
Head's Review

2014 was a year of energy and creativity at NHEHS, with staff and girls trying out new ideas as well as fitting all of our old traditions into the new spaces.

The spring term was a musical one, with girls once again being invited to perform 'Sung Evensong' at St George's Chapel, Windsor, performing Mozart's Prague Symphony and Faure's Requiem at our stunning Spring Concert at St Barnabas Church, and then singing their hearts out for the annual House Shout - slightly less deafening in the spacious new hall, but not much!



The hall has also come into its own this year for a powerful production of Macbeth, set in a modern war-torn middle east and with gripping performances by talented girls from throughout the school, and then as the venue for a fabulous Christmas Fair run by the Parents' Guild, complete with magical Christmas grotto, set up in the new theatre.

It was also the scene of a new venture in encouraging girls to understand about economics and commerce, as all of the Year 9 girls took part in the 'Tenner' challenge, setting up businesses and selling their wares. Several of them won national prizes for their marketing skills and impressive profits.

The annual Careers Convention, run by the Parents' Guild, was another hugely successful event, with over 80 volunteers, many of them Old Girls, giving advice and information about a wealth of careers, from advertising to veterinary science and everything in-between. This was an amazing opportunity for the girls and the buzz and excitement was palpable.



Scenes from *Macbeth*, November 2014



Girls have been creative and energetic in so many ways and I hope that you have had time to catch up with all their activities in the half-termly newsletter which is published on our website. I particularly loved the way the Year 13 girls planned their last day at school in June. They crept in early, aided and abetted by our ever patient caretakers, and set up the garden to look just like a beach. (The sandy side being thoughtfully covered in plastic first so that it would be easy to clear up). Complete with deck chairs and lilos and a blue plastic sea, it set the scene for their gloriously sunny, funny and affectionate farewell day.

The staff have been busy too, with a big focus this year on preparing for all the new exam reforms, but also making sure that we are not overwhelmed with qualification requirements and have time for real learning and sharing of ideas. An inspiring Inset day had us all discussing the ingredients for a 'great lesson' and what makes girls 'great learners'. The ideas we learnt there fitted very nicely with our own 'True Grit' theme. We are working to help girls be more resilient and not to give up when things go wrong. This is part of the campaign against the downside of perfectionism which the whole school now feels comfortable talking about and promoting. Lots of staff volunteered to give very entertaining assemblies on things which had gone wrong for them at various times and how they picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and got on with the next challenge.



The Careers Convention, February 2015



Academically we have some exciting new themes. We now have two 3D printers in the Design Technology department and everyone has been fascinated and inspired by the possibilities they raise. We have introduced a new A level in Computing and girls from Year 1 are now learning about coding and algorithms and finding out how to programme a simple robot. Finally, our most exciting new project is a plan to introduce Mandarin Chinese as our first foreign language from Year 1 onwards. Girls who come to NHEHS in the Junior School will soon be able to follow Chinese all the way through to A level and achieve a level of real fluency, whilst those joining in Year 7 will be given *ab initio* classes so that they can join the faster streams later on. All three European languages, French, German and Spanish, will now be on offer from Year 7 right through to A level, with Latin from Year 8 and Classical Greek from Year 10. We hope to build on the immense successes of all of these departments to become a real centre of excellence in the teaching of languages.

In case you might feel that all of this is just too wonderful for these lucky Notting Hill girls, they have not forgotten that they **are** the lucky ones. They still work very hard for their Form charities and both Senior and Junior Schools made a huge contribution to the Ealing Food Bank with their Harvest Festival gifts, a cause which the girls feel strongly about.

Finally, I wish all of you could have heard the lovely assembly my Head Girl Team gave this morning, highlighting the lives and careers of a variety of Old Girls from the 19th and 20th centuries and throwing down the challenge to the 21st century Notting Hill-ers to carry on the traditions of making a mark and making a difference.

I felt so proud of them and so proud to be Head of a school with such an extraordinary history and heart.

Thank you all for your continuing support and loyalty to the school. I look forward to seeing many of you at the next OGA tea on Saturday 19th September 2015.

Lucinda Hunt
Head and OGA President

NHEHS Old Girls' Association Committee

President

Lucinda Hunt

Hon Secretary

Jane Sigaloff 1978-1991

Hon Treasurer

Gillian Lowe (Mitchell) 1945-1954

Assistant Secretary

Francesca Scarles (Quinnen) 1965-1974

Newsletter Editor

Jane Hering 1956-1966

Lucia Hull (Platings) 1990-2000

Elected Members

Jane Hering (Hilary Kent) 1956-1966

Dr Sally Mason (Ashford) 1957-1970

Helen Vickery 1974-1987

Josie Day 1974-1986

Alison Shindler 1970-1983

Zosia Thackray (Kulesza) 1987-1994

Julia Bushby (Wood) 1989-2000

Jacky Gerald (Hitman) 1957-1970

Marie-Helene Collins (Quaradeghini)
1987-1994

Charlotte Cooke 1994-2007

Banaisha Daruwalla 1994-2007

Lucy Cozens (Stedman) 1935-1943
(Honorary)**Permanent Members**

Deputy Head

Editor of School Magazine

It was fantastic to see so many at the tea party last September. For the second year running, over two hundred and fifty Old (and not so old) Girls and former staff enjoyed an afternoon filled with memories (and scones and éclairs). The sun shone and time flew. It would appear that everyone had lots to talk about...

