



# FARNBOROUGH HILL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2015 - 2016



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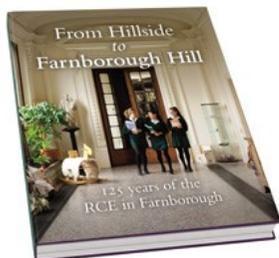
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# President's Report

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Welcome to the Farnborough Hill Old Girls' Association 2016 Newsletter. We've had a busy year, so I hope my report goes some way to summarising what we have been up to!

Our first 'Family Fun Day' in September 2015 was a huge success. We invited you to show off your old school to your loved ones and it was great to see so many of you re-live your school memories with your nearest and dearest. We hope to run this format of event again sometime- so for those of you who missed out, please do not fret!

We also recently held our first 'Last 10 Years' Reunion', hosted to say farewell to our current Headmistress, Sarah Buckle, who is retiring in July after nine very successful years at the helm. We wish her the very best in her retirement! There are tributes to her later.

We are always busy planning future events, such as our September Reunion (see back cover for details), when we will be hosting an Old Girls' Hockey Match and offering fun activities along with a delicious afternoon tea. You are also invited, once again, to bring family members to sing carols informally with our beloved Sisters on 4th December from 4pm. Please get in touch for further details or if you have any suggestions for future events.

Without your contact details we cannot communicate our plans and forthcoming events to you. The FHOGA database continues to grow and now stands at 3,200 including 1,800 email addresses. Email is a great way for us to keep you up to date but if we don't have your email address, please drop us a line: [FHOGA@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:FHOGA@farnborough-hill.org.uk). Alternatively, we have an ever-growing Facebook group, with a current membership of approximately 1150. If you haven't joined already, please do so to hear all the latest news and reconnect with old friends.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Jess Stinton has been awarded this year's FHOGA Old Girls' Scholarship, which is awarded to a girl entering the sixth form, allowing her to continue her studies at the school. Much of our fundraising goes towards this scholarship. We hope to launch a FHOGA 100 Club very soon to support the work of the Scholarship Trust and we hope you will also want to join the club as there are fabulous prizes to be won. Congratulations to Jess and we wish her the best with her forthcoming GCSE examinations.

The FHOGA Committee work hard throughout the year to bring you a variety of events and keep you up to date with news. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for the time and commitment that they give to FHOGA.

We are actively seeking new members, so if you live locally and would like to get involved, please do get in touch. I hope to see you at one of our events at some point in the not too distant future.

*Niamh Hills*

*Picture from Family Fun Day 2015*



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# Community News

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As the Year of Consecrated Life drew to a close, we were so pleased to be able to follow a series of talks in Douai, given by different Religious Orders, traditional and more modern. The Bishop of Portsmouth invited all Priests and Religious Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese to a special Mass in the cathedral followed by lunch. It was most encouraging to meet and speak with young Brothers and Sisters of newly founded Institutes responding to the modern needs in the Church today.

I was delighted to return to my native County Clare to a special celebration in September of all the Priests and Religious who grew up in the local parishes. I met some of my contemporaries whom I had not seen since I left school. We were all presented with a souvenir candle.



‘Embrace the Future with Hope’ was the theme of our June International Assembly in



France. We stayed at the monastery of La Trappe de Soligny, where the monks offered us the best of their hospitality.

We had a most interesting visit to Basildon House, a beautiful National Trust property. It was fascinating to see the rooms which were used in the many episodes of ‘Downton Abbey’.

The Christmas Bazaar went very well this year and Sisters Monica Mannion and Veronica Rennie did very well with their stall.



We were also delighted to come up to the Hill for a special carol singing evening, given by Old Girls and organised by Mrs Gill Chapman in the Grand Salon. It was lovely to welcome Mrs Karen Phillips back, and to hear how she is enjoying her retirement. This was the third year, and it made a lovely introduction to the Christmas season. It has become a tradition! Delicious refreshments were provided for all to enjoy.



The new all-weather hockey pitch was officially opened by Alex Danson, Olympic medalist and Old Girl, and is called the 'Alex Danson Pitch'. Over the winter we enjoyed watching the girls go down to play their matches, and as the evenings got darker it was lovely to watch the game when the pitch was lit up at night.

Pope Francis launched The Holy Year of Mercy in January 2016. There is a twenty-four hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation worldwide. The Church of Our Lady in Fleet hosted it for this locality from 12 noon on the 4th March to 12 noon on the 5th March 2016.

The Association of Senior Religious is holding its Annual Conference in Bournemouth again this year from the 14th to the 17th March. Sisters Philomena McDonnell, Veronica Rennie and Josephine Shannon will be attending. This year's speaker is Fr. Nicholas King S.J. He is a Scripture Scholar.

We are all looking forward to a gathering of the Sisters of the Anglo-Irish Province in Bushy Park on the weekend of the 8th to the 11th April.

We enjoy our contact with friends and Old Girls and if you are in the vicinity of Orchard Rise we would love to see you. You are always welcome!

After submitting the above article for the newsletter, we heard of the death of our much loved Sister Teresa Hawkins at the great age of 96. May she rest in peace! Her funeral was a wonderful celebration of her long and fulfilled life. Apart from family, community and friends, there were past staff and many Old Girls present. We had beautiful tributes paid to her by so many people especially Old Girls, some dating back to the boarding school days. The girls formed a guard of honour along the route to the cemetery, all in beautiful sunshine.

*Sister Josephine Shannon*

## **Tributes to Sister Teresa Hawkins RIP**

Mrs Sarah Buckle, Sister Rosemary O' Looney RCE, and Dom Cuthbert paid heartfelt tributes to Sister Teresa. They talked of her humour; her long service and devotion to the Religious of Christian Education (76 years) and to Farnborough Hill (over 50 years); her kindness and compassion to all who met her; her skills in gardening, needlework and cookery; the joy of sharing a cup of tea and piece of cake with her; her holiness and her humanity. She was a dearly loved and treasured member of the Farnborough Hill community and she will be very much missed.



*Sr Teresa Hawkins with Sr Veronica Rennie enjoying a day on the Thames with the Allnutt sisters in 1965*

## Facebook Tributes from Old Girls

A truly lovely, jolly lady with a wonderful sense of humour, who has clearly left her mark in our hearts.

There was a gentleness to her soul and such warmth and kindness in her heart that touched so many of us through the years and left us richer for knowing her.

I used to enjoy greeting Sister Hawkins and getting a morning cuddle.

Nothing much got past her - hence her nickname of Hawkeye!

A sweeter, kinder, more gentle little lady would be hard to find.

Heaven has a very special angel today!

*Sister Teresa surrounded by Old Girls at Emma*

*Cullen's wedding on 9th August 1997:*

*Back : L-R Sarah Brown (McCombie), Suzanne Graham (Collard), Bryony Tyler (Brampton), Aislinn Shattock (O'Donnell), Anne-Marie Gianikos (Cullen), Emma Sharp (Cullen), Adele Devine (Cullen). Front : Megan Rathbone (Roberts) on Sister's left and Victoria Bolden (Gillespie) to her right.*



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## Old Girls' Scholar

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My name is Katie Ball. I joined Farnborough Hill in 2010 and I am currently studying government and politics, philosophy and ethics, geography and psychology for A level, with the intention of studying either geography or psychology at university.

