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# THE PURPLE PATCH

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
FORMER PUPILS & STAFF

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SUMMER 2015 EDITION

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## P Introduction

I feel very privileged indeed to write the introduction to your newsletter in both my capacity as ‘an employee’ (how grown up!) and a former student of Westholme. The passion I have for our School is doubtless due to the shaping and influencing role it had on me in my formative years. So many of you write in and speak about that special Westholme ‘thing’; we all feel so genuinely lucky to have been part of such a caring, encouraging and diverse community where we were pushed to be the best version of ourselves.

And this is still so very much here, in evidence, today. ‘Plus ça change’ and all that. Eventually, Heads, teachers and pupils all move on but the ethos and culture remains the same. We still put our children at the heart of all we do, and I am sure that whoever is lucky enough to be compiling your Newsletter in 2115 will feel exactly the same. Thank you to all the former pupils who have written in, popped in, or ‘*LinkedIn*’ with us this year. We salute you, Old Westholmians, wherever you are!

Viv Davenport (1990)

## Contents

Introduction	2
News, News, News	3
Former Pupils, Current Staff	24
92 Years of Westholme	28
Sad News	30
From the Archives	31
Careers Seminars	32
Careers News from Mrs Hibberd	35
Les Misérables, ‘Then and Now’	36
Westholme Moves Forward	38
From the Archives...	40
Alumni Concert	43

## News, News, News

### Sheila Garland (née Higham, 1940)

Sheila lives in Jersey with her daughter, her husband and their son. Sheila’s other daughter lives in Oxfordshire, and Audrey Higham, Sheila’s sister now lives in Florence, Italy!

### Angela Hume (née Walker, 1956)

We were delighted to welcome Angela back to Wilmar Lodge in June 2015. Angela and her family live in the South of England and her and her husband were visiting the North and arranged for a tour of the Senior School and Sixth Form. Whilst here, Angela very kindly brought some archive copies of ‘The Westholmian’ magazine from 1955 and 1956. Please do see some extracts from these on page 38.

### Jennifer Jones (née Greenhalgh, 1963)

We recently received an update from Jennifer:

“I’ve been meaning to get in touch for ages, but life interferes, then I came across my old report book whilst sorting out some things and it brought you all to mind. I left Westholme, in the summer of 1963 after passing the eleven plus and went on to Blackburn High School. I started in the Nursery and Kindergarten in around 1955, with Mrs Barnes (née Stopford) and Mrs Jepson and left after Prep 5 (with Mrs Pat Cook). In my year were Wendy Ellis, Susan Margerison, Kate Hollins, Christine Calvert, Barbara Clayton among others, and before the boys left us in Prep 2, David Kemball-Cook and Peter McQuay were in my class.”

### Rev Dorothy Jane Bury (1972)

After leaving Westholme in 1972, Dorothy attended St. Hilda’s College, Durham. After finishing university, she became a teacher, before returning to academia to study for a BA(Hons) and an MA in Religious Studies at Lancaster University. Dorothy then went on to study at one of Oxford’s theological colleges, Ripon College Cuddesdon. In 2012, she became a vicar at St. John the Evangelist Church in Fence, Burnley.

### Helen Wharton (née McNulty, 1985)

Helen sent us the following update:

“Well, I ventured away from Blackburn to do a BEd (Hons) in PE in 1985 only to return and secure a job at St. Wilfrid’s - our sporting rivals! I have taught PE at St. Wilfrid’s for 25 years now and frequently return to Westholme on fixtures. Yes, I always look forward to the infamous shortbread biscuits and yes, they still taste as good! It is great to see how the school has grown and developed with facilities that far out shine what we had.

Miss Illingworth, or rather Mrs Catlow, is now Debbie to me and we frequently play tennis together. I play badminton for Westholme in the local league with past pupils and staff including Cathy Hunt (2013), Sue Whittaker (2011) and Lucy Hunt (2005).

I am married with 3 boys who keep me busy with their sporting antics. Recently, my youngest Adam, 11, played at Wembley with his school team representing Blackburn Rovers – an amazing experience!

P

Who am I still in touch with? Well with the advancement of technology I am friends with lots of my year (1985) plus others on Facebook. I do manage to meet up with a few including **Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles)**, **Sarah Morgan (née Keegan)**, **Nicola Fielden (née Slinger)**, **Nicola Dolderson (née Bradshaw)**, **Debbie Goodier (née Gorrick)** and **Louise Southern (née Saul)**. When we gather we often reminisce as well as catch up and always, always laugh!

I catch up with a couple of younger former pupils too - **Sarah Atherton (1991)** has recently moved back to the area. Her mum is often spotted walking the dog in Sarah's old school purple jumper! **Beccy Mols' (née Lamb)** eldest son plays football with my eldest. **Sally Moore (née Coulthurst)** has moved back to the area. **Catherine Stenhouse (née Grimes, 1990)** is on my Christmas card list as is **Jane Roberts** and sister **Claire Roberts** via their mum! I was recently watching my middle boy play football and had given a lift to a new player. His mum turned out to be **Sarah Edwards (1988)** but I did play tennis in the school team with her sister **Jane Edwards (1986)** - such a small world. Only recently I was sitting with **Anne Barnes (née Wilson, 1980)** watching our youngest boys play cricket together!"



### Sarah Morgan (née Keegan, 1985)

As always, Sarah has had a very busy year catching up with Old Westholmians across the UK!

August 24, 2014

Wigan Rugby Club held a 'good do' for my sister's 40th - **Claire Keegan (1990)**. There were plenty of Westholme Old Girls in attendance that night including my friends **Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles, 1985)** and **Louise Southern (née Saul, 1985)**, and of course, our sister **Bethany Keegan (2013)**. Bethany has completed her second year at the University of Liverpool, studying three Modern Languages. She has begun her year abroad studying in Alicante, Spain and later moves to Padua, Italy (Università degli Studi di Padova), concluding her year in France.



Left to right: Sarah Morgan (née Keegan), Bethany Keegan, George Morgan (Sarah's son), Claire Keegan, Alex Gabriel (Claire's son), Joe Keegan (brother), Amelia Morgan (Lower Sixth Form Westholme, Sarah's daughter)

October 30, 2014

I was working down in Cardiff and remembered that **Helen Williams (née Sharples, 1985)** lived in the area. I knew she was in the Young Farmers whilst at Westholme, so it was now time to see her as a proper farmer - and I wasn't disappointed. I contacted her via Facebook and she kindly invited me along with my son George (14) who was accompanying me as he was on holiday from school.

She lives in Raglan, Monmouthshire, and studied Agriculture at Newcastle University. Both Helen and her husband Ian work on the farm in beautiful scenery, not too dissimilar from the views in Padiham where Helen is from originally. I got to meet her two daughters Ellie and Hannah, and her son Josh was away at university.



Helen Williams and Sarah Morgan outside her farm house in Monmouthshire.

December 2014

Christmas made for a great get together at **Helen Wharton's (née McNulty, 1985)** house with **Sarah Wilkes (née**

**Knowles, 1985)** and a wonderful surprise visitor, **Sarah Atherton (1991)**, whom we had not seen for many years. Helen could just about cope with the three Sarahs back together!



Left to right: Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles), Sarah Atherton, Helen Wharton (née McNulty), Sarah Morgan (née Keegan)

May 2015

Whilst working down south, I went to see **Susan Maguire (née King)** and unusually she had a full house with husband Hugh, sons Josh (23) and Luke (21). She continues to enjoy her work as a family liaison officer working with children and their families / carers in some very challenging situations.



Susan Maguire (née King) and Sarah Morgan - after a long day at work!

**P** I am looking forward to next month when we hope to meet up with Old Head Girl, **Jane Grant-Abban (née Palethorpe)** and family who are over from Minnesota, USA, for a family wedding in Bowland."

### **Helen Watkinson (née English, 1987)**

"My Westholme days seem such a long time ago, but I have so many good memories. We have just moved house to Shrewsbury which is fantastic. My daughter, Jessica, is now 6 years old – which I can't believe and she is an absolute delight. Her godmother is **Gill Kemp (1978)**, a Westholmian who I oddly met in a bar in Sydney, Australia over 10 years ago!"

### **Lisa Moss (née Ryan, 1988)**

Lisa married her husband Mike in 2011. She is one of the owners of a specialised logistics company, who work on major sports events such as the Olympics and Football World Cup, along with international music and theatre tours.

### **Shelley Haley (1989, née Rahman)**

Former Westholme Head Girl, Shelley is now working as a cardiologist in Buckinghamshire.

