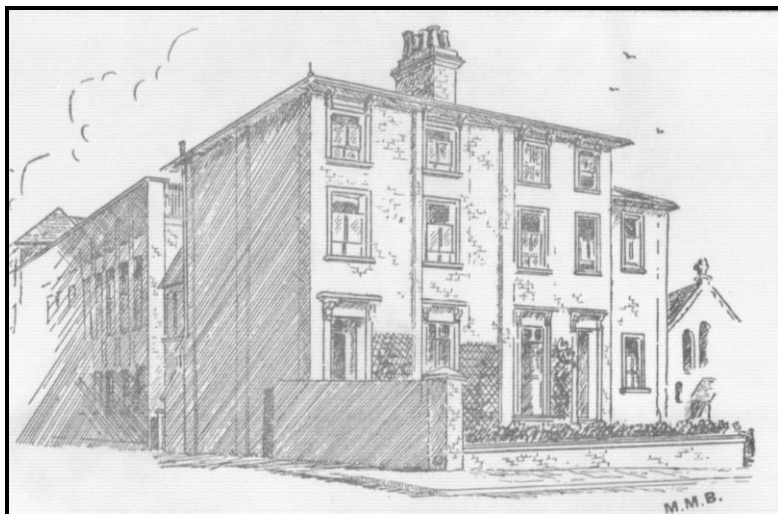


The Fairview Chronicle



"Loyal and True to you, dear Convent Home"



February 2022



**Brentwood Ursuline Alumnae Society
Committee Members**

**President – Vicky Squirrell
Honorary Member – Richard Wilkin, Headteacher, BUCHS**

Committee:

Chairman:	Marian Mann (née Butler – left school 1977) (e-mail: mrимann@Hotmail.com)
Vice Chairman and Reunion Administration:	Ruth Westrip (née Richards – left school 1973)
Treasurer:	Janet Dean (née Thompson) – left school 1969)
Secretary:	Angela Corless (e-mail: acorless@buch.s.co.uk)
Chronicle:	Valerie Ichikawa (née West) – left school 1959) Ann Camp (née Moloney) Michaela Langstone (née Cole - left school 2004)

Please address queries regarding membership to alumnae@buch.s.co.uk

Front Cover: Fairview, drawn by Sister Bernard (Mother Mary Bernard)
taken from the souvenir card for the Old Girls Meeting on 30 May, 1945.

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## **Chairman's Report**

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Fairview Chronicle.

Well, another year has flown by... I must say, that I find it strange how quickly time has passed since we were first affected by the pandemic and all the limitations that it placed on us. I wonder if you have experienced the same feeling? Time has not seemed to drag by, as I would have expected – rather it has rushed past! Hmm – oh dear, perhaps that effect is merely due to getting older!

Whilst it has been nice to see many facets of life finally returning to some sort of new normal – the fact remains that, over the past year, many events and opportunities fell victim to inevitable restrictions. We on the committee were SO sorry that, once again, we had no option but to cancel the Alumnae Annual Reunion for the second year running. What a disappointment that was...

However, I am delighted to report that we are certainly planning for the Reunion finally to go ahead this May! The school itself has been striving to return to as normal a setting as possible – and is once again welcoming outside groups back onto the premises. It will truly be a pleasure to welcome everyone back to our old school, to meet up with old friends and exchange news after so long!

I very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this coming 15<sup>th</sup> May... Put the date in your diaries now!

With best wishes,

**Marian**

**Marian Mann (née Butler, 1970-77)**

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## **Treasurer's Report**

Having had two years without a Reunion, the account balances changed very little. Expenses were limited to the costs associated with sending Chronicles to alumnae who wish to continue receiving a copy by post.

There is £1044.88 in the bank and £96.36 petty cash. Further postage will be required when the 2022 Chronicles are ready to send.

Yet again, there have been members who generously sent donations during the year, for which we thank them.

**Janet Dean (née Thompson)**

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## **Memorabilia**

The memorabilia stand at the Reunion is always very popular, so if you have photos or other items, please bring them along to add to the display.

