

If you missed the March concert at St John's, Smith Square, featuring JAGS First Orchestra, the Chamber Choir and Choral Society, as well as Camerata and Bel Canto, there is another chance to hear some outstanding performances in this glorious venue. A CD of the complete concert is being produced and will be on sale by early June, price £10. The programme featured Mendelssohn's Wind Overture Opus 24, the UK Premiere of Philip Norman's "The House that Sings" for string orchestra (specially commissioned for JAGS), Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto with Music Scholar Catherine Hockings at soloist, Arvo Paart's Credo and the Poulenc Gloria. Phone or fax your order to the Music School on 020 7924 9578 with a cheque made payable to JAGS, enclosing a sae. Order forms will also be



### Where are they now?

Can anyone help find Mary Earle? Joyce Abraham wrote recently asking if we had an address for Mary who lived with Joyce and her family in Sevenoaks during the early part of the war. She came to JAGS in May 1939 until March 1940 and was evacuated to Sevenoaks with JAGS. Mary then stayed on at Walthamstow Hall with Joyce but rejoined JAGS in April 1942 where she stayed until she left from L6 in July 1947. Joyce would like to get in touch with her again, so any news of Mary after the war would be very welcome. Joyce recalls that Mary's parents moved to Stone in Staffordshire before Mary returned to JAGS. If you have any information, please contact Mandy Lovick at JAGS Development Office tel: 020 8299 8405 or e-mail her at MandyL@jags.demon.co.uk

### James Allen's Girls' School

East Dulwich Grove  
London SE22 8TE  
Tel: 020 8693 1181  
Fax: 020 8693 7842  
Development Director: 020 8299 8410  
e-mail: AlisonG@jags.demon.co.uk  
Registered Charity No. 312750



We are always delighted to see Old Girls becoming involved in the life of the school today. Earlier in the spring we welcomed back Shani Anderson (Class of 93) when she presented awards to 12 Sixth Form girls who completed their Community Sports Leadership. Shani is a member of the GB Athletics Squad, and we wish her the best of luck in qualifying for the Sydney Olympics

The last issue of To Read & So... requested your help with our careers programme, especially with work experience placements for June. Carolyn Leggett (née Rideout, Class of 78) offered a placement to a girl interested in the media this summer at the post-production recording studio she runs in London.

Clare Wedgeworth (Class of 91) e-mailed with an offer to come and talk to the girls about working in advertising. Clare is an account manager for one of the UK's top 10 advertising agencies.

Thanks to everyone who offered help: we would like to hear from even more Old Girls about where they are currently working, and if they can help with careers' advice and work experience placements for girls at JAGS today. Those who have left school but would like to find out about particular careers after university graduation, or later in life, would also welcome the opportunity to talk to other Old Girls.

### Saturday 13 May

**Old Girls' Reunion Day** at school for all former pupils. AGM of the Old Girls' Association.

### Saturday 10 June

**Millennium Reunion** for all former and current JAPS and JAGS staff at school. Drinks at 12 noon followed by buffet lunch, tours of school and tea at 4pm. Full details for all former colleagues enclosed with this newsletter.

### Friday 30 June 7pm

**Commemoration Service and re-dedication of the Foundation Chapel by the Dean of Westminster.** Please note new date.

**Saturday 1 July Founder's Day** All former pupils, staff and other friends of JAGS welcome in the afternoon.

**4 July Founder's Concert** at 7.30pm. For full details contact the Music School on 020 7924 9578.

### 17 & 18 May

Works by seven JAGS' pupils feature in an exhibition of young art, held in aid of The Cancer Research Campaign at the Royal College of Art, Kensington. Emma Huq (Year 9) has received an 'Honourable Mention' for the Frayling Prize and Gwellian Hylton (Year 10), Catherine Barton (Year 12) and Hannah Baines (Year 10) received commendations. Other works are by Sophie Mathewson, Fiona Maine and Denise Djokic (all Year 10 pupils). The exhibition is open from 10-6 each day and the small entrance fee includes a catalogue and donation to The Cancer Research Campaign.

# To Read and So...

Issue No.6 May 2000



### From the Headmistress

The exciting news this term is that we have finally started the building work on our new swimming pool. After many delays and tribulations, the builders came in February and began excavating an enormous hole beside the Sports Hall. Piers Heyworth, the Head of JAPS, and I were requested to pose for photographs to mark this historic moment! We have been very fortunate with the weather during the past weeks and everything is going according to schedule. We are all eagerly looking forward to the new pool's opening at Easter 2001.



