



Notre Dame Alumni News

Blue Chip Alumni Welcomed by Sixth Formers

It was wonderful to be able to welcome two past pupils back to the school in October. Kate Pollard and



Rebecca Palmer (pictured), both from the class of 2006, enthused

the current Sixth Formers with presentations and discussions about the career opportunities within blue chip companies. Kate is now Digital Marketing Assistant at KPMG and talked with enthusiasm about how the happiness that she had enjoyed at Notre Dame had continued through to her job; it was wonderful to hear that Kate has 'fun at work every day'. Her experiences at UWE (University of West of England) were of great interest to her audience. Kate also highlighted the opportunities available through KPMG to combine work experience and University studies. Kate's main message was to 'use your contacts', and the current pupils certainly



welcomed the opportunity to use Kate as a contact.

Rebecca Palmer is now Assistant Manager within the Technology, Media & Telecommunications Practice at Deloitte UK. Rebecca stressed how, in today's competitive work environment, it is important to get experiences on your CV. She highlighted the benefits of being part of a smaller school where great

opportunities exist for responsible positions. Rebecca particularly mentioned how useful her experience in Young Enterprise had been. She has continued to



study hard as well as working and at the time of visiting Notre Dame Rebecca had

already completed 14 of the 15 modules required for her ACA (Association of Chartered Accountants) qualification.

A huge thank you to both Kate and Rebecca for making the time to come and visit Notre Dame and for inspiring our current Sixth Formers and offering such relevant advice to them. After the presentations the girls had the opportunity to chat to Kate and Rebecca in small groups and quiz them on all aspects of



their University and work experiences.

If any other alumni are keen to visit the school and offer advice to the current pupils please do get in touch with the Alumni Office.

Dates for the diary

Alumni of Notre Dame School are always welcome to return to the school during Open Mornings. It was great to welcome so many past pupils to the Open Morning in October (see details on page 2). The next Open Morning is on **Tuesday 5th March, 9:30-12:00**.

The Friends of Notre Dame 2013 Summer Fete is taking place on **Saturday 15th June, 12:00-16:00**

Reunion Lunch October 2012

On Saturday 6th October Notre Dame Preparatory and Senior School hosted an Open Morning for prospective families and welcomed back many past pupils who enjoyed touring the school and seeing how much had changed since their own schooldays.

Following on from the Open Morning there was a reunion lunch for pupils who had left the school between 1978-1985. Liz Cussans (nee Holmes, pupil from 1973-1980) had been in touch with the Alumni office and in the Summer 2012 issue of the newsletter there was a request for other past pupils to get in touch with her via the Alumni office. Building on Liz's enthusiasm to re-connect with her past school friends, invitations to a reunion lunch were sent to over 60 past pupils from those years whose details are on the alumni database. It was wonderful to host nearly 30 past pupils, staff and sisters



Year 11 photo from 1978 that inspired Liz Cussans (nee Holmes) to propose the Reunion Lunch. Sr Mary Agnes ODN is in the centre, Mrs Cochrane is top left, Sr Julia ODN is top right



Past pupils Sarah Humphreys (nee Parr), Emma Fewings (nee Baguley), Sarah Barnett (nee Oakenfull), Sue Algar, Frances Blyther (nee Viccary) and Mary Dart (nee Parker)

photos taken sitting at desks in their old classrooms over 30 years after they had last attended lessons in those rooms. Many thanks to Sarah Barnett (nee Oakenfull) for sharing her photographs.



to lunch. Past pupils had a fabulous opportunity to reconnect with past headmistresses and teachers. Sister

Mary Agnes ODN, Sister Faith ODN, Sister Maria ODN and Sister Anne Gill ODN all attended the lunch and commented about how lovely it was to hear about all the achievements of past pupils.

The current school pupils provided guided tours of the school and alumni had many opportunities to have their



Deputy Headmistress, Mrs Cochrane with Sister Maria and past pupils Nicky Wells (nee Clary), Liz Cussans (nee Holmes), Melanie Walker (nee Bean), Wendy Amer (nee Griffin), Kim Sainthouse (nee Sharp) and Sophie Scott (nee Davis)



Past headmistresses Sr Mary Agnes ODN, Sr Faith ODN, past staff member Mrs Patricia Whitlock, Sr Anne Gill ODN, past pupil Suzanne Ware (nee Ornsby) and past staff member Mrs Ilse Oettinger



Past Headmistress Sr. Mary Agnes ODN with current Deputy Headmistress Mrs Cochrane, whom she employed in 1974

Photographs from the Archive

There have been some requests from members of the Alumni Association to see old photographs. Within the Alumni Office there are three fantastic memorabilia folders with photographs and old school programmes and newspaper cuttings from 1962-1987. The folders were kindly donated to the Alumni Office by Mrs Rose Lumley who taught at the school during those 25 years. Please do get in touch if you would like to arrange to visit and look through these folders.

