

# 40 years on... the Class of 1968 - 1975

## The Inaugural Reunion

### 4 July 2009

Well I think I can safely say that Saturday was a resounding success: thanks so much to all of you for making it possible!! 66 girls and 14 staff (with the one token male being Tony Merrick) attended the day: some approaching it with trepidation, some with gay abandon, some as if they'd never left but all it would seem enjoyed the event.

One of the indicators I draw on for that observation was the volume of noise in the old, but newly revamped, dining hall! The courtyard and dining hall echoed with the sounds of laughter, tears, and chat as old friends and acquaintances actually recognised each other after 40 years, with comments such as "you used to be brunette" or "you haven't changed at all" or "I'd recognise you anywhere!" being heard!

Another indicator was that the teaching staff said they felt "middle aged again" and Andrea thought we'd all been transported back to being teenagers again - complete with Form photos on the day! Then there was the fact that at 4:00pm (the official close time) there were still 35 or so of us hanging around, finishing the last of the wine, watching the slide show. I finally managed to leave at 5:00, to continue down at the Kings Head at Little Marlow with around 12 stalwarts (this time the token male was my husband!) and we were there till around 10pm.

Sharon Cromie (the President of the Guild and Head teacher in place for just 6 months) gave a welcoming speech contrasting the old with the new. She stayed on for the rest of the day (in spite of having guests from Australia arriving that afternoon!). She was happy to make the acquaintance of so many old girls, and she hoped that it would not be the last she seen of heard of us. She told me we are welcome anytime at the school.

The food was good, the company great. There were old friendships renewed and hopefully new ones formed. Tony Merrick managed to reduce me to tears not on one, but on two occasions, as did lighting the candles for those no longer with us. Andrea Gray then nearly provoked my tears for a third time when she presented me with a lovely crystal pen holder, engraved specially for the day - totally unexpected and for which I thank you all.

We were all impressed with the success of the occasion - it was a great day and went off almost without a hitch. I probably didn't get around to chatting to as many people as I should have or indeed would have liked, but that's one of the drawbacks of being the organiser!!! There was an unexpected bonus as Andrea had also organised a proper photographer to attend. He has sent the link to his web site where you can see the photos (72 in all) and also purchase a set or a photo.

The address is: [http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jwcreative/collection?album\\_id=134845130](http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jwcreative/collection?album_id=134845130)

Also, the slide show that was on display on the day is now up on the Guild page of the WHS website so it can be down loaded. The Guild has sent flowers on our behalf to Mrs Miller, Miss Powell and Miss Hastings from the residue of funds available from the tickets.

## Wycombe High School Guild Grand Centenary Reunion 10 July 2010

You may already have seen the email from Yvonne Harry about the grand reunion planned to celebrate the centenary of the Guild with the suggestion that perhaps a repeat attendance might be in order. I hope that we don't leave it that long to see each other again, but that does give a possible target date! Guild members will receive details in the annual Mailing next December and do also watch the website for further information.

I hope that we all take advantage of the momentum to re-establish friendships and connections, and aside from the friendship element there is of course also the very significant and important aspect of social networking, perhaps more important than ever in this present climate. We are after all a very dynamic and capable group of women, who it would seem are very successful in our respective fields whether that be in spite of or because of those formative years at WHS!!!

Thanks so much for coming along on this ride, whether that was the email reunion or attending on the day. There's only one thing wrong: now I need to get a new hobby!!! Till next time, take care and if you can rattle the cages of any other of the girls please do give them my email [deb@jacarandachambers.com.au](mailto:deb@jacarandachambers.com.au) just in case I do try a 2013 or 2015 effort!!!

Deb Kellie (O'Connell)