

Sawston
Village College

Alumni News

Summer 2019
Issue 9



Welcome

Welcome to Issue 9 of **Alumni News**, our newsletter for former pupils of Sawston Village College.

We have had a busy summer term. If you would like to know what we have been up to, please take a look at our termly magazine 'The Fountain', which is

compiled by members of the Pupil Senate and can be found on our website here: www.sawstonvc.org/news-and-community/fountain-

magazine. Our latest Fountain magazine was our 60th edition, meaning we have been producing this magazine for 20 years. If you have any stories about this magazine, or earlier school magazines, we would love to hear them. We are always keen to hear school memories from our alumni.

This newsletter focuses on former pupil Jo Hindley, who now works as a midwife in Birmingham. She has many happy memories of her time at Sawston and was able to share lots of information as she had kept a scrapbook with details from her time at school. In particular, we were interested to learn about the school uniform when Jo was at Sawston.

If you have news, or would like to be featured in this publication, please do get in touch. You can contact us at alumni@sawstonvc.org. Have a good summer!

Mr Jonathan Russell, Principal



Former pupil and midwife: Jo Hindley (right)

Can you give a summary of who you are and when you studied at Sawston.

I am Jo Hindley and I studied at Sawston 1976- 1981.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

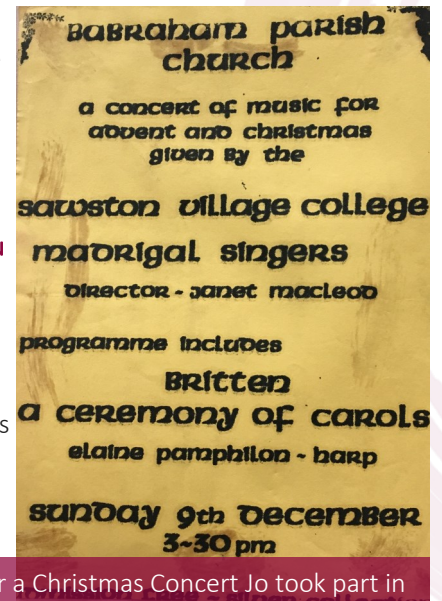
I particularly enjoyed French when I was taught by Mrs Marven. She communicated a real love of the language.

What is your best memory of being a pupil at Sawston?

My best memories are of singing with the Madrigal Group conducted by Janet Macleod, or 'Mrs Mac' as we knew her. We would rehearse in the beautiful Walnut Room. It was such a privilege to be allowed in there. Mrs Mac invited me to join the Madrigal Group when it was first set up. We referred to ourselves as the 'Mad Wrigglers'! We competed in the Cambridge Festival and won the Silver Rose Bowl. I also loved playing the percussion for the Sawston Light Opera Group. I once had a very important solo playing the triangle!

What do you think you gained from having been a pupil at Sawston?

I was stretched academically and I was part of 'whole community' education for life.



Flyer for a Christmas Concert Jo took part in



A POWER? NO THANKS	English 35	German 30	French 26	Chemistry 12	Geography 12	Biology 24
	Maths 20	Geography 12	Music 7	English 35		P.E.
MATHS	Maths 20	French 28	German 30	Chemistry 40	Geography 12	
	French 13	Geography 12	Maths 20	English 35	Music 7	German 30
MUSIC	Music 7	Biology 24	Maths 20	English 35	Chemistry 12	
	Maths 20	English 35	Chemistry 12			

Jo's school timetable

What route did you follow to your current role?

I now work as a home birth midwife in inner city Birmingham. I did a three year diploma (it is now a degree course) in Midwifery 1990-1993 which qualified me as a midwife so I have been a midwife for 26 years. I have even been midwife for women whose own births I attended as midwife! Prior to becoming a midwife I did a first degree in Human Sciences at Balliol College, Oxford University, and in 2005 I completed a Masters degree in midwifery.

What is a typical day at work like for you?

