

The **P**ASTONIAN Association Newsletter

a newsletter dedicated to all former members of St Mary's School, Cambridge



*Once a St Mary's Girl,
Always a St Mary's Girl!*

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PASTONIAN ASSOCIATION
St Mary's School, Cambridge

Issue 4 | Winter Term 2015

Headmistress'

welcome and introduction



**Charlotte Avery,
Headmistress**

Welcome to our Autumn Term 2015 edition of *The Pastonian* which has a sports focus.

At St Mary's School, Cambridge we believe in sport for all. There has been much in the press about the lack of participation by teenage girls in sport which has been attributed to all manner of reasons. We ensure that every girl has the opportunity to take part in physical activity and enjoy it.

In order to ensure that the girls really do enjoy keeping fit, we offer an impressively wide range of physical activity that includes traditional team sport as well as other group activities like boxercise and aerobics, dance, yoga and Zumba or paired activities like table tennis and badminton or solo activity like swimming. Many girls join clubs; popular ones in the first half of the Autumn Term have been the Year 7-9 gymnastics skills club and the Year 8 badminton club.

All our Sixth Form participate in some form of sport or physical exercise and we are pleased that we are able to run teams. Our Sixth Form hockey team played their first match of the season and drew against the Stephen Perse Foundation. We are delighted that rowing continues to be a very popular Sixth Form sport. Last year, three of our rowing crews raced in the Women's Novices event at the Fairbairns Cup and were placed 7th, 11th and mid-way out of 60 participating crews.

Many of our younger girls also participate in competitive sport. Last year, 14 girls received full colours in three different sports and 29 girls received half colours in six different sports including 13 who received half colours in two or more sports. This year, we have had a successful start to team sports: we are heavily into the hockey season with approximately 50 matches having taken place before half term ranging from Year 6 to the Sixth Form. Building on last year's success where

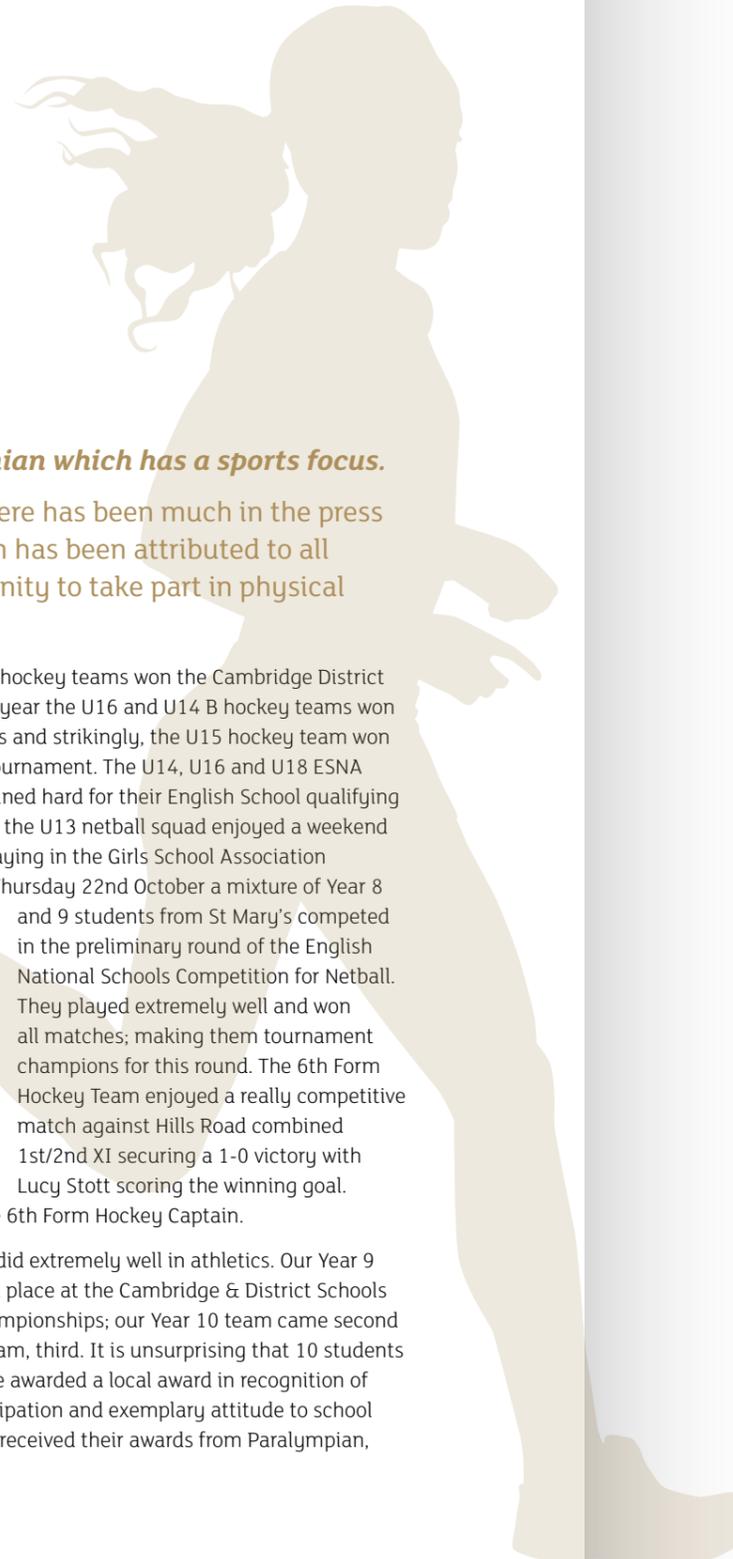
our U12 and U16 hockey teams won the Cambridge District tournament, this year the U16 and U14 B hockey teams won their tournaments and strikingly, the U15 hockey team won the U16B team tournament. The U14, U16 and U18 ESNA netball teams trained hard for their English School qualifying tournaments and the U13 netball squad enjoyed a weekend at Shrewsbury playing in the Girls School Association tournament. On Thursday 22nd October a mixture of Year 8

