



The Edgbaston High School for Girls Old Girls' Association Magazine

Laurel Leaves



Old Girls visit the House of Lords

Old Girls were treated to an evening at the House of Lords on 8 May 2008, as the guest of Lord Shutt of Greetland whose daughter-in-law, Mrs Shutt, teaches ICT in Senior School.

Over 70 Old Girls, former and current staff, Members of Council and the Head Girl and Deputy gathered in the Peers' Dining Room for an evening of joyful reunions – some after as long as 20 years – and comparing of notes on school traditions, teachers, uniform and food!

When Lord and Lady Shutt offered some impromptu tours of the Lords and Commons there was no hesitation. Soon the corridors resembled a school trip with polite EHS girls forming a crocodile in the wake of their guide.

The reception was rounded off by Lord Shutt speaking warmly about his empathy for the School's traditional values and the ethos that the Quaker founders had worked hard to engender in its early days.

Dr Weeks thanked so many Old

Girls for attending and spoke of her delight at meeting so many of them for the first time. She confessed she could see many characteristics of current pupils on display in London on a beautiful Summer night and assured them that, essentially, not much had changed in seventy years!

Mrs Anne Howarth, the Chairman of the OGA, thanked Lord and Lady Shutt for their kindness and very genuine welcome. She said that they were honoured and privileged to have been given such access to the Palace of Westminster.

The evening ended with House of Lords goodie bags for all plus some Lords chocolates for the long journey home!

Read more on page 6



Dr Ruth Weeks, Lady Shutt, Lord Shutt, Anne Howarth, Ian Marshall Chair of Governing Council

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Chairman's Message 2008

Our visit to the House of Lords on May 8th was a very special event for the Old Girls and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who went. As the coach from Birmingham edged its way uncertainly past the Palace of Westminster to where we hoped we could park, there energetically waving at the entrance was Mrs Ridsdale and her daughter Patricia. Mrs Ridsdale was Head of Geography from the 1950's to the 1980's and had taught many of those on the bus, geography and the art of map reading. Thank goodness we managed to pass that test. Once in the Peers' Dining Room of the House of Lords we were welcomed by our hosts Lord and Lady Shutt who generously took time to show us round. The staff were most attentive, but in true EHS style one or two OGs did manage to stray from the designated route between the entrance and the hall and had to be shepherded back by officials.

At our AGM and summer supper in June we took the opportunity to say a special farewell to Mrs Bartlett who is retiring at the end of the Spring Term after 15 years as Head of Lower School. Affectionate and appreciative tributes to Mrs Bartlett were paid by all of the Headmistresses she has worked with, Mrs Horsman, Miss Mullenger and

Dr. Weeks. Mrs Bartlett has been a loyal supporter of the Old Girls and has done a great deal to develop the whole of the Lower School. Always enthusiastic and full of fun we hope that she will continue to come to our events. Steve Watson, the School's Domestic Bursar laid on a special dinner and we were also entertained by excerpts from the splendid production of Grease. We do thank the girls who took part, several of whom were in the middle of their A level examinations.

The work on the archives has continued and now that everything is stored in perspex boxes we are busy cataloguing the contents. The two sixth formers Jenny Mayhew and Lily Tomkins who were very involved with the archives last year and who have artistically arranged the archive displays for recent open afternoons, have both applied to study history at University and already they have several offers! Interesting items are still being uncovered, such as the record of the first girls at EHS, newspaper articles from 1877 and many more. We do need help identifying more recent girls in photographs from Miss Belton's era to the present day so do get in contact if you would be willing to spend a happy hour with the archives. We hope to be able to display the archives at the summer supper and AGM in June.

We do like to hear news of Old Girls, often catching sight of them on television such as Kate Williams' recent appearance as the presenter of Timewatch about her book on the young Queen Victoria, Charlotte Ashton presenter of BBC's youth programme on Saturday afternoons, Louise Hubball on BBC's south west news, Lydia Hislop, BBC's horse racing correspondent, Laura Kenney competing in international distance running or hearing them on Radio; Vicki Stone on Radio 5 live and as a commentator for the Priory international tennis tournament, Briar Burley reporter for Radio 1's Newsbeat, Francesca Massey assistant organist of Peterborough Cathedral on Radio 3, Jennifer Howarth and Emma Harding as producers of Radio 4's drama productions plus those in behind the scenes positions such as Liz Cave the editor of Midlands Today and I am sure many more. Do email us at oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk to let us know your news and to make sure we have your current email address so you are able to receive our Old Girls Reunited newsletters. Do also visit the newly updated school web site which has a dedicated Old Girls section. We do thank Rebekah Lowe, School Marketing Director and Helen Holmes our vice-chairman for their efforts with these activities.

I should like to thank the school for sending to all members of the association the new school magazine. Beautifully presented it demonstrates what a lively and busy school EHS is for girls throughout their school life and makes me want to go back to school and start again. The recipients of the Initiative Award this year are Jenny Owen and Georgia Clemson. Jenny left EHS in 2007 and worked last year in Westbourne to raise money for her project which is to help look after disadvantaged children in orphanages and hospitals in Romania. She is continuing in the footsteps of Chloe Leadbetter a previous Initiative Award recipient Georgia is in Year 13 at school and her project is to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. She recently organised at school a very successful and lively fashion show with redesigned clothes bought from charity shops.

At Speech Day this year as Chairman of the OGA I presented all the Year 13 leavers with a delightful silver EHS brooch modelled on the original beret badge and designed by our vice-chairman Helen Holmes. These badges can now be purchased from school at a cost of £15 plus postage.

