

FIDELIS

2023/2024





QUI FIDELIS EST IN
PARVO
IN MULTO QUOQUE EST
FIDELIS.

NISI DOMINUS
AEDIFICAVERIT DOMUM
IN VANUM
LABORAVERTUNT QUI
AEDIFICANT EAM.

NISI DOMINUS
CUSTODIERIT
CIVITATEM
FRUSTRA VIGILAT QUI
CUSTODIT EAM.

WELCOME

'To be eligible to join MOSA is one of the best things in a Mount girls inheritance'

Winifred Sturge
Headmistress
1902-1926



Dearest MOSA members,

Thank you so much for the kind and warm welcome I have received since starting in my role in January. As an old scholar myself and a parent of Mount girls, it means so much to me personally to be part of the MOSA community.

I am aware of what an incredible group of women our alumnae are, and how rare and precious such a dedicated group of women can be for each other. It is my desire for the MOSA office to facilitate a closer relationship between our network for our alumnae and the wider Mount community for your personal and working lives.

MOSA exists as the idea, that once you have spent time at The Mount you will always be a Mountie. MOSA welcomes every member of the community, from Old Scholars, to former members of staff, parents of former pupils and those who have given their time in voluntary capacities to support The Mount School over the years. We ask your help to bring missing members of the community together and guide them to mosafriends.org so that everyone can be included in future events and stay up to date with the school that they have dedicated so much to.

I hope you enjoy this Fidelis magazine and I welcome you to share your input in what you would like to see and hear more of, whether that is via our communications or in person visits

The MOSA office looks forward to supporting you whenever you would like to connect with the school or with your wider Mount School community.

In friendship,

Naomi Kelly
Alumnae officer



STAY CONNECTED

The Mount Old Scholar Association is here to support your connections with your old school and with each other, whatever you are doing and wherever you are.

Contact us for tours and reunions, to celebrate your achievements and milestones, and for reminiscing and reconnecting with your Mount School network and community.

Contact us

MOSA office

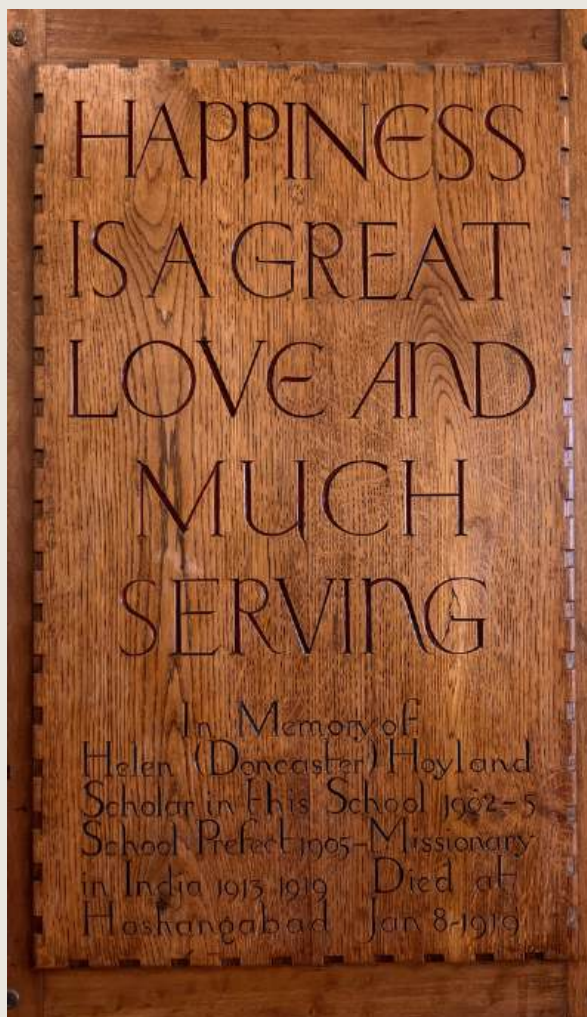
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MOSA Social Media



The Mount School Old Scholar Portal



mosafriends.
org

LinkedIn

The
Mount
Old
Scholars



Facebook

Esther
Mount
Scholars



The
Mount
Old
Scholars
social
forum



Instagram

Mount
Old
Scholars



Art Block Stairs



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



David Griffiths

Dear MOSA,

It has been another incredible year here at The Mount, with our entire school busy with a calendar full of events, activities and achievements.

We have had 99 new starters this year, with more confirmed for next year. Our school roll is the highest for years. We ranked 6 in the top ten Independent Schools in the North in the Sunday Times' esteemed Parent Power List. This is a due to outstanding exam results and we continue to demonstrate that we compete academically across the region.

In 2023, we were selected as finalists in two categories of the Independent School of the Year Award. This year we have been shortlisted for the Small Independent School of the Year award, the results will be announced in October. We are in the top 25 for academic achievement in GCSE's and A-Levels, for Independent Girls Boarding Schools nationally.

We also celebrate Oxbridge offers as one of our College pupils was offered a place to study Geography at Oxford.

The Borealis Society, with incredible old scholars amongst their membership, continues to garner awards and grants on the back of our life changing Iceland expedition. They are busy preparing for the upcoming Greenland expedition.

Our Sporting achievements have been nothing short of remarkable. With our netball and swim teams deserving special commendation. We have so many incredible girls who are competing at the top of their game. This includes some in regionals for netball, archery, jiu jitsu, golf and tennis. We have pupils competing in the Dance World Cup representing England, and representing their country for Ice Hockey.



We continue to widen the in-school opportunities and activities available here and it is a pleasure to witness all pupils getting involved.

And as ever, we are blessed with truly dedicated Old Scholars. I would like to take a moment to thank the Old Scholar community for their unwavering commitment to their school.

There is a MOSA presence throughout The Mount, from Governors on Committee, staff and within our current parent contingent as well as on the board of The Mount Foundation. Mount Old Scholars are always generous with their time and knowledge, with mentorship given throughout the academic year.

This was especially showcased during Careers Week and our Academic Lecture Series. It is so heartening to see so many O.S.s come back through our doors for tours and reunions and enjoy some of the new experiences available to Old Scholars including the new “Build your Own Reunion” which can be booked through the School.

Not only have we had Old Scholars visit from all corners of the country but we have had international Old Scholars visiting when they come back to the UK. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and hearing your fond memories. It is wonderful to see The Mount is so beloved. I look forward to welcoming more of you back next academic year.

Finally, as you may already be aware, I have announced that I will relinquish my role as Principal from December 2024 to take up a leadership role in Asia. I have really enjoyed my time at The Mount, growing pupil numbers and establishing relationships with Old Scholars.

I wish to thank all involved with MOSA for welcoming me and teaching me about the rich history of The Mount, and I look forward to hearing about the continued involvement of Old Scholars in the future.

David Griffiths

Art - Emilia Tankard



College Leadership Team

left to right: Rebecca, Ophelia, Chloe, Josephine and Lucky



GOODBYE SCHOOL DAYS, HELLO MOSA

We are always sad to say goodbye when it is time for our College II to leave school and of course this is true of our College Leadership Team 2023-2024 as they move on to the next stage of their lives.

We thank them for their wonderful work in representing The Mount School and for their contributions to the wider school community.

College Leaders Rebecca Collinson, Ophelia Cay, Chloe Willmott, Josephine Betteridge and Lucky Charters, report on this year and how their leadership roles have prepared them for their next steps.

The Mount Old Scholars Association warmly welcomes them as new members and we wish them the very best of luck in all their future endeavours.



As College Leadership members 2023-2024, it has been an honour to play a prevalent role in The Mount School's leadership tradition, representing Quaker values and providing input into the running of the school.

Throughout the year, we have contributed to many events both in school and within the wider community. During our time as CLT, we have hosted The Mount's first Charity Winter Ball, in which we raised money and also welcomed Queen Ethelburgas, Ackworth, and Scarborough College to celebrate the start of winter with us. This event was an enormous success, and we hope for this to become a biannual tradition.

One of our responsibilities has been listening to the student's voice. In response to this, we initiated an 'Anything but a Bag Day' to raise money for Yorkits. Pupils enjoyed getting creative with their ideas which included items such as a pram, a giant spoon, and even a wheel barrow! In addition, we have enjoyed partaking in the tradition of the annual College II Leavers play.



left to right: Lucky, Ophelia, Josephine, Chloe & Rebecca

LETTER FROM THE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have enjoyed using our role to educate and further our knowledge surrounding the Quaker beliefs and values. As CLT, we attended Quakers in Yorkshire which gave us the opportunity to talk to Quakers about ways in which our school keeps in touch with its values, as well as a yearly overview of our school. Being on The College Leadership Team has taught us valuable team working skills and has provided us with many opportunities to showcase our leadership abilities.

These skills are something we will all take with us as we prepare to take the next step in our lives.

We have all thoroughly appreciated the honour of this role and look forward to seeing the next CLT continuing our important work.

Our time at The Mount has taught us to take up every opportunity, and make the most of it, living adventurously, and as CLT we hope we have demonstrated this.

Josephine: Next year, I hope to attend the University of York to study Mental Health Nursing to enable me to work with therapy animals in the future. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at The Mount and will miss the strong sense of community which the school holds. Joining this school has taught me valuable, life-long lessons which I can take with me and use in my future career, and I am leaving knowing that I have been a part of something very special.

Ophelia: I plan to attend Lincoln University in September to pursue a degree in Business and Management. The Mount has been my home for a long time, and I believe it has played a significant role in shaping my personality. The school community is like a second family to me, and I will miss it a lot when I leave. The Mount has taught me many valuable life lessons that I hope to carry with me throughout my life. Growing up with Quaker values has made me a better team leader, and I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to develop my skills.

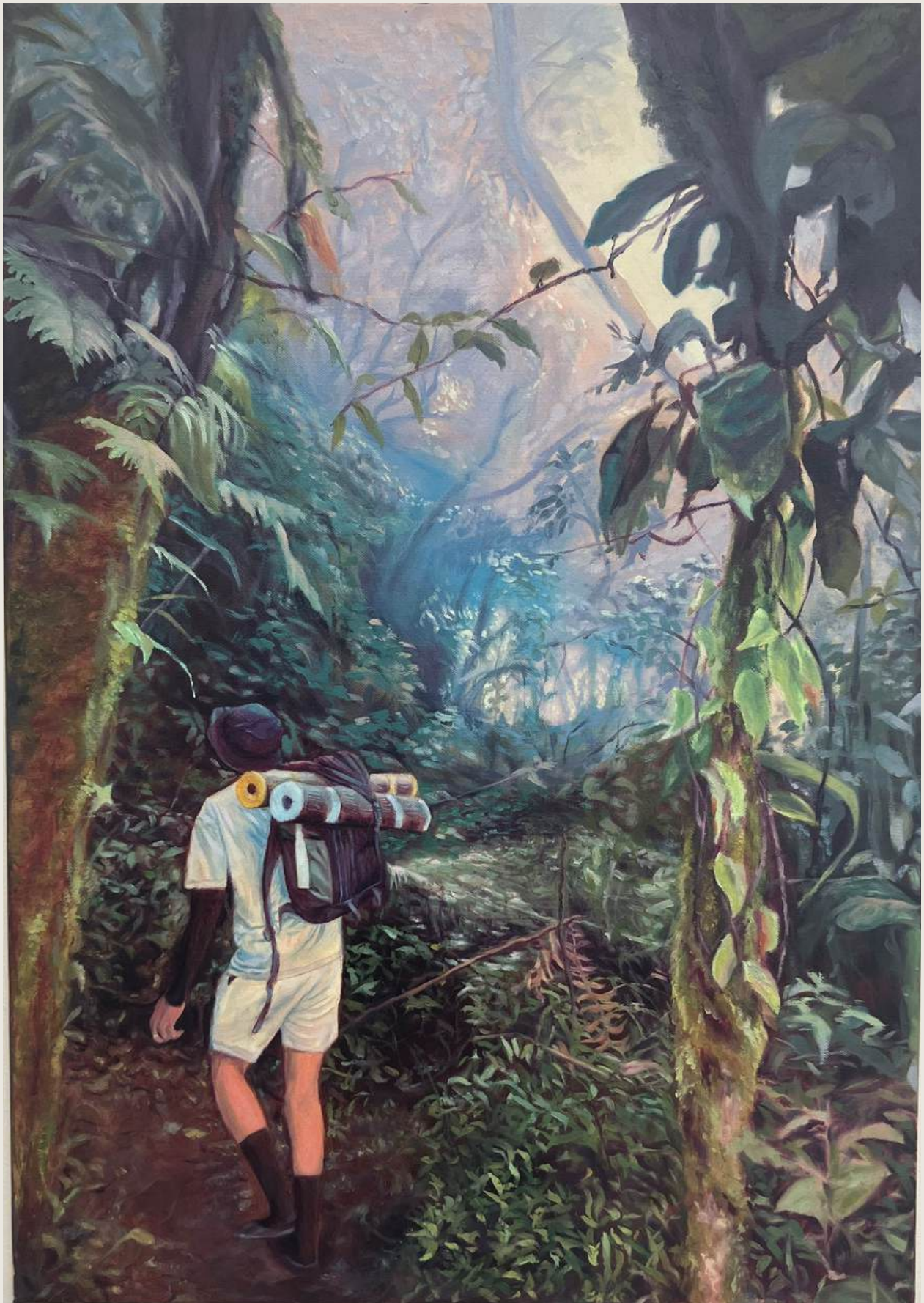
Lucky: I hope to study Mathematics at the University of Bath. I'm so grateful for all the help that The Mount has provided for me in attaining this offer. I will miss this school so much as I leave behind the extra support, close friends I have made and the fun traditions. I am so excited to revisit the school in the future and see these traditions and new ones in place and becoming a permanent part of The Mount School legacy.

