

# OGA

WINTER 2023

GODOLPHIN ALUMNAE





# Letter from the Head



Dear Godolphin Alumnae,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this issue of the OGA Magazine, dedicated entirely to you - our wonderful Godolphin Alumnae. As past members of our School, you are an integral part of our community, and we are so proud to see the impact you are making on the world. Through your dedication and innovation, you are shaping the future and continue to embody the values and principles of Godolphin across every corner of the world.

I am nearing the end of my first year as Head and I am loving every

minute of it. Godolphin is a very special place and I do hope you will come and visit us if you are able. We love to see our Alumnae and hear your stories and our students benefit hugely from your visits. I don't think a week has gone by since I started in January when I haven't met an OG and it's wonderful to hear you speak about your careers and your journeys since you left. If you have visited the School recently, you will have noticed the removal of the Drama Studio. While it held fond memories for many, its condition necessitated its demolition. As our site is in a conservation area,

we need to pause and reflect on how best to use this space. If you have any thoughts, I would love to hear them.

I would like to say a special thank you to Hermione Taylor (Godolphin 1995-2002) for inspiring us all at Godolphin Speech Day last July. Her excellent talk on how she came to set up her company, Do Nation to encourage people to take meaningful action on climate change. It was lovely to meet Hermione and her peers and to hear her story. Do get in touch with us if you have a story to tell. I know Bethan Ferguson, Head of



In our continuous **pursuit of excellence** and in recognition of a world that values gender equality and collaboration, we believe that a co-education model will better **prepare students** for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in their academic and professional lives. It is therefore our intention to transition to offering co-education at Godolphin Prep from September 2024 and Godolphin Senior from September 2025.

This decision marks a **pivotal moment** in Godolphin's history. Our founder, **Elizabeth Godolphin** looked to the future in her commitment to the education of girls. By extending our welcome to boys, **we aim to enrich our school community** with a broader range of perspectives, talents, and experiences

Bright Futures at Godolphin, would love you to come and talk about your career at one of our Find Your Future Friday events.

We live in a time where the only constant in education is change. While there are undoubtedly challenging times ahead, both politically and economically for the Independent School sector, we are working hard to secure Godolphin's future. I am delighted to announce exciting developments scheduled for next year. In our continuous pursuit of excellence and in recognition of a world that values gender equality and collaboration, we believe that a co-education model will prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in their academic and professional lives. It is therefore our intention to transition to offering co-education at Godolphin Prep from September 2024 and Godolphin Senior from September 2025.

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our welcome to boys, we aim to enrich our school community with a broader range of perspectives, talents, and experiences. We look forward to an exciting future for Godolphin as it looks to write the next chapter in its proud history.

This issue of the magazine highlights the incredible accomplishments of our alumnae. It provides updates on recent events, initiatives, and achievements, as well as opportunities for you to stay connected and engaged with our community. You are always welcome at Godolphin and please do come to our events if you are able. Never a week goes by during term time when there isn't a plethora of concerts, exhibitions, engaging talks, plays and sports matches to support. The fifth bi-annual Literary Festival in October was a huge success. Thank you to OG Dolly Jones who was interviewed by our Head Girl, Abi and Head Scholar, Chelsea. Dolly talked about her career and her forthcoming book *The Ladder Down* which is based on work-life advice from one generation of women to the next.

Please do stay connected with us and with each other, sharing your stories and experiences and continue to be a source of inspiration and pride for Godolphin.

With Godolphin's 300-year celebrations just around the corner in 2026, it is a hugely exciting time for us all, so please do keep in touch. Our door is always open and you are always welcome back at School.

To mark our 300th Anniversary, we have arranged a special Service of Commemoration taking place in Westminster Abbey on 25th September 2026. We are honoured to have been given exclusive access to the Abbey for the service, and we do hope you will be able to join us. Do get in touch if you would like us to reserve you a seat and please do help us to spread the word of this event to other Godolphin Alumnae.

We hope this magazine serves as a celebration of your achievements and a testament to the power of a Godolphin education. Thank you for your ongoing support of Godolphin.

**Jenny Price,**  
Head



# Letter from the Editor

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our OGA magazine, and what an extraordinary year it has been. As we round up the events and achievements over the past 18 months, we are so grateful for the vibrant community that you all contribute to.

This bumper edition is a testament to the deep-rooted connections that make our Godolphin alumnae network truly remarkable. From the exhilarating Old Girls Lacrosse Match earlier this month that brought together generations of sportswomen, to the heart warming reunions that have rekindled friendships and memories of shared experiences at Godolphin.

Our Annual Service of Commemoration reminded us of the strong values that bind us, honouring Godolphin's founder Elizabeth Godolphin who founded the school nearly 300 years ago. It is within this spirit of tradition that we continue to foster support for our current students, bridging the gap between the past and the present through mentorship and guidance.

A personal highlight for me this year, was the 100 year celebrations of Alumna, Audrey Catford at the end of February.

Sadly, Audrey passed away in



February, but we all share many happy memories of a wonderful afternoon celebrating this amazing milestone. The theme of guidance extends to our commitment to careers advice, recognising the importance of empowering the next generation with the wisdom you have gathered on your professional journeys. We are so grateful to our Alumnae who have taken part in Godolphin's Bright Futures Programme this year - your insights and expertise have guided our Godolphin students as they navigate their own paths to success.

As our global community expands its reach, the significance of our alumnae network becomes all the more evident. With members spanning continents, you are a testament to the enduring impact of our school's education. As we approach the school's remarkable 300-year anniversary, your collective achievements underscore the lasting influence on generations past, present, and those yet to come. I encourage each and everyone of you to stay connected, and be actively involved in Godolphin life. Your presence, whether through your stories, your contributions, or your guidance, enriches the tapestry of experiences we offer our students. Together, we can continue to build bridges between the past and the future, fostering a sense of community. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to this publication and for your continued support of Godolphin.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Godolphin's 2023 leavers who are the newest cohort of the Godolphin Alumnae. We wish them all well in their next steps as they leave Godolphin.

With best wishes

**Sarah Sowton**  
Director of Marketing & Alumnae

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# Letter from Emma Hattersley

*December 2022*

*Dearest Godolphin,*

The time has come to bid farewell and hand over the reins. This is a remarkable school populated with remarkable people, and it has been my absolute privilege to devote my service to

you for the past nine years.

I leave with so many wonderful memories but above all else I shall remember the extraordinary young people who have helped to shape this community, bringing with them the optimism of youth and the spirit of hope for the future. Young people of compassion, courage and tenacity. Young

people who are not afraid to be themselves, to be authentic and to work hard to achieve their goals both large and small. It is these qualities that I have seen showcased throughout my time here. I could cite last summer's phenomenal examination results as just one of those special moments when everything comes together, and we



see Godolphin at its best. My heartfelt thanks go to the entire staff body who work tirelessly to support the students in making all this possible. We couldn't do it without you.

Our successes are only achievable through everyone's dedication and hard work. I will treasure those moments, from being awarded Southwest Independent School of the Year in 2019 to introducing the Elizabeth Godolphin Award programme and seeing so many Sixth Formers benefit from being a part of this. Poignant occasions such as in 2018 'Godolphin Remembers' in honour of the part Godolphin played in the Great War. Countless memorable and moving services in Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and so often accompanied by Godolphin's magical singing. And witnessing year after year the stunning art produced by students of all ages, so thoughtfully and carefully displayed for us all to enjoy. Thinking about displays I will always remember the incredible Science Week exhibitions that have graced our hall every spring term, from the beautiful Milky Way to the magnificent dinosaurs. And outdoors, the many often cold, yet rewarding occasions watching our sports teams perform and that thrill when they win. Alongside this of course the sense of adventure that students gain from being part of the CCF Ten Tors - I shall always remember those ecstatic faces as the teams crossed the finish.

Elizabeth Godolphin founded this wonderful school to encompass a sense of giving back. She created the school originally for the education of eight young, orphaned gentlewomen and over the last almost 300 years, that core ethos is still what we strive to do. It was right that we offered Ukrainian students places to study here in the last year due to the horrific war. Godolphin has given those individuals the opportunity to be hopeful about their futures and to be able to continue their education in a safe environment.



Thank you to them for enriching our community.

As I reflect upon the last nine years and remember fondly all the joyous moments, there are of course the more challenging ones that spring to mind too. Managing Godolphin through a global pandemic is not something I hope is repeated for a very long time.

Coming together to celebrate the life of our dear Queen Elizabeth II was also a sad time but reminded me of the solace and support that can be found within a strong community such as ours.

Fundamentally though it is the little things that have mattered most to me during my stewardship. Helping a student in distress or supporting a member of staff or parent. Seeing a child grow and develop into a confident young adult and on occasion very much wanting to support the underdog when the world seemed against them. Then

there is the drawer of letters and cards; a happy reminder to me as to why I went into teaching in the first place.

The Christmas story is a symbol of hope and joy and offers a chance for our community to pause for breath and take stock. Whilst the world seems rather bleak at present, the baby Jesus reminds us that we can look forward with courage and good cheer and pray for a brighter and peaceful future for all of humanity.

As I leave, I wish every single member of this Godolphin community a joyful and restful Christmas and love and hope for the new year ahead. The school is in safe hands, and I am pleased and proud to pass the baton on to Jenny Price.

Wishing you the brightest of futures and with eternal thanks for all that Godolphin has given me.

