



ALDENHAMIANA  
ISSUE 43  
October 2015



# OA REVIEW

News from the  
OA Society

**News from the  
School**

Letters from  
OAs

**Second World  
War Tribute**

Obituaries and  
tributes

# OA REVIEW

## Aldenhamiana

No.43 October 2015

Published by The Old Aldenhamian Society

Aldenham School, Elstree, Hertfordshire WD6 3AJ UK

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

Web: [www.aldenhamian.org](http://www.aldenhamian.org)

Tel: +44 (0)1923 858 122



# Contents

## 2 From the OA Society

- 2 From the President's Desk
- 3 [aldenham.net](http://aldenham.net)
- 4 OA Day
- 8 Annual OA Dinner 2014
- 11 Mentoring
- 12 Sport

## 17 From the School

- 17 Letter from the Headmaster
- 18 Exam results
- 22 The Letchmore Trust Art Prizes

## 26 News and features

- 26 Letters and events
- 31 Forms for forthcoming events
- 35 Second World War Tribute

## 47 Obituaries and tributes

- 47 List of Deaths
- 48 Obituaries and tributes

## FROM THE EDITOR



113 OAs were killed during WW2 and many more wounded. The names of the dead are recorded in the Book of Remembrance in the School Chapel.

During a Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel on OA Day this year, the newly installed marble memorial listing the names of OAs was dedicated.

*'In September 1939 the School was blacked-out. This meant screening over 1000 windows, doors and skylights. Rooms used only or mainly at night were permanently blacked out with black paint or paper; no evening services were held in the Chapel.'*

There was little concept of the nature of the war to come. Brief air raids were thought to be imminent, gas attacks likely. Everyone was issued with gas masks, to be carried at all times; their efficacy or otherwise tested when a mobile gas chamber visited the School. Underground concrete shelters, one for each House, had been built during the holidays and a routine was drawn up for their orderly use during school hours or at night. During the rest of the day refuge was to be taken in the ditch surrounding the cricket field or in the trenches dug for that purpose on Cooke's Field. There were constant practices. As there was a ban on bell ringing, the usual signals of school life were made by bugle calls. A night guard of two Masters and six boys was set up in liaison with the local Air Raid Wardens.

Some of the School's own land was cultivated to help the war effort. In the summer of 1942 there were ten acres under potatoes, kale and turnips, all of which were successful crops while twenty five tons of good silage was made from the grass of the football fields in a silo constructed by the Farming Society.

Food and domestic staff were in short supply and **Mrs Riding, wife of George Albert Riding (Headmaster 1933-49)** represented ably all the needs of the School to the local Food Office. Boys were employed on bed making, cleaning, preparing vegetables, washing up: a pattern that continued until well after the War. The repair and replacement of clothes was efficiently dealt with and Aldenham was one of the few schools that maintained proper school dress throughout the war.

I offer my grateful appreciation to my team – **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)**, **Sara Price (CR1987-2006)**, **Ann Saffery** and **Jackie Wilkie** (both Development and OA Office) and to **Heather Sherman** for some of the photos.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's OA Review.

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

editor, OA Review

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



## From the President's Desk

Another issue of the OA Society's annual magazine, the *OA Review* (formerly *Aldenhamiana*) was distributed in October 2014 to much acclaim and I must take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, the editorial team and in particular **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** for managing the production of such a superb special edition, featuring a First World War tribute.

The design by **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)** is first rate and we are very fortunate to have such valuable voluntary support for this

publication. **Sara Price (CR1987-2006)** also played an important role in providing interesting content and by proof reading. The support from the

Development, OA and Marketing Office at Aldenham is also much appreciated. Thank you all. This excellent work has continued into this year's *OA Review* magazine, which I am sure will be equally well enjoyed by the OA community.

The OA Dinner in November 2014 was a huge success and it was a great pleasure to see such a good spread of ages, from 18 to 92. Our pre-Dinner speaker, **Canon Joe Hawes (SHO1978-83)**, gave OAs and guests an enjoyable and thought provoking presentation. The enthusiasm for the annual dinner seems to be going from strength to strength and the OA Committee is now considering various options for the future. Please do let us have your thoughts and recommendations so that we can be sure to hit the mark with this popular occasion. Equally successful, OA Day in June provided an opportunity for a McGill's gaudy, which was well attended and blessed with excellent weather.

Membership of the OA Society is also very strong, with around 100 new members joining each summer. My thanks to **Ann Saffery**, Development & OA Manager, for her sterling work in encouraging Aldenham leavers to join the Society; the gifting of an OA pin badge to each new member has been very well received and worn with pride. I continue the plea to 'life' members to make a small contribution by standing order to ensure that the Society is able to continue to meet the changing needs of the OA community.

The OA AGM was held on Wednesday 11th March and I am delighted that we have two new committee members: **Indra Sikdar (SHO1985-90)** and **Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1988-90)**. I welcome them both and appreciate their commitment to our organisation.



Front Row: Richard Peart, Treasurer (SH1955-60), Ian Luetchford (B1948-51), Neil Sutherland, President (B1966-70) & John Edwards (B1946-51)

Back Row: Jackie Wilkie (Staff 2006-Present), Bob Collins (CR2003-Present), James James-Crook (M1968-72), James Fowler (Headmaster), Frank Rogers, Secretary (SHE1953-58), David Hayes (SHO1963-68) & Ann Saffery (Staff 2011-Present). Committee Members missing from the photo: Derick Burlingham-Johnson (SHO1939-41), Indra Sikdar (SHO1985-90) & Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1988-90)

### OA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Neil Sutherland</b> OBE DL	President
<b>Derick Burlingham Johnson</b>	Vice President
<b>Michael Taylor</b> CBE DL	Vice President
<b>Frank Rogers</b>	Hon. Secretary
<b>Richard Peart</b>	Hon. Treasurer
<b>Ian Luetchford</b>	Committee Member
<b>John Edwards</b>	Committee Member
<b>James James-Crook</b>	Committee Member
<b>David Hayes</b>	Committee Member
<b>Indra Sikdar</b>	Committee Member
<b>Clare Yeabsley née McCarty</b>	Committee Member
<b>Bob Collins</b>	Committee Member
<b>James Fowler</b>	Headmaster

Looking to future events, the OA Society Dinner is on 20 November and our pre-dinner speaker will be **Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)**, Chairman of the *Jerwood Foundation*. For the first time we will be offering a lower price for the OA Dinner to OA Society members to reflect the subsidy that the Society provides for the dinner.

Next year it is the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and I intend to run a battlefield tour to the Somme and Artois region over the weekend 20-22 May 2016. It promises to be a hugely interesting and informative tour with guiding by Colonel Tony Hacon, who led our successful Ypres tour in 2011, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. We will need approximately 20 OAs and their guests to make the tour viable so please could you give early indication of interest to Ann Saffery by completing the form found on the OA website [www.oldaldenhamian.org](http://www.oldaldenhamian.org).

My thanks to **Nick Pulman (CR1977-2015)** for all he has done for OA Football over many years and his time spent on the OA Committee. I wish him and Char a happy retirement, and warmly welcome **Bob Collins (CR2003-Present)** to the OA Committee.

Finally, it remains for me to sincerely thank the OA Committee, the Headmaster and his staff, and Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie for their excellent support for the Society over another successful year.

**Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)**  
President, OA Society



OA Society  
pin badge



The President of the OA Society, **Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)** and the Headmaster, **James Fowler (CR2006-present)**, met a lively group of OAs for a networking evening in London on Wednesday 20th May 2015.

The after-work drinks format for aldenham.net meetings seems to be popular, attracting a group of around 20 OAs on each occasion. These events offer OAs an opportunity to get together for personal news updates and to exchange contact details.

**Neil Sutherland** took the opportunity to raise awareness of recent and forthcoming OA events and the successful development of the OA

Mentoring programme. **James Fowler** enjoyed meeting members of the networking group and hearing their experiences since leaving Aldenham.

If you are interested in hosting or attending the next aldenham.net event please contact the Development & OA Office.

Tel: 01923 851 612  
Email: [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com)

## 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 although the Society would welcome larger amounts.

If you left School in Summer 1995 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 on p.33 of the magazine and return it to the Development & OA Office.



The Yeabsley family

# OA Day

## McGill's House Gaudy 2015

Sunday 7th June was a glorious day in several ways – it was OA Day and over 130 Old Aldenhamians (OAs) returned to School to meet friends, share lunch and give thanks in a special Chapel service.

The sun shone brightly making it the perfect day to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. The food was excellent and stories of past and present flowed

freely and for some OAs, it was their first time back at Aldenham since leaving 30 years ago or more. Many enjoyed a few laughs with their former teachers and two former Housemasters were able to compare notes with the current Housemaster of McGill's.

The focus this year was on McGill's House and most of those who attended the celebration were Old McGillians

## MESSAGE BOARD

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

### John Sugden (M1946-1950)

Unfortunately I am unable to be with you as I will be on a cruise down the Rhine! I send greetings to anyone who can remember me from all those years ago. I am keeping well at the age of 82 and would love to hear from anyone who cares to make contact ([jandjsugden@gmail.com](mailto:jandjsugden@gmail.com)).

### David Sproule (M1969-73)

Sorry not to be joining all my friends, it will come as no surprise that I'm singing at the NEC in Birmingham. I hope the weather is good for you and that the laughter flows freely. Best Wishes.

### Charles Whitin (M1968-69)

After many years visiting the UK leading up to my English-Speaking Union exchange year at Aldenham, I have, I think ironically, never been back to England since. My memories of Letchmore Heath, Radlett, Watford, London remain as they were in 1969. My American school (Kent) has as its credo: "Temperantia, Constantia, Fiducia" translated to mean "Always Changing, Ever the Same," and I expect this must be very true for today's Aldenham. Although I have not heard from my housemates from McGill's since 1969, their memories inhabit my thoughts from time to time. I did meet Headmaster James Fowler in Boston at an impressive gathering of OAs in 2006.

### Jack Knight (M1940-43)

Sorry to miss the Gaudy. I have fond memories of the last one and wish you all

the best for this occasion.

### John (Roderick) Shaw (M1938-41)

Greetings to any other boys who are also 91 and remember fire watching and sleeping under the table in "Sarge's" armoury.

### William Gusterson (M1955-59)

I'm not sure how many McGillian's from my era will be attending this year. Unfortunately I am unable to be with you but send my best wishes to all and hope for fine weather and that you have an enjoyable day. Perhaps I will make the next McGill's Gaudy.

### Kenneth Campbell (M1956-61)

I wish everyone all the best for the day.

### John Carey-Brander (M1945-49)

I wish you all long life, good health and much happiness.

### Richard (Punch) Wilson (M1973-78)

Unfortunately work is taking me away from the Gaudy, but best wishes to anyone I know. Have a great day!

### John Griffith (M 1957-61)

Regret unable to be there - in Spain now 15 years and likely to remain so. Best wishes to all - in particular Justin Ward, David Leigh-Hunt and Tony Mitcheson. With happy memories of those days.

### Tony Mawson (M1957-62)

I would very much like to have met my contemporaries again, David Brewerton, Anthony Taylor and Justin Ward. I'm sure the day will be a great success.

### John Bolt (M1945-49)

I wish you a very good day and send greetings to my peers.

### Tom Shelton (M2005-10)

Regrettably I am unable to attend as I am currently on exchange as a student in South Korea. I look forward to the next Gaudy and I'm glad to see so many of my peers on the guest list - especially the troublesome likes of Wainwright and Morton!

### Kin-Meng Chan (M1993-95)

I wish the School and everyone associated with it every success and a joyous reunion. I very much look forward to the next opportunity to visit Aldenham and to catch up once again.

### Robert Lloyd-Taylor (M1980-84)

May I wish all who attend a great day and as always my thoughts are drawn to Michael Hetherington (CR1959-94) especially at times like these.....a great Housemaster and I believe he is one of the main reasons why I have succeeded in life.

### Robert Strouts (M&K1960-64)

All the best for an enjoyable day.

