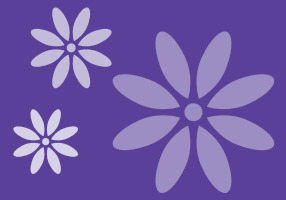




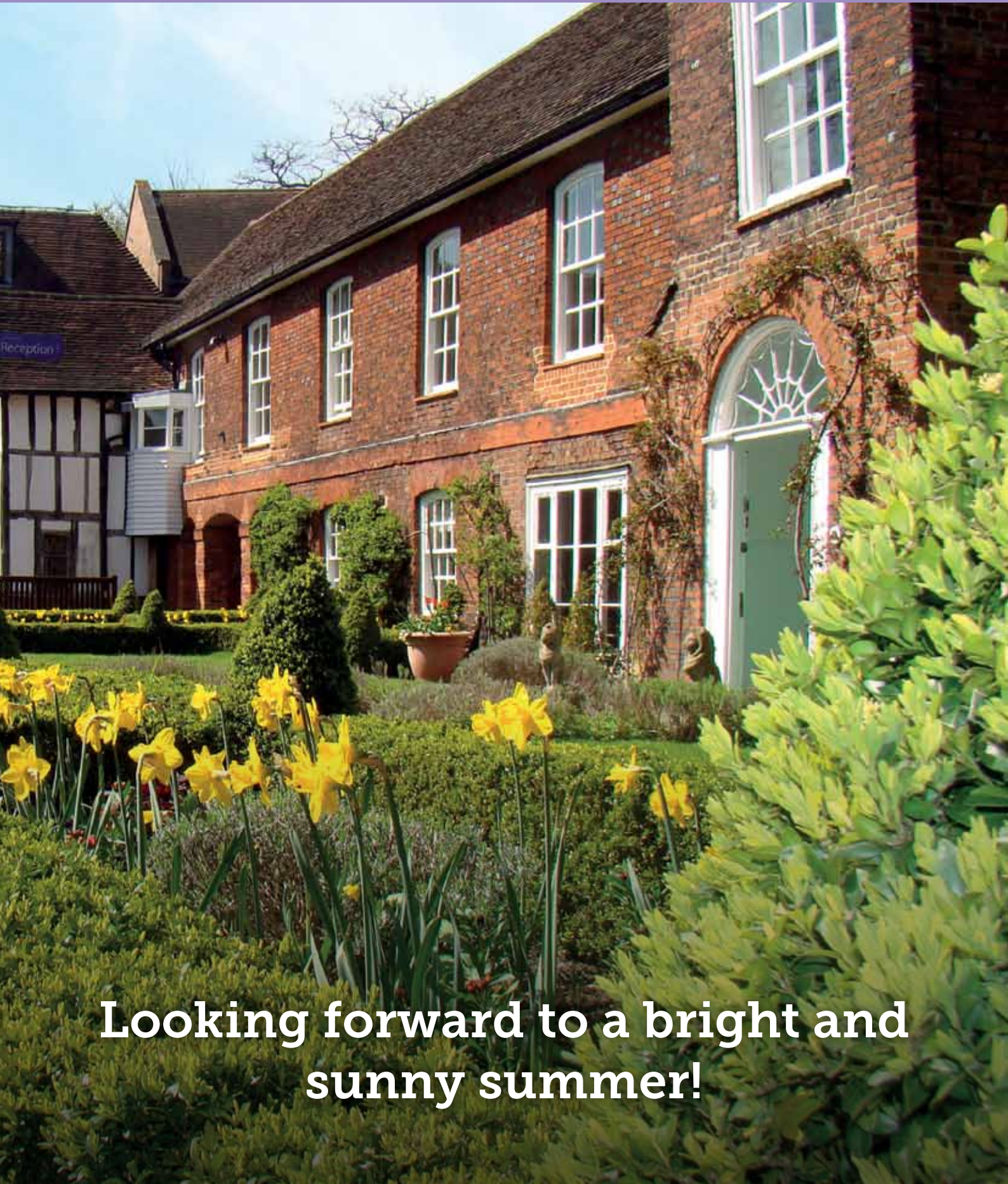
**Old Palace of  
John Whitgift School**

Independent Girls' School

Spring/Summer 2021



# Old Palace Alumnae News



**Looking forward to a bright and  
sunny summer!**

# Welcome from the Committee



Dear All,

I hope this finds you managing to stay well and safe. As I prepare this edition of 'News', we are still unsure how long we will have to follow the advice of 'Stay Local!' but there is some good news, that the vaccinations are being delivered very rapidly. I would like to let you know that one of our

committee members, Hilary Gadd, and one of our students, Sara A, have been trained as vaccinators, which is so worthwhile. And as the rapid roll-out continues we are looking forward optimistically to a return to a more normal existence by the summer.

I have been following the news Bulletins on the school website and am amazed at what the staff and girls are managing to achieve with their online and virtual lessons. I have seen articles about PE activities, Maths challenges and even Chemistry experiments all being undertaken at home. Please do look up the Bulletins, as they give you such an insight into what goes on at the school. I am sure that you would like to join me in sending Jane Burton, and all the school community our very best wishes at this time. Hopefully, by

the time this 'News' reaches you, the schools will have been able to return to a more normal routine at school.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition, particularly those of you who contacted me or Nicola Berry directly with your news and articles. Without items from our alumnae there wouldn't be much of a newsletter to publish, so please keep sending in your contributions; we really love to hear what you are all up to.

