



Diary Dates 2012

February 1st

Alumnae Careers Dinner

March 17th

Old Girls v Current Girls
Sports Matches

March 30th

110th Anniversary Service at
Guildford Cathedral

June 16th

60s/70s Decade Reunion

June 30th

110th Anniversary
Celebration Ball

October 19th

Head Girls' and Deputy Head
Girls' Drinks

Prior's Field Old Girls' Association Magazine

We live by Admiration, Hope and Love



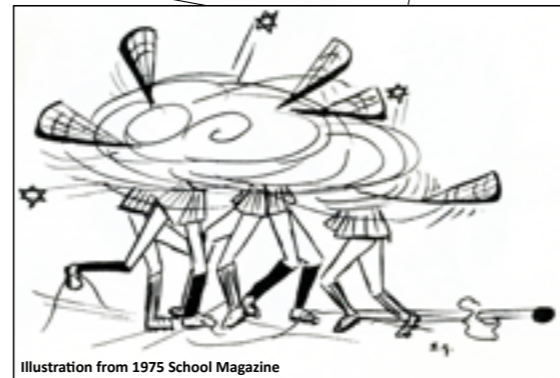
Stop Press - Hold the Dates

110th Anniversary Service

The first of our celebratory events for the school's 110th year will be a **service at Guildford Cathedral on March 30th between 11am and 12 noon**. This will be an opportunity for pupils – past and present – to come together and, as such, we have decided to hold the annual **Old Girls' lunch and AGM at school after the service**. This will allow members to participate in both the service and the annual Old Girls' Day activities.

60s & 70s Decade Reunion

We are delighted to announce a reunion at Prior's Field on **June 16th 2012 for our 60s & 70s leavers**. More details to follow so please hold the date.



Lost Touch?

Please let us know when your circumstances change so that we can keep our records up to date. Unless you tell us otherwise, all information about you will be strictly confidential and will not be disclosed. If, however, you would like to share contact details, news, or professional information with your Prior's Field friends, or contact your former teachers, please inform us and we can help you with this.

How to contact us:

You can update your details online via our website:

<http://www.priorsfieldschool.com/pf-huxley-club/old-girls-association/lost-touch/>

You can contact the Alumnae Co-ordinator via:

- Email: sbushell@priorsfieldschool.com
- Phone: 01483 813459
- Fax: 01483 810180
- Address: Prior's Field School, Priorsfield Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2RH
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com> Search under Prior's Field Alumnae
- LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/myGroups> Search under Prior's Field Alumnae

Letter from the Head

2010-11 was a record year for the school, in so many ways: our best GCSE and A level results; top 1% nationally for value-added achievement and *excellent* across the board in our first ISI inspection for six years. Girls and staff were also delighted when we were awarded Green Flag status by Eco Schools and an International School Award from the British Council.

However, a good school is about people and relationships and it has been a real joy to see the whole community working together again this year to support a variety of different events and activities. This strength of community was flagged in our inspection report and it shines through so much of what we achieve.

Finally, I would like to thank the individual Old Girls and Friends of Prior's Field who have done so much to help us with the archiving project, which is now well underway.

We are looking forward to celebrating the 110th birthday this year and hope to see many of you at the Thanksgiving Service at Guildford Cathedral on March 30th. This will be followed by a lunch at school, the AGM and an opportunity to catch up on some exciting developments, including the opening of our new all weather pitch.

With best wishes

Julie Roseblade



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What's new at PFOGA

Lucy Barnes (née Hailey) (1974 Leaver) Chairwoman



Dear Fellow Old Girls,

It has certainly been a very busy and exciting year with the Old Girls' Association. We started the year with a Reunion drinks for 80s and 90s alumnae at a fantastic venue, *Beyond the Valley*, just off Carnaby Street. It might have been chilly outside, but with a glass of wine and a full turnout

things soon warmed up and everyone agreed it was a great idea to catch up with old friends and teachers.

The first Alumnae Careers Dinner to be held was a great success. Fourteen Old Girls came back to school to share their experiences with the Lower Sixth students and a great night was had by all. The next Careers Dinner will be held on February 1st 2012, so please do get in touch with Sam Bushell if you are interested in attending.

The annual Old Girls' Day was extremely well attended and gave us the opportunity at both the AGM and the lunch to launch our Archives Project – something that we wanted to organise in time for the Prior's Field 110th Anniversary. It was unanimously agreed at the AGM that we were to be given a budget of £2000 to renovate and rebuild the archives in the Old Library. We set to work fast, doing a crash course on archiving with the help of Rosemary and Richard Christophers. Sam Bushell and Celia Toms then helped me plan how we were going to tackle the huge amount of information available. The support has been amazing – an Old Girl and contemporary of mine, Catherine Gunn Taylor, immediately came on board and has been immensely supportive throughout the whole project which is continuing. We have also been extremely lucky to have the help of Cherry Gay, Rosie Ingram, Anne Sheldrake and Sue Cole, who is trained as an Archivist and is an ex Governor. Together, we have made very good progress, learnt a lot about archiving and have been able to restore photographs, rebind books and capture a small video on DVD of life at Prior's Field in the 50s. I am so grateful to all those mentioned for making this a successful and fun project to work on. Cherry, Rosie and Anne gave us priceless tales of daily school life and I feel we have barely touched the

surface of the school's history. We have some wonderful memorabilia and our aim is to have everything ready for the 110th Anniversary on March 30th. We would welcome any volunteers who can give up a few hours of their time to put names to faces, cross reference and generally build up as much accurate information as possible.

