

ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD.

Finlandia,
41 Pinewood Avenue,
Bolton-le-Sands,
Carnforth, Lancs.

October, 1981.

Dear Fellow-member,

At the A.G.M., which was held during the Reunion at St. Elphin's in May, three important decisions were made.

Firstly, that, for a three-year trial period, a news-sheet should be sent to each member of the Guild in the Autumn. At present this will be free. Due to the generosity of many Old Girls who send us donations our funds are now in a much healthier state than they were a few years ago when we were almost bankrupt; but whether the production of a news-sheet, and the constant increase in postage costs will eventually whittle away our balance, remains to be seen.

The School Magazine will still be available (at the moment, price £2) for those who want it. This will now be published in the New Year, as it was last time; and a tear-off slip will be sent with future News Letters for you to order one (Note - I already have your orders for the one to be published in February 1982, as the tear-off slip was with the letter I sent earlier this year; but there is still time to ask for one if you have not done so yet). There will still be an Old Girls' Section in the Magazine so that we can maintain our links with the present members of the School.

The second decision was that we should have a new Address Book for Guild members. The last one we had was compiled in 1970 so, as you can imagine, it is very out-of-date, and many recently joined members have never had a copy.

In order to compile this, will you please fill in the enclosed slip and return it to me. Even if I have your address correct, I would like to have the completed form as we are asking for additional information which we hope to include, or which may be useful for our records.

For instance, we are considering dividing our members into groups - either on a "year" basis or, more probably, on a regional or district basis, and would need to have someone from each group who would be willing to act as a link, or liaison-officer for about 20 members (more or less according to circumstances).

Also, could the address you give be a permanent one please? (this applies chiefly to our younger members) - perhaps your parents' address if you are temporarily away from home? A College or Hospital address seldom lasts for more than a year or two, and then letters are returned and we do not know where to find you. If you wish to give a College or work address in addition it can be added, but please say for how many years it should be used.

Decision number three was that the next Reunion is to be held in September 1982. This is partly in response to several requests from Old Girls to have one at a less busy (educationally) time of the year, and partly to enable those girls who have just left to come back before they start on their new University or other courses, while they still have friends at School. If this proves successful, we may have Reunions alternately in May and September.

Please make a note of the date - Saturday, 18th September. Full details and the tear-off acceptance slip will be sent in the Spring when the new Address Book is sent to you.

We are hoping that the implementation of these decisions will result in a stronger "living" Guild whose members are better able to keep in touch with each other and with the School.

Please continue to send me your News items, and do your best to come to the next Reunion. We always have a very enjoyable day, and since we have been able to bring our husbands, children or other relatives with us if we want, it has proved to be a very popular "day out" for the family.

There are now quite a number of "regulars", but we would welcome new faces - whether young or old.

With good wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

EILEEN S. SMART (née Whittaker)

St. Elphin's School,
Darley Dale,
Matlock,
Derbyshire
DE4 2HA.

Dear Old Girls,

I find it hard to believe that my family and I are now well into our third year at St. Elphin's! My wife and I were delighted to welcome you to the school last May, and you will have learned from Mrs. Smart's letter of the important decisions taken at the Meeting. Mrs. Smart and Miss Taylor work with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the Guild and it's vital to support them in their efforts to strengthen your links with the present St. Elphin's. We want and need your support, especially at this time of economic pressures and political threats to the independence of the public schools.

Encouraged by the lead given by our Chairman, the Bishop of Warrington, and the Governors, who show interest and give practical help all the time, we have continued to lay stress on scholarship and a full extra-curricular programme, aiming for excellence in both areas. Nine girls from last year's Upper Sixth have begun degree courses, the present Lower Sixth is a very large Form - several girls in this Form are hoping to try for places at Oxford or Cambridge - and the increased scholarship scheme has brought in a strong 11+ entry, with an increasing number of clergy daughters. The momentum of the "Think Tank" (a series of discussions between governors and staff held over two days at the school to consider St. Elphin's in the next decade) has not been lost: hard but necessary decisions to close Selwyn House and the Kindergarten class have now been implemented, many of our present buildings are being made more comfortable and used more effectively, and plans for a small new teaching block, to replace the Huts and present Art rooms, are well advanced. We have installed a computer, which has led to a proliferation of club activities.

