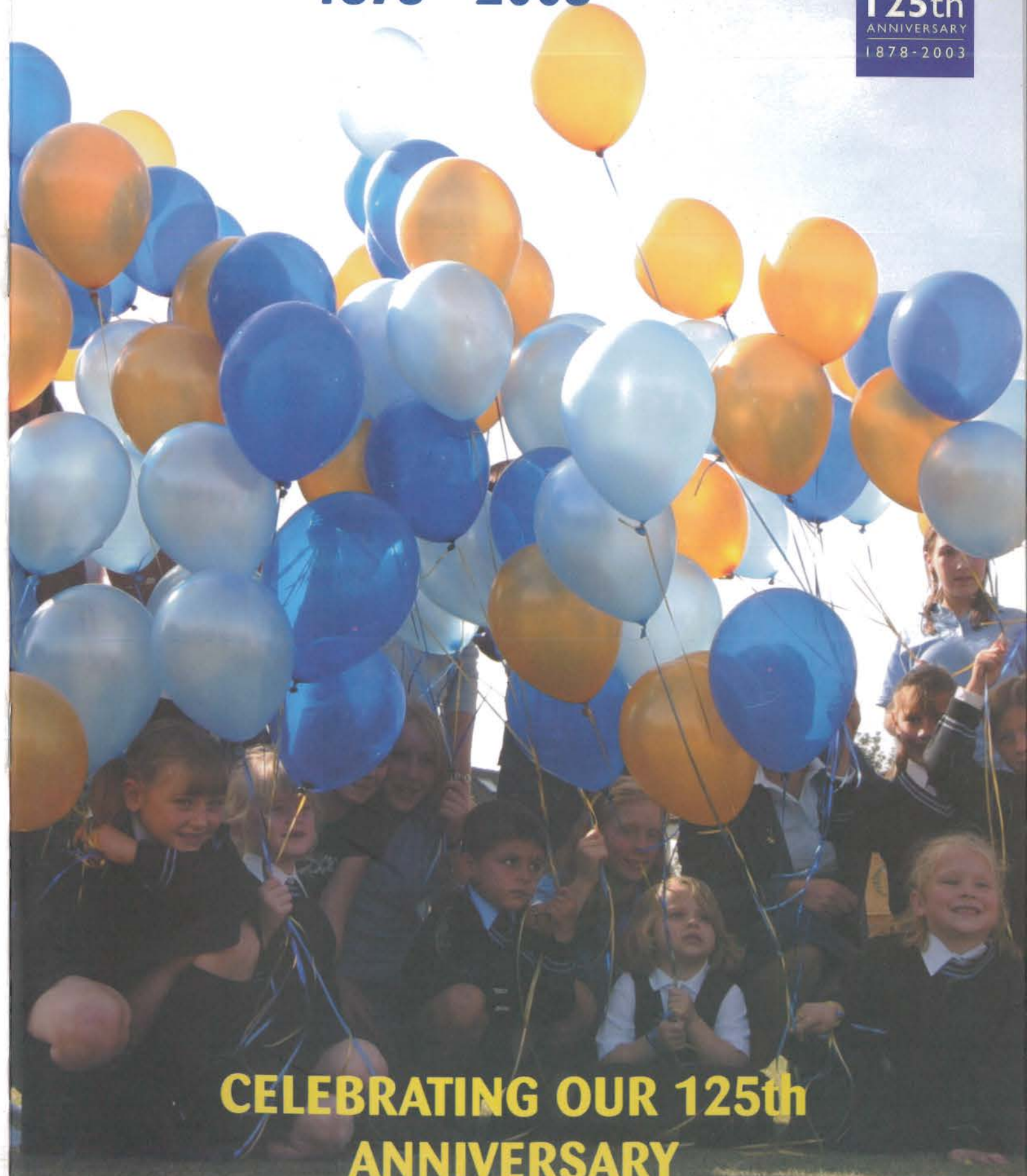




WAKEFIELD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

1878 - 2003



**CELEBRATING OUR 125th
ANNIVERSARY**

In the beginning.....



Miss Allen on her appointment in 1878 as the School's first Headmistress....

Last Monday morning, Wentworth House, Wakefield, was opened as a seminary for young ladies. It is to be called the Endowed High School for Girls, and will be managed by the Governors of the Wakefield Charities. The number of pupils who attended was 58, which is considered a very good start, and the ultimate success of the establishment is looked forward to with great confidence. The Head Mistress is Miss Allen, a certificated Cambridge Student, and she is assisted by Misses Wilkinson, Dagg, and Brittain. The additions recently made to the property have cost approximately £2,000, which, added to £8,000, the amount given for the property, and £500 or £600 required for furnishing, will bring the cost of the school up to nearly £11,000. This is the second portion of the new scheme for the administration of the Wakefield Charities. There yet remains the establishment of a technical school - a step which there is reason to believe, will not be long postponed, if the Girls' School becomes an established success.

Thus the opening of Wakefield Girls' High School was announced in the local press. The office notebook, written out originally in Miss Allen's own elegant script, records that school began on September 16th, 1878, after two preliminary days on September 13th and 14th. Miss Allen, who attended Newnham Hall, Cambridge where though unable to take a degree - because before 1870 Cambridge did not allow women to take its tripos examinations - had obtained a first class 'certificate' with Special Distinction. She was serious-minded, intellectual, public-spirited and 'imposing', being nearly six feet tall. One man, then in kindergarten, remembers being rather afraid of her when he passed her in the corridor, fearing he might be 'run over'.

Bertha Fennell wrote of her in the School's Jubilee magazine, 1878-1928 that her influence on the school was profound - 'a sense of justice, liberty and co-operation pervaded the whole atmosphere'. She was said to 'complement the needs of girl-life - spiritual, intellectual and physical' and everyone was sorry when she resigned in 1894, her health not having been good for some time, and went to live in Italy. A copy of the Illuminated Address sent to her by the Governors, in appreciation of her work can be seen on the next page. However, her relationship with the governing body was not always a placid one! A few weeks into her appointment, she threatened to resign upon discovering she did not have control over staff appointments and could not have a relative or friend to stay with her. The Governors relented and allowed her 'discretion as to a lady friend residing or visiting her', and an entry in the office notebook showing a charge of £4-11p for board and lodging for a visitor shows that Miss Allen *did* exercise her discretion! On November 13th, 1878 she had another brush with officialdom after the Governors ordered the dismantling of an elderly greenhouse in the school garden. Miss Allen records in the office notebook: Greenhouse to remain. I do what I like in it at my own expense.

When after twelve years in Italy Miss Allen came back to England, various old girls visited her regularly, finding her 'still keenly intellectual and also interested in all objects for the spiritual and moral uplift of the world.' She died in her sleep at the age of 86, after only a day's illness on All Saints' Day in 1925 and her vicar wrote of her as 'a most cultured woman and yet one of the humblest Christians he had known'. She left a legacy of books for the library and was, to the end of her life, keenly interested in the High School and its development.



Miss Allen in old age 'a most cultured woman and yet one of the humblest of Christians....'



The Illuminated Address presented to Miss Allen on her retirement by a grateful Governing Body



But what was the High School like when it first opened its doors?

On September 16th, 1878, that first day, it had 59 pupils and 6 regular diners! The servants were Mrs Teale, a cook/housekeeper who earned £30 per annum, two housemaids - E. Pitt and G. Hodson - who were to be paid £16 and £15 respectively, and a kitchen maid - E. Kershaw - on £10!

Miss Hodson, the housemaid, left on October 11th but whether of her own accord or because she had not come up to standard is not recorded.

The teaching staff were slightly better off! Miss Allen was to earn over £100 per annum augmented by 'head money' of £2.00 per pupil over 8 years and £1 for those under. Miss Wilkinson, seemingly her deputy, would get £110 and the other two form mistresses, Miss Dagg and Miss Brittain, would each get £100 minus deductions for their keep. On September 23rd the sixtieth pupil is accepted and Miss Allen asks for further financial resources or she would 'accept no more'. A house-keeping entry a few years later gives an indication of domestic costs:

Butcher	£31-14 - 3 ¹ / ₂ p
Grocer	£14-11 - 2 ¹ / ₂ p
Greengrocer	£ 7-12 - 7p
Milkman	£ 6-6 - 8p

An entry by Florence Beaumont writing in the Jubilee Magazine 1878-1928 about her earliest experiences - in kindergarten - gives us an idea of daily school life around 1892-94:

'The school day opened with prayers in the gym and closed with the whole school repeating in unison a bible verse. Passages of scripture were learned this way and punishment followed if one was not word perfect! These took the form of 'disorder marks' which would appear on our reports gymnastic class were formed under Miss Bedding - a Tennis Club of about a dozen existed, though we had only one court!'

The first Sixth form had just three pupils. Speech Day was held on the last day of the summer term in the gymnasium, the programme consisting of recitations in French and English, and Music. Dramatic performances were unknown at this stage. 'We had no motto, no colours, no shields or cups, no grade prizes. We did not compete with other schools. The education of girls was then in a transitional period', writes Florence.





Hockey Team photo 1892



Later - probably 1915 - a group posed on the tennis court, what is now the school lawn



The Garden



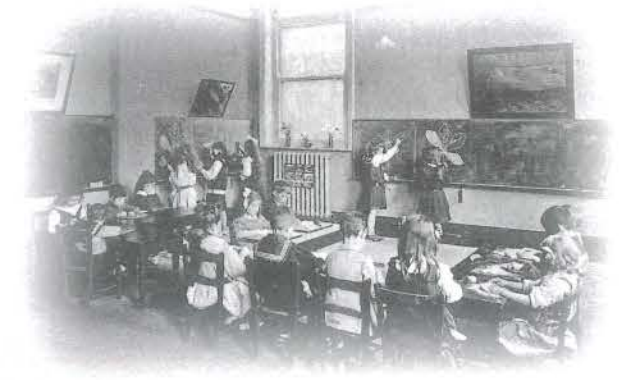
The Library



The Art Room



The Laboratory



The Kindergarten



The Hall

It was not, of course, originally only a day school



Miss Gertrude McCroben



One of the early pupils - Jane Ann Taylor. At WGHS 1880-1884



The Front Hall



A cubicle



A Boarding House Study

Excerpts from the original prospectus help to convey the 'flavour' of the School in its infancy.....

School Hours.—

- 7.45. Breakfast (porridge, tea, coffee, or milk; eggs, or bacon, etc.).
- 9.0—1.0. School, with an interval for games and lunch.
- 1.15. Dinner (meat, vegetables, choice of pudding).
- 2.5. Games, walks, and practising. Some optional afternoon lessons.
- 5.0. Tea (bread and butter, jam or cake).
- 5.30 to 7.0 or 7.30. Preparation of home lessons.
- 7.45. Supper (cocoa or milk, bread and butter).
- 8.15. Reading aloud or games.
- 8.45. Prayers.
- 9.0. Bed. Lights out at 9.30.

In the case of the younger ones there is less home work, and supper and bed-time are earlier, according to age.

Terms.—The School year begins in September, and is divided into three Terms, the dates of which are announced in the School Prospectus.

Great importance is attached to the social life of the School, and every endeavour is made to encourage and develop other interests, apart from lessons and games. In the Winter there are various clubs, such as the Shakespeare Reading Society, the Debating Society, etc., and Lectures are given on subjects of general interest, such as "English Art and Artists." The School possesses a good library for reference and amusement. No other story books may be read without permission from the Head-Mistress.

Exercise.—Open-air exercise of every kind suitable to the ages of the children is encouraged, and is always joined in by members of the staff. Great importance is attached to all outdoor games, as these are physically and morally better for the girls than other less social forms of exercise. Hockey, Lacrosse and Fives are played during the Winter; Cricket and Tennis in the Summer Term. Gymnastic lessons on Ling's Swedish system are given in the School gymnasium throughout the year, and the effect on the carriage and general health of the girls is very evident.

Girls are not allowed to go out alone unless special permission has been given by the Head Mistress.

Reproduced from original prospectus

A class in progress....



Netball in the yard....



Some interesting extracts from the Boarding House Prospectus and from an early Speech Day report from Miss McCroben

	£	s	d	
Boarding Fee (under 12 years of age)	-	11	11	0 per term
Boarding Fee (over 12 years of age)	-	12	12	0 per term
Laundry	-	1	1	0

Lessons can be arranged for in Dressmaking, Cooking, Dancing and the Violin if desired.

Each boarder must have a dressing-gown and bath slippers; strong boots; a dress for games (blue serge skirt and jersey recommended); a sailor hat with the House hat-band and badge for daily wear.

'In the early days the continuity of the work was spoiled by the constant break for examinations as we sent in girls for the Preliminary, Junior, Senior, and Higher Local Examinations, but it was soon realised that the Examinations were a strain on the girls, so the lower ones were given up.'



'Work done in the classroom soon became more closely connected with life outside school and parents were invited once a year to an 'Open Day' when they could go into any lessons themselves and see the work done.'

'School journeys began in about 1897 and were a constant link between lessons done in the classroom and the outside world. A Field Club took the Science girls on expeditions Geography classes went to see the source of the Aire at Malham; and it was a frequent occurrence to see processions of little ones, bottles in hand, going in search of tadpoles.....'

'Our school motto was chosen from suggestions and designs sent in by a large number of girls in 1895; the design by Katherine Howard Hall for the motto 'Each for All and All for God' with its binding rope and wreath of laurel leaves was unanimously chosen.'

'Those who were in School in 1917 will always remember how we gave up our School buildings to the Northern Command for use as a war hospital and various sections of the school took up their Headquarters at the Technical School, 8 St John's North, St John's Square and the Old Vicarage. We had to face many difficulties and much discomfort and it was delightful to come back again after two years of absence to our own beautiful buildings.....'

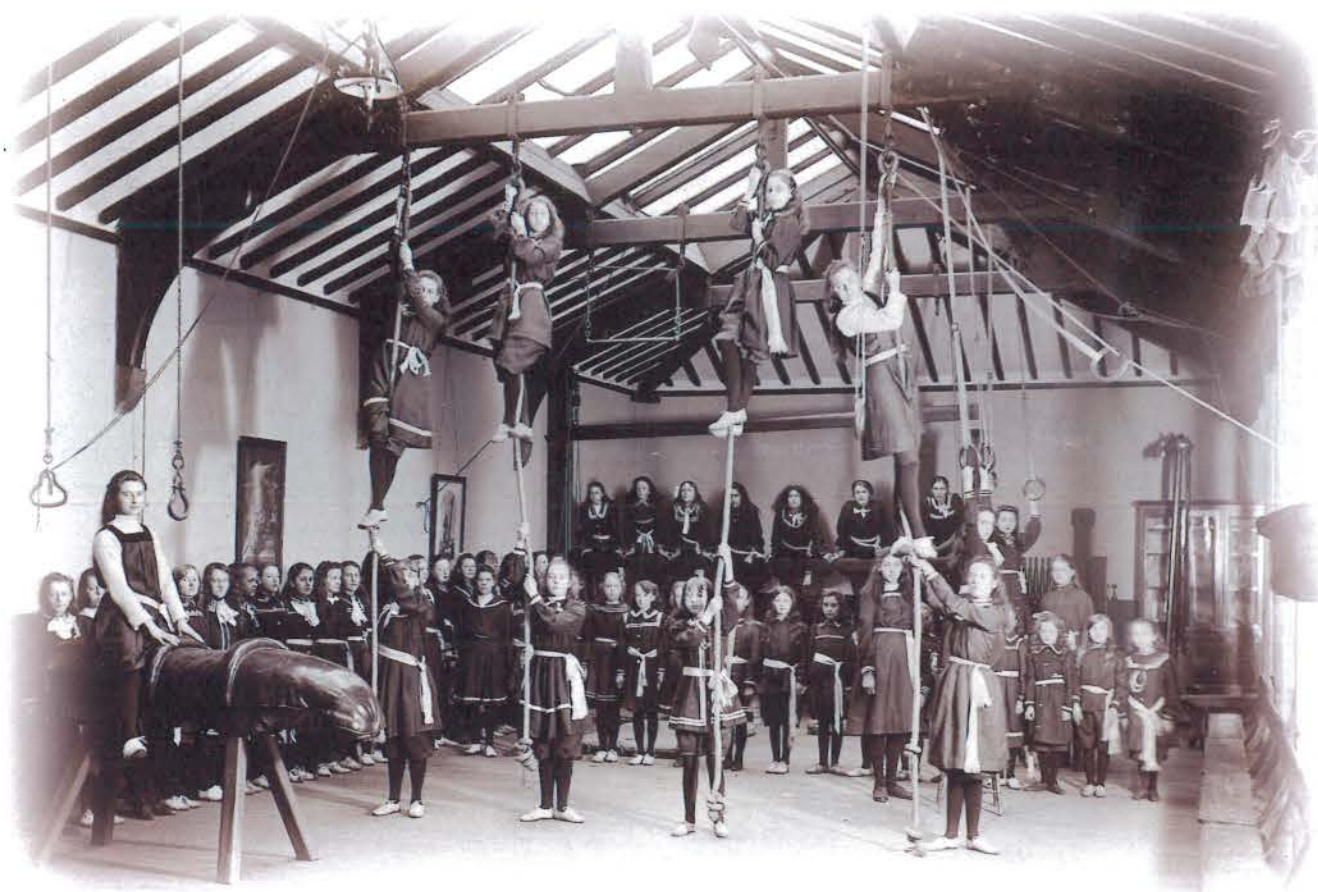


A charming portrait of Miss Phyllis Lett whose medal is still awarded for Music



Hospital Scene





School Gymnasium



A class in progress



The School evolves

In 1920 Mildred E. Martin came as a pupil to WGHS and it is interesting to read what she subsequently wrote:

'I found in the School when I came a spirit of loyalty, keenness and friendly co-operation, and I hope and believe that the same spirit is still to be found. The Staff and girls are very busy, they have a great variety of interests both in work and play; they seem to work together happily with good comradeship and freedom. I found the girls unusually courteous in manner, ready and willing to help in any way possible, and I believe that the ideal of service is firmly implanted in the School.

So, some things don't change!

Now read on and see what the School has become by 2003

Our 125th birthday. Our motto still stands, 'Each for All and All for God'; we still promote the love of learning Miss Allen sought to establish in the 1870s; personal achievement balanced with public service is still important, as is Music, Sport, Drama, Science, Travel.....

We are still steered by a Headmistress with vision, determination, strength of character and a keen sense of humour!



HAPPY 125th ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL!



The school is a very different establishment to the one Miss Allen took on in the September of 1878 and the post of Head infinitely more complex, though in many essentials the same. I asked Mrs Langham how she views her job and whether she feels that she and Miss Allen would have anything in common.....



1. Did you know much about the High School before you applied for the post of Head?

I was working in a large comprehensive in Leeds and I had never been in an independent school. I knew nothing at all about the school. I had never heard of it.

2. Can you recall your feelings when you heard that you had been successful in your application?

I was absolutely delighted and more than a little apprehensive.

3. Since then, what have you learned about the school and has your attitude to the job changed with experience?

When I was appointed I tried to learn as much as I could about the school and its history. During the last 17 years I hope I have learned a great deal more about every aspect of the school.

4. What are the achievements as Head that you are most proud of?

I have always been very proud to be Head and recognised that the post carried huge responsibilities. I would also hope that my attitude has changed according to the circumstances and the conditions of the time.

You do not achieve anything by yourself. You work with others to bring about any changes. We have a fine school with excellent facilities which are getting better. I particularly enjoy planning for the future. We have an excellent staff who get super results. But I am most proud of the pupils past and present.

5. Do you think that the character of the school has changed significantly over the last 125 years or is its 'mission' to educate girls much the same as it always was?

The character of the school has changed in that it is now appropriate to the 21st century but the "mission" to educate the girls remains the same. We retain our traditions and are proud of our heritage but we must address the needs of today's girls.

6. What do you look forward to for the High School and its future? Any predictions?

Continued success in everything we undertake. There will be changes in curriculum, greater use of ICT, better facilities and more room.

7. If such a meeting could be miraculously arranged, what do you imagine you and Miss Allen might say to one another about being the Headmistress of WGHS?

I think that she would be surprised to find that the job retains the same basic requirements but that there are so many other issues to consider now. I believe she would be delighted to meet the Sixth Form and to see what opportunities they now have and how well equipped they are to cope.



8. Can you recall some of the funniest moments of your Headship?

I can recall many funny moments, some when I made mistakes but many others in assemblies or reviews.

9. What about the saddest or most difficult ones?

The saddest and most difficult times have been when there have been deaths of pupils, parents and staff.

10. Has it been possible to maintain a 'normal' home-life whilst coping with the demands of the job?

This job takes up a great deal of my time particularly in the evenings. I try to attend every occasion that involves the girls in school and most in the Foundation but I cannot do everything. I still have to shop, clean, cook and iron like everyone else. I am fortunate that I have a wonderfully supportive partner and I could not cope without him.

11. What are your favoured methods of relaxing?

Relaxation time is in very short supply. I most enjoy going on long walks with my German Shepherd, Jazz, working in the garden and spending time with my other half.

12. What qualities, in your experience, does a Head most need in this day and age?

Definitions of what makes a good Head seem to change quite often. There are whole books written on the subject. Each person tends to do it differently according to their personality. You need to be able to lead and to manage, to have vision, commitment and determination, be prepared to work hard but above all you must like people, and love teaching.

13. One of your predecessors said on retirement, 'You will find them all good girls'. What will you say?

I have no idea, but I am sure that when the time comes my thoughts will be about all the girls, the staff and the governors who have been at the school during my time as Head.

You can also read an extract from Mrs Langham's Speech Day Address - turn to page 68.

