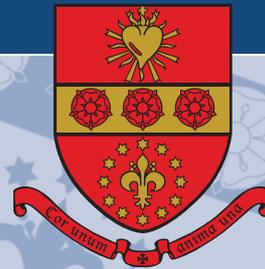


newsletter



Welcome

It is a pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of SFOGA; I spent many happy years at the College (1982-1996), as did my younger sister Naomi. I am delighted to be able to give something back to the school and hope I can do as good a job, with the same enthusiasm and drive as my predecessor, Susan Podmore.



SFOGA have enjoyed another fantastic year; I particularly enjoyed the first ever Staff Reunion and having the opportunity to reminisce with so many of our former teachers. I'm also looking forward to Mrs Edgar's guided tour of the Royal Mews later this summer.

It is always so wonderful to hear other old girls' news and I cannot express how important the St. Francis' network is to both current students and old girls. Please keep in touch with us and the wider School community. Let us also remember those we knew from our School years who have sadly passed away. We may not see each other from one year to the next, but the friends we made at School are always in our hearts. Thank you for your continued support. **Louise Hopper**

Thank you to Susan Podmore

SFOGA owe a huge debt of gratitude to Susan Podmore who has recently stepped down as chair. At our 75th Anniversary Reunion Susan was persuaded to take on this role by a group of her friends who all thought she would be perfect for the role. How right they were! Susan's love of and commitment to St. Francis' College has shone through in everything she has done, and under her leadership SFOGA has organised some fabulous events, launched our new style newsletter, and of course our popular SFOGA Face Book page. Thank you, Susan, from all members of SFOGA. We are delighted that you still wish to remain on the committee.

Greetings from Mrs Bronwen Goulding, Headmistress

It is with huge pleasure that I begin my post as Headmistress. I have been welcomed warmly by every part of the community of St. Francis' College and for this, I am very grateful. Attending my first SFOGA committee meeting, highlighted to me both the range of people who are supporting the community as well as the generations (sometimes in one family) who are connected to the College. I look forward to 'earning my stripes'! I am very keen to develop deeper and broader connections with the alumnae, to facilitate and support events for the Old Girls but also to help our current girls. This generation need our support, advice and mentoring as they move out from the nurturing of the College into the complex and ever changing world. No-one succeeds in isolation; we all need opportunities, guidance and help from those who have travelled ahead of us. If our girls are to become the leaders of the future, they will need helping hands - your hands.



Stop Press: SFOGA Concert September 26th

At 7.30pm on September 26th SFOGA will be holding a **Concert** in our College Chapel. Jingle Lau (2012) will be returning to St. Francis' College with Louisa Haggerty (a former Prep pupil) to give a concert of choral and piano music. Both are currently third year students at the Royal Northern College of Music. Tickets will cost £5 (adult) and £2 (under 18s). All proceeds will go to our whole school charity Kanyike. It promises to be a wonderful evening. Please contact sfoga@st-francis.herts.sch.uk to book tickets.

Welcome to New Committee Members

Jane Hunter (Baerlein) was a pupil at St. Francis' from 1953 to 1962 when it was still a convent. She has many happy memories and still has the occasional browse through her old school magazines. Her daughter Sarah Bellisario (Pyle) was also a pupil (1981 to 1993). Jane and her husband Tim ran a village pub in Preston for a number of years. Since retiring in 2008, Jane has helped at her local primary school (especially enjoyable as her granddaughter Scarlet is a pupil). She enjoys gardening, helps her husband on their allotment, is Social Secretary for the Preston Cricket Club and serves on St Martin's Church fund raising committee.



Victoria Tait (Wallace - class of 2000) spent three very happy years at St. Francis' and is very much looking forward to joining the Committee. She has recently moved back to Hertfordshire with her husband George, who manages Victoria's family farm in Ashwell. She currently works for Mediacom, an international media agency based in London. This is a busy and sociable industry and she hopes to use some of that energy to help with the future of SFOGA.



Sanya Masood studied at SFC between 2002 and 2009 and is very excited to be joining the SFOGA Committee. After leaving St. Francis' and completing her Law degree from the University of East Anglia in 2012, she is currently working as a trainee solicitor at Longmores Solicitors LLP. She is due to qualify in July 2015, and hopes to specialise in employment law. Sanya enjoys travelling, studying for her LLM, visiting the British Museum and elephant trekking in Thailand (see photo).



