

# FRIENDS' SCHOOL, SAFFRON WALDEN OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

## President

Caroline Longstreet  
caroline.longstreet@tiscali.co.uk

## Mailing address

Friends' School  
Saffron Walden  
Essex CB11 3EB



Website [www.oldscholars.com](http://www.oldscholars.com)

## Membership Secretary:

Debbie Peck – email  
[oldscholars@friends.org.uk](mailto:oldscholars@friends.org.uk)

## Secretary:

Chris Spencer  
[cmj.spencer@btinternet.com](mailto:cmj.spencer@btinternet.com)

*Dear Old Scholar,*

*Welcome to this year's Old Scholars' Association magazine and annual report reflecting back on 2008 - our 139<sup>th</sup> year. On that note many thanks to Richard Gilpin, the editor of the magazine for the hard work that he has put into producing such an informative and interesting read which helps us all keep in touch with the School and 'old' friends. Richard was also last year's OS President so I follow in auspicious footsteps.*

*I see that in previous magazines that it is form for the President to introduce themselves - so here goes. I started at FSSW as a rather small, shy and weedy 11 year old in 1968 and left 7 years later in the upper sixth in 1975, a rather taller, more out-going and maturer 18 year old - though some staff might question that last bit of the description. From a Quaker family and having just moved to Duxford, 7 miles away, it seemed sense that I followed in my older brother Simon's footsteps at FSSW. My early memory of those first few weeks was that I was "Simon Cannon's sister" rather than a person in my own right. As a rather gregarious and can it be said ever so slightly naughty boy, I had long learnt to slide quietly into Simon's slipstream and let him take the flack for whatever misdemeanors he or we were involved in, so that was fine...*

*I realised two things in my first term, one that I was never going to be any good at maths and two that I was really rather good at sport. It therefore followed logically to my 11 year old brain, that all my efforts should be focused on the one and as little effort as possible spent on the other. And that is what followed. I did however develop an enduring interest in English and History and in these subjects I fared reasonably well, going on to read both subjects as a joint degree at Hull University where I graduated in 1979. My love of these subjects I put down to the inspirational teaching I had at FSSW in particular from Cyril Mummery, Anita Thistlethwaite and John Gillett. John taught me in every single year at School which must deserve some kind of long-service medal (especially after the incident with the fire-hose during one particular lesson...)*

*At university I continued to pursue my primary interest of playing as much sport as possible, namely hockey and it was here that I met my husband - he was the captain of the men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey team, and I was captain of the ladies team. The result was we married in 1981 and two children followed - Kate in 1986 and James in 1988. They have both studied history at university too, showing that the 'subject' gene is a strong one as neither were very good at maths either (for which I was held to blame). Kate graduated in 2007 and James all being well (and he balances his hockey with his occasional work commitments) will in 2010.*

*Strangely enough despite my love of sport, I knew I never wanted to teach it and not knowing quite what I wanted to do, I went along for a Civil Service interview and ended up joining the Home Office on their graduate programme. This worked out well and I have been lucky to have had some very interesting and challenging jobs and during that time met and/or worked with six different Home Secretaries. During this time I was based in Croydon and London, travelling from my home in East Grinstead until 2002 when, with my family, we moved down to the West Country in a 'quality of life move'. I then left the demands and challenges of working in a large Government Department and now live in an old farmhouse in foot of the Brendon Hills and work locally in Taunton. I continue to pursue sporting interests but in a more sedate manner - golf, tennis and long walks with the dog.*

*I hope you enjoy this year's magazine such that you are inspired to return to FSSW for the Friends & Families Day on 9 May 2009 to renew old friendships and to make new ones, watch the cricket, tour the School etc. This year we are very grateful to the School for agreeing to host an Old Scholars' evening meal at a very subsidised price of only £15 per head. Not only are we promised a 4-course meal but a cash bar too - which will feel wonderfully decadent in the surroundings of the Library and Dining Hall. All Old Scholars are welcome to sign up for the meal and a number of my own year have already done so. So if you are interested please contact Debbie Peck at the School as soon as possible. Full details are on the Old Scholars website.*

*As in previous years we are particularly trying to attract back to the School those Old Scholars who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year. Having organised this myself two years ago for my own year group, I can thoroughly recommend people in these years making the effort to return as we enjoyed a wonderfully nostalgic and memorable day. We will also be remembering Alex Ruffell, an Old Scholar, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his untimely death whose year group are warmly invited back to School to remember Alex and to hear about the progress of the school in Zimbabwe which has been supported by his family in his memory. Friends & Families Day will also give Old Scholars the opportunity to say farewell and good luck to Martin Hugall, Senior Teacher, who is retiring after a momentous 37 years service at the School. So it promises to be a really memorable and enjoyable day and I look forward to seeing as many Old Scholars as possible on 9 May.*

*Caroline Longstreet (Cannon) Year Group: 1975  
OS President 2008/09*