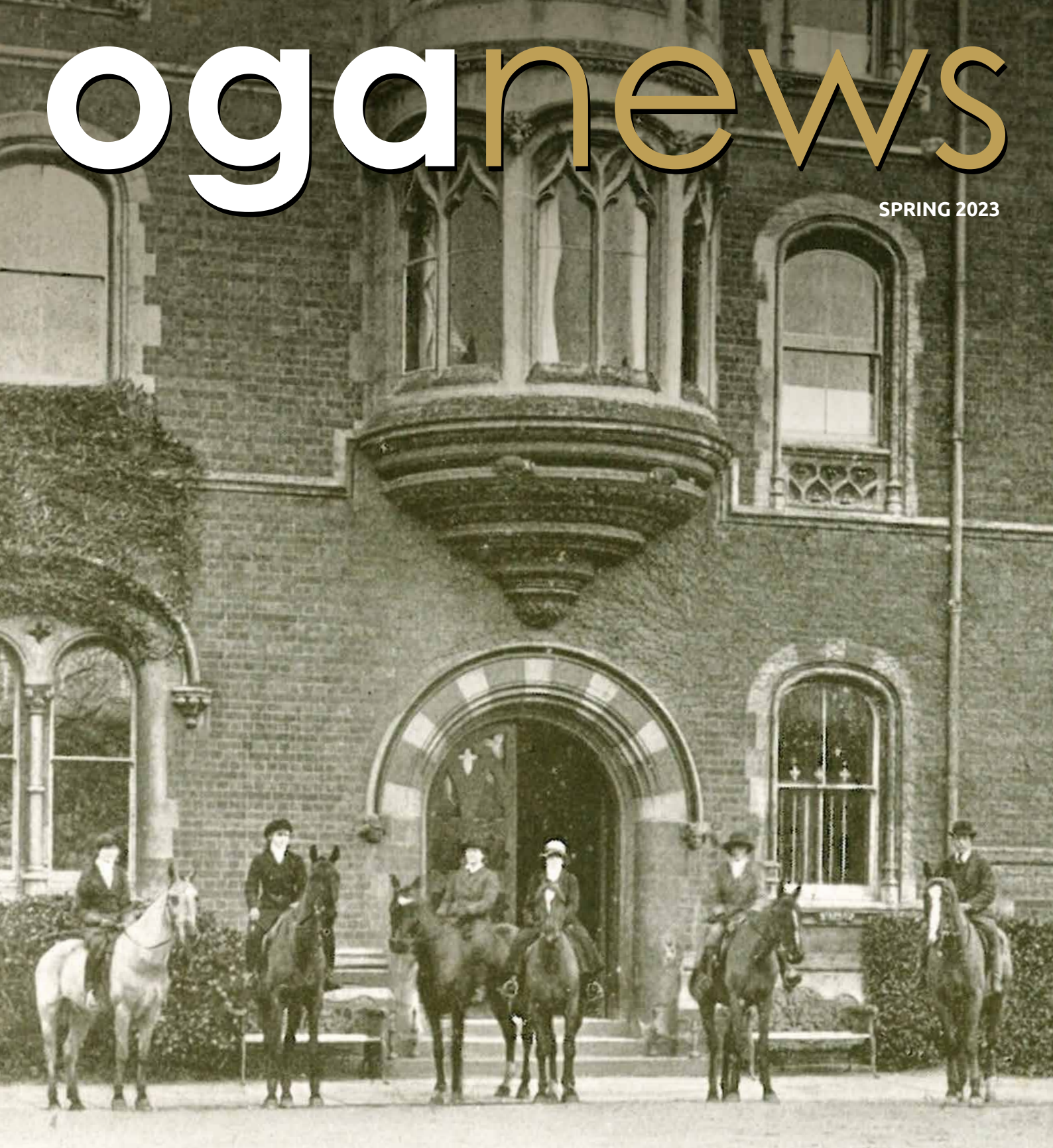


oganews

SPRING 2023



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YOUR OGA



Cover image: Riding out outside MGC, 1926

OGA Officer roles

PATRONS

Rosalind Hayes
Philippa Leggate
Elizabeth Mullenger
Val Payne
Peter Pollard
Duseline Stewart
Trish Woodhouse

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Olivera Raraty

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

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Anne Borrowdale
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Sarah Musgrave
Pauline Newton
June Roundhill
Patricia Wilkinson
Elisabeth Rambridge
Hannah Gill
Joan Newby
Fiona Fowles

CHAIR

Jenny Thomas (MGC 2002)

HONORARY SOCIAL SECRETARY

Patricia Wilkinson (Marsden, MGC 1956)

TREASURER

Catherine Jones (MGC 1980)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Decade Representatives:

1950s Ginny Wigglesworth
(Lawry, MGC 1959)

1970s Jane Mason (Coles, MGC 1970)
Judith Drewer (Horrell, Abbey 1973)

1980s Elizabeth Howat (Clark,
St James's 1982)

2000s Daniella Grieseson (MGC 2001)

2010s Laurel Buchanan (MSJ 2010)
Helen Buchanan (MSJ 2012)
Pandora Fowles (MSJ 2013)

EX HEAD GIRLS AND OGA PREFECT

Saskia Drake (Head Girl 2022)
Christy Lee (Deputy 2022)
Lexi Preston (Deputy 2022)
Chloe Cheung (OGA Prefect 2022)

CURRENT HEAD GIRL TEAM AND OGA PREFECT

Lucy Bowyer (Head Girl)
Michelle Law (Deputy)
Charlotte Gilderson (Deputy)
Phoebe Woods (OGA Prefect)

TRUSTEES

Anne Borrowdale (Lea, MGC 1970)
Cecily Hewlett (MGC 2002)
Charlotte Morrison (Page, MGC 1973)
Fiona Shires (Beckett, Lawnside 1983)
Rowena Westacott (Evans, St J&A 1980)

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WELCOME

BY JENNY THOMAS (MGC 2002)

OGA Chair

Hello everyone. Hope you're all really well and welcome to the 2023 issue of the OGA magazine. I know it feels rather a while ago now but I hope you and your families had a wonderful festive period, the first for a while where things were almost back to 'normal'! I was able finally to take my parents (my Mum is also an old girl, **Amanda Thomas (Barnes) class of 76!**) for their Ruby Wedding anniversary afternoon tea in London, only two years after the date. It was a very magical Christmassy treat!

Lots has been going on at MSJ since I last wrote. We've had another brilliant round of GCSE and A level results; concerts, festive and New Year celebrations; trips, sporting successes, pancake races and so much more. The magazine contains far more detail than I can fit here!

On 10 June, we have our in-person summer reunion. All are welcome, and we will be celebrating the 130th anniversary of MGC. I will be there and look forward to seeing lots of you too! Time for some reminiscing on regs, dead dog, Coll, praccies and SO much more...!

The book club – in person and online – has had more sessions and I've really enjoyed reading books I wouldn't normally have picked. Do look out in our emails for the details if you would like to join. I must go and pick up the next one ready for June, and hopefully see some of you there!

I have been to some Development meetings recently and plans for fundraising to develop the Library and also to help more girls attend MSJ are going from strength to strength. For more details, please read on/contact Fiona in the Development Office. It's incredible to see how the designs are working on keeping the history of our building but setting it up for the future and many generations to come.

As I write, there are still many things happening in the world causing a lot of suffering for many people, and I wanted to take this moment to send strength, love and best wishes on behalf of the OGA for anyone affected directly or whose family is suffering. Please know that you are in our thoughts.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. As ever, we are excited to hear updates and news from you, so please send anything to the office and we will add it to the next issue. I am just back from an amazing few weeks in Singapore and Thailand seeing a university friend and also one of my oldest friends (**Pook Noparumpa (Nimboonchaj)**, also class of 2002) for the first time in four years thanks to Covid, and, within seconds, we were gossiping away as much as we used to after lights out in Hatfield. Luckily, Mrs Lech wasn't around...

Wishing you all a happy, healthy Spring/early Summer. Hope to see you in June!

Jenny



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Olivera Raraty, Headmistress of Malvern St James



Welcome to the latest magazine and news of life in Malvern, as it was at our founding schools, and as it is now at Malvern St James.

As I look out from my desk, the sun is flooding into the Quad under an electric blue sky and the whole scene is framed by the Corsican pines which separate the Art block and Science Wing from Benhams behind. Nature is doing its thing, magnificently so.

We have recently conducted a pupil survey to see what girls like about school and aspects they would like to change or improve. I would not have expected so many to comment as enthusiastically on their environment. I think it's something that all of us very often take for granted. But a good percentage noted how much they love this building, its history, the town and, of course, the hills.

We lift our eyes daily to see what's going on up there. This afternoon, crystal clear and frost glistening in

the sharp sunshine (as I write this in February). This morning, bleakly grey and shrouded in mist. Sometimes topped in lowering cloud coming in from the West, heralding rain and high winds. This fluctuation reflects life itself and serves to remind us that everything changes. Nothing stays grey, and equally, we can't always expect our personal barometers to read fair and calm.

Resilience and flexibility are two of the most important traits we foster as part of the girls' wider education. These will see them through times of change and the transition to independence as they move on to university and career paths.

Elizabeth Day, MGC alumna and award-winning journalist and podcaster, was talking about this on BBC Radio 4. She has a new book out called *Failosophy for Teens* which is about reshaping how we regard ourselves and the path forward when we don't land where we expected to be. This sounds like a good read for any parent who is co-navigating the choppy waters of young adulthood, and indeed her adult book, *How to Fail: Everything I've Ever Learned From Things Going Wrong*, is already a bestseller.

I am immensely grateful to Old Girls who come in to talk to our current pupils about career paths. In the last couple of months this has been as diverse as running a charity in Sierra Leone for teenage mothers to wealth management at Coutts. Both make the girls really think about what they want from life, what they enjoy doing and from where they will get the most fulfilment. Most will choose neither of these specific paths but it allows them to ask questions and to start filtering.

In Worcestershire, Malvern St James is now the only all-girls' school going through to A Level. I have been a lifelong supporter of single-sex education, and before I was Head here, I was at Notting Hill and Ealing High School (part of the Girls' Day School Trust) and, before that, Wycombe Abbey School. It is inspiring to see our girls develop into leadership positions, being role models for younger girls and setting the agenda for the community in which they want to live. There is such a welcoming and democratic atmosphere here, and all things are achieved through discussion and give-and-take. The art of listening and respecting one another is alive and well. I am very proud of that when it seems absent in many aspects of public life: this generation will be agents of change for good.

“ ”

Resilience and flexibility are two of the most important traits we foster as part of the girls' wider education

If you are in Malvern, please do come in to visit us, and if you have useful career or life advice, let us know. We are immensely proud of our all-girls' heritage and our amazing community of Old Girls.

Olivera Raraty

MSJ

SNAPSHOT OF A YEAR

Over 1,000 pupils

from local schools enjoyed a range of academic, musical and sporting opportunities hosted by MSJ in the last 12 months. These included:



British Science Week



The MSJ Hockey Festival



The Big Sing



and the Art Exhibition



66% of pupils volunteer to serve the community through Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering, helping and pen-palling in care homes, work experience in charity shops, mentoring and reading with primary school pupils



12 pupils raised
£7,600
for The Gambia project for 2023



£6,527
Raised by pupils this year for charities



24 schools,
comprising 13,884
pupils, benefit from the
Wellbeing Collective



Gifts from Old Girls
(including legacy and tax relief)
£633,805.41



4,500 Old Girls
and Honorary Members
(former staff) connected via
the Old Girls' Association



Over 10,000 records
on the OGA database plus 1,420
Past Parents and Families



25 Old Girls
donated to the
Bursary programme



Over 25 events
held at MSJ for Old Girls and
Honorary Members



Amount raised in MSJ Christmas
Bursary Bauble campaign
£13,405

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A CULTURE OF GRATITUDE, SHARING AND SERVICE

BY OLIVERA RARATY

As Headmistress of MSJ, I am proud of what we achieve here, particularly given that we are not a very big school. It is not just about the achievements themselves, it's about how we get there and the ethos of the school which is driven by the girls as much as the staff and leadership team.

Pupils recognise their privilege and celebrate sharing what they have with others. We have hosted hundreds of pupils from local state schools in activities focused on Art, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths), Physics, Geography, Sport, Engineering and Music. Everyone gets so much out of this: it's a positive experience to work with others, to share ideas and perspectives. Many of our academic competitions and challenges have been energised by this kind of co-operation and collaboration.

Staff facilitate all of this on top of their usual duties, and they also work with peers in local schools to share best practice, from History to Geography and Mental Health and Wellbeing. I have recently become a governor of a state secondary in rural Herefordshire and we are working with this school on a number of projects including



personal development and Maths improvement, with the help of MSJ's Head of Maths. Although quite different in terms of structure, I think that we can add value to each other's setting in a meaningful way.

In a kind of virtuous circle, I recognise the tremendous support that many sections of our community give us. This could be with our fundraising efforts, whether that's for the charities that we support (chosen largely by the girls) or for our own charitable endeavours such as bursary fundraising, or it could be in terms of time and expertise given. We have enjoyed many careers/university/life workshops and lectures given by Old Girls over the past year, with many more lined up. As I write this, three of our Sixth Formers are in London shadowing Old Girl **Alison Robb (MSJ 2010)** in her position as Wealth Manager at Coutts bank. We were delighted to have **Kate Ferry (Kirkland, MGC 1991)**, Chief Financial Officer of McLaren Group, the British-based luxury automotive, motorsport and technology company, and a Trustee of the British Olympic Foundation, as our Guest Speaker at Prizegiving in the Summer. She was an inspiring speaker and it was a great honour to have her with us.

Parents, families, past parents, Old Girls and the Old Girls' Association have also contributed a great deal financially. A legacy gift from an Old Girl of c.£600,000 has made a significant impact on our £2 million by 2025 bursary target. Thank you to everyone who donated to

the Christmas Bursary Bauble appeal – York Hall looked beautiful bedecked with outsized shiny baubles and the money raised all adds to that bursary fund. There is no doubt that bursary fundraising will continue to be a priority even when we reach the £2m target, as need continually outstrips supply and it is important that we are able to offer the transformational opportunity of an MSJ education. The amount of money raised will clearly make a great difference to the lives of many.

Our next capital project is the renovation of the Library, which will be the biggest project that the School has undertaken for many decades – see page 14 for further information.

In my seven years here, I have enjoyed meeting Old Girls and hearing their stories about school in their day. We have also introduced an OGA Assembly each term where the whole school learns about each of our founding schools. This has given another fascinating insight into the life of previous generations, and current pupils love to hear about the school and boarding life going back over 100 years. Some things may have changed (mobile phones, better food and a more relaxed regime), but many of the principles remain: academic rigour, community service and female leadership.

Thank you for your continued support of MSJ, and I look forward to meeting many of you at events over the forthcoming months.



FOUNDERS' AWARDS BURSARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Founders' Award is a bursary scholarship awarded for all-round excellence, service to the community and leadership. It was introduced in 2016 with the express intention of being able to go beyond the usual cap of 40% on fee remission. We are now fundraising for 100% and 110% Founders' Awards which will provide fully-funded places, and in the case of 110% funding, will allow for assistance towards equipment, uniform, devices, trips etc. Our aim is to raise £2m by 2025 through single gifts, regular giving and legacy pledges.

Chloe Parker, first recipient of a Founders' Award in 2016, and Lara Maylor-Wrout, recipient in 2017, talk to us about what they've been up to since leaving MSJ.

After graduating from Malvern St James in 2018, I followed my love for Physics, Mathematics and Product Design that I had developed at school with my choice of degree. I am currently nearing completion of an integrated Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London. MSJ provided me with a first-class, non-judgmental, non-stereotyped environment, in which girls were encouraged to pursue any career path they desired, supported by genuinely caring teachers.

I was fortunate to be a recipient of the Founders' Award in 2016, providing me with the opportunity to board, which I hold as one of my fondest memories during my time at MSJ. The experience was the perfect transition between living at home and moving away

for university. The mindset and independence developed during my schooling proved invaluable for the next phase of my life.

Imperial College focuses exclusively on Science, Technology, Medicine and Business and is based in South Kensington, London. The course has been a demanding academic challenge covering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Stress Analysis, Fluid Mechanics and Nuclear Power. While my degree has been my most challenging undertaking, it has also been massively rewarding. I found adapting to life at university smooth since I had developed a resolute study ethos and a good level of independence at school. I have loved having the opportunity to live and study in London. It is diverse, exciting and never a shortage of new restaurants and experiences!

During my undergrad, I have chosen to specialise in the Mechanics of Materials. I was fortunate to be offered an Undergraduate Research Opportunity where I spent a summer working on a project titled "Exploring the possibility of using hydrogen in truck compression engines as the working fluid, and its impact on NOx emissions." This is potentially a more sustainable and affordable alternative to electric power, and possibly a better pathway in reducing emissions. For my Masters' thesis, I am undertaking a commissioned leading-edge research project into novel steels, conducting experiments and microstructure analysis to characterise their mechanical performance with the objective of using them within a new generation of nuclear reactors.

During my time at MSJ I was an avid lacrosse player, playing from years 7 to 13. I have carried on playing, both women's and mixed lacrosse, throughout my degree. This year I have joined the women's rugby team, which acts as both a competitive and supportive team. During lockdown whilst my lectures and laboratories were moved online, I taught myself to bake and cook, and started running.

The Founders' Award was one of the most beneficial aspects of my school education. Without it I would not have developed independence, learnt the importance of pushing oneself, motivating yourself and forming



meaningful and long-lasting relationships in a communal environment. Its bespoke nature means it can contribute meaningfully to a girl's education in the way that will best suit her.

I am extremely excited about the next stage of my life after graduation. The enjoyment I have had in my final year project has led to my decision to undertake a PhD. I will be undertaking a research project in the Soft Solids division of Imperial's Engineering Department and will examine scientifically the development of more sustainable and healthier food products. The project is sponsored by a world-leading household name.

Lara Maylor-Wrout (MSJ 2017)

Upon leaving MSJ, I joined the MBChB course in Cardiff University School of Medicine in September 2019. My first and second year was impacted heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic, though I still tried to make the most of my time at university. I received recognition for outstanding professionalism and was nominated for the Dean's Special Award at the Cardiff Medical School Surgam awards 2020-2021. At the same ceremony, I received a certificate of merit for being in the top 20% of my cohort for my Student Selected Component Project, which encompassed work in inherited tumour syndromes and reproductive psychiatry. In my third year, I scored highly in two essay-based longitudinal projects undertaken throughout the year, an Oncology Project (80%) which included a series of interviews with a patient undergoing breast cancer treatment, and a Patient Pathway Project (92%) evaluating a patient's journey from admission to hospital to discharge home.

I am very much enjoying my range of placements, having completed blocks in Psychiatry, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Paediatrics this academic year so far. I received an award recently for outstanding enthusiasm and professionalism during my Neurology placement. I was directly nominated for this award by my Neurology consultant, which was amazing positive reinforcement during what have been very challenging blocks of placements.

It has been a great experience to engage in other extra-curricular activities alongside my medical studies. In third year, I volunteered to be a tutor on a scheme where I mentored year 2 medical students through eight weeks of clinical examination preparation which I found extremely rewarding. In summer 2022, after an independent application, I was successful in securing a place on a Psychiatry Summer School that was hosted by King's College London and accredited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. I was able to meet with medical students from several different universities in different stages of training and attend lectures from a variety of experts in the field, alongside a visit to Bethlem Museum of the Mind which featured thought-provoking



exhibits of art created by patients through the years alongside historic artifacts retained throughout the hospital's history.

I still love to spend my spare time singing. I am a current choral scholar for the Cardiff University Anglican Chaplaincy Choir and have been a member of the BBC National Chorus of Wales. Last year, I undertook a CD recording with the Cardiff University Chamber Choir recording for the first time a variety of works by Maria Rosa Coccia. It was an honour to record two solo songs for the album, a project that was three years in the making and unfortunately disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Though I lost the ability to sing in choirs during the pandemic, I was able to work on the 'front line' as a COVID-19 immuniser for Cardiff and Vale Health Board and helped to vaccinate over 800 people including the MP for Cardiff North! This was a brilliant, practical experience of working on the front line alongside the RAF and nursing/midwifery/dental and medical colleagues who had all completed additional training to work as immunisers. It was an amazing team effort.

I am now preparing for my final clinical examination, the summative ISCE, which will take place in mid-May alongside written examinations in April and June. I have applied for an intercalated degree programme at both Edinburgh University and University College London to study a Medical Humanities degree which would be a brilliant opportunity to merge two of my passions. I am hopeful that I will be able to gain a place for next year. I am amazed by how quickly the time has passed since leaving MSJ, and that I am approaching my final stages of medical training. I have loved being involved with the Jenny Lind Singers and very much enjoyed singing at our annual Christmas Concert under the direction of the amazing Lynne Lindner. It is always lovely to see former and current MSJ pupils and teachers at the event, and I look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.

PHILANTHROPY AT MSJ

Year 12 Pupil Victoria presented *Night of the Arts* in aid of Bowel Cancer

Last summer Year 12 student Victoria had just finished her GCSEs and knew that come the Autumn, she would be taking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside her A Levels of Drama, Biology and Psychology. Over the summer her mission was to decide what her EPQ would be about and what form it would take.

Her light-bulb moment came in an unusual twist. Her grandmother – who had been feeling unwell – took a dramatic turn for the worse and was rushed to A&E. Bowel cancer was discovered and she underwent a life-saving emergency operation. The surgeons were frank about how lucky she had been. As she recuperated, the family turned to Bowel Cancer UK for more information and help.

In gratitude, and to raise awareness of how easy it is to miss the warning signs of this form of cancer, Victoria decided to centre her EPQ on fundraising for Bowel Cancer UK. She wanted the message to be relatable to her friends and fellow pupils at MSJ, and to get as many people as possible involved. Her variety-performance style *Night of the Arts* was born.

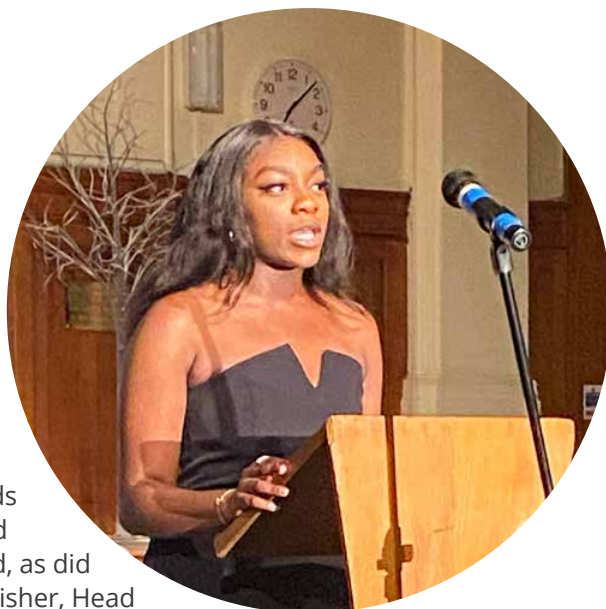
It took almost six months to bring to the stage, in which time Victoria learnt about set-building, technical skills, communication, networking, organisation, time management and event marketing. She found herself burning the midnight oil to get everything ready for the big night.

Her friends rallied round, as did Mrs Fisher, Head of Expressive Arts.

Victoria relied on a team of talented pupils from Year 7 and upwards to sing, dance and play, who had volunteered their services, and hoped that they would have an appreciative audience of around 50.

