

WHOGA NEWSLETTER 2006/7

The school and the Old Girls Association were very saddened to learn of the death last year of Betty Goddard, who had taught at the school for many years.

Betty Goddard

A past Deputy Headmistress of the school, Miss Betty Goddard, sadly passed away on the 23rd June 2006 aged 83 years old.

Miss Goddard attended Westcliff High School for Girls as a pupil in the late 1930s to early 1940s, and took part in the evacuation of the school during the early part of the war.

After graduating and completing her teacher training, Miss Goddard returned to Westcliff High School for Girls in September 1945 as a Music teacher and quickly gained the position of Head of Music, she went on to become Deputy Headmistress, a position which she held until her retirement at the end of the summer term 1982. Throughout her time at Westcliff High School for Girls, Miss Goddard had a significant affect on the musical life of the school and many hundreds of girls will remember her for this aspect of her work. Generations of girls have enjoyed her love of music and will remember much of the music she wrote specially for them. Performances such as 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin', 'Pandora's Box', 'The Country Code' and many more included parts for instruments, chorus, small groups or solos so that all youngsters could be involved. Her own devotion to the Christian faith came through in items like 'The Youngest Shepherd' and the records of carols. In her younger days she also ran a choir outside school and helped with the National Youth Orchestra when it was on tour. She kept an enormous love for the school and a keen interest in its progress.

Her greatest passion was for everything to do with the natural world. She was founder member and president of the South East Essex National History Society and an active member of the Essex Wildlife Trust. She was a member of their Council and conscientious in her work on their Education Committee. She was an experienced botanist with a special love and knowledge of wild flowers, and many will remember her wonderful talks accompanied by truly magnificent slides on the wild flowers in places like Switzerland, South Africa, Australia and many more.

In retirement she took up water colour painting and as with all her projects her greeting cards were incredibly beautiful. These she had printed and sold for charities. Over the years she sold well over 120,000 and made several thousand pounds for various charities.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Betty Goddard was held at Southend Crematorium on Monday 17th July, when many current and past staff and old girls were able to attend to celebrate Betty's life.

Recently the school has learned that Miss Goddard has very kindly left the school a legacy in her Will; a most generous act from a past Deputy Headteacher who loved her time at this school.

From Paul Hayman (Headteacher)

Spoken at the funeral of Betty Goddard:

I was very honoured to be asked to say a few words about Betty. She was a much loved, respected and complex lady, and this is my personal experience of the school choirs.

In September 1950 I was one of a group of very nervous 1st formers gathered in the Hall to audition for the Junior School Choir, all very apprehensive not knowing what to expect. I did not need to have worried, as in came a very young looking teacher, positively bursting with enthusiasm and with a big welcoming smile. This was my first impression of Betty Goddard which never changed. I don't think anyone actually failed the audition, but over the next few weeks a couple of girls realized their limitations and dropped out. So began a lifetime of choral singing, hard work, and a great deal of fun, and the joy of singing everything from Five Eyes - a folk song - to Handel.

I did not ever imagine then, that in 1977 my daughter would follow me in the Junior Choir, and sing in 'The Youngest Shepherd' which Betty wrote, composed and produced herself. This was just one of her inspired compositions.

At the beginning of our second year Betty returned from an Austrian holiday and set up an after school club to teach folk dancing and the art of yodelling. The latter was not entirely successful- but we had a lot of laughs as you can imagine.

I sailed through Middle School choir enjoying concerts and Christmas entertainments and finally in the Senior choir we were chosen to accompany four professional singers who came down from London to sing The Messiah in St. John's Church, Southend. It was a wonderful experience and I know my parents were very impressed and joined a long queue of people to congratulate Betty at the end.

Miss Goddard, as she was to hundreds of girls, gave the love of singing and instrument playing to so many, and inspired many to go on to become music teachers and professional singers and musicians. I know we are all truly grateful to have known Betty, and in the words of Abba, Betty, thank you for the music.

Isobel Musson 17-7-06

Obituary - Betty Goddard

I was saddened by the thought of not seeing Betty again at this year's dinner. She was always so friendly and cheerful. Our paths had crossed so many times over the past years. I was in the same class as her in 1935 and she helped me to cope with the gym apparatus. She was obviously then a good teacher. We both studied music for the General Schools certificate. I was surprised as she had only just started to learn to play the piano. All the rest of us had been learning for several years.

I next met Betty at an Old Girls Club which met once a week during the latter part of the war. Miss Wilkinson hoped that girls on leave would be able to drop in. I went whenever the trains got me home in time from London. (Mrs Hawkes taught me and several others to make chamois leather gloves.) One week Betty came along and I was surprised to learn that she was now a music teacher at a school. I should not have been surprised, as she had a very good teacher - Miss French who helped me get a teaching diploma from the Royal College of Music. So I came to teach girls at Westcliff during the lunchtime, where Betty was now teaching the school choir. She wrote several choral works - one I most remember was the 'Green Cross Code'.

Later we both helped Joan Gardner, a fellow retired teacher and a neighbour of mine, until she went into a hospice.

Next time I met Betty was at Rochford Women's Institute Hall, where she was selling little greetings cards which she had made with reproductions of her paintings of wild flowers and butterflies. This led to her giving most interesting and popular talks about how she had been grieving after the death of her mother. She had started to attend painting classes and found how much she enjoyed it and how easy she found it. It was difficult to find a printer but in the end all worked out well for her.

