

Old Girls' enquiries answered

We were able to help two former pupils recently who wanted a photograph of the school. Monica Drosi, née Frost, Class of 62, e-mailed from Canada saying she wanted a good photograph or drawing of JAGS to frame and show her grand-children "the majesty of the school" as Canadian schools tend to the starkly functional. Happily, we have a lovely shot of the main entrance to JAGS taken on a gloriously sunny winter day (so it's not that recent) and thanks to the wonders of modern technology a good quality scan was swiftly on its way to Canada.

Shortly afterwards, Diane Ashford, née Barclay, Class of 59, got in touch asking for a photo of the front façade of JAGS, as her family had commissioned a painting illustrating various aspects of her life and the artist wanted to represent the school. How nice to think that JAGS' fame spreads across the world and will be recorded for posterity on canvas! We were not so successful in finding a school photograph from the late 30s for Yvonne Garry, née Grant, Class of 45, who had lost her copy of one taken between 1938 and 1941. Does anyone have a print which they might lend us to scan and send to her?

We had great fun searching answers to these enquiries, so do contact us if we can help you with tracing people or items from your days at JAGS.

The James Allen Society

The inaugural meeting of the James Allen Society was held at school on March 23, when the Headmistress and the Development staff entertained 13 of the 26 Founding members to lunch. The occasion was a tremendous success, not least thanks to the splendid meal following drinks and canapés in the Judge Hall all provided by Wendy Church. Members enjoyed meeting old friends and new and the Society's silver badges were much in evidence.

"It was a joy to be present on an actual school day, as opposed to the quite different Old Girls' Saturday, with young girls dashing or strolling past arm in arm (as we used to), all leggy and gangly. You made us all feel so special and I am really delighted and honoured to be a Founder member of the James Allen Society," wrote one member afterwards.

The Society exists to thank those who have made a bequest to JAGS and to keep them closely involved with the work of the school today. Members each receive an exclusive silver pin of the school crest and their names are inscribed in a specially bound volume which will eventually record the details of all future legacies that the school receives. If you have made a bequest to JAGS and not informed us, please do so in order that you can be recognised as a member of the Society. A new, revised pamphlet about helping with future gifts by means of a legacy is currently being printed, so please contact the Development Office if you are considering making a bequest and would like further information.

James Allen's Girls' School

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Diary Dates

Saturday, May 12 OGA

AGM and Reunion 11-5pm

Friday, June 22 Jazz

Evening - Holst Hall 7.30pm

Saturday, June 23 Choral

Society Concert, St

Barnabas's Church 7.30pm

Friday, 29 June Commemo-

ration Service, Chapel of

God's Gift at 7pm

Tuesday, July 3 Founder's

Concert at St Barnabas

7.30pm

Mystery Package

We received a package a few months ago containing school photos of 1921 & 1924 with some magazines from more recent years. The parcel was damaged in post, and there was no covering letter when it arrived, so we don't know who sent it or whom we should thank. Please contact us, especially if you would like these returned.

Congratulations

Jo Scutts, Class of 97, gained a First Class Honours degree in English last Summer from King's College, Cambridge
Hilary Weedon, née Stead, Class of 55, Chairman of Movement & Dance Division of the Central Council of Physical Recreation and part-time Director of Training for the Medau Society, has been presented with an award by the Duke of Edinburgh for her outstanding work over 25 years.

Our present Head Girl, **Georgina Warren**, pictured left, achieved notable success in this year's Motorola Youth Parliament, when she won the regional finals and was named as Best Minister in the competition.



To Read and So...

From the Headmistress

I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition of "To Read and So..." It is wonderful to hear that seeing someone else's copy has led to renewed contact with Old Girls and ex-parents with whom we had lost touch. As I write this Easter holidays there is great activity behind the scenes, with an assortment of contractors all working to maintain and refurbish our premises. In addition to the major building works associated with our long awaited new pool, smaller projects are being undertaken, such as a newly paved area in front of JAPS music rooms to extend the Middle



School's playground. The gardens and ponds have been greatly improved and we hope that the wet weather will cease so that they can be fully appreciated this summer.

