

**COLCHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**OLD GIRLS'/ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**  
**NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2016**

**Marsyl's Musings**

There has been much on TV about 9/11, the Twin Towers. As some know where they were when Elvis died, or when Kennedy was shot I remember 9/11. My husband was in Coggeshall church with the Colchester Bach Choir recording hymns for ITV. They finished the first day's recording early and he came home quickly to watch Countdown! Of course, it wasn't on because of the attack in New York, but he had also recorded the reading for the programme, from Ecclesiastes, chapter three. It would have been very difficult to read that passage in the next day's recording. So that is why I remember that day. (Well look it up, then!)

Marsyl Knott, President

**Editor's Notes**

We had several letters from Old Girls remembering Miss King. Thank you so much to those who have sent these, and I hope they spark more memories of the school. It is good to have these but it is disappointing that we hear so little of what you have all done since you left CCHS! Your old school friends would love to know what you have been up to. All you need to do is email me and no great literary work is required but photographs would be very welcome!

If you remember any one who has contributed to the Newsletter and you would like to make contact again please email or telephone me and I will see what I can do!

Contact details: Liz White: Tel: 01206 522713

e-mail: [alangwhite187444@hotmail.com](mailto:alangwhite187444@hotmail.com)

Information, news, comments, photos and articles for the next Newsletter by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**Memories of Miss King**

We have received several fascinating letters with memories of Miss King who was Headmistress from 1927 to 1953. Beryl Powis (Lomax 1934-42) was OGA Secretary when Miss King retired and remembers that the OGA gave her a Persian rug.

Susan Kerr (Everitt 1939-1953)

I must have been in the "Pre" which was in the first room on the right after coming in the main front door of Grey Friars. Miss King was visiting the classroom when one little girl, I think it was Gillian Lampard, had a full-blown tantrum. Lying on the floor, drumming her heels on the floorboards and kicking out in the direction of Miss King's shins, she was shouting, "I don't like you!" After a moment Miss King replied, "I don't think I like you very much, either!" As Marsyl said in her last Musings, nothing fazed Miss King!

Later in my years at Grey Friars I remember the Christmas parties held in the Hall. We played games (I don't remember any party food!) including "Hunt the Thimble". One year we were searching high and low only to discover that Miss King, with a little smile on her face, had the thimble on her finger all the time.

Fast forward to my last years at CCHS at North Hill when we each had an interview with Miss King to discuss career choices. I told her I would like to be a florist. Miss King replied, "Do you want to spend all day with your hands in a bucket of cold water?" That made me think again. I eventually trained at King's College Hospital as a physiotherapist (this was before the days of university courses) – a career that I thoroughly enjoyed and never regretted. I could always find work after house moves, full time or part time, when I had a young family. I worked until I was 67 years old "on the bank" at The Oaks Hospital, Colchester. I never lost my love of flowers and flower arranging which I maintained as a hobby only thanks to Miss King.

### Kathleen Wilson (1946-51)

I first learnt about Miss King at my Primary School when I was due to attend North Hill for my interview with her following my written 11plus examination. I was told that she was very strict and that one had to knock on her door and wait for the command to enter before proceeding. It was also essential to notice if there was a doormat outside or inside the door – for one must wipe one's feet on it before progressing fully into the room.

On the actual day I sat waiting my time in the Library – one of four rooms at the top of the steps leading from the main school entrance, separated from the rest of the classrooms by the Hall. Opposite the Library there was a classroom (Lower VI) and next to it the Common Room (Upper VI). Alongside the Library was the VI form's cloakroom with Miss King's office in the corner overlooking the main entrance steps, the driveway and the tennis/netball courts. When I was told Miss King was ready for me and I was to go in, it was unfortunate for me that it must have been a break time. All at once the cloakroom was filled with chattering VI formers as I knocked on Miss King's door. In the noise I could not hear her response, so I knocked again, still waiting, when one or two of the VI formers took pity on me and said, "She said 'Come in'." Could I believe them? Was it right to enter? I took the chance and entered. This hadn't improved my nerves!

I can still remember a few of her questions. "What was my favourite subject?" I answered truthfully – Mathematics. She asked me to imagine a rectangle 6 inches by 4 inches in dimensions and tell her its area. I immediately answered 20 inches – but hastily corrected myself – "That was wrong, I should have said 24 square inches." Miss King then asked me what was the 20 inches I had given first and I was happy to say it was the perimeter. Her next question completely bewildered me "What do you think you would consider as a career?" To my mind this was way off in the distant future. I had no idea. Remember this was only 1946 – I had spent six of the last seven years getting through the Second World War. My father had been away from home most of that time serving in Africa, the Middle East and on the Home Front. As a family, life had been on hold. We hadn't been planning ahead. However, Miss King needed my answer. The one thing I liked doing was counting money and I had only ever seen money being counted in a Post Office, so I said I might like to work in a Post Office! Even at 10 years old I noticed the pursed lips – and I remember thinking – I don't think she liked that! What I had not realised at the time was that Miss King taught mathematics so she was prepared to let me join CCHS as I liked the subject, even if my possible choice of career was suspect.