and 9 students from St Mary's competed in the preliminary round of the English National Schools Competition for Netball. They played extremely well and won all matches; making them tournament champions for this round. The 6th Form Hockey Team enjoyed a really competitive match against Hills Road combined 1st/2nd XI securing a 1-0 victory with Lucy Stott scoring the winning goal.

Lexi Mackle is the 6th Form Hockey Captain.

Last summer we did extremely well in athletics. Our Year 9 athletes took first place at the Cambridge & District Schools Olympic Cup Championships; our Year 10 team came second and our Year 8 team, third. It is unsurprising that 10 students from Year 11 were awarded a local award in recognition of excellence, participation and exemplary attitude to school sport. These girls received their awards from Paralympian, Georgina Bullen.

"It is unsurprising that 10 students from Year 11 were awarded a local award in recognition of excellence, participation and exemplary attitude to school sport."



"Women in time will come to do much"

**Rachel Gleeson,
President of The Pastonian Association**

Sport was a huge part of my school experience and St Mary's School, Cambridge has always inspired girls to get involved in a wealth of activities. I remember Monday lunch-time's cross-country running around the streets surrounding the school, athletics club down at Long Road, sports days at Wilberforce Road, hockey and netball and of course the annual GSA gymnastics and dance display.

We hear daily the need to ensure that we lead healthy lives, the importance of exercise and nutrition. This is something that St Mary's has gone from strength to strength in educating women about- the commencement of cookery lessons, and introducing girls to both traditional and less traditional sports, both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities. This, combined with fantastic pastoral support including a focus on wellness and mindfulness, helps to create balanced young women.

As an adult I continue to get involved in sport, and thoroughly enjoy still playing netball. Greater than this, sport at St Mary's taught me the importance of good leadership, of being a team-player, in being determined and resilient: such important skills at school, university, in the workplace, at home and in the

social arena. Many St Mary's girls and Pastonians have achieved in sport at very high levels and many have used sporting talents to raise money for charity. Mary Ward was years ahead of Sport England with her determined view for women regarding the vision that "women in time would come to do much," but their recent "This Girl Can" campaign is working hard to empower women to inspire girls to continue to get girls involved in sport. This is something that St Mary's embraces.

It is fantastic to hear the news of girls past and present, and it would be great to hear of even more, especially sporting achievements and successes.

We are proud also to support elite sportswomen alongside willing amateurs keen to keep fit; many girls train at county level and we have a few aiming for country team level including Year 10 student, Charlotte D, and Year 11 student, Annie Q, both of whom are aiming for national level athletics; and in our Sixth Form, Upper Sixth student, Phoebe C, plays for the U18 England hockey squad and our current Head Girl, Jemima C, states that her best rowing achievement to date is coming fifth in the European Rowing Championships! We also have some more unusual sports represented at national level including one of our international Upper Sixth students, Amber L, who has represented China as an International Artistic Roller Skater!

Girls from Years 9 and 10 have been inspired by attending conferences designed to encourage girls' sport at elite level: 'Girls Go Gold' and 'Girls Lead the Field'. All our girls participate in sport and physical activity for their own health and fitness but also to learn valuable lessons regarding leadership, motivation, team work and respect that can be translated into the academic environment as well as being of considerable value as our girls move on to university, apprenticeships and the world of work and adult life more generally.

