

OGC *news*

The Newsletter of The Leeds Girls' High School
Old Girls' Club

LGHS 'Old Girl' Selected as Youth Ambassador to G8 and G20 Summits in Toronto



A true testament to the education and ethos of LGHS, Heather Kitt (orange jacket) has enjoyed recent success in being selected as the UK youth ambassador to attend the recent G8 and G20 summits in Toronto. She was also invited to speak at a youth summit in Brazil in August, as a direct result of her charity work on raising awareness and educating young people about Aids. All of this as well as being in the top 10 per cent of her year as a medical student.

Helen Conway (nee Wallis) Swims the Channel in 11.5 Hours

On September 8, 2010, ex LGHS pupil Helen Conway (nee Wallis) swam the English Channel in 11.5 hours – from Dover to Cap Gris Nez in France. She now lives in Sydney and is planning her next big challenge – to swim Lake Tahoe on the West Coast of the USA. Congratulations Helen!



**Where's the
Mousman
Mouse?**

Each issue we will be hiding the Mousman mouse somewhere within the newsletter for you to find...

**LGHS Old Old Girls' Christmas
Buffet and Reunion 2010 ...
see page 5 for further details...**



News from Chris Bamforth

President of the OGC

Once again the end of term was a busy time with the much anticipated musical events, drama, PFA activities and seasonal celebrations in the form of 9 Lessons and Carols service. The snow also added to the festive fun. In fact, some of the days were very tricky weather-wise and school did in fact close for one day due to the adverse conditions. No doubt the pupils enjoyed the snow and additional day at home – perhaps not so the parents?



The OGC Christmas Buffet was held at the School's Alwoodley site on 27 November. It was lovely to see familiar faces and also some new ones. It was a big success and most people made it despite the first of this year's snow challenges! Thanks must go to Andy Mirfin (Head of Catering) and his staff and also to Mary-Ellen for organising the event. Adrian Knowles also greeted us with his lively jazz band in front of the beautifully decorated tree in reception. Michael Gibbons, Principal of GSAL attended and said a few words before I had the chance to take those OGs who wished, on a guided tour of the school building, taking in the ADT suite, assembly hall, refectory, library and theatre foyer (home of the LGHS Honours Boards). There certainly was a lot to talk about and school memories to share!

I am sure you will all be interested to know that the Headingley site has new occupants – albeit a temporary measure. The former senior school building is being used for the filming of *Monroe*, a medical drama with the lead role being played by actor, James Nesbitt, and also starring Sarah Parish and Tom Riley. A number of our L6 and U6 drama students were able to visit the site in November and greatly enjoyed the experience.

There are a number of OG events scheduled for 2011 and I would like to draw your attention to the Calendar of Events on page 4 which will give you fuller details of:

January 11th Leeds Committee Meeting

March 15th AGM, Leeds

March 26th London Branch Meeting

March 26th – in conjunction with the OLs, a lunch and concert at GSAL by renowned organist Dr Simon Lindley

April 30th Bristol Branch Meeting

May 6th Annual Golf Day at Otley Golf Course with Dinner (and walk for non-golfers)

June 10th A visit to the Robert Thompson (Mouseman furniture) Visitor Centre

End of June/beginning of July – School Celebration Weekend

I am looking forward to this New Year and hope that it is a good one for you all. As well as the OGC meeting in January, I am attending the London Branch meeting in March. My train ticket is already booked! I hope to see you at some of our events. Once again, the invitation is always there for any OG to come to GSAL and tour the building. You would all be most welcome.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Christine Bamforth

Development Office Update

Welcome to the latest edition of the OGC news and a very Happy 2011!

As ever we would like to thank those who contribute to the magazine and if you would like to submit an article or news for the next edition out in July, please do so no later than Friday 13th May. Please send pictures and copy to bronwen.ashton@gsal.org.uk We welcome your news, memories and achievements and have been very grateful for the tremendous response this time. Keep the stories coming in please...

We would like to hear from any OGs interested in giving a talk to our pupils about their chosen career path. Please contact the Development Office on 0113 228 5159 with your details. A huge thank you to all of the OGC Committee Members who give up their time and support to keep the organisation running.

Another thank you to those who have sent in their email addresses for electronic updates. We are still in the process of collecting details and will update you on the status of this endeavour in the next mailing.

