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# THE PURPLE PATCH

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
FORMER PUPILS & STAFF

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SUMMER 2016 EDITION

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## P Introduction

As I write this introduction, it strikes me as appropriate that today is the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme. It reminds me of that endless and deep gratitude we have to those who came before us. Whilst that level of sacrifice beyond words is, we hope, a never to be repeated event, we all have an innate respect for those who tread the boards of life before us. At Westholme, your successes and triumphs, your spouses and babies, your enduring friendships and fantastically varied careers are inspiring lights along the path for future generations. The link between yesterday, today and tomorrow is unbreakable and powerful. In a world which is changing constantly, it is wholesome and stabilising to remember your roots. Recall where you made your first mistakes and took your first opportunities. Westholme is in you all. We are so glad you keep in touch.

Enjoy the read, and the road, ahead!

Viv Davenport (1990)

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## News, News, News

### Roger Maltby (1948)

Roger lives in Jasper, Canada and regularly keeps in touch via email. After reading last summer's edition of the Purple Patch, Roger emailed us in response to the update from **Neil and Patrick Powers (1948)** which included a receipt for Neil's fees from the 1930s. Roger and Patrick were in the same form at Westholme, 1943-48 and both continued their education at QEGS.

Roger had also recently read Derek Beattie's 'History of Blackburn' and was surprised to see lots of faces he knew from QEGS in 1951. For those who are interested, there is a photograph on p319. Patrick is third from the left on the third row from the top. Roger is sat on the front row and unfortunately isn't visible on the printed section.

Please see below a beautiful photo Roger sent of the view from his house after a snowfall.



### Maureen Brown (née Senior, 1953)

Former Head Girl, Maureen, attended the 1930s-1960s leavers' reunion lunch which was held at Wilmar Lodge in October 2015 and shared with us information about both her and her sister **Alice Binns (née Senior, 1952)**. Both Maureen and Alice are involved with the Inner Wheel District 19. Maureen was the Overseas Service Chairman (2003-2006), Chairman (2014/15) and is now their Membership Officer (2015/16). Alice is the International Service Chairman (2013-16). Both are members of the Inner Wheel Club of Padigham.

### Margaret Pollard (née Waddington, 1954)

Margaret attended Westholme in 1954 with her first year being spent at Garth. It was in her first year that she met her lifelong friend and they are now 72 years of age. She remembers many members of staff including **Miss Clutten** who taught Maths, **Mrs Thompson**, English, **Mrs Rouse**, History, and **Mrs Hill**, Science, with **Mrs Bennett**, French. Another memory which she shared was the School Houses which were Lancaster, Nanson and Morley.

### Marian Kitchin (née Sharples, 1957)

It was lovely to catch up with Marian at the 1930s-1960s reunion lunch last October.

In 2014, Marian was one of the 88 men and 88 women who were presented with Maundy coins in recognition of her work laundering the cathedral's altar linen for 50 years.



**P** The Queen handed out Maundy coins in a traditional royal service at Blackburn Cathedral and each of the 176 recipients of the Maundy coin, one man and one woman for each year of the Queen's life, received a red purse of normal money and a white purse of silver Maundy coins.

Marian was also interviewed on BBC News!



### Judith Heaton (née Wormleighton, 1961)

"I was so pleased to receive the Purple Patch - as I was beginning to think that as I had reached the ripe-old age of 70 - I no longer qualified for one. It is always lovely to hear about Westholme, the school I loved. I have just hung my tennis racket up but fortunately my grandchildren are showing an interest. I love living near to London as it has a lot to offer - theatre, etc. It's been a long time since I last visited Blackburn however my husband, John, still returns to Preston for the football!"

### Karen Tilden (née MacDonald, 1962)

'Random Recollections of a Westholme Pupil 1952 - 1962.'

"I started my education in the Westholme Kindergarten at the age of 6 travelling daily by bus from my home in Darwen. As this would have entailed one bus change at Blackburn Boulevard,

I am sure that my safekeeping would have been entrusted to an older pupil, but I can't remember her name. So many memories, but the following are random episodes over the 10 years I spent at Westholme:

**Mr and Mrs Rouse** who we called Ma and Pa and I went in fear of ever getting in trouble with either of them.

Having to stand "Under the Clock" in the main hall of Westholme, a punishment which would be likened to today's "naughty step". I can remember the shame of having to stand under the grandfather clock, especially when everyone passing enquired, "What have you done wrong?!"

I vividly remember begging my mother to write a letter asking that I should be excused from eating swede at lunchtime. (Still one of my hated vegetables!)

I suffered badly from travel sickness, and in the '50s no one had invented an effective cure apart from sitting on a newspaper (which was useless!). As a result I wasn't able to go on any of the school trips as this always entailed a long coach trip. However, I was thrilled to be allowed to help look after the Nursery pupils while all the rest of my class went to various places in the UK.

Teachers I remember: **Mrs Thompson** (English) probably had the most influence on me and inspired a love of the English language. She was very strict and a stickler for spelling and woe betide anyone who dared speak out of turn or tried to disrupt the class; **Miss Clutton** (RE), a very kind lady who to my shame was very easy to distract in class by asking her questions about her niece or godchild who she obviously adored!; **Mrs Sharpe** (Maths) who always used to have pink hair at the front of her head because in exasperation when marking our homework would run her stained

red fingers (from all the corrections!) through her blonde hair. I remember her vividly whispering to me out of the side of her mouth as I went up to collect my Maths GCE certificate at Prizegiving in King George's Hall, "I didn't think you'd do it!" (What confidence in my ability!) **Mr Rouse** (Geography), a very strict disciplinarian but he made his subject very interesting. **Mrs Bennett** (History) who brought her lessons alive and has remained to this day my favourite subject. I know I had elocution lessons and although I can picture the lady who taught me, I can't remember her name. I can still to this day recite the poem "The Tortoiseshell Cat" which I learnt for my exam! **Miss Barlow** comes to mind and think she may have been my first teacher in the Kindergarten and the name **Mrs Bainbridge** is somehow prominent but I can't remember why! So many more teachers whose names now escape me, but had the utmost respect for all of them.

One lovely memory was, along with fellow pupil **Liz Kelly**, being entrusted to walk the dog belonging to Mr and Mrs Rouse which we were allowed to do after lunch. We usually ended up by a little sweet shop somewhere near to the school, but that has probably long disappeared!

Wearing our panama hats with the sides creased (being the fashion at the time!)

My overall memory of my time at Westholme was a very happy one and Blackburn Boulevard where I used to catch the bus or train back to Darwen was always the meeting place for early romances. I understand it is very different now!"

### Susan Sanders (née Edge, 1981)

Susan left Westholme after doing her A Levels in 1981 to study pharmacy

at the London School of Pharmacy, University of London. Susan registered as a pharmacist in 1985 and one year later went to the University of Manchester to study for a Master's degree in Hospital Pharmacy.

Since then, she has enjoyed a career as a pharmacist in the NHS, initially in clinical roles and latterly involved with the education and training of pharmacy staff and the development and implementation of strategies for pharmacy workforce development in London. Susan is married and lives in South Oxfordshire.

She had lots to celebrate in 2015! In May, she received the annual Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists 2015 Gold Medal for her outstanding contribution to pharmacy in the health service at national level. In addition, Susan has been designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society by her peers, for her outstanding contribution to pharmacy practice; and was presented with her Fellowship certificate at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's conference in September.



### Sophie Scott (1983)

We were delighted to welcome Old Westholmian, Professor Sophie Scott, as our Prize Presenter at the Senior School Prizegiving Ceremony which

**P** was held at King George's Hall in September last year. Sophie commented on how returning to King George's Hall brought back many fond memories of Prizegiving Ceremonies from her time as a student.

After distributing the prizes, Sophie spoke to the School and gave staff and students a wonderful insight into her career as a researcher, whose work addresses human communication and the human brain. One main piece of advice she gave our students was to "grow your best brain" by doing things that you enjoy. Sound guidance indeed.



**Sarah Morgan (née Keegan, 1985)**

Each year we look forward to receiving an update from Sarah and each year we are amazed by how busy she has been!

"July started with a superb surprise for former Head Girl, **Jane Grant-Abban (née Palethorpe, 1985)**. Jane now lives in Minnesota, USA, so having the opportunity to meet up with her was not to be missed - not least as her family now live in Cardiff. She was in Lancashire because her brother-in-law was getting married nearby. I arranged to meet with her for a meal at the Aspinall Arms, Clitheroe. Jane was surprised by the extra diners:



(Clockwise) Nicola Fielden (née Slinger, 1985), Louise Southern (née Saul, 1985), Sarah Morgan (née Keegan, 1985), Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles, 1985), Helen Wharton (née McNulty, 1985), and Susan Maguire (née King).

The academic year commenced with my daughter, Amelia, starting her final year at Westholme in the Upper Sixth Form, and the prospect for both my son doing his GCSEs and Amelia her A Levels in the summer. As I write, we have only two weeks remaining, and we all remember how wonderful it is to finish exams! How the time flies, and here is the before and after image Amelia texted to me (and she can look forward to her copy of The Purple Patch next year!).



