

Wow! We are celebrating the terrific news of Sally Hawkins' triumph at the Golden Globe awards:



Best Actress in a Film, Comedy or Musical, for her performance in Mike Leigh's 'Happy-Go-Lucky'. That's seriously impressive, especially when you consider the competition. Ex-JAGS pupil Sally has another 11 awards to her name, including a Silver Berlin Bear Award, and a TV award for 'Persuasion'. Congratulations Sally! We'll keep watching.

Other lucky JAGS pupils have also experienced exciting professional work with well-known actors; Lucy Boynton played Beatrix Potter, the young version of Renee Zellweger in 'Miss Potter'; and Millie Findlay won a role in the star-studded 'The Last of the Blonde Bombshells'. It can't be bad when all your dialogue is in scenes with Judi Dench! Daisy Haggard came back to talk to us about her role as Gwendolen in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', to give a few examples.

But this is co-incidental to the experience of drama that every girl enjoys here. JAGS has an inspirational Drama department. Specialist teaching for a weekly double lesson in Key Stage 3 develops core skills, which are polished in the highly popular GCSE and A level options. Valuable skills are acquired, no matter what pupils go on to do. Outstanding staff-directed productions in our purpose-built theatre and opportunities for extra curricular drama in clubs and Speech and Drama lessons satisfy even the hungriest theatrical appetite.

Correction!

In the last school magazine, we congratulated the U16 hockey team for making JAGS history by getting to the National Indoor finals for the first time. Gill Stringer (Proto, Year of '88) tells us that particular piece of history lies with the U18 team of 1986! *Our team, mostly U16s, got to the National Finals under Mandy Franks. I remember clearly the penalty flick save that got us there as I saved it!*

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.

Speakers' Corner

Since the last TRAS, sixth formers have benefited from a series of vocational, practical, academic and always engaging talks from professionals, including some alumnae. Subjects have focused on Science Journalism (Leili Farzaneh, '05) Careers in PR (Alison Miles, Bremner '78), Careers in Medicine (Yen Ch'ing Chang, '90) Engineering, Law, a year in Industry, Adventure Holidays for the Disabled, Money4Life, Student Finance, Study Skills, Drugs and Alcohol and Personal Safety.

We are always pleased to hear from alumnae and parents. Please contact us if you would be willing to talk to the sixth form about your expertise and inspiration.

Year of 1961 Reunion

On Saturday 15 November sixteen 'girls' of the Year of 1961 - Valerie Powell (Angel), Rosemary Hannam (Ellison), Trixie Veal (Field), Christine Bertera (Haydon), Sue Hazlem, Gail Owen (Jelley), Irene Hall (Kelly), Isabel Brown (MacKillop), Jacqueline Bevan (Maddocks), Pamela Pheasant (Mills), Sylvia Lawson (Pycock), Gillian Hollowell (Speirs), Carol Heasman (Stewart), Ann Dunbar (Williams), Tanya Whitty (Gibson) and Jean Dyer (Rogers) - met at the Royal Festival Hall in London for coffee and, after much chatting, moved upstairs



to the restaurant for a delicious lunch overlooking the Thames. One wonders how many actually noticed the wonderful view as tongues were wagging furiously catching up on news. This event has been such a success over the past few years that it looks like becoming an annual fixture.

The restaurant looked after us beautifully and the manager was fascinated as he hadn't been born when we all left school!

Sue Hazlem



Diary Dates

JAGS Community Orchestra Concert

In aid of Dulwich Helpline
Saturday 25 April
7.30pm Holst Hall

Annual History of Art Lecture
Picasso – Challenging the Past
Tuesday 28 April
7pm Dulwich Picture Gallery

Alumnae Golf Day Friday 8 May
Contact Gillie Litterick
01342 822445 or
litterickgm@hotmail.com

Alumnae Reunion Lunch
Saturday 9 May
12 noon JAGS

Musical Quiz
In aid of the JACMC
Friday 15 May
7.30pm Holst Hall

James Allen Society Lunch
Wednesday 10 June
(rescheduled from February 3
owing to bad weather)
Formal invitations will be sent
to members of the Society

JAGS Choral Society Concert
Sunday 21 June
6pm Holst Hall

Junior Production
23, 24, 25 June
7.30pm Prissian Theatre

Founders' Day
Saturday 27 June
JAS, FoJAGS, Alumnae Happy
Hour 3.00 – 4.00pm in the
Development Centre

Details of other events can be
found on the website

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To Read and So ...

