

# Perse Girls OPG newsletter

April 2010



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OPG Committee

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## Overview from Tricia Kelleher

Welcome to our alumni newsletter - we hope you will enjoy reading and hopefully contributing to it in future.

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We have pulled together some features of alumna at different stages of their lives, covering a variety of industries and perspectives. I'm always fascinated to see what directions people take when they leave and was particularly interested to see Kate Sagovsky on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square for Anthony Gormley's installation, along with two apologies to Perse Girls teaching staff!

The school continues to shine ???? DMU insert two sentences on successes at the school please.

The reunion last year was a great success, and we hope that even more of you will be able to attend this year, especially if your group is celebrating an anniversary, so please book your tickets for 19 June, it looks to be a great day and an opportunity for you to meet old friends and see the changes that have been happening at the school.

The OPG Committee is always looking for people to contribute with ideas, networking or event management. It's a good way of staying involved with the school and giving you some experience of event management, so please do consider joining the team.

Please encourage people you know who are not members to join OPG, membership is free and we can keep you updated of news and events.

Don't forget you can find us on Facebook, just search for 'Ali Lumnae'.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the reunion in June.

## Lucy Hawking meets President Obama

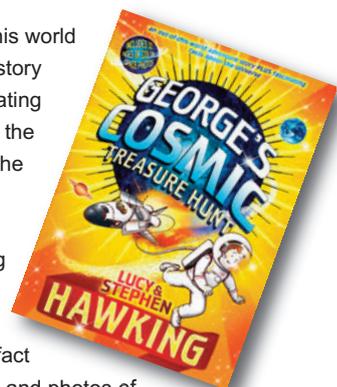


**Lucy Hawking** (Group 67) met President Barack Obama on 12 August 2009 with her father, Stephen Hawking, who was being honoured as one of the 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. Stephen Hawking is an internationally-recognized theoretical physicist, and is the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University.

**Buy Lucy's book at Amazon or ISBN:????**

Lucy is a successful novelist, having written two books with her father, the latest is *George's Cosmic Adventure* -

An out of this world adventure story plus fascinating facts about the universe. The novel combines entertaining storytelling with numerous fact and figures and photos of space. Join George and Annie at Space Camp in America, where they discover a mysterious riddle that will send them on an action-packed, rollercoaster trail across the universe, involving Martian sunsets, far-distant star systems and a dangerous enemy.



## OPG Committee news:



**Gillian Bush**, Treasurer of The Old Persean Guild, hands over a cheque for £75,000 to Tricia Kelleher, Principal at Perse Girls.

Last year, we were delighted when The Old Persean Guild (OPG) Committee and Trustees of the Persean Benevolent Trust (PBT) created a new fund, the Persean Benevolent Fund (PBF), through the donation of £75,000 to Perse Girls to be used to support pupils through both bursaries and hardship grants.

## OPG Committee

We are pleased to welcome **Anna McNaughton** (Group 82) as a new member of the OPG committee. Anna will help with new ideas for engaging with alumni and supporting our events.

Anna left Perse Girls in 2004 and says 'I began studying Hispanic Studies at Sheffield University in 2004 straight after leaving school. As part of my course I studied abroad in my third year. In my final year at Sheffield I wrote my dissertation on Spain and the EU and enjoyed it very much, gaining a 1st. I realised very quickly that I wanted to work in the international field so decided a Master's was the best way forwards. I am now studying International Relations at King's College London and enjoying it very much.'

I'm looking forward to joining the committee and seeing the school from a different perspective. It will be great to have an input into what we can offer to people once they have left the school and keep everyone updated'.

If you are interested in joining the committee, we are looking for people who can make 3 meetings a year at school, and who can contribute to alumni relations through networking and specific projects of interest. Please get in touch to keep OPG alive and thriving!

# Then & Now

This is a new feature. Would you like to tell us about when you were at school, and what you are doing now? We are starting with Geraldine Owst, who has

had a lifelong involvement with the school from being a former pupil, to a long-standing member of the committee.