Once again the new buildings stunned those who had not yet had the pleasure of a tour. If you haven't been back since they opened it is well worth a visit. The new Atrium is remarkable, as are the state of the art sports hall, assembly hall, dance studio and astro turf pitches. The tour also includes the older buildings – nostalgia is allowed.

The date for this year's OGA tea party is **Saturday September 19th 2015** and everyone is most welcome. This year there will be organised reunions for the leavers from 2010, 2005, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1975, 1965 and 1960, and as ever all are welcome. The Class of 2001 is also having a reunion this year. If you fancy coming alone, or with a school friend, we would be delighted to see you. There are bound to be some familiar faces. Many staff also return to see you all.

If you are thinking about getting a group of Old Girls together from your year and would like some help do get in touch, we will assist as much as we can.

My thanks as ever to the OGA Committee for all their hard work throughout the year and on the afternoon itself. Enormous thanks also to the Head Girls and sixth form for taking us on school tours and trying to keep us under control, and to Lucinda and her team for all their efforts in organising these and making us so very welcome at school.

A special thank you also to the Year Coordinators. I know from experience that tracking people down can seem a most daunting task. It is always worth it, however large or small your reunion. Those who are able to make it invariably have a fantastic afternoon and will be very grateful that you found the time to contact them.

We give the Year Coordinators as much help and support as we can, so please do volunteer to help if it is your special year and there isn't a specific name yet on the letter enclosed. For more information please email us – nhehsoga@gmail.com - or please do get in touch with Lucia Hull who is the brand new NHEHS Alumnae Relations Officer. An Old Girl herself, Lucia left school in 2000 as Lucia Platings and went to study at St Andrews. She moved back to Ealing in 2014 with her husband and two young daughters and we are delighted that as part of her role at school she will be helping the OGA grow. More on that later in this newsletter. She can be contacted on email l.hull@nhehs.gdst.net or 020 8799 8400 or if you'd rather write, c/o NHEHS, 2 Cleveland Road, London W13 8AX.

Please do send us your news. All updates, however general, are hugely welcome and the news section is the bit everyone looks forward to receiving the most.

With all best wishes



Jane Sigaloff
OGA Honorary Secretary

From the Archives

The past year has been a busy and exciting one in the archives. Having completed the *'140 items in the Archives'* project which was undertaken to mark the school's 140th birthday (and which is now on the school website), the focus shifted to two other priorities: the *Past Pupil Database* (which now has 5000 entries) and promoting the archives to the staff and girls so that they become familiar with some of the many interesting moments in the school's history.

Promoting the archives to a large and diverse school community is challenging and so it was exciting when the Head Girl Team opted to talk about some of Notting Hill's distinguished alumni at a recent assembly. They did an excellent presentation which will certainly have helped to put the archives on the map!

Now that quite a large number of old girls have been added to the pupil database, some very interesting information about the school's demographics (such as where girls lived, parent occupations and popular names) is starting to emerge. The records also reveal some fascinating new information on the girls themselves. Going through the individual records, we have discovered that one of our OGs married the brother of the Queen Mother and so became an aunt to the present queen. One left school *'to be coached as a professional tennis player'*. She was good enough to play at Wimbledon. On a literary note, Rudyard Kipling's sister was a pupil here as were the wives of AA Milne and GK Chesterton.

The safety and preservation of the items in the archives is an ongoing challenge and this year, more work has been done on sorting and storage. Handling items is very damaging, and the items most at risk are the magazines. For this reason, we are considering having them digitised. Apart from the handling issues, this would enable us to search for information using key words, so much easier than the present method of page turning! Digitising is expensive but the benefits would make it worthwhile. Our next step is to find funding to begin this process.

One of the highlights of the 'Archive Year' is the Old Girl's Tea Party in September. This provides a wonderful opportunity to put faces to names, to hear stories and to make contacts. These events invariably also provide us with missing information such as names in photos. The Archives usually creates

displays for this event and, to a certain extent, these are now being tailored to harness these memories!

Working in the archives is tremendous fun as you never know when you will come across something particularly interesting. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to explore them and to share with others the amazing history of Notting Hill, its pupils and its staff.

Liz Broekmann
Librarian and School Archivist



Sixth form in 1893



Sixth form in 2013

NHEHS OGA – Past, Present and Future

The first meeting of the Notting Hill High School Old Girls' Association was held on 4th February 1885, almost exactly 130 years ago. Until now the OGA has been run solely by a committee of former pupils, with the incumbent headmistress as its President. By June 1885 we had 150 members, now we have nearer 1200.