Emma Hattersley  
Head 2014 - 2022



# FEATURES



## ANNIE SMITH

... explains how Godolphin afforded her opportunities to be tested outside her comfort zone which led her to discover that her interests are a perfect fit for an army career

Face laden with cam cream and running on Pitch 1 with a wooden rifle, as a member of the Godolphin CCF, little did I know that my future career could resemble this. I write this article from the Brecon Beacons, where I've been conducting platoon attacks, fully camouflaged, with real weapons and ammunition all week! I am one year and three months into my Army career, and, I am loving the variety and excitement my job brings. I commissioned as an Officer in December 2022 after a year of training at Sandhurst, and I am now on the Platoon Commander's Battle Course. This training is a rite of passage for all Officers commissioning into the Infantry and it's designed to introduce you to your physical and mental limits. I am the only female here, with only a small number of women who have gone before me (in 2018 Ground Close Combat roles opened up to us).

During school and since I have sought challenge; I learn best and enjoy being tested outside my comfort zone. Godolphin afforded

me so many opportunities to do this. Be it on the Melbourne exchange, the lacrosse pitch, public speaking for the debate team or as part of my Head Girl duties. At the time I probably took many of these experiences, which have set me up for my current job, for granted.

After school, I took a gap year where I spent a season working in the Alps, and four months volunteering and travelling in East and Southern Africa. Here, I learned that I wanted a career where I could travel and work with people from different backgrounds. I spent three months at Kenyan charity, Restart Africa, which is a home and rehabilitation centre for former street children. I was utterly humbled by the children's positivity, despite their prior adversity. Revisiting Restart every year, and seeing the children grow and learn convinced me I wanted a career where I could have a direct impact in helping develop others.

While at Edinburgh University, after adventure-filled weekends with

the UOTC, I decided the Army was for me. I enjoyed my studies, which got more interesting as I began to specialise in Post-Colonial and Middle Eastern politics. Increasingly, I saw that all my interests were a perfect fit for an Army Career. Once I got to Sandhurst, I knew I was in the right place with like-minded people. In a small way, being there reminded me of school, with a wide range of lessons, extracurriculars and a great sense of camaraderie among cadets. While we were challenged lots in training, be it physically or mentally, the hardest part is the long hours and a different working rhythm to other jobs. I get on well with the people I work with, however, I really miss my Godolphin friends who are mostly living in London.

The future is exciting. After I finish at Brecon, I am being deployed straight to Estonia, where I will take command of my platoon. We will be part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence on Europe's Eastern flank. Undoubtedly, the War in Ukraine brings close the reality of this deployment. While I naturally have nerves, no task in the Army is done in isolation and I trust in my training and all my life experience that has got me this far.

Annie Smith,  
Godolphin



# NELL PUGH

...travelling from Art to Motorsport (hopefully)

Over the past year, I have been enrolled at Arts University Bournemouth studying an art foundation in Graphic Design. Alongside my studies, I have been working as a Digital Media and Studio Assistant for paper sculptor, Patricia Mitchel, who has been an amazing mentor. Working under her guidance has been a fantastic opportunity and has allowed me to be part of some really exciting projects.

activities and interests were also broad including Leith's, Speech and Drama, School productions, guitar and a love for motorsport. With an array of interests, I found it difficult to know what I really wanted to do after school. I decided that a year's art foundation would allow me to expand my creative portfolio, providing me with knowledge and understanding of industry-standard software.

Whilst at the time leaving school

holidays with the Godolphin girls, whether it's a night at the chapel nightclub or brunch at Boston Tea Party it is always a laugh and reminder that once a Godolphin girl you are always a Godolphin Girl.

University has significantly highlighted the importance of embracing technology, encouraging me to consider degrees that included coding, technology and creativity. I now have a place at Royal Holloway University to study for a BSC in Digital Media Culture and Technology, with the aspiration of working in the motorsport industry. I also applied to a few degree apprenticeships as



Nell Pugh and the Gang

My love of motorsport has often come as a surprise to people, with their first question usually being why? I've never been considered a sporty person, that's for sure! As a creative I was drawn to motorsport, it combined my interest in technology with my love for creativity

I studied Biology, History and Art at Godolphin. My interests at school were broad and upon reflection, I am extremely grateful to say that I thoroughly enjoyed every subject I studied, although this time last year I would have rolled my eyes at myself for saying that with the pre-exam nerves building. Beyond subject choices, my extracurricular

seemed daunting, with everyone going off to do different things and a question mark over how friendships would hold up when not seeing friends day in and out. Worries quickly dissipated as life became increasingly exciting and if anything friendships have become stronger and more valuable to me. I always look forward to a catch-up in the

I was eager to start learning whilst working, however, I faced rejection.

My love of motorsport has often come as a surprise to people, with their first question usually being why? I've never been considered a sporty person, that's for sure! As a creative I was drawn to motorsport, it combined my interest in technology with



my love for creativity. Seeing the cars on track in my opinion is like seeing artwork come to life. The cars are a feat of engineering built with cutting-edge technology and are a testament to what can be achieved by the dedication and drive of a team in an industry like no other. I am a member of the FIA Girls on Track community, which encourages women to get interested in motorsport. Being part of this community has shown me the possibilities of working in the industry and has allowed me to meet like-minded people at networking events located at places such as the Porsche HQ and the next event at Williams F1 HQ (needless to say - I'm looking forward to it). I've always loved watching Formula One, but recently have been excited by the new and upcoming Formula Academy series and Extreme E due to the participation of female drivers. Since 2021 I have struggled



with long-covid, with symptoms of vertigo, brain fog, tinnitus, and earache. However, I have always found comfort in the distraction of a race weekend and listening to motorsport podcasts inspiring me to find my way into the industry.

If there is one thing I wish I knew last year when leaving, is that it's okay not to know what you

want to do and don't dismiss your aspirations because they don't seem conceivable or achievable. I really wish I'd woken up and realised that I had the opportunity to pursue my dream of working in the motorsport industry sooner. Also, a reminder for those worrying about grades, whilst good grades are great, it's the people you meet and the hands you shake that really make a difference. In the wake of exams, grades mean everything. However, in the aftermath of it all even though I was ecstatic about achieving A, A, A\* which got me into university, those grades have most definitely not defined any future success. I've still faced rejection from, Universities, Apprenticeships even internships and work experience applications in the automotive industry but that doesn't mean I'll stop trying. You just have to keep persevering.

**Nell Pugh,  
Godolphin 2015 - 2022**

## MADISON BOWER DYKE

...found leaving Godolphin was the strangest experience of her life, but knows that one thing will never change, and that is that she is a Godolphin girl

I started Godolphin as an 11-year-old girl in 2015, who was not sure of themselves, let alone knew what impact on the world she wanted to make in her lifetime. After seven years of navigating life through friendships and academics, I can now say that I have become a resilient and driven woman, who I am very proud to be. Leaving Godolphin in the summer of 2022, was the strangest experience of my life. I felt like I was leaving my family, which consisted of friends and teachers who had supported me and moulded me into the person I am today. Godolphin is a very special school as it has given me irreplaceable friendships which I do not believe I would have created



elsewhere.

In the lead up to the end of my time at Godolphin, all students were constantly asked the question of 'What next?' Personally, I had decided to take a Gap year as I needed some time away from my

academic pursuits. So, I needed to choose how to spend my time before leaving to go to The University of Nottingham for my pharmacology degree. In a Sixth form meeting, we were told about the opportunity to be a residential GAP assistant at a near by Prep School. I jumped at the opportunity and with the help of Sixth form staff, I secured the role. I have now just had my first term at the school, where I help teach sports and aid in the boarding house. I love it! However, it is strange being able to go into staff rooms and having children call me 'Miss B-D'.

Even though I have left Godolphin, there are still a few things that I miss often. I miss Vocal Ensemble and the drama department more

than I can ever put into words. Luckily, I don't have to miss lacrosse too much, as I get to help teach a lacrosse club at the school I work at, but I cannot wait to play at university level. Honestly, there is one thing I miss most after leaving Godolphin, and that's the teachers. I miss their dedication, humour, and kindness, and I envy current students who still get to have evening chats with boarding staff. As a full boarder at Godolphin, boarding staff played a huge role in my life. They were my

parents away from home and they are there for you if you need to cry or if they need to remind you to clean a used mug that's been sitting in someone's bedroom slightly too long...

There are a few words of wisdom I have for the leavers of 2023 and any future leavers to come. This time of year you are expected to make many big life decisions which are hard to make, but do what you want with your future, don't do what's expected of you as the legacy you

want to leave on the world is your legacy, not someone else's. The last months of Upper Sixth are going to be hard and stressful, but just know you can ask for help as you are never alone.

Ultimately, years will pass and, in a flash, people or friendships will change and the world will be different. However, I can confidently say that one thing will never change, and that is that I am a Godolphin girl.

**Madison Bower Dyke,**  
Godolphin 2015 - 2022

## GODOLPHIN JOINS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Godolphin's Head, Jenny Price and students joined Salisbury resident Audrey Catford who was surrounded by family and friends as she celebrated her 100th Birthday on Wednesday 22 February.

As part of the celebrations, Godolphin's Fourth Year student

Emily Price performed Bach's Cello Suite No 1 - Prelude, and Upper Sixth student Iris Lam sang A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square by Mannin Sherwin. Art Scholar Iris Lam also designed and presented a beautiful, signed card from the whole Godolphin community.

Audrey's home was full of cards, flowers and a beautiful birthday cake as well a personal 100th Birthday card from HM King Charles III.

