

# The Fairview Chronicle



"Loyal and True to you, dear Convent Home"



**January 2019**



**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: <a href="mailto:mrilmann@Hotmail.com">mrilmann@Hotmail.com</a> )
Vice Chairman:	Sheila Wright (née Flynn – left school 1969)
Treasurer:	Janet Dean (née Thompson) – left school 1969)
Chronicle:	Valerie Ichikawa (née West – left school 1959)
Reunion Administration:	Ruth Westrip (née Richards – left school 1973) Pat King (née Nunn - left school 1956)
Secretary:	Angela Corless (e-mail: <a href="mailto:acorless@buchs.co.uk">acorless@buchs.co.uk</a> )
Alumnae:	Lucy Scully (left school 2004) Catherine Lee (née Flannery – left school 1974) Charlotte Windley

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To contact the Alumnae, or a Committee Member (if her e-mail address is not shown next to her name), please e-mail [Alumnae@buchs.co.uk](mailto:Alumnae@buchs.co.uk), or write c/o BUCHS, Queens Road, Brentwood, CM14 4EX.  
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**Front Cover:** Fairview, drawn by Sister Bernard (Mother Mary Bernard) taken from the souvenir card for the Old Girls Meeting on 30 May, 1945.

# Chairman's Report

Hello Everyone,

It was wonderful to see so many past pupils of the School gathered together last May for our Annual Alumnae Reunion!

Astonishingly, we had 'girls' attending who represented the past EIGHT decades – from the 1940s to the recent 'Teens! What an achievement! We were also absolutely delighted to welcome quite a number of former Staff, including two former Headteachers – Helen Penny and Vicky Squirrell. It was lovely to hold the meeting in the Hall once again, instead of the Chapel, where it has been held in recent years.

We all listened to a fascinating talk by former pupil Oonagh Werngren MBE (née Keefe) about her most interesting and inspiring career in the Oil and Gas Industry – not normally an occupation associated with women – and also the way in which she is actively encouraging young women to consider this occupation as a career choice.

It occurs to me that amongst all our members, we must have girls who have enjoyed successful careers in just about every field you could think of! We are always on the lookout for speakers for our Reunions. It might well be the case that people would be most interested to hear all about YOUR career. Please consider whether you would be willing to give a short talk, outlining your job, how you came to it, and where it may have taken you. Our School has fostered such a multiplicity of vibrant, independent and talented women over the years. It would be lovely to hear about some of the various career routes that they have taken!

Looking forward to seeing everyone again next May – don't forget that it is on the third Sunday in the month from now on!

Best wishes to you all,

**Marian**

**Marian Mann (née Butler, 1970-77)**

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# Treasurer's Report

The Alumnae Society has a bank balance of £1607.18 and £96.31 petty cash. Some of that will be used to cover the cost of stamps and stationery to send the 2019 Chronicle to alumnae who have requested to continue receiving it by post.

Again, thank you to some members who have, once more, generously sent donations.

**Janet Dean (neé Thompson)**

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## ***A Stick of Rock***

"32 Years with the Ursuline - as a pupil and  
then a teacher - providing much fertile  
ground for reflection and humour!" -  
this year's talk by Pat McCarthy at the  
Annual Reunion on Sunday,  
19 May, 2019

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Pat McCarthy was born Patricia Mary Flynn in 1954. Her sister Sheila is three years older than her and she followed her to the Brentwood Ursuline in 1965, where she was extremely happy for seven years.

She completed a Secretarial Course in the Sixth Form and after one year with her local Council went to the Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham to train to be a teacher. She worked at Canon Palmer Catholic High School from 1976-1988 with breaks for childcare. She and her husband, Gerry, have two children (an Ilford Ursuline girl, Erin and a Champion boy, Barney) and two small grandchildren.

In 1988 she moved to the Ilford Ursuline High School and retired from the Ursuline Academy Ilford in 2013 as Vice Principal.

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 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 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.

