

# FARNBOROUGH HILL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON



## FARNBOROUGH HILL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2017 - 2018



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# President's Report

Welcome to the Farnborough Hill Old Girls' Association 2018 Newsletter. It will come as no surprise to you all to read that we've had another busy year. However, this year, the Committee's focus has been on forward planning for the benefit of all Old Girls.

New General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) have been at the forefront of most organisations' minds this year. These new regulations govern more strictly the holding and use of personal data, in addition to changing the process by which organisations obtain consent for holding personal data.

FHOGA has been working closely with Farnborough Hill School to get ready for the implementation of these new regulations, and to ensure that you, our current membership and future members, will have your data kept safely and in compliance with the regulations. In addition, our discussions have concentrated on how best we can serve the needs of our members more generally. Our new plans mean not only will you shortly be seeing a new Alumni Relationship Management software programme linking in with our pre-existing social media set-up, but also a more collaborative relationship with the School. This, in turn, should mean more opportunities for current and future Old Girls to connect and build upon their connections for mentoring, career opportunities, and other activities. Please ensure that by whichever means suits you best, you actively and expressly consent to your personal data being held by FHOGA/Farnborough Hill School, so that you can be kept in the loop. The new regulations mean that if you haven't proactively consented, we will not be contacting you in the future even with newsletters – so don't miss out!

You can also stay in touch using our Facebook page, which now has 2,000 followers.

The 2017 September Reunion was a very special occasion with Sr Mary Dawson flying from Ireland to open the bicentenary celebrations. Thank you to over 300 Old Girls and staff for attending, and to Gill Chapman and the FHOGA Committee for their efforts in making this event another great success. FHOGA Community Carols in December remain popular, and it is always lovely to see friends and family gathered, despite weather challenges, to welcome in the festive season with the Sisters. Thanks should also go to Gill Chapman for editing this newsletter once again and to Christine Hall for co-editing.

We are delighted to announce that this year's Old Girls' Scholarship has been awarded to Shika Desai. Congratulations and good luck with your GCSEs!

Sadly, due to time commitments, I will not be able to continue for another term as President. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each committee member for their time and commitment to FHOGA, particularly this year when we have battled with new data regulations, governance and finances in a way that we haven't had to before! As always, we are actively seeking new committee members and we're always keen to hear your ideas for events, so if there is any way in which you would like to be involved, please do let us know. I should also like to thank all of the Old Girls for their continued support of the Association, and for allowing me the opportunity to be the FHOGA President over the last three years. I wish FHOGA every success in the future.

***Niamh Hills President 2015—2018***





# Community News

In July, members of the Sixth Form organised a sponsored 3km Fun Run around the school grounds in memory of Lucy Pygott R.I.P. We joined the run, and it was lovely to see staff and pupils thoroughly enjoying it. £10,500 was raised for the Air Ambulance and Sir John Day (chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance) and his wife joined us for a delicious tea on the Cloister Lawn. A big 'Thank You' must go to Mrs Neil for arranging it all.



The Old Girls' Reunion in September 2017 was the first celebration of our bicentenary (1817-2017) and it was very well attended. Former Headmistress, Sr. Mary Dawson, was the guest of honour and a large number of Old Girls and retired staff were delighted to see her again. As a special treat, Sr. Monica Mannion, ably assisted by Sr. Veronica Rennie, ran a tombola stall in the lower refectory with a prize every time. It sold out, making almost £500 for the Old Girls' Scholarship Fund. Anne Griffiths had made a special cake for us in the shape of 200, beautifully decorated by Old Girl Scholar, Jessica Stinton UVI.



The celebration of 200 years of the Congregation gave us many opportunities to celebrate.



In the Autumn Term, we were delighted to welcome to

tea Head Girl, Catriona Flesher, and Deputy, Jennifer Licence, and in the Spring Term, Tegan Williams, Isabella Rainer and Ciara Smith from the Lower Sixth. We very much enjoyed their company and were delighted to hear of their appreciation of Farnborough Hill and the admiration for the commitment of staff, often far beyond the call of duty. It was fascinating to hear about all that they managed to fit in whilst keeping up to date with their academic work. We were impressed.



We celebrated Community Feast Day 2017 with a special assembly, followed by Mass, when we renewed our vows but we also had an extra treat. We thoroughly enjoyed a special production of the life of Abbé Louis Lafosse and the early history





of the Congregation. In 1817 there was no education in France for girls. Abbé Lafosse trained four women and opened the first girls' school in Échauffour. I knew that he founded a Teacher Training College to train women to teach girls, but I was not aware of how much he was ahead of his time.

It was fifty years before

the French government decided that girls had a right to education. A big 'Thank you' must go to Mrs Winch-Johnson, ably assisted by many staff and volunteers, for putting on so memorable a play.

The highlight of the year for us was the Celebration of the closing Mass in Échauffour on 21 November 2017. A beautiful hand - designed scarf was presented to each participant. The Parish Church had an impressive exhibition of the history of the Congregation. The Mass was followed by a delicious lunch in the local Parish Hall. As well as the Sisters, many staff members from our schools, who are carrying on our charism, were delighted to be present.

Snow reduced the attendance for the Annual Old Girls' Community Carol Singing in December but it was a jolly occasion all the same and also marked Sr Veronica Rennie's 70th Jubilee .

Sisters Patricia Wright and Philomena McDonnell enjoy the visits they receive at St Augustine's Care Home in Addlestone from Community, family and friends and we are very pleased to be able to take them out for special occasions.

We enjoy visits from the members of the Provincial Team, Sr. R. O'Looney (Provincial), Srs Mary Dawson, Elizabeth McCormack and Cara Nagle when they come over for meetings.



Sadly, we said farewell to two Sisters associated with Farnborough Hill last year: Sr Rosemary Alexander in July and Sr May Shannon in December. May they rest in peace. There are separate tributes to each of them later.

We enjoy visits from Old Girls and retired staff, so if you are in the area, you are very welcome to visit us. We are always happy to see you.

***Sr Josephine Shannon***

# Celebrating 200 Years of RCE in Échauffour

by Ann Berry (Tristram) 1966



I was very honoured to be invited by our Community to join them and others to travel to France to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Order of Religious of Christian Education.

We flew to Paris on Monday 20 November, and then on to Sees in northern Normandy, where we joined up with a group from Ireland, USA and France. On Tuesday we travelled to Échauffour, the village where Father Lafosse was the Parish priest and where the first four sisters took their vows.

A simple but beautiful Mass was held in the village church, where the Communities and their friends were joined by local villagers. I will remember that Mass forever; the faith by which all of the nuns lead their lives shone through every gesture, action, prayer and response in a simple straightforward way. A mixture of French and English spoken during the Mass was interesting especially when we all sang the 'Our Father' in our own language at the same time! I was very privileged (with the help of an American) to carry a 6 ft oak cross covered in lighted votive candles up to the altar whilst we were praying for the departed. Another moment to treasure was the sight of all the Sisters renewing their vows – including Sr Rennie performing this ritual for the 70<sup>th</sup> time. After the Mass the villagers hosted a lunch for all of us (maybe 200 people) and then we went to the cemetery where many of the departed French nuns were buried. There, a simple ceremony was held.

Altogether it was an emotional, beautiful, and memorable day. Srs McCormack, Josephine, Rennie, Mannion and Grant, besides experiencing a spiritual renewal also enjoyed meeting with and renewing friendships with their counterparts from all the other Communities. Before returning home we had another memorable and emotional day touring the Normandy beaches and visiting the American War Cemetery.

