



# AYLESBURY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI December 2018

*Merry Christmas*



*We would like to wish  
all our former students,  
staff and friends of  
Aylesbury High School, a  
very Merry Christmas,  
good health and every  
happiness in 2019!*

### Spread The Word!



We are delighted that we now have over 2,000 Alumni contacts. However, we have recently discovered that there are many more former students and staff that we need to include in our Alumni community.

If you are still in contact with Alumni from your time here at AHS, we would be very thankful if you could ask them to email Alison Pexton with their contact details  
[apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)

## The Very Popular Friars Club!

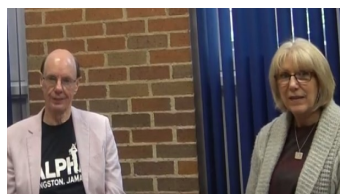


David and Alumna Sue Stopps (Wyatt) of the Friars Club in Aylesbury visited our school this week to inform students about the Club, its history and its forthcoming 50th Anniversary in 2019.

The club was started in 1969, after a chemistry teacher from AGS, Robin Pike, suggested to David (then music manager of Smokey Rice), that Aylesbury really needed a music club.

The Club subsequently opened and was immediately popular, attracting famous bands of that time to the many events and gigs. The minimum entry age was 16, however, many younger

music lovers managed to make themselves look older to get in! Over the years the Friars Club attracted bands including: Genesis, Mott The Hoople, Lou Reed, Roxy Music, Cockney Rebel, David Bowie, Peter Gabriel, Phil Collins, The Police and China Crisis.



Sue remembered that her parents did not allow her to go to the Club initially and that it was never spoken about in front of teachers! She first met David there, when she volunteered to do some poster sticking around Aylesbury to promote the Club, and years later they married.

Sue always loved art at AHS and fondly remembered her Art Teacher, Mr Briggs. She went

on to Art College after leaving AHS and became a very successful illustrator for a greetings card company, and then went freelance; establishing a career from what she loved to do the most.

Her advice to students was to follow their passion, recognise opportunities when they arrive and take them; and to always be open minded.

So many of our Alumni have spoken fondly of the Friar's Club during their filmed interviews, that we were delighted to meet Sue and David, to find out more about its history.

For more up to date information on the Friars Club and its forthcoming 50th anniversary please visit

[www.aylesburyfriars.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyfriars.co.uk)

## Reflections on AHS in the Early Years



We were very pleased to welcome back to AHS, Alumni Pam Robson, Gwen Palmer (Lewis) and Barbara Willis (Sage), as part of our Living History interviews.

Pam attended Aylesbury Grammar School before AHS and Gwen and Barbara were original AHS 59er students. They had fond memories of what a

significant achievement it was to attend a grammar school, although they were not really aware of news of the AGS split to form AHS in advance.

They remember sharing some classes with the boys at AGS and then having to come back to AHS for others, also detentions for speaking to the boys outside classes and annual Christmas Dances with

the boys held at AGS.

They all believe that their education here taught them the values and disciplines to enable them to succeed in their lives.

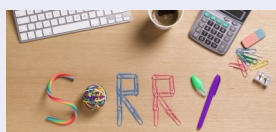
Over the years friendships from AHS have been sustained and they are all still in regular contact with other 59ers. It was lovely to hear that they are still so proud of Aylesbury High School and their achievements and memories here.

We are very thankful to Pam, Gwen and Barbara for contributing so much to our Living History and also for providing us with information for our archive, which we hope to share

Alumni Newsletters  
Are Now Available to  
Download  
[www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/  
about-the-school/alumni/](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk/about-the-school/alumni/)



### Apologies For Our Recent IT Problems



Due to recent and unforeseen internet issues, some of our Alumni unfortunately did not receive their November Alumni Newsletter.

We believe we have now rectified the issues and have sent the November Newsletter again this month.

### Donate While You Shop With Amazon!



If you are shopping on Amazon this Christmas, please consider signing up to Amazon Smile – and the AHS Fund will receive 0.5% of your spend as a donation!

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

For more information on how to sign up, please refer to our 'Supporting Us' page on the school website:

Aylesbury High School  
Walton Road  
Aylesbury  
HP21 7SX

01296 388222

[www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.ahs.bucks.sch.uk)

## 'Women Who Inspire' 2018: The Hall of Fame



Dani Loughran  
Claire Lillywhite  
Hilary Brian  
Sue Smith  
Valerie Owen  
Rachel Dempers  
Katherine Dallas

Maureen Dent  
Penni Thorne  
Jenny Puddefoot  
Estelle Du Boulay  
Rachel Minott  
Lucy Everson  
Lisa Westcott

Rebecca Ridgway  
Abbie Howson  
Gweneth Palmer  
Barbara Willis  
Pamela Robson  
Sue Stopps  
All Reunion Attendees

(Also not forgetting former member of staff, Jon Dwyer)

**Thank you very much for your support and for your inspirational contributions in 2018!**

## A Special Alumni Reunion on Our 60th Birthday Celebration Day!

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us regarding arrangements for our 60th Birthday Celebration Day on Saturday 6th July 2019.

The school has many events planned for students over the course of the academic year and our Alumni are very welcome to join us in these.

It has been lovely to see so many of our Alumni and former staff come back to AHS when they attended our Afternoon Cream Teas in November, shared their career experiences with students as part of Women Who Inspire, helped us with our Archive Project, and were interviewed for our Living History initiative. We hope to meet many more Alumni soon as we progress with these 60th Birthday commemorations.

Our Alumni community is growing daily, and we are very thankful to all of you who have forwarded our monthly Alumni Newsletters and contact details to



reconnect their friends and classmates with AHS. We are delighted with the response so far and would like to now invite all our Alumni to a Special 60th Birthday Alumni Reunion on our 60th Birthday Celebration Day on Saturday 6th July 2019.

Our dedicated Alumni venue will be the Sixth Form block where we will provide refreshments, display our AHS memorabilia and archive materials, and show footage of some of our Living History information. There will be guided tours of the school

and its facilities and every opportunity to take part in the day's presentations and celebrations. This will be open to all AHS Alumni and former staff from across the years, and everyone is welcome!

We will be sending out further information over the course of the forthcoming weeks and contact those Alumni who kindly offered to help organise the event. If this is something that you would like to be involved in, please email Alison Pexton at [apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:apexton@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)