Best wishes and a big welcome back to Bronwen!

Mary-Ellen Wyard

Bristol Branch News

The 2011 Meeting has been arranged for Saturday 30th April at the home of the Branch's secretary, Sylvia Young (nee Smith) in Bournemouth. She would be delighted to welcome any OGs in that area (the Branch covers a wide area from Hampshire in the East to Devon in the West and M4 in the North), even if not current members of the Branch.

Please contact Sylvia on
01202 395 888.

LONDON BRANCH NEWS

REPORT FROM THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE OLD GIRLS' CLUB MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2010 AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH, PONT STREET

Fourteen of us gathered on a bright, sunny October day for our Autumn meeting at St Columba's Church. One member came all the way from South Devon and another from Cheshire, whilst others braved the vagaries of the London underground system. Apologies had been received from 36 members. We discussed the fact that recently our numbers have become fewer, and various ideas about how to attract new members were put forward.

Jackie Chalmers (née Firth) presented the accounts, which, thanks to the generosity of many, are healthy. It was agreed that we donate £100 to the Bursary Fund – but a suggestion was made that instead of future donations going to that fund, perhaps we could sponsor a Bursary girl on one of the school visits to Malawi.

Penny Rappak (née Walsh) was our speaker. She described her interest in fabrics and textiles from an early age, and as a result attended the Royal College of Art in London studying design for industry. Two British Council scholarships enabled her to visit Norway and Poland to study techniques used there. A slide demonstration showed us a tremendous variety of yarns and beautiful fabrics from over the years. She described methods of dying yarns using mostly natural dyes, but also chemical ones (which were first introduced in 1860!). Even ecofriendly materials, such as broom and bamboo fibre, can be used for yarns. Penny also described weaving techniques, reminding us all how we made scarves on small wooden looms under the supervision of Miss Harrington!! One fascinating fact we were told was that as a result of foot and mouth disease in the UK, coloured Wensleydale sheep are now more rare than the giant panda in China. Sheila Forbes demonstrated her 'drop spindle' to us, which was small enough to fit into her handbag, and yet can be used to spin wool in small quantities and in any situation.

Our Spring meeting has been arranged for Saturday 26 March 2011 at 2.30pm at the home of Lady Solti. She will invite one of the students sponsored by the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia, the summer school in Italy for nurturing students with a real classical music talent, to give a performance, so we hope as many members as possible will join us. Those on the mailing list will be reminded nearer the time, but any Old Girls in the London area who would like to attend will be very welcome. However, please inform either Jackie Chalmers or Virginia Graves beforehand so we know how many to expect. Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones has indicated that she will be pleased to give the talk at our next Autumn meeting – date to be agreed.

Virginia Graves (née Drake),
Dolphin Cottage, 146a Castle Street, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9QH
Tel 02392 375482
email: corindel@btinternet.com

Jackie Chalmers (née Firth),
Kings Haven, Old Merrow Street, Guildford GU4 7AX
Tel 01483 579343
email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

Pru Hill nee Barker (OG60) remembers...

I have enjoyed reading the OGC News. I left LGHS 50 years ago, and am still in touch with many of my school friends, with whom I have a mini reunion every year at Nidd Hall. I kept a daily diary throughout my schooldays, and thought this extract from my last three days at LGHS in 1960 might interest OGC readers, as well as the accompanying atmospheric photo of most of the sixth form celebrating their last day. You can see some are still holding the babycham, shandys and ciders mentioned in the dairy! We are not certain who the original photographer was, but between us we have identified everyone in the photo and added their names.

If anyone would like a copy of the photo, I am happy to e-mail it to them, if they contact me on hill@chrisandpru.net.



LAST DAY AT SCHOOL, 27th July 1960. LGHS 6th Formers enjoying their last morning together, below the prefects room. On the staircase, left to right: Desirée Brooke, Elizabeth Spiers, Diana Robertson, Felicia Greengrass (behind), Jennifer Watson, Jacky Chambers, Enid Chamberlain, Pat Johnston, Susan Smith, Judith Partridge (by ventilator). Standing on the ground: Front row: Margaret Redfern, Patricia Walker, Ann Sheard, Christine Hopper, Jennifer Bray, Susan Lewis, Honour Woodlums. Middle row: Eileen Bett, Pru Barker, Gillian Morley, Christine Seal. Back row: Jane Mackay, Rhona McCallum, Jennifer Bell, Jennifer Clarkson. Original photo by Neil Velt House. Scan done text and print: Pru Hill 21st Jan 2010.

