



ALDENHAMIANA  
ISSUE 44  
October 2016

# OA REVIEW

News from the  
OA Society

**Centenary of the  
new Fives courts**

News from the  
School

**Letters from OAs**

Battle of the  
Somme Centenary

**Obituaries and  
tributes**





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## FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to your OA Review.

This year, the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, which lasted 141 days from 1st July to 18th November 1916 and saw 1.3 million casualties, a group of OAs travelled to the Somme to see the effects of war and to lay a wreath at the

Thiepval Memorial in memory of those OAs and members of the teaching staff whose names are commemorated at various cemeteries throughout the region.

I'm sure you have family members who fought in the Great War and indeed gave their lives for our tomorrow. During the tour, we visited The Lochnagar Crater, 67m in diameter, the largest man-made mine crater created in the First World War on the Western Front. The mine was exploded two minutes before 07.30am Zero Hour at the launch of the British offensive against the German lines on the morning of 1st July 1916. The phrase, 'Going over the top' came into being on the same day.

It is also 100 years since the building of the new Five Courts (see pps. 17-20), thanks to the generosity of **Edgar H Mariette (SH1879-85 and CR1889-1914)** and 350 years since the Brewers' Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. The first hall was built in Adle Street in 1403 and by the end of the fifteenth century the Brewers' Company controlled all brewing within the City. The sixteenth Century was the heyday of the power of the Livery Companies among which the Brewers ranked fourteenth. The second hall, built during the reign of Charles II, was destroyed in the Blitz and the current, third, Hall opened in 1960. A Brewers' Hall has stood on this site in Aldermanbury Square for more than 600 years.

I want to show recognition to many OAs who, over the years, have dedicated so much of their time to various Trusts and Societies connected with Aldenham – all on a purely voluntary basis. Whilst on the subject of volunteers, this copy of the OA Review cannot be produced without a dedicated team, all of whom are volunteers. We are currently looking for a new Editor to take the helm when I step down at the end of the year. All enquiries please either to myself or Ann Saffery Email: [aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com)

I offer my grateful thanks and appreciation to my team – **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)**, **Sara Price (CR1987-2006)**, Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie (both Development and OA Office) also to **Richard Peart (SHO1955-60)**, **Lindsey Kelly (P1985-87)** and **Alice Erman (P2005-12)**, all of whom have helped with proof reading.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's OA Review as much as I have enjoyed putting it together.

**James James-Crook (M1968-72)**

editor, OA Review

email: [jamesjamescrook@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jamesjamescrook@hotmail.co.uk)

# From the President

I hope you enjoy this edition of the OA Review with its focus on the Centenary of the Fives Courts and the Battle of the Somme.

In May this year, it was a great privilege to lay a wreath, on behalf of the OA Society, at the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme; a moving and memorable experience.

As I end my time as President I would like to thank you, the OA members, for supporting the Society's social and sporting activities so well and also our new initiatives such as, the OA Mentoring Scheme. My thanks to all those who have made, and continue to make, the Society a thriving alumni club – the hardworking OA Committee, the OA Review team, OA Mentors and those OAs who run our sports clubs. Incidentally, I have been asked to make a special plea to younger OAs to consider joining the OAFS and OAGS as these would benefit from new OA talent.

Our close relationship with the School underpins our efforts, and, particularly so, with the Headmaster, James Fowler, and his senior staff. We take pride in the excellent achievements of the School and development of the Aldenham Foundation under James's 10 years of stewardship; the Aldenham Foundation has now grown in size to nearly 1,000 boys and girls of all ages.

It was also very satisfying to see an OA assuming the role of Chairman of Governors – **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)** during my time as President. As many OAs will know, the Development and OA Office team, Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie, provide superb back up and take the brunt of organising our social activities with great dedication and panache. The introduction of



Neil Sutherland OBE DL President of the OA Society at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial

## OA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                                                   |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Neil Sutherland</b> OBE DL                     | President                                        |
| <b>Derick Burlingham Johnson</b>                  | Vice President                                   |
| <b>John Edwards</b>                               | Vice President                                   |
| <b>John Ashley Cockett</b>                        | Vice President                                   |
| <b>David Ronald Male</b> CBE                      | Ex-President                                     |
| <b>Field Marshal The Lord Vincent</b> GBE KCB DSO | Ex-President                                     |
| <b>Christopher Edward Arkell</b>                  | Vice President                                   |
| <b>Peter John Purton</b> OBE                      | Ex-President                                     |
| <b>Richard Wood</b>                               | Vice President                                   |
| <b>Frank Rogers</b>                               | Hon. Secretary                                   |
| <b>Richard Peart</b>                              | Hon. Treasurer                                   |
| <b>Ian Luetchford</b>                             | Annual Dinner                                    |
| <b>James James-Crook</b>                          | Editor, OA Review                                |
| <b>David Hayes</b>                                | Mentoring Scheme                                 |
| <b>Clare Yeabsley</b> née McCarty                 | Committee Member                                 |
| <b>James Fowler</b>                               | Headmaster                                       |
| <b>Peter William Boorman</b>                      | Headmaster 1974-83                               |
| <b>Michael Higginbottom</b> JP                    | Headmaster 1983-94                               |
| <b>Stephen Robert Borthwick</b>                   | Headmaster 1994-2000                             |
| <b>Richard Harman</b>                             | Headmaster 2000-2006                             |
| <b>Bob Collins</b>                                | Assistant Head, Co-curricular & External Affairs |
| <b>Ann Saffery</b>                                | Development & OA Manager                         |
| <b>Jackie Wilkie</b>                              | Development & OA Assistant                       |

electronic Development & OA newsletters and other initiatives to promote the benefits of membership to the OA Society to current and prospective parents, pupils and especially School leavers, is just a small part of their recent extra efforts.

The Society thrives in so many areas though, with some disappointment, I must record that, due to steeply rising postal costs allied with only a small number of 'OA Society Life Members' paying a small voluntary subscription, we are having to consider ways to reduce costs. This may result in the OA Review only being sent by post to 'life' members who make a small voluntary contribution and those still within their 20 year membership. Plans would be made to send an electronic version to other 'life' members. Please make sure that your email address is recorded on the OA Society's database.

If you are in a position to increase your voluntary contribution or to set up

# OA Masonic Lodge

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge was consecrated on 15th December 1926, sponsored into the United Grand Lodge of England by the Old Brightonians, then later into the Public Schools Lodge Council by the Old Tauntonians.

**John Westmore (SHE1970-1974)** was installed in March 2016 as the new Master of the Old Aldenhamian Lodge (OAL), succeeding **Mark Hancock (CR1994-2002)**. Four Lodge meetings are held each year, all in central London.

Members of the OAL span different generations, with many younger ones joining in recent times. Freemasonry is one of the leading charity-giving organisations in the UK and, in our case, is centred on members of 32 other Public School Lodges who regularly visit us and likewise we reciprocate and initiate hospitality with return visits supporting their occasions. This is a particular benefit in membership of our Lodge, representing a unique opportunity for making new friends; dining out together and participating in various trips, the most recent being a tour of the Police Crime Museum last March.

For enquiries please contact **Simon Mitchell (K1970-73)** OAL Public Schools Representative & Lodge mentor  
Email: [smitchell1263@gmail.com](mailto:smitchell1263@gmail.com)



a regular standing order to the Society, then please do so straight away; the form can be found in the OA Review on p.35.

As this will be my final message to you, may I take this opportunity to send my very best wishes to each and every one of you. I remain deeply grateful for everything that Aldenham has given me and I have been delighted to be able to give something back in return.

I am delighted that **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** has agreed to offer himself for election as President of the OA Society at the next AGM in March 2017.

Please enjoy this excellent magazine and its many articles and news of old and new friends. My thanks to the editorial team for their skill and hard work in producing this edition.

**Neil Sutherland OBE DL**

## Did you know?



Image: Marie-Lan Nguyen/Wikimedia Commons/CC-BY 2.5

It has been brought to the Editor's attention by **John MacLeod (B1944-48)**, that three of cricket's greatest players were connected to Aldenham. When Sir Donald Bradman made his final test appearance at the Oval in 1948, England's opening batsman was **John Gordon Dewes (B1940-45)**. When Sir Leonard Hutton made his final first class appearance in M.C.C. v Gentlemen of Ireland his opening partner was **David Eustace Blake (P1939-43)**. Somewhat tenuously, when W.G. Grace opened the batting at the Surrey v Gentlemen of England match at the Oval in 1908 his partner was Henry Keigwin, whose brother Richard (also a first class cricketer) taught at Aldenham.

## Is it time to renew your OA subscription?

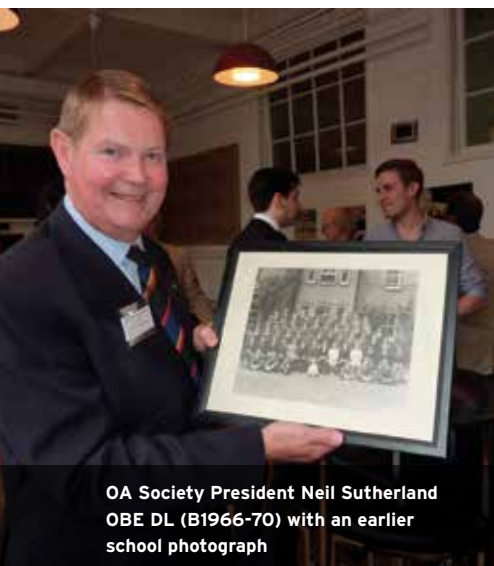


**N**ew membership subscription arrangements were unanimously approved at the Society's AGM in 2002 to enable the Society to provide members with an improved service, in particular expansion and improvement of the OA website.

All existing Life Members who left the School twenty years ago or more are to be invited to pay a voluntary annual subscription to the Society.

**Therefore, if you left School in Summer 1996 or before, you are invited to start paying a voluntary annual subscription to the Society. An appropriate sum would be £10 per annum, although the Society would welcome larger amounts.**

Should you wish to start a voluntary annual subscription, please complete the Standing Order form on p.35 of the magazine and return it to the Development & OA Office.



OA Society President Neil Sutherland  
OBE DL (B1966-70) with an earlier  
school photograph

# OA Day

## Beevor's House Gaudy 2016

The inclement weather was no deterrent to over a hundred guests who returned to Aldenham for OA Day and the Beevor's Gaudy reunion on Sunday 12th June 2016.

**Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)**, Housemaster of Beevor's, opened up the House for the morning and current students invited OAs to look around.

With plenty of memorabilia on show everyone enjoyed sharing stories of their schooldays.

A traditional Chapel service was followed by drinks in the Apthorp Room in The Wells Centre, which was opened in 2012. Many people remembered the Tuck Shop and School Shop, which has been tastefully renovated and extended



Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70 & OA Society President), Richard Avery (B1958-61) & Janet Avery



Elizabeth & Richard Morris (B1970-74)



to form The Wells Centre. The newest building in the School incorporates a Sixth Form Centre, classrooms and this wonderful upstairs meeting room with an exceptional view over Top Field.

Sadly the John Dewes cricket match was rained off but, as a regular fixture, will be played again on OA Day 2017 in memory of **John Dewes (B1940-45)** who

died in 2015 cf. obituary OA Review issue no.43 p.48.

Lunch was served as a picnic style, to reflect the Patron's Lunch in The Mall for HM The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations on the same day. The warmth of the smiles in the Dining Hall brought out the sunshine in the afternoon.

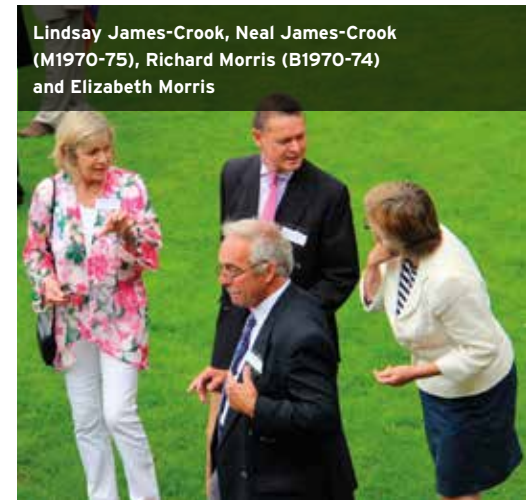
A Fives tournament drew a good crowd to celebrate the Centenary of the Fives courts at Aldenham. Everyone enjoyed seeing the skill and enthusiasm of the young players and the day closed with a cream tea, a fitting end to an enjoyable day of reflection with friends.



Roland Chant (B1960-65), Sue Barnard (Staff 1956-91), Robert Wright (B1960-65) & Ned Yorke (B1959-63)



Geoffrey Prall (SHE1936-40), Helen Newham, Geoffrey Prall Jnr & Barbara Prall



Lindsay James-Crook, Neal James-Crook (M1970-75), Richard Morris (B1970-74) and Elizabeth Morris



Eileen Rainey, Norma Luetchford, Ian Luetchford (B1948-51) & Mike Rainey (B1948-51)



Mark Lycett (B1988-93), Anne Morgan (CR1986-Present), Glen McAllister (Staff 1982-95) & Tim McAllister (P1988-93)



Simon Bradfield (B1981-86), Simon Keeler (K1977-81) & Adrian Horsburgh (K1975-80) standing in front of the portrait of Edmund Beevor (Housemaster 1895-1922)



Picnic style lunch served to reflect the Patron's lunch held in the Mall for the Queen's 90th Birthday

## MESSAGE BOARD

Messages were sent by those who could not be present and are printed here:

### Gareth Wilson (1962-66)

I would have very much enjoyed attending this event but unfortunately will be out of the country. I wish everyone a wonderful day.

### Nicholas Rawson (1948-52)

'Age afflicts, when legs are sticks and wallets empty'

### Paul Procopides (1952-54)

Enjoy the Gaudy reunion.

### Deborah Meadows (CR1980-85)

Very best wishes to you all for a wonderful reunion day! Life in retirement on the Isle of Wight is very busy and I regret I cannot be with you today. Girlguiding, RNLI and bowls fill my time more than adequately!

### Peter Hawkes (1950-55)

I'm sorry to say I will not be present, but please send greetings to my contemporary 'Utting' (who has now gained a Christian name). In my day, only surnames were used!

### Sir Martin Sweeting (1964-70)

Unfortunately I am unable to be with you as I am travelling overseas, please pass my regards to any of my vintage!

### Nick King (1960-65)

I'll be very sorry not to catch up with old friends as I will be out of the country, but I wish everybody a very happy day.

### Colin Rogerson (1944-48)

Greetings, especially to the 40's veterans - keep looking forward.

### Sue Barnard (Staff 1956-91)

My son Jeremy's wedding is in Dorset on 11th June, so I am unable to be with you. Very best wishes to all Beevor's OAs. You are very welcome to call in to see me if you are in the Radlett area.

*We were delighted that Sue was able to join us after lunch, having travelled from Dorset.*

### Miles Laddie (1961-66)

Sorry I cannot make it but currently on a plane flying back from New York. Wish you all a great day and hopefully there will be another Gaudy soon - don't make it too long!

### Jim Wicks (1947-52)

Hope you all have a good time and that the sun shines for you!

### Ulrike Engelmann (2001-03)

Greetings to all who attend, especially the Boothbys, should they be there.

### Geoffrey Hewlett Thompson (1942-47)

70 years since we just beat McGill's in the Senior Hockey Final, in a huge struggle, on the first post-war spring afternoon.

### Chris Taylor (2003-10)

Regards to everyone at Aldenham.

### Peter Goodchild (1952-57)

Sadly unable to be with you, it would be lovely to come back soon. Beevor's House still occupies my dreams.

### Geoff Gunton (1964-67)

Unfortunately unable to attend but I wish you a pleasant summer's day event.

### Christien Bembridge (CR2007-12)

With all my very best for what I am sure will be a superb event.

### Bill Hancock (1944-48)

Unable to make it, which is a shame. I see from your list that I would have been amongst one of the oldest survivors there. I am sure it will be a great success, with the ghost of **Fred English (Housemaster 1936-51)** ensuring OAs behave themselves!

### Relton Herron (1987-91)

I will be on my honeymoon otherwise I would have been there. Hope you have a wonderful and successful day and that the sun is shining.

### Caroline Farthouat (née Woodrow) (1984-86)

I hope the day is a success and look forward to seeing the photos and hearing all about it.

### John Bolt (M1945-49)

I have fond memories of my time at Aldenham and am still in contact with many of my alumni. I know it will be a great day and hopefully blessed with good weather.

### Kirsten Kerr-Bonner (1988-90)

I hope it will be a lovely day. I have very many fond memories of my two years in Beevor's.

### Peter Church (1942-46)

I hope you have a pleasant and successful day.

### Tony Harvie (1970-75)

Hope you all have a splendid day.



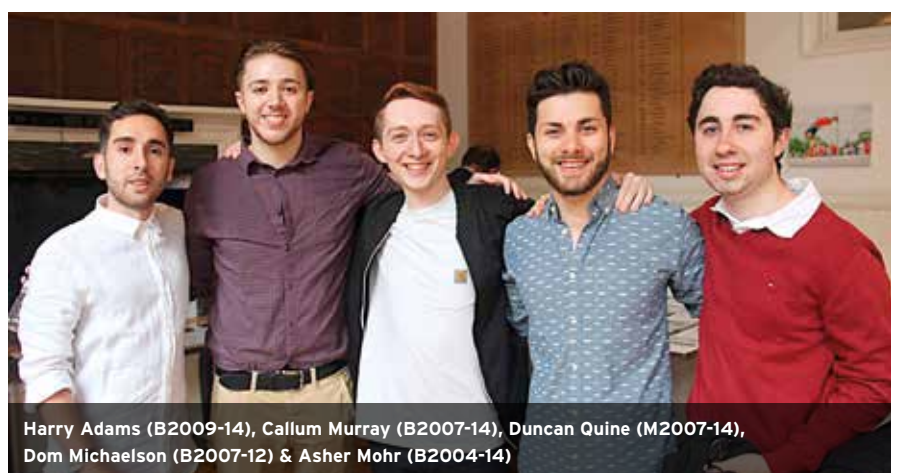
Richard Morris (B1970-74), Jackie Wilkie (Development & OA Assistant), James James-Crook (M1968-72) & Neal James-Crook (M1970-75)



John Iddon (B1941-44)



John Utting (B1950-55)



Harry Adams (B2009-14), Callum Murray (B2007-14), Duncan Quine (M2007-14), Dom Michaelson (B2007-12) & Asher Mohr (B2004-14)



## Richard Platt Society

This year Aldenham has received major gifts from the Wills of **Kenneth Eric Flatt (M1933-36)** and **Paul Francis Staveley Spencer (P1943-47)**. Both men made generous provision in their estates to their beloved charities and included Aldenham School among them.

It is well known throughout the Aldenham community that the School's founder, **Richard Platt**, left instructions in his Will for the establishment of the School and to acknowledge his own inheritance from his ancestors.

It remains a common myth however that only the rich and famous leave money to charity when they die. This couldn't be any further from the truth. The reality is that without gifts left in Wills by people like you, many of the charities we know and support wouldn't even exist.

A regular increase in charitable gifts means that Aldenham would be able to provide more bursaries and improve the facilities on offer. Most importantly, things could happen more quickly and the benefits would be immediate.

Your Will is one of the most important documents you'll write. It's a chance for you to provide for your loved ones and to keep making a difference

after you're gone. The size of gift is irrelevant, whatever the reason and whatever the gift, a commitment of this kind will help to provide the School with a secure future.

If you would like to let us know that you plan to leave a gift in your Will to the School, this will be acknowledged by membership to the Richard Platt Society. For more information please contact:

### **Ann Saffery**

*Development and OA Manager*

Aldenham School, Elstree

Hertfordshire

WD6 3AJ

Tel: 01923 851612

Email: [aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com)



**Kenneth Flatt (M1933-36)**



**Paul Francis Staveley Spencer (P1943-47)**

## OA Annual Dinner 2015

The OA Annual Dinner has become a popular, pre-Christmas get together and reunion.

On 20th November nearly 90 people, aged from 17 to 87, gathered in The Wells Centre for pre-dinner drinks and an excellent talk by **Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)**, Chairman of the Jerwood Foundation. This was followed by a splendid meal in the Dining Hall, provided by Holroyd Howe.

The OA Society is able to subsidise the price of tickets for its members and advises early booking for the forthcoming OA Annual Dinner which will be on Friday 18th November. See form on p.35.

**Margaret Peart, Cynthia Hunt, Norma Luetchford & Ann Redmayne**





Ian Luetchford (B1948-51)



Sarah Dean (Head Girl), proposed a vote of thanks to Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)



L to r: Marta Bustamante (CR2014-Present), Rupert Vann Alexander (M2009-11), Florine Baledent, Joe Morton (M2006-11), Diane Hayes, David Hayes (SH01963-68), Harry Collins (B2006-11), Daniele Kitchen (B2009-11) & Mark Flesch

Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45) & Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70) President of the OA Society



L to r: Sarah Dean Head Girl (P2014-2016), Indra Sikdar (SH01985-90), Karen Grieve, Patrick Rowley (B1947-50), Charlotte Fowler, Lin Sutherland, James Fowler (Headmaster), Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45), Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70), Subhan Iqbal Head Boy (R2008-2016)



L to r: Jennie Gibson (P2003-05), Christopher Cook (L2000-02), Sophie Chong (P2003-05), Duncan Fraser (M1998-2005) Kate Heywood (P2003-05), Iain Fraser (P2000-07), Lucy Luff (P2003-05), Nick Lee (P1998-2005), Georgia Collins (P2003-05), James Graham (R2003-05)



Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie





## Oxford Regional Lunch

There was no shortage of chatter and laughter when OAs met at *The Bell at Hampton Poyle* in Oxfordshire on Wednesday 20th April 2016, for the latest in the series of Regional Lunches.

The guests enjoyed a welcome drink at the bar before taking their seats for a splendid three course lunch at this five star inn.

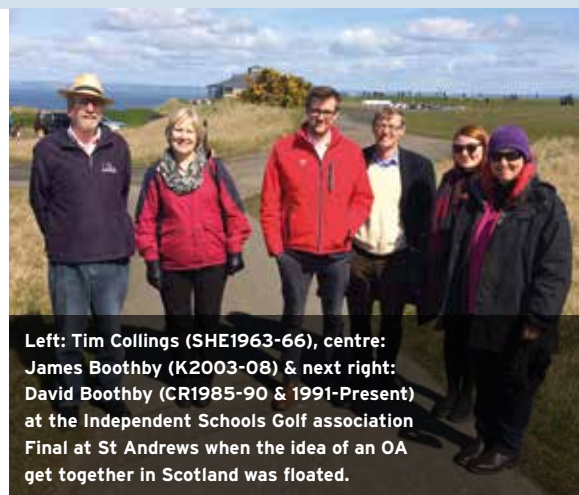
The oldest OA present, **Frank Henn (SHE1934-39)**, a spritely 95 year old, was word perfect when he said the School Grace, in Latin.

The restaurant was buzzing for over three hours as stories and memories of school days were swapped. It is always fascinating to hear what Aldenham was like for past generations of boarders, which the majority of pupils were until relatively recently. There were few occasions for the 'Old Boys' to meet the 'fairer sex' and **Robin Chaventre (M1949-52)** amused his table when he told of the time he organised a debate with his sister's school, St Helen's, Northwood. He took the opportunity to get the debate over quickly and then passed a motion to hold a dance. **Peter Geoffrey Mason, Headmaster 1949-61**, was none too pleased when the Head Mistress from St Helen's made a complaint and Robin was sent for. All ended happily when approval was given for the boys to have dancing lessons and

Robin was charged with arranging more dances.