As to future events we have booked a lunch at the University Womens' Club, Audley Square, London for Saturday February 28th 2009. Combine seeing friends with a spot of shopping or visit a gallery or museum. The University Womens' Club is very easily accessible and ideal for a get together. We hope this will prove an attractive venue for all our London and south of England members. The summer supper and AGM will be on Thursday

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 Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TS, email oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk

June 18th in school as usual. The very successful Christmas Cocktails organised once again by Lara Fatah will I hope be an annual event; a real chance to catch up with friends and for recent leavers to get together. After four years as treasurer Penny Speer retired from the committee and Lara Fatah has taken over. We do thank Penny for all her hard work, sorting out what had become something of a tangle in the paperwork of our accounts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work over the year, particularly those who organised events, Helen for all her work with Laurel Leaves and the newsletters and Diane as secretary.

Helen is the present vice-chairman and has agreed to stand for office as chairman when my term of office ends next June. I know she will be excellent in the role.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Dr Weeks for her enthusiastic support and to Rebekah Lowe for all her hard work and meticulous management of our events, the high standard achieved with the House of Lords' visit being just one example. Thanks must also go to Sue Perry in the office for her help with the maintenance of the archives and to Sarah Ellingham for her help keeping the data base updated.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my second term of office as chairman and wish my successor and the OGA all the best for the future.

With every good wish
Anne Howarth

Edgbaston High School Old Girls' Association Committee 2008-9

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

Anne Howarth (1954-1961)

Vice-Chairman/Laurel Leaves

Helen Holmes (1980-1985)

Past Chairman

Diana Harris (1961-1977)

Treasurer

Lara Fatah (left 2001)

Secretary

Diane Hirst (1947-1961)

Past Staff Representative

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Celia Bell (left 1971)

Lucy Giaquinto (left 1995)

Rachael Hobbis (1983-2000)

Judy Metcalfe (staff, left 1987)

Ronnie Shoebottom (1954-1968)

Legal Advisor

Miss S. Thomas (1961-1972)



Music at EHS

Most of you will remember the Music Department at EHS as being a small, one story building, with grand pianos in the Elgar and Purcell Rooms. Some of you may even remember the days before this, when the Music Department consisted of one small room in the Main School.

Today's Music Department, directed by Margaret Harper, who has been at EHS over 25 years, is a modern two story building with a state-of-the-art music technology room, two large teaching rooms, ten practice rooms, a music library and caters for over 350 individual music lessons each week.

The orchestras, choirs, groups and ensembles of girls play and sing at many events and venues including

Worcester and Birmingham Cathedrals, Cheltenham and Leamington Festivals and the Symphony Hall. The Chamber Choir tours Italy every other year.

Many girls have gone on to teach or take up careers in music. Suzie Purkis and Anna Chippendale both teach at EHS, the pianist Sachika Taniyama teaches at St Paul's



The Magic Jigsaw

I was a pupil at EHS from 1973 to 1981 and have always loved music. Nurtured by the late, very wonderful Pam Jelf and the equally wonderful Margaret Harper. When, in 1978, my then-English Teacher, Mike Birks, asked me to compose music for the school plays, I started a musical journey which culminated in a concert at Birmingham Town Hall on 1 February 2008. After graduating, I became a full-time English teacher, and I sadly found I didn't have much time to compose - a chance conversation in 2004 changed all that!

That conversation was with one Judy Dyke, a Patron of Edward's Trust, a charity (supported by Edgbaston High School) providing accommodation nearby for the families of children receiving treatment for cancer at Birmingham Children's Hospital. She told me

that a little boy, Edward, had written a fabulous short story called, 'The Magic Jigsaw'. The story was enchanting, about a little boy, Stuart, whose favourite jigsaw of whales and fishes came alive. Edward had brilliantly written a 'framed' story and ended it with the whale popping his head out again.

Despite not having written music for some time, themes came to me in a rush. Then Judy told me that the performance would be in the newly-refurbished Town Hall, performed by a 70-piece orchestra – no pressure then!!!

All too soon, 1 February, 2008, came around, and the concert was performed in front of 1000 people, including little Edward's parents. It was one of the most magical, emotional and exhilarating experiences of my life; I shall never forget standing on that stage in front of the audience containing my family and closest friends, alongside

London, Julia Harper née Wallace lives in Melbourne and sings opera, Francesca Massey is an organist at Peterborough Cathedral, to name but a few.

Most of us, however, will simply remember the dedicated and enthusiastic music staff, who taught us, and introduced us to music in our twice weekly lessons. Pam Jelf, who was Head of Department from 1976 to 1997, received a CBSC Long Service Award in 1996, from Sir Simon Rattle. Pam sadly passed away in 1997, and is still greatly missed by all who knew and worked with her.

Jelly and Marge

"We really enjoyed our A level music lessons. There were only five of us and we had a good laugh with our teachers who we re-named 'Jelly' and 'Marge' (Miss Jelf and Miss Harper)"

Sarah Trigg née Timms

my daughter, colleagues, pupils and fabulous musicians alike, who had more that excelled that evening. I had also received warm wishes from former EHS friends who had seen the publicity, including Margaret Harper.

I would like to express my gratitude for the grounding and encouragement that I received from all quarters during my days at EHS..... who would have predicted the particular journey that took me from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' in 1979 to Birmingham Town Hall nineteen years later?

Lindsay Lucas née Farnath

Lindsay Lucas, centre, Lindsay's daughter Bethany, far left with flowers



Memories from a music scholar



Charlotte Clemson left EHS in 2007 having gained a place at Brasenose College, Oxford to read music.

"I am now in my second year having survived the first year Honour Moderation exams, three daunting tutorials a week, seminars and lectures, two boat races, a musical and lots of concerts.