Chloe: I am hoping to attend Durham university to study Geography next year. The thing I will miss most about The Mount is the friendly faces and community that is like no other. I have been at The Mount for a very long time and I have reflected on all the amazing memories and fun activities I have been part of. One thing I have enjoyed about The Mount is the endless opportunities that we are given alongside the fun traditions that have enriched my Mount experience. The Mount has helped shape who I am today and I am excited to see what the future holds knowing I will always be a Mount Girl.

Rebecca: I plan on going to study Sports Business Management at Leeds Beckett University next year. The Mount, for the past 13 years, has provided me with so many new opportunities and the foundation I need to succeed in the future. I will use this knowledge in the future to help break down gender barriers in sport. I will miss The Mount so much, and will miss the community, laughing with my friends and playing netball.



Art -Ayu Whitmore



Art- Ayu Whitmore



A warm hello from Committee Member, Holly Gardiner (2014).

Holly shares some memories of school and why she wanted to get more involved with her old school community

HOLLY GARDINER (2014) COMMITTEE MEMBER



I was a pupil at The Mount from 2007-2014 and really enjoyed my time at school. I found it to be a really supportive environment that enabled me and my peers to have the confidence to put ourselves out there and have a go, whatever the result.

I also think the Quaker ethos of the school was formative for me, particularly with regards to thinking about current affairs and social justice issues. Some of my favourite memories from school are putting on the College I pantomime and College II talent show, playing for sports teams with mixed results, and involvement in PeaceJam and debating competitions, which I think fairly summarise the breadth of experiences and opportunities that were on offer.

After finishing College I went to the University of Oxford to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics, which I really enjoyed, and then trained to be a lawyer. I took a six month break from studying to learn Japanese in Tokyo which was a fantastic experience. I now live in London and work as a corporate lawyer, doing mergers and acquisitions. Aside from enjoying London life generally I have been an attendee at my local Quaker meeting for a few years now and had the chance to do some great pro bono work with my firm, including a two week placement assisting asylum seekers in Greece apply for refugee status.

I was motivated to join The Mount's Governing Committee in order to give back to a community that has shaped me, and because I was interested to learn more about governance particularly in a Quaker context. If any other Old Scholars are interested in getting more involved in the school I would definitely encourage them to do so and am happy to talk about my experience.



Aside from being Trustee and Chair of the Foundation, Aileen has been involved in the school for many years in different capacities. Here Aileen chats to us about her motivation to stay involved, memories of her last reunion get together and about her upcoming reunion year!

AILEEN MCLEISH (1975) CHAIR OF THE FOUNDATION

Once a Mount Girl always a Mount Girl. I spent 7 years as a pupil at The Mount and while I didn't appreciate it at the time, the people I met and the school itself have been hugely influential in the way I have grown and developed over the last nearly 50 years.

For a relatively small school, it maintains a high profile, and I am constantly surprised at how many people are aware of it. I have been fortunate in having served on the MOSA committee, many years ago, and having been a Governor of the school. I am now a Trustee of the Foundation which I was heavily involved in setting up. Although the school is very different now compared with my time as a pupil, it maintains an ethos supportive to today's pupils preparing them for the future. That is why I am motivated to stay involved, helping the school in whatever way I can.

9 years ago, my year organised our first "formal" reunion to mark 40 years since we had left school. Tracking people down was a big challenge after so many years, but with some intrepid detective work we managed to get 20 of us together for the weekend.

I must confess to some apprehension about how the weekend would go, but turning up at the accommodation we had booked (serviced apartments in central York so we can relive a bit of the boarding experience!) and seeing some of my fellow Mounties excitedly meeting up again for the first time in 40 years, it was quickly apparent that it would be a success.

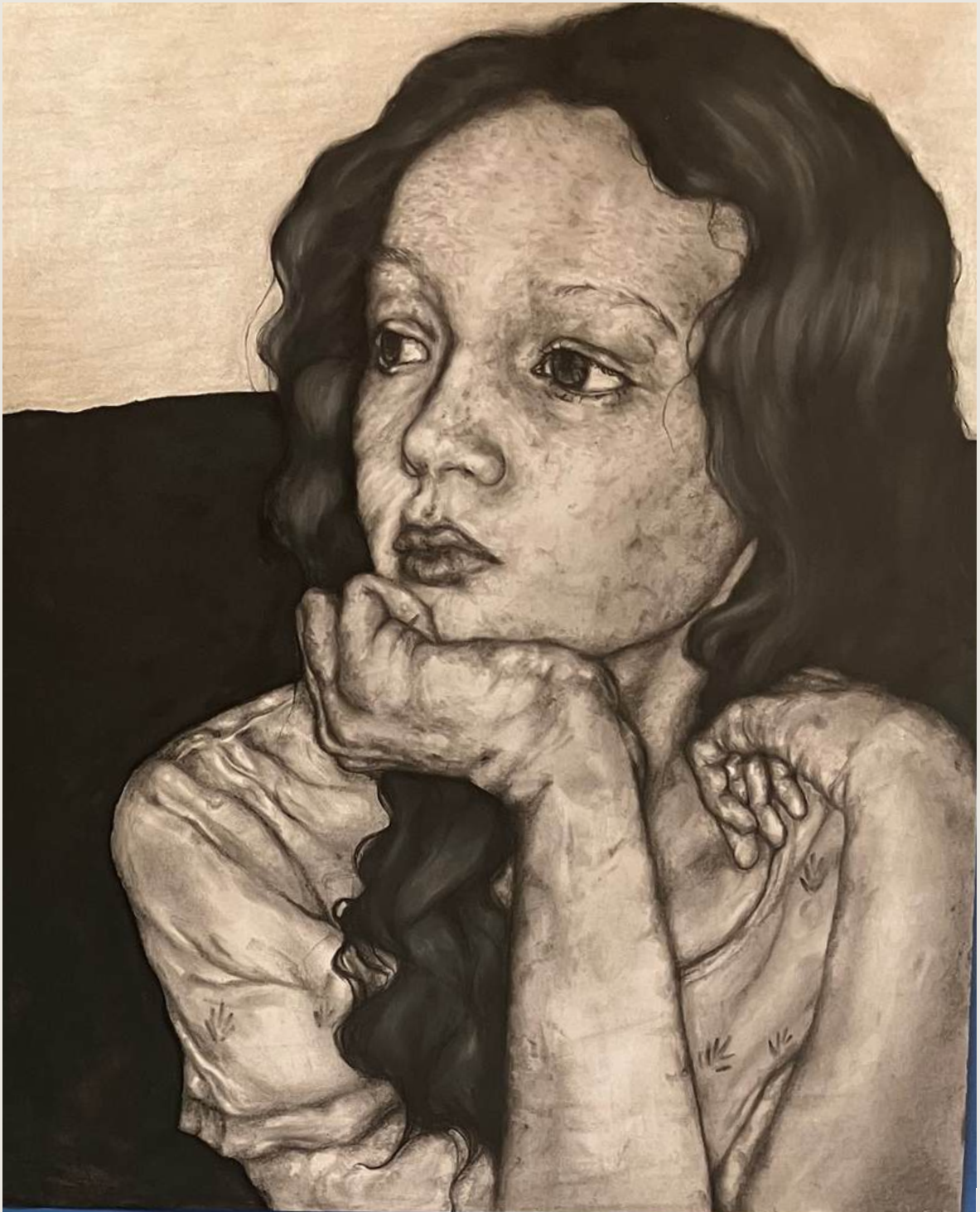
Our weekend together is remembered for companionship, laughter and reminiscing. Cliques and disagreements from our school days were swept away and forgotten and the focus was on what we had in common. The reconnections made nine years ago have continued with the help of the internet. We have started planning another reunion for our 50th anniversary next year, when hopefully we will be as big a group.

If you haven't been back to the school then I recommend you consider it. Put together a program that suits you; the school can help. Hopefully, like our year group, you will rediscover and renew friendships which will strengthen in the years to come.

Art- Florence Collins



Art- Florence Collins



SCHOOL NEWS



This May marked 24 years since our 1999-2001 MOSA president Dame Judi Dench laid the foundation stone for the Sports Centre at The Mount (below.)

A huge thank you to all the fantastic MOSA and Mount School community for all the years of games (and exams!) that the pupils have enjoyed here ever since



We have loved seeing Old Scholars come and visit their tiles! Come by on a reunion day or arrange a visit to see if you can spot your name. Alternatively, head to our Facebook group where we have shared them to take a closer look





2000 AD

This Foundation Stone
was laid by
Dame Judi Dench
on 13th May 2000



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Recently four intrepid Mount Old Scholars – who only left school last year – were invited to Buckingham Palace to collect their Gold awards from Prince Edward and enjoy a sumptuous, celebratory garden party.

The Mount offers the opportunity for everyone to enter the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme from Year 10 upwards, and we have a keen set of girls who accept the challenge each year.

Gold winners and Old Scholars 2023 Caroline W, Izzy L, Ruby M and Eleanor S collected their precious awards at Buckingham Palace Garden on the May 13, in delightful sunshine. The afternoon involved tea and cake, listening to inspirational public figures and the opportunity to meet Prince Edward.

Caroline and Izzy agreed: ‘We absolutely loved celebrating together in the lovely gardens of Buckingham Palace. It was also a huge privilege to listen to speeches and talks including the one by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Thank you DofE for giving us skills and memories to cherish and to The Mount School for encouraging and guiding us all the way.’

Eleanor said: ‘We had a lovely day at the palace. It was so nice to meet up with friends from school in beautiful weather. We met the Duke of Edinburgh, walked the grounds and enjoyed tea and cake. It was an incredibly special day.’

STRATHCLYDE SIRENS DEVELOPMENT SQUAD



Congratulations to Mount Old Scholar Amy Foster (2020) who has been selected for the Strathclyde Sirens Development squad for the 2023/24 netball season. The Netball Super League was first established in 2005.

Amy was a powerhouse in the goal circle during her years at The Mount (2015 – 2020). A talented all-rounder, she is also a gifted artist and musician. She is currently reading 4th year Geography at St Andrews.

Amy was delighted to be selected for the Sirens' development squad. Mount girls might be able to look forward to watching Amy play in development matches.

Watch this space for future developments. (We know you can, Amy!)





MOSA: INSPIRING WOMEN IN MATHS

In October, The Mount's Maths department hosted GCSE pupils from five schools for their Inspiring Women in Maths Day. The day was designed to inform them about the advantages of studying Maths subjects at A-Level.

Girls from Barlby High School, Fulford School Manor Academy, Ryedale School and Queen Mary's School joined girls from The Mount for three sessions which included 'taster' lessons for A Level Pure Maths, Further Maths and Applied Maths. They also heard from specialist teachers of other A Level subjects explaining how studying Maths A Level benefits the studies of their own subjects, specifically Biology, Geography, Physics and Psychology.

The girls heard from Mount Old Scholars about how studying A Level Maths helped their career paths. Mary Betteridge (2022) is currently studying Maths at the University of York. She had originally enrolled for a Computer Science degree and then swapped into Maths which she is thoroughly enjoying.

Rebecca Moss (2002) is a geotechnical engineer who shared the practical advantages of a Maths A Level (managing personal finances, tax declarations, etc) and career advantages ("any employer who learns you have a Maths A Level will immediately perceive you as a very clever person, even without knowing your actual result"). Rebecca shared the career paths of herself and two women from her cohort at The Mount: Sophie, who is now an architect, and Griselda, who is now a hedge fund manager in Dubai.

College girls enjoyed meeting their visitors, hosting them in the College Sixth Form Centre and showing them College studies.

Pupils and staff from the visiting schools very much enjoyed their day. Mrs Mitchell had hoped to inspire them into seeing the usefulness of studying Maths at A Level, that it is well within their capabilities, and can be fun and rewarding.

BOREALIS EXPEDITION & MOUNT OLD SCHOLARS

below left : Rosie Morrison below: Mary
Betteridge



Mary Betteridge, Mount Old Scholar (2022) has been awarded full funding by The Ganton Educational Trust enabling her to take part in The Mount School 2024 Borealis expedition to East Greenland, as she continues to develop her outdoor profile and skills. Mary was a pupil who took part in The Mount Borealis Society North West Iceland Expedition in 2022. Since then, The Mount has sponsored her to pursue her Mountain Leader Summer Award which involves completing specific training courses and gaining experience from spending as much time in the mountains as possible.

Rosie Morrison, Mount Old Scholar (2023), has been awarded significant funding from The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust, based in London. This will support Rosie as an Assistant Leader on the 2024 East Greenland Expedition. Rosie also took part in the Iceland Expedition in 2022 as a Mount pupil, and, since leaving school, joined the same development programme sponsored by The Mount to gain her Mountain Leader Summer Award.

The Mount School Borealis Society East Greenland Expedition has recently been awarded further significant financial support, in recognition of its objectives and planning, from The Andrew Croft Memorial Fund. Trustees were so impressed by the quality of Mary's application, her commitment to improving her skills in a variety of fields and her intended work in the Arctic, that they also selected her for the esteemed Jamie Gardiner Award.