Please enjoy this edition,

Katy Beck

Newsletter Editor

[opa.newsletter@outlook.com](mailto:opa.newsletter@outlook.com)

## Contents

Welcome from the Committee:	2-3
News from our Alumnae:	3-12
Teacher's corner:	12
News from the school:	13
John Whitgift Foundation:	14-15
Obituaries:	16
Dates for your diary:	16



As Spring is now upon us along with the bright yellow daffodils to cheer us on our way, there does seem to be a glimmer of hope that some sense of normality will return later in the year.

March is the time when we would normally hold the Associate Alumnae Afternoon for Year 6 girls. I, together with some OPA members, would go into school and talk to about our school day experiences and then present each pupil with a Daisy Badge. As last year was cancelled and this year is postponed until the beginning of July, we thought it would be a nice gesture from the OPA to present each girl in Year 7 and 8 with a Face Mask, as they are now required to wear them in school. With the school logo and purple colour, the girls are delighted with them!

Looking forward, we are hoping to hold a low key 'get together' in the Medieval Gardens on Friday 9th July, instead of our Annual Summer Reunion for OPA Members. Please keep an eye on the OPA pages of the Old Palace website for the latest updates.

My thanks go to Katy and her team for their hard work in producing such a lovely Spring Newsletter.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many challenges that the School community has faced during this past, extraordinary year. I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional job the hard-working staff and Head, Mrs. Burton, have done in done in keeping our wonderful School going under such difficult circumstances.

Katherine Homatas

Chair OPA

# A word from the Head

I write this at the end of March; the school re-opened three weeks ago, the daffodils are out in the Medieval Garden, the clocks have gone forward and I think I talk for the whole school community when I say that there is an air of hope and regeneration around the school.

There is no doubt that this has been a challenging year for everyone, the school community included. However, the defining spirit of Old Palace has shown through and students, staff, parents and friends have shown their resilience, creativity and positivity throughout. Katy mentions the Bulletins in her introduction to this newsletter and they have, each and every week, illustrated the way the school community has stepped up and pulled together in the face of the challenges. I would also like to thank Nicola Berry for her enormous hard work in producing this every week but also for her foresight and creativity in moving Old Palace into the virtual world and for producing such an excellent set of videos that celebrated and showcased the school.

You can see them here:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCBqiB4Ik1sypJhM58FrukWQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBqiB4Ik1sypJhM58FrukWQ)

This has certainly paid off in the sense that despite the impact of Covid, our admissions process was very successful and we have very healthy numbers joining in Year 7 and Reception.

Thank you to the OPA for their continuing support; the face masks for the students was an incredibly generous gesture and very well received and it has been uplifting to have messages of support from you over the past 12 months. As things move on, I hope to see you all back at the School again... something for us all to look forward to!



Jane Burton

Head



## A Message of Hope

persistence and learning from the past to positively influence the future. This article brings a message of hope for healthcare services, including aged care. The last 12 months of the COVID 19 challenge has brought to light how important it is to ensure that people have access to care which is driven by empathy and compassion: the catalyst to facilitate the highest level of emotional health.

2020 saw the completion of our organisation's *Spark of Life* Model of Care after 27 years of development and field testing on 5 continents. The model shifts attitudes and builds relationships that dynamically and positively transform dementia care:

<https://dementiacareinternational.com/spark-of-lifemodel-of-care/>

In August 2021, this innovative model will be made available for aged care in the United Kingdom for the first time. The model of care is implemented by a certified Master Practitioner who has successfully completed the *Spark of*

*Life* International Master Leadership Program. The next Master Leadership Program via Zoom is specifically for the UK and European time zones. The 3 week program will take place from 14th-27th August, 2021 and is provided live via Zoom. The education has been developed to be conducive to the Zoom experience and to enable each participant to be actively involved, inspired and engaged.

If you know of aged care homes that could benefit from this model, feel welcome to forward this information to them. You may contact us for further information on the *Spark of Life* Model of Care and how this can be supportive of current programs: [info@dementiacareinternational.com.au](mailto:info@dementiacareinternational.com.au)

Hilary Lee

née Muller (1974-1983)

Over the last few years, Hilary has kept us up-to-date about her work and progress with Dementia Care International, which she now co-leads. It is an organisation that promotes a sustainable model of quality care based on empathy, compassion and kindness. This year they are leading a Master Leadership program for the international community, including the UK. She writes:

One thing I learned from studying at Old Palace School was about

# A Career in Caring



I look back at my time at Old Palace with fond memories. I was 8 years old when I started with my best friend and life-long chum Claire Tamberlin. My sister Sarah had started three years ahead of us. My first memory is of Mrs Townsend teaching us not to put our bags in the rows between desks because we could trip over them, as then she demonstrated!