Enjoy the magazine and I do hope that reading it will inspire you all to carry on with your own personal health and fitness regimes!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very joyous Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2016.

Welcome to New Head of Development and Fundraising Julie Hogg



Julie Hogg (second from left front row) Home International 2010



Julie Hogg - Henry Royal Regatta

I am delighted to be working at St Mary's School, Cambridge and am looking forward very much to helping to develop and grow the alumnae network. My previous role was as Alumni & Events Officer at Cambridge University Boat Club & Cambridge University Women's Boat Club where I co-ordinated the fundraising campaign for the new University Boathouse at Ely.

In addition, I set up their professional database, developed the alumni base for both Clubs and set up a programme of events which ranged from small bespoke events for different crews, to large scale dinners and networking events. Previous to that I was Annual Fund and Legacies Officer at Newnham College.

A Development Office is a relatively new innovation in the independent schools sector following the lead established by the universities and many people automatically assume that it's just about fundraising; this is a fallacy and I can safely say I have had many lively conversations on the subject, with both alumni and academics! With government funding steadily reducing and costs rising, there have to be other ways of funding research, teaching and capital projects. However, despite that need, fundraising is a by-product which although increasingly valuable and necessary, is a by-product of the core strategy of long term relationship building and alumni engagement. Alumni relationships are the cornerstone of development and this means valuing interaction, great stewardship and engagement so all alumnae feel part of an institution that is bigger than them – like a family with one distinct thing in common – in our case, St Mary's.

The 'This Girl Can' Campaign and the associated focus on girls' sports as well as a plethora of female role models in commerce,... mean the glass ceiling is shattering and I believe we will be able to consign the concept to history in the very near future.

We spend the majority of our childhood at school and whether a good or bad experience, our days in education have a profound impact on our lives: how we approach the rest of it, how we react to things and the path we take. The main objective of a good school Development Office is to ensure that students continue to have a relationship with the school after they leave; at St Mary's School our mantra is 'Once a St Mary's girl, always a St Mary's girl' and we say that about our wonderful parent body also! All supporters (and that also

includes current and former staff and governors and our CJ sisters at Brookside as well as a wider group of friends of the school) are part of St Mary's now and always: a compass for life.

St Mary's is a fantastic school with a rich and varied heritage and a very clear ethos and I am especially proud to be working here as we are now the last all-girls school in Cambridgeshire. There is huge

value in an all-girls education and it's vital for parents and girls to have choice. I have seen first-hand how girls can flourish and develop in this environment as I was, until 2010, Senior Housemistress at Queen Margaret's School in York and received an all-girls education myself. In addition, my M.Phil research thesis looked at the impact of Cambridge University



Julie with Kirsten Van Fossen winner of the 2015 Parmiegiani Sport Award and Winning Cambridge Lightweight oarswoman 2015 and Rosemary Ostfeld, 1st cox of the Women's University Boat Race on the tideway 2015

on Girls' Secondary Education in Cambridgeshire between the wars; St Mary's was one of the schools I studied in relation to how girls' education developed during that period alongside the changes in the perception of women within the University and the career opportunities available to them; the progress made could not have been achieved in a co-educational environment.

Today, it is such an exciting time to be a girl! The 'This Girl Can' Campaign and the associated focus on girls' sports as well as a plethora of female role models in commerce, for example,

Helena Morrissey of Newton Investment Management, co-founder of the 30% Club which aims to ensure 30% Boards of FTSE 100 companies are female by the end of this year (it's currently

at 26%) mean the glass ceiling is shattering and I believe we will be able to consign the concept to history in the very near future. Our current marketing campaign to promote St Mary's is 'I'm proud to be a St Mary's girl!' Thank you very much to those of you who have written or emailed, to tell us why this is so from your perspective. We interwove many lovely quotations amongst some lively photographs of our girls doing many different sorts of activities as the backdrop to the Headmistress when she gave her welcome address twice during our recent Open Morning. I, for one, am certainly very proud to be working at St Mary's and to be part of the St Mary's team!

Sporting Futures at St Mary's School

As this edition of The Pastonian focusses on sport I am delighted to announce that we have some very exciting plans regarding the sports facilities on offer at the school. We are currently in negotiation with City of Cambridge Rowing Club to partner with them in rebuilding their boathouse so it becomes an integral part of the St Mary's experience.

