

THE ALUMNAE

Edition 9 - Spring 2017

Networking and News from The Royal High School Bath  Alumnae Network

Welcome



A Welcome from the Head

The turn of the year is always packed with activity and energy. The whole school community bustles with the usual festivities of Christmas: our entrance festooned in blue lights this year, along with the school clock tower; the magic of the Carol Service in Bath Abbey; the Friends' legendary Christmas Bazaar. A different, determined energy emerges in January as girls knuckle down to mocks and start looking ahead to 'the real thing' and their continuing education. Now, throw in not one but two inspections in the lead up to Christmas, and the turn of 2016-17 was a particularly memorable one for RHS!

The hard work that the whole school community – girls, staff, governors and parents – put into our inspection by the ISI in November paid off. This tremendous rallying of effort to present our school as the contemporary, extraordinary, girl-centred place of learning and opportunity that it is, was rewarded with a grade of Excellent across all categories. Both in our provision of education, and our compliance, this consistent level of excellence is not

easy to achieve. Alongside a simultaneous recommendation from the HMC that RHS should be accepted as members, I couldn't be prouder of our success.

I hope that as alumnae of this excellence, you will share this pride and continue to walk tall as former RHS students. Please enjoy some snapshots of our activities over recent months in the following pages, and I do hope to see many of you at our Summer Reunion on Saturday 1st July.

Jo Duncan
Head

We Are Family

There are a number of families at RHS whose connections to the school run deep. Alumnae mothers who choose their own school for their daughters send a particularly strong message of support for the ethos of the school, championing its changing face over the years. Here we meet two such families and talk to them about what remains the same, and what is different about their Royal High/Bath High experience.

Lisa Gelpy attended Bath High. Her daughters Betsey and Jess are in Years 6 and 9. Former Chair of the RHBA Anna Lewis (nee Wrench) was in the Class of 1992, and her daughters Jess and Hattie are in Years 6 and 3.

Mothers:

What's your happiest memory of school?

| CONTENTS | page |
|--|------|
| Welcome | 1 |
| We Are Family | 1-2 |
| Gift of a Lifetime - Spotlight on Legacies | 3 |
| Wanderlust Special | 4 |
| Sugary Footsteps | 5 |
| GS Blackburn Award | 5 |
| Alumnae News | 6 |
| Speaker's Corner | 7 |
| History of the School Display | 7 |
| From the Friends | 8 |
| From the GDST | 9 |
| Over in the Archive | 9 |
| The Friendship Fund | 9 |
| From the Committee | 10 |
| Summer RHStival! | 10 |
| Catch Up Corner | 11 |
| Social Media | 12 |
| Join Us | 12 |
| Events Calendar | 12 |

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Royal High School Alumnae Newsletter.

As ever, we love to receive word from you, so if you have anything you'd like to share, be it memories, opinion or news and updates, please don't hesitate to get in touch: rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net



AL: I have many happy memories of school, from being allowed to finish painting the 'jungle stairs' at the top of No. 2 Lansdown Crescent and being given the freedom to put on our own production of 'The Wizard of Oz' in 3 Lower (equivalent of Year 6 – we did everything ourselves, including Directing, music, costumes, scenery, props etc.) to exploring the Big Garden below Hope House and the Secret Garden in Lansdown Mews. I also met some of my best lifelong friends at school – my 3 bridesmaids and 2 godmothers to our girls are friends I made at school.

LG: Making my very best friend Brenda who is still my best friend today.

How would you describe your teachers?

AL: I had some excellent teachers in both the Junior and Senior schools. I was lucky enough to have my favourite teacher as my form teacher twice in the Junior School – Mrs Pinkstone (our Headmistress). She was kind, caring and totally understood my friends and me. We had a huge range of teachers in the senior school – from older rather strict schoolmistress types to young newly qualified teachers. Mrs Tomkins and Mrs Fox stood out for me, being passionate about their subjects, having high standards for us to aspire to and giving us the tools to achieve them.

LG: Inspiring and supportive, and sometime quite firm!

How were your achievements celebrated?

AL: In the junior school we would be given gold stars or smiley faces on our work. In the senior school we would have grades for our effort and achievement in our reports and we had Form prizes and subject prizes at Prizegiving.

LG: Similar to how they are today plus we had an annual Prize Giving ceremony at the Pavilion where we all had to sing the school song and two versus of the National Anthem off by heart!