Speaking from her home in Quidhampton, Audrey Catford thanked the students and said





*"Goodness me, your surprise visit absolutely made my day." Audrey, who spent much of her life in Torquay, returned to Salisbury for her retirement. She attended Godolphin in 1936-1941 and was Head Girl.*

*Godolphin's Head Jenny Price said "It was a joy to celebrate Audrey's momentous milestone with her friends and family and it was*



*wonderful to hear stories of her time at Godolphin. Audrey enjoys music and was a keen Cellist, so it seemed fitting for Emily to perform some unaccompanied Bach on the Cello for everyone to enjoy, with Iris encouraging everyone to sing Happy Birthday. We were delighted to be included in the celebrations for Audrey and we will all treasure this moment."*

# IZZY GILLIGAN

Head girl 2021 Izzy Gilligan advises anyone leaving Godolphin not to be nervous - there is a really good network of Old Girls

## What was the saddest thing about leaving Godolphin?

For me, the saddest thing, except from the fact that I left during covid so didn't get to experience any of the traditional leavers events, was that I was leaving behind the amazing community I'd been a part of for 7 years and all the fabulous teachers and girls.

## Do you miss your School days?

When I left, I thought I would miss them a lot more, but I had a lot of fun on my gap year, and now I am loving University.

However, I absolutely love going back to visit Godolphin, and catching up with everybody, and it always feels like I never left whenever I go back.

## Do you feel Godolphin prepared you for taking the next step?

Yes, it definitely did. All the talks from people who gave advice for gap years and the skills learnt in EGA about job interviews, CVs and university applications were invaluable in preparing us all for what was to come after school. There was always help if you needed it, and even after I've left, some of the teachers still help me if I need them to.



## What inspired you to make the decisions/choices for life after Godolphin?

I always knew I wanted to go to university, but I didn't know what I wanted to study until I started psychology A level in the sixth form and the amazing teaching and interesting content lead me in the direction of studying psychology. Taking a gap year was slightly more spontaneous and a decision I made after I got my results in the summer but was definitely something I needed to do.

## Have you done any travelling since

## leaving?

Yes, I have, I went to Central America for 3.5 months in 2022, I visited Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico and Panama. It was an amazing experience which taught me a lot about planning a trip, dealing with unexpected challenges and being a bit spontaneous. I also picked up a lot of Spanish whilst I was there and I loved experiencing the different cultures and ways of life. This summer I'm going to Kenya for a month with a friend from uni, inspired by my love of travelling that I discovered in my year off.

## What about jobs? Anything exciting?

I have really only done hospitality jobs since leaving school, but I had a fabulous 4 months working at Daylesford Farm shop in Notting Hill where I met an amazing and diverse group of people and learnt how to make coffees which was very fun. This summer I will be working in the shop at Wimbledon Tennis Championships which I'm really excited about.

## Did you know you always wanted to go to University?

Yes, I did because I knew I wanted to meet a whole new group of people,

join some interesting societies and experience living in a different city in a different part of the country. I also knew I wanted to get a degree and further study something I'm interested in.

### **Was Durham the right choice?**

Durham was 100% the right choice. I love it so much, the city is very similar to Salisbury with its cathedral and the size of it. The best thing about it is the college system because it was so easy to make friends and you can play college sports which is very good fun. There are also some really good societies which I am part of, like the Durham Union, which puts on talks and lectures from amazing people such as Noam Chomsky, and then also the Ski Society which I am going to be the Social Secretary of next year.

### **Do you enjoy the course and is it what you expected?**

My course is quite interesting,

but it is a lot harder than A levels because there is so much science involved which is not my strong point! However when I get to choose my modules next year, I think it will keep getting better.

### **Would you advise other Godolphin Sixth leavers to follow the route you have taken?**

I would advise people to look at Durham because everyone here absolutely loves it. I also think taking a gap year is a very unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience to travel and work without many other life responsibilities getting in the way and you really grow up and learn a lot about yourself.

### **Have you stayed in touch with your Godolphin friends?**

Yes I have, there are a few of us at University in the north, at Durham, Newcastle and Edinburgh, so I often see them. But also because everyone lives so close together at

home, it is so easy to meet up with each other in the holidays. It is a really nice community to be a part of.

### **Do you feel supported by the OGA community? Are they still a key part of your life?**

Yes I do, I think there is a really good network of Old Girls and wherever you go, there is always a Godolphin connection. My mum and aunt and all of my Godmothers were at Godolphin so I am usually surrounded by at least one old girl!

### **What advice would you give to Godolphin Sixth students as they are preparing to leave?**

I would say, don't be nervous about leaving, you will always have a great Godolphin community supporting you and some great friends and whatever you do next will be really amazing.

**Izzy Gilligan,  
Godolphin 2014 - 2021**

# JESS RUSBY

...can vouch for 'staying in your lane' because at the end of the day you know yourself better than anyone else!

### **What did it mean to you to be a part of the Godolphin community?**

Having been a part of the Godolphin community for 9 years, as both student and staff, and continuing as part of the OGA is an incredibly special feeling.

### **Did you enjoy your school days?**

Despite some ups and downs, the majority of my school days I look back on with complete nostalgia!

### **Do you have any special memories or experiences that you cherish the most?**

Some of my most cherished memories of Godolphin come from

the incredible school trips I had the privilege of attending. From Australia to Nepal – I have memories to last a lifetime! Godolphin sports department also played a massive part in making my time so enjoyable and I have the incredible coaches to thank for motivating and inspiring me to reach my potential!

### **Did you feel prepared to take the next step when you left Godolphin?**

When I left Godolphin, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do post-school but I would say that I felt prepared and ready to figure it out, regardless of how long it took me. During sixth form, I gained confidence in knowing

that things would work out in the end and unsurprisingly they have!

### **Did you take a gap year? And if so, what did you get up to?**

Since leaving Godolphin, I have taken a couple of gap years to work out which career path I wanted to take! After returning to Godolphin as a gap student in the PE department, I have travelled to 4 different continents, spending a significant amount of time in Kenya working at Restart Africa – a children's home in western Kenya. I also spent some time in the small town of Iten, where I did high altitude training in preparation for the London Marathon which I ran in April this year.

### **When did you decide to apply to Google?**

Earlier this year, whilst travelling in the Northeast of Brazil, I managed to pick up food poisoning which



unfortunately meant a few duvet days. In this time, I came across the job on Indeed and decided to apply! At that time, I wasn't set on working for Google but the dates worked, I'd seen 'The internship' and I had nothing to lose by applying! A testament to 'everything happens for a reason'.

### What was the application process like for Google?

The application process was gruelling but an incredible experience nonetheless. There were 6 months between sending in my cover letter and CV and finding out I'd been successful. And only after I found out they told me there were 9000 applicants and I was 1 of 30!

The process consisted of multiple interviews, online tests and written exams as well as many hours of preparation for each stage of the process.

### Is your apprenticeship for the year?

The apprenticeship is 15 months long and there's no guarantee of a job afterwards, but I will have the opportunity to apply if I want or if not Google will help me find another job!

### Do you currently have aspirations for your future?

My current professional aspirations are to enjoy what I do because I have no time to waste doing something I don't enjoy. My personal aspirations are to keep training hard in preparation for the World Triathlon



Championships next year where I will be competing for the Great Britain age group team!

### Have you stayed in touch with your Godolphin friends?

Yes! I regularly see lots of my Godolphin friends and had the pleasure of travelling in Kenya this summer with fellow OG Millie Pratt.

### Are you still in touch with the School?

Yes! I love Godolphin and any excuse to go back – I'm there!

### What does it mean to you to be a part of the OGA community?

Being part of the OGA community is a super fun way to stay in touch with other old girls as well as the current staff at Godolphin.

### What advice would you give to Godolphin Sixth students as they are

### preparing to leave?

The biggest piece of advice I can give is 1) don't rush and 2) relax. You can go to uni this year, next year, in 10 years or never!

If you take responsibility for your future and seek opportunities to gain experience in life you WILL end up in the right place. It's so easy to get caught up in what everyone else is doing but I can vouch for 'staying in your lane' because at the end of the day you know yourself better than anyone else!

### Three words of wisdom or a quote of your choice?

"Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and the thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see the greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself" – Edmund Lee

Jess Rusby,  
Godolphin 2017 - 2022

# ANNABEL O'REILLY

Annabel's advice is to... follow your passions

### What did being a part of the Godolphin community mean to you? Do you miss your School days?

The Godolphin community was really important to me, I always felt very at home and everyone was really friendly.

I miss my school days a lot, it was a big adjustment moving to Dyson but the Godolphin and Dyson communities are very similar which made the transition a lot easier. Did you feel prepared to take the next step? Did Godolphin prepare

### you for your apprenticeship and the world of Dyson?

Being a full boarder helped me gain confidence and prepare for living alone. Godolphin supported me with my learning difficulties allowing me to better understand my neurodiversity

(Dyslexia, Autism and ADHD), finding ways to work with them and helped me accept them as a strength instead of a weakness. Leaving school I understood my needs very well, allowing me to easily set up my reasonable adjustments when I arrived at Dyson. Having small classes got me used to talking to my teachers so I have the confidence to talk with lecturers and work colleagues.

### **What inspired you to make the decisions/choices for life after Godolphin? Has engineering always been your passion?**

When I came to Godolphin I joined various STEM clubs, so my interest in engineering started early. This encouraged me to go on courses by organisations like Cyber First and the Smallpeice Trust.

Godolphin made a huge difference by putting on DT and computer sciences as A-levels. (It is really great to see how computing has grown in later years.) The constant support I received from my teachers really helped me explore my interests and ensured that I went on to do a course that I really enjoy.