I am particularly delighted that rowing is to become a greater part of the St Mary's sports provision; I have been involved in rowing as both a cox and coach for nearly twenty-five years and it's a sport I am passionate about. I was not a child who could throw or catch and I also attended a school that did not value sport, an experience somewhat offset by my father attempting to instruct me in his beloved cricket! Rowing has a history of attracting the less sporty people and it teaches you many valuable transferable skills. I took it up at Homerton College when I first came up to read for my degree and I was hooked immediately. My rowing career led me to racing all over the world and competing for both Scotland (1996) and England (2010) as well as receiving the Spirit of Women's Rowing Award (2010). This experience has made me a huge advocate of sport for women and, despite my 'rocky' sporting beginnings, I passionately believe everyone has a sport they are good at. It is vital that schools offer a wide range of sports; not just ball sports, so we can build the habits of a lifetime.

In addition, we are planning to refurbish and develop the Long Road playing fields so that we have a state of the art facility there. These are vitally important developments, not only in respect of the longevity of the school and its ability to compete against other schools in Cambridge, but to the girls and to the staff; it's really important that they have facilities of which they are proud and our current marketing campaign which features the 'I'm proud to be a St Mary's Girl' tagline, cements that.

With the prospect of a share in our own boathouse and gorgeous sports fields offering all weather courts, new changing and entertaining spaces as well as athletic facilities at St Mary's School, our Girls Can!



School News



Julie Hogg, Alex Polizzi, Emma Whittley

The Bar Convent York is the foundation house of the English Province of the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) and the third oldest house in the worldwide Mary Ward Institute.

On Thursday 22 October 2015, Alex Polizzi opened officially the Living Heritage Centre at the Bar Convent and Julie Hogg and Emma Whittley were delighted to attend and represent St Mary's Cambridge at this important event. The Centre tells the story of the Mary Ward family through the last four hundred years, addressing the needs of contemporary audiences in an exciting, informative and engaging way.



Gillian Lyndsey, Charlotte Avery, Sue Brown

Annual Sports Dinner

On Thursday 30 April the school hosted its annual Sports Award Dinner welcoming 190 students, staff and parents to celebrate individual and team sporting achievements. This year's event saw Olympic silver medal winner, Gillian Lindsay, address the audience as guest speaker.

Gillian was part of the first Team GB women's team to win a rowing medal at the Olympic Games; taking silver in the Women's Quadruple Sculls in Sydney in 2000. She has competed in three Olympic Games. On retiring from competition, Gillian held the accolade as Britain's most successful woman sculler of all time.

Rowing is a very popular option at St Mary's School, Cambridge, exclusively available for Sixth Form students, so the girls were thrilled to hear from the inspirational athlete. Gillian said: "It is always a pleasure to take a new audience through my sporting career. Quite simply I started off as the 'little sister who was always slower,' I was then introduced to rowing and never looked back. My journey was decorated with setbacks and frustrations until I connected with my coach Mike Spracklen. He got the best out of me every day, which eventually led me to my ultimate dream. Role models were my motivation, but in the end hard work and determination got me there."



The evening was the school's opportunity to recognise formally all of its athletes for their achievements in sports ranging from gymnastics to netball, and cross country to rowing. The awards presented on the night included:

- Most Improved Players
- Most Valuable Players
- Most Supportive Team Players
- Most Dedicated Goal Keepers of the Year
- Sport Scholar Awards
- Sports Team Captain of the Year
- Sports Team of the Year
- Games Captain Award

In acknowledgement of students who have gone one step further and been selected to represent their country in their chosen sport, the school launched a new award to recognise their talent, hard work and dedication: the International Sportswoman Award.

Good News on our First Capital Appeal – An update!



Success - On Friday 25 September, Dame Mary Archer officially opened the school's new Science Hub, further cementing our commitment to providing a first-class setting to inspire innovative learning for all subjects, including Science.

The school's continued development and investment across its sites has resulted in five new laboratories; two for Biology, one for Chemistry, one for Physics and one for Sixth Form Science. The Hub also includes our two previously upgraded Chemistry and Physics laboratories.

Our school community has raised close to £115,000 towards the development with activities including filling test tubes with loose change and organising a popular Onesie Day – thank you very much to all of the school's family and friends for your generosity. The remainder of the cost has been met with previously allocated school funds.

The event's guest of honour, Dame Mary Archer, is an inspirational ambassador for women in science so was the clear choice to unveil the Hub. She started her career reading Chemistry and Physical Chemistry, went on to be Chair of Addenbrooke's, and is now Chair of the Science Museum Group. Unveiling the Hub, Dame Mary Archer said: "What a triumph of design, of aesthetic, of feel, of coherence; it says something very powerful about the importance of Science in education that you have made such an investment in facilities that are not only first class technically, but first class aesthetically."

Following the ceremonial ribbon-cutting the guests, including parents, governors and friends were invited to visit the individual laboratories and speak to the Science department's staff.