During Trinity term of last year, whilst cycling very fast in a concert dress and heels with my violin strapped to my back and my bike basket full of rowing gear, I realised that once again, I'd possibly taken on too much. However, I haven't slowed down this year and have recently taken on the role of Co-Editor of Brasenose's Arts Society magazine and have been elected onto my College's Undergraduate (JCR) Committee as 'Entz' (Entertainments) Rep. So, along with playing in the Oxford University Orchestra, various chamber music ensembles and shouting at eight lycra-clad men in a boat (otherwise known as coxing) four times a week, I am now responsible for



the entertainment of the 300-odd undergraduates at Brasenose.

Having learnt from my time at EHS to take every opportunity, to use my initiative and get involved in as much as possible, Oxford was the ideal place to go to as there is just so much going on. I come home from the relatively short, eight week terms exhausted, not just from the workload, but from the work hard-play hard ethos of Oxford.

My course is very academic, with only a small part of the examinations being practical. We study the historical and contextual sides of music in addition to analysing music and doing harmony and counterpoint exercises. There is also an interesting philosophical side to the course for Final Examinations: 'Musical Thought and Scholarship' which involves critical discussions about what music is, what its function is in society and how it has been viewed differently from different historical perspectives. There are many great aspects to Oxford, one of which is the tutorial system. I found the prospect of sitting in a room with one other student and having to defend my ideas to one of the greatest minds in the field rather daunting to begin with but tutorials soon become the most interesting and rewarding parts of the week. You

feel extremely fortunate to be able to discuss and challenge your ideas with someone who knows so much about the subject. Another aspect is the collegiate system. Living and working within a college means that you get to socialise with students in different years and who study a wide range of subjects. What I have come to realise since being at Oxford is that intelligence manifests itself in many ways and that everyone is so different here. The people here are all motivated, enthusiastic and well-rounded individuals and this makes for an interesting and varied social life.

I came to EHS in year 7 a very timid, very tiny little girl and left, still very tiny but definitely not timid. The atmosphere at EHS encouraged me to become confident and to raise my expectations of myself. What strikes me about the schooling at

EHS is that it provides a positive atmosphere in



which all the girls can feel comfortable to work. The school focuses on each student as an individual and encourages them in the area that they enjoy most and also in which they have the greatest ability. This encouragement in a specific area feeds a positive feeling into the student in general and each girl feels motivated to achieve in all areas of school life. I am a firm believer in this approach to schooling as opposed to one which is focused primarily on academic achievement. As a result of this approach, EHS achieves extremely highly academically as well as producing confident well rounded girls. If applying to Oxbridge hadn't have been suggested to me on a number of occasions towards the end of my time at EHS I would have never even thought to apply. It was the belief of the school in me that made me feel I was capable of achieving a place at Oxford."



The House of Lords

written by Sally England-Kerr

It was a glorious day! The coach set off for London at about 4pm and all generations of EHS were represented – ranging from some who remember being at school during the war right through to recent leavers.

As the coach pulled up outside Black Rod's Garden, many of the girls recognised Mrs Ridsdale at the bus stop – I think she had taught most of us at some point and she hadn't changed a bit! All those years teaching EHS girls was worth it!!

After security checks, we went into the House of Lords. Everyone was amazed by the surroundings. It must be a fantastic place to work!

I was taken on a tour by Lady Shutt, along with 3 other old girls. It was absolutely fascinating to see the wonderful works of art and the beautiful rooms. Some of the traditions were intriguing – unchanged for many years! Two of us were so engrossed in the oak



Sally England-Kerr

panelling in one of the corridors which contained secret "drop-down" sections detailing lists of all the Lords and their voting choices, that we managed to miss the tour! We then tried to catch up with them and unfortunately, many of the red-carpeted corridors looked exactly the same!

We were wandering round looking very suspicious when we were approached by a resident policeman who escorted us back to the Peer's dining room! We still laugh about this now!

As I entered the dining room, I heard some voices from the past – two girls from my year were calling my name! I was so surprised as I hadn't seen Patricia Ridsdale since 1981!! I had lost touch with Lorinda Long about 12 years ago, so it was wonderful to catch up.

We soon took up where we had left off all those years ago and had a fantastic evening of reminiscing back to – dare I say it – 27 years ago!! We shared many stories of our times at school and were all so delighted that we had made the effort to go on the trip. Photos were taken and e-mail addresses exchanged to ensure that we are now keeping in touch on a more regular basis.

I would like to extend my thanks to the OGA committee for organising this superb event and look forward to other events in the near future.



Camilla Macliver (Head Girl) and Lucy Kimberley (Deputy Head Girl)



Two Generations of Head Girls

History repeated itself at Speech Day this year as old girl and former Head Girl Susan Baker (née Millington 1966-1973) watched her own daughter, current Head Girl Sarah Baker, deliver the Vote of Thanks.

"It was a very proud moment," said Susan, "and it certainly brought back a lot of memories."

After leaving school, Susan studied Law at Birmingham University and qualified as a Solicitor. She is married to Simon Baker, himself an old boy having attended Greenoaks as a four year old. They also have two older children and live in Hagley.

Susan and Sarah Baker



EHS Pin Brooch

An Old Girls brooch, designed by Helen Holmes, OGA Vice-Chairman and crafted by Beeline in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter is now available to buy at a price of £15 plus postage. Each girl leaving EHS, and joining the Old Girls' Association, will be presented with a brooch at Speech Day.

The silver-plated brooch was inspired by the original school beret brooch, and is supplied in a leatherette display box. An order form can be downloaded from the website www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk/old-girls or write to us at **Old Girls, Edgbaston High School for Girls, Westbourne Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TS**, or email oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk



21st June 1988 was the date of the final A level sat by the Upper Sixth that year. Exactly 20 years later, 35 of us met up at the Botanical Gardens to catch up with two decades of news. Girls travelled from far and wide to make the reunion - Clare Hemsworth and Clara Chorley both made the journey from their homes in the States and Chantal Burden flew in from the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean to join in! Others made their way from throughout the British Isles to meet up with old

friends and the years just fell away. It still seems strange that we're all grown up with jobs and children and homes of our own. It was a smashing evening and a lot of old friendships were re-established. I think it was summed up when the waitress came up to me said 'You all talk a lot don't you....!'

