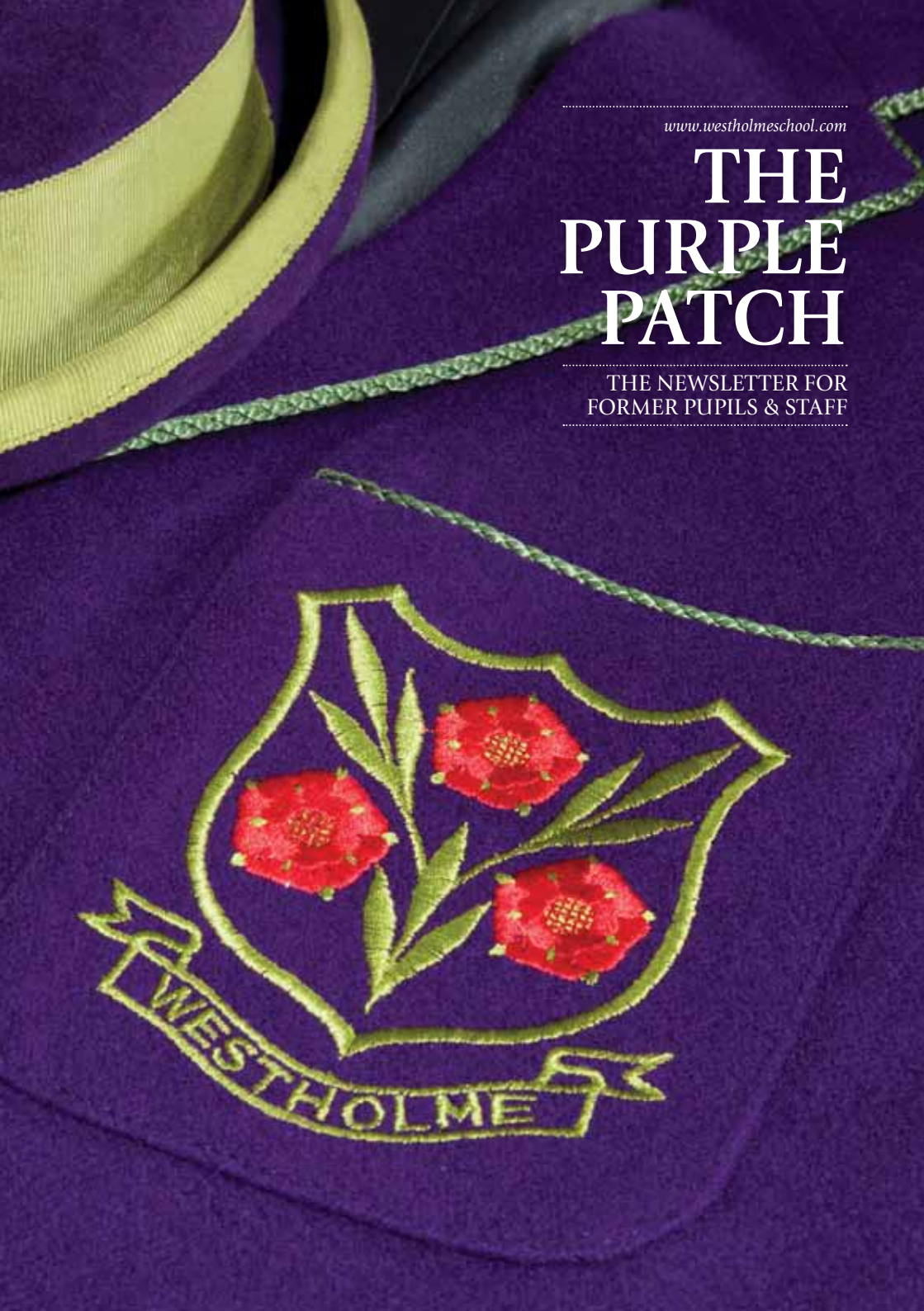

www.westholmeschool.com

THE PURPLE PATCH

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FORMER PUPILS & STAFF

Introduction

It is with great trepidation that I write the introduction to this newsletter, which has long been the hallowed domain of Mrs Gibson! (Lord help me, should there be a spelling or grammatical error.) As you know, EG retired last year after many years of wonderful teaching and equally talented newsletter editing. She is pictured below with Mrs Croston at one of her numerous retirement functions. She had more of these than the Queen has birthdays! The shoes I step into are metaphorically enormous; nonetheless, I will do my best to deliver a vital and interesting newsletter, which I know so many of you read with pleasure. It is only as good as the news you send in to us though, so please keep your snippets coming.

The first departure from the norm in this new editorial era comes in the guise of the title. With so many boys now leaving us at 11, and in fact lots of older gentlemen in touch with us who came as infants many years ago, I wanted it to herald a new era, so The Purple Patch it is. The dictionary reliably informs me that this is a period of good luck or success and since many of you view your time at Westholme and in fact your lives after as exactly that, it seems suitable. I hope you agree!

Westholme continues to stride further into the future with great vigour.

All suggestions for improvement in terms of what we offer former pupils and staff, and how we communicate with you are warmly welcomed. Westholme continues to stride further into the future with great vigour, and this is in no small part down to the hundreds of former pupils who have made us what we are today. Be proud of your part in the Westholme Community! May The Purple Patch be with you always!

Vivienne Davenport

(left 1990)

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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The First Word

In light of her vast contribution to the past issues of the Newsletter, I feel duty-bound to give the opening gambit to Mrs G. In true 21st Century spirit she emailed me her 'bulletin' and I reproduce it here, faithfully:

"**Alex** had a baby boy on 28 May, Henry Peter Stuart Carter, a sister for Imogen, who is now a lively two and a half year-old. Her best Westholme friend **Joy Eccles** nee **Taylor**, whose little girl Holly is three, is expecting twins and two of their classmates, **Victoria Mason** and **Lucy Morrow**, have also had twins! Something in the Westholme water?

Met up with **Emma Huepfl** nee **Slinger** on Saturday in Stratford. She had arranged for a little party of friends to see a performance of 'Macbeth' at the newly refurbished theatre. Sister **Nicola** joined us for pre-theatre dinner, then we went off to see Banquo shaking his gory locks at Macbeth, who just happened to be Jonathon Slinger, their cousin!

Have seen quite a lot of former Westholme staff, including **Mrs Pollitt**, who is still doing her good work with guide dog puppy training, **Mrs Wilson** and **Mrs Meadowcroft**, who have a meet-up with Mrs P (and now me, sometimes!) every month for lunch, **Mrs Wilcock**, who makes frequent trips to France to see her daughters, **Mrs Martin**, who is a pillar of Levens village community in the South Lakes and whose article about the creation of her lovely garden was published in '87 in the RGS members' newsletter, and **Mrs Kershaw**, who accompanied me on a memorable trip to Tenerife to catch some winter sunshine, the first time either of us had done anything like that!

It was sad to hear of **Miss Clutton's** death earlier in the year. She was a real character, who helped forge Westholme into the special place it has become, with her idiosyncratic approach and her blunt northern approach to difficulties and challenges."

Keep in touch Mrs Gibson
- we miss you!

Joan Smith (nee Mackey) kindly sent us this photo, taken in 1930 and still in good condition. Miss Singleton looks over a full Westholme cohort of 35 children, seven years after first opening the School. If you recognise or indeed are, any of the pupils, please get in touch.

Official Duties for Old Westholmians

For both our Junior and Senior Girls' Prizegiving ceremonies this last year, we have been honoured to welcome back successful former pupils.

In October, we were joined by the lovely **Vanessa Jolly** (left 1998) and her family at King George's Hall. I'm sure you remember that October event oh so well from days gone by! Vanessa is enjoying a brilliant career in the media and is currently an editor for The Times. Her speech was superbly delivered and she was a real credit to herself and the School, a perfect ambassador, in fact. Likewise **Dr. Natalie Charnley** (left 1990) was a delight to welcome back in June for the Beardwood Bank Prizegiving at Wilmar Lodge. As a busy mum of two toddlers and one of the youngest Consultant Oncologists in the UK, we were thrilled she could fit us in! She spoke warmly to the younger girls and was exceptionally engaging, without a trace of arrogance despite her significant medical achievements. We do like to have former pupils back in School - Westholme is just the first part of a long journey!

