

Kesteven & Sleaford High School Old Girls Association



Newsletter
September 2019

Letter from the Chair

Dear members of the Old Girls Association

Welcome to the latest edition of the KSHS Old Girls Association Newsletter and to our Late Summer meeting. As usual I cannot believe how time has flown! In this edition we introduce you to your new Vice Presidents, Selecia Chapman and Ann Holderness. The committee were delighted when they agreed to accept the position and we asked them to write a resume of the time that they have been involved with the school. Of course, we have also paid tribute to Margaret Outram who sadly passed away earlier this year. Many members attended her funeral but for those that could not Pam Edwards liaised with Margaret's family and they kindly allowed us to reproduce an abridged version of the eulogy from her service. The service was a wonderful tribute to Margaret, focusing on her many roles as teacher, Guider and treasured Aunt. She clearly influenced the lives of many and will be sadly missed. Thank you to those members who shared their personal memories of her. The committee has been in discussion with the school as to an appropriate but useful way of honouring Margaret's memory. Mrs Smith has made suggestions including items such as a Students Honours Board, a bench or assistance with the refurbishment of the sixth form common room. The school already has a community service award trophy and a volunteers award but a trophy could possibly be renamed in Margaret's memory. Please let the committee know if you have any suggestions.

Sadly, we also report of the recent loss of Mr Geoff Atkin. I remember him with fondness and thank Mr McFarlane for preparing a tribute following the funeral last week.



The school continues to flourish with recent exam results reflecting another successful year. On a personal note I was delighted that our youngest daughter's hard work was rewarded with two A* and an A in her recent A-Levels. She is now preparing to study for a BA in Production Art at the University of the Arts in London.

I hope that you enjoy catching up with friends and colleagues over lunch. Please keep in touch. Our Association only exists because of our members. Without news and your support the future may well be very different! Best wishes

Michelle

Selecia Chapman

It was a great surprise and unexpected honour to receive a request from the Old Girls Association committee to become a Vice President earlier this year.

It is 50 years ago that I left Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls having been honoured to be Deputy Head Girl. I joined “Old Girls” straight away and have taken a role on the committee over many years being Chairman, Secretary and committee member in rotation!

I have always deemed it to have been a privilege to have attended the school and wore my uniform with pride. When I left school and joined Old Girls. I found it strange that I could call members of staff by their Christian names and indeed I don't think I ever became used to calling Miss Outram Margaret!!

On leaving school I began my teacher training at Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln graduating 3 years later. I married my husband on leaving college and we celebrated 47 years of marriage this year. We have two daughters, Charlotte and Selecia and four grandchildren. Charlotte is a dispensing optician and Selecia is a nurse specialist at Queens Medical Centre. She also attended the school.

I taught for over 30 years finishing my career as Deputy Headteacher of a primary school.

Having always been busy I am not one for sitting around and when we moved to Grantham 15 years ago, I joined the U3A initially for the singing group. As those of you who know me, I have loved singing since the days of the school choir and Miss Thomas. One lasting memory I have is leading the school choir from the choir stalls in St Deny's church after the annual carol service down the nave singing Hark the Herald Angels sing.

I have since joined the drama group and taken roles in 3 pantomimes and a variety of short performances. I am currently on the committee and have been the Chairman for 3 years. With over 700 members we are one of the larger associations.

Continuing the singing theme, I am a member of Grantham Singers who perform annually at the Guildhall Arts Centre. Last year our production was Pirates of Penzance. Next year, A night at the Musicals.

I am hoping to attend the annual lunch and look forward to meeting many of you there.

Junior Prize Giving July 2019 – Headteacher address

Good morning everybody. As Head of School I am delighted to welcome you all to our annual Junior prize giving ceremony. During the course of today's celebrations, you will hear from our Heads of Year who will describe the achievements, opportunities and successes both academic and sporting of students in Years 7-10. That means I have the privilege of sharing with you some of the reasons I remain hugely proud to be Head of the High School, a school bursting with talented young people.

I'd like to start by thanking Reverend Philip Johnson and St Denys's Church for allowing us to use this wonderful venue to celebrate the achievements and traditions of the High School and at the end of a very busy year to take some time to recognise our students' successes and to say some important thank-yous.