Thankyou to everyone who made the effort to come.

Jo Hayward née Black.

EHS 1971-1977

Jane Jenkins née Kimberley is planning an informal get together for anyone who would like to celebrate their '50th'. Probably in June 2009. Anyone interested is asked to please contact her on toddington64@freeserve.co.uk



Sarah Trigg née Timms gained a BA(Hons) in music from Southampton University in 1992. There she met her husband Matthew Trigg and they married in Dec 1993. They now have 3 sons, Alex born in Oct 2001, Nicholas born in April 2004 and Anthony born in Nov 2005. She works part time as a music teacher, accompanying hundreds of children while they take their music exam grades and plays in a band. Sarah's husband is a great singer (formerly a Canterbury choir boy) so sings in many choirs. Between them they know just about every musician in Kent!



Leading PR Professional

Elisabeth Lewis-Jones was President of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations in 2008. Only the 8th woman to hold the post she is the first person from the Midlands to be President and lead the PR profession.

Since leaving EHS in 1986 after O levels, Elisabeth read Politics and Russian Studies at Swansea and then has had a very high profile career, including being press officer at Birmingham Airport and being a key character in BBC Radio 4's fly on the wall programme, 'The Airport'. Elisabeth has been UK PR Manager for the City of Las Vegas, the State of North Carolina and has handled a number of high profile events including the BSE/CJD crisis for Europe's largest beef abattoir and the meat industry. At the age of 25 she was 'Young Communicator of the Year' and at 31, was and still is the youngest

person to be awarded Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations for services to the industry.

Elisabeth has travelled the world talking about and has written extensively on public relations.

Today she has her own PR consultancy, Liquid Public Relations and is married with sons aged 8 and 5 years old.



9 schoolmates provide support!

Old Girl, Rebecca Whitehouse, who left EHS in 1996, married Dominic Boyce, on 12th July 2008.

(from left to right): Nicole Smallwood; Katie Anson; Rebecca Whitehouse; Francesca Boyce; Libby Whitehouse (Rebecca's niece); and Charlotte Grove.

Nine former EHS girls attended the wedding at St John the Baptist Church in Hagley, which was followed by a reception at Hagley Hall.

Three of Rebecca's five bridesmaids were former EHS girls, including two old classmates, Nicole Smallwood and Katie Anson, who also left in 1996, and Rebecca's cousin, Charlotte Grove, who left in 1999. Nicole, Katie and Rebecca have lived together for the past five years in London.

The other six former EHS girls who supported Rebecca on her special day included Nicola Woodhouse, Lucy Donaldson and Ginny Jukes, also from Rebecca's year, as well as Rebecca's family friends, Rachel Swansborough née Newnes and Hayley Frost née Payton, who left in 1993, and Hayley's sister, Annalisa Clark née Payton, who left in 1991.



August 1939!

Rachel Lee (see Obituary in Laurel Leaves 2007) and I were about to enter our final years at school. She was to be

Head Girl and I Senior Prefect, when our world changed dramatically.

In the last week of August a letter arrived from school saying that, in view of the inevitability of war breaking out, we should make our way to Stroud in Gloucestershire, where arrangements were already in place for EHS to be accommodated at the Girls' High School and for pupils to be billeted in the town.

Having passed the driving test that week and as my parents were on holiday in France, I drove to Stroud, taking with me Miss W. R Cook, (Senior Maths Teacher), all our luggage and my brother, who came with me to take the car back to Birmingham.

The first few weeks were spent settling in and then term proper began. We played games in the morning and this was followed by dinner, served in a Church Hall in Stroud. A cheerful team of volunteer ladies served the meal. Unfortunately our appetites were dampened by the overpowering smell from the adjacent brewery! Following the meal we walked in a long crocodile to the school which was about a mile away. Lessons went on until about 4.30pm when we returned to our respective billets.

At school, because the Stroud Girls used the desks, our books were kept in brown paper carrier bags, which became increasingly tatty as the weeks passed. Remember there was no plastic at that time.

In spite of every endeavour by staff, pupils, parents and the families who were looking after us, it became clear that the scheme was unsatisfactory. Each weekend parents would visit and take their children away, in many cases they sent them to "proper boarding schools"! The Headmistress, Miss W.M Caswell,

made frequent trips to Edgbaston for meetings with the Council. The School itself was being magnificently looked after by that indomitable caretaker, Whelan, while the School Secretary, Doreen Smith, ran the office. For these journeys Miss Caswell would be driven to Cheltenham railway station by Miss Wells (Head of French) and the only member of staff in Stroud with a car!

As a result, the bold decision was taken to return to Hagley Road, where the extensive cellars in the Georgian part of the building would, hopefully, make adequate air raid shelters. Fortunately, they were never severely put to the test, as most of the air raids in Birmingham took place in the hours of darkness.

In the summer of 1940, following the fall of Dunkirk, the war was taking a serious turn. Rachel and I were busy doing Higher School Certificate exams (the equivalent of present day A Levels). After completing the exams some of us drifted away from school and undertook jobs aiding the war effort. I joined the A.R.P and drove an ambulance until the time came in October 1940 to start at the Medical School in Birmingham.

I have always considered myself to have been very fortunate to have been at EHS at the time of such an inspiring Headmistress. Her enthusiasm for higher education for girls and especially for the Science subjects were particularly influential at that time.