1 Vanessa Jolly

2 Dr Natalie Charnley

Sad News

It is always with heavy hearts that we pass on news of former staff or pupils who are no longer with us. **Barbara Walker**, formerly Head of English died in May 2010, aged 83 after a short illness. We also heard of the passing of **Dorothy Clutton** who had been such an asset to the School in its early days at Wilmar Lodge and was a character remembered fondly by many former pupils. John Chapman, husband of **Gillian** (nee **Vines**, left 1964) wrote in to let us know that she passed away last June. He said, "Mention was made at the funeral regarding her time at Westholme and there were some ex-pupils there also. She always enjoyed reading the Newsletter and was constantly amazed at the range of activities nowadays compared to her time there." Former member of staff **Mrs Brenda Entwistle** also wrote in with the news that her daughter, **Susan Whelan** (nee **Entwistle**, left 1987) had died in August following a six month battle against cancer.

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

Mrs Whittaker's Retirement

After 28 years of tireless scampering about Westholme's various sporting surfaces, '**Mrs Whit**' has finally hung up her whistle and trainers for the luxuries of retirement. The first (of many) events to mark her retirement occurred at the Family Sports' Day at the end of June. **Mrs Catlow** had rounded up as many former pupils as she could and several attended on the day bearing gifts and eager to play tennis, rounders and mini-olympics.

They were all keen to sign the back of a watercolour painting of the Astroturf to remind Sue that she had waited all her teaching life (38 years!) for a real one.

On Mrs Whittaker's final day in School, a video was played in the theatre of **Lauren Struszczak** and **Mary Fulforth**, Swimming and Sports Captains of 2009/2010. It was a very amusing summary of their memories of 'Whippit' (we also discovered **Mrs Whittaker** has several imaginative pseudonyms). Old and present pupils were really sad to see the legend that is **Mrs Whit** depart from the Purple Pastures - but her parting shot was a whole school participation in armchair aerobics. Irreplaceable!

Pictured here is Mrs Whittaker with Mrs Catlow, along with Lauren and Mary

Some of the "girls" who attended Mrs Whittaker's retirement at the Family Fun Day were:-

Jyoti Abrol
Helen Ashcroft
Amanda Barnes
Leanne Blomeley
Megan Cooper
Lucy Eckershall
Sally Evans
Emily Fairbrother
Harriet Gilson
Catherine Grime
Claire Grindrod
Sarah Grindrod
Charlotte Haworth
Emily Jennings
Claire Kok
Emma Lomax
Sarah Matthewman
Becky Maudsley
Sarah Maudsley
Emma Maybin
Amber Smith
Georgina Stapleton
Lauren Strusczcak
Zoe Waddicor
Rosie Watson
Helen Wharton

Fond Farewells

Other retirees this year have been Mary Howarth, stalwart of the Maths department, Ian Robertson, Francophile and superb Head of Department, Gill Bergman and Anne Mooney who will be sadly missed from the excellent Science teaching group and Christine McDonald who finally departs from the English team after becoming part-time last year. Mrs Rogers also retires from down at Billinge House after a long and successful career. I know many of you will be grateful for their inspiration, care and dedicated teaching over the years and we wish them all a long and peaceful retirement.

1 Mrs Rogers

2 Mary Howarth, Sue Whittaker, Ian Robertson, Anne Mooney, Gill Bergman

News

Successes have come thick and fast for many of our former pupils and we are always thrilled to hear of your achievements. This year for the first time we compiled a careers' handbook for our current pupils which tried to show the breadth and depth of the paths that our past students have followed.

Thank you to all of you who submitted your information; it is available on line at www.westholme-ebook.co.uk so do have a look. We have also introduced an on-line business community for former pupils in the form of the LinkedIn Alumni and Business Connections groups. Please feel free to join us if you are on LinkedIn; we post information on there about events in and out of School.

Following on from our careers' handbook we also decided to roll out a series of seminars hosted by Alumni for Years 9 and above to stimulate their thoughts on possible careers. It is very effective and meaningful for students to see what has happened to girls who were once in exactly the same place! We have hosted three lunchtime seminars to date; the first was based around finance and was attended by **Ann Brennan** (nee **Warland**, left 1995), **Katie Walmsley** (nee **Thornhill**, left 1998) and **Julie Meadows** (nee **Kellet,** left 1988). This was then followed by an Architecture and PR session hosted by **Liz Talbot** (nee **Brown**, left 1986), **Natalia Bradford** (left 2003) and **Helen Smith** (left 2003).

Finally, **Sarah Morgan** (nee **Keegan**, left 1985) and **Beth Baron**, (nee **Wolfenden**, left 1983) came to hold a medical seminar. The next one we have planned is for Law in September. Please get in touch with us in the Development Office if you feel you could contribute to these sessions in any way.

Angela Hume
(nee Walker - left 1958)

Angela keeps in touch with us regularly and is always keen to hear of our news. She had hoped to come to Oklahoma! but was otherwise occupied in her role as Grandmother. She has recently had her fifth grandchild. Congratulations.

Sarah Parker (left 1983)

I left to go to live in Singapore in 1983. I am currently Head of the BA Geography Programme at Liverpool John Moores University where I have been working since 1994.

My PhD and research links are all connected to Nepal and I am currently involved in supporting a photography project with the community where my PhD research was based. My PhD was based on non formal education and women's empowerment in the Annapurna Area of Nepal. Local people have been taking photographs of their own mountainous community over the past two years which have been on display at a variety of venues and currently we are making a coffee table book to raise money for the groups involved in this project so that they can implement community development projects.

P

Edward Canning (left 1981)

Helen's brother **Ed** popped into Billinge House to meet up with old favourite teachers **Mrs Harrison** and **Mrs Sharples**. He had incredibly fond memories of his time at Billinge House and was fairly nostalgic. We welcome all former pupils back in; yes, even male ones!

Fiona Horton (left 1988)

I went on to do a degree in Art History (major) and English Literature (minor). Career-wise I am now Agency Director for an award-winning national advertising agency.

Rachel Hadjigeorgiou
(nee Johnson - left 1990)

I am still an English/Drama/Media/ESL teacher at Bolton School Girls' Division, where I've been since 1995. In the updates letter, you mentioned that you wanted people to come to talk to girls about careers. I would gladly come in to school. I took a year out, during which I worked for The Guardian newspaper; I am strongly involved in local theatre groups; I have been a teacher since graduating, but I have also done part-time work for a Utilities company, a parking company and I do supply for special needs children, primary school children and mainstream secondary, as well as tutoring in the evenings. I am also married to Alex, a Sound Engineer, and we have two wonderful children: Max, who is 8 and Mia, who is 7.

Erika Hazelgrove
(nee Clegg - left 1991)

Our son Will is 2 in August and Georgie, my resident step daughter, turns 13 in September. It's exactly 10 years since I attended the Westholme 10 year reunion - I know that because Si and I had our first date the day after and celebrate our 10th anniversary on Saturday! So 20 years since I left school - I don't feel old enough!

The children are both undergoing metamorphoses: Will from a baby into a wonderful little boy, he's a word-lover and a creature of great action, doesn't stop from waking up until bedtime and amazes me constantly. Georgie is blossoming into a real beauty (terrifyingly!), she's having a lovely time at school and by the sea: now we're in the long summer holiday we barely see her for parties, festivals and the beach.

Spring is going from strength to strength, with clients now including Bollinger, John Lewis and the National Trust. We made it into the UK Top 100 last year, a real achievement for a young agency based beside the sea in Suffolk! There are 30 of us now, including our techies, and it's wonderful to see Spring flourish as we emerge from the recession reasonably intact.

I was appointed Board Director of the New Anglia LEP a couple of months ago as well, the LEP's were set up by the coalition government when they abolished the RDA's and are private sector led with the remit of creating employment in regions by identifying and supporting growth areas and getting rid of barriers to growth. It's a daunting privilege and really opening my eyes to the workings of the economy and government, not to mention the exciting things that are going on in East Anglia. We are perched on the edge of a period of huge growth, if we get it right. No pressure, then!

I am keen to get back up to Lancashire soon: whilst being interviewed for a Daily Mail article the subject of my Nelson forebears came up and subsequent research has filled me with the wish to come and look round again. If so I hope to come to school, I'd love to see how it all is now.
We'd love to see you too.

Katharine Lightbown
(nee Dennison - left 1992)

I now have two active little boys (Jake - 4 years and Tom - 1 year) and am still living in Derby with husband Richard. I still work part-time for a charity in Leicester, bringing businesses and the community together. I've been there for 7 years and still very much enjoying it. I still meet up with **Kate Carter** on a regular basis as she is Jake's Godmother and try to get home to see my parents - still in Burnley - as much as possible.

