



Notre Dame Alumni News

A message from the Alumni Officer

It was wonderful to see so many members of the Notre Dame School Alumni Association at the Summer Fete in June. I do hope that other members of the alumni community will find the time to come and visit the school either for specific school events or if you are visiting the area.

The next school event is Open Day on Saturday 6th October, from 9am-noon. Please do come along if you are interested in seeing how the school has changed since your own time here or if you have family or friends who may be interested in seeing the school and hearing about all the wonderful opportunities that are on offer to pupils.

The school is also always delighted to welcome past pupils back to the school to talk to our current pupils. Recently we have been very pleased to welcome back some of the alumni who are studying at university and to



hear their stories about the courses they are studying and the different universities they are attending. We were visited by Katherine Almeida (Durham), Maria



Austin (Royal Holloway), Hattie Easton (Oxford), Bethany Eastwood (Cambridge), Shelley

Eastwood (St George's Medical School), Becki Jukes (Warwick), Hannah McGregor-Viney (Oxford), Claire O'Shea (Leeds), Charlie Pepperell (Birmingham) and Emma Taylor (St Andrew's).

It has been lovely to hear the success stories of many Notre Dame School past pupils over the recent few months. You will see some of those stories inside this newsletter (see page 6). Please do get in touch and let me know about all the exciting things you are doing. Many alumni members have been in touch to let me know they love hearing about their past school friends' news, so please do take the time to share your stories.



Annette Stark
Alumni Officer

Alumnus offers an insight into a career at the bar

Recently two lucky Sixth Form students spent an interesting evening at the Inner Temple with three of the Justices of the Supreme Court, Lords Kerr, Dyson and Hope. This was arranged by alumnus Suzanne Ware QC (nee Ornsby, pupil from 1967-1979) and the girls found the evening



informative and enlightening. The girls were invited to the Bodell Lecture, given by Lord Kerr, on the subject of the Julian Assange extradition case, as well as attending a briefing in advance of the lecture by a fellow QC in Ms Ornsby's chambers.

If other members of the alumni association would like to offer an insight into their own work environments or to offer work placements or internships then the school and current pupils would welcome such opportunities. Please do contact alumni@notredame.co.uk if you would like to share your knowledge or experience.

Alumni Tent at Summer Fete, June 2012

On Saturday 23rd June the weather was, mainly, kind to us as members of the alumni association joined with the whole school family to celebrate 'The Best of British' at the annual Summer Fete.

The alumni tent was busy throughout the fete with visits from past pupils of all ages, some had only left last summer whereas others had left in the 1940s.

Some of the alumni had not been back to the school for over 40 years and so they saw many changes. Current members of staff very kindly hosted tours of the school. It was wonderful for alumni who had boarded in Burwood House over 50 years ago to have a chance to see how different the buildings are now. All those old dormitories are now Prep School classrooms. The addition of the science facilities, the theatre, the ICT suite and the library were all a long way from how most of the alumni remembered the Senior School!



Past head girls meet the new Notre Dame Senior School head girl! Freda Wallin (nee Farr), Claudia Buffini and Frances Harryman (nee Farr)



Past pupils, Rosemary Andrew (nee Young), Alison Stephens (nee Young), Sr Anne Gill and Bernadette Wales (nee Westbrook)

One of the alumni was visiting from Oregon in North America. It was wonderful to see Rachel Perry (nee Combe) catching up with Sr Mary Agnes and introducing her family to past teachers as well as showing them around her old school.

The school fete provided a wonderful opportunity for the past pupils to chat to staff members and many of the Sisters of the Company of Mary Our Lady. It was great to see so many stories being exchanged and to see how happy many of the teachers were to hear the achievements of their past pupils.

The alumni tent included a photo display board with many old photos for the alumni to reminisce over whilst trying to remember the names of their classmates or the Sisters. There were numerous exclamations of surprise when spotting pictures of old friends and a few of shock when visitors to the tent worked out how many years it was since they had either been to the school or seen each other!

Also on display in the alumni tent were three fabulous folders of school memories from 1962-1987. The cuttings, photos, certificates and images within these folders help to create a vivid picture of life at Notre Dame School during that 25 year period. These have been painstakingly compiled by Miss Rose Lumley, a teacher at the school during those years. Rose still lives locally and it was fantastic that she was able to join us for the school fete and to see the wonderful reactions to these folders from all the alumni (and a few current pupils and teachers!). The Alumni Office is extremely grateful to Rose for sharing her school memories and for entrusting them to the Alumni Office so that they can be on display at other future Alumni events. If anyone would like to arrange to visit the school to see these folders please do get in touch with the Alumni Office.



