



# The Edgbaston High School for Girls Old Girls' Association Magazine

# Laurel Leaves



## Mrs Bartlett Retires

**"I look back at my time at EHS with nothing but fond memories. The (almost) fifteen years I spent as Head of Prep passed in a flash and I cannot believe I am actually of retirement age!"**

I think back to my somewhat gruelling interview with Mrs Susan Horsman, then Head of School with a panel of 5 governors. I sat nervously on the edge of the white shell chair which still sits in the Head's office. After about half an hour I realised I had relaxed back into the chair and was feeling completely at home. It was a feeling that never left me throughout my time at school.

Edgbaston is such a special place; the warmth and generosity of the pupils and parents will always be with me and I miss seeing them every day. It was good to see girls of all religions living and learning together in harmony. I also remember how thoughtful and considerate the girls always were whenever charity appeals were made. They collected, sewed, climbed and knitted whatever was



*Mrs Bartlett addresses the girls and staff at her retirement assembly*

needed and who can ever forget our 2 Rowathons! All the hard work was worth it when we raised £32000 for South Africa and £62000 for The Teenage Cancer Trust.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Contents

Chairman's Message	P2
Languages at EHS	P4
Westbourne	P6
Old Girls' News	P8
Initiative Awards	P10
Kindred Sole	P11
Dame Sally Davies	P13
Welcome New Old Girls	P13
Destination of Leavers	P14
Obituaries	P16



# Chairman's Message 2009

**This summer it will be 25 years since I left EHS. When back at school there are so many things that remind me of my happy school days - the parqué floor, the Christmas tree in the ante hall, the smell of school dinners, the warmth, the laughter as the girls run through the corridors to their next lesson followed closely by a raised voice saying "Walk girls"! In so many ways it hasn't changed at all, and all the values that we were taught to set us on our way into the world are still there and as important as ever. I'm sure that an EHS girl today is much the same as an EHS girl 25 years ago.**

So, when I took over the role of Chairman at the AGM in the Summer, it was a very proud moment, although I do have a hard act to follow! I would like to thank Mrs Anne Howarth, on behalf of the OGA, for all her hard work over the last three years, as Chairman. Anne is still a member of the Committee and continues to work with our beautiful and thought-provoking archives. Many of you will remember cold days down at the field, with Mrs Howarth and her clip board, blowing her whistle shouting "Run

girl run!" (or was that just me? I was always the slow one at the back!). But of course Anne is also an Old Girl and began her school years at the Hagley Road building. I would also like to thank Lucy Giaquinto (née Ladbrooke), and Rachael Hobbis for their time on the Committee - both have left this year due to other commitments. And also to Diana Harris (née Granville Jolly) who also spent two years as Chairman and many years on the Committee. Diana now lives in Oxfordshire and so, quite understandably, was finding it a long journey to attend each Committee meeting! I'm very pleased to welcome Anna Stanley (née Lefever), who has joined the Committee as Staff Representative, but many of you will remember her as an Old Girl, and her family's story was featured recently in Laurel Leaves. And another welcome to the Committee for Julie Lowe (née Hurcomb), my old friend - Julie's great at coming up with ideas so I'm looking forward to working closely together. If anyone would like to join the Committee, you would be very welcome - we only meet once a term in the evening, so it isn't a huge commitment, as we understand time is very precious, especially as many of us have work and families to juggle.

Our London Lunch in February, at the University Women's Club was

well-attended and enjoyed by all, in such a lovely venue. It's a great opportunity for Old Girls based in and around London to catch-up. We intend to repeat this each year.

The AGM in June was also a lovely evening, where we enjoyed some truly beautiful singing from some of our more recent Old Girls, Felicity Murphy, Amy Slevin and Priti Bansel. Many thanks to them - we thoroughly enjoyed it. And we also enjoyed a superb supper - many thanks to Judy Metcalfe for her help in organising the evening and to the catering team at EHS.

Look out on pages 14 and 15 for details of this year's events, not least the School's 135th Birthday Lunch!

Thank you to Dr Weeks for her enthusiasm and support for the OGA. And finally a huge thank you to Rebekah Lowe, Director of Marketing and Admissions and Sarah Ellingham, Marketing Assistant, for their tireless help in event organisation, database management, e-newsletters and so much more - we couldn't do it without you.

Very best wishes to you all,  
**Helen Holmes**



Elizabeth Hinett, Anne Howarth, Mrs Ridsdale and Diane Hirst at the AGM

Please do make sure that you notify school of any change of address or change of email address. We do not continue to send copies of Laurel Leaves if we have had copies returned in two consecutive years. School address is Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TS, or email [oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk](mailto:oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk)

Continued from cover

I was proud of our academic standards and it was pleasing to see last week we retained our position as one of the top 50 Prep schools in the country. Anything I achieved at EHS was due to the wonderful staff I had. They always worked tremendously hard and supported me when I "had another one of those ideas!" Particular thanks must go to my Deputy Head, Mrs Norris who I think must have "diluted" some of the feedback from the staffroom! I am sure she must miss our daily 7.30 am meetings!