Games, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme occupy many girls both in the curriculum and in their 'free' time. We have the current captain of the Derbyshire U18 County hockey team and six other County representatives, and four senior girls became the first in Derbyshire last year to gain the distinction award and silver cross of the Royal Life-saving Society. 28 girls qualified for the Bronze Award of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme last year, and over 30 more girls have now joined this. All our musicians' diaries were crowded: three orchestral 'workshops', singing with Worksop College in Britten's "St. Nicholas", successes at the Buxton Festival and leading the worship at the Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival in Derby Cathedral - these were highlights, but this year has also brought the formation of a second orchestra and wind group and seen a revival of our link with the Royal School of Church Music. Girls in both junior and senior schools performed full-length plays and there was a most enjoyable evening of sketches and musical extracts given at the end of the summer term.

Miss Stevenson left in July to take up her new post as head of Jersey College for Girls. With the appointment of Miss Crook - formerly Head of Science - to succeed her as Deputy Head, and with a new Head of the Junior School - Mrs. Belk from Godstowe School, who has succeeded Miss Clark, now in retirement - it will be obvious that my team is changing significantly. I am fortunate to have the loyal support of my colleagues in doing what we believe is right for the school in the future.

I feel sure I may count upon your help, too, in strengthening the Old Girls' links. I have already stressed the need for doing so. The difficulties, however, were brought home to me forcibly last year when I was issuing invitations to Old Girls in the Sheffield area, to join us at St. Elphin's social gathering held at the University. From Miss Taylor's address list I wrote to about 20 Old Girls; only 6 replied, and of these 4 told me that their address was wrong! What am I to conclude about the others?

My wife and I send our very best wishes to you all. We hope to see many of you at the Reunion, on Saturday, September 18th.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Pollard.

Reunion 1981

This was held at St. Elphin's on Saturday, May 16th; altogether there were about 60 of us present, of whom 45 were former Staff and Old Girls - quite a drop from last year's numbers.

After Coffee and preliminary greetings we adjourned to the Common Room for the Annual General Meeting of the Guild. This was a longer meeting than usual as there were several important matters to consider.

Mr. Pollard, our President, took the Chair and opened with Prayers and remembrance of those who had died during the year.

The Minutes and the financial statement were both read and passed and then there were many suggestions and much discussion which eventually resulted in the three major decisions which I have outlined in my letter.

There is also to be a revision of the Constitution (which is now very much out-of-date); a sub-committee will undertake this and present it next year.

Mr. Pollard then gave news of the School. We were sorry to hear that Miss Stevenson was leaving and wished her well in her new appointment. Miss Cooke has been appointed Deputy Head in her stead.

Miss Clarke, Head of the Junior School, was also leaving.

There is still a Classics course at St. Elphin's, and also 16 girls are taking A-level Maths.

At the Buxton Music Festival both the Junior and Middle Schools won their classes.

The Choir led the singing at the Cathedral at a Service for 1000 Mothers' Union Members.

There was an Orchestral "work-out" for a whole day with a Concert at the end of it.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is doing well with 13 girls taking their Bronze award.

Other activities have included the Sponsored Walk, the Bazaar and a trip to Aviemore. There have been dances with other Schools including Welbeck and Stancliffe.

After the meeting we rejoined our families for an excellent Lunch (which included the wine for which we had voted last year).

Even though Lunch was later than usual there was still time for looking around the School and grounds and for catching up on the gossip during the afternoon before we went to Chapel for Evensong, which was kindly taken by the Chaplain and at which Miss Helen Thompson played the Organ again (we had missed her last year when she was not well).

The very enjoyable day concluded with tea, after which we went our separate ways.

We are very grateful to Mr. Pollard, Col. Hobbs and the Staff at School, who go to a great deal of trouble and effort to make our Reunions the success that they undoubtedly are.

Those present included:-

Barbara Brooke-Taylor (Barrow), Christine Codling (Tew), Jean Davies (Donaldson), Hilary Davies (Lane), Anna Dawes (Kastoriano), Caroline Dunwell (Wareham), Claire Derry, Louise Elkington, Margaret Farley (Smart), Mary Goodman, Marjorie Gardener (Longden), Hilda Gaddum (Scott), Helen Gilbert, Audrey Glover (Bell), Fiona Gordon (Fairclough), Megan Graham (Murphy), Margaret Griffiths (Ashton), Vera Hoole (Murdoch), Valerie Howells (Purdy), Helena Hill-Wilson, Alison Hassell (Hurlow), Mrs. Kitchen, Joyce Knight, Jean Kiddell, Avice Lee (Barrow), Margaret Laithwaite (Owen), Patricia Marshall (Cliffe), Mary Mayo (Reeman), Elizabeth Nutter (Tye), Josephine Ogden, Lady Osmond (Sybil Wells), Jane Pashley, May Richardson, Mary Scudamore (Jones), Barbara Spalton (Young), Catherine Smart, Eileen Smart (Whittaker), Miss Helen Thompson, Miss Lesley Thompson, Rosemary Taylor, Marjorie Tomlinson (Barratt), Kay Uawithya, Elizabeth Wareham (Carson) and Elizabeth Walker.

