

ST ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Dear Old Girls,

As you will have realised, this 'Elphinian' has fewer words but more photographs than usual. I've already set down my impressions of the school year. Miss Robinson's letter in the Magazine and the various articles which now follow speak for themselves. I'm not required to do more than introduce this final part.

This is my annual 'silly season': the two weeks or so of real holiday which precede the arrival of 'A' level results, when the whole process of 'school' begins again and takes over my life. In fact I'm writing these words in Shropshire where I've spent a blissful time singing with a group of musicians who come together annually to form a Festival Choir at St. Chad's Church, during the Shrewsbury Flower Show. Relaxing in the lovely old farmhouse where I'm staying with friends, I've been able to enjoy reading the news you've sent to Christine Codling. Thank you for responding to her various pleas.

Much of what's written is material for 1994 and the celebration of 150 years of St. Elphin's School. From now on that will become the focus of our attention. We're already closely in touch with St. Katharine's College, Liverpool, and hope to work together in various ways. Please keep sending in your reminiscences and let us have

your ideas about events to be arranged during 1994.

It was lovely to be able to share in Miss Burchnell's celebration of 101 years! I so much enjoyed Miss Robinson's visit. Finally, my thanks to Christine, and to all of you for your continued support of the school we cherish.

My very best wishes as always,

Yours sincerely,

Peter Pollard.

Dear Old Girls,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who have sent news in this year. There has been a definite increase and I really do enjoy receiving all your letters. After meeting Miss Robinson again at Speech Day, we have been corresponding and I am sure you will be interested in hearing about her life and her thoughts of the opening of the Robinson House. I would just like to mention the magazines which are also referred to in the minutes of the AGM. I am obviously disappointed that the governors feel they cannot afford to pay for the old girls' copies any longer. However, I am sure all of you will agree that it is essential that resources are used on the pupils of today rather than those of the past. There will be an enclosure in this magazine regarding the details for the 1993 copy, and I hope that you will feel able to make a contribution to this year's copy.

The May Reunion took place on a beautiful day, with Derbyshire at its best. The turn-out was the best for several years and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. Next year I would like to organise something a little different for the afternoon, maybe a rounders match or a walk up the lakes or One Tree Hill as well as the usual tours of the school for those of you who haven't visited recently. Perhaps some of you would let me know what you would like to do. I was disappointed that last year's London Reunion had to be cancelled but we have had two mini-reunions, for which thanks must go to Miss Lesley Thompson and Karen Little and Elizabeth Cory and I am sure that this year's London Reunion will be very successful. I am greatly indebted to June Gibson for organising this for me. The summer is my busiest time, so it is a great relief. As always, Rosemary Chambers has been a great help, always so kind and understanding when I get in a flap. I know you will all share in her sadness at the death of her father.

Please remember the 150th celebrations. Mrs. Hodgson would like as much material as possible for the 1994 magazine and I would like to see a really bumper Reunion that year as well.

With best wishes,

Christine Codling.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at
ST. ELPHIN'S SCHOOL
on 16th MAY, 1992
at 11.30 a.m.

After coffee in the dining room and name badges being distributed, old friends having been found we went up to the common room for the AGM.

Mr. Pollard welcomed everyone and then continued with prayers, remembering all those old girls who had died during the past year: Mrs. Fay Loveday, Miss Mary Hope Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Dewar and Mrs. Kate Carey.

Apologies were received from Diana Foley, Elaine Brown, Olga Putnam, Mary Aitcheson, Linette Croxford, Phoebe Milton, Ann Entwistle, Ruth Hibbert, Sheila Rothwell, Rachael Johnstone, Pat Littlewood, Judith Carter, Karen Little, Elizabeth Cory, Marjorie Gardener, Caron Guffogg, Alyson Hartley.

Minutes of the previous AGM which was held on the 11th May 1991 were read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

The Honours boards are to be placed in either Long Corridor, the Common Room or the passage leading to the dining hall.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Christine welcomed everyone and said how pleased she was that over seventy members were present. However, total membership was now six hundred and eighty-two, so there was still room for improvement! She had completed her first year as Secretary and had experienced the pleasure of sending out approximately 600 magazines! She had enlisted help from all the family and only five had been returned. The results were very pleasing: much more mail and news from old girls and of course a good response for today. She also thanked Angela Smith for organising the class of 1980,

and Karen Little and Elizabeth Cory for contacting the girls who took 'O' levels in 1964 and inviting them to a Reunion in London on 13th June, Miss Thompson (games) for having a mini-Reunion at her home in October and lastly to June Gibson for volunteering to take over the Autumn Reunion in London. Last year's London Reunion unfortunately had to be cancelled, owing to lack of response, but she was sure this year was going to be a great success as June has great enthusiasm and an obvious flair for organisation.