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## **Annual Reunion – 2018**

**held on Sunday, 20 May, 2018 at  
The Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Committee members. The outgoing Membership Secretary, Ann Camp, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Lucy Scully has taken over from her as Membership Secretary. The names of past pupils who sadly had died recently were read out, and these are shown elsewhere in this Chronicle. As usual everyone was asked to stand up to indicate the decade in which they left school. The 1930s and 1940s each had only one representative, and only two who had left after 2010, but other decades were well represented. Several former members of staff were also present, including two ex-Head Teachers. The Treasurer, Janet Dean, reported the Society had £36.81 in petty cash, and £1,400 in the bank. The balance remains almost unchanged, despite the annual subscription being abolished, mainly because the school has not charged for the use of the hall for annual reunions, and members attending pay £5 to cover the cost of the tea provided. The Society exists to enable past pupils to get together for reunions and the aim is just to cover the costs for the day, plus postage for sending out Chronicles by post for those who wish to receive them that way.

The committee had agreed to hand over the proceeds of the raffles held at the annual reunions to the school, together with extra funds held the Society, and this enabled us to make a donation of £1,000 towards the refurbishment of the science classroom. Further support to the school can be given by a small regular donation, e.g. £3 per month, plus Gift Aid, which would be a great help. Standing Order forms were available for members wishing to take advantage of this opportunity.

There will be an Annual Leavers Assembly on Friday, 25 May, 2018, for Year 13 girls (and also for boys who have been admitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form since 2016). Ruth Westrip and Lucy Scully will attend on behalf of the Alumnae and hand out a school badge to each leaver. There are new GDPR rules effective from 25 May, 2018. E-mail and postal addresses are only used for forwarding Chronicles and Newsletters etc. but if anyone wishes to have their name and details removed from our mailing lists please let a committee member know. This year's speaker, **Oonagh Werngren, MBE (née Keefe)** was introduced. Oonagh was at school from 1970-1977 and several of her family members also attended the school. She gave an inspirational talk about her work for BP and in the oil and gas industry, and as a promoter of careers for women. She said she first received inspiration from her Geography teacher, Margaret Haresnape (also a former UHS pupil). She then attended a polytechnic and took Geology as part of a Geography unit, followed by obtaining a degree in Geology. Her uncle worked in Fiji and she helped him mapping road sections and landslides and came back to the UK with field experience. She obtained a Masters Degree at night school. Offshore drilling started in the late 1960s, but it was difficult for woman to get into this, and it was not until the 1980s that she started to work offshore for an oil company and became a technical expert in understanding drilling and production of hydrocarbons. In the 1980s and 1990s she worked for BP in the UK, Houston, and Anchorage, Alaska, then became a Drilling Manager, and for the next five years was responsible for drilling operations across the whole of the UK, Norway and The Netherlands.

She was headhunted to work in another organisation and lived and worked in France and Germany on projects all around the world. Her final job was working with a trade association for the oil and gas

industry bringing companies together to explain what was going on at a national and international level and how to move forward.

She was a successful role model, but said the glass ceiling still exists in all industries, and an inclusive culture needs to be created. In recognition of her work and achievements she was awarded an MBE in 2011.

Since retiring she has bought a pub with some friends, works mentoring women and is writing a book. Women are now educated and have the vote, so they can achieve anything they want to do and encouraged us to inspire others, because if we sit silently nothing will happen. Oonagh was presented with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her talk.

### **Valerie Ichikawa (née West)**

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## **Past Pupil News**

**Vicky Davies (née) Heard**, our speaker a couple of years ago, is Chairman of the Brentwood Club for the Visually Impaired. They meet on Tuesday mornings for a few hours, at St George's Court Residents' Lounge in Brentwood. New members are always welcome, so please pass this information on to anyone who may be interested. Volunteer drivers are also needed to take members to the meetings. For more information, telephone 01277 372775, 214575 or 228102.

**It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of a number of past pupils and other people connected with the school:**

- **Celia Rhodes (née McDonald)** died in January 2018. She was at school from 1943-1948. Celia worked as a peripatetic music teacher around the Havering schools, and also taught privately. She had three sons, one a doctor, and two musicians, who worked widely in the film industry. Celia was a very dedicated member of the Old Girls Association, and when it was disbanded, along with Rita Drysdale-Gordon, became one of the founder members of the Fairview Society.