Welcome too to Mr Nick Gibbons, Chair of our Local Governing Body, and Mr Law, Executive Head, as well as other special guests who have contributed so generously to the work of the school this year. To parents, who have no doubt had to juggle other commitments to join us, a very warm welcome.

And most importantly, a big welcome to all of our Year 7 and 8s and to our prize-winning Year 9 and 10 students. This afternoon we are looking forward to our more informal end of year assembly with, I understand, a special live appearance from our Staff Strictly winners. This morning is a more formal recognition of all your hard work.

We started the academic year with the grand opening of our brand-new Food and Nutrition facilities and I'm pleased to see just how many students enjoy spending time in the Design and Technology areas, not only in lessons but in lunchtime and after school clubs too. Midyear our focus was on updating the industry standard computers and software in the Graphic Art department. Any visitors to the school can see from the walls just how much artistic talent and creativity exists amongst you all.

Sponsored walk money this year went to support other creative projects: from crafting clubs to the fabulous Rock Challenge competition which more than 150 of you took part in, either on stage or behind the scenes. Your stage version of *The Tempest* as part of the Shakespeare for Schools festival wowed audiences and built on the school's fine standing in this festival following on from productions of *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in previous years. Musicians amongst you had even more chances to perform, whether that was at the newly introduced school soirées, or as part of an orchestra with peers across the Sleaford Schools at the Remembrance concert and in regional competitions. Just 2 nights ago you took some of your parents down memory lane at the fantastic 80s concert. By combining the skills and energies of the Music and Drama staff next year I understand there is an even bigger treat to look forward to. Look out for audition opportunities in September!

In other areas of the school new opportunities came your way. Many of you took part in the fabulous Science week and this year we have seen an increasing number of you taking part in some excellent STEM activities set up by Mr Norris and the rest of the Science, Computing and Technology staff. Radio Lincolnshire was interested in reporting on how the High School, with help from local business, is promoting women in to engineering and Science related careers and celebrated our Science week over the airwaves.

Most of you have also enjoyed being on one of the residential trips this year and often quote them as your most memorable time when you finally leave school. Whether you enjoyed crate stacking or 50ft wall climbing in Walesby Forest, exploration inside the giant dam in Hellenthal, Germany or the battlefields of Normandy this year I'm sure you'll agree that a special thanks go to all the staff including Mrs Pankhurst, Mr Dennis and Mr Rooke who led those trips and to all the staff who gave up evenings and weekends to make those trips happen. Shortly we will send out details to all parents of the opportunities for next year. Running an in-school travel agency takes a massive amount of work from the support staff too so we thank you parents for your

prompt payments and especially to those parents who are kind enough to help us in little ways like unpacking the luggage compartments of the coaches when we return weary at the end of a long journey home. Your help and your thanks afterwards make a real difference to staff.

Many of you in Year 8 and above have committed to the Duke of Edinburgh award this year and have already completed your bronze awards. My thanks go to Mrs Walker and her wide team of volunteer staff who have made it possible for High School students to have such a good D of E experience. As a school we have some of the highest sign up rates to the award nationally, but statistics published last month reveal some of the highest completion rates too. I'm sure you'll agree that signing up to something is one thing but seeing it through to its completion shows that High School students are able to demonstrate the resilience and the Growth Mindset which we talk so much about in school

Last year I talked about the increasing time we find ourselves needing to give to students (and sometimes the adults who care for them) support in managing or improving their own mental health and wellbeing. The High School has always had an excellent reputation for its pastoral care; something I was acutely aware of maintaining when I took on the role as Head 4 years ago.

And so this year I'm delighted to be able to use this occasion to announce to you the schools very recent accreditation of the 'National Wellbeing Award' for Schools. This award recognises the success of the work of a wide range of people in school who together promote positive social and emotional wellbeing and mental health for both students and staff.

My thanks go to Mrs Tipper, Assistant Head, who coordinated the self evaluation and action planning for the award and to the dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants, support staff, Heads of year and Tutors who are constantly on hand to offer just the right balance of support and challenge every day of the school year.