After lunch **James Fowler, Headmaster** proposed a toast to HM The Queen on the eve of her 90th birthday and then gave an update on the latest activities at Aldenham. Everyone was delighted to hear about recent successes, especially winning no less than three County Cups for football and securing a place in the Independent Schools Golf Championship finals, to be played at St Andrews on the forthcoming weekend. This news bodes particularly well for the future of the OA sports clubs. It was appropriate to highlight some past achievements recorded in the School magazine and a snippet from the *Aldenhamian* published in 1937 was shared. A 17 year old **Frank Henn** was pictured in the Football 1<sup>st</sup> XI with a small write up about his skills and areas for improvement.

A reference to Shakespeare's seven ages of man by the Headmaster summed up the proceedings by comparing today's pupils arriving more willingly to School and the OAs attending this social event "with teeth, with eyes, with taste, with everything."



Left: Tim Collings (SHE1963-66), centre: James Boothby (K2003-08) & next right: David Boothby (CR1985-90 & 1991-Present) at the Independent Schools Golf association Final at St Andrews when the idea of an OA get together in Scotland was floated.

## Regional Gathering in Scotland

In spring 2017, a Regional gathering will be held in Scotland as suggested by **Tim Collings (SHE1963-66)** when he met the Headmaster and students at the Independent Schools' Golf Association (ISGA) finals in April this year at St Andrews.

**Robert Lloyd-Taylor (M1980-84)** has offered to host a get together at Broomhall Castle in Stirling. The date is set for Friday 28th April 2017. There will be a drinks reception at 7.00pm and Dinner will be at 8.00pm. For anyone wishing to stay overnight at the Castle, a special room rate has been agreed.

Personal invitations will be sent to all OAs whose details we have as living in Scotland and Northern England. Others will of course be welcome and we hope may take a short break north of the border.

Please make sure that the Development and OA Office has your current postal address and any alternative address so that you don't miss out on events in your area.

Full information and booking details of forthcoming events are published on the OA Society website.

If you have any suggestions for future events, please contact **Ann Saffery**, Development and OA Manager on 01923 851612 or Email: [aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com)

# The OA Mentoring review 2016

The expansion of the OA Mentoring Scheme has gathered momentum this year and a significant development has been the arrival of **Helen Shelton (P2006-08)** who has volunteered to help encourage younger OAs become more actively involved as mentors.

## MENTORS

|                                    |              |                                         |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Allisstone, Julian George John, Mr | SHE1978-83   | Education                               |
| Armitage, Melita Jayne, Dr         | B1987-89     | Consultancy - Creative                  |
| Bajaria, Chirag Dinesh, Mr         | SHO&R1987-92 | IT, Retail                              |
| Bingham, Anthony John, Mr          | P1963-67     | Accountancy                             |
| Bromwich, Paul Charles, Mr         | K1970-75     | Pharmaceutical                          |
| Buzzard, Paul Jeremy, Mr           | CR1979-84    | Accountancy                             |
| Chong, Sophie Jessica, Miss        | P2003-05     | Public Relations                        |
| Coleman, Oliver C, Mr              | P&M2002-09   | Arts, Entertainment, Sport, etc.        |
| Croft, Peter John Patrick, Mr      | K1962-66     | Banking & Finance                       |
| Cuttell, Fiona Jane, Mrs           | K1986-88     | Catering, Hospitality                   |
| Dickins, Louise Jane, Mrs          | B1996-98     | Antiques                                |
| Flax, Ricky A, Mr                  | B1999-2006   | Marketing & Sales                       |
| Frais, Simon A, Mr                 | P2001-06     | Music, Marketing, Relationship Building |
| Furber, Geoffrey, Mr               | SHO1970-74   | Charity, Management                     |
| Goodfellow, Scott John, Mr         | M1979-84     | Banking & Finance                       |
| Hayes, David Wingate Stuart, Mr    | SHO1963-68   | Solicitors, Charity work                |
| Jenkins, Owen Geoffrey, Mr         | L1998-2003   | Insurance, Finance                      |
| Kelly, Hannah, Miss                | P2008-10     | Event Management                        |
| Laurenson, Anthony Peter, Mr       | M1971-75     | Catering, Hospitality                   |
| Lewis, Stephen Clifton, Mr         | B1970-75     | Leisure Industry                        |
| Lindsey, Victoria Jane, Mrs        | P1982-84     | Agriculture, Horticulture & Forestry    |
| Mac, Dominic, Mr                   | K1988-93     | Management Consultancy                  |
| Mahboobani, Samir, Mr              | B2001-06     | Medicine                                |
| Massing, James Oliver, Mr          | R2002-09     | Arts, Entertainment, Sport              |
| Milfull, Tobias M J, Mr            | R2007-14     | Student                                 |
| Nicholas, Robert James, Mr         | M1975-80     | Architecture                            |
| Oliver, James Alan Crombie, Mr     | SHO1973-78   | Property                                |
| Pankhania, Sunil, Mr               | L1993-2000   | Property                                |
| Pearce, Ian Philip, Mr             | L1990-95     | Civil Air Transport                     |
| Portnoi, Benjamin Kane, Mr         | R2000-05     | Media                                   |
| Schindler, Nicholas Joseph, Mr     | K1998-2005   | Medicine                                |
| Shelton, Helen Jane, Miss          | P2006-08     | Education                               |
| Sikdar, Indrajeet Kumar, Mr        | SHO1985-90   | Government Services                     |
| Sutherland, Neil Anthony, Mr       | B1966-70     | Medical Services, Army, Construction    |
| Sutherland, Robert D, Mr           | B1992-97     | Army                                    |
| Templeman, David Peter, Mr         | R1995-98     | Security                                |
| Turnbull, Harry, Mr                | L2006-11     | IT                                      |
| Watts, Marcus Redmayne, Mr         | M1976-81     | Financial & Banking Services, Travel    |
| Yeabsley, Clare Elizabeth, Mrs     | K1988-90     | Jeweller, Retail, Management            |



Helen Shelton (P2006-08)

Our main focus this year has been to help existing Sixth Form students and recent School leavers to gain some experience in their chosen careers and help them develop some of the skills required to progress through job and university interviews.

We shall continue working with Bob Collins, Assistant Head and also with Ann Saffery, Development and OA Manager in the School Office to extend the OA mentoring scheme further in the year ahead and to identify other students and OAs who may be interested in taking part.

We now have 39 current OA mentors and, once potential new mentees have been introduced to appropriate mentors, help and advice can be given by telephone or email or by face to face meetings as required. Work experience placements can also be arranged in most cases.

We are very keen to encourage other OAs (particularly those in the 25 to 40 year age group) to share their experience through the mentoring scheme.

For more information and if you would like to help please contact:

**David Hayes**

Email: [dhayes.family@gmail.com](mailto:dhayes.family@gmail.com)

**Helen Shelton**

Email: [helshelts@gmail.com](mailto:helshelts@gmail.com)

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# Old Aldenhamian Football Club

## Season 2015/16

An overview from **Martyn Berg (B1989-94)** Chairman of the OAFC

‘**W**ith good progression in the cups, the league took a back seat for the first few months of the season and, come mid-November, only four league games had been played. There was belief in the team that they could really get a good cup run going and so it proved to be.

By the turn of the year, the OAFC 1<sup>st</sup> team had reached the semi-final of the London Old Boys Challenge Cup. They consequently won that and a gripping final against Hampstead Heathens. This

was a fantastic achievement by the team and especially **Sam Kaye (P2001-08)** in his first season as coach. Well done!

In the league, it was a very different season for the first team. With sole focus seemingly on the cups, the league form took a dramatic dive during the winter and spring months. Victories over Bradfield and Radley aside, if it wasn't for an imploding Old Haileyburian side, the Old Aldenhamians could have found themselves relegated from Division 1 for the first time in its history.

Sam's challenge for the forthcoming season will be to get the team to really focus on the league, with the aim to be challenging for promotion in the next few years.

It was the opposite story for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Cup runs were scarce but, starting with a memorable 3-1 win against the future Division 4 champions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team became an incredibly close knit unit and ended up with the enviable record of being one of the only two teams in the entire Arthurian League to maintain an unbeaten away league record.

The other team being the double winners Old Tonbridgians! They only lost twice all season and were just two points off being Division 4 champions. Division 3 will be a much tougher proposition but, if **Andre Sharma (L2001-06)** can keep the same team spirit and close knit bond together, they should do just fine.

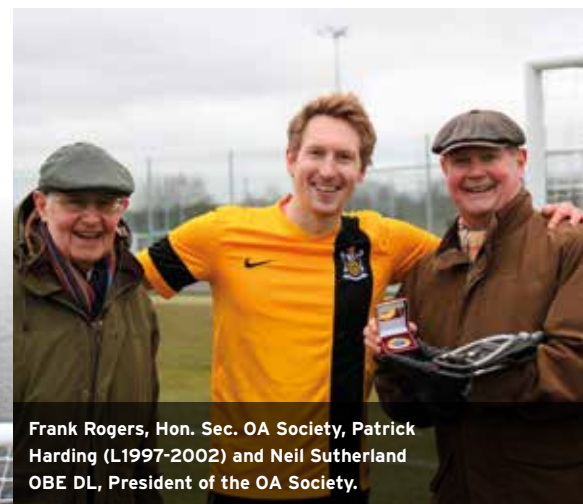
On the whole, this season has been one to remember. The first team won their first trophy for a long while and, in a very competitive league, the second team gained promotion to Division 3 at the first time of asking. Thank you to all the OAFC Committee for their work!

Finally, thanks once again to the OA Society, **Neil Sutherland, James Fowler, Frank Rogers, Richard Peart** and **Grant Cornock (CR2009-Present)** for their vital



OAFC Victors of the London Old Boys Challenge Cup 19 March 2016

Back Row: Richard Hall, Matt Wallace, Patrick Harding, Daniele Kitchen, Jonathan Shafe, Reece Bennison, Max Raby & Nick Linford  
Front Row: Adam Williams, Yohei Otsuka, Hamoun Jamali, Sam Kaye, Tom Hall, Rob Blackman & Gareth Thomas



Frank Rogers, Hon. Sec. OA Society, Patrick Harding (L1997-2002) and Neil Sutherland OBE DL, President of the OA Society.



**Football 1st XI v OAs - 12/12/2015 (1st XI won 2-0)**

From l to r: Back Row: Grant Cornock (CR2009-Present), Julian Anyiam-Osigwe (B1999-2006), Timi Adeyanju (B2010-Present), Max Bull (M2010-15), Daniel Shores (M2010-Present), Oli Beyrich (M2008-15), Andre Sharma (L2001-06), Jacob Haftel (R2007-14), Murray Slater (B2012-Present), Rob Atkinson (R2009-Present), Daniel Ryan (K&L2003-08), Sam Brown-Light (L2009-Present), Andrew Barnes (B2007-10), James Baldwin-Service (K2012-Present), Brandon Wolmark (R2001-Present), Jon Sadiku (R2013-Present), Jack Jones (L2011-13), Sam Dawe (CR2013-Present), Peter Gibbins (Current Parent)

Front Row: Lewis Hollett (K2011-Present), Miles Hillaire-Hutchinson (R2010-Present), James Massing (R2002-09), Wills Collier (P2003-10), James Charnley (L2003-08), Marnix Garner (M1985-88), Yohei Otsuka (P1998-2003), Tomo Hashiba-Charlton (M2010-Present), Emanuil Manos Halicioglu (B1997-2002), Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)



support. It is greatly appreciated by all the members of the OAFc.

## OAFc 1st XI Victory in the London Old Boys Cup

The OAFc 1st XI did a splendid job of winning the London Old Boys Cup by 2-1 against the Hampstead Heathens in a hard fought battle at Hertfordshire University on Saturday 19th March, 2016.

After scoring in the first 5 minutes, it was quite a cliff-hanger when the

opposition pulled a goal back in the 2nd half. However a fantastic goal by **Max Raby (L2004-11)** in the dying minutes of the second half sealed the win.

The Aldenham lads were clearly the better team, with at least 70% possession of the ball and the score could easily have been higher.

There were a lot of supporters including the OA President, **Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)** and Hon.Secretary, **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)** and both supporters and players were very cheerful post match.

## OAFc is looking for new recruits

The OA Society actively supports and encourages leavers to join the OAFc. It's a great way to maintain those important friendships and enjoy a healthy weekend activity. The club runs three teams and caters for all levels.

For further details please contact **Nick Baker (K1982-87)**

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Tel: 07876 567798

## OLD ALDENHAMIAN FOOTBALL RESULTS

| The Arthurian League |            |                    |    |                    |    |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| 07-May-16            | Division 1 | Old Bradfieldians  | 2  | Old Aldenhamians I | 4  |
| 16-Apr-16            | Division 1 | Old Brentwoods     | 8  | Old Aldenhamians I | 0  |
| 09-Apr-16            | Division 1 | Old Radleians      | 1  | Old Aldenhamians I | 0  |
| 02-Apr-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 2  | Old Malvernians    | 3  |
| 12-Mar-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 10 | Old Haileyburians  | 1  |
| 05-Mar-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 1  | Old Brentwoods     | 11 |
| 27-Feb-16            | Division 1 | Old Wykehamists    | 4  | Old Aldenhamians I | 1  |
| 20-Feb-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 3  | Old Radleians      | 0  |
| 13-Feb-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 2  | Old Wykehamists    | 2  |
| 06-Feb-16            | Division 1 | Old Haileyburians  | 2  | Old Aldenhamians I | 2  |
| 16-Jan-16            | Division 1 | Old Aldenhamians I | 0  | Old Bradfieldians  | 1  |
| 28-Nov-15            | Division 1 | Old Wellingtonians | 6  | Old Aldenhamians I | 3  |
| 21-Nov-15            | Division 1 | Old Harrovians     | 2  | Old Aldenhamians I | 1  |



The annual OAs v the School match played at Porters Park on 22nd June 2016 putting on the 2nd green. L to r: David Vezey (SHE1959-62), Nick Falekkos (B2010-Present), David Hayes (SHO1963-68) holding the flag & Connor Moloney (R2011-16)

# Old Aldenhamian Golfing Society

## Halford Hewitt 2016

Thursday 7th April 2016 (1st Round)

### OAGS v Canford at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

Thursday dawned bright but with the threat of rain to come later. A fresh breeze wiped away any lingering memories of the previous evening's festivities and a hearty breakfast set up our team of ten carefully selected OA athletes.

The finely tuned duo of **Guy Green** (SHO1971-73) and **Steve Lewis** (B1970-75) led the charge and they were soon 2 up. **Rob Alter** (B1988-91) and **David Rawlinson** (B1988-93) also moved ahead well, as did the impressive new pairing of **Will Kirby** (L2006-11) and **Matt Lench** (L2006-11), the latter having risen from his sick bed the day before to join us. **Ben Thrussell** (B1989-94) and **Dan Andrews** (B2000-07) started tentatively but got back to all square at the 12<sup>th</sup> whilst **Shon Williams** (M1975-80) and **Adam Thrussell** (B1992-97) were 2 down. However, with 3 pairs at least 2 up, the outlook was promising but as often happens in foursomes, games can quickly turn.

Canford struck back over the second 9 holes and although **Alter** and **Rawlinson** won comfortably, our first and third pairs could not hang on so two more wins were needed. **Williams** and **Thrussell** played some excellent golf to get back to all square and then powered their way to an impressive 2&1 victory. **Kirby** and **Lench** were being put under severe pressure and as often happens in golf, the putts won't drop when you need them and they teed off at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole all square. After a tense 15 minutes, Canford made the green in 3 with a short

putt for par. We could not match it and the hole and the match went to Canford.

It was a really close match and it just wouldn't go our way – how many times have we said that? However, the players gave their all and made the 15 OA supporters extremely proud. Our sorrows were soothed by a serious lunch in the clubhouse which I am told included a couple of glasses of wine. Here's to 2017!

**Ian Eggleden** (SHE1958-63)  
OAGS Hon Secretary

### Halford Hewitt 2016 Thursday 7th April 2016 (1st Round)

OAGS v Canford at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

Result: Lost 2 - 3

|       |                             |      |        |
|-------|-----------------------------|------|--------|
| Team: | G Green & SC Lewis          | Lost | 3&2    |
|       | RA Alter & DM Rawlinson     | Won  | 5&4    |
|       | BP Thrussell & D Andrews    | Lost | 3&2    |
|       | W Kirby & M Lench           | Lost | 1 down |
|       | AJ Thrussell & SGO Williams | Won  | 2&1    |

### Halford Hewitt Plate Friday, 8th April (1st Round)

OAGS v Merchiston at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Lost 1 - 2

|       |                             |      |
|-------|-----------------------------|------|
| Team: | BP Thrussell & W Kirby      | Lost |
|       | D Andrews & SC Lewis        | Won  |
|       | AJ Thrussell & DM Rawlinson | Lost |

## OAGS European Tour 2015

The OAGS European Tour was the brainchild of **Bob Coombes (SHE1944-47)** and the first Tour was to Le Touquet in 1995. Bob organised the Tours every year until 2009 when he passed over the onerous task to **Tim Stranack (SHE1952-56)**. Tim sadly passed away in 2012 and although he had made all the arrangements, the Tour that year had to be cancelled because Brittany Ferries sailings were suspended due to a strike. Since then, **John Yule (SHE1966-71)** has taken over the reins and is probably the most competent, charming, efficient and unflappable organiser you could ever hope to meet.

It was a wet Monday afternoon on 5th October 2015 when a sturdy group of 9 OA golfers set off in 4 cars from Liphook Golf Club in torrential rain (no golf there then!) for the night ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo. The intrepid explorers were:

**Robert Aram, Robert Buckley (P1946-50), Ian Eggleden (SHE1958-63), Neil Melville (K1965-70), Peter Mobsby (SHE1952-57), Richard Morris**

**(SHE1962-67), Nigel Prevost (SHO1949-54), Clive Simeons (SHE1952-56) and John Yule.**

After a very good dinner and a short sleep, we drove to Dinan, a delightful medieval Breton market town where we would spend two nights in the Hotel D'Avagour on the top of the ramparts – well, we did actually have rooms. It was only 11 o'clock so we left our overnight bags and drove to Golf des Ormes for a (dry) round of golf, then back to Dinan for dinner at La Fleur de Sel.

On Wednesday we competed for the Prevost Salver, a beautiful piece of silver, presented in 1998 by **Nigel Prevost**. It was a foursomes format played at Pleneuf Val Andre, a seaside course with stunning views. The quality of golf this year was astonishing with two pairs scoring 36 points and the other two amassing an impressive 39 points. After a countback, rookie tourer **Richard Morris** and 83 years young **Robert Buckley** emerged the winners from **Neil Melville** and **Ian Eggleden**. The Salver was presented to the winners by **Nigel Prevost** after dinner at the appropriately named Monsieur Robert restaurant.

After checking out on Thursday morning, we drove to Dinard to play

another beautiful seaside course and then on to Ouistreham for dinner before boarding the night ferry. We arrived at Portsmouth the next morning at 6.45, weary but satisfied that another OAGS Tour had been successfully completed.

Thanks again to **John Yule**.

**Nigel Prevost (SHO1949-54) (centre) presenting the Prevost Salver to Robert Buckley (P1946-50) and Richard Morris (SHE1962-67)**



**Clockwise from left: Nigel Prevost (SHO1949-54), Robert Aram (P1950-55), Neil Melville (K1965-70), Robert Buckley (P1946-50), Ian Eggleden (SHE1958-63), Peter Mobsby (SHE1952-57), Clive Simeons (SHE1952-56), Richard Morris (SHE1962-67), John Yule (SHE1966-71)**



# Aldenham Fives Club

Season 2015/16

**H**on. Sec. **Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)**, 'OA Fives is still flourishing at the School with the Aldenham Fives Club turning out every Tuesday evening for friendly fives with a competitive edge that suits all levels of players. We are particularly pleased to have received a small influx of school leavers who have dragged the average age of our players down by a huge margin. The combination of older players and younger ones (male and female) provides an excellent mix of talent and experience that benefits us all.'

## Fancy Dress Fives at Aldenham

Players at the Aldenham Heath Fives Club turned out in fancy dress on Tuesday 22nd December 2015 for an evening of fun and frolic in the pouring rain. The theme was Superheroes.

### Did you know?

When Sir Donald Bradman made his final Test appearance for Australia at the Oval in 1948, England's opening batsman in that match was none other than J G Dewes (O.A.)

And when Sir Leonard Hutton made his final first-class appearance, his opening partner in the match, M.C.C. v Gentlemen of Ireland was, believe it or not, D. E. Blake (O.A.)

So how's that? The three greatest cricketers of their respective eras - Grace, pre-WWI, Bradman the inter-war years and Hutton, immediate post-WWII - all made their final bow if not in the company of an O.A. at least in that of the brother of an about-to-become Aldenham school-master!

By coincidence Blake and Dewes have both died in recent months and their two obituaries were in the recent issue of The Aldenhamiana. You might like to use that as the opportunity to mention next time this Aldenham neo-hat-trick!

**Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)** said, 'It was a miserable evening for Fives with the rain being blown into the court by the strong wind and the floor was like an ice rink.'

However, the superheroes of AFC brought their superpowers to bear with one court not finishing until just after 10pm.'



Early round in the Barber Cup vs Old Harrovians at Aldenham - Back l to r: Andrew Rennie (M2006-13), Rubel Mallik (B1996-2003), Chris Cernuski (K1998-2005); Front l to r: Darshan Patel (R&K2006-12), Graham Pulsford (M1971-75), Carl Rennie (M2003-10)





# 100 Years On and Fives is Flourishing

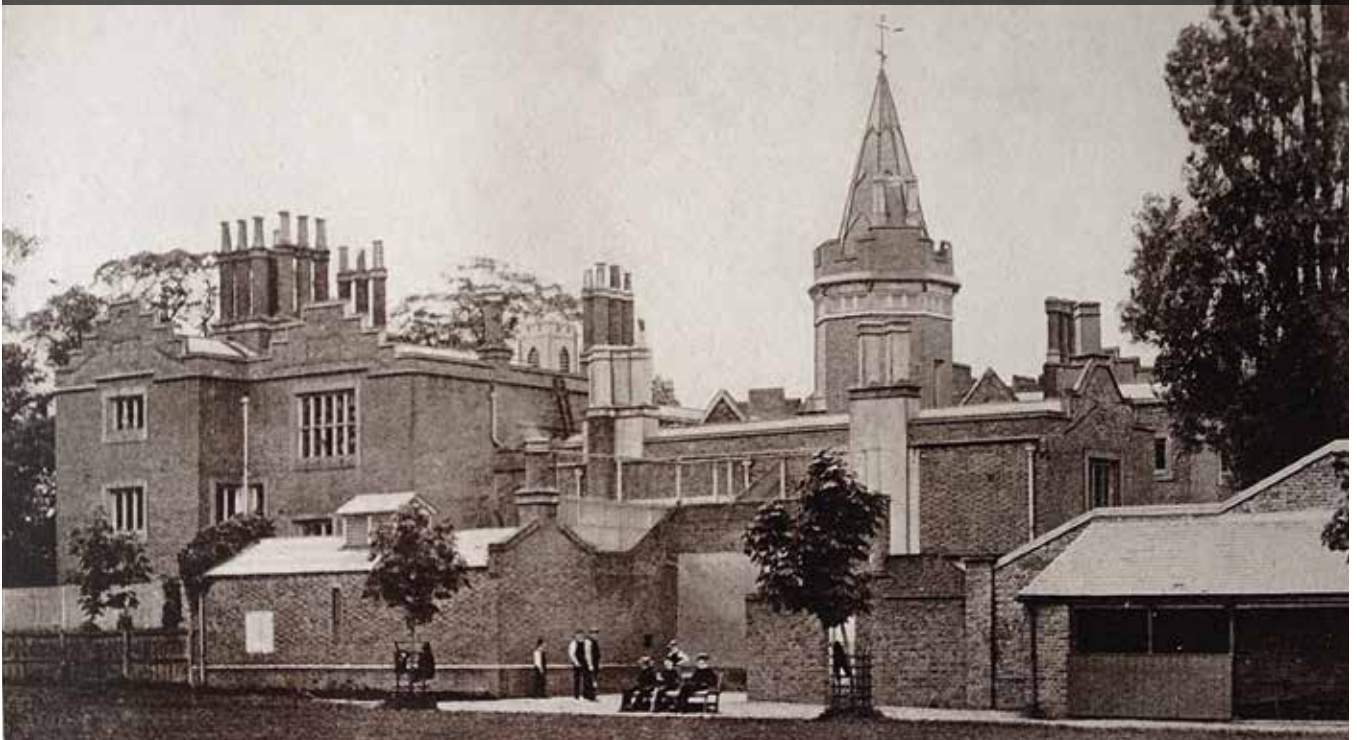
Fives, as a game where the ball is struck with a hand against a wall, developed in villages and schools throughout Britain, and at Aldenham the original game had two versions – “Hand Fives” and “Bat Fives”.

