



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL



Old Girls Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome to the 2017 edition of the Old Girls and Associates' Newsletter. Once again, we have to thank the Girls' Day School Trust Alumnae Network for arranging the printing and distribution. We would like to thank the Development Director, Mrs Jo Fitzroy-Ezzy, at the School for adding the pictures and formatting this Newsletter, continuing to make it look stylish and modern. Jo has continued to help and support the Association in many ways: she has kept the database up-to-date and has allowed us to use many of the articles which she produces for the various School events and the website. This year she has organised the very successful and enjoyable get together for staff and girls to celebrate 25 years at the site in Hardingstone – it was lovely to see so many of the girls who have not been back since they left in the 1990s come back and relive their school days. She has set in motion the celebrations to mark the 140th Anniversary of the founding of the High School in 1878. Sadly, I have to report that Jo is leaving the School in early November to continue her career in other areas. I shall miss her unfailingly good humoured help to me and the committee both with the Annual Lunch and, in particular, with the Newsletter. There is more information about the events arranged to celebrate the 140th Anniversary in the leaflet which is enclosed with this Newsletter.

School News



Another Fantastic Set of GCSE Examination Results

Celebrations as Northampton High School girls achieve great GCSE results again this year, with 66% of all grades at A/A* or 7-9. 45% of students gained 8 or more A*/A or 7-9 grades with 26% gaining all A*/A or 7-9 grades. An amazing 6% of students gained all A* or 9 grades.

Celebrating Outstanding A Level Results



Students once again celebrated excellent A Level results, which were an improvement on last year's outstanding figures. 46% of grades were at A*/A with 74% of grades at A* - B. 30% of students gained 3 or more A*/A grades and 36% achieved at least 1 A* grade.

The Headmistress, Dr Helen Stringer, said "Proud as we are of the exceptional results our girls gain, we don't see school simply as a preparation for a life of tests. In fact, we believe that school is about much, much more than academic assessments because the true tests in life aren't passed in an exam room.

We see the real measure of success as the range and ambition of the destinations they subsequently choose. The academic results they achieve with us open the doors to exciting futures in Architecture, Biomedical Sciences, Criminology – we could go through the alphabet!

Of course, there are also additional qualifications from successes in sport, arts, drama and music, as well as charity, fundraising and personal adventures such as Duke of Edinburgh's Award, World Challenge, Social Enterprise and Young Philanthropy."

Congratulations to all of the girls on their outstanding results.

The New Crest



NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

Dr Stringer, Headmistress, writes about our new School crest.

'The approach of a big birthday, celebrating 140 years of Northampton High School in 2018, prompted us to revisit our brand and to consider how well it was encapsulating the depths of our school – its history and core values, its current record and standing, and the lived experience of its students, staff and associates.

After a fascinating, complex and dynamic rebranding process involving students, staff, parents, alumnae, governors and external advisors, which took us to the very heart of what the School means to all of us, we chose to return to a crest as the central symbol of the School in order to reconnect with an important part of our heritage. However, this is the traditional crest with a contemporary twist. The rose and crossed keys were both part of the original crest. The Charles Rennie Mackintosh-inspired motif (upper left quadrant) is a new element which reminds us of the historic connection with Derngate in general and No. 78 in particular. Finally, the Eleanor Cross symbolises our proud place in the heart of Hardingstone for the last 25 years. Heritage and pioneering courage, strong links to our community and a commitment to educating and empowering women – these, then, are the messages conveyed in our re-imagined crest.

Alongside the visual symbol, we wanted to find a single phrase that distilled the unique essence of the education we

offer. There were many things we could have chosen but, ultimately, it boiled down to one simple, compelling article of faith:

We believe in our girls

And they believe in themselves

Our belief in our girls, which stems from our knowledge and appreciation of them as individuals, makes all the difference in the world as they learn and grow in pursuit of their dreams.'

Events and Achievements

World Challenge Trip to Malaysia

Miss Fraser wrote the following article about the trip:

On 5 July the World Challenge team gathered at school to prepare and set off for their month long trip to Malaysia. Over the course of the trip the girls each took charge and led the group at least twice, as well as working in their sub-teams to ensure everyone was fed, had shelter and could travel safely and on time.



We experienced many different areas of Malaysia and learnt a great deal about the culture and daily life of this fascinating country. The girls worked in a school in Kuala Lumpur with refugees, teaching lessons covering English and Maths. They planned their lessons, set work and took home marking – needless to say they found a new appreciation for all teachers!

One of the standout highlights of the trip was the visit to the Perhentian Islands. The first part of the trip was dedicated to achieving a PADI Open Water Scuba Diving qualification. The second part of the visit was dedicated to conservation work. The girls split into teams and took charge of the turtle sanctuary. They delivered 'turtle talks' to the tourists at the resort and covered the night and morning shifts of

'turtle patrol'. One particular highlight for the teams was discovering turtles laying eggs and keeping an eye on them to make sure they were safe. They were also responsible for waking up all the tourists in the resort so that they could come and watch the turtles. While we were there we saw several nests hatch and the team even swam into the sea to escort the baby turtles on their first outing!

