

JULY 2020
Issue 18

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

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KEY WORKER FEATURE

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STAY CONNECTED

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KEEP IN TOUCH

We're always keen to keep in touch with the Claremont Fan Court community. Whether it's memories of your school days, stories of your travels, career details or reunions.

Please email alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk with your updates.

HEADS' BLOG

An extract from our April blog, entitled Freedom, written by our bursar Mrs Jane Jenkins. The blog is a reflective piece of writing in line with the school's character qualities.

Nelson Mandela simply said that freedom was an ideal he was prepared to die for. His three-hour speech, now known by the name 'I am prepared to die', was given on 20 April 1964 from the dock of the defendant at the Rivonia Trial, where he and others were accused of sabotage and imprisoned for life. Later, in 1995 when he was free and standing before Parliament as President, he said 'the time has come to accept in our hearts and minds that with freedom comes responsibility.'

www.claremontfancourt.co.uk/headsblog

Join the online alumni community

- Create an online profile
- Keep your contact details up to date
- Connect with old school friends
- Register to attend alumni events
- Receive school and alumni news

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

A warm welcome to all our alumni

"Take care of your character and your character will take care of you" – Dean Schneider

"Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world."

— Roy T. Bennett, 'The Light in the Heart'

Welcome to another newsletter – so much about making a difference! Our contemporary character and self-awareness education is not only enhancing academic performance but is also key to nurturing future "citizens of the world". Central to this cause is the increasing relevance of spirituality. The national curriculum states that each school should "aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development." For many years we have reached out to people of all faiths and no faith whilst being inspired by our Christian ethos. To build on this and be sensitive to the diversity of all stakeholders, staff and parents, we are opening our governing body to a set number of non-Christian Scientist governors. The conjunction at Governance level brings greater strength and impetus.

CFCS is now a high performing institution – a first choice school with burgeoning numbers. Thank you for joining us in spirit and in many practical ways supporting our progress as a pioneering school with increasing reach and connection to the community. Enjoy your read!

Andrew Sutherland

Chair of governors

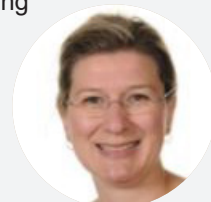


A word from the editor...

One of the most positive consequences to come out of the global pandemic is time. I have enjoyed reconnecting with undergraduates who returned home from university early and had the time to speak to current pupils. I've also spent time looking through the school's photo archive for our Monday Memory posts on Facebook each week. More recently there has been time to reflect on the Black Lives Matter movement and how I personally and professionally could do more. Our alumni community is growing and we are really pleased to welcome the new class of 2020. Do remember to keep sharing your news and encourage your own school friends and family to stay in touch.

Kelly Hilder

Alumni and development office



KEY WORKER FEATURE

We checked in with alumni working for the NHS to hear first-hand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted them. Please note our database is incomplete so if you work for the NHS or as a key worker and were not contacted, please do get in touch.

Dr Michael Carvill

Class of 2007, Radnor

Michael Carvill (pictured on the front cover) joined the University of Southampton to study Medicine in 2013, graduating in 2019 as a Junior Doctor with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS), and Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci). Michael is currently based at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, working in Cardiology and Acute General Medicine.

"Many of our team members were re-deployed to other clinical areas now requiring more medical input and rose to the challenge of learning skills and managing conditions of those in need."

However, COVID-19 is not the only disease we are treating. People still have heart attacks, appendicitis, and traumatic accidents; or managing long-term chronic conditions such as diabetes or IBD. We have found social distancing and a strong emphasis on COVID-19 has meant some patients have become unwell at home, feeling unable to come to hospital for help, and to that I would say that we are still open for anyone who feels that they need us. Working on the COVID-19 wards, assessing and managing these new patients was daunting to begin with. Simple clinical skills are now made more complex; wearing the extra PPE and struggles communicating through the mask, to give just a couple of examples.

It is important during these times to remain positive for the future. Every day we have patients all over the UK who are recovering and being moved out of ITU and eventually home to their loved ones.

"Our NHS overcomes challenges both small and large every day and we will continue to do so even through this pandemic."

I wish everyone at Claremont Fan Court and their families all the best during these times and thank you for all your continued support, it really means so much to us."



