
ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRL'S GUILD

Dear Old Girls,

I write this just before Speech Day. The sun is pouring down between the leaves of the Italian elder that frames the Chapel and the School is basking in the last hot day before the inevitable break into autumn.

This long summer has been well used and visitors notice the new paint and repaired woodwork. It all started in the usual way, one room was done and afterwards everything else looked shoddy. We began with some new computers which needed a new home. When that was done, other rooms were then tackled. When time threatened to run out Mrs. Ainscough fell on the idea of hiring a paint spray so that other redecoration plans could be fitted into the remaining time. Domestic helpers were inspired and more rooms were painted in the cooler evenings. Two fine old organs are on permanent loan from Mr. Desmond Jenkins, husband of an Old Girl, Mary Astin. One of them is an old beauty, fine enough to rise from the floor of any classic Odeon of the Fifties. This required more than a mere music practice room and has been given the old Pavilion, the building known to many as the Art Room and which is now to be used as a small theatre, all to itself. This also has been cleaned, painted and is having new curtains made for it. The organ sits in splendour and has already attracted much attention, organ enthusiasts are creeping out of the Darley Dale woodwork and suggest all sorts of events, such as Tea Dances, Old Time Recitals and Sandy McPherson! Carpet has been laid in places which have not seen new carpet for a very long time, including the top corridor outside the Headmistress's Room, a stretch which has threatened to have me in Hospital since the day I arrived, so shiny is the linoleum.

Another memorable day this summer was when the letter arrived telling us that we had been left some money by Mary Bonning in memory of an Old Girl, Joan Hughes, who was in Kennedy House. This was very welcome and we are only sorry that more is not known about her. Perhaps there is a reader of this newsletter who could help us with details of her life and career. As the money was so unexpected we have decided to use it to back some scholarships which will be offered in January for 11 and 12 year olds joining us in September 1996. If details of the examination are required I would be most happy to send them to any of you.

Our examination results have again been excellent this year: we gained a 95% pass rate at 'A' Level, all of the Sixth Form have gone on to University, or are taking a 'gap' year before taking up a place in 1996. We had a 100% pass rate at GCSE, with 95% A - C Grades. These results mean that we are 1st in Derbyshire (115th in Britain) in the GCSE league tables, and 2nd (206th in Britain) in the 'A' Level tables. For a school which is essentially non-selective in its intake these results are a measure of the hard work of both pupils and staff. Nigel and I shared all the stresses and anxieties of other GCSE candidate parents this summer. Laurence did in fact make the grade, but not before things had become so awful that he left home for a fortnight before the results in order to allow the temperature to lower a little!

Contrary to the current trend the number of boarders has remained high, standing at 72. This term we welcomed Chikako from Japan, and one of our House Staff is a German graduate from Romania. After half-term we welcome Ksenya from Chernobyl and Caroline from France, and we also have two pupils from Spain until next summer. This sort of mixture in the Houses, in addition to our African and Hong Kong pupils, makes for a stimulating society. Improved facility with languages is not the only advantage. I feel that young children learn to expect pleasure from differences between people rather than become suspicious of foreign customs and manners. Tonight 40 of us, staff and girls, celebrated the Chinese mid-Autumn Festival in the local Chinese Restaurant, a meal organised by one of our Sixth Formers and very different from what was expected by the Europeans who joined in, but most exciting.

Many of you will remember Sheelagh Willies with enormous affection. Her departure from the Junior School marks the end of an era. Parents, children and staff joined together in order to give her a fitting farewell and good wishes for her retirement. She plans to travel a great deal more with Lyn, her husband, on his archaeological trips.

Susan Hayward, who has been Head of P.E. for a number of years, is planning to leave us at half-term. For the weeks leading up to half-term she has spent many, many hours collating the data required for a new staff handbook and the syllabuses and policies in preparation for future Inspection. She has made our lives a misery, but all in a good cause and the necessary groundwork has at last been done. As in the case of Sheelagh Willies, it will take a long time for staff to forget Sue's high standards and attention to detail.

We have new faces on the staff. Two of these have been because of the new Nursery for two-year olds, which was planned and designed by Mrs. Cuff with the help of one of our Governors who is also an Old Girl; this has proved to be very popular and useful to the local families. We thought we had made all necessary preparations for these two-year olds, but one problem we hadn't made allowances for was their reaction to the Fire Alarm. The evacuation during lunch to the Front Lawn was very much enjoyed, but it proved to be more difficult for them on their return to find the right lunch!

The Tennis Development Officer is also a new venture intended to give tennis a much greater weight in the PE curriculum. Mr. David Keal is a man of considerable experience in the field of short tennis for small children, as well as coaching more senior players, and I would like to see the facilities used by all the small players of Derbyshire and, who knows, one of them could in the future be successful at Wimbledon.

Children do much more at school than was the case in the past. Learning takes place outside the classroom as much as inside and the whole approach to education is so different it almost frightens me to face the extent of the change. The Challenge of Management Course illustrates this revolution, and yet our Sixth Form students were prepared to get as much out of the exercise as they possibly could. They learnt the importance of business skills, management of personnel, team work, resourcefulness, flexibility and discovering what the public wants. I listened to the words of Geoffrey Shaw, the organiser of the course, and am glad that our Careers and Business Studies staff have gone to the trouble of ensuring that our pupils will be

the sort of adults that our contemporary world wants: flexible people, with a response that is positive to the demands of a fast changing world. I also remembered Horace Powys, Vicar of Warrington, and his vision - of young women going out prepared to change the world and make their mark upon it. This combination of flexibility and criticism is what is going to make the vocation of St. Elphin's girls very special.

