

## OLD ELPHINIANS NEWSLETTER JULY

Dear Old Elphinians

As many of you – probably most – will now know, St Elphin's School closed, almost without warning, on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2005. The end came swiftly and ruthlessly: a visit from the new owners, hastily arranged meetings with staff and parents and the announcement that the owners were unwilling to sustain further financial losses. It's not hard to imagine the sense of shock and feelings of bitterness that prevailed. Fortunately staff and parents rallied round, the last day was made as bearable as possible for the children, with a party and entertainment, and there was a final short Service of thanksgiving in the Chapel, led by the Lay Chaplain. Now the building remains closed and the entrances padlocked. Its future inevitably uncertain.

Since we are not aware of the facts, it's not really for us to comment further. You will be relieved to know, however, that much archive material was removed under the supervision of Ann Hodgson former Head of English, and chapel valuables were also cared for. There was a 'Sale of Effects' at the school on the 16<sup>th</sup> April from 11 a.m. onwards with viewing possible from 2-8 p.m. the previous day Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Details of all this were posted on the Internet.

It will certainly be possible for the Old Elphinians to remain in existence if members want this. Our finances are healthy, thanks to your generous response to Christine's Appeal last year, and as was agreed at the AGM and Reunion at the school last October, we are planning to hold another York Reunion – and also this year's AGM – at St William's College on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2005. (See details elsewhere in this Newsletter)

Several of you have asked Christine whether it might be possible/desirable to hold a final Service of Thanksgiving for former pupils. Christine and I have discussed this, and she is writing separately about it in the Newsletter. One thing seems clear: no further meeting or ceremonies of any kind can now take place at what was formerly the school in Darley Dale. How sad that is.

We must thank Deborah Mouat, Rosemary Cuff and all the staff most warmly for doing all they possibly could to move the school forward again after all that had happened. For much of the time morale had been high and parental interest sustained and growing. What they lacked were the key ingredients of time and financial input we had all hoped for when the School came out of Administration last year.

With very best wishes to you all – and my special thanks to Christine Tew, without whose work as Secretary we, too, might already have ceased to exist.

Peter Pollard

### STOP PRESS

***1. We plan to arrange a Service of Thanksgiving for St Elphin's School in St Elphin's Church Warrington at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Thanks to the Rector of Warrington for his kind co-operation in this matter.***

*2. A recent newspaper article has suggested that the new owner of the Darley Dale site – a London based care home Company RAVEN AUDSLEY COURT, which specialises in private retirement complexes – is likely to apply for planning permission to convert it into a "retirement village".*

**YORK REUNION SATURDAY**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005.**

At the October 2004 Reunion at St Elphin's I was asked to arrange another autumn Reunion at St William's College (adjacent to York Minster) and the date has been fixed as above. This will be our fifth biennial Reunion in York. All have been well supported, and in the light of the sadness of the school's closure I feel sure I can count on your support again this year. We can cater for no more



than 75 people so **PLEASE BOOK EARLY**. As before, I have arranged a three-course lunch, with wine available by the glass (or bottle) and once again – we shall have a **RAFFLE in AID OF O.E. FUNDS**. The cost this year will be £25 per head. I am sorry for the further small increase, but given the elegant surroundings and the quality of hospitality I believe this still represents good value.

We have normally met from Noon to 4 p.m. but this year I have booked a further hour, to enable us to hold the Annual General Meeting in Maclagan Hall starting at 11 a.m. I do not need to know in advance the numbers attending the AGM and I am afraid it will not be possible to arrange Coffee – and it will mean an early start for some – but the timing of 11 a.m. will enable us to move straight onto the Reception at Noon – and also allow those who wish to have a cup of coffee in York beforehand! Please find the booking form at the end of the Newsletter and return to me **without delay**.

Dear Old Girls

There seems little that I can say about the very sad events, which have unfolded over the past three months at Darley Dale. In other parts of the newsletter letters have been written by Peter Pollard and Judy Crook who have had much longer and more important connections with the School than I have had. I think we should try and remember the mostly happy times we spent at the school and the very important friendships we formed during our time there. I only wish that the school could have continued and given further generations of children (maybe both boys and girls) the excellent education and sense of worth that we were fortunate to receive in our time there.