Dr Tonja Forjoe

Class of 2011, Norwood

Tonja Forjoe attended the University of Buckingham to study Law after leaving Claremont. Once she had obtained her LLB in Law, Tonja decided to pursue a career in medicine and in 2014 she gained a place at the University of Manchester. As an arts graduate Tonja was required to complete a foundation year before automatic entry onto the 5-year medicine course.

"Whilst I was embarking on my final year placements in different specialities the COVID pandemic began to take hold in the UK. This meant we were pulled out of our placements and soon after the announcement by the Health Secretary that final year medical students would be put on the "frontline", I found out via email that I was to graduate early. I was registered within 24hrs and a few days later I was placed at Royal Preston Hospital in Lancashire.

It has been difficult adapting to wearing PPE, something I had only experienced when assisting in theatres as a student, but it will soon become the new normal.

I think the most difficult aspect of the pandemic is the lack of social interaction for those admitted into hospital. With families no longer permitted to see patients face to face, the ward staff became proxy family for patients, and so we must be extra careful to manage their social and mental health needs in addition to managing their physical condition."



Staff at St Thomas's hospital wearing PPE from Claremont (see p4)



HEAD SHAVE FOR NHS CHARITY

Fred Granville (Class of 2013, Esher) will be grateful the weather has warmed up now he's shaved his head. He braved the shave in order to raise some money for the NHS University College London Hospitals (UCLH) after working with the team during the pandemic. On Saturday 18 April the clippers came out after he managed to smash his original £200 goal, raising over £1800.

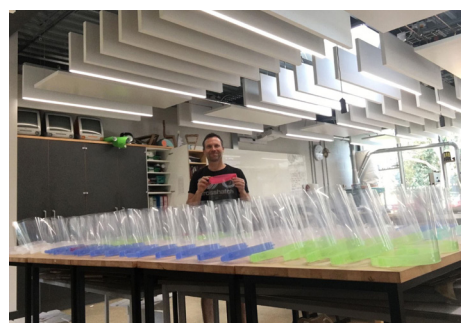
Fred was completing a physician associate course at University College Hospital London, when the course was suspended due to COVID-19. Fred was pleased to help out at the hospital when additional workers were required to cover staff shortages - a fantastic way to gain vital hospital experience during this challenging time. Well done Fred!

CLAREMONT SUPPORT THE NHS AND KEY WORKERS

During the Easter holidays, Claremont Fan Court School's science and technology department supported our local community and the NHS during the government lockdown.

A total of 120 safety specs and 6 boxes of gloves were donated to our local Princess Alice Hospice in Esher as they continue to provide vital compassionate care during this time. Our head of technology, Mr Gladstone, also designed and produced 130 protective face shields using the school's laser cutter, which were distributed to NHS staff on the front line at St Thomas's hospital in London at the beginning of April.

It is a pleasure to be able to support the community and NHS in this way and we extend our gratitude to all essential workers who continue to provide a vitally important service during these challenging times.



If you would like to share your news/memories or arrange a visit we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email alumni@claremontfancourt.sch.uk

CAREERS SUPPORT

VIRTUAL CAREERS AND UNIVERSITY PREPARATION PROGRAMME



Alumni have been taking part in a series of university preparation and virtual career Q&A sessions to help our Year 11 prepare for the sixth form and Year 13 begin thinking about life after school.

Since adopting a virtual teaching programme, our teachers have been looking at new ways to support current pupils. This is a particularly challenging time for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, who were due to sit examinations, which have now been cancelled. To ensure that our pupils continue to receive valid and engaging support as they prepare to make the next steps, we reached out to our alumni and some parent community to ask for help.

Mrs Emma Wells, head of sixth form (pastoral), developed a programme which invited our current undergraduate leavers (those still studying at university) to join a virtual Q&A session to discuss how they made the most of their time in sixth form, focusing particularly on preparation for university applications. A group of eight 2018 and 2019 leavers shared the importance of the personal statements, discussed what it's like to be a 'fresher', tips on making new friends, what to do if you decide to change course, advice on student

accommodation and the importance of a varied recipe repertoire!

On Monday 11 May, Mrs Wells also launched an employability week involving virtual lessons and life skills to prepare Year 13 for life after Claremont. Over the course of the week, 13 career professionals (11 of which were alumni) presented one-hour sessions to provide overviews of their current roles, discussing their own career pathways and giving helpful advice on how to get ahead and stand out in a competitive world. Professions and sectors included a barrister, business director, paediatrician, pilot, accountant, tv and journalism as well as those working in the world of fashion, arts, defence and civil service.