Extract from Pru Barker's Diary 1960

Leaving LGHS at the end of Sixth Form 1960

Mon 25 Jul We got things ready for the play before interval and had our Interviews with Miss Sykes. We had a dress rehearsal after interval. It wasn't too bad. I did my last dinner duty today. It was the House Tennis after dinner and then we had another rehearsal...

Tues 26 Jul We went round saying all our goodbyes this morning. Mrs Taylor advised me to either do a general science Hons at Manchester or make Birmingham my 1st choice. I think I will do the latter. The two Jennifers, Stringer and Watson, Pat and I went to a Chinese restaurant for dinner. We did the plays today. Ours was so-so. One of the Vlb's was very funny...

Wed 27 Jul I went to school for the last time today. We all went round getting the autographs of all the members of the form. Donkey Jennifer Bray is to be head girl next year and Margaret Barrett and Toto Rhona McCallum are vice. After the assembly we had ciders, shandys and babychams in the prefects room. We have put down our block on the floor. I had dinner with the two Jennifers and saying goodbye to them was the worst. I wrote letters this afternoon to Manchester about my change of plan...

CALENDAR OF OLD GIRLS EVENTS 2011

Tuesday 11 January

OGC Leeds Branch meeting

Venue: GSAL

Time: 6.45pm

Tuesday 15 March

OGC Leeds Branch Meeting – AGM

Venue: Senior School Conference Room

Time: 6.45-7pm start

All welcome. Please confirm your attendance to Bronwen Ashton. Copies of AGM documents (agenda, finances, election forms and constitution are available to be sent out on request from the Development Office).

Saturday 26 March

OGC London Branch Meeting

Venue: Lady Solti's home

Time: 2.30pm

Lady Solti will invite one of the students sponsored by the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia, the summer school in Italy for nurturing students with a real classical music talent, to give a performance, so we hope as many members as possible will join us. Those on the mailing list will be reminded nearer the time, but any Old Girls in the London area who would like to attend will be very welcome. However, please inform either Jackie Chalmers or Virginia Graves beforehand so they know how many to expect. Virginia Graves (nee Drake), Dolphin Cottage, 146a Castle Street, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9QH tel 02392 375482 email: corindel@btinternet.com

Jackie Chalmers (nee Firth), Kings Haven, Old Merrow Street, Guildford GU4 7AX tel 01483 579343 email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

Commencing March

OLs invite the OGs to join them at their first Luncheon Club

The OLs plan to organise a Luncheon club to be held at least three times a year. Spouses invited. They will be reviving their former Saturday lunchtime talks at the school with a buffet lunch followed by a short talk by interesting and amusing speakers.

Please note: their first lunchtime talk and organ recital by renowned organist Dr Simon Lindley will be on

Saturday 26 March

Venue: GSAL Senior School Staff Meetings Room and Assembly Hall

Time: Lunch 12.00 for 12.15 followed by recital and talk 1.45 - 2.30

Cost: £12.50 (cheques made payable to the OLA)

To confirm attendance, please respond using the enclosed Luncheon Club flyer and send it to Bronwen Ashton in the Development Office, together with your cheque.

If you have any enquiries regarding the event, please phone her on 0113 228 5159. Spouses welcome.

Saturday 2 April

OLA Ball

Venue: The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate

Time: 7pm reception drinks, 7.30pm dinner, Live Band, 12.30 finish

Tickets: £45 (black tie)

Please respond by 28 February – leaflet enclosed.

Saturday 30 April 2011

OGC Bristol Branch Meeting

Venue: Home of Mrs Sylvia Young (nee Smith) in Bournemouth

Please contact Bristol Branch Secretary

Mrs Sylvia Young via: 01202 395 888 for further details.