### **Caroline Holt (1990)**

We recently caught up with Caroline:

"I was at Westholme from aged 4 up until the end of the Sixth Form. In fact, I still keep in touch with **Jackie Smith**. One of my best friends at school was **Helen Burton (1990)** who I know works at Westholme. It's a small world really!"

### **Erika Clegg (1991)**

Erika emailed us the following update:

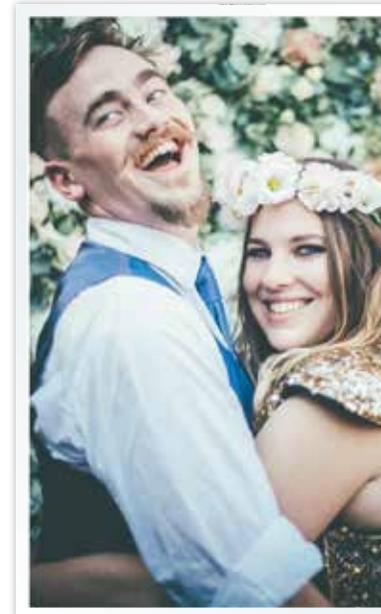
"Spring, the communications design agency I set up in Southwold nine years ago, is picking itself up after a tough five year recession. We now have 21 staff and some very exciting clients including Morocco's tourism marketing to the UK and USA. We're the commercial partner for the Creative Industry Federation's eastern region, and I'm spending more time talking about and working on building the profile of the east of England. I'm a trustee of Norwich Theatre Royal and Southwold Music Trust, a board director of the Design Business Association and Catalyst advocate for UKTI. Spring's hoping to move to a big swanky new office this year, fingers crossed. Meanwhile, Will (5) is fast becoming an articulate, interesting and science-mad little boy - I am a very proud and lucky mum!"



### **Peter Ashcroft (1992)**

Peter married Katie Walmsley at Hackney Town Hall last July. Katie comes from Darwen and they have known each other since they were 11!

It was a sparkly, quirky wedding which was featured over four pages of a new magazine called 'Rock and Roll Brides'!



### **Helen Brennan (née Rahman, 1992)**

After studying at Cambridge University, Helen is now the director of the accountancy company KPMG.

### **Vikki Fickling (née Wilson, 1992)**

Recent email from Vikki:

"I am married to James Fickling and we live in Meltham, West Yorkshire. We have two sons Joshua, 11 and Jack, 9 and an adorable black labrador, Tetley, 18 months! James and I met whilst we were both working on a Victorian Music Hall Bill at 'The Players' Theatre in London in 1998. He was a lighting technician on the show and I was one of the artistes on stage. You could say it was love across the footlights!"

Both of our sons obviously have performing in their blood as they both started dancing at an early age and have taken part in a number of shows with their dance school as well as local 'Am Dram' productions too. Jack has since swapped his dancing shoes for the tennis courts and is doing very well at his local tennis club and in tournaments across the North of England.

The news I have is to do with our eldest son Joshua, which I know is not technically about me but it is something we are all proud as punch about and we would like to share the news with you. Josh has continued to do ballet not only with his local dance school, Bernadette Heys School of Theatre Dance in Marsden, but for the last 3 years he has also been a Royal Ballet Junior Associate, attending classes at The Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds every Saturday. His dream has always been to attend The Royal Ballet School and last year he began the arduous task of auditioning for White Lodge, Royal Ballet's Lower School in Richmond, Surrey. Following his auditions, I am pleased to say that in March 2015, his dream came true when he was offered a place at White Lodge for this coming September. We are all completely thrilled and delighted for him and he cannot wait to start his training in September alongside other likeminded boys and girls.

Our house will be very much quieter come the autumn but we are wholeheartedly behind him and will support him all the way. One day, I may even find myself writing to tell you that he is to dance with The Royal Ballet Company at The Royal Opera House

**P** in Covent Garden. Who knows where his story will take him next? Only time will tell.”



### Seema Kennedy (née Ghiassi, 1993)

Westholme was proud to announce that Parliament has gained the benefit of our very first alumna, Seema Kennedy. Seema successfully secured the South Ribble constituency for the Conservatives in the General Election.

This is a significant first for the School, and we could not be more delighted for Seema. As a former Head Girl, she showed very early promise and we spoke to Mrs Croston about her recollections of the younger Seema. She said, “Seema was a stunning Head Girl and I have very clear and positive memories of working with her. She was dynamic, articulate and very personable. She led from the front with

drive, yet a lightness of touch, which made her highly effective. Essentially, Seema had that wonderful combination of a sharp mind and the energy to make things happen. I know she will go far. Today’s achievements are just the start and we will no doubt see Seema leading the country one day!”



We couldn’t agree more. We managed to grab her for a chat on the morning of the results. Naturally, she was absolutely buzzing, and we were squeezed in between the make-up artists who were preparing her for TV! She said, “I am absolutely delighted to have been selected as an MP. It is the fulfilment of a dearly held ambition, and I am ready to put into action all the plans I have promised. I intend to work hard for older people, carers and those in society who are often overlooked. The local businesses in South Ribble will have a strong voice, especially our farmers, and the defence industries. I can’t wait to get started!”



Seema on her visit to Westholme last year to speak to our Sixth Form students.

We also asked Seema how Westholme had prepared her for this path and she replied, “Westholme gave me the knowledge that I could achieve anything. Anything at all!”

On behalf of everyone at Westholme, we echo that. Well done Seema, now go and show the country what Westholmians can do!



Seema with the newly elected Conservatives - wearing a ‘Westholme purple’ dress!

### Julia Pickering (née Entwistle, 1993)

We were delighted to welcome Julia back to school as our Prize Presenter for the Junior School Prizegiving in July 2015. Julia spoke about her many adventures including expeditions in the Arctic Circle, North America and remote areas of Russia. She shared exciting stories including being tent bound for a week due to severe storms and an expedition in which she encountered gale force winds whilst climbing an active volcano! Julia’s advice to students was to always say yes to opportunities and never give up.



Julia (centre) pictured with Principal, Mrs Horner (left) and Junior School Headteacher, Mrs Laverick (right).

### Madeleine Buller (née Adams, 1994)

Madeleine read Medicine at the University of Bristol. Once graduating, she moved to Australia and completed a PhD. Now she is an ophthalmology trainee in Australia and has a daughter and twin boys.

### Helen Walmsley (1994)

“I attended Westholme from 1982-1994. I live in Melbourne, Australia with my partner Gabby and 2 year old son George, where I work as a finance manager for a film festival in the city. We are looking to move next year, out of the city, down to the Mornington Peninsula to a lovely beachside town called Somers. I still enjoy playing hockey and my team Parkville Womens’ Hockey Club have reached the grand final two years running now but unfortunately we have not come out victorious yet. Maybe this season will be the one - hockey sticks crossed! I recently learnt to sail, something I have wanted to do since school days and have been asked to become an instructor with the yacht club next season. I am still in touch with **Anya Gielen (née Cunningham-Dickie)** who also lives in Melbourne, **Suzy Crook (1994)**, **Julia** and **Jackie Marsden**, **Liz Wilkins** and **Joanna Kay**.”



**P** **Nanette Morris**  
(née Reich, 1994)

Nanette sent us the following update in January 2015:

"I am a very busy mummy looking after Harry 5, Emily 2 and Jamie 14 weeks...it is all go but I love it! I would love to hear from anyone I went to school with (via Facebook Nanette Morris or by email [nhreich@yahoo.com](mailto:nhreich@yahoo.com))."

**Joy Eccles (née Taylor, 1996)**

Joy is now happily married with three children; Holly and twins, Thomas and Sophie. She recently left the NHS as a Clinical Lead Physiotherapist, having moved into the private sector. She has many fond memories of being at Westholme and is still in contact with her best friend **Alex Carter (née Gibson, 1996)**.

**Fiona Edmonds (1996)**

Fiona sent us the following update:

"I can report the birth of my second son, Chad. He is named after the seventh-century St Ceadda of Lichfield. Here is a photo of him with me and his big brother Aidan."



**Yvonne Price**  
(née Adams, 1996)

Yvonne studied Medicine at the University of Sheffield. She is now an anaesthetic registrar in London and has two daughters aged 4 and 2.

**Eve Townson**  
(née Worsick, 1997)

**Laura Coupe (1997)** contacted us via the Westholme School Facebook account to share this exciting news about Eve.



**Beckie Lowe (née Ward, 1999)**

Beckie sent us the following update:

"I have been working at Withington Girls' Junior School for 6 years now. I got married to Richard Lowe in July 2009. Richard and I had our baby girl on 20th May 2014, Brontë Harriet Sarenne, weighing in at 8lb 5oz... she's fab!"



