

The Newsletter of the Old Girls' Association

Cloisters



No. 4 Spring 2014

An LHS Friendship: 60 years and counting!

In 1953, after 6 years of friendship and adventure, Joan Hancock and Margaret Morris waved goodbye to LGHS (as they refer to it) and hello to the world of work, marriage and motherhood. Despite the different directions in which their lives took them, the two women remained firm friends and coincidentally both now live in the USA. Both Margaret (now Marr) and Joan (now Davis) acknowledge the great impact their time at LHS had on their lives, which is why they decided to return in September 2013 - a celebratory trip to mark 60 years since they left!

The first day of school was terrifying - there were so many girls

Margaret Marr

The years I spent at LGHS were ones of rigid structure and rules to a young girl. However life at home was the same and I can honestly say the experience of my formative years had a major effect on my adult life. The first day of school was terrifying - there were so many girls; I was from a small village school and I needed a friend. One girl came up to me and said, "I think I have seen you somewhere." That girl was Joan Hancock and to this day we are friends!



Margaret and Joan outside the School's main entrance, 2013.

to join my class in the Hall in the mornings because of the noise I made! The highlight of my years at LGHS was the Pageant to celebrate one hundred years of the school.

Joan

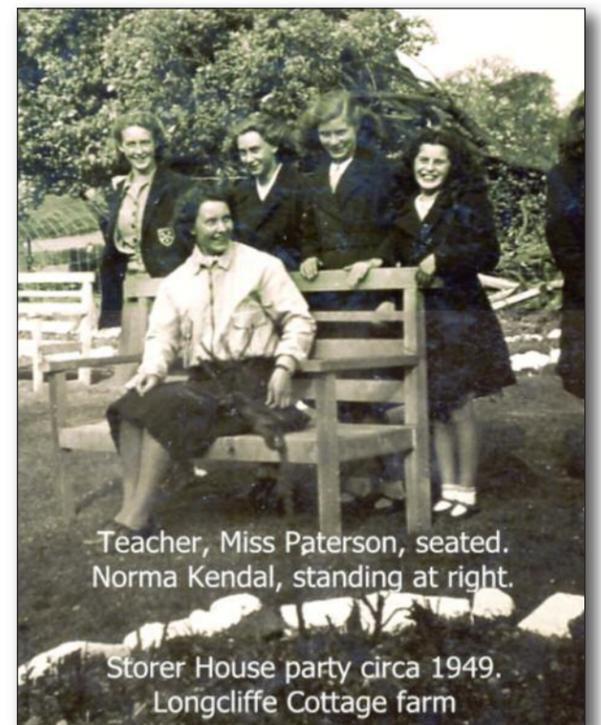
I remember the Carol Service that first year as I was in one of the tableaux. I wore a brown tunic and I sat on the floor of the stage, looking into the stage lights and trying not to blink! I was thrilled to learn on our visit last year, that the Carol Service and the tableaux are still part of the Christmas season at the school. In my final year, I received a prize for Domestic Science. I chose 'Mrs Beeton's All About Cookery' but it was out of stock when Prize Giving came along. It eventually arrived after I had left school and Miss Woodward sent it to me with a little note:- "Here it is at last !! Don't poison anyone off when you try the recipes out! Love to you, MW" followed by a little stick man. I still have the book and the note!

Margaret

After LGHS I worked in Loughborough Public Library and in 1958 married Alexander Marr, an engineering graduate of the college - as the university was called in those days - and we moved to Lincoln. In 1959 our daughter Marya was born and soon after our sons Alexander and Jerome arrived. 1966 brought a new, life-changing experience: we emigrated to California and we

lived there until my husband retired, moving to Washington State in 2002.

During our years in California, I did not work outside our home but I was busily occupied as a volunteer assistant librarian at the various schools which our children attended. I was also involved with Girl Scouts (Guides). Now we are retired and we travel. Through all these years Joan and I have maintained our friendship.



Teacher, Miss Paterson, seated.
Norma Kendal, standing at right.