Mary was recently awarded The Peter Smith Award, from The Young Explorers' Trust, to support her leadership development on the East Greenland Expedition. Finally, to cap an impressive set of awards, Mary has also been given financial support from The Anglo-Scandinavian Society (CoScan), again, towards her role and participation in the expedition to East Greenland. Rosie has also been invited to a reception at Mansion House, London, this Autumn, as a recipient of the award from The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Award Trust.

Nigel Bidgood, Head of The Mount Borealis Society, said:

'It's wonderful to be recognised by such prestigious organisations as The Andrew Croft Memorial Fund, The Young Explorers' Trust, The Anglo-Scandinavian Society (CoScan), The Arctic Club, The University of Cambridge (Scott Polar Research Institute) and The Royal Geographical Society. We thank them all heartily for these generous awards which will allow our young alumnae to realise their dreams and pave the way and inspire the next generation of intrepid young women, exploring and learning from the amazing world around them.'

Both Mary and Rosie have been invited to talk about their experiences in East Greenland at the next Arctic Club dinner in December 2024.

Sarah Beth Briggs

MOSA MAESTRO
@ THE MOUNT



It was a delight to welcome Old Scholar Sarah Beth Briggs as a Maestro@TheMount this February. She started the day offering a Steinway masterclass to selected Mount and other local talented young pianists.

Then she returned for an evening performance where the school and local community were privileged to hear a selection of music including three character pieces by Benjamin Britten (which she world premiered at the age of 17 – the same age Britten was when he wrote them).

She also shared her mastery of enchanting pieces from Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Chopin. Sarah's talent is astonishing. Aged just 11, she was the youngest ever BBC Young Musician of The Year and went on to be a worthy recipient of a Dame Myra Hess Award, and joint winner of the International Mozart Competition in Salzberg.

After her performance, Sarah hosted a meet-the-artist session where the audience gathered around one of our fourteen Steinway pianos, to hear her musical insights and top tips towards pupils' own piano-learning journeys. We thank Sarah for a truly wonderful day.





In February, Old Scholar Professor Nicola Spence CBE, delivered a lecture titled 'Responding to an Increasing Threat: Protecting the UK's Plants and Trees from Pests and Diseases.' This was part of our ongoing Academic Lecture Series.

An audience of Mount School pupils, parents, staff and alumnae gathered in the hall for this captivating talk. The lecture not only provided insights into Nicola's inspiring career but also helped the audience to understand their role in safeguarding the nation's plant life.

Professor Nicola detailed her responsibilities as the Chief Plant Health Officer and Deputy Director for plant and bee health at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Nicola highlighted fascinating facts about UK trees and spoke of the far-reaching importance of trees and plant life. She emphasised the role UK trees play in the nation's biodiversity, providing habitats for plant and animal life. She explained their global importance for carbon capture and in helping to combat climate change.

Nicola discussed how her department has the crucial responsibility of researching potential threats to the plant/tree health. These threats can stem from a variety of sources, including invasive, exotic pests, the effects of globalisation, and the challenges posed by climate change.

She then spoke of the proactive approach used by her department to educate the public on potential threats. This includes public awareness campaigns, international conferences, integrating plant health education into the GCSE curriculum, and engaging the public at events like The Chelsea Flower Show



**Nicola Spence
(1975)**

**ACADEMIC
LECTURE**

Raising the profile of trees and plants has led to Nicola making frequent appearances on television and radio, to share her expertise. Nicola's dedication to plant health has garnered recognition from notable figures. King Charles, who awarded her a CBE in 2022, was so engrossed in their conversation during the presentation that he momentarily delayed the ceremony.

Nicola concluded her lecture by empowering the audience with practical ways to protect UK Trees such as joining Citizen Science projects, supporting National Park Week, contributing to the #CheckaSweetChestnut campaign or using the online Tree Alert system to report any potential threats to tree health.

An engaging Q&A session followed. Year 7 pupil, Clemmie, sparked further discussion with a thought-provoking question: 'Are cars checked for bugs to stop them entering the country?' This led to a discussion on biosecurity and the UK's island status, highlighting how diseases can spread even across seemingly short distances. The discussion explored the various routes by which 'bugs' can travel, including potential spread through air travel or even insects flying across the English Channel.

One College pupil commented: 'The talk was really interesting. Nicola puts a massive effort in to her job in order to save and protect plants all over the UK. With her team, they fly around possibly infected areas and spot points where trees have to be put in quarantine.'



MOSA MENTORS

It's always great when Old Scholars come back to talk to us as they are incredibly brilliant and inspiring. At The Mount, we offer a regular programme of visiting speakers and career guidance, made even better when an Old Scholar shares their achievements and wisdom.

We are grateful to the wonderful Lorna Macleod for her incredible Academic Lecture on 'Technology and Events in the Travel Industry' on top of her contribution to Careers week! You could hear a pin drop at her fascinating lecture from her love of boarding at The Mount, the brief period she was a nanny for an Earl and Countess, before taking the travel and events industry by storm. At the top of her game, Lorna spoke of her work with HelmsBriscoe a world leading travel and events company (also the global leader in meeting procurement with an epic 96% conversion rate!) It was so interesting to hear about the industry from a technological point of view and the girls hugely enjoyed and benefitted from the fascinating talk.

Lorna shared her thoughts about her experience of speaking to the girls during careers week: 'I had the pleasure of visiting The Mount School York, where I attended as a boarder from 1977-1983. I spoke to some of the current pupils about my career journey spanning over 35 years and was struck by their ambition, with aspirations ranging from becoming a lawyer, an architect, and even joining the SAS. As I listened to their dreams, I began to feel overwhelmed - what advice could I possibly give them?'

However, as we sat in a classroom that I had sat in when I was 13 years old, memories came flooding back.

I realised that the decisions I had made in both my personal and professional life had been influenced by the time I spent at The Mount School. It was there where I learned the value of friendship, empathy, listening, and standing up for oneself - essential skills for navigating life, especially in a boarding school with 200 girls.

At the end of my talk, I was thrilled to answer questions about the events and hospitality industry. Regardless of the industry they choose to pursue, these girls are the 'Women of Tomorrow', and we should celebrate them this week during the week of International Women's Day'.

Talented Charlotte Copland-Jones is currently a Sports Psychologist-in-training after completing her BSc Degree and MSc Masters in Sports and Exercise Psychology at Loughborough University. Charlotte's insights into asking yourself what motivates and excites you as well as getting over 'impostor syndrome' made for lively discussion and food for thought.

Charlotte said: 'My advice to Mount girls is, be a self-starter, build a network, be resilient and stay curious. My time at The Mount allowed me to study PE, excel at netball where I was spotted for Satellite, then county level but more than that I still remember the Quaker school text to this day.

I now carefully choose clients with shared values where wellbeing is valued alongside performance, not instead of it. This has roots in Quakerism from my school days and in my friendship group I am known as the grounded one, the one you go to for advice without judgement, qualities instilled at The Mount.'



CAREERS WEEK

Careers Week at The Mount coincides with International Women's Day, creating a week of exceptional inspiration. Mount pupils were treated to a series of talks by female leaders who not only excel in their fields but are also proud alumnae of The Mount. This unique opportunity allowed our pupils to connect with successful women who share a similar background, making their journeys more relatable and empowering.

Over breaks and lunchtimes, pupils had the chance to choose from a wide range of talks. From navigating Climate & Risk Adaptation to exploring careers in Nursing, PeaceJam, the travel industry, and the legal field, the topics catered to a variety of interests. Following each talk, pupils actively participated in Q&A sessions, allowing them to delve deeper into the realities and rewards of these diverse career paths.

Visitors included Old Scholars, Isabelle Guyler, a consultant in climate risk and adaptation at WSP, Eleanor Emuss, a Group Company Secretary for a law firm, Sarah Challis in wound care in nursing and Lorna Mcleod, Associate Regional Vice President at HelmsBriscoe.

We thank our MOSA members again for a wonderful Career Week. We are grateful to the MOSA community who are so generous to their Mount sisters with Careers advice and guidance.

CALLING OLD SCHOLARS!

Please reach out to the MOSA office if you would be interested in sharing your career journey with our pupils. We love to catch up with old scholars and hear your journeys and we know the girls gain so much from their older Nutcracker Network's wisdom! opportunities include:

Careers Week- Leadership training-
Academic Lectures

And to our youngest MOSA members- are you fresh out of University or currently studying? Would you be willing to share your journey about university life?

If interested, please get in touch with mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk





We were pleased to welcome Network Rail into school for another wonderful day of tasks and discussion with years 10 and 12. This stimulating day of challenges was designed to remind our pupils that any industry they wish to work in is open to them.

Tasks included 'bridge the gap' where groups worked as a team to build a bridge, with moving obstacles along the way such as 'costs of materials rising overnight'. Pupils had to think on their feet and manage this tricky commission by allocating roles and deadlines

Old Scholar, Elsie, who has worked for Network Rail for eight years as a Telecoms Project Manager, said: 'My days at The Mount taught me that women can do anything but we all want to see this carried through across all industries so they're representative of society.'

Network Rail is proactively raising their profile as an excellent employer of women, as the rail industry still predominantly attracts men, but there are many great opportunities, as I know first-hand.

Of 900 apprenticeship applications recently, only 96 came from women and we'd like to see this change. Network Rail's workforce is currently made up of 23% women, and this needs to shift, so we're delighted to be here today to share opportunities and raise awareness that the rail industry can be an exciting and welcoming prospect for all.'

Deputy Head of College, Mr Waddington, adds: 'This was a fantastic way to celebrate International Women's Day, focusing on equity in the workplace and giving our pupils the opportunity to try out future career options. We hope to repeat this each year as it has been so valuable and well received. Huge thanks to the whole Network Rail team for their time and commitment.'

College Pupil, Berlin, said: 'I really enjoyed being assigned different jobs and working in a team to complete the project of building a bridge with real life circumstances and problems to solve as we took part in the task. I learnt so much about the broad opportunities and careers at Network Rail.'

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Old Scholar Elsie Brewster



Art- Daria Brilliantova



CONGRATULATIONS!



A huge congratulations to Flora Carr (2014) who released her extraordinary debut novel, *The Tower* this year. She kindly donated a signed copy to be housed at The Mount School library!

Flora held a Q and A at York Waterstones this spring and we were delighted to attend to hear about her fascinating writing process, from characterisation, research and her journey to getting published.

The Tower has been released to incredible reviews including being profiled in *The New Yorker*, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Telegraph* amongst many.

The Tower is a fantastic feminist historical novel depicting the period in which Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle and is published by Penguin Books.

Thank you so much for your wonderful gift Flora, we will treasure it and we feel very privileged to make a home for it in your old school library!



We are so excited for Kittie Jones (2001), one of our former Head Girls, whose beautiful artwork is being displayed in the amazing Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London.

Go and see it for yourself, it is on display until the 18 of August! (*At the Edge II*, monotype diptych, pictured above)

Kittie's screenprints and monotypes are also being shown at Donald Watson Gallery, Waterston House, Aberlady, East Lothian in the exhibition '*Wildlife Printmaking*'

Kittie has been selected for her screenprint 'Gannets round the Bass' (below) for the Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition and been awarded the Roy Wood Prize for Printmaking!





Top left Flora Lee (2008) Cammy Chan (2009), Sarah Ng (2009) with Tony McAleese

Top right Kelly Yui with Bridget Perks

Right Alison Yung (2017) with Guy Dixon

Below Izzy Lee (2023) with James Waddington.



HELLO TEACHER!

As ever, Old Scholars really look forward to being back in their old classrooms and also enjoy catching up with some of their favourite teachers.

Teachers and staff do love it when you call in to say hello and tell us what you've been up to. Come and visit sometime soon and say hello!



& ALSO GOODBYE

This year was a particularly poignant time to visit teachers as we say goodbye to a few long standing and well loved members of staff.

From the Senior School, Deputy Principal and Chemistry teacher Bridget Perks will be retiring this year marking 19 years at the school. Tony McAleese (Mathematics) is leaving after 17 years, Guy Dixon (Design and Technology) retires after 22 years and Jackie Greenwood (Sports) who has marked nearly 9 years at the school is moving on to a new school. Paul Davies (Physics & IT) leaves to pursue new avenues. Kim & Norman Buckley (Drama & Art, Finance respectively) also prepare for a new adventure in Kenya. In the Junior school we wish farewell and happy retirement to Jill Harvey after 19 years and Jan Wilson after 33 years.

We wish all of our fantastic and dedicated staff all the very best and welcome them into the MOSA community. We hope that we see them back soon with stories of their adventures too!

VISITS



VISITS

Above Sima Cohen (2013).
Top right Christa Sze-To (2010) and family.
Right Linzi Stockdale-Bridson with David Griffiths.
Below Linzi with her family in Riseholme garden.