The jump from Year 11 to the sixth form has been challenging at times, but thoroughly rewarding, as we are able to enjoy the subjects that most interest us. I realise that being able to attend Farnborough Hill is a privilege, and my short time in the sixth form has really opened my eyes to the skills I have gained here and the wonderful opportunities available to me. I truly believe that the school does educate the whole person and prepare girls for the 'real' world.

I attended the Old Girls' Reunion back in September, and it was fascinating to listen to Old Girls' stories and experiences. Some expressed their shock that the beret is no longer a compulsory part of the uniform - a firm favourite (not), and that thick black tights are now allowed for the colder months! I look forward to when I can return as an Old Girl, to see how the school has changed and developed after I have left. Thank you so much for choosing me as the Old Girls' Scholar. I feel truly honoured and look forward to seeing some of you at the next reunion in September.



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# Report from the Headmistress

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It is with a touch of sadness that I am writing my last 'Report from the Headmistress' for the FHOGA Newsletter. It has been a privilege to be the Headmistress of Farnborough Hill for the past nine years and I know I will miss it hugely. However, retirement, with the new activities and avenues that offers, is beckoning and I am delighted that the Governors have appointed Mrs Alexandra Neil as the next Headmistress. She is currently Deputy Head at Rye St Antony, a Catholic girls' school in Oxford, and I am sure she will continue to take the school from strength to strength whilst maintaining its important traditions and ethos. I know everyone will give her a very warm welcome.

As I write this Report, the recent funeral of Sister Teresa Hawkins is fresh in my thoughts. It was a very special occasion when the whole school community, and her family, came together to celebrate the life of a much loved Sister. Her Requiem Mass in the Chapel was beautiful and the Guard of Honour formed by the 180 students in Years 9 and 10 was both respectful and moving (picture on the front cover). The tributes that have been made and the comments posted on Facebook reflect Sister Teresa's dedication and commitment to the many hundreds of girls she cared for during more than 50 years at Farnborough Hill. It is clear that her 96 years were full of love.



Last summer was a busy one for school trips. The 2015 Choir Tour was a very special one as it was Mrs Phillips' last tour before retirement. Over 50 members of the senior choir and staff took to the hills of Tuscany in soaring Italian temperatures to wow their audiences and I was delighted to be able to attend their final concert in Montecatini Alto, with my husband. Meanwhile the Sports Tour enjoyed great success in their hockey and netball fixtures in Sri Lanka, a new and exciting destination for everyone. Mrs Anne Griffiths'

Ski Trip at February was another resounding success as was the Classics Trip to Italy at Easter with 83 students taking part; the largest group anyone can remember! The girls are very lucky to have such exciting trips organised for them and the next one to depart will be the three week sixth form expedition to Southern India in July.

The academic year got off to a terrific start in September when Julie Etchingham (of News at Ten fame) visited us to talk to all the girls about her career in journalism and her work with the Catholic Church raising awareness of, and combatting, human trafficking. She recounted her meeting with the Pope and other world figures and was very inspiring. Sixth formers decided to follow her lead and gave a thought provoking assembly on traf-



ficking before organising fundraising activities that led to over £1,000 being donated to Caritas Bakhita House in Westminster.

The next 'famous' visitor to school was our very own Alex Danson, who officially opened our superb new sports facility, the all-weather floodlit hockey pitch. The girls enjoyed her address as well as watching an entertaining staff versus students hockey match. All our sports teams enjoy a great deal of success each year with many teams being district and regional champions. We also enjoy many individual successes with girls representing both the county, and the country, in athletics, hockey, netball, badminton and synchronised swimming.



And we hope our new hockey pitch will produce the next 'Alex Danson' of course! Pictured with Alex is Mr Jonathan Hull who has been an excellent Chair of Governors for the past three years.

On the academic front, GCSE and A level results last summer were once again outstanding. The headline for A level results was the outstanding 43% of grades at A\*/A. The GCSE girls also did exceptionally well and achieved 56% of results at A\* or A, with an amazing one fifth of the year group gaining A\*/A in all ten subjects.

Another area of academic success has been the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) whereby our A level students undertake independent research into a topic of their choice. Not only do they have to write these up for submission for the examining board but they also have to give a 20-30 minute presentation to a gathered audience thus honing their academic presenting skills; an excellent preparation for university. The topics chosen have covered a wide range from the Romantic Poets to Colour Perception with the girls nearly always gaining the top A\* and A grades. We are delighted that three girls have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge next year to study Natural Sciences, History and Experimental Psychology; we wish them well in their A levels this summer to achieve the A\* and A grades needed.



Extracurricular activities as well as academic study, continue to keep our students very busy. The music department, led by Dr Ian Taylor as Director of Music, continues to delight and entertain us. Singing Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral has definitely been a highlight and we are all looking forward to this year's Choral Concert which features a 'Great British' programme complete with a 'Last Night at the

Proms' second half as a salute to the Queen's 90th Birthday.

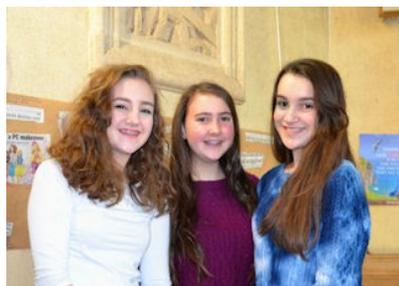
Drama productions are always a highlight and the recent 'Barnum' was a very challenging piece but our talented actors, dancers, singers and musicians made light work of it and enthralled their audiences each evening. Congratulations have to go to the girls who work backstage as well as those on the stage, and to the many staff who supported Mrs Davina Robinson, our Director of Drama, and Dr Taylor, Director of Music, with this ambitious musical.



House activities and Think Tank talks provide a great variety of fun and inspiration for everyone. It is fair to say we eat a great deal of cake at Farnborough Hill and the Biology Bake-off certainly provided us with some 'interesting' looking cakes!

This year we have also been inspired by talks by Alison Berry, Innovations Manager from Mars UK and Vet, Clare Newton amongst others. The senior students have also enjoyed some innovative study skills sessions led by recent graduates from Elevate Education.

Retreat Week this year, run by Camberley Youth for Christ, involved games, creativity and prayer. Particularly imaginative and effective was the way the team transformed the Chapel into a series of prayer spaces using a wide variety of props to help the girls to find a focus for their prayer and quiet time. Each day ended with worship, songs and reflection. This was a great opportunity to a step out of the norm and for the girls to reflect on their lives. We have also enjoyed some lovely whole school and year group liturgies this year. We are very lucky to have Miss Sheila Farmer as our Chaplain as she never runs short of creative and original ideas for us all to engage with.



Each year we have to bid a fond farewell to members of staff who either move on to pastures new or decide the time is right to retire. Alongside Mrs Karen Phillips, whose time at Farnborough Hill spanned 37 years, 2015 saw the retirements of Mrs Carole Cantor (teacher in charge of German) and Mrs Elissa Nelson (Head of Year and Mathematics teacher) after 12 and 27 years respectively. We wish them all well and I look forward to seeing them, and all the students I have so enjoyed getting to know over the past nine years, at future FHOGA events.