I hope I will see you at some of this year's events. The Careers Dinner is particularly important for current pupils and an opportunity to help them make career choices. If you would like to join me in the new year working on the Archives I would love to hear from you.

Best wishes for 2012.

Lucy Barnes (née Hailey)
Head of the PFOGA

lucybrn@aol.com



Sam Bushell

Alumnae Co-ordinator.
Sam works from Monday to Wednesday at Prior's Field and is always happy to help with finding old friends and organising reunion events.

Would you like to get more involved with PFOGA?

Many of you have already attended PFOGA events at Prior's Field and we look forward to welcoming more of you in 2012, our 110th Anniversary Year.

Many of our Old Girls have become involved with PFOGA activities. Please do get in touch if you would like to help out in some way or, of course, if you would like to plan your own year or decade reunion, we would be only too happy to support you in planning and running these events.

Please do get in touch: sbushell@priorsfieldschool.com

Huxley Members Safeguard Prior's Field's History



Following last year's call to all members of the Prior's Field Old Girls' Association to see if they could help us maintain the school's archives, I am pleased to report that we have had a very positive response.

The Old Girls' Association made a generous donation of £2,000 to the school at the AGM in May 2011 to help turn the Old Library into the permanent home of Prior's Field's archives. The archives date back to the school's beginnings in 1902 and include a wealth of precious items including photos, voice recordings, school programmes, magazines, past uniform and old text books.

During this year the archivist interest group has made some headway into preserving this wonderful archive collection. All of the archives have been unboxed, sorted, labelled and stored in special acid-free boxes, by year or by subject. We uncovered some gems, including a Prior's Field song and some cine film of the school during the 50s which has now been transferred onto DVD. Much fun was had by all those involved.

Thanks go to Old Girls Lucy Barnes, Catherine Gunn-Taylor, Clare Jenkinson, Cheyenne Meehan, former teachers Cherry Gay, Rosie Ingram and Anne Sheldrake, former governor Sue Cole and friends of Prior's Field, Rosemary and Richard Christophers, for their time and expertise.

We still have a long way to go and work now includes having albums and books restored and more identification of photos. We would be immensely grateful for any help you can give. This could be an enjoyable way to get together with other Old Girls and friends.

We will be holding specific decade archiving days in 2012:

1940s – Tuesday March 6th
1950s – Tuesday March 13th
1960s – Tuesday March 20th
70s/80s – Tuesday April 3rd
90s/2000s – Tuesday April 24th

To get involved or attend one of these dates please contact Sam Bushell, Alumnae Co-ordinator, at sbushell@priorsfieldschool.com or telephone 01483 810551. Thank you.



A Year in the Life

Founder's Day 2011

Friday June 24th saw the whole school gather to the sound of the old school bell, to celebrate Founder's Day. This annual event was introduced by current Head, Julie Roseblade, in 2007. Since then, there have been some memorable assemblies, including last year's contribution from Verrall Dunlop.

This year we welcomed back Old Girl Genette Dagtoglou (née Malet de Carteret, PF 1951–1955) to address the school.



Genette left Prior's Field nearly 60 years ago, having completed her A levels in one year. She was then offered a place at both Oxford and Cambridge universities, in the days when that was possible! She enthralled us with tales of her life at Prior's Field, particularly the way in which she achieved heroic status when all the girls were given a day's holiday to celebrate her success in the Oxbridge examinations.

Genette also captivated current pupils with stories of her journeys as a young woman, travelling by jeep through Turkey and Iran. Her message was about the importance of independence and having a spirit of adventure.

Having read Law, Genette then trained as a barrister before raising a family. In 1994 she travelled to the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan where she visited two schools, neither of which had books in their library. Something had to be done, but Bhutan was far away, and books were heavy. It was then that she discovered that books could be transported in bulk very cheaply by sea. Friends were accosted, church and school bazaars attended and soon books piled up in her garage.

The first load of 27 boxes was sent to Bhutan and *Givebooks International* was born.



Genette is currently working to support the education of children in some of the poorest countries in the world, such as Burma. This is a country which has struggled under an oppressive military dictatorship for nearly 60 years, leading to minimal provision of English in government schools.

To date she has sent nearly 200,000 second hand children's books to help those who are keen to learn English. More recently she has collected second hand CDs, DVDs and CD players so that Burmese children can hear English being spoken. This makes it easier for them to learn what is a very alien language.



In 2011 Prior's Field supported the *Send Our Sister to School Campaign* and next academic year the girls are keen to involve themselves in similar projects to do with girls' education across the world. Following Genette's assembly we asked the whole school community to drop



any unwanted books off at the school office, so we could support her valuable work. We were delighted to receive copies of *The Beckoning East - A Journey through Turkey and Persia in 1962*, Genette's account of her travels.

The Founder's Day Assembly continued with extracts from Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and a recital of *Nunc Dimittis*. After this, everyone adjourned to the field for a barbecue lunch before an excellent

Sports Day, with some record-breaking performances. The afternoon ended with tea, music and a GCSE textiles show in the Rose Garden.