What was the worst punishment?

AL: I remember our whole class being kept behind after school in 3 Lower but I have no recollection of what we had done to deserve it! In the senior school the sanctions were: Detention, Suspension & Expulsion.

LG: Detention! But I never had one luckily!



What about the school do you still recognise?

AL: As far as the buildings are concerned I don't recognise anything now as the Junior and Senior schools have both moved since I was at school. However, both my children were lucky enough to start at the Royal High Junior School before the school moved from Hope House so I recognised the entire school then. As for people – as far as I know Dr Golder is the only teacher still teaching who taught me!

LG: Well I was at junior school on Lansdown Crescent and senior school in Hope House but I love seeing all the old photos on the walls of the senior school.

What has been the biggest change?

AL: Both Junior and Senior School buildings and sports fields being sold and moved to different sites, although the Senior School is still on Lansdown Road which helps to keep the feeling of continuity.

LG: It has to be the move to the new school grounds for both the junior and senior schools, they are just amazing!

What was your favourite school lunch?

AL: Christmas Lunch!

LG: Cheesy mash pie!

BHS in three words?

AL: Nurturing, Lifelong friendships

LG: Fond and happy memories. Sorry, that's four!

Daughters:

What's your favourite thing about school?

Lewis girls: Seeing my friends every day; Performing Arts and Sport

Gelpey girls: Friendships, dramatic arts and sports.

How would you describe your teachers?

Lewis girls: The teachers are fun, kind and thoughtful; Inspirational

Gelpey girls: Caring and supportive, encouraging us to do our best.

How are your achievements celebrated?

Lewis girls: We are given House Points for good work or being well behaved. We are given Super Star certificates in assembly if we've done something really well in lessons or sport. Head Teachers awards are given out for good work at the end of each term in Assembly.

Gelpey girls: Regular feedback from the teachers, "super star" certificates, merit points and heads commendations.

What's the worst punishment?



Lewis girls: The teachers can ask your parents to come in to school to see Miss Hughes with you.

Gelpey girls: Debts!

What's your favourite school lunch?

Lewis girls: Spaghetti Bolognaise; Chicken Goujons and seasoned potato wedges

Gelpey girls: Chicken Katsu Curry

RHS in three words?

Lewis girls: Thoughtful, Caring, Friendly/Friendly, Welcoming, Fun

Gelpey girls: Creative, caring and inclusive.

Legacies

The Hilary
Williams
Bursary

From time to time, we are humbled and grateful to be remembered by alumnae or former staff and friends of the school in their wills.

This year has brought one such gift from a much-missed member of the RHBA community: Hilary Williams, whose generosity in funding the Hilary Williams Bursary through her legacy will allow the benefit of a Royal High School education to be offered to girls whose financial circumstances would otherwise preclude it.

Hilary's generous bequest to the RHS came as no surprise to the many people whose lives she touched. Coming from a family known for their generosity towards others, Hilary was 'a people-orientated and inspirational leader with vision, but with her feet firmly on the ground. She relished achieving results through others by encouraging, empowering and supporting.' Enabling future girls to benefit from all the opportunities that her much-treasured education at Bath High School afforded her would have given her great satisfaction.

Gift of a Lifetime
Spotlight on Legacies

Since her time at Bath High School in the class of 1963, Hilary was immensely dedicated to the school through years of unswerving support, especially during challenging times. 'She showed much kindness and was a thoroughly good sort, who cared very deeply about the School and the Alumnae Association.' Whilst Hilary is much missed, her legacy will continue to enable motivated girls and women by allowing the GDST to safeguard bursary places at our school.

Hilary once said: "I am all in favour of doing what you want to do; I've made a career of it."

Other Legacies

No less gratefully received have been some smaller legacies received in the last year, allowing us to make improvements to the fabric of the school. Doris Chapman, former Head of Bath High and a lifelong lover of French and German bequeathed a sum to the school which has allowed us to refresh and upgrade a Sixth Form classroom to become 'The Chapman Language Studio'.

A ribbon was cut on this engaging new language facility when members of the RHBA committee gathered to honour Miss Chapman's memory. She would surely have been pleased to see the imaginative teaching of modern languages perpetuated at RHS. Committee members were impressed to see the girls' easy fluency with the new iPads and TV, exploring their chosen languages interactively and through film-making and viewing – an exciting advancement to those who were accustomed to learning verbs and vocab by rote, pen and paper! With a new lick of paint, comfy new chairs and cheerful cultural posters, the Chapman Language Studio has become the place to be for our Sixth Form linguists.