With my very best wishes, *Sarah Buckle*

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# Family Fun Day Reunion September 2015

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Taking my family to Farnborough Hill for the reunion was, I have to say, an amazing experience as it turned out to be such an inspiring day. The old school and grounds brought back some wonderful warm feelings. I was a little nervous before we arrived. 'We' included Vicki, my sister, and her girls, my two boys and our dad. I was so happy that the children had the opportunity to see the school 'properly' as we have driven around it with them before but have never been inside. I felt very proud and they were 'wowed' by how beautiful it all was. Being a musical family, we were all impressed and amazed by the new music facilities including the studio and performance space. It is heart-warming to see that a school so steeped in tradition remains true to its philosophy of development, forward-thinking and creativity.

I remember as a child feeling so small in those massive grounds and now I can see them in a somewhat more appreciative way. We really were so lucky and so blessed to have been educated in this environment. Since the reunion, I have linked up with a few 'Old Girls'; people I loved and liked then, and have found that, fundamentally, we are all just the same now as we ever were! We have, however, all taken something very special from Farnborough Hill, and that is a capacity and thirst for knowledge and an understanding of the importance of people and humanity. The school gave us something that we didn't perhaps appreciate at the time; warmth and a broad-minded tolerance, as well as a creative and moralistic drive to do the right thing and to make a positive difference.

When we arrived at school, we were dressed up to the nines. The first thing we noticed was that this was going to be a casual affair (sorry to my two boys who were wearing suits!) and it was lovely to see people on a beautiful sunny day wearing jeans and flip flops and milling around the school in a happy and relaxed way. We were welcomed in by some sixth form students, and quickly realised that this was going to be a day full of fun. We participated in several races in the potted sports run by my cousin, Mrs Berry (Ann to me). It was good to see her still in action! Vicki and my son, Oscar, won the three-legged race; we put up a fair fight in the egg-and-spoon race, and pulled for all we were worth to bring the women's team (men v women) first past the line in the tug-of-war! There were games for little ones too; a bouncy castle and the treasure hunt seemed to be a lot of fun. There was also food, food and more food. I have to say the cakes were amazing!

Going back to school was quite nerve-wracking for me but once I was there, it all seemed so natural. I was very happy to see Sister Josephine and some girls from my year, looking so good and seeming so down to earth and real. My dad even linked up with Sister Paddy (as he calls her) Wright with whom he went to primary school all those wonderful years ago (in the 1930s!).

I am so happy to have revisited the school. I wasn't sure how I would feel but I felt a real sense of connection. During my time at school, I was hardly a model student but I realise that my years at Farnborough Hill instilled in me something very important - a moral grounding that has guided me through life and for that, and the opportunity to have been able to develop into who I am without restraint, I am grateful....

*Alison Beeton-Hilder (Wonderwall) 1979*



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## Last 10 Years Reunion and Farewell to Mrs Buckle

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Many Old Girls from the last 10 years took time out of their busy young lives to attend a reunion during the Easter holidays. There was a great deal of excitement as the girls met fellow classmates and told their teachers about their studies and careers. Head Girls and Deputies spanning Mrs Buckles' nine years as Headmistress shared many fond memories of their school days and thanked Mrs Buckle sincerely for leading the school with such vision, dedication, and care for the girls as individuals.



We were very grateful to Rachel Still (2011) and her rock band, NÖME, for providing such a competent and enjoyable performance and to our scholar, Katie Ball, and her team of Year 12 girls for their help and for providing musical entertainment in the Grand Salon.

### Tribute from Darcy Young and Anna McManus (2013)

Mrs Buckle achieved so many great things. Of particular note was the massive refurbishment of the science and geography area of the school and we saw the old Gym become an amazing drama and performance space, with full technical capabilities, tiered, retractable seating and blackout curtains. As a year group with an active interest in drama, this was an amazing development. The new music suite also offers a wealth of new opportunities.

We feel that Mrs Buckle was a big advocate for us girls to follow our ambitions. She really pushed us to believe that we could break through that glass ceiling. In fact, we never saw a glass ceiling: it never crossed our minds that we couldn't do what we wanted to do because Farnborough Hill fostered in us feelings of self-confidence and self-worth, and a resolute determined nature that is sure to set us all in good stead for our futures. For that, we have the school and its environment of strong-minded girls to thank, under the capable leadership of Mrs Buckle.

No opportunity to promote female empowerment was missed during our time here. Mrs

Buckle was always inviting successful and powerful women in business and sport, from Old Girls to celebrities, to make sure our appetite for success and happiness in our futures never went dry. And, more personally, as a past Head Girl, she has given me the courage, support and responsibility needed to stand up in front of people and speak, and run for things I would never have considered myself for, and I now have the solid foundations for a successful career.



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# Sport at Farnborough Hill

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## 39 Years of Teaching Sport

When I started teaching at the Hill in 1968, the Gym had recently opened. Two years before I retired in 2007, the Sports Hall was opened and the Gym turned into a theatre!

In those 39 years, I was privileged to work with valued colleagues including Sarah Chambers, Gill Spencer, Gill Stanger, Linda Gibson, Pauline Pratt, Jackie Asprey, Julie Carpenter and Karen Gibson but honourable mention must go to Rosemarie Thomson and Jackie Ison (Beill) with whom I had many happy working years. Between us we brought to the department a wide range of skills and common values and we formed quite a formidable team!

Although the success of the school teams is always remembered, the sport taught in lessons and clubs is most important as it should not only contribute to the physical well-being of pupils but also provide a basic level of sport skills that can be taken forward into adulthood. Mother Alexander told me to strive to make sure that every girl could swim and play a reasonable game of tennis. What she meant was that every girl should be equipped with the skills to make sport a part of her health and social lifestyle. In my early days, we only taught gymnastics, swimming, netball, hockey, tennis and rounders, but over the years we were able to include athletics, basketball, badminton, aerobics and table tennis; all were enhanced by the opening of the Sports Hall.

In the days when we had a sixth form games afternoon we offered activities outside school such as: horse riding, golf, skating, dry slope skiing and sailing. Add to that the activity holidays at Calshot and Mrs Thomson's skiing trips and I hope we managed to cover most bases! Then latterly, we introduced PE AS and A level and now they also do GCSE.



*Third Year Girls at Calshot in 1991*

Clubs have always had an important role to play in any PE department. When we had boarders, I used to run clubs until 7pm, divided into three sessions for the various age groups. In those days, the clubs were limited to gym and swimming (and tennis in the summer) but latterly the variety of clubs was extended to include vaulting and badminton in the winter and athletics and rounders in the summer.



*Gym Display in the 1970s*

For many years, as part of the Open Mornings we held our outdoor displays involving all class groups, teams, clubs and our iconic mass vaulting sequences. The Gym Displays then moved into the School Hall, which meant much moving of mats and apparatus. For a few years, these displays stopped but in my final year we held a very popular Gym and Dance Evening for which the girls volun-

teered and created their own sequences displaying their talents not only in gymnastics but in ballet, tap, street and ballroom dancing. I am so pleased that this event continues today.



*Katie Ervin (Thomson) 1989*

Now the teams - Farnborough Hill has never been a one-sport school and the success of the school teams has reflected this over the years. There was the netball era when we got to the National Schools Finals twice. Before that, the tennis teams reached the Regional Finals of the Aberdare Cup. The gymnasts reigned supreme, winning The National Schools Floor and Vault Championship 5 years out of 6. Cross country runners became the high achievers for several years with India Lee and Charlotte Purdue gaining international status and the school teams winning district and county honours.



