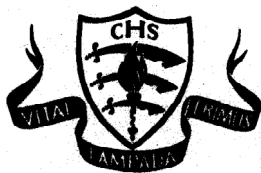


CHELMSFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Old Girls Society

AUTUMN 2004

www.cchs.co.uk
password: ogs1234

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily the views of the editors.

Janice Shepherd
"Tall Trees"
4 St John's Road
Billericay
CM11 1AB



Mary Fox
23 Borda Close
Chelmsford
CM1 4JY

Dear Member

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. We both hope that all our readers have had a good summer. It's downhill all the way now to shorter days and long dark nights!!

You will find a more detailed description of our Annual Reunion later in the Newsletter but for those of you who didn't make this year, please note the date of next year's in your diary now.

We hope to be able to arrange Come Back For Christmas again next year – so watch out for more details in the Spring Newsletter.

We both enjoy receiving your letters, as do the rest of the committee, and we look forward to hearing from more of you in due course.

Best wishes from your co-chairs, Mary Fox and Janice Shepherd

E-mail us at: maryfox@tesco.net
or: janiceshepherd@btinternet.com

MISS SHAND

At the reunion this year, an Old Girl asked for more information about Miss Shand, an English teacher who she described as charismatic.

If anyone has any information about Miss Shand after she left CCHS or any interesting stories or reminiscences, please get in touch with us.

[We asked one of our Old Girls, Katja Fleischmann, to tell us about her life in America. – Ed]

A LETTER FROM KATJA FLEISCHMANN

I'm not sure what info you are looking for but here is my life synopsis!!!!

Before I start, I have to say special thanks for me are due to Mrs Oliver (I'm not sure if she is still with CHS) - she inspired me with her passion for Racine and the confidence she had in my French which led me to continue studying languages at Exeter. It was unquestionably my languages degree which opened up the door at Société Generale for me.

Since leaving CHS in 1989 I went to Exeter University (highly recommended - worked hard, played even harder and made friendships of a lifetime) where I studied French and German for three years with one year in Aix-en-Provence and earned a 2:1 BA Joint Hons before joining Société Generale in London. I took part in the graduate training program with FIMAT (the futures and options arm of Soc Gen) for six months where I worked on the trading desk and the LIFFE open outcry trading floor (quite an experience to be standing in the trading pit with screaming men all around me!) I went on to join (and later manage) the client services team for two years in FIMAT London before being posted to Singapore for two years and was then transferred to the Chicago office. In 2000 I moved with my boyfriend Jose Carlos Vega (another banker who is now my husband) to join JPMorgan Investment Bank on Wall Street as a marketer for e-commerce (visiting clients and showing them our electronic trading and research platforms in order to introduce new business to the bank). We stayed in New York for three years with a difficult September 11 (my husband was working in the World Trade Centre but came home safely) and have now moved back to Chicago.

For me, I love the quality of life in Chicago - it is a wonderful city with friendly people and the lake on its doorstep. Whilst it is less cosmopolitan than New York, it is still an international city with a lot of fun and culture to offer. Carlos and I married at the Chicago Historical Society by the lake on May 22 this year - a really wonderful day with friends and family from all over the world. It is definitely a difficult decision to decide to remain abroad - I miss England a great deal (the people and Wimbledon especially!) but Chicago offers me a way of life which I love.

Banking was an interesting career for me as anyone who remembers me from CHS will shudder at my maths skills! I was so appalling I was put in the bottom set. One thing I would say to pupils now at CHS is it all comes down to confidence and not to viewing yourself as either a languages or a maths and sciences person. You really can do what you put your mind to. Banking is a career which I have loved for the last 10 years - it has allowed me to travel extensively, meet a wide range of people and it is a continual learning curve so I am never bored. Because I have focused on the client service and marketing aspect of the business, it is largely about interacting well with all social sets of people, an ambition to learn and excel, a confidence in presenting ideas to others and in Europe today it has the added bonus of putting foreign language skills to good use.

Although we hear a lot of press about the barriers for women in banking, it is an industry which is trying to open up the doors more and more to women. I was promoted to Vice President at JPMorgan four years ago and have always been encouraged to go from strength to strength and I enjoy managing a team of people.