HG



Mrs Langham with Mrs Daphne Cawthorne, Headmistress of the Junior School, on our 125th Anniversary



Head Girl: Bethany Bradshaw
Deputy Head Girl: Joanne Eaton

Senior Prefects

Kate Barron	Sarah Frankland
Sarah Booth	Dimple Patel
Helena Clarke	Natasha Roberts
Emma Cousin	Olivia Smith
Louise Foster	Claire Sowerby

Prefects

Ashley Armitage	Laura Gray	Emma Pyke
Sophie Atkinson	Amy Green	Amanda Raper
Rebecca Barber	Alana Gruszka	Giorgina Reed
Holly Barnes	Katherine Halliday	Lucy Robinson
Kathryn Basford	Kate Hamlin	Hannah Rockcliffe
Victoria Bateman	Jazmyn Henderson	Seuranie Rose
Lara Birkinshaw	Rachael Hogley	Joanna Sandwith
Holly Brearley	Zara Hussain	Clare Sanford
Laura Caryl	Gemma Johnson	Sara Sankarsingh
Meera Chauhan	Charlotte Jones	Zoe Shaw
Vicky Chung	Rebecca Kershaw	Katherine Sims
Emma Cockcroft	Sarah Latham	Anugrah Singh
Sarah Doyle	Victoria Lockwood	Jennifer Slack
Emma Durgan	Georgina Mackey	Candice Smith
Stephanie Duxbury	Rebecca Maclean	Katherine Stephenson
Sarah England	Kelly Martin	Lucy Van Hille
Sophie Farrell	Hailey Matheson	Julia Varley
Emma Fearn	Jessica Myint	Elizabeth Walters
Clare Ford	Nadia Nami	Catherine Whiteley
Emma Gallagher	Kate Papworth	Harriet Worth
Charlotte Gill		



Mrs Denise Armitage

Denise Armitage first came to WGHS in 1968 and her retirement in 2003 therefore brought to an end a period of 35 years service, broken only by the birth of her daughter, Catherine, whose completion of her education at the school also coincided with her mother's departure. Spending such a considerable part of her life in the school meant that Denise was always keenly aware of its history and traditions, and generations of girls have passed through her care. The History Department is now bereft of its one member who could always be relied upon to ensure we knew exactly to which year each Departmental prize and medal went.

Schools always produce "characters" and Denise was certainly at the heart of WGHS's contribution to this tradition! Unfailingly kind and considerate to her pupils, "Mrs A" could always be relied upon to participate in any school event, to allow herself to be gently but affectionately mocked in the VIth form Christmas Entertainment and to provide teaching as individual as her celebrated sense of colour co-ordination. Every girl knew that if she ran out of stationery, hair clips or any other daily need, a trip to Room 20 would always produce the missing item in exactly the right colour!

Her colleagues as well as her pupils also relied upon Denise in many ways. It is hard to see how staff meetings will ever be the same again without that characteristic italic handwriting (always in green ink!) faithfully recording views and opinions and the staffroom notice board will notably lack Denise's recording of exam howlers in the summer term! Furthermore we no longer have anyone to point out any recalcitrant pupil in the phrase that was pure Denise: "a nasty piece of knitting" - it is a measure of her kindness that that was as far as she was ever prepared to go in damning anyone.

We wish Denise, her husband, Jon, and Catherine all the very best for the future and are sure that the Armitage family will thoroughly enjoy Denise's well-earned rest!

ADS



Miss Janet Caswell

Janet joined the school in 1988 as Head of German, but as German is not taught in IVL most pupils probably first met her as "the Barnardo's lady", or saw her on stage taking part in the Christmas entertainment, or spotted her on St. David's Day wearing a daffodil. She had a reputation on the ski pistes as "Killer Caswell" and was known to make lights explode or set the fire alarm off. She also took part in every sponsored walk and helped unstintingly at every Charity Fair.

Miss Caswell was recognised not just for her Welshness and willingness to have a go at anything and everything, but above all she was a totally dedicated and most conscientious teacher. It is hard to say which she cared about most: her subject, her pupils, or her Department - for she worked extremely hard, promoting and expanding the German Department, helping individuals with their separate verbs or their GCSE Presentations. When German became a subject taught jointly with QEGS staff in the Sixth Form, Janet participated with characteristic enthusiasm in the new venture. Over the years Janet welcomed and continues to keep in touch with a number of German Assistants and other overseas colleagues from the various exchanges she organised, first with Westphalia and then with Neubeckum. She served on the committees of several Modern Languages professional associations in Yorkshire, helping to organise events for pupils and colleagues. She was famous for bringing German Christmas treats into the classroom - her biscuits and *stollen* were enjoyed by many. Students of German

and Russian will also remember Miss Caswell's perceptive, erudite and helpful reports, and Sixth Form girls will be grateful for her kindness yet thoroughness in helping them prepare their UCAS entries for Higher Education. This kindness was appreciated too by staff, especially at times of personal loss or illness: Janet is a caring and compassionate friend.

Janet's progressive loss of hearing was a situation which she found increasingly frustrating and sadly it has forced her early retirement, but as she herself said, it is an "end which leads to a beginning." We shall miss her - her dedication, her endearing idiosyncrasies, her unflinching good humour and wit - and we wish her well as she enters a new stage in her life.

HAJ



Mrs Jo Gainsford

Joanne Gainsford, that wizard of Chemistry teaching, was with us such a short time, from 2001-2003 yet achieved so much. Not least was having her first child, Oliver, born in Yorkshire and brought into school for all to coo at.

Among her many achievements are re-starting Chemistry club, initially for IVL girls, but out of this grew the "Harry Potter Magic Show" which became such a feature of Information Morning.

Through her husband Jo had close links with Huddersfield University and took a group of sixth formers to the School's Analyst Competition. Under Jo's guidance the team did experiments on chemical clues to find out "who dunnit", ending up in the finals of the competition.

We were so impressed by her that we nominated her for the Salter's Young Chemistry Teacher of the Year. This is a national competition to find the most outstanding young chemistry teacher of the year. References were submitted, Jo was interviewed and invited into the last sixteen. This involved lesson observation at school, an ordeal Jo coped with even though heavily pregnant.

Many girls will remember Jo for the quality of her teaching. Our Chemistry technician, Mrs Wilkins, who hears all our lessons - the good, the bad and the awful - summed up her qualities: "Jo has a nice way with her. She doesn't let them get away with anything!" Many girls did well under her tutelage and have missed her since she left.

Jo's husband found a new job, moving down south, so reluctantly she left us shortly after her maternity leave ended. Being a very sophisticated, elegant young woman, it was no surprise to us when Jo found a post as Head of Chemistry in a posh Kent independent school (the type of school that has its own stable and horses with equestrianism and horse jumping on the curriculum!).

DAB



Mrs Mary Neale

Mary Neale joined us as librarian in 1993 and retires - if her plans come to fruition - to Cornwall, possibly in the Truro area. Mary introduced a great many changes in the library and made it into more of a learning resource centre. She took great pride in the appearance and facilities on offer to the girls, and was immensely helpful to staff when enquiries were made or new stock ordered. We wish her every happiness for a relaxing and fulfilling time ahead.





Dr Neil Rhodes

Neil Rhodes joined the Geography Department in September 1998 after completing both his degree and his PhD. at Newcastle University. His teaching career began at Newcastle, then at Sheffield University. He decided to take up a new challenge, teaching at secondary level. Neil made an immediate impression on both his colleagues and the girls in the school with his caring and conscientious attitude and his warm and friendly manner.

There are many things we will remember about Neil. His dramatic ability was often on show at the end of term entertainments and he was often one of the first members of staff to be approached by the 6th form because they knew he would be a good sport and take part willingly. We will remember his double act with Dr Dabbs at one of Mrs Andrassy's famous Fashion Shows as the 'Men in Black'. He would freely give of his time taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and he started up a lunchtime football club. Within the department he organised the Worldwide Quiz. We were delighted to share with him his delight at becoming a father just a year ago.

As a member of the department he will be sorely missed. He was particularly useful on field trips especially to the Peak District, an area about which he had extensive knowledge. He also helped the other members of the department to develop their IT skills and in his role as second in the Geography department he was an invaluable source of advice and support.

We wish him well in his new job at QEGS and are very pleased he has remained so close as he now provides a connecting link between the two schools which we are sure will develop further in the future.

LAW



Mrs Pat Whiteman

It surprised no-one when in their end-of-term review 6 Upper designated Pat Whiteman 'Smiley teacher of the year'. Ever cheerful, humorous and compassionate, Pat is a respected and much-loved colleague and Biology teacher.

In 33 years of service, she has never lost her professional enthusiasm and commitment, and generations of pupils have benefited from her subject expertise and her willingness to talk through problems, boost confidence and offer sympathetic counsel. She has always been, as it were, 'on the side of the pupils', seeing the educational process from their perspective. 'Some of the stuff we teach is as dry as old bones - we have to make it interesting for them' is a typical quotation. She is also a super organiser: she arranged 5 Upper work experience; she has done a lot of charity work in school; she made field trips run smoothly and has acted as Head of Department. She is a particularly lovely colleague and inspires affection in those who work with her, also commanding respect for her personal courage and resilience in coping with life's setbacks.

We will miss her but we know that she will be fully occupied in her retirement, with husband, Harry, and probably - for a lot of her time - in the garden and the greenhouse!

DAB/HG/JK/VR



Mrs Margaret Williams

Margaret joined WGHS in 1982, initially within the Home Economics/Food Technology Department, but eventually moved to the Careers Department as its Head. The success of the Guidance, Information and Support Department owes much to her input and vision, and a great number of girls will have good reason to be grateful to her for advice, practical help and moral support.

Margaret has a warm and compassionate personality and is ever willing to encourage the individual and to give unstintingly of her time. She is also receptive to new ideas and recently extended her IT skills, learning how to use the latest CAD software when teaching product design so that the girls would get the most from their lessons. She was largely responsible for the Work Experience programme and was also involved in the development of the Education and Business Partnership scheme.

Her energy, versatility, humour and charm have all benefited WGHS over a number of years and have made her a popular and greatly-appreciated member of the staffroom. She is unlikely to opt for a quiet retirement, and

we are sure to see her and husband, Geoff, at many a school and social function! We wish her every happiness and say, 'Thank you for a job well done!'

PE/HG



Christine Cowling (née Thompson)

Christine retired from school in April this year. She had been senior laboratory technician for 36 years, during which time she had given loyal, dedicated service, particularly in her role as Biology technician. During that time Christine always did her utmost to ensure that the laboratories and equipment were well maintained and ready to use at a minute's notice. We all very much appreciated the help and support she so willingly gave to everyone in the STC. She played a full role in a wide range of school activities, which included visits to Chester Zoo, Swaledale and Bretton Hall field courses, as well as attending many school drama performances and concerts, which she particularly enjoyed. Christine was also in charge of the Nearly New Sale for many years.

We all wish her every happiness in her well earned retirement and extend all our good wishes to both Christine and Ray. We will miss her tremendously.

PMW



Dr Sarah Duerden-Brown - Chemistry

Sarah was born and brought up in Sheffield, and studied Chemistry and Chemical Technology at Bradford University, which involved a year working in the Chemical Industry at Exxon Chemical Oil Refinery at Fawley, Southampton.

She then moved to Leeds and obtained her PhD and during her time there was both a tutor and demonstrator to the undergraduates. She then did a PGCE before teaching at Outwood Grange College, Wakefield.

In her spare time she keeps fit by walking, running and working out at the gym. She recently married and honeymooned in Bali and Australia.



Mrs Joanne Cater-Whitham - Geography

Joanne is a graduate of Bradford University where she studied Geography & Environmental Science before completing a PGCE at Sheffield University. She has taught geography for nine years in Rotherham and has also been the Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator liaising with five comprehensive schools for the last two years.

In her spare time Joanne enjoys being out in the countryside and going on holiday with her husband and daughter. She also loves eating Chinese food and chocolate, but not at the same time! She has recently started playing squash and her ambition is to beat her husband! She also enjoys gardening.

Miss Amanda Cooper - Modern Foreign Languages

Amanda was born in Wakefield (!) and brought up on a farm near Selby. She is a graduate of Leeds University, in French and Music, and her passion for both subjects remains strong. After teaching English for a year in Senegal, West Africa, Amanda completed a PGCE at Oxford Brookes University. She has previously worked in schools in Cambridge and Harrogate and her hobbies include travel, running (she will be taking part in this year's Great North Run), playing the flute, singing and Interior Design.



John Consadine - Design and Technology

John has spent the main part of his working life in the Hull area with a variety of careers in industry, as a chemist, industrial engineer and a commercial planner.

He graduated from Huddersfield University after completing a B.Ed. and has worked for the last few years in a wide range of schools in and around North Yorkshire.

He spends his spare time 'fixing' his old car, cooking nice meals for his new wife and designing websites for his local church.

His greatest challenge was last year when he and his wife spent 3½ weeks travelling across Africa by rickety buses to a Mozambique orphanage.



A Warm Welcome to.....



Miss Azra Kadic - Chemistry

Azra originally came from Bosnia and, having come to England, decided to study Bio Chemistry at the University of Birmingham. She did her PGCE at King's College, London and is now enjoying the start of her teaching career at WGHS. A smiling figure, she loves the outdoors and is also keen on reading and travelling. She is training for the Great North Run.....



Miss Kelly Kendall - Biology

Kelly got her degree in Human Genetics at Leeds University and undertook a research project at St James' Hospital working on a newly-discovered gene thought to be involved in neonatal diabetes and some cancers.

She did a PGCE at Leeds University and enjoyed her teaching 'placements' in Halifax and Bradford! She is now enjoying being placed at WGHS! Her hobbies include reading, swimming and walking



Dr Jonathon Korosi - Head of Biology

Jonathon was born and brought up in Wakefield and was taught Biology (superbly he says) by his father, a well-known teacher at QEGS.

He studied Medicine in London and subsequently worked as a junior doctor at Pinderfields and York District Hospital but - as he puts it - 'the trauma of seeing young people die was not for me - and I needed to change career-track!' He looks on his appointment as Head of Biology as a challenging but rewarding one, and looks forward to his pastoral responsibilities and his D. of E. involvement.

Married with two sons, he enjoys life to the full and participates in a range of sporting and extra-curricular activities. His figure he attributes to his genes and to his Austrian grandmother who used to 'drip feed' him apfel strudel at every available opportunity



Miss Ann O'Reilly - History

Ann is a graduate of Birmingham University where she studied History and Russian. After completing her PGCE, she worked at Greenhead High School in West Yorkshire. She then crossed The Pennines and worked for two years at All Saints Catholic High School and Language College - Lancashire.

She likes to play netball in her spare time and spends holidays in France and Ireland.



A Warm Welcome to.....



Richard Sewell - Business Studies at WGHS & QEGS

Richard teaches Business Studies and divides his time between WGHS and QEGS - and so, presumably, spends much of his time in transit. He also coaches various teams at QEGS in basketball - his speciality - and outside school loves playing football and badminton. His other interests include travel, reading and charity work.



Mrs Julia Ward

Julia trained in Liverpool, in Home Economics and Textiles. Her passion has always been Textiles and she enjoys couture skills and soft furnishings, and even has some projects in mind for her eventual retirement! She taught for many years in a small but tough comprehensive school in Rotherham but was tempted here by the post of Food Technology teacher.

She has two daughters: one is at Swansea University studying Psychology; the other is doing her A2s at Shelley High School.

Julia's interests are holidays (as many as possible), creative crafts, gardening, decorating, making soft furnishings and icing cakes.

A couple spotted on the dance floor at this year's May Ball!



Results of the Caption Competition

Beauty and the Beast?
Leverage and cleavage?
I'm wearing the trousers, I'll lead.....
'Funky Gibbon? No, the PASA doble!'
You spot 'em. I'll get 'em later!
No-one can see us on this dance floor.





Kate Lane VI Upper



Olivia Hill VI Upper



Sarah Brown marries Mark Duerdon



Judith Cunliffe marries Neville Hartley



Val West marries Eric Riddle



Judith Kenmir marries Geoff Tingle



Welcome to Matilda Rose Hesmondhalgh!



Belated wedding congratulations to Kath Green in the office, shown here looking glamorous at the May Ball

Thank you to



Martin Bates - Art

Who has covered Rebecca Hesmondhalgh's maternity leave

Martin has taught in this area for a number of years at Castleford, Hemsworth and Wakefield College. A Head of Art, he eventually took early retirement and was only tempted out of it by Mr Noble, a colleague earlier on, to cover Mrs Hesmondhalgh's maternity leave. He is an artist and has had various exhibitions in Derby, Leeds, Sheffield, Harrogate, Scarborough and Wakefield!

A long distance runner, he enjoys both road and fell, and possibly his overall fitness has enabled him to cope with working at WGHS. We are grateful for his help and wish him all the best for the future.



John Briggs

John went to Leeds University and subsequently spent many years teaching Modern Foreign Languages, for the last twenty as a Head of Department. He has helped us out so much recently that we expect to see him walking through the staffroom door any day now John's children have presented him with twin grandsons, Gabriel and Isaac, and grand-daughter, Olivia, with whom he is pictured.

We'll simply say thank you - and au revoir.



Susan Taylor

Born and brought up in Cheshire, graduating in Chemistry at Durham University (some years ago). Earlier teaching posts were in grammar schools in Lancashire and Coventry. She has lived in North Leeds since 1977, and latterly worked in state and independent schools in Leeds and Harrogate.

Leisure/therapeutic interests include playing the piano and country walking. She is married with grown-up daughters.

VI Upper Leavers

Name	Destination	Name	Destination
Abha Aggarwal	De Montford University, Leicester Pharmacy	Elizabeth Grove	University of Nottingham Medicine
Jayne Aldridge	University of Nottingham Physics	Sally Grove	University of Nottingham Mathematical Physics
Lucy Allen	University of Leicester Economics & Law	Tasleem Haji	Liverpool John Moores University Applied Chemistry
Lisa Andrews	Nottingham Trent University Psychology	Nicola Hall	University of Aston Managerial & Administration Studies
Catherine Armitage	University of York Archaeology	Emma Hayes	University of York Mathematics
Eleanor Baxendale	University of Durham History	Ruth Helme	University of Edinburgh Modern European Languages
Samantha Bell	University of Leicester Law	Victoria Hey	University of Newcastle Accounting & Finance
Rebecca Bennett	University of Lancaster Marketing	Olivia Hill	University of Newcastle Marketing & Management
Natasha Bevilacqua	University of Leeds Management Studies	Helen Hissett	Royal Veterinary College Veterinary Sciences
Martina Broadhead	University of Leicester Law	Suzanne Horn	Imperial College London Agricultural Sciences
Ruth Capper	Homerton College, Cambridge Music with Education Studies	Kate Horsfall	University of Lancaster Biological Sciences
Anna Citron	University of Hull Psychology	Rachael Howarth	University of East Anglia Politics
Leanne Cotter	University of Hull Criminology	Arabella Howe	University of Northumbria at Newcastle Marketing Management
Louise Curran	New Hall College Oxford Chemistry	Leanne Hudson	University of Central Lancashire Marketing
Rebecca Dalton	University of Birmingham African Studies	Charlotte Ingham	University of Manchester Philosophy Politics & Economics
Alex Denham	University of Cardiff Cultural Criticism & English Literature	Meredith Ireland	University of Nottingham Law with French
Helen Dowson	University of Bristol Veterinary Science	Henrietta Jones	University of Nottingham Psychology
Alice Ellingham	University of Lancaster Law & Criminology	Elizabeth Kemp	University of Liverpool Psychology & Neuroscience
Javairya Fida	Sheffield Hallam University Business Studies	Roshini Kulanthaivelu	King's College London Medicine
Jenna Forber	To be advised	Katherine Lane	University of Leeds Fashion Communication & Marketing
Shelley Galvin	University of Nottingham Environmental Engineering	Annabelle Langhorn	University of Durham Chemistry
Amy Gledhill	Wakefield College Beauty Therapy	Rosemary Leigh	University of Central Lancashire Fashion
Eleanor Glendinning	University of Nottingham Ancient History & Archaeology	Jennifer Luke	Nottingham Trent University Business Studies
Laura Grainger	Anglia Polytechnic, Cambridge Optometry		
Emma Greenwood	University of Birmingham Psychology		



VI Upper Leavers

Name	Destination	Name	Destination
Claire Lynagh	University of Northumbria at Newcastle Geography	Jenna Romani	Leeds Metropolitan University Business Studies
Chloe Manley	University of Durham English & Linguistics	Eleanor Shaw	University 2004
Sophie Mann	University of Manchester Psychology	Helen Shaw	University of Durham Physics with Astronomy
Emily Mason	University of Birmingham French & Hispanic Studies	Fiona Slack	University of Manchester American Studies
Josephine Mathew	University College London English	Claire Swift	University of Northumbria at Newcastle Physiotherapy
Laura Mosley	University of Lancaster French Studies & Mathematics	Hannah Sykes	Coventry University Development and Health in Disaster
Kim Oldham	University of Durham Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Adele Taylor	University of Northumbria at Newcastle Law
Seema Patel	University of Aston Computing for Business	Anjali Unnikrishnan	University of Nottingham Management Studies
Jennifer Pater	University of Nottingham History	Jennifer Vasis	University of Newcastle Marketing & Management
Elizabeth Peckett	University of Sheffield French & Business Studies	Laura Walker	University 2004
Jennifer Raynor	University of Warwick History	Hollie Waugh	University 2004
Lindsey Roberts	Art Foundation Course	Sarah Wilshaw	University of Leeds Sports Science
Helena Rodgers	University 2004	Kelly Wood	Drama College 2004



Arabella Howe Yr 13 modelling clothes made for her 'A' Level Art



A brief retrospective from the retiring Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl



Ruth Helme

It seems unbelievable that a year can fly by so quickly. Just as I had my responsibilities down to a T, I found myself passing over the duties to my successor. It is true to say that this was the busiest, yet most fun-filled year that I had spent at WGHS. On first being elected Head Girl, I was struck with overwhelming surprise and anxiety, but these feelings soon dispersed as I was faced with numerous rotas to oversee and functions to attend. However, Ele and I quickly adapted to this fast pace of life and I would like to thank her for being calm and collected in the most hectic situations. She carried out every job with enthusiasm and never failed to give a gleaming smile!

However, the year would not have been so successful without our hardworking and supportive team of Senior Prefects. Thanks must go to Martina Broadhead, Helen Dowson, Lizzie Grove, Sally Grove, Roshini Kulanthaivelu, Emily Mason, Josephine Mathew, Laura Mosley, Anjali Unnikrishnan and Hollie Waugh. Always willing to give a helping hand, they were responsible and showed initiative: their work was much appreciated. The organisation of over 60 prefects was no easy task, but the year group as a whole worked effectively to keep the school running smoothly. Furthermore, the care and guidance offered by Mrs Riddle, former Head of Sixth Form, helped us all keep on top of our duties and studies.

The Christmas Show was an exciting event for VI Upper. Using a time warp theme, we reviewed our seven years at school with lots of singing and dancing, both by students and teachers. The teachers' talents (or lack of) astounded us all, but nothing could prepare us for Mr Paget's act as Austin Powers. Not happy with one show, we organised another as a fundraising event for our sister school in Issenye. This time we invited QEGS and the show was extremely popular. But who could blame their eagerness when our star attractions were Kylie and Britney? Well done to our show organisers: Shelley Galvin, Lindsey Roberts and Becky Bennett!

Roberts and Becky Bennett!

We felt very honoured to be the first officials to wear gowns in assembly! This new tradition took some getting used to and I am sure the jokes concerning Batman/Harry Potter will never cease, but in years to come girls will feel privileged to wear a gown that has been passed down generations of school officials.