It was a regular occurrence that Miss King would teach mathematics to one of the four intake year classes – and I happened to be in that class. In my first year I saw at firsthand her teaching methods and her annoyance if someone couldn't understand early algebra. I remember she once questioned one of my friends and myself over a problem she had set us. We had both come up with the same wrong result – had we been copying each other? Luckily the answer was 'no'.

Other memories included the way she would often start a new year or term by quoting the text that involved the school motto – "Wisdom Giveth Life". A pupil was noticed and grateful if Miss King thought a school report was worthy of comment from her. I remember I had one where she had written "This is a satisfactory report".

During my time at CCHS (1946-51) I learnt to respect and like Miss King along with others of her many pupils. It was during my last year that I had further close contact with her. In the year 1950-51 there were so many girls staying on into the VI form that the small classroom opposite the library at North Hill was too small for them all. As a privilege – and we were very pointedly told – it was a privilege – my class (Upper V) was to occupy that room as our classroom. We were instructed that we were always to be on our best behaviour and on no account to be noisy – as any noise could disturb Miss King in her office across the corridor.

On one occasion our Maths teacher was absent but she had set us work to do. Without noticing it, a little noise had arisen as we all struggled and one of our classmates had stood up to chat over the shoulder of another. Miss King suddenly appeared in the doorway and we were all hushed in a moment, when she told

us we were making too much noise. She took the standing student back with her to her office. A few minutes later our classmate returned to her desk and quietly got on with her work. At break time we all wanted to know what had happened. Apparently Miss King had asked what the problem was and led our classmate through several questions so that she could see how to answer the problem herself. We were never further reprimanded for the noise and were grateful for both examples of Miss King's kindness.

Miss King was very kind to me also. I was due to leave school at 16. At the beginning of one's last term it was a school rule that all leaving pupils had to complete a form stating why and where they were planning to go. It was much against my wishes and after many a parental argument for I was still interested in Maths – and probably would have liked to teach it. I didn't want to leave, I didn't know what I was going to do and I hadn't completed that form. In the end my mother took me – almost literally – along to the Youth Employment Office. I knew that 3½ miles from my home, one of the large local companies had a research station – BX Plastics Ltd and I had heard about this facility – how I am not sure. As my other favourite subjects were in the sciences this is where I wanted to go. I also knew that there I would have to continue with my studies at least to the age of 18. This is what I wanted. The Youth Employment Officer said he would arrange an interview there for me.

Back at school I was surprised to be sent for by Miss King. In her office she greeted me with the statement "I understand you will be leaving at the end of term". I confirmed that it was so. "And did you know that you had to complete the leaving form?" she asked. I tried to explain – she just kept repeating her question until she got what she wanted – an admission that "Yes I did know - and no I had not completed the form." Then she surprised me again. "I have had a letter from the Youth Employment Officer," she said. "I understand you are interested in a laboratory post at the Research Station of BX Plastics Ltd. I have written and told them that I think you will be very suitable." I could only thank her for her kindness.

What that life was to be like as I started work in a department equipped with small scale plastics processing machinery with the noise, heat and strangeness is another story entirely.

*Many thanks to Kathleen for her remarkable memories of a remarkable headmistress. Perhaps she would tell us "another story" about her life since leaving CCHS!*

## **Memories from the School**

### **Isabel Wallace (Prior 1949-55)**

Just found your site - nice to have caught up with the old school, mostly happy memories. I joined Greyfriars aged twelve in 1949. I don't recall meeting Miss King until I moved to the senior school, located on North Hill. We were all terrified of her; she was a very formidable lady, and I recall tales of spectacles being thrown at 'despicable girls!' We had to wear brimmed hats till we were seniors, and all looked forward to being promoted to a beret. I remember the four inches above the knee rule for gymslips. Teachers were Miss Mann, (English) Miss Page-Jones (later Mrs. Stacey) Miss Pope (History) and "Lady" Lynne (Art) - I remember we had to hold our paint brushes at their very tips but I loved art - Miss Graham (History) and the only male Mr. Stoshnic (science) (*Stachnik*). That was how we pronounced it, probably not how it was spelled. I can visualise my maths teacher but can't remember her name. I hated maths. Another teacher was Miss Nordquist (Phys Ed and Sport) - a very scary lady. I was good at tennis but made sure she didn't know, or I'd have been training at all hours. I was house netball captain when I was seventeen, but am ashamed to say that I don't remember which house.

