

# ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS' NEWS

St. Elphin's School,  
Darley Dale,  
Matlock.

Dear Old Girls,

Its size of print apart, last year's news supplement was generally welcomed. It introduced an element of choice and enabled us to include material in the magazine which would otherwise have had to be excluded. Writing this letter, I'm assuming that most of you will also have seen 'The Elphinian' in its entirety. I must therefore be careful not to repeat what I've written elsewhere!

That said, I do want to stress again the quality of this year's public examination results. We figured prominently in 'League Tables', achieved the School's best ever 'A' level pass rate of 94% (always remember how wide is the ability range at schools like St. Elphin's) and almost all the Upper Sixth Form leavers gained university places.

This comes at a significant time. We're moving towards 1994, with its celebration of 150 years of St. Elphin's School, and I'd like you to play a full part in this. Here, for example, are some dates for your diaries:

**Saturday, 15th January.**  
**11.00 a.m.**

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in Derby Cathedral.

**Wednesday, 4th May.**  
**3.30 p.m.**

Service (shared with St. Katharine's College) in Warrington Parish Church.

**Saturday/Sunday,**  
**14th-15th May.**

Your Special Reunion at the School - details already provided by Christine Codling.

**Friday, 24th June (evening).**

Old Time Music Hall, performed by members of the school in Buxton Opera House.

You will be welcome to attend these special occasions and there will be other events at the School, so do *please telephone me* (0629/732687) *during 1994* if you wish to have up-to-date information and to visit us, to participate in other ways.

We hope, too, to symbolise that unbroken tradition of 150 years by placing a small stained glass window in the Chapel. When I mentioned this at the Reunion last May, those present welcomed my suggestion - albeit

tentative! - that the Guild might like to be its chief donor. That generosity would be much appreciated.

There will also be merchandise of quality for you to buy: a 1994 Calendar is already available and we are planning a commemorative plate and other items to be sold next year.

Will you also please continue to send your reminiscences or articles of any kind which may be suitable for future publications. Next year, as many know, there will be no magazine as such, but a 'Miscellany', to which YOUR contributions would be welcome.

The year now passing has brought moments of sadness. In particular, the death of Miss Winifred Burchnell, aged 101, severed an important link with the past. As you have read in recent magazines, we at school shared from afar in Miss Burchnell's last years in Somerset. The Richmal Crompton years, though, remain fresh in our thoughts and I'm especially grateful to the author Mary Cadogan (who shared so enthusiastically in our 1990 celebration) for sending me library copies of her book 'The Woman Behind William', as well as Richmal Crompton's last two 'William' stories, just published by Macmillan. Richmal Ashbee, niece of the famous author and a very good friend to St. Elphin's, has not only donated to the School a white cloth embroidered with the name of Miss Lamburn's contemporaries, but also the copyright of her adult novel "Anne Morrison". Is there anyone who can find a publisher who would reprint this neglected work, based on the author's experiences of St. Elphin's in the early years of this century?

As I write at the start of the new school year, we are about to have a new prospectus. There have already been two "Radio Derby" programmes about aspects of the School. We are approaching a time of high profile for St. Elphin's. My thanks to all of you - to Christine, especially - for the interest you show and for what you will be doing to ensure that the school's next phase will prove as fruitful as all that has gone before.

My very best wishes, as always.  
Yours sincerely,



Peter Pollard

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST. ELPHIN'S SCHOOL ON THE 15th MAY, 1993, AT 11.30 a.m.

Following coffee in the Dining Room the majority of members went up to the Common Room for the A.G.M.

Mr. Pollard welcomed everyone and then continued with prayers, remembering all those Old girls or former members of staff, who had died during the past year: Miss Winifred Burchnell, Miss Jasper, Mrs. Linette Croxford (Rice), Mrs. Margaret Williams (Thomason), Mrs. Marjorie Bunting (Carson).

Apologies were received from Helen Yool, Margaret Williams, Phoebe Milton, Barbara Baer, Beryl Campbell, Kathleen Venables, Vanessa Hill, Ann Entistle, Judith Carter, Sue Harmer, Joan Brown, Ingrid Victor, Sylvia Hooley, Pat Littlewood, Ann Jacklin, Angela Blanchard, Meuros Dobson, Felicity Hay, Dorothy Edwards, Debbie Phipps, Eileen Smart, Lady Osmond, Mary Goodman, Sarah Hulme, Margaret Thompson.

Correspondence. A letter from Eileen Smart sending her best wishes for the Reunion, also greetings were sent by Miss Robinson via Debbie Phipps.

Minutes of the previous A.G.M. which was held on the 16th May, 1992 at the school were read, approved and signed.

### MATTERS ARISING.

The Honours Boards had been set out in the Common Room so that everyone could see them. This brought back many memories for several people and a general discussion followed. Mr. Pollard said that they would be hung on the Common Room Wall.

The Autumn Reunion would take place at the R.A.F. Club in London on the 16th October, 1993. June Gibson was thanked for organising last year's London Reunion. (A report on this will be printed in the magazine).

### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Christine welcomed everybody and thanked those people who had encouraged their friends to come along. Membership now stood at 731 and anybody who was present who was not a member could join if they wished. Since the A.G.M. last year June Gibson had organised a very successful reunion in London and had agreed to organise another next year. There had been a very good raffle which had raised over £90.00 for the school funds. Christine had organised a South East reunion at her home in November which Mr. Pollard

had very kindly attended with Mrs. Phillpot. She had also attended the School Christmas dinner which was a very grand affair with evening dress and carols on the front stairs, before going in for dinner. The Boars Head Carol is still sung and was very moving. Her appeal for donations towards the cost of the school magazine had proved to be very successful; approximately £400.00 had been sent and also several people had taken the trouble to write in with their news whilst they were sending the money. Several people had indicated that they would be happy to receive only the Old Girls' Section in future, which will help with the costs. The total cost to the Governors to supply a magazine to every Old Girl is £3,500.00. Christine requested that there should be an election of the Officers as she had already been Secretary for three years and Rosemary had been Treasurer for considerably longer. Whilst she did not want to resign, she felt that there might be somebody who wanted to do the job. Rosemary had expressed a wish to resign as Treasurer but had agreed to carry on for another year to help with the 1994 celebrations. The constitution which hadn't been altered since 1962 would be discussed under A.O.B. Finally she said that, as we are growing in numbers, perhaps we could try and be more supportive of the school and asked for any ideas on the subject.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Rosemary reported on the balance sheet, copies of which were distributed. There was a balance of £3,998.32 in the account. She suggested that the Old Girls made a donation to the school to make the contribution to the school magazine to £1,000. This was proposed by Mary Scudamore and seconded by Liz Rixon. Mr. Pollard signed the accounts.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. Pollard reported on his trip to the Bahamas where he had received hospitality from parents of the girls who had attended and were attending school and where he had a very enjoyable time. A newsletter was now sent out at the end of every term. The girls had done very well in athletics and with the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme. Mr. Burgess was retiring and Miss Jarvis was leaving to work at Trent College. He said that a friend of his had represented him at Miss Burchnell's funeral and a donation had been sent to the Old People's Home where she had lived. A donation had also been sent to the Home

where Miss Jasper had lived and June Gibson had represented the Old Girls at her funeral.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Secretary: Christine Codling proposed by Sheila Allen and seconded by Mary Mayo.