My year as Head Girl was very enjoyable. I gained a lot of self confidence, which aided me in nerve-racking situations, such as giving the Vote of Thanks at Speech Day. I am positive that our new Head Girl, Bethany Bradshaw and Deputy Head Girl, Joanne Eaton, will find the experience just as rewarding and I wish them luck with their year in office, as well as with exams and university applications. As VI Upper move on to all corners of the UK, we leave the staff and our fellow students with hundreds of happy memories that will remain with us always.

The Senior Prefect Team

Ruth Helme



Ellie Shaw



The tone of Speech Day 2002 was set at the start by Emma Cousin - 6th form pupil and Head Chorister of the Cathedral. She sang Handel's 'Where'er you walk'; her pitch true and clear and every trill distinct!

There followed Mrs Settle's welcome to all assembled and congratulations, again to all assembled, on our excellent results in the public examinations. She thanked Mrs Langham in particular who had had a demanding year working with

commitment as Principal of the wider family of the school. Mrs Settle noted the move of the Governors' Office to Northgate and noted with satisfaction the completion of the new pavilion and with excitement the prospect of the 3rd phase of building: a Centre for Creative Arts.

Mrs Langham then gave her abridged version of the school report which must be quoted in full: 'so welcome to all, well done those receiving anything, thank you everybody and a safe journey home'. On a more serious note she welcomed Margot Elliott to present the prizes and thanked the retiring governors, Mr Michael Woodhead, Mr Stephen Platt, Mr Roger Pollard and Mr Barry Jubb, for their dedication and support. Special tribute was then paid to Graham Hollingworth as retiring chairman of a thriving PASA and to Marilyn Jones who had retired from her post as PA. Mrs Langham made warm mention of Mrs Jones' replacement, Linda Maddick and of Teresa Johnson's replacement in the school office, Miss Katherine Abbott.

There were many more farewells to report, not least in the ranks of the catering staff where Mrs Maureen Bailey, Mrs Margaret Shaw and Mrs Anne Abson left us with a combined service of 71 years! We had said goodbye to Emily Barnes, historian, Dr 'Bob' Roberts, chemist and Mrs Sue Allen, English. Mrs Jean Lamb had taken early retirement. Ill health had resulted in the retirement of David Slingsby, our expert ecologist, and Margaret Andrassy, Head of Home Economics and Head of 5th year.

The new staff who had joined us were subsequently mentioned: Mrs Elizabeth Cross, historian, Claire Richards, classics, Mrs Susan Taylor and Mrs Diane Lindquist, chemists and Mrs Angela Singleton as Head of English. Dr Jonathan Korosi would join us in the new year as Head of Biology, as would Mrs Julia Ward in the Home Economics department to replace Mrs Buckley.

Mrs Langham then reported with evident enjoyment on the improvement of our environment with one of her characteristic epigrammatic turns of phrase: 'It is true that a good teacher can teach anywhere and that brilliant learning can take place in a hovel. But why should it?' She was pleased to report the demise of the Old Pavilion which, had it been a person would have regularly helped the police with their enquiries. Not so the high tech new Pavilion. She clearly relished the incipient new build phase three as a major enhancement of the school's facilities.

Tribute was paid to FLAG - the Foundation Liaison Group of the four Heads and the Clerk - a team whose sum exceeded the parts. Mentioning Foundation appointments, she named the Director of Music, David Turmeau, Director of Marketing, Camilla Field, Director of ICT, Jim Palin and an embryonic Foundation Learning Support department.

Mrs Langham reported with pride on the WASP initiative now held up as a model of good practice and said how proud we were to take our place among Wakefield schools. It had been an honour to receive the Commonwealth Games baton with the Mayor and many local junior schools. She paid tribute to our growing link with the Issenye school in Tanzania.

Our school motto begins 'each for all'; we must not underestimate the importance of the 'each', for to parents it was their own daughter as an individual who mattered. She wanted to give our girls the 'wings of independence'. This was going to be risky and uncomfortable at times, but she hoped to give them the confidence to dare to fail while striving to succeed. The challenging but safe environment of the school would continue to support them even while they had their independence.

Margot Elliott, our guest speaker, is a former WGHS pupil who left in 1984, was called to the Bar in 1989, is a tenant in a Chambers in Peterborough which has expanded rapidly as has Miss Elliott's family. She is married to a fellow Barrister, and has four children, the youngest being nine weeks old. Clearly an interesting and inspiring role model, Miss Elliott established immediate rapport with students and with the audience as she reported on the most peculiar feeling it gave her to stand on the stage in this role where she had last stood in the role of Head Girl. She recalled some of the duties assigned to her by the then Headmistress, one of which was to crack down on girls 'embracing boyfriends' in Wentworth Street; this she did by a poke in the back and a remonstrance to 'do it down Laburnum Walk!'

After a brief resume of her career, Miss Elliott reflected that the first day in court was supposed to be traumatic but she could report it was far easier to stand in front of three magistrates who want you to be there than standing in front of 700 girls who didn't.

Of the school she noted it felt warmer, there were more pictures and flowers and it was altogether less austere than in her day. Margot Elliott stressed to the girls that so much of their education had value even when they didn't realise it. She spoke of her regard for Latin in contributing to her awareness of vocabulary, structure and grammar. She told us she discarded any pupilage statements that contained misplaced apostrophes or misspellings. She viewed English Literature as the opportunity to meet greater minds than any of us would meet in a lifetime. She then mentioned the subjects that did not come as naturally - sewing was one such, demonstrated by the fact it took her a whole lesson simply to thread the sewing machine! Modern dance was another; when told she was dancing as if 'waiting for a bus' she had replied 'I'd rather wait for a bus' and was therefore told instead to wait in the changing room!

She stressed the value of the school in teaching students how to think and giving them the building blocks to think for themselves whatever their ultimate occupation. Her final words were to reassure girls that an untidy desk was not a sign of an untidy mind - it was simply the sign of an untidy desk. Schooldays were not the best days of their life; university was - so she enjoined them to make sure they got there!

After the prize giving was duly accomplished, Ruth Helme, Head Girl, gave her vote of thanks to Miss Elliott for her enlightening and amusing speech and so concluded another successful speech day at WGHS.





Back L - R: Kate Horsfall and Helen Shaw
Front: Claire Swift, Fiona Slack and Louise Curran



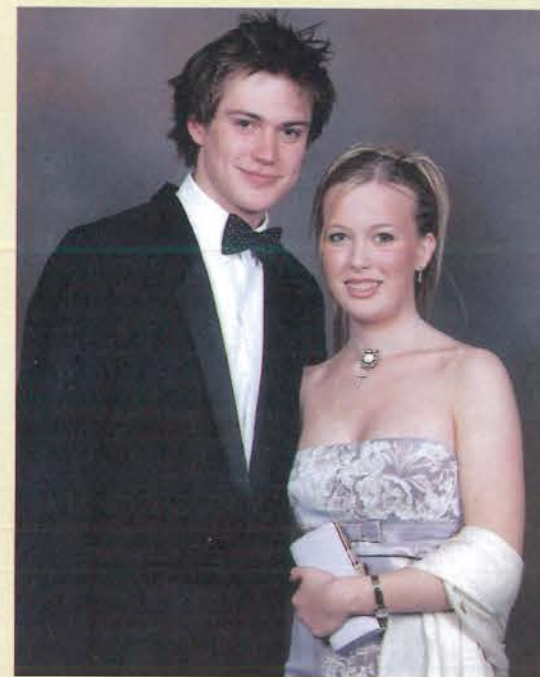
Sarah Wilshaw



L - R: Rebecca Bennett, Ruth Helme,
Alex Denham, Ellie Glendinning
and Meredith Ireland



L - R: Shelley Galvin, Natasha Bevilacqua,
Jenny Luke and Ellie Shaw



James Harrow and Elizabeth Peckett



L - R: Seema Patel, Nicky Hall and Abha Aggarwal



Back L - R: Jo Matthew, Samantha Bell, Jenny Pater
Front: Eleanor Baxendale, Helen Dowson and Jenny Raynor

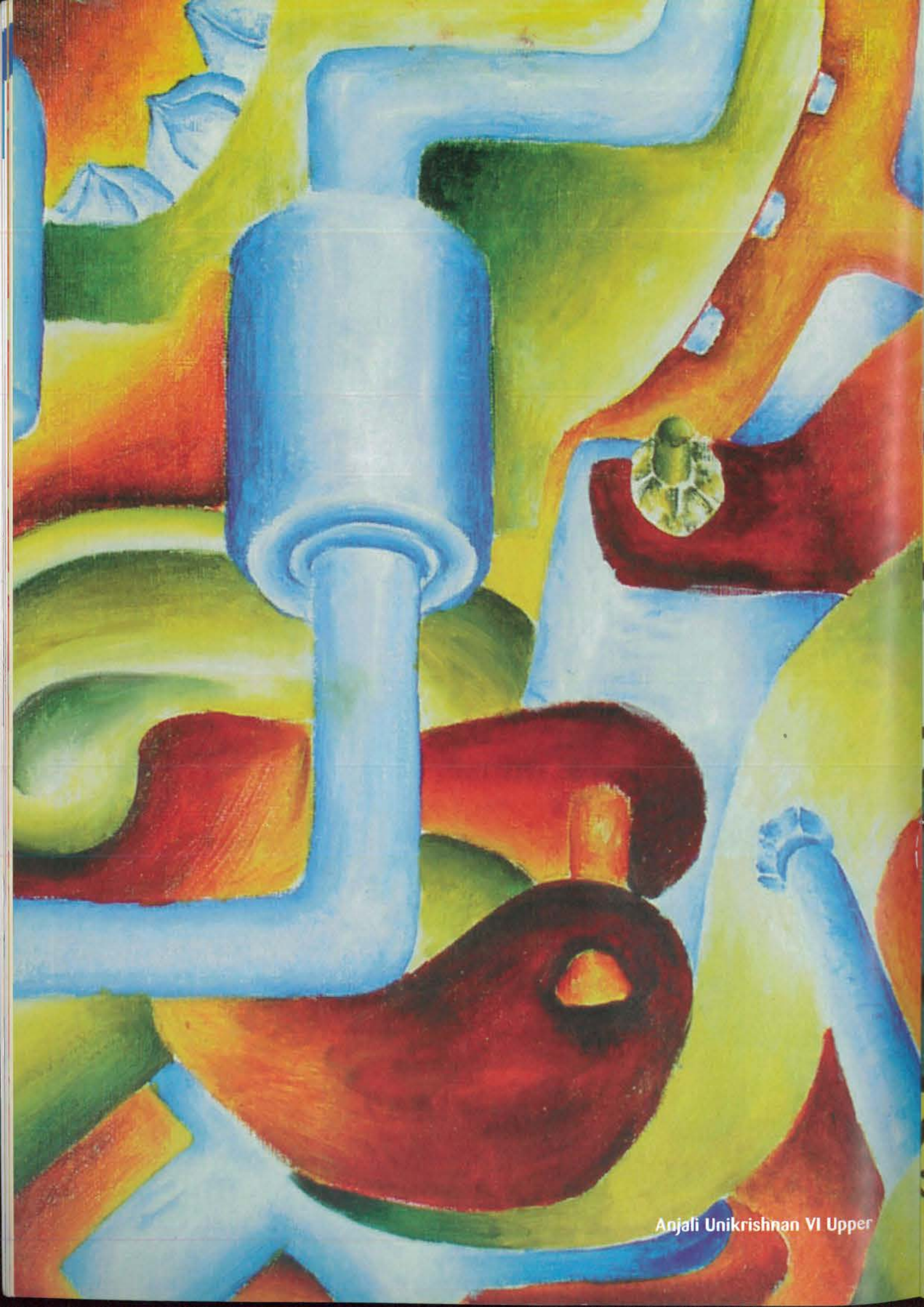


Judith Kenmir and Geoff Tingle



Elizabeth and David Cross





Anjali Unikrishnan VI Upper



Arabella Howe VI Upper



Katharine Kingswell Travel Award

Heidi Frances is studying Chinese and German at Leeds University ...



Wall to Wall

The second year of my degree was spent studying and travelling in China. The wealth of experiences I had is such that I could easily write a whole book! This article consists of a series of short extracts taken from a more detailed account.

'Ich bin ein Beijinger'

"On arrival in Beijing, I was ashamed to confess I'd studied Chinese for a whole year already. After the three month summer holiday away from the classroom, I felt like a beginner again ... On my first day in Beijing words like 'library' and 'folk song' were all that sprung to mind." But it wasn't long before I could converse with confidence

Chinese New Year - spent in a Chinese friend's family home

"... the whole family takes part in making 'jiaozi' ... Chinese ravioli. Firecrackers are set off with a huge crescendo at the stroke of midnight. I have never experienced anything like this ... the high rise block of flats was literally shaking and almost every visible square inch of sky glowed with multicoloured blasts of fire ... For a whole week the booms and crackles continued, the air was slightly pink and hazy and there was a pungent smell of explosives."

SARS attacks! - caught in the middle of an epidemic!

"... it would seem that the government here is still trying to cover things up. It has been discovered that military hospitals have not been reporting SARS cases ... from what I've heard estimates at the number of cases in Beijing are ranging between 100-200 and my Japanese friend today said he thought it was probably more like 400! ... More and more people are wearing masks ... the floors are being cleaned every couple of hours by a rubber-gloved army wielding ragged old

mops and buckets of bleach." - An excerpt from one of my group emails taken a week or so before I found myself back home.

'My heart was still in China'

After SARS my friend and I returned for the summer and travelled home overland. "The trip home was certainly an eye-opening experience; the journey from Ulaan Baatar to Siberia being the most exciting - we shared a carriage with smugglers and prostitutes and crossed high security borders which looked like scenes from the war with barbed wire covered fences, watch towers and armed guards."

Over the years I've covered an estimated 25 - 30,000 miles

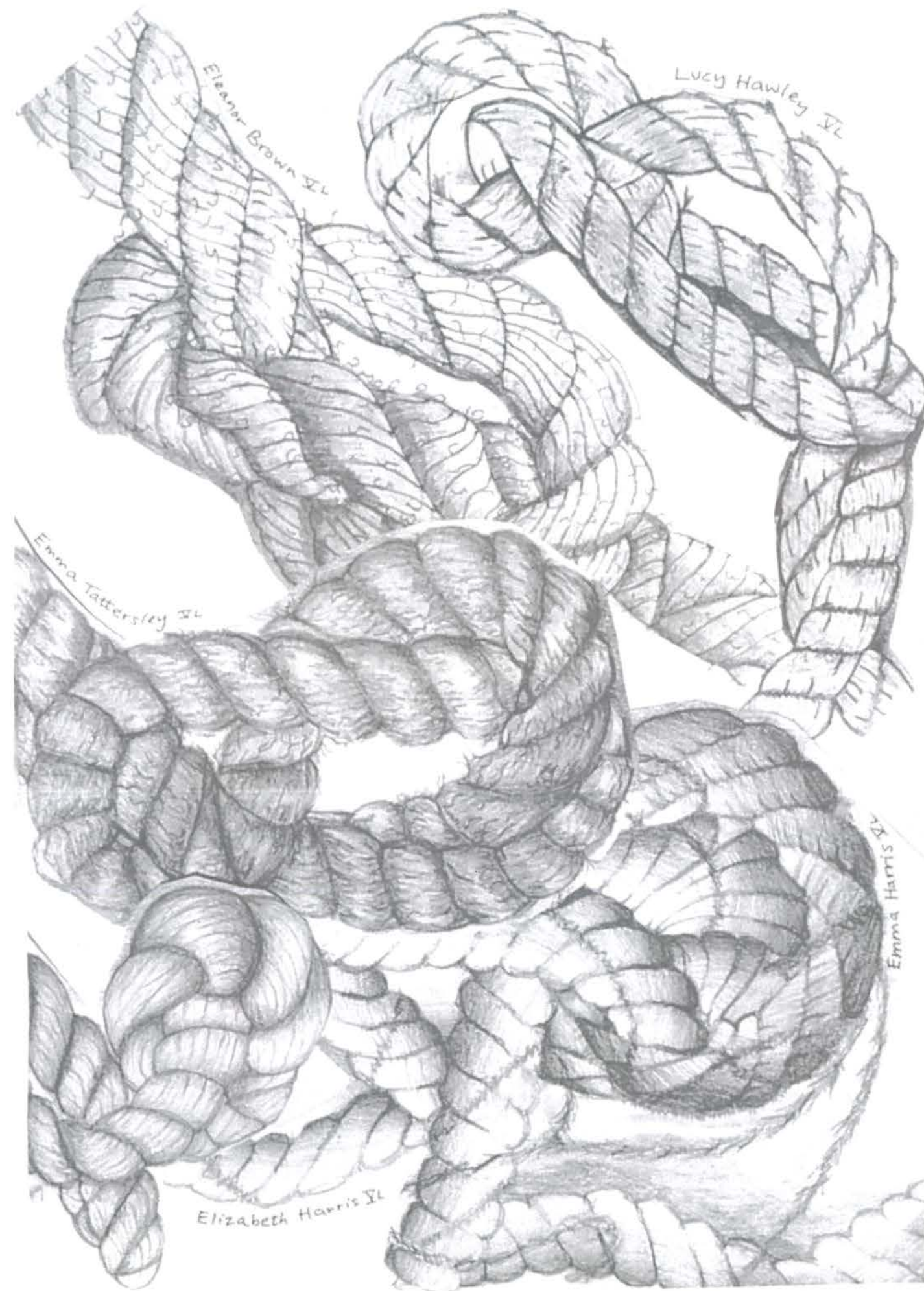
"... countless nights on trains ... luxury coaches, clapped out minibuses, scary 'sleeper buses', sardine-like trolley buses, run-down manual rickshaws, spluttering motorised rickshaws, various bicycles with dubious brakes, backfiring Beijing taxis, a horse-drawn sleigh, a dog-drawn sleigh, cable cars, horses ... once I hitched a ride on a tractor! I've eaten whole prawns (head, tail and shell), skewers of unidentified spicy bugs, cow's stomach, woodlouse larvae, 'thousand year old' eggs, whole Sichuan chillies (phew!), fried jellied animal fat, cow's neck tendon, chicken feet and Mongolian fermented horse milk and cheese ... The longest single train journey I made was around 88 hours long ... in a carriage with an abundance of Russian dried fish..."

Wall to Wall - the last stop on the way home was Berlin

"It seemed rather fitting ... I was satisfied to realise I'd made it all the way from China's Great Wall to Germany's Berlin Wall."



Avoiding SARS!





Lauren

Sailing Sisters, Lauren and Melissa Addy competed in the rigorous qualifying series to earn places in the National Sailing Squads

A Weekend in the Life of a Youth Squad Sailor...

I slowly inched out of the comfort of the warm car into the damp November air. Peering through the thick fog, I saw several huddles of awkward looking teenagers, all of whom appeared to share the same apprehension as me. I smiled weakly at a nearby girl, who returned the gesture. Suddenly, at an alarming rate through the drizzle bounded a middle-aged man, with a shiny bald head, crowned by a ring of wispy white hairs.

'Hello', he beamed, in an abnormally enthusiastic manner, 'come with me'. The first weekend of the National Topper Youth Squad sailing training had begun.

Gradually, as the squad members got to know the format and each other, we would all arrive at training sessions with a level of excitement which almost matched that of the man with the polished scalp who had originally greeted us. It would be us who, after changing into enough thermal layers to combat the icy temperatures (and also impede our ability to walk) would bound into our boats and onto the water.

The mornings started with a fitness run, which began at 7am (and got earlier and earlier the more we groaned and moaned), and then were filled with races, training exercises and drills, all of which were designed to improve our techniques and maximise our speed. Lunchtimes provided a welcome break from the physical exertion of the mornings, when the dining room would be filled with the laughter of Northern, Southern, Scottish and even Irish accents, amid the steam from the numerous hot drinks needed to thaw us out. In the afternoons, we were back out on the water

training hard, followed by the evenings, which were spent listening to lectures either by our coaches, nutritionalists, psychologists or physiologists, or simply relaxing. After an exhausting day, even our semi-frozen sleeping bags on the hard, dusty floor, on which all thirty of us (23 boys and 7 girls) slept, seemed inviting. The lullaby of the instructors' earth-shaking snores, didn't even keep us awake!

The hardest thing about the training weekends was definitely getting up for school on Monday mornings!

Lauren Addy VL



Melissa

The Topper National Championships

Last winter I was one of the thirty U16's (and the youngest) sailors to be selected for the GBR National Junior Topper Squad. The training programme in this squad culminates in one week of competitive sailing on the sea in the summer - The National Championships. Two hundred and thirty topper sailors from all over the British Isles headed for Sunderland Yacht Club in August. After weeks of boat and fitness preparation the tension was high and the pressure was on.

The first three day's races were used to split the fleet into Gold, Silver and Bronze ability fleets, in which we raced for the remainder of the week to gain a final position. I was glad that my results from the first three days were good enough to enable me to qualify for the Gold fleet, and in the top half.

A huge high in the weather systems led to little wind, many races being abandoned and frustrating hours waiting for wind and some big water fights to pass the time.

Once the wind finally arrived, we encountered difficult conditions with two metre waves rolling through the racecourse. These provided great fun Downwind, as when catching a wave the boat was picked up and surfed down the wave very fast, often overtaking many boats in the

process. Going Upwind required lots of body movement and skill to keep the boat going fast through the swell. There were some quite scary moments when boats just ahead were in front of a wave and disappeared and then were suddenly vertically below you as you were on top of the wave. My fleet finally entered the harbour again, exhausted, at 8.30pm.

Each day brought different sailing conditions and after just starting the fourth race of the day (having spent 4 hours on the water already) fog began to roll down the coast. The buoys marking the course disappeared and soon I lost sight of almost all the other 150 boats on my course. Immediately the RIBs sprang into action and shepherded the 230 competitors to safety on the land with the eerie Fog Horn in the background.

At the end of a very tiring week both mentally, due to having to process wind and tidal information in order to make a successful tactical plan, and physically from lots of sailing, I exceeded all my expectations and finished 32nd/230 and won the prize for first U14 female.

Melissa Addy IVU



Holly is a High Kicker - Beware!

Though always interested in the Martial Arts, it was only three years ago that Holly joined a kick-boxing class in Huddersfield. Since then she has gone from strength to strength, learning all the different fighting methods: sparring, grappling, stick-fighting, knife-fighting and anti-rape tactics.

