

Spring 2012



NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Notre Dame School Alumni News

Welcome to the Notre Dame Alumni News

A Message from the Headmistress

Welcome!

A warm welcome to this, our first edition of Alumni News for Notre Dame.

We have enjoyed many gatherings and class reunions of past, former pupils of the school, but not, until now, formalised our Alumni.

This publication marks a significant step forward for us and the beginning of a series of organised and special events for former pupils and staff to meet up again to share their stories, news and views on the school.

A tour of the buildings will clearly show how we have forged ahead in creating new and exciting

facilities in recent years. Our Lestonnac Resource Centre – the LRC – boasts state-of-the-art ICT Technology, video-conferencing, a library and a Sixth Form study area. The new Science block – the Jary Building – with its bright, cheerful Chemistry, Biology and Physics laboratories have created the right environment to entice our medical students to become doctors, dentists and most recently, veterinary surgeons.

The Montaigne Theatre, only opened at Christmas, is serving as a superb source of inspiration for our numerous thespians! Come and join us, stand on the stage, in the spotlights!

I look forward to welcoming many of you to our special events this year.

Bridget Williams
Headmistress
Notre Dame Senior School



Welcome to the Spring 2012 issue of the newsletter for alumni of Notre Dame School. If you are in touch with other past members of the school community who you hear did not receive this newsletter, then please do ask them to get in touch with alumni@notredame.co.uk to register. It is always great to hear news about how past members of the school are getting on so please do keep in touch.

I am very excited to have joined Notre Dame School in July 2011 as the Alumni Officer. Establishing this new position at the school is a

great reflection of the importance that the school staff and the board of Governors place on maintaining contact with our past pupils. Since joining the school I have spent time working with the records of past pupils and trying to ensure that we have accurate contact information for everyone. This is not always an easy task as it is hard to remember to tell all the important utility companies and banks and clubs when you move house or change your email address, let alone remembering to tell your old school!! I hope to

make it easier for past pupils to keep us updated with any changing contact information by providing, later this year, a simple web-based system for you to maintain your own information. Keeping you up to date with news from the school and letting you know about events is much quicker and more cost-effective via email and the alumni web site, so if you have an email address then please do let me know.

Annette Stark
Alumni Officer
Notre Dame School

Alumni Celebration of Montaigne Theatre

Notre Dame School has always had a strong Drama department and the girls were outgrowing the existing drama facilities. So in June 2007 the idea of a new theatre was raised. In September 2007 a Performing Arts Committee was formed. In June 2008 work started on planning the design and build of the theatre. In October 2009 planning approval was granted with a projected cost of over £3,000,000!

Building work started in April 2010 and continued alongside normal lessons and everyday school life through the 2010/11 academic year.

Concurrent with all the building work there was also a large amount of fund-raising. The school is extremely grateful to the generosity of the parents who raised the money to enhance the technical specifications and fit out both the drama studio and theatre.

After all the hard work the theatre was finally completed and handed over to Notre Dame's new Theatre Manager,



Sue Gillespie, in the autumn of 2011. Almost immediately the current girls wanted to use the theatre to show their classmates and parents the wonderful production that they had put together for the Shakespeare Schools Festival!



Plans for the formal blessing and opening of the theatre quickly took shape. On Monday 5th December

Bishop Kieran Conry blessed and opened the Montaigne Theatre.

The following night, Tuesday 6th December, over 100 Notre Dame School Alumni attended a drinks reception to celebrate the opening of the theatre.



Many past pupils enjoyed the opportunity to look around the school and see how much things had changed since their own time at the school.

Later in the evening the current girls performed 'Breath on the Embers', a work specially commissioned for the opening of the Montaigne Theatre, which told the story of St Jeanne de Lestonnac. The performance was well received by everyone and the performers and musicians received a fantastic response from the audience after the show.

There are many more photos of the evening available on the alumni web



site www.notredame.co.uk/alumni

Why not have a look at the web site and see which of your old classmates or teachers you can spot?

Please write in with details of past productions you remember at Notre Dame School.



Headmistress, Bridget Williams, and Prep School Headmaster, David Plummer, with the Sisters of the Company of Mary Our Lady at the Alumni Evening for the Montaigne Theatre celebration



The audience inside the Montaigne Theatre prior to the performance



Notre Dame School Alumni and their guests at the opening of the Montaigne Theatre

Happy Retirement to Mrs Jackman



After over 25 years in the school Mrs Jackman retired in July 2011. Mrs Jackman joined Notre Dame School as a part time Mathematics teacher in 1986. At that time her children were young and she started work bringing her youngest son with her to school and dropping him at the nursery and then heading down to the Senior School to teach.