I do not miss getting up at 5.45 but I do still miss the girls and staff and suspect I always will. However I spend a lot of time in the garden where I am surrounded by many memories of EHS. The OGA acer tree is looking very healthy and I



*Former Headmistress Mrs Susan Horsman, Headmistress Dr Ruth Weeks, Laura Bartlett, Chairman of Council Mr George Tonks and former Chairman of Council Mr Ian Marshall*

would like to thank them all again for their kind gift. I am due to be a grandmother for the first time in early December and I cannot wait! I am glad I now have more time to spend with the family and perhaps to slow down but only a little! I look forward to coming back to OGA functions and to renew old friendships. Edgbaston will always be part of my life and I know under Dr. Weeks' leadership it will continue to flourish."

*Year 13 pay tribute to Mrs Bartlett at a special retirement assembly, dressed in their original school uniform*



## Edgbaston High School Old Girls' Association Committee 2009-10

### **President**

Dr Ruth Weeks

### **Vice Presidents**

Miss V. R. Belton (1976-1987)

Mrs S. J. Horsman (1987-1997)

Miss E. M. Mullenger (1998-2006)

### **Chairman**

Helen Holmes (1980-1985)

### **Past Chairman**

Anne Howarth (1954-1961)

### **Treasurer**

Lara Fatah (left 2001)

### **Secretary**

Diane Hirst (1947-1961)

### **Editor of Laurel Leaves**

Helen Holmes (1980-1985)

### **Past Staff Representative**

Stella Pinkess (1946-1960)

### **Staff Representative**

Anna Stanley (left 1989)

### **General Committee**

Celia Bell (left 1971)

Julie Lowe (left 1986)

Judy Metcalfe (staff, left 1987)

Ronnie Shoebottom (left 1968)

### **Legal Advisor**

Miss S. Thomas (1961-1972)



# Languages at EHS

**Many of us will remember learning French and Latin at EHS, and having the option to take German or Spanish if it fitted into our timetable. Well, things have changed today, with the introduction of interactive whiteboards and even Mandarin!**

Girls today, still take Latin for the first three years in Senior School and start French in the first year, but everyone also takes a second language, such as German or Spanish, during their second and third years. So in years 8 and 9 (lower and upper fourth) all girls study three languages. One language of their choice is compulsory at GCSE level, but many girls take two.

In the Sixth Form, as part of Enrichment Studies on a Wednesday afternoon, girls can take Italian. By studying Italian for one afternoon each week, they are ready to take their GCSE!

This year has seen the introduction

of the AQA FCSE Certificate (Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education). This is a formal qualification taken in Year 9 (lower fifth), with a Distinction being the equivalent of a C/D grade at GCSE. Not only will this help girls who don't take two languages at GCSE, as they have something to show for their efforts to date, but will also help the School's position in the League Tables - an FCSE is worth 34 performance points.

The MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) department is very pro-active in organising trips. In October this year, Year 10 and 11 girls studying GCSE Spanish went to Andalucia in Spain to help to develop their speaking skills, and also to study Spanish culture. The Year 9s have recently taken in the German Christmas Market.

This year there will be a joint German and History trip to Berlin and a Sixth Form trip to the *Your Future in Europe* Conference in Paris. These

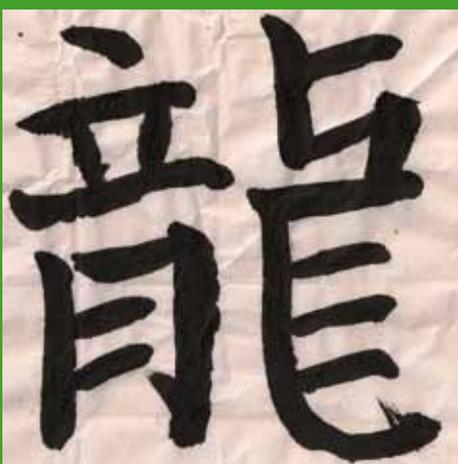
opportunities greatly enrich the learning experience and add value to their studies.

The department is well-supported by three Assistants, two of which are permanent members of staff. Maria is the French Assistant, Carolina the Spanish Assistant and the German Assistant, currently Nuschin, changes each year through the British Council. They not only help the girls in native language speaking but also promote the culture of their countries.



Trip to Spain 2009

## Mandarin



**Mandarin at EHS began as an after school club for Year 8s, but quickly expanded due to its popularity.**

Soon the Year 6s began a beginners Mandarin class, while the Year 8s continued, and some Cantonese speakers took their GCSE. A group of non-Cantonese speakers in Year 10 will shortly be ready to take their GCSEs.

The group, including Years 6, 7 and 8, have entered national competitions, including verse speaking - the National Mandarin Reading Competition - last Spring

in London. Girls from Years 6 and 7 won first prize for their role play and Chopsticks dance. Megan Sterry gained third prize for the reading of a poem, *Two Little Puppies*. EHS won the Certificate of Excellence for participation.

Many girls enjoy Chinese calligraphy, and again have won competitions.

Ying Hong Chang is an Assistant at EHS, and has organised Assemblies on China and helped with competitions. This has been invaluable in the girls' learning experience.

**Nikhila Patel is currently in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) and wants to read French and Spanish at University.**



She is taking French and Spanish at A Level and is hoping to study abroad for six months, teaching English in France and Spain. Ultimately Nikhila would

like to be an interpreter for the EU or NATO. In February she intends to undertake some work in a hotel or restaurant in Spain, and if she takes

a gap year will also work overseas to gain valuable experience.