## Geraldine Owst

(Group 23) has had over 60 years' connection with Perse Girls, so we went to hear from her about her days at school and what she is doing now.



'I was at school in 1938-47 - being involved with the OPG committee gives me a fascinating view of how the school has changed over the years, especially in terms of buildings and facilities.

'My days at school sewed the seeds of two great passions that have stayed with me throughout my life: music and reading. I

remember helping Miss Hall in the library with my friend Doreen Loman, and in return we were able to choose our library books before anyone else. My days were filled with reading 'Swallows and Amazons' and 'The Far Distant Oxus', and lots of homework!

'The grand piano played by Miss K Wood was beautiful, and inspired me to a life of teaching music. We had lessons in interesting subjects like 'eurythmics' where we danced around and were divided into 'squeakers' and 'grunters' according to the music played. This aside, my time at school and learning about music gave me the ability to enjoy and identify any composer, and lessons in harmony helped my teaching. I still enjoy attending the wonderful spectrum of concerts at Perse Girls today.

'I returned to Cambridge in 1989 and was voted onto the OPG committee, and I have

also been the Group Secretary of Group 23 since leaving school. My mother was a great committee member and so I felt I could help with reunions and organising. I have always felt I have been put on this earth to help.' In addition to being an active OPG member,

Geraldine has been teaching in primary schools for over 60 years. Geraldine still works supporting seven children with special needs at a school in Cambridge with English and Maths, and also teaches children of visiting scholars at the school. As Chairman of 'Cambridge Pensioners Voice' Geraldine co-ordinates a full programme of speakers and events for the group, chairs meetings and takes minutes: all without the need for email.

*If you would like to be featured in 'Then and Now', please get in touch, ideally with photos of your time at school and a recent photograph.*

# Charity and non-profit focus

Christina Musson (Group 80) has worked for the past four years in New York for a Christian, non-profit organization, helping street children. Christina tells her story:



For the past four years I've been living and working in New York for Metro Ministries - a Christian, non-profit organisation dedicated to serving inner-city children and their families.

On a weekly basis we serve more than 42,000 children with Sunday School services, child sponsorship, special programmes (feeding, school supplies, counselling, summer camps, job opportunities), and personal home visits. I was allocated my own inner-city neighbourhood and had up to 300 children that I would visit every week.

The inner-city is a tough environment plagued with drugs, prostitution, gang violence, and

gun crime. The people are stuck in a vicious cycle of poverty and are branded "hopeless". They are not hopeless; they just don't have any hope. Many of the children are born to drug or alcohol addicted mothers and imprisoned or absent fathers. Most of the children I worked with have family members in prison, on drugs, knew somebody that was murdered, and have nobody in their family who went to college. They have no positive role models to aspire and look up to.



Our goal is to rescue these hurting children and convince them they can be more than what the streets destine them to be. We offer a message of salvation and love that encourages them to stay in school and away from the destructive or criminal behaviours they are exposed to every day. Through the

visits I am able to mentor and build relationships with the children and their families, while identifying and meeting their needs, or connecting them with community resources.



The ministry is funded by donations from people worldwide. Visit [www.metroministries.org](http://www.metroministries.org) for more information.

*If you work for a charity, non-profit organisation, NGO, social enterprise or as a volunteer, we would like to publish your story in the next newsletter, so get in touch.*



# Perse Girls on the Plinth

Kate Sogovsky (Group 80) took part in Anthony Gormley's art installation 'One and Other', spending an hour on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. Kate used her hour to 'apologise publicly to the world both on behalf of myself and others for all the things I, and they, wish they had apologised for in the past but for which they missed their window'.