All this sounds very serious. We aren't serious all the time, in fact very little of the time is spent being serious! The boarders do fashion shows and one evening they had the opportunity to model a series of period clothes which traced the change in women's fashions during the last two hundred years. It was somewhat salutary to realise that Jackie Kennedy jackets, mini skirts, hot pants and flower power gear were considered period clothing, but the greatest cheer went up when a young model came on wearing a magnificent pair of 'flares'. We have been glad to share in the fund raising of the Red Cross and will again do so at Chatsworth later this year when an Opera Evening is being organised. Our own fund raising has revolved around the British Epilepsy Association and a local charity, Orchard Cottage, which assist with young adults with learning difficulties. Nothing changes much and this year, as with so many others, we began the term with the Sponsored Walk. This of course was prepared for by Miss Crook's insistence on us all walking up One Tree Hill in order to get fit! Well, we were fit and to date the total of the fund is £1300.

The great project for the coming year is the school's roof. It has become clearer and clearer with the passing years that a full repair is required and can no longer be postponed. This is going to be very costly and unfortunately there are no funds put aside for this sort of purpose. It is at times like this that one realises the drawbacks of living in a dignified old building.

This autumn I shall have the pleasure of attending the Old Girl's Reunion in London. This will be a first for me and I shall enjoy meeting some who perhaps find it difficult to come all the way up to Derbyshire. I shall not be bringing with me a magazine. The next publication in this line will be out in September of next year, although a collection of the material is already taking place. The response to the 150th year celebration publication was most enthusiastic, especially from those who found their own faces in it or those of their friends. We will distribute the next one in the same way and hope that this subsequent publication will give the same pleasure.

I shall now begin to pack my case for the school trip to Onzain in the Loire Valley. The choir and orchestra plan to give a concert there as well as take part in all the visits and celebrations usually involved in a twinning exercise. The 40-strong group of ambassadors from St. Elphin's covers all age groups and the courage of some of the younger ones is really most remarkable.

I have continued to be most grateful to Mrs. Christine Codling for all she does for the Old Girls and for her friendship towards myself and the School. She is now using her new computer for the purposes of the Guild, although working on the great list of members is no small task.

I look forward to meeting you all on future occasions and hearing your news.

Yours sincerely
Valerie Fisher

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST. ELPHINS SCHOOL 6TH MAY, 1995.

Following coffee in the Thornton Suite and after collecting name badges the assembled company went to the Common Room for the A.G.M

Mr. Pollard welcomed everybody and then continued with prayers, remembering those Old Girls who had died during the previous year: Eirene Clarke, Nancy Henstock, Kathleen Roscoe.

Mr. Pollard then introduced Mrs. Fisher and handed the meeting over to her.

MATTERS ARISING - The Stained Glass Window. This was finished and looked very nice. There had been a service to dedicate this in September which Christine had attended and read the intercessions on behalf of the Old Girls' Guild. Mrs. Fisher had also been inducted as Head Mistress at the same service.

Miscellany - The school had sent the Miscellany to every member of the Old Girls' Guild on a sale or return basis. This had proved very successful and many members had decided to keep the publication.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE - Mr. Pollard and Christine would be compiling a list of those people who had died since the last entry into the book, and these would be entered to bring this up to date.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Christine reported that it had been a very quiet year after 1994. She had felt privileged to be invited to the Service of dedication of the stained glass window and had also been asked to read the intercessions. Mrs. Fisher had also very kindly invited the old girls to a service in November and a talk by Mr. Peter Gibson from the York Glaziers Trust on how the window had been made. Although not too many people had attended, those who did had found it very enjoyable and most informative and had also enjoyed a splendid tea. Christine had also been present at the Commemoration Service in Chesterfield Parish Church and Mrs. Fisher's first St. Elphin's Speech Day which had gone very well.

As usual she had accepted an invitation to the Christmas Dinner; this year the entertainment had been put on by some of the girls in the form of a mummings play which had been most amusing. As this was the Bursar's last Christmas Dinner a tribute was made by Mr. Pollard and Mrs. Fisher in the form of a song based on a Gilbert and Sullivan number. It had to be said that Mr. Pollard's voice was slightly the stronger! The Christmas Bazaar had also taken place the same weekend and had been well attended.

TREASURERS REPORT - Unfortunately Liz had been taken ill at the last minute and had not been able to make the long journey to attend the Reunion but had sent the balance sheet which was self-explanatory. After paying for the Stained Glass Window the funds were somewhat depleted but there was still plenty of money for the general running of the Guild.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Mrs. Fisher told us about her first two terms at St. Elphin's

and how much she had enjoyed being there. She went on to give a very amusing account of her life before she took up her post of Headmistress at St. Elphin's. She reported on the renovations that had been taking place and the fact that the junior boarders were now housed in the main part of the school in Hill View. She extended a very warm welcome to any of the Old Girls who wished to visit the School.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - As there were no new nominations for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer Liz and Christine were unanimously re-elected.

A.O.B The London Reunion would take place on the 25th November 1995 at the R.A.F Club in London and was once again being organised by June Gibson.

Mrs. Fisher suggested that the Old Girls should purchase a personal word processor for the use of the Secretary. This was proposed by Rosemary Chambers and seconded by Rosemary Taylor. Christine said that she would investigate the possibilities and report back to Mrs. Fisher.

The Old Girl's Scholarship had been given to Ann Henderson, who is the daughter of the late Pat Henderson (Elliot) and niece of the late Catherine Henderson. Ann would start in September in the lower sixth.

Several old girls who had been at the school when Miss Hudson had been Headmistress expressed disquiet that there seemed to be very little information printed about Miss Hudson and felt that she had been rather left out as she had played a very important part in the life of the school in the 1930s. Mary Scudamore felt that she had been largely responsible for bringing the school up to date and getting the staff onto the Burnham Scale, thus improving the quality of teaching. Mrs Fisher asked if they would like to write a piece about Miss Hudson and this would be printed in the next edition of the Old Girls' News and also added to the school archives.

