

Jane Brownlee

Jane's death in May was a tremendous shock to all the staff and girls at the school. She had always been full of life, not just a colleague, but also a close friend to many in school.

Jane joined the school in 1975, following a period in Jamaica; being well-travelled, she was able to bring the excitement of her own experiences to her Geography lessons and inspired generations of girls to plan their own world trips. She had a real curiosity about the world and an impressive knowledge, not only about her own subject, but also about the arts, about literature and current affairs - a truly cultivated woman. Jane was never afraid of new ideas - rather she embraced them, as she did when Technology was introduced to AHS, volunteering for the small team of teachers who launched this new subject. Many girls have reason to be grateful for the foreign trips which she led or took part in, most recently a school cruise and a visit to Israel.

The interest which Jane had in the world was matched by her concern and care for the welfare of her students and of colleagues. A very private person herself, she was nonetheless perceptive and unobtrusively supportive to her students, assisting them with problems, and rejoicing in their successes. I have often had cause to be grateful to her; as Head of Geography, she must have found it frustrating to have a department member who, as head teacher, was often unable to attend team meetings or to contribute fully to the development of the subject. Far from criticising, Jane would make sure that I was kept up to date and always felt involved. Jane had the ability to introduce calm and order into the most fraught situations; people felt better and more optimistic in her presence.

Anyone who spent any time in Jane's company would recognise at once the immense love and pride which she had for her daughter, Kate, and her son, Ben. Her strong family ties were also evident when she flew out to Cape Town to meet her brother Robert on a late leg of his round-the-world yacht race, uncertain even whether he would reach port before she had to return home for a new term: he did.



It is still difficult to believe that Jane will not walk into the staff room in the morning, looking as immaculate and beautifully dressed as ever, always with a smile and always with something interesting to say.

Aylesbury High School has lost one of its best friends and, as many people have remarked to me, "a real lady".

Memorial assemblies for Jane Brownlee were held at the school on Thursday, 16th July.

A new Scholarship for girls in the Sixth Form wishing to travel during their gap year, has been set up in memory of Jane. Contributions may be sent to The Jane Brownlee Scholarship Fund.

Jane Wainwright

Outward Bound

In April, nearly all 180 Year 8 girls went on a personal development course at Outward Bound at Aberdyfi.

"Our adventures started with completing an obstacle course and trying not to fall in the "Grot Pot". We soon learnt that the aim of the week was to build our confidence and teach us teamwork skills. The activities which helped

us develop these skills were a blind folded rope course, crawling through a dark tunnel, abseiling, kayaking, canoeing and, best of all, zooming

down the "Big Zip" one of the largest zip wires in Europe. We also spent a night up in the mountains in log cabins or under bivvies made from polythene sheets and bits of string.

We went to Wales hoping to have fun, but we came back having achieved a lot more. Not only did we overcome our fears, but we also learnt how to work as a team and to help people when they were scared. Outward

Bound was a great experience where everyone had a lot of fun, learnt to do new things and got to know their tutor group much better."

Lauren Carre 8S



Year 9 Industry Day

On Monday, 22nd June, all of the girls in Year 9 took part in an Industry Day. Over the day, we learnt how businesses worked, both practically and theoretically.

The year group was split into groups of about 17 girls and we were then allocated a teacher who organised our activities for the day.

We ran our own business, designed food product packaging,

as well as making a poster, with a deadline of less than 6 hours.

We had to work in large groups, as well as small ones and still manage to keep our thoughts and actions organised and disciplined. We realised that for a