Several of you have asked about a final service of thanksgiving and Peter and I have given this a great deal of thought about where this should take place. Different generations of St Elphin's pupils have memories of services in various locations. Commemoration Services have taken place at Bakewell Parish, Church, Chesterfield Church and St Helens at Darley Dale, probably other Churches as well. However St Elphin's at Warrington was where the school originated, and where we had a very memorable service to celebrate 150 years of

the School in 1994 and so we have decided to choose this option. Peter has been in touch with the Rector of St Elphin's and he is willing to help to organise this. The date has yet to be decided but it will most certainly have to be in 2006. (See **stop press**)

Depending on what happens to the School Chapel we are also hoping to be able to remove the Stained Glass Window, donated by the Old Girls in 1994, and have it placed in St Elphin's at Warrington. Possibly in the form of a screen inside the Church rather than as an exterior window. Rosemary Chambers is currently liaising with the present owners with a view to achieving this. I also hope that the Book of Remembrance will be located and also be placed at Warrington.

I would like to thank all of you who have written and sent emails. The Yahoo newsgroup continues to flourish and has provided a very valuable means of communication for all of us. Helen Hudson is now the Moderator of this group and anyone wishing to join should log onto [Elphinians@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Elphinians@yahoogroups.com) or visit <http://groups.com/group/Elphinians/>

Please keep in touch and continue to send me your news. I hope I will see many of you at the Reunion in York and my thanks to Peter for organising this once again.

With best wishes

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Dear Old Elphinians

My letter writing hasn't improved with retirement and I suspect Christine has regretted having asked me to contribute to this newsletter!



This weekend I was at a goddaughter's wedding and the minister omitted one of the hymns – after a nudge from the organist he revamped the order of service to everyone's satisfaction. All through life "things go wrong" and sometimes they cannot be rectified so easily as the order in a wedding service. The closure of St Elphin's School is one of those sad events. As with any bereavement there is grief and sadness and a time of mourning. After that life must carry on for those who remain. Sad though the closure of our school is, let us be thankful for all that it has meant to each one of us for so many years – friendships made, learning gained and the foundation this was for what we have become today.

Although I have many times wondered what I could have done more for St Elphin's to keep it going, I know that no good purpose is achieved by agonies of "if only.....". Optimism is something which comes easily to me and all I want to do in this brief letter is encourage everyone who reads it to be able to face sadness and grieve but then to get up and get on with the next task to be done. On the day following the auction I was really sad and grieving and a friend said to me "forgive". For the pupils whose education was disrupted, for the teachers and ancillary staff whose employment was terminated, this concept of forgiveness is hard and yet I know that without it life is shallower and poorer. My prayer is that all involved in the life of St Elphin's may recognise the importance of those well-known words, "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us".

Thank you for all those words of encouragement written in the yahoo e-mails as the school closed. I should still be happy to hear from anyone who is interested in silver cups/trophies as I do still have some (purchased at the auction) which need good homes (cleaning silver was never my favourite occupation and supervising the activity for 21 years did not alter that!). Sadly not all the silver was retrieved, but do keep your ears and eyes open as its amazing how things can turn up unexpectedly (that is a story for another day!).

Some of you may be interested to know that the last school activity, as it closed on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005, was a short service in chapel. In addition to saying

the school Psalm (127), three hymns were sung ("Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us," "Great is thy faithfulness," and "Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,") and attention was drawn to several verses in Psalm 37, especially verse 5. I hope we can all be thankful for, at least some part, of the 160 years that the school founded by Rector Horace Powys has existed.

My best wishes to you all,

Judy Crook

**MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT ST  
ELPHINS SCHOOL ON THE  
9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004.**

Peter Pollard opened the meeting at 11.15 with prayers.. He remembered the old girls and former staff who had died since the last AGM: Miss Phyllis Maud (Philippa) Robinson, Anne Carson, Doris Cox, Joyce Critchlow, Angela Hewitson (Wells), Margaret Valerie Jones (Field), Olivia Sybil Osmond (Wells), Margaret Ringrose (Holderness) Rosemary Taylor.

