



A very warm welcome to all of our MOSA friends! I hope you are keeping safe and well, wherever you may be in the world as it slowly begins to open up again. I am delighted to have pupils back in the School. The corridors are just not the same without the chatter and laughter of the girls! I was particularly eager, to once again be with girls face-to-face in Morning Meeting. Sitting in the hall in a socially distanced way, we have been able to collect together in year group bubbles, and re-introduce silent worship into our weekly programme of activities. Silent worship is at the heart of the Quaker ethos and it is something that girls tell me they have missed whilst in lockdown. The stillness and calm that we create when sitting in silence is a beautiful thing that has huge power and meaning within our community. Silence provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection, no matter what your faith base may be, and I encourage girls to also use it as a way of bringing inner peace and looking after their mental health.

Speaking with Old Scholars recently, many of you have also commented on how during the periods of lockdowns and isolation you have found silence calming. It has also strengthened the importance of community and connection with people.

This year we welcomed Sarah Moore to The Mount team as the new Librarian and Archivist. Sarah has also taken over alumnae relations, managing the MOSA email inbox and she will be your first point of contact with the School. Sarah is currently busy helping to organise the first virtual MOSA Annual Gathering. Although we may not be able to welcome you into School in person for the usual Reunion Day, I look forward to virtually welcoming you back to The Mount and do hope you will be able to join us.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and finding out about the inspiring women who have contributed and feature throughout. As you will read, we celebrated International Women's Day in March. As an all-girls school we fly the flag for and champion women at every opportunity. We support women who continue to challenge and to strive to overcome gender bias and inequality, and hearing first hand stories continues to be the best way to inspire Mount girls across the generations at every opportunity.

With best wishes,  
**Adrienne Richmond**  
 Principal of The Mount School York



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# BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN!

***“The buzz and the enjoyment and the laughter: that’s what I’m keen to get back,”*** said Adrienne Richmond, Principal of The Mount, as girls returned on-site on Monday 8 March following the third national lockdown. Girls’ reactions to being back at School varied from delight at seeing friends again, eagerness to be back in the classroom and to quiet anxiety about the path to coming out of lockdown.

With the inevitable social upheaval wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic, supporting the girls’ mental health during this period has been just as important as continuing their education. Aware of the negative effects of lockdown, we have taken serious steps throughout the past year to cater for girls’ needs and to ensure that causes for concern are spotted early and appropriate interventions taken to support them.

*‘Supporting the girls’ mental health during this period has been just as important as continuing their education.’*

Form Times are being used to encourage people to share their experiences, to help support one another’s wellbeing. Pastoral drop-in sessions are now available in School for each Year group, where any pupils may speak with their tutors about any issues they may be experiencing. This allows them time and space to share and understand their experiences. Staff at The Mount have taken part in training and workshops designed to support girls and how they may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Pupils are encouraged to move outside, in the School’s spacious grounds, so that they can relax and feel as calm as possible, and know that even if a pandemic is outside the gates, life goes on as normal as possible in School.

Year groups remain in their respective bubbles, but the girls have none-the-less found creative ways to show even more care for each other. When Asta and Milly in Year 7 were unable to celebrate their shared birthday with a party, their Form Tutors took them outside for Form Time to enjoy a spontaneous run-around and outdoor games. As the girls gathered to sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to the birthday girls, a group of Year 10s were crossing the lawn and came over to join in the singing. So, with the Year 10s at a safe distance, they all sang ***‘Happy Birthday’*** for Asta and Milly again. As they were doing this, a passing group of Year 9s also joined in the sing-a-long. *“Mount girls are part of a unique small community; they are extremely supportive of one another and it is so heartening to see them continuing to display great compassion and empathy for their peers,”* comments Adrienne Richmond.

Ms Richmond’s wish for enjoyment and laughter was certainly granted throughout the week. The girls’ joy in being back with their friends was palpable.



# #ChooseToChallenge

The return to school on Monday 8 March also marked **International Women's Day**, the theme of which this year was #ChooseToChallenge. To celebrate the day, we were very lucky to virtually welcome Baroness Hale to The Mount to take part in a Q&A session. Inspirational women act as role models to us all as women and Baroness Hale inspired the girls to think about how they too could one day individually achieve great things within their eventual chosen career.