On the night, she was blown away by an audience of 200, including her family, friends and staff from school and friends from home. Her grandmother, who continues to recover well, was dialled in via Facetime. Voluntary donations, as well as profits from the sale of refreshments, raised £1122.96 for Bowel Cancer UK. Victoria spoke from the heart about her experience of the charity and the work that it does.

None of this could have happened without Victoria's ambition and conviction, determination and energy, as well as that of her friends and teachers. Victoria will continue to work with Bowel Cancer UK on their Never Too Young campaign.



OUTREACH

MSJ's Wellbeing Collective – addressing children's mental health

The Wellbeing Collective is an award-winning initiative devised by MSJ's Pastoral Director, Zinnia Wilkinson, for schools to share problems, advice and best practice about pupils' mental health with other schools in the state and independent sector. The first Collective meeting took place in 2019, involving eight schools from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire across a range of educational settings from nurseries through to Sixth Forms. Now in 2023, it has mushroomed to 24 schools. MSJ has been awarded gold-level accreditation from the Carnegie Institute of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Collective has migrated online which allows more schools and practitioners to be involved, and topics at the termly meetings have covered themes such as childhood bereavement, eating disorders and autism. Sessions last for around one hour, with a specialist speaker, a discussion based on this, and then

a free-wheeling discussion about all areas of wellbeing and mental health. Ms Deborah Jones, one of MSJ's SEND teachers, recently presented on the topic of Neurocognitive Diversity which was very well received.

The mental health situation in schools is now far more widely recognised, particularly post-Covid, but the Wellbeing Collective has allowed schools to share information which means they are identifying trends before they make their way onto the national agenda. This is of enormous help to pastoral teams who are at the coalface dealing with complex issues.

MSJ has also signed up to the Wellbeing Hub, which is a paid-for online library of tools and resources for educationalists and parents, provided by an external specialist. We were pleased to have been able to gift a free subscription to another school as part of this package, and have chosen to work with Dyson Perrins School, a comprehensive school in Malvern for 11-16 year olds.



Mrs Wilkinson, a student and Enzo, the pastoral dog

FUNDRAISING AT MSJ

Christmas Bursary Baubles

Thanks to all the donors who helped us raise £13,405 (including Gift Aid) in this appeal run in December 2022.

There were contributions from 79 donors, over one quarter of whom are Old Girls and Honorary Members (former staff). Gifts came from America, China, Hong Kong and Japan, as well as the UK.

Some Old Girls and Honorary Members also joined us for our start-of-Christmas celebration in the Quad which involved the switching on of the Christmas lights and Carols around the Christmas tree.



Syria and Turkey Earthquake Event

In February, the Development Office hastily put together a fundraiser for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake appeal. A Krispy Kreme and Hot Chocolate sale raised £1,183 for survivors, which was donated via the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal.

The Gambia Project

Working with a school in Illiassa in The Gambia started as an MGC initiative in 1991. At Easter this year, 12 girls will be going out to The Gambia, led by Mrs Vicky Collett. So, what has been going on in the last 12 months?

- Completing work on a processing centre for making soap and honey products which can be sold to provide income
- Repairs to a community vehicle have been completed
- An accommodation block to house volunteer visitors has been finished
- Donations of medication for children and anti-malarial drugs
- A decision on the next project: renovation of old classrooms, providing more space for children to do a full day at school (rather than the half day they currently receive)

Since the start of The Gambia project, over £100,000 has been fundraised and invested.



THE IMPACT OF LEGACY GIVING

Malvern St James has received a significant amount of money from Old Girls who choose to remember the School in their will and this has been hugely beneficial. In Autumn 2022, we received a very generous bequest of over £600,000. In the past eight years, we have received over £1.3 million from legacy gifts.

We are very grateful to these women, and also other living women in the OGA, both alumnae and Honorary Members (former staff), who have kindly informed us of their intention to leave a gift in their will.

Legacies are an easy and tax-advantageous way to support MSJ. All gifts are exempt of inheritance tax and, for estates that leave 10% or more to charity, there is a reduction in inheritance tax from 40% to 36%.



One of our pledged legators is Veronica Blackmore (Bashforth, MGC 1959) who says,

“ ”

I have considered a legacy gift to Malvern St James because the broad education I received while at Malvern gave me the confidence and ability to achieve in many areas – social, academic, music and sport. I would like to help other girls benefit from the all-round education provided at MSJ.

Legacies can be directed to the Bursary Fund, or other areas of school life, or at the governors' discretion to be used where needed most. Legators can define this when they draw up their will.

Legacies of all sizes make a huge difference to school life. It is particularly helpful to us if we know of people's intentions in advance, as this allows us to plan.

If you have an existing will, this can be modified by adding a codicil which is a straightforward process overseen and formally executed by a solicitor.

Every gift and every legacy pledge, large or modest, helps transform the future at Malvern St James and we are immensely grateful to all who donate in this way.



Leaving a Legacy

Legacy pledge forms can be found on our website at www.malvernstjames.co.uk/support-us/leaving-a-legacy-to-malvern-st-james or you may request a hard copy form from the office – tel: 01684 892288 or meredf@malvernstjames.co.uk



The Library is at the heart of academic life in School, as it has been since it was opened by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1934. At the time, £45,000 was invested into the new wing (over £4 million in today's money) and it has served in the region of 50,000 girls in its 90-year lifetime.

In that period, there has been little material alteration but teaching and learning have changed dramatically, particularly in the last few years. This is about digital technology and source material, as well as the way the girls work and present their findings. There is far more emphasis on collaborative work, which requires seminar space, meeting rooms and flexible use of space.

We have worked with architects to build a plan of what we require from the Library, blending its heritage aspects with modern design and functionality. A mezzanine level created in glass will give greater space in which to spread out.

There is also a plan to build above the existing Library by breaking through the roofline to create a bespoke Sixth Form Centre. This will be a valuable space for girls approaching their A Level studies.

In order to move forward with plans, we are seeking lead benefactors who can catalyse this project.

Please do get in touch with the Development Office if you would like further information.

Fiona Meredith –

meredf@malvernstjames.co.uk

Tel: 01684 892288

MALVERN YOUNG ALUMNAE: INSPIRE ME!

In 2019, Malvern St James completed a very valuable and award-winning project called Malvern Alumnae 100 which showcased some of our most remarkable and talented alumnae; those who have demonstrated success in careers, and also those who have taken the path less travelled, done interesting and pioneering things, and/or who have dedicated time to social enterprises or charities.

This project has been an overwhelming success. Girls, staff, parents and visitors are regularly to be seen reading the boards, chatting and commenting about them. It has a lasting value and we continue to be very grateful to everyone who is part of this.

Malvern Alumnae 100 included Old Girls of all ages in a permanent exhibition displayed on all the main corridors around school. We would now like to do a similar exercise with younger Old Girls – specifically those in their 20s and 30s – who are similarly inspiring because they have found a lifepath they love. You could have found your dream job (be that working in the City or

running a remote smallholding), be doing something that will be making a difference to all of our lives in the future (eg, medical research, renewable energy, sustainability, social projects which improve our environment and communities), campaigning for something that has meaning to you and others, or working for or with a not-for-profit/charity that is making a difference. You could have done something in your life which really helped you move forward, and want to share this advice with others. You can be doing what you do anywhere in the world – in fact, having a global aspect to this project will make it even more useful.



Example of the *Malvern Alumnae 100* boards

MALVERN ST JAMES
Old Girls' Association

Alice Stapleton

CAREER COACHES LEARN FROM THOSE ON THEIR LIST AND SO MUST WANT TO HAVE WHAT THEY DO.
(St James' and The Abbey (2018 Career))

Profile:

Prior to becoming a Career Coach, I studied Psychology and Criminology at degree level, moving on to train and work as a Probation Officer helping to rehabilitate offenders. I've always been fascinated by people, and why we behave the way we do. It felt incredibly rewarding to help offenders change and ease their criminal behaviour. However, I decided, early on after qualifying, that I didn't want to do that job forever. I was quite young at the time, and the role was quite stressful because of its high workload. Government cuts meant that you had very little time to help those most in need.

When exploring alternative career options, I found that coaching matched my natural strengths, people skills, and previous training in how to motivate people to change. I therefore retained as a Career Coach by completing a Masters in Coaching and Mentoring Practice.

Eight years on, I am now a self-employed Career Change Coach, working one-to-one with individuals in their 20s and 30s who want to change career but don't know what they want to do next. I help clients identify what careers would suit them best, and what role would give them purpose, fulfilment, and enjoyment. I hate the thought of people being stuck in a job they hate. It's far too short for client! I feel very privileged to be part of their journey, as they move into something they are truly passionate about.

It's hard starting your own business but the flexibility, autonomy, and lack of office politics is brilliant. Because of my decision to specialise in coaching young professionals, I've found that what I do is very appealing to the media. As a result, being a coach has unexpectedly opened me up to some fantastic press opportunities for well-known magazines, newspapers, radio, and TV. It's a great job for anyone that likes to listen and talk all day!

What does success look like?

Success to me is when someone feels utterly content in their life and work. They are truly happy with what they have, and wish for very little more.

What's your best piece of advice?

Whatever you do, don't just take the first job you're offered after you leave education, unless it's something you really want to do. It's very easy to get stuck there for years after. Give your career a good deal of thought before you make your first move.

Can you nominate one (or more) of your friends or peers who you think would be suitable for this project? You can also nominate yourself. Please don't be bashful about stepping forward: this is all about empowering successive cohorts of MSJ girls, who can often feel overwhelmed by the life and career opportunities out there.

Each featured Old Girl will have a board dedicated to her, with a picture, and then details about what they do, and their best advice that they would like to hand on to current pupils. The boards will then be displayed in the corridors at school.

We will probably do some sort of networking event, here in Malvern or in London, where Year 11 and Sixth Form are able to meet Old Girls involved in this project and receive some one-to-one advice. Participation in this aspect is not a pre-requisite of being part of the project.

We'd love to hear from you – get in touch at oga@malvernstjames.co.uk



ANNUAL EVENTS' PROGRAMME FOR OLD GIRLS AND DONORS

Here are just some of the events Old Girls and Honorary Members have been invited to this year



Clockwise from top left: Honorary Members' Coffee Morning; Alison Robb careers' talk; Young Performers' Platform; OGA Reunion and St James's Dinner; Wreath Making, and Kate Ferry (Kirkland, MGC 1991) at Prizegiving



Clockwise from top left: OGA Summer Reunion; Carol Service in Malvern Priory; Poppies: Remembrance Service in the Quad; Giving Day Christmas Cracker Challenge; Old Girl visitors; Summer Ball; Community Book Club, and Girls at Summer Ball

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

To everyone who has given a financial gift, a gift in kind, their time, or possessions to the Archives. We are enormously grateful for your support which helps us to deliver the best in academic, pastoral and extra-curricular life at MSJ.

Victoria Daniell
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Colleen Hayes
Nigel Websper
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EasyFundraising

You can help MSJ every time you shop by using the Easy Fundraising app and selecting MSJ as your chosen charity. Retailers from John Lewis to M&S, Tui to Trainline.com will donate a percentage every time you shop with them to our bursary fund at no extra cost to you.

How to sign up and start shopping: on a mobile device, download the easfundraising app, select Malvern St James Girls' School as your chosen charity, browse the retailers and the link to their website to shop. It's as easy as that and all money raised will go to the MSJ bursary fund. Thank you!

MALVERN GIRLS' COLLEGE



MGC FOUNDERS' AWARD

Would you like to pass on the sense of purpose, service, tradition, academic and personal fulfilment that were hallmarks of your MGC education?

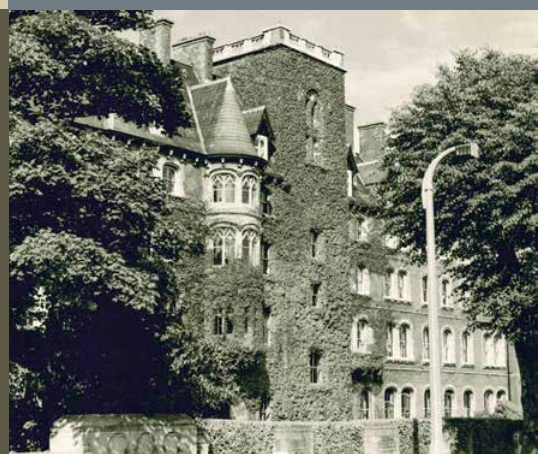
Can you help Malvern St James make a real difference through our Bursary Giving scheme?

It is our aim to raise **£2 million** for bursaries by 2025 to help exceptional students come to Malvern St James. In particular, we want to be able to issue more 100 per cent and 110 per cent bursaries for fully-funded places.

Bursaries can be named, including in memory of former teachers, Headmistresses or Housemistresses, Houses or pupils.



A day place in Senior school/ Sixth Form costs **£20,715 per year**, a boarding place **£42,420**. Regular giving, single gifts and legacy gifts will help us achieve greater bursary provision.



If you would like to find out more, please do contact Development Director Fiona Meredith on email: meredf@malvernstjames.co.uk tel: 01684 892288. There are details about bursary fundraising on our website: www.malvernstjames.co.uk/support-us



“
Can you help Malvern St James make a real difference through our Bursary Giving scheme?



You can link to the pages directly by scanning the QR code here.



MGC Founders Award



FROM THE FORMER HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Pippa Leggate, Headmistress of Malvern Girls' College 1997-2006

The past few years have been unusual as we have adjusted to life with Covid or at least in the aftermath of the pandemic. Meanwhile, looking forward in 2023, there are further changes with the accession of King Charles III and the arrival of a new era for the monarchy in Britain.

The loss of our beloved, long-serving and remarkable Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 8 September 2022 was felt across the world. Quite simply, she had been a part of our lives for as long as most of us could remember, providing exceptional service and a constancy that has held the nation together on so many occasions, most recently during the global pandemic.

Yet, during her reign of over 70 years, there have been immense changes politically, socially, culturally and technologically taking place round the world. Some of these changes have been exciting; others perhaps alarming but, in all cases, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth showed diplomacy and sensitivity as she moved forward adjusting to changes around her, whilst listening to her subjects over the years. As we look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III in May, there is much to reflect on, for the world continues to change around us.

There remains much to learn from the past and from those who have gone before us. As a History graduate and former History teacher, studying the past has always been a source of great interest but I believe that maintaining an element of empathy remains an important aspect in trying to understand the past. Otherwise, there is a danger of judging the past through the lens of today's standards and attitudes. Inevitably, the context of the times in which we live influences events and determines outcomes, so we need to remember that life at different times in history presents very different situations. This may not be an



Pippa Leggate dons 'the black, red and green tatters'

“
As a history graduate and former history teacher, studying the past has always been a source of great interest

entirely fashionable view but I think it remains an important perspective.

Even looking at the history of Malvern Girls' College over the decades and the emergence of Malvern St James in 2006 illustrates our changing times.

So now, as I continue to enjoy retirement, keeping busy with house, garden and various local committees, I also find myself spending time finding out about past family history, as well as village history, as a member of our local History society.

Other historical insights have been gained through local dance and music, as I have discovered since taking up Border Morris Dancing! Rather more raucous than the more traditional Morris dancing, joining "Styx of Stroud" has provided some fascinating insights into local folklore and the woollen trade in the days when Stroud made red army uniforms for the redcoats, as well as green baize for billiards' tables!

This explains the 'tatter coats' we wear when dancing with black, red and green tatters! It is probably not quite what many of you would have

expected to have found me doing but it is great exercise and very entertaining as we perform at various local festivals and events.

Mrs Prophet can vouch for this strange new interest, as she came and watched us dancing last April at the Upton Folk Festival.

So, in concluding, I must state that there are always new interests to be pursued and one is never too old to learn something new!

This comes with all good wishes to you wherever you are in the world.

Mrs Pippa Leggate

1950s Leavers

Jill Cucco (Whitelaw, MGC 1952) writes:

Like Gillian Rees Johnson (p.20 of the *OGA News*, Spring 2022), I started my MGC experience in Hatley St George where I went in September 1945 at the age of 10 when Great Britain was still struggling with the aftermath of World War II. I, too, remember Miss Watson (Watty) as a kind, motherly soul although we were quite in awe of her if we had done anything wrong. I certainly remember Boney in her nurse's uniform, and also Fat Willy who taught English.

Of the three winters I spent in Hatley one was exceptionally cold and snow lay around for a long time. Not many concessions were made and the daily run around the garden after breakfast continued. There were no warm tights in those days. We wore knee-high socks, kept up rather precariously by elastic garters, woollen pixie hats and overcoats brought from home.



Hatley St George

Clothing coupons were still in use so there was little in the way of school uniform.

At the end of the driveway leading down to the road there was a house called Beaufort where the staff were billeted. There was also a dormitory for the spill-over from the main building. There was no central heating in Beaufort and it was my misfortune to be assigned to this dormitory during the cold winter term. We were allowed to

have the gas fire on while preparing for bed, but the sheets were so cold that we wrapped ourselves in blankets before getting into bed. Windows had to be kept open for health reasons and in the morning our face flannels and the water in our carafes had turned to ice!

As Gillian says in her article, the food was terrible but it must have been difficult to provide palatable meals when so many food items

were still rationed or unobtainable. Children who were considered to be in need of extra nourishment were allowed to have a daily

spoonful of delicious sticky malt; to my disappointment I was not one of them. At one stage cod liver oil capsules were handed out after lunch. For some reason I was quite unable to swallow them, so I either had to bite the disgusting oily things or, when possible, surreptitiously spit them out into the lavatory. Sweets (brought from home) were rationed and were weighed out on a pair of scales once a week.

I don't remember there being maids to bring around cans of hot water to wash in



Hatley Classroom

in the mornings. In my day, the inmates of the dormitory took it in turns to leap out of bed at the bell, charge down the corridor lugging heavy metal cans, fill them with hot water from the bathrooms and take them back to the dormitory for our washing bowls.

When I went to Middle School at the age of 13 I came into the orbit of Iris M. Brooks, the “redoubtable” Head of MGC. She lived in a secluded part of the imposing College building (ex-Imperial Hotel) near the grand entrance hall – an area that was strictly off-limits to lesser mortals such as ourselves.

Of the seven Middle School Houses, I was assigned to “Hall” (woe to anyone who called it “Ilydene”). Some of the Houses were “more equal than others”. Ryall, for instance, was a gloomy-looking building and always seemed to come bottom in the competitions, whereas Summerside invariably did very well. A coloured stripe in our ties indicated to which House we belonged.

Girls from all seven Houses converged on the main College building for lessons, and every day Miss Brooks emerged from her sanctuary to take prayers in the York Hall before lessons began. She also taught History to the brighter girls in the “A” forms. When I had to choose between History and Geography for my O level exams, although I infinitely preferred History as a subject, I chose Geography so as to avoid her terrifying lessons and the sometimes caustic red ink comments in the margins of my exercise book.

A dominant member of the staff was Miss Jackman (Jacky) who reigned over Music Corridor at the top of the building and was responsible, among other things, for training the whole of the combined Middle and Senior Schools to sing as a choir. She had a pretty face and fluffy white hair but she was a formidable character with sharp eyes and a cutting tongue. From the platform of the York Hall



she was able to spot any unlucky girl who was without her bone-prop to keep her mouth open! It was possible to make a substitute with white chalk but sooner or later you had to own up that you had lost it and take the consequences.

As well as preparing us for Confirmation, Miss Brooks also preached the sermon at most of our Sunday church services in the lovely old Malvern Priory. The introit and interval music were played by star music students on violin, cello, flute or piano, and anthems and descants were sung by the small, élite, Jacky-trained choir.

When you moved into the Senior School and could wear the much-coveted striped blazer. There was practically nothing in the way of career advice. I suppose in those immediate post-war days it was not so important for a girl to be able to earn her own living. If you were considered university material, you started preparing for entrance exams in the “A” form. The only universities I ever heard mentioned were Oxford and Cambridge, sometimes London or, at a pinch, Edinburgh. Otherwise there was the “B” form for those with lower aspirations such as a nursing career, something in the athletics, art or domestic science line or, if all else failed, the marriage market. Musical talent was an exception

and it was hoped you would be accepted at the College or Academy in London, preferably with a scholarship. Anyone who wanted to become a secretary could learn typing, shorthand and book-keeping in a form we called “Secs”!

From reading the above, it may sound as though life at MGC in the late 40s was a series of different forms of discomfort devised to “toughen us up” and prepare us for the world outside our secure little cocoon of rules and regulations. But there were plenty of positive aspects too, such as wonderful friendships that lasted for years, the fun of hockey, lacrosse and tennis “home” and “away” matches, preparing theatrical performances, attending concerts by such eminent musicians as Denis Matthews, Paul Tortelier and Evelyn Rothwell who came to the school to entertain us. As for preparing us for the world outside, I suppose you could say that the education and “toughening up” process helped us to deal with the trials and tribulations we were bound to meet. On the other hand, children of that period had been through World War II and were used to difficulties and deprivations.

My days at MGC were nearly all happy ones, and at the age of 87, I continue to be thankful for the education I received there.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Sheena Irwin-Carruthers
(MGC 1955) writes:

I was at MGC from 1951-1955. After leaving, I started nursing at St Thomas' Hospital, London. Unfortunately, I caught polio from a young patient on the ward in which I was working, so had to give up the nursing course. I eventually moved to South Africa, was accepted for Physiotherapy and ended up as Head of the academic department of Physiotherapy at Stellenbosch University. I am also a member of an international association which offers post-registration courses in the treatment of persons who have suffered a stroke, head injury or spinal cord lesion. This took me to many parts of the world so, in retrospect, I do not regret having contracted poliomyelitis!

I retired to a very secluded spot on the West Coast, north of Cape Town, where I live in a cottage only 70 metres from the sea, enjoy walking the dogs on the beach (admittedly with walking aids) and am treated to magnificent sunsets. I have had a wonderful life in many respects (I shall be 85 next month) but have often thought of MGC with affection. I wonder how many contemporaries are still around!

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Deirdre Kinloch Anderson

(Loryman, MGC 1956) writes to let us know that, in June 2002, like so much of the country, her family and friends were commemorating the long reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth: "We held a small local Garden Party to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I gave a kiltmaking demonstration

to raise money for a community centre project in a small village in Zambia and was overwhelmed by the generosity of my guests. My cousin was a teacher in Zambia for 20 years and has a Zambian wife who comes from the remote village in Luapula Province. Their whole family came to visit us in Edinburgh and, for many of them, it was their first visit to Scotland."

Deirdre Kinloch Anderson, centre, celebrates Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with family and friends from Zambia



Wedding anniversary

My husband, Douglas, and I celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary on 14 June 2022.

We held a wonderful small party with our adult children and friends whom we have known for all those years!

Deirdre and Douglas Kinloch Anderson (seated) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June 2022



Kinloch Anderson will feature in the exhibition along names such as Chanel, Dior, Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood and *Comme des Garçons*.

V&A Dundee, Scotland's Design Museum: Tartan to be designed by Kinloch Anderson

In 2023, the V&A Dundee is holding a significant Tartan Exhibition which will celebrate the impact and diversity of tartan. Kinloch Anderson has been commissioned to design the V&A tartan to commemorate the event. It will remain in the collection and then be identified with the V&A Museum into the longer term.

<https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2023/va-dundee-tartan-exhibition>

Tartan 13745 designed exclusively by Kinloch Anderson for V&A Dundee

Exhibition opens 1 April 2023



Jill and Michael Gladstone celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jill Gladstone (Vernon, MGC 1958) and Michael Gladstone celebrated

their Diamond (60th) wedding anniversary in 2022. They were married on 11 August 1962. The photograph has been kindly sent on by Gillian Hamilton (Shuttleworth, MGC 1958).