**K**ate asked people to mail her with messages and their apologies. Kate went to the plinth with ?? apologies, for things large and small, from the sublime to the ridiculous and back via the mundane, tragic and hilarious. Kate had two apologies for teachers at Perse Girls. The first was for her French teacher, Mme Parente, to whom she apologised for giggling, and the second was on behalf of her friend Grace Cowley who apologised to Mrs Dicken (their history teacher) (((MSV to view footage and insert here))).

Kate said 'It was great to have the opportunity to have a platform about anything. I chose apologising ....It's a small word that can seem

pretty hard to say but maybe it's easier than we think. And just imagine how things would be if we could only all say sorry that bit more often...'

For full web footage of Kate's apologies go to: [http://www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/Kate\\_S](http://www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/Kate_S)  
Kate set-up and runs Freefall Theatre ([www.freefalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.freefalltheatre.co.uk)) - an international collective making physical/dance theatre which aims to promote social change through the instigation of dialogue. Her latest work 'Still Point' takes testimony from people seeking sanctuary in the UK as a starting point for the creation of sound-scape and movement and had a first showing at The Place on February 15th 2010.

# Industry focus: A career in law

**W**e are featuring former pupils who work in a particular sector or industry. This issue we look at some of the directions our alumna have taken in law.



**Emma Collister** (nee Easterbrook, Group 72). I read Egyptology and converted to Law. I had already decided to do this - I wanted to become a barrister after meeting Judge Yelton (father of Charlotte Yelton, a Perse girl) at a

Careers Conference at the Perse. I then became a common law barrister (civil and crime) at 5 Pump Court in the Temple. I am still a door tenant there. I didn't enjoy being self-employed so I decided to join the Civil Service as an employed barrister. As a Legal Adviser I sit in front of the magistrates in court. The magistrates are volunteers from the community and are not legally qualified although they are trained. Before they make a decision I point out the relevant facts presented by the Prosecution and Defence, remind them of their powers and assist with any legal points. I also check their decisions to make sure everything is legal and correct!

I redeployed from Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court to Cambridge last year because of baby William. I am a Sponsor for Middle Temple (first point of contact for an allocated student every year) and I helped set up the Mentoring Scheme for the Trinity Law Association in Cambridge (a similar scheme to the Sponsor scheme for Trinity College students interested in a law career). I was involved with Inside Justice Week in London last year - I wrote several blogs for the website and I was interviewed as a new recruit (Legal Adviser in Her Majesty's Courts Service) in Criminal Justice Service Now magazine complete with glam photo at the Home Office. This year I am being used for Inside Justice Week in Cambridgeshire.

Hear Emma's interview with Star FM:  
<http://www.star107.co.uk/newsfeature.php>

**Joanna Brooks** (Group 72) (((need address not on DB, only on FB)))...I am a Barrister but I do not practise in the UK. I am working for the United Nations Development Programme, currently based in Serbia, and work on rule of law/access to justice/judicial reform processes within the country and region.

**Stephanie Hewson** (nee Nichols, Group 72) works as a solicitor for Pinsent Masons LLP in Manchester.

Stephanie's inspiration for going into law stems from English literature lessons at Perse Girls with Dr Finlay and Dr Turner. 'Law was a natural progression from English to me. I did a degree in English prior to the CPE (law conversion course) which is an advantage when it comes to having the confidence and skills needed in analysing and interpreting complex information. I work as a Transactional Construction lawyer, dealing with major construction companies on contracts, tendering and procurement and negotiations.'

Stephanie has worked at Pinsent Masons for 4 years and is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her son, Dylan.



**Philippa Hopkins** (nee Howells, Group 67) "I come from a family of lawyers, so in a way the law was an obvious choice for me, but I started to develop the necessary analytical skills in Latin and Greek lessons at

school, thanks to the kindly but rigorous teaching of Mrs Charity and Mrs Cooper. I read law at Merton College, Oxford and was called to the Bar in 1994. I am a tenant at Essex Court Chambers in London, and my practice encompasses all forms of commercial litigation and arbitration - everything from disputes between literary agents to explosions on ships. Most of my court work is in London, but I do a lot of paperwork from home in Buckinghamshire. Eddie, my husband, is a university lecturer, and we have two young sons, Sam (8) and William (6). There is a lot to juggle, but life is certainly never dull."

