

CONNECT

The Magazine for the Friends of NGHS 2022

Connected for life



GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

ALUMNAE

Exceptional Contribution Award

June Spencer CBE

Nottingham Girls' High School

Where girls learn
without limits.



A family of 25 schools, expert in teaching girls to be confident, resilient and fearless.

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June Spencer

The Girls' Day School Trust, along with Nottingham Girls' High School, were delighted to award June Spencer the GDST Exceptional Contribution Award in July 2022. This is especially poignant this year as the GDST is celebrating its 150th year.



NGHS celebrates the Queen's Jubilee

The sun came out for our wonderful Infant and Junior School launch of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at lunchtime on Friday 27 May.



Barbara Burnham Memorial Concert

Last April it was an honour for the Squire Performing Arts Centre to host a very unique memorial concert for a former teacher here at Nottingham Girls' High School, Barbara Burnham.

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



I'm delighted to be writing this welcome message for Connect. We've enjoyed a hugely happy and successful year, and have appreciated the luxury of having a 'normal' year with face to face lessons, sports fixtures, drama and music productions and social events.

We were thrilled with our exceptional examination results across our GCSE and A Levels in the summer. Our students did brilliantly, especially given the fact that they had been through two years of unprecedented disruption. They have successfully moved on to the next stages of their education either in Sixth Form or at a range of universities, or taking gap years to fulfil exciting ambitions if that's what they decided to do. We wish them

all the best in their forthcoming endeavours and congratulate them on their success.

I've loved meeting and greeting prospective families at the return of our open events which have been very well attended. It's so encouraging to see so much interest in the school and our numbers are looking very healthy indeed. And while I sadly couldn't be at our alumnae reunion event in June – the first we've been able to hold for three years – it was by all accounts a great success. I enjoyed hearing about the event and the memories our alumnae shared about school and I'm looking forward to meeting many of you over the coming months. We've another planned for next year so look out for details of that.

We've had some very generous donations and contributions to our Bursary and Assistance Fund which have enabled even more bright girls to benefit from an NGHS education. I'm incredibly grateful to everybody who engaged with our fundraising campaigns – it means so much and really is life changing. I'm also indebted to the Glitter Ball Committee who did such a fantastic job of arranging this event in March last year which helped raise over £25,000 towards the Bursary Fund. You'll

be able to read more fundraising news in the magazine.

I'd like to thank our alumnae community for always being there and for supporting us in so many ways. Since Covid restrictions were lifted and we've been able to welcome visitors into school again, we've had an influx of alumnae coming in to deliver careers talks and lectures and help us with other school matters. It's been fantastic and we've been delighted to see so many former pupils engaging with the school. Former NGHS pupils are always part of the family!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Connect, and please do stay in touch.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Julie'.

Mrs Julie Keller
Head



SCHOOL NEWS

BBC Ramble for Children in Need

On Tuesday 12 October 2021 our entire Nursery, Infant and Junior School – that's over 150 girls aged from 3 to 11 along with all of the staff – headed off to Highfields Park and Wollaton Park to take part in the BBC Countryfile Ramble, helping to raise funds for Children in Need.

Supported by very generous free tram travel provided by Nottingham Express Transit (NET), the girls and staff from the school travelled by tram to University Park where they began their ramble at Highfields Park. It was an amazing day which was made extra special as it was the first off-site trip for many pupils and staff, and their efforts were rewarded with over £1,200 raised for Children in Need.



British Army Band experience

We enjoyed a very special experience with the Band of the British Army on Tuesday 15 March. Years 3 to 9 were treated to an inspiring and uplifting concert performed by the Band of the British Army – 35 talented musicians who entertained us with a range of classical, contemporary, military and pop numbers.

This was an amazing chance for our girls to see a professional brass, percussion and woodwind ensemble; the sea of smiling faces, tapping feet and clapping hands was truly a sight to behold, with audience participation in 'We don't talk about Bruno' from Encanto raising the roof and reminding us all how much we had missed such enrichment opportunities.

Hearing Dogs fundraising

The Community Fundraising Area Manager for Hearing Dogs, Vicky Ryan, had heard about our Infant and Junior School programme of events for National Deaf Awareness Week. She was especially impressed by the £2.3k raised for Hearing Dogs through this year's sponsored spell, our collaboration with Instagram's [@deafchefofficial](https://www.instagram.com/deafchefofficial), and our whole school BSL message to Max Bown and his friends at the Mary Hare School for the Deaf. To show her appreciation for our girls' endeavours and the generosity of our parent body, Vicky visited NGHS Juniors on Thursday 16 June with hearing dog Jet and his owner, Jo. Over a working lunch with the visitors,



our Year 6 Sisters of Charity arranged for our donation to be used to help fund the Hearing Dogs breeding programme and the raising of three puppies. In the afternoon, every class had the chance to meet Jet and discover how assistance dogs can help people with disabilities.

Nurse Brenda receives a special thank you

Our amazing School Nurse, Brenda, received special recognition at Buckingham Palace in May 2022. Brenda was invited to attend Her Majesty the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of all the support she's given to young people over the years. She was one of a select group of



people who were nominated by their local communities for their hard work and positive impact.

Brenda is a true expert and great friend to everyone here at NGHS, and we were delighted to see her amazing work with young people recognised in a very special way. We can't think of anyone more deserving!

NGHS goes Green

Earlier this year we held an NGHS Green Festival. It was a fascinating, fun and educational day as we welcomed external visitors and speakers on a whole range of green issues. The stalls in the afternoon provided even more education and information as we continue to work our way towards becoming a greener school and living a more sustainable lifestyle.

Our whole school community spent the day developing their awareness of the natural world and considering actions they could take to care for and protect our planet. We also had guest speakers from The Woodland Trust and Flooglebinder, the latter



via a Zoom link from a Turtle Conservation project in Greece. Throughout the day students enjoyed an Eco twist to their lessons as well as off-timetable activities like banner making and a scavenger hunt in The Arboretum, highlighting the way climate and sustainability issues are threaded throughout so many different subjects and aspects of life.



The day culminated in a variety of stalls and activities around our fantastic Squire Performing Arts Centre venue where we also had guests from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly and Veolia as well as talented members of staff sharing ideas for upcycling and sustainability.



NGHS celebrates the Queen's Jubilee

The sun came out for our wonderful Infant and Junior School launch of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at lunchtime on Friday 27 May. What other school would have its very own street in which to host a traditional street party? Baker Street was the perfect venue, adorned with red, white and blue bunting and alive with tunes from the 1950s plus a set from our very own beloved Ukuladies Band; the event was certainly one to remember. Huge thanks to our team of parent helpers and of course to our amazing Catering Team for preparing a delicious party lunch and a visit from an ice cream van.



GCSE Results

This year on Thursday 25 August we celebrated our Year 11 students' GCSE success with 29% of the results achieved at Grade 9, 54% at Grades 9 – 8 and 75% at Grades 9 – 7. We're so proud of all of them for their hard work and resilience during the past year as school life finally settled back into normality and examinations took place as they used to before the pandemic.



subjects was wonderful to see, and their impressive results demonstrate their remarkable academic abilities.

This cohort of students didn't have the opportunity to take part in their GCSEs, so these were their first externally set examinations. No wonder they were delighted with their wonderful achievements! This year we celebrated many successes, including 11 students with 3 A* grades and 31 with at least three grade A* to As, almost half of the cohort. 33.8% of grades were A*; 63.6% were A* to A; 86.2% were A* to B and 100% of our students passed all of their subjects. We're very proud of all of them.



Glitter Ball

After a lot of hard work and months of planning, our Glitter Ball finally took place on Saturday 26 March 2022, and it was absolutely amazing! A great opportunity to dress up and enjoy a social night out with the NGHS community, and all for a great

cause - an NGHS Sixth Form Bursary.