Farewell to Mrs Dorothy MacGinty

After six years as Headmistress, Mrs Dorothy MacGinty left the school at the end of March to take up the headship of Kilgraston College, Scotland. We would like to thank her for her support and encouragement. While Headmistress Mrs MacGinty achieved a great deal - increasing pupil numbers, refurbishing many parts of the College and facilitating a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for the students. Links with UNISON World School in India, trips to Kanyike and choir tours abroad have now become an established part of the calendar. Mrs MacGinty was instrumental in working with Susan Podmore to revitalise SFOGA and it is thanks to the two of them that our Old Girls' Association is in such good shape and ready to take on some exciting new challenges.



When asked what she would do as a leaving present, with characteristic generosity Dorothy asked that the Kanyike Project, SFC's chosen international charity, should benefit. The Committee chose to give four notice boards to the newly built nursery school (see the blank walls in the photo). Not only would the children benefit but so would the apprentices in the carpentry workshop who would make the boards for us. Thank you from them all, Dorothy.

Forthcoming Events

Tour of the Royal Mews Saturday, 12th September at 11.00 a.m. Sheila (Edgar), Warden Guide with The Royal Collection Trust, would be delighted to take any SFOGA Members on a tour of the Royal Mews to see the horses and carriages. This will be followed by a Handling Collection in the Learning Room. Everyone interested could bring along a picnic, to be eaten in St James's Park afterwards. The price of a ticket is £8.10 and the suggested maximum number for a group is 30. If necessary, a second Tour could be organised for the afternoon, around 2.15 p.m. Book at sfoga@st-francis.herts.sch.uk

2018 will see **St. Francis' College's 85th anniversary** and **SFOGA's 70th**. How would you like to celebrate these memorable events? Please let us know.

Recent Events

A very appropriate conclusion to our 80th Anniversary celebrations was our first-ever **Staff Reunion** in April 2014.

Over ninety former colleagues attended a highly enjoyable event. The highlights included a welcome from Dorothy MacGinty, tours of the College and a delicious afternoon tea. Many of the guests renewed old friendships and exchanged current news with great enthusiasm!



This memorable occasion ended with a Chapel Service, at which Vincent Conyngham kindly accompanied well-loved hymns, particularly his own composition, the Hymn to St. Francis. Readings and prayers were provided by Sr Joan Yates, Mairin Hegarty, Claire Whitty, Sheila Edgar and Joan Burke - the oldest surviving former member of Staff.

What a perfect illustration it proved to be of the College motto: cor unum anima una. **Sheila Edgar**

An invitation to a **Vintage Tea Party** in June 2014 was such a surprise.

A first time for everything! Did the title apply to the guests? We suspected so. I would love to be able to wear the 20 inch waist, and full skirt, typical of my period at St. Francis'.

So I persuaded my daughter Veronica Hughes (Smith SFC 1980s) to give me a lift. She had no invitation, not being vintage enough.

However on the doorstep she was embraced by Staff with long memories and we joined a crowd of older oldies. The most senior was in a wheelchair and was possibly older than what we used to call the New Building.



Tables were laid with cakes and pretty china, and tea brought round in flowery teapots by students in period costume. The history of the school was displayed in photos and school magazines. How we reminisced about the Sisters, life during the War and our various escapades. After

tea we broke up into small groups and were led round the school by staff and students. Just like children again, we shared memories and commented on every change to rooms we had known. A quite small classroom had once been the chapel; the splendid art room, full of brilliant work, was formerly used for ballet classes. So much of memory is brought to life by buildings we decided, as some looked at back stairs and recalled midnight raids on the kitchen (really?!) and others, who had always been taught by sisters, half expected Sister Patrick to come round a corner and announce "No running in the corridors!"

For me a forgotten memory was particularly touching. I found a picture of myself in the School Magazine of 1949, in an Easter play produced by Sr. Loyola. I think I was Pilate's wife, looking appropriately wretched, about three weeks after the sudden death of my own mother.

Please may we have another Vintage gathering in a few years' time? By then some of us will be Extra Mature. **Mary Scanlan Smith**

The **History Reunion** in March 2015 saw old girls from across the decades travelling from near and far to reconnect over their fond memories of the subject. A chance to meet with former teachers led to friendly competition as Alex Hetherington's tricky quiz brought out our competitive sides. It was great for everyone to get a chance to chat with people they had not seen in years, to have a snoop around the school and see how things have changed! Hopefully there will be more reunions to come. **Sanya Masood**



News from SFOGA Members

Melissa Bendon (1993) lives in Bournemouth with her partner Steve and is mummy to Daisy (born 2010). She works as Marketing Communications Manager for a UK software company, Netcall, and is in touch with several St. Francis' girls, including her best friend Jo Ghandour (Watts).