Our day long inspection led the verifier to share some of your comments that the High School is a 'close and supportive school, one big family'. One student commented that they had been to 9 different schools and this one for them was by far the most supportive. 'It's not just about grades here she said 'but about making sure you are looking after yourself too'.

With so much emphasis in the media about the rise in anxiety in young people, especially girls it has almost become unfashionable to talk about and celebrate academic success and the effort and commitment it takes to achieve it. I know that for some parents the award of our subject badges can be controversial. We review each year whether celebrating the effort, improvement and outcomes of individuals, in the way we will in just a moment, is the right thing to do, considering that all our students achieve in a wide variety of ways. I believe it is. Our badges aren't just recognising high test scores. They recognise the effort, determination, conscientiousness and diligence that goes on inside the classroom as well as for homework tasks, revision and independent learning. Just as we want to clap performers on stage or celebrate extra curricular success in the newsletter we should, in our school full of able learners, celebrate excellence in the academic sphere too.

In September we open our doors with almost 800 students on role. Demand for places at the school continues to rise with a waiting list now for students in most years, and 147 girls joining us in Year 7. Students choosing the High School as their base school for sixth form are up by 40 students next year and classes are now truly mixed thanks to an established role in the Sleaford Joint Sixth form. Collaboration across the two Robert Carré Trust schools is strong with both schools able to offer students more joint opportunities such as involvement in Music and Drama events, shared educational visits, STEM activities, as well as facilities and staff expertise.

With the generous donations from parents towards the Trust's gift programme we have plans to refurbish more of our IT facilities setting up access for a new Business Studies GCSE and CTEC course as well as enabling the use of updated design software in Design and Technology subjects.

Inevitably we must say some goodbyes to staff before we welcome 5 new teachers to the school in September. My thanks go to Mr Hale and Mr Bowker who have made short but much appreciated contributions to the teaching in the Maths and Physics departments. Miss Shales leaves us after two years to join the Modern Languages Department of a school in Leeds whilst Miss Grindey returns to her alma mater to continue teaching History at the Girls' Grammar school in Grantham. Finally, Mrs Megginson is looking forward to long dog walks and Maths teaching as she relocates to the Peak District. My thanks go to all of them for their untiring efforts to make a difference to the young people in their care.

Whilst it isn't goodbye, I do this morning want very publically to thank a very special member of staff for her significant contribution to so many of us at the school over many years. In September Mrs Tipper returns to the school to teach Maths for three days a week. She has worked at the school for 17 years, mostly as Assistant Head as well as Safeguarding Lead and SENco. In that time, she has been instrumental in offering families support at really difficult times. She has a very special ability to understand when a student or member of staff might need a little extra help or words of encouragement and I know that we will feel the loss of her wise counsel and challenge very keenly. The work she does can be emotionally demanding and so we offer our thanks and best wishes for her semi retirement. Mrs Tipper The wellbeing award is a fitting legacy of your time with us and I thank you on behalf of every student you've helped and every adult you have supported for your kindness, compassion and your care.

I've felt the need to express my gratitude to a lot of people this morning. I'm the luckiest Headteacher to work with so many brilliant colleagues and to have the support of parents and Governors. My most important thanks this morning go to all you young people that keep old people like me on their toes. This year you've made me, as well as your tutors and teachers, so very proud

Whilst we are supposedly the teachers, you teach us every day too...we love that you care about the world you live in, we feel your indignation when politicians and other supposed adult role models appear to let you down, we admire the way you club together when one of you is up against things, you teach us what talent and potential looks like every day and you humble us with your packed schedules when we think we are the busy ones!

So thank you for sitting so patiently this morning and parents thank you for joining us to celebrate your talented daughters. Our Junior prizegiving ceremony ends with my best wishes to every family for a sunny, safe and relaxing summer break.

It is with sadness that we report the loss of valued members of the OGA, including Betty Carey (nee Barnes), Irene Austin (nee Meeds), Eileen Stanley and Shirley Madigan.