Sr Mary Agnes and Sr Maria (seated), with past pupils Genevieve Gaunt (nee Arlidge), Bernadette Wales (nee Westbrook), Ingrid Haggis (nee Dawson) and Nora McEllistrim



Deputy Head of Senior School, Mrs Cochrane with past pupil Eleanor McLaren (nee Ager) and Sr Patricia Grady



Past pupil, Rachel Perry (nee Combe) chats to Sr Maria



Mrs Cochrane with past pupils Kim Sainthouse, Liz Cussans (nee Holmes) and Susi Owusu

Notre Dame School News

Opening of the Prayer Garden

Notre Dame School continues to celebrate the Feast Day of St Jeanne de Lestonnac on 15th May every year. This year it was a very special day for the Notre Dame School community. During the celebration of St Jeanne's life and legacy the girls took part by singing exquisitely and participating in the official blessing and opening of the new Prayer Garden by Father Mervyn Williams SDB.



Father Mervyn Williams SDB blessing La Mothe

The Prayer Garden, named La Mothe, is named after the place in Bordeaux where St Jeanne reflected on her life; she looked back at her marriage and the joy of her children but wondered what more she could do. It was in the peace and stillness of La Mothe that St Jeanne had the inspiration to establish her own group of Sisters who would become the Company of Mary Our Lady.

This prayer garden has been made possible by the generous donations of families, friends and colleagues of the Sisters, remembering especially Sister Julia Lanaghan, Sister Margaret Curran and Sister Patricia Kelly. It is a place to remember these Sisters and all the Sisters who have lived and worked at Notre Dame as well as staff and supporters of the school who have also contributed throughout the years.

The Prayer Garden contains a statue of St Jeanne, a gift from the Sisters.



The statue of St Jeanne in the Notre Dame Prayer Garden



La Mothe, Bordeaux, as it is today

This is a copy of the statue placed on the façade of Gaudi's Basilica, La Sagrada Familia, in Barcelona.

The teachers and girls of the school's Art Department have created beautiful mosaics to enhance the garden and Rob Nicholls, the school's Head Gardener, has worked extremely hard in laying and planting the garden.

Many thanks the members of the alumni community who donated towards the Prayer Garden and we hope that all of the alumni community will feel welcome to visit the La Mothe when you are next visiting the school. For those who will not be able to visit the Prayer Garden the images below will give you an idea of the peaceful space that is now available for quiet reflection and thought.

Notre Dame School's new Prayer Garden, La Mothe



Notre Dame School News

Notre Bam! Chemists

Congratulations to the Year 12 (Lower 6th) Chemistry Team, Notre Bam!, who have triumphed to become the outright winners of the London Schools' Chemistry Challenge Final. With so many of our past pupils moving into so many different professions and following different careers we thought some of you may be keen to hear how successful the current pupils are in the Sciences. The team was highly commended by the panel of judges that included the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Professor David Phillips, Senior Lecturer of Chemistry at Imperial College, Professor Tom Welton and Professor Lord Robert Winston. The Notre Bam! Team made a presentation on polymers which involved drama, music and chemical knowledge given in a highly polished and amusing format.



Art Exhibition

Once again this year saw pupils at Notre Dame School create amazing work for the annual Art Exhibition. The exhibition celebrates the work of the dedicated GSCE and A Level artists. It was running in the Sports Hall and those members of the Alumni Association on Facebook and part of the Notre Dame Surrey group will have been invited to a viewing of the exhibition in June. The Art Exhibition also ran throughout the Summer Fete and it was great to see members of the alumni association visiting the exhibition during their visit to the Fete.



Some of the work from the exhibition has received fantastic praise from the visitors and who knows, maybe one of the current pupils will go on to a successful career as a designer or artist. Read more about the success of a past Art student at Notre Dame School on page 6!

Notre Dame School Memories from 1959-1968

Past pupils Berni Wales (nee Westbrook) and Genevieve Gaunt (nee Arlidge) have been digging through boxes of their old photos and have come up with some lovely reminders of their time at Notre Dame School. They hope they have remembered people's names correctly. If you can fill in any of the blanks for them then please do get in touch.

If you want to see more of the photos from Berni Wales then please do look at the alumni web site www.notredame.co.uk/alumni, where there are more photos and these photos can be seen in more detail.