Netball Match, 2011

Melanie James (née Powell – PF 1985–1992) reports on the annual Old Girls v Current Girls netball match.

Saturday September 17th was a dry, sunny day which, during our time at PF, would have been very welcome as generally Saturday morning matches were a cold and wet affair.

However, on this occasion most of us would get our first chance at playing in the 'new' Sports Hall. I think it's fair to say we were apprehensive but excited at the prospect of playing netball for the first time in about 20 years! With 14 children and a variety of careers between us we've been busy since leaving PF, but not necessarily in the fitness department!

After a quick refresh of the rules from the PE staff, the first quarter started at an extremely fast pace and we were quickly behind. However, we soon found our rhythm and managed some neat passing, ending with some excellent goals. The supporters started to cheer and, with lots of cries of 'Come on Mummy', the Old Girls fought hard to try to equal the score.

By half-time we were all looking rather red-faced in comparison to the PF Girls. Some more changes of position, lots of liquid intake and we were off again. There were several sighs of relief from the Old Girls when the final whistle blew. The score was 14-10 to the PF

Girls. There is no doubt that the best team won, but we hope the PF Girls enjoyed the match as much as we did.

Having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves we're all fired up to play again and we have planned the next matches to be on Saturday March 17th 2012. Any girls interested in playing or getting a team together please do get in touch with Mel James melanie.james@nhs.net or Sam Bushell via alumnae@priorsfieldschool.com

PF Old Girls team (maiden names), back left to right: Clare Jenkinson, Mel Powell, Anna Prideaux, Jo George
Front left to right: Sam Bennett, Juliette Pearse, Sarah Gammell



A Year in the Life

Old Girl Judges Inter-House Art Competition

March 2011 saw the annual Art Competition. There were over 200 entries from across the school and 20 were selected from each age group. For the first time all the work was presented in the main hall and the final display was incredibly professional. Once the whole school community had voted, an external judging panel came in to select the winners. Old Girl Caroline Jackman (1992 Leaver), Heads of Art from Luckley-Oakfield School and Fullbrook School and Deborah Gourlay, former Prior's Field parent and artist-in-residence at the Watts Gallery, gave their time to judge all the work.



A Gentleman's Work is Never Done - CJ

This year a new prize was created by former Chair of Governors, Richard Kent, who presented a magnificent crystal trophy for the overall winner, Ruby Law. Caroline Jackman commented that she was very impressed with the quality of work throughout the school, and that it made judging very difficult. Caroline herself is not only an Arts Society Member who works with Surrey Arts but she also has her own studio based

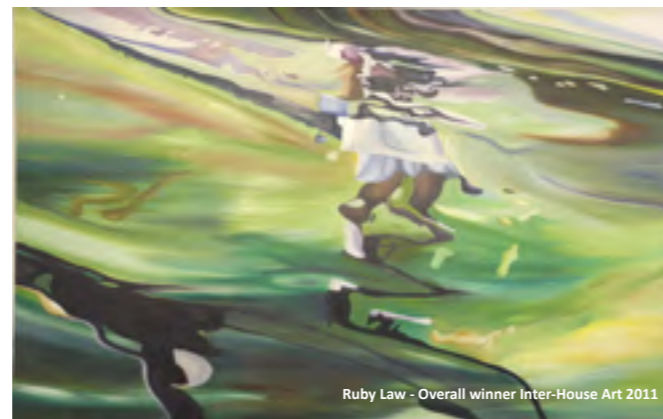


Phoebe Dee - Middle School Winner

on a working farm. Her work focuses on the narrative of animal characteristics, combined with colour and texture.

Prior's Field has a tradition of success in the arts, with a number of Old Girls such as Thetis Blacker becoming world-famous artists and designers. Many pupils have gone on to St Martin's and the London College of Fashion.

In 2009, pupil Charlotte Sullivan won a UNESCO art competition and her entry now hangs in the United Nations building in New York. She regularly wins national competitions and is one of several Prior's Field girls who have won the David Shepherd Art Competition in the last few years.



Ruby Law - Overall winner Inter-House Art 2011



Phoebe Pickard Price - Lower School Winner

Alumnae Careers Dinner



Old Girls & Leavers Dinner Dinner - Tuesday 8th February 2011

On February 8th 2011, the school hosted a networking evening with the Lower Sixth and fourteen Old Girls. The event took place in the hall, and as you can imagine with over forty Prior's Field ladies in one place, there was no shortage of conversation!

The purpose of the evening was to give the Lower Sixth a chance to meet young, successful woman in different careers, to ask them questions concerning their area of work and to have an enjoyable time with girls who all have a share in the school's history. An evening like this had not been run before and it went extremely well. The Lower Sixth found it a very useful and interesting experience. Not only did it help them develop networking and social skills, but they were able to find out about certain jobs in which they are interested.



The Old Girls' professions ranged from finance, law, sports representation, fashion, journalism and television production to the military. After each course the guests moved tables, which meant that everyone had a chance to talk to each other.

This valuable event would not have been possible without the Old Girls who came and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time. We are planning to make this an annual event and this year it will be on February 1st. Please do get in touch with Sam Bushell: sbushell@priorsfieldschool.com if you are interested in attending.