Treasurer: Rosemary Chambers. Liz Rixon offered to take over during the course of the year. Proposed Christine Codling, seconded Jeanie Dornan.

#### A.O.B.

The magazine for this year will be sent out in the autumn, but next year there will be a Commemorative publication for the 150th Anniversary, and therefore no magazine as such. Several members commented on how they liked the old girls' news in a separate section but asked that the print be larger. All present were given details for the celebrations of 1994 which will take place during the course of the weekend of 14/15th May 1994. The cost for the weekend will be £30.00 but members will have the option of attending separate events if they wish. Details of accommodation in the area were also given out for those who could not be accommodated at the school. The following events would also be taking place: a Service in Derby Cathedral on the 15th January, 1994, a Service in Warrington Parish Church on 4th May, 1994; a Commemoration Service to be held on Saturday 22nd October, venue to be decided at a later date. Mr. Pollard told us of plans for a new stained glass window for the chapel and asked if the Old Girls' Guild would be prepared to pay for it. Those present agreed. The estimated cost should be in the region of £2,000.00. A copy of the 1962 Constitution was also given out and it was decided that before next year a committee of old girls would meet and draw up a new constitution to be approved at the 1994 A.G.M.

The Book of Remembrance had been found and Mr. Pollard would be looking into having it brought up to date.

Stephanie Jones asked if Miss Kennedy's grave was being looked after in Darley Church yard, Mr. Pollard said he would look into this.

The date of the next A.G.M. will be the 14th May, 1994.

Those present:- Mary Aitchison (Davidson), Sheila Allen (Mosley), Jenny Bird, Rosemary Brown (Halsall), Ruth Burgess (Doxey), Margaret Cadge, Ann Carson, Rosemary Chambers (Thornton), Rosemary Chapman (Smith), Renate Churcher, Christine Codling (Tew), Margaret Cosens, Edwina Davy, Anna Dawes (Kastoryano), Kathryn Dickins (Betterson), Suzanne Diggle (Silk), Shani Dodes (Robshaw), Jean-Christine

Dornan (Turner), Jean Dutton, June Gibson (Brierley), Betty Glasgow (Jones), Lucy Golland, Caron Guffogg (Smith), Nicky Heathcote, Muriel Hinde (Jones), Jackie Houghton (Tear), Sylvia Isaacs (Boothby), Helen Jay (Wright), Elspeth Jones (Watts), Stephanie Jones, Margaret Joslin (Russon), Rosemary Kershaw (Hill), Diana Kidd (Holme), Margaret Kingsnorth, Mrs. Vera Kitchen (Staff), Leslie Lamb (Ralph), Joy Laughton (Lavin), Avice Lee (Barrow), Alexandra Mayland, Mary Mayo (Reeman), Jean McGregor (Beauchamp), Susanne Millar (Blackwall), Joan Newcombe (Brittain), Margaret Oldbury (Watson), Mrs. Muriel Onac (Staff), Jane Orchard (Boden), Jane Paradise (Pearson), Debbie Phipps, Judy Rose (Bennett), Andrea Riley, Liz Rixon (Fleming), Anna Rendell-Knights (Watts), Judy Russo (Swindells), Rachael Salmon (Woodhouse), Gillian Sanderson (Outram), Mary Scudamore (Jones), Cheryl Steel (Chalk), Rosemary Taylor, Gerda Thomas (Carmenisch), Jill Thomas (Dixon), Anne Thompson (Savage), Mrs. Jo Thornton (Staff), Jane Turner (Powell), Gillian Walker (Kerr), Jean Waddell, Elizabeth Wareham (Carson), Eve Weston.

At the end of the A.G.M. a photograph session took place in the Common Room and then everybody went to the usual delicious lunch in the Dining Room. After lunch the majority of members went on tours of the school, the balance either going for a walk to the Lakes or playing rounders. After tea and cakes we went to chapel where lessons were read by Jean-Christine Dornan and Caron Guffogg.

Dear Old Girls,

This year has brought a large increase in letters from you and I would like to thank all of you who contributed so generously to the cost of the school magazine. I hope that I acknowledged all the letters and money but if not please accept my apologies. You will notice from the Old Girls' news that we are lacking in notices in the marriages and births column. With a membership of over seven hundred I am sure that some of you have either got married or had babies in the last year. A couple of you did write to say that you were expecting children but I have not heard anything since. The general opinion seems to be that the separate section for the old girls' news is liked, although I did have several requests for larger print, which have been passed on.

The May Reunion was very well attended and it was nice to see some new faces. We have been giving a lot of thought to the 1994 Celebrations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the school and by

the time you read this you will all have received the details which I hope meet with your approval. It is rather a daunting task to try to please everybody. I hope we have succeeded. Please come and support us and write with ideas for the Saturday afternoon and also for the evening programme. As you will read in the Minutes, it was agreed at the A.G.M. that the Old Girls' Guild have agreed to pay for the new stained glass window to commemorate the 150th Anniversary so I am once again asking you for contributions, this time both for the magazines and for the stained glass window.

I thoroughly enjoyed organising a South-East Reunion at my house last November, and I would ask you to consider doing the same, perhaps for your area or for your particular year. I should be very pleased to offer any help.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible for the reunion in 1994.

With best wishes,  
Christine Codling (Tew)

#### NEW MEMBERS

Elspeth Jones, (Watts)  
Roseacre, Thorpe Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO16 9SA  
1950-1960 Kennedy

Mrs. Jane Tarbatt (Wright)  
Coverack, Stretton Road, Tansley, Nr. Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 5FR  
1957-1961 Fletcher

Miss Margaret Cadge,  
Holme End, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AA  
1936-45 Fletcher

Mrs. Virginia Macaulay (Waterhouse)  
High End, Troutstream, Loudwater, Herts. WD3 4LQ  
1944-1947 Wilson

Mrs. Rosemary Brown (Halsall),  
34 Bowler Green, Longcot, Farringdon, Oxford. SN7 7TU  
1973-1980 Fletcher

Mrs. Jackie Houghton (Tear)  
21 Sherwood Glen, Sheffield, Yorks. S7 2RB

Julia Allen  
61 Balogie Avenue, Neasden, London. NW10 1SU  
1987-92 Pigot

Nicola Allen  
The Orangery, Sydnope Hall, Two Dales, Matlock. DE4 2FN  
1978-92 Powys

Melissa Allsopp  
Exe Dene, Follett Road, Topsham, Exeter. EX3 0JJ  
1984-92 Powys

Rachel Amner  
58 Foljambe Avenue, Walton, Chesterfield. S40 3EX  
1987-92 Wilson

Bernice Cheng  
Block C2, 7th Floor, Villa Monte Rosa, 41a Stubbs Road, Hong Kong  
1987-92 Kennedy