There are many fellow students I wonder about, most probably no longer with us, though I'm still here, nearly eighty, coach/sec of our local R.D.A. centre (Riding for the Disabled Association), so maybe some are still around. Wish I knew. The trouble is we were all girls so most surnames would have changed!

I now live in N.S.W. Australia, in a city called Dubbo. Many tourists come here, although we are inland we have many places of interest, and a super zoo. I left after the finals exams and went to work in the accounts office at the Colchester Lathe Company. I left there to get married and in 1970 we came to Australia. I love it here, but my 'Pommyness' comes out when the Ashes are on. Can't help it! My two girls visited England

five years ago and looked up my old haunts, finding that my old school had moved. We shared the premises with the technical college. I do some writing nowadays, some published, and am presently working on a book, much of which has memories of my schooldays and teen years.

**Daphne Jones (Drabble 1958-65)**

Members of staff I particularly remember were tall Mrs Wright and short Miss Scott (maths); Miss Nicholls and Miss Graham (French); Miss Flatman (Latin and also Form Mistress in the Sixth Form); Miss Pannell (physics); Mrs Delaney and Mrs Bailey (geography); Mrs Casey and Mr Rimmington (referred to as Jim Rim) (history); Miss Griggs and Miss Taylor (music); Mrs Pipe and Miss Alexander (sports); Miss Loosemoore and another Miss Taylor (RE); Mrs Brown who never taught me for art, but whose lessons I heard were wonderful; Mr Stachnik (chemistry), Miss Mann (the library). Given time I could probably recall several more teachers of this era.(1958-65).

I remember the gym. I loved climbing the ropes to the ceiling. The school's sports facilities were good for its time, but of course we were saving up for a swimming pool. There were many fund-raising ideas. Miss Overy got us to save toothpaste tubes, made of soft metal in those days, which were worth a little as scrap metal. There were various sales and events, the biggest of which was the School Fair, which became an annual event usually held in May. I seem to remember that the weather was often chilly and one year the fair coincided with the FA Cup Final – not good planning. However, the problem was solved by hiring two television sets and installing them in the prefab classrooms (U and V).



The swimming pool was ready in summer 1961. I have included a copy of a photo from a local newspaper of some members of my form, including myself, enjoying our “first plunge”. The local Education Authority paid for a fence to be constructed around the pool area to protect it from draughts, leaves and other debris and also, much to our amusement, “to preserve the modesty of the girls”. Not everyone enjoyed swimming, and there were quite a number of non-swimmers. Swimming was compulsory when the water was above a certain temperature – I seem to remember this was around 63 degrees F. Below this it was optional. I once swam when the water was 56 degrees F – very bracing!! Swimming costumes were black “regulation style” and we always wore swimming hats. For gymnastics we wore navy blue knickers and for outdoor sports we had rather long shorts in the style of divided skirts (also worn by games teachers). Neither of these garments was very flattering. We wore white tops upon the front of which we were required to embroider our full name in red letters. These sports tops were taken home for washing only twice per term!

In my earliest years at CCHS we were required to participate in regular cross country runs. The route went through Bluebottle Grove around some footpaths, past the side of the CRGS playing fields, along Park Road in front of the Education Office, and back to school. Annually each school house (eight houses I think) put

up a team of ten runners to compete for the Cross Country Cup. I rather enjoyed this and was included in my house (Plantagenet) team during my first and second years at CCHS. However, cross country running was not popular and was voted out the following year.

Minimum school leaving age for the UK was then fifteen. It was not expected that grammar school pupils would leave so soon without taking their 'O' levels. One or two in each year group did leave at this point, and were chastised for "wasting a place". Some, although not all, secondary modern schools did finish at fifteen, releasing all their pupils on the job market with no qualifications, unless they chose to take up a two year GCE 'O' level course at the local technical college. Getting a job at fifteen was not a problem, although it was likely to be poorly paid with limited prospects of promotion. Failing the eleven-plus extorted a high price on many. We were the lucky ones. Most grammar school pupils would achieve at least a respectable clutch of 'O' levels. Nevertheless many would leave school, aged 16, at this point and not continue to the Sixth Form. Jobs were plentiful and many chose to continue their education in employment, such as banking or the Civil Service, offering professional qualifications. Women, however, were not always required to sit such exams and many did not, choosing to continue in steady, if unremarkable, employment until such time as they married and had children. Working mums were less common then. In fact women were often expected to leave work and stay at home whilst their children were young. In many fields of employment, for example banking, male and female salaries were by no means equal – but I digress!