Friday 6 May

Golf Competition and OG Reunion – all welcome

Venue: Otley Golf Club

Dinner: 7pm for 7.30pm

Time: Golf will commence at 2pm, Walk 3pm

Cost: Dinner £15, Walk and Dinner £15, Golf and Dinner £45

We look forward to an enjoyable event. Non-golfers welcome. Please book by Thursday 21 April 2011 using the enclosed flyer and return to Bronwen Ashton in the Development Office. For further enquiries about the golf and dinner, please email Lynn Aspland: laspland@ntlworld.com For further details about the walk (or 'gentle circular stroll', starting at 3pm and meeting at Surprise View car park), please contact Paddie Breeze on 01943 871834 or paddiebreeze@tiscali.co.uk

Friday 10 June

Visit to Robert Thompson (Mouseman furniture) Visitor Centre, Kilburn

Details to be confirmed in Spring mailing or to register interest, please contact Shelagh Robinson on 0113 275 5405. Even if you live far away – come and visit your Yorkshire friends and make a weekend of it!

Thursday 30 July –

Sunday 3 July

Summer School Celebration Weekend

Venue: GSAL

There will be a Whole School Event taking place towards the end of the School Year. We are planning to have a Summer School Celebration Weekend and the activities will begin on Thursday 30 June and will run through the weekend, ending Sunday 3 July. There will be something for all members of the community, both past and present including Sports Day, Past v Present matches, Prize Giving, Fun Day, Governors' drop-in. On the Saturday evening, we are planning the Big Summer Ball. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come and join us at some point and further details will appear again in the Spring Mailing.

OLD GIRL EVENTS

If any of you are organising an event and would like it publicising in this newsletter, or would like help organising a reunion, please contact Bronwen Ashton in the Development Office.

Christmas Cheer

The Old Girls' Christmas Buffet was full of festive cheer as OGs met and caught up over a lovely lunch followed by a tour of the Alwoodley site (highlights). Guests were greeted in reception by one of the school's jazz bands. Michael Gibbons, Principal of GSAL, said a few words along with Chris Bamforth. We hope to continue to make this an annual event.



What Are They Doing Now?

Minerva Booth – started school at LGHS in 1924

Your members may be interested in hearing about Minerva Booth (nee Fisher 1930). The enclosed photo is of myself, Jennifer Levitt (nee Stringer 1960) and Minerva, who is my husband's cousin. It was taken in a pub near Oxford in September this year two weeks before her 98th birthday.



Minerva started at LGHS in 1924 and loved her time there. She recently asked me about the honours board as she was proud to have her name on it. Her best friend at school was Stella Booth and Minerva later married Stella's brother, Harry.

Minerva has lived in Oxford since 1939, teaching English at Cheney School and (after her retirement) at Headington School. She is, and for the last 40 years has been, chairman of a book club at the University. When we visit we always have a chat about the latest novels under discussion. She is fair and enthusiastic judge and still very much an avid reader.

She has four children, eleven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and is much appreciated by all of them. Although much hindered by arthritis, Minerva loves to go out whenever possible and takes much interest in the local art galleries and museums as well as lunching in the local pubs and restaurants.

With best wishes
Jennifer Levitt



Thelma Ruby

Thelma Ruby OG39

With more than 60 years in the business, actress Thelma Ruby appeared in Leeds in June in the Leeds Festival and the Main Auditorium of the Carriageworks as part of an Old Time Music Hall. The following day she was on stage being interviewed at the Jewish Community Centre, Stonegate Road. She talked about attending LGHS and 'being touched and buoyed by the affectionate welcome' she had in Leeds.

Jan Furniss nee Pratt OG54

Jan would be very interested to receive any communication from Old Girls who were at School with her in the 40s and 50s. She left in 1954 and graduated from Leeds University in 1957, moving on to London Institute a year later. She has lived in New Zealand since 1970. If anyone would like GSAL to forward their contact details to her, please be in touch.

Jane Clark OG79

I attended LGHS from 1972 until 1979. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1985 following a degree in Horticulture at London University Wye College. On 2 January 2007, I started my own accountancy practice, Hattersley Clark, in Harrogate which was my ultimate dream. My elder daughter, Emma, is training to be a Chartered Accountant with Grant Thornton in Kettering and my younger daughter, Georgie, is still at University.

