

Welcome to the PPSA News

Are You in the Picture?

Who are these girls? Where are they now? If you are one, or know who they are, do get in touch and let us know.

Year 7, 1993—94 at the Tower of London.
Winners of the Tower of London Award for
the Best Behaved School



Carol Singing and Wine and Cheese Evening.



In December an enjoyable evening was spent in the Chapel when past pupils from various eras joined together to sing carols. The PPSA Christmas tree was on display and a wonderful spread of cheeses and wines ended a jolly evening. "What a good way to begin Christmas" said one attendee, "The first carols of Christmas" added another.

Gone but not Forgotten

We recently received a request to find information about a girl who had attended the school in 1901! Believe it or not the sisters were able to find some information in their records.

The family member who made the request was very grateful and is using the information to understand more about his family and build his family tree. A very popular pastime since the hit BBC show 'Who do you think you are?'



Our Lady's
Convent School

PPSA Newsletter
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Thank you.
Jane Harris.

In Memory of Gertrude Olive Clarke

The PPSA have donated 20 chairs to the chapel in memory of Miss Gertrude Olive Clarke, a former pupil at Our Lady's Convent School, who left a bequest in her will to the PPSA for the benefit of the school. Members of the PPSA visited the chapel to view the new chairs, and test them for comfort!



Update: Members' News

Laura van Weyenberg

I am 33, and was at Our Lady's Convent School for 8 years until around 1994. My memory is of Mrs Hill teaching us to line-dance - and rather than country music, she used the theme song from Ghostbusters!

Amanda Swann 1999 – 2004

I remember my first day of term like yesterday, starting a new school dressed in a brand new itchy jumper and blazer bought to last! Any new girls would share my anxiety of arriving on Day one dressed in 'Winter' when everyone else is wearing 'Summer' because of the strangely warm English September (or just the ease of getting changed after P.E)!

Although Hurdles was not my forte whilst at OLCS I encountered a number along the way:

Assembly, every day?!

Yes and hymns, needless to say I hummed for a number of weeks until my favourite numbers were displayed on the hymn board at the front, 'Shine Jesus Shine'!

R.E with Mrs Hill:

Mark's Gospel, the most recited Gospel by Convent girls across the land. (For all those who do not know their way around the Bible, the New

Testament is at the back!) After hours and hours and even more hours, I managed an A, well worth the endless bedtime reading.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

Having been in Scouting since a young age, Bronze did not present much of a challenge, nor did Silver. Gold however, was another kettle of fish. Four days walking in horrendous weather and unfamiliar country trying to catch amusing photos for the log book – tough. The aching legs and sore feet were a small price to pay for an invite to St James' Palace to receive the award from the Duke himself.

Head Girl:

An absolute honour to be nominated by my peers to represent the Sixth Form, and head the school. Back then, the Prize Giving Speech was a very nerve racking evening, however it was the one chance I had to really express gratitude and a vote of thanks to recognise all involved.

And finally Young Enterprise:

Scallywags...probably not what Sir Alan was looking for but we made a profit. It took a lot of determination and negotiation due to the size of our company but we represented OLCS at the County finals, and went on to win Best Presentation.

From school I took my Maths A Level to the University of Sheffield where I studied Maths for 3 years...the hardest 3 years of my life to date! Maths was unrecognisable at degree level but perseverance paid off when I was awarded a 2:1.

And then the career...Aldi. A well known Management scheme for graduates. Not everybody's cup of tea but like my journey so far, it provides me with new challenges every day and requires a lot of hard work and determination. As an Area Manager for Aldi I have the autonomy to manage my stores and people using the skills that I have learnt along the way, enabling me to perform in a very cut throat, target driven business.

Despite being that 13 year old girl who cried everyday for a week, the support of staff, family and friends enabled me to gain the courage I needed to succeed.

Helen Reynolds (nee MacEwan) 1964 to 1969

I have 3 children. The eldest Tom is living locally in Woodhouse Eaves and has an estate agency in Nottingham -Thomas

James Estates. My daughter Naomi went to The Royal Ballet school aged 12 then danced with the Royal Ballet company Covent Garden for four years, then following an injury became an actress and yoga teacher in London. Andrew my youngest son is a quantity surveyor. Tom and Naomi are due to be married next year.... Not to each other of course. I am still working full time as a nurse practitioner at a general surgery in Leicester.

Hello to all those that may remember me, I have very fond memories of my time at the school.

Amanda Mould (nee McVeigh)

Please see below one photo taken on the lawn around 1995/6. Amy Lockton (now Gallagher) and husband are expecting a very happy arrival in May. While she is eagerly awaiting maternity leave she is currently working as a Project Manager and Head of Customer Contact at Marketing Innovation based in Loughborough, Amanda McVeigh (now Mould) is also happily married with two children and working at the Grammar School down the road, teaching Religion and Philosophy, proving that she did pay attention in Mrs. Hill's lessons!



Amy Lockton

Amanda McVeigh

Penny Ashcroft (nee Goode)

Living in Dubai

Thank you.

Thank you to our contributors for this section of the newsletter. We are very keen to hear more about the lives of ex-students and members of staff, so please keep the stories coming in. Photographs are also really appreciated and add an extra dimension of interest for readers.

To send in more memories or stories please email them to ppsa@olcs.leics.sch.uk or post them to Mary Hopkins, c/o OLCS, Gray Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2DZ.

Jane Harris
(nee Mills)
recently wrote to
us:

Many thanks for the
Convent newsletter
that you send so
regularly. I have been
looking out old photos
recently as I have got
the 'Who do think you
are?' bug since going
to a talk on building
your family tree!

I am forwarding you
two of interest .

The first is of the
boarders around 1961.
Ellen Ward is kneeling on
the left with her sister
Catherine standing on
her left.. Next to Ellen is
Felicity Acorn? whose
sister sits at the front.
They, like many
boarders, were from a
Forces family . Doris
Heath, (I met her
recently and was
surprised to find she had
never liked the name
Doris and has been Dot
all her adult life) stands
on Catherine's left. She
and the Wards were
from farming families,
who like Forces Families,
made up a large
proportion of the group.
Just behind Dot is the
most notable name Fiona
Allen, she became Head
Girl. I am kneeling third
from left, and look quite
happy although I cried
for weeks when I first
started.



The second picture is of the
orchestra which seemed big at
the time!. We are in the old
hall which faced the large
lawn, and where we had our
assemblies. Names here, are
myself (Jane Mills) Fiona Allen,
(violin) Denise Murphy, (viola)
and Penny Turner (cello).

My daughter Andrea Waite-Wright
later attended the school as a day
scholar in the 80's, and was very
happy there.