Dorothy Storr's passion for History will be remembered at RHS, as her legacy gift to us is funding the 'History of the School' display, currently under development.

Similarly, Royal School student Laura Lushington's sportiness during her days here will be remembered through the sporting equipment that her recent bequest will enable. Keep an eye on the main school corridor and the sports fields for progress!

A Note About
Bursaries

Just a point of clarification that bursaries, support for which we are most grateful to receive, are awarded to girls with academic potential whose families are not in a position to pay the full fees. By contrast, scholarships are not funded by donations. They are awarded to girls to recognise their exceptional talent in a particular area, and are therefore not means tested.

An Appeal

Some of the developments and opportunities that we wish for our girls are beyond the levels of funding afforded by school fees and the support of the GDST alone. Extra support in the form of legacy gifts or other donations will help us to continue to improve and enhance the opportunities and experience we can offer. If you could consider leaving a gift to the Royal High School in your will, or would like to donate in another way, please contact Louise Scott in our Development office to talk further: l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net.

Wanderlust Special

Take two alumnae, one language degree, and one year...

We were thrilled to receive an account of Livvy Moorey's and Abbi Scarr's experience in Spain, living, studying and breathing the culture behind the language they love:

Why doing a year abroad at university is one of the best decisions you will ever make...

As two students who studied Spanish A-level at the Royal High School and are now living in Madrid for a year as part of our Modern Languages degree at the University of Exeter, we wanted to share our experience of living abroad and encourage you to pursue languages as a degree.

If you do choose to study languages, you will spend the third year of your degree abroad in a country where they speak the language that you have chosen to study, either studying at a university or doing a work placement. We both decided to work in Madrid because, although going to university would be a great opportunity, working abroad not only provides you with at least seven months work experience to put on your CV, but is a better way to immerse yourself into the country's culture. Constantly having to speak in the target language to colleagues and clients, adapting to a new routine and adjusting to different work situations means that you are fully immersed in the language on a daily basis.

When we first arrived in Madrid in August, it was over forty degrees and most of the city had ground to halt due to the unbearable heat. This made setting up bank accounts and registering as citizens almost impossible and it was certainly an interesting start to our experience away from home. Although our initial weeks in Madrid were quite daunting, we were starting to settle into this new country and we soon began to realise that we were actually going to be living and working here and this was not, in fact, a holiday!

During the first month we experienced a massive culture shock which I don't think we fully anticipated, particularly the fact that everything in Spain happens a lot later.



Lunch normally isn't until 3pm, people start eating dinner at around 9pm and meeting up with your friends in the evening usually goes on until the early hours of the morning. This is just one difference in culture, but there are many others that make living in Madrid a completely different experience to living in little old Bath. The pace of life also seems to be a lot more relaxed here; it is completely normal for people to turn up late to dinner reservations or appointments. Unlike London where everyone is rushing and pushing past you, in Madrid people tend to amble slowly down the street and enjoy their walk to work or wherever it is they are going. We have managed to find time to discover some amazing rooftop bars and great restaurants, as well as playing the tourist by exploring museums and galleries.

Another great advantage of having a year abroad is that it allows you to travel. Since being in Spain we have been to Valencia for the weekend to see Europe's largest aquarium and try Valencian paella and in

Barcelona we watched an amazing festival called Castells where people make human towers that are up to ten tiers high. Another highlight was going to Segovia for the day and trying the famous suckling pig that is the closest thing to a Sunday roast that we could find! Travelling does not stop there - next week we are embarking on a four day trip to Morocco to sleep under the stars in the Saharan desert and ride camels and later on in December we have planned a trip to Salamanca, a beautiful city in north western Spain.

We are now almost three months into our time here and we are both loving it; we don't really want to come home! Doing a year abroad as part of your university degree, living in another country and experiencing a new culture is something that we could not recommend more highly. It is such a great opportunity to meet new people and of course improve your language skills by being completely immersed in Spanish.

Livvy Moorey and Abbi Scarr

Sugary Footsteps

Alumnae Following our Famous Baking Heritage

The Royal High's relationship with baking needs little introduction, with Mary Berry a jewel in our Alumnae crown. And Mary would surely be delighted to know that several Royal High girls have followed in her sugary footsteps.