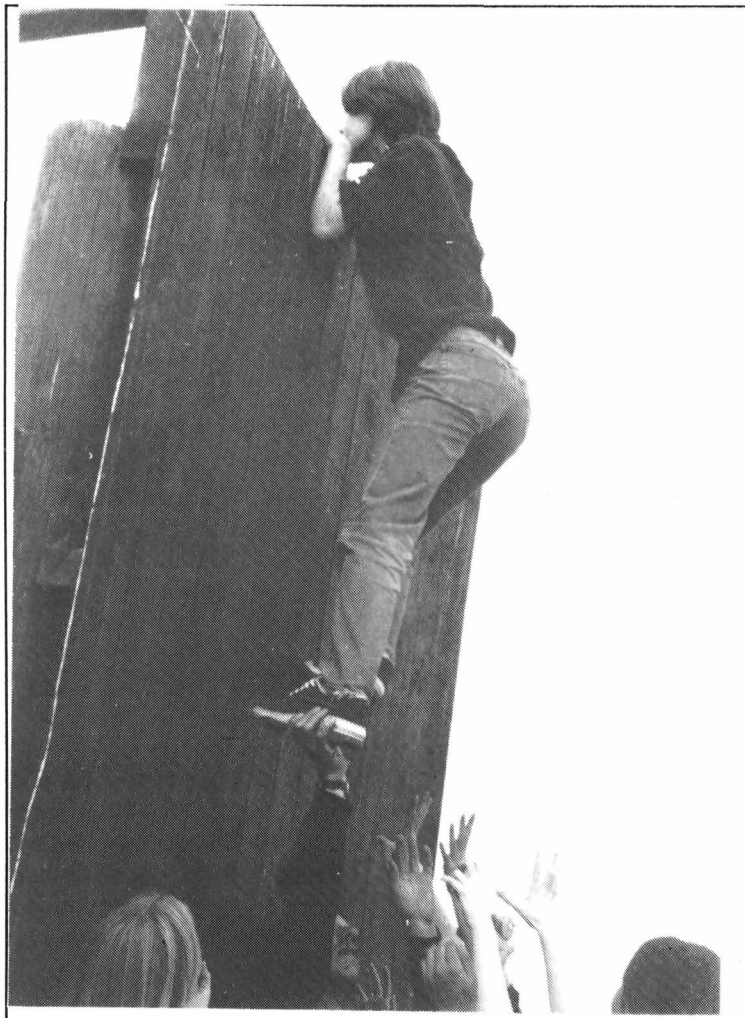
business to run properly, the employees had to work as a team.

We would like to thank the members of staff who organised the day, and made it such a success.

Sarah Jane Owen 9S

Pre-Sixth Form Course

At the end of June, Year 11 girls from the High School and other schools took part in a two and a half day induction course to help prepare them for life in the Sixth Form and beyond.



Onwards and upwards into the Sixth Form

The wide variety of activities involved a day at Caldecotte Activity Centre at Milton Keynes, working in small teams with advisers from local businesses to solve physical and mental challenges. Some of these were land-based but others were water-based, which consisted of a lot of splashing around in boats!

An activity based at school was to work with personnel from BP on an exciting computer simulation of setting up and running a chemical plant. Another activity was trying to produce and perform a ten minute version of a Shakespeare play under the expert guidance of Bryn Davies of the Motley Theatre Company. Everyone learned more about the skills of communication, time management, planning and teamwork as well as having a great time.



Very many thanks to BP for generously donating £650 towards the costs of the course and to Lorraine Waumsley, Area Co-ordinator for the BP Schools Link Scheme and Keith Crichton, our Schools Link Officer, for so generously giving up their time to help make the course so worthwhile.

Visit by MP

On the 26th June, John Bercow, MP for Buckingham, visited Aylesbury High to talk to the Year 12 politics students.

The topic of conversation ranged from Europe to the rise of Labour, with Mr. Bercow offering his own personal views on William Hague and Tony Blair. Some of the students were already acquainted with Mr. Bercow after shadowing him at his offices in Westminster. There are future plans for the would-be politicians in the group to work for him as research assistants later this summer.

**Abbie Davis 12B
Kathryn Duff 12B**

The Globe: The Merchant of Venice

We were very impressed with the theatre and we weren't disappointed by the play or the actors.

To begin with the actual play was quite hard to understand as it was all spoken as Shakespeare had written it. The characters' clothes and shoes looked very authentic as most had been hand made! We especially liked the stage as it had two huge marble pillars and a beautiful painted ceiling.

Before the play started, some characters came into the audience wearing ugly masks and kept running up to people and tickling them! Although it was freezing cold and quite wet, we really enjoyed the play and the Globe Theatre is fantastic.

**Nicki Brown 8C, Laura Blakeman 8C
& Debbie Wragg 8C**

STUDENT SUCCESSES

The Global Rock Challenge!