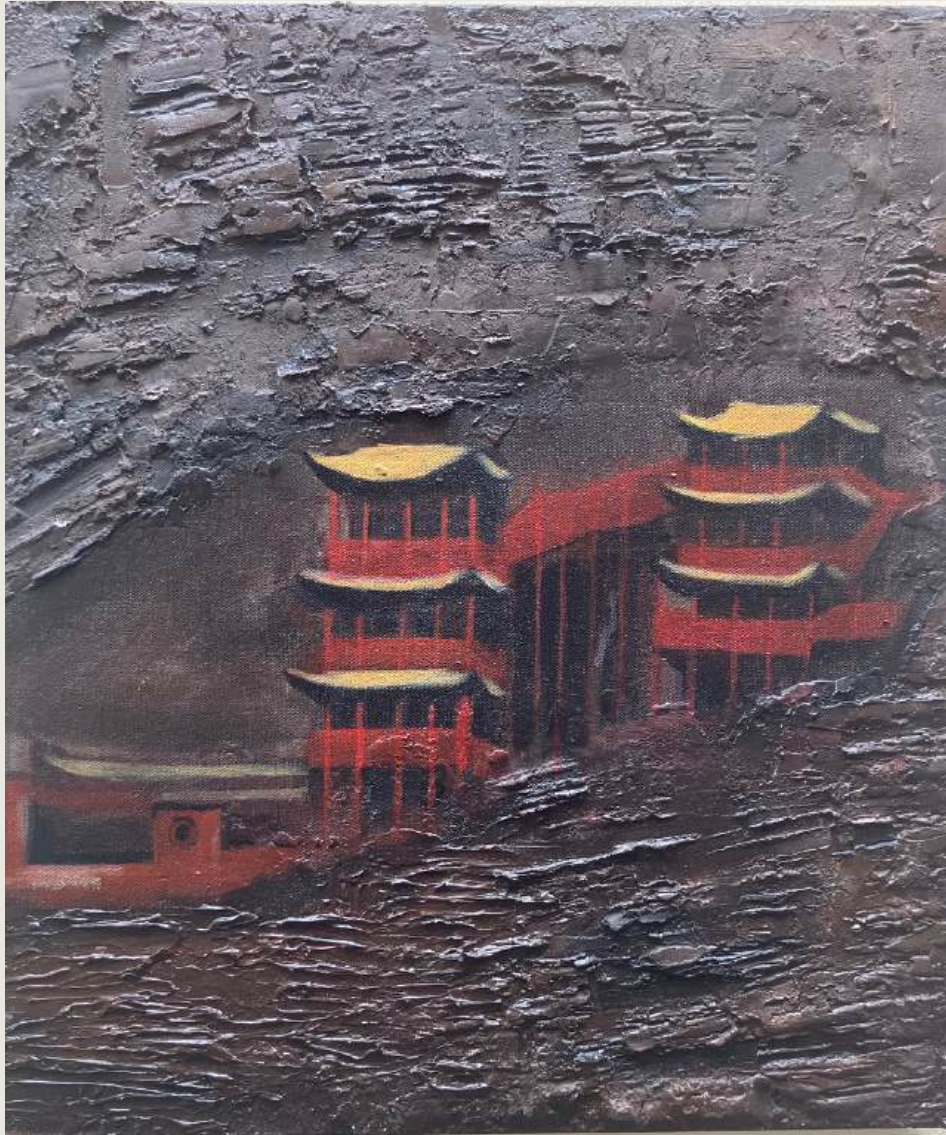




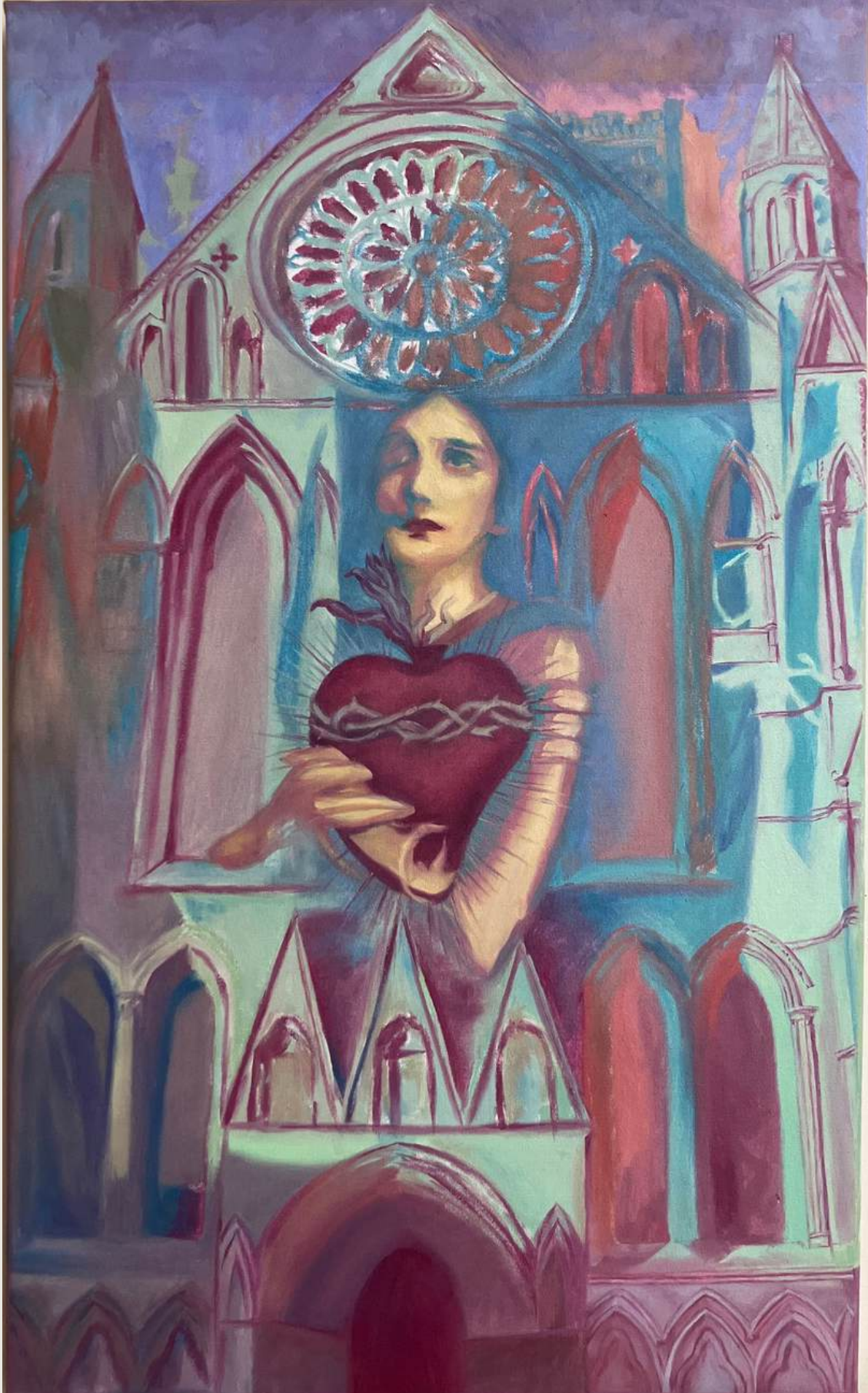
Pets at The Mount

Linzi Stockdale-Bridson kindly shared this photograph of her bringing Rupey, her guinea pig, to the school pet sheds! Please do share your memories with the office of your pets at school for our archives!

Art- Alina Hao



Art- Ayu Whitmore



FOUNDATION DAY & REUNION WEEKEND



FOUNDATION MEETING ADDRESS



DR HELEN MOUNSEY OBE (1974)

A few weeks ago, my husband, Paul, and I were clearing out our garage, and rather surprisingly, came across a box of my A level files. Considering I sat my A levels and left The Mount half a century ago, I've no idea how I still have them 50 years later, but they make for very entertaining reading!

My A levels are in Geography, Biology, Economics and Politics. This is my Economics file. Astonishingly, the opening statement in it (most likely written in September 1972) reads '*There are many problems in the British economy – a) inflation b) unemployment c) bad industrial relations and d) low growth of productivity*'. Well, what goes around, comes around! There are essays on the pros and cons of joining the EU – we've now been there, seen that, done that.

And this is my Politics file, where for some inexplicable reason, inside the back cover I've written: '*the biggest sin is IGNORANCE, the second is BOREDOM, and as for the third?*' I still don't know the answer to that! There are essays in here on the need for reform of the House of Lords, and whether there is too much power vested in the US President. Both very topical, 50 years later.

And there are also notes in someone else's handwriting – I think a kind classmate writing notes for me after I'd broken my thumb falling backwards into a bath, whilst talking to a friend after lights out!! I guess my first lesson to you this morning might be: 'it's really not a good idea to fall into a bath!'

So lots of good and surprisingly relevant stuff, but unfortunately, I doubt I can remember 10% of the subject matter I learned during my seven years at The Mount. More fortunately, the money spent on my education was not wasted, however, as I also learned a number of life skills, which have since served me very well.

My seven years here from 1967 to 1974 were very, very happy, but also very disciplined – rising bell at 7.10. Woe betide anyone who was not up by 7.15 as they were likely to get their bed stripped of all its bedding, and have to remake it. Oddly, I often still find myself setting my alarm clock at 7.10 all these years later! Tea bell at 4.10, marking the end of lessons and a plate of sliced white bread sandwiches, and then prep from 5 to 7pm. We certainly learned how to work hard!

FOUNDATION

MEETING ADDRESS

The Mount is a Quaker school, we had the four Quaker principles drummed into us. These are grouped together under the acronym STEP – Simplicity, Truth, Equality and Peace. As a lifelong Quaker, I've been brought up to live in accordance with these principles, but more specifically, I've also found them very useful guides throughout my professional career.

Take simplicity – I don't like the acronym KISS, 'Keep it simple, stupid' – since I've seldom met anyone who is intentionally stupid. But the 'Keep it Simple' bit is incredibly important. I first met Paul when he was my boss at *Price Waterhouse Coopers*. One day he asked me to write a position paper for a client on the potential for Geographical Information Systems in the electricity sector. Easy I thought – I'd written an 80,000 word PhD thesis on the subject, so how hard could a briefing paper be? Well ... on presenting him with a 12 page paper, quite rightly, he tore both it and me to pieces, as it was far too complicated for the client (it turned out they wanted 10 bullet points!). I'd fallen into the same hole as Mark Twain – 'I'm sorry I wrote you a long letter, I didn't have time to write you a short one'. I learned that crafting something that is relevant, simple and unambiguous can take a surprisingly long time.

Truth – Quakers always seek to speak the truth and act with integrity. As part of my appointment as the Chair of a government body, I had to sign the civil service code, which sets out the four principles which should govern the behaviours of senior government officials – openness, honesty, integrity and impartiality. The civil servant talking me through the code in preparation to signing it got to honesty and integrity, looked at me and simply said 'Helen ... these two are really easy to explain – never, ever do anything which will land you on the front page of the Daily Mail'.

I still apply my *Daily Mail* test – is what I am doing honest and truthful, and would I mind if it was published for all to see?

Equality – going all the way back to George Fox's frustration with the very hierarchical nature of 17th century British society, all Quakers believe that everyone is equal. Professionally, they may be the Chief Executive or the Receptionist of an organisation. But personally, they are both human, and thus deserving of a friendly greeting, please and thank you as appropriate. I was once told that looking should be lopsided – by all means look up, particularly to those who mentor you, and from whom you can learn. But never look down on anyone – even those in the most mundane jobs are usually trying hard to make a useful contribution to the organisation. Otherwise, why would they be employed?

And finally, peace. I find this the most difficult Quaker principle, particularly as we find ourselves in an increasingly conflict-ridden world in the 21st century. The Quaker belief in peace often makes them excellent negotiators and arbitrators.

And whilst you may not be called upon to help resolve the crisis in Ukraine, or the doctors' dispute with the government, I can guarantee that on a day-to-day basis, you will run into innumerable other disagreements - arguments between family, friends and colleagues, office politics, and contractual disputes. Remember, any solution to a disagreement has to be win-win, with something in it for both sides – in my experience, one-sided solutions simply continue to aggrieve the injured party and rarely succeed in the longer term.

FOUNDATION

MEETING ADDRESS



Peace has another dimension as well – your own peace. I wondered at the time if the hours we spent in Quaker meetings were wasted, as I would much rather have been on the hockey pitch, in the swimming pool, or reading a book. But I now realise they gave me a very valuable skill – in an ever more hectic world, the importance of, and ability to find a few minutes to sit quietly in my happy place, give myself space, and catch my thoughts. You will find your own happy place - mine is our greenhouse, where I can take time out listening to the birds (or, more usually, the rain on the roof), and yes, I do talk to my plants!

Oddly, I have no recollection of this Foundation Meeting 50 years ago - I'm not sure we held it then. But if I had been sitting where you are, I think I would have been a very scared 17 year old. My classmates were heading off to be doctors, lawyers, accountants, teachers and other noteworthy professions. But I had no idea what I wanted to do. I had got a place at Newcastle University, but only after the admissions tutor asked me at my interview what I had done to upset my headmistress, as she'd never seen such a bad head teacher's report on a UCAS form. I still don't know – some of life's questions will forever remain a mystery!

Suffice to say, however, in 1974, I didn't think things looked particularly rosy. But if I were to write a letter to my 17 year old self, I would have said not to panic. Building on the skills I learned here at the Mount, I went on to have four wonderful and largely successful careers, as a university lecturer, management consultant, government chairman and then changing tack completely, into horticulture. Perhaps I'm an early example of a portfolio career, taking opportunities and embracing change wherever I met them.

Looking forward, I can't imagine what the world will look like in 2074, when one of you might be standing where I am today – maybe it will be your avatar, or even a robot? Thankfully, however, I do know three things. First, you are already going out into a world where the glass ceiling is a lot higher for today's women, than it ever was for those entering the workplace 50 years ago. You will have space to succeed. Second, flexible working is much more the norm. You should now be able to dip into and out of the workforce depending on your personal circumstances, maybe have two careers in parallel, or even, like me, decide to go back to college and completely change tack.

