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THE PURPLE PATCH

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
FORMER PUPILS & STAFF



SUMMER 2012 EDITION

P Introduction

Compiling The Purple Patch has now become one of my favourite Summer jobs. The School vacates, you can hear a pin drop, and the arrival of the postman becomes a welcome and momentous event – another human being! Oooo, come in! Seriously, in this vacuum, away from the pressing need to do all the usual day to day tasks, I can look through all your exciting news and wonderful achievements of the last year. Westholme girls are now literally all over the world (I like to think we are each spreading the purple love globally as we go through our daily lives!) and the variety and richness of your experiences are always heartening. Of course, the magazine would not exist without the snippets you send us, so do keep those coming. Yvonne and I love to hear what you are up to, preferably with photographic evidence. In this fast paced, super speedy world where tweets are instantaneous and news spreads virally in a second, it may seem quaintly old-fashioned to produce an annual mag. But quaintly old-fashioned or not, everyone seems to enjoy receiving it. The Purple Patch remains an indelible mark! Enjoy!
Vivienne Davenport (1990)

LinkedIn

Many of our former pupils are joining the Alumni group on LinkedIn. We have just over 70 members but we would like it to be many more so that you can all gain greater benefit out of it. It could be a useful way of sharing your expertise and reconnecting with old friends or allowing you to make contact with women in your industry. Do have a look for Westholme Alumni under groups and we will accept you promptly!

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The First Word

As is now tradition, I am delighted to hand over to the impressively eloquent Mrs G for the first word. It would feel wrong any other way. You know it.

“Greetings from the depths of retirement, which is proving to be an interesting phase of one’s ever-changing life. Of course, you never, as you will realise, lose your links with Westholme, and I bounce back there from time to time, always welcomed as a long-lost friend. I was on familiar ground on National Poetry Day, presenting the winners of the newly-inaugurated Gibson Magazine Prize with their spoils. **Viv D** and **Yvonne H** hosted a brilliant reunion in the spring term, with Old Girls from the 70’s and 80’s convening for a very convivial lunch. Many of the 70’s brigade remembered me teaching them History – my initial appointment was a part-time teacher of History and English. I distinctly recall **Mrs Wilcock** and I concocting diagrams of the Battle of Thermopylae as we waded through **Mrs Finlay’s** Ancient History syllabus. And teaching a second year (Yr 8) class about William the Conqueror. There was an intense discussion about whether the horses which he brought across the Channel in flat-bottomed boats stood up or lay down. One girl wrote in an essay ‘The soldiers chucked their arrows at the Normans’. ‘SLANG’, I wrote over the top of the word ‘chucked’. When she handed in her corrections, she wrote ‘The soldiers slang their arrows at the Normans’. I began to feel that English might be my truer vocation! At time of writing, I have been invited to pre-theatre supper and a performance of ‘The Phantom of the Opera’, a nice treat and a further way to stay in touch.

I see many former staff and have letters from others. **Mrs Barnes**, former Head of Science, sent a lovely hand-painted card of a cyclamen at Christmas, saying sadly that this would be her last painted card as the arthritis in her hands is getting worse. **Mrs Martin**, former Head of Sixth Form, won many prizes



Staff version of ‘The Sound of Music’ with Mrs Patefield as Mother Superior! Christmas entertainment, Summer 2005.

P at last year's Westmorland Show, notably for some beautiful photographs of her garden, which has been included in this year's National Garden Scheme Yellow Book, and has been open for visitations. Recently retired **Mrs McDonald** has acquired a beautiful new lodge overlooking Morecambe Bay at Silverdale, which I have helped to christen with champagne and husband Keith's wonderful cooking! **Mrs Pollitt**, her husband and I went to Somerset and enjoyed Wells Cathedral and Cardiff Castle, as well as strolls by the sea. She is still doing her good work with Guide Dog puppy training, a demanding but worthwhile job. Sometimes she and I and **Mrs Wilson** and **Mrs Meadowcroft** meet for a spot of lunch and a gossip. I spent a lovely day with **Mrs Asher** in Stainforth, where she lives with husband John. They took part last year in a Major Accident Test at Airedale hospital, made up as casualties, to help daughter Meg (Crossley), who is an A and E consultant there. Meg still plays her oboe, in the Settle orchestra. **Miss Plant** went on a pilgrimage to Israel in November, which was led by the Bishops of Manchester, Bolton and Middleton. Having been ordained for three years now, she has the title of Assistant Minister. She has travelled to Malta and Italy this year. **Gill Burgess** is still working at the Lancaster University Management School as Academic Advisor. Daughter Ruth is well on the way to qualifying as a doctor, and son Sam got a 1st in Fine Art last year. **Mrs Kershaw** has moved to Northallerton to be nearer to her daughter Antonia. Antonia does the whole timetable for Durham University!

I also have news of other former pupils I have chanced upon in the last twelve months:

Diana Vickers (2008)

She's not quite so high-profile but she's still making her mark. I saw her on a tv programme called The Crush, which she was co-presenting (very capably), and in February she was performing a one-off gig featuring new material and old hits at Cargo in London. We are hoping, with a bit of luck, that she might open our music extension in March!

Diana Vickers



Victoria Dawson

I bumped into Vicky in a newsagent's in Burnley. She tells me she manages property (15 houses in all!), and was just branching out into financial services. She has just been to Portugal with 50 friends. The mind boggles, knowing what a livewire she was at school!

Joanne (Robbie) Robbins

Joanne teaches at Mosslands, a boys' comprehensive in Wallasey. She is Assistant Director of Learning and Creative Performing Arts. She lives in Port Sunlight, home of the famous Pre-Raphaelite art collection, and still plays the sax and flute.

Claire Porter (2006)

has qualified as a dentist, gaining her degree at Bristol.

Jane Edwards (1986)

Jane has been appointed Director of the Scottish Maritime Museum.