Left: Amelia Morgan, Year 7. Right: Amelia Morgan, Upper Sixth Form.

In October, I was asked to be the after-dinner speaker/entertainer at an optical conference in Nottingham. For me, this was a return to solo comedy

performance, and this time, I was able to throw in some opera and more singing to the act - and the piano accordion continues to be omnipresent. The crowd were lovely and this meant the performance bug had returned.

My work this year, lecturing on communication in the main, has taken me to some interesting places with a European tour in November with events held in The Leadenhall Building, London, Theater Amsterdam, Netherlands, Messeturm, Frankfurt and DR Koncerthuset, Copenhagen.

In December, we had a pre-Christmas gathering at **Sarah Wilkes' (née Knowles, 1985)** house with almost all of our children featured in the photograph.



Back row: Bob Wilkes, John Wharton, Oliver Wilkes, Florrie Wilkes, Sarah Wilkes, Scott Wharton, Philip Morgan, George Morgan

Front row: Helen Wharton, Adam Wharton, Sarah Morgan, Amelia Morgan

In January 2016, The Frog and Bucket Comedy Club in Manchester were offering their inaugural comedy course with professional comedian Dave Williams. I grasped this opportunity and I haven't looked back. Granada Television came to film these so-called brave comedy students, so on 18th January, my piano accordion and I

appeared briefly on the tea-time news along with presenter Paul Crone.



Dave Williams (second from left), Paul Crone (far right) next to Sarah Morgan



An audience with David Baddiel

In February, Westholme hosted an evening with comedian and author David Baddiel. This was a night not to be missed, and I enjoyed meeting him along with John Gilmore from BBC Radio Lancashire (who conducted the live interview).

As a direct result of this evening, John Gilmore asked if I would like to come into the studio for an interview on his afternoon show at BBC Radio Lancashire based in Blackburn.

**P** The first interview was in February and we have done monthly interviews ever since. He talks to me about why an optometrist has ventured into stand-up comedy, and I've answered questions on eyes and vision as well as the challenging art form of comedy - I've even advised him on his own spectacles!



Sarah Morgan and presenter John 'Gilly' Gilmore

The comedy course concluded with a showcase on the evening of February 21st, with a live audience. As a 'graduate' of the course, I was interviewed by comedian Justin Moorhouse for BBC Radio Manchester. I thoroughly enjoyed my return to stand-up and realised that this would need time and significant commitment in order to progress.



Sarah Morgan, stand-up comedy showcase, Frog and Bucket, Manchester

The Westholme Alumni Concert held on 5th March, gave me the opportunity to perform in front of a very full theatre. I started with a small part of the Aria, 'Caro Mio Ben', by Giuseppe Giordani, accompanied by Mr Millest on piano and I then went into the first-ever live performance of the parody for Wiganers 'I Love Me Pies' (the video is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxTRDZKjEzI>) complete with a selection of pies, a skewer, a variety of bread buns, rolls or baps, and some brown sauce!

Pupils not only were invited to perform solo pieces, but were also asked to take part in ensembles. **Meg Crossley (née Asher, 1986)** was as fabulous as ever on oboe in the orchestra. **Mrs Asher** came to watch, so it was wonderful to catch up with her too. **Jane Meaden (née Wilkinson, 1984)**, **Jane Ward-Thompson (née Harrison, 1988)** and myself joined in on flute.



Left to right: Meg Asher, Jane Ward-Thompson, Jane Meaden, Sarah Morgan



Left to right: Meg Asher, Mrs Asher, Sarah Morgan

This was also a wonderful personal occasion to play in an orchestra with my daughter, Amelia, who plays the cello. Also taking part in this great 'everyone's related' occasion, was Jade Fielden (daughter of **Nicola Fielden, née Slinger**) playing violin in the school orchestra.



In the orchestra Sarah Morgan (flute) and Amelia Morgan (cello)

Just before we all left the theatre, I saw **Mrs Bradbury** and she looked terrific.



Mrs Bradbury

In April, the final Spring Concert was held at School. It was a wonderful occasion which had the surprise of seeing the amazing **Mrs Meadowcroft**. Not only was she just as we remembered in our days of Latin lessons, but she was also very enthusiastic to cite some declensions for our entertainment! Many of my friends, including **Professor Sophie Scott (1983)**, were delighted to see the photograph I shared, and they all send her their best wishes.



Left to right: Sarah Morgan, Mrs Meadowcroft, Nicola Fielden

The day job then took over, with some extensive travel to Europe. Norway included an event in Tromsø, the most northern city in the world, and every bit as beautiful as I had hoped - an item off the bucket list (although I am very keen for a return visit). I also went to Italy, Spain and Denmark which was much needed time to catch my breath before moving my performing forwards.

**P** May was a progressive month, where I applied to join some acting classes with the playwright, Jim Cartwright (*Road, Two, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*). These continue to be a great experience and only this week I met actress Maxine Peake who was in the cast of *Dinner Ladies* with my comedy hero, the late Victoria Wood.



Left to right: Jim Cartwright, Maxine Peake, Sarah Morgan

On 30th May, I mustered all the courage I had to enter the stand-up competition 'Beat The Frog' at the Frog and Bucket Comedy Club in Manchester. Around 10 acts take part on the night, and three random members of the audience are given large cards to hold up to vote the act off stage. If all three cards are held up before five minutes, the act is sent off stage to the sound of a comedy horn and a musical track containing the words 'you're a loser'. I am pleased to report I made the five minutes and heard the magical frog music from *The Muppet Show* which is played when the act has achieved audience approval! Many famous stand-up comedians have graced this stage in their careers which include John Bishop, Sarah Millican, Johnny Vegas, Lee Mack, Peter Kay and Jason Manford.



Sarah Morgan beating the frog!

This July, I will be visiting my sister **Beth Keegan (2013)** in Northern Italy where she attended the Università di Padova (the second oldest university in Italy founded in 1222 and considered a premier Italian university similar to Oxford and Cambridge in the UK) as part of her year abroad included in her degree in French, Spanish and Italian at the University of Liverpool."

### Sarah Harman (née Snowdon, 1988)

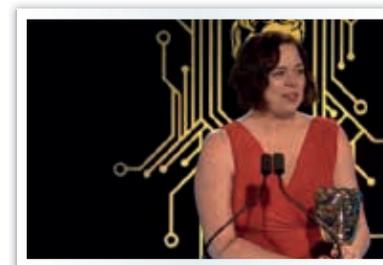
We welcomed former Head Girl, PC Sarah Harman (née Snowdon, 1988) to School to arrest Deputy Head, Mrs Gough for a charity event! Mrs Gough was led off stage in handcuffs during a Senior School assembly! The students then had to raise money for Mrs Gough's bail. Please be assured the arrest was fake! We were also delighted when Sarah accepted our invitation to be the Alumni reader at the Senior School Carol Service at Blackburn Cathedral at Christmas.



### Jessica Curry (1991)

Jessica got in touch to let us know some very exciting news...

"I just wanted to let you know that I won a BAFTA for Best Music at the Games Awards 2016! I am very proud that the company that I run with husband, Dan, came away with three BAFTAs in total so it was quite a night. Westholme always fostered my love of music - madrigals, choir, orchestra, musicals - I did the lot. So I would like say a big thank you to the School!" Well done, Jessica!



### Meriel Woodward (1991)

Meriel has had some exciting jobs around the world, but has recently given up her job in project management to do something more worthwhile. After a recent trip to India, she spent time with families living on a city dump and has pledged to help an Indian couple raise money to carry out projects improving education, sanitation, job prospects and healthcare. She has set up a UK branch of Indian organisation, KISES, and has been promised £10,000 as long as she can raise £20,000 herself to match it.



### Belinda Lalsing (1992)

News from Belinda:

"Hello. It's Belinda Lalsing here, I left Westholme in 1992. After leaving Westholme I gained my BEd Hons degree from Westminster College, Oxford. After my degree I moved back to the North of England and gained my first teaching job at Haworth Infant School, West Yorkshire. Being ambitious and thirsty for adventure I spent a year there then I was contracted out to New Zealand. I spent a few years in Auckland teaching and travelling around the island. During my time out there I met other expats and made lifelong friends. In 2000 I moved back to the UK, securing a teaching job in London. Within three months of moving back to the UK I was promoted to management; leading literacy and KS1! I stayed a couple of years at the school then gained a promotion to Deputy Headship in another London borough. In 2010 I made the hard decision to move back to the North West due to family commitments. Once back in Blackburn, I adapted to the 'northern ways' and worked in a few of the local schools. I bought a house in South Ribble and I am currently working as part of the leadership team in a local school. My official title is now Inclusion Manager and I have a lovely little lime green office! This year I am going back to studying, undertaking a Master's degree - studying and working at the same time! Well, that's enough from me - I was in contact with **Vikki Fickling (née Wilson, 1992)**, **Claire Benson** and **Karen Garton (née Reeder)**. However, over the past few years I have lost contact. If you are reading this guys please get in touch! Au revoir for now."