Old Girls who attended were:

	Leaving Year
Jill Uzel (née Clucas)	1983
Madeleine James	1986
Pernilla Stafford	1987
Anita Heward	1990
Alisa Scott (née Labram)	1996
Mikila Lawrence	1996
Natalie Stewart (née Lanoy)	1996
Zoe De Pass	1996
Fiona Howgego (née Christie)	1996
Ella Stoop (née Shaw)	1996
Charlotte Hunter	1998
Catherine Valentine	2000
Henrietta Metcalf	2000
Amy Bell	2000



A Year in the Life

Old Girls' Day - May 2011

May 14th was, thankfully, a beautifully sunny day and we welcomed back nearly 40 Old Girls and families to their annual reunion. Ready to welcome them were Julie Roseblade, Sam Bushell, Alumnae Co-ordinator, Head Girl Olivia Wilkinson and Deputy Head Girls Alicia Collyear and Louise Callaghan. Current and former staff also came along to enjoy the day. Refreshments were served in the Rose Garden which always invokes so many memories for our Old Girls; and many recalled the war years when part of the garden was given over to vegetables.

We were thrilled to have so many Old Girls back for the first time in years, introducing their partners and children to each other. There was great enthusiasm for exploring the school again, revisiting old stomping grounds and seeing new additions, including the Burton-Brown Library and the Sixth Form House.



with coffee in Oak Hall, but groups of Old Girls stayed talking late into the afternoon.

Thank you to all current girls and staff who made the day so enjoyable for all of our Old Girls and their families. We look forward to seeing everyone again on March 30th for our 110th Thanksgiving Service followed by lunch and the AGM back at school.



Most then attended the AGM and one of the key decisions made at the meeting was to allocate £2,000 to ordering and preserving the school's archives, an exciting project for our 110th year. The Old Girls also congratulated Mrs Roseblade on the school's success and the recent excellent inspection. Quite a hunger had been built up during the morning and everyone adjourned to the Assembly Hall where a fantastic lunch was provided by the school's catering team. Once again many of the Old Girls commented that school food had certainly improved since their day! On display were archive materials, including school photos.

After lunch the Old Girls were invited to a music recital given by current pupils in the music room. There was a good audience and the Old Girls were astonished by the confidence and talent on display. While the concert was on, others made use of the school's facilities, including the swimming pool. The day officially finished at 3pm



Old Girls who attended the day included:

		Née	Year or Decade
Jean	Williams	Macbeth	1940
Joan	Birckbeck		1943
Pat	Bates		1943
Betty	Frost	Cope	1945
Joan	Blake	Trumper	1945
Josephine	Pugh	Pitt	1947
Helen	Milliken	Western	1947
Phyllida	Oliver	Harben	1953
Pamela	Rash	Bourne	1954
Jennifer	Thorpe	Oakley	1960
Virginia	Wright	Pugh	1969
Catherine	Gunn-Taylor	Millar-Smith	1973
Bindy	McLeod		1976
Phyllida	Barnes	Hingston	1976
Lucy	Barnes	Hailey	1976
Elizabeth	Van Eykenhof	Arnold	1982
Sarah	Phillips	Gammel	1990
Charlie	Greenwood	Pask-Hughes	1991
Melanie	James	Powell	1992
Rachel	Holland		1995
Virginia	Yershon	Armitage	1995
Jemma	Phillips		1995
Ella	Stoop	Shaw	1996
Patricia	Bell	Haigh	1997
Sam	Matthews		1997
Mikila	Lawrence		1997
Lucy	Thomas		1998
Holly	Merriman		1998
Lotte	Hunter		1998
Sally	Thomas		1980s
Pru	Tallboys		1970s
Jo	Bardot		1970s
Mrs	Ferguson	Former Member of Staff	
Mrs	Gane	Former Member of Staff	
Mrs	Gay	Former Member of Staff	
Mrs	Carter	Former Member of Staff	
Mrs	Alder	Former Member of Staff	



A Year in the Life

Susana Mouzo (PF 1983-1989) brought her daughter Daniela, aged 7, over from Spain in September 2011 to see where 'Mummy used to go to school'.

Barbara English (PF 1947-1951) came back to visit Prior's Field in September and was shown round the school and refurbished boarding areas by the Head of Boarding, Mrs Purkiss.

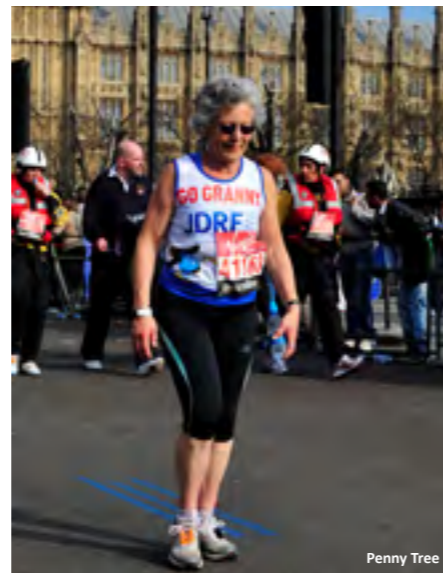
Upper Sixth Leavers' Tea

Thursday May 26th was the annual Upper Sixth Leavers' Tea, hosted by the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Lyons, and Sixth Form Housemistress Mrs Picken. Girls and staff were invited to a scrumptious afternoon tea laid out in Oak Hall, and after emotional good byes, the girls left Prior's Field to complete their A-level study leave.



