

FRIENDS' SCHOOL OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION



Dear Old Scholar

Season's Greetings! I hope you are not finding the cold weather too penetrant, or at least that you have ample time for hibernating indoors. It is December, and therefore high time for a newsletter.

Old Scholar Secretary

By way of a brief introduction, my name is Roland Fischer-Vousden (YG 2010) and this is my first newsletter after taking over from the inimitable Stef Godfrey, who did a fantastic job over many years. Hello to everyone and do get in touch if there is something with which I can help!

I was a member of the Quartet during my time at Friends' and have long-standing ties with the school – my mother, Biddy Vousden (YG 1972), was a pupil and was also a member of staff whilst I was at the school. My uncle Charles Davey (YG 1970) was a pupil, as were my cousins Meryl (YG 2000) and Huw Bryant (YG 2002).

The School

We have some news, of which I guess many of you will already be aware. A planning application has been made by Chase New Homes Ltd for part of the school site. Old Scholars' Association Committee Member, Douglas Kent (YG 1986), has been keeping an eye on proceedings, and reported back to both the AGM and the last Committee Meeting. We have been passing this information on to Old Scholars on the website and Facebook Group.



Chase New Homes Planning Application Plan

The planning application is for the area demarcated within the red line on the image here, and includes the sports fields, swimming pool and changing rooms. The applicant wishes to build up to 100 dwellings with re-provision of existing sports facilities for the public. Currently, the application is still being reviewed and no Planning Committee date has been set. Old Scholars can keep track of this themselves (and comment on the application) [here](#).

At the last Committee Meeting, Douglas reported that planning applications made for Conservation Areas (and the whole school site is now a Conservation Area) are meant to be submitted in full. In this case a planning application has been made for only part of the Conservation Area, and therefore the planning application should not have been accepted as valid (on this technicality). Douglas has pursued this line with the Uttlesford Council's Planning Department and will continue to do so.

We will continue to keep you up to date with any developments as we hear of them but please also check the website for further information and don't forget we also have our [Facebook group](#).

Who Should Old Scholars Contact for their Records?

We have been contacted by Old Scholars asking for proof of their time at Friends' School. Whilst we are not in a position to provide this information the OSA Committee has now written to Grant Thornton LLP, the administrators of the school and its affairs, who we understand hold these records. We will let Old Scholars know when we have heard back from them.

Reunions

Since the last newsletter several reunions have gone ahead!

FSSW Staff and Class Reunion – Red Lion, Whittlesford, 3-5th May 2019,
 YG 1984-1988 Reunion – Eight Bells, Saffron Walden, 11th May,
 Wrinkly Lunch (1948-58) – Denbies Wine Centre, Dorking, 15th May 2019,
 YG 1979 – Eight Bells, Saffron Walden, 25th May 2019
 YG 1970 – Felsted, 14-17th June 2019

We have had a couple of reports from the Wrinkly Lunch and also from the 1979 reunion. At the Wrinkly Lunch over twenty Old Scholars met. This group is now the oldest group who were at the school, during the 1940s and 50s. In their report Tony and Margaret Watson said Old Scholars enjoyed the opportunity to remember their days at school, catch up on gossip and ask about the future of the school site.



Wrinkly Lunch, 15th May 2019



YG 1979 Reunion, 25th May 2019

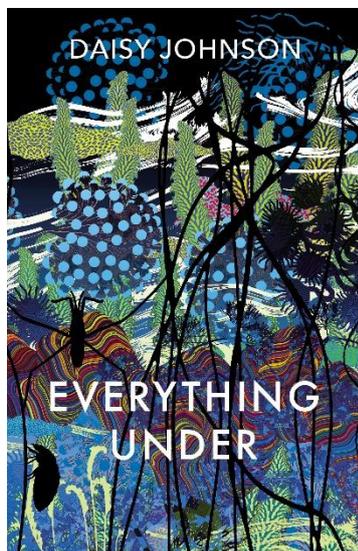
We also heard from Cary Dickinson about the reunion of the 1979 Year Group. Cary said the evening was very successful and a houseful of Old Scholars ended up at her house with some staying overnight!

Future Reunions

Although we no longer have access to the school site, we very much hope that Year Groups will continue to arrange reunions, either in Saffron Walden or elsewhere.

We have heard that some Old Scholars are planning to see Tom Robinson (YG 1968), perform in Cambridge on 15th May 2020 as part of his Never Too Late: 70th Birthday Tour (venue still to be confirmed). We encourage those who would like to go to connect with one another via the Old Scholars website or Facebook.