Deborah Croxall  
5 Wellington Close, Matlock. DE4 3GE  
1987-92 Wilson

Alexandra Del Luongo  
16 Paxton Close, Matlock. DE4 3TD  
1990-92 Pigot

Hannah Dornan  
209 Twentywell Lane, Sheffield. S17 4QB  
1987-92 Pigot

Clare Duke-Cox  
171 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincoln. LN10 6RB  
1989-92 Kennedy

Suzanne Ellis  
Ashover Hay Farm, Ashover Hay, Ashover, Chesterfield  
1987-92 Kennedy

Katie Else  
10 Harpole Close, Swanwick, Alfreton. DE55 1BN  
1983-92 Kennedy

Johanna Flett  
The Lodge, Honington, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. IP21 1QX  
1990-92 Pigot

Kenrah Francis  
P. O. Box CB11232, Nassau, Bahamas  
1988-92 Wilson

Gillian Frazier  
Tipton Grange, Tipton, Chesterfield  
1984-92 Powys

Sarah-Jane Gale  
Chaseley, 75 Green Lane, Buxton. SK17 9DJ  
1990-92 Kennedy

Nicola Heathcote  
9 The Crescent, Old Dalby, Nr. Melton Mowbray. Leics. LE14 3LD  
1987-92 Wilson

Sarah Hicks  
5 Oakfield Avenue, Brampton, Chesterfield. S40 3LE  
1986-92 Powys

Lucy Hudson  
Teesdale House, Hassop Road, Bakewell. DE4 1NP  
1985-92 Kennedy

Helen Johnson  
P. O. Box 1973, Limassol, Cyprus  
1989-92 Powys

Kenya Kemp  
P. O. Box 5396 SS, Nassau, Bahamas  
1990-92 Kennedy

Sarah Lamb  
Appledore, Roebuck Drive, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 5AW  
1985-92 Pigot

Winnie Lau  
29 Ridge Street, Epping, Sydney, N.S.W. Australia 2121  
1990-92 Kennedy

Deborah MacLachlan  
St. Andrew's Rectory, Coppermine, N.W.T., Canada XOE EOE  
1989-92 Wilson

Karen McNally  
Park View, Windsor Close, Walton, Chesterfield. S40 3SF  
1986-92 Pigot

Catherine Malkinson  
The Vicarage, Headroomgate, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs. FY8 3BP  
1985-92 Powys

Fiona Northcott  
The Gables, Riber Road, Matlock. DE4 5JB  
1978-92 Powys

Kenia Nottage  
C/o P. O. Box N-4691, Nassau, Bahamas  
1988-92 Wilson

Jeunesse Osadebay  
P. O. Box N-4691, Nassau, Bahamas  
1990-92 Pigot

Laura-Jane Quick  
High Peak, Ninelands Road, Hathersage. S30 1BJ  
1985-92 Powys

Sarah Rawling  
Bloxwich Rectory, Elmore Road,  
Bloxwich, Walsall. WS3 2HR  
1984-92 Kennedy

Bridget Sands  
P. O. Box CB 11816, Nassau, Bahamas  
1990-92 Pigot

Katherine Savidge  
Timberfields, Highstairs Lane, Stretton,  
Derbyshire. DE5 6FD  
1989-92 Pigot

Milan Szeto  
Block B, 8/Floor, Fulham Gardens,  
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong  
1990-92 Powys

Sarah Tarbatt  
Coverack, Stretton Road, Tansley,  
Matlock. DE4 5FR  
1980-92 Powys

Susila Thubron  
St. Giles Vicarage, Giles Gate,  
Durham. DH1 1QH  
1985-92 Powys

Sophie Vinning  
Peasunhurst Farm, Ashover, Chesterfield  
1985-92 Powys

Claire Walker  
Redthorne, Wensley Road, Winster,  
Matlock, Derbyshire  
1984-92 Pigot

Natasha Whawell  
The Cottage, Gun Lane, Nether  
Heage, Belper. DE56 2JX  
1990-92 Kennedy

Tracey Wong  
Ashleigh House, The Avenue,  
Bakewell. DE4 QE  
1987-92 Wilson

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Helen Clements (Taylor)  
9a, 1 Broadcast Drive, Kowloon, Hong  
Kong

Mrs. Sally Deitch (Havenhand)  
60a Doolittle Drive, Daws Hill Lane,  
High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1BQ

Mrs. Sheila Rothwell (Cox)  
Timperley Aquatics, 190 Stockport Road,  
Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Miss Rachael MacLachlan  
St. Andrew's Rectory, Coppermine, North  
West Territories, Canada. XO EOE

Mrs. Mary Perryman  
St. Luke's Vicarage, Hatfield Road,  
Bath, Avon. BA2 2BD

Mrs. Bridget Davies (Mawson)  
c/o Mrs. Mawson, 58 Nettleham Road,  
Lincoln. LN2 1RH

Mrs. Wendy Lambert (Bainbridge)  
Oakways, Newlands Lane, Hitchin,  
Herts. SG4 9RB

Mrs. Phoebe Milton  
The Old Forge, Lower Oddington,  
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire.  
GL56 0UP

Mrs. Rachel Southward (Gregory)  
51 Oakeyfield Road, Thurston, Bury St.  
Edmunds, Suffolk. IP33 1PZ

#### MEMBERS LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

Johanna Mason (nee Bradwell 1979-  
1982 Gresford)  
Flat 2, 97 Atenburg Gardens, Clapham,  
London. SW11 1JQ

Miss Judith Mallalieu  
9 Riverside Road, West Moors,  
Wimborne, Dorset

Mrs. Jean Berrisford (nee King) 1942-1948  
10 Derriman Drive, Ecclestone,  
Sheffield. S11 9LD

Mrs. Rosemary Chapman (nee Smith)  
1944-1951 Fletcher  
Peartree Cottage, 80 Hackney Road,  
Matlock, Derbyshire.

Mrs. Pamela Hardy (nee Walton)  
97 Victor Avenue, Picnic Point, New  
South Wales, 2213, Australia  
1957-1964 Kennedy

Mrs. Marylyn Booth (nee Lloyd)  
5 Granville Street, Copthorne,  
Shrewsbury. SY3 8NE

Mrs. Judith Robinson (Sheard)  
Mitre House, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria.  
CA17 4QT

#### MARRIAGES

Sarah Mann and Paul Thomas, August  
1992, married in the School Chapel by  
Rev'd. James Burgess.

#### BIRTHS

#### DEATHS

Mrs. Linette Croxford (Rice) 1939-1945  
died 29th May, 1992.

Miss Winifred Burchnell, aged 101  
years January 1993 (Staff)

Miss Catherine Jasper, aged 83 years  
died 11th March 1993 (Staff)

Mrs. Margaret Williams (Thomason),  
died 9th March 1993

Mrs. Vera Hoole (Murdoch) 1922-1931  
died 29th June 1993

Mrs. Margaret Syrett (Bowers) 1944-  
1948 died July 1989

Miss Catherine Henderson 1965-1972  
died June 1993



#### OBITUARIES

Ann Entwistle wrote the following after the death of her Aunt Margaret Williams, nee Thomason, who with her four sisters was a pupil at St. Elphin's (1910-1915 approx.). She was known as Peggy. She was the fourth child and second daughter of the Rector of Mawdesley (Lancashire) the Rev. Edward Thomason; the last surviving member of her family. She is survived by three married daughters, and six grandchildren. Her health had been very poor for some time following two fractures of the same hip and she died in a rest home. Auntie Peggie was a devout Christian, member of the Mothers' Union until frailty hindered her worship. "In my adolescence, (writes Mrs. Entwistle) following my mother's death when I was only 12, I drew on Auntie Peggie's support a great deal even though we lived far apart."