The OGA committee would like to advise that this newsletter may be the last in printed format. We have not been able to recruit a newsletter editor and news coming from members is increasingly slow in arriving. It may become necessary to review how we circulate news to members to the future. One way would be to use the link to our website presence on the school main website but we recognise that this is not a method of communication preferred by all members. We know that you value the printed copy but we also acknowledge that we rely on the school to help us with printing costs. No decision has been made but sadly this may be the first of many ways in which we have to change the running of the OGA in the future.



Late Summer Meeting 2018



Ann Holderness (nee Smith)

Some time ago Michelle contacted me inviting me to become a Vice President of this Association. Initially I was overwhelmed at being invited to hold this position thinking there were members who had done more than me to support and keep the Association going, particularly in this technological age when it is much easier to keep in contact with friends via the internet.

However I decided it was an honour to be invited so I hope I accepted gracefully.

Then another note from Michelle came requesting me to do a write up of my involvement, this was the hard part, where do I start, I am an Old Girl and have also served on the Staff under several Head Teachers so I will start at the beginning.

Having passed the written part of the Eleven Plus at the Alvey School and the Interview part in Miss Vidal's sitting room at the School house I started at the High School in September 1951, entering by the gate in Nag's Head Passage. This entrance has since been blocked up, the main entrance being in Jermyn Street.

As my surname was Smith the form I was put in was Lower 3B. There were only two forms in my year, mine and Lower 3A. Forms tended to alternate between two and three in a year there being approximately 350 pupils on role. Lower 3A took pupils with surnames beginning with A to L and my form the rest of the alphabet. My form room was the art room, I believe it has been extended and houses the Sixth form or should I say years 12 and 13? Miss Edmonds was our form tutor and we had to move rooms for every lesson. It soon meant we got to know the layout of the School. The way the forms were labelled was a continuity of the Prep system.

At the end of my first year we were streamed and I went into 3A. The A stream did Latin and the B and C streams did Domestic Science.

I continued through the A streams, Lower 4A, then 4A where in the summer term exams I came top in the Maths exam. In 5A Miss Vidal came into our form room, the one next to the art room overlooking the lawn, and said there were three jobs going in banks, would we go home and discuss this option with our parents, as I did not feel ready to leave I did not tell my mother that they had all gone! I won't tell you of her reaction but I am sure you can guess!

I stayed into the 6th form as it was then, covering both first and second year 6. From there I went to Teacher Training College in Camberwell where I trained to teach Secondary School Maths.

After two years of teaching and not getting the time table I was promised on interview I went to the Council offices and got a Vacancy list for teaching posts in the area. There were two posts available at the High School so I rang Miss Vidal to see whether I could be considered. I was told that one was Head of Department which had already been appointed. I said I was only interested in the other position, consequently I was called for interview, the only problem was that the post I was leaving would have difficulty in finding a replacement for me at that time of year. However, Miss Vidal accepted me as a member of the Maths Department. I remained there for twelve years gaining three posts of responsibility, the third as Head of Department. I left in 1974 in order to have a family, the Head Mistress then being Miss Brooks. In those days the short Maternity leave was not really an option to hold on to one's post.

I did a little Supply work for Mrs Gresham with Mr McFarlane as Head possibly in the late Seventies.

Moving on in 2001 Mrs Ross rang me to see whether I would do some temporary work, my response was "You do know how old I am?" Her reply was that it was only two weeks. Well the starting date was March 14th, it ended in July at the end of the Summer term. After that I was asked to work part time working concurrently in year 10 with three other Maths teachers and to continue the set I was working with through year 11. This was followed by part time Supply work and Maternity cover until the Autumn Half term holiday in 2005. By this time I was 65 and rather exhausted!

Returning to the Old Girls' Association I know I was Treasurer for some time, not sure whether I have held any other posts but age and health are taking their toll. I have the dreaded Parkinson's Disease which is very well controlled but am never sure how I am going to feel on the day. I hope to be there on 21st September!

Senior Prizegiving 2018 – Head of School's Report

Good evening and Welcome Caroline, Mr Mayor, Invited guests, Trustees, Governors, Parents, colleagues and, of course, prize winners. Thank you all for joining us on this celebration evening. It's a real honour for me to be standing here for the fourth year, sharing with you the school's successes of the last 12 months.