During the past year she had attended an evening at Chatsworth House, the service marking the Centenary of the death of Nathaniel Woodard at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Commemoration Service in Chesterfield Parish Church, followed by Speech Day and Miss Robinson opening the new lower sixth house which bears her name. She concluded by saying that she had placed a notice of the Reunion in the 'Sunday Express', resulting in two ladies coming forward, one of whom was here today and had already paid her life membership. She thanked Mr. Pollard on behalf of all members present for what she was sure was going to be a very pleasant day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Members were given a balance sheet which was explained. The accounts were in a healthy position. However, at the present time the governors had been paying for the magazine, and with the increase in membership this was proving to be too expensive. This means that after this year members will have to make a contribution if they wish to receive a copy of the magazine. We would then revert to the old method of sending out an old girls' newsletter every year to keep members up to date.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. Pollard spoke of the many aspects of school life in 1990s. He gave us statistics for the exam results which were excellent, details of the

new National Curriculum, and told us that the older girls had been caving, abseiling, rowing and playing squash on Friday afternoons and three or four girls were currently taking their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. There had been a very successful fashion show. The new buildings were all complete and he invited us to go and look for ourselves. He had visited Hong Kong to represent the school at the ISIS Exhibition and had very much enjoyed meeting both past and present pupils and parents. St. Elphin's has been given the copyright of "Anne Morrison" (by Richmal Crompton) and he would be interested to know if there are any old girls in publishing who could offer help or advice. The deaths had occurred during the year of Stanley Thornton and Bishop Claxton, both very old and faithful friends of the school. The choir had sung at the funeral of Stanley Thornton in Derby Cathedral. Miss Burchnall had her 101st birthday and greetings had been sent from the school. She was still in good health. Boarding schools continued to change with a trend towards weekly boarding and more day pupils, than in the past.

A.O.B.

Continuing the discussion which had arisen from the Treasurer's report on the magazine, Lady Osmond said how much she appreciated the magazine and suggested that the old girls pay for it. June Gibson thought it very good P.R. and an excellent publicity vehicle. Margaret Thompson commented that she enjoyed the entire publication, not only the Old Girls' Section.

The date of the next A.G.M. will be 15th May, 1993, at the School.

Those present -

Jane Alsop, Judith Barnes (Molyneux), Ann Bebbington (Colley), Angela Blanchard (Smith), Lydia Boorman (Smart), Barbara Brooke-Taylor (Barrow), Jane Calder, Rachael Cresswell (Wood), Rosemary Chambers (Thornton), Christine Codling (Tew),

Kathryn Dickens (Betterton), Jean-Christine Dornan (Turner), Jennifer Davis (Bennett), Sally Dodd (Bennett), Kathryn Donnelly, Dorothy Edwards, Ann Evans, Rachael Farley, Jean Fisher (Hutchinson), Margaret Gell (Hutchinson), Megan Gerich (Murphy), Betty Glasgow (Jones), Mary Goodman, Fiona Gordon (Fairclough), June Gibson (Brierley), Amanda Hayes, Vanessa Hill (Yates), Mrs. Sylvia Hooley, ex-Staff, Sarah Hulme (Scott), Helen Jay (Wright), Stephanie Jones, Diana Kidd (Holme), Avice Lee (Barrow), Sarah Mann, Alison Manning (Yates), Mary Mayo (Reeman), Kim Mitchell (Stevens), Margaret Joslin (Russon), Joan Kiddell, Dorothy Laybourn (Wallace), Fiona Lonsdale (Dabell), Jean McGregor (Beauchamp), Rachael Orme, Lady Sybil Osmond (Wells), Sally Palmer, Jill Rose (Cooke), Anna Rendell-Knights (Watts), Mary Scudamore (Jones), Esme Slater (Marriott), Sue Spalding (Brooks), Donna Stanway, Rosemary Taylor, Bridget Thomson, Margaret Thompson (Carmichael), Miss Lesley Thompson, ex-Staff, Penelope Voller (Bennett), Elspeth Wain (Gash), Helen Wallis (Dawson), Caroline Wealleans (Cartwright), Joanne Wooliams (Collingham), Catherine Bartholomew.

After the AGM we had our usual excellent lunch followed by a photograph session on the terrace and then conducted tours of the school, made all the nicer because of the beautiful weather. Entertainment was provided by some of the present girls. After tea and cakes we then went to Chapel where the lessons were read by Angela Blanchard and Joan Kiddell.



Elizabeth Prince in 19???

Reading, in the 1991 'Elphinian', accounts of life at St. Elphin's in times past brought back a flood of memories. I started at St. Elphin's in 1947 when Miss Stopford was headmistress, and I well remember coming with my parents to look round the school. I sat on a rather fragile-looking seat (which is still there) outside the Headmistress's room, whilst my parents were "interviewed" by Miss Stopford.

They must have been successful, for I started my school life almost immediately in the Kindergarten - known as the "KG". I was a day girl and came, in the (care?) of some older girls, on the service bus from Bakewell. We got off the bus outside school and came through a little green gate and up a winding path.

The Kindergarten was then housed in the first of a pair of green wooden buildings, where the Hopkins building now stands. The floor was covered in brown linoleum and the room was heated by an enormous pipe which ran round the walls just at calf height and on which one tended to burn one's legs. The room smelled of polish and wax crayons.

We were taught by a Miss Cope and later by an elderly (or so it seemed to me) Miss Beer who was very kind and patient. I can remember being introduced to the mysteries of reading by Miss Beer, via a series of books featuring "Old Lob" and his imaginatively named horse, Dobbin! We had a shop in which we were allowed to play if we finished our sums; I rarely played in the shop.

Next door to our room was the Art Room and just along from this was the Gym - now the Drama Room. Here we were weighed and our height was measured by the P.E. teacher, at the beginning of each term, a procedure I found rather sinister at the time. What



would happen if one failed to grow at the required speed?

Until the age of seven we only stayed at school for half a day and went home after lunch. Lunch, which was eaten in a room somewhere off Long C, was a sore trial to me, and spinach featured regularly on the menu. In time I learned to love "bangers and mash", a huge pile of mashed potato and swede with sausages sticking out of it, like a sort of culinary hedgehog, and Yorkshire pudding with syrup, for which I still have a weakness today.