**P** **Abha Mooney**  
(née Gupta, 1994) &  
**Deborah Scholes**  
(née Taylor, 1997)

It was lovely to hear from Abha and Deborah who sent a joint update:

“Hi. What a coincidence! We thought we would write to let you know that two Old Westholmians now meet on a daily basis in Edinburgh when collecting our children from school! We both work part-time in the medical profession; Abha is a Consultant Ophthalmologist and Deborah is a GP. Abha’s middle child, Sofia, is friends with Deborah’s daughter, Jessica. They are both in nursery at the Erskine Stewart’s Melville School - a ‘diamond school’ similar to Westholme! Abha’s oldest child, Cara, is in P3 year, as is Deborah’s son, Ben. Abha also has baby Ross who was born almost one year ago.”

**Michelle Fielding (1995)**

Michelle has been in practice as an artist for the past 11 years in the Ribble Valley and exhibited last year in London. One of the big goals she had set herself was to get her work in London so having three exhibitions was fantastic!



**Lee Campbell**  
(née Jepson, 1997)

“Since marrying Phil in 2013, I’ve been promoted at work a few times and am now Group Managing Editor across the portfolio of craft magazines and books at Practical Publishing in Stockport. This is my 11th year with the company - I started as a Sub-Editor back in 2005 - so as you can imagine I love my job. However, I’ll be taking a career break very soon as Phil and I are expecting our first child, a little girl, in early September. Pregnancy has treated me well so far, fingers crossed the third trimester is as kind as the first two! I still have very fond memories of my time at Westholme (1987-1997); in fact **Heather Thomson (1997, née Belfield), Adila Afzal** and I got together a while back for a day of reminiscing over old stories, photos and year books, which was great fun. I’d even found a tape of us messing about back in Sixth Form in the old farm - happy days!”

**Bernadette Lomas**  
(née Huggon, 1999)

Bernadette sent us the following update: “So personally, I’m married and going back to work next week after my second child. The kids are 2 and 1 - complete bundles of fun, and definitely keep me and my husband on our toes! Pre-children, I was keeping up my music interests from school in singing with the Hallé choir, but juggling working life with family has meant this is on hold for a while. I’m an Anaesthetist and am spinning out my training because of maternity leave and working less than full time. I subspecialise in Paediatric and Obstetric Anaesthetics - my contact with babies, children and women, I find, is really satisfying work.

Outside work I’ve set up a network to provide free sessions raising awareness of life-saving skills for the public. It’s become clear that many people don’t have the confidence to seek out training courses, or believe that they would never be able to save a life. The sessions have been very well-received, particularly in encouraging people to take the next step and go on a formal course. This will hopefully be spreading nationally next year through collaboration with the Royal College of Anaesthetists.”



**Rachel Swift (2000)**

Rachel contacted us to send her apologies for not being able to attend the Alumni Concert. She now lives in Keswick where she works at the Theatre by the Lake and still plays the violin.

**Claire McKie (née Grindrod, 2002) and James McKie (1986)**

Since leaving Westholme in 2002, I’m embarrassed to say that this is my first update for the Purple Patch - I don’t know where the years have gone! However as I recently married another former Westholme pupil - **James McKie (1982 - 1986)** - I thought it was the perfect opportunity to send in a little update. After leaving Westholme I studied Law, and went on to train as a Solicitor at Backhouse Jones Solicitors. I qualified as a Solicitor in 2008 and have stayed with Backhouse Jones which is a

firm that specialises in transport law. In October 2015 I married James; we had a perfect day, and I’m happy to say that I was surrounded by family and friends, many of whom I met at Westholme. I’m very grateful for Westholme for the lifelong friends I made.

I’ve enclosed a picture and all the girls are Old Westholmians.



Left to right - Caroline Forrest (née Shuttleworth, 2002), Sally Evans (2002), Nicola Alden (2002), Victoria Whittaker (née West, 2002), Laura McKie (2000), Sarah Parker (née Grindrod, 2001), Rebecca Maudsley (2002) - (Becky will be Rebecca Hardman from June 2016!) Sarah Evans (née Matthewman, 2002), Jennie Bearman (née Franklin, 2002), Rebecca Gray (née Gillibrand, 2002)

**Catherine Mallord**  
(née Prest, 2003)

Joseph Bentley Mallord was born on St George’s Day, 2016 weighing 7lbs 13oz. Congratulations!



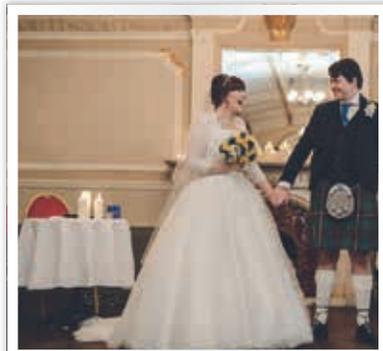
**P Alice Brooke (2004)**

Alice visited Westholme in March 2016 for an Alumni Careers presentation. Alice was able to provide a group of Year 11 and Sixth Form students with an insider's view to both Cambridge, where she studied as a student, and Oxford, where she now works in admissions. Thank you for your inspirational visit!

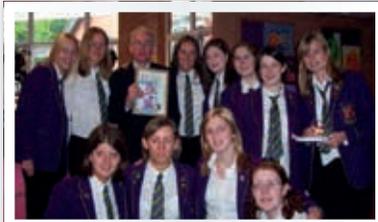
**Ann Littley (née Griggs, 2004)**

Ann sent us the following update:

"I got married in February of this year; it was a beautiful and fun day, surrounded by loved ones with many traditional Scottish elements such as hand fasting, lighting candles and drinking from a Quaich.



I hope everyone is well at Westholme. I look back at my time there very fondly. I've attached some old photos from our stand down day and one from World Book Day."

**Melanie Loudonsack (2004)**

Melanie is now working as a Casting Assistant Producer for King Bert Productions who are based in London. A recent project of hers was a new Channel 4 show hosted by David Walliams.

**Rachel Collins (2006) and Jonathan Oracz (1992)**

Former students and now current members of the Westholme teaching staff, Jonathan Oracz and Rachel Collins, got engaged in the summer holidays last year. Jonathan popped the question at a unique and romantic location whilst they were on their holiday in Greece, touring classical sites. The Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion is positioned on the edge of the

Attic coastline surrounded by beautiful views. There, he got down on one knee and Rachel said yes. They plan to wed in July 2017. Congratulations!

**Emma Hargreaves-Barlow (née Hargreaves, 2006)**

News from Emma:

"Having always had a big passion for business after leaving Westholme in 2006, I didn't go to university but decided to join my family's business. I am so glad I made this decision; I am my own boss and have been able to grow the business with passion.

I married Daniel, in June 2014 in Crete, Greece. We have now been together for nine and a half years and Daniel also joined me in the business six years ago. On August 26th this year we had a little boy called Harry. He is absolutely amazing, we love him so much.

I always look back on the time I spent at Westholme with pride, it was a great part of my life which I will always be thankful for.

Old Westholmians I am still in contact with besides my sister **Melissa Hargreaves (2009)** (update overleaf) of course are **Lucy Barr (2006)**, **Sarah Bradshaw (née Belshaw (2009))**, (I am godmother to her daughter Frankie) **Olivia Robertson (2009)**, **Lauren Black (2009)** and **Hannah Crossley (2009)**.

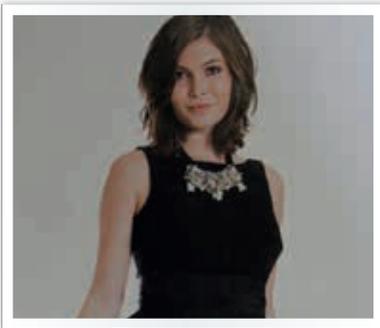
**Sophie Jones (2006)**

We were delighted to welcome Sophie to a Senior School assembly in which she was presented with a cheque for Lara's Foundation. 'Lara's Foundation' is a charity founded in April 2012, in memory of Sophie's sister, **Lara Jones (2003)**, a former Westholme student, who sadly passed away in 2012. The goal of her Foundation is to assist in increasing English Language capacity in low-income communities around the world. The money was raised by students at 'Night at the Movies' - a charity event held at School.



**P** **Melissa Hargreaves (2009)**

We spotted Melissa whilst flicking through a recent edition the Live Ribble Valley Magazine!

**Lucy Hutchinson (2009)**

We heard from Lucy in the last edition of the Purple Patch, when she told us about her newly awarded residency at Birmingham City Library. Since then we spotted an article online from the Birmingham Post.

“Artwork from some of the country’s biggest names will be shown at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery after it was given £600,000 to showcase the Arts Council Collection - the UK’s most widely seen collection of modern and contemporary art.



Lucy Hutchinson - 'Blonde'

The collection celebrates British talent from the 20th century to the present day and is known as the nation’s leading “art lending library”.