Students might think of international banking as a rather dry job for maths gurus, but for a linguist like me it is an industry I have found to be very dynamic and continue to enjoy and learn after ten years in the business.

If any pupils have questions about studying languages and/or international banking and sales/marketing they can contact me at: katja.fleischmann@jpmorgan.com

Kind regards

Katja Fleischmann, 1982-1989



More letters, please, - we would all love to hear from you.

Wickham Market
Suffolk

Dear Co-Chairs

The mention of Phyllis Cass in the Autumn newsletter prompted me to write. I joined CHS under the care of Miss Piers in the Junior School. My two sisters, Mary and Peggy, were already in the Senior School. We either cycled in each day or used the public bus service. Schools meals cost one shilling and were good. The main inducement to discipline was to stand outside the office of the headmistress, Miss Bancroft, to be admonished by her. I left in 1931 after a year as a prefect. I replaced my eldest sister as "daughter at home" but spent most of my time as right hand man to my father, who was in failing health. He was managing director of the family firm of building contractors, Baker & Sons of Danbury. I would accompany him as he directed the staff and consulted architects about work, and so I got to know how the firm operated.

When father died it fell to me to continue running the company with the help of a cousin who doubled up as costing clerk and office manager. A great deal of the work was war damage – Anthea Speakman's father oversaw that! As well as this responsible job, I drove a converted horse box as an ambulance for the ARP. I had collected my driving licence at the age of 17 – no test in those days. Failing eyesight ended my driving at age 88.

I saw active service when I was called to Boreham Hall after it was badly hit. I was sent home to return with all the free staff I could muster for first aid repairs to the Hall – so wearing my two hats at one incident.

Father's passing was followed in a week by the tragic death in active service of my brother who was to follow father into the business. I got married very quietly and again divided loyalties made life rather difficult. A manager was appointed for the firm at the end of the war and I joined my husband in a village in Cambridgeshire, as wife to the area GP. He approved of the introduction of the National Health Service, as it enabled him to treat everyone equally without reference to fees. His main problem was having the patients on his list call him out unnecessarily.

30 years on and as a widow I moved to Midhurst in Sussex, filling my time delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteer car driving and stewarding at the Weald and Downland Museum nearby. To be near my daughter I moved to Wickham Market in Suffolk and am now fully retired!

My regret is that I have never managed to get to a reunion.

All good wishes
Eileen Ford (left school 1933)

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Email dated 17 May 2004 from Ms Ana Gil,
one of our teachers

Hello

My name is Ana Gil. I taught Spanish at CCHS from 1990 until 1999 and I have started teaching there again, but only a small group of sixth formers after school hours. My two daughters, Susana Noury and Sylvia Noury, also attended CCHS. Susie left in 1990 and Sylvia in 1993. Like me, Susie and Sylvia are both members of the Old Girls Society. I thought you might like to include some news about them in the next issue of your magazine.

Susie graduated from Cambridge University in 1993 with a triple first in medicine and then spent three years at Oxford medical school for her clinical studies. After house jobs and six months of neurosurgery she went on to specialise in ophthalmology, becoming a member of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists UK. She completed an MD thesis in radiation effects on the lens in 2002 and is now a specialist registrar at Moorfield's Eye Hospital. In June 2003 she married Simon Morley, a radiologist, in Oxford, where they met as medical students.

Sylvia graduated from Cambridge University in 1996 with a triple first in law and distinction from Nottingham Law School. After completing six months' internship in a law firm in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she joined the London office of the international law firm Freshfields. From London Sylvia moved to Freshfields' New York office for six months (as part of her training contract), and from there to Freshfields' Paris office, where, upon qualification, she specialised in international arbitration. She is currently on a two-year secondment to the firm's New York office, where she continues to specialise in international arbitration, with a focus on Latin American dispute resolution. She will return to the Paris office as a senior associate in September 2004.

