

Welcome back to your Alumni News, highlighting news and views from you, our much valued alumni community. Speaking of such, Luckley has recently launched an official Luckley Alumni Facebook page; so please do look out for an invite from me or search 'Luckley Alumni' on Facebook. We would like to connect with more of you and involve you in Luckley life. See our events listing and get in touch should you be able to join.

There was no shortage of activity at Luckley this past term and I am grateful to all of you who have been in touch and to visit; you will always be welcome. While spring was beautiful nothing quite beats Luckley in summertime; the grounds are looking delightful and there has been much in the way of outdoor activities and get togethers on the back lawn. Read on to hear how Luckley has changed over the years – many of you remark on how Luckley has progressed while remaining familiar. Hear about recent alumni visits for Speech Day, Pre-University Day, reunions, Careers Week as well as alumni games, where a group of you played your way to victory.

A Decade of Change, A Decade of Progress

Review by Honorary Alumni, Ian Vallance
Former Deputy Head Academic

When I was approached for the new post of Deputy Head Academic in 2013, Luckley was an all-girls school where the boarders slept in the 'stables' while the Drama department had a small studio and classrooms in Garden House. During periods of heavy rain, Luckley's sports pitches were regularly waterlogged, limiting outdoor play. Luckley was on the cusp of embracing a move to personal technology and implementing pupil tracking, which was not yet a thing.

Ten years on and Luckley is a thriving co-educational school. A first-class professional theatre replaces the old pool. Boarding rooms have been completely refurbished to suit modern lifestyles and much of the floodplain has been replaced by a floodlit all-weather pitch. Every pupil now has their own Microsoft® Surface and academic tracking is a 'Doddle' – an online platform used to set homework and track progress.

Looking back at Luckley, there has been profound change over the years. In 1959 Luckley merged with Oakfield. Some of you will remember those early years of amalgamation. Gradually, new connections and friendships grew. In September 2015 boys arrived at Luckley; the 'Pioneer Boys' as we called them then. Today, pupils enjoy the benefits of co-education; better communication, healthy competition and mutual respect.



The school I leave in July 2023 boasts pupil numbers of circa 380, is at full capacity, has a healthy waiting list and is evenly split between boys and girls. Yet, there is a growing sense of significant change happening in education. Technology and societies are changing at pace. Of course, work patterns have also changed as a consequence of Covid-19 and the way in which public exams are taken are a year or so away from change.

When I visit Luckley in 10 years time I do not expect to see much of the legacy that I leave behind today. I know that change must happen, and is required, to safeguard the future of our precious school. My hope is that you will support the changing face of Luckley. It is only in our memories that time stands still.

SCHOOL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

A Fond Farewell To Luckley's Deputy Head Academic



It was a perfect evening in June to gather on the back lawn to give thanks to Luckley's Deputy Head Academic, Mr Ian Vallance, who retires at the end of the summer term after ten years of exceptional service. Mr Vallance arrived wide-eyed as the whole school planned the leaving celebration as a surprise soiree and managed to keep it a secret! Alumni from the Class of 2020 and 2022 added to the excitement as they returned to wish Mr Vallance well. Pictured, Ian Vallance with Tamar Sio and Tin Wing Law. It was an excellent way to celebrate his career.

Luckley Young Sports Personalities

Congratulations to Year 12 pupil Monty N who was selected to represent England at the EuroHockey U18 Youth Championship 2023 this month in Krefeld, Germany. Monty attended a training camp at Lilleshall National Sports Centre at the end of June, playing against German and Welsh teams before travelling to Germany for the Championship. It is a fantastic achievement for Monty and we are so very proud of his performance.

Future Development



We are delighted to announce that through the generosity of our benefactors we have secured an additional five acres of land, expanding Luckley by one third.

This is an exciting time for Luckley House School and we are looking forward to launching a new ten year development plan that will not only allow us to expand our sports facilities with this new and phenomenal acquisition but also to develop the wider site, enhancing our existing provision. Subject to planning permission and design work we hope to use this new land to create our own cricket oval and pavilion, athletics track and rugby pitch.

We will be seeking input and support from various Luckley stakeholders including our pupils and parents. We hope that you too will support Luckley in this next exciting phase of its development for the benefit of all in our community.



SCHOOL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Luckley's Niall Crosley Shapes Up With A Royal Touch

Luckley's PE Teacher, Mr Crosley, who also Captains the Maidenhead Rugby team was invited to meet the Princess of Wales at a recent event – as part of Her Royal Highness' campaign, 'Shaping Us'. The campaign is raising awareness of the importance of a child's first five years of life; when we start to learn to manage emotions, relationships, develop self belief and resilience. The early years help shape the rest of our lives.