Nikhila enjoys making use of the technology at EHS, finding the interactive whiteboard a great resource. It enables students to look through a transcript after hearing it, solidifying knowledge and learning vocabulary.

**Chloe Walford is in Year 13 (Upper Sixth) and has applied for deferred entry to University so that she can gain experience overseas before beginning her degree.**

Chloe is going to work as a ski instructor in France for three months and then enjoy a visit to South Africa.

She is also going to gain some work experience in Paris working for the label Nina Ricci.

Chloe particularly enjoys the traditional aspects of modern languages, including conversational French. She also enjoys studying France, its history and culture, and studying French texts. This is invaluable to the overall experience, gaining an understanding of the country as well as the language.



## My Memories

I remember sitting as the 'new girl' in a French class in Year 9; I had sweaty palms and a dry mouth, it was scary enough speaking in English to my unfamiliar classmates, let alone speak and make sense in another language! The same situation was occurring in my Spanish class; however, unlike the rest of the class who had been studying Spanish for a year already, I was starting this language one year behind everyone else. Miss Mellor, the head of the languages department at EHS, had assured me I would be able to catch up easily, however as I heard the teacher mumble some foreign words prompting the entire class to sit down in unison, leaving me standing alone and bewildered, I realised this could be one very large uphill struggle!

Despite early fears, languages at EHS soon became my forte. I took both French and Spanish at GCSE, then continued to study Spanish for A Level and I am currently reading Spanish at Edinburgh University. Looking back now on my times at Edgbaston High, it seems clear the school did indeed 'throw me in at the deep end' in regards to starting Spanish late, but

this was exactly the encouragement I needed to compel me into the study of languages, something which I have enjoyed immensely throughout my years at EHS and continue to enjoy at university. My love for the study of languages which began at EHS, gave me the confidence to pursue a new language at Edinburgh University, and so I now study Arabic alongside Spanish as part of my degree. The old fears did return to haunt me in my first Arabic class, particularly when I discovered the language is written from right to left, however, this time round I knew without a doubt, anything is possible!

Studying a language at EHS is more than just churning out vocabulary, we had a whole school 'Spanish Day' (see photograph above right), there are foreign plays, trips abroad and theatre workshops amongst countless



other activities, all of which enrich students' enjoyment of the subject. It was the foundation in languages gained at EHS that allowed me to imagine becoming part of a global workplace when I leave university and gave me the conviction to believe that with languages the sky really is the limit!

**Amber O'Shaughnessy**



*Trip to Madrid*



# Westbourne

**The family atmosphere in Westbourne enables children to adapt quickly and happily to school life. Here they receive dedicated care and encouragement in a safe and attractive environment. Girls can begin their EHS career in nursery from the age of two and a half years old. The purpose built accommodation is bright and colourful and always a hive of activity.**

As the young girls move on to Kindergarten and Reception they benefit from stimulating teaching rooms and a good balance of creative play and subject focussed activities.

All individual achievements are recognised and pupils are encouraged to develop their individual strengths. This is possible due to the nurturing approach from staff and the broad curriculum on offer. This includes art, music, science, games, cooking and physical education in addition to learning



to read and write! In Reception the girls are also able to enjoy ballet, swimming and French.

The curriculum and the children's experiences are enriched by a range of activities. This term alone the girls have raised money with a 'Picnic for Pudsey' and enjoyed a visit from a storyteller to launch their Book Fair. They have studied the seasons and

nature in EHS grounds and at the Botanical Gardens. At Christmas they presented a magical afternoon of entertainment for parents, family and friends. They sang, recited poems, performed actions and introduced all of their own items. There wasn't a dry eye in the house and the audience were delighted to be able to join in with 'Jingle Bell Rock!' In turn the girls were entertained by a visit from Santa and a performance of 'The Bashful Fairy' on party day.

This is just a snapshot of all the enjoyable learning experiences which take place in Westbourne. Little wonder, that girls move happily to Year 1 as confident, well-behaved, accomplished pupils who show consideration for others around them. Westbourne certainly gives girls an excellent start and enables them to develop skills which will see them well into later life.

**Westbourne truly is a special place.**



# Memories of Westbourne

Mrs Barnsley has been a member of staff in Westbourne for nearly thirty years and she shares some of her many memories of changes that have taken place.

'Just like many of the girls I've seen flourish at EHS, Westbourne has developed substantially too. Nearly thirty years ago, when I started work in Westbourne, I shall never forget the magnificent rocking horse in the foyer. It was available for the children to use at any time. There was also a beautiful, fully-furnished dolls' house which was positioned on a polished wooden table. The entrance in to Westbourne was very graceful and charming. The wooden doors taken from the old school on the Hagley Road produced even

more of a 'wow' factor when you walked in.

Mrs Adams was the Head of Westbourne and there were four teachers and one teaching assistant, (me!). The girls wore their own clothes and had indoor and outdoor shoes. Year 1 was situated in Westbourne then and there were two Reception classes and one Kindergarten class. It wasn't called Kindergarten at that time – just known by the teacher's name. Girls attending Nursery left at lunchtime each day. Every afternoon the girls had a sleep (even Year 1) and they each brought a blanket and pillow from home to sleep on. There was a flat upstairs where, I believe, Miss Belton lived when she first came to Birmingham. It had a kitchen, living area, bedroom and bathroom. This was where the current R3 classroom is situated. There was no staffroom as the staff sat with the children to drink their

tea. The current staffroom used to be a cloakroom where girls hung up their coats and placed their shoes.