I will do this only once!!

Penny Tree (PF 1956-1961)



On April 17th Penny ran the London Marathon in aid of JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). Her nine year old grand-daughter Sophie has Type 1 Diabetes and relies on pump infusions and insulin injections, just to stay alive. Penny cited Sophie's strength and resilience as the inspiration which drove her 'youthful' legs around the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon.

Penny subsequently visited Prior's Field and was interviewed by the School Radio Club about her marathon experience. She is still receiving money towards her £10,000 target but would be thrilled with any further donations. If anyone is interested please go to the JDRF site: <http://www.jdrf.org.uk/> and ask for contributions to go towards Penny's marathon run.

Focus on Business

Claire Goodwin (PF – 1990-1996) Global PR Director – Jo Malone



JO MALONE LONDON

I spent six very happy years at Prior's Field. Always enjoying the more creative subjects, Art, Media and English, I left in 1996 with good grades and friends for life.

I then took a Gap Year to travel the world before starting at Bristol UWE, thanks to the indefatigable Mrs Carter who

wouldn't stop before I got a place on the right course. I was undecided what I wanted to do with my life but PF helped me realise my strengths. I read Sociology and Politics with a Business module. Bristol is a magical city and UWE a terrific university. The content of my course was varied, to give me career options. I thoroughly enjoyed the work and had some inspiring lecturers. Above all I met amazing people, my husband Simon to whom I have been very happily married for 4 years, and many close friends, all of whom live nearby in Wandsworth today.

After graduating I wanted to pursue a career in retail, ideally Public Relations or buying related. I tried several temping jobs in the city during university summer holidays; this was excellent experience, but I never saw it as my future. Therefore, I took a part time job with a fashion retailer in Bristol during my final year at UWE in order to gain a basic understanding of the retail world. I remember customers would enter the store clutching magazines, asking for items featured. I never understood how the item got into the magazine, but set off in hot pursuit of the answer. This led me to PR. I moved to London, continuing my retail position, but applying to several top PR agencies at the same time. I was advised to learn in an agency environment and then transfer in-house at a later date - this proved to be very sound advice. I was offered 2 weeks work experience at a PR firm on the Kings Road called Halpern, one of the best agencies in London specialising in fashion and luxury lifestyle, the home of clients like Burberry, Dior and Jo Malone.

This involved running the fashion show room, where all Halpern clients showcased. Journalists and celebrities

would come in and choose clothes for fashion shoots, premiers and academy awards. It was a fast pace and good fun. I was quickly given projects that enabled me to work alongside Jenny Halpern and after one month she offered me a job as an Account Executive, working on eight brands divided across fashion and beauty. I was thrilled as I could experience both industries and then choose the path I enjoyed more; this proved to be beauty. Four years later I was Account Director of a once very small, now very profitable beauty division, writing strategies and managing the reputation of clients such as Jo Malone and Liberty, and launching new brands including The Food Doctor, Organic Pharmacy, Imedeen and Center Parcs Spas. It was a dream job and I have never worked so hard in my life.

After 5 years at Halpern I decided I would like to try PR in-house, to gain an understanding of the wider business; marketing, new product development, finance and sales. An agency is limiting as you are very PR focused and often don't see the bigger picture. I knew the reputation of Estee Lauder and the brands they owned and decided it was the only option for me. After 4 gruelling interviews and one very frightening presentation later I found myself as the new Head of PR for Bobbi Brown in Mayfair, London.

Estee Lauder is a wonderful place to work and the brand fitted me perfectly. I took all the skills Jenny Halpern had taught me and applied them to my new role, quickly gaining an insight into how to run a business. I travelled to New York regularly, spending time with Bobbi herself. Shortly afterwards Jo Malone London (also part of ELC) came to me with an offer of Global PR Director based in London. The role was to devise a global communications strategy for the brand and travel the world to implement it. I have been in the role for 2 years now, and with my first baby on the way, I still love it.

Of course there have been challenges, but I have built a strong team to support me and most importantly everyday I learn and feel rewarded.

Since leaving PF my career has been incredibly important to me. I was lucky enough to be mentored by some wonderful people, from Mrs Carter at PF to Jenny Halpern and many inspirational leaders at Estee Lauder Companies. I am incredibly grateful for the start I had in life, and believe a good education, support and sound advice from an early age cannot be underestimated.

Focus on Business

Sally Ferguson (PF – 1986–1991) Global Head of Investor Relations GlaxoSmithKline



My career has certainly not been well planned, but I don't think things could have worked out better. I am doing a job

that I love, I work with great people who I respect and for a company of which I am proud to be part.

Things may not have been planned but ever since joining PF in 1986 I knew I was definitely a scientist, not an arts person. I also came to PF from a pretty poor middle school having learnt no French and being very unsure what the difference was between a noun and a verb. The very patient PF teachers managed to get me through all my GCSEs, including both English and French. I still often hear Mrs Fox's voice in my head when I am blundering round the kitchen!