EHS survived the war, during which school numbers had grown considerably, and we needed a larger and a more up to date building. As with many others of my generation I mourned the loss of the beautiful Adam style building on the Hagley Road. However we realised the advantages of the change and many of us have sent our daughters to EHS.

When I left school in 1940 my father paid for me to be life member of the Old Girls' Association. What a splendid investment that has been over the past 68 years!!!

Christine Bower née Aitchison

Christmas
cocktails
2008

On 19 December the Octagon at EHS, was filled with laughter as Old Girls, Headmistresses and teachers old and new, drank cocktails and reminisced about their school days. The venue was beautifully decorated with an enormous Christmas tree and candlelight.

Some Old Girls explored school – two girls who attended EHS in the 1980s were spotted sneaking into the Old Hall, and giggling as they remembered being told to "WALK!" when they were running at full speed down the corridor.

The first raffle prize of a photography session was kindly donated by Celia May, Old Girl – www.celiamay.com.

This was the second Christmas Cocktails, and was such fun that it is set to become an annual event.

If you would like to join us in 2009, ticket order forms can be downloaded from the website nearer the time at www.edgbastonhigh.co.uk/old-girls, or email at oldgirls@edgbastonhigh.co.uk or write to us at **Old Girls, Edgbaston High School for Girls, Westbourne Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TS**



Initiative Award Jamboree

written by Lucy Hampton, Initiative Award Winner 2007

The World Scout Jamboree is the largest regular event organised by the Scout Movement. It takes place every four years in a different country. It is above all an educational event to promote peace and understanding among young people all over the world.

Like any Scout event, the World Scout Jamboree offers Participants a programme that enables them to develop all facets of their character. The programme proposes a wide variety of activities and also places great importance on the way the young people take part, by offering them interaction and real participation in everyday life on their campsite.

The first World Scout Jamboree took place in England in 1920 and since then 20 such events have been held. The United Kingdom hosted the 21st World Scout Jamboree in 2007, under the theme "One World One Promise".

The 21st World Scout Jamboree brought together some 28,000 young people – girls and boys, aged between 14 and 17 – and 12,000 adult leaders from more than 150 countries. It took place from 27 July to 8 August 2007 at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, 50 kilometres to the north-east of London. The 21st World Scout Jamboree was part of the world centenary celebrations of Scouting.

I, myself am actually a Girl Guide. I became involved in the Girl Guiding movement aged 10 and have been an active participant ever since, eventually moving on to running my own unit of Guides and forming a Ranger unit. However, Guiding and Scouting work very closely with one another and join forces at such camps as the Jamboree. After a lengthy

selection process I was fortunate enough to attend the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand as a participant aged 15. My experience was unbelievable and something that will remain with me forever and it led me to think about the logistics, organisation and general running of a camp of that scale. However, I did not give it much more thought until about two and half years later when my friend who I run our Guide unit with contacted me on a Friday night to ask if I would like to become a member of the Jamboree Delivery Team (JDT). I didn't even hesitate. At that stage I had no idea what I had let myself in for! The Jamboree Delivery Team work to 'deliver' the guidelines of the Jamboree Core Team. We were to supervise and utilise the skill of the International Service Team, members of the Guide and Scout Association who had volunteered to help in the day to day running of the camp. This meant I had fifty people of all nationalities working for me, some of whom had no spoken English at all! This was certainly challenging at times, particularly if you get a grumpy

nineteen year old scout who spent most of the previous night in the staff bar! My role, in our team of six (the only all girl guiding team on the site!) was to create an activity recycling themed area. We would have 2000 participants in our zone, aptly named 'Trash,' at any one time. The zone consisted of four activities, meaning each activity had to accommodate 500 children. Over the period of 10 days, we saw 40,000 scouts and guides take part in our activities. It really was a team with more than a little girl power,



Lucy looking 'camp fresh'

Some of the participants enjoying a rare bit of sunshine





An aerial view of Lucy's activity site 'Trash'

Update from Dr Weeks

I am writing this at home at the end of a very busy Autumn Term at Edgbaston High School. As I look back at the term and indeed the last two years a multitude of memories come into my mind.

We are so very fortunate at EHS. We have a wonderful school which is so well supported by parents, friends and the Old Girls' Association. Every school has routines and traditions and its own special ethos, but at Edgbaston the ethos as written in the school motto Fideliter, Fortiter, Feliciter is a way of life. It is embedded in the school and seen every day in every aspect of school life. The way that the girls interact with each other and their teachers throughout all age groups, the way in which they work together to fund raise for causes of their choice, and the way that they support each other in times of happiness and even more so through the sad times. It is indeed a very special school.

This year has seen the revival of the House System in the Senior School, which has strengthened the relationships between girls in different year groups and has given opportunities for girls to take on positions of responsibility either as a form representative, Head of House etc. New events have been put into the calendar along with the traditional events enjoyed by all. In the Senior School at the end of term we had the now traditional House Gala in which the whole house was involved in an extravaganza of musical talent. It was wonderful to see the girls develop relationships with the Sixth Form through the rehearsal time and to see them all working together. The competition was fierce but even so when the music failed for one house



in true Edgbaston style the audience sang so that they could carry on! Throughout the Lower School the House system is a way of life and teaches the younger girls the value of working together for the benefit of all at a young age.

In January we will celebrate the 133rd Birthday of the school with a whole school assembly as last year. These assemblies are very special; to have everyone from Nursery upwards in the Octagon is a magnificent sight!

On Speech Day our leavers received their EHS brooches from the OGA. The brooches are based on a brooch used in school in the past; they are silver and have a modern twist to the letters EHS. The girls were delighted with this unexpected gift and I hope will wear them with pride in years to come. I would like to thank the OGA for this generous gift.