There was food and drink, music and dancing, a raffle and auction and lots of fun. We are eternally grateful to the Glitter Ball Committee who worked so hard to make this happen - thank you so much. We were very lucky to have the Glitter Ball Committee made up of parents of the school, some of whom are also NGHS alumnae. Also a "thank you" to all sponsors and donors for their kind contributions. The whole event was a great success and raised over £25,000 towards our Bursary Programme. An amazing result that will change somebody's life.

We are delighted to announce that the Glitter Ball Bursary was awarded to a student who joined our Sixth Form in September 2022. We wish her all the very best in her studies here and for the future.

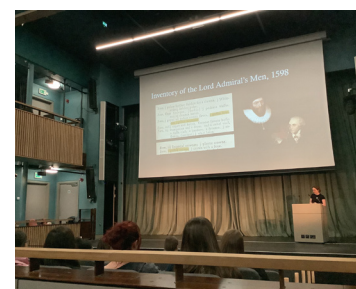
We are already looking forward to our next Glitter Ball which is due to take place in the Autumn of 2024. Watch this space!



SCHOOL EVENTS

Careers Talks - Inspiring Alumnae lecture series

Our Inspiring Alumnae lecture series has been a fantastic way to hear first-hand from our alumnae about their careers and their journeys since leaving NGHS. We have been very lucky to hear from seven different alumnae so far, sharing their experiences about a range of industries. This initiative has been led by our Head of Careers, Miss Laura Robinson, and has enabled students from the Junior School through to our Sixth Form to hear first-hand about some really exciting careers including working for NASA!



During the series we have heard from:

Gina Walter, who left in 2013. Gina is currently a graduate teacher and PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Bristol. Gina

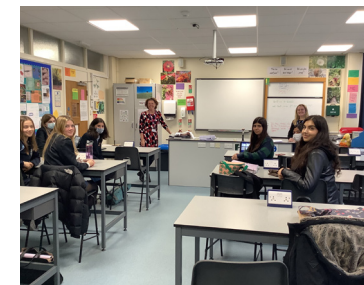
delivered an engaging lecture to the students around her PhD research. She discussed how her research is useful for producing modern-day plays, and about her own personal experience working on a stage play of Shakespeare's sonnets in 2021. This gave our students an idea of the kind of work accessible to Arts PhD researchers and academics.



We were fortunate enough to hear from Susie Allen-Sierpinski who left in 2002. After leaving school Susie completed her BS Aerospace Engineering degree at Florida Institute of Technology followed by her MSA in Applied Aviation Technology, before going on to complete her MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Florida. Susie is a Flight Systems Engineer for NASA. She is currently working on the lunar mission project 'Artemis' named after the twin sister of Apollo. This project aims to put the next man

and the first woman on the moon by 2024. It was a fascinating talk and we are very grateful to Susie for squeezing a visit to NGHS in during her short visit to the UK. We also nominated Susie for GDST Alumna of the Year and we were delighted that she was one of the finalists for 2022.

Beth Torr a 2013 leaver, delivered a guest lecture entitled 'Developing and trialling a digital pathway for genetic testing within women diagnosed with breast cancer'. Beth is a Scientific Programme Manager in Cancer Genetics at The Institute of Cancer Research and has worked in research, not-for-profit, and NHS organisations. Her current PhD area is around the BRCA-DIRECT study - developing and trialling a digital pathway for genetic testing within women diagnosed with breast cancer. This really showed the importance of STEM subjects and the ground-breaking careers into which they can lead.



Two of our NGHS alumnae, Emilia De Rosa (2016) and Helen Watson (1991), gave a two part careers talk focused on applying to study Law and careers in Law. Emilia started her legal career with Covington and Burlington LLP earlier this year, and Helen Watson is currently working as in-house counsel for Vodafone. We were thrilled to welcome Helen as guest speaker at our Year 13 Celebration Evening too.

We also welcomed Zoe Crowther, a 2015 leaver, back to school. She came to give a careers talk focused on getting into journalism. Zoe is currently a Journalist and Editorial Development Coordinator for News Associates which has been London's top rated NCTJ journalism school for the past thirteen years.



We were very privileged to have a composition workshop and arts careers talk from Electra Perivolaris a 2014 leaver. Electra was kind enough to join us and deliver a composition workshop to music students which they absolutely loved. Her careers

talk about working in the arts focused around her own personal experience as a composer and pianist. She is described by the BBC as a "Classical Star of the Future" and we're very proud of her.

It is always amazing and inspirational to hear what members of our alumnae community have gone on to do with their careers. What's even better is when they come to share their journeys with our current students here at NGHS.

Careers Evening

Our bi-annual Careers Evening was a great success this year. We were delighted to welcome many NGHS students from Year 9 to Year 13 and this year, we also opened up the event to local secondary schools across Nottinghamshire.

We had a range of alumnae who were eager and happy to come and support this event by representing their workplaces including HSBC, Unilever, Balfour Beatty and Rolls Royce to name but a few. We are so grateful to them for coming to give students an insight into careers in their industries. It's always great to hear from our alumnae and what they have been doing since they left, and the girls really appreciated hearing from women who used to be students here.

If this is something you would like to help with, we are always looking for alumnae to support our careers programme. **If you would like to be involved please do get in touch with [Aisling Hooper](mailto:Aisling.Hooper@not.gdst.net), a.hooper@not.gdst.net or connect on LinkedIn.**

NGHS Productions

We have thoroughly enjoyed throwing open the theatre doors and welcoming back families and our wider community into the Squire Performing Arts Centre. The talent amongst our pupils is amazing. They love performing on the stage and we are so thrilled that they also have the opportunity to be involved in the technical side of the productions including the lighting and sound. They are such a talented bunch in so many different ways.

Our Senior School musical this year was *Matilda* which ran for three amazing nights. The auditorium was packed and the students nailed it! Well done to the cast, crew and everybody involved. It takes a lot of hard work, talent and dedication to make our school productions such a success.

It was wonderful to see such talent and confidence on stage during the Senior School drama production of *Pride and Prejudice*. There really were some outstanding and memorable performances.

Our Year 5 and 6, an exceptionally talented cast, performed the Disney tale of *Moana* to a captivated audience in The Squire Performing Arts Centre. The story of a daughter who must save her Polynesian Island and its people against all the odds, who embarks on a quest with many difficulties to overcome. *Moana* encapsulates many of the qualities that we develop and admire in our students; self-belief, empathy and resilience.

Our Year 3 students enjoyed performing *The Jungle Book* on stage to friends and family. It was a wonderful evening full of joy. We have some extremely talented youngsters taking to the stage. It was a brilliant production, well done to all involved.

Everyone Loves a Baby was a sweet Nativity performance from our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 girls and it was a pretty special production. The girls were brilliant, funny and confident - many of them on the stage for the first time! Great job by everybody involved, on and off the stage.



THANKS TO OUR STAFF LEAVERS

As we broke up for the summer holidays and said goodbye to our students, we also had to say goodbye to some of our staff who were leaving NGHS this year.

Mr Paul Hickson stepped in as maternity cover in the Chemistry Department in 2020 and was a hugely successful and popular member of staff during his time here, which he in turn enjoyed immensely. Thank you so much Mr Hickson.



Mr Garrett Moran came to us as a Psychology Teacher in 2019 and is now taking retirement. He was very popular with staff and students alike and even enjoyed a stint as Father Christmas during some of our festive events. Be happy Mr Moran.



Jeremy Hind came back to NGHS in 2008 and worked tirelessly as technician in DT and Art. He was also a hugely popular personal friend to many and always willing to help anybody with his many and varied practical skills. We will miss you very much Jeremy. Enjoy your retirement.



made by these two teachers in a lovely assembly at the end of term. Memories were shared by staff and girls and gifts were kindly given and gratefully received. We wish them all the very best in their retirements and hope they will be regular visitors to NGHS. We're now the proud owners of two trophies made in their names to award for special achievements at the Infant and Junior School - The Robinson Cup for Intellectual Thinking and The Price Cup for Public Spirit.