The outdoor area has also changed. Girls played at the front of the building as cars were not allowed on the Westbourne site. The gates would be shut allowing them to play on the grassed area. There was a lovely wooden chalet dolls' house equipped with child size furniture.

The one thing that hasn't changed is the happy, welcoming atmosphere in Westbourne. There was, and still is, a good rapport between Staff, parents and girls and this affinity has enabled a positive approach to learning and an excellent start to academic life for the girls.'

**Mrs Barnsley**



# News from Old Girls

We received a lovely email from Lyn Ankcorn (née Carmalt 1947-1954) an Aunt proud of the achievements of her two nieces:

**Professor Claire Wren (née Carmalt)** has just been made chair of Chemistry at University College London, she also was awarded the prestigious Mendola Medal for her research in Inorganic synthesis and materials chemistry – a prize given by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**Sarah Carmalt** 18 months ago became Project Senior Nurse at University Hospital Birmingham Queen Elizabeth and Selly Oak site; working on a pilot scheme to improve patient care by enabling nurses to spend more time with their patients. The New Queen Elizabeth Hospital opens in June 2010.

It was also good to hear from Miss Mullenger with news of her contacts:

"The linguists are all back from their years abroad and enjoying their courses.

**Suprina Palak** was head-hunted for a job and has a good one with an engineering firm in Loughborough.

**Chloe Leadbetter** has been elected President of the Psychology Society in Bristol and says that her DHG training at EHS is standing her in good stead for the role!

**Tanya Deb** 1st in Medical Sciences

**Hannah Parker** 1st in English

**Jessica Marchant** 1st in English

**Helen Clarke** 2:1 Theatre Studies

**Suprina Palak** 2:1 Business Studies

**Nicola James** 2:1, Geography

**Stephanie Duncan** 2:1 History

**Sophia Khanna** 2:1 English"

# May Reunion

A group of 9 Old Girls got together for lunch at the White Swan followed by a tour of school. We all enjoyed reminiscing about our time at EHS; trying to forget the number of years it was since we were there and catching up with what we are all doing now. Most of us had already reached the Big 50 milestone, those who hadn't reminded us of how young they still were!

It's a shame not more people could make it, but sadly as time goes on we lose touch with more and more of our year group (1971-77). Those of us who were there agreed we should do it again and that it wasn't as intimidating as some had anticipated. Thanks to Sue Perry for giving us the opportunity to revisit the school, it was fascinating to tour the new buildings and see how much has changed since we were there.



*Jane Jenkins (née Kimberley), Gill Greenwood (née Jones), Jane Whitmarsh, Stephanie Hashemi (née Brown), Elizabeth Humphreys (née Sharp), Diana Harris (née Granville Jolly), Pam Hick (née Simpson), Mandy Johnson (née Mason), Caroline Downton (née Brain)*

# Naomi's Wedding



# Celebrating their 40th Birthdays!



*Left to right: Verity Bowcock (née Lanham), Alison Benz (née Dixon), Fiona Crook (née Dumbleton) and Cathy Lomax (née Hanks)*

Four Old Girls girls, Verity Bowcock (née Lanham), Alison Benz (née Dixon), Fiona Crook (née Dumbleton) and Cathy Lomax (née Hanks) met up at Hoar Cross Hotel and Spa in Staffordshire to celebrate their 40th birthdays in December 2008.

Verity and Fiona became friends at EHS when they were 6 years old in Transitions. Alison and Cathy joined EHS in the Upper School at 11 years. All four have remained in regular contact since leaving EHS 23 years ago in 1986 and enjoy meeting up and catching up on old and new news.

Naomi Horsley (née Cadbury) married Sqn Ldr David Horsley RAF (rtd) on 1 August 2009 in the beautiful Pershore Abbey, followed by a marquee reception at her parents' home near Pershore.

The rain stopped as Naomi arrived at the church and they had a wonderful day.

Naomi is the daughter of Duncan Cadbury, former Member of Governing Council and guest speaker at Speech Day 2008.

*Left to right: Jo Burkhart (née Dean) Marisa Fensom (née Edward), Naomi Horsley (née Cadbury), Ellie Pocock (née Milledge, former head girl), Sue Holberg (née Finlay).*

## 80th Birthday

Old Girl Gillian Mary Whittaker celebrated her 80th Birthday on 3 September 2009. Marking the occasion in style, she and husband Geoffrey cruised to New York on board the Queen Mary 2. This was followed by a surprise family picnic at Canon's Ashby House, Northampton, organised by daughters Caroline (EHS 1962 – 1974) and Julie (1964 – 1976), where they were joined by 19 other family members.

Gillian was a pupil at EHS from 1935 – 1947 and then became a regular supply teacher in Prep. From 1976 she spent a further nine years teaching in Westbourne and

*Daughters Julie (left) and Caroline (right) with parents Geoffrey and Gillian (taken just before they set sail from Southampton)*

continues her long association with the school to this day.

Caroline lives in Penarth, is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Health at Cardiff University and a Lt Colonel in the Territorial Army.

Julie lives in Twickenham, is the Head of Script Supervisors and Series Archivist on "The Bill", Talkbackthames Television. Julie is married with one son, Tom, who is currently studying for his A levels at Kingston Grammar School.