Samantha Scully (Bloomfield 1993) has been running a branch veterinary surgery in Harrow for six years. She wrote a specialist book on hand rearing ill and premature puppies (Bloomfield's Manual of Puppy Hand Rearing). Her website is www.puppyandkittenclinic.com. Having completed post-grad studies in small animal surgery she has nearly completed a post-grad certificate in small animal medicine. In 2013, she married Kevin and their handsome baby, James Alexander, was born in 2014. He is proving lots of work - and fun! If any SFC students are interested in a career in veterinary medicine (vets or vet nurses) she is always happy to help. Contact her at samanthascully@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Bellisario (Pyle - class of 1995) lives with her husband Nick, six year old daughter Scarlet and their cat Flash in Hitchin. After several years of teaching art, Sarah completed an MA in Children's Book Illustration. Her first book 'Magical Menagerie' was published in France last year. She works full time as a freelance artist and illustrator and has set up a design business - Sas and Yosh - with her lovely friend Yoshie. They design and sell wallpaper and home wares, and create bespoke design for textiles/fashion and other commissioned work for boutique businesses. <http://www.sasandyosh.com>. Finally having her own business was a liberating experience, giving Sarah the opportunity to do something she loves yet pushing her to learn the business side of things. She juggles work and children but takes enormous solace in knowing that all her fellow working and non-working mum friends are enjoying and stressing about the same things as she is!



Fiona Saxby (Costigan - 1995) was awarded an MSc in Biomedical Sciences by Edinburgh Napier University and is one year in to Post-grad Diploma in Radiotherapy and Oncology at Queen Margaret University (Edinburgh). By Sept 2016, she will be a fully qualified Therapeutic Radiographer (giving radiation treatments to cancer patients) with a degree from every Edinburgh University! Her motto: treat them like Pokemon - Gotta Catch 'em All!



Abby Rochford (1997) recently got engaged to Jez (Jeremy Tribe) and is getting married in September. They live and work in London. Abby is a speech and language therapist working with children with a range of communication difficulties including Autism, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy and Jez is a creative in advertising. Since she met Jez, Abby has (somewhat reluctantly) taken up the hobby of climbing.

Naomi Self (Hopper - class of 1997) has given birth to a beautiful little girl - Aoife Bea - born in November 2014. Naomi says Aoife is full of laughter!



Carly Mason (Ball - class of 1998) is delighted to announce baby James was born in September 2014. He is doing well and definitely keeping her busy!



Aliya Haji Mowl (2002) twin girls, Eliana and Maia, turned one on 8th May this year. They are delightful.

Adunni Haruna (Elizabeth Haruna - 2003) was recently awarded the title Miss Democracy in a competition in Nigeria. She represented her home state as Miss Kogi. Her personal project is to be the promotion of peace in Nigeria ahead of the 2015 Nigerian General Election.

Annika McQueen (Cooper - 2003), currently KS1 Coordinator at Bassett House School, is really excited to be moving to Hong Kong where she will be teaching Year 2 at Harrow International School.. She had always wanted to visit HK (where her husband was brought up and will now be living there (and catching up with all the SFC HK residents.) She and her husband lived and taught in South Korea from 2009-10 and Annika has just been awarded an MA in Education from Edge Hill University. Distance learning and part-time study was certainly a challenge!

Hannah Mitchell (Niven 2003) met Richard when she was at St. Francis'. Thirteen years and three sons later, they finally got married on 18th April 2015.