In *The Aldenhamian* from 1880s onwards, scores for Bat and later Hand Fives are recorded each year. These include games between Houses, the School players and against outside opposition. *The Aldenhamian* of April 1883 records simply “The Fives Matches”, internal games won by **Gerald Clevely**

**Clark (SH1886-90)** and **Alexander White (SH1885-91)**. By April 1885 *The Aldenhamian* records a Bat Fives Tournament (Singles, to 15) for which **Mr McGill (Classics Master 1865-97, Housemaster 1888-97)**, gave a prize (the winner was **Mariette (SH1879-85)** – beating **Beavor (SH1880-86)**. The Eton

Fives Tournament, games also played to 15, won by the same (later Housemaster) **Edmund Beavor (CR1899-1922)** and **Percy Coles (SH1882-88)** beating **Frederick Archibald Wilson Tayler (SH1880-85)** and **Ernest George Sworder (SH1882-87)**.

The first pavilion and fives courts at Aldenham School in 1886. This court was on part of the present Dining Hall site and was pulled down when the Hall was built. Two courts were built later, about 1890, and took the place of half the low building on the left.



## BAT FIVES

For many years Aldenham had its own particular game of Bat Fives, played in an open court with a small soft rubber ball and a wooden bat known as a potty bat. The game was first played in a court on the present site of the School House Dining Hall, as shown in the photograph dated 1886 in the Eighth Edition of the Register and on the front cover of *OA Review* Issue 44. In about 1890, it was replaced by two more to the south of the dining hall. These in turn were demolished when alterations were made to School House in 1920-21. There were also three courts at the back of the gym, demolished when the gym was converted into a hall, but they were never greatly used, owing either to their faulty shape or construction.

No more courts were ever built, probably because the construction of four, later six, Eton Fives courts provided Bat Fives with an irresistible rival, and so the game disappeared.

An enquiry from **John Agg Boycott (SH1916-24)** prompted **John Raymond Blake (1913-17)**, one of the finest players the game produced, to describe what he remembered of the game. 'The bat was two feet long, made entirely of wood, probably deal, shaped like a lawn tennis racket. The ball was black, rubber, similar to a modern squash ball. The length of the court was about the same as a squash court, but probably a few feet wider. There was no back wall, but a pillar at the end of each side wall, which projected so that it formed a small buttress about six inches wide, and the art of the game was to get the ball into this buttress, or near enough for your opponent to be fooled whether to run forward and attempt playing out of the buttress, or get back to take it off the wall.

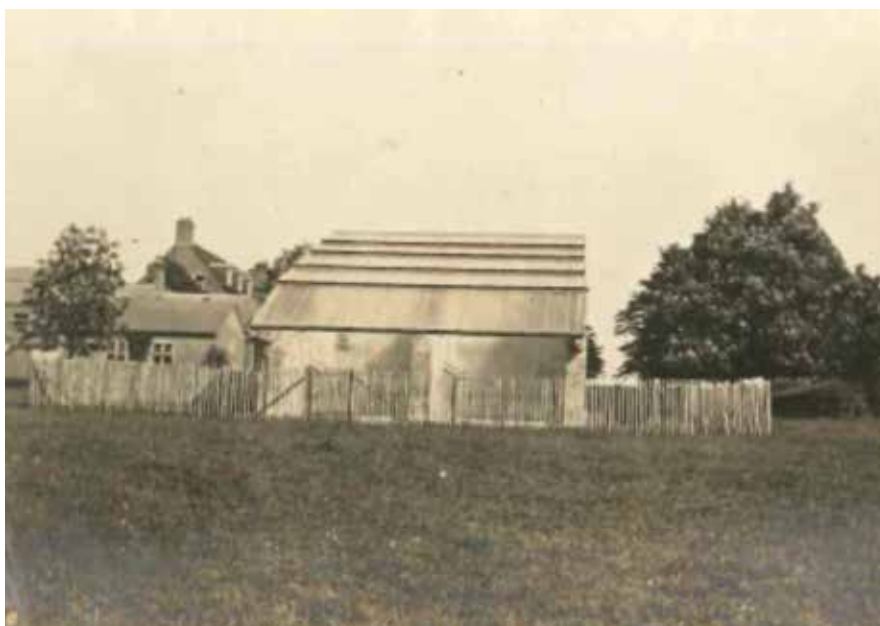
The back wall was marked similarly to a squash court with a line for serving and a lower line for playing. The first person to score 21 won the game.'

By the time of the Great War, fives playing of both kinds was in full swing. *The Aldenhamian* of June 1915 records "Hand Fives" matches against Highgate (lost 7 sets to 2) and Mill Hill (won 6 sets to 3). That year, the Hand Fives House matches were won by School House Odds (beating Paull's in the final 3-0), whereas junior and senior Bat Fives were singles matches to 15 won by individuals.

It is not clear whether "Hand Fives" was played on the same courts, which existed first by School House and then the Gym. However, as the game of fives

began to be codified around this time and schools adopted one of the codes played by other Public Schools, Aldenham adopted that of Eton Fives (the other codes being Winchester and Rugby) and new courts were soon under construction from 1915-1916.

The first four of the new courts were completed in 1916 following a generous bequest of £1,000 (£92,400 in today's money) from **Edgar H Mariette (SH1879-85 and CR1889-1914)** Son of Charles Mariette, Professor of Literature at King's Coll., London. Cricket Eleven 1880-1885; Capt. 1885. Football Eleven



The building of the first two fives courts on the present site in 1916



**Fives VI - 1917**

**Back Row:** P J Heaton (SH1912-17),  
T N Bessunger (SH1912-17), J R Blake  
(M1913-17), H de B Acheson-Gray (P1914-17)  
**Front Row:** R F Horley (SH1913-18),  
H J Gibbon (B1913-17)

1882-85; Capt. 1883-85. Exhibitioner.  
Scholar of Pembroke Coll., Camb. B.A.  
1888. (Class. Trip. Class II). Assistant  
Master at Aldenham School 1889; House  
Master 1898. Died 13th June 1914. His  
obituary in *The Aldenhamian* records that  
'Aldenham was always first in his  
thoughts, and it will be no surprise to  
hear that he expressed a wish in his will  
that a sum of money should, if possible,  
be devoted to the building of fives courts  
and the founding of certain prizes.'

Work must have started in 1915; *The Aldenhamian* of November 1915 records that 'at last all difficulties will be removed and the much longed for new fives courts are beginning to spring into existence. There are to be four courts altogether, two covered and two open: it is hoped they will be ready to play next term.' By July 1917, *The Aldenhamian* was able to report that 'the School as a whole has reached a good standard of fives playing', citing the two new covered courts and the zeal the Masters had shown in not only playing the better players but 'gladly giving their time to coaching even the smallest boys.'

By 1920, *The Aldenhamian* was recording matches against the Masters and others – two were lost matches to Harrow and the OAs, while four were



**Peter Reynolds (SH01949-55)  
& Edward John Dyson (SH01950-55)**



**David Barker (B1953-59 and CR1969-79)  
& Umaru Mohamadu (P1953-59)**

won – Highgate, Mill Hill, Berkhamsted and the Liverpool Racquets Club. Five School players are recorded, with various skills such as **Thomas Rice Henn CBE (SH1916-20, later Governor of Aldenham School)** – 'he could hit hard and accurately with both hands' and **Peter Burrell Blanford (1915-20)** who 'has a fine wrist-drive and can slam well.'

Ten years after the four new courts were built, two additional courts were completed later to make six in total. Another bequest of £500 was subsequently received from the estate of **Rupert C Cliff (SH1914-17 and CR1922-37)** in 1937 for the purchase of fives balls. He died suddenly in London in 1937 as a result of an accident whilst



**David Barker (B1953-59 and CR1969-79)  
& Guy Vine (B1951-57)**



**Alastair Irwin (SH01957-61) & Kit Sloane (SH01956-62)**

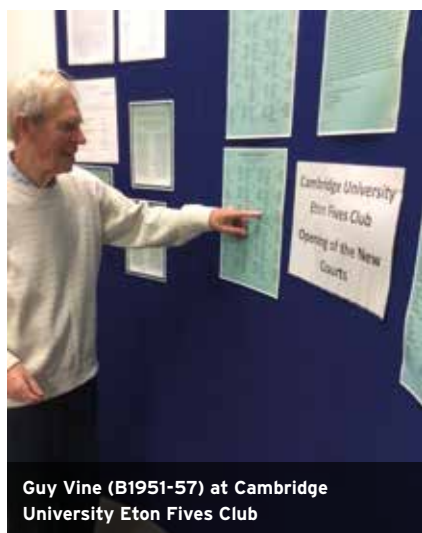
playing fives. Cf. *OA Review* issue 42, p.40. Mr Cliff was a similar character to Mr Mariette, a keen scholar and sportsman who attended Aldenham as a boy before returning as a Master.

The 1950s was a good decade for school fives, perhaps indicated by the revival of a match against the Common Room in May 1952, the first time since the Second World War. *The Aldenhamian* of May 1954 records the First Six, with top pair being **Peter Reynolds (SH01949-55) & Edward John Dyson (SH01950-55)**; they are recorded as having an "average measure of success", having won 6 and lost 6 matches.

**Peter Reynolds**, 'The early 1950s turned out to be a golden era for



The first pairs knocking up before the University Eton fives match at Highgate School yesterday. Left: A rally in progress with one player from each side covering the top step beside the buttress, a distinctive feature of the Eton game.



Guy Vine (B1951-57) at Cambridge University Eton Fives Club

Aldenhams Fives thanks to the coaching and active participation of **Geoffrey Bolt (CR1947-65)** and the enthusiasm as well as ability of a large number of players. **Edward Dyson** and I won the Public Schools fives competition twice, in 1954 and 1955. Following the 1954 victory the Jesters club paid us the compliment of sending their strongest pair (winners of the Kinnaird Cup) and the close 3-2 win by the Jesters 1st pair was a fair result. After National Service I went up to Cambridge in 1957 and played in the Cambridge Fives VI for the next 3 years serving as Secretary and subsequently Captain. Aldenhams men figured prominently in the teams including **Guy Vine (B1951-57)** and **David Barker (B1953-59 and CR1969-79)** during a



An article from *The Times* of 25th February 1960 shows a rather grainy photograph of Guy Vine and P Reynolds knocking up with the Oxford first pair before the match and a report of the actual match which also included David Barker.

successful period for Cambridge Fives with victory in the varsity match seven years in succession.'

Good wishes are recorded for the Public Schools competition. Reynolds & Dyson went on to win that year and again in May 1955, beating Eton II in the final.

Further Public School winners followed with **Guy Vine & David Barker,**

**Umaru Mohammadu (P1953-59) & David Barker** and then **Alastair Giles Irwin (SHO1957-61)** and **Kit Sloan (SHO1956-62)**. This really demonstrates the late 1950s as a period of great strength in Aldenhams fives playing.

**Kit Sloan**, 'I played for Cambridge University and had a half blue for my first two years – my third year I was reading Economics Part II in one year after Natural Sciences Part I in two years and had to read so much I gave up playing games except for a little recreational tennis!

A few days after graduating I went to Johannesburg where as far as I know there are no Eton Fives courts so I had no opportunity to play – I should also point out that had **Giles Irwin (SHO1957-61)** stayed at Aldenhams a year longer I am sure we would have won for a second time as he was an exceptional Fives partner who could never be replaced!'

In the late 1970s and 80s players such as **Michael Richard King (SHE1960-65)**, **John David Rimer (P1956-60)**, **Roger Lloyd-Taylor (SHE1951-56)**, **Andrew Nicholas (M1969-73)** and **Graham Pulsford (M1971-75)** had some success at the Public Schools and afterwards in Varsity matches.

**Graham Pulsford** recalls an inspirational coach: 'I enjoyed all the sports at School and especially the game of Eton Fives. It is truly a game of hazards. You can't play Fives without learning to accept outrageous twists of luck, with the best of plans being frustrated by the ball taking an unexpected bounce after hitting a ledge or angle. I had the pleasure of being taught by **David Barker**, who was an understated but brilliant player winning the Public Schools competition twice. For practice he would get us to stand just outside the back right of the court and throw the ball onto the front wall and then 'dead' into the box. When we had accomplished this, he would get us to throw with our weaker arm. David would consistently score 3 or 4 out of 5 with either arm and none of us could get close!' Aldenhams School – A Foundation for Success, pp. 102 & 103.

The Editor is grateful to **Alex Smith (CR2012-Present)** for his research and contribution to this article.

# Letter from the Headmaster

The beginning of the new School year is always marked by the need to consider how well we are doing things, and how we could improve things.

This self-reflection is always appropriate, although in the last few weeks we have also been tested by the surprising new challenges laid down in the recent Education Green Paper with a possible expansion of grammar schools and another attempt to require independent schools to justify their charitable status by creating suitable links with our state school colleagues.

In considering these proposals we will of course be thoughtful and we should also take some pride that a government has such respect for the independent education sector that it wants its message of commitment to high standards to be shared more widely in its own schools. Over the last year we have celebrated some great achievements for our pupils individually and collectively, including three Hertfordshire County Cups for Football and the Hertfordshire U15 Cricket Cup. Highlights like these are undoubtedly a real boost for those who work with our pupils. So is the commitment of the Governors to the further improvement

of facilities in the Sports Hall, School House, and especially the major refurbishment of both Beevor's and McGill's. All this work resulted in the most frantic nine week summer period anyone can recall.

With their infrastructure entirely replaced, Beevor's and McGill's Houses now have facilities which are equally as good as those already experienced by boarders in the rest of the School. This is a clear demonstration of our belief that the House system is at the core of the Aldenham experience. It was important that we were able to give clarity to the next stage of the development of girls within the School with an announcement that Riding's will become a girls House from next autumn and give one half of School House a distinctly feminine blue quality, whilst the boys of Leeman's will continue to "glory in the pink".

You will also be interested to know that, within the next few months, we will be looking to apply for an increase in the overall size of the School by admitting more children at the age of 11



Charlotte and James Fowler

each year. This move has been made in response to ever increasing demand for places at that age and a belief that, at a time when national government is under pressure to provide enough places for school children, we should be allowed to expand in a modest way without losing the ethos of the School.

However, in order to ensure that we are all clear about what is attractive about an Aldenham education we have this term been launching what we are terming 'The Aldenham Attributes'. For the pupils, we are hoping to embed these attributes – *Aspiration; Cooperation; Courage; Curiosity; Independence; Respect* – as a way of being able to measure their success as they progress through the School. And equally importantly, we would like them to feel that the attributes are goals which are worth striving towards, not just for now, but also in the benefits they will bring to the person they will become beyond school.

This sense of completeness in our educational aims was a major theme of my Visitation Day speech which also celebrated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and in particular Henry IV pt 1 – a play first performed in the year our School was founded. I hope that you will feel as most of our parents and staff do that when pupils complete their time at Aldenham they will be able to echo Hotspur's words: "Well I am schooled".



L to r: James Fowler Headmaster and Chief Executive of the Aldenham Foundation, Andy Williams Principal Aldenham School, Sarah Jane Styles Head of St Hilda's Prep School and Vicky Gocher Head of Aldenham Prep School

L to r: Matthew Prett (K2009-16), Matthew Hoenig (M2009-16) and Natasha Livingstone (P2014-16)



A ldenham students in Year 13 had cause to celebrate their A Level results. Headmaster James Fowler proudly announced: 'Over 90% of students have been given immediate offers by their first or second choice of universities – 73% at their first choice. This is as a result of the excellent counsel and advice given by the UCAS team, Housemasters, Heads of Dept and all those who have guided and directed the students in their choices so well. I am extremely grateful to all these people for their hard work and guidance.

These included some top performers **Sam Aron (L2009-16)** A\*A\*A who will go to York to read Biochemistry; **Joy Cardell (P2014-16)** A\*A\*A to UCL to study Archaeology and Anthropology; **Tom Findlay (R2014-16)** A\*A\*AA to read Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial; **Beth Goodman (P2014-16)** AAA will go to Nottingham to study English; **Luke Hadji-Kyriacou (K2011-16)** A\*AA to St Andrews for a degree in Computer Science; and **Josh King (M2009-16)** A\*AAA will take up a place at Mansfield College, Oxford, to read Materials Science.

It is however equally pleasing that so many students are looking forward to their future in different areas, **Oliver Baker (K2011-16)** will go on a golf scholarship to Point University in Georgia, **Tom Scott (2011-16)** to an Art course at Reading University, and

**Matthew Prett (K2009-16)** who will be undergoing Officer Training at Sandhurst.

**James Fowler** congratulated all the students on their success: 'At a time when it is so essential that young people are able to move forward onto their life beyond school with a high level of confidence, it is excellent that our students will be developing themselves in a huge diversity of courses and careers which should suit them well. We will all be looking out for their continued success in the years ahead and wish them well as they leave us.'

The following week Year 11 pupils were celebrating their success as GCSE results were released. James Fowler had cause to announce to his colleagues, 'I am delighted to say that, as a result of all your hard work and that of the pupils, we have some of our best results ever.

The headlines are as follows: 13% A\*; 37% A/A (our highest ever percentage); 68% A\*/A/B.

We see some really strong results from our pupils with a particular delight being the fact that almost half of all the pupils (48%) gained at least 4 A\*/A grades – this is well up on our previous best proportion of around 40%.

Nine pupils gained more than 4A\* grades: Phoebe Altman; Eleni Christoforou; Matthew Gillespie; Anthony Jacovides; Max Kraitt;

Shiv Menon; Jay Nathvani; Eleanor Rees; Jacob Saunders Holland.

Many thanks to you all for your efforts in achieving these excellent outcomes.'

The Headmaster commented further: 'The GCSE programme continues to offer a significant and wide ranging challenge for teenagers and we are delighted that so many of our pupils have embraced this with such very pleasing outcomes. We are sure that these results will leave them in a very good position as they move onto the next stages of their education either here or elsewhere.'

All smiles when GCSE results were announced and now these girls are looking forward to the next step in their education



# Cambridge Tour for Aldenham Choir

This July, a group of OAs and Aldenham staff travelled to Cambridge to perform an evensong service at Corpus Christi College and a concert at Great St. Mary's Church to celebrate the retirement of **John Wyatt (CR1994-2016)**.

The first day of the tour concluded with a well-attended evensong, with the anthem by William Harris, *Fear not, O Land*, being sung with gusto by the choir. The OAs requested that the programme for the final concert at Great St. Mary's would be full of some of the most memorable pieces from the vast repertoire John had taught them over the years. This led to a spectacular concert with a moving finale of Faber's *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, accompanied by **Sam Austin (CR2011-Present)**.

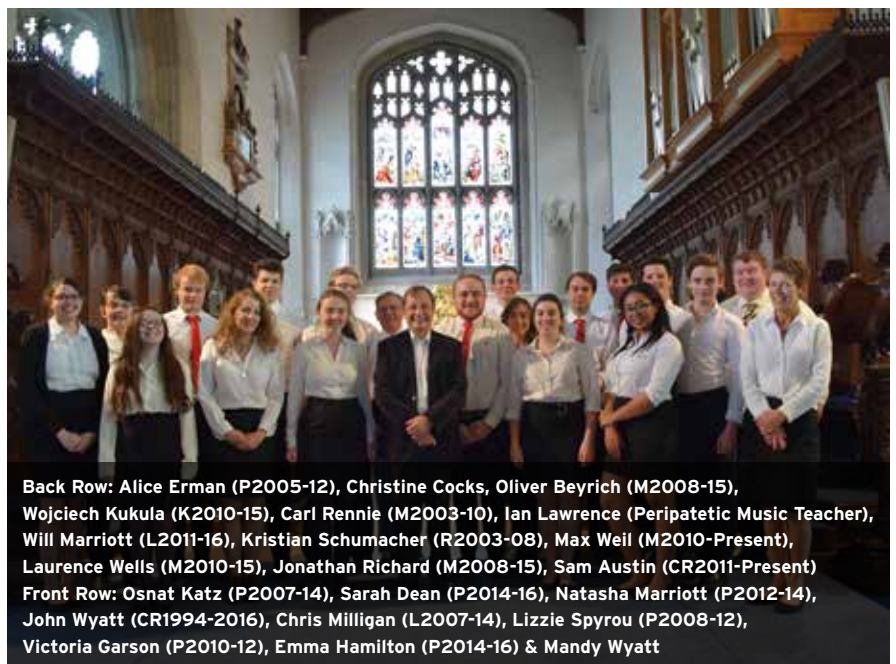
After the concert at Great St. Mary's, a spectacular lunch, enhanced by glorious sunshine, was served in the garden of the Cambridge Union Society. The lunch was organized by **Ann Saffery**, Development and OA Manager and invitations were extended to OAs living in and around Cambridge. **Trevor Marcuson (P1953-58)** very kindly arranged an impromptu tour of The Cambridge Union Debating Chamber, which was much appreciated.

Between performances, there was time set aside for the choir to go sight seeing and shopping in the town centre as well as punting down The River Cam – luckily, nobody fell in!

The OA Choir members wish to give a special thanks to John Wyatt for his time and effort at the School over the last 22 years. They would also like to express their gratitude to Mandy Wyatt, Sam Austin and **Susan Lonie (Staff 2014-Present)** for their support and for organising yet another fun and successful tour.