What a good teacher and caring person she was.

Doreen Quintaba (Palmer)



Mr Irons

During the Summer of 2005, we learned of the death of one of our long-serving teachers, Mr Irons: We were all very saddened to hear of the news. Mr Irons was also our Head of Psychology.

Mr Irons became very unwell towards the first end of the Summer term 2005, and was taken into the intensive care unit at Southend General Hospital. There were signs at times that he was improving but sadly on the last day of July 2005, his condition deteriorated. On Monday 1 August 2005 we received the sad news that Mr Irons has passed away.

Many of the staff and past pupils were able to attend his funeral which was held on Thursday 11 August 2005.

Mr Irons joined our staff in September 1991; in September 1993 he became a Licensed Teacher, gaining qualified teacher status a year later and then became our Head of Psychology in October 1994. Mr Irons loved working here at Westcliff and was very grateful for the support and friendship he had from the staff as well as the excellent rapport he had with the students. Although other staff have helped to teach his subject, Mr Irons was totally dedicated to our Psychology Department and its teaching and in many ways Psychology at Westcliff girls has been synonymous with "Mr Irons". He will be sorely missed.

From Paul Hayman (Headteacher)

An article from our School Newsletter written by a former pupil at Westcliff High School for Girls

Mr Irons

An assembly was held on 12 October 2005 to celebrate the life of Cliff Irons, our Head of Psychology, who died in August 2005. Our Upper Sixth students attended and were joined by the staff and many other pupils who had been taught by Cliff.

Firstly Dr Hayman spoke at length about Cliff's contribution to the school since his appointment as Head of Psychology in 1991. Since then he had run, often on his own, a successful department which has prepared scores, if not hundreds, of students for a degree and career in Psychology. In addition, Cliff gregariously involved himself in all aspects of the school's life, having featured memorably in

many Charity Week events: he was widely considered to have been born to play "Baldrick". By the very nature of his subject, students' responses would often reveal personal problems and Cliff willingly spent many hours talking through their concerns and he was often still at school until six o'clock in the evening.

Next Mr Hayton spoke about Cliff's love of sport and his enthusiastic, if largely unsuccessful, participation in a fantasy football league. Mrs Baines referred to Cliff's popularity in the staffroom and that he cared for and supported so many of his colleagues. Mr Corfield mentioned his dealings with Cliff outside of school and their common interest in sunsets. Miss Harrington spoke warmly about her memories of her time at WHSG and being so inspired by Cliff's teaching that she pursued a Psychology degree and now found herself teaching at her old school. Aiysha Malik, another former pupil, now at Oxford, also paid tribute to Cliff's enthusiasm for Psychology which had inspired her so much as a student at the school. Listening to these recollections brought home what a positive influence Cliff had been and one couldn't help wondering how many other ex-students felt similar gratitude towards him for the inspiration he had imparted.

The most moving part of the ceremony came at the end, when Miriam Nicholas and Hannah East read a poem (printed below) written by the former. It wittily and sincerely recorded their feelings towards Cliff, revealing him to be one of those rare teachers who will be remembered affectionately for a lifetime by many of his pupils.

It was particularly gratifying that Cliff's brother, Dennis, was present and that he will now be able to inform future generations of the wider Irons family of the high regard in which Cliff was held by all at WHSG.

A poem written by Miriam Nicholas for Mr Irons

Mr Irons was his name
Psychology his well played game
He made the subject all his own
Inspiring students, long since flown,
To dizzy heights of bold success.
To us, he truly was the best.

E hut seven was his home,
But round the school he used to roam
He knew our drama lessons well
Through sneaking in to chat with Bell.
His smile lit each room throughout
He quashed each student's fear and doubt

With humour and with friendly grin
When fears over exams set in.
His sense of humour never failed,
Although his classes may have wailed
When essays, marked with love, were done
He was adored by everyone.

He could feign schizophrenia
(Small wonder that he loved Drama)
At charity week he played his part
Without him it just couldn't start.
Last year as pirate, loot in sack

He rode 'pon Mr Cecil's back
For though in stature rather small,
With pride and passion he walked tall.
Each lesson he'd produce a wonder
Occasionally he'd fault or blunder
Or lead the girls in hot debate
Until the classroom was a state

With screaming students failing Freud
Occasionally he'd get annoyed
But always, when results came in
We knew we'd passed because of him.

Clifford, the dog who shares your name!
Reminds us, things won't be the same
And as new teachers come and go
E7 seems to lose its glow.
The Freud above the office door,
Reminds us of you ever more
And as the years roll quickly by
We'll think of you, and sometimes sigh
For now you walk amongst the lions
Our dear, departed Mr Irons.

Miriam Nicholas U6 7

Westcliff High School for Girls raised £10,568.00 during their Charity Week in 2005. The girls decided which charity they would like all the money to go to, and decided on the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease, in dedication to Mr Irons, who proved that much courage and bravery was needed to cope with such a devastating illness and was a poignant reminder of the suffering he endured with this illness. Carrie Grant, former judge and vocal coach on the highly successful Fame Academy, agreed to visit Westcliff High School for Girls with Marie Daley, the charity fundraiser for Colitis and Crohn's Disease, where they were presented with the cheque, and expressed their thanks to the school for their support, in not only the money raised but also helping to raise awareness of the illnesses. A cherry tree was planted by Carrie Grant in the school grounds, in memory of Mr Irons, and a placard was added to remind pupils of this inspirational and unforgettable man.

