

## WHOGA NEWSLETTER 2007-2008

### **Emma Bristow (Pascoe) 1979-86**

Lovely to attend the lunch today with my sister **Katie** (1981-88) and mum and catch up with former members of 'L' – Yvonne, Georgina and Sue. Disappointed not to catch up with any of 'M' after the enthusiastic write-up in last year's newsletter – maybe for a 50<sup>th</sup>?? I'm still working at an optometrist at Milton Keynes Hospital and also do antenatal teaching for the National Childbirth Trust. My boys are growing fast – Thomas now 8 and Robbie now 6.

### **Suzanne Jones (Dick) 1979-86**

Moved to Dunfermline, part-time student doing degree (finally!) and work full-time NHS.

### **Betty Dunn (nee Banks) 1943-50**

Head Girl for my sins! Living in Strangford, Northern Ireland, for 41 years. Back after having left many years ago and enjoying the old school spirit! Long retired from teaching but still involved in Church and charity work and enjoying a more peaceful life than in past years. Sorry to have only met one old girl from my year (**Ina Osborn**).

### **Ina Osborn (nee Pike) 1943-50**

I could say 'Please read previous years' contributions!' I continue to plod along – endeavouring to be useful. Good to meet up with my old friend, **Betty Dunn, (nee Banks)**. It seems impossible (apart from creaky joints, etc.) that we are 75 years old!! Hitherto, people of 75 have been regarded as 'old' .... Not any more!

### **Claire Osborn (nee Suglini) 1979-86**

Life continues in its usual rhythm, despite the swift approach of my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Can I really be that old?! Felicity is studying 5 'A' levels; Nicholas is in Removes, both at Chigwell School. My youngest, Imogen, is seven and in the same school (Prep department) where I am the Assistant Head of the Senior School. I am still married to Jonathan (Ina's son) and we will celebrate our 19<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year. As usual, I have enjoyed my special birthday treat – the Old Girls' Luncheon with **Ina Osborn (nee Pike)** my mum (-in-law!).

### **Pat Williams (Nee Pegram)**

Still working, and enjoying it. Only daughter married this year.

### **Katy Mahoney (now Foster) 1963-70**

Now live in Shropshire (since 1981). Married a Westcliff Old Boy (Graham Foster) but sadly now divorced. 2 daughters – now working in London. I spent the 1970s at Leeds University then protesting against motorways then 5 years travelling around Europe as a tour manager, relieving US travellers of their excess dollars! The 1980s and 90s as Marketing and PR at Ironbridge Gorge Museum. In 1999 I set up my own tourism and heritage consultancy, working around the UK. I chair a tourism partnership in Shropshire and I'm the Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands and Chair of Governors at Newport Girls High – a 1920s girls' grammar!

### **Anne Thomas 1963-70**

Married for 30 years. Now chairman of the Governors at a local prep school. Happily self-employed in Cornwall. We've been gift retailing for most of that time and now import from China, which means a few trips to China proper and R & R sessions in Hong Kong afterwards! Our two children are grown up: Emma works for a conference planning company in London, having graduated from Durham. Toby is now in his final year at Aberystwyth, reading Biochemistry - an infinitely better scientist than his mother ever was!! The reunion lunch was fantastic this year: 6 'girls' from our year were reunited for the first time in 37 years

**Jill Dickinson (nee Haysman) 1963-70**

Married to Paul for 25 years. Now retired from work, but busy acting as Company Secretary for the company that owns our local pub! Sister **Wendy** (1960-67ish) still lives in Southend and looks after our mum.

**Jane Lill (nee Lee) 1963-70**

Married for 33 years to Roger. We have been running a packaging company in Huntingdon for 25 years. Our sons, Barry and Fred are preparing to take over.

**Helen Vivers**

GP in Hornchurch since 1981. Recently engaged to be married!! (first time!). Still see **Anne Thomas (Cobbledick)** regularly for 'cultural' holidays. Still go to West Ham – for those that remember! Most of free time spent horse riding, mountain walking or exploring cities with Anne.

**Glynis Mitchell (nee Marder) 1963-70**

Went to Warwick University studying Economics. Then went straight into teaching! Married 31 years and have 2 children in their early 20s.

**Penny Russell (nee Butterfield) 1963-70**

Long career in a City institution doing PR, conference organising, etc. Following career break to bring up son (now 18), I am the Education Manager at Windsor Castle, developing and delivering programmes for school children and students on history, fine art and other curriculum-related subjects. We went on holiday to Jamaica in August and got back a week before the hurricane struck!

**Janice Williams (Faint) 1948-54**

After many years of 'wandering', I have moved back into the house from which I went to WHSG. Any of my year who are local, living in Leigh, are welcome to call! It is in Thames drive. I am in the process of getting English Heritage to let me have a blue plaque for the house! After the 50<sup>th</sup> WW2 Commemorations the Queen mentioned John Laverty. This Lieut. Colonel billeted with us in the war, with his wife and toddler daughter. The house next door was the 'glasshouse' or military prison! My father in the war was on government business (ISO in '62). The final end of the war came when John Laverty under Colonel Slim was in charge of the West Kent Regiment and 'boxed-in' the enemy at the 'Kohima Box' in Burma at the edge of the tennis court.

**Yvonne Hume (now Caton) 1979-86**

Since last year I have bought a house with my husband (we had previously expected to stay put in our flat until we dropped off this mortal coil.) I have also been made an equity partner at BTMK solicitors in Southend. Still no children and no intention to have any. Again enjoyed seeing old faces. Looking forward to next year.