Mr Crosley took part in a game of walking rugby (pictured) with members of all ages from the local Maidenhead community, and was also joined by professional rugby players; Danny Care and Courtney Laws as well as The Princess of Wales herself.

Mr Crosley was then invited to have a conversation with the Princess of Wales, alongside Ugo Monye, Danny Care and Courtney Laws, sharing their experiences of fatherhood. Mr Crosley discussed his experiences of helping to raise his 10-month old daughter. Her Royal Highness spoke about the importance of the first five years of our lives and how this can affect our ability to form relationships as well as the way we parent our own children.



Princess of Wales (centre) Niall Crossley (right)

From Africa, With Love

I have heard that Africa will change you forever and is like nowhere else on earth. A place of all our beginnings, the cradle of mankind, where our species first stood up on the savannahs of long ago. These were the words of Brian Jackman, a renowned journalist and lover of travel and wildlife.

Let me introduce you to Tamariki School, founded nine years ago in a slum of Nairobi, Kenya in Africa – set up to provide a quality education to a deprived and underprivileged community of children, who would otherwise be left on the streets. As a charity without government funding, it is reliant on charitable donations to pay the way for those pupils without the means to pay the small school fees themselves.

Luckley's Modern Languages Teacher of Spanish, Kat Intxaurbe, discovered Africa some years back, where she met, by chance, an employee from Tamariki School. Kat felt the urge to serve Tamariki school children and subsequently raised money by running two half marathons. That money provided a new classroom where 26 new pupils were admitted.

Kat returns this July feeling privileged to support Tamariki School through funds raised and volunteering in the school. In May, she organised a fundraising initiative, kick-started with a popular bake sale and raised £1,030 from within Luckley's community of pupils, staff and parents to go towards helping pay the way for pupils at Tamariki. Kat's financial goal was £200 so she was overjoyed at the generosity shown by Luckley's community. When she broke the good news to the Head of Tamariki and its owners; they reacted with strong emotion to learn that further afield, there were those looking out for their school of 160 pupils.



Tamariki School

Kat left for Tamariki School on 6 July with much needed funds and three suitcases full of donated supplies. Kat's Year 10 form created a beautiful book about Luckley, its teachers and pupils for the pupils of Tamariki School. Hopefully this will help those of Tamariki School get to know Luckley better. We look forward to Kat's news in September and wish her safe travels.



Kat Intxaurbe with Year 10 book

ALUMNI NEWS

Meet Laura Buckenham, Luckley's Speech Day Guest Speaker

It was an honour to welcome Head Student, Laura Buckenham from the class of 1996, to address parents, pupils and staff as guest speaker at Speech Day this year. In keeping with tradition, Laura handed out Luckley's annual awards before delivering an impactful speech, which left everyone contemplating her seven words of wisdom. So many that attended wanted to meet Laura afterwards as she captured our imaginations. As someone who crafts words for a living, she certainly knows how to engage her audience. Sitting in front row, listening to her every word was former Headmaster, Mr Richard Blake. Interesting to think that 27 years earlier, Laura and Mr Blake were on stage together. If that were not enough, also in front row sat Mrs Jane Tudor (pictured below); Jane was Head before Areti Bizior took up post in September 2020. What a day it was, celebrating the many outstanding achievements of Luckley pupils. Areti delivered a warm welcome and praise for a year well spent by Luckley's Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. It was a day to remember and not least because Areti put on a most spectacular day.



Jane Tudor, Former Luckley Head (2010 – 2020)



Laura Buckenham, Head Student 1996

Reunion Lunch for the Class of 1969 (and prior)



(Left to right, back row) Patricia (Paddy) Lunn, Elizabeth Lyon, Hilary Follows, Jane Cockerham, Sue Lunn, Georgina Blight, Sarah Norton (Left to right, front row) Jennifer Bates, Rosemary Dix, Sally Le Cheminant, Anna Keller

It was a lovely afternoon in May when 11 of Luckley's girls from the 60s and one from the late 40s and 50s returned for lunch, a short musical performance and a brief tour of their old school. Their enthusiasm to visit and keep in touch with Luckley as well as with one another is wonderful. This spirited bunch kept me entertained with their wit, humour and stories of days gone by. Many went on to secretarial school after Luckley, while one went off to finishing school in Switzerland. Amongst the group there is a Personal Assistant, several Teachers, a Medical Secretary and a Florist.