Ann Leigh: Sends greetings to all who know her. She was working in Italy at the end of September so could not manage the Luncheon in 2006 but she hopes to be able to come in 2007, although September/October are always very busy months in the travel industry.

Yvonne Caton (nee Hume) 1979-86: This was the first time that I have attended the lunch. It was 20 years since I left Westcliff. It was really bizarre seeing people I haven't seen in all those years.. It was great to reminisce and to find out what my peers are doing now. Thoroughly enjoyable. Since leaving school, I have qualified as a solicitor and I practice locally as a Family solicitor at BTMK in Southend, where I am a partner. I married 5 years ago but do not want children - I am far too irresponsible to look after them. I look forward to attending again in the future.

Sue Mahagan (nee Hance): My granddaughter Grace has just started at Westcliff (3rd generation now!). I ran in 5k HydroActive race in Hyde Park - my first medal ever! (32 minutes - not bad for a 61-yr old!)

Samantha Tomlinson 1979ish-1986ish: Living in West London and working as a Business Analyst for Deutsche Bank in the City. Recently retrained as a solicitor but, as yet, no training contract! Still single but enjoying life and living by the river, where I recently moved to from Central London. Have just come back from an extended holiday in Peru where I met my sister **Natalie Tomlinson** 1982ish - 1987. she had been travelling the world on a very extended break with her boyfriend (14 months!). Natalie (Tilly) works as a Product Manager for travel companies, but has spent the last few years (prior to the travelling) working in luxury catered chalets in ski resorts as a chalet host (being an accomplished cook) and is now living back in London. I work with Ian Thomas (Boys 1978-1985) who has 3 boys with wife Mel, the oldest is 18 and the youngest 3.

Janet Worsley (Terry) 1959-65 - now living near Cockermouth in Cumbria. Senior Finance Officer for a local housing association. Has one son, Robert, who married an Australian girl in Sydney in March this year.

Joan Steggall (D'Aeth) 1950-54: I was lucky to be in England from my home in Perth, Western Australia, attending a family wedding at the time of the WHOGA Luncheon. It was the second time I was able to enjoy the camaraderie of catching up with close friends and renewing friendships from 50 years ago. I counted 9 from my year. I would recommend any one to make an effort who hasn't previously attended.

Joanna Adams (nee Grainger) 1979-1986: This is the first time I have attended the lunch - a few of us deciding to come as its 20 years since we left. I have enjoyed seeing old faces, and putting a name to them! I have recently stopped working in London (where I have been for the past 20 years), to start my Teacher Training - for Primary School age-group - something I have wanted to do for a long time - but had to pass my degree first! I am married with 3 children: Dominic (12), Callum (9) and Megan (3). Enjoyable day - look forward to attending again.

Anne Newman (Boatfield 1952-57): Barry (husband ex-WHSB) and I left home - Melbourne, Australia - on 14th June - arriving in London on 15th June. We then went on to visit our friend Maria von Trapp (for ten days) in Vermont, USA. Maria is one of the original children of the Baron. Then we returned to London on 1st July, bought a campervan (20 years old!) and have toured a lot of England and Scotland, including most of the Outer Hebrides and the Orkney Isles. We have been on a lot of steam railways and bought a lot of books in Hay-on-Wye! Among people we have visited was Betty Ladmore, my form and math mistress for 5 years (1 α -5 α). She sends regards to all who remember her. She was also Bohun House mistress once - my old house too. This will be my final trip - can't face the long flights anymore!!

Claire Osborn (nee Suglini) 1979-1986: Once again I have come to the luncheon with my mother-in-law, Ina Osborn (nee Pike). I am still working at an Independent School in London as the Assistant Head. My three children Felicity (16), Nicholas (13) and Imogen (6) continue to flourish, enjoying all aspects of their busy lives at Chigwell School. It was lovely to catch up with a group of girls from my year. We left twenty years ago and it was great to see what we've all done over those two decades.

Charis Sim (nee Jagers) 1979-86: It's great to come back to school for the first time since I left 20 years ago. It's fun to see all the familiar faces, and trying to remember who everybody is! On leaving school, I worked for Nat West for five years, before going to University to study Humanities and then an MA in Population Studies. I then worked for another few years before starting my new family - we have a daughter aged nearly 7, and two sons of 5½ and 3. I am a full-time stay-at-home mum, but I lead our church toddler group and am a governor at the primary school which my two eldest attend. Keeping busy and enjoying life!

Georgina Phillips (nee Howes) 1979-1985: Married with 2 children, Louis (aged 11, at WHSB- and Amber (10 - taking 11+ in November 2006). Living in Leigh (still!).m Teach saxophone in evenings, run historical walking tours at weekends (around Leigh and Southend) and have just opened shop in Leigh called "Zambezi", selling furniture and gifts from around the world. (Going to Istanbul next week to source more goods!) Married to Solicitor, Richard, (who I was dating in 6th form!) Still talk too much and too quickly!