The new pool is merely the beginning of a major development programme which will ensure first-class facilities for the first-class pupils we have at JAGS. During the Spring we have welcomed hundreds of parents to a series of receptions to explain this development programme to them and to invite their support for our plans. Great interest and enthusiasm has been evident, and I am delighted that in just three months, we have received donations totalling nearly £200,000, including some major gifts from current parents and Governors. We intend to invite support from the wider JAGS community at a later stage, but if you would like to make a gift now, please contact Alison Graham, our Development Director, for details of how best you can help. There will be an opportunity to see a display with the details of the new facilities at the OGA AGM in May and at the reunion for former and present staff in June. On both these occasions, there will be a chance to ask questions about the new developments and to see how the building work is progressing. I look forward to meeting many former pupils and staff at these reunions and showing you JAGS as it is today.

High quality music continues to flourish at JAGS as the wonderful concert at St John's, Smith Square, in March demonstrated. We have produced a CD of the concert and details of this are on page 4. Other outstanding musical achievements also deserve special mention. Jenny Crees (Year 11), Louise Dalton (Year 10) and Jenny Lau (Year 10) won the U16 regional final of the National Chamber Music Competition. Jackie Steward (Year 12), Jenny Crees (Year 11) and Katie Leonard (Year 10) have won the London Heat of the ERTA/Yamaha National Recorder Ensemble Competition: we wish them further success at the finals later in the year.

There has been a strong revival of interest in fencing recently, and we were delighted that our U14 team won the British School Championships: several girls have been highly placed in regional competitions and Tamsin Morrison (Year 8) qualified for the National Fencing Championships. Please do look at our Web site (www.jags.demon.co.uk) for up to date news on the progress of the girls, and details of all the recent events and successes at JAGS.

*Marian Gills*

### More Debating Success

Debating and public speaking have long been great strengths of JAGS and vital parts of the all-round educational breadth we offer. Our current debaters continued their triumphant progress when Sixth Formers Sarah Monroe and Hester Vaizey reached the final of the Bar Council's Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition and were narrowly defeated by a Scottish team. Sarah was ranked as the best speaker in the competition, with Hester gaining third place. The England Schools' Debating Team, captained by Sarah, were runners-up to Australia at the World Championships in the USA in February and Sarah herself was placed 4th in the world.

### Sainsbury's Points for Schools Equipment Scheme

Are you a Sainsbury's Reward card holder and have you registered for this year's points for schools scheme? Maureen Ellis (née Perrett) e-mailed to tell us she was nominating JAGS as her recipient school, so if you shop at Sainsbury's why not follow her example? The scheme started on February 27<sup>th</sup> and runs to May 21<sup>st</sup>. You can register at any time and your points earned for the whole period will be automatically allocated to your nominated school. Last year we acquired some exhibition screens so your points will provide more useful equipment for JAGS.

## Memories of Swimming at JAGS

You sent some wonderful anecdotes, photos and memories of swimming and diving at JAGS, so thank you to everyone who responded, providing such an interesting selection [*Interesting the number of keen swimmers called Pamela. Ed.*] Many of the photographs are from Barbara Kley, Head of Music at JAGS from 1960-80 and then Head of Staff Administration until she retired in 1994, and we will have more on display at the two reunions in May and June.



Diving in the 1960s

*Pamela Huby (née Clark) JAGS 29-40 recalls the days before the first swimming pool:*

Before the coming of the swimming bath we used to go by bus to Dulwich Baths on Goose Green with Miss Stratford. I learned to swim well and dive, and we were taught life-saving to the extent that like many others I was able to take the Royal Humane Society examination and win a bronze medal. The tests included being able to overcome a struggling person in danger of drowning, using various ways of incapacitating him or her which one would not dream of using in normal life.

*A promising career in broadcasting nearly came to naught as Frances Line OBE 52-56 writes:*

I have only one memory worth recounting. There was a handrail round the edge of the pool and, one morning, wearing my black regulation costume and white cap, I was fooling around with friends and fell over the edge. By some quirk of fate, my leg slipped between the hand-rail and the tiled wall of the pool and I was trapped. The swimming teacher – it might have been Miss Laurie but I recall her best for her hockey skills - saw my plight. “Jump in, girls, and hold her up!” she cried. They did and the most massive wave of water ensued! I thought I would surely drown but gradually my leg was extricated and - apart from really colourful bruising - no harm done!