Gillian Hamilton writes:

Once again, our group of friends were keen to meet and Sandra Smith-Gordon (Farley, MGC 1956) kindly hosted us at her home in south London on the banks of the Thames in October 2022. We were a smaller group but lively as usual and it was a very relaxed gathering. We are very grateful to Sandra for her warm hospitality and, in appreciation, we made donations to her chosen charity this year. She was able to send £200 to The



1950s Reunion

Disaster Emergency Committee (for Ukraine appeal). We correspond from time to time during the year and value the friendships that have lasted the test of time.

Sandra Smith-Gordon

sandra@smithgordon.com

Gillian Hamilton

gillian.hamilton@btinternet.com

1960s Leavers

FROM NHS CONSULTANT TO ANTARCTIC AUTHOR Isobel P. Williams MD. FRCP. DCH. FRGS. (Simpson, MGC 1960) writes:

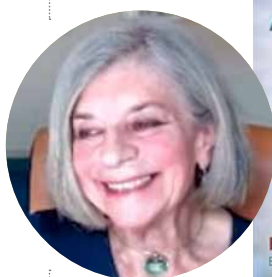
I am writing to let you know how I have been occupied over the last 60 years since leaving MGC. I qualified in Medicine at St George's Hospital, University of London, and progressed up the medical tree to become a National Health Consultant in Respiratory and General Medicine at St Albans and Hemel Hempstead Hospitals in Hertfordshire. It was always very busy!

I also served on several committees in the Royal College of Physicians, London, and represented the college in reviewing the training of junior doctors in general medicine throughout the UK. When I retired, I became a lecturer and author on polar matters and Antarctic heroes. This I continue to do. I have run a blog for about 12 years. It contains details of the three books I have published on

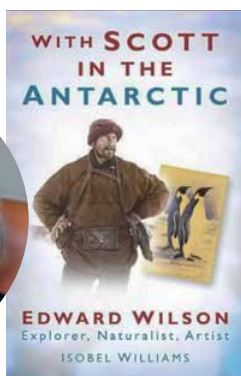
these heroes. The blog is at: www.isobelpwilliams.com.

The blog also contains details of a slim book I published in 2021 on a Victorian artist, Sir Hubert von Herkomer. Herkomer painted Queen Victoria on her death bed on the Isle of Wight but was subsequently shunned by the artistic community in the years leading up to WW1 because he was German.

I have been married for well over 50 years. My husband, a retired orthopaedic surgeon, and I were married as students. We have two children – a son in England and a daughter in New York. We have four granddaughters – two in England, two in America. With all good wishes.



Isobel Williams and her book on Edward Wilson



HONORARY DOCTOR OF MUSIC AT ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY Dr Frankie Williams (Royals, MGC 1966) writes:

As a music educator, I have received the award of Honorary Doctor of Music from Professor Roderick Watkins, Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), during a graduation ceremony in Cambridge this year.

I studied Music at the University of Nottingham, followed by a PGCE at Birmingham University, and later a MA then Doctorate at the Institute of Education at UCL, London. I am also a Finzi scholar.

After graduating, my first teaching role was at the prestigious Queenswood School in Hertfordshire, where my passion for music and performance created immediate impact.

I was offered the Head of Music role at a large comprehensive school in Luton. It was here that I first endorsed Music as a core subject for children and young people, particularly for those who had no previous experience of live performance.

I staged the first-ever amateur performance of *Jesus Christ*

Superstar, and later set up and ran a Saturday morning music school for local youngsters.

As an advisor in Bedfordshire in the 1980s, I championed the introduction of computers and music in schools. I was a major influence in establishing music therapy services within education across Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire and worked for many years to connect schools with music therapy professional practice.

I co-founded and conducted the Bedfordshire Junior County Youth Orchestras, and, as Vice Chair of the National Association of Youth Orchestras, helped set up the largest season of concerts on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

I co-founded the European Association of Youth Orchestras and advised on the education elements of many arts projects including the BBC Proms. I also worked on some ground-breaking projects with the Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne Opera House.

Professor Roderick Watkins, Vice Chancellor of ARU, said: "Dr Williams has a unique understanding of the therapeutic power of music, of its ability to enhance quality of life. She has enjoyed an extraordinarily active career, bringing her unique energy, enthusiasm and expertise to a wide range of projects and communities. Our university has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with Dr Williams. Her expertise and wide-ranging connections have enhanced the impact and reputation of Anglia Ruskin. She has been an influential advisor to our Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research and has selflessly given many hours of her time to support fundraising campaigns and to mentor Anglia Ruskin staff."



Dr Williams receiving her award from Professor Watkins, Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University

MAGGI MARSHALL'S NEWS

Maggi Marshall (Macpherson, MGC 1968), who lived in Hatley St George, The Benhams, Hatfield and Main Building, writes:

Dear OGA, My husband and I moved in March 2022 from Chichester to Falmouth and now live only 30 minutes from my husband's mother, who is 99, and 20 minutes from our elder daughter. We love being deep in the countryside and have some fields which we are going to plant to make woodland pasture. I have already replaced an old, unsightly conifer hedge with native whips.

While at school, six of us were very good friends and we try and meet up once a year. However, **Linda Dunlop** lives in Dublin and we don't see her very often. So, last September, five of us went to Dublin and really enjoyed meeting up with her.

I would be very interested to hear from any old girls of the

original school. The last time I contacted the OGA, I had just moved to Zürich and asked any other OGs in Zürich to get in touch. The one who did, I had

already met in a French group. It turned out that we had also both been to the Royal Free Hospital! We are still in touch.



MGC Reunion in Dublin in September 2022

2022 NORFOLK REUNION

Tishy Bayne (Patricia Mackenzie, MGC 1964) writes:

2022 turned out to be a rather busy and medical year for Christopher and me. So we were very disappointed not to be able to go off at last in our motor home for our regular pre-Covid April to early July trip in the sun round Europe, because of excellent open-heart surgery (Aortic Valve replacement) at the splendid new Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge on 8 June for him and unexpected bladder cancer for me! However, once my cancer had been removed and biopsies showed that there seemed to be no more lurking there, I had six weekly sessions of quick and painless BCG immunotherapy and, by September, we were both feeling fine and I am pleased to report that we had another successful Norfolk Reunion on 21 September.

This year, Christopher has been able thoroughly to enjoy his previous two-week skiing holiday in January and is off again for two weeks in March, so his surgery has obviously been successful and I am still thankfully free of any cancer and will be undergoing my last three sessions of the BCG immunotherapy in due course, so thanks to the NHS for looking after us both so well!

To our disappointment, last year our usual venue, The Anchor Inn, Morston, on the north Norfolk coast, had closed down, so we finally settled on The Honingham Buck, only about eight miles west of Norwich, which served us all very well and was actually nearer for most of us! In addition to which, it has some splendid new downstairs en-suite bedrooms at a reasonable price, which meant that **Lottie Ridler (Crossley, MGC 1964)** was happily able to bring **Angela Crowe (Tudor, MGC 1964)** down with her from Lincoln.

Angela has unfortunately had Parkinson's disease for a number of years, which meant that, although she and Lottie were able to stay with us in 2016, she has not been able to climb the stairs up to our bedrooms since then, so we were delighted to welcome her back to the Reunion this year, as she was able to stay very comfortably at the Buck.

Tricia Wilkinson (Marsden, MGC 1956) and her daughter **Sarah Stanley (Wilkinson, MGC 1986)** had also booked to stay there but sadly an important family funeral coincided at the last moment with our Reunion, so we very much missed seeing them this year and poor **Anne Laubscher (Scott, MGC 1954)** had food poisoning, so we also had to miss her and her husband, Louw, once again this year.

Dear **Marianne Fry (Newman, MGC 1951)** was, as ever, on excellent form but **Beth Stone (Carmes,**



**Front: Tishy Bayne, Angela Crowe, Marianne Fry, Lottie Ridler, Lyn Hobbs.
Back: Sarah Clarke, Hilary Stevenson, Anne Charlton, Christopher Bayne, Vicki Billings**

MGC 1951) did not feel up to the trip down from Lincoln with Lottie, although she said: "She hasn't given up hope of seeing us all this coming year, if she can just organise herself a little better"! **Audrey Peters (Bennett, MGC 1964)** could not join us as she was having a hip operation (using her NHS pension to go privately, as there was a three-year wait!) and **Charmian (Cheate, MGC 1962)** and John Gilbert had already arranged a holiday in France which clashed with us! **Sarah Jewson (Spencer, MGC 1963)** was also on holiday, as was **Rosie Crump (MGC 1962)** but we were delighted to welcome for the first time both **Lyn Hobbs (Colley, MGC 1963)** and **Sarah Clarke (Judd, MGC 1964)** and we were so pleased that **Vicki Billings (Gaut, MGC 1964)** was able to join us again. We were very happy that **Hilary Stevenson (Marshall, MGC 1969)** was free to join us, having been unable to come for several years and that **Fiona Meredith** drove over from Malvern to be with us again and to bring with her memories from the Archives which we all enjoyed looking through. Fiona certainly now seems one of us! That just left the remaining Regulars: **Anne Charlton (Burton, MGC 1958)**, myself and my husband, Christopher, making our numbers up to eleven – nine Old Girls, Fiona and Christopher, perhaps with his harem?!

We are certainly intending to hold our next Reunion at The Honingham Buck on 20 (or possibly 27) September this year, so all you Regulars do please keep the date free!

In addition, any other Old Girls who might fancy a trip to Norfolk to get together with friends old or new for a tasty, leisurely lunch in a pleasant room by ourselves to catch up and chat about The Good Old Days at Malvern, do please contact me and I will fill you in. My email is pbayne46@gmail.com or my phone numbers are 01603 742601 or 07510 404686 and I look forward to hearing from you.

1970s Leavers

SUMMERSIDE REUNION, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Elizabeth Denno (Collard, MGC 1971) writes:

In Summer 2022, there was a reunion of friends who were in Summerside together. The group gathered was Judith Kenney (MGC 1971), Ysobel Jones (Roberts, MGC 1971), Caroline Jones (Holt, MGC 1971), Karen Edwards (Loynd, MGC 1971), Alison Bullock (Stedeford, MGC 1971) and myself. We were all 1971 leavers apart from Karen who wasn't in Senior House.

We met in Stratford-upon-Avon for lunch on a beautiful sunny day. The motivation was that Alison was over in the UK from Canada for a trip.

In last year's news, I described how this same group had been meeting regularly on Zoom since the start of Covid. Jane Bachner-King (Bachner, MGC 1971) was the instigator. We hope that next time we meet she too might join us from Texas if, at all possible, for the OGA reunion at Malvern in June! Meanwhile, we continue to Zoom with each other every three weeks. We will have been doing it for three years in June!



The 1971 Leavers' Summerside Reunion in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Charlotte Morrison (Page, MGC 1973) writes:

These photographs were taken at Summerside in 1968 I believe. The following people might recognise themselves: Julia Bache, Lisa Schiff, Joy Lavery, Caroline Brinkley, Iva Thomas, Susan Davies, Isabelle Herbert, Dinah Nabarro and Jayne Cure, who is a year older than the rest. Deborah Minford should also be there and Elizabeth Pears, and the single person is Judith Kenney. The only person whom I can think of who is missing is Felicity Templeman Sherlock but there are two people in the indoor photo who are not

fully visible. I wonder if anyone recognises themselves in these photos?



Charlotte Morrison sends in these 1968 Summerside photos



WONDERFUL MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD

Alison Martin (MGC 1975), who was in *Hatfield* from 1968, writes:

I am so grateful to staff who helped me on my way, particularly June Roundhill and headmistress Veronica Owen. I have been principal harp with English National Opera since 1984. We are going through difficult times as you know, but I have had a wonderfully rewarding and fulfilling career. I have spent time with ENO and other companies such as Sydney Opera House and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and have seen the world, touring to places I wouldn't otherwise have visited.

The 1974 Leavers' Reunion at the Tower of London



WILDFLOWERS AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

Helen Pugh (MGC 1974) writes:

It was so good to meet in person after a couple of years of meeting on Zoom! In August 2022, Diana Smith Billard (Smith, MGC 1974), Liz Greenwood (Mackrill, MGC 1974), Sara Hailes (Moody, MGC 1974), Diana Lewis (Matthews, MGC 1974), Rosie Nye (Painter, MGC 1974), Chris Findlay (Rees, MGC 1974), Sheinaz Panjwani (MGC 1974) and I went to the Tower of London to see the wildflowers in the moat that had been planted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Due to the hot dry summer, the flowers were not at their best but they were still very colourful. Plenty of tea, coffee, lunch and chat!



Recital, during lockdown, at Eaton Bishop Church, Herefordshire, once 30 people were allowed in the 'garden'

REUNION IN WARWICK

Mary Parsons (Erskine, MGC 1977)

sends a photograph from a get-together in Warwick in September 2022



From left to right: Phyllida James (Dixon, MGC 1977), Anne Brar (Tasker, MGC 1977), Caroline Clay (Bayley, MGC 1977), Mary Parsons (Erskine, MGC 1977) and Sally Craig (Bishop, MGC 1977)

1980s Leavers

RETIREMENT NEWS FROM KAZAKHSTAN

Hilary Rendell (Walsh, MGC 1981) sends news and memories of life at school:

I joined MGC in 1974 in Ilydene and stayed at school until after A levels in 1981. As I look back on my life and career, I credit the school for building my confidence, independence and positivity, all of which led to a successful career, adventure and fulfilled family life.

In the next couple of months, I will retire from a 36-year career in Oil and Gas, which has seen me not only travel the world but also live in some exciting countries. Currently, I am in Kazakhstan, where I have lived for the last four years.

I have plenty of plans for retirement including becoming fluent in Spanish (I studied up until A level at school) and getting back to my past music levels (piano and flute), as well as volunteering in education.

I am still in touch with some of my year group (although, overall, I would say we are a poor year for joining school events!). I still see Jane Rombi (Griffith, MGC 1981), Cathy Colston (Webber, MGC 1981), Debbie Wetherell (Watkiss, MGC 1981), and I hope to reconnect with many others when I am finally back in the UK.

I would love for anyone who knows me to reconnect so please do contact me via school.

oga@malvernstjames.co.uk.

“ ”

I credit the school for building my confidence, independence and positivity



Hilary Rendell, outside her apartment in Atyrau, Kazakhstan, in -30C



FEELING BLAH?

YOU'RE NOT

THE ONLY

ONE ...

Tanith Carey (MGC 1984) writes:



Tanith Carey

This April, I am publishing my 13th book, *Feeling Blah: Why Anhedonia has left you joyless and how to recapture life's highs*.

It's the first book to tackle this little-known subject in well-being and looks at what happens in our brain, when we feel 'stuck in a rut'. As I have always said, I write about what I need to learn.

I wrote this book after realising that just driving myself on to achieve more wasn't ever going to be enough – and that it was actually contributing to feelings of overwhelm that were getting in the way of me enjoying life – the opposite of what I expected. In fact, I was feeling very flat.

When I looked into it, I discovered there was a name for this state of blah – anhedonia – and there was a huge body of research literature on it. Yet it's a word little known outside psychiatry, psychology and neuroscience.

I spoke to some of the world's top neuroscientists too so I could explain why joy is made in the brain, and what can stand in the way.

The book contains the important message that although modern life is challenging, as the mental health statistics show, the good news is that we have never known more about how good feelings are made in the brain. So, I wanted to make this knowledge more accessible and readable so people can use it in their lives to push back against the stresses of the modern world – and flourish, rather than 'exist'.

It also looks at other factors that can contribute to anhedonia – these include burn-out; diet; illnesses like Long Covid; 'fear'; mistrust of happiness dating back to childhood, and hormonal shifts in both women and men.

The book also has lots of evidence-based ways to get your brain's reward circuit working better for you again. And, of course, I also document how I learnt to enjoy my life again.

I am still writing parenting psychology books too.

Two of my other books, *What's my child thinking? Practical Child Psychology for Modern Parents* and *What's my Teenager Thinking?*, for DK books, written with child clinical psychologist Dr Angharad Rudkin are now in 35 languages. We are just writing the third in the trilogy, *What's my TWEENager thinking?*, for publication next year – and we are so thrilled it's becoming a staple for parents across the world.

For those who'd like to find out more, they can go to [at amzn.to/41WROEP](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1789041700) and I will be publishing updates on my Instagram for the book [@no_more_blah_book](https://www.instagram.com/no_more_blah_book).

HANNAH LEATHART (MGC 1996) IS MSJ'S NEW DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Hannah Leathart rejoined MSJ as a teacher in September 2022, 26 years after leaving MGC. Six months into the role, Hannah talks through how she is finding her feet as Director of Sport and changes since her days as an "MGC girl"

I always knew I wanted to be a PE teacher and became one at 21. I left MGC and completed a PE degree at Sheffield Hallam University. My career started as a hockey teacher at Bromsgrove School and I worked as an assistant house parent in one of the boarding houses.

I then moved to Colston's Girls' School, Bristol, which is now Montpelier High School, as Head of the PE department and stayed there for four years.

At the time though, I was missing playing hockey at National League level as I had been playing at a reasonably high level for

many years. I would watch the pupils playing matches and feel like I was missing out on playing.

This led me to move into the state education sector because there were fewer matches on Saturdays, which meant I could go back to playing.

I moved to Denmark Road High School, a girls' grammar school in Gloucester, as Head of PE. I taught there for 17 years, having started as Head of PE at aged 25. I became Faculty Director 11 years later, then Assistant Head Teacher and finally Head of Sixth Form. Denmark Road is a relatively

big secondary school and my role encompassed safeguarding for six years. During Covid, the safeguarding role was quite intense and challenging at times. It was then that I saw the job for Director of Sport advertised at MSJ.

I had been pointed in the direction of becoming a Deputy Head or a Head Teacher but this opportunity came up to interview for MSJ and I went for it. If I had gone down more of the senior management route in a school, I worried I was going to miss teaching the children and it just felt right for me to go for the MSJ Director of Sport role.



Hannah Leathart and team at MGC, 1993

Back in Malvern

I have now been back in Malvern for nearly seven months – there was a handover period when I was still working at Denmark Road but learning about the role at MSJ – and it has been a case of re-learning about the school and how to take the sport forward.

We have been building the team and one of the aspects that I am loving, apart from teaching girls of all ages, is how enthusiastic the parents are about their daughters' sporting activities. I remember one of my first matches, I had only been



Hockey Squad, 1995

in the role for about two weeks, and parents really wanted to meet me to find out the plans for the development of sport at MSJ. I was, like, "Please give me a chance!". But it was wonderful as it shows how much everyone cares and that shines through in all the sports and the fixtures that have been building over the last few months. As readers will imagine, fixtures are still becoming 'normal' again post-Covid.

It does feel very strange walking back into School as a teacher and not a pupil. The first time I went into the staff room was particularly strange. It is still in the same room as it was when I was at school. I got used to it fairly quickly but that first time was a weird experience.

What does strike me is the same warmth and friendliness as soon as you walk through the door, with students and staff. That took me straight back and it is wonderful, the feeling of the ethos of the school not changing one bit.

New facilities

The sports facilities are brilliant with the new Sports Centre. Our core sports are now hockey and

cricket, alongside netball, tennis and athletics. We aim to build a Cricket Centre of Excellence in the next five to seven years and I will be working closely with local stakeholders to try and raise the profile of women's cricket. There is certainly a real appetite for girls' cricket at MSJ.

Sadly, lacrosse is being phased out at MSJ. It is because fewer schools are now playing lacrosse and we are having to travel further for fixtures. MSJ girls are extremely busy with a variety of endeavours; playing hockey, and our other sports, closer to Malvern allows us to have great quality opposition whilst also helping the girls with their other pursuits.

Many people are sad about it and it was a decision that was not taken lightly. It is perhaps a story to talk about at another time because it has always been traditionally such a part of sports at the schools.

Old Girls will remember the swimming pool well and it is still much in use. It isn't easy for swimming galas (there are curves on the outer lanes which makes it difficult for competition swimming!) and the changing rooms are relatively unchanged. It is good for

learning to swim though and such a historic part of the School.

I better mention the Dome. It is still in use – and it smells and sounds just the same. It's uncanny.

It is a good, indoor space for rainy days and there is currently a growing Dance Academy which makes use of the squash courts and the Dome space itself.

Memories of MGC

My memories of being a pupil at MGC go back to Ivydene Hall, which is now flats. I was in Top Dorm for a while and there was also 'Cold Dorm' and 'Hot Dorm'. There was also 'Cubey' – such imaginative names – because that dorm had cubicle wash basins in the corner.

I am really enjoying being back at the School and our PE department is feeling increasingly settled, positive and is a team made up of excellent practitioners. There is a growing enthusiasm for sport from the girls as well as the parents, and support from the other teaching staff. The atmosphere at the school is so friendly and it is not an act. There is a sense of personality here and everybody feels it.

1990s Leavers

THE JUNK MAN

Jo Leahy (Moulds, MGC 1991) sends this photograph of 'The Junk Man', or so she remembers he might have been called by irreverent schoolgirls, who had an antique shop off the High Street.

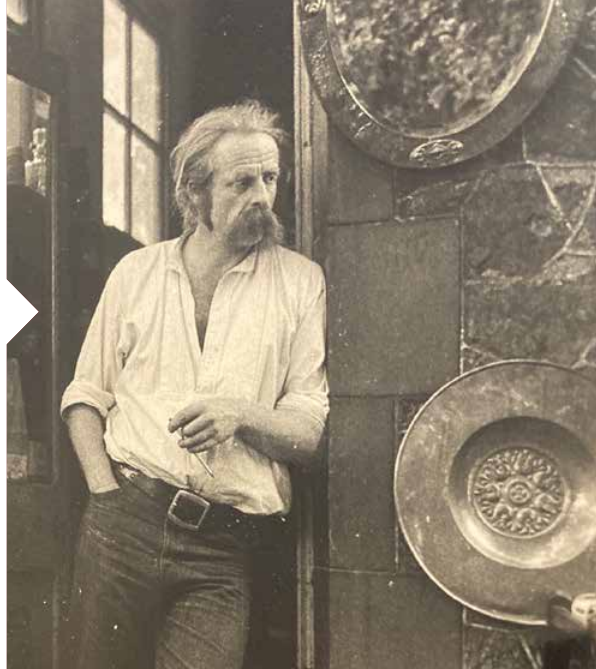
This photograph was taken by Alex Gilmour, who was studying Art GCSE at the same time as Jo.

Jo loves this photograph and it has followed her around through

every house move since Malvern, in the same frame and with the same affection.

If Alex Gilmour reads this, or someone who knows Alex, could they pass on Jo's thank you? It always reminds Jo of Malvern in a really happy way. She thinks it is the 'stillness' of the photograph, a moment in time.

If anyone remembers this man and his shop, do send in a story. oga@malvernstjames.co.uk



"The Junk Man", off Church St/Edith Walk, Malvern, 1980s

TAKING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL LEAP...

Georgina Pawley (MGC 1995) writes:

I joined MGC at 11 years old, which in some ways feels like a lifetime ago and in others feels like yesterday. I still reminisce with friends about swinging on the hot pipes in the drying room (they weren't that hot!), hanging out in the Rose Gardens, chatting in the dorm after lights out and playing more games of cards than you could ever count. If there's one takeaway, I can still shuffle cards like a pro and it never fails to impress!



Georgina Pawley

When I wasn't in the house or at school, I was playing for the hockey, lacrosse, tennis and rounders' teams, spending weekends travelling for a match or playing at 'home'. From memory, we were a decent side and quite competitive but, more importantly, we always had fun and there was great camaraderie.