The Fox FM Global Rock Challenge is an experience that will be remembered fondly by the team of 30 dancers, stage crew and Mrs. Surguy. After hours of rehearsals, on the 26th March we travelled to Oxford to perform our powerful dance piece based on the theme of "Women".

During the day, we rehearsed on the Oxford Apollo stage and carefully observed the opposition which consisted of some wonderful pieces by fourteen other schools in the region.

As the evening approached, the nerves rose, but the performance was stunning. Individual awards were handed out and we were pleased to receive best dramatic representation. After an agonizing wait, we were rewarded, we had won the competition!



With a Gold Disc award, a £250 cheque and a place in the Portsmouth Southern final in 3 days time, a lot had to be organised.

In Portsmouth, again an excellent performance was displayed. Although

we did not win the final, we were pleased to win the "Student Leadership" award.

We all had a superb time and Aylesbury High School will undoubtedly win next year!

Davina Shingadia 12U

National Festival of Youth

The Chamber Choir was one of fourteen choirs to perform in the National Festival of Youth at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham on 23rd June. The choir of 45 girls from Years 8 - 13, sang pieces by Mendelssohn, Head and Lane to a packed audience. **Jane Mitchell** (12W), flute and **Sarah Pleeth** (12G), cello, played in an ensemble which won the Outstanding Performance Award. It is hoped that the ensemble will take part in the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in November.

Opening of the Drama Building

The new Drama building with its Drama Studio and IT room was opened by Councillor Mrs. Freda Roberts, MBE on April 24th.

The girls who won the Global Rock Challenge in Oxford in March performed their spectacular dance/drama act, watched by invited guests, including some of the trustees of the William Harding Charity, whose grant to us made possible the equipping of the studio with state of the art, high-tech lighting and sound systems.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Recycled Fashion Show

The Recycled Fashion Show was held at the Civic Centre on the 21st May. It was hosted by SAVE which stands for Support Aylesbury Vales Environment. The evening was organised to make the younger generation stop and think about our environment. Mrs. Freda Roberts (Council Chairman), who was also part of the panel of judges, awarded the prizes to the participants. There were about twenty girls from AHS aged from 12 - 16. Here are this year's winners and runners up.



Novelty Wear - 1st place **Sarah Ross**, Runner-up **Sarah Dobson**

Evening Wear - 1st place **Liz Littlewood**, 2nd place **Davinia Roberts**, 3rd place **Laura Bennison**.

Day Wear - 1st place **Claire Banks**, 2nd place **Sarah Hall**, 3rd **Laura Mariott**.

It was a really fun evening and remember, you can make anything out of crisp bags, bottle tops or bits of rubbish. You are only limited by your imagination. Next year, when this event is held why don't you give it a go and be part of its success?

Sarah Ross 8M

1998 Argos Business Challenge

On the 29th April, four of our Year 13 Business Studies students won the £2,000 First Prize in the National Final of the Argos Business Challenge Competition. The team was Carolyn Phillips, Melanie Phillips, Allison Hudgell and Nabila Saddiq.



Allison Hudgell, Melanie Phillips, Carolyn Phillips and Nabila Saddiq

The team had won its way through three rounds including a Regional final and then the National final. After writing reports and making presentations to the Board of Directors, the final culminated in a simulated Board meeting.

According to the judges, it was the team's thorough preparation, excellent presentation skills and ability to think on their feet which won them the day.

MEET THE TEAM

CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts team covers a wide range of subjects: art, textiles, drama, dance, PE and music.

Peter Austin has been at AHS since the 1970s having come here from a previous life in the Bahamas! He is now Head of Sixth Form and steps down from being Leader of the Creative Arts Team in September. **Mrs. Brenda Eaton** has taken over the responsibilities for running the Curriculum Area. Mr. Austin continues to be an Inspector of Art for OFSTED and an Art Examiner for GCSE and A Level.



Peter Austin: Head of Sixth Form

Interests: driving down to Tuscany looking forward to the pool, a glass of Chianti and a stack of American Crime Fiction, painting (but it gets too stressful!), old electric guitar and useless John Lee Hooker impressions, cooking (especially Italian), listening to cool jazz.

Mrs. Brenda Eaton: Co-ordinator Creative Arts, Co-ordinator PSE, Team Leader for Drama

Interests: Going to the theatre, playing golf, good food and drink and good company.