# Rags to Riches

written by Georgia Clemson,  
Initiative Award Winner 2008

**In November of 2008, in my final year at EHS, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to organise a fundraising event of my own creation, ultimately raising over £700 for the Teenage Cancer Trust through the 'Rags to Riches' fashion show.**

It all began when I came to hear of the EHS Initiative Award, which gives the recipient funding from the Old Girls' Association which they must use to create an event or carry out a project that would give back to the community in some way. I had been thinking about my idea for some time before hearing about the Initiative Award, and so I was excited to be given the opportunity to make my concept into a reality. As for the idea, I proposed a charity fashion show, to showcase the work of girls from all of Senior School. I set to work getting the idea heard about in the school, asking girls to reinvent old clothes into a new fashion design, hence the name of the show 'Rags to Riches'. In true EHS spirit I received an unprecedented response, and I was very motivated by the enthusiasm and support of my fellow students. 40 girls took part in the final show, from all years of senior school.

I too started to work on my own collection to show on the night, aided by my mother. I created 10 pieces reinvented from clothes purchased from charity shops, all of them my own original designs. Classic monochrome and simplicity were my inspiration, influenced by Chanel, one of my all time favourite fashion houses. Many of my supportive peers were eager to model in the show and so I custom made each outfit to fit each of my models. As for the organisational process, it was a great learning curve for me and I

grew in confidence a lot, as this was my first time in a position of such responsibility, and it meant a great deal to me that the night was a success. I received plenty of help from my teachers who were also keen for me to succeed, both with organisational details and technical support from the technical sound and lighting teams.

When it came to the charity which I wanted to raise money for, I knew immediately that I wanted to support the Teenage Cancer Trust. It is a charity which is close to everyone's heart at EHS as many of us have been affected by cancer, in particular the loss of Claudia Burnand in 2006, a bright and fun member of my year group who is fondly remembered by all who knew her. I know that Claudia would have loved the Fashion Show and would probably have taken part in it herself. On the day of the show I was full of nerves and excitement, but as always the teachers and girls of EHS were on hand to offer their help and support all the way. The way everybody rallied around is what I have come to expect of EHS girls and staff and their kind and generous nature, and I certainly appreciated it. It was a full house that night in the EHS Old Hall, and the audience were treated to a night of music, dance, and of course fabulous fashion provided by all the



participants and myself. In a light hearted twist, staff judges chose winning entries by my participants and I presented the prizes.

We raised an impressive £700 from ticket sales and separate donations, and even some sales of my handmade clothing! I was very pleased with this and proud of my school, and glad that the money went to such a worthy cause. I am now studying Art and Design at Bournville School of Art and I am sure that my experience of creating Rags to Riches aided me in gaining an Unconditional offer. I am very grateful to the Old Girls Association for giving me the means to put on such a production, it is not an opportunity many people of my age would come by and so I feel very lucky for it.

**Georgia Clemson**

# Are you ready for the next step?

First Class Honours graduates, from De Montfort University, have set up a new online footwear website, that aims to "Give your feet some soul". This exciting new venture launched on 31 October 2009.

Lizze Leary, 21, an EHS Old Girl announced the launch of a new online footwear website, [www.kindredsole.com](http://www.kindredsole.com)



which she has developed with fellow first class graduate from De Montfort University, Beth Widdowson.

"The website goes one step further by specialising in statement making footwear for the fashion conscious woman who loves to step out in style," states Lizze. The young women who are self confessed footwear fanatics, studied Fashion Retail Buying.

"Winter 2009 witnessed the arrival of Kindred Sole and its luxury brand to the market making it the newest 'kid' on the block. We believe that our customers will be impressed with the stylish, interactive, boutique influenced shopping experience that awaits them at Kindred Sole.

Our first collection to debut at Kindred Sole introduces you to Polite Eccentrics. We concentrate on attention to detail, high quality and a wide variety of style offerings".

Attention to detail is complemented by the use of premium materials, inspiring colour palettes and versatile silhouettes. Price points vary from £65 to £100 for staple basics and £70 to £250 for statement making designs. "We believe that this debut collection is not only stylish, trend inspired and opulent but that it is also versatile whilst hinting at the siren within each of us."

"It was our intention to create not only a haven for shoe fanatics but in addition a community that covers Facebook, Twitter and the interactive website. Communication with our customers is paramount as we



feel Kindred Sole is our customers' company. Therefore offering a free telephone service as well as free next day delivery goes above and beyond customers expectations of current online stores".

The collection initially consists of twelve premium designs. This will be further supported by a full launch in February 2010. Designs in the 'Polite Eccentrics' collection have been launched throughout the online store and to celebrate the launch, promotions will be running online and via the Kindred Sole monthly newsletter.