As a lover of exercise and fitness, I continued playing hockey at university until one day I trod on the ball, tore the ligaments in my ankle and ended up in hospital. And that was the end of that!

When the fun of university ended and the reality of work started, I decided to join the corporate world and built a career as a head-hunter. It was fun working in London living the fast life and burning the candle at both ends, however I assumed eventually I'd end up back in the country, in a quaint village. That, however, hasn't happened yet!

After many years in London working for an ambitious search firm, I relocated to Atlanta and then New York to open up offices and build teams in both locations, growing our US business. There was nothing quiet or country-like about living in Manhattan but there were many positives including access to thousands of fitness classes night and day. In my spare time, I took up Pilates, boxing and Krav Maga and lived the New York life... until Covid happened.

I knew before the pandemic that after 18 years of corporate life, it was time for me to do something new. I had always wanted to run my own business, I just didn't know what to do, nor had I the guts to do it. Covid, however, made me realise a few things: life is short, and self-care is a priority. It was time to become my own boss. So, I took the leap and started Life Body Health, a fitness, wellness and professional development offering for executive women, combining my love of both exercise and business.

As a head-hunter, I spent years working with clients supporting their gender diversity agenda from the C-Suite down. Frustratingly, however, it continues to feel like an uphill battle. There are still too few women in leadership roles and too many opting to leave their careers for reasons relating to culture, lack of support and flexibility amongst others.

Life Body Health works with individuals and organisations to support the success of female professionals. It is a luxury retreat followed by a bespoke programme providing fitness, wellness and business coaching to women looking for an innovative approach to personal and professional development. It provides a platform where female leaders can connect and build out their support and mentorship networks, join interactive workshops led by executive coaches and take time for physical and mental wellbeing. Whilst each retreat may vary, there will be experts covering topics such as nutrition, menopause, leadership, personal branding, re-imagining success, communication as well as one-to-one personal training sessions, great food and plenty of R&R.

If you feel you or your organisation could benefit from this offering, any OGA member can claim a five per cent Old Girl discount for 2023 and 2024. Email oga@malvernstjames.co.uk if you are interested in finding out more.



Victoria Scott's second novel, *Grace*, is set in Malvern

SECOND NOVEL PUBLISHED, *GRACE*, BY VICTORIA SCOTT

Victoria Scott (Milne, MGC 1996), journalist and author, writes:

I wanted to let you know that my second novel, *Grace*, was published by Head of Zeus in July 2022. My first novel, *Patience*, was a Booksellers' Association Book of the Month and has been an Amazon bestseller. Old Girls might like to know that *Grace* is set in Malvern. <https://linktr.ee/victoria.scott>

RAISING STROKE AWARENESS

Joy Alliy (MGC 1996) writes:

I left MGC with fond memories of friends, places and teachers who believed in me. Having graduated from the University of Warwick with a Law degree and after a year working back in Tanzania, I returned to the UK to complete a Masters' degree in International and European Law at Durham University.

After seven years as an associate at a law firm back in Tanzania, I became one of the youngest junior partners. I also received my first mention in Chambers Global. Four years' later, after graduating with a joint Postgraduate Diploma in Law from Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University and working at another law firm, I founded Novita Law.

On 27 September 2020, shortly after Novita Law's fifth anniversary and in the middle of the pandemic, I had a stroke that changed my life forever. I had to work hard to regain my mobility as the stroke affected the entire right side of my body. I suffer from aphasia following the stroke, affecting my communication skills, so I've had to re-learn the alphabet, spelling, grammar and numbers from scratch. Thank God for Grammarly!

Despite the loss of my mobility, independence and identity, having the sports background at MGC and the discipline from 14 years of kickboxing, I was determined to work to fight for recovery.

I live in Edinburgh, Scotland, with my partner Alastair Ross Methven. In January 2023, I returned to Malvern after 26 years. Ross and I were given a tour of the main building. I was surprised to see how much has changed over the years. I also had forgotten how hilly Malvern was but grateful that my physical rehabilitation allowed me to trek into town.

Although I am still recovering with Ross as my carer, I am managing my law firm remotely and raising awareness about stroke. I also have a volunteer role with two charities that offered me support when I came to Edinburgh six months after the stroke. I am extremely grateful to OGA friends **Caroline Boswell**, **Debra Sanaipai Ntimama**, **Mwaba Kaunda** and **Fleur Wilkinson** for all their love and support.



Joy Alliy

CARO WEST

THE STYLED WARDROBE

Caro West (Milward, MGC 1991) has recently set up The Styled Wardrobe in Sydney, Australia. For stylish OGs, this is all you need to know...



When did you set up The Styled Wardrobe, and why?

I started to set up The Styled Wardrobe in August 2021 and my first paying client was in December 2021. After returning from living in Singapore, I wanted to try something new and challenge myself before I was 50. I have always loved clothes and finding my own style. I saw this as a hobby while I worked full time. However, it gained popularity and, for it to grow as a business, I needed to give it a lot more attention. I gave up my job in May 2022 and became a qualified personal stylist. I now work part-time in magazines and work three days a week on The Styled Wardrobe.

How long have you lived in Sydney and what was your work background before?

I have lived in Sydney for 20 years (three of those in Singapore) and, over my career, I have been an Executive Assistant to numerous CEOs, an Event Organiser and a Project Manager. I am married to an Australian and we have two children and two dogs.

How have you found it setting up your own business?

There is a lot to learn and I am still learning but, if you truly have the passion, it is worth it! I have learnt the value of networking with other small businesses to share ideas and brainstorm. I have created some great connections to run

ideas past and it is obviously an ongoing process.

How is the business developing and how many clients have you worked with so far?

It is on an upward growth which is great – slowly but surely – and I have over 60 clients all via word of mouth. I haven't done any advertising as yet.

What are the main benefits for your clients?

My most popular service is the 'Edit and Style'. With this service, I edit my client's wardrobe of all the items that no longer suit them or have had their day – all based on body shape, lifestyle and personality. With the clothes that deserve to stay, I then create multiple outfits from the client's existing clothes and take photographs for reference. I encourage clients to "shop their wardrobe". We always create at least 35 new outfits from a client's wardrobe! Along the way, I create a "missing pieces" list so that the client can shop with intention and these pieces will bring the whole wardrobe together for easy mix and matching.

At the end of the session, the client has an organised, edited and styled wardrobe without even visiting the shops!

The client becomes more confident in their choices, understands what suits them and rediscovers their wardrobe. They also save money as the process

stops the impulse, panic-buy shopping as the client understands what is in their wardrobe and what is really missing.

Have you worked with anyone in the UK with The Styled Wardrobe and could that happen via Zoom/Teams etc in the future? How do you think that would work?

I love being in the same room as my clients as we need to try on all the clothes and mix and match with ease. I am a very visual person and need to be among it all! So, we'll be keeping it Sydney-based for now but I'm definitely open to Zoom in the future.

Memories of MGC: How long were you there? Which house?

I was in Hatfield from U3 to U5 (Years 7-11). I then went on to Uppingham School for the last two years of school. I loved lacrosse and watching *Dynasty* in Hatfield (!) and I loved the midnight feasts!

I loved my Spanish teacher, Mrs Davies. I loved my time at MGC and have very fond memories.

Where would you like readers to find The Styled Wardrobe?

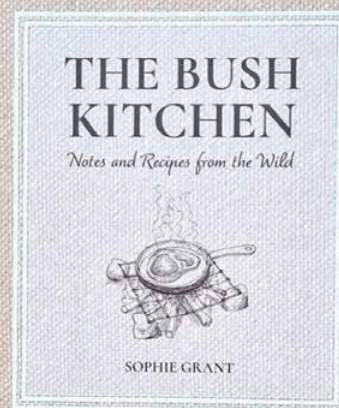
I would love you to follow me on Instagram [@thestyled_wardrobe](https://www.instagram.com/thestyled_wardrobe). And if you want to join my monthly newsletter with tips and tricks, head to my website to sign up: www.thestyledwardrobe.com.au. If you are based in Sydney, I would love you to get in touch to say hi: hello@thestyledwardrobe.com.au.

THE BUSH KITCHEN: NOTES AND RECIPES FROM THE WILD

Sophie Grant (Mills, MGC 1999) writes:

I would love to share my recent news regarding my new book *The Bush Kitchen: Notes and Recipes from the Wild*. It is a recipe and poetry book but also shares the history of our safari story. I thought it might be of interest to alumnae.

Our website is www.elkaramalodge.com and you can read an interview about the book at: <https://www.brilliant-africa.com/atc/the-bush-kitchen>. All proceeds from the book go to the El Karama Lodge and El Karama Conservancy staff.



Sophie Grant's new book

2000s Leavers



Dani Grieson sends news of *Lift This Life*, founded in 2019

DANI GRIESON: LIFT THIS LIFE

Dani Grieson (MGC 2001) sends news of her career and new business:

In 2019, I founded my business Lift This Life with a clear mission to add value and strength to people, to raise their experience of work and daily life. In previous roles, I have experienced a career with Top Gear, Coca-Cola, the Olympic Games and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

My understanding of leadership and successful organisations has equipped me to enhance people and teams for their work and life. I founded the business three years ago to help people discover, and crucially use, the miracles within

YEAR OF 2000 MEET-UP

Rosie O'Connor (MGC 2000) writes:

Some of the MGC class of 2000 were able to catch up for an impromptu lunch in London in November 2022. We had a lovely time catching up with one another after the years of social restrictions and lockdown, it had been too long!



From left to right: Ali Grieson, Lizzie Cordingley (McGlone), Katie Fielding (Tiarks), Bonnie Williams (Davies), Rosie O'Connor (Henniker-Major), Mary Cundall, Clemmie Healing (Godfrey), Libby Wingfield (March), Lucy Neville and Emma Smitham (Getty)

themselves. Often in life, we don't use what's already within us. I use strength psychology as the bedrock for my work, which is the science of what people do best naturally.

Through my work, I have been proud to have helped hundreds of people develop their strengths – from leaders in law, finance and at Tesla, to teams at DPD, Allianz and The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.

In 2021, back to my school roots in Great Malvern, I delivered a TEDx talk on Empathy and how it is a secret weapon in building culture, community and a country, like recently resigned Jacinda Arden in NZ, citing burn out from

her leadership. Arden's honest resignation has propelled her mission with greater fervency.

At Cranfield University, I have guest lectured military personnel in Leadership, studying for their Defence Leadership MSc.

As a woman, I am involved passionately in supporting women in business through organisations such as the Woman of the Year awards; *Harper's Bazaar* Connecting Visionary Women, and Wellbeing of Women.

I would be delighted to support Old Girls in their work and daily life and look forward to reconnecting here: dani@liftthislife.co.uk. www.liftthislife.co.uk

MGC-HONORARY MEMBERS



March 1975 at the National Schools' Lacrosse Tournament. Back then, it was always held at City University's Playing fields in Merton, London. The fields were a vast expanse of exposed land and it was always freezing! There was also a gentle chemical whiff from the local soap factory - very exotic. Over the years, the venue changed to much grander, and more fit-for-purpose locations. These days, it is played at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre in Hampshire, which is very swish by comparison

DR CHRISTINE HOUGH SENDS MGC MEMORIES FROM THE 1970S

Dr Hough writes:

My job as Assistant PE teacher at Malvern Girls' College, 1974-1978, was my very first teaching post. Full of trepidation and nervousness at first, I was also champing at the bit to get started.

In the four years I taught at MGC, I had fantastic opportunities to develop my own teaching skills and areas of expertise, from managing the Lacrosse and Tennis teams, setting up Dance Club and organising theatre trips, to being involved in the full range of social activities in the Boarding House (some of which were quite bizarre)!

When I left MGC and moved onwards and upwards, I took with me some of the happiest memories of my teaching career.

The hallmarks of my time at MGC are: laughter (in huge quantities); the very dear friends I made on the staff (some of whom remain so even

Elisabeth Rambridge (Honorary Member, 1978-2008) writes:

We had a simply lovely day when Charles and Lucy married at St Faith's, Berrow, at the end of July. They are happily settled in Malvern Link. Charles gave Lucy a kitten as a wedding present and I have quite fallen in love with this small creature, never having had a cat.

Andrew has had to have further treatment as he is riddled with osteoarthritis. It means I am now completely in charge of the garden and would never have believed the interest I could take in the making of compost! Life is full of new challenges, eh?

One challenge I was determined to undertake was paying my respects to our beloved Queen. I left Great Malvern station at 5am, having made a Queue Buddy there. We were at the start of the Queue by 9am, and in that Great Hall by 3pm. I took my new friend to the Royal



Above: Charles' wedding
Inset: ER in the queue for seeing the Queen

now), and the enormous fun I had teaching the students. Whether on ski trips, winning our round of the Aberdare Cup tennis tournament (not very often!) or trying to teach gym in the public thoroughfare that was the original gym, students of every ability always did their best, because they wanted to learn.

Over the years, as a PE teacher, I came to realise that this was something to be treasured and was not the picture in many other schools.

In the years to come, my professional career took several turns away from teaching PE, including three years when I worked as an Ofsted Inspector and being

awarded a studentship to study for a PhD, in Social Policy, at Lancaster University.

Most recently, I was Senior Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, from 2010-2019. But wherever I go and whatever I do, the happy memories of MGC days are always there – thank you!



This was taken at MGC just before we travelled down to the National Schools' Lacrosse Tournament, 1975. Because the tournament was to take place a couple of days after we broke up for the Easter Holidays, this presented problems for the full boarders, especially those who lived overseas, who would have had to travel to London from their homes.

In true MGC style, all the teams agreed to stay on at school after the end of term, to practice and then travel to London together. At the time, I was taken aback by such a show of loyalty to the teams, by both students and their families. But this was the norm at MGC, tremendous support for teams – and all other activities – because students were always there for each other and their families wanted that to be the way school life worked

This group of MGC students could be described as an early (very) small Dance Club. At the start of Summer term 1975, I was asked by someone at Malvern College if our students would like to contribute a musical/acting/dance performance at an informal evening. Hastily, we convened a dance group and off we went! I remember one of the dances was performed to a song by the Carpenters (well, it was nearly 50 years ago!) called *Piano Picker* – very good for interpretation through dance



Over-Seas League for tea and fizz afterwards, and we were back in Malvern before 8pm. Very splendidly, she repaid my hospitality some time later by taking me to a new cocktail bar in Malvern – in the old NatWest Bank at the traffic lights. See how much fun there is in new ventures!

Linde Melhuish writes:

My news: I'm being ordained on 3 July at Hereford Cathedral – so I shall be Rev'd Linde Melhuish after that – exciting times. I have had a wonderful year's 'fast-track' training at St Mellitus Theological College, London, and am now looking forward to this next stage and getting used to (sometimes) wearing a 'dog collar'.

And, for further news: My daughter, Charlotte Melhuish, has recently been made a Partner at her law firm, Stone King, specialising in Education Law in the independent school sector. She has been married to James Irwin-Singer for three years now and they have a one-year-old Northern Inuit pup, Miska (the breed featured in *Game of Thrones*).

We are always delighted to welcome back Old Girls and Honorary Members to tour the Malvern St James School building. If you are interested in visiting, please get in touch to arrange a date by e-mailing: oga@malvernstjames.co.uk

HISTORY OF THE BOARDING HOUSES

BY ELISABETH RAMBRIDGE

Elisabeth Rambridge, one-time teacher of History, Housemistress and Deputy Housemistress of Benhams, Hatfield and Deputy Housemistress at Greenslade, takes a meander through the history of MGC and – still current – MSJ houses



Ivydene, The Mount and Avenue (now the Music Centre, MSJ). Below: Lindfield

A special subject was offered when I did my PGCE at Oxford – The History of the Public Schools. I expect it wouldn't be available now! The main text was *The Public School Phenomenon* by Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy (1977). We are very fortunate to have *Malvern Girls' College: A Centenary History* elegantly written, carefully researched and beautifully illustrated by Pamela Hurle, a distinguished local historian who was a member of the History Department at Malvern Girls' College. As former Archivist, I would stress that, whereas the boys' schools were built for the purpose, women had to be much more resourceful with their more limited means

– taking on and adapting other residential buildings. Ivydene Hall, The Mount, Lindfield, The (Old) Benhams and Avenue all conform to that model and the Victorian buildings are regarded with much affection for their charm and character.



However, in Chapter Six, Pam writes that, in the 1930s, the Council decided a proper building policy should be adopted, and that, while the School was building its reputation for excellence and breadth in its teaching, domestic arrangements lagged behind. Houses like The Benhams should be more attractive and functional.

The New Benhams, attached to the old vicarage of nearby Christ Church, opened in January 1939, some sign that the clouds of war had not arrived. The reality was the Heads of Malvern College and Malvern Girls' College were informed in the strictest secrecy on Boxing Day 1938 that their schools would be requisitioned in the event of war: what an



incredible strain that must have been.

When I was a tutor at The Benhams in the late 1970s, the far part was used for 7th term Oxbridge students. By the time I became Housemistress in 1995, it was a self-contained boarding house. Not hugely beautiful to look at, I admit, I thought it was a super house and I loved being the Housemistress. I appreciate attempts to increase privacy in the single rooms were only partially successful; and, as so often, the 'Achilles heel' was the washing facilities. But the communal rooms and the dining room all had a really pleasing aspect, and the proximity to the Main Building gave the feel of a campus. In 1999, the *Worcester Evening News* ran a feature on the house for its 60th anniversary and here I am, in Benhams blue of course.

In 2006, I became Housemistress of Hatfield. As I began to know the



Photograph courtesy of Worcester Evening News

house, I was really impressed by the plan to make a good living space, with lots of wonderful design features carrying through the hexagon theme. A contemporary of mine at the University of St Andrews was **Liz Henderson (Walker, MGC 1972)**. When she visited, I captured all the excitement and enthusiasm of being the first generation gathered from other houses in 1964. You can see the energy in the splendid photo taken in the Hex.

I also spent a few terms as the Deputy Housemistress at Greenslade – built on the Old Benhams' site – and experienced

there a design to cater specifically for the needs of Sixth Form pupils.

I find design fascinating. I live in a 17th century cottage with a 1960s addition and prefer the older part so have my computer there. I didn't envisage the retirement challenge as a Churchwarden to make a building from 1050, with a post-Black Death addition, and a Victorian restoration, relevant for the modern worshipper.

Finally, there is the house photo – an archivist's dream with names annotated. This photo is a reminder of what schools are about – the people, the companionship, the shared experience and I am sure you will touch that as you read through the OGA News.

Clockwise from top: The (Old) Benhams; Elisabeth Rambridge in Benhams Blue; The Benhams; an annotated house photo, The Mount, and a 1960s performance in the Hex, Hatfield



IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the following deaths:

Anne Morgan-Jones (Garrood, MGC 1947)

Tim Morgan-Jones, husband of Anne, would like the OGA News to share the following: "Anne, formally of Benhams in the late 1940s, passed away on 19 September 2019 at Ipswich Hospital after having fallen down and suffering 10 weeks of treatment."

Before attending Malvern Girls' College, Anne and her sister Jill, also at Benhams (and their mother), went to Vancouver as refugees at the start of the Blitz. They returned via Jamaica when the crisis was over to schooling at Malvern where Anne was a house prefect. In sport, she played tennis. She was also a keen swimmer having obtained her intermediate certificate in 1944 from "The Royal Life Saving Society".

On leaving Malvern, Anne attended Mrs. Hosters Secretarial College followed by becoming personal assistant to a notable yacht designer in Albermarle Street, London.

Anne's parents emigrated to Cape Town in 1949 where she followed on, making a number of journeys on the Union castle liners. She enjoyed these trips giving parties and "coming out" as it were in society. She was a natural leader and was a co-director in her father's Cape Town dry cleaning business, in charge of mainly young Malay female staff.

Highlights of her time in South Africa were attending a reconciliation dinner her father organised for a visit by the German General von Lettow-Vorbeck who commanded the German forces in East Africa in WW I. He was the former enemy of Captain Garrood when he was stranded in the Jungle of Tanganyika, where his

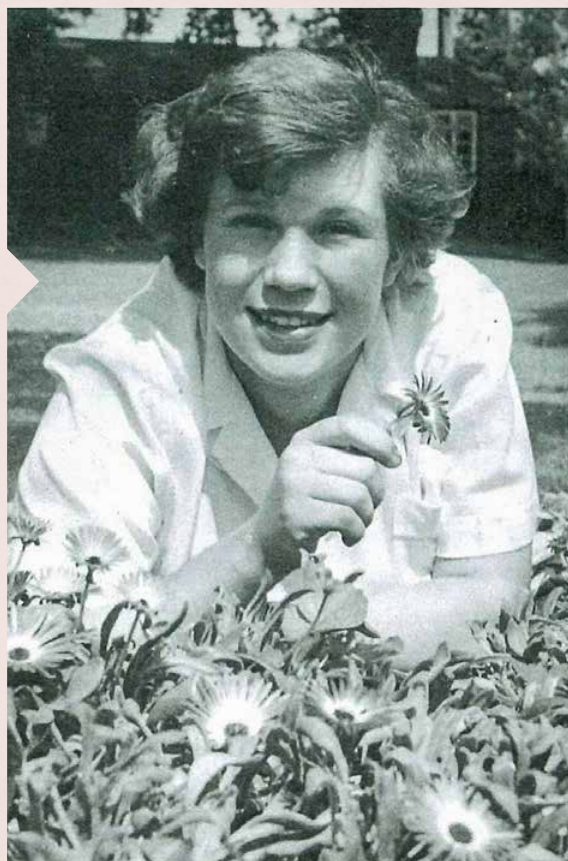
plane crashed, before being rescued by an African native. Anne accompanied her father on an expedition to find this native and to award him a lifelong pension.

Anne returned to the UK to marry Tony Voss, her friendly childhood neighbour from Chipstead, Surrey. They established a farming business near Needham Market in Suffolk. Tony specialised in pigs and Anne the turkeys. Later, they moved to restore Gibbons Farm, also turning to antique dealing which brought them to St John's Lodge in Woodbridge where Anne's three children, Jenny, Tim and Garry, were near good schools.

I got to know Anne in the 1970s (she worked for me as a part-time personal assistant). We married in 1980 and had a very enjoyable 40 years together. With two sons of my own and three children of Anne's, we were a large family at St John's Lodge.

Anne was very public spirited. She was on the Town Council and was a governor of the town's New Street primary school. She was the main driver in achieving the town swimming pool build and, later, roofing it over (now the Deben Swimming Pool). Then she taught children to swim. Like me, she was not so much a talker but a listener and a doer! As an architect, I was fully taken up with my practice in Woodbridge, while Anne also worked as an estate agent with Bernard Roshier.

We both greatly improved and extended our house, St John's Lodge. Anne was most methodical and managed the housekeeping



in addition to the accountancy, and we both had other properties to manage as well. Anne was a good craftswoman. Apart from curtains and upholstery, she was an excellent needlewoman and quilter. We had many overseas holidays together, visiting her daughter Jenny and her husband Paul, where they worked in Hong Kong. We were both fond of cats. Anne bred Siamese when she was farming. We had Siamese and Burmese cats at St John's Lodge, of whom we were very fond.

Our later days were enjoyed with visits to the country houses organised by the Woodbridge Society. Susan Key-Burr, who chaired the Suffolk OGA, also arranged the most interesting venues (such as the Jockey Club in Newmarket) for luncheon meetings.

When Anne and I married, we had a new lease of life together for which we were most grateful. I trust therefore that, despite the three-year interval since Anne died, my brief commentary of her life will find a place in your archives.