Apologies were received from Barbara Baer, Mary Bevington, Beryl Campbell, Judith Carter, Jenifer Chorlton, Mary Cliffe, Elizabeth Corder, Rachel Crossland, Suzanne Diggle, Margaret Fielding, June Gibson, Betty Glasgow, Elizabeth Hall, Mollie Harwood, Muriel Hinde, Andrew Jackson, Mary James, Margaret Joslin, Karen Keith, Rosemary Kershaw, Miss Lamb, Wendy Lambert, Susan Leigh, Pat Long, Jennifer Marsden, Christine Mason, Mary Mayo, Mary McMeeking, Susanne Millar, Christine Peake, Sarah Plastow, Olga Putnam, Jill Reeve, Anna Rendell-Knights, Ruth Roseveare, Liz Rixon, Mary Rose Roe, Catherine Stanton, Mary Stapleton, Dawn Stenhouse, Isobel Stevenson, Elizabeth Styles, Maggie Thompson, Jo Thornton, Jo Trapnell, Frances Trower-Foyan, Sue Tunnicliffe, Meryl Turner, Lynn Warren, Elizabeth White.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2003 were read. The Secretary reported that there was at present no minute book and the members attending had not been recorded. She would rectify



these matters and the President would sign the minutes at a later date.

### MATTERS ARISING

Teanie Dornan thanked Peter Pollard and Christine Tew for all the hard work they had done to keep the Old Elphinians running in what had been a very difficult time for the Society.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Pollard welcomed all present, thanking Dr Mouat and the school for their kindness in hosting our Reunion during such a busy and challenging time at St Elphin's. He explained briefly the situation regarding the secretary following Melanie Thompson's resignation last autumn and thanked Christine for the wonderful work she had been doing for the Old Elphinians. He was delighted to report that our finances were healthy following Christine's letter and appeal to all members.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Christine reported that the school had very kindly provided her with a set of address labels. She had sent out over 800 condensed newsletters, membership forms and notifications of the AGM. To date she had received only 174 back, but from these 50 people had come to the reunion and £3431.00 had been donated to keep the Old Elphinians going. Well over 75% of those returning the forms had email addresses so in future they would receive any news and information on line.

### TREASURERS REPORT

As the treasurer was not present Peter Pollard reported that as he had previously opened an account for the York Reunion last November and as we had no access to the Old Elphinians Account the money Christine had received had been deposited in that account. The profit from the York Reunion (£210) had been used to send out the newsletter and the balance of the cost had been taken from the donations. The Nationwide Account had been

closed and he had been given a cheque from Sarah Brain (Treasurer) for £1,139.42.

### PRINCIPALS REPORT

Dr Mouat told us of the very difficult and stressful times the school had been through since she had attended the York Reunion last November when she had reported that the School had applied for planning permission on the playing field adjoining the A6. Both the first and second applications for this had been turned down, and a letter had been sent out to old girls appealing for donations. She wanted to thank all the old girls who had been so generous and also the wonderful letters of support she had received, unfortunately the sum needed 2.4 million had not been raised and so the school had been put up for sale. A company called GEMS had indicated that they would purchase St Elphin's and then pulled out at the last minute. All the uncertainty had resulted in more parents removing their children. However at the eleventh hour the school had been sold to business persons with Northern links, Paul Elliott, his sister Ruth and her husband Kevin Burke. They were going ahead in a very positive way and were determined that the school would succeed. The first thing they had implemented was the reduction of day fees by 22%. There had been many enquiries for both boy and girl students. Taster days had been introduced and several pupils had started in the middle of term. She praised the loyal staff who despite being issued with redundancy notices when GEMS had pulled out had remained loyal to the school and who were committed to academic excellence. She hoped that all those present would enjoy their lunch and the chapel service, which was to take place in the newly restored chapel at 3 p.m.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Secretary:-** Christine Tew agreed to stand for one more year.