**Elisabeth Devey**  
(née Jackson, 1999)

We were delighted to welcome back Elisabeth into school to speak to our Principal, Mrs Horner, about the fundraising work she has undertaken over the past 12 months.

After her best friend, Old Westholmian, **Natalie Wilson (1999)**, was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour, Elisabeth took it upon herself to begin raising both awareness and money for The Brain Tumour Charity.

In her 'Liz to the Limit' 12 month challenge, Elisabeth aimed to raise a total of £10,000 for the charity in a number of fundraising events. Since April 2014, she has taken part in a 10k run, a sky dive, ran the Birmingham half marathon and the Florida Disney Marathon! She also organised a charity ball.

The ball was well attended by Old Westholmians and the evening started off with former Westholme student, **Helen Ames**, singing songs from the shows before dinner. The 'Brothers of Swing' performed during dinner, one of whom is married to former student **Alex Hammond (1999)**. This was followed by a fantastic charity raffle, auction and a couple of games. The night ended with a band at the end so everyone could enjoy a dance! In total a tremendous £4781 was raised on the evening!

In March 2015, Elisabeth reached her £10,000 target and as a result organised 'The Big Shave Off'!



Elisabeth and Natalie



Charity Ball



The Florida Disney Marathon



The Big Shave Off!

**P Helen Timms (1999)**

Helen contacted us with this update:

“I am currently living in Melksham, Wiltshire where I have just bought my first house! I am working as a HR Manager in a 5\* hotel. I graduated from Salford University last year with a MSc in Human Resources and I have just gained chartered membership to the CIPD. I also got engaged in February this year.”

**Joanne Hanson-Halliwell (née Hanson, 2000)**

“Since leaving School, graduating and working in private banking in London and the best northern cities of Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, I found myself moving to the Middle East to work for Barclays Wealth in Dubai. I had met my husband to be whilst here on a girls’ weekend and being able to move abroad with Barclays Wealth made it all seem a very attractive adventure. This was 8 years ago and we have since been married and blessed with a baby who was born in May 2013, two months premature.



His early arrival and fight to be here was totally life changing for me in both a personal and professional capacity. I did not feel comfortable returning to work

but had to do something and have gone on to set up [smallandmightybabies.com](http://smallandmightybabies.com). We are still in our early days but I finally feel I am doing something I was always meant to do. I have been fortunate to receive wonderful support here in Dubai including from the national newspaper, The National and also through an online platform [sassymamadubai.com](http://sassymamadubai.com).

If any former pupils have moved into the world of Neonatology and would like to support or be involved with [smallandmightybabies.com](http://smallandmightybabies.com) I would love to hear from them!”

**Elizabeth Sparrow (née Wood, 2000)**

“I attended Westholme Senior School between 1993 and 2000 and left to go to drama school at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) to study Contemporary Theatre. After a year there, I went on to Lancaster University to read English Literature and after graduating with a 2:1, I went travelling for 8 months around Australia and South East Asia. In 2005, I joined a young communications company in Buckinghamshire which took me away from my Lancashire roots but meant I was able to carve my own way. The company was called O-bit Telecom and I was their 5th member of staff and during my 6 years there I earned the position of Sales and Marketing Director assisting them in growing to a £25million turnover which meant I was rewarded with equity in the business, making me one of the 5 owners. We had almost 50 staff at our peak. In 2011, we sold the business to a larger telecoms company and after assisting with their transition I went on to set up Blabbermouth Marketing, which focuses on sales and marketing for

the telecoms sector. I am in a fortunate position which allows me to assist and invest in other company’s growth plans. It is not the career I expected after I left Westholme but the grounding I received there put me in good stead to achieve all I have. Blabbermouth has now been trading for over 2 and a half years, has 12 members of staff and a thriving customer base for its efforts.

My home remains in Penn, Bucks where I live with my husband and two children Lucas and Suki. We also have a couple of labradors acting as door stops and rather ineffective guard dogs.

It has been 14 years since I left school but I am still in touch with a few of the girls, three of whom I count as very good friends: **Beverley Mercer (née Nixon)**, **Sarah Turner (2000)** and **Gillian McShane**. We still all meet up as often as we can.”

**Dr Sarah Turner (2000)**

Former Head Girl, Sarah, is now the Assistant Director for Research at the Paul Mellon Centre in London. Apollo Magazine voted Sarah as one of the ‘40 Under 40’ in the European art world – ‘The way in which academic research is presented and disseminated increasingly seems as crucial as its content. Sarah Victoria Turner has brought fresh ideas to the Paul Mellon Centre, programming inventive conferences and seminars and taking responsibility for new digital initiatives – which will soon include an open-access online journal. Her own research explores modern art in the context of the cultural networks of the British Empire, and she is working on what promises to be a highly original book, on the reception of Indian art in 20th century Britain.’

**Rebecca Hutchinson (2004)**

Rebecca sent us the following update:

“I live in London and still work as an actress. Although I work mainly in television and straight plays nowadays I still keep my hand in musical theatre. Indeed I am taking my own cabaret show “Just Because”, which was staged at the Leicester Square Theatre in March, to New York at some point next year.

I haven’t had chance to come back to School for some time since my parents now live in Worcestershire. We all still reminisce about the productions and concerts at Westholme!”

**Karina Jadhav (2004)**

Earlier this year, we heard from the parents of Karina, who informed us that she had been selected as one of the 20 most influential women in Manchester as part of International Women’s Day. See her interview below:

**Job title?** Owner/Director of Southern Eleven, Neighbourhood & Victors, Hale.

**What did you want to be growing up?** A doctor or a ballerina.

**Highlight of your career so far?** Where to start... Enjoying my job every day is a highlight. Proving everyone that told us not to do it wrong, the restaurants being profitable and seeing other businesses copy our ideas up and down

**P** the country. So I suppose knowing we're doing something right!

**What do you want to achieve in 2015?** Sounds small but it's massive to me. I want to achieve a bit more personal equilibrium and be more organised in 2015. No more lost phones, debit cards, dogs, door/car keys, oh and I want to open another two restaurants.

**Which other Manchester based lady inspires you?** Nadine Merabi, the hardest working person I know, insanely creative, driven and very business minded. I try to take a leaf out her book every day in terms of positivity, having a can do attitude and boundless energy.

### **Dr Aimee Schofield (2004)**

Following her wedding last year, Aimee got in touch to let us know she graduated with a PhD in Classics and Ancient History from the University of Manchester in December. Her thesis focused on how reconstructing catapults from the Hellenistic period can allow us to gain a better understanding of how catapults were used in battle in the ancient world. She also assessed the extent to which ancient authors who wrote about catapults understood how they worked and their capabilities. Congratulations, Aimee!



### **Lucy Calvert (2004)**

In the last edition of the Purple Patch we heard from **Lucy Calvert (2004)** who ran the London Marathon in aid of Lara's Foundation. The foundation was set up in memory of Old Westholmian, **Lara Jones (2003)** who sadly died in 2012.

We saw this update from the Lara's Foundation facebook page:

"Three years since we could no longer see Lara but in this time she has been the inspiration to make us run marathons, swim lakes and climb mountains. Through her we have raised over £10,000, built a school in Ndala, provided books for the children, enabled street girls to gain an education... and that's just the start."

What a wonderful project in Lara's memory.

### **Amy Waddicor (2004)**

Jack David Burns was born on 6.11.14 weighing 8lb 3oz to proud parents Amy and David.



### **Danielle Jay (2006)**

Danielle graduated from John Moores University in Liverpool, with a 2:1 degree in Law. She then worked for a year at an outward bound centre. She went to City Law School in London to complete the BPTC and joined Middle Temple Inn. She is hoping to be called to the Bar and

will soon start work with the County Solicitor and Secretary's Department at LCC.

### **Emma Barnes-Marriott (née Barnes, 2007)**

Emma married her husband in October 2014. Former Head Girl **Lizzie Whittle (2007)** was the chief bridesmaid and other former pupils in attendance included **Vicky Wallworth (2007)**, **Jenny Nutter (2007)**, **Emma Acklam (2007)** and **Debbie Preston (2007)**. The Westholme Senior Chamber Choir were delighted to be asked to sing at the wedding.