Kerrie Kwan (2004) finds it hard to believe 11 years have passed since she left SFC. She is now a professional engineer, working as a consultant in Hong Kong and got married in November 2014. Together with others from her class (Caroline Lim, Mandy Chiu, Cathy Liao, Yenny Lam and Ada Kwan), she visited Catherine Chen in China in 2014. kerriekwan@hotmail.com

Emily Taiano (2006) found the training seriously hard, and despite not finishing in 2014, completed the London Marathon this year and raised a total of £7,620. This is an amazing 380% of her original target for the Back Up Trust. She was inspired by her father, Paul. Following a horse racing accident ten years ago, he was left paralysed from the chest down and without movement in his hands. Paul had been one of the most active people: he never walked anywhere because he was always jogging and loved windsurfing and skiing. Back Up aims to transform individual's lives after spinal cord injuries, providing wheelchair expertise but also sporting opportunities. So thank you to the Back Up Trust from Emily! Her fundraising page is <https://www.justgiving.com/taianorunthemarathon/>



Rosie Eccles (2009) completed a BA in Drama at Queen Mary University of London and subsequently an MA in Cultural and Creative Industries at King's College London. She is now the Development Manager for Create (www.createarts.org.uk) - a London-based charity that uses the power of the creative arts to enrich the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people across England. One of Create's current projects is ArtsAdventures, an imaginative programme for young hospital, hospice and respite centre patients. ArtsAdventures provides a distraction from their medical procedures, enabling daunted and isolated children to gain confidence and independence - and have fun!



Lauren England (2009) has experienced a whirlwind second term of her MA at King's College London. She was honoured to win Part 1 of the King's Cultural Challenge 2015 and competed in the Final. Next Lauren presented a collaborative research paper (co-written with her supervisor) at an international conference in France. They hope to publish their paper and Lauren will also present their work at King's and Oxford University this summer. Then she will focus on her dissertation before starting the CASE graduate fundraising trainee programme at Surrey University.

Ruth Ballantine (2010) graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 2014 with a first class degree in Psychology (MA), and is currently completing her MSc in the Psychology of Mental Health at the University of Dundee. She hopes to secure a place on a clinical psychology doctorate course, and embark upon a career as a clinical psychologist.



Marie Davies (2011) is finishing a degree in Ergonomics (Human Factors Design) at Loughborough University and intends to start her career in Healthcare Ergonomics after six months exploring Canada. In true St. Francis' style, Marie enjoys taking part in charity fundraising. This year, as well as battling final year deadlines, she has taken on the challenge of raising £3000 for the Epilepsy Society with Loughborough Students Rag. Marie's determination for fundraising has brought her very close to the target, having organised coffee mornings, raffles, cake stalls and completing a gruelling 260 mile sponsored cycle to Scotland in April. If you are interested in helping make a difference to people affected by epilepsy, please go to www.justgiving.com/Marie-Davis1 or contact her by email: marie-davis@hotmail.com. She would love to hear from you!



Rachael Writer Davies (2013) feels she would not be who she is today if she had not taken part in a 2011 SFC World Challenge expedition to Namibia and Botswana. This strengthened her interest in equality and international development and spurred her to undertake voluntary work in Morocco and Malaysia. Now studying Geography in Edinburgh, she is involved with an 'incredible' student run charity called Edinburgh Global Partnerships. EGP focuses on making possible community-led sustainable development projects overseas but also volunteers in and around Edinburgh to tackle local issues such as homelessness. Rachael is about to coordinate a sexual health education project with Healthy People Rwanda, to set up a much needed sexual health curriculum for teenagers and establish clinics in eight schools around Kigali. She is madly fundraising to try to make this possible, through sponsorship, bucketing events and more. It's a huge commitment and has taken over her life. All the money she raises goes straight into funding the project. EGP volunteers cover their own costs (flights and accommodation) and would be grateful for any sponsorship. Feel free to get in contact with her at any time or check out their Facebook page! (Photo shows Rachael (the banana) raising money at Murrayfield Stadium during Scotland vs. Ireland Six Nations rugby match). www.facebook.com/egphealthypeople2015



Sanjana Thiagarajan (class of 2014) left St. Francis' in January 2013 because her family decided to move to Australia. It was quite a shock to move all the way across the world but it was an incredible experience that now she would not trade for anything. She is currently in her second year at Lincoln College, Adelaide, studying for a double degree in History and International Relations / Politics and about to enjoy a semester abroad, in either the US or Canada. She still enjoys playing the piano and supported the India cricket team in the 2015 World Cup, with her mother and sister Ranjana.



NEWS FROM HONG KONG - Anthea Yu

Tina Tang (Lau - Class of 2003) married Jerome in November 2014 in Macau. They met in the University of Macau in 2009 when both of them were studying for legal qualifications. They live in Macau with two fat cats, Gut and Mi.