**Proposed:-** Teanie Dornan

**Seconded:-** Liz Waters

**Treasurer:-** Teanie Dornan

**Proposed:-** Katrina Codling

**Seconded:-** Liz Waters



## AOB

Christine suggested that, as there was now over four and half thousand pounds in the Old Elphinians Account a large proportion should be invested in a high interest account.

Proposed:- Kathryn Dickens

Seconded:- Anne Turner

This was carried unanimously.

Any new accounts would have four signatures. The President Peter Pollard, The Treasurer Teanie Dornan, The Secretary Christine Tew and the Principal Dr Mouatt. Two of these would be required on any documentation. This would avoid any problems with regard to access to the funds.

Proposed:- Mary Goodman

Seconded:- Kathryn Dickens

This was carried unanimously

## York Reunion

Peter Pollard would be happy to organise another York Reunion in November 2005 The proposed date would be the 19<sup>th</sup> November and details would be forwarded to all members.

The date of the next AGM would be on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at St Elphin's School

\*(Please note this date was later changed to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005, but for obvious reasons no meeting could take place))

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12 15.

Those attending were:- Kathryn Balanescu (Johnson), Amanda Baldwin, Ann Brisbrown-Lee (Brisbrown), Barbara Brooke -Taylor (Barrow), Jessica Bryant, Ruth Burgess (Doxey), Margaret Cadge, Julie Chambers (Pownall), Rosemary Chambers (Thornton), Katrina Codling, Judy Crook, Rachael Crossland (Burrows), Jill Davis, Anna Dawes (Kastoryano), Jennifer Denning (Macilwaine), Kathryn Dickens (Betterton), Joan Doole (Gregory), Teanie Dornan (Turner), Dorothy Edwards, Caroline Fairchild, Mary Goodman,

Philippa Heathcote, Patricia Hooton, Mavis Hunter, Helen Jay (Wright), Avice Lee (Barrow), Leanne Longdon, Renate Mason (Churcher), Alex Mayland, Phoebe Milton (Melville-Hunt), Deborah Parsons, Peter Pollard, Heather Reeves, Hugh and Judith Robinson (Sheard), Kathryn Shipman, Helen Stokes (Sands) Jessica Sverdloff, Christine Tew, Ann Turner, Elizabeth Waters (Taylor), Mary Woffenden (Oliver), Hannah Wood, Heather Woodcock, Elizabeth Wass (Winder)

## OBITUARIES

### MARY SCUDAMORE (NEE JONES)

By a very old friend Frances Trower Foyan (nee Adams)

Mary and I first met in September 1932 as very young girls. We were in form 4B at St Elphin's. We lived in Houses in those days and Mary was in Wilson and I was in Kennedy. Miss Flood was the Headmistress and ruled us with a rod of iron – and we spent many hours on the “disgrace bench” outside the Drawing Room!!

We were in the same form all the way up the school – Mary's two sisters Kathleen and Steph were in other forms. We had lots of fun at St E's and played games every afternoon and Mary was good. She sang in the choir and took part in the Gilbert & Sullivan's the school presented.

After we took our School Certificate and went into the VIth form we were allowed to miss the Croq Walks and go in 4s, and somewhere I have a lovely photo of a very wet Mary in a grey felt hat clutching our very wet picnic on a walk in Lathkill Dale – and the Sunday teas we had in the Art Room were great fun.

We left school in 1939 and soon the war was upon us. We ended up together at Manchester University. Mary read Mathematics and I read Languages. She came to live with us at my Father's Rectory in Stockport as it was near the University and we continued to play Lacrosse etc.



Mary joined the Meteorology Dept of the RAF and we continued to meet. I remember several enjoyable Breaks at Mary's home at Elworth Vicarage and tanks rolling past from Fodens where they were made.

Mary married Tom and they went to live in Sandiacre on the outskirts of Nottingham, where he was a Doctor and they had two very attractive children and now grandchildren

Our lives varied a bit after the war with the business of family life and we only saw each other now and then, but we kept in touch and met at the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration at St Elphin's in 1994. Mary became a magistrate and was a valuable member of the local Community. She will be sadly missed.

