



Wycombe High School Guild
For former students & past and present staff

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the last time of writing I was the Headteacher designate and very much looking forward to my new roles at Wycombe High School. I have now been Headteacher and President of the Guild for almost 11 months and in that time I am delighted to report we have continued to build on the school's excellent reputation. This summer was a record breaking one in terms of exam results. Our A Level, AS Level and GCSE results were superb. Indeed you may have recently read in the Sunday Times that Wycombe High School is amongst the very top state schools in the United Kingdom.

We continue to develop our curriculum and have added new and exciting opportunities to it: Triple Science, Extended Project, Pre-University modules, Photography AS Level, and a flexible working day for Year 13 students to name but a few. All of the changes are designed to further stimulate our students' experiences, whilst offering stretch and breadth.

We are also forging ahead with upgrades to our facilities. We have refurbished our Dining Hall (now called 'The Forum'); started a rolling programme of Science Lab upgrades; improved student toilets and finally removed all the terrapins!

We have also appointed a Development Director, Mrs Dana Morgan. Dana will be leading on fundraising for the school. This will include a major campaign and an ongoing programme of sponsorships/donations. We are acutely aware that the current economic and political position will leave all schools vulnerable and most likely the subject of spending cuts. We are therefore committed to proactively shaping our own future and raising funds independently of central government. This will ensure the school can continue to develop its resources for the benefit of every student and the wider community. Dana will undoubtedly be getting to know many of you better over the next few months and years.

Rachel Kneale, our archivist (employed for a year thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding) has completed her archive work and I am delighted with the final product – The Wycombe High School Centre for the History of Girls' State Education – a well-resourced and documented archive that records not only the development of Wycombe High School since 1901, but is testimony to the rise and status of female education nationally. The official opening of the Archive will be part of the Grand Reunion celebrating the Centenary of the Guild next July.

In an attempt to extend links with past students we have launched a Facebook page to further strengthen communication. You can access this via our new website: www.whs.bucks.sch.uk. Do visit the website and explore the school as it is today (including the Guild pages) whilst also browsing information from the past!

We are once again organising our annual Higher Education and Careers Fair, in conjunction with John Hampden Grammar School. I am grateful to many members of the Guild and past students who are so generously and willingly giving up their time to support this event – one of the most impressive Higher Education fairs of its type in Buckinghamshire. I look forward as always to working with the Guild in the forthcoming year and further strengthening our standing in the community and nationally. With every best wish for 2010.

Sharon Cromie

**Wycombe High School Guild Centenary
 Grand Reunion Saturday 10 July 2010**

See enclosed booking form for more information

NB: there will be no Annual Reunion in March 2010

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Please Note:

- ◆ *The next Reunion – the Grand Centenary Reunion is on Saturday 10 July 2010, see Page 2.*
- ◆ *To order the 2010 WHS Fine Art Calendar please use the enclosed form.*
- ◆ *To order the Guild Magazine please complete and return the enclosed form for payment by Standing Order if you have not already done so.*

Annual Reunion 7 March 2009

Over 100 former students and staff enjoyed catching up with old friends and sat down to an excellent buffet lunch provided by Quality Cuisine. Those who had enjoyed similar meals, provided by Laura Newell and her



catering team over the past eleven years, were very sad to hear that this was the last time the Guild lunch would be supplied by Quality Cuisine. Rachel Sutcliffe, Vice-President of the Guild, presented Laura with a bouquet and thanked her warmly for the excellent food she had prepared so often for Guild members, contributing greatly to the enjoyment of each occasion. After this, assembling in the school hall, we officially welcomed our new President, Sharon Cromie who introduced our guest speaker, Rachel Kneale, the school archivist.

Rachel gave a fascinating presentation on different types of archives, showing us how valuable and unique the WHS archive is, since most of the few schools with archives are in the independent sector. She presented some examples of the items in our archive which give an insight into the progress of girls' state education in Buckinghamshire from 1901, as well as the social and economic developments from that time.

Lorna Rodin, from the Student Leadership Team, gave the vote of thanks after which Rachel Sutcliffe presented a retirement gift - a garden table - from the Guild to former President Jane Wainwright. The Guild AGM followed, with an appeal for more members to volunteer to serve on the committee. Members were also informed that it would be the Guild centenary in July 2010, so the committee were planning a Grand Reunion in that month, instead of the usual annual Reunion on the first Saturday in March. Members were also asked to volunteer to join a working party to plan the celebrations.

