 Leavers' Dinner

In June, the Class of 2022 celebrated the end of their days at FHS with a dinner and prom

We were pleased to welcome our Class of 2022 cohort and their parents back to school for a highly anticipated leavers' dinner. During the first part of the evening, we celebrated our leavers' very many tremendous academic and personal accomplishments; we shared a few fond memories of their past years at FHS and we bade farewell to our leavers. Susanne Nedas, who was sadly unable to attend, had written a short speech welcoming them to Quondam as Polished Corners. As has become tradition, Quondam sponsored the first drink of the evening.

After the Prize-Giving Ceremony, our leavers stayed on to continue celebrations at their prom and left us with more happy memories and gratitude. We wish them the very best of luck for their summer and their future endeavours; they will be sorely missed, and we welcome them as our newest alumnae cohort!!



Careers

Alumnae have played an integral part in the School's dynamic programme of careers events. This academic year saw four alumnae speaking as career ambassadors at Francis Holland School. Working alongside our Sixth Form and Career departments, Alumni Relations foster connections with our alumnae community, enabling our prestigious group of former pupils to give back to the School by offering work experience opportunities, mentoring current pupils, and speaking at any number of career events held at the School. If you would like to take part in career events at Francis Holland School, please get in touch with us by emailing alumni@fhs-nw1.org.uk. For mentoring opportunities and career opportunities, or to contact other former pupils with regards to careers, visit the Career pages on the Alumni Network:

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

Alumnae Career talk: Dr Zoe Young

Dr Young advised Lower Sixth students interested in a career in medicine

Alumna Dr Zoe Young returned to FHS in May to speak to Lower Sixth students interested in pursuing a career in Medicine. Zoe, a General Practitioner, left Francis Holland in 1984, continuing on to complete her Science A levels and undergraduate degree before working as an Aid Worker for several years internationally, and a Technical Advisor in public health for Médecins sans Frontières in Brussels.

Zoe departed Brussels for Imperial College, where she studied Medicine, and recently completed her GP training. She spoke to pupils at length about her experiences as both a medical student and doctor, emphasising the importance of clear communication and enthusiasm; citing the desire to 'think about the whole person' as reason to leave the hospital environment and train as a GP.

Zoe advised the girls on how best to complete their personal statements - giving examples of questions they are likely to be asked at interview - before answering questions from pupils, keen to learn from Zoe's experiences.



Alumnae speak at Lower Sixth Higher Education Evening

The Lower Sixth were fortunate to have three alumnae speak at March's Higher Education Evening: Milly Hills (Class of 2021), Mariam Mohammed (Class of 2019) and Helena McBurney (Class of 2018). The former pupils joined the busy programme of speakers at the event, which also featured talks by guest-speakers, Dr Ben Morgan from the University of Oxford, Professor Carlo Contaldi from Imperial and Jocelyn D'Arcy from The University Guys.

Helena McBurney, who completed her undergraduate degree in English at University of Cambridge last year, is now studying for her Masters in Victorian Literature at the University of York. She joined Ms Chapman and Dr Ben Morgan to present an Oxbridge applications session to the Lower Sixth and their parents. Helena fortuitously returns to FHS to host a Creative Writing workshop for pupils.

Joining Ms Carew in G13 was Milly Hills - who is currently studying Art Foundation at Kingston University. Together, they presented a session on Art School applications. This was Milly's first visit to FHS since leaving last year. Milly spoke at length about her experiences at Kingston; she hopes to start a BA in Fashion next September.

Mariam Mohammed joined Professor Contaldi and Ms Melchers to present an incredibly popular STEM session. Mariam, a third-year medical student at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, advised students about the application process to medical school, and

spoke of her time as a trainee doctor at Barts.

Both students and parents benefitted hugely from our alumnae's first-hand experience with university applications and their chosen degrees. With thanks to Mariam (pictured below), Helena (middle) and Milly (bottom) for speaking to the Lower Sixth and their parents.



University Destinations 2022

American/Canadian

Edge, Alexandra. Fashion Business Management, Fashion Institute of Technology

Hassenforder, Juliette. Liberal Arts, University of Virginia

Hunt, Siena. Biology, University of California

Lahham, Amina. Architecture, Cornell University

Lugg, Chloe. Pre-Med, Barnard, Columbia University

Siddiqi, Yasmeen. Archaeology and Anthropology, McGill University a deferred entry

UK Universities

Ajayi, Lauren. Law, Royal Holloway University of London

Barbour, Isabella. French and Spanish, Cardiff University

Brown, Camille. Politics and International Relations, Newcastle University

Brown, Olivia. History of Art, University of Nottingham

Brandman, Scarlett. Classics, University College London

Charap, Jasmin. Biomedical Sciences, University of Bristol

Cochrane, Isabella. English Literature, Durham University

Diment-Vera, Isabel. Politics and

International Relations, University of Bath

Edwards O'Bai Kamara, Makai. Journalism (Politics), Brunel University of London

Epstein, Poppy. Psychology, University of Bristol

Franco, Sophia. Psychology with Placement, University of Bath

Fung, Lily. Accounting and Finance, Durham University

Gergees, Rayan. Computer Science, The University of Westminster

Gill-Boniaszczuk, Emily. Biochemistry, University of Leeds

Haering, Zoe. International History and Politics at University of Leeds

Harrison, Georgina. History and Politics, University of Sussex

Hessabi, Banu. Arts and Humanities with a Foundation Year, University of Sussex

Hudson, Sophie. Ecological and Environmental Sciences, The University of Edinburgh

Ismail, Lana. Politics with Business Management, Queen Mary University of London

Klemos, Thea. History of Art, University of Warwick

Knight, Maria. Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry, University of Warwick

Laurenson-Clark, Robin. Acting foundation course, Oxford School of Drama

Lim, Jia. History with a year abroad, University College London

Macpherson, Tegan. Classics, University of Manchester

Marks, Charlotte. History of Art, University of Warwick

McDonnell, Helena. Geography, University of Exeter – deferred entry 2023

Michaels, Ariella. Social Policy, University of Bristol

Mitford, Amelia. Business and Management Studies with a professional Year 1 placement year, University of Sussex – deferred entry 2023

Monfared, Samin. Biomedical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London

Murjani, Alysha. Psychology, University of St. Andrews

Nair, Mahika. Mathematics, Durham University

Nandwani, Geeta. Political Economy, King's College London

Odubeko, Zaina. Philosophy and Politics, University of Bristol

Pilkington, Tatiana. Combined Honours, Newcastle University

Perrier, Julie. Mathematics, University of St. Andrews

Reed, Ruby. Pharmacology and Physiology, University of Westminster

Sammour, Farah. Environmental Policy with Economics, London School of Economics

Shoebridge, Ellie. Music Technology, Kingston University

Stern, Roxy. Psychology, University of Bristol

Tan, Erin. Biomedical Science, The University of Edinburgh

Thabet, Rama. Finance, Queen Mary University of London

Yoong, Janna. Neuroscience with a year abroad, Queen Mary University of London

Art School

Allright, Pippin. Kingston University

Gavin, Thalia. Kingston University

Murray Patel, Tilika. Kingston University

Gap Year

Atherton, Sadie

Brown, Sophie

Frankel, Scarlett

Gibbons, Grace

Green, Tatiana

Hamilton-Smith, James

Masuk, Iffah

Meader-Zand, Parissa

Rayne, Delilah

Rosser, Grace

Scali, Dina

Wheeler, Katie



**Welcome to the newly
Polished Corners of 2022**