There are many boxes of other old photographs that are available in school too and over the course of 2013 the Alumni Office hopes to be able to scan these photographs and make them available via the Alumni web site. However, in the meantime, here are a few old photographs for you to see. Please do feel free to write in with your own memories that arise from seeing these photographs, we often do not know the names of the girls in the photographs. Also if you have your own old photographs that you would like to share then please do scan them

and email them to alumni@notredame.co.uk. This is what other members of the Alumni Association have done, some were included in the Summer 2012 newsletter and there are more on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter too. *Below: Class of 2003*



1968 Prize-giving



Infant Nativity from 1950s



Open Day 1988

New Alumni Management System

Notre Dame wants to maintain contact with past pupils; communications such as this regular newsletter, emails regarding events and information on the Alumni web site are all different ways to maintain that contact. In order to keep the alumni community informed about the school and about alumni events we keep a database of alumni. This contains basic contact information and dates of attendance at the school. In order to invite you to relevant events it is good to make sure that we have up-to-date contact information as well as details about any specific interests you may have.

At the end of 2011 the Notre Dame School Alumni Association purchased an alumni management system. Throughout 2012 this system has been implemented and it is now used for the distribution of all emails and newsletters.

During the first half of 2013 we will

enable you to access this system directly. You will be able to maintain the information that we hold about you. If you change your email address or you move home then you will be able to login and view/edit



your profile. You will also choose what information you are prepared to share with other members of the Alumni Association. You may also find that you can track down past school friends using the directory. Notre Dame School Alumni Association takes great care to protect your data and so nothing will

be shared without your consent.

Using this system will also enable you to register for alumni events in the future. For example, you could book to attend future reunion lunches or register your interest in attending the annual Christmas Carol Service next year.



Please do take a moment to visit www.notredame.co.uk/alumni and please do make sure your contact details are correct as well as taking the opportunity to see what the web site contains.

NOTRE DAME

Examination Success

For the 10th consecutive year, Notre Dame A Level students celebrated a 100% pass rate, with 93% A* - C grades, a 4% increase on last year.

All the girls from the 2010-2012 cohort applying through UCAS, gained places, with 84% of places gained at Russell Group Universities.



A week later parents and students collected the GCSE results in the knowledge that this year's GCSE grades had been subject to stricter marking systems, yet once again



Notre Dame students excelled, achieving 100% A* - C grades in at least five subjects. We are extremely

proud of every student, many of whom achieved beyond expectation, showing Notre Dame's quality teaching and the ability to add value to the girls' education. There was a 7% increase from last year to 90% for A* - B grades.

Art & Design particularly shone this year with all students gaining A* grades, the majority of Theology students gained A or A* whilst English remained strong with all A* - C grades in the year group.

Notre Dame Games-Makers!



Whilst many of us enjoyed the London 2012 Olympics either by watching and supporting the Olympians on the television or as one of the lucky ones to have obtained tickets and visited the venues, members of Notre Dame staff maintained their outstanding work ethic - supporting the Olympic philosophy of inspiring a generation.

In true St Jeanne style, they were ready to "lend a helping hand" as Olympic Games Makers. Pictured are June Hiscock - Catering Team, Lorraine Harper - Senior School Office and Kate St John - Senior School English Learning Support. All were involved across the Games and they thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere at this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Mrs Harper was a Guide at the Olympic Village and had a great opportunity to meet with many athletes.



Deputy Head of the Preparatory School, Mrs Helen Evans, was a Surrey Ambassador for the Olympic Cycle Road Race that took place on roads adjacent to the school in July.



Christmas Carol Service

Another of the traditional highlights of the Senior School calendar is the annual Christmas Carol Service in the School Chapel.

This year alumni were invited to attend the service and on Thursday 13th December many braved a cold night to

come and join in with the celebration. Alumni enjoyed singing carols and listening to the various school choirs. Following the service there was an opportunity to catch up with past and current members of the school community over mulled wine and mince pies.