Mrs. Sue Roberts: Art Teacher with responsibility in the Art team.

Interests: Looking at art and creating my own, gardening, walking, looking after our many animals.

Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins: Art and Textiles teacher, with responsibility in the Art team.

Interests: Drawing, painting, gardening, family and friends.

Mrs. Avril Thompson: Director of Music

Interests: Skiing, theatre, travelling, especially Italy, and France.

Miss Naomi Payne-Cook: Teacher of Music

Interests: Cello playing, travel, learning Swedish, theatre and reading

Mrs. Susan Fellowes: part-time Music teacher and piano teacher.

Interests: Keeping chickens, playing the organ and making bread.

Mrs. Sally Surguy, Responsible for Dance, teacher of Drama.

Interests: Languages, water colour painting and lace making.

Mrs Alison Arber: Head of P.E. Department.

Interests: Hockey and any sport, travel and being invited out to dinner.

Mrs. Sue Furneaux: Teacher of PE and team coffee maker

Interests: Walking with or without the dog. Almost any sport but netball is top of the list.

Ms. Bridget Footer: Too many responsibilities to mention - but not coffee maker!

Interests: Cooking, walking the dog, computers, gardening, all sports - watching or doing!

Athletics

Several of our girls have already had a good season:

Emily Dover 10C was selected to represent Bucks in the Heptathlon later in July. Emily's total for her "trial" heptathlon was 2,647 points.

Congratulations to the following who all qualified to represent Bucks in the English Schools on July 10th/11th in Exeter:

Lara Poole (8M)

1m 50 in the High Jump, 1st in County Championships.

Crystal Condie (9H)

200m (27.7s), 1st in County Championships.

Freya Coombe (11W)

Javelin, New County Record 35.37m., 1st in County Championships

Hannah Dawson (12W)

Shot, 10.01m, 1st in County Championships

Other good performances at **County Championships**:

Lucy Milson-Watkins

200m, 3rd in heat

Jenny Lee

Discus, 2nd in final 18.95 personal best

Vicki Frith - Shot, 3rd in final

Tennis

Senior Midland Bank Cup

Helen Lawson, Helen Adam, Elinor Graveson and **Claire Fowler** lost narrowly to Queenswood School in the 3rd round.

It has also been a busy summer of tennis fixtures. The PE department would like to thank everyone who has played for the school this year.

Bridget Footer
PE Team

Congratulations to

Bryony Freeman (9H) who has been presented with a special medal by the Guiding Association for her courage in the face of the physical difficulties she has experienced during the past few years.

Corrosion, one of our Year 12 Young Enterprise companies, which won awards for "Best Presentation" and "Best Company Report" at the Young Enterprise presentation evening and were runners up in the selection of a company to represent Bucks in the national competition.

Zoe Alexander 12W, who has been accepted by the National Youth Theatre to perform in their new season.

A Beacon is lit!

The High School is one of 75 schools in the UK to be chosen as a Beacon School. This new government initiative encourages the sharing of good practice with other teachers and schools. More news in the next issue.

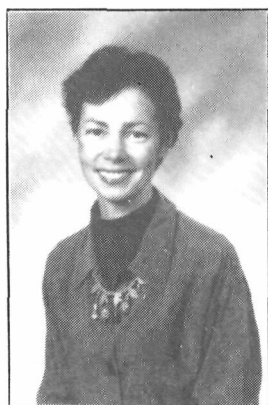
Maths News

Owing to half of Year 8 being in Aberdovey, only 45 girls took part in the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge. However, 26 girls obtained certificates. The other girls were given the opportunity to try the challenge and 38 girls achieved school certificates including **Lara Clarke (8M)** who scored 95%. Well done to all who took part.

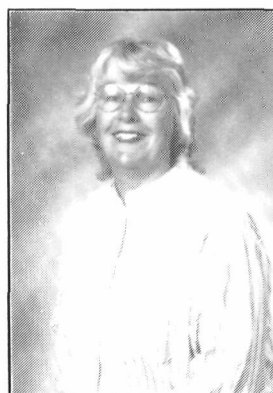
If you have any news of former pupils we would love to hear about it.