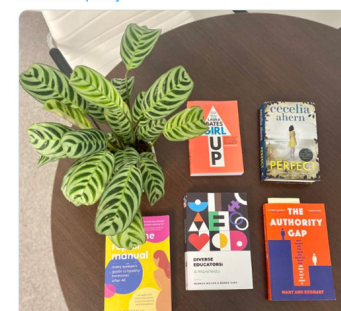
TURNING THE PAGE

A love of books at NGHS

Who doesn't love a good book? We are so lucky to have a wealth of staff, former staff and alumnae who have written and/or illustrated books and we wanted to celebrate them and share some of their fantastic work with you!



On #NationalReadABookDay we share a snapshot of some of Head, @JulieKellerNGHS's favourites. Anyone who has chatted to Mrs Keller in her office knows that the walls are lined with books about girls. It's no wonder she's an expert! #GDST #GirlsEducation #GenderEquality



James Brown Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning

Slightly obsessed with children's books, James enjoys writing and illustrating his own. He writes and illustrates for older children, from picture books to middle grade fiction, and, since 2014 has illustrated or written over 20 books. James studied English Literature at Sheffield and Stockholm and has an M.Litt in Creative Writing from St Andrews University. James was one of five

illustrators to win the SCBWI's Undiscovered Voices 2014 competition and is represented by United Agents. He has worked with several publishers including Macmillan, Simon & Schuster, Stripes, Little Brown, Hachette and Five Quills.

When we asked what James loves so much about NGHS, he explained that he has a tremendous amount of respect for the pupils, who impress him with their creativity and passion. He is extremely proud of their ability to speak up with care and confidence. He also enjoys teaching across multiple year groups, from inspiring our Tots Have Fun visitors who are aged 2 and 3, to our intellectually astounding A Level students. He believes that the skills they learn during their English studies here set them up for life: they are encouraged to think critically, be creative in their problem solving, understand nuance, decipher challenging issues, articulate themselves specifically and benefit from a genuine love for reading and for learning.

If you've never seen any of James' pieces, have a look at his beautiful Instagram account

[@jamesbrownillustrates](https://www.instagram.com/jamesbrownillustrates/) and on Twitter [@jb_illustrates](https://twitter.com/jb_illustrates)

Find his latest book **LOTTIE LOVES NATURE** series, (Five Quills, 2021) here:

<https://www.fivequills.co.uk/lottie-loves-nature-series/>



Megan Taylor NGHS Library Assistant

In addition to being a library assistant at NGHS, I'm a writer. I've had four novels published –

How We Were Lost (Flame Books, 2007), **The Dawning** (Weathervane Press, 2020), **The Lives of Ghosts** (Weathervane Press, 2012) and **We Wait** (Eyrie Press,



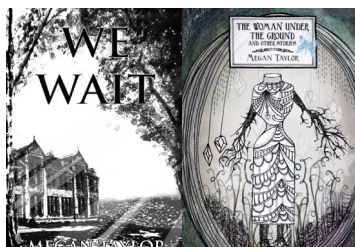
2019), as well as a short story collection, **The Woman Under the Ground** (Weathervane Press, 2014). I've also been fortunate to have had many more short stories included in a variety of journals and anthologies.

As far as I'm concerned, working part time in a school library is the perfect day job for an author. I don't think anyone becomes a writer without having a deep love of reading, and it's incredibly rewarding to be able to encourage children as they begin to enjoy and explore stories for themselves, and whether I'm sharing a picture book with Nursery or discussing favourite titles with a Sixth Former, I also really appreciate the social aspect of the job.

Writing fiction, especially novels, can be such a strange and solitary activity. As much as I like the escapism of being holed up with my characters in their make-believe worlds, it makes me appreciate the chatter and bustle of school life all the more.

Along with being surrounded by children and books, my work allows me to indulge my writing side too. I run two creative writing clubs, one with Years 5 and 6, and the other at the Senior School, where I'm often bowled over by the students' ideas and imagination. Their enthusiasm can be inspiring, and it's sometimes worth remembering on the odd

occasions when I'm feeling stuck in my writer's hole.



Claire Bale

Director of Marketing

Claire Bale is Director of Marketing here at NGHS and Trust Consultant for Diversity and Inclusion for the GDST. She's a self-confessed bookworm and shares her book reviews and recommendations on Instagram at [@oo_thats_a_bit_racey](#).

Her account accompanies her blog *Oo! That's A Bit Racey!*, which aims to encourage more people to talk about race and racism as a way to bring about positive change. Claire is also a Trustee of the Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature, where she values being able to support her local community



through literature and improved literacy rates.

Richard Macfarlane

Head of Humanities

We know our alumnae love to hear about our History teacher, Mr Macfarlane. Did you know he's written the chapters on Europe in an A Level textbook on **The Cold War - The Cold War in Asia**



1945–1993 and the Cold War in Europe 1941–1995. Ironically, we don't actually teach this area of History as part of the curriculum here at NGHS!

Ann Hill

Ann Hill (née Leslie), attended NGHS from 1947 - 1954. Ann regularly attends our annual alumnae



reunion lunches and recently brought along a book she had written as part of a new initiative, Open Pitch, set up by a local Nottingham organisation, New Perspectives.

The launch of Open Pitch in 2021 was an opportunity for anyone in the East Midlands region who hadn't the chance or means to follow a creative path in their lives, but had a burning idea that would suit performance or presentation to an audience. People were invited to submit a story from their own life, from their neighbourhood or something they were really passionate about.

Ann was successful with her pitch of **Miss Sherwood Forest**, the anarchic tale of the tree who auditions for Miss Sherwood Forest. Ann Hill has written a script with feminist themes, brought to life through the illustrations of Nottingham based Artist and Animator, Sophie Johnson-Hill.

Jill Berry

Jill Berry, a former member of staff, was Deputy Head at NGHS from 1995 - 2000. Jill moved on to become Head of another



all-girls' independent day school and following her headship Jill completed a doctorate

in education. Jill has written a book about the transition from Deputy to Head, and became involved in educational leadership development work.

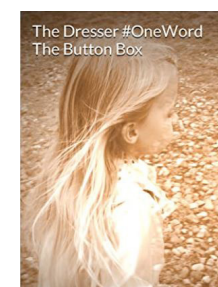
During the pandemic Jill found her love of writing and found the time to write three short novels between winter 2019 and spring 2021. The novels are different from each other in a number of ways, but they all explore relationships, growth, humanity and human frailty.

The three novels have been published in one volume and can be purchased both in e-book format and paperback via Amazon.

The Dresser tells the story of three generations of a village community between 1900 and 2020, bound together over time by alliances, secrets and the rhythms of the village year. It is about family, friendship, love and betrayal.

#OneWord describes four women who meet for lunch every New Year's Eve, and each chooses one word which they commit to making a focus in their lives throughout the year ahead. The book follows their progress throughout 2019.

The Button Box focuses on three generations of women – grandmother, mother and daughter from the 1950s to the present day. It's about



connection, about family, and love.

Jill says "I realise my target audience is probably

women, aged 40+, and I know many of the young women I met at NGHS in the second half of the 90s will now fall into this category. I very much hope they enjoy reading them – and perhaps their mums might, too!"

Professor Sue Harper

Professor Sue Harper left NGHS in 1962 and went on to become a Professor of Film History at the University of Portsmouth

and wrote a number of books on British cinema. After retirement, she published a book of short stories with Egaeus Press, **The Dark Nest**, which sold out very quickly. Sue is finalising another volume, **The Sarah Chronicles**. The full range of her stories can be viewed on her website, www.sueharper.co.uk. The stories (with illustrations and some films) are arranged in six volumes.