One of the greatest parts of being at Old Palace was realising the tradition of the place; to have lessons in Gallery and Stafford, with their uneven floors and traditional school desks and to sing hymns from our English Hymnal each morning in the Banqueting Hall, its walls steeped in history. Even though we were a school in the middle of Croydon we were able to enjoy sport – with netball courts (which became tennis courts in the summer) across the road. Also, there was the trip down the underpass to Wandle Park where we played lacrosse in the winter and then athletics in the summer. Most of my Saturday mornings in the senior school were spent playing sport, which nurtured my competitive spirit! I also engaged in the performing arts, taking part in choir concerts and drama productions. My children, who have always been to co-educational schools, find it strange that I mostly played the parts of men! I have fun memories of those productions under the superb direction and inspiration of Mrs Berry and Dr Joanna Seldon. The wonderful Dr Seldon also coached me in Public Speaking, which has been an enormous asset to me.

From the age of 9 or 10 years old, I knew I wanted to be a doctor. However, when it came to applying to medical school in the sixth form, I lost confidence so, I will be forever grateful for Mrs Pauline Purcell's encouragement and belief in me. I was one of three Deputy Head girls who all went off to do medicine. I studied at Southampton University and after the gruelling junior doctor years, I decided to swap the hospital life for that of general practice. However, all the time I had a keen interest in palliative care (hospice medicine) and when our eldest child Tom was 18 months old, I finally bit the bullet, left my work as a GP and started work at our local hospice. I'd finally found my niche and have continued in the specialty ever since. Our daughter Hannah was born shortly after I embarked on consultant training, so this was continued part-time, eventually finishing in 2009.

Life then took another twist, as my husband, Andy, started ordained ministry training. We upped sticks and left Devon for Theological College in Cambridge for 2 years. During this time, I did not practise as a doctor but had an amazing opportunity to co-author a book with one of the college tutors entitled 'Care for the Dying'. On returning to Devon for Andy's curacy, I re-engaged with the local hospice and have been a consultant there since 2016.



*Sioned Evans, 2020, toggged up in PPE, ready for a day's work.*

This last year in healthcare, as in all sectors of society, has been tough. Wearing of PPE is essential but an unfamiliar barrier, especially in a hospice setting where we have always relied on the use of touch and body language in sensitive communications.

One of my passions is teaching and I am Communications Skills Lead at our local medical school, where I find it exciting to be involved with the teaching of future doctors. My desire is to share knowledge of palliative care in countries that have less resources and in doing so, acquire much-needed insight into what modern medicine has lost along the way.



*Zoom call between old school friends: Laura Carson (top left), Sioned Evans (top right) and Angela Kaplish (bottom).*

I still keep in touch with old school friends Claire Tamberlin (1978-89), who is Godmother to my son, Laura Carson (1980-88), who I enjoyed many an OPS production with and Angela Kaplish (1981-88), who now lives in Australia and of course my sister Sarah who lives in Somerset with her family and is a barrister and deputy district judge.

## Sioned Evans

(1978-1988)

# "I Went to School in a Tudor Palace"

Last Autumn, one of our alumnae, Sian Morgan, appeared on *The Chase*, ITV, and impressed the host with her knowledge of Tudor history. She also impressed both the viewers and the Chaser, Jenny Ryan, with her answers on questions about geography, literature and music. I heard about Sian's performance through an article in a local newspaper:

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/bradley-walsh-stunned-chase-contestant-19291513>

and wanted to find out more. I managed to track Sian down, through social media, and convinced her to share her story with us.



Sian joined Old Palace in Prep 3 in 1993 and stayed all the way through to Sixth Form, leaving in 2004 with A-Levels in Politics, English Literature, Spanish and Business Studies.

She told me that she really enjoyed school and explained how her time at Old Palace made a real impact on her in more ways than one: *"It was such a unique environment in which to come to school each day. Not only did I love learning in a place steeped in so much history, but I think there was something really special about the relationships fostered here. My best friends then are my best friends now, and I am still in contact with lots of girls from other year groups too. We all help each other with things like advice on career progression, and I really think that supporting other women is a value that was instilled in us by the school."*

As well as her studies, Sian enjoyed extra-curricular activities too: *"I was on the netball team and also loved taking part in all the drama productions and debating competitions. I was Anselm House captain in my final year and getting to know girls of all ages while organising and participating in inter-house events was a real highlight of my time at the school."*

After leaving Old Palace, Sian studied Politics at the University of Nottingham, and since graduating has worked in Government Relations, most recently as Head of External Affairs the Department for Transport.

At the time of her appearance on *The Chase*, Sian had just had her first baby,

Teddy, and told viewers that one of the reasons that spurred into take part in the quiz show, was that she wanted to win some cash to help set up her own business for safe-to-chew baby products. She won £6,000 in the opening *Cash Builder*, and then beat the Chaser home with the money in the next round, earning a place in the Final *Chase*.

Along the way, one of the questions asked by the host, Bradley Walsh, was:

*"Which of Henry VIII's children had the highest regnal number?"* and Sian immediately answered "Edward", without any look of surprise when she got it right.