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Chelmsford
1 May 2004

Dear Mary

Having read Mary Kenyon's moving tribute to Frances Spain and having renewed my acquaintance with her when she moved to Albion Court, just across the road from St John's Church, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, where I am organist, may I add a few sentences.

When I was on the Old Girls' Committee, like Mary Kenyon I admired Frances' expertise as treasurer but knew very little else about her until she came to Moulsham. She attended St John's regularly and we often had a chat after services. She told me she was 93.

Last October I had the privilege of playing for her Requiem Mass at St John's. She had told the Vicar that she had no fear of dying and wanted no mournful music for her service. She loved Handel and the Messiah, and so organ arrangements of "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" were used for the beginning and end of the service.

She had a nephew who is living in Portugal and of whom she spoke with affection.

Yours sincerely
Jane Ashley

[Jane left school in 1946 and served as an Old Girls Committee Member from 1981 to 1986, firstly as Secretary and then as Chair]

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New South Wales

Hi Dianne

Finally, after 2 years, I have got round to sending you this email! I am an old girl (then Ann Roach, 1960 - 1967) and took out life membership on leaving school. On emigrating to Australia in 1987, I had the newsletters sent to my mother who then forwarded them to me. She died two years ago and no doubt the next newsletter came back to you marked 'Return to sender'. I would still like to remain a member and would be happy to receive the OGS newsletter via email (annah@idl.net.au) or to look at it on the school's website if it is available there.

I have had a quick look at the school's website and was interested in the school history section. I joined the school in 1960 for Miss Cadbury's (Chocco) last year as headmistress, when we still had assembly in the gym (yes, it was a squash). I remember Miss Pattison (Floyd) starting the following year. Some of her early actions were to change the colour of school shoes from brown to black, and, oh woe, to abandon the 1d sticky buns purchased from the baker down Broomfield Rd in favour of small packets of biscuits for break time. What strange things one remembers.

I also remember the Queen Mother coming to speech day at the Odeon cinema. In preparation, we spent what felt like days marching up and down the corridors at school to practise good deportment; and then there was the curtseying! Some of us felt a bit hard done by as not all prize winners (myself included) were given the honour of receiving their prizes from the Queen Mother. This was because of time constraints - once the local mayor found out that the QM was coming to Chelmsford there were all sorts of side trips organised. (I can't remember what, but no doubt visiting local factories etc). It was a great disappointment after initially being told all prize winners were included.

I also remember the swimming pool being built (is it still there?). Although a great asset to the school, it did mean the end of the crab apple tree that had stood near the top of the bottom field. We used to pick the crab apples and then have competitions to see who could eat the most during lesson time without the teacher seeing (you had to lift your desk lid to get them out, one at a time, so it wasn't all that easy!).

I still maintain contact with a few of my classmates in the UK, but have never managed to attend an OGS reunion. We are visiting the UK this July (3 July - 5 August) to visit family and wonder if there will be any functions on?

Best wishes
Ann Hasnip (Roach) (1960-1967)

[Ann was on our 'Lost Touch With' list, so it's great to hear from her again and get her back on the mailing list!]

From: Astrid Fearn <astridfearn@yahoo.co.uk
Date: 2004/08/26 Thu PM 08:29:48 GMT
To: maryfox@tesco.net,
janiceshepherd@btinternet.com
Subject: CCHS Old Girl with a new address

I still enjoy reading the CCHS Old Girls Society Newsletter, but I doubt that I will be able to attend a reunion in future as I am now living in America. A little bit about me for the post bag if you think it is worthy....

I was at CCHS between the years 1981-1988. I only kept in touch with a couple of friends over the years - Sarah Fearn (nee Nicholson) and Delphine Laight, but would love to hear from others that were in my class. My contact details are also on Friends Reunited website. I went

on to University of Bradford and qualified as a pharmacist. After working for 11 years in the UK, I met my American husband and moved to the USA in November 2002. I am in the process of registering for my pharmacy licence in the USA, as there is no reciprocity. So 13 years after I left University, I have taken a US Foreign Graduate examination which covered everything in my Pharmacy course. It was tough remembering all those class lectures, but I passed it. The Pharmacy Board in America also requires that I take two tests in English fluency!