Storer House party circa 1949.
Longcliffe Cottage farm

Joan

I went to work in the Midland Bank in Loughborough and later London. After my marriage to David Davis, an engineering graduate from the College, I stayed at home to look after our two children, Mark and Jill. We spent the majority of our years in the Gloucestershire/Worcestershire area and later I returned to some part time work and also voluntary work with the St. John's Ambulance Service. In 1997 we made a dramatic move to Pennsylvania U.S.A. (with the help of David's employer) as by that time we had decided we would like to retire to Florida.

We enjoy our life out here and I have been surprised that I have met a couple of other old LGHS girls

We enjoy our life out here and I have been surprised that I have met a couple of other old LGHS girls. Margaret and I have remained friends through all these years, visiting each other's homes and meeting up on holidays as far away as Australia.

Who would have believed where our lives would lead us all those years ago!

Margaret Marr (was Morris) and Joan Davis (was Hancock); 1947-53

LHS Teachers Circa 1948 or 49



Miss Paterson
Geography

Miss Ward

Miss Vickers

Joan Davis

Entering LGHS in September 1947, Britain was still recovering from the ravages of the war. My life was very family orientated, being one of five children, but I was the only one to go LGHS so it was a very timid young girl who entered the School on that first day.

Margaret

My most vivid and frequently recalled memory is my Lower Fourth year. I spent many weeks in Harlow Wood orthopedic hospital and when I returned to school, both legs were encased in thick heavy plaster-of-Paris casts. I could not tread softly into a classroom or the Hall; in fact I was told not



LHS Form Lower V W 1950-51

A Note from Miss Harvatt

Miss Julien Harvatt spent 24 years as Headmistress at Loughborough High School, from 1978 - 2001. Here she writes about her memories of life at LHS and gives an insight into life beyond headship...

After twenty four years in post at Loughborough High School the thought of retirement was painful. I had enjoyed thoroughly most of my years of headship - a role which was full of interest, challenge, variety and unremitting hard work.

When I began my tenure at the school I felt like the 'juvenile lead'. Governors were (or so it seemed to me) twice my age and many members of staff were very senior in years. When Miss Rizzo, the much revered Head of English, held the door open for me I felt uncomfortable; I felt the world was rather unreal. All too rapidly the years rolled by and I became a more mature member of the team.

Headship in my near quarter of a century changed considerably. The policy-pushing era took over and the way of leading a team became very different. I have to confess that my main love was being involved with people - adults and pupils - rather than having to be an administrator. Things do need to change but it is not always easy to change oneself. My sister, who knew how much I loved my role and the school, said more than once, "You'll never leave that school" and my reply was, "Yes, when the moment arrives, I shall know when to leave".

I retired in December 2001 and since then life has become completely different. I miss the daily, hourly contact with members of the school and miss very much being at the centre of activity and planning, seeing things work or thinking how best to revamp things when ideas were clearly wrong. There are, however, many



'Miss Harvatt speaking on the occasion of Miss Rizzo's retirement' .

things I do not miss! It is lovely to go to the theatre, to a concert, to a lecture and not worry about a stacked in-tray on my return. I do not miss matters to do with Health and Safety - but perhaps it is best to say no more in this respect!

It is most rewarding to have the time to pursue new interests and to further real passions. I have tried to educate myself in modern art and have been thrilled to pursue my keen interest in opera, theatre, and music. I have continued to travel on numerous European visits, which have given me great pleasure. I have derived much

enjoyment from attending NADFAS (the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) lectures and from chairing for seven years the Sheffield Museums Society, which has enabled me to extend my knowledge of local history.

I have enjoyed thoroughly visits from old girls and their parents and staff

What has been especially pleasing is to be able to renew contact with family and friends in and around Sheffield, and to continue to have contact with so many friends, staff and former pupils from school. I have enjoyed thoroughly visits from old girls and their parents and staff, and would be delighted to welcome them to my home. Do continue to visit: it is always really lovely to see you so do keep in touch. Another avenue in this respect has been opened up by attending many year reunions at LES; I am always struck by the fact that the former students I meet are (a) in employment and (b) happy and fulfilled - no mean feat in this age of prolonged austerity.

As I garden, and try to complete household tasks, as I carry out the mundane daily domestic duties, I so often think of life at LHS. I miss you all but am very content with retirement - long may this continue.

Julien Harvatt; Headmistress 1978-2001

If you would like Julien's contact details, please get in touch with us using the contact details for Laura Dickinson, on the back page.

