



# LOUGHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADMISTRESS

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MA

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Spring 2007

Dear Old Girls

Since I last wrote to you a lot has happened at school. As well as settling in to the new joint LES Music School and benefiting from its fabulous facilities we have just recently taken possession of our new Drama Studio and four new classrooms at LHS. These have been created out of the old music school and we hope that they will provide spacious accommodation for the English and Social Science departments. All the classrooms are equipped with new furniture, laptops, and data projectors. The Drama studio itself has been kitted out with retractable tiered seating (the generous gift of our Parents' Association) and lighting and effects box, as well as changing areas. All of this will benefit not only our talented group of AS Theatre Studies students but all the pupils in years 7-9 who now take Drama as part of the taught curriculum, in addition to those who take part in drama clubs and the annual House drama competition which is held at the end of the summer term.

We are currently looking forward to the official opening of the LES Music School, which will be named the Tomlinson Building, after the former chair of governors Philip Tomlinson who has served the schools tirelessly over the last years as a governor and who was the driving force behind the planning and building of this joint venture. The official opening will take place on Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, in charge of the Queen's music, and we hope that a full report of this will be available soon after on our web site which is currently in the process of being updated.

As hoped the new Music School has introduced new ideas to the campus for musical activities and the first of these was the enormously enjoyable joint concert held at Loughborough Town Hall last November. We are now looking forward to the joint choral concert of Vivaldi's Gloria which will be held at Loughborough Parish Church on Saturday 24 March at 7pm. The choir will include boys and girls from both schools as well as staff, old girls and boys, and parents. Anyone interested in attending this concert should contact Tania Moore at LES Music School about the availability of tickets. A joint ball to mark the opening of the building has been planned by the three parents' Associations and is already sold out.

Work is currently in process to examine the possibility of enhancing the science facilities at LHS and adding more labs and a more extensive prep area. So we hope that this will be the next important focus of development for the school which prides itself on its scientific reputation and success. However we are aware of the need to plan sympathetically, environmentally and as economically as possible so the project will take us time!

Away from the physical aspects of the school I am pleased to report that academically the school continues to thrive, with six students offered places for next year to study at Oxford and Cambridge and many others in receipt of offers to study at a range of universities in their chosen subjects.

The Y12 team which took part in the national Question Time competition, organised by the BBC in conjunction with the Question Time programme, has been very successful in reaching the final twelve teams (from over one hundred) and they will host their own version of Question Time on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> in the main school hall.

Similarly the school has enjoyed great success again in the national netball competition with three teams, the U14, U16, and the U18, reaching the national finals in Bournemouth on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is no small achievement for a

school rather than a netball club and demonstrates the determination, dedication and talent not only of the team players but also their coaches, our teachers.

Other events which have been enjoyed this term include the Y11 end of mock exams treat at Self Esteem day, where there was the opportunity to learn jewellery making skills, have beauty treatments, take part in salsa dancing and box-ercise, a visit to the Houses of Parliament escorted by our local MP, Andy Reed, for our Y12 politics group, numerous theatre trips for all ages, a visit to the Beth Shalom museum to meet a holocaust survivor, many charity events ranging from a Y8 disco to a talent contest, as well as the now traditional red rose delivery between the three schools for Valentine's Day in aid of Amnesty.

We have of course also been busy with the selection process for a new generation of Loughborough High pupils and it is especially good to have met so many old girls through recent months and weeks as they have attended Open Mornings, informal visits to the school and finally entrance exam day itself. I look forward to meeting them again in June at our induction day for new pupils and would urge them to get actively involved with the Old Girls' association which is always in need of new members who can give a little time and creative energy to the Committee and its activities. Please do not hesitate to contact either Jenny Woods (Secretary of the OGA) or me through the main administration office. We would be pleased to hear from you.