Thanks for all your work on behalf of the Old Girls,
Astrid Amico

HIGH SCHOOL HOMES CHALLENGE OFF TO A FLYING START!

It was all systems go when the School launched its latest fund-raising initiative for the ambitious half-million pounds Music Complex. It was a high speed Go-Kart endurance race for local companies on May 12th.

Dozens of drivers from Essex firms joined the fun at Lakeside Karting outdoor track in Thurrock for two hours of action-packed competition. The firms all sponsored their own karts, and around £1,200 was raised. It was decided to run a "Homes" Challenge after surveys showing the value of homes is enhanced by 10% to 15% if there are good state schools in an area. Local builders, contractors and developers seemed delighted at the opportunity to "pay back" and plans are already being made for a similar Challenge in the future.

Champions for the evening were the team from Chelmsford-based Mid-Essex Electrical... (run by Jan Cocks (née Whatton) CHS old girl and C'ttee member, no fix, honest!), but it was a very close-fought competition, and they only just scooped the first place trophy. Among the other firms in hot contention were Countryside Properties, Kier Eastern, J W Steele & Sons, David Wilson Homes, Centex UK, F J French, Doug Phillips Carpenters & Joiners and George Wimpey Homes. The school governors also

fielded a team, but sadly took only last place. Governors Team leader Martin Cresswell said "We feel like winners as we've raised more than £1,200 for the Music Complex appeal. We shall be back for the next challenge and are determined to move up the rankings!".

The evening was organised by parents from the Capital Development Fund-raising Group. The group's past efforts made the dream of an artificial pitch a reality last September and is working hard to ensure the Music Complex, too, is built as soon as possible. Already, mainly through parents, they have raised more than £50,000. Another fund-raising wheeze they have is a series of Music Memorabilia Auctions on the internet, selling everything from old concert programmes to CDs and vinyl records. All sorts of music is included classical to pop so please consider having a sort through your lofts or under-stairs cupboards and donate anything relevant. We can probably arrange to pick up donations in Essex if that helps. Of course anything in the way of cash donations would also be gratefully received! We know that music has always been a vital part of school life and would love to hear any memories you would like to share in the OGS newsletter. Dianne Stradling (07711 599522) and Jan Cocks.

A LETTER FROM THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL REPS

We have not only worked hard this year at CHS but we have also had lots of fun. There has been something exciting going on all the time. It gives all the girls an opportunity to let their hair down and display their many talents.

This year we had house debating which has taken over from house public speaking. The hall was alive with arguments and points of information being thrown back and forth quicker than imaginable. The debates were heated and the whole school enjoyed it. We were lucky enough to have a former student who is a debating expert judging the proceedings.

As we have done for the last few years the sixth form girls went along to join the boys from KEGS to become businesswomen for two days. Everyone was given different business jobs like marketers and designers, it was a great

experience for everyone as we learnt a lot about businesses and had fun at the same time.

After the success of the 2003 team challenge expedition another group are heading for South Africa in summer 2005. The teams have been chosen and they have already started fund raising. This year also saw the start of the Polish exchange. A number of Polish students visited the school around Easter to stay with our students. During the summer term some year 12 students went to Poland to stay with their exchange partners.

The end of term was extremely busy with various events including sports day, house music and a cabaret showcase being among a few. They were all successful and everyone had a great time.

Amee Desai and Jinyue (Winnie) Cao

A NEW GIRL WRITES....

The thought of starting a new school sounds very daunting. Going to school on the first day with your stiff new shirt and your light rucksack or school bag, scared you are going to be out of place, can be quite frightening. It seems all so terrifying meeting your form tutor who has been said to be strict, but then when you actually go to school it is not so bad after all! It all seems to fall into place. New friends are made quickly.

What seems like a big school is actually a small world. So many familiar faces pop up again and again in between the rush of lessons. Lessons are serious, but we have lots of fun too.

There are so many things to do, with all the facilities. The artificial hockey pitch, the swimming pool, athletics club and so many more it would fill the page.

It is so cool. I don't know what I would have done if I had not passed the 11+. I would have missed out on so much!