AWARD FOR ARCHERS STAR

GDST Exceptional Contribution Award for June Spencer

You will all have undoubtedly heard of The Archers, but did you also know that Peggy Woolley, played by June Spencer, is an NGHS alumna and has recently been awarded the GDST Exceptional Contribution Award?

The Girls' Day School Trust, along with Nottingham Girls' High School, were delighted to award June Spencer the GDST Exceptional Contribution Award in July 2022, which is especially poignant this year with the GDST celebrating its 150th year.

June has been bestowed this award due to her remarkable achievements and the longevity of her services to broadcasting. She has recently retired from playing the much loved character, Peggy Woolley, in the famous BBC radio series, The Archers. She recorded her last episode at the age of 103, demonstrating her continued commitment and passion for the Arts. June started working for the BBC in 1943 as part of Children's Hour and has enjoyed working for the corporation ever since. Apparently, she only found out that she'd been given the part when someone came up to her in the BBC canteen and said, "Oh I hear you are going to be Peggy in The Archers."

June has been a key character in The Archers since its very first episode in 1950 and until she recently retired, was the only remaining original cast member. Her total of 65 years in the role makes her the second longest-serving actor in a soap opera worldwide. June has shown immense commitment to the programme and her character Peggy has voiced some of the show's strongest storylines including hard hitting topics such as gambling, bereavement and alcohol addiction. Her husband Roger suffered from Alzheimer's and June was able to use her own experience of this to support a storyline about the

disease. She was invited to the story meetings to help write the script and ensure an accurate portrayal.

June was an only child and grew up in Sherwood, joining Nottingham Girls' High School from Mountford House. She loved sport there but a health check at NGHS revealed a heart murmur which prevented her from participating in sport here, much to her disappointment. Outside of school she participated in music and theatre classes including elocution lessons as she wanted to be an actor.

She begged her father to write to Miss Philipps, the Headmistress at the time, to ask if she could leave school early to pursue her dream. Her parents were very supportive of her career choice though they really didn't want her to go and study in London as it was so far away. Her request was initially refused, but eventually she was called into the Headmistress's office with the other school leavers at the ages of 16 and 18 and Miss Philipps said to her, "You'll never make anything of yourself without your certificate." How wrong Miss Philipps was, and how differently June would have been supported today!

And so, June completed her education at Nottingham Girls' High School almost 90 years ago, in 1934. She left at the age of 15 to pursue her dream career in the Arts. June's passion was to study at RADA. She left NGHS and joined an amateur dramatic society and gained a London Guildhall School of Music and Drama certificate. She loved writing humorous monologues and was really fascinated to hear that later in life her work was used there.

Her memories of school include lunch consisting of a piece of meat, thin gravy, mashed not creamed potatoes and some cake and custard for pudding. She said the Head's Office was not a place you

wanted to be called into; however, one time she was hauled into the office because she'd been sitting on a bench and it had broken!

June was pleased to hear about the Squire Performing Arts Centre and that the students at Nottingham have the opportunity to perform on the stage here at school. Many of the buildings have changed here on the NGHS site. June's best friend got married in the 1940s in a church that stood on the corner of Arboretum Street and Addison Street, where our all-weather courts are now situated. June has been back to Nottingham and has enjoyed driving down Arboretum Street and also seeing where she used to live locally.

It's wonderful to see that June has gone on to have such an illustrious career. It's clear to see that she embodies everything that both the GDST and NGHS stand for. She has passion, determination, and a true love of life. She is a trailblazer in the Arts and a fabulous role model to our students, showing that age doesn't define you and that there are no limits to what we can all achieve.

She has passion, determination, and a true love of life.



Aisling Hooper, June Spencer



Cheryl Giovannoni, Julie Keller, Aisling Hooper, June Spencer

PAM MANN & SUE GOTLEY

NGHS 1953 - 1960 & NGHS 1955 - 1962

In May this year my sister, Sue, and I set off to cycle the 1,030 miles from Land's End to John o'Groats. It was intended as an 80th birthday challenge for me, but coincidentally it was also the 10th anniversary of Sue's diagnosis of acute myeloid leukaemia. She has made a full recovery, thanks to a stem cell transplant, so we thought that this cycle ride would show what can be achieved by older people.

The route we decided to take was one devised by Cycling UK, which is not the shortest, but is the most scenic and as a result also very hilly! We planned to cycle an average of 50 miles a day and take three weeks over the trip, including the travel to the start and the journey back from John o'Groats. I would be cycling on my Trek Lexa road bike and Sue would be on her specialised Vado electric bike.

We are regular cyclists and have done quite a number of cycle tours in the UK, Europe and further afield, but we nevertheless did quite a lot of training rides and also spinning classes at the gym. We had also decided to do the ride unsupported, ie we had no support vehicle behind us, but carried everything we needed for the three weeks in panniers and a rackpack. We had also booked our accommodation all the way along the route.

I'm pleased to say that all the planning paid off, because we arrived at John o'Groats on the appointed day, having kept up with



"We had no support vehicle behind us, but carried everything we needed for the 3 weeks in panniers and a rackpack."

our schedule, without having had a single puncture! Not that the going was easy: we had the hills of Cornwall and Devon to cope with, as well as the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire and the mighty Cairngorms in Scotland, but almost the whole way the scenery was magnificent. We were also fairly lucky with the weather; although it was often windy and rather cool, it only rained on three out of 22 days.

Another feature of the ride was the connections we made with people along the way. Of course we met fellow cyclists, but also local people, who were interested in what we were doing or who told us their stories. We passed through villages and towns, where people were preparing for the Platinum Jubilee, putting up bunting and decorating their shops and houses.

We also had some pleasant surprises along the way, when members of our family and friends turned up, without us knowing, to cheer us on our way or even to cycle part of the route with us.

When we arrived at John o'Groats we, of course, felt a great sense of achievement. We are not the oldest to have completed the challenge, but we are certainly amongst the oldest, and we think we may be the oldest sisters to have done it!

When we were planning the ride, we decided to raise funds for The British Heart Foundation, as my eldest son, Steve, had a heart attack in April 2021, even though he was fit and healthy and displayed no symptoms.

So far we have raised almost £7,000, including Gift Aid. If you would like to donate to our Justgiving page, here is the link: www.justgiving.com/pammannandsuegotley



HOLLY BROCKWELL

NGHS Alumna 2004

If you'd asked me in Sixth Form what I might be featured in Connect for in the year 2022, I'd probably have guessed either a bestselling book or some kind of fiery, dramatic death.

Well, I haven't written the bestseller yet, but I'm also not on fire, so I'll count that as a win.

I'm back in Nottingham after a long stint in London because during the early stages of the pandemic, I set up a small cat shelter in the newly-vacated spare room of the flat I was renting from NGHS schoolmate Jessica Holland. Specialising in elderly, disabled and 'difficult' cats, the shelter – called Holly's Merry Moggies – grew faster than anticipated, and when Jess needed to sell her flat, I headed back to the Midlands to find us a bigger Moggy Manor.

Luckily for me, the pandemic also facilitated a lot more acceptance of remote working, meaning my career as a freelance technology journalist could continue from my new home in West Bridgford. Being around all day tapping on my keyboard is ideal for the ten moggies currently in residence, because I'm available for ad hoc cuddles, toy detanglements and the odd disaster, usually in the form of a petulant puss shoving my tea off the sideboard.

In the two years I've been running the shelter, I've rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed a whole range of cats, while those with permanent problems have a home in my specially-adapted bungalow for life. They include five with cerebellar hypoplasia, otherwise known as 'wobbly cat syndrome' – the most recent being six-week-old Frank, seized from a bad situation by the RSPCA but facing being put down due to his severe tremor. As luck would have it, I'd been interviewed by the BBC about wobbly cats that week, and Frank's fosterer saw the video and got in touch.

