



To Read and So...

Two JAGS pupils are filming with Dame Judi Dench and an all-star cast. "The Last of the Blonde Bombshells" tells the story of a female swing band in WW2, led by Judi Dench, who decides to reform the band after she is widowed. The action set in 1999 and 1944, and Millie Findlay, Year 7, plays Joanna, Dame Judi's grand-daughter, at whose school concert the re-formed band plays. The script is by Alan Plater, and the film stars Ian Holm as the only man in the band, the drummer who dresses as a woman to avoid conscription, as well as Cleo Laine, Joan Sims, Billie Whitelaw, Leslie Caron and June Whitfield. Sixth Former Lucy Pawlby plays one of the members of the original wartime band. Watch out for "The Last of the Blonde Bombshells" on your TV screens next year.

JAGS Botany Gardens

Our famous Botany Gardens have a new manager, Simon Stafford, who will be continuing the restorations begun in 1996 developing the gardens, and also extending the community programme whereby local junior schools in Southwark use the gardens for environmental studies. You might have seen Simon and the pond on BBC TV in October when the Animal Hospital team turned up with an RSCPA inspector to rescue a terrapin Simon spotted in the pond. The terrapin was successfully captured and found to be in good condition and has now been re-homed at a bird of prey sanctuary in Kent.



We have a number of photos in the Archives of the botany gardens at various times, but would welcome more and especially any accounts of how the gardens were used by previous generations of JAGS pupils.

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JAGS' new Careers Adviser, Jill Ferguson, is keen to establish a programme of careers talks and advice for Years 10-13, so we would like to know something about your current post, and also if you would be willing either to return to JAGS to talk to the girls, or for one or two pupils to contact you for advice about your chosen field. If any former pupils can offer work experience or job shadowing to our post-GCSE or Sixth Form girls, we would be delighted to hear from you. How about using the Development Office as an information point so that girls who are now students can contact other former pupils for advice on careers and mentoring as they graduate from university?

Send us any information and offers of help by post, telephone, fax or e-mail AlisonG@jags.demon.co.uk MandyL@jags.demon.co.uk or use the OG's comments page on our website: www.jags.demon.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you, as your help will be invaluable to the current generation of JAGS' pupils.

Congratulations

Mary Milton, née Alexander, (Class of 52) was awarded an MBE in this year's Birthday Honours List for her voluntary work for Ofwat Customer Service. Our warmest congratulations to her for this recognition of her work.

14 December 1999 Christmas Concert at St Barnabas Church, Dulwich at 7.30pm. The programme includes "Autumn Sketches" for choir and piano by JAGS' Director of Music, Rupert Bond, and "A Czech Christmas Mass" by Ryba (a rare UK performance of a well-loved Czech piece). Tickets available from Cecily Nicholls in the Music Department: Adults £3, concessions £1 and schoolchildren free.

14 March 2000 Concert at St John's Smith Square 7.30pm. World première of New Zealand composer Philip Norman's "The House that Sings" for string orchestra, commissioned by Rupert Bond; other works include Poulenc's "Gloria" and Avro Part's "Credo". JAGS Music Scholar, Catherine Hockings, performs Prokofiev's first piano concerto. Tickets: £9, £7 and £5. Concessions and children £5.

13 May 2000 Old Girls' Reunion Day at school for all former pupils. Hilary Devonshire and Barbara Radburn hope to meet many of the Class of 58.

10 June 2000

Millennium Reunion for all former and current JAGS and JAGS staff at school. 12 noon-4pm.

1 July 2000 Founder's Day

2 July 2000 Commemoration Service

4 July 2000 Founder's Concert

From the Headmistress

Greetings to all friends of JAGS. The last issue of *To Read and So...* was despatched at the beginning of the year when we were in the throes of appointing our first Director of Development. Inevitably, the process took longer than anticipated, but worth the wait as I was delighted to welcome Alison Graham to the post in September. We were not idle in the months before her appointment; the Development Office has been ably run by Mandy Lovick, who organised the launch of our legacy programme, spearheaded by Heather Rankine, a former pupil who has been a Governor of JAGS for many years. Alison was delighted to discover that such excellent preparation for our development programme has already been undertaken by the Board of Governors and to learn of our plans to replace the Government Assisted Places Scheme. With her help, we are now ready to launch a new campaign to raise money for the various enhancements we need to keep JAGS among the first rank of schools for girls, as well as enabling all those who would benefit from a JAGS education to attend, regardless of their family circumstances.

Work has continued on the plans for the new swimming pool, and the other exciting ideas we have for improving our facilities. Again we met some delays – the planning application was held up by the local council, but the difficulties have now been resolved and work can start as soon as possible so that the splendid new pool can open in the year 2001. More details of our vision for the school in the 21st century are given overleaf.