### Edred Bowman (M1948-52)

Best wishes for a successful event.

### Jenny Barker (Matron 1960s & widow of Geoffrey Barker (CR1965-99)

It is good to be remembered. However I am unable to attend but I hope it goes well and the weather is kind!



Martin Stephen (SHE1949-53) laying a wreath in the School Chapel under the new WW2 Memorial, purchased with the aid of the Annual Fund, on which his father, Alfred Bodger Grant Stephen (SH1913-19), is listed.



Front Row: Joe Morton (M2006-11), Richard Peart (SH01955-60), Ian Luetchford (B1948-51), Nicholas Leigh-Hunt (M1959-64), Sam Cox (M2008-13) & Alastair Heald (M2008-13) heading to Chapel



Reading by Mike Yeabsley (McGill's Housemaster)

Reading by James James-Crook (M1968-72)



Mark Flynn (M1971-73), Henry Llewellyn-Jones (M1968-73), Mary Galvin (Staff 1984-99) & Austin Galvin (CR1970-2006)

from every decade since the 1930s right up to 2014, ages ranged from 18 to 92.

The oldest McGillian present was 87 year old, **Dr John Moxon MBE (M1942-45)**, who had travelled from his home in Somerset taking the opportunity to stay with his daughter, who lives in Harpenden and kindly acted as his chauffeur on the day.

The Rennie family was out in force, with **Andrew Rennie (M2006-13)** who had just celebrated his 20th birthday the day before, joined by his brother **Carl Rennie (M2003-10)** and his father **Simon Rennie (SHO1970-74)**. Other 'OA' brothers present included **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** and **Neal James-Crook (M1970-75)**, **David**

**Leigh-Hunt (M1956-61)** and **Nicolas Leigh-Hunt (M1959-64)**, **Henry Llewellyn-Jones (M1968-73)** and **Jeremy Llewellyn-Jones (M1969-74)**, **Nick Moss (M1979-83)** and **Jonathan Moss (M1982-87)**. **Paul McCarty (M1987-92)**, brother of **Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1988-90)** also came along to support the event.

After meeting for coffee in The Wells Centre, Sixth Form Common Room, which many remembered as the School Shop and Tuck Shop, there was an opportunity to look around McGill's House, where a very warm welcome awaited from the Housemaster, **Mike Yeabsley (CR2008-Present)**, his wife **Clare, (née McCarty)** and their family. A group of current pupils had also given up their Sunday lie-in to act as Ambassadors and talk about their experiences at Aldenham today.

During a Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel, the newly installed memorial listing the names of OAs killed in World War Two was dedicated. **Martin Stephen (SHE1949-53)**, whose father **Alfred Bodger Grant Stephen (SH1913-19)**



Joe Morton (M2006-11), Tom Wainwright (M2004-11), Raj Dhutia (M2007-09) & Carl Rennie (M2003-10)



Ben James (M2009-14), Charlie Borrhalho (M2007-14), Ali Unal (M2007-14), George Kirby (M2012-15), Jon Pickford (M2007-14), James Petrie (M2007-14), Max Quastel (M2007-14), Oli Beyrich (M2008-15) & Simon Morgan (M2008-15)

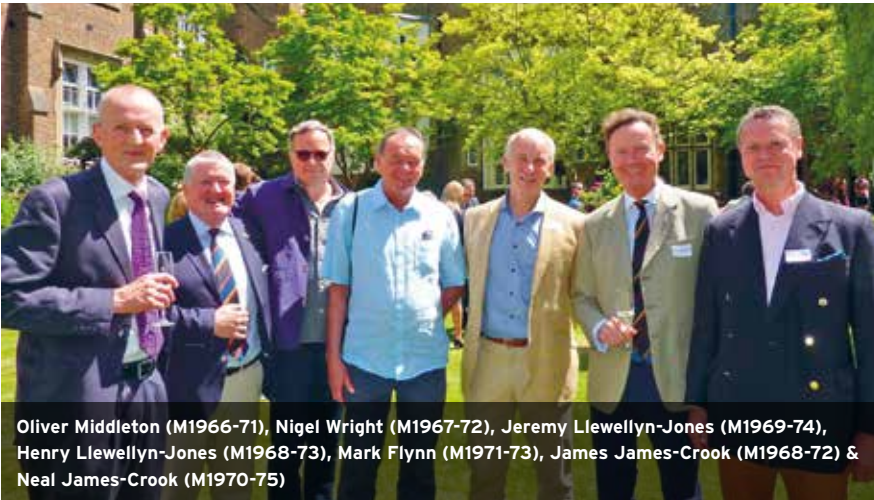


Simon Rennie (SHO1970-74) & Neal James-Crook (M1970-75)





The end of the cricket match & OA Day



Oliver Middleton (M1966-71), Nigel Wright (M1967-72), Jeremy Llewellyn-Jones (M1969-74), Henry Llewellyn-Jones (M1968-73), Mark Flynn (M1971-73), James James-Crook (M1968-72) & Neal James-Crook (M1970-75)



McGill's Housemasters: Paul Dunstan (H'Master 2007-14), Jo Dunstan, Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90), Mike Yeabsley (H'Master 2014-Present), Clare Jackson (CR2005-07) & Rod Jackson (H'Master 2002-07)

is commemorated, laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial as a sign of respect and gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives. Martin travelled from Bristol with his close School friend and best man, **Robin Geldard (M1949-52)**, who lives in Devon.

Those who visited the House were delighted to see that the Honours boards, destroyed by fire in 1991, are being replaced – a lot of work has been done to make this happen by the previous Housemaster **Paul Dunstan (CR2000-Present, Housemaster Ridings 2005-07, McGill's 2007-14)**, his wife Jo and **Mike Yeabsley** who is now seeing the job through to completion.

The Headmaster, **James Fowler**, and the President of the OA Society, **Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)** addressed the guests during a drinks reception before everyone headed off to the Dining Hall for lunch.

The afternoon was spent reminiscing and taking in the familiar surroundings. There was a lot to see, with a Junior Fives tournament in play, an art exhibition set up and a 20/20 cricket match to watch on Top Field.

Tea and cakes were served to round off the day at the Cricket Pavilion before bidding farewell to friends, old and new.





## Richard Platt Society

Aldenham has received notification from the solicitors of **Kenneth Flatt (M1933-36)** that Ken has remembered Aldenham School in his Will.

**K**en was keen on motoring, sailing and sport, especially hockey and tennis; he died at the age of 95 in August 2014 (see OA Review Issue 42). At his funeral Ken was described by his neighbour and friend as 'a gentleman to the end'. After remembering family and friends in his Will, Ken generously left parts of his estate to his beloved charities including the RNLI and the Honourable Artillery Company Benevolent Fund. As a result of his gift to the School, Kenneth Flatt is now commemorated on Visitation Day each year along with other Benefactors who have enriched the School in many ways.

**David Ellison (SHE1946-51)** who died in January 2015 also left a legacy to Aldenham, as well as gifts to other charities close to his heart in New Zealand.

It is well known throughout the Aldenham community that the School's founder, **Richard Platt**, left orders 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 would mean 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.



**Kenneth Flatt (M1933-36)**

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)

## OA Annual Dinner 2014

The Annual OA Dinner in November 1914 was cancelled due to the outbreak of war. One hundred years later, on Friday 21st November 2014, over 100 OAs and their guests gathered for a memorable event.

**T**he evening began with a drinks reception and pre-dinner talk in The Wells Centre. En-route, past the School Library, the WWI centenary scene was set with an impressive, floodlit display of 163 clay poppies festooned around the door of the Library, the building itself being a memorial to "the sons of the School who gave their lives in the Great War."

The talk, given by **The Reverend Canon Joe Hawes (SHO1978-83)** and

entitled: '*Change and decay in all around I see – the future of the Church of England.*' was a light hearted and yet thought provoking look at modern day church going and how the community remains at the heart of all types of religion. Aldenham's own Padre, **Simon Chapman (CR2014-Present)**, was so impressed with the subject and delivery that he would like to invite the Canon to return and speak to the current students. The Dining Hall looked splendid with

red poppies on the tables and a shrine, built by **Paul Spencer (CR1985-Present)**, as a further tribute to the OAs and Masters lost in 1914-18. The War List 1914-19, taken from the Aldenham School Register – Fifth Edition, was displayed along the wall for all to see the part our people played in this devastating event.

A solo performance by **Laurence Wells (M2010-present)** of 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables', from the musical *Les Miserables*, was a fitting way to pay respects to the lives lost and to recognise those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

After a minute's silence followed by the Grace Prayer the meal began. The new School catering company, Holroyd



Left side from front to back: Andrew Maclean (Head Boy), Julian Allisstone (SHE1978-83), Lin Sutherland, Padre Simon Chapman (CR2014-Present) & Charlotte Fowler  
Right side from front to back: Grace Conway (Head Girl), Neil Sutherland (B1966-70), Joe Hawes (SHO1978-83), James Fowler (Headmaster), James James-Crook (M1968-72)

Howe, put on a splendid dinner, the delicious food beautifully presented. There was a lot of chatter and laughter on every table with the age of guests ranging from 18 to 92.

The President, **Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)** proposed a toast to The Queen, then to the School and the Guests. **James Fowler, (Headmaster)** responded on behalf of the School and the Guests highlighting the genuine warmth he feels at OA gatherings – especially when he journeyed to Australia and Dubai during the autumn 2014 half term holiday for a series of Aldenham reunions.

He explained that the temperature reached 38 degrees on the terrace where brunch was held in Dubai. Despite the cold and mist outside on this evening and the rather draughty conditions of the Dining Hall, the atmosphere was, once again, warm and inviting with many first timers at the event vowing to make this a regular diary booking in the future.

It was great to see several OA families present this year – **Andrew Fraser,** (Bursar and Honorary OA), was joined by his two OA sons, **Duncan Fraser (M1998-2005)** and **Iain Fraser (P2000-07), Simon Rennie (SHO1970-74)** attended with his



The shrine in the Dining Hall to commemorate those who fell in the Great War

wife Sandra and their boys **Carl Rennie (M2003-10)** and **Andrew Rennie (M2003-10)** and **John Willmott (SHO1967-70)** brought his eldest son, **Scott Willmott (K1995-2000), Mike Yeabsley (CR2008-Present),** Housemaster of McGill's came with his wife, **Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1988-90)** and introduced his daughter **Georgina** early to the OA scene, as she is currently in the Lower Sixth Form at the School.

The whole occasion was a great success with the only 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables' being the words in the song at the start of the proceedings.

The speaker: The Revd Canon Joe Hawes (SHO1978-83)



The Fraser clan: Iain Fraser (P2000-07), Andrew Fraser (Bursar) & Duncan Fraser (M1998-2005)





## Regional Lunch in Bedfordshire

A very successful OA Regional Lunch was held on 29 April 2015 at the Horse and Jockey in the tranquil village of Ravensden which provided the ideal setting for a social get together.

The Headmaster, **James Fowler**, joined the gathering for a pre-lunch drink in the bar before they all sat down to a splendid three course meal. The occasion was an opportunity for friends to reminisce about their school days and to hear how Aldenham pupils are doing today, with some excellent academic and sporting achievements to report. James was delighted to be able to tell the 28 guests that the School had recently been visited by a member of Good Schools' Guide's editorial team and they will be

reporting their findings in the next issue of their publication. He quoted:

"Break times see pupils congregate 'en masse' on the field, with cross year group socialising in evidence everywhere. Pupils, without exception, seem totally at ease with the School and are one of the most social and understated, confident bunches we've met; quite possibly one of the happiest too."

This summed up the success of the School today and, judging by this friendly regional OA event, will continue to strengthen for many years to come.

### Did you know?



Until the early part of the 20th century Aldenham pupils had to eat a bun decorated with beer-barrels and wheatsheaves (the arms of the Brewers' Company) and drink a glass of wine. It is not clear why this tradition disappeared, but it must surely be what led to today's Beer Money ceremony.