My tutor, Mr Eggleton, was a great help in researching the Institute and helping me apply. I also had loads of help from subject teachers and boarding staff.

### **What was the application process like for the Dyson Institute?**

The application process for the Institute was a very long and challenging experience for me. The institute is very competitive so there were multiple stages. In the first stage, after submitting my personal statement and CV, we did a timed aptitude test in maths and a personality test to check our soft skills. In the second stage we had a telephone interview where they asked us about ourselves and about our knowledge of Dyson. The final stage was a video call interview where we were asked technical questions about a random Dyson product as well as other engineering related questions

(this process has now been modified).

### **Tell us more about first few months at Dyson?**

My first work placement was in software working on Dyson robotics. It was such a change from school. My work involved coding and some of the code I wrote remains in use when the product gets tested.

The lectures are much more similar to school but there is a lot of content packed into the day as we only have 2 days for lectures a week. In our free time the institute run lots of events such as adventure sports, board games nights, film club and much more so there is never a dull moment.

### **Do you live on site?**

In the first year of the course we live on site in the Dyson village. We are each given a 'pod', which is very spacious with a double bed, desk, beanbags and ensuite. We share kitchens with 6-9 people and have communal areas to relax in together. After 1st year we then move out to find our own accommodation either in Malmesbury or Bristol depending on what you prefer.

Living in the Dyson Village is a brilliant experience because you get to know like-minded people in a close-knit community. There is something to do every evening and Dyson puts on regular trips to Bristol for nights out.

### **How long is your degree course and what does it entail?**

The course is 4 years long. During this time, we work 3 days a week within a real Dyson team working on Dyson products and we spend the other 2 working days in lectures studying for our degree. For the first 2 years we go through 6-month workplace rotations where we try different types of engineering; software, electrical, mechanical and NPI (new product innovation). In 3rd year we select a team and continue working with them for the remainder of our course.

I get paid a starting salary of

£22,000 in the first year, which increases yearly as you get more experienced. There are also no fees for the course, so you are being paid to study!

Once we graduate, we come out with a bachelor's degree in general engineering awarded by the Dyson Institute and a Level 6 Design and Development Engineering apprenticeship, as well as 4 years of work experience that is very helpful if deciding to apply for other jobs.

### **Have you stayed in touch with your Godolphin friends?**

Yes, I try my best to stay in touch with all my friends from Godolphin. I've seen a few of them since graduating and recently went on a trip to Barcelona with 2 of my closest school friends.

### **What does it mean to you to be a part of the OGA community?**

I am really proud to have been part of the school and it is nice to have a continuing connection.

### **Are you still in touch with the School?**

Yes. I have kept in touch with a couple of my teachers. In my final year we discussed with Mrs McNulty a project for the next year's class to make chess pieces inspired by various designers and design movements. She later sent me some photos of pieces the class made. They looked amazing.

### **What advice would you give to Godolphin Sixth students as they are preparing to leave?**

- Take advantage of every opportunity you are given
- Even if you think applying to a course is a long shot, if it is something you really want to do you should always go for it.
- You'll regret the things you didn't do much more than the things you did.

### **Three words of wisdom or a quote of your choice?**

Follow your passions

**Annabel O'Reilly,  
Godolphin 2017 - 2022**



# NEWS

## A celebration of sport 2022

For the first time in three years, Godolphin welcomed students and parents into school for the annual Sports Awards Evening. Each senior sport captain reported on the highlights of their seasons, and awarded most valuable performers, most improved performers and colours for their sports.

Guest Speaker and OG Anna Featherstone inspired students with her journey from Pitch 1 to international lacrosse.

Godolphin's Head Scholar, Olivia Huff bid farewell to Godolphin by reminiscing on her sport experiences at school and providing advice for the younger students in the audience.

Finally, we announced the two outstanding performers, Kaitlin Miller for the Junior award and Tiana Nhamoinesu for the Seniors. Congratulations to all the winners on the evening. A big thank you to Anna for coming back to Godolphin.

**Godolphin Sports Department**



## Molly Thomlinson

The first picture was us at the beach where I got engaged!!

The second picture below is of my fiancé when we just moved into our new home together. The third picture is the day we got engaged. In the evening we had a celebration dinner for my 21st birthday too. The last picture is with our spaniel monty. I am still doing my teaching degree and absolutely loving it as well!!

**Molly Thomlinson,  
Godolphin 2012 - 2019**







## Alice Allison

**Top (l-r) Sarah Swarfield (née Godson), Caroline Downie (née Baker), Leyla Davies (née Tindall), Andrea Benson (née Krohn), Philly Bunch (née Russell-Smith)**  
**Bottom (l-r) Sara Jaffar, Alice Allison (née Coates), Rosanna Wilson (née Randall), Nicola McPherson (née Wallace).**

Sarah Swarfield (née Godson) went from captaining most sports teams at Godolphin to become a PE teacher at Wells Cathedral Prep School. She also

has a holiday let business on her farm in Somerset. She is married to Martin and has two teenage children.

Caroline Downie (née Baker) is a planning consultant, trying to change the architectural landscape one brick at a time. She has two teenage sons, one of whom hopes to play rugby for Scotland.

Leyla Davies (née Tindall) is a headhunter, placing CEOs/CFOs into large UK businesses. She lives in Manchester with her two spirited daughters and two Welsh terriers.

Andrea Benson (née Krohn) owns and runs AA First; importing and distributing water coolers with her husband Pete, near Newbury. She has two children.

Philly Bunch (née Russell-Smith) lives in Winchester with her husband Simon and two boys. She works as a Senior Teaching Fellow in English at the University of Southampton.

Sara Jaffar has lived in North Yorkshire for nearly 20 years

with her partner, their daughter and two dogs. She is currently studying alternative health and lifestyle management.

Alice Allison (née Coates) is director of Bread and Honey, a branding and communications agency which she runs with her husband Tom. She also now works at Godolphin in the Performing Arts Centre during termtime. She lives in the Pewsey Vale and has two children.

Rosanna Wilson (née Randall) lives in East Lothian, Scotland and is married with two small children. She has worked in the financial sector for many years, which she still does whilst juggling motherhood.

Nicola McPherson (née Wallace) lives in Berkshire with her husband Murray and two teenage children. She has used her artistic eye working within the textile industry for many years.

**Alice Allison,  
Godolphin 1986 - 1993**

## Pollyanna Blythe

I recently saw a post on Instagram encouraging OGs to get in touch with our recent news for the next magazine edition, and I thought this would be a great opportunity to let you know about my upcoming challenge! I will be taking part in the 2023 London marathon to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital charity. This will be a huge challenge for me, but hopefully all worth it for such a great cause.

Great Ormond Street hospital is a fantastic charity and particularly close to my heart as they helped to successfully treat my younger sister, Betty, when she was younger. I'm really hoping to raise as much money as possible and would be hugely appreciative if you could share my fundraising campaign in the latest OGA magazine. The link to my fundraising page, where you can read more about Great Ormond Street Hospital charity and

why I am running, is linked below: <https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/pollyanna-blythe>

Outside of training for the marathon, I have now taken up a job as a trainee chartered accountant at Evelyn Partners, after graduating from Exeter university in the summer. I am working at their office in Salisbury, so outside of

work when I'm not revising for my professional accountancy exams, I regularly run past Godolphin on my training runs!

I hope everyone is well at Godolphin and I look forward to hearing what other OGs have been up to! All the best,

**Pollyanna Blythe  
Godolphin 2012 - 2019**



Pollys Fundraising page: I have always wanted to run a marathon and I couldn't think of a better reason to take on such a challenge than to help raise money for the hospital that helped my younger sister, Betty, when she was young. [2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com](https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com)



I cannot deny it. I was a student at Godolphin during the 1970s, the Decade that Taste Forgot. My memories of Godolphin are consequentially either in unforgiving sepia – dark oak hallways and chalk dust in the air, blue pinnys, frost on the games pitches, the dull echo of voices at morning prayers, scratchy grey sports culottes, and hair to be tied back if it touched your collar. Or else my memories are in glorious, aspirational technicolour – platform boots, Laura Ashley dresses, Ziggy Stardust, batwing sleeves, Jaws the film, terylene, crimplene and lurex. With all that man-made fibre, it's a wonder that we didn't spontaneously combust. As I joined Godolphin, a band called Queen made their debut on Top of the Pops. When I left five years later, Eurovision was won by a Swedish pop group with a catchy little number about a battle. Whatever happened to them?

Godolphin taught me many things – that science in all its forms was fascinating (particularly when it involved chemicals that went bang), that Latin was unforgivingly logical, that Keats was unforgivably romantic, that the cool kids were always in Methuen, how to break my nose at lacrosse, and that my gift to the world of music was never to play any musical instrument in public. But Godolphin also taught me that it was OK to try your hardest to excel; that tolerating (even embracing) different outlooks and opinions was generally a good thing; that patience and tact had to be practiced; and that there were endless opportunities out there in the world beyond Salisbury, waiting to be explored for those who dared. Fashion and musical tastes may have changed since my day; but I suspect that the virtues of such lessons and their value for today's students have not diminished one bit over the last fifty years.