**Trevor Marcuson (P1953-58)** with some choir members : **Alice Erman (P2005-12)**, **Victoria Garson (P2010-12)**, **Osnat Katz (P2007-14)**, **Natasha Marriott (P2012-14)**, **John Wyatt (CR1994-2016)** **Sarah Dean (P2014-16)** & **Emma Hamilton (P2014-16)**



**Back Row:** **Alice Erman (P2005-12)**, **Christine Cocks**, **Oliver Beyrich (M2008-15)**, **Wojciech Kukula (K2010-15)**, **Carl Rennie (M2003-10)**, **Ian Lawrence (Peripatetic Music Teacher)**, **Will Marriott (L2011-16)**, **Kristian Schumacher (R2003-08)**, **Max Weil (M2010-Present)**, **Laurence Wells (M2010-15)**, **Jonathan Richard (M2008-15)**, **Sam Austin (CR2011-Present)**  
**Front Row:** **Osnat Katz (P2007-14)**, **Sarah Dean (P2014-16)**, **Natasha Marriott (P2012-14)**, **John Wyatt (CR1994-2016)**, **Chris Milligan (L2007-14)**, **Lizzie Spyrou (P2008-12)**, **Victoria Garson (P2010-12)**, **Emma Hamilton (P2014-16)** & **Mandy Wyatt**

As an Honorary OA himself, we hope to see John conducting the OA Choir well into the future and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him a long and happy retirement.

**Alice Erman (P2005-12)** will represent OA Musicians on the OA Committee and will be an Editorial Assistant for the next OA Review.

# Goodbye to John Wyatt

Singing Praises for John Wyatt, Director of Music

When **John Wyatt (CR1994-2016)** first came to Aldenham he immediately endeared himself to everyone and has since inspired countless generations of pupils and staff. He supported his students in many ways and has always been there for them, encouraging them in their studies, personal development and especially with their musical pursuits.

John's relaxed persona is somewhat deceptive, as it is really quite obvious that he is a perfectionist and only the

best will ever do – you may just have to wait for it. He has endless patience and cares for everyone in equal measure. He is always sensitive and reassuring.

The School orchestra is probably the largest team that the School assembles and it is testament to John's skill, love and patience that he has generated such high standards of playing from the group – even when concerts have gone ahead without a rehearsal! John's wisdom and endless energy has secured the best from people and he has been a great asset to Aldenham.



Many of us will remember John for the incident-rich musical trips, not least the time in Germany, when the Headmaster ended up at a lunatic asylum, or arriving at a McDonald's in France at 11.00 p.m. with a coach full of ravenous students – it was John who negotiated the best deal and put smiles back on the faces of all those on board.

**David Watts (CR1991-2016)** has known John since he arrived at Aldenham and, in saying farewell at the end of term, expressed sincere thanks for all that John had done during his time at the School. As David was leaving in July he said, 'A high spot of my time here and one that I, like so many others, have to thank John for was when the choir sang evensong at Winchester Cathedral and afterwards met local OAs during a special reception. It was such a glorious event in a wonderful setting and a beautiful performance led by a Master.'

John Wyatt was responsible for bringing the annual House Music competition back to its former glory in the School calendar and is one of the most popular events of the year



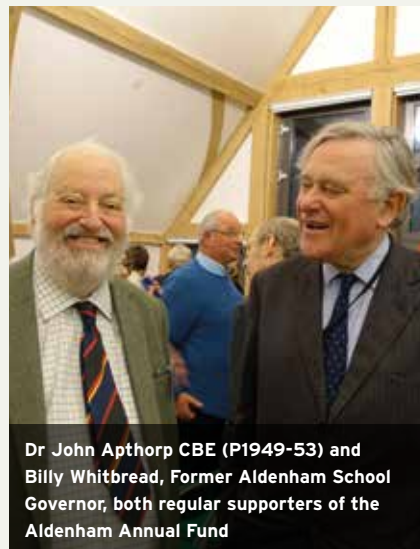
## THE ALDENHAM ANNUAL FUND 2015/16

The seventh Aldenham Annual Fund set out to raise £45,000 and bring the grand total up to a quarter of a million pounds.

The appeal was launched at a special celebration event in November 2015, when current beneficiaries demonstrated some of the resources that have been bought with donations over the years. It was an opportunity to say a personal 'thank you' to regular supporters of the campaign and for them to hear from the students about how the Annual Fund has enhanced their learning experiences at Aldenham.

By the end of August 2016 the ambitious target had been exceeded by £10,600, having generated over £55,600. This is an amazing result and we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed.

Once again we have been able to buy all the items wished for and also provide several bursaries, including one major award to a student continuing their studies at Aldenham in the Sixth Form.



Dr John Apthorp CBE (P1949-53) and Billy Whitbread, Former Aldenham School Governor, both regular supporters of the Aldenham Annual Fund

# Chairman of School Governors

I am grateful to **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** for the opportunity to update OAs from the Governors' perspective and I would like to wish James luck when he takes up the role of President of the OA Society, pending the AGM next March.

I have very much enjoyed my first year as Chairman of Governors. Without doubt, having an affinity with, and a deep affection for, the School helps in trying to set successful policies and in making what we hope are the right decisions for the future of the School and the wider Aldenham Foundation. Of course, the School is very fortunate to have an excellent Headmaster (and now Chief Executive of the Foundation) in **James Fowler**, and he is ably supported by a very strong Senior Management Team. The Aldenham Prep School and St Hilda's Bushey, now fully embedded in our Foundation, are also thriving. Your School is in good hands to face the many challenges the 21st Century presents.

I am pleased to report that two more OAs have joined the Governing Body in the last year – **Tony Bingham (P1963-67)** and **Andrew Cox (SHO1973-78)**. Their respective accountancy and property management talents are proving very useful and, like all the Governors, they

give substantial amounts of time and great support to me, to the Head and his team, and to the Foundation generally. As well as exercising oversight of various financial, property, academic and administrative matters, the Governors have very important roles regarding the safeguarding of the pupils, boarding provision, and public benefit. We take all these roles very seriously.

I hope you will visit the School, perhaps when one of the excellent OA events takes place. You will no doubt, like me, be struck by the tangible sense of purpose, the positive outlook and the affability of the staff and pupils. Aldenham is an aspirational and happy place, where pupils are given the opportunity to reach their potential, and we as Governors are determined to ensure that continues. The fabric of the School may develop (we must keep up with the times – you will be very impressed with the recent refurbishment works to Beevor's and McGill's for example) but the Aldenham



**Chairman of Governors, Trevor Barton**  
at Visitation Day 2016

spirit, and the warm welcome that OAs receive, does not change!

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet as many fellow OAs as possible.

**Trevor Barton (K1971-75)**  
Chairman of Governors



A 3D image projector was installed in the Biology laboratory during the Easter Holiday 2016. This equipment will bring pictures to life in the classroom and help students to understand how things work



Celebration and launch of The Aldenham Annual Fund 2015/16

# The Letchmore Trust Art Prizes 2016

The Art Department has had a very busy and exciting term delivering new Schemes of Learning, running workshops, conducting exams and hosting a vibrant and busy Art Exhibition.

**Emily Lang, Director of Art (CR2015-Present)** continues:

‘This year the Letchmore Trust Art Competition was hugely successful with the judging and celebrations taking place alongside the GCSE and ‘A’ level Art Exhibition. The collaborative approach to this year’s competition added to the presentation



Alexa Neufeld-Archer (P2011-16) winner of the Intermediate Prize

of the work and enabled a wider audience to view the entries and prize winners as part of the evening.

The judging for the Letchmore Trust annual competition was conducted by the Chairman of the Trust, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)**, Secretary and Trustee, and **Emily Lang**.

As in previous years, the Junior competition had a theme which this year was ‘From The Air’. Students from Years 7-10 participated and the entries were varied, creative and skilful. It was the broad range and inventive use of media that particularly impressed the judges this year. Entries included Mixed Media, Photography, Painting and Drawing.

The Intermediate and Senior entries consisted of bodies of work that showed outstanding drawing skills, a wide use of media and techniques and insightful developments. The exceptional art made the judging an inspirational and challenging process.

Congratulations to **Isis Rhodes (P2015-Present)** who won the Junior Prize, **Alexa Neufeld-Archer (P2011-16)** who won the Intermediate Prize and **Sophie Boggis-Rolfe (P2010-16)** who won the Senior Prize and a year’s subscription as a Young Friend of the Royal Academy of Arts.

We have also exhibited a painting by **Abigail Smuts (P2014-Present)** at the Painter-Stainers’ Hall in London where



James James-Crook (M1968-72) and Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79) consider the entries



Sophie Boggis-Rolfe (P2010-16) winner of the Senior Prize



Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79) and James James-Crook (M1968-72) judge the entries

she received the School's Art Prize.

Well done to all GCSE and 'A' Level Art students for creating outstanding Art this term and for your successes in all your exams.'

The Letchmore Trust was originally founded to own and look after the magnificent Stanley Spencer paintings, commissioned by **John Martineau**, Former Governor, and gifted to the School by the Martineau family in 1958. The Trustees now manage various art and financial assets on behalf of the School. At their discretion the income generated from investments is used to support School activities and art projects, such as the annual Letchmore Trust Art Competition.

**Peter Stevens (P1964-69)** will be stepping down from the role as Treasurer of the Trust in October 2016 and **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, Chairman, would like to thank Peter for his tremendous support in this role since 2011.

## LETCHMORE TRUST TRUSTEES

James James-Crook (M1968-72)  
*Chairman*

Peter Stevens (P1964-69)  
*Treasurer*

Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)  
*Secretary*

Gemma Nye (CR2010-15)

# Artworks donated by the Jerwood Foundation

**Alan Grieve (SHE1940-45)**, Executive Chairman of the Jerwood Foundation, who has been involved with the Foundation since its establishment in 1977, has decided to make a gift of seven artworks on behalf of the Jerwood Foundation to Aldenham School.



These works are as follows: Menna Angharad, *Pillow*; Richard Page *Suburban Exposure*; James Fotheringhame, *Magpie*; Emma Hamilton, *Flores Carneus*; also three photographs by Edgar Martins, Leonie Purchas and Danny Treacy which form part of a set, all being winners of Jerwood Photography Awards.

'We are enormously indebted to the kind generosity of **Alan Grieve** and the Jerwood Foundation and, on behalf of the Trustees of the Letchmore Trust, I would like to thank Alan and his daughter, Lara Wardle, Curator of the Jerwood Collection. These outstanding artworks, now displayed around the School and managed by The Letchmore Trust, will undoubtedly inspire the students.' **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, Chairman of Trustees, The Letchmore Trust.

Alan conceived and realised the concept of The Jerwood Space which provides and subsidises rehearsal and production facilities for young drama and dance groups, and offers rehearsal facilities to major commercial musical productions. It also provides gallery space to exhibit the work of young contemporary artists within the Jerwood Visual Arts initiative.

The achievements of the Foundation since 1991 have been: capital projects bearing the Jerwood name; the establishment of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation; the creation of the Jerwood Space in Southwark; revenue grants within the chosen fields; the art collection of 20th and 21st Century British Paintings & Sculpture; and the design and building of the award winning Jerwood Gallery in Hastings to house the collection and put it in the public domain.

# HRH The Prince of Wales meets ambassadors from Aldenham School

Head Boy **Subhan Iqbal (R2008-16)** and Head Girl **Sarah Dean (P2014-16)** proved to be excellent ambassadors for the School when they attended a Reception to mark the election of the Prince of Wales as a liveryman of the Brewers' Company.

Prince Charles was certainly keen to know that they were keeping up with their 'A' Level revision despite a hectic set of formal duties, and showed great interest in all they were achieving at the School.

The historical links between Aldenham and the Worshipful Company of Brewers date back over 400 years. Every year pupils from Year 9 are given 'beer money' from the Master of the Brewers' Company in the form of a commemorative silver crown at a Beer Money ceremony at Brewers' Hall in the City of London to symbolise this connection.

According to the terms of the Will of Master Brewer and founder of the School, **Richard Platt**, the Brewers' Company supported pupils in money and kind. In 1597, when the School was founded, it was much safer to drink beer as the water was foul tasting and a health hazard.

According to **Subhan**, any nerves they had quickly disappeared as Prince Charles immediately put them at ease as he chatted about sport and music at the School. 'It was an incredible once in a lifetime experience and one I will never forget.'



## Farewell to David Watts

**David Watts (CR1991-Present)** joined the School in 1991 and moved on site to a house in The Orchard with his wife Kate and two little daughters. He was a first-rate teacher and an ideal House Tutor, enthusiastic and always keen to be involved.

Four years later David took over as Housemaster of Ridings which thrived under his care and it was clear from the number of OAs who attended his farewell party that one of his many qualities is a pastoral heart.

David's intellect, organisational skills and love of lists and charts came into good use in January 2002 when he took over as Director of Studies. His role included new staff induction, inset days, Heads of Department & leadership meetings, academic committee, student testing and he became a 'Guru' on the School database. He was responsible for timetables, diaries, parent meetings, observations & appraisals, consultations

with staff, pupils & parents along with lots of chasing-up people who had missed a report deadline, duty rotas, grades & School reports, overseeing School exams internal & external, entrance exams & results analysis, car parking on Open Days & scoring on Sports Day, August exam results distribution and results analysis, 6th Form information evenings, softball (where his love of tables and charts led to scoring sheets understood by him alone), and yet he still found time to run the Under 15 Hockey with great enthusiasm. Colleagues recognise David's ability to deal with difficult situations be it with staff, parents

or pupils with real professionalism and pastoral care; he is a man of real faith, integrity and honesty.

David is not a man to do things by halves and if all of the above were not enough, he has a deep love of literature and theatre. He is never happier than when browsing in a second-hand bookshop – he possesses an impressive collection of first editions. He has worked at the Globe Theatre and he is currently undertaking a Masters in English Literature – not bad for a scientist!

In the midst of all this activity he has raised four lovely daughters, two of whom have followed him into the teaching profession and he supports **Kate Watts** in her role as Deputy Head of Aldenham Prep School.

Longstanding friend and colleague, **David Boothby (CR1985-Present)** bid David farewell on the last day of the summer term 2016 and we all wish him a happy semi-retirement. From September onwards he will continue to support the School in a much less demanding capacity.

# Eros to Eros run

Former Prep School Head **Paul Cheetham (CR1996-99 & 2003-07)** stormed home to victory in 1:27:22 in the 2016 Eros Run, leaving him undefeated so far this decade.

In Second place was **Tom Marshall (CR2015-16)**, who made an impressive debut with a time of 1:54:28. The fastest pupil home was **Harvey Dodd**, Year 9 Beevor's, in a superb 2:03:31. The two Year 9 Paull's finishers – **Jemima Wax**, (2:06:57) and **Millie Rees** (2:08:45) were hot on Dodd's heels with an outstanding display of commitment in wet conditions. First OA home was **Alan Phillips (M1977-82)**, deciding to only run one direction this year, rather than the there-and-back he completed last year! – finishing in 2:06:06. Of the three parents of current pupils, Frank Gillespie managed to come home in 2:10:18.

On an unseasonably cool and wet morning – with some hefty showers hitting the runners around the half-way mark – not even **Cheetham** could beat his current record of 1:26:53, falling just 29 seconds short. Many runners, however, did better their times from last year, with teachers **Sam Dawe (CR2013-Present)** and **Luke Kirsten (CR2010-11 & 2015-Present)** shaving a couple of minutes off their personal best times, and father-and-son team Simon and Cameron McGeary beating last year's effort by over 5 minutes. As ever, the runners were supported by some very dedicated staff, handing out dozens of cups of water and cheering participants on at various points in the

course. Retiring Director of Music, **John Wyatt (CR1994-2016)**, began his last working day at the School at the top of the fiendish Brockley Hill offering support and water in equal measure.

It was hoped that the run would raise £500 for Phab Kids, and at the time of writing, this total was up to £730, a brilliant achievement for all concerned. Many thanks to all those – participants, staff and supporters – who made this year's run possible.

**Emily Gratton (CR2008-Present)**  
Race Director

## THE RESULTS

| Position | Name            | Year         | House | Time (h:mm:ss) |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|-------|----------------|
| 1        | Paul Cheetham   | Former Staff |       | 1:27:22        |
| 2        | Tom Marshall    | Staff        |       | 1:54:28        |
| 3        | Harvey Dodd     | 9            | B     | 2:03:31        |
| 4        | Max Weil        | 12           | M     | 2:04:13        |
| 5        | Edward Fraser   | 9            | M     | 2:04:43        |
| 6        | Scott Fraser    | Parent       |       | 2:04:45        |
| 7        | Alan Phillips   | OA           |       | 2:06:06        |
| 8        | Jemima Wax      | 9            | P     | 2:06:57        |
| 9        | Rory McGeary    | 9            | M     | 2:08:03        |
| 10       | Millie Rees     | 9            | M     | 2:08:45        |
| 11=      | Sam Dawe        | Staff        |       | 2:09:23        |
| 11=      | Luke Kirsten    | Staff        |       | 2:09:23        |
| 13       | Frank Gillespie | Parent       |       | 2:10:18        |
| 14       | Alex Stern      | 13           | K     | 2:11:20        |
| 15=      | Simon McGeary   | Parent       |       | 2:17:19        |
| 15=      | Cameron McGeary | 11           | M     | 2:17:19        |
| 17=      | Jack Travers    | Staff        |       | 2:17:56        |
| 17=      | Oliver Hotton   | 10           | K     | 2:17:56        |
| 19       | James Kennedy   | 9            | L     | 2:23:20        |
| 20       | Richard Hilsden | Prep Staff   |       | 2:25:05        |
| 21       | Max Hawkins     | 10           | B     | 2:27:44        |
| 22       | Colette Rees    | Parent       |       | 2:41:24        |



Paul Cheetham arrives back at the School first

# News and features

## Former Aldenham Boys Club Member returns to reminisce

Ninety year old Honorary Alderman of Hertfordshire, John Usher, returned to Aldenham in March 2016 for old time's sake. John first went there in his youth as a member of the Aldenham Boys Club.

John played football, cricket and even camped in the grounds during school holidays. On one occasion he and his friends, who all lived in Kentish Town, slept in one of the houses at the School.

In 1911 Aldenham, like many public schools, supported a 'mission'. It was from this operation that the Aldenham Boys Club was formed in about 1930, and ties with the School were strengthened in 1935 when several OAs lent their support and **George Riding, Headmaster (1933-49)**, took over as Chairman. The premises in Highgate Road were bought and reconstructed, with money from the School and grants, to provide facilities for the Boys Club.

Gradually a very strong bond between the School and the Boys Club was formed, with some joint activities being arranged. From its inception the Club activities were run by volunteers, many of whom were OAs and then former Club members came forward, prepared to put back into the Club as much as they had got from it.

The Club tried to widen horizons, instil responsibility and provide memorable experiences. John Usher is testament to the success of this aim. As a teenager he became a professional footballer, playing for Fulham FC in the 1940s and went on to be an army officer and later a Ministry of Defence consultant. He spent 22 years serving as a Local and County Councillor.

An afternoon tea party was organised for John and his family at Aldenham School where he met Trustees of the Aldenham Club Trust which was formed in 1985, when the income generated through the sale of the

Aldenham Club premises was invested. The Trustees continue to support youth projects and organisations in the Kentish town area. John also met Headmaster **James Fowler** and **Zico Asare**, a current pupil who plays for Fulham FC and England Under 15s. He was also given a tour of the School and enjoyed watching the whole School cross country.

'If I'd brought my trainers I would have joined in!' John remarked.



Zico Asare (R2012-Present) meeting John Usher - both Fulham FC players of their time.

L to r: Ian Luetchford (Trustee), Richard Peart (Trustee), Christine Clark, Ziva Asare (Current Parent), Ann Saffery (OA & Dev Manager), Tony Harvie (Trustee), Denise Usher and Heather Sherman (Marketing Manager)



# Marriages

Congratulations to Emily (née Townsend) and **Ricky Flax (B1999-2006)** on their marriage earlier this year. **Miles Edson (B1999-2006)** was best man and **Alex Brown (B2001-06)**, usher.



Emily and Ricky centre & Miles Edson right of Ricky

**Roger Turpin (B1971-75)** married Lesley Copley at Hatfield Registry Office



L to r: Harry Copley (B2009-14), Simon Turpin (B2002-07), Colin Wootton (M1968-71), Lesley Turpin, Roger Turpin (B1971-75), Christina Wootton, Mark Turpin (1999-2004)

The marriage of **Duncan Fraser (M1998-2005)** to Suzie Drake was held on 13th February 2016 at Tewin Bury Farm, Welwyn. **Iain Fraser (M2000-07)** was best man.



The bride and groom with Duncan's parents, Diane and Andrew Fraser (Bursar 1994-Present)

## Diamond Wedding Congratulations

On 25th August 1956 at Windsor Parish Church Joan Margaret (Peggy), youngest daughter of Wilfred Joseph Bigg, CMG, and Mrs Bigg of Iver, Buckinghamshire, married **John Eric Handcock (SHE1944-47)**, elder son of Eric George Handcock and Mrs Handcock of Windsor, Berkshire. The best man was the bridegroom's brother, **Michael George Handcock (SHE1945-50)**, two of the six ushers were **Alan Oliver (SHO1944-49)** and **Richard Peter Thwaites (SHO1944-49)**.



John Handcock (SHE1944-47) & Peggy

# OA Dinner 2016 Guest Speakers

**Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90) & Georgie Yeabsley (P2009-16)**  
The Aldenham Experience – A Family Affair

**Clare Yeabsley, née McCarty (K1988-90)**, came to Aldenham from Palmers Green High School at the age of 16. As there is no Sixth Form at Palmers Green and Clare's brother, **Paul McCarty (M1987-92)**, was happily ensconced at Aldenham, it was naturally the place for Clare to go.

It wasn't long before Clare realised that Aldenham was certainly the best place to be and she has never looked back. As one of only around 30 girls at the School in the early days of co-education, **Clare** had a whale of a time and made long lasting friendships.

She is grateful to her parents for insisting that she didn't just follow her contemporaries from the girls' school and is now providing an 'all round Aldenham education' for her own family.

As Housemaster's wife, Clare has lived in McGill's House since her husband **Mike Yeabsley (CR2008-Present)** took up the Housemaster post in 2014. Between them they have seven children, all Aldenhamians in their own right. The eldest is **Georgina Yeabsley (P2009-16)** who left School in the summer and is heading for Durham



University after taking a gap year. Between them, Clare and Georgie will share their experiences of being a part of the 'Aldenham family'.

Things have changed dramatically since the first girls came to the School in 1980 and as we look forward to a Paull's House reunion on OA Day in June it is hoped that many 'old girls' will return, along with 'old boys' from the same House, to see the growth and development that the School now enjoys.

## Tragic Halifax Accident

Letter from **John Kinross (M1947-52)** dated November 2015



**I** much enjoyed OA Day 2015 and note pages 38 and 39 in the OA Review 2015 just received.

**Algernon Michael Phillips (SHE1935-37)**, whose name appears on the new war memorial in the School Chapel, was Flt. Officer A M Phillips RAF. He was killed on 7th June 1942 in a tragic Halifax accident with ten others on a Royal Radar Establishment night training flight, where he was a co-pilot. There were six RRE boffins on board (without parachutes) and five RAF. All were killed and apparently the plane turned upside down when one engine caught fire so no one, with a parachute, could have got out.

It seems that many of those OAs whose names are shown on the memorial in the School Chapel were involved in plane crashes, not always due to enemy action.'

## Playing Hockey at 81

**Patrick Rowley BEM (B1947-50)** sent the following email:

**T**hanks to **Geoffrey Dunn (M1947-50)**, laying on a goal for me in my first ever game of hockey in 1947, I have had a lifelong love affair with the game.