An incident involving a formally dressed man occurred one Speech Day at CCHS. The Vice Chancellor of the new Essex University had been invited to award the prizes. As was the custom, lunch was cooked and served to the afternoon's platform party by the 'A' level cookery students in the Senior Library. One girl, serving tomato soup, unfortunately spilt a whole bowlful down the Vice Chancellor's clean white shirt. Emergency – how could he appear on the stage! A message was despatched to the caretaker's house in the school grounds. Luckily Mr. Waylan (?) was able to save the situation with the loan of a shirt. The anecdote provided useful amusing content for the Vice Chancellor's speech that afternoon, memorable over fifty years later!

*This sadly is last of Daphne's memories. They have been most entertaining and we thank her for sending them. Let's hope this will spur others on to write!*

### **Joan Gurney (Appleton 1938-51)**

#### The Mulberry Tree



My contribution in the last Newsletter included a request for information on the position of the black mulberry tree at Grey Friars. I received a few speculative thoughts in passing conversation, but nothing definite. However, Alan Skinner and I believe that the photograph which appeared at the beginning of that article (*picture left*) may hold the key this mystery. It was taken between 1903 and 1919 when the French nuns occupied the building and opened a school there.

The view is captured from outside the large bow window at the back of Grey Friars and looks down towards the conservatory at the end of the garden. It was obviously autumn and the evergreens – the Holm oak and the yews – stand out against the overcast sky. The deciduous trees are almost devoid of leaves and so their structure and silhouette can be clearly seen. One of these trees, already aged, appears to be growing at the top left hand corner of the tennis

lawn and shows features typical of the black mulberry – a short gnarled trunk which divides into two main branches, each in turn having a distinctive lean to the right which would, without props, have caused it to topple over in the storm of the 1930s.

If this was the black mulberry tree, it would have caused considerable inconvenience to the players of badminton, tennis, croquet or battledore and shuttlecock – all of which are likely to have been played on this lawn at various times over the decades. This is because, in late summer, the highly staining black fruits would have fallen across the playing area, or on to the substantial clothing worn by participants in these activities before special clothing for sport was adopted in the 1930s.

## **OBITUARY**

**Brenda Lee Smith** died on 2nd May this year aged 96 and Beryl Powis (Lomax 1934-42) remembers her big sister taking her to school!

## **NEWS OF OLD GIRLS**

### **Ethel Munson (Carter 1937-42)**

Our regular contributor, Joan Gurney (Appleton 1938-51), has written about Ethel's recent 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



It is a great privilege for me to reunite Ethel Munson with the Old Girls' Association. Ethel, who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in July 2016 not only was a pupil at Grey Friars but returned to work there in 1972 when it was the Adult Education Centre (later re-designated Adult Community College) and stayed for nearly 20 years.

It was therefore appropriate that a group of us who had also worked at the college at the same time as Ethel should celebrate by taking her out to a birthday tea at the new Grey Friars hotel. Two more of the group, Delia Bloom (Woodward) and Yvonne Carter (French) were also CCHS pupils in that era. We all hoped to reminisce with Ethel and weave together memories of Grey Friars as a school and as a college and enjoy it for an afternoon in its new life. The occasion produced much talking, informal speeches and presentations of the gifts, cards and flowers. The hotel staff were delighted to entertain somebody who had had such a long association with Grey Friars and provided us with a sumptuous tea, beautifully laid out and presented.

Although my years in the Preparatory and Junior Departments of CCHS at Grey Friars overlapped those of Ethel, she was a bit ahead of me and I cannot remember her very well. Our first real meeting happened in the early 1970s when we both started work at the Grey Friars College. Ethel joined my class of swimming for adult beginners which was held at the former Garrison Pool, hoping that I would teach her to swim. I remember Ethel as a strong minded, self assured and determined lady who always spoke her mind in the nicest possible way. And she has not changed a bit!

As Ethel arrived for this afternoon of nostalgia, she walked past the imposing front door and remembered that 80 years ago it had an attached brass plate which read "Headmistress Miss R H King MA Cantab". The pupils, of course, were not allowed to enter the front door but had to walk to the passage way between Grey Friars and All Saints House. Here Ethel will have remembered the bicycle sheds – the bicycle became Ethel's friend for life! She rode one until very recently and then gave it away to charity for overseas use.

Then Ethel entered the hotel's Reception area with its gleaming white marble floor which has replaced the wooden oak floorboards of former years. This was the college's canteen run by Elsie, and later Ursula, and here Ethel may have eaten her lunchtime sandwich in the 1970s and 1980s but imagined that she was back

in the school dining room of the 1930s and 1940s sitting on an uncomfortable wooden bench and eating in silence with only brief periods of talking signalled by the ringing of a small bell. Stew and blancmange no doubt spring to mind!