Kathleen Brown (nee Hoole) wrote with sad news that her mother Vera Hoole (nee Murdoch) had died on the 29th June 1993. She had been failing for some time and was more or less completely helpless. Her mind, however, was still reasonably alert up to the week before her death. She had suffered from Parkinson's Disease for the last five or six years and during the last four years had been exceptionally well cared for in a local residential home. Until quite recently she was a regular attendee at the Old Girls' reunions and was always interested in news of St. Elphin's.

Mary Aitcheson wrote of the sudden death of Linette Croxford (nee Rice) who was at St. Elphin's from 1939-45. She was a day girl and head of Fletcher in her last year.

#### Miss Catherine Margaret Jasper

Miss Jasper, who died on 11th March, 1993 will be remembered by many with much affection as "Connie J", Maths-, Senior-, Sixth Form-, and Careers Mistress and Staff Sacristan.

In writing her obituary, I have been privileged to receive from her sister, the testimonials, which in her meticulous way, she had kept from her school and college days.

She was born in 1909 in Dinton Marsh, Wiltshire, where her father was curate, and the family moved to Albourne within the County when her father was appointed vicar. Miss Jasper was sent as a boarder to St. Brandon's, Clevedon, Bristol, a school for clergy daughters. Her headmistress wrote of her as a keen worker - generally top of her form, clear-headed and methodical, a good prefect who developed markedly in powers of perception and of handling others, and of her reliability and loyalty.

In 1927 she left St. Brandon's, going on to Westfield College to read applied and pure mathematics, gaining her BA in 1930, and in 1931 her Diploma in Education from the University of Oxford.

After only one year as Maths Mistress at Farlington House, Haywards Heath, she was appointed Senior Maths Mistress at Eversley School, Elmers Court, Lymington. During the early war years the school was evacuated twice, and it is recorded that Miss Jasper's calmness and cheerfulness did much to ease the problems of the day. In 1942, as Maths Mistress at Marlborough Grammar School, she replaced a man doing wartime service. She moved to St. Elphin's in 1943 as Senior Maths Mistress, then Second- and Sixth Form Mistress, leaving to take up the appointment of Senior Maths Mistress at St. Helen and St. Katherine, Abingdon, from where she retired in 1973 . . . but returning on a part time basis!

In retirement she lived in Headington, Oxford, taking great pride and pleasure in her garden. She was an active member of the League of Friends of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. She worshipped at the lovely old Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry, where she was on the PCC for many years, did the flowers, and was actively involved in the upkeep of the Church and the Churchyard.

The characteristics noted by her headmistress changed little throughout her life, and many were referred to in the address at her funeral by the former curate of Holy Trinity, Father Alan Gordon, who had known her for

many years.

Father Gordon revived for me many memories of Miss Jasper, but I remember also her clear, creamy complexion, her raven hair and her dark brown eyes, that could reprimand at a glance the wayward member of Lower V and could twinkle with friendly mirth at an exchange of Sixth Form repartee. I was on the receiving end of both, and remember her with affection and great respect.

For the last three years of her life, with advancing Parkinson's Disease, Miss Jasper was cared for by the Sisters of the Community of All Saints, Sisters of the Poor at St. John's Home, Oxford.

#### In Memory of Miss Burchnell, 1891-1993

Miss Winifred Burchnell taught geography at St. Elphin's for about twenty years, leaving the school in 1935. She died at St. Margaret's Home in Bridgwater, Somerset, on January 21st, 1993, just twenty-four days short of her hundred and second birthday.

'Burch', as she invited her friends to call her, or 'dear Burch', as she was known to many, was not only remarkable for her long life; she is remembered as a much-loved teacher and friend.

Of her life story we know only the outline. 'Burch' was born at Branston in Lincolnshire, where her father was farming, and she went to school in Lincoln, four miles away, by pony and trap. She was the eldest of four children. Her beloved brother was killed in the First World War, and there were twin girls, much younger, who grew up to be expert peal-ringers. Later 'Burch' and her sisters moved to Sutton-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire.

As she had never learnt Latin, 'Burch' had to teach herself that language before she could take a degree and become a school-mistress.

She then studied geography and history, and she always maintained that the two subjects should go together, as one could not understand a country's history without knowing its geography.

Nearly all 'Burch's' time at St. Elphin's was during the headship of Miss Flood. Shortly after Miss Hudson became headmistress there was a change of staff, and in 1935 'Burch' took a post at a day-school in Settle, North Yorkshire, where she stayed fifteen years, in fact until she retired. This was another *small* school, by today's standards, which suited 'Burch' very well, as she considered it so important that staff should know all the girls individually and be able to keep a motherly eye on them in and out of the classroom. (In the mid-1930's the number of pupils at St. Elphin's had fallen to below a hundred.)

On her retirement 'Burch' and her friend Miss Cole - 'Coley', another former St. Elphin's

mistress - moved south to Nether Stowey in Somerset, attracted there partly by the possibility of walks in the Quantock Hills. Walking had always been one of 'Burch's' favourite recreations, both in Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and it was while walking in Yorkshire that she broke her leg.

Some years later Miss Cole died. 'Burch' had one or two falls, and, now in her nineties, feared she might become too much of a burden for her good neighbours, so with characteristic strong-mindedness decided to sell her house and go into a residential Home, which she inspected for herself before moving in. Here she spent the last eight and a half years of her life, which included of course the celebration of her hundredth birthday - with the Queen's telegram - on February 14th, 1991.

The earliest memories of 'Burch' at St. Elphin's come from Marjorie and Lena Nicol, who remember her, about 1915, as "a very young new teacher, quiet and pleasant and determined from the start." Lena even recalls her first lesson, when 'Burch' announced, "If anyone behaves badly, she will have a BAD MARK" - but it seems that no one did, nor did later generations of St. Elphinites play up in 'Burchie's' lessons either! Pupils of the 1930's would confirm that she was a natural disciplinarian, who could be sharp, but never unkind or 'sarky', so that she was liked and respected without being feared. You knew she was on your side, and only wanted the best for you and from you. In the classroom she had a way of getting through to each girl as if teaching that one alone. She was quite a stiff marker, and in Second Form one term there was keen competition to be the first ever to achieve a 'sent-up' in geography. Whether it was Magellan's voyages or coffee-growing in Brazil, it was all made interesting. One former pupil writes of how her class were trained to draw maps freehand, and this same girl was so inspired by 'Burch's' teaching that she gained 99% in School Certificate geography!

There are also visual impressions of 'Burch' that stand out very clearly. The oldest is of her coming down the stairs with the other staff, elegantly dressed for the evening meal, in the fashion of those days, or on Sundays, in wonderful hats decorated with artificial flowers or fruit. Was 'Burch's' the one with the bunch of cherries?