After Godolphin, I read microbiology at Bristol and gained a doctorate at Oxford in bacterial



genetics. While trying to decide what to do next, I was told by a well-meaning friend that anyone who was a female, a scientist and a non-linguist clearly could never hope to join the Foreign Office. Not one to ignore a challenge – that would be the Godolphin legacy coming out there – I promptly did just that ("we've never had a microbiologist before" the admissions officer nervously told me). I spent the next thirty years immersed in international relations, watching peace break out in Northern Ireland, the Soviet Union collapse, the UN Security Council at the height of its powers, the UK's relationship with Brussels become increasingly fraught and the world change beyond recognition during those years. Working for the Foreign Office may be demanding, frustrating, badly paid and at times downright

nerve-wracking; but it is never dull. And, just as I was planning to retire four years ago, I found myself joining the international chemical weapons watchdog in The Hague, barely months after two British citizens were found unconscious on a park bench near Salisbury Library, the victims of the first ever chemical weapons attack on British soil. Yes, dear reader; it may have taken me almost fifty years. But those long hours at Godolphin spent hunched over a rack of test tubes have finally paid off. The Godolphin of my day no doubt sounds impossibly quaint to today's students. But almost three hundred years since it was founded, Godolphin's ability to prepare its students to face today's challenges and opportunities seems to me to be as relevant as ever.

Carolyn Browne,  
Godolphin 1970 - 1975





Resident in South Island, Aotearoa New Zealand for the past thirty years, I am married to a Kiwi farmer and am the mother of three grown-up children. The last thirty years have been filled with child-rearing, farm admin and support, preschool Music and Movement sessions, Spanish and ESOL teaching, volunteering and all the usual household/garden duties.

I now also lead a small children's singing group in a local town and a creative music group at her local primary school.

Cee Bee Teatime was born in Aotearoa New Zealand's first 2020 Covid-19 Lockdown. When Copyright issues interfered with my delivery of online Music and Movement sessions, I decided that the only solution was to create my own material.

With two of my three, musical children at home captive, they began to make songs. Oscar's instrumental and music production abilities and Emily's beautiful voice enabled my lyrics and melodies to be turned into fun, interactive songs for children everywhere.

My songs are mostly aimed at pre-school aged children and are not driven by what is trending, though artists in the same space are often inspired by the same things, she says! Some are very simple action songs, many have a farming/countryside theme, some have an element of the ridiculous, many tell a little story or contain a message but all began in Charlotte's imagination. Many of the songs would slot perfectly into any Early Childhood programme.

"In our Anglo-Saxon world, feelings are shared, problems solved, ideas developed and support given over a cup of tea and there is always music. Music feeds our soul and it's never too early to start enjoying and appreciating it. The words and melodies have always been inside me and now it's time to start pouring them out. It's Cee Bee Teatime!", says Charlotte.

When a caregiver asked me for the name of a particular song, because she 'couldn't find it on Spotify', I realised that it was time to start sharing my music. I released my first songs in late 2021, with several more in 2022.

My August release, Rubbish in a Bin, features children at the local primary school and I have won a local Creative Communities grant to have a professional video made for this song, which promotes my local district's curb-side recycling programme.

There are more songs queued for release at the time of writing this article, some including the voices of children from my singing group, and there are lots more in the pipeline!

With the growing importance of visual messages in this digital

world of YouTube and other online video streaming platforms and the recognition that songs seldom 'take off' without a video, I am now venturing into this world – a new learning curve to begin climbing.

Cee Bee Teatime songs can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and most major streaming platforms. I am on Facebook (Cee Bee Teatime) and Instagram (ceebeeteatime4kidsmusic) and invite you all to take a listen and give me your feedback.

Links to songs, podcasts and press articles can be found at: <https://linktr.ee/cebtalbot>

Charlotte Talbot (née Branfoot),  
Godolphin 1975 - 1982





Five 12 year olds joined Fawcett House in September 1953, shortly after the Queen's coronation, they were L to R:

Judith Swindlehurst (née Soothill), Diana Williams (née Cross), Liz Bale (née Hodgson), Mary Lou Warren (née Darwall Smith), Jenny Church (née Brannam).

We remained friends throughout our years at Godolphin and left at different times to take up different careers.

We met intermittently over the years, living far apart and all busy



with jobs, husbands and small children, but have met regularly over the last few years, apart from Covid.

All retired and four of us widows, we remain busy and involved in our

communities and have numerous grandchildren and other young family members to keep us up to date!

Now living in Sussex, Hampshire and Somerset, we are much more accessible to each other and enjoy a Pub Lunch every Summer. Mary Lou and Diana belong to the same WI and their grandsons were at school together.

We would love to hear from anyone who remembers us.

**Diana Williams**  
Godolphin 1953-1960

It's been a long while but memories have a funny thing to pop up seemingly mundane imageries. I remembered the cold wet windy Sunday walk to Salisbury Cathedral (whimsically recalling the Gothic architecture) two by two, silently endearing the chill, holding tight to our straw board hat and draped in a shapeless navy blue cloak. I remembered picking the blackberries from the hedges, the rhubarbs growing near the railway track, my short leased unkempt garden patch, picking cooking apples from the back of the music lodge.

I remembered morning assembly where Miss Fraser, the Principle would stand in the raised podium to read a short chapter from a Christian biography. I used to sit in-front (holding on to a green hymn book and a red prayer book) slowly progressing backwards each year to the middle and back of the hall.

How great it would be I wondered watching the rerun of Sound of Music to be "sixteen going on seventeen" - wearing your own casual wear (rather than the shapeless blue pinafore) sitting at the upper deck of the hall and having your own room.

I remembered watching a few series of Jim'll Fix It, the crowded TV during Dallas & Dynasty series, and being inspired by a library book "Bury me in my boots" by Sally Trench.

A few names of the teachers that made a good impression on me



was definitely Miss Cheeseman, who taught more on sociology than religious studies; Miss Avery pronounced A very for English, and "Ecce puella est parva" is all that I could recall in Latin & I believe Miss Chisem was energetic small size teacher, and Miss Castle with her flow of short white hair for sports.

As for meals at Methuen House, seated at the junior end (and being the server) British as can be with bangers and mash, Yorkshire pudding, chocolate pudding with custard, etc. The kitchen staff with the cockney accents were such darlings with their generous food portions.

Didn't much enjoy being the orange girl for the lax team break, or being the padded goalkeeper

(feeling much like a Michelin mascot) managing to get a bronze certificate for life saving.

As for drama, I enjoyed watching the Crucible and some of the plays the seniors acted in. I had in particular a crashed seniors like Julie Marsden and Dawn.

Not very academical in study, I had 1 or 2 Grade As, couple of Bs and Cs and a handful of Ds, which I was dreading to tell a disciplinary mother. Fortunately, she took it well as to my two academically sounded brothers who respectively went to Marlborough and Winchester College.

Anyone famous? I recall the author Jilly Cooper. Never read her book though but tons of Mills and Boon in a day, or Barbara Cartland. And, yes there were the classical school textbooks of William Shakespeare. Amongst the free books I can recall, one of them being Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" which was very inspiring. out of class, I read British authors like Daphne Du Maurier and Agatha Christie.

Like a running projector, memories flash, be weary of black ice in winter, the fragrance of lilac in summer, candy shopping at the the nearby tuck shop, Sunday church services, etc.

And the motto "Frank and honest are we" stuck ever since.

**Dhyaanah Low,**  
Godolphin 1980 - 1984





## Sally Roberts - Walking to defeat MND

Sadly, I lost my Brother, Andrew, to Motor Neurone Disease. Andy lived in our home village of Broadchalke and worked his entire life in Salisbury. He was active and healthy until his sixties when he was diagnosed with the cruel disease, MND. He lived for a further two years before leaving a heartbroken family shocked by not only by his passing but by the horridness of his last two years of precious life.

For many years I had travelled back and forth from the UK to the Algarve in Portugal where I am now permanently resident either by air or car. I particularly enjoyed driving though France, Spain and Portugal inspired by my love of Geography thanks to Godolphin's Mrs Moore. It was this that gave me the idea of a sponsored walk from the beaches in Southern Portugal to Salisbury, not only to raise much needed funds for research into the currently incurable MND but also raise awareness of

this dreadful disease. To begin with I knew little of MND but it was pretty devastating to realise that someone one loves is diagnosed with an illness for which there is no treatment or cure. It was then that I made a silent promise to my Brother that I would try and do something to help. Hence my decision to walk from Portugal and raise funds for the Doddie Weir Foundation. Doddie was a Scottish former rugby player who made 61 appearances for Scotland. Since being diagnosed with MND he has raised millions of pounds with his determination, bloodymindedness and hope to rid the world of MND. Sadly, Doddie died in November 2022 but the work of his Foundation continues.

So, with some trepidation I started my walk and walked the first 1000 Kilometres to the Spanish French border until Covid 19 and lockdowns in March 2020 forced me to retreat to Portugal. I never imagined in a million years that this would happen and at the time thought I might just have to wait a few weeks before resuming the walk. Little did I realise

how long the lockdowns would last and it was not just a matter of days, weeks or months. By the time, it was possible to consider resuming the walk it was such a long time, I decided I had better start all over again in November 2021. This time I opted for a different route walking North along the border of Portugal and Spain on the Portuguese side to just short of Guarda. From there to Salamanca in Spain and Bordeaux and Cherbourg in France. I was lucky that unlike the previous year, for the most part the weather was good, if somewhat cold! On a few days in North Spain the morning walk started in minus 12 degrees! I was not so keen but my small 8 dogs that were with me seemed more than happy!

I walked an average of 20 kilometres a day which was as much as I thought I could do at my advancing age and with a troublesome knee injury! And so it was with much relief and excitement in April I reached Downton just south of Salisbury., The last 6 miles was memorable walking with family and friends who had supported me throughout my journey through the meadows to Salisbury Cathedral where we had a tea party at the Cathedral School before Evensong at the Cathedral itself.