Finally I would really like to make another 'plug' for the old girls' website which currently is being updated. This is a fabulous opportunity but to make it really work it does require you to send in your news and information so that it can go on there, as well as details of any year group reunions you have planned. This information can be sent either in the form of snail mail or email to the school- [admin@loughhs.leics.sch.uk](mailto:admin@loughhs.leics.sch.uk) . We also urge you to send in any changes of addresses increasingly we are having mail returned to us from addresses on our data base. Ideally we would hope to be able to transfer to a mostly electronic form of communication with you to save on postage (but don't panic - this will not happen overnight and no-one will be missed out!).

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Committee for their hard work on numerous projects connected with the OGA and especially to Jenny Woods who spends a lot of time on the website and on updating information, an invaluable role.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Cope Boarders' Common Room. Please return the reply slip below, to Jenny Woods if you are able to join us.

As we have urged many times before please keep us up to date with your news and views.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Bridget A O'Connor  
Headmistress

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### Reply Slip

I would like to attend the AGM on Saturday June 30 at 5:00 in the Cope Boarders' Common Room.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Year left LHS \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the reply slip to Jenny Woods.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION**

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Please contact the **Secretary** of the Association by telephone or by post **with enquiries re membership or change of postal or email address:**

Mrs Jennifer Woods at 18 Gaddesby Lane, Rearsby, Leicestershire, LE7 4YJ. Telephone No. 01664 424393

Email : [jennifer.woods13@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.woods13@btinternet.com)

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**Dear Members,**

Belated greetings for the New Year from the OGA Committee. Once again a very warm thank you to our correspondents, but this is coupled with an earnest plea for more news to reach us by whichever route you choose, whether snail mail or email.

I have been asked by our secretary, Jenny Woods to urge you to keep her up to date with changes of address. Unfortunately there was a record number of returned letters last time, and at the end of the Newsletter is a list of members whom she is anxious to trace, so that they can continue to receive OGA mailings. Please let her know if you can help.

### **Births**

Congratulations and best wishes go to:

**Dr. Nina Islam (Kaitiff) (1983 – 1990)** and her husband Omar on the birth of their son, Aran Suleiman Chowdhury, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006. Nina will be returning to work in March as a partner in a General Practice in Plymstock, Devon.

**Charlotte Smith (Smith)(1976 – 1983)** and her husband Michael on the birth of Samuel, a brother for Madeleine, on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

### **Marriages**

Best wishes for their future happiness go to the following: **Linda Shephard (née Hall)** on her marriage to Nigel Cass on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Loughborough. Linda writes that she was thrilled that her three sons, Ben (17), Alex (15) and Will (12), gave her away. They all went on a delayed honeymoon during half-term to Sharm El Sheikh, where Ben and Alex became qualified Advanced Open Water Divers, and Nigel passed his Rescue Diver Course. Nigel and Ben also had the opportunity to dive the Thistlegorm Wreck, a World War II armament carrier, scuttled off the coast and still relatively intact, complete with motorbikes, armoured cars and chests of munitions. After that it was back to reality and a New Year – including the next meeting of the OGA Committee, of which Linda is a member.

**Sabina Sulemanji (1995 – 2002)** on her marriage in June 2006 to Mustansir. They have moved to Long Beach, Los Angeles, California and Sabina is very busy adjusting to life in America and making the most of the gorgeous weather, while naturally missing her family and friends. Sabina graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2005 and is now studying for a Masters in International Business and Finance from home. She says she has some spare time too, so would love to hear from any girls who were at LHS between 1995 and 2002. Her email address is: [s4bin4@hotmail.com](mailto:s4bin4@hotmail.com). Thanks to a swift email response, I received a further update from Sabina in which she mentions three visits to Las Vegas, and visits to the Universal Studios in L.A and to Florida. She and her husband have now moved to a bigger place in Long Beach so she's been decorating. Job-hunting looms, as she has just finished her Master's degree.

## Deaths

We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following:

**Mrs Joyce Cross (née Simon)**, who died in Sheffield on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2007, was a former member of staff from the late 1940s until her marriage in 1965. She was a valued colleague in the Modern Languages department, teaching French and German. Two of her friends and former colleagues were able to join the family at St. Colomba's Church, Sheffield for her funeral.