And third, and probably most important. Draw on the skills you have learned at The Mount – work hard, never stop learning (even from your mistakes), and remember those all important STEPs along the way – simplicity, truth, equality and peace, and I'm sure you too will be OK. I wish you all the very best of luck.

**Our warmest thanks to Dr Helen Mounsey OBE
for being The Mount School Foundation Day Guest Speaker 2024
and for sharing her copy of her Foundation Address**



FOUNDATION DAY & REUNION WEEKEND



Thank you for coming by to visit us and we look forward to welcoming MOSA again next year!



Art - Grace Ng



BUILD YOUR OWN REUNION!

This summer the MOSA office enjoyed holding our first “Build your own Reunion” for a group of Mount School Old Scholars celebrating their 20th Anniversary!

Thank you so much for coming to celebrate your reunion event here. We love welcoming you back to your old school.

For anyone looking to arrange a reunion in the future, do get in touch with the MOSA office to find out more.



Build Your Own Reunion!

We know that life gets busy and to arrange a get together with your school friends may not be possible on Reunion Day.

We offer the ability to build your own reunion for your school group at a time that works for you.

Enjoy a tour and choose from a range of options from canapés, afternoon tea or supper. You can even choose your location including your library, old dining room, the Esther Tuke visitors' room or even make your own suggestion!

Rediscover your school

Rediscover your wider school's history with a selection of archive and a school tour.

Enjoy the beauty of the school buildings and notice what has changed since your time and what has stayed the same.

Celebrate your history

Roam your old corridors and classrooms.
Explore your favourite haunts and see if you can spot yourself and those you know around the school.



Thank you for your lovely testimonies! We can't wait to see you again soon

'Thank you so much to Naomi and her team for opening up The Mount to us. We had a brilliant time exploring old haunts at school like the Coal Hole, tracing the steps of the Grey Lady, and ambling down tramlines.

We loved being able to meet in the library which was the favourite place for many of us - who knew there was a secret corridor down to the staff room from there as well? The canapés were absolutely delicious and it was great to have some fizz and wine catching up with friends after 20 years.'

Emma Titterington-Giles



'We had such a good time catching up with old school friends at our mini reunion. It was great to explore The Mount, share stories and re-discover parts of the school we had forgotten all about.

MOSA/Naomi were brilliant hosts, and dug out all kinds of old school materials from our era for us to see, including an old promotional video. Now I will forevermore be able say that I was once in a movie with

Judi Dench!

Larissa Hansford



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 29 November 2024 6 - 10 pm

Drake and Morgan at Kings Cross

Address: 6 Pancras Sq, London N1C 4AG

Friday 14 March 2025 6 - 10 pm

Pitcher and Piano Newcastle

Address: 108, The Quayside, Newcastle
upon Tyne NE1 3DX

Friday 16 May 2025 6 - 10 pm

Drake and Morgan at Kings Cross

Address: 6 Pancras Sq, London N1C 4AG

MOSA Socials

Come and pop by to our MOSA socials!

There will be one each term with two in London and one in Newcastle.

We can't wait to see you there.
Get in touch with mosa@mountschoolyork to let us know if you want to pop by!





WELCOME
TO
OUR
NEWEST
MOSA
MEMBERS!





Art-Elizabeth Armas





IN REMEMBRANCE

Please help us to commemorate members of our community who have sadly passed by sharing memorials and notices to mosa@mountschoolyork.co.uk

Thank you

Jill Agar attended The Mount from 1956-1960 as a boarder.

She passed away in June 2023 peacefully at home on her farm after a long battle with Parkinson's.

She was a free-spirited and determined girl and woman who lived her life mostly as she chose. This included a lot of parties. She was perhaps not too compatible with the relatively strict school of the time but she remembered it with fondness and frequently told stories of her time at The Mount. She also remained in contact with a few of her friends from then.

After attending Bishop Burton Agricultural College she returned to her beloved farms, and her horses and dogs. She was a gifted horsewoman who competed in point-to-point races, and later in 3-day events.

A beloved daughter, wife, mother of 4, grandmother of 5, great-grandmother of 5 and aunt/great-aunt of 4. Much missed by all.

Remembrance submitted by Jill's son, Richard Agar



Jill Patricia Agar

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs Valerie (Val) Joyce Hood nee Hebden
29th May 1944 - 21st September 2023

Valerie Hood passed away on September 21st aged 79 years.

Valerie Hood was a well-loved Chemistry and Physics teacher at The Mount School, and taught Mount School girls for many years first starting in 1970 until her retirement in the mid noughties. Later, she was deeply involved in Howsham Mill's restoration project and the installation of its Hydro-powered Archimedean Screw.

Sally Hebron, former Mount Deputy Head shares a few words: "Valerie Hood was a very lively member of staff. She was an exceptional and thoughtful form tutor with a joyful approach to life. She was an excellent colleague in every way. It was a privilege to know and work with her."

Valerie Joyce Hood





**Dame Antonia Susan Byatt,
DBE, HonFBA**
The Mount 1949 – 1954



Photo courtesy of M Trevellian. All rights reserved.

IN REMEMBRANCE

A.S. Byatt (1936 - 2023) was an award-winning novelist, short-story writer and critic of international renown. She attended Newnham College, Cambridge, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania and Somerville College, Oxford.

Her novels include *Possession* (winner of the 1990 Booker Prize), *The Children's Book* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize and winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction), and *The Frederica Quartet*, comprising *The Virgin in the Garden*, *Still Life*, *Babel Tower* and *A Whistling Woman*. Her books have been translated into thirty-two different languages.

She was awarded the Erasmus Prize in 2016 for her inspiring contribution to life writing and the Pak Kyongni Prize in 2017. In 2018 she received the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award. She was awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of London in 1995.

A.S. Byatt was appointed CBE in 1990 and DBE in 1999 for services to literature. In 2003 she was made Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), and the following year was made a Fellow of University College London.

Canada awarded her the Blue Metropolis International Literary Grand Prix in 2009. In 2014, she was made a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Pak Kyongni Prize is awarded annually to a novelist who has made a distinguished contribution toward the development of a pure spirit of letters, rejecting the allure of worldly gain. Also, in 2017 she was made an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy. In 2018, she received the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (Denmark) for internationally recognised storytellers. The same year she was awarded the Charleston-Bede Award for a lifetime's excellence in short fiction. In 2020, she was awarded the Jing Dong Prize for translated literary fiction.

Her short story, *The Djinn In The Nightingale's Eye* was adapted for the film *3000 Years of Longing*, starring Tilda Swinton and Idris Elba.

Antonia was the sister of Dame Margaret Drabble and Helen Langdon, also Mount Old Scholars, and their brother Richard Drabble KC, who attended Bootham.

Margaret passed away peacefully on 28 November 2023 aged 89 years old. Her funeral was held in the following December at St John's Baptist Church in Honiley.

Margaret attended The Mount School from the age of 11 and will be remembered fondly by The MOSA community.

An Actress and leading lady, Margaret attended Rose Bruford College and went on to play roles including Regan in King Lear, and Miss Havisham in Great Expectations in Stratford. Her talent for acting and story telling are captured with great affection in her obituary in [The Times](#).

She was the widow of Lionel Hunt, whom she married in 1957 and is remembered as a loving mother and grandmother. Margaret and Lionel had four children: Rachel, Kate, Richard and Jo. Margaret left her acting career to bring up her family, but later returned to the stage locally for many mesmerising performances. These included Private Lives in Leamington, and many plays with 'The People of Stratford' and 'Second Thoughts' (acting with David Bradley), including The Merry Wives of Windsor and King Lear, and a captivating one-woman performance in Stevie, playing the poet Stevie Smith.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Kay Whittle nee MacGregor (1967)



Kay was born in Newcastle and having come from a Quaker family on her mother's side Kay Whittle attended The Mount School and went onto University at Essex to study Sociology.

Kay worked in child protection services becoming one of the first women to become a director of Social Services. Kay worked on the Fitness and Practice Panel for the General Medical Council and as a Director of York's Retreat Hospital.

She is survived by her husband and sister and niece and nephews.

Ruth Allott



Ruth Allott and Frances Allott

Ruth was at The Mount from 1949-1954, teaching Latin and also hockey and tennis. She was asked to return by Kathleen Carrick Smith in 1959, and spent another three years at the school, running the Latin department. My great aunt, Frances Allott, was on the staff teaching German there for part of that time. They both lived in Chantry House.

Ruth chose the job at The Mount as her mother, aunts and grandmother had all been pupils there, travelling from Dublin to attend the school - but Ruth had not had the opportunity to be a pupil at the school.

Remembrance shared by Ruth's niece, Kate Allott

IN REMEMBRANCE



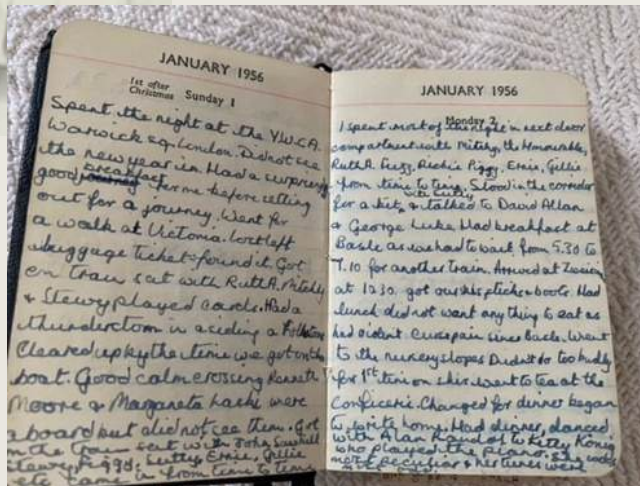
Gillian Patricia Wood nee Knight

30.10.1938-29.03.2024

Gillian attended the Mount in the early 50's leaving The Mount on 27 July 1956, having completed her O'Levels. She went on to train as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital. Mum had very fond memories of her time at The Mount and was proud to call herself an Old Scholar.

Gillian passed away at the age of 85 and with Alzheimers. Both her daughters were with her.

Remembrance shared by her daughter, Caroline Owens





IN REMEMBRANCE



Trudi Brown

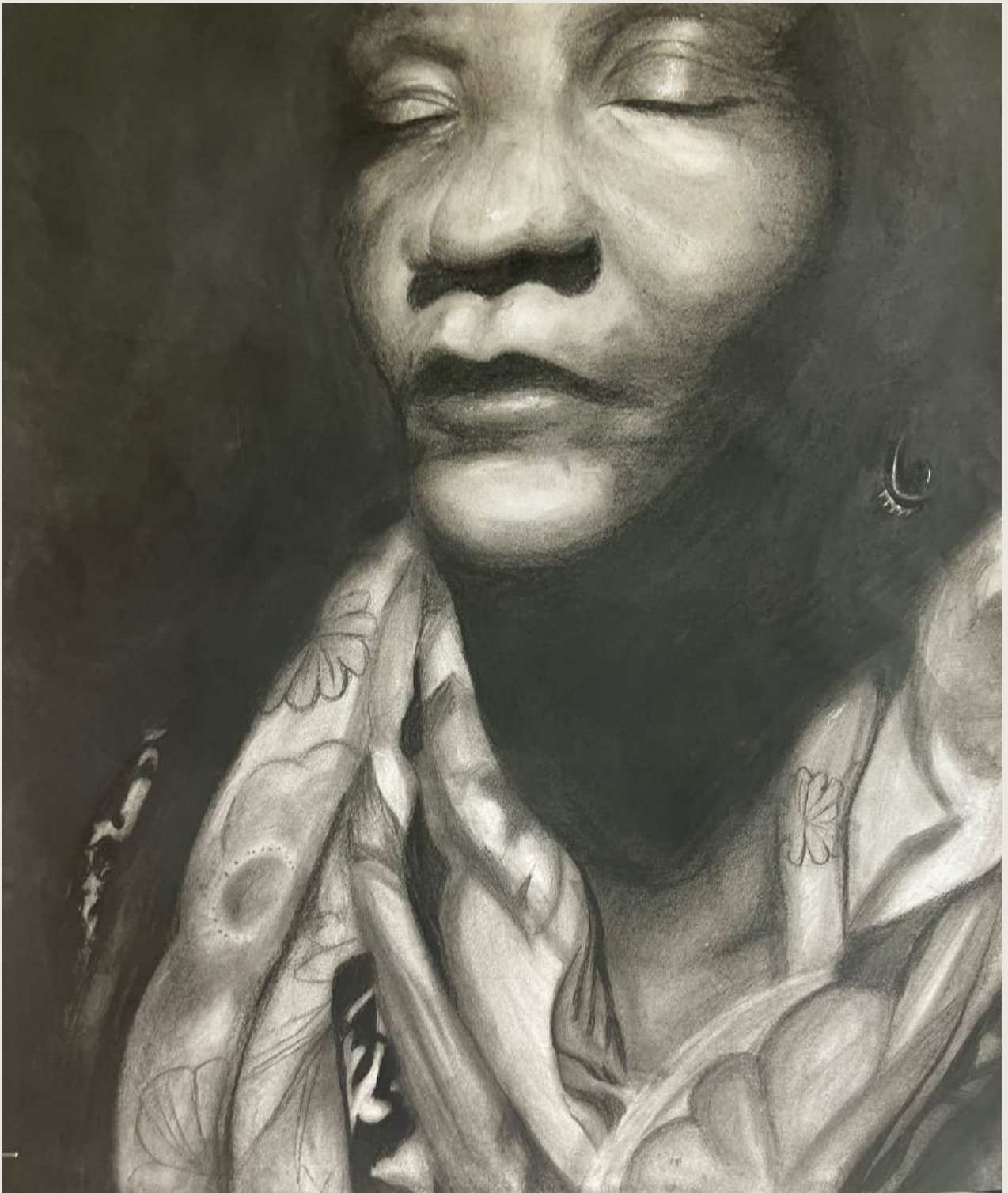
The Class of 1984 was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Trudi Brown (nee Sharif) at the beginning of April this year. Trudi leaves behind her beloved daughters, Gemma and Monisha, and her cherished granddaughter, Starziya.