News of Old Girls

BETTY ABDY (BIRKETT) finds it difficult to get away from home as her husband is not well. She keeps in touch with BETTY LEE (RHODES).

MISS BURCHNALL who still lives at Nether Stowly has suffered a great loss in the death of MISS COLE who used to live with her. She is, however, very fortunate in her neighbours, and there are some Old Girls who visit her. She has just found that her Vicar, who visits her, knew MISS FLOOD when he was in Exmouth.

MARJORIE COMEAU (LINSLEY) taught for 3 years at Ivy Bridge Comprehensive School, Devon, and is now Head of the Religious Knowledge Department at Plymouth Girls High School.

EDWINA DAVEY is still at the Goring Hotel in London where she has been for 29 years. She is trying to keep her family home going in Lincolnshire, but her mother is now in a Private Old People's Nursing Home.

ANNETTE ELEY (BEDDOES) would like to trace ELINA CAMPBELL and DIANE CLARKE who were in her year at St. Elphin's (1965-1972). They were cousins of ANGELA BOSFIELD, and all three came from Nassau in The Bahamas. If anyone can help, please write to Annette (126 Alfreton Rd., Little Eaton, Derbyshire).

After living in Wiltshire for 28 years, MARGARET FOLEY (WONTNER-SMITH) has moved to Dorset now that her husband has retired. Her twin daughters are both very busy; Sheila is married and lives in Leeds where she lectures in Art; she had her first exhibition of wall-hangings two years ago and is now working for her second one. Barbara has her own business in Decorative Art and is at present working on a job in Jordan.

Margaret has just become a grandmother as her son and his wife (who live in Wales) had a son in July.

MARY GAMBLE and MURIEL ROSE (STAVERT) have just had another wonderful holiday together, of which they sent me a very interesting account; this time they went to Romania. The leader of the party was Father Peter Pufulete who is in charge of the Romanian Orthodox Church in London, so as well as seeing the country they visited many of the Churches and Monasteries and were amazed at the strength of the Church there. Mary's sister JENNIE GAMBLE (who is now a Governor of one of the local - Basingstoke - Senior Schools) is unable to fly, so spent her holiday touring Scotland and, later in the year, went to Devon and Cornwall.

MAY HAMILTON-EDDY (LINDSAY) enjoys her work at the League of Friends shop at the Middlesex Hospital.

PATRICIA HARDING (WIGFUL) has moved to 129 Newton Wood Road, Ashstead, Surrey, and would be glad to hear from any Old Girls in that area. She would especially like to have news of RUTH DEAN. She sends news of PENNY OSBORN (STREET) who lives in Chesham and has two children, and also of JENNY HAMNER (WRIGHT) who has moved to Norfolk and who also has two children; she met her in London at an exhibition of her husband's paintings. Patricia herself has one daughter.

When ALISON HASSALL (HURLOW) married in April, CLARE BARTRAM (COX) and her husband came over from Paris, and their son Ian was one of the pages. PAT NOBBS (THORNTON) was also there with her husband and baby, Peter. Alison's husband teaches in Mickleover where they now live.

MISS JASPER has just moved to a smaller house about half a mile from the previous one. She recently met ROSEMARY BOOTH (SANDS) and her mother who were on a brief visit to Oxford. Rosemary is shortly going out to Japan with her husband and a daughter. The other two children (one at University) are staying in England. Miss Jasper sees MISS BEAN as often as she can and went to the Memorial Service which was held at Farnham for the Archdeacon.

ELEANOR JONES (BURNETT) writes from the Isle of Man, where she lives, that she is very happy to have her younger daughter, her husband and 2 sons aged 9 & 10 living on the island now, which means that she is able to see them regularly. Her elder daughter is a Physicist in the Nuclear Medicine Dept. at Charing Cross Hospital, and her son is Head of Science at a Comprehensive School in Runcorn.

Eleanor sends news of NOEL CARR who has recently retired from Medical Practice in Christchurch (Dorset). She still lives in Mudeford near Christchurch in a lovely house overlooking the harbour. Before her retirement, Noel was awarded her F.R.C.P.