**Caroline Gibb 1975-81**

Having spent some years in the Ministry of defence at Shoebury I decided to take the plunge and started my own genealogical practice. I have just completed my term as the Chairman of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives and sit on the Council of The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. It was the best career move that I ever made. I still live in the town and spend most of my spare time sailing. I enjoy coming to the lunches with my friends but very seldom see anyone from my year, let alone my class – where are you all?

**Kay Gibb (nee Seabrook) 1973-80**

Married to Christopher (ex WHSB & Felsted), 2 daughters Julia (11) and Alexandra (8). Julie has just started at Westcliff and loves it – especially the physics teacher (Mr Taylor – who is 'inspiring')! Also school food has improved immeasurably since I was here! She is also desperate to be involved with the Flying Cow (the F24 racing car)! I still work as an ultrasonographer at Basildon Hospital. Still keep in touch with **Carol Carlile (Webb)**, **Mary Shopland (Fidge)**, **Valerie Spicer (now Brianna Breeze)**, **Caroline Gibb** and **Deborah Skeels (Pyne)**.

**Anne Sorrell (Gregory) 1951-58**

I met with **Hilary Broad (Carr)** and **Kathleen Liggett (Wherrett)** during the year and we are trying to contact others who were in our class through from 1A to 5A forms. Many have vanished – we have found one or two – if anyone recognises the above names as being in their class, please make contact.

**Margaret Lockhart 1952-57**

I am determined to have no more operations – I have had my fair share of the NHS services! I am now very well, and enjoy a busy life – lots of music, increased commitments at church, one day a week at my local hospice, etc. My 'foster boy' is now nearly 21. He is a lovely young man. My niece Sally (Mrs Harvey) has a little girl and plans to adopt a child from China. I met **Rosemarie Sage (Mrs Morgan-Barry)** for lunch in January. She and her husband Bill live and work in Germany.

**Gillian Azulay (nee Lane)**

Keeps very busy with her husband, as yet not retired and helping out with her 9 grandchildren, 6 of whom are under 7 and live in London. She takes the blame for the roadworks on the A127! She hopes to visit **Gillian McBreen (nee Trotter)** in Concord, California, later this year and still keeps in touch with her pen-friend Cecile who was French Assistant at WHS in 1962. He daughter Alison (ex-WHS) qualified as a solicitor, specialising in Intellectual Property, married a lawyer and at present is full-time mother to Lily age 4 and Maia age 2.

**Brenda Lobar 1952-59**

I spent a week at Dedham Hall, in Dedham, on a week's pointing course, in oils. The tutor was Roger Dellor, a well-known artist, who is one of the Wapping Group. **Anne Newman (Boatfield)** who was at last year's lunch returned home to Australia shortly after and is now visiting New Zealand with her husband.

**Georgina Phillips (Nee Howes) 1979-86**

Another great lunch- don't seem to stop laughing! Have opened a shop in Rectory Grove, Leigh, called 'Zambezi' and import furniture and gifts from around the world! Two children now, both at Westcliff: one (Louis) is boy's school, and one (Amber) in girl's school! Hope to see more friends next year!

**June Marriott 1957-64**

Solicitor – trained in Southend at Drysdales & Janes (now Drysdales) and later became Salaried Partner with Charles Russell, London. Lived and worked in London until 2000. Now semi-retired, doing locum work in the summer for solicitors who are on holiday. Purchased and managed Highgate Cemetery in the 1980s (my brief claim to fame!). For some years Governor of the School and Foundation of St. Clement Dane School, London. Now living in Leigh and Hon. Treasurer of Southend French Circle.

**Paddy Fairhead (Brenda Lippard) 1957-64**

Retired in 2003 after 36 years in primary education – 25 of which was as a Primary Headteacher in Southend. I am on my 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage – 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky, they say! I have 2 sons aged 32 and 25. The older son lives in Benfleet with his wife and 15-month old daughter. The younger son lives in South Africa with his wife and 8-week old son. Since retiring I have taken on consultation work with the Southend Teacher Training Partnership, assessing trainees in the classroom. I have also, together with a business partner, started a company, Amicare Ltd., which provides companionship/PA's for people who want to remain independent.

**Lorna Taylor (nee Pickering) 1957-64**

After leaving school I went to Bedford College of P.E. to train as a teacher. My first teaching position was at Belfairs H.S. I have since taught in schools in Coventry, Poole and Blandford. I was married in 1970. In 1986 my twins Katie and Duncan were born, in Poole. We moved to Sidmouth, Devon, in 1996 and I now work at Sidmouth College as T.A.

**Sally Edwards (Gladwell) 1957-63 – Bohun!**

Still working as a Health Visitor & Community Practice Teacher in Basildon. I qualified this year as a counsellor and work for a volunteer organisation once a week. We now have 2 grandchildren – our daughter's children – Leo (2 years) and Zoë (2 weeks). Our daughter Emily is an Old Westcliffian. Her 3 brothers are Old Boys – the eldest is a barrister in London, her twin brother is in advertising in Sydney, Australia, and youngest brother is doing his Masters Degree in Cardiff University. I am lucky in that my retired husband is a very good cook, so to continue working is no hardship. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since we started at WHSG. There are 16 friends at the WHSG lunch.

**Jill Ghelfi – Carter 1957-63**

After leaving school in the summer of 1963, I worked as a secretary in London for 10 years. In July 1973 I went to live in Luxembourg to work for the European Parliament soon after England joined the Common Market. I moved to the European Court of Auditors in September 1980. In 1984 I married a Belgian and in 1985 and 1987 had two boys. I retired from work at the end of May this year and am looking forward to a long retirement spent in Luxembourg and the south of France.