My time at PF was made a bit different by the fact that my mum was a teacher there at the time (Mrs Ferguson – aka Marilla the Vanilla Gorilla) and was also my Chemistry teacher for 3 years. She took no prisoners and I remain convinced that Tania Forester and I got the worst of it. I would often hear 'Socks' or 'Hair' being hollered down the Covered Way and knew that my mother had spotted some uniform infringement.

I was lucky enough to get a bursary to Charterhouse for the 6th form (helped by the lovely Mrs Bagley) and studied Chemistry, Physics and Maths A-Level.

From Charterhouse I went to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. This is a broad science degree that allows you to become a bit more specialised each year. I was sure I would end up a chemist like mum, but it very quickly became clear that I'd hit my threshold and a subject that I'd always found easy became absolute gibberish. I increased my focus on human biology and ended up focussing my final year on pharmacology, or how medicines interact in the body.

It was at this point I made probably my only big career choice. I knew I wanted to do something related to medicine but I had no idea what. My options were to go and do research work with my final year professor at the famous Papworth Hospital (where they did the first heart transplant) or to end my practical science life and take a job at a small consultancy firm in London, focussed on the Pharmaceutical Industry. I chose the latter. I spent 2 ½ years there, learning what it was like to have a job and getting an idea of how companies worked. I then spent a year at Swiss Pharma company Novartis before joining GlaxoSmithKline in 2001. I have now been at GSK for over 10 years.

The only reason that I ended up at GSK was that a friend from my first job recommended me. What has become so clear to me throughout my career is that the same people pop up over and over again in different jobs or in different companies. It is definitely best to irritate as few people as possible as you'll definitely cross paths again! It is often through people you know that you hear about interesting jobs coming up and a recommendation is worth so much more than a faceless application form. I have worked in several roles in GSK and have spent the last five years in Investor Relations, where I now head the team.

My job is to make sure that institutional investors have all the information that they need to make the decision to invest in the company in the first place and to enable them to monitor the company's performance once they have made the decision to invest. This means I work with the management team to communicate our company strategy and performance throughout the year and our financial results in terms of sales, costs and profit four times a year.

I spend a lot of time organising for shareholders and potential shareholders to meet with our Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and other members of the management team. I make sure that the management team are well prepared in terms of the questions they might be asked and I accompany them to the meetings. I am actually writing this sitting in GSK's offices in Mumbai, India, as one of our biggest shareholders requested a meeting with the Head of GSK India and I will attend that meeting this afternoon. Travel is a definite perk of the job.

As I have become more senior at GSK one of the things I am very focussed on is how we can bring great people into the company and develop them to be leaders in the organisation in the future. GSK runs a growing graduate trainee programme (our current Chief Executive joined on that programme in 1985...so great things are possible) and I am responsible for the Communications piece of that programme which we are running for the first time this year. So (blatant advert here!) if you know anyone who might be interested in starting a career at GSK please direct them to www.gsk.com/careers

Tania Taylor ACA (PF – 1996–2001) Accountant - Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP



I had five wonderful years at Prior's Field as a weekly boarder. I made great friends and I have fond memories of my time there. After completing my A levels I went to Exeter University, where I read Management and Statistics. It was not until the

second year of my course that I decided to train to be a Chartered Accountant and do the ACA exams. After studying some accountancy modules as a part of my degree, and talking to people in the profession, I realised that the qualification would open up a huge number of doors.

After completing my degree I took a gap year. I spent the first few months temping in London and applying for graduate jobs in Audit at accountancy firms. After a number of interviews I was offered a graduate trainee position at Crowe Clark Whitehill in London. This was brilliant as I was able to go travelling knowing that I would have a job to come back to. I crewed on a yacht sailing around the Caribbean for three months and then travelled around parts of Europe.

I was one of twelve graduates who started in September 2007. We were immediately sent to college for two weeks in preparation for the first set of exams. Over three years I completed a total of fifteen exams

sandwiched between working on clients' audits. Finding time to study was much harder than at university and I was very relieved to qualify last September.

Our clients came from a broad range of sectors and I would find myself working in an interior design company one week, an Oxford college the next and a factory the following. I found the constant variety of locations, audit teams and the clients both interesting and a challenge.

In January this year I was seconded to our Chicago office for three months which was an amazing opportunity. I was undertaking exactly the same work as in London but the way they work in the US is very different. I had to visit client offices all over the East Coast and the Mid-West, including New York and Kentucky which I found very exciting. I loved being flown everywhere and I definitely made the most of living on expenses! Since returning last April I have been promoted to Supervisor, so I now have my own clients. I find the additional responsibility and high level contact with clients much more rewarding; I report directly to Partners within the firm rather than Managers and I have to organise teams of trainees and delegate work to them.

I never intended to stay in Audit and knew that my qualification would just be a stepping stone to my next role. I therefore successfully applied for a job in our Corporate Finance Department which I started at the end of November. This involves working in Mergers and Acquisitions but I have asked if I can also work on projects in the other services we provide, namely Capital Markets, Private Equity and Due Diligence. As most of the clients are based all over the globe I am hoping that there will be a lot of international travel involved. I am greatly looking forward to the next chapter in my career. I suspect that it will be a very steep learning curve but, I will be able to use the knowledge gained from my training and know that the position will provide plenty of scope to develop new skills.