2017-18 was a big year in education: the year when all the change planned by the Department for Education came to pass with students collecting GCSEs under the revised 1-9 grades whilst Year 13 students (the first not to sit AS exams in Year 12 for several years) found out if their two years of study were up to the demands of the tougher, linear A level courses.

Students, of course, took all this in their stride whilst parents relied on their children to explain the new grading systems and teachers concluded the year wondering how much their new schemes of work and freshly designed assessments might fetch on teacher Ebay! Students in this year group had every right to see themselves as the guinea pigs for the more testing syllabuses with an average of 32 exams taken by most GCSE students.

Earlier this year the BBC published the results of a national survey of 18 year olds comparing their habits with those of 18 year olds in the year 2000 declaring you to be 'Generation Sensible'. Apparently 18 year olds are drinking less, smoking less, even going out less and are much more likely to be found in the university library than the local pub. The age of majority used to come with expectations of standing on one's own two feet. But today's 18 year olds are, on average, starting their working life later, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Now you may be listening to those survey results with mixed feelings. As a parent you will undoubtedly be experiencing pride in your child's excellent work ethic and as a student you'll probably be thinking about all the things you got away with last year that your parents and teachers never found out about!

What is certain is that tonight we can celebrate the fact that you must have got the balance right. For you GCSE students who are now a sixth of the way through your Sixth form studies to the undergraduates in the room who have come home for the Christmas break in search of a full fridge and some reliable heating, tonight is all about your success and a chance for all the even more sensible adults in your life to tell you what a fantastic job we think you've done.

Just as we are proud of you we hope that you feel some pride in sitting here tonight as part of the High School community. Being a student here I hope means you are in safe hands. At GCSE this summer over 40% of grades were at A grade, grade 7 or higher. Lucy Freeman, Olivia Buckingham Woodhouse, Ellie Minett, Ella Hansford, Maddie Coy, Mollie Fairhead, Ellie Goodwin, Ailis Rule, Yasmin Bettles, and Hannah Stuart, all achieved more than 9 qualifications at these highest levels.

With 83% of grades at A*-C at A Level many students here tonight return from their first terms at some of the best regarded universities in the country. In Year 13 seven students secured places on some of the most competitive courses in the country: Congratulations go to Clea Butcher who is at Oxford reading English Language and Literature; Molly Desorgher who secured a place at Jesus College, Cambridge to read Engineering; Megan Hackett is reading Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge. Chloe McGill is reading Medicine at Newcastle University and Bryony Fossett Veterinary Medicine at the University of Surrey.

In addition to those fantastic achievements a special mention must go to Chloe Bolton, Beth Disdel, Reece Harvey, Megan Pallister, Emma Prichard, Ilinca Sivoglo, Isabella Smith and Olivia Warren who were amongst the top performers collecting at least 3 A*/ A grades in their chosen subjects.

Such grades are the keys of course to access competitive courses and build impressive CVs but I'm most proud if being a student at the High School helps students find their niche in life, develop a genuine passion for a subject or discover on an extra-curricular visit something that sparks their curiosity and determines their next steps after school. We have Gold D of E award holders in the audience tonight, students who have eschewed the likely £50,000 of debt facing most graduates and who have dived straight into the world of work, and those who make staff most envious and are using this year to travel the world

This evening is to celebrate the achievements of all of our young people but for me it's just as important as Head of School to acknowledge the commitment of THE most amazing staff. They are all there sitting on the balcony this evening. Probably doing all the things you students tried to get away with at the Christmas concerts or end of term assemblies each year. As well as current staff I am delighted to welcome Carolyn Evans (ex-Subject leader of Chemistry) and Peter Cozens (Ex Teacher of English) back this evening: your colleagues and students will be delighted to see you. You'll maybe have seen national TV documentaries like 'School' depicting quite starkly the effect of tightened budgets on schools nationally. I'm so proud that staff at KSHS remain defiant in the face of Government cuts. A £92,000 new food and nutrition area was the result of Julie Pankhurst and Andy Allen's bid to the Savoy Trust, staff give generously and freely of their time to run extra-curricular clubs and take your daughters on more residential trips than any other school I have ever worked in; the fantastic site team are creative and hard working in making their budget stretch as elastically as possible. Bronwyn Fleming works tirelessly as Chair of the PTA and last year alone the association raised over £5,000 and we remain ever grateful to parents for their support of our fundraising endeavours. Our prizes this evening are kindly donated by the KSHS alumni association as well as the generosity of individuals noted in the programme. The sad reality is that without them we would be forced to reduce the offer to our young people in various ways.