Overall, this was a fantastic trip with many great experiences. I wish to thank the team of girls who made it such a special trip; it was a pleasure to be with them and watch them develop into travel gurus! I would like to thank Miss Kneen who was, as always, on hand to deliver a lesson. After all, 'Every day is a Geography Day'

Other Trips

The Theology and Philosophy Department took the Lower Fifth students to Bhaktivedanta Manor (a part of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness) where they enjoyed a day filled with activities, debate and observed puja (worship), which supported their study of the Hindu faith as part of their GCSE.

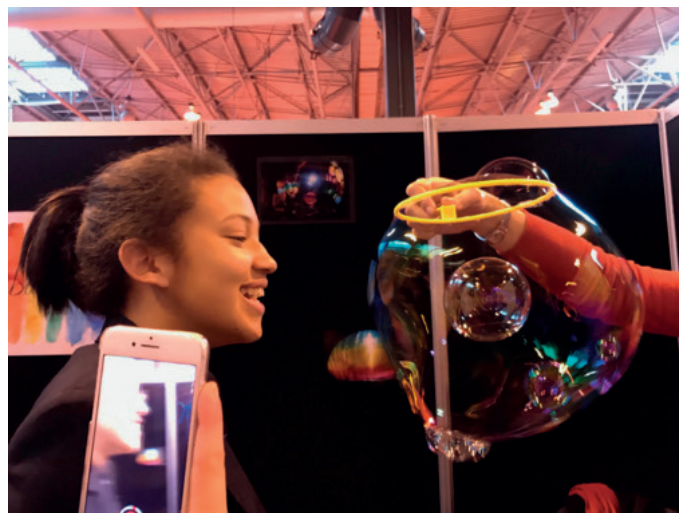


Upper Fifth Geographers enjoyed a residential experience at Minehead, Somerset, where they evaluated the extent to which coastal defences are successful.

The Humanities Faculty also ran another successful trip for the Upper Third to Preston Montford, Shropshire. During the visit, students investigated tourism in the Carding Mill Valley, examined the impacts of glaciation in Cwm Idwal, Snowdonia and explored Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

Trips are always a highlight of the Languages department's academic year and this year they added new destinations of Pompeii for the Classics department and Seville for the Spanish and Art departments to the already well established trip to Normandy for the Lower Fourth and the German exchange with their partner school in Bavaria.

There have been many opportunities to see Physics in action, with trips to The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, The Big Bang Fair, The Manufacturing Technology Centre's 'Women in Engineering Day' and The Space Centre.



Lower Sixth Psychology students attended the TTP 'Psychology in Action' conference in November, where they particularly enjoyed a talk by Dr Peter Lovatt from the University of Hertfordshire on 'Dance, Thinking and Hormones'. As part of the Inspire East conference in September, Lower Sixth Psychology students were introduced to the subject by Dr Louise Ewing from the University of East Anglia. She also discussed her own research on the development of face perception in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Sport



2016/17 started in a very impressive manner with the superb achievements of Ellie Robinson in Rio, which inspired the School in their sporting endeavours for the remainder of the year. Particular highlights were winning the swimming and tennis at the GDST Northern Rally in September. Success continued at the IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) in the School's first year of competition, with the U13 Netball Team and the U12 Swimming Team both reaching the National Finals. The U13 Netball Team were regional champions. The teams also excelled at County Level in a range of sports, reaching the regional finals in U14 Hockey, U14 Netball, U14 Badminton as well as U13 and U18 Hockey. The gymnasts continued to develop, improving their results in the GDST Rally and moving up the rankings significantly.

Outstanding Achievements of Individual Students

Musical Achievements

Many congratulations to Natasha Wilcockson from the Upper Fifth, who performed the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto with the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra. Natasha, who attends the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire every Saturday, went through a rigorous audition to be selected to play the concerto.



Rebecca Thomas has gained a place at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where she will continue her cello studies. It is wonderful that she is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional musician.

We congratulate both Natasha and Rebecca on their achievements.

Other Notable Achievements



Nandi Mhlango enjoyed success within the University of Northampton's School Art Prize, gaining third prize for her 'Deformed Horns' sculpture. Zahra Al Najjar, Rosie Kelly and Charlotte Carter all had their Art work displayed throughout the summer months at The Storehouse Gallery In Weedon Bec.



The Fashion and Textiles department achieved success in a national design competition this year with Phoebe Abbott and Zahra Al Najjar invited to showcase their work at the final of the Young Fashion Designer UK. The girls presented their ideas to a range of industry professionals for judging, with Zahra being awarded first prize.



This year saw the English department achieve a remarkable level of success in GDST competitions. In the GDST Chrystall Prize for public speaking Cerys Cooksammy-Parnell was awarded runner-up. In the GDST creative writing competition Ruby Howard was the Winner in the Years 7, 8 and 9 category with her story, 'Devilish Courage'. In the same category in the Laurie Magnus poetry competition Isobelle Aphalé was Commended for her poem, 'All the World Dreams'. Continuing the Creative Writing theme, this was the third year that the School had participated in the National Theatre New Views script-writing competition; remarkably, all four script entrants, were selected by the NT Literary Department for the long list. Amelia Simpson's play, 'Inhumane Nature', considered the morality of working as a journalist in Syria. Emma Bird's 'Disquiet' explored the impact of secrets on a group of friends. In 'Only the Educated are Free', Shefali Nandhra contemplated a dystopian future where learning is outlawed and Ruth Purser's, '4Twenty', was inspired by 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' to examine mental health.

