



Autumn 2018

HBOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

www.habsgirls.org.uk

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter



Old Girls Lacrosse Match



AGM 2018 with the 2013 leavers

Useful web links

Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/habsoldgirls>

Twitter:

@habsgirlsSchool

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/habsgirlsSchool

SoundCloud:

<http://www.soundcloud.com/habsgirlsSchool>

Instagram:

@habsgirlsSchool

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 12th December 2018 – Carol Service

Monday March 11th 2019 – Careers Evening

Sunday 8th September 2019 – AGM/Reunion

LETTER FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Dear Old Girls,

The new academic year started on a very sad note as we heard of the death of Mrs Penelope Penney, former Headmistress of the school (1991-2005). She was a very well respected and much valued Headmistress whose contributions both to this school and to the world of education (especially girls' education) were greatly impactful. I know that very many of you have lots of fond and happy memories of Penelope Penney and I hope that you will read the Obituary later in this newsletter and recognise from that a picture of your Headmistress. The Memorial Service planned by her family for November will have contributions from the school.

The first half of the autumn term has flown past. Summer seems to have lasted here in Elstree well into October, and it has been slightly strange to see students playing lacrosse in this country in blistering sunshine!

Over the summer all our senior students took part in the 'Big Read' and enjoyed 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry who sent us a video of her personal message about the book as we embarked upon it. Throughout the school we have enjoyed assemblies and form times spent discussing the book and topics and it has inspired other pieces of literature, poetry and art work from our students too. It has been heartening to see how

Continues over page...



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

HAOGC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

MIRANDA BARNETT (Napper) 1989

TREASURER:

ANITA TWIDDY (Harrison) 1985

SECRETARY:

ANTONIA CLAYDEN (Woodiwiss) 1986

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

SYLVIA NOTLEY (Day) 1961

HEADMISTRESS (ex-officio):

BIDDIE O'CONNOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

JULIA MANDICH 2005

MEMBERS:

SONIA FIELD (Porges) 1981

ANJALI KOTHARI (Malhotra) 1990

KRISTIANA MARTON 2007

SARAH KATZ (Wolfe) 1986

SARA RENSHAW 2005

VICE PRESIDENTS:

JUDITH CURATI (Payne) 1979

PAULA HAMMOND (Preedy) 1959

SUE HARRIS (Eaton) 1971

PAT HOWELLS (Rixon) 1953

PAMELA PYE (Wiseman) 1948

NICOLA WALTERS (Ivinson) 1971

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:

TIM SCOTT

ROBERT JAMES-ROBBINS

LAURA MEE (Stedman) 2000

our students can move away from their digital screens to pursue other interests and activities. People are already discussing what the title for next summer's 'big read' should be.

Many of our Upper Sixth students also used time over the summer to research and compile their entries for the St Catherine's Prize Scholarship. There were over eighty entries and topics ranged from detailed medical scientific research to an exploration of what it means to be British. There were three winners who wrote on: The Quaternary Environment; Phonetics & Phonology; The role of Mitochondria in Diabetes. The winners will present their work to the rest of the Sixth Form in the St Catherine's Lecture on St Catherine's Day.

A party of twenty students and three teaching staff took time at the beginning of the summer holidays to visit our partner school in Bangalore, India. This was the first visit to the school with which we have been in dialogue through skype, emails and actual letters, for the last two years. Our students found the visit very worthwhile in so many different ways and many are keen to return this summer, to continue with their teaching, to meet their peers again and get to know the place even better. They all returned having learnt a lot, not least about themselves.

This term new students have joined the school at every level and have settled well into the busy life of Habs. The L4s all went on a Bushcraft visit for two nights into the wilds near Kettering and returned happy and smelling of wood smoke. I'm sure that many of you remember similar experiences, perhaps recalling the visits to Osmington Bay in the '90s and '00s!

As well as welcoming new students to the school we were also delighted on 9 September to co-host a reunion for over 150 former students and staff of the school. It was wonderful to meet so many Habs students and to hear their many and varied stories, not just of time spent here but of Acton days, even evacuation days in Dorset, and what varied and interesting careers they have pursued. A highlight of the day was the unveiling of two new head Girls' Boards which the OGC has organised and funded and which now are placed opposite the current ones in the





Prevett Hall Foyer. Following the great reunion in May at the School in Acton it is very definitely the case that the spirit of Acton is alive and strong in the school today and we look forward to the next reunion which is already being planned for 2019 at Elstree.

Over recent weeks the school's musicians from L5 upwards have been busy preparing their extensive repertoire for the Music Tour to Barcelona over half term. We were treated to a preview of this and items ranged from Mozart to Bacharach. They are looking forward to the music making and of course to churros for breakfast! Again, lots of you will recall the wonderful concerts of which you were a part, whether in the Parthenon frieze-lined hall at Acton or here in the Prevett Hall at Elstree.

Preparations are also well-advanced for the Senior production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' which will be performed on 13, 14 and 15 Nov. A few of the younger pupils staying in school late for clubs have looked a little alarmed to watch the actors practising with passion their screaming. It promises to be another stunning production.

As part of our increasingly well-established tradition the Harvest shopping trolleys came out to be decorated in true carnival fashion by the six House groups as part of the School's Harvest celebrations. Donations of all sorts of foods and essentials flooded in and filled the stage and the trolleys. The trolleys embraced the theme of concern for our environment which is running through the school this year, and prefects and their helpers used recycled materials to create a wing-flapping butterfly, an elephant constructed entirely from plastic bottles and a buzzing bee to name but three of the amazing constructions!

By the end of this term there will have been many other House competitions and activities- including House art, House netball, House environmental initiative, as well as a few House breakfasts and of course the fabulous St Catherine's Day activities which this year will be based around the theme of the urban environment in cities across the world.

This provides me with the perfect lead into my seasonal message to you all- I hope that wherever you are in the world that you will have a moment on Friday 23 November to think of your own celebrations during your time as a student at Habs of our special day - Happy St Catherine's Day.

With best wishes,

Biddie O'Connor.

Biddie O'Connor
Headmistress



Acton Tea Party

On Saturday 12th May over 150 Old Girls returned to the school buildings on Creffield Road where the school was located from 1898 until 1974. The Japanese School London Ltd. who are the current occupants kindly allowed us free access to the buildings for the afternoon. The Secretary, Mr Santoshi Takenaka, who had been so helpful in making the necessary arrangements was presented with a copy of the 1929 book of photographs of Acton in a wooden box made by Mr Mark Squire of the Design and Technology Department at Elstree.



HAOGC President, Miranda Barnett, makes the presentation to Mr Santoshi Takenaka

As Old Girls wandered the corridors the years slipped away as much of the fabric of the building is as we remember it. Many friendships were rekindled as year groups met and caught up on what they had been doing since the last saw each other.

One of our oldest attendees, Gwen Brown who left in 1946, managed to identify herself on the 1946 whole school photograph. Two former members of staff joined us. Pat Watson who as Miss Martin taught Mathematics from 1968 until 1974 and Ruth Davies who joined the staff as Miss Elton to teach PE in 1964. A delicious tea was served by Brookwoods, the school's caterers.