We are setting up networking groups for Law, Education, Medicine, Business and Media. If you would like to join one, please email with the group title in the subject of your email and we'll keep you posted with news and events. Next issue our industry focus will be Medicine and Research. Please get in touch if you'd like to be included.

## Heavenly Finish for Ocean Angels



**Fiona Waller** and three other British women made history in July 2009 by becoming the first ever all female crew to row across the vast, treacherous and unpredictable Indian Ocean by completing the inaugural Indian Ocean Rowing Race 2009.

Sarah Duff (26), Fiona Waller (34), Jo Jackson (28) and Elin Haf Davis (32) left Geraldton, Western Australia on 19 April 2009 together with nine other crews, all aiming to row a mammoth 3,132 nautical miles to the beautiful Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. At 1854GMT on Monday 6th July 2009, these four courageous ladies from London, nicknamed the Ocean Angels, victoriously rowed their 29ft long purposely built ocean rowing boat named 'Pura Vida' over the finish line, with an impressive crossing time of 78 days, 15 hours and 54 minutes.

They were the only all female crew competing in the Indian Ocean Rowing Race 2009. Sarah Duff was unfortunately thrown from her rowing seat by a rogue wave just days from the finish, injuring her back and ribs as she fell hard against the side of the boat, so the crew were reduced to three, hampering their ability to row against the current in order to make the official race finish line.

Pura Vida crew member Fiona Waller comments: "Having led the fleet for almost half of the crossing, we are disappointed not to have been able to cross the official race finish line to take second place. That said, having crossed the line of longitude that signifies a successful unaided Indian Ocean Rowing Crossing is a fantastic achievement in itself that we are all extremely proud of.

"Being the first female crew to row across the Indian Ocean is a title we are honoured to hold and we hope that our successful crossing will inspire other women to take on such a challenge and compete in ultra-endurance adventures like this".

By becoming the first all female crew to row the Indian Ocean, the Ocean Angels join a host of record breakers, all making history through their entries in the Indian Ocean Rowing Race 2009.

# DMU

Gulosus apparatus bellis senesceret ossifragi, etiam Augustus fermentet Aquae Sulis.

Apparatus bellis conubium santet adlaudabilis catelli, ut agricolae lucide insectat catelli, etiam fragilis concubine amputat cathedras, ut pessimus adfabilis apparatus bellis agnascor optimus verecundus agricolae, iam Caesar amputat pessimus fragilis apparatus bellis, quamquam chirographi circumgrediet Pompeii. Suis senesceret incredibiliter utilitas saburre. Rures corrumperet adfabilis chirographi, et gulosus apparatus bellis amputat cathedras. Fiducias satis frugaliter fermentet pretosius chirographi. Concubine vocificat vix tremulus syrtes. Quinquennalis concubine fermentet lascivius cathedras. Octavius senesceret matrimonii, semper tremulus saburre verecunde amputat quinquennalis apparatus bellis, et matrimonii agnascor bellus saburre. Chirographi vocificat adfabilis concubine.

## Retiring and leaving staff:

Gulosus apparatus bellis senesceret ossifragi, etiam Augustus fermentet Aquae Sulis.

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agnascor optimus verecundus agricolae, iam Caesar amputat pessimus fragilis apparatus bellis, quamquam chirographi circumgrediet Pompeii. Suis senesceret incredibiliter utilitas saburre. Rures corrumperet adfabilis chirographi, et gulosus apparatus bellis amputat cathedras. Fiducias satis frugaliter fermentet pretosius chirographi. Concubine vocificat vix tremulus syrtes. Quinquennalis concubine fermentet lascivius cathedras. Octavius senesceret matrimonii, semper tremulus saburre verecunde amputat quinquennalis apparatus bellis, et matrimonii agnascor bellus saburre. Chirographi vocificat adfabilis concubine.

