

### **INSPIRING FUTURES**

Howard

South Island School



Ahuja

West Island School



Maddock

Island School



### **INSPIRING FUTURES**

# ESF 50th Anniversary Golf Day

# Date: 4 November 2017 Venue: Valley Course – Nansha Golf Club

# Price: \$1,690.00

Entry Close: 15 September 2017 Open to: ESF Staff, Parents and Friends

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Connect us on:



## 07:45AM

Programme

China-HK Ferry Terminal

Nansha Ferry Terminal

Tee off (Shot gun) Refreshment Dinner

06:00PM Nansha Ferry Terminal

China-HK Ferry Terminal

### Format

No Pressure Format + Texas Scramble

# **Winning Categories**

- Overall Winning School (Gross and net)
- Champion Kindergarten (Gross and net)
- Champion Primary School (Gross and net)
- Champion Secondary School (Gross and net)
- Longest drive
- Closet to pin

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We welcome your comments and enquiries regarding alumni matters and development. All correspondence should be directed to:

Advancement Team English Schools Foundation Tel: 2574 2351 Email: alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk

# FOREWORD

Welcome to the September 2017 issue of the ESF Alumni News.

At ESF, we take great pride in the diverse life journeys that our alumni take, this highlights the wide range of opportunities we provide in our schools as our young people seek to be the best they can be in their chosen field.

An ESF education is one that we believe is an education worth having,



our students will experience a whole range of learning opportunities with academic achievement being just one of the areas they will be given the chance to excel. Be it through music, dance, drama, visual arts, sports etc. each student will be given the opportunity to find their passion and will be encouraged to push the boundaries as to how far they can go.

This vision means that we have alumni who have conquered Everest, have become Olympic athletes, have achieved the highest accolades in their chosen profession or who have made a positive difference to their communities and made their families proud.

In reading this edition of Alumni News, I am reminded not just about our young people finding their passion but also the desire of ESF to inspire creativity for all our students. All the alumni featured have taken steps on their life journeys to share their love of music with others as they perform an eclectic mix of musical genres. From Radhika overcoming her shyness as a singer, Joey who just 'sang for fun', Dani with her musical genes or Jamie and his love for EDM, all have entertained many thousands and will continue to do so in the future. I congratulate them all and wish them all the very best as they continue to develop and grow creatively, building on their passions as nurtured at ESF.

This edition also coincides with the start of the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all our Year 13 students who have received their 2017 examination results. The results were once again outstanding and a fine way to mark our 50th Celebration Year. For these students they leave ESF behind as they embark on the next phase of their journey, I look forward to reading their achievements and successes in a future edition of Alumni News!

David Whalley

Director of Education

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# Wong South Island School Rising Star

2010 - present Hong Kong pop singer
2017 Released music album "My Tale"
2011 Released music album "That's Me"
2010 Released music album "Los Angeles"
2012 Bachelor degree in Geography, King's College London

2008 South Island School

oey Wong seems a bit dazed. "This is my eighth or ninth interview today," she says. That morning, she launched a new single from her album *My Tale*, and she spent the rest of the day in a blitz of media attention. The up-and-coming Cantopop singer — better known as JW — seemed



JW's new album My Tale

to pick up energy as she delved back into her days as a student at South Island School (SIS).

She recalls how she transferred to SIS from a local school in order to take the IB programme. "It was the first year IB was taught at South Island School. It was actually quite tough. Students and teachers were figuring it out together." Joey has particularly fond memories of the geography class taught by Ms. Khalfaoui. "She was a really good teacher," she says. She still remembers Ms. Khalfaoui's enthusiasm, good humour and skill at making things relatable. "She made me love geography." In fact, Joey applied to study geography at King's College in London, where she graduated with a degree in 2012. But her career took a different turn, all thanks to a lifelong passion she never expected to earn her a living.

When Joey was in primary school, her sister enrolled in a singing competition. A bit of sibling rivalry motivated her to do the same. "I thought, if my sister can do it, I can do it too," she says, laughing. She ended up winning her first competition, which encouraged her to keep singing after school.

"I made a lot of friends in the competitions," she says. Some of them went on to become well-known singers, like Alfred Hui, Robynn Yip and Kendy Suen, but Joey didn't imagine any such future for herself. "I just sang for fun," she says. "I just wasn't taking it seriously — until that phone call." It was a call came from Amusic, the record label founded by Cantopop megastar Leon Lai. "Someone asked if I wanted to meet Leon Lai, and I said 'why not!' " She didn't know what to expect. "I met him in sandals and shorts and a t-shirt," she recalls. He listened to a demo that she recorded at a friend's house. The next day, he offered her a contract.

Joey wasn't ready to give up her studies, so she negotiated a deal with Leon Lai that allowed her to record music during her school breaks. Although that meant she had to miss out on holidaying with friends, she found it rewarding. During that period, she gained a chance to work with one of Hong Kong's most renowned singers.

Joey returned to Hong Kong when she graduated and expected to launch into a busy career. But, free of the obligation to balance her studies with her singing, she suddenly found a lot of time on her hands. "I got a bit lost," she says. Her career was slowly taking off, but it wasn't until she left Amusic for a smaller record label, Sunny Ways, that Joey finally felt satisfied. "It has to be something you are constantly passionate about," she says.

Thinking back to her time at SIS, Joey recalls how she helped launch the school's fashion show, The Innovation, which still takes place today. She also remembers being chosen by the principal to perform in front of the whole school — but it's a bittersweet memory: when she got up on the stage, she was too nervous and forgot her lyrics. "I screwed up half the song," she says. "It was a singer's worst nightmare."

Luckily, flubbing lyrics isn't a problem these days. Joey still gets nervous before performing, but she now has the experience she needs to conquer the stage. Last year, she performed her first concert in Star Hall, which has a capacity of 3,600 people. Next year January, she is going to accomplish her dream of singing at the Hong Kong Coliseum – the Mecca of Cantopop.

In the meantime, she has been busy working on the songs for *My Tale*, which were written by respected songwriter Abrahim Chan Wing-him. "We sit down and talk and we would write songs about my love life," says Joey. She hopes her songs encourage people to communicate more in their relationships. "A lot of people are saying I talk for women and how they feel."