*Back L-R Shauna Damamme, Sarah Lis, Carolyn McClay, Catherine Chant, Gill Hasty, Jeanne Schneider Front L\_R Hilary Robertson, Jane Gregory, Philippa Jones, Lesley O'Toole, Ailish O' Kelly, Teresa Schierz 1981*

The District Athletics Championships have always been an important date on the calendar and over the years, our athletes have never let us down. The events won, records made and the representative honours achieved are too numerous to mention but names such as Katie-Sue Thomson, Emily Thomson, Lesley O'Toole, Ailish O' Kelly, Theresa Devereux and Elspeth Beardmore-Gray were among the stars.

Now hockey! I was going to say that before all-weather pitches, we competed on level terms, but you could never call our pitches level! Still we didn't do too badly with many of our players not only joining clubs but playing for district,

county, and regional teams: Pippa Jones (my first County player), Laura O'Connor, Sophie Tanner, Jenny Cornelius, Niamh O'Connor, Anna Marshall, Sara Escott, to name but a few. When Lyn Rogers played for England, I thought it was the proudest moment of my career, then along came Alex Danson, with more than 250 international caps (GB and England). What a star, inspiration and superb young lady!

When we had boarders who didn't have the opportunity to play for clubs, I used to run an U18 team that played local clubs every Saturday throughout the winter.

Although I could sit here and name a Mrs Berry's 'All Star' XI I'm not going to in case my ageing brain leaves somebody out. That would be unforgivable as you are and were all my 'stars' and 'sunshines' and to all my ex-pupils who read this - thank you for being you and for making my career such a happy and memorable one!

*Ann Berry (Tristram) 1965*



*L-R Stephanie Lennon, Maria O'Connor, Sarah Burgess, Alex Danson, Georgina McFarlane, Alison Cooke 2003*

## PE on The Hill Today

“It weren’t like that in my day” ..... how many times have we heard that expression when our grandparents and parents have referred to the changing face of education or to opportunities that didn’t exist when they were at school? If asked to recount your memories of school PE, I’m sure, like me, you would nostalgically recall muddy hockey lessons, games skirts and what many of you affectionately call ‘granny pants’. The memories and experiences of pupils leaving Farnborough Hill today, however, include Caribbean sports tours, beach volleyball, skorts, all-weather hockey pitches, netball dresses together with ice cream vans and strawberries and Pimms for parents at Sports Day.

Much has changed in the PE Department since my arrival in 2007, but many of you will be reassured to hear that we still play netball and rounders, which probably remain the most popular games. New activities such as trampolining, dance, cricket, touch rugby and stoolball have also been introduced and enjoyed in recent years and girls have participated in a number of extra-curricular tournaments in new sports such as show jumping and beach volleyball.

Although the Sports Hall had been completed before I joined the school, it continues to have a great and lasting impact. Indoor games such as badminton and basketball have all developed and it is now the venue for our annual Gym and Dance Display, attended each year by over 200 spectators and one of the highlights of the school calendar. St Joseph's has also been an invaluable resource. With its full-length mirrored wall, wooden floor and ballet barre, it’s been an ideal venue for dance and aerobics.



*Gym and Dance Display 2014*

Despite the introduction of new activities, traditional games such as hockey and netball, continue to dominate the fixture programme in the Autumn and Spring terms and we have been fortunate to play these sports abroad. The first international Sports Tour took place in 2010 when we took 21 students to Barbados. This was followed two years later by a second Caribbean Tour to Barbados and St Lucia. The most recent Sports Tour was in 2015 to Sri Lanka.



*Sri Lanka Sports Tour 2015*

Alongside the Sports Tours, the PE Department have also organised a short, residential trip to Conover Hall to play in the GSA Netball Tournament as well as several trips to attend the inspirational ‘Girls Go Gold’ conferences featuring high profile and successful role models such as Sally Gunnell, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and Olympic gold medallist, Anna Watkins. There have been many changes over the years; but also a continuity of tradition, reputation and unparalleled success in matches and tournaments.

*Faye Kelsey ( Head of PE 2007 –2014)*

## Returning to School to Teach PE

I've always held Farnborough Hill in extremely high regard and know that it gave me the best start in life possible. So, when I saw the job as Head of PE advertised, 20 years after leaving, I thought it was too good to be true. They were also looking especially for hockey as a specialism. My perfect job! I love hockey, having first discovered the game at the Hill: playing for the C team initially and working my way up through the teams to captain the A team and then on to represent my district, county and region.

So, what is it like going back to your old school to teach? Well, it is a very weird feeling. The place smells the same and, of course, I know my way around. There are also still staff, cleaners and Sisters there from when I left - a very interesting experience!

The Gym is now a theatre, a new Sports Hall has been built and a new all-weather pitch added but it is still an extremely familiar and friendly place. I do feel the girls have it relatively easier these days with their PE kit, despite the odd complaint! There are no green gym knickers, no black leotards for gymnastics and no itchy green hockey socks.

My PE teachers were the same for the whole 7 years I was at Farnborough Hill - Ann Berry, Jackie Beill/Ison and Rosemarie Thomson. Mrs Berry was my real inspiration: she was a role model supporting, encouraging and pushing everyone to get the best out of them. But she wasn't just a PE teacher, she was a friendly person that you could talk to and confide in. We spent many trips to hockey matches and tournaments putting the world to rights. She supported and encouraged me when I didn't get selected for South Hockey - I had 3 South trials whilst I was at Farnborough Hill and she was there for every one of them. We kept in touch when I left school and it was great when I asked her if she could help out by coming to a hockey tournament - it was my turn to drive her, the first time after 20 years!

The new all-weather pitch is a much better surface on which to teach hockey and it will help the girls develop their skills and performance more quickly. It also means that practices and matches aren't usually cancelled and the girls don't get muddy! You may laugh but that's the one comment I hear - the girls weren't fans of getting muddy in hockey lessons. It's also been invaluable in teaching other activities such as football, tag rugby, ultimate frisbee, athletics, cricket and rounders.

I was truly lucky to go to school here, and even luckier to return.

*Jenny Cornelius-Green (Cornelius) 1995*



*Alex, Ann and Jenny*

## Farnborough Hill Ski Trips

Ski Trips have been part of the extra-curricular programme for as long as I have been at the school (and that's a long time!) and for many years before that, girls have skied in many resorts across Europe, Canada and America.

Mrs Rosemarie Thomson took the very first Ski Trip in 1979, which was also the school's first residential trip with 71 day girls taking part. It was so successful that on some occasions, two Ski Trips took place in one season.

Many amusing stories have been told about events on our Ski Trips but the one I remember the most is when Mrs Hales lost control and skied under a barrier into a café, all because she was skiing with her boots clipped together! I think it is fair to say that the staff who have willingly given up a week of their holidays to supervise the girls have had many enjoyable experiences, but they, like the girls, have been challenged by the odd black slope!

Over the years we have seen more sophisticated equipment, although I'm glad to say that we have never skied in leather boots and clip-on skis! What hasn't changed is the girls' excitement and enthusiasm for the sport and their desire to succeed and help others succeed.