Charlotte Crabbe
(nee Eastham - left 1993)

I was training management with Marks and Spencers, I then left to have 3 children, 1 boy aged 12 and twin girls aged 10. I stayed at home with the children and involved myself with the school, pre-school and main school. Decided to go back to work and currently work for Redrow Homes and onsite with a flagship site at Farnborough.

Michelle Fielding (left 1995)

I am still a full time artist based in the Ribble Valley and I am qualified to teach. I teach in galleries such as the Tate, Liverpool schools, colleges etc. In the future I am hoping to set up my own gallery, I am in the process of looking for premises at the moment. My website is michellefielding.co.uk

which is in the process of being updated with new work. I create commercial paintings in oils and acrylics and I get commissioned by galleries such as Urbis Manchester, the Lancashire Museum in Preston, Harris gallery etc., to create large sculptural forms. The picture above shows one of my paintings just to give you an idea of the work I create for people and exhibitions.

Susan Ractliffe
(nee Gill - left 1995)

As a Westholmian pupil from 1988 - 1995, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a pupil there and since leaving have learnt to appreciate just how good us girls had it there. The teaching really was the best and I regularly felt honoured when talking to fellow friends who hated their time at school. I am probably most remembered at Westholme, not for being Swimming Captain in the 6th form but for getting lost in the Yorkshire Dales on my first Duke of Edinburgh expedition! Happy days.....

Since leaving Westholme in 1995, I did a Biochemistry and Sports Science degree at Nottingham Trent University. I stayed there to complete an MSc in Biotechnology where I was placed in a Biotechnology company,

If there is one thing I learnt from my time at Westholme, it was that anything is achievable.

Susan Ractliffe

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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now known as Lonza as a Scientist. I worked in the Cell Biology sector for 9 years producing kits for commercial use. During this time I carried out a part-time PhD (only for the insane!) spending many long weekends and evenings working to finish. Indeed 3 years ago I became Dr Susan Gill after 6 years of study.

I worked with Lonza until 2009, when I changed my work from the hectic industry sector to the hectic NHS sector....working for the Prostate Cancer Foundation based at the Nottingham City Hospital. I am a Research Fellow with the Foundation and work in Urology meeting patients with prostate problems. Now I get to put a face to the work I have been doing and it really is thoroughly enjoyable. I have set up a tissue bank here at the hospital now for prostate cancer patients which we carry out our research on.

Last year in July I became Dr Susan Ractliffe marrying Simeon whom I met during my work at Lonza. Who said work can't be sociable!!!! We are expecting our first child at the beginning of September which we are really excited about. Work may take a back burner for a while!

Apart from family and work, I am still a keen swimmer continuing to compete until about five years ago when I changed from sprinting to long distance swimming. In 2007, I swam the English Channel in a relay team for Beating Bowel Cancer in memory of my mum who passed away with bowel cancer the previous year. We raised over £12,000. That same year I also swam Lake Windermere 6 times in a relay team of 6 which took us 32 hours to complete and set a World Record. Last year I again swam the English Channel, this time backstroke! For those of you that know me, it really isn't my best stroke. Anyway, it was a Medley Relay attempt which again had never been done before and I pulled the second short straw (after butterfly!). We completed the swim in September last year in 11hrs and 30mins. One day I will swim the Channel solo but for now I will stick with the having children bit lol...

If there is one thing I learnt from my time at Westholme, it was that anything is achievable if you put your mind to it. I was quite shy at Westholme, but the experience put me in good stead for the confident person I have become today.

Well said Susan!

Fiona Edmonds (left 1996)

I left Westholme in 1996 after GCSEs. I am now the Lecturer in Celtic History at the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge. More information about my research and teaching interests can be found here: http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/people/academic/fedmonds.htm.

I have given a number of talks about my research (and my job generally) at schools in northern England in recent years. I am currently working on an AHRC-funded project about Furness Abbey (Cumbria); the grant entails that the project members bring information about the research to the general public, and hence we are planning a number of schools talks. More information about the project can be found here: http://www.liv.ac.uk/irish/Hagiography/index.htm.

Katharine Marshall (left 1999)

I am always interested to hear of what is happening and, as always, things seem very busy at Westholme.

I enjoy very much reading the old girl updates, finding out what everyone has been up to, especially girls that were at Westholme at the same time as myself. I never cease to be amazed by the wonderful achievements featured. Until now I have felt that I did not strictly meet the criteria for an 'old girl', having left only 11 years ago (this still seems very recent). However, now I have done a full ten years on the 'outside' and hit the very adult age of 30 I feel that I am every inch an 'old girl.'

I was very excited when your letter arrived with an invitation to get in touch as I finally have something to report. I have been working at Waddington and Son Solicitors in Burnley for almost 8 years as a family solicitor, having studied Law at the University of Leeds. I was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 2005. After having a little break to have my beautiful son, Noah Owen Marshall in 2008, my career has really lifted off. I have continued with my professional development and in January of this year became one of the youngest Solicitors to obtain Accredited Specialist status in children law and domestic violence.

I shall look forward to reading the next update from school when it arrives and shall be in touch with any further developments. Who knows when that may be?

Please remember me to Mrs Croston and any of my old teachers still at Westholme. I still appreciate the investment that each of them made in my future.

Phillipa Dunn (left 2000)

We heard from Phillipa Dunn who is the HR Operations Manager for Harvey Nicols. She says...

"I'm happy for you to include me in the old girls news. There's a little Westholme-expat gathering out here in Dubai. **Joanne Hanson** is out here working for Barclays and will be shortly getting married at the end of May. **Charlotte Warburton** is working as a Management Consultant and studying for her MBA in her spare time, and **Lindsey Wisher** (nee **Naylor**) is a lawyer here. Also if anyone has any questions about working in Dubai I am happy to answer them as working in HR gives me great insight."

Francesca Scott (left 2003)

Having spent almost 5 years working for KPMG's Transaction Services Strategy Group in London (and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant), Francesca has accepted an international secondment to work at KPMG's Sydney office from late June, for a minimum of two years. She is looking forward to living in a city which boasts 340 days of sunshine per year - quite a change from Blackburn....!!

Joanne Lougheed (left 2004)

We heard from Joanna at Christmas and she said...

"I just wanted to send you a message as we are approaching the festive season to wish you and all the staff a very merry Christmas! I have been thinking about my time at Westholme recently and am so grateful to all the members of staff that made my time at school so enjoyable.

I am currently in my second year of teaching psychology at a secondary

I was definitely inspired by the wonderful teaching I received at Westholme, especially (as she was then) Miss Danson who made me love the subject so much I now do it as a career!"

Joanne Lougheed

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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Who knows what the next year will hold but I know that I can deal with anything with the Westholme spirit that has been instilled in me!

Katie Mellor

school in London which I absolutely love! I was definitely inspired by the wonderful teaching I received at Westholme, especially (as she was then) **Miss Danson** who made me love the subject so much I now do it as a career!"

Sam Holden (left 2005)

Sam came to visit us in February, en route to starting a career in London as a buyer for TopShop. She looked every inch the budding retail goddess!

Lucy Pass (left 2005)

I bumped into Lucy Pass in the silent corridors of Westholme on a July afternoon when the School was officially shut and only a lone Development Director roamed the building! She and her Mum were very grateful to see me as they had come to collect some hard backed library books from Mrs Hall to form a sculpture for an exciting project she is working on, Get It Loud. Basically exciting artists come into libraries across Lancashire to play intimate gigs and, to raise awareness, she has been commissioned to make a piece of art. Her work is simply stunning generally and I expect we will hear more of Lucy. Check her out on www.littlelostsoul.com

Fiona James (left 2005)

Fiona was only in Year 8 when she left us as her family relocated to Teeside. She was pleased to inform us that she has taken up a place at Jesus College, Cambridge, to study medicine, and is in contact with **Mrinalini Dey** who she recalls from Westholme days. It was lovely to hear from her and she says, "I know that without the excellent teaching and happy environment I enjoyed at Billinge House and Beardwood Bank, I would never have achieved such academic success." Thank you for letting us know.

Eleanor Sullivan (left 2006) and Laura Sullivan (left 2001)

Eleanor is now doing her dream job! She has started working for Michael Wood (the T.V. historian / writer) in his production company - Maya Vision. She is researching for a new series of historical documentaries. Her sister Laura had a super year too. She won 'Best portrayal of older carers' in the Older People in Media Awards 2010, mixing with the likes of John Suchet, and then went on to secure an amazing role as a press officer for the Royal Family. It is all to be kept fairly low-key as Laura cannot be seen to self-promote under the circumstances of her very privileged appointment. We did hear some of the inside track of the Royal Wedding from her Mum though, strictly on the quiet!

