

April 2011 Old Girls Bulletin

Daffodils and new green shoots are all around Lavant House so that, in the sunshine, it looks the very picture of Spring.

Earthquake

Lavant House has several Old girls living in New Zealand and fortunately all those in email contact with the school have been able to tell us that they are fine – albeit somewhat shocked at what has happened in their adopted country.

What are they doing now?

Wendy Matthews (nee Rendtdorff), a Lavant House girl from 1954-1959, kindly agreed to share her news with us. A short while after leaving Lavant House, she decided to spend a year working and travelling in North America as a flatmate wanted to go there and asked her if she would go too. "As we both had relatives out there, it seemed like a good idea. We both worked and lived in Florida - Heather worked in Miami and I worked in Coral Gables, outside Miami, which is where we rented an apartment. We saved up enough money to buy a car and then did a 10,000 mile tour around The States - from Florida to California and back again across to New York. We took the last sailing back to Southampton". She next took up a secretarial job in London and then, in 1971, married Jeremy with whom she has two children (a daughter aged 37 and a married son of 34). She told Terry that she enjoys gardening and playing bridge and is a member of The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) because she loves old buildings and antiques. Her best friend from Lavant House was Diana Williams (nee Grant), whose obituary appeared in the September 2010 bulletin, and she still keeps in touch with "several old girls from my year; Jean Willcocks [Weir], Delia Etherington [Shorland], Judy Gardiner [Stanley], Ann Matthews [Youngman], Beatrice Fisher (Baker] and Lavender Buckland [Shepherd] as well as the daughter of our Games Mistress - Mrs. Perry, who is in her 90s and living in a Nursing Home in Angmering near her daughter." We are greatly hoping that she can be persuaded to attend the reunion this year.

Past Staff

Penelope Finn (nee Sheppard), a P E Mistress at Lavant House from 1974-1990, has already put the date for this year's reunion in her diary. She has made time to bring us up to date with her life before disappearing with her husband for their 'Gap year' travels with their caravan to tour France, Spain and Portugal for three months. Penelope married David in 1984, while she was here at Lavant House (some of the pupils sang at the wedding and Clifford Pinhey played the organ) and they are both retired now - in fact she has been retired for almost two years having taught for the last four years part time at Westbourne House School. Their twin sons will be 21years old in November and it was shortly before their birth in 1990 that she left Lavant House. Now that the boys are both safely at University (Todd is studying History at Winchester and Harry is reading Business with Website Design at Chichester), having enjoyed a Gap year last year, when they went around the world together, it is her turn! David and Penelope still ski and early this January they drove to Austria "with the chaps and had a great time, the snow was super then". Looking to the future Penelope says "I would love to meet up with as many of the old girls who remember their time at Lavant with me on the special anniversary in Sept 2012"