

The Fairview Chronicle



"Loyal and True to you, dear Convent Home"



January 2020



**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: mrilmann@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) Pat King (née Nunn - left school 1956) Lucy Scully (left school 2004) Charlotte Windley

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 2020 edition of the Fairview Chronicle.

Once again, it was such a great pleasure to welcome so many of you back to the school for our Alumnae Reunion last May. We were treated to a fascinating and amusing talk by Pat McCarthy about her days as both a pupil and a teacher at the Ursuline – and then had a chance to chat with friends over a delicious afternoon tea.

Many people also took the opportunity to have a wander round the school and revisit old haunts. I find it amazing how the smells within the school haven't changed at all in all the intervening years, and I am always surprised by the ease with which I can be instantly transported back decades just by the smell of a corridor alone!

Our membership is continuing to grow, although there are still very many 'Old Girls' out there who do not know that we exist – so please do spread the word to all those you are still in touch with. They just need to email their details to [alumnae@buchs.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@buchs.co.uk) in order to be put on our emailing list.

Our Annual Reunion is now on the third Sunday in May each year. It is always so enjoyable to meet up with friends from so long ago – so make sure you put the date of the next one in your diary straight away – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – and keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and reminders!

[\(www.facebook.com/BrentwoodUrsulineAlumnaeSociety/\)](https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodUrsulineAlumnaeSociety/)

With very best wishes,

**Marian**

**Marian Mann (née Butler, 1970-77)**

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## Treasurer's Report

The Society has £1177.31 in the bank as well as £96.36 petty cash. Some of this will be needed for stationery and stamps to send out the Chronicles which are still asked for by post.

Last March, the committee agreed to send a donation of £500 to the school to assist with the cost of improving the Sixth Form facilities. It included the raffle proceeds from the Reunion in 2018, together with additional donations from alumnae who generously wanted them to benefit the school. Dr Wilkin acknowledged this with a letter thanking the alumnae and advising that the Sixth Form students would be informed it was from our group.

**Janet Dean (née Thompson)**

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**The Next Annual Reunion is on  
Sunday 17th May 2020**

Our Speaker at the Reunion 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 this 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 is also currently the Chairman of Braintree District Council, a post she will hold until late-May of this year.

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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; 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 – 2019**

**held on Sunday, 19 May, 2019 at  
The Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Committee members. As usual, everyone was asked to stand up to indicate the decade in which they left school. The 1940s had two representatives, and just one who had left after 2010, but other decades were well represented. Also present were a group of past pupils who were marking 50 years since they all left school.

The Chairman reported that sadly Sheelagh Perkins (néé Pond) had passed away. She was a talented musician and played the piano for the School Song at Annual Reunions. She also spoke about Grace Millane, a former pupil of the school, who had died in New Zealand aged only 22. Please see elsewhere in this Chronicle details of the Silver Bracelets being sold by LL Loves charity in Grace's memory.

The Treasurer, Janet Dean, reported the Society had £96.00 in hand, and £1,064.88 in the bank. The Committee has handed the school a cheque for £500, which includes the proceeds from the last four years Annual Reunion Raffles, to use towards a 6<sup>th</sup> Form project. Contributions to the school are always welcome and the Treasurer explained how contributions can be made.

The Chairman reminded everyone to let the Committee know of any landmark birthdays or other occasions, so a card can be sent to them.

Alumnae membership is now 850 and this year's leavers will add to this number, but there are still many past pupils who are unaware of the Alumnae so please pass the word on. Our Facebook page has 1,309 likes.

Past Pupil Records were available to be picked up as the school is no longer allowed to keep them for more than a certain time.

The Leavers Assembly in May for Year 13 was attended by Marian Mann and Ruth Westrip, who gave information about the Alumnae to the girls. Each student was given a lapel badge.

This year's speaker, **Pat McCarthy (née Flynn)**, a former pupil of the school, was introduced. Pat was at the Brentwood Ursuline from 1965 until 1972, where she joined her elder sister, Sheila. Pat had a very happy time at school, had a large group of friends, and enjoyed mixing with boarders from all over the world. Following her "O" levels she joined Miss Ring's Secretarial course, and started her career at Redbridge Town Hall.

Sister Gabriel was an inspiration to her as she often asked Pat's opinion about various topics in a very grown up way, and even had the grace to ditch her wild idea that the Sixth Form Review in 1972 (the Belmont production) should be performed in the "natural amphitheatre" down by the lake rather than in the Hall! Pat felt very proud being able to persuade the Headteacher to change her mind!

She obtained various qualifications in the Sixth Form and at other educational establishments and when she retired in 2013 was Vice Principal of the Ursuline Academy, Ilford, having taught "A" Level Business Studies and Sociology and R.E. to GCSE.