An album of 84 images is available on the Old Girls' portal at <https://alumnae.habsgirls.org.uk/galleries/view/7>



Afternoon tea is served



Gwen Brown (Class of 1946) points to herself in the whole school image of 1946

Charities at Acton

The recent Acton reunion brought back vivid memories of the varied activities that went on in the school hall during my time there in the 1950s and 60s, marking the progress of the day, week or year: morning and afternoon prayers, gym and "dry-land swimming" lessons, school Carols and their rehearsals, end-of-term Mark Reading, plays, dancing lessons and wet-break country-dancing, the Korean Sale, Harvest Festivals, school concerts and evening Subscription Concerts, Commemoration Day ceremonies, St Catherine's Day entertainments (the staff plays were always the best!), parties for the younger girls... Also the annual Charities meeting, which I'd more or less forgotten about in the interim.

My memories of charity collections higher up the school are rather vague, but in the Lower School it was customary for each form to have a Charity Monitor whose job it was to go round her form with a jam-jar on a set day each week collecting the amount we'd each decided we could give - probably at least one old penny a week. As the funds mounted, they were plotted on a graph-like chart at the back of the hall, which was avidly watched to see which form could raise the most money. The chart was the creative work of a senior girl, and when a new chart went up, it was exciting to discover what design she'd come up with. I remember one which had little boats racing towards the finishing line. When I was asked to do one, I painted a different clock for each form, with a long pendulum and a mouse to run up it.

The distribution of the combined funds was decided at the yearly Charities meeting - an exercise in democracy and public speaking which took up a fair part of the morning. The school would gather in the hall to sit on the floor and hear girls from different years present speeches in support of various causes listed on a large blackboard. Frequent contenders were Dr. Barnado's, Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, a charity concerned with poliomyelitis, Imperial Cancer Research, the Spastics Society, RSPCA, Cheshire Homes and Guide Dogs for the Blind. I never discovered how either the speakers or their topics were selected, but perhaps the speakers were members of the speech and drama club: certainly the speeches seemed to me to be carefully prepared, confidently delivered and sometimes very persuasive, and I was in awe of their skills! Then, equipped with pencils and slips of paper, we each had to cast our votes for where the money would go. Later the results were announced and each cause received a gift in proportion to the votes cast.

Diana Porteus (at Acton 1953-1967)

Carol Service - 12th December 2018

We are very grateful to be granted a generous allocation of tickets from the School for the annual Carol Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Do please apply for tickets using the form at the end of the newsletter (please ensure that you enclose a SAE) - we are happy to accept applications from groups of people if you wish to attend together.



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club



History of School Officers

The School Magazine 1905 Volume 1 Issue 2 reports on the Prize Day held on Thursday 22nd June 1905 at which Miss Gilliland, the Headmistress, spoke of “the newly-instituted Captains, who form part of a scheme of self-government which leaves more and more to the honour and good-feeling of the girls.” The very first, and previous issue, of the School Magazine lists Form Captains for all classes including the most senior ones. These photographs of the original Form Captains’ badges show that they date from 1904 so it is probable that the first Form Captains were selected in the Autumn term of 1904 which was the start of Miss Gilliland’s first full academic year as she had taken up the post in December 1903. These badges were in use until

1988 when they started to be phased out and were no longer in use by 1993.

*The Sixth Form when I came to the School in January 1920 asked me to appoint a Head Girl as they had not had one before. I agreed & these are the Head Girls.
M.O. Sprules.
St. Peter's Day 1937.*

It was not until fifteen years later and the appointment of Miss Sprules, as the next Headmistress, that the role of Head Girl was introduced as this handwritten note in the front of the first Prefects’ book makes clear.

In the School Magazines this role is labelled ‘School Captain’ until Margaret Thomas’ appointment in 1925 when she is referred to as ‘Head Girl’ in print. The 1920 School Magazine lists School Captain, Games Captain and Prefects as well as Form Captains in the Sixth Form classes. The first Deputy Head Girl was appointed by Miss Harold in 1939 and prior to that the Games Captain seems to have been the de-facto Deputy Head Girl.

- 1920, Aline Reid.
- 1920-21. Rosemary Vollett (now Mrs. Malins-Bonett)
- 1921-22. Margjorie Harwood.
- 1922-23. Doreen Elwell. Elected to the Headship of this book High School 1942
- 1923-24. Helen Williamson.
- 1924-25. Dorothy Robinson. Elected to the Headship of Harrow Girls School 1941.
- 1925-26. Margaret Thomas. (now Mrs. Vase)
- 1926-27. Goddards Williams (now Mrs. Bradnack)
- 1927-28. Euphemia MacBryde. (now Mrs. William Simpson)
- 1928-29. Peggy Stone. (now Mrs. Godley)
- 1929-30. Helena Symonds (now Mrs. R. H. Gossie)
- 1930-31. Beryl Bland. (now Mrs. Boulton)

The earliest photograph of a group of Prefects held in the school archive is for the academic year 1928-29. If you have a copy of a group that the archive does not hold then I would be pleased to receive a digital copy (600dpi) at archive@habsgirls.org.uk or to borrow the original and take a scan of it.

Biographies of the first ten head Girls show that nine of them went into teaching as a career with one becoming a GP and half of them remained unmarried. All of them went on to further education establishments including four to Oxbridge colleges with six taking arts subjects (English and Modern Languages) and only one mathematician. Two of the teachers returned to teach at the school in Acton.

Aline Reid – Head Girl (1919-20)

Aline Reid was the first Head Girl of the school. She was born on 13th February 1901 in Hanwell, Middlesex and joined the school in September 1911 into form IIa. She took her General School Certificate in June 1918 gaining her matriculation together with distinctions in history and oral French. In the school magazines (Spring & Summer) of 1920 she appears as “School Captain.” She left Haberdashers in July 1920 with a leaving exhibition to University College, London where in 1925 she gained a BA (Hons) second class in English. On the 1939 Register she is a secondary school teacher living in Reading and the Old Girls’ Club handbooks of 1944 and 1951 list her as an Assistant Mistress at Kendrick Girls’ School Reading. She never married or left Reading where she died in 1991.

Rosemary Volkert – Head Girl (1920-21)

Rosemary was born 2nd April 1902 in Hackney and joined the school in September 1913 into form IIIc. She gained matriculation with honours in the General School Certificate examinations of summer 1919 with distinctions in history, geography, Latin, French (oral & written) and mathematics. She left Haberdashers in July 1921 with a scholarship to St Hugh’s College, Oxford where in 1924 she graduated with a BA (Hons) second class in Modern Languages. She began her teaching career in France for one year and then returned to Staffordshire to become an assistant mistress at St Mary’s & St Anne’s School. By 1929 she was pursuing a course in Social Science at the London School of Economics. During the Second World War she was a civil nursing reserve attached to West Middlesex Hospital and afterwards returned to teaching. She married twice and died in 1992 in East Sussex.