**Thelma Tingey (nee Reeves) 1957-62**

Having celebrated 40 very happy years of marriage to Chris, we retired this year and closed our company. We are enjoying time to ourselves to take up new hobbies and carry on sailing and sports. I am secretary of the local French Circle and am involved in organising a very full programme of lectures and events. We always welcome new members. In my spare time I am also involved in badger preservation! Our daughters, Paula and Anna, have difficulty catching us at home!

**Gillian Vigors 1957-63**

This year our class is celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since joining the school – so you can work out from that, that we're all in our 62<sup>nd</sup> year. I'm currently living in Cornwall, as I have for the last 4 years. However, I will be returning to the bosom of family and friends in Southend later this year. Having finally achieved adulthood and my bus pass, I'm enjoying the benefits of a salary and a pension and all the opportunities that can bring.

**Melanie Riches (Clifton) 1957-63**

So, here we are, 16 'girls' celebrating 50 years since we all met in September 1957. How the time has flown ..... though I'm sure time is flying even faster these days. Last year I moved across the border from Bucks to Herts and now live in Rickmansworth. I am lucky to have found a property with a river running alongside the whole of it – though it must be said that a few of my friends have questioned my joy this year! I (so far!) have not been worried at all – but have felt for others in other parts of the country who have not been so lucky. I am now almost retired, working every other Tuesday at the royal Star & Garter Home for disabled ex-Services people – probably the only residential home in the country – maybe the world – with a fully-equipped dental surgery within its building. The rest of my time this year seems to be spent settling into my house and meeting lots of old friends who have surfaced during the course of the year.

**Ruth Deas (Dunkley)**

I am now in the fifth year of my part-time degree in Spanish and have to produce a 10,000 word dissertation in Spanish! A rather daunting project!! I'm also a member of the Northern Handbell Orchestra, recently formed. We hope to be able to give a concert next summer.

**Shirley O'Toole (nee Sawkins) Mandeville 1947-52**

Lovely lunch and good to meet some old friends. I moved to Normandy in 1993 and run a small B & B in rolling countryside, also still working as a painter in watercolours. The French seem to appreciate our style. Hope to be back next year.

**Doreen Quintaba (nee Palmer – not Mrs Hawkes niece) 1935-40**

My son took me by car to see **Audrey Cooper (now Keysell)** in Lancing in her new sheltered housing. Her younger sisters, **Dorothy and Peggy** are not at all well. I still keep in touch with **Joyce Cavill** who lives in Leigh.

**Margaret Lawson (Nee Wyatt) 1936-41**

I was widowed earlier this year and am adapting to a single life again. I keep in touch with other WHO Girls **Joan Millican, Gwyneth Pollard and Doreen Quintaba**. **Joan Joseph (nee Blake)** lives in New Zealand and her cousin **Betty Hills** corresponds with me. I attend Adult Education classes at Leigh Community Centre and enjoy the classical concerts at the Cliffs Pavilion.

**Diana Walker (Vincent) 1957-63**

Having taken 20 years away from work to raise my two daughters, I returned to work in the office of ..... WHSG!! This was in 1994 and I have just retired at Christmas 2006. So altogether a long relationship with the school. I now have 5 grandchildren who all live close to my husband and me in Leigh so I'm able to see them all every day and enjoy picking them up from school and nursery. Also, having spent 12½ years working at the school, I'm really enjoying taking cheap holidays in term time, visiting friends in Turkey in May and Friends in Gozo in September. Retirement is wonderful!

**Doreen Eaton 1957-62**

Although we have had 5AP reunions for the past 24 years, this is the first WHOGA dinner/reunion I've been to, and it's been great. I've always been very grateful for a great school life and a wonderful friendly atmosphere in our class. This year it's our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of starting at Westcliff (grief, I can't be that old, surely?!) and I have so enjoyed hearing about everyone's interesting lives. As for myself, after travelling the world and spending a business life in office/secretarial work, 7 years ago I started my own garden maintenance and design business and absolutely love it. Why ever didn't I do it before?! So life is good, hope it is for you too. (If not, it all turns out well in the end.) Wishing you all loads of happiness.

**Jane Whittington (Jarrett) 1974-79**

My older daughter took her GCSEs this summer and achieved excellent results, getting 7A\*s and 5As. She is now studying for AS levels at our local sixth form college. I am in the final year of my part-time university course, studying for a B.Sc in Psychology.

**Margaret Barnes (nee Clover) 1948-54 (January)**

Lovely to roll back the years and sit with four of my class-mates (**Ruby, Pauline (nee Barker), Shirley (nee Philpott)** and **Cathy (nee Gregson)**). Cathy and I (both 70 now) have maintained a lifelong friendship. In the WHOGA newsletter I was of course saddened to hear that Miss Goddard had died. She was such an enthusiastic music teacher: "Hallo old things!" (We were eleven-year olds at the time!). She remembered me as at one of the reunions (in a school corridor) she stopped in her tracks, saying "I know you".

**Ruby Harris (nee Wheeler) 1934-41**

Made contact through the internet with **Betty Urquhart** after 70 years. She left school in 1939 and lives in Wiltshire.