At school, Trudi was a remarkable presence, known for her participation in nearly every sports team. One of my fondest memories is of us securing our spots with cushions in front of the TV after breakfast, eagerly anticipating episodes of Brideshead Revisited.

Trudi shared a lifelong friendship with Pippa Gilbert, a bond that began on their very first day at The Mount. Trudi will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, her love of travel and the outdoors, and the lasting friendships she forged. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Memory shared by O.S. Sam Roger and class of 1984

Art-Zara Parker



QUAKER NEWS

Quaker Pilgrimage



On one of the hottest days of the year our intrepid Year 7s and 8s headed to the Lake District for a wonderful day exploring our rich Quaker heritage and history. Jessie in Year 8 explains:

‘This Tuesday Year 7s and 8 travelled to Kendal and Sedbergh as part of a Quaker Pilgrimage. After a lengthy bus ride, we arrived at the Quaker Tapestry Museum. This amazing museum is home to a collection of beautiful tapestries created over 15 years by Quakers from all around the world. The tapestries showcase moments and memories in the history of Quakerism. We then enjoyed our lunch by the riverside before hopping back on the bus and making the journey to Pendle Hill, the preaching place of George Fox (the founder of Quakerism).



Led by Miss Mumby, we hiked all the way up the hill, which was very tiring but worth it for the incredible views. After spending some time at the top, and performing a musical rendition of the George Fox song, we walked back down and arrived at a Quaker meeting house where we held a short silence (and met a very cute dog).

We had an amazing time on this trip and are so thankful to everyone who helped to create such a great experience.’



A QUAKER TRILOGY

Composers wowed the 40+ strong audience when York Festival of Ideas had their Quaker Music event here at The Mount School.

A Quaker Trilogy grew from a concept to inspire young composers at the beginning of their careers by offering funds for the commission of three pieces for The Micklegate Singers. The composers could choose whichever words, from a passage written by William Penn that is often read at Quaker memorial meetings, they felt they wanted to work with. The fruits of their labours proved to be a challenge for the choir, but the pieces are all remarkable, and each has been loved by the choir in rehearsal and by the audiences at their respective first performances.

The three talented composers from the University of York - David McGregor, Joe Bates, and Frederick Viner - explained the appeal of the text, how they selected which words to set, and what musical thoughts and construction techniques lay behind their compositions.

The three pieces comprising A Quaker Trilogy, now published by University of York Music Press, were beautifully performed by the Micklegate Singers, (included in their number, O.S. Natalie McKeown) under their Musical Director, Nicholas Carter, and the fascinating discussion was chaired by Nicola LeFanu.

YORK FESTIVAL OF
Ideas

A Quaker Trilogy:
From concept to completion

THE MOUNT SCHOOL, DALTON TERRACE, YORK, YO24 4DD

JUNE 8 AT 8:00 PM

David McGregor, Joe Bates, Frederick Viner
and the Micklegate Singers,
with Nicola LeFanu

The three composers of 'A Quaker Trilogy' will explain the appeal of the text, how they selected which words to set, and what musical thoughts and construction techniques lay behind their compositions. Performed by the Micklegate Singers, under their Musical Director, Nicholas Carter with discussion chaired by Nicola LeFanu.

FREE ADMISSION, BOOKING REQUIRED
www.yorkfestivalofideas.com

GEORGE FOX 400TH BIRTHDAY

Celebrating George Fox's 400th birthday has been an important part of the School Year.

The Mount's Headmistress from 1986 - 2000, Barbara Windle, shares her thoughts on George Fox and his Quaker legacy.



Barbara Windle

George Fox

1624-1691

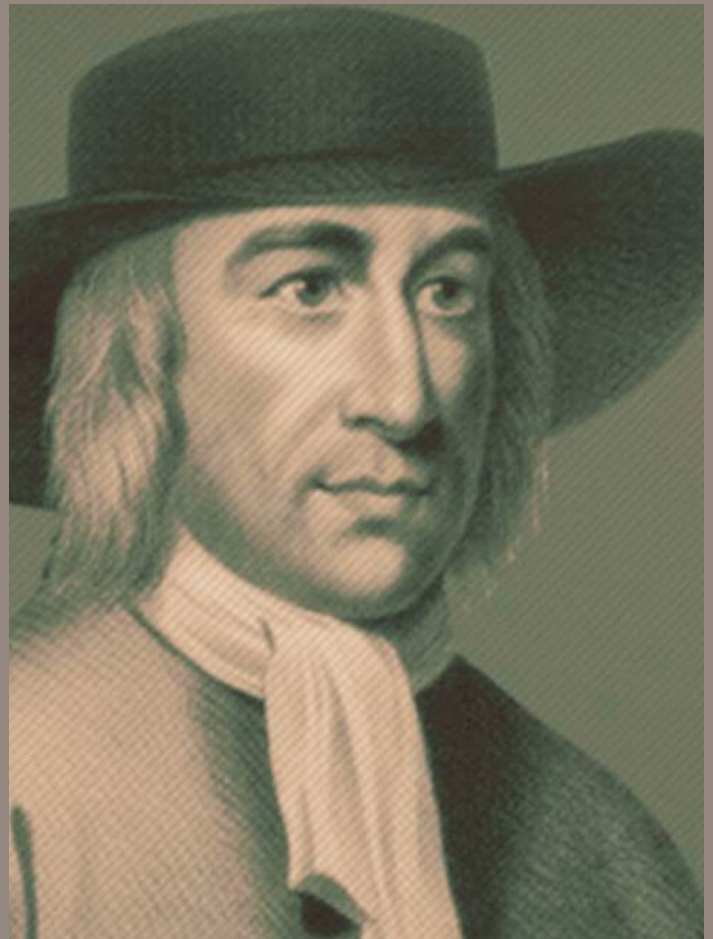
The significance of his legacy today

A religious group best known for rejecting all violence, standing up for truth-telling and justice, care for the planet, and equality.

How does that emerge from a young seventeenth-century firebrand who spent quite a lot of his life in prison?

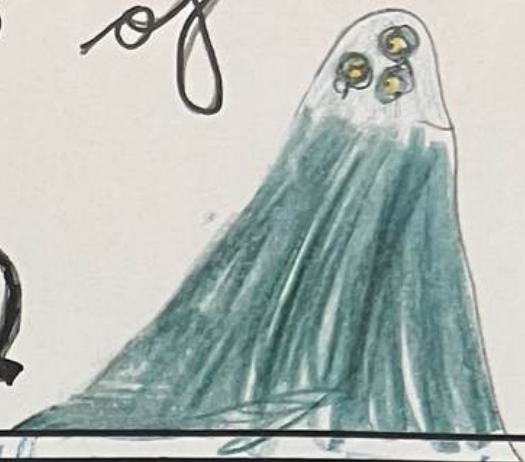
This short sketch is but a glimpse of Fox, of the movement he started, and where that movement finds itself inspired to stand today.

George Fox: Founder of the Quaker movement. His 400th anniversary arrives in 2024



In 2024, Quakers will mark the 400th anniversary of Fox's birth. Born into a protestant family in Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, his innate gifts stood him in great stead as an adult. These included a remarkably strong physical constitution (especially useful when he was constantly subjected to beatings by gangs of people objecting to his unconventional views) and the combination of a very clear mind with an exceptional memory. It was later remarked that if no copy of the Bible had remained extant, it could have been recovered in full via Fox's memory.

The Story of Serge's Fox 1952



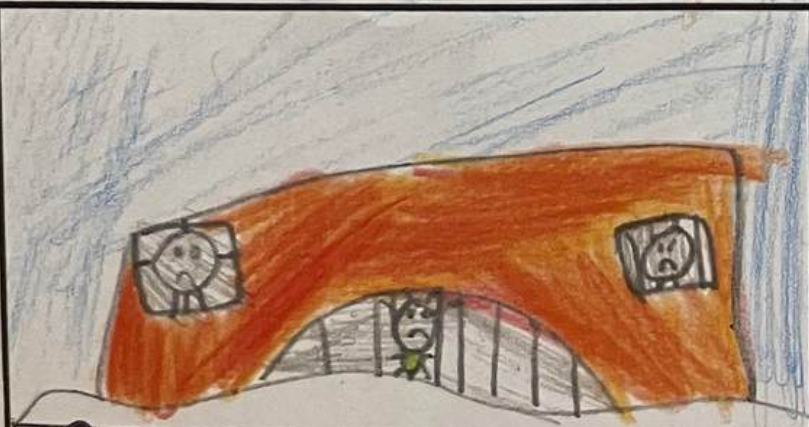
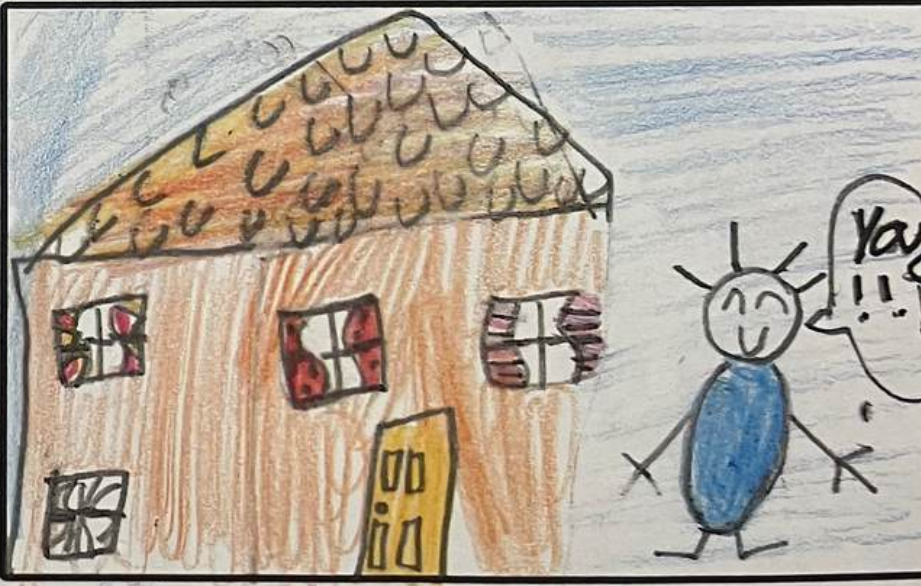
I am going to gather people



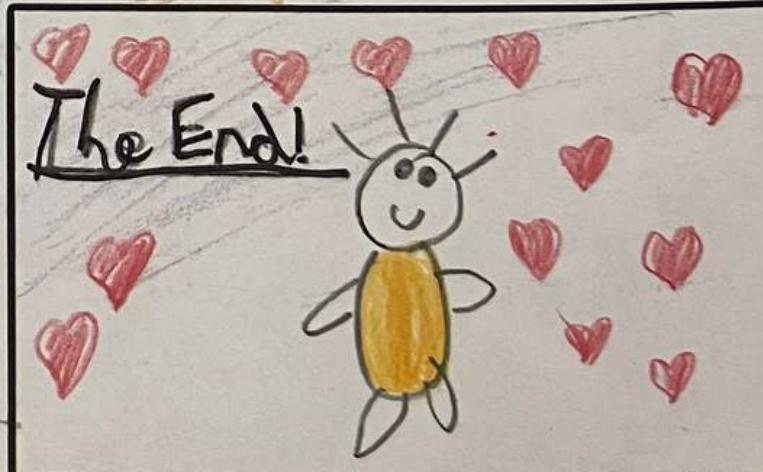
Ooh! Furbancell



I CAN SEEEE!!!



PRISON!!!!!!!



FREE!!!!

We first hear of him as a 19-year-old, disgusted to find that contemporaries who were supposedly meeting for serious religious/philosophical discussion, were actually intent on an evening of solid, competitive drinking. He walked out. As was the case throughout his life, such a stark contrast between words and actions affronted his sense of truth. This particular event, coinciding with his own restless search to find his path in life, triggered a decision to leave home on what turned into three years of religious search, journeying through England, living very simply, but above all, asking questions about religion everywhere he went. We presume he sustained himself by taking on temporary work as and when needed. He spoke with local priests and with anyone else inclined to biblical interpretation. He soon created enough of a stir that he was sought out by people wanting to hear and debate his unconventional views.

Family pressure was finally exerted: he should return home, settle and marry. Fox answered that, 'he was but a lad and must get wisdom'. Next came the suggestion: 'the army', which he also rebutted on the grounds of being, 'just a tender youth'. His inward search continued as 'in great sorrows' he 'walked many nights by himself'. It was Fox's dark night of the soul, the time when all his reading and conversations were clarifying both his mind and interpretation of what he found in the Bible.

- Some of his conclusions were – and remain – distinctly different from the thinking around him. For instance, While the Bible was very important, it was a record of past experience and therefore a secondary source. The truth here and now of the word was to be found in the direct leadings which all people could experience in worship and in personal life, from the eternal Christ.
- God dwells not in temples made with hands ... but in people's hearts.
- His inner journey brought him into dark places, but at the time when he was feeling deeply that no one could help him, he experienced the strong conviction that: 'there is one, Jesus Christ, who can speak to thy condition'
- He had a growing sense that personal experience was crucial: 'this I knew experimentally', ie not through books, but by experience of 'living in the Light'.