*Pam Pitcher (née Heald 56-62) remembers*

I arrived aged 12 in 1956 and was in the school first team from 59-62, and was captain in my last year. I was already a good swimmer from my primary school, yet in my first inter-house swimming gala I had to start the 1 length freestyle at the deep end because of our age. In school galas I always did the 1 Length style event (I have never come across style events anywhere else except at school) both free and back and always won. The inter-house gala was always fun, starting with the little ones who never wore swimming costumes. Thank goodness by the age of 12, costumes were worn.

I was also a diver and remember competing in the inter-house diving competition which I won all but one year, when one of my mates actually managed to beat me and threw a wobbly poolside (much to the consternation of the staff) in celebration.



Photo of the 1959 swimming team from Pam Pitcher (second right, back row.) Sandra Fini is in the front row, first left.

Pam adds that she still swims competitively, and successfully, in the Masters swimming for 25 years and older. She won a GB gold in 1999 for her age group, and wonder how her times today compares with those early times at JAGS.

*Pamela Draper (née Jarvis) 42-49 recalls ...*

Wonderful memories of weekly swimming lessons, when not interrupted by air-raids, school swimming team practices and matches, and swimming sports day, which was an inter-house event - I was eventually house captain of Desanfans (1948/9).

We nearly all took the Lifesaving courses; I got my Bronze early on but was deterred from taking the Silver qualification by my dislike of diving from the high board, having hurt my back whilst attempting this. We sewed our cloth Bronze badges onto our swimming costumes. For Silver you had to don antique pieces of clothing like suspender belts (and corsets?) and struggle out of them after completing your many (was it 30?) lengths.

Diving competitions were for several years dominated by Virginia Parsley; I can still clearly see her superb 2½ back swallow dives!

Swimming lessons were taken by Miss Knott and Miss Stockbridge; the former, true to form, insisted that we strip off in the communal showers - no modesty allowed. Nowadays when I shower in the unisex Dingwall Academy Pool showers I have to remind myself of where I am! Good luck to the new pool!

*Vera Hayes (née Spence) wrote*

I joined L4 at JAGS in September 1940 (just as the Battle of Britain started) and must have been among the first groups to use the Swimming Pool. I remember having a swimming lesson once a week in each Summer Term – the pool was covered with a beautiful polished wood floor for the Winter Terms and used for assembly, Prize Giving, school plays and concert. For swimming we wore plain black swim suits and special white caps with protective ear pieces.

*From Australia, Sandra Harris (née Fini) another team member and also Captain, wrote*

I went to JAGS from 1949-1960. At that time the uniform included white and black knickers to be worn simultaneously, however, swimming was done naked until the third form. After that we wore the sort of one piece swim suit that was designed to billow out like a parachute whenever you got going in the water. I also remember getting bruised regularly, because I entered the water crookedly when we had to jump off the top board, so it always amazes me that I maintained enough interest to be in the swimming team and Captain for a couple of years! I was in the team from the summer of 1954 until I left in summer 1960. I was House Swimming Captain (Bourgeois) and School Swimming Captain in 1959 and 1960, getting house and school colours.

### Swimming Fun Day

As many Old Girls are still keen swimmers, it has been suggested that we should organise a swimming gala for them, possibly featuring inter-house races again, as a fund-raising occasion for the new facilities. We would like to know how many people would be interested if we arranged such an event next year in the new (and warm) pool. Feedback, offers of help and more ideas are warmly welcomed. Please contact Alison Graham or Mandy Lovick at JAGS Development Office.

*Jane Luckham* recalled teaching in the kindergarten from 1963-79. She worked closely with Illeana Wallington who realised that the pool was unused early in the morning and asked if the kindergarten could use it while the main school had assembly in the gym at the other end of the school. A very large proportion of kindergarten children learned to swim at an early age, and so successful that they had their own Swimming Sports each year and were able to have diving and ‘length’ events as the proficiency of the children (and no doubt their confidence and experience) increased. Jane wrote, “This has evoked many happy memories for me, though not perhaps of the endless drying and re-dressing under-five years after each session!”



*Janet Ford (née Frost) Class of 56 recalls*

Swimming was the high spot of the week. I loved the echoing sound as one entered the hall. We had to bring a spare cardigan to put on afterwards, if not - no swimming. When we were older we helped the kindergarten swimming. We played water polo occasionally. Our teacher was Miss Ross who taught us to back dive by getting us to stand on the edge of the diving board backwards, and then as we dived, lifted out feet with the long pole, so that we didn’t flop! My friend hated swimming and managed to evade it for weeks. Finally Miss Ross realised the situation and gave her an apt punishment. She was to swim every day for a week, with whichever class was going in. A fair punishment indeed!