I have been asked what kept me going on my 109 day walk and in the end I think it was my determination, bloody-mindedness and hope that I could achieve something to try and help the fight against MND. To date I have raised over £36,000 thanks to the generosity and support of wonderful family and friends for which I am eternally grateful. It is a drop in the ocean as to what is needed but the Government has committed more funds now to research a cure for MND and I remain very hopeful that a cure will be found in the not too distant future.

Sally Roberts (née Manby Brown)  
Godolphin 1965 – 1972





Catherine Franklin (Payne, Douglas), Suzanne Godfrey (Douglas), Doune Watters (Methuen), Sue Condliffe (Lacey Douglas), Annie Matthews (Russell, Methuen), Katherine Holder (Abele, Sarum North), Catherine Stott (Allen, Douglas), Caroline Clews (Waite, Douglas), Melanie Pearson (Rose, Douglas), Nicola Heron (White, Douglas) - sister of Lucinda who tragically died in 1994, Lizzie Bernthal (Parry, Methuen)





## OG 50 YEAR REUNION

A small group of OG's arranged a reunion at school in early September to celebrate 50 years since they started Godolphin in September 1973.

We spent a happy Saturday afternoon in the hot sunshine with Sarah Sowton who showed us around the school and the grounds, pointing out the impressive changes that have been made and new projects for the future - how times have changed since 1973!

We were also keen to revisit parts of the school that remain the same such as the school hall and classrooms (all now up to date in 21st century manner!). A chance encounter with school photographs from 1974 and 1978 provided much hilarity with familiar faces spotted and the odd blast from the past remembered! We were happy to say that people don't really change over the years, just the odd grey hair, a few wrinkles and the inevitable reading glasses pulled out in unison!

We were offered a lovely tea under a gazebo on the terrace outside the staff room where we

were able to chat with each other and also to meet a few members of staff, mostly covered in coloured paint powder following a riotous school activity with one Mr Bollywood!

We were delighted to hear that there might be a big celebration at Westminster Abbey in May 2026 for the 300th anniversary of Godolphin (we recalled the school play that Richard Shephard, Head of Music, wrote, composed & produced in 1976 for the 250th anniversary - that was a huge affair which involved almost the entire school!). Hopefully we will be able to catch up with many other OG's from other years on that important occasion.

Our huge thanks to Sarah for her enthusiasm and organisation of our afternoon, especially as it was the first weekend of term with so much going on.

We all hoped that there might be another good reason for coming back to visit, although 75 years might be pushing it a little!

Catherine Franklin,  
Godolphin 1973 - 1980







# OGA V GODOLPHIN LAX MATCH

A big thank you goes out to our amazing OGs: Hattie Caswell, Beth Southgate, Laura Nicholson, Amy Kelly, Niamh Reavill, Emily Jones and Eliza Dennis who returned to Godolphin on 9 September for the annual OGA v Godolphin Lax match.

In a fiercely contested match and exhilarating showdown, the Godolphin 1st Team emerged victorious with a final score of 11-9. The game showcased incredible teamwork and skill from both sides. Great to see our OGs back on the pitch, giving it their all!

We look forward to a rematch next year...









# OGA LEAVERS' DINNER 2022



The OGA plays a vital role in the Godolphin community, organising events and providing a constant source of advice and help, as we leave Godolphin school life behind. The Association brings together Old Godolphin girls, creating a vast network of OG's that are varied in both skills and knowledge. Moreover, being part of a diverse group of people so varied in talents, I can only assume will offer such great opportunities to us all in later life.

With the days at Godolphin coming to an end and becoming an OG myself, the prospect of being a part of a welcoming and happy community is something I am looking forward to. To know that the loving Godolphin sphere continues through adulthood is a massive comfort and I think it is such a lovely thing to be a part of.

To be invited to Hannah's beautiful cafe was such a special way to kickstart our leavers' celebrations. As an old Godolphin

girl herself, Hannah has shown all the Upper Sixth how life can unfold after Godolphin. The ways in which life has changed for Hannah, I'm sure, has demonstrated to all the Upper Sixth that life after Godolphin may never be as straightforward as we may think. As Hannah described, a change in focal point, from science to a food business, was a scary and daunting one. However, she expressed how along the way Godolphin girls are those who have remained with her.

This very reason makes Godolphin life all the more special. With the knowledge that we have all made friends for life and will be surrounded by OG's as we venture into our years beyond Godolphin, is such a beautiful thing. I will be eternally grateful for the supporting community that we have all built at Godolphin, and with the help of the OGA I am sure that this community will only grow.

Jemima Bentley  
Godolphin 2017 - 2022













# OGA LEAVERS' DINNER 2023



"I hope you will look back fondly at your time at Godolphin, show your new friends and families your pinnies and boards and live the best life you can." Jenny Price, Head.

An evening of burgers, wine and conversation was the order of the day at the OGA Leavers Dinner at The Greyhound on the Test, Stockbridge in May 2023

We were sorry to bid farewell to our leavers, but we're delighted to welcome the cohort to the Old Godolphin Association community.

A huge thank you to the OGA for sponsoring this event which was such a happy and memorable evening for everyone.

Sarah Sowton,  
Director of Alumnae





OGA LEAVERS' DINNER 2023









# GODOLPHIN SPEECH DAY 2023



The Godolphin community, both past and present, including students, staff, Governors, and Heads, came together to celebrate Speech Day in July 2023. Guests found delight in the remarkable displays and performances presented by the Science, Music, Drama, Choir, Product Design, and CCF departments.

The School recognised and celebrated the accomplishments of its current students. While rain may have dampened the day, it couldn't overshadow the sense of pride and achievement that permeated the atmosphere. As Godolphin bid farewell to the Upper Sixth students, a bittersweet sentiment lingered,

accompanied by our heartfelt wishes for their exciting journeys ahead.

A special highlight was the presence of OG Hermione Taylor, CEO of @the\_donation, whose captivating speech took us on a journey through her career, marked by unwavering optimism and hope, even in the face of the daunting reality of climate change.

Hermione's call to action, encouraging our Godolphin students to embrace careers in various fields while incorporating sustainable practices, was both empowering and eye-opening. Thank you Hermione for inspiring us and reminding us of the power we each hold to make a difference.















## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMEMORATION 2022

On Saturday 5 November, the Upper Sixth travelled to London for our annual service commemorating our Founder, Elizabeth Godolphin, in the Henry VII Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey. While the Art Historians had a whistle-stop tour of the National Gallery, the Upper Sixth explored autumnal London.

'It was a lovely occasion for our Upper Sixth, with readings from both students and staff.

A moving rendition of the Gaelic Blessing, was sung and conducted by our Upper Sixth choir. After a poignant service, in which the Rev inspired us to be the fireworks set by Elizabeth Godolphin's fuse, we proceeded to the Cloisters, where we laid a wreath at the memorial of our Founder.

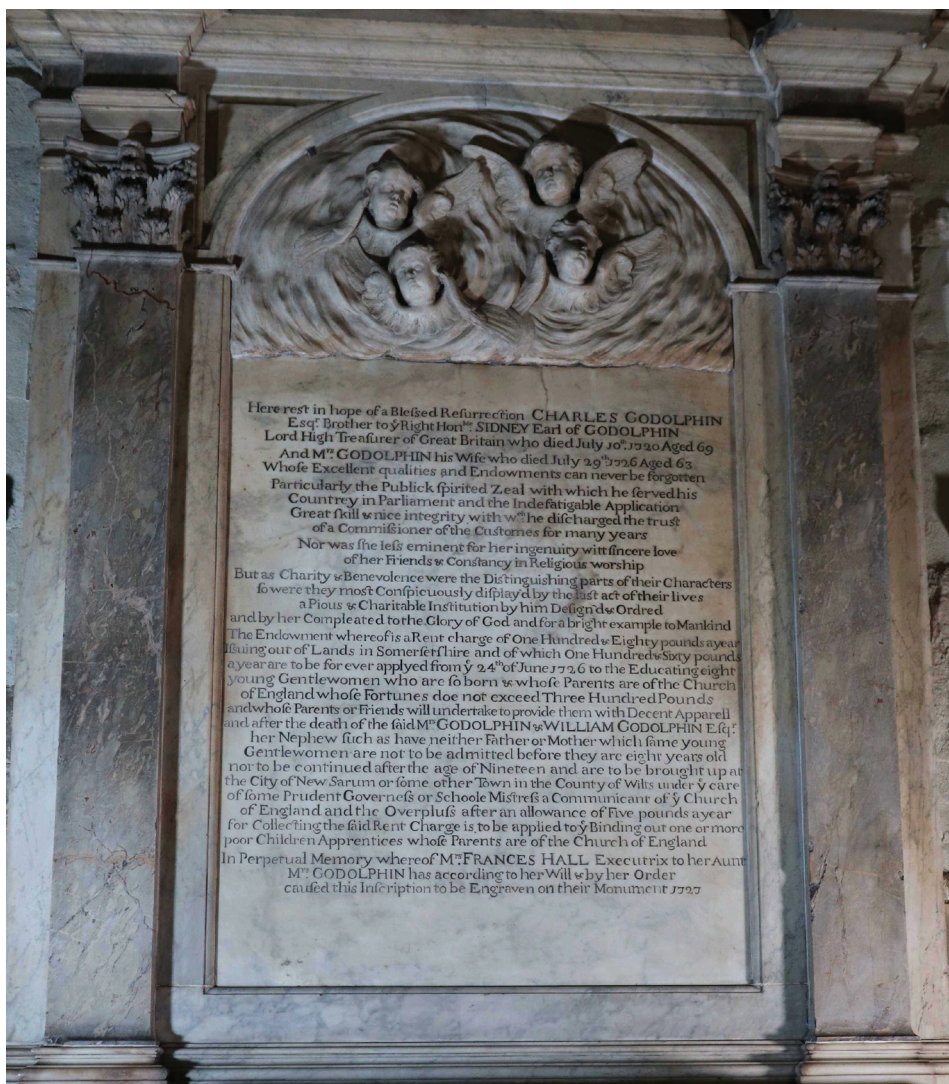
The Canon's welcome reaffirmed that "the Abbey is a place for memories" - and our Upper Sixth will treasure this memory for years to come'.