**Pauline Taylor (nee Barker) 1948-56**

I'm enjoying 'treading the boards' with Stowmarket Operatic & Dramatic Society in 'Anything Goes' at the end of November – though the tap dancing doesn't come so easy now! I also enjoy performing comic songs in cabaret – my favourite being Joyce Grenfell's 'Stately as a Galleon'. It was lovely to meet up with my old 'partner in crime' **Shirley Baker (nee Philpott)** at the Old Girls lunch, as well as **Margaret Clover, Catherine Gregson** and **Ruby Dunn**.

**Catherine Diani (Gregson) 1948-53**

On June my partner invited about thirty of our friends to a garden party to celebrate my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. In August we spent three weeks in Donegal, Ireland, a week of which was the Clonmary Musical Festival (the 40<sup>th</sup> one).

**Shirley Baker (nee Philpott) 1948-53**

It was lovely to see my friends again at the lunch – **Ruby Dunn, Margaret Barnes (nee Clover), Catherine Diani (nee Gregson) and Pauline Taylor (nee Barker)**. I have had a very good year. My daughter Jackie visited from Zimbabwe for 3 weeks and we had a lovely time together even though when she told us of the hardships endured by that country it was quite worrying. My husband Paul and I had a 3 week cruise along the East Coast Rivers in our ancient sailing boat Aeolus to celebrate our Golden Wedding anniversary. The weather was atrocious but we did enjoy it. Finally on 29<sup>th</sup> August my little great grandson was born, weighing in at 8lbs. This really was the highlight of the year.

**Helen Hough (Skinner)**

This was my 'annus horribilis', as I got divorced, but there were a few bright spots. My daughter Laura started at WHSG in September and loves it. We went to Norfolk on holiday and had an interesting time. I also spent a weekend in Wales, trekking in the Black Mountains and part of Offa's Dyke, led by an ex-SAS guide! Since a move of house did not materialise, I have wielded a paintbrush vigorously and tried to make a fresh look to the old house.

**Rosemarie Fielden (nee Fitness) 1967-73**

Married to George for 31 years – 1 son aged 29 and 2 daughters 26 and 17. Currently working as a parent support worker for Parentline. Celebrating with class mates 40 years since we joined WHSG.

**Mo Venus (Rosemary) 1967-74**

40 year anniversary of joining WHSG. Worked for BBC World Service Radio News, commuting from Leigh-on-Sea/Shoeburyness for 33 years. Recently got voluntary redundancy/early retirement so now a lady of leisure. Widowed in 1999 after 23 years; now happily paired up with Old Westcliffian (WHSB 1963-68) found on the Internet!

**Kaye Gordon (nee Rosewell) 1967-73**

Married to Andrew for 23 years. Two children – Christopher, 21 – graduated from Royal Holloway University – and Sophie, 19, second year at Canterbury University. Living in Wakering. Currently Ladies Captain at Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club.

**Judith Hay (nee Benson) 1967-74**

Married to Andy for 27 years. Currently enjoying dance classes with Len Goodman. About to retire from 18 years of teaching in Adult Education.

**Georgina Clark (Gormley) 1967-74**

Married to Philip for 23 years, having met in 1976. Moved to Leeds in 1992. Work as an internal organisation development consultant, having worked continuously since leaving school.

**Jennifer Leaver (nee Davies) 1967-74**

Married with 3 children (16, 15 and 13). Worked as Personnel Manager at the Financial Times Business Publishing and then for Rothschilds before the children were born. Now work part-time at a local infants school.

**Diane White (nee Tomlin) 1967-74**

Married, living in Benfleet, 2 sons aged 14 and 19. Worked as HR Manager in the city from 1974-90. Now work at King John School and Deanes School in Thundersley. Celebrating 40 years since joining WHSG in 1967.

### **Yvonne Blackborow (nee Hofmann) 1947-52**

Today I have had the pleasure of meeting a few friends who were at Westcliff High School 60 years ago. My close friend **Patricia Rathkey (nee Tripp)** travelled from Wales to spend the weekend with me and join in the fun at the luncheon. In the recent past I have spent holidays with my family in places as far apart as China, America, Iceland and France. I continue to pursue my interest in Genealogy, a hobby I find absolutely fascinating. At present I have five 'Trees' on the go. In between all of this I visit friends and family as well as entertaining them at home. Somehow or other I am also managing to redecorate my house! I derive a great deal of pleasure from my four grandchildren, two of whom live in Boston, Massachusetts. Joshua (aged 17) is in the process of selecting a College in which to further his studies. His sister Kayla (aged 13) is also changing schools. In March she celebrated her Bat Mitzvah, an occasion much enjoyed by us all. In this country Jasmine (aged 17) is also deciding on which University to go to. English and Drama are her great strengths. We are all looking forward to her performance in 'The Pyjama Game' next month. Ella (aged 3) has begun Nursery School and has settled in happily. How time flies!

### **Janice Try(nee Newham)**

This is the first time I have written. I attended the reunion in 1997, 50 years after I started at Westcliff High, and last year, in 2007, 60 years after. It was wonderful to see many old friends, although they had sadly dwindled by 2007. (To those who saw me in 1997, yes, I used to keep mice, and through my children, cared for gerbils, and eventually kept my own show rats!) Apart from time off raising 3 'children', (now all in their 40s) I worked in Hospital Pharmacy all my working life. I have only Westcliff High to thank for this. I cannot say that schooldays were always the happiest – I was thrown out of the school choir (for singing flat!), never chosen for the school play, or even given reading roles in our Shakespeare studies in the class, although once I had a chance due to sickness, was told I was very good, but my hopes never came to fruition! I was useless at all physical activity. So bad at hockey I was put in goal – not a popular position. After stopping a few balls, I rose through the teams and ended up in the First Eleven. I hated every second, prayed for heavy rain every Saturday match day, but for me, it was such an honour.

