

To Read and So...

James Allen's Girls' School



Issue No 23 July 2007

Alumnae Golf

Gillie Litterick (Finch, 1971) writes: "Once again we were lucky with the weather on our golf day at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club on 19 April and were pleased to welcome some new faces. The course was in marvellous condition and we played an 18-hole Stableford competition. After playing and before lunch we sat on the balcony looking across London to the London Eye, the New Wembley and beyond – such a view on a clear day!

"I surprised myself by winning the competition after four years of trying and was pleased to take home the small trophy presented by my sister Jacqueline and me in memory of our mother, Mary Finch, who was an alumna and (for a short time) a teacher at JAGS. Previous winners of our golf day have been Sue Endacott (Taylor), Hilary Skinner and Jenny Ells (Nelson).

"On June 28 we shall be playing in The Tassie tournament at St George's Hill Golf Club, trying desperately to win it again. Next year our golf day will be on Thursday April 17, again in Dulwich, and we would love to see more golfing old girls with handicaps 0-36! Please get in touch if you would like to know more. (01342 822445 or litterickgm@hotmail.com)

Request for JAGS Film Memorabilia

Do you have any films, however long or short, of episodes in JAGS history – for example a previous Sports Day

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or Founder's Day? If so, please may we copy your film for our archives? We'd be delighted to accept all memorabilia. We will, of course, return the film to you. If you have such material and would like to lend it to the school please send it in to Cynthia Pullin, the School Librarian and Archivist.

JAGS in the War Years: An Oral History

JAGS has produced a CD box set comprising vivid memories from ten former pupils during the Second World War. These girls attended school in East Dulwich Grove (after a brief evacuation period) from January 1940 onwards at a time of real and present danger, and the CDs recount their memories of this time.



If you would like to purchase the CD box set, please complete the enclosed order form and send it, along with £10 cash/cheque made payable to JAGS, to Cindy Rutherford in the Development Office – we will post a copy out to you.

JAGS Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2007-8



If there are any alumnae who would like to assist with the JAGS Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme please contact John Luttick on john.luttick@jags.org.uk There will be walking and check-pointing involved and possibly some driving of a minibus. Volunteers will need to have CRB checks.

Congratulations

Alice King (1996) has been awarded a PhD in French from Exeter University.

Aimee O'Carroll (2003) gained a First in Architecture from Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 2006, together with the Sudbury-Hardyman Prize.

Former pupil Jacqueline Brookes (1966) was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours. Jacqui is CEO of the Federation of Community Services, championing UK telecoms businesses. The award recognises her contribution to the industry, proactively representing small and medium enterprises with both the Government and the regulator of OFCOM.

Diary Dates

Saturday, 15 September Musicians' Reunion at JAGS

Saturday, 15 September James Allen Community Orchestra Concert (JACO) at 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Dulwich College. Programme includes Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor.

Monday, 5 November Autumn Concert St Barnabas at 7.30pm.

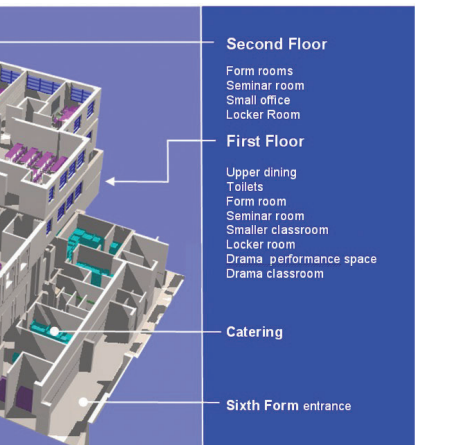
Tuesday, 11 December Choral Concert St Barnabas at 7.30pm.

From the Headmistress

Anyone who has visited the school recently will have noticed that the East Dulwich Grove car park has been transformed by the arrival of cranes, portacabins and a builders' compound. We have now embarked upon one of the largest projects ever undertaken by JAGS to improve its accommodation. Following the recommendation of an HMI who visited JAGS in the 1920s we are at last constructing a purpose-built dining facility! Housed on the site of the old swimming pool hall, the new dining hall will have state-of-the-art kitchens and a two-storey seating

area. Adjacent to the main dining hall will be a cafeteria for use by the Sixth Form and visiting sports teams and for local community events.

shall be able to refurbish the old kitchen area and create yet more new teaching and meeting rooms off the Holst Hall. Departments will acquire suited accommodation and new working rooms for staff will be created on the top floor of the school.