Charlotte Avery commented: "We were delighted to welcome Dame Mary to officially open the Science Hub; her career has illuminated a path less trodden for women in Science and she serves as an inspiring role model for our students."

Our girls' interest in STEM starts at the beginning of their school careers and we do all we can to nurture this interest, through the environment in which they learn and through our impressive and inspirational team of Science teachers. We are confident that our new Science Hub will provide the perfect platform to nurture female scientists of tomorrow."



Dame Mary Archer, Charlotte Avery

We have asked six questions of two valuable members of the current PE and Games Department Mrs Jackie Ewing, Head of PE and Miss Kimberley Cooil, 2nd in PE and Games Department

Mrs Jackie Ewing – Head of PE



Mrs Jackie Ewing

Did you always want to be a teacher and what would you have done if you hadn't become a teacher?

Having enjoyed joining every sports team possible throughout my school years it seemed only fitting that I should make sport central to my adult life as well. I didn't know exactly which path to take so I therefore did a Sports Studies degree first and then with words of wisdom from my favourite PE teacher, who couldn't recommend being a teacher highly enough, I decided to do a PE PGCE at Liverpool and have never looked back.

How many years have you worked at St Mary's School, Cambridge?

I joined St Mary's 20 years ago and I still love it as much now as I did then. I have really enjoyed seeing how the school had developed and evolved. My position has changed dramatically from a part-time member of staff to my current position as Head of Department and I can't wait to see what future years will bring.

What is a typical day like for you?

What I love about my teaching is that no two days are the same. My school day starts at 8.00 am where I catch-up with last night's fixtures and assess the day ahead, constantly keeping an eye on the weather and hoping for a sunny day! I then check e-mails, register my form and then start a day teaching. My days never lack diversity with lessons ranging from

teaching hockey at Wilberforce Road, swimming at Parkside Pool or setting up the apparatus for gymnastics lessons - all this walking means it's not unusual for me to walk 15,000 steps a day. I grab a quick cup of tea at break time and teach a sport from the options programme to the upper school, which can vary from golf to badminton to pop lacrosse. I then do a lunch time club followed by form time and then teach a lesson onsite as well as preparing for after school fixtures. I head off to a fixture and then return at about 6.00pm to head home.

What has been your most memorable experience at St Mary's School?

St Mary's has given me so many memorable experiences over the years, from achieving the much anticipated hatrick when the netball team won the District championship for the third year in a row, to seeing Year 3 students learn to swim. Each student is different and, whatever their level, I take great pride and enjoyment in watching their sporting development.

What is your greatest sporting moment?

With golf being my passion, my greatest sporting moment would have to be when I scored a new course record at Gog Magog Golf Club of 3 under par in the East Anglian Golf Championships, winning the event and beating my good friend by only one shot.

What effect will the proposed new sports facilities have on Sport at St Mary's do you think?

With so many keen sportswomen at St Mary's we want to help them achieve their sporting goals in as many ways as possible. After speaking to the girls, many of them expressed how, by the school having their own sporting facilities, they will feel as well equipped as other schools in the area and this will heighten their pride in representing the St Mary's sports department. It would be fantastic to have modern facilities at our Long Road site, such as 4 netball courts and a floodlit astroturf pitch, which can also be used in the Summer Term as 12 tennis courts. With an improved and updated pavilion we would look forward to hosting matches and local tournaments.

Ms Kim Cooil – Deputy of PE and Games Department



Ms Kim Cooil

Did you always want to be a teacher and what would you have done if you hadn't become a teacher?

I have wanted to be a PE teacher since I was about 14 years old. I had a lot of very inspirational sports teachers at school who made me realise that teaching was the job for me. This is the only job I have ever thought about doing and I love it!

If I wasn't a PE teacher I would like to think I would have been a professional hockey player, although I am not sure I would have made it! Beyond that, I think I would have always ended up doing something in sport.

How many years have you worked at St Mary's School, Cambridge?

This is my third year at St Mary's and my second year as Deputy Head of PE and Games Department

What is a typical day like for you?

During lesson time in the winter term you can usually find me on an astroturf for most of the day! I teach lessons up until lunchtime then I am usually on a lunchtime club coaching a hockey team, back to school and then out to an afternoon fixture or a tournament.

What has been your most memorable experience at St Mary's School?

One of my most memorable experiences so far has been the Holland Hockey Tour – taking the girls to a country which takes hockey so seriously and watching the girls progress and grow as players. I particularly enjoy taking the girls to big tournaments like the U16 and U13 County Hockey especially when we compete to such a high standard. The Sports Awards Dinner serves to celebrate all the girls achievements over the year in one big event which is brilliant.

What is your greatest sporting moment?