Indeed, on 70th Birthdays... turning 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 100? Those year groups hitting landmark birthdays, may want to dip into a sea of nostalgia with fellow Old Scholars, and we can help you in doing that: the Old Scholar Committee will do what they can to help with the organisation of any reunion if required including some financial assistance, so please get in touch at fsswosa@gmail.com if you would like to organise a get together with your old school friends.



News of Old Scholars

Daisy Johnson (YG 2009) became the youngest person ever to be shortlisted for a *Man Booker Prize* with her debut novel, *Everything Under* in 2018. Congratulations to her!

Rebecca Chong (YG 2007) has been taking the street food world by storm both in Cambridge as owner of [foodPark](#), and Saffron Walden, running the much-loved *Off the Beaten Truck*: look out for exciting new events and ventures of hers in 2020. And on the theme of food, Jacob Forrest (YG 2010) has just opened a vegan restaurant on Holloway Road in London called [Jake's Vegan Steaks](#). Veganism is oft touted as a means of saving the planet, and for those who care about the planet, there is no better place to go than [Planet Pod](#), a podcast which brings insight into the contemporary discourse around the planet's welfare, which is presented by Amanda Carpenter (formerly Knight, YG 1982).

In 2019, Jenni Goddard (YG 1977) was a member of the triumphant England U60s Hockey Team, who were crowned European Champions. Sticking with sport, Hannah Irwin (YG 2016) ran for England at the U23 10K Championships in Rennes, France this Autumn. Her sister Alice (YG 2011) will be presenting her artwork at a solo exhibition, [People Play](#) at the Piece Hall in Halifax between 28th February 2020 and 1st June 2020.

We'd also like to send congratulations to two Old Scholars: former member of the Quartet Joe Bloomfield (YG 2009) has get engaged to Natasha Jones (YG 2012)!

A note on two former Headteachers of the school: Sarah Evans OBE now chairs the

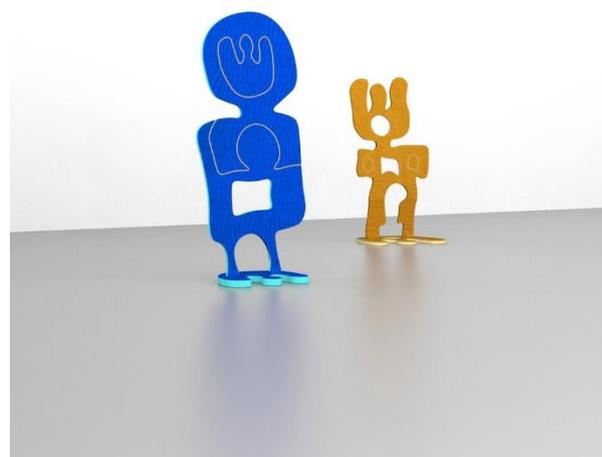


Figure 1: Photograph of Alice Irwin's new sculptures for *People Play* (courtesy of aliceirwin.com)

National Teacher Accreditation (NTA) panel, a body that validates teacher induction in the state sector. Previously she was Principal of King Edward VI High School for Girls in Birmingham as well as Acting Principal at Elmhurst School for Dance in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet. In 2019, Sarah worked on a collaborative report into Women in Business that looked at career development for women. Andy Waters, having been Head of Bideford School in Devon for over 6 years, is now a director of Teaching Staff Appraisal Services Ltd., an education management company. His company conducts Heads', Senior Leadership Team's (SLT) and Governors' appraisals; SLT building or re-structuring; departmental reviews; school merger advice and coaching for new Heads or those who need some professional support.

These are just the activities of Old Scholars I have heard about, so let me know if there are items I have missed for future newsletters or for our Facebook page or website.

Numbers on our database and Facebook

The current number of members on the database is 4322. 1399 are members for whom we have current email addresses, whilst we have over 650 members on our Facebook Group!

Annual General Meeting Date Change

Please note that the next AGM will be held on 16th May 2020 at 2.30pm in the Friends' Meeting House, Saffron Walden. This had to be postponed from the original date because the Government has moved the May Bank Holiday to Friday 8th in order to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, and the Committee Meeting felt more Old Scholars would be able to come to an AGM on the following weekend (16th and not the 9th). So, we hope to see as many of you as possible: as always, all Old Scholars are most welcome.

Finally, if you no longer wish to be contacted by us, please email fsswosa@gmail.com and we will remove you from the mailing list.

A very Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!
Roland Fischer-Vousden

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Section from a whole school photo – Can you work out when this was taken?

Many will remember with affection Crawford Dew, member of staff and seen on the right of the photo, who sadly passed away on the 6th November.

Remember that there is a full set of whole school photos in the archive section of the Old Scholars' website at www.oldscholars.com