Alexis Keech OG94

Alexis Keech is the Environmental and Sustainability Manager for Yorkshire Ambulance Service. She has the mammoth task of reducing carbon emissions of the region's ambulances and has to reduce the carbon footprint by 5000 tonnes year on year. Previously Alexis worked in Cambridge as an environmental consultant, spent three years driving around the world in an ambulance and returned to Leeds for 2007 as an environmental consultant. She is looking for Old Girls who may have any new and innovative carbon reducing technologies to get in touch with her – alexis.keech@yas.nhs.uk

Julia Kirby-Smith OG99

Known in my school days as Julia Kirby-Smith, I left LGHS in 1999 and took a gap year travelling before studying English at Magdalene College, Cambridge. As a former Editor of the School Magazine, journalism was clearly in my veins, and immediately after my undergraduate course I went to City University in London to study TV journalism. My career began in the energetic newsroom of Sky News and from there took a meandering route through documentary series and current affairs programmes to my current position as Home Affairs Producer at Channel 4 News. It's



an exciting, challenging, creative and pressured job, but I love the satisfaction of finding a good story, and telling it in an engaging way through the medium of television. My job has allowed me to travel the UK (and the odd European destination), cover some really important stories, and meet both people in power and amazing individuals.

I met my husband Gerald in my last term at Cambridge, and in July 2008 we married at the Red Lion in Burnsall – with a number of old LGHS/ LGS friends in attendance! Gerald and I now live in north London and, when not busy with our day jobs, seem to fill the rest of our waking hours working on our new web business.

Watch Me Go is our online store selling fashion watches and unique vintage timepieces, and we have great fun trawling clock fairs for lovely old watches or looking for cutting-edge designs from places such as France, Italy and Japan. We are constantly growing our stock and getting some good media coverage, so Gerald's advertising background and my creative input seem to be paying off. We'd like to offer all alumni a very special discount of 15% off any purchase – all you need to do is go to our website www.watchmego.co.uk and type in LGHSOFFER when you reach the checkout (offer runs until the end of February).

Deborah Smithies OG03

After leaving LGHS in 2003, Deborah read PPE at Magdalen College, Oxford from 2003-2006. She then completed a law conversion at Nottingham Law School and was then called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 2008. She is now a member of KBW Chambers in Leeds where she is a criminal barrister working in courts all over Yorkshire.

Anthea Weale OG66

Anthea, former LGHS pupil, has moved to Germany and would like to make contact with a 'long lost friend', Alison Markillie, who left at the same time. Alison came in at 6th form and had a sister Catherine, two years older. Alison if you are out there, please send in your details so we can put you in contact!



Judith Kerr....Head of English for 15 years at LGHS

Here is some personal news of hers which the Old Girls will be interested in:



Judith recently attained a distinction for the dissertation she had written as part of her M.A. in Victorian Studies with, to quote her tutor, "the astonishing mark of 80%". The dissertation was on *The Portrayal of Schooling in the Novels of the Brontës*. As a result of this she has been awarded the Victorian Studies prize. She had been studying for the M.A. part time for four years and her overall degree will be awarded with merit. She graduated on 14th July in the Great Hall at Leeds.

Jane Bower OG73

2010 has been a very eventful year for me. I continue to freelance as an Arts Advisory teacher to primary schools and teach art and drama in Cambridge University's Faculty of Education. I have four hats – teacher, artist, writer and actor – which I wear in equal measure! I continue to indulge in my passion for entering consumer competitions, especially involving writing, and this year netted my 12th holiday win, at Rick Stein's Seafood School in Padstow. Following this I returned for the third time to Dubai with Alan, my partner of twenty years, to train teachers – we will return again next March.

In 2006 the actress Maureen Lipman commissioned me to write a play on the actresses Ruth Draper and Joyce Grenfell, on whom I had done extensive research. This at last came to fruition in July, when Maureen and I performed *My Name*

with Yours (she as Joyce, I as Ruth) at the Stables Theatre, Milton Keynes. This entailed me living in a caravan-sized bedsit in central London for three weeks and rehearsing with Maureen every day – a huge learning curve and a great privilege. We received a standing ovation which was certainly a moment I will never forget. The play is now in the hands of Richard Price (producer of Upstairs, Downstairs and Mamma Mia) so watch this space!



In November I went to India to teach in the International School, Bangalore at the invitation of Steph Jones, who was at LGHS with me long ago and was then Stephanie Christodoulou. We had not seen each other for years and I had never been to India, so it was altogether a tremendous and emotional experience. Another one is now in store for me as, late in life and most unexpectedly, I find I am to become an auntie, something I thought would never be possible!

I would always be glad to hear from any Old Girls who remember me – greetings to any who do!