Finally, I would like to thank the Sisters for including me in this historic event and for making me feel a valued member of their family.





Lafosse -  
the Play



# Tribute to Our Beloved Sisters

We have come together for this special Old Girls' Reunion in this beautiful chapel where so many of us came as school-girls, and remember with affection and gratitude the Community for whom it is the most special of places. And here with Sr Rennie, Sr Dawson and Sr McCormack, some of the Community who knew her best, our immediate thoughts and memories are of Rosemary (Mother) Alexander whose clear-sighted vision shaped our school in the 1960s and 70s. For me and my contemporaries, she was quite literally a towering figure who set standards both moral and academic but also of compassion and understanding that have stayed with me and I suspect many of us for a lifetime.



My own memories go back to Whitefriars in the late 50s and then to Yateley and Farnborough in the 60s: the era of Reverend Mother Rowntree, Mother Fox and Mother Pelly, Mother Mattes teaching the little ones and Mother Morat preparing us for First Communion. This was also the era of the full-length black and white habit that wrapped itself around the head and tied itself in a starched bow under the chin. Whether you were a boarder or a day-girl, the Community formed the heart of the school. They were teachers, (and occasional hockey-players), dormitory mistresses, nurses, cooks and cleaners, and receivers of confidences, but they were also Religious and their spiritual rhythms were the backdrop to the education we received.

We were dimly aware that our Community was part of a larger family; the sister convents in Ireland were talked of rather as adults referred to distant cousins whom you couldn't quite remember. Every so often a new face would appear or a familiar

one would be gone to Terenure and we accepted the change without, I suspect, thinking of the personal sacrifice that individual sisters made as they were moved around and separated.

We behaved as teenage girls will and were sharp observers of the changes that came with Vatican II reforms. It can't have been easy to be the first to wear the shorter green and brown habit and to show your hair! The 60s were a heady mix and it is enormously to the credit of our nuns that they navigated the change themselves and guided us through it, preparing us for the world we were to live in.

So today we give thanks for their vision, their steadfastness and example, their faith and love of God, their faithfulness to their calling.

*Margaret Fergusson (Wookey) 1971*

## Prayer card for the September Reunion

### CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF R.C.E.



#### The Sacred Heart

Farnborough Hill is dedicated to the Sacred Heart, which represents the humanity of Jesus and His love for each one of us. The feast of the Sacred Heart in the summer term is always celebrated as a School Feast Day.

How many of you who pass the chapel corridor or lower gallery notice the lamp burning continuously in front of the statue of the Sacred Heart? It burns for every girl educated at Farnborough Hill, both past and present.

The undying lamp is a symbol of our constant prayer, that each student may be helped to develop her full potential. When she leaves Farnborough Hill we pray that she will always remain faithful to Jesus Christ and that her life and work will be founded on Christian values.





# Tributes to Sister Rosemary Alexander R.I.P.



For those who were students in the 60s & 70s, Mother "A", was a clever, forward-thinking, strong-principled woman, with an imposing physical presence who took on the headship at the very young age of 27, one of the youngest public school headmistresses ever.

She guided me from being a sports-mad but lazy student, through my 'O' and 'A' levels and into college. Without her firm, but caring guidance I would never have fulfilled my dream of becoming a PE teacher. She brought me back to Farnborough Hill, became my mentor and I hope made me into the teacher I aspired to be. We stayed in touch and became friends. When she heard that we were naming the Sports Hall after her, she was very amused, as sport was the least of her abilities. But for me, it was a small "thank-you" gesture.

To Rosemary, her students were always important, and Sister Cara tells us that it was a great pleasure for her to look back at the "Memories Book" filled with kind messages from the 125th Old Girls' Reunion. And I'm sure she would have been deeply

moved by the tributes paid to her on Facebook after she passed away in July 2017.

To quote them all would be impossible, but here are a couple:

"She had an independence of mind and a fearless pursuit of what she saw to be right, that made her influence and guidance unforgettable."

"To us all, she was Farnborough Hill and everything it stood for: integrity; compassion; loyalty; friendship; and the strength to do the right thing."

Once Mother Alexander left the Hill and moved to Dublin she spent the rest of her life in further dedication to Our Lord. When I attended her funeral, I was moved by what I heard about this part of her life. The Community in Dublin has been by her side, helping her through her last few months. There is no doubt that she suffered a huge amount of pain and discomfort (she suffered with Multiple Sclerosis) but right to the end, she took her strength from her love of The Lord and His love for her. **Ann Berry (Tristram) 1966**

On the first day back of the Christmas term 1946 and just starting LVI, we were sorting out our desks when Mother Horan walked in with a new girl. It was unusual to start in the LVI and Rosemary was also unusual to look at with dark black hair, a rosy complexion and deep dark eyes: a look she always kept.

We all knew each other well as we had been in the Vth form together - so Anne Bennett and I befriended Rosemary and remained a threesome until the end of term when I left school to take up an art career. We had a good time together until our paths branched off to university. Rosemary was voted Head Girl at Farnborough Hill (again unusual having only been in school one year), Headmistress later and so much more.

Anne married an Italian and lives in Tuscany to this day. She visited me recently in Fleet where I now live. I was so sad to hear about Rosemary passing away as I was so looking forward to seeing her again. **Muriel Gallagher (Winckley) 1945**



# Tribute to Sister May Shannon R.I.P.



Sister May, my sister, died on Tuesday 18 December 2017. Our nephew P.J. and I were with her as she died very peacefully. We come from the west coast of County Clare and she loved going back to visit family. Her love for her homeland was never too far from her thoughts.

She entered the Novitiate of the Religious of Christian Education at Farnborough Hill on 21 November 1953. She held many positions of responsibility in Ireland and England and was appointed Provincial Superior of the Anglo-Irish Province of the R.C.E. in 1975. When she finished her term of office she returned to Farnborough Hill to join the Community there.

As Farnborough Hill became an Independent Trust in 1994 she retired to Lafosse House. Just before Lafosse House closed she returned to Dublin, first to Bushy Park House Community, and later to Marlay Nursing Home,

where she died. Her funeral was held in the Church of St. Pius X in Templeogue.

The participation of the great nieces and nephews made it very special. Community, family and friends attended the Requiem. Those who were unable to attend were able to follow the ceremony in their homes on the St. Pius X website.

**Sr Josephine Shannon**

## Old Girls' Scholar

Hi! My name is Tegan Williams, and I am studying Government and Politics, History and English Literature at A Level, with the hope of studying English Literature at University and following a career in media, such as Journalism or something in television.

I have loved my time so far at Farnborough Hill. This year has definitely been a step up academically but the school community and the opportunities on offer have made sixth form life extremely enjoyable. I have been lucky enough to take part in the English Speaking Union's public speaking competition this year, as well as the Young Enterprise scheme, and I will be taking part in the school expedition to Borneo this summer. I am delighted to have been chosen to support the Head Girl next year on the Junior Leadership Team.

The school community, as you all know, is at the heart of Farnborough Hill, and so it has been lovely this year to get to know new people from each aspect of school life. The Sisters kindly invited myself and friends, Ciara and Izzie, to tea and the afternoon filled with conversation about the ever-changing education system mixed with the Sisters' fond memories from over the years made for an extremely enjoyable visit.

I have really enjoyed attending the last two Old Girls' Reunions as they offered a touching reminder of the wider Farnborough Hill community, seeing Old Girls and teachers alike remembering their time at school so fondly. I particularly enjoyed hearing stories from boarders and learning of the mischief achieved by some of you during your time here.