If anyone else has photos of their time at Notre Dame School that they would like to share then please do email them to alumni@notredame.co.uk

Jolly Hockey Sticks outside the Pavilion!
 Back Row: L-R: Genevieve Arlidge, Josephine ?, Geraldine ?, Frederica Brown, Mrs Beckett PE Teacher, Susan Webb, Norah ? ; ? and Jan Vicary
 Front Row: L-R: Vanessa Egan, Mary Nida, Linda Hammond, Jane Purcell



Michelle Jerman outside the Old Chapel



Joy Castle, Boarders Head Girl

1967 School Photograph



Michelle Jerman, Jane Purcell and Vanessa Egan



Sr. Monica and Barbara Burton



Bishop of Southwark consecrating the new chapel



Anne Bailey, now Sister Anne of the Company of Mary Our Lady, and Ann Woollett



March 1959- Class photo-aged 7 years. Teacher Miss Murphy.
 Back row left to right (as far as I can remember)
 Frederika Brown, Laura Hilton, ?, ?, Kevin McGuire, Linda Jarvis, Olivia ?
 Front row left to right
 Julie Winterbourne, Sally-Ann ?, Genevieve Arlidge, ?, ?, ?



Genevieve's First Holy Communion at the convent 1959 - with older brother Kevin and younger brother Nicholas



Yvonne Butcher, Anne Marie Baker and Penny Butcher

Notre Dame School Alumni Success



It has been a very exciting time for a number of our Alumni Association. We were very pleased to hear that **Suzanne Ware (nee Ornsby, pupil from 1967-1979)** was called before the Queen to receive formal ratification of her new appointment to Queen's Counsel. Suzanne was our special guest at the 2011 Prizegiving Ceremony last September in her role as Deputy Chair of Governors and Chair of the Buildings Committee. Congratulations Suzanne Ware QC, pictured below.



Another member of our Alumni Association receiving an award recently was **Ruth Wilson (pupil from 1993-1998)**, who won the Olivier Best Actress Award for her title role in *Anna Christie* at the Donmar Warehouse, which has received great reviews since its opening in August of last year, starring opposite Jude Law. Ruth, pictured below, has also received acclaim for her outstanding performances in *Jane Eyre*, *Luther* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* to name but a few of her plays and TV drama roles.



This year's Telegraph Garden at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show is the inspiration of Notre Dame alumni, **Sarah Price (pupil from 1991-1998)**. Her garden was an evocation of the British countryside, its flowers, woods, streams and rocky hillsides. It gained the highest accolade - a gold medal!



Sarah, 31, described her emotions as "relief and happiness" after learning she had scooped the gold medal for the Telegraph garden.



It is a brilliant achievement for a young designer who has never tackled a large show garden at Chelsea before.

Sarah studied A Levels in our Sixth Form 1996-1998, and was particularly gifted in Art and the Humanities, she was commissioned to create this painting of Burwood House



for the school. Sarah went on to graduate with a first class BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art in 2002 before working full time at Hampton Court Palace. Sarah then went on to study Residential Landscape Architecture (PG Dip) at the Oxford College of Garden Design in 2004.

We were delighted to hear of the culinary success of alumnae **Antonia Morosi (pupil from 2005-2010)**, who has competed in a major



2012 Regional London Heat called "Hot Chicken in 50 minutes". She won Gold - Best in Class; this means that Antonia will go onto the finals in Birmingham in February 2013. She beat 18 other students, some of whom were older and more experienced than Antonia.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Emma Reddick-Wright (nee Williams, pupil from 1980-1993)** who married on 30th March 2012 in Florida. Emma looked stunning.



If you would like to share photos and details of your wedding with other members of the Alumni Association please do send them to alumni@notredame.co.uk.



It is great to hear all the different areas of business in which members of the Notre Dame Alumni Association are involved.

Liz Kendall (pupil from 1983-1998) is now a Shiatsu practitioner working at Optima Health Clinic on Church Street in Cobham. Shiatsu is a relaxing form of massage using pressure points,



gentle stretches and movement to restore your natural balance. Treating the same system of pressure points as Acupuncture but without the needles, Shiatsu is given fully clothed lying on a comfortable futon. It is safe and beneficial during pregnancy. To find out more you can call Liz on 07944 872332, email liz@surrey-shiatsu.co.uk and www.surrey-shiatsu.co.uk. Optima Health is an established centre for holistic health and beauty. To see the range of treatments available please visit www.optima-health.com.

Paula Brown (nee Long , pupil from 1968-72) has moved away from the area and is living in Cornwall running a holiday letting company, www.holiday-in-st-mawes-cornwall.co.uk. Paula's two daughters, Sarah Crabb (nee Brown) and Kirstie Brown both started their education at Notre Dame School. Sarah is an Army Doctor and has recently been on a six month tour in Afghanistan. Kirstie has graduated

from University of the West of England with a 2:1 in Forensic Science. Paula and her husband, Leslie, are happy to welcome families from Notre Dame School to their holiday let in Cornwall and will offer a 10% discount if you mention that you are from Notre Dame School! Thank you, Paula.