Mrs Jackman progressed through the Senior School taking on greater responsibilities. She became Head of Mathematics, as well as being Head of Year 9, Head of Year 11 and also, for

many years, Head of Ellesmere House. Finally, in 2006, Mrs Jackman was appointed as Deputy Headmistress of the Senior School. In this latter role she was in charge of all aspects of the curriculum and timetabling, teaching and learning. She was a key member of the Senior Management Team and contributed to all aspects of school life. Mrs Jackman also became an Independent Schools Inspector.

One of the important areas that Mrs Jackman focused on was continuing to maintain the ethos of the school. At the time the number of sisters working actively in the school was diminishing and so Mrs Jackman felt it was important to ensure that the special ethos that exists at Notre Dame was recognized and preserved. Mrs Jackman felt so strongly about this that she wrote a dissertation for an MA on the subject!

Since leaving school Mrs Jackman has been enjoying time with her family. She is kept very busy with her family, from the youngest family members to

the older ones, she helps looking after her granddaughter and also organising care for her elderly mother. Mrs Jackman has plans to travel to distant lands and enjoy some well-earned rest too in the near future.

Although Mrs Jackman has left the school she could not stay away for long and was back with us for the opening of the Montaigne Theatre in December. In January 2012 she was back at the school teaching! Mrs Jackman was teaching Maths in the Senior School whilst another member of staff enjoyed time with his new born baby. The girls seemed very happy to have Mrs Jackman back teaching them and the staff certainly loved seeing her in the staff room again!

Mrs Jackman represents the very best of Notre Dame School spirit and will continue to be an inspiration to her past students throughout their lives.

If you have any memories of Mrs Jackman to share with us, please email them to alumni@notredame.co.uk

NOTRE DAME

2011 House Music Competition

On February 9th the Senior School's four houses—Arundel, Burwood, D'Abernon and Ellesmere—met in the Senior Gym to do battle for the honour of winning the House Music Cup. The atmosphere for this competition is always electric and as the members of each house settled into their position the individual house anthems range out in a cacophonous din. Soon, however, the room was silenced in anticipation of the arrival of the adjudicator, Mrs Treherne, and the first House performance.

The House Song for 2011 consisted of a medley of items chosen to reflect the Headmistress' often expressed belief that our girls are simply the best and we work best when we work together: 'Here Come the Girls', 'When The Going Gets



Tough, The Tough Get Going', and 'We're All In This Together'. The medley called for a range of performance styles, including solos and dances, as well as the house singing lustily in unison and harmony. All was up for grabs as all the girls had done so well in the solo section of the competition.

It was fantastic to see and hear such beautiful playing and singing. Marks were very close and Mrs Treherne was impressed by the consistently high standard. The winners were

Instrumental Solo: Katherine Lund (D'Abernon)

Vocal Solo: Manon Hagger (Arundel)

The competition for the House Song was fiercely fought, but in the end D'Abernon's performance shone through. The singing was superb, the dancing was enthusiastic, movements were well choreographed and the House

looked and sounded as if each girl was enjoying herself.

Congratulations to Dorothy Robertson and her team for preparing D'Abernon so expertly.

The winner of the overall cup for House Music was also D'Abernon. Mrs Treherne, whom many of you will remember from your time at the school, was a fantastic adjudicator, her experience as a performer, producer, director and examiner was clearly evident in the quality of her comments to the girls regarding their performances.



2011 House Drama Festival

Many of you will recall your own fun experiences at Notre Dame School. For many of you these experiences will include the Inter-House Drama Festival which is a tradition that is still going strong in the Senior School.

On 25th May 2011, the Performing Arts of Notre Dame Association (PANDA) successfully entertained the whole school with the Inter-House Drama Festival.

Arundel's directors, Laura Essex and Beata Borelius-Larson directed 'Wan2tlk?', which featured a school setting and examined both the light-hearted and serious realities of mobile phone and computer technology.