As an all-girls school we fly the flag for and champion women at every opportunity. International Women's Day is a reminder that, in a world where, unfortunately, men do still often dominate in many areas of life, we need individually and collectively as women, to continue to challenge and to strive to overcome gender bias and inequality. So, on International Women's Day we tasked Mount Girls to make a conscious decision to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Together we all reflected on some words, from the International Women's Day website:

**A challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change. So let's all choose to challenge. How will you help forge a gender equal world? Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness against bias. Take action for equality. #ChooseToChallenge**

## The Mount welcomes Baroness Hale

In celebration of International Women's Day, The Mount School hosted an online Question and Answer session with Baroness Hale of Richmond. Pupils from Year 6 to College II were joined over Zoom by pupils and staff from local schools and given the chance to ask the Baroness questions about her career and what has inspired her.

After a warm welcome by The Mount's Principal, Adrienne Richmond, and a kind greeting from Lady Hale, our Sixth Form College Leadership Team led the proceedings. Elise led by sharing a few words about Lady Hale's career, and Georgia invited questions from each of the participating schools.

Lady Hale listened to each question and gave thoughtful, encouraging answers which included some excellent advice. She shared stories of her career and her life. The students came away understanding that although today things are better for women, more needs to be done to make women people feel more included, not excluded. Focussing on diversity at every opportunity is important in achieving this.

Speaking afterwards, Denva (a College Leader) shared her reflections from the Q&A.

*"Baroness Hale was approachable and such a lovely person. Listening to her inspired me. I'd love to give her memoirs a good read. Her experiences and the idea of taking up opportunities really stuck with me. The fact that she faced sexism in the past and overcame it to become the first female President of the Supreme Court was genuinely inspiring."* – Denva

Questions asked by girls at The Mount included:

- **What impact has an all-girls education had on your career?**
- **Is democracy in danger in the United Kingdom?**
- **Were there many people who opposed you being in the Supreme Court and how did that affect your job choices and achievements?**



Brenda Hale grew up in Scorton, Richmond, attending Richmond High School for Girls. She subsequently became the school's first girl to attend Cambridge and the first ex-pupil to read Law.

In 1984, she became the first woman and youngest person to be appointed to the Law Commission and in 1994, she became a High Court Judge, the first to have made her career as an academic and public servant rather than as a practising barrister. In 1999, she became the second woman to be promoted to the Court of Appeal. In 2004, she became the first woman Law Lord, taking the title of Baroness Hale of Richmond.

Lady Hale's career culminated in being appointed the first female president of the Supreme Court. She became the focus of public attention when the Supreme Court ruled that the government's decision to advise Her Majesty to prorogue parliament in September 2019 was unlawful.

# Archives Corner & Welcome Sarah!



## HELLO!

Hello, I am Sarah Moore the new Librarian & Archivist at The Mount. I only started my role very recently - the day before the January lockdown! Although an unusual start it gave me plenty of time to explore the grand library and the many archives. I am really looking forward to managing the School libraries and archives and developing our alumnae database, and of course getting to know Old Scholars.

## SARAH SHEILS

I have been in touch with Sarah Sheils (The Mount's previous Archivist), to discuss her experience of the archives. I am currently reading Sarah's book *'Among Friends'*, which is a fascinating insight into the story of The Mount. Sarah reminds us that the archive collection should continue to furnish excellent opportunities to promote The Mount as an important and ongoing landmark in the story of British, Quaker and international education. The archives can be used as exhibition material, in school magazines and advertising materials, on the website, and as educational material for pupils.

## BORTHWICK INSTITUTE FOR ARCHIVES

I have a meeting scheduled with the Borthwick Institute for Archives at the University of York to get the best advice on digital archiving and the legal requirements of modern institutional record keeping. The older school archives, those over 30 years old, are mainly in the care of the Borthwick. There are a number of other important Quaker archives housed there, such as those of the Retreat psychiatric hospital and Rowntree confectionery company. These archives have been explored by scholars from all over the world.

More recently, I discovered that Daisy May Johnson's new book release *'How To Be Brave'* was inspired by her research into our archives. We hope Daisy, a local children's author, will visit the school in July as an end of term treat.