Last October came the chance to enter a competition! She was daunted to learn that she would be in two separate fights - one 'grapple' and one 'spar' - and that she would be tackling adults. In her first grapple against an adult, she won a medal before going on to receive two more in the sparring sections. She then won the main trophy for endurance and team spirit! Holly trains every Saturday for three hours and describes her mentor as 'inspiring'. Her next competition is coming up soon and we wish her every success!



Top Marks for Hannah

Hannah Seymour is an exceptional Geographer! How do we know this? Well, she got the top marks in the whole country on her AS OCR Bristol Project specification C!

She enjoys the subject enormously, particularly the Physical Geography, and also enjoys her other subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths. She is not yet sure which career direction to go in eventually but has considered studying Physics at University.

Hannah has a horse and loves competing regularly at weekends, mainly in show-jumping competitions. She is participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and recently went to Wales with school on an Outward Bound holiday.



Myth and Mystery

In December 2002, a cast of about fifty QEGS and WGHS pupils from years 8 and 9 took part in three plays under the collective title of 'Myth and Mystery'. These were acted 'in the round' in the Jubilee Hall. Two year 9 groups performed plays from the Wakefield cycle of medieval mystery plays, suitably updated with colourful modern costumes and lively music.

The Flood

The story of Noah's flood was an impressive group effort, complete with an ark and an enormous black labrador, seemingly its only occupant!



The Two Brothers

Year 8s presented this macabre black comedy about two rival brothers, both after a fortune. It led to several beheadings and much laughter. Excellent performances were

Whose Life Is It Anyway?



Brian Clark's 1972 television play 'Whose Life Is It Anyway?' became a hugely successful stage play in the late 70s and remains today a stimulating piece of theatre centred around the character Ken Harrison's determination to exercise a choice over his own life or death.

Having been permanently paralysed in an accident, he resolves that he would rather die than face a life of physical dependence. Opposing this decision are the forces of the medical profession who argue their case for his life with humanity and intelligence. Ken himself is witty and erudite and the play is saved from morbidity by the humour, often black, with which he describes his situation and articulates his wishes.

A surprising choice for a school play? Maybe, but certainly one which challenges and stimulates the audience, posing as the play does one of the 'big' questions about life - who knows what is best for us?

As Ken Harrison, Edward Farmer was utterly convincing, whether verbally sparring with the powerful Euan Robson as the consultant Dr Michael Emerson, or flirting with young Nurse Sadler, played with great charm by Katie Scott. Dani Sampson's Ward Sister was cool and calm in all circumstances, ruling her ward with great authority while Clare Sowerby's Dr Scott ably represented the more human face of the medical profession as she finds herself having great sympathy with Ken.

The leading actors reflected the quality of the whole cast whom, under the confident and accomplished direction of Amanda Barnes, were able to do justice to this provocative play. As Ken's situation comes to a head and he is given a hearing at which he is permitted the option of dying, the audience were palpably moved as they felt the enormity of the decision's impact.

The stage, lighting and front of house crews also played their part in making this a most memorable production.

given by all, with an imaginative musical accompaniment led by Mr Meredith.

The Shepherds

This was a comedy derived from 'Mak the Sheepstealer' and was well acted by a smaller cast. The year 9s in both plays proved themselves to be a promising group of performers. Mr Rose and 6th formers from QEGS and Miss Gore, from WGHS are to be congratulated for leading these strong performances.



AS

The Drama Competition

The summer term once again buzzed with about 90 girls from 4 Lower, 4 Middle and 4 Upper preparing for the now traditional annual drama competition. Girls became playwrights, directors, producers and back-stage helpers as well as actors in the four plays presented. The four teams, red, yellow, blue and green were asked to create plays inspired by their colour.

The audience saw "The Boys in Blue" about sexism in the police force; "Yellow Fever", about attempts to keep an epidemic at bay in Victorian times; "Murder at Greenside Manor", cleverly based on a Cluedo game; and "Seeing Red", about a serial killer. All were very dramatic!

Eileen O'Brien, the professional TV and stage actress, who adjudicated the plays was very positive and constructive in her comments and praised much of the acting. She presented the green team with the playwright's award and the yellow team with the best production. The whole evening was much enjoyed by everyone.

JAG

River of Time



Music in School

The musical year started on Day 2 with the partnership project "Mr Esher's House" run by the composer Barry Russell and members of the Northern Chamber Orchestra under the baton of John Pryce Jones. Year 10 plus 11 GCSE music students from WGHS/QEGS and Outwood School collaborated over a number of compositional sessions to produce a spectacular final performance in the QE Hall. It was great to work with pupils of different backgrounds all with a common interest in the performing arts.

The partnership arrangement was rekindled later in the year with **String Workshops** led by Nick Meredith and other string specialists in the Wakefield area and involving young string players from many local schools.

Our **annual Cabaret Evening** in October offered a great showcase for aspiring singers and jazz instrumentalists. Both QEGS and WGHS had separate **Young Composers Concerts** in November with excellent compositions by our GCSE Year 10 and 11 music students as well as AS and A2 students. Many of these works have attracted high marks in the recent exams. Hannah Cunningham's beautiful song reflected why she was placed as one of the top five students in Music GCSE results throughout the country this year.

Our two **Christmas Concerts** featured the best of Foundation music making no less than 24 ensembles of the highest calibre represented in the two concerts.



In our annual **Advent Carol Service** our four resident choirs provided some outstanding performances with a combined personnel of 150 voices.

The autumn term also saw the beginning of rehearsals for **River of Time**, a 90-minute choral work involving all schools in the foundation for the very first time with much collaboration with the composer Geoff Richards. The strenuous rehearsals in each school involving a total of 340 voices together with dancers, soloists and stage band culminated in a spectacular performance in March in Huddersfield Town Hall marred only by the fire alarm going off during the interval meaning that everyone had to stand around outside while the fire brigade came and checked the building. Luckily it was a false alarm and the show did go on. A memorable video will give participants happy memories in the years to come. Both composer and lyricist came long distances to attend the performance and the beautiful Town Hall was bathed in an extraordinary kaleidoscope of colours provided by a professional lighting team. Particular thanks to Vicky Stansfield, a professional dance teacher and Foundation parent who, together with Miss Gore, prepared some ambitious dance routines which greatly enhanced the performance. The dancers were stunning in their specially created costumes. All the soloists performed well and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Meanwhile, throughout the spring term, a talented group of musical parents, staff, pupils and friends came together to rehearse the **Rutter Requiem and Haydn Nelson Mass**. Nick Meredith's Leeds Chamber Orchestra provided professional accompaniment at the final exciting performance in Wakefield Cathedral in April, which included four excellent soloists. Our own singing teacher Myvanwy Bentall was a superb Soprano soloist and QEGS provided

their English teacher Dominic Rose as an outstanding bass soloist. In March we also enjoyed a **Chamber Concert** in the Cathedral featuring soloists, chamber ensembles and for the first time, some jazz. Ives' "Unanswered Question" was most evocative with solo trumpeter, Peter Horsfall on the balcony.

Seven foundation music groups competed with distinction in the regional rounds of the **National Festival of Music for Youth**. No less than four groups were selected to perform in July in the National Festival on the South Bank in London. Senior Swing Foundation was particularly well received as one of the top jazz bands in the country.

As the year came to an end we enjoyed **two Senior School Summer Concerts**. The summer concert saw the last performance of our singing teacher Miss Bentall who was performing with two of our AS students. She has now left to study at the Royal College of Music in London, and while we wish her every success, she will be sorely missed. The culmination of two outstanding music events, was a moving tribute to the music staff from leaving Upper 6th Formers from QEGS/WGHS of a most professional reinterpretation of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" with chorus, orchestra and wide screen video presentation. It brought many members of the audience to shed a tear but must have taken hours of rehearsal.

Overall, this year has been jam-packed full of musical talent seen in both new and established groups from older and younger students. Many thanks to all those who have helped make this year such a triumph and let us hope next year will be as successful.

Claire Sowerby and Hannah Rockcliffe, Music Prefects

Turmeau's Terms

Those of you who know David Turmeau will be well acquainted with his musical expertise and dynamic conducting style, but may not also realise he is a witty and sometimes devastatingly ironic commentator on human behaviour (particularly that of choir members).

Here are a selection of his 'sayings' in one rehearsal for the recent Haydn 'Nelson' Mass and the Rutter Requiem.

It's a competition to see who can actually go flat.

If you're gonna do something wrong you might as well go for it.

You could say to your neighbour: "Shall we both sing the same note?"

There are some lovely smiles in the Altos. I think it's because they've got a hot flush actually.

So much s there - I think it's a teeth problem.

It's just like that milk, just about going off.

That's called "bi-tonality".

You must be saying: "I come here voluntarily and get abused. I go home and take it out on my partner and the cat."

Would it be worth turning out to hear that?

It was the most boring thing I ever heard.

Watch those notes as you come down. It's like coming down the stairs as you get older, you need to hang on to the stair rail.

..... and that's just in one rehearsal!!

H AJ



Bell Celebrity Concert

This was a very special musical evening featuring some of the most talented young musicians in the North of England, and sponsored by our own musical benefactor, Mr Bell.

The best of this year's leavers from the Junior School of the Royal Northern College of Music were featured in a varied and exciting concert programme: Ceri Owen on piano, Zara Benyounes on violin, Nicholas Reed on percussion, Matthew Palmer on trumpet and sopranos Sophie Fox and Josie Eccles. Billed beforehand by David Turmeau as an 'inspirational feast of music making', this is what it proved to be and the audience went home delighted by the experience.



In the Cathedral celebrating our 125th anniversary



Have instrument, will travel



Barcelona Tour 2003

The Barcelona Tour followed on from our successes in the Music for Youth Competition. We started off with a trip to Port Aventura and our concert that evening was at the Hotel Festival Village in Salou where we had a fantastic audience, comprising our coach drivers and a spattering of Irish ruffians!

Next day we visited Aqualion Safari and Water Park and the Torres vineyards before playing a gig in the beautiful gardens of the Museu Deu in El Vendrell. On the Wednesday we went to the beach and later set off for Figueres where our gig was staged in what seemed like gale force winds! However, our audience was most enthusiastic and the music went well. We spent Thursday in the centre of Barcelona and indulged in some retail therapy especially on the famous Las Ramblas shopping street. Then we visited the Nou Camp Stadium of FC Barcelona before going on to our final - and easily our best - concert.

It was an 'epic' holiday, enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the staff who made it such fun.

Amy Wray, Naomi Baker and Sarah Clarkson



Nick Meredith



Mr Meredith joined the Music Department at WGHS permanently in 2001 and quickly made his mark as a hard-working, innovative talented musician. He conducts a wide variety of musical groups in and out of school and teaches the violin (his youngest pupil being four years old) as well as music classes from years 7 to 13.

What are your very earliest musical memories?

Standing in the wings as my father was practising a Gilbert and Sullivan production in Australia - feeling rather frightened of three large singers dressed in armour!

Do you come from a musical family?

Not really. Neither of my parents had formal music lessons but wanted all five children to have the opportunity to play the piano and violin. They both sang a lot around the house, which was quite annoying, and my Dad plays the recorder - but that's about it.

How did your career as a musician develop and who or what influenced you?

I was a reluctant violinist initially, dismayed at being picked out at primary school and given a violin to practise. I hated it for years -

thought practising was a form of torture. Then at about thirteen I started to make a nicer sound and enjoyed it a bit more. I joined a Youth Orchestra and made loads of friends. When I joined Leeds Youth Opera Group I met Michael Grady who encouraged me into composing music and widened my tastes. He was a real inspiration to me.

How do you see your job as a teacher of music?

I see it as enabling people to get a handle on lots of different styles of music. It's not a question of 'old peoples' music' and stuff for young folk. Most music is exciting or compelling in some way - it's just finding out what triggers the excitement!

If you hadn't become a musician, what direction might you have gone in?

Don't know really. I've done a lot of theatre music and I find theatres exciting places to be in. It might have been something to do with directing or acting.

Do you have specific ideas about enthusing budding musicians or about stirring enthusiasm in quarters where it doesn't initially exist?

Just do as much as you can and enjoy it! Immerse yourself in lots of different kinds of music. As far as stirring enthusiasm goes if you've an open mind (which most people have here) then it's possible to start the enthusiasm going A teacher's job is to make things as exciting and accessible as possible.

Have you any particular projects in mind for the next few years?

I've an ambition to put on a production of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' - there are some very good singers in school at the moment. I'd like to get some string players and singers together and do this baroque opera, which not many schools could attempt.

Can you share your musical preferences with us, and tell us of any musicians you admire?

I don't have any great favourites, to be honest. I enjoyed listening to the Proms concerts over the summer, particularly those with Simon Rattle. He's doing some very clever things with the Berlin Philharmonic. I like a little fusion band I heard last year, 'La Bottine Souriant' (The Smiling Boot) who combined Cajun and Latin music....

Are there any forms of music which leave you cold?

No. It's the way things are presented which may warm you up or leave you cold. Lack of enthusiasm is the off-putting thing....

You and your wife have a little boy, Sam - What have you done so far to foster his love of music?

Actually, Sam went to a lot of concerts before he was born! I play him music so he may be put off for life! He'll probably go to Joe Jingles, a little group that meets at Wakefield Manygates Music Centre where they do a lot of percussion things We do lots of singing and dancing and jiggling around and we listen to the radio lots!

Why is music a vital component in everybody's life?

I think I've answered that question! For me it's a wonderful thing relating to human expression and endeavour. Someone once called it the 'can opener of the soul'.

As a music prefect and an 'A' level music student, I have spent a lot of time with Mr Meredith, and with Mr Turmeau and both have encouraged me tremendously. When I move on next year I shall be sorry to leave the WGHS music team behind. I'd like to say a big thank you.

Hannah Rockcliffe



Dyslexia and I

"Umm A syon-drom ... syndrome, off dif-ficult-ies ww wvich shows itself in written ... lan-goo-age....., ummm ... language (thanks)."

Reading aloud in class was the one thing I dreaded most of all at school. There was a sniggering undertone as I stumbled over words, corrected by my neighbours. I started well, but as soon as I pondered over a word the whole paragraph would disappear into a babble of sounds. In my head I was merely repeating the letters on the page, connecting no sense of words or meanings. As sense was lost, understanding vanished. I knew that I read faster in my head, but still not as fast as everyone else. The process of reading slowed even more when I was under pressure reading aloud.

English was always a trouble for me, spellings were hard to learn and comprehensions were impossible to master. The first comprehension I had in the junior school, when I was seven, was a passage about horses. I read it through, slowly working out the sound of words, and skimming over the other complicated ones, as usual I was the last to finish. When we were told to do the questions, I read them with astonishment realising I had picked up no facts from the page. I did not understand what the passage was about and any names of those involved, I proceeded to do the questions guessing the characters and what had occurred in the passage, trying to link them to the few words I understood.

My family had always suspected I had difficulties with reading and writing. One day whilst staying with my grandma, I had a comprehension to do for homework and I asked her for help. She read the passage through with me twice so I understood the story. This resulted in me answering the questions with ease, "comprehending" the text.

As I grew up I read less and less as my friends excelled above me, reading books I could never understand. As a result their vocabulary and writing style improved leaving me hobbling behind.

My parents were advised to let me see a specialist and do some tests to find what was causing these difficulties. I went to see a lady one morning and we did various tests. These included IQ, reading words down a big list, writing sentences and spellings. I was immediately diagnosed as dyslexic, although this did not truly mean much to me then.

Dyslexia is a Greek word for 'difficulty with words', it is a discrepancy between evident intelligence and actual performance. One in ten people are affected by dyslexia. Not all dyslexics will experience the same difficulties in the same areas, as there are many problems caused by dyslexia. I understand that the nerve fibres between the two hemispheres in the brain may be less efficient, affecting communications, thus causing a problem with processing language quickly.

As a result I started having lessons once a week for an hour, in these lessons we would do exercises where I could learn about words and how they are formed. Here I was taught how to say words which I had never known before. For example I learned that words like 'fraction' were not spelt 'fracshen' as it sounds, which I believed before. I found that there were many words I did not know how to spell or read. I was taught to break words down when working out how to say them, which proved helpful.

I worked with Mrs Heaton for a year before I started having lessons with the Dyslexic Institute in Wakefield. These lessons were not effective as we did seemingly useless exercises, which I did not benefit from. These included an exercise where I had a card for every letter and I had to draw a picture and write a word which began with that letter.

The school was informed of my dyslexia and the teachers would help me by giving me books to read which they would check upon. One thing I remember most about my spelling was being told to copy out the words underlined in my marked work, as they were miss-spelt. Some teachers gave me the corrected version but others did not so I ended up writing out how I thought they were spelt three to twenty times.

I did not have dyslexic lessons for a couple of years at the beginning of the senior school, as a result my English suffered. The books we were studying became increasingly difficult and I felt like I was being left behind until I was called for an interview with the school dyslexic teacher, Mrs Denison. I had fascinating lessons with her, where I learned simple spelling rules I didn't know existed, but it meant I could apply them to my work. I could not believe I had never realised that letters like 'g' and 'c' had different sounds depending on what letters followed them. Also when splitting up words to say them, I had not realised the different patterns ie.

v/cv which gives a long vowel sound and uc/cv which gives a closed vowel sound.

At the age of 13 I took a series of tests with Mrs Denison before applying to have extra time for my GCSE's. To start with I took a non-verbal IQ test, I achieved a score in the 95th percentile. I went on to do five more tests from which I found I had a reading age of 11.10 years, comprehension age of 11.08 (both of which were in the 40th percentile) and a spelling age of 11 years. My latest scoring was for sentence reading from which I had an age of 10 years. All tests showed my literacy skills were functioning at a level of half my intellectual potential. If I did this again I will probably find I have improved but still there will be a discrepancy between my intellect and performance, which were 2 to 3 years below my age when I was 13.

Obviously with tutoring I have improved, so my reading and writing age is closer to my actual age. I am hoping to have a test with a psychologist in September where I will apply for extra time in my A level exams. I find the extra time a great help, especially in English, where I now have time to read through the passages twice to understand them, and I can plan and check essays.

My reading has improved, but I am still a slow reader - especially out loud. This is caused by a delay in communicating in the brain when I have to do two actions. I am unable to recognise some familiar words and end up guessing words I anticipate coming up. This can be a big problem as I miss vital words in a sentence. Sometimes I do not even realise I have skipped them. When I was younger if I did not know a word, subconsciously I would just pretend it was not there.

My comprehension is sometimes affected if I do not have time to study and re-read text as it takes me longer to get the meaning out of its formation. It takes dyslexics longer to encode information for effective storage and to retrieve it to long-term memory. This is because of slower processing skills. These words are retained in the short-term memory, causing word recognition problems.

I spell phonetically so I have frequent miss-spellings and I find it hard to spot my mistakes. In the junior school, when I did not know how to spell a word I was told to look it up in the dictionary. This always seemed bizarre to me because I could not look it up, if I did not know how to spell it!

However my dyslexia is not a big part of my life, most of the time I forget I have it. I am reminded when I read out loud or I forget how to spell a word. I have even started to read more. Recently I read all the Harry Potter books. These are not hard and they are easy to get in to, due to J.K. Rowling's direct descriptive style. The books have quickened up my reading, making my dyslexia an increasingly smaller problem. I understand more and I can get meaning and comprehension out of texts, even in exam conditions, which is most helpful.

French was a difficulty as I found listening exams difficult. I had to listen to the French, work out what is meant and in some cases write it down, which is challenging. I do not remember words as fast as my other friends either. If we have a vocabulary test I have to write the spellings out many times to remember how to spell them. Whereas some of my friends only have to read through the list to remember them. That is where we differ.

Often I become frustrated with the dyslexia especially in subjects like English literature. I enjoy all types of literature and I understand it, but I do not always get the marks I feel are a reflection of my understanding, because of my written English. I know what I want to say but putting it onto paper in the style, structured vocabulary needed, is a difficulty. At the moment I am studying Lord of the Flies, it is difficult and long, but I am finding it very interesting.

Dyslexia can be inherited; looking back in my family I can see only my mother is dyslexic. She was never recognised as a child so has never had any help to overcome it. I have been given a lot of advice on ways to deal with my dyslexia: I find using multi sensory methods are most useful. For example, the best way for me to remember a passage is to read it out loud a couple of times. This way I can see, hear and speak it.

In all I have realised I can survive perfectly well with my problem, but I realise that I need to work harder than others. I have been told that a dyslexic can take up to ten times as long to do a piece of work. I accept this and I am willing to do that extra work to get the grades and understanding I want. So I have learned to live with the dyslexia and work hard to overcome it, realising it will always be there.

Rebecca Maclean VII



Pearl of Great Price

All day my tongue
 Worries, licks and probes
 In the dark cave.
 As it battles
 Through the deep river
 It rests upon the loose pearl.
 My tongue fights
 Against the current
 Struggling desperately
 To free the precious rock.
 As the river gets deeper,
 The current gets stronger,
 My tongue pushes with all its might.
 Until finally the pearl drops
 Out of the cave and into my hand.
 With pearl in hand
 I smile my toothless grin,
 I cushion my treasure
 In my soft, white safe
 Stored in darkness.
 As I wake from my deep slumber
 I look into my safe
 To find that my
 Pearly, white tooth
 Has been replaced with
 A penny.

Adun Kenogbon IVU

Homeless

There he sits, alone
 The drizzle running down his back, an icy trickle.
 His flea-ridden mongrel hovering over his outstretched legs.
 He does nothing, makes no effort.
 He simply stares at the dreary street corner on which he sits.
 His dirty uncut beard conceals his dirty unwashed face.
 He is that stranger your children are always warned against.
 He is the protruding thorn in a beautiful garden of flowers
 He is the taste of disdain on a magistrate's tongue.
 There he sits, alone
 His sustenance for the day, a cold cup of coffee, he rhythmically circles
 His hat, in which he collects donations, lies empty.
 To everybody else he is not a human being with a soul,
 To them he is an ugly piece of furniture which needs to be removed.
 He knows not of love, of kindness, of care,
 But of cruelty, of loneliness, of hate.
 Yet behind his ragged appearance lies a spirit desperately fighting for dignity.
 He is a human caterpillar waiting to become a spectacular butterfly,
 He is a feeble acorn waiting to become an all-powerful oak.
 There he sits, alone.

Laura Gibb IVU

This is one of the poems awarded a prize in the Ottakers Poetry Competition. The others will feature in next year's magazine.

Two poems which were successful in the Modern Languages Poetry Competition:

La Nuit

La nuit le ciel est noir,
 Les étoiles sont brillantes.
 Les hiboux chantent
 pendant que les oiseaux dorment.
 Mes parents chuchotent dans le salon
 pendant que je reste dans mon lit.
 Un hérisson renifle les feuilles
 qui restent par terre.
 L'escalier craque
 lorsque mes parents viennent au lit
 La lune rayonne par ma fenêtre.
 Je m'endors.