One of my favourite memories was getting into Oakham School XI hockey and then representing the boys' hockey team too – at the time it was the most important thing to me and achieving my goal after all the hard work I had put in was fantastic. I have also been lucky enough to win University BUCS League as well as being

promoted in club hockey leagues too. Both of those moments are memorable because you invest a season's worth of effort to achieving something and when you reach your goal it is fantastic!

What effect will the proposed new sports facilities have on Sport at St Mary's do you think?

Having new facilities at Long Road would have such a positive effect on Sport at St Mary's. It is such a wonderful site which has lots of potential for improvement! It would be brilliant to be able to have more advanced sports facilities that we can call our own! It would help raise the profile of sport at St Mary's and help to demonstrate just how serious we are about it. Having new facilities would bring St Mary's into the forefront of sport in Cambridge.

Thoughts from Ludo Caldero – Sports Captain 2015

Sport in general for me is a nice escape from everything else and it takes my mind off school work. It's really enjoyable to work together in a team environment and it helps build up collaboratin skills. Sport also gives you motivation to reach a goal, which when achieved is a great feeling.

At St Mary's I am part of the hockey, netball and rowing team. I also take part in the gym display and dance display. I fit in by being efficient with my free time and being organised with my time management. My favourite sport is Hockey because I like working in a team environment and it's enjoyable playing with my friends. Outside school I really enjoy dance, I've done it since I was 3 years old and I find it is stress relieving.

My best sporting achievement was when I sailed across the Mediterranean Sea last summer from Ancona to Croatia. It was a 14 hour journey over night. This was a big achievement for me as it was an independant experience for my friend and I, it was amazing.

News from the Pastonians

On Saturday 19 September 2015 we held a Pastonian luncheon and welcomed back 12 Pastonians who had either been at the school or had left the in the 1940s.

They had all followed successful careers in various different fields including one alumna who had had a long and interesting career in nursing and was delighted to enjoy a preview tour of the new Science Hub. They were very quick to recount stories amongst themselves about how much the laboratories had changed since they had dissected frogs in the very same space almost 70 years earlier.

We celebrated the lives and works of the Sisters at Brookside with Mass on Tuesday 22 September 2015. In her thank you card one of the Sisters commented; "Thank you so much for the special Mass with Fr. Tony followed by a delicious tea in the breakfast room that is bursting with so many memories for us."

The school was very moved recently to hear from Gina Lawrie, daughter of alumna Vivienne Lawrie, who sadly died in November 2014. Gina wanted to get in touch in remembrance of her mother's fondness for Mother Paul, the first headmistress of St Mary's School, Cambridge. Vivienne was given a rosary by Mother Paul as a student, and Gina wanted to return the rosary to the school as a symbolic gesture. Ms Avery was honoured to accept on behalf of the school the rosary from Gina during assembly.

We are always delighted to hear news from....

The Galloping Girls



Alice Bond (2010- 2015)

Alice has successfully completed her 9 week pre-apprenticeship course at the British Horseracing Academy in Newmarket and starts her 18 month apprenticeship in a racing yard in a couple of weeks. Alice has updated us with the following and we wish her every success with the next phase of her training:-

"I have enjoyed my time at the racing school and I graduated on the 2nd November. I was given the responsibilities of head of New Barn which is one of the barns and evening yard checks. In New Barn I have to feed the horses every morning and open windows, I also put horses on the walker, make sure boots and bandages are put on the ones that need them, make sure horses have the correct rugs, make sure they have hay and water, make sure doors are closed and ensure the horses are safe and happy.

From Monday to Friday I have to be down at the yard for 5.45am, on Saturdays I have to be there at 6.15am and on Sunday's at 7.30am. I feed the horses in the morning and put one of the horses on the walker. I then muck out my allocated boxes and then tack up first lot, pull out and ride. We then wash the horses off, eat breakfast and ride a second lot. We wash our second lot off and then do our yard duties and make sure the horses have enough hay.

Our lunch break is from 12-2 Monday-Thursday and we usually have a one hour lecture, 12-3 on Friday and 12-3:30 on the weekend. In the afternoon we do evening stables where we muck out, wash out feed mangers, clean and refill water buckets, groom the horses and pick out the horses hooves.

We then tidy up the yard and the barns and I stay in New Barn to make sure all the horses get the correct feed. From Monday-Friday we get some sort of evening lesson, which is either, fitness, diploma, cooking or a lecture. When it's time for block jobs I go down to the yard usually at 8pm and I check all the horses are safe, close all the windows and do the washing.

My advice for someone wanting to get into the racing industry is that they have got to want it 100% and they need to constantly show 100% effort. It's a tough industry but it's worth it."