Charlotte Higgs and Sophie-Louisa Miles directed the allegorical rhyming

pantomime 'Wacky Soap—complete with magic soap and a shower on stage! Burwood's directors Bronwen Lee and Charlotte Robeson directed 'The Perfect Friend', which explored the qualities of friendship and the havoc wreaked when a 'perfect' android friend helps a shy girl to fit in at school.

D'Abernon won the Inter-House Drama Festival for the second year running. Directors Victoria Brooks and Lily Melhuish directed 'Can You Handle It?', a thought-provoking, episodic exploration of society's attitudes to money, which asked the question 'What would you do if you



found a suitcase containing a million pounds?'

The adjudicator, Lachlan McCall, a working actor, made a point of commenting on the commitment and dedication needed to take a production from 'page to stage', and praised the storytelling, the tight direction and the high acting standard overall. D'Abernon's Emma Appleton won the Best Actor Award for her dual roles of 'Sacha' and 'The Beggar' in 'Can You Handle It?'. Demonstrating 'strong character work and a real stage presence'. Several other performers were highly commended and the adjudicator's full report was posted on the Drama Department Notice Board for all to view.



SCHOOL NEWS

Sports News from Mrs Marsh

2010-12 has been a year and a half with much to celebrate in terms of sporting achievements and opportunities for all. Sport has been one of our focus areas and it has been fantastic to see so many girls and staff participating in a wide range of sporting activities on Wednesday afternoons as well as during the lunchtimes and after school.

One bi-annual event that may bring back memories or make you a little envious is the Caribbean netball tour. In October 2010 a squad of twelve netball players spanning Years 10-13 admirably represented Notre Dame (and England) in Tobago. They played competitive



matches against the three best Tobago school Under 18 netball teams. There was much support for the English team from other guests at the hotel. The third game was against old rivals Bishops High School. The game was close throughout, and the squad system of all twelve players playing their part was challenging for the Notre Dame coach Mrs Heather Marsh. Notre Dame heroically came back from 4 goals down to win the game 24-21. This gave the English visitors a 2-1 score against the West Indian athletic netballers! Some of you will remember past Netball Tours starting with Grenada in 2002 and bi-annually to Tobago since then. Below is a photo from the 2006 and 2008 Tobago tour to bring back some old memories!



2006 Tobago tour



2006 Tobago tour, above, 2008 Tobago tour below



There were opportunities for all girls to attend extra-curricular practices in netball, swimming, running, gymnastics, trampolining, dance, football, athletics, rounders and tennis. Fourteen netball teams, that is over 110 girls representing the school with a great deal of enjoyment and success. Congratulations should go to the current Under 14 and Under 16 netball teams who have qualified for the Surrey Finals every year since Year 7; twice reaching semi-final stages (putting us well up in the top netballing schools in Surrey); and to many teams who have won their respective Elmbridge tournaments. Recently we saw our U14 team beat St George's College in a very close, exciting match to achieve the winners' medals.

In swimming we had phenomenal success at County and National level. Our Year 8 and 9 combined team won Gold in the Surrey freestyle relay. They went on to qualify for the National schools finals in Stockport in February 2011. They were ranked second fastest going into the final, and they lived up to this by achieving a silver medal, second in the country only to Millfield. In the medley relay, we were ranked 12th, but our girls exceeded our expectations by achieving a bronze medal. The girls involved swam personal best times; they were: Hannah Burvill, Mathilda

Prowse, Lucy Sessions, Imogen Boffin and Gabriella Staples-Griffin. In November 2011 our Junior team once again swam in the National finals in Southampton.

We are very proud of the girls who train hard and compete in other sports outside of school and we try to recognise their achievements in the weekly newsletter. Tennis is an area that we have enjoyed much success in Surrey League and Festival events- that will bring back memories for some of you.

Many of our past pupils will have memories of their sporting activities at Notre Dame. The annual Sports Day has been held at Kingsmeadow Stadium Kingston for many years now.

In the Summer of 2011 Burwood were the winners of the house trophy for School Sports Day beating D'Abernon by just 10 points. Arundel and Ellesmere house teams competed well for their 3rd and 4th places and the girls and staff all had a wonderful day. There were some new records set during the day but some of the old records still remain!