# The OA Mentoring scheme

The OA Mentoring scheme offers guidance from volunteers who have business experience and maturity to members of the OA Society. The aim is to help the Mentee gain a more rounded perspective of situations they face and decisions they have to take.

**David Hayes (SHO1963-68)**, who is promoting and co-ordinating the scheme on behalf of the OA Society, is developing the scheme to include a service to Lower Sixth students, when they are beginning to make career choices.

A further five OAs – **Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1989-90)**, **Geoff Furber (SHO1970-74)**, **Nick Schindler (K1998-2005)**, **Steve Lewis (B1970-75)** and **Tony Laurenson (M1971-75)** have stepped forward to give guidance to current students and, after an initial face to face meeting, will support them by phone, email and further meetings as required. This new service will add value to the excellent education that Aldenham provides and is much appreciated by the mentees and their parents.

If you would be interested in offering your expertise in a particular field please contact David Hayes. Email: [dhayes.family@gmail.com](mailto:dhayes.family@gmail.com) or contact [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com) for more information.



**Richard Bothams' 60th Birthday Lunch in London. L to r: Richard Champney Bothams (SH1970-74) and his wife Juliet Bothams née Perry, John Perry RA (Bursar 1972-81), James James-Crook (M1968-72)**



**Nick Schindler (K1998-2005), left, is an OA Mentor and the picture with Aaroonan Arunan(M2010-15) was taken at their initial meeting when Bob Collins (CR2003-Present) introduced them.**

## MENTORS

Armitage, Melita Jayne (née Douthwaite-Hodges)	B1987-89	Cultural & Creative Industries
Bajaria, Chirag Dinesh	SHO&R1987-92	IT
Bingham, Anthony John	P1963-67	Accountancy
Bromwich, Paul Charles	K1970-75	Pharmaceutical
Buzzard, Paul Jeremy	CR1979-84	Accountancy
Coleman, Oliver C	P&M2002-09	Arts, Entertainment, Sport
Croft, Peter John Patrick	K1962-66	Banking & Finance
Furber, Geoff	SHO1970-74	Charity Founder
Goodfellow, Scott John	M1979-84	Banking & Finance
Hayes, David Wingate Stuart	SHO1963-68	Law & Charity
Laurenson, Anthony Peter	M1971-75	Catering, Hotels, Innkeeping
Lewis, Steve	B1970-75	Leisure
Mac, Dominic	K1988-93	Management
Nicholas, Robert James	M1975-80	Building & Architecture
Oliver, James Alan Crombie	SHO1973-78	Property
Pankhania, Sunil	L1993-2000	Property
Pearce, Ian Philip	L1990-95	Civil Air Transport
Schindler, Nick	K1998-2005	Doctor, Paediatrician
Sutherland, Neil Anthony	B1966-70	Medical services, Army
Templeman, David Peter	R1995-98	Businessman
Watts, Marcus Redmayne	M1976-81	Travel & Gap Services
Yeabsley, Clare née McCarty	K1989-90	Sales & Marketing

# Old Aldenhamian Football Club

## Season 2014/15

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

‘On the pitch, it has not been the best of seasons for the O AFC teams. The inconsistency of the 1st team performances from last season continued through to this one, with the

1st team not delivering on the promise and skill they undoubtedly have.

However, there were some highlights – notably the 4-1 victory at home to Old Radleians and the 5-2 victory away at Bradfield. It has been a long time since the O AFC went to Bradfield and won so, as it was the first game of the season, there was reason to be optimistic about the season ahead.

Ultimately though, a mid-table finish was the result. Events weren’t any better for the 2nd team. Injuries and player availability resulted in some dire performances at the start of the season and the team lost the first 4 games. The 2nd team never really recovered though picked up slightly at the end of the season.

Some new players and renewed energy meant there were some pleasing performances, notably the wins away at Kings College Wimbledon and at home to Old Epsomians. Despite this, it was great to see some good O AFC debuts last season, namely **Oliver Beyrich (M2008-15)**, **Max Bull (M2010-15)**, **Arez Hassan (K2010-15)**, **Jahn Ramis (R2009-14)** and **James Massing (R2002-09)**.

After 5 years **Matthew Miel (K1996-2003)** has decided to step down as O AFC Head Coach. Matt came in to the club at a very difficult time and was a vital catalyst in the re-building of the O AFC. He has helped build some solid foundations for the club to move forward and we thank him sincerely and wish him and his family well for the future.

Moving forward to next season, **Sam Kaye (P2001-08)** will be the new 1st team Captain, supported ably by Vice-Captains, **Jason Adebisi (M2003-05)** and **Tom Hall (B2000-07)**. **Andre Sharma (L2001-06)** will be back as 2nd Team Captain with **Dan Ryan (K2003-08)** and **Manish Karani (R2001-06)** as Vice-Captains.

We would also like to say a big thank you to **Nick Pulman (CR1977-2015)**, who has been instrumental in our club’s development with the School over the last few years and his presence will be sorely missed. We will also miss the fantastic work that **Roy Hanshaw (Staff 2002-15) Head of Grounds** did. He has been a real asset to the club in his time at the school.

Finally, thanks once again to **Neil Sutherland, Frank Rogers, James Fowler** and **Grant Cornock (CR2009-Present)** for their vital support. It is greatly appreciated by all the members of the O AFC.’



l to r: Sam Dawe (teacher), Jack Jones, Grant Cornock (teacher), Sam Kaye, unidentified



l to r: Jacob Hatfel (14), Tom Beckley, unidentified, Martyn Berg, others unidentified (white collar and no.9). Martyn Berg was playing for the School team against the OAs. Interestingly, that game was almost 20 years to the day since he last played for the School



Back Row: Martyn Berg (B1989-94), Julian Anyiam-Osiqwe (B1999-2006), Chris Snow (B2001-08), Toby Bryan (L2003-08), Tom Beckley (M2006-10), Elliott Edwards (L2005-10), Matt Hudson (M2005-10) & Wills Collier (P&B2003-10)  
 Front Row:: Andre Sharma (Capt.) (L2001-06), James Massing (R2002-09), Manos Halicioglu (B1997-2002), Hamoun Jamali (L2003-08) & Manish Karani (R2001-06)  
 Mascot: Jasper Berg



l to r: Sam Dawe (CR2013-Present), Max Bull (M2010-15), Sam Kaye

## OLD ALDENHAMIAN FOOTBALL RESULTS

The Arthurian League					
25-Apr-15	Division 1	Old Reptonians	2	Old Aldenhamians I	0
18-Apr-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	4	Old Malvernians I	4
28-Mar-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	4	Old Haileyburians	2
07-Mar-15	Division 1	Old Chigwellians I	6	Old Aldenhamians I	2
28-Feb-15	Division 1	Old Haileyburians	1	Old Aldenhamians I	3
21-Feb-15	Division 1	Old Wykehamists I	1	Old Aldenhamians I	3
14-Feb-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	1	Old Bradfieldians I	1
07-Feb-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	0	Old Marlburians	3
31-Jan-15	Division 1	Old Malvernians I	7	Old Aldenhamians I	2
24-Jan-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	4	Old Radleians	1
17-Jan-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	0	Old Chigwellians I	2
10-Jan-15	Division 1	Old Marlburians	7	Old Aldenhamians I	3
03-Jan-15	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	3	Old Westminsters I	10
13-Dec-14	Division 1	Old Radleians	7	Old Aldenhamians I	0
15-Nov-14	Division 1	Old Bradfieldians I	2	Old Aldenhamians I	5
08-Nov-14	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	2	Old Wykehamists I	4
20-Sep-14	Division 1	Old Aldenhamians I	7	Old Reptonians	1
13-Sep-14	Division 1	Old Westminsters I	3	Old Aldenhamians I	1

# Old Aldenhamian Golfing Society

The Mellin Salver, The Peter Burles Salver & The Bunny Millard Salver 2015

The Mellin is similar to the Halford Hewitt except that it is for players over age 55. It is played at West Hill with 16 schools competing (instead of 64 in the Hewitt) and there are only 3 pairs instead of 5 playing scratch foursomes.

At the same time as the Mellin, there is the Peter Burles Salver for 2 pairs over 65 – **Peter Burles (P1930-34)** was a great sportsman, and the Bunny Millard Salver for one pair with both players being over 75.

This year, we had great weather for the Mellin and we beat Cranleigh 2-1 in the 1st Round on Friday morning. **Richard Hall (K1969-74)** and **Steve Lewis (B1970-75)** had a good win and **Peter Easby (SHE1962-66)** and **Guy Green (SHO1971-73)** battled well for a win on the 17th hole. **Easby** played extremely well and hit a wonderful drive at the 16th followed by a brilliant wedge to the green by **Green** (if you see what I mean) which won the hole. **Green** also played a superb 8-iron to no more than 8 feet from the 17th hole and that was enough to win their match.

In the afternoon, we played Sherborne who were a very good team and we lost  $\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ . **Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P1958-61)** and **John Yule (SHE1966-71)** played brilliantly and were 2 up after 10 holes against the Sherborne top pair who then staged a comeback to win their match.

Hall and Lewis were 2 down after 16 so could only have got a half but when **Easby** and **Green** lost and we were 2-0 down in the overall match, the half was duly agreed!

In the Peter Burles Salver, we lost to Cranleigh in the morning. We then played Cranleigh in the Plate (for the 8 teams who lose in the 1st Round) but sadly couldn't find the winning formula. In the Bunny Millard Salver, there is a Stableford round to decide which 4 teams play in the semi-final and, to cap our disappointment, we fell short of the qualifying score.

We all had a lot of fun and it was a good feeling to win in the first round of the Mellin. We look forward to getting another chance next year!

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

## Old Aldenhamian Golfing Society at Halford Hewitt 2015

Members of the Old Aldenhamian Golf Society (OAGS) beat King Edward's Birmingham  $3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$  on Thursday 9th April 2015 and played Berkhamsted the next day. It was a magnificent match, one of the best ever, but in the end, they had to accept defeat 2-3.

The 1st and 3rd pairs won and the 2nd and 4th pairs lost, so everything depended on the 5th pair, **Robert Alter (B1988-91)** and **David Rawlinson (B1988-93)**. They ended up all square on the 18th and had to go down the 19th. The quality of the golf was outstanding and after 5 of the extra holes were halved, the 6th proved too difficult and the OAs couldn't match the Berkhamsted par so the match was theirs after 5 hours and 30 minutes.

Congratulations rather than commiserations to **Shon Williams (M1975-80)** and his team for a wonderful display in which everyone played their part. They are:

**Joel Bloomfield (SH&L1987-92)**  
**Shon Williams (M1995-80)**  
**Robert Alter (B1988-91)**  
**David Rawlinson (B1988-93)**  
**Adam Thrussell (B1992-97)**  
**James Surridge (L1993-98)**  
**Ben Thrussell (B1989-94)**  
**Will Kirby (L2006-11)**  
**Daniel Andrews (B2000-07)**  
**Michael Deverill (B1997-2002)**

## OA Cricket

Are you interested in playing cricket with OAs? The class of 2014 had some strong cricketers who want to keep up their form and play together during the next season. Peter Gibbins, the father of **Jack Gibbins (R2007-14)**, organised some matches at Aldenham against touring sides last summer.

If you would like to get involved please let us know and we will keep you posted. Email: [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com)



OAs v School 1st XI on Visitation Day 2015

# Aldenham Fives Club

## Season 2014/15

The Aldenham Fives Club had another busy and successful year with a ladder competition run every six weeks whilst the highlight of our season was victory in the Eton Fives Association Trophy.

### EFA Trophy Final - Aldenhamians 2 Salopians 1

The Salopians have been the dominant force in this competition for the last couple of years and were heavy favourites to win again. But the match was much closer than anyone could have predicted!

In the second pair the Salopians recovered superbly from the loss of the first game to beat **Andrew Rennie (M2006-13)** and James Cobb 3-1. First blood to the Old Salopians.