The move will see Birmingham-based artists Barbara Walker, Chris Clinton, Lucy Hutchinson and Stuart Whipps exhibited alongside pieces by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Lucian Freud, Mark Wallinger, Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, Grayson Perry, Glenn Brown and Jeremy Deller.”

These are certainly exciting times for Lucy!

**Lauren Struszczak (2010)**

After achieving outstanding A Level results, Lauren went on to Loughborough University where she graduated and then went on to do a master’s. She is now studying for a PhD:

“My PhD is titled the ‘anti-cancer effects of exercise’ with the Department of Health at Bath in collaboration with the Royal United Hospital. It is thought that exercise reduces the risk of developing cancer, and that fitter patients probably respond better to treatment, and we think that exercise will probably facilitate treatment. However, few/no clinicians “prescribe” exercise to patients, partly because the mechanisms by which exercise might help are not understood. The PhD will work to examine if the mechanisms are immunological in nature.

I have recently found out that Bath University will be taking me on an expenses paid 2 week trip to Brazil in September to work on a collaboration they have set up out there. My current job is taking me to Vienna in June to present my research at a Nutrition Conference - all really exciting and I love it! It’s really good to be thrown in at the deep end with regards to presenting because every time I improve - presenting in front of World Leaders in Sports Science is extremely daunting though!”

Lauren also plays football to a high standard: “My football team, Loughborough Foxes, won the league and have been promoted into the Women’s Premier League for next season. I won both the Player’s Player and Manager’s Player awards (the first person in the club’s history to do so) despite playing at Centre Back all season, although I’m convinced this is my football position ‘calling’. As I am moving to Bath next year I will probably need to consider a new club although Loughborough have agreed to pay me for travel expenses. I have been approached by two teams near Bath and have also been asked to trial for a team in the Women’s Super League.”

**Rachael Moodie (2011)**

Rachael visited Westholme to speak to GCSE and A Level Textiles students about her life post Westholme. After completing her studies with us, Rachael went to study Fashion at the University of Leeds. Whilst there, she completed a year in industry and worked for Fashion Designer, Bruce Oldfield where she gained lots of invaluable experience.

Westholme students were inspired as they heard Rachael talk about her experiences within the world of Fashion; she also brought along her portfolio which included designs she had made for an interview with Burberry!

Rachael also gave our Sixth Form students advice about studying in Leeds and was able to provide information about other universities she also considered when applying to study Fashion.

We were delighted to welcome Rachael back to Westholme, although her visit was only fleeting as she was flying out to America within a few days to start a new job working for Abercrombie and Fitch in Ohio - Westholmers really do get everywhere! We would like to wish Rachael the best of luck - thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to pay us a visit.



**P Katherine Donnelly (2012)**

Katherine graduated from the University of York with 2:1 in Law. Having gained lots of experience performing both at Westholme and university including being asked to choreograph the University of York's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Katherine has been accepted to study the Diploma in Dance at Trinity Laban, one of the top conservatoires for contemporary dance globally. She will be given intensive dance training which will enable her to develop her skills as a dancer and choreographer.

**Elizabeth Stebbings (2012)**

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Liverpool with a First Class Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Geography.



We also spotted this news article in the *Lancashire Telegraph* about Elizabeth's sporting achievements:



**Sophie Newbery (2012)**

Sophie visited Westholme as the company she now works for, Thornton Sports, were involved in the installation of the new floodlights on Westholme's all-weather pitch.

"Since leaving Westholme in 2012, I studied Fashion Marketing and Branding at Nottingham Trent University, and I graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) degree in June 2015. Since October 2015, I have been working as a Marketing Assistant at Thornton Sports Ltd in Altham, which is providing me with a great kick start to my Marketing career."

**Ciara Baxendale (2013)**

Ciara was very excited to tell us that she had been cast in her first professional play! It was a Royal Court Transfer called *Jumpy* and was on at Theatre Clwyd during March - April 2016.

She was cast to play the role of Lyndsey and fellow cast members included Sara Stewart from *Dr Foster* and Charlotte Beaumont from *Broadchurch*.



**Heather Duckworth (2013)**

Heather wrote in to let us know that herself and **Heather Wilkinson (2013)** received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at St James's Palace in October 2015. They had a lovely afternoon presentation where they met the Duke of Edinburgh who they noted seems extremely well for his age!



**Charlotte Jackson (2013)**

A recent email from Charlotte:

"Hi Westholmians!

After being at Westholme for seven years (and having the best seven years ever), I left Upper Sixth in 2012 with A Levels in English Literature, History and Religious Studies. I then went on to the University of York to study Law. Having studied my degree for three years, I have just graduated with a 2:1, so I'm now 'Charlotte Jackson LLB (Hons)' - it sounds so official!

I am currently spending my summer at Backhouse Jones Solicitors in Clitheroe. I love it here, I've settled in really well and everyone is so friendly - it's made the scary working world much less intimidating! I'm hoping to start my LPC (Legal Practice Course) this September so I can continue on the path to becoming a qualified Solicitor. I want to specialise in commercial law so I can work alongside companies, as I've always taken an interest in business.

I absolutely loved Westholme, it really is the best school you could ask for. I've heard stories from my university friends about their schools and I just really consider myself lucky for all of the experiences we had at school! There are three things that I most value from Westholme - the teaching/class sizes, the friends you make for life, and the confidence which you develop. Please make the most of your time at school, because it'll be over before you know it!

One final piece of advice - take every opportunity you can. I became a cheerleader at university and I had so much fun; I'd never imagined being part of that kind of sport. I was given the opportunity to work at Backhouse Jones out of the blue - I never expected it - and it's an incredible opportunity.

**P** All these random chances which get thrown at you - take them - because you won't regret them and it'll make life so enjoyable!

Good luck Westholme girls and boys!"



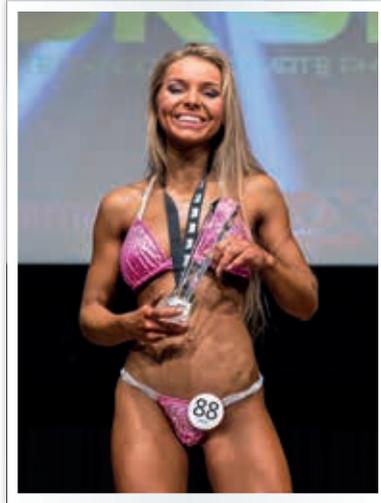
### Eleanor Lynch (2013)

"I haven't yet been in touch since I left Westholme in 2013! That's terrible of me.

I am currently coming to the end of my third year at medical school in Dundee and I am really looking forward to the two final years of clinical attachments that lay ahead to fully prepare me for clinical practice.

Whilst the stresses of medicine still plague myself and my classmates, I keep myself sane with the gym - in particular with my love of bodybuilding. I recently (November 2015) competed nationally after placing 1st in the Junior Bikini category at the North East regional qualifiers held in York. At the British championships, held three weeks later I came 3rd in my category.

A medical student with a passion for bodybuilding is certainly not your 'everyday!' but Westholme definitely taught me how to find a balance between doing the things we love but still finding success in our studies and I feel this has really blossomed throughout my years at medical school."



### Sophie Lamb (2014)

We spotted this update in the Lancashire Telegraph. Well done, Sophie!



### Jade Jones (2013)

We noticed this article in an edition of Live Ribble Valley...



### OPENING NIGHT

05.01.2016  
RIBBLE VALLEY  
ARTS & CULTURE, EDUCATION

*Sarah de Waard talks to aspiring playwright Jade Jones about the sell-out production of her latest play, Laura Bradshaw*

Drama and English Literature student Jade Jones is currently studying at the University of Manchester, and was recently chosen to showcase her play, *Laura Bradshaw*, at the prestigious Academy Building on Oxford Road. The three-night show was a huge success and played to a sold-out audience of staff, students and theatre industry insiders.

Jade, a former pupil of Westholme School, tells me: "I was delighted that the play was commissioned and it's been a wonderful experience to see my writing come to life on the stage." The play is set in 1924 and tells the story of *Laura Bradshaw*, a writer from the North of England who moves to the south to pursue her dreams.

Jade explains: "In essence it's a love story and a coming of age tale, told from the point of view of this strong female protagonist. Although it's a period piece it's very relevant to today and comments on the injustices that women still face even now. We see the main character through her novel coming to life, so we know her thoughts and aspirations through her subconscious mind."

Drama student Lauren Savage was cast in the lead role, and with a cast of 10, live music and a short rehearsal time, it was a race against time to ensure the play was ready for the opening night. "We rehearsed every day for three-and-a-half weeks, which was exhausting, and I'm so grateful for all the cast and crew for all the effort that they put in.

"It was a wonderful collaboration and it's vital to have the input of a team of people to make sure my vision for the play was realised whilst being able to take new ideas from them", says Jade. Jade's previous play, *Magnolias in Manhattan*, was performed at the university in March and also received critical acclaim.