Danielle, 8G

ANNUAL REUNION

We held our Annual Reunion on June 26 and, once the formalities of the Annual General Meeting had been dealt with, the Old Girls that attended enjoyed a good evening with lots of chatter and a lovely salmon and quiche supper, followed by some calorific desserts. We were helped by several present sixth formers, who did a grand job in serving the food and wine and selling raffle tickets. The money raised in the raffle this year has been sent to Farleigh Hospice as they are hoping to build a new hospice in Chelmsford in the not too distant future.

We have a provisional date of June 25 for our next AGM and Reunion and may we suggest you put that date in your diary. Why don't you make a point of getting in contact with your old school

friends and meeting at the next Reunion? Tours of the school are available and if you haven't been back since you left all those years ago, you may like to see how the school has changed but at the same time still remains the same in so many ways. More details, together with an application form for tickets, will appear in our Spring Newsletter.

PS WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE REUNION. IS JUNE THE BEST TIME TO HOLD IT? WOULD YOU PREFER IT TO BE EARLIER IN THE DAY? WOULD IT BE BETTER ON A SUNDAY?

Let the committee know if you have any views.

COME BACK FOR CHRISTMAS

We are very much hoping that in 2005 we will be able to hold Come Back for Christmas again. However its success depends on YOU. We have an Old Girl, Pippa Williams, who is prepared to take on the task of co-ordinating the event, but Pippa cannot do this unless you come back and play, sing, bring other Old Girls and give her and the committee, who will be organising the event, your support.

Come Back for Christmas is a very informal evening that we like to hold on a Sunday near Christmas. We serve mulled wine and mince pies and we involve the audience in the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

If you are interested in joining us next Christmas then please email Mary Fox (Co-Chair) at maryfox@tesco.net, clearly marking the email Come back for Christmas and your details will be forwarded to Pippa in order that she can contact you.

We are sure that many of you come back to Chelmsford or close by at Christmas time, so please support us and make Come Back for Christmas 2005 the first of many more to come.

MEW MEMBERS

More New Members in 2003

Olivia Ashurst
Julia Bivon (née Sheffield)
Mary Griffiths (nee Roe)

Charlotte Ingle
Hiranya De Alwis Jayasinghe

New Members in 2004

Amee Desai
Jinyue (Winnie) Cao
Polly Bagley
Jennifer Barron
Jane Berthoud (née Moody)
Claire Brennan
Winnie Cao
Helen Chambers
Karen Chinnock
Claire Mary Cooper
Holly Cranidge
Liane Cresswell
Amee Desai
Danielle Eaton
Sue Eltringham (née
Thompson)

Laura Domenica Frascona
Tania Fussell
Victoria Gallagher
Natalie Gilder
Gill Gurton (née Stone)
Felicity Hulme
Angelina Jayakumar
Caroline Jee
Jo Jones
Ann Keelan
Beryl Langley (née Watson)
Susan Lewellen
Kate Littlewood
Josie Nicol nee Carr)
Ilona Reynolds
Catherine Russell

Pamela Smith (née Thorp)
Kate Taylor
Jacqueline Thorogood
Elizabeth Thorogood
Joanna Tickner
Katharine Turner
Amy Wilkins
Rebecca Wright
Rashmi Yadama
Mandy Yau
Jenifer Salmons
Gillian Smith
Hilary Wilson (née Merriman)
Lisa Anne Smith
Astrid Amico (née Fearn)

A PLEA FROM CCHS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Each year the Parents' Association arrange Mock Interviews for the Sixth Form to help them prepare for the many interview situations they will go through and in doing so hopefully give them additional skills that will help them along the way. The PA is looking for volunteers for the interviews that are being held this October over two weekends – 9 and 10 October and 16 and 17 October. The interviews take place at a business premises in Chelmsford. If enough volunteers are found, each interviewer only needs to cover one session. The students really value the experience but the PA needs sufficient volunteers to make it happen.

Can you help? No interview experience is necessary. All new interviewers are paired with an experienced one. No qualifications are required. If you could give up a little of your time, then please contact Gael Vigrass through the school office or the PA via OGS Co-Chair, Mary Fox.