I am honoured to be your scholar. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to meeting more of you at the next reunion in September!



# Report from the Head



This year has been of great significance. November 2017 was the bicentenary of the foundation of the Institute of Christian Education. From rather humble and modest beginnings grew the organisation that has been pivotal in the lives of all Farnborough Hill girls and staff members.

The inspiration of Abbé Louis Lafosse to establish a religious order that was to devote itself to the education of girls was simply revolutionary in post-revolutionary France. I am struck by the bravery of the four first Sisters, who took such a risk pledging themselves to this untried and incredibly poorly resourced new Community. I wonder at their faith and confidence and that too of their families who would have had to come to terms with the decisions their daughters, sisters and cousins

were taking. This in no way is a criticism of the religious life; rather I am marvelling at the choice the girls made to join Lafosse instead of one of the established, financed and well-regarded Orders already in existence. However, the clue to the mystery is that it was exactly because of the charisma that the RCE offered that the young women - Victoire Buisson, Rose Gibory and Marie-Louise Mahloire led by Mother Marie-Anne Dutertre - were

drawn to this life of service. I think it pertinent to mention also that unlike other Orders, the Sisters were required to pledge only to the vows of chastity and obedience. They were so poor that there was no need to promise to ensure poverty.

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated here at Farnborough Hill wholeheartedly. We were delighted to welcome Srs Elizabeth McCormack, Veronica Rennie, Monica Mannion, Josephine Shannon, Patricia Wright, Mary

Dawson, Cara Nagle and Rosemary O' Looney, the Provincial, to join us for our Community Feast Day celebrations. A particular highlight was a specially written play in 12 parts. Written and directed by Lori Winch-Johnson, "Lafosse – the play" was a glorious, funny and poignant potted history of the Order. The plot included its foundation, actions taken as a result of the laicization of France, the relationship with Empress Eugenie and the spread of the Order, all beautifully told through drama. Related too were the hilarious comedy moments of boarders scaring themselves witless with dares and pranks, and the excitement of







nuns on trunk calls across the continents.

The celebrations culminated in a visit to Échauffour, Normandy for the Sisters and representatives of the schools they founded; it was truly wonderful. For me, it has crystallised what is special about Farnborough Hill, and the enduring legacy of Lafosse and the Sisters. So, while in many ways time has moved on, and modernity has brought us many advantages, certain ideas espoused by the Order, and the School, are utterly central and largely unchanged.

All through our work we are focused on the development of personality through opportunities, risk-taking, leadership and experiences. We want each person to be the very best version of themselves. Today evidence of this aim and indeed achievement is abundantly clear throughout this publication as we see and hear of the superb interests and impacts of our Old Girls throughout the generations. The same is true of our current crop of pupils, already showing dedication, enthusiasm and verve for life. This can be illustrated by any number of events

and achieve-

ments this year. The range of expeditions and trips from pupils taking part in the D of E programme to the extra-curricular trips to China, Berlin, Rome, Greece and Austria are further evidence of the adventurous attitude inculcated.

Service can be witnessed by the volume of volunteering activities pupils sign up to; one particularly close to our hearts has been the Year 10 initiative of regularly visiting the St Augustine's Care Home in Addlestone, while other service is shown through

our girls' work with primary schools, such as St Bernadette's, where Sixth Formers teach Latin and run music sessions or, indeed, our Drama students entertaining residents at other local residential homes.

Leadership opportunities run through so much of our work at Farnborough Hill. We have sought to develop responsibilities for the Sixth Form and given pupils a greater voice in decision-making. This has been most apparent through the introduction of a Junior Leadership Team, a group of Sixth Formers chosen to support the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl and to work closely with the staff. School Council has increased its





remit and visibility and we look to encourage pupils to run clubs for their peers. In terms of risk-taking, I refer to engagement in activities that promote resilience and personal growth. There are no guarantees in life; only through participation will we ever develop. Hence I am delighted so many pupils throw themselves into the extra-curricular life of the School. This in itself is positive, and then when we become national ESU Public Speaking Champions, as achieved in the senior competition in 2017, it is a sheer joy. Other examples of our girls developing

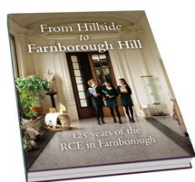
character include a number of Year 11 pupils taking part in the National Citizenship Service and a number of Sixth Formers qualifying as CAFOD Leaders.

Academically we remain consistently excellent with pupils so often maximising or out - spanning predicted potential. This last year's results were entirely in keeping with our high standards. At GCSE 66% of the results were A\* or A and 98% A\* - C. At A level there was a 100% pass rate with 47% A\* -A and 90% A\*-C.

Education is not simply about academic pursuits; it is one side of a multi-faceted creation. Closer to all our hearts is the desire to develop confident, compassionate, resilient young women who leave us as agents of change.

I hold dear to these goals and I trust they will chime with the memories Old Girls have of the School.

**Alex Neil**



### **'From Hillside to Farnborough Hill'**

*There are still a few of these beautiful, 125th Anniversary books left at only **£30***

*To purchase your copy please email: [secretary@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farnborough-hill.org.uk)*

## **FHOGA 100 CLUB**

**Join our FHOGA 100 CLUB for a chance to win fabulous monthly cash prizes and help finance the Old Girls' Scholarship for only £5 per month! Please contact [fhoga100club@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:fhoga100club@farnborough-hill.org.uk) for details.**

# FHOGA September Reunion 2017

On behalf of the Community, I would like to thank all those who were responsible for the excellent organisation of the Old Girls' Reunion. We were very appreciative of the hard work that lay behind a most enjoyable Reunion. It is difficult to find words to express how touched we were by it all and, indeed, humbled....

It was a great joy to meet so many of you after so many years. It not only brought back happy memories but it also revealed that the young girls we knew had grown into wonderful women who were living in all corners of the world and contributing in a variety of ways to it. It was wonderful to see how much you all enjoyed being together and that the strong friendships made in school were still alive.

The Prayer Service was memorable. It was very encouraging to hear Old Girls representing recent decades share memories of their time at Farnborough Hill. And the choir was superb. Farnborough Hill formed a significant part in our 200 years' mission as a Congregation. As Sisters who played a small part in its history we were full of gratitude for all those Sisters who went before us and for all the colleagues who had worked with us since the foundation of Farnborough Hill.

And how can we not mention the excellent food? Sister Wright, an Old Girl herself, felt privileged to be one of the Sisters who cut the beautiful cake made especially to celebrate our bicentenary year. The souvenir prayer card was a reminder that Old Girls are always in our prayers and I am told not a single card remained at the end of the Reunion.

What I have written barely does justice to our Reunion. The experience was truly very moving. It was an inspiring and uplifting day and we felt we were embraced by the love and affection of the Old Girls. So, with hearts full of gratitude, we assure you of our love and continued prayers for you and your families.

***Sister Mary Dawson (Headmistress in 70/80s)***

I was thrilled to be able to attend the 200th Year Old Girls' Reunion. Despite regular trips home from Australia, I have missed previous reunions, so I was delighted when my last visit coincided with such a momentous occasion.

Being there with my mother, Yvonne Cullen, drama teacher at the school for 30 years, sister Emma Sharp 1989 and her daughter, Lucy, currently in Year 11, it felt very special. As we drove up the driveway happy memories came flooding back. Very little had changed it seemed. I was amazed, however, by the progress and transformation the school has undergone since I left. Farnborough Hill has managed to protect its beautiful buildings and heritage whilst moving with the times and providing a modern education.