How different this is from the picture we have nearly twenty years later, of Miss Burchnall and Miss Faithfull ('Burchie' and 'Skinny') sitting together in the staff rows at the back of Chapel, usually in blouse and tie, woollen costume, small soft hat and sensible shoes! The girls considered them already in the eventide of life, though 'Burch'

could not have been more than forty-four at the time!

Another familiar sight was these same two companions setting off for their afternoon walk across the games field and up towards Tom's cottage, followed by their Siamese cat Sinbad (Sinner) or his successor. Having been brought up on a farm, 'Burch' was very fond of animals, especially dogs and cats. Her father always kept three dogs, she said, and sometimes there would be a 'cade' lamb, bottle-fed and reared in the farm kitchen. Another farm memory she often recalled was of the little bags her mother would sew for her father to take his corn samples to market. And there was the gold bracelet he once gave her for helping in the harvest-field.

Others remember 'Burch' as a form mistress or as Kennedy house mistress, taking form- or house-reading at week-ends in her room on Top Floor between dormitories 9 and 11. At other times she might ask a girl up there to give her advice or a 'blowing-up'. Her remarks, beginning with "But, my dear, . . ." were of straightforward common sense, and often a sense of humour that could make you laugh at yourself. 'Kind' and 'understanding' are the words most used to describe her here (as also in her very early days), but there was no compromise over right and wrong, and friends of later years noted her firmness, even obstinacy, in sticking to her opinions. Of course she loyally supported house matches and other activities, giving freely of her spare time, and on the occasional form picnic one girl remembers, "she kept her dignity, but still joined in all the fun".

Then there is the tribute of 'Burch's' colleagues. One, looking back to her own time as a mistress in the Junior School, rather amusingly described her as "quite the most human of the members of the senior staff-room"! Another speaks of her as being "so kind and encouraging to her junior colleagues - such a great help to a beginner", and sums up her whole character as "lovable and loving". Colleagues of differing Christian views were all impressed by the simplicity of her deep religious faith, a faith which must have supported her throughout her life, as in finding that old age she once said, "I find that the older one gets, the more one is aware of the presence of God, and couldn't live without it."

A neighbour at Nether Stowey said that as soon as Miss Burchnall and Miss Cole settled there, "they made friends with everyone." 'Burch' took part in various village activities, including Women's Institute, Church affairs and a Good Neighbours scheme - still leaving time to enjoy her gardening - so she must indeed have made many friends there as always. These have recently planted a white flowering cherry-

tree in the churchyard in memory of both Miss Burchnall and Miss Cole. It was the way 'Burch' had of making you feel you were her friend, and that she was yours, that was so endearing, together with that unflinching courtesy which we now call old-fashioned.

These scanty recollections, stretching back over seventy-five years, are offered with love, in the words so fittingly chosen for the floral cross laid at her funeral, "To dear 'Burch', from her many friends."



## NEWS FROM OLD GIRLS

Mrs. HELEN LADELL nee FARMER who attended the school between 1934-1940 sent me some notes which I will endeavour to set out. Some of the staff were as follows: Miss Hudson Head Mistress. Miss Mulnas, Junior Matron, Miss Grenfell, Senior Matron, Miss Proctor, Nurse, Miss Longmire and Miss Johns, Art and Maths, Miss Dunherter, Miss Harvey, French, Miss Willis? P.E. She can remember many incidents - Gas mask fitting - swimming in Matlock. The visit of the English Classical Players (her first introduction to drama). Russian dancers/singers in Chesterfield - 1937 Coronation celebration - exploits after lights - Stopping a boundary with her knee in a cricket match - Rugby touch against the staff at half term - the introduction of the Walls ice-cream freezer - Sunday fruit - visiting Clergy - pretty 'with it' summer dresses - long walks until her shins ached (put off for life) adulation of peers after putting the form bully in her place, near the rhododendrons - making hay houses after lights out on the hayfield adjacent to the pitch - receiving a conduct mark for accepting half an extra sausage at breakfast because matron was late from chapel, the two sausages had been divided up, all had conduct marks, the worst punishment ever dealt out. Good food served with great regularity. She now always connects iced buns with Mondays, jam with Tuesday etc. etc. and baked beans or sardines on toast with Thursdays, superb brown stew and mashed potatoes following fearsome fish or vegetable pie for Friday lunch. Acting as a guinea pig in house swimming galas because of her small size and being kept underwater the whole way. Enjoying Biology lessons in the new extension - reading 'Gone with the Wind' until the early hours - gymnastics on Dorm 2 curtain bars - Air raid practice sleeping on the main staircase landing with a towel and wet flannel. Feuds on Derby Station with Abbots Bromley girls who looked down on them. Awe and admiration of Diana Crick, eldest daughter of one time Bishop of

Chester who dramatically cast her hat into the Derwent through the train window on her last day.

Helen would like to contact Flora Bisset Smith from Ashton under Lyne. Her father was a doctor. She qualified as a doctor and married a civil servant, she believes in Africa. Her married name was Baber. She and her husband once visited her but then lost touch. She last saw her in 1959, they were good best friends and people said they could always find them because they could hear them arguing. Flora used to act as Helen's secretary writing her home letters for her. She would also like to meet Judith and Diane Lloyd, sisters who lived locally, possibly near Hartington. They were weekly boarders and invited her out one Sunday for the day. Helen taught all her working life and retired in 1989 and now lives in her parents retirement home in Eccleshall.

Mrs. PAT LITTLEWOOD of Woodstock, 14a Elwy Road, Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd. LL28 4SB 0492 547360 who is not a member of the Guild would like to contact Rosemary Chadwick, Susan Hetherington, Gwyn Rees, and Margaret Bowers who all left school in July 1947. It was Pat who notified me of Mrs. Linette Croxford's death.

HELEN YOOL nee STONE wrote with some suggestions for the magazine which have been noted and said that life at St. Elphin's is obviously very different from her time there in the 20s when they received a very good if simpler education particularly from Miss Thouless (English) and Miss Burchnall (Geography) who she was amazed was 101.

RACHEL MACLACHLAN (1983-1990) has moved to the Arctic with her sister Deborah and her parents as their father has accepted a job as Vicar to two parishes 350 miles apart in the North West Territories of Canada. Their home will be based in Coppermine, a small Eskimo settlement boasting 2000 inhabitants. Deborah will be attending a state boarding school situated on the Grave Slave Lake for her remaining four years of education whilst Rachel will be returning to England in October to finish her final year of her Sports Studies degree. She enclosed a housebook from Rotherwood which had come to light because of the clearing up. Mrs. Aspinall had given it to her and it made quite interesting reading. There were also some photos of Mr. Pollard with hair and girls in some very tasty grey suits with American tan tights and brown lace-ups (Rachel's words not mine). The book has been passed back to the school for the archives.

SALLY DIETSCH (nee HAVENHAND who attended the school in 1977 is married and her husband is in the Air Force. She

has two children James aged 5 and Alexa aged 2 and she works part time for a pharmaceutical company. She attended the London Reunion.