At the age of seven we were elevated to the Junior School, which was based where the new Junior School is today. The corridor that ran alongside these rooms was exposed to the elements and next to this, where the old Kennedy House room later stood, was a grass play area on which were two see-saws. Behind this were two concrete buildings known as the air raid shelters.

We wore pleated gym slips with girdles whose colour denoted our house - mine was grey for Fletcher, and strangely enough I still have it today. These girdles were very useful as reins when we played horses! Hair was worn either in plaits, bunches or pudding bowl hair cuts and, for outdoors, was topped off by velour hats, also pudding basin shape, and secured, in my case, by a piece of elastic under the chin. Similar pieces of elastic were made into garters to keep up our knee-length grey socks in winter. These garters made such an impression on our skin that it was half-way through the summer before the marks faded! For special occasions we wore "Sunday Silks" - Royal blue dresses with frills down the front and white Peter Pan collars.

A whole host of memories come to mind. I can remember a party, held to celebrate Princess Elizabeth's marriage to Prince Philip. We all went around the playing fields collecting small pieces of coloured wool, and there was a prize for the one who collected the most. Some girls collected a handful; I must have been a singularly unobservant five year old for I recall collecting five!

Just as clearly I can remember hearing in assembly, held in the Common Room, of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, and later, of the death of King George VI. On Ascension Days

we always went on a picnic to Robin Hood's Stride, each armed with a brown paper bag of food and a plastic beaker.

I can remember playing dens on the "Hump", gardening on plots of land close to the "Hump", and nature walks, taken walking in two's in crocodiles.

They say that smells evoke powerful memories, and when I came back to St. Elphin's to be interviewed for my present job it was the smell of polish in Front Hall which immediately transported me back to my early childhood. Some things never change.

Elizabeth Prince

(Our thanks to Mrs. Prince, who is now a member of the English Department at St. Elphin's - Ed.)

January 18th, 1992

Dear Sarah,

I read with interest your article 'St. Elphin's slang' published in the 1991 magazine. I was a boarder in Wilson House from 1960 to 1962 before becoming a day girl for two years. From what I remember we used two washing/lavatory areas off Long C, namely "Upper" and "Lower". "Upper" was for use by those girls in Upper IV and above and "Lower" by those girls in Lower IV and below.

I understand that "Lower" has long since been swallowed into the music squares and that "Upper" is as you say, a pink tiled classroom/dumping area! I didn't remember it being pink tiled; I remember it being beastly cold and very antiquated even 30 years ago, with high water cisterns and very old-fashioned lavatory pans and doors which looked like those in a very old-fashioned public convenience. In fact as the school had been a hydro I expect Upper and Lower were really "conveniences" for the guests/visitors!

If girls were found in the wrong area we were given "minus" marks (a total of -10 (or more) in a week was a trip to Miss Robinson and I had several such trips!) We thought it very daring to go into the wrong cloakroom especially if as younger pupils we dared to go to "Upper"! How times change. I was far from a model pupil and couldn't wait to leave after 'O' Levels - Now I'm a headmistress!

Kind regards to you and thank you for bringing back memories.

Yours sincerely,
Jeanie Dornan (née Turner-Christine) 1959-1964.



Happy Memories of my sister 'Beaky' Jones and of St. Elphin's 1926 to 1936.

'Beaky' entered St. Elphin's in January 1926. With the name Jones and the initials B.K.W. she was known as 'Beaky' from the start. It was before the Junior Wing was completed and she slept in Chapel Dormitory which had originally been the Chapel and later became the 'Rec' which was the scene of many a school play and the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operettas produced by Miss Gregson.

A couple of terms later she moved into the new Junior Wing which was a modern airy building. The glass doors of the 3 classrooms opened onto 2 verandahs where we played hopscotch and ball games. The granwood floors had underfloor heating for the winter. Miss Bailey known as 'M.M.B.' was in charge, ably supported by Miss Milne.

There were 2 nurses, one for Willis the green dormitory, and the other for Fox, the blue dormitory. The Willis cubicles were divided by curtains for the very young and often sisters were put in adjacent cubicles for the first term - I remember Miss I. K. Hall who taught needlework. Her standards were high. When turning hems, 8 stitches to the inch! 'Beaky' was an artistic needle-woman all her life and I enjoyed dressmaking and knitting too.

All meals were taken in the dining room but the mid-morning break (milk and a bun) was served at the bottom of the covered way. Long iced buns were the favourites!

Here on Sundays bags of fruit were handed out (6d or 9d!) and older sisters from the senior school were allowed to spend half an hour with their sisters, and the weekly letter home was completed.

In those days under Miss Flood there were 6 morning

lessons and during the afternoon we played games or were taken on walks. During her first term 'Beaky' slipped and fell in the River Derwent, when she was picking leaves on a nature walk. Luckily Betty Patrick, one of the 3rd Form girls, pulled her out as she clung to an overhanging branch.

In the winter we played netball on a pitch near the old gymnasium and in the summer we played rounders near the Grove Lane wall (near where Mr. Pollard's house now stands).

The seniors played Hockey on 'A' and 'B' in the Autumn Term and Lacrosse in the Spring. There was great excitement when 'A' was levelled and it was used for Sports and Cricket in the summer as well.