The range of evening activities the girls have willingly taken part in is wide and varied. As well as the usual ice-skating and tobogganing, we have been treated to talent and recycled fashion shows. Prizes were all chocolate in nature, of course, as we do our best to uphold the Farnborough Hill tradition of fondness for chocolate.

I cannot begin to estimate the number of girls who have participated in the school ski trips over those 37 years but it runs into thousands. The vast majority come back saying they have had the trip of a lifetime and have definitely caught the bug, as I did all those years ago! Rosemarie Thomson passed the mantle to me some 20 years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the trips but it is almost time for me to pass it on to someone younger and fitter!

*Anne Griffiths (Deputy Head)*



*1980 Trip to Aprica, Italy*



*Ski Trip to Holzgau 2016*



*2008 Trip to Austria L-R Charley Connor, Francesca Oliver, Annie Appleton, Helen Walker, Helen Foster with Sophie Wardle at the front*

# Our Sporting Superstars

## Alex Danson: Hockey Olympic Medallist



I first met Alex when she joined Farnborough Hill in 1996. It was clear from those early days that she was a very talented sportswoman showing all the physical attributes needed to succeed (agility, balance, hand-eye coordination to name but a few) as well as an innate understanding of how team games work. She had already played rounders for England whilst at Yateley Manor.

The breadth of Alex's abilities was reflected by her participation in school teams: vaulting, swimming, tennis, rounders, cross country, athletics, netball and, of course, hockey. She could have succeeded at the highest level in several sports; but her heart has always been in hockey. As the school's hockey coach, it was my privilege to be part of her journey from school teams, to clubs, county, regional, national and international levels.

Alex always relished being part of a team and she used her skills to help others develop theirs by the timing, pace and accuracy of her passing, rather than 'taking over' as some players with more advanced skills than teammates can do. This never happened with Alex, so others enjoyed playing with her at all times; and of course she could always 'save the day' by her goal-scoring when needed.



Talent alone doesn't always result in success, however, and Alex has always had the drive, discipline and work ethic needed to make the most of her talent. Add to that the support of her family, friends, school and clubs and Alex's road to international honours was established. Alex didn't ignore her academic commitments and gained excellent grades at GCSE and A level.

How she did it was extraordinary as in the weeks before her GCSEs, she was in Argentina playing for GB and had jet lag at the start of the exams. Then it was Australia just before her AS exams and the USA just before A levels.

When Alex left school she went to university but fitting hockey training, matches and full-time study in was difficult. Fortunately, hockey got the funding to establish full-time training squads based at Bisham Abbey and Alex was thrilled to get a place. I clearly remember the first time I saw her playing for England - the thrill of seeing her play with other highly talented players, the speed of play, the accuracy of passes, the intelligent 'running off the ball' and above all, the feeling of pride and the delight that somehow I'd been part of that journey for Alex.

So what followed? The record speaks for itself - more than 250 International Caps for England and GB, European Championships, Champion League Tournaments, Commonwealth Games and as I write 2 Olympic Games.



The Beijing Olympic Games have their own story as Alex nearly didn't make it. The squad was training at the holding camp in Macau prior to the games when Alex got injured, badly; her ankle looked horrendous in the pictures I saw but with lots of ice and medical care, she made it - just!

Then, actually being there to see her at the London Olympics. What a treat it was to watch her win Bronze, but in a way humbling, as I could see how far she had come with coaching of the highest quality and how basic my contribution to her development as a player had been.

Beyond training and playing, funded sportspeople have obligations to fulfil - mainly by visiting schools and clubs to present prizes, helping to run coaching sessions and trying to inspire other young people to participate in sport. Whilst doing this,



*Alex brought her Olympic medal to school*



Alex has shown everyone she meets that she clearly loves hockey, that she is still inspired to work and improve and that the enthusiasm she had from a young age is still very much in evidence.

And Alex hasn't forgotten Farnborough Hill. She returned to show the girls her medals, particularly the Bronze from the London Olympics and the Gold from this year's European Championships and was the Guest Speaker at Prize Giving in 2011. Her speech was truly inspiring and it touched every girl present as she spoke from the heart. Then when the school opened its new all-weather pitch, who else would they ask to do the honours? She hadn't realised that it was to

be called after her and was so excited and pleased that she couldn't stop smiling- but that's what you get from Alex - a happy, enthusiastic, dedicated person who feels privileged to be doing every day the thing she loves: playing hockey.

*Ann Berry (Tristram) 1965*

## **Helene Raynsford: Paralympic Gold Medallist**

It is less than 6 months away from the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio and my daily Facebook 'memories' are relaying three major stories: the one where I am chasing a crazy dream of going to the 2008 Beijing Games; the difficult decision to retire



from performance sport in 2010; and dealing with a diagnosis of cancer in 2013.

I was much more interested in dance than sport when I was at school. I joined Farnborough Hill sixth form in September 1997 having left the Royal Ballet School following an injury. My favourite memories include upper sixth flats, the retreat weekend, swimming and the



*L6 play: Greasy Sound of Music*



friendly school community. My mum had always dreamed of me going to Farnborough Hill as she had been a nurse for the Nuns.

After an accident in my final year of University, I came across rowing by chance, with my home club being in Guildford. I moved to train full-time at British Rowing's secluded high-performance centre in Caversham following my World Championship win in 2006. The Paralympic year started with a training camp in Hong Kong, a test run at travelling that distance and experiencing the culture and climate we would have to perform in.

Training at home was two sessions a day, 6 days a week and on training camps this can go up to 3/4 sessions a day including video analysis and crew meetings in the evening. I had to

focus on the important elements. I lived my life in the best way I could to make the boat go as fast as it could by the start line of the final in Beijing.

You see great images of athletes having won medals at games: the medal ceremonies, Union Jacks in the crowd, and the focus is solely on the athlete. I raced in a boat on my own but it took a huge team to ensure I was in the best possible state to perform, including my coach, physio, strength & conditioning coaches, sports physiologists, nutritionists, boat mechanics, doctors and sports psychologists. They all own a bit of my medal as without them, I would not have made it to the start line in the best possible shape.

Winning in Beijing felt like 'a good day at the office' on the day as I had been so focused on what I was there to do that I had not realised the huge amount of support we had from the UK. In the days after my race, it was fantastic to read all the messages from girls in my year at Farnborough Hill on Facebook and email. Defending my title in 2012 was not meant to be as I sustained a serious injury to my back at the World Championships in 2010 that required spinal surgery. I retired from the sport and returned to my career in Public Health.



*First ever Paralympic Rowing Champion  
winning women's single-skull in Beijing  
2008*

I was lucky to have a secondment from the NHS into the London 2012 Sport Management Team for Rowing and I was able to experience the sport from another side which was hugely eye-opening.

I miss the camaraderie of the rowing team but I am still involved through sitting on various committees and boards for Paralympics GB and International Sport. It has been an honour to represent my country in a sport that I love. Sport gave me rehab, social circles following disability, employment through my first job as a Sports Development Officer and, most importantly, it gave me independence. Sport is a fantastic tool and I hope that the coverage of the Rio Games will inspire the next generation to strive for excellence in sport, or to take on a new challenge, or to persevere with a dream, or to give someone a step up to face adversity and conquer it.