Sally McEwan 1987-94: Currently working as Style Editor at Real Homes magazines and living in London. Occasionally appear as a designer on '60 Minute Makeover' on ITV. Much of my family still live in Leigh-on-Sea, but it's a pleasure to come back and visit the school itself. I am friends with several 'old girls' and know a bit about other girls in my year through Friends Reunited.

Paula Kerr (Tyler) 1982-89: I am still living in Sevenoaks with my husband Patrick, and enjoying life as a full-time mum to Robert, aged 3½ years and Lauren, 11 months.

About twelve ladies from the year **1956-63** continue to meet at the Terracotta Tea Rooms in Leigh on the first Saturday of each month at 12 noon for lunch. We are all enjoying our retirement, free bus passes and cheaper fish and chips. If you would like to join us, contact **Dawn Pyne (Tyler)** on 01702.526072.

Catherine Diani (nee Gregson) 1948-53: was pleased to be present at the WHOGA reunion and enjoyed meeting all her ex-school friends.

Ina Osborn 1943-50: Delighted to be here with my daughter-in-law, Claire, once again. I have a feeling that I may be the only relic from 1943 to attend each year! Where are they all! Am still vertical and breathing and doing all the things I spoke of last year - maybe, more slowly!

Samantha Glendinning (Stewart) 1979-86: I am still living in Chiddingstone, Kent, with my husband John and two children aged 9 and 7. I am working from home as a Recruitment Consultant currently working on graduate campaigns for HSBC, Lloyds TSB and Mars.

Nicola Moss-Rogers (Rogers) 1979-86: I am now living in Newquay in Cornwall and still working for the RAF as a Squadron Leader, running the air traffic control function at Newquay Airport. My daughter Sky is 7 years old.

Amanda Robertson (Plummer) 1979-86: I am living in Speldhurst in Kent and have two children, Thomas 9, and Olivia 7. I have just qualified as a Montessori teacher and am working part-time in a Montessori nursery school.

Joanne Oatts 1987-94: Currently a journalist, living in Forest Hill, south East London, with partner Mark. Still good friends with several girls in my year - shame not to see more of them here today! Great to hear there's so many positive things going on at the school.

Clare Godfrey (Newton) 1987-94: I am currently living in Great Wakering with my husband of 4 years. I work in Southend-on-Sea as a Deputy Superintendent Registrar, which enables me to keep up with lots of the 'Old Girls' at important times in their lives. Hope to see more of them here next year.

Julie Nicholls (Pace) 1979-86: Lives in Buckinghamshire. Married with 2 children, Esme 6 and Freddie, 3. Went to Froebel College, Roehampton, to do a B.Ed and still teaching 2 days a week!

Angela Shaffer (Berman): I am very happy these days. I go out and have lots of fun with my group of mixed friends and I do not work in any capacity because I choose not to.

Sarah Hunt (Saint) and Jane Whittington (Jarrett) 1974-81: Jane went to Montreal in Canada for 3 weeks in the summer holidays to visit her sister, another old girl of the school, **Anne Jarrett**. **Sarah, Jane** and **Tina Rippon (Whatley)** went to the Silver Wedding celebrations of **Tina Gowers (Webb)** in May this year. Sadly both Tina's were unable to attend WHOGA this year, but hope to be here next year.

Pat Elliott: Bruce (the Yorkshire Terrier) is doing well and has just celebrated his fifteenth birthday. His only problem is the amount of time that I spend playing golf! The Ladies Section of Garons Golf Complex has been very welcoming and my handicap is gradually coming down. I enjoy working at Little Havens once a week and Thorpe Bay Rotary keeps me busy with their many fund-raising activities. All in all, I can thoroughly recommend retirement and am delighted that some of my initiatives, such as reintroducing the House System, are now flourishing under Paul Hayman's leadership.

Janice Harris (nee Shingleton) 1960-65: Living in Hornsea, East Yorkshire since marriage to Geoff in 1974. Two children Simon and Stephanie and one grandchild – Chloe. Partner in a secretarial service. Enjoy life, friends and travelling.

Samantha Westgate (Whybrow) 1982-89: I live in Southend with my husband of 13 years, Lee, and my 2 children, Joe, 8, and Daniel, 3 months. Before Daniel was born, I worked part-time at Joe's school but am now a full-time mum.

Helen Hough (Skinner) has walked a significant section of Hadrian's Wall in June, in aid of Little Havens/Fairhavens Hospices, and planning to do more long distance walks. She also drove to Scotland (and back) with a car full of youngsters. Still working in Family Law and running round after the children!

Margaret Levinson (Wyatt): this year we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with a large family party, including 3 great grandchildren. I'm the eternal student in our family with courses enjoyed under the Adult Education scheme. In my opinion, life gets better as one ages.

Anjana Cuthbert (Sivasubramanian) 1979-86: I live in Chiddingstone in Kent with my husband Dave and son James (aged 1) and our 2 border collies. We are expecting our second son in the next week or two. I am working in Kings College Hospital as a Clinical Lecturer in Cardiology and will be starting as a Consultant Cardiologist in Portsmouth in May 2007.

Helen Buckley – Ex Head of English and Head of Sixth Form: I have finally succeeded in tearing myself away from WHSG and am enjoying my new leisure. It would be a great pleasure to hear from any ex-students who remember me and now I shall have time to reply!