ALUMNI NEWS

Luckley Careers Week

In early March we were lucky enough to have a number of Luckley alumni join us to discuss their careers both past and present. Dr Femke Okten (née Leathes), Class of 1994, spoke about her winding career path that lead her into psychology and an entrepreneurial lifestyle. Former Luckley Head of English, Sarah Rees, captivated her audience as she took them through the process of writing her debut children's novel, *Jelly*; the highs, the lows and moving on from a successful first novel. We also welcomed Ruby Bedford, Class of 2016, back to Luckley so pupils could hear first hand how she moved up Microsoft's corporate ladder from Apprentice to Senior Cloud Solution Architect. Caroline Edwards, Class of 1974 spoke to pupils about her commitment to her trade as an NHS Hospital Pharmacist of over 40 years.

Top middle: Femke Okten (née Leathes), top right: Ruby Bedford, third row middle: Sarah Rees, bottom left: Caroline Edwards



Celebrating Women's Achievements

Coinciding with National Careers Week was International Women's Day. This year the theme was #EmbraceEquity, with the message that equity is not a nice-to-have, but a must-have. It was a day when the world got talking about inclusion, not just equal opportunities, but recognising that not everyone has the same starting point in life; that inclusion starts with embracing this fact. As luck would have it, we had alumna Femke Okten (née Leathes) in to speak to our Year 12 Psychology students that day. She spoke about her career journey from Sales and Marketing executive for Johnson & Johnson through to heading up a team of over 40 practitioners under her own clinical psychology practice. Femke is one of the many wonderful women who has passed through Luckley's doors with determination, belief and compassion for others; discovering her interests, true capabilities and talent along the way.



Femke Okten (née Leathes) with Luckley's Head of Psychology, Julie Rumble and her Year 12 Psychology class

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2018 Reunion Dinner



(Left to right) Rachel Davies, Celine Molefe, Alex Thogo, Rebecca Allder, Sally-Ann Gamble, Imogen Pritchard, Rachel Stevens

It was an evening of fun and laughter as we celebrated the reunion of the Class of 2018. As it turns out more than half the year group, which was small to begin with, now live abroad. However, this fun loving group certainly made the most of an intimate dinner with friends and Mrs GB too, Luckley's Deputy Head Pastoral. We need not mention getting locked out! It was a chance to get together and remember some of the good times that were had at Luckley. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all and the homemade videos of your days at school were first class. A 10/10 for storyline, acting and video editing. I know who to call when Luckley needs a clever video! Good luck to those of you who are busy building your careers, and those that have taken time out to travel.

Alumni Games: A Morning of Netball



(Back row, left to right) Jane McCready, Elena Brewin, Megan Forth, Jessica Heppner, Fleur M (pupil), India K (pupil), Bec O (pupil), Natasha M (pupil), Georgie P (pupil), Alexandra Bray, Emily Sheath, Camilla Potter, Lauren Lee

(Front row, left to right) Beatrice M (pupil), Florence M (pupil), Annabel Mills, Becky Saunders, Amelia Marshall-Stochmal, Freya Dineen, Sarah Mapleston, Francesca Marshall-Stochmal

What better way to spend a Saturday morning than with old Luckley friends over a game of netball at your old school, right? It was such a pleasure (and a great deal of fun) for all at Luckley to have so many of you return for a friendly match in March. A big thank you to our supporters too that stood on the side lines. While Luckley's alumni took home the glory with a match well played and won, current Luckley pupils were great sports and happy to rise to the challenge. Thank you to all that took part, we enjoyed watching you have fun as a team spanning decades. We hope to have a rematch in October, so do register your interest by emailing me at the address bottom left of the page.

LUCKLEY ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Meet Laura, a True Wordsmith

Review by Sarah Francis

Meet Laura Buckenham, former Luckley Head Student from the class of 1996. She is the kind of woman that you never forget – glamorous, confident, charismatic and intellectually humble. We speak over video call, as she lives in Stockholm, Sweden and points to the Baltic Sea, the backdrop to her home office. A roomful of plants and her natural world surroundings provide a sense of calm in Laura's incredibly busy life. With a boat moored close to home (pointing again at the body of water behind her window), summer months are spent sailing the Stockholm Archipelago, with literally thousands of small islands to explore pristine nature. Laura's narrative paints the perfect picture.

Her move to Sweden eight years ago is the classic love story. Laura met her Swedish partner while working for a renowned London advertising agency, DDB UK. The two were creative partners; Laura providing the strategic mind and word craft and Daniel delivering the creative ideas and design direction. Together, they produced leading marketing campaigns for Virgin Media – a brand that was on its way up. After years in London, the couple left the intensity of 'big marketing agency' life (think television series Mad Men) and headed for the snow, sea and a life closer to nature. Today, they run their own thriving marketing agency, Brand Gym, ensuring their clients' brands stay relevant and continue to engage their audiences. In just two and a half years, Brand Gym has an enviable client list of Nordic and international brands. Laura could not be prouder of their achievements. Her English A Level and subsequent English degree served Laura well. Yet, her creative marketing journey really started when she won a coveted place on a graduate apprenticeship scheme with a reputable advertising agency. The talent nurtured throughout her education was brought to life.