Sadly, not many people want disabled cats, but as someone with a whole smorgasbord of health issues myself, I think they're extra special. They have an amazing ability to adapt to their differences

and are certainly not short of personality, as anyone who's met the windy but wonderful Smol Paul will tell you.

Hopefully, the BBC interview has helped more people understand that elderly, disabled and less 'perfect' cats are so worth the extra effort it takes to adopt them. There's really nothing like the contented snore of cuddlebug Stripes McKenzie to bring you joy, especially knowing his backstory: abandoned by his addict owner at



a vet practice, he was considered so aggressive that he was facing losing his life. It turns out all he needed was love and time.

"It turns out all he needed was love and time"

It's brilliant to be back in my hometown, near my big sister Kathryn O'Donnell (class of 2001) and her twin daughters, who come round on weekends to help with the very important job of cat fussing. I've also been back in touch with some long-lost NGHS friends, and would be delighted to hear from anyone else who remembers me or fancies a chat about the finer points of litter tray management. Or, you know, anything else!



CHARLENE HUNTER MBE

NGHS Alumna 2004

Charlene Hunter is the CEO and founder of Coding Black Females, the largest community of Black women in tech in the UK, growing, educating, and inspiring the community of Black women in technology. Charlene left NGHS in 2004 and went on to obtain a BSc in Mathematical Sciences and an MSc in Computer Science from the University of Birmingham. She set up Coding Black Females because in her years as a Software Developer, she discovered Black women were heavily under-represented in tech. She wanted this to change and ensure that Black women were able to discover role models and see familiar faces within the industry. Motivated by this, and inspired by the film Hidden Figures, Charlene set about redressing the balance. She has a strong passion to increase and showcase the skills and talents of Black women in technology and is determined to diversify the tech sector.

In conversation with Charlene...

I have always loved Maths, I enjoyed it at primary school and continued to enjoy it at NGHS. When studying Maths, Further Maths and Physics at A Level, it was just great to be around other students who wanted to focus and engage in the subjects.

I enjoyed my time at school. I was on the netball team and I always completed the Duke of Edinburgh walks but never finished the award - looking back now I can't quite believe I did that. I hadn't realised that other schools didn't offer the same opportunities we had such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We were always exposed to leadership opportunities and engaging careers talks and I was always told I 'can do' anything at school. NGHS helped prepare me for the future and the 'can do' attitude has been instilled in me and continues in my work today. My advice to current students at school would be to remain curious and realise you 'can' achieve anything.

My dad always said he noticed a change in me when I went to school, that I was more confident. He always admired and respected Mrs Rees, the Head at the time, and how she told us, "All of you in this room are leaders." NGHS prepared me for leadership. We were encouraged to start conversations rather than just be part of them. He still reminds me of that now 18 years later!

There definitely was a lack of representation though whilst I was at school. I was part of a group that set up the Multicultural Society; this was supported by the teachers. We saw a problem, they let us lead on it and we were able to make a change. This is what I'm still aiming to do today through Coding Black Females.

I have always followed my interests and stayed curious which has always included breaking things and then working out how to fix them again. I wasn't always successful when trying to put them back together, however, this meant that I was able to find out how things worked and why. I would always do the additional research into how things worked and try to explore the technology in a different

"NGHS prepared me for leadership. We were encouraged to start conversations rather than just be part of them."

way. I didn't think tech could be a career option for me though it was something I really enjoyed. I hadn't realised it could (and would) lead to my profession but it's great to be working in this industry.

I would say to the next generation of students, remember it's ok to relax and embrace failure too. When playing netball at school, we had a great team and we always won. I remember our first loss - everyone cried and I remember thinking 'let's embrace this, let's learn from it and to some extent enjoy it'. Just remember, enjoy the journey to success.

Charlene has received multiple awards and recognition for the work she does to support Black women in tech. Most recently she was awarded an MBE in the 2022 New Years Honours for her services to Technology and to Diversity; a fantastic achievement Charlene, huge congratulations.



**CODING
BLACK
FEMALES**

JESS TEMPLE

NGHS 1996 - 2010

Many of you will remember 2010 leaver Jess Temple (Nicklin). We were delighted to find out that she had been successful in auditioning for a play in London. It was on at the Almeida and was called 'Patriots'. The lead was Tom Hollander and there was a cast of 12 of which only three were women, so she did really well!

Jess is becoming a more and more frequent face on stage and screen with recent appearances in an episode of The Sister Boniface Mysteries and ITV series DI Ray, plus many more!

We're really proud of Jess and are sure that it won't be too long before she secures a starring role herself.



She had been successful in auditioning for a play in London.

BARBARA BURNHAM MEMORIAL CONCERT

Last April it was an honour for the Squire Performing Arts Centre to host a very unique memorial concert for a former teacher here at Nottingham Girls' High School, Barbara Burnham. The concert, organised by her husband, Patrick, was a tribute to Barbara's professional and personal life. The auditorium was full as audience members, former students, staff, friends and family watched talented musicians from around the county perform as

well as a choir featuring over 100 people. It was an exceptional event, which featured a range of music including, two works by Gabriel Fauré, The Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, Bach's Jesu, Priceless Treasure, Brahms' How Lovely are they Dwellings and Adam's O Holy Night. The concert also featured Chamber music and duets by Dvořák and solo piano and vocal items from Chopin, Schubert, Mozart, Grieg, Puccini, Vaughan Williams

and Debussy. It was a splendid programme of music chosen specifically for this event. The concert was conducted by Patrick Burnham, who also planned and coordinated all the musicians, orchestra and performers coming together to honour the memory of Barbara. The event was followed by a reception in the Sixth Form Centre, where friends, family and former students reflected on the wonderful concert and their memories of Barbara.

Friends, family and former students reflected on the wonderful concert and their memories of Barbara.



TOTS HAVE FUN

Our Tots Have Fun ‘Stay and Play’ programme for local families of preschool aged girls has been successfully running as part of our community engagement programme for almost a decade, but it has only been since 2021 that we introduced regular NGHS Year 6 girls as Tots Ambassadors.

Our Year 6 Tots Ambassadors are integral to the programme - girls come completely into their own, taking toddlers by the hand and encouraging even the shyest of pre-schoolers to explore, have fun and take risks. Whether ascending on our climbing wall or finding a quiet corner in the library to read a book, our girls LOVE being Tots Ambassadors; they have the innate ability to understand when a tot feels overwhelmed and when a tot simply needs a little extra gentle encouragement. The levels of empathy, kindness and patience is astonishing, and families of tots always comment on how the experience is truly magnified and memorable because of the girls.

The benefit to our girls has been huge: many do not have younger siblings, so this is an enjoyable way of taking the lead, showing off their school, and being helpful. Likewise, our girls are amazing role-models to girls lower down in the school, with many younger years aspiring to be a Tots Ambassador by the time they reach Year 6. For the current academic year, the Tots Ambassador programme receives the highest number of applications for a variety of roles and responsibilities available to girls in the Junior School – this shows the precedent set by our first cohort, and the enjoyment girls gain from being active in the school’s engagement with the wider community.

Last year’s Tots Ambassadors have now completed their time in Year 6 at NGHS Nursery, Infant and Junior School and have begun their Year 7 journey in the Senior School. We are excited for their next learning journey and hope to see them participate in

our other outreach and leadership initiatives as they move up the school.

Tots Have Fun is an inspiring series of indoor and outdoor activities for girls aged 2-3 years. Find out more about Tots Have Fun by visiting our Open Events section of the website or contacting Susie on s.bulling@not.gdst.net



A programme of fun and creative activities for girls aged 2 to 3 years



ALUMNAE REUNION

Members of our alumnae community and former staff joined us for a reunion event on Saturday 18 June.