Marjorie Harwood - Head Girl (1921-22)

Marjorie was born on 7th July 1903 in Ealing and joined the school in September 1913 into form III. In June 1919 she sat her General School Certificate examinations gaining her matriculation and distinctions in history and French. School records seem to indicate that she was the first Head Girl to sit Higher School Certificate examinations in the summer of 1921 but there is no record of her subjects. She left in July 1922 with a leaving exhibition to St Hugh’s College, Oxford where in 1925 she graduated with a BA (Hons) second class in English Language and Literature. She continued her studies gaining a Diploma of Education one year later and then commenced a career as an English mistress at various schools around the country including Eastbourne, Harrogate and Southend-on-Sea where she is found living on the 1939 Register. She never married and died in Cheltenham in 1975.



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

Doris Ewart – Head Girl (1922-23)

Doris was born on 12th November 1904 in Lambeth, the middle of three daughters. She joined the school in September 1913 into form UIVc and having gained both her General and Higher School Certificate examinations she left VI in July 1923. At University College, London she studied for a BA (Hons) in French graduating in 1925 with a second class degree after which she studied for one year at the London Day Training College to obtain the London Teacher's Diploma. Her first teaching role was as an assistant French mistress at Clapham High School. Three years later she joined the staff of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls' in Hatcham where she stayed until 1937 and in 1938 after gaining her Licence-ès-lettres at Lille University, she became senior French mistress at the High School in Southend-on-Sea where she is recorded living on the 1939 register. In 1942 she becomes Headmistress of Wisbech High School and leaves them in 1947 to become Headmistress of the Carlyle School in Chelsea where she remained until her retirement. She only enjoyed a short retirement dying in summer 1967 in London.

Helen Williamson – Head Girl (1923-24)

Helen was born on 2nd May 1904 in Willesden, the eldest child of Scottish parents. She joined the school in September 1920, having previously been at school in Edinburgh, into form Mat B (the equivalent of MVth today) and left four years later from VI having gained both General and Higher School Certificate examinations. She went on to Westfield College, London and graduated with a BA (Hons) second class French degree in 1927 which was followed by one year of study at the London Day Training College to obtain her London Teacher's Diploma. In 1928 she had a probationary appointment as a French mistress at Addey & Stanhope School in Deptford which was made definitive the following September (1929). She remained at that school until April 1935, taking on the role of Latin teacher in 1931, when their records show that she "left to undertake work in Paris." The 1951 OGC Handbook indicates that she was still teaching but after this the trail runs out as she was variously recorded as Helen, Ellen and Nellie in official records and it is quite possible that she stayed in France.



Dorothy Robinson – Head Girl (1924-25)

Dorothy (known to many as Robin) was born 6th September 1906 in Brentford, Middlesex and joined the school in September 1920 into form UIVb. After gaining her General (1923) and Higher School Certificate examinations, she was awarded a leaving exhibition by the School Governors in summer 1925 when she left VI and went to study at Bedford College, London. Here she gained a BA degree in English and commenced a teaching career at St Margaret's School, Harrow. Following a move to Edgbaston College, Birmingham, she returned to our school in Acton as Senior English Mistress from 1936 until 1941 including evacuating with the school to Dorchester. On the 1939 Register she is found lodging in Dorchester along with Miss Vivien Gray who became Acting Headmistress during the interregnum

between Miss Sprules and Miss Harold. She left Acton to become headmistress of the Harrow County Girls' School a position she held until her retirement in 1967. She died in Harrow in 1975. The obituary published in the school magazine of 1976 ends:

“Robin was Headmistress of the Harrow County Girls' School where her work as a great educationalist and her love of the English language was much appreciated.”

Margaret Thomas – Head Girl (1925-26)

Margaret was born on 15th March 1908 in Reigate, Surrey and she was the youngest of four children listed on the 1911 census. She joined the Kindergarten class in April 1915 and gained her General School Certificate with matriculation in June 1923 achieving a distinction grade in geography. After taking her Higher School Certificate examinations in July 1925 she remained at school for a further year leaving in 1926 with an exhibition to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford where she graduated with a second class degree in Oxford Modern Greats. This was the earliest name for the degree now known as PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). She was clearly good at sports and represented the school in netball, rounders and tennis.



She began her working career doing welfare work at the Wolverhampton Steam Laundry before becoming a London County Council Inspector for the Mental Deficiency Acts and then an Inspector for the Board of Control.

Records show that in February 1941 she sailed from Liverpool to New York where on 25th November (an auspicious date) she married Edgar Valk. They spent 20 years in the USA during which time Margaret continued her welfare work including with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Back in the UK she became a teacher and advisor on social work and was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list of 1975 for her work with the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. In January 1979 she published a paper in the British Journal of Social Work about the poet Kenneth Koch's teaching of poetry writing to the elderly living in care homes and “how poetry made them happier and gave them a lively interest and sense of achievement in doing something they had never done before, enabling them to look at the things around them with fresh eyes.” She was predeceased by her husband and died three months after her 100th birthday in Exeter, Devon.

Gwladys Williams – Head Girl (1926-27) & President of the OGC (1951-54)

Gwladys was born on 22nd February 1908 in Wealdstone and joined form UIIIa in September 1919 gaining a Governors' Scholarship for the duration of her stay at the school. Her sisters Helen and Gwyneth were also pupils. She gained her General School Certificate including a credit in oral French in June 1924, her Matriculation in 1925 and first MB in July 1927. She was awarded a leaving exhibition by the School Governors of £30 for 3 years and went on to the London School of Medicine undertaking her training at the Royal Free Hospital.

She came from a Baptist family and had always had the ambition to become a medical missionary. As soon as she qualified as a doctor in 1933, she travelled to India to commence



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club



Gwladys Williams

her work. It was customary for newly arrived missionaries to study the language before being posted and it was whilst at language school that she met Wilfred Bradnock. They married in 1936 in Agra, India and had four sons. However, their work was curtailed by the war which necessitated a return to England for the family in December 1944. They ended up lodging with Gwladys' parents in Jordans, Buckinghamshire. Gwladys was determined to continue her medical career and worked for the NHS at ante-natal clinics in Watford and Southall. She delighted the local Indian emigrant community of Southall who not only had a female doctor to look after the women, but one who spoke fluent Urdu.

Wilfred returned briefly to India in 1947 but Gwladys and the boys remained in England. In 1951, Wilfred left the Baptist Missionary Society and became Translations Secretary at the British & Foreign Bible Society. The family moved to Kent so that the boys could attend Eltham College - a school that had been founded jointly by the London Missionary Society and the Baptist Missionary Society as The School for the Sons of Missionaries. Whilst her family grew up, Gwladys carried on with her medical work in Deptford and in 1964 when she and Wilfred returned to Jordans she resumed her work in Southall.