Joey says it has never been easier for aspiring singers to follow in her footsteps. Though many have been pessimistic about the future of Cantopop, she feels the tide is turning, with a young generation of dedicated artists. The rise of YouTube helps, too. "My advice is to keep exploring different opportunities," she says. And with that, Joey smiles and moves on to her next interview.



Jani Howard South Island School Jack-of-all-trades, maestro in one I then realised that at a certain level, talent was irrelevant.

#### 2015-present Freelance composer

- 2017 1st Prize in the Breaking The Fourth Wall International Composition Competition
- 2015 First Class BMus Honors Degree Royal College of Music
- 2015 Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize
- 14-2015 3rd Prize in the International Antonin Dvorak Composition Competition (Prague)
- 2014 10th International Sun River Prize (China)
- 2011 South Island School
- 2004 Bradbury School

t's been said that musicians are either born or made. British composer and South Island School (SIS) alumna Dani Howard may have been a mix of both.

Armed with raw talent, blessed with musical genes, it helped that she was introduced to the world of music early. Dani received her first instrument — a drum kit — when she was barely six. Piano lessons came at age eight, cello at ten under the tutelage of veteran cellist Richard Bamping and by secondary school, discovered her love for Bach, Brahms and Debussy. Later on, she joined the English Schools Foundation (ESF) Orchestra.

As a teenager, she taught herself to play the guitar and performed in bands at YRock, the programme founded by her clarinettist mother Belinda Howard, an accomplished musician in her own right. By then not only had Dani mastered the drums, she was teaching too.

In February, the young London-based virtuoso returned to Hong Kong five years after graduating from SIS to watch the ESF ensemble she once played with perform Verticality, a piece she was commissioned to write in commemoration of the ESF's 50th anniversary.

"It was very special. It was almost like my life came full circle," the composer told ESF Alumni News. "When I was in the [ESF Orchestra] I had always imagined myself one day writing something for it."

The idea for the piece, she said, was to reflect the changes and development of Hong Kong over the last half a century from industrial colonial outpost to a booming, heavily builtup financial metropolis. It was about a city getting taller and taller, hence the progressive pitch — softer then louder, strings at the beginning, brass later. "Bah-dah-bum, bahdah-bum. It was generally a fun piece."

Writing it, Dani said, also made her look back on her young but up-and-coming career — apart from winning numerous competitions, she has been described by the York Music Press as "clearly a name to watch" — and the merits of hard work and dedication to one's craft. Dani has since received commissions from the Royal Philharmonic Society, London City Orchestra and the Orchestra Vitae, among others. Her pieces have been performed or screened the world over from the UK to Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Romania, Brazil, the United States and Hong Kong. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will perform her most recent commission from ClassicFM and the Royal Philharmonic Society, for their 25th Anniversary Concert in September this year.

She recalled that it was a brush with failure in Year 11 that made her realise that there were limits to where raw talent could take her. Distracted by her multitude of interests sports in particular — and an apprehension to practicing one thing and one thing well, Dani botched her grade eight piano exam. This, she later realised, was a near requisite for getting into any college to study music.

"It came as a massive shock," she said. (She had earned a distinction on her grade seven exam). "I then realised that at a certain level, talent was irrelevant. Yes, you may be a bit more talented but if someone with a bit less talent had a bit more practice than you, they'll already be better. Job gone."



She took the exam again and passed by two marks. "I knew then that I had to put the hard work in".

And the hard work paid off. Dani was admitted to the prestigious Royal College of Music (RCM) in London, where she studied composition under Jonathan Cole, graduating in 2015. The goal, she said, was to learn how to write sophisticated classical scores for film. "Most music for film is generally quite simplified. I didn't want to compose music that was dumbed-down."

Somewhere along the way, she developed and fine-tuned a style of mixing classical music with different disciplines of art from dance and architecture to film and visual art.

The "ballet film noir" *Visions* directed by Victoria Fiore, was one such project she collaborated on recently. The film blended an underwater ballet with Dani's percussion-driven score. It premiered at the 2015 Underwire Film Festival and

she was nominated for the best composer award. She also recently participated in an architectural exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts.



It was at RCM that Dani also realised how few female composers there were in her industry, a trend she hoped would be reversed as more female students took up composition.

"Just six out of the 70 students in my university were female," she said. "Of the people we had to study in our modules, there were almost never any females despite there being so many from the 1900s on.

"Young people, consciously or subconsciously, must be able to look up to someone. If girls don't see there's anyone doing it, they won't feel like its something they can aspire to."

Dani owes much of her ability to talent, passion and hard work. But growing up in the ESF system has certainly helped too, she said. "It is a place that really rewards and awards hard work. It instils a sense of responsibility to community as well as a very 'think big' attitude and ambitious ethos in its students."

While many parents in Asian communities like Hong Kong often wince at the prospect of their children doing music for a living, Dani said she was lucky enough to have the full support of her parents and teachers.

"It frustrates me to see so many who are great at music but decide to do physics. There are many jobs available and people just don't realise the breadth of the music industry," she said. "People think studying music or drama is risky. But so is law or medicine, which is just as competitive."

She leaves a top tip for leavers interested in pursuing a career in music based on her own real-life experience: "The best thing to do is try everything when you are young. But when you get to age 15 or 16, try to focus and get good at just one thing. You can't be a jack-of-all-trades but a master of none." Jamle Maddock Island School Spin that track - the making of a DJ You've got to play songs that people can sing along with and are new and then add a remix of it just to give it an up-vibe.

2017-present Music Engineering and Music Business, Point Blank 2014-2016 DJ, Sigma Production 2016 Island School

n front of a concert hall of 6,000 screaming EDM fans, young Jamie Maddock took to the stage in what would probably be the defining moment of his burgeoning music career.

It was the antepenultimate act of a five-performance ensemble at the Asia World Expo in December 2015 when the Island School graduate, now 20, realised he was not just any DJ, but a respected one beginning to make a name for himself.

"It felt amazing. It was surreal," said Jamie, who that night shared the line-up with big names such as Major Lazer, Jack U and Cashmere Car, among others.

"Ever since, people started recognising me around Lan Kwai Fong saying 'You're that guy who played at Mad Decent!'"

Jamie was born in Hong Kong to an English father and Filipino mother in 1996. While admitting to never being

talented in music in the conventional sense ("I did always try to play the bass guitar but was never really good at it"), his record-collecting musicophile father managed to instil in him a passion and ear for it.