She recalls: "I began writing *Laura Bradshaw* immediately afterwards but I felt that I wasn't getting anywhere with it so left it for a while, and when I came back I had fresh ideas and was able to finish it. I'm glad I persevered it just goes to show that you should never give up on something that you believe in!"

Jade will graduate in June and then hopes to continue as a playwright as a career. She is also a keen musician and songwriter and so will continue to perform gigs around the North West.

## P Former Staff

### Nicola Edgar

Our former Deputy Head sent us the following update:

"I can't believe that it is almost two years since I left Westholme - talk about the time flying! I still look at your website to find out what you are all up to - after 19 years of working at Westholme it is an important part of my life.

Headship is great - it is the best job in the world and even though I was sad to leave Westholme it was most definitely the right move for me. Saint Martin's is going from strength to strength in terms of numbers - there are now over 45 more girls in school since my arrival in September 2014. There has been a lot of change in staffing and I have had to deal with some difficult and unpleasant staffing issues but the school is in a much better place. I am settling into the area but still miss the café / bar culture of Didsbury. I have kept in touch with **Gemma Cunliffe** who is now working as an English teacher in Altrincham and I see **Lillian Croston** and **Anne Patefield** who are both enjoying retirement.

My big news of the year is that after 17 years Michael finally asked me to marry him in February! I am in wedding planning mode and learning about things that I never knew existed - chair covers, favours, etc.! We are coming back "up north" to get married and are planning to get married in October 2017 with the ceremony at Samlesbury Hall and a reception at Northcote."

### Chris Hall

We were given this lovely letter from Chris:

"It seems an absolute age since I left Westholme. I have to say that I have had no difficulty adapting to retirement! We seem to be busier than ever though. We are redoing the garden and it is finally beginning to look like less of a building site and more like a proper garden! Progress is slow because we keep doing other things like going off on holiday! I have to say that being free of school holiday dates is quite liberating. Of course we look after our four grandchildren part of the holidays. They are now aged nine, eight, six and five! Time flies! We are due to be grandparents again in November.

I sometimes look up the Westholme website just to see what is going on and the Development Office still send me the newsletter. It's good to see how things continue so successfully and of course I still recognise some of the pupils.

We are loving it here in Norfolk. The climate suits us as it's so relatively dry. We spend a lot of time walking and doing outdoor things. We have been to WEA classes about the local history of East Anglia, which has been fascinating. Norwich is a lovely city which is nice not only to shop in, but lovely to wander round, with its medieval streets, churches, cathedral and castle. There are always cultural things on and a couple of theatres as well as the university. It is a real hub for the area so well served."

Thanks for the update, Chris. It sounds as though your grandchildren keep you busy!

### Denise Lawrence-Beard and John Beard

"We thought it about time we sent you some news - as the school year is nearly over! We went to Cape Town for five weeks & did some trail walking with the Mountain Club of South Africa as well. Now (June 2016) we are on a cycling adventure - from Hereford to Portsmouth (200 miles) and now from Santander to Santiago de Compostela... then down to our house - about 2000 kilometres in total. The photo is proof that we are really here and cycling! End of Day 9 now... Should take us about 5 weeks! Do say "hi" to everyone - we do miss Westholme! Hope to pop back to visit but may not be until end of Autumn term now. Best wishes - Denise & John."

### Hannah Byrom-Patel (née Byrom)

Hannah is now living in Georgia, America and got married in February, to Nikhul.



### Helen Beetham (née Campbell)

Helen emailed across this lovely memory from her time spent at Westholme teaching Year 3 and Year 4 boys:

"The picture below was my leaving gift when I left Westholme to set up Learning Through Drama Ltd in 2005. It was made by the art teacher with a nod to 'pop art' & features the very first Year 3 and 4 boys (class of 2005) and myself in the middle. It hangs on the wall of my study where I now live in Belper, Derbyshire and makes me smile every time I see it - I guess these 7 and 8 year old boys will now be at university or indeed working!"

### Mary Haworth

Mary became a grandparent in May 2016, daughter Becky and baby are both doing well.



## P Elizabeth Gibson

'Handwritten'

"I like your handwriting," said a young man to me the other day, peering at my Latin homework. At my age, any compliment is a thrilling compliment, so I basked in the glory of this, even while considering that my future perfect endings should have been something other than I had perceived them to be when I had worked them out the night before. I do myself appreciate good handwriting, especially when accomplished with a decent fountain pen or upmarket rollerball instead of the shamefully basic biro I'd used for my exercise. I was always promoting it at Westholme, with links and joins practice, sessions on how to hold your pen ("But I've always done it like this!" the worst writers would cry in anguish when I suggested holding the pen between thumb and forefinger and resting it on the middle finger, instead of clutching it in a fist like Neanderthal Man), spacing, short and tall letters, etc., culminating in a handwriting competition for the whole year group. I would personally look at each entry with delight or despair, and award certificates and prizes and display the winning entries - some of you reading this will have won and will to this day have beautiful handwriting! At exam time, too, it used to grieve me to see girls sitting important public exams, wearing eye-wateringly expensive uniforms, whose parents had paid out a small fortune for their education thus far, writing out their answers using the flimsiest and shoddiest of cheap biros, which barely lasted the session and which produced sometimes unreadable scripts.

There are many examples in literature of the importance of handwritten communication - think Mr Darcy to Lizzie Bennett, or Malvolio fooled by what he thought was Olivia's distinctive style. I find, after years of deciphering other people's handwriting, that I can tell at a glance from the envelope who has sent the card or letter. **Mrs Croston** had - still has - a very recognisable hand. If she wanted to make a notice on the staff board stand out, she would hand-write it rather than word-process it, once typing an email became ubiquitous. Nevertheless, I am interested, too, in fonts and typefaces, and probably drove the printers of the School Magazine mad with my varied selections. I was particularly fond of Stone Serif, **Bodoni Bold** and *Lucida*, which ironically attempts to mimic handwriting. Typefaces are becoming increasingly homogenised, but some are instantly identifiable, such as the font of the London Underground, **Johnston Sans**, whose dots on the 'i' are tiny diamonds. Look around at shop signs, logos and advertisements.

Handwritten letters are always a joy to receive, but so are the emailed variety, so write to your friends, but above all, keep sending your news to The Purple Patch, however you choose to communicate!

Mrs Gibson.

We couldn't agree more, Mrs Gibson!

## Mrs Gibson's News of Former Staff

In no particular order, as they say on 'Strictly'...

### Gill Burgess (English)



Seen here at King George's Hall arranging the hood on my gown, flanked by **Holly Hammond (née Binge)**, with Matron resplendent in starched cap behind us. Note the BIG glasses! Gill's Christmas letter told of her five month sabbatical from Lancaster University's Management School, where she does support work, to take on GCSE, AS and A2 English teaching at the Girls' Grammar School. Her husband, Mark, who runs a successful IT company, wrote that the marking and preparation took over her life, with evenings, weekends and half term all consumed (that's teaching for you!). She returned to the university with a sigh of relief! Her son and daughter are both doing well in their respective fields.

### Elizabeth Plant (RE)

Is enjoying her church ministry and keeps up her travels. This year, it was Halkidiki, Istanbul to visit the seven churches named in Revelation, Fribourg in Switzerland, Sorrento to see Pompeii and Herculaneum, and Germany.

### Bobby Georghiou (Deputy Head/English)

Is (of course!) loving retirement, which involves cricket, inspection duties, gardening and lots of travel, despite expecting that she might be bored. She wrote with excitement of **Helena's** forthcoming wedding in August. Bobby's role is, she says, 'logistics', which remembering her input into the Westholme Millennium Dome excursion, should be no problem at all for her, even though the reception seems to involve getting on a boat and travelling to an island owned by Eton College! Helena, who works in advertising, and husband-to-be Jeff, have bought a flat in Streatham Hill, while sister **Tabitha** has also bought a flat in Bow, overlooking the Olympic Village and Canary Wharf. She works for McFarlane's in the City, is involved in mega-deals, and has had an article published in a legal journal.

### Pam Martin (Head of Sixth Form/German)

Now has two lovely grandchildren, Hector and Anna (known as Anouk). She and Peter are very much enjoying the second-childhood activities which we grandparents happily revert to, such as riding on steam trains and visiting play parks. Pam is involved in Levens village life, especially with the children, and works with the community youth service team. She opens her garden to public viewing, and has written pieces for a gardening journal. Her daughter **Sarah**, of the famous *Belle and Sebastian*, has toured the world this year, so Pam and Peter have looked after Pumpkin, her little dog. A busy life!



## P Anne Patefield (Vice Principal/Physics)

Is also throwing herself into grandparenthood, with two lovely and talented grandchildren claiming her attention. She and husband David do manage to find some time to go on holiday, though - much needed no doubt.

We were delighted to welcome Anne back to Wilmar Lodge on the last day of term to judge the ever competitive House Spoken English competition!