In September 1951, Gwladys was invited by the Old Girls' Club Committee to become Club President and she took up this role at the AGM in December 1951. Her Presidency lasted three years and in December 1954 she was succeeded by Nora Dear. She died in April 1988.

She described herself as 'not an academic but surrounded by academics' as her husband was an educationalist and all four Bradnock sons became teachers of one sort or another. However, her record would tend to show that she was being modest as she received a scholarship and leaving exhibition and studied medicine in the late 1920's which was not a time when many girls went on to further studies let alone to study medicine.

According to her son, James, she had strong convictions and was very driven to see things through. She retained a lifelong affection and admiration for Miss Sprules and really lived up to the Haberdashers' motto 'Serve and Obey'.

Euphemia MacBryde - Head Girl (1927-28)

Euphemia was born on 14th August 1910 in Shepherds Bush and joined the school in January 1920 into form UII. She was the eldest of four sisters who attended the school and her sister Gwen, as Mrs Young, taught the Preparatory Department for twenty years 1949-69. Euphemia represented the school at netball, rounders and as part of a tennis couple. She was also a good swimmer achieving her Royal Life Saving Society awards including her instructor's certificate in 1926 the same year she passed her General School Certificate examinations and matriculated. After leaving school in the summer of 1928 she attended Furzedown Teacher Training College in Tooting. In 1935 she married the Congregational Minister William Simpson and two years later they had a daughter. She died in January 1999 in Buxton, Derbyshire.



Margaret Surrey – Head Girl (1928-29) & Secretary of OGC (1935-40)



Margaret, known as Peggy, was born 25th November 1909 (another auspicious date) in Acton and joined the school in September 1920 in form IIIb. She took General School Certificate examinations in July 1926 gaining distinction in latin, French, mathematics with Special credit in oral French. Higher School Certificate examinations in the sciences followed and in July 1929 she left with an exhibition of £30 for 3 years to study mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge. She was one of three girls who left the school that year to go to study at Newnham. After graduating she taught for one year at The Royal School, Bath before joining the staff at Acton in September 1934. She evacuated with the school in September 1939 and found herself with a group of LVths in the village of Stratton where she met the Rector, the Reverend Arthur Godley, whom she married in 1940 and left the staff making their home at the Rectory in Stratton until Arthur retired in 1950. The couple moved to Yetminster, Dorset where Peggy continued to take on many roles within their new parish even after her husband's death in 1969. However, her great passion was bell ringing which she had taken up at the suggestion of her husband shortly after their marriage. She was a member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers and became the first lady secretary and, in 1984, the first lady President of the Guild. She continued active ringing until two years before her death when she moved into a care home with her sister, Kathleen, also an OG. She died in April 2006 aged 96.

Former Head Girl, Shirley, and her sister Cynthia visit Elstree

On Thursday 4th October, Shirley Charles-Jones (nee Frow) and her sister Cynthia Bennett visited the school to view the Acton Head Girl boards. Having been unable to attend the Old Girls' Club AGM and Reunion in September to witness the unveiling of the boards, Shirley's son, Huw, contacted the school to see if it would be possible to arrange a separate visit when he could escort his mother and aunt. The school is always delighted to welcome back former students and so a visit was easily arranged at a convenient time.

They arrived in time for morning coffee with Miss O'Connor where Shirley was able to proudly show her Head Girl badge that she was wearing as well as the cloth swimming badge that she had kept. More recent Old Girls will be familiar with the swimming test to gain your white cap but in the 1940s and 50s when you passed you were handed a white cloth square upon which was marked the entwined letters HAS. You were told to embroider them in red satin stitch and then attach the square to the back of your costume so that it could be easily seen that you were permitted into the deep end of the pool.



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

In return the school was able to show Shirley the Prefect book which she had signed three times first in 1947 as a Prefect and finally in 1949-50 as Head Girl. When asked about their recollections of Miss Harold, their Headmistress, the two different personalities of the sisters became evident. Whilst Shirley recalled her caring concern for all the girls, Cynthia remembered her disciplinarian side. She brought to mind being sent to sit outside the Headmistress' office and hoping that Miss Harold was kept busy and did not come out of her office before the bell rang and she was able to escape to her next lesson. Miss O'Connor was surprised that she had not had to sit and wait until Miss Harold had time to see her. Cynthia's favourite form of mischief was sliding down the bannisters of the staircase in the main hall taking the bannister of each flight of stairs in quick succession. A feat she recounted with a twinkle in her eye still relishing the thrill.



Shirley finds her signature in the Prefects Book with a little help from younger sister Cynthia

Cynthia did remember her interview with Miss Harold before joining the school at age 11. The two sisters had been evacuated to Morecambe to stay with their grandparents during the war. When the hostilities ended Cynthia had returned home but Shirley remained in Morecambe to continue her education as she was closer to taking her school certificate examinations (GCSE equivalent) and her parents did not want to disrupt her studies for a second time. However, this meant that they had spent a year apart and so Cynthia told Miss Harold how nice it would be if her sister could also join the school because she missed her. Of course, later she realised that this had been exactly the right thing to say and both sisters joined the school in September 1945.



Cynthia (left) and Shirley (right) view the new Acton Head Girl Boards in the Prevet Hall Foyer

We then went to the Prevet Hall foyer to view the new boards and Shirley was able to see her name in gold leaf near the top of the second board. A short walk into the Prevet Hall brought back memories of Acton as they saw the hymn board where Shirley's Deputy would have put up the hymn number each morning before assembly and the lectern upon which Shirley would have opened the Bible ready for Miss Harold to read the daily lesson. She had vivid memories of having to learn her Roman numerals in order to find the correct chapter and verse in the Bible. The sight of the chair and table on the stage were also familiar and they referred to Miss Harold's chair because that was where she always sat. In fact the table and chair, so familiar to all of us, date from 1920 when they were purchased in memory of Miss Gilliland.

Cynthia recalled her interview/evacuation to Morecambe.

A few steps further and they were able to see the restored 1910 stained glass window which had been in the eastern staircase at Acton part of the major 1910 extension to the original 1901 building and visible from the gardens. This window was brought to Elstree when we moved in 1974 and installed in the first dining room. When this was demolished in April 2014, the window was sent away for restoration and then placed in an internal position as part of the new dining room and performance space building.

Later Shirley and Cynthia viewed some photographs from the school archive and were able to help identify some of the mystery faces. We even had time to sing along with the first verse of the School Carmen on soundcloud.

After leaving school Shirley went to Charing Cross Hospital to study medicine where she was one of only six female medical students with forty male contemporaries. Cynthia left from Lower VIth to pursue her nursing training at Barts Hospital.

Articles from the House Prefects

Harold

Being the House Prefect for Harold has provided my Sixth Form experience with enjoyable, healthy competition beyond the academic curriculum. My role has pushed me to get involved in a variety of events ranging from singing 'Since You Been Gone' (Pitch Perfect) in the Pevett Hall to converting a Harvest trolley into a Hawaiian Hoola Skirt and surfboard! It is so thrilling to brainstorm innovative ideas with the younger years and see their vast imagination come to life as we bond over spontaneously adopting a cute dolphin or dancing (with two left feet) on stage to a Disney compilation. Not only has my role as House Prefect left me with hilarious and embarrassing memories of Habs, but it has really tested my teamwork and delegation skills and moulded me into a rounded, balanced, enthusiastic and creative student.