#### **AUDREY LOUISE MAYHEW 1925-2004**

##### **Headmistress at St Elphin's 1975-1978**

I was Miss Mayhew's Secretary during her time at St Elphin's, following on as Miss Robinson's Secretary. The difference in the two women was quite marked: Miss Robinson was quite the autocrat, whilst Miss Mayhew had a more gentle though determined approach, or so it seemed to me.

Miss Mayhew was a pupil at North London Collegiate and an undergraduate at Girton College, Cambridge 1943-1947 where she was awarded an M.A. Cantab 1946 Classics (Greek and Roman Studies) then a Theology degree. She taught at: Sydenham High School G.P.D., S.T., 1947-1956; Ealing Girls' Grammar School 1956-67; Lewes Girls' Grammar School 1967-1970 where she was Deputy Head and Acting Headmistress. When they turned comprehensive she moved back to Ealing G.G.S. and was Deputy Head there 1970-75. Miss Mayhew took up her appointment as Headmistress at St Elphin's in 1975 and retired in 1978, initially to her home in Derbyshire then to her other home in Sussex. She enjoyed her gardens at both of her homes.

Miss Mayhew was a reserved, quiet person with a good sense of humour. She expected high standards of behaviour, appearance and academic success and was concerned when pupils did not maintain them. She was most interested in the more

academically able. She introduced a three-steam entry and initiated the new school uniform with tartan kilts. In those days there were two Chapel Services each morning as the whole school could not all fit in Chapel together. Miss Mayhew decided to hold Assembly in the Stopford Hall each Monday morning so that she could talk to the whole school.

The Friends of St Elphin's provided new tennis courts/hockey pitches and at Miss Mayhew's instigation shrubs were planted alongside the A6 to screen these. Unfortunately, that summer was a long hot and dry one but Willowdene girls came to the rescue by carrying water down to the shrubs to keep them alive, though some inevitably perished.

She enjoyed good music and attended many concerts. She was a strong supporter of the Buxton Music Festival and encouraged the girls to participate as individuals and in groups. She also encouraged the Inter-House Music Competition and attended many concerts. She played the violin and viola and in retirement learnt to play the piano.

Miss Mayhew had a very strong Christian faith which meant much to her and sustained her throughout her life. She was a great supporter of her local parish church. She travelled extensively throughout Europe and beyond, particularly visiting archaeological sites in Greece, Italy, Egypt and Bulgaria. In retirement she took up oil painting and enjoyed painting pastoral scenes, many of which hang on the walls in her home.

Sadly Miss Mayhew's final years were marred by Parkinson's Disease and she suffered a stroke five weeks before she died. Audrey Lavender, who shared her home, cared for her as her mental and physical health deteriorated. Her funeral service was held at her church St Pancras Church, Kingston near Lewes and was conducted by the Revd. Geoff Daw.

May she rest in peace.  
Mavis Hunter



## HOLDY

Margaret Holderness – later Margaret Ringrose was a great friend throughout our years at St Elphin's and also through our married and family years. She very sadly passed away on August 21<sup>st</sup> 2004 after a long spell of illness, chemotherapy etc. I started school just before the start of World War 2. Holdy came to school soon after. She was always a very sweet natured person and I always remember how we were in Dormitory 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup> landing. I had a "Dopey" (7 dwarfs) Toothbrush Holder (we hardly had an possession those days!). Poor Holdy dropped "Dopey" on the floor and it shattered. She was so upset that she burst into tears. It didn't matter one bit but she was so upset and thought it was a great favourite of mine.

We lost touch after I left St Elphin's in 1942 and I never heard where she was for ages, until Jean Waddell "Found" her again. I think we were tied up with married life, children etc. Holdy being an Art Teacher and myself Farming. She was a marvellous artist and I still have lots of little sketches of children that she sent me. We had lots of long chats on the phone during her illness and she always sounded cheerful. She was very brave. I do miss hearing from her. Also Jean Waddell, who was another great pal, who died nearly two years ago. I often visit her grave at Endsor in Chatsworth Park. No friends like our Old Elphinite pals!