Focus on careers

We would like to establish a careers focus piece as a permanent feature of the Old Girls' Magazine. It is both inspiring and interesting to see what our girls get up to when they leave school. If you feel able to contribute a piece on your chosen career, whether you are just starting out or are fully established, then please do get in touch.

School News

Excellent Across the Board

In March 2011, in its first Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI) report for six years, Prior's Field was given the top grade, excellent, in all nine areas of inspection – including quality of teaching. This made it unique amongst senior girls' independent schools in Surrey, at the time.

The report concluded that excellent teaching, outstanding relationships and the high quality of both the curriculum and extra curricular activities, enable pupils to make exceptional progress. Not only this, but the inspectors also commented that the rigour of the school is underpinned by kindness – something that sets

the tone at Prior's Field and of which its founder, Julia Huxley, would no doubt have been proud.

Parents expressed very high levels of satisfaction with the school and with the attitudes and views it promotes. Boarders were found to be very happy together, feeling well cared for and listened to. Provision of facilities and activities at the weekend and the quality of food were all highly praised. The lead inspector commented that in her experience the confidential pupil questionnaires were unprecedented in terms of their positive responses. Inspectors also remarked that the school has a very strong sense of team spirit, with everyone working closely together.

Launch of Elite Tennis Academy



are capable of playing at national or international level and, as a minimum, gaining scholarships to top American universities.

Our first academy member, Daisy Phillips, joined Prior's Field as a pupil in September 2011. Daisy is currently ranked in the top 25 in the UK, in her age group.

This joint venture combines excellent tennis coaching with the small class sizes, superb teaching and dynamic environment at Prior's Field. The school is discounting its fees for girls in the Academy, to offset coaching costs, and a personalised curriculum is put in place to enable girls to spend a number of hours each day on their tennis coaching.

PF Catwalk

Girls on swings, eco-friendly newspaper dresses made in 52 minutes, feather boa headdresses and a Harley-Davidson on stage in the Sports Hall – it could only happen at PF Catwalk, Prior's Field's biennial, fashion fund-raising evening staged in March 2011.

Auction prizes donated by retailers and school contacts included a day's hire of two Harley-Davidson motorbikes, a week at a five-star boutique hotel in Sri Lanka, a day's fishing and shooting and a dinner cooked and served by Prior's Field's GCSE students. Everyone involved had a tremendous time with £17,000 profit being raised: 10% of the proceeds went to last year's charity, *Help for Heroes*, and the remainder was put towards a new school sports pavilion.



Boarding still at the Heart of Prior's Field

From one full-time boarder at the time of its foundation in 1902, Prior's Field now provides the best of home and school life to 111 girls who board on a full, weekly or flexible basis.

Flexi boarding – for a maximum of two nights per week – was introduced in September 2011 for girls aged 11 to 13, to support busy parents and give younger pupils a taste of the boarding experience.

The school runs an array of weekend activities for boarders: over the last few months girls have visited the BBC Television Centre, Madame Tussauds, an outdoor activity centre in the New Forest and competed in their own mini-Olympics with challenges including parachuting eggs and a water relay race with chocolate prizes!



Furry – and Feathered – Friends

Several animals have acted as unsung heroes at Prior's Field over the decades, providing comfort and fun and, on occasion, amusing tales of misadventure, particularly for boarders. Dogs have been known to get in the way of lesson changes and chickens to escape... We thought that a tribute to them in the Old Girls' Magazine was long overdue!

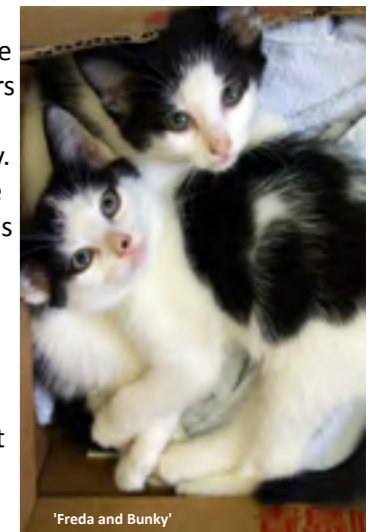
One of the best known animals was Dobbin – the terrier belonging to Prior's Field's first ever boarder – there at the school's founding in 1902. Other dogs followed: school photo albums from that period, stored in the archives, show shots of Bruno in 1905 and, a little later, Tekel the Dachshund. Then, in 1909, three kittens named Admiration, Hope and Love appeared on the scene.



Labradors have been a constant over the years: Old Girls and staff recall two black Labs belonging to Mrs Hiles (Head, 1964-73) and two golden Labs belonging to Mrs McCallum (Head, 1987-99) which went by the names of Smith and Wesson!

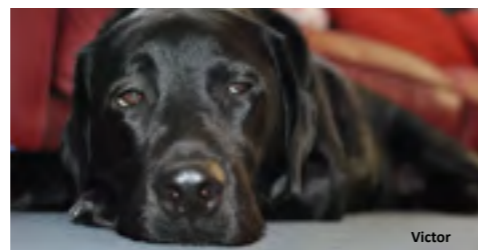
Sister Margaret Duff who joined Prior's Field in 1959 kept wire-haired Dachshunds which were great favourites with 1970s girls, if they were unwell. One of these, Quince, played the part of the Dog in the Moon in the school's 1975 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Sheila Steele, who first started working at Prior's Field in the 1960s, remembers Wendy Dawson (Head, 1974-86) keeping poodles and riding her white horse out before school in the mornings.