I'd like to thank the Governors who gave up precious evenings to attend long meetings and of course all you students who aimed high, worked hard and contributed to the community that is the High School. Tonight you can look back and know for sure that whatever you did it worked well!

I am more than grateful too for the support and advice from individuals and bodies, whose generosity has benefited the students: these include Local Rotarians, successful local and national business people, parents and friends of the school who lent their expertise to put our students through their paces in mock interviews, facilitating crucial work experience or advising on applications.

If there is one thing I have learnt in the past three years it's not scores or statistics, grades or certificates that really make the High School a special place to be. It's the sense of community, pride in doing well, keenness to make the most of whatever support is available and the sense that the High School is the place to prepare for great things ahead. I have learnt during my time as Head of School here that our students are simply the very best advocates for what the High School can achieve. You are going to hear from several of them now as they, far better than I ever could, epitomize what being a High School student means.

I am proud to introduce the 4 members of this year's student senior team starting with Head Girl / Laura Bates.

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So what does this year hold for the High School? We commit entirely to the notion that if you believe you can and are prepared to work hard you achieve whatever you want: both inside and outside the classroom, on the stage or on the sports field. We tip our energies into making sure that learning is productive and inspiring. We strive to add new extra-curricular activities each year like this year's entry into the National Rock Challenge competition. We look to older students to support younger ones, setting up lunchtime clubs or acting as mentors. We proudly strive to achieve some of the best D of E completion rates in the country and give every student the opportunity to participate in the award at all 3 levels. We welcome new staff like those who joined us this September: Miss Walters in English, Miss Nutt in EP, Miss Byrne in Maths, Mr Norris in Science, hoping very much that they too will quickly see that it's a privilege to work with such bright young minds and emerging talent.

Thank you

Mrs Josephine Smith

Helen Margaret Outram 1929-2019

(this is an edited version of the Eulogy delivered by her niece Helen Walker at Margaret's funeral.)



Margaret was born on July 19th 1929 in Monkseaton, Northumberland. She slipped away peacefully on Feb 3rd 2019, having faced a challenging illness over the past 5 years with grace and dignity.

She has been laid to rest in Twillingate, Newfoundland, with her parents, sister and brother-in-law; in a plot overlooking the Atlantic with icebergs, whales, fishing boats, seagulls, wild flowers and the most amazing sunsets.

Margaret had so many friends, colleagues and acquaintances. To most she was Miss Outram, she would never be a Ms., to others she was Margaret or perhaps Miss O, and Kanga to some of her guiding friends.

Margaret attended Whitley Bay Grammar School where she became Head Girl. It was during these war years that Margaret and her sister Joan joined the Girl Guiding movement which became such an

important part of her life. She lived by her guiding promise to do a good deed every day and to always be prepared.

After leaving school Margaret studied Domestic Science, it was the closest she could get at the time to studying Science. She was thrilled to be offered a teaching position at Sleaford High School which became the focus for the rest of her life. At school she was always firm but fair, encouraging her students to strive to be the best they could. She was a role model for so many.

Margaret continued her involvement with the Guides and held many roles in that organisation. She was also involved in so many other community organisations, making pounds of orange marmalade, ginger breads, Christmas cakes and knitted squares for blankets. She was in great demand to judge needlework and sewing competitions.

After retiring Margaret became even more closely involved with WI, Old Girls, U3A, Guiding activities (she was the Guiding archivist), and the Trefoil Guild. For many years she produced the newsletter for Old Girls and maintained regular correspondence with many former students and staff members. She continued to visit Newfoundland regularly and was close to her niece and nephew and their families.