In the last few years, I have been coaching disabled children at Waltham Forest Hockey Club and helping with the Club's beginners. I went along to support when seven of them, two disabled, were picked for their first ever full game, an East League match.

When a player was injured, rather than let them play one short, I joined in. Since then they have picked me every week and, at 81 years old, I still love it.'



# Old Aldenhamian Day

*Sunday 11th June 2017*

All OAs welcome



The focus of OA Day 2017 will be a Paull's Gaudy hosted by Emily Gratton (CR2008-Present), Housemistress of Paull's since 2014 and her husband Tom Kupfer (CR2007-14).

Personal invitations will be sent early next year to OAs who were in Paull's and to all current and former staff who are or have been associated with the House. As Paull's House became an all-girls house in 2009 there will be an additional emphasis on the success of co-education at Aldenham and all 'Old Girls' will also be invited to join us for the annual celebration and reunion at the School.

Please ensure that the Development and OA Office has your correct contact details, including an email address and help spread the word about this special occasion.

The John Dewes Cricket match has been scheduled to be played on OA Day and a full programme of events will be announced nearer the time.

Please register your intention to attend by email to [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com) or return the slip below by Monday 15th May 2017.



## BOOKING FORM - OA DAY 2017

|                                                       |                                |                           |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Name                                                  | <input type="text"/>           | House & dates at Aldenham | <input type="text"/> |
| Address                                               | <input type="text"/>           | Telephone (home)          | <input type="text"/> |
|                                                       | <input type="text"/>           | Telephone (work)          | <input type="text"/> |
|                                                       | <input type="text"/>           | Telephone (mobile)        | <input type="text"/> |
|                                                       | Post Code <input type="text"/> | Email                     | <input type="text"/> |
| I would also like to bring a guest, his / her name is |                                | <input type="text"/>      |                      |
| Please indicate any special dietary requirements      |                                | <input type="text"/>      |                      |



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**6.00pm Wednesday 8th March 2017**

The Whitbread Room, Aldenham School

An Agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting. Please send items for discussion to the Development & OA Office.

There will be a complimentary Supper at 7.30pm for OAs and their guests.

If you are unable to attend the meeting you are welcome to attend the Supper only.

For catering purposes, please register your intention to attend by email to [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com) or by returning the slip on the right



## **ANNUAL DINNER 2016**

Friday 18th November at Aldenham School

6.15pm Drinks Reception in The Apthorp Room of The Wells Centre

6.30pm Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90) & Georgie Yeabsley (P2009-16) The Aldenham Experience - A Family Affair

7.30pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

Principal guest speaker - The Headmaster James Fowler

Wives, husbands and partners are also invited

Tables seat up to 12 people

Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit Ladies: Evening Wear

Tickets: £45 per person (OA Society members and guests) or £38.00 per person for those 25 or under on the day of Dinner

£50 per person for non-members of the OA Society

The OA Society will subsidise its members and their partner

Price will include pre-dinner drinks, wine with dinner and coffee with mints

There will be a cash bar for additional wine and soft drinks as required. Wine £10 per bottle

Bookings to Ian Luetchford c/o Development & OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ by Tuesday 8th November 2016

Enquiries to Jackie Wilkie [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com) Tel: 01923 851 614



## **IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR OA SUBSCRIPTION?**

New membership subscription arrangements were unanimously approved at the Society's AGM in 2002 to enable the Society to provide members with an improved service, in particular expansion and improvement of the OA website.

All existing Life Members who left the School twenty years ago or more are invited to pay a *voluntary* annual subscription to the Society. An appropriate sum would be £10 per annum though the Society would welcome larger amounts.

If you left School in Summer 1996 or before, you are invited to start paying a voluntary annual subscription to the Society.

Should you wish to make a voluntary annual subscription, please complete the Standing Order form (right) and return it to the Development & OA Office or set up online.

If you plan to attend the meeting &/or the Supper please complete & return this form to the  
OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ or email: [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com)

|                      |                      |                           |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Name                 | <input type="text"/> | House & dates at Aldenham | <input type="text"/> |
| Address              | <input type="text"/> | Telephone                 | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> |                      | Email                     | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | Post Code            | <input type="text"/>      |                      |

I will be attending the AGM / Supper / and will bring  guests to the Supper.

Please indicate any special dietary requirements



## BOOKING FORM - ANNUAL DINNER 2016

|                      |                      |                           |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Name                 | <input type="text"/> | House & dates at Aldenham | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| Address              | <input type="text"/> | Telephone (home)          | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| <input type="text"/> |                      | Telephone (work)          | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| <input type="text"/> |                      | Telephone (mobile)        | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| <input type="text"/> | Post Code            | <input type="text"/>      | Email                | <input type="text"/> |

I would also like to bring a guest, his / her name is

I would like  ticket(s) at £45 (member & guest) or  ticket(s) at £50 (non-member & guest) or  ticket(s) at £38 (age 25 years or under)

Cheque enclosed for £  made payable to 'Old Aldenhamian Society' or contact Jackie (below) for direct payment to OA Bank Account

Please indicate any special dietary requirements

I will arrive in time for the Pre-dinner Reception Yes / No

Please return this slip to Ian Luetchford, c/o Development & OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ by Tuesday 8th November 2016.

Enquiries to Jackie Wilkie Email: [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com) Tel: 01923 851 614



## STANDING ORDER AUTHORITY

Old Aldenhamian Society Voluntary Membership Subscription

Please return the completed form to: Richard Peart, Honorary Treasurer,  
Old Aldenhamian Society, c/o Old Aldenhamian Office, Aldenham School,  
Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name                 | <input type="text"/>           |
| Address              | <input type="text"/>           |
| <input type="text"/> | Telephone <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | Email <input type="text"/>     |
| <input type="text"/> | Post Code <input type="text"/> |

I would like to make a Voluntary Membership Subscription to the Old Aldenhamian Society of £  each year

Start date  until  / further notice

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name(s) of Account Holder(s)   | <input type="text"/>           |
| Bank/ Building Society details | <input type="text"/>           |
| Bank/ Building Society address | <input type="text"/>           |
| <input type="text"/>           |                                |
| <input type="text"/>           | Post Code <input type="text"/> |
| Account no.                    | <input type="text"/>           |
| <input type="text"/>           | Sort Code <input type="text"/> |

**Please Pay** **For OA Office use only**  
Name: Old Aldenhamian Society  
Bank: NatWest plc

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Account no. | <input type="text"/> |
| Sort Code   | <input type="text"/> |

Please debit my / our account accordingly.

Signature

**For OA Office & Bank use only**

Bank please quote as Ref

Date

QA  
SOCIETY



QA  
SOCIETY



QA  
SOCIETY

The Battle of the Somme was a battle of the First World War fought by the armies of the British and French against the German Empire. It took place between 1st July and 18th November 1916 on both sides of the upper reaches of the River Somme in France. The battle was intended to hasten a victory for the Allies and was the largest battle of the First World War on the Western Front. More than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history.



A company of the Public Schools Battalion at "White City" prior to the Battle of the Somme. The banks of white chalk at Beaumont Hamel led to a sector of British trenches being nicknamed "White City"

# Battlefields Tour 2016



Armed with no more than a panier of croissants, a group of OAs and friends set off for the Somme

A group of 17 OAs and friends of Aldenham School travelled to France with an experienced guide to see the effects of war on the landscape and to hear some chilling stories of the battles on the Somme and at Arras. A simple memorial service was held at the Thiepval Memorial where nine Old Aldenhamians are commemorated.

The idea of an OA Battlefields Tour in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme was first proposed by **Neil Sutherland (B1966-70)**, President of the OA Society, back in September 2014. The trip was an outstanding success.

An invitation to join the tour was extended to the whole Aldenham community and, whilst the majority of travellers were Old Aldenhamians, the group was complemented by guests and friends of the School.

The itinerary was put together by **Neil**, in discussion with Anglia Tours, a highly regarded battlefield tour company and experts in bespoke weekend trips.

On the morning of Friday 20th May 2016 the group assembled at the Headmaster's House at Aldenham for morning refreshments and introductions. The Headmaster, **James Fowler** was delighted to meet the travellers before they left on their trip. **Neil** introduced Dave Morrison, a highly experienced guide who would be spending the entire time on the tour and was available for one to one questions as well as group interactions and presentations.

After a comfortable ferry crossing the first stop was at The Sunken Lane for an introduction to the start of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. The views

'High Wood' probably derives from the fact that the wood was at the top of a slope on slightly higher ground. The Germans held it in July 1916 and it was three long months before the British took it back.



across Redan Ridge and commentary by Dave Morrison, fired everyone's imagination and brought to life the horror this place had seen. A short walk led to an immaculate looking British cemetery named Beaumont-Hamel, after the village that was reached on 1st July. Although it was not held at that time Beaumont Hamel was attacked again and taken on 13th November that year. The cemetery contains 179 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 82 of the burials are unidentified. A poem written by one of the named



**L to r: Ian Luetchford, Neil Sutherland, Simon Kitchen, David Smith, Andrew Hicks, Daniele Kitchen, Colin Starkey and James James-Crook**



soldiers, just days before he died, was read at his memorial, a moving experience.

Returning to the coach in quiet mood the tour moved on to Mansell Copse where Dave set the scene for the end of the first day at the Battle of the Somme. Over 160 men of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Devonshire Regiment fell in No-Mans-Land and the German positions. They were carried back to the British Front Line trench and buried in a section near Mansell Copse – there they still lie. The Devonshire Cemetery now contains 163 graves, ten of which are unidentified and only two are not of the Devonshire Regiment.

Arriving at the hotel in Peronne, the group was ready for refreshment and was not disappointed. The service was swift and efficient and the meal delicious, with good company and lots to talk about after a busy day.

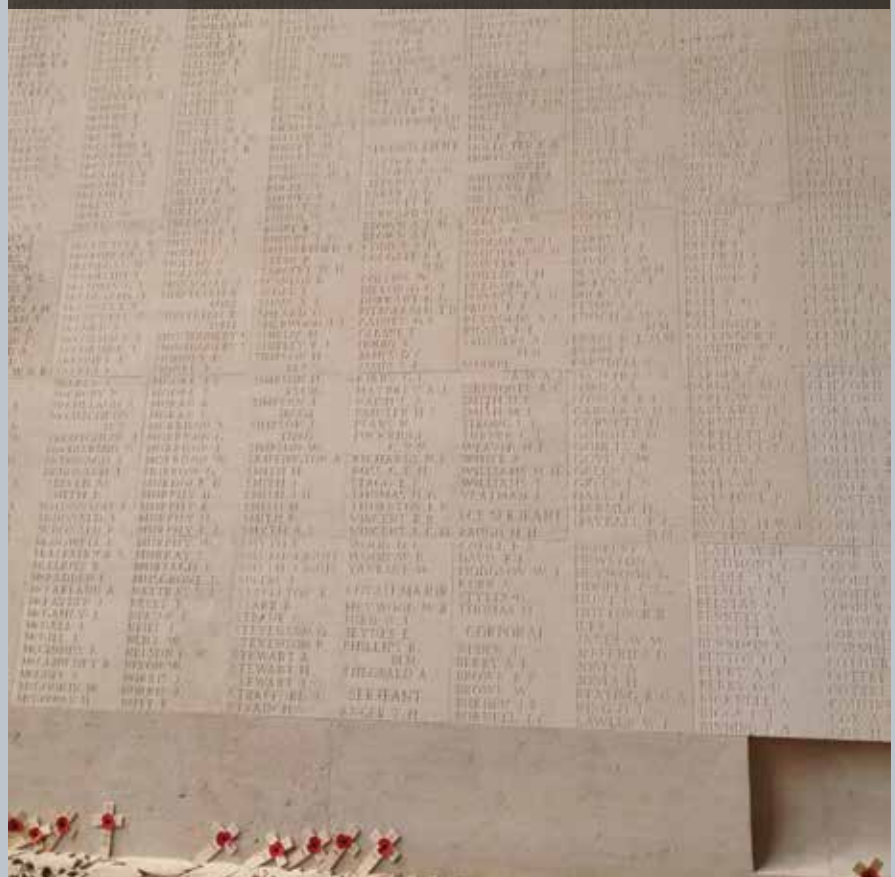
Day 2 of the tour took us first to Fricourt German Cemetery, the resting place of 17,027 German soldiers killed on the Somme battlefields in WW1. About 1,000 of those died during the early weeks of the war and during the trench warfare up to June 1916. From the beginning of the British and French Allied Somme offensive of 1st July 1916 to the close of the battle in mid-November the same year, approximately 10,000 German soldiers lost their lives on the Somme battlefields. It was interesting to see the difference between the British and German memorial sites, there was time to stay and gather thoughts before moving on to the Lochnagar Crater.

The Lochnagar mine was a mine dug by the Tunnelling Companies of the Royal Engineers under a German field fortification known as Schwabenhöhe, in the front line, south of the village of La Boisselle in the Somme département of France. The mine was named after Lochnagar Street, the British trench

from which the gallery was driven. It was one of eight large and eleven small mines that were placed beneath the German lines on the British section of the Somme front. The Lochnagar mine was sprung at 7:28 a.m. on 1st July 1916, the first day on the Somme. The crater was captured and held by British troops but the attack on either flank was defeated by German small-arms and artillery fire, except on the extreme right flank and just south of La Boisselle, north of the new crater. The crater has been preserved as a memorial, where a service is held on 1st July each year.

Next stop was Newfoundland Park, a preserved trench system. The land here was purchased by the Dominion of Newfoundland after the First World War. The Newfoundland Regiment had provided a battalion of 800 men to serve the British and Commonwealth Armies. Its tragic action of 1st July 1916 is memorialised at this site. The soldiers with no known grave are particularly commemorated here.

**Part of just one wall at The Arras Memorial in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens**



At Auchonvillers there was an opportunity to see a private collection of artefacts and to handle kit from both WWI and WW2. An enjoyable lunch was served in the Ocean Villas tea rooms, all included in the tour package.

The afternoon provided visits to three more cemeteries and finally to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, all with stories to tell, but perhaps most importantly for this group, an opportunity to pay respects to Old Aldenhamians who are commemorated in these places:

**Bevan John Nolan (M1911-13)**

2nd Lieut., Royal Irish Regt., killed in action 3/09/1916 aged 21 and buried at Delville Wood Cemetery

**Geoffrey Austin Allen (SH1898-1904)**

St. John's Coll. Camb., B.A. 1908. 2nd Lieut. Essex Regt., killed in action 1/07/1916 aged 28 and remembered at Thiepval Memorial

**Arthur Keith Barton (B1910-14)** 14th London Regt., killed in action 1/07/1916 aged 20 and remembered at Thiepval

**Christopher Blake (M1906-10)**

Emmanuel Coll. Camb. B.A. 1913. 2nd Lieut. Bedfordshire Regt. 1915. Killed in action 04/09/1916 aged 24 and remembered at Thiepval

**Eric FitzBrown (M1909-11)** 21st Royal Fusiliers 1914. 2nd Lieut. Liverpool Regt. 1914. Killed in action 01/07/1916 aged 21 and remembered at Thiepval

**Meredith Charles Clifton James (P1909-13)** 2nd Lieut. 1st Worcestershire Regt. 1915. Killed in action 27/10/1919 aged 21 and remembered at Thiepval

**James Dermot Neill (SH1901-03)**

2nd Lieut. 13th Royal Irish Rifles, 1914. Lieut. Machine Gun Corps. Killed in action 01/07/1916 aged 29 remembered at Thiepval

**Jeffrey William Ensor Paul (SH1910-14)**

Pembroke Coll. Camb. 1914. 2nd Lieut. King's Royal Rifle Corps 1915. Killed in action 27/07/1916 aged 21 and remembered at Thiepval

**Clifford Bygrave Sewell (P1910-11)**

2 / 4 Royal Fusiliers 1914. (Egypt and Gallipoli); 1 / 4 Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action 20/09/1916 aged 20 and remembered at Thiepval

**Philip Churton Taylor (M1909-13)**

Scholar. Editor *The Aldenhamian*. 2nd Lieut. London Regt. 1914. Wounded France 1915. Capt. Killed in action 15/09/1916 aged 21 and remembered at Thiepval



A simple wreath laying ceremony was led by **Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)**, with a poetry reading by Michael Gillibrand, a friend of Neil's, and recital of the famous words from Laurence Binyon's war poem *For The Fallen* relayed by **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, followed by a minute's silence to remember fellow OAs.

An evening meal in a local restaurant brought the second day to a close. It was

another full schedule which had given an excellent feel for the chilling experiences of the war. However, a pleasant evening among friends was most enjoyable.

The final day of the tour began at the Arras Memorial to the Missing, where more names of OAs and a former member of staff are inscribed:

**Norman Brabazon Dick (CR1908-17),**

a former Maths teacher, served with the 16th Middlesex regiment. Killed in action 28/04/1917

**Arthur Rupert Poggi (B1908-13),**

Enlisted 5th The King's (Liverpool Regt.) Nov. 1915. Served with 26th Royal Fusiliers. Western Front, 1917-18. Missing, 24/03/1918 aged 20; presumed killed

**Harold Toulmin (M1910-13)**

Royal Fusiliers 1914. Gaz. 6th North Lancashire Regt. 1914. Gallipoli, Egypt, Mesopotamia, India; MC. Transferred RAF pilot; Western Front; mentioned in despatches; wounded (twice); killed while flying 17/09/1918 aged 21

**Frederick Kenneth Jackson Trayes**

**(SH1911-16)** Cricket XI 1915-16. Scholar. Scholar of Pembroke Coll. Camb. 1916. 2nd Lieut. Cheshire Regt. 1917. Western Front. Killed in action 23/03/1918 aged 20

**Geoffrey Wilson (B1908-12)**

Football XI 1911-12. Lieut. Royal Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport) 1914; Gaz. RASC



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme

Source: flickr.com/pikerstanefarm



The Delville Wood South African National World War 1 Memorial, Longueval

(Horse Transport) Dec. 1914; transferred Royal Air Force, 209th Squadron 1917; Pilot 1918; Western Front 1915-18; wounded; killed in action 15/05/1918 aged 23 and commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial

On the journey to Vimy Ridge an unscheduled visit was made to Neuville-Saint-Vaast. This is the largest German military cemetery in France where 44,833 German casualties are buried and commemorated. The sea of dark metal crosses disappears into the distance, a heart rending view. Most of the casualties fell during the early stages of the war on the Loretto battlefield and many died on Vimy Ridge in the autumn of 1918. Another small detour took in the sight of a French cemetery, with its rows of white crosses.

The final stop on the tour was at Vimy Memorial Park, which provided a chance to visit the preserved trench system and to consider serving there amidst falling shells and exploding mines. Climbing down into Grange Tunnel and imagining the difficulties faced by soldiers on both sides, perhaps the most surprising thing to see was the very short distance between the fighting contingents.

Before leaving there was a planned visit to the Canadian National Vimy Memorial on which the names of 11,168

missing Canadians, killed in action in France are inscribed. Unfortunately torrential rain spoilt the opportunity for a final group photo, but led us to further consider the conditions faced at this place 100 years ago.

The return journey through the Channel Tunnel was pleasingly

The "Last Tree" is the only surviving hornbeam tree in Delville Wood. On 15th July 1916, the German artillery shelled the British-held position to a pulp, splintering and smashing virtually every tree until the wood was almost completely destroyed. This single hornbeam is the only tree that survived.



uneventful. On arrival back at Aldenham the travellers bade each other farewell before continuing home full of thoughtful memories and grateful thanks to those who served and in particular the young men of Aldenham School whose lives were so cruelly cut short.

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.'*





‘At Clarke Junior School we deliver the Ugandan National Curriculum as stipulated by the Ministry of Education and Sports whilst incorporating international

# A School in Uganda

**Katherine Tucker (B1992-94)** was unable to attend this year’s Beevor’s House Gaudy as she had just opened a school in Uganda which is following the Ugandan curriculum but taught using international teaching methods.

standards for teaching and learning, using the latest research and trends from international education.

We provide a fun and research driven approach to our academic programme, supporting all students in creative and challenging ways. We encourage our students to discover things for themselves through questioning and research. Our teachers use a structured and rigorous yet flexible approach to lead their students through an engaging learning process with clear outcomes for both academic and personal learning.

Our small class sizes permit a high degree of individualism, ensuring that each student is supported and challenged academically. We value both the need to work independently as well as collaboratively and to communicate and record learning through a variety of methods.’



# Ripple Africa

Ripple Africa founder **Geoff Furber (SHO1970-74)** sent this blog: ‘It is quite frightening that 40 years seem to have flashed past since I left Aldenham and I have been very poor in keeping in touch with old friends.

But two very good friends from School have just joined Ripple Africa. **Grant Warden (M1970-75)** who has run successful businesses in the perfume industry is now getting involved and introducing valuable contacts who can help the charity develop and is hoping to visit our projects in Malawi later this year. **David Glaser (SHE1970-75)**, a well-to-do businessman and financier,

is now bringing a wealth of experience to the charity as our Chairman of Trustees.

I have also been in touch with **Michael Powles (SHO1969-74)**, who was a former BBC World Service Africa newsreader and he very kindly provided the voice over on our latest film, ‘Fish for Tomorrow’, which we will be releasing in the near future.’



L to r: Roger Harlow (P1967-72), David Howells (P1967-71), Mike Hill (P1967-71) and Peter Shaerf (P1967-71)

# Paull’s reunion supper

**Roger Harlow** emailed a photo taken at a reunion supper for four contemporaries of year ‘67 held on 1st December 2015 at Brasserie Zedel. ‘It’s amazing how much we could talk about after all these years – a lot of chat about the old days and plenty on the joys of retirement which I have yet to try!’

# Paralympics Gold Medal

Congratulations to Emma Wiggs, twin daughter of **Anthony Wiggs (B1967-72)**, who took gold in the KL2 Para-canoeing at Rio this summer, four years after winning bronze in the sitting volleyball at London 2012.

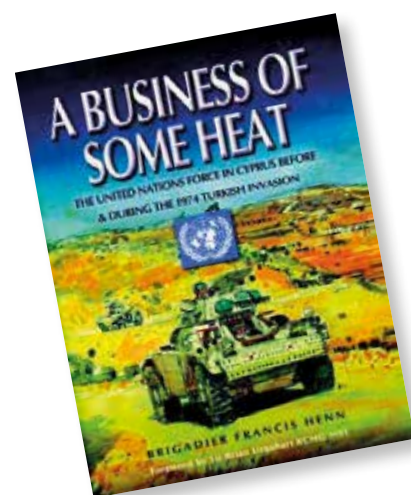


Emma is a four times World Champion in the women's K1 200m KL2 class, also claiming gold in Duisburg at the 2016 World Championships and is the 2015 European silver medallist in the same event.

Having qualified for the Paralympic quota place for GB at the 2015 World Championships, Emma won both races at the British Canoeing Paralympic selection trials to secure her own nomination for Paralympics GB in Rio, where Para-canoeing made its debut.

After representing Great Britain in the GB Sitting Volleyball Team for the London 2012 Paralympic Games, she embarked on a mission to find a sport that would give her a chance to be the best she could be and found canoeing was the answer.

Emma grew up in Watford and throughout her schooling was very active, excelling at hockey. When she was 18, she went on a Gap year to Australia and contracted a virus that initially paralysed her and left her with irreparable damaged nerves in her legs. Despite this life changing event Emma was determined to pursue her chosen career as a PE teacher; studying Sports Science and gaining a PGCE in secondary PE, she started work in West Sussex in 2004.