When Bradley asked if her if she had been "swotting up", she replied: *"No I haven't, I actually went to school in a Tudor palace. I know quite a lot about the Tudors!"*

Bradley Walsh was completely astounded when Sian told him that our school was one of the former residences of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

*"They used to go there on their summer holidays,"* Sian said. *"Summer holidays in Croydon, would you believe it?!"*

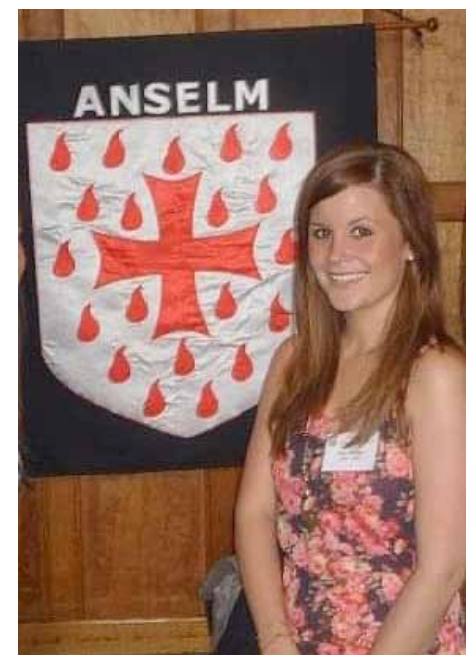
Sian admitted that studying in the old Croydon Palace ignited a lifelong passion for history: *"It was easily my favourite subject at school, and the intrigue of the Tudors always fascinated me. It amazed me that I was studying Geography in a room where Elizabeth I slept, and having assembly in a hall where Henry VIII feasted. In fact, Anne Boleyn would probably be my specialist*

*subject on Mastermind, which is the quiz show that I'm probably going to apply for next!"*

Sian very recently got in touch with me again, to let me know that her second child, Lucas, was born on 29th January, and that she and baby are both doing well. She is planning to spend the next year enjoying maternity leave, while pursuing her new business venture.

## Sian Morgan

1997-2004



Sian Morgan Anselm House Captain

# Framing Our Memories



Jackie near Old Man of Hoy, Rackwick Bay, Orkney

During my time at school two whole school photographs were taken, the first in 1965 and the latter in 1971. I came across these photos recently coiled up in a box in my loft where they have been for many years. Considering their age and lack of careful storage they are not in a bad condition with just a few creases and rough edges. I found myself wishing that I had had them framed.

I looked up the name of the photographers printed on the most recent photo – Gillman and Soame. I was surprised to find that not only were they still in business, but they also have an archive and it is possible to reorder the print with the option of mounts and framing. The 1971 photo was the first of several school photos taken by them. The database is simple to search and includes schools and institutions from all over the country so there may be other prints of interest to our alumnae. I decided to share this with you as there may be others who would be interested to look up this archive and to see the old photos. The link is:

<https://www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk/archive/search/?q=old+palace&y=>

I contacted Gillman and Soame to find out whether they could frame my prints. I had to send in some further details (condition and measurements) and they have offered to frame both even though the older photo was taken by another company, Panora of London. Further investigations have revealed that the negative of the Panora photo has been destroyed. I took a few images of these school photos before sending them off so that I could share them in the newsletter; it may trigger a few memories for some of you (alumnae).

I enjoyed looking at the photos after all these years and I was struck by how young many of the teachers look. 1971 was the year I took my A levels. The photo represents a time when I



Right hand side of school photograph, 1971, showing name of photographer, Gillman and Soame



Right hand side of school photograph, 1965, with Jackie on 4th row, showing name of photographer, Panora of London

just couldn't wait to leave school without a backward glance. I often wonder how my classmates made their way in the world. I have made contact over the years with a few and am always interested to read of people I knew in the newsletter.

One of my memories of school was of reading the old oak panels which hung on the wall of the Banqueting Hall. These listed the names of Head Girls, House Captains and all those who went on to University (there weren't many in those days).

I must have spent many hours looking at the names on those boards. I believe they were taken down later, so I wonder what happened to them and whether anyone took photos of them?

After I left school, I studied my favourite subject (geography) at Durham University and then had a 24-year career in a government map making establishment. After a short gap I went on to have a very different career in the education department of a local authority. I still love geography and geology and have fond memories of school field trips, which usually involved getting soaked, but they were a lot of fun.

I would love to sit down with contemporaries and try and remember the names of all the teachers in the photos, the 1971 one in particular. It presents a challenge as I can't even remember all the teachers who taught me. In the 1965 picture to the right of Sister Fenella (looking at the photo) sits Miss Downes (Music), Miss Barrow (Biology), Mrs Pettitt (school secretary) and Miss Hills (Geography). To the left of Sister Fenella is Miss Bottrill.

## Jackie Mulvey

née Ward (1964 – 1971)  
jackie@durham.org.uk



Centre panel of school photograph, 1971, with Sister Audrey (formerly Marcia), Sister Fenella and Sister Mary Ursula

## Note from the editor:

I would like to thank Jackie so much for sending us the images and contact details. I would have attended school soon after Jackie left so I was very interested to see what similarities and differences I could find. In the 1971 photo Jackie, a sixth former, is on the top row wearing school uniform. By the time the next school photo was taken in 1977, which you can see in the Gillman and Soame archive, the sixth formers wore their own clothes.

If you have any other school photos like these, or of other school events such as plays and productions or the choir which you would like to share, please do send them in.



Centre panel of school photograph, 1965, with Sister Fenella, headmistress

# The Hameed Sisters update

Since the autumn 2020 edition of News, Uzma and Ambreen's novel, 'Undying Book 1: The Kinship of Djinn's', has been published and is available to buy from Amazon. The second book, 'My Uncle's Son' will be out any day now.