Sixth Form linguists continue to achieve success. Anya Douras was awarded the GDST Pearson Silver Award for excellence in Classics. This enabled her to attend a Latin school during the summer holidays where she took part in a variety of Classical workshops. Ellen Watson was invited to a residential stay at Nottingham University where she became involved in project work based on the Toubon Law, an intriguing topic. Lara Pieczka's entry into the Gonville and Caius Linguistics competition received a Highly Commended.

The Biology Olympiad gives A Level students the chance to compete with the best sixth form biologists in the country. This year two girls, Idil Mohammed and Annabel Green both achieved a Gold award in the Intermediate Challenge – an unprecedented result. The Upper Sixth girls also achieved the department's best ever results with Gold being awarded to Jemima Worsfold, Silver to Afra Khan and Liane Wu and Bronze to Rebecca Edwards. Maya Kansagra and Jade Li were both Highly Commended and Lauren Mercer was Commended.



In May, four Lower Fourth students, Katie Ashton, Jess Cressey-Jones, Lucy Shepherd and Shreya Srinivasan, travelled to the University of Bedfordshire campus in Luton to attend the Salters' Festival of Chemistry. The challenge involved solving a murder mystery and identifying the prime suspect. Two practical experiments were then undertaken, one using chromatography to analyse the ink found at the crime scene and the other testing a white powder for its pH properties. A forensic report was then submitted. In the afternoon the team investigation involved analysing a cooling solution using various substances. After a talk in the afternoon, the Festival concluded with the prize-giving ceremony: the girls were awarded First Place in the Salter's Challenge – the first time the School has ever won this prize.

In the Senior Maths Challenge, Lianne Wu was awarded a Gold Certificate and Best in School. Hannah Goddard achieved Best in School in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and Kitty Kennedy emulated this result in the Junior Maths Challenge. Lexy Davies produced a fantastic result in the National Cypher Challenge, run by the University of Southampton, coming first in Cypher A.

Charlotte Fletcher-Stables represented Northamptonshire at the School Games at Loughborough University where four teams from different areas of England, two from Scotland and one from each of Wales and Ireland competed in a wide variety of sports. Charlotte was there representing, the England Central swimming team and on the first day swam in the 100m backstroke, putting England Central in joint second place with England South by the end of the day. On the second day she swam in the 200m backstroke and in the 4 x 100m relay, in which the girls gained a silver medal, meaning that, by the end of the competition, England Central were a very creditable second. Well done to Charlotte and all the girls in the team.

GDST Alumna of the Year



We were delighted that Helen ApSimon, an old girl of Northampton High was shortlisted for the national Girls' Day School Trust Alumna of the Year Award 2017. The Alumna of the Year Award is an accolade for an alumna who has achieved outstanding success in her field.

Helen ApSimon CBE is Professor of Air Pollution Studies at Imperial College London. Her research has led her into studying the effects of nuclear accidents, acid rain, excess tropospheric ozone and fine particulate concentration. Helen is among a relatively small number of female scientists who are globally recognised as leaders in their field and her work and membership of EU and UN bodies has had a significant impact on improving human health and ecosystems.

Helen attended the GDST annual conference and reception with other nominees and is pictured here with the Northampton High Head Girl team.

Staff Updates

Staff Leavers

Senior School

In 2016/17 the School bade farewell to a number of members of staff whose long and distinguished service - over 140 years between them - marks a remarkable contribution to the health and strength of the School as it approaches its 140th birthday. In December Mrs Drew relinquished her role as Director of Music in order to follow new career opportunities. The warmth of the tributes from colleagues and students alike at her valedictory show, the Christmas Cracker, spoke volumes for her treasured place in school during her twelve years of service. Mrs Taylor left her post in the Art department after five years of service. Her contribution to the School was suitably marked by one of her beautiful designs being used for the School Christmas card. In June we said farewell to Mrs Whatman who left the Catering and Hospitality Team after over twenty-four years of service.

Junior School

Mrs Davies left us after eleven years at the school. Her contribution as Art Coordinator culminated in her wonderful work in putting together the stunning exhibition for the Arts Festival in June. Mrs Green left after nineteen years of service, working across a range of groups, latterly mainly with Year 5. Her work as History Coordinator came to an exciting conclusion with her successful Time Truck project in June. Mrs Robinson completed eight years of service with junior girls, making an invaluable contribution to improving the range of opportunities for girls in sport and to increasing the competitive standing of the junior teams.

Support Staff

On the support side, Mr Woodruff left our Estates' Team after six years to take up a post with Kier Construction. The School also bid farewell to Mrs Puaar, Finance Officer. All parents will have known Mrs Puaar, who joined in 2004, for her thoughtfulness and approachability in managing their accounts and dealing with queries. Miss Allen left us after thirteen years of service within the Administration Team. Miss Allen was well known to girls and parents alike, both for her welcoming presence in the School Office and also for her enthusiastic participation in school trips. Mrs Brimyard, Junior School's PA and the administrative linchpin of the Junior School, left after fourteen years. She too was well-known to girls and parents and a very keen participant in school trips, including the ski trips and Osmington Bay and was a regular member of the Community Ladies' Choir. Mrs Gregory also left after completing almost nineteen years at the School, encompassing a wide variety of roles in Junior School, including Nursery Nurse, Classroom Assistant, Lunchtime Supervisor, Receptionist and Administrator. In recent years, she has also provided excellent support to Miss Buxton in the Senior School Library, assisting girls in gaining access to the digital platform and producing wonderful displays.