New Records for 2011

1500M YEAR 9:

JENNIFER WITHERS 6.00.32 mins

HURDLES YEAR 8:

JEMMA SHARMAN 12.86secs

JAVELIN YEAR 8:

NICOLE REARDON 22.61m

DISCUS YEAR 8:

HANNAH BURVILL 20.73m

Some old records still stand: our oldest record is JENNIFER BUTLER 75m Hurdles in 12.62 seconds from 1989. Our athlete holding most records is AMI-MAY HARTLEY 200m (three) and 100m. Other athletes still holding three records are LOUSIE SQUIRES, ELEANOR GRIFFITHS-JONES, SAMANTHA MORRISON, ISABELLA STEWART and HANNAH BURVILL.

For the full programme of events and records see the Senior School website. Maybe one of our past record holders would be willing to come to our 2012 Sports Day to present the prizes?

A Tribute to Sister Patricia Kelly ODN

It is an extremely sad time at Notre Dame School with the sudden and unexpected passing of Sister Patricia Kelly ODN in January 2012.

A former novice of Notre Dame, teacher and governor, the greatest number of her years were spent here with us, in the Notre Dame community, although she had travelled the world.

Sister Patricia embodied the spirit and ethos of the Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady. She worked tirelessly in the Notre Dame School community as one of the founding members of the School Governors. She was in charge of the Lestonnac Committee and responsible for ensuring the continuation of the charism of Saint Jeanne as the lay staff took on the mantle of the Sisters as they retired from key positions. Sister Patricia taught us to ask, "What would St Jeanne have done/said?"

It was Sister Patricia Kelly's idea and inspiration that started the pilgrimages from Cobham to Bordeaux, to walk in the footsteps of St. Jeanne. The first

pilgrimage took place in October 2003 and since that time many staff, governors and parents have gone on pilgrimage to Bordeaux. In the school news section of this newsletter you can read about the first student pilgrimage for Year 11-13 girls that took place in October 2011.

Sister Patricia Kelly encouraged and inspired the Notre Dame School Choir tour to Rome in September 2007 and the choir tour to Santiago de Compostela in March 2010. She was always thinking of ways to inspire our Notre Dame community through furthering the links with the wider Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady around the world.

Sister Patricia Kelly felt very strongly about continuing the sense of belonging to the Notre Dame School community long after pupils have left the school. She was the driving force within the School Governors to establish a formal Notre Dame School Alumni Programme—this association. We thank Sister Patricia Kelly for all she has done for us.

Glen Travers, the Chairman of Governors writes, '*Sister Patricia has been a mentor to so many, including myself, and her contribution has been immeasurable. Her 'joie de vivre' will always come to mind along with her devotion to her beloved Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady. Her magnetic personality has gathered many from near and far to the Order. So many loved her for all she has been to us.*'



Sister Patricia Kelly ODN

A Tribute to Sister Julia ODN

It was only 15 weeks earlier that the Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady had suffered the loss of another member of their family. Sister Julia Lanaghan ODN passed away on 9th October, with the funeral taking place on Wednesday 19th October. Sister Julia was only unwell for a few months so this was also a great shock to Notre Dame School community.

Sister Julia Lanaghan taught in the Notre Dame Senior School for many years and led many wonderful holidays to places such as Capri, Rome and Tunisia.

She was a great friend, teacher and leader to many within the school. Sister Julia was Headmistress of Notre Dame Prep. School from 1986 until 1998 and always showed love and kindness within the community. Sister Julia

joined her religious family 51 years ago and had been supported by them throughout her time in the Notre Dame School community.



Sister Julia Lanaghan ODN

We continue to miss Sister Julia's presence and company. She had a great intuition and was a fantastic judge of character. She will remain in our hearts to inspire us.

In Memory of...

If you would like to contribute to a prayer garden being built in the enclosed area beside the chapel in memory of Sr. Julia Lanaghan and Sr. Patricia Kelly please send your donation, payable to Notre Dame School, to:

Tracy Jones
Financial Controller
Notre Dame School
Burwood House
Cobham
Surrey
KT11 1HA



Past Pupil visits Senior School

When former pupil, Claire Eaton, (1994-1999) offered to give a talk about her work as a 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People' trainer, she probably did not anticipate being mobbed in the school car park. The main focus of this enthusiastic welcome was, in fact, Claire's demonstration dog, Bertie.

Bertie entertained and educated Year 7, and their Big Sisters in Year 12, about some of the useful tasks that a 'Hearing Dog' can undertake for its human partner: signalling the ringing of doorbells, telephones and oven timers; waking people up with gentle nudges or patting; directing people away from



the direction of fire and smoke alarms and alerting parents to the needs of young children.