Date and Time of next meeting; 11th May 1996 - 11.30

There being no further notice the meeting was closed at 12.50

Following this meeting we all went to the Stopford Hall and enjoyed the usual excellent lunch. The raffle raised £68.50 towards the Old Girls Funds.

Those present were Margaret Cadge, Glyn Hicken (Anson), Elizabeth Waters (Taylor), Judith Robinson (Sheard), Nicola Askham (Welch), Mary Acheson (Davidson), Olga Putnam (Mort), Ruth Burgess (Doxey), Jean McGregor (Beauchamp), Teanie Dornan (Turner), Mary Scudamore (Jones), Susan Tunnicliffe (Dale), Barbara Brooke-Taylor (Barrow), Dorothy Edwards, Mrs. Hooley, Christine Codling (Tew), Rosemary Chambers (Thornton), Rosemary Taylor, Betty Glasgow (Jones), Sylvia Hughes (Jones), Helen Gardner (Chapman), Diana McRae (Holme), Peter Pollard, Jane Paradise (Pearson), Lesley Lambe (Ralph), Philippa Connell (Burnett).

Elgin,
High Street,
Thornton Dale,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire,
YO18 7QW.
30th October '95.

Dear Old Girls,

Christine has kindly invited me to write something to be included in this Newsletter. I am of course delighted to do so, as I want to keep in touch with you all. After 14 months or so of retirement - what does that word mean? - I know there is definitely life after St Elphins, as I'll try to explain.

Looking back over those months, I see my life as divided into two phases. My early weeks here were spent, obviously, adapting to new routines which also involved sorting out possessions and finding enough space to fit them in. I savoured to the full the freedom I had gained after 34 years of unbroken employment. Yes, it's self indulgent, I know, but for a time I did simply enjoy being able to get up later, read the newspapers, listen to the radio and watch TV and write personal letters. I enjoyed too, being able to visit and entertain friends and pursue more vigorously my hobbies, music and the Theatre especially. I was, for example, at last able to visit Miss Margaret Thouless, with whom I've corresponded for almost 10 years! Miss Thouless, taught at St. Elphins in the 1920's before moving to St. Mary's, Calne, where, ironically, she taught my late wife during the 1950's. Now in her late 90's, Miss Thouless is living in a comfortable Nursing Home in Exmouth. She seemed delighted to hear all about St. Elphins and to see some recent photos of the 1994 events. I continue to keep in touch with her and she would, I know, want me to send her greetings to her former pupils. During that early period I was also working on that special 'Elphinian' which many of you have. This was another labour of love for Mrs Ann Hodgson at the school, and she and I enjoyed our many autumn phone calls (not at School's expense!) about this. It enabled me to visit Derbyshire several times. Thus I re-entered St. Elphins with a purpose and was always made to feel most welcome there. Mrs. Fisher and I have kept closely in touch and I do my best to support her and her hard-working colleagues in these challenging times. I'm still invited periodically to take part in team inspections of small schools - these have taken me to Lancashire, Suffolk and Berkshire during 1995 - and by this means I keep in touch with the world of education. How pleasant it is to go into any school without being responsible for what one finds there .

Phase one ended suddenly last March when my elder son decided to come to live with me. Hugh has been ill for over three years with that wretched viral fatigue, sometimes known as M.E, but he is now much better, is working part-time and is thinking of returning to University in 1996. He brought his large and lovely retriever dog with him, and looking after Meg certainly added to my responsibilities. Sadly, she died suddenly in July and we decided not to obtain any adorable puppy replacement, since we know who'd bear the brunt of looking after him or her. With Hugh here, I have more to do in the house but also a more clearly defined routine which I'm enjoying. My younger son spent the '94 -'95 academic year teaching in Nuremberg, and this gave me the chance to re-visit Bavaria. Ben has now returned to Cambridge for his final year; he, too, is wrestling with the problem of what to do once he has graduated.

My mention of Germany reminds me of other lovely holidays this year. Some of you knew that before retiring I'd planned a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by our Rector there. This duly took place in March and was all I'd hoped for: visiting Petra, the rose-red city, singing 'Once in Royal David's City' in an almost empty Nativity Church in Bethlehem and sailing - and singing - on the Sea of Galilee were special moments I recall. Before that, in January, I'd been able to accept an unexpected invitation to go to Switzerland and walk in the snow. A former Tonbridge colleague, also recently retired, asked me to accompany him to Arosa (quite near Davos), where he stayed in a hotel in which his son - my godson - was chief barman, earning money for a world tour after gaining his degree. In that situation we were treated very well indeed...

And a final pleasure has come in slowly getting caught up in village life. Thornton Dale has changed considerably since we bought our cottage in 1979. Many professional people have come to live here in retirement as I have, and there's an interesting social mix as well as a strong corporate unity. I've become a sidesman at the Church, I play the organ on occasions - our splendid organist was formerly a primary school teacher in Buxton, where she knew Miss Thompson, ex-St. Elphins Director of Music and housemistress! - and sang and played with an augmented choir last Christmas, at Easter and in the summer. Soon I shall be taking part in the village play: a farce entitled "Surprise Package". In this I'm disguised as a German tourist meeting the English on holiday in somewhere akin to the Costa Brava. Next April I hope to sing in the chorus of 'Mikado', which is being produced in Pickering. I can never get bored.

In one of my more stressful moments at St. Elphin's I worked out that when Miss Flood retired in 1933 she was a year younger than I was when coming to Yorkshire in 1994. That thought cheered me up at the time - and there's a lovely 'Care and Retirement Park' being developed up the road from where I live. I know just where to go, should I live on into the 21st Century.