There were 3 Grass Tennis Courts, 2 near the Gym and a third on the Terrace Lawn with the beautiful Copper Beech Tree. The Terrace extended from the drive past the Staff Room, the Porch Room, LC and UC (Lower Classroom VB and Upper Classroom VA). They all overlooked 'C' Tennis Court. U.C. (formerly a conservatory in the days of the Hydro) also overlooked the steps leading to the Rose Garden.

In 1937 the new Common Room (where we hold our meetings) was built on top of UC.

I remember beautiful summers in those years. There were Prize Givings in the Rose Gardens and on the Terrace and also performances of "The Knight of the Burning Pestle", "Dido and Aeneas" and "As You Like It". There was a Country Dancing Display on the Tennis Lawn and also Gymnastic Tableaux.

Miss Hudson followed Miss Flood and will be remembered for putting St. Elphin's on the Burnham Scale and for changing the school outfitters from Kendal Milne in Manchester to Griffin and Spalding, Nottingham and giving us a most attractive new school uniform. She also introduced 2 afternoon lessons and cut down Games' time!

'Beaky' was an avid reader all her life - She loved to sit in the library reading. From the age of 14 she read 'The Times' from

cover to cover, including the Parliamentary debates. She not only read most of the books in the Fiction Library but she enjoyed the historical books in the non-fiction Library.

On leaving school she chose nursing as her career and was accepted by St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. In those days girls had to be 20 years old to start nursing and she was advised to go to the League of Remembrance in Bryanston Square for a year. In those days all the London Hospitals were voluntary and Duchesses belonged to the League and made dressings and nightgowns for hospitals.

Mrs. W. Simpson's flat was right opposite and the year was 1936, the year of the Abdication! Unfortunately for 'Beaky' the 'League' was closed for the Coronation Week and she was sent home for a holiday so missed seeing the Coronation Procession.

'Beaky' loved nursing and also living in the historical City of London. She enjoyed visiting Museums and Art Galleries, the Ballet and the Theatre. Just after her 21st Birthday she was taken very ill with rheumatic fever. She was critically ill for several weeks. Whilst she was convalescing war broke out. She was determined to finish her training and 9 months later she returned to Bart's.

The night that the Houses of Parliament were bombed and burned she was staff nurse on a women's ward. She and the other nurse moved all the beds to the centre of the ward just before the windows smashed in and the lights failed and they led community singing in the darkness!

After completing her training she joined the Q.A.'s (Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service) as a Nursing Sister and sailed in convoy out to India. At first she was nursing in a tented hospital. Then Basha huts were built but there were still cobras, kraits and rabid dogs to contend with at Midwapore near Calcutta.

After the war she married Group Captain Frank Carcy, RAF, formerly a Battle of Britain Pilot. In 1958 he was appointed Air Attaché in Australia and they lived in Canberra for 2 years. Whilst there he decided to retire from the RAF on completion of

the 2 years and work for Rolls Royce out there. Both her step-daughters married in Australia and live out there now.

She and Frank decided to retire to England, but on the voyage home, at the early age of 55 years she had a stroke. With great courage and determination she made a wonderful recovery. During the last eleven years of her life she and Frank were very happy living in Bognor Regis.

Mary R. Scudamore (née Jones)

From the Former Rector of
St. Helen's Church, Darley -
Rev. R. J. Stanford

To think about St. Elphin's I have to look back a good long way. I came to Darley as Rector forty-six years ago, and I left twenty-eight years ago. My memory is not as good as it was. I seem to retain little isolated incidents of no particular importance; for instance I remember clearly a Miss Thompson Music - so called because there was a Miss Thompson Something Else - who had a dog called Susan whom she addressed in baby-language: "Susie hungry?" Being a spaniel, Susie was always "hungry".

Miss Stopford was a remote and awe-inspiring figure who could be approached only through her secretary. It was rumoured that she had never been seen in the Junior School! Her successor, Miss Robinson, popped up anywhere at any time and knew everybody. She used to have a group of little ones in her room to read stories to them and give them sweets.

There was no resident chaplain: The girls used to come to St. Helen's Church occasionally, when there would be a shorter sermon, to the delight, no doubt, of the regular congregation, and I sometimes functioned in the School Chapel. My much-used 'Oxford Book of Quotations' was a reward for a Lent course I took. If there were girls taking A-Level Scripture, I taught them. They used to come to the Rectory for tea and cakes. A Bible-Study Group met in Miss Stopford's room in the evenings. It was for grown-ups, members of the staff and others,

amongst whom was a Dr. Schaffter, who had given his life to Persia as a medical missionary. Another was my assistant curate. As we broke up one evening I said 'Well, I must make my way home along Ghost Lane'. At this the young man visibly started and turned pale. 'What did you say?' he said. When I repeated it he said 'I always knew there was something along that road; I can hardly bear to go along it'. Ghost Lane was so-called because of an apparition of a tramp who had been found murdered in the ditch. But the young man had heard nothing of this until that evening!

I always thought of St. Elphin's as a happy school but on one occasion the girls got out at night and hitched a lift homewards from a lorry-driver. There were no disastrous results, and they came back!

(We are most grateful to Mr. Stanford, father of Mrs. Rosemary Mayall, who has just retired from St. Elphin's, for letting us have his reminiscences. Ed.)

St. Elphin's: Class of '69

On 13th June, 1992, a most successful reunion was held at Karen Little's house in London of the people who did their 'O' levels in 1969. No fewer than 24 people came. People flew in from Switzerland and Aberdeen. People came who left as long ago as 1964!