**Valerie Ichikawa (née West)**

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## **FUTURE SPEAKERS NEEDED!**

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!

**Marian Mann (née Butler, 1970-77)**

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## **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).

**THANK YOU!**

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Past Pupil News

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

- **Sheelagh Perkins (néé Pond).** We were very sorry to hear that Sheelagh Perkins had passed away in June of 2018. She was a very talented all-round musician and was formerly the highly respected head of music at the Ursuline. For many years she was actively involved in local music societies and choirs, as either conductor or accompanist. She regularly attended our Alumnae Annual Reunion, and always played the piano for us, for the School Song.
- **Susan Brady (néé Whiting).** Susan was at the school between 1970-77. In recent years, she regularly attended the Reunion, and very much enjoyed meeting up with her old schoolmates.
Sadly, Susan passed away in November 2018, after a long and brave battle with cancer.
- **Pat Couderay (néé Collinson)** born 11 November, 1937, died 1 January, 2020. This sad news came from her good friend Diana Taylor (néé Copeman). Pat worked at the Bank of England, married at age 19 and had five children. She then trained as a teacher and was quickly promoted, finishing her career as Head Teacher of Crays Hill Primary School.
- **Sheila Wright (néé Flynn).** We have heard the sad news from Sheila's sister, Pat McCarthy, that her sister, Sheila, passed away on 3 October, 2019. There were nine family members at the hospital for her and she is missed by everyone, not least by her husband David. Sheila was tireless in her work for the Church and for Marriage Care. This was acknowledged by the Pope when she was granted the Bene Merenti papal honour. Sheila was at the Ursuline from 1962-1969. She was a keen Sports team member and School Prefect for Belmont (Secretarial). Sheila was Vice Chairman of the Alumnae Society, and a committed and

active member of the Committee. Her contributions will be very much missed. The following was written by Sheila and her husband and is reproduced by kind permission of her husband:

Diagnosis Reflection

The news hits you in the solar plexus
And your brain pauses for a nano second
And you scream Why me? A voice screams back why not you/me?
Suddenly the sun shines and penetrates your thoughts
A cavalcade of lists/smiles/stuff/dreams etc
I then paused and listened to my heart
Two words came to mind LOVE and TIME
The most powerful words I know
Love covers everything people/art/food
Time is the most precious gift you can give another person
Give it wisely and with love.
As I spend time watching the birds soar and wheel in the sky, I
admire their view
They get to see the world from a different perspective
And now I have more questions:
How is so much beauty captured in a raindrop?
What message comes across the field as the poppies wave at us?
Why does the land smell so fresh after rainfall?
Grateful I paid it forward in life – it is coming to greatness back
towards my family and friends now
Knowing that Love trumps evil and badness in the world
The blessings outweigh the regrets
The memories of love/laughter and tears are precious – they are the
antiseptic of the soul
Money cannot buy these memories
The gentle touch of your loving partner, the hugs and kisses of your
family and family of friends
To be treasured and revisited in dreams and nostalgia
Keep your counsel wisely, your family and friends safe and be true to
that inner self that truly knows who you are.
It taken me 68 years to get there and I intend to be here for a little
longer to learn more and be more of who I can be. Let's carry on this

road together for better or worse and with love and joy and
remember
Love is all around in every sight and every sound

Copyright Sheila and David Wright June 2019

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**Grace Millane - Bracelets**

Together with Grace's family, LL Loves have created the White Ribbon bracelets in her memory to support White Ribbon UK. The bracelets are made from 925 Sterling Silver and feature the white enamel charity ribbon. 20% of the cost of each bracelet will go directly to the charity in Grace's memory. Click on this link for more information and to purchase bracelets:

<https://lloves.co.uk/products/graces-ribbon>

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OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Alumnae Facebook page continues to go from strength to strength. At the Reunion last May we had 1,309 'Likes', but this number has now risen to the grand total of 1,374 ! 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;

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.

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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*** 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:**

**Aileen Dunseath** seeking Alison Ashurst, both 1950's - 1960's, and any others who remember me! Now living in Auckland, New Zealand.  
*aileenmoxon@outlook.com*

**Karen Grimmatt (née Lane)** - at school from 1982 - 1988. I was a boarder for the first 2½ years and then a day girl. I lived on Canvey Island back then.

Please get in touch if you remember me, on:

[patricialane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patricialane@hotmail.co.uk)

**Brentwood Ursuline Alumnae Society - Annual Reunion 2020**

**Reunion Date:** Sunday, 17 May, 2020  
**Venue:** Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School,  
Queen's Road, Brentwood, CM14 4EX

**Programme:**

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