Margaret enjoyed life and lived it simply and contentedly. She enjoyed learning, exploring, meeting new people and sharing new experiences. She was my neighbour in South Rauceby for over 40 years and I could not have asked for a better, her tolerance for footballs, cricket balls and the general noise of family life was amazing. She will be missed by so many people.

(Edited by Pam Edwards)

Memories of Margaret

I was at KSHS for 1959 -1962 and during that time, for the first year, transferred membership of Guides to 4th Sleaford, school, unit. I completed my Queen's Guide Award, started at 1st Laceby Guides.

Miss Outram was an efficient leader and, looking back, I realise how much time and effort must have gone into the events, especially camps, which she organised.

I appreciated the way she enabled me to complete the final and more complicated stages of the QG award, when he was already busy with her job, i/c domestic science.

Her assistant was Grace Goreham, who left the school shortly afterwards.

One particularly memorable camp was the international camp she arranged, held at Rauceby Hall. I believe there was a permanent, district camp site there.

Guides from Israel and Greece were there and my family offered hospitality to some Greek girls afterwards. Jane Burrell and her sister joined us on one occasion, though they were not Guides. Mary Stringer was there too, the only other school Guide in my year.

I remember every word of 'Tzena', an Israeli song, sung as a round, learned at that camp, which had an lovely open evening/campfire on the Wednesday.

So....thank you 'Miss Outram', for all your quiet, competent, self-effacing contribution to the happiness of so many girls. You gave them opportunities to succeed!

Pauline Organ (nee Bacon)

I was very upset to hear of the passing of Margaret Outram.

For many years after leaving school I kept in touch with her at Christmas time.

I started the High School in September 1950. I think Margaret started at the same time. I remember she always encouraged her pupils to do well and her lessons were a delight.

I eventually went to the same college, Northern Counties in Newcastle, that she had been to but I took the Institutional and Catering Management course. Later as a mature student I trained as a teacher in Leeds.

I remember Margaret starting the Girl Guide company but alas I was too old to join. However I did go to help at the camp at Clitheroe in Lancashire. I have two photographs of Miss Outram at that camp. Unfortunately I can't remember the year.

I also have two photographs of her in the school grounds. One shows her in her uniform which she always wore for Domestic Science and Needlework classes. The other photograph shows her with the French exchange teacher who I think was Madame/Mademoiselle. Bechtauld (not sure about the spelling).

I will forward the photographs under separate cover because being black and white you may or may not wish to use them.

I am sorry I will not be able to attend the luncheon in September but like my sister Carol Gray (nee Wright) I wish to contribute towards the memorial when a decision has been made.

For some reason I have not received the Old Girl's letter for the past few years although I always used to receive it. My sister always forwards it on to me.

Shirley Ann Wright

I was saddened to hear of Margaret Outram's passing.
I will not be able to attend the luncheon, but would like to contribute to a memorial for Margaret Outram, when this has been decided.

I was a pupil at KSHS from 1954 to 1961. Miss Outram had a great influence on my life, both as a Teacher and as my Girl Guide Captain. She encouraged me to apply to Northern Counties College (where she had studied) for a Teaching Diploma in Home Economics.

During my time in the 4th Sleaford Guide Company, I learned many life skills in the weekly meetings, these were put into practice in the well run annual camping holidays, in various parts of the country, and which I thoroughly enjoyed.

When I was too old to be a Girl Guide, she encouraged me to enrol as a Guide Cadet. I was able to use this in helping other guides in Billingham and later in Hexham, when I started my teacher training. My sister (Shirley Wright) and I kept in touch with Margaret for many years. We are both sad to hear of her passing.

Carol Gray (nee Wright)

THE FIRST 'HOME GROWN' QUEEN GUIDES

SLEAFORD'S first two "home-grown" Queen Guides, Anne Rastrick and Pat Brown of the 4th High School Company, received their hard-won awards from the County Commissioner, Mrs. T. H. Coltman, on Friday evening.

At the ceremony, held before a large crowd of fellow Guides, parents, friends and invited guests in the main school hall, Mrs. Coltman congratulated the two girls on their fine achievement.

"It really is a tremendous effort," she said. "Not only on the Guides' part, but from everyone concerned."