"My dad used to collect a lot of compact discs and compilations of the Ministry of Sound. He listens to a lot of music so I kind of got it off him. We used to listen to a lot of music in the car when we were driving around with the family."

After moving to Hong Kong in Year 8, Jamie began studies at Island School. It was not until Year 10, that he fell in love with EDM (electronic dance music).

What began as teenage fervour soon evolved into a rather serious hobby. "I started looking at DJ equipment and sort of began to learn the basics myself, through trial and error. I didn't really know what was what. "I wanted to go bigger. It all seemed a bit mediocre and childish. It didn't seem professional." More trial and error followed and soon enough, he managed to convince his dad to invest in a Pioneer CDJ-2000 Nexus DJ set — which he continues to use today.

Jamie began mastering basics, recording mixes and finetuning his craft. By sixth form, he was beginning to get gigs and requests to perform at events. He was signed to a company, Sigma Productions, and given the opportunity to play at various establishments in Hong Kong and even in China.

Throughout secondary school, his DJ name was "Adivo".

"By Year 12, it kind of got serious. I knew I had a passion for music. That was when I knew that I wanted to make it my career".

As a full-time student, Jamie admitted that his pursuit had come at some cost. He had to go to school after a late night out at work and sleep in the common room for a few hours or miss classes.

"I did get quite upset with myself because I was missing classes and teachers were pretty mad about the whole situation. But they understood what was going on and told me to manage and organise my time better."



Life as a DJ, he stresses, is not always as glamorous as it may seem. He recalls nights where he would have to run multiple jobs, frequent travelling and meeting tight deadlines. Sets can fail in the most embarrassing way. He vividly recalled the horror when a technical glitch during a set cut off the music for nearly 10 minutes, prompting heckling from some in the 400 strong crowd and angry walkouts.

"After dealing with that, you learn to adapt. You become technical and when something goes wrong you'll know what to do and not freak out so much," he said. "What I try to do is to just focus and try to think positively. I always think everything will get better eventually."



Something Jamie would never regret was his choice of taking BTEC — he studied sport, business and travel and tourism — instead of the IB diploma. This gave him ample time and space to work on his music. "IB wouldn't have allowed me to take DJ-ing seriously."

He advises pupils entering sixth form, especially those with an interest in music or the arts, to consider such options with an open mind.

"Focus on yourself and be happy with the choices you make. Don't be so scared of what other people may think of you like 'oh you should take IB not BTEC'...Don't let others talk you into doing things. Do what you feel is right and trust your gut."

Jamie graduated from Island School in 2016 but not before leaving his alma mater with a memorable parting gift. In June, he performed at the school's Gala Dinner, working up the crowd with funky throwback 1980s and 1990s hits, such as "YMCA" — but with a Jamie Jamie twist.

Therein lies the science of commanding the dance floor. "You've got to play songs that people can sing along with and are new and then add a remix of it just to give it an upvibe."

After spending a gap year DJ-ing at top nightclubs in Hong Kong and around the world, Jamie moves on to London this month for two years to study music engineering and music business at a music school supported by Middlesex University called Point Blank, based in Shoreditch.

"Back in high school... lots of my friends used to make fun of me, shouting 'Hey, its DJ Adivo!' I made these Adivo stickers and all my mates would have them on their laptops. Some of them actually still have them so it's kind of funny just to look back and think that was what I started off with.

"As for now my DJ name is just Jamie Maddock. I might change it after two years. Who knows?" Either way, his will be a name to watch.

# Radhika Ahuja West Island School Hidden Talents

ero Point station sits on a remote tract of desert eight kilometres east of Khokhrapar in Pakistan's Sindh province. Located on the border with India, Rajasthan, an Indian province, is literally a stone's throw from the easternmost end of the train platform. It has long has served as a checkpoint connecting rail passengers on both sides.

West Island School graduate Radhika Ahuja and her enterprising musician friends were inspired by the station's symbolism. In 2016, they founded a non-profit music ensemble with the aim of exploring, connecting and promoting all sorts of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and other South Asian music and musicians in Hong Kong. Aptly, they named it The Zero Point.

"Zero Point is a border train station where cultures meet. A lot of our music is influenced by that," Radhika, 29, told ESF Alumni News. "The Zero Point is a space where you are free to experiment with your own ideas and have them refined by like-minded people around you. We wanted to create a platform so that people can collaborate with their own music styles and strengths." I would watch the shows and say to myself 'I want to do what this girl is doing'.

2016	Co-founder, The Zero Point
2013	English Teacher
2013	Post Graduate Diploma in Education
2012	Bachelor's Degree in English Literature, Goldsmith, University of London
2009	Certificate in Law, The University of Nottingham
2000	West Island Eshaal

"We challenge each other and collaborate between complete opposite music interests, just to see what can be created. It allows us to bring forth various ideas through creativity." Their latest gig, for example, infused traditional South Asian music with western jazz, blues and soul.

The concept has been well received since the beginning. Their first show was performed at the Grappa's Cellar to a fully packed audience. "Three weeks before the show, all 350 tickets were sold. It was quite overwhelming for us to see and believe." Since then, almost all their gigs here been performed to a sold-out crowd.

From about 10 South Asian musicians and organisers. The Zero Point has expanded into a hare crew of 20 amateur artists from guitarists, pianists, violinists and drummers to Bollywood singers, classical singers and even a beat boxer. Out of them, 10 are alumni from the English Schools Foundation circle, including the main founder / Director, Supriya Mundhra, who graduated from South Island School in 2009.

Radhika was born in Hong Kong to naturalised Indian parents. When she was nine, she moved back to India and

got the opportunity to absorb the culture of her native country, which most "third culture kids" in Hong Kong don't often get to experience for long durations. She returned to Hong Kong a year later and began Year 7 at West Island School.

She was a gifted singer — but performances never went beyond the shower. Radhika's shyness prevented her from performing in public until she was well into her 20s. But she never let her musical talent go to waste. Growing up, she took up the flute, piano, joined the Chinese orchestra and the school choir.

"I never immersed myself into any sort of thing where I was in the limelight. At school, the students set up 'WIS Idol' [based on American Idol]. I always wanted to join but was always really shy. I would watch the shows and say to myself 'I want to do what this girl is doing'."