The Aldenham third pair of **Graham Pulsford (M1971-75)** and **Darshan Patel (R&K2005-12)** offered a similar blend of youth and experience and, having been the Aldenham banker pair in the semi-final, they managed to reproduce the same magic to see off the Salopian pair in four games.

With the match poised at 1-1, all came down to the first pair match, which was incredibly tight and fiercely contested right from the start. **Carl Rennie (M2003-10)** & Tommy Welt made the brighter start, winning the first game to 6, but a strong fight back and the Salopians took the next two games to 9 and 6 to go 2-1 ahead. The Aldenham pair had it all to do at this point and it is greatly to their credit that they kept fighting and began to turn the tide in the fourth game, always keeping their noses ahead to take it 12-10 and force a deciding fifth game.

At this stage, one pair each and the decider at 2 games apiece, the weather went temporarily apocalyptic – a sudden deluge even forcing a change of court due to rain coming in – and the drama on court just kept on coming. The fives was of a very high standard with the fast reflexes and volleying by Tommy and the precision and coolness under pressure of **Carl** ‘the Elder’ produced some scintillating rallies. In the end, the Aldenham pair – as in the fourth – got ahead and then just about managed to stay there, moving quickly from 9-7 to 12-7 to clinch the EFA Trophy.

### Veterans' Trophy

In the Veterans players, we have two national winning pairs – Richard Dennis and **Graham Pulsford (M1971-75)** in the over 50s and Joseph Seelig, King Edward VI Five Ways School and Ronald Pattison, an Old Cranleighan, in the over 60s section.

### Ladder and Other Fixtures

The ladder is played every six weeks and is particularly popular with four courts regularly filled. Each winner is awarded the *Phil Marsh Trophy* which they retain until the next ladder competition.

With fixtures against the Brigands, Westminster, North Oxford, Eton and the Jesters, there was plenty to keep Aldenham's players busy. "Our enthusiastic players will continue to turn out every Tuesday evening over the summer. Players from other clubs are very welcome to join us," says **Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)**, Club Secretary.

### Fancy Dress Fives at Aldenham

Players at the Aldenham Heath Fives Club turned out in fancy dress last December for an evening of fun and frolics. The theme was pyjamas and onesies with prizes for the best costume. The five winners of finger puppets were Chris Austin (nightshirt), James Fredenham (nightshirt), **Chris Cernuschi (K1998-2005)** (mankini), **Julian Perry (K1976-81)** (pink onesie) and **Paul Kendall ((K1976-81)** (MCC boxer shorts), all of whom made extraordinary efforts to dress up. "The whole evening was utterly pointless", said Club Secretary **Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)**, "but everyone takes part just for the fun of it. Highgate player Edward Davis turned up on spec and wondered what madness he'd blundered into!"





# Battlefield Tour 2016

**Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70)**, President OA Society, is proposing that the OA Society runs a battlefield tour next year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

In order to plan the Somme trip in detail, expressions of interest from OAs, their partners and/or guests are invited at this stage. A small deposit of £50 per person will secure a place.

It is planned that the tour will take place over the weekend of 20/21/22 May 2016, with an experienced battlefield guide available throughout the tour.

Estimated costs are in the region of £350 per head for a party of 20

(minimum 15 to make the tour viable), so early expressions of interest are important.

A highly regarded battlefield tour company will be used to provide an experienced personal battlefield guide, transport by midi coach from Aldenham, ferry crossing, good B&B accommodation, packed lunches and one evening meal. Overall, this represents excellent value for what will be a thoroughly memorable tour.

For further details please contact:  
Ann Saffery  
Development & OA Manager  
[aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com) or phone  
01923 851612.

See Event News section on the News page of the website [www.aldaldenhamian.org](http://www.aldaldenhamian.org) for full details including itinerary to download and how to register your interest.



Imperial War Museums. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons

## OA Website

Have you looked at the OA Society website recently?  
If so you may have noticed a few changes.

The video tab has been added, also several presentations of the School year going back to 2008.

Perhaps one of the most impressive productions however is the film taken at Aldenham back in the 1930s. It includes some nostalgic footage of a 'keep fit' session and the creation of Cooke's Field.

The 'Lost OAs' tab is now linked to the OA Society database and automatically updates as OAs are 'lost' and 'found'.

Do have a look to see if you spot anyone you know and ask them to get in touch with the OA Office [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com) to update their details.

Remember that, as a member of the OA Society, you can access the database on line to update your own personal details, including further education and employment information. You can search for OA friends all over the World and view photographs of OA events in the Event Galleries.



# Letter from the Headmaster

During the course of the last year, I have been extremely privileged to be part of a large number of OA gatherings across the world and have been so pleased to see how connections with the School remain important to so many of your members.

Whether it was the very special 70th anniversary luncheon for School House 'New Boys' who joined Aldenham in September 1944, or the splendid OA day that celebrated many generations of McGill's students, there is always a genuine appetite for news from the School as it is today. This was especially true of the reunions that I hosted in Dubai, Perth and Sydney last autumn where, despite the great distance from Hertfordshire, there was a real sense of empathy with the School.

And the news from Aldenham has been positive in terms of the growth of the School within the now more formally established Aldenham Foundation. Over the last year we reached the point where the three schools of the Foundation are educating over 900 pupils. Whilst the experience that a pupil will have at Aldenham Prep School or at St Hilda's School in Bushey is undoubtedly different from that of a boy or a girl in the Senior School, there

will be a common sense that in each of these schools the individual is valued and is given tremendous opportunity to develop within a highly supportive community.

That sense of a whole community has been beautifully exemplified in the Chairmanship of the Governors over the last eight years by Stuart Lewis who retired in July. Despite having no obvious connection to the School as a pupil or parent he always wanted to see that people understood Aldenham as offering a remarkably happy educational experience to its pupils. His successor, **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)** will of course have an even greater sense of the School's importance in his own development and is already making his sense of belonging clear to all members of the Foundation.

Yet, a Governor's involvement will always be more remote than the contribution made by our longstanding members of staff and, the most significant event of the last year would



**James Fowler** Headmaster of Aldenham School and CEO of the Aldenham Foundation

probably be the retirement of **Nick Pulman (CR1977-2015)** after 114 terms. As I said on Visitation Day, "Mr Pulman is a puzzle to our pupils when we tell them that they are likely to have a career which involves moving jobs and portfolio careers, yet here is someone who has spent his entire career of 38 years in one place. But I think that the thing that they will understand about Mr Pulman and his remarkable service is that he really cares. He cares for them as individuals in wanting to see them progress and develop in appropriate ways this term, as he did in his first. He had a long period as Housemaster of Paul's House and in that time, he was remarkable in his care for the pupils in his charge. He really cares that the School sees things done properly and has been a superb organiser of countless events. And I think it is fair to say that, whilst he might be the last in a very long line of "lifers", he will be regarded as one of the very best of them all in that his passion and love for the School remain undiminished. We wish Nick and his wife, Char, an extremely long, healthy, and happy retirement."

As School life has resumed this term without Nick, I can assure you that we still have a group of teachers and support staff who are committed to bringing about the sort of success for the School and the Foundation in the future that we have enjoyed in the recent past. Long may that continue.



L to r: Vicky Gocher, Head of Aldenham Prep, Sara Styles, Head of St Hilda's Prep and James Fowler, Headmaster of Aldenham School and CEO of the Aldenham Foundation



# Exam results

**75** students in the Upper Sixth collected their A Level results which was a time for celebration at the end of their School careers. 97% of exams were passed, with around 50% of the grades at A\*, A or B grades. 20% of students gained at least 2 A grades, and a quarter gained grades of ABB or better.

Amongst the top performers were **Zoe Arnold** (A\*A\*A), **Gareth Caine** (AAAA), **Lucy Demetriou** (A\*A\*B),

**Mangle Kuo** (A\*A\*A), **William Stein** (AAA) and **Jeff Wu** (A\*AA).

As a result of this news, over 70% of students were immediately able to accept places at their first choice universities. These included Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, Imperial, King's, Leeds, Loughborough, Nottingham, Reading, Royal Holloway, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex.

Headmaster **James Fowler** commented: "We have been delighted

to see the success of our students as they reach the end of their time with us. These excellent results are testament to the work of the students and their teachers and I congratulate them all. We wish all our leavers the very best for the future."

The release of GCSE and iGCSE results the following week saw pupils and staff celebrating again. Across all 700 examinations taken, the overall performance at top grades was the highest ever with over two thirds of all exams graded at A\*, A or B.

James Fowler commented: "At a time when, as a result of changes to the structure of A Level courses, GCSE results will be more important than for any time in the last 15 years, it is excellent to see that this very capable and industrious group of pupils has done so well. We congratulate them all on their achievements and look forward to seeing their ongoing success as they enter sixth form education. All the teachers have worked incredibly hard to offer our students the best opportunities for success and will undoubtedly be delighted to see these results."



Zoe Arnold (P2008-15), Sophie Selvadurai (P2007-12), Aimee Witkin (P1998-2015)

# The Choir Visit Rome

At the end of June 2015, 11 OAs joined **John Wyatt, Director of Music (CR1994-Present)**, other members of staff and around 40 pupils on the bi-annual music tour.

This year the music department ventured out to Rome. We had the privilege of visiting numerous famous attractions, as well as singing in three different venues including St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

On the first full day the group spent the day at the Borghese Gardens visiting the museum which houses a fabulous collection of paintings, sculptures and antiques. We also had the opportunity to visit the Spanish Steps, as well as spend the afternoon renting out quadricycles and bikes. That evening, we had a short amount of time to view the Pantheon before rushing back to the Chiesa di Sant'Eustachio for our evening performance. The choir had a broad repertoire of music ranging from "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" an OA favourite, to Monteverdi's "Beatus vir".

The second day's schedule was very similar to the day before. We spent the day sightseeing at Ostia Antica; an ancient Roman City which was a busy working port until it was abandoned due to an outbreak of malaria in AD42. That evening we went to a restaurant, close to St Paul's within the Walls, where we would be performing. We all know Italians love to savour their food, but waiting an hour for pre-ordered food was cutting it close for that evening's performance.

Thursday was the biggest day of the tour. John Wyatt was able to organise a special Mass for the choir to perform at St Peter's Basilica in The Vatican. Headmaster **James Fowler** was able to be at this performance and sang with the choir on this extremely special occasion. Once the Mass had finished we had free time to go sightseeing around St Peter's Square in the Vatican City and do some shopping before meeting outside the Colosseum later that afternoon. After a long wait, we finally got into the Colosseum where we had time to look round before heading back to the Hotel for our final night and the usual informal concert provided by members on the tour.

We had a relaxed last day at the Hydromania Water Park which is known to have the fastest waterslide in Italy. Then it was off to the airport to come back home after an eventful week. Little did we know the flight would be delayed by four hours.

A huge thank you to the members of staff who went on the trip, to the OA Society for sponsoring some of its members and a special thanks to John Wyatt for all the work he has put into organising the numerous music tours over the years.'

**Amy Bexon (P2006-13)**



OAs who sang with the Choir were: Back row from Left to right: Chris Milligan (L2007-14), Aubrey Allegretti (M2004-09), Alice Erman (P2005-12), Carl Rennie (M2003-10), Kristian Schuhmacher (R2003-08).

Front row from left to right Osnat Katz (2007-14), Natasha Marriott (P2012-14), Chris Field (B2004-11), Lizzie Spyrou (P2008-12), Vicki Garson (P2010-12), Amy Bexon (P2006-13)

The choir in St Peter's Basilica



# Chairman of School Governors

Stuart Lewis, outgoing Chairman of Aldenham School Governors wrote the following:

It has been a great experience to have been a Governor of Aldenham for almost 20 years and in particular to have had the privilege of Chairing the Board for the past 7 years. To my mind, 1997 marked a turning point in the fortunes of Aldenham and I feel proud to have been part of that process.

Three headmasters and three Chairmen later, the changes that have taken place are frankly astounding. The School is now Co-educational and, with the inclusion of the other Foundation Schools, is currently educating some 1000 pupils.