My very best wishes to you all. Do come to see me if you find yourselves in 'Heartbeat' Country. (Goathland is about 10 miles from here). A telephone call in advance might even give me the chance to bake a cake: a skill I've been acquiring in recent months. More fun, really, than computer literacy!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Pollard.

Dear Old Girls,

I am writing this letter on the new word processor which has very kindly been supplied by the Guild. This came at a very opportune time as I no longer have access to a Computer. I am entering all the names and addresses into the new machine which means that when I retire from the job of Secretary I will just pass the word processor over with all the information.

This last year has seemed very quiet after the bustle of 1994 and I must admit that things have seemed to drift and I have not been as diligent replying to letters as I could have been. Please accept my apologies if you are one of those people who I have kept waiting. On a personal level this has been a traumatic year for me and I would like to thank those Old Girls who have showed me so much support. Mrs Fisher and the staff at school were marvellous and helped Katrina through her last term and her G.C.S.E. exams. I am pleased to say that the results for all the girls were excellent. It seems strange that Katrina is no longer there but I enjoy having her at home and I was very pleased that the scholarship was awarded to a girl whose mother and Aunt were both Old Girls.

I have just been to the Commemoration Service and Speech Day which were very enjoyable. School seems to be progressing well and I do hope that Mrs. Fisher has enjoyed her first year in Darley Dale. She shows a very keen interest in the Old Girls' Guild and I know will make anyone welcome who would like to visit the school. We are all looking forward to the London Reunion which as usual is being organised by June Gibson (Nee Brierley) and I am sure will be a great success.

I would like to indulge myself a little this year and appeal to all the Old Girls who were in my year at school to make a big effort to return for the reunion in May. This would mean those of you who were aged twelve in 1959 or 1960. Of course everyone is welcome and I would like to see the numbers up again this year. Lets see what we can do Please continue to support the Guild, it would be very sad if the momentum that gathered around the 1994 celebrations is allowed to falter. Please note that my address and telephone number have changed. I will look forward to hearing from any of you with your news.

With kind regards

Christine Codling (Nee Tew)
1960-1966 Selwyn House.

NEW MEMBERS

Emma Atkinson,
Rowsley House,
Castle Drive,
Bakewell
DE45 1AS
1984-95 Wilson

Maria Chan,
75 Woodview Court,
2H, 15/F,
Kung Lok Road,
Kwan Tong,
Kowloon,
Hong Kong
1993-95 Kennedy

Lucy Baxter,
Old Bank House,
Ashover, Derbyshire
1986-95 Pigot

Zoe Baxter,
Cherry House, Fritchley
Lane, Fritchley,
Derbyshire DE5 2FN
1988-95 Powys

Anna Bradfield,
111 Wirksworth Road,
Duffield,
Belper,
Derbys DE56 4GY
1991-95 Pigot

Karen Cartlidge,
18 Ashes Avenue,
Hulland Ward, Derbys
DE6 3FT
1988-95 Powys

Alison Carminke,
The New House,
Crowtrees, Longford,
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1988-95 Pigot

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NR11 8AY
1990-95 Powys

Gabriella Glover,
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Crewe. Cheshire
1990-95 Powys

Ada Ho,
Flat A, 2/F,
25 Nassau Street,
Mei Foo Sun Chuen,
Kowloon, Hong Kong
1990-95 Pigot

Devanie Hutton,
St. Mary's Vicarage,
9 Hatton Road,
Bedfont, Feltham,
Middlesex
1987-95 Kennedy

Frances King,
Bent Farm, Farley, Matlock,
Derbys DE4 5LT
1986-95 Wilson

Christina Kong,
Block 1, 11/F, Flat C,
City Garden,
233 Electric Road, H.K.,
1990-95 Pigot

Abigayle Makin,
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Chesterfield S45 0BY
1990-95 Powys

Abigail Meredith,
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1990-95 Kennedy

Gemma Meredith,
Kyalami,
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1989-95 Kennedy

Nicola Millican,
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1992-95 Wilson

May Lee,
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Wah King Hill Road,
Kwai Chung, N.T.
Hong Kong
1993-95 Wilson

Sunita Nair,
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Chesterfield S40 2DF
1989-95 Pigot

Ruhi Singh,
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1989-95 Pigot

Suzanne Leung,
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1993-95 Powys

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Brackenfield, Derbys
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1989-95 Powys

Louise Stuart,
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Lancs OL1 2NR
1988-95 Pigot

Kerris Thompson,
10 Pickton Close,
Walton,
Chesterfield S40 2DE
1989-95 Powys

Judith Dakin
*(Please phone
Christine Codling
for address)*
(Clarke) 1943-51

Amy Turner,
Brookfield House,
Moorwood Moor,
South Wingfield,
DE55 6NW
1989-95 Powys

Jenifer Marsden
(Dearnley),
Carinya,
Main Street,
Scarcliffe,
Chesterfield S44 6SZ
1949-55 Wilson

Jane Paradise (Pearson),
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Wollaton,
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Joan Michelle Bertie,
31 Greenways, Walton,
Chesterfield S40 3HF

Clare Jurczyk,
19 Central Drive,
Wingerworth,
Chesterfield S42 6QJ

Margaret Edwards,
2 Hurst Avenue,
Cheadle Hulme,
Cheshire
SK8 7P
1940-51 Wilson

Nicola Askham (Welch),
1 Abbey Croft, Renishaw,
Sheffield S31 9TZ
01246 436396
1968-75
Margaret Flood/Gresford

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Annabel Daws,
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Reverend Prytherc,
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Miss E. Margaret Thouless,
Linksway Nursing Home,
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Denise Henderson,
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Anne Chivers
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19 Cloverbank,
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SO23 7TP