Helena Dean IVU

L'avenir

Je voudrais être secrétaire,
 cuisinière,
 infirmière.
 Je voudrais travailler dans l'informatique,
 pour le public
 ou dans une clinique.
 Je voudrais faire un métier
 où je peux voyager dans l'air.
 J'adore le sport,
 j'adore l'anglais,
 je n'aime pas les maths et le français ...
 Mais ...
 Je n'ai pas encore décidé!

Abigail Jones IVU

I Hate January!

I hate January - always have, always will. Christmas is over, I have even less money than normal (I think I'm going to disown my family before next Christmas so that I don't have to buy them any presents) and - worst of all - I have to go back to school and back to the monotony of doing homework and watching Eastenders every night. Have you ever noticed that no-one EVER has parties in January? I mean, I might as well go into a nunnery for a month - that's how much fun I have in January.

But today I decide to go out anyway in an attempt to wash away my January blues. It's January 18th 2003, a Saturday, and I go for a walk on Bond Street, trying (very successfully) to push the thought of my history essay out of my mind (I've always been very talented at 'forgetting' things). I can't convince myself that I can actually afford anything (even I'm not that delusional), but a girl can dream, can't she? And anyway, the January sales are still going on, so I might be able to buy a pair of Calvin Klein socks or something. Then I see an advertisement with directions to go down the next side street to a new shoe shop that has just opened. 'Perfect!' I think, for two reasons. Firstly: the shop isn't owned by a particular designer and is down a side street, so it's likely to be within my price range, especially because the sales are on. Secondly: shoe shopping is my favourite way to spend my time (well, apart from shopping for bags - I have a bag obsession which is getting dangerously out of hand), so a shoe boutique is my idea of heaven.

I hurry down the street to the shop, trying to keep my balance on the boots I got for Christmas, with butterflies building up in my stomach. My excitement and nervousness might seem a bit over-the-top to you. You are obviously not a fully-fledged shopaholic like I am (can you imagine the disasters that are waiting to happen in the future? I'll probably get thrown out of my flat because I spent my money on the future equivalent of a Hermes Birkin bag!).

I open the door of the boutique, which I can tell from the outside is gorgeous. But oh. My. God. Inside the shop is even more beautiful. The shoes are displayed on mirrored shelves, with individual spotlights illuminating each one. There are swathes of material hanging from the ceiling near the windows and chaise longues covered in soft cream silk with plump cushions on them. I could stay in this shop all day. I would pay just to sit in it, for God's sake!

My gaze sweeps the store, and then I notice them - the shoes that could have been made to my exact specifications. My heart beats faster as I take in the strap of thick black satin over the toe, the shiny stiletto heel made from steel and the black ribbons that tie up the leg. I can see myself wearing them. I can hear the comments my friends will make, the gasps of wonder and envy. They're ten times better than those Dune mules that I got about two months ago. Or all the Faith and Ravel designer substitutes that I've previously saved my allowance for. These shoes wouldn't be an impulse buy. They're a NECESSITY. Buying these shoes would not be a crime. I start to think of how I could justify them to Mum (she's sure to ask why I need another pair of shoes). Something along the lines of 'I need them to go with my outfit for Marie's party!' Message: these shoes are not a frivolity; they are an essential add-on. I'll even be able to buy a new bag to match them. A girl can never have too many bags, and there are some great new designs out this season.

I pick up my dream shoe and a small, chic woman who looks around twenty-five emerges from the back of the store.

"Hi, can I help you?" she asks. She's really pretty with a great outfit. I want to be this woman - can you imagine being surrounded by these shoes every day? Bliss.

"Yeah, can I try these on please?" I say, handing the shoe to her. "I'm a size five." She disappears to find the shoes and I sit down on one of the chaise longues and daydream about when I can wear the shoes for the first time. When the girl returns I take off my new boots (which somehow seem dull and boring now) and slip on one of the shoes, fastening it up my leg, then do the same with my other shoe. Suddenly I am Cinderella wearing my glass slippers;

they fit perfectly and look amazing. I would sell my brother for these shoes (mind you, I'd sell the little rat for a packet of crisps if I got the chance).

As I'm admiring my future purchase, out of the corner of my eye I notice the name printed on the box: Jimmy Choo. Oh no! They're going to be so expensive. How am I supposed to afford shoes like that?! Especially with my dad's birthday coming up, I have no chance. My mind begins to frantically calculate the money I have - some left over from Christmas, though I spent a lot of that going out on New Year's Eve; a bit in my bank account and my wages (I'm a waitress two nights a week, God knows why) are due any time. So, I work out, I can buy them if they're one hundred and eighty pounds or under, though I'll live in relative poverty (no going out, no CDs, no clothes or ANYTHING) for the next month. Oh please God (the manager of HSBC), please let those shoes be in my price range. Maybe they'll be specially reduced because they're end of season stock or something. With my heart in my mouth, I manage to ask, "Erm How much are these, please?" doing my best to sound chirpy and unworried.

"Three hundred and twenty pounds," the girl replies, smiling. Miss Smug. "How would you like to pay for them?"

I take a sharp breath. Three hundred and twenty pounds. How am I supposed to afford that? I'm seventeen; I don't have that sort of money. I feel tears welling up and realise that, having no means to pay for them, I need to get out of here before I start to cry at my inability to pay for my shoes. And oh God, she knows. Those smiles she gave me were actually haughty grins. The cow. How could I ever have thought she was nice? She's obviously up herself, she's probably known right from the start that I'm a seventeen year old student and that I can't afford anything in this shop, not even a piece of tissue paper! I clear my throat and ask, "Can I come back later? I just need to take out some money I've lost my debit card."

"That's fine," the girl replies as I reluctantly take off my shoes and give them to her to put back in the box. "Do you want me to save them for you in case somebody else wants them too?"

"That'd be great," I gasp. 'See', I think, 'she does know'. She's trying to catch me out, trying to make me feel belittled, trying to make me fall on my knees and admit my lack of money, that's I'm just a poor imposter in this shop'. Then I feel really guilty because she's actually being kind and maybe she is a nice person, and I know that I won't be back in the near future to collect my shoes - not unless I rob a bank, anyway. I pull on my boots, trying not to seem flustered, and with a swift "Bye!" I walk out.

I wander slowly up the road, trying to collect my thoughts together. How could I ever have fooled myself into thinking that I could even go into a shop like that? It's meant for women with high-powered jobs, for rich daddy's girls with money to burn, not for a seventeen year-old waitress studying for her A-Levels! I'm so STUPID. There's nothing left for me to do now but to go home - staying here and carrying on shopping would only make my empty bank account stay in my mind, my loss even more upsetting. And now that I can't have my shoes, what's the point in doing anything? I may as well go and hide in a cupboard for the rest of my life, because nobody will even want to know me when they found out about how I couldn't afford the shoes. MY LIFE IS RUINED.

As I walk into the tube station, though, I realise that, in one way or another, I *have* to have those shoes. I can't forget about them. I can't go and find some similar high-street ones - only those shoes, my glass slippers, will do. I need to find a way to get them - I'll borrow, I'll sell something, I'll work every hour I can to get that extra money. And I WILL get it, because those shoes are my destiny, they give my life the meaning that, I now realise, it has previously lacked.

So I've now got a belated New Year resolution: I will buy those shoes. I'll scrimp and save and eventually I'll own my very own Jimmy Choos because, as L'Oreal often tells me, I'm worth it!

Ashley Armitage, VII

Rollercoaster

There are only two people left until the barrier falls and I have to climb in. My stomach flips like a coin as I hear screams echo from outside. A sharp jab in the side from my friend tells me to move. I slowly step forward and clamber into the seat pulling the heavy barrier down. It restricts my hearing and movement as I try to get settled and calm. A sudden jolt thrusts my body forward. I grab wildly at the metal handles for support. The cart then starts the long climb to the top. My palms are drenched in sweat as my knuckles turn white with the pressure as I squeeze the bars. My heart starts to beat faster and faster as the height increases. At this moment all I want is the ride to be over.

Carefully the cart reaches the top and pauses. I can see for miles. The knot that had been forming in my stomach suddenly relents. The view is fantastic and I can see different colour bumper cars like busy ants rushing about. The wind pushes at my face and the realisation of where I am returns. With it, so does the knot in my stomach, even tighter and larger than before.

I glance down looking at the long descent below. For a second I wish to stay paused in time so that the sharp drop will never come, to never feel the shock of plummeting to the earth, to never feel the rush of cold wind against my skin. But it comes, the second ends and I fall to the earth like a rocket re-entering the atmosphere. The wind pushes at my face forcing my head further back into the seat. My breath is caught in the back of my throat. I can't scream, I can't laugh, then just as my stomach enters my mouth I get jerked back towards the sky. My heartbeat is fast as the ride swerves to the left. Then right, up, down. Soon the ride begins to slow, unnoticeable at first but still there. The exit comes in sight, a light at the end of a twisting tunnel. The ride comes to a halt. The rush of excitement is gone, over. My heart is still pounding, my palms still sweaty but the fear is gone. The sound of my friends' laughter brings me crashing back to earth.

Emma Moberley-Brown IVU

Flute Exam

As I blundered down Margaret Street my footsteps on the crunchy snow and the song of the bird was the only thing I could hear. Everybody else was in one lesson or another. This was the day I had been preparing for - my flute exam. I can remember it so well; every little detail. My sweaty palm clung on to the plastic handle of my flute case. A cloud of water vapour rose in front of me as my clammy breath reached the frosty air. I reached the familiar blue door of the Willows: it all seemed so different now - maybe it was because my mind was fixed on one thing - doing well. My mum expected the best of me. My flute was the only thing that kept me going. My brother was so much brighter than me academically - he got A, A+, A* never an A - I had so much pressure on me to do well at school and this was my chance to prove myself. He hated music and didn't play a musical instrument.

I tapped the code in and turned the handle. I stood there for a few seconds taking in my surroundings. The floor glistened like jewels encrusted in snow. The top of the conifers sparkled in the afternoon sun.

I took a deep breath and stepped inside. I had great expectations of myself as I had done well in my previous exams. This was not like any other exam - it was up another level. Going up those stairs to the top floor was the longest journey of my whole life. It seemed like forever.

Finally it was time to go in. I stepped inside the bubble of doom. The metal of my flute was warm with my sticky palms. I had a lump in my throat and I played a very wobbly A to tune up. Mrs Bacon had a look of confidence on her face as Mr Roberts stepped in

through the green felt-covered door. The floor creaked under his large feet. His thinning grey hair glistened with grease. He lowered his whole body mass into an old plastic chair. I walked over to the music stand with my squeaky rubber soles following. I smiled weakly. I confirmed that I was Katie Hicks taking Grade 4 flute.

I waited for Mrs Bacon to start (she was accompanying me on the piano), counted two beats rest and blew. Playing the flute is quite a skill as you have to blow across the hole. I finished my pieces and Mrs Bacon exited. She gave me a wink which gave me a burst of confidence for about five seconds.

My scales were the next thing to play and the worst. I stood there with my feet together feeling like something the examiner had just scraped off his shoe. I couldn't handle the scales and the oral showed my fear. I stumbled out of the room. I leant against the wall and slid down. Red, hot, burning tears of anger rolled down my cheeks like pearls. I had practised and I wished I could turn back the clock. My nose started to tingle and I rubbed with the back of my hand. I took a deep breath and put my flute back in its case and vowed not to let it out again today. As I opened the door from the Willows, I knew the hope of tomorrow hung in the air.

Katie Hicks IVL

Scuba Adventure

I was so excited! I was going to be scuba diving in less than half an hour! After weeks of planning we were finally going to do it.

There were about six people doing the course including myself and my dad, and we were all as nervous as each other. When we were on the beach we began to start kitting up, putting our suits on, checking that we had everything that we would need and making sure that our tanks were full of air. As we made our way to the boat all sorts of things were going through my mind. Will everything go ok? What will happen if I run out of air? And what do I do if there are any sharks? I soon calmed myself down and began to look forward to what I was about to do.

The boat ride was so exciting. We were bouncing around all over. It seemed like we had been travelling forever but eventually we reached the dive site. As soon as the boat had stopped we began to get our tanks on. They were so heavy I thought I would fall over.

When we were all ready we jumped in to the water one at a time. At last it was my go, when I jumped in I thought that I was going to sink straight to the bottom. Thankfully I didn't, I just slowly came to the top. As soon as we were all in the water we began to descend. It felt so different to what I had imagined. The water was warm and it was so peaceful. All that I could hear was the other divers breathing; it was very serial, like I was in a land of my own.

At first there was nothing much to see except coral and more coral, but as we began to go deeper the sea seemed to come alive. All the fish appeared from nowhere and they were soon all around us. The colours were amazing, and the sight was breathtaking. There were many different types of fish and I even saw a turtle. After a while I forgot where I was, it just felt so natural to be there.

It was just like a perfect picture. Everything was so peaceful and so tranquil, I couldn't have wanted more.

The time went by so quickly and soon it was time for me to begin my ascent back to the surface and leave it all behind. I wanted to stay down for longer but it wasn't possible.

When we were all back on the boat we headed off back to the shore, taking in the scenery as I went. As I sat there, I knew that all the hard work and effort that I had done had been worth it. What I had seen and experienced would never be forgotten.

Laura Briscoe IVU



The Jubilee Hall set out for the annual Charity Fayre



Face Painting



Hennaed Hands



Captain Wishbone and Companions!



Introducing Janet Waterhouse, our new Librarian –

Janet is a graduate of Bretton Hall College (Leeds University) where she originally studied Music with the intention of becoming a Music Teacher. She subsequently decided to pursue a career in retailing but, not having enjoyed it very much, took an MSc in Information Studies at Leeds Metropolitan University, to become a qualified librarian. Before coming to WGHS she spent two years as the Learning Centre Manager at Wakefield College.

In her spare time Janet still enjoys her first love, music, and has been composing both classical and pop music since High School. This summer she auditioned for BBC's Fame Academy but was - unfortunately - not successful. Keep watch TOTP, though - you never know who you might see.....



and Alison Fowler, our new Resources Assistant

Alison began her association with the Foundation when her eldest son joined QEGS Junior School in 1992. When her daughter joined the Girls' High School in 1995 she began helping in the library on a regular basis. Alison now joins the staff as Learning Resources Assistant. Her interests revolve around sport - watching QEGS rugby on Saturdays, whatever the weather, and in summer helping her husband run four junior cricket teams.

A French Play for IV Upper

On Monday 23rd June a theatre company with three French actors, two women and a man, performed to year 9 in a play called 'Journée sur la côte d'Azur'. Even with a small number of cast members, they still managed to capture the atmosphere of southern France. There was plenty of audience participation throughout the afternoon and even though the play was spoken entirely in French the acting made the story line easy to understand.

The play was about a lady who lost her friend's dog and had to travel through Provence to find him coming across many difficulties on her way.

The show was enjoyed by all the IV Uppers. C'était amusant!



Elizabeth Finelli and Connie Whitaker



GCSE Triple Science Field Trip to Filey Brigg

Although the heavens opened as we set off on our voyage of maritime discovery, we were determined that nothing, not even Dr Korosi's unbearable enthusiasm (and singing) could prevent us having a great time! Then we arrived. OK, so it wasn't quite the Costa Del Sol that we'd been promised and yet bikinis, flip-flops and beach barbecues were completely out of the question, but hey, this is BIOLOGY FIELDWORK we're talking about!

After collecting our bright yellow hard hats and life jackets (yes we did say bright yellow) along with other strange equipment such as spirit levels and callipers, we trekked over the sands with Miss Kendall leading the way in the pouring rain to the Brigg where the Doc gave us the perfect demonstration of how not to walk on wet rocks. Slipping on seaweed and soaked to the skin, we set about trying to sort our flat periwinkles from our rough ones. When all (well nearly all) the data was collected we headed back to the sea front. We were wet, our finger nails and hair were in need of a complete makeover, but were we phased? **Never!**



Of course, no trip to Filey would be complete without a visit to the arcade on a quest to win a cuddly toy and a chance to indulge in a cream-covered waffle. Undeterred by the worsening weather conditions, our outgoing octet embarked upon a crazy game of baseball which bore more resemblance to synchronized swimming. Miss Kendall battled bravely in the face of adversity but Dr K showed his true colours by running for cover as the ferocity of the pitching became more intense. Then it was back to the minibus to savour the aroma of slowly drying clothing.

We gained a great deal educationally from our visit (Dr Korosi told us we had to write that bit) but we really did enjoy our day out and hard hats have definitely become the Autumn fashion accessory of 2003. Our thanks go to Dr Korosi and Miss Kendall for the valuable experience.

Helen Holmes, Laura Phillips, Jenny Dyer, Jenny Domaille, Jackie Jones, Lizzie Schofield, Natalie Taylor and Rosina Wolverson



Tish's Big Day!

"Football", Bill Shankly remarked, "is not as important as life or death. It's much more important than that". Certainly worth delaying a holiday for!

Saturday, 24 May, 2003 was the start of half term and like

many other students and school teachers around the UK, our revered Examinations Officer Tish Applewhite, was destined for Turkey for a week in the sun. But this was all set to change when her beloved Lincoln City qualified to reach the Division 3 play-off finals at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. With the 'Imps' scaling new heights, a new flight had to be found and two days in the sun sacrificed for a visit to murky South Wales. To make matters worse I had agreed several months earlier to join her at the play-offs - not for one minute believing that Lincoln would have the audacity, let alone the ability, to reach Cardiff!

And so the Eggleston "limousine" duly arrived at Chez Appleton at approximately 8.15am: approximately, because I was greeted with some derision and a declaration of "you're late". It really could have been the start of a PE lesson! Once I had composed myself and accepted my short-comings, we duly set off on the four hour journey to Cardiff with me on my best behaviour. En route we discussed Lincoln's chances, where we were going to park, our rendezvous time with Tish's sister, brother-in-law and nephew and the probability of avoiding traffic restrictions. We also briefly discussed my short tenure as a member of the PE department some years ago and the reasons behind me 'working outside' when everyone else enjoyed the warmth of the sports hall or gym. Tish remarked "we are not going over that old ground again. You deserved it so stop complaining and keep your eyes on the road". Yes miss!

Following a pleasant two hour journey across country we decided to stop for 'coffee' at a new motorway service station just off the M5. After a quick loo stop I was just preparing myself for a welcome cappuccino when my companion remarked "no time for coffee - I want to get to the game early and savour the atmosphere". There was a long queue anyhow!!

The next few hours witnessed a change in the weather as drizzle replaced bright sunshine and traffic congestion and road-works disrupted our time schedule. Nonetheless, we arrived in the Welsh capital around 1.30pm and promptly proceeded to meet Tish's sister in the car park we had agreed on through numerous phone calls. When we reached the car park situated near to the Stadium Tish's family were nowhere to be seen. Following several (more irate) phone calls we attempted to rectify this discrepancy, but were not helped by the rising level of congestion, the city's one way system and Tish's rising, and almost tangible, anxiety. Her big foam Lincoln City hand was by now a clenched fist. I said nothing - I was merely the driver!

Eventually at around 2.00pm we all met up, but this time in a more distant car park that required us to use a shuttle bus. Once Tish's sister had been (kindly) reprimanded, we boarded the shuttle bus and waited. And waited. The driver was standing chatting to a friend. With the kick-

off quickly approaching Tish quickly reminded him of his work commitments!

By 2.40pm we promptly made our way to the fabulous and very aesthetic Millennium Stadium amidst pouring rain and a sea of Bournemouth supporters: the opposition. On entering the stadium Tish was searched by two security men. This concerned me greatly as my lunch was in her bag! They confiscated the bottles of pop (potential missiles) but allowed my sandwich to enter!

Rather wet, but excited, we entered the playing area at around 2.50pm, to witness the end of the pre-match celebrations, the players taking the field and the singing of the National Anthem. I was oblivious to this, as I stood enjoying my sandwiches and drinking a Welsh cappuccino until a dig in the ribs instructed me to sing! Guess who?

The play-off final began tentatively in front of a crowd of almost 50,000. Bournemouth enjoyed the bulk of the possession and duly took the lead before the Imps equalised, much to the delight of my part and the big foam hand! Then tragedy struck. Bournemouth grabbed a second on the stroke of half time and in doing so promptly changed the complexion of the game. Needless to say our half time celebrations were somewhat muted: I wasn't allowed to speak!

In the second half the 'Cherries of Bournemouth' continued to dominate and build on their advantage, before eventually running out 5-2 winners and claiming their place in Division 2. But a spectacle it was not. As a person used to commenting on Barnsley matches and the reality that it is "just like watching Brazil" (a famous Barnsley chant) this was more like watching Ryhill! Nonetheless it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, played in the correct manner and never to be forgotten. Certainly not by Tish!

After the game Tish and her family duly made their way home, ready to fly to Turkey from Heathrow the following day; albeit with two changes en route. I meanwhile set off back to Wakefield fully aware that I could stop for a cappuccino when and where I wanted!

P.S. Prior to writing and publishing this diary of the day's events, Tish and I were good friends. Certainly I spend many hours at school trying not to upset her!

I recently enquired about the prospect of returning to Cardiff for this season's play-off finals. Tish looked at me with derision and remarked "We won't need any play-offs this year". Such confidence, such expectations. Mentally I had been preparing myself for that journey again!!

DJE

Sixth Form Trip to the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research - York

On Friday the 20th June thirty-six A-level students travelled by coach to the prestigious Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, St Andrew's Hall in York to gain 'hands-on' experience in dealing with original historical sources.

On arrival we were warmly welcomed by the Deputy Director, Chris Webb, who kindly provided us with coffee and biscuits and proceeded to divide us into two groups, one containing the sixth-form girls studying Modern History, the other containing those studying Early Modern History. The Modern Historians were taken to

research the inter-war period using archive material from two of the Rowntree surveys of York. Before we were permitted to study the documents however, we were required to sign the Official Secrets Act. This was because some of the people mentioned in the survey are still alive today and are entitled to confidentiality.

Meanwhile, in another room the Early Modern historians were studying church documents relating to the Wakefield area during the Tudor Period. At first sight this might appear rather boring, but on the contrary there was plenty of scandal to read about. One prime example is in the case of the badly behaved monks at Merton Priory and what they got up to, which included sneaking out to the local pub for a drink instead of going to the Chapel to pray!

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch in some of the cafes in York and just managed to find enough time to enjoy some shopping. The highlight of our visit was the hour spent in the Conservation Department. Here, we learnt how tattered pieces of parchment are transformed into legible documents, which can then be used by historians to gain further insight into the secrets of the past.