Alumna Celia Adams left RHS in 2005 and later founded one of Bath's most successful small business, the Bath Cake Company. We were excited to welcome Celia back to school this term to give a cake decorating demonstration, and to talk to an eager audience about using her talents to run a successful business.

The 'Home Ec' teachers of the day must have been doing something right, inspiring another contemporary alumna to fall back on her passion for food a few years later. Holly Holmes (Class of 2006) found herself

fruitlessly looking for graduate work in 2009, a particularly bleak time to be new on the job market. But being the determined character she is, Holly set about turning her fortunes around through her love of cooking.



Her story saw her climb unflinchingly from the bottom of the professional kitchen ladder - via episodes of being at the mercy of a tourier she describes as 'making Gordon Ramsay look like a lamb', and under who she worked for 7 months to learn the perfect art of croissant-making, to pastry cheffing at an exclusive members' club in Holland Park. There she crafts delicacies for the unlikely table-mates of Jeremy Paxman and David Beckham, amongst others, and

reflects that it took focus and determination to succeed at the hands of someone who made her suffer for her art, but whose experience and skill she respected.

These tales of baking triumph have evidently filtered down through school, and this year we couldn't be prouder of Clara Holmes (though no relation to Holly!) who beat competition stiffer than egg whites to win the GDST Bake Off at Sheffield High School last term. Clara's themed showstopper inspired by her favourite heroine: Junko Tabai - the first woman to climb Mount Everest - trumped the competition from 8 other GDST students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13. Well done Clara!

We feel a celebratory cream tea with Mary Berry coming on...



GS Blackburn Award Update and Launch

GS Blackburn Award



What to do when you've completed your school education in one of the world's most beautiful cities? Why go and discover more, of course! We are always heartened to hear of the international adventures of our alumnae, and actively encourage their pursuit each year through the GS Blackburn Travel Award.

This year's applicants gave the panel cause to scratch their heads, as they presented such a diverse range of projects which would have a significant social impact in different corners of the world, whilst providing unmatched opportunities for

self-development. But in the end a decision had to be made, Chloe Pinder was awarded for a research project on the protected Pacaya Samiria Reserve in Peru, and Leah Knight to create an Art project for refugees in "The Jungle", Calais.

Many thanks to all who applied for this year's award, and please continue to spread the word for next year.

We look forward to receiving accounts from last year's winners about their travels to Asia and Madagascar...coming soon!

Alumnae News



Art teacher Graeme Preedy recounts a memorable visit with a former student on a recent art scholars' trip to New York.

'One of the most pleasing things about heading up the Art School are the frequent visits from our alumna. Quite often the door swings open to studio 1 and a familiar face comes in to share the joys of their developing artistic life away from the Royal High School, Bath.

Meeting up with Alumna Sasha Brown in NYC

'In New York we do this differently. We swing open a door in a New York Museum and meet up with an alumna who's doing very well over there. Since 2015 we have been able to meet up with Sasha Brown who is studying fashion at Parsons New York and was a 2011 leaver. So it was a great joy for we staff to be able to meet up with Sasha again.

We met her at the Neue Galerie on Sunday afternoon and were able to catch up with her and her hopes and aspirations for the future. The Neue Galerie seemed the most fitting place to meet, as Sasha is studying fashion and the Neue Galerie is home to many beautifully decorative Klimt paintings – There was a fashion connection. Sasha has grown in to a New Yorker, having fully adopted the New York way of life, and she really suits the city. We spoke about her course coming to an end and how she would like to stay to continue her work there. She always loved fashion and I remember well her being shut in a store room working

and creating art with a sewing machine for her A' level, so as not to disturb the other candidates... Sasha talked about wishing to carry out more research around 'stitching' and I can see how this could captivate her – A stitch is a line after all and most of our art making begins with a line.'



Alumnae Pull Out the Stops For a Teacher in Need



February saw our talented and widely scattered musical alumnae from across generations unite at school to entertain with a spirit-lifting concert, providing much-needed to support to their cherished RHS Music Teacher, Anna Bernard.

'Music for Mark' was the brainchild of Tiffany Brunskill - former RHS parent, and her alumna daughter Holly. It was their response to the news that Anna's son Mark had been diagnosed with terminal melanoma. This devastating diagnosis has brought

family resolved to try to ease.