Jane Edwards being appointed Director

Jane has most recently been Executive Director of Living East (Regional Cultural Consortium for the East of England). Prior to that Jane held the posts of Assistant Project Director, Imperial War Museum North and Project Manager for the Neptune Court Project at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Jane's early career was as a Maritime Archaeologist with the National Monuments Record of English Heritage before moving to the Department for Culture, Media & Sport and then becoming Head of Corporate Affairs for the Historic Royal Palaces.

Jane was educated at St. Andrews University (M.A. (Hons) History). She has subsequently obtained M.Sc. Cultural Resource Management (Edinburgh University) and Master of Studies in Historical Research (Oxford University).

Saffron Milligan (nee Wilson, 1994)

Having seen an article about Saffron in 'Lancashire Life', **Mrs Kershaw** and I paid her a surprise visit in her gorgeous children's wear shop in Lytham, Little Emporium. Go and have a look for yourself – don't forget to tell her you're an ex-Westholmer!

Alex Carter (nee Gibson 1996)

Victoria's sister-in-law, continues her work as European project manager with Chep International, part of the American Brambles group. Last year she had a little boy, Henry. This year – she expects another baby, a sister for Imogen (4) and Henry (1). Husband Andrew has been appointed Assistant Head at New Malden Primary School. His class and school gained top marks and two gold awards in the Olympics-inspired On Your Marks Maths Challenge recently, and he was invited to the House of Lords for a presentation ceremony.

Alex and her mother taking tea at The Ritz.



P Elissa Corrigan (2003)

Some of you will have spotted an article about Elissa in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph, where she was described as a 'glamorous go-getter'! I remember those Friday afternoon A Level English Language lessons, where the whole group aspired to be thus described. She was to feature in a reality tv show called 'Desperate Scousewives', focusing on 8 fiercely independent women. She works in Liverpool as a freelance journalist and columnist, but is still committed to her Lancashire roots.



Elissa Corrigan lands role in new scripted show 'Desperate Scousewives'

Tabitha Georghiou (2003)

graduated last summer from King's College, London, and has been training at law school before taking up her post with MacFarlane's in London, where she lives in Kentish Town.

Helena Georghiou (2004)

works in advertising with DraftFCB as account manager, with Taco Bell and Coca Cola among her clients. She lives in Clapham.

Victoria Carter (1998)

who heads up the laboratories in the Manchester Royal Infirmary group of hospitals, is studying for her doctorate in Virology.

Charlotte O'Connor came into school to practise a few tunes on us before her King George's Hall concert.



Alumni Careers Seminars

Our successful lunchtime series of Seminars, led by former pupils on their career paths, has carried on this year and we've had some really entertaining and useful talks:

Medical - June 13th 2011

Sarah Morgan (1985)
Beth Baron (1993)

Law - February 8th 2012

Wendy Newbury (1984)
Amy Crabtree (2001)
Elizabeth Bower (1985)

Teaching - March 14th 2012

Rachel Hadjigeorgiou (1990)
Jane Brown (1994)

Medical - April 30th 2012

Dr Sajida Rasul (2003)
Varsha Jagadeshm (2002)

We are really grateful for all the help our former pupils provide and the series will continue - so, if you are free for a lunch back in the old dining hall and have a spare twenty minutes to talk to our pupils, you know where to come!



Future Events

Dan Snow Lecture

Monday 15th October 2012 6:30pm
Sandwiches will be served from 5pm

Annual London Reunion

Saturday 20th April 2013 - 1:30pm
Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Reunion Lunch - "20 & 30 Years On"

Saturday 11th May 2013 - Wilmar Lodge
1993-1995 Leavers
1983-1985 Leavers

More information about all of these events is available online. Please contact Yvonne for places.

P Echoes from the Past

Mrs Mooney wrote in to tell us news of Nanette and Natasha (2006):

Here is news of my girls for any publications as per your letter in September.

"**Nanette** is now married to Mark a pilot for Virgin Atlantic and they have a puppy! She now manages our Estate Agency business and has passed all her exams and is a MNAEA. Which looks impressive with her BA Hons and PGCE.

Natasha finished her programme at the 5 star Berkeley Hotel in London. She is now with Disney World and The University of Central Florida doing a Management Programme in their luxury hotels. Her fluent Spanish is constantly being used with the guests. This hopefully will lead to further career development."

Thanks for letting us know.

Sheila Aitken, former teacher, sent a lovely note:

Thank you for the newsletters – it is always interesting to see what is going on at school.

I have been busy, as usual, with gardening, visiting Miranda, Gavin and their families, my Mum, and our continuing visits to the United States to play dude cowboys at various ranches in the Western states.

Life is just getting a whole lot busier – Gavin and his wife have Matilda, 4 ½ and Oliver, 18 months and Miranda and Tom have just produced twin girls. Tabitha (4lb 11oz) and Evanthe (Evie – 6lb 5oz), were born at the Royal Surrey

Hospital on 13 September. They are home and doing well now.

This time last year Miranda gained her certificate in Small Animal Surgery, having worked at a small animal orthopaedic referral centre for 3 years prior to that. She is taking 12 months maternity leave.

We have taken a year's lease on a flat in Haslemere, to be near Miranda and the babies as much as possible, without impinging too much on their household.

So, that and Pony Club are keeping me pretty occupied, can't believe today is my 65th birthday! It must be a mistake. Regards to everyone at Westholme.

Anne Tasker also wrote to us about her girls:

You were asking about **Iona** (42 years). She, her husband and the three children live in Tunbridge Wells. When she graduated in French and Italian she moved to London and after some temporary work she became the Public Relations Manager for P & O Events at Earls Court Exhibition Centre.

After Romy was born in 1999 Iona became a full-time mum, doing from home, some work for BUPA. Ingie was born in 2001 followed by Oscar in 2003. They all moved to Tunbridge Wells where Iona continues with the BUPA work and has quite recently started working in a special needs school. With an age range from three years to nineteen years and some severely disabled children, her reports are never the same two days running.

The three children are pupils at Beechwood Sacred Heart Convent. They seem very happy, the girls enjoying the extra activities of Irish Dancing and Oscar, Judo and most sports.