Emma Durgan



Introducing Adam Lindley, our new Biology Technician

A Year at the Girls' High School

Last year I was assistant in a comprehensive school in a rough area of Leeds, and when I decided to stay in England for a second year, still as an assistant, I wanted to work in a different school. Then the opportunity to work at Wakefield Girls' High School presented itself, and obviously I couldn't let it go. I visited the school in April 2003, had a chat with Mrs Jones, and I immediately knew I wanted to work here. A few days later, I came to one of the summer concerts, and as I was listening to the music, and witnessing the pupils really having fun while playing together, I was thinking "I can't believe I'll be here next year!" I could feel the relaxed atmosphere of people getting on well with one another, I could see the pupils enjoying what they were actually doing and I could feel the good relationships between staff and pupils.

When I arrived in October and started the lessons, I was impressed by the pupils' excellent level in French, by the ability of the girls, and also simply by their curiosity.

Now that my year here is nearly over, I realise that I haven't done half of the things I was planning to do (concerning teaching as well as visiting the area) but this is proof that I have been very busy. That is why I never regretted staying another year in England. It helped me to make my choice for my future career: teaching in university.

I'm pretty sure I'll come back to England another year soon, but this time as a lecturer. I can't do it now because I have to go back to university and carry on with my studies, but I know I will eventually, because I just love English life and I realised in this school that teaching and education can be really enjoyable.

Delphine



Games Officials 2003-2004

Outdoor Hockey: Sally Grove
Indoor Hockey: Sally Grove

Netball: Ruth Helme
Tennis: Eleanor Shaw
Athletics: Emily Mason
Swimming: Fiona Slack
Cricket: Dimple Patel

Outdoor Hockey



Unfortunately the loss of the astroturf has made it difficult for all teams to practise this season. Despite this many players have remained committed and worked against these difficult circumstances to produce good results on Saturdays which reflect their skill level.

It has been a building season for the senior squads as we lost many players from last year. The girls have shown good character and have learnt a lot about play at senior level, which they will be able to carry on improving on next year. In the West Yorkshire Championships they finished a creditable second.

The U16 squad have had a mixed season but their highlight was winning the Wakefield Area Championships without conceding a goal.

The U15 team convincingly won the Area Tournament, despite finding it hard to work on too many tactics and set pieces in training sessions.

The U14 team has been much more successful in the second half of the season, due to their commitment and eagerness to learn new ideas and develop their skills. They finished as Runners up in the U14 league and they won the Area Tournament, in which the team's performance was their best this year.

In the U13 league the B team finished fourth and the A team were unbeaten to win the league convincingly. Their hard work continued as they won their Area Tournament, without conceding a goal. In the National Mini Hockey Championships the squad played very well to become West Yorkshire Champions and in the North East Finals they played with a lot of skill to reach the semi finals.

The season has been a most successful one for the U12 teams. The standard of play has been excellent at times. The season culminated with the winning of the Area Tournament where both A and B teams did themselves justice with some

skilled play on a hard surface.

Many girls, from all age groups, have obtained individual achievements. U13 players, U14 players. Laura Allen and Holly Woolven were selected for both the County team and for the North Performance Centres, at U15 level. Alex Cummins was selected for the County U16 squad, along with Catherine Horn who also played for the North U16 squad in the Junior Territorial Tournament.

Bethany Bradshaw represented West Yorkshire at U18 level.

Outdoor hockey colours are already held by Sally Grove, Emma Williams and Bethany Bradshaw and this year are awarded to Suzanne Horn.

On a personal note I would like to thank Suzanne for her continuous support during the year and all the players for their dedication and hard work. Most importantly I would like to thank the P.E. staff for all the time and effort that they put in to ensure the season was enjoyed by all.

Sally Grove

Indoor Hockey



Junior Indoor Hockey Club on a Friday lunchtime has been well attended and the skill level of all the girls has greatly improved. We look forward to seeing these players playing in the after school club next year.

The U13 squad is now well established and played well to beat QEGS in their matches. Next season they will be joining the U16 squad and hopefully playing in the National Finals. It was disappointing that we could not enter the U16 Championships this year due to a lack of players, but on a positive note the U19 squad supplemented by the U16 squad played brilliantly to finish third in the Yorkshire Championships against older club opposition. With a West Yorkshire League starting next season our players will have a busy season to look forward to.

Bethany and I would like to thank Mrs MacGregor for her hard work throughout the year.

Sally Grove



Netball

This year has been one of the most successful years yet for Netball. Particular congratulations must go to the U13, U14 and U15 teams who won the West Yorkshire Invitation tournaments. These victories were a first ever for WGHS. For the U15 team, their final was one few will forget. The score was so close that they were forced to play sudden death. However, the shooters played extremely well, despite the pressure, and they led their team to become West Yorkshire Champions.



Girls have attended practices with enthusiasm throughout the year and all players have improved their fitness and technique. Attendance has been very high for the U12 team and together they have won the Bradford Invitation Tournament and won 5 out of 9 matches played, scoring 100 goals in total.

The U13 players have been very committed, too, and even though they have the ability and talent to beat any school in the area, some girls lack self-belief in their standard of netball. This was illustrated when they lost to Silcoates in their District Tournament, but with more encouragement they will gain in confidence and earn lots of success in the future. Out of 27 games played, they have won 16 and have scored a grand total of 224 goals.

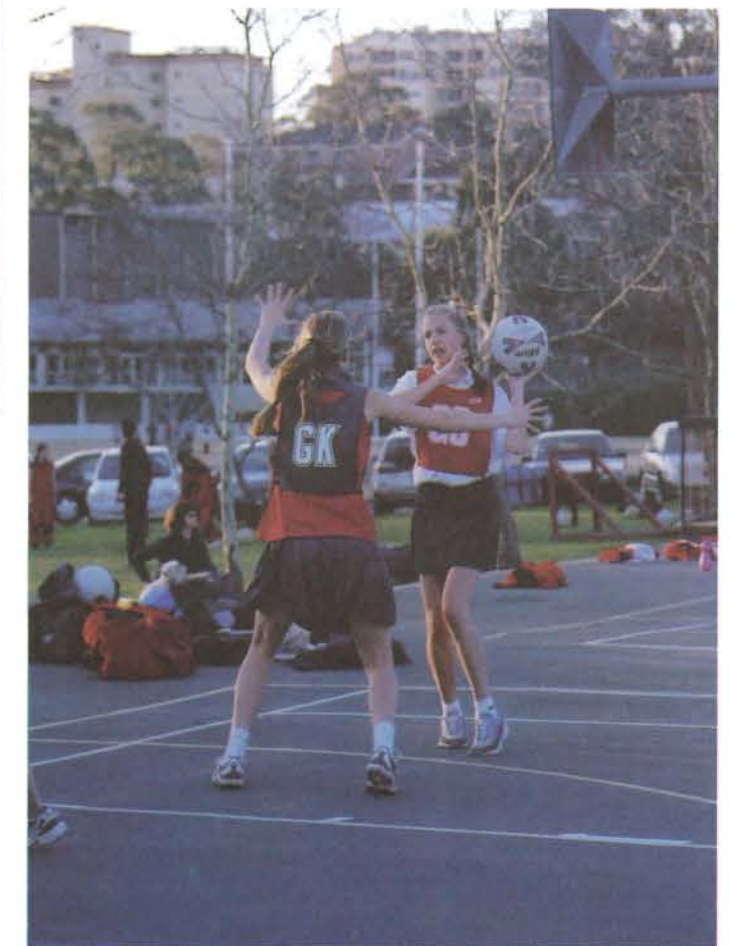
The U14 team have continued to go from strength to strength, with more players choosing to come to practices as the season progressed. They have played with noticeable skill and determination in all of their matches. They have won 10 out of 16 matches played.

The U15 squad consists of a small number of players, but they work together fantastically as a team and have played some very exciting matches. They have won 13 out of 17 matches played.

The U16 team also worked very well together and all players have shown commitment and have improved in their netball skills. Their standard of play was highlighted in their District Tournament where they played to an excellent level to become overall winners. They have won 9 matches out of 14 played.

The Senior team is made up of a small number of players, but each player has a specific quality that they have contributed towards their team effort. They came 3rd in their District Tournament and finished 3rd in their section in the National Schools Tournament. Their real strength has been highlighted in the Dewsbury League, where they have gained valuable experience from playing against older players. They played a total of 12 matches and won 8.

Special congratulations must go to those girls who were selected to play for the Wakefield District. Eight girls were selected to join the U13 squad and a further 8 girls were chosen to play for the U15 squad. Congratulations should also go to all girls selected to play for the West Yorkshire County Squads. These girls are Charlotte Crapper, Jade Harris, Catherine Helme, Olivia Hussain, Isabelle Mason,



Alex McDonald, Laura Allen, Holly Woolven, Emma Barker, Emily Jeffries, Kelly Tolman and Kate Hamlin. A very high standard of netball is required to be selected to play for the County so all girls should be proud of their achievements.

On behalf of all the netball players, we would like to thank the P.E. staff for all the time and effort they have dedicated to netball coaching this year.

Ruth Helme, Captain and Suzanne Horn, Vice Captain



This year's Victrix Lorum winners were:

- IVL: Emily Walker
- IVM: Melissa Addy
- IVU: Carolyn Sharpe
- VL: Holly Woolven and Thalia Jones

Well done to all the athletes!
Finally I would like to thank all the teachers for their support and dedication to the athletes throughout the season.

Olivia Smith

Tennis

It has been very busy this year for our tennis players with matches every weekend. Each age group has been victorious at some time.

The National Competitions have been well represented, with the Senior Students Team reaching the West Yorkshire Finals. After the Under 13 and Under 15 squads completed last year's competition, the Under 15 squad reached the North East Semi Finals. This year's Under 15 and Under 13 squads are Wakefield Champions and will play in the West Yorkshire Round this September. Good luck to these girls!

Unfortunately in the Aberdare Cup the first team were narrowly beaten in the first round.

In the Jubilee League Competition, Kelly Tolman and Alex Cummine won the First Couple Trophy, this is the first time we have won this trophy in ten years. The Staff Couple, Mrs Cholewa and Mrs Cunliffe and the Under 12 Short Tennis Team, Charlotte Walker, Olivia Dobson and Helena Thompson were also victorious.

Charlotte Walker, Helena Thompson, Elizabeth Brown and Stephanie Oade are all members of the Wakefield District team, who finished third in the West Yorkshire Youth Games.

Congratulations and thanks to all our team players, and thanks to Mrs MacGregor and Mrs Tingle. Good luck for next year.

Cross Country

The cross country runners have had another excellent season in School.

In the Wakefield Championships the Under 15 team came 3rd in their age group with the Under 17s winning their title convincingly.

Individually the girls did equally well with Sarah Higgins winning the U15 title and Georgina Thickett coming 5th.

In the Under 17 age group Thalia Jones was 1st, Jasmine Kerry 2nd, Rebecca Harris 5th, Lisa Howes 10th and Sophie Monk 11th.

The named girls all qualified for the West Yorkshire Championships where Sarah Higgins came 2nd in the U15 event and at the U17 level Jasmine Kerry came 2nd and Thalia Jones came 5th. All 3 thus qualifying for the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Brighton.

At this event Sarah came 45th in the U15s, Jasmine came 36th in the U17s with Thalia 46th. With more than 300 competitors running in each race these were very pleasing results.

PM Applewhite

Athletics

The athletes have had success individually and as a team this season despite there only being a few matches. Practices have been well attended especially by the IV Lower and IV Middles. All athletes have worked hard throughout the season to improve their performances.

The first match of the season was against Hymers and Longcroft. All the teams performed superbly with the IV Lower and the IV Uppers finishing first and the IV Middles finishing third.

At the Wakefield Championships seven athletes qualified to represent Wakefield at the West Yorkshire Championships. At junior level - Carolyn Sharpe in the 200m, Sarah Higgins in the 1500m and Bridget White in the high jump. At intermediate level - Sarah Wilson in the 100m, Jasmine Kerry in the 1500m and Georgina White in the high jump. At senior level - Emily Mason in the high jump. Emily finished first and qualified for the English School Championship in Sheffield.

Good results were achieved constantly throughout the season with matches against Queen Margaret's and Hulme. At the Jubilee League competition where we competed against Bradford Girls, Silcoates, The Mount and Sheffield Girls Hannah Evenden set a new IV Lower shot putt record with a putt of 9m 41cm.

Sports Day turned out dry, thankfully for the afternoon's events. The competition between forms was excellent. Two records were broken - Melissa Addy broke the IV Middle disc record with a throw of 19m 76cm beating the previous record by 4m. Thalia Jones for the second year running broke the 800m record this time for the V Lower age group with a run of 2 minutes 27 seconds.

Award Winners 2002-2003

Gold

Susannah Brooke
Natalie Dent
Helen Dowson
Lindsay Ford
Emma Gale
Laura Grainger
Laura Hawsworth
Ruth Helme
Helen Hissett
Roshini Kulanthaivelu
Josephine Matthew
Claire Swift
Anjali Unnikrishnan
Rebecca Whiting

Silver

Kathryn Basford
Helena Clarke
Emma Durgan
Joanne Eaton
Shelley Galvin
Laura Gray
Elizabeth Grove
Helen Hissett
Anna Jewsbury
Gemma Johnson
Vivien Klejnow
Rebecca Maclean
Josephine Matthew
Catherine Noble
Joanna Otterburn
Katie Sims
Katie Stephenson

Bronze

Elizabeth Allen
Laura Allen
Charlotte Anderson
Claire Anderson
Jenny Bloom
Holly Briggs
Holly Butterworth
Annika Clifton
Katrina Craig
Felicity Dawson
Jenny Domaille
Shelley Galvin
Elizabeth Grove
Lucy Guy
Josie Hall
Rebecca Harris
Sarah Helme

Helen Hissett
Helen Holmes
Lisa Howes
Gemma Johnson
Jacqueline Jones
Sana Khan
Vivien Klejnow
Jenny Leithgoe
Elizabeth McCloy
Rebecca Maclean
Catherine Noble
Tamara Oxley
Laura Partridge
Amy Pond
Natalie Potts
Sonal Raithatha
Catherine Raynor

Kate Royle
Laura Scuffam
Imogen Sewell
Katie Sims
Rebecca Sutcliffe
Alison Tasker
Laura Tattersley
Lucy Thornhill
Sophie Thornhill
Hannah Watson
Laura Weightman
Georgina White
Rebecca Zserdicky



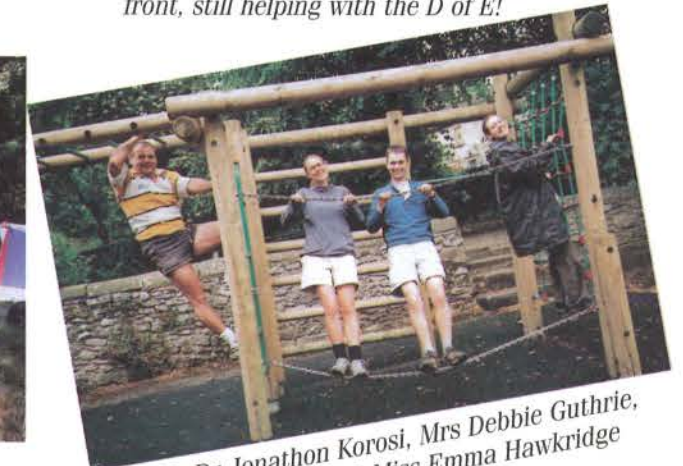
Dr Rhodes helps with route-planning!



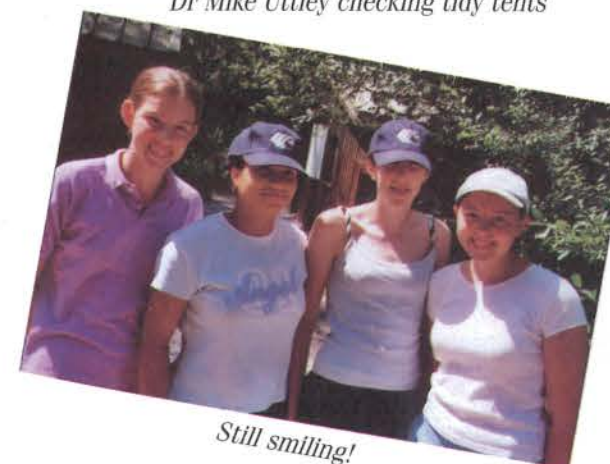
Camp Windermere - note Mrs Andrassy at the front, still helping with the D of E!



Dr Mike Uttley checking tidy tents



L - R: Dr Jonathon Korosi, Mrs Debbie Guthrie, Dr Neil Rhodes and Miss Emma Hawkrigde



Still smiling!



Getting ready to set off!

Going for Gold ... Silver ...and Bronze!



L to R: Dave Binney, Mrs Mac, Kate Fear, Krista Robinson, Owen Leask, Judith Tingle, Geoff Tingle and Tish Applewhite

We had a hectic, exciting, if somewhat stressful start to the Tour; we were all still smiling - just!

We weren't helped by the British Airways strikes at Heathrow which meant a six hour delay at the airport and 36 pieces of luggage failing to materialise on the carousel at Los Angeles. Added to this, we missed our connection to Auckland and spent the night at the LA Sheraton Gateway. BA provided us with \$50 for essentials for those with missing luggage - it didn't go a long way!

With constant phone calls, we were lucky to get 20 seats on an Air New Zealand flight out of LA on the Monday with the rest of the Tour Party camping at the airport to take our chance on stand-by. The rest of the boys got seats on a second Air NZ flight via Fiji and, eventually, at 10.30pm all the girls' party, except Mrs Mac, boarded the first Qantas flight with a great sigh of relief, Mrs Mac following later!

We all arrived safely in Auckland, a day late; however our luggage did not! Whilst in Auckland we enjoyed trips to Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, the Sky Tower and a tour of the City. We were able to replace some of the essential sports kit which meant we could fulfill our forthcoming fixtures. Our hosts looked after the Tour Party very well and we enjoyed sunny but cool days in the City.

We had a great morning at the Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley and Maori village which included a traditional Maori Concert, a Hangi meal and a tour of the



Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley



village and superb views of Lake Rotorua. The adrenaline junkies amongst us enjoyed hurtling back down on the luge. On Sunday we all went white water rafting on the Rangitaiki river. Despite cold conditions we all enjoyed the thrill of the rapids and most of the party also sampled the freezing water.

Hamilton was a sleepy town that did however lend itself to a spot of shopping. Next day saw us departing from Hamilton and returning to Auckland to fly down to South Island. On the way we spent the morning at Auckland Museum at the Domain, learning about the history and culture of the Islands.

We were joined on the flight by the Fijian national rugby team including the legendary Waisale Serevi who patiently signed autographs for many of the pupils and for Mrs Mac. We landed in Christchurch in the fog but were warmly greeted by our hosts at St Margaret's School and Christ's College.

Next we enjoyed the National Antarctic Centre with temperatures as low as minus 18 degrees. We also sampled the city itself, living up to its name of the Garden City with a strong British feel.

The very cold but bright weather in Christchurch meant that we were able to enjoy the city and its sights.



Travelling in style



With our Maori friends!



On Friday we took the long drive south from Christchurch to Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world. The scenery was spectacular-on route highlights including Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. We stopped to watch the Bungy jumping off the Kawarau bridge, 43 metres above the Kawarau river. Three members of staff (Mrs MacGregor, Mr Leask and Mr Tingle) rose to the challenge taking the plunge the next morning. They returned full of adrenaline with photos, videos and the T shirt to prove it!



Us lot

On Saturday we took the scenic gondola to sample superb views of Queenstown, Coronet Peak and the Remarkables. The bright sunshine made the vista even more spectacular. In the afternoon we went on the Shotover Jet trip, speeding through the Kawarau gorge, frighteningly close to the rocks and spinning through 360 degree turns. Some members of the group ended up a little damp and the hairstyles were certainly interesting. Following on from this two members of staff (Mr and Mrs Tingle) jumped off the top of Bob's Peak, this time with parachutes on, as they tandem-paraglided to get an awesome view of Queenstown and its surroundings.

Sunday saw the long drive to Milford Sound through real Lord of the Rings country. The snow-capped Southern Alps were spectacular with waterfalls and avalanches dotting the countryside. The cruise on Milford Sound out to the Tasman Sea took us through some of the most spectacular scenery in New Zealand, enjoying the company of seals and dolphins on the way.

On Monday we drove back up to Christchurch airport to complete our Tour of New Zealand. The three hour flight across the Tasman Sea saw us arrive in Sydney in warm, sunny conditions. Our accommodation at the Naamaroo Conference Centre was set amongst the semi-bush in the suburbs, sharing our surroundings with kookaburras and possums!



A girls' night out

We marvelled at Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House, Darling Harbour and Bondi Beach and found it hard to believe that the winter weather was so mild. We also took the ferry across to Manley, enjoying a spot of shopping and the beautiful beaches.

The opposition was strong particularly in terms of boys' hockey and girls' netball. The netballers won their last games and the boys had a mixture of wins, loses and draws, with the boys U16 team winning a tournament. The girls 1st team hockey were unbeaten by international opposition, although they lost to a touring side from London! The sporting success of the Tour is now being measured by the enthusiasm of the pupils returning from Tour and their commitment to work harder and strive for better standards.

As our Tour drew to a close, we had a wonderful opportunity to visit New Zealand and a small corner of Australia and to experience some different styles of play. We will really miss our VI Uppers and Year 13 as they move on to University or other challenges and we look forward to the younger players drawing on their experiences that the Tour has offered. The Tour party has been a real pleasure to take away and we may even consider touring again!

JAT



U14 Netball WY Invitation Tournament Winners



U15 Netball WY Invitations Tournament Winners



U15 Hockey Team



Cross Country Team



U12A Hockey Team



U13 Netball WY Invitation Tournament Winners



U12B Hockey Team



Rachael Howarth continues her interest in Politics

Being a political agent - In the local elections of May 2003 I became actively involved in the campaign as I was asked to become an agent for two potential councillors. I was tasked with organising a campaign on two fronts. One seat was a potential target because despite it being under the control of the same party for the past 20 years, it had always appeared more marginal than the rest in our area, consistently producing lower majorities. Although not neglecting either seat I decided to concentrate the team's efforts on overturning the slender majority in the Pontefract South ward, which was being contested by Philip Booth.

It was with some trepidation that we viewed the Count on the night at Knottingley Sports Centre. In all, six wards were being contested, and as the Count continued, the predictable tide of red spread across the Pontefract and Castleford area. The last result to be announced was that of Pontefract South. We eagerly watched the remaining ballot papers being counted and placed on the piles behind. Speculation was rife, that this may be our year. The results were announced; we had won by 15 votes. Philip and I look at each other in disbelief wondering if there had been a mistake. It did not appear so; however, the incumbent Labour councillor demanded a recount.