Christine Hill (Seed, MGC 1966)

Patricia Wilkinson (Marsden, MGC 1956), Jacky Ridsdale (Whitaker, MGC 1966) and Stephanie Ingham (MGC 1965) write to tell us of the death of Christine Hill (Seed, MGC 1966) in July 2022. Jacky Ridsdale writes:

My dear friend and contemporary Christine Hill died recently and I wanted to submit a brief article to the magazine. Seedy, as she was universally known during her time at MGC, was one of my closest friends. It was devastating to hear of her death. I hadn't seen her for several years but all those who have been boarders know that during your schooldays your close friends become your family, and when you meet again, no matter how much time has passed, it is as if they had just come from the room next door.

Seedy was full of warmth, fun, kindness, creativity and dry humour as well as being highly intelligent, sporty and beautiful too! So, so many ridiculous but life-enhancing experiences we shared... which would sound mundane and facile if recounted here... we were children after all!



Christine Hill, antenatal expert. Photograph courtesy of Andrew Crowley

Since leaving school Seedy went on to make her mark on the world and was appreciated by a wide and prestigious audience as this obituary demonstrates.

But, for me, she left a mark on my heart that will never be obliterated through the bond we shared at school.

Christine Hill obituary, reproduced with permission from *The Times*, 12 August 2022

No-nonsense antenatal expert who advised the Duchess of Cambridge during her pregnancy with Prince George

Christine Hill ushered the heavily pregnant Duchess of Cambridge into her conservatory in Chiswick and told her that the experience of bringing new life into the world is "ghastly".

In truth, no-one knows what was said during those antenatal classes before the birth of Prince George in July 2013 but it is a safe bet that the expert who ran a popular private clinic for 40 years would have retained her no-nonsense approach with a liberal dose of humour.

"My philosophy has always been that no-one prepares you for the true ghastliness of birth," she told *The Daily Telegraph*. "There's a sort of whimsical attitude that it will all be lovely and that everyone can have a natural birth, but that's not true. I want my mothers to be prepared and well-informed. Then they can make the best decisions without fear."

Given the philosophy expressed in her acclaimed books on childbirth and early parenthood, other tips would have included "eat whatever you want", "don't bother to exercise" and "be in or around your bed for the first few days after coming home, however wonderful and exuberant you may feel".

Prince William, meanwhile, was given precise instructions on what was expected of him; her advice to the heir to the throne exemplified her attention to detail.

According to the *Daily Mirror*, she told the prince to practice the act of fitting the baby's seat into the back of a car because she knew that he would need to perform the procedure in front of the world's media when the couple left St Mary's Hospital in Paddington. Any gaffe would be pounced on gleefully. As hundreds of camera shutters clicked, William duly performed this fiddly duty without any hitches and was seen to breathe a sigh of relief after success.

Nina Manser (Nixon, MGC 1966)
Roger Manser, husband of Nina Manser, writes:

I very much regret having to inform you of the death of my beloved wife, Nina, who died on 13 May 2022, three days short of her 74th birthday and seven weeks short of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Her funeral was held in Debden Church, near Saffron Walden, Essex, on 10 June.

Nina was a member of a group of Old Girls who met up every year or so, arranged by Stephanie Ingham (MGC 1965), with whom I was in communication shortly after Nina's death. I have received several cards, or letters of condolence, from other members of the group.

If anyone is interested, please ask for a PDF copy of the Tribute that was read at Nina's funeral by a former Vicar of the Parish, Reverend Hilary Davey. The church was packed and the Service one of celebration rather than mourning, as Nina would have wished. I believe that Nina had life-long membership of the OGA.

oga@malvernstjames.co.uk

Dr Anne Sterndale Bennett (MGC 1935)

Barry Sterndale-Bennett, nephew of Dr Anne Sterndale Bennett, writes:

My aunt, who died aged 104 on 21 December 2022, was born in Uppingham, Rutland, the youngest daughter of Robert Sterndale Bennett, a longstanding director of music at the school and grandson of the Victorian composer, Sir William Sterndale Bennett. She won a scholarship to Malvern Girls' College in 1929 but left in 1935, having won the Savage Club Exhibition to the Royal College of Music, graduating in 1939.

With war looming, my aunt chose to train to be a medical doctor in favour of pursuing a professional musical career. She graduated in 1947 from King's College in London, specialising in orthopaedics but, fascinated by



the pioneering work of her uncle Frederick Arnold Williamson-Noble, who had helped introduce the contact lens into the UK, she trained at the Moorfields Westminster and the Central Eye Hospital, qualifying as an ophthalmologist in 1953. Her subsequent career for the NHS, in private practice and as a consultant spanned 62 years.



Judith Margaret Heslop (Richardson, MGC 1948)

Judith Heslop died in December 2022. Charles Heslop, her son, writes:

I believe my mother attended Malvern Girls' College from 1941-48 and I know she had a very

enjoyable time. She died suddenly and was active to the last.

Charles' brother, Nick, also writes: My mother often talked about her Malvern days and the Sunday walks up the Malvern Hills. I remember that one of her bridesmaids was a Malvern friend. She was the mother of three boys and the grandmother of four. Though from the Fens of Lincolnshire, she married my father, Geoff, in 1954 and thereafter lived in Ponteland, Northumberland. She had a very full and happy life, remaining fully independent until the end.

Hermione Gulland (Grainger, MGC 1953)

Emma Stanley writes:

My mother, Hermione Gulland, died in November 2022. I have just found all her reports and see that she started at the school in 1942 when she was seven and left after taking her A levels in 1953. She was a boarder for most of the time, though a day girl in the Sixth Form. She was a regular attendee at Old Girl reunions and I am in touch with many of her friends from school. My grandmother (then Cicely Keates) had also attended the school, though not for as many years as my mother. I would like her death noted for those who remember her and give others some amusement at the death of the original Hermione Grainger (though the spelling is not quite the same as JK Rowling's version...).

Megan Coole (Gibbons, MGC 1954)

Patricia Wilkinson (Marsden, MGC 1956) writes to let us know that:

Megan Coole passed away on 19 February 2023. Megan was at MGC for a long time, residing in Parkfield, Hatley St George, Ryall and Summerside.

IN MEMORIAM HONORARY MEMBERS



Eleanor Holley (MGC Honorary Member)

Louisa Grant (Holley, MGC 1985) writes:

My mother, Eleanor Holley, who taught harp at MGC in the 1980s when Pam Mullin was Head of Music, died in 2022. I have contacted some of her former pupils on Facebook but I'm sure I missed several. Please let others know.



Gill Wagstaffe (MGC and MSJ Honorary Member)

Hugh Wagstaffe, husband of Gill Wagstaffe, writes:

Gill taught Physics for many years and for some of those, she was Head of Physics. In Gill's later years, Isobel Carmichael took over as Head of Physics and Gill assumed responsibility for university admissions for girls on the science side but continued to teach Sixth Form Physics. She very greatly enjoyed her teaching and contact with her students whose interests she was very keen to promote. As you know, Gill also served on the Council, partly during her teaching years and partly during retirement. She was on Council at the time of the merger of MGC with St James's School.

The funeral was attended by lots of Honorary Members who thoroughly enjoyed working with Gill during her time at MGC and MSJ and Fiona Meredith represented MSJ current Staff.



Rosemary Gooding (MGC Honorary Member)

Gabrielle Bryan, niece of Rosemary Gooding, writes:

Retired Maths teacher Rosemary Gooding passed away in London on 12 October 2022, aged 84 years. She will be much missed by us – her five nieces and nephew, and our families. Rosemary completed her undergraduate

degree in Mathematics at St Anne's College, Oxford, before training as a teacher at Girton College, Cambridge. She often said how she had the best of both worlds by attending both universities.

Teaching was a fundamental part of Rosemary's personality and she was at Malvern Girls' College early in her career during the 1960s (she left MGC in 1966). She carried on her career and her last post was Head of the Maths Department at Putney High School for Girls.

Rosemary always had a keen interest in a wide range of current affairs and was also an avid Wimbledon fan. These interests continued throughout her retirement, during which time she cared for her oldest sister.

If anyone remembers Rosemary, and has any memories of her time at Malvern Girls' College, we would love to hear from you. My email address is gab.h.bryan@googlemail.com.



MALVERN ST JAMES
Girls' School

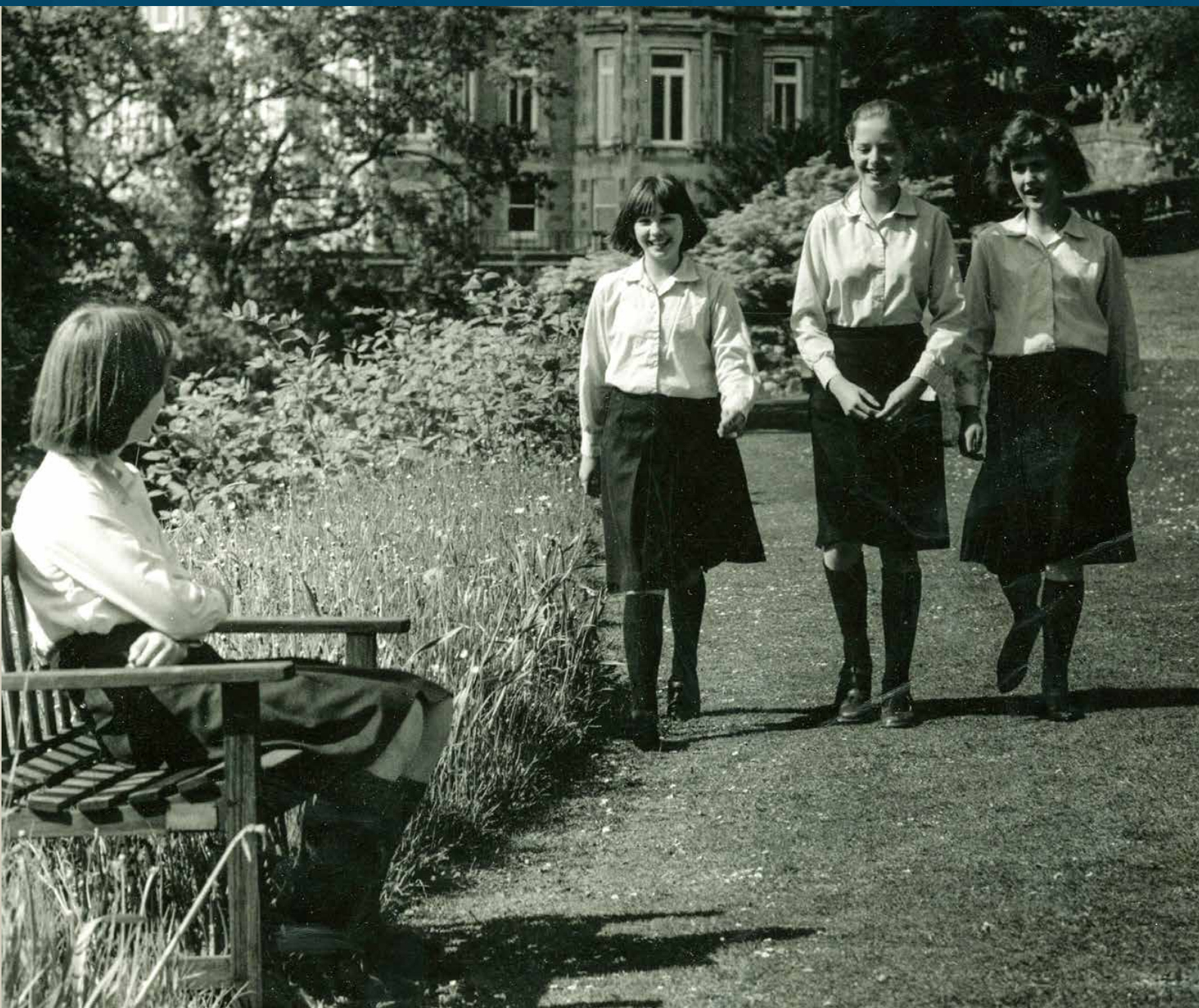
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ST JAMES'S AND ST JAMES'S & THE ABBEY



FROM THE FORMER HEADMISTRESSES

Miss Elizabeth Mullenger, Headmistress of St James's & The Abbey School 1986-1997

Dear Old Girls,

It was a great delight to meet so many of you again at the St James's/ St James's & The Abbey Reunion in Summer 2022. We started with the intimate Friday evening event for Katie Fereday's friends and family, creating memories in the Library and the Founders' Garden, followed by the Saturday Lunch at MSJ, before the visit to West Malvern with tours and tea. This was followed by the evening Reception, Dinner and Concert. Some of you had the stamina to do everything!

It was also wonderful to see individuals and bands of friends returning to Malvern for the first time since leaving School. I am involved with four different alumnae organisations and know well how one can feel about taking that step and coming alone. I hear it frequently. I also fully understand that reluctance when events are in an unfamiliar building and location from the one where you spent some precious formative years. It was therefore most interesting and heartening to hear the observations of some of the OGA staff as we gathered for tea. They were noting the palpable warmth, interest and open friendliness across generations of Old Girls and with former staff.

The tours of those huge grounds and gardens were almost as popular as those of the buildings, before everyone gathered on Top Terrace and its adjoining rooms to enjoy those stunning views westwards. The noise might have dispelled the birds but that vista can still take one's breath away.

It was good to hear from the Chair of Council, **Gemma Bruce (Knowles, St J&A 1995)**, and especially in support of the MSJ Scholarships and Bursaries scheme. You will also be able to read in this magazine about the very exciting plans for the MSJ Library, a project for which I campaigned during many years on Council!



Family of Katie's and her friends from St James's & The Abbey gather around Katie Fereday's memorial tree, planted in the Founders' Garden at MSJ



By the time you read this, I will have seen Old Girls at the London Reception and at the Northern Lunch in Harrogate in March. I look forward to seeing more Old Girls at the OGA Day in June.

2022 was a relatively quiet year but sustained by family and friends' visits, music, theatre and my continuing work as an historic house volunteer guide. 2023 promises to be busier. Some of you will remember my two productions of *Dark Remembered Days* with Malvern College and I am planning an updated version at MSJ in October, both as an educational project and in aid of Ukrainian charities (further information via the OGA Office nearer the time).

Do please keep in touch with your School. It is still here. The combined values, spirit and reputation of these five historic schools truly make us "stronger together" and a powerful voice for girls' education. It is one which still needs to be heard.

Affectionately,

FROM THE FORMER HEADMISTRESSES

Mrs Ros Hayes, Headmistress of St James's 2003-2006, and MSJ 2006-2010

Another busy year, enjoying retirement to the full!

Having held over a very exciting trip to Moscow and St Petersburg from the pandemic, plans were once again thwarted. Instead of Russia, I ended up in Belfast for a fascinating and enjoyable visit to Northern Ireland. Belfast is now a buzzing, multicultural city with much to explore, including the impressive Titanic Museum, Botanic Gardens, many well-known landmarks and a National Trust pub, where it was imperative to sample a glass of Guinness. The tour along the spectacular Antrim coast to the Giant's Causeway also provided special interest for the geographers.

Closer to home, I enjoyed a holiday in Cornwall which included a visit to the Minack Theatre. The hilarious and irreverent production of *Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of) by an all-female cast and the spectacular view out to sea compensated for the cold, wet and windy weather. The Minack is definitely worth a visit if you have the opportunity.

The Commonwealth Games in Birmingham also provided great entertainment. Miss Owen and I enjoyed the semi-finals of the hockey where we met **Lucy Walton (MSJ 2017)**, who was working with Team England. It is always fun watching England v New Zealand with Miss Owen as her father was a New Zealander and she switches her support throughout a match depending on which team is winning!

Mrs Musgrave and I had tickets for the spectacular closing ceremony and were treated to one of the last performances by Ozzy Osbourne!!



Sarah Musgrave and Ros Hayes at the closing ceremony, Commonwealth Games

2022 was also a year of parties. A street party for my neighbours and then a Jubilee Party in my garden for good friends brought a diverse mix of people together to celebrate 70 years of our late Queen's reign. Many retired St James's and MSJ staff were present. It was lovely to catch up with so many of my ex-colleagues.

In August, Tom and I celebrated our Golden Wedding with friends from across the 50 years, including all our university friends who had been at our wedding. It was a magical day.

As many of you will know, my husband Tom sadly passed away early this year after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was always a great support to me and to the School and I have had many lovely cards and emails from past students and staff offering their condolences. Thank you. We will all miss him.

I now look to a new phase in my life and top of my agenda is travel to all of those places still on my bucket list. Next stop Vietnam. Watch this space.

Ros



The Minack theatre

“ ”

Mrs Musgrave and I had tickets for ... one of the last performances by Ozzy Osbourne!!

NEWS

1960s and 1970s

Beth O'Brien (Dixon, St James's 1968) writes:

My sister Margaret Davis (Dixon), Jane Connor (Kirby), Jacqueline Seymour (Kerr Peterson), all St James's Old Girls and living in North Yorkshire, try and meet up every six weeks or so for lunch.

We last met before Christmas and were joined by another Old Girl **Susan Stone (Pilkington)**.

I do hope there will be other opportunities to meet up in the future with more Old Girls.

Sarah Weston, current staff member in the Health Centre, MSJ, lived in West Malvern as a child and loved to visit St James's School where both her mother and grandmother worked.

She writes:

Thank you for letting me share some very strong memories of the School. My grandmother, Mrs Dalley, worked there up until the age of 72! I think she would have gone on much longer but then, back in the 1970s, I think you were deemed very old to still be working then!

My gran used to clean Anstruther Hall which was a Music department and where they held plays on what I thought was a huge stage at the age of five. You could hear all sorts of different instruments playing at the same time and they were loud because even at the primary school where I went you could hear it in the

playground. The School always seemed busy and the girls used to walk round in their heavy blue capes, especially up to the local sweetshop in all weathers to spend pocket money.

They wore boaters and they used to use them as frisbees.

In the summer holidays, the staff were allowed to use the outdoor pool and tennis courts and this was something that I loved. My friend and I used to meet at 9am and spend all day until 9pm swimming and playing tennis. It was the hot summer of 1976 and it was fabulous.

Another great memory is when all the cleaning staff went down to their staffroom for break and lunch. They had fresh buns every day and I always had an iced one when I was with my nan. The thing that stands out most is the huge clouds of smoke that billowed around the room, as most of the women smoked. It was unbelievable if I am honest and definitely would be a health and safety issue nowadays!

The women always had their own particular seats and God help anyone that sat on the wrong chair, as nobody was frightened to speak up.

The gardens were kept beautifully and there were great walks. As a primary school, we had our Sports day right at the very bottom of the school premises, which seemed a very long way indeed.

I remember all the school fêtes and the end of the year festivities. They were fantastic.

My mum then worked as a School cook. That again was special as I was allowed to eat when I went into work with her. For some reason, I loved going into the huge bins where there were so many different cereals and then into the big fridge where the milk was kept in a huge churn with a large metal



Beth O'Brien and friends at the North Yorkshire Reunion

ladle. There were large pieces of cheese on the side.

The dining room was huge with a very shiny floor and lots of long tables and chairs. Today, it would be a bit like Hogwarts. At the end of the dining room was a bit of a stage where the Headmistress had a table to sit with other teachers and then behind them was a door that led into another small room where they ate. Maybe it was a private space to have a lunch meeting? There was also a huge window where you could see the swimming pool and tennis courts.

There were big store rooms for the cooks that were always full of fruit and veg. Then the dry stores where there were huge tins of all sorts, eggs galore along with an

awful lot more, dried fruit, raisins, sultanas etc in large tubs.

It all seemed so big as a child.

On Friday, it was payday and the staff used to queue down the corridor ready to be called in to receive their pay that came in a sealed, see-through envelope.

I liked that day as my nan used to give me sixpence when she met me from my school and I went to The Candy Box, our local sweetshop and got lots of sweets.

One thing for sure is the smell of the School. I had a tour when it was taken over by Elim and was all done up. I remember coming down the tunnel which ran under the main road and had to stop as the smell took me right back and actually brought a tear to my eye.

I had to apologise to the man who was showing me around but told him the memories. And he understood. I wish I could bottle that smell because they were happy times indeed.

My gran was known to the girls as Mrs Dalley and my mum as Maureen. That is what the girls called her.

“ ”

I wish I could bottle that smell because they were happy times indeed

1980s Leavers



Phillipa Whitney and friends wearing Talolo Boots

Phillipa Whitney (Stoddart, St James's 1980) writes:

I was at St James's from 1977-1980 – I think! I left after O Levels to go to King's College, Taunton, for A levels. I then went onto Oxford Poly (now Oxford Brookes University) and studied Cartography and Visual Communications. I spent eight

years working in Graphic design followed by setting up an Events Company where I ran all manner of corporate events including team building, incentive trips, parties and large-scale events.

Then, in 2019, I started a new business – Talolo Boots – cowboy-style wellies. The boots are funky and fabulous and really make heads turn! So, I now spend summers flogging my boots at festivals and praying for rain!

I am regularly in touch with a number of friends from my year: **Caroline Rawson, Mariana Stark, Vanessa Hoff, Sally Holt and Sarah Style.** (These are all maiden names.)

Attached is a photo of Caroline, Mariana, Vanessa, Sarah and myself at a festival in 2019! Of course, they all wore Talolo boots.

www.taloloboots.com

Tanya Juttla-Underwood (St James's 1987) writes:

Dear OGA, I was at St James's from 1981 till 1987. I had two Headmistresses, Mrs Nixon and Miss Mullenger. I would like to say a hello, and to thank her for everything. Also, to the lovely English teacher Mrs Bray. Sadly, I didn't get that chance to tell Mrs Titley a big thank you for the help and support she gave me all the years I was there.

Mrs Lampitt was our Housemistress. She was wonderful and kind, as was Mrs Chester Lamb.

I have spent the best part of my life working on board cruise ships and private yachts, living abroad. I have since settled down and got married late in life. I keep in touch with only one other member from my time, **Mrs Amanda Partridge (Crosthwaite).**



Fiona Andrew (St James's 1989) writes:

Suzy, Taia, Carla and I met up in Madrid in June 2022. Suzy and I hadn't seen Carla since we left school! It was so lovely to catch up and we spent a lot of time reminiscing and looking at old photos. We have lost touch with **Sasha Pearce** who was in our year and would love to be in contact with her. Does anyone have any info or details?



Fiona Andrew and friends met up in Madrid

2000s Leavers

Mariko Warburton (Kaneko, St James's 2004) writes:

Warm greetings from Japan. I was at St James's School from 1997-2004. I have some news regarding my work. After returning to Japan just over a decade ago, I worked for an international school in Tokyo called The British School in Tokyo as a Personal Assistant to the Head of Secondary School for 10 years. I was then headhunted and started working as an Executive Assistant to the Founding Headmaster at Harrow International School in Appi, Japan, since January this year. This is the new Japan branch of Harrow School, UK, located up in the north of Japan.

Although it is a drastic change of scenery from the busy city of Tokyo to the snowy mountaintops, setting up a school with my team is truly rewarding and I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge. The surrounding nature is breathtakingly beautiful and I can't wait for the school to open in August this year.



Mariko Warburton in Japan

HONORARY MEMBERS NEWS

John Flanagan, Honorary Member, writes:

Sending greetings to all those friends I had when I lived in West Malvern back in the late 1980s and early 1990s. I was Head of Drama and Theatre Studies at St James's & The Abbey from 1988-1992 and temporary acting Head of Drama and Theatre Studies at MGC from 1996-1997. I lived in West Malvern and also Lower Wick for a number of years back then.

I started a regular Blues and Soul venue, known as Happy Jack's Blues Shack, based at The Lamb Inn on West Malvern Road. Good times!