Our older daughter **Kerry** (48 yrs) was a pupil at Westholme when it was a much smaller school. She, her husband and daughter Cassia live in London. After graduating in Maths and Further Maths she joined Emap Publishers, and worked her way up to becoming Marketing Director. In 2008, she decided to give up full-time work to spend some time with Cassia who had been looked after by a nanny whom she adored. Cassia is a pupil at Ealing and Notting Hill Girls' School. She is happy there and plays flute in the junior orchestra and loves jazz dancing.

Distance prevents all of us meeting up too often, but our house rings with laughter and noise when they arrive.

Very best wishes and long may Westholme flourish.

We also heard from Michelle Ringland, Jenni's Mum:

Thanks for asking about **Jenni**, she is doing really well in her final year at York St John and thoroughly enjoying her Primary Ed training course. She relishes the challenge and certainly loves working with the Reception children.

Lynn Hepworth, former Maths teacher, and Mum to Jenny, sent us an update:

Thank you for the invitation to join you at the Prizegiving Ceremony next month. It is really strange how one appreciates these events far more

when one is not a member of staff, it is a lovely occasion to catch up on all Westholme's news and renew contact with the girls. Having said how much I now enjoy this event I am sorry that I cannot attend this year. We are taking a trip to Boston to visit **Jenny** and will be away for most of October – I am making the most of the opportunity to see "New England in the Fall".

Jenny is now in the last year of her MBA course at Harvard Business School and is thoroughly enjoying the experience. She returned at the end of August to learn that she had been awarded First Year Honours, an award bestowed on the top 15% of Harvard students, so both she and I felt very proud. I went over to Boston last April and sat in 3 or 4 of her classes (parents and significant others are welcomed into any class, one is introduced to the professor who then conducts the introduction to the class of 100 students and a standing ovation is given for the visitor!!!!) The classes are amazing, everything is timed to perfection and runs like clockwork. At the precise second of 8:40 the professors all over Harvard say "Good morning" and the session starts (all clocks are atomic and satellite controlled) some poor soul is "cold called" and required to get the ball rolling with the case study for that class. One of the classes I sat in (Ethics and Morality) was about whether or not Obama had been right to demand that \$30 million from BP after the oil spill, I was dying to put my oar in and demand why America had not given equivalent compensation to the people of Bohpal after the accident there but visitors are strictly not allowed to speak!! Jenny was disappointed that I had not mentioned this fact the previous evening when she had been preparing for the following day, she is too young to

P have known firsthand about Bohpal but she has a reputation for being a feisty debater, having learned her craft at the Oxford Union, and would have loved to introduce this aspect of the case. On the dot of 10:00 the professor leaves and a "janitor" walks in with a bucket and sponge and cleans the wall to wall blackboards (green really) ready for the next class. At the end of the days' classes, one or two per day, students go to their letter boxes and the case studies for the following day are there waiting for them. Each one is about 30 pages of closely typed information about a particular aspect of a company and they have to digest and analyse it and suggest a course of action eg, "why did eBay fail in China". As you have probably guessed I loved those classes and wish I could start my teaching career all over again, there are some things I would now do differently.

I have settled down very nicely now into my retirement, I have knocked 7 shots off my handicap and won a few competitions too so I am making progress with the beautiful game. I have taken over the role of secretary at Blackburn Bridge Club and that keeps me busy and for light relief I have joined the Burnley Ladies' Luncheon Club, we meet at the Fence Gate and there is always a good speaker so it makes an enjoyable afternoon. The summer has been eventful, son's 40th birthday, middle daughter's wedding and announcement of a grandchild number 5's expected arrival in January. Now off to the Golf Club, Thursday is Ladies' Day and I never miss that.

I hope all is well at Westholme and that you have another successful year. My very best wishes to you all.

Sad News & Ceremonies

News reached us of the extremely sad and untimely death of **Lara Jones (2003)** this year. Our sincerest condolences go to Lara's family and friends.

We were also incredibly sorry to mark the passing of one of our most loyal supporters this year, former Vice Chairman of Governors, **Mr Joe Prest**. He and his family have had a long standing connection with School, and we have long felt his influence on the School in a very beneficial and sustained way. Many former pupils and friends of Westholme attended his funeral and the Westholme choir did a wonderful job of celebrating his life through music. **Jennie Marsden (2006)** performed a superb, hair-raising aria, which would have made Joe proud. His son **David**, also a former pupil, spoke extremely eloquently about his father's life. We were delighted that David was subsequently able to speak just as impressively at our own Boys' Junior School prizegiving ceremony in June. David has a varied and dynamic career in broadcasting and media, and we were privileged that he was able to spare the time to come into School. He was followed by **Jade Gallagher (2002)**, Art Director for the BBC, who came to present the prizes to our Junior Girls. As **Mrs Croston** said, it seems as though Westholme is slowly invading the BBC!

Fond Farewells

Wendy the Winner

Mrs Douglas will be remembered fondly by many of you; she originally came to the School in the 70s as a Dr Bond recruit to teach Chemistry. After a break to have her children, Wendy returned to teach Biology. Latterly she has also had a big influence as our exceptionally efficient Exams Officer. She is looking forward to an active retirement of walking, running and jigsaws! We wish her all the best.



Generations of Music

Joy Fielding, who has taught several generations of music to children at Billinge House, and inspired many to take up music professionally through her infectious enthusiasm, also departed this summer. We wish her a long and fulfilling retirement.



Joy Fielding at Year 2 assembly

P From the Archives



Recorder Group
Middle School

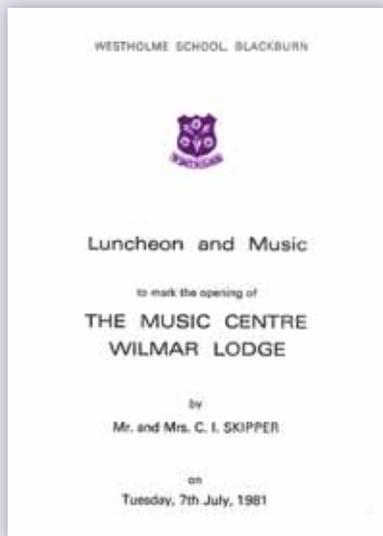


Football
Lower School

Uniform List
'Brown Tights'?!