### **Rosie Townsend (2007)**

We received this update from Rosie:

"After being inspired by **Miss Crangle** in Textiles, I am currently pursuing a career in Fashion Buying. Whilst studying at the University of Manchester I carried out a work placement year at TJX Europe (TK Maxx) where I travelled to America, India and Europe buying children's wear. I was offered a full time role and began as a graduate merchandiser in September 2014."

### **Jess Townson (2007)**

Jess has been elected as vice-chair of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC); she was voted in the NFYFC by the organisation's 25,000 members after serving as Northern Area Chair in 2014. Jess also works as a chartered surveyor in Clitheroe.

### **Matthew Trafford (2007)**

Matthew sent us the following update:

"Having worked at a large Civil Engineering company in Preston for some time, I decided I wanted time away to pursue other challenges. I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to work on a renovation project in Devon, for a London-based property developer. I really enjoyed my time working there."

### **Rachel Elizabeth Gregson (2008)**

"Since leaving Westholme in 2008, the years have flown by. In July 2014 I graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in International Tourism Management from the University of Central Lancashire. In September 2014, I started at the University of Surrey to study MSc (Hons) Tourism Development. After carrying out qualitative research for my dissertation on the island of Barbados, I decided that Postgraduate study was what I wanted to do next. I have also been on many travels over the past six years, including backpacking round Europe, Vancouver and Kelowna, Barbados, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Boston and New York, just to name a few. I have been extremely lucky to be able to travel the world from being a child and I hope that my knowledge of different cultures and ways of life will assist in excelling in further studies before embarking on my chosen career, to be a researcher or a travel writer. Furthermore, I believe that everyone should volunteer as part of their personal development and to give something back to their local community. Since January 2013, I have been working as a volunteer ward aide at Brian House and Trinity Hospice in

**P** Blackpool where I have had the chance to meet many amazing people and be part of their inspirational stories. Studying at Westholme has ensured that I have the confidence and focus to work to the best of my capabilities and to succeed in my future studies and career path.”

### Charlotte Redmond (2008)

Charlotte is enjoying her second year at Oxford, her work is going well. She is heavily involved in the rowing scene and also does a huge amount of charity work.

### Mrinalini Dey (2009)

“I have just finished my fifth year at Cambridge, studying Medicine, and am now on my elective. I am currently doing a placement at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which is fantastic! Despite the fact that there are some very ill children, there is a general warmth and friendliness about the place and I am really enjoying working there. I have an interest in rheumatology and nephrology, particularly autoimmune conditions in these fields, so am spending four weeks on the rheumatology ward. Although rare, these diseases can be severe. However, my experience at GOSH is teaching me much about the pathology and management of such conditions, and the doctors are very keen to teach too, which is always good! After finishing my placement at GOSH, I shall be spending four weeks in Singapore, working in a lab investigating antibodies involved in a group of autoimmune conditions known as the vasculitides. My project aims to characterise the targets recognised by the antibodies, which

may then help in the development of diagnostic tools and treatments. Having never visited Singapore, I’m also very excited about the culture and sight-seeing!

The past year has been very busy in many ways. My college, Murray Edwards, reached the age of 60 last year (admittedly rather young for a Cambridge college...). As part of the celebrations, they produced a blog, which gives a great overview of life in college and Cambridge - my contribution can be found here:

<https://murrayedwardscollege/goingplaceswordpress.com/2014/04/03/becoming-a-doctor-and-learning-to-listen/>

I also completed a research project within the Vasculitis and Lupus Department at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, with some rather striking results which have been used to guide patient management. Part of this was presented at the Royal Society of Medicine in December and the full project will be presented at the British Renal Society conference this summer.



One of the things I miss most about Westholme is the music, and I always particularly enjoyed playing in the orchestra for the summer productions. The Cambridge clinical students put on a pantomime each Christmas which

is always very popular with medics and non-medics alike! I was part of the pit orchestra this year and it brought back lots of happy memories of playing in the Westholme theatre pit! After the summer, I shall start my 6th and final year, which is both exciting and daunting!”

### Emily Fairbrother (2009), Stacey Baldwin (2010), Martina Roberts, (2010)

Emily, Stacey and Martina graduated from Newcastle University in 2014 with degrees in Dental Surgery, Accounting Studies and Accounting and Finance, respectively.

### Sameera Asir (2011)

Sameera’s grandmother got in touch to let us know that she is now doing well in Jordan, where she has a job on Jordanian TV. She has also written a play in which she will be acting.

### Beth Bennett (2011)

News from Beth:

“Well, after Westholme, I ended up at Hutton Sixth Form, studying A-levels. The one thing that I enjoyed the most about Hutton was the Hutton Radio, playing music into the common room, usually ending up in a dance. This encouraged me to apply to be a radio presenter at my local hospital radio. After a few months of training, I got my own tea time slot of ‘Beth’s Music Mix’ for an hour. It was great fun but we had a few close calls, nearly playing ‘Another One Bites The Dust’ could have got quite an uproar!



After wanting to be a pilot for a long time, I suddenly changed my mind to wanting a career in media and applied for TV Production at UCLan. I got in and have been enjoying it ever since. I have found that the skills that Westholme has given me such as confidence, conversation skills, competitiveness and much more, have been so beneficial and I feel that I have been a step above the rest.

Last year I chose to be the producer in our first ever television show. This was a cooking show for students and you can watch it on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNky11BnNx0>

This, believe it or not, has been one of the most successfully made television shows that the university has ever made (even if we did nearly burn the studio down)! I now have a very good reputation for making good shows, being organised and having the role of producer.

Last summer, I got a chance to work for ITV in London on the Southbank. It was incredible and there was an amazing buzz. I worked on a show called ‘Rising Star’ but a few weeks after I left, it was sadly cancelled due to the low figures on the American version.

P



Earlier this year I got the chance to go to Guangzhou, China with university for 2 weeks. The city was not a popular tourist place so we were submerged into the Chinese culture and food. It was amazing and the students that we met in China are coming to stay in Preston (of all places) for a year. I cannot wait to show them Manchester, the Lake District and Lancashire countryside.



Beth at the top of the Canton Tower

After I finish my second year, I will be going to Iceland with my boyfriend. We are going to tour the island and hopefully go whale watching.

Some other good news... I got nominated for an award, the 'National Northern Rail Award' for 'Leadership in Television Production' and I won!"

### Emma Booth (2011)

"On 20th July 2015 I went back to Leeds University for my Graduation Ceremony. I was thrilled to have been awarded a 2:1 in Theology. The three years have passed in a flash, too quickly in fact. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Leeds, the course has been very interesting and I have made many good friends through the Leeds University Hockey Club, which is actually the largest university Hockey Club in the country.

My Graduation day was forecast to be rainy, however the sun shone for us and we celebrated with champagne on the lawns and then a very special lunch in Leeds.

I have been accepted onto a Masters Course to study Business Management, so I am thrilled to be able to spend a further 12 months in this great city!"



### Raihana Ghiwala (2011)

Raihana sent us the following update:

"I was a Westholme Student from Nursery until the end of Sixth Form (1996-2011).

I am currently at the University of Bradford studying a Masters in Chemistry with Drug Discovery. I started in 2011 at this university and in my 2nd year I applied to study abroad. I was accepted at an institution in Malaysia where I went to study for one semester.

While I was studying in Malaysia, I met up for coffee under the Malaysian Twin Towers with former pupil, **Rebecca Stanford (2011)**, over 6,000 miles from home! I also travelled to various countries during this semester, namely Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia and I learnt so much about the culture of these countries and had many exciting experiences.

I then spent my second semester studying in Austria where again I travelled to many European countries, every weekend I was jetting off to visit another city. I made many friends during this year and it's a shame that we all live hundreds of miles apart!

I am currently in my 3rd year of study at Bradford and next year I am planning to continue with my Masters and finish my final year at Harvard Medical School, Boston and Brigham Women's Hospital working on a Drug Discovery project in SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy).

This will be an incredible and very exciting opportunity for me but I would just like to say, without my Westholme foundation none of this would have been possible. Westholme set me off on a good road. Although I didn't realise it at the time and some days I hated coming into school, like every teenager, all the experiences I had whilst at school, between both the education, co curricular activities and travelling trips, has really helped me since I left school. Westholme gave me the confidence to be able to travel to the other side of the world on my own, which has now opened up many avenues for my future. Even though I might not have gone to the best university in the UK, I've learnt it's what you make of your life that counts, from Blackburn

to Bradford to Harvard - anything is possible!

If this is published in the Purple Patch I would also like to say to all my former classmates and friends, that I hope you are all doing well and are on the road to success. I hope you all wish me luck for my future endeavours, as do I for you all."

