

To Read and So ...

Art Fair at JAGS, Saturday 21 November (11am-5pm) and Sunday 22 November (11am-4pm)

Oil, watercolour, acrylic, textile, sculpture, pottery, charcoal or pencil; whatever the medium, we have space to display and sell the work of any alumnae who are professional artists at our next annual Art Fair at JAGS. If you are interested in joining the elite group of artists, drawing interest from local and national visitors over the weekend, and in supporting the fund-raising for the JACMC, our new proposed Community Music Centre, contact Jenni Holman.

What shall we do?

Alumnae have the answer. 14 of them have piped up to tell us what to do and where to go! So far, Ruth Burtonshaw (Gibberd, Year of '80), Sarah Young (Gbedemah, Year of '80), Daphne Clayton (Butler, Year of '51), Frances Eggo (May, Year of '56), Kathy Audibert (Gowing, Year of '59), Marie Nicholson (Tunnicliff, Year of '54), Alison Miles (Bremner, Year of '78), Natasha Ashdown (Nicholson, Year of '94), Karen Gilbert (Elias, Year of '89), Ann Edmunds (Year of '64), Judy Ratzin (Year of '85), Hilary Devonshire (Year of '58), Laura Hooper (Year of '02), and Charlotte Winter (Year of '08) have volunteered to represent their year groups, bringing a sharp new focus to reunions and events both at JAGS and off-site, two of which we can unveil. So - calling all alumnae - and sons, daughters and grandchildren of alumnae.... Dust off your toy chests and prepare yourselves for a **Teddy Bears' Picnic** on the playing fields on what we're sure will be a balmy summer's day. Contact Cindy Rutherford with the ages of children attending this free event which runs from 11.30am - 3pm on 23 July. And in the autumn, get yourselves ready to absorb the glorious atmosphere of **Dulwich Picture Gallery** on a **private tour**. Details will be available via Cindy RutherfordAnd if you have burning ambition to gather alumnae and can think of an imaginative venture, please let Cindy know.

Legacies help secure the future of very deserving girls

Leaving a legacy to JAGS in your will is an excellent way of supporting the school. We particularly welcome such gifts not only to assist with the development of our facilities but also to help to increase the number of James Allen's Assisted Places.

At present we are offering up to 19 a year, but we are eager to expand the scheme to enable as many talented girls as possible to benefit from a JAGS education regardless of their parents' ability to pay.

There are many forms of legacies. Some people leave a cash gift, others leave a bequest of property, stocks, shares or other valuables. Legators are enrolled as members of the James Allen Society. They wear the pin of the Society and are invited to attend the Society's annual lunch.

To discuss any aspect of leaving a legacy to James Allen's Girls' School, please contact (in confidence) Alison Evans, Director of Development.

A sense of perspective

We were delighted to hear from Maureen Ellis (Perrett) Year of '56

I am very grateful for the education I received at JAGS between 1943 and 1954 and the school holds a special place in my heart. I started in the kindergarten and left after O levels and my sister, Janet, followed two years later. I have fond memories of dedicated teachers like Mrs Pickford, Miss Wood, Miss Peebles and Miss Knott in my earliest years and to whom I owe particular gratitude because in 1949 my Father died from injuries received in a serious car crash. This was obviously a traumatic incident for me and Janet and I know we received sympathetic treatment from those teachers when we returned to school. Headmistress, Miss Edwards, whose voice reverberating down a corridor would produce an immediate response, also treated us with great care in those difficult days and we benefited from help available from the Benevolent Fund. Janet and I both passed our 11+ which meant that our fees were paid for by the local authority until we left at 16. Although current pupils have much greater opportunities in the 21st century, the grounding that we received from a wide curriculum including music and sport (with the then modern swimming pool) has stood us in good stead all our lives.

Maureen Ellis

Alumnae who have memories to share are encouraged to send them to Cindy Rutherford.

Keep up to date with life at JAGS by joining the official JAGS Facebook Fanpage!
(More about this in the next issue)



Grandmother's Footsteps

We'd like to hear from you if you followed the example of your mother, grandmother, or even your great-grandmother by coming to JAGS. 2nd, 3rd and 4th generations..... contact Cindy Rutherford.