It was a strange experience meeting people you had not seen for over 20 years. It was not so much that you did not recognize them, but that you had forgotten their very existence. But once you looked at them and heard their voices, it was just as though you had seen them yesterday; the memories came flooding back.

Everyone was rather apprehensive of what people would be like, but everyone was quite ordinary. Conspicuously few high-flyers, really. Lots of people were in the caring professions and in that I include teachers. The people who were married were surprised at how many were unmarried. Those with children either had teenagers or babies and toddlers. People came on their own, except for one who had a baby on the way!

There was no problem about people not mixing. It was hard to persuade people to stop talking for a minute and eat something. There was surprisingly little reminiscing about the eccentricities of particular teachers. A large proportion of the time was spent catching up with what people are doing now. People who could not come sent in letters giving their post-St. Elphin's life history.

The only sadness was that with so many people there was not time to talk to everyone properly. We were all rather in shock; it was *weird* seeing people again after so long. Like being in a time warp. No one had really changed.

Those who came:-

Frances Anderson, Barbara Beard, Penny Bennett, Anne Bird, Yvonne Coates, Jacelyn Coates, Ann Colley, Judy Craven, Fiona Fairclough, Nancy Ford, Linda Hounsefield, Sue Lees, Andrea Odlin, Brijji Roy-Singh, Judy Smith, Elizabeth Cory, Ruth Ennals, Evelyn Hanley, Karen Little, Liz Mallison, Lesley Nicol, Jane Oldfield, Judy Smail, Nicola Westcombe.

Elizabeth Cory

NOSTALGIA

If 'Nostalgia' is an infectious disease - I've caught it! I have just been re-reading Avice Lee's account of our years at St. Elphin's during the war (we were in the same form), and her references to school wear brought back memories of the trials and tribulations some items of clothing caused.

To be fair, our uniform wasn't too bad really, well in keeping with the times and what was considered to be suitable attire for young ladies of school age.

The main items of the school inventory included all the usual things:- Navy blue blazer, rain coat etc. and - of course - a gym tunic, the last mentioned being worn six days a week for most of the day with the inevitable result that after a few weeks of term the front section would be heavily encrusted with gravy, custard, jam, inkstains, etc. To balance this trend, the Matron, Miss Grenfell, had a jolly little wheeze of her own - tunic inspection!! This would occur towards the end of a term, on an undisclosed day

(for maximum surprise). After breakfast, egress from the dining hall was blocked by the august and menacing form of Miss G., accompanied by a prefect armed with notepad and pencil! Each girl, in her turn, presented her hands to Matron, who gripping them firmly, would scrutinise first the palms and then the backs, checking for general cleanliness and condition of fingernails, then - still holding the hands she would sweep her arms wide, thus revealing the true awfulness of the front of the tunic! The names of those failing her high standard were taken down and used in evidence against - etc. etc.

The navy-blue cotton interlock knickers, based on the design made famous by Amelia Bloomer, were worn over - wait for it - knicker linings!

The school blouse was square necked and buttoned all the way down the back; my mother was a little anxious about this detail but consoled herself with the thought that it would encourage us to help one another with any difficulties during dressing. If this was the truth of it - the plot failed - I don't remember undoing any other button than the top one, if that, ever! The cuff fastening presented another worry - the buttons were not attached to the garment but had to be threaded through the holes in the manner of cufflinks - fine - until one went missing.

The Viyella dresses and their detachable collars were a cunning means of giving us something to do on Saturday mornings. A session spent under the eagle eye of Miss Grenfell brought a sharp reminder that - that which is detachable must be detached, weekly; it was the problem of getting the replacement back on so that the centre fronts met at the centre front and not somewhere under the left ear that caused us headaches. Many a time those collars were stitched on, ripped off, stitched on - again and again, before receiving a matronly nod of approval.

The school hats - navy blue for winter terms and grey felt for the summer term came in for some inventive adaptation - On delivery one noted the generously deep crown - to improve visibility and (one hoped) one's appearance the following methods were popular; 1. a pleat round the back of the colour-version (a) or 2, pleating

all round version (b). A more drastic solution requires major surgery and a brave heart! Needless to say, none of these variations met with the approval of Matron!

A girl can dream can't she?

I suppose it was the Storm Hat that caused us the most misery; this snappy little number was created from wedge-shaped scraps of gaberdine and had a narrow, stitched brim with a will of its own. As this item was not needed very often, say for chapel on a very wet day, one could never find the wretched thing when called for (Matron again). The sight of ashen-faced, panic-stricken girls dashing about, hunting for a storm hat - any storm hat, is still strong in my memory.

Footnote: There was one item on the inventory that deserves a mention, namely - one pair of galoshes.

What are galoshes? You may well ask. I will define - A galosh is a rubber over-shoe, wet weather for the use of.

My mother, concerned to meet requirements to the full, purchased a pair for me. I think I must have been the only girl in the entire school to suffer this indignity. Everybody else brought their wellingtons!

So - now you will have some idea of what we looked like - all those 50 years ago - how would you compare it with things today? Are you happy with the changes and how would you alter your uniform if you could?