*Helene Dyson (Raynsford) 1999*

## **Niamh O'Connor 2009 - International Hockey and National Golf**

**Hockey-** Ireland Under 21 International Hockey – 2012

All Ireland Inter-Provincial Champions – Leinster Hockey – 2012

**Golf** - Surrey Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Team – National Finalists – 2009

My love of sport was what drove me to the success I achieved. I enjoyed every moment I was playing sport whether at school, club, county, region or national level. Farnborough Hill played an instrumental role in my sporting success - the PE staff could see potential and provided the guidance in order for that talent to grow. Massive credit for me lies with Mrs Berry who after only a few months in the school signed me up for Hampshire hockey trials and from that moment I never looked back.



## **Zoe Franklin 2008 - International Shooter**

European Championships (2009) in Sport Pistol placed in the Top 50 Ladies.

European Championships (2008) in Air Pistol, placed in the Top 50 Junior Ladies.



I was introduced to shooting through the pony club when I was 10 years old. At 14, my coach suggested I compete in shooting competitions. The England coach approached me when I was 15 about attending a training camp in Switzerland and I jumped at the chance. Being a student at Farnborough Hill gave me the flexibility and support to continue my sporting career to an international level. My teachers were kind enough to ensure that I had all the work and resources to take away with me. The PE department helped me to create a training programme and allowed me access to the Gym before school. I can't thank the staff at Farnborough Hill enough for being so supportive and caring.

## **Charlotte Purdue 2007 - International Long Distance Athlete**

14th World Cross Country Championships 2011

4th Commonwealth Games - Delhi 2010 –10,000m

British Junior 10,000m record holder (current)

It really all happened so fast! I found myself going from a complete beginner to winning domestic events in a few years (and a lot of hard training!). I had never considered that I would have been a good runner at all - I just took a chance and it paid off - I found something that I loved and worked hard at it every day. When I left university I was offered a sponsorship deal with Nike which enabled me to train full-time and not have to work. I began with the inter form cross country event and by the time I left Farnborough Hill, I had competed for Great Britain and in the World and European Cross Country Championships.



## India Lee 2006 - International Triathlete

Winning the World Triathlon Cagliari World Cup in May 2016

Winning the 2015 Blenheim Triathlon.

Competing in the 2015 World Championships Finals.

I knew at a very early age that I wanted to compete against the very best in the world. Throughout my development as a junior and senior athlete I have continued to strive to compete at the highest level - with my ultimate goal being to compete at the Olympic Games. Farnborough Hill had a big influence on my success. The importance placed on developing as an individual gave me the confidence to be myself and pursue my passion. Being a professional triathlete is an unconventional way to earn a living, and Farnborough Hill gave me the self-assurance to follow my own path and to realise that it was ok not to have a 'normal' job.



## Sarah Escott 1985 - International Womens Rugby Player

Call up to England squad in 1991 after 2 years of playing at Teddington Antlers

Played in Toronto against USA, Wales and Canada in the first Canada Cup 1993.



I played hockey at school, Camberley HC then Barnes HC. After 2 years of cricket, I tried girl's rugby training at Teddington. When I learned how to scrummage, that was a eureka moment, I had found a sport I could excel in! School made sport part of our daily life and I remember the camaraderie in our teams and celebrating our successes. Mrs Berry was the constant factor, coaching at lunchtimes and getting us to tournaments on Saturdays. When I started rugby I became part of a pioneering group of women that supported and helped me develop as a player. It helped me understand that I didn't need 'permission' to play a game I was good at and loved.

## Ailish O'Kelly 1980 - International Womens Rugby Player

Member of the England squad for the Inaugural Womens World Cup Cardiff - 1991

Member of the England squad for the first Canada Cup Tournament Canada - 1993

WASP Womens Rugby Club London - 1989/1995 winning many league, cup & 7s finals

My experience and love of sport was nurtured at Farnborough Hill by Mrs Berry. We were given so many opportunities to participate and achieve. My first sporting love was hockey and I spent every lunch time at practice which taught me about total commitment to training to achieve my sporting goals. After playing hockey for Exeter University I changed to rugby and committed totally which meant training six days a week. This discipline came from my earlier experiences and the joy of winning which I had experienced at Farnborough. My love of sport continued as I became a PE teacher in a secondary school.



*England v Wales 1993  
Ailish - B 2nd from L*

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## Sporting Memories from Old Girls

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### Lesley O'Toole-Roque (O'Toole) 1979

When Ann Berry wrote on the Old Girls' page recently that "Farnborough Hill is in my blood and my heart," there wasn't an Old Girl who didn't understand exactly what she meant. Ann Tristram attended Farnborough Hill from 1958-65 and taught at the school from 1968-2007. Last year, in a move that could not have been more fitting, she was elected a Governor of Farnborough Hill.



*County U16 Hockey 1985*

When I arrived at Farnborough Hill in 1974, the then - Miss Tristram was a dynamo, a force of nature in a tracksuit. It was much later that I discovered what an incredibly affirming and lifelong effect she has had on scores of girls, whether or not sport came naturally to them. I also didn't know then that Ann had been previously hired by Mother Alexander, not just because she was an excellent PE teacher but because she was an empathetic, inspiring young woman who would be a friend/surrogate mother to young girls, including boarders away from home for the first time. I was just one of the many.

"Ann Tristram was my saving grace," says Babs Rowe (Graham) 1973. "The pastoral care she gave was brilliant. Ann would always go the extra mile for a pupil and genuinely cared for the girls." Kate Bond-Martin (Bond) 1981 concurs. "She was my hero at school. She kept me sane-always around if you needed a chat, and she let us borrow all the sports equipment at the weekend. She was a true star."



*Back L-R: Laura MacDonald, Sarah Hannah, Hannah Rawls, Ann Berry, Georgina Guntrip Front L-R: Shama Billing, Tara O'Connor, Asha Sodha, Stephanie Langford 2007*

Philippa Mann (Jones) 1981 and I played hockey together for Farnborough Hill and Hampshire, she on the left wing, me on the right. We both owe it all to Ann. At her leaving do in 2007, she introduced Philippa to Alex Danson. "Ann told Alex I was her first success and she is her last," says Mann. "I felt very special and remembered. Perhaps that is her gift." Another friend in our year says: "Ann never once compared me to my sisters - we were all individuals, which was very important to me."

How inspiring to discover that decades later, Ann was having the same effect on girls, Stephanie Langford 2007 is typical. "I didn't even do sports and she was my favourite person. She was the most patient, understanding, forgiving and kind teacher and Year Head."

### Kathryn Bryan 2003

Sport was a big part of my life at Farnborough Hill: we were incredibly lucky to be able to try so many different activities. The memory of Mrs Berry's voice reverberating around the school shouting, "Hurry up, ladies!" remains with me. And who can forget gym? It brought us together, united in fear of 'the leotard'. Every week we invented different excuses to wear our tracksuits. Some of my best memories were from the tourna-

ments we competed in. Getting to school early, joking around with anxious energy and piling into the minibus, which inexplicably had carpet on the roof not the floor. It was always freezing cold; the ground was always wet and we were never allowed to play in our tracksuit bottoms. But we loved it. Our netball team was more or less unbeaten throughout my school career culminating in Lucy Kinnear sinking the winning goal that sent us through to The Nationals at U14. We could not have done it without Jackie Beill, who was always at our side, putting in time to give us extra coaching and support when we needed it.