Finally, Mr Jonathon Griffiths-Elsden completed his term of office as a member of the School Governing Board. Dr Stringer would like to thank Mr Griffiths-Elsden for his contribution to the School as an advocate and advisor, over the last six years.

Retirements

In July Mr Holland, who joined the School in 2004, 'retired' from teaching Classics at the School. Mr Holland's teaching career, spanning more than four decades across many schools, included stints teaching English and even junior Chemistry as well as his first passion, Classics. His erudition and energy will be greatly missed by all.

Mrs De Freyne retired from her post as Science Technician after being at the School for twenty three years. Mrs De Freyne supported the work of the Science Faculty in the laboratories at Hardingstone for almost as long as the laboratories have been in existence and she was also known for her unstinting contribution to charity fundraising in the School.

Both Mr Holland and Mrs De Freyne have written a few words, looking back on their time at the High School and sharing some of their plans for the future.

Mr Tom Holland



In July I 'retired', if that is the right word, after teaching Classics at NHS in various capacities for the last fourteen years. This has given me a little more time to reflect on my time in the school and the changes that have occurred, and I was both touched and honoured when Carolyn White invited me to put these thoughts into writing.

Schools are transient communities. Staff change every year, and approximately 15% of the pupils leave each year to be replaced by a new intake. A former colleague of mine who left NHS just four years ago after many years' service recently pointed out to me that after even so short a time barely one in ten of the girls and fewer than half the staff in school in this new academic year would know her. This raises an interesting question about the enduring identity of an institution. One of the best philosophical brains in ancient Greece put it like this: at what point, he asked, does a ship – the Greeks were heavily into ships – whose timbers are gradually replaced as they wear away cease to be the original ship and become an entirely new one? Now it could be argued that the original ship develops an identity or essence of its own, which is then passed on by some sort of mysterious alchemy and remains embodied in the ship's 'self', even though physically the ship is constructed of entirely different timbers, and I think that the truth of this proposition is clearly demonstrated in the case of a school like NHS. The staff and pupils in 2017 represent a different generation from those here in 2003, teaching methods, administration, assessment, and just about everything else, have radically changed. In fact, going back just a few more years even the buildings and location have changed, and yet, on a deeper level, the school remains in essence what it was; at least it certainly feels in essence the same friendly, caring institution in which I first set foot in 2004, to begin a six week contract to cover for my wife Sarah, who was about to undergo the first of several foot operations; I must have liked it, because as things turned out I stayed rather longer!

So what have the major changes been? Change has of course been largely driven by the digital revolution. We register the girls electronically (great, it's fast and efficient), every lesson (not so great); we teach on digital blackboards (great, no more chalky clothes), but they don't always work (not so great); we communicate by email (great, no more lost bits of paper), but instead of talking to each other we spend too much time staring at a screen (not so great); we have a time-table written by a computer (no comment). I could go on, but I'm sure you get the picture, it's a mixed one, some good, some not so good. What is, I think, unquestionably good is that it has taught our girls to be prepared to embrace change, but in a critical way,

and never to see a facile equivalence between change and improvement; life's more complicated than that.

So, hardly any of the original timbers of our vessel are now still in place, and yet, by some mysterious process, it IS still fundamentally the same institution; a happy place where we still go about our essential business of preparing young minds for the world. As Aristotle would have put it, the accidentals may have changed, but the essence remains. Thank you, NHS, for fourteen happy years.

Tom Holland, Classics teacher

P.S. I have now decided that retirement isn't for me. I hope to resume work soon!

Mrs Kate De Freyne



I worked at Northampton High School for nearly 23 years as a Laboratory Technician in the Biology Department. I arrived at NHS at the new site in Hardingstone about two years after the Queen had visited, and have always been very proud to be working in such a prestigious school.

During those years I have obviously seen numerous changes and many new faces! I have worked for 3 Headmistresses, 6 Deputies, 2 Heads of Science and 4 Heads of Biology. I have worked alongside 9 different technicians and we have always managed to create a good team to support the Science Department. I lost count of the number of times the syllabus has changed! As a technician you need many different skills as well as the necessary qualifications. You must be able to work under pressure, often delivering "last minute" practicals. However, I think the most valuable quality you need is a sense of humour!

The girls, however, remain as charming and polite as ever, and were always a pleasure to work for and alongside.

As a first aider I have been 'invited' to accompany many school trips. These include 23 Zoo trips and 23 trips to Salcey Forest. I have accompanied the Biology Department on 3 residential Field Trips to Suffolk and Devon and I was the first non-teacher to visit Normandy with the Lower Fourths. My favourite trip, however, was to see The Lion King on stage at The Lyceum Theatre in London! Although that trip was with the English Department I felt it was justified as it has a Biological relevance!

I am lucky enough to have been able to retire early, alongside my husband. We have many plans for our retirement, including more travel and extra time to spend on our many and varied hobbies. We also intend to spend more time with the family, especially our 2 wonderful granddaughters.