Amy Silverbeck, U6 IEF

Gilliland



Gilliland is undoubtedly the most competitive and one of the most successful houses in the school, having won numerous events from St Cate's decorations to the Edna Judd poetry competition in the last academic year. I was delighted to hear I had been selected to be the Gilliland prefect for the year 2018/19. So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed leading assemblies and being able to work with girls of different ages across the school body to come up with innovative ideas for both St Kate's stalls and our Harvest trolley. One of the most rewarding aspects of being a part of Gilliland is seeing how strong our house spirit is, with all students and staff being prepared to get stuck into any activity in order to be the eventual victors of house competitions. The next academic year promises to be very exciting and I hope that I will be able to lead my house to victory, winning the house cup.



Memories of a Scientist from the Early Fifties



Margaret Brown (Class of 1947)

On leaving school in 1947 I was offered a place at King's College, London to read for an honours degree in Botany, which I accepted happily. After the traumas of the war an exciting world was suddenly opened up to me. There were eight of us in the 1st year Botany class, three men who had served in each of the forces and a "Bevan Boy" who had been conscripted to work in the coal mines of the north and four girls either from school or technical college. In spite of the age difference

we all got on extremely well and worked and played hard. All of us wanted to enhance our lives and we intermingled with students of all ages. We discussed every conceivable subject and although there were differences of opinions we respected each other's views. None of this present day of conceited nonsense of not wanting to listen to opinions differing from yours. The Botany course had four main subjects, plant physiology, genetics, ecology and soil microbiology, the two latter of particular interest to me. We had field trips each year to different parts of the country and habitats. These were shared with 2nd and 3rd year students, most of whom were ex-service personnel. These trips were both educational and fun. I chose to do my 3rd year dissertation in soil microbiology, finally graduating in 1950. Then I was offered the chance to read for a PhD. in soil microbiology and finally achieved this in 1953. I left college to go out into the world and look for a job. As now, jobs were hard to come by and for two years I worked as a microbiology assistant at King's College Hospital. Then in 1955 I was offered a Scientific Officer post at Rothamsted Experimental Station, now called Rothamsted Research.

Rothamsted is one of the largest agricultural research stations in the world and a leader in development of all aspects of agriculture. Established in 1853 by Sir John Lawes, whose family lived in the Jacobean manor house on the estate, it grew from a small institution to about 800 staff in total in the 1950's covering all possible subjects. For many years we had six staff who were Fellows of the Royal Society. The scientific staff were predominantly male in 1955 but over the years the number of women increased considerably. The laboratory assistants were mostly girls and the boys coped with the heavier greenhouse work. When I joined soil microbiology there were four male staff and three women, plus two research students from Canada and New Zealand. Later two more men and three women joined. Throughout the station women were treated as equals with the men but until around the early sixties if the women married they had to resign and Rothamsted was regarded as a marriage bureau!

There were many clubs to join covering all aspects. We had lots of social gatherings, dances and balls were held in the drawing room of the Manor. Every day we gathered for tea in a communal refectory where scientists from all departments attended. For many years I helped to run the music club, which held five concerts inviting professional chamber music artistes of the highest standard.

My main research was about bacteria living in association with plant roots, a thriving community of useful bacteria, and I was especially working on the effects of introducing free-living nitrogen fixing bacteria into this rhizosphere. This involved a lot of field work and three of us did experiments on agricultural crops at Rothamsted, Woburn (a subsidiary research station), and on farms in the Fen district. Results from these experiments could only be assessed after at least three years because they could be influenced by weather conditions. It was rewarding and fun and we thoroughly enjoyed our days in the field. The effects of symbiotic mycorrhiza and nitrogen fixing bacteria living in the nodules on legume roots also main topics. The latter dated back to the early discoveries of their existence by Lawes and Gilbert and a plot set up by them is still maintained in the gardens at Rothamsted Manor.

By this time I had been promoted to Principal Scientific Officer. We had research students from Australia, New Zealand, India, Africa and Europe all working with us. Alas in the early 1980s financial cuts were having an effect and staff numbers decreased rapidly. Today there are about 200 scientists on the site but many national and international scientists collaborate in a range of disciplines from genomics to field ecology.

In 1984 I took early retirement and in the following years have explored the world often with friends made at Rothamsted. I also attend two meetings a year for retired staff members when we usually have a lecture on current research and tea to follow when we catch up on old friends.

Life has been good to me and I have happy memories of college and school to look back on.

Dr Margaret Brown (Class of 1947)

Careers Evening Creative Arts and Media 11th March 2019

Following the successful careers evenings that have gone before, we would like to remind you of the next careers evening due to take place on 11th March 2019. We would love to hear from any Old Girls that have careers in the creative arts or media profession and can come and speak to the current girls. The evening will take place at a venue in London. All offers to host are also greatly appreciated. Please email us at careers@haogc.org.

Disclaimer - If you do submit an article, please note that we may be required to edit it without prior approval. However, we do promise to upload a full version on the Old Girls' portal.

Please note that we do not accept any responsibility for the information or links associated with non-Habs websites and blogs mentioned in this publication.



Photograph Identification-

Lower Vth Bonding Day in September 2003

Thank you for helping to identify the girls in this photograph which has now been dated as September 2003 and not the mid-1990s as I previously thought. It is always helpful to have even the smallest piece of information from the OG community.



- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Olivia Ferdi | (Class of 2008) | 5 | Tania Kallis | (Class of 2004) |
| 2 | Elizabeth Waterfield | (Class of 2008) | 6 | Jankee Patel | (Class of 2008) |
| 3 | Katherine Sidders | (Class of 2008) | 7 | Morgan Kainth | (Class of 2008) |
| 4 | Samantha Jayaweera | (Class of 2004) | | | |

Gymnastic Display Team - 4th November 1988



In this newsletter I would like help identifying the girls in this photograph who formed the gymnastic display team when HRH Princess Margaret came to open the Sports Hall on 4th November 1988 (30 years ago).

Number 7 is directly behind number 1. If you can name these girls then please email me at archive@habsgirls.org.uk.

Judith Curati (nee Payne)

School Archivist

AGM 2018 Photos



Former Staff



More photos are available at Old Girls' portal <https://alumnae.habsgirls.org.uk/galleries/view/11>



Donations to the archive

At recent Old Girls' Club events, I have been most grateful to receive into the School Archive a number of donations.

At the Acton Tea Party, Susan Rhea (nee Fielding-Goude) presented a number of items of school uniform from the 1950s including a tunic from Valerie Lever.