With a notebook always within her clutch, Laura juggles the business, parenting and life as a Swedish citizen, having mastered Swedish at the age of 36. While Swedish was decidedly harder than learning French and German as a Luckley teenager, Laura believes that personal challenge leads to prosperity and fulfilment. So far, so good! We talk of Laura's continued involvement in Luckley life, supporting Sixth Form students with their practice interviews for university. Laura is kind and steadfast,



always finding precious time to help others with no less than a beaming smile upon her face. She cites Luckley's Sixth Form English teachers, Adrienne Wright and Pam Hobbs, as inspiring her deep love for literature, leading her to read English at the University of Nottingham. Mrs Wright and Laura stay in touch, exchanging news and ideas from time-to-time. Laura puts her hard work ethic, reliable and trustworthy nature down to the values Luckley's former Headteacher, Mr Blake, instilled in all the girls. Always encouraged to show up, be involved and overdeliver, she sang, acted and spoke publicly – all of which has made her the brave, accomplished and professional I meet today.

Laura is a business owner, mother, partner, keynote speaker and most recently, a new land owner. With a dream to live immersed in nature, she and Daniel are now the owners of a large Swedish countryside plot nestled alongside a lake. With elks roaming the land and a hunter's lodge dating back to 1803, building works are close to completion and plans to restore the lodge are in the making. Laura is testament to the belief that our thoughts are the foundation for inspired action. "What you sow, you reap." And I hear Laura saying, "make sure you have fun along the way".

Please follow Luckley House School by clicking the social icons right.



GET INVOLVED

Please do get in touch as increasingly, there are so many ways in which you can support your old school and get involved. Increasingly I aim to reach out to more of you as opportunities arise. Beyond alumni activities such as lunch or dinner reunions Luckley hosts alumni sports games. Opportunities exist to mentor a Sixth Former, engage in Luckley's Pre University week, participate in 'alumni spotlight' interviews as well as take part in public talks, such as our Luckley Lectures and Luckley's annual Speech Day.

Some alumni events have developed out of your ideas so please do keep expressing these. A calendar of events for the next school year is in planning and below are some of the activities taking place in the first term. Dates may be subject to change, depending on interest and participation. Please do consider joining Luckley as either a participant or a spectator. We would love to see you so please do register your early interest by emailing sarah.francis@luckleyhouseschool.org or calling 0118 974 3246.

Reunion Lunch for Retired Teachers

Tuesday 26 September, 12:30 – 15:00

Former teacher, Chris Gadsby suggested a visit to school would be of interest for the Luckley-Oakfield Retirement Fellowship; a group of retired teachers. I would like to extend this offer to former Luckley teachers who have since retired.

Alumni Games - Netball Re-match

Thursday 5 October, 17:30 – 19:00

In March, we all enjoyed the alumni netball match and many of you asked that we do it again; this time with the opportunity to have a social drink after the match. Responding to your comments, a date has been pencilled in so that the match will be followed by drinks and nibbles. As always, the more the merrier so please get in touch if this is something you would like to take part in. I hope to see all who participated in the Autumn Term game return; we have got a strong team in the making.

Mentor's Drinks

Tuesday 26 September, 18:30 – 19:30

This year we had 17 of you support Luckley's year 12 students; agreeing to provide remote mentoring as a specialist in your field. While not many of our students took full advantage of gaining insight and knowledge into a profession of interest, Luckley would like to acknowledge your generosity with drinks and nibbles. An invite will be sent out to you in September. I do hope you can make it.



Luckley Lecture

Thursday 12 October, 18:00 – 19:00

Seb Phillips, our Head of History will be presenting an insightful talk that revisits the UK's involvement in the slave trade; investigating the truth of its rise and fall in the UK. With an incredible passion for research, history and drama, Sebastian Phillips provides some food for thought.

Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 7 December 18:45 – 20:00

We would love to see more of you gather for a festive evening at All Saints Church to experience Luckley's much loved carol service. A Christian service is complimented with music from Luckley's talented pupils and a sermon from The Reverend Canon David Hodgson. We generally have a number of free seats available. It is a lovely way to start the Christmas season.