### Hannah MacIntosh (2011) and Hannah Mathias (2011)

Hannah and Hannah both graduated from Newcastle University in July 2014 with a degrees in History and Zoology respectively.

### Milly McAllister (2011)

Milly obtained a First in Biomedical Science and in September 2015 will be starting a Master of Research course run by the University of Manchester, involving Cancer Research. She then intends to do a PhD with a view to pursuing a career in this field.

### Tori Redmond (2011)

Tori is training to be a ski instructor and is living and working in Verbier where she is doing really well.

### Vanessa Shields (2011)

Vanessa is now teaching at King's Heath Boys' School in Birmingham and is enjoying being a part of their orchestra.

### Alice Singleton (2011)

"After finishing Sixth Form in 2011, I decided that university wasn't for me just yet. I took a year out and started working. This 'year' then turned into more than that, and three years on, I am still on my 'year out'. However, I

**P** did find the Open University. This is my type of university - I can continue to work full time, then come home of an evening and study for my degree. Granted, it is going to take me a few years longer to achieve my degree, but one day I will have it in the palm of my hand. I have been studying now for two years and am working towards a BA(Hons) in English Language and Literature.

I worked full time as an accountants' PA and secretary for two years at an accountants in Preston. This was only meant to be a month of work; temping for a member of the team who was on summer leave for 6 weeks. Two years and two months later and I have only just recently left my post there. It was an emotional goodbye as this was my first 'proper' job; I had made some fabulous friends and learnt so much about the big wide world of work, business, enterprise...but that isn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Being very keen on the agricultural industry from being a farmer's daughter and an avid member of the Federation of Young Farmers, I decided that this was the angle I wanted to head for when thinking about a new job. With agriculture in one hand and my English degree in the other, I think it is safe to say that I have landed a dream job and I don't think it has quite hit me just how lucky I am. I am now working at Farmers' Guardian - the biggest national agricultural newspaper in the UK. I am a researcher for a new project they are working on aimed at government grants for farmers. Along with my researching, I have been doing some editing and writing.

It's not every day that you are able to

combine your love of language and your passion for agriculture and find a job that perfectly fits into place. I feel so very lucky that out of the 89 people who applied for my job, I was picked out of them all. Years of English lessons with **Mrs Martin, Mr Bisset, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Sullivan** and many more gave me my love and passion for the fabulous language and the inner workings of it. The support from the teaching staff as a whole gave me the confidence I now have to stand up in front of potential employers and make myself look and sound like the person they would want to hire."

### Francesca Wheatley (2011)

Recent email from Francesca:

"So here I am in my second year at the University of Birmingham studying Social Policy. My dream after I graduate is to get onto the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme.

Outside of my studies I am a very busy bee. I am the President of the University of Birmingham Social Policy Society and the Treasurer of the University of Birmingham Make-A-Wish Society (fundraising society). I also volunteer twice a week at a local children's hospice, and I am known as a be-friender which means I go along to keep the children entertained whilst the nurses are busy. I am a keen fundraiser for CLIC Sargent (which began at Westholme, when you helped me to organise the Cake Sales with all of the forms in Year 11) and I am nearing my £10,000 mark. I am also on a research and policy panel for them as well as regularly public speaking on their behalf and on the behalf of the Teenage Cancer Trust. I have become

a keen sailer, including sailing with the university (which again I developed through the sailing trip at Westholme that **Mr Beard** and **Miss Entwistle** ran) and I am a volunteer this summer on one of the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust trips which takes children and young people who have had cancer sailing.

This year I am approaching my five year cancer free mark, which is when the medics officially class me as a 'survivor'. To celebrate I am completing a survivor's bucket list to celebrate the fact I'm alive. (I have created a little website if you are interested <http://francesca3004.wix.com/fjwfundraising>.)"

### Rachel Natrass (2012)

Rachel sent an email in to one of her form tutors, **Mrs Martin** to update us on her past 3 years since leaving Westholme. Since starting at Durham University she has joined the rowing and cheerleading squad and received the title 'Miss Motivator' at her college cheerleading awards as well as being awarded the 'most dedicated' member of the university squad.

Rachel was proud to inform us that in June 2015 she graduated in Durham Cathedral with a First Class degree in Primary Education.

After an amazing 3 years in Durham, Rachel has decided to stay in the area and has secured her first job teaching a Year 5 class at St. Margaret's CE Primary School just outside Durham city centre. Rachel commented "although slightly scary, the 'can do' Westholme attitude remains with me and I'm excited for the next step. Leaving School and completing university has made me realise that although you're moving on,

the memories and friendships made are lifelong."



Rachel pictured with other Old Westholmians

### Charlotte Addison (2012)

Charlotte and her brother Tom recently featured in an article published in 'Lancashire Life' which focussed on their new business venture, 'Teepee Tent Hire'. In the article, Charlotte commented, 'Running our own company was something we always wanted to do... the response we've had has been really positive.' As they only open last August, they are looking to become more involved 'in some bigger events, particularly in areas like the Ribbles Valley.'



### Beth Stone (2012)

Beth is studying management at St Andrew's University and aims to attend Columbia Business School in New York when she graduates, with the aim of a career in advertising.

**P Sadie Thomas (2012)**

Sadie is currently studying Design Management for Fashion Retailing at the University of Manchester. She is now on a placement year, and gained a place out of thousand of applicants, on the Tommy Hilfiger Internship programme. She has the position of Women's Footwear Merchandiser in the Tommy Hilfiger Head Quarters in Amsterdam, where she will be living for the next year.

**Ciara Baxendale (2013)**

To coincide with the WW1 Centenary, CBBC aired *Harriet's Army*, a three-part drama series. The series commemorated the 100th anniversary of World War One.

Ciara played the lead role of the 'feisty young' Harriet Grange, who was removed from the Girl Guides and was consequently unable to help in the war effort. Harriet therefore channelled her energy into gathering her own independent army to smooth the path to victory.

Well done Ciara!



**Malini Dey (2013)**

"Just thought I would give an update on what I have been doing. I am half-way through my 4 year Biochemistry degree at Bath. I have really enjoyed my time there so far! Yesterday, I was thrilled to receive a placement offer from the School of Biosciences at Cardiff University, where I will spend one year



researching mucopolysaccharidoases (MPS diseases), which is a group of rare diseases. I am very excited to be starting my placement year this August, before returning to Bath next year."

**Emily Jones (2013)**

Emily took the role of Christine in Phantom of the Opera at the Dancehouse Theatre, Manchester in September. This was a dream of hers since playing the same role on the Westholme stage in 2012.



**Linzi Robertson (2013)**

Linzi's mother got in touch to give us an update on the progress of Linzi's studies. She was delighted to inform us that Linzi has been accepted onto a study abroad scheme so will be travelling to Wilmington in North Carolina on a study exchange for four months.

**Jade Jones (2013)**

Jade is currently studying at Manchester University. In March, she wrote and directed the play 'Magnolias in Manhattan' which ran for three nights in the Manchester Student Union Council Chambers. Well done, Jade!



**Natasha Rogan (2014)**

Natasha featured in an edition of Live Ribble Valley, see the article (right):



**Sophie Lamb (2014)**

We spotted this article about Sophie in the local paper (below):



## P Former Pupils, Current Staff

### Julie Sibley (née Rylance, 1994)

Julie gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Frank Joseph, in December who weighed 8lbs 9oz.



### Emma Lowde (née Lomax, 2001)

Emma gave birth to a little boy - George Christian in July 2015. He weighed 7lb 11oz and both are doing well.

### Rachel Collins (2006)

After leaving Westholme in 2006 I was awarded an excellence scholarship by my chosen university of Newcastle, where I went to study Classics. My three years in the North East were a wonderful experience and I graduated in 2009 with a First Class honours degree. Following graduation, I moved back to Hoghton to live with my parents where I took a 'gap' year to consider my career options and worked in a small hotel in the village. This job gave me the freedom to take time off to go travelling to various places including Israel, Croatia, Hungary and Barcelona. It was also during this period that I was inspired to apply for my PGCE. My years at School and university had made it clear to me that I loved learning, and I hoped that by becoming a teacher I would be able to inspire students to feel this same way about their education.