Angela Hey OG71



Now living in California, Angela has recently completed the California Climate Ride 2010, a 320 mile bike ride which she

completed in five days after answering a Facebook invitation from Roz Savage, who plans to cross the Indian Ocean in March. The trip took her from Fortuna, near Eureka

to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Details below. I know that Angela has expressed an interest in a US alumni group – are there any others of you there interested in this? Please let us know.

Crystal Ourique OG02

Joined LGHS from Cliff Prep School at age 11 and then stayed till U6 to do A-Levels. From there went to study Politics at Hull Uni then a Masters in Broadcast Journalism at Leeds Uni. At 22, began working as a freelance Broadcast Journalist reading and writing the news on Stray FM, Yorkshire Coast Radio, Holme FM and many more Yorkshire based stations. With a keen passion for baking and an eye for a new business market, started creating cupcakes for families and friends as a hobby. I then set up a website and started to go to Farmers Markets on a Sunday to promote and gain feedback. After a year of journalism I pursued the passion and opened a small sandwich shop called The Cupcake Shoppe. The sandwiches were bringing the money in while we set to market the cupcake side of the business to the wedding, corporate, birthday markets. After two years the sandwiches became a sideline and The Cupcake Shoppe became more of a cake bakery. In a drastic attempt to create more room and a larger kitchen to house a mini bakery, the old shop was knocked down and a two storey building put in its place. With a boutique shop downstairs and cupcake bakery (The Cupcakery) upstairs. Since then we have become a nationally recognised cupcake shop.

Produced cupcakes for a 'Super Sweet Sixteen' party on MTV.

A celebrity attraction- we have created cupcake towers for local celebrities which have been photographed for OK magazine (Big Brother stars and local celebrity models).

We have won Two Great Taste Awards for our cupcake creations, one of only three cupcake companies in the UK to have achieved this.

Numerous press articles, radio interviews and cookery demos have been done with The Cupcake Shoppe brand.

A successful growing business run by a young 26 year old - Old LGHS pupil.

Disclaimer: The Grammar School at Leeds and Old Girls' Club cannot be responsible for any actions, services or products of any of the organisations featured in this newsletter. Any contract entered into with any of these organisations is done so entirely at your own risk

IN MEMORIAM

A Tribute to LGWM. *“More than just a Bursar.....”*



These words have been uttered many times by colleagues and friends, when speaking of Leslie Mathews, or LGWM as he preferred to sign himself. His death, on June 23rd has greatly saddened those of us who remember him, not only as an outstanding bursar in the life of Leeds Girls' High School, but also as a true gentleman, a fine musician, and one for whom life was for living at every step of the way.

LGWM was appointed Bursar to LGHS in the autumn of 1981. He came from a very successful career in the world of commerce and brought with him a shrewd and level approach to the running of the school, and an uncanny ability to assess both people and situations. He quickly established himself as someone who was always ready to listen to ideas or problems and who could be relied upon to give them fair and carefully considered judgment, before settling on a solution. Nine times out of ten, he had already anticipated the problem or request, and had the immediate answer at his fingertips! - often delivered with a pinch of his wonderful dry sense of humour.

LGWM had his finger on the pulse of every aspect of the school, from the day-to-day running of the finances and the catering to the comfort and well-being of the staff, but it was in his imaginative and creative expansion of the buildings and their uses in all three sections of the school that he left his legacy. His attention to detail was legion, and everything was executed to the highest professional standard.

As organist and choirmaster of Mirfield Parish Church and later at St Gregory's Minster in Kirkdale, he was a highly respected musician, and it was inevitable that this interest spilled over into the musical life of the school, for which many ex-students and staff have reason to be very grateful.

His negotiation for the purchase of the Elinor Lupton Centre in 1985 as a Centre for Music and Drama was a stroke of inspired genius, no doubt somewhat coloured by the fact that it contained a superb 4-manual organ which he then proceeded to move from the back to the front of the auditorium! The availability of this wonderful building with its innumerable practice rooms and teaching areas was a boon to the development of the Music and Drama departments.

He set up the wherewithal for organ scholarships, and initially took over the teaching of the first recipients himself. He played the Town Hall organ for many Speech Days and I really think he preferred the hard organ stool to the seat on the Governors' table! He willingly took over the choir training when the Head of Music sneaked off to Oxford for a sabbatical term on a Teacher Fellowship, only to be smitten

with a bad back in the process, but like all professionals, he saw the job through.