My niece, Lucy, showed me the amazing art buildings and so many changes that have been made over the years. I loved walking around the old classrooms - the old Year 11 courtyard and Sixth Form flats - and was so happy to be able to share this experience with my family and special old class mates, Sarah Hamer (Llewelyn), Claire Charlesworth (Bellamy), Fiona Byrne (Stonehouse) and Anna Payne (Bowyer).

Thank you for a wonderful day and especially to Gill Chapman for her flawless coordination.

***Anne-Marie Giannikos (Cullen) 1991***





## Head of Careers - Kim Cappleman

I joined Farnborough Hill as a Maths teacher in 2014 and took on the Careers role in September 2017 with about 4 hours a week allocated to perform this significant role.

I have organised two big events this year. The Interview Evening occurs annually in November and every Upper Sixth girl has a practice interview. These are formal mock University interviews with two people unknown to them. The Careers Evening takes place every two years and this year we changed the format. Following a guest speaker, 38 professionals ran "stalls" and talked to pupils and their parents about their own jobs/careers. We had a really good mix of careers represented and the evening was a big success with over 150 families attending. The stall-holders were mostly relatives of staff and many of you, Old Girls.

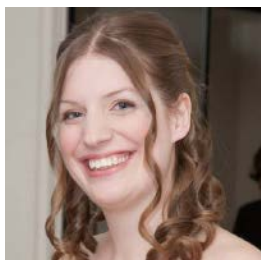
I spend a lot of time seeing girls individually, particularly older students talking through their options. The biggest concern appears to be not knowing what they want to do career-wise, which I always say is completely normal. The students who want to be doctors, vets and lawyers are the lucky ones, as they do know; they are in the minority. Another exciting part of my job is being involved with local projects and currently there is a real drive to encourage women into STEM subjects, so I have been involved with activities with 3M, GE Oil and Gas in Farnborough and also Fluor Engineering.



## What can you do to help and how can you be involved?

Well, some of you have helped with the Interview Evening and others with the Careers Evening, so I already have a lovely band of helpers. Thank you! You do need to be quite local to do these as the events start at around 6.30pm. I do not need many more volunteers, but if you are local and interview regularly or have a role that is unusual, I would love to hear from you. We encourage all of our Year 11 girls to do a work experience after their GCSEs and they seek their own placements. This often proves difficult and I am regularly asked if I have any contacts in certain fields. Recently I've been asked about placements in Politics, the Foreign Office and Graphic Design. Also LVI girls have often exhausted their own contacts for further work experience. If any of you might be able to offer any work experience opportunities then that would be very useful. The students are usually prepared to travel for such opportunities, so this need not be very local. I also get speakers in to talk about their professions. These are during lunchtime, from 1.15pm for about 30 minutes. If anyone could assist here, especially with a more unusual job role, you would be most welcome. The last option might be to mentor a student electronically. I would be very happy to link sixth form

## Careers Evening - Gemma Wolfe (Stacey) 2003



I was asked to attend the Careers Evening in March, which involved running a stall about my profession and answering questions from girls in years 9 - 13 who were potentially interested in pursuing the same career. It would be my second return visit to Farnborough Hill since I left in 2003. I thought back to when I was a pupil and considering potential careers. No one else in my year group went on to study Speech and Language Therapy and at the time it was a little known career. I was nervous; would anyone be interested in talking to me about Speech and Language Therapy? Would they have even heard of it? Arriving at school, I ob-



*Isabella Fowler 2013 - Police Officer*



*Emma Green 2008 - Veterinary Surgeon*



*Caroline Maccherini (Everard) 2006 - Educational Tutoring Industry*



*Adele Devine (Cullen) 1997 - Special Needs Teacher and Author*

served that in some ways it has changed but in most ways it is the same as it always was. Inevitably this led to me remembering many fun times I spent here. I was happy to be back and keen to share what I'd learnt professionally since I left. As it turned out, I needn't have worried about no one wanting to talk to me! For the whole evening, girls were coming to my table full of enthusiasm and intelligent questions. I was impressed with how focused they were at such a young age and some of them already so sure of where they are heading in life. It was interesting to connect with a younger generation, to learn about the subjects they are studying and their thoughts about their future careers. I enjoyed being the voice of my career and if a chat with me has led to just one girl seriously considering a career as a Speech and Language Therapist, then I'd say that's a job well done!

## **A Few Career Paths**

### **Claire Scargill (Nicholson) 1967 - Statistician to Priest**

When I left Farnborough Hill I studied Statistics at London University. This led, eventually, to working for Marks and Spencer at their head office in Baker Street and becoming their first Statistician.

I married in the '80s and stopped work before my second son was born. I then became a full-time mother although I added being a JP into the mix!

In the early '90s, just when the Church of England first accepted women priests, I felt a strong sense of calling to the priesthood. At the time I worshipped with my family in a church that didn't accept the ordination of women so I pushed the feeling of calling aside



as I thought it was theologically impossible.

In 1997, we moved from West London to North East Essex but still worshipped in an Anglo-Catholic church where women's ordination was out of the question. Eventually, our priest moved on and a liberal Catholic, who had no problem with women priests, succeeded him. By this time, I had completed a Masters degree in Pastoral Theology at Heythrop College. There I found myself surrounded by learned theologians who were champing at the bit for change in the Roman Catholic



Church and I realised that what was important in the Incarnation was not that Jesus was *a man* but that he was *human*.

I started the discernment process but had to change churches as my old parishes still bore the scars from the issue of women's ordination, and some people found it hard to support me on my journey.

I was eventually ordained in 2014 in Chelmsford Cathedral, and I now work as an Associate Priest in the parish where I live. I am also a Spiritual Director, part of the Chaplaincy team at my local hospice, work as a chaplain to a Squadron of the Air Training Corps, and have just taken on a role as the Bishop's advisor for Self Supporting Ministers.

And in all this, ironically I have to thank Mother Alexander who, when I approached her as a troubled teenager with a request to convert to Roman Catholicism, suggested that I review that decision after I had left Farnborough Hill. It took me a while to work out where I belonged but in the end I felt my place was to remain in

the Church of England. Ordination could not have happened if I had made a different decision so long ago.

## Elizabeth Sarbutts (Nicholls) 1978 - Dyslexia to Judge Nicholls

After a 5.30 start to my morning, I arrive at my desk and wonder if the Ministry of Justice's IT will survive. The "wheel of doom" spins on my screen as my computer valiantly struggles to connect with the outside world. A flurry of emails means success. The working day has begun.

Today's cases are Pleas, Sentences and the start of a 7 week trial. The pleas include a Cannabis "farm", downloading indecent images, street violence and the businessman who established a website with photos and slanderous comments about a former business partner. *Note to self: when passing sentence, avoid reference to unsavoury web address, or risk finding myself on the front page of Daily Mail.* On the whole, I thought I managed the sentencing exercise fairly well, by simply referring to the "forceful manner" in which the defendant had expressed himself.

And so to the trial. I always pity a potential jury. They arrive full of enthusiasm, but a week on the hard seats, coupled with the vagaries of the court IT equipment, and they



soon appreciate that real court bears little resemblance to Judge John Deed or in fact any television drama.

However, this trial offers them something; a conspiracy to supply cocaine with significant international connections mean that we appear to have entered into an episode of “The Night Manager”, sadly without Tom Hiddlestone. Which is probably just as well. One defence counsel’s behaviour is as erratic as it is demanding. He makes numerous legal submissions, introduces inadmissible evidence, or asks questions of such Delphic proportions that translations are required. There is no time to daydream.