The concert bloomed from the germ of an idea to a full afternoon of spectacular entertainment in just three weeks.

Wholeheartedly, despite the short notice, the local community, friends and alumnae far and wide embraced the event. Their human spirit, and deep respect and affection for a teacher who has been instrumental in Bath over so many years in nurturing and changing young lives through singing and

considerable financial pressures to Anna's family, living in New Zealand with two young children, which the Brunskill

the performing arts, spontaneously soared at this deeply painful time.

The uplifting programme of music was a joyous line-up of alumnae performers, and some parents too. Alumna Kate Parsons had even taken a break from her current tour of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', to re-visit her theatrical roots back in the Memorial Hall.

Together with an auction and a mouth-watering cake sale, the whole event raised over £8000 to support Anna and her family with Mark's care. A terrific triumph of goodwill and community spirit over available time!

Our thanks go to the Brunskill family and the many volunteers who staged the event, and our thoughts remain with the Bernard family.

Speaker's Corner

Pearls of Wisdom and Intriguing Insights

We are privileged to have such frequent visits from inspiring speakers, both former students and friends of the school community. From the sugary secrets of our alumna cake creator extraordinaire Celia Adams, to current undergraduates' tips for survival as a Fresher to our soon-to-be First Year Year 13s, to insights to pharmacology from current Bath University Undergraduate Suzanne al-Rawi, the breadth and colour of our alumnae community are a gift to the girls and staff who hear them.



In addition this year we have had our eyes opened to the intriguing and pertinent world of news reporting from Wimbledon High Alumna Samira Ahmed, drawn sporting inspiration from Olympic gold medal winning hockey player Alex Danson, and been spell-bound by behind the scenes tales from Planet Earth II producer and friend of our biology department, Dr Elizabeth White.

If you could spare some time to inspire our girls on any subject great or small, please do get in touch: l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net



History of the School Display

Our homage to Dorothy Storr is taking shape in the form of an engaging new display planned for the main school corridor, detailing the history of school, from our two founding schools to the RHS that we know and love today. The display will include whole school photographs, documents and objects which highlight this fascinating journey, but we could do with more that illustrates the story of Bath High School in particular. If your attic or garage is secreting any BHS gems that you would like to be given their place 'in the sun', please contact g.manners@rhsb.gdst.net.



From the Friends

Fabulous Fun with The Friends



Never a dull moment at Friends' HQ, the winter season has seen them roll out their legendary Christmas extravaganza in the form of the ever-popular Bazaar, 'hotly' followed in February by a variation on the curry and quiz night theme: a sell-out chilli and quiz night at the Junior School.



As ever, the events were enthusiastically supported by parents, girls and staff, and raised much appreciated income to help us fund 'icing on the cake extras' for the girls. Watch this space for West-End-worthy musical productions at the Royal High School thanks to a generous investment in staging and equipment from the Friends, and fireworks over Lansdown to send our Year 13 girls off with a bang this summer!



From the GDST

Alumna of the Year



Although sad not to be represented on the shortlist this year, we always anticipate the GDST's Alumna of the Year nominees with interest. This year we have not been disappointed with the fascinating stories behind the eight nominees.

The awards were established to recognise the many and diverse of achievements across our enviable network of motivated women, and in particular to shine a light on those who may not be well known to us. Highlighting and celebrating their achievements both impresses and inspires. For information on this year's nominees, and to cast your vote, visit: <https://www.gdst.net/AOYA>

Over in the Archive

Welcome to Sarah Ash

Further to our appeal for help in Edition 8 of The Alumnae, we have been delighted to welcome Sarah Ash, BHS alumna, into the archive. Sarah brings with her not only her knowledge as an alumna of Bath High, but also many years of experience as a school librarian. Being local and keen, Sarah is perfectly placed to help us as we start the immense task of cataloguing and organising the archive material that we hold, and we are very grateful!



The Friendship Fund



The Friendship Fund

Our Friendship Fund is here to provide a little TLC to any alumnae or former staff who may need a little cheering up. For example, flowers and cards are sent to those who have experienced a bereavement or have gone through a period of illness, offering a hand of friendship at difficult times. If you feel that someone would be an appropriate recipient, you can let us know at any time of the year – please simply email Louise Scott at: rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net

The Fund is entirely dependent on donations from our old girls, and many have been very generous over the years. If you would like to make a donation to the Friendship Fund, please send a cheque made payable to The Royal High School to the school address. Please do add a note to say that it is specifically for The Friendship Fund.