The dining hall and attached new block should be completed by the start of the Autumn Term 2008 and we shall then gradually move into them. JAGS is fortunate in being able to carry out this project thanks to a generous one-off capital distribution

from the Dulwich Estates. Without a doubt these new facilities will considerably enhance the school and will be enjoyed by pupils of all ages.

Once this new build is finished we

The next step will then be to build our new music school, to be shared by the Senior School, JAPS, JASSPA (our Saturday School for the Performing Arts) and local community groups. Exciting times are definitely ahead for JAGS and I am delighted that our very talented and committed pupils are to receive facilities which will be truly worthy of them.

Marion Gibbs

Spotlight on JAGS musicians past and present

You will read below in this edition of *To Read and So* of the current success of Sixth Former Victoria Harrild, principal cellist of the National Youth Orchestra.

We recently mentioned that Charlotte Ritchie, another JAGS Sixth Former, was a member of "All Angels", the classical girl vocal group. During an extremely busy and exciting year, "All Angels" have released two albums, the first of which went platinum after selling over 300,000 copies. The second has just been released. "All Angels" were nominated for the prestigious Album of the Year Award at the Classical Brits in May (losing narrowly to Sir Paul McCartney).

This academic year saw the first ever award of the "Gustav Holst Music Scholarship." Named for our illustrious former Director of Music, its recipient at 11+ was Claudia Moore-Gillon, an accomplished violinist, who has already won an international competition. We look forward to hearing her play in our concerts.

Alison Stephens (1988) is once again leading a mandolin course at the Dartington International Summer School. This renowned summer school welcomes musicians and music-lovers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Please visit www.dartingtonsummerschool.org.uk or telephone 01803 847077 for details of availability.

Music at JAGS is for every girl who wishes to play and sing at her highest level. Every term produces real highlights: here is a report of the stunning concert held at St John's, Smith Square on Sunday 18 March 2007. It is written from a performer's perspective by [Katharine Kenny](#), herself a current Music Exhibitioner and one of the orchestra's leaders on the night.

Katharine writes:

The Spring Concert is always a highlight of the school year for anyone involved in music at JAGS. This year we were lucky enough to perform in this prestigious London concert venue, and we spent the preceding weeks engaged in a rigorous schedule of rehearsals.

The pre-concert atmosphere was in the hands of Big Band, who treated us to some fantastic jazz as the audience took their seats.

The first piece of the programme itself was Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, with its famous orchestral opening into which the choir triumphantly bursts. Probably the easiest piece in the concert, this was also very enjoyable to play and a perfect start to the evening.

After this, [Victoria Harrild](#) gave a breath-taking performance of Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, and it was a privilege to hear an amazing piece played by such a virtuoso cellist. We had our eyes glued to the conductor for most of the 18 minutes in case of *rubato* and time changes.

During the interval all musicians rallied round for the evening's next work: *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein. A Hebrew setting of the psalms, pronunciation was very tricky for the choir, and both choir and orchestra had to listen really carefully for the distinctive rhythmic passages of the piece. We may all have had years of maths lessons, but counting seven bars of 10/4 was still a challenge! The piece included a serene treble solo part, sung by Toby Medland, and equally beautiful solos sung by choir members [Francesca Sanders-Hewett](#) and [Elizabeth Tubby](#).

Our final piece was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in D minor, the *Choral Symphony*. This had been a mammoth but hugely rewarding piece

to prepare. For this concert we played the first and last movements (we are preparing the rest of this epic work for complete performance at the Musica In Villa Concert Series in Italy this summer). The first movement is scored for orchestra only, and is perhaps the harder in terms of notes and rhythms. Surely the most dramatic moment is when the opening minor music returns, played by the whole orchestra, major and *fortissimo*. Then we launched into the last movement, in which, astoundingly, singers enter with Beethoven's setting of Schiller's *Ode to Joy*. The movement ends in its 940th bar after a thrilling *prestissimo fortissimo* section, and the orchestra, choir and audience were all left breathless. This is surely one of the most exciting pieces we have ever played.

Musicians' Reunion 2007

The date for our Alumnae Musicians' Reunion has now been set: **Saturday 15 September 2007**. Thanks to our records, and to those of you who have kindly let us know of your musical activities at school, we have compiled a mailing list of musical alumnae, who have recently received invitations. While some elements of the day will be familiar – drinks, lunch and catching up with old friends – there will also be the chance to tour the current school music facilities, hear JAGS pupils in performance, try out our composition and recording facilities and even perform in a choir specially formed for the occasion.