There have been amazing changes in the school, from the single imposing building (which still looks much the same from the outside), to the present group of buildings, even with a car park. I was delighted to meet and talk to the *Headmaster*, and to see some boys were in the 6<sup>th</sup> form – in 'our day' communication with any boy, even a brother, was strictly forbidden, when in uniform. I have now been retired over 14 years. My husband Graham and I have travelled extensively, and I have books full of photos for memories. I have thoughts of writing a book, 'Fits around the World', as I was diagnosed with epilepsy a few years after my children were born, and I have had seizures in many strange places. I had some success in amateur dramatics, and now often go to the theatre, opera and ballet. I've enjoyed classes in Spanish, Oil Painting – and even 'Fitness for the over 50s' – in which I am definitely the worst in the class!

### **Marianne Francis (Mary Kent) 1967-74**

Enjoyed meeting fellow same year girls for the first time – 40 years since joining WHSG apparently – don't the years roll by! One of the highlights of this year – apart from attending this lunch – was when I attended a literary lunch run by The Lady magazine. This was held in the Palm Court of the Waldorf Hilton Hotel. The event began at midday with guests greeted with a glass of Bucks Fizz; this was followed by a delicious three-course lunch. Three top writers and broadcasters were in attendance, being the late Ned Sherrin, Libby Purves and Santa Montefiore. They all amused us with their stories and anecdotes. The event was presided over by Arlene Usden, the editor of The Lady. All three speakers had current books available for sale, etc. Finally the raffle prize was a cruise for two. Needless to say, I was not the lucky one. Maybe next year! Continuing the literary theme: I am currently doing a course on the life and times of Charlotte Bronte and am re-reading Jane Eyre with a fresh look and finding it very interesting.

### A note about Miss Raeburn, submitted by Janice Try:

When deciding on future careers, the headmistress Miss Wilkinson advised me that Pharmacy sounded a good option for me. I therefore intended to study the A-levels required for the 2-year – Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Unfortunately Westcliff High did not do Biology, only Botany and Zoology, so it seemed I had to study all four subjects at A-level. At that time I was the only student to do 4 A-levels. Shortly after, I was told I didn't need to do Botany – but had to creep back when it was realised that that was incorrect. The two weeks missing Botany was a disaster – when I had to take the A-levels, the practical I had missed – 'wallflower dissection' was in the Practical Examination, and I only gained an O-level for Botany. When Miss Raeburn heard that this would not be enough for the 2-year Diploma I had applied for, she did everything she could to get me through; eventually when it turned out that my qualifications would only be suitable for the 3-year degree, she offered to pay for my third year as my parents could not afford it. It made me apply for the degree; I have no regrets. (I never called on her for the money, managing on a Southend Borough Exhibition, but I shall never forget her wonderful generosity. She made me promise not to tell anyone of her offer. I maintained silence, but now feel she would not have minded if I related it, all these years later.

### **Enid Holgate**

I expect it is rather surprising to have two new 'old girls' at so late a date in our lives but we would both love to contact old friends from WHS and also pass on our news. I'm afraid I wasn't a great example of a WHS girl as I left school after the 5<sup>th</sup> form and went to Art School for two years. However, I think I redeemed myself by taking my A levels at the grand old age of 36, went to Brentwood Teacher Training College and was a primary school teacher, specialising in art, until I retired ten years ago. I loved teaching and was so sorry to give it up when I was diagnosed with syringomaelia and gradually became partially paralysed. I have kept my hand in though by helping out at one of the less advantaged schools in Blackpool.

More importantly, my daughter **Sarah-Jane** has made me so proud of her achievements. She re-sat her A levels in Preston, went on to Edgehill College where she obtained her degree in Education and English and is presently finishing her MA. She has worked very hard, obtained her head teacher's certification at Lancaster University and became a deputy head three years ago. I am delighted and so proud that she will be taking up her first headship in September! Sarah has a lovely husband and a three year old son and I am a truly devoted Grandma! Both Sarah and I would love to communicate with anyone who remembers us and hope you can pass the above information on.

*Enid lives in Lytham St. Annes. If anyone would like to contact Enid or Sarah, please write to Lesley Woodward (address near the back of the newsletter) and she will pass it on.*

### **Jennifer Wilsdon (Heywood)**

I left Westcliff High School in July 1958 with six GCEs and began work as a bank clerk at the Bank of England, in London. **Joan Sparks**, from my form, also began work there but later left to join the Police Force. I lost contact with her many years ago. I worked for the Bank for six years. In 1964 I moved to Southminster and I began work as a Mathematics Assistant in the Reactor Physics department at Bradwell Nuclear Power Station. I really enjoyed this job, as I had liked maths and science when I was at school. From 1969, I worked for a farming group in Essex as a farm secretary and trained to become an accountant. During that time, I gained three more GCEs and two A-levels and finally my accountancy qualifications. I worked as an accountant, first as an employee and then as self-employed until 2001. From 1983, when I moved to Hampshire, I worked part-time. When I retired in 2001, I needed something to do so I signed up for an ACCESS course and gained two GCSEs, another A-level and the ACCESS qualification. In 2002, I was off to University at Winchester, full-time, for three years. I gained a Degree in History in 2005 and am now working on a MA in Local and Regional History and Archaeology. I fear I am a perpetual student! I am a widow. I have one son, from my first marriage, who has two children. From my second marriage, I gained a vast stepfamily, which now includes thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**From Bernard Luckhurst    September 2007**