WESTHOLME SCHOOL	
UNIFORM LIST - UPPER SCHOOL	
WINTER	
ESSENTIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double over Coat Blm Labrador Overall Brown indoor shoes or sandals Grey gloves Grey inner socks Grey briefs Black outdoor shoes White school blouse (To wear under sweater)
OPTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardigan School scarf Black belt Translucent elastic covered foot shoes
From Form 3	Medium brown tights
SUMMER	
ESSENTIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Cardigan Grey (optional but suggested) sweater Brown outdoor shoes or sandals White knee or ankle socks White briefs Tennis whites and viscap
From Form 3	Brown outdoor sandals
From Form 5	Black outdoor shoes
OPTIONAL	Grey nylon raincoat
From Form 5	Medium brown tights
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.E. clothes P.E. shoes White gymsocks One pair of shorts School cap (optional, available if needed) Swim cap 	
A shoe bag with shoe straps and marked clearly with name or large initials	
Pupils should be aware of the correct English Spelling - Revised Standard Version (Oxford Copying & San for the British & Foreign Bible Society) (Revised: Windsor Edition or Revised)	
GOVERNMENT	Details of the Sixth Form uniform may be obtained on request
PLEASE NOTE	
In the lower forms other articles are worn for outdoor shoes during the summer term, indoor shoes must also be provided	
Jewellery is not allowed and any belts worn must be fixed around to the School	
In the case of items printed in RED no selection from the official pattern is permitted, and these articles must be obtained from the uniform shop situated at the Lower School, Biddings House, Preston New Road, Blackburn	
ALL ARTICLES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE PUPIL'S NAME	

As we are ready to open our music extension, it is interesting to remember the original opening back in 1981!



Caen
May/June
1989

Pendle March 1985
Emma Whalley, Juliet Jackson, Rachel Brunten, Joanna Sutherlands, Jane Grimshaw, Ruth Brennand, Charlotte Slinger, Claire Baldwin and Catherine Grime.

Oh to be a Sixth Former at Westholme in the beginning!

Check out the extensive facilities - that radio, the carpet, the exciting seating... what more could a girl ask for?

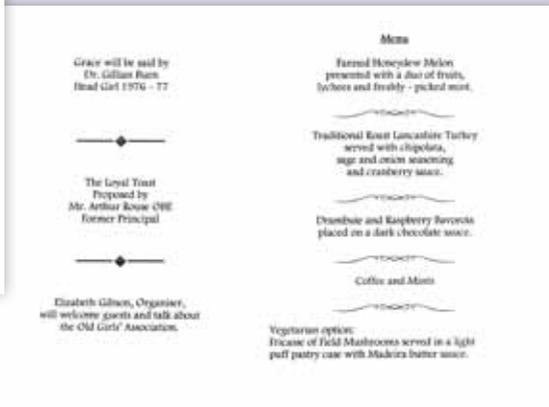


Braving the traffic on way to lunch
1968





Old Girls' Reunion Dinner, 1997



Mr Millett's choir tour to Austria. There have been many more since!



Mrs Cook at Billinge House, 2nd June, 1997
Do you recognise any of these faces?

P News

Sally Young (1984)

wrote in to say,

"I left Westholme in 1984 but my memories of great girls, who I assume turned into great women, abound. After school in Ireland, I studied Medieval and Modern History at University College Dublin, followed by an MA in Social Justice. I am currently completing a PhD in Business with a focus on Women Led Management Teams. I currently work for Enterprise Ireland, where I advise and work with businesses and Government in the areas of finance, management development and entrepreneurship. I have been a political lobbyist mainly focussing on issues of social justice and social policy. I would love to hear from old classmates such as **Louise Fowler, Rebecca Razzaque, Charlotte Fielding, Sally Hoyle, Claire Benson**, etc."

Elizabeth Blackburn (nee Hebden, 1984)

came to our Reunion and wrote in afterwards:

"What a pleasure it was to attend the Westholme re-union on Saturday – I was quite overwhelmed to meet with old friends I had lost contact with for almost 30 years. And yet, on meeting up with them, it was as though we had never been apart and we simply picked up where we had left off!

The excellent company was enhanced by the superb buffet – a credit to the two ladies who provided for us. Please pass on my thanks.

It was an added pleasure to meet with the teachers, who, to me, didn't look any different to 30 years ago – either they looked really old then or really young now, I can't quite decide!

The tour round the school – a nostalgic trip down memory lane – made the

day complete and I cannot thank you and your colleagues enough for such a lovely afternoon.

I am delighted that one of my twin daughters, Laura Blackburn, will be enrolling at Wilmar Lodge in September 2012 and cannot imagine a better school for her. I look forward to many more visits!" And so the trend of daughters following mothers continues!

Sarah Morgan (nee Keegan, 1985)

is a regular visitor into School as a parent, an old girl, a raconteur... you name it. One day she popped in to the French department to brush up on her spoken word, as she was due to give a sophisticated optical based presentation in Paris to an entirely French audience. Never one to shy from a challenge! The French teacher thought she must have had tremendous grounding in the language as her grammar was faultless. Go on, Madame Cave! She also provided an update:

"I saw **Carolyn (nee Aspden)** on December 13, 2011 on a work trip down to London - well part work and part stand-up comedy debut in London at the Wilmington Arms in Clerkenwell - for Bright Club event - scientists delivering their knowledge and experience in the form of stand-up.

Carolyn is now Van De Beers - cool



surname. Living in Tottenham with her husband Mark, and first child Jasper (who's 6 years old) and triplets - anyway, the lounge looked like there was a mothers' coffee morning and two of the mothers had nipped out - except all the babies belonged to Carolyn. Amazing. She was very happy, the babies adorable and she was breast-feeding two at a time with a rotation on the bottle!