That evening sees me attend the Association of Woman Lawyers’ dinner, a vital organisation in the world of Law. I am to introduce our speaker and guest, Baroness Brenda Hale, who is President of the Supreme Court and the first woman to hold the post.

*Note to my younger self: how did I ever get here?* Thank you, Farnborough Hill, for my education. Thank you, Sister Dawson and my English teacher, Bernadette McClean, for recognising in that timorous dyslexic girl some potential and allowing me to develop an inner confidence, a confidence that is essential, whatever profession you follow.

*Note to younger self (and all others): when opportunities present themselves, don’t just be grateful; seize them and remember that you are entitled to them.*

I wouldn’t have wished for any other career.

Brief CV. Degree in Politics and Modern History at Manchester University followed by a Law conversion then Bar finals at the Inns of Court School of Law. I was called to the Bar in 1984 with Pupillage and Tenancy at what is now Lincoln House Chambers Manchester, one of the main criminal sets in Manchester, then appointed Crown Court Judge in 2015 where I hear all jury trials, but I cannot hear murder or terrorist trials as they are reserved for High Court judges.

## Elizabeth Wilkinson (Cullis) 1979 - Accountant to VSO

I left university with no idea of what I wanted to do so training as an accountant seemed a good way of putting off a decision for a few more years. Painfully aware of accountancy’s “image problem”, I justified it to myself and friends by saying that it was just a means to an end. After all, even VSO needed accountants.

I trained in the City in the late 1980s, the era of Yuppies and bankers in red braces. I was surrounded by people who, I think, really did believe that “Greed is Good” and, paradoxically, “Lunch is for Wimps”. I soon realised that it wasn’t for me, but I stuck it out for 4 years before bailing out to the distinctly less glamorous Public Sector Unit of my firm, specialising in the NHS and charities.

It was the best move I have ever made. It set me on the road to a varied and fulfilling career in the voluntary and public sector. I have been able to support organisations that make a real difference to people’s lives such as BBC Children in Need, Comic Re-



*Elizabeth counting Comic Relief money in 1994*



lief and London Ambulance Service. I am particularly interested in Environmental issues and have worked for two charities: Groundwork, who focus on regeneration of urban green spaces and South West England Environmental Trust, which gave grants to community projects from the Landfill Tax Fund. In my current job, I work with doctors and academics to apply for and administer the funds for

health research. It hasn't always been easy. Charity finances are notoriously precarious and I have had sleepless nights wondering how we would pay the staff next month or having to tell people their service would have to close due to lack of money.

I have worked with some amazing people who have devoted their lives to charitable causes. My favourite was a lady who had been a volunteer for The Woodcraft Folk over 83 years. It inspired me to volunteer too; volunteer treasurers are in high demand but I've also manned telephone helplines and appeared as a fairy in the Brownies' pantomime.

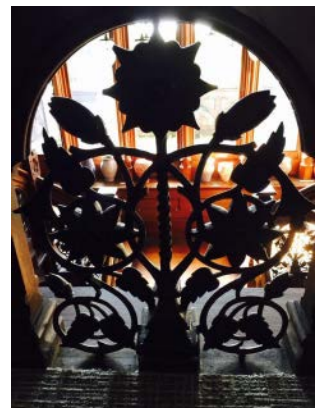
So, what about VSO? Well, eventually, I did that too.

In the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall, VSO set up a programme in Eastern Europe and in 1999, I travelled to Romania to work for a year for Mare Nostrum, an environmental organisation on the Black Sea. At my first meeting with my boss, I explained that I could help set up a finance system for their newly established environmental education centre. He said: "Liz, that will not be necessary. There is no money. I asked for a fundraiser to help us raise some."

VSO are keen to emphasise that the role of volunteers is to transfer skills to local staff. This was going to be difficult as I had no fundraising skills and couldn't speak Romanian. So, I decided that the only thing to do was for me and my Romanian colleagues to learn about fundraising together. Somehow, with the help of a VSO booklet, and quite a lot of luck, we muddled through. It was immense fun. I made some lifelong friends and saw some beautiful places and best of all, a week before I left, we reached our target.

I spent a lot of time pondering whether I had done the right thing – money is important but successful charities are made up of many ingredients such as people, ideas, commitment. Trying to make this work in the UK is hard but it is doubly hard in a country emerging from years of oppression, where people are struggling to make ends meet and the bureaucratic hurdles are immense. 20 years on, when I see regular updates on Facebook from my Romanian friends about their latest environmental initiative, they appear to still be going strong and I hope that I played some part in their continuing success.

How is all this relevant to Farnborough Hill? I was a day girl at the school in the '70s. I wasn't a Catholic or even particularly religious. But the ethos and values of the school rubbed off on me. I saw that being part of a close community and helping others can bring a real sense of achievement and belonging. This has stayed with me throughout my working life.





## Kate McCombe (Hatton) 1995 - A Journey Through Medicine

I started at Farnborough Hill in 1988, already sure that I wanted to be a doctor. This decision had little foundation in reality, and more to do with compulsive viewing of 'Casualty' every Saturday night.

The traditional route into medicine was via GCSE Sciences and Latin and so I dutifully chose these subjects. I stayed into the Sixth Form, taking three Sciences and Mathematics but it soon became clear that this scope of study was too narrow and, if I'm honest, despite Mrs Nelson's inspired instruction, the Maths was just too hard. Having debunked the myth that three Science A-levels were mandatory, I dropped Maths and Physics and took English Literature instead. Classes with Miss Nethercott and Mrs Russell were a breath of fresh air and the high point of my timetable.

On leaving school, I studied at St George's Hospital Medical School. The course was hard work – it turns out there's a lot that can go wrong with your body – but my abiding memory is of five, fantastically fun years, when we worked hard but played even harder. In summer 2000, I graduated MBBS.

I began work as a house officer at Frimley Park in the 'bad-old-days' when we worked 100+ hours per week. On-calls started on Friday morning and finished on Monday evening, giving us just enough time to stagger exhausted to the pub for a few hours only to return to work the following morning. The hospital was all - consuming: we worked, ate, socialised, lived and slept there and life was dictated by its rhythms. Despite the bad press given to this way of working, it was a very happy time! I learned my trade quickly and there was an amazing camaraderie born of 'all being in it together'.

I was keen to pursue Psychiatry and knew a foundation in 'general medicine' would open doors to the widest choice of psychiatric training rotations. So, after house jobs, I completed a 2.5 year medical rotation which culminated in my becoming a Member of the Royal College of Physicians.

I then secured a psychiatry rotation at the Maudsley Hospital, London. To my utter dismay, I hated it. I felt helpless in the face of such human suffering and the patients' stories haunted me. I wasn't cut out for the job and handed in my notice after a few months. Serendipity saw me get a job on the Intensive Care Unit back at Frimley. The ICU is run by anaesthetists and as I worked with them I became increasingly interested in a speciality I'd never considered before.

Despite its relatively low public profile, anaesthesia is the biggest specialty in the NHS and anaesthetists are involved in the care of over 60% of patients admitted to hospital.

They are responsible for the safe running of the operating theatre and the patient's global well-being during their operation. We are also on the cardiac arrest and trauma teams; we provide critical care outreach, supporting other specialities to look after their sickest patients in A&E and on the general wards; we run pain services and, in short, we find our way into most corners of the hospital.