Christine Todd D of E Champion!



Christine, Phil Brown (Regional Director of Central England DofE), Catherine Hitchen (LHS DofE Coordinator)

Current LHS staff member Christine Todd has been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) within the school since 1982. Many of you will remember her in this capacity, as well as in her role as Head of Sixth Form and as a member of the Science Department.

At St. James' Palace, in October, the Duke of Edinburgh himself presented Christine with a certificate for Long Service to the DofE Award. Christine says, "I was very surprised to learn of the Award - the first I knew of it was when Mrs Byrom announced it in assembly!

The nature of the Award means that Christine has enjoyed many memorable experiences over the years. "I won't forget following a group up to their wild camp site in the Lake District and

seeing a flock of wild geese at sunset on Angle Tarn or accompanying groups to Ecuador and Morocco, where I was able to experience very different cultures."

Christine remembers fondly the late Mrs Sally Pillinger, whose inspiration it was to set up the DofE scheme at the High School. She would no doubt be very proud to hear that LHS is now a Directly Licensed Centre, one of only 30 in the country, who have been given the responsibility of administering the award from the School.

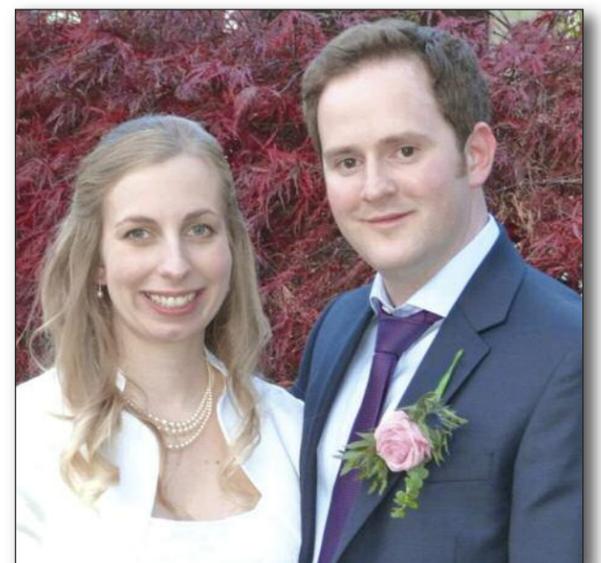
Catherine Hitchen, the LHS DofE Coordinator would love to hear stories and anecdotes from Old Girls about their DofE experiences. Please email her c.hitchen@leshigh.org

News of Old Girls

By taking part in The Moonwalk Scotland's "Over The Moon Challenge" on 7th June 2014, Clare Burnett (was Wynn; 1990-97) is hoping to raise at least £500 for Walk the Walk, a grant-making charity supporting various projects and campaigns involved with breast cancer. You can read more about her training for the 52.4 mile walk, at <https://multichallenges2014.everydayhero.com/uk/clare-burnett>



Katie Morris-Stych (was Morris; 1992-99) married Steven Stych in November 2012 and their beautiful baby son, George, was born last year. Katie and Steven are now living in Leicestershire where they run a Psychology company, Purple House Psychology (www.mypurplehouse.co.uk).



'Katie and Steven on their wedding day in 2012'

Katie enjoys seeing old school friends regularly, and tells us congratulations are due to both Joanna Gas (was Chandler; 1992-99) and her husband Tim, and Julie Paillin (1992-99) and her partner Neil, on the arrival of their new babies Edward and Elizabeth!

Journey to Zambia, 1964: The Big Ship Way!

Frances Banbury (was Johnson) attended the High School from 1954-59 and was at Fairfield before that. Here she recounts the remarkable journey she, her husband and baby son took from Southampton to Zambia, in 1964.

One chilly morning in February, 1964, my husband Michael, our 8-month old son David and I said goodbye to family and friends, boarded the boat train to Southampton and set off on what was to become a most exciting year, living in Zambia where Michael was to work in one of the mines on the Copperbelt. First though, we had to get there, and we were to travel by sea to Cape Town on the RMS Windsor Castle, the flagship of the Union Castle Line.

*We waved and waved
until they were just tiny
specks on the quayside*

Our mothers came to see us off and were allowed on board until it was time for the ship to leave. We waved and waved until they were just tiny specks on the quayside. It was upsetting, knowing it would be more than a year until we'd see them again.