The Kinship of Djinn's has received many great reviews from the likes of David Nicholls, Boyd Tonkin and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown. However, the first review that I found was by Maggie Humm (Emeritus Professor of the University of East London) on Goodreads which I think speaks volumes:

*"Reading Undying is like having a front row seat for an emotional off-Broadway play..... Undying, reminiscent of Susan Abulhawa's best-selling Mornings in Jenin, is a crucially significant novel for today."*

I am looking forward to the arrival of my copy in a few days.  
**The Editor**



# Desperately Seeking Susan...

and Jean, Ashanti, Valerie, Zoe, Hanna, Marjorie, Karen, Dalia, Saanvi, Pat, and everyone who went to Old Palace School!!!

**We are trying to find the alumna that we have lost touch with and so grow the OPA.**

Last year we worked on five year-groups and tracked down as many old school friends as we could. Now we want to extend this search across all years.

Are you still in touch, however tenuously, with girls who were in your year at Old Palace? Or do you have a Facebook page for your year group? We have found that the most successful way to track back and find "Old Girls" is by using you. No-one can remember the names of old classmates as well as you can!!!



We are looking for one or two ladies from each year to help us and be the main liaison person between your year group and the OPA Committee. Think of yourself as a modern-day "Form Rep" (or, in this case, a "Year Rep").

So, if you have hidden detective skills that you're looking to hone and would like to help us out, please email: [opahelp1@gmail.com](mailto:opahelp1@gmail.com)

If there is more than one person for a particular year group, we can put you in touch with each other (with prior permission only) so that you can work alongside each other.

Many thanks for your support in this; we know you will rise to the challenge !

**The Committee**



# Following My Passion For Italian



*Lara, before touring the Colosseum, Rome, during her year at La Sapienza University, 2017-2018*

I started to learn French at Old Palace when I was 7 years old. From that time onwards, my passion for languages developed, so in Year 8, when I was 13, I chose to study Italian with Professor Mazzeo. I enjoyed my first Italian class so much, that I knew this was something that I wanted to continue to study in the future. I then went on a school trip to Naples for a week, as part of the GCSE exchange programme, and I knew that I wanted to return there for a longer period of time in the future. This is what led me to study Law with Italian for my undergraduate degree at the University of Hertfordshire.

I joined the university Salsa Society in my first year and I was nominated to be Vice-President during my second year. For the third year of my degree, I had the wonderful opportunity to study Law and Economics at La Sapienza University of Rome, which is the largest university in Europe. Whilst there, I joined a classical choir and sang at two choral services in cathedrals in Rome. Also, while studying in Rome, I attended a bachata dance course and a salsa course and I travelled around Italy, visiting many parts including Milan, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Siena, Verona, Padua, Lucca and Latium.



*Lara, 2019, before having her first family client at Hertfordshire Law Clinic during her Masters in Legal Practice*

I graduated from Hertfordshire University, at the top of my Italian class which I am sure was helped by the year that I spent in Rome. I received a Gold Go Herts Award for my extracurricular contributions to the university and was also nominated for a Dean's Award for outstanding commitment to global awareness.

Following my degree, I studied for the LLM in Legal Practice with the Legal Practice Course (Masters), also at Hertfordshire. Until March 2020, when we went into the first Covid-19 lockdown, I continued with my hobby of dance and carried out lots of volunteering and work-experience. I taught salsa and bachata at the university Salsa Society, worked as a research assistant at the Students' Union, volunteered at Hertfordshire Law Clinic and was selected to work-shadow a family solicitor at a local domestic abuse charity. I also volunteered as a Street Law Presenter and as a Support at Court Volunteer as part of Hertfordshire Law Clinic. As a Street Law Presenter, I visited local schools and colleges, teaching students about their rights on various topics from Stop and Search Law to Employment Law. As a Support at Court Volunteer, I assisted parties at First Hearing and Dispute Resolution Appointments (FHDRAs) at the local county court and answered any questions that they had on court procedures.



*Lara, graduating with a BA in Law with Italian, 2020*

Due to the pandemic, classes moved online as Hertfordshire University closed in March. However, I continued to volunteer at the Law Clinic via digital means. In May, I was elated to be awarded Student of the Year 2019/20 at the Hertfordshire Students' Union Awards. I am proud to say that I graduated in October with a distinction and I achieved the highest mark on my course for the Immigration Law module.

I am thankful for my experience at Old Palace, which prompted my passion for languages and helped me to be ambitious from a young age. It taught me how to achieve my objectives by networking, planning and completing tasks before their set deadline, which has allowed me to always remain on top of my goals in case anything suddenly changes at the last minute. During my year in Italy, I made so many incredible friends from all over the world who I am still in touch with. Most of them have already visited me since I returned to England and, though we are currently staying in contact over video calls and zoom parties, I look forward to travelling back to Italy soon and meeting my friends again in a post-coronavirus life.

Lara Ann Harriette

(2001-2013)

# What a Year to set up a New Business!



As we say goodbye (or good riddance!) to 2020, I've been looking back over The Limpsfield Cookery School's first year of life. It had all begun over a year before, when I was recently retired and looking for cookery classes. I found that most were geared towards professional chefs and my idea for a new type of cookery school was born. After a year of planning and preparation I set up this new business venture in February last year - just weeks before the global pandemic, of COVID-19, took hold of all of our lives. Who could have foreseen the following 12 months? It's fair to say it's been a rollercoaster, with both highs and lows. But I am truly proud of the business I have managed to establish in the most difficult of environments.