It had been three years since we were last able to hold an alumnae reunion event in person, so it was really special to welcome former staff members and alumnae back to the school for a reunion in June. It was especially nice to welcome some alumnae who had not been back to the school for a very long time and who left in the 1960s.

Old friends greeted each other and marvelled at how much the school had changed, though were delighted to know that our ethos is still the same as ever. They heard about all of the amazing things that our students go on to achieve in the wider world and how proud they make us.

It was lovely to see our guests looking through some of the archives we'd put out on display and finding themselves in old school photographs – such a lovely trip down memory lane. Our Sixth Form helpers were fascinated to hear stories of school days from so long ago. After a delicious lunch our visitors were welcome to have a tour of parts of the school to see what had and hadn't changed. They were all especially amazed by the performing arts centre and what a fantastic and professional theatre it is.

We always love to see our alumnae and former colleagues at such events, or even just individually if they'd like a tour. We're all part of one big family and every member is always welcome.



NOTTINGHAM
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Save the date

**NGHS ALUMNAE REUNION
SATURDAY 20TH MAY 2023**

Join us for afternoon tea on Saturday 20th May 2023 2pm - 5pm.

We look forward to seeing you!

All years are welcome, especially those who left in 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2013.

For further details, contact FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net
or call **0115 941 7663**



SQUIRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The Squire Performing Arts Centre (The Space) opened its doors to NGHS and the local community and arts groups in 2017, and is a state-of-the-art venue named in honour of Dame Rosemary Squire DBE, an alumna of the school.

Nottingham Girls' High School has staged a range of productions at the venue, providing students of all ages with the opportunity to perform on stage. These include one-off events and productions ranging from the Infant and Junior Nativity through to a variety of Senior School shows. In 2021-2022 we saw performances of *Pride and Prejudice* and the musical *Matilda*, as well as concerts, House competitions, workshops and talks, parental meetings and lessons on technical theatre.

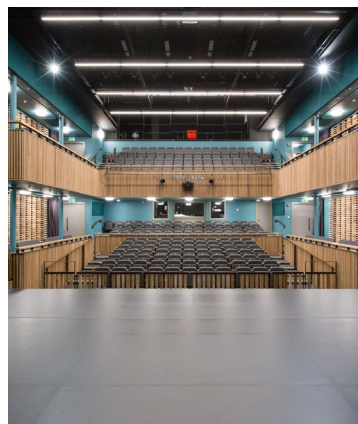
Students benefit from the links the venue has with universities, and the last three years have seen NGHS musical production sets and costumes being designed by third year students from the Theatre Design course at Nottingham Trent University. Through this mutually beneficial process, university students share their skills in costume, construction, scenic painting

and set design with students at NGHS.

The theatre also operates as a venue for professional work and, when programming, will regularly look for opportunities to enhance the arts experience of students at NGHS, and our local schools through our outreach work.

The Space has hosted a number of professional performances including supporting the Nottingham Chamber Music Festival, which saw our students attending a performance of *Chasing Dots* by The Royal Northern Sinfonia. Recently they have had the pleasure of hosting New Perspectives Theatre Company prior to their Edinburgh Fringe Festival run of *The Great and Almighty Gill*.

They were also fortunate to have Giles Croft perform his one man show *Channelling Jabez*, focusing on a distant relative who



attempted to swim the channel. Giles is a director, writer and occasional actor. He was the artistic director of Nottingham Playhouse for 18 years and his production of *The Kite Runner* (originally rehearsed in the Old Dining Hall, the site of the current Squire of Performing Arts Centre) has recently opened on Broadway. Giles has also run workshops in the venue for Key Stage 3 students.

The venue works closely with local artists and theatre companies, supporting their development work. Opportunities are often created for NGHS students to watch a dress rehearsal, access talks, view works in progress and get advice from the artists involved. This has included companies such as The Gramophones Theatre Company. The venue works extremely closely with Mishmash Productions who focus on transforming perceptions of what

classical music could and should be, particularly for young and family audiences.

The Autumn 2022 season welcomes artists such as BBC Radio 4's cop-turned-comedian, Alfie Moore, for his latest stand-up tour show and a talk from Leo Houlding, one of the world's best climbers. Leo will be bringing audiences up to date with his audacious expeditions, primarily focusing on his more recent ascent of Mount Roraima. Finally Impromptu Shakespeare will be joining us with story and verse improvised in the moment. As we look ahead to Spring 2023, we are excited to welcome folk music from Leveret, a band featuring three of England's finest folk musicians, Andy Cutting, Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron.

The theatre is run by a small team with a wealth of professional experience that is conveyed to the students. Centre Manager, Anita, graduated from The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and has previously worked within stage management at a number of repertory theatres around the country including, The Globe (London), Theatre by the Lake (Keswick), The Dukes (Lancaster) Manchester Royal Exchange and Leicester Haymarket Theatre. After a stint at Nottingham Playhouse, she settled in the area spending time working with young people in Nottinghamshire



by delivering courses in technical theatre and was part of the team at Derby LIVE focusing on inclusion and outreach. Front of House Manager, Alex, graduated from the University of Warwick and undertook a Masters at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She has worked as a freelance director, choreographer and producer at theatres including Bristol Old Vic, Royal & Derngate (Northampton), Plymouth Fringe and Nottingham Playhouse. Whilst at the Playhouse, Alex also worked within their Participation Department, to produce new outreach and learning programmes. The technical team, Sarah and Zac, have both a lighting and sound background and have toured professionally in venues around the region and nationally. They have worked on events including live bands, theatre, spoken word and dance performances. Zianne works alongside The Space team to develop their social media, website, and design.

The Space feels a huge sense of gratitude to its supporters. Alongside Dame Rosemary Squire, many alumnae, families and friends of NGHS have made donations to support the development of this incredible theatre. We are so proud to have such a wonderful facility here at NGHS, benefiting our students, local community, and the wider world of the performing arts.

Keep up to date with what's on at the theatre here: <https://squirepac.co.uk/>

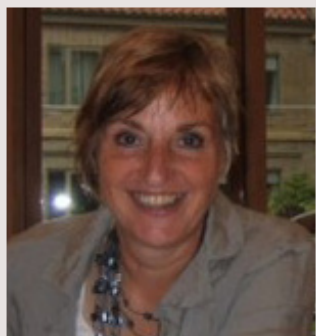


ALUMNAE OBITUARIES

Alison Mary Platts, (née Willetts) 1952 - 2022

Written by Angela Waller (friend)

Alison's recent death, from lung cancer, has left a big gap in many people's lives. She and I were, as she put it "oldest" friends, with a lot of history. We first met in Derwent House, cementing our relationship during walks to and from school.



I used to meet her at Victoria Station each school morning, and, later after its closure, Huntingdon St Bus Station. At school, Alison and I were naturally also part of a bigger group which subdivided and changed patterns daily and over time. The parents of the girls I visited all showed me kindness, and a break from what was a very difficult home situation (nobody was aware just how bad-one didn't talk in those days, one accepted one's life as it was).

I left after the end of the Upper Fifth to study A Levels at college.

However, my friendship with Alison continued - a thread running through travels and trips, university, work, marriage and children, through calm times and setbacks - and which spanned nearly six decades. Whilst I wasn't allowed visitors at home in my teens, she came to stay with me at both sets of grandparents' homes; we always remembered the death of Donald Campbell being announced when we were staying in East Drayton.

Latterly, a serious family illness and then Covid made visits next to impossible, but we kept in touch through email, cards and occasional phone contact. We had been hoping to meet one last time, as her cancer had progressed, but time ran out on us.