She looked after our memorabilia items for years bringing them to School every year for the Reunion, until it was decided to keep everything permanently at school.

- **Stella Brown (née Norris)** on 22 February, 2017, aged 87. She regularly attended the Reunions – her last being in 2016. She was at school during the Second World War and was a lifelong friend of Sheelagh Perkins (née Pond) and her twin sister Peggy.
- **Jeanne Doris Bowman (née Greenfield)** passed away on 20 December, 2016. She was at school from 1943-1948. Her daughter, Katie Bowman, sent the following. “Her greatest friend at school was Frances Fordham (nee Johnson). Although Frances moved to Canada they kept in regular contact. Frances often visited England, always seeing mum on those visits. Sadly, Frances passed away in June 2017, just 6 months after our dear mother. We enjoyed the tales they told of their times together at school, and it was so lovely to see them laugh together at the memories. We keep in touch with Frances’ husband and family.

On leaving school, mum went to The London College of Secretaries. After graduating from the College she started work with the Leather Sellers. After a few years, she then joined Scotts Baby Foods. In 1955 mum married Robert (Bob) Bowman. They met when they were 5 years old attending the Sacred Heart Kindergarten, Upminster. Three daughters followed, born in 1958, 1961 and 1964 – Maggie, Katie and Penny. After marrying, Mum supported Dad in the family business. Mum and Dad were loving grandparents to 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. Sadly, our father died in 1998 and Mum felt this loss keenly and forever. Mum and Dad were always the best of friends and so loving and supportive of us all. We were blessed. Mum was lucky enough to meet her great grandson who was born in May 2016.”

- **Mavis Reed (née Elsom)** in October 2017. This information was received from her friend Christine Tovey (née Wash) who was at school as a boarder from 1947-1953.
- **Dorothy Temple (née Thompson)** died in March 2018, aged 84. Dorothy was a Deputy Headteacher at the Brentwood



Ursuline from 1984 until her retirement in 1993. She was said to have formed a “formidable trio” along with Headteacher Eve Ranzetta and Pastoral Co-Deputy Sister Margaret-Mary Hughes. Dorothy was a superb teacher and guided a generation of pupils through their A-level English. She was also a gifted manager of people and was a role model for the girls she taught.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/apr/13/dorothy-temple-obituary>.

- **Evelyn Rendle** died on 11 March 2018. Miss Rendle came back to her old school to teach Maths immediately after qualifying as a teacher in 1950. The first class she was given to teach was the III Plain class in Belmont, full of newcomers to the UHS who had just passed their “11 Plus”. She continued to teach this class up to O-levels in 1955 and a number of mathematically gifted pupils right up to A-levels. She was a born teacher, always kind and helpful and caring, and yet with a natural air of authority which ensured that she never needed to even raise her voice to get the full attention of her pupils. She kept in touch with us throughout her life, attending Old Girls’ Days for as long as she was able to and remembering our names even after her physical health necessitated her move to a Care Home. Three members of that first Maths class in 1950 were able to attend Miss Rendle’s beautiful funeral service at All Saints’ Church in Southend. Ann Camp writes:

“I knew her from 1974. She was such a sensible person and very kind and supportive to young teachers. I remember her with kindness and the good sound advice she gave to me which helped shape my career. She also wrote beautiful letters after her retirement and kept in touch.

May she rest in peace after a long and productive life.

Many at the Reunion will have known her. She gave her life to the Ursuline. From a child to Deputy Head she was a gentle and kind lady who will be remembered with fondness.”

- **Patricia Clark (née Hollis)** died in her sleep on 14 November, 2018, after being ill for some time. She joined the school in the Grange, and excelled at spoken French. She later specialised in teaching oral French and ran an

exchange programme. This information was provided by Mary McIntyre (née Dean). Her funeral took place on 21 December, 2018, at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay.