I am looking forward to welcoming several hundred former pupils back to school for the Old Girls' Association reunion and Annual General Meeting on 12

May. Many bookings have already been received and at least a dozen year group reunions are being organised, ranging from 1950 to 1994. Several Old Girls are hoping to come back from abroad. Whether you are coming from near or far, I hope you will find much to interest you in the life of JAGS today, as well as enjoying reminiscing about happy times in the past.

If you are not able to come back to the reunion in May, we would be delighted to see you at Founder's Day on Saturday, 30 June. All Old Girls, former members of staff and parents of former pupils are most welcome to come with their families and enjoy JAGS' celebration. There are many displays of school activities and entertainments for young and old. Families can picnic in the school grounds or visit the Parents' Guild's excellent barbecue for lunch, and our usual Old Girls' rendezvous will be arranged for mid-afternoon so that you can arrange to meet friends over a refreshing drink.

We are also planning some social occasions for Old Girls for the winter and hope that these will give more of you the chance to come and see the school and meet your old friends again. If you are unable to attend any of these special events, I hope you will not feel inhibited about visiting JAGS informally. There are always former pupils or staff who have moved away from Dulwich who visit the area over the summer, so please do call in and see us. The Development Office is open all year round, and it is a rare week when neither Alison nor Mandy is available to meet visitors and show them around. We all look forward to seeing you soon.

Marian Gibbs

JAGS Head Girls

We had a tremendous response to our plea for help in completing our list of JAGS School Captains, Head Girls and their Deputies since the 1940s. "To Read & So..." obviously landed on the doormat at breakfast time on Friday, as we received our first phone calls at two minutes past nine, and the next few days brought more calls and e-mails from around the country and overseas. Thank you to everyone who rang, wrote or e-mailed. It was great fun to speak to so many Old Girls and we were able to put quite a number of old friends in touch with others again.

The names flooded in and we now have a complete list from 1940-41 except for one gap: who was the Head Girl in 1985-86? Sarah Clifft was the Deputy but sadly we no longer have a current address for her. Can you complete the last part of the jigsaw?

Founder's Day 2001

All members of the JAGS family, former pupils, staff and parents, are invited to join us in celebrating this year's Founder's Day on Saturday, June 30 from 2pm. The grounds will be open for picnics from noon.

The Old Girls' rendezvous will be held from 3.30pm in the Careers' Centre, off the Judge Hall. We look forward to welcoming you and all your family on this special day.

Music at JAGS



Music is one of the great strengths and joys of JAGS, and has been for very many years. Few girls' schools are able to boast that two of the last century's greatest composers taught its pupils and fostered the musical life of the school, but JAGS is immensely proud of our connection with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst and the latter is, of course, commemorated in the stained glass windows in the Holst Hall, shown left. Holst joined the staff in 1903 and we were delighted to find in the school magazines from the 1920s several accounts of his giving musical lectures at JAGS. He was obviously held in great affection by his pupils. One account after he had left JAGS ends with a fervent wish that "Mr Holst will come soon to play to us again."

Our connection with Ralph Vaughan Williams continues to the present day as we were delighted and honoured by the presence of his widow, Ursula, at our March concert where the main work was his *Sea Symphony*. The First Orchestra, the JAGS Choral Society and the Chamber Choir gave a spirited performance of this challenging work. During the interval, our Music Scholars were presented to Ursula Vaughan Williams.

A number of our Music Scholars gave a highly-acclaimed lunchtime concert of chamber music at the well-known venue of St Martin's in the Fields during March. Five groups of chamber musicians also achieved notable success in the Chamber Music Competition for Schools, with two Sixth Formers, Isobel Blake and Miwako Yoshikawa winning through to the U17 final. Our U14 trio, pictured right, won the South of England Music Final.