Avice Lee (Barrow)

## EILEEN SMART NEE WHITTAKER

Eileen died on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2005. She was at St Elphin's from 1925 to 1929 and was Head Girl in her last year, being the first non-clergy daughter Head Girl. She was Powys House Captain, the house that her three daughters, the late Margaret Farley, Catherine Smart, and Mary Stoneham (Smartie) and her three nieces Susannah, Alex and Rachael, now sadly deceased, were in. Eileen was secretary of the S.E.O.G.G. for many years and was always very supportive of anything going on at St Elphins, fortunately she was not aware of the recent sad events at the school. She was an inveterate traveller and an accomplished photographer.

## NEWS

**Jane Holmberg** wrote that she is living in Sweden where she has had her own Consultancy Company since 1997 specialising in the management of Head Office functions. She is married to a Swede and has two boys aged 5 and 7 years. She keeps in touch with Helen Scott who is married to a Police Inspector living in Kent with 2 children. Helen was a Marketing Manager for Chanel but is on Maternity leave at the moment. Suzanne Hope lives in Zimbabwe with 3 kids.

### Deborah (Debbie) Jane Barton 1970-1978

Writes she was in the lower school, with Miss Lavender – then went into Gresford House. She lived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and stayed with her Aunty Miss Hilda Barton for half terms etc. She would like to get in touch with Helen Simpson and Louise Barker.

**Jill Lock (Lucas)** is still in touch with Viv Hogg (Bouchier) and Katy Nutt (Rains). Viv is a teacher in Surrey and Katy lives in Sussex. Jill's family are grown up. Her two daughters are in music and nursing. Jill is still working for the NHS.

**Isobel Court (Murray)** has been living in France for 35 years. She has three children the eldest of which has just got married in Antibes. Isobel's cousin Sally Anne Shannon came down with her family for the wedding. Isobel set up a language-training organisation in 1985 which is situated in the centre of Paris, she has about 150 personnel working exclusively in Corporate Training. She still hears from Joanna Granger at Christmas.

**Margaret Oldbury** is in touch with Rosey Kershaw (Hill), Judy Gwinnett-Sharp (Furness), Ann Margand (Osborn), Joyce (Polly) Woodall (Perkins) and Anne Thompson (Savage). Rosey and Margaret met up with Di Bell (Paget) in June and Ann Margand arranged a meeting last Christmas with Anne Toone who was visiting Norfolk with her Husband. Margaret would like to get in touch with Joan Tomlinson and Rosemary Thorne.



**Diana Taylor** still keeps in touch with Mary Mayo (Reeman) and is thrilled that Judith Jenkins (Coulter) has recently moved to Northampton. They recently had a tea party and looked at photos of St Elphin's

**Rosemary Runciman** remembers going to Warrington in 1944 to celebrate the School's Centenary she was in the choir and they sang Now thank we all our God with great enthusiasm.

**Monica Lilley (Trevethick)** would like to get in touch with Carol Wade, Louise Bacon and Judith Powdrill. Monica is married with two children and remembers her time in Pigot House with great affection.

**Frances Trower-Foyan (Adams)** keeps fit and still plays croquet and the occasional game of badminton.. She spent 7 very happy years at St Elphin's and ended up as Head Girl. She married Eve Trower-Foyan's brother John.

#### **The following news was gathered together at the last Reunion at St Elphin's in October**

**Dorothy Young (Cottrill)** is living in Ashover and teaches at St Anselms at Bakewell.

**Jessica Read (Bryant)** lives at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. She is married to a farmer and works as a part time Loss Advisor. She has horses but no children!

**Jill Sherrington (Davis)** has lived in Melbourne, Australia for the last 15 years and is married with three children.

**Mandy Sutton (Baldwin)** lives in Norfolk has horses and dogs but no kids.

**Julie Chambers (Pownall)** lives in Nottingham with three children 14, 11 and 1 and is working in the family business selling office furniture.

