

Cloisters

No. 7 Autumn 2015

An All-Steinway School!

Richard West, Director of Music at LES talks us through the process of becoming an All Steinway establishment and what it means for the Schools.

23rd September 2015 will live long in the memories of many, as it was the day we took delivery of 23 brand new pianos to the Music School, all Designed by Steinway. Loughborough Endowed Schools are now one of only 175 establishments worldwide to hold All-Steinway School status, which sees us working in partnership with Steinway & Sons, makers of the world's finest pianos.

Over the past eighteen months, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of pupils, former pupils, parents, grandparents and friends of the Music School, who have helped and supported us in our fundraising appeal. Having planned to buy a new grand piano for the Recital Hall, we were amazed by the response to our appeal, which enabled us to go even further and provide new pianos throughout the Music School and beyond. We are extremely grateful to all donors, particularly the support given by the former Old Girls' Association, who have given so generously.



LES pupils try out their new pianos



Angela Brownridge delighting the audience

Steinway & Sons has been crafting pianos for over 160 years. With each grand piano taking nearly a year to create, they are renowned for their unsurpassed quality, superior sound and responsive touch. Two Model B and two Model AS grand pianos were carefully selected by staff who visited the Steinway factory in Hamburg to hand pick them. The remaining 19 are a selection of Steinway, Boston and Essex uprights.

It was quite a remarkable day: The first piano legs crossed our threshold at 8.11am under glorious morning sunshine, the final piano arriving in position in the Recital Hall a few hours later. To celebrate their arrival, we had commissioned a special piece of music for 23 pianos: 'Camera Obscura', written by British composer Matthew Forbes. It received its first ever concert performance in the recital hall in the presence of

invited guests. As part of the concert, internationally-renowned concert pianist and former Loughborough High School pupil, Angela Brownridge also gave a stellar performance of Debussy's Prélude from 'Pour le Piano'.

It was an honour to become one of only a handful of schools in the UK to offer its pupils exclusive use of the instruments. By becoming an All-Steinway School, we are demonstrating a tangible and unswerving commitment to nurturing the musical development of our current and future pupils, and achieving our ambitious aim of becoming a nationally-recognised centre of musical excellence. It also gives us access to a range of extraordinary benefits, including regular access to Steinway Hall in London, enabling our pupils to perform high profile recitals. We sail merrily into an All-Steinway future!

The Future



In June this year we held our final Old Girls' Association Annual General Meeting. After a long and proud one hundred year history of the Association supporting LHS Old Girls in fellowship, it was decided to join together with the Old Loughburians' Association to form a new Association.

A motion was passed to donate the remaining funds in the OGA accounts to LHS for the purpose of a bursary to be advised by Mrs Byrom.

It was recognised that today former pupils wish to receive joint news and combined fellowship. We were pleased to hear that so many of our members agreed and gave the motion to move forward to form the new Association, called 'The Loughburians'.

Over the years there are many who have given their time and commitment to the committee, who we would like to thank for their dedication.

The new Association is being formed, and if any former pupil of LES would like to join in and help us create a new committee, please contact the Development and Loughburians' Office to register your interest. In the first instance, please call Jane Harker on 01509 638922 or via email j.harker@endowedschools.org

The new committee will be reviewing the production of newsletters and magazines, but in the meantime, you will see news items on our website www.loughburians.com, or on our social media feeds, @loughburians (Twitter) and Loughborough Endowed Schools Alumni (Facebook).

We thank all of you for your past support, and look forward to you joining us in our brand new Association!

Class Reunions



Class of 1971 reunion



Class of 1995 reunion



Class of 2005 reunion



Class of 1989 reunion



Class of 2005 reunion



Class of 2005 reunion



Class of 1989 reunion

Loughborough Dinner 2016

We are excited to announce that the 2016 Loughborough Dinner speakers will be the Hayes family who own Champions (UK) Plc, one of the country's leading brand agencies combining seven in-house departments: PR, Marketing, Creative, Celebrity, Events, After Dinner Speakers and Music & Entertainment.

CEO John Hayes runs the company and his five children, Matthew, Louisa, Sophia, Roxanna and

Jack, all hold key roles at the brand agency. All former pupils at Loughborough Endowed Schools, their education has had a major influence on the success they are now enjoying.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fantastic event on Saturday 19th March.