Away from LGHS he led an equally fulfilling life, particularly when he and Janet moved out to North Yorkshire to which he commuted at weekends, spending the week in the lodge at Ford House (now Rose Court) Gate. Their lovely house and garden was always a haven of peace, where he could listen to his music and read widely, expanding his interests in historic houses, gardens and antiques, and planning the travelling they so enjoyed. His continual service to the church embodied his strong Christian faith, which pervaded every aspect of his life.

His concern and affection for the school remained with him long after his retirement in 1992 and he continued to be actively involved with the High School Trust and its distribution right up to its eventual closure... He remained in close contact with many of his LGHS colleagues and Governors of the school for whom his ongoing friendship was a joy and a delight.

At the celebratory service for his life (which he had planned meticulously), his son-in-law said of him: 'Leslie didn't watch things happen - he MADE them happen'. His service to LGHS was indeed a true reflection of that epitaph.

He was a man of vision, in every sense of the word, and we are all the richer for having known him.

Article written by Former Head of Music LGHS, Margaret Smith

IN MEMORIAM



Jacqueline Cuddeford nee Bates

Sadly my wife Jacqueline Cuddeford ne Bates (left LGHS 1958) died from ovarian cancer on 30th August 2009. She left three daughters and four grandchildren. She was a strong and vibrant person, a free spirit much loved and respected by the family, many friends and the village community at large. She was a Parish Councillor and member of the Parochial Church Council, WI Committee and Village Hall Management Committee. Jacqueline remained in contact throughout her life with Professor Joan Chapman ne Abbot now living in Tasmania.

Jacqueline trained as a SRCN at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Both her father and I insisted she qualified before we married. Once our children were old enough she returned to nursing children part time and worked for ten years as a staff nurse on the children's ward at the Royal Marsden Hospital at Sutton, Surrey where she returned recently as an outpatient.

We moved from Banstead in Surrey to Great Maplestead in North Essex on the Suffolk border in 1985. Jacqueline was in her element in our bungalow and seven acres of meadow at the centre of the village. She started a small holding. We built a barn and yard and rented the field next door. We ran 30 sheep producing 50 lambs a year, free range turkeys, geese, ducks and hens. She grew vegetables and soft fruit. We had up to seven dogs and four cats. We were nearly self-sufficient.

Regards

Graham Cuddeford

Margaret Bortoft nee Miles

My wife of 63 years, Margaret Bortoft, died at the age of 87 in 2010. She was a pupil at Leeds Girls' High School from circa 1933/4.

Harry Bortoft

School News

Star Struck Students ...and Teachers!

The L6 and U6 drama students had a real treat in store when they visited the old LGHS site in Headingley to see a new TV series in the making – and met its star James Nesbitt.

Antoinette Keylock, Head of Drama, and drama teacher Beth Harris accompanied the students on a tour of the set of *Monroe*, a series about a brain surgeon which also stars Sarah Parrish and Tom Riley.



Producer Howard Ella told them how he knew immediately that the old school - with its Victorian corridors – was the right space for the set of *St Matthew's Hospital*. It took only eight weeks to convert into a working hospital, turning the library into a ward and creating a high-tech operating theatre.

The series, produced by Mammoth Screen for ITV1, will transmit in spring 2011.



Mia Brings Home Poetry Award

Mia Ottman has won a national poetry competition for her poem on the subject of home.

The Y10 student penned *Home Under Stress* for a competition featured in the Young Times section of The Times newspaper to celebrate National Poetry Day. As a starting point entrants were asked to use one of four first lines on the theme of home written by award winning poet Daljit Nagra.

Nagra, who judged the competition, particularly praised Mia's poem for its 'playful use of simple and complex language'.

For Mia, winning was a dream come true. She said: "It is fantastic to get such positive feedback. Winning has spurred me on to write more poetry."



Lucy Selected For England Rounders Squad

Lucy Stead, a Y8 pupil, has been selected to represent England in the U14 rounders squad.

Lucy plays for the U13 A rounders team in the backstop position. She is a keen sportswoman and also plays tennis, netball and hockey.

Kate Nash, Physical Education teacher at the school said: "This is a really high honour, especially as Lucy is a year younger than her teammates on the development squad."