Also in July, I was teaching on a course at the Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Institute where **Lorraine Spencer** (left July 1986) appeared the evening before in my hotel. Not only was Lorraine at Westholme and a flute player like myself, but she also was in my year studying Optometry at the University of Bradford. She has a son Ethan who's 7 and lives with her husband and works in West Yorkshire. She revisited her youth about 5 years ago when she was invited to come out of retirement with her national standard roller hockey playing and join the England team again. She was about to go to the world championships with the team in Cuba when she broke her leg in three places during a practice session. She misses it very much, but is now enjoying being a mum and has also recently changed jobs to work in a high-tech optometric practice where she gets to spend more time with her patients and give her expert clinical opinion on their eye health and vision needs.

Kate James (1986)

has had a truly inspiring career, and via **David Prest**, we were thrilled to reconnect with her:

"Lovely to hear from you and Westholme. I live in Seattle now so don't get home too often, but my mum's a big draw and if I can ever be of any help to the school let me know.

After school and Cambridge I worked as a researcher in the House of Commons, then to Glaxo Smithkline where I did a raft of UK and global government relations, communications and policy roles.

From GSK I went to Standard Chartered Bank in 2003 and caught up with another Westholme alumni, **Joanna Fielding (1987)**. I had a great five years with the bank, heading up their global government relations and sustainability portfolio including a stint on their board in Pakistan. After three years in London I moved with the bank to New York for family reasons - my husband had a terrible commute between London and the States. It was also an opportunity to build out the bank's government relations capacity in Washington and work on their Latin America strategy. In 2008 I moved to Citi Group to head up global communications - amazing if tough experience managing their media relations, financial and employee communications through the financial crisis.

And then in 2010 took on a very different challenge, joining the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, working for Bill and Melinda as their chief communications officer - super interesting as I sit on the executive committee of the foundation which thanks to Bill, Melinda and Warren Buffet's generosity gives away around \$3.5 billion/annum. I manage the foundation brand, our executive communications, media relations and employee engagement. I run a global team of ninety, far smaller than the group I was managing at Citi but with an amazing challenge



P to keep governments and other aid donors engaged and supportive of development issues in a increasingly tough economic environment and on the ground using communications to change poor communities behaviour. We work on diverse challenges from reform of the education system in the US to the eradication of polio, to helping millions of small holder farmers out of poverty. I am incredibly fortunate to have the chance to make even a small contribution to the work of the foundation.

Westholme did a lot to shape my values, particularly the importance of championing the role of women, which has shaped much of my work and some of my career decisions - must be the impact of wearing a uniform in suffragette colours all those years... I was in the first year of women at Magdalene, the last Oxbridge college to go mixed, worked for the Fawcett Society on the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Bill for equal pay in the early nineties, through to today where I sit on the board of Vital Voices, Hilary Clinton's initiative to empower women in developing countries and work closely with Melinda to maximize her voice as a champion for the millions of women around the world who have no voice - next week we host with the UK Government the family planning summit in London with the aim of giving an additional 120 million women around the world access to family planning.

It's been a great journey so far and will always be appreciative of Westholme for setting me off on the right course."

Wow!

Erica Hazelgrove (nee Clegg 1991)

popped in to see us for an informal tour in April. Her successful creative agency, Spring, based in Southwold, is

really going from strength to strength. She has an extensive client base including Bollinger. Sadly, she did not bring any samples with her on her trip 'up North'. Must do better, Erica.

Angela Kingston (nee Walsh, 1992)

came to our reunion and said afterwards:

"Thank you so much for organising such a lovely reunion on Saturday. Lunch was delicious and I really enjoyed catching up with people from our year, it was amazing how little everyone had changed! Seeing the school has brought back lots of memories (mainly happy ones!). It was fun to wander round and rediscover long forgotten classrooms and corridors and I was really impressed with all the development that has gone on since I left. I felt very proud to show off my old school to Mark and Isaac.

I've never written in to the old girls' newsletter so here's a short summary of what I've been up to over the last 20 years for your next edition.

After leaving Westholme in 1992 I went to Durham University to read Ancient History and Archaeology. I had a great time at Durham and was club captain of the University Women's Football Club. Following university I spent two years with Debenhams in Glasgow on their Management Training Scheme. I then took some time out to travel in New Zealand and do some voluntary work in South America. On my return to the UK I got a job with an international development agency based in Oxford called Opportunity International where I have now worked for the last 13 years. In my current role of Programme Manager I oversee projects funded by the British Government and corporate donors in Africa. I got married in 2005 to Mark and we had a son Isaac in December 2009. Isaac was born in Vancouver,

Canada where we lived for 3 years while Mark was studying."

Angela and I had a good natter with **Kate Carter, Katharine Dennison** and others from our year at the reunion. We wondered where **Catherine Prasad** was and we found her on LinkedIn, working for the National Trust. Where was everyone else from that year? You missed a treat! We could excuse **Rachel Crossley**, but that is about it, as she is living in New Zealand! I heard that Rachel got married this year and that **Jane Greenough (nee Isherwood)** travelled to NZ for the event.

We also had one of our regular updates from the lovely

Vikki Fickling, (1992)

"I have to say that at the moment I am feeling very well. The MS seems to be behaving itself for now (touch wood)! and I have had very few problems over the last couple of months. Of course it does help that we had a lovely fortnight in Portugal the last two weeks of August meaning I had time to completely relax for once!

It also helps to have the boys back at school once again as that gives me more time for myself as well. I can't believe that Josh, my eldest, is now a Junior in Year 3 (and he has the attitude to go with it too!). How time flies. Jack, my youngest has now reached the dizzy heights of Year 1 and is very pleased with that indeed!

I hope you and yours are keeping well. Things seem to be going from strength to strength at Westholme, which is always wonderful to see. It is quite a daunting thought that next year it will be 20 years since we left. I am going to chat to the girls and see if we might be able to make it to the March reunion. I think it would be really nice to mark the occasion. Leave it with me."