You will shortly receive an invitation by post, but nearer the time you will also be able to view details of the event on our website www.olaoga.co.uk.



'The Hayes family welcomes Rushcliffe MP Ken Clarke at the opening of their new offices earlier this year.'

Future Events

NOVEMBER

Thursday 19th

The Loughburians drinks in Leeds

DECEMBER

Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th

Christmas Carol Concert & Tableaux

Archives open afternoons each day

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

JANUARY

Saturday 30th

Oxbridge Dinner, Pembroke College, Oxford

MARCH

Saturday 19th

Loughborough Dinner, LES

APRIL

Wednesday 13th

Class of 1958 Annual Lunch, Longcliffe Golf Club

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 24th

Class of 1974 reunion

Were you in this year group or do you know others who were? Please contact using the details below if you are interested in attending this reunion

For more details on any of these events, please see the Loughburians website: www.loughburians.com
email: events@loughburians.com
or call the Development & Loughburians' Office on 01509 638920

News of Old Girls

Billie Bhatia (2001-8) was featured in ELLE magazine's July issue when the editor read her blog. (www.fromfattofitbillie.blogspot.co.uk) After an internship at the publication, she now works as a Fashion Assistant for ELLE.



Ellie Taylor (2004-11) has gained a First in Food Science and Nutrition from Leeds University. She plans to go travelling for two months before starting work as a Food Technologist with Sainsbury's.



Annabel Blake (2008-12) is about to begin a two month stint as a part-time intern for MP Alistair Carmichael; she has also secured a permanent part-time position as a researcher & assistant for Baroness Jane Bonham Carter.



Daisy-Alys Vaughan who left LHS in 2014, is studying Ancient History & Archaeology at Newcastle University. She recently discovered a rare piece of rock crystal Roman jewellery, thought to have been from a ring dating from the 2nd or 3rd century.



Daisy-Alys Vaughan with her rare find!

**You are invited to
The LHS
Carol Service
on Monday 7th
& Tuesday 8th
December at
7.00pm.**

Please request a ticket(s) by emailing a.cox@leshigh.org (please write 'carol service' in the subject line), by telephoning 01509 283801 or by writing to the address below, clearly stating: your name, address, contact telephone number and the date you wish to attend. The School Secretary, Loughborough High School, Burton Walks, Loughborough, LE112DU.

Why not come and join us at one of our archive open afternoons? Please let the Development Office know which day you wish to attend by calling on 01509 638920.

Dorothy Lesley Hale

Dorothy Lesley Hale, known as Lesley, attended LHS from 1938 - 1944. She died on September 14th aged 88. Lesley was at the High School for much of the War, leaving for Birmingham University to study Law. When she qualified she went on to work for Kingsford Dorman Solicitors in Lincoln's Inn and despite a busy professional life, volunteered regularly at Great Ormond Street hospital.