Sylvia Krywaniuk (Smith) 1953-60: I attended the WHOGA luncheon on Sept. 30th 2006 with **Penny Garrard (Martin)** and **Janet Sherman (Barron)** who were both in my year. I also met a large group of other ladies from my year. I live in Vancouver, Canada, where my husband and I have a private practice as Psychologists. We specialise in the assessment of people with traumatic head injuries, for litigation purposes. We have 4 children and 3 grandsons. Three of our children live in Vancouver. One daughter lives in New York where she is trying to become an Opera Singer. She studied at the Manhattan School of Music.

Ann E. Easton (Patrick) 1957-63: Although I still live in Leigh, the WHOGA lunch was my first return to the school in 43 years. Lovely memories came flooding back. My only disappointment was that I could find no other pupil from 1957 – or maybe I just didn't recognise them! In our 60th year we should go down memory land so please book early for next year's lunch!

Joy Sawkins (nee Hartley) 1956-61: This has been a wonderful year for our family. Last September, our daughter gave birth to our 1st granddaughter, Natalie Grace, and in August this year, our son married his childhood sweetheart in Hamburg, Germany. I meet up once a month in Leigh with old girls from my year at school. So lovely to keep in touch.

Anne Jarrett, British Consul General, Montreal (WHSG 1971-78): I find it hard to take myself too seriously as the British Consul General in Montreal. After all, I am just an ordinary Essex girl who left school with no-more elaborate life-plan than to travel the world and use foreign languages. You can imagine my disappointment when, on joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1978, my first job was in the Finance Department and not even in the prestigious building on Whitehall. Maths was my second love, and the job turned out to be the best opportunity for me to make my mark, so all was for the best in the end. Travel to interesting locations and the opportunity to learn several languages followed, and here I am writing this in my 42nd floor office with a stunning view over the St Lawrence River.

But this isn't what Helen Hough (nee Skinner) asked me to write about, and as she was Head Girl of my year, I had better do what I was told and explain what my job entails. That really depends a lot on when you ask me the question. This week is a good example of my varied workload: I have commented on local political events; been in touch with an environmental NGO that wants to invite Mayor Livingstone to a conference on urban transport; considered a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the release of some old correspondence; conducted a ceremony to make someone a British Citizen; attended a concert in which a British composer was competing for a prize; and hosted a meeting with a Quebec businessman who has licensed a British company to produce environmentally-friendly power for the Ford Motor company in Dagenham. Tomorrow I have to give some thought to an exhibition of photographs to show the life of Muslims in Britain, and get on with my speech on work-life balance for a local women's group. In short, I represent Britain in the province of Quebec and do all I can to encourage trade and investment between us, and to promote Britain's agenda, particularly on climate change.

Montreal is a great city in which to be doing all of these things. It is a vibrant place where Europe and North America have mingled to create a unique experience. It is also a truly bilingual city where you can walk into a shop and be served in French or English according to your preference. Mrs Lloyd, Mr Amner and others who taught me French over the years should know that the grammar drummed into me at WHSG has served me well and been put to good use, even if I do now have a Quebec accent and vocabulary. I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the patient woman who taught me to touch-type. Thirty years ago, that seemed relatively unimportant for anyone not wanting secretarial work. Now, with my computer monopolising many hours of my day and no secretary to type for me, it is one of the most useful skills I ever learned. This ordinary Essex girl feels extremely honoured and privileged to be the British Consul General in Montreal.

Margaret Barnes (nee Clover) 1948-54: Another joyful reunion with her former friends, **Catherine Diani (nee Gregson), Ruby Dunn, Shirley Baker (nee Philpott) and Pauline (nee Barker).** April saw the happy occasion of my younger daughter Wendy getting married at Cheam Baptist Church.

Shirley Baker (nee Philpott) 1948-53: Had an excellent year, sailing Essex and Suffolk rivers, then a joyful reunion with my daughter Jacqueline and family, now living in Zimbabwe, who I had not seen for 2 years. We had a lovely holiday, camping in Cornwall, then self-catering in Buckinghamshire. We visited the Roald Dahl exhibition as a special treat for the grandchildren. Met **Pat Carter** this year. She is doing extremely well; living in Wales and renovating old houses. Has been on coach trips this year to Yorkshire moors.

Lindsay Johnston (nee Mcanaulty) 1968 - 1975 : Has recently become Deputy Head of a junior school in Liverpool.

Deborah Mason (Park) attended 1973-80. Attended lunch for first time this year. Both my daughters attend the school now so it's become a family tradition. I worked at M & S Head Office for 20 years after leaving school and then decided to go into teaching myself. Happily teaching primary children in home town of Rayleigh for last 2 years.

Shelagh Harris (nee Hartwell) 1970-1977: Have lived in the local area since leaving school. I started my working career in London working for the RAF Department of the Ministry of Defence as Personal Assistant to an Air Commodore, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I went from there to work in a Commodity Brokers and from there I decided to try my hand as a legal secretary where I worked for the same solicitor for a number of years. When he took early retirement I was given the opportunity to learn desk top publishing and produce the firm's internal and external publications. Having married Phil in 1989 I decided that I would like to stop working in London and found a job locally for a colour reprographics and printing company, returning to secretarial work. I stayed there until I took maternity leave but returned part time after the birth of our daughter. However, after unfortunately facing redundancy I worked part time producing advertisements for a local chandlery where I stayed for 4 years but due to relocation redundancy came round again! But as luck would have it I am now back working for the same reprographics company as before, where I am very happy. Our daughter Nicole started at WHSG last September so is now part way through her first year. Although obviously a lot has changed since I was there it's great to hear about what is going on at the school through her.