It takes seven years' training to become a consultant in anaesthetics and not content with the horrors of sitting professional exams well into my 30s, I also completed a Masters in Medical Ethics and Law. This has proved one of the most interesting paths I've ever set upon and, as I have apparently become an 'expert' in this niche area, it has led to some



exciting invitations to speak internationally about ethico-legal issues in medicine and latterly, to my appointment as Assistant Professor.

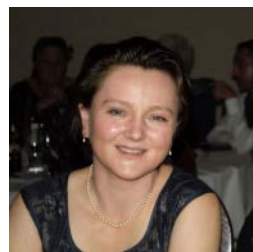
Being an anaesthetist is an incredibly satisfying job; it can be terrifying when you are confronted with the sickest of patients in the most extreme of situations, but it's a role where you really do, in the most concrete of terms, make a difference.

I completed my training in 2012 and threw myself into consultant life until my step-daughter graduated and moved out. Suddenly, my husband and I had a window of opportunity to do something different. Wanderlust kicked in and, after a lot of soul searching (leaving the NHS feels like an act of betrayal akin to ex-communicating yourself from a religious order), we decided to use our skills as a passport to the rest of the world. Consequently, we accepted jobs in Dubai and began work here in 2016. Life in the UAE is *totally* different: sometimes challenging, but always exciting and I do not regret the decision.

Medicine is a career that demands much but in return offers incredible rewards and opportunity. To this day, I find it an amazing privilege to be trusted, quite literally, with the lives of my patients.

## **Kate Mieczkowska (Harding) 1994 - Combining Art and Sport**

I am 42 this year and am extremely appreciative of my time at Farnborough Hill. It provided me with stability throughout a very turbulent adolescence. My family situation was not the best. Through my Art and Sports education whilst there, I gained confidence and a sense of belonging. It is in these fields that I have continued to make a career as an adult. Right now, I am proud to say I have been accepted to study for my Masters degree at Chelsea School of Art on one of the most competitive courses in the world. Mrs Byrne (who will always be Miss Pocock to me) has a daughter currently studying her BA at the same institution. I am looking forward to meeting up with her soon. I am making a living and a growing reputation in figurative



painting and sculpture. In the final year of my BA at Winchester School of Art I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to show at Winchester Cathedral with works about Christian spirituality. I thought much about the Sisters whilst I was making these pieces. The works were much admired and featured in the national press and local TV. The Sisters continue to provide a benchmark, which I fear I may never be able to reach in terms of devotion to community and beauty of spirit. They inspire me daily. In 2016 I won a major national award for a painting (featured in last year's newsletter) exploring social issues in Britain today, speaking out against exploitation and racism. I am continuing my research into contemporary British culture during my MA. Being an artist is challenging and un-

predictable, but I am lucky to be able to supplement my income by training horses, particularly to play polo. My training with Mrs Berry and Miss Beill in team and ball sports enabled me to understand the dynamics of this fast-moving game. I originally left Farnborough Hill to follow my dream of working with horses, returning to my creative studies as a mature student. My path has certainly not been straightforward but my grounding at Farnborough Hill has enabled me to make the most of my skills and deliver in challenging environments.



## Stephanie Power 1996 - Making PR a Force to the Good

After reading History & Politics at Swansea University, I felt destined to be a TV Presenter or journalist so I did a short diploma in Journalism. As with most things in my life, I felt it wise to have a plan B and that was a career in Public Relations. My interest in PR was first piqued in 1993 when I attended a talk at the Farnborough Hill careers evening. So, amidst the magazine applications and TV auditions, I resolved to apply for PR jobs too and as fate would have it I landed my first PR role as a Junior Account Executive at a fashion agency owned by TV's Mary Portas. My career in PR had begun.

My first few years in PR were then spent at fashion and beauty agencies where I worked on a plethora of household names including *Wella*, *Puma* and *Clarks*. After 6 years working for agencies, I wanted to gain in-house experience and set my ambition on Estée Lauder Companies. In 2008, I successfully became the Assistant Communications Manager promoting its iconic and innovative products, as well as the Estée Lauder Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. Throughout my career I have always been motivated by giving something back, and the Estée Lauder Company has an impressive social responsibility pillar on each brand, and also empowers and incentivises its employees by supporting their own volunteering efforts.

In 2011, a vacancy became available on my dream brand – M·A·C Cosmetics – and I became Communications Manager then Communications & Fashion Relations Director. I head up the department and my team handles all media from TV and magazines to working with the leading social media influencers, as well as planning high profile events and working with our talented make-up artists. I've also been lucky enough to work with a host of celebrities through my time on the brand from Rihanna to Mariah Carey and Ariana Grande.

One of the favourite parts of my job, amidst the glamour, is the philanthropic nature of the brand. As part of my role I work closely with the M·A·C AIDS Fund, which since its inception in 1994 has raised over \$470 million to help people and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS globally.

Through my work with the fund, I was introduced to one of our grantees – *mothers2mothers* – which believes in the power of mothers to end paediatric AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. We train, employ, and empower local mothers, called Mentor Mothers, living with HIV, as frontline healthcare workers in understaffed health centres and within communities. In 2016 I accepted the challenge to join their *Cycle to Zero* initiative to ride over 200km

across Malawi to raise awareness and funds for the charity. It was the most inspiring experience of my life. Last year, I was honoured to join the Board of Trustees of *mothers2mothers*, a role which I take very seriously as it is a hugely rewarding experience, allowing me to utilize my talents for good and work with truly inspirational and dynamic people. I owe much to Mrs McIntyre, my Geography teacher and First Year form tutor, who gave me the appetite to see the world, which I have been fortunate enough to do through my job.





My job comes with its challenges and no two days are the same, but I often have to pinch myself about the abundance of memorable moments and experiences that my career has given me and the numerous far flung destinations I have had the opportunity to visit. Who would have thought that my destiny was sealed, following that auspicious careers talk!

## Service to the Community: 'Feed the Hungry' Programme

Dr Milly Bright started a charity 12 years ago to support a school founded initially for war - orphaned children based in a very deprived area in Sierra Leone (her country of origin). The children were looked after by members of their community (themselves very poor).



The charity was adopted by the whole of Farnborough Hill. During the first year, several huge boxes containing clothing, books, stationery, toys etc. donated by staff and students were sent to Sierra Leone.

Becket House also adopted the charity as their House Charity and support has been on-going since the first year. Various projects including replacing the roof of the school building have been undertaken.

About 9 years ago, Dr Bright felt led to 'Feed the Hungry' i.e. provide a hot meal for the children (about 100 of them plus their teachers), free of charge every school day. The desire was persistent enough for her to take a step of faith and act on it, albeit with trepidation. She knew that once started, the programme would need to be sustained financially through the years.

Thanks to the generosity of Farnborough Hill staff, Becket House, the rest of the school community and her church, meals are still being provided today. The feedback is that attendance is high as the children go to school both because they are assured of a meal and because they are healthier.

The sale of this year's Farnborough Hill's 'Apple Heaven' using apples from the school's own orchards has once again raised £1,000 for this worthy project.

## Lourdes - Holly O'Brien 2017



For the past 42 years (at least!), girls from Farnborough Hill have had the opportunity to travel to Lourdes as part of Group 201. Originally it was girls from Howard House but now any girl in the LVI can go. I first went in 2016 (LVI) and, due to my love for Lourdes and HCPT, I was able to travel again in 2017 (UVI). Now I have relocated to NW England, I am fortunate enough to be part of group that is travelling for the first time in 2018.