From the Committee

Correction to our 'House Rules' Piece (Edition 8)

Older BHS Alumnae would have been surprised to read that the School houses were named after "Sweeping Crescents." What happened to Landor, Gainsborough and Sheridan with the school colours (respectively) of navy blue, light blue and green as shown on the school tie, found in the Time Capsule? House brooches, a bar of the appropriate colour, were introduced in the 1950's and the trophies (mainly for sport) were displayed on 3 shelves in the corridor leading from the entrance hall in Hope House to the covered way towards

the gym (and the site of the unexploded bomb!!).

Some facts from the School History by Dr Mary Ede: the House system was adopted in 1933 and disappeared in the 1970's due to less stress on competition. Around 1997 the House system was resurrected but with 4 houses named after those Bath addresses.

Pam Gooding (nee Ware), Gainsborough

Tracing Ancestry is one of today's popular pastimes. For Royal HS Bath this ancestry is the marriage of Bath High and The Royal. Among our shared Family History going back 150 years are named prizes – some given directly as leaving gifts, some as memorials. With the joining of the schools many of those awards have been amalgamated. Several years ago I started to gather information on the BHS names, so I have offered to continue with the current list for Year 13 leavers. I recognise quite a few names but need more help. Can you please give me any information – the most basic being Student or Staff and approximate

Help Needed on Named Prizes

dates, but any other "biography" would be welcome. (One recipient did actually ask "who are these people?")

The list of names (many are just surnames). Dakin (I recall Doris Chapman telling me she was Head of a Bristol school – but which one? Frank de Winton, Francesca Bubna-Kasteliz, Fiona Wallace, Claire Birch, Helen Ball, Callum Trophy (vocal studies), Drummond (art), Rydill (art), Milsted Langdon, Wendy Hartley, Bennetts (economics), Marguerite Bowie (English),

Thring (drama), Marilyn Cass (geography), Caitlin Morgan Cup (history), Cole (French), Mackegg and Oldfield Cup (music), Gregory Cup (PE), Charlotte Waymouth (biology), Katharine Handford-Bailey (chemistry), Manifold (home economics), Lucy Comyns Carr (ICT).

Any information on other prize names not listed here is welcome. Please reply to Pam Gooding at pamguin29@gmail.com

Thank You. Pam Gooding.



SUMMER RHSTIVAL!

Annual Alumnae Reunion

Saturday 1st July 2017

A day to catch up with old friends and teachers. Join us for a sparkling canape reception at **noon**, then picnicking and school tours followed by our inaugural **RHStival!**
Enjoy musical and dance performances, stalls and stands.

RSVP: rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net or **01225 313877** by **June 5th 2017**

Catch Up Corner

Zumba Comes to Lansdown

When alumna Hannah Brunton contacted us to offer the benefit of her fully qualified Zumba instruction in our sports hall, we couldn't wait to hear more. Mum of three young children, Hannah is appealing to any member of the RHS community who would like to have a go at a workout that combines all elements of fitness whilst boosting your energy levels each time you leave class. What's not to like?

Each class would cost £5 and run for 45 minutes and would be a drop in class which means no worrying about booking your slot each time. If you would be interested in joining these classes, please email Hannah on mrshlb26@gmail.com

Sylvia Duck: 1913 - 2017

Having been thrilled to receive news of Sylvia Duck from her family soon after she celebrated her 104th birthday in January, we were saddened to hear in late March of her death. Sylvia died on Monday 20th March, very peacefully at home in Porlock.

She was well until the last week of her life, when she stopped eating, drinking and talking, and slept for most of the time. It was a peaceful end to her long life. She talked often of her school days, reminiscing about the various members of staff she remembered. She also said that the 'Old Girls' always sent cards for her birthday, and she was pleased about that. Despite becoming forgetful in her later years, school days were very important to Sylvia and remained clear in her mind.

Our thoughts are with her family who will miss her great character, and our thanks to Carolyn Underhay for keeping us informed about Sylvia over recent years.