The base of the main staircase was the next prop to Ethel's recollections as she passed the decorative ivory and ebony terminal of the shiny banister, now beautifully restored. The next stop for Ethel was the hotel's Rose Tea Rooms on the west side of the front door with their striking and colourful Italian glass chandeliers. The last time Ethel was here it was part of the Administrative Office of the Grey Friars College where she had a desk – affectionately known as “Ethel's Patch”. And stretching back beyond that time it had been a CCHS cloakroom with hooks for shoebags, blazers and panama hats. Once we were seated at a long table waitresses appeared from a door which had led into the college's caretaker's office. But Ethel looked back to her school days and remembered that the same door led into the school's science laboratory, passing the fume cupboard on the way.

As we ate our delicious tea we exchanged memories with Ethel of how disciplined we were at CCHS. We were taught politeness, good manners, respect for our elders, and of course in wartime, co-operation and support for each other as we ran for the air raid shelters or dived under our desks for safety. Bullying was unknown.

Needlework and gardening were part of the curriculum and we each had our own little plot to cultivate and plant. Ethel has always loved gardening and maybe she rubbed shoulders with Beth Chatto who was also at school in Grey Friars in the 1930s. We reminded Ethel that one of our first tasks in needlework was to make a pair of knickers for ourselves in the school summer dress material of red, white and blue check. Some fitted but many did not! And what became of that iconic schoolgirl undergarment – the liberty bodice?

Ethel remembered the emphasis on Health and Safety in the days of Grey Friars College and compared and contrasted that with school days when risks were all part of growing up. We played conkers in autumn without black eyes or teeth knocked out, and made icy slides in the winter with only a few chipped knees and grazed hands. In our art and nature study lessons we learned to respect the hazards in the garden. We ate the delicious fallen walnuts but avoided the toxic yew trees and their berries. We watched the newts in the pond, but rarely fell in.

All good things have to come to an end and as Ethel blew out the candle on her little cake and held up the plate with “Happy Birthday” written on it in chocolate sauce, we urged her on her way out to take a last look at the spectacular hall with its stained glass windows, the classroom with the big bay window overlooking the garden (which was every pupil's favourite room) and the adjoining Headmistress' study with features of a private house library. We said our goodbyes and hoped that we had captured for Ethel some nostalgic memories of two episodes from her past played out against the background of a much loved neo-classical building, now tastefully brought back to life for many still to enjoy.

### **Saskia Clark (1993-95)**

Congratulations to Saskia and her sailing partner, Hannah Mills, who won the Gold medal in the Women's 470 (dinghy) race at the 2016 Rio Olympics in August. Whilst in Brazil to prepare for the Rio Olympics whilst walking back from the sailing club to the hotel two men with 7 inch knives ran and pushed them around grabbing everything they had including their lycra sailing outfits. They made it back to the hotel “slightly shaken but all OK.”

Saskia grew up in West Mersea and started sailing an Optimist dinghy at a young age achieving great milestones. In 1992 she was selected to represent Great Britain in Optimist European and World Championship Events and the following year joined CCHS in Year 10. During this year she was part of the British National Optimist Squad and went on to become the Girls' National Optimist Champion, also gaining top place at the National Inland Championships. In 1994 she kept her Girls National Inland

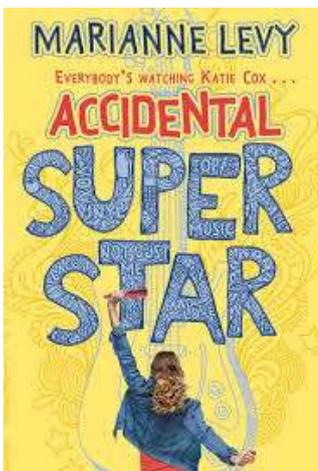


Championship. Saskia continued to sail competitively throughout her time at CCHS and, by the time she reached the 6th Form, she had moved out of her Optimist and into the bigger Laser Radial and whilst in Year 12 she became the Ladies Youth European Champion.

After CCHS, Saskia moved into her current boat, the 470 (two-man dinghy) and progressed to Olympic standard. Beijing 2008 was her first Olympics where, with Christina Bassadone, she came 6th. By 2011 Saskia was sailing with Hannah Mills and they continued to move up the international rankings, regularly achieving top 3 places at International Events and in 2012 winning their first World Championships. In the London 2012 Olympics Games they won Silver medal, narrowly missing the Gold. Over the past year Saskia and Hannah have won several International events and been ranked Number 1 in the Ladies 470 World Rankings.