Before you go to Lourdes, there is a selection process followed by training, where helpers learn essential skills to look after the children and you have at least two visits to see the children that you will be looking after with one other helper. In my first two years, I looked after children with different needs, which has widened my experience and will come in useful when I go again. The benefits of going to Lourdes are endless for all concerned. Parents get to see their children have a wonderful week away, during which they grow



and they come home very happy! The children absolutely love going and it is wonderful to see their faces as the plane lands and how excited they are to start the week's activities. These can vary from Mass, going for an ice cream or even a day trip to the country. It can be a tiring and challenging week for the helpers, but seeing the way the children react and their excitement is reward enough. When I saw the happiness of a child with Down's Syndrome it had a great impact on me, as it made me realise that

these children are no different from any other. Just like a lot of children of her age, she loved going out, watching Disney and dressing up. I just can't wait to go again!

## Parkside in Aldershot

Farnborough Hill has had a long-standing relationship with Parkside in Aldershot. For over 10 years large numbers of Year 11 girls have volunteered to help with the Summer Playscheme there and have often returned to do paid work for many years afterwards.



## Quote from Hannah Buckle 2014 (a current staff member):

I believe working as a support worker for people with learning disabilities is one of the most rewarding jobs. When I volunteered on the Summer Playscheme in Year 11, it was so lovely seeing the children and young adults be able to participate in a lot of the activities that you and I take for granted, which, due to their disabilities, they are unable to do on a regular basis. Think of an activity you might do, such as going to the beach and how much fun you have. Times that by about 10 to give you an idea of their excitement. Working at Parkside and being able to watch and experience this joy and excitement is unbelievably rewarding. If you volunteered for just a day or two you would have such a huge impact on the children's lives, as they treasure these memories for a very long time. There can be difficult times, of course, but you would never be expected to deal with these on your own as a volunteer. You would work as part of a staff team and also make such good friends and meet new people. You would be there to chat and play with the children and they just love you being there for them. You would also be given all the necessary training. Every day is different and there is never a dull moment.

## Old Girls' News and Reunions

**Edwina Logan (Norton) 1980**, wife of the British Defence Attaché in Kathmandu, sent a message via the school to Mary Brister's children to say that a combined British and Nepal Army Expedition to Nuptse Base Camp was planned to re-build the memorial cairn that was erected in memory of the four soldiers (including David Brister) who died on the mountain in May 1975. The original was destroyed in the earthquakes of 2015. It is hoped to hold a service on 28 May 2018, after the re-build. They are taking a military padre with them and also a recording of Farnborough Hill Chapel Choir singing 'Lift Thine Eyes' which will be played on the mountain. It was sung at the service held in the school chapel 42 years ago.



## Dame Helen Ghosh (Kirkby) 1973

has been appointed as Master of Balliol College, Oxford in July 2017. She has now left her role as Director-General of the National Trust.



Trisha Pomeroy, Jane Bazen (Murtha), Clare Hockings (Fensome), Claire Hickes (Lyons), Louise Clayton and Madeline.

**Fiona Davis (Bell) 1983** This photograph was taken at Elaine Pooler's mother's funeral. On the left is Clare Hoyland, then Elaine and Fiona, herself. They were all at Farnborough Hill at the same time. Fiona's own mother also passed away in January of this year; Clare was there but,

sadly, Elaine could not get back from New Zealand. The last time they met was



Fiona's 25th wedding anniversary, in 2015.

## Madeline Longshaw (Lyster) 1985

This photograph was taken on holiday in Corfu in July 2017, celebrating 50th birthdays. In the pool are Laura Salkeld (Short),



**A Happy Band of Retirees** enjoying a boat trip in Windsor. I-r from the back – Fiona Hatton, Laura Craven, Jo Russell, Rae Robbins, Ann Berry, Dianne Woodham, Chris Hall, Carole Cantor and Elissa Nelson wearing woolly hats made by Jo, destined for a homeless charity.

**Louisa Dwyer, (Andersen) 2002** graduated from Durham University in 2005 with a degree in Ancient History and went on to train as a teacher. After ten years of teaching History, Classics and English she stepped outside of the classroom to run her own private tutoring business. This year she has also plucked up the courage to write her first novel, "The Firebird's Trail", newly released on Amazon.

Louisa was inspired to become a teacher by her Classics teachers, Keith Johnson (who is still teaching Greek at Farnborough Hill after "retiring" 14 years ago) and Christine Hall whom she describes as 'absolutely responsible for my entire academic direction from Year 10 to the present day,' but more importantly they gave her a life-long love of ancient epic and literature. She still recalls her first introduction to the 'wanderings' books of the Odyssey at GCSE as sparking an immense fascination with the narrative voice and bardic tradition. These Classical influences run through the novel and will be even more apparent in the second instalment, "Firebird in Flight", due to be released next year. Dr Russell gave her the confidence at school to become a writer.





## We send our warmest congratulations to the following:



**Rachel Andrews (Baker) 1985**, who married David Whorlow on 10 March 2018, six years after being widowed. She is a consultant cardiologist at Great Ormond Street and lives in Cranleigh.



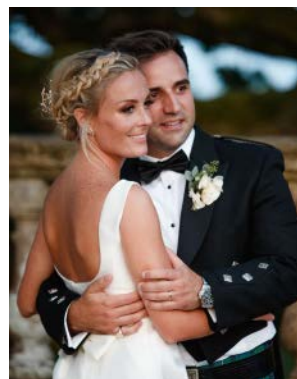
**Alice Rawlinson 2005**, who married Nick Guest on 14 October 2017. Sisters, Ellen and Lizzie were bridesmaids. The couple were lucky enough

to have a 4 - month sabbatical from work and backpacked around Asia. The photo was taken in Hong Kong.

**Caroline Davies 1986**, seen here on highland pony, Iona, when she married Hugh Benham on 8 June 2017. She lives in Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire. and is a partner of Share Plans and Reward for chartered accountants, Crowe Clark Whitehill.



**Ellen Rawlinson 2006**, who married Scott Lowden on 19 August 2017 at Somerley House in Ringwood. She works as an Acquisition and Advertising Manager and lives in Fulham.



**Laura Love (Briggs) 2002**, whose twins, Freddy and Charlie, were born in June 2017. Laura will return to work in August at RBS in London, where she works as a business manager.



**Claudia Gwinnutt 2006**, who married Bruno Meiller on 26 November 2017 in Delaire Graff Wine Estate in South Africa. They are living in London and both work for Barclays Bank. Hannah Crowley was a bridesmaid.





**Cristina Belcher 2006**, who was married to Patrick Denston on 19 August 2017 with guests: Lena Kearney (Hameed), Natalie Barratt (Whittell), Rachel Kneen (Adams), Vicki Grace, Katie Naerger, Hattie Seaton and Alicia Moghtader.



**Vaneesha Short 2006**, who married Adam Monk on 11 November 2017. There were 3 wedding ceremonies, all on the day - English,

then Hindu then a Chinese tea ceremony. She is working as a Clinical Research Director for the Paediatric Neuroimaging research group at the University of Oxford and recently completed a Ph.D. investigating the current role of nutrition practices in perioperative care.



**Lena Hammeed 2006**, who was married on 4 March 2017 to James Kearney. She is living in Kew and now working for a law firm, Mishco de Reya, in Strategy and Innovation.

**Roshni Parikh 2008**, who married Sam Hill on 28 April 2018 with a Hindu ceremony followed by a traditional ceremony.

She is pictured here with Hanni Wolfenden, Hannah Patel, Danielle Pratt and Hannah Lewis (Reid).



