

Alumni News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR LUCKLEY ALUMNI

AUTUMN 2015 ISSUE 1

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Since taking over the running of the Alumni in 2014 I am delighted to have made contact with so many of you, heard so many stories of your time at Luckley-Oakfield, and what you have gone on to achieve - Luckley girls are definitely a very talented lot!

Now I am pleased to be sending you the first Alumni Newsletter. Hopefully over time, with your input, this will grow to become a magazine to be published and sent out to you all annually, but to begin with I will aim to produce the newsletter twice a year.

I appreciate that nowadays with social media it is very easy to keep in touch with your friends, but I hope you will enjoy hearing about old classmates you may have lost touch with.

Regular features will include an [Archive page](#) with photographs from the school archive and articles from the old school magazines; [Alumni in School](#) with photos and news of any old girls who have been back to Luckley; [Alumni Profile](#) dedicated to an individual Alumnus; [Further Education](#) celebrating academic and professional achievements and [News from Alumni](#) which I will rely on you to send in - especially wedding and baby photos which everyone loves to see! Please feel free to let me know anything else you would like included as I very much want this to be YOUR newsletter.

I hope you will enjoy this first edition and look forward to receiving news from you to include in the next one at the end of the Summer term.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and send best wishes for 2016.

Sue Hawkins
Alumni Co-ordinator

ALUMNI WEBSITE

We now have the Alumni Website up and running. Hopefully you have all received your login details, but if not please let me know.

There were initially a few teething problems but these now seem to have been resolved. By logging on you can look at 'Your Profile' which details what information about you is held on the Alumni database. You can update it yourself and fill in any gaps, particularly your further education and career details. All details are private and only seen by myself as the administrator and Intouch, the company that is hosting the site for us, unless you select for all or some of your details to be available to other alumni.

There is a tab to 'Find Friends' where, by putting in a name and/or school dates you can see if I have their details on the database. You can then send them a 'blind email' where they will see your email address and, hopefully, reply.



The Alumni office has now purchased a scanner, so I am slowly working my way through the archives, electronically storing all the photographs and School Magazines. I will be posting archives on the website and asking for your help with naming the girls and dating the pictures.

There are plans to introduce extra pages too, including a Business Directory for alumni to share one another's services, so do keep taking a look to see what updates have been added.

A FAREWELL TO THE POOL

Earlier this year the bulldozers finally began work on clearing the site for the new Performing Arts Centre, which sadly saw the school's swimming pool demolished. Unfortunately the pool had not been used for a couple of years due to boiler and irreparable leakage problems, so the decision was made to remove it completely to make room for the new Theatre. A note of the demolition was posted on Facebook and received a huge response from Alumni, so I thought this would be a very fitting first article for the 'Archive' page of the new Newsletter.

The idea for a swimming pool was first launched in 1945 with the setting up of a 'Pool Fund', but it wasn't until 1957, when sufficient funds had been raised thanks to donations from parents, Old Girls, and friends of the school and a Swimming Pool Dance held at the California Ballroom, that the pool was finally opened. The 1957 school newsletter reported "We now own and use a glorious swimming pool and few weeks go by without being visited by headmasters, headmistresses, PE experts, representative of the Ministry of Education, Architects and many others." which shows just how avant garde Luckley was by having a swimming pool on site.

In 1970 the newly formed AFLOS organised re-painting of the pool and a sponsored walk to raise funds to improve the changing rooms. Sometime in the 1990s it was decided to put a roof on the pool to extend its use. The pool continued to be used regularly by Luckley-Oakfield girls and pupils from White House School, who would walk across from Evendons Lane, until it became financially unviable to carry out the essential repairs.

I am sure many of you have fond memories of the pool, the annual swimming gala and the sports staff who taught you there - and of course your lovely regulation swimsuits!



2015 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all Alumni who have graduated from University this year. Here are just a few who have been in touch to let us know.



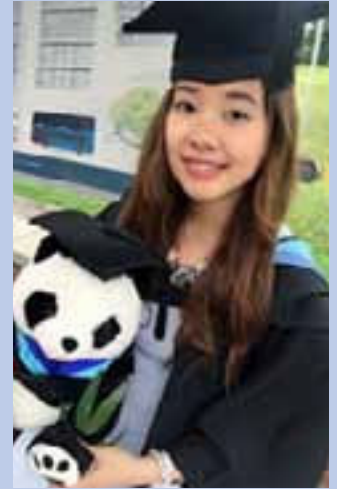
Abbi Reeves (2011) graduated with a 2:1 in Criminology and Sociology from Liverpool John Moores University.



Katie Briggs (2011) achieved a 2:1 in Illustration from the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham.



Leah Hiles (2012) achieved a 2:1 in Fashion Management and Marketing from UCA



Tiffany Lo (2012) Graduated from Nottingham University with a First Class Honours Degree in Nutrition



Rebecca Vinnicombe (2011) graduated with a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Exeter.

Holly Clibbon (2011) achieved a 1st in Computer Science from the University of Bath.