Like most businesses in the UK, I've had to adapt and, whilst not in my original business plan, I launched a range of ready meals. This collection has proved to be spectacularly popular and the plan is to continue with this in the future. Initially I was "cooking to order" but, as word got out, I found I was in the kitchen from 8.00am until gone midnight. Obviously, that wasn't sustainable, so I switched to freezing meals as I made them and grew from one freezer chest to six within a few months - offering over 20 mains and 13 puddings.

Back in March, just as we started our cookery lessons, we went into our first lockdown and everything had to stop. We managed more teaching during the school Summer holidays and the Autumn. Unfortunately, the second and third lockdowns have halted



teaching once again. Luckily, I have an unbelievably talented group of chefs. Their enthusiasm remains undiminished and they have been so supportive amid all the cancellations and rescheduling of lessons, as new restrictions came into force.

In December we were thrilled to welcome an ITV camera crew into the Cookery School, to film an episode of The Mummy Diaries. My Fine Dining Chef (and son-in-law!) gave Greg Faiers (married to Billie Faiers of TOWIE and Dancing on Ice fame!!) a cookery lesson. It will be aired on ITV this February/March. After a successful stint before the first lockdown, I have now been asked by BBC Radio Surrey and Sussex to become a regular Friday afternoon guest, giving advice on cooking etc... very exciting (and a bit nerve-wracking too!).

In an effort to help the local community of Limpsfield, in early December I



*Billy Faiers with Chef Oliver Thompson.*



decided to host a Christmas Fayre in the courtyard surrounding the cookery school. It was a resounding success and helped support many local, artisan businesses during this difficult time. We had the most fabulous turnout, especially as I only knew that we could go ahead with the fayre a week before the actual day. We will definitely be continuing this new Christmas tradition in Limpsfield.

It's now February 2021, in lockdown once again and it feels like there's no real end in sight - at least not within the next couple of months. However, I genuinely remain positive about the second half of the year. This pandemic has made people realise the importance of local businesses and High Streets and I believe that they will see a massive uptick in consumer demand, once we're all allowed out again - fingers crossed!

Here's to staying safe, happy and healthy in 2021!

Jacqui Derbyshire

née Smith (1976-81)

# A Royal Visit to the Old Palace in 1960



*The Duke stops to chat with the girls.*

As a part of the celebrations of Croydon's Millennium, 1960, Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Old Palace School. On a cold but sunny autumn day, 2nd November 1960, they arrived at about 4.30pm and stayed for an hour, during which time they had tea in the Banqueting Hall, and a short scene from the Old Palace Pageant was performed. The scene showed Queen Elizabeth I, conferring the office of Lord Chancellor on Archbishop Hatton, and Sister Fenella referred to it as the 'Royal Command Performance'! Janet Dean had a tiny part in it as a thief in a sack cloth who stole something from a stall, in the market scene.



You can see the photos on our Facebook page, which has helped us identify a few more of you: Janet Haggard, Susan Summers, Hazel Trevanion, Marion Smith, and Sarah Hill, Heather Plowright, Cathy Shrimpton, Patsy Jones, Frances Baldwin.

In this photo, sent in by Thea Mitchell (1958-1966) are: Catherine Stevens, Rosemary Pratt, Penny Stubbs, Thea, Carolyn Palmer, Monica Keane, Christine, Penelope Jagger (front row, left to right).

Janet sent us this image and writes:

*"On hearing of the death of Prince Philip, I turned to the photograph of my meeting him during the royal visit to the Old Palace School. The following day, this image appeared on the front page of the Croydon Advertiser.*

*The Duke strayed from the red carpet to talk to the girls and worked his way along, until coming to stand in front of me whereupon he asked me directly if I, and those around me were not awfully cold? He explained that they had been caught in traffic. I curtsied and addressing him as Sir, insisted we were not cold, only excited at the chance of meeting with him and The Queen. The moment was then forever etched on my mind and this photograph remains testament to that moment, in a frame in my sitting room.*

*Today, 9th April 2021, is a very sad day for a life well lived, of a unique man who was selfless in his service and duty to The Queen, his country and its people. An example to all and he leaves the most amazing legacy."*

## Janet Dean

née Wilkie (1959-1968)

A full account of the occasion is provided in the book: *Old Palace School Centenary History 1889-1989*, K L Hilton. Please contact the editor for further details.

## Carol Jewell Meets Prince Phillip



*September 2011: HRH the Duke of Edinburgh presents the Duke of Edinburgh Award Licence to Carol Jewell, Head of Old Palace of John Whitgift School.*

# I've Started, so I'll Finish.....

Coronavirus has affected us all in so many ways: some happy, some sad and some downright frustrating. Weekly trips to the supermarket were undertaken with fear and excitement. We learnt how to do a new dance routine, a bit like the "hokey-cokey" when keeping a safe space around others. Friends were given hand-made face masks in a variety of fabrics and designs alongside birthday presents.

Thanks to the kindness of neighbours who left a daily delivery of material on the doorstep, my sewing machine hummed as I made PPE isolation gowns and laundry bags, using re-purposed duvet covers and sheets.