PIPPA MALLET is now at Chelsea College, University of London, reading Biology.

ALISON MANNING (YATES) has worked for the Civil Service since leaving School and in May she was an employment adviser in the Job Centre at Clacton-on-Sea.

ADELAIDE MILLIGAN keeps very well and active in spite of her 80 years of age. The Enrolling Member of the Mothers' Union at her Church (BERYL CHANCE - née WISBER) was at Matlock Training College about 30 years ago, and did some of her training at St. Elphin's teaching English and Games. Some Old Girls may remember her.

MISS ROBINSON had a busy time last winter as she was in charge of her Parish during an unusually long interregnum, and after that had to face the serious illness and subsequent death of her house-companion. She was sorry not to be able to come to the Reunion in May.

ROSAMOND STEEL (SAPWELL) and her sister MARY STAPLETON (SAPWELL) now live reasonably near to each other - the one at Tonbridge Wells and the other at Rochester - so the two families are able to meet more often. Rosamond's son and daughter-in-law have been in Nigeria for two years, but are due to return soon. Her three daughters are:- 1 teaching, 1 a student radiographer, and the youngest at a VIth Form College. She herself is kept busy as the wife of a rural G.P. and has various parish and diocesan activities. Her father also lives with her.

ROSEMARY TAYLOR had tea with MISS LONGMIRE recently and had a good chat over former times. Miss Longmire has a marvellous memory of girls and happenings during her time at St. Elphin's. Rosemary has heard from JUNE HANNANT (BURR) this summer. June has had to stop teaching to look after her mother. Five of her daughters have 10 children between them - only Trixie is unmarried and lives at home. She runs a play-group for small children between 2½ and 4 at Cromer.

Rosemary has also heard from JEAN MCGREGOR (BEAUCHAMP) who, sadly, lost both parents earlier this year. Jean's daughter is expecting a second child in October, and her son, Ian, was getting married in August.

ELAINE WOODHOUSE had a very enjoyable painting holiday in Swanage.

HELEN YOOL (STONE) has settled happily in Lyme Regis. She especially enjoys her Abbey-field work.

Births

WOODCOCK On April 28th 1980 to Barrie and Elizabeth Mary (née Niblock) a daughter, Rachel Louise, a sister for James and Peter.

HAWKWOOD On December 2nd 1980 to John and Phyllis Ann (née Niblock) a daughter, Rebecca Jane.

STONEHAM On September 27th 1980 to Christopher and Mary (née Smart) a son, William Robert Melville, a brother for John, Ian and Paul.

Marriages

COMEAU-LINSLEY In 1979 Mr. Comeau to Marjorie Linsley

DICKIN-GRAINGER On December 20th 1980 Brian Dickin to Lois Margaret Grainger

ELEY-BEDDOES In 1977 Mr. Eley to Annette Beddoes

HASSELL-HURLOW On April 25th 1981 John Hassell to Alison Hurlow

MANNING-YATES On May 3rd 1981 David Manning to Alison Yates

Deaths

MISS COLE (Staff) on December 3rd 1980

HELEN (NELL) JOHNSON (née HUNT) on April 26th 1966

WINIFRED JONES (née BIRCH-JONES) in October 1980, aged 80

POSTSCRIPT

DIANA PAULI (PUGH-MORGAN) now lives in Basle in Switzerland. She and her husband have two sons.

SCOTT On March 26th 1981 to Andrew and Pauline (Whittington) a son, Alexander James.

Archdeacon Selwyn Bean

Archdeacon Selwyn Bean, to whom tributes have been paid in the National press, was for many years a familiar figure at St. Elphin's.

He was, ex officio, a member of the Governing body for 32 years, and became its Chairman shortly after the war. At a time of considerable difficulty over building restrictions and great shortage of money, his financial and administrative ability was of great value to the school, which expanded considerably during those years.

Besides his official visits he took the Services in the School Chapel on Whit Sunday for many years, and few who heard him will forget the strong clear voice which was so characteristic of him. In 1952 he was appointed Chaplain to the Queen - a post which he always regarded as a great honour and privilege.

He gave up the Chairmanship of the St. Elphin's Governing body in 1959, when he became Chairman of the Pensions Board, and it was in this last capacity that probably his greatest work for the Church of England was done. Many clergy - St. Elphin's parents among them - have reason to be grateful to him - not only for his efforts to raise the actual pension, but for his constant interest in the welfare of the retired clergy and their wives, and the provision of suitable housing.