Cristie Li (Lee - Class of 2003) is now full-time mother of two - Pearl (age 5) and Jayde (age 2). She's enjoying a lovely life with the kids and her family in Hong Kong.



Mandy Chiu (2004) was married in May 2015. She currently works for HSBC Relationship Management sector, Premium Accounts.

Philippa Tong (2007) was married in March 2015. The ceremony was held in Guam. Philippa is one of the shining stars in AIA Insurance and has been a member of the MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table) since 2013.

Keeping in Touch and Data Protection

The College is actively considering the purchase of alumni networking software. Among many advantages would be easier email communication and a more streamlined membership database. This could then be used to the benefit of existing and former pupils. (See Mrs Goulding's vision for SFOGA's future). All SFOGA members will be contacted as soon as we know more. Watch this space!

Our Membership Secretary, Katharine Purchon, wishes to remind all members that membership data is kept securely in accordance with the principles of the 1998 Data Protection Act. The College may use personal data you have given SFOGA and information in the public domain to keep in touch and to notify you of school events and activities you might find of interest. Your details will only ever be used by the College and its representatives, and will never be passed on to others without your express permission.

If your postal or email addresses change (or you wish to opt out of communications) please contact her on sfoga@st-francis.herts.sch.uk

St. Francis' Prep - New Building

We did it! Thanks to the hard work of the builders, led by the melodically named 'Neil Dimond', and the stalwart efforts of St Francis' Maintenance team, Upper Prep girls moved into their new classrooms in April 2015. Staff willingly gave up time in the holidays to unpack crates and work out new technology. A big thank you to them. We are delighted to be in! The classrooms are modern and spacious. The feeling - luxurious.



Since moving in, we have held a text-based skills creative week which resulted in some wonderful display based on 'The Land of Neverbelieve'. We thought this could not be surpassed, but the 'Ten Pieces Arts Day' succeeded, producing fire and flight in the form of Stravinsky's Firebird - truly a spectacle to behold.

To celebrate the move and the unflinching hard work of the Prep staff and pupils, we held 'A Day in the Life of the Prep' and were joined by senior school staff. Please come and visit us soon.

St. Francis' College needs your help!

I have been really struck by willingness of our members to offer help to our current pupils. At our annual Careers Evening we were delighted so many former students were willing to talk about their careers. Several pupils afterwards said how useful they had found the event. Thank you to those who gave up your time to come back: you have a wealth of experience and knowledge that hugely benefits our current pupils so with your support we hope to develop more mentoring and careers' advice opportunities.

A good example of this is the link being established with Neeti Gandecha (2003) and her family business Foxholes Care Home. Neeti has offered our girls the opportunity to go into Foxholes to act as listeners for some of their residents, work experience for girls wishing to study medicine or related field and voluntary work for girls doing D of E. Our choir hope to go and perform for residents.

Please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions on sfoga@st-francis.herts.sch.uk **Katharine Purchon**

Best wishes to all those who have recently left the St. Francis' College community: Alan Bond - Teacher of Maths; Robert Burton - Teacher of Photography; Helen Coley - Teacher of English; Diane Gilbert - Laboratory Technician; Alex Hetherington - Head of History; Luke Howard - Director of Music; Rebecca Leek - Individual Needs Co-ordinator; Sarah Lockhart - Prep Teaching Assistant; Rosie Mason - Teacher of ICT; Mary Price - Prep Maths Teacher; Ann Taylor - Teacher of Mathematics; Caroline White - Head of Boarding; Sue York - Head of Psychology.

Obituaries

Janise Frith, Headmistress 1987 - 1993.

Janise became Head of Music in 1972 and soon made her forceful personality felt. Her first production, "The Snow Queen" set the high standard she expected. She produced it alone, only delegating the task of providing new costumes to me. These were designed by Mary Tucker, Head of Art, and made by Sister Edmund (an excellent pattern cutter). These ranged from the chorus of flowers (with petal headdresses), the embroidered costumes of the lord and ladies and the white tutus of the corps de ballet to the Snow Queen's silver dress and Jane Mason's beautiful hobgoblin outfit. The production really was a tour de force: Mrs Frith seemed quite calm throughout! Rock Nativity and the operatic version of Alice followed.



In 1983 when the Trust took over the school Janise was appointed Acting Head Teacher. She worked behind the scenes throughout the summer to get the new regime up and running. There was no help in the office - I undertook the typing - until Sue Cain was appointed. She worked every day until she was really au fait with the job. The Governors were delighted to appoint her Head in 1987. She led by example in undertaking regular charity work and steered St Francis' through some rocky economic times.