## Gillian Porter (English)

Moved up to Whitley Bay in January and is loving being by the sea. Daughter **Clare (2006)**, who is a qualified dentist, married Chris in March and they have a baby son, James. Her sister **Anna (2009)** was at the time of writing being interviewed for prestigious medical academic training posts. Son **Patrick** is now at university in the North East. All in all, some happy new beginnings.

## Pam Barnes (Head of Science)

Has moved from St Bees to be nearer to her daughters in the south. She was staying initially with Sarah, in Brentford, Middlesex, and hoping to buy a flat in Saffron Waldren near Cambridge. Joanna lives there, working at the Charles Moore Foundation.

## Ann Kershaw (Sociology/Law)

Had major knee surgery in January and is recovering well. She retains her acerbic wit and frank expression

of views! Daughter **Antonia** is the mainstay of the academic timetable at Durham University and has travelled to some impressive places recently, including a trip to China.

## Gemma Cunliffe (Registrar)

Has begun a new career in teaching. **Mrs Croston** mentioned that she was teaching English at a school in Altrincham, and had gained the accolade of 'outstanding' for an observed lesson - no mean feat!

## Margaret Wilcock (Head of Year/French)

Has two daughters who live in France, Julie and Elizabeth. She has become a granny for the second time, and has been over in France doing granny duty. She still loves going to the gym and is involved with her local church.

## Marie-Louise Sullivan (English)

Texted me on St George's Day, which also marked the 900th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, to tell me that she was off to meet **Laura**, who was in Stratford with HRH and his entourage for that evening's celebrations. By HRH, she meant Prince Charles, accompanied by Camilla. Perhaps you saw the Prince on the BBC's broadcast of the event, when he memorably delivered the last attempt at correctly phrasing, "To be, or not to be? That is the question." Marie-Louise lives in Stratford now, so is handily placed to indulge her love of the Bard. Laura works as a press officer for our future monarch.

## Lynne Hepworth (Maths)

Met me in December for our annual visit to Northcote Manor for a spot of seasonal lunch. Her daughter **Jenny** now has a high-flying financial role in Switzerland. Lynne herself has achieved the unusual feat of being elected not

just Lady Captain of Nelson Golf Club (been there, got the tee-shirt, seen the film) but President! She arranges golfing holidays abroad, when not hammering the opposition at the bridge club.

## Jean Asher (English)

Lives in the lovely North Yorkshire village of Stainforth, where I visited her and husband John in March. I'd lost my voice completely, but we still managed to have a good time. Like **Pam Martin**, Jean is very involved in village life. She's a member of her local U3A, and helps out a lot with **Meg's** children, who are all high-flyers academically. Meg has a very senior consultancy role in

the A & E department at Airedale Hospital, but finds time to play in the Settle orchestra and indeed performed in Mr Millett's alumni concert earlier this year.

I have bumped into **Audrey Holden** (Art), with whom **Ann Kershaw** is in touch, in Benedicts in Whalley, and **Doreen Kendal** (Head of Year/Physics) in The Apricot Meringue in Clitheroe - and yes, it confirms what you think about us retirees: we do spend half our time lunching out, in a vain attempt to compensate for the loss of our delicious Westholme lunches, courtesy of Sue Ballan and her expert team, who knock spots off any commercial enterprise!

## Mrs Gibson's News of Former Pupils

When I first revived the Old Girls' Association, when **Mrs Croston** took over from **Dr Bond** as Principal, the internet was in its infancy and contact was mainly through snail mail. Records were kept on cards in a filing system and there were few Old Boys, because they left at the Billinge House stage. Now, you are able to keep in touch with School at the press of a button or touch of a screen, enabling The Purple Patch to go from strength to strength, put together these days by Alex Pearson of the Development Office. Here are a few items from my own correspondence.

## Judith Pearson (née Eastwood, 1984)

Lives in Firby, near York, with husband Duncan, who works in IT. Judith herself works hard as a SENCO and specialist literacy teacher. Her son, John, has a place at Bristol to read Physics, and daughter, Heloise, is in the LV1 now.

## Emma Huepfl (née Slinger, 1989)

Is enjoying life out of London in Sutton Courtney, although she and husband Bernie commute in each day. Children

Stani, Josie and Cici sound to have a good mix of Emma's skills and interests - at school, she was a fine sportswoman but could also sing beautifully, and of course was an excellent English scholar! Stani likes music, comedy and Man United, Josie enjoys tennis, hockey, singing and drumming, and Cici loves anything fast, loud or funny, and protecting small creatures. They all visited NYC, which Emma says was 'fantastic', and joined extended family to celebrate mum and dad's Golden Wedding in Scotland.

## P Caroline Warner (née Sutcliffe)

I had my usual lovely letter from Caroline at Christmas, telling me of her life down in Caterham, Surrey. Her daughter Mae, aged 8, seems to have inherited her mother's love of literature and also her netball skills, playing in Caroline's old position of Goal Shooter. Mae is also good at art, but there, as Caroline says, they diverge. She remembers **Mrs Suddick** refusing to mark her first year art exam because she couldn't stop laughing, so couldn't judge it properly! Caroline finished her master's this year, gaining a distinction, and has had a somewhat esoteric article based on Matthew Arnold and William Morris published in an academic journal. She has now embarked upon a PhD on Henry James and Photography. Her good friend at school, **Phillipa Smith**, after taking an English degree at Glasgow, settled there, married and has a family. After doing a PhD in Film Studies, she now lectures at Stirling University. Equally good friend **Seema Kennedy (née Ghiassi's)** success in becoming an MP has inspired Caroline to consider dipping her own toe into the world of politics - local at the moment, but who knows in the future? Seema took Caroline to the Strangers' Restaurant for her birthday, and walking across Westminster bridge reminded her of Wordsworth's sonnet of that name, one of our favourite bits of class poetry.

## Alexandra Carter (née Gibson, 1996)

Alex is still at Gatwick Airport, on the management team. She recently won an 'Outstanding' award in the field of People, Process and Technology. A lot of her work involves auditing the processes

of contractors who work at the airport on construction projects.



Elizabeth Gibson's birthday with her daughter Alex and grandchildren Annabella, Imogen and Henry.

## Joy Eccles (née Taylor, 1996)

Has three children who are all growing up fast. Holly and twins Sophie and Thomas have all started full-time school. Her brother Ben was married this year in London. Joy continues to work as a physiotherapist, and is as lively and full of fun as she was when she was Deputy Head Girl at School!

## Diana Vickers (2008)

People pass on to me cuttings about the fortunes of Diana, who is forging ahead with her career in the entertainment business. She starred in a new sitcom called 'Give Out Girls' on Comedy Central. People were attempting to take the free samples they were giving out as part of the filming in Bolton - very funny, says Diana, in an interview for The Citizen.

## Sad News

### Ken Woolley

We saw this sad news in the Lancashire Telegraph:

'Tributes have been paid to Ken Woolley, the 'driving force' behind Blackburn Rugby Union Club and a successful businessman.

Blackburn-born Mr Woolley was the former managing director of Cupal, a family pharmaceutical supply business which was based on King Street.

The 88-year-old died peacefully in hospital.

Mr Woolley, who lived in Pleasington and went to Westholme prep school, later moved to Ribchester and then Chipping.

He began playing for Blackburn Rugby Union Football Club while still at Sedbergh School and went on to be club captain in 1952/3, president from 1970 to 1974 as well as honorary club captain.

Members of the club said he was the driving force behind the scenes at Blackburn and his successful quest for Lottery funding in 1996 helped transform the club both on and off the field, creating playing surfaces which are the envy of the surrounding clubs.'



## P Alumni Lunch; 1930s - 1960s

A special reunion lunch for leavers from 1930s - 1960s was held at Senior School.

Conversation flowed as the school uniform, changes in the curriculum and their favourite teachers were all discussed. Old Westholmian and Commercial Director, **Vivienne Davenport** even commented that she could see the familiar 'Westholme spirit' in all of the guests! Old friendships were rekindled and new relationships were formed as both old girls and boys mused over archive photographs and even found their names in the admissions registers.

It was a wonderful opportunity for current staff members and some of our Sixth Form students to meet former students and learn about Westholme traditions from years gone by. It really was a special afternoon and another superb Westholme event.

### Angela Hume (née Walker, 1956)

"I did so enjoy the lunch and warm welcome which Westholme generously provided for the Alumni. It was particularly interesting to see the photographs and records from the archives. The attention to detail such as the colours of the flowers on the table was much appreciated and we all had a great time. Thank you very much."

### Isobel Widdup (née Speak, 1957)

"I was so thrilled to meet former colleagues and old girls from Westholme. It was a delightful occasion. I can't thank you enough for the delicious food and all the thought that was put to the day - it was very much appreciated and very special - thank you. How proud I am to be an Old Westholmian and an ex Head Girl!"

### Memories shared:

Emily Singleton had a goat, bees and a dog named 'Rip van Winkle' who had a mat in every class!



## P The Alumni Concert 2016

The Croston Theatre played host to the Alumni Concert which saw many of our former students and staff return to their alma mater to perform in a spectacular show of all things music.