I have many happy memories of my time at the High School, and I wish the school continued success for many more years.

Obituaries

After many years with only the occasional death to report, this has been the third year when we have far too many.

I first met Miss Joan Morgan when I was in the Upper Fifth. In those days a group of girls were allowed to sit O Level English Language in the Lower Fifth so that they could do English Literature in the Upper Fifth. We had rather a 'rocky' start to the year as the teacher we started with, Miss Sylvia Davies, left rather suddenly. The timetable must have been hurriedly rearranged as Miss Morgan then took over the group. I have to say that although I found *Lark Rise to Candleford* less than inspiring, *Pride and Prejudice* came alive in her lessons. It is still one of my favourite books, and one that I still reread from time to time. When I came back to teach at the school she became a colleague and someone who was extremely well respected in the staff room. In due course she also taught my daughter, albeit only for a couple of years, but she gave her the start that stood her in good stead in later years. When she retired she became a regular correspondent of mine, as well as of many other people – she was an inveterate letter writer. She travelled the country, catching up with old friends and colleagues and she would write to me in great detail so that I had some very useful material for the Newsletter!

Carol Turner and her husband, Paul, were friends as well as colleagues and Carol's passing was very sad for me on a personal level. They came to our parties in Northampton and Carol and I would often discuss the differences between Maths and Physics. I love the exactitude of Maths and found the approximations that have to be made in Physics before a reasonable conclusion can be reached quite irritating. She loved Physics and Maths was a tool! Will Asbury's article, a version of which he delivered at the funeral, sums up Carol's attitude to life and to the High School very well – I will miss her.

Liz Savage was a contemporary of mine at school. We went through Spring Hill, Towerfield and Main School together. Although we were never particularly friendly at school I got to know her much better when she arrived at the Junior School as Deputy Head and I was teaching in the Senior School. We were both drafted onto the Old Girls' committee; she as Treasurer and me as the member of staff liaising with the Old Girls' Association and later as Chair. Those of you who knew her will appreciate that her attention to detail and thoroughness made her an ideal treasurer. She bore her illness with a gentle humour and stoicism that was part of her nature and she will be missed.

Senior School

The following articles have been written to pay tribute to these members of staff and I am very grateful to all the people who have contributed.

Miss Joan Morgan by Mrs Moira Young

I am honoured and grateful to be invited to share some thoughts of Joan Morgan. She was an important, influential and admired person to me over 30 years of my life, both as my Head of Department and, especially after I left

Northampton High School, as a good friend.

Thanks to Miss Lightburne, I had begun to "help out" at Northampton High School and later, Miss Morgan invited me to join her department on a part-time basis. By this time I knew just how highly she was regarded by the staff. For me, it was meeting Miss Jean Brodie, a figure well-known to me from my Edinburgh school days! She held the same aura of elegance and the apparent confidence to charm others. Only one's very best effort was acceptable. This was the standard for her girls and for her colleagues. Her good influence on her pupils is seen today in the eulogies posted on Facebook and I know she would have felt so proud to read them. She dedicated her life to NHS. Her working days were long – I reckon she was usually first in, and often last out. As Head of Department she ran a tight ship and like the girls, none of us wanted to be found lacking. She was scrupulously fair in the allocation of forms each year, and encouraged each member of staff to concentrate on the texts and syllabus most suited to the girls. The girls looked up to her and her own dedication to excellence became the norm for them too, hence the excellent reputation in the O Level and A Level examinations. She encouraged outings to theatres in London, Birmingham and Stratford, all hugely enjoyed by girls and staff. She was a considerate Head of Department, helpful and caring when there was need as, for example, when Miss Joyce Smith was coping with cancer.

Joan was always involved in the camaraderie of the Staff Room and I well remember the lively discussions at coffee or lunch with the many outstanding members from all departments – I remember Mr Fiddes, Mr Powell, Mr Clarke, Mrs Wanda Davies, Mrs Turner, Mrs Kelly and Mr McNicolas, the last often engaging Joan in deep literary arguments or technical usages of language.

Outside school she was a caring, relaxed friend. We had many happy outings, to London to the Persephone bookshop, a wonderful venue, to interesting pubs for lunch and she entertained generously in the cosy, quirky cottage in Welton. She and her sister Mill seemed so much part of this village and I used to tell her she should write a novel about their lives there, so like the tales of Barbara Pym, a novelist both she and I loved. She helped at the village school, conveniently placed opposite her house, and was very happy when her "young ones", the family members, returned to the area and made their home there.

She reminisced very happily about her early days at NHS, with Miss Marsden and Miss Sinton, and I know that her friendships with Miss Lightburne and Miss Chapman were much valued. I will remember her telling me that both Miss Lightburne and Miss Chapman had invited her to call them Sylvia and Yvonne, but it did not come easily to accept such intimacy! The old school regime lives on.

She was an intrepid driver and thought nothing about setting off on her own heading for the south coast, to visit her good friend Nesta Vestegaard and her husband. She was always questing more knowledge and signed up to many varied courses, in the UK and beyond. She had spent a very happy spell in her young days in Australia, but felt a duty to return to England, leaving, I suspect, some of her

heart behind. She was a prolific letter writer and I miss the lengthy epistles that arrived on a regular basis. We joked that we would be the last remaining dinosaurs still using pen and paper. It was when I missed the last birthday card, the last Christmas card, the last bulging envelope of letter and cuttings and reviews that I realised that Joan Morgan was leaving us. It was an honour to know her. My family and I have so many reasons to remember her with great fondness and gratitude.