I was lucky enough to be invited back to Westholme by my Religious Studies teacher **Miss Worthington** for one of my PGCE placements. The School hadn't changed much in the four years I'd been away, the lunches were still awesome and the students created a friendly atmosphere. I was asked by friends at the time, "Does it feel weird working alongside your old teachers?" and my response was along the lines of "No, it's quite groovy really" - this was because all the staff were so welcoming and my old teachers became my friends. As my placement came to an end, a vacancy (within what is now called the Ethics, Philosophy and Religion Department) came up, and **Mrs Croston** invited me to join the team. Four years later, I've now become the Head of Department and I'm still feeling groovy about working at this amazing School. What makes my days so rewarding are the students I teach and the fun and excitement they create within the classroom. I hope I'm making the difference I wanted to in this profession, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

### Melissa Magdi (née Gray, 2006)

"Since leaving Westholme in 2006, I have graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA in English Literature and Theatre Studies. Following this, I completed a PGCE at the University of York and I have worked in two state schools in Lancashire. I am currently really enjoying working at Westholme as an English and Drama teacher. Each day is different to the next and the staff and students have been so welcoming. It has felt like coming home!"

## Former Staff

### Elizabeth Gibson

"Weialala leia Wallala leialala..."

"If you recognize this, you will remember A-level English Literature many moons ago, in a group with **Margaret Rowles**, **Katie Hoyle**, **Sangeetha George** and others. Margaret, aka Mags these days, always sends me a Christmas card, this year a hand-painted and printed rendition of her five cats. I was invited by her this year to visit Giggleswick, where she teaches in the Art department, for a tour of the school followed by afternoon tea. Not one to pass up the chance of a scone, I spent a delightful afternoon with Mags. The hike to the chapel was so steep, a governor had recently had a heart attack tackling it, but I persevered - the trek to Westholme's Theatre for Assembly seemed like a doddle in comparison! We reminisced about TS

Eliot and the impenetrable, wonderful, 'Wasteland'. Another eclectic text was 'Waiting for Godot', which I studied with several A-level groups. I went to see it at the tiny Heron Theatre in Beetham, founded by the Old Girl who gave Westholme the Stopforth trophy. Lucky's weird monologue includes the phrase "Qua qua qua," which would seem to complement Eliot's 'la la la-ing' perfectly. **Anna Porter (2009)** and her cohort appeared to understand it: Anna is now studying Medicine, for which I'm sure 'Godot' is excellent preparation! Doubtless **Seema Kennedy (née Ghiassi, 1993)** will be reaping the benefits of her literary skills down in the House of Commons. I can't remember which texts we read, but Shakespeare covers most contingencies.

I had a long note from **Joanne Robbins**, aka Robbie the other day. Strangely,



Some of the English department enjoying a farewell cake with Margaret Edwards. Left to right - Chris Marlow, Margaret Edwards, Jean Asher, Sarah Martin, Christine McDonald

**P** I often recognize the handwriting of Old Girls even before I open the envelope, despite it being years since they wrote essays for me. She lives, like Goldilocks, in a little cottage in the woods in Bebington, Wirral and having requested a forge and anvil as birthday presents (as you do!), is taking a couple of Sculpture courses at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Her group studied 'A Winter's Tale', in which a statue figures prominently towards the end, so maybe that had some influence...I sometimes listen to the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Radio 2 in the morning, as you do when you've retired, and they run a feature every day called Top Tenuous - if you can make any further tenuous links to A-level Literature, I'd be glad to hear from you!

Talking of Chris Evans, he runs the brilliant 500 words short story competition, and this year, I volunteered to be one of the judges. The winning stories were amazing, but (whisper it) most of the ones I marked were way below Westholme standards. Get writing, Years 7 and 8. In a busy year, I've seen many former staff, who seem to be colonising various local eating establishments, keeping the links going. I went for some winter sunshine to Lanzarote with **Mrs Kershaw** (Sociology/Law). The two of us tottering up the volcano with walking sticks were a sight to behold. We're still doing Latin at the Lancashire Archives, and I've found my niche writing nifty little poetic translations of bits of Catullus and others. Daughter **Alex Carter (née Gibson, 1996)** keeps me up to stream regarding her year group, a remarkable number of whom have had twins over the last few years. Alex continues to keep Gatwick Airport running, and

has recently gained her Six Sigma Black Belt Master qualification (no idea, don't ask!)

Last summer, some of my Sixth Form friends from 50 years ago got together to reminisce. From various attics and garages came an old school blazer, a cookery apron, school magazines, a Sixth Form tie, lots of photos and even O and A-level papers. Keep up your contacts, for the experiences you shared at Westholme have made you what you are."

Mrs Gibson

### Anne Patefield

Our former Vice Principal sent us the following update:

"I am still keeping busy in my retirement. Our two lives (in Blackburn and Northampton) mean that we don't really have a retirement routine and we manage to intersperse holidays between our trips up and down the motorway. Our tour of the Californian coast in April was fantastic, if a little hectic but we have just had two weeks of complete rest in Greece. I enjoy meeting up with several former colleagues, making my celebration cakes for family and friends and have made a little progress with my family tree. Happy times!"

### Susan Whittaker

Susan got in touch to update us on her busy life since her retirement in 2011!

"I continue to do what a retired PE teacher likes to do; walking, jogging, cycling, going to the gym, playing badminton locally and gardening. Since leaving Westholme I have travelled to Australia, Poland, Cyprus and Canada. We bought a house in Quebec, Canada in October 2014 and

spent 3 months there over winter. Our youngest son, Adam, lives there and we have 3 grandchildren, Nathan 8, Kayla 2 and Alyssa 1. We are returning to spend summer over there."



### Emma Krüning (née Holmes)

Emma now lives in Germany with her husband **Daniel**, a former Language Assistant at Westholme. Emma visited Westholme during the Spring term (2015) to introduce her former colleagues to her lovely daughter, Gracie!



### Kerry D'Arcy

Kerry got married in February 2014 and gave birth to her son, James Anthony D'Arcy on 8th August 2014, weighing 8lb 10z.

### Robin Barraclough

After studying medicine at Nottingham University, Robin is now a fully qualified practicing doctor in a practice near Mount Cook, New Zealand.

It is always a pleasure to see former staff who pop in for various events and celebrations.

This year we have been delighted to catch up with Lillian Croston, Christine McDonald, Dorothy Bradbury, Pat Cave, Vera Bury, Brenda Entwistle, Sharon Rogers (who is also teaching LAMDA at Senior School), Frances Griffiths, Gillian Rawlinson, Debbie Northin and Margaret Lancaster - to name the ones we actually saw! I am sure there have been others.

Do keep popping in and supporting the pupils. It is always super to hear your news and see you looking so relaxed and happy!

## P 92 Years of Westholme!

During the Spring term 2015, we welcomed **Mr John Singleton (1931)** - former student and nephew of Emily Singleton, the founder of the School, to Wilmar Lodge. Mr Singleton spent the afternoon in the Learning Resource Centre perusing archive artefacts including his aunt's pen, registers and many images.

We welcomed Mr Singleton back to Westholme in the Summer term, to celebrate the School's 92nd birthday. **Mrs Joan Smith (née Mackey)**, former student and **Mrs Lillian Hope**, former Head Mistress of Billinge House also attended. Mrs Hope celebrated her 100th birthday in the same week.

Mr Singleton spoke to students about his memories of Westholme and how the School has developed over the years. In his speech, he used Westholme as an acronym to describe what the School means to him.

Wisdom  
Education  
Success  
Tenacity  
Happiness  
Opportunity  
Learning  
Mental ability/Mathematics  
Emily



Looking at archive materials. From left to right, Annabel Steele (Upper Sixth), Flora Robson (Upper Sixth), Mrs Robson (Learning Resource Manager) and Mr Singleton.

The students very much enjoyed listening to Mr Singleton and some interesting questions were asked including questions about homework, uniform and lunches!



After a rendition of 'Happy Birthday', students, staff and guests enjoyed birthday cake and were able to look at the archive photos and registration book. Some of the students even found their grandparents in the original register!

A wonderful afternoon was had by all. Special thanks to Mr Singleton for taking us on a trip down memory lane and giving us all an insight into the history of Westholme.



Caption: From left to right, Mrs Singleton, Mrs Smith, Mrs Hope and Mrs Horner



Mr Dumbill (Assistant Head) and Miss Smith (Deputy Head, Academic)



## P Sad News

**Laura Nuttall, OBE**  
(née Lees)

Laura sadly passed away during summer 2014. She loved Westholme and had some very happy memories. She is sadly missed by her husband and their three children.

**Christine Lansdale**  
(née Sellers, 1968)

Former Deputy Head Girl, Christine Lansdale sadly died in September 2013. Her death was sudden and unexpected. She is sadly missed by her husband, Peter.