We would like to thank Dawn Miller (née Maynard) for the items she recently donated to the collection, including old photos and Chronicles etc., which belonged to her mother, Ethel Ringe.

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### **We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Reunion**

For catering purposes we need to know how many will be attending. If you received this Chronicle by post you will also have received a reply sheet, so please fill this in and return it to let us know if you will be attending or not. If you received your Chronicle by e-mail would you kindly respond to: [alumnae@buchs.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@buchs.co.uk); Thank you.

There is no longer an annual subscription payable to the Society, but there will be a charge of £5.00 at the door to cover the cost of teas and other expenses involved in opening the school for our Annual Reunion.

# The Next Annual Reunion is on Sunday, 15 May, 2022

Our Speaker will be  
Angela Kilmartin (née Mendham)  
Her talk is entitled  
"Duty - a Burden and a Blessing"



Angela was at the Ursuline between 1945-1958 (she thinks!)

On leaving school, she went to train at the famous Lucie Clayton Modelling Agency and this was followed by five years as an Haute Couture model in Mayfair and the best London fashion houses, in the days when it was highly regarded.

Angela went on from there to train as a professional soprano at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and there then followed many scholarships and Essex County drama and opera awards. Music is still important to her, as she still actively sings in and around Witham, after a lifetime of high quality classical church music in the City of London - of which she is a Freeman.

Cystitis, for seven terrible years following her 1966 marriage, brought her into researching, writing, lecturing and media work on how to prevent this common condition, and throughout the '70s, '80s and '90s she campaigned on radio, TV and in the media for awareness of the condition and also that of mercury poisoning from teeth fillings. Angela has travelled widely over the years and lived for seven years in Lagos and Jeddah accompanying her then husband and bringing up two children. Angela now resides in Witham where she is a Witham Town Councillor and holds the chairmanships of the town Luncheon Club, the Witham Town History Group and the Witham Town Planning and Transport sub-committee, and - in addition to all of this, she was recently Chairman of Braintree District Council.

## URGENT REQUEST - THE ALUMNAE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

For various reasons, the committee currently finds itself down in numbers, and we really do need some new volunteers to join our ranks... COULD THIS BE **YOU**?

The job is really **not** at all onerous ... and in fact, it is enjoyable being involved! - We really are quite a nice bunch of people!

We only meet three times a year... Once in the Autumn for a couple of hours, and then again in January (often going out for lunch after the meeting!) – and then arrive in the morning on the day of the Reunion in May, to get things set up. The more of us there are, the easier it is for everyone.

If you live within reasonable reach of Brentwood (we have had members from as far afield as Walton-on-the-Naze and Cambridge) – and you think that, perhaps, it would be nice to give something back to your school – then PLEASE do consider joining the Committee. You will be given a very warm welcome. If you are interested – or just to find out a bit more – please email Marian on [mrermann@hotmail.com](mailto:mrermann@hotmail.com).

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Past Pupil News

It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of the following past pupils:

- **Olive Mary Wasteney** (known by her second name Mary) on 13 June, 2021, just before her 84th birthday. Mary had a brother, Norman, and lived in Brentwood most of her life, apart from during the war when she spent some time in Torquay. She started school at the UHS after the war, and her interest in mathematics remained with her throughout her life. Mary's mother ran the drapers shop in Kings Road, Brentwood, where some of us may remember purchasing our school uniforms, and after leaving school Mary worked there

too. Her hobbies included tennis and badminton and she was secretary of Hutton Badminton Club for many years. Mary's friend of over 80 years was Joyce, who still lives in Brentwood and they spent many holidays together and enjoyed the same activities. Mary spent a lot of time with her nieces and nephew and was godmother to all three of them. She enjoyed gardening, and was a member of the Women's Institute in Chignal Smealey. Mary had health problems during the last ten years of her life and moved from her beloved family home to Chelmsford to be nearer her family members. This information was received from Mary's niece Jackie Turner.

