



Sally Lawrence nee Grayson

1960-2020

St Elphin's School Darley Dale Achievements.

1971 Passed the 11 plus

1972 Form prize Upper 3A

Confirmed by the Bishop of Derby

1973 Form Prize Lower 4A

1974 Form Prize Upper 4A

1975 Gold Personal Survival ASA in swimming

1976 House Prefect

Headmistress prize for effort Upper 5A

10 GCE O'Levels. Grade A in Chemistry, English Language, Geography, Latin and Mathematics.

Pass in Biology, English Literature, French, German and Physics.

1977 Subject Prize for Chemistry

1978 School prefect along with Julia Dakin and Beccy Cotman

House prefect

4 GCE A'levels Chemistry, Physics (special paper 2), Mathematics and

Geography A (special paper 2)

Subject Prize for Physics

Prize for Best Results in GCE A'level

Gresford House Song sung to The British Grenadiers tune.

For Gresford we must work
And never may we slack.
For ever looking forward
And never looking back.
We'll always do our utmost
Whatever may befall
With a smile and a song and a cheerful heart
For Gresford we do all.

While we are all in Gresford
All of us will find
That she's the one to work for
With heart and soul and mind.
In nineteen hundred and fifty one
This noble house was made
And ever since she started
To her we've tribute paid.

1971



1973



1975



1977



Liz Dickie nee Atwell, Morag Harrison nee Forsyth and Julie Drake nee Race.

In 2008 a school reunion was organised based in Darley Dale. Morag, Julie and myself met up at the Whitworth Hotel along with several other girls and decided to have a walk towards Hackney. This took us past Sally's family home. We were very pleased to see Sally was there looking after her father and managed a quick chat. After the walk, the new owners of St Elphin's School property had invited us to visit their show room and see what they had planned for the site, we were then allowed to stroll around the site. Sally managed to join us for about an hour. As it was the first time we had seen Sally since we left school some 30 plus years ago it was quite an intense hour catching up and reminiscing. I had forgotten Sally used to smuggle in cigarettes for us. Unfortunately, we didn't get the chance to meet with Sally again as I'm sure she would have reminded us of a lot more.

It was a great shock to hear of Sally's passing. Condolences to the family.

Sue Vaughton nee East

I was utterly shocked and saddened to stumble across a Rowing Club friends post of Sally's passing. Sally and her Mum and Dad were our next-door neighbours on Greenaway Lane. She was so, so clever at school. John, Sally's Dad, taught me to drive and regularly accompanied me on teaching drives to Alfreton and back for months until I got the hang of it. He would always impart snippets of business advice on our journeys and the one phrase that stands out was him telling me that I must always 'set my stall out'. Another vivid memory is making Sally a pair of bright blue sear-sucker summer trousers after she had complimented on the ones I had sewn up for myself and remember her coming round to our house for a couple of fitting sessions to get the shape and length just right. Ecstatic happiness was just around the corner when Sally suddenly announced that she had met an American and that they were going to marry! In those heady days of courtship, I remember having a few games of squash with Daniel at Alfreton Leisure Centre where my boyfriend, at the time, used to work. Then the happy day arrived, and I was invited as a guest to their wedding in August 1984 at St Helen's Church in Darley Dale (if my memory serves me right) – I have a few lovely photos from that happy sunny summers' day.

The next memory was when my husband, 2 children and myself visited Sally, Daniel, Louisa and Henry at their home in Walthamstow London and I remember walking in the park together. After that period, life, kids and work took a firm grip of us all and time ebbed away. We sent each other Christmas cards for years and then out of the blue I called Sally and we had a chance to catch up once again. It was fabulous after all the years that had passed in-between and I am so very sorry I didn't have the chance to speak to her again.

My memories of Sally were of her happy, infectious personality and her laugh! She was so kind, honest, consistent and dependable, she poured her heart, soul and passion into Lea Rowing Club which she loved so dearly.

I will never forget Sally and all my love and condolences are with her family and friends.

Julia Ball nee Dakin

I first met Sally aged around 8 years of age, when I joined junior school at St Elphin's. I was to be in, I think, year 3 the final year. Miss Lavender was junior headmistress.

