

Alumni et Amicitia Association



for former pupils and staff of Leehurst, Swan, La Retraite,
La Retraite Swan, and Leehurst Swan Schools

Newsletter 3
December 2010

From the Headmaster

Dear Alumni,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the autumn edition of the AAA newsletter. Leehurst Swan has been transformed in the past few months with the completion and opening of the Walker Hall, plus two classrooms now occupied by the Music department, a kitchen and toilets. The hall has retractable, comfortable, tiered seating for 202 people, and when folded it leaves a very large floor area. Pupils now eat their lunch there in two sittings.

The timetable has been adjusted to take advantage of the new arrangements; an extra period has been added to the school day for Prep pupils including two extra activity times. If you have not visited the school recently why not come to see us? We hold regular open mornings as indicated on the school web site and past pupils are always welcome. Please do not expect it to be the same as when you were here but I am sure you will recognise many of the features of your education.

Roger Leake



Mary Paisey MBE cutting the ribbon at the formal opening of the Walker Hall, September 2010.



From the archives

This seasonal image is from the cover for an event that combined 'Distribution of Prizes and Certificates' with musical items and a 'Carol Cantata' of well-known carols and appropriate Nativity tableaux. It is one of the oldest pieces in our collection; many thanks to Maeve Selby for sending it in.

Turtles

In June 2010 I graduated from a fantastic new degree course at University College Falmouth combining natural history and conservation studies with photographic practices. I spent much of my time observing the marine life of Cornwall's rocky shores and taking photographs, both in the sea and the tidal rock pools. Hoping to pursue a career in conservation, I applied for an opportunity to work with sea turtles in Greece, and I am currently living and working at the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre near Athens, where I am a full time volunteer on a six month programme.

The work involves caring for injured turtles by administering antibiotics and treating wounds which are often caused by boat propellers or fishing nets, as well as showing visitors around the centre and explaining the threats to sea turtles in the wild.

Lindsey Death was at La Retraite from 1993 to 1997.

Leehurst Swan School Carol Service

Our Carol Service this year will take place in Salisbury Cathedral on
Thursday 16 December at 9.30 am.
Everyone is very welcome.

People

It has been a great pleasure to hear from so many people in recent months. Thank you to everyone who has contacted us since the last newsletter, and sent in information about what they are doing now and their school day memories. Please keep this coming, and spread the word to your relations, friends and acquaintances.

I spent a fascinating morning with Nancy Morland who was a pupil at Leehurst during the war, and returned as a member of staff at La Retraite. I'm sure there are readers who will remember her as their PE teacher.

Amongst those who have been in touch are Pete Maxfield (Swan 1964-68), Andrew Hall (La Retraite Swan to 2003), Kate Durman (La Retraite 1980-87), Emma James (La Retraite to 1993) and Henrietta Talbot (La Retraite Swan 1998-2001).

We were delighted to receive a party of visitors at the end of August. Ann Clarke arranges regular reunions for a group of her school friends from the 1960s, and this year they included a tour of the school after lunch.



Here they are, from left to right: 'Helen Tambling (née Ainsley); Rosemarie Coveney (née Hanrahan); Shirley Walkowski (née Dawson); Ursula Griffiths (née Randles); Jackie Biddlecomb (née Delaney); Roger Leake; Sister Patricia Talbot (headmistress during our school years 1962 - 1969); Pat Lemon (née Holloway); Jackie Matthews (née Wild); Ann Clarke (née Cork); Maria Rynne'.

Information Requested

Rabbi Roderick Young is researching his sister's life and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her. She was Michele de Steiger, born 4 July 1945 and died 9 August 1957. Her mother Pamela de Steiger moved to the Salisbury area in 1954, and to Barford St Martin in 1956. Roderick has some books of Michelle's with 'La Retraite, Salisbury' in her handwriting, and it is likely she was at the school between 1955 and 1957.

Pamela de Steiger remarried to Roderick's father Ian Young, and he attended the Swan School in Elm Grove Road in the mid 1960s.

Anyone who recalls the school days of Michele or Roderick is invited to get in touch (see right).

Work Experience Prize 2010

Martin Brown (now in the sixth form at BWS) received the prize for work experience, sponsored by AAA. He undertook two placements last summer and writes:

'At Spire FM, a local radio station, I learned about audio software and editing. I went out onto the streets to conduct interviews and to gauge reaction to news pieces. My work was played on the radio, and I also sat in on a live broadcast for an England game of the World Cup, and in a live show at the end of the week. Keeping to deadlines is important for news pieces that must be edited for the news broadcast on the hour, and for a spreadsheet for the South Wilts Business of the Year awards of which Spire FM are a sponsor and organizer. I learnt how to interact with colleagues and work as part of a team. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the station and hope to pursue it as a career.'

The placement at Alexander Associates, a local Civil Engineering firm in Salisbury, involved using CAD and other drawing tools, creating computer models of the loads applied to structures and attending site visits. Overall this was a more formidable placement as it involved adapting to a new environment and learning new key skills, but I am happy with my achievements'.

Mrs Trudi Cotton, Head of Careers says: 'Martin had two challenging placements and met all the criteria we demand of our students. He acquitted himself very well and was a credit to the school. We are most grateful to all employers who provide interesting placements for Leehurst students at the end of Year 11, and are always pleased to receive new offers and suggestions'.

Are you still drying up with a Swan School tea-towel?



Our collection of whole-school(s) photographs is on display on the Bursar's Office landing. Also mounted on a board is this 60th anniversary cloth with self-portraits of all the Swan boys in 1993.

Jane Howells
Alumni et Amicitia Association Leehurst Swan School
19 Campbell Rd, Salisbury SP1 3BQ
01722 333094
alumni@leehurstswan.org.uk
www.leehurstswan.org.uk