It wasn't until after graduation when she began to muster the confidence to sing publicly, mostly at one-off shows and open mic nights. In 2013, she published music video on YouTube of herself and a friend covering *Little Talks* by Icelandic indie band Of Monsters and Men. "It was just both of us singing in a grimy area of our building with nice acoustics. It got a good response so I thought 'hey, maybe I'm alright.'"



A year later she recorded another YouTube video with her sister, this time, a mash-up of the song *Waves* infused with some Hindi flavour. Again, the response was positive. After the video hit the internet, she began receiving invitations to jam with other like-minded musicians. Soon she discover a growing circle of people who enjoyed this sort of fusion music.

"I realised there were so many of us in Hong Kong who love this basement, grungy sort of vibe when it comes to [South Asian] music. I know people are interested in this in western countries but there was nothing like that in Hong Kong."

Soon enough Radhika and a few other friends began brainstorming, planning and creating a business plan for setting up a non-profit musical group. Within a year, The Zero Point was born.

Apart from vocals, Radhika is the ensemble's head of operations, a job that basically entails "making things happen". She is in charge with curating shows, handling logistics, scouting locations, and administering the ensemble. All the work, rehearsals and performances are done in time outside of her day job as an English teacher, a career she decided to pursue after she decided to part ways with a career in law.

"At that time, I couldn't see many options in front of me. I always thought studying law would make my family happy. They told me that I was good at persuading people. But I always knew this field of study wasn't for me."

Radhika dropped out from the University of Nottingham's law school after two years and moved to Beijing to study Mandarin, where she also taught English as a part-time job. When she returned Hong Kong, she completed a degree in English literature at Goldsmiths, University of London via HKU Space, and began to obtain qualifications to become a teacher.

"I never thought I would actually be a teacher. It came as sort of an epiphany one day when I said 'this is what I want to do' in the middle of teaching a few second language English learners. It is a profession that allows me to pursue my hobbies. I wake up being psyched about life," she said.

Her advice to prospective graduates: never give up on passions and interests. "My biggest regret is not pursuing the instruments that I was learning. I quit doing them in Year 12 because I thought I should focus on my A-levels. I think you should continue doing something you're passionate about. Just because you're studying or working doesn't mean you can't do what you enjoy. My life right now is a perfect example of that."

Even if one does put aside passions over their career, Radhika's experience with The Zero Point shows how it's never too late to return to them. "We're all amateur artists at the end of the day, many with full-time jobs. Most of us have never had any professional music training. I didn't start singing in public till I was 23.

It goes to show it doesn't matter what age you are, you can be whatever you want whenever you want."



South Island School: *Supriya Mundhra*; Island School: *Ria Schmidl*; West Island School: *Radhika Ahuja, Vicky Kwok and Aparna Kanthan*; King George V School: *Yuvraj Parwal, Jayant Golchha; Prateek Agarwal, Elson Tong and Paras Nainani* 

#### IS ALUMNA JULIETTE LOUIE CROWNED MISS HK



Island School alumna Juliette Louie has been crowned Miss Hong Kong 2017. In addition to winning the crown, Juliette also won Miss Photogenic.

Juliette visited ESF Centre after she won the contest

and met some of her Island School teachers. She was especially excited to meet her PE teacher Mr. John Pennel because sports was one of her favourite subject during school time. "Island School has a wide variety of subjects that allows students to pick the subject that they want."

Congratulations to Juliette and we wish her success in all her future endeavors!



#### WIS ALUMNA AMINAH NIHAL PARTICIPATE IN MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

This summer, Aminah participated in a Model United Nations conference organised by the United Ambassadors in New York City.

"This conference was one of the best experiences I have ever had. Being able to speak in the United Nations General Assembly hall was one of the highlights of my trip to New York City. The fact that I had the opportunity to stand in the same place as some



of the most influential and powerful people in the world was surreal and motivated me to work even harder for my future. I hope one day I'll return to the UN headquarters and represent the morals of West Island School."

### IS ALUMNA CELINA JADE IN WOLF WARRIOR 2



Celina Jade plays the lead actress role in the China Movie Wolf Warrior 2 film, which has become the top grossing film ever released in China. It broke numerous box office records, including the biggest single-day gross for a Chinese film as well as the fastest film to cross RMB 5 billion box office marks.

Celina graduated from Island School in 2003 and went on to study management in London School of Economics. She then started her acting career in Hong Kong and China since 2007.

We look forward to seeing Celina in another successful movie production.

#### STC ALUMNUS KENNETH TANG SHARED HIS LEARNING STORY IN IB REVIEW MAGAZINE

Kenneth Tang graduated from Sha Tin College a decade ago and went on to study accounting and economics at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, Canada. With the international mindedness he developed in school, he managed to secure his first job as an audit staff accountant. However, after having a taste of the corporate world, he decided to make a twist and become a teacher, which he finds joy in what he is doing.

His full story is available here: www.hoddereducation.co.uk/ibreview



#### KGV ALUMNA RAJAN SAKHRANI AWARDED THE FORMATION NATIONAL SERVICEMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Rajan who is the youngest recipient of Formation National Serviceman of the year in Singapore Armed Forces.



#### IS ALUMNI NATHAN MINSBERG RELEASED HIS FIRST FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY GINETTE

Nathan Minsberg 'grad 2010, has officially released his first feature length documentary called *Ginette* which he wrote, directed, edited and produced. *Ginette* has been picked to be in the official selection at the Berlin-Brandenburg Jewish Film Festival (JFBB); one of the oldest and most prestigious cultural events of its kind. On 6 July 2017, the film was screened at the IL Kino theater in Berlin, which is it's official world premiere. *Ginette* is also on the official selection of the Stockholm Independent Film Festival.

For more details about his film *Ginette*, please visit his websites below:

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6797182/

#### WIS ALUMNUS TOM OWENS CYCLES FROM TURKEY TO HONG KONG TO RAISE MONEY FOR WHITE HELMETS CHARITY

Tom graduated from West Island School in 2007. He studied medicine at Leeds University in the UK and had been working in a hospital as a qualified doctor for three years when, in February, he decided to cycle all alone from Istanbul to Hong Kong for charity. He was raising support for the White Helmet, an Aleppo-based group of Syrian men and women who risk their lives daily to perform search and rescue missions, pulling victims out of bombed-down buildings in their wartorn homeland.