The School continues to develop and grow and we have identified two areas which need upgrading and extending, the Library and the Sixth Form area. We have applied for planning permission to rebuild the front of the School to provide space for an extended Library and to double our Sixth Form facilities. We hope in this way to continue to be able to provide a modern 21st century education for our girls based on the traditional values that we hold so dear.

May I thank you all for your support and send you my best wishes for 2009.

A proposed afternoon outing to Monmouthshire is planned for the summer holidays 2009. We have been invited by Dr Weeks to tea in her garden, possibly after a visit to Tintern Abbey. We are of course anticipating a lovely warm sunny summer afternoon; we must have one of those sometime next year!

If you are interested in receiving details about this event please fill in your details on the events list and you will be sent details.

we were known across the camp purely because we were the only team to consist solely of Guides and therefore all female! It took 18 months of planning and preparation, many meetings, most up in the north east where the majority of our team of six were based. Much of my time was spent contacting building suppliers to provide materials for my activity which can best be described as a 'scrap heap challenge' style team building game. It also involved speaking and working with engineers, artists, musicians and technicians to help each of us create a zone which reflected our theme of recycling.

It didn't always run smoothly; power cuts, twisted ankles, torrential rain and wellie rash to name but a few minor hiccups, but it was an experience that I will never forget and only added to the benefits I have had being a member of such an amazing global organisation. Being a Guide has made such an impact upon my life and I feel it had a great influence on my adolescent years. I would encourage any girl to get involved; it's not all about knitting and terrible sing songs! The Guides in my unit often went abseiling, played various sports, camped, cooked, became skilled archers, went canoeing and swimming, along with baking cakes and making fantastic Christmas cards too! There really is something for every girl within the Guide Association.



Old Girls' Forum

Look out for the new Old Girls' Forum on the EHS website. 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 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!



Commemorative Artwork

Kayte Rickards, an Art and Design BA (Hons) student from the University of Worcester has been working on a research project this year, taking inspiration from the fascinating School archives. She worked alongside Helen Holmes, Lecturer at the University and OGA Committee's Vice-Chairman, to produce a set of commemorative artwork pieces, which have now been presented to EHS, and have been hung in the Octagon Link.

There are twelve pieces of artwork, each exploring the Headmistresses of EHS, their specialisms, and the events during their time as Head. Every piece has over twenty references to the school archives, from photographs, to indentures, to badges on school uniform.

Kayte and Helen worked closely with the School during the Spring, when Kayte would disappear for hours into the archives, taking photographs and reading letters and records. The current Sixth Form girls were also included in the discussions and consulted on content.

Three of the pieces can be seen to the right, depicting Miss Tarton-Young 1899-1924, Miss Belton 1967-1987 and Dr Weeks, our current Headmistress.

Kayte graduated this Summer with a First Class Honours degree in Art and Design.



Destinations of 2008 Leavers

Name	Destination	Course
Saffia Ahmed	Aston University	Politics and Law
Ruth Beattie	University of Sheffield	Music
Karen Buchanan	Imperial College, University of London	Biomedical Engineering
Nicola Caton	Deferred Entry	
Jennifer Cobb	University of Sheffield	Philosophy
Charlotte Coombs	Durham University	Criminology
Laura Evans	Nottingham Trent University	Fashion Marketing and Buying
Hafsa Faizal	Post Results Application	Medicine
Elizabeth Foster	Lancaster University	English Literature with Creative Writing
Laura Foster	University of Nottingham	Philosophy and Theology
Sarah Fray	University of Cumbria	Early Years Education with OTS
Rosamund Gammie	University of Nottingham	American Studies and History
Lois Hamilton	University of Arts, London	Fashion Management
Victoria Harrison	University of Southampton	Graphic Arts
Kathryn Hughes	University of Westminster	Broadcast Television Production
Lauren Hunt	Chelsea School of Art	Art Foundation Course
Cydney Johnson	University of Leeds	English Language and Literature
Vandana Khanna	Keele University	Law
Lucy Kimberley	University of Exeter	Geography
Kyriaki Koumi	Central St Martin's College of Art	Art Foundation Course
Tara Kubba	University of East Anglia	Medicine
Esther Lee	University of Birmingham	Chemistry and Pharmacology
Camilla Macliver	Deferred Entry	
Sayyida Mehrali	University College, London	Neuroscience
Annie Metcalfe	Leeds Metropolitan University	Events Management (2009)
Hanna Muhammad	University of Birmingham	Computing
Sunam Mukhtar	Aston University	Business and Management
Rebecca Newman	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Sciences
Hazel O'Brien	Nottingham Trent University	Graphic Design
Victoria Onions	Deferred Entry	
Lily Parker	University of Nottingham	Philosophy and Theology
Laura Payne	University of Nottingham	Hispanic Studies
Emily Pittaway	University of Warwick	Italian
Jessica Rainbow	University of Derby	Drama, Education and Film Studies
Charlotte Robertson	University of Reading	Geography
Bethan Rowlands	University of Liverpool	Veterinary Science
Megan Stokes	Manchester Metropolitan University	Events Management
Elizabeth Verow	Seton Hall University, New Jersey	Business/Sports Scholar
Emma Wallace	University of Arts, London	Fashion Management
Laura Warton	Durham University	Philosophy
Amelia Watson	Nottingham Trent University	Broadcast Journalism
Qurratu-Ain Yousef	University of Birmingham	Medicine



Tennis Scholarship

Elizabeth Verow, who left the sixth form this year, has been awarded a full tennis scholarship at Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA.

“Having completed my A levels I wanted to go to a university in the USA so that I could further my tennis, at the same time as undertaking a degree course. Through the help of an agency and having undertaken more USA exams I was offered places at several universities. Following an exploratory visit I eventually chose to study business at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, just outside New York.