And indeed it was nice!

Friend of Vikki's

Kathryn Hinds (nee Wilkin, 1992)

sent us a note about the latest addition to her family:

"Thought I would drop you a line to update my address, we have actually been here for over a year but you know what it's like amidst the chaos of moving house, I forgot to tell everyone the new address. Added to that I had my 3rd (and definitely final) baby in that time as well, Annabel, so it's all been a bit of a blur! Anyway **Sarah Shaw (nee Smith)** and **Vikki Fickling (nee Wilson)** have been keeping me informed about the newsletters and I realised that mine must be going to my previous address!!" No problem - these things happen!

Nicola Darwen (1992)

whom I remembered to be very artistic, also touched base:

"After Uni I went to London and became a fashion buyer for River Island, but that's where the creativity ends! I went travelling for a couple of years and when I came back to London I started a new career in Recruitment as a consultant for an agency. I got married to James in 2003 (my childhood sweetheart from school days! - it is 21 years this year!) and in 2005 we moved back north to Manchester. I moved to in-house recruitment for an international company which I really enjoy and I'm currently seconded to a global project so I get to travel a lot. James has his own business.

We live in Chorlton in Manchester and recently moved to an old house that needs a lot of work renovating it. We don't have children so I think this project will keep us busy for some time instead.

I occasionally keep in touch with **Sarah Latham (now Bromley)** but

P apart from that I am not in contact with anyone from school."

Lisa Wilkinson (1993)

informed us by email that she is now married and living in Selby; her new name is **Lisa Allen-Baines**. Congratulations.

Charlotte Crabbe (nee Eastham, 1993)

updated us through LinkedIn:

"I was training management with Marks & Spencers, left to have 3 children, 1 boy aged 12 and twin girls aged 10. Stayed at home with the children and involved myself with the School, Pre-school and Main School. Decided to go back to work and currently work for Redrow Homes and onsite with a flagship site at Farnborough."



Julia Pickering (1993) (nee Entwistle)

Adventurer **Julia Pickering** has become the first person to make a snowboard ascent, and descent, of Mount Bear, in Alaska.

After several days on the rarely-visited mountain, Julia reached the 4,500m summit as the temperature dropped to a dangerous low of -45 degrees.

She then snowboarded back down

to base camp in a dramatic descent, during which her progress was slowed when she dropped part way into a crevasse.

She is an exploratory snowboard mountaineer and adventurer, and a member of the Berghaus team of outdoor athletes, and now lives in Grange-over-Sands, in the South Lakes.

Claire Barton, (1993)

let us know how she was finding life in London and she said her architectural practice, Haverstock, was thriving. She would be more than happy to share tips and advice with any current pupils. She tipped us the wink (as did Mum Sheila) that **Miranda Hughes (nee Aitken, 1995)** had had beautiful twins and that **Katie Hoyle** had had a little boy, Henry George last September. Congratulations!

Sarah Ward (nee Kramer, 1996)

sent in a lovely photo of her family and said:

"I realised how long it has been since I was last in touch when I looked through loads of old books, reports and letters my mum and dad had in their loft when they moved - It was lovely to look back over my time at school! I'm sorry it's taken so long even to reply to your last email. I'm not sure where the time goes these days.

A quick summary of the last 16 years since I left Westholme:

I qualified as a teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge and then went to work at an infant school in Cambridge until I had my daughter in 2007. I'm now enjoying nurturing our own children and watching them grow very quickly!

I got married to David in 2003 and we now have 2 children - Hannah who is nearly 4 and Andrew who was born April 2011.



I met David at the ballroom dancing club in the university and when we both graduated we were able to carry on dancing by joining a Latin formation team of ex-students. We enjoyed competing with them in national and international/world championships becoming British champions just before we left when Hannah was born. It would be great to go back at some point but at the moment 2 children keep me busy!

Thanks for sending the newsletters and old girl news. I really enjoy reading about life at Westholme and finding out about old friends. Please pass on my best wishes to members of staff who may remember me."

Alice Kilburn (nee Belderbos, 1997)

was welcome bearer of news:

"I'm an Area Commercial Manager at Mencap covering the North of England. The aim of my role is to develop existing and new services which will support people with a learning disability to become more independent in the community, gain employment and generally have a more fulfilled life.

My husband and I have two children, Molly aged two and Sophie aged one, and we have a third on the way, due in October!

I live near both my sisters who went to Westholme, **Louise Morgan** and **Helen Walsh**. They both have 3 children. Louise is an in-house property lawyer at the Emerson Group in Alderley Edge and Helen is a PE teacher at Lymm High School.

I'm still close friends with a big group of Westholmers, we are lucky as there are 14 of us that have stayed in very close contact since school and meet up lots. We are all going to **Harriet Hoyle's** wedding on Saturday!"

And so, to the aforementioned wedding! We received the gorgeous photo below and letter from the new



P

Mrs Kirkaldy, nee Hoyle

"I recently got married and there was a large contingent of ex-pupils (including those from the 1950s). More recent old girls in attendance were **Katie Hardy (nee Hoyle)**, **Ruth Birley (nee Rowntree)**, **Phillippa Florentin-Lee (nee Cort)** and **Claire Allison (nee Forrest)**. Also the attached group photo includes **Claire Beadle (nee Fothergill)**, **Katie Smith (nee McAuley)**, **Zoe Grayson**, **Jessica Jones**, **Charlotte Milne Home (nee Ashworth)**, **Kate Kahn (nee Higham)**, **Susan Richardson**, **Charlotte Dobbyn (nee Knowles)**, **Alice Kilburn (nee Belderbos)**, **Melissa Meshkat**, **Mairi Gemson**, **Emma Haworth** and **Louisa Walmsley**.

Westholme hoodies also made a feature on the hen party – very good quality for those interested! (Note from ed. – next time we want pictures of the whole thing, not just the spruced up ones in the marquee!) Congratulations to Harriet on what was obviously a wonderful day.

Victoria Taylor (1999)

dropped us a line to tell us that she is now working as a doctor, specifically as a palliative medicine registrar in Nottingham.