JAGS girls work hard and play hard, and deserve the best we can provide. In addition to our customary excellent academic results, we have had a number of splendid achievements from every aspect of school life, too many to mention here, but just one or two will give a taste of the range of talent here today. Two Year 8 pupils were winners in the Royal Mail Letter-Writers Competition: Jessie Smart and Holly Morse were both regional winners, and Holly went on to come second in the national category of 330,000 entries. Sarah Monroe followed her success in the Motorola Youth Parliament Competition (where she was best Prime Minister nationally) by being selected again for the England Debating Team, and this time she will captain the team at the World Championships in the USA in February. Two girls won gold awards at the National Biology Olympiads, and a group of our Sixth Form students won the Middlesex University Business Challenge. Four other Sixth Formers won an airport design challenge held at the Royal Institute of British Architects. More details of sporting, musical, artistic, academic and theatrical and other recent achievements can be found on our Web site (www.jags.demon.co.uk).

Life is never dull at JAGS, as I am sure many of you will recall, and the achievements of the girls continue to be a source of delight and pride for everyone connected with the school.

Marian Gibbs

New Member of Board of Governors

The Governors of JAGS are very pleased to announce that Joanna Dodson QC has joined the Board. A former pupil at JAGS from 1956-63, she is an expert in family law, in particular the law concerning children, and is Head of Chambers.

Millennium Directory

We intend issuing a Millennium directory of JAGS Old Girls and staff in 2001 as this marks the 260th anniversary of the school, and the 90th birthday of the OGA. To ensure that this is as complete as possible, we would be grateful for details of anyone, former pupils and members of staff, who does not currently receive the newsletter. The Grand Reunion of Old Girls will be on Saturday, 12 May 2001.

JAGS Web site & e-mail addresses

You can keep up to date with JAGS news by visiting our Web site, one of the first set up by an independent school and still regarded as among the best: www.jags.demon.co.uk. You will find something about every aspect of school life, plus news of recent events and successes, all regularly updated. We are trying out a chat page exclusively for old girls so please give us your comments on this as well as your other news. If you want to e-mail news, changes of work or address to the Development Office, our addresses are: AlisonG@jags.demon.co.uk MandyL@jags.demon.co.uk

The JAGS Development Programme

What is development? you ask. The usual definition is the securing of support for an academic institution through closer relationships, philanthropy and external communications. This means strengthening parents' and former pupils' links with the school and actively involving them in its current and proposed work. This can be done by bringing past and present members of the school community together, informing them of our successes and aims, and involving them in addressing any weakness and in achieving our future plans. Development also involves telling the outside world of the school's unique advantages, so increasing its attractiveness to future pupils, and ultimately winning financial backing from all groups of supporters.

In practical terms, we don't end our relationship with school when we leave at 18, or whenever. School plays a tremendous part in shaping our lives, and most of us retain a very warm feeling for it, and a wish to see it continue to thrive and remain a success. In the past, schools were not very good at harnessing the commitment, experience and knowledge of former pupils. While they were always pleased when former pupils kept in touch, there were few means of involving old girls or former staff. A structured development programme aims to change this, and this newsletter carries several invitations for your help in various ways.

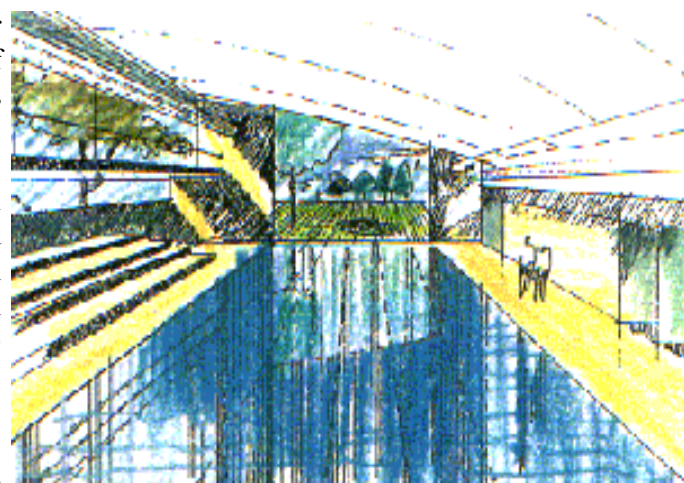
A major part of development is making sure that former pupils and staff know what is happening in school today, and can share our vision for the future. Some recent successes of pupils are mentioned here, and more are listed in the Head's Report of the past year. Contact the Development Office if you would like a copy. Best of all, do come back to JAGS to see what we are doing and what has changed from your day. There are exciting plans for the future so that we can ensure JAGS remains in the top 10 schools for girls in London, offers a very rich education, is accessible to all girls who would benefit, and has the best teaching and learning facilities that we can provide.

The first key stage in this vision is to build a new swimming pool linked to the Sports Hall, and then to use the site of the old pool for a new dining-hall which is sorely needed by the whole school.