Margaret Ringrose (née Holderness)



NEWS FROM OLD GIRLS

Caron Guffogg (née Smith) is working for BAA and is studying for the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators examinations. She got married in 1990 to Simon Guffogg and had her honeymoon in Singapore and Malaysia where she had lived as a small child. She keeps in contact with Rosemary Brown (Halsall), Jackie Tear, Louise Burke, Susan Swire (Giddings) and Jenny Denning (MacIlwaine) and Nicky Jacobs (Smith). She writes that Rosemary is currently in Canada where her husband is serving in the army. She has one little boy, Thomas, (Jackie and herself are godparents) another was due last October. They will have returned to England in 1991 and she hopes to see more of them. Jackie works for her father but has her own company within his and very much enjoys working in the silver trade. She was due to be married on the 31st August, 1991 to James Houghton. Sue was married to Paul Swire on 30th March, 1991 and is currently living in Llandudno and is now a fully qualified nurse. The last time she heard from Jenny she was studying for an MBA in London. Nicky is a fully qualified dentist and is working up in Dundee. Jane works for the Inland Revenue and has a little girl called Chloe; she lives near Guildford. Louise is very well and living in Yorkshire.

Rachel Southward (née Gregory) writes to say that she got married on the 12th October; old St. Elphinstones who attended her wedding were Jacynth Hayles, Kate Bone, Melanie Thompson and Adrienne King. Her sister Jane Gregory (1979-1986) was her bridesmaid. She is still working for Bromley Health Authority as a nurse for the mentally handicapped.

Lucinda Negus very kindly wrote with a suggestion that I contact Judith Dakin (née Clarke) with a view to holding the London Reunion at her house. However, we had already agreed to hold it at the RAF Club near Marble Arch. She is in contact with Elizabeth Warren (née Perry) and they sent a combined Christmas Card to Miss Jasper in Oxford. She had thoroughly enjoyed reading the 'Elphinstone'.

Susan Rothwell wrote to say that after she left St. Elphin's she studied Ophthalmic Optics at Bradford University and obtained a first class honours degree. Following a research degree at St. John's College, Cambridge, she moved to the Channel Islands where she worked in her own Ophthalmic practice and hospital clinics for three years. During her time there she met Miss Stevenson in Jersey. However, having decided to make a career move into Ophthalmic Surgery she sold her practice and moved to London to study medicine at Barts. In June 1991 following completion of the pre clinical course, she was given a transfer place to the Cambridge University Clinical School and St. John's College. She hopes to complete the Cambridge MB Chir B degree in December 1993. She is sure that without such a good education at St. Elphin's she would not have been able to change careers so easily as she was fortunate to study the correct 'A' Levels.

Bethan Clayton is living in Long Beach, California. She attended St. Elphin's from 1967 to 1973 and would like to get in touch with some of the girls from her year. Her only contact at the moment is Alison Ross who is living in Palm Springs. They are thinking of a visit in 1993. Her address is Bethan Clayton Designs, 5393 East Broadway, Long Beach, California 90803.

Lesley Thompson (former member of staff) suggested to Mary Mayo (Reeman) that she contacted some friends and arrange to meet at her home on the 19th October 1991. Those attending were Di Taylor (Hughes), Jill Thomas (Dixon) who came from Wensley, Ann Mitchell (Bell) drove Joy Pilkington (Mattison), Hilary Hayworth (Randle), Jill Chapman (Randle). Lesley also invited Elizabeth Wass (née Winder) who had taught them Geography when they were at school and who in fact still teaches at St. Elphin's. Lesley cooked a lovely meal and they were able to recall many memories and give each other current news of other Old Girls. It was very interesting and amusing to hear both Staff and Girls' aspects of event. In the afternoon Elizabeth offered to show them round the school. They were most impressed and wondered how they ever managed in the 'Old Days'. They realised how much times had changed.

Following the mini-reunion Jill Chapman (née Randle) also wrote to say that she had always kept in touch with Judy Kearsley

(Ireland) although she had lived in Zambia for many years. Until this year she had only seen her twice since they left school, although they had corresponded. She came over to England in March 1991 and stayed with Jill for one night when they discussed a visit to Zambia in our summer. Jill and her husband went off in mid-August and stayed with Judy for three weeks, visiting various places in Zambia, including going on Safari to the Livangura Valley and a visit to Victoria Falls seeing them from both Zambian and Zimbabwe sides. Judy's daughter also took them to the Kariba Dam. They then went to Mwsungira Lodge which is owned by Judy and her husband and is by the lake. They spent one night in the bush staying in huts with no electricity or running water. During the rest of the trip they were in Judy's house in Lusaka and received marvellous hospitality. She writes that it is a holiday that she will always remember and it is nice to imagine Judy in her home and to know her way of life. In the Autumn she also saw Audrey Buxton and Cecilia Lunn which was the first time since she left school although she had recently corresponded with Audrey.

Donna Stanway attended the reunion in May with Ann Eastlake and wrote to say how much she had enjoyed herself. She still keeps in touch with Jeanette Woolcot (née Lister), now living on Kabakae Farm in Botswana. She is married to Chris and they have three children, Hayley, Samantha and Laurie. Louise Moore (Tyzack) lives in Moncengelbadach, Germany. Caroline Greenhalgh (Shaw) is living in Hipperholme, Halifax.

Betty Irving visited the school for the first time since 1934. She writes that, having still the bronze badge for being in three 1st elevels, she was able to prove her identity! She has spent twenty-seven and a half years working amongst the Zulu people of South Africa after training to be a nurse, then two years in Mount Hermon Missionary College now linked with All Nations at Ware. She has been retired since 1979 and has lived in Pigsaw, 99 Matson Avenue, Gloucester, GL4 9HN since then.

She would like to get in touch with Barbara Thomason (Blakes), her great friend from school days.