The three-month undertaking to cycle this ancient system of trading routes led him through Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Xinjiang, Tibet and mainland China, finished in Hong Kong at the end of May.

"The toughest challenge for me was cycling through the Pamir Highway, a mountain range 4,000m up, for two weeks," Tom says. "This part meant I had to carry my bike through deep snow and unpredictable weather. Most of the time, it was freezing. I would go 12-hour days pushing and carrying my bike without seeing anyone for days at a time."





Nathan and his sister, Julia who also graduated from Island School. They were at the World Premiere of Ginette at the Berlin Brandenburg Jewish Film Festival on 6th July 2017



#### ESF CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS 2017

Over 400 people attended the annual ESF Chairman's Awards ceremony on 9 August at ESF King George V School to celebrate the outstanding performance of 225 ESF graduates. They include:

- 38 students from 2016-17 Year 13 cohort with outstanding achievement in Leadership, Commitment and Contribution to Service, Embodying the Spirit and Values of the school, Sporting Achievement and Creativity;
- 151 students who achieved the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma with 42 or more points (or a Bilingual Diploma with 40 or more points);
- 3 students who achieved an average of 5 and above for IB Diploma courses and a GPA of 3.0 (B grade) at SCAD in the IB Career-related Programme (IBCP);
- 54 students who achieved the equivalent of 420 or more UCAS points on the Applied Learning Programme.

A highlight of the evening was the Carlson Tong Award presented to students for distinctive performance in the Bilingual Diploma. Six students received this special award this year. They achieved the maximum 7 points for two languages, both of which were studied as a first language. Students' successful stories were shared in various local newspapers including The SCMP Young Post, Sing Tao Daily and Hong Kong Economic Times.

ESF Chairman Mr Abraham Shek praised the students for their academic and wider achievements. "ESF has a tradition of excellence in academics, sport and cultural



activities. Students leave ESF as confident, welleducated and internationally-minded individuals who are equipped to play constructive roles in our global society," he said.

All awardees enjoyed the great night with their beloved families and peers. What a great start for the new school term!











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#### SIS ALUMNUS SIGNED PROFESSIONAL RUGBY CONTRACT IN FRANCE

In May 2017, Matthew Worley (SIS alumnus, Class of 2015) has signed a professional contract with Racing 92 in Paris.

Before joining Racing 92, Matthew has been a Hong Kong national age grade player and Hong Kong Football Club rugby player. He was also a Hong Kong Sports Institute Junior 7's Scholarship Elite Athlete when he was studying at South Island School.

Congratulations to Matthew. It's great to see our student excelling in sports.

You can view Matt's season's rugby highlights here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=T9TtcDQMw7c&app=desktop



Matthew, in the middle

#### **OLYMPIC FENCER RETURNED TO STC**



Vivian Kong, STC alumna grad 2012, returned to her alma mater on 29 June and shared her words of inspiration with Year 10 students. She talked about her growing up at Sha Tin College, and current life at Stanford University, with fencing in between. Vivian represented Hong Kong at Rio Olympics last year and went through to the last 16 in fencing, making her the first in Hong Kong to win an Olympics match at this level.



#### ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI VISIT - SARAH LE FLOHIC (GRAD '81)

Sarah Flohic (grad '81N) visited Island School on 12 July. This was her second visit to Island School in two years, but unfortunately, she is not able to attend the 50th Anniversary celebrations with her brother, Matthew Broadbridge. Sarah's father worked for the Hong Kong Government, and in 1987 relocated to Geneva. Sarah graduated from Bristol University in 1986 and has since worked as an accountant with the NHS. Sarah has two sons (aged 18 and 21).

Sarah commented, "I always feel emotional coming back to Hong Kong. I have kept in touch with many of my school friends and flew to Hong Kong in 2015 to attend the 1981ers' reunion. I'd like to mention my other brother, Robert, in this article who is a head teacher in Wales."





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Open mountain sea view, 3 suites



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2100' (Gross) with 700' garden 4 bds (1 suite), 1 study room



1022' (Net) with roof, open green view Nice deco, 1 suite, c. pool, management



2100' (Gross), 1000' garden, 3 car parks 4 bds (2 suites), open green & sea view

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- 55K
- 60K

www.sunshineproperty 45K

1418' (Net) w/500' gdn, c. pool, 3 suites, garage 65K 2100' (Gross) with gdn, sea view, 5 bds (2 suites) 65K 2100' (Gross) w/800' fenced gdn, 4 bds (1 suite), car park 75K 1762' (Net) with 1205' gdn, sea view, 3 bds (1 suite) 78K 1702' (Net) w/gdn, sea view, 3 bds (1 suite), garage 85K

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### **ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI VISIT - CYNAN REES (GRAD '80F)**



Cynan (pronounced Kinan) Rees (grad '80F) visited Island School on 14 July and took the opportunity to meet the Alumni Team and tour around the classrooms.

Cynan moved to Ireland in 1982 after leaving Island School. His parents worked for the Civil Service and

his siblings Einion (grad '81) and Ita (grad '77) also attended Island School. Cynan said, "Unfortunately, I lost touch with my school friends but I would very much like to connect with Scott Dorward, Sandy Thomas, Adam Crookdake and Robert Ruiz. I remember loving sports and being very academic, however, my interests lay in the computer room. Computers (however basic in the 80s) were a fascination. When I left Hong Kong, I had no defined career path and it



wasn't until 1991 that I found my vocation in the IT industry. I now manage my own computer company in which I buy/sell and repair computers, and write computer programme. At that time, I wrote my first outsourced computer programme for the Cork City Council. My siblings have also remained in Ireland, and if anyone remembers us, please get in touch via the Island School Alumni Office."

What's new - Where in the world are you - What's your favourite memory of your ESF school? Send us a one liner, with your class year and school, and perhaps you will be featured in the next edition of the ESF Alumni News! www.esf.edu.hk/alumni\_profile



Have you considered becoming a **MENTOR?** Please contact **ESF Centre** or **school alumni office**.