- **Pat King** (Patricia Olive, **neé Nunn**) was born on 21 September, 1938 at Stratford Maternity Hospital. Her brother Basil was born three years before Pat. The family lived in East Ham, but serious bomb damage led them to move to Upminster in 1942. Pat started at Cedar Avenue Infants School at four and a half at the same time as her oldest friend, Dizzie (Diana Pratt), who died only a few weeks previously to Pat. They progressed together through Upminster County Primary ("the Bell School") to the Ursuline Convent School, Brentwood until she left school in 1956. Following a Secretarial Course in her last year at School, she joined a small merchant bank in the City of London. Within months she was Secretary to the Managing Director. After a few years, she progressed to Secretary/P.A. to the Chairman. Among her duties were managing the Directors' Dining Room and Kitchen, and in cooperation with the Boss's wife, arranged and organised the staff Christmas Party (for around 250 people including partners) at prestigious London Hotels. One August he commanded her to fly down to the South of France to take some shorthand. She did nothing that might be called work and was able to explore the shops of Cannes and Monte Carlo with the Boss's wife. Pat married Mike at St Laurence's Church Upminster, on 20 June, 1964. She prepared for her son's birth with the National Childbirth Trust, supporting their work locally and becoming a Breastfeeding Counsellor.

Pat would often say that her 22 years on the Havering Bench was one of the most satisfying things she had done, only brought to an end by compulsory retirement at age 70. She served on all the various aspects of the Bench, except Licensing, which did not interest her. She was particularly committed to the Family Panel where sometimes very difficult decisions had to be made about the future of a small child. Eventually she was elected by her peers to be Deputy Chairman of the Havering Bench. She was a member of the Inner Wheel for 45 years, and during this time was approached to serve as a member of the Council of Management of a small national charity, Wireless for the Bedridden, then based in Hornchurch. Eventually she became Chairman, a post she filled for ten years. As President of the local Inner Wheel club, she was invited to join Tangent where she much enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship. She was a founder member of the Harwood Ladies Probus Club.

She never articulated a particular desire to put service above self. She was impressed by the philosophy of another lifelong close friend she met in the Rangers: if everyone helped another when they saw the opportunity, how much better off collectively we all would be. Through her work on the bench she certainly influenced the lives of many. One of her close friends said that by suggesting she came to Confirmation classes at St Laurence she changed her life. Much of her early social life revolved around the Guild of St Laurence. Pat was an innately kind person and a loyal friend. She could always be relied upon to help a friend in difficult circumstances and was a great support to elderly neighbours over the years. She was a devoted and selfless mother and was immensely proud of her son James, and his achievements, and particularly happy about his marriage to Victoria and the arrival of grandson Sam.

We are grateful to her husband for the above notes taken from his eulogy at Pat's funeral on 12 August 2021.

Pat was a dedicated and long-serving member of the Old Girls, and Fairview Society, and recently the Alumnae. Her contribution to the committee will be much missed.

- **Dr Anne Mary Scott (née Conway).** Anne was born on 9 January, 1940, the third of nine children. She started at BUCHS in 1952 and became Head Girl in 1958 when she left and entered the convent. She took her religious vows in 1961 and until 1979 was known as **Sister Jude**. She graduated from Oxford with a BA (Hons) in 1965, and returned to school as an English teacher becoming Headmistress in 1970. She married Joseph Scott in 1982 and was appointed Headmistress/6th Form English teacher at St Joseph's, Lincoln in 1984. In 1993 they emigrated to Australia where she completed her PhD in 1997 at University of Western Australia (UWA).
A natural educator and academic, with a bright mind and clear voice that easily engaged listeners, she set high standards for her own work, drawing the best from others through encouragement and example - a quality that marked her career as an editor and leader in academic organisations. She was internationally recognised as a foremost scholar of pre-modern thought and culture at the Centre of Excellence, UWA with 19 published books 1999-2021.
A widow since 2016, Anne died in Perth, WA after a short sojourn with Glioma and T12 fracture.
This information was kindly provide by Anne's sisters, Rosie Conway Smith, and Patricia Bazley-White.