James Allen's Community Music Centre

Making space for music

We are very excited that our architect, Rick Mather, has completed a detailed pre-planning application for the Community Music Centre for submission to Southwark Council. It is wonderful to see the design taking shape and to be able to share our vision for the JACMC with potential users in the local community.

Our fundraising events began in style with **November's Art Fair** and Online Art Auction. This was a great success, winning many new friends for the Campaign. Also in November came a concert given at JAPS to demonstrate the range of orchestral instruments to pupils and to aid the Campaign. The programme, given by music staff and visiting music teachers, included a bravura performance of Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals, in which Vincent Spencer and Leigh O'Hara were the piano soloists.

Almost 40 JAGS staff have taken up the challenge to learn a musical instrument from scratch and they are being sponsored to take Grade I exams later this year – and perhaps perform in a concert! In a reversal of role, some are being taught by JAGS girls.

For the Summer Term we are planning a **Musical Quiz Evening** to take place on Friday 15 May 2009 – we hope to see many of you there.

Despite the challenging economic climate, we are following up a number of promising leads to secure major gifts. We are delighted that the total amount given or pledged so far has reached £340,342.

Our list of patrons now comprises: Angela Gheorghiu, Camila Batmanghelidjh, Charlotte Ritchie, Jenny Eclair, Jeremy James Taylor, Lady Annabelle Weidenfeld, Lord Lester, Lord McColl, Richard Stilgoe, Sally Hawkins, Sir David Willcocks and Sola Akingbola. Endorsement has also been received from the Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust.

Our **Campaign website** has gone live (www.jags.org.uk/jacmc) and brings you all the up-to-date news on progress. Thank you to all who have supported us so far in so many ways.

Alison Evans

From the Headmistress

The Spring Term here at JAGS has certainly been eventful. Large amounts of snow arrived and our builders finally departed! We were delighted to be able to move into our wonderful new dining hall on our return from the Christmas holiday. It certainly is a superb facility, with a spacious and inviting serving area and two floors for dining, not to mention the Deep End Café, which offers a wondrous array of hot beverages and snacks.

Our 2009 multicultural evening, entitled Gu Zheng, the Chinese for Harmony, which coincided with Chinese New Year celebrations was a very fitting first event in the new dining hall. The entertainment included Russian ballet, Bollywood and African dancing, Chinese music, Italian poetry and Indian drama and the audience enjoyed sampling food from around the world, lovingly prepared by girls and their parents. The event, ably organised by our Sixth Form girls, raised £1400 for two local charities with whom we work, Aylesbury Grassroots and Kids Company.

As you will see from elsewhere in this edition, JAGS has a long tradition of exploring other cultures and encouraging pupils to learn different languages. We are proud to have some 50 home languages spoken within our school and believe that being able to communicate with your grandparents in their native tongue is essential.

Looking back on this Spring Term's events, the sheer vivacity and extraordinary talents of our girls are dazzling. We have enjoyed superb musical performances of every genre not only in Gu Zheng, but at PopFest, in the glorious Spring Choral and Orchestral Concert at St John's, Smith Square and at all the other less formal concerts which are staged so regularly at JAGS. The Drawn Together exhibition of JAGS girls' work at the Dulwich Picture Gallery excited much interest and many thoughtful comments, it was a pleasure to see such stunning work in so appropriate a setting. Meanwhile in our Prissian Theatre Year 11 GCSE drama students performed their dynamic scripted pieces to an audience of parents and friends before exposing them to the external examiner. Many other trips to museums, galleries and theatres and lectures, both in and out of school, have stimulated and challenged the thinking and creativity of girls of all ages.

Our sportswomen have been having an excellent season. Once again we had a team in the National Finals of the Junior Cross Country Championships, they came 2nd overall, with Grace de Rome (Year 8) being placed 7th out of 144 athletes. Senior swimmers from JAGS surpassed their previous ranking at the National Relay Finals in Gloucester, coming 7th in the country in the freestyle race and 9th in the medley. Bryony Gill (Year 11) represented GB in an international gymnastics competition in December. Natasha Sinha, a very talented swimmer in Year 7, is currently ranked no. 1 in Kent for 100m butterfly and 8th in the country. Katie Snowden (Year 10) ran brilliantly in the National Schools Indoor Athletics Championships in February, winning the silver medal in the U17 300m and the bronze in the U17 800m. Many congratulations to all these girls – we are really proud of them!

I hope all our alumnae readers and past parents will keep in touch with us and come to some of our events. We would love to see you.