#### **KGV ALUMNI REUNION 2007**

KGV held their 10th anniversary reunion for class of 2007 on 20 May. Over 50 alumni came back to the school to reconnect and celebrate their friendships. Teachers, current students and alumni enjoyed an evening sharing their experiences and stories while having drinks and buffet together.



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# GOLDEN JUBILEE BOOK: ESF THE FIRST 50 YEARS

To mark ESF's half-century, we are publishing a commemorative book: ESF The First 50 Years. This volume will chronicle the ESF story, highlighting key events over the last 50 years. It will also celebrate the successes and contributions of our students and staff, both past and current.

The ESF 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book Jubilee Gift Set includes a copy of ESF The First 50 Years, a 16G USB, a A5 Notebook and a stylus pen which originally cost HK\$690. Now selling at the price of HK\$450! This early bird discount is only available until 30 October.

The book will be published in November 2017. Place your online order NOW to enjoy our special offers!

Enquiries: <u>50book@esfcentre.edu.hk</u> Order online: <u>http://www.esf.edu.hk/50th-book/</u>



# ISLAND SCHOOL 50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK

The 50th Anniversary book was published in recognition of Island School's success during the past 10 years. Notably, the changes to the curriculum - A Levels to the International Baccalaureate; the School's redevelopment; the School Council and the Parent/Teacher Association as well as contributions from our alumni, staff, parents and students. Books are available for sale (\$100 each) from the Communications Department at Island School.

The 40th Anniversary Book written by Chris Forse celebrates the first 40 years of Island School - 1967 to 2007. We have a few books in stock at a reduced price of \$120. To obtain your copy please contact Jacqueline Archer at the Alumni Office at Island School.

#### **RCHK ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION 2017**

Renaissance College held their annual alumni event on Saturday, 26 August. With great food, company and entertainment, it was an exciting event that was enjoyed by all who attended.



### ANNUAL KGV ALUMNI VS KGV SCHOOL CRICKET MATCH



The annual KGV Alumni vs KGV School cricket match was held at KCC on 1 September. Thank you to all participants and KGV teachers for their support and KCC for the wonderful venue. Special thanks to Clive Duddy for organsing the school team, Sunny Bhimsaria, for captaining the youngest and fittest team on record and Daphne Da Rosa G for organsing the tea and presenting the Bharat Gohel Best Bowler trophy. It was a great afternoon, despite the rain towards the end, and the result was a draw.



### ESF ALUMNI BENEFITS PAGE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Check out the Alumni Benefits page which was recently launched.



To view the details please log onto your school alumni website website and click on "Alumni Benefits".

https://alumni.island.edu.hk/

https://www.alumni.kgv.edu.hk

http://alumni.shatincollege.edu.hk/

https://alumni.sis.edu.hk/

http://alumni.wis.edu.hk/

http://www.alumni.rchk.edu.hk/

http://www.discovery.edu.hk/school-life/alumni/

Should you encounter any problems, please contact <u>alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk</u>









#### SIS ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Dear SIS alumni! September is here, just making October that much closer for SIS big Alumni Homecoming Weekend!

SIS planning group have been working hard in getting every little step sorted so alumni can come and enjoy. Please sign up on SIS Events page under alumni.sis. edu.hk for all the upcoming events (The names of those already signed up are listed on the events page as well).

<b>27</b> October	9:00-1:00	Open House for Alumni with Archive Exhibition
	1:15-3:15	SIS eX Conference
	7:30-10:30	Dinner at American Peking Restaurant
<b>28</b> October		Fun Sports Meet Birthday Cocktail Party
<b>29</b> October		Visit to old campus in CWB Junk Flotilla with lunch on Lamma Island [FULL]



Over the past few months, we have over 200 signups for 28 October Saturday night Cocktail Party -THANK YOU if you have already signed up - but many many more of you have said you are coming...**WE NEED YOU TO SIGN UP** because we need to get our catering right on the night with generous amounts of food and wine (everyone will receive HK\$40 of free food coupons for starters, wine and beer will be free flow). The largest year group attending the evening will all receive a gift too! We have a brilliant band, a disco to die for and memories by the bucket load... come join the party, walk on our nostalgia Food Street, use our photo booths, browse the archive displays, buy souvenirs...make this a night to remember.

Bring it home for one weekend that you will never forget!

#### JOIN THE SIS FULL CIRCLE

27 October, 1:15 PM - 3:00 PM School Hall, 2/F, South Island School, 50 Nam Fung Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

In light of South Island School's approaching 40th anniversary, SIS will be hosting a TEDx style event held on 27 October showcasing the "what happened next...?" stories of 7 returning alumni. We are extremely fortunate to have the following line-up of speakers to share their stories with our audience:

- 1. | Amanda Woodcock '84, District Court Judge
- 2. James Lewis '85, War Veteran
- 3. **Evelyn Mills** '88, Founder of Marriage Maestros
- 4. Abdul Abdulwaheed '93, CEO and Chief of Oral Rehabilitation for Lux Dental
- 5. Waidehi Gokhale '93, CEO of Soliya
- 6. Andrew Gardener '93, Senior Pastor at The Vine Church
- 7. Amit Aggarwal '93, Director of Corporate Partnerships at Great Ormond Street Hospital

As current senior students, parents, teachers and alumni gather, the event will serve to be a unique time which not only celebrates the rich and diverse history of SIS, but also relishes in the present, and gives a glimpse into the school's bright future. In other words, it will be an event where the past, present and future of South Island School alumni join together to form a

Full Circle. There will be entertainment and the opportunity for some Q&A. Whether you are a parent, a current member of the SIS community, or an alumni - we sincerely hope to see you there.



Please note this is a registration only community event. Please register at <u>https://alumni.sis.edu.hk/sis.</u> php?page=event/esf/detail&id=74910&meid=54943

#### South Island School Celebrates 40 Golden Years

South Island School opened its doors on 5 September 1977 and exactly 40 years later, the school devoted a whole day of birthday celebrations to mark this significant anniversary.

The day started with some fun as the whole school sang 'Happy Birthday to SIS' on the Campus before the entire body of students and staff headed off on a Sponsored Walk (from School to Deep Water Bay and back). "We felt that our SIS mission, Making a Difference, was best celebrated by a 'giving' birthday celebration. We challenged our students to get as many sponsors as possible for this walk. The money raised will be going towards our pledge to the Jumpstart Kindergarten /Family Academy fund in the Philippines," said Annette Chapman, Vice Principal. The brilliant news from the day was that our school community raised an amazing HK\$172,000 with more funds still being counted.