## The Legion of Honour

Whilst writing to the OA Office with his intention to attend the Regional Lunch at The Bell, Hampton Poyle earlier this year, **Brigadier Francis Henn CBE (SHE1934-39)** mentioned the following:

‘It may be of interest to OAs who follow events in Cyprus that my book, *A Business of Some Heat*, covering the United Nations Force in Cyprus 1972-74, of which I gave a copy to the School Library, is now out of print but published instead as an e-book. It is a generally factual and impersonal account of events in Cyprus during the two years that culminated in Turkey's invasion in 1974 (throughout that period I was Chief of Staff of the UN Peacekeeping Force).

Some OAs may not be aware that the French government decided to show France's gratitude for its liberation in 1974 by marking its 70th anniversary in 2014 with the award of *Ordre nationale de la Légion 'd'honneur* in the rank of *Chevalier* to Normandy veterans. As a veteran of both Normandy and Dunkirk I received the award in November 2015 from the French Ambassador and feel sure that I am not alone amongst OAs to have been so honoured.'



Max Quastel (M2007-14) graduated this year in Natural Sciences from Selwyn College, Cambridge.

## Dominic's swim challenge

**Dominic Coleman (B2004-12)** swam 22 miles over 12 weeks for Aspire – a charity that supports people who have been paralysed by spinal cord injury.

Dominic, who has already raised £750, completed the swim at Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in 1,416 lengths before returning to Southampton University. He said, 'I have signed up to take part in the Aspire Channel Swim again because I think Aspire is a fantastic charity. I have a cousin who is disabled so I know how valuable the work is that Aspire do.' To donate visit

[justgiving.com/dominic123aspire](http://justgiving.com/dominic123aspire)

# Growth in the suppliers of beer and ale

**Dennis William Robinson (SHO1947-51)** sent in the following:

I was reminded of Aldenham by chance as I was reading an article in the *Brewery History Magazine* by John R Krenze, on “Moneys Unreceived: Attempts to tax the Brewing Trade in London and environs before the Excise Ordinance of 1643.”

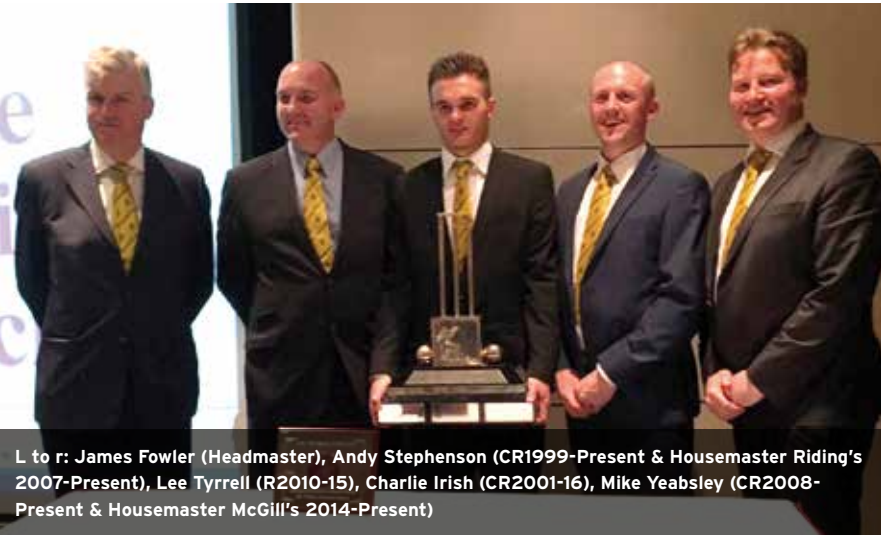
I quote as follows: “There was a tremendous growth in the suppliers of beer and ale between the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Peter Clark has suggested that the ratio of alehouses to inhabitants grew from one alehouse for every 142 inhabitants in 1577 to an alehouse for every 89-104 inhabitants 50 years later in the 1630s. This growth was driven by mounting demand, boosted by general demographic growth, the new preference for beer, (and) declining domestic brewing. These general trends

were reflected within the community of London brewers. From a trade that was divided between ale and beer, natives and strangers, and separate guilds, the industry had emerged under the unified leadership of the Worshipful Company of Brewers and had come to be dominated by natives who brewed beer almost exclusively by the turn of the seventeenth century. Men like **Richard Platt** had seen their fortunes grow exponentially as they had pushed out their alien competitors, while at the same time consolidating an ever-larger portion of the trade in their hands. The fruits of that change were immense, as the growth in the size of London breweries – many of which were brewing 500,000 gallons or more per year by 1600 – and the wealth of brewers can attest.”

# Cricket award

Last April, **Lee Tyrrell (R2010-15)** was selected as the leading all-rounder in school’s cricket for his performance during the 2015 cricket season, when he was still at Aldenham.

Lee received the prestigious Cricket Society’s Wetherell Award at a dinner in London and was presented with an inscribed plaque along with a cheque. The Wetherell Trophy with the winners’ names is kept in the museum at Lord’s Cricket Ground.



L to r: James Fowler (Headmaster), Andy Stephenson (CR1999-Present & Housemaster Riding’s 2007-Present), Lee Tyrrell (R2010-15), Charlie Irish (CR2001-16), Mike Yeabsley (CR2008-Present & Housemaster McGill’s 2014-Present)

# Matt Wallace Wins 3rd Golf Title

**Matt Wallace (L2003-08)** has won his third title in a row in the Alps Tour – a tournament aimed at young golf professionals.



Matt started the second round holding putts and he had a 5 shot lead going into third round. With this win, he now records about 26,000 points at the Alps Tour ranking, with the second, Franck Daux, way behind with under 12,000 points.

Matt remarked: ‘I stayed patient and the birdies on 5 and 6 were great. I just tried to shoot as low as possible until I was safe to play to the middle of the greens. The feeling walking down the 18th with a 7 shot lead was one of the best feelings I’ve ever experienced. A lot of recent hard work has paid off. Three in a row, love it! I am so happy.’

# A Letter from Robin

Letter from **Robin Willmott (SHO1940-44)** dated 6/11/2015

I was particularly pleased to receive a copy of the recent OA Review (2015).

Having started at the School in September 1940, somewhat unexpectedly, as my parents had intended to send me to Eastbourne College where, they believed as a hay fever sufferer, I would benefit from some sea air!

In September 1940, as I now know, we had suffered the disastrous defeat, Dunkirk and all that, of which I was at that time totally unaware, and as a result I was sent to Aldenham where I was closer to my home in North London,

and could go back and forth to the School on my bicycle, which I did at the beginning and end of each term and on exeat. It now all seems a very long time ago but I like to keep in touch with the situation at the School and was pleased to attend the recent Regional Lunch in Bedfordshire and meet the current Headmaster.

In common with most other things in this life, Aldenham has changed, I believe, for the better. In my time there, the School had no female pupils and whilst we might have liked some we had to get on without. A generation later one of my own sons

entered the School and obviously was not prepared to get on without.

I also learnt to play hockey at Aldenham and later went on to play this in the Army and subsequently after the end of the war in 1946 in France before demobilisation in 1948.

I subsequently joined a large London field hockey Club, Southgate and devoted a great deal of time to it until my early 70s.

I remember **James F G James-Crook (M1941-44)**, father of **James C N James-Crook (M1968-72)** and **Neal A P James-Crook (M1970-75)**.

## Prep School Reunion

**Ian Luetchford (B1948-51)** arranged a reunion recently of some of his contemporaries from his Prep School, Eddington House, situated near to Herne Bay. However, during the war it was evacuated to Bruton in Somerset where it was loosely attached to King's Bruton Junior School. Ian joined it there in January 1945 and met **Keith Dallas (M1949-52)**. In September 1945 the School returned to its home in Herne Bay.

Ian said 'I managed to gather seven 'lads' for the reunion, all over 80 years old! We enjoyed a convivial pub lunch near Haselmere where one of our less mobile number lives.

As this is an Olympic year, I was wondering who remembered walking to the cinema in Borehamwood to see the 1948 London Olympic film in COLOUR?! I think the whole School went.

One other out of School event which comes to mind, was potato picking. A local farmer paid us the princely sum of 1 shilling for a morning's work! At Call the following morning, **Fred English (CR1915-51)**, our Housemaster, had the audacity to suggest that we should donate our earnings to the Aldenham Boys Club! There was an immediate chorus of dissent from the whole assembly and nothing more was heard of the matter.'



Ian Luetchford and Keith Dallas are in the centre

## Visiting from Australia



Whilst on holiday in the UK, **Julian Egerton-Vernon (SHE1967-71)** and his son, Matthew, visited the School in June from Australia. Ann Saffrey Development & OA Manager took them on a tour of the School. Born and brought up in Australia, Matthew was fascinated to see an archetypal English boarding school. Julian has a brother, **Michael Egerton-Vernon (SHE1958-63)** who lives in Jersey.

# Obituaries and Tributes

| DEATHS            | House and dates at the School                  | Died              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| J A Bond          | SH01939-42                                     | 5 October 2015    |
| A P Bowman        | B1933-37                                       | 18 March 2016     |
| M D Brining       | SHE1947-52                                     | 3 November 2015   |
| S R Browning      | B1976-79                                       | 9 March 2015      |
| C Cade-Hughes     | K1968-73                                       | 17 September 2016 |
| M J Catchpole     | SHE1955-60                                     | January 2015      |
| J E Coates        | SH01964-69 & CR1997-2002                       | 3 January 2016    |
| H F Cocksedge     | SH01939-43                                     | 13 January 2016   |
| J C Davidson      | SH01956-61                                     | 8 July 2016       |
| J Debenham-Taylor | M1934-36                                       | 30 January 2016   |
| D W Dewes         | B1947-52                                       | 22 July 2015      |
| W H Gamble        | B1952-55                                       | 15 December 2015  |
| T M Gent          | SH01940-45                                     | 8 May 2016        |
| R H E Grant       | M1946-50                                       | 25 March 2016     |
| M G Handcock      | SHE1945-50                                     | 8 March 2016      |
| P J Hardingham    | SH01949-53                                     | 19 October 2015   |
| A S Heywood Jones | SH01944-49                                     | 17 February 2016  |
| M C Hyde          | B1942-45                                       | Died 2015         |
| R C Langmead      | M1947-50                                       | 4 December 2015   |
| M Mason           | First wife of Peter Mason (Headmaster 1949-61) | 17 November 2015  |
| I G McLean        | M1942-46                                       | 8 March 2016      |
| R J Murray        | P1981-86                                       | February 2016     |
| J B Nixon         | SH01931-35                                     | 18 June 2015      |
| W J Northcott     | B1948-53                                       | 16 March 2016     |
| J M Parks         | M1949-41                                       | 5 April 2016      |
| A J B Perry       | B1943-48                                       | 15 April 2016     |
| J M Perry         | Staff 1972-81                                  | 25 August 2016    |
| B Robson          | M1949-53                                       | 21 May 2016       |
| A Salder          | Matron 1970-71                                 | 17 April 2011     |
| M A Sajjad (Khan) | B1951-55                                       | 26 September 2015 |
| B P Setchell      | SHE1942-47                                     | 15 May 2016       |
| E P G Sherrard    | SHE1965-69                                     | 9 March 2015      |
| R R Stand         | M1953-57                                       | 7 May 2016        |
| F E Stevens       | CR1949-48                                      | 11 September 2015 |
| M G Taylor        | SHE1956-61                                     | 26 November 2015  |
| P M Timms         | SH01946-49                                     | 10 May 2016       |
| G S Veitch        | SHE1935-37                                     | 15 January 2015   |
| A P Vening        | CR1973-94                                      | 30 October 2015   |
| J M Venner        | P1944-47                                       | 22 February 2016  |
| J E Ward          | M1957-60                                       | 31 October 2015   |
| P J Wrangham      | SH01948-51                                     | 11 June 2016      |

# Tributes to Alan Vening (CR1973-94)



Alan Vening conducting at the 100th anniversary celebration in 1993 of the Eros statue in Piccadilly Circus

## Deepak Johar (P1974-79)

Please pass on my sincerest condolences to the family.

## Simon Clark (M1979-84)

He was one of my favourite teachers during my time at Aldenham. He always showed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm in whatever he did. I have particular good memories of when he was in charge of U15 cricket and the Friday afternoon concert party group when we used to go to old people's homes and put on a show for them. I will not be able to attend the funeral but I hope that he has a good send-off which is the least he deserved.

## Peter Boorman (Headmaster 1974-83)

He was a dear man and so talented in all the various aspects of school music, Choir, Orchestra, Organ, which is why he was so highly regarded by MMA and many others.

There are many happy memories I associate with Alan and many anecdotes.

The opening concert to celebrate the arrival of the new organ in 1974 takes pride of place; Saint-Saens Organ Concerto was absolutely delightful and very moving.

Of Beethoven and Mozart, Alan would say the former tried so hard and got it right and the latter was a natural. I recall a conversation with him concerning the Sibelius Violin Concerto,

a particular favourite of mine. Which reminds me of **Dr. David Wallace-Hadrill (CR1950-55 & 1962-86)** and a sermon he preached including a reference to the final chords of Sibelius Fifth, and emphasising, "...the silence between chords ..." I learnt so much from them both.

He told me once of his recurring nightmare. The Concert Hall is full. Silence, as he the conductor calls the orchestra to heel. The Concert begins. Alan has his baton raised. On the down stroke ... NOTHING, complete silence!

In my first year 1974, Alan wrote *Platt's Entertainment*, a musical, for a performance at the end of term in December. Peter Vincent was also involved. "Headmaster", he said, "I hope you will agree to take a small part in this production." I did agree but with tremendous hesitation; although I had been on stage from time to time, it really was not my thing. When Alan presented the work, to my horror I had one or two quartets, one or two duets and a few solos! But it just was not possible to turn him down. The final performance is on tape, and although I say it, my contribution is not a complete disaster because Alan pulled me through. All my singing was pitched in range, at a comfortable level for me, and he gave me such encouragement all through. Overall, the occasion was a tremendous success.

I cannot think of a finer example for us all on how to live our lives. I remember him with great affection and gratitude for his friendship and support especially when my back was to the wall.

Rest in peace dear man.

## Charles Siu (B1977-82)

Alan Vening was a great all round musician: a performer, a composer, a teacher, and a leader.

I admire his performance skills, one of which was his interpretation of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. He was able to sight read easily anything that I presented to him. Secondly, I remember him as a Composer. His works included the following.

Choral settings of the *Benedictus* and the *Magnificat*. The latter sounded very original, very happy, and did not have a sanctimonious feel to it.

The *Concert Allegro*, written in E Flat, was a work for organ and orchestra. It had three movements, a fast opening, a slow middle, and a fast ending that combined the ideas from the first two movements.

*Behold the Music Master* – this was a work for choir, solo singers, and orchestra. This composition was a parody of other works. Alan wrote the music but I can't remember who wrote the lyrics.

Thirdly as a teacher and a leader, he inspired me in music and as a result, I maintain my skills as a musician.

I really would like to see all of Alan's work submitted to a publisher and be printed and performed. In this way, he will always be remembered.

## Christopher Raper (B1972-77)

Alan had a great influence on the course of my life, as he was the main inspiration for me going to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he had been the organ scholar. Please pass on my condolences to Nigel and Paula.

## Julian Bosdet (K1974-78)

Alan and Jill Vening were a fantastic part of Aldenham School when I was there. Jill was always very friendly to the pupils and obviously worked very hard.

There was no better Director of Music than Alan. There are too many wonderful moments to list here, but his occasional but always fantastic playing of *Widor's Toccata* at the close of morning Chapel always made the rest of the School day so much better. His carol concerts drew the parents in, and his very large productions such as the *Messiah* took huge organisation and the Chapel was always packed.

I was the senior Chapel Helper when the vestry caught fire just before Sunday Matins. Alan still took his place at the wonderful organ and played on with smoke drifting into the Chapel around the wonderful Sir Stanley Spencer painting 'The Crucifixion'. The then 'Chief' and I put the fire out but looking back it was a bit of a Titanic moment. Alan was instrumental in Aldenham being home to such a fine organ and I recall it was all down to his own skills and dedication that Aldenham was chosen.

Alan was very much respected by my parents, he and Jill came to our home in Loudwater and Alan very kindly played at my brother's wedding. Alan and Jill were on tour in Japan when my Mother passed away in 1997, but when he returned he was touched that we had collected from the School and used the score of his own words that he set to the duet from the *Pearl Fishers*. Another Alan great.

#### **Matt Baroudi (B1974-77)**

Alan was a wonderful teacher. What sad news...

#### **Roger Payne (CR1971-2000) & Dianne Payne**

Thank you for letting us know about Alan Vening's death. Unfortunately, we shall not be able to attend the funeral as we will be away. However, I am sure that the School and his former colleagues will be well represented.

#### **Simon Bloxam-Rose (CR1990-94)**

A lovely man, I had the honour to serve with him as School Chaplain. Rest in peace big man.

#### **Neal James-Crook (M1970-75)**

I had the privilege of knowing Alan – a wonderful, gentle person and a great

musician. Sadly, due to work commitments, I won't be able to attend the funeral but please pass on my condolences to his family.

#### **David Cormack (B1972-77)**

I was in the choir and remember him well as we did so many oratorios and concerts. The '*Messiah from Scratch*' twice at the Albert Hall WAS an experience. I think he was instrumental (unintended pun) in getting the old electric organ/console, that I remember old Tosca Hook driving, upgraded to wind-power. The number of pipes has grown like *Topsy* since.

#### **Geoff Peach (SHO1973-77)**

I am very sorry to hear of Alan's passing. Please extend my condolences to his family.

#### **Nigel Dupont (SHO1980-83)**

My condolences.

#### **David Glaser (SHE1970-75)**

I will do my best to be at the funeral.

#### **Mark Oliver (SHE1974-78)**

I remember him well and can still recall his compositions as well as his musical and cricket related advice to me. Please pass on my deepest condolences to his family.

#### **Daniel Holder (B1976-79)**

That is a great shame, a lovely man with a musical walk that I often think about!

#### **Judith Graham (Staff 1984-96)**

I remember the great excitement when he was appointed. He used to come over from the Common Room humming all the way to the office! I don't know whether he realised, just so full of music. I took over from Jill as School Secretary.

I saw APV in Vaughan Williams' '*Pilgrim's Progress* 'up at Cambridge in about 1954 by chance, but of course he was just at university as a choral scholar I think – I still have the programme somewhere. At Jill's funeral he played '*The Girl Next Door*' on the organ!

#### **Boon Sin Tan (K1978-81)**

I send my deepest sympathy.

#### **Lucy Bennett (K1988-90)**

He was such a lovely man. I have lots of fond memories of him from my School days. His enthusiasm, his gusto and his frustration with us all as we tried to play in harmony! He enthused me to embrace music for the first time really, so I learnt to play the Saxophone and some of my greatest moments of happiness at Aldenham involved playing the saxophone in a concert with my peers as well as singing Mozart's *Requiem* with the choir. These moments shaped me and have always stayed with me and for that I am very grateful to him. Please pass my respects onto to his family.

#### **Patrick Ford (SHE1973-76)**

Boarding school was the last place I wanted to be as a young boy but I recall so clearly, after having been at the School only a short while, mandatory trials for the choir! It had never occurred to me that choir singing might be something I would have to do! Mr Vening was a strict but fair choir master and, after successfully failing to fail the choir entrance test, I embarked on a journey into singing. I have never forgotten the highs of singing within a large choir and all the incredible sounds that Mr Vening coaxed out of our (at times) less than willing voice boxes, helped in no small part by the acoustic qualities of our Chapel and our extraordinary organ! Those days have and always will remain with me. When we pass on we can only ever hope for one thing to happen, that we are remembered. It may sound small but it is very powerful in the way that it helps shape who we are. I shall always remember those days under his guidance with fondness.

#### **Wendell Gordon Miles (K1981-82)**

Music was an integral part of my time at Aldenham, and Mr Vening was central to that experience!

#### **Ellie-Mae McNulty-Watson (B1992-93)**

RIP. Lucky old angels! X

#### **Lai Keat Lim (P1979-80)**

I was an A-level student for year 1979/1980 and played violin in the School orchestra. I also had the opportunity to meet up with Alan when

he came to Malaysia as an examiner for music many years ago. I have good memories of the times when he accompanied me on the piano when I was playing violin solo pieces in the School. We have lost a remarkable musician and a dear friend. Shalom!

**Andrew Stead (CR1994-2013)**

Alan was quite a character. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend his funeral due to work commitments.

**Guy Thomas (P1969-74)**

I remember Alan's exacting standards in music when I was at Aldenham.

**Mike Higginbottom (Headmaster 1983-94)**

Alan was a one off in lots of ways, not least as Director of Music – and a good friend.

**Trevor Barton (K1971-75)**

I remember Alan well, both from my time as a pupil at Aldenham and from meetings of the Letchmore Trust. I am saddened at the news that he has passed away.

**Laurence Cole (B 1985-90)**

Alan was a wonderful Director of Music, a kind, gentle man, a highly talented pianist and a much underrated composer. It's thanks to him that I'm singing professionally now. He was my first singing teacher!

So many happy memories of him, including seeing him regularly drive through the School gates; his tall frame somehow squashed into what I think was a Peugeot 205! Also waiting outside Chapel for a Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, seeing him striding down the path towards us and everyone breaking into a rendition of 'Alan Vening!' to the tune of the Hallelujah Chorus.

A great man. Sadly I don't think I'll be able to make the funeral but I'd be most grateful if there's any way my thoughts and condolences could be passed on to his family.

## John "Alan" Bond

Until 1939 life was easy and pleasant for **Alan Bond (SHO1939-42)**, with cricket, football and tennis in the park, tobogganing on Hampstead Heath. Boarding school was not a success for Alan; however he learned to love English literature and made his mark as a very good fast bowler.

Life as a reporter on the *Staines & Egham News* followed, he then volunteered for the RAF. They started to train him as a pilot and he said how much he loved it. When they realised they had too many pilots he was switched to rear gunner.

His return to civilian life was a little chaotic because he wanted to write and firmly believed that night was the only time for real inspiration, so he slept through the day and the family hardly saw him. He sold advertising space and was involved in running a flat agency and he also worked for the AA in Leicester Square answering calls from distressed motorists.

During this period Alan married Renee and, with the arrival of David and then Nicola, the final adventure of a sailing school in Dartmouth was put aside. He embarked upon his new career of doing what he was good at - writing press releases for the Central Office of Information.

His love of sailing resurfaced with his brother George and together they sailed around the South Coast and over the Channel to France. Unfortunately Alan was prone to sea sickness and in bad weather was confined to the cockpit lashed by wind and rain. Running aground became a frequent hazard which postponed some pub visits. His other interests were many and varied ranging from chess to history, walking, butterfly watching and lawn bowls.

He was delighted with the arrival of his grandchildren and great grandchildren and continued to be a big kid at heart. His family will remember him as a proud, upstanding, kind and true gentleman, a fun and loving husband, brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Born in 1925, he died on 5th October 2015.

## Bryan Robson

**Bryan Robson (M1949-53)** aged 80, husband to Annick, died on 21st May 2016. According to the entry in the *Twelfth Edition of The Register*, Brian won an Academical Clerkship to Magdalen College, Oxford due very much in part to the help and encouragement of both **Eric Wightman (CR1952-57)** and **Bill Hook (CR1948-73)**. He enlisted in the RAF 1954-56 then at Magdalen College, Oxford 1956-60.