Georgina Kett,  
Godolphin 2015 - 2023



# SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMEMORATION

## 2022 *contd*











We are so grateful to all our wonderful Alumnae for their continued support of Godolphin's various careers events throughout the year. Your enthusiastic participation in events such as the Bright Futures Summer Fair or our Find Your Future Friday sessions is truly invaluable. As you share your insights, recount your personal journeys and offer a glimpse into the world beyond Godolphin, your stories offer inspiration to our current students.

Whether sharing tales about adventurous gap years, meaningful work experience, higher education and endeavours, or established careers paths your involvement resonates with students across the years.

Thank you for sharing your wisdom, encouragement, and practical advice. Your participation is crucial in shaping student's decisions, widening their horizons, and inspiring them to find successful and fulfilling paths after their time at Godolphin.

Bethan Ferguson,  
Bright Futures, Godolphin







Amy has recently graduated from Condé Nast College of Fashion & Design where she completed a BA in Fashion Communication. She is now working at Levi Strauss & Co, where is working in the Customer Relations Management team for the North European market.



Ting is a London-based Architect working at Michaelis Boyd Associates. She went to the University of Hong Kong and then the Architectural Association in London for her degrees. Previously worked in the renowned Foster + Partners before licensing last year. Back in Godolphin, she did Art for GCSEs and A Levels which were the biggest contribution subject to her career.



Alex holds a degree in Textiles from Manchester and more recently a master's degree in Art Psychotherapy, in London. Now working in the NHS as an art psychotherapist, Alex facilitates therapy groups and individual sessions that involve both art and verbal approaches, for those experiencing difficulties with their mental health.





## BRIGHT FUTURES



Katie graduated from Chelsea College of Art & Design in 2013 with a degree in Textile Design. After university, Katie joined Alexander McQueen, where she worked as a Fabric Designer for 4 years, before being headhunted to work for Burberry as a Fabric Developer for Womenswear Mainline and Runway. Katie currently works for the Luxury Athleisure brand VAARA as the Senior Fabric & Trim Developer.



Cheskie works as a freelance interior designer and stylist alongside running her own business, designing and collaborating with artisans in Mexico, India and Cambodia to produce luxury home accessories.

### BRIGHT FUTURES, ART & DESIGN 2022 - TESTIMONIALS

"What a truly special evening! It was an honour to be invited back, and great to see everyone and everything again. Godolphin was such a special and important part of my life so it was really moving to return and discuss all the things that the school set me up to achieve and gave me the confidence to do. The girls I met are fab and everyone was so welcoming and great!

Congrats to you and thank you for putting on such a brilliant evening. I'd really love to be involved in anything in the future... just give me a shout if there's anything I can do."  
*Nell Nicholas OG*

"I owe a lot of (what turned out to be!) the good decisions that I made with my further education to lots of fantastic advice from all of the teachers in the art department, and I will be forever grateful for the guidance and nurturing I received from them. As I've grown older, I've realised

that the difference between a good teacher and an exceptional one is the ability to recognise an early talent or a specific interest a student has and encourage them to lean into it, be brave and search for the opportunity. It seemed very clear, while listening to the other students speak on Friday, that there are a lot of other OG's who have benefitted from the same amazing teacher support in the art department that I did while at the school.

The students are incredibly lucky to have you putting on such





Lara is a cataloguer in the Impressionist & Modern Art department at Sotheby's in London. She read Theology at the University of Cambridge before completing a Masters degree in History of Art at Sotheby's Institute of Art. Prior to joining Sotheby's in 2018, she was an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, the Mary Ryan Gallery in New York and the Sovereign Art Foundation in Hong Kong.

## The following OGs took part in our Bright Futures with Engineering & Technology Event in November 2022

**Didi Price - Design & Engineering at Bath University**

**Lexi Hopson Hill - Aerospace Engineering at University of Surrey**

**Florence Hutchinson - Business Information Systems at University of Portsmouth**

informative and educational evenings like Friday. There really are so many amazing options out there and what a head start on thinking about it all you are giving them. My fiancé worked for a tech company called Multiverse for a brief time (an online apprenticeship platform) and it really opened my eyes up to how important the decisions made between 15-18 are in shaping a students futures.

Thank you again and please don't hesitate to reach out should you ever need anything-

*"I'm always very happy to help!"  
Lucy Thomson OG*

*"Just a quick note to say how brilliant the event was on Friday night. The OGs were wonderful examples of hard work and enormous talent – and more importantly very good value to chat with."*

*Godolphin parent*

*"All the speakers were so inspiring and really helped with understanding pathways to foundation or a degree after. It really opened up our eyes*

*to the further education and careers to consider in the future."*

*Godolphin parent*

*"The line up of OG speakers was great and it was so interesting to hear of their own experiences in the world of Art & Design. My daughter and I were both excited and enthused to hear about the various different routes all the OGs have taken and their tips and advice to the girls were invaluable."*

*Godolphin parent*



# OBITUARIES



## Lady Jo Benson 92: Vivacious and indefatigable councillor and charities head

A visit in the late 1940s to the more neglected areas of the medieval cathedral city of Salisbury in the company of an NSPCC inspector had a profound effect upon the young schoolteacher Jo Bundy. Not only was she taken aback by the living conditions in the caravans, but she was witness for the first time to the distressing sight of a dead infant. Jo was barely out of her teens, but the visit marked a turning point in the direction of her life.

Applying the formula that she would pursue throughout her professional life - to sit, listen, learn and respond - Jo's reaction to the deprivation in her hometown was to do something about it: at the core of her character lay a profound faith.

Her first response was to hand in her notice as a teacher and stand

as the Conservative candidate for St Paul's ward in the northwest of the city. In 1955 she was elected to Salisbury city council.

Aged only 26, she was one of the youngest city councillors in the country.

For Jo the city council work of the 1950s marked the start of operating within the context of administrative bodies. It was a way of working that would occupy much of the rest of her life as she took on a breathtaking number of committees, campaigns charities and councils, both at the regional and national level.

On the council she immersed herself in the committees that touched the lives of people, ensuring her voice was heard on decisions that ranged from public health, road safety, town planning and finance to

traffic regulation.

As a woman she was in a minority, but she brushed her gender aside, claiming that in her 60 ears of working - she carried on into her late eighties - it rarely got in the way. Behind piercing blue eyes there lay a deep compassion and her lifelong objective embraced the needs of the disadvantaged, the disabled, the unwanted and the elderly. She spoke out fairly for those under her care, got the point quickly, was specific about what needed to be changed and in the face of opposition learnt to stand her corner. A warmth lay in her ready smile, even when she was making serious point, and she almost always won the support and respect of her peers because of a positive, committed and breezy outlook.

For almost two decades Jo applied herself to the welfare of Salisbury through the city council, but ten grew concerned that the county council, based 30 miles further north in Trowbridge, could well overlook the southeastern corner of the county where Salisbury stood. The city she thought, could become a forgotten neighbour. Prompted to do something about it, she stood for, and was elected to, Wiltshire county council where she was soon charwoman of the social series panel and a member of the education committee.

Despite these widespread commitments Jo did not neglect the charity work that occupied her throughout her life. From her early twenties she supported Cancer Research UK, eventually becoming president of the Salisbury branch, as well as local president of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and vice-chairwoman of the Almshouse and Welfare Charities.

At a national level she was for many years chairwoman of the National Appeals Committed British Empire Cancer Campaign and of the



National Association of Almshouses. In the latter capacity she prided herself on visiting almost every property in the country.

In 1970, when elected mayor of Salisbury, Jo's mayoral appeal was to found the Jo Benson Day Centre for physically disabled adults, for which she fundraised and played a central organizational role for more than 45 years. During this period, and for 29 years, she was also a magistrate. In 1974 she was appointed OBE and was later made a deputy lieutenant for Wiltshire.

A Salisbury girl, Jo was born in 1929 in a house that she would return to on her marriage and live in for the rest of her life. She was christened Margaret Josephine, but known as Jo, and was an only child. Her father, Ernest Bundy, was a builder who in the 1920s bought the late Victorian property near Old Sarum that became the family home, with land, some of which he built on.

Ernest died when Jo was nine, and she and her mother, Doris (nee Densham), moved to a smaller property at the bottom of the drive.

Jo went to the city's Godolphin School, a middle-class establishment whose pupils could take unkindly to those viewed as "trade". She left at 16 to teach at Holmwood School, an independent prep school, in the Close.

She was a familiar figure around town, elegantly and brightly dressed

and industrious in her pursuit of contributions to her charities, as well as being governor of five local schools. In 1957 at the annual Salisbury Fair she was introduced to Christopher Benson, an agricultural auctioneer and valuer who was staying with friends, but they barely exchanged words before she rushed off "to the boxing booth [to collect donations]" she declared. Christopher was struck by her effervescence and three years later they were married at the cathedral. In 1988 Christopher, who became high sheriff of Wiltshire, was knighted.