All students were also treated to a piece of our birthday cake upon their return from the walk. The giant cake, designed and crafted by our own food technology staff, was big enough to be shared by 1,400 students and 200 staff, with cake to spare! In the afternoon, the students engaged with activities planned and led superbly by our senior students. These included, SIS's Got Talent, Creative Hat Making Activities, A History Quiz, A Time Capsule project and a Scavenger Hunt. It was a fun and meaningful day for all.





Principal, Graham Silverthorne commented, "Over 5,000 graduates have passed through our school since 1977. SIS is now an established and highly successful international school, with a global reputation. Today, we wanted to commemorate our founding by providing current students with a day that they will never forget and by modelling our values of giving rather than looking to receive on a birthday. I think we accomplished both of these ambitions, admirably, it was a wonderful day".



The 40th celebrations are not over, in fact, they have just started! In October, SIS will welcome hundreds of our alumni back from all over the world to connect with current students and reconnect with each other. In November, our huge community fair is 40thfest!! An amazing archive has been built in the school to share with students and become an area of study, as life shows all of us, we need to learn the lessons of history.



#### West Island School 25th Anniversary Celebration Gala

On the evening of Friday, 2 June, the West Island community – staff, parents and alumni, gathered on the outdoor deck area of the Pokfulam campus to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of WIS. The school's Chinese drummers started off the formal proceedings of the evening and introduced Mr Chris Sammons to the stage. He spoke about the importance of honouring the past and looking to the future, and gave thanks to the WIS community for the constant support. We also bid farewell to two of our longest serving staff members, Mr Roger Stanley and Ms Marianne Onsiong. The school's ex-Principal, Ms Jane Foxcroft, completed the stage formalities by raising a toast to the future of West Island School.



The evening continued with an array of music performed by WIS student bands arranged by Ms Dalgarno and Mr Jolly. From the jazz band to the Acapulco group and an alumna musical performance by Yeni Yakpo (Class of 2016), the musical talents of WIS students was on display and was appreciated by all who gathered as they enjoyed the many foods and beverages.

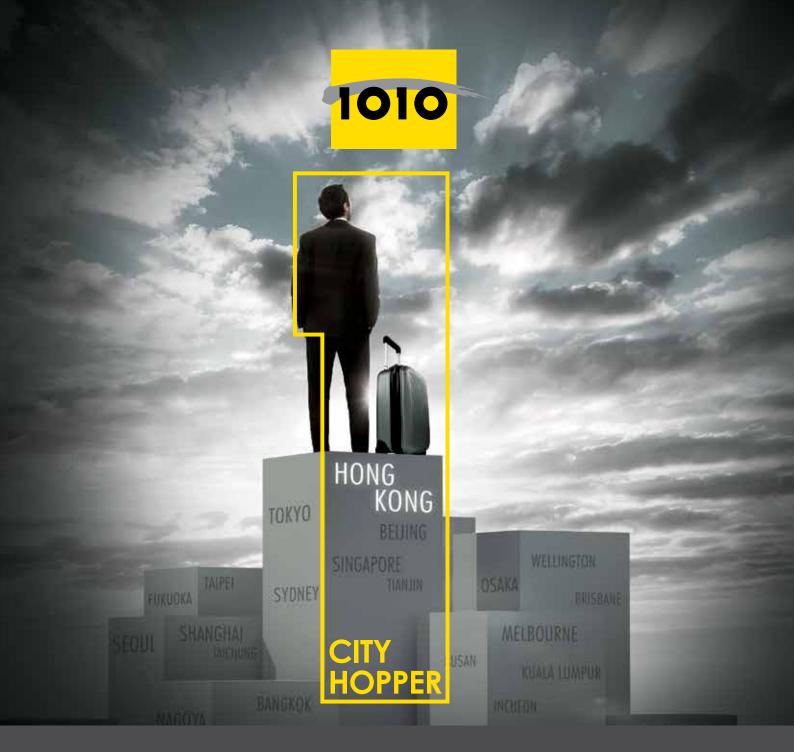


The WIS alumni represented the student body well and were in full form as they mingled with teachers and classmates. Thanks to Ayeesha Shahani (Class of 2002) who gave a heartwarming farewell speech about Mr Roger Stanley. We were overwhelmed by the great response and feedback we received at the evening from alumni and look forward to hosting them at the campus much more next year.

Thanks to all guests who attended and to all esteemed guests who joined us on the evening. We look forward to the next 25 years of WIS!







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#### Island School 50th Anniversary Celebrations

"Well done; the anniversary was stunning emotional, fun, everything! " Chris Forse, ex-Island School Vice Principal.

18 months of "round the clock" planning turned into the most spectacular weekend of celebrations in the history of Island School. Island School's 50th Anniversary "unofficially" kicked off to a raucous start at the Aberdeen Boat Club on Thursday, 8 June. Guests arrived from around the world to meet their former class friends, enjoy a night of free flowing drinks and delicious Chinese food. However, in spite of a few too many alcoholic drinks they did make it to the "official" opening of the 50th Anniversary events on Friday, 9 June at Island School - the much anticipated Block Party!



Over 1,000 alumni, parents, students and staff danced the night away to the delightful sounds of the Sanchez ESF Staff Band, Rock the Foundation and the Island School Jazz Band on Block 4, and over in the Main Hall, DJ Tom Banks (grad '75R) was in full swing playing tunes from across the decades. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors and donors for their generous support in making the evening a huge success; far beyond our wildest expectations! Furthermore, without the grateful generosity of our alumni, Colin Sim (photographer) and Sean Ellis (filmmaker), we would not have been able to capture the event on film. Photographs can be purchased through Colin Sim: info@colsimphotography.com

Block Party - <u>https://colsimphotography.smugmug.</u> <u>com/lsland-School-Block-Party/</u> 70s/80s reunion - <u>https://colsimphotography.</u> smugmug.com/Island-School-70s-80s-Reunion/



The 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner welcomed over 470 alumni, parents and staff to a night of sumptuous dining and entertainment at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Wanchai. After a cocktail reception whereby guests received ribbons in their house colours, guests were entertained by the student Jazz Band and various student performances and the Japanese Drums.