Once the re-count was over Philip and I were again called over, to hear the original count was wrong. My heart missed a beat and my stomach churned before the Returning Officer announced the result had in fact gone in our favour. We had now won by 20 Votes. Labour accepted the verdict and after shaking hands with her and her agent we returned to hug everyone in sight that was wearing a blue rosette.

Due to the hard work of a good team and the growing disillusionment with the Labour-dominated Wakefield Council's policies we were able to reverse the political tide and get a Conservative Councillor elected to serve Pontefract South. Next year the whole council is up for re-election and thanks to this long awaited victory, there is a cautious optimism that finally there will be some opposition to the council in years to come.



Shown with Councillor Philip Booth

Mathematical Challenge!

Once again the pupils have done exceptionally well in their Maths Challenges. These are national competitions organised annually by the Leeds University Mathematics Department. The total number of certificates won from the three competitions, Junior (IVM), Intermediate (VU) and Senior (VIL and VIU) was: 11 Golds, 40 Silvers and 51 Bronzes.

By any measure these were excellent results and fully deserved by the pupils who laboured without the use of calculators for anything up to one and a half hours!

Worthy of particular note are Zoe Proud (IVM) and Kelly Reddington (VU) who were both invited to take a second challenge based on their exceptional performances in their first challenges. Both girls received participation certificates for their efforts - Very well done to you both and also to all girls who took part in any of the challenges.

Dr Dabbs

England vs Germany - A good match

In June 2002 I had my first contact with the Girls' School. From then on until the 23rd September I became more and more excited about coming to a school, which has such a good reputation. When I finally arrived in school, I was given a warm welcome. I spent my first days at school exploring the premises - it appeared like a labyrinth to me at first - and getting to know the students of the different years.

I became acquainted with my timetable and I started to learn more about my own country as well as about England, especially with my Year 12, where the topics for the oral exams were of a broader range than for Year 11. I found it very interesting to hear and discuss the students' opinions on facts about Germany.

In conclusion, I would like to say, that I enjoyed my stay at the school and I am already planning to come back for a visit next summer. I would like to thank everybody at school, who made my stay as nice as it has been.

Lucia Sauter-Servaes (German Assistant)

Biology Field Trip to Malham



Spurred on by the promise of good weather and ample cake breaks, our 6th upper ladies embarked on a trip of a life time to Malham tarn to study freshwater and grassland ecology. As the mist cleared over the tarn on day 1, and the sun broke through, the intrepid bunch (pictured) marched onwards to the peat bogs. Heeding the warnings of their teachers they trod carefully as they identified weird and wonderful species of previously undiscovered flora. Then, disaster struck! One member of the team disappeared down a peat bog. Was there sympathy for the poor individual? Anything but!! Dr. Korosi's 'demise' was greeted with cheers of laughter. The remainder of the trip was relatively incident-free, though Miss Kendall's first attempt at rowing will live in the memory for a long time to come and Liz Walter's worrying desire to pick up large, black, biting bugs remains a mystery to all. A lot of work was covered in 2 days and there were many sleepy faces on the coach journey back to Wakefield.



Charities Report

Once again, girls and staff in all sections of the school have been busy raising funds for a wide cross-section of good causes, both at home and abroad.

As well as the traditional annual events - Comic relief, Jeans for Genes and UNICEF non-uniform days, the Macmillan coffee morning and the Poppy Appeal, we launched some new and unusual fund-raising schemes during 2002/03. The IV Middle year group decided collectively to support the charity 'Whizzkidz' (which provides specially adapted wheelchairs and mobility aids for disabled children) by holding a succession of activities throughout the autumn and spring terms. A very successful fashion show completed the appeal, raising over £200, and providing an excellent lunchtime's entertainment for all those who came to watch girls modelling outfits which they had designed and made themselves; special thanks are due to Margaret Browning (IVM MD) who masterminded the event.

Fundraising for Issenye continued throughout the year, and in March a hugely enjoyable concert was held with contributions from all the girls who were going to Issenye during the summer. Despite threatened terrorist attacks on Nairobi, nearly all the girls did eventually manage to visit Tanzania and thoroughly enjoyed the contribution they were able to make towards the life of the school at Issenye. All the girls who fundraised and then visited Africa were presented with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for their contribution to the community there.

This year we held our charity fair at Easter. Every form in school contributed in some way to a marvellous evening where girls, parents and staff joined together to have fun and to earn cash for a very worthwhile cause. Toy and book sales, raffles, crafts, a games arcade and music in the café, all combined to make a most pleasant evening with a lovely, friendly atmosphere. Perhaps the most successful activity of the evening was hand painting, done by Mrs Ahmad. So many girls wanted to have the henna patterns on their hands that Mrs Ahmad not only had to come in on the Tuesday night, but also on the following three lunchtimes to cope with the demand! We were proud to raise such an impressive sum for the 'Make-A-Wish' foundation, which grants wishes to children living with life-threatening illnesses.

Many thanks to everyone who gave of their time and talents so generously to support others less fortunate than ourselves. We have already made a fantastic start to the current year's fundraising, with over £2,000 raised for Wakefield Hospice from the sponsored walk on September 14 and £1200 for Breast Cancer Research from the sale of bulbs through the Bulb Man.

LMS



Last year six of our sixth form girls were presented with the Princess Diana Memorial Award for all of the work they put into fundraising for our partner school in Issenye (Tanzania). Four of the girls spent time during the summer holidays teaching children at the school in Africa. As part of their prize they visited Althorp (Princess Diana's childhood home) and attended a special presentation ceremony in Wakefield. The girls on the photograph are:

Back row, left to right:
Helena Rodgers, Helen Dowson, Chloe Manley.

Front row: Lizzie Grove, Roshini Kulanthaivelu, Jo Mathew.

Katharina Doblhoff writes about us

I am from Austria, and came to England for half a year to improve my language skills. I started learning English at home from English Au Pair girls, and then learned it at school for one and a half years. Before I came I was worried if my English knowledge would be sufficient and if this half-year would work out all right, but in fact it was great. I had lots of fun, gained experience, made new friends and enjoyed school and learning.

I joined the VII of the Wakefield Girls' High School. In Austria nearly everybody attends state schools, and it seems strange to me to go to a private school here, but as I want to profit from my stay and English private schools are known to be very good it seemed to be a good decision.

Mr Wigley found a suitable timetable for me in no time and fitted me out with maps of the school. Still I got lost more than once, but there were always helpful souls near leading me back. Everybody, staff and pupils, were very kind to me and helped me if I had any problems, and especially in my form I was welcomed and incorporated in the form. I attended four subjects: Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry. I enjoyed all of them, most of all, Maths and Physics. I am very interested in these topics and in Austria I wouldn't have the possibility of having six lessons each per week. In Chemistry poor Gemma Johnson spent loads of time explaining to me whatever I didn't understand. I also attended the school orchestra and the string group, which was great fun.

During study leave, as I only sat two exams, I helped at the Junior School, reading, stitching and making little cars and bees. This too I enjoyed very much, but sadly this was only possible for one week, so I spent the rest of my holidays visiting the surroundings of Wakefield.

All in all it was a great half-year that I wouldn't want to have missed. I would like to thank all the helpful people in my form and around school, but in particular Mrs Staveley, Mr Wigley and Mrs West, who must have had loads of work because of me, and especially Mrs Langham who kindly admitted me in to her school.

I feel very proud to have been a WGHG girl!

Charity Fundraising 2002 - 2003

Event	Amount Raised	£
Sport Relief Fun Run (Commonwealth Games Baton Day)	713.12	
Macmillan Coffee Morning	145.90	
Barnardo's Boxes	165.00	
Jeans for Genes Day (Non-Uniform Day - autumn term)	677.50	
S Parker Hedgehog Rescue	36.00	
Poppy Appeal	190.00	
Breakthrough Cancer (Ruth Helme)	102.85	
Christian Aid (Advent Service Collection)	365.25	
UNICEF (Non-Uniform Day - spring term)	635.50	
Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)	609.42	
Make-a-Wish (Charity Fair)	1877.00	
Whizz Kids (IVM)	550.00	
Issenye Xmas Appeal - Girls' Hostel	1015.00	
Issenye Books and Teaching Materials	1262.60	
TOTAL	8336.14	



See Rome and survive (Just!)



We had been planning for months what we would see and where we would go in the city that was once the centre of the largest Empire in the world, the city of Rome.

Our day started at 6am and after one coach trip and two flights we finally arrived at our destination, the Leonardo Da Vinci Airport in Rome, before being whisked away to our accommodation, the Hotel San-Remo, directly in the middle of the city. After being allowed time to unpack, we walked around the city and enjoyed our first meal complete with musicians who were determined to serenade Mrs Armitage with their renditions of 'popular Italian music'. It had been a long day but it was worth it to be finally here.

We spent the next full day trying to sample everything Rome had to offer from The Vatican City where we were held in awe by the beauty of The Sistine Chapel to the Colosseum that was once the centre of entertainment in Imperial Rome, built by Jewish prisoners in 72AD-80AD. The sightseeing, although extremely interesting and enlightening, was very tiring so we were very grateful for our evening off where we tried to familiarise ourselves with Italian television, picking out random phrases here and there.

The third day saw a new adventure unfold as we were going to spend the day in Pompeii. Although I understood what had happened in the city more than once thousand years ago, I

was not prepared for what I was about to see. On the 24th August 79AD, a huge explosion dawned on the city of Pompeii, where the slumbering Vesuvius erupted into life. Molten lava poured down the slopes, two thousand people died and Pompeii disappeared beneath twenty feet of ash and pumice. As I walked through the now excavated streets of Pompeii, I was amazed by how well the city had been preserved. Everything could still be seen, bars, shops, Roman baths and even mosaics and paintings were still visible on the floor and walls of the houses where once Roman citizens had lived. It was an eerie feeling walking through Pompeii to think of all the thousands of people who on that day in 79AD were just carrying out everyday tasks and without warning their lives were snatched from them. Pompeii had certainly been fascinating; we headed back to Rome, which was a few hours drive. On our way back we stopped off in Naples to sample some 'real' pizza.

Our last full day was mainly free. The first half of the day was spent visiting more monuments including, the Trevi Fountain where we threw coins over our shoulders and made wishes just like the legend said; The Pantheon built by Marcus Agrippa, dedicated to all the Gods; The Victor Emmanuel II Monument and the Piazza Venezia. The rest of the day was spent traipsing up and down the 'Via Nazionale' doing some serious shopping, only stopping for a pizza lunch and yet again sampling the finest hot chocolate Italy had to offer. A few hours later, euroless and tired, we attempted to walk back to the hotel without getting lost in the magic that was Rome. Having successfully completed our mission, we got ready for our final meal in Rome, at Planet Hollywood.

Our last day had drawn to a close, now it was time to go home after five days in the prettiest and most interesting city in the world.

On behalf of the group, I would like to thank Mrs Carter and the rest of the staff for not only making sure we didn't get harassed by Italian men, but also for giving us the opportunity to be able to go to such an amazing place and to actually see for ourselves why the Roman Empire was considered to be the greatest in the world. Grazie Mille!

Elizabeth Allen

Visit to European Curriculum Street - Une expérience inoubliable

This visit will be remembered more for its unfortunate journey than for its benefits to language learning!

After futile attempts to arrange this visit in VI, a date suddenly became available in October 2002 and 40 V Upper Girls made the trip to Langtech Language College at Standish, near Wigan. The day began with quizzes on Europe then, after a break, Mrs Sadler accompanied the Spanish group into the ICT language suite where they discovered new software.

Meanwhile, Mrs Jones' French group prepared to visit The Street. Armed with 'passports' and travellers' cheques they first encashed these for euros. Then, working from a cue card/shopping list, they purchased realistic items from "shops" and transacted business at a hotel and travel agency - all in French of course. At the half way point there was an ice-cream stall (the only *real* purchase) and time to write postcard. The shopkeepers were pupils of the Language College, released from lessons to serve their visitors. Shopping completed, it was time for lunch, after which the Spanish group had their turn on The Street, admittedly somewhat rushed, while the French class tried out new software in the computer room.

We set off home at 2.20 in order to be back at school for 4 o'clock buses. Naturally the staff discussed the day's activities and whilst we agreed that The Street had been a useful and enjoyable experience, we had just decided that the amount of time for language activities did not justify the journey time and distance, when our coach joined a traffic jam on the motorway. Four and a half hours and many mobile phone calls later we arrived home. It was gratifying that those who had been the loudest in their complaints at the delay were also loudest in their thanks to staff and driver for a safe return.



The French Exchange Party - WGHS and QEGS - Angoulême, Easter 2003



Normandy 2003 - a variation on a theme by Tarzan!



Waiting for take off! (Le Chateau du Tertre in the background)



IV Middles enjoying their visit to Lotherton Hall and Bird Gardens



Tanzanian Joy

Our link with Issenye Secondary School, perched on the edge of the Serengeti, Tanzania, is now in its fifth year. It is a link certainly appreciated in equal measure by both schools and it now has an integrity and robustness that allows for frank and intellectual discussions of common interest.

This year in July 2003 four sixth formers and four staff from WGHS were challenged with debating "Western civilisation has done more harm than good" and then further still with confronting cross cultural sensitivities and exposing their own prejudices whilst filming a documentary of the link.

It says much for the people involved that this only led to a deepening of our relationship with one another. Our relationship with Issenye Secondary School is now a very personal one. Joseph Nyamgoncho, the headmaster is now a friend of WGHS.

On our last day there Mrs Glenys Woods laid the foundation stone of the WGHS funded girls hostel. To celebrate the headmaster ordered a feast - this followed the production of Miss Gore's extraordinarily moving African nativity. Much dancing was done that evening and songs soared heavenwards, blending with the sounds of the bush.

'Issenye' is often included in our charity assemblies when accounts of generous giving is detailed. But we have moved on from this, the charity of Issenye demands not just giving, but is an activity that ensures both giver and receiver are engaged in a common human partnership of mutual dignity. It is an activity that takes its place in creation giving an individual from the nothingness of 'I' to the 'we' of a truly global community. And as such WGHS is truly privileged to be charitable.

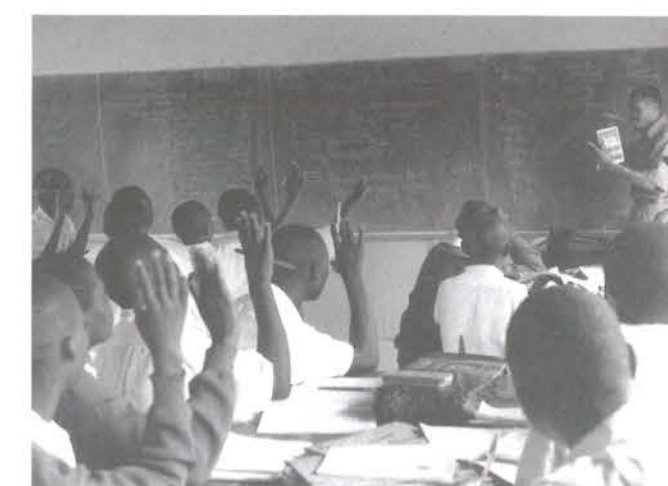
Peta Moffat



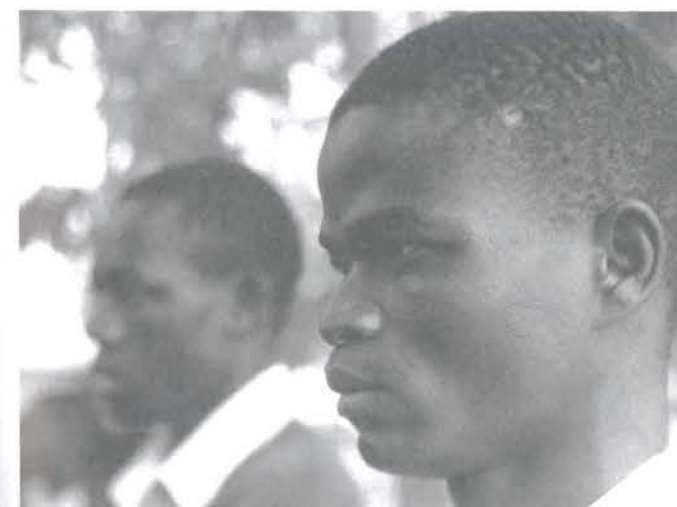
Paulina Mbunduki @ Savoy



Prep!



'Please, Sir -'



Head Prefect



Joseph Myamgoncho's children wait

These beautiful black and white photographs were taken by Zemirah Moffat, Peta's daughter, who is currently doing a PhD in Critical Culture and Media at the University of Westminster. Zem Moffat laughingpebbles@yahoo.co.uk



Faces

Esme Firth



Melissa Addy



Katie Evans



Emma Garner



Katie Jones



Victoria Townsend



Parent and School Association

The last school year has seen the PASA once again well supported by committed and enthusiastic members. We have this year, as in previous years, held the events we know to be successful 'hand in hand' along with new ideas.

The event of our social calendar is Langham Ladies Dinner, which nearly 300 ladies attended, enjoying a champagne reception, three course dinner, and after-dinner entertainment provided by Latino Loaded, a Ricky Martin tribute artist. The dinner as the previous year was a complete sell out with everyone eagerly awaiting next years.

The IVL and IVM discos, held every term, were always very well attended, with the boys from QEGS enjoying the evening as much as the girls.

Last October we held a Black Tie 'High Society' Dinner. It provided an entertaining evening with Phil Fryer as Frank Sinatra. As well as raising funds for school, Phil kindly provided a donation to 'Children in Need'.

Last December Mums and Daughters travelled to London to enjoy a 'quality time weekend'. We all had a great weekend shopping, ice skating at Hyde Park, theatre visits and browsing around Covent Garden.

A rainy day in September saw 50 ladies set off for a day at the St Leger Ladies Race Day at Doncaster. After merrily consuming volumes of champagne, the wet weather did not seem to dampen spirits.

The above is just a selection of the events organised by the PASA every year. As with all events these just do not organise themselves and a lot of hard work is undertaken by the PASA members in conjunction with school, to provide continual years of entertaining and fund raising events. A big thank you to all who have helped organise and participated in this year's events. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Mrs Deborah Thorpe

Howlers 2003

This year's crop is mainly historical as a tribute to Mrs Denise Armitage, who retires this time and who has collected them assiduously

Henry made his good friend, Thomas More, the Archbishop of Canterbury ... and then killed him. (Rowan Williams take note!)

All the posh decorations, altars, window pains and vicar's outfits were sold to get Henry loads of money.

A good medieval knight had to be a strong fighter, able and nifty, and good at counselling too.

Henry tried very hard but he never managed to produce an heir.

Henry married Catherine Parr in 1942.

When Henry dissolved the monasteries the country suddenly got a lot more food because the monks and nuns had eaten too much.

Henry very easily got board with his wives.

Henry managed to make himself head of the church and head of the Pope too.

Before he died, Henry put his heirs in order.

Henry died while still on Anne of Cleves.

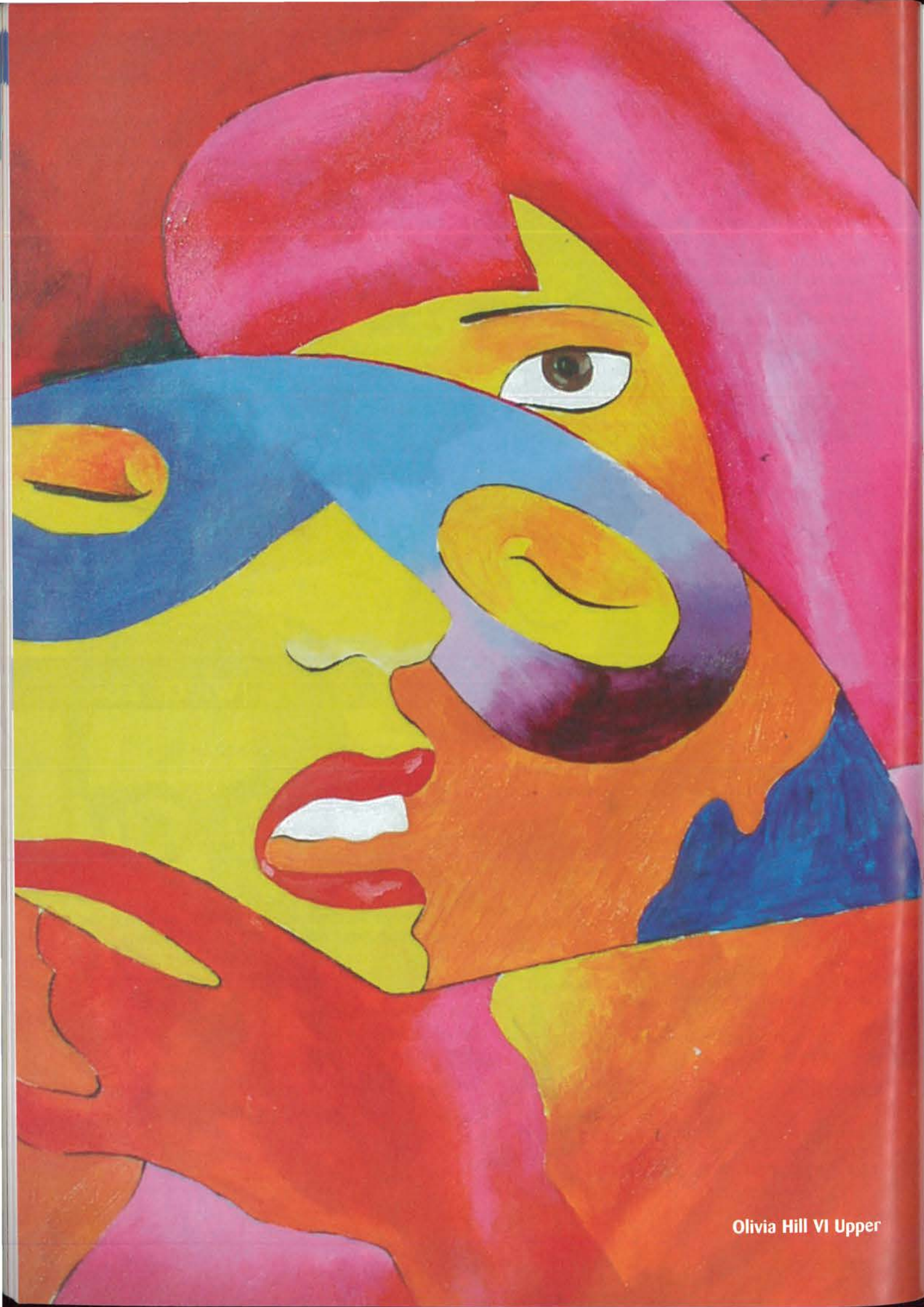
In Design Technology, a IVL pupil answered the question, 'what effect would this have on toy manufacturers with this: 'The Toy Manufactures' prophets would go down.'