'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People' is a relatively small charity but it faces a huge demand for its trained dogs and an overwhelming waiting list. Volunteer socialisers, who keep the

dogs for a year, are therefore very much in demand. Bertie's demonstration in the Sixth Form Common Room, and Claire's informative responses to the many questions posed by the girls, made it a most enjoyable afternoon... and several adults sneaked in too, proving the universal appeal of dogs. Notre Dame School is very proud of Claire and the work she does.

For further information visit www.hearingdogs.org.uk



Past Pupil News

Charlotte Duckworth (pupil from 1990-1999) is a now freelance journalist specialising in interiors



and lifestyle, who has written for many fantastic publications including Ideal Home, Good Homes, Woman & Home, Marie Claire and Country Homes & Interiors. Before turning freelance she worked for three years as Managing Editor on www.housetohome.co.uk the UK's biggest decorating website. You can find out more about what Charlotte is doing by visiting her website www.charlotteduckworth.com



Georgie, Clare & Kit

Thanks to Clare Hegarty who let us know that 3 past pupils are busy training for the 2012 London Marathon, which takes place on 22nd April. Clare (pupil from 1994-2001) and her sister Katherine (Kit) Hegarty (pupil from 1996-2003) and Clare's best friend Georgina (Georgie) Day (pupil from 1994-2001) are all running for charity.

Clare is running for Age UK ([http://](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ClareHegarty)

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ClareHegarty). Clare will run in a veil to mark her pending nuptials in September!

Kit is running and works for Cancer Research UK (<http://www.justgiving.com/Kit-Hegarty>). Kit is planning to dress up either as a training shoe or a mad scientist!

Georgie is running for Arthritis Care (http://www.supportarthritiscare.org.uk/georgie_day). We don't know if Georgie is dressing up but we hope to see some fun photos of them when they have completed the course!

If anyone goes along to watch the London Marathon then please do support Clare, Kit & Georgie by giving them a big shout of encouragement. If you would like to support the causes for which they are running then please visit their sponsorship pages.

The three of them have already completed some shorter training events and are pictured here after they completed a 10K race in October 2011.

It is always wonderful to hear news from past pupils and staff. We love to hear about your educational and career achievements, marriages, births and other personal achievements. You can email alumni@notredame.co.uk to share your news.

Here are some of the great things we have heard from past pupils.

It is always encouraging to see past pupils return as parents at the school. It is wonderful to see Gemma Driscoll (nee Lattimore, pupil from 1972-1980) back at school. Her daughter Eleanor (pupil from 2006-2011) has just left Notre Dame School after gaining 10 GCSEs. Gemma's middle daughter, Lara, is currently in year 10 at Notre Dame Senior School and her younger daughter, Rhianna, will be joining the Senior School in September 2012. Gemma is now an accountant and works in the Finance Department at Garsons Farm in Esher, she is married to Graham who works in the film industry.

We love hearing about past pupils

who live in the area and have chosen to send their own daughters to Notre Dame School!

At a recent open morning for prospective parents it was wonderful to see Sophie de Villers (nee McGrath, pupil from 1994-1998) showing her husband and 1-year old daughter, Amelie, around the school. Sophie has already enrolled Amelie for the Notre Dame Prep School, where she will start in September 2015!

Claire Crowley (pupil from 1996-2001) is now engaged and will be married in August this year in the Notre Dame School Chapel. Claire is now an accountant and Brent is a geography teacher. It was wonderful to hear from Claire that her long-time schoolfriend, Jo Hostler (pupil from 1996-2003) will be her bridesmaid. Claire and Jo have been very good friends since they first shared a coach journey together to and from school! We all wish her and her future husband, Brent, a truly wonderful day and every happiness in their future together.

Also getting married in August this year is Sherina Stewart (pupil from 1996-2001). Sherina is now teaching drama and has also qualified as a yoga teacher. We wish Sherina and her future husband every happiness on their wedding day and in their future too.

CONTENTS

Inside this issue	Page
Message from the Headmistress	1
Alumni Celebration of Montaigne	2
Happy Retirement to Mrs Jackman	3
Notre Dame School News	4-5
A tribute to Sr. Patricia Kelly	6
A tribute to Sr. Julia	6
Your news	7-8
Keeping in touch	8

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

◆ 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.