I started at NHEHS in 1978 and for as long as I can remember the Old Girls' Association was run by Lucy Cozens. For many years their news was published in the back of the school magazine and I remember avidly reading the names and tales of these mysterious women in every edition throughout the late 70s and 1980s. As I progressed through school I felt like I almost knew some of the members who posted annually. I looked forward to the day when I would have something to contribute, when it would be my name and my news.

I joined the OGA for life when I left school in 1991. Still Lucy Cozens was in charge. Occasionally I remembered to send in my news – not much to report when first leaving – and when it came to 2001 I wrote to Lucy (for she was still at the helm) asking for advice and help with the organisation our ten year reunion.

I received a handwritten response almost immediately. A few months later, the Class of '91 had a fantastic afternoon at the OGA tea party with nearly 60 of our year present plus many of the staff who had taught us. Many of our year group were not members of the Old Girls' Association but were made equally welcome to come and join the nostalgia and fast-talking as we all caught up on the previous ten years.

Five years later I organised our 15 year reunion - Lucy was still at the helm - and this time she asked me if I would be interested in joining the OGA Committee. If I am honest, I wasn't sure. It was 2006, I was just married, working full-time and at 33 years old, in my opinion, far too young for an Old Girls' Committee. Any of you who have ever met Lucy will know that she doesn't really take no for an answer. And given the affection I have always had for school I probably didn't take an enormous amount of persuading. So I agreed to the four or so meetings a year, plus tea party and a term of 3-5 years on the Committee. A year later, after more than thirty-five years of running the OGA, Lucy Cozens announced that she was ready to hand over the OGA. To me. I inherited the most remarkable Committee, thank goodness. And nine years later I am still in situ - I don't think anyone has ever left after 3-5 years. Perhaps the hyphen was a misprint...

The OGA Committee which Lucy had carefully selected and nurtured, welcomed me. I learned on the job. Lucy was a hard act to follow. Meanwhile the wonder-committee were as efficient as ever. A newsletter appeared every year, lists of members, a balance sheet, labels for envelopes. I coordinated reunions for the tea parties and chaired the meetings, or co-chaired them with the Head.

With advances in technology and instant communication, we created an email address for ourselves, we discussed emailing our newsletters and our letters, we wondered about having a website. We were starting to feel that in order to give the best to our members and to continue to appeal to the most recent Leavers we needed to do more. And then last year I attended a Trust OGA conference and came away inspired and determined that this was the moment to build on everything we have done and take our OGA to the next level and to allow it to evolve without compromising its heart and soul.

I tentatively shared my ideas with the Committee and with Lucinda Hunt. Everyone was positive. To my delight Lucinda was already thinking about recruiting an Alumnae Relations Officer (other schools in the Trust already had them as I had observed at the conference) and that part of their role would be to support us and to help us grow into an OGA that can continue to remain relevant and of interest to all its members now and in the future.



Senior School from the garden, 1956



Senior School from the garden today

Until this year we have been solely responsible for safeguarding our membership database, keeping it up to date, collecting membership fees, collating news of our members, finding coordinators for reunions, producing this newsletter and posting out this newsletter. I am excited to report that Lucia Hull (nee Platings) has just joined NHEHS as Alumnae Relations Officer and as part of her role, will be running and guarding our OGA membership database from now on. Having left NHEHS in 2000, she will help us, alongside the younger members on our Committee, to ensure that we are ready and able to take the OGA forward for the next generation and the one after that.

In this vein, I am delighted to report that from June this year, all NHEHS Leavers will automatically become life members of the OGA.

So now we begin a period of shared custodianship. We are delighted to have Lucia helping us and I would like to take this moment to thank all of the present Committee and indeed all of those who have in the past served on the OGA Committee. Without you all we would not have the OGA that we are now proudly handing over in part to the school.

Of the current Committee I would like to name a few names:

Gillian Lowe has been on the OGA committee since May 1974. One of the first things she did for us was to type out our address labels for each posting, one at a time, in quiet moments at work. She has been our Treasurer for over ten years and is also our Membership Secretary. It is she who knows when you move, who has reminded you when your membership has lapsed and who has made sure that news of Old Girls has been passed on to Jane Hering. For years she has also manually and meticulously maintained a card index of our members.

Francesca Scarles has been on the OGA Committee since 1986 and ran the September tea party for years as well as putting our records on to a computer database. She did in fact officially resign from and leave the Committee two years ago after a mere twenty-seven years, but has continued to run and update our electronic database and print our labels for posting whilst we found her a successor.

Jane Hering has been on the Committee since the early 80s and has produced this newsletter for the last 12 years. She has overseen its modernisation many times, most recently into this very popular and very colourful A5 size and we are most grateful for her expertise, patience, attention to detail and good humour.

And last but not least, we must give our thanks to Lucy Cozens. I very much hope she will approve of the changes we are making.