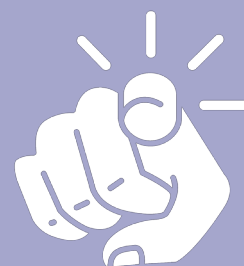
I have also had a few research enquiries. I was contacted by a lady writing a book about her mother's life story. She had just discovered that her mother's aunt went to The Mount during the 1930s-1940s and wondered if

we had any information about her. A research student has been in touch to ask if we have archival records for Miss Lucy Harrison and Miss Amy Greener of The Mount School for her thesis on anti-vivisection in York. Both women feature in a Minute book from the York Anti-Vivisection Society 1892-1945, that has been in the student's family possession for many years. The student is interested in the motivations of these women anti-vivisectionists, focusing on whether it was feminist conviction or religious, moral (Quaker) beliefs that encouraged them to protest.

## ARTEFACTS

Finally, I am looking forward to finding historical records that are kept in other departments around the School and reviewing these for significance and conservation. From my conversations with colleagues there is a treasure trove out there just waiting to be discovered! I have been promised Victorian costumes and uniforms, a human skull, music manuscripts, a John Ruskin sketch and letter, and embroidery samplers to name but a few!

# WE NEED YOU!



## VOLUNTEERS

Whether you have a passion for history or simply want to get involved in something worthwhile I would love to hear from you. We need a couple of MOSA volunteers to assist with developing and maintaining our school archives. You can contact me via [mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk](mailto:mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk) if you are interested.

## DONATIONS

If you have any memorabilia or items you would like to donate to the archives please contact me at [mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk](mailto:mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk) or send it directly to the School. A big thank you to MOSA members for their past donations. We regularly receive donations of old photo albums, school correspondence, uniform and school publications.

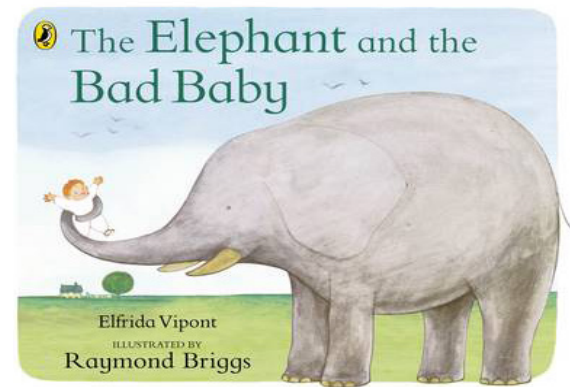
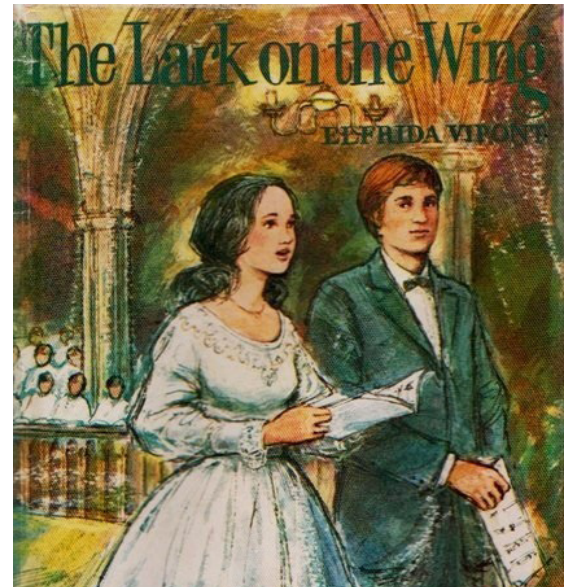
# A LITERARY SURPRISE

## Carnegie Children's Book Award

To promote the reading for pleasure initiative our Year 9 girls are taking part in the Carnegie Children's Book Award. The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards, recognising outstanding writing and illustration in books for children and young people. The girls taking part are known as 'shadowers' as they 'shadow' the judging process for the Carnegie Medal.

Shadowing began on the 18th March when the shortlist was announced. The girls read, discussed and reviewed the books on each shortlist, before voting for their favourites to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards.

The Mount girls were delighted to discover that Mount Old Scholar Elfrida Vipont (1902-1992) won the annual Carnegie Medal in 1950 for her book *The Lark on the Wing*. *The Lark on the Wing* is the second book in a five-book series about the Haverard family. The first two, *The Lark in the Morn* and *The Lark on the Wing*, focus on Kit Haverard and her journey from school to becoming a professional singer. Elfrida worked as a teacher, singer and writer. She wrote over 30 books and is perhaps most well known for her children's book *The Elephant and the Bad Baby*, illustrated by Raymond Briggs. Girls were further surprised by a visit to our archives which revealed that Elfrida's Carnegie Medal and a letter she wrote from the school during World War 1 were very kindly donated to The Mount.