Naomi Fisher (left 2006)

We heard via email from Naomi's Dad, who was excited to let us know that Naomi had received a first class degree from Leeds Metropolitan University, in Business and Management. She is uncertain of her next move but it may involve the USA. Very exciting indeed!

Katie Mellor (left 2007)

Katie's Mum and Dad keep in regular contact with School as they live just over the hill and have a keen interest in School life. Richard asked Katie to update us….

I left Westholme in 2007 with a place at Durham University to read Geography. The following three years were incredible. I joined Grey College which became my home; I made the best friends and had the most fun. There was so much on offer; I was part of the Charities Committee, the Cheerleading Squad, the Social Committee, Yearbook Editor, not to mention working towards my degree! I graduated in June 2010 with a BA Honours degree.

I moved back home to Blackburn and started working for my parents' company, Cummins Mellor Recruitment covering a maternity contract in the temporary hospitality division sending chefs all over the country for short term contracts. I loved working in recruitment; I was learning so much and wanted to pursue it as a career moving to London when the maternity contract was over. Over the past few months I have spent A LOT of time interviewing, travelling down to London and thinking about which sector I wanted to work in and was thrilled to accept a job with Michael Page International starting on the 1st July 2011. Who knows what the next year will hold but I know that I can deal with anything with the Westholme spirit that has been instilled in me!

Anna Anderson (left 2007)

Anna has continued with her sporting success in the form of the 2011 World Triathlon.

On top of the world

By ANDY McALLISTER
andy.mcallister@virgin.net

ANNA Anderson qualified for the 2011 World Triathlon Championships in Beijing after winning the Age 20-24 class at the Dorney Tri Challenge.

The event was at Eton College Rowing Centre, the location for the London 2012 Olympics, and Anna was taking part in the sprint class incorporating half of the standard Olympic distances.

The 22-year-old Pendle Athletic Club star, from Wycollar, is still a novice at the event and this was her first open water swim after just three competitions earlier in the year at Hull, Skipton (which she won) and then a week ago when she was second in the Pendle Triathlon, based at the West Craven Sports Centre in Barnoldswick.

Nevertheless she showed strong form in the swim, exiting the water the sixth woman after the 750m was safely negotiated in 11:39.

The 20 kilometre bike ride took 40:53 before she finished with 20:25 for the five kilometre run – which gave her a total time of 1:14:55 including a couple of minutes in transition.

Anderson built her reputation on the fells and represented England on several occasions as a junior, but she has also been the Lancashire Cross Country Champion and the Lancashire County and Lancashire Schools' Champion over 3000 metres on the track.

While studying at Westholme School in Blackburn she was a member of the school team that swam the English Channel in a relay.

She has only recently taken up the triathlon while studying physiotherapy at Leeds Met, where she represents the University Triathlon Club.

She will travel to China in September with her mum Ginny.

MAKING WAVES Anna Anderson after her swim on Sunday. Picture: JOHN ANDERSON

P

I think Westholme set her up to take on anything life throws at her - and she's certainly taking full advantage!

Joanne Cowburn's Dad

Joanne Cowburn (left 2007)

We had an email from Joanne's dad saying...

"I thought you might like an update on Joanne as she has gone off into the big wide world to look for minerals as a Geophysicist.

She departed for Toronto at the weekend to take up a position interpreting data from seismic surveys with a company call Quantec Geoscience - web site http://www.quantecgeoscience.com/ . They carry out exploration work all over the world looking for, amongst other things, gold and diamonds, so I've asked her to bring home a few samples!

She is the first female to be taken on to go out into the field on expedition - her experience of camping out for weeks on end on Dartmoor for her dissertation and walking the Coast to Coast in appalling weather was well received!

She will undergo some training in Metheson, north of Toronto before her first assignment which looks like being Mexico then home for Christmas. Just so long as she doesn't go looking for copper down a Chilean mine I'll be happy!

I think Westholme set her up to take on anything life throws at her - and she's certainly taking full advantage!"

Rebecca Francis (left 2008)

Mrs Croston was delighted to hear from Rebecca:

Dear Mrs Croston,

I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you for some very inspirational words!

I have just found out this morning that I have gained a First Class Honours degree in Exercise, Nutrition and Health (BSc Hons) at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). When I came to collect my A-level results you enquired as to where I was going on to further my education. I had just had a change of heart from going to Leeds Metropolitan University and instead, decided that I would prefer to live at home and study at UCLan. I sensed at the time, a slight reluctance from you that this was the right decision, but immediately you counteracted any negatives by suggesting that I make this opportunity work in my favour. Your advice to me was not to be an average student at a better university such as Leeds, but to be the top student at UCLan. These words stuck with me throughout my studies and at times when the going got tough, I reviewed these words and ploughed on. At the end of my second year, I was awarded a monetary prize for being the best second year student within the Centre for Applied Sports and Exercise Sciences within the School of Psychology. This again brought your words to the forefront of my mind and so I entered my final year determined to succeed.

This morning I received my final results. I cannot stress enough how your motivation and encouraging words that morning have remained with me to inspire and stimulate my education.

I have also been successful in gaining a place on the Primary Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Edge Hill University, commencing in September of this year. I only hope that I can go on to inspire others as you have inspired me.

Thank you once again. I can only ever look back at my time at Westholme with great fondness.

Rebecca Francis

P.S. I have just received notification in today's post that I have been selected for the Leon Atkinson Prize for Academic Excellence on a Programme within the Division of Sport, Exercise and Nutritional Sciences.

Jessica Cherry (left 2008)

Jessica dropped us a line to say, "In September I will be entering my fourth year at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, reading French and Spanish, before graduating in July 2012. Currently, I am just about to finish my Year Abroad, for which I have been in Paris studying History of Art at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, as well as doing bits of teaching, translating, and writing for a Parisian website that recommends good places to visit in the city."

Melanie Stones (left 2008)

Newcastle University informed us that Melanie had been successful in graduating with a BSc Honours in Mathematics and Statistics. Congratulations.

Melissa Hargreaves (left 2009)

I bumped into Melissa in Manchester before a Kylie concert and we exchanged pleasantries (whilst I stood there feeling very old and frumpy). She then sent me the following email:

I'm not sure if you are aware that I am a model and recently got back from 5 months working in Miami modelling out there as an international model. As you can probably imagine I had the time of my life and I thoroughly enjoyed my time working out there for the likes of M&S, U.S. Polo Assn, Chloe and Lanvin Paris just to name a few. I have been modelling now for quite some time but am trying to pursue it as a full time career. I have an agency in Manchester as well as in London.

The industry is very tough right now and I am trying to do everything in my power to get myself out there and noticed! There is a competition recently arisen for Next, as in the directory and high street stores; I know that winning this competition will only further my potential prospects and stand my future in better stead! In order to get through to the semi-final and therefore in front of the Next judging panel you have to be voted within the top 250. I am currently in the top 10, but know that there is a further 29 days till the competition closes and don't want to take anything for granted! I have forwarded the link from the official Next website and I would be grateful if you could in any way pass this on to teachers and staff at Westholme to encourage as much voting as possible!

As we go to print Melissa is placed 26th! Keep us up to date and the best of Westholme luck from us all.

Although the work is tough and at first living without the aid of parents was daunting, as I say I am loving every minute!

Hannah Buckley

Hannah Buckley (left 2010)

We were really pleased to get a Christmas card from Hannah and also see her in person at Oklahoma! She is obviously thriving at Durham:

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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To Mrs Croston, No doubt Westholme has had a packed and busy term so far! Durham University is great, I am really enjoying it - it's very hard though! I'm still busy with music, but not as much as I was at Westholme because reading is taking priority - I did not realise when you say 'I'm reading philosophy and theology' you actually have to read it!! I have at least a book a week to read, at least 2 articles for seminars and then a lot of chapters taken out of textbooks; and then I've all the reading for researching to do!

I am keeping busy though (and avoiding the reading) for I was elected vice-president of Durham University Music Society in which I organise a concert every Monday lunchtime and I'm also organising a big concert in March at the Sage in Newcastle, in which I've had to audition a conductor and help to get together a choir and orchestra - very tricky!! I'm also in the college choir where we busk in the city centre, do many many concerts including one in Newcastle Cathedral next week as well as being hired out for formals and parties. I am also in the Jazz band, where there are only two trumpets! I'm on a mission to get more because playing 4 parts between 2 trumpets is quite hard. I've also set up a hiking society which I am now the president of. I organise regular walks and hold regular meetings, and it is nice to have a breather from music, as much as I enjoy it!