MARRIAGES

Caron Smith to Simon Guffogg on the 25th August, 1990.
Jackie Tear to James Houghton on the 31st August, 1991.
Susan Giddings to Paul Swire on the 30th March, 1991.
Rachel Gregory to John Southward on the 12th October, 1991.
Sarah Straw to Mark Adams on the 14th September, 1991.

DEATHS

Mrs. Fay Loveday (née Heny) was at school 1934-1940. She lived in the Matlock area and was a weekly boarder. Miss Dorothy Edwards who was at school with her notified us of her death which took place on the 10th August, 1991.

Miss Mary Hope Johnson (1912-1919) died on the 2nd November, 1991 in her 93rd year. She was a contemporary of Miss Marjorie Nichol and sister of Miss Catherine Johnson and until her retirement was headmistress of Dorchester County School for Girls. In the last few years of her life she suffered badly from arthritis which made her almost completely immobile. However, she remained very cheerful until the last week or so of her life, when she was in a coma, and died peacefully.

Mrs. Nancy Dewar (née Thomason). (This obituary was omitted from the 1991 'Elphinstone'). She was the youngest of five sisters all educated at St. Elphin's. Both parents died when the girls were young and they were brought up by two maiden aunts and a bachelor uncle. Dorothy, the third daughter, was the mother of Mrs. Ann Entwistle (née Lyon) who was also at St. Elphin's. Nancy, the youngest, had the opportunity to go on to further education. She won a scholarship to Girton College, Cambridge and her name is on one of the Honours Boards. She went on to teach Classics at Huyton College in Liverpool and became head of St. Monica's school in Clacton-on-Sea before her marriage to a local doctor. They emigrated to South Africa in 1947 and lived in South Africa till her death in 1990. Her years at St. Elphin's were 1914-1917.

Mrs. Kate Carey (Jones) 2nd November, 1991.

MAGAZINES RETURNED. IF ANYONE KNOWS THE NEW ADDRESSES FOR THE PEOPLE BELOW PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Mrs. Jacqueline Railton
Miss Kate Partington
Mrs. Elizabeth Cragg
Mrs. Sally Dietsch

MEMBERS LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

Anne Eastlake
74 Diamond Avenue, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts.
1976-1979 Gresford

Mrs. Diana Kidd (Holme)
35 Hastings Road, Birkdale, Southport,
Merseyside.
1947-1954 Wilson

Mrs. Liz Rixson (Flemming)
23 Tappers Lane, North Petherton, Nr.
Bridgewater, Somerset.
1957-1964 Margaret Flood, Selwyn, Fletcher

NEW MEMBERS

Catherine Mary Henrietta Potter,
59 Park Avenue, Darley Dale, Matlock,
Derbyshire. DE4 2FX
1984-1985 1989-1990 Powys

Karen Joanne Gillespie (Fletcher)
'Boshula', 2 Plovers Rise, Daneacre Road,
Radstock, Bath, Avon. BA3 3JT
1974-1981 Kennedy

Mrs. Jo. Thornton,
Glebe Croft, 4 Monyash Road, Bakewell,
Derbyshire. DE45 1FG
Staff 1976-1983

Mrs. Anna Rendall-Knights (Watts)
The Lord Nelson, Ramsey, Harwich, Essex.
CO12 5HB
1951-1956 Kennedy

Mrs. Sheila Rothwell (Cox)
Ashie, Gorthleck, Inverness, IV1 2UJ Scotland.
1950-1955 Kennedy

Mrs. Margaret Fielding (Cosens)
30 Sackville Mews, Sackville Road, Cheam,
Surrey. SM2 6HS
1948-1952 Kennedy & Selwyn

Shantell Aleverares-Johnson
P.O. Box F-566, Freeport, Grand Bahama,
Bahamas.
1989-1991 Wilson

Caroline Atkinson
The Hollies, 3 Storth Lane, South Normanton,
Derbyshire.
1984-1991 Kennedy

Zoe Berry
Current address unknown.
1988-1991 Pigot

Renate Churcher
103 Crawford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne,
Lancs. OL6 6TT.
1985-1991 Kennedy

Nicola Crawley
P.O. Box 6380 SS, Nassau, Bahamas.
1989-1991 Wilson

Lucy Golland
c/o The Estate Office, Aswarby, Sleaford, Lincs.
NG34 8SE
1984-1991 Kennedy

Rachel Gowers
72 North Way, Golders Green, London. NW11
1984-1991 Kennedy

Scilla Grimble
50 High Street, Yaddlethorpe, Scunthorpe, S.
Humberside
1984-1991 Wilson

Nicola Hammond
Hillfoot, Church Lane, Bonby, Nr. Brigg, S.
Humberside.
1986-1991 Wilson

Emma Howorth
7 Lindholme Drive, Rossington, Doncaster.
DN11 0UN
1984-1991 Wilson

Kathryn Johnson
Yew Croft, Greenaway Lane, Hackney, Matlock,
Derbyshire. DE4 2QB
1984-1991 Kennedy

Abigail Joyce
Wigwellnook Farm, Bolehill, Wirksworth,
Derbyshire.
1988-1991 Powys

Ivy Pui-King Kua
Room 50, Nurses' Home, Royal London
Hospital, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E1 4DG.
1986-1991

Cynthia Shin-Ting Lam
14 Kai Yuen Street, 2nd Floor, North Point,
Hong Kong.
1987-1991 Wilson