If anyone remembers **Alison Stracey**, she has been living in Australia for the past 18 years and is happily married to Tony, with 2 children, Elise and Tom. Tony was in the Australian army so they have moved around Australia, living in Melbourne, Darwin and now settling in Sydney. Tony is now out of the army and they are even thinking of returning to England in a few years, at least temporarily. As this year it will be 30 years since leaving WHSG, it would be great to see anyone from the same year at the reunion this year.

Carol Coles (nee Hartwell) 1968 - 1975 : Has recently moved back into the area, having lived just outside Manchester for 24 years. The 2006 reunion was her first reunion.

Margaret Lockhart (1952-59): I have been prevented from getting to the Luncheon due to a third knee replacement! Next year will be better! I am keeping up my musical and church activities, and enjoying life. I have had a wonderful holiday in Austria (singing in a beautiful alpine village) and another choir I belong to sang services for a week in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in July. In November we sing evensong in Norwich Cathedral, and we stay in a lovely hotel! My niece Sally's baby is beautiful!

Penny Thacker [nee Hofmann]: In June 2006 I was awarded an MSc in Information and Library Studies and in July travelled with my family to Aberdeen for the graduation ceremony which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a proud occasion for us all. For my dissertation I researched the history and development of the library at South East Essex College in relation to the educational and political context. This proved to be an interesting, if challenging, project, although it did have its lighter moments: on a visit to the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford in April I unearthed some large and dusty Minute Books recording meetings of the Governors of the Municipal College from 1936 to 1969. These contained a wealth of information about college life from an incident involving damage to a pupil's bicycle by the college motor mowing machine in 1938, to the 'naming and shaming' of an unfortunate gentleman from Brentwood who had failed to pay the invoice for £1.15s for his lost library book, sent to him by the Borough Treasurer, no less. Happily the misdemeanours of borrowers no longer feature in Governors' Minutes! There was also the report of an inspection of the Municipal College carried out in February 1951 by HM Inspectors from the Ministry of Education. Plus ça change.....

Gillian McBreen (nee Trotter) 1950-56: Of all the practical things I learned at Westcliff High from 1950-1956, typing has turned out to be the most useful especially in this time of computers and e-mail. Of the impractical, meaning just for the joy of it, singing in the choirs directed by the lovely smiling Miss Goddard inspired me to keep on singing in my adult life and proved to be one of the best things I learned there.

I have belonged to several singing groups and have been with my current choral group for over twenty years. We are known as TAPESTRY and until recently we have just performed in the San Francisco Bay area where we live, but this summer we plan to travel to U.K., with our sister hand -bell group, to sing and ring in four benefit concerts to help support ISUBILO an orphanage in Zambia. There is a web site telling more about Isubilo at www.isubilo.org/index.htm. Our concert tour begins on 4th July in Lindfield in West Sussex with an evening performance at All Saints Church at 7:30 p.m. We will follow that with a concert at the Methodist Church in Midsomer Norton (near Bath) at 7:00 p.m. (or perhaps 7:30 p.m.) on 6th July. Then we travel to York for an afternoon concert at St. Deny's in Walmgate at 3:30pm on 8th July and

our final performance will be in St George's Church in Tolworth in Surrey (not far from Kingston on Thames) on 10th July at 7:30 p.m. Our repertoire is fairly light, consisting of folk songs, spirituals, a Cole Porter medley and songs from the musical South Pacific and will last about an hour, so if you live in any of these areas I hope you will come to enjoy the music."

Rosemary Spencer (Knapp) Jayne Plavsic (Maynard) Sharon Wright (Mighell) Emma Howe (Moss) Julie Nicholls (Pace) Sally Wilson (Knowles) 1979-86: We are attending for the first time. It is 20 years since we left school. We shall all be coming again next year after having such a great time reminiscing, so if anyone else from our year wishes to join us it would be great to see you. Don't forget we will all be 40 next year!

Kay Searle (Palmer) 1973-80: First time attended a reunion lunch! Now a pre-school 'teacher' in Benfleet, and Governor at local primary school. Two children both at Appleton School in Benfleet. Busy and active with all the above!

Jill Abott (nee Davies) 1960-1967: I thoroughly enjoyed the WHOGA lunch last Saturday. After 39 years since leaving it is amazing to be able to 'pick up where you left of' so easily! As we sang the School Hymn I could imagine Miss Goddard's face beaming over the choir as we hung on to the long note in the last verse. I was especially pleased to be able to take one of her beautiful paintings in memory of her choral teaching. I have sung in many choirs since her tuition – even in the Albert Hall – and have much to thank her for.

WHSG PAST HEAD GIRLS

We are hoping to bring up-to-date the Honour Board of Head Girls and would appreciate your help in confirming that we have the correct dates before the Board is inscribed.