Dr Anne Mary Scott (née Conway),
9 January, 1940 - 3 September, 2021

- **Wendy Moore (née Ricketts).** Wendy died suddenly and unexpectedly on 17 August 2021 of a heart attack. She was born in Hutton just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Early in her working life she worked as a secretary for the Jaeger fashion brand, where she was used at least once as a model, being a perfect size 10. She married in the 60's and had three children, Jenny, Lesley and Mark. Wendy then became involved in Swan & Moore Assessors with her husband, Peter, the founder of the business. Widowed in 1986, with three children to support, Wendy had to immerse herself fully in the business. She bought a property in Hullbridge where she lived for the rest of her life. She also became a bee keeper, and enjoyed sailing up and down the River Crouch on her boat.

Wendy had six grandchildren, and sadly missed becoming a great grandmother to Millie born just a week after she passed away.
- **Heather Bowcher (nee Parker)** passed away in September 2021 at the age of 89. This sad news was received from her daughter, Nicki Marshall. Nicki said that her mother was a pupil at the Ursuline Convent back in the 1940s, and always talked about her time there, having enjoyed it so much, and it made a lasting impression on her. Later she was involved in the 'Old Girls' organisation for many years.

Sadly the last years of her life were cruelly taken from her and the family by dementia but she remained their lovely gentle mum.

The Alumnae owe a debt of gratitude to Heather for her contribution to the Fairview Society, now the Alumnae. She was one of the founding members of the Fairview Society when it was formed by a group of former pupils following the disbanding of the Old Girls Association in around 2000. Heather was appointed Secretary, a position she held until 2013, when she resigned due to ill health, and she also edited the Fairview Newsletter for a number of years.

- **Doreen Wilson (nee Locke)** - Doreen was a student at the school from 1941-47. She passed away on May 5th 2021, just shy of her 91st birthday. In 1997 Doreen wrote a memoir of her school days, and we hope to include an extract from that in next year's Chronicle.

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Facebook

A reminder that our Alumnae Society has a thriving Facebook Page – now with over 1,400 'Likes'!

www.facebook.com/BrentwoodUrsulineAlumnaeSociety

There is also another Facebook page which may interest you entitled "Memories of Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School".

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## URSULINES REUNITED

On our Facebook page, over the past couple of years, we have had quite a lot of requests to link up former pupils with their erstwhile classmates.

Unfortunately, however, we cannot do this via this Facebook page - AND SO - we have decided to include this new feature in every Chronicle from now on, so that it will provide a chance for some of you to connect with people that you may have lost touch with.

If you would like to try and link up with your contemporaries from your school-days, please email your request - with your name (whilst at school!) and your years, and any message - to the Membership Secretary on [alumnae@buchs.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@buchs.co.uk) under the subject heading '**Ursulines Reunited**'. You will than be featured in the next edition.

(PLEASE BE AWARE that by doing this, it denotes that you are happy for your personal email address to be featured in the Chronicle.) **Messages:**

**Rita Drysdale-Gordon (née George)**, would like to contact a family member or anyone who remembers **Carmen Fisher (née Sena)**.

Carmen left school in 1948, and had a sister called Susan. Carmen lived in Gidea Park. You can contact Rita at:

[Ritamarygeorge@Gmail.com](mailto:Ritamarygeorge@Gmail.com), or 34 Crow Green Road, Brentwood, CM15 9RP.

## Video

There is a very interesting video on YouTube of all the events that took place to celebrate the opening of the new St. Angela's wing in April 1964. You might even spot yourself or your friends, if you were there!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmCBa6Dnp0Q>

(Many thanks to James Barber for posting this, and other, school videos.)

### **Brentwood Ursuline Alumnae Society - Annual Reunion 2022**

**Reunion Date:** Sunday, 15 May, 2022  
**Venue:** Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School, Queen's Road, Brentwood, CM14 4EX

#### **Programme:**

|                         |                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.00 – 1.50 p.m.</b> | <b>Registration</b>                                           |
| <b>2.00 p.m.</b>        | <b>Meeting: Guest Speaker: Angela Kilmartin (née Mendham)</b> |
| <b>3.00 p.m.</b>        | <b>Tea in the Refectory</b>                                   |
| <b>5.00 p.m.</b>        | <b>Close</b>                                                  |