Alison was fiercely intelligent, witty, vivacious and questioning. She was also kind, sensible, caring and generous. She gave me support and advice when I asked for it, but was never intrusive. It was only in my late fifties that I gave her some idea just how

hard things had been when I was at school, and she expressed concern, wishing she could have helped more, but of course she had been of help just by being there, through the cathartic silliness of the animal limericks we invented on the way home, her encouraging me to join the choir, and through her parents, who provided a welcoming and safe space to be. It was Alison who introduced me to *'1066 and All That'*. After a career change, I taught and examined A Level Politics and History, both being longstanding passions. Alison's career change would be from radiography to law. We did, when around 12, have a few months of reading Georgette Heyer, but that ran alongside and was superseded by Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters and other books in her home, *'The Lancashire Witches'* was quite inspiring! Later we read and discussed, Graves's *'Goodbye to All That'*; the passages we recited have stayed with me.

In Alison's father, Ken, a gently spoken science lecturer who drove a lovely big old Austin, I could see a very different man from my own father. Her mother Dorothy, was kind and witty, with one of the loveliest speaking voices I've known. It was Alison who encouraged me to join the choir, singing there and also in the timetabled music lessons proved one of the aspects of school I enjoyed most (and didn't require homework which was hard to do properly in my circumstances). She entertained me with episodes from school trips (nothing too dreadful) that I hadn't felt able to go on. Above all, Alison also gave me the prospect of something else less bleak, even whilst it seemed far away.

Perhaps it was wrong to say she has left a big gap, for she is still very much part of her family and those of us lucky enough to have been her friends, but we will so miss her astute observations and her vivacious presence.

More on me: Angela Mary Waller: born 1952, started Derwent House 1962, left Upper Fifth in 1969.

A link, there is always a link, especially in education: my British History teacher at Arnold and Carlton College of FE left for the Girls' High at the end of the academic year 1970. As I'd done a one year course (though my history course was even shorter

after I changed part way through from sociology to history) it is quite possible she taught some of my former classmates in the Upper Sixth. I'm usually good with names, but here I can't remember if I have the right one, Mrs Stephens? She was very calm, attended to detail and inspired me to learn more about Ireland (along with reading Joyce, Yeats and Swift in English Lit.) not to mention Gladstone and Disraeli (I read a biography of him in French three summers later). That year at college was a little calmer at home, I discovered the joy of spending long hours at the local library and developed my interest in politics and current affairs.

There was another girl from the High School on the course: she had been in the year above at school and, I believe, "asked to leave" (I never asked why). Whilst not really friends, we were labelled by our European and Social History teacher, with a bit of an edge, as "The High School Girls". I found out from someone who stayed on at the college that he had been slightly irritated at my good results! That was a shame and I had really enjoyed the Social and Economic History paper.

Changing to college was only partly my choice, as my father didn't encourage me to stay, to put it mildly, and of course there wasn't time to do as much reading as on a two-year course, but it

was what it was. I worked the year before university, still keeping in touch with Alison, of course and going to her Christmas party at the end of 1970.

Iris Haydock, (née Smith) 1933 - 2022

Iris Haydock, (née Iris Smith DOB 04/09/1933) was an alumna of NGHS and regularly went out for lunch at the Slug & Lettuce with a small group of her school friends up until the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Sadly, we were informed by her daughter that she passed away in August 2022. Iris would unfortunately not have been able to keep in touch with her friends during those last couple of years because of her dementia, but she had up until then really enjoyed keeping in contact with them. Her daughter, Lucy Sadler, desperately wanted to let her friends know about her passing but could not be sure of the contacts in her mother's address book. If anybody in our alumnae community knew Iris and would like to contact her daughter, please do get in touch with us as she has passed on her contact details.

Margaret Scaman, 1926 - 2021

NGHS Alumna 1937 - 1944 and NGHS Teacher 1947 - 1950

Written by Son, David Scaman



Margaret was born on 2nd of January 1926 in Nottingham to Ernest and Ethel Mingay. Her father was a relief station manager and used to work in stations around the Nottingham district. Her mother was a housewife.

She was always very proud of her Nottingham heritage and fiercely protective if any other town tried to claim Sherwood Forest. She often spoke of playing at Robin Hood as kids. The 1938 Errol Flynn Robin Hood movie being the inspiration.

Her father died when she was just eight and she was told by her mother that she would have to help bring up her little brother John. She looked after him throughout his life.

Aged 11 she won a scholarship to the Nottingham High School For Girls, the top school. As a fee paying school, her mother could never have afforded it. Her scholarship was one of only six awarded in the Nottingham and district area; she was always rightly very proud of that. She gained seven credits and a pass in her school certificate which allowed her to matriculate. She stayed on in the Sixth Form and was one of only four girls studying science.

Margaret went to Kings College of Household and Social Science (University of London) which was located in Leicester at the time because of the war. During her final year at university her mother sadly died of cancer. 'Luckily' she was just 21 at the time

and so was able to take on the rent book of their council house in Nottingham. Her old school took her back as a teacher and she then had six years looking after her brother - the age of majority was 21 in those days. As a fellow teacher she met her oldest friend, Dorothy Beech (NGHS Maths), who was my godmother. They remained great friends until Dorothy died in 2020.

Margaret was married to her husband Kelvin in 1950. In those days she could no longer teach as the school would not employ married women. They bought a house in Tulse Hill and she got a job with the LCC (now GLC) in the Housing and Valuation department. Margaret and Kelvin welcomed son David in May 1954.

A favourite hobby of Margaret's was gardening, she had a love for plants, something which stayed with her right to the end. Margaret remained in excellent health until July 2019 when she was diagnosed with aortic stenosis. Declining a valve replacement in favour of simply living out her remaining life, she initially lived with her son who moved in with her, and in May 2021 she moved into Westlake House for the final month of her life.

Her funeral service is available on [YouTube](#). Google 'Margaret Scaman funeral' and that should find it.

We are very grateful to Margaret's son, Mr David Scaman, who has kindly donated to the NGHS Bursary and Assistance Fund in memory of his mother. As Mr Scaman said, "She never forgot the advantages of having a good education the school gave her." Every gift we receive does make a difference.

Amy Liu, 1985 - 2022

Written by her school friends



As classmates from 1996 to 2003, we have donated to the Nottingham Girls' High School bursary scheme in loving memory of Amy Liu (1985-2022). Always ahead of the curve and enterprising, Amy had the ability to see the best in everyone and the unique talent of finding the humour in everything. We hope our collective donation helps to somehow 'pay forward' the privilege we shared of having Amy as our beloved classmate and friend. She is sorely missed by those who knew her.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

It's been another busy year in Diversity and Inclusion at NGHS and across the GDST.

Our students took part in the second of our annual Belonging surveys, where we asked them to share their thoughts and feelings about inclusion at school. It helps us to understand what is on our students' minds and form our plans for supporting them.

This year, we have two Year 13 Diversity Prefects, Anjileen and Feizah, who are doing a wonderful job in championing people from all backgrounds across the school. They have delivered assemblies, supported extra-curricular clubs and run an informative Instagram account [@NGHS.Diversity](#). They're



looking forward to running a Culture and Heritage Day in February 2023.

Across the school we're following this year's Diversity and Inclusion Calendar, which highlights monthly themes in which the whole school can participate and support. This includes topics such as Mental Health and Wellbeing, Faith in our Community and Black History Month.

On the subject of Black History Month, Year 6 pupils and some of our Senior School students enjoyed participating in the live streamed Big Hair Assembly this year. An international celebration of Afro textured hair. It was a fun, informative and positive way to learn about Afro hair and to raise awareness of hair discrimination.

This is just one example of the many initiatives taking place across our academic and extra-curricular calendar. There will always be more to learn and we're enjoying the process of actively supporting all aspects of our community.