At the Acton Tea Party, Susan Porter (nee Hains) presented 3 early copies of the school magazine dating from 1905-1907 together with programmes from prize giving in 1910 and a concert in 1909. These items she had purchased from a bookseller some years ago.

At the September reunion Janet Moore (nee Lucas) presented her cookery apron that she had made in LIVth with its exquisite smocking.

I am always happy to receive items which help to tell the story of the school to the current generation of pupils. If you wish to contribute to the archive then email me at archive@habsgirls.org.uk

Digital Archive

On the Old Girls portal you have access to a digital archive of school material that is growing steadily. It is found on the far right hand tab marked 'SDS Archive'. Here you will find the complete set of whole school photographs plus a collection of Prefect groups from 1928 onwards. Recently digital copies of the school magazines up to the Second World War have been added. As well as being able to read the magazines, there is a very powerful search function which allows you to look for articles about particular subjects like swimming, school plays etc. Over time it is hoped that the magazine collection will grow until it encompasses all copies up to the current issue. Do take a look it is fascinating!



Judith Curati (nee Payne)

School Archivist

Obituaries

Mary Barker (Class of 1938) Hilda Mary Barker was at school from 1928 when she joined Form I until December 1930 when she left LIV and moved to Newcastle Upon Tyne for 18 months. She returned to Acton in May 1932 and left from the Sixth form in 1938. In 1936 she gained 7 subjects in her General School certificate examinations and two years later 3 subjects in her Higher School certificate examinations leaving school to pursue secretarial training. She died on 28th April aged 98 and had been planning events for when she was 100. Happily she was relatively fit and well until a few days before she died.

Dileas Sweetenham (nee Tingle) It is with regret that I have to tell you that my wife, Dileas, has died from Parkinson's Disease. She was at school from 1946 until 1951 taking her General School Examination in 1949 and Advanced Level in summer 1951. She attended the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in May 1956. In 1958 she received a Diploma in Child Health from the Royal College of Physicians.

For many years, Dr Sweetenham was a partner in a GP practice in Pulteney Street, Bath. She retired from the practice in 1994 and continued for several years as a hospital doctor at St. Martin's Hospital in Bath.



Dileas in 1950

We were married in 1960. Dileas often referred to the school and said what an excellent education she had received. She was very pleased that one of her sons is the Senior Partner in a GP practice in Huntingdon and a grandson is a medical student who is likely to become a GP.

Written by her husband Walter.

Margaret Gilmour (nee Richards) died on 11th December 2017 at the age of 92.



Margaret celebrating her 90th birthday

Margaret joined the school in 1938, but when in 1939 the school was evacuated to Dorchester, Margaret (and her younger sister Pamela who also attended the school) moved to Sussex to stay with relatives. Miss Sprules, the headteacher, wrote to my grandparents advising them that while staying in Sussex my mother should: "read as widely as possible, do some sewing and knitting and learn by heart, Psalms, poems and ballads." In her letters home she frequently requested wool for a variety of knitting projects, however there was no reference to learning poetry and reading other than requests for magazines! Margaret left school with her School Certificate in 1942, undertook a shorthand and typing course and then joined the WRNS where she trained as a Radio Mechanic. In 1945 she was sent to Australia where the kindness of people made a huge impression on her. Shortly after



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

her return in 1946 she worked at the League of Nations Palace in Geneva and later undertook a Teachers' Training Certificate but never pursued teaching as her marriage intervened and thereafter she was involved with her family. Hospitality was a feature of Margaret's character and she was constantly welcoming people for meals, overnight stops and longer. She undertook a wide range of voluntary work, mainly associated with her church, St Mary's Osterley, which was an important part of her life. Her garden was one of her passions which was just as well as the garden at Osterley was nearly an acre. In later life when her children Rosemary, Felicity and Miranda (all of whom attended Haberdashers) had left home, she studied for a Certificate in Field Archaeology and many of her holidays with my father included sites of archaeological interest. In 1987, when my father retired, they moved to Chichester, where she again got involved in church life, volunteering in the Cathedral and at Pallant House art gallery. Despite failing health in the last year of her life she had the great good fortune of being able to stay in her own home and enjoy her garden, even if she no longer had the strength to work in it.



Margaret with her mother on her last day at school July 1942

Miranda Gilmour (daughter Class of 1974)



Vivienne Jenkins on her 90th birthday

Vivienne Alma Jenkins (née Fisher)

Born 30th March 1924 in Putney, died 21st December 2017 in Oxford aged 93 years after a short illness.

Vivienne attended Haberdashers' Aske's between 1933 and 1942. Vivienne was the generation which experienced the trauma of war and she was evacuated in September 1939 to Dorchester and returned to Acton in July 1940, in time to experience the Blitz.

Vivienne's mother, who was a teacher, was evacuated with her own school and her father remained in London where he was employed by The Distillers Company. Thus Vivienne, as with many other children, was separated from home and family at a young age, albeit for a short period.

After leaving school Vivienne trained as a teacher at Bishop Otter College which at that time had been relocated to Bromley, Kent as the RAF had requisitioned the Chichester campus. Vivienne taught primary level in the Bromley area where she met her future husband, allegedly at the Bromley swimming baths.

On 3rd April 1948 Vivienne married Thomas George Jenkins, also a teacher, and they set up home in a 3 bed terraced house in Perivale where they lived until retirement. Here they raised three children – Philip, Lynn and Glenys; sadly Glenys pre-deceased her mother.

Vivienne did supply teaching when the children were older and finally went full time

principally teaching home economics. Vivienne was skilled at knitting, sewing, drawing, gardening, cooking and cake decorating and was asked on numerous occasions to make and ice cakes for birthdays and weddings. She inherited her artistic flair from her own mother who was a skilled weaver and embroiderer. In her youth she was active in sports particularly lacrosse, tennis and swimming; Vivienne learnt to swim at Habs and was an elegant and effortless swimmer well into her sixties.

At retirement Vivienne and George moved to the village of Cassington (Oxford) and became staunch members of the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church; Vivienne's contributions to the church were generally more practical than spiritual! They rapidly developed a wide and diverse circle of friends.

Sadly George died in 1995 and Vivienne was a widow for 22 years. She continued with her hobbies and volunteered to read books and scripts which were recorded for blind persons. Her diction was clear and she had a tendency to correct grammatical errors – woe betide anyone using phrases such as “comprising of” or “very unique” – obviously the result of a rigorous grammar school education. Vivienne remained independent, living in her own home and caring for herself until the week before her death.

Sadly missed by her two surviving children and four grandchildren and by friends and neighbours.

Obituary written by Philip Jenkins with additional information kindly supplied by Judith Curati, School Archivist.

Diana Mary Beckley MBE. MSc.

Honorary Citizen of Novi Sad

3rd May 1933 – 22nd September 2017.

Born in 1933 Diana's early formative years took place during the Second World War. This experience in all probability gave her a sense of sympathy with, and service to, others who were in need of understanding and support, and gave her a keen sense of justice.