These are the dates and names that we intend to use unless we hear to the contrary by the end of the Summer term:

Oct 1990 – Oct 1991	Charlotte Cutler
Oct 1991 – Oct 1992	Holly Jagger
Oct 1992 – Oct 1993	Faye Clements
Oct 1993 – Oct 1994	Anuradha Jayaprakasam
Oct 1994 – Oct 1995	Jaqueline Tancock
Oct 1995 – Oct 1996	Nimisha Patel
Oct 1996 – Oct 1997	Victoria Bowhill
Oct 1997 – Oct 1998	Arany Nerminathan
Oct 1998 – Oct 1999	Aasha Mahadoo
Oct 1999 – Oct 2000	Claudi How
Oct 2000 – Oct 2001	Sacha Clark
Oct 2001 – Oct 2002	Naomi Courtenay / Aleishia Goulbourn
Oct 2002 – Oct 2003	Sophie Brown
Oct 2003 – Oct 2004	Dina Ismail & Charlene Ong
Oct 2004 – Oct 2005	Nyla Khan & Hafsa Malik
Oct 2005 – Oct 2006	Suzanne Cory
Oct 2006 – Oct 2007	Fawn Wilkinson

From Paul Hayman (Headteacher)

March 2007

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 0BS.

Thank you.

From Paul Hayman (Headteacher)



Correction to last year's Newsletter: Frances Cartwright (nee Burman) is a Cabinet Member (not a Cabinet Maker) on the South Kesteven District Council. Apologies to Frances for the misprint.

Diane Walker retired from Westcliff High after 16 years in the office. The Old Girls Association Committee would like to thank her for all her help over the years.

Westcliff High School for Girls PTA

Annual Summer Ball

Champagne Reception/Live Music/5-Course Dinner
Saturday 30th June 2007
£35.00 per head

Closing date for tickets - 1st June 2007

For more details/tickets - contact Laurie Feather on
01702 511577 or 07904103314
email: laurie@feather1963.fsnet.co.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President:	Dr Paul Hayman <i>Headteacher, Westcliff High School for Girls, Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0BS</i>	
Vice Presidents:	Pat Elliott Nancy Howard OBE	<i>17 Seabrink Undercliff Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1EA</i>
Treasurer:	Maxine Moorhouse	<i>22 The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HJ</i>
Lunch Co-ordinator:	Isobel Musson	<i>Flat 3, Willock Hall, 46 Chalkwell Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8NA</i>
Membership/Minutes Secretary	Helen Hough	<i>24 Cranleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SY</i>
Newsletter Secretary	Lesley Woodward	<i>190 Bournemouth Park Road Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5LU</i>
Postal Secretary	Anne Rickard	
Press Secretary	Penny Thacker	
General Administrators	Lesley Wilkins Theresa Philips	

After many years of successful lunches with delicious food, we are very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Bell and their catering company. We wish them good health, a long and happy retirement and a well deserved rest.

This year we welcome 'A la Carte' caterers to our luncheon and we hope you will enjoy some new ideas. Your committee enjoyed tasting samples at their committee meeting and had great difficulty choosing between the dishes. Everything is made with fresh produce and home grown herbs and we decided this year to have a choice of two meat dishes as well as the vegetarian dish. The chicken pie is £2 extra and is really delicious if you fancy something different.

We have changed the menu application form slightly this year and hope you will find the 'tick' boxes helpful with your choice. We look forward to seeing you on 6th October 2007.

Isobel Musson

You may find it interesting to compare the prices on the specimen lunch and tea menus sent to a local vicar from J. Lyons & Co. Ltd. in London in 1928, shown below (you should bear in mind, however, that 1/6d (now 7½p) was equivalent to about 2 hours pay for a working man at the time):-

		4th September 1928		
Rev. B. West Taylor, St. Kilda, Nelson Drive, Westcliff on Sea.				
Dear Sir,				
We beg to acknowledge receipt of your enquiry and shall be pleased to reserve accommodation for your party for lunch and tea at our branch 35, Strand on Saturday September 8th.				
We enclose herewith specimen of the tariff in vogue at our light refreshment shops, from which no doubt you will be able to make a selection, and also beg to quote as follows:-				
Roast Beef or Entrée, Potatoes, Cabbage Fruit Tart or Stewed Fruit (with Cream or Custard) Roll, Butter & Cheese, Coffee.		<u>2/6d per head (ad lib.)</u>		
or we could supply our 'Special Luncheon' as follows:-				
Joint	Two Vegetables	Sweet	Roll	<u>1/3p per head</u>
<u>TEA</u>	Tea	Bread & Butter Jam		
	Buns	- Assorted Cakes	<u>1/- per head</u>	
	Tea	Bread & Butter Jam		
	Cake	- Pastries.	<u>1/6d per head.</u>	

Unfortunately, we have to charge a little more these days for our Luncheon!