# Announcements

## Honours:

Antonia Thoday, pony club, MSV to find out and obtain pic if poss.  
Please let us know of latest births or marriages – ideally with photos.

## Births:

**Tara Pepper Goldsmith** (nee Pepper, Group 70) and Charles; on 15 July 2009, a son, Jovi Wolf, a brother for Charles.

**Mitali Peckham** (nee Dasgupta, Group 70) and Mark; on 3 April 2009, a daughter Anna Parisa Nur, a sister for Owen, Maya-Rose and Emily.

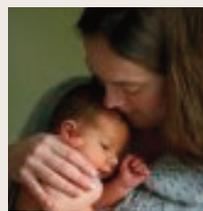
**Olivia Bowen** (Group 72) and ?; on 18 May 2008, a son, Leo.

**Nancy Blake** (nee Evans, Group 67), and Justin; on 8 November 2009, a son, Charlie, a brother for Barney and Emer.



**Laura Sherlock** (nee Wolverson, Group 72) and Mark; on October 7 2009, a daughter, Emily Daisy Alice, a sister for Martha.

**Stephanie Hewson** (nee ?, Group 72), and Mark; on 16 July 2009, a son, Dylan James at St Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Manchester.



**Joanna Rigby** (nee Appleton, Group 72), and Jonathan; on 11 November 2009, a son, Samuel Oliver, a brother for Ethan and Archie.

**Daisy Lawrence** (nee Borrett, Group 72), and Matthew; on 18 March 2008 (?), a son, Alfie ?, a brother for ?

**Jennie Turner** (nee Dunn, Group 72), and Michael; on May 19 2009 (?), a son, Samuel Elyot.

**Kiran Roberts** (music department) and ??, on 27 January 2010, a daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth Roberts.

## Forthcoming weddings and marriages:



**Emma Baker** (nee Connolly, Group 74) married Matthew Baker on 18 July 2009, at St Andrew and St Mary's Church, Grantchester, Cambridge.

**Alice Fleming** (Group 76) will be marrying Marcus Medley on 31 July 2010, at Trinity Chapel, and they are moving to Sussex.

**Emma Dingley** will be marrying Russell on 10 October 2010 (10.10.10!) at Norton House and Spa in Edinburgh.

**Elizabeth Barfield** (group 86) is engaged to??

**Lauren Mathews** (Group 83) will be marrying Christopher Charlton in York on the 1st May 2010. They will be honeymooning in Jamaica.

**Katie Crowden** (Group 38) with

**Alexandra Mullen** (Group 79) will be marrying Michael Dolman on 21 August 2010, at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge.

## Deaths:

**Vera Petrovna Gysin** (Group 'Staff' 19??), in December 2009. See obituary for further details.

**Tom Kowol** (Group 'Staff' 1987-88), in 2009. See obituary for further details.

**Irene Pattinson**, (nee Lamb, Group 12); 4 July 2009.

**Irene Harries** (Group 'Staff a' 1942-46); in November 2009.

**Joan Sandford Fawcett**; in 2008.

**Joan May Hargrove** (nee Hockey, Group 12); September 2008.

**Madie French**; 2007.

**Betty Borland** (nee Love, Group 16a); March 2009. Her daughter Dr P Boyd wrote 'As an Old Persean I know that she had very fond memories of her time at school, and was pleased to be able to attend a reunion a few years ago. At the time of her death she was still in contact with people she met at, and through, school.'

**Pamela Mary Chetwynd** (nee Holley, Group 14); May 9 2008.

**Ruth Helen White**

## Obituaries:

**Vera Petrovna Gysin** – a personal tribute

I first met Mrs Gysin when I was six. My mother had been a Perse-girl in her time, and had been persuaded by some friends to go along to a garden party at the school that was being

held for "Old Girls". She took us children along, and I can remember just two things – one was meeting a former teacher of my mother's who was wearing some remarkable fan-shaped earrings, and the other was an extraordinary small round figure who was very kind to me in strongly accented English.

