

# Alumni et Amicitia Association



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

Newsletter 13  
Nov 2015

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## From The Headmaster

Welcome to the latest edition of the AAA newsletter. I was delighted to meet former pupils at the reunion lunch held in the White Hart last term and I hope many of you will come to the event due to be held in school on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016. I look forward to welcoming you..

Your school continues to flourish and progress. We started this academic year with the newest addition to the school, 'The Nest'. Leehurst Swan was challenged by Sir Al Aynsley-Green (former children's commissioner and President of the BMA) to extend our care to provide for babies. When the Governors agreed, Sir Al returned to the School to open The Nest in September. The Nest allows babies from six weeks of age to be looked after within the school as an extension of Pre-Prep. I know some former pupils may be dismayed at the thought of such young children being away from their parents, but working families are in need of more encompassing child care than ever before. We are open from 7am to 6pm and provide high quality childcare for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years in our Pre-Prep (graded 'Outstanding' by the ISI Inspection in 2014).

The school has received two unexpected awards from the Good School Guide. The awards are for being the best school in England for girls to study Art and ICT to GCSE level. To have two departments recognised in this way is an honour. Similarly, The Times' league table recently placed the school as the top independent school in Wiltshire with no sixth form, based on the GCSE results of last summer.

The results for Year 11 last year comprised 94% achieving 5 or more passes ( 91% including Maths. and English). Nearly 30% of the grades were at A or A\* grade. Yet academic success, whilst very strong, is not the hallmark of the school as pupils enjoy the art, music, sport and drama that take place all through the year.

Why not come and pay us a visit to see how the school has changed and, at the same time, celebrate how much has remained the same? I am very happy to welcome all former pupils and staff, and, I hope I will see as many former pupils and staff as possible at Leehurst Swan's annual Carol Service in Salisbury Cathedral at 9.30am on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. All are most welcome to attend.

With my best wishes. *Roger Leake*



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## Alumni Lunch, June 2015

Despite initial problems in planning, the lunch went well. The White Hart put on a lovely meal, some Alumni were re-united and several decided to join us in a tour of the school in the afternoon. As a result, we are hoping to hold another such event at Leehurst Swan itself on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 and an invitation should be attached to this newsletter. We would be very grateful if you could let us know by April 19<sup>th</sup> if you would like to come.

June 27<sup>th</sup> 2015



## Alumni News

Some very sad news as we have to report the deaths of both **Robin Sneddon (prep 2007)** and **Georgie Cleary (Senior 2007)**, both in very unexpected circumstances.

But on a much happier note we have heard about

**Dr Diana Forrest** who gained an MBE for her services to public health.

As Director of Public Health for Knowsley, Manchester she was able to reduce health inequalities to an exceptional extent. She also works with the Church Urban Fund as a trustee for 'Transforming Lives Together', with the aim of reducing poverty.

Also **Maureen Montgomery (1974)** who is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Please email me at [t.cotton@leehurstswan.org.uk](mailto:t.cotton@leehurstswan.org.uk) if you would like to share any news with Alumni.



## Interesting Speakers at Leehurst Swan

As assemblies and PSHCE for years 10 and 11 take place on a Friday afternoon, we have been able to welcome two speakers with very interesting and inspirational lives to talk to the Senior School.

**Freddie Knoller** is a Holocaust survivor, now in his 90s who gave a fascinating talk about his experiences and was able to show the pupils his Auschwitz tattoo. He survived by his wits and also his friendship with the camp doctor. Years 9 to 11 were spellbound and he ran out of copies of his autobiography, so great was their interest.

**Chris Lubbe** was Nelson Mandela's bodyguard and he gave Years 7 to 11 a real insight into the horrors of apartheid as well as the achievements of 'his hero'. He described how he achieved the realisation of the importance of forgiveness through the example of Mandela. The children were fascinated and queued for 'selfies' afterwards!

## Freddie Knoller's talk September 25th 2015



## Leavers of 2011 Get Together

We are thinking about inviting all pupils who left seven years ago to a get together. Our first cohort will be the leavers of 2011 and we are hoping you will join us at the Rose and Crown on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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