In 2006, I was appointed to a teaching post in Singapore, in which I helped to introduce Drama and Theatre Studies to the curriculum. In 2010, I moved to the Philippines and have been there ever since.

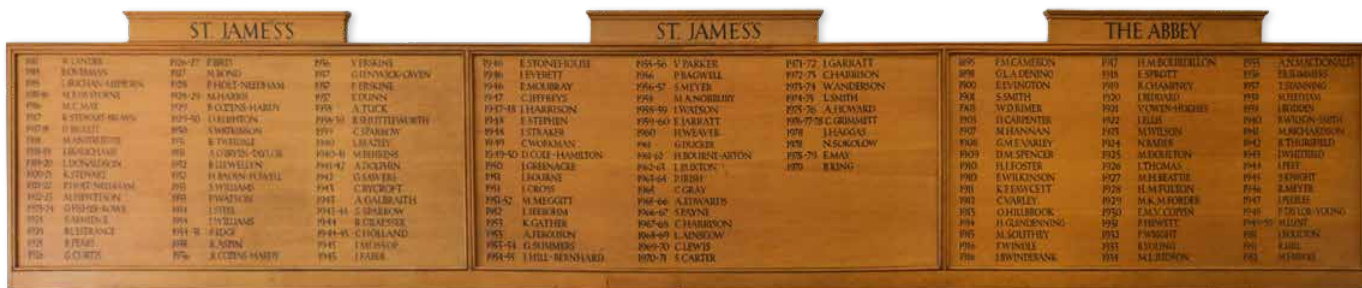
During my time in south-east Asia, I have been involved in my own charity project – helping the needy, infirm and homeless – without any sponsorship or funding. My efforts were recognised in the UK in July 2022 when I was presented with a prestigious award of an Honorary Fellowship at Leeds Trinity University (it was classed as being for my Humanitarian contribution to society). I was also the subject of a major TV documentary on national television. It was entitled *REGALO (The Gift): An Englishman in the Philippines*. It can be viewed on YouTube.

My work continues, as poverty is a real problem. If anyone would like to support my efforts, please contact me via the OGA Office.

Best wishes to those who remember me.



John Flanagan receives Honorary Fellowship, Leeds Trinity University



HEAD GIRL BOARDS

The OGA Office is pleased to report that we now have the St James's and St James's & The Abbey Head Girl boards hanging on the walls at MSJ.

We have been asked about these boards many times over the years: Old Girls wanted to see them having pride of place in the building, in the same way that the MGC boards hang in York Hall and the MSJ boards on the main school corridor.

The boards had been in storage since 2006. They benefited from some tender loving care courtesy of the MSJ Estates team during the early Summer of 2022 and now look as good as the day they were first unveiled.

The names of donors to the St James's Bursary programme will be added to the boards.



St James's and St James's & The Abbey Head Girl boards are now hanging at MSJ

ST JAMES'S FOUNDERS' AWARD: FULLY-FUNDED PLACES FOR SIXTH FORM PUPILS

In 2022, when we belatedly (due to Covid) celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of St James's School, we launched an appeal to create a St James's and/or St James's & The Abbey named bursary as part of our Founders' Awards Bursary programme.

This means that a bursary could be called the St James's or St James's & The Abbey bursary, or it could be named after a Headmistress, Housemistress, teacher or pupil from the schools.

The Founders' Awards reward all-round excellence, leadership and commitment to the life of MSJ. Traditionally, the Founders' have been able to exceed the usual cap of 40% on bursary provision; and now, since starting our £2 million bursary appeal, we have introduced the ambition of being able to provide 100% fully-funded places for Sixth Form day pupils and even 110% funded places, which allows us to cover extras such as school trips, uniform, devices and travel.

An independent education, with its many benefits of superb extra-curricular activity and very



high standards of music, drama and sport, as well as academic excellence and pastoral care, is not inexpensive. Fees for day girls are £20,715 per annum and, for boarders, £42,420 per annum. This is why we are on a real mission to raise £2 million by 2025 to allow access for gifted pupils, no matter their family circumstances.

With the St James's Head Girl boards now hanging in School, we will add a St James's donor board to recognise those who have contributed.

Anyone who is interested in supporting this project is invited to contact Fiona Meredith, Development Director, on telephone 01684 892288 or email: meredf@malvernstjames.co.uk



IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the following deaths:



Janet Lovegrove (Bourne, St James's 1951)

Philippa Luddington writes:

I would like to inform the School of the death of my mother Janet Lovegrove. She died on 18 August 2021 after a long illness. My mother was in the hockey and tennis teams at School, liked acting and appeared in *Hamlet* and had to go against her father's wishes to go to the University of Cambridge. In his opinion, 'Bluestockings' were ugly and had bad legs (neither was true in her case).

My mother and her great friend Judith Foord (Greenacre) both went to Girton and were the only girls in the year to take Maths as part of their School Certificate. Cambridge demanded this (and Latin) as part of the entrance requirement. The School did not teach either of these subjects and Judith, who is nearly 90, told me that they went to a vicar in the town for lessons.



Janet Charley (Kingan, St James's 1946)

Catherine Champion writes:

I am the daughter of Janet Charley who was a pupil for a year during World War II. Her family home was in Northern Ireland so she used to travel over to England to board at St James's on the Belfast-Liverpool boat. She took her School Certificate while at the School and played for the lacrosse and tennis teams. My mother sadly died, at the age of 88, on 30 April 2013.

Stephanie Mary Hay

Amanda Hay writes:

It is with sadness we report that Stephanie Mary Hay (Standeven, St James's 1956), known as Mary, passed away in August 2020. She always had fond memories of the school, the beautiful countryside it is set in, her tutors, her friends and all those that knew her. The knowledge she gained throughout her time at school never left her, and she continued to put into practice throughout her life what she learnt. On the recent death



of her husband, Douglas Hay, we realised that we should also contact both respective schools. May they rest in peace together.

Mrs Edna Pettit, Geography teacher

Rhona Davis writes:

My mum, Mrs Edna Pettit, worked as a Geography teacher at St James's from around 1971-1980. She had been a University of St Andrews Geography graduate and taught in Scotland and Hertfordshire before we moved to Malvern. I think she retired "early" in about 1980. Her love of Geography led her to travel all over the world until well into her 80s and she remained independent at home until the last few months. She was truly a well-travelled Geography teacher!



THE ABBEY SCHOOL



NEWS

1970s Leavers

MINI GET-TOGETHER – ABBEYITES' LEAVERS 1969 TO 1971

**Jill Crowson (Carding, The Abbey
1971) writes:**

Just thought I'd send this. Sally Chater has been living in Australia and has been for years but she came back recently so we had a mini get-together with local Abbeyites. No, not drinking at lunchtime – it's Nosecco!



From left to right: Jenny Moore (Trow), Lindsey Umfreville (Wilkes), Jill Crowson (Carding), Sally Chater (Kidson), Sue Bremner (Radley) and Sally Mills (Skidmore)

HEAD GIRL BOARDS

The OGA Office is pleased to report that we now have The Abbey Head Girl board hanging on the walls at MSJ. It hangs, rather fittingly, in what is now known as 'The Abbey Room'.

The board is part of a triptych with the St James's Head Girl boards which have been in storage since the merger of St James's and MGC in 2006. They were retrieved in Summer 2022 and spruced up by our Estates team.

We are very proud to have part of this founding school heritage on display once more.



The Abbey Head Girl board is now hanging at MSJ

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the following deaths:



Sheila Day holding her Great, Great Niece

Sheila Day (The Abbey 1944)

Lindsay Meyer, Sheila's niece, writes:

Sheila (1925-2022) joined The Abbey in September 1941 after St Mary's Hall in Brighton was closed due to World War II. She joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) after leaving school in July 1943. She was posted to Egypt, where she worked in coding, before being posted to Italy. After the war, she went to secretarial college. Her last job was as a secretary to a headmaster of a boys' prep school in Dorset. On retirement, Sheila travelled widely. In fact, there were not many countries to which she had not been. She never married but had a very active and happy social life.



Mary Elizabeth Noelle Horrell

Mary Elizabeth Noelle Horrell (Dickinson, The Abbey 1945)

Judith Drewer (The Abbey 1973) writes:

Mary Elizabeth Noelle Horrell, known as Betty, was my mother and she died on 9 March 2023. Her birth date was 25 December 1926. My mother was sent to The Abbey during World War II, joining her younger sister Isobel. Before this, she had been at school in Norfolk but the concerns of invasion led to her arrival in Malvern. After The Abbey, she went to Evendine Court finishing school and was there during the harsh winter of 1947, returning on the staff in 1950.

My parents were engaged during this time and my mother once took my father to Chapel at The Abbey when apparently the whole school turned around and

stared at him when he started singing, in the belief that Chapel at a girls' school would be as it was at his school, where volume was all-important!

In January 1966, I joined a number of daughters of Old Girls at The Abbey where we were taught by at least six members of staff that had taught our mothers – from the same text books.

My mother was a commissioner in the Girl Guides for many years, having started as a Girl Guide at The Abbey and she was also a very long-serving magistrate on the Peterborough Bench. She once came to collect me, having recently visited a Borstal and berated Miss Dixon (who had been her housemistress and mine) that the living conditions at The Abbey were far worse than they were at the Borstal!

My mother had a great sense of duty, which I think was instilled during her school days, and she was an active and enthusiastic member of the OGA.

Whilst sitting in the throne room at Buckingham Palace for an investiture, an old school friend of mine was sitting in the row behind. My mother turned to her and said: "It's like being at prizegiving at The Abbey!"

She was a marvellous mother, grandmother and great grandmother, a great friend to many and an example to us all.

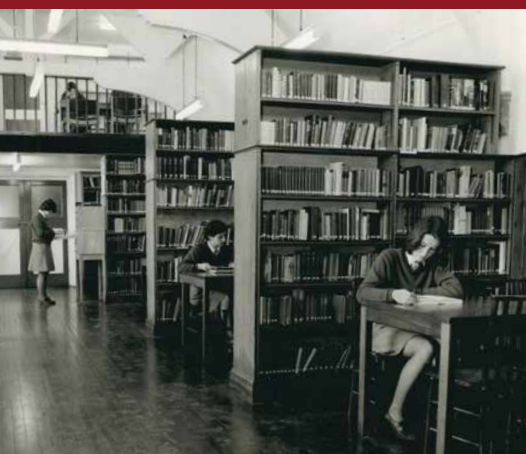
THE ABBEY SCHOOL NAMED BURSARIES

Would you like to pass on the sense of purpose, service, tradition, academic and personal fulfilment that were hallmarks of your Abbey School education?

Can you help Malvern St James make a real difference through our bursary giving scheme?

It is our aim to raise **£2million** for bursaries by 2025 to help exceptional students come to Malvern St James. In particular, we want to be able to issue more 100% and 110% bursaries for fully-funded places.

Bursaries can be named, including in memory of former teachers, Headmistresses or Housemistresses, Houses or pupils.



A day place in Senior school/ Sixth Form costs **£20,715 per year**, a boarding place **£42,420**. Regular giving, single gifts and legacy gifts will help us achieve greater bursary provision.



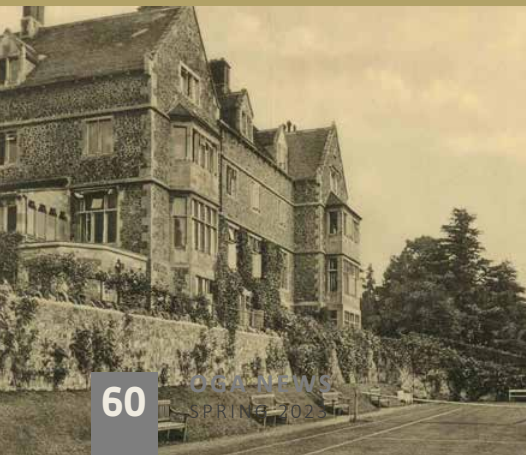
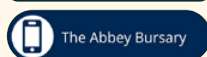
If you would like to find out more, please do contact Development Director Fiona Meredith on email: meredf@malvernstjames.co.uk/ tel: 01684 892288.

There are details about bursary fundraising on our website: www.malvernstjames.co.uk/support-us

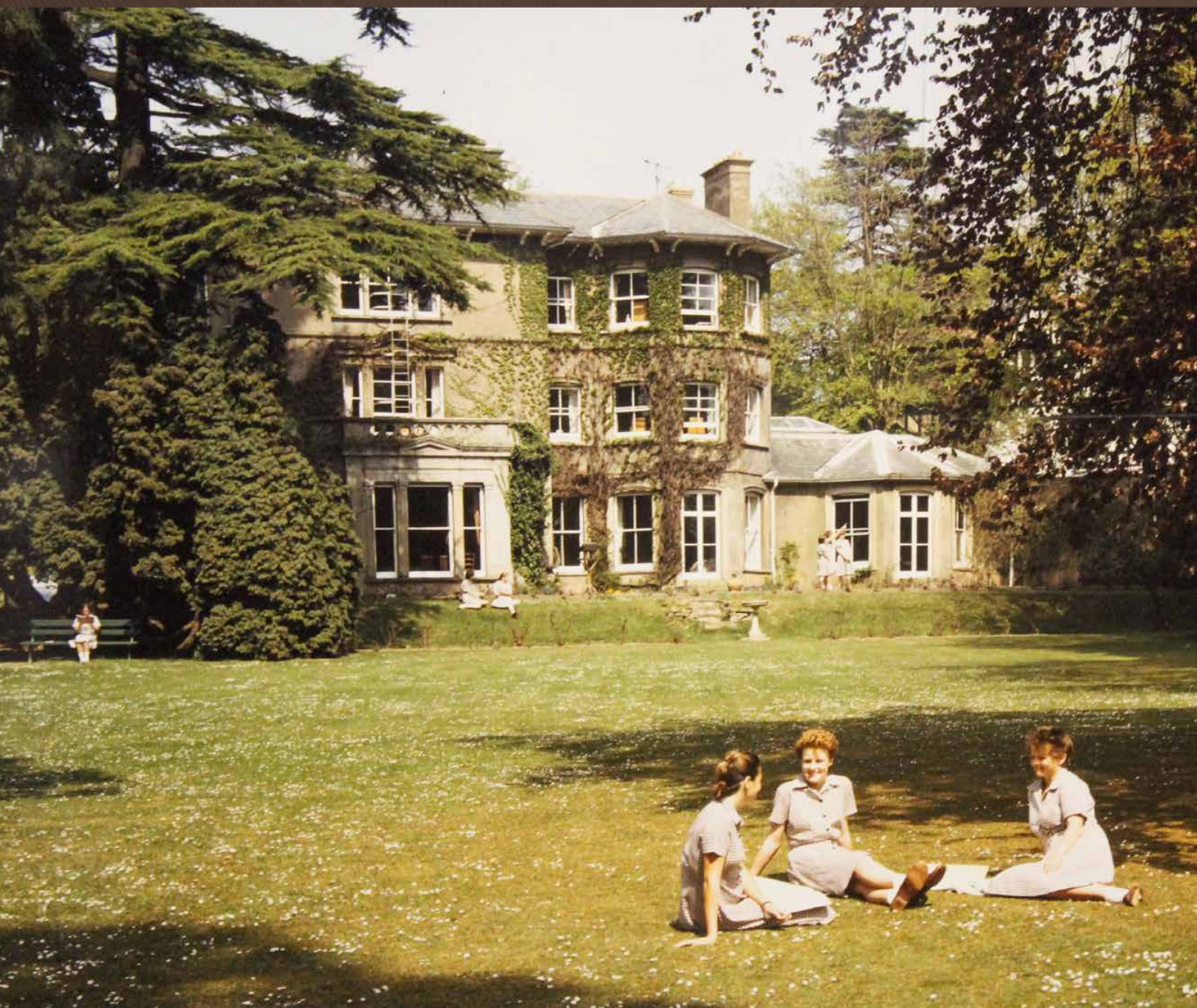


“““
Can you help Malvern St James make a real difference through our Bursary Giving scheme?

You can link to the pages directly by scanning the QR code here.



LAWNSIDE



FROM THE FORMER HEADMISTRESS

Miss Duseline Stewart, Headmistress of Lawnside (1971-1990)

Dear Lawnsidians,

First of all, I must thank those of you who emailed me good wishes for recovery and their news in December. In my housebound state, it cheered me up considerably. It is a source of satisfaction to me that friendships made at school have lasted into later life.

My year has been marked by falls. In September, I tripped over Mikey and injured the muscles of my left hip. A month later I fell again, fracturing my left pelvis. This landed me in hospital for a month but fortunately I was able to come home in time for Christmas. I am making gradual progress in mobility, thanks to helpful carers, but it is frustratingly slow. I spend much of my time listening to the radio, watching television and especially reading, everything from detective stories to Dickens' novels which I find much funnier than I did as a teenager. The only other event of note was the adoption of the cat from hell. After almost a year, he is beginning to respond to me but, though he came from a household with a dog, he hasn't accepted Mikey, who treats him with gentlemanly detachment.

“ ”

I spend much of my time listening to the radio, watching television and reading Dickens' novels which I find much funnier than I did as a teenager

The state of the world seems so chaotic these days that I am thankful to live in a peaceful setting. It is my hope that you are all able to live your lives in peace, health and security. Here's hoping that 2023 will bring better days.

Yours affectionately,

Duseline Stewart



NEWS

1960s Leavers

Deborah Backhouse (Hutchinson, Lawnside 1966) writes:

I'd like to share news from the five Hely Hutchinson sisters who were at Lawnside from approximately 1948 to 1966.

We are still all going, albeit not in great health. Rose is now 86; Jean, 84; Poll, 80; Kate, 78, and myself, 73. We will be getting together for Rose's husband's Memorial Service. Bill Fernie died in December, aged 91, after 62 years' of marriage. Jean's husband, Bernard Kain, died during Covid. They had been married for 48 years. Poll has been married to Hamish Lochore for 52 years, Kate to Christopher Amery for

49 years and myself to William Backhouse for 51 years. Is this a record?! I would guess so. We have 12 children and 17 grandchildren between us.

I now live in our holiday home in North Berwick and, last summer, I was delighted that **Ginny Henderson (de Zoete, Lawnside 1967)** and her husband came on a visit from their home in Australia. Ginny was a family friend who was in the year below me at Lawnside. I have a photograph, which was taken in our garden in North Berwick on Ginny's third birthday (probably 1953), which featured Ginny with her cake; me; Kate, and Poll. We are wearing Fair Isle

jumpers and Jean at the back is in white – five Lawnsidians in one photograph.

It was lovely to see Ginny and we had plenty of memories of golfing holidays over many years, though unfortunately I had a broken arm at the time of her visit so we couldn't have a game together.



Five Lawnsidians in one photograph – Ginny on her third birthday with her cake; Kate, Poll and Deborah in Fair Isle jumpers, and Jean at the back in white



Joanna Wolton, paper conservator

Joanna Wolton (Payne, Lawnside 1972) writes:

I am still great friends with my best Lawnside friend, **Roo Budgett (Delme-Murray)**. I left Lawnside to do A Levels at Tudor Hall, Oxfordshire. I went to Camberwell Art School, London, from 1975 to 1978, and completed a Diploma in Prints & Drawings Conservation. Ever since, I have been a paper conservator, specialising in the conservation of all works of art on paper. I have my own studio in Chiswick, West London. My clients include art galleries; art dealers; the National Trust; Royal Holloway, University of London; the Dogma Collection; Richard Saltoun Gallery, London; the Museum of the Home, London, and many framers, auction houses and private clients. Shortly, I am to launch a new website for Joanna Payne Conservation, designed by our Ukrainian guest. I am an accredited conservator with The Institute of Conservation (ICON). I live nearby with Peter Wolton, my husband. We lived in Tokyo for five years where our

three children were born. They are now in their 20s. Peter, who used to work in investment management, was ordained in 2014 and works in the United Benefice of Holland Park, London.

DUSELINE STEWART SENDS THE FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT OLD GIRLS:

Pippa Brook (Birtles, Lawnside 1976) is still busy though she retired from her work in March 2022. She is continuing as Deputy Director of the Samaritans and has also been recovering from a foot operation. Her seventh grandchild arrived in June 2022.

Sarah Grace (Alexander, Lawnside 1978) is enjoying retirement with her husband and has two children living at home. Hannah is working as a teaching assistant at the local primary school and Josh is a chef at The Fat Duck in Bray, Berkshire.

Philippa Miller (Worseley, Lawnside 1984) met Alex Francis in Summer 2022 and had a good catch-up about their time at School.

Camilla Basset (Grant, Lawnside 1986) reports that whenever she goes to London she bumps into a Lawnsidian. Her business, What a Pickle!, based in Ludlow, Shropshire, is doing well and, amongst other offices, she works for a charity that helps young people in difficult circumstances. www.what-a-pickle.com. Jesse Milward also writes about Camilla's business partner, **Milla Lywood (Godrich, Lawnside 1990)**.

Crystal Leung (Lawnside 1988) and her family have moved from Hong Kong to live in Toronto, Canada. The children have settled in well and she is now looking for a new position.

Ejine Nzeribe completed a degree in Theatre Arts at the University of Jos, Nigeria, but ended up as a training consultant, developing people to their highest potential. In June 2022, she met up with Sarah and Rani. In 2021, she published a book, *The History of the Red Press*.

Lucy Lewes is now a chorister and pastoral carer. She sings a capella soprano and is able to reach top A.

Shaa Nelson has been living at home in Australia with her family since the 1980s. She runs a successful business and remembers her momentary disappearance in Paris.



1990s Leavers

Jessica Milward (Lawnside 1990)
writes:

I went to a school reunion a few years ago with some of my year but also mainly to see my old boss. Having worked in London 30 years ago, my first job was with Thomas Pink shirts, and my boss was **Fiona Shires (Beckett, Lawnside 1983)**. We got talking and she told me she had been to Lawnside 10 years before me! I started in 1983 and, so many years later, 10 of us met in Malvern for a long lunch and a walk through the Winter Gardens. Some people I have not seen since I left school but we still recognised everyone. Here is some information on the people I keep in touch with from my year at Lawnside:

Me - Jesse Milward

Since Lawnside, I went to the Dragon School to cook for 16 eight-year-old boys for six months. I then trained as a secretary and moved to London to work. For the past 15 years, I have been working for the NHS in Leicester in Mental Health for Adults' outpatients and now in the Children's inpatient unit. It is tough to see kids become so ill but I'm so passionate about mental health that I really like my job. I'm so lucky to have got it. So that keeps me busy. I have eight nieces and nephews which is great – they are adorable – but five of them live abroad, so I try and visit Australia and Hong Kong when I can to see them! They are the funniest little things!

Nicky Shakel (Vines)

I keep in touch with Nicky when I can. She moved about 25 years ago to Sydney, Australia, married an Australian and has three gorgeous kids. I see her when I go and visit my sister Caro, who did the same thing (see Caro West, pg 36).

Milla Lywood (Godrich)

Milla has done so well. She started her business up, What a Pickle!, many years ago and it has

expanded massively from one product to now, about 15! I see her when I can. She has three kids and one of them is my Godson, which is wonderful for me. Milla lives in Shropshire and she is a fabulous cook and loves her horses.

Clare Burgoyne Clare lives in Hereford and she and her partner have two boys. She is an Arts Teacher.

Suzy Wass (McAlpine)

Suzy lives in Rutland very near me. She and her husband have three wonderful kids. Suzy still has an amazing singing voice and two of her children have her talent too. She, like Milla, is also a fabulous cook.

