

Alumni et Amicitia Association



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

Newsletter 10
July 2014

From the Headmaster

The 14th May 2014 will be remembered by many pupils, parents and staff as the day the Centenary Celebrations at Leehurst Swan started. Exactly 100 years ago Leehurst Convent school was opened officially by the Bishop of Clifton and we celebrated this event by the addition of a blue plaque (provided by Salisbury Civic Society) to the main building.



The Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Penny Brown and the Patron of Salisbury Civic Society Lord Congleton after unveiling the Blue Plaque

Part of our celebrations has been to welcome back former pupils and staff to the site for tea, cakes and a tour of the present school. It has been most enjoyable hearing about how the school operated in the past; about some of the characters who taught here, and even seeing where the nuns used to sleep and live. The memories have come flooding back to those returning. Although much of the school has changed, many have been able to recognise their classroom and other rooms, especially in the main building. I have also heard many stories of what the former pupils did, both in lessons and outside the classroom and have come to conclude that the pupils behave better today! We continue to celebrate the Centenary in school over the coming months and I am looking forward to the Centenary Ball on 5th July which promises to be a very good event.

Mr Leake with Mrs Mary Paisey, who opened the Centenary Garden on 14 June during the School Fete. The Garden is the new home of the statue Our Lady of Leehurst.



This is the last edition of the AAA newsletter produced by Dr Jane Howells. At my invitation, Jane founded the AAA some years ago with the intention of providing one organisation to welcome and involve former pupils and staff of this school - in its many names and forms. She has built up the database of members, from the firm foundation already laid by the La Retraite Association and informal networks of former Swan boys; researched and written the history of the school; and contributed to many of the Centenary events. Jane has decided finally to leave Leehurst Swan and I wish her the best with her many ongoing projects, grandchildren, and travel. Without her there would be no AAA, no newsletter or history book. Thank you Jane!

The AAA work will be continued by Mrs Trudi Cotton, who retires from full time employment at Leehurst Swan this summer having served as Head of History, then Humanities, Head of Careers and Head of PSHCE. She takes over on 1 September, and is looking forward to meeting as many as possible of the AAA members.

In the not too distant future we will be arranging a weekend luncheon event, and will give you plenty of warning when the date is decided. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Roger Leake



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Here are just two of the many photographs taken at the tea parties this term. As the Headmaster has reported, these were such enjoyable events, with non-stop conversation and a great deal of laughter.

We would like to thank our two Head Pupils, Zoe Swanwick and Archie McEwan, and their colleague prefects, for their help taking our visitors on tours of the buildings. They received many favourable comments and were a great credit to the school.

The fourth teaparty took place after the handover of the new Prep accommodation, so could be included in the tour. Known as the Centenary Building, the spacious classrooms are decorated in exciting colours, with a wonderful wall mosaic of the centenary logo. From the top floor there are stunning views across the city. Moving in is taking place at the end of the Summer Term, so everything will be ready for the start of the new academic year in September.

There are photos on the school website.



Email addresses

Thanks to everyone who responded to this plea in the last Newsletter, more needed please!

Did you receive this Newsletter on paper through the post? Have you got an email address we could use for sending future issues? It saves a huge amount of time and money. We will of course continue to use envelopes and stamps for anyone who prefers it that way, we DO want to keep in touch!

Date for your diary

The School Carol Service will take place in Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday 18 December 2014 at 9.30 am

Everyone is welcome

Thanks

Thanks as usual to everyone who has been in touch, those who came to see us this term, and everyone who couldn't make it. We do realise that the dates and times chosen for events will always be impossible for some. However the replies we have received have given ideas for future activities for AAA, and Trudi Cotton will be taking these into account when making plans.

The mailing list has grown dramatically this term, and so this newsletter is going to double the number of former pupils who received the first one. Can we double it again in another five years?

People

We've been trying to work out the 'extremes' of our contacts with former pupils. We have heard from people from the early days of both Leehurst and Swan. Probably the oldest is now 98. The most distant got in touch with us from New Zealand. At least one family is now sending a member of the fourth generation to be educated here.

Help wanted

Jenny Kirkham would like to get in touch with Jackie Cogan (1946ish). If anyone has her contact details please would they pass them on via school.



Jane Howells

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