

Rosalind Pitt-Rivers

Rosalind Venetia Henley was born on 4th May 1907 in London, the daughter of Brigadier General A.M. Henley and Sylvia Stanley, the daughter of Lord Sheffield and cousin of Clementine Churchill. The eldest of three daughters, Rosalind was educated at home by a French governess until 1920 when at the age of 13, she entered Notting Hill High School, with her sister.

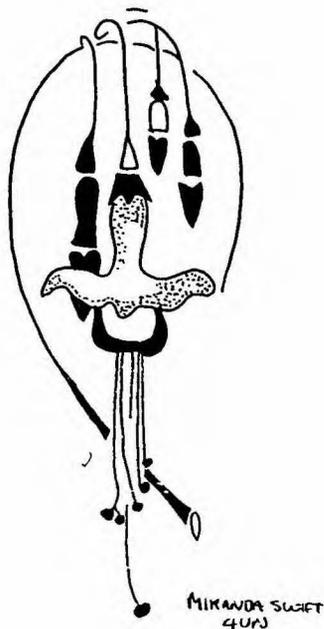
In 1923, Rosalind took the Oxford Schools certificate, gaining distinctions in French, and credit in English, History, Maths and Drawing. On the basis of these results, she was awarded a prize, while her sister, a member of the tennis and 1st hockey teams, won the Cicley Meyer history prize. Although a day girl for most of her 4 years at Notting Hill, living at 6 Oxford Square, W.2, she boarded for one term.

On her father's death in 1924, she attended Malvern College until her matriculation in 1926. Entering Bedford College, London to study chemistry, Rosalind wrote an article for Notting Hill School magazine about her experiences there.

She married Captain George Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers in 1931, and became a research student under Prof. Sir Charles Harrington, who supervised her PhD in Biochemistry in 1939. 1942 saw her entry to the National Institute for Medical Research to which she dedicated 8 years of her life. In 1952 Dr. Pitt-Rivers, working with Jack Gross, isolated the second thyroid hormone named tri-iodothyronine (T3) due to its content of three iodene atoms rather than four.

This discovery brought her international acclaim and she was consequently elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1954. On her retirement in 1972, Rosalind was head of the National Institute's Chemistry division. In 1985, after having continued her research at University College London, she was made an honorary research fellow by the department of Pharmacology.

She died on 4th January 1990, at the family home in Dorset, having survived her husband by 24 years, and is survived by a son. Unusual in the competitive world of academic research, Ros was neither secretive or aggressive and her generous qualities gained her enormous popularity among her colleagues.



History, which is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.

Edward Gibbon

Golf

Silver Tassie Foursomes

Golf Tournament at Sunningdale 1990

The team excelled themselves and finished 4th out of 19 schools.

Beneden were the winners. The event is always on the third Thursday in May and new younger players would be most welcome.

The team was Jennifer Whetter (Boto)
Ann Wilson (Bryant)
Mona Harnes (Hinde)
Joy Mahany (Orchard)

Please contact Joy Mahany 'Westcott',
Chiddingfold Road,
Dunsford, Surrey.
Tel. Dunsfold 837

What's in a School?

The day of the great storm, 25th January 1990, found eight Old Girls enjoying a buffet lunch together. To the accompaniment of the wild whistling and roar of the wind, and the occasional crash of a tile, we chatted happily, glad of each other's company in such alarming circumstances as we talked of cabbages and kings, and renewed memories of N.H. & E.H.S.

The lunches are regular events, being held three to four times a year, the date of the next meeting being agreed at each gathering. Otherwise, "keeping in touch" becomes no more than vague promises and a Christmas card. In 1981 I realized that it was 50 years since I started in the Kindergarten under Miss Pullen. I had passed my test at Notting Hill when Miss Mole drew a cat on the blackboard and asked me what it was. I have come a little way since then, although I never could write straight and level on a blackboard. The anniversary seemed to call for a celebration so I invited some of my contemporaries to my home. I wondered if they would come. They did, and despite busy lives we have always managed to find the time to meet over lunch, each taking it in turn to be the hostess. Mutual problems concerning family, elderly parents, and retired husbands are discussed and experiences shared. I for one have found it most helpful.

What is it that links us? Is it the discipline of courtesy, tolerance and respect learned all those years ago? I think it is. It was after her trip to Australia and New Zealand that Miss McCaig stressed the importance of hospitality, and urged its practice in this country. We have taken her advice, and find it great fun.

*Mrs Begent
Margaret Smerdon (1931-41)*