Laura Taylor (Bromwich)

Laura and her husband live near Bicester, Oxfordshire. Laura is such a clever lady. Since leaving university, she has gone into the wine business. Anything you need to know, or want to know about wine, she knows it. Laura is trying to get her Master of Wine but, with Covid, exams have been put on hold. She spends time in Salcombe, South Devon, too in the summer.

Tanya Lisseman (Harrison)

Tanya lives near Ludlow and has three children. I try to see her and all the others that live near Ludlow too when I can. Tanya home schooled all her children, which is some challenge, right?

Lorna Wickens (Dalton)

Lorna has four children. She is so busy, likes running marathons and lives in Shropshire.

Charlie Wakeham

Charlie has two children, lives in Devon and works as an Art Teacher. She likes running and working on her own art.

Jo Bishop

Jo has two children and I met her last summer after 35 years! She is exactly the same and makes me laugh.

Fiona Huck (Lawnside 1991)
writes:

I joined Lawnside at age 11 and thoroughly enjoyed my time at School. I was far more practical and creative rather than academic and went on to do a secretarial course in Oxford. In 1998, I travelled around Australia and New Zealand with **Clare John (Carpenter, Lawnside 2001)**, who was in my first dorm, Marigold, in The Lea. She has two daughters, the eldest of whom has started at MSJ. She loves it

After various jobs, I retrained as a graphic designer whilst working for a bluechip FTSE100 company in Cirencester, Gloucestershire. I left in 2011 after being with them for 12 years and set up as a freelance graphic designer.

I live in Cheltenham and run my own graphic design business, Wabbey Design. I have no sproglets but I do have a two-year-old Dachshund named Lollie. I also make and sell snuggle sack dog beds and I sell Tropic Skincare. I am in touch with old school friends, too many to mention! www.wabbey.com



Fiona Huck

ORCHARDS COOKERY WINS COOKERY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Lawnside sisters win Cookery School of the Year
in the *Food and Travel* magazine awards 2022



Lucy Richardson (Bomford, Lawnside 1995) receiving the *Food and Travel* magazine award in London

Isabel Burt (Bomford, Lawnside 1993) and her sister, Lucy Richardson (Bomford, Lawnside 1995), Directors of Orchards Cookery, near Evesham, Worcestershire, have recently won Cookery School of the Year in the *Food and Travel* magazine awards 2022. This adds to other Cookery School of the Year Awards they have won over the years.

The sisters set up the School in their family home 20 years ago and specialise in training chalet cooks – assisting students with recruitment into jobs – and also have other courses, including the 'Off to University' course, the all-round 'Orchards Cookery Course' and a 'Dinner Party' course.

"We are so proud of this latest award," says Lucy. "We celebrated with an evening in London and it has been a tremendous boost for the business."
www.orchardscookery.co.uk

Banana Bread with Chocolate Chips

We have introduced some new recipes on the courses lately and this one is very popular. It is great for using up bananas and very nice served warm.

150g unsalted butter
150g caster sugar
2 eggs
150g self-raising flour
1¼ tsp baking powder
3 bananas, *ripe*
85g chocolate chips

Pre-heat the oven to
160°C / 320°F /
gas mark 2-3

1. Beat the butter and sugar together in a large bowl
2. Add 1 egg and about a tbsp of the flour, beat together, then add the second egg and another tbsp of the flour
3. Sieve the rest of the flour into the bowl, add the baking powder and beat to combine
4. Peel the bananas, mash and stir them into the mixture
5. Empty about ¾ of the mixture into a lined loaf tin, sprinkle over most of the chocolate chips and cover with the rest of the mixture
6. Sprinkle the remaining chocolate chips over the top and bake for 50-60 minutes

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the following death:

June Charley (Lawnside)

Catherine Champion, who also writes about her mother, Janet Charley (Kingan, St James's), writes:

My aunt June Charley, my father's sister, was a boarder at Lawnside.

She was about three years younger than my mother, so perhaps was at Lawnside after the war. She also would have been travelling from Northern Ireland. My aunt tragically died – in her 20s – in the 1950s of Hodgkins

Disease but my grandmother, father and mother (and others) always talked about her, so although I never met her, it was like we had an aunt who lived overseas and she was very much part of our lives.

MALVERN ST JAMES



DEPUTY HEAD GIRL ONE YEAR ON

Christy Lee, Deputy Head Girl at MSJ 2021-2022

Choosing the right university is a big decision for any student, and, for me, choosing General Life Sciences for my first year at McMaster University in Canada has been the perfect choice. I am incredibly happy that I made this decision and I am grateful for the experiences I have had so far.

The first year of university can be overwhelming, especially when you are adapting to a new environment and a different education system.

However, my A Level knowledge has made this transition a lot easier and the review of A Level content has been beneficial. I have also found a group of incredibly supportive friends, who have helped me to adjust to this change.

Moving to Canada has allowed me to be with my family but also meant getting used to the cold and snow. One of the most memorable experiences this year was the snowstorm with 30cm of snow. Once we found out that our tests were postponed, my friends and I went out to have a snowball fight and build a snowman.

The first-year General Life Sciences program has allowed me to explore different sciences, including Psychology and Neuroscience, which have been fields I find particularly interesting. It has been a great opportunity to learn about different subjects and figure out what I want to specialise in. Speaking of specialisations, I am still debating between Chemical Biology and Music Cognition. Although both subjects are fascinating, I am leaning towards Chemical Biology. However, I am also planning to minor in Psychology and Neuroscience, which will allow me to explore those fields as well.

One aspect I love about being in university is getting to participate in various scientific studies. I have worn

an EEG cap which measured my brain activity while I was solving problems. In another study, I attended a concert while they tracked my head movement to study the social aspect of music. Both were incredible experiences and I learnt a lot about the science behind the study.

Outside of academics, I try to get involved in extracurricular activities. I joined the marching band



and the dance team, which have both been fantastic experiences. Playing the flute while marching under the sun was more demanding than playing in the orchestra but the challenges were worth it. Additionally, I was elected to represent the student body. This was a lot different from my experience as Deputy Head Girl. I have been learning more about student politics and policymaking.

I cannot believe I have almost completed my first year in university.

I am looking forward to my first four months long summer break. I am hoping to use this as an opportunity to obtain a research position to gain some lab experience and learn more about different fields in science.

“ ”

I have been learning more about student politics and policymaking



NEWS



Bertie, Kimberley and Jeremy Lewis

Kimberley Lewis (Ferguson, MSJ 2006) writes:

I have recently moved from London to Wales and I got married to Jeremy in May 2021. To top it all off, I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, 7 June 2022. His name is Albert (Bertie) and he has already stolen our hearts.

Lizzie Bennett (MSJ 2008) writes:

I would really love to reconnect/reach out to some of my old teachers who were so inspiring and so supportive to me when I was at school like Mrs Bevan, Mrs Cross, Madam Wadman, Miss Owen, Mr Tebbett and Mrs Panther.

I have two exciting bits of news. The first is that I will be getting married to my fiancé, Neil, in October. The second is my career, which has led me to being headhunted and hired by CVC Capital Partners: Europe's number one Private Equity firm. I will work with CVC's risk director, designing and developing the risk management framework, and everything it entails, basically from scratch!

Whilst it's an opportunity I am excited to take as the next step in my career, I am happy that as a female, I am now breaking into the more senior roles in the financial sector, something I thought I would never do!

I am very passionate about getting more women into finance and have been invited to sit on the University of Westminster's board over the past few years to support and better improve the curriculum and skill sets of the next generation of Finance students.

My success in the risk sector has mostly stemmed from my time at Vanguard Asset Management (the world's number two asset management firm, with currently \$8.1trillion in assets under management).

I was talent spotted when I was hired as a contracted developer at Vanguard and coded a tool to better improve strategic decision making (a job I took to help pay for accommodation whilst I was completing my MSc in Investment Risk and Finance degree).



Once I received a distinction grade, I was moved onto Vanguard's London trading floor in 2019 as a risk analyst for equity trading. Vanguard can trade hundreds of millions in a day just in Europe. In addition to my day job over the past four years, on the side, I worked hard and developed the risk procedures to better integrate technology and machine learning into risk management.

From this came a particular project that caught a lot of attention: I independently designed, coded and built the juggernaut firm a bolt-on equity trading tool, using machine learning, that substantially cut financial losses by millions every year due to equity trading errors. This led to significant internal funding, the tool being handed over from me to a small army of US developers, and then being rolled out to all their global trading teams last year. I was nominated for Vanguard's global innovation award, and my success contributed to Vanguard winning the external 2020 Risk.net award for buy-side risk manager of the year: <https://www.risk.net/awards/7192761/buy-side-risk-manager-of-the-year-vanguard>

I was also last year selected for Vanguard's talented mid-career women program, 'Shine', that took place in 2022, as a 'future female leader in finance'.

Emily Kett (MSJ 2009)

Emily and Philip Kett are happy to announce the birth of their son, Robert Philip Andrew Kett. Born on Thursday 18 August 2022 at 04.31 in the morning, weighing 6 pounds and 4 ounces.



Elizabeth Rees (MSJ 2014) writes:

I hope all is well with you and that it's been a good start to the academic year at MSJ! It's been a while since I was in contact so I thought I'd update you all with some of my activities in recent years. I'm currently completing a PhD at the University of Oxford in History at St Catherine's College. My research looks at US First Ladies and their staffs in the 1960s and 1970s and I've won some exciting fellowships in the US this year. I was awarded the Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award at the Ford Library in Michigan which I visited in July 2022.

Next year I am going to the Richard Nixon Library in California to do further research, as well as the Lyndon

Baines Johnson Library in Texas where I've been awarded the Harry Middleton Fellowship in Presidential Studies. I will also be going to Boston where I've been awarded the Theodore C. Sorensen Research Fellowship at the Kennedy Presidential Library.

I've been teaching undergraduates as part of my work, and I've had my first published piece of work appear as a book chapter in an edited volume published with Edinburgh University Press which was very exciting.

Outside of academics, I've been rowing with the university team trialling for the boat races last year and taking part in the spares race, as well as representing the blues at BUCS and Henley Women's Regatta.

Hope all is well with everyone at MSJ!

Zinnia Wilkinson *writes:*

I wanted to let you know about two things related to my daughters:

India - MSJ 2008-2016

A group of around 30 of India's MSJ friends have clubbed together to buy a beautiful teak bench to commemorate Indi's life. The bench has been installed by India's memorial sculpture at Canwood Gallery, Herefordshire, and a large group met to 'celebrate' this addition to the memorial with a memorial plaque citing Indi's dates and one of the quotes from her film. Personally, I feel this is an incredibly touching example of MSJ friendship.

Liberty - MSJ 2008-2018

Liberty graduated from UEA as a Midwife with First Class Honours earlier this year and is now working in Manchester Royal Infirmary.



Margaret Baird and Colette Stringer in Seoul

Margaret Baird (MSJ 2018) *writes:*

Here is a photograph of me and Colette Stringer, who was in my Latin GCSE class. We met by chance in December in Jeju island, South Korea, where I am teaching Latin (I am Head of Latin at the North London Collegiate School Jeju). I was talking to a friend as we were leaving an art gallery and Colette recognised my voice. She is teaching English in Seoul. We arranged to meet in Seoul during the Seollal holiday, and compared notes about our experiences of living in Korea.

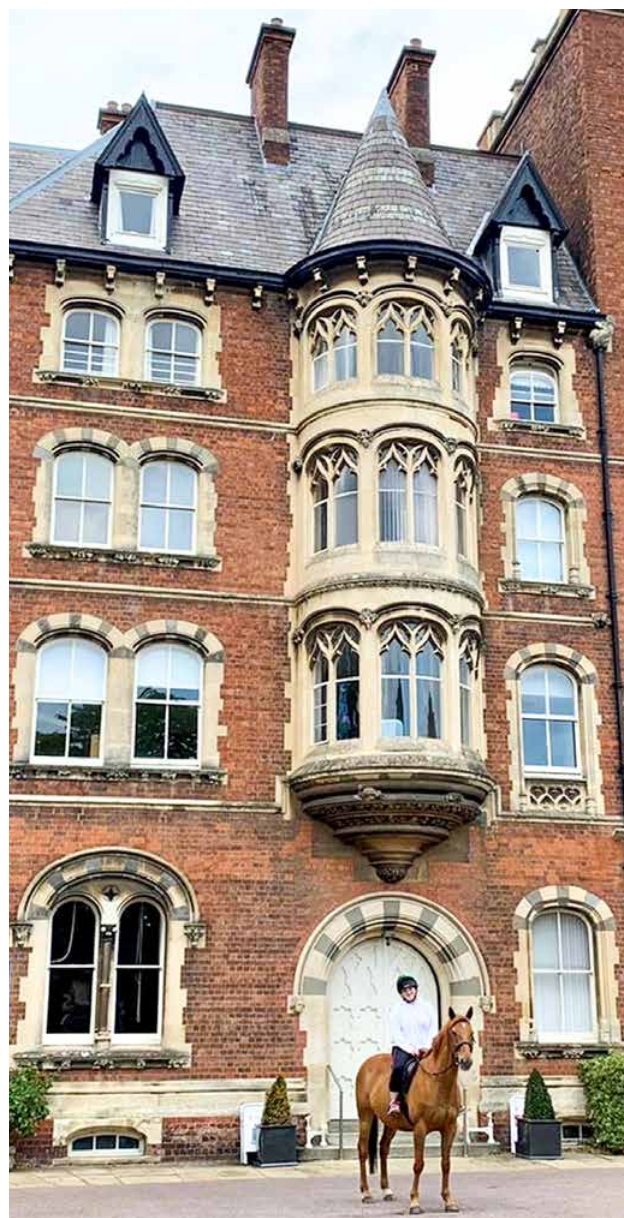


Everyone except Liv Wilde, Charlie Samwells, Cameron Law and Tristan Allison are former MSJ pupils

Chris Shepherd (Honorary Member 1978-1990)

writes:

We've immersed ourselves in East Devon life since the lockdown lifted. I'm playing the cornet in the Sidmouth Town Training Band and enjoying a thespian revival, now acting in my second play here with SADS, the AmDram people. I am also swimming regularly – it's not cold if you keep going through the winter – and helping with church activities including a Babies and Toddlers group. I volunteer as a speaker for Christian Aid and the Children's Society. We realise that if you stand still for too long, you find you've been volunteered for something... I have also been doing some coaching with **Rachel Huntley (Honorary Member 2005-2018)**, and plenty of walking in this most beautiful part of the country. Very grateful and aware of our blessings.



An update to our cover photo on this year's OGA News – Molly McGrath (MSJ 2021) is pictured with her horse outside MSJ in 2020.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Anne Dicks, member of Classics department 1988-2016, creator of "Pyrrha's Roman Pages" website and co-founder of the International CICERO competition, writes:

What is the natural career progression for a retired Head of Classics? Playing melodeon for *So Xsighted Morris*, of course – the only visually impaired Morris dancers in the country! All the dancers and half the band are living with sight loss and four of our members are on the waiting list for a Guide Dog. Some readers may remember that Shirley and I did a school Assembly about Guide Dogs several years ago.



Anne Dicks with Shirley (Squire of So Xsighted) on the steps in Priory Park after our performance at Malvern Pride in 2022

VISIT TO McLAREN

WITH THANKS TO MYRTLE, SIXTH FORM PUPIL,
FOR HER WRITE-UP ABOUT THIS EXCITING TRIP

As A Level Design Technology pupils, our recent F1 Club trip to the McLaren Production Centre in Woking, Surrey, was an invaluable experience. We had the opportunity to gain exposure to real production and design environments and learn first-hand how car manufacturers carry out their processes from start to finish. It was fascinating to witness the production line and observe how cars are put together from individual parts. This mirrors what we are expected to achieve for our practical assessment – manufacturing for a specific client and carrying out relevant tests to ensure the product is successful. Let's delve into our trip further!

Iterative Design in Action

The rows of cars lining the corridors were a great example of iterative design – each one different and specific to the emerging technologies and trends of their production year. We were guided through each area, from body shop paint booths where manual painters applied colour coats with airbrush guns, all the way through to quality control testing on rolling roads. Each step of this process is essential in ensuring that each car is perfect before it leaves McLaren's production centre. The purpose of each iteration is to make the car safer and faster. This might include using new, smart materials, or adding safety features such as the halo. As the safety requirements set by the FIA are of highest importance, engineers must work around problems that may arise due to these conditions; similar to the problems we must find for our products to solve.

Behind-the-Scenes Look at Car Manufacturing

We got an inside look at how each part is tested as well as the finished product. The production line snakes up and down a large warehouse, with all parts being assembled by hand and each car made to order. The attention that goes into building a single vehicle is incredible; workers had checklists that they would

consult at every turn before moving on to the next stage of assembly or finishing off with an inspection by a quality control officer. Every detail matters when it comes to producing such high-end vehicles!

Endless Possibilities for Pupils

This experience was incredibly eye-opening for us as pupils studying Design Technology; it gave us insight into potential career paths such as Engineering or Product Design. Seeing these processes first-hand shows us that there are endless possibilities available in this field; this encouraged us to think about our future prospects. Such exposure also helps us better understand what we are expected to achieve for our practical assessment – manufacturing for a specific client and carrying out relevant tests to ensure the product is successful.

Overall, our trip to McLaren really opened our eyes as A Level Design Technology pupils, and we are really grateful to all at McLaren for the opportunity.

“ ”

What Pupils had to say?

With the prospect of a future career in sports science, I am really excited to have an opportunity like this to visit the working environment of a world-class Formula 1 team. A trip such as this will give me an insight into all the aspects involved in running a successful company within the sporting industry.

With an interest in studying Sport at Further Education, I am keen in finding out the different roles that McLaren have and the routes individuals have taken to get to where they are. From the technicalities of engineering to the year-round challenge of being a performance sports specialist for drivers. All of which is why I am really excited about this unique experience.

GRAPEVINE BY LYNNE LINDNER

LYNNE LINDNER, FORMER HEAD OF MUSIC AT ST JAMES'S AND HEAD OF VOCAL STUDIES AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE AT MSJ SENDS IN HER UPDATE OF WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING ALONG WITH HER NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

What joy to be able to travel again after the restrictions of Covid. I very much appreciated the opportunity to hear Mahler's *Third Symphony* in the architectural masterpiece that is Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Germany (popularly nicknamed Elphi). The concert hall has exceptional acoustics and is a unique new cultural landmark located in the middle of Hamburg harbour. It is truly spectacular!

I attended two weddings, that of my son Alexander, who married Victoria in Worcester Cathedral and of Alasdair and Kirsty Chatterton (Haines, MSJ 2015). Splendid occasions.

Both were celebratory events, with the Worcester Cathedral Girls' Choir, including Abigail Miller, singing at my son's service. What a privilege to hear this glorious choir.

The OGA Summer Celebration, combined with my retirement dinner and an appeal for the Music Award Bursary scheme, were a great success with many Old Girls and their parents in attendance. We all enjoyed uplifting music from the exquisite OGA voices.

'Christmas with the Jenny Lind Singers' was a success with a record number of Old Girls returning to sing. We performed Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with harp accompaniment, and other traditional carols, and raised £450 which was donated to The Children's Society.



Lynne and Abigail Miller at Kirsty Haines' wedding



Lynne's retirement dinner



Christmas with The Jenny Lind Singers





Georgie Rees



Samantha Sharma and husband enjoy travels

Georgie Rees (MSJ 2013)

Georgie is a freelance pattern-cutter, seamstress and sustainable fashion advocate and teacher, teaching in London and in her home town of Leominster, Herefordshire. She cares about reducing the impact of fashion on the planet through education, offering services in bespoke garments, alterations, mending and encouraging responsible fashion consumption. Georgie thoroughly enjoys living the life of an independent woman, focusing on her own path.

Samantha Sharma (Morris, St James's & The Abbey 2002)

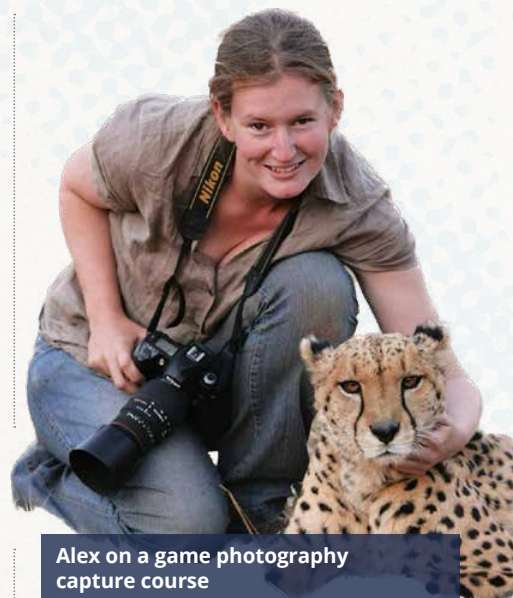
Samantha Sharma lives and works in London. She is an accredited practitioner Executive Coach (as well as having previously practised

as a psychotherapist in London, the NHS, and privately in Harley Street). Samantha owns her own Executive Coaching business and privately coaches corporates and individual professionals, executives and leaders both in the UK and globally. Whether for her professional career or for personal enjoyment, Samantha enjoys travelling and has visited many locations in the last few months including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Boston and the Maldives (where Samantha and her husband took the opportunity to privately renew their one-year wedding vows).

Antonia Ellis (Densham, St James's & The Abbey 1994)

Jonny and I have three children: Amelia, who is nearly 15, and twins, Henry and Tilly, who are nearly

13. We live in rural Gloucestershire and I'm busy doing Airbnb from home. We have four sheep and two dogs, and Jonny runs his own events and hospitality business. I keep in touch with lots of friends from St James's & The Abbey and we often get together for fun



Alex on a game photography capture course

and laughter! I still sing and my eldest is definitely following in my footsteps!

Alex Field (St James's & The Abbey 2003)

After I left school, I went to the University of Cambridge to study Veterinary Medicine and went into mixed practice. The farm gradually moved over to entirely livestock and now I work part-time as a small animal vet and get my large animal fix at home with 300 sheep, 30 pedigree Angus cows and a vast menagerie of poultry, llamas, goats, ponies, cats and assorted furries. I enjoy gardening



Antonia Ellis, husband and three children

but have little time for it so mostly concentrate on growing vegetables and Mediterranean plants so I can pretend I'm on holiday!

Izzy Davies (MSJ 2010s)

Izzy is thrilled to have been offered a place with the cast for National Youth Music Theatre's production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. This is a dream come true for Izzy. After nationwide auditions and over 200 recalled for this production – for 36 places – and an age limit of 23, at 16 years old, Izzy will be one of the youngest members of the cast. This production will take place at Leicester Curve Theatre in August.

Emma Hulbert (Williams, MSJ 1997)

Emma is currently teaching Music at a primary school in Buckinghamshire. She is lucky enough to have taught both her own children Music from Reception through to Year 6. Her youngest, Bethany, currently in Year 6, performed with Young Voices at the O2 in February 2023.

Grace Higgins (MSJ 2015)

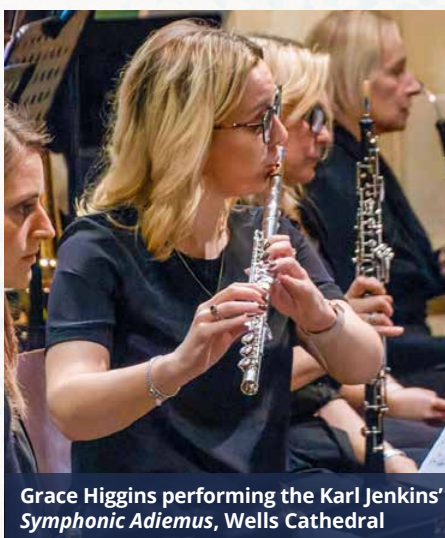
Grace has been really busy working as a freelance flautist and completed some really exciting projects! Highlights include playing in *La bohème* with the Welsh National Opera and a performance at Gig y Pafiliwn at the National Eisteddfod that was aired on both New Years' Eve and New Years' Day on S4C. She is looking forward to an upcoming tour with The Fulltone Orchestra and Lucie Jones of the West End. She's also been thoroughly enjoying being the visiting flute teacher at Dauntsey's School, Devizes, Wiltshire.