Diary Dates

Teddy Bears' Picnic at JAGS Alumnae event
Thursday 23 July 11.30am-3pm

JAGS Community Orchestra Concert
Sunday 13 September 7.30pm
Holst Hall

Orchestral Concert
Wednesday 11 November 7.30pm
Holst Hall

Art Fair at JAGS
Saturday 21 November 11am-5pm
Sunday 22 November 11am-4pm
Dining Hall

Senior School Production 'The Trial'
Wednesday 2 - Friday 4 December 7.30pm
Prissian Theatre

Choral Concert
Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm
St Barnabas

Alumnae should contact Cindy Rutherford if they wish to attend events

Visit our website for details of events and news

www.jags.org.uk

Contacts

James Allen's Girls' School
144 East Dulwich Grove
London SE22 8TE
www.jags.org.uk

Editor and Communications Director
alison.venn@jags.org.uk

Director of Development
alison.evans@jags.org.uk
(020 8299 8410)

Alumnae Co-ordinator
cindy.rutherford@jags.org.uk
(020 8299 8405)

Art Fair Co-ordinator
jenni.holman@jags.org.uk
(020 8693 1181)

Registered Charity Nos.
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James Allen's Community Music Centre

Making space for music It has been a busy spring for the Campaign to build the James Allen's Community Music Centre, with three events helping to raise money and to spread the word. We were delighted to work with current JAGS parents Rose and Alastair Ballantyne, both keen music buffs, who put on a hugely enjoyable Music Quiz in May. Earlier that month, Duncan Pratt (former JAGS parent) undertook a 63 mile sponsored walk along St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) off the Northumbrian Coast. We are enormously grateful to Rose, Alastair and Duncan for their magnificent efforts on behalf of the Campaign.

The end of term saw the culmination of the sponsored Grade One Challenge, of which the Headmistress writes in her letter. We've heard about the mix of trepidation and determination with which the Grade One candidates and performers faced the challenge - but it is also right to say how much the rest of us admire what they've achieved.

All three events have helped not only to raise money but also to deepen the widespread support we need for the Campaign. We are already planning future Campaign events and are delighted to say that the popular Art Fair of the Autumn Term will be repeated this November.

In April we were gripped by the exhilarating visit of the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela to London South Bank. The world-class standard of this orchestra (the flagship of the Venezuelan *El Sistema*) is testimony to what young musicians of all backgrounds can achieve - and what a transforming role music can play in the lives of practically everybody. Food for thought when shaping the vision for the JACMC in the local community. JAGS, of course, already supports community music and recently hosted two events in the Dulwich Festival (a scratch performance of 'Carmina Burana', and a concert of Brahms' chamber music), as well as Mozart Aid, a fundraising concert for UNICEF.

Our collective efforts have now raised £361,292 in donations, pledges and income. This is a very real help to us as we continue to follow up leads to secure a major gift, as it demonstrates clearly the groundswell of support for the project. Thank you to everyone for such generosity.

Please do check out our Campaign website (www.jags.org.uk/jacmc), where you can keep up-to-date with progress, make a gift or sponsor an event. And please feel free to contact the Development Office (development@jags.org.uk) with any suggestions and leads you think would be helpful to the Campaign.

Alison Evans

So how much do you know about music?

After suggesting the idea of a JAGS Music Quiz in aid of the JACMC, Alastair and Rose Ballantyne became quizmasters on Friday 15 May 2009 in the Holst Hall at JAGS.

17 teams of up to 8 people took part - some even managed to sneak an extra team member on for good measure! Alastair and Rose made excellent quizmasters and tested the musical knowledge of all those attending.

Teams were named after famous composers, ranging from Elton John to Chopin to Vanessa-Mae. The winning team was 'Dolly Parton', achieving a score of 102 out of a possible 116 points.

The raffle prizes went to very good homes; we saw music teachers Leigh O'Hara and Caroline Davis valiantly attempt to play 6 instruments in the 'Guess the Musical Instrument' round, and we were entertained by a Year 8 quartet during the supper break. We raised £4300 for the JACMC and, overall, a good time was had by all! *Laura Hooper, Development Co-ordinator*



From the Headmistress

I hope you enjoy reading about our environmental work in this issue. JAGS pupils of all ages are eager to re-use, recycle and be innovative with scarce resources. Our latest project to raise funds and awareness for the new Community Music Centre here at JAGS is certainly innovative and has also involved role reversals of the young and not so young - not quite recycling, but definitely a redistribution of talents!

This year some of our staff have undertaken the Grade One Challenge. Last autumn, instruments were chosen, teachers found and lessons began. However, it was the staff who were the pupils and in many cases, their teachers were JAGS pupils. Brave adult beginners tackled the clarinet, cello, violin, horn, trombone, piano, saxophone, bass guitar, ukulele and voice, to name but a few.

We quickly realised just how our pupils must feel in their lessons: homework was left till the last minute, we arrived late for some lessons, we kept making the same mistakes and we did not find quite enough time for practice. Some of the participants decided to defer until next year, but 16 or so resolute (or foolhardy) stalwarts faced the stern gaze and keen ear of the external examiner. Speaking personally, I was terrified! It was my first ever music examination and I appeared to be incapable of differentiating between 2/4 and 3/4 or performing the other aural tests. Grade One singing seemed a good idea - I have always wanted to learn to sing properly and I could practise anywhere, any time. No one told me I would have to sing four songs (one unaccompanied) and undertake five aural tests. I am now full of even greater admiration for our many very talented musicians here at JAGS.