Our Committee represents several generations of former pupils. Our aim continues to be to keep former NHEHS pupils in touch with each other and with school, to share memories and successes and to offer support. We keep our members up to date with progress and changes - both those in personnel and in the fabric of the buildings - at school.

Before the delicious cream teas and September afternoon tea parties, there apparently used to be an OGA lunch – shopped for and cooked by the committee, many of whom would take days off work to prepare. Francesca remembers making buckets of coleslaw. Speaker meetings had occasionally been organised in the past and looking further back through the archives there are records of annual tennis, swimming and hockey matches against the school in the early 1900s – while these lasted I am pleased to report that the tennis and hockey was usually won by the Old Girls; we were less good at swimming. Minutes of early AGMs also mention a programme of entertainment that included singing, dancing and recitations.

Our annual September tea party is currently the only OGA event but we hope to arrange a few more in future years, including something for the most recent leavers, possibly involving a cocktail or two. Who knows maybe we might even resurrect the sporting competition between former and current pupils.

We continue to be here for you. Please do contact us with any queries you may have and do let us have your news too. And please join me in celebrating our OGAs history and embracing this new chapter for its future.

Jane Sigaloff
OGA Honorary Secretary





Hockey at NHEHS in 1906 (above) and 1959 (below).





Hockey at NHEHS in 1988 (above), and 2014 (below).

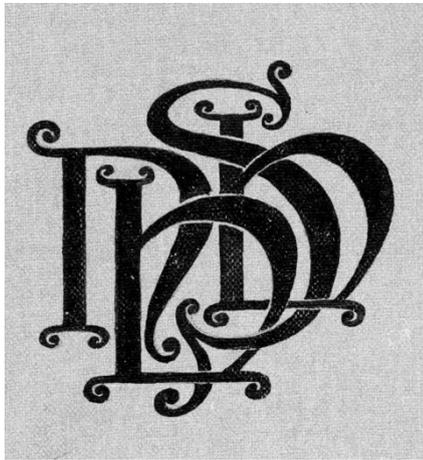


What is new at the OGA (and what is not...)

- For all of our existing members it really is business as usual. You shouldn't notice any great change except that if you have supplied us with an email address you will start to receive our letters and newsletter by email instead of by post.
- You are all now Foundation Members. You are recorded as such on our database and do not need to do anything different. Being a Foundation Member will give you first refusal on tickets for certain events at school and additional events which we will organise in the future.
- From June 2015 all pupils and staff leaving the school will automatically become members of the OGA.
- Girls and staff who become members automatically from June 2015 will receive all correspondence from us by email unless they request otherwise.
- There will be no further subscription payments – for those of you who were paying yearly or five yearly, reminders to renew will cease and you are now effectively life members.
- Old Girls (and not so old girls), indeed any former pupil, may now be added to the OGA database and will start to receive our emails and the annual newsletter. Please let anyone you are still in touch with from school know that all they need to do is to email Lucia to be added. Over the next few years we aim to track down many former pupils and make our membership as all-inclusive as we can.
- All written correspondence to me or to the Committee or indeed any queries should now be sent c/o Lucia Hull, Alumnae Relations Officer, NHEHS, 2 Cleveland Road, London W13 8AX. Any email correspondence should continue to be sent to nhehsoga@gmail.com. For urgent queries please email Lucia Hull directly: L.Hull@nhehs.gdst.net.
- The OGA has always been run by Old Girls for the Old Girls. This will not change. The heart and soul of the Old Girls' Association remains the same as does our Committee and our commitment to you. We are

delighted to have Lucia to help us and as ever are very grateful for the support and enthusiasm we receive from Lucinda Hunt and indeed everyone at NHEHS.

- Subscription monies and extra donations, plus any profits made at the tea party have always been used to cover our costs –printing, postage etc, and to fund an annual prize for the Head Girl and her Deputies. We also traditionally donate a clock or other piece of furniture to new buildings at school (quite a few in recent years!). We will continue to use the small balance of funds we have to do this.



The logo used before the school moved to its Ealing site in 1930



The current logo

Introducing our Alumnae Relations Officer

When I left NHEHS I certainly would not have anticipated sitting in the Head's office for a job interview 15 years later! I joined NHEHS when I was eight years old and left in 2000. I studied at St Andrews and lived in Scotland, until last year when I moved back to Ealing with husband and two young daughters in tow. (Much easier said than done!) The best thing about living in Ealing is bumping into Old Girls when I'm out and about. Time and time again I am overwhelmed by the warm-hearted nature of women I haven't seen for years.

I am delighted to have taken up the post of Alumnae Relations Officer at NHEHS. Being back in the familiar surroundings, still with some familiar faces is really quite fun. Up to now I've been working in events and communication and I hope to bring that experience to support the Old Girls Association as it evolves. I am really looking forward to building on what has gone before and creating new opportunities for our alumnae community to stay in touch with each other and the school.

I've really enjoyed helping to put this newsletter together, reading through all the news you have sent in and sorting through photos from the school's long history. I hope you enjoy looking at the various developments to the buildings, the PE kit and even the logo.