Sandy Law
P. O. Box 96434, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong
Kong.
1985-1991 Wilson

Karina Lawson
Lode House Farm, Alstonefield, Nr. Ashbourne,
Derbyshire. DE6 2FZ
1987-1991 Kennedy

Tracey Lee
Wessington House, The Green, Wessington,
Derbyshire. DE5 6DQ
1989-1991 Wilson

Hazel MacMaster
32 Painters Way, Two Dales, Matlock,
Derbyshire. DE4 2SB
1981-1991 Powys

Helga Mann
The Deanery, 20 Charlotte Street, Bristol. BS1
5PZ
1984-1991 Powys

Alexandra Mayland
3 Minster Court, York. YO1 2JJ
1985-1991 Powys

Jennifer Meeks
15 Clos du Petit Bois, St. Martins, Guernsey,
C.I.
1989-1991 Pigot

Ya-EI Murray
P. O. Box FH 14-279, Nassau, New Providence,
Bahamas.
1987-1991 Kennedy

Antonia Myles-White
Masson Mount, Salters Lane, Matlock,
Derbyshire.
1978-1991 Wilson

Brenda Ching Han Ng
7 Kam Fung Street, 3/Floor, Fung Wong Village,
Kowloon, Hong Kong.
1986-1991 Pigot

Deborah Parsons
The Rectory, Etwell, Derbyshire. DE6 6LP
1984-1991 Powys

Anna Peel
Fall Cottage, Old Hay Lane, Dore, Sheffield.
S17 3AT
1984-1991 Wilson

Kathryn Phillips
Windrush, 2 Abbey Vale, St. Bees, Cumbria.
1988-1991 Margaret Flood

Claire Pritchard
Toad Hall, The Butts, Ashover, Derbyshire. S45
0AY
1982-1991 Powys

Andrea Riley
11 Lea Road, Ravenshead, Nottingham. NG15
9EG
1986-1991 Pigot

Sarah Robinson
The White Cottage, Matlock Road, Walton,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
1985-1991 Powys

Juliet Scott
4 Wellington Place, Marlborough, Wilts. SN8
1HL
1983-1991 Kennedy

Susan Stenson
Sandygate, Church Street, East Markham,
Newark, Notts. NG22 0SA
1988-1991 Wilson

Joanne Stoppard
Half Acre, 47 School Lane, Lower Bagthorpe,
Underwood, Notts.
1986-1991 Pigot

Joy Taylor,
Laburnum Cottage, Chase Cliffe,
Whatstandwell, Matlock. DE4 5EQ
1989-1991 Pigot

Andrea Thickett
123 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield,
Chesterfield. S42 5NX
1984-1991 Kennedy

Louise Thomson
Wheat Hay Farm, Shatton, Bamford,
Derbyshire. S30 2BG
1984-1991 Pigot

Jane Townend
Highfields, 22 Wingfield Road, Alfreton,
Derbyshire. DE5 7AN
1988-1991 Wilson

Laura Turner
Horseshoe Cottage, Cromford Road, Crich,
Derbyshire. DE4 5DJ
1989-1991 Powys

Clare Waters
Pottersfield House, Station Road, Darley Dale,
Matlock. DE4 2EQ
1990-1991 Kennedy

Claire Welberry
Mayfield House, Willington Road, Kirton End,
Boston, Lincs. —
1988-1991 Kennedy

Natasha West
The Gables, Grindleford, via Sheffield. S30 2HX
1983-1991 Pigot

Kumari Wickramasinghe
Sriyakantha Gardens, Waragoda, Kelaniya, Sri
Lanka.
1989-1991 Pigot

Alicia Woo
15 Lung Ping Road, 7th Floor, Flat B, Kowloon,
Hong Kong.
1989-1991 Wilson

Fiona Wright
Moor Grange, Brackenfield, Wessington,
Derbyshire.
1989-1991 Wilson

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Karen Little,
226 Shirland Road, Maida Vale, London. W9
3JF

Miss Susan Rothwell,
Barnston Oak House, Parsonage Lane,
Barnston, Nr. Greet Dunmow, Essex. CM6 3PA

Miss Elaine Trumper,
25 Wesbourne Avenue, Emsworth, Hants.
PU10 7QT

Miss Jo Dent,
Bank Top Farm, Monyash Road, Bakewell,
Derbyshire.

Mrs. Jane Yougioukas (Pashley),
51 Stags Way, Wyke Gardens, Osterley, Middx.
TW7 5PG

Mrs. Diane Foley,
Riversmead, 16 Foxglove Close, Wyke,
Gillingham, Dorset. SP8 4TW

Mrs. Ann Entwistle (Lyon),
Ophrys, 113 Station Road, Delamere, Cheshire.
CW8 2HZ

Mrs. Jane Langley (Gregory),
20 Van Dyke Close, Heath Lane, Putney,
London. SW15 3JQ

Mrs. Gwenllian Grafton-Robinson (Owen),
4 Ovington Street, Chelsea, London. SW3 2JB

Mrs. Dorothy Laybourn (Wallace),
10 Ridge Court, Redmires Road, Sheffield,
Yorks. S10 4LY

Mrs. Karen Gillespie (Fletcher),
7 Carters Way, Chilcompton, Somerset. BA3
4XH

Mrs. Mary Rose Woffenden (Oliver),
White Lodge, 63 Whirlow Park Road, Sheffield.
S11 9NN



Gym' ENSEMBLE -
SEEN FROM REAR



STORM HAT -
IN USE!