A Spanish howler -

El estudiante español dormiría en otro dormitorio con una cama y un consejo de ministros.

The Spanish student would sleep in another room with a bed and a council of ministers (a cabinet).





Olivia Hill VI Upper



Kelly Verity 9MD



Zoe Hodgës 9MD



Katie Phipps 9MD



Abigail Muscroft 9MD



Officials 2003-04

President: Mrs P A Langham, Headmistress

Vice President: Ms Kay Bateman

Shadow Vice-President: Mrs Louise Cousins

Acting Secretary: Ms Catherine Heaton

Treasurer: Mrs Liz Hall

Magazine Secretary: Mrs Josephine Pearson

Magazine News: Jean Piper - 2 Hall Park Avenue, Crofton, Wakefield WF4 1LT

Staff Representative: Mrs Anne Bedford

School Office Representative: Mrs Judith Laydon

Kay Bateman Reports

It seems hard to believe that my two years in office are almost over. It really has gone very quickly. What was even more alarming for myself and a few other committee members is 2004 marks two decades since we left WGHS! Quite a milestone in our own personal history. Of course we don't look or feel any different!! As one lady commented after the Millennium luncheon 'I am 74 years old but when I walked into the Jubilee Hall I was a girl of 17 again!' And I quite understand what she meant: whatever your experience as a pupil, whether you loved or hated your school days, WGHS just has that certain something that keeps you in touch. You just know that like it or not, this is going to be one of life's longer term relationships!

2003 has of course been another milestone in the history of the school as we commemorate the 125th Anniversary. The OGA has arranged some pretty special events to celebrate this:

We started the year in great style with former pupil Helen Wilby advising us on how to 'de clutter' our wardrobes. Many of us could identify with the idea of a wardrobe full of clothes but with nothing to wear. Helen, who runs a lifestyle consultancy business, took the audience through the process of choosing colours and styles of clothing to suit the individual. She encouraged us to get rid of those: never; or hardly ever worn, items, which clutter up the wardrobe and replace them with a set of stylish wearable clothes. It was very enjoyable and informative.

Painthorpe Country Club provided the venue for our 125th Anniversary Ball in the Summer. Old girls and their partners came from all over the country to meet up with school chums. Entertained by live jazz and a Beatles tribute band Mrs Langham and The Girls were, in true WGHS style, the first on the dance floor. It was a memorable and fun evening.

To round off the years events, GMTV star florist, Carl Wilde delivered an outstanding flower demonstration. In his flamboyant style, Carl created the most exquisite flower arrangements whilst entertaining the audience with hilarious tales from his everyday life, from his passion for Vivienne Westwood clothes (a set of which he sported on the night), to his encounter with the South African rugby team and the effects of his extravagant house parties in his new neighbourhood. Oh, to be a fly on the wall! It was a truly entertaining evening.

Finally I would just like to thank the OGA committee and all those who have supported the events this year. Special thanks to Anne Bedford the staff rep, for all her help and encouragement. And all good wishes to Louise Cousins who takes up the Vice President's post from 2004.



Births

To Mrs **Jennie Armstrong** (nee Donner 1980-1988), a son, Charles - born 29th July 2003 in Portland, Oregon.

To **Kathryn Baker** (nee Andrassy 1984-1991), a son, James Christian - born March 2003.

To **Sarah DePledge** (nee Bottomley 1979-1984), a daughter, Honour Elizabeth Ruby - born 1st March 2003.

To **Lindsay Follen** (nee Walker 1983-1990), a son, Jordan - born July 2002.

To Dr **Cathy Hopkins** (nee Donner 1983-1990), a daughter, Elizabeth Anne - born 27th January 2003.

To **Elizabeth Horner** (nee Robertson 1978-1985), a daughter, Saskia Alice Emma - born 16th June 2003, a sister for William, Oliver and Charlotte.

To **Ruth Newton** (nee Andrassy 1981-1988), a son, Matthew James - born September 2001.

To **Jenny Pitchford** (nee Smith 1988-1990), a son, Edward, born February 2001 and a daughter, Katie - born December 2002.

To **Rosalind Wing** (nee Wright 1985-1992), a son, Jonathan Daniel Thomas - born 20th September 2002.

Marriages

Fiona Berry (1987-1994) married Mr Butterfield in September 2001.

Claire Jackson (1983-1995) married Mr Mark Hooper at St Helen's Church, Sandal.

Catherine Parkin (1985-1992) married Mr Neil Thompson on 4th May 2003.

Helen Sarsfield (1988-1994) married Mr Darran Thacker on 3rd June 2002 at Hazlewood Castle, near York.

Debbie Wilford (1973-1980) married Mr John Thompson in December 2002.

Engagements

Caroline Atkinson (1992-1997) to Mr Daniel Burrows (ex-Silcoates School).

Helen Bowler (1985-1990) to Mr Mark Hepworth - to be married in 2004.

Helen Cunliffe (1989-1996) to Ashtok Murthy on 22 June 2003.

Joanne Lewis (1991-1996) to Mr Neil Tidy on 10th October 2002 - to be married on 27th December 2003.

Helen McKinlay (1986-1993) to Mr Michael Smith (ex-QEGS).

Deaths

It is with regret we record the following:

Mildred Bramley (nee Lockwood 1924-1932) died February 2003 aged 88.

Monica Carter (1921-1926) died 1st November 2002 aged 95.

Enzia Churchley (nee Stekel 1939-1944) died suddenly in March 2002.

Jean Haigh (nee Shaw 1951-1958).

Shirley Hewitt (1922-2003) died recently after a long illness. For many years Shirley organised the London reunions.

Marjorie Marshall (nee Darling 1923-1928) died 30th August 2003.

Barbara Paterson (1943-1950) died 29th August 2003.

J Melanie Watson (nee Hampshire 1953-1965) died 24th November 2002 after a long illness.



Charlotte Cox V Lower



News

Jackie Boden (nee Wolcock 1957-1964) is now returning to Northumberland after spending 5 years in Rio de Janeiro.

Lisa Colledge (1984-1991) was awarded a D.Phil from the University of Oxford in 1999. She is now living in Amsterdam and working for the scientific publisher Elsevier.

Diana Brown (nee Kenyon 1971-1974) writes that she is studying web design with the Open University. Her elder daughter has had a good first year in the senior school and played in the netball and tennis teams. Her younger daughter is in junior school and doing well.

Meg Donoughmore (nee Stonehouse 1944-1951) has re-married after being widowed in 1993. She has three children and seven grandchildren.

Helen Edmonds (1968-1993) emigrated to New Zealand in August 2001. She lives by the ocean with her partner and lives a very rural lifestyle with lots of surfing and fishing! After having worked as a sales consultant for Bristol Myers Squibb for 3 years, she has spent the past few months recharging her batteries, surfing and travelling round the South Island. She will become a New Zealand citizen soon and then hopes to move to Australia to set up a business teaching scuba diving, surfing and organising fishing charters!

Joanna Edmonds (1984-1992) worked as an overseas representative for Thomson Holidays from 1998-2000. She is now teaching English as a foreign language in Spain.

Phillipa Edmonds (1993-2000) is remaining at the University of Leeds to do a PGCE in chemistry to teach 11-18 year olds.

Victoria Field (1990-1997) passed her MA in Asia Pacific Studies with Japanese with Distinction. She went to London in April 2003 to do a 6 month internship in the Public Information Office of UNCHR.

Amy Gara (1994-2001) is currently in her second year at York St John College studying for a Sport and Exercise Science degree.

Harriet Hall (1981-1988) was appointed Deputy Governor at the Falkland Islands from July 2003.

Joan Glover (1992-1939) and Junior School Staff (1946-1955) is now residing in a nursing home in Gawthorpe following a serious illness.

Ruth Lamb (1992-1999) graduated from Edinburgh University with First Class Honours in Medical Microbiology BSc, this year. She is still studying Medicine at Edinburgh and is just finishing her third year.

Clare Lamb (nee Battersby 1972-1979) is relocating to Cornwall after 20 years in Birmingham. She will be working in Education Finance for Cornwall County Council based in Truro.

Claire Nalson (1991-1998) graduated from Edinburgh University in June 2003 with MA (Hons) Spanish and Portuguese, Class I - with distinction in oral Spanish and Portuguese.

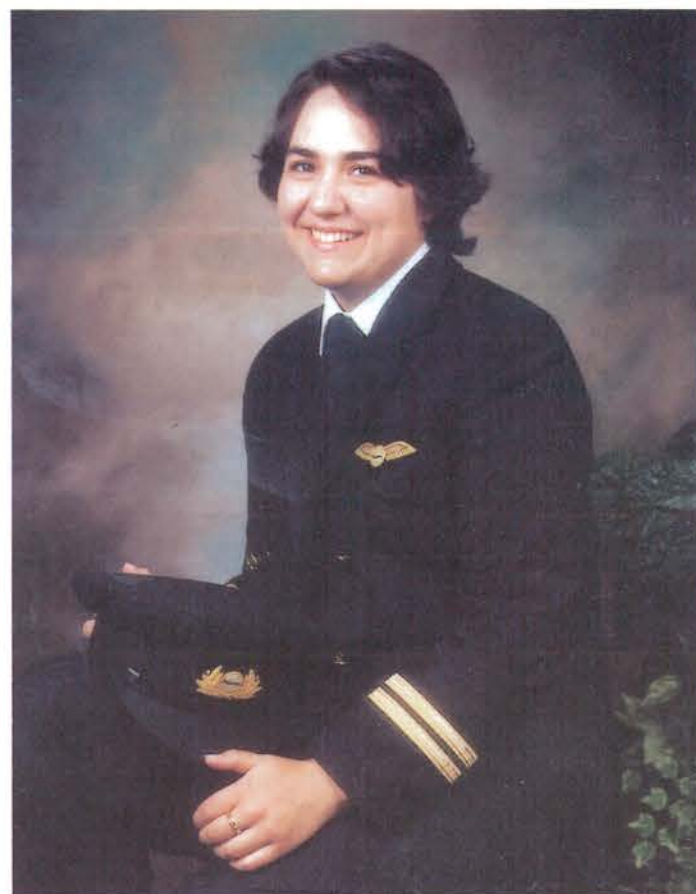
Hilary Ogilvie (nee Hopkins 1939-1946) and her husband celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in July 2002.

Jenny Pitchford (nee Smith 1988-1990) is working as a manager with HSBC.

Helena Rogers (1996-2003) is working as a receptionist at a hotel in a French ski resort for 5 months.

Justine Smith (nee Whitehead 1980-1987) is a part-time partner in General Practice at a Christian practice in Hull.

Nadege Smith (1993-1998) has taken up a post with Brymon Airways following her qualification as a First Officer for passenger flights. She flies a Dash 8 Twin Turboprop. At present she is moving around in order to gain experience but thereafter should be based at Manchester Airport.



Nadege Smith

Tessa Spencer (1989-1996) qualified as an archivist in 2002 and entered the civil service in December of that year. She is currently working for the Scottish Executive at the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Helen Swift (1990-1997) is pursuing a DPhil at Magdalen College, Oxford. She is embarking on 6 months' research and has been invited to give a paper at the Medieval Academy 2004 in Seattle.

Coral Taylor (1938-1952) writes that the second book in her collection of local murder - "More Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Wakefield" will be published for Christmas 2003.

Helen Thacker (nee Sarsfield 1988-1994) qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2002 and is now a financial recruitment consultant in Nottingham.

Lucy Thomas (nee Smith 1983-1990) moved to Shelley in November 2002 with her husband Michael and daughter Isabella. She is working as a solicitor at Simpson Millar in Leeds.

Catherine Thompson (nee Parkin 1985-1992) is now working as a European supplier development manager at ASDA.

Debbie Thompson (nee Wilford 1973-1980) received her MBA from Edinburgh Business School in July 2002.

Paddy Trevelyan (nee Moore 1941-1947) was awarded a BA (Hons) degree in Humanities by the Open University - 55 years after leaving school! Her graduation ceremony was held on 31st May 2003 at Ely Cathedral.

Maureen Whitfield (nee Colman 1938-1946) wishes that she could join in all the OGA's activities but has been very busy moving house, visiting New Zealand and sailing all summer!

Name	Details of Degree and University	Name	Details of Degree and University
Laura Addy	LLB (Hons) University of Durham, Law. Class II (i).	Samantha Hickman	BA (Hons) University of Wales (Bangor), Linguistics & English Language. Class II (ii).
Sophie Alexander	BA (Hons) University of Sheffield, Philosophy & Psychology. Class I.	Lucy Hinchliffe	BA (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Fashion. Class II (i).
Jane Anderson	LLB (Hons) University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Law. Class II (i).	Charlotte Holleworth	BSc (Hons) University of Durham, Maths & Physics. Class II (ii).
Kathryn Astrop	BA (Hons) Bournemouth University, International Hospitality Management. Class II (i).	Emma Knowles	BSc (Hons) University of Birmingham, Accounting and Finance. Class II (i).
Claire Batty	BTEC National Diploma in Childhood Studies (Nursery Nurse). Merit.	Georgina Lawrence	BSc (Hons) University of Leeds, Pharmacology, Class I. Year 1: Pharmacology Scholarship; Year 2: Zeneca Prize in Pharmacology; Year 3: Pharmacology Poster Prize.
Penelope Beaumont	BA (Hons) University of Huddersfield, Business with Environmental Management. Class II (i).	Joanne Leather	BA (Hons) University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Social Anthropology. Class II (i).
Elizabeth Bennett	BSc (Hons) University of Manchester, Biochemistry, Class II (i).	Kirsty Macdonald	BA (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Economics. Class I. Northern Rock Prize for Best Financial Degree. Jason Flowers Prize for Best Overall Degree.
Katherine Black	BSc (Hons) University of Salford, Exercise & Health Sciences. Class II (i).	Louise Mallinson	BVSc MRCVS, University of Bristol, Veterinary Science.
Clare Buckle	BA (Hons) University of Leeds, Business Studies. Class II (ii).	Katharine Mcquire	BA (Hons) University of Durham, History. Class II (i).
Keri Bunnell	BA/MEng (Hons) Cambridge University, Engineering. Class II (ii).	Claire Nalson	MA (Hons) University of Edinburgh, Spanish & Portuguese, Class I, distinction in oral Spanish and oral Portuguese.
Antonia Butler	BSc (Hons) University of Liverpool, Physiotherapy.	Emma Pasley	BSc (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Biomedical Sciences. Class II (i).
Rebecca Cholewa	BA (Hons) University of Durham, Sport in the Community. Class II (ii).	Jacqueline Mo	BA (Hons) University of Newcastle, Architecture. Class II (i).
Chandana Chowdhury	MChem (Hons) University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry. Class II (ii).	Rachael Phillips	LLB (Hons) University of Manchester, Law. Class II (i). RG Lawson Scholarship for examination results; Sweet & Maxwell Law Prize 2001; R G Lawson Prize for Land Law.
Sarah Dennis	BA (Hons) University of Durham, Modern Languages. Class II (i).	Olivia Preston	BSc (Hons) Bristol University, Biological Sciences. Class II (i).
Joanne Denison	BEd (Hons) Chester College of Higher Education. Class II (i).	Rebecca Priestley	BA (Hons) University of Bath, Modern Languages & European Studies. Class II (i).
Zarah Dickinson	LLB (Hons) University of Durham, Law. Class II (i).	Kirsty Rabbitt	BA (Hons) Leeds Metropolitan University, Information and Communication Management. Class II (i).
Helen Dyson	BA (Hons) University of Manchester, Law & Politics. Class II (i).	Biruntha Rajathurai	BA (Hons) University of Oxford, Law with French Law. Class I.
Phillipa Edmonds	BSc (Hons) University of Leeds, Environmental Chemistry. Class II (i).	Priyanka Sharma	BSc (Hons) University of Manchester, Psychology. Class II (ii).
Katherine Ellis	LLB (Hons) University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Law. Class II (i).	Charlotte Slack	BSc (Hons) University College Northampton, Psychology. Class II (i).
Sally England	BA (Hons) University of Liverpool, English Language and Literature. Class II (i).	Laura Stubbs	BA (Hons) University of Huddersfield, Business Studies.
Helen Fairclough	BSc (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Urban Property Surveying.	Emma-Louise Simmons	BA (Hons) Sheffield Hallam University, Sports Coaching and Sports Development. Class II (i).
Helen Forster	BSc (Hons) University of Hull, Psychology. Class II (i).	Emily Sisson	BA (Hons) Nottingham Trent University, Design Management. Class II (i).
Katharine Ganley	BSc (Hons) UMIST, International Management with American Business Studies. Class I.	Hannah Thorne	BA (Hons) University of Nottingham, Economics with French. Class II (i).
Elizabeth Garton	MA (Hons) St Andrews University, History. Class II (i).	Hayley Wilson	BA (Hons) University of Durham, Politics. Class II (i).
Elizabeth Gascoyne	MEng (Hons) University of Birmingham, Civil Engineering with Management with French.	Elaine Wong	MMath (Hons) University of Leeds, Mathematics. Class I.
Natalie Goulden	BSc (Hons) University of Surrey Roehampton, Business Studies. Class II (i).		
Kelly Grainger	BA (Hons) University of St Andrews, French and Spanish.		
Helen Gray	BSc (Hons) University of Wales Cardiff Institute, Recreation & Leisure Management.		
Clare Griffiths	BSc (Hons) University of Leeds, Mathematics with Finance. Class I.		
Suzanne Grimshaw	BSc (Hons) King's College London, Biomedical Sciences. Class II (i).		
Louise Hart	BSc (Hons) University of Liverpool, Physiotherapy.		

WGHS - 125th Anniversary

Adapted from Mrs Langham's Speech Day Address



Welcome to a special year in which we celebrate 125 years of the life of Wakefield Girls' High School.

The secondary education of women has a relatively short history. In 1869 the Taunton Commission recommended that some endowments previously used exclusively for boys' schools could be allotted to girls. At that time there was no question of admitting girls to the well established Queen Elizabeth Grammar School but the Clerk to the Governors was instructed to investigate what was already on offer in Manchester, Leeds and Bradford. He must have liked what he saw. The decision was made to set up a girls' school and a new scheme for the management of the Wakefield Grammar School Foundation was approved in 1875.

Foresight, vision, prudence and sound planning, attributes of those 19th century governors and shared by the present Board as they guide us into the 21st Century.

In 1877 the Governors bought Wentworth House for £8000 from Elias Holt, a woollen manufacturer. We have recently embarked on the most ambitious new construction programme, ever. A multi million pound investment in the future of the Foundation, as we seek to enhance the facilities of all the schools to the benefit of all the pupils on both sides of the road.

Equipment, resources and space, essentials to deliver the curriculum of today with an awareness of the needs of tomorrow. But as we develop and add to what we already have, we build on the experience and traditions of yesteryear.

In 1881 the Preparatory School was established extending our age range. It took another change to the Scheme of Management in 1989 to allow us to have joint teaching in the Sixth Form. It has taken many years for the Foundation to be properly recognised as a family of schools but we are there now.

The fees were fixed at £10 a year and advertisements were put in the Wakefield newspapers explaining how to obtain the Prospectus and Forms of Application. What would they have made of the impressive new website, www.wgsf.org.uk and on-line application.

The opening date was fixed for 16 September 1878. Fifty eight pupils attended ranging in age from eight to seventeen. Our record book or Big Bertha, as it is more affectionately known, lists every pupil who has ever attended this school. The first girl to be registered was a Miss Emily Ash, aged 10. At number 1221 is Barbara Hepworth. She joined the school in September 1909 at the age of 6. The centenary of her birth has been celebrated worldwide, fitting testimony to her unique brilliance. She is one of the many former pupils of whom we are so proud. The parents commissioned Quiet Form, a stunning marble as a leaving present to Miss Knott when she retired in 1975. She loaned it to Bretton Sculpture Park for the Centenary Exhibition and as she had always intended to bequeath it to the school, decided to do it now and it will form the centrepiece of the Creative Arts Department when it is complete.

We are all looking forward to the imminent launch of WGHS Reunited which will help renew former friendships and provide a tremendous resource for all current pupils.

In 1878 parents of prospective pupils were promised that "an efficient staff was provided". This promise has been kept ever since. Ours is a stable staff in which we value the knowledge and experience of the established and welcome the freshness of those new to the profession or to this school. A combination which ensures enlightened experience. Generations of girls, some 13,101, to be exact, have been and are being served by some exceptionally gifted staff, of high intellectual calibre, with a genuine love of their subjects, their enthusiasm is infectious and they imbue in their pupils a delight in learning, high standards and the pursuit of excellence. Their loyalty to their profession, their school and their pupils is what sets them apart.

The first Speech Day was held in 1888. We cherish the medals and prizes generously donated over the years, many carrying the names of former members, of staff, girls and governors.

"Each for All and All for God" was suggested by the pupils of 1895 as the school's great motto. Our history is filled with examples of caring and compassion for those we know and those we will never meet. An ambulance bought for Belgium in the first World War and a school hostel built in Tanzania last year.

Canon Welch wrote the school song especially for the school around its 50th birthday.

The Jubilee Service of 1928 was held in the Cathedral and in his address the Bishop said that every good school, acquired as the years went on, a kind of personality of its own. Teachers, scholars came and went but the inner life, the character, the soul of the school, persisted.

In his address, this September, our new Spokesman, Canon Gage stressed that the school was not just a collection of people but a community. He spoke of our commitment to each other and our commitment to the vision of what education should be about.

In the accounts of the Centenary Service the school magazine of 1978 comments that the singing had an extraordinary beauty and it was a memorable experience for anyone in that massed congregation to join in the hymns. They had devised a programme for the day which combined simple dignity with spontaneous fun.....

I read this after our own birthday party on the 16th and was struck by how appropriate and applicable these words were as we had felt exactly the same.

So the spirit of the school lives on. The abiding memory of that day was of togetherness, of being part of something very special, of occupying our own particular place in the school's history.

Welcome to the WGHS Magazine in this our 125th year.



Magazine Council

Mrs P A Langham Mrs H M E Gill (Editor) Mrs R Gratton (Art)

With grateful thanks to the ladies in the school office, especially Mrs Judith Laydon, who assist with typing and valuable information.