LUCKLEY ALUMNI MEMORIES

Elizabeth Goss (née Beatty), 1936 – 1943

Elizabeth, otherwise known as Sue, has fond memories of her time here. Her and her sister, Marjorie Leybourne, were at Luckley during the war. Sue was in touch earlier in the year to thank Luckley for writing about her late sister. Sue lives in Australia, as did Marjorie. While it was cold in the UK at the time of writing, Sue was enjoying Australia's temperate weather. She writes...

"I have been admiring the lush gardens after the unusual amount of rainfall, listening to the song birds change their tune as the autumn draws in. Luckily, I still manage to stay involved with my golfing club at the age of 95, helping with administrative work."

– Elizabeth Goss (née Beatty), Class of 1943

Luckley 1964



Luckley-Oakfield 1964, School group photo (in part), courtesy Avril Salt

Avril Salt (née Davidson), Deputy Head Student in 1966, was kind enough to send me photographs in the post; rolled in a tube owing to their size. Last term's newsletter captured the other side of this photograph (pictured above) and a few of you remarked that you were cut off! Hopefully you are now present. Below is more on Avril's Luckley memories.

"During my time at Luckley the school was settling down after amalgamation. There was evidence of uniforms from both schools though the Luckley uniform was being phased out in favour of that from Oakfield School. Miss Randle, from Oakfield, was Headmistress and she and many staff lived on site. There was a junior boarding house nearby, The Grange, used to accommodate younger pupils while the Fifth and Sixth years slept in Garden House. Garden House was also the base for music teachers."

– Avril Salt , Class of 1966

LUCKLEY ALUMNI MEMORIES

Daphne Evans, Class of 1968

There was news from Daphne Evans, who was unable to make it to the alumni reunion lunch, celebrating those that left in 1969 or prior. However, she was sorry she could not travel and so left me with with some fond memories from her days at Luckley.

"My best friend Hilary Quequett from when I was at Luckley sadly lives in Australia – we have met each other over the years. Her friendship was so important as both our parents lived abroad; she was such great support. The last time I came to Luckley, it was interesting to see how well the School was doing, with such a happy, positive atmosphere. No 'Silence' corridor as was the case when I was there. Walking down it I still couldn't talk as I was walking along it! I'm afraid to say I was often in trouble with Matron for attending midnight feasts, talking after lights were out and for washing my hair at inappropriate times."

Sue Bailey, 1972 – 1974

Sue Bailey was schooled at Luckley-Oakfield from 1972 to 1974. In this short time she built lasting memories of Luckley and of life in England, being Canadian and from a military family. She flew back to visit England with her husband, John in June 2019 to join in Luckley's Centenary celebrations. From the memories of Sue Bailey, she shares recollections of Luckley below.

"My French teacher was lovely but I do not recall her name. French was the subject that I had confidence in, having just moved from Quebec. It was the subject that gave me the best marks. This turned out well as when we moved back to Canada I was put in an all French college, Cegep Ste-Foy in Quebec City. I managed to pass all my classes there thanks to keeping up my French at Luckley."



Boots Connell (pictured right), summer 2014



**Boots Connell,
1974 – 1978**

"Back in my day, Luckley was akin to 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie', a novel that tells the story of an eccentric Edinburgh teacher who inspires cult-like reverence in her young students. Miss Cornish was Head and I was a regular visitor to her office over the years, being a spirited young lady. I was disappointed that I never received a Christmas card from Miss Cornish, seeing as I saw so much of her!"

Sarah Cave (née Newberry) was my partner in crime; we go back to primary school together. We both went to Luckley and Pippa Hargreaves, then Deputy Head (and also my heroine and saviour) tagged us a 'The Terror Twins'. Sara and I are still close friends and each year go on a 'girly' road trip somewhere in the US.

I still recall picking squirrel fleas out of my hair, as they dropped off their furry hosts onto the roof, and made their way through the myriad of open cracks in the ceiling of the Geography room to our heads. No kidding! I could regale you with so much more; but I won't as you're possibly eating your lunch! How fortunate Luckley pupils are now, with such a modern approach and wonderful facilities."

– Boots Connell, Class of 1978

LUCKLEY ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Emma J King, A Life Less Ordinary

Review by Sarah Francis

Meet Emma King from Luckley's class of 1996. Admittedly, I was excited and curious when Emma arrived in her converted red campervan, not least because she was shortlisted for the position of 'astronaut' two years prior. Emma's love of science fiction in childhood (think, 'The Day of the Triffids' by John Wyndham) developed into a passion for science and all things space-related, leading her to study Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Sussex and onto complete a PhD in Cosmology at the University of Nottingham in 2007. A natural go-getter, Emma made history when she became the first woman to win the top prize at the Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Student of the Year award.