The event was the brainchild of our talented Director of Music, Mr Millest who, for many months worked extremely hard in securing the acts who were eager to return to perform on the infamous Westholme stage.



The concert was simply wonderful; like so many of our school performances, it brought inspiration, enjoyment and pleasure to members of the audience. It really did offer something for everyone and began with an amazing arrangement of *Rossini's Overture: William Tell* and from that moment on, the performances got better and better. Songs from musicals, classical pieces and more up to date numbers were performed by the talented group and many of the instrumental numbers sounded divine.



All too soon, the concert came to an end and it was lovely to see **Mrs Croston** take to the stage to deliver the Vote of Thanks. Mr Millest's programme words said the evening was a very special 'once-in-a-lifetime-experience' and he certainly wasn't wrong! We must offer our extreme thanks to him for organising such a spectacular concert and well done to all of the performers.

**P** From the archives...



**Miss Thompson** and her class. The year is unknown; if you spot yourself please let us know!



The inaugural Senior School Sports' Day, June 1988



A Senior School Prizegiving Ceremony at King George's Hall in the 1990s.



April 1988 - the retirement of **Dr J Bond** as Principal. **Andrea Gardner (née Kenyon, 1988)** and **Sarah Harman (née Snowdon, 1988)** (Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl) presented her with a hi-fi on behalf of the girls.

P



2nd Form French Trip, 1988



Memories from the Class of 2013 Year Book



Wilmar Lodge Staff Entertainment, December 1987



Westholme won the recorders and choral speaking categories at Blackburn Music Festival in 1994.

# P Social Media

Times change and social media is developing fast. Here are a few memories and from the world of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



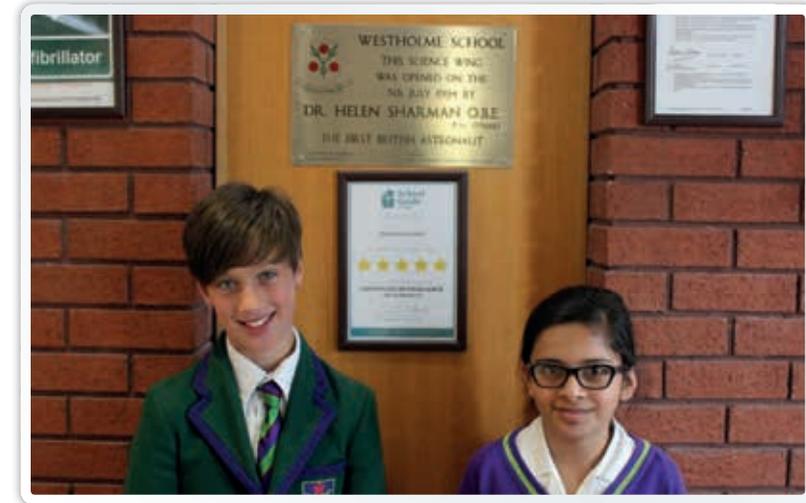
Gayle Bolton (née Webb, 1984) shared this memory on Facebook with Sarah Winkley (née Hull, 1984), Kay Leech (née Downham, 1984) and Liz Talbot (née Brown, 1986).



Still a popular trip for our Year 11 students!



Old Westholmian, Hattie Campbell (2014) shared this lovely picture of former Deputy Head Girl, Lucy Horsfield (2014) with Lillian Croston.



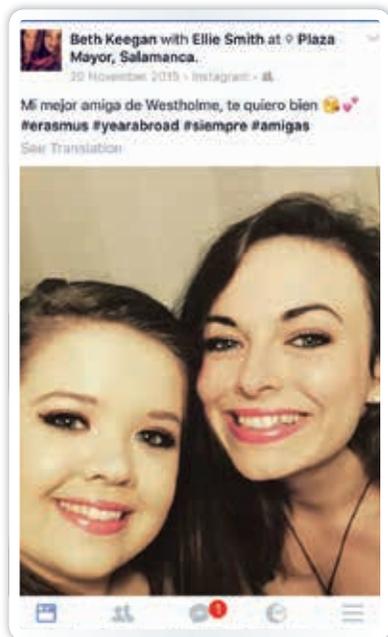
We were thrilled to learn that some of our current Junior School students were to attend a lecture at UCLan where they listened to Helen Sharman speak about her 8 days spent aboard the Russian Mir Space Station in 1991. We even took a picture of two of our current students next to the plaque which Helen unveiled at the official opening of the Science wing. Helen remembered her visit to Westholme fondly!



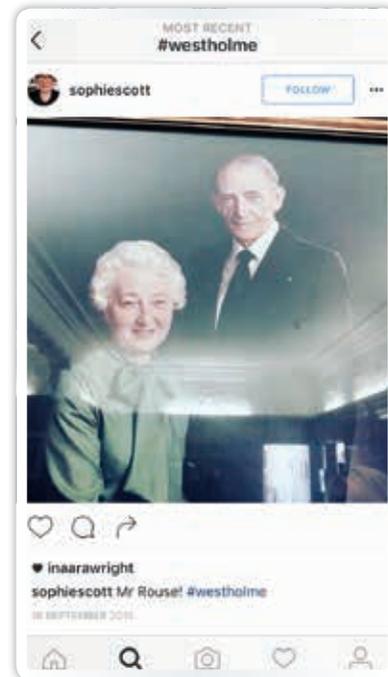
Britain's first astronaut Helen Sharman chats with Westholme School pupils in 1994.



#WestholmeBeauties!



Westholmers abroad!



This picture hangs on the walls at Wilmar Lodge.



# P Honour Boards

When Alumni return to Westholme, the Honour Boards are always a highlight to see. We thought we would share them with you here...

HEAD GIRLS		HEAD GIRLS	
1968-69 KFT SHARPLES	1991-92 HELEN WOOD	1991-92 HELEN WOOD	2008-09 M.TAYLOR
1969-70 CHERYL NICOL	1992-93 SEEMA GHAGGI	1992-93 SEEMA GHAGGI	2009-10 A.DORRASHIAN
1970-71 JANET STONE	1993-94 SARAH COOPER	1993-94 SARAH COOPER	2010-11 D.MILLIGAN
1971-72 KARENTH BOICAN	1994-95 KATE HOWE	1994-95 KATE HOWE	2011-12 F.KINLOCH
1972-73 RENEE SHAW	1995-96 SAMANTHA MERCER	1995-96 SAMANTHA MERCER	2012-13 S.WARD
1973-74 HELEN DAVIES	1996-97 REBECCA HARDING	1996-97 REBECCA HARDING	2013-14 L.HORSFIELD
1974-75 JANET CAWTHORLEY	1997-98 CATHERINE WRIGHT	1997-98 CATHERINE WRIGHT	2014-15 H.PATEL / M.HOLDEN
1975-76 LYNN FRANKLAND	1998-99 GILLIAN BREARLEY	1998-99 GILLIAN BREARLEY	2015-16 S.SHAH / G.SHARP
1976-77 GILLIAN MORGAN	1999-00 SARAH TURNER	1999-00 SARAH TURNER	
1977-78 CATHERINE DAVIES	2000-01 LAURA SZELEMAN	2000-01 LAURA SZELEMAN	
1978-79 PHILIPPA GASCOIGNE	2001-02 REBECCA MAUDSLEY	2001-02 REBECCA MAUDSLEY	
1979-80 GILLIAN MORRIS	2002-03 RAHIMA PATEL	2002-03 RAHIMA PATEL	
1980-81 RUTH TABERNER	2003-04 ELIZABETH LOWRIE	2003-04 ELIZABETH LOWRIE	
1981-82 ADELE HORNE	2004-05 PIPPA WILLIAMSON	2004-05 PIPPA WILLIAMSON	
1982-83 CAROLINE COUGHLIN	2005-06 HEED CASTALL	2005-06 HEED CASTALL	
1983-84 ELIZABETH HEIDEN	2006-07 LIZZIE WHITTLE	2006-07 LIZZIE WHITTLE	
1984-85 JANE PILETHORPE	2007-08 NANNAH WIGTON	2007-08 NANNAH WIGTON	
1985-86 CATHERINE McFARLANE	2008-09 LUCY KE JOHN	2008-09 LUCY KE JOHN	
1986-87 GILLIAN HADSDEN	2009-10 RACHAEL FOSKER	2009-10 RACHAEL FOSKER	
1987-88 SARAH SNOWDON	2010-11 VANESSA SHIELDS	2010-11 VANESSA SHIELDS	
1988-89 SHELLEY RAMMAN	2011-12 MAAHAM AHMED	2011-12 MAAHAM AHMED	
1989-90 LOUISE BELDERBOS	2012-13 CHARLOTTE STOCKWELL	2012-13 CHARLOTTE STOCKWELL	
1990-91 SARAH FORBES	2013-14 HANNAH BAGMALL	2013-14 HANNAH BAGMALL	
	2014-15 OLIVIA SALLS	2014-15 OLIVIA SALLS	
	2015-16 FLORA KIRKON	2015-16 FLORA KIRKON	