Archdeacon and Mrs. Bean were tireless in visiting the retirement homes and bungalows, or in viewing property - often travelling long distances during their own holidays.

When he retired from Manchester in 1966 the Beans settled in Farnham and for the rest of his life the Archdeacon was Honorary Curate at St. Thomas-on-the-Bourne. He was very happy in this Parish, taking a full share in the Services, and he was held in great respect and affection throughout the district.

Mrs. Bean died in 1979 after a long illness, but the Archdeacon carried on and in January 1980 he went with his daughter Mary, to visit his home and relatives in New Zealand. This visit was a tremendous success and gave great pleasure to all concerned.

He continued to take Services until Palm Sunday (1981) just before his 95th birthday, and though failing after Easter, his memory and interest remained remarkable.

He died on July 4th in Farnham Hospital, after some weeks' illness.

C.M.J.

ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 1980

	£	p		£	p
1. CURRENT ACCOUNT					
To: Balance b/fwd	283.57		By: Magazines	200.00	
Transfer from			Stationery	10.97	
D/A magazines	250.00		Duplicating	16.35	
Donations	103.57		Postage	76.50	
Subscription	10.00		Treasurer	10.00	
Cash in hand (E.S.S.)	12.47				
	£659.61		Balance c/fwd	313.82	
				345.79	
				£659.61	
2. DEPOSIT ACCOUNT					
To: Balance b/fwd	818.75		By: Transfer to C/A		
Subscriptions	260.00		for magazines	250.00	
Donations	69.50				
Badge	.13				
Interest: D/A June	50.48				
Dec.	61.90				
Abbey National B/S					
June	23.59		Balance c/fwd	250.00	
	£1284.35			1034.35	
				£1284.35	

Rosemary Taylor
May 1981.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the current account has increased by £62.22 to £345.79. In 1980, there was one payment for magazines, whereas the previous year there were two, which accounts for a difference of £160. Also, the number of magazines required seems to be falling annually. This is not very surprising since the cost has risen from 60p per copy in 1977 to £2 per copy this year (1981). Postage continues to increase and information is not being sent now to those who have not confirmed overseas addresses; and too many notices are being returned as "unknown", "left", etc. as members do not always give a change of address.

Donations continue to come in at an encouraging rate, and we thank all who send them.

The balance in the deposit account has risen by £215.60 to £1034.35, a sum which I am sure we have not reached before! Subscriptions continue to be in the region of £250. Most leavers join as life members, but about 6 a year join as 3yr. members (except for 1978 when we had 16). From the lack of response to renewal notices it looks very much as if we may lose most of the 3yr. members. We have the occasional "new member" from amongst our midst who has come to a reunion and liked what she saw!

Interest from the deposit account money was £112.38 by reason of the increased balance. The Abbey National was £23.59 - only one instalment being paid in 1980, and that in June. The instalment due at the end of December was only credited to the account in January this year (1981) so the 1981 balance sheet will show three interest "credits".

At last year's meeting, it was agreed to pay again our contribution to the "Friends of St. Elphin's" and by unanimous decision, the sum was raised from £5 to £10. I regret to say I forgot all about it, but a cheque for £20 has been sent, and received, for 1980 and 1981 so that we are now right.

May I take the opportunity here, of giving our grateful thanks to Eileen for the tremendous amount of work she does on our behalf; work done with cheerful humour and long hours of correspondence, which she manages to fit in, in an already very full life. I think we owe her a great deal and she has done much to hold the old girls' guild together and to liase between the guild and the school. Very many thanks, Eileen.

Rosemary E. Taylor,
35 College Rd. North,
Blundellsands,
Liverpool L23 8UR.

Addresses

Please notify me of any changes of address. These will be listed in the News Sheet each year - as will names and addresses of new members - so you will then be able to keep your address book up-to-date.

However, in view of the forthcoming new address book, I am not listing Changes of Address this time, but I would be glad if anyone could tell me anything about the following members, whose letters have been returned "gone away".

Sally Bayly, Shan Dean (Williams), Christine Dunn, Alison Foulds, Gillian Gibson, Fiona Howitt, Joan Hulme (Waddington), Karen Jenkins, Rosemary Kershaw (Hill), Susan Lindley, Jennifer Moore (Lloyd), Dorothy Partington, Caroline Walker.

New Address Book

Will you please complete the form below and return it before NOVEMBER 30TH (Overseas members as soon as possible) to:-

MRS. E.S. SMART,
FINLANDIA,
41, PINWOOD AVENUE,
BOLTON-LE-SANDS,
CARNFORTH,
LANCS.