BRIDGET DAVIES nee MAWSON who was at school between 1976 and 1981 wrote with the following news. She married Nigel Davies in 1988 and in 1990 she had a son James. They moved to the USA in July 1991 for approximately three years with Nigel's work. She has kept in touch with WEI FUNG LEI who completed her degree and is now running her Father's restaurant in Cheshire. MARGARET ENGLISH is now living in London. REBECCA PETTIFER was married in 1989, her married name is Langan and she has a son Joshua. Bridget can be contacted through her Mother. See change of address.

MISS THOULESS wrote to thank governors of school for sending the magazine. She has remained very attached to the school and is interested in all its doings.

MARY ILLSLEY wrote to say how much she had enjoyed the photos of the house and garden in the magazine which brought back memories.

RUTH ROSEVEARE had returned to India to visit the Christian Community where she was until seven years ago when she retired. She had been the head of a small women's Christian Guest House where conferences and retreats took place and for guests in transit to other places and for other reasons. When she retired she left it in the hands of Indian Ladies but had kept in touch and decided to visit to see if she could help, to find that the accounts needed her help badly. She found the climate quite difficult to get used to but rejoices in meeting so many friends. This news was passed to me by her sister Mary Garrett who also attended St. Elphin's (1929-1933) and who lives in the same road as Ruth. I had invited Ruth to the mini-reunion for East Anglia which of course she couldn't come to. I hope to make contact when she has returned. Ruth has since written to me saying how much she has enjoyed reading the magazines and particularly enjoyed the 1992 edition with the coloured photographs. She is determined to return to school during 1994.

MARGARET WILLIAMS nee PATTEN who was on the staff between 1941-1945 wrote to thank me for the magazine and said that she remembered Margaret Ringrose well. She used to help Miss Grenfell check the girls' clothing lists at the beginning of term. Her room was opposite Miss Grenfell's and she used to hear her voice as she went about her work e.g. "No running on the Bridge" and

"Young ladies do not whistle". She attended a reunion this year.

SUSAN LEIGH nee WILLIAMS 1960-64 wrote me a very interesting letter from the Isle of Man where she lives with her husband, who teaches at the local school, and her three sons who are 21, 18 and 16. Richard, the eldest, is a sailing instructor, Jonathan is studying Applied Biology at Preston and David is about to take his G.C.S.E.'s. Sue is a full time housewife and also does some voluntary work at the local primary school. She still keeps in touch with RACHEL VINCENT nee TAGGART, SALLY WITTY nee GREENWOOD, CAROLYN HANSEL nee HARE and ROBERTA WHITCOMBE nee MARCH-PENNY. She wondered what we all looked like now.

SYLVIA ISAACS nee BOOTHBY who left in the 1950s wrote to say that she left "under a cloud" and deliberately lost touch with everyone. She would now like to get in touch with anyone who was at school at the same time as herself.

MARGARET MALSTROM nee WALLIS, who lives in Sweden, wrote to say that she is of the 1936-46 generation. Over the last five years she has met up with many of her own and her late sister's friends from school. She has also revisited the school on several occasions. She remembers the 1944 celebrations and God willing will make next year.

KATHLEEN VENABLES nee BALLACHEY has lately been overtaken with arthritis and cannot race around as she used to a short time ago; her husband has also had one or two small strokes and cannot be left so reunions are out of the question. She congratulated those who were responsible for the school magazine and although she hardly knows anyone mentioned in it now reads nearly all of it. She was a contemporary of the Griffiths sisters and remembers going to tea sometimes to Darley Dale rectory where they lived. They were the only day girls - how different from the present day! Miss Flood was the Headmistress and she was in Wilson House who were rather good at sport - she was good at sport and got her silver badge being in the school teams - also a gym stripe - she wondered whether there were still badges and stripes. She still keeps in touch with Nora Warhurst nee Sexton and has eight grandchildren.

JUDY MALLALIEU and her mother gave RUTH KITSELL (nee Shepard) and ANGELA WESSON (nee Willatt) a very happy day at their home in Dorset, in March. They had not met for over forty years so there was much news to catch up on. They would love to hear news of any of their contemporaries.

ROSEMARY TAYLOR wrote:- It was interesting to see how things were going for 1994. It will of course be a bit easier to put together than the century of 1944 during wartime. We had to make-do with "internal fun and games", a bit difficult in January! We did have the Centenary Service at St. Elphin's, Warrington, for which I recently found the service sheet. There were three Bishops present, Warrington, Liverpool, and Chester. The Head Girl read the lesson and eight of us tottered round doing the collection. Considering the date and war time we had a good congregation as far as I remember; considering, too, that 15th January was in the holiday." It was very nice to see Rosemary's cheerful face once again at the Reunion.

JUDITH ROBINSON (nee SHEARD) drove past the school recently and noticed several new buildings. She realised that it was a number of years since she had any contact with old girls due to the fact that she had moved house several times and not notified anybody. She retired from Health Visiting in 1990 and enjoys living in the unspoilt part of Cumbria, the Eden Valley. Her husband, Hugh, helps with services in the three Churches in the Appleby parish. She has five grandchildren which are a great joy.

KATHLEEN BROWN (nee HOOLE) still works at Burnley Jobcentre and her husband is in local government and her son David who is now 24 is a pharmacist at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

JEAN BERRISFORD (nee KING) who was at St. Elphin's from 1942-1948, recently retired back to Yorkshire after many years in the South. She was showing her husband and daughter the school from the road at the side of the games field when quite by chance they met the Chaplain who introduced himself and asked if he could help. There were so many happy memories brought back by looking round and she would like to hear from any old friends.

ALISON JANE SIMMONS has just received her Doctor of Philosophy at Essex University. She has completed her three years of research in Deposition of Ozone in the Troposphere. Her first degree was taken at Salford University in Chemistry, she then went on to Cambridge to do her P.G.C.E. Having done this she took up a teaching career for two years before going to Essex University to do her PhD. Currently she is employed by South Staff County Council in their Environmental Health Department working on Air and Water Pollution. She maintains regular contact with FELICITY MONCKTON, who is a very successful journalist.

Following an advertisement in 'The Sunday Express' for the May Reunion I received a letter from LINDSAY KIRBY (nee PHARO) in which she wrote that she left St. Elphin's in 1972 after 'A' levels and although her form meet up each year she never joined the Old Girls' Guild. I sent her details for joining but as yet have not received a reply.

MARY M. LYON (nee GUEST) who attended school in 1962-1964 now lives in Australia and is married to a G.P. They emigrated to Australia with their two young children in 1977 and they live in the small country town of Camperdown in Victoria. Both children are at University in Melbourne. She would particularly like to contact ROBERTA MARCH-PENNY and MISS HEATHER JAMES who was a chemistry teacher at the school.

EMMA ST. JOHN-SMITH (known as Ann) was at St. Elphin's from 1959-1966 and was mainly in Gresford. When she left she took an external London University degree from Derby and District College of Technology. She went on to do research work at The Royal Institution of Great Britain. After working in several museums in Cardiff, London and Lancashire she is now Press Secretary at Westminster Abbey where she deals with all press, media activity, publicity, tourism etc. The high profile aspect of the job is being the link between the Abbey and the BBC when there are big services on the television. She is totally responsible for the whole broadcast on the Abbey's behalf. She cut her eyeteeth on the job of the Yorks' wedding.