This virtual programme was such a success that we are now looking at offering regular Professional Enrichment Partnership (PEP) talks in order to reach out to more alumni as they embark on their career paths.

If you would like to get involved in the Claremont Professional Enrichment Partnership (PEP) and share your experiences, register your interest here alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk

SPORTS SERIES PODCAST

During lockdown the school sport department launched a new sport podcast series featuring alumni working in the professional sport industry. Alumni including Charlotte Lomas, Billy Harding, Nicole Shakhnazarova, Hannah Grant and Jamie Sellers were invited to share their experiences of competing at professional level, coping with the challenges and tips for pursuing a career in sport.

Listen online via: www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk/news/sports-podcast



UPCOMING EVENTS

HERITAGE OPEN DAY | Saturday 12 September 2020 11.00am - 4.00pm

The mansion ground floor rooms will be open to all for self-guided touring, with information boards provided.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, entry to the mansion will be strictly limited to timed entry only in 2020. Pre-booking is required and to ensure strict visitor number controls you will not be able to gain entry without a booking on the day. Thank you for your understanding.

Online booking from 1 August 2020

www.thelittleboxoffice.com/claremont/

CHOICE GRENFELL | Saturday 3 October 2020 - *POSTPONED*

Claremont Fan Court School is pleased to host Choice Grenfell, a wonderful tribute to the unrelentingly genteel, comedienne and monologist, Joyce Grenfell. How fitting that a play about one of our most treasured alumni written by a school alumni and playwright, Andrew Brewis, should return to the Joyce Grenfell Centre (JGC) as part of its UK tour.



SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2020 ALUMNI

Normally, the school would host a special leavers' dinner for our Year 13s to celebrate the culmination of their time at Claremont and the completion of their A levels, but as we all know this year turned out a little unexpected! In the absence of a leavers' dinner, Mrs Wells and Mr Mawson donned some cheerful fancy dress and welcomed our Year 13s as they arrived for a socially distant yearbook and hoodie collection. Not quite how we intended to say our farewells but we look forward to keeping in touch and welcoming the class of 2020 back for belated celebrations when we can.



RA

Young
Artists'
Summer
Show



Lama in lockdown blowing gum

Sienna Burns

ARTWORK SELECTED FOR ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION

We had a number of pupils, from all year groups, apply for the Young Artists' Royal Academy summer exhibition and our head of art, Mrs Williams, was delighted to hear that Sienna B in Year 7 had her piece 'Lama in lockdown blowing gum' selected for onsite and online exhibition. This is always a very competitive process and Sienna has produced a striking piece - huge congratulations!

CLAREMONT 4 CARERS

Claremont Fan Court School's fundraising campaign 'Claremont 4 Carers' was launched in support of the Princess Alice Hospice during lockdown. As key workers, the hospice continued to provide vital compassionate care for patients throughout the pandemic.

In just one week, the Senior School hit their initial £1,000 target by completing sponsored activities, and in two weeks the total more than tripled. The Pre-Prep and Nursery School then participated in a Fancy Dress Friday in May bringing the total up to over £4,000 – a wonderful achievement!



ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Jamie Morrow attended Claremont Fan Court School from 1983 - 1994. He developed a love for go-kart racing from a young age, thanks to Claremont friends. Jamie has gone on to travel the world and establish a successful career in motorsport racing, driver training and stunt work. We caught up with Jamie from his home in Florida to hear about his memories of Claremont, his achievements and future ambitions.

What are your memories of Claremont Fan Court School?

Honestly, my memory is terrible. Maybe it's too many times hitting the wall in a race car, but I do remember some of the buildings such as white cottage, the science block, the mansion, the belvedere tower (which we used to sneak out to during lunch... I don't think that was officially in the rules). There used to be a climbing frame close to the science block that I spent most of my time on.

For some reason, my most vivid memories are of walking down the hill from the top car park towards the science block each morning and walking up and down the cobbled tunnel under the mansion between classes! Oh, and seeing who could run up the red carpeted stairs in the mansion without getting caught, at that time I think only sixth formers and teachers could use those stairs, the rest of us were relegated to the back stairs.