### **Marianne Levy (1990-97)**

Marianne is the author of the *Ellie May* young fiction series for Egmont and a regular contributor to *The Independent on Sunday*. *Accidental Superstar* is her first novel for older readers which is a book about what happens when an ordinary girl's video goes viral. Before Marianne started writing, she was an actress and after graduating from Cambridge University she was in various TV shows, did some comedy on Radio 4 and made a brief appearance in the film *Ali G In Da House*, where she managed to forget both her lines. She then worked as a continuity announcer for Living TV, introducing, and getting obsessed with *America's Next Top Model*. She's been the voice of a leading brand of makeup, a shopping centre and a yoghurt.



She writes: “I wrote about my days getting the school bus for the Independent on Sunday and a lot of my experiences at CCHS made their way into *Accidental Superstar* - I'd be interested to see whether current students find any of it familiar.

“A lot has happened in the couple of decades since I took the bus to school from Chelmsford to Colchester. It was a 50 mile round trip and it made Lord of the Flies look like a spa break. So when I was searching for a scary landscape into which to plunge the heroine of my new teen-fiction novel, there was no need to conjure up a vampire-ridden dystopia; I just had to travel back 20 years in my own head. My entire focus was on self preservation. Culled from four very different schools and trapped together for around 15 hours every week, we formed a strange, uneasy society. There was the chubby boy, whose life we made a living hell, until he returned one September having apparently grown 4ft in six weeks. The sad-eyed wraith who did two hours' high-diving practice before arriving at the bus stop, smelling faintly of chlorine, a little after 7am. There were adults, of course, but they ignored us. The bus driver, occasionally called upon to intervene after a particularly brutal fight, would inevitably refuse to get involved, saying gloomily (and probably correctly), “I'm not paid enough for this.”

“And with all regular rules of behaviour suspended, things became very odd indeed. I have a vague memory of two of the boys telling us they were going to hold up an off-licence. That night, they did. We never saw them again. After a week or two it was as if they'd never existed. But I do recall with perfect clarity one girl setting light to a strand of her hair, how it burnt up with a speed that left us all in shock. It was exhausting, the constant attack and defence, the emotional energy we'd expend on the most trivial arguments, the way any foodstuff might be turned into a missile. But then there were the first frosty mornings when we'd send our breath up in warm white plumes and pretend we were holding cigarettes, the secrets shared over a flaking Curly Wurly as the top deck emptied, the friendships so intense they burned.

“It was actually a lot worse than this, and far more revolting, but there's only so much you can put in something that people will read over brunch...”

Marianne now lives in London with her husband, daughter and a bad-tempered cat.

## Maureen Dore (McAree 1950-57)



Maureen was born in Colchester in 1939 and after leaving CCHS started her nursing training at Essex County Hospital in 1957. Three years later she was a staff nurse there and continued to train and work in many different areas of medical care. She married Robert Dore in 1964. She was a long-term supporter of the Cancer Charity "Hope for Tomorrow" which funded the state-of-the-art Mobile Chemotherapy Unit which was named 'Maureen' after her. She died in 2010.



Maureen's sister, Liz Burton, is *pictured left* with Liz's two sons, cutting the ribbon at the official launch of the Mobile Chemotherapy Unit on 19 July 2016. Christine Mills, MBE, Founder and Trustee of Hope for Tomorrow, said: "I'm delighted to name this MCU after Maureen Dore. She was a wonderful supporter of the charity. When we started in 2006, we set up a small project team that would meet to discuss how to design the world's first Mobile Chemotherapy Unit. The team consisted of medical staff, pharmacy, myself and Maureen Dore, who was a patient representative, and together we launched the world's first Mobile Chemotherapy Unit in Gloucestershire in 2007. Maureen supported the project for many years until she died, when she kindly left a legacy in her will for the Charity."

The Unit cost £260,000 to build and launch and will be visiting Tiptree, Clacton, Halstead and Stanway, with further locations being added as the service develops. Around 10 to 15 patients a day will benefit from the new mobile service.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

### GCSE Results 2016

Last year's impressive GCSE results were the best in the history of the school and this year's Year 11 girls have repeated the success. 88% of grades were at A/A\* and 98.5% of grades were at A\*/B with 52% of grades at A\* and this has been repeated with all 112 students achieving outstanding results in all subjects.

### A and AS Level Examination Results 2016

Another outstanding set of results! 50% of grades were at either A\* or A and there was a 100% pass rate with every student achieving a minimum of three A-level passes. Top performer was Erin Leahy, who achieved five A\*/As.