**Mrs Hilda Hester (née Webster)** died on Christmas Day 2006 aged 87. She attended the school from 1930 – 1937 and went on to gain a degree in 1940. There is a board in the school hall which gives details of her degree. In those days very few girls went to university, so their academic achievements were put up for all to see. Her cousin **Mrs Margaret Jones (Harrington)(1943 – 1950)**, writes that Mrs Hester, widow of Canon Hester was very active in Mother's Union Work in the diocese of Oxford and that she retained her interest in LHS, returning a few years ago to visit the school. Mrs Jones is a member of a group of Old Members who hold a reunion in alternate years and she is looking forward to their next one on 9<sup>th</sup> May this year.

**Mrs Denise Hewitt (née Hill)** died on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2006. She was at the High School from 1943 – 1948. Her husband Derrick is an Old Loughburian, and she was always very proud of her connection with the Endowed Schools and the OGA. She loved sharing OGA news with her daughters **Diane** and **Karen** and regularly attended the reunions mentioned above and was very grateful to those who made the effort to bring them about.

**Mr Robert Simons**, who died on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2006, was a member of the Maths department and Careers Adviser at LHS from 1971 until he retired in 1983 together with his wife, **Audrey**, a member of the English department. Mrs Simons and son Richard (O.L) and daughters **Deborah** and **Judith** invite Old Girls to share in a service of remembrance and thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church, Brinsmead Road, Knighton, Leicester at 2.45pm on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, and to join them afterwards for refreshments in the Garendon Room in the Charles Wilson Building at Leicester University.

## General News

**Helaina Cwiklik (Grady)(1976 – 1983)** emailed from the States and said that she had enjoyed looking at the website and recognised quite a lot that had not changed, as well as all that is new. She would be interested to hear from any of her friends, and reminded me that in her day she was the 'recruiting member' from her VI form group for the OGA – i.e. she had to collect names and subscriptions. It is easier now.

**Lucy Green (1988 – 1995)** is organising a **reunion** for other leavers of 1995 **on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007**, at the High School. Drinks first, tour of the school and a meal in a restaurant afterwards. The invitation is extended to partners/ Spouses and to OLs of the same year, and contact can be made on her email address:

**lucy.moglia@ntlworld.com** Lucy and her husband are living in Wales, and she writes, "I always loved French at school and carried on loving it! My husband is French and my three children (last one born on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007), are all very French. The eldest two speak French and English and, living in Wales, Juliette has to learn Welsh at school too." Lucy's sister, **Charlotte** also continues to use her French. She and her family regularly go to France to see her penfriend. They all met up there last summer.

**Mrs Penny Hodgson** has emailed to thank the OGA for their gift to her on her retirement as Librarian. She says it will be fun spending it in Beijing as money goes so much further there, and she will probably buy a Pashmina and a handbag. She and her husband are having an amazing time in China and she invites anyone interested to have a look at their website for news and photographs: **www.phodgson.com**

Having myself (i.e. compiler of the newsletter) viewed the website I can confirm how interesting it is. Mr and Mrs Hodgson were able to spend the Christmas holiday in Sidney, Australia, where their son was getting married, she writes: "We went up into the Blue Mountains for Christmas week and saw wonderful scenery, breath-taking views and unique flora and fauna, including wild kangaroos hopping over the hills at dusk."

**Sophie Holt** has written with an update. Thank you for keeping in touch, Sophie. After graduating from the University of Birmingham, with a 2:1, including a year abroad in France, she worked in the city of London for 3 years in Commodity Trade Finance for an international trading company Stemcor. She thoroughly enjoyed the job which also involved using French and German, international travel and conferences. Sophie lived in Islington, Bethnal Green and Battersea Park with LHS girls and university friends. She then went backpacking with a friend in Bali, Australia and New Zealand, seeing sights such as Whitsunday's, Fraser Island, Byron and climbing the Harbour Bridge. She writes, "I am now living in Bondi Beach with three guys and working in Sydney for American Express in Global logistics! Very hard work – so much for the Aussie laidback attitude to work!" She enjoys the weather and

tennis and golf and has made lots of friends. She returns to the UK in 2007 and will look to buy a property then. Sophie is in touch with **Katy Grant** and **Jo Crowfoot** who are still in London.