## KindredSole

shoes for the soul

FREE PHONE : 0808 1203 887

FREE UK NEXT DAY DELIVERY

click here to Become a VIP today ★

My Account My Wishlist My Cart Checkout Log in

Search Search entire store here... GO

Flats  
Low Heels  
High Heels  
Boots  
Polite Eccentrics  
Designers At KS  
Handbags  
Vintage Sole  
Lust Heels  
Gift Vouchers  
Shop by brand  
Designer's Corner  
Shoe Are You?  
Wish You Were Here  
Kindred Commandments  
About Us  
FAQs

STAR BUY

EVA T-BAR

ADD TO CART

GO SHOP: EXCLUSIVE, HANDPICKED POLITE ECCENTRICS COLLECTION

Site Map Search Terms Advanced Search Contact Us facebook twitter Newsletter sign-up: Enter your email address SUBMIT

# 135th Birthday Lunch

## 30 January 2010



EHS will host a 135th Birthday Lunch to begin a year of celebrations to mark the long and illustrious history of the School, the oldest independent girls' school in Birmingham, and give former pupils the opportunity to explore the Westbourne Road site (which for many Old Girls is still 'new'!) and the marvellous additions to School life that have been made over the years.

### Programme:

- 10.30: arrival and coffee, opportunity to wander around Westbourne, Prep and Senior School
- 12.00: gather in Octagon for a presentation and glass of wine
- 12.15: Two course buffet lunch
- 2.00: guided tours of School by the Sixth Form
- 3.00: tea and birthday cake
- 3.30: departure

*We would love to see you there - please return your Booking Form ASAP to secure your place.*



## Lifelong Friends

Four sprightly ladies, now 81 and 82 years of age, who attended EHS in the 1930s and 1940s have been lifelong friends since the age of 5 or 6. This photo was taken in Broadway in July this year. Two generations of Joyce Horton's family (right), have attended EHS - Claire Fisher and currently Hannah Wishart.

*Left to right: Joan Knight-Adams (née Jackson), Diana Rudge (née Matthews), Elizabeth Dixon (née Johnson), Joyce Fisher (née Horton).*

## 1984 Reunion

A reunion was held at EHS this month by the class of 1984, organised by Fiona Hinds (Strong). Following a relaxing lunch at the Botanical Gardens a small group were met by Dr. Weeks at the Senior School and taken on a tour. The group reminisced about the fun and enjoyable times they had at EHS in the eighties.

*Left to right: Melanie Davies (Lilley), Kathryn Hurst (Bloxham), Helen Jenkins (Prince), Julie Armstrong, Sam Charles (Harris), Sarah McCourt (Hudson), Amanda Jolly (Gill), Julia Needham (Pepper) and Angela Turner.*



# Professor Dame Sally Davies

Professor Sally Davies, became Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE) in the New Year Honours in January 2009 for her services to Medicine. Sally is Director General of Research and Development at the Department of Health and Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and NHS.

She is also a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Advisory Committee on Health Research and the UK Health Innovation Council. Sally is on the academic staff of Imperial College,

London where she is Professor of Haemoglobinopathies and her research interests focus on sickle cell disease.

Sally left EHS in 1967 and is the daughter of the late Mary Davies who was Chair of Governing Council for many years in the 1990s. Her family's links with the School continue today as her niece Imogen is a pupil in Senior School.

Belated congratulations to Sally for this great achievement and tribute to her work.



## The Old Girls' Association welcomes its new members

Jennifer Abrams  
Eme Agard  
Sofia Ahmed  
Manal Al-Arrayed  
Sidra Anwar  
Fiona Audley  
Sarah Baker  
Harriet Bates  
Lauren Batham-Read  
Bobbie Blair  
Sophie Brookes  
Taymina Cabrita  
Joanna Champion  
Charlotte Cheetham  
Julia Cheshire  
Laura Chung  
Emily Clay  
Georgia Clemson  
Eleanor Coe  
Sophie Corrie  
Lana Crick  
Jessica Dainty  
Hannah Davis  
Charlotte Dean  
Gemma Doswell  
Sophie Douglas

Lousie Dugan  
Sophie Ellis  
Rajni Finch  
Isabel Gaskell  
Alexandria George  
Hannah George  
Gowri Gouda  
Lillie Gregg  
Natalie Griffiths  
Laura Grindulis  
Rebecca Harbot  
Elizabeth Hartley  
Rebecca Hicks  
Alice Holtom  
Anousha Hosseini  
Roshina Iqbal  
Lydia John  
Alexandra Johnson  
Laura Johnson  
Virginia Kelsall  
Lucy Kennea  
Riman Khangure  
Emily Lane  
Sarah Learmonth  
Diamond Lee-Harris  
Araminta Macliver

Jennifer Mayhew  
Georgina McCormick  
Sinead McGeever  
Khyati Modgil  
Emily Moyce  
Alice Murphy  
Emma Noone  
Amber O'Shaughnessy  
Fiona Ovberedjo  
Vishika Patel  
Natasha Perera  
Ella Peterman  
Mollie Pickering  
Scarlett Pickering  
Yasmin Rabiah  
Melissa Roberts  
Anisah Shoaib  
Roshni Sisodiya  
Charlotte Smith  
Josie Smith  
Romilly Smith  
Radha Soni  
Paris Stevens  
Sarah Stevenson  
Rebecca Tatlow  
Christina Tavener

Catherine Thexton  
Sarah Thind  
Olivia Thomas  
Nageeba Thomas-Hall  
Lily Tomkins  
Sophia Treanor  
Simran Ubhi  
Charlotte Utton  
Grace Walden  
Grace Webster  
Bethan Williams  
Anna Wilson  
Hannah Wishart  
Abigail Wright  
Charlotte Yorke

We also welcome Mrs Susie Lobb (née Briggs 1967 - 1977) of Sydney, Australia, Dorothy Painting (née Schneider) joined EHS in 1951 and left in 1959 and Marion Cohen (née Mendelssohn) joined EHS in 1953 and left in 1963 – it's never too late to join!