These principles opened up other thoughts about how theory could become lived experience; how was it to pervade everyday life? There were questions for everyone to ask themselves about practical daily living. For instance, how are you treating your servants? Are your prices fair? Are you always giving your best craftsmanship? Besides these recognised economic and social challenges, Fox pointed out others that were either unnoticed or were actually rejected both at the time, and much later.

In the course of a very few years, Fox's walking tour, known as his pilgrimage, and determination to explore as many ideas as possible with as many people as possible, had led him all over England. Starting by going south, he then turned north, trekking through the Midlands, then East Yorkshire (Holderness, Beverley, Doncaster, York, Pickering) and continuing west through Lancashire and South Cumbria (Pendle Hill, Askrigg, Sedbergh, Firbank Fell, Ulverston). In all this journey he was speaking to great outdoor gatherings. Eventually he reached Swarthmoor Hall, the home of Judge Fell, Margaret Fell and their family, the place which became the birthplace of Quakerism as we know it today.

How was it that he found audiences everywhere and so many opportunities for challenging religious debate? He grew up in a period of great religious ferment, of 'the world turned upside down' when not just the Puritans and the Levellers but other religious groups were straining against the assumption that Anglican v Roman Catholic was the only religious option.

When we examine why most of these groups faded away and Quakers remained, we see that Fox was an exceptional organiser; as people joined him, setting up their own small local groups in a great many localities, the effectiveness of the structure he created kept it strong. It involved the whole community taking on responsibility and keeping careful records. Quakers always knew which of their numbers were in prison or were suffering restraint of property and recorded these matters regularly in a national register of Friends' 'sufferings' (a title still retained in the national structures of Quakerism today). This structured care for the whole community held Quakers together through years of state persecution.

But why were Fox and the early Quakers so persecuted for years? Their testimony to truth made them uncompromisingly stubborn over matters that were to others a simple matter of daily routine. We may well marvel at the 'crimes' for which they endured horrendous prison conditions for long periods of time. For instance, while ready to promise loyalty to the king, Quakers refused to swear an oath on the subject, citing Matthew 5:34 'swear no oath at all'. Their reason is that one must always speak truth; to swear to speak truth implies that anything not sworn may well be a lie. Refusal to doff one's hat to anyone of superior status (son/father, commoner/clergyman, etc) was also enough to end up in prison. Refusal to pay tithes to a church to which they did not belong, could result in all their goods being confiscated. And after the Quaker Act of 1662 they were persecuted for 'blasphemy' (not accepting church authority), for assembling in groups larger than five, or for printing Quaker pamphlets and many variants on all the above. In consequence, over 15,000 Quakers were imprisoned in the 25 years preceding the 1688 Act of Toleration.

If we consider the low population of that era, the vastness of that number becomes more apparent. In York, there were at one point more Quakers imprisoned in Clifford's Tower than there were Quakers living out in the city.

What do Quakers owe to George Fox today? And do women have particular reason to value his witness? I would argue that they do. I mentioned earlier that he recognised social wrongs to which society was quite blind. His rejection of accepted attitudes to women then was an especially powerful example.

Fox and the body of Friends were very far ahead of their time in regard to women – how could they not be, if they were to live out their claim that there is that of God in every human being? When sceptics challenged Fox, saying that he really couldn't seriously think that equality and the inner light applied to women too, he was absolutely clear that this was in fact exactly what he meant. So, right back in the seventeenth century, there were Quaker women who preached, while some travelled about the country speaking to groups, and others went abroad to spread the word in Europe. Everywhere, their words were written down, their views respected.

Margaret Fell was a key member of the whole movement in her own right. In subsequent centuries too, Quakers have remained ahead of the accepted attitudes to women.

Looking more broadly at what we owe to Fox, for myself, I would say his emphasis that God / wisdom / the spirit are to be found within us is a teaching that will never be outdated. It is part of the underlying Quaker principle that we are always seeking, always open to new light and discoveries. At the same time, whatever our convictions, we are reminded that it is incumbent on us to remember our own fallibility; as our Advices state, we should be prepared to 'think it possible that we may be mistaken.' That salutary reminder does make a difference to the way in which we listen to those with whom we disagree.

We owe to him and the first Quakers the conviction that physical violence, whether by individuals, groups or countries, is never the solution to a problem. He was – and Quakers today are – always ready to argue strenuously. But the call to fight 'with outward weapons' is still met with accepting imprisonment instead, if need be. Habitually however, active peace-making is practised in order to seek to prevent conflict arising, as well as 'speaking truth to power', where that is possible.

From early times, Friends stressed the need to value the natural world as God's gift to us. It is a gift we must never abuse because of the damage that can cause future generations. A message urgently needed today.

For a summary of how Quaker thinking is developing now, the [free] pamphlet, Advices and Queries, covers much ground in few words, opening up ideas, rather than laying out creeds or instructions.

Our thanks to Barbara Windle for sharing her fantastic article with us. It is also available to read on the [mosafriends](#) portal.

We warmly invite our Quaker community to continue to share your valuable thoughts with us.

Please send contributions to
mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk

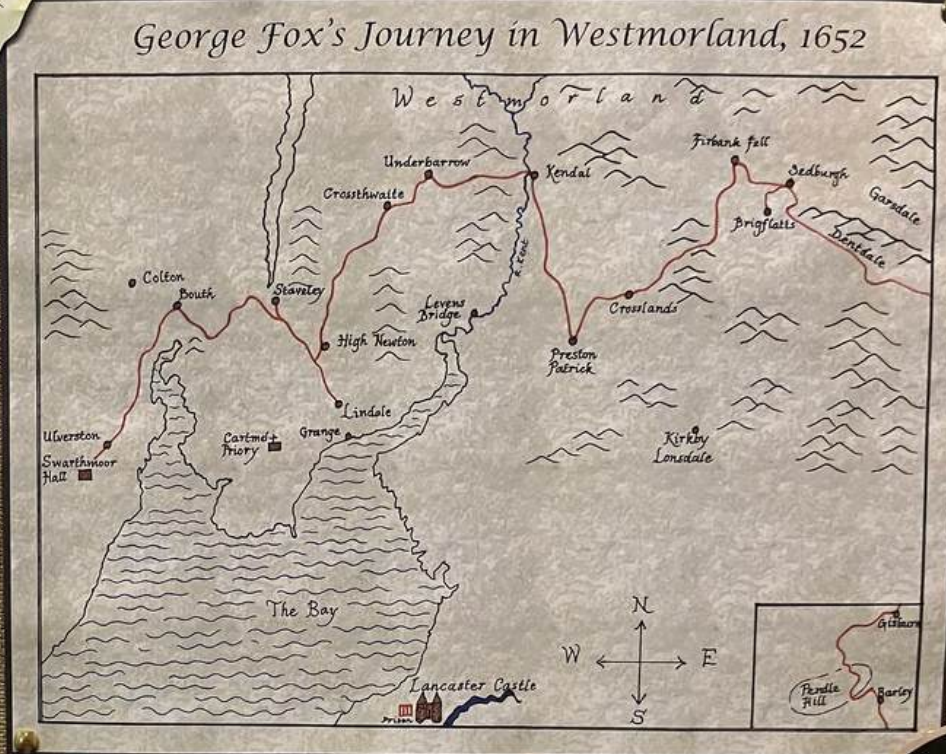
the Truth."

Died: 16th Jan 1691

12th day of the month, I decided after my sermon on Pendle Hill, to fulfil the duties I was currently in and decided to go to a local village where a great highpoint was. The reply was Firbank Fell, one and a half miles away. I asked if she had a decent horse to rent she told me about my interest in the highpoint. I told her about Pendle Hill and my journey about the

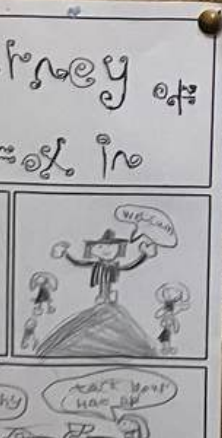
July, I resolved that I should journey tomorrow and spend the week of God for a perfect place. After a long journey I arrived at the top of the hill. A few good folk had already gathered. I preached up there until seven of the clock.

country seeking a place to start a new religion close to the church of England but not runned by it. She decided that she would help. As I journeyed to Firbank Fell by house back with the lady behind me while eventually we got there. Other folk journeyed making a huge crowd. Then as night fell I preached to all those people and lots of people joined my religion.



At 9 of the clock in the morning, a terrible loud knocking occurred raising us from our beds and making us tremble with fear. Ever ready the sword of the Lord fell the clearest judge fell attempted to prevent me from being imprisoned yet he failed. I was imprisoned at Lancaster Castle. I was imprisoned for my beliefs. I was sentenced to 9 months in jail yet I still lived every day in my prison until I was released.

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When the Lord sent me forth into the world, He forbade me to put off my hat to any, high or low."



Art- Myriam Bakai Singer



FURTHER EDUCATION GRANT

Did you know that there is an Old Scholar Further Education Grant available to you?

The Mount School Foundation offers a grant of £500 annually to an Old Scholar to support their further educational studies or change in career.

Applications will open Autumn 2024 for 2025 grant and invites submission by Spring 2025. For further details contact the MOSA office.

We catch up with Louise Gregory, one of last year's recipients to hear how the Further Education Grant has helped her.



What are your favourite memories of The Mount School?

I spent as much time as I could in the art studios painting and drawing, as well as in the music rooms, where I plugged in my guitar and amplifier, enlisting other pupils to join in and make as much noise as possible – I learnt the piano, viola, cello and classical guitar at a young age. I also greatly enjoyed English Literature lessons as I love storytelling. Conformity was not my strong suit and I tended to go my own way. Consequently, I was hauled into the office a few times for my escapades in going to hear live music at local venues!

What did you do between leaving school and applying for the Grant?

Between leaving school and applying for the grant is a twenty-eight year gap - a lifetime. I pursued my passion for poetry, scriptwriting, music, songwriting, composing, performing, collaborating with various artists, making many records, and publishing work. At the age of 25, I took the leap into higher education, attending the University of Oxford for first year at undergraduate level and continued my studies at Ruskin College, Oxford, and Goldsmiths College in London. In 2019 my recorded work was inducted into the British Library's Popular Music Library.

What made you apply for the Grant?

Recognising the need for a fresh challenge and an intellectual pursuit aligned with my evolving interests, I saw the advert and felt it was excellent timing; so I applied for and was delighted to have my submission accepted for the grant.

What has it helped you achieve?

It has facilitated my enrolment in the Postgraduate Diploma in Law program at the University of Law, equipping me with the necessary skills and knowledge to embark on a new career.



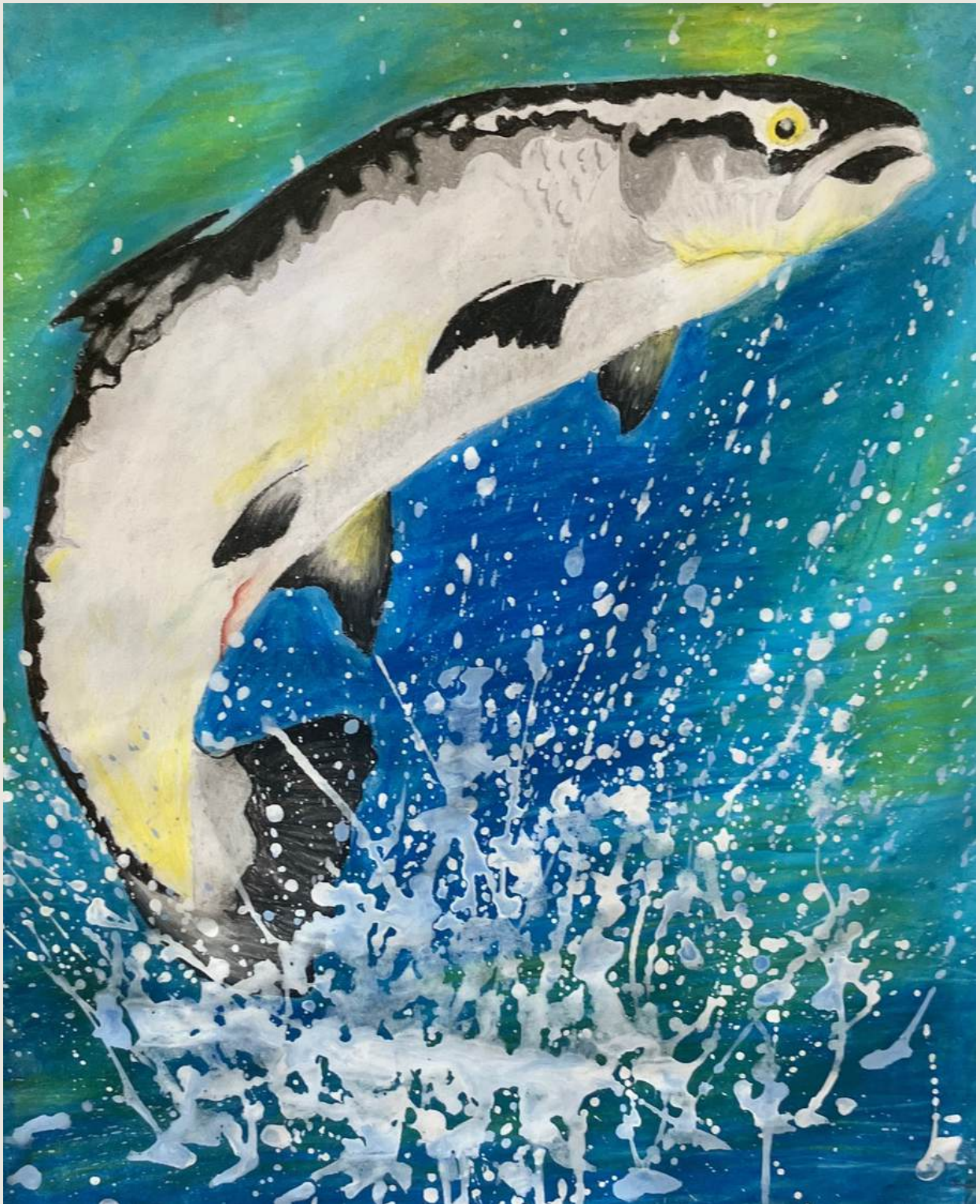
**LOUISE GREGORY (1995)
FURTHER EDUCATION FUND
RECIPIENT 2023**

Where next?