Despite all the changes that have taken place, what has struck me the most since being back is the warm and friendly atmosphere that is just the same as it was when I left 15 years ago. Please do email me l.hull@nhehs.gdst.net or phone 020 8799 8400 if you would like to get in touch, whether you have news to share, ideas for the future of the OGA or indeed if you would like to pop in to visit to the school.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lucia Hull
Alumnae Relations Officer



Coming up in 2015

The **Summer Exhibition** of GCSE, AS and A-Level Art will be on display in the new Atrium in June. The work is of an exceptionally high standard and gives you the perfect excuse to visit to the school. Drinks and nibbles will be provided!



Dates will be confirmed once the moderator has visited. If you are interested in viewing the exhibition please contact Lucia Hull; l.hull@nhehs.gdst.net or call 020 8799 8400.





If you happen to be visiting the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** this summer then look out for NHEHS who will be performing 'Blood Wedding'.

Drawing on the power of 'duende' - 'the shiver of response produced against the constant awareness of death's inevitability', the all-female Minerva Company breathes new life into Lorca's "Bodas de Sangre". Flamenco infused and original Spanish text are intertwined throughout. Passion and intensity provide the core rhythm of this production.

Performances will be on the **24th, 25th and 26th August at 11.30am**. The venue is Greenside, 1b Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5AB.

There will be a preview on the **29th June at 19.30** at The Tabard Theatre, 2 Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1LW. For tickets please email minerva@nhehs.gdst.net.

Sophie Plowden is the Head of Art at NHEHS and as if being an incredibly talented artist wasn't enough, she is also a writer. This September NHEHS are proud to be hosting the launch of her first book; ***Jack Dash and the Magic Feather***.

The story is a comedy for 7+ readers. Its about a boy called Jack who finds a magic feather; he soon discovers that whatever he draws with it comes to life. Unfortunately, he can't draw very well (having not had the benefit of Sophie's teaching!) so things start to go wrong pretty rapidly.



The date is yet to be set but if you would like to be kept up to date about this event please email Lucia Hull; l.hull@nhehs.gdst.net or call 020 8799 8400.

Celebrating Success



LIL CHASE left NHEHS in 1998 but started writing when she was 11 years old. She writes for children aged 8-13 years and her first books *Boys for Beginners* and *Secrets, Lies and Locker 62* were inspired in part by her time at NHEHS.

Lil is a London Metropolitan University Creative Writing graduate and in February 2015 she published the second novel in her three book series titled *The Boys' School Girls: Abbey's Shadow*

Her books are mostly about families, friendships and the challenges of growing up as a girl in contemporary Britain and have earned her a passionate and dedicated fan following.

CHARU DESODT (Class of 1994) was selected by BAFTA to be one of the eighteen 'Breakthrough' Brits for 2014. The BAFTA initiative supports and celebrates up-and-coming British talent in the film, television and games industries.

Charu commenced her career in console gaming by creating the technology behind the hugely successful *SingStar*® franchise on PS2 for Sony. Since then, she has released close to 80 games, including *Wonderbook™: Book of Spells*, *PS Home* and *Dancestar® Party*.



HARRIET EVANS is the author of a number of best-selling novels including *Going Home*, *A Hopeless Romantic*, *The Love of Her Life*, *I Remember You*, *Love Always*, *Happily Ever After* and *Not Without You...*

Her latest book *A Place for Us* was published in paperback on the 15th January this year and has already reached number 8 on the Sunday Times Bestseller List (8 February 2015).

Harriet was at NHEHS from 1985 to 1992 and after reading Classics at Bristol worked in publishing before becoming a full time writer.

News

ANASTASSIOU, Irene [1994] Still working as a shipping lawyer in Greece for Hill Dickinson International - the Titanic insurers' lawyers! More exciting news is that Nick (my long suffering better half who has a far more interesting life as a skipper & sailing instructor) and I tied the knot in September and Angela Vandorou - another old girl was Maid of Honour!

ARAKAWA, Eri [1990] After 10 years of being a full time mum, I have gone back to work as a Volunteer Support Worker at Beanstalk, a children's literacy charity and am enjoying the challenges of part-time work.

BALMFORTH, Susan (Mrs Lidley) [1958] I am doing a great deal of dressmaking at the moment. Poor Miss Piper struggled with me and she would be staggered by this! I also do a number of commissions for ecclesiastical sewing and embroidery including copes, altar frontals and pulpit falls, all of which a computerised embroidery machine enables me to do. Career three or is it four in progress!

BARLOW, Sally Ann (Mrs Round) [1953] I am now widowed and living on a small island midway between Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Pender Island is a true piece of paradise and I keep active with volunteer work in our community.

FRASER, Patricia (Mrs Brander) [1965] In February 2013 I was diagnosed with advanced thymoma. I had a successful operation, followed by radiation treatment. I am now strong and active again, but I need to pace myself. I am enjoying my retirement and sharing my bee-keeping skills with asylum seekers.