Charlee Sherwood (MSJ 2016)

I'm currently an Accredited PR Practitioner, working as a PR Senior Account Executive at Metia, a global marketing agency based in Soho, London. I specialise in B2B Tech, corresponding with a



Izzy playing Penelope Wise in the Hammond's production of *Urinetown*, February 2023



Grace Higgins performing the Karl Jenkins' *Symphonic Adiemus*, Wells Cathedral



Charlee Sherwood (MSJ 2016) and partner Scott Wheeler-Green

variety of journalists from *The Stack* and *VentureBeat* to City A.M. and *BBC News Online*

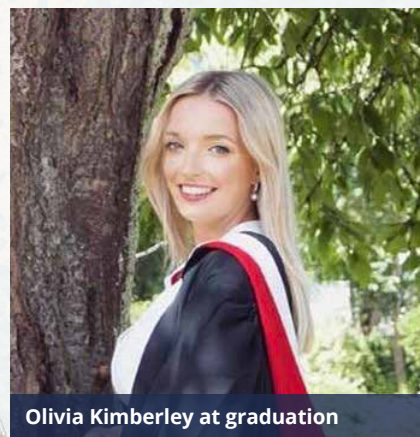
Olivia Kimberley (MSJ 2016)

I completed my History degree in Cardiff but stayed on to do the Law conversion (it was a long five years!) and am now working in

consulting at KPMG. I'm hoping that I can eventually qualify as a solicitor. Lots of the MSJ girls are living in London in the same area, so it's nice to still see everyone.



Emma Hulbert with her daughter Bethany at the O2, London



Olivia Kimberley at graduation

Eleri Clark (MSJ 2017)

I finished my degree and graduated last Summer. I had a wonderful break getting to travel a bit and do an elective in the UK. Now I'm working as a Junior Doctor in Chesterfield and loving it!

Gemma Nichols (Vandome, St James's & The Abbey 2003)

Gemma and Ben are delighted to share the birth of their first baby boy, Joel Benedict, born 22 February 2023 weighing 7lb.

Genevieve Philipps (MSJ 2017)

Since completing her Army basic training and joining the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra (CWSO), Evie has had the pleasure

of performing to royalty on a regular basis in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, as well as touring in Scotland earlier this year. Notable performances include the Royal Windsor Horse Show in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and the Platinum Jubilee concert as part of the Orchestra of the Household Division. She also performed for the first time in the Royal Albert Hall as a part of the Tri-Science Orchestra for the Festival of Remembrance in November.

The CWSO is currently very busy preparing for the upcoming recordings as well as the highly anticipated coronation of

King Charles III, for which they will be performing at the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle.

Sandy Hsu (MSJ 2017)

After completing my Physics degree at Imperial College London, I want to work in the field of Technology. Whilst enjoying my new interest in mountaineering, I have continued to explore all the music concerts in London.

Kirsty Chatterton (Haines, MSJ 2015)

Kirsty is a Royal Marine who has just played for the Mountbatten Festival of Music at the Royal Albert Hall.



Eleri Clark at graduation



Kirsty Chatterton at the Royal Albert Hall



Genevieve Philipps



Sandy Hsu at the Imperial College London Library just after her graduation



Gemma and Ben Nichols welcome baby Joel



Charlotte Spittle at graduation; Charlie Hall and husband; Georgia Hughes performs in Durham; Ellen Montgomery

Georgia Hughes (MSJ 2021)

I have always been involved in lots of orchestral music, whether at MSJ or at county and national level. Since joining Durham University, I have continued my passion for orchestral music, participating in symphony and chamber orchestras on both the flute and clarinet. During this past term, I have performed works such as Dvořák's *New World Symphony*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto* and Ravel's *La Valse*, in venues including Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle. I have also been fortunate to participate in several outreach concerts, both for prisoners at HMP Durham and schoolchildren in the area. All of these experiences I will never forget. I can't wait for what is left in store!

Charlotte Spittle (MSJ 2018)

Since leaving school, I have gone on to graduate university with a 2:1 degree in Law. I then went on to complete my Law Masters and

I'm now working in a GP surgery in Hereford for a short break away from law. I am hoping to gain a training contract in the near future to eventually become a solicitor. Since leaving MSJ, I still have my love for singing and meet up with the Jenny Lind Singers on occasion.

I recently went to Italy to visit Lake Como, Milan and Venice and, in October, I am going to New York. I am excited to revisit the places I went with MSJ in 2016.

Charlie Hall (Adeney, MSJ 2010)

Charlie now lives and works in County Durham. She is a furniture restorer and has had the good fortune to work on many significant and important pieces in historical properties throughout the UK.

Ellen Montgomery (St James's School 2004-2006 and MSJ 2011)

After graduating from Northumbria University in 2015, I

worked for a number of fashion houses but after four years (with very little job satisfaction in the creative industry), I decided to have a radical career change and enrolled at Goldsmiths, University of London, to study for a PGCE. After having such a wonderful schooling experience myself (from boarding to choir, sports' tour trips and many more), this seemed like a very fitting career change and one of which I am very proud. I am now in my fourth year teaching Year 2 in a south-east London primary school and, last year, I became Art & DT Lead of the School, making my past career in fashion not wasted! In my class alone, I have around 20 nationalities! You may have heard us singing on BBC Radio 4 on Christmas morning for Paddy O'Connell's *Paddy's Christmas Cracker* show? The children sang very well and I had a little cameo myself!



Clockwise from left: Charlotte Davey on the slopes; Rhi Allen; Charlotte Laidlaw with second child, Rory; Alex Surman, husband and three children

Charlotte Laidlaw (Mason, MSJ 2010)

Charlotte Laidlaw and her husband welcomed their second son, Rory, at the beginning of the year. Frederick has taken to the role of big brother brilliantly and they are enjoying navigating life as a family of four.

Charlotte Davey (MSJ 2010)

I am currently working at QinetiQ for the National Security team for Cyber and Information Security, and have recently been promoted to oversee a number of projects amounting to a portfolio of £4m. I am one of only two women in the entire team. Back from an early skiing break for the year, I am now looking forward to getting married at the Roman Baths in early September, seeing and staying in touch with my great MSJ friends and spending time with my lovely animals.

I have two horses and a young Belgian Malinois puppy and live in the Malvern area.

Sasha Lloyd (MSJ 2017)

I have just completed my first six months of a training contract at Higgs LLP Solicitors, completing a seat in the Family department, where I have specialised in Divorce, Financial Matters and Private Children matters. I have now started my next seat, specialising in Clinical Negligence.

Alex Surman (Tams, St James's & The Abbey 1996)

I live with my husband, Oliver, and our three children on a farm in Worcestershire and work as an instrumental Music teacher.

Rhi Allen (MSJ 2010)

Rhi has been working in the TV industry for 10 years, across a broad slate of high-end shows with a diverse range of writers.

She is particularly fond of bold, authored stories that show us the world in ways we haven't seen before. Outside her work in TV, she's training as a Psychodynamic Therapist at Oxford.

OUR WORK EXPERIENCE AT COUTTS & CO.

FLORENCE HARKNESS, MOLLY GARVIN AND ROMILLY HATCHER-WILKINS ARE A LEVEL STUDENTS WHO WERE OFFERED WORK EXPERIENCE AT COUTTS PRIVATE BANKING. HERE ARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON HOW IT WENT

Molly Garvin

Coutts is a very familiar company to me, as both my parents work in banking. The speech by Alison Robb furthered my knowledge into the finance world and I couldn't be more grateful for the work experience opportunity. I fully indulged myself into the time we had there, soaking up every bit of advice and insight into their world.

If I could go back and do it all again, I would. I knew from

the minute I stepped through the door, this is exactly where I wanted to be, and a sense of comfort and real vision of seeing my future self there overwhelmed me. I am beyond thankful for this opportunity and so glad we took advantage of what the School has to offer for everyone. The experience taught me to take hold of every opportunity which comes your way, as you don't know how many doors may open for your future.

Florence Harkness

Alison Robb's OGA Lecture focused on how she navigated her path beyond the school system. She discussed drawbacks and triumphs but, to me, most importantly, she gave perspective on her experience as a woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

When each of us were sitting down in the presence of a Wealth Manager and environmental advocate from one of the oldest banks in the world, as aspiring financiers, we were all in awe. I debated asking a question during the session but decided not to. It was less than two minutes later that I regretted that decision and took Romilly back downstairs to pester Alison. From there, both Romilly and I were lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to partake in work experience, fitting in our friend Molly Garvin as well.

I advocate for everyone to go for what they want, to ask questions and to be different in a room where everyone is the same. I left with memories that will last a lifetime because I decided to go back and make the most out of an experience.

Romilly Hatcher-Wilkins

Being a Geography A level student, I was naturally drawn to the more sustainable aspect of Coutts and how they take this into consideration. A lady from Alison's team gave us a snippet of why B Corp status is important to the company. It was insightful as we never knew somewhere like Coutts would even consider the environment and the impact that could have on our planet. It empowered me seeing

someone so passionate about something which has an immediate effect on us all.

Having this experience at such a young age has been a privilege and something I will never forget. Getting a wide view on the business and delving deeper into the company was extremely helpful in fulfilling my thoughts about a possible career in the banking industry.

OGA LECTURE: PRESENTED BY ALISON ROBB, WEALTH MANAGER AT COUTTS

Written by Phoebe,
OGA Prefect (Year 13)



Alison Robb presented a talk about her career during 'Pudding Club' on 13 January 2023. It was important as it gave insights into the possible opportunities we will have in the future. The key messages Alison expressed were the importance of making contacts, being passionate and persevering.

To start, Alison talked about her time at Malvern St James and how she was still in close contact with her school friends, meeting up with them regularly for days out and dinners. It was fantastic to see a great example of MSJ friendship and how it can last through so many stages of people's lives.

University choice

After leaving school, Alison went to Durham University to read Law. However, she wasn't sure Law was the profession for her, so decided to look for internships in companies where she could gain a broader experience. In the meantime, she also decided to take time out to travel South America and gain invaluable life experience.

Starting her career

Upon her return, Alison applied and was successful in gaining an internship at Coutts Private Banking and found she loved working there so much that she joined the company on a permanent basis as an Executive Assistant to the CEO. This meant she worked closely with the Senior Leadership Team, providing great contacts for her ongoing career development.

After this role, Alison became a member of the Strategy Team looking at processes and procedures. She noticed there was a gap in the company when it

came to policies on sustainability. Upon raising this issue, Alison was given the opportunity to become Head of Sustainability and, despite this being a completely different role from what she was used to, she was hugely successful in driving the company's sustainability mission and earned Coutts B Corp certification.

After being in the Head of Sustainability role for around three years, Alison decided it was time to go back to a customer-facing part of the business. She now works as a Wealth Manager and is thoroughly enjoying it.

What we learnt

It was inspirational to hear how well Alison has progressed professionally. She is passionate, willing to seek opportunities and perseveres. In addition, she reminded us that it is also important to have fun and make the most of having time off as she demonstrated by taking time to travel South America after her degree.

Alison's talk concluded with a lot of questions about internships, gap years and interviews, on which Alison gave great advice. It was a fascinating talk, and it gave me many tips about expanding my career in the future.

“ ”

She noticed there was a gap in the company when it came to policies on sustainability



THE LANSDOWNE CLUB



Members of the MSJ OGA are offered the opportunity to take up membership of The Lansdowne Club in the heart of Mayfair, London.

1824 membership of The Lansdowne Club is specifically for those aged 18-20 inclusive for a one-off payment of £1080. This will provide membership for up to seven years or until the age of 24 inclusive.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the OGA Office or email oga@malvernstjames.co.uk who can provide more information about membership fees and options.



1824

1824 membership of The Lansdowne Club is available to those aged between 18 and 20 inclusive for a one-off payment of £1080. This will provide membership for up to seven years, or until the age of 24 inclusive.

Set in the heart of Mayfair in London, The Lansdowne Club is open to both men and women and membership entitles you to:

- Train in the revamped state-of-the-art Cardio, Free Weight and Resistance Gym, Exercise Studio, Swimming Pool, Steam Room, three Squash Courts and Fencing Salle
- Join the Swim Club, Squash Ladder, weekly health and fitness classes such as Circuit Training, Body Blitz, Yoga and Spinning or take up Personal Training, Physio, Massage, Swimming lessons or Fencing lessons
- Meet, eat and drink in the Art Deco Dining Room, Courtyard Brasserie, Round Room Bar, exquisite Adam Room and AQUA Café
- Enjoy the lively social scene with weekly events all year round including Club Balls, Al Fresco Cinema, Wine Tasting, Cocktail Parties, Comedy Nights, Live Music, Summer BBQ's and more...
- Use any of our **73** Bedrooms, Function Rooms and Business Centre to suit all occasions, available for hire at a preferential member's rate
- Travel the world with access to over 250 reciprocal clubs worldwide



The Lansdowne Club

9 Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair
London W1J 5JD

020 7318 6160

membership@lansdowneclub.com

www.lansdowneclub.com

Follow us on:



SCHOOL REPORT



A LEVEL RESULTS

AND UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2022

Over half of all grades (54%) awarded are A*- A, which is significantly higher than 2019 results, the last year in which students sat A Level examinations in the usual way. In addition, three quarters (75.3%) of grades are A*- B.

24%

GRADES AT A*

54%

GRADES AT A*-A

75%

GRADES AT A*-B

90%

GRADES AT A*-C

Pupils have taken up places at some of the most prestigious universities in the UK and across the globe. Examples include Medicine at The University of Edinburgh, Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London, Liberal Arts at both New York University and the University of Leeds, and History of Art at University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

These courses show the breadth of interests of the girls at MSJ and particularly demonstrate the school's commitment to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). 100% of candidates achieved A*-B in Art, Chemistry, Drama, Geography, Music, and Product Design.

GCSE RESULTS

2022

In Geography, Business and Design & Technology, half of all grades achieved are 9s; in Art, Computing, French and Economics over a third of grades are 9s; and in Mathematics and Physics a quarter of all grades are 9s.

23%

GRADE 9

41%

GRADE 9-8

66%

GRADE 9-7

STEAM subjects, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities are particularly strong this year with grades 9-7 for:

DESIGN & TECH

100%

GEOGRAPHY

93%

FRENCH

78%

GERMAN

75%

SPANISH

75%

HISTORY

73%

COMPUTING

67%

BIOLOGY

67%

PHYSICS

66%

MATHEMATICS

68%

CHEMISTRY

63%

Overall, 66% of all grades awarded are the top marks of 9-7. This compares favourably to 2019 (when pupils last sat public examinations in the usual way) where 54% of grades were 9-7.

HOW ABOUT BECOMING AN OGA COMMITTEE MEMBER?

It's not time-consuming, just two meetings per year (one online) and your ideas are central to making the OGA Association work for its members.

We want the OGA Association to reflect the values of its members and to be a useful tool for social and professional connection. Could you spare a small amount of time to be on the Committee, attend just two meetings per year, and input your ideas? What would you (and your school friends/peer group) like to see?

In particular, it would be useful to have recent school leavers and those in their 20s, 30s and 40s who could steer strategy on professional networking.

As well as UK representation, we are looking to create international hubs with a volunteer lead who will facilitate local reunions and networking events. The heavy lifting in

terms of organisation will be done by the OGA Office, but it is invaluable to have someone on the ground! Please do come forward if you are in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Shanghai, Lagos, Sydney or any other area where you know there is a sizeable population of Old Girls and are interested in doing this.

In the UK, we have a group of Old Girls who meet regularly in Norfolk (and have done for a very long time), as well as South Wales, Yorkshire and London. If anyone else would like to become a regional representative, please let us know.

The Committee works best when it has a range of ages and representation from founding schools, so if you can help, or would like to find out more, please contact Molly Hughes in the Development/OGA Office at oga@malvernstjames.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)1684 892288.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY WEBSITE!

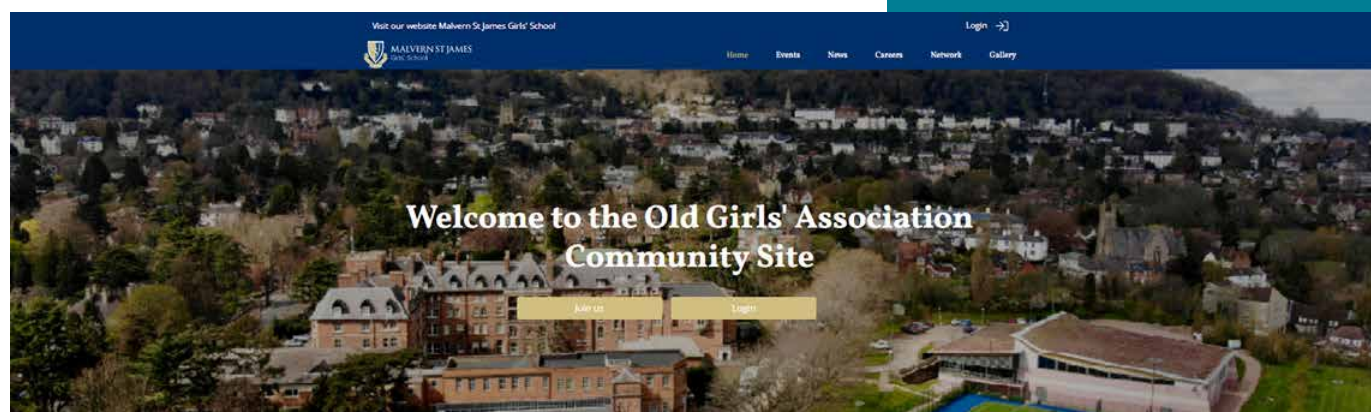
We are delighted to have launched our new online community website which we are encouraging all Old Girls and Honorary Members to join.

Our community website offers users the opportunity to reconnect with old school friends and members of staff, sign up to the latest online and in-person events and network with a community of Old Girls and staff members from our founding schools and seek/share guidance and mentoring opportunities.

We also have galleries of pictures from OGA events, news stories and groups you can join or create, for example 'Old Girls in Hong Kong'. There is even a community notice board if you'd like to celebrate good news, seek information or share memories/pictures from your time at school.

We hope you will join and make the most of the platform. The more users we have means more opportunities to connect and create a fantastic and diverse online community.

To join, please visit www.community.malvernstjames.co.uk



YOUR OGA

FUTURE EVENTS

Please keep an eye on our website for future events. It is the best place to check the latest updates on activities and plans for the coming year

The Abbey Reunion Saturday 13 May

The Old Girls' Association is delighted to invite all former pupils and members of staff from The Abbey School to The Abbey Summer Reunion at Malvern St James Girls' School.

Please feel free to pass on to other Old Girls of The Abbey who are not part of the OGA but who may wish to attend.

Enquiries:
oga@malvernstjames.co.uk
Tel: 01684 892288



OGA Summer Reunion Saturday 10 June

The Old Girls' Association is delighted to invite all former pupils and members of staff to The OGA Summer Reunion at Malvern St James Girls' School.

Please feel free to pass on to other Old Girls who are not part of the OGA but who may wish to attend.

Partners and children are welcome. Adult tickets are £25 all-inclusive and for under 18s there are tickets available for £12.50.

This reunion will also incorporate a particular celebration for MGC Old Girls who are celebrating 130 years since the founding of MGC. Old Girls from other schools are welcome, and can still participate in lunch, tours and drinks but please be aware that archive displays will focus on MGC.

Enquiries:
oga@malvernstjames.co.uk
Tel: 01684 892288

The MSJ Reunion Saturday 16 September

We invite you to Save The Date for Saturday 16 September 2023 when we will be hosting a full day of MSJ celebrations from 12 noon to 5.30pm, with the addition of our Malvern Young Alumnae: *Inspire me!* showcase (see page 15 for more information about our exciting new project). We will be opening registration for this event at the end of June. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact oga@malvernstjames.co.uk.



The latest information about OGA events can be found on our website www.malvernstjames.co.uk. For any individual queries please email oga@malvernstjames.co.uk

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS?

We appreciate that individual details may have changed and ask you to please complete and return the attached form to the address below so that we can update our details accordingly.

OGA Office
Malvern St James Girls' School
15 Avenue Road
Great Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3BA

You can also update, or confirm your current details, or sign up with your email address by sending an email to oga@malvernstjames.co.uk or phone us on 01684 892288.

We have lots of interesting updates and activities planned, and we don't want anyone to miss out!

Current Name: *

Previous or maiden surname:

Year you left school:

Year group you were in when leaving (e.g. Upper Sixth / Year 13):

What best describes your association with the OGA? (tick all that apply) *

☐ Old Girl

☐ Other - see question below

☐ Honorary Member (former staff)

If you selected 'Other' please describe below:

☐ Current Parent

☐ Past Parent

Which school/s reflect your association? *

☐ Malvern Girls' College

☐ St James's & The Abbey

☐ Malvern St James

☐ The Abbey

☐ St James's

☐ Lawnside

Address *

Street Address

State / Province / Region

Address Line 2

Country

City

Postal / Zip Code

Email address: *

Telephone Number (Landline)

Mobile Telephone Number

THANK YOU FROM THE OGA OFFICE

It's been a fantastic year reconnecting with so many Old Girls and Honorary Members; a particular highlight being the OGA Summer Reunion in June last year, which was our first in-person reunion since 2019. To see the joy on so many faces whilst reconnecting and reminiscing with school friends was truly heart-warming and a wonderful example of the Old Girls' Association at its best.

We look forward to an exciting year where we are launching our plans for the renovation of the Library at MSJ. This will be the biggest project in MSJ's history and will create outstanding facilities for pupils to learn and create for years to come. It's been hugely encouraging to receive such positive feedback so far, and we would love to hear from anybody who is interested in finding out more about the plans.

We look forward to welcoming lots of you to School this year with The Abbey Reunion on 13 May; the OGA Summer Reunion on 10 June, celebrating 130 years since the founding of MGC, and the MSJ Reunion on 16 September.

Please continue to keep in touch and send us your news throughout the year. We love hearing from you and it helps us hugely when producing this magazine. As always, the best way to get in touch is by emailing oga@malvernstjames.co.uk or by calling us on 01684 892288.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH OGA AND MSJ NEWS

The OGA and the School has a strong presence across all social media channels, which are excellent ways to both stay up to date with the latest news from the School, and engage with fellow Old Girls and Honorary Members. If you don't already, please use the links below to follow us:



Malvern St James OGA
[@MSJ_OGA](#)

Malvern St James Girls' School
[@MalvernStJames](#)



Malvern St James OGA
[@MSJ_OGA](#)

Malvern St James Girls' School
[@MalvernStJames](#)

MSJ Music Department
[@MSJ_Music](#)



Malvern St James OGA
[@MSJ_OGA](#)

Malvern St James Girls' School
[@MalvernStJames](#)

MSJ Careers
[@MSJ_Careers](#)

MSJ Sports
[@SportMSJ](#)



Malvern St James OGA
[@MSJ_OGA](#)

Malvern St James Girls' School
[@MalvernStJames](#)

Our website is www.malvernstjames.co.uk



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Malvern St James Malvern
Alumnae 100 campaign.



MALVERN ST JAMES

Girls' School

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