Isabella is a Top Achiever in English

L6 student Isabella Buono has achieved top marks in her GCSE English examination. She was one of nine students to achieve a top mark out of 87,000 candidates who sat the examination this summer. She is to receive a certificate of achievement from the examining board AQA next month.



Out Of The Blue

GSAL band Out of the Blue has released its first "in house" CD, *Sweet Love of Mine*, featuring songs by the Beatles, Madness, Guns 'n Roses and Blur amongst others.

The CD is available through Gillian Brighten in the music department and costs £10. The school still has a small supply of last year's record,

Take Refuge in Pleasure, the tribute album to Roxy Music which is fast becoming a collectors' item.

Out of the Blue will be performing at Seven Arts in Chapel Allerton on March 23, supporting tribute band Roxyrama. The venue is relatively small, so booking ahead is advised.



Photographed in a break from rehearsal are members of Out Of The Blue.

Netball News

GSAL's U19 and U16 squads qualified as winners of the first West Yorkshire round of the national competition.

The U19 team scored 108 goals while the U16s scored 87 goals in seven matches to go through to the next round.

Charity success ROUND-UP

Model Students Strut For Malawi



Fashion show organiser Maisie Richardson (right) is pictured watching Georgina Sherman apply make-up to one of the models, Camelia Khoshehchin.

GSAL students took to the fashion runway for a night in aid of Malawi.

The fashion extravaganza, Strut For Malawi, was based around the theme Cirque du Soleil and included circus acts, gymnastic displays and live music.

Boys and girls from the sixth form and year 11 modelled a selection of day and evening wear from Leeds-based fashion stores Ted Baker and Vicky Martin, plus online retailer Urban Celebrity, Tallulas of Saltaire and Mint Couture of Wetherby. Make up was created by sixth form student Georgina Sherman, from Shadwell.

Further sponsorship came from investment company Rensburg Sheppards.

The event is now in its third year and has raised £5000 so far. This year's organisers hope to boost that figure by a further £3000.

Young Entrepreneurs Beat Stress To Help Flood Victims



Ten lower sixth students are to donate all the profits from their LEAP business to Pakistan flood victims.

The youngsters, who established Cloud Nine – Business Relief to combat workplace stress, were moved by the plight of the Pakistanis after a member of their company was caught up in the disaster.

Sanna Tahir, the group's finance director, was visiting family in Pakistan when the floods hit this summer and wanted to do something to help.

So far they have raised £1000 from the sale of a range of stress busting products, including a self-help book Stress Proof Your Business and Your Life, and aromatherapy goods like reed diffusers, scented candles and aroma dough.

They have sold products at school and also had a successful stand at Harewood House autumn fair. They

also recently went to a business exhibition and conference in the East Midlands where they attended seminars and sold their books.

The book has been written by Steve Pipe and Elizabeth Wilson. Steve, a business author and inspirational speaker, is the father of Cloud Nine's managing director Katie Pipe and is also acting as the group's mentor.

Managing director Katie Pipe said: "We have had some really positive feedback about our business from customers who have been impressed that we are pledging all our profits to help others."

Cloud Nine are Urvashi Chahal, Rachel Levine, Yasmine Motashar, Naomi Orme, Katie Pipe, Holly Smith, Jessica Sutherland, Sanna Tahir, Katie Woodcock and Helen Ye.

ChosenCharities to be supported in 2011

The charities chosen by the Charity Committee to be supported this year are, in order of popularity:

St.Gemma's Hospice, Henshaws, St.George's Crypt, Age UK (formerly Age Concern and Help the Aged), The Stroke Association, Martin House, Love and Grace Coimbatore, Barnardo's, Yorkshire Cancer Centre, Acorn, National Autism Society, Anthony Nolan Trust, Sylvia Wright Trust, BDFA (The Batten Disease Family Association), Action Duchenne:, Muscular, Dystrophy Campaign, Parkinson's Disease Society, Children in Need, Wheatfields Hospice, Over the Wall, PhysCap, Children with Leukaemia, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Water Aid, Elizabeth Svendsen Trust Leeds, Holy Innocents Children's Hospital, Amnesty International, Leeds Children's Hospital Appeal

In addition, the following charities have been agreed/already donated to this year:

Pakistan Floods, Lord Mayor's Charity 2010-2011, Macmillan Cancer, Jeans for Genes Day, Lepra. Red Nose Day will be on 18th March.