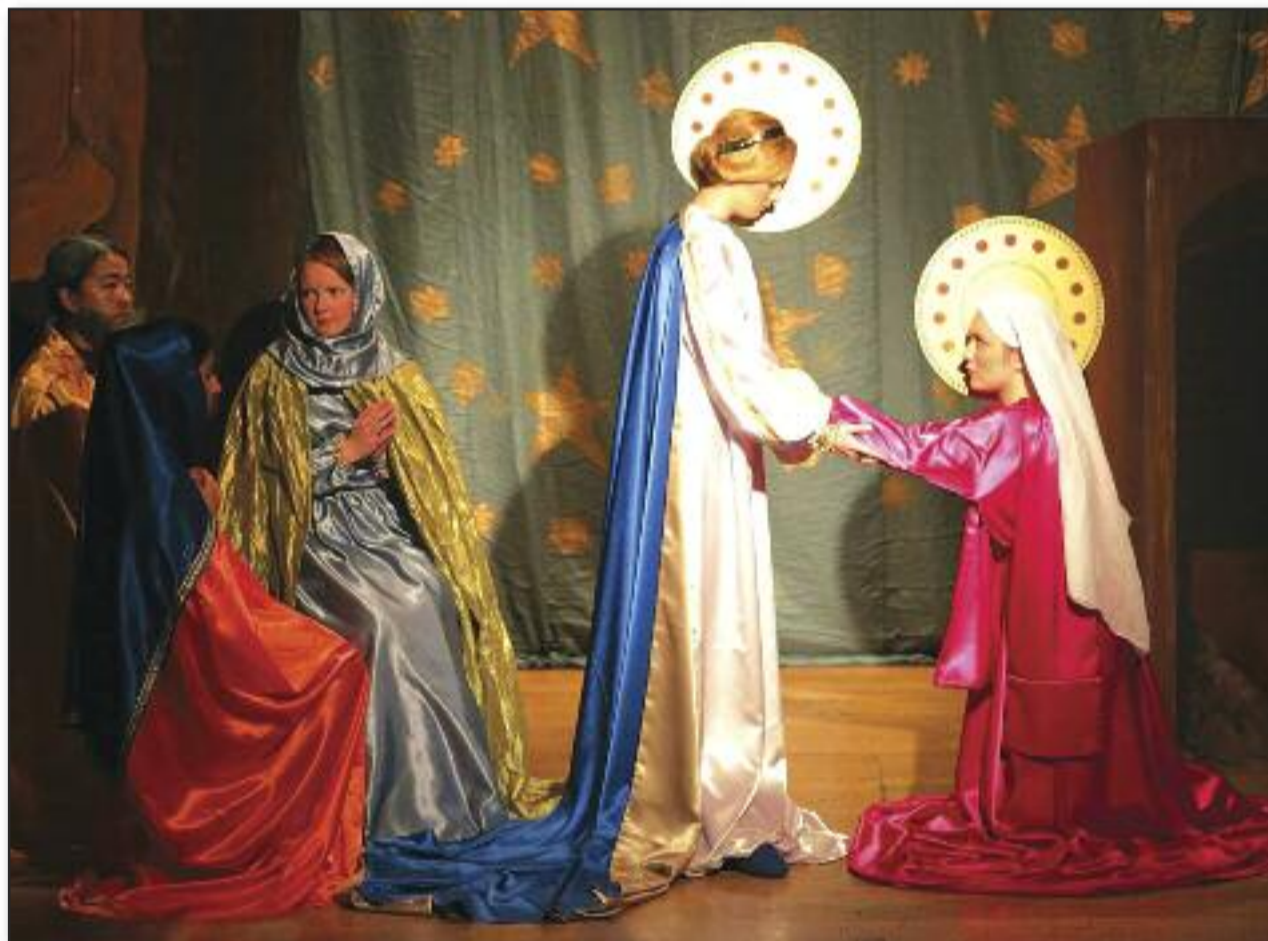
She retired early to look after her father, the Labour MP Leslie Hale, when he retired through ill health. She became an avid gardener at their London home and when she and her brother moved back to the East Midlands in 1987, she continued with that enthusiasm. She also became very closely involved in local history in Swannington, writing a book about 1898 Whitwick Colliery disaster called Banded Together.



She will be much missed by family and her many friends.

*Nicola Clarke (1969-76),
Lesley's god-daughter*

LHS Tableaux: A Change of Scene



We know that so many of you have such fond memories of taking part in and watching the tableaux as part of the LHS Christmas carol concert – it really is an unusual and fantastic element of our Christmas celebrations. It was for this reason that the Old Girls' Association felt it was fitting to agree to sponsor a new tableau scene – The Visitation by Lorenzo Monaco. As of last year it replaced the 'Madonna and the infant Jesus' tableau.

After a 28 year commitment to the tableaux, teachers Shari Henson and Megan Reilly found it difficult to let such a poignant scene go, but after much thought and consideration it was agreed that 'The Visitation' scene was far better suited to telling the Christmas story. After months of designing and creating this piece, it was ready to be revealed to the audiences last year, who received it warmly and were left in a familiar state of awe and wonder upon viewing this LHS festive favourite!

Christina Elton (current LHS year 13 pupil)

Our Lady's Convent School Joins LES!

Our Lady's Convent School in Loughborough has joined the Loughborough Endowed Schools Foundation as the fourth independent school.

Foundation secretary and treasurer, Jim Doherty, said: "We have always enjoyed an excellent relationship with our neighbours at Our Lady's Convent School.



"By bringing all the independent schools in Loughborough into one organisation, that relationship can be developed further to broaden our educational and extra-curricular offering for children of all ages.

Each school within the LES Foundation will retain its own distinct ethos and style."