PPE isolation gowns

Dressmaking elastic hit an all time commodities price and was so hard to get at one point! The beautiful summer weather then gave us the opportunity to enjoy our gardens, parks and open spaces. The word "bubble" took on a new meaning.

As the last leaves of autumn fell and the long nights came, this time the "stay at home" message was much harder to endure. The lack of close contact with friends and family tested everyone.

Our collective spirits were then given a boost with the roll-out of the mass vaccination programme. Spurred on with the hope of regaining some of our freedom in the world of "New Normal", I applied to the NHS to become a Vaccinator. I joined the NHS on-line learning community; I undertook a training package which involved nineteen online modules and sixteen assessments taking around thirty-six hours to complete. The course brought back so many memories of training as a Student Nurse, serving as a timely reminder that past skills gained had changed little over the years! Armed with my completion certificates I'm awaiting deployment dates.

I would never have thought having started my working life in the NHS, that after a 25 year gap I'd be back there, so close to retirement age!

Hilary Gadd

née Anderson (Class of 1973)

## Teacher's Corner

A new and regular section will be appearing in the newsletter, about the teachers who have inspired us.

Please send your contributions in a short paragraph of about 100 words to the editor.

Here are the first contributions:

### Mrs Faul

Mrs Faul was new to the school the year that I started my A-levels. She was a breath of fresh air, introducing modern literature (including wonderful contemporary poetry) into our class discussions. She encouraged us to read more widely, think more creatively and in so doing provided a fresh perspective on the more traditional texts that Miss Bottrill covered as a valuable foundation.

I will be forever grateful to Mrs Faul, but also to Miss Bottrill, for kindling my life-long enjoyment of English Literature.

Jackie Mulvey

née Ward (1964-1971)

### Mrs Hodgkiss

Although history was already my favourite subject before Margaret Hodgkiss joined the staff at Old Palace in 1966, it was her holistic approach to the teaching of it that inspired me to also make history teaching my career. It was her firm belief that you could not appreciate nor fully understand any historical period without also appreciating and understanding its culture: art, architecture, literature, music and fashion, which led me to a life-long interest in those areas too. Never secure in my own academic abilities, there were always those who shone more brightly academically than me, she personally nurtured and encouraged my study of history which led to a friendship that continued after I had left OP.

I shall always be grateful to her for exposing me to what lay beyond the textbook and only hope that I have been able to inspire and encourage my own students in a similar fashion.

Mary Kennedy

née Hurrion (1964-1971)

## Old Palace Virtual Choir Launches 'Happy'



There was certainly an air of happiness across both Senior and Prep on Monday morning, as we welcomed students back to school after what seemed like a very long three months. In 'honour' of this, we are pleased to be able to share with you the Old Palace Virtual Choir's version of 'Happy'. Please do watch this if you have a moment; it will bring a smile to your face!

<https://youtu.be/G0RVxmU9tqk>

## Thank you to the Alumnae



Students in Years 7 and 8 were delighted with the OPA's gift of a special OP mask.

## Sara Volunteers to Help Administer Covid-19 Vaccines



Before Easter, I had the amazing opportunity of giving vaccines to people in the priority category in East London. I have been training for around a month, completing modules to enable me to achieve the NHS Care Certificate, which I have now got. This has equipped me with the basic skills needed to help me on the front line.

I started off by assisting NHS staff

in data entry after patients had the vaccine, as they were short staffed. This meant I had my own NHS logins and the ability to input patient information. I then went to a new mass vaccination centre in an East London mosque, where my dad was trying a new system for giving the vaccine on a larger scale than he was previously able to administer at the Cable Street hub.

This was a truly eye-opening experience, and more than anything, the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I will continue to help out at vaccination hubs a few times a week for as long as I am needed.

**Sara A, Sixth Former**

For anyone who either grew up, or went to school, in Croydon, the name of 'Whitgift' will resonate for a variety of reasons. This year the John Whitgift Foundation is celebrating its 425th anniversary, so I would like to draw to your attention some of the initiatives that the charity will be running and outline how you can share the celebrations. Most of the information that I have presented below can be found on the Foundation's website. I have also included a few website links for you.

### But who was John Whitgift?



"John Whitgift, born in Lincolnshire around 1530, was Queen Elizabeth I's last and favourite Archbishop of Canterbury". <https://www.elizabethi.org/>

In 1596 he laid the first two foundation stones of the Hospital of The Holy Trinity. In the same year, just yards down the road, he opened a school. Together, these two buildings would help him realise his founding vision to educate and care for the people of Croydon. This was his legacy. Today, more than 425 years on, he'd take great pride in the charitable work the John Whitgift Foundation carries out in his name.

There is a very visual timeline for the history of the John Whitgift Foundation on its website that provides interesting facts about both Whitgift and the Foundation:

<https://www.johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/about-us/our-history/>

### 365 Day Historical Snapshot



To commemorate John Whitgift Foundation's 425th anniversary, we will be releasing a historical image each day during 2021 to look back at our charity's incredible past.

From Queen Elizabeth I's reign to the industrial revolution and two world wars, John Whitgift Foundation has seen more than four centuries of history since it was founded in 1596 by Archbishop John Whitgift.

Many of the artefacts and images, some previously unseen, are held within John Whitgift Foundation's archives, as well as

in its properties including two Grade 1 listed buildings, Old Palace School and the Whitgift Almshouses.