ROSEMARY CHAPMAN (nee SMITH) got in contact for the May Reunion. She has two grandchildren currently at St. Elphin's.

PAMELA WALTON (nee HARDY) wrote the following from Australia:

"After leaving school in 1964 I did some more study at my local Tec. before commencing my Nursing Training at The Middlesex Hospital (ELSPETH LANGWELL and JANET REVELL were there at the same time). From there I went to the Westminster Hospital from 1969-1970 and did a post graduate course in operating theatre. From 1970-1971 I decided to make some money and worked for BUPA. In May 1971 I left for New Zealand and worked for a country hospital in Darevike and then at Wellington General. After a holiday in the U.K. in 1972 I returned to New Zealand and headed off to Sydney, Australia. The intention was to make some money and head off back to South Africa where I had visited. In Sydney I worked at Prince Henry Hospital and got married in 1973. I left hospital nursing and worked for an instrument supply company who needed theatre

trained people to identify the instruments. In 1975 I joined the public service as a child health sister. I still work for the same people, although the job has changed considerably over the years and has now, with other training, ended up very similar to your Health Visitor position. On a personal note I have two daughters, Peta born in 1976 and Lauren born in 1978. I was divorced in 1984 and remarried in 1985 and my husband is a banker. My two daughters are at Darebank, an Anglican School for girls, in nearby Hurstville. Over the years I have been involved with my husband in quite a lot of charity work, Lions Club etc. I am still an avid reader and letter-writer, and at the moment am researching Family Trees, both my husband's and the girls'. All from good convict stock. Should any of the Old Girls be living in Wiltshire I am in urgent need of information on the village of Timber taken over by the Department of the Defence during the war". After reading the school magazine, I see so many changes. What a wonderful experience it would be if an exchange programme could be set up for some of the girls at St. Elphin's and the ones at Darebank. Our girls who do German do an exchange during year 10 (equivalent to G.C.E. year). My two daughters are going on a school excursion to mainland China and two days in Hong Kong. How things have changed. All I remember doing was going to caves. I would love to attend a reunion but time does not permit. May each reunion be a great success and please extend my good wishes.

SUSAN HAMMETT (nee DITTON) writes that she is an old girl from St. Elphin's who received a first-class education from 1939-1945. She would like to get in touch with some of her old friends but so far has not had much luck. Her address is 19 Holywell Place, Pinner, Middx. HA5 1DX.

#### MINI REUNION FOR THE SOUTH EAST

Living in East Anglia is not unlike living on an off-shore island: it is certainly a long way from Darley Dale, but when the Secretary of the Old Girls' Guild lives in North Norfolk there are compensations. Chris Codling invited those of us who live in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex to a Mini Reunion at her home on Saturday, 26th November. So it was that about twelve of us gathered at Church Farm, Southrepps for coffee, followed by a delicious lunch. Many generations were represented but probably most of us were from the 1950-1960 era. We had a lot of catching up to do as we poured over black and white photographs of little figures in Vyellas and Sunday Silks. It was particularly nice that Mr. Pollard joined us, even though he was temporarily delayed by the Lincolnshire Constabulary! He brought with him Mrs. Phillpot whose daughter Polly is in her first year at the University of East Anglia. All in all, a lovely day and thank you Christine.

Those present:- Mr. Pollard, Mrs. Phillpot, Judith Carter (Nee Tuckwell), Christine Codling (Tew), June Hannant (Burr), Ann Margand (Osborne), Margaret Oldbury (Watson), Polly Phillpot, Mary Rose Rowe (Socckett), Anna Rendell-Knights (Watts).

Judith Carter

#### SEOGG LONDON REUNION

Forty-five members attended the London Reunion held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, on 12th September 1992. Tea was a veritable feast, with constantly replenished pots of tea to lubricate the tongues, which never ceased to wag! Members were so generous with their raffle prizes that we ran out of tickets but thanks to Margaret Joslin's improvisation and Mr. Pollard's drawing of tickets, I think almost everyone went home with a prize!

It was the greatest joy to see Old Girls who had left us in the 1920's, with each successive decade represented to the present Head Girl and Deputy who escorted Mr. Pollard, and whose charm and composure left us in no doubt that the traditions of St. Elphin's live on and are in good hands.

In circularising members prior to the reunion, we had economised by omitting to contact those for whom Darley Dale is an easy journey, but Marie Botham, who had kindly agreed to act as hostess for her decade, was sorry that not more Derbyshire girls were present. We emphasise that everyone is welcome at the London Reunion, which is perhaps a half way point to meet far-flung friends.

Dorothy Patterson, who left St. Elphin's in 1922, came up from Cambridge with a 1918 school photograph, stories of her war-time school days and their Victory Celebrations. Sadly her sister and another contemporary were unable to come, but Rachel Johnston (1922-32) was there to share some of the memories. Dorothy brought a letter of good wishes from her daughter, Ruth, the Matron of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Soweto. It was of particular interest to me since I was the organiser of fund raising in Buckinghamshire for the St. John Ambulance Centenary Appeal in 1987.

News of others present include Joan McIntyre and Marjorie Onslow (Domvilles), who had come up from the West Country. Gwennlian Grafton-Robinson and her sister Elaine Brown (Owen) came despite Elaine's moment of trauma, moving from a vast rectory to a more modest house as her husband retires as Rector of Godalming.

Elizabeth Warren (Perry) is busily involved with the American Museum in Bath, Patricia Glyn-Evans (Donald) trains Red Cross nurses in the art of camouflage make-up, as well as leading a busy life in the antique world. Margaret Joslin (Russon) is fund-raising for, and much involved in the work for the Abbeyfield Home near East Grinstead, whilst Jill Mulshaw (Cartwright), living in Essex, is growing and selling feverfew. Others are busy with young families and careers, but clearly we're all beavering away at something!

There were many who had hoped to come but who were overtaken by events. Sybil Osmond, who has so kindly hosted us on many occasions at the Oxford and Cambridge University Club, was attending a Ruby Wedding Celebration, so could not be with us. Jean Davies (Donaldson) didn't quite make it back in time from Hong Kong. Jenny Chandler (Phillips) had to

remain in Exeter, whilst family visitors prevented Mary Corder (Beeley) coming down from Cumbria. Jane Edwards (Todd) was too busy packing clothes, toys and medical supplies for Yugoslavia to come. She has been doing wonderful work for Yugoslavian Relief, and has been out twice with supplies, on one occasion driving the ten ton truck herself!

Holidays prevented many from attending. We have therefore planned the 1993 reunion for 16th October, which we hope will be a more generally convenient date. Sally Deitch (Havehand) is intent on gathering her year together for the occasion, feeling that she left it too late to pursue the many changes of address she encountered for a really good response in '92.

I am sure that many informal get-togethers followed the reunion. One which Peter and I enjoyed was arranged by Angela Wesson (Willatt). As a party of twelve we attended a performance of 'Messiah' at the Festival Hall shortly before Christmas. We met for supper before the concert, eventually amassing enough chairs and tables for ourselves and plates and glasses! For the Hallelujah Chorus we rose en bloc, and whilst many individuals who rose around the hall sat down in embarrassed isolation after the second Hallelujah, SEOGG stood firm! As someone later remarked: "Miss Stopford would have been proud of her girls and their husbands".