You left Claremont in 1994 (aged 14), what did you do next?

I wasn't always the model student during my time at school, I had karting on my mind even then. I was travelling a lot for karting, so my



parents and I decided to move me to Rayden's School, closer to our house for my final year of secondary school. Once I had completed my GCSEs I left school and focused on karting. I had a variety of jobs after school from landscape gardening, to a delivery driver for a local electrical firm and then delivering cars for the local Peugeot dealer in Walton on Thames. When I turned 18 I started working at Brands Hatch Race circuit as a race driver coach and the rest is history. I've been working full time as a coach and professional race driver ever since!

How did you begin motor racing?

I was friends with two brothers at Claremont, Henry and William Sumner. They also lived very close, so I'd spend a lot of time at their

house on the weekends. Their dad was a huge petrol head and one day he came home with a go-kart for them both. They used to take the karts to the American Community School (ACS) where they had a large paved area (I guess it was used for hockey or something) and we used to drive the karts there all weekend! I loved it, the brothers weren't so taken by it, so eventually after much begging I managed to persuade my parents to buy a kart for me! I believe I was around 7 or 8 years old at the time and that was the start of my career. Unfortunately, I'm not in touch with the Sumners anymore, but I owe my career and life to Jeremy (their dad). If he's reading this then THANK YOU!

What is your greatest achievement to date?

I've been so lucky with my career. It's provided incredible opportunities that I just would not have had without it. I've travelled the world extensively, from Asia to Europe, the Middle East and, of course, the US. I've been involved with some of the most popular television shows (such as Top Gear) and movies, had opportunities to drive, coach, and meet with Royals from various countries and celebrities. Working with some of the world's most incredible brands such as Bentley, Bugatti, McLaren and Ferrari, but I guess speaking from a personal perspective my greatest achievements are winning the 24 Hours Nürburgring race twice. It's such a huge race (200,000+ spectators, 200 race cars) and the Nürburgring is the best, most dangerous and most famous track in the world, so it's a real honour to be a part of its history. Oh, and I should probably add my donut world record as well... and Bugatti. I remember when the Bugatti Veyron first came out and watching TV shows about it and now I'm lucky enough to be one of their official drivers and drive Bugatti's on race tracks around the world!

"speaking from a personal perspective my greatest achievements are winning the 24 Hours Nürburgring race twice"

What is a typical work day like for you?

There really is no typical day. Actually, I guess the most typical thing is airports and planes. I spend my life on planes and have flown over a million miles on American Airlines alone (which means I've achieved lifetime status, which is a nice perk). American actually send you a summary of your travel at the end of each year and I spend on average 196 hours a year on a plane... and that's just American Airlines! If we take flying out of it, I guess I can summarise a typical day as being at either a race track testing, racing or coaching or at a filming location shooting either a commercial, TV show or movie.

How are the COVID-19 restrictions affecting you?

The COVID-19 impact has been huge. I was actually in Belgium testing with a team's new car for the season ahead when it started to break. I managed to get back to the US, but all racing has been postponed and the manufacturers such as Bugatti have postponed all of their marketing activity. The US is a little more driven to get business moving again than the UK so I'm hoping I will start coaching work again, I have a few clients itching to get out. In terms of racing, my first race is scheduled for the last weekend in June in Belgium but we'll see if that actually happens. I'm not holding my breath.

What is the most nail-biting stunt you have done and tell us a little bit about your world record.

The Guinness World Record was for 'the most donuts in a production car'.

I think I did 284 (I should really know that!). It was part of a marketing campaign for Westfield Sportscars and we did it at a modified car show held at Silverstone in 2011. I used to love watching the Record Breakers on TV as a kid so when I had the call asking me to do the job I jumped at it. Having a Guinness World Record certificate on your wall is so cool, it's something I look at everyday (when I'm home!).

In terms of tv/film stunts, I guess the one that worried me most was having to run somebody over! It was for a British film called 'Top Dog' which was produced and directed by Martin Kemp. I had to drive at the stuntman at around 40mph, hit him and then crash into a parked car. The noise that it made when I hit him was huge and then he came through the windscreen, which I wasn't expecting! That was an interesting one for sure!

What does the future hold?

I'm now 39, so I only have maybe another 10 years of my career left. My huge ambition is to race (and win) at the 24 hours of Le Mans race. It's probably the most famous 24-hour race in the world and I'd love the opportunity to compete there and will be working hard to try and make that happen.