**Georgina Fensome 2008**, who married Alex Muhlberg in Lulworth Castle at December 2017. Sisters, Hannah, Beth and Connie were bridesmaids and several crates of Apple Heaven found their way there. Georgina is now working in marketing at Johnson & Johnson and living in Guildford.

**Alexia Hall 2009**, who married Daniel Weston on 10 March. She is pictured here with bridesmaids, Lucy Poet, Ellie Myles Hook, Sophie Fowler-Tutt and Adrienne Hepden.







**Alex Danson 2003**, as both England and GB Women's Hockey Captain in June 2017 and is currently the most capped player in the Senior Women's Teams for both GB and England.

She also launched the

Alex Danson Hockey Academy in June 17 which aims to engage children aged 7-11 with hockey by introducing sessions into 500 primary schools and hosting 100 hockey camps in Everyone Active centres around the country and giving more children the opportunity to get active by offering access to fun, engaging training sessions and expert coaches.



**Charlotte Purdue 2007**, who won the Vitality Big Half London Marathon in March 2018 with a new pb of 70:29 making her the 10th UK all time fastest runner at this distance. She is in good company with Mo Farah winning the men's race. She was also 13th in the IAAF World Championships Marathon in August 2017 and 4th in the Saitama Marathon, Japan in November 2017.

**Ann Berry (Tristram) 1965**, who is devoted to golf along with all the other sports. She will be the ladies captain at Milford Golf Club for 2018. Here she is with the men's captain, Sam.



**Christina Macfarlane 2001**, who has been a sports anchor and correspondent for CNN for about 3 years. Since joining CNN in 2010, Christina has covered numerous major live sports events and sports news stories, including the 2016 Olympics in Rio, the 2012 Olympics in London and Leicester City's momentous Premier League win. She presents a daily live show on CNN International at 12.30 pm on most days. Here she is with Jensen Button.



**Hannah Buckle 2015**, who won the Girls' U21s Slalom Cup in the Artemis British Inter-schools Skiing Challenge in Pia, Italy in March 2018 earning her enough points to go forward to the British Championships but sadly she was injured so could not take part this time.





## Jill Abbott R.I.P.

When I arrived at Farnborough Hill in 1992 Jill Abbott had been in post for years, a fixture and a bit of a legend when I met her. Her legendary status was well deserved. Her official role was as number two in the Music department, partner in crime to Lynette Newman. Chalk and cheese, they nevertheless made a formidable pair. Jill's extracurricular activities were vast, with clubs and groups who flourished under her care.

Most significant and influential was Just a Note.

A sister of a Down's woman, I was at first surprised to see a large group of both adults and young people obviously with learning difficulties coming into school and disappearing into Jill's music room on Friday lunchtimes. I soon learned that this was the sort of outreach that today would attract all sorts of interest and focus from the education establishment, but which Jill had sorted because – well, she was Jill. The group attracted all sorts of students, musical and not, attracted by the warmth and inclusivity of Jill's approach.

Later I took over one of the rooms next to Jill's lair as the English office, and I heard the music making that emanated on a Friday. Joy is the word for it. I had a lodger at the time, a young man from my church who played the guitar, and who worked at the RAE in Farnborough.

"You'll like this, Paul," I said. Bring your sandwiches." He came, and met Jill's daughter Julie, Old Girl of the school. Yes, you guessed it. I think Jill was quite pleased with me for providing a very lovely son-in-law.

Her carol singing forays were wonderfully well attended, and I am reminded how zealously she supported Guide Dogs for the Blind with the contributions the singing raised.

After Jill retired from the Hill she moved away, and she and I rather lost touch. Julie tells me of a happy time in the West Country, with lots of music and friends, until dementia cruelly claimed her.

The announcement of her death on Facebook brought a tide of the warmest wishes and memories from generations of girls. So many girls who were taught piano by her added their memories. Much as they recalled their musical experiences, it is the sense of what a wonderful form tutor she was that shouts out from the posts. 'A lovely gentle lady'; 'so kind and lovely'. I did think I would just reproduce the posts but there are so many I couldn't.

A recording from the Farnborough Hill Chapel Choir LP (1980) of Jill Abbott playing Widor's Toccata on the organ was very fittingly played at her funeral.

Farnborough Hill has attracted plenty of memorable teachers, but I reckon few were as much loved as dear Jill.

*Jo Russell*

## Megan Pound R.I.P.

We had very sad news in December that Megan had passed away (aged 54) after a brief battle with cancer. She had been teaching violin and viola at Farnborough Hill for over 20 years, was a brilliant violinist and much loved by her pupils. She had also been the leader of the Westminster Opera Company orchestra since its inception in 2008, and a well regarded member of the professional mentoring team to the Emerging Artists.



*Just a Note and Friends 1998/9*



## Old Girls' Prayer

Lord, we give you thanks for all of our friends.  
Those that have touched our lives in the past,  
Those that are enriching our lives today  
And those who we have yet to meet but will shape our future.  
We thank you for everything that they are  
And for all their gifts and talents.  
We thank you for the many things that they have given to  
others  
And for all the kindness that they have shown us.  
We give thanks for our special time here at Farnborough Hill  
And give thanks for the Sisters, staff and Old Girls who have  
moulded our school

Into the wonderful community that it is.

May we, the current custodians, nurture this special place with your guidance, Lord.

We send our prayers and love to all Old Girls

And the families of those who have left us.

We pray that each step they take is filled with Your faith,

Each thought they think is filled with Your hope,

And each moment they live is filled with Your love.

This day and every day.

Amen

*Arranged by Anna Payne (Bowyer) 1991*



## We send our deepest sympathies for their loss to the families of:

Anne Bayley (Crowder) 1935

Audrey Baker (Drury) 1939

Sheila Becker (Murray) 1942

Rosemary Rimington 1944

Josephine Lundberg (Maus) 1951

David Hall, husband to Christine

Bob Corless, husband to Margaret and father to Rosie, Maria and Heather

William Brister, husband to Mary RIP and School Governor

Matt Murphy, father to Catherine, Sara and Anne-Marie RIP and School Governor

Michael Brufal, father to Tabitha

Matt Murphy and Michael Brufal were largely responsible for starting up the  
Friends of Farnborough Hill in the mid 1970s.

Bridget Brockdorff (Hale-Monro) 1957

Anne-Lies Van Overbeek 1961

Andrea Kubista (Lamb) 1969

Catherine Walmsley 1971

Sophie Beeton (Bailey) 1988

Eileen O'Sullivan (Burnell)

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's newsletter and to  
Emma Hepburn (Hickman) 1984 for her photographs of the school and Anne-Marie Giannikos  
(Cullen) 1991 for her photograph on the front cover.*



# **FARNBOROUGH HILL OLD GIRLS**

## **HOG ROAST ON THE HILL**

**Saturday 15 September 2018**

**3.30 pm - 8.30 pm**

Starting with tea, cakes and time for a nostalgic wander, followed by a short Thanksgiving Service, a Hog Roast with a vegetarian option, a cash bar and live contemporary jazz on the Cloister Lawn.

Bring your classmates or a partner.

**Tickets are £20 each**  
**(Early Bird tickets are £18 before 15 July)**

**Tickets are limited so you are advised to book early.**

To purchase tickets online using Eventbrite please email [fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk) for the link or visit the school website. Alternatively send a cheque to FHOGA c/o Gill Chapman, Woodlands, Forest Glade, Rowledge, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4DG including details of all those attending.

**Ticket deadline: 31st August**