Diversity Calendar 2022-2023

A Diversity Calendar is a way to take note of the many celebrations, cultural events and social awareness dates. There are lots of them, and they're not all captured here, but hopefully they will help to shape some of the work we're doing to open up conversations with our colleagues and pupils, diversify the curriculum, bring representation to our schools and to educate ourselves on diversity and inclusion.

Because there are so many events across the year, and we didn't want to exclude any of the main ones, we have given each month a key theme. This will hopefully help to frame plans and conversations.

THEMES

September	Open to learning
October	Celebrate Black Excellence
November	Faith in our Community
December	Kindness
January	New Year, New Beginning
February	Love Is Love
March	Gender Equality
April	Accessibility
May	Mental Health and Wellbeing
June	Pride
July	Allyship
August	Diverse Narratives

Diversity Calendar

UNDIVIDED

GDST LIFE

If you've not already signed up to GDST Life, it's a wonderful online network - from the perspective of the family of 25 GDST schools collaborating and sharing expertise to help girls learn without limits, or from life after school, as an alumna.

The GDST has an alumnae network of more than 70,000 women - one of the largest of its kind anywhere in the world. That's 70,000 women, from all walks of life and around the globe, who are there to support and inspire each other.

It's there for students from the moment they go into Sixth Form, giving them the opportunity to connect with others across the GDST family of schools. And for alumnae, it opens the door to a host of new networking opportunities, unrivalled personal and professional connections, mentoring support, events, news and resources, groups and societies, and much, much more - for life. You can sign up now by visiting: [gdstlife.aluminate.net](#)



GDST PODCAST

During the past couple of years the GDST launched a series of podcasts called Raise Her Up covering topics from wellbeing to womanhood, communication to creativity, self-image to sexism, as well as mental health, careers, and relationships to name just a few. These were delivered by influential women speakers including many GDST alumnae and were very well received by our parent community. If you'd be interested in hearing any of them you can search for the link on the internet and tune in:

<https://www.gdst.net/parenting-and-education-podcast/>



CREATING EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES

It has been an extraordinary year at NGHS and we must thank you; we are truly grateful to everyone who has chosen to give their philanthropic support. Fundraising for bursaries continues to be our priority and as the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) celebrates 150 years this year, we join them in being even more committed to maintaining and expanding our Bursary and Assistance Programme. Currently, only one in four bursary applications receive 100% support, which means that we have to disappoint many talented girls who could benefit from the life-changing NGHS experience.

We were delighted with the engagement in the telephone campaign. I know our callers thoroughly enjoyed the conversations and we are very grateful for all the wonderful gifts made to the NGHS Bursary and Assistance Fund. The gift of education is so powerful and it's heartwarming to know that many NGHS alumnae support this sentiment.

I was pleased to see that the Minerva Circle was launched in 2021 by the GDST, a society for alumnae who have pledged to leave a gift in their will to our school. We are incredibly grateful to those alumnae who have chosen to become part of the Minerva Circle. This future gift is very much appreciated. If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your will to the school, I would be happy to talk to you.

The NGHS Glitter Ball took place earlier this year and was a great success. It was wonderful to see the parent community come together to raise funds for a transformative Sixth Form bursary. Some of our parent committee are also alumnae of the school and we are grateful for their time and efforts. I was also thrilled to see a table of alumnae at the ball; I do hope you enjoyed the evening. Our next Glitter Ball

will be in the autumn of 2024 as we look ahead to celebrating 150 years of NGHS in September 2025!

We are very grateful for all of the donations we have received this year, including the addition of a new, named bursary award for a student who started with us this September in Year 7 and will be supported right through to the Sixth Form. This is thanks to a generous donation from one of our alumnae who truly recognises the value of a lasting gift and the difference it can make.

Our Donor Tree in the Squire Performing Arts Centre continues to grow with more leaves engraved this year, why not add your own leaf? There are more details on our website.

My thanks must also go to Tim Cobb, who many of you may have spoken to during this last year whilst I was on maternity leave. He led all the campaigns and I look forward to building and creating more opportunities for bursaries through our continued fundraising. Every gift we receive makes a difference, so thank you.



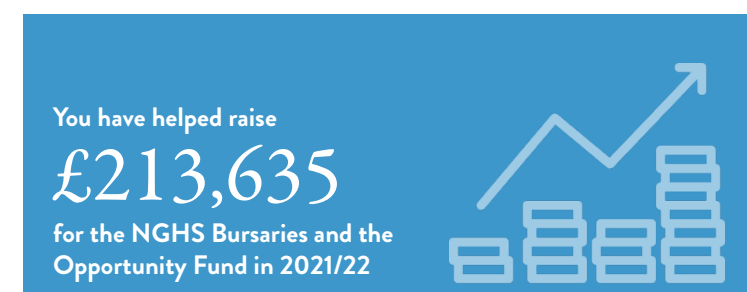
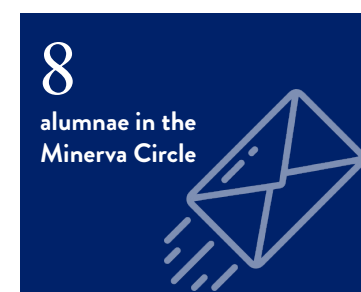
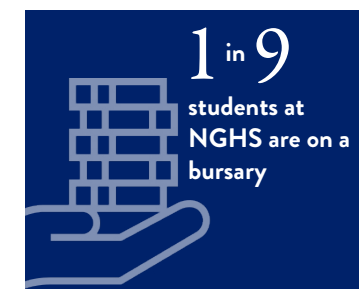
Aisling Hooper
Alumnae & Fundraising
Manager

Contact details:
+44(0)115 935 4410
FriendsOfNGHS@not.gdst.net

"I would like to say thank you so much to those who have donated to the bursary scheme – we really appreciate it. Knowing that our daughter has a bright future ahead of her is really more than we could ask for."

Parent of Full Bursary Recipient
Nottingham Girls' High School

THANK YOU



Careers Talks

We've had some really interesting and inspiring Careers talks by some of our NGHS alumnae over the years. It's one of the most popular elements of our Careers provision as our current girls really do benefit from hearing how former pupils have successfully climbed the ladder in all manner of careers. There's nothing quite like hearing these details first hand, and if this is something you feel you could help us with we'd be delighted to hear from you. You may like to come into school to do a talk, or it could be done online where distance is no object. Either way it would be really helpful to our current pupils. If you'd like to get involved then please do just drop us an email to **FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net** and we'll get back in touch.

Memories and Archives

As you'll have seen throughout this issue and previous editions of Connect, a picture says a thousand words and invokes memories of times gone by. We value our archives and are extremely grateful for anything we have been sent which we can include in them, but we're always on the lookout for more. If you have any photographs from your time at the school or any events connected with NGHS, we'd love to see them and share them with the school community. You don't have to part with any treasured pictures, you can just take a photograph and send by email to **FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net** with any relevant dates and descriptions. Or if you're happy to pop anything in the post, we'll gladly receive it. Our alumnae like nothing more than a trip down memory lane.

Lifelong connections

Do you ever look back at your NGHS days and wonder how your school friends are? Have you lost contact, or are you trying to track down an old friend who may have moved?

We often hear from alumnae wanting to get in touch with their classmates, perhaps reminisce about their school days or arrange a gathering for a particular celebration. If you are visiting friends or family in Nottingham and you have some free time and would love a look around the school again, you would of course be very welcome. Please do get in touch as our Alumnae Manager, Aisling Hooper would be delighted to help. Our doors are always open, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back for afternoon tea on Saturday 20th May 2023; everyone is welcome.



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Contact us to find out more about how you can help girls from all walks of life to learn without limits.

www.gdst.net/support/support-us

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Nottingham Girls' High School
9 Arboretum Street, Nottingham NG1 4JB
0115 941 7663 enquiries@not.gdst.net
nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net



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