As this year's exam results show, academic standards continue to rise but as we all know that is just a small part of what makes Aldenham special. This is well recognised by parents as demand for places has reached new highs. Over the past 20 years the campus has been greatly improved through upgrading existing facilities and adding new ones such as the Theatre and The Wells Centre. And last, but by no means least the School's finances have been placed on a firm footing. Whilst the Governing Body has of course played its part the key to success, in my opinion, is the Headmaster. We have been most fortunate in that respect and **James Fowler** and I have enjoyed an excellent working relationship.

As you will understand Aldenham does get under your skin so there were times, such as my last Visitation Day, when I felt quite emotional. But that is a personal matter – what is more important is that the Aldenham Foundation continues to flourish and that requires new blood. So I was delighted when **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)** agreed to succeed me and I know that he will be well supported by a strong Board of Governors and that the



L to r: Outgoing Chairman of Governors Stuart Lewis, Headmaster James Fowler, Visitation Day Guest of Honour James Arkell, Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers and Chairman of Governors Trevor Barton

Foundation will continue to reach new highs in the years ahead. Onwards and upwards!

Trevor Barton, incoming Chairman, wrote the following: 'It was an honour to be asked by Stuart to succeed him as Chairman of Governors. I much enjoyed my time as a pupil at Aldenham in the 1970s. Having subsequently spent many years living and working in other parts of the UK and abroad, and rather out of touch with the School, I returned for family reasons to live in the area in 2000. I was almost immediately recruited by **Field Marshal The Lord Vincent of Coleshill GBE KCB DSO (SHE1945-50)** to sit on the OA Committee and edit *Aldenhamiana* (predecessor publication to the excellent *OA Review*), which I did for 10 years. My renewed involvement with the School later led to an invitation to join the Board of Governors. It has been a great pleasure, and very interesting, to be involved in the governance of the Aldenham Foundation, which of course now also includes the Prep School and St Hilda's School in Bushey.

Stuart Lewis is right to note above the changes that have taken place at Aldenham, and the School is undoubtedly a rather different place in terms of size, facilities and pupil profile

to the Aldenham that we knew in the 1970s. Yet I think that any OA would instantly recognise the landscape, buildings, atmosphere and feeling of the place. Enter the main gates, look across towards Beevor's and McGill's, then down past the cricket pavilion, and you will be transported back in time! Stand in the yard – the 'Shed' may have gone, but the clock in the tower still chimes the hours, half hours and quarter hours as it always did... Walk across Cooke's Fields and relive your sporting successes (and near misses!)... As Stuart remarks above, "Aldenham gets under your skin, and long may it remain there!"

The Board of Governors is determined to look forward vigorously to the future and to build on the Foundation's many achievements while Stuart has been Chairman. At the same time, the Board is conscious of those elements of the School's character and Aldenham life that must be preserved, particularly the School's ability to nurture talent, bring out the best in people, and make them feel valued. Aldenham has always seemed to me to be a most welcoming place. I hope you agree, that you will come back to visit your School, and that we will have the opportunity to meet again, or for the first time, during the coming years.'

## ALDENHAM ANNUAL FUND 2014/15

The Aldenham Annual Fund exceeded its target once again in 2014/15, raising over £42,300 – a record amount for the campaign.

This was the sixth Annual Fund that the School has run and the generous support of OAs, Parents and Friends of the School has now taken the income generated to around £206,000. This year the Fund paid for:

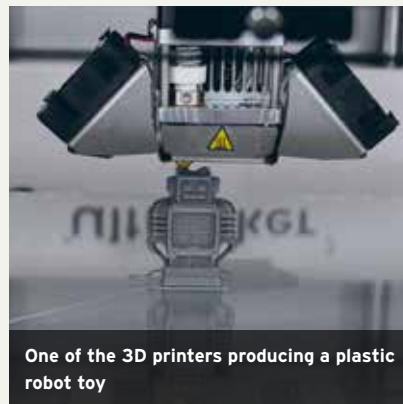
- A Memorial for the Chapel to OAs who gave their lives during the Second World War
- Two 3D printers for Design & Technology
- Flow meters for Geography field trips
- Two brain scanners for Psychology
- Cameras for filmmaking
- A cricket score box and removal of the electronic score board from the Pavilion
- Hockey equipment
- Two pianos
- Drama show monitoring equipment in the Theatre
- Visualisers, Outdoor equipment and Eco-Schools resources for the Prep School
- More trees for the woodland created last year
- Bursaries

The new WW2 memorial for the Chapel was installed just in time to be dedicated on OA Day in June. **Martin Stephen (SHE1949-53)** whose father, **Alfred B G Stephen (SH1913-19)**, is commemorated, laid a wreath below the memorial during the Service of Thanksgiving, see OA Day page 5. **Geoffrey Prall (SHE1936-40)**, who

was also present on OA Day, wrote movingly to the Headmaster after the event about honouring his friend **Gordon Mathew (SHE1936-40)** – see page 40.

The Aldenham Annual Fund has provided many valuable resources in its time and a celebration of its achievements is planned, to which our many supporters will be invited.

We thank you most sincerely for your continued support – every donation helps to keep Aldenhamians on top of their game. For more details about the Aldenham Fund and to make a donation please email [development@aldenham.com](mailto:development@aldenham.com)



One of the 3D printers producing a plastic robot toy

## Retirement

**Kathleen Waite (Staff 1989-2015)** retired from Aldenham School after long and varied service. Kathy originally joined Aldenham as wife of **Bill Waite (Housemaster McGill's 1989-2002 & CR1983-2002)** and was also for some time Matron of McGill's. In 1992 she also worked for **John Woodrow (B1946-51)** in the Appeals Office and for **David Billingham (Staff 1989-1994)** in the Bursary. From 2000-2015, she was an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher.



Former Head Girl Grace Conway (P2008-2015) and Aimee Witkin (P1998-2015)

## A Lifetime as an Aldenhamian

This year saw several Aldenhamians leave the Sixth Form with a good haul of A Levels having started at the School in their early years.

**Aimee Witkin (P1998-2015)** made the journey from Nursery through Pre-Prep to the Prep School and then on to the Junior House, Martineau's until she joined Paull's House at the age of 13. We said farewell to Aimee and her friends on A Level results day, when she achieved what she needed to take the next step in her education, for studying Psychology and Criminology at Nottingham Trent University. Aimee recounts her experience over the last 17 years:

"I started Aldenham at the tender age of two years old. I began with two half days a week and slowly went up to five days with three being full days. I still have very strong memories of my early days at Aldenham which just goes to show how amazing the School is and what an impact it has on your life, even from such an early age!

Although every year at Aldenham held another memory for me, going into Sixth Form has to be the most important and influential. Although it was by far the hardest two years, they are certainly ones that I will always remember. My teachers were always extremely supportive and helpful and were always there for extra help and advice. I can safely say that I have made friends for life at Aldenham and if my University days are as happy as my School life, I will consider myself an extremely lucky girl."

# The Letchmore Trust Art Prizes 2015

This has been another excellent year for the Letchmore Trust Art Competition, now in its fifth year and the high standard of previous years has been well and truly maintained.

The Senior category saw some talented and innovative work which made the judging very difficult. However, the overall winner was **Thomas D Scott (K2011-Present)** with a captivating portrait of an old man and a delicately painted cherry blossom tree. An eye-catching photo realistic acrylic painting 'Haribo Sweets' by **Stephen Harris (B2010-15)** was highly commended by the judges.

## Senior Letchmore Trust Competition

Winner – **Thomas D Scott (K2011-Present)**

Highly commended - **Stephen Harris (B2010-15)**

Third – **Georgina Yeabsley (P2009-Present)**

In the Intermediate category there was some very close competition with **Philip Chen (B2014-Present)** being selected as the winner with an outstanding lifelike painting of a kestrel.

## Intermediate Letchmore Trust Competition

Winner – **Philip Chen (B2014-Present)**



Highly commended – **Pheobe Altman (P2011-Present)** and **Marco Nicholas (M2014-Present)**

Third – **Tom Yardley (M2008-Present)**

The theme for the Junior category was 'Packaging' and students approached this in a variety of ways. The winner, **Olivia Cadden (P2013-Present)**, in year 8, produced an exciting piece in mixed media entitled 'Sweet Wrappers.'

## Junior Letchmore Trust Competition

Winner- **Olivia Cadden (P2013-Present)**

Second- **Leo Bailey (L2012-Present)**

Third- **Milly Rees (P2013-Present)**

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

Chairman of trustees, The Letchmore Trust, who judged the entries with **Gemma Nye (CR2010-2015)**, would like



to thank Gemma for her tremendous commitment, energy and encouragement in guiding her students to produce such innovative works over the last five years. Trustees of the Letchmore Trust manage various art and financial assets relating to the School and, at their discretion, use income from the latter to support School activities and projects such as the annual Letchmore Trust Art prizes.



# Eros to Eros run

26th June 2015



The Eros Run according to **Terry Ford (CR1974-Present)**: 'It was a Goldilocks day – not too hot, not too cold but just right, bright but not burning sun, as 26 runners undertook the annual Eros run.

**Paul Cheetham (CR1996-99 & 2003-07)** again finished first in 1:26:53, just seconds slower than his record-breaking time of 1:26:31 last year. However, this time Paul was challenged for the headlines by **Alan Phillips (M1977-82)** and Martin Love, Alan's friend and running partner, who undertook what can perhaps best be described as 'the Double Eros', running from the Eros at Aldenham, into London (Eros backwards = Sore) and then back again in the traditional run.

The pair were fuelled by pasta provided by the Headmaster, **James Fowler**, at whose house they had stayed (briefly – they set off at 2 a.m.) The 'Double Eros' has only previously been undertaken by bike which is, of course, arguably cheating somewhat. Their time was 4 hours 45 minutes, which includes the time they spent waiting at Piccadilly for the rest of the runners to arrive from School and was therefore very creditable.

I wonder, did they notice the hyper-inflation that was visible? – As they passed Asda in Colindale, petrol was being sold for 113.7 pence per litre on the way into London. By the time they went by on the return leg, it had risen to 114.7 pence!

The first pupil home was **Myles McLeod (B2014-Present)** in a time of 1:55:41 seconds. Other noteworthy performances were first staff member home **Lee Flindall (CR2008-Present)**, who shaved some 15 minutes off his previous best time to finish in 1:57:39. **Cameron McGeary (M2011-Present)** and his father, Simon, who decided at the last minute to accompany his son finished together in 2:22:55.

This year, there were 6 runners who finished in under 2 hours, while all finishers broke 3 hours. A sum of £940 was raised for PHASE WORLDWIDE, a charity that provides practical help to empower people in the most remote areas of Nepal.'

## THE RESULTS

	Name	Year	House	Time (h:mm:ss)
1	Paul Cheetham	Frnr Staff		1:26:53
2	David Englander	Parent		1:54:13
3	Myles McLeod	9	B	1:55:41
4	Anthony Jacovides	10	K	1:55:58
5	Ashley Potter	Parent		1:56:49
6	Lee Flindall	Staff		1:57:39
7=	Sam Dawe	Staff		2:10:27
7=	Stephen Hatch	Staff		2:10:27
7=	Luke Kirsten	Staff		2:10:27
10=	Jack Sinclair	12	K	2:11:47
10=	Alex Stern	12	K	2:11:47
12	Emily Gratton	Staff		2:12:46
13	Joe Masri	11	M	2:20:59
14=	Cameron McGeary	10	M	2:22:55
14=	Simon McGeary	Parent		2:22:55
16	Kim Onions	Staff		2:25:01
17=	Oliver Hotton	9	K	2:31:48
17=	Alan Phillips	OA		2:31:48*
17=	Martin Love	Friend of OA		2:31:48*
20	Josh King	12	M	2:34:05
21	Fiona Mephram	Staff		2:34:59
22	Michael Morgan	Parent		2:39:44
23	Alison Chapman	Parent		2:41:32
24	Louis Hollett	13	K	2:43:38
25	Estela Innes	12	P	2:47:34
26=	Isabella Hotton	11	P	2:53:16
26=	Reshmi Patel	11	P	2:53:16
28	Matt Scott-Weston	Staff		

\* Mr. Phillips and Mr. Love did the "Double Eros." They set off from school at approximately 02:00 and waited for the other runners to assemble before beginning the return leg at 05:00. Their combined running time was approximately 4:45. The time above is solely the time for their return leg.