So, after a direct flight from Birmingham and a short ride from the airport I was introduced to my room-mate Kandice, a six foot two inch American basketball player who was also on a scholarship! We were all provided with laptops when we arrived and shown the fantastic facilities including a dining room which had a choice of food that had to be seen to be believed.

I have now just completed my first

semester and have yet to pick up any American slang and I have also managed to avoid the 15 pound freshman weight gain that is predicted during this time! Seton Hall is only 14 miles from New York City which I initially thought would be a wonderful opportunity for shopping however this has certainly not been the case owing to the heavy workload of study and tennis. I have been able to visit a few times and see the wonderful New York Christmas decorations and go skating at the Rockefeller centre.

The tennis opportunities are fabulous and have already enabled me to travel to many new places, including Niagara Falls and the Military training camp at WestPoint. Thanksgiving is the big holiday in the USA and I was invited back to the home of an American student where I was able to experience this real American tradition.

Students in America are expected to work very hard and the sports scholarships are taken away if exams are not passed – with tennis training



at 7 a.m. this lead to very long and tiring, but enjoyable days and much late night cramming. Drinking is not allowed until you are 21 so of course I didn't go to any parties or have any late nights which all the students in English universities are able to do – (at least that is what I kept telling the tennis coach and he seems to believe me so far!)

So all is going well and I am having a great time and looking forward to what the next semester will bring. From what I have experienced so far I am delighted that I chose the USA and am now a fully fledged “Seton Hall Pirate” – this is what all the sports teams at Seton Hall are called. If you want to see what sort of facilities the university has then have a look at their website www.shu.pirates.com

The Old Girls' Association welcomes its new members

Saffia Ahmed

Ruth Beattie

Kate Bradley

Karen Buchanan

Nicola Caton

Jennifer Cobb

Inderveer Dhanda

Holly Edwards

Grace Emms

Hafsa Faizal

Elizabeth Foster

Sarah Fray

Rosamund Gammie

Akanksha Garg

Jagdeep Gheer

Sarah-Jayne Green

Jennifer Halton

Lois Hamilton

Victoria Harrison

Rebecca Hart

Kathryn Hughes

Lauren Hunt

Emma Izon

Bethan Jones

Natasha Joseph

Vandana Khanna

Lucy Jane Kimberley

Laura Claire Kirby

Tara Kubba

Camilla Isobel Macliver

Olivia Sarah Maguire

Sayyida MehRali

Annie Elizabeth Metcalfe

Camilla Middleton

Rachael Caroline Morgan

Hannah Muhammad

Sunam Mukhtar

Rebecca Elizabeth Newman

Hazel Phoebe O'Brien

Victoria Elizabeth Onions

Lily Ellen Parker

Charlotte Payne

Laura Catherine Payne

Jessica Rainbow

Charlotte Lucy Robertson

Bethan Sian Rowlands

Daisy Sapcote Kerrigan

Alice Heather Scott

Ashley Jane Smallwood-Rose

Eleanor Halstead Smith

Elizabeth Verow

Emma Kathryn Wallace

Laura Ann Warton

Amelia Watson

Melanie Jane Whitfield

Qurratul-Ain Yousef



Miss Mullenger's News

I have been asked for a progress report on my retirement so far! I wish I could say that the magnificent garden parasol which the Old Girls' Association gave me has been well-used but two very wet summers have put paid to that!

The garden is, however, taking shape with all the roses planted, the apple trees now cropping well and the small kitchen garden restored. I am a governor of two schools and sit on the Woodward Schools Board. I continue to learn Italian, to persist in coming to terms with computer usage and I am a volunteer guide at a local historic house. Added to all this is time to travel, to read voraciously and to be involved in music and local life. Time is the greatest gift!

Our hamlet church in Stretton Grandison is one of the five Herefordshire "Hop Parishes" and a small historical gem. When our country house organ (no pedals, two working

stops and an almost permanent cipher) was at its last gasp, something had to be done to keep music alive there. This was one aim: the other was to use the church in different ways, as the Vicar very much wanted.

EHS and some of its Old Girls have played a very important part in our progress so far. Miss Harper, Mrs Howell and Miss Skinner brought the Italy Tour Choir down for our inaugural concert in July 2007. It was a glorious summer evening and the church was packed with local people and supporters from Birmingham. We followed the concert with supper in the village hall and there was huge appreciation for both the choir and the soloist musicians. As a direct result of their performance we were given a Broadwood piano which we now use for services and further concerts.

The summer of 2008 has seen three

more concerts, with EHS Old Girls as soloists in two of them. Charlotte Clemson gave a violin and piano recital with one of her friends from Oxford and in September we had a Chopin, Liszt and Tchaikovsky recital from the pianist Sachika Taniyama, now doing post-graduate study at The Guildhall. Both performers were well-received and I felt immensely proud of these former students and of EHS. Their individuality, openness and warmth shine through their playing.

We are now, by popular request, planning the 2009 Concert Series for which I obviously have my eye on other EHS Old Girl musicians! We'll broaden into words and music as well, and we're even looking to a mini-festival in 2010, extending our support for young cancer sufferers' charities. We should be delighted to see EHS OGs at events. It's a 70 minute drive from school and I will ensure that details are available in due course from the Music Department.

*Fideliter, Fortiter, Feliciter:
thank you EHS!*

Obituaries

Ann White

Ann and I started teaching at Edgbaston in September 1970. Ann was Head of Physics and I was assistant Physics teacher. Ann's knowledge of Physics was excellent and she was just as capable of coaching someone for Oxbridge as she was of teaching girls in year 7. She simplified the subject for younger girls but she never taught wrong or inaccurate Physics. Ann taught me all I know about setting up experiments, particularly for the sixth form.



A few years later Ann became Head of Science and she always advised but never interfered with the teaching of Biology and Chemistry.