Mrs Carol Turner - A Tribute by Mr Will Asbury

When I arrived at Northampton High School in 1979 as the new Head of Physics, Carol had already been working there part time as she and Paul raised their young family. I believe her son, Simon, was about four years old. Immediately it was clear that Carol was someone special, someone I could rely on for guidance and support.

As the years went by Carol gradually became a very full-time part-timer and would even come in on her day off for a Department meeting. This was typical of her conscientious, dedicated and hard-working attitude. If Carol could help, she would, as she had shown by running the Department while juggling her family in the interim until I was appointed.

For me, as a 26 year old, new to the job, Carol was always patient and kind and would pick up and run with a loose ball. I don't know where the phrase came from but I used it freely at that time; When asked an administrative question I couldn't answer I would point to Carol and say 'Don't ask the man in charge. Ask the woman who knows'. I valued her judgement in all things, as did many others.

Carol was a very good Physics teacher and I valued her great problem solving skills. Of course hundreds of girls benefited from her excellent tuition, her command of her subject and her kindness. A former pupil remembered the hours she spent with Carol in her lunch times receiving extra tuition for special papers that would eventually lead to Oxbridge entrance. She really took an interest in the girls, their welfare and their academic performance. She was a great role model for them too, with her meticulous attention to detail, shrewd eye, strong work ethic, her caring nature and strong family values. I would rely on Carol if I needed something proof reading, experiments, equipment or data double checking. You were always safe in the knowledge that any job she did would be done accurately and correctly.

If I was ever struggling to make an important decision she would notice this and would say "Come on Will, 'Be Bloody, Bold and Resolute', just Like a big sister, and that would galvanise me into action. When we were sifting through circulars together she would pass one to me and amuse me with "This one is for the 'laugh and tear up file', Will." That philosophy saved me so much time then, and still does now, and I can hear her voice too.

Through it all, the love and pride she had in her family were always obvious and she would often tell me about them and her most beloved caravan holidays. I came to believe that her husband, Paul, was a man who could turn his hand to anything.

Carol was a great team player. If the Department was

hosting an event she would be there manning the pumps. Everybody respected her opinion because, she was wise, sensible, practical and down to earth. When we were introducing some new initiative, of which there were many, she would always be positive and encouraging..... but if Carol thought it was a silly idea, it probably was. We all know just how important and comforting it is to have someone behind you who will tell you when you are wrong, and tell you when you are right and run with you.

Another colleague remembers her thus:

"Carol was always bright, optimistic and had a great sense of fun. Whenever she entered a room, she brought with her a ray of sunshine and chatting to her, you felt you would like the conversation to continue for as long as possible."

She always saw the funny side of things. Carol and I had lots of laughs too, and never had a cross word in the 26 years we worked together. I think that speaks volumes about her tolerance and understanding.

She was one of those special people who can make you feel important even when you feel rather useless. She was a lovely person, a star who will continue to shine in my memory.

Thanks for everything, Carol.

Mrs Lilian Milner by her daughter, Kate Baucherel



Lilian Milner, née Hislop, was a talented, clever and well-respected teacher who inspired thousands of pupils over her career. Those she taught recall her with great affection, and with that slight air of terror reserved only for the best educators. Family members remember Lilian growing up with her strong-willed mother, Gladys, and gentle father, Tom, who inspired her to academic

success while also caring full time for her disabled younger sister, Rosalind. After graduating from Edinburgh University, Lilian taught in Bonnyrigg for several years, living with her parents and in close contact with cousins, uncles and aunts of the extended Hislop and Young families.

Aged 28, Lilian decided it was time to fly the nest. She was faced with two attractive job opportunities: one in Barbados, the other in Northampton. The choice was tough; she picked cobbles over sand, and moved to live and teach at Northampton High School for Girls.

Old Girls have some fantastic memories of her. Her 1964 Year 6 class recall learning to sing Kenneth McKellar's The Wee Cooper o'Fife (Nickety Nackety Nool!); others remember her taste in large colourful earrings, her 'amazing spark' – and her wicked sense of humour.

Those who knew Lilian in her later years, when she suffered terribly from Rheumatoid Arthritis, may be surprised to learn that she was a qualified netball coach, a competent

skier, and a keen sailor. The Sailing Club at Pitsford Reservoir was a great social hub with lifelong friends, where she was introduced, very deliberately, in an act of blatant matchmaking, to a tall Englishman by the name of Bill Milner. Both Lilian and Bill were very skilled musicians, playing the piano and church organ, and this common interest blossomed into an extremely happy marriage.



Lilian and Bill settled in Tiffield village in 1965, where they immersed themselves in the community, supporting the church and the school, and bringing up a family. Lilian was instrumental in keeping the small school open when threatened with closure in 1970, and was its Foundation Governor for 40 years. The church gained a churchwarden and two organists. Although Lilian had always declared she

wanted six boys – like her lively uncles – their only daughter, Kate, was enough of a handful. She took pride in the successes of her four godchildren: Kenneth, Anne, Michael and Jonathan.