*Vaulting Display with Jackie and Ann*

The school was so proud they made us wear our Nationals T-shirts around school for the whole of the following week! I often think about Miss Beill, how inspiring she was and what a tragic loss it was to us all that she died so young.

## **Jeanne Schneider 1982**

In 1979, a new teacher, Mrs Rosemarie Thomson (or Tommy), known for teaching basketball, suggested taking a group of girls skiing in the Italian Alps. This was a first and was enthusiastically received by all.

The night before we left we stayed at school, and of course we all got a lot of sleep... running up and down the corridors, eating sweets, and generally having fun. After a long journey up narrow, winding roads to snow-capped mountains, we arrived safely in Medesimo, a bus load of excited, tired teenagers, Mrs Thompson, her husband and her two girls and Mrs Hales (Liz) and her husband.

The first morning, after the chaos of renting skis and boots, we were allocated to groups according to our skill level. Later that morning, riding up on the chair lift, I looked down to see beginner lessons on the 'Green Run' with queues of people waiting their turn. I caught sight of a dark haired skier, who shot down the slope knocking over a couple of girls, through the T-bar between two skiers, all the way down the slope and under the fence before coming to a sudden stop. Thank goodness! We later discovered it was Liz Hales!

We awoke each morning to breakfast cooking, dazzling sunlight, the sharp smell of fresh snow and the swish of skis across the mountain. Fantastic! Skiing lessons in the morning were followed by lunch and more skiing, hot chocolate and Toblerone. After dinner we enjoyed a huge ice-skating rink and a disco called 'Charlie Browns', where we danced to the Police, 'Everything She Does Is Magic'.



*Clare Sidwell (Engerran) 1985 with  
Emily Harrison (Thomson) 1993*

The atmosphere was relaxed and the trip was a lot of fun. It was a brilliant week of skiing, laughter, extraordinary memories and camaraderie, many thanks to the efforts of Tommy and her support team.

# Stories from Yesteryear

## Memories of Farnborough Hill by Mary Turner (Murray) 1953

It was a wonderful surprise to receive the book 'From Hillside to Farnborough Hill' from my daughter on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and to see a photograph of my family on a page headed 'The Murray Family'. I had never seen this photograph before, which showed my great-aunt Josephine Murray who was the first pupil at the school (second from the left), my mother, Esme, holding my baby sister, Ann, my great-aunt Mother Justina Murray and my father, Robert P Murray.



This lovely book has brought back so many memories of my days at Farnborough Hill, from 1941 to 1953. I started at the age of 5, and was taught by Mother Mattes: she was so kind, and I remember making raffia bags in craft classes. Later, my great-aunt Mother Justina taught me French. I was a day girl and remember the boarders used to nag us to bring in the latest comics, 'Girls Crystal' and 'Schoolfriend': so very different from modern day teenage magazines. Other Nuns I remember were Mother Bickford, in charge of sport and Mother Horan, very strict but always fair. At break in the winter the Sisters always warmed the ice-cold milk and made us cocoa.

During the war years when the air raid warnings sounded we all rushed into the cloak-room under the hut, which was the Gym in my day. I remember being in a school performance of 'The Girls of St Trinians' when I played the part of Miss Gossage.



I loved my time at Farnborough Hill and attended an Old Girls' Reunion with my sister, Ann, when I visited England from New Zealand in 1998. I have always kept my old school blazer and my daughter made me put it on for the photo.

*Mary Turner is the great-great granddaughter of Lt. Colonel Robert Walter Murray who together with his sister, Mother Caroline Murray helped to found the school in 1891.*

## Napoleon III's Great Niece by Caroline Haffner (Huxham) 1970

Some years ago, I visited Farnborough Hill with the daughter of Belgian Princess, Marie-Clotilde de Witt (Nee Bonaparte), Napoleon III's great niece. I used to stay with the family in Paris and the Dordogne in homes that were beautifully furnished, with grand portraits of the family and statues etc. but what tickled me was my boiled egg wore Napoleon's hat to keep it warm.

Marie-Clotilde was surprised to discover that I went to Farnborough Hill as she had lived at the house before it became a school in 1926. I was friends with her youngest daughter, Anne de Rancher (nee de Witt). who was keen to visit the school so we managed to get an invitation to tea



*The Princess at a young age*

with the Nuns and were given a guided tour. I was delighted as we saw parts of the school where we, as school girls, had not been allowed to go.

This crown was created for Empress Eugénie at the time of the Worlds Fair of 1855 and later bequeathed to the Princess Marie-Clotilde Napoleon. It is set with emeralds and diamonds and is of the general design of Napoleon III's Imperial Crown and now resides in the Louvre.



## Hillside Stories by Kyria Josephine Sewell (Hume-Wright) 1982

My grandmother, Ivy Langford, and my aunts, Vivien Langford and Marjorie Hume-Wright were all at Hillside around the time of WW1. The two pictures here are of a school play from Ivy's photo album (around 1913) and the Chapel at Hillside.



We found a copy of The Hillside Magazine from 1932 in my grandmother's attic when she died in 1976. She must have picked it up on a visit to the school after she left. The photograph below is of a Gymnastic Display on the South Lawn in July 1932, which followed an H.O.G.A. Fête, a concert and Prize-giving all on the same day. So the Old Girls' Association has been going for a long time!



## Letter from Canada by Katherine Wright (Cartwright) 1957

I came to Canada in 1968. Michael and I raised our two children here and now in our retirement enjoy our six grandchildren. Canada has been a good choice for us and we have been very happy here.

All my schooling took place at Farnborough Hill. In about 1944, I started in one of the service buildings down by the swimming pool. The primary school later moved to Rosary Lodge (also on site) and I distinctly remember Mother Mattes in the Kindergarten hut. We learned French by reading stories about a mouse called Mme. Souris and her family! There was a green baize carpet with toys we could play with if/when we completed our work.

Eventually I moved up to the 'big school' and spent a couple of years in a classroom in another hut before moving to the classroom wing over the Hall. By the time I reached the lower sixth the new wing had been built and we enjoyed the luxury of the large classroom at the end of the corridor on the upper floor.

As I was a day pupil I did not have as much contact with the Nuns as did the boarders but we still benefited from the atmosphere of order, respect and hard work. Rev Mother Horan was Headmistress, Mother Hogan taught history, Mother Rennie was the Infirmary, Mother Bickford taught PE and typing and Mother Justina looked after our spiritual wellbeing.

It was such a privilege to attend school in such a beautiful old house set in gorgeous grounds. The reception rooms in the old house were lovely with fine furniture and the shiniest of shiny floors. Of course we took all this for granted! We had to curtsy to any visitors who might be in the Music Room. On the other hand, to get to the hockey pitches you had to go through the field with the cows and watch where you put your feet!



## My Memories of the Sisters by Angela Neller (Wallace) 1959

We had bats in our dormitory at Yateley Hall and so the Nuns (I'm sure Mother Bickford was one of them) told us all to put our tin wash bowls on our heads so that the bats would not get in our hair. The Nuns then hitched their skirts up and jumped from bed to bed with butterfly nets trying to catch them - much to our amusement! In the morning we saw a bucket of water in the wash rooms with dead bats in it.