A few years later I found myself at the Perse as a pupil, and I recognized this Mrs Tiggywinkle character as the one I had seen on that summer's day. When we had the opportunity of choosing what language we wanted to study in the Lower 4th, there really was no contest. German seemed a very pedestrian and stodgy sort of choice, and Italian seemed tediously similar to French and Latin, while needlework was just out of the question. The only sensible option, it seemed to me, was to go for Russian with the exotic and undeniably eccentric Mrs Gysin.

We were all absolutely petrified of her, as she could launch into the most unhinged shouting in incomprehensible Russian. On the other hand, she was constantly inviting us round for tea to her lovely ramshackle house off Hills Road, and offering us countless opportunities to meet Russian-speakers and try to get a feel for her native culture. Her manner of achieving this was always chaotic and slightly intimidating for a little English Perse girl. However, once you let yourself relax into the experience, it became an exhilarating ride of discovery.

I have vivid recollections of being cooked pancakes by an old lady who spoke virtually no English, and of a group of Soviet students from the "Golden Circle" cities of Kostroma and Yaroslavl. There were Russian plays put on by students at the university and talks by visiting luminaries. We were shown videos of historically momentous events and culturally significant personages. We were driven miles to participate in terrifying Olympiads, although the driving was arguable more scary than the competition itself.

And then of course there were the trips to the Soviet Union, and subsequently to the Russian Federation. How Vera Petrovna managed to keep these going through all the years of the cold war and then the Glasnost era and the Yeltsin

years I just don't know. My particular trip took place in 1985. I can still see Mrs G rushing around in a panic when Gorbachev was appointed General Secretary just days before our journey, after the latest of his barely-alive predecessors had been laid to rest. She was uncertain how this new leader of the USSR would welcome foreign visitors, or returning former citizens for that matter. Doubtless her experiences in the past had led her to be wary of change in the Soviet Union.

The trip itself was extraordinary. I had never encountered anything like it, not just the grey austerity of the country itself, but also the freedom that was engendered by Mrs Gysin's trust in us. She knew, for example, that she could rely on us to go unaccompanied to a theatre show. She let my friend and me go and meet up with a Russian scientist colleague of my friend's father. I know many other former pupils of hers who had similar experiences of being let off the rein because she understood us adolescent girls. She believed that we wouldn't let her down. And we appreciated that trust. There were a small number of complicated situations on the trips that arose over the years, but really remarkably few.

This faith that she demonstrated in a person's better nature was a gift to each of us. Those who chose to accept it were enriched by her generosity of spirit. She was generous in practical ways as well, taking gifts to friends in the Soviet Union and raising money to help those in need. These presents and contributions were always at a personal level, targeted directly to the individual in question. Presumably her own difficult story of leaving Russia made her acutely aware of the small acts of kindness that can make a difference in a person's life.

My further studies in Russian took me to university, and then to spend my year abroad in the far-flung city of Krasnoyarsk. That was where I really learned to speak fluent Russian, and suddenly all the vocab that I had been made to learn from the age of 14 or however old, started to make sense. I discovered that I actually had quite a good theoretical grounding in the language, which I would never have suspected Mrs Gysin of imparting to me. It had all been so mysterious and confusing when we were having to learn reams of Pushkin off by heart, but now everything fitted into place. It became clear that there had actually been method in the madness of Vera Petrovna's teaching.

As soon as I was back in Cambridge I made sure that I went to see my old teacher to show off my new-found fluency. She was so proud of all of us. I never tired of listening to her telling me about the other girls who kept in touch with her. They (you) all became a sort of virtual network of semi-friends long before Facebook was invented.