# Old Girls' Forum

The Old Girls' Forum on the EHS website is now live. This exclusive area allows you to speak to old friends online, upload photos and look at forthcoming events.

Go to [www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk/old-girls](http://www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk/old-girls) and simply register to receive an email with your login details. The Old Girls Forum is accessible to all Members of the Old Girls Association.

We look forward to 'seeing' you there!



## Destinations of 2009 Leavers

Name	Destination	Course
Rabia Alam	Deferred Entry	
Sidra Anwar	University of Birmingham	Biomedical Materials Science
Fiona Audley	Sheffield Hallam University	Sport and Exercise Science
Sarah Baker	Mansfield College, University of Oxford	Law
Aneeka Bashir	City University	Law
Bobbie Blair	University of Southampton	Philosophy and Politics
Harriet Brady	University of Liverpool	Business Studies
Sophie Brookes	University of Sheffield	Biology
Nicola Caton	University of Manchester	Law
Joanna Champion	Staffordshire University	Games Concepts Design
Charlotte Cheetham	University of Exeter	Psychology
Julia Cheshire	University of Nottingham	Midwifery
Laura Chung	University of Leeds	Management and Marketing
Emily Clay	Nottingham Trent University (2010)	Fashion Communication and Promotion
Georgia Clemson	Bournville College of Art	Art Foundation
Eleanor Coe	Bournville College of Art	Art Foundation
Sophie Corrie	University of Nottingham	Modern Languages with Business
Hannah Davis	University of Cardiff	Psychology
Andrea De Costa	University of Aberdeen	Biology
Christine Dean	University of Manchester	Politics and International Relations
Gemma Doswell	University of Manchester	English Literature
Sophie Douglas	University of York (2010)	Crime and Criminal Justice
Louise Dugan	University of Birmingham (2010)	Drama and Theatre Arts
Sophie Ellis	University of Nottingham	Biology
Rajni Farmah	Charles University, Prague	Dentistry
Isabel Gaskell	University of Birmingham	Geography
Hannah George	University of Nottingham	American and English Studies
Lillie Gregg	Birmingham City University	Fashion Retail Management
Natalie Griffiths	Leeds College of Art	Fashion
Laura Grindulis	University of Sheffield	Biology
Rebecca Harbot	University of Bath	International Management and Modern Languages - French
Elizabeth Hartley	University of Essex	World Performance
Anousha Hosseini	University of Portsmouth	Spanish and Latin American Studies
Roshina Iqbal	Deferred Entry	
Alexandra Johnson	Manchester Metropolitan University (2010)	Hospitality Management
Laura Johnson	University of Leeds	Theatre and Performance
Virginia Kelsall	University of Wolverhampton	Policing

# Events in 2010

This year we are planning a number of events, dates of which **will be confirmed** nearer the time – look out on the website and Old Girls Reunited e-newsletters, or give us a call anytime.

**135th Birthday Lunch - tours, displays and memorabilia for sale - 30 January 2010**

**Family Easter Egg Hunt around School - bring your children and grandchildren! 27 March 2010 (tbc)**

**London Tea at the House of Lords - a chance to meet up in London in this amazing venue - 19 May 2010 (tbc)**

**Reunion Saturdays - lunches and tours at school, book your own group table - 2 October 2010 (tbc)**

We are always interested to hear of any ideas for OGA events, just drop us an email at [oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk](mailto:oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk), or call us on 0121 454 5831.

Lucy Kennea	Employment - BMW	
Alexandrea Kerr	Nottingham Trent University	International Business
Riman Khangure	University of Nottingham	French and Politics
Sarah Learmonth	University of Bristol	Drama and French
Diamond Lee-Harris	Sheffield Hallam University	Human Biology
Hannah Lewis	University of York	Psychology
Camilla Macliver	Nottingham Trent University	Marketing, Design and Communication
Jennifer Mayhew	University of Exeter	History
Georgina McCormick	University of Worcester	Drama and Performance
Sinead McGeever	University of Exeter	History and Spanish
Khyati Modgil	King's College (University of London)	European Studies
Alice Murphy	Birmingham City University	Midwifery
Amber O'Shaughnessy	University of Edinburgh	Hispanic Studies and History
Vishika Patel	Nottingham Trent University	Fashion and Textile Management
Ella Peterman	University of Manchester (2010)	Drama and Screen Studies
Scarlett Pickering	University College Birmingham	Salon Business Management
Anisah Shoaib	Deferred Entry	
Roshni Sisodiya	Royal Veterinary College	Biological Sciences
Charlotte Smith	Deferred Entry	
Josie Smith	Deferred Entry	
Romilly Smith	University of Manchester (2010)	Drama and Screen Studies
Rachel Smith	Bournville College of Art	Art Foundation
Radha Soni	King's College (University of London)	Physics
Paris Stevens	Nottingham Trent University	Fashion and Textile Management
Sarah Stevenson	University of Manchester	Psychology
Rebecca Tatlow	Brasenose College, University of Oxford	Classics
Christina Taverner	Imperial College, London	Medicine
Sarah Thind	University of Hull	Law and Politics
Charlotte Thomas	Halesowen College	Music Technology
Olivia Thomas	Deferred Entry	
Lily Tomkins	University of Exeter	History
Charlotte Utton	University of Plymouth	Marketing
Leah Webster	Goldsmiths College (University of London)	Psychology
Bethan Williams	University of Liverpool	Law
Hannah Wishart	University of Bath	Sport and Exercise Science
Abigail Wright	Deferred Entry	
Charlotte Yorke	University of Exeter	Law



# Obituaries

**Caroline Briscoe** sadly passed away in July, after being poorly with a chest infection. I was a pupil of hers - Chemistry - in the late '40s and she inspired so many of us to go into science or medicine - she was a fine teacher.