**Our archives also revealed a lovely little poem, aptly named 'The Little Lark', taken from Rhymes For The Nursery and published by Harvey and Dalton in 1836. Here it is:**

*I hear a pretty bird, but hark!  
I cannot see it anywhere:  
Oh! it is a little lark,  
Singing in the morning air.  
Little lark, do tell me why  
You are singing in the sky?*

*Other little birds at rest,  
Have not yet begun to sing;  
Every one is in its nest,  
With its head behind its wing:  
Little lark, then, tell me why  
You sing so early in the sky.*

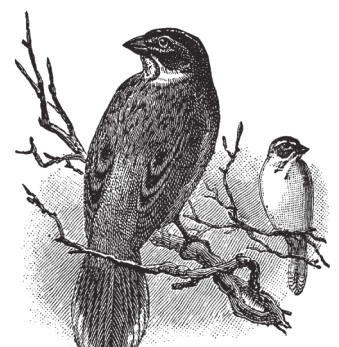
*You look no bigger than a bee,  
In the middle of the blue;  
Up above the poplar tree,*

*I can hardly look at you:  
Come, little lark, and tell me why  
You are mounted up so high?*

*'Tis to watch the silver star,  
Sinking slowly in the skies;  
And beyond the mountains far,  
To see the glorious sun arise.  
Little lady, this is why  
I am mounted up so high.*

*'Tis to sing a merry song,  
To the pleasant morning light:  
Why linger in my nest so long,  
When the sun is shining bright?  
Little lady, this is why  
I sing so early in the sky.*

*To the little birds below,  
I do sing a merry tune;  
And I let the ploughman know  
He must come to labour soon.  
Little lady, this is why  
I am singing in the sky.*



## MOSA REFLECTIONS

# GILLIAN ENEVOLDSEN

After leaving The Mount Gillian Enevoldsen went on to study Chemical Engineering. She recently retired having worked with Mars Incorporated, an American multinational manufacturer of confectionery, pet food, and other food products and a provider of animal care services, for over 33 years. Her last role was the Global Head of HR for their pet-care business. *"You may wonder how an engineer ended up in human resources!"* smiles Gillian. *"I started in manufacturing and held a number of manufacturing and engineering roles in the first 8 years of my career. One of these roles was in the area of learning and development and it gave me the platform to move across into HR. I started my HR career as a Training Manager for the UK and went on to do both generalist and specialist HR roles in Europe and then globally."*

Gillian joins us to reflect on her time at The Mount and how it helped shape her career.

### **What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think back to your years at The Mount?**

The friends that I made and the opportunities I was given to follow my love of science and so many other passions – drama, singing, craft as well as the chance to try many new things. I thoroughly enjoyed my years there and thinking back to that time brings a smile to my face.

### **What is your fondest memory of The Mount?**

This is a difficult one as I have many. I really enjoyed Drama at school and the Drama department (led by Mary Lloyd-Owen) was very proactive with lots of school productions and theatre trips both locally and further afield. My fondest memory was having the opportunity to play Princess Ida in the College production combining my love of singing with acting.

### **How important an influence has the Quaker ethos been to you?**

Very – I am sure some of the things I truly value like simplicity, integrity, equality and community come from my experience of being in a Quaker school. I remember with real fondness the weekly visits I made to help at a riding for the disabled centre and the ones to an elderly lady to tend her garden and spend time chatting with her over tea. I also think it really influenced the company I chose to join when I graduated from university. I looked for a company that has similar values to mine and when I came across Mars Inc. with its egalitarian spirit, commitment to

making a positive impact in the communities they operate in and a focus on treating their associates with respect, I knew I had found the right place for me.

### **Through your years in Higher Education, did you feel conscious of any influences from your time at The Mount that helped you through your studies?**

When I arrived at university the fact that I was used to sharing living space with my fellow students and helping with chores certainly helped me settle in quickly! When it came to my studies, I chose engineering which has a high workload and a lot of shared project work. Successfully completing the course required a lot of initiative, self-discipline and an ability to work effectively in teams all of which I had learnt about during my time at The Mount. The other thing The Mount taught me, which helped, was resilience! Things don't always go to plan so the ability to look for the learning in the experience, to ask for help where needed and to pick yourself up and move forward were critical skills which helped me be successful in my studies and in my work.