**Lynn Alison Corrin**  
(née Blackburn, 1973)

Lynn sadly died in February 2015, she had been suffering from cancer, she was 59 years old. Lynn attended Westholme from 7 - 18 years of age. After leaving Westholme in 1974 she studied in Switzerland, before moving to London to work in advertising. She moved to Warwickshire and then to the Isle of Man where she has lived ever since. Lynn enjoyed travelling, walking her dogs, gardening, cooking and entertaining, playing golf and fundraising for the Lifeboat and Ramsey and District Anti-Cancer. She was a very proud mother of Emma, Zara and Edward, and grandmother to Theo and Otillie. Lynn is sadly missed by her parents Enid and Derek, her husband Mark, her children, her grandchildren and her many friends.

**Elizabeth Joanne Walmsley**  
(1992)

Jo (as she was known) passed away this year on March 27th, aged just 41 years, having suffered a brain haemorrhage. Jo attended Westholme from 1982 - 1992 commencing at the first year of Middle School and going all the way through to Sixth Form. She enjoyed playing in the School tennis team and singing in the School choir. Jo gained a 2:1 degree in Business Information Technology, and went to work for various airlines, headhunted for several roles as a Pre-flight Systems Supervisor, working for such companies as Airtours, JMC, Caledonian Airways, Air2000 and Thomas Cook. She left the airline industry and had recently moved back to the Ribble Valley. She had been volunteering as a teaching assistant and for various charities including the East Lancs RSPCA which she thoroughly enjoyed. Some of her friends from Westholme attended her funeral, including Ruth Shaw (1992), Sarah Shaw (née Smith, 1992) and Emma Saxty (née Morrow, 1992).



## From the Archives

**Patrick Powers and Neil Powers**  
Old Westholmian, Patrick got in touch with the following update:

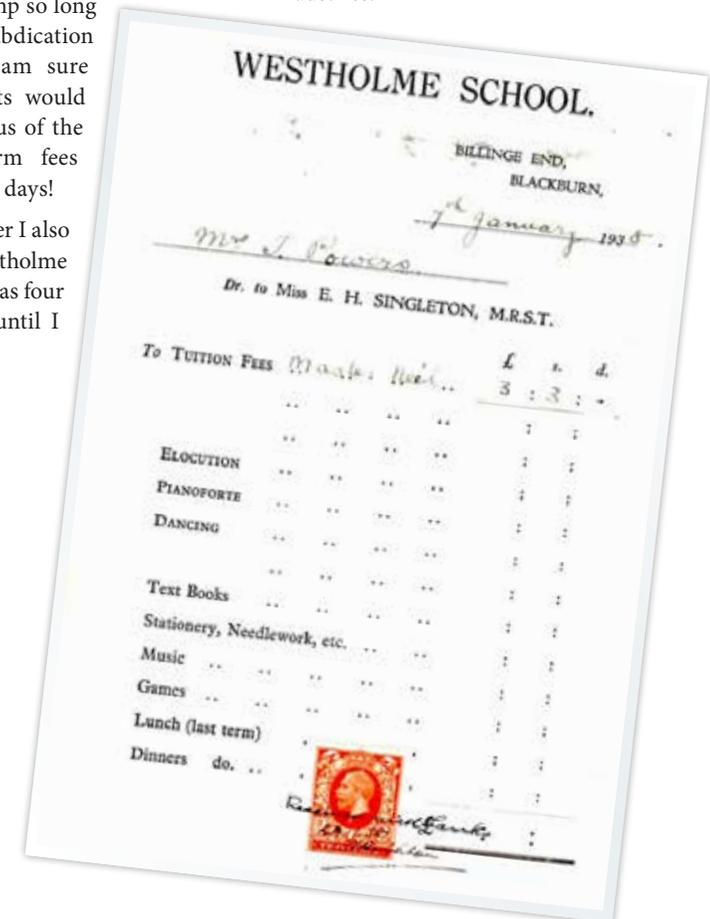
“I was delighted to see from your website that Westholme School is thriving. I had been triggered to look up the website because my brother Neil (who incidentally was born in 1933) recently found the attached receipt for payment of his termly fees for the term starting January 1938.

It is interesting to see the use of a George V stamp so long after the abdication crisis and I am sure today's parents would be very envious of the applicable term fees for those early days!

Like my brother I also went to Westholme from when I was four and I stayed until I was 11.

I can still remember the way that the ink wells in Westholme were regularly topped up! Very exciting!

My brother Neil went on to take a PhD at Cambridge, from where he qualified as a doctor and later was a lecturer at Edinburgh University before his retirement. I, four years younger, obtained an MSc in Electrical Engineering from Durham and worked in the scientific apparatus and computer industries.”



Receipt of termly fees, 1938

## P Careers Seminars

This year we have welcomed a number of former students back to Westholme, to speak to our current students about their career paths. They share invaluable experiences with our students and help to offer insights into careers.



### Claire Grindrod (2002) and Rebecca Maudsley (2002)

We welcomed Old Westolmians Claire Grindrod and Rebecca Maudsley into school to speak to our Sixth Form students about their career paths.

Former Head Girl, Rebecca Maudsley originally left school and went to read History at Nottingham University, only to realise after a few months that university life wasn't for her. After applying for A-level schemes she found success with retailer 'Debenhams', where she worked for 10 years whilst completing an NVQ Level 5 and CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development). During this time she worked as the Store Manager. After

spending 12 months abroad, Rebecca returned with a new skill set and was ready for a new role; this resulted in her being offered a position in Human Resources at 'Debenhams'. After completing a post grad and having qualified two years ago, she moved on to work at 'Booths' as their Learning Development Manager, a role she still holds today. The advice Rebecca gave to students was not to worry if things don't end up how you planned!

After leaving Westholme, Claire Grindrod, studied Law and Computing at Leeds Metropolitan University. Having graduated, she returned to Lancashire to complete her LPC (Legal Practice Course) and worked in the hospitality industry to fund her studies.

It was whilst there that she met a group of solicitors from 'Backhouse Jones', who offered her a work experience position. After impressing her employers, she was then offered a full time job, which she accepted, once she had completed her LPC. Claire spoke so passionately about her job and shared CCTV footage of a road accident with the group – very exciting!

Thank you to both Rebecca and Claire for sharing their experiences with our students and offering a real insight into two quite different routes into careers since leaving School.

### Sarah Harman (née Snowdon, 1988) and Emma Barnes-Marriott (née Barnes, 2007)

Former Head Girl, PC Sarah Harman has been in the police force for 25 years and is currently working in public order and personal safety. Her role involves training in various aspects such as riot, taser and fitness. She has also been lucky enough to work on large events such as the 2012 Olympics in London and the G8 summit in Scotland.

PC Emma Barnes-Marriott left Westholme in 2007 and went on to study Psychology at Lancaster University. After achieving a Masters in Social Work, Emma decided that she would like to join the police force and applied for a position in the Derbyshire Constabulary. She now works at Matlock Police Station as a response officer.

Sarah and Emma highlighted how difficult and lengthy the recruitment process is but that anyone wishing to apply must be resilient. A successful application then leads to a 19 week placement at training school before you are allocated a station. With only 23% of police officers in the Lancashire

Constabulary being female, and an even lower percentage of women working in public order, women are still a minority.

The students who attended the talk found it to be very interesting - they also enjoyed a handcuff demonstration and learnt about the different types of restraints the police are trained to use.



### Dr Angharad Chilton (née Lewis, 2008)

Sixth Form student Kathryn Jaitly writes about the Careers Seminar: "The Medicine talk from Dr Chilton gave us all a first-hand insight into the lives of young doctors. As she has only just graduated for 18 months, this provided us with the perfect opportunity to ask her everything we wanted to learn about universities and being a doctor in varying roles.

Having managed to get four offers from her five UCAS choices, she was the optimal candidate to give tips on co curricular activities, personal statements and even interview tips – although she couldn't divulge everything as the Year 13s had their Interview Day soon after. She also helped us to understand the importance of deciding if PBL courses are what we wanted, what we wanted to get out of the university experience and, most importantly for the Year 11 and 12 students, deciding if Medicine was for us.

**P** She discussed the need for hard work to get into university, but once you get onto the course there is a wide range of work available for you in a wide range of disciplines - all within Medicine. As she loves a whole range of disciplines within the non-surgical side of clinical medicine, she has decided to take a Core Medicine exam, allowing her to continue working in a variety of disciplines.

The talk was followed by a Q&A session which was put to good use as people asked about their queries and concerns regarding Medicine. This talk was great as it allowed us to make a more informed decision regarding Medicine as a career.”