Sadia Mohammed (2000)

offered her services for our Saturday Science taster day, kindly. She said, "I recently graduated with a doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Manchester. At the moment I am writing my PhD thesis and would be delighted to help the School in any way I can in the Science field."

Lucy Handford (2000)

was spotted at our Bursary Ball, bidding for One Direction tickets no less! She has her own beauty salon in Whalley, Cloud 9, and is keen to promote it to all Westholmers!

Saimina Virmani (2000)

I have fabulous news: in August of this year, I launched my firm as the first law firm in the UK for deaf/HOH clients and embarked upon a campaign to make legal services more accessible. We have received much media coverage in this respect and I have received letters of support from MP's, celebrities and even Her Majesty the Queen and The Prince of Wales!

However, the icing on the cake came yesterday when I found that we have been shortlisted for this year's Law Society Excellence Awards which is a delight." Well done Saimina!

Hannah Walls (nee Ward, 2002)

was married in mid-May in Anglesey, at a unique church in the sea, followed by a beautiful reception in her parents' castle! All her sisters, Beckie, Chloe and Charlotte were her bridesmaids, resplendent in pink! She and her new husband Carl are both Chartered Surveyors.

**Jade Gallagher (2002)**

was our prize presenter for the Junior Girls this summer. She sent us a full summary of her career: "I have great memories of studying at Westholme and would love to know what's been happening since I left. I've missed the newsletters and always wanted to keep up to date with the school. It will be lovely to receive it when I do.

It would be great to know what the other girls from my year are up to now. Here's a little bit about what I've been up to...

After I left Westholme in 2002 I studied for my foundation course at Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design and then went on to Chelsea College of Art and Design (both at the University of the Arts London) and gained a 2:1 BA(Hons) in Interior and Spatial Design. Since graduating in 2006 I have been working freelance in television in various art departments. I initially worked for Nickelodeon as an art department assistant making props and dressing sets. I then worked on the first three series of CBeebies 'Mister Maker' as an art researcher, designing and making the artwork. I then art directed two series of 'My Favourite Bedtime Story' for Nickelodeon which went on to win a Bafta! I have also worked on various other productions. In the midst of this I also took myself off travelling alone for 6 months, visiting some inspirational countries including India, Cambodia and Laos. After I got back I went on to be the design assistant for CBeebies 'Nuzzle and Scratch' and have only recently moved home from London. I have just completed my first art directing role for the BBC in the new CBeebies department in Manchester. It's a new show called 'The Lingo Show' which teaches languages to the pre school audience. I'm sure the lower school will be watching it when it is on in the new year.

I always look back on my school days and remember how inspirational my teachers and environment were. Westholme really has stuck with me and it probably will forever.

I have nothing but happy memories at Westholme and I'm so pleased to be in contact again!" Likewise, Jade!

Friend of Jade's,

Amy Brookes (2002)

also sent in a much appreciated update:

"Dear Vivienne and Mrs Croston,

Since leaving Westholme in 2002, I haven't been in touch with the school to update you on what I've been doing. After reading all the Old Girls' news, and working where I do now, I thought it would be a good time to write in and let you know how my career path has panned out.

In April this year, I was offered a job to work for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games as a Venue Operations Manager. In May, I relocated to London to take up the position after 2 years organising large events at the Echo Arena and BT Convention Centre in Liverpool, from Lady Gaga concerts to the Liberal Democrats Annual Conference! I joined the company as Events Manager and was then promoted to Operations Manager. Previously to that, I was working for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra after completing my degree in Music at the University of Leeds.

I am loving working for the London 2012 Olympics, every day is fast paced and there are milestones to meet all the time. Having the responsibility of operating a venue that is holding the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a little scary but a learning experience that I will never forget.

Working on the biggest event that

P this Country will see in our lifetimes certainly has its pressures, but I truly think this job will be the greatest experience of my life. I never thought 9 years after leaving school, I would be doing what I am (particularly as Sport was never exactly my forte). Now I just need to make the decision whether to continue with the Games and apply to work in Rio for the Olympics in 2016.

I am still good friends with girls from school and **Jade Gallagher** and I were bridesmaids this summer for **Becky Brown**.

I really enjoy receiving the Westholme newsletter, it's great to hear what other girls are up to now."

We would love some insider goss on the Olympics so be sure to update us again, Amy!

Rebecca Hutchinson (2004)

appeared in "We are Three Sisters", which several of our girls went to see in Lancaster. Rebecca is going from strength to strength and she always has time to speak to the pupils.



Kimberley Evans (2005)

sent us a note, saying, "I was a pupil at Westholme from 1996-2005 and then went on to study history at St. Andrews University. I graduated in 2009 and then began working for the well known breast cancer charity Walk

the Walk organising the MoonWalk in London and Edinburgh. This job required me to relocate to Surrey and in October last year I decided to move back to the Blackburn area. I had originally wanted to join the police but unfortunately, despite the fact that I reached the interview stage of the recruitment process, the cuts meant that all recruitment was halted in late 2009.

This means I have had to consider other options and upon my return to Lancashire last year I decided to apply for a place on a graduate scheme with Teach First. This is a charitable organisation set up to address the issue of educational disadvantage across the UK and is growing year on year. The application process was extremely difficult but fortunately I was offered a place to begin teaching English in June 2013.

During my time down South I was also able to train as a helpline volunteer for a charity called RASASC. I worked on the line speaking to people who had been affected by rape or sexual abuse. Leaving the helpline was the hardest thing about leaving Surrey and so in November 2011 I ran the Athens marathon to raise money for them.

I am now working temporarily for Cummins Mellor recruitment in Accrington within their hospitality department and hope to be working as a camp counsellor at the International Summer School of St. Andrews in June."