Ed

MEET THE TEAM, cont.



Mrs. Ros Irvine (left) and **Mrs. Margaret Harding** (right) are also part-time members of the Drama Team



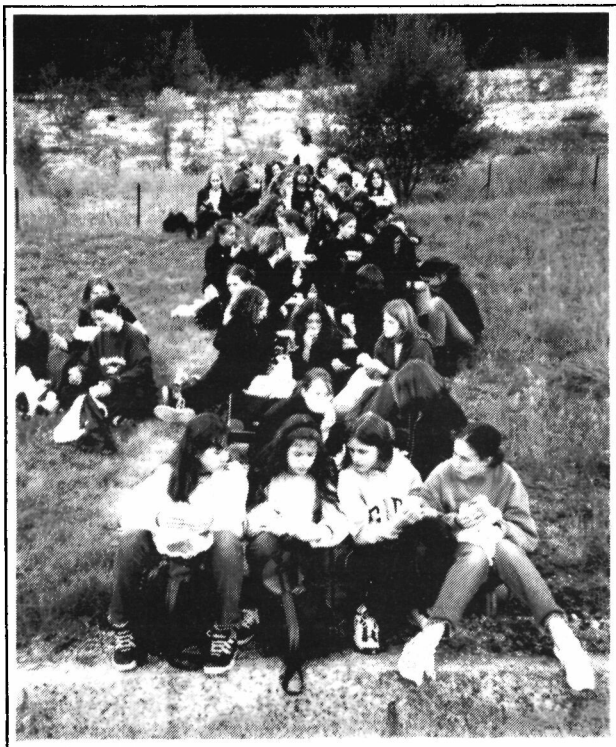
Mrs. Di Oldfield (left), part time Art teacher. **Interest:** painting and drawing. recently exhibited work in Bucks Art Week. visiting galleries in between walking my labrador dog.

Mrs. Marion Creswell, (right) Art technician **Interests:** Playing cards, reading, crosswords and gardening.



The Year 9 Trip to Reims

On Thursday, 11th June, 45 girls and a group of teachers set off for a long weekend in Reims, France. The girls stayed in groups of two or three with a French family.



Dejeuner sur la route!

We set off for Dover harbour at 7 a.m. on Thursday morning and arrived in Reims in the evening. After being introduced to our French families, we went to their houses for supper.

During the five days we visited a chocolate factory, some champagne cellars, a museum and a fine art gallery, as well as fitting in a lot of shopping and a visit to the hypermarket.

Overall, we had a wonderful trip and would like to thank the teachers who gave us their time and energy to make it such a success. We all learnt a lot and there is no doubt that our French improved.

Sarah Jane Owen 9S

Aylesbury High School Association

Since the last edition of Highlights we have been very busy.

The countdown to the Alton Towers trip on 3rd April was, at times, fraught with difficulties. Whilst we were delighted with the response from the girls we hadn't anticipated quite such an overwhelming demand. However, we managed to largely satisfy everyone's need to sit next to their friends on the coaches and have a good time at Alton Towers. For the record, 365 girls went and all were returned safely, if a little tired.

In May we organised the Leavers Ball for the Upper Sixth. The evening was a great success, with the girls, their boyfriends and teachers having a lot of fun at The Civic Centre. It was our opportunity to say "goodbye" to them and to give them a night to remember.

Finally, we have donated **£10,000** to the school for more IT equipment to further improve the facilities available for all our daughters.

Thank you for all your support during the year and we look forward to providing a full programme of exciting, fun events for next year.

Iain Crockatt

Benedict Rubbra Retrospective Exhibition

23 Year 10 girls from Mrs. Watkins textiles class visited Buckinghamshire Art Gallery in Aylesbury to look at the Benedict Rubbra Retrospective Exhibition.

The exhibition is based on Rubbra's use of light, colour and space and the handling of his media, for example, paint, pencil or chalk.

With three rooms full of oil paintings, water colour washes and chalk sketches, the exhibition holds a variety of his work through his life. In each room Rubbra had a quotation which explained or gave reasons for the paintings displayed and why he chose the titles.

The trip was very interesting and helped us to understand the ideas of Rubbra. I'm sure that our textiles class and projects will benefit from the visit.

Emily Sexton 10M

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