# Nick Pulman retires after 38 years at Aldenham School

It's the end of an era at Aldenham – **Nick Pulman (CR1977-2015)** retired at the end of the Summer term.



Nick Pulman and his wife Char

Nick served in various roles, from Geography teacher to Head of Geography and House Tutor in Paull's and School House, to become the 6th Housemaster of Paull's from 1987 to 2001.

He became Director of Studies in 2002 and was Senior Master until he left in July 2015. He organised many Geography field trips and was the School's Chief Meteorological Officer for several years. It might be worth noting here, for anyone interested in climatological observations, that Nick bequeathed a pocket register dating back to 1964 to the Development Office, containing two years of weather records.

Nick saw a great deal of life at Aldenham and his work has been invaluable. His involvement with the School was marked in a special way. There were several standing ovations, the first at the OA Dinner in November 2014 when his forthcoming retirement was announced. At an informal garden party in June, Nick was presented with a souvenir book of photos and memories and with pictures and anecdotes contributed by many colleagues and former pupils.

We are very grateful to Nick for the many things he has done including the support he gave to the OA Society and in particular to the OA Football Club. Some of you will remember that he secured the record for the Eros to Eros run in 1986, which he held until 2013.

We wish Nick a very long and happy retirement and send best wishes to his wife Char and their family. Many OAs will have fond memories of Nick and Char from their time in Paull's House and where their children Ben and Becky grew up.

---

'Nick Pulman – the Steven Gerrard of Aldenham School – the talisman. It is entirely appropriate that they are both retiring at the same time, Nick being such an avid Liverpool supporter.'

There is no doubt that he was equally impressed by *Private Eye* magazine. In the '80s his own version *Button Your Lip* highlighted his satirical skills during the

austerity period in Aldenham's history. How did he get away with it? Perhaps the Governing Body never read a copy! The monthly 'anonymous' publication was lapped up by the Common Room each month with Pulman remaining fresh and innocent throughout.

We wish him well in his retirement with more time to watch Liverpool.'

Mary and Austin Galvin  
**Austin Galvin (CR1970-2007) & Mary Galvin (Matron 1990-93)**

---

Nick, 'Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone at Aldenham!

Who would have thought back in the 1970s that you would see your whole career in Aldenham?

I am so sorry that I pulled up my stumps and went and left you in 1994 after only half your innings. We certainly had put up a few runs on the board with our opening innings together. In fact I must say I have oft used our partnership as the epitome of team work and collaboration. You would always catch the balls I could not reach and I hope I caught a few for you too. You so wonderfully sang the praise of Urban and Political Geography while I sought to make sense of Geomorphology and Meteorology, though I do recall you were converted to the weather station for a season after Robo's (**David Robertson CR1950-85**) retirement.

The highlight of our innings would have to be the residential field trips at Easter. Let me finish with this, perhaps the most memorable one; Cader Idris, Central Wales. We sat down for our evening meal together in our residence in Aberystwyth University only to be startled by the phone calling from Machynlleth Hospital telling us that

they had a couple of our students and would we kindly pick them up sometime? The folly of two buses and not cross checking our lists before setting off! I really don't think it was anyone's fault other than the students' alone who veered off the path and fell off the mountain as a consequence! And while I am on the topic of field trips, what about the four I lost in Yugoslavia? I hope you did not drop too many students when I left.

Every blessing to you and your family. If you are 'down under' anytime you must look us up, so we can go on another field trip for old times' sake. Shalom.'

**Dr Jim Twelves (CR1975-94)** Dean of Education and Program Director, Master of Teaching (Primary)  
**jim.twelves@ac.edu.au**  
 30 Cowper Street, Parramatta, NSW,  
 2150, Australia PO Box 337, Parramatta,  
 NSW, 2124, Australia



Nick Pulman with Mike Yeabsley and Emily Gratton



Nick's last day at Aldenham School



Nick Pulman taking charge on one of the many field trips he organised.

# News and features

## 100th Birthday celebration

**M**ary Mason, first wife of former Headmaster **Peter Mason (CR1949-61)** celebrated her 100th birthday with all her 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren picnicking on Lamas Land in Cambridge.

Behind Mary (in centre) are Rachel, her daughters Prue and Caroline. Next to Prue is husband John Corp (SHE 1956-61). On the right are the children of Michael Catchpole (SHE 1955-1960) and his son, Adam and daughter Sophie.



**Ben with his bride, Sophie, and his twin brother and best man, Simon Fraiss (P2001-06) right**



**C**ongratulations to **Ben Fraiss (R2001-06 & CR2014-Present)** on his wedding in December 2014. Ben returned to Aldenham in September 2014 to teach History.

**Aadil Datta (L2000-07) married Natasha Mansigani in England, July 2015 followed by an October wedding in India.**



## A proud parent

**I**n a letter to Headmaster **James Fowler**, Jocelyn Rose wrote: 'I am sure you will recall my son **Harrison Galgut (M2008-12)**, Harry as he is known, who left Aldenham at the end of Lower Sixth to pursue a BTEC in Music Technology at West Herts College.

Harry did extremely well at West Herts and thoroughly enjoyed his time at the college. He achieved a Triple Distinction in his Extended Level 3 BTEC and was offered a place at University of the West of England in Bristol. He has now started his Audio Production and Music Technology 4 year BSc course and seems to be settling into student life.

We are very grateful to Aldenham School for encouraging Harry and inspiring him to pursue a different course when 'A' Levels seemed too daunting. So far this advice has opened many doors to him and offered the opportunity to further his education in a subject he truly loves. Please can you pass our thanks to all the staff at Aldenham.'

## A note from New York

**Charles Pinckney Whitin (M1968-69)** emailed with a note of thanks for maintaining his link with Aldenham:

It's such a long time back now. I have not set foot in England since July 1969. My memories of my year there in McGill's House as an English-Speaking Union exchange scholar are pristine and remain vivid. At Princeton University I majored in English and whether studying Ted Hughes or Shakespeare, *The Cherry Orchard* or *A Passage to India*, or apropos of the centennial for WWI, the so-called "Great War" poets such as Sassoon and Owen, my experience in Hertfordshire improved my understanding and appreciation immeasurably.

Occasionally I recite the School Grace that I would recite before and after meals at McGill's to see how much I can remember. And I thank Headmaster **Paul Griffin (1962-74)** for keeping me at Aldenham after a rebellious debauch in the month of March 1969; had he shipped me back home, I would very likely have been inducted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam. I finished the year in good standing and lived to go on to Harvard. A half dozen careers later, Mary and I have a wonderful daughter. Thank you for that year. One day I will return to see Aldenham though I know not when.'

## News from NYC

**Jonathan Brett (M1963-68)** emailed **David Hayes (SHO1963-68)** with an update. 'I have lived in New York for over 30 years now. After Aldenham, I worked as a solicitor in London in the 1970s as an entertainment lawyer with Harbottle & Lewis which had great showbiz clients and they inevitably introduced me to the US!

I look back at my time at Aldenham with great fondness. We have had two great OA dinners here in NYC over the past 10 years.'

## Dubai - Aldenham Reunion Brunch

The final task for Headmaster **James Fowler** and his wife, Charlotte, before returning home after a very busy half term break in October, was to host a Saturday Brunch and Aldenham Reunion on 1st November, 2014.

The Dubai gathering was another great success, with 14 guests meeting at the Rivington Bar & Grill, Madinat Jumeirah for a barbecue on the terrace. To describe the weather as hot would be an understatement, with the temperature at around 38 degrees. True to form however, the Headmaster donned his tie for this special occasion and was delighted that at least one other guest had gone to the same extent. It wasn't long before James Fowler and **Andrew Swain (K1963-67)** agreed to relax the dress code and remove their neck gear. Although some had to retire indoors, out of the sun, they had all enjoyed the meal, setting, ambience and the company.

A small group of OAs who were at School together in the mid '60s have vowed to meet again back at Aldenham and will be contacting others from their era to join them for a 50th anniversary celebration in 2017 - nothing like planning ahead. Report to follow!

**Doug Chalton (SHO1963-67)** said of the event: "Thanks for organising a great lunch in a very good location with the bonus of the Burj Al Arab as the

backdrop. I will be in touch to arrange the 50th reunion of 'Class of 67' back at Aldenham in due course - that will be fun."



Charlotte Fowler, David Jeens (SHE1961-66), James Fowler (Headmaster), Nigel Sillitoe (SHO1975-79), Doug Chalton (SHO1963-67) & Andrew Swain (K1963-67) with the iconic Burj Al Arab in the background.

## Doctor of Arts

**Dr John Dorrington Apthorp CBE (P1949-53)** is shown here wearing the academic dress of a Doctor of Arts, awarded as an honorary degree by the University of Hertfordshire in recognition of his charitable contribution of more than £35 million.

The John Apthorp Charitable Trust has made grants of more than £10 million to Barnet's voluntary sector and community projects, along with having given a £15,000 grant to The Crescent charity in St Albans.

Last year he was honoured with a CBE (see OA Review Issue 42) for his charitable services in Hertfordshire, adding to the OBE he had previously received for his charity work in Barnet and has also been placed in the current Sunday Times Top 100 Giving List.

John Apthorp found success in his family business, Bejam, a frozen food retailer, which he sold in 1989 to its rival Iceland for £238 million. Receiving his award, he said, "One of my few regrets in life is that I never went to university, which is why this award means so much to me."

The ceremony was held on Friday 2 November 2014 in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Albans.



**Diamond Wedding Anniversary Congratulations**  
Anne née Barker and John Perry RA (Bursar 1972-81) on their wedding day at Sulham Church, near Pangbourne in 1965.

## Friends and colleagues

**Sue Barnard**, Matron of Beevor's House (1975-82) and wife of **Ken Barnard (CR 1956-91 & Housemaster B1967-82)** wrote to say she had been staying with friends in Cornwall and took the opportunity to meet up with **Edward Courtenay-Barratt (CR & House Tutor Beevor's 1960-73)**, visiting his house in Probus, near Truro.

'I told him that **Felicity Griffin (wife of Paul Griffin Headmaster 1962-74)** had moved to Truro from Southwold to be near her son, but I only had the address and no phone number. We decided that we would take pot luck and go to see her. It was such a success. She is quite amazing. She had not seen me for at least 10 years and as for Edward, not since he left! Felicity welcomed us with open arms and we reminisced about a number of people. Not easy to have two people, you haven't seen for years, turn up on your doorstep.

She has asked Edward if we would pop in when he is in Truro, which made me think that there might be OAs in the area who might like to call in to see her.'

Sue is also in touch with a number of people from her time at Aldenham – **Michael Palmer (CR1958-63)**, **Jo and Arthur Hearnden (CR1959-67)**, Jenny and **Chris Arkell (B1946-52, CR1962-93)**. 'This summer I had lunch with Margaret Davis (widow of **Neil Davis (CR1958-62)**) Ann Steven, Matron 1956-72 and **Philip Swingler (CR1970-72)**. I had not seen Philip for years, so it was a great pleasure. He is just as entertaining as ever. It is obviously easy to meet local people and I do see Anthea Kirkwood, widow of **Hugh Kirkwood (CR1946-1972)**, **Austin Galvin (CR1970-2007)** **Mary Galvin (Staff 1984-99)**; also **Glen McAllister (Staff 1982-95)**, widow of **John McAllister (CR1967-2005)**. I think there was something special about the friendships made at Aldenham in the early years I was there and everyone seems to have very happy memories.'