We used to go to Farnborough Hill for swimming lessons and upon seeing the flat surface of the pool, being only 5 years old I did not realise there was a deep and shallow end and leapt into the deep end. I had to be pulled out by a pole with a hook on the end of it (pretty certain it was Mother Bickford again!).

I remember taking my daughter to some Careers Talks at school. I went outside during one of them to have a cigarette and Sister Hawkins came by and said "Angela Wallace, you were breaking the rules when you were here all those years ago and here you are still breaking them". She did say it with a big grin on her face!

## Old Girl Reunions

**Claudia Turgut (Elgar) 1966** sent us this photograph of her class reunion in May 2015 at the National Gallery, London. We look forward to seeing pictures of their 50th Anniversary Reunion, later this year.

*L-R Maire Coffey (Kiddle) 1965, Sally Staples (Gilbert), Tricia Andrews (Tusting), Lizanne Greenberg (Whistler), Genevieve Pearson, Felicity Penneycard (Roberts), Claudia Turgut (Elgar)*



**Anne Wardle (Doyle) 1981** told us about her class reunion last October in London which was a first for many. Pia flew in from Gibraltar and Bianca spookily spotted a newspaper in the restaurant with an article written by classmate, Lesley O'Toole, now living in the USA, so she was with them in spirit at least! They had such a good time that they got together again in March! There are six 1981 girls in this netball team photograph.



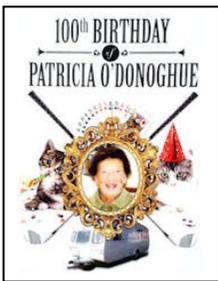
*L-R Theresa Devereux, Anne Wardle (Doyle), Frances Delamain (Ainsley), Sally Coelho (Hadfield), Bianca Coulter (Leavey), Elspeth Murphy (Beardmore-Gray), Philippa Mann (Jones), Anna Trinder (Valenzia), Caroline Gumbley (Orme) and Pia Isola (del Pilar Robinson)*



*Back L-R Eileen Carroll, Mandy Beill, Nicky Orme, Nicola Inman, Jane Russell Front L-R Theresa Devereux, Caroline Orme, Elspeth Beardmore-Gray and Helen Gallagher*

## We send our congratulations to:

**Pat O'Donoghue 1935** who will be 100 years of age on June 15th this year. She lives in County Cork but her great, great niece is currently in Year 8 at Farnborough Hill. Pat was a boarder at Farnborough Hill and Sister Veronica Rennie can remember Pat (aged 19) escorting her back to Farnborough Hill from Cork, as she was returning to start a new term. Veronica was about



10 at the time and had been given a few days extra in Cork, after the rest of the family had returned to England from a holiday. The Rennies were friendly with the O'Donoghues.



Chambers in Manchester. Anyone who knows Libby will know that she will bring great empathy to the bench, together with a well-developed sense of right and wrong.

**Michaela Dennis 1985** who married John Beenev on 16th Jan 2016 and is now living in Basingstoke. She graduated on 4th May from Kingston University where she studied for BA (Hons) in Child-centred Inter-professional Practice.

**Elizabeth Nicholls 1978** who was recently appointed as a Judge and will sit in Liverpool. She will be very much missed in



**Jenny Cornelius 1995** who married Ian Green on 25th May 2014. Jenny is now Head of Extra-Curricular Sport at Farnborough Hill.



**Isobel Reid 2004** who married Russell Sheath on 2nd October 2015 and works as a specialist Community Public Health Nurse in Southampton.

**Nicola Cunningham 2002** who was named by Conference and Incentive Travel in its A list 2016 - celebrating the best agency talent aged 35 and under.



**Sophie Tanner 2004** who married William Cobb on 19th July 2014 and is currently working in Oxford as a Doctor specialising in Care of the Elderly Medicine.



**Jessica Kumi 2003** who married Frank Engen on 28th March 2015. They now have a daughter named Amalia Josephine who was born in December.



**Esme Sparks 2005** who married Dean Murphy on 8th August 2015 and is living in Chislehurst in Kent. Esme is teaching English and Drama. Her sister, Lucy (2010), was chief bridesmaid (left below).



**Liz Rogers 2005** who completed her PhD on English Shakespeare's History Plays and Medieval Drama at the University of Dundee.

**Zoe Franklin 2006** who completed her PhD in the role of personality types in the management of chronic pain at Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Mary Edwards 2007** who married Iain Threw on 3rd October 2015. Mary is working as a Research Assistant at York Health Economics Consortium.

**Anna Bruce 2008** who married Robert, a Royal Marine, and is now Anna Bruce-Kelly. They had twin boys, Gus and Rufus, in May 2015. Anna is now a stay-at-home mum but she set up a celebrity management and PR company whilst at university with funding from Ginsters and Sofitel Hotels. It really took off and she was selected for both the Apprentice and Dragon's Den.



**Charlotte Knipe 2008** who completed her Master of Science from UCL in International Development.

**Veena Srirangam-Nadhamuni 2009** who completed a Masters from Harvard Law School having achieved a Triple First

in Law from Downing and is a Downing College Foundation Scholar (This is particularly prestigious!)

**Alice Salmon 2010** who completed her MA in Applied and Critical Musicology from Leeds University (with Merit) following a BMus at the Northern School of Music (with an Organ Scholarship). Alice



is now enjoying working for a leading audio branding agency as an Artist and Repertoire Executive.

**Lucy Sparks 2010** who completed her Masters of Social Work at the University of Manchester and now works as a Family Placement Social Worker for an adoption team.

**Sophie Crisp 2011** who married Callum Findlay and all her friends were there to cheer her on. L-R Chloe Micklethwaite, Rachel Still, Anna Nicholas, Corinne Stuart, Ruth Simmons, Ellie Sillett, Rachel Cauldwell, Kathryn Morris, Jessica Wilson.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's newsletter and to Kate O'Brien and Any Teo for their photographs on the front cover and Page 1 respectively. We are ready to receive your news and stories for the next newsletter so please send them in any time!

[fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk)

# 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

And 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 to the families of the following for their loss:**

Lady Sylvia Wilkinson (Gater) 1942

Nancy Thorpe (Ewins) 1942

Pamela Morton (Sherratt) 1948

Marilyn Huxham 1959

Anita Arthur (Mills) 1959

Leigh Buckingham (Wallis) 1975

Penny Smith (Quick) 1979

Georgina Bird (Sellick) 1986

Diana Hallinan

Professor Avril Henry (former Art Teacher 1957-1962)

Mother of former Director of Music, Karen Phillips

Mother of Catherine, Alison and Rosemary Drake-Lee

Father of Margaret, Sarah and Rosemary Wookey (and former Chair of Governors)



*Memory Tree from the  
Reunion Service 2015*



FHOGA

# Tea Party on the Hill

Saturday 17th September 2016

2pm - 6pm

Relive your schooldays

with a variety of activities including  
an Old Girls' Hockey Match  
(to watch or play!)

**£15 per person**

Tickets can be booked online using Eventbrite

Email [fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk](mailto:fhoga@farnborough-hill.org.uk) for the link or send a cheque payable to FHOGA c/o Farnborough Hill, Farnborough, GU14 8AT including a return address, maiden name and year of leaving

**Ticket deadline: 31st August**

We hope to launch our new **FHOGA 100 CLUB** on the day to raise funds for the Old Girls' Scholarship Trust