Our first port of call was Madeira, where local rowing boats pulled up alongside and men dived for coins while others displayed handmade baskets and beautiful embroidered items for sale. The following day we reached Gran Canaria; a friendly taxi-driver acted as our guide and showed us not only the town of Las Palmas but also banana plantations and vineyards, (which we'd never seen before), finally climbing a hill so that we could look down into the crater of an extinct volcano. There were masses of beautiful flowers everywhere and it seemed as if every house had a cage of canaries on its balcony. David was a great hit with everyone and was made a big fuss of by the Spanish women.

By this time we were getting used to looking after David on the ship. There was a playroom and nursery for the children; he was a very easy baby and quickly settled into his new routine. Half-way through the voyage news came through that the Queen had had a baby, Prince Edward. The

Commodore made a speech and we all toasted the Queen and her baby with champagne.

A very different life

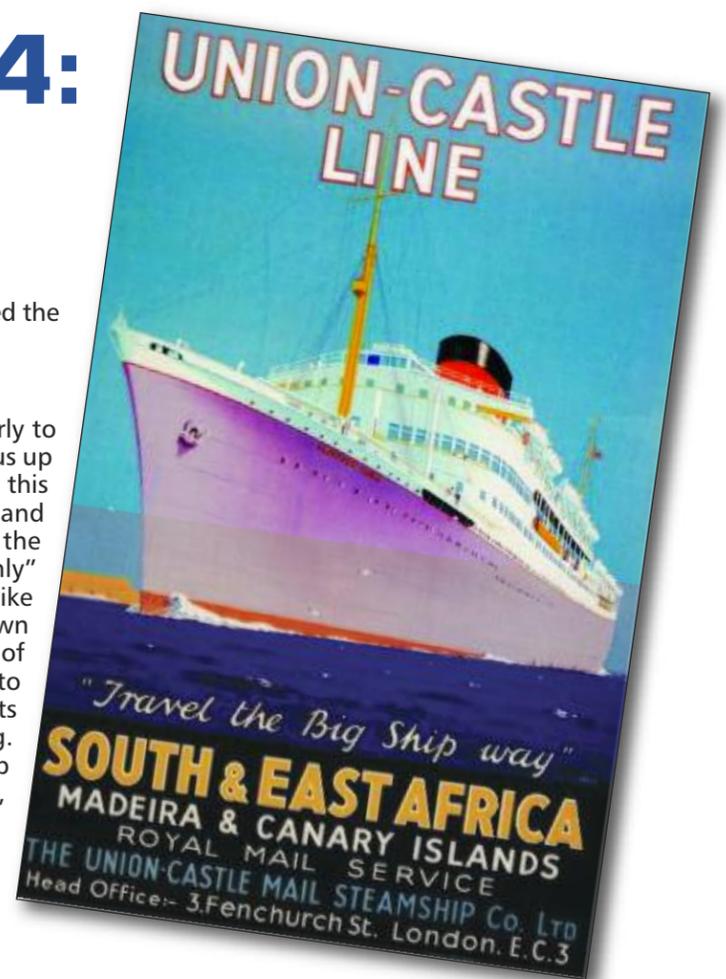
The following day Michael and I were up early to watch our arrival into Table Bay. A train took us up to Northern Rhodesia (as it was then called); this was our first and only experience of black and white segregation, with the seats on the platform and the toilets having "whites only" marked on them. The countryside was unlike anything we had seen before. From Cape Town we passed through the wine-growing region of the Hex River Valley, and climbed 4,000 ft to scrubland, occasionally broken by settlements and towns such as Kimberley and Mafeking. We watched Africans herding goats, sheep and cattle, saw large anthills everywhere, weaverbird nests in the trees and passed villages of round mud huts.

*Children begged for
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animals and necklaces
made of beans*

As we travelled through the Karoo Desert in Bechuanaland (later renamed Botswana), the whole village turned out each time the train slowed or stopped. Children begged for sweets and adults produced beautiful, carved animals and necklaces made of beans. Unfortunately, we had little room in our luggage for any extras and contented ourselves with some necklaces.