At least a quarter of the Sixth Form students joined CCHS from other schools, locally and from further afield. The supportive ethos of the school has ensured that all students have achieved excellent results.

### New School

CCHS is delighted to announce that the Secretary of State has approved its joint application to establish a new school in the Northern Growth Area of Colchester. The bid was made in partnership with two other successful, local schools: The Gilbert School and Manningtree High School.

The new school will be known as The Trinity College – to reflect the link between the three schools and the way in which the schools intend to use their knowledge and experience to secure the best possible standards of education, challenge and aspiration for children. The Headteachers of the three schools, Linda Exley,

Sally Morris and Gillian Marshall, announced that they were excited and proud to have been given this opportunity and felt that it was a fitting reflection of the strength of schools across Colchester.

The Trinity College will be made up of a two-form entry primary school together with a co-educational, five-form entry comprehensive secondary school. The details the opening will be confirmed after further talks with the Department for Education and the Essex Local Authority, in order to align with the Local Authority's 10 year plan for Colchester.

### **Proposed Sports Hall Development**

During the last ten years the school has been able to build the M School providing the latest music technology; practice rooms; a drama studio; maths classrooms and the I-Lab creativity space. With the generous support of parents and other donors they have been able to enhance sixth form areas; extend the PE facilities and provide a cover for the swimming pool. Government funds have been provided to replace the Crittall windows and last year it funded phase one of the school heating and pipework upgrade with further funding made available in the summer of 2016 for phase two to include the replacement of all toilets. The school now intends to make a bid for development funding but needs to match government funds and raise £500,000 to show commitment and confidence in these exciting projects. They would also like to build new PE facilities, lecture theatre and upgrade IT.

### **Marianne Levy - Author Visit**

This week, the lower school was treated to a visit by Marianne Levy, who was a former student at CCHS. After leaving school Marianne became an actress for ten years, but frequently received poor manuscripts and became so frustrated that she began writing her own stories. Marianne talked to students about her latest teenage novel '*Accidental Super-star*' which tells the story of Katie Cox who unintentionally becomes famous after a video of her singing goes viral. During the discussion Marianne spoke passionately about how she builds a story and where her ideas come from. Students impressed her with their vivid imaginations when asked to come up with their own building blocks for their stories. They asked many searching questions about the theory of writing and the practicalities of being a children's author. The day was full of storytelling and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone taking part.  
(See also News of Old Girls)

### **Routes into Languages Spelling Bee**

In April 2016, about 75,800 Year 7 students from all over UK entered the "Routes into Languages Spelling Bee" Competition for French, German and Spanish. Theebiga Sivasatkunanathan, Diay Rolly and Ozzadeh Tajalli made the semi-final in the Regional Competition. Ozzadeh came 2nd and was one of the 4 finalists to represent the Eastern Region in the National Competition. On 1st July 2016 at the Anglia Ruskin University, she competed against 25 other candidates and won the National Final for French.

### **Intermediate Biology Olympiad Competition**

The Royal Society of Biology held the first Intermediate Olympiad in June for Year 12 biologists. Ten CCHS students were selected to participate (Elena Edmondson, Emily Dowding, Katherine Lungley, Maria Makris, Mati McCain, Sudhruthi Paparaju, Abi Read, Eliza Ridley-Johnson, Simran O'Shea, and Megan Zaman). The questions asked were all multiple choice based on topics in GCSE and AS, from calculations to biological processes. These were challenging but owing to the differences between exam boards they also faced questions requiring them to apply their knowledge on topics new to them. All ten received awards: 3 highly commended, 4 bronze and 3 silver medals. Medal winners were invited to attend the prestigious annual awards ceremony in London at the Royal Institution in July.

### **Training Session with World -Class Netball Stars**

Lizzie Finch recently had the unique opportunity to be coached by some of the best netballers in the world. She was one of only 25 girls from across the country to be selected as 'ACE' players at the International Netball Roadshow. 'ACE' is awarded to players who, in the eyes of the coaches, showed the most enthusiasm, teamwork, helpfulness and the best Attitude, Commitment and Eagerness to learn. The prize for being named an ACE player was to spend a day being coached by three England netball players at

Wycliffe College, Gloucestershire. The three star players who took the training session were Karen Atkinson MBE - current Loughborough Lightning Head Coach and former England Captain, Sara Bayman - current England Captain and Manchester Thunder player, and Laura Malcolm - current England and Manchester Thunder player. Lizzie reports that "It was a brilliant and fun packed day!"