Kathleen Finch
(Nee Williams),
The Holdings,
Moorhouse, Newark,
Nottingham,
NG23 6LU

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Ingrid Victor,
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Sarah Scott
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Burbage,
Nr. Marlborough,
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Margaret Ringrose
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Highfield, The Firs,
Odiham, Hook,
Hants.
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Ann Jacklin,
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Newton Abbot, Devon,
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Caroline & Elizabeth
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Linthorpe,
Middlesborough,
Cleveland, TS5 5NE
01642 814592

Dawn Stenhouse,
Black Bear Lodge,
Glaphorne Road,
Oundle,
Peterborough,
PE8 4JA

Rachel Sherrard,
10 Kirkhill Road,
Strathaven,
Lanarkshire,
Scotland ML10 6HP

Joy Pilkington
(Nee Mattison),
8 Perth Close,
Bramhall, Stockport,
Cheshire, SK7 1LQ

Elizabeth Horsfall,
Leyland Vicarage,
1 Crocus Field,
Leyland, Lancs.
PR5 2DY

Michelle Fearn,
The Stables,
Chesterfield Road,
Beeley, Nr. Matlock,
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Eleanor Forrest,
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Sarah Chambers
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5 Northfield Road,
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Fiona Bracewell,
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Suffolk
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Catherine Barr,
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Lesley Lambe
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The Poplars,
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Glynis Hicken
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Karen Keith
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Catherine Mary Fell
(Nee Hoskin),
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Ruth Butcher
(Nee Howorth),
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Judith Blagden,
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0114 289 1391

Sylvia Atkinson
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Phillipa Connell
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Epsom,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

Florence Jung,
Lot 1555,
Tamen Tai Tet,
Mile 2,
Jalan Tuaran,
88300 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah,
Malaysia.

The following Old Girls have been deleted from the list because the last magazines sent out were returned by the Post Office.

Stephanie Yearn, Alison Woods, Rachel Whawell, Marijana Urbanya, Catherine Sherratt, Jacqueline Railton, Kathy Perrin, Katy Parkin, Hazel Parkin, Ruth Lockwood, Edith Lweshabula, Karina Lawson, Adrienne King, Susan Keyse, Valerie Howells, Mary Duff, Gillian Cooper, Anne Bishop, Joanne Beech, Alison Auld.

If anyone has new addresses for the above please could they let me know.

Emma Richardson (Nee Thompson) has requested to be withdrawn from the Old Girls Guild.

DEATHS

Mary Rosalind Johnson (Nee Davidson) 16-5-91
Sheila Rosemary Foxon (Nee Davidson) 20-11-91
Betty Catherine Irving 10-8-95
Nancy Henstock 23-9-94
Diana McRae (Nee Holme) 19-5-95.
Mary Duff 26-11-95

OBITUARIES

The following obituary was written by Miss Margaret McKechnie who worked with Betty for twenty seven and a half years in South Africa.

BETTY CATHERINE IRVING left St. Elphin's after her father's death, he was a Church of England Minister. She then looked after her semi-invalid mother until her death when Betty was 22 years old, which was in 1940. Betty then took up nursing as a profession. While in nursing she had a real experience of Jesus Christ as her Saviour, and after her examinations, and a period of nursing, Betty went to the Mount Hermon Bible Training School. She was there for two years 1949-1951.

In 1952 Betty was led out to South Africa to join me in the work at the Pisagh Mission Station. Betty took charge of the Medical and Dispensary work, also helping in every other sphere, from repairing fences etc. to Sunday School work. In every way she was able to assist, and a most faithful helper and friend in the service of God to me.

Betty came to see me in Eastbourne on 8th August and on the evening of the 10th August we took a walk in the cool of the evening seaside. We were talking and walking normally and Betty was well. As we walked she suddenly staggered to the side and fell. I rushed forward and holding her shoulders I asked her what was the matter. Betty never spoke again. She is surely with Christ which is far better. It was a sudden call with no warning, but Betty was always ready to go, as Jesus Christ was first in her life. I have lost my greatest friend and companion. I can assure you she was a loyal, faithful and sincere woman. She loved her old school and had an affection for it. May God continue to bless you. You can never know the value of the lives of the pupils who pass through your school. There was a Thanksgiving Service in memory of Betty at the Matson Baptist Church in Gloucester on Thursday 17th August 1995 where there were many tributes.

This obituary was written by Sheila Allen.

NANCY HENSTOCK died on September 23rd 1994. She went to hospital earlier that month for an operation to help her circulation. The hospital decided her heart wasn't good enough and sent her home without doing the operation. She was found on the floor by a friend having had a heart attack about a fortnight later. She was in the sixth form with Nary Goodman but left before we did, probably in 1937. She probably came to school about 1932-33. Her married sister Peggy who is older lives in Anglesey.

DIANA McRAE (Nee Holme)

I first met Diana when she started to attend Reunion with Betty Glasgow (Nee Jones) a few years ago. At that time she was Diana Kidd but sometime after this her husband died, and a few years later she remarried and was very happy. She came to the Reunion with Betty on the 6th May but sadly on 19th May she was driving her car down a dual carriageway and for no reason just drove off the road and was killed instantly. Although she was older than me and I did not know her at school I realised the few times that I did meet her what a lovely person she was. I am sure we all pass our condolences onto her husband and children.

MARY DUFF died 26th November, 1995

Mary Duff was a member of staff from 1926-1930. This was her first teaching post. She ran the guide troupe and went on to be Principal of Norwich Teaching College. Dorothy Edwards had kept in touch with her as she lived in the same road until Mary went into The Hope Nursing Home where she died aged 91.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

MARY CORDER (Nee Beeley) writes that her life goes on much as usual, her son David is still working for his Phd and her daughter is back from her travels in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal having had a wonderful time. Now she is job hunting and is probably going over to Germany to teach conversational English to three teenagers, before doing a T.E.F.L course in the Autumn and then going off to far flung places again. She wrote and told me the sad news of Diana Macrae's death in a car accident.