### **Describe a moment in your career in which you felt connected to your Mount education?**

I think one key moment was when I moved from a European to a Global role and I had to learn to work with a much more diverse group of people, in some cases from countries I had never visited and knew little about. It reminded me of the deep respect that Quakers have for other faiths and the time that we spent learning about the positive attributes of each of them. I think it really helped me be both empathetic and effective as I began to work across diverse and unfamiliar cultures.

### **Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future?**

Having recently retired and returned to the UK after almost twelve years away, my priority is spending more time with family and friends as well as rebuilding some of the connections I have lost. I also want to find a way of contributing meaningfully to the community while enjoying the simple things in life like being out in nature, including time in my garden, as well as spending more time with the people I love. For all the upset that COVID-19 has brought I do hope that some of the lessons we have learnt about some of the things that really matter, like connection with people, the importance of community and the joy that can come from being in nature, are remembered and bring a simpler, less materialistic life where we take better care of each other and our environment.



# Winter fun and games

Although the Winter Olympics in Beijing isn't scheduled until 2022 we have had enough snow and ice this winter to hold our own! Here are some snowy school snaps taken this year and from our archives. The first two photos are dated 1934-7. The third is Form 5F skating on Rowntree Park pond in the Spring (Winter) term of 1953-54. The final photos show current Mount girls enjoying the snow in the School grounds and on New, our playfields.



While we are on the subject of Olympic Games, we discovered the following photograph of Olympic sprinter Sonia Lannaman visiting The Mount to help raise funds for the 1984 Olympic Games (copyright picture Yorkshire Evening Press, February 1983). Can you spot anyone you know?



# MOUNT OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION FIRST ANNUAL GATHERING

**Saturday 8 May 2021**

**10:00am - 12:30pm**

**Hosted by The Mount School York via Zoom**

**Celebrating the last 50 years of 'The Arts', from the revival of the York Mystery plays in 1951 to 2021's 'Mystery' Creative Arts Festival.**

Unfortunately, we are unable to host the annual MOSA Reunion Day in the traditional way this year. Instead, we will be launching our first 'Annual Gathering'. This will be hosted virtually via Zoom on Saturday 8 May.

Over the morning you will hear from Adrienne Richmond, Principal, and the current College Leadership Team (formerly known as the Head Girl Team) about life at The Mount School over the last year. We will also be celebrating 'The Arts' at The Mount, with a special performance from our new Steinway pianos, and a look into The Mount's archives.

The morning will end with the chance for MOSA members to join separate breakout rooms to network with former pupils and catch up with friends. These rooms will be set up in decades (dependent upon interest). When you register to attend you will be asked which decade you wish to join.

To register your attendance please visit [www.mountschoolyork.co.uk/mosa/events/](http://www.mountschoolyork.co.uk/mosa/events/) to complete the Registration form. Once you have registered you will be sent more information and the details to log-in to the Zoom Meeting.

THE FIRST MOSA ANNUAL GATHERING - SATURDAY 8 MAY - 10am – 12.30pm  
Via Zoom

9.50am - 10.00am - Zoom Waiting Room Opens

10.00am - 10.20am - Principal's Welcome and update on MOSA matters

10.20am - 10.30am - Mount Video Tour

10.30am - 10.35am - 'All Steinway' Musical Interlude

10.35am - 11.00am - Hear from the current College Leadership Team

11.00am - 11.10am - A look into the 'Arts' archives

11.10am - 11.25am - MOSA members' 'Memories of the Arts'

11.30am - 12.30pm - Decade Breakout Rooms open for networking with MOSA members

## **Your memories of 'The Arts'**

2021 marks 50 years since the revival of the York Mystery Plays, many Mount girls have taken part over the years including Judi Dench and Mary Ure. The Arts continue to thrive at The Mount today and the English, Drama, Art & Music departments are currently busy planning a 'Mystery' Creative Arts Festival to take place at the end of the School year. We would like to celebrate by looking back at The Arts over the last 50 years and need your help! We want to hear your memories of The Arts at The Mount and view any photos you may have. If you would like to share your memories, in writing or perhaps by a voice note, or if you would like to speak at the Annual Gathering (time permitting) please let Sarah Moore know. Alternatively, if you have any photos or memorabilia you would like to share, please contact Sarah Moore at [mosa@mountschoolyork.co.uk](mailto:mosa@mountschoolyork.co.uk)