After qualifying at the University of London (Holloway College) as a physicist she became a physics teacher. She taught in two prestigious girls' schools in the south of England, the first being Christ's Hospital at Hertford and then Haberdashers' Aske's School at Acton.



Diana came to the school as Miss Nixon and left as Mrs. Beckley. Her husband had qualified as a teacher and they decided to move to somewhere they could afford a house. This turned out to be Norfolk which, fifty-two years ago, was very remote. Having found a plot of land on the outskirts of a remote village Diana was chatting about it in the Staff room at Habs when a young member of staff, Susan Andrews, said - “But I live there”. Diana and her husband had bought a plot of land next to the farm where Susan lived.

After moving to Norfolk in 1966 she continued to teach on a part-time basis and lecture at the University of East Anglia whilst she carried out research in low temperature physics and



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

gained a 'Master of Science' to add to her qualifications. During this time she also produced two children.

Diana became a full-time physics teacher at Notre Dame High School and it was here that she first came into contact with Yugoslavia when she accompanied a group of her physics pupils on an educational student exchange to Novi Sad. This was the start of a very close relationship she developed with the city and the region of Vojvodina. This was developed further when, via the Association of Science Teachers, she was awarded a Churchill Scholarship to study science teaching in Yugoslavia. Through the kind offices of the Education Department of Novi Sad a programme was arranged which covered not only Novi Sad but also Ljubljana and Bled. This led on to her learning and becoming proficient at both writing and speaking the Serbian Language

Her keen interest in the Twinning between Novi Sad and Norwich was demonstrated by the work she put in helping to expand the voluntary Association which had been formed to support the contact between the two cities. This became very important when the former Yugoslavia began to break up.

During the crisis and the time of the sanctions Diana, with her husband and the backing of the Association, made many humanitarian aid trips from Norwich to Novi Sad.

During the early, bad, times this would not have been possible without the hospitality of her dear friends the Pilipovi family (whom she first met when visiting with her exchange students) and, subsequently with the very real support of the elected and administrative staff of the City of Novi Sad. The humanitarian aid trips (three each year) lasted for some time. They, subsequently, developed into specific support for the Milan Petrovi School, a school and establishment for children and young people with Special Needs. This year an important 'outreach' facility belonging to the school was named after Diana and her husband.

Diana and her husband were made an Honorary Citizens of Novi Sad in October 1993.

In December 2003 Diana and her husband appeared in the Queen's Honours List where they were awarded an MBE - The citation reads: "...for Services to British - Serbian/ Montenegrin relations".

On the 21st September 2017 whilst visiting the small town of Sombor in the Vojvodina region of Serbia Diana tripped and hit her head. After a while she went into a coma from which she never recovered. She died in Novi Sad on 22nd September in the City that held her in such high regard and was her 'second home'.

Written by her husband Peter.

Mrs Jill Norman (1931-2018)

Jill Norman (neé Sharp) was born in Lewes, Sussex, and attended Lewes County Grammar School for Girls. She then read History at Bedford College for Women, London, continuing with a year at the Courtauld Institute under Professor Ernst Gombrich. After further study at the Institute of Education, she took up a position in 1955 as Assistant History Mistress at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School for Girls, Barnet.

Following a career break from full-time teaching, Jill was appointed Head of History at Haberdashers' in 1973, travelling daily from Barnet to Acton for the first year. Jill specialised in the politics of the Reformation and the art of the Renaissance, enthusing even girls from different religious and cultural traditions. One of her pupils was the broadcaster Vanessa Feltz. For the last phase of her career, Jill transferred from classroom teaching to become the School Librarian in 1985. In this role she was also responsible for the school's archive and her research notes can still be found amongst the papers showing the preparation for exhibitions that she mounted for the School's Open Days in the late 1980's and early 1990's. After finally retiring in 1994, she took up study to become a Church of England Lay Reader but had to abandon the course through ill health.



Jill Norman in 2008

Jill met her husband John when visiting Imperial College, where he was reading Physics. By enormous coincidence they discovered that their fathers knew each other, both working for John Christie of Glyndebourne. They married in 1956 and Jill is survived by two daughters and a son, plus four grandchildren. One grandson has achieved a First in Classical History at Leeds University and a granddaughter holds a Music Scholarship at the Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton, singing the Puccini aria 'O Mio Babbino Caro' at Jill's funeral.

John Norman

Mrs Doreen Wernick (nee Kennedy) 10th October 1927-30th May 2018

Mrs Doreen Wernick (nee Kennedy), former Head Girl and member of staff, died at home on Wednesday 30th May 2018 having developed pneumonia. For the last 5 years she had been suffering from a rare form of dementia called PPA (primary progressive aphasia) which meant that she lost her ability to speak, but as her daughter Jane recalls "luckily for us she knew who we were and what was going on, and maintained her pragmatic approach to life and her lovely smile."



Doreen with her daughter Jane taken at the HAOGC 110th Anniversary in 2014

Doreen Kennedy joined the Preparatory Department just before her 5th birthday and spent all her school life at Haberdashers', including being evacuated with her older sister Molly to Dorchester. She took her General School Examinations in summer 1943 gaining 7 subjects and thus achieving her matriculation. Two years later she gained her Higher School Examinations in Latin, French and Geography. She became the Games Captain in 1943 and Head Girl in 1944 a position she held until she left the school in April 1946.

After school, she spent 6 months at the Sorbonne in Paris before returning to commence her studies in Religious Knowledge and Theology at King's College, London. She was asked, by Miss Harold, to join the teaching staff at Acton in 1967 when Miss Titmuss retired. As she recalled in an interview for the school magazine in 1988 "I was happy to



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

accept when my daughter, then in Lower Fifth, said she would not mind." Her daughter, Jane, was a pupil from 1962 until 1972.

She not only took over Miss Titmuss' divinity teaching but also her responsibility for the Korean Sale which was an annual event held to raise funds for five Korean war orphans who the school had adopted. In later years she was responsible for the school's stationery supplies and organising the annual Dorcas blanket making during the autumn term. After 21 years teaching, she retired in the summer of 1988. That year all her GCSE Religious Studies pupils gained an A grade "a splendid finale to your teaching career" as Mrs Wiltshire wrote to her.

Written by her daughter Jane

Mrs Penelope Anne Penney (30th September 1942- 31st August 2018)



Penelope Penney was born in Newbury, Berkshire, brought up in Switzerland and had ambitions to be an ambassador which would have utilised her language skills. She was fluent in French and German. However, a brilliant teacher in the 6th form at Chatelard School, Montreux inspired her to study English at Bristol University but, when she married her husband whilst at university followed by the birth of their son James just after her finals, life as an ambassador was superseded by life as a teacher and life of a vicar with an enjoyment of driving fast cars.

From 1974, she was Head of Languages and Communication at Astor of Hever School. A co-educational comprehensive in Maidstone, Kent which she recalled in 1994 as "a rough, difficult school" with "an air of oppressive masculinity about the place." After five years she moved to become Head of Prendergast School in Catford, a girls' comprehensive school. A post she held for six years before moving into the independent sector and becoming Headmistress of Putney High School.