SUE DALE TUNNICLIFFE is working for a PhD which she should finish by August 1995. For some years she was Head of the Advisory team in primary science and technology for the London Borough of Richmond and ran education at London and Whipsnade Zoos. She also worked as a consultant at the BBC for six months in the second year of her research, and did some lecturing at King Alfred's College Winchester, which reminded her both of Westfield College London where she was an undergraduate and St. Elphin's. She had been to the Advent service at King's and remembered all the morning prayers and the carol services on Sunday, which she had to come specially for as she was a day girl, to read a lesson.

TITO ADE-ADISA (Nee Bolatito Adenihum) left St Elphin's in 1983 after A-Levels and went to the United States to attend University. She would like to get any information about former schoolmates that left in the same year. She is currently married with two children and works as a Systems Analyst for Honda Research and Development. She completed Bachelors and Masters degrees in Computer Engineering in California.

OLAYKINKA BLACKSHEAR (Nee Oyekunle) was married in August 1994 and now lives in Atlanta, Georgia after completing a Bachelors degree in Chemistry in Wales and a Masters degree in Business Administration in Los Angeles.

VERONICA TOPPIN is now undertaking a PhD program in Physiology in Washington and completing a Bachelors degree in Biology in Washington and a Masters degree in epidemiology at Yale.

BARBARA MCGREGOR wrote that she had been on holiday with Birgitta Gemmel who had spent two happy years in Selwyn House in 1964-66. Birgitta is keen to get back in touch with some of her old friends and in particular Jane Grace who was also in Selwyn House. She will be staying with Barbara in London in December.

JUDITH DAKIN (Nee Clarke) 1943-1951 has joined the Old Girls Guild. Her and her husband are working for the Church Army in Kenya before they retire in 1997. She is now a trained Counsellor and does Pastoral Care and Counselling with the Mission African Fellowship which means travelling to Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia. She also works with other organisations and runs courses with her daughter-in-law on stress, relationships etc.. She remembers St. Elphin's with positive thoughts and was very sorry to miss the 150th Anniversary.

PAM EDWARDS (Nee Gamble) 1943-1947 has been over from New Zealand for ten weeks with her husband Ron. They spent their last weeks prior to flying home with Barbara Baer (Nee Ward) in Amersham. Pam and Barbara met Mary Bevington in London one day, Mary having been down from Leicester. Unfortunately neither Jenny Chorlton or Mary Stapleton (Nee Sapwell) were able to meet up with them but Mary Sapwell did catch up with Pam on the phone. Pam would be delighted to see anyone who might be visiting New Zealand.

NICOLA ASKHAM (Nee Welch) won the weekend break at one of our cottages in the raffle at the 1994 reunion. She wrote the following article.

This time last year I never thought when I read the article "St. Elphins' 150th Year Celebrations" that I would in fact attend the May 1994 reunion - returning to St. Elphin's after years - not only to enjoy a nostalgic weekend, but also to be lucky enough to leave St. Elphin's on the Saturday having won the prize of a Winter Break in the raffle - although I must confess Rachel Sanderson (Nee Orme) had actually paid for my raffle ticket for which I still owe her £1.00.

However, it was intended that Rachel, myself, both husbands and children were to enjoy the Winter break together but unfortunately due to last minute work commitments Rachel and her family were unable to join us in Norfolk.

I became a "new girl" at St. Elphin's when I was seven years old and vividly remember my first day as a boarder when my parents left me with Louise Burke my "old girl". Louise and I had already met at her parents home prior to the beginning of term, and once at School had soon met up again. Our parents had taken us both up to the swings which were situated behind the classrooms above from Margaret Flood House, where they then tactfully left Louise and I playing alone. I was heart broken when I first realised I wasn't going home until half term, but within a week or so I had become part of "the family" and "the routine".

Over the seven years which followed at St. Elphin's, and particularly at the beginning of each term I was known to sit on the radiator pipes looking out of a dormitory window down the school drive plotting my "escape route" back to Sheffield - which I soon forgot about once again once back in "the routine". However, when I left the institutionalised life of St. Elphin's for a Sheffield Comprehensive school, I began plotting ways of returning to St. Elphin's.

I was a very confused, rebellious teenager which was made worse by the determination, independence and self preservation skills I had acquired during my St. Elphin's days, but thankfully those lessons learned during my early days have always kept me in good stead.

Now I have a wonderful down to earth husband (David) whom I met when I was 16 years old, a daughter Georgina whose name I hasten to add was influenced by a memory of a fellow ex St. Elphinite, Georgina Board. I had been friends with Georgina and had always liked the name.

As a result of my determination - or maybe stubbornness, I work as a District Nursing Sister. Having first moved to Boston, South Lincolnshire to train as a general nurse, leaving David in Sheffield; moving back to Sheffield having married David, where I worked in Care for the Elderly, Intensive Care, then on to Rotherham to train as a Psychiatric Nurse or maybe it was to analyse myself. Back to Sheffield to work in the Community, followed by studying at the Sheffield Polytechnic (District Nurse Course), up to my present position as District Nursing Sister in the inner city area of Sheffield. For as long as I can remember I had always wanted to become a nursing sister, although my parents had other ideas for me.

My Mother wanted me to be a vet, probably because we lived on a Small Holding and she ran a dog boarding business. My father hoped I would work alongside him in his Steel business, and my grandparents hoped I would become an officer in the forces - here I compromised, and for a time worked as a Lieutenant in the Queen Alexanders Royal Nursing Corps (Territorial Unit), until I no longer could get around the assault course or hide the stomach bump later to be known as Georgina.