Lilian taught modern languages at the High School for 25 years, until her arthritis forced early retirement. She kept her hand in, though, teaching a succession of Tiffield Year 6 children the basics of French and German ready for secondary school. She was also renowned at the High School for her skills in dressing every drama production from *Alice in Wonderland* to the *Tempest*, and she continued to design and sew costumes for the Tiffield Players.

Bill passed away suddenly in 1993, and Lilian never quite recovered from his loss. Kate's marriage to Xavier, and the arrival of her grandchildren Gaëlle and Loïc, gave her a new focus; she also found brief stardom on BBC's *Cash in the Attic*! However, it soon became evident that she was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. By happy coincidence Reuben Manor, a beautiful dementia-specialist care home, had just opened close to Kate's home in Stockton on Tees, and Lilian moved in at very short notice in 2009. She was extremely content and well cared-for, free of day to day worries, with luxurious surroundings, fabulous staff, and of course a piano to play. Her friend related how she raved about the place: "Margaret, it's wonderful – and it's all free!" Over the last eight years of her life, she slid gently into the grip of dementia like the Cheshire cat: gracefully fading, to leave only a smile.

A Tribute to Mrs Lilian Milner by Mr Charles Oliver

Lilian's daughter Kate asked me to speak about her mother at the funeral service held in Tiffield Church on February 25th. After the service, Lilian's ashes were interred in the plot where her beloved husband Bill lies.

Any comparison with that other great Edinburgh teacher, Jean Brodie, begins and ends with the voice; gentle yet insistent, lilting and melodious with that upward intonation, the accent unmistakably Edinburgh, educated, refined.



Lilian's teaching was rigorous - to the point of briskness - effective and fun; she used music and singing whenever possible. With her pupils, and with her callow new head of department, she was kind, patient, and took no nonsense. Unlike Brodie, Lilian was a team player in the staffroom, where she made many dear friends, most notably Wanda Davies.

So many memories emerge, sharp-focussed, from the mist. Our French course book in the 1970s was "Le Français d'Aujourd'hui" in which Monsieur Bertillon went off to work as a douanier (in the present, past or future tense) while Madame Bertillon stayed firmly à la maison, often Hoovering, invariably wearing a headscarf; that last detail would make Lilian cock a wry eyebrow. With Elaine Griffiths, Lesley Haynes and Janet Calderwood we took an annual week-long visit to Normandy. On cultural visits Lilian would often be at the front, encouraging her gurgles to keep up with a wave of her bright yellow headscarf. One year our coach driver only had one cassette to last for the whole week. I still tremble when I remember my colleagues and 50-odd 12 year old girls in full throat singing "Gimme, gimme gimme a man after midnight".

There will be many, many Northampton High School girls who will be sad to hear of the passing of Mrs Milner. She will be remembered with respect, affection and gratitude.

Junior School

Miss Elizabeth Savage 1948-2016 by Mrs Jane Stock



Elizabeth Savage had a long and happy association with Northampton High School and will be remembered fondly by so many past pupils, parents and staff.

Elizabeth began school at Spring Hill when she was 4 years old and was taught by Miss Betty Cook, another very well-known member of staff in High School history. She progressed through the Junior School and passed her 11+ to enter the Senior

School. Throughout her time at Derngate she enjoyed music, in particular playing the piano and singing and joined the Northampton Bach Choir at the age of 15. In the Sixth Form Elizabeth organised a Music Society with visiting speakers and performances.

Elizabeth, or Liz as she became known, left school to study teacher training at Avery Hill in South London and taught her probationary year in Blackheath. Liz then returned to Northampton and at first combined an afternoon teaching post in Stanwick with working in her father's Art Supplies

shop. Within a year she took on a full time post at Sunnyside Lower School.

After several happy years at Sunnyside Liz applied for the job of Deputy Head at Spring Hill. This post was to take the place of Betty Cook who was retiring from the school after many years of being Deputy Head. Liz was duly appointed to take up the post in September 1989 and began teaching 6 and 7 year olds in the classroom where she herself had started as a pupil at the age of 4.

The girls who were taught by Liz over the years will have many happy memories of Miss Savage leading the assembly singing, ensuring that the Church Calendar was observed and organising birthday assemblies with a glass 'cake' and candles, singing 'Time To Go Home' through the tannoy system on the last day of term, uniform checks and teddy bears! Who can forget Miss Savage dressed as one of Santa's elves and riding a scooter around the corridors at the Christmas parties?

Some past pupils set up a Memories Page on the Internet and their reminiscences included tales of the scooter, fancy dress costumes, hymn practices, assemblies and singing. The girls also spoke of her friendliness and kindness as well as her talent for remembering everybody's names.

Liz was an enthusiastic and caring teacher who saw children as a whole; she cared about their school experience, their siblings, their parents and grandparents and was unfailingly kind to anyone experiencing problems.

Liz also saw her colleagues as people to get to know and she remembered their families and understood their commitments. She recognised the challenges of the job and the pace of change while always trying to keep the best interests of the children at the heart of all that was done in the Junior School.

Retirement gave Liz more opportunities for theatre trips and concerts, trips to Cornwall and of course following cricket and the rugby at Franklin's Gardens.