L. Woodward

WHOGA Luncheon 2006
List of attendees

Jill Abbott (Davies)
Peggy Adams (Renwick)
Julie Aldridge (White)
Geoff Amner
Guest of Geoff Amner
Elizabeth Ayling (Dagmar)
Gillian Azulay (Lane)
Shirley Baker (Philpott)
Joanna Barker (McCarthy)
Margaret Barnes
Sarah Beales (Simpson)
Barbara Bennett
Penelope Binder (Smith)
Yvonne Blackborrow
(Hofman)
Maxine Bliss (Zeltzer)
Shirley Bradley (Prentice)
Jo Brockis
Vanda Brockway (Miles)
Gillian Bryan (Vickery)
Helen Buckley
Sally Bull
Maureen Butler
(Chaddock)
Valerie Campbell (Pigram)
Judith Canham
Jacqui Carter (Storey)
Frances Cartwright
(Burman)
Yvonne Caten (Hume)
Norma Chandler (Evans)
Jean Charters (Hill)
Carole Chinn
Pat Colclough
Carole Cole (Hartwell)
Anne Cornell (Martin)
Lyn Davies (Johnson)
Ruth Deas (Dunkley)
Pauline Devereux (Bate)
Catherine Diani
(Gregson)
Ruby Dunn
Ann E. Easton
Sarah Easton (Payne)
Pat Elliott
Jenny Esposito (Ray)
Betty Eunson
Lesley Evans (Webb)
Janice Faint (Williams)
Joan Fox (Weedon)
Marianne Francis (Kent)
Pauline Fyvie (Swiney)
Fiona Gage
Penny Garrard (Martin)
Jacqueline Garrett
(Grimes)
Samantha Glendinning
(Stewart)
Barbara Godson (Cohen)
Joanna Grainger
Gail Grindell (Brownley)
Louise Hamp
Janice Harris (Shingleton)
Shelagh Harris (Hartwell)
Janette Harvey
Dr Paul Hayman
Valerie Herbert (Stevens)
Gloria Hoskin (Crook)
Helen Hough
Nancy Howard
Emma Howe (Moss)
Georgina Howes
Sarah Hunt (Saint)
Sarah Imbush (Mitra)
Claris Jagger
Amnette Jordan (Rayner)
Paula Kerr (Tyler)
Karen Killerby (Murray)
Susan Kram (Stevens)
Sylvia Krywaniuk (Smith)
Margaret Lawson
Susan Layzell (Gallacher)
Hilary Le Marie (Gothard)
Maureen Lennard-Brown
(Lennard)
Josephine Lennox (Hall)
Sheila Leys (Clarke)
Diane Littler (Gage)
Brenda Lobar
Susan Mahagan (Hance)
Stella Mann
Sarah Maynard (Kiernan)
Gillian McBreen (Trotter)
Janet Miller (King)
Joan Millican
Anne Millner (Cotgrove)
Emma Mills (Mills)
Jacky Mills (Raven)
Maxine Moorhouse
(Martin)
Ann Mott
Isobel Musson (Wright)
Anne Newman (Boatfield)
Julie Nicholls (Pace)
Hazel O'Clarey (Edrige)
Joanne Oats
Bill Ogden
Jean Orbell (Williams)
Claire Osborn (Suglini)
Ina Osborn (Pike)
Deborah Park
Theresa Philips
Pauline Phillips (Jackson)
Jayne Plavsic (Maynard)
Doris Plowman (Everitt)
Bobbie Print (White)
Dawn Pyne (Tyler)
Doreen Quintaba
(Palmer)
Pamela Regan (Summers)
Anne Rickard (Turner)
Dorothy Rickard
Amanda Robertson
(Plummer)
Gillian Rodda (Prime)
Margaret Russell
Joy Sawkins (Hartley)
Kay Searle (Palmer)
Brenda Seligson (Allen)
Angela Shaffer (Berman)
Janet Sherman (Barron)
Pat Sherringham
(Greenbaum)
Anjana Siva
Anne Sorrell (Gregory)
Rosemary Spencer (Knapp)
Judy Spicely (Parrider)
Sally Springate (White)
Joan Steggall (D'Aeth)
Carole Steptoe (Gray)
Pauline Taylor (Barker)
Penny Thacker (Hofman)
Pamela Thomas (Wright)
Marian Thorne (Leale)
Jennifer Thorogood
(Clarke)
Carol Tissington (Wilson)
Samantha Tomlinson
Lynn Turner (Johnson)
May Twelvetrees (Grant)
Doris Underwood
(Mathers)
Haley Wainwright
(Smith)
Enid Watson (Bradley)
Jill Welsh (Blackmore)
Bernadette West
(Herbert)
Samantha Westgate
(Whybrow)
Tracey White
Jane Whittington (Jarrett)
Claire Wilkins
Lesley Wilkins
Martin Wilkins
Catherine Williams
(Livermore)
Sally Wilson (Knowles)
Lesley Woodward
(Ogden)
Helen Woollin (Glazer)
Janet Worsley (Terry)
Sharon Wright (Mignell)

SATURDAY 6th October 2007
12.00pm – 5.00pm

MENU

Leek and Potato soup

Turkey breast & ham cuts
Homemade Chicken, sausage & chestnut pie**

Or Vegetarian alternative:

Courgette, feta & rosemary tart

Hot buttered new potatoes and salads

Lemon Meringue Ice cream cake with fresh berries

Coffee or Tea

Cost **£14.50** (or **£16.50** for Chicken pie meal)

**** *Chicken pie £2 extra charge***

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 mark this clearly on the booking form.*

*A raffle ticket will be stapled to the tickets of those having a vegetarian meal or the chicken pie option – **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 2007 – ANNUAL LUNCHEON – Saturday 6th October 2007

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: (no. of tickets) for the Turkey meal @ £14.50

or (no. of tickets) for the Chicken pie meal @ £16.50

or(no. of tickets) for the **Vegetarian** meal @ £14.50

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 24th September.