Master of ceremonies for the evening, Steve Coats, Island School Arts Director, introduced our speakers during the evening with a touch of eloquent humour. Ex-principals: Michelle Hughes, Colin Niven and David James; ex-Vice Principal, Chris Forse and our "departing for Peru" Principal, Chris Binge, spoke fondly of their time at Island School. Michael Lok (grad 06D) took to the stage to speak on behalf of the School Council and the Alumni Association, and Anita Gidumal (grad '81E) spoke about the wonderful work of the Island School Trust Fund.

Monies were raised through the silent auction for the Island School Trust Fund which was set up 10 years ago to sponsor university education for Island School students who are unable to afford the cost and to support the needs of the School to enhance its academic programmes.

<u>http://island.edu.hk/island-giving/</u>. Please give to secure the future for the next generation of students.

#### School memories by Sean Ellis (grad '88W)

The Island School 50th anniversary celebrations held in June were a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the people and places I remember with great affection. Returning to Australia when



Island School, I lost touch with many of my classmates, but eventually reconnected through social media, almost 20 years later.

I graduated from

When I learned in 2014 that the school would be redeveloped, I felt it was important to make a

documentary film that would capture the spirit of Island School. In May, I launched a successful crowdfunding campaign. via Indiegogo, which was promoted on numerous Island School Facebook groups and raised funds to cover the cost of equipment hire. A few days before the main anniversary events kicked off, I began filming interviews with staff, students, alumni, parents and ex-principals over many hours. When completed next year, the result will be a two-hour film showcasing archival photographs, videos, and music from 1967 to the present day.

The main anniversary events, held at The Aberdeen Boat Club on 8th June, the Island School Block Party on 9th June and the Gala Ball on 10th June, were also captured in full on HD video. These videos will be shared with sponsors/contributors to the Indiegogo campaign and funds raised will help cover the costs of finishing the documentary over the coming months. Updates are posted on the IS Facebook Groups from time to time.

The Virtual Reality Archive, filmed at the school on 9th and 14th June, utilises VR technology to immerse viewers in spherical video of the school, viewed with or without a headset. It can be seen at this link: <u>https://vimeo.</u> <u>com/225744039/7dd2a71307</u>

# School Memories by Stewart Burton (grad '89R)

Someone said to me 'Oh, you were only at Island School for a short time'. It's taken me a while to consider that comment. Why does a place like Island School have such a lasting effect on our lives? Why do we all consider ourselves Islanders? What is an Islander's identity? We all remember moments in our lives from school; memories that never fade, fun that never ends and deep rooted connections that outsiders cannot comprehend. Island School's anniversary weekend was an amazing celebration of all of those.

Now that I have returned home to India after an extremely emotional time in Hong Kong, I feel at peace. I find myself smiling at the wrong moments distracted with thoughts of that joyous weekend where I found my old friends, made new friends and rekindled those long lost friendships. It made me realise that although many of us live thousands of miles apart, the Island School bond will never break. I may not have been at Island School long, but being an "Islander" has never left me.



At home in my small Cambridge School here in the Indian jungle, I look at my students and imagine myself as one of them. Just like the Islanders, we are also a family. A tiny unit with only 40 students, but I feel empowered and invigorated to give them some of what I experienced during the 50th Anniversary events. I teach because I want to give the students and I want them to have space where they are safe to discover who they are. During my time at Island School, Chris Forse (ex-teacher and Vice Principal, 1974-2006) became my mentor and guardian. Meeting him at the 50th Anniversary weekend was a wish I intended to fulfill. We bonded instantly. Chris gave me the foresight to make a success of my life and I feel his warm compassion every day in my own teaching career.

#### School Memories by Paul Speak (grad '70D)

Paul Speak (grad '70D) is the son of the 1st Principal of Island School and the Founder of the ESF, Reverend Geoffrey Lowrey Speak OBE MA JP (1967 to 1972). When the Lsland School Alumni Office learnt from Mandy Newland (grad '70F) that Paul would be attending the Block Party, we didn't miss a golden opportunity in asking Paul to be one of our "speakers" for the evening. Paul is regarded as one of the "Original Islanders" – students who were taught at the British Military Hospital (BMH) on Borrett Road. pictured below with Nick Lovatt (grad '71E). We have published some of Paul's speech below whereby he pays tribute to his father. The full version is available from Tom Banks (grad '75R).





Paul at the British Military Hospital (BMH) on Borrett Road with Nick Lovatt (grad '71E). His dad is the 1st Principal of Island School and the Founder of the ESF, Reverend Geoffrey Lowrey Speak OBE MA JP (1967 to 1972).

"Dad was recognised for his work in education by being made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. But who was my father outside of the Island School? He was a great reader, a singer (sang at Cathedral Choir of St John and the Combined Christian Choir), a Justice of the Peace (JP), a mathematical "whizz" and a theologian (he read theology at Cambridge University and was a curate at the Parish Church of St Helen's in Wakefield, Yorkshire before moving to Hong Kong). During his time in Hong Kong he frequently assisted with the administration of Holy Communion at the Cathedral. In latter years he was involved in the successful movement to ordain women into the Anglican Church in Hong Kong, with the Rev Joyce Bennett being ordained in 1971...23 years before the Church of England ordained its first female priest. He continued his involvement with the Church and the community as a whole after he and my mother retired and returned to Salisbury in England."

#### Island School 50th Anniversary Celebrations-School Memories



#### School Memories by Pamela Ball (grad '71E)

Pamela Ball, owner and manager of Haloglow Ltd, lit up the 50th Anniversary Block Party with a range of sparkling 50th Anniversary merchandise. Pamela worked closely with the Lsland School Alumni Office for a couple months in designing the wrist and armbands which were available for sale in individual house colours. Any profits from the sale of the wrist and armbands will go towards the Island School Trust Fund.

Pamela was giddy with excitement at the prospect of meeting many of her old school friends; some she had not seen in more than 40 years. "The Block Party was more than I'd expected. There were so many alumni attending, it was hard to catch up with everybody. I was delighted that the wrist and arm bands were so well received and equally delighted to be able to support the school."

Pamela has a small stock of wrist and armbands available for sale. If you are interested, please contact Pamela at <u>pamela.ball@haloglow.com</u>.