*Written by Gillian Day*

**Helen Brotherton** who has died aged 95, was one of the behind-the-scenes heroines of British conservation. Her lasting claim to fame was that she led the campaign to save one of Britain's best-known wildlife sanctuaries, Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour, in

## Christine Wilson

Christine came to be Head of Prep in September 1970. It was not going to be the usual start to a new job as she had to follow Mrs Birtles who had died so suddenly earlier in the year. This had been such a shock to everyone in the school. All we were told was that the new Head had been all through EHS as a pupil, she had taught varying ages and had travelled – not a great deal of information. Fortunately for all of us throughout the school it proved to be the right choice.

Although we were totally different temperaments (probably why we became good friends) when we did meet Christine and I discovered we had much in common. I am five years older but both of us grew up in Birmingham in the 1930s in a secure family environment with brothers and sisters. We got through the war in the 40s, survived the dreary 50s and welcomed the emancipation of the swinging 60s and now found ourselves working together with the staff to launch into the 70s. Birmingham was changing for the future, EHS had to change also.

We all knew that Christine had many qualities which we appreciated, but to us the fact that she had a great sense of humour and was always willing to have a go at something, were her greatest assets. Otherwise, how could we have arranged such ridiculous schemes as hiring our very own train from Birmingham to Euston and take the entire Prep to see the sights of London

Dorset. She was also a keen cricketer, rally driver and yachtswoman.

When Helen moved to Poole after the second world war, Brownsea was owned by Mary Bonham-Christie, and no one was allowed access. When she died in 1961, her nephew applied for permission to build 400 luxury homes on Brownsea. Helen immediately began to marshal a team of naturalists to fight the plans. She won, and the Treasury agreed to take the island in lieu of death duties.

Her combination of rebelliousness and drive was also revealed when she was a boarder at EHS, where despite her loathing of academic studies

and then repeat that feat over the following years to do the same in York and Chester – imagine trying that now! In those days health and safety was just common sense.

With enthusiasm we coped with the usual round of Fundraising Fairs, special anniversaries, productions of all sorts, swimming galas, sports and even with visits from HM Inspectors. Christine set a high standard. We all knew that each child needed to be educated as fully as possible so that she could go on to progress through 'Big School' and the future. That made teaching demanding but very satisfying. Each of us were encouraged to develop our own particular talent, we could swop around all groups, not usual in a junior department. She very rarely interfered but the newly qualified staff from college knew she was there to help and support. Of course we had ups and downs and differences of opinion, but these were always sorted out and normal service resumed rapidly. The Prep was to be a happy place for all the children to enjoy new experiences and to learn a great deal at the same time.

Each child knew they could talk to Miss Wilson whenever they wanted. She was very kind but was quite firm in telling them that though young they must take some responsibility for their own actions and therefore to say sorry if they had done wrong. She was always accessible for every parent, ready to persuade them what would be the best for their child's education. Somehow

she excelled at cricket, becoming wicketkeeper for the school team. After qualifying as a teacher in 1936, she secured a job at Norwich High School for Girls, chosen mainly because of the opportunities this gave her to watch birds in Norfolk. But three years later her teaching career ended with the outbreak of the war. She returned home to Warwickshire, and became involved in administering various schemes for evacuees and the sick, for which she was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil) in 1943.

**Rebecca Shegill** passed away 27 July 2005. Rebecca left EHS in 1997.

she always managed to get their meek agreement, even though they had been opposed to her views when starting the conversation.

So I think we really did make progress through the 70s, onto the 80s and under her leadership we did change. All the staff who came and went have much that was good to remember, like me. After 14 years in 1983, we celebrated my departure on a boiling hot day in July when we all came to school in various forms of fancy dress, did no work, and had a splendid time and in 1986 I was back to cheer Christine into her retirement. She left a legacy to the school of someone who really had lived up to FIDELITER, FORTITER, FELICITER with everyone.

Sadly she has not been able to enjoy long years of retirement when she could pursue her many interests including golf, bridge and cello playing or continue to enjoy the company of her long lasting friends who went up the school with her. After her fall and subsequent illness it was obvious to all of us that the Christine we knew had faded away. I shall think of her as she used to be and I am glad to know she is at peace.

*Written by Miss Pat Muffett*



Designed and produced by

MarosHolmes Design

Tel: 07986 131155

Email: [Helen@MarosHolmes.co.uk](mailto:Helen@MarosHolmes.co.uk)

## Disclaimer

The Editor and Publishers of Laurel Leaves take no responsibility for the accuracy and content of the articles contained within this newsletter. Similarly, the Editor and Publishers take no responsibility for the quality of the photographs and their subsequent reproduction within this publication.