So yes, I am still busy and like to think I'm making the most out of my time at Durham. Although the work is tough and at first living without the aid of parents was daunting, as I say I am loving every minute!

I hope to visit Westholme and all the Westholmians when I get back, and no doubt I will bump into you at one of the Christmas concerts!

Ben Milnes and Andrew Lee (left 2010)

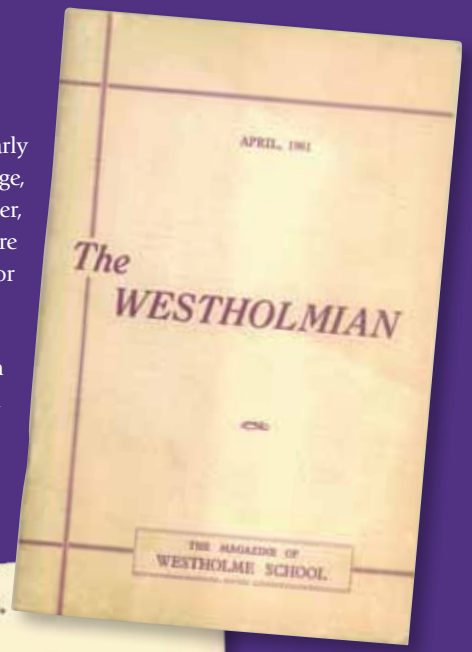
Westholme is of course well known for producing young women of the highest calibre, but we should not be negligent of the many boys we have prepared and continue to prepare for life! At the Boys' Prizegiving this year we welcomed back two really mature young men who left us in 2010, Ben Milnes and Andrew Lee. They had been the previous year's recipients of Westholme Spirit and Outstanding Contribution to School Life respectively. Looking taller and older, they came on stage very confidently to present this year's successful boys with the two awards. It was very interesting to see that the duo last year had gone to Bolton School and the two new recipients were, likewise, off to Bolton. We prepare them well!

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

The 1960's

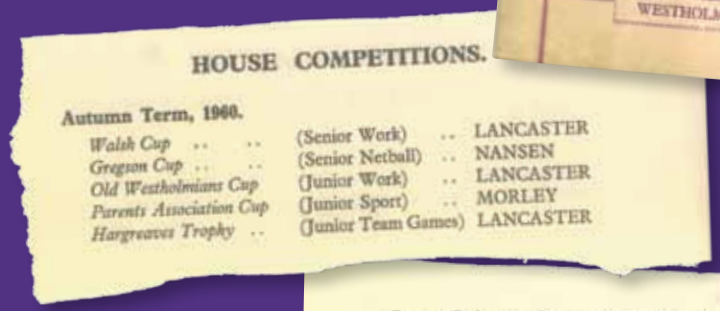
In the 1960's at Westholme things were clearly quite different; Houses were not Longridge, Bowland, Pendle and Calder but Lancaster, Nansen and Morley. Perhaps even more shockingly, was that badges were given out for 'courtesy'!

However, some things stay the same. I am sure that our Infants would still agree with the ideas below from 'Prep. 2 for a Brighter Westholme' – "Two days school each week is enough for anyone".


APRIL, 1961

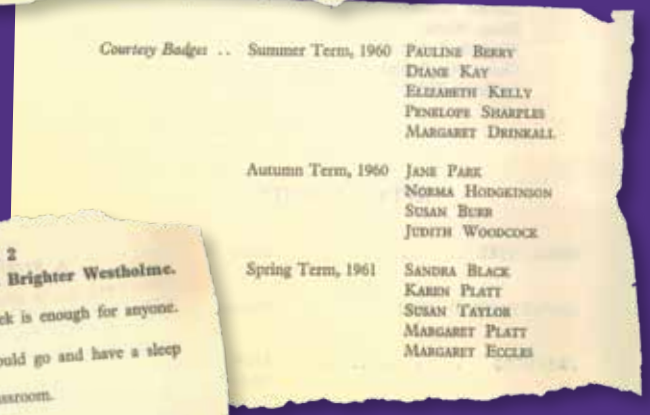
The WESTHOLMIAN

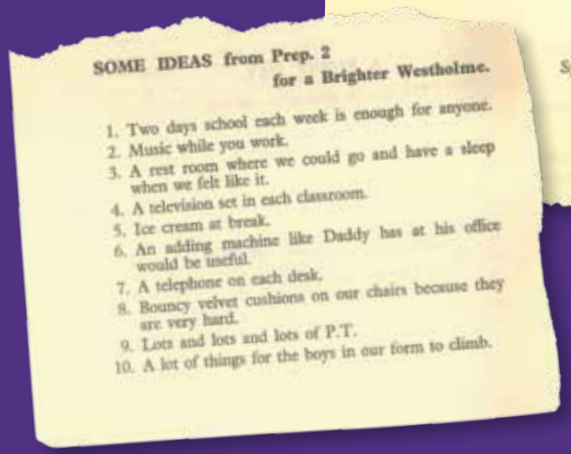
THE MAGAZINE OF WESTHOLME SCHOOL


HOUSE COMPETITIONS.

Autumn Term, 1960.

Walsh Cup	(Senior Work) ..	LANCASTER
Gregson Cup	(Senior Netball) ..	NANSEN
Old Westholmians Cup	(Junior Work) ..	LANCASTER
Parents Association Cup	(Junior Sport) ..	MORLEY
Hargreaves Trophy ..	(Junior Team Games)	LANCASTER


Courtesy Badges ..	Summer Term, 1960	Pauline Berry
		Diane Kay
		Elizabeth Kelly
		Penelope Sharples
		Margaret Drinkall
	Autumn Term, 1960	Jane Park
		Norma Hodgkinson
		Susan Burr
		Judith Woodcock
	Spring Term, 1961	Sandra Black
		Karen Platt
		Susan Taylor
		Margaret Platt
		Margaret Eccles


SOME IDEAS from Prep. 2 for a Brighter Westholme.

1. Two days school each week is enough for anyone.
2. Music while you work.
3. A rest room where we could go and have a sleep when we felt like it.
4. A television set in each classroom.
5. Ice cream at break.
6. An adding machine like Daddy has at his office would be useful.
7. A telephone on each desk.
8. Bouncy velvet cushions on our chairs because they are very hard.
9. Lots and lots and lots of P.T.
10. A lot of things for the boys in our form to climb.

P Matches and Hatches

We are always pleased to hear of your memorable days, getting married and producing offspring! They are the days you never forget.

Wendy Somes
(nee Ellis - left 1963)

The wedding of Old Westholmian and former ballerina **Wendy Somes** to Mr Mervyn Wright was held in June in a marquee in Wendy's beautiful country home in Great Dunmow. The marquee was filled with flower arrangements made from Wendy's amazing garden, stunning in its abundance of flowers and rare orchids. Mrs Herrick from the Development Office attended along with 70 guests for what was a beautiful, sunny and very relaxed gathering starting with a Champagne and Pimms reception whilst listening to the enchanting playing of the Harpist from the Royal Opera House. The wedding breakfast was a delicious Thai meal served by ladies in traditional Thai costume and was followed by some very entertaining Thai dancers who performed on the lawn. The day ended with afternoon tea and array of cakes served in the studio from beautiful china. Congratulations to Wendy and Mervyn from all at Westholme!

1 Caroline Aughton
2 Joanne Latham
3 Wendy Somes

Caroline Aughton
(nee Whalley - left 1980)

Caroline married Peter Jennings on June 24th at Balderstone Church. Lots of old Westholmians were present, as seen to the left.

Joanne Latham
(nee Walmsley - left 1992)

On Saturday 26th February 2011, **Joanne Walmsley** married Mark Latham (Accountant) at St Leonard's Church in Balderstone, which was followed by a Reception at Stanley House Hotel. It was a very memorable day and made even more special by the people who shared it with them. Joanne was especially touched by the Westholme girls and their husbands/partners who were there for her; **Vikki Fickling** (nee **Wilson**), **Kath Hinds** (nee **Wilkin**), **Sarah Shaw** (nee **Smith**), **Louise Tattersall**, **Emma Saxty** (nee **Morrow**), **Ruth Shaw**, **Suzy Crook**, **Jackie Marsden** and of course her sister, **Helen Walmsley** who had flown in from Australia and was her bridesmaid. Truly wonderful memories!

Charlotte Cole
(nee Parker - left 1993)

We heard from Charlotte, who told us she married Stephen Cole in May 2009 and has a baby daughter Sophie Elizabeth Cole - born March 29th 2010.