Each day during 2021, images and facts will be released through the Foundation's social media channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn and you can follow via the hashtags #425in365

<https://www.johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/365-day-historical-snapshot-to-celebrate-425-years-of-the-john-whitgift-foundation/>

This image of the dilapidated building (palace) was posted on the social media sites on 16th January. I particularly like it, because it reminds me of the tales we were told about the Sisters taking on the old building to set up our school, and also of the many hours we spent gathering under those arches in the early mornings before school.

I also hope you will enjoy the second image below, of the porch, which was the gravel playground when I was at school. It has the popular old horse-chestnut tree on the left as well as two other small trees/shrubs. Do check out social media to see more images.





Lilia Year 11

## Commemorative Pin Badge Competition

All students and care home residents were invited to enter a 'design a badge competition' to produce special commemorative 425th anniversary badges that can be worn throughout the year and kept for years to come. The competition was launched in three categories: Old Palace Prep and Pre-Prep, Foundation Schools' senior students and Whitgift Care.

The competitors were provided with some guidelines and background historical information including an extract from the Daily Telegraph's account of the 1930 Founder's Day event:

'Those who took part in the festival wore "White gift" flowers (buttonholes of white stock and fern) provided by the chairman of the Foundation Governors.'

Apparently, the white flowers or 'white gift' originated from Queen Elizabeth I's pun on the Founder's name! After hearing him preach for the first time, in 1567 she declared "he truly is a white Gift" and made him Royal chaplain.

## Special Edition John Whitgift Newspapers

Read all about it! Take a step back in time and read the first edition of the John Whitgift Herald from 23rd March 1596.



To engage with staff across the Foundation, we feel that a fun and engaging way is to bring our history to life through 'newspapers' of the time. We have written six newspapers dating back to various time periods within our history which we will be releasing every two months throughout the year to staff and online channels. They will be released to the wider community to explain our impact and influence on Croydon and the people living here over time.

<https://www.johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1596-newspaper-FINAL.pdf>

Keep an eye out for the later editions and please feel free to contact the editor if you have difficulty accessing them. I am looking forward to an edition later in the year, which I am anticipating will include items about OPS!!

## Grow with John

The Whitgift Foundation is producing a microsite dedicated to help the Croydon community get involved in gardening to promote wellbeing and mindfulness.

[www.johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/growwithjohn/](http://www.johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/growwithjohn/)

I have heard that our very own Chair, Katherine, is providing some gardening tips on video, about growing tomatoes, so please watch out for this!

## Finally

There will be other initiatives and events taking place later in the year whose details can be accessed from the Foundation's website.

PS. Did you know?

### Whitgift village, Yorkshire

John Whitgift was the eldest son of Henry Whitgift, a merchant, from Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire. He was born, probably between 1530 and 1533. The Whitgift family is thought to have originated in the relatively close Yorkshire village of Whitgift, adjoining the River Ouse. So nowhere near Croydon!

### The Coat of Arms for the London Borough of Croydon

It features a black cross known as cross flory. This is a cross adorned at the ends with flowers in heraldry, and in this case the shape of a fleur-de-lis. The cross is surmounted by five gold discs called bezants and was derived from the arms of Archbishop John Whitgift, who was a benefactor of the town of Croydon.



### The Seal of Hospital of the Holy Trinity (Almshouses)



Whitgift's first ever sermon was preached at St Paul's (Cathedral) cross open-air pulpit, in 1565 and was about the parable of The Rich Man and Poor Man (Dives and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31). Images of this parable were the chief feature in the seal for the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, set up by Whitgift.

# Lisbeth Mary Lawrence

(née Parnaby)

Passed away on 11th November 2020, after a very sudden and short illness

From her daughter, Sarah Coales:

My mother Lis passed away on 11th November after a very sudden, short illness Both my Mum, Aunt, Godmother and many other family members and friends are Old Girls of Old Palace School.

# Marion Alexander

(née Goff)

Missed by us all.

(Class of 1973)



## Do we have your correct email address and/or postal address?

If either of these has changed, please contact Nicola Berry, the Old Palace Marketing Manager.

The OPA newsletter is now being distributed electronically so please ensure we have your current email address. Postal copies are available to those who do not have access to email.

Email: [nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)

Telephone: 07714 742897

or write to her at:

Old Palace of John Whitgift School  
Old Palace Road  
Croydon CRO 1AX

Follow us on:



## LATEST NEWS

Don't forget to have a look at the weekly bulletin, **Around the Palace** for all the news at School. It can be found on the home page of the School website. You'll be amazed how much is going on!

[www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)



## Dates for the Diary

### Summer Reunion 2021: UPDATE

Friday, 9th July 2021  
12-2pm

There will be no formal Summer Reunion this year; instead, we are holding an informal get together at the Senior School on Friday, 9th July at 12 noon. It may be held in the Banqueting Hall or outside depending on lifting of Covid 19 restrictions.

If you are interested in attending, please email Nicola Berry at: [nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:nberry@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)

### Friends of Old Palace: UPDATE

The Friends are looking ahead to the autumn half term (26th-29th October) when they hope to be able to conduct tours of Old Palace again (Covid restrictions permitting).

Keep an eye on their website for further details.

[www.friendsofoldpalace.org](http://www.friendsofoldpalace.org)