BRIERS, Katy (Mrs Batory) [1981] I have just completed my NQT Year teaching in primary school and really enjoyed it – although it does not leave much time for much else! It has really made me appreciate how much work teaching involves.

BUDD, Wendy (Mrs Walker) [1965] I am still working as a District Tribunal Judge. I will be retiring from full-time work towards the end of the year but will continue on a part-time basis for a couple of years.

BUNCH, Toni [1953 Upper V] is still researching and publishing the field of library history (especially library architecture), and recently completed a commission from the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. In spite of having some mobility problems, 'retirement' does not feature in her life and she still enjoys gardening even if only of the 'pottering' variety.

CHAPMAN, Miss (Staff) [1984] No great news but still enjoying retirement! I do so enjoy the September Reunion – meeting so many Old Girls.

COOPER, Gene (Mrs Barber) [1948 Upper V] Having been in our apartment at

St. George's Park, on the edge of Ditchling Common over five years now, we have, at last, got used to the "down-sizing" and love it here. There is so much to do, birds and rabbits everywhere. Everyone here is so friendly and one day, I hope, I'll find an "Old Girl" from NHEHS has moved in.

DARKE, Mary Joyce [1938] I left school in 1938 which is a long time ago! I was a medical social worker (used to be called Almoner) and I retired in 1982 and have had an active and pleasant retirement. I am now living in a Home run by the Abbeyfield Society.

DAVIS, Ruth (Mrs Davidson) [1967] To commence retirement, my husband and I visited Chile on a Traidcraft 'Meet the Producers' Tour. We met lovely people working in Fair Trade blueberry farms, a Fair Trade vineyard and some raisin producers. We now enjoy having time to enjoy the outdoor life in Devon and travel to see our family.

GILLESPIE, Mary (Mrs Bazalgette) [1950] Following neck surgery for cervical myelopathy writing has become impossible – but Mary still enjoys pottering in the garden and seeing her five grandchildren.

GODRICH, Margaret (Mrs Edwards) [1964] In March 2014, after nearly forty years in Hemel Hempstead, we moved to Trispen, a small village just outside Truro. This is a new experience but one we had planned for some time, the arrival of a granddaughter last year finally triggered our move. It is a beautiful part of the world.

GOODHART, Rachel [1988] Life continues much the same as I enter my 22nd year at Hall School Wimbledon, still enjoying teaching Religious Studies. Outside school I'm still involved with Emmanuel Church in Wimbledon and like to spend my holidays travelling as much as possible.

GRANT, Dreena (Mrs Derwent) [1964] We have now lived in Solihull for 31 years, so Ealing seems a long while ago. I enjoyed the 2013 newsletter for all the memories of 140 years! I still remain very active in various charities, plus being a Magistrate (only 2 years left sadly) specialising now in the Family Court in Birmingham.

GROSS, Sharon (Mrs Cox) [1989] I am a Commercial Property Manager for JLL and my family and I had amazing trip to the US and Brazil for the football World Cup in 2014. We live in Sydney now and are looking forward to a trip back to the UK next Easter.

GUPTA, Charu (Mrs Desodt) [1994] I'm pleased that I recently found the time to change jobs, after working at my first company for 13 years. I'm still happily juggling motherhood with producing video games for console, tablet and mobile platforms. Any spare time is spent on playing with the kids and encouraging other women to join to the games industry.

<p>GUPTA, Rita (Mrs Aggarwal) [1979] My husband and I run our own GP practice in Cambridgeshire. We have just won the national award for innovative treatment of alcoholics, given by the Royal College of GPs.</p>
<p>GURNEY, Jill [1960] has retired from practising medicine and has completed the first year of her MA in Philosophy at Birmingham University. She studies by distance learning from her cottage in West Sussex, where she lives with her black labrador, Tiggy.</p>
<p>HAMMOND, Fran (Mrs Hathaway) [1994] Enjoying singing with a couple of choirs; <i>Cardiff Polyphonic</i> and <i>In Spiritu</i>. Looking forward to touring Dublin this August.</p>
<p>HANDS, Marion (Mrs Nocchi) [1949] I left London in 1949 to follow a musical career. I eventually landed up here in Tuscany in 1967 helping to breed horses. I have now reached the ripe old age of 82 and still teach English and run a successful theatre group for pensioners. I have no intention of stopping just yet. I do miss London though.</p>
<p>HAYES, Angela (Mrs Robotham) [1964] I am pleased to have kept in touch with a few contemporaries from school, and can hardly believe that it is 50 years since we left! I don't go out and about very much, owing to continued poor health. However I remain optimistic of improvement, even recovery.</p>
<p>HOLLOWAY, Anne (Mrs Oldroyd) [1950] I have recently made contact again with my school friend Benita Brown (née Dobin) after many years. We met up earlier this year for the first time for nearly 60 years! We have never forgotten each other, but lost contact when I moved away from London. We both have health problems, and my husband is also not well, so we shall have to rely mostly on the phone and letters to stay in touch.</p>
<p>HOUGHTON Beryl (Mrs Pytches) [1954] I spent a month in December/January visiting our son in Sydney. On the way we stopped at Beijing going to the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and climbing up the Great Wall, I managed 350 steps! We paid a visit to Phillip Island and saw the 33cm high penguins coming out of the sea at sunset and waddling across the beach to find their chicks and nest.</p>
<p>HUGHES-JONES (Mrs Rose) [1979] I continue to live in Ealing and work as a Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Manager, specialising in deafness. I've also just qualified as a Lip Reading Teacher to adults with hearing loss and hope to provide classes to locals in the future.</p>
<p>IRVINE, Anne [1965] My news for now is real old lady stuff – I have just had a hip replacement 3 weeks ago! I am doing fine and am booked to go to Spain in November with the Open University. I am still volunteering for Cruse Bereavement Care and I still translate letters in and out of Russian for a friend.</p>