I know that some of you found her a bit scary: this was a look she cultivated (and hid her wicked sense of humour). If you were really in trouble or upset, she was very kind and understanding. She was also very fair.

In retirement, she enjoyed summers in her house in France and learnt to play the organ. Her funeral was very moving and marked by music, especially the compositions and piano playing of her pupil, Jane Mason. Hers was a certainly a life well led, full of music and academic discipline. RIP Janise. **Margaret Gibbs**

All who knew her will be sorry to hear of the death of **Joan Best** and remember her as a lively and friendly teacher and colleague. She initially taught English as a foreign language to the numerous overseas boarders, but she rapidly broadened her role to teaching a GCSE English group and becoming a very active Year 7 form teacher. Her energy and enthusiasm were widely admired and appreciated. Many students kept in touch with her after they had left. In retirement, Joan provided a week's 'Welsh experience' to enrich the Eurosixth programme. **Angela Flynn**

Jane Bullock (1996). It is with great sorrow her friends and teachers heard of Jane's recent death. Our thoughts are with her husband Ed, young son Will, her parents Glynis and John, and sister Victoria.

www.macmillan.org.uk

Eva Holloway was born in 1918 into an intellectual non-observant Jewish family in Vienna. In 1937, black clouds were gathering but Eva left to study at Oxford without the slightest sense that she was leaving that charmed life for good. In the challenging years that followed she was supported by the University and the Dominican order and became a Catholic. She moved to Hitchin in 1955 with her husband, Ken, and sent their daughter Theresa to St. Francis' College. Theresa left for university in 1963. Eva taught history until the end of the 60s as well as AL German. She continued to live in Hitchin for many years and was an active member of the local Catholic parish. She was involved with several local charities, and strongly supported the Lib Dems. The passion for history was instilled into all of her children, and that pursuit was one of the interests that sustained her into her very old age.

Theresa Lloyd

Sister Mary Immaculate, Sheila Thornton (or Dickie - a nickname from the 1950s) has passed away aged 93. In 2008 I had the privilege of meeting this amazing lady and hearing her memories of the College. Sheila came to St. Francis' College in 1936 and was Head Girl in 1938. During World War 2 she went to Belgium to train to be a nun, and then to London University before returning to St. Francis' College to teach classics in the 1950s. Later she moved to Devon as Head of a school run by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary. Even in retirement, she was still a volunteer at a school in the East End where most pupils were from Bangladesh.



Katharine Purchon

Sharon Twigg was born in 1956. She joined St. Francis' College in 2001 and involved herself fully in all aspects of college life, from eventful ski trips to making costumes for the annual production. She specialised in teaching children with individual needs and there was not much that Sharon did not know about her subject. A colleague said she 'instinctively knew where and why a child might be finding things difficult and could immediately come up with creative, fun ways to get a point across'. One former pupil writes, 'Mrs Twigg was the person who noticed discrepancies in my work and helped me deal with my learning difficulties. Without the time and effort she invested in me I wouldn't be in the position today of being able to celebrate two university degrees. What a wonderful lady!'. Sharon was positive and selfless, an inspirational advisor and a willing confidante. She was a huge asset to the St. Francis' College teaching community and is someone whom we miss daily. **Rebecca Hayes**



Gilberte White. It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Gilberte White. She taught French at St. Francis' College from the mid-sixties to 1991 and eventually became Head of Modern Languages. Gilberte was highly qualified, with a Doctorate from the Sorbonne, for her work on the imagery of Mauriac. "Madame White", as she was known, was highly respected and liked by the staff and pupils alike. The younger girls were a little apprehensive about her at first, as "Madame" was strict and expected high standards; but they soon learnt that she was very fair and that she only wanted to make the best of their potential. Older students appreciated her keen intelligence and her great insight into literature. As a Sixth Form tutor, she was highly valued for her help and advice about university entrance.



Her colleagues regarded Gilberte with respect and affection. Her strong views were dispensed from her desk, from behind a rampart of books; she had a wicked sense of humour and was always ready to have a good laugh.

At home, Gilberte had created a small French territory, for she was strongly chauvinistic. She was a memorable teacher and a character, who will be greatly missed by all the people who knew her.

Marie-Madeleine Maguire