# Congratulations to Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

**Our congratulations to Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, former pupil of The Mount, who was awarded the highest honour of the Royal Astronomical Society, its Gold Medal, on the 8th January 2021.**

**This award recognises Dame Jocelyn's outstanding contributions to astronomy over more than half a century, famously starting with the discovery of the first pulsars in 1967. Past winners include Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble, Arthur Eddington and Stephen Hawking.**



*"There is stardust in your veins. We are literally, ultimately children of the stars."*  
Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

## AN INTERVIEW WITH A DAME

The screen call pinged promptly at 9am and there, in the display, appeared a respected Dame of the realm in digital form. Smiling and attentive, her manner immediately made the others on the call feel at ease. Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell joined a Zoom call for Lily in College I to interview her for an article which she plans to submit to The Friend magazine.



Attending a centuries' old School means there are many who have come before; so many lives, so many stories, so many different paths taken after having finished school. Dame Jocelyn is one of many significant women to have walked The Mount's corridors in her developing years and are now often found in the spotlight. When Lily, who is interested in journalism, prepared for the interview, she was inundated by a wealth of online information detailing Dame Jocelyn's fascinating life.

Before academic studies led her to discover pulsars in 1967 while she was still a postgraduate student, Dame Jocelyn came to school at The Mount from 1956 – 61. She fondly remembered the liberalness of England compared to rural Northern Ireland, where her family lived and were Quakers. Awarded a BSc in 1965 from the University of Glasgow, Jocelyn went on to earn her PhD at Cambridge in 1969.

Lily had shared in advance her prepared questions and, after an amiable chat, the interview began. Jocelyn gave candid and reflective answers. When the conversation strayed from Lily's prepared questions, Dame Jocelyn's responses were thoughtful and full of good will. A life-long Quaker, Dame Jocelyn had a cheerfulness which evoked the words of George Fox, "Walk cheerfully around the world, answering to that of God in everyone."

In the days before Lily's interview, it was announced that Dame Jocelyn was to receive the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal, which was first awarded in 1824 and whose previous recipients include Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble and Stephen Hawking. When Lily mentioned this during the call, Dame Jocelyn pointed out with good humour, "They've been awarding that medal for two hundred years. I am the fifth woman, in all that time, to get the Gold medal, and most of us have been in this century."

Minutes before the call had started, Lily confessed to being excited but slightly nervous. During their conversation it was clear that both women were enjoying themselves and Dame Jocelyn asked Lily about school and life in lockdown. After the interview finished, Lily was amazed at how well everything had gone, saying of Dame Jocelyn, "*She was so lovely and down to earth.*" We all look forward to Lily's article later in the term.

## MOSA REFLECTIONS

## SARAH BELL

After leaving The Mount, Sarah Bell went on to study Theology and Religious Studies at The University of Leeds, followed by an MA in Religion in the Modern World. This led onto a year of service as a Programme Assistant at the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels followed by a PGCE in Religious Education at Birmingham University.

Sarah has returned to a School setting, currently working as the Head of Lower School, Religious Studies and PSHE at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts. *“The school is dedicated to the provision of an education which allows individuals to reach their potential both artistically and academically. We provide a unique community for talented young people, regardless of means or background, who have a passion for acting, dance, musical theatre or commercial music.”* Sarah’s former pupils include Daisy Ridley of Star Wars Fame, Lily James and many Billy Elliots.

We caught up with Sarah to discuss her time at The Mount and to see if being at The Mount inspired her to become a teacher.

#### What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think back to your years at The Mount?

Complete and utter thankfulness for the opportunity. It was such an important and influential experience, shaped by some tough moments such as when my father had a heart attack in my first term. The pastoral care I received was spot-on; not overbearing but thoughtful. I am thankful to have really been uplifted by the academic side too; I’ve utilized all of this in my own teaching career. I am thankful that the experience of boarding has made it possible for me to reach out to my own pupils as there is that connectedness of experience.

#### What is your fondest memory of The Mount?

So many to choose from! Creative Writing in Lydia Harris’ study by the library was the highlight of my week. It was such a supportive place to be. You had permission to be you.