**Lunch at the staff table
Rachel Kneale seated second from left**



**Former President Jane Wainwright
With new president Sharon Cromie**



The formal business concluded, the afternoon ended with tea in the dining hall and a last chance to chat. We should like to thank all those from the Guild as well as the girls from Years 12 and 13 who helped with the preparations, the raffle and clearing up.

There is more about the Reunion in the 2008 issue of the Guild Magazine which is enclosed with this newsletter - IF you placed a prepaid order. To order future issues by standing order please use the form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Help - Archive volunteers needed!

One of the conditions of HLF funding for the Archive was that we should make it widely available for research not only for projects in school and by the local community, but also to visitors from further afield, as well as on-line. This would be through the use of volunteers organised through the Guild and a member of the WHS staff, currently Janice Thomas. Training will be provided, so that you can help people to locate the

information they seek. We should be delighted with whatever time you could offer. We have 10 volunteers who have had some training so far, but would welcome more. For further information about being an Archive volunteer and to arrange a visit to the Archive, please contact Janice Thomas, at WHS - e-mail: JThomas@whs.bucks.sch.uk. Also, for a taste of what is in the Archive, log on to the WHS website at www.whs.bucks.sch.uk and click the Archive button.

Keep In Touch

Those of you who log on to the Guild homepage of WHS website will find that an official WHS Facebook Group is being developed. Also we have many people who have made contact online, including:

Pauline Lee (Wixon) 1956 Group who joined the Guild and whom we were able to put in touch with some of her contemporaries at WHS

Judi Wild (Judy Pohlka nicknamed **Beolk**) who started at WHS in 1957 in the first Form, but left for Canada in August 1960 after the 3rd Form. None of her friends knew that she was leaving and she wasn't able to keep in touch. She had been living with her Grandmother and sister in High Wycombe then went to live with her mother in "cold, cold Alberta, Canada". Her close friends were Susan Duce, Lucille Green, Kay Lockwood, Christine Pratt and Julia Simmons. "We were inseparable and almost all played on the school netball team.- I had some of the best friends of my entire life during those 3 years and always have wondered what has become of them". Judi is now a professional artist (her website: www.judiwildartist.com) living on the lower Mainland of British Columbia and would love to hear from her friends from WHS days. judiwildartist@telus.net

News of Members in the Guild Magazine

In addition to original contributions, an important part of the content is news from members. This is collected by Group Leaders who contact their contemporaries and edit their responses for publication, while we write individually to senior Members for their news. I try also to contact our recent Y13 leavers for their news, through the former Head Girls. **HOWEVER, WE STILL NEED MORE GROUP LEADERS**, so if you are in one of the groups listed below and would like more news in the next edition of your magazine, **please volunteer your services**, so that we have a Group Leader for each year. We supply contact details and printed labels.

Year Groups Needing Leaders to Collect and Edit News

1968, 1970, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004. I wrote to the members of the 1955 and 1956 groups for their news for the 2009 magazine, but it would be good if a member of each would take on the role of Group Leader. If you wish to volunteer to do so, please contact Jill Boyd c/o The Guild Administrator at WHS (contact details overleaf).

Where are they now?

Many thanks to members who supplied details of some of those listed "missing" last year. However, the annual Newsletter and mailing sent to those below were returned marked "Gone away, address unknown." Please send details to Karen Barr, the Guild Administrator at WHS, if you can help with addresses or information about any of them. Also, if you move and change your contact details PLEASE remember to let Karen know.

	2005 Mailing	1994	Josephine TANDY	1963	Judith BOWTLE née Burr
1995	Kathy BEADLE née Enfield	1962	Margaret WALLEN	2006	Jessie BRICKLEY
1991	Claire CRITCHLEY	1940	Doreen WALSH née Garton	1948	Joan M. Burrough née Hoar
1975	Catherine EDWORTHY née Dixon			1934	Muriel CROUCH
			2007 Mailing	1956	Fiona FLETCHER
1997	Mrs L. FLEMING (ex-staff)	2005	Zoë BARBER	1964	Patricia G. HARRIS née Westoby
1988	Lisa GIBBS	1986	Deborah BOWEN	2006	Amie Louise HOWARD
1926	Freda HAYMAN née Grove	1994	Roxane BROWN	1970	Angela HUNTER née Williams
1971	Helen HILTON née Kingsbury	1988	Amanda CLAESENS	2006	Sarah-Louise JOHNSON
1982	Catherine JONES	1975	Carol DAVISON née Hamilton	1942	Irene LEESER
1985	Kirsty PARKER	1981	Caroline DRYZEK née Martin	1996	Mr J. LEWIS
1932	Enid PARSONS née Lacey	1989	Claire GULLIVER	1965	Monica LONG née Ford
1987	Judith PRAGNELL	1989	Mrs E. HALE	1961	Ann MATKIN née Membry
2003	Miss H. L. SHERRY	1988	Tracey HUXLEY née Horne	1982	Dawn E. MUIR née Gardener
1949	Anne SHORTER née Britnell	1981	Joanne KIRVEN née Thomas	2007	Louise PICKLES
1989	Robertta SWANSON	1935	Margaret PULLIN née Harrow	1969	Wendy A. ROOTES née Petch
		2005	Helen ROSSOW	2006	Naomi C. ROWE
	2006 Mailing	1968	Pauline SAUNDERS	1987	Janice STOCKBRIDGE
2001	Helene ELTING	1987	Alexandra WATSON	1932	Joan STUART
1987	Joanne GRILLS née Williamson			1998	Heather A. WALTER
1985	Laichine Felicity LIN		2008 Mailing	2006	Natasha J. WILLIAMS
1995	Mrs F. PATRICK	2007	Jessica ALEXANDER		
2000	Joan SCOTT				

