

---

# HALSTEAD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

---

### NEWSLETTER

---

First, a big apology for not getting a newsletter out for a long time. Life seems to have got in the way although I won't bore you with my tales of woe. Respite came today in the form of a surprise heavy snowfall which prevented me from leaving home. I was unable to get to work, I took Grandma's taxi out of commission and there is no chance of anyone calling in for tea/lunch/dinner, so I have the luxury of a day to myself. Well, not quite. Husband thought it was the ideal time to get me to tackle his list of jobs but he and dog have fallen asleep for the afternoon so I am tackling a long-overdue writing session.

Merry Christmas to you all and I hope 2023 is happy and healthy.

### Social Evening & AGM

It seems a long time ago, but the Social Evening and AGM in May this year was a well-attended and fun event, with our honorary member, Daphne Jones, hosting the quiz. As usual, any team with me on it is guaranteed the booby prize, but many congratulations to the winners.

For your brand new 2023 diaries, we are now in the throes of planning next year's event which will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm at the Ramsey Academy. We will, as usual, hold the AGM as a brief business meeting, following which the members will be entertained by Bryan Thurlow and 'Music Hall Memories'. Bryan, a founder member of The Berkeley Squares Music Hall Company, will use music and monologues to share his knowledge of music hall and the songs that made them so popular. For those of you who have seen Bryan before, you will know this is an evening not to be missed.

Further details will be sent out with booking forms at a later date.

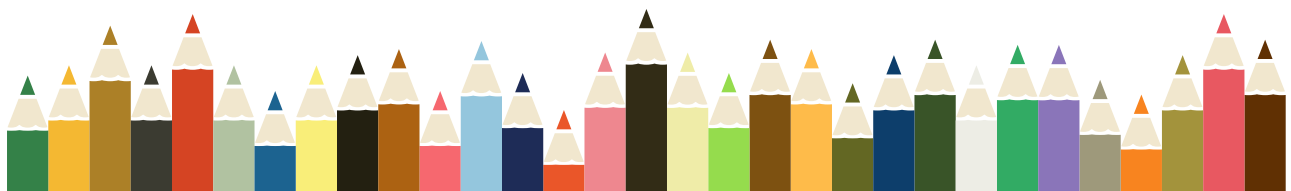
### Annual Lunch

It also seems a long time since the annual lunch which took place on 2nd October at Earls Colne Golf Club and was well attended by 33 people. Sadly, at the last minute, a few (including our dear President, Cleone Branwhite) were unable to attend due to illness and other factors.

This year we, unfortunately, clashed with a rather large Club event but, despite being so busy, the caterers still did us proud with a delicious lunch and the people who attended were full of praise for the food, excellent service and atmosphere.

We welcomed some new members who were preparing to celebrate 50 years since they started at the School and we hope their event also goes well. We also hope that more new members will join us.

The 2023 Annual Lunch date has not yet been planned but details will be given in the New Year.



## Committee Contacts

### Joint Chair-

Andee Evans - 01787 223979  
[andeeevans@hotmail.com](mailto:andeeevans@hotmail.com)

Jenny Mitchell - 01787 460096  
[jenny.mitchell6@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.mitchell6@btinternet.com)

### Membership Secretary

Lynn Reeve - 01787 475869  
[reevelynn@hotmail.com](mailto:reevelynn@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Pauline Page - 07761 018360  
[paulinepage7680@gmail.com](mailto:paulinepage7680@gmail.com)

### Social Media

Jan Stringer  
[janknowledgetransfer@gmail.com](mailto:janknowledgetransfer@gmail.com)

### Archivist and Book

Jane Jones - 07802 483191  
[janiej@waitrose.com](mailto:janiej@waitrose.com)

### Committee

Eileen Boyes - 01787 477007  
[eileen.boyes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eileen.boyes@yahoo.co.uk)

Leraine Swan 01376 807471  
[kdlbswan@gmail.com](mailto:kdlbswan@gmail.com)

Carol Webber - 01787 210820  
[carolannwebber@hotmail.com](mailto:carolannwebber@hotmail.com)

Julie Wilkinson - 01376 326757  
[julie.wilkinsoncm7@outlook.com](mailto:julie.wilkinsoncm7@outlook.com)

### Newsletter

Jane Jones (as above)

## Charities

Last year's charities nominated by the Association's members were RNLI, Ukraine Appeal and a local charity, TAPS (Travel Aid for the Parents of Sick children). All received £25 and letters of thanks were received from each charity.

This year, the two charities chosen and voted for by members at the Annual Lunch were The Trussell Trust (a nationwide foodbank charity) and The Essex Air Ambulance. £25 to each, raised from raffle monies at the lunch, was sent to the two charities.

## Ramsey Academy Presentation Evening

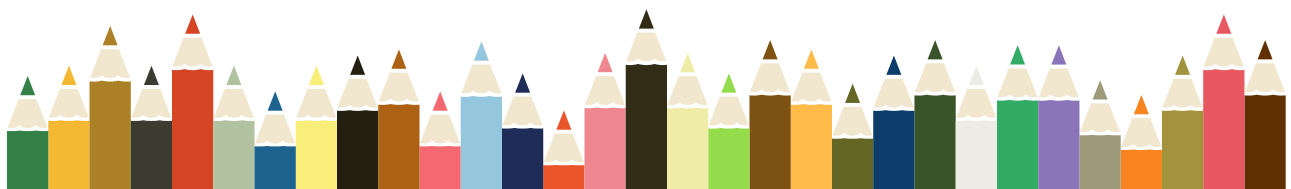
Every year the Association presents a prize to a student of the Ramsey Academy for Service to the Community - in school or outside it. This year the £30 book token was awarded to xxx. Eileen Boyes and Andee Evans attended the event on behalf of the Association.

## Mrs Ray

Those of you who were at the School in the mid to late 1960s might remember the art mistress, Elke Ray. It was therefore lovely to hear from her when she discovered and wanted to buy our Book. She is currently living in Wivenhoe and sends her regards to all who remember her. It was somewhat odd being told to call her Elke - Mrs Ray seeming too formal at our advanced ages!!

## Obituary

In the last Newsletter, we gave the sad news that Pauline Day had died. Pauline was a long standing member of the Association and the Committee, and had made many friends. Andee Evans has prepared the following obituary for Pauline -



## Farewell to Sible Hedingham's own 'Mary Berry', Pauline Day



Jenny, Pauline and Andee represented the Association at the thanksgiving service for the life of Pauline. Many of you will remember Pauline as a popular stalwart of the committee for many years. Her cakes and scones were legendary at committee meetings and many AGMs.

While we knew, Pauline had always been involved with cooking, it was very interesting to discover just how much.

Her achievements included: running a catering business with her friend Jill Taylor, being an accredited WI catering judge to test everyone's 'soggy bottoms', teaching evening classes at Braintree College and doing cookery demonstrations all over East Anglia for the Potato and Meat marketing boards. She even appeared on Look East for a cookery slot.

When she wasn't cooking, Pauline enjoyed spending time with her three sons, socialising, gardening, travelling, the WI and of course the Old Girls' Association which she seldom missed.