Ann Mutton (1949-1962)

I started at what was Paston House School in October 1949 having moved from Bristol, and completed my whole school career (1962) in what became known as St Mary's Convent.

As has been stated by many 'old girls', friendships last well beyond the leaving date and I am still in touch with (all maiden names) Gerry Geoghegan, Jenny Whittingham, Anne Strudwick, Isobel O'Beirne and exchange Christmas cards with Catherine Navin whose grand-daughter was at the school.

Anne Strudwick and I have managed wonderful visits to Isobel who lives near Geneva overlooking the lake with fantastic views to the Alps and Jenny and I have spent week-ends reminiscing with Gerry in her childhood home which she and her late husband took over from her parents. I myself have lived in Bridgend for over 40 years now, having moved with my husband's job (for just 18 months!) but children, promotions, my own lecturing career in the local adult college, meant deep roots were struck and my offspring enjoy coming home to Wales, one actually working in Swansea.

Husband and Wife Alumnae: Anthony Dorcey and Teresa Plucinska

On 2 October 2015 husband and wife alumnae Anthony Dorcey and Teresa Plucinska arrived in school unexpectedly and we recently received the lovely email below. Anthony and Teresa have many friends they are interested to meet up with again and they are planning to write again in the next issue of the Pastonian and to make contact with these old friends.

"We are two alumnae of St Mary's, married for almost 50 years, who met you briefly during the morning of October 2nd. We dropped by the school during a hurried one-day visit to Cambridge on our way back to our home in Vancouver, Canada, having spent the last 5 months on our boat in Europe. We arrived without notice and you most kindly made time to meet us for a few minutes and told us about the school today and how it has changed since we were students in it, beginning in the early '50s. We greatly enjoyed talking with you and afterwards reading the recent copies of The Pastonian that you gave to us. This is to follow-up on our conversation as promised.

First, a brief summary of our time at St Mary's and subsequent lives. Anthony was one of the small group of boys who attended for a couple of years when he was about 5 years old, at the beginning of the '50s. Teresa came to the school shortly after he left, initially as a boarder, and was there until she finished A levels in 1962. We met in Cambridge the following year, just before going away to university, fell in love and married at the Catholic Church on Hills Road at the end of 1967. After completing first degrees at Aberdeen University, Scotland, respectively in Economics and Psychology, we went on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. At the end of our graduate degrees, Anthony was offered a job at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. Taking up this opportunity led to a totally unexpected 40-year career as a Professor at UBC for Anthony and a 30-year career teaching Kindergarten-Grade 1 in the public school system for Teresa. Now retired, we are looking back on extraordinarily happy and fortunate lives, enjoying our children and grandchildren, and trying to re-connect with friends and family in Britain, many of whom we have not seen for over 50 years."

Claire De Froberville (Year group 1997)

Claire very kindly sent in this lovely photo of her year group and told us that they meet up regularly with so many Pastonians from their group still living locally.



Rosalind Hastings (nee Smith), Katie Parkinson, Lizzie Surguy (nee Crookenden) Daisy Bird (nee Bidwell), Aine Fuller (nee Standen), Nicola Green (nee Peck), Kiera Lloyd (nee Crapnell), Claire de Froberville (nee Rivett), Joanna Grainger (nee Bond) Anna Livings (nee Cormack), Michelle Reng (nee Milnes)

Sabrina Chien (2011-2013)

Following on from the appointment of Sarah Cunningham (1981-1986) as a Pastonian ambassador in Qatar we are now delighted to confirm that Sabrina Chien is appointed as an ambassador in Hong Kong and she would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is travelling, working or studying in Hong Kong.

She is hoping to organise a reunion event in August 2016. Sabrina would like to organise a mentorship programme between alumnae and current students (HK boarders), so they will have someone to rely on or ask for advice when it comes to university or internship related issues.

Please contact Sabrina on moneymoney@live.hk

Congratulations

Births



Rachel Lambert-Forsyth (nee Forsyth) and **Dan Lambert** are delighted to announce the arrival of their second child **Joseph Elijah Duncan** on the 14 September 2015. Joseph joins big brother Samuel who is two and half years old.



Anneka (nee Lipscombe, 1996-2001) and **Andrew Stockdale** are delighted to announce the birth of **Beatrix Ivy Stockdale** on the 9th June 2015.

Marriages



On Saturday 18 July 2015, former student (and current Director of Music at the Senior School) **Emma Levy** married Dr Benjamin Fisher in a ceremony at Peterhouse, Cambridge, the College where they first met, followed by a reception at Barrington Hall.



On Saturday 8 August 2015, **Sophie Jackson** (2001-2008) married Mark Elwood.