As parents we all want the best out of life for our children and as I correct Georgina's four year old speech, I nostalgically think of Miss Watts' elocution lessons and the daunting speech and drama Competitions at the Buxton Opera House and as I take her to the ballet, tap and ballroom dancing lessons, I remember the Saturday morning ballet classes and endless square dances in the Gym.

Already Georgina is very forthright and independent and I try not to imagine what we may experience during her teenage years - the potential battle of wills! Her present Headmistress is Teannie Dorman (Nee Turner) so indirectly St. Elphin's is still part of our lives. However I would also like to join the Old Girls Guild as an "Old Girl lost and found" and hopefully attend future school reunions, and maybe at some point enquire about sending Georgina to St. Elphin's.

KATHLEEN MARY CARPENTER (Nee Hewetson) is now 87 years old and sadly never kept in touch with St. Elphin's. Her husband died two years ago and her family are now scattered with her children living in Athens, Australia and Bristol. She recently paid a very happy visit to St. Elphin's. Her daughter sent me the following information. After her mother left St. Elphin's she trained at Norlands and after a years practical work went to St. Thomas Hospital in London to nurse and became a SRN and a Nightingale. She married in 1937 and devoted her life to her children and her husband who had a distinguished career with ICI. She is greatly loved in Buxton and has always helped with local charities and even now runs a campaign to remind mothers that dummies are not good for children's teeth! Her sight is no longer good and she has had to leave her home and move into Derby House, 12 Broad Walk, Buxton where she has a nice room overlooking the gardens with some of her own furniture and is very well looked after.

DENISE HENDERSON who was at school from 1962-1966 in Wilson has got back in contact with the Guild and would like to hear from any of her contemporaries. She

has been Lady Mayor of Barmouth and works for the outward Bound and is currently studying for a B.A..

RUTH HIBBERT has moved abroad and plans to be away for quite some time and feels that it would be appropriate to withdraw from the Guild. We all wish her well in her new life.

RUTH BUTCHER (Nee Howorth) got married in August 1993 (See change of address)

RANATE CHURCHER has just finished her degree in International Business and German at Aston University and got a 2.1 with which she is really pleased. She is now in the process of deciding between finding a job in Marketing or continuing her studies at the University of Bayreuth (Germany).

JANE CALDER has graduated from University and is about to become a teacher.

LATE NEWS

I have just returned from the London Reunion where I met up with Jennifer Beebe (Nee Hyde) and Elizabeth Rutherford (Nee Bolt). They would also like to get in touch with their contemporaries from the 1960's and as the Beatles are having a revival why not the St. Elphinites of the same era! So please all make a big effort to come to the May Reunion and indulge in some nostalgia.

The London Reunion was a great success and it was agreed to hold another next year at the same venue. This will be on SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER. The cost will be approximately as before. I will be sending out a further mailing with final details and also a reminder about the May Reunion, as we have found that sending out details too early only results in a large majority of people losing the relevant paperwork. A full report on the London Reunion will be printed in the next Old Girls Newsletter. I would like to thank June Gibson for all her hard work.

The following news arrived from Barbara McGregor last week.

She left St. Elphin's in 1967 having spent her final year as a border at Darley Lodge as Head of Selwyn House although she left in disgrace having been caught by dear old Thumper entertaining her Deputy Fiona MacDonald with a bottle of wine, cold baked beans and crackers on her final night. She wondered whether Miss Thompson and Miss Smith were still alive as they were such wonderful characters and excellent teachers. Does anyone remember George Walker (Pipe, and velvet jacket) who came in to teach strings and direct the Orchestra He is still playing his violin and teaching at home in Derby, still smoking his pipe and feeling none the worse for it. Barbara is still playing the clarinet, and hasn't got married. She won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, London in 1967 and was a student there for four years. She has made London her home and has been earning a living there through music ever since. It is a precarious profession but it makes for a varied and full life. Teaching is a necessity, and on the whole a very enjoyable one, she teaches clarinet and saxophone at St. Pauls Girls School and the Godolphin and Latymer, both of which are excellent schools with thriving music departments. On the performing side she plays on the

Alexandra Ensemble (Soprano/clarinet/piano) with whom she has had the good fortune to give concert tours in some exciting places including Australia, Singapore and Israel; and work with other groups has taken her to Poland, France and Spain. Also in the past three years she has enjoyed creating and directing "Some Like It Red Hot" an all Girl (or Old Girls in her case) Dance Band. Its great fun and the music (20's, 30's and 40's era) is marvellous stuff. So if anyone out there wants a terrific band let her know. School friend wise she sees a lot of Jennie Clark (she was Miss Robinson's God Daughter who was only at St. Elphin's for her final year in 1967). She is also in touch with Sue Fletcher and of course Birgitta Gemmel who was the cause of her getting back in touch with the Old Girl's Guild.

I hope Barbara will be able to attend the Reunion in May.

"TO REDRESS THE BALANCE"

Concern has been expressed by some Old Girls who attended St. Elphin's in the years 1933 - 1941 that little mention has been made of the contribution to the school by Miss Mildred Hudson who was the headmistress during that time. In the excellent 150th Commemorative "Elphinian" there are pictures on pages 32 of all the heads from Miss Beal to Miss Robinson but none of Miss Hudson, nor is there a portrait of her in the school.

She came as a young headmistress (aged about 37), a graduate of London University, succeeding Miss Flood who had been headmistress from 1910 and whose mother had been second headmistress before that. Miss Flood's care for the school all her life is without question but, by 1933 it had become necessary to improve its financial position and introduce a more modern approach. The following point indicate what this entailed.