You can keep up to date on the latest news from Jamie via his website www.jamiemorrow.com or follow him on Twitter [@jamieMorrowPL](https://twitter.com/jamieMorrowPL).

FOND FAREWELLS

MRS ELIZABETH SHORT - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English department have said a fond farewell to Mrs Short who is retiring after 19 years at Claremont Fan Court School. Mrs Short joined the school as a supply teacher for a few days in 2002 but ended up staying and became second in charge of the English department. As well as teaching, Mrs Short ran the debating club and helped to lead the enrichment week trips to France and the Amalfi coast. We wish her a well-earned break in her retirement.



MRS BELINDA HORLEY - HEAD OF DRAMA

Mrs Horley first arrived at Claremont Fan Court School as a visiting A level drama examiner, she later joined as a member of staff in September 2006. Mrs Horley became head of drama for the senior school in 2016, making her director debut with The Sound of Music. The JGC has certainly been kept alive with the sound of music under Mrs Horley's leadership, providing lead vocals for the staff band at Rockfest 2013 and as an active member of the staff choir. Her most recent and final production, We Will Rock You, was another rip-roaring success and we wish her all the best in her new role at Kingswood House School in Epsom.



MR FRANCISCO SABATER - MFL DEPARTMENT

Mr Sabater is leaving Claremont after 7 years in the modern foreign languages department. As head of Norwood house, Mr Sabater was enthusiastically involved in plentiful house competitions. We wish him all the best as he moves with his family to Germany for a new adventure where he will become head of a large languages department at an international school.



MRS HELEN CROSBIE - MATHS DEPARTMENT

The maths department say a fond farewell to Mrs Crosbie who is leaving Claremont after 6 years. Mrs Crosbie, who also taught computer science at the school for a year, is leaving to join a new school and we wish her well in her new position.



MISS KITTY GRANVILLE - ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Kitty leaves Claremont after a year working as administration assistant following the completion of her Business Administration course. Kitty, who is an alumni (class of 2016), has been a huge help to staff in all three schools and an ever cheerful face in school. We wish her all the best in her next endeavours.



DID YOU KNOW?



CLAREMONT'S FAITHFUL COMPANIONS

In 1882, Queen Victoria gave Claremont to her youngest son, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany as a wedding gift following his marriage to Princess Helena of Waldeck and Pyrmont.

Two of the Duke's much-loved dogs, Vic and Jock, were laid to rest at Claremont and a small headstone can still be found at the back of the mansion, along the walk beneath the Belvedere. Jock was a collie born in 1872 and Vic was a fox terrier, given to Prince Leopold by his brother the Duke of Connaught, in about 1877.

In 1882, Prince Leopold visited

Battersea Dogs Home and rescued a third dog, a terrier called Skippy. This dog was photographed a few years later with Prince Leopold's young daughter, Princess Alice, who lived at Claremont with her younger brother, Charles Edward, as a child.

In 1884, while convalescing in the south of France, the Duke slipped and fell. As a haemophiliac the injuries and internal bleeding he sustained from the fall proved fatal and the Duke sadly died.

The Duchess, who was expecting their second child at the time of the Duke's death, remained at Claremont

for a further 38 years. After Queen Victoria's death in 1901, one of her dogs, a Pomeranian called Turi, was given to the Duchess. Turi was often seen accompanying the Queen on her carriage drives in the last few years of her life and appears in family group portraits.

The view from Vic and Jock's grave has recently been cleared of self-seeding trees, part of the school's ongoing restoration work, to give wonderful views of the mansion and parkland down towards Portsmouth Road. It is wonderful to imagine the royal pets of Claremont enjoying this landscape.



VIC AND JOCK
FOR MANY YEARS
THE FAITHFUL COMPANIONS
OF
LEOPOLD DUKE OF ALBANY
LIE BURIED HERE
1884

If you would like to read more about the royal family and their many pet dogs, the Royal Collection Trust's book **Noble Hounds and Dear Companions** is available for download.