Sally was assigned to be my guide, I had a few tears in the cloakroom and she put her arm around me and said 'don't worry I will look after you'. So there our friendship was sealed. Sally was very academic, there was a battle between her and Sarah Leaney. They were both always first and second in exams and both dedicated to their studies. This was to prove useful in senior school where I was able to bribe Sally with my weekly iced bun which we only had on Wednesday if she would do my maths prep for me! It was also nice that Sally lived across the sport fields as in later years we would sneak from school to Sally's for treats from Mrs Grayson.

When we reached 6th form, Sally would borrow her Fathers works van on Fridays and I had my Mothers car and we would drive to Fishpond in Matlock Bath for a cheese roll and soft drink, as it was it turned out not to be a great idea as one day we took too many prefects with us as there was

Julia Ball nee Dakin con.

no one left to do the order of bells to get everyone into the dining hall for their meal the system totally fell apart. We got into a lot of trouble and there were no more visits.

Sally and I attended each other's weddings, met each other's children and the years rolled by. We would always keep in touch, sometimes more one year than another depending on our circumstances.

In later years I began to see more of Sally as she had to be in Darley Dale a lot firstly to nurse her Mother and then her Father. I hope I was able to provide some respite from the pressure of this as she came to supper and was able to get some light relief. It was a difficult time for Sally being an only child. She then also took it upon herself to work in the family business driving long distances in a large van delivering and collecting engineering goods with early starts and late finishes. I sometimes wonder how she coped with it all.

Of course, in addition to all this Sally was devoted to the Lea Rowing Club where her greatest achievements are well documented.

My final conversation with Sally was on a Sunday evening when she was in hospital. She was waiting for medication and needing it. She talked about wanting to get home and that she was sorry we didn't get to celebrate our 60th birthdays both in March, but she assured me we would celebrate our 120th instead!

Those were her final words to me. She was one of my most steadfast friends and will be greatly missed.

Jane Rayner aka Womble

Had some great times with Sally, she was a lovely person, kind and thoughtful.....and brave.....I remember, shortly after her first child was born, she told me that the three of them were going on holiday. I assumed a week in Spain by a pool, but not Sally! A tandem cycling holiday in Europe with baby on the back! Nothing phased her and no problem was insurmountable!

I will miss her.

Sharon Lusty nee Johnson.

Happy memories are weekends with Sally and Emma at Edensor Village during junior school. Sally was in my class. I lost touch with her after she left. My condolences to the family.

Marianne Jackson nee Stewart

So sad. Just a slip of a girl. Can still see her now as though it was 1975. RIP Sally.

Alison Simmons.

Such sad news. From her photo she hasn't changed at all from school days. I think Sally was always top of the class (or vying for it)- never got less than 90% in anything as far as I recall. Clever. I remember seeing her at the 2008 reunion. My condolences to her family.

Alison Manning nee Yates.

Sally was in the same form as me. She lived up past the hockey pitches. She was really clever and came top in most things. She was also a real laugh. I remember she was at the reunion in 2008.

Beverley Rosser-Smith nee Smith

I am so sorry to hear of Sally's passing. Sending love to her family.

Bridget Dore aka Susan Hill

I remember her to, very clever. My condolences to her family.

Mary Louise Bailey

Love and blessings to her family.

Sally Anne Rose nee Capsticks

How very sad, my condolences to the family.

Niva Choudhury

My sincere condolences.

Sally Lomax nee Hyde

Oh, that is so sad. I remember her at school. RIP.

Vivienne Davison nee Hodge

Sad news my condolences to her family and friends.

Charlotte Brooks nee Rowley

She was a contemporary of my sister Helen. Condolences to her family.

Kemi Ogunyemi

My she rest in peace.

Melanie Roach

Condolences to the family

Julie Drake nee Race.

Such sad news. I lived next door to her and went to school with her from being 7 years old. Absolutely gutted. May she rest in peace. Condolences to her family.

Kiki Jones

Very sad news. I remember Sally. Prayers said for her and her family. May she rest in peace.

Katherine Crouch nee Dunkley

I remember her she was the year below me. Condolences to her family.

Annabel Garnett

So sorry to hear this sad news – thank you for the link, what a wonderful contribution she made to rowing and much more. I might have just over lapped her at St Elphin's – I left in '73. Please pass my condolences to her family.

Georgie Stewart nee Dale

Sad news. I remember her well. She used to ride at the Red House which my Mother owns.