Charlotte Home
(nee Ashworth - left 1995)

Charlotte Ashworth married Alastair Milne Home on the 17th of June in Sotogrande, Spain. The Westholme turn-out was strong: **Alice Kilburn** (nee **Belderbos**), **Harriet Hoyle**, **Jessica Jones**, **Katie Smith** (nee **McAuley**), **Louisa Walmsley**, **Melissa Meshkat** and **Susan Richardson**. Charlotte has lived in Madrid for 8 years, is a surveyor and works for Neinver, a European outlet developer. She loves living in Spain but is back to London or Lancashire regularly to see the Westholme clan!

Ann Brennan
(nee Warland - left 1995)

Ann regularly attends our reunions and also helped us out with our Alumni World Seminar on Finance, despite working full time and now having three children! Her third child Dominic was born in June 2011, brother to Martha and Patrick (pictured right). A true Westholme multi-tasker!

Sarah Montgomery
(nee Twiddy - left 1996)

Sarah emailed in to say: After Westholme, I went on to St Mary's Sixth Form College followed by University where I achieved a 2.1 BA Hons degree in Human Resource Management. I now work as Learning and Development Manager for the North West Ambulance Service. It's a varied and rewarding role involving leadership and management development, coaching, delivering a variety of learning interventions and team building. I've recently returned to work after having a wonderful year off to look after my identical twin daughters, Lauren and Libby who are now 16 months old! (Libby is on the left!)

Helen Smith
(nee Brearley - left 1997)

Helen married Gary Smith (Patent Attorney) on 20th March 2010 at Salmesbury Hall. She wrote in to say, "We both had the most amazing day. Our honeymoon was in Africa - Victoria Falls, safari in Botswana, and relaxing on the beach in Mozambique. Our 2 highlights were swimming with whale sharks in Mozambique and taking a microlight flight over Victoria Falls."

Claire Allison
(nee Forrest - left 1997)

Claire Forrest married Mike Allison on 9th April 2011 at Rudding Park Harrogate. The couple live in East Dulwich, London.

1 Charlotte Home
2 Ann Brennan's son, Dominic
3 Sarah Montgomery's twins
4 Helen Smith

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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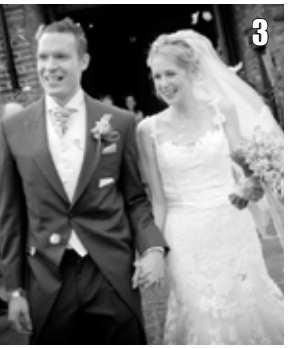
1 Helen Lecky
2 Louise Fisher
3 Gillian Tuxford
4 Vanessa Jolly

Vanessa Jolly (left 1998)

Vanessa married Huw at the exclusive Gossel Ridding in the Lakes. By all accounts, it was a splendid affair!

Helen Lecky
(nee Ashcroft - left 1999)

Helen has a long connection with School as her Mum Jenny still works here in the marketing department. She married Chris Lecky on Sunday 1st May 2011 at the Inn at Whitewell, and they have a beautiful baby daughter Emily.



Gillian Tuxford
(nee Brearley - left 1999)

Gillian married Sam Tuxford at Meols Hall, near Southport on 10 July 2011. They had 3 bridesmaids - all Old Westholmians - Bridget Cann, Jen Schofield and sister Helen Smith (nee Brearley, left 1997)

Louise Fisher
(nee Braithwaite - left 2001)

We received a lovely letter from Louise, after the Westholme choir sang at her wedding.

Dear Mrs Croston, I am writing to thank you for loaning members of the Westholme Choir led by Mr Millest to sing at our wedding on 23rd July. Ever since being a member of the choir myself and singing at an "Old Girls" wedding I have wished for the choir to be at my own wedding and they certainly didn't disappoint! Their rendition of "Ave Maria" followed by "For the beauty of the earth" was beautiful and extremely moving. They were a credit to the school. Several members of the congregation told me how impressed they were with the performance and so the fame of the Westholme Choir spreads even further! Several other "Old Girls" were at my wedding - **Karen Brooks**, **Laura Sullivan** and **Victoria Lowrie** - and they very much enjoyed seeing the much-loved purple blazers again.

I can't believe it is now 9 years since I myself was wearing one! I always read my newsletter and Old Girls' newsletter with interest and am happy to see the school continue to go from strength to strength. I recently came back to see a performance of Grease and couldn't believe how high the standard of acting, singing and dancing was amongst the entire cast. My husband (!) was also extremely impressed by the Westholme theatre as I proudly showed off all of our high-tech facilities. As I get older I am more and more grateful for the entire Westholme experience I benefited from for all those years. Reading the Old Girls' newsletter I am incredibly proud of everyone's achievements (and often incredibly in awe of them!), and certainly I owe much to Westholme in terms of my academic and professional achievements to date. But more than that I owe much of my current happiness, many many happy memories and many more wonderful friendships which have lasted and will continue to last a lifetime. I hope current students realise that more than academic or sporting success, their goal should be happiness - and in that Westholme wins every time!

Sarah Evans
(nee Matthewman - left 2002)

On 28th May 2011, Sarah Matthewman was married to Gareth Evans in the stunning surroundings of Coworth Park in Ascot. The bride was supported by lots of former pupils - chief bridesmaid **Becky Maudsley**, **Sally Evans** (Gareth's sister), her own sisters **Laura, Becky** and **Hannah** and cousins **Cassie** and Annabel Walker. The wedding was followed by a superb honeymoon in Cambodia, Singapore and Bali. The couple live in Wilmslow but were able to join us for the Family Fun Day and they both looked radiant!

Carly Noon (left 2003)

Carly married Guy Hitchin on 30th July 2011. Her Mum passed us this information, along with the fact that Carly is a Reception teacher at Lammack School and is really enjoying it.

Charlotte Maclean-Bristol
(nee Ward - left 1995)

Charlotte wrote to tell us she had a baby daughter, Henrietta Verity on 3 February 2011, a sister for Hector. She also had news of her sisters: **Chloe Cross** (nee **Ward** - left 1996) had a baby daughter, **Amelia Charlotte** on 1 October 2009. **Beckie Lowe** (nee **Ward** - left 1999) married Richard Lowe on 11 July 2009 and **Hannah Ward** (left 2002) is getting married to Carl Walls in May 2012.

1 Sarah Evans
2 Claire Allison
3 Louise Fisher's Westholme Choir

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

P Stars of Stage and Screen

Westholme has always been rightly famous for producing high calibre drama students, no doubt inspired by both the standard of teaching and the facilities. Various former pupils have been spotted this year, gracing the boards in a number of locations.

Liz Singleton (left 2007) was reported to have a role in Les Misérables in London and after seeing her in numerous Westholme productions, including Blood Brothers (pictured below, on the left), it is no surprise. Mrs Croston also reported in that **Rebecca Hutchinson** (left 2004) was having a phenomenal run playing 'Little Voice' at the Duke's Theatre in Lancaster, and although different in her interpretation to **Diana Vickers** (left 2008) the year before, she was equally impressive.

Melissa Taylor (left 2009) was the lead singer in 'Parade' at the Lowry last August and the press commented that Leo's wife Lucile was "beautifully sung by **Melissa Taylor**." **Olivia Knowles** (left 2006), pictured on the next page, in Westholme's 'My Fair Lady' is also working hard to fulfil her stage ambitions, as she wrote in to tell us:

"I have recently graduated from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with a BA in Acting and currently feel extremely emotional about having finished all education and training - about to embark upon the next chapter..... which will include needing to get a job!

I wanted to write to you all at Westholme to let you know a little about what I have been doing with myself since I left school and to express how glad I am to have been a part of Westholme, because I realise how my earlier experience in education has fuelled my great ambition and determination to achieve the best I can - always.

I have been fortunate to have had the most wonderful time. After doing a year of drama foundation in London I auditioned for the RSAMD and I was lucky enough to be offered a place to study acting. The competition to get into any drama school is ridiculous - but I wanted to go more than anything to learn about acting and how to do so thoroughly so much that I didn't really take the time to doubt my abilities and somehow became a part of this new amazing school.

There were 21 of us in our year and for the past 3 years we have been trained daily in voice, singing, movement, dance, stage combat, acting, screen and radio. Getting up and doing what you love to do every day is the best of times.

We have taken part in a variety of workshops with various admired and talented people from Francois Lecoq to James McAvoy - it has been so wonderful to have been immersed in an environment in which everyone is so dedicated and passionate about what they do - the encouragement and support is really

strong - allowing you to explore and develop freely. I have learnt so much in my time there and feel completely ready to start work in a professional environment.