# Max to study Natural Science at Cambridge

**Max Quastel (M2007-14)** has fulfilled a long-standing dream by gaining a place at Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.

**Dr Paul Turner (CR1998-Present)**, who was Max's Chemistry teacher and also his Assistant Housemaster when he joined Aldenham in Year 7, describes him as a modest and reflective young man who has always been curious about the material world.

"In Martineau's his probing intellect, maturity and readiness to engage in scientific discourse were signs of things to come. He really impressed as a Sixth Form Chemistry student with his independent thinking and rigorous study. Frequently he would ask questions, postulate or challenge the received wisdom following open-ended discussion. This is typical of intelligent students, but the quality and depth of Max's supporting arguments made him exceptional. A good intellect and

willingness to work hard to develop it have been factors in Max's success, but his open mind and willingness to engage in opportunities at School and beyond have also been critical. He speaks enthusiastically about time he spent in China, and he is equally passionate about his roles as President of Aldenham School Jewish Society and Secretary of Les Philosophes. Kind and full of humility, he was always willing to lend a hand; many of his contemporaries have been grateful to Max for a little academic mentoring. With sensibility to complement his incisive intellect and resilience, he will be in his element when he goes up to Selwyn College Cambridge to read Natural Sciences in October."



## Marathon man

Living 200 yards from the start, **John Corp (SHE1956-61)** ran the London Marathon, for the sixth consecutive year, on 26 April 2015 to raise money once again for Seafarers UK, a leading maritime charity. So far he has raised £6,000 from the last two London Marathons and in total sponsorship over the last six years, £17,500. "Timing has slipped with age from 4h:29m in 2011 to 4h:45m this year. I shall be back in 2016."

**Doug Bonn (SHE1964-69)** married **Liz Hill** in Harrow on 14 February 2015



# OA Dinner 2015 Guest speaker

**Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)**, the Executive Chairman of the Jerwood Foundation, has been involved with the Foundation since its establishment in 1977.



The legal adviser and confidante of John Jerwood during his life, Alan Grieve was involved with his business and private affairs for more than twenty-five years. He was also a director of John Jerwood's international trading company which established one of the world's largest dealerships in cultured pearls.

Formerly the senior partner of City solicitors, Taylor Joynson Garrett (now Taylor Wessing), and a director of listed and private companies, Alan has since 1991 devoted substantially the whole of

his working life to the Foundation. He has had a long and wide ranging personal interest in the performing arts especially theatre and dance; he is also, with his wife Karen Grieve, a private collector of Modern British Art. He has made a striking collection of Modern British Art for The Jerwood Foundation and was the instigator and creator of The Jerwood Painting Prize.

Outside the Jerwood Foundation Alan has served on the Educational Assets Board and on the Financial and General Purposes Board of the Royal College of Physicians of London and held the presidency of the Trinity Hall Association, Cambridge for two years. He is an Ambassador for The Samaritans, Patron of Brendoncare for the Elderly, a former Trustee of the Hereford Mappa Mundi, Honorary Council Member of the English Stage Company (Royal Court Theatre), Honorary Vice Commodore of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets Association and Honorary Fellow of both the Royal College of Physicians and Trinity College of Music.

Since the death of John Jerwood in 1991, Alan Grieve has shaped and developed the particular role for the Foundation of recognising and supporting talented young people,

mainly between twenty and thirty-five, whose careers can be uplifted at a critical time to the benefit of the individuals and the institutions they represent. Financial support has been given to young actors, artists, dancers, choreographers, designers, directors, playwrights, musicians, film-makers and others in the performing and visual arts, as well as to young engineers, chemists and doctors.

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

## New Archdeacon for London

Prebendary **John Hawkins (B1976-81)** has been appointed Archdeacon of Hampstead. Currently Vicar of St John's Hendon, John has been Bishop's Missioner at King's Cross London since 2013 when he was also made a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

Commenting on his new appointment Prebendary John Hawkins said: "I am delighted to be working alongside fellow

archdeacons in the Diocese of London at this very exciting time. This is a wonderful city to be living and working in and there is so much that the Church contributes through its brilliant clergy, who I will endeavour to support and encourage as they seek to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and participate in His mission in our city."



Prebendary John Hawkins, newly appointed Archdeacon of Hampstead, is shown right hand side



# Old Aldenhamian Day

*Sunday 12th June 2016*

All OAs welcome

The focus will be a Beavor's Gaudy hosted by Sam Pennycook, Housemaster of Beavor's, and his wife, Tatiana.

Personal invitations will be sent early next year to OAs who were in Beavor's and all staff, former and current, who are or have been associated with the House.

Please ensure that the Development and OA Office has your correct contact details, including an email address and help spread the word about this reunion. A programme for the day's events will be announced nearer the time and you are welcome to attend all or part of the day.

Please register your intention to attend by email to [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com) or return the slip below by Monday 16th May 2016.



## BOOKING FORM - OA DAY 2016

Name

House & dates at Aldenham

Address

Telephone (home)

Telephone (work)

Telephone (mobile)

Post Code

Email

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

Please indicate any special dietary requirements





## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6.00pm Wednesday 9th March 2016

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 2015**

Friday 20th November at Aldenham School

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

6.30pm Presentation by Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)

7.30pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

Wives, husbands and partners are also invited

Tables seat up to 12 people

Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit Ladies: Evening Wear

Tickets: £42 per person (OA Society members and guests) or £35.00 per person for those 25 or under on the day of Dinner

£48 per person for non-members of the OA Society

The OA Society will subsidise its members and their partner

Price includes pre-dinner drinks, wine with dinner, a cheese table and coffee

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 Monday 9th November 2015

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 1995 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  House & dates at Aldenham   
Address  Telephone   
 Email   
 Post Code

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

Please indicate any special dietary requirements

## BOOKING FORM - ANNUAL DINNER 2015

House & dates at Aldenham   
Name  Telephone (home)   
Address  Telephone (work)   
 Telephone (mobile)   
 Post Code  Email

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

I would like  ticket(s) at £42 (member & guest) or  ticket(s) at £48 (non-member & guest) or  ticket(s) at £35 (age 25 years or under)

Cheque enclosed for £  made payable to "Old Aldenhamian Society".

Please indicate any special dietary requirements

I will arrive for the drinks reception and pre-dinner talk in The Apthorp Room of The Wells Centre Yes / No

Please return this slip to Ian Luetchford, c/o Development & OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ by Monday 9th November 2015.

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, Treasurer, Old Aldenhamian Society, c/o Old Aldenhamian Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ

Name   
Address  Telephone   
 Email   
 Post Code

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)   
Bank/ Building Society details   
Bank/ Building Society address   
  
 Post Code   
Account no.  Sort Code

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

Account no.   
Sort Code

Please debit my / our account accordingly.

Signature

### For OA Office & Bank use only

Bank please quote as Ref

Date

OA  
SOCIETY



OA  
SOCIETY



OA  
SOCIETY

With thanks to Ian Luetchford (B1948-51) for photograph

ALDENHAM SCHOOL

1939 - 1945

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS:  
TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE  
FOR ONE'S FRIENDS

JOHN 15:13

F.J.C. ALLEN	C.H.S. KIRKUS
I.F. ALLISTON	G.D. LANGNER
T.G.M. ARGILE	G.P. LONGFIELD
J.M. BARRELL	H.F. J. MACKENZIE
F.M. BARTLETT	I. MACLEAN
C.P. BEST	N.R.N. MACLEOD
J.P. BLAKE	P.S. MARIN
J.I. BRETT-JAMES	L.T. MANSER
G.F. BROWNE	J.H. MASON
L. BUCKLEY	M.G.C. MATHEW
R.M. CAMPBELL	P.J. MAXWELL
P.J. CARPENTER	D.Q. MAY
G.B. COCOLLIS	S.R. MAYOR
C.R. COLTART	G.C. MILLER
H.P. CORNABY	C.R. MOORE
P.W. CROCKER	S. MOXHAM
G.M. CULLEY	D.W. NEELE
J.W. CUTTS	C.J.E. OXBERRY
A.N. DAVID	P.W. PARISH
M.I.H. D'AVIGDOR	A.M. PHILLIPS
A.D.H. DIBBEN	J.F. PHILPOTT
J.K. DICKINSON	G. POLGLASE
P. DOLLEMORE	H.D.W. PRESTON
J.C. DONALD	D.C. RICHARDSON
P.W. DORMON	A. RIEFSTAHL
J.M. DOWN	A. RODERICK
R.S. ELFORD	I.K. RODWELL
C.C. ELLIOTT	S.F. ROSCOE
F.N. ELLIOTT	R.J.S. RUST
S.G. ETHERIDGE	C.P. SAMPSON
C.E.P. EVANS	A.J. SAYER
D.H.R. EVANS	L.A. SCOTT
R.J.T. EWIN	R.G. SEAGER
C.P. EXHAM	M.E.R. SIMS
J.O. FENTON	E.T.T. SNOWDON
J. FLEETWOOD-MAY	C.A. STANLEY
T.H. FOX	A.B.G. STEPHEN
E.P. FRACIS	J.G. STEWART
P.P.D. FREEMAN	S.R. STICKNEY
D.V. FULLERTON	G. STRETTON-SMITH
G. GASCOYNE	P.G. SYKES
J.P. GASCOYNE	F.B. THORPE
D.J. GEE	R. TOMLINSON
C.C.O. GEORGE	T.J.F. TOOLEY
K. GORE	A.L. TUCKEY
B.P. GRIGSON	A.W. VERHOEFF
B.P. HALL	L.J. WALCH
J.D. HAMLEY	M.S.J. WALLER
F.G. HAWARD	J.B. WELTON
R. HEYNES	H.A. WHEATMAN
A.E. HOWORTH	I.H. WHITELAW-WILSON
P.D.V. HUNTER	J. WHITING
T. HYDES	H. WILLANS
E.J. ILOTT	J.D.F. WILLIAMS
B.C. JAGGER	M. WOODTHORPE
T. KERR	C.D. WRIGHT
E. KING	J.G. YATES
G.P. KING	H.J.S. YOUNG

Second World War  
Tributes

# 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain

15 September 1940

The Battle of Britain is the name given to the Second World War air campaign waged by the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) against the United Kingdom during the summer and autumn of 1940. The Battle of Britain was the first major campaign to be fought entirely by air forces and was also the largest and most sustained aerial bombing campaign to that date. The Battle of Britain Day commemorates the large-scale aerial battle that took place on 15 September 1940, during the Battle of Britain.

The objective of the Nazi German forces was to achieve air superiority over the Royal Air Force, especially its Fighter Command. Beginning in July 1940, coastal shipping convoys and shipping centres, such as Portsmouth, were the main targets; one month later, the Luftwaffe shifted its attacks to RAF airfields and infrastructure. As the battle progressed, the Luftwaffe also targeted factories involved in World War II aircraft production and ground infrastructure. Eventually the Luftwaffe resorted to attacking areas of political significance and using terror bombing strategy.

By preventing Germany from gaining air superiority, the British forced Hitler to postpone and eventually cancel Operation Sea Lion, a planned amphibious and airborne invasion of Britain. However, Germany continued bombing operations on Britain, known as The Blitz. The failure of Nazi Germany to achieve its objective of destroying Britain's air defences in order

to force Britain to negotiate an armistice (or even surrender outright) is considered by historians to be its first major defeat in World War II and a crucial turning point in the conflict.

The Battle of Britain has an unusual distinction in that it gained its name prior to being fought. The name is derived from a famous speech delivered by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the House of Commons on June 18, more than three weeks prior to the generally accepted date for the start of the battle.

In June 1940, Nazi Germany had conquered most of Western Europe and Scandinavia. At that time, the only major power standing in the way of a German-dominated Europe was the British Empire and the Commonwealth. After having several peace offers rejected by the British, Adolf Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe to destroy the Royal Air Force (RAF) in order to gain air superiority or air supremacy as a prelude to launching Operation Sea Lion, an amphibious assault by the Wehrmacht (German armed forces) onto the British mainland.