**Jennifer Denning (MacIlwaine) 1973-1980** is now living in Wimbledon with her husband Nick and three children, Patrick, Mary and Claire. She is currently Finance Director of a software house, also based in Wimbledon.

**Kathryn Balanescu (Johnson) 1984-1991 Kennedy** is living near and working at the University of Warwick, as finance manager. She is married to Mihai since June 1998.

**Deborah Parsons 1984-1991 Powys** qualified as a Librarian in 2000, then travelled and worked for three years in Thailand and Australia as a Dive Master. Recently became a librarian in a college near Sheffield where she is staying with Alex Mayland.

**Alex Mayland 1985-1991 Powys** worked in London for three years and then travelled the World. She now works as a recruitment Manager for INSIGHT an American I.T. Company in Sheffield. She now lives in a converted stables in Sheffield. Spent the last year working in Boston U.S. travelling and partying, no kids that she knows of and is still causing mayhem!

**Renate Mason (Churcher) 1985-1991 Kennedy** is happily married to David and living in Bedfordshire. Currently taking a career break to look after their little girl Lauren aged 18 months with another baby on the way. Since leaving school has spent a number of years living and working in Germany and has travelled the world "Always look on the bright side of life"

**Mary Mayo (Reeman)** was sorry not to be able to attend as she was on holiday in Prague with Rosemary Line. She sends best wishes to all as does Mary Rose Roe (Sockett) and Di Tylor (Hughes).

**Jessica Sverdloff 1992-1999 Kennedy** has just moved to Oxford. She is currently looking for another job having left the family that she had been nannying for three years.

**Hannah Wood 1997-1999 Wilson** is living in Headingley working in a Primary School in Saltaire near Bradford, as a reception teacher in her second year and keeping very busy.

**Kathryn Shipman 1992-1999 Kennedy** qualified as a nurse in March 2005 from Nottingham, University.



**Peter Pollard Headmaster** relaxed, hardworking and has nothing else to add!

**Tricia Hooton ex P.E. Teacher and Kennedy Housemistress** is enjoying semi retirement running a car park which she co owns with her sister. She is learning to play golf and generally enjoying life meeting with friends, complementary therapies and walking. She is a Governor at two local schools – Lady Manners and Bakewell Infants.

**Leanne Longdon 1990-1995** is living in Yeovil with her fiancé Paul who she will marry in August 2005. She is a teacher in a primary school.

**Katrina Codling 1990-1995 Powys** is working as a trainee junior scientist near Cambridge, doing research into water toxicology. She travelled in New Zealand and Australia in 2002/3. She is still interested in all water sports.

**Rosemary Chambers (Thornton) 1943-1960** seems to have been involved with St Elphin's in all capacities from pupil to governor so will not write about herself but about her daughter Sarah Griffiths (Hetherington) who was a pupil in the 1970. Sarah is married to a dentist and lives permanently in Kenya. Her husband Pete has lived all his life in Africa and has a dental practice in Nairobi. They have two children Harry 5 and Megan 3.

**Judy Crook Deputy Head** lives in Matlock and is always busy.

**Ann Turner** was so pleased to attend the reunion and thanked everyone involved in the organisation. She lives in Derbyshire and London.

**Mary Woffenden (Oliver)** lives in Sheffield and was so pleased to be back at St Elphin's.

**Anna Kastayano** is still living in Leicestershire and is married with two grown up children, She has taught Religious Studies for the past twenty seven years – a big challenge but enjoyable. She would love to hear from anyone who was in her year.

**Ann Bisbrown-Lee 1962-1969 Kennedy** lives in Southport and has one daughter at the University of Nottingham. She keeps busy as Church Warden etc.

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We all enjoyed our day at St Elphin's and so many people remarked how happy they were to be there. Maybe it was as well that we were unaware that it would be the last reunion we would hold at the School. I do hope that there will be a good turnout in York.

I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and please accept my apologies in advance for any errors.

Christine