Our new home

The following day we were up early to see the Victoria Falls, before the train chugged slowly through the bush towards Ndola. Our home was to be in Mufulira, a mining town about 40 miles away. Someone from the mining company met us at the station and took us to our temporary accommodation - a furnished bungalow where tea and sandwiches had been left for us. In the next few days we bought a very nice 1958 Ford Zephyr for which we paid £300, and a pushchair for David. Shortly afterwards we moved into a bungalow with a large garden where we lived for



the next year. During that time we made many friends - both British and South African - visited game parks and experienced Northern Rhodesia becoming the independent nation of Zambia. Finally, at the end of our stay, we travelled over to Mozambique, where we embarked on another ship for the journey home through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, but that's another story....

Frances Banbury (was Johnson); 1954-59



'Michael and Frances today'

The Loughborough Dinner 2014

120 guests attended the Dinner in March, and for us Old Girls this was a particularly memorable year for several reasons. During an early evening drinks reception, we had the pleasure of listening to the music of current LHS pupil and harpist, Emma de Salis Young; we pass on our heartfelt thanks to her. Jane Matthews (OGA Chair) then presented a wonderfully decorated cake to celebrate 100 years of the OGA, which put us all in a celebratory mood!

After getting to know our fellow guests over a delicious meal, we were very excited to welcome as our speaker 2002 leaver Rachel Parris (whom we featured in our Autumn 2013 issue). She entertained us greatly, and even provided us with an unexpected musical

Jess Cole, Rachel Parris and Penny Armstrong



Richard Staff, Sarah Staff, Lauren Beanland, Jess Cole, Fiona Walker and Leanne Hill



interlude, which included a humorous look at the High School courtesy of the Village People and the YMCA!

The Loughborough Dinner 2014 wouldn't have been the success it was without the help of so many people: from the main organisers - OLs Andrew Baker & Neil Rowbotham, OG Laura Dickinson, and Hannah Wyatt in the Development Office - to Grammar School Deputy Headmaster John Weitzel, Helen North and the school catering team and Dave Evans who captured the evening on camera for posterity - thank you all!

Finally, thank you to all who attended. It is hugely rewarding to see old friends getting together, new friendships being made and to be in an environment where 120 people share a common bond.

Andrew Baker; LGS 1978-85 and Laura Dickinson; LHS 1992-99

THE WILD LIFE DOWN UNDER!

Hazel Stone lived in New Zealand for 8 years and worked at Orana Wildlife Park in Christchurch from 2006 until 2013. She attended LHS from 1991-1998.

We asked her to tell us about her life Down Under, and in particular, what she enjoyed about working at Orana Wildlife Park.

I loved Orana Wildlife Park when I visited it as a tourist; the Park is New Zealand's only open range zoo, which is one of the things I liked the most about it. Streams, moats and banks are used as natural barriers to allow visitors the opportunity to see the animals without cages.

Conservation is one of the Park's core missions and the name Orana is the Maori word for welcome or place of refuge. Orana is internationally recognised for its involvement in captive breeding programmes for endangered, exotic animals, as well as New Zealand's own rare fauna. Unlike most zoos here, it is not run by the local government, but is a charitable trust.

You don't have to know what you want to do with your life as soon as you leave school. After changing my mind about my degree course a couple of times, I graduated with a degree in Money, Banking and Finance. However, I found my part-time job teaching Maths to adult learners really rewarding, so I then trained to be a teacher. As I still wasn't sure teaching was what I wanted to do with my life, I decided to pursue another passion - travelling - and headed over to the other side of the world - New Zealand.

Living and working onsite at a wildlife park was not what was recommended to me by the careers counsellors I talked to over the years, but it has proven to be a very fulfilling career so far. I was so excited to see the job advertisement



for Trust Secretary and Functions Coordinator at the Park. I got the job thanks to the written test apparently - so thanks LHS for all that practice of writing business letters, which came flooding back! I was promoted to Communications Manager in 2007 before taking up my current post.

As a charitable trust, we are a small team and there is plenty of opportunity to undertake project work and to cross over into other areas. I cover administration, HR, accounts and fundraising but I have also organised functions from weddings to Twilight Safaris. I have been the poster girl for the Cheetah Encounter, helped create animal enclosure interpretation sign boards for the tigers, lions and keas (gregarious but endangered native alpine parrot) and had input on exhibit design. I have also travelled to Australia to take part in the Australasian Zoo and Aquarium Association conferences and was responsible for the programme and theme for the 2013 conference held in Dunedin (South Island, NZ).