- **Pauline Harvey** died on 26 June, 2017. Pauline's two younger sisters, Carol and Sheila (also former pupils) survive her. Pauline was a boarder at the UHS from 1950 on. After leaving school with secretarial qualifications she worked as a Personal Assistant to a number of eminent people in the London area. She was born with a spinal deformity which was not diagnosed until much later and which deteriorated with age, and finally led to her being bedridden in the years prior to her death.
- **Ruth Harrison (née Furness)** died on 11 August, 2017. Ruth was a day scholar at the UHS from 1950 on. After leaving school she qualified as a doctor and worked as a Consultant Anaesthetist in Leeds for many years. She was married and had three children. She developed Parkinson's Disease in her retirement and eventually had to go into a Nursing Home.
- **Margaret Johnson** died on 8 September, 2017. She came from a large Irish family and is survived by her sisters Stephanie and Patricia. Margaret was a day scholar at the UHS from 1950 on. At school she excelled at sports, especially netball. After leaving school she trained as a physiotherapist and emigrated to the United States where she received many awards for her work. She was also a very active member of her church and of various peace and justice organisations. Sadly, in her retirement years she developed Alzheimer's Disease and had to move into a Care Home where the staff admired her gentle and kind demeanour.
- **Christine Tovey (née Wash)** from Walton-on-the-Naze, died in March 2018. She left school in 1953.
- We have been informed by Veronica Chadwick (née De Largy) that **Fr Anthony Harris**, C.Ss.R. died on 17 April 2018. Veronica met him when she attended a three-day Silent Retreat during a half term holiday in 1958. He made a great impact on everyone who attended and anyone who was

there will definitely remember him. It is thought that he ran other retreats for the boarders and the nuns.

- Amber Jacobs-Southgate informs us that, very sadly, she has lost many friends from her year. They left the Upper Sixth in 1995 – which means that, tragically, they would only have been about 41 years old. The names she mentioned to us include: **Sarah McMahon** – the niece of Bishop Thomas, **Ana Tuthill**, **Louisa Free** and **Jamie Stringfellow**.
- **Joanne McCann (née Miles)**. Joanne was at school from 1993 and was only 36 when she died. She is remembered as a kind girl, who always had time for people. Tragically, she was diagnosed with cancer about the same time that she fell pregnant, and leaves a husband and three year old daughter.
- It is with great sadness that we report the death last May of **Jane Neely**. Many people will remember Miss Neely with great fondness. She was Head of History at the school for many years. She had a great sense of humour and a razor-sharp wit – which she continued to display even until recently, although she was in a nursing home. She made history a fun and fascinating subject for many.
- **Eileen Lovas (née Power)**, who lived in Southend.
- **Rose Wilde (née Smith)**, who lived in Leigh-on-Sea.

## **Grace Millane**

We are sure that most of you will have heard in the news recently of the tragic and untimely death of Grace Millane in New Zealand, whilst on a back-packing trip round the world, aged only 22.

What you may not realise, however, is that Grace was a former pupil of the Brentwood Ursuline.

We know that we are joined by all Alumnae of the school in sending our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Grace's family and friends at this distressing time.

May she rest in peace.

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## THE ALUMNAE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

We are always very happy to welcome new members onto the Committee. The job is really not at all onerous ... and in fact, it is enjoyable being involved! We meet 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. If you live within reasonable reach of Brentwood (we have 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!

### OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Alumnae Facebook page continues to go from strength to strength. At the Reunion last May, we had 930 'Likes' – but this number has now risen to the grand total of 1,246! It is a fantastic way of reaching a huge number of past pupils. The power of social media really is quite awe-inspiring! The link to our Facebook page is:

[www.facebook.com/BrentwoodUrsulineAlumnaeSociety](http://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodUrsulineAlumnaeSociety);

Please visit it to post photos of your meetings with old friends; to contact people; to post memories of your schooldays and reminisce; or just to comment generally.

***Marian Mann (née Butler)***

### **Brentwood Ursuline Alumnae Society - Annual Reunion 2019**

<b>Reunion Date:</b>	<b>Sunday, 19 May, 2019</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School, Queen's Road, Brentwood, CM14 4EX</b>

#### **Programme:**

<b>1.00 – 1.50 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>2.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Meeting: Guest Speaker: Pat McCarthy</b>
<b>3.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tea in the Refectory</b>
<b>5.00 p.m</b>	<b>Close</b>