Naomi Fisher (2006)

is now working with her brother, **Kieran**, in Manchester. Dad Peter said, "She decided to work with her brother Kieran at his company www.bodybuildingwarehouse.co.uk. He, of course, is also ex Westholme, and has built the company from a start in 2008 to 14 people and anticipated 6

million turnover this year. Based on Trafford Park. Naomi is selling! Wholesale Sales and will be involved in building up a new Women's supplement site. She lives at The Edge in Manchester, near her long time friend **Becki Matthewman**. They grow up too soon!

My second son **Sean**, 29 also ex Westholme, is to marry on 1st September, he lives in Stretford."

Cat Patterson (2007)

sent an email: Hi there, I recently bumped into Mrs **Chapman**, who was my Textiles Teacher when studying at your school and said I would pass on some pictures of my recent work at London College of Fashion. I have attached some images of my work:

Please could you forward this email to her and my regards.

Hope you're all well and the school is still as lovely and warm as I remember it to be.

Alison Holmes(2009)

was keen to thank the Drama department: "Upon leaving the school in Year 11, I attended Canon Slade School Sixth Form to study Performing Arts, Theatre Studies and Psychology after spending many of my Westholme days in the Drama department. It was there, I finally decided on pursuing a career as a Stage Manager/Theatre Technician which leads me to where I am now.

I'm writing this e-mail from my halls in Cardiff, where I'm studying for a BA (Hons) in Stage Management at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. I was also offered places at ALRA, LIPA and Rose Bruford to study Stage Management/Technical Theatre. I am almost at the end of my second term and I have learnt so much, all built on the knowledge I began learning as stage crew for The Dream and Jane Eyre at Westholme. I haven't quite found my discipline yet but Stage Management and Lighting seem to be in the running at the moment. Next week will be the get-in week for my first production here of Blood Wedding where I am a technician with my speciality being Lighting Board Operation. Next term, I hope to be an Assistant Stage Manager for my next two placements as props seems to have become an interest of mine in the last few weeks.

I will always be grateful for the opportunities Westholme gave me, especially within the Drama department and especially from **Miss Roberts**, **Miss Armstrong** and **Mrs Hammond**. If it wasn't for their inspiration I wouldn't be where I am today.

I hope all is going well at Westholme."



Recent work by Cat Patterson

P The Phantom of the Opera

Many Old Girls came back to watch our summer production, The Phantom of the Opera. It was an astonishingly good performance.

Jeanette Barnes (nee Stopford) was prevented from making her usual trip as she was unable to navigate through a flood on her road in the Lakes. We did, however, see Fiona Porritt (2011), Rebecca Hodgson (2011), Sophie-Anne Sharples (2011) and Vanessa Shields (2011) and Charlotte (2007) and Harriet O'Connor (2001) in the audience - amongst many others, I am sure!

In addition, we were lucky to have several former pupils including Tori Redmond

(2011), Keira Millest (2008), Alice Singleton (2011), Hannah Macintosh (2011) and Jessica Thornhill (2010) back in the orchestra playing for us! So good to see our recent leavers keen to return and share their talents with us. Billinge House stalwarts Connie & Joyce Thompson also joined us at The Phantom of the Opera and wrote in to say: "A sincere thank you for the wonderful evening we spent at Wilmar Lodge on Thursday. We thoroughly enjoyed the buffet and greatly appreciated the seating arrangements. "The Phantom of the Opera" was an excellent production and most professional, which succeeded in creating a spellbound and most appreciative audience. A happy remembrance of a very special occasion." Judith (1962) and Duncan Isherwood (1963) also enjoyed the performance, saying that "the pupils and staff are to be commended".



Westholme Reunion Lunch

The Old Westholmians' Reunion Lunch for leavers from 20 and 30 years ago was deemed a great success.

Over 40 'old girls' and some of their former teachers (Mrs Cave, Mrs Bradbury, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Meadowcroft) came together to reminisce, laugh and even cry as the memories came flooding back. Many of our guests had not been back since they had picked up their A Level results and Mrs Croston was keen to catch up with everyone.

A delicious lunch was put on by our own catering team and over the meal, there was non-stop chatter, as you would expect. Mrs Croston then spoke to the group about all the exciting developments which had occurred over the last few decades and they were mightily impressed. They were amazed to hear we would now have a Senior School for Boys, but thought it was wise of us to adapt to the times whilst still protecting our single-sex ethos.

A tour ensued, but Mrs Croston decided it was preferable to give them the freedom to roam, as the ladies wanted to look at their own special areas from the memory bank. Everyone seemed reluctant to leave but we hope to see them all back here again soon!



List of Attendees

Sarah Mahoney	1982
Jane Porter (Holden)	1982
Judith Pearson (Eastwood)	1984
Elizabeth Blackburn (Hebden)	1984
Alison Sheldon (Barton)	1984
Adele Hardman (Brown)	1984
Andrea Cooper	1991
Vikki Fickling (Wilson)	1992
Sarah Shaw (Smith)	1992
Louise Tattersall	1992
Kathryn Hinds (Wilkins)	1992
Katharine Lightbown (Dennison)	1992
Kate Carter	1992
Heather Gough	1992
Catherine Sumner	1992
Angela Kingston (Walsh)	1992
Julie Bailey (Wilkinson)	1993
Jeanette Simpson (Culshaw)	1993
Jayne Kirkham (Woodcock)	1993
Helena Pickup	1993
Caroline Bradshaw (Gough)	1993
Beth Baron (Wolfenden)	1993
Helen Walmsley	1994
Zohreh Meacock (Nuttall)	1994
Tansy Smith (Sabben)	1994
Suzy Crook	1994
Susan Beverley	1994
Susan Betts (Robinson)	1994
Stephanie Clark	1994
Sarah Forrest	1994
Saffron Milligan (Wilson)	1994
Nanette Morris (Reich)	1994
Keeley Beaumont (Berkins)	1994
Joanna Emmerson (Kay)	1994
Jane Brown (Briscoe)	1994
Clare Huggan (Thomas)	1994
Anne-Marie Allman (Smalldon)	1994
Patricia Cave	Staff
Marjorie Meadowcroft	Staff
Dorothy Bradbury	Staff
Elizabeth Gibson	Staff



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