FAN COURT FOCUS



FAN COURT HOUSE

The current house on the Fan Court estate was built around 1870, but a house had stood on this site for over a century prior to this. Current resident Mrs Patricia Crawford had recently set about researching the history and owners of the property and is delighted to share her findings with us. *"I started with idle curiosity and have seemingly taken on something fairly major..."*

Prior to being a school the house at Fan Court was owned by wealthy banker Sir Edward Stern, who bought the property in 1887. In 1904 Stern was Knighted and became High Sheriff of Surrey. He became a Baronet in 1922. Sir Edward's shire horses and Jersey cows were famous. He designed and built a palatial stable, which housed 16 horses and he could be seen driving his coach-and-four to the Ascot races. The stables were later converted and used by the school.

To read the full article and download Patricia Crawford's Chronology of Fan Court Estate: www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk/news/fan-court-did-you-know

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL

On 12 June 1999 an old boys reunion dinner was hosted in the Joyce Grenfell Centre to mark the 20th anniversary of Fan Court School's closing. The pre-dinner address was delivered by notable alumni, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.

James Hamilton attended Fan Court from 1945-1951 continuing on to Eton College. After school he completed his national service with the Coldstream Guards before working for a time in London. In 1990 James succeeded his father as Baron Hamilton of Dalzell making his maiden speech in the House of Lords in 1992. In 1993 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey and served as High Sheriff of Surrey until 1995. A passionate gardener he served as chairman of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens from 1997 until his death in 2006.

Visit www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk for photos and Lord Hamilton's full dinner speech.



FAN COURT SOUVENIRS BY JOHN WILKINSON



Former Fan Court alumnus **John Wilkinson (class of 1947)** shares his childhood memories of Fan Court School and his account of its foundation.

"There was a game we occasionally played, far too occasionally for me, called flag raiding. Two teams occupied the ground on either side of the drive (neutral ground) and the aim was to defend one's own flags and grab those of the enemy's base (respectively the apple store and the woodshed). Crawling through the shrubbery, observing, and using wiles to outwit the opposition gave me a thrill that soccer and cricket never did."

John Wilkinson attended Fan Court School between 1942-1947 before progressing to Harrow School. He later completed his undergraduate degree at Oxford University. From 1957-1966 John worked for oil companies in the Middle East and Laos before returning to Oxford to complete his DPhil, where he was also awarded a D.Litt, the highest Doctorate Oxford University can award. In 1969 John began teaching at the university before retiring in 1997. John Wilkinson is an Emeritus Fellow of St. Hugh's College, Oxford and is regarded as a leading expert on Oman.



OBITUARIES

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the following members of our alumni community:

Nicola Mallet (nee Hargreaves)

It was with much sadness that we learned that alumna Nikki Mallet, class of 1977, has passed away. Nikki joined Claremont in 1972 as a boarder with her younger sister Pippa (Class of 1978). A second generation of Claremont alumnae, Nikki and Pippa followed in the footsteps of their mother, Patricia, who attended Claremont from 1945 – 1952.

After Claremont, Nikki went on to attend Uppingham School to complete her A-level studies before attending Cambridge University, Trinity Hall where she studied law.

Nikki began practising law in 1982 and worked as a corporate lawyer in London.

Josette Falmand (nee Herscovici)

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Josette Flamand in April. Josette attended Claremont as an A level boarder from 1966-1967. Josette also worked as a French language assistant, giving conversation classes.

After school, Josette became an English teacher in the Paris area, and spent 5 years living in Boston, US as a translator for the CS Publishing society. Josette returned to France and lived near Paris with her husband and two children.

In 2017, Josette enjoyed reconnecting with her Claremont school friends, sharing photographs and memories of their adventures at Claremont on their 50th anniversary of leaving the school.

Meg Head

In April we learned of the passing of former Preparatory School teacher Mrs Meg Head after a long illness.

Mrs Head joined the teaching staff at Fan Court School in 1973 and transferred when the two schools amalgamated in 1978 and was a Year 3 teacher for 29 years before retiring from Claremont Fan Court School in 2004.

LASTING LEGACY

CAROLYN SCHOENFELD (NEE HALES)

In March Claremont Fan Court School was delighted to learn that we were to receive a legacy donation from the estate of alumna Carolyn Hales. Carolyn attended Claremont school as a boarder between 1946 - 1950. The funds will be used to support our Master Plan development building work and details of phase 1.2 can be found on page 15.