<p>JAMES, Diana (Mrs Balogh) [1959] This is the year of change! Finally after 19 ½ years I am getting a new car! It says a lot for the old Fiat Pandas! There are even older ones still around. Guess what I'm buying! A new model Fiat Panda! But with air-conditioning included!</p>
<p>KING, Carolyn [1962] I have now retired from my school oboe teaching although I have a few private pupils and still keep up my own playing. I am now one of the local representatives for the Incorporated Society of Musicians and deal with admissions for a local orchestra, as well as being the treasurer of the Abingdon Music Festival. All of this plus running an allotment and volunteer gardening at two gardens keeps me quite busy.</p>
<p>KRICKIC, Marija (Mrs Bichan) [1987] I moved from London to Ditchling in East Sussex two years ago with my husband Mike and four children. Kept very busy building half a house, battling with wild rabbits, settling into Sussex, coping with three schools and a part-time job in Fund Management.</p>
<p>LAKIN, Ann (Mrs McKay-Ferguson) [1963] Impressed by the September 2013 Tea Party and tour of new buildings. Many good memories. Still in touch with many 1963 leavers.</p>
<p>LAWES, Jane (Mrs Eastgate) [1956] My dear husband, Canon John Eastgate, sadly died in May 2013. I am so grateful for our 53 years of happy marriage and family life, also for our shared church ministry. I continue voluntary work with the Motor Neurone Disease Association, and in our church's Bereavement/Friendship mornings. Still enjoying sea-swimming and Beach Hut Life, welcoming many visitors to Beach Hut 13 on Swanage's North Beach!</p>
<p>LOCKLEY, Juliet (Mrs Edwards) [1968] I continue to sit as a magistrate at Ealing, Uxbridge, Feltham and Isleworth court houses and enjoy contributing to magistrate training and development. I pursue my love of jewellery through visiting museums and collections, It's wonderful having time, at last, to spend with my family, including our 6 year old granddaughter.</p>
<p>LUBICZ-NAWROCKA, Suzi (Mrs Morris) [1996] Living in Toronto, Canada. Married with two daughters.</p>
<p>MORLEY, Marion (Mrs Griffin) [1952] I haven't any special news except that last September I became a great-grandmother. My great grand-daughter is lovely and we will be celebrating her first birthday soon!</p>
<p>MORRISON, Janet (Mrs Morrison) [1959] Firstly some sad news, Valerie Campbell [1959] died suddenly on Saturday 15th March 2014, a few days after major hip surgery. She will be sadly missed by her friends. I continue with art classes. My sister Jill Chaplin (née Morrison) enjoys life in Stratford-upon-Avon. She loves the theatre and helps out at The Shakespeare Centre and sometimes behind the information desk in the theatre itself.</p>

NEWBEGIN, Nicola [1995] I am living in Islington with my husband Andrew and our wonderful two year old identical twins Ben and Tom. I am also continuing to work as an employment law barrister.
NORTON, Julia (Mrs Moss) [1978] Still living in California after 20 years. Just went back to England to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday and caught up with Vivien Howey (Mrs. Pereira).
O'RIORDAN, Judith [1942] Last October I left my home and moved finally into this excellent care home half a mile away. I have many friendships here, mostly belonging to a Bible Study Group. I am surrounded by my pictures and books and ornaments in my own bookshelves. Occupation of all sorts is provided by the staff here. I expect to be 90 in July.
OWEN, Sally (Mrs Robertson) [1986] I'm finishing being a part time Anglican Curate at St John's Haydon Wick. It really doesn't feel very long since I was sitting in the rather stuffy sixth form block trying to stay awake while learning about Virgil or the Bayeux tapestry. I have at least been putting this last bit of learning to good use, as a Schools Party Leader at Reading Museum where a replica Tapestry is on display.
PATTNI, Harshini [2013] Studying English at Oxford, Oriel College.
PENGELLY, Hazel (Mrs Priestly-Hobbs) [1963] I shall have just arrived in Winnipeg, Canada when the tea party is taking place. It will be my third trip to Canada in 2014, but extra special as my two daughters who live over there are treating me to the flight and to a party to celebrate my (can it really be?!) 70th birthday.
PERKINS, Helen (Mrs Flach) [1990] After many years of volunteering at my children's primary school I have now gone back to paid work. My job is as a lab technician in a secondary school science department. I'm really enjoying the work and have been reminiscing a lot about my years at NHEHS.
PERRIN, Ashley [1996] My business continues to keep me away from home constantly travelling. This last year I was the polar guide in Antarctica aboard a 27m Superyacht. This year I will be captain aboard a 24m Superyacht taking the boat from UK back to San Francisco.
PLATTS, Linden (Mrs Mair) [1959] Still enjoying North Cornwall, riding (need very tall mounting block!) and judging dressage.
REELEY, Gillian (Mrs Clinch) [1952] It is good to still be in touch with four friends from NHEHS, all have now reached 80 years old.
SACHEDINA, Najma (Mrs Virani) [1996] This year, Najma went to Cancun, Mexico on holiday. She managed to cross two items off her bucket list; visiting the Mayan Pyramid at Chichen Itza and swimming with dolphins. She looks forward to spending time with her new niece and nephew in the coming year.