SCHOOL NEWS

Fiddler on the Roof Production

This year the Christmas production was 'Fiddler on the Roof' and once again this proved to be an outstanding success. We would love to hear from any of you who have memories of school productions from your time at Notre Dame. Please do get in touch and share your memories or any photos.



This year it was great to welcome back members of the Alumni Association who joined with current pupils, parents and staff to watch the performances.



Another part of the Christmas tradition at Notre Dame is to invite local Senior Citizens to the Saturday Matinee

performance of our Christmas production. This year the performance received fantastic feedback from the visitors.

Do any of you remember doing similar performances to the local community? We would love to hear from you!



Talent Show

How many of you remember the annual Talent Show at Notre Dame?

This year the end of term once again saw a magnificent afternoon enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

As ever one of the highlights was the staff performance for the pupils. This year a number of members of staff performed a send up of Fiddler on the Roof, complete with cross-dressing below.



Mr Griffin (Drama dept), Mr Marshall (Theology Dept) and Dr Fenton (Music dept) entertaining the girls



Members of the Senior School staff entertain the girls at the Christmas Talent Show

The audience were also treated to a wonderful performance by some of the current pupils who had obtained face masks to impersonate the current senior teaching staff. Below maybe you can spot a face mask of a staff member you remember from your time at Notre Dame?



In addition one of the current Sixth Form pupils worked secretly with all the teaching and support staff to produce a video of the staff singing their own special version of 'Feed the World', with the words altered to 'Teach the Girls'. The premiere of this video was greeted by the girls with laughter and cheers, as well as a great deal of surprise. If you would like to watch this video it is available at: <http://youtu.be/ht8p4MVODSk>

Do you have memories of past Talent Shows or other events that you can share with us? If so we would love to hear from you and share your memories with all the members of the Alumni Association.

Notre Dame School Memories from the 1950s

1st August 2012

From: Heather Hurley (nee Chilcott, pupil from 1947-1956)

Thanks you for sending me the last copy of the Alumni News. My husband has prompted me to send some information and photographs for the newsletter.

I started at Notre Dame in 1947/8 when it was a very small school and left in 1956 at 16 years as there wasn't a sixth form. The images show the school during the 1950s and those pictured in 1956 were the total number of pupils in the fifth form! I am only in touch with one pupil in the photos but can remember most of their names. We all went into nursing or office work but I went to work for the Ministry of Agriculture before working as a librarian at Esher then at Kingston. After marriage to Jon we moved to Herefordshire to start Wineweekends and walking holidays. Three children were born, my daughter following my love of horses and becoming an international dressage rider.

Since the 1980s I have written and researched many books on local history, given talks and led walks in Herefordshire and the Wye Valley. I still ride and walk in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside.

Heather Hurley is a local historian who has written books and guides about Herefordshire and the Wye Valley including The Old Roads of South Herefordshire (1992, 2007), Paths and Pubs of the Wye Valley (1998, 2008) The Story of Ross (1999,2009), The Story of Bill Mills (2001), three books on the social history of pubs in

the Wye Valley (2001, 2004, 2007) in the Logaston Press series, edited the Landscape History of the Wye Valley (2008) and the Green Lanes of Herefordshire (2010) River Trade and Transport on the Wye to be published in 2013.



Heather riding in the Herefordshire lanes in 2011



It is fantastic to be able to share Heather's school memories in the newsletter. Here are some great old photographs of the school building in 1950, the 1952 School Choir, Sporting Types in 1955 and the 1956 School Leavers. Thank you Heather! Get in touch with the Alumni Office if you would like to have these photos emailed to you.





It is wonderful to have received so many emails and letters from members of the Alumni Association since the last issue of the newsletter in the Summer. We love hearing from you and sharing in your news. Please do keep on writing and emailing so that we can share your news with all the members of the Alumni Association.

15th August 2012

From: Dr. Sarah Cassidy (pupil 1995-2002)

I have been meaning to do this for a while and now I finally have the chance. I wanted to say thank you to everyone at Notre Dame Senior School for my time there from 1995-2002. When I arrived I was not very confident, outgoing or considered academic or gifted at anything. By the time I left I had an A in A-level Drama and the Hartley Cup for Psychology. Notre Dame inspired me and helped me see my own potential and made me feel I could achieve anything.

I have now completed my PhD in Psychology at the University of Nottingham and am just taking up a Research Coordinator position at the world leading Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge, working with the leader in my field Professor Simon Baron-Cohen.

When I arrived at Notre Dame all those years ago, I would never have thought I would have been able to achieve anything, let alone this. So I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for helping me realise that the sky's the limit!