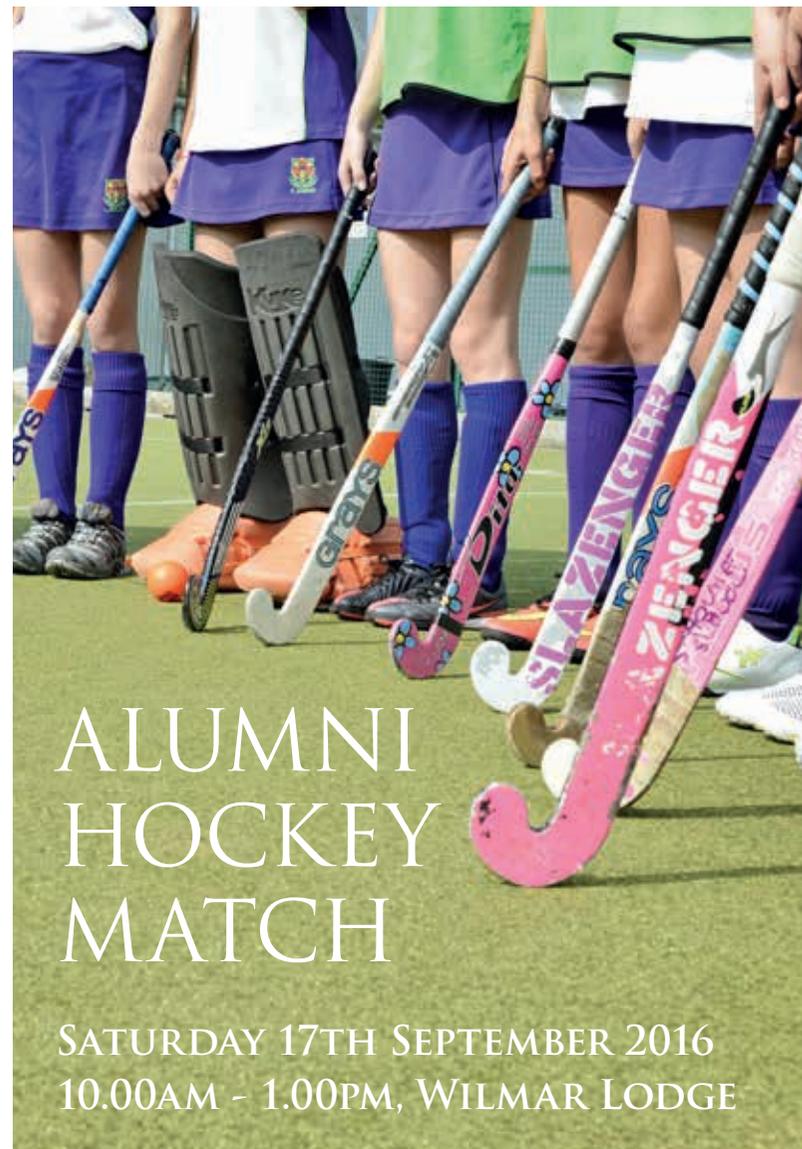
DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS		DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS	
1968-69 G.FAIRLESS	1982-83 A.GUDE	1996-97 H.EATOUGH	2009-10 A.DORRASHIAN
1969-70 J.STONE	1983-84 C.YOUNGER	1997-98 F.DALEY	2010-11 D.MILLIGAN
1970-71 S.ASKEW	1984-85 S.MALIK	1998-99 L.ADAMS	2011-12 F.KINLOCH
1971-72 J.GUTTERIDGE	1985-86 E.SMETHURST	1999-00 N.CLARKE	2012-13 S.WARD
1972-73 A.HUTCHINSON	1986-87 J.FIELDING	2000-01 L.BRAITHWAITE	2013-14 L.HORSFIELD
1973-74 M.BRIGGS	1987-88 A.KENYON	2001-02 V.JAGADESHAM	2014-15 H.PATEL / M.HOLDEN
1974-75 S.STEVENS	1988-89 L.BABER	2002-03 S.CRAWSHAW	2015-16 S.SHAH / G.SHARP
1975-76 A.DUNNIE	1989-90 N.CHARNLEY	2003-04 M.LOUDONSHAW	
1976-77 R.WATSON	1990-91 A.PEARSON	2004-05 E.SULLIVAN	
1977-78 S.MOSELEY	1991-92 P.NAHA-BISWAS	2005-06 M.GRAY	
1978-79 A.NEVETT	1992-93 C.GARDNER	2006-07 E.BARNES	
1979-80 J.PEAKE	1993-94 A.EDWARDS	2007-08 H.COOPER	
1980-81 S.EDGE	1994-95 K.DEWHURST	2008-09 M.TAYLOR	
1981-82 E.LLOYD-WATTS	1995-96 J.TAYLOR		

SCHOOL CAPTAINS SPORT		SCHOOL CAPTAINS SWIMMING	
1984-85 H.McNULTY	1984-85 C.BABER	1996-97 N.BURRIDGE	1996-97 E.HAWORTH
1985-86 M.WOODHOUSE	1985-86 L.WATSON	1997-98 A.WARD	1997-98 E.HARDING
1986-87 C.GRIME	1986-87 K.CAVE	1998-99 H.ASHCROFT	1998-99 R.FAIRGROTH
1987-88 C.ROBERTS	1987-88 N.ALSTON	1999-00 J.DUCKWORTH	1999-00 N.SMITH
1988-89 D.KERSHAW	1988-89 S.BOARDMAN	2000-01 S.GRINDROD	2000-01 A.DAVIES
1989-90 M.BUCKLEY	1989-90 D.DARBY	2001-02 C.GRINDROD	2001-02 V.WEST
1990-91 K.LEE	1990-91 V.HENRY	2002-03 K.GIBSON	2002-03 S.MALA / S.MALA
1991-92 H.BELDERBOS	1991-92 C.BOARDWELL	2003-04 R.COAR	2003-04 J.LOUGHHEAD
1992-93 B.WOLFENDEN	1992-93 S.FISHWICK	2004-05 A.JORDAN	2004-05 H.FORBES
1993-94 J.KAY	1993-94 A.CUNNINGHAM	2005-06 D.MORTON	2005-06 P.WEST
1994-95 J.BURRIDGE	1994-95 S.GILL	2006-07 J.BROOKFIELD	2006-07 E.REYNOLDS
1995-96 L.BARRON / H.BRUNT	1995-96 K.HARWOOD		2006-07 H.UNSWORTH

SCHOOL CAPTAINS MUSIC		SCHOOL CAPTAINS DRAMA	
2009-10 H.BUCKLEY	2009-10 M.COOPER	2007-08 Z.WADDICOR	2007-08 M.STONES / K.SHUTTLEWORTH
2010-11 H.McINTOSH	2010-11 F.PORRITT	2008-09 E.FAIRBROTHER	2008-09 K.SHUTTLEWORTH
2011-12 A.DAVIES	2011-12 A.HUTCHINSON	2009-10 M.FULFORTH / L.STRUSZCZAK	2009-10 R.WALTON / G.STAPLETON
2012-13 J.JONES	2012-13 H.BUTTON	2010-11 L.NAJIA	2010-11 L.BALL / F.HILL
2013-14 G.LAMDURY	2013-14 A.GAVAN	2011-12 E.HOLDEN	2011-12 E.THOMPSON
2014-15 H.CAMPBELL	2014-15 L.SAGE	2012-13 J.CLEGG / E.WATTS	2012-13 K.MILLAR
2015-16 S.PARSONSON	2015-16 K.DUTTON	2013-14 B.WALKER SMITH	2013-14 E.BUCKLEY / L.FOSKETT
		2014-15 H.ADAMSON	2014-15 S.WILKINSON
		2015-16 S.MAUDSLEY	
		2016-17 K.BUCKLEY	
		2017-18 S.LEAVER / C.MILLINGTON	
		2018-19 K.BERRY / E.DEAN	
		2019-20 G.COLLIUM / E.WINTER	
		2020-21 K.GREENALL	



# ALUMNI HOCKEY MATCH

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2016  
10.00AM - 1.00PM, WILMAR LODGE

Alumni v Current Westholme Team

*Open invitation to all to come and play or spectate!  
Lunch and refreshments will be provided.*

Please contact Alex Pearson, [pearsona@westholmeschool.com](mailto:pearsona@westholmeschool.com) to confirm your attendance

# *Forthcoming Events*

## **Alumni Hockey Match**

**Open invitation to all to come and play or spectate!**

Saturday 17th September, 10.00am -1.00pm

Venue: Wilmar Lodge

## **Save the Date!**

Thursday 16th March 2017

Help required for an Alumni Networking Dinner that is being arranged to help inspire current Westholme students. We will be in touch soon with more information.

## **We need your advice!**

Can you suggest any venues or locations for a reunion?  
If so, please contact [pearsona@westholmeschool.com](mailto:pearsona@westholmeschool.com)

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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