Earlier in the year, some of our younger singers attended a Choral Weekend at Sayer's Croft, then demonstrated the result of their work on the course by singing a wonderful Choral Evensong at the Chapel on the Sunday of half term in February.

But music at JAGS is not just about the winners or the exceptionally gifted, important though these are. One of the most attractive aspects of the school is the high value placed on all forms of creativity and the serious regard given to all types of music. Every girl is encouraged to play or sing, with the

result that we boast four orchestras, four choirs, plus brass and jazz bands and innumerable groups and ensembles from chamber to rock and pop. A wide range of musical talent is displayed during the Inter-House music competitions each autumn, and the summer Jazz Evening is one of the school's most popular events for parents and friends. New high tech computer equipment in the Music School enables aspiring composers to create new works and try out electronic music. As many Old Girls know, music heard and played at school becomes a lifelong joy.



Music from Jags

A compact disc featuring the JAGS First Orchestra, Holst Chamber Choir, Camerata, Bel Canto and the JAGS Choral Society is still available, price £10. The recording was made at St John's, Smith Square in March 2000 and the programme includes Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.1* with soloist Catherine Hockings, as well as the Poulenc *Gloria* and the first performance of Philip Norman's *The House that Sings*. Other works include Mendelssohn's *Overture for Winds* and the *Credo* by Arvo Paart. Cheques should be payable to JAGS and sent to the Music School.



The James Allen Community Orchestra JAGS Choral Society

If you are in the Dulwich area or South East London, there are plenty of opportunities for Old Girls, staff, parents and other friends to make music through JAGS. A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter about the James Allen Community Orchestra (JACO), which will give its fourth annual concert at St Barnabas Church on Saturday, 15 September at 7.30pm. For further details of the programme and rehearsals, ring Barbara Kley on 020 8693 3940.

The JAGS Choral Society performs a varied programme of choral music in three concerts a year and welcomes new members (especially tenors and basses so do bring husbands and partners!). The choir meets at JAGS each Tuesday at 7.30pm to rehearse, and its next concert is at St Barnabas on 23 June. More details from the Music School on 020 8299 8415.

From the Archives

We were recently given this class photograph which is thought to be of the girls in the Junior School in 1947. Most of the group is identified, but there are a few gaps in the middle row, and a couple of people where we are not absolutely certain if we have the correct names.



Back row: France May (now Eggo), Angela Winter (Angel), Maureen Perrett (Ellis), Beryl Connop (Fletcher), Brenda Owlett (Fosker), Heidi Fischer, Aisha Sproule

Centre Row: ?Margaret Verral, Barbara Stevens, ??, ??, Pat Allen

Front Row: ?Mary Donaldson, Sally Brewis, Janet Perrett, ?one of the Swindlehursts?, Sheila Johnson, ?Virginia Rowe, Pat Kirkwood.

Again, your help in filling in the blanks would be greatly appreciated, as would any photographs, Prize Giving programmes and other school memorabilia that could be added to our archives. If you are moving house or clearing out the attic and come across old items from JAGS please let us know before they are thrown away, as they are great treasures to us. We were delighted when Brenda Havenhand sent us very early copies of the school magazine including the first edition covering 1921. With the others from the early 1920s, this was a wonderful gift as we had no knowledge of any magazine prior to 1926. Some of them are on display in the Judge Hall and will form part of our exhibition for the OGA Reunion on May 12.

Where are they now?

Lynda Fitzsimmons, née Headland, Class of 79, wants to contact Frederique Holmes who was at JAGS between 1968-1977, and left before the Sixth Form. The Development Office would like to hear from anyone who has her address or can help trace her. **Jenny Wilson**, Class of 68, would like to hear from anyone in her year. She now lives in Portugal and is looking for others who might help with a programme of recycling useful supplies to Uganda and Kenya.

Pamela Hudson, née Lawrence, wants to contact others from her year, Class of 52, especially Judith Porter and Anne Jordan.