Bryan then taught English at Campbell College, Belfast 1960-66 and was very much involved in drama. Actor with Bristol Old Vic and the RSC Stratford 1966-70. Head of English at St Paul's School 1970-90. Head of Drama 1990-94. Latterly he was with the Royal National Theatre.

**Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)** has a special personal memory of OA Day 2003 which was held for those OAs who had attended Aldenham from the 1930s – 1950s when, due to the large number of attendees, tables were laid up in the old School House Library. 'Bryan said the Grace both before and after lunch and then led us all in a rendition of *Laudate nunc praeterito*.'

## Rob Murray

An email tribute received from **Gordon Guy (P1982-86)** on 25th February 2016 – 'My friend **Rob Murray (P1981-86)** passed away over the weekend. We were in the same year in Paull's House and shared a study together in the LVI form. Rob was very clever and did double maths at Cambridge. He helped me through my 'O' Level maths (I was terrible at maths and he had terrible taste in music. I had to show him that there was more to music than Olivia Newton-John!) I hope to meet up with **Rob Anderson (P1983-88)** in April when I'm in Perth. He is in the local police force there.'

## Anthony Joseph Burnard Perry

**Anthony Joseph Burnard Perry (B1943-48)** passed away on 15th April 2016 aged 86. According to the *Twelfth Edition of the School Register*, before retiring he was Managing Director of Eastwood Thompson Ltd., Meat Importers and Distributors.

He attended the OA Regional Lunch held in 2012 at Little Barwick House, Yeovil. He leaves wife, Diana, two children, Julian and Georgina and 7 grandchildren.

## Hugh Cocksedge

On leaving Aldenham, **Hugh Cocksedge (SHO1939-43)** trained as an RAF pilot at the end of the war. He was too young to see action but stayed in the RAF for three years before returning to Magdalene College, Cambridge to complete his engineering degree. He then worked on wing design at Bristol Aeroplane Company but it didn't suit him so he changed career to become a teacher.

Hugh taught maths and science, first at King's College, Taunton (where he met Marjorie) and then at Dean Close School in Cheltenham, where he was also a Housemaster and set up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. He moved on, with Marjorie, to spend five years running a rural studies centre in East Anglia for children from central London. His teaching career ended with a decade at Lord Mayor Treloar College, Alton, as Head of the Senior School.

On retirement, Hugh began his twenty-eight year career as a Priest, first as Chaplain at Treloar Hospital in Alton, and later as Chaplain of St Nicholas Church for six years in the embassy at Ankara in Turkey. He and Marjorie then returned to the UK and Hugh ministered in many local parishes in Hampshire. Hugh passed away on 13th January 2016.

## Major John Michael Perry RA

Juliet Bothams (née Perry), wife of **Richard Bothams (SHO1970-74)**, sent the following tribute to her father, **John Michael Perry (Bursar 1972-81)**: 'It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of John Perry on 25th August this year.

Anne & John Perry at John McAllister's Memorial Service



John was Bursar at Aldenham School during a career that spanned the tenure of three Headmasters. He joined the School in 1971 when **Paul Griffin MBE (1962-74)** was at the helm; keeping the financial ship on course after Paul Griffin's retirement when **Peter Boorman (1974-83)** took over; and retiring during the leadership of **Michael Higginbottom (1983-94)**.

After passing out of Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 1950-51, John was a veteran of wars in Korea and Malaya in 1963 as well as dealing with the 'Troubles' in Cyprus and Aden. He was at Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham between 1964-66; then on to the MOD as a Staff Officer.

On arrival at Aldenham in 1971, John found a similarly formidable enemy in the guise of the School's finances, when he was charged with the responsibility of bringing the somewhat rebellious balance sheets back into compliance. Some of the more venerable staff will have been very grateful to him for putting the pension scheme on a more secure footing.

On a more light-hearted note, an apocryphal story has circulated for years involving the occasional late payment of school fees. A standard letter was sent out to appropriate parents reminding them of their obligation to pay the agreed fees per

annum. John was at first dismayed, and then greatly amused to receive a letter from a parent noting the sum under discussion, but saying he would prefer to pay through the nose as usual!

John made several lasting and very precious friendships with both staff and OAs over subsequent years, and enjoyed similarly cordial relations when he left Aldenham in 1981 to act as Treasurer and Bursarial Coordinator for the Association of Independent Preparatory Schools. He was made Hon Life Member, IAPS.

Before bowing out totally from public life, John hit the headlines and won a number of awards for his prolonged – and ultimately successful – campaign against the MoD for the fair payment of pensions to soldiers who had retired from service as a result of their war injuries. It is fair to say that thousands of old soldiers have benefitted from the five years of his life that John devoted to this cause, and many more injured soldiers will continue to benefit in the future.'

John's funeral took place on 13th September at St John the Baptist Church, Aldenham, attended by a packed congregation of family and friends including **Sue Barnard (Staff 1956-91)**, widow of **Ken Barnard (CR1956-91 & Housemaster B1967-82)**, **Andrew Fraser (Bursar 1994-Present)**, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, **Owen Williams (M1983-88)** and parents of OAs.

In June 2015, John and his wife Anne celebrated their Diamond wedding with a lunch party for family and many friends (cf. OA Review issue 43, p.28). Anne survives him with their two daughters, Juliet and Kate and two granddaughters, Emily and Charlotte.



## John Christopher Davidson

Jan Davidson, John's widow has written the following tribute to her husband:

'**John Christopher Davidson (SHO 1956-61)** died, aged 73, on 8th July 2016 after a long illness. Chris was a loving husband to Jan, much loved father of Lynne, Kate and Michael and devoted grandfather to his three grandchildren.

A Requiem Mass was held on Friday 22nd July at Christ the Prince of Peace Church in Weybridge, Surrey, which was attended by a large crowd of mourners, including three OAs – **Chris Croxton (SHE1956-61)**, a good friend since their time at School and best man at Chris and Jan's wedding in 1968, **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)** and **Jo Stainer (M1956-59)** who played football with Chris for the OAs. Chris was captain of the OAFC for one season and he played on occasions in the Arthur Dunn Cup competition. A passionate Arsenal supporter, he loved all sports and played cricket and hockey for Laleham and Staines. After leaving Aldenham, Chris joined the firm of Hindley & Co. in London and became a trader in Jute and subsequently other commodities and his work took him to India, Africa and Europe. A leg amputation in 2005 changed his life profoundly, but he coped very well with his disability.'

# Wing Commander Bob Horsley DFC

Extract taken from *The Daily Telegraph*:

'**W**ing Commander Bob Horsley, who has died aged 94, was shot down during a raid on Cologne but evaded capture and escaped over the Pyrenees with the aid of the Comet Line escape organisation; he later flew with the Dambuster Squadron.

Horsley was the recently commissioned wireless operator of a 50 Squadron Manchester bomber piloted by **Flying Officer Leslie Manser VC (M1936-38)** cf. p.38 OA Review issue 43. The crew took off on the night of May 30/31 1942, on the first of the "Thousand Bomber" raids. The aircraft was severely disabled over the target and one of the two engines was set on fire. Horsley and another member of the crew jettisoned equipment to lighten the aircraft as Manser nursed the crippled bomber until it was over Belgium, by which time he was losing control.

Manser ordered the crew to bale out, ignoring pleas to don his own parachute. Seconds after the last men left at a perilously low altitude, the bomber hit the ground and exploded.

Horsley landed in Limburg, Belgium, where a farmer sheltered him. He was passed to a local resistance, and then met two other members of his crew and they were taken together to Liege. Unknown to them, they were in the hands of the Belgian Comet Line, an organisation established by one of the war's greatest heroines, the 24 year old Red Cross volunteer, Andree "Dedee" de Jongh.

In Liege, the three men were reunited with two other members of the crew. They were sheltered in separate safe houses and a young Belgian woman escorted them in small parties to Paris. There she handed them over to Dedee, who then took Horsley, a fellow crew member and a Canadian by train to



Bordeaux and on to St Jean de Luz near the Spanish border.

They were taken to a remote farmhouse at Urrugne, known as "the Last House". On the night of June 12/13, a Basque guide and Dedee took the three airmen across the Pyrenees and on to San Sebastian, from where they were driven to the British Embassy in Madrid. A week later the guide and Dedee escorted the other three of Manser's crew into Spain. They were all taken to Madrid and on to Gibraltar before sailing for Britain.

On return to London, the five evaders were de-briefed by officers of M19, during which they related the conduct and sacrifice of their pilot. As a result, Manser was posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross. Horsley was awarded a DFC.

Wing Commander Bob Horsley died 19 January, 2016.

# John Debenham-Taylor

## OBE CMG

Senior intelligence officer who served with SOE as an instructor and with MI6 in Cold War hotspots

Extracts taken from the obituary in *The Daily Telegraph* 18 February 2016:

**John Debenham-Taylor (M1934-36)**, who has died aged 95, was one of the first instructor agents recruited by the Special Operations Executive; during the Second World War he served in Finland and the Far East, later rising to the high echelons of SIS (MI6) and becoming one of the organisation's official historians.

Though generally tight-lipped about his time with "the office", last year he was interviewed for Legasee, a project to record the memories of those who had been involved in the Secret War. He talked of the three years he had spent in the Control Commission for Germany in the late 1940s when West Berlin was blockaded, supplied only by an Allied airlift, and when a chronic shortage of soap meant that "a bar of Lifebuoy went a long way in securing whatever you wanted".

Among other things he told of a remarkable operation involving a stable of prostitutes that he was "running" in the hope that the girls would persuade Russians to defect or spy for the West, or, at the very least, obtain some "pillow talk". In a private memoir written for his family he recalled "nights spent on stations and road junctions keeping rendezvous near the Russian sector to which we hoped one girl or another would turn up, complete with a Russian." When asked whether the operation was successful, however, he replied: "Not really, but we probably gave them some terrible diseases."

John Debenham-Taylor was born at Wallington, Surrey, on April 25 1920 and educated at Aldenham School, where he captained the First XI. After leaving school he joined the Eastern Counties Farmers' Cooperative Association in

Ipswich (where he played rugby for the YMCA), before moving to Great Yarmouth. There, convinced a war in Europe was inevitable, he joined the Territorial Army in February 1939; when war broke out in September he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and was assigned to an anti-aircraft battery at RAF Duxford.

On November 30, Russia (allied at that time with Nazi Germany) invaded Finland. To support the Finns, an International Brigade of volunteers was raised and the British government surreptitiously sent a consignment of First World War field guns and howitzers to the beleaguered defenders.

The Finns, however, had no experience in using the weapons and a group of RA volunteers were requested to travel to Helsinki. Debenham-Taylor was selected and, as the assignment involved travelling through neutral Sweden, was "de-commissioned" from the Army and re-born as an "employee" of Vickers Armstrong. He arrived in Helsinki as an armistice was signed.

He stayed in Finland for several months, demonstrating the guns, helping to compile instruction manuals and "picking up local girls in the café above Stockmann's department store". The trip gave him a taste for travel and clandestine work that remained with him for the rest of his life.

The full story of the Finnish adventure only emerged some 70 years later, when Debenham-Taylor was interviewed by an author writing a novel about the early days of SOE. The novelist wrote to the Finnish embassy suggesting Debenham-Taylor's efforts be recognised, as a result of which a new Winter War Commemorative Medal was struck and he was invited to the embassy to receive it from the Finnish



Military Attaché. Thanks to a similar intervention by his son-in-law, he later received the Arctic Star for the voyage he made home to Liverpool from northern Finland in a cargo boat carrying captured Russian ordnance.

Quietly posted back into the Army, Debenham-Taylor served in gun batteries in Aden (where he shot down an Italian bomber), Egypt and in the Libyan desert where, in 1941, he was part of Operation Battleaxe, which failed to raise the siege of Tobruk.

Finland had given him a fondness for intelligence activity, however, and in 1942, using contacts in the War Office, he was accepted for secret intelligence work, initially as an instructor on an intelligence course at Oxford. In 1943 he moved into Carlisle Mansions, near Victoria Street in London, where he became part of the planning for Operation Overlord.

His ambition was to move to what became known as SOE and in particular the "Jeds" or Jedburghs, three-man teams consisting of an SOE operative, an American OSS officer and a Free French agent, who would be parachuted behind enemy lines to co-ordinate the French Resistance in acts of sabotage. But his

request was refused because, in the event of his capture and torture, he knew too much about the Overlord strategy.

Instead, by now a Captain, he took a posting to Beaulieu, SOE's "finishing school" for agents in the New Forest, where, among other things, he instructed would-be agents on "burglary techniques, mostly copying or making replacement keys, and a technique for opening handcuffs of certain types, using a clove hitch knot of catgut."

"I think everyone going into occupied Europe knew perfectly well what might happen to them if they were caught, namely torture and beatings-up," he recalled in an interview published in Russell Miller's *Behind the Lines: The Oral History of Special Operations in World War II* (2004). "The main thing we would concentrate on was the need to stay quiet for as long as they could without giving anything away, for at least 48 hours, which would give their colleagues time to learn they had been arrested and to make themselves scarce." To see how they reacted under pressure, the

local police in Beaulieu would sometimes be briefed to pick up and interrogate recruits as suspects in some criminal activity.

In late 1944 Debenham-Taylor was offered a staff appointment with promotion to major at SOE's HQ in Colombo, Ceylon, the base for operations in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, mostly monitoring Japanese troop and naval movements. After peace was declared his war continued in Surabaya, mounting intelligence operations against a nationalist uprising against the returning Dutch colonialists.

When SOE was wound down at the end of the war, Debenham-Taylor was recruited into The Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as MI6. Over the next three decades, in the official status of diplomat, he served in many of the hotspots of the Cold War. As well as Berlin he served in Hanoi and Bangkok during the early 1950s, and later in Singapore. During the 1960s he spent two years as SIS station chief in Kuala Lumpur (1964-66), followed by three

years as controller of the Asia division. In 1969 he transferred to Washington, where he played a role in several Russian defections. During the 1970s he spent several happy years in Paris.

Debenham-Taylor found his later career behind a desk at SIS in London a little tame. Some tipped him for the role of "C", but his horror of "admin" probably ruled him out. After several false starts, he finally retired in 1990, first to a wing of Gunton Hall, Norfolk, and later to part of an Arts and Crafts House (originally built for Tate of Tate & Lyle) in West Sussex.

His final task with SIS before retirement was extending the official history of MI6 although, due to the secret nature of this work, his researches remain locked away in the archives.

John Debenham-Taylor was appointed OBE in 1959 and CMG in 1967. In 1966 he married Gillian James, a BBC make-up artist, who survives him with their daughter.

John Debenham-Taylor, born April 25 1920, died January 30 2016.



## Michael George Handcock (SHE1945-50)

The following tribute, written by his older brother, **John Handcock (SHE1944-47)** is based on the eulogy given at Michael's memorial service in Cookham Church on 6 April 2016.

**M**ichael Handcock, died on 8 March 2016 at the age of 83. Born on 3 May 1932 to Eric and Gladys Handcock, he was educated at Upton Preparatory School in Windsor; Imperial Service College Junior School (later Haileybury and ISC), and then came to Aldenham in the summer term of 1945.

Of Aldenham he wrote with a characteristically dry wit "Aldenham School is probably the most memorable for me as the place in which I resided and never felt warm for over five years."

His time at Aldenham was full and happy. He was not a natural scholar, but gradually became absorbed by science

and mathematics and having embarked on the life scientific he displayed that ability to focus on a single purpose, which became so evident throughout his life.

Determination and sheer hard work won him a place at King's College London where he read for a BSc in Civil Engineering. His devotion to his subject was so marked that he spent a further year at King's studying Heat transfer in concrete, for which he received a Master's.

Michael always maintained that loud, classical music was indispensable to his study of maths, which caused some mild disagreement between us, since I

found any loud music, decidedly not conducive to the study of Law.

After leaving King's, Michael spent nearly ten years working in various capacities for Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons in London and Knutsford, where he was seconded to the Nuclear Power Plant Company, for whom in 1958, he took up a position as Civil Engineer for the construction of a new nuclear power station at Latina in Italy. There he lived in a flat overlooking the harbour at Anzio. As he wrote "These were magic times of nearly four years, where I learned the language and a love of Italy, which remained with me all my life."

Later he worked on the development of the pre-stressed nuclear reactors for Oldbury Power Station. As this commitment, he was appointed Senior Principal engineer by the Central Electricity Board, at the Inspectorate of Nuclear Installations. This involved considerable travel visiting nuclear power stations under construction, and several foreign visits to conferences at which he sometimes delivered papers. He visited many places in Europe, Asia and America, spending a couple of years in Baghdad where he met Saddam Hussein.

Michael unequivocally condemned the Iraqi invasion and, had the Chilcott Report been the Handcock Report, the actions of the politicians would have been mercilessly lambasted even more than they were.

**Richard Thwaites (SHO1944-49)**, a contemporary of mine at Aldenham, married June in 1958 which is where Michael met Carolyn, Richard's sister. They were married at Whyteleafe Church in 1960, they were happily married for over fifty years, and had three children **Roger (SHE1975-80)**, born in Rome in 1961, **Phillipa** in 1962 and **Trevor (SHE1979-84)** in 1965.

The family settled in Banstead, then in 1970, they moved to Maidenhead where they created a warm and happy home which was shared by their wider family and friends. Their final move was

to Cookham Dean in October 2014.

When the CEBG moved its head office to Cheltenham in the 1970s, Michael left and joined Shoemsmith-Howe a small firm of consulting engineers in Newbury, which worked in partnership with CD Howe, in Montreal, Canada, on the design of grain storage, shipping and distribution systems. Finally, Michael joined Peter Brett and Partners, a vigorous and expanding firm of Civil Engineers, in Reading where he became a Senior Partner and stayed until retirement.

Michael had a myriad of interests. He savoured his life with many friends in Maidenhead Round Table and later in Maidenhead 41 Club. He played Bridge and became a talented watercolourist. He played bowls and was an enthusiastic and prolific gardener. The Orchid Society, whose members he and Carolyn regularly entertained at home, was a fulfilling facet of his life.

Michael & Carolyn's passion for travel took them all over the world and several years ago they embarked on a three month round the world cruise with old friends, **Alan Oliver (SHO1944-49)** and his wife, Anne.

Our families took holidays together in Cornwall, France and on the canals in narrow boats. For some years, whilst Michael was working on the nuclear power station in Anglesey, we built a cottage there and ran a small building

company, Capege Ltd, in that delightful part of the world.

One of Michael's Aldenham friends, was **David Ellison (SHE1946-51)**, with whom he kept in regular touch after his move to Christchurch, New Zealand. He admired David for his scholastic and musical talents and was delighted to be able to visit him not very long before he died on 1 January 2015.

Michael's zest for life was unquenchable. His Uncle Bertie, who lived into his late eighties, was accustomed to say "You must always have something to look forward to." Michael also had this positive attitude to life. Two days before he died he told me of his plans for a holiday with Richard and June to Norfolk, where he was making arrangements to meet another Aldenham friend, **Colin Shield (SHO1945-49)**.

At the memorial service Rudyard Kipling's *If* was movingly read by Richard and I ended with these words: When the late Lord Elwyn-Jones gave the Magna Carta presentation speech in 1976, he said "One of the great precepts of friendship is to rejoice with those who do rejoice and weep with those who do weep". Over many years, all of us had occasion to rejoice in our love of Michael. Today we meet together to grieve for an exceptional man, a loyal and well-loved friend and brother. The tapestry of his life is complete.'

## Brigadier Mike Taylor CBE DL

Address from Martin Baker, former Chief Constable of Dorset

The obituary for **Brigadier Mike Taylor (SHE1956-61)** in the last RSI Journal was based on a personal summary which he updated only some days before his death, and was unsurprisingly focused on his military career. At his memorial service Martin Baker delivered the following address which makes clear his significant contribution in the civil sphere following his retirement from the Army.

'Firstly can I say how honoured I am to have been asked by Mike's family to provide my reflections on Mike, a much

loved husband and father and known to many of us as an outstanding Chairman of the Dorset Police Authority.

Mike became an independent member of the Dorset Police Authority in 1999 and he was elected Chairman in 2002, a post he was re-elected to annually by his peers until the dissolution of the Authority in late 2012. This was a huge testament to the respect that the members had for Mike and it is excellent to see so many of those former members here today. During Mike's tenure he worked with four Chief Constables, three of whom he

had a hand in selecting and they are also all here today.

When Mike joined the Police Authority its membership was a mixture of elected councillors from Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, Magistrate Members and Independent members. Consequently, chairing the authority required a deft touch (that's code for 'herding cats') and this required a huge amount of consultation by Mike to ensure that he was able to take into account the wide range of views of his Members. Councillor John Lofts was Mike's Vice Chair for 9 years and John



**Junior House Drama Winners 1956 (School House Evens) 'The Dear Departed' performed 8 December 1956 and mentioned in *The Aldenhamiana* January 1957, p.9**  
**Back Row: Douglas Maxwell (SHE1956-61), John Dawson (SHE1955-59), Andrew Thompson (SHE1955-59), Mike Taylor (SHE1956-61)**  
**Front Row: Fred Clitheroe (SHE1955-59), Peter Benison (SHE1955-58), Allan Arthur (SHE1955-60), Antony Wood (SHE1954-59), Murray Stewart (SHE1955-58)**

was succeeded as Vice Chair by Colonel Geoff Brierley, both of whom are also here today. I know how much Mike valued his regular Sunday morning call from John Lofts, which was never shorter than an hour.

As Chairman of the Authority Mike had a huge range of duties and responsibilities for what was an unpaid, part time role. Consequently, he had to put enormous trust in the support provided by the very small number of staff in the Police Authority office. This was particularly so in respect of the Clerk to the Police Authority Peter Harvey and Peter's successor, the Authority's Chief Executive, Martin Goscomb. I know how much Mike valued and respected both Peter and Martin and during my time working alongside Mike he regularly spoke of them both in the warmest of terms.

I first met Mike in 2002 at which time I was the Deputy Chief Constable for Gloucestershire. The occasion was a meeting of the five Chief Constables and five Police Authority chairs for the South West of England, which were always a joy! At that time, three of the five police authority chairs in the South West were former Brigadiers and I recall thinking at the time that Mike clearly understood that the Crown had been on his hat and not on his head. In my experience Mike had absolutely no airs and graces. He personified what it means to be a servant of the public, never putting himself first. All that he ever wanted was what was best for the public, which meant that both the Police Authority

and the Force had to succeed, not by any means but by the proper means.

As the police collaboration agenda came to the fore, Mike had to attend many regional and national collaboration meetings, often in the company of his Chief Executive, Martin Goscomb. Mike always preferred to do the driving and these longer trips around the country were always a good opportunity for Martin to brief Mike fully on the meeting agenda and for the two of them to discuss the full range of police authority matters.

At this particular meeting some enormously challenging and weighty issues had been raised, which Mike and Martin continued to discuss in the car on their way back home. Mike joined the M5 at junction 12 as usual and so immersed were they in their discussion that it wasn't until they reached the outskirts of Birmingham that they realised they had been travelling north instead of south!

Mike had an acute understanding of the types of issue that might attract the unwanted attentions of the Home Office and he had a nose for any issue that might have been described by the Civil Service as either 'novel or contentious'. As a consequence, there was many an occasion when Mike was able to steer the Police Authority and the Force away from what might otherwise have been choppy waters. Mike was also very conscious of his personal responsibility to maintain the dignity and decorum of his role as Chairman, which was not always easy.