Marion Gibbs

Art Fair at JAGS. We were delighted by the quality and variety of the fine art the 31 artists presented. There was a great atmosphere in the Holst Hall; the mixed media and style of the pieces had instant appeal for the audience, made up of local and long-distance visitors to the school as well as parents and pupils, past and present. We were impressed by the dedication of one particular couple who came down from Lancashire in pursuit of a painting by a favourite artist, and by the couple who found our website, just surfing the internet for an art event to go to. It was really good to welcome and show round some of the local community who had never been into JAGS before. There was lots of mulling over of purchases in the Coffee Shop!

Some of you bid vigorously in the online auction for the 29 donated lots and someone somewhere now owns a little piece of Ronnie Wood, Tony Bevan, Norman Ackroyd, Jennifer Lee, Sam Payne, Chantal Gillingham, Andrew Carter, John Luttick.....and other, wonderful work.

Alison Venn



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

FOCUS ON: LANGUAGES

What do you remember about learning languages at school?

BBC News reported 'turbulence' in school languages last year. Despite the findings of the National Centre of Languages survey: a decline in numbers of pupils taking languages, interest has never been healthier at JAGS and JAPS. With an enviable range of options: **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**, and more recently **Japanese and Russian** too, as well as the classics, there's every chance that studying languages will open many career doors as well as enriching our cultural understanding.

Teaching of languages ...looking back

JAGS prides itself on innovation. It is hard to do justice to the decades of language teaching and learning but there have been one or two momentous decisions in the past 20 years. French teaching took an exciting new direction with the arrival of Mlle Pascale Bizet in the **pre-prep**, spurred on by the enthusiastic Piers Heyworth, Head of JAPS. Developing her own teaching materials, Pascale plunged the youngest children into learning about their world in French. Using her innovative **immersion method**, everything was conducted in French, whether it was cookie-making or going up to the big school to swim. Such was her performance skill that children didn't even know she could speak English! The same passion and determination is the hallmark of Mme Hélène Gilbert's teaching today in the pre-prep. Stepping into Hélène's teaching room is like crossing La Manche and setting foot in Calais! Confident and excited Year 2 groups, using plastic food and props, improvise a restaurant scene between an irate customer and a polite waiter! Playing games on interactive whiteboards, singing, PE and drama, all in French, cements the learning in a fun way, continued at JAPS with Mlle Sylvie Dovetta.

How has it changed?

A very tangible contribution from the forward-thinking Jenny Stolkin (Milner), Head of MFL for many years was seen in the building of the **first language lab** in 1998, heralded quite literally by a fanfare written by Head of Music, Rupert Bond. **And what a difference it made** to the lives of the language teachers! Gone are the days when you might see them colliding with heavy doors, weighed down with ghetto-blasters tape-recorders and sets of exercise books wedged underneath each arm! No longer does the cassette tape wind itself round the machine; nor do enormous televisions get wheeled in and out of classrooms.

Mme Hélène Bardell pays tribute to the BBC school programmes and to Channel 4; things have moved on since then. Having taught at JAGS since September 1981, she has a strong sense of perspective. It was unusual to have bi-lingual teaching then. But some pupils were bi-lingual, and of course, still are; Jenny Milner introduced **accelerated learning** for those who could do it. At JAPS and JAGS, pupils were treated at their own level, regardless of their years. Today, too, a large group of Year 9 pupils will sit GCSE French and Year 11s will take AS, if they are ready to do so. All credit to the headmistresses who shared the vision.

Language learning at JAGS has always been rich. Arabic was introduced in the 1990s and Mimi Howes arranged joint cultural exchange programmes to Jordan. A brief spell of **Mandarin Chinese** lessons was superceded by the introduction of **Japanese language and culture**, as a lunchtime club, firstly taught by Nobuko Leslie. (Do you remember her tea ceremony one Founder's Day?) Today of course, the irrepressible Hiroshi Okura has his pupils involved in Taiko drumming, Ikebana, animation with an international

Ciao! evenings, inspired too by a visit to the Flamenco Festival. Touring groups at JAGS such as the Flamenco Company have brought vibrant examples of the art form. For example and *The Fireraisers* by Frisch; the Actors of Dionysus have made an impact with their highly-charged classical tragedies, *Oedipus at Colonus* and *Vanya* and they will be visiting the new Royal Opera House. The Italian department



film director; and the first trip is planned for students of Japanese to see the cherry blossom

for themselves on a **trip to Japan** this spring. We were thrilled to report the 100% A* success of all the GCSE candidates (staff and pupils) who were taught at lunchtimes and after school. Now some have moved on to the challenge of A level.