I would particularly like to get back in touch with all the teachers who played such a central role in my education and inspirations.

20th July 2012

From Natalie Tehrani (pupil from 1998-2003)

I really enjoyed reading the latest issue of the newsletter, it is so interesting to see what everyone is up to.

I attended Notre Dame from 1998-2003. My favourite subjects were English, Drama, History and French and I have some very fond memories from my time at the school.

I am now working as a PA to a Director of an HR Consultancy Company.

One of my current projects is to help The Stephen Lawrence Trust with administration and events organisation as my boss is a Trustee.

I am also applying for a PGCE in English at King's College in London, 2013 entry. I will let you know how I get on.



It was great to hear from Natalie and then to be able to help her in September 2012 when she came into Notre Dame to observe some lessons.

In October 2012 Natalie wrote to us again:

Having contacted Mrs Cochrane (who used to teach me) and expressed my intention to apply for PGCE in English teaching at Secondary level, she kindly organised for me to come back to the school (ten years on) and observe some lessons within the English and Drama departments.

The school was as I remembered it in some ways: friendly and supportive staff, excellent levels of teaching and beautiful grounds, but also many noticeable improvements to the buildings have been made since I was a pupil. One of the most impressive is the Montaigne Theatre, with its large stage, three tiers and lovely 'still new' smell. I also enjoyed seeing the well stocked Library and the new Science block.

I found the students to be friendly and enthusiastic. Two Year 8 girls gave me a tour of the Theatre and were both knowledgeable about the building and also proud to have such an excellent resource at their disposal. The students are studying a rich and varied programme of texts and are learning skills that will no doubt benefit them in their future studies and careers.

Viewing the lessons from a potential teacher's viewpoint I was able to pick up some helpful tips regarding lesson

structure and planning, classroom resources and classroom management. The staff, both new and old, I found to be well able to meet the high levels of teaching I enjoyed at the school when I was a pupil.

8th October 2012

From: Liz Cussans (nee Holmes, pupil from 1973-1980)

Found a few more photos for you:



Trip to France in 1980



Leaving party with teachers. Miss Harish, Mrs Frazer and Miss Boyde.



Silly hat day!

1st November 2012

From: Bernadette Crossley
 (pupil 1995-2002)

I was at NDSS from 1995-2002 and am an old Head Girl. I went on to Cambridge where I studied for a BA in Geography with Education achieving a 2:1. I then stayed to do my PGCE. I am currently teaching at Donhead (a boys' school in Wimbledon) and have taken up the post of Assistant Headteacher this September. I firmly believe that the grounding and experiences that I had at Notre Dame have helped me with my studies and career so far.



Girls pictured from L to R are Clare Heggarty (bride), Christian Taylor (groom), Elizabeth Kay, Pollyanna Hartley, Selina Jeetoo, Georgina Day, Katy Heggarty and Katie Barnett.

I also got married in April and so have had a wonderful year so far!! I am now Bernadette White. My bridesmaids were all Notre Dame girls, Danielle Hunter, Honor Roche (Deputy Head Girl) and Chloe Marshall. I have attached a few photographs.

24th September 2012

From: Jane Barnett (staff member from 2004-2012)

Derek and I recently attend the wedding of Clare Heggarty (Notre Dame pupil from 1993-2001) and Christian Taylor (Reed's pupil). All of the bridesmaids were Notre Dame girls and the best man and ushers were all Reeds boys. They all met at the school discos we held at school.

The wedding took place on Saturday 8th September at St Mary's Church, W o o t t o n - U n d e r - E d g e , Gloucestershire.



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Keeping in touch



There are many different ways to stay in touch with the Notre Dame School Alumni.

- ◆ You can email your news to alumni@notredame.co.uk
- ◆ You can telephone 01932 869990 ext 251.
- ◆ You can write to:

Annette Stark, Alumni Officer
 Notre Dame School
 Burwood House
 Convent Lane
 Cobham
 Surrey
 KT11 1HA

◆ You can write directly to Mrs Cochrane:
vcocchrane@notredame.co.uk

◆ The Notre Dame School Alumni is also present on Facebook. You can join the group 'Notre Dame Surrey' and share your news with other members through this easy to use social network. Facebook has recently changed this group to a new format and so if you were a member before you may find you have to re-join the group—please do this so that you can keep in touch!

◆ Notre Dame Alumni has a group on the professional networking site, LinkedIn. You can get in touch with fellow alumni from the school with a view to extending your professional network.