In residence at Prior's Field at the time of writing are another black Labrador, Victor; the current Head, Mrs Roseblade's, Persian cats, Trouble and Mist; two kittens, Freda and Bunky and chickens named Omelette and Scramble by Mrs Roseblade and the Bursar, Mrs Ranson. Victor was a Guide Dog puppy taken on by Mrs Purkiss, Head of Boarding, and her eighth such puppy. He proved, however, to be her first 'failure' as the girls at Prior's Field had taught him how to play hide and seek and climb up trees. The Guide Dogs' loss was Prior's Field's gain and Victor is now an important part of boarding life.



School News

If any of you have memories and/or photographs of other Prior's Field animals from your time at school, we would very much like to hear from you. Please contact Samantha Bushell at Prior's Field or email sbushell@priorsfieldschool.com and we will publish them in future magazine editions.



Victor

Poet Laureate

Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate, visited the school in November 2011 and entertained an audience of 250 students and adults with an hour-long reading of her poetry.

Beginning with *Mrs Midas*, in which she imagines life with a husband who turns all he touches to gold, she then went on to read her newly-published poem *The Christmas Truce* which celebrates the unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front around Christmas 1914. She finished with a selection of poems from *The Bees* – her first collection as Poet Laureate – which included witty and moving pieces on such wide-ranging subjects as footballers, the plight of bees, politics, royal marriages and the death of her mother.

Before her reading, Ms Duffy had supper with some of Prior's Field's current A-Level English Literature students. As they are studying her poetry, this was a wonderful opportunity and she was kind enough to say how impressive she found them.



Coverage in *The Surrey Advertiser* newspaper of Ms Duffy's visit

Development Plans



Many aspects of Prior's Field have remained constant over the years. Oak Hall has hardly been altered since Voysey's day – indeed many of you remark happily on this fact, on those occasions when you return to the school – and Julia Huxley's belief that education should be broad, outward-looking and allow for independence of thought remains central to the school's approach in 2012.

We have been fortunate over the years, however, in benefiting from many improvements to our facilities. The last five years alone have seen the completion of a magnificent new science centre, multi-media digital language laboratory, outdoor heated swimming pool and



new Burton-Brown library – the latter in particular made possible by the generosity of Old Girls.

Looking to the future, to ensure that Prior's Field continues to provide the very best education to its girls over the next 110 years, further building developments are being planned. The first of these is a project to build new classrooms and a new school entrance for Field Wing. Plans and an artist's impression can be seen above.

We are now eagerly awaiting the result of our planning application for this project.

Whatever the Weather...

With plans now approved for an all-weather sports pitch, the PE Department is eagerly awaiting its completion and future use. Diggers arrived in December 2011 and good progress has already been made, with the pitch likely to be ready for games towards the end of the Spring Term 2012.



All-weather sports pitch site

Anne Sheldrake Retires



Anne Sheldrake with Old Girls at the 2011 London Reunion for '80s and '90s leavers

One of Prior's Field's longest-standing members of staff retired at the end of the summer term 2011, after 21 years at the school.

Mrs Anne Sheldrake joined in 1990 to teach Maths and left last year, having also taught ICT and latterly been Examinations Officer. Anne also ran the immensely-popular Funky Food after-school club for several years, for which she enjoyed digging out fun recipes to follow with the girls. Among her many memories, she cites a

Space Mission

Ten Prior's Field pupils took part in a simulated space mission to the moon during the summer holidays! The girls were part of a school expedition to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, U.S.A. – at the invitation of its President and former NASA astronaut, Dr. Bonnie Dunbar, who visited Prior's Field in 2009. Dr Dunbar's visit to the school was generously arranged by a parent and her presentation to pupils and staff was a real inspiration.

Once at the museum, pupils adopted mission controller and astronaut roles in a spacecraft simulator and were charged with controlling the trajectory of the craft, determining a suitable place to land on the moon and monitoring astronauts' life support systems.

Whilst in Seattle, they also visited its Boeing factory

particular favourite as being "the year a whole GCSE maths set I taught exceeded their own expectations and everyone else's". She also remembers the kindness and encouragement of Commander Richard Kent, then Chair of Governors, when observing one of her Maths lessons.

A fount of knowledge about the school, its history and the girls who have been through Prior's Field's corridors, Anne recently returned to help work on the school archives and has joined the occasional school trip.

She is now, in her own words, enjoying 'a relaxing gap year including investigating options for the future'. As someone who enjoys travel to far-flung places, as well as cooking, being a member of the Godalming Flower Club, her local church and a very involved granny, she continues to have a busy agenda!

We would like to take this opportunity once again to thank Anne for all the years of hard work, dedication and loyalty that she has shown, and continues to show, to Prior's Field.

and met with a female test pilot and chief production engineer for the brand new 787 Dreamliner – both wonderful role models for the Prior's Field girls.



Inside the spacecraft simulator at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, U.S.A.



Duke of Edinburgh trip to Iceland, Summer 2011

PRIOR'S FIELD
GODALMING SURREY

GSA Independent, Girls' Boarding and Day School 11-18

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