I work flexibly depending on what is happening and what our home birth service requires. I visit women at different stages of their pregnancy to assess if they and their growing baby are well and to help them prepare for giving birth and looking after their newborn, and I visit women who have recently given birth to help them as they adjust after the birth. I have a particular role in helping mothers to successfully breastfeed their babies.

And I am on call for births. If a woman is in labour and is

planning a home birth, I go to her with my midwifery kit and look after her until she has safely given birth. Very often women have water births at home in a hired birth pool.

What advice would you give to any current pupils who are interested in a career in midwifery?

Read and research about 'normal' physiological birth. It is wonderfully inspiring to appreciate how babies can be born safely, calmly and naturally without the need for doctors, interventions or going to hospital.

What involvement have you had with the school since you left?

Very little as I live in Birmingham now, so I have been interested to reconnect via social media. I was very upset to hear about the fire burning down the Walnut Room.

What are your plans for the future?

I work in an area of Birmingham rich in ethnic and social diversity so I meet people with cultural roots from all over the world every day. I love this aspect of my work and I want to build on it to strengthen relationships within my local community, particularly around birth choices and parenting, but also addressing issues to do with the Climate Emergency that is affecting us all but some more than others.



Jo in her school uniform

Jo Hindley spoke with Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager.

School Uniform

Jo had kept a copy of her Pupil Handbook and so was able to share information about the recommended school uniform from her time at Sawston Village College. It is quite a contrast to the current uniform, which is shown below on the right.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL CLOTHING

All pupils in the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools are expected to wear recommended school clothing. It is chosen because the main items are readily available at most outfitters, and are relatively inexpensive. Where parents find that, for any reason, they are unable to provide any item on the list, they should consult the Head of Lower School, Head of Middle School or the Head of Upper School.

BOYS

Navy blue blazer with school badge
 Grey trousers
 Plain shirt in grey, white or pastel coloured material
 Plain navy or grey pullover with long sleeves and vee neck
 Raincoat or anorak (navy blue or subdued colours)
 Brown or black shoes
 Navy blue and gold school tie
 Navy blue and gold school scarf (optional)

In addition, boys are expected to wear protective clothing in WORKSHOPS, e.g. carpenter's apron or workshop coat, and should provide themselves with an overall or similar protective clothing for wear in ART ROOMS and LABORATORIES.

To obtain full benefit from the excellent facilities for Physical Education, boys need to be provided with the following items of equipment:

Navy blue rugby shirt with white collar
 White long sleeved football shirt (or Tee shirt)
 White football shorts
 White plimsolls or training shoes
 Football boots
 White football stockings
 Swimming trunks and towel

In the Upper School, a conventional sports jacket in grey tweed or similar material may be worn instead of a blazer.

GIRLS

Navy blue or grey skirt ✓
 Navy blue or grey trousers ✓
 Navy blue or grey pullover or cardigan ✓✓
 White or pale blue blouse ✓ white Tee shirt ✓ or white polo-necked top ✓
 Navy blue and gold tie (optional)
 Navy blue blazer with school badge (optional)
 Summer dress - obtainable from Messrs. Robert Sayle, who also stock the material from which a summer dress can be made
 Raincoat or anorak (navy blue or subdued colour)
 Shoes which are of a suitable style for an active day in school. They should be low heeled without platform soles and should not be sling backed or open toed

It is desirable that an overall should be available to wear for work in ART ROOMS and SCIENCE LABORATORIES. An old shirt may be suitable for this purpose. An apron will be required for work in the HOME ECONOMICS department.

In the Middle and Upper Schools, a Laboratory overall is required for work in the Science department.

Girls' Sports Wear

White blouse (preferably of cellular cotton material) ✓
 Navy blue nylon games skirt (this should be ordered through the school) ✓
 White shorts ✓
 White socks ✓
 White plimsolls ✓
 One piece swimming costume ✓
 Swimming cap ✓
 Towel ✓
 Dark pants (to wear under games skirt)

Optional extras (all of which may be ordered through the school)

Track suit
 Hockey boots
 Lectard ✓
 Training shoes

Girls' Sports Wear can be purchased through the College Physical Education Department at competitive prices.



Finally... We wish everyone a good summer.



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