Rachel Fellman (2012) graduated from the University of Nottingham with a BA in Classical Civilisation.

SIXTH FORM - ALUMNI MENTORING

We are in the process of starting an Alumni Mentoring Programme for our Year 12 students.

The programme gives students the opportunity to form a one-on-one relationship with an Alumni member who will hopefully provide support and tips for further education, preparation for interviews and expand their horizons as they consider career options.

Mentoring is a personal, important way to impact a student by becoming an educational and career role model and friend. Mentoring is particularly satisfying when you are able to answer questions and settle the worries of students who are currently in the same position that you were just a few years ago.

In June, as part of the Pre-Uni Week all mentors will be invited into school for a lunch with their students as a thank you from the school.

Thank you to those who have already offered their support for the programme, but if there are others who would be interested in taking part and being on the register of mentors I would love to hear from you.

We are keen to celebrate all professional achievements of Luckley Alumni, not only graduations, so please be sure to let me know of any awards or career landmarks, you achieve.

ALUMNI IN SCHOOL

Mellissa Sheppard – Class of 1999



Mellissa got in touch, offering her assistance with any public speaking or debating activities. We were therefore very pleased when she accepted our invitation to judge the newly formatted Inter-House Debating competition in October. As a member of Toastmasters International, and an award winning speech writer, Melissa was able to give the teams some valuable feedback on their performances.

Cammy Kwan – Class of 2007



Cammy called into Luckley on a very brief trip back to the UK from Hong Kong with her new fiancé Angus (he had popped the question 3 days earlier). She spent the morning looking round the school and meeting up with several of her teachers – Mrs Gadsby even came in to catch up with her too. She was particularly pleased to see Emily, our chef, who kept her well fed during her boarding days and thoroughly enjoyed another school dinner.

Mr & Mrs Blake (Headmaster 1984 – 2004)



We had a surprise visit from Mr & Mrs Blake in November. They were in the area and popped in for a coffee with some of the admin staff. Although they did not stop for long, Mr Blake commented on how 'at home' he felt sitting in Oak Lounge. He is still always keen to keep up with what is going on at Luckley and to hear news of his pupils and what they are up to now.

TRIBUTE TO PAST HEADS

I have struggled to find the history behind the school House names, but the first mention of the names instead of colours is in the 1960 School Magazine.

In 2013 it was decided that the names were not relevant to an 'all girls' school and, after a ballot from the pupils, the names were changed to those of four influential women - Edith Cavell, Mary Cornish, Millicent Fawcett and Mary Wollstonecraft.

This September, following the move to coeducation, the suggestion was made by a couple of staff members to rename the houses again, using names of past Headteachers so the names have now changed to Galloway, Randle, Cornish and Blake.



Miss Margaret Galloway
Headmistress
Luckley School 1945 - 59



Miss Ethel Randle
Headmistress
Oakfield 1949 - 59
Luckley-Oakfield 1959 - 69



Miss Wyn Cornish
Headmistress
Luckley-Oakfield 1973 - 84



Mr Richard Blake
Headmaster
Luckley-Oakfield 1984 - 04

Hopefully the table below will help you to follow your house and keep up to date with how they are doing in the current House Competition.

	1960 - 2013	2013 - 2015	2015
Red	Beatty	Cornish	Cornish
Green	Drake	Fawcett	Galloway
Yellow	Jellicoe	Wollstonecraft	Randle
Blue	Nelson	Cavell	Blake

LOOGA REUNION - 27 JUNE 2015

On a beautiful summers day 32 ladies (and 2 husbands) who had left Luckley-Oakfield before 1970 returned to the school for a reunion. Their school dates ranged from one lady who had joined Luckley in 1945 straight after the war, to others who were here in 1959 when Oakfield joined and the school became Luckley-Oakfield.

The day began with coffee and punch on the lawn and time to catch up with friends, some of whom they had not seen in many years. The ladies were then treated to a delicious lunch provided by chef Emily and her team, the afternoon finishing with a traditional cream tea. In between, they had time to look round the school and meet with the Headmistress who came to join them for tea.

Some ladies who were unable to attend had sent messages and photographs which the others enjoyed reading, as well as studying their whole-school photograph and trying to put names to all the faces.



KATRINE ROBERTS - CLASS OF 2007



Congratulations go to Katrine Roberts who has recently been shortlisted for the Griffin Art Prize 2015 alongside nine other artists. Their work is on display at the Griffin Gallery in London until 18 December, when one of the ten will be announced as the winner of the prestigious prize.

Since leaving Luckley in 2007, Katrine has completed a Foundation and Bachelors in Fine Arts at City & Guilds of London Art School, and this year completed her Masters in Painting at the Royal College of Art, London. She was selected for the 2012 Catlin Guide, which showcases 40 of the top graduates in Fine Art each year and invited to exhibit in a touring exhibition called 'Creative London' across Space K Galleries in South Korea, celebrating the 2012 London Olympics. Her work has also been exhibited across the UK and internationally, with her first solo show in York in 2013. She has now become one of the represented artists at the new Lacey Contemporary Gallery in West London.