Wycombe High School Guild

President: Sharon Cromie

Vice-President: Rachel Sutcliffe

Committee: Rosy Amin-Mannion, Lynda Arnold, Gian Austin, Jill Boyd, Marian Brocklesby, Hayley Carr, Muriel Pilkington, Liz Taylor, Jane Tucker, Ann Weaver, the Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl

Hon. Treasurer: Kathy Piercey

Contact Address for Officers:

c/o The Guild Administrator, Wycombe High School, Marlow Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1TB

E-mail: guild@whs.bucks.sch.uk

Visit the WHS web site
See the Guild pages
at:



• What is it?

- The Guild is the organisation for all former pupils and past and present staff of Wycombe High School.
- It provides a way for all to keep in touch.
- Since members are potentially a great resource for the school, the Guild encourages them to develop links with WHS to support various departments and activities.

• What does it do?

- The Guild organises an Annual Reunion at WHS on the first Saturday in March, **except in 2010, as there will be a Grand Centenary Reunion on 10 July.**
- The Guild sends a newsletter to all members every December
- The Guild publishes a *Magazine each December. To receive this a prepaid order must be placed, preferably by SO.
- Through its committee and officers the Guild endeavours to organise other activities its members would like.
- ***NB: order your Magazine now**

Please pay by Standing Order using the enclosed form

School Events

Guild members are welcome to attend the events at school, such as concerts, though tickets are limited. Please check the school website (see above) or phone **01494 523961** for further information and to buy tickets.

Accommodation

Jill Taylor (Twitchen) 1956 Group runs a bed and breakfast from her home in **Burley in Wharfedale, West Yorkshire**, and thought it might be of interest to Guild members and their families. **Contact Details:** email: jilly.taylor@yahoo.co.uk; phone: 01943 865299.

Dorothy Lewis, a wartime refugee at WHS from 1943, has an apartment in **Prague** and would be happy to rent it out to Guild members. It is centrally located, fully furnished and serviced and sleeps 2-6 people. **Contact Details:** phone 01327 260609.

From the Vice-President

As Tony Merrick wrote to me about a year ago "so much is going on and life is so busy. I really did think that, when I 'retired', time would slow down a little but, if anything, it does seem to have speeded up". It was only a month ago that I was putting the last newsletter together!

Firstly, I should like to thank our President, Sharon Cromie for all her support, and to congratulate her, the students and staff at WHS on their achievements during the past year, both academic and also in the wide range of extra-curricular activities, some of which we shall experience at the Centenary Reunion on 10 July. Not least there was the recent OFSTED inspection of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education which judged the school to be outstanding in this area of the curriculum.

I should also like to thank the members of the committee and last year's Head Girl, Hanisha Soni, her Deputy, Sophie Parker and members of the SLT for their support and help in making the Annual Reunion so successful; Rachel Kneale for her most interesting presentation on the Archive at the Reunion; Tony Merrick and his helpers for organising the drinks, and all who attended. Thanks also to Jill Boyd for her hard work as editor of the Guild Magazine; the editorial group - Gian Austin and Dorothy Griffiths; Ann Weaver, for proof-reading the Magazine; Karen Barr, the Guild Administrator, for her support and help. Most of all I should like to thank Dorothy Griffiths for all her work and support for many years as a member of the committee - for her Minutes, Reunion reports, hospitality for meetings and for envelope stuffing. Sadly she has had to resign from the committee through ill-health. Our very best wishes to you, Dorothy!

Finally, thank you to all members who have been in touch. My very best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the Centenary Reunion in 2010.

Rachel Sutcliffe