Sir Christopher and Lady Benson had two sons, Julian and Charles, who both became barristers. During the boys' childhood Jo supported Christopher in his public roles, but she always gravitated back to Salisbury.

For six days a week Jo applied herself indefatigably to her regional and national roles, ranging from committee member, trustee, director, founder, governor, churchwarden, president and chairwoman, with commitments across a wide range of interests: the Salisbury Playhouse, the cathedral (in particular the Spire Appeal), the museum, the 900th anniversary of the diocese, Haig Homes and the Girl Guides Association.\*

On Sundays she worshipped at St Francis Church, where her mother

had donated a stained-glass window above the altar. She was supported in the garden by the ever-present Sid, who worked until he was 94.

In the summer the family stayed in a house they had bought in Corfu and over 30 years they built enduring friendships with local families, supporting many causes, such as funding the local band's instruments, and welcoming their Greek friends to Salisbury. In return her Corfiot friends delivered a stream of victuals during a period of illness, revealing the esteem and affection in which she was held.

As the Right Rev June Osborne, Bishop of Llandaff and the former Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, said of Jo in her funeral address, her clothing and demeanour were "symbols of her energy and her vivid presence."

There was a vivacity about Jo, and whatever else she had been doing that day, she was wholly present, offering attention and opinions along with a seriousness of scrutiny and pragmatic solutions. She was a strong woman. Where would the world be without them?"

\*Lady Jo was also the only remaining Freeman of the old Borough Council of Salisbury before descending into a Parish Council. She was also a Confratarian of Salisbury Cathedral

*The Times, 29th October 2022*

*Reproduced with kind permission from The Times and the Benson family.*

## Horatia Mary Felicia Lamb

Horatia Mary Felicia Lamb was born in Coombe Bissett in 1933, daughter of the artist Henry Lamb and his wife Lady Pansy (née Pakenham). Just like her parents she was a voracious reader from an early age and the family spent the evening reading Shakespeare plays and listening to music. She attended Godolphin with her older

sister Henrietta and her cousin Antonia (Fraser). She left school at 16 and headed to London where she worked on the Women's page of the Daily Telegraph until marriage and children brought her to North Yorkshire in 1961, where she remained for the rest of her life. She wrote a book on girls boarding schools – *Locked up Daughters*, and worked on the Consumer Council and for many years reviewed thrillers for the Sunday Telegraph. She remained active on the literary scene in Harrogate until her death.



Above: The young Felicia, by her father Henry Lamb



## Audrey Catford 1923 - 2023

Brought up in Torquay where her father was a GP, her first experience of Wiltshire was at school at Godolphin where her last two years were in wartime when both her father and brother were on active service and where in her last year she was Head Girl.

She then went on to train as a Hospital Almoner (Medical Social Worker) and, on qualification, worked in various London teaching hospitals, the Westminster, the Middlesex and the Charing Cross, all of which at that time were in Central London (apart from the eventual Charing Cross move to the new premises in Fulham, where she was Head of Department.)

Accommodation in central London in those days being feasible, she had a flat not far from the Hospital and so was able to enjoy a very pleasant existence with the many things London had to offer.

Amongst the other things, in her spare time she attended evening art classes, painting being something she enjoyed throughout her life and with post-war travel opportunities opening up again her holidays were



often spent abroad.

It was after 30 years in London a totally unplanned opportunity arose for a move to a Wiltshire based post in Salisbury and she decided to make the break, the job required her to travel around the country so she was able to quickly get to know the area and after much initial house hunting, she eventually settled in Quidhampton where, when her mother died, her father came to live with her.

Eventually came the time for retirement and with it the opportunity to get more involved in

local pursuits, she became an active member of various local societies, one in particular, the newly formed NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) of which in due course she became Chairman and subsequently President.

She had always loved the cello and now seemed the chance to learn it. She had lessons and in due course was able to reach the stage where she could play with others which she loved.

In her 70s and 80s, she again resumed painting, this time round trying watercolours thanks to painting classes with U3A.

Her enthusiasm for travel remained and she made several trips abroad – some with local societies and eventually breaking new ground with more exotic destinations, which amongst others, included the Amazon, Vietnam and South Africa.

When in her 90s, the cello playing and travel were no longer feasible she still filled her time fully. She kept up with her painting, became an avid reader and was always interested in current affairs. Above all, she valued the company of her close friends, some of whom had been with her on her travels and others of longstanding.

## Jean Dalrymple Hamilton 1940s

I thought you would be interested in this photo; taken I think on the steps below the lax pitch during WW2. Miss Gilpin and her VIth form girls.

My mother Jean Dalrymple who died in July (24/02/1931-08/07/2022) is front left.

She was always a loyal OG and loved her time at the Godolphin. She was in Hamilton during the war years where school life went on very much as normal except being hungry a lot of the time.



She went from school to St Thomas' Hospital qualifying as a doctor (1 of 3 girls in her year) in 1953. She worked as a pathologist and had a remarkable career. She managed to combine this with having three children and running two homes. After retiring she became a keen golfer and bridge player and was fully active right up till the last few months of her life.

*I too am an OG... Dr Felicity Muncey MRCP FRCR, neé Coxon. School House 1969-75. Now a retired Consultant radiologist and living between Suffolk and Cape Town. I am so glad the school is thriving,  
With all good wishes, Felicity*



## Jane Williams neé Evans Assistant housemistress, Hamilton and housemistress, School House

The wonderful wife of Duncan, mother of Alison and Thomas very proud grandmother to Serena and Flynn not forgetting son-in-law Mark Titchener.

Jane died on 26th November 2022. Duncan was by her side as she went to sleep.

Jane was born in Redruth in 1956 to parents Ken and Margaret Evans the youngest of four Children (David, Alan and Marlene)

Jane was very proud of her Cornish heritage although there was a touch of Welsh blood in there too.

Jane spent her formative years in and around Redruth going to Treleigh Primary School where she passed her 11+ and went on to Camborne County Grammar School and from there on to Weymouth for Teacher Training.

Jane returned to Cornwall to teach at Treleigh Primary before going onto become Assistant Housemistress of Hamilton and the Housemistress of School House including the beginning of the Sixth form House at Godolphin School in Salisbury.

It was here Jane met Duncan they married in Cornwall 1985. One week later they moved to West Germany where they lived for seven happy years and where Alison and Thomas were born.

In 1992 the family moved back to England, first Exeter before finally settling in Ivybridge.

Jane taught in both Germany and the UK and worked in retail before spending many years at Ivybridge Community College as TA, Mentor and finally as a LRA (Librarian).

Jane had many hobbies gardening, sewing, cross-stitch, embroidery and reading.

Jane and Duncan often returned to their home from home (Germany) mainly Berlin and enjoyed many trips to European cities but a promise made by Duncan took 32 years to fulfil was their visit to Canada where they flew to Vancouver and drove cross country to Calgary and was undoubtedly Jane's Favourite trip, but she did enjoy New York too!

Jane loved life and meeting people; she was never happier than when she was on a beach especially in her beloved Kernow.

She loved her garden and was very proud of what she had achieved.

But her biggest source of love and pride was her family not just the four of us but our ever-expanding extended family.

No words can express our feeling of loss, we are all so lucky to have had her in our lives.

It is with sadness that I inform you that my Mum, Dorothy Mary Haines Lundie passed away on the 5th April 2021 in Dublin with her family.

I was looking through her emails and found the Old Girls Association address and all the email correspondence. I remembered how she loved going back to the school

with her sister Elizabeth Haines, who sadly passed away on the 5th August 2022.

The way she walked through the front door with a giggle (as a 90 year old) as they were not allowed to enter it as a student!!

Thank you for all the pleasure that you gave her from the updates and

emails from her beloved school.

It was incredible how much joy she obtained from the interactions and visits back to the school, that she had graduated from so many years ago.

Thank you all for your kindness.

**Best regards,  
Jenny Lundie MacManus (May 2023)**

## OGA DEATHS

Dr Alison Mary Bangham (Harrington)  
Ruth Crow  
Elizabeth Hyde  
Ann Ide-Smith (Liddel)  
Judith M Kent  
Jane Williams (Evans) (former staff)  
Dorothy Mary Haines Lundie  
Helen Mary Squire (former staff)  
Joan Holgate  
Elizabeth Haines  
Lucy Dalrymple  
Lady Jo Benson

September 2016  
June 2020  
September 2020  
March 2021  
June 2021  
November 2022  
April 2021  
November 2021  
March 2022  
August 2022  
September 2022  
October 2022

Margaret Jane Harrington  
Jennifer du Cane  
Ann Beckly  
Susan Malcomess (Vassall)  
Clare Audland  
Cicely Carpenter (Goodisson)  
Elisabeth Jane Bowen (Morgan)  
Horatia Mary Felicia Lamb  
Audrey Catford  
Rosalind Stark (Smith)  
Alison Betty Mary Wallace (Clapp)  
Patricia Mary Hepple

November 2022  
December 2022  
December 2022  
December 2022  
December 2022  
2022  
January 2023  
January 2023  
February 2023  
June 2023  
August 2023  
October 2023

For obituaries, submissions or notices, please contact Jenny McArdle on email to [jennymc750@gmail.com](mailto:jennymc750@gmail.com) or by post to Garden Cottage, Church Road, Farley, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 1AH



GODOLPHIN



*founded 1726*

# Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving

Westminster Abbey  
London, SW1P 3PA

12.00pm

Friday 25 September 2026

If you would like to reserve a seat at this event in 2026,  
Please email [oga@godolphin.org](mailto:oga@godolphin.org)