Workshadowing

Thank you to all the hosts who have offered workshadowing placements for our post-GCSE girls this year, and to our alumnae who recently offered placements for coming years. Cindy Rutherford will be in touch with you to set up details on the database.

Workshadowing is such a wonderful opportunity for girls to go into the workplace and find out what a career in a particular field is really all about. It is as useful for a girl to return from her placement and say that she now knows that she does not want to work in that area, as it is for a girl to return fired with enthusiasm knowing that she is heading in the right direction.

For girls interested in the theatre, we have a wonderful placement at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. Four girls are invited to act as stage crew for the Youth Production; thus all the actors are young people also. Our girls go to Guildford on Sunday, and return the following Sunday. Their days are very long. One of last year's parents found the YMCA and it has proved a wonderful place where we now recommend the girls stay. They are always back too late for supper, but the hostel will leave out sandwiches for them, although they mainly prefer to nip into M&S opposite and buy something delicious to microwave in the kitchenette!

Cindy visits the girls during the week to ensure all is well, and they are always having a wonderful time. They love the work, the theatre staff are welcoming and friendly, and the YMCA is beyond their expectations. They return home exhausted but very, very happy.

Liza Cheal, who runs the Youth Production each year told us that she loves having JAGS girls! In fact, she doesn't think that she could run the production without them! They do a first class job – they're always volunteering, they're polite and enthusiastic. They only need to be told to do something once, and it's done, both correctly and to a high standard.

What an accolade!

Alumnae Reunion 2007

This year's Alumnae Reunion attracted over 170 guests, the oldest being from the Class of 1946, and included a number of former and current staff. Some alumnae attended in large or small groups and some as individuals. One year group reunion attracted a guest from Antigua



and one from Germany, who flew in especially for the event. Another alumna had journeyed from Paris. Many had not been back since their school days, which created a distinct air of nervous anticipation and excitement!



Fortunately the weather was good to us and the alumnae, arriving promptly as always, were greeted in the Judge Hall (amongst impressive archive displays courtesy of our Librarian and Archivist, Cynthia Pullin) by the current Head Girl and Deputies with Year 10 & Year 11 helpers. Many were delighted to see the current uniform and that same jumper worn by the Year 10 and 11 girls.



Soon enough the Crush Hall was busy, with the sound of gossip and laughter filling the air.

From there, we made our way to the Holst Hall where a fine lunch awaited us. The Headmistress,

Marion Gibbs, made a welcoming speech, followed by [Heather Rankine](#) who said a few words of farewell to the JAOGA and welcomed the Alumnae Association.

Once everyone had enjoyed their meal, they roamed the school and grounds at will or with a guide. Photographs were taken and addresses exchanged. All too soon it was time for tea and departure.

The 2008 Alumnae Reunion lunch will be on **Saturday 10 May** and alumnae will receive invitations nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you!

Alumnae Advisory Committee

This is a "virtual" committee! The Development Office is looking for a group of alumnae, ideally representing each decade, to advise us on what events they would like to see organised. Since all 'meetings' will be conducted by email, anyone can put their name forward. What about somebody from Australia? Or Paris?

We have no representation from the 70s, the 90s or the "noughties". If you'd like to be involved, please email Cindy Rutherford.

"Alumnae Reunited"

If you are a former pupil of JAGS, you will find "Alumnae Reunited" enclosed. News of alumnae used to appear in the annual School Magazine, but in future it will be sent out to alumnae with "*To Read and So*"

School Magazine

All former members of JAOGA and leavers in July 2007 will automatically receive a copy of the School Magazine this autumn unless they have specifically asked not to. If anyone else would like to receive a copy please complete the enclosed order form and send it, along with £5 cash/cheque, made payable to JAGS, to Cindy Rutherford in the Development Office.

JAGS E-Network

A big "thank you" to all alumnae who have used the JAGS E-Network (Scholastica) since its launch in February 2005 to update us with career, life and address details, or to trace old school friends. It has been a great help to us and we hope to you too. Over the past year, however, we are sorry that we have not been able to support the e-network as we would wish to, owing to staffing and technical issues. During that time we have seen a number of more powerful alternatives on the market which offer significantly more features and greater reliability than our current system. We are researching a replacement program over the summer and will give you news of its development in the autumn.