SCRASE, Ann (Mrs Mitchell) [1947] I left the school in 1947 and have since spent 50 years+ in Zimbabwe(!!!) as the Acting Director of an Orphan Care programme there, supported almost completely by Northern Irish churches. I am now back in the UK – Northern Ireland, the home base of my husband!

THORP, Caroline (Mrs Baynes) [1957] Last year my husband and I spent three working months in Japan, teaching English and helping out at a church in West Tokyo. During that time I knitted 13 woolly hats, which went to children who have survived the tsunami. The church we were with does a great deal of work of running camps and seminars to help people suffering trauma, working with the churches in the tsunami area.

THORP, Virginia (Mrs Patterson) [1955] My news this year is not very exciting as we are trying to downsize and much effort is being put into clearing the clutter and preserving the memories of 50 years from our present house. However we did have 4 wonderful parties with different groups of friends to celebrate our Golden Wedding last year.

WATTS, Stella (Mrs Long) [1975] We have been working as House Parents of a girls' house for 16 years and consequently are responsible for over 90 teenagers, as well as doing some teaching. So life is always challenging, never boring and it continues to be a privilege to be involved in so many lives.

WHITEHEAD, Philippa (Mrs Legg) [1967] Although I have retired from teaching, I am still kept very busy as a Reader in my local church. I am hugely enjoying being a granny to four lively grandchildren, playing golf when I can and trying to keep fit through Pilates and walking.

WRAGG, Mrs Rae Diane (Staff) [2004] After many years working for the Australian Government in Papua New Guinea and working as a school nurse at NHEHS for 17 years I retired from nursing – I thought! However I returned to work with two jobs, one as a practice nurse in a local surgery and one as an historical house tour guide. After six years as a nurse I retired again but still work for the Duke of Northumberland, as an historical house tour guide.

Births

To **Aurelia Cheung** a daughter, Madeleine, in July 2013.

To **Charlotte Hall** (Mrs Truman) a daughter, Isobel Lindsay Ann, on 27th May 2013.

Marriages

Hilary Batchelor married in August 2013 and is now Mrs Wood.

Aurelia Cheung married in 2012 but is keeping her maiden name at present.

Hilary Davis has remarried and is now Dr Carlen.

Vanessa Heath married and is now Mrs Searle.

Ruth Hudson married and is now Mrs McKenzie.

Alina Jardine married and is now Mrs Goad.

Melissa Lewis married and is now Mrs Lewis-Brown.

Marie-Helene Quaradeghini married and is now Mrs Collins.

Jennifer Smith married on the 2nd May 2014 and is now Mrs Harris.

Gillian Tang married and is now Mrs Kreuter.

Deaths

Ann Barton (Mrs Wilson), died 18th February 2013. Left NHEHS in 1955.

Catherine Brown (Mrs Shepherd) died recently. Left NHEHS in 1957.

Valerie Campbell died 15th March 2014. Left NHEHS in 1959.

Mary Chadwin (Mrs Brown) died 20th August 2014. Left NHEHS in 1951.

Margaret Anne Grice (Mrs Smith) died on Christmas Day 2013. Left NHEHS in 1944.

Pamela Haigh died in Ottawa in 1988. Left NHEHS in 1954.

Jean Mason (Mrs Zerny) died at the end of 2013. Left NHEHS in 1948.

Philippa Murphy (Mrs Lynch) died in October 2013. Left NHEHS in 1982.

Helen Patterson died 22nd September 2014. (Staff 1987-2007).

Margaret Shrimpton died on 19th June 2014. Left NHEHS in 1940.

In Memoriam

HELEN PATTERSON taught History and Politics at Notting Hill and Ealing from 1987 to 2007. She was well known for her kindness and sensitivity, not only to pupils but also to members of staff. She sadly passed away on the 22nd September 2014.





The Atrium

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