**Amy Juby (1995 – 2000)** has been very busy since leaving school and graduating from Southampton University in 2003 with a BSc in Biochemistry and Physiology. During her time at University she joined the Royal Naval reserves where she met her partner James. Amy worked for 2 years for AstraZeneca as a medical sales representative, which gave her new skills and the opportunity to move down to Berkshire to be with James, who had joined the Navy on graduating and is now a Lieutenant either away at sea – “or at home getting under my feet!” Amy Completed a PGCE after she left AstraZeneca and managed to get into the Fast Track teaching scheme. She is currently teaching Biology at King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls School in Birmingham. She and James have moved into their second house near Stratford – upon – Avon with their two cats Jessie and Susie. She would be very pleased to hear from old school friends and can be contacted through their email address: [jubedream@hotmail.com](mailto:jubedream@hotmail.com)

#### **Jennifer Paley (néé Reynolds) – Reunion of Former Members of Upper V 1953 – 1954**

On Friday 22 September 2006 a group of former members of the Upper Fifth at the High School met up for a Fifty Year reunion. In the Cope Boarders’ Common Room at the school, there were exuberant greetings of old school friends and the afternoon began with a very warm welcome from Miss O’Connor, the Headmistress. The afternoon’s programme had been planned to give us maximum enjoyment, with refreshments, displays of photographs and memorabilia, and a conducted tour of the school in small groups by confident and personable sixth formers. All enjoyed re-visiting old and familiar places, even though many looked so vastly different from what they knew as 16-year olds. The new LES Music School drew gasps of admiration – but it was reassuring to find some parts of the school unchanged, the cloisters, the domestic science room and the hall (albeit minus the ropes and vaulting horse, but with the same benches!) Picnic tables and umbrellas on the old netball court drew some comments! It was a pleasure, too, to have Mrs Mackley with us for the afternoon.

In the evening, 24 members of the Upper Fifth gathered at the Cedars Hotel in Loughborough for a very enjoyable meal, accompanied by much chatter and laughter. It was remarkable that many of those present could still chant the form register, while struggling to remember what happened last week!

The time sped by far too quickly, and hopes were expressed that, if another reunion were to be organised sometime, Zimmer frames would not be in evidence!

Grateful thanks are due to Miss O’Connor and her staff and pupils for contribution to the success of the reunion.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Sarah Penny (1995 – 2002)**, who has recently become engaged to Richard whom she met while at Cambridge. Sarah graduated from Cambridge with a Natural Sciences (Pathology) degree (2:1) and is now doing a research masters on Breast Cancer in Dublin.

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#### **List of members whose addresses the Secretary is seeking**

Miss H Adcock	(Osgathorpe)
Miss J Bowring	(Shepshed)
Miss R Bowring	(Shepshed)
Miss R Clifton	(Ruddington)
Miss S J Clifton	(Ruddington)
Miss E L Cole	(Sutton Bonington)
Miss E Flynn	(Ragdale)
Miss K L Graham	(Aintham, Newark)
Miss C Ince	(Kegworth)
Miss L Lambert	(Coalville)
Miss Y Liu	(Loughborough)
Miss V C Mellers	(Long Clawson)
Miss N Moore	(Kegworth)
Miss A Nelson	(Birstall)
Miss A Preston	(Sutton Bonington)
Mrs. L Sarrafan	(Wanlip)
Miss A Stone	(Woodville, Swadlincote)
Miss Y Wang	

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## Changing Email Addresses on the website

I am assured that this should be foolproof...

1. Log onto site
  2. Click on contact numbers (in Blue left-hand column under “**My Personal Details**”)
  3. There you’ll find the email address you gave to the OGA or a blank space for an email address, listed as “**Registration Email Address**”. Click on “**Edit**” below this.
  4. Add email address or change it.
  5. Click on “**Submit**”.
  6. Check changes and click on “**Confirm**”.
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