#### How important an influence has the Quaker ethos been to you?

Without doubt it is at the core of what I do. It helps me feel centred and helps me when there is stuff to do! My Mount experiences of being embraced at lots of key moments in that strengthening and supportive silence, gave me the grace to trust the silence. I used the process of centring to get a clearer sense of the way forward.



In my profile picture, I’m wearing a Miss Trunchbull hoodie from the musical *Matilda* with pride as several members of the cast have been my pupils over the years.

#### Describe a moment in your career thus far in which you felt connected to your Mount education.

As a teacher, I have taken assemblies and let there be silence in those moments, which is a rare thing in the lives of teenagers. Pre-pandemic, of course, these assemblies made it also possible for my students to shake hands with their neighbour and that act of being connected, even briefly, I found moving. In the first lockdown, I felt a deep urge to Speak Truth to Power and thus was able to instigate weekly wellbeing time in the lower school, during PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education). The pupils log into Teams to say hi and discuss how they are going to use that time away from their devices. Books got read, my pupils got creative, dogs got a walk and there was even an outbreak of teenagers doing housework!

#### Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future?

I look forward to seeing our friends and family more as I am now a great aunt seven times over. My husband and I are steam train buffs and there are heritage railways calling to us. Taking my great nephew to a Liverpool match also features in my hopes and dreams but given the prices I think that is very much in the latter territory! Returning to my classroom will give me a great sense of the dawn of normalness.

#### And finally, do you think your time at The Mount inspired you to go into teaching?

Without doubt, The Mount gave me academic courage to pursue my interests and follow this path. It gave me a sense of purpose in so many ways; certainly, being surrounded by smart and capable women helped me no end.

Michael Learned who played Olivia Walton in ‘The Waltons’ is a former pupil of Tring. Michael visited one Christmas and I could not easily muster the courage to say hello. Had I lost the ‘umph’ that The Mount taught me? No, not at all! I had to carry on getting ready for my crossing duty, ahead of our carol service at the local parish church. I was wearing not only a Michelin Man style fluorescent yellow jacket but also an elf hat, complete with ears because my role was very much .... wait for it ... ‘elf and safety’. I do think that it is the spirit of The Mount that helps me be me at school and have confidence in all my roles.

# In memory of Philip Paxman

Philip joined the Mount School in 1990, initially being employed as a joiner within the Estates Department. Following the retirement of the Maintenance Officer in 1993 it was a unanimous choice that Philip be appointed as the new Maintenance Officer. Following a reorganisation of the Estates Department in 1998 Philip also assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the grounds and the sports pitches.

His workmanship was equal to none, he was the master of perfection and he always ensured that the quality of work undertaken by contractors employed by the School was of the highest standard. The teaching staff could not praise him enough for all the work he undertook on their behalf.

He was always pleasant with his fellow colleagues and took the unfortunate breakdowns of the School equipment and machinery in his stride.

I always appreciated his help and expert advice during the years I spent working with him and my continued friendship with him following my retirement.

He was a keen sportsman, participating in marathons, swimming and enjoyed walking with Gloria, his wife of 49 years. He was instrumental in forming a swimming club for the staff of the School with weekly sessions taking place for over 10 years.

Whilst he cycled to work most days, when the weather allowed, he was also a keen motorcyclist, with Gloria as a pillion passenger on many occasions. Following his retirement in 2009 he made several tours on the continent on his motorbike with his brother Duncan.

Philip was diagnosed with Mesothelioma two years ago but this did not prevent him from continuing with his activities until the beginning of January. He died peacefully at home on 5 March 2021.

**David Leonard, Deputy Bursar 1987-2003**

## MOSA REFLECTIONS

Each Term, we invite a Mount Old Scholar to be interviewed for the School Termly Magazine, Reflections. Old Scholars tell us more about their lives, careers and the memories they have of The Mount.

To read previous interviews please visit

[mountschool.york.co.uk/mosa/mosa-reflections/](https://mountschool.york.co.uk/mosa/mosa-reflections/)

If you would like to be interviewed please contact [mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk](mailto:mosa@mountschool.york.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to feature more news from MOSA members in our upcoming newsletters. Alumnae contributions are greatly appreciated, and add an incredible value to this newsletter.

If you have any stories, articles, photos or anything you would like us to consider for publication, please email or phone Sarah Moore.

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