After leaving Claremont, Carolyn became a companion to her grandfather, often travelling with him on business. Carolyn's grandfather encouraged her to travel, and she embarked on a round the world trip, alone. She spent about a year in Australia working as a nanny on a ranch. Her trip ended in the United States, where she took up residence.

In the United States, Carolyn lived in Colorado, working for a church youth camp that was expanding nationwide from its roots in Buena Vista, Colorado. She travelled around the US meeting with individuals that were beginning new chapters of the organization and supporting them once they got underway. In 1970 she married a co-worker, Rand Falvey, initially living in Pennsylvania before returning to Colorado. Once back in Colorado, Carolyn pursued her love of horses and dressage.

Carolyn competed at Prix St. George level dressage, the beginning of the international levels of dressage competition, throughout the 1980s and 90s, accumulating countless awards and ribbons. At one point she owned five horses, including two colts that Carolyn was training to become competitors.

Carolyn's first husband passed away in the early 1980s and after a time she began dating a family friend and widower, Robert Schoenfeld. The couple eventually married.

In addition to dressage, Carolyn and Bob were devoted to their garden. For many years their extraordinary garden was included in the annual Denver Home and Garden Show tour. They were dedicated to numerous church

organizations, which included their local church, the same youth organization Carolyn began working for in the 1960s, and a care facility, where they served on the boards of each organization, as well as numerous other roles.

While Carolyn never had children in either marriage, she and Bob took a young friend, Beth, whom they had both known since 1965, under their wings. That relationship flourished over the years and Beth became part of their family and Carolyn and Bob turned into cherished grandparents to Beth's own children.

Carolyn passed away peacefully in October, 2016 at home with Bob and her daughter, in attendance. Bob passed away in December 2019.

"Carolyn's legacy of grace, wisdom and love carry on through the many lives she touched. We are blessed to have shared her journey." Beth Sharp, Carolyn's daughter.



LEAVING A LEGACY

Regardless of the size, legacy gifts are vital in helping charities like The Claremont Fan Court Foundation be able to continue their work and ensure that Claremont Fan Court School continues to invest in top quality education and facilities meeting the needs of our future generations. After providing for your family and friends you may wish to leave a charitable gift in your will to support the continued development of Claremont Fan Court School.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy gift please contact the development office development@claremont.surrey.sch.uk

LOOKING AHEAD

PREP SCHOOL

Phase 1.2 of our school development masterplan, will see the re-development of our Preparatory School in the Grade II listed Stable Court building

The school will be given a new entrance via the pedestrianised courtyard, which will provide a safe and secure focal point for our pupils and visitors to enter and leave the school.

A new double height central space will be light and airy and will include a new staircase to provide quick and easy circulation between the first and ground floor classrooms. A redesign of the central downstairs space will provide an enhanced hall and library/resource centre.

While the work takes place in Stable Court the Prep School will relocate to the Orchard buildings and White Cottage to ensure lessons continue as normal.



BURSARIES - become a regular donor

Bursaries have the ability to change lives. A 100% bursary will make an independent education at Claremont Fan Court School accessible to pupils who would otherwise never have the means to make that possible. Bursaries provide a real opportunity for social change, providing high achieving pupils from poorer backgrounds a route to a university education.

By helping the next generation to succeed you are not only guaranteeing the continued growth and success of your old school, but you will also benefit. As our school grows in reputation all pupils past and present benefit by association.

A regular donation means we can plan and guarantee financial support to bursary pupils year on year.

Downloading our donation form here: www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk/supportus

FROM THE ARCHIVES



FROM OUR LAST EDITION...

Thank you to **Natalie Bunyer (class of 2002)** who got in touch to say the nursery class photo was from 1988 (aged 4 at the time). She was able to identify the following:

Front row L-R: Marcus Robinson, Salina Scott, Shane Lalani, unknown and Dominic ?

Second row L-R: Mrs Robinson, Amy Gibbons, Tyler Brandt, Lauren Pobjoy, Giles Marsen, Natalie Bunyer and Mrs Longman.

Third row L-R: Rebecca ?, Simon Bennett, unknown, George Burt and Sarah Elhag.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

If you enjoyed reading this latest edition of the alumni newsletter, please drop us a line and let us know what you liked most.

GET INVOLVED IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Contact us to share your story with the Claremont Fan Court alumni community or make suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future editions.

You can opt out of receiving future editions of the newsletter at any time. To do this, please contact us using the contact details below.

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