I thought you might be interested in the information that my daughter, a former pupil, has been appointed to a professorial Chair at the University of York from the beginning of this term. She is **Mary Luckhurst** and left school in 1981 (Miss Howard headmistress – taught by Mrs Yardley and Mrs Sanderson (known as Miss Taylor then, I believe). She is co-founding the new and now independent Gregg Dyke Department of Theatre, Film and TV within the University of York and she would be pleased to hear of any of the current girls wishing to study at this institution. She has been at York University for some years in the Department of English (but is now translated into the new department) and is the author and co-author of a number of academic books in her area of expertise. We have happy memories of her time at Westcliff and would like to send greetings to you all! Best regards. Bernard Luckhurst.



**Obituaries**

We regret to report following deaths of Old Girls:-

**Dora Yeomans (nee Fasnacht) 1933-39.**

Died January 2007 in New Zealand where she had lived for many years.

Letter received from **Muriel Staples (nee Thompson)**

**Paula Hollyoake**

Died 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007

Letter from her daughter Rose

We are very sorry to hear of the death of **Bill Ogden** on Remembrance Day 2007, as he prepared for the service at St. Clement's Church. He was the father of Old Girls Lesley Woodward and Mary Coban and was well-known to all who attended our lunches as, for many years, he was one of our excellent "wine waiters". He enjoyed helping at the lunches when he met many old friends and his assistance and cheery presence will be greatly missed.

**Isobel Musson**



**Do you recognise this view?**



This photo taken approximately 100 years ago shows (top left hand corner) the field in which Westcliff High School was later to be erected. It was called Badger Field (all fields were named). The lane in the centre was Eastwood Lane (now Eastwood Boulevard) and the line of trees at the top of the picture was on the south edge of what is now the private road, originally a part of Eastwood Lane. The photograph was taken when they were erecting the Albany Laundry.

**Lesley Woodward**

**From Dr Paul Hayman, Headteacher**

I very much hope that many of you will be able to support this year's WHOGA luncheon on Saturday 4 October 2008; it is always a most enjoyable occasion. There is usually time to also take a look around the school and reminisce about the 'good old days'.

I also hope that you will find our website ([www.whsg.info](http://www.whsg.info)) a useful tool to keep in touch with what is going on at WHSG. There you will find copies of the WHOGA Newsletters as well as the WHSG Newsletters.



**A Legacy for Education**

**or, how can I leave money to benefit my old school in my will?**

We were delighted to learn that Betty Goddard has included our school as one of the (many!) beneficiaries in her will, and we know that other old girls and friends of the school may like to consider this way of helping the school in the future.

You too may like to consider including Westcliff High School for Girls when you write or revise your will.

If you make a gift to Westcliff High School for Girls we will invest the money in our educational resources and facilities, helping to improve the quality of education we can provide – helping future generations of Westcliffians.

If your estate is likely to incur inheritance tax then any gift you leave to Westcliff High School for Girls will be exempt from inheritance tax – and raise your tax free allowance by the same amount.

As an example, imagine your estate is worth £400,000 and you leave the school £50,000, the inland revenue will only consider your estate to be worth £350,000 for tax purposes. By giving a gift (of any size) to the school in this way not only does the school benefit, but you also pay less tax!

If you would like to leave a gift, please state in your will that it is payable to:

- **Westcliff High School for Girls (Charity number: XR58723)**

The registered address for Westcliff High School for Girls is Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 OBS.

Thank you.

**From Paul Hayman (Headteacher)**



**Reunion for girls in Year 1959 – 1966**

I am planning a reunion for girls that were in my year (1959-1966) who knew Margaret Westoby, Gay Wilcox or myself Lesley Sims. It is to be held at my house in Rochford on Sunday 23 November 2008 and I would love anyone who is interested to contact me via email at [leshorner@talktalk.net](mailto:leshorner@talktalk.net), or telephone on 01702 545109 and I will provide my address and details.

**From Lesley Horner (nee Sims)**



## WHSG PAST HEAD GIRLS

Last year in this Newsletter we published a list of dates and names of past Head Girls in the hope that we could bring up-to-date the Honours Board in the school hall. We hoped that you would be able to help confirm that the list was correct before the Board is inscribed.

Thank you for your help, we received a great response, unfortunately some of which was contradictory and so the Board has not yet been updated.

We have made some adjustments to the list which is again set out below. We would appreciate receiving any comments (positive/negative) by the end of the Summer term. Many thanks.