Ann retired in July 2001 to devote more time to her beloved garden and she also had an interest in the Botanical Gardens. It is a shame that her retirement was not longer and she will be sadly missed.

Jenny Cox

Mary Davies

Former Chair of Governing Council at EHS and, until her death on 21 April 2008, one of its Vice-Presidents, Mary Davies had a long and intimate association with EHS.

Educated at Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Mary was one of the first female Cambridge graduates in Mechanical Engineering and came to Birmingham with her husband, Gordon, in the late Forties when he took up the post of assistant lecturer in the Theology Department at the University. They

chose EHS as the school for all three of their children - Jane, Sally and Mark (in the days when boys were admitted!) - and so began a happy relationship between family and school.

On coming to Birmingham, Mary began teaching first at the Adult Education College in Smethwick and then eventually at the University, in the alluringly entitled Traffic Engineering Department, before moving to the Institute of Local Government Studies where she wrote extensively and saw her work published.

In the Nineties, Mary worked tirelessly as a Member, and then Chair, of Governing Council overseeing many of the building extensions and developments that the School benefits from today. Latterly, in her role as Vice-President she was still to be seen at Speech Day each year, supporting the successes of the current generation of students.

The family's long association with the School continues today; Mary's granddaughter, Imogen, is currently a pupil in Senior School.



Obituaries Contd.

Pauline Granville-Jolly

Laurel Leaves 2006 featured an article "A Feisty Lady Fights on" giving Pauline Granville-Jolly's account of her battle against cancer, which finally defeated her in January this year. She died in Worcester General Hospital on January 18th having spent her last days surrounded by her family.

Pauline was born on March 27th 1929 in Stairfoot, near Barnsley in the West Riding of Yorkshire, to Olive and John Cadman. She was educated locally and obtained a scholarship to Barnsley High School, where she completed her formal education before taking a degree in theology at Birmingham University. It was there that she met her husband, Derry, who was studying mechanical engineering. They married in 1952.

Her teaching practice at Kings Norton Grammar school was to shape her positive approach to her career: Instead of observing and gaining support from experienced teachers, she had to replace the existing mistress who had resigned and "go it alone" for a term.

Her teaching career began formally at Erdington Grammar (1951-53), then at Raily School near Barnsley (1953-55). Following a break to have her daughters Angela (1955) and Diana (1958) – both pupils at EHS, she joined the staff here in 1962, gradually increasing her teaching periods over the next 10 years. In addition to Scripture, she taught English literature and became well loved as a teacher of the Lower Sixth Remove class, where pupils repeated their "O" level English papers. In addition, she instigated and organised visits to places of work or interest after "O" levels, showing girls how manufacturing was conducted in companies such as a needle factory in Redditch and the Swan Brand factory in Birmingham.

In the mid 1960s, in addition to her teaching

responsibilities, she became school Librarian, learned the Dewey system and spent much time ordering, backing and classifying books, many of which survive in the school library today.

In 1973 she left EHS to take up the post of Head of Department at King Edward VI Grammar in Handsworth, where she subsequently became Senior Mistress before retiring in 1986.

Gregarious, forthright and enthusiastic she was extremely active during her retirement, undertaking roles including local schools' governor, pupil mentor, energetic member of Rotary's Inner Wheel (where she became District Chairman, Overseas Chairman and club President) and latterly gave support to a local community centre, edited the "Talking Newspaper" for the blind and continued her lifelong devotion to the Christian Church. Her faith was an instrumental part of her life and she attended her local church, Pershore Abbey, until a few weeks before her death.

In all walks of life Pauline gave enthusiastically of herself: As a teacher she was diligent, devoted to her pupils, dignified and respected; as a friend she was generous, fun loving and dependable; as a wife, mother and grandmother she was loving, supportive, funny, caring and kind.

Her colleagues, friends, daughters, grandchildren (one of whom, Sarah Harris, attended EHS 1993-2004) and her devoted husband, Derry, will all miss her greatly.

Diana Harris, daughter



Mary McKenzie passed away peacefully on 10 October 2008, aged 85, under the wonderful care of the sisters and staff at Fotherley Hall in Shenstone, Staffordshire.

Mary attended EHS with her sister Janet (who passed away in January 2006) and were both pupils at the outbreak of the war, when the school was evacuated to Stroud.

Judy Brookfield, niece.

Patience Truman (née Achurch)

peacefully passed away after a long illness, on 8 February 2008, aged 78. Patience and her sister Elisabeth attended EHS during the time that Miss Casswell was Head Mistress. They went to Stroud when the school was evacuated at the beginning of the war, together with their brother Michael who was the only boy at the school at that time. After spending the rest of the war years a boarding school, Patience and Elisabeth returned to EHS in 1945, until 1950. Patience was trained in Dramatic Arts and became a teacher in London, then moved to Bridport in Dorset, where she was married.

Elisabeth Collyns

Ruth Watts (née Holt) died on 25 April 2006 after a long illness, courageously borne. She attended EHS from 1932-1939 and was Head Girl in her final year. Ruth went on to read Natural Sciences at Royal Holloway College, London and Newnham College, Cambridge.

After a short spell in the London Blood Transfusion Service, she worked in the Haematology Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and later moved to London to become Administrative Officer at the National Headquarters of the Red Cross. Following her marriage, she continued her association with the Red Cross by doing voluntary work for them in Worcestershire and was Divisional Director for the Bromsgrove and Droitwich area.

Helen Ward (née Holt), sister.

We have received sad news that two former members of staff from Edgbaston High School have passed away this year.

Frau Kuhn who was the German Assistant at school for many years and **Mrs Gillespie** who many will remember was the school matron.

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MarosHolmes Design

Tel: 07986 131155

Email: Helen@MarosHolmes.co.uk

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