LOST TOUCH WITH FROM THE SPRING 2004 NEWSLETTER MAILING

Every time we send out a new newsletter, we get some returned. Sadly, this may be because one of our members has died, but more often it is because they have moved on and failed to let us know of their change of address. Add to that name changes connected with marriage, divorce and professional lives and you can imagine how hard it is to keep up. So we're asking for your help in tracking down members we have lost touch with recently. The following is a list of people whose newsletters were returned last time round. Do you keep in touch with any of them? Can you give us their new address, or prompt them to. Any news at all would be gratefully received.

Name	Date left school
Ruby Morgan (nee Fulcher)	1926
Muriel Sulston (nee Blocksidge)	1923
Valerie Esterson (nee Dermeley)	1942
Nancy Jones (nee Gray)	1936
Kathleen Gibson (nee Choat)	1927
Joyce Chennells	1934
Helen Mothersole	2001
Libby Hall	1994
Linda Howells	1974
Catherine Wise	1992
E Roberts (nee Sayers)	1961
Justine Woollen	1989
Laura Wilson	1994
Susan Mifsud (nee Parker)	1978
Sarah Hendry	1980
Natasha Kennedy	2002
Elaine Coulthard (nee Mott)	1973

At reunion, one of our previous "lost touch with" members introduced herself. Pam Brown, who was at school from 1958 to 1963, moved house and forgot to give us her new address. She is now back on our database. Welcome back, Pam.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you got a couple of hours to spare three or four times a year? The OGS Committee needs volunteers to join as general members. The meetings are held at the school, are fun, but without a few more girls on board it makes it hard work for the rest of the committee.

Call the co-chairs, Janice or Mary, if you are interested.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen Hillier, who was at school from 1939-46, died on 4 March 2004. Before retirement she had been the Principal Lecturer in the School of Physiotherapy at the University of East London. We were notified by her sister, Daphne, who was also an Old Girl and who left school in 1952,

Margaret Lyon (née Green), who left school in 1921, died in 1991, and we have just been notified by her daughter.

At this year's reunion we were informed of the passing of some other Old Girls -

Ann Lester
Ruby Morgan (nee Fulcher)
Kathleen Gibson (nee Choat)

YOUR COMMITTEE

Mary Fox (née Shaw)
treasurer and new co-chair
maryfox@tesco.net

Janice Shepherd (née Litchfield)
new co-chair
janiceshepherd@btinternet.com

Mary Argent (née Cook)
membership secretary
targent@freeuk.com

Dianne Stradling (née O'Reilly)
ex co-chair

Jan Cocks (née Whatton)
ex co-chair

Mary Reeve
staff representative

Hazel Aucken (née Brodley)
Come Back for Christmas co-ordinator (retired)

Debbie Gent (née Booth)
minutes secretary

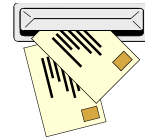
Marion Lewis (née Dorsett)
general member

Dru Willcock (née Fraser)
general member

Amee Desai
school representative

Jinyue (Winnie) Cao
school representative

School Newsletters



Last year a number of Old Girls took advantage of our offer to send **them** the School's regular newsletters throughout the year. They will have received several newsletters by the end of the summer term, containing all sorts of news and views from the school... much of it written by the students themselves. The idea has proved very successful, the Old Girls in question are delighted to receive up to date information on school happenings and have the opportunity to purchase tickets for school events. We are repeating this offer again and hope more of you will take it up. It will cost £2.50 to cover p&p, for the academic year starting Sept 2003.

Please see the form below. Please remember to **RENEW** your application and send in the slip if you've enjoyed this service this year.

NEWSLETTER SERVICE

I would like to receive the school newsletters for the coming year, and I enclose £2.50 for the annual subscription, made payable to CHS OGS.

Name (PLEASE PRINT).....

Address (PLEASE PRINT).....

..... Post Code.....

Return to: Mrs Mary Fox, OGS Treasurer, 23 Borda Close, Chelmsford CM1 4JY