### **LIST OF HEAD GIRLS**

<b>TERM OF APPOINTMENT</b>		<b>NAME</b>
<b>October 2007 – October 2008</b>	<b>Joint Head Girls</b>	<b>ANNALEISE DOCKING &amp; EMILY HUNT</b>
<b>October 2006 – October 2007</b>		<b>FAWN WILKINSON</b>
<b>October 2005 – October 2006</b>		<b>SUZANNE CORY</b>
<b>October 2004 – October 2005</b>	<b>Joint Head Girls</b>	<b>NYLA KHAN &amp; HAFSA MALIK</b>
<b>October 2003 – October 2004</b>	<b>Joint Head Girls</b>	<b>DINA ISMAIL &amp; CHARLENE ONG</b>
<b>October 2002 – October 2003</b>		<b>SOPHIE BROWN</b>
<b>October 2001 – October 2002</b>	<b>Joint Head Girls</b>	<b>NAOMI COURTENAY/ALEISHIA GOULBOURN</b>
<b>October 2000 – October 2001</b>		<b>SACHA CLARK</b>
<b>October 1999 – October 2000</b>		<b>CLAUDI HOW OR AMRITA SEN</b>
<b>October 1998 – October 1999</b>		<b>AASHA MAHADOO</b>
<b>October 1997 – October 1998</b>		<b>NEESHE PATEL</b>
<b>October 1996 – October 1997</b>		<b>VICTORIA BOWHILL</b>
<b>October 1995 – October 1996</b>		<b>SARAH GROVE</b>
<b>October 1994 – October 1995</b>		<b>MELISSA PRIESTLEY</b>
<b>October 1993 – October 1994</b>		<b>SARAH WHITE</b>
<b>October 1992 – October 1993</b>		<b>FAYE CLEMENTS</b>
<b>October 1991 – October 1992</b>		<b>HOLLY JAGGER OR CLAIRE COOPER</b>
<b>October 1990 – October 1991</b>		<b>CHARLOTTE CUTLER</b>

<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>
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President:	<b>Dr Paul Hayman</b>	<i>Headteacher, Westcliff High School for Girls, Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 OBS</i>
Vice Presidents:	<b>Pat Elliott</b> <b>Nancy Howard OBE</b>	<i>17 Seabrink Undercliff Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1EA</i>
Treasurer:	<b>Maxine Moorhouse</b>	<i>22 The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HJ</i>
Lunch Co-ordinator:	<b>Isobel Musson</b>	<i>Flat 3, Willock Hall, 46 Chalkwell Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8NA</i>
Membership/Minutes Secretary	<b>Helen Hough</b>	<i>24 Cranleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SY</i>
Newsletter Secretary	<b>Lesley Woodward</b>	<i>190 Bournemouth Park Road Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5LU</i>
Postal Secretary	<b>Anne Rickard</b>	
Press Secretary	<b>Penny Thacker</b>	
General Administrators	<b>Lesley Wilkins</b> <b>Theresa Philips</b>	

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### A message from Isobel Musson:

It is very encouraging that so many people came to the lunch last year. Many OGs said how much they enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones and seeing all the new buildings and facilities. Many people had come thousands of miles and it was very disappointing, after a great deal of 'behind the scenes work' by all the committee, and very high hopes, that the occasion turned into a sequence of disasters not to be repeated.

Our very enjoyable wine is bought every year by Lesley Wilkins and her husband Martin, who store the boxes at their home and then bring it to school on the Friday (this year at 7.30am) so that the wine may chill in the fridge. We are very grateful to them for all the heavy carrying they do and serving all the drinks on the day. The cost of the meal cannot be compared with an outside restaurant and our Treasurer tells me it is always subsidised by the Association. You may be surprised to learn that over the last 3 years the cost of the alcohol licence has risen from £4 to £21 – a great deal for 2 hours selling.

We have been highly recommended to our new caterers, Hathaways, who come with silver service waitresses, their own china, cutlery and equipment and, I am assured, large portions. They have already catered for 3 functions in our hall, including an Indian wedding for 600 people, and the chef is happy working in our kitchen.

I therefore hope you will 'constant be come wind, come weather' and join us again on **4 October 2008**.

## WHOGA Luncheon 2007

### List of attendees

Charlie Ablethorpe  
Joanna Adams (Grainger)  
Peggy Adams (Renwick)  
Yvonne Amer (Arnold)  
Judy Anderson (Allard)  
Gillian Azulay (Lane)  
Shirley Baker (Philpott)  
Margaret Barnes (Clover)  
Jane Bingham  
Yvonne Blackborrow  
(Hofman)  
Shirley Bradley (Prentice)  
Kathleen Bridge (Wood)  
Emma Bristow (Pascoe)  
Margaret Bristow  
Hilary Broad (Carr)  
Jo Brockis  
Gail Brownley  
Sally Bull  
Karen Burroughs (Platt)  
Maureen Butler (Chaddock)  
Valerie Campbell (Pigram)  
Judith Canham  
Frances Cartwright  
(Burman)  
Carole Carlile (Weeks)  
Yvonne Caton (Hume)  
Norma Chandler (Evans)  
Georgina Clark (Gormley)  
Jennifer Clarke  
Anne Cobbledick (Thomas)  
Wendy Collins  
Leanne Connelly  
Anne Cornell (Martin)  
Carol Couzins-Howard  
(Miller)  
Hilary Cox (James)  
Lyn Davies (Johnson)  
Ruth Deas (Dunkley)  
Pauline Devereux (Bate)  
Catherine Diani  
(Gregson)  
Jill Dickinson (Haysman)  
Betty Dunn (Banks)  
Ruby Dunn  
Sue Dyson  
Dot Easton  
Sally Edwards (Gladwell)  
Janice Faint (Williams)  
Paddy Fairhead  
Doreen Farey (Griffiths)  
Heather Field (Robinson)  
Rosemary Fielden (Fitness)  
Mary Fidge (Shopland)  
Katy Foster (Mahoney)  
Joan Fox (Weedon)  
Marianne Francis (Kent)  
Pam Fuller