Since then Emma has worked in numerous, diverse roles in construction and forestry as well as land, property, project management and undertaken extensive science communication work. Back in 2010 she purchased a former quarry in Staffordshire and converted it into an outdoor event venue; some 170 acres of woodland, grassland, lakes and picturesque moorlands. Transforming, managing and promoting the outdoor venue has taken time. Rewind to lockdown and you would have found Emma operating a digger, chainsaw or putting her hand to carpentry work. All part of the site's master plans. Today, the centre runs smoothly and her role has moved from hands-on to strategic planning and management. For a beautiful outdoor adventure visit <https://huntleywood.uk>.

With Huntley Wood in hand, a trip to space felt like the next best move. She describes the experience of vying for the position of astronaut as life's most memorable experience to-date. While she did not make it to space she did make it to the second round of 400 astronaut candidates, from a pool of 23,500 applicants across Europe. She learned a great deal about writing a winning CV, of physical and mental endurance and of teamwork. The friends she made over the 18-month selection process are special to her; with one such friend, now a reserve astronaut. She talks too about meeting Gerhard Thiele, a German astronaut, as part of the selection process in Cologne. Emma has not given up on space either, and will be studying Space Architecture at TU Wien in Vienna next year. She is already collaborating with classmates on an architectural competition, wasting no time getting immersed in the subject.



Always taking up new challenges (and something of a 'yes' person), Emma continues with voluntary environmental work. Helping species and planet, she has travelled with charitable organisations such as GVI to South America and Asia. She sites Thailand as a destination she would like to settle if there were not more responsibilities keeping her on UK soil. Emma loves the tropical climate where geckos roam the house and the world is alive with rich biodiversity, hosting 10% of the planet's species. Fond of reptiles, she remembers the Everglades Rat snake that her classmates bought her on her 18th birthday.

Right now, Emma is embarking on yet another learning journey, this time with #TeamHB8. The organisation, otherwise known as Homeward Bound, supports women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) with the aim of building a future of female leaders to serve our world. The #TeamHB8 programme equips women with strategic thinking, leadership and management skills needed to move into senior decision-making roles in STEMM. The best is yet to come with the programme culminating in a trip to the regions of Antarctica, providing critical insights into the global-scale change required.

Emma arrived at Luckley from St George's Ascot. At Luckley, she could be herself, explore her talents and follow her dreams. Emma grabs life with both hands and I cannot wait to find out more about her next adventure.

Please follow Luckley House School by clicking the social icons right.



LUCKLEY ALUMNI ON SOCIAL

The Opening of Luckley's Coggan House, 1978



I asked those of you following Luckley Alumni on Facebook if you remembered the opening of Coggan House, which I believe happened in October 1978. Luckley-Oakfield's Headmistress, Wynn Cornish (pictured with members of the local council), were joined by the wife of 101st Archbishop of Canterbury, Jean Coggan, to open the new £180,000 extension – housing classrooms, laboratories, cookery and art rooms. Cookery was offered for the first time on the curriculum and room became available to cater for 50 additional day pupils. The building extension was financed by the sale of 11 acres of Luckley woodland – a sacrifice that was well worth it for Luckley's community.

Thanks to Karen Higgins, who dug out the service booklet and posted an image of the ceremony proceedings, I learned that, on the day, Lady Coggan addressed the whole school, as part of the opening ceremony. Lady Coggan was accomplished in her own education, a speaker, charitable figure and one of great Christian faith. Jane Howorth remembers Coggan House being built, asking if the building was still in place. The answer is yes, it continues to serve Luckley well and cookery remains within its walls. Tammy Baker recalls doing Art, Needlework, Cookery and Chemistry (upstairs), remarking on the fact it was such a big improvement from the outbuildings used prior to that. Louise Mathews also remembers classes of Art and Needlework as does Sarah Malsher (née Baker). Leila Younossi remembers a tree being planted although I cannot say what tree that may be today or whether it is still in situ. Finally, Jill Tate, a former member of Luckley staff remembers Miss Cornish most. According to Jill, Miss Cornish had to put up with her!

Help Find Luckley's Lost Alumni



Help us find Luckley's lost alumni. There are many alumni who Luckley has lost over the years. Moving house, changing workplace or renewing phones and emails are reasons why we lose touch. I have slowly been making my way through the years, listing all those for whom there are no contact details. Posts to Luckley Alumni's Facebook page feature short lists of past pupils lost to Luckley. Pictured is the list covering lost alumni between 1981 and 1982 inclusive. The date given is the Luckley year group each belonged to, providing some indication of when each was at Luckley.

Should you know any of the names on the list, their whereabouts or can ask a friend, I would be delighted. Please message me through Facebook or email me at sarah.francis@luckleyhouseschool.org. Thanking you in advance.