Recently Katrine has been developing 'ArtNow. Discuss', a new platform for the discussion of contemporary art through small group tours visiting London galleries, Artist studios and Project spaces. The aim is to introduce the public to the contemporary art world, allowing them to engage directly with the professionals - with the opportunity to question and challenge their ideas and expectations about contemporary art. Katrine would welcome any Alumni members who would be interested in joining one of her ArtNow. Discuss tours.

Katrine says "I am happy to promote Luckley and all I that I gained from being there. So much of my success is from the path laid out before me and from the hard work and care all the staff put in during my time there, especially Julie Simmonds (Head of Art) who has continued to encourage me on my artistic journey!"

I am sure you all join me in wishing her every success in the Griffin Art Prize competition.



www.artnow-discuss.com
www.katrineroberts.com

LUCKLEY-OAKFIELD PE KIT

Over the years Luckley has enjoyed a very good relationship with Pangbourne College in Reading – made even stronger in 1993 when Luckley's Miss Brown became Mrs Hills when she married their Regimental Sergeant Major.

In the summer a team from Pangbourne visited Nabugabo, a school they support in Uganda, and took with them 80 items of old Luckley-Oakfield branded netball kit, which had been provided by AFLOS. The kit included t-shirts, tracksuit tops, shorts and socks and was very gratefully received.

Next summer MrsHills' son Tom, will be going to Uganda himself. Understandably you may have held on to your old kit for nostalgic reasons, but if any Alumni have Luckley-Oakfield kit they would be willing to donate he would be delighted to take it out there on your behalf.



WEDDING BELLES!!

Two current members of staff, who will have taught many of you, finally tied the knot this year.



Miss Edgerley, previously Head of PE and now Head of Sixth Form, married in October to become Mrs Gilding-Brant, known affectionately as 'Mrs G-B'.



Miss Simmonds, previous Head of Art, married this summer in Dorset, to become Mrs Fogarty. She is still teaching art part-time at Luckley.

CLASS OF 2015



A special welcome to last year's leavers, who become the newest members of Luckley Alumni - the 'Class of 2015'. We look forward to hearing how you all get on and seeing you back to Luckley for your Graduation Dinner in 2019.

Hopefully some of you will come back for Pre-U week next June to talk with the current pupils about your first year at university or in work.

MISS DENNING CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY



In September Miss Elizabeth Denning, who taught at Oakfield school from 1949 and then Luckley-Oakfield from 1959 to 1969, celebrated her 100th birthday. Several past pupils are still in contact with her - one even being with her on the day and another calling from New York.

She apparently received 97 birthday cards, had a stream of visitors and spent the day enjoying friends, cake and champagne. Her village church held a special service for her and the bellringers rang 100 bells in celebration.

The ladies who were at the summer reunion, who all had very fond memories of Miss Denning, signed a birthday card and donated towards flowers which were sent to her on her birthday.

One past pupil wrote "Miss Denning was very influential in our lives and we are pleased to know she was honored by so many on her 100th birthday".

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Can you help with the archives? If you recognise yourself or any of your friends in the photographs please let me know names and dates - and any stories related to the pictures.



This appears to be in Woodlands - 1950-60. (I particularly like the washing hanging outside!)



Speech Day winners 1988



The Mad Hatters.

What were you and Mrs Mason up to?



Keeping fit!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TASSIE CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

We have been invited to submit an Alumni Golf Team to take part in the Tassie Cup on Monday 6th June 2016 at the Berkshire Golf Club.

The Tassie is a golf competition for former pupils of girls' independent schools. The competition will be a Stableford Foursomes with teams of four players playing in two pairs over 18 holes in the morning and nine in the afternoon. Maximum handicap allowance per pair is 40 (individual maximum is 24). More information can be found on their website: www.thetassiefoursomes.co.uk

There is a charge of £80 per person to take part, but I am willing to pay 50% of each entry from the Alumni account.

If you would be interested in taking part I would love to hear from you - lets hope we can get a winning team together!

SIXTH FORM PRE-U WEEK

From 16 to 23 June 2016 the Sixth Form will be off-timetable to participate in a number of activities preparing them for 'Life after Luckley'. Last year a number of Alumni helped with Mock Interviews, Life at University talks and Careers Advice which we hope to repeat this year.

If you feel you have anything additional you could offer to the programme, or would like to help with the activities already planned, please let me know.

70s & 80s REUNION - 25 JUNE 2016



A reunion, held at school, for all ladies who left Luckley-Oakfield between 1970 and 1990. I will be sending out invitations to everyone I have contact details for in the new year, so please make sure all your friends and old classmates receive theirs - if not it means they are not on the database.

To be sure the day is a success, enjoyed by everyone, I would very much appreciate one or two of you helping with the planning of the day, the menu and looking through the archives to find photographs relevant to your years. Please get in touch if you would like to help.