1. The fall in numbers needed to be halted and for the first time Miss Hudson admitted Day girls and Weekly boarders. Finances were thus raised and the numbers of all admissions continued to increase.
2. The Burnham Scale for teachers was introduced after stringent inspection by H.M.I of Schools. This meant that good teachers could be attracted and young graduates with very good teaching skills joined the staff.
3. Alterations to the timetable, allowing for an extra lesson and slightly reducing the games and walks period from 1 1/2 to 1 hour.
4. A new and much more attractive uniform was introduced, bringing St. Elphin's sartorially into the twentieth century!
5. The practice of checking girls letters was dropped.
6. The Common Room extension was built and opened in December 1937 in memory of Major Fletcher, attractively furnished with comfortable chintz-covered chairs.

7. Three hard tennis courts were constructed.

8. The school had visitors from many outside organisations such as St.Pancras Housing Society. Father Nigel Scott showed films of alum dwellings and the improvements made by the Society and its founder Father Basil Jellicoe played his concertina and taught the school East End songs such as "Knees up Mother Brown" and "My Old Man's A Dustman".

9. Many plays were introduced, Gilbert and Sullivan performed each year, ballroom dancing was taught and classical music could be heard at the "Derby Concerts". Visits to Chester Cathedral with Miss Hudson and the Chaplain Canon Southam were paid by sixth formers who were subsequently entertained there for the weekend. All these activities were helping to prepare the girls for the modern world, sadly to be so soon disrupted by war.

10. The Chapel was enlarged.

It is not the intention in this account of Miss Hudson's time at St. Elphin's to be controversial, however, during the Chapel alterations, the frescoes painted by Miss Milroy between 1921-1931 were painted over making the walls plain. This pleased some people but distressed others. The two Della Robbias were presented to the school by Miss Hudson in 1938 and 1939 after her holidays in Florence. Increasingly over the years, she was veering towards more "Anglo-Catholic" practices and this was viewed with disquiet and some protest by the "Lower Church" and "Middle of the road" clergy whose daughters were pupils. It might be said that in some cases her religious zeal affected her judgment. In 1941 she decided to test her vocation in an enclosed Order. In 1946 however, she became Principal of Hockerhill Teachers training College in Bishop's Stortford until her death on 23rd June 1961.

Remembering her striding up to "Top Table" wearing her beautifully tailored suits and fingering the rather formidable "ear-phone" hair-do, it is clear that someone of her dynamic personality was better fitted to training young teachers than remaining enclosed for the rest of her life.



Miss Mildred Hudson 1935

Above all else, her great forte was her wonderful teaching ability. History and Divinity were her subjects which she taught in the style of University lectures, with great clarity so that most pupils obtained good examination results. Her desire was always to give all the girls a good education and she was not in favour of pushing the more brilliant ones to get to University at the expense of the less able.

The somewhat severe appearance belied her character which was forceful but kind and she adopted a relaxed attitude towards the more harmless misdemeanours! The magazines of 1961 and 1962 contain loving memories of Miss Hudson stressing her Christian-centredness and love of beautiful things. Contemporaries say that they were happy at school during those years and remember "Huddie" with admiration and affection.

ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS REUNION AND AGM
SATURDAY 11TH MAY 1996 AT ST. ELPHIN'S SCHOOL
Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HA 01629 733263

- 10.00am Coffee will be served in the Stopford Hall and name badges will be available for collection.
- 11.30am The AGM will take place in the Common Room.
- 1.00pm Lunch will be served in the Stopford Hall.
- 2.30pm Girls will be available to show Old Girls around the school or if preferred you are welcome to wander around on your own, or take a walk to visit old haunts in the area.
- 4.00pm Tea in the Stopford Hall.
- 4.30pm Chapel and Farewells.

The cost of the above day will be £8.50 for adults and £4.25 for children. If you are only able to join us for part of the day or would prefer to bring a picnic lunch or maybe go to a local pub for lunch this will be fine, but please let us know so that name badges can be made and your name recorded. If you do decide on any of these other options there will be a charge of £1.00 per head to cover the cost of coffee, postage, name badges etc.. Please return the slip to Christine Codling, 4 Manor Road, Mundesley, Norwich NR11 8AX Tel. 01263 722472. Cheques made payable to S.E.O.G.G. by 1st April 1996.

Raffle prizes would be appreciated. The proceeds will go to S.E.O.G.G. Funds.

REMEMBER! Those of you who were at the school in the 60's please make a big effort to come.

ST. ELPHIN'S OLD GIRLS GUILD
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM
 MAY 1st 1994 TO APRIL 30th 1995

INCOME

Balance B/Forward		8321.49
Monies from May Reunion 1994 at St. Elphin's		859.75
Monies from Raffle at May Reunion 1994		585.10
Sale of Commemorative Glasses		475.75
Sale of Miscellany		307.00
Subscriptions - 35 New Members		1050.00
Donations to S.E.O.G.G.		26.50
Donations to Magazine		18.00
Donations to Stained Glass Window		151.00
Monies for May Reunion 1995 at St. Elphin's		136.00
Building Society Interest		185.49
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EXPENDITURE

Expenses in connection with May 1994 Reunion		
To St. Elphin's School re Hospitality	2328.00	
To Janet's Pantry re Dinner	2736.00	
Speaker	282.00	
Friends of St. Elphin's re Wine	200.00	5546.00
York Glaziers Trust		3485.00
Repayments for May 1994 Reunion		60.00
Stationery and Sundry Expenses for May 1994 Reunion		97.76
To C. Codling for Secretarial and Postage Expenses		520.80
Printing of 1994 Newsletter		680.00
Refunds for Miscellany		74.50
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		10465.00

Balance in Alliance & Leicester Instant Access Account on 30:04:1995		1651.08
		<hr/>
		12116.08