For the last six years she suffered with a rare form of cancer and although she could no longer sing she was always ready to chat to past pupils and colleagues and to celebrate their personal and academic successes. The number of girls who kept in touch with Liz is a testament to the strong memories and the affection in which she was held.

25TH Anniversary



On 14 October we celebrated 25 years since the School has been at Hardingstone. The new school was opened by the Queen on 15 October 1992. The day began with a lunch; over 100 alumnae, former staff, current staff, governors and friends of the school joined us in the Dining Hall for a fizz reception and delicious food. There was a wonderful atmosphere as old friends reminisced, some of whom hadn't been back to the school for many years. There was big group of alumnae who left in the years 1994-1999 and some who had left more recently.



After the lunch, the afternoon activities began and many more guests arrived for the afternoon tea. To mark the occasion, a tree was planted in the Cripps Courtyard using the same spade the Queen had used 25 years earlier. Dr Stringer, Headmistress, Mrs Mayne, former Headmistress when we moved to the new site, and Mrs Newnham, Chair of Governors, said a few words.

Into the Senior Hall next for the Mayor to cut the 25th Anniversary cake and a chance to view the archive exhibition, have photos taken, contribute to the 'My fondest memory from school...' board and of course chat over cake and tea! It was a memorable afternoon for all who came along.

Annual Lunch



We were delighted to welcome over 100 guests on Saturday 28 January to the Old Girls and Associates' Lunch. As always, the dining hall was filled with our alumnae chatting and reuniting with friends from their school days as well as former members of staff. This year amongst the guests were 2 tables of leavers who are regulars at the event, the class of 1956 to 1958 and another from the class of 1960. The leavers from 1965 enjoyed reminiscing on their table of 13, all of whom will be celebrating a special birthday during this academic year. Other year groups included a group of 9 who left in 1984 – 85 and a group from the class of 1990. We were also pleased to welcome back for the first time a group of 8 who left in 1979.

The staff table was popular, as usual, and it was great to welcome former Headmistress, Mrs Linda Mayne, and a previous Deputy Head, Reverend Yvonne Chapman, as well as many other past and present members of staff.

The present Headmistress, Dr Helen Stringer, welcomed everyone and thanked the committee for all of their hard work in organising the lunch. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet, thanks to Mrs Dawn McCue and her team of helpers from the catering staff at the School. An optional tour of the School followed the lunch – all in all, a very successful day.



If you would like to be part of this day next year the date for your diary is **Saturday 27 January 2018**. As usual, Mrs McCue will be providing an extensive buffet lunch – excellent value at £12 a head. However, this year there will be a special aspect to the lunch. Next year sees the 140th

year since the School was founded in 1878 and the Old Girls and Associates' Lunch will be the first event of several taking place during the year to celebrate this landmark. You will see that included with the Newsletter this year is an additional leaflet giving details of all these events.

Also, we are changing the way that you can apply for tickets. This can now be done by booking on this website <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/DBF>. To simplify the process we will not be sending out tickets if you apply and pay over the internet. However, for those of you who do not have internet access we have still included an application form so that you can send for tickets in the usual way. Your application form should be sent to Mrs A Wilmot at the School, and, if you require tickets to be sent to you, please send include a stamped address envelope. The deadline for applying for tickets is **Monday 15 January 2018**.

Conclusion

You may have noticed that there are no "Where are they Now?" entries. I am saving those that I have for the next edition. If you enjoy reading the contributions to the "Where are they Now?" feature please take a few minutes to write something to tell us what you have been up to since you left school. If you are applying for tickets to the lunch then there is a space for this on the application form and you can use this form even if you are not applying for tickets. Alternatively, you can email me, Mrs Carolyn White. If you have any other articles that you think would be good to share with other members of the Association then, again, please email me – all the useful contact names and addresses are on the last page.

Every year there are quite a few returned Newsletters. Please let me have your changes of address. If you would like to receive the Alumnae and Friends' Newsletter and updates on events and activities for the 140th anniversary from the School by email then please let us have your email address. This Newsletter is sent out as a hard copy by post as we have many more postal addresses than email addresses and we want to contact as many of you as possible. Unfortunately, for administration reasons, it is not possible to send some by email and some by post. It will be available on the website, along with the application form to join the Association.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the lunch on **Saturday 27 January 2018** and it would be greatly appreciated if you could apply for tickets in plenty of time. Once again, the deadline is **Monday 15 January 2018**.

Committee

2017/2018 Committee Members

Dr Helen Stringer (Headmistress)

Mrs Carolyn White (Chair and Newsletter editor)

Mrs Anne Rodwell (Secretary)

Mrs Steph Caswell-White (Treasurer)

Mrs Jo Fitzroy-Ezzy (Development Director)

Mrs Alex Down (Staff Liaison)

Mrs Jane Stock (Archivist)

Mrs Vicky Dacre

Mrs Ellie Doak

Mr John Glover

Mrs Margaret Green

Mrs Monica Hartgrove

Mrs Lisa Howe

Mrs Dawn Powell

Useful Contacts

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For changes of address, email addresses, Old Girls' news, and for enquiries about tickets to the lunch or any of the events (in the enclosed leaflet):

Amanda Wilmot

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If you do not have access to email, please write to any of the above at School:

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To keep up to date with news and events from the school why not find us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and Like, Tweet and Connect with us!





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