Two years ago I moved into a cottage on site at Orana Wildlife Park. As one of the two residents I have to "zoo sit" every other night. It is awesome hearing the animal noises such as lions, gibbons and peacocks. My 'commute' consists of a two minute walk from my house to my office, past the otters, meerkats and porcupines - a far cry from the commute of some of my friends, who jam themselves onto the London Underground every day!

From a business point of view, I have had an experience that courses cannot buy. Orana Wildlife Trust had a good period of plenty and expansion. We were operating the Park, a local aquarium and took over the operation of a smaller zoo in another city.

However, in the last three years we have experienced over 13,000 earthquakes, 3 of which were significant and caused major damage to the city and our sites. The February 2011 earthquake changed operating conditions overnight. With the collapse of the city we lost all our overseas visitor income which, for a business that operates on gate-takings, meant big changes and a thorough and wide ranging 'get through' management plan. Our city centre aquarium was completely destroyed, but thankfully all my colleagues working there survived.



Hazel saying goodbye on her last day at Orana

Day-to-day life at the Park is never dull. You can be explaining your filing system to an auditor when you hear a call over the walkie-talkie to put the animal escape plan into action, or take a break from the office for half an hour to watch a giraffe being born. Other unplanned interruptions include anything from disgruntled visitors, to fire, flood and earthquakes.

Seven years on I still enjoy my lunchtime walk around the zoo; there is no typical day, but every day is a good day.

In October 2013, Hazel returned to the UK and now works at Kent's Wildwood Trust.

Hazel Stone; 1991-98, <http://www.oranawildlifepark.co.nz/>



The Lion Encounter at Orana

Get Online with the OGA!

Every girl who attends Loughborough High School becomes part of the School fellowship, which reaches across the years and around the world! It is now even easier to remain connected, by visiting our revamped OLAOGA website.

Support

When you visit www.olaoga.co.uk, registration is quick and easy. You then have access to a great range of exclusive material, including past OGA newsletters, fascinating photos from our archives and the new Professional Network.

By registering as a Mentor you can choose the kind of support you would be willing to provide; this might be one to one advice, work placement opportunities or speaking at a Careers Lecture.

Share

Our website is greatly enriched by the contributions of its members. Please do contact Robin Easom via email at lesdev@endowedschools.org and share with us your comments & suggestions, thoughts and recollections.

Ruth Parker

LES Development Office and OG; 2006-13

In other Development Office news...

Welcome to Jane and Robin!

Jane Harker

We welcome Jane Harker into the role of Head of Development & External Relations. Jane (was



Hawley; 1965-72) is an Old Girl of Loughborough High School and is the parent of a former LGS pupil, Thomas ('09). Jane is married to Richard Harker, who holds the post of Foundation and Schools' Accountant. Jane takes great delight in welcoming back alumni of all three Schools, and relishes the opportunity to hear stories of the past and experiences they share.

Robin Easom

Having thrown off his shackles and escaped the law (actually a career managing IT systems for solicitors'

firms) Old Loughburian, current Fairfield and past LHS parent Robin Easom lost his way walking back to the LES car park one morning and found himself in the Lodge. Impressed by the Development team personnel there and not wishing to cause offence he offered to stay and now finds himself helping with their membership databases and web presence, at least until they see through his bluff or he finds his car.

Future Events

May

Saturday 10th
Class of 1972 Reunion.

June

Saturday 14th
10 year reunion.

Saturday 28th

Class of 1969 Reunion.

Sunday 29th

OGA AGM and Al Fresco Garden Party

July

Saturday 12th
Robbie's Rugby

For more details on any of these events, please email: events@lesdev.org or call Hannah Wyatt 01509 638920

Could you contribute to the Cloisters newsletter?

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: 07734 176284 or 01509 881095 or Write: 114 Main Street, Willoughby on the Wolds, Leics. LE12 6SZ

To change the way you receive the newsletter, contact the Secretary, Jenny Woods lhsogasec@gmx.com