LUCKLEY ALUMNI ON SOCIAL

Lucklely House Captain, Class of 1994

Femke Okten (née Leathes) was in touch recently to share a trip down memory lane. Pictured is the Class of 1994 during their last term at Luckley, looking happy and relaxed on the back lawn. I am sure you can spot Head Student, Femke, as she has not altered much! If you were one of the Class of 1994 leavers, let us know where you are today. Femke mentioned that a couple of you were missing too. We would love to hear from you all.



(Back row, left to right) Sarah Lovell, Karen Marchant, Sophie James (née Armsby), Charlotte Roffey (née Kettle), Michaela Partington (née Hancock), Olivia Smith?, Louise Gubb (née Heppner), Femke Okten
(Front row, left to right) Victoria Heppner, Lucy Campbell (née Richardson), Philippa Vincent, Kirsty Keiller, Tara Heath (née Tims), Sophie Lugard (née Westgate), Kirsty McRichards, Anne Price (née Dancey), Zoe Evans, Zoe Dancey

Lucklely House Captain, Wendy Hawkins, Class of 1991

It was lovely to receive such fond memories from Wendy, who now lives abroad in Barbados. Prompted by an old photo of her teachers, she remembers being very naughty, with her mother regularly called to school. However bad Wendy's antics, she was never short of support from her teachers, often defended by Frau Kirkaldy, Miss Pornicott, Matron and most of all by Mrs Stewart, who was to become Deputy Head. Here is what Wendy has to say about her Luckley school days...

"I live overseas now and so wish I could visit some of my old teachers and thank them for all their loving guidance, unwavering support and most of all, sense of humour for my pranks! Teaching was the smallest element of all the gifts they bestowed on me during my tenure at Luckley. I'm sure I appeared an ungrateful wretch to my parents and Luckley staff. As an only child, I always knew Luckley was my ticket to a well-rounded life. I learned so much during my boarding school experience. I did have a wild imagination and having read too many Bunty comics did my best to bring the comic storylines to life at Luckley."

CELEBRATING...

From time-to-time you touch base about the death of an old friend; our Luckley alumni. We are grateful for this and equally, love to hear about the birth of a child, a wedding or a special visit you may have had. While I have had no recent news from you I did manage to find some news worth celebrating. Do keep reading...

Kym Shergill and Her Magical Wedding, Class of 2017

I happened upon the wedding photographs (pictured) of one very beautiful bride and groom recently – Kym Shergill (Luckley Class of 2017) who was wed at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall on 8 April this year. It was no small affair with close to 600 guests invited to the reception party. Kym described the week-long wedding celebrations as 'magical', with so many friends and family making it so very special.

Once a member of the England Squad Hockey and Judo teams, Kym has continued to play for Olton & Warwickshire Hockey Club, having originally moved to the West Midlands for her degree apprenticeship with Rolls Royce. It is here that she remains workwise and where she met her husband. It would seem Kym is living life well, least because her hockey team have just been promoted to national league! Congratulations to the beautiful couple as Kym becomes Kym Shergill-Sagu.



Celebrating Ann Jeater, Luckley's Former Head of Science



As Luckley's Head, Areti Bizior pointed out; we are blessed that Luckley alumni come and visit as often as they do. It was such a pleasure to spend time last month with former Head of Science Ann Jeater and her daughter, Luckley alumna Sally Calcott (née Jeater). Ann taught at Luckley from 1971 – 1992, first as a Science teacher and then as Head of Science. She is also responsible for researching and writing Pot-Pourri, a historical account of Luckley's history from inception.

Sally was at Luckley from 1975 – 1982 and then studied Law. The Sally Jeater Cup for Business was named after her and is still used at Luckley today. After many years as a solicitor and two children later, Sally now lives in Western Canada where she and her husband run a 1500-acre farm. Sally is also a qualified auditor for a bank.

The two were happy to see their old school in such good shape, and hopefully, it will not be their last visit. A Luckley lunch for former teachers is in planning, so there may be more to come. As I waved goodbye to mother and daughter, Ann drove off with the two in tow. Not bad at 92!

LUCKLEY ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS

Many of you have worked hard in your profession and have gone on to set up your own business. From clinical psychology, veterinarian practice and farming to outdoor leisure parks, fashion curation, antique dealing, TV producing and presenting (to name a few), Luckley alumni certainly follow their dreams and make things happen. As we always say, "Where there is belief, there is possibility." Several of you have been in touch to ask if we can give your business venture a shout out. So here you have it...