"I noticed that girls here have been successful in gaining the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. There are many similarities between this and the Queen Guide award work, but our scheme is something special."

RECOMMENDED

She went on: "No one can just say 'I'm going to be a Queen Guide.' They have to be recommended by a committee before even being considered as candidates."

"From the moment a Guide is accepted into the troop,



Mrs. T. H. Coltman, the County Commissioner (left) presenting Queen Guide badges and certificates to Pat Brown (second from left) and Anne Rastrick of the 4th Sleaford High School Company, on Friday evening. Watching the ceremony is the Company Captain, Miss H. Outram (second from right) and Mrs. M. Slade, lieutenant of the troop.

A Level Art Exhibition 2019



HONOURY POSTS KSHS OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION 2019

				Year of re-election
PRESIDENT	Josephine Smith Kesteven and Sleaford High School Academy			
VICE PRESIDENTS	Neville McFarlane Selecia Chapman Ann Holderness			
COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019				
CHAIRMAN	Michelle Tupholme		kshsoga@gmail.com	2020
VICE CHAIRMAN			kshsoga@gmail.com	
SECRETARY	Viv Porteous		kshsoga@gmail.com	2020
TREASURER	Elizabeth Curley		kshsoga@gmail.com	2019
NEWS LETTER EDITOR			kschoga@gmail.com	
COMMITTEE	Pam Edwards Elizabeth Venn Suzanne Jones			2020 2020 2021

Contact details and the Social Forum

The association has both a Facebook page (Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls Old Girls Association group) and a Twitter account (@oldgirlsKSHS).

The Contact details for the Committee are:

Email: KSHSOGA@gmail.com

Post: KSHS OGA Chair, 42 Westgate, Sleaford NG34 7PN

The newsletter is also on the school website if you take a look on www.kshssa.co.uk

Geoffrey Atkin

Mr Atkin, widely known as 'Geoff', was a true Lincolnshire man, born and brought up in Alford where he gained the Higher School Certificate in History, with French and Geography. After National Service, which took him to Egypt, he studied History at St Catherine's College, Oxford, where he met and married his wife Dorothy. His teaching career began at Dartford Grammar School before he came to Sleaford to teach History and Geography at Carre's Grammar School. After a few years he moved to become Head of History at Kesteven and Sleaford High School where he served until his retirement. After several years Miss Brooks appointed him as the third member of the management team, which was rationalised by his appointment as Deputy Head when the Burnham regulations brought single sex schools into line with co-ed schools.

He was a popular teacher, as evidenced by more than 80 Facebook tributes from former pupils. His style was relaxed and informal, leading many to think they had avoided hard work by engaging him in conversation, often about ornithology; in fact he was more in charge of the situation than his pupils though and used this tactic to encourage critical thinking. His success as a teacher was borne out both by consistency and good examination results and by the number of his pupils who chose to take the study of History to a higher level. He was patient, a good listener- a quality appreciated by colleagues and pupils alike. He gave time unstintingly to organise visits to Europe and, with a colleague, established a series of memorable study tours of the battlefields of the First World War.

When the Sleaford and District Talking Newspaper for the Visually Handicapped was started one of the original teams of readers consisted of High School Sixth Formers. Some of his charges suggested that, as Head of Sixth Form, he might like to see what they were up to, and then persuaded him to read one of the articles. Thereafter he was a constant team member, and even after retiring from teaching he remained active in the Talking Newspaper for years, several of them as Chairman. With the High School team he always did the 'close down', invariably using the formula *"That's all for this week; so from us it's goodbye- and take care!"*. When a party was organised for the listeners to meet the various teams of readers, it was noticeable how many were heard asking "Can I meet the man who says *"Take care!"*?"

Geoff had wide interests, especially in the natural world. At Carre's he had taken residential bird-watching visits to Gibraltar Point, and he was registered to ring birds by the British Trust for Ornithology. Active for many years in the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation, he was first Secretary then Chairman of the Sleaford Branch, and for decades the volunteer Warden of the Rauceby Warren Nature Reserve. He loved his garden and was busy there and in his many other interests until failing memory caused him to be less active. Geoff had a quiet but powerful influence on many and will not be easily forgotten.