Memories of LHS in the 80s

Joanna Barnden, author and former pupil of LHS, shares with us her memories of the School

This autumn I will be coming back to LHS for my gang's 25-year reunion. It's almost impossible to believe that a quarter of a century has passed, as that time still feels so vivid. 5 years ago we met up at our 20-year reunion, many of us for the first time since leaving with our A-level results still fresh in our hands, but it was as if we'd never been away. We all recognised each other immediately and swore we hadn't changed a bit - until, that is, we saw the fresh-faced sixth-formers kindly showing us around and had to admit that perhaps we were slightly more lined! The point was, though, that we still felt like the same schoolgirls we'd had such fun being and that got me thinking about some key memories from LHS.

I was in the infamous 'grey' tableau cursed - due to my height - to be the priest with all the hair! There were lots of us in that particular tableau and it all went well until, towards the end of what is quite a long reading, I broke wind! Needless to say we all got the giggles but we couldn't show it, frozen before the whole school including the then terrifying headmistress Miss Harvatt. As soon as the curtain shut we collapsed in giggles that I fear could be heard all around the hall. Quite a disgrace!



Joanna as the priest in the tableau, with friends Catherine (surname unknown) and Rachael Smith.

I vividly recall my Duke of Edinburgh expedition - it didn't go well. We had been coached by a wonderful older lady in the essentials of hiking and her key message had been that we should be prepared to "use our gumption". So, when we came across a path that had been closed due to subsidence, we duly applied said 'gumption' and took to the road instead. Since taking the road was 'cheating' our teachers sent us back into the fields; we were chased by a very frisky herd of cows and had to make a run for it - huge rucksacks bobbing on our backs - and leap a stone wall to safety. That evening, we capped off our poor performance by proceeding to light our stove upside down. Our food remained resolutely cold whilst the grass beneath was singed into non-existence!

I remember the first ever Comic Relief day in 1988 when we all came to school in costume (I'm the Brownie, though given I was 16 I've no idea how I fitted into the outfit). The English block was newly built then and we played 'Keats in the Cupboard' - holding the entire lesson, with a very game teacher, inside a cupboard in one of the classrooms right at the top of the building.



Joanna and her friends, Red Nose Day 1988.

Our favourite lesson was history because Mrs Armstrong - a teacher we were all hugely fond of - was wonderfully easy to distract into a discussion on 'why university is the greatest marriage market in the world'. Looking back, I learned a huge amount about the Tudors from both her and our other teacher, Miss Morris, and it is to them that I must largely credit the love of history that has led to me becoming a historical novelist. She can't, therefore, have been that easily distracted but taking her off on a tangent was a challenge that we all loved.



Mrs Henson and Mrs Richardson, Red Nose Day 1980s.



We also loved the sixth form common rooms, although I remember us all thinking there was something wrong with us a week or so into Lower Sixth because we kept needing the loo. We were convinced we had some terrible mass infection until we realised that we were just all busily making tea and coffee at every break in our much-prized little kitchen. The Upper Sixth common room was even more enjoyable, mainly because we could climb out of the window onto the street in free periods, something I'm sure the teachers must have known about, but we got away with it all the same.



Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Smith, Red Nose Day 1980s.

Despite the exams and the inevitable squabbles, being at LHS was a very happy time for me. It was there that I cemented my love of both history and English and set myself on the road to where I am now. I'm very grateful for my time there and am really looking forward to the 25-year reunion, however scarily old that makes me!

I am greedy with names - I was Joanna Gibb at school, my married name is Joanna Barnden and now I have a pen name too - Joanna Courtney. My first novel, *The Chosen Queen*, is published by Pan Macmillan and is the opening book of my *Queens of the Conquest* trilogy about the long-forgotten queens of 1066.

Joanna Barnden (was Gibb; 1987-1991)

Could you contribute to future newsletters?

Memories, a book review, tales of travels, career choices, opinion pieces...whatever you have to say, we want to hear it!

Please direct any comments or contributions to: Laura Dickinson Email: oganews@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07478 276 128 or 01509 881 095 or Write: 114 Main Street, Willoughby on the Wolds, Leics. LE12 6SZ

To change the way you receive the newsletter, contact the Development & Loughburians' Office on 01509 638920 or via enquiries@loughburians.com