I thank Christine Codling for all the help which she gave to me in

arranging the London Reunion, and for all the tireless work she does on our behalf.

As efforts will be concentrated on the 150th Anniversary celebrations at St. Elphin's, there will be no London Reunion in 1994, so I hope that as many as are able will join us at the RAF Club on 16th October to make the 1993 Reunion a happy and memorable occasion.

Those present were: Margaret Joslin (Russon), Dorothy Patterson (Culver), Ginny MacAuley (Waterhouse), Joan McIntyre (Domville), Marjorie Onslow (Domville), Jean McGregor (Beauchamp), Gwennlian Grafton-Robinson (Owen), Elaine Brown (Owen), Elizabeth Warren (Perry), Margaret Ringrose (Holderness), Shirley MacKenzie (Lewis), Patricia Glyn-Evans (Donald), Marie Botham (Pepper), Anna Rendell-Knights (Watts), Elizabeth Jones, June Bulgin (Thorpe), Angela Wesson (Willatt), Ruth Kitsell (Shepherd), Jill Manuel (Peppercorn), Lucinda Negus, Shirley Riddle (?), Christine Mason (Line), Jill Mulshaw (Cartwright), Rosemary Kershaw (Hill), Jill Thomas (Dixon), Di Taylor (Hughes), Mary Mayo (Reeman), Margaret Oldbury (Watson), Anne James (Wilson), Rachel Johnston, Rosemary Booth (Sands), Margaret Wain (Laing), Pamela Goodman, Christine Codling (Tew), Elizabeth Hall (Mumford), M. Potts (?), Jennifer Beebe (Hyde), Sally Deitch (Havehand), Fiona Cooper, Fiona Hunter, B. Thomas, Sharmaine Gray, Rachel Cooper, Mr. P. Pollard, June Gibson (Brierley).

When I last visited school, I had just qualified as a doctor. I was asked by Mrs. Hodgson to write a piece about what I had done since I left and I promised to send something in within the week.

However, I decided to leave it until I had started work because although an account of my time at medical school may interest some, it pales into insignificance of that of actually doing the job of being a House Officer (junior doctor).

The first day of my job I was also on call over night so in fact I worked a 32 hour shift. Things are better now than they used to be.

It didn't take me long to confirm that this was the job for me. My feet complain and I have cuts on my hands from the odd vial of medicine that shatters in my hand. We all get tired on 'take' (taking emergency admissions for 24 hours continuously every 5 days) and the amount of coffee that I drink in order to keep me awake prevents me from sleeping properly when it does get quiet. But, all of this is irrelevant compared to the enjoyment, satisfaction or should I just say 'buzz' from doing the job. I am needed. I am useful. I do keep people alive while my seniors decide on the best treatment for our patients.

It is also sometimes my job to break bad news to patients and their relatives. I have to ascertain how much the patient wants to know and guide them through the trauma of realising that they have not got long to live. If I do not do this who else will? Patients with terminal illnesses often, though not always, want to talk about their death. In such circumstances a knowledge of the scope of peoples beliefs that are not properly organised into 'religions' can be helpful. It is not just the people who wish to talk to a minister or priest who wish to talk to someone about what transpires. I must find out what the patient believes in and use this to help them realise, if they wish to, that the doctor's job does not end at the last operation and the last prescription for pain killers. It is hard to try to get close enough to a patient that they feel they can open up and trust me. It is harder still to not be allowed to be alone with that patient when she is really dying because the relatives who are near strangers to me have that privilege. Of course time and experience have their effect, they have to. I am still learning.

Now I really understand why I didn't appreciate my 'job experience' placement in Occupational Therapy when I was 15. I also understand why I felt under appreciated as a chambermaid, a summer job I did at 19.

I would not recommend this job to everyone. The weight of responsibility even as a House Officer would be wholly unacceptable to many a good man/woman. However, I could do this job for the rest of my life. This social life really has its moments as well!

I hope that this may encourage some of the people it should and not deter others from doing different, very worthwhile, jobs including being a full-time mother.

Dr. Rachel Farley, House Officer, Southport District General Hospital

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OLD GIRLS' REUNION TO COMMEMORATE THE  
150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL ON THE 14th/15th MAY 1994  
AT ST. ELPHIN'S SCHOOL**

Dear Old Girls

In order to make sure that everyone knows in good time about the arrangements for 1994, the Bursar, Mr. Pollard and I met recently and came up with the following ideas. I would like to stress that this is the framework for the weekend and we would still like to have suggestions for the individual events.

As you will see from the date, we are planning to have a weekend reunion, but we realise that not everyone may wish to take part in every activity, and we have therefore made it possible for members to choose and pay accordingly for those events in which they take part. Mr. Pollard has kindly offered single accommodation within the school for a maximum of fifty ladies. This will be in Orchards and the new Robinson House. Those who decide to attend for the Saturday and Sunday will have the first option for the accommodation. As usual, husbands will be welcome and I have a list of accommodation from the Matlock Tourist Board for anyone who would like it. The prices for this accommodation are wide-ranging and should be suitable for all pockets.

We propose that the Saturday should more or less follow the format as in previous years with the exception of the lunch which will be a typical St. Elphin's Lunch (with the addition of wine). I suggested that we could have "leather" for pudding. For the afternoon we are open to suggestions. A cup of tea will be served and then there will be a break. A formal dinner will take place in the evening. In order to be able to accommodate the fairly large numbers which we are hoping to attract, this will be a buffet including starter, sweet, and coffee. Dress will be black tie and there will be a bar. A drink will be provided in the cost of the dinner to toast the health of the school. After breakfast on Sunday there will be chapel and then coffee and farewells. I will be taking deposits any time during and after the 1993 A.G.M. which will be refundable up until the end of 1993. Members of S.E.O.G.G. will all be notified of the events after the 1993 A.G.M. and if there are places left by the end of the year it has been suggested that advertisements should be placed in the National Press to try and trace non-members. I would appreciate it if anybody who knows of any non-members could photocopy this notice and let them have a copy.

**ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD REUNION  
14th/15th MAY 1994**

(1)	Saturday 14th May. Coffee, A.G.M., St. Elphin's School Lunch with a glass of wine and a cup of tea	8.00
(2)	Saturday 14th May. Formal dinner including celebratory drink. Dress Black Tie. 7.00 for 7.30	15.00
(3)	Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th May. Bed and breakfast. Single accommodation with wash basin.	10.00
(4)	Full package	30.00

*Please tick as appropriate and return to*

Christine Codling, Secretary, S.E.O.G.G., St. Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 2HA OR  
Church Farm, 20 Church Street, Southrepps, Norwich. NR11 8NP.  
Tele/Fax No. 0263 833248

A deposit of £10 is required to secure the full package. This will be refundable up till the end of 1993. The balance must be paid by the 1st April, 1994.

Name ..... nee .....

Years at School ..... House .....

Address .....

.....

..... Tele No. ....

Deposit Paid ..... Package No. ....

Number of Persons .....