On one occasion Mike went to a Home Office conference at a hotel at Gatwick Airport with the then Deputy Chief Constable, George Potheary. During one of the breaks George left the conference room and headed for the toilets, closely followed by Mike. In his haste George "misread" the sign on the toilet door and they found themselves in the ladies loo. George thought it strange that there were no urinals but even then the penny didn't drop (as it were), he simply put it down to the fact that they were in an upmarket hotel. As our two heroes headed for the cubicles they only realised their mistake when they heard female voices coming in behind them! They then had to hide like naughty schoolboys in a cubicle until they thought the coast was clear, emerging gingerly as the clatter of high heels receded so that they could head back to the conference. George's defence is that the outline figure on the door to denote gender was wearing a mini skirt which was hardly visible!

Now, you can imagine Mike's blushes at such an incident and his relief at not being rumbled by the Daily Mail (because we all know how much Mike loved being in the media – not!). Around that time there were a number of 'celebrity' Police Authority chairs, which Mike absolutely abhorred, far preferring the outcomes achieved by the Force and the Authority to speak for themselves.

Once is accidental but twice is looking accident-prone because it wasn't long before there was another incident that would have been of huge interest to the tabloid press! This occurred at The Association of Police Authorities annual conference in Belfast, which Mike attended along with Captain John Lofts (Vice-Chair), Peter Harvey (Clerk) and Martin Goscomb (Policy Officer).

Accommodation at the Conference hotel was fully booked and so it was that the Malmaison Belfast was chosen for the Dorset Police Authority contingent and, better still, Mike was upgraded to a superior room (at no extra charge to the public purse).

On arrival at the hotel Mike's suspicions should have been aroused by the strange dark decor and the dim lighting, not to mention the somewhat erotic imagery and effects around the

hotel. All became clear when Mike's upgrade transpired to be the Hotel's Honeymoon Suite with a number of unexpected extras! Consistent with the hotel's style and ambiance, these 'extras' included a bed of enormous proportions, a double bath and Jacuzzi, a double walk-in shower, two televisions viewable from the lounge and the bed, complete with a shelf displaying a wide selection of pornographic videos. Mike greatly enjoyed giving his Authority colleagues a guided tour of the facilities and it is down to their enormous discretion that we only discover this now!

As anyone who knew Mike will know he was a very private person who loved his family and his cats and I always felt it a great honour when he shared some personal glimpses from his earlier life, one or two of which I feel able to share.

Mike once told me about the medical that he underwent when on first joining the armed services, during which it became clear to the Medical Officer that Mike was colour blind – not great if you're a signaller! However, it was in a different age and the officer clearly saw some potential in Mike, asking him such questions as "What colour is this blue wire". Inevitably, Mike passed his medical and the rest is history.

Mike also told me about an incident involving "The h'occurrence book". As a young officer Mike had gone out into the town in his small sports car and one thing led to another, which resulted in him having far too much to drink. The next thing he could recall was waking up in his bed back at camp with very little memory of the night before. He quickly looked out of the curtains only to see his car parked neatly back in its space. Mike realised that neither he nor his car could have got back to the camp without some assistance and that there must have been some kind of outside intervention which may have led to the making of a record in the camp's occurrence book.

Being a man of great integrity Mike was ready to face the music and went to the guard room where he saw the duty Sergeant. In his inimitable fashion Mike cleared his throat and said, "Er, sergeant, I believe there may have been an occurrence last evening in which I may have been involved....". The Sergeant



opened the said occurrence book and carefully ran his finger down the page for the previous 24 hours, finally proclaiming, "I have examined the h'occurrence book sir and I can find no record of any h'occurrence, so there cannot have been an h'occurrence as it would have been recorded in the h'occurrence book". A knowing look passed between the two men. Mike quickly cottoned on, stood to attention, said, "Thank you very much Sergeant, I understand!" and marched smartly out of the guard room with a huge sigh of relief!

All of this illustrates Mike's very well developed sense of humour and there were many occasions when his sense of humour was sorely tested. One such example was the occasion on which a wheel literally fell off a police van, following which it was discovered that the vehicle had no MOT! Jane Stichbury was Chief Constable at the time and as you can imagine the whole issue was liberally reported in the Dorset Echo. Thankfully, Mike was his usual calm self and after asking a number of well-considered and probing questions he took the long view and the furore soon subsided. With the healing balm of time this incident subsequently became something of a standing joke with Mike regularly commenting that "at least the wheel hasn't come off"! Like many of us here today, Jane greatly valued Mike's sense of perspective and his reassuring words and we shall all miss his wise counsel that we have been so fortunate to experience over the years.

At times like this the question of legacy arises, the first and most important of which must be Mike's

family of whom he was immensely proud. His lifelong service to the public was simply breathtaking – in the armed forces, through the Police Authority and as a member of the Immigration Appeals Tribunal and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

It is through his membership and leadership of the Police Authority that we can quantify some of his legacy – 15 consecutive years of crime reduction, not one unsolved homicide, significant reductions in anti-social behaviour and road casualties and the highest levels of public confidence of any police force in England and Wales. Mike's enormous contribution in ensuring that the Force had the resources it needed and experienced the scrutiny that it required was central to the joint endeavour between the Police Authority and the Force. And when Mike handed over the mantle of police governance to the PCC he did so as seamlessly as possible and I know that Martyn Underhill greatly appreciated his support.

I will personally remember Mike both for his positive scrutiny and his unswerving support when the chips were down – during a nine year murder investigation that cost a small fortune but it was the right thing to do, during the preparations for and delivery of the Olympic security operation and during a period of unprecedented cuts that had a huge impact of staff.

Mike was our dedicated and true friend, a man of the utmost integrity, someone who understood the true nature of duty. We will all remember him and we are all devastated by his untimely passing.'

## Tributes to Mike Taylor

### Mark Jordan (P1981-86)

Thank you for the news update – it is very sad news indeed to hear of the death of Mike. I spent many years on the OA committee with him; he was a lovely man and an excellent OA President. He will be missed.

### Michael Cowper (SHE1943-47)

Very sorry to hear this sad news...with thoughts.

### Peter Hull (M1952-56)

Very sad news. Thank you for keeping me informed, not only of this but generally about the OA Society.

### Tony Mitcheson (M1955-60)

Thank you very much for letting me know of Mike Taylor's untimely death. What truly sad and unexpected news – he was one of the few contemporaries of mine with whom I had managed to stay in touch over the years. Babs and I greatly enjoyed seeing him again at OA Day in June last year. We will greatly miss him.

### Paul Willoughby (SHO1961-65)

Sad to hear about Mike. He was a VI former in School House when I joined in 1961. I remember him being very sporty.

### David Clarke (SHO1959-63)

My brother **Richard Clarke (SHO1956-61)** was a good friend of Mike's and I knew him from being a stage hand when Richard was Stage Manager and Mike the stage electrician.

Mike had an interesting career and will obviously be missed by many. All memories will leave the person smiling about the events that Mike got up to. A rare legacy.

On leaving Aldenham Richard became an architect and ended up as senior partner with Clifford Tee & Gale. His last job was as the build architect of One Hyde Park.

Your email has reminded me of the very happy days I had at Aldenham which gave me masses of confidence to enter the big wide world.

### Derrick Swain (SHE1956-60)

Thanks for letting us know about Mike Taylor, a contemporary in School House,

always destined for high military office. He was also a leading light in ASMEC, which lead to many other OAs achieving successful careers in engineering.

### Scott Goodfellow (M1979-84)

Sad news indeed but I appreciate the update.

### Robin Dawson (SHE1957-62)

Thanks for letting me know about Mike Taylor. He was very much "one of us". He was the stage electrician when **Robert Sentance (SHO1956-61)**, **Andrew de Moleyns (SHO1957-60)** and I were stage hands. He was a magician with electrics. I have passed the message on to the ten or so OAs I keep in touch with.

The following attended Mike's Memorial Service on 12 February 2016 at the Corps Chapel, Blandford Camp: **Neil Sutherland OBE DL**, **Frank Rogers**, **Tony Mitcheson**, **Ian Luetchford**, **Trevor Barton**, **James James-Crook**, **James Fowler** & **Nick Pulman**.

# Jonathan Coates

The following is a tribute from **Bob Kershaw (K1964-67)**



Jonathan and Marie-Noelle Coates

'**Jonathan Coates (SHO1964-69 & CR1997-2002)**, and **Housemaster Kennedy's 1999-2002** and I entered Aldenham in September 1964. Although

in the same form, we belonged to different houses and in the lower forms that tended to carry with it a certain insularity unless one was good at sport, which I certainly was not. After the first year we were in different streams and when I left Aldenham two years later, we still hardly knew one another.

Our next meeting was 31 years later at Aldenham on OA Day in 1998, the Aldenham Quatercentenary, by which time Jonathan was a member of the Common Room. That was also when we met Marie-Noelle and the warmth of their combined welcome to Mary and me remains as a happy memory. That forms the basis of my personal tribute to Jonathan and the phrase which comes to mind is *generosity of spirit*.

We were in touch again after Jonathan and Marie-Noelle had moved

to Scotland and we met up in Perth in 2007. From then we became better acquainted and corresponded mainly in writing, due mainly to Jonathan's strong resistance to IT, right up to the time of his death. The common pattern to his letters was one of first showing great interest in others, expressing genuine pleasure in their success and mentioning himself last. In the context of his willingness to help and advise, his offers were entirely without pressure or intrusion.

Even when Jonathan wrote in his last days, he showed a remarkably positive attitude in the words, among others, 'loved my 41 year teaching career . . .' My only regret is that my last letter in reply arrived just too late. Following his positive example, I give thanks for his friendship even though I will greatly

miss that. Jonathan's passing at a relatively young age is of course a significant loss to the Aldenham community. My thoughts remain with his family and his other friends.'

## Tributes to Jonathan Coates

### Andrew Stead (CR1994-2013)

Please pass our condolences to Marie-Noelle and the family – Jonathan was my immediate predecessor in Kennedy's House and of course Nick followed me. It is sad news and he and the family will be remembered in our prayers.

### Sulove Bothra (K1999-2000)

Mr. Coates was my Housemaster at Kennedy's and I remember both him and his wife very fondly. Together they introduced me to the joys of French cheeses and wine at their house. They also helped me improve my French at every opportunity, even though it was not part of my curriculum at Aldenham.

I would like to thank them both for their generosity and patience. Mrs. Coates will be pleased to know that I am finally fluent in French today...or at least I think I am!

### Neil Roskilly (CR1998-2002)

Thanks for letting me know. Jonathan was a wonderful colleague – a true gentleman – and I'm really saddened by this news.

### Chris Searle (SHO1964-69)

Many thanks for passing on this unexpected and very sad news about Jonathan. We were close friends and colleagues in School House Odds in the same period from 1964-69, although not in the same forms.

I remember Jonathan fondly for his many adventures and his apprehension over his father's views, notably when he indented for £5 to go to Watford to meet a female friend and put the expense down as a broken bulb attributable to his work as Stage Manager. His father refused to pay and called for an investigation. Busted! I last saw

Jonathan at an annual reunion at School many years ago when he called for support from the OAs he knew to make OA Day more special. He was clearly in control of all activities as MC, and loving his life.

I also saw **Pete Birchall (SHO1964-69)** who was Jonathan's closest mate through his time as a pupil, and I hope is still well after some heart problems in his early forties. Please give my deepest condolences to Jonathan's family. He was a gentle man with a great sense of humour and purpose.

### Philip Levine (K1995-2000)

There are few teachers that leave a really lasting impression when you are a school kid. However Jonathan did just that, not least because he was part of our lives at both Westbrook Hay (1991-95) and then at Aldenham, where we were also 'living under the same roof' in 1999 for the last year at Kennedy's House.

I fondly remember him reading stories to us at Westbrook Hay from books – gloriously changing his voice for each character. Passionate about many subjects and facts in both History and English. Getting involved in sports and school plays.

### Michael Johnson (SHO1964-69)

Jonathan was part of my life at Aldenham albeit on the periphery of his 'group'. I remember his kindness in a world of boys becoming men.

### Simon Worrall (K1964-69)

Thanks for sharing this with me, albeit sad news. I remember Jonathan with fondness from my time at Aldenham, although he was not a Kennedy's boy. But we were in many of the same classes and, I believe, sports teams. Please pass on my condolences to his family.

### Phil Burley (Staff 1997-2008)

He was an extremely nice person, a real gentleman and I know he will be sorely missed. I joined Aldenham at the same time as Jonathan, although not on the teaching staff, I was the accountant. Jonathan became a good friend and we often had lunch together and I remember feeling really sorry when he

left the School in 2002. Lunchtimes were never the same! My deepest sympathies go to Marie-Noelle and family for their terrible loss. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

### Martin Field (CR1989-2005)

I remember working and sharing our time when Jonathan was at Aldenham. He was very proud of the fact that he had been a pupil at Aldenham and had returned to both teach and then become a Housemaster. He was a very passionate Schoolmaster with a wonderful sense of care and devotion to his pupils, and a great sense of camaraderie to his fellow colleagues.

### Michael Burley (CR1974-77 & 1987-2007)

Although I only knew Jonathan during his time teaching at Aldenham, I felt that I had known him longer. Approachable, caring and eminently sensible, he was a valued colleague with whom one could easily get on. In particular he did some sterling work in the Mathematics Department for a while where he took on younger sets or those who found the subject most difficult and used his skills with patience and good humour to good effect. I was most appreciative of his contribution to the department and enjoyed working with him. I remember him with affection.

### Stephen Borthwick (Headmaster 1994-2000)

Glynis and I were so sad to hear of Jonathan's passing away and we extend our deepest sympathies to you and all the family. As Headmaster I appointed Jonathan to Aldenham in 1997 and was privileged to see him begin again from his school days his huge commitment to the School. He was a talented schoolmaster and delightful human being and I remember with enormous fondness his reassuring and gentle manner with the warmest of supporting smiles. I was delighted to further appoint him to the Housemastership of Kennedy's following **Austin Galvin (CR1970-2006)**, though I had left in 2000 so never actually worked with him in his new post. Our prayers, admiration and best wishes go with you.

# Warren Hervey Gamble

From Seaford Prep School, in 1952, **Warren Hervey Gamble (B1952-55)** went on to Aldenham.



**C**hris Measures, a lifelong friend of 65 years, recalls a flaxen-haired scamp of a fellow: 'To me he seemed rather boisterous but, despite this, we developed a long-lasting and lifetime friendship. Even then, Warren was a highly talented, flamboyant, young golfer, unlike me, who was one of limited ability.

As we grew up through our teens, Warren had the enviable advantage of owning a Bradford van (Number Plate FKU 1), with loose back doors, which, apart from other things, caused concern in the Golf Club car park! In time it went on to evolve into TR4s, Porsches, and, ultimately, Bentleys.

His parents were very hospitable to us youngsters, inviting us to their Boxing Day parties, where they introduced us to the art of drinking gin and tonics, a very important part of our social education, especially as in the early days we were under-age! His father also tried to convert us to be Spurs fans by way of taking us in a chauffeur driven car to Whitehart Lane, where he had season tickets. He failed in my case and, in fact, I found out later that Warren had been an Arsenal supporter!

**Ian Eggleden (SHE1958-63)** recalls: 'In 1963 Warren played football for the OAs, on the right wing, racing up and down the touchline at great speed,

barking instructions to all and sundry, including the referee!

He was an excellent golfer, fiercely competitive with a low handicap and a remarkably steady nerve and in 1963 was selected to play for the OAs in the Halford Hewitt, the largest knock out Tournament in the world. He played 17 times in all and partnered **Robert Aram (P1950-55)** in his last 3 matches in 1988. He was Captain in 1984. After that, despite not being a member of the team, he continued going to Deal and Sandwich every year to support them. Played in early April, it was usually cold and often with driving rain or snow but Warren would be there perched above the 6th green at Royal St Georges on his shooting stick wearing a thick Barbour and woolly hat.

The team loved and respected him, with his fund of wacky stories and jokes – some were even suitable for polite company! On the Wednesday of the Halford Hewitt week whilst the team were practising, he and I would go to France for lunch. £2 return on the P&O ferries to Calais as foot passengers enabled us to spend rather more on lunch and some duty free liquor on the boat. We did that for more than 25 years.

Warren was an ever present figure at all OA golf events and played consistently good golf. Despite his quicker than normal swing and a very personal putting style, he has won every OAGS trophy once, some of them many times. He donated the magnificent Warren Gamble Captain's Cup for the best 2 medal scores during each year and won it himself just two years ago.'

Another passion was his manufacturing business which has been in the Gamble Family for four generations thanks in part to Warren and his business partner and mentor, Mac, who took on the challenges of every day business after Warren's father died. Warren was so proud to know that his son, Richard had become such a driving force in recent times, diversifying

and expanding the business to the extent that the company now has factories both in the UK and overseas.

He was blessed for over forty years, with the love, companionship and unending support of his wife, Diana, with whom he shared a delight in travel, gardening and walks with their dogs. Warren so much appreciated Diana's courage, devotion, and unselfish caring particularly over the last two years, and especially during the last few months.

The following OAs, all members of the OAGS attended his funeral at the Parish Church of St Andrew's, Little Berkhamsted: **Robert Aram (P1950-55)**, **Michael Capon (SHE1948-51)**, **Robin Chaventré (M1949-52)**, **Dick Hall (K1969-74)**, **John Hodge (B1952-55)**, **Nick Holt (B1955-59)**, **Martin Jeens (SHE1956-61)**, **Neil Melvill (K1965-70)**, **Phil Murphy (K1965-70)**, **Clive Simeons (SHE1951-56)**, **Mark Weatherhead (M1954-57)**, **Shon Williams (M1975-80)** & **Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P1958-61)**

He is survived by Diana, their two children, Richard and Fiona, also by his grandchildren Oliver, Arabella, Imogen, Gus and Teddy.

## David Dewes

**David William Dewes (B1947-52)** died peacefully on 22 July 2015 at the age of 81, following a short illness.

David, son of **Sydney William Dewes (B1913-16)**, contracted polio in 1949 and returned to School after a year's rehabilitation to continue his education. He subsequently worked in the family law firm Dewes & Son, Tamworth, Staffordshire with his cousin **Patrick Salisbury Dewes (B1942-47)**, whose older brother was England batsman, **John Gordon Dewes (B1940-45)**, and whose obituary was recorded in OA Review issue 43, pps. 48 & 49. Their father was **Sir Herbert John Salisbury Dewes (B1911-14)**.



## The School Graces

The consensus of opinion amongst the learned OA historians is that the Graces were introduced to Aldenhams School by **Richard Platt** after consultation with St John's College, Cambridge.

Richard Platt had requested St John's to recommend the first Headmaster (**Thomas Neale 1598-1623**) for his new School. The continuing relationship with St. John's exists to the present day and the format of our School Graces is also very similar to the Graces used at St John's.

Assuming therefore this to be correct, it would mean that these Graces will have been recited at Aldenhams for some 418 years.

| Grace                          | Latin                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ante Prandium<br>(Before Meal) | Benedic domine nobis et his donis Tuis quae de Tua largitate sumus sumpturi et concede ut eis salubriter nutriti Tibi debitum obsequium praestare valeamus; per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum.                       |
| Post Prandium<br>(After Meal)  | Concede, Domine Deus, ut his donis datis a Ricardo Platt, fundatore nostro, ad tuam gloriam utamur; et cum omnibus qui in fide Christi decesserunt ad caelestem vitam resurgamus; per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum. |

| Grace                          | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ante Prandium<br>(Before Meal) | Bless, O Lord, us and these your gifts which from your bounty we are about to consume; and grant that, by them, we being healthily nourished, may be strong to render due obeisance to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. |
| Post Prandium<br>(After Meal)  | Grant, O Lord God, that we may use these gifts given by our founder Richard Platt to Your glory; and that with all who have died in the faith of Christ we may rise to heavenly life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.       |

## The School Songs

The first School song may be new to many of you and no exact year or even decade can be found for this song, however it is referred to in reminiscences of *A mid Victorian Aldenhams* by **D F de l'H Ranking (SH1862-67)**, later a distinguished lawyer. Judging by the content of the lyrics and style of Latin, it is highly likely to have been composed by one or more of the pupils.

According to Ranking it was performed at an event called 'Hut Seat'. The 'seat' was situated outside a 'Hut' that acted as a store for sports gear in the vicinity of the Cricket Pavilion and 'Hut Seat' took place on the last four Saturdays of each half year. In winter it was transferred to the schoolroom.

No record of the music is mentioned but it was recommended.... 'To be sung *molto vivace* and *con furore*'.

### The Second School Song

The words were written by **Godfrey Charles Frederick Mead (SH1905-10 & CR1914-44)** and first appeared in the 1937 edition of the 'Aldenhamsian' from which the following is reproduced:

'It seems a strange thing that the School has existed for so many years without acquiring a song of its own to be sung at School functions. This has at last been remedied. Mr. Mead has written the words and Mr. Leighton has composed the music.

The combination, we feel, is admirable and entirely suited to its purpose. We print the song below in the hope that all Old Aldenhamsians may become

acquainted with it and that they will consider it their duty to practise in the bath-tub until they feel competent to sing it in public.'

| Latin                                                                                                                                                                                                          | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Omne bene<br>Sine poena<br>Tempus est ludendi,<br>Venit hora,<br>Absque mora,<br>Libros depondendi<br>(Comites ales?)<br>Mi sodales,<br>Vis non edere pomom<br>Si non vis, mirabilis!<br>Et nunc redire domum! | All well<br>Without pain<br>It is the time for playing<br>The hour has come<br>Without delay<br>For putting down our books<br>Fellow gamblers<br>My companions<br>If you do not wish<br>To eat an apple - Great!<br>And now you wish<br>To return home happily<br>Home, sweet home,<br>Home again, home. |
| Domum, domum, dulce domum,<br>Domum, domum felix (vis).                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Anon c1840-60

| "Let Us Praise Now Famous Men"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laudate nunc praeteritos<br>Et omne bene meritos,<br>Nobilium memoriam<br>Et fundatoris gloriam<br>Ricardi Platt:<br>Qui suis largitatus<br>Fundavit in his partibus<br>Et dedicavit artibus,<br>Hanc Aldenhams, Hanc Aldenhams-<br>Nunc Aldenhamsiensibus,<br>Praeteritis, praesentibus,<br>Hanc Scholam diligentibus,<br>Sit felicitas! | Let us praise now famous men<br>And all those who have achieved honour,<br>The remembrance of the famous<br>And the glory of our founder,<br>Richard Platt:<br>Who, by his generosity established<br>And dedicated it to learning;<br>This Aldenhams this Aldenhams-<br>Now for Aldenhamsians,<br>Past and present,<br>and for all those that love this School.<br>May there be success. |

# OA ANNUAL DINNER 2016

Friday 18th November at Aldenham School

6.15pm Drinks Reception in The Apthorp Room of The Wells Centre

6.30pm Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90) & Georgie Yeabsley (P2009-16) The Aldenham Experience – A Family Affair

7.30pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

Principal Guest and Speaker The Headmaster, James Fowler MA

Tickets: £45 per person or £38.00 for those aged 25 or under on the day of the Dinner. £50 per person for non-members of the OA Society.

(Ticket includes pre-dinner drinks, wine with dinner and coffee and mints)

Wives, husbands and partners are also invited

For booking details see p.34