After the examinations, we provided a surprise end-of-term concert for the girls - I am not sure that the Holst Hall has ever witnessed such a performance. The incentive was sponsorship - we were determined to raise as much as we could towards the JACMC project and some of our sponsors offered extra bonuses if we performed in public. The money is still coming in (have a look at the JACMC website if you would like to donate) but we hope to have raised several thousands of pounds. We were also featured in the Times Educational Supplement on 19 June.

Above all, everyone who has taken part has discovered a new pleasure, passion and, in some cases, a previously undiscovered talent. It has been a wonderful experience for the JAGS community.

Marion Gibbs

Marion Gibbs

Do you have a story to tell about your time at JAGS? If so please write to us.

James Allen's Girls' School, East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE or email: cindy.rutherford@jags.org.uk

2020 Vision: All Things Green



You can satisfy any cravings for the colour green by gazing at the walls of the vibrant sixth form common rooms and even more vividly in our new state of the art **dining hall**, and in the **Deep End Café** (built over the deep end of the previous swimming pool)



where girls and staff choose from a feast of healthy options, temptingly displayed in beautiful green cabinets.

Of course, green at JAGS is more than a lick of paint. **JAGS is an eco school**. We think green in everything we do, in building projects, travelling to and from school, recycling, food preparation, conserving energy, looking after our environment, in all three parts of the school. Spot pre-prep children in their gloves and luminous green jackets using litter-grabbers in their garden, a practical decision they took in a School Council meeting to improve their surroundings. The Year 1 production **'Eddie the Penguin Saves the Planet'** engaged them brilliantly in considering our future on this planet: 'We have one world to care for, so we must take care of our world today'.

As the chicks (pictured here) said after the performance: 'The ice is melting; that's why we did our play', and Isabel, who played the Koala Bear, announced what she thought was the point of the play: 'Don't waste energy.' Koala bears sleep 23 hours a day, so that message had clearly sunk in!



You can rely on our pupils to find imaginative solutions to big questions such as *How can we save energy and how do we know when we've done so?* In a senior school assembly we listened carefully to an impressive presentation by JAPS girls Amy, Maddie, Celine and Katherine, of their analysis of the middle school energy bills.



If you want to cement a message, get pupils to try things out for themselves. Friday 5 June 2009 was a day **Year 9** will remember. Guided by the **Sustainable Services Team** from Southwark and the **Design and Technology** department,

We have always been focused on our environment. Dr Lilian Clarke arrived in 1895 as our first science lab was built. She was a pioneer in botany teaching, setting up the **Botany Gardens**, complete with **Natural Order Beds** in 1896 (which girls can still work on today). Then came a salt marsh, pebble beach, sand dune and later a wood, ponds and a cornfield. Her initiatives were the first examples of ecological habitats used in practical teaching at any school. Dr Clarke was enormously influential on science teaching nationally, and generations of **JAGS** girls were committed gardeners and scientists. By 1931, more than 300 pupils were involved. And when war came their knowledge led to wholesale vegetable growing, rabbit rearing and beekeeping on the school grounds to supplement rationing.



the whole year group plunged enthusiastically into 4 practical workshops related to sustainability: jewellery design and creation from old magazines; guessing which are the recycled products; pitching design and marketing ideas for a recycled bag; and ethical trading. What a dynamic way to open our eyes!

The Girls' School Association (GSA) ran a national **Girls Go Green** Initiative, and our senior school pupils thought of one thing they could each do that day to make a difference, and wore touches of green on their uniform; those who visited the **Southwark Eco-Bus** had fun engaging in activities designed to save water and energy.



The Sustainable Services Team from Southwark is helping us to provide the best possible environmental education for our pupils. By becoming sustainable, a school can save money, improve the health, fitness and emotional well-being of its pupils, and contribute to local, social and environmental goals. Working towards a **Green Flag Award** and initiatives like the DT Sustainability Day inspire pupils to take an active part in promoting sustainability within school and beyond.

Read about JAGS as an Eco School in About Us www.jags.org



The dining hall was the setting for this year's **Alumnae Reunion** in May. About 180 alumnae chatted, reminisced, discovered things they didn't know about each other, all enjoying a gorgeous meal and the warmth of the day, both outside and within our stunning new dining hall, the library and Holst Hall. The Year of '89 came up trumps with 26 friends reunited by Karen Gilbert (Elias); although Kathy Audibert's (Gowing) group, Year of '59, weren't far behind with a gathering of 18. Congratulations to Carolyn Naylor, Year of '77, whose friends were delighted she came back specially from Auckland, New Zealand; and to Emma Johnson (Owens), Year of '89, who travelled all the way from Alaska. What a pleasure it was to see Ann Harland (Atkinson) Year of '38 back at JAGS, with her son Edwin, both pictured here with Cindy Rutherford Alison Venn



Year of '77