Cultural awareness

Flamboyant **flamenco** classes after school have set pulse rates soaring in the past few years with dance teacher Angela Alonso. The colourful group have gained enviable skills in ensemble dance, contributing brilliantly to **multicultural**

Guten Tag!

Commedia dell'Arte with De Giorgi and loved *Rigoletto* at the House. There are **film clubs** and **clinics** at JAPS with more limited experience.

One of the highlights for JAGS was the visit to the **French Parliament** in Paris. We were never short of an opinion on the subject. Year 6, wowed the world in French to European leaders at the **parliament**.

by a Spanish department festival at Sadler's Wells. such as The European Theatre to life *Le Petit Prince* for by Swiss playwright, Max sus created a powerful urged performances of the and *Medea*. **Theatre visits** included Chekhov's *Uncle* were among the first to ose Theatre in Kingston. partment enjoyed a

Lucky **pre-prep** pupils plunge into a whole week of **French culture**, including a trip on the Eurostar to Lille, viewing Monet at the National Gallery and setting up a cafe to taste gorgeous food. JAPS Year 6 pupils have spent a week living in Paris.

We celebrate Christmas at JAGS in truly **global** style in a **languages assembly**, with carols and songs performed by Years 7-9 in French, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Italian and German. The whole school is involved in our multicultural evenings.

Hola!

tango, art and drama. And teachers need not go any further than the annual JAGS ICT training workshop organised by the Spanish department if they are looking to update and develop ICT skills in teaching. Sixth formers took part in **Juvenes Translatores**, a translation test carried out simultaneously in 700 participating schools across Europe. Poppy Simon was one of the best translators of French to English.

Do you remember going on a **school trip abroad**? Photos capture a glimpse of the spectacular places JAGS pupils have had the chance to visit recently:

- Russian odyssey to Moscow and St Petersburg**
- Montepulciano and Venice with exchange partners**
- German Christmas markets**
- Vienna**
- Berlin**
- Montpellier and Paris**
- Barcelona**

Bonjour!

And if they want to stay closer to home there are **summer schools for classicists** at Wells and at Bryanston.

Why do I love to speak languages? Current pupil **Alicia Manley** (Spanish and French A level) says that Goethe sums up the importance and the intrigue of learning for her: *'Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own'. For me, the most exciting thing is that we learn about different cultures, traditions and ways of life, but more importantly we learn to communicate with these people who lead very different lives from our own. I believe strongly that in learning languages we gain a greater understanding and acceptance of the people around us and the world we live in together.*

And for those who, like Alicia, have flair, languages might end up being the driving force in their lives. Since graduating from St Andrews University in June 2007 with an MA in French and Spanish, **alumna Shan-Andrea Pinna Griffith** has been working for a French broking house in Paris. She writes: *I work in the International Large Accounts Division and most of my day is spent liaising with our worldwide broking network. My job requires me to switch from French, to English, to Spanish without much hesitation or time to think! Although rather overwhelming at first, I thoroughly enjoy being able to use all three of my languages on a daily basis.*

I live with a French girl and have done the utmost to immerse myself into French social circles. Paris, like any capital city, is extremely multicultural, so I use my languages both at work and in my personal life.

Other alumnae making the most of their language experience that we know of include Caroline Warman, lecturer in French at Jesus College, Oxford, and Anna Gordon-Walker (French and Italian translator in a law firm). Are there more of you out there?

How will we view languages in the future? What do you think? Do share your experiences and hopes with us.

Alison Venn



Today emphasis is placed on shared experience of language **teaching and learning with other schools**.

Year 12 cascade

their enthusiasm by teaching JAPS pupils at lunch times in Latin and every modern foreign language we offer (except French). Classics teacher Frances Shaw has taught GCSE Latin in **twilight lessons at St Saviour's and St Olave's**; and SSSO hosted a shared **French workshop** for Year 9 from both schools led by Stephen Fawkes this term. The Spanish department have organised two **Latino Days**; Year 9 JAGS Spanish students, joined by Year 9 students from the Charter School, Evelyn Grace and Harris Academies at Peckham and E Dulwich, and Notre Dame RC, engaged in fun activities including salsa, flamenco,

Salve!

workshop with actor Eugenio to at the Royal Opera **ubs** in French, Spanish and and JAGS to assist those nce of French.

JAPS children was the trip **nt** in 2004. JAPS children, or two, led by Emma e politicians with her plea ers to create a **children's**