I envision myself supporting individuals navigating legal challenges in the areas I have had my own professional experiences in, and contributing to the creative and broadcast industries as a legal advisor. This journey marks the beginning of a fulfilling and clear-driven chapter in my career.

In the words of Hamlet, "to thine own self be true." Embracing authenticity and pursuing one's passions is paramount. The MOSA grant offers Mount Old Scholars the opportunity to explore new avenues, pursue lifelong learning, and embrace personal growth. By applying for the grant, individuals can embark on transformative journeys, just as I have, and forge paths aligned with differing elements of themselves. I would encourage any Old Scholar to apply for support if they are seeking a change of direction - regardless of age or stage.

Art- Grace Ng



For You



MOUNT OLD SCHOLARS & QUAKER FRIENDS

SCHOOL FEE CONCESSION

The Mount School offers a fee concession of 10% to Mount Old Scholars and Quaker Friends seeking a Quaker education for their children.

If you would like more information on joining The Mount School, to arrange a tour or have any further questions you can contact the Admissions Team on

01904 23 23 23
admissions@mountschool.york.co.uk

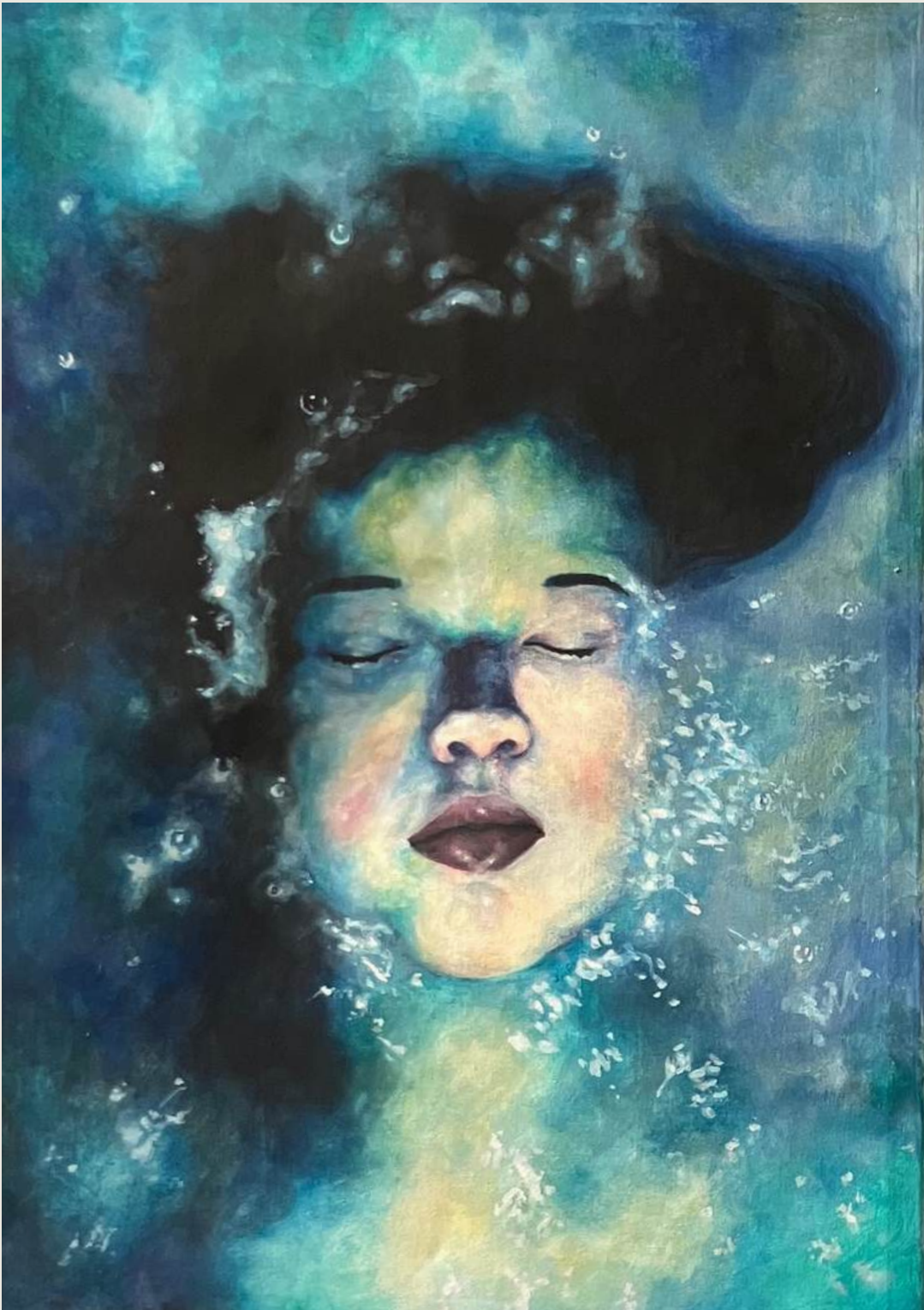


MISSING FRIENDS

No matter how long we have known each other,
sometimes we lose contact as life takes us in different directions.
Please help signpost your missing friends to their MOSA community.

mosafriends.org

Art- Florence Collins





YOUR VISION

We invite you to share with us how MOSA can improve, what you hope for MOSA and how you would like to connect with the School, whether over communications or in person.

We hope to gather some focus groups for feedback this coming school year. please email at mosa@mountschoolyork.co.uk if you would be interested in participating.

Art- Zara Parker



Since its inception in January 2017, The Mount School Foundation has provided bursarial support for qualified means tested pupils who could not otherwise benefit from a Mount education. The Foundation also funds a number of development projects designed to position school's facilities at the highest standard possible.

The Foundation's charitable purposes are to advance education in accordance with the religious society of Friends Quakers in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, and in particular to advance the education of past, present and future pupils of The Mount School York.

How To Donate

If you wish to donate to the Foundation, and you would like to discuss your donation options, please contact the Foundation Office on foundation@mountschool.york.co.uk or (+44) 01904 23 23 25 or use our Support Us pages on mosafriends.org to donate directly

'We are not claiming that The Mount was better than other schools, but that she had a character of her own. We loved her for what she gave to us, and for what we gave to her.... And for our part, we, her daughters, are not unmindful of our motto, for with hearts grateful and aglow, we know, that when in humbleness of spirit we tried to build the city according to eternal laws, or watched upon its walls, looking for help from the Eternal, then we did not build or watch in vain.'

- H. Winifred Sturge and Theodora Clark, 'The History of The Mount School York'

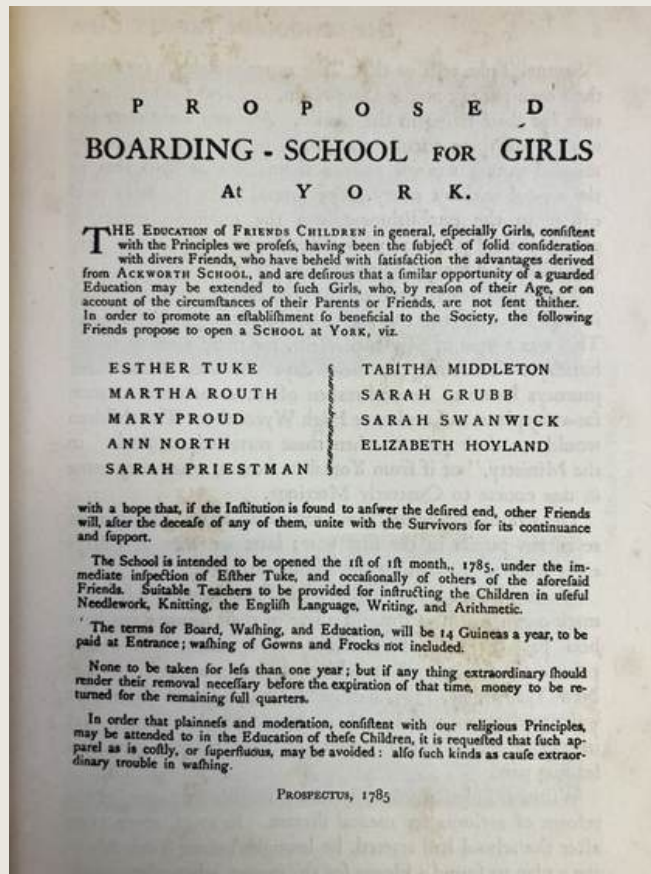


The Foundation has taken over responsibility for a number of existing long standing trusts associated with the school.

The Mount School Foundation offers bursaries to academically able pupils based on a combination of need and outstanding abilities.

Bursaries have enabled the school to nurture inspirational leaders, confident sportswomen and passionate musicians, artists and academics who might not otherwise have had access to a Mount education. We are also committed to supporting our Ukrainian scholars. There are bursaries available to daughters of Mount Old Scholars, members of the Society of Friends or those recommended by Old Scholars. The school's embedded tradition of supporting bursary funds helps us continue to nurture the education of girls and young women.

FIDELIS



LEAVE A LEGACY

A legacy to The Mount Foundation is one of the greatest gifts you can make, allowing the very best traditions of a Mount School education to continue to the benefit of future generations.

There are different types of legacies, ranging from a specific sum of money, to a percentage of your estate, to specific assets such as shares or property. Leaving a gift in your will can help provide for many future students and can also provide you a highly tax-efficient way of supporting The Mount Foundation. You may wish to direct your legacy to specific projects; your wishes will be honoured wherever possible. Requests which are sufficiently general in nature ensure that we can use your gift effectively and for the maximum benefit of our pupils. By leaving an unrestricted legacy (not tied to a specific project) to The Mount School York Foundation, the school is able to use your gift wherever the need is greatest or where new opportunities arise. This flexibility ensures that your legacy will provide immediate benefit to the teaching and pupil experience which will last for generations.

To discuss this further in confidence and with no obligation, please email foundation@mountschoolyork.co.uk or telephone (+44) 01904 23 23 25.

Art- Ophelia Cay



THANK YOU
FROM
YOUR
MOSA OFFICE

The alumnae are at the heart of The Mount School where it's history, character and legacy are kept alive, not only through your many endeavours but through your childhood memories, your friendships and the stories you share.

It has been incredible to see the alumnae as always. It has been so wonderful to see you for visits and reunions, through your contributions to The Mount's mentorship programs and school initiatives, and through your engagement on social media.

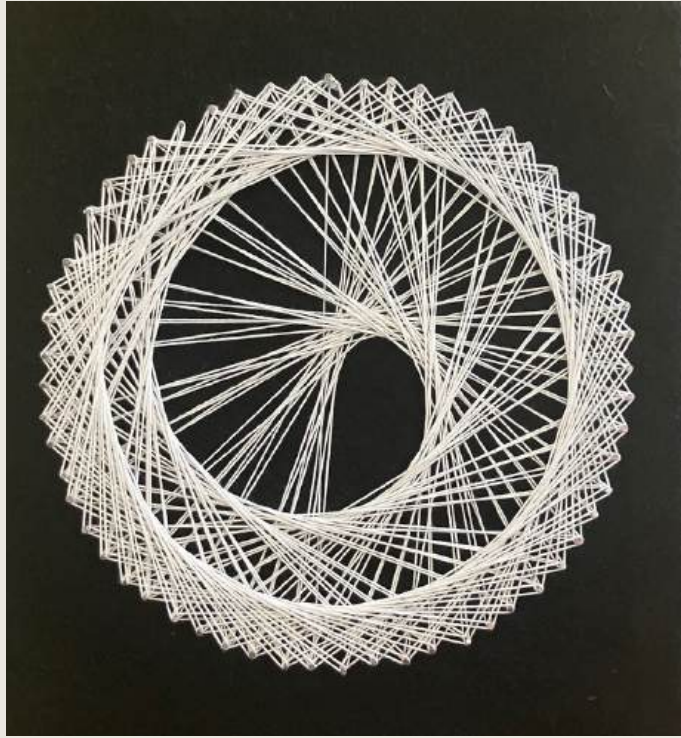
Thank you for all the love you have given your old school.

The MOSA office looks forward to supporting you whenever you would like to connect with the school or with your wider MOSA community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anyway we can help you stay connected.

In friendship,
your MOSA office



Art- Afsha Zaman



The Mount School Observatory