LR Vet Nurse Pet Services



I heard it through the Luckley grapevine that lovely alumna, Lizzie Dodgson (class of 2004), started her very own venture in pet care. Lizzie came for tea with former Headmaster, Mr Blake, and immediately made a strong impression on all of us who did not know her from her days at Luckley and subsequently as Luckley's LAMDA and Drama teacher as well as House Mistress.

Today, Lizzie is a registered veterinary nurse with over ten year experience, having worked in several veterinary practices. Her calm and kind nature together with her strong passion for animals is evident. She now offers pet sitting, home drop-ins, rehab boarding, claw clipping, dog walking, day care, pet taxi, end of life and bereavement support and much more.

Should you need help with your beloved dog, cat or small animal, Lizzie is your girl if you live in Wokingham, Finchampstead or the surrounding areas. Get in touch by emailing vetnurselr@gmail.com or visiting LR Vet Nurse Pet Services Facebook page at <https://lnkd.in/ecTgrXM5>.

A Walk In The Park

Promotioning Lizzie's LR Pet Care business on Facebook gave way to other cute and cuddly news. It turns out that alumna, Megan Forth (class of 2017) is busy with her very own 'Woof Retreat' in Beenham and alumna, Lou Veitch (class of 2017) runs 'Yappy Days' in Heckfield – both providing dog day care services in different locations. If you need a loving companion to care for your furry friend their details are below.

Woof Retreat
[Thewoofretreat.co.uk](https://thewoofretreat.co.uk)
Megan Forth
Grange Lane, Beenham, Reading
0118 334 4915
info@thewoofretreat.co.uk

Yappy Days
<https://yappydaysdaycare.co.uk/>
Lou Veitch
Heckfield, RG278LH
01256 643670
info@yappydaysdaycare.com

Melken Jacobs And The Wooly Wagon

Alumna, Lisa Hutchins (class of 1995) breeds and sells registered pedigree Jacob sheep on her farm on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon. She also offers wool processing workshops, where you will learn how to clean wool, ready to make it into something useful. Lisa also works with a Cornish based lady who is able to turn your clean wool into yarn, if you are thinking of knitting.

Lisa offers a number of workshops over July and August, so if you are travelling to or live in Devon, you may want to book yourself onto one of Lisa's fun filled four hour workshops; wool and equipment are provided. To find out more visit <https://www.melkenjacobs.co.uk/wool-processing-workshop>

To book contact Lisa on 07973 287594 or 01837 861292

Leaving A Gift To Luckley In Your Will



Miss Ivy Barratt

This photo of Miss Ivy Barratt, Luckley School's Co-founder in 1918, was sent to Luckley by the son of one of the first six pupils at the school. Less spoken about, Miss Barratt left suddenly in 1929 and the partnership was dissolved. She continued to visit Luckley for many years afterward until ill health prevented her.



Reading about Luckley's beginnings, the girls all developed as individuals. Some went on to further education, others became debutantes, carers of older parents or their own children or departed to foreign lands. While I tend to speak mainly of Bertha Drake when writing about Luckley's beginnings, I found this lovely photo of Luckley's other founder, Miss Ivy Barratt.

So much has changed since 1918, yet much is recognisable too. Did you know that Luckley has a legacy programme? You can find out more about Luckley Society 1918 by visiting <https://www.luckleyhouseschool.org/about-us/support-us/> where Luckley introduces legacy giving, providing an opportunity to those that may wish to give back to the school in their will. Luckley has been lucky to receive two legacy gifts, helping to ensure an excellent teaching and learning provision is maintained for future generations of Luckley pupils.



Sustainable Luckley

At the start of the Summer Term Luckley's Eco School organised and ran a whole school 'Earth Day' event; falling within Luckley's 'Switch Off Fortnight' initiative. A woodland scavenger hunt, opportunity to plant sunflower seeds and a second hand book sale meant everyone could get involved. Proceeds of the book sale went to charity. Meanwhile, Year 8 pupils worked in teams (over four English lessons) to create a television news channel about climate change.

Luckley's Eco School meets weekly during the school year, working towards improving Luckley's biodiversity while reducing energy usage and clearing and recycling waste. Their efforts have been rewarded with Luckley receiving the 'Eco-Schools Green Flag with Merit' award. Luckley archives provide evidence (by way of a framed certificate) that back in 1995 the School was winning recognition for environmental action and awareness too.

Stay In Touch

As we aim to continue to bring you news that is both relevant and of interest to you, please do send in your news and suggestions. Or why not put yourself forward for an Alumni Spotlight Interview or volunteering opportunity? Those that have joined us have found the experience to be very fulfilling.

Do get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of each page. Luckley would like to hear from you and follow your journey through life; the ups and the downs.