Heather Garnett  
(Williamson)  
Lynda Gedde  
Julie Gerelli (Hibbens)  
Gill Ghelfi  
Caroline Gibb  
Kay Gibb (Seabrook)  
Melinda Giles  
Marilyn Goodman  
Kaye Gordon (Rosewell)  
Pat Griffiths (Denton)  
Brenda Guy (Cook)  
Karen Hamberger (Pawsey)  
Ruby Harris (Wheeler)  
Janette Harvey  
Viv Hawkins  
Judith Hay (Benson)  
Dr Paul Hayman  
Jane Hill (Lee)  
Paula Holleyoake  
Helen Hough (Skinner)  
Nancy Howard  
Pat Howard  
Sarah Hunt (Saint)  
Paddy James (Read)  
Lynn Johnson  
Suzanne Jones  
Annette Jordan (Rayner)  
Paula Keer (Tyler)  
Joan Knight (Cadman)  
Margaret Lawson (Wyatt)  
Susan Layzell (Gallacher)  
Jennifer Leaver (Davies)  
Hilary Le Marie (Gothard)  
Jo Lennox (Hall)  
Sheila Leys (Clark)  
Pat Liggins (Elliott)  
Jennifer Lightstone  
(Matthews)  
Brenda Lobar  
Margaret Lockhart  
Susan Mahagan (Hance)  
Stella Mann  
June Marriott  
Maureen McLavish  
(Clementson)  
Joan Millican  
Glynis Mitchell (Marder)  
Maxine Moorhouse  
(Martin)  
Ann Mott  
Stella Mummery (Burman)  
Janette Murray (Kimpton)  
Isobel Musson (Wright)  
Shirley O'Toole (Sawkins)  
Claire Osborn (Suglini)  
Ina Osborn (Pike)  
Viv Owen

Lesley Palmby  
Renate Pascoe  
Sue Petty (Hazell)  
Pauline Philips (Jackson)  
Georgina Phillips  
Theresa Philips  
Dawn Pyne (Tyler)  
Doreen Quintaba (Palmer)  
Patricia Rachkey (Tripp)  
Rosemary Raines (Hall)  
Mervyn Redding  
Pamela Regan (Summers)  
Mandy Renwick  
(Hammersley)  
Judith Reynolds  
Melanie Riches  
Anne Rickard (Turner)  
Dorothy Rickard  
Margaret Russell  
Penny Russell (Butterfield)  
Anne Sains  
Katie Sims (Pascoe)  
Anne Sorrell (Gregory)  
Muriel Staples (Thompson)  
Joan Streeter  
Lorna Taylor  
Pauline Taylor (Barker)  
Carol Tessington (Wilson)  
Penny Thacker (Hofman)  
Marian Thorne (Leale)  
Thelma Tingey  
Janice Try (Newham)  
Doris Underwood (Mathers)  
Rosemary Venus  
Gill Vigors  
Dr Helen Vivers  
Di Walker  
Tracey Wallbank (White)  
Pamela Watkins (Jones)  
Enid Watson (Bradley)  
Maureen Weedon (Davison)  
Jill Welsh (Blackmore)  
Samantha Westgate  
(Whybrow)  
Diane White (Tomlin)  
Jane Whittington (Jarrett)  
Ann Wilkins (Denton)  
Claire Wilkins  
Lesley Wilkins  
Martin Wilkins  
Pat Williams (Pegram)  
Jennifer Wilsdon  
(Heywood)  
Lesley Woodward  
(Ogden)  
Helen Woollin (Glazer)

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

12.00pm – 5.00pm

**MENU**

Honeydew Melon Gondola

\*\*\*\*\*

Whole Chicken breast with Chasseur sauce or gravy

**Or Vegetarian alternative:**

Creamy vegetable Kiev

\*\*\*\*\*

New potatoes and 3 vegetables

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh fruit salad

**or**

Hot Apple Pie and Cream

\*\*\*\*\*

Coffee or Tea

\*\*\*\*\*

Cost **£16.50**

**DRINKS** Wine will be on sale at £1.50 per glass or £6 a bottle

Soft drinks at 50p per glass

*Please choose **either** the meat **or** the vegetarian alternative and **either** Fruit salad **or** Apple Pie and mark this clearly on the booking form.*

*A raffle ticket will be stapled to the tickets of those having a vegetarian meal – **please bring this with you.***

Old Girls who have been before will know that we always have a raffle in aid of the school. The money goes to the Hardship fund which has been very supportive to many girls in the past. Raffle prizes are very welcome, thank you.

**Requests** Will you please bring some change with you if you wish to buy a drink (it's difficult to deal with too many £10 or £20 notes, especially early in the event)

Please wear your 'House badge' if you have one or you can order one (see the luncheon booking form).

**WHOGA 2008 – ANNUAL LUNCHEON – Saturday 4 October 2008**

Name ..... (Maiden Name) .....

School years .....

Please seat me on the same table as .....  
(name of school friend)

*Please tick the relevant box*

I would like to order:      **Chicken Chasseur**              @ £16.50                
*(the Chasseur sauce will be served separately)*

or                              the **Vegetarian** meal              @ £16.50             

I would like to order:      **Fresh Fruit Salad**   

or                              **Hot Apple Pie**   

I enclose a cheque for £..... (made payable to W.H.O.G.A.)             

I enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope   

Please send the cheque (payable to W.H.O.G.A.) and S.A.E. to:-      Mrs. I. Musson  
Flat 3, Willock Hall  
46 Chalkwell Avenue  
Westcliff-on-Sea  
Essex SS0 8NA

If you are paying your subscription as well, would you please send **two separate cheques**  
(payable to W.H.O.G.A.)

I wish to order a 'House Badge' ..... (name of 'House')  
costing £2 which is payable at the lunch   

**Please apply by 22 September 2008**