When Mrs Penney was appointed as Headmistress at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Elstree in 1991, she described being a Head as "tremendous fun."

She found the girls friendly and committed and, having been used to more urban spaces, the space and freedom of the grounds impressive. The school was already strong academically and she was mindful that reputation may be difficult to live up to and so it was vital to spend time telling girls that what they can do is of importance and is valued. "Everyone needs and thrives on encouragement, and on the understanding that each has a gift which should be recognised."

She saw her role as "leading the school" and engaging everyone involved to work towards the same vision. "Where there is no vision, people perish." School assembly played a huge part in this engagement process and she spent a lot of energy on ensuring that her morning address to the school was appropriate and meaningful. Indeed, following her retirement from Elstree, two books were published of her assembly addresses "Hearing the Squirrel's Heartbeat"

published in 2006 by Gresham Books Ltd., which is a collection of 47 assemblies all given in schools during her 25 years of headship, followed in 2008 by “Go and Open the Door.”

She believed that the people in an organisation were most important and liked to spend her daytime interacting with them, as, she could always take the paperwork home with her. She was renowned for knowing everyone’s name and utilised some very effective techniques, as well as a good memory for faces, to ensure this reputation was maintained.

During her time at Haberdashers, she was President of the Girls’ Schools Association, which represents independent girls’ schools in the UK, for the year from November 1994 and used as her theme “Independent girls, independent women.” Each week of her presidency she wrote an article or letter for one of the newspapers and whilst it was not always published she did get a great deal of coverage for the association and girls’ education. In 1993, the association introduced a course for newly appointed heads of independent girls’ schools in which Mrs Penney was heavily involved for twelve years.

After 14 years as Headmistress at Haberdashers she stepped down in summer 2005, although, as she told the school magazine she did not propose to retire properly and took on the role of part-time Educational Adviser to the London Diocesan Board of Schools. She still retained her enthusiasm and described being Headmistress as “the most fabulous job” which despite being very demanding she still enjoyed.

She had utilised the space of the school grounds, which she had so admired upon appointment, with the addition of new buildings for Design & Technology (1992), the Junior School rebuild (2006) plus extension (1992), the Art/Music building (1995), the double gymnasium and examinations hall (2001) plus the Modern Foreign Languages department on the site of the old gymnasium (2002). In 1994 a 4+ entry into the newly created Rainbows class was added and, by 2005, some 11+ entries were five rather than four form entries together with greater numbers in the sixth form this meant that the school role increased to between 1120 to 1140 pupils. When she joined in 1991 a record breaking 26 girls had held Oxbridge offers, in the summer of her retirement 43 girls gained Oxbridge places and all other girls gained a place in their first choice university. This must have been very satisfying for someone who admitted to failing to win a place at Cambridge herself.

In 2012, Mrs Penney became Head of Surval Montreux which had recently been acquired by Bellvue Education who wished to develop the Finishing School into a girls’ boarding school which offered the British curriculum to international students. In making this move she returned to her beloved mountains which she missed terribly when she returned to the UK. In her retirement interview with the school magazine she said “I missed waking up in the morning and looking out over Lake Geneva and the mountains. That was just unbelievable. I love mountains.” At Surval she was back in Montreux where she had gone to school but even closer to the lake and the view of the French Alps across the water. After four very successful years in Switzerland she returned to Oxfordshire nearer her children and grandchildren where she enjoyed an all too short period of time before her death on 31st August 2018 following a short illness.

An obituary was published in The Times on Saturday 29th September 2018.



HAOGC Newsletter

Haberdashers' Aske's Old Girls' Club

Out-of-Date Addresses

The following people are no longer at these addresses. Please would you be kind enough to let me know if you have a current address for any of them.

Left	Name	Last Address
1983	Carolyn Wiggs	Park Street, St. Albans
1988	Anne Stevens (Sutcliffe)	Marshalswick Lane, St. Albans
1989	Cassie Holland	Hanyards Lane, Cuffley
1989	Judith Riley (Colman)	Nicol Way, Borehamwood
1991	Meg Headley (Shorey)	Olleberry Farm, Sarratt
1995	Lauren Brennan	The Ridgeway, Radlett
1996	Hazel Rees (Foad)	Brighton Road, Watford
1996	Clare Williams	Petworth Road, Friern Barnet
2000	Gemma Van Praagh	Gills Hill Lane, Radlett
2004	Camilla Keane	Holmwood Gardens, Finchley
2004	Komal Shah	George V Avenue, Pinner
2005	Kathryn Collins	Dryslwyn, Carmarthen
2007	Holly Johns	Dollis Hill, N3 1BP
2010	Grace Abrahams	Princes Avenue, Muswell Hill
2011	Tegan Murray	East Heath Road, NW3 1BN

Please continue to send me any changes using the form at the back of this newsletter.

Also if you receive your newsletter electronically, please remember to let me know if you change your e-mail address. If you would like to change from a hard copy of the newsletter to an electronic copy, please let me know. I would be very pleased to receive any news for the next newsletter.

Mrs Sylvia Notley
Membership Secretary
42, Chester Drive,
North Harrow,
Middx. HA2 7PU

Tel: 020 8863 2659, Fax: 020 8863 7959, E-mail: haogcsn@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS FORM

Please use this form to update your contact details. Post to:

Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls,
Aldenham Road,
Elstree, Herts,
WD6 3BT

PERSONAL DETAILS (PLEASE PRINT)

Full Name (incl. Title):.....

Preferred Name Maiden Name (if applicable).....

Address.....

.....

Telephone Number..... Mobile Number.....

Year you left school..... Final School Year eg Upper 6/Upper 5.....

E-mail address.....

EDUCATION

Did you go to University/College? YES NO

If yes, University/College name?..... Job Title.....

Subject.....

Graduation year.....

I give / do not give permission for my newsletter to be sent to me by email (*Please delete as applicable*)

N.B. Please include any news about yourself.

PROFESSIONAL DETAILS

Organisation.....

.....

CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 12th December 2018, 1:30pm

To: Mrs Anita Twiddy, White End Cottage, 38 Hollow Way Lane,
Chesham Bois, Amersham HP6 6DP

NOT LATER THAN 1 December 2018

I hereby apply for a ticket to attend the Carol Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields

I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply

Name

Email address/phone no

You will be contacted in the event of an unsuccessful application



CAREERS FORM

PLEASE PRINT

I/my firm would be prepared to: *(please tick those applicable)*

- Give a Careers talk on the subject of
- Come to a Careers Convention
- Give a mock interview for university entrance
- Give a mock interview for company internship
- Other ways you may be able to help (please indicate)

Title (Dr/Mrs etc.):

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Forename/Initial:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Surname:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Position:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Company:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Address:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Postcode:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Telephone Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E-mail address:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signed: Date:

Send To: Mrs Laura Mee, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Aldenham Road, Elstree, Herts, WD6 3BT
or email lmee@habsgirls.org.uk