

FROM THE GARTON ARCHIVE

PICTURE OF THE MONTH 81 DECEMBER 2018



Greystone House in Summer 1968: staff and pupils

Back row: Rosemary Willis, Susan Jackson, Dawn Stallwood, Denise Flanagan, Sheila Brown, Christine Edgerley, Alison Macintyre

Standing: Mrs Skidmore, Judy Carrey, Veronica Gilbert, Helen Iveson, Heather Stallwood, Susan Kime, Diane Anyan, Catherine Hesketh, Anne Jackson, (Gardener; Fred?), Mrs Tomlinson

Front row: Miss Jubb, Catherine Gilbert, Heather Macintyre, Elizabeth Carrey, Mrs EJ Clarke (Housemistress), Rosemary King, Stephanie Wheeler, Linda Stallwood, Mrs Poole

This picture was sent to me by Jane Burgess, who had received it from Liz Carrey, who is fourth from the left on the front row of the photograph. It features the twenty-one 'remaining' girls from the boarding house at Lincoln Christ's Hospital Girls' High School (LHS) in 1968, a year before the House closed down.

Liz is doing research on the history of the LHS Boarding House, and she might be interested in Occasional Paper 38* from the Garton Archive, which traces the history of the LHS Boarding House using the resources that we have available in the archive.

There are five members of staff, most of whom were part-time, in the picture, and also the gardener, who might have been called Fred. Perhaps someone will confirm that, and his surname, too?

Mrs E J Clarke, seated in the centre of the front row, had been appointed to the Boarding House as Matron in 1964, and had become Housemistress in 1967. Miss Leahy, in her Speech Day report for 1968, thanked the staff of the House during the difficult years leading up to its closure. Mrs Clarke had shown tireless devotion to the girls in her care, and had carried out her work sometimes single-handedly.

Until its closure, the House had boarders for fifty-seven years. The first cohort was admitted to the Greestones Building in 1911, which had formerly occupied the site of the new biology laboratory. Number 14 Minster Yard was also used from 1916 until 1961, supplemented for part of that period by Witham View on Drury Lane, which had replaced the Greestones in 1918. In 1961, Greestone House became home for twenty-eight boarders until the House closed down.

Miss Leahy informed her audience that the financing of the House had become progressively more difficult. Every year it incurred a large and increasing deficit and, although the Governors considered every possible expedient, the situation was finally judged to be irretrievable, and the decision to close the House was made with great reluctance. A similar fate awaited the Boarding House at Lincoln School, a mile or so further up the hill on Wragby Road.

Miss Leahy concluded her reference to the House by saying how pleased she was that some of the boarders were able to continue their studies at LHS, while others had found places in boarding schools elsewhere.

Several of the boarders in the picture came from towns and villages in Lincolnshire, and several were the daughters of forces personnel who would have moved around more than most parents. Helen Iverson's parent lived in Singapore, and Catherine and Veronica Gilbert came from Dusseldorf in Germany. Christine Edgerley lived in Maidenhead, Berks.

It is not an easy task to find details of the destiny of the boarders once the House closed down. The admissions registers confirmed that most had been transferred, but information is scarce, not least because the LHS magazines were increasingly sparse, and not issued between 1970 and 1973, which was the last edition before LHS closed as an independent school.

We do know, however, that Liz Carrey herself lived in Cranwell, and attended Sleaford Girls' High School before entering the LHS Boarding House in 1962. She

left in 1968 to go to university, but we have no further details. I am assuming that Judy Carrey is Liz's sister, and she is listed as living near Holyhead in Anglesey, so I am surmising that her parents moved from there to Cranwell during their time at LHS.

Catherine Gilbert gained a place at New Hall College, Cambridge, and we also know that Rosemary King went on to university. It is recorded that Stephanie Wheeler went on to study at a college of technology, but that she also studies on a course for overseas students at the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland.

The paucity of detailed information in the records and magazines of LHS in the 1960s and early '70s perhaps reflects the knowledge that the School was about to close.

- All articles from the Garton Archive collection may be downloaded from the LCHS website. Click on 'Our School', then 'LCHS History', and 'School Archives'.

Peter Harrod

Archivist for the pre-1974 archives at LCHS