Every year the class is divided into two groups and each put on a show. First year looks at American plays, second year is Shakespeare and third year includes high style, panto and a contemporary. I was initially excited about the prospect of playing a girl on stage - not a boy - which, in every show I was in at Westholme was the case!

I have really enjoyed the variety of roles I have been given to play and in the third year I was especially privileged to be given the role of Arkadina in 'The Seagull' - there was a celebration of Chekhov in Glasgow and we performed the show 100 years to the day that it had been performed in Glasgow in English previously for the first time. The adaptation we worked on was by Stewart Paterson who was consistently present in the rehearsal room supporting us and teaching us huge amounts of Chekhov. I remember learning about 'Three Sisters' and 'The Seagull' at Westholme and going to see a production of it in Blackpool for the first time vividly.

We ran the show for a week in November and Damian Cruden, who is Artistic Director at York Theatre Royal came to see it and decided that he wanted to take the whole production - including set design and costume created by TPA students - to his theatre for a longer run, working alongside a professional cast. In May a group of us began rehearsals with a set of professional actors and performed at York Theatre Royal for just under 3 weeks. The professionals took the older parts and we played the younger characters - I played the part of Masha due to Arkadina being 43 and it was such a brilliant experience, one that came at the perfect time and gave us a great insight into the transition from Drama School into the world of acting professionally.

The theatre in York is beautiful and has the most amazing stage and traditional atmosphere - it was a joy to be there and unbelievable to think that I was performing on this stage with people I love - doing what I always wanted to do, casually acting with professionals who had put their trust in us to deliver!

I have been given so many wonderful opportunities at the RSAMD and in its way the college reminds me so much of Westholme - an environment of students and teachers working together as a community wanting to achieve the best possible and providing each other with great support.....enjoying themselves.

When I graduated I almost felt like it was a complete continuation from Westholme - not only did the RSAMD feel like a natural progression as a school but the robes that we wore at graduation were purple and green - perfect!

I have made so many great friends at the RSAMD and a lot of us will be moving down to London together - I know I have

1 Rebecca Hutchinson
2 Olivia Knowles

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

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been lucky to have encountered wonderful people from different places but the friends I have from Westholme are like a family - constantly there, supportive and hilarious! They have been to watch me in every show I have done and my tutors have always commented on what lovely, supportive and well-presented girls they are. I am one of the few people in my class at RSAMD who looks back on school fondly - it was such a special time spent in a truly special place and I realise now how happy I am to have had it and to have met and shared it with the friends I will always know and be close to. Thank you for making my time at school so terrific - for giving me a great grounding from which I have been able to utilise my abilities, know what my goals are and therefore go with the ambition I have to make them happen.....I remember Mrs Martin writing in a report - 'you've got to become an actress' - and I really hope that I will be able to do just that!

Best wishes to everyone."

Thank you Olivia for your news - and do keep us posted on your path to fame!

Mum of **Justine Noon** (left 2007) rang in to update us on her progress in the world of entertainment. After graduating with a degree in Broadcast Journalism, she is working really hard to break into the scene! Not only has Justine been rubbing shoulders with the great and good of Hollyoaks at their Christmas Party, she has also been acting as a runner for a new series by Jimmy McGovern. Keep going!

News also of **Jennie Marsden** (left 2006), mezzo soprano, who is doing superbly well pursuing her operatic goals. Jennie has been enjoying some work experience teaching singing here at Westholme, and she has given us some beautiful recitals during our Music Appeal evenings. More than this, however, she recently has been selected to be part of the illustrious Genesis Sixteen. This is the UK's first fully-funded choral programme for young singers with an aim to identify and nurture students with exceptional musical ability. The training will take place at the London Opera Studio, The Bridgewater Hall and Magdalen College, Oxford.

Genesis Sixteen announced:

"After eleven days of auditions in five different cities and some very difficult decisions in the selection process, Harry Christophers and The Sixteen are delighted to announce that we have picked the final 22 singers who will form our Young Artist scheme, 'Genesis Sixteen'. These singers were picked from 450 applicants, all of whom were of an exceptionally high standard - the decisions were by no means easy! The final 22 were selected by members of The Sixteen who will be working closely with the young singers, who come from all over the UK."

Jennie (pictured above) also performed a recital in St Peter's Church, Burnley on Saturday June 25th accompanied by Westholme's Joy Fielding (who no doubt played many a tune to some of you down at Billinge House and encouraged your own love of music).

1

Now Diana's top of the frocks!

Singer launches own fashion collection for major brand

'Bang on trend' says designer Carrie

2

Rebecca is new voice

Winning the role of Little Voice is an East Lancashire tradition. JEMMA HUMPHREYS spoke to the most recent actress to take Jim Cartwright's lead as the Lancashire cast prepare for curtain up on the play's homecoming production

When she went to watch Diana Vickers make her West End debut, school pal Rebecca Hutchinson had no idea she would soon be cast in the same role herself.

The Darwen actress, who was at Blackburn's Westholme School at the same time as Diana Vickers, will lead the cast of The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice as shy singer Laura, when the play opens on home soil at Lancaster's Dukes Theatre this week.

Last summer Rebecca, 24, went to see the London performance, starring Mark Warren and Lesley Sharp, to watch some of her drama friends and colleagues in action – including X Factor finalist Diana. "It's a role I've always wanted, but I had no idea when it was on in the West End I'd get the chance to do it. Our production is quite different to how they did it in London," said Rebecca, who auditioned for the part after her grandma saw an appeal in our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph.

"I'm hoping we'll get an even better reaction from a purely Lancashire audience, with it being set up north," she said.

Rebecca, now based in London, added: "I've not tried to copy Diana's take on it. I've just stayed loyal to my own interpretation of the script. But I am quite nervous taking on the part."

For the same reasons, Rebecca hasn't watched the 1998 film, which starred Rosamunde's Jane Horrocks in the role of Little Voice, but she has been practising day and night to perfect her singing voice.

The tale of a shy girl who disappears into music to escape the chaotic life of her fun-loving drunken mother sees Rebecca impersonate singing greats like Shirley Bassey, Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe.

● Little Voice runs from March 24 to April 16. For tickets contact the box office on 01524 598500.

HOME GROUND: Rebecca with co-stars Ethna Brown and Karen Flynn

1 Diana Vickers

2 Rebecca Hutchinson

P Oklahoma!

Unbelievably it is 27 years since we last put on a version of the American classic, Oklahoma!

I have been earnestly trying to trace former pupils who were in the original cast, way back in the heady days of 1984, long before our professional theatre was built. Easy enough to find was the effervescent **Sarah Morgan** (nee **Keegan** - left 1985) she of the illustrious and infamous Trophy for Entertainment) who is now a parent of Amelia in Year 8. Sarah had apparently perfected Ado Annie in the 80s and was only too glad to come back for the current Saturday night performance. She informed me, "Oh my goodness - Mrs Croston gave me a special mention for being at the production. It was like my big come back! Hilarious - and of course, being the shy retiring violet that I am, I stood up in my seat and cheered 'hooray' and you can only imagine how delighted Amelia was about that! Fabulous." We see much of the indomitable Sarah through music, parent and business events at the School and she is as entertaining in all her roles as ever. I think her job as an Optometrist is actually a secret cover for something altogether more NYC Comedy Circuit.

Liz Talbot (nee **Brown** - left 1986) also a current parent to Sophia, was incredibly resourceful, as always, in helping me locate other past cast members. **Louise Southern** (nee **Saul** - left 1985) was in the chorus, and she is still hunting around to help me locate a programme! **Jill Gower** (nee **Gurr** - left 1985) was Ali Hakim, and when I asked if she would like to come back and see it she sighed, "That sounds exciting, I would have loved to have come. Unfortunately I live about 400 miles away in Elgin and I am a teacher, so won't be able to." Shame, our two Ali Hakims this time were well worth a watch! **Jane Roberts** (left 1985) was Will Parker and **Jane Grant-Abban** (nee **Palethorpe** - left 1985) was the lead but now lives in the USA. **Catherine Wright** (nee **MacFarlane** - left 1986) was Jud Fry, which proved to be excellent preparation for her later role as Head Girl. Finally the role of Gertie was played by **Carolyn Beers** (nee **Aspden** - left 1986) who has recently had triplets to add to her family! Jasper, her five year old, has seen his sibling brood grow from zero to three in an instant! Harry, Charlotte and Indigo were all born at the end of June and Mum **Betty** informs me they are doing very well. I also heard that **Abigail Hadjigeorgiou** (nee **Johnson**, left 1986) was **Sarah Keegan's** understudy and an enthusiastic chorus member.