Sarah Griffiths (pupil from 1996-2003) has been in touch with members of the current Senior School teaching staff and has let them know that she is now working in communications for The Royal Academy of Engineering. She writes reports, encourages girls into the profession and promotes researchers' work. She is also able to help her sister, Jenny (pupil from 1991-2005) with her start-up business and do some freelance writing.

Jenny Griffiths (pupil from 1991-2005) has created an exciting company as a spin-off from her Computer Science Masters degree. The company will offer an app for phones that is related to fashion and will be targeted at 16+ year olds.

Past pupil **Catherine Whitehill (2001-2006)** has been in touch with the school to tell us all about the adventurous life she is leading after her time at Notre Dame School. Catherine has just completed a summer mountain leader assessment, as part of her degree at Chichester University in Adventure Education. The recent course, she says "has been one of the toughest weeks of her life, far worse than A levels or GCSEs. The week consisted of five days of being tested in the mountain environment doing rope work, day and night navigation and camp craft while looking after the group. It made me think of Notre Dame and P.G.L. a bit. I am pleased to say I passed, Winter mountain leader is next!" Catherine is also mountaineering, kayaking, caving and sailing. She has even made it into the local Westmorland Gazette for rescuing a lost hypothermic man on a hill! Well done, Catherine.

Notre Dame Senior School was delighted to welcome **Roanna Cochrane (pupil from 1986-2001)** back to the school in May for the annual Performing Arts of Notre Dame Association (PANDA) Inter-house Drama Festival. Roanna is a former 'A' level Drama student, herself a former inter-house drama actor and director. She shared anecdotes from her own experience in the Inter-House drama festival and gave a very inspiring summation of each of the productions in which she commented on the holistic nature of theatre: acting, choreography, design and audience communication skills, before announcing the results. After leaving



Notre Dame School Roanna trained at the Central School for Speech and Drama and has since worked in theatre, TV and film.

Liz Cussans (nee Holmes, pupil from 1973-1980) is very keen to get together with past school friends. If anyone out there would like to get involved in a get together for the pupils at the Senior School during her years (probably leaving the school between 1978-1982) then please do contact alumni@notredame.co.uk so that you can be put in touch with Liz.

After distributing the previous issue of the alumni newsletter it was wonderful to hear from **Lucy Vines**, who attended both the Prep School and Senior School for part of her schooling between 1976 and 1980. Lucy commented about how incredible her years at Notre Dame were and the huge impression they made on her. Lucy recalls painting chairs outside in dripping gloss paint! She can not recall all the details but says “there was a fleet of wooden school chairs that for some reason had to be painted, so we did it, one each outside!” She also remembers being taught how to make a bed, this occurred when some children from overseas were coming to visit and a dormitory needed preparing. Lucy still remembers being taught how to tuck in the corners of the sheets!

Lucy’s memories of the school are aided by a class photo taken in the summer of 1979, which she keeps on display wherever she is living. She writes “I think it is the combination of summer dresses sprinkled with blue flowers, green grass, sunshine and blooming wisteria behind—it is simply a lovely picture. My children enjoy

looking at it and it would be great one day to show them the exact spot it was taken”.

Lucy fondly remembers a great friend called Natalie Meddings with whom she has lost touch—if anyone out there knows of Natalie then please do ask her to get in touch with:

alumni@notredame.co.uk so that we can put Lucy and Natalie back in touch with each other.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association was thrilled to hear that, through the association, Three past pupils from 1967 got back in touch with each other! **Bernadette Wales (nee Westbrook, pupil from 1963-1968)** met with **Frederika Pizzoferro (nee Brown, pupil from 1955-1967)** and **Genevieve Gaunt (nee Arlidge, pupil from 1957-1968)**. Berni writes “After 44 years we got in touch and met for the first time for lunch and afternoon tea at The Refectory, Guildford Cathedral. With glorious sunshine and a perfect setting we were able to catch up from where we left off as if we had never lost contact. Friends Forever!

(More news on page7)



REUNITED! Frederika Pizzoferro (nee Brown), Genevieve Gaunt (nee Arlidge) and Berni Wales (nee Westbrook)

CONTENTS

Inside this issue	Page
A message from the Alumni Officer	1
Alumni Tent at Summer Fete	2
Notre Dame School News	3-4
Notre Dame School Memories from 1959-1968	5
Notre Dame School Alumni Success	6
Your News	7-8

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
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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.