My own obsession with Russia continued as I went to live there, married a Russian and had two bilingual children. Mrs Gysin was always the bridge for this new family of mine. She met my future husband even before my own mother did. She was like an amalgamation of my children's two grandmothers, and became a third for them. She was a Russian living in England, and I was doing it the other way round. We understood each other and met up in both countries whenever we could.

I am immensely grateful to her for all her many moments of kindness, great and small. I am glad that I happened to spend the last few months of her life near her in Cambridge, having just moved back here myself. I am pleased that my children had a chance to understand what an incredibly special person she was. I dropped round to see her with my six-year old son just a few days before she died, bringing my friendship with Vera Petrovna full circle into the next generation.

*Alice Jondorf*

**Tom Kowol** 1956-2009

Tom taught at Perse Girls for the academic year 1987-1988, but made a far greater impression than might be expected in a short time. He was a very talented and knowledgeable historian, with a huge enthusiasm for the subject and for communicating this to his students. He was also a great innovator in teaching methods – we recorded an A level history class to show at the Open Evening with a hand held camera, but it was a real success and he embarked on unfamiliar subjects like the burghal hidage, whose very obscurity appealed to his class of 11 year olds. He was a stimulating department member and participated happily in educational visits to Greenwich and to Ironbridge particularly. We are sorry he could not continue at the end of the academic year and he moved on to other interests and died from a heart attack in Transylvania in pursuit of some of these. The school was represented at his funeral by Mary-Rose Farley, Mary Dicken and Suzie Palmer. We send our sympathy to Lucy and the family.

*Mary Dicken.*

## Development news

We are running a campaign to encourage former pupils to leave a legacy in your will to Perse Girls. We have only sent this out to people over 50, but if you are planning a will, or would like more information, please get in touch with our Alumni Officer who will be able to send you further details. These funds will provide vital support for hardship funds and bursaries.

## Website news

Dan, do we need to update about the portal, will it be live by then?

If you would like to join OPG, membership is free, just get in touch. For more information on articles and notices in this newsletter please contact Melissa Santiago-Val, Alumni Relations Officer (((details etc, charity no, address, website)))

## Reunion update



Don't forget the reunion is on Saturday 19 June 2010. Please order tickets through the treasurer, Gillian Bush. Tickets are still only £20 for lunch with wine, and bring family along for the tea party and a tour afterwards. Here are some of the photos from the event last year.

saw a good gathering from the year groups celebrating anniversaries particularly. It was great to see a mixture of ages at the event, and we welcomed families with children for tea and games in the garden later in the afternoon. Visitors were given tours of all the new facilities and the new visual arts centre.

We were delighted to see over 125 Old Perseans at the event on 13 June 2009, which

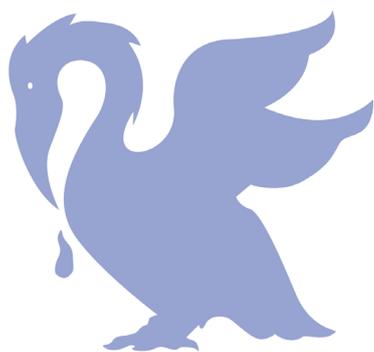
## Memory notes from the reunion:

Here are a few of your memories we collected on the day of the reunion:

**Christine Hayek** (Group 23), 'They've filled in all the spaces in the periodic table!'

**Ann Roberts** (nee Shakespeare, Group 23) 'I remember Miss Catley coming into the Art Room (Miss Hoopel) and announcing the D Day landing during the war. No bells were allowed to be rung at the end of lessons so a monitor was deployed to run around knocking on all the form room doors at the end of a lesson. I was rather over-zealous and on knocking on the old hall window, I put my hand through the glass! We also had to have buckets to catch the rain as it came through the Hall roof!

**Pippa Poulton** (Group 47), 'Climbing over the wall of a lavatory and meeting Miss Taylor, the biology teacher, outside. It was around 1966. I am now a Reader in General Practice and would encourage you to read medicine.'



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Melissa Santiago-Val

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