On Friday 25 September 2015, **Katie Scott** (1997-2004) married **Stephen Exley**

Birthdays

Please join us in celebrating and sending our best wishes to Sister Christopher who will be celebrating her 99th Birthday on 17 December 2015. Happy Birthday Sister Christopher!

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 20 January 2016	Mary Ward lecture by Dr Trudie Tate
Saturday 30 January 2016	Mary Ward Open Retreat Day led by Fr Denis McBride and held at St Mary's School, Cambridge
Saturday 12 March 2016	Auction of Promises
Saturday 16 April 2016	A visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum with a talk on the Fitz at 200 by Dr Victoria Avery
Saturday 24 September 2016	An Audience with Ann Widdecombe
Dates to be confirmed for talks in the Lent and summer term	Allison Pearson Alex Polizzi

In memoriam

We remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have died and the family and friends who mourn them.

Fiona Harding (1998-2006)
– 19 October 2015

Joy Utting
(nee Lawson-Campbell) (1933-37) –
September 2015

Elizabeth Eileen Orange (1945-55)
– 22 September 2015

Vivienne Lawrie
– November 2014

Alyson Bush (left 1994)
14 November 2015



Keeping in touch

Please keep in touch and tell us what you are up to now by emailing ewhittley@stmaryscambridge.co.uk and by joining our dedicated Pastonian Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239614822750910/> to look for lost friends, share memories, help keep the younger members engaged, career mentoring and more! Just search for The Pastonian Association, St Mary's School, Cambridge the next time you're on Facebook.

In memoriam



Fiona Harding (1998- 2006)

When Fiona asked me to speak at her funeral she wanted me to tell you how very happy she was teaching at St Mary's school and of the fun we had together. Although seriously ill she was still very much the Fiona we all remember, and as I awkwardly asked if she expected people to laugh she shot back "gentle amusement, nothing raucous".

So we have our instructions....

I realised Fiona was no ordinary Geography teacher when she first arrived at St Mary's announcing that she "had told the Headmistress that whilst she would happily go on fieldtrips she simply would not camp". In those days the Headmistress told you – not the other way round.

And so for the next 17 years Fiona became an invaluable part of the Geography department and also, a little later, Head of Year 11. Graciously she even came out of retirement to do a maternity cover and bring her wicked sense of humour into school once more. She entertained and informed her classes in equal measure and was adored by all the girls she taught; younger ones were her "little angels" and older ones knew that Mrs Harding was a great classroom teacher who would get them through their exams with the best possible grade and teach them skills for life along the way. As Head of Year 11 she dealt seamlessly with the angst and ambitions of teenage girls and their parents and all the girls in her care knew they had found a wise and insightful woman to guide them.

Fiona was the perfect role model – intelligent, witty, kind and compassionate. She never judged her students and always gave them good advice. She was dedicated to teaching, and once came into work having cycled at speed into a cast iron bollard. Only at 4 o'clock was Fiona finally persuaded to go to A and E where X rays showed she had broken two ribs. Her only concession to her injuries was to have a pupil write on the board for her!

It was during our fieldtrips that we had some of the funniest moments. Often we laughed until we cried and one night made so much noise that a Sixth Former appeared outside our room in the Youth Hostel to ask us to keep the noise down as we were disturbing her dormitory next door.

Ever mischievous Fiona persuaded me to hide the minibuses on 1st April and tell the girls with us on the fieldtrip in The Peak District that, since term had ended the day before, the Bursar had been up to take the minibuses back to Cambridge and from now on we must walk everywhere. As soon as the girls started to grumble we gave the game away, collapsing in fits of laughter as we yelled "April Fool". We then spent the whole morning awaiting reprisals but fortunately they never materialised.

Simultaneously confident and humble, Fiona was a born diplomat and an excellent sales woman as I discovered at Open Days and Sixth Form promotion evenings. Ultimately it became a departmental joke that I never would allow Fiona to go on an "assertiveness training course".

Fiona, our students and I shared some of the best times, climbing mountains, measuring rivers, surveying waves, beaches and the opinions of those who got caught up by pupils asking questionnaires. She gave me the confidence to take girls to Iceland for the first time and together we sampled the steamy waters of the Blue Lagoon, watched the Northern Lights and walked on glaciers – we also accidentally visited one of Reykjavik's gay bars in search of a hot chocolate, did battle with a folding bed and blamed each other for the

smell in the bathroom until we realised it was the sulphurous water – Fiona made it all such fun and it was both a joy and a privilege to work alongside her.

Throughout Cambridge there are thousands of young women, all good St Mary's girls, who hold Mrs Harding in special affection for the pivotal role she played in their young lives. She had that happy knack of making everyone feel loved and cherished and no one who was touched by her will ever forget her because she was, quite simply, a very special person.

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