### **Jack Petchey Foundation**

This a charity which recognises the positive attitudes and contributions young people make to their schools and the local community in London and Essex. It also supports clubs and societies for young people both in and out of school. CCHS runs the Achievement Award Scheme to a very high standard and has been awarded a special plaque which is now displayed in the foyer at the school. They have nine annual awards of a badge, certificate and £200 to recognise those who help provide opportunities for others. Each month students, parents and staff can nominate candidates and the winners are decided by the Student Council and presented with their awards in school assembly. The money can then be spent on any item of the students' choice, provided that students within the school benefit in some way.



Jack Petchey came from a disadvantaged East End background but became one of the most successful businessmen in Britain. The Jack Petchey Foundation was formed and has since donated over £50 million to youth programmes recognising: "Extreme endeavour and helping young people to help themselves."

Please see The Jack Petchey website for further details [www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk)

### **The iLab (innovation laboratory)**

This is a specially designed area where students and others are taken out of their usual learning and working environment into a space designed to encourage creative, critical and ingenious thinking. ILabs were originally thought up by the Royal Mail to help their management teams brainstorm future possibilities; this was so effective that other organisations, universities and schools have developed the concept of the iLAB.

The iLab at CCHS has two rooms, one a break out area with bright inspiring colours, thinking toys and tools and the second has 18 computer stations with dedicated software, floor to ceiling white board walls, changeable light colours and ability to play music to create the right atmosphere. The software enables users to add ideas simultaneously and anonymously allowing everyone to have an equal voice. The white board walls allow creative idea sharing and the ability to expand easily on others' ideas. The bright colours and toys allow the recapture of the childhood imagination through fun while addressing real issues and focusing the energy on educational activities. The iLab within the school is used by all subjects for revision, debates, designing, problem solving and planning and development. Other users include the Student Council that utilize all aspects of the iLab including the brainstorming methods and anonymous voting to achieve their goals.

### **Colchester Teacher Training Consortium**

CCHS has recently been designated as the Lead School in the Colchester Teacher Training Consortium (CTTC) which comprises 14 secondary and 40 primary schools.

The Consortium offers Primary and Secondary School Direct Programmes, leading to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), including credits at Masters level validated by the University of Greenwich (originally Avery Hill Teacher Training College). The consortium trains over 50 student teachers every year. The programme is based in and run by schools with the aim of providing an effective training environment, where trainees can learn from best practice. The wide variety of schools involved means that trainees can experience a range of diverse and exciting experiences and opportunities. A very high proportion of trainees gain employment in the partner schools each year.

## EVENTS



Since the last newsletter we have had three functions. The AGM at the School in July, which was attended by 30 members, was followed by lunch and an opportunity to socialise afterwards. At rather short notice we organised a Chinese Lunch at the Bamboo House in Military Road, Colchester, and 13 members were able to come. Everyone enjoyed the experience and we hope to offer this venue again next year. The final event was the annual Garden Party (*picture left*) at Liz White's house in Lexden Road.

Nearly 40 members and guests attended – the weather was great, as usual – and we are grateful to Liz for the use of her garden and her catering expertise.

I have already sent out invitations to a Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 18th October, to be held at Grey Friars. I need replies by 8th October for this event. Also included in my letter were details of Lunch at the Balkerne Restaurant, Colchester Institute, on Wednesday, 23rd November. I need a cheque and a menu choice for this by 29th October.

I don't know when this newsletter will be mailed, but I have sent out more than 70 invitations to members on my list. If anyone has not received an invitation and wishes to come please ring me urgently on Col 579688.

Jean Johnson

**REPLY SLIP - Please delete as appropriate**

Please return to: Tina Powell  
35 Wavell Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7HR  
Tel: 01206 561816  
e-mail: cchs\_oga@yahoo.com

Make all cheques payable to: CCHS Old Girls' Association

**Colchester Events**

I would like to be included in the local Colchester Events mailing list.

Name ..... Maiden Name .....

Address .....

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

e-mail: ..... Tel: .....

Years at CCHS: from ..... to .....

*Please send to Jean Johnson, 10 Landseer Road, Colchester, CO3 4QR or call on 01206 579688*

**NEWSLETTERS**

I wish to have the CCHS Newsletters e-mailed to me. My details are included on the "NEWS for inclusion" slip below. (Alternatively, email Tina Powell direct with your details)

I wish to receive printed copies of the Newsletter and enclose my annual payment of £2.50. (If we do not receive this payment we will assume you no longer wish to have the Newsletter posted to you and will take your name off the list.)

**NEWS for inclusion in the next Newsletter**

Please write any news of Old Girls or Staff overleaf. With today's litigious society it is important to obtain the necessary consent for its inclusion! Maiden names and dates at school are useful!

Name ..... Maiden Name .....

Address .....

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

e-mail: ..... Tel: .....

Years at CCHS: from ..... to .....