### Lucy Hutchinson (2009)

Lucy Hutchinson (2009), an expert in the field of Art, gave a talk to A-level Art students about her career path since leaving Westholme and going to study at university. Lucy studied Fine Art at Coventry University and presented a PowerPoint to our students with examples of some of her work. A Question and Answer session followed, which the girls found to be extremely helpful. Lucy even set them some research experiments for their course. Lucy has been doing some amazing things since leaving university. She was recently selected to be exhibited in London and is also represented by a gallery in Hong Kong. In spring 2014, Lucy was awarded a residency at the Birmingham City Library, where she currently has an exhibition.



### Sophie Ward (2013)

Sophie Ward (2013) returned to Westholme and enthusiastically spoke to some of our students about the 'real Oxbridge'. Sophie is currently studying Biomedical Sciences at The Queens' College, Oxford and her knowledge was vital information to students who are considering applying for Oxbridge.

She explained that what really matters when applying to Oxbridge, along with results, is that you must have a real love for your subject. Sophie spoke in great detail about how the university surrounds are “amazing” and that the one to one teaching is “world class”.

Sophie loves the social side to life at Oxford; when she first arrived, everyone else was in the same boat and felt as nervous as she did, but she soon settled into life there. She has since become the Assistant Director for the Oxford Girls Improvisational Comedy Group and is also a female welfare representative for her college.



## Careers News from Mrs Hibberd



I am delighted to introduce myself as the newly appointed Head of Careers from September 2015. I am a Westholme Old Girl (1991-1998) and have been a teacher here for several years.

The School is keen to inspire our students to seek diverse and challenging careers and we hope to encourage our alumni to support the students in their efforts. I would greatly welcome your support with any of the events we will be offering and would be happy to hear from you with any suggestions you may have to enhance our provision. It doesn't matter when you left Westholme – I welcome any support you could offer! I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Caroline Hibberd (née Banks, 1998)  
[hibberdc@westholmeschool.com](mailto:hibberdc@westholmeschool.com)

### Work Experience

June 2015 saw the introduction of our new work experience week and following its enormous success we are delighted to announce that this will take place once again for all Lower Sixth students in 2016. Having secured high quality placements at a wide range of businesses we are looking to further extend our provision next year. The dates for 2016 are Monday 13th June - Friday 17th June (inclusive). If you would be willing to assist with this please contact [hibberdc@westholmeschool.com](mailto:hibberdc@westholmeschool.com).

### Careers Handbook

It has been 5 years since we last updated the Alumni Careers Handbook and we would very much like to produce a new one – with your help!

I would be extremely grateful if you would be able to complete the form online at <http://www.westholmeschool.com/careers-handbook.html>.

Many thanks in advance of your help.

### Careers Convention

We hold a biennial Careers Convention where over 45 different careers and professions are represented. Students from Years 8-13 are invited to attend this event and are able to explore the wide range of careers options available. The students benefit greatly from the opportunity to discuss their ideas for future study and careers options with experienced professionals.

Next Careers Convention -  
Thursday 21st April 2016.

### Alumni Guest Speakers

We welcome visits from Old Westholmians to deliver inspirational and motivational talks about their careers and fields of work. These sessions take place at lunchtime so all students have the opportunity to attend. The students gain a valuable insight into the diverse range of careers and progression routes that our own Westholme leavers have followed in the world of work.

If you are interested in hosting a lunchtime talk, please email me.

## P Les Misérables; 'Then & Now'

We were delighted to put on another excellent show of Les Misérables over a decade after we first brought it to the Westholme stage. Once again audiences were astounded by the incredible performances of the talented cast of young students and this time it was pleasing to see so many boys involved.



2004



2015

## P Westholme Moves Forward



**This year has been a very special and exciting one with the announcement of three new developments at Westholme.**

Firstly, September 2014 saw the joining together of boys and girls at the Junior Schools, to form a new, cohesive Junior School. Boys and girls remain taught separately but it has been lovely to see the children working more closely together outside of the classroom and making the most of the additional opportunities that joining forces has presented.



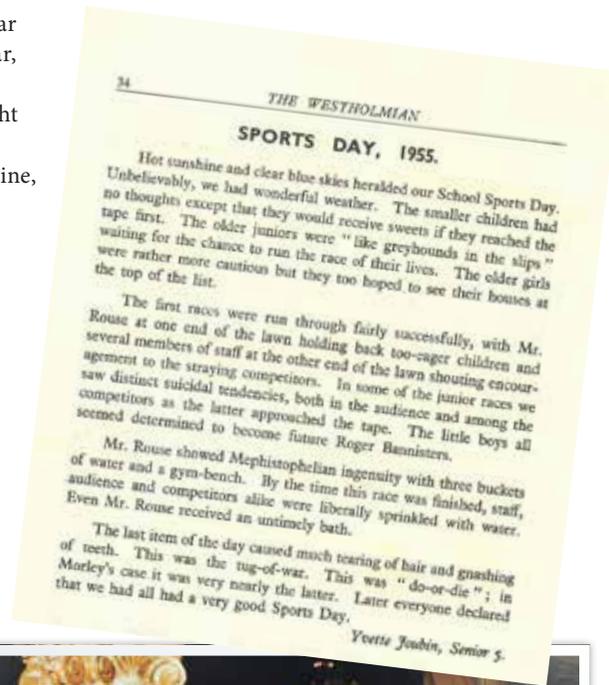
As we moved through the academic year, we made plans to carry out the completion of our Diamond Model of education which will take place in September 2016 when we will welcome our first cohort of boys into the Sixth Form to study for their A-levels. Our co-educational Sixth Form will allow both boys and girls to work together in order to experience a very good academic education whilst also developing team work, leadership and life skills through an incredible array of co curricular opportunities.

More recently, we have been delighted to announce that Westholme Nursery will welcome children from the age of 3 months in September 2015. Westholme's Nursery offers an excellent educational programme to children aged 3 months to 2 years. This significant development proves that we are committed to providing the highest quality care and education where babies and young children can grow and develop in their own unique way.



## P From the archives...

On her visit to Wilmar Lodge earlier this year, **Angela Hume (née Walker, 1956)** brought two copies of 'The Westholmian' magazine, one from 1955 and another from 1956. Please see below a piece on Sports day, 1955 written by Yvette Joubin. Westholme students definitely still have a competitive edge 60 years on!



Visit of the Mayor and Mayoress, 1980



'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' at Blackpool Opera House (early 1990s)



Infant School children, 1973



Magic Eye Walk, 2002



Race for Life, 2004

# Alumni Concert

We are delighted to announce that we are going to stage a concert by former Westholme pupils on 5th March 2016. We already know that Liz Singleton, Jennie Williams (née Marsden), Laurene Chapman, Melissa Magdi (née Gray), Hannah Buckley, Tori Redmond, Sarah Broomhead (née Whewell), Rachel Collins, Alice Singleton, Vanessa Shields, Mrs Croston and Mrs Patefield are just some of those that plan to be there, and that those that have kept up their musical skills will enchant the audience by their fantastic performances. Others can join in with some group singing and playing items or just attend for a reunion.

This will be on the same day as a Senior School Open Day so those of us involved at School will have a busy weekend but former pupils may be pleased to have a look around the School on such a day as well as to be home for the weekend as the next day is Mothering Sunday. On the Saturday we plan to have rehearsals at 3pm for anyone who can stand to have Mr Millest or Mrs Lewis accompany them performing in the concert, at 4pm for anyone able to play in an Alumni Reunion Orchestra and at 5pm for anyone able to sing in an Alumni Reunion Choir. At 6pm all are invited to a buffet tea in the Music Centre which will give everyone the opportunity to look around the still new extension and complain it was not as nice as that while you were there!

Mr Millest would be pleased if you could let him know if you can attend the concert and if you can take part as a soloist or in one of the group items via [milleste@westholmeschool.com](mailto:milleste@westholmeschool.com). Please also pass this information to any other Old Westholmians who might be interested in such an event.

**Saturday 5th March 2016, The Croston Theatre**

# *Forthcoming Events*

## **Old Westholmian Reunion Lunch for 1930s – 1960s leavers**

Tuesday 13th October 2015

Venue: Wilmar Lodge

## **Alumni Concert**

Saturday 5th March 2016

Venue: The Croston Theatre

If you would like to register your interest for either of the above events,  
please contact [pearsona@westholmeschool.com](mailto:pearsona@westholmeschool.com) or call 01254 506070



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