The model of the new Swimming Pool which will be

- ◆ linked to the existing Sports Hall
- ◆ 25m long by 6 lanes
- ◆ capable of seating 200 spectators in the gallery
- ◆ using the latest environmentally-friendly water treatment and maintenance systems
- ◆ fully accessible for users with disabilities
- ◆ made available for wider community use
- ◆ open by 2001



Artist's impression of the new pool

This will enable us to use the Holst Hall for performances throughout the day (lunch-time concerts and recitals will then become a possibility) without the necessity of setting up and clearing away lunch each day. The present kitchen area will give us more space for teaching areas, classrooms and offices. New kitchens will be built adjacent to the new dining-hall, close to the Judge Hall and Prissian Theatre, which will be more convenient for occasions where we wish to cater for theatre audiences and school receptions.

And then, when this first phase is complete, we can start working towards building a new assembly hall to seat all the girls comfortably, and a new Music School for both JAGS and JAPS. We will keep you informed of our progress with the plans.

To get this ambitious programme underway, JAGS welcomed Alison Graham as its first Development Director. Alison previously worked for the Girls' Day School Trust where she launched the Minerva Fund which finances the GDST's own bursary scheme, and set up the Minerva Network for all former GDST pupils. The cause of girls' only schools ranks very high on Alison's priorities, so along with raising money for the splendid new facilities outlined above, she will also be working on continuing the campaign to swell the James Allen's Scholars' Fund so that JAGS never becomes exclusive to the wealthy, but maintains its tradition of educating talented girls from all walks of life

Memories of Swimming at JAGS

Can you help us find out more about swimming at JAGS and how the pool has been used over the past 60 years? We would like photographs for the archives of anything do with the pool; at the moment we have no photographs of swimming at all. Your recollections of swimming and water sports would be most welcome, too. Were you in any swimming teams? Who were team captains? Do let us know if you were involved in swimming when you were a pupil here. Are there any medals or certificates from years gone by? JAGS was one of the first girls' schools to have its own indoor swimming pool, though the grand opening it deserved was an early casualty of the start of WW2. We would like to mount a display of the history of swimming at JAGS in connection with the campaign to raise funds for the new pool, so information and items from former pupils and staff are very much needed. Indeed, any sporting memories would be very useful in extending our archives.

From the archives - A Mystery Object

Our archives contain this mystery item, but no records about it, and no-one has any idea what it is or what it signified. Made of metal, it is about 18" in diameter and has us baffled. What does the symbol on the boss mean?



We hope that one of our readers will recall this metal object and be able to enlighten us as to its purpose. If you remember it from your schooldays and can give us some information, please let us know.

JAGS Legacy Programme

Over the summer Heather Rankine has been contacting many former pupils asking if they would follow her example and make a bequest to JAGS in their Wills. There has been a good response to this, with many former pupils telling us that they would make a bequest or indeed had already done so. Thank you to everyone who has done this. It is not difficult to arrange - we have a very helpful booklet describing what needs to be done, and there are advantages to you and your family as well as to JAGS. All bequests to charities are free of tax, which means that a possible tax bill for your family can be lessened. You can ensure that your support for the school continues long into the future, and there is the possibility of naming a scholarship after you or in memory or honour of someone dear to you. If you would like to help a particular aspect of school life, please get in touch with the Development Director, Alison Graham, (0208 299 8410) to discuss your wishes. We always honour legators' wishes so long as it is practicable to do so, and all unrestricted bequests will go to the James Allen's Scholars' Fund, so that we can ensure more bright girls have the opportunity to come to JAGS and enjoy the same excellent education as you did. Bequests in recent years include £121,000 from Dorothy Callard and £4,000 from Mary Nash which enabled us to undertake major improvements to JAPS, and £31,000 from Mrs J Grant and £12,800 from Mrs Tucker which helped us provide more scholarships for girls at JAGS. We are most grateful to them and other benefactors for their generosity to the school.

The James Allen Society

Everyone who makes a bequest to JAGS becomes a member of the James Allen Society. This enables us to thank you for your legacy now, and to keep you in touch with school activities in a more personal way. Among other benefits, the Society's members are invited to an annual lunch or dinner, at which new members are admitted to the Society's roll. Each member will be sent a special brooch, exclusive to the Society's members, as a mark of our appreciation, which we hope you will wear with pride. If you have already made a bequest to JAGS, but have not informed us, please do so in order that we can add you to the James Allen Society's roll.

Where are they now?

Charlotte Jones (née Howard) wants to get in touch again with Georgina Day, Class of 86, who had an elder sister, Emma. If anyone has Georgina's address, please let the Development Office know or call Charlotte direct on 0208 462 6006.

Class of 58 reunion

Hilary Devonshire is trying to trace the following for a reunion at the OGA day: Mary Hattersley, Vicky Coley, Elizabeth Pugh, Jean Phethan, Sylvia Connell, Adrienne Trundley, Gillian Rashbass, Clare Tweddle, Susan Whiting, Carol Cowling, Lindsey Colquhoun, Marion Wickham and Jennifer Stewart.

If you can help us find any of these, please contact the Development Office. Hilary sent some wonderful photos of the class in the Science laboratory and the Music Room, so we would like to complete the list of names.