Mary Gardiner (nee Faulkner) 22nd June 1911- 12th January 2017 (aged 105)

A close contemporary of Sylvia's, we are sad to report the death of Mary Gardiner, and reflect on the spirit and determination that saw her make positive choices for her independence:

'The choices facing many young girls in the mid-1920s seem to have been fairly stark; roughly staying at home or going into service. Mary wanted neither. Somehow she got herself a job as a house-matron in Bath High School, offering much hard work but also precious independence. She then trained as a nurse in the Middlesex Hospital in the 1930s. She joined the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in the war years.



Friends Reuniting

Last autumn saw one such gathering with a particularly pleasing outcome, as the Class of 66 tracked down much cherished teachers who had long since retired:

'Members of the class of '66 met together for a buffet lunch to celebrate 50 years since we all left school. 18 students, and one companion dog, made the pilgrimage from various parts of the country and one travelled all the way from southern Italy. We were delighted to track down two former teachers: Miss Rees (French) and Miss Stalley (Latin) who were also able to join us. Many were the exclamations of surprise as recognition dawned and links were made between the mature faces present and the youthful ones we remembered! And many were the reminiscences. It was fascinating to hear about life from the perspective of our teachers, who were, unbeknownst to us at the time, only a few years older! The Abbey Hotel put on a generous and tasty hot meal. Such was the success of the event, we resolved to do it again quite soon.'

Ruth Williams

Book Award for Rising Star

Alumna Laura Kounine (Class of 2003) has recently been awarded a Rising Star Award for her book 'Emotions in the History of Witchcraft' following her extensive academic research in universities across Europe. Well done Laura!



Social Media

Alumnae Office Contact Details

Email:

l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net

Tel: 01225 313877

Post: Louise Scott,
Alumnae & Development
Coordinator,The Royal High School Bath,
Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5SZ, UK

Join Our ONLINE Community!

We use social media to send out news, post photos and help connect friends throughout the year. Please do join our ever growing social media community by:

- 'Liking' the 'Royal High School Alumnae' page on Facebook
- Following us on Twitter @RHSAalumnae
- Connecting with us on Linked In – search for 'Royal High Bath Alumnae'

Events Calendar 2017

| Date and Time | Event | Details | Venue | Ticket info |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Friday 21 st April 7.00-10.00pm | School Event: Y10-13 Music Concert | Come and enjoy all that our musicians have to offer | The Forum Bath | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Monday 24 th April Time tbc | School Event: DT Exhibition Private View | An exhibition of the Design and Technology projects the girls have been working on | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Tuesday 25 th April 8.00am-6.00pm | Friends' Event Boden sale at the Junior School | Preview this season's must-haves, with discounts and a cut for the school! | Royal High Junior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Thursday 27 th April 7.00-9.00pm | School Event: Y7-13 Piano Recital | A showcase for our talented pianists | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Friday 12 th May | Alumnae Event: Voting closes for GDST Alumna of the Year | Vote for the GDST alumna you think deserving of this prestigious annual award | N/A | All alumnae are invited to vote |
| Saturday 20 th May 10.00-1.00pm | School Event: Charity Plant Sale and Dog Show | Stock up for your garden and/or bring your talented and beautiful four-legged friend to school – a fun day to raise funds for our school charities | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Thursday 15 th June 7.00-9.00pm | School Event: Music Scholars' Concert | Another evening of musical delight from our talented scholars | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Monday 19 th June 10.00am-4.00pm | School Event: Sports Day | Join the excitement and cheer your house on at our whole school Sports Day at the amazing University of Bath facilities | University of Bath | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Friday 30 th June 6.00-8.00 pm | School Event: Summer Art Show | A showcase of our brilliant artists | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Saturday 1 st July 1100-1200 | Alumnae Event: RHBA AGM | Brief AGM to precede Annual Summer Reunion. | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend the meeting. |
| 12.00-1600 | Alumnae Event: Summer reunion and RHStival | Gather with friends, re-visit the school, and be part of our inaugural summer festival | Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net for details |
| Friday 7 th July 1.30pm-4.00pm | School Event: Speech Day and Tea | Join us for our traditional end to the school year | St Stephen's Church and then Royal High Senior School | All alumnae are welcome to attend – please contact l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net for details |

We would love to see you at any, or all of these events!

Take a look through the calendar, chat about them with your friends and let us know which you'd like to come to.

We can't wait to see you again.

For tickets or for more information on any of these events, please contact Alumnae & Development Coordinator, Louise Scott at:

l.scott@rhsb.gdst.net or on **01225 313877**