Several former staff and pupils came to watch the production in June and I was particularly pleased to chat with **Jeanette Stopford-Barnes**, a former teacher from the days of Arthur Rouse who bequeathed to us the Stopford Trophy for Public Speaking. She retired from teaching in 1955 upon her marriage but still has very vivid and fond memories of School. She wrote to me, "It is very pleasant to keep in touch with a School where I spent so many happy years and to recall Arthur and Betty whose vision for the School has been so spectacularly fulfilled." We were also joined by former pupil **Dr Gavin Simpson** (left 1939) who came to Westholme with his brother **Sandy** (deceased) before the Second World War. He too was amazed by the changes! Mrs Gibson mingled with guests and throroughly enjoyed the performance too. Finally on the subject of Oklahoma!, professional photographs were taken by a former pupil, the extremely talented **Charlotte Boothman** (left 1990). Have a look at her website: www.lottiedesigns.com - I highly recommend her.

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

From The Archives

It is always an exciting moment to pull back the slightly bent doors to the archive cupboard!

Oh, the perms and the flicks.

Dare any of you step forward and be named?

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

P Fundraising

That spirit of helping those less fortunate certainly seems to stay with our students as they go out into the world. Apparently baking cakes every week for those in need is a hard trait to lose!

In January we were delighted to welcome back the energetic **Katy Molloy** (left 2001) into Wilmar Lodge to talk to our girls about the hard hitting facts of Human Trafficking. Katy had certainly put her money where her mouth was, so to speak, by giving up her privileged London life in the fast lane of advertising to go out to Cambodia, living on a pittance, to make a difference with the charity at the coal-face.

She spoke movingly to the girls and they were enthused to help, raising hundreds of pounds through a concert and a day wearing nail-varnish! The last I heard from her she was looking forward to moving onto Bangkok and emailed to say, "I just found out 2 days ago that I have a job with an organisation that raise awareness throughout S.E. Asia through large concerts and education programming. I will be in charge of engaging groups of Youths from 6 countries to enable them to educate their communities about trafficking and how to prevent themselves and their friends from being trafficked. Very exciting!" Humbling to see how an individual can make such a difference.

A little closer to home, we heard from **Krissy Hurst** (left 1999, pictured top right). She completed the London Marathon this year in 4 hours and 42 minutes to raise money for Diabetes UK, in honour of her younger brother Mike. She has a fundraising page: www.virginmoneygiving.com/krissyhurst. Well done!

Student **Katie Fram** (left 2009) wrote in to update us on her time and University and also to ask for help with Cambodia in a slightly different way….

"Dear Mrs Croston (and other members of staff),

I had a fantastic first year studying Natural Sciences (Biology & Chemistry) at Durham and I cannot believe I am now half way through my degree.

It took me a few weeks to get used to learning in a lecture based environment rather than a classroom, but I soon got into the swing of things and managed to gain a first class mark of 74% in the first year summer examinations.

I have tried to stay actively involved in other areas of university life too and not just restrict myself to keeping my head in a book.

I am part of Grey College's Environment and Charity Committee and I am also president of the college Dance society this year. This position involved me choreographing weekly dance routines and being responsible for all the administration of the society. I am a college cheerleader so have to represent the college at boys' rugby matches, and we won the inter-college cheerleading competition last year for the fifth year in a row.

I am also being actively involved in the local community via 'Foodcycle', where I help to prepare meals at the local homeless shelter, and I also run an after school dance club at the local primary school which is hard work but very rewarding.

At the university there is an opportunity to apply to go on various expeditions to raise money for charity through DUCK - Durham University Charity Committee. This is a highly competitive process but I have been successful in securing a place on the Cambodia Project - involving teaching in two or three schools for three weeks in Samraong, a province in North-West Cambodia. This will be an invaluable experience as I would like to become a teacher in the future.

The cost to be a part of this project is £2200, half of which goes directly to charity. The charities that DUCK support are the FutureSense Foundation; which works towards developing local communities, contributing in the areas of Education, Women's empowerment, Livelihoods, Community Development, Child care and Health care, and the Burma Education Partnership, an educational charity working in the Burmese Refugee camps along with the Thailand-Burma border providing English teachers to the numerous make-shift schools and developing a curriculum to support and train the existing teachers.

I would welcome any donation, however small, with much appreciation. It could be made by cheque payable to myself or by an on-line payment through the website www.justgiving.com/Katie-Fram .

I thank you in anticipation of your help."

Good luck Katie from all at Westholme.

I have tried to stay actively involved in other areas of university life too and not just restrict myself to keeping my head in a book.

Katie Fram

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

Westholme Reunions

Back in September a large crowd of Westholmians gathered in the palatial surroundings of the House of Commons, with the charming Nigel Evans MP as our host for the evening. We enjoyed a superb tour of the premises and a fascinating insight into the history of the buildings, followed by a delightful dinner in the not-so aptly named Strangers' Dining Room; five minutes after arrival the whole room was buzzing with friendly chat! Nigel was good enough to do a Q&A session for us and everyone agreed it had been a grand Westholme affair. By June we were ready to return and this time hit Soho with a smaller, more intimate crowd for a smoky Blues and Jazz session in the surroundings of Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club. There were some of the same faces and some new ones, and as per usual, several decades of leavers were represented but with everyone getting on very well. Each year we look for new and exciting venues to bring you together and leave you enthralled - so please do let us know if you have any inspired ideas for venues!

List of Attendees – House of Commons Reunion, Thursday 23rd September, 2010

Jill Farthing	1964	Peter Forrest
Cathryn MacFaden	1973	Elizabeth Gibson
Lynn Corrin	1973	Sally-Anne Sharples
Gillian Eddleston	1974	Colin Sharples
Alison Donelan	1974	Anne Booth
Lynn Neale	1975	Lillian Croston
Lee Khan	1975	Vivienne Davenport
Elizabeth Howard	1979	Yvonne Herrick
Liz Tanqueray	1979	Nigel Evans MP
Susan Taylor	1984	Michael Fenton
Emma Heupfl	1989	Alex Cruz-Vidal
Sarah Raistrick	1994	Daniel O'Byrne
Alex Carter	1996	
Victoria Carter	1998	
Amanda Donelan	2003	

List of Attendees – Ronnie Scott's Reunion, Thursday 23rd September, 2010

Elizabeth Howard	1979
Liz Tanqueray	1979
Julie Evans	1980
Gillian Haselden	1987
Joanna Zonneveld	1987
Claire Barton	1993
Susan Kennedy	1994
Tansy Smith	1994
Ann Brennan	1995
Kate Dewhurst	1995
Katie Hardy	1995
Charlotte Lamb	1995
Harriet Hoyle	1997
Samantha Halford	2000
Liz Hunter	2000
Katie Rowbottom	2000
Sarah Goodwin	2001

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

WWW.WESTHOLMESCHOOL.COM

Forthcoming Events

November 17th 2011 – Balliol College, Oxford

Reunion Dinner

Reception at 7pm for 7.30pm dinner

£50 per ticket

March 3rd 2012 – Wilmar Lodge

Reunion Lunch

For leavers

1982/1984 (30 years since leaving) and

1992 /1994 (20 years since leaving)

Reception at 12 for 12.30pm lunch – No charge

March 29th 2012 – Westholme Theatre

The Arthur Rouse Lecture

Delivered by Dan Snow

7pm – No charge

September 13th 2012 – Buckingham Palace

Champagne Tour of State Rooms

5pm–7pm followed by dinner in The Brasserie at The Grosvenor Hotel

£80 per ticket

Please note numbers are limited on this tour

Please fill this card and return to Westholme School.

I would like to attend the follow events (please tick):

☐ **Reunion Dinner**

Balliol College, Oxford

Number of tickets required @ £50 Each ____ Total _____

☐ **Reunion Lunch**

Wilmar Lodge

Number of tickets required _____

☐ **The Arthur Rouse Lecture**

Westholme Theatre

Number of tickets required _____

☐ **Champagne Tour of State Rooms**

Buckingham Palace

Number of tickets required @ £80 Each ____ Total _____

Special Dietary Requirements

_____

Please return in the enclosed pre-paid envelope and make cheques payable to 'Westholme School'. Thank you.

I enclose a cheque for £_____

WESTHOLME SCHOOL

If you have any queries please contact Vivienne or Yvonne in the Development Office on herricky@westholmeschool.com or call 01254 506099