In July 1940, the Luftwaffe started by closing the English Channel to merchant shipping. In August, Operation Adlerangriff (Eagle Attack) was launched against RAF airfields in southern England. By the first week of September, the Luftwaffe had not gained the results desired by Hitler. Frustrated, the Germans turned towards the strategic bombing of cities, an offensive which was aimed at British military and civil industries, but also civilian morale. The

attacks began on 7 September 1940, but were to reach their daylight climax on 15 September.

On Sunday, 15 September 1940, the Luftwaffe launched its largest and most concentrated attack against London in the hope of drawing out the RAF into a battle of annihilation. Around 1,500 aircraft took part in the air battles which lasted until dusk. The action was the climax of the Battle of Britain.

RAF Fighter Command defeated the German raids. The Luftwaffe formations were dispersed by a large cloud base and failed to inflict severe damage on the city of London. In the aftermath of the raid, Hitler postponed Operation Sea Lion. Having been defeated in daylight, the Luftwaffe turned its attention to The Blitz night campaign which lasted until May 1941.

In 1945 after the black-out was removed, an OA who had been at Aldenham during the war years and never seen it without black-out, came to visit and said afterwards 'I've just been round the House; it does look cold and bare – nothing like as snug as in our time!'



## 70th Anniversary VE Day

Victory in Europe Day, generally known as VE Day on 8 May 1945 marked the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. It thus marked the end of World War II in Europe.

From *The Aldenhamian* 1945: 'VE Day came; we rejoiced and gave thanks to Almighty God for that great victory. On the night of May 8th, we celebrated the occasion with a magnificent victory bonfire at the end of the cricket field, which lasted well into the night. However we quickly settled down again and were resigned to at least another twelve months of hard and bitter fighting against Japan, but with the advent of the Atom Bomb and the declaration of war by Russia on Japan, peace in the Far East came far sooner than we had ever dared to hope.

Now with the end of war against the Axis powers, the lights have gone up, and the blackout come down. This is not the place to discuss the problems of peace, but we know one thing, we are now free from the menace of V1s and V2s, and the OAs are coming back home from all over the globe; we welcome them with all our hearts. This surely is a certain sign of peace.'

**Timothy Gordon Sheeres (P1942-45)**  
Editor, *The Aldenhamian*, Sept. 1945.

## 70th Anniversary Victory over Japan Day

Also known as Victory in the Pacific Day, V-J Day, or V-P Day, is the day on which Japan surrendered in World War II, in effect ending the war.

The term has been applied to both of the days on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made – to the afternoon of August 15, 1945, in Japan, and, because of time zone differences, to August 14, 1945 (when it was announced in the United States and the rest of the Americas and Eastern Pacific Islands) – as well as to September 2, 1945, when the signing of the surrender document occurred, officially ending World War II. August 15 is the official V-J Day for the UK, while the official U.S. commemoration is September 2. The name, V-J Day, had been selected by the Allies after they named V-E Day for the victory in Europe.

On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was performed in Tokyo Bay, Japan, aboard the battleship USS Missouri. In Japan, August 15 usually is known as the 'memorial day for the end of the war.'



# WW2 Fallen



Leslie Manser (M1936-38) who served in WW2, the only OA known to have received a VC

## Flying Officer Leslie Manser VC

The School's only VC was **L T Manser (M1936-38)** who as a Flying Officer in the RAF was killed in action over Belgium. Turned down for both Navy and Army, once in command of his Manchester bomber he was seen as a skilful pilot and a competent captain. Hit repeatedly by flak after they had dropped their bombs he nursed his stricken craft sufficiently for all the crew to bail out successfully, sacrificing his life that they might live.

Taken from *Aldenhams School A Foundation for Success* p.46: 'Flying Officer **Leslie Manser** was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the 1,000 bomber air raid on Cologne on 30 May 1942. The target was bombed successfully but his plane was damaged and taking heavy fire.

Manser flew the stricken plane with great skill and ordered the crew to bail out. They urged him to follow but while the crew were descending to safety they saw the aircraft, still carrying their gallant captain, plunge to earth and burst into flames.'

An article from *The Aldenhamian* December 1943 p.10 reads: 'In accordance with the proposal passed at their Annual Meeting, the Old Aldenhamian Society has voted £10 towards a subscription list for a portrait of L.T. Manser VC.

It is hoped that any of his contemporaries or others who would like to subscribe will send their contributions to **Samuel Cox (CR1921-46 and Housemaster McGill's 1933-46)**, Aldenhams School. It is suggested that subscriptions be limited to 2s 6d.'

The portrait, painted posthumously from photographs, by Aldenhams Art teacher **Arthur Felix Adolphus Wing (CR1941-50)** now hangs in the Dining Hall.

The son of Thomas James Stedman Manser, of Luckhow, India, Flying Officer Leslie Manser VC, Royal Air Force was killed in action over St Trond, Belgium, 31 May 1942.

## Capt. John Ellis Drake MC

**John Ellis Drake (SHE1937-41)**, Aug. 1941-May 1942 1st Depot Bn., Royal Signals; May-Nov. 1942 151 Officer Cadet Training Unit; Nov 1942-April 1943 77th (Devon and Cornwall) Divisional Signals; April 1943-Nov. 1945 HQ 1st Air Landing Brigade (April-Sept.1943 North Africa, Sept.-Dec. 1943 Central Mediterranean Forces; Sept. 1944 Arnhem); Nov. 1945-Nov. 1946 British Military Administration, Dodecanese. MC. Survived. Entered Brasenose Coll., Oxford, 1947.

## John Maurice Down

**John Maurice Down (P1935-39)**. Son of **Charles Maurice Down (M1903-1906)** Croix de Guerre, brother of **Michael Frederick Down (P1939-44)**. Cricket XI 1938-39. Midshipman, RNVR. Killed in an air crash near Campbeltown, Kintyre, 18 Aug. 1941, while serving with 802 Sqdn., Fleet Air Arm.

## Paymaster Lieut.-Commander Charles Coulton Elliott RN

**Charles Coulton Elliott (SH1923-27)** Son of Commander Coulton Elliott, RD RNR; Killed in HMS *Glorious* off the Norwegian coast on 9 June 1940.

## Colonel Francis Newton Elliott

**Col. Francis Newton Elliott (P1913-16)** Entered Sandhurst 1916. 2nd Lieut. Royal Berkshire Regt., 1917; Lieut., 1919; Capt. 1929; Commanded 1st Btn., Royal Berkshire Regt 1940-Jan 1943 (France 1940; India April 1942-Jan 1943).

Killed on 18 August 1944 whilst commanding a sub area with HA at Imphal, North East India.

## Sub Lieut. Allan Lane Tuckey RNVR

**Allan Lane Tuckey (P1937-40)** Sub Lieut. RNVR. Served in Atlantic and Madagascar. Commissioned Oct. 1943. Served in Egypt and the Cos and Leros Campaign in Landing Craft (Tank). Joined Raiding Force, Aegean, in command of Schooner LS 24. Captured together with his crew of 4 and 4 Army Commandos on 7 April 1944.

Believed to have been shot by Germans in Rhodes. Presumed killed on 21 April 1944.

## Lieut. Cyril John Ernest Oxberry Royal Armoured Corps

**Cyril John Ernest Oxberry (M1933-37)** Football XI 1936-37; Fives VI 1936-37; Killed in action at Ghazala, Libya, on 14 June 1942, whilst serving with 3rd Btn., Royal Tank Regiment.

## Capt. Hubert Peter Cornaby Dragoon Guards

**Hubert Peter Cornaby (M1934-37)** Son of William Basil Cornaby, Far Eastern Trader and Shipper, of Hong Kong. Capt. Dragoon Guards. Killed in action at Mandalay, Burma, 2 March 1945.

## Neville Gillman MC

Taken from *Aldenhams School A Foundation for Success* p.45: '**Neville Gillman (P1931-35)** joined the 4th County of London Yeomanry (CLY) in 1938. The regiment was sent to the Middle East in 1941 and Neville was on active service until he was seriously wounded at the Battle of El Alamein on 25 October 1942. He commanded a troop of Crusader tanks in C squadron of the 4th CLY, which was part of the 7th Armoured Division's southern diversionary attack in the opening stages of the battle. In typical self-effacing character, below is the account of his involvement in the battle which led to him being awarded the Military Cross.'

"We already had Monty's Order of the Day...(we were the) first tank squadron through the minefield... we followed a line of lamps across the January minefield into the gap between that one and the February minefield where we stayed all next day...On the next night... everything opened up on us from the flank and front; my searchlight and periscope were shot off inches from my head...There were a lot of mines and a ring of anti-tank guns awaiting us and one by one my squadron went off into the air stop... as we started to move, everything opened up on us. The shell, an 88mm I think, came in one side and blew the other side of the turret wide open, killing all the crew except driver and myself... I felt a blow on my leg and fell into the bottom of the fighting compartment, and all the ammo was on fire, so I hauled myself out over the gun, out of the turret - I don't know how - and rolled off into the sand. My leg was broken in two places but the driver, Corporal Kennedy, hauled me away into a slit trench, dumped me in it and went off to find help. I sat there alone in the dark,



Neville Gillman MC in the Western Desert early 1942

feeling a bit isolated. I was taken back to an aid post, but the leg got gas gangrene and eventually had to come off."

Neville Gillman MC  
Father of **Neville Andrew Philip Gillman (K1967-72)** and **Arthur John Turton Gillman (K1969-73)** and elder brother of **Gordon Gillman (P1932-37)** and uncle of **Miles Gillman (P1969-73)**; Hon. Treasurer OA Society 1936-93 and Vice President OA Society, died aged 92 in 2010.

### Lieut. Eric Thomas Theodore Snowdon RA

**Eric Thomas Theodore Snowdon (SHE1931-34)** Scholar. Prisoner of War for five years in Germany (Oflag VII-B) and Poland, 1940-45. Oflag VII-B was a World War II German prisoner-of-war camp for officers in Eichstatt, Bavaria, about 100km north of Munich.

Killed in an aircraft accident while being flown back to England after release from Prisoner- of- War camp on 9 May 1945.

### Sergeant-Pilot Lawrence Armstrong Scott RAF

**Lawrence Armstrong Scott (SH1930-33)** Bomber Command over Germany and Italy. Killed in a flying accident at Nuneaton on 4 October 1941 whilst training Polish airmen.

### Major Peter Wilfred Parish 5/6th Rajputana Rifles

**Peter Wilfred Parish (SH1928-32)** Major, East Kent Regiment. Crossed to France May 1940, where he fought on the Arras-Amiens Road. Captain, July 1940; volunteered for the Indian Army, October 1941 and was seconded to the Rajputana Rifles, February 1942. Fought on the Burma Front for two years and, at the time of his death, was 2nd-in-Command of his Battalion.

Major Peter Parish was killed on 20 May 1944 in action in Burma by a shell whilst assisting a wounded NCO of his company. His Colonel wrote that his company worshipped him, and that he had lost in him a gallant and brilliant officer.

### Flt.-Sergeant George Gascoyne RAF DFM

**George Gascoyne (M1928-31)** Son of George Gascoyne, Seed Merchant, of Malvern and elder brother of **John Patrick Gascoyne (M1935-37)**. Mentioned in despatches.

Killed in action on 2 June 1942, over Venlo in Holland, during the first 1,000 bomber raid on Essen.

### Also his brother Flt.-Sergeant John Patrick Gascoyne RAF

**John Patrick Gascoyne (M1935-37)** Son of George Gascoyne, Seed Merchant, of Malvern and younger brother of **George Gascoyne (M1928-31)**. Reported missing from operation against the Dortmund-Ems Canal.

Killed in action at Enschede in Holland on 21 February 1945.

### Sergeant Pilot Kenneth Gore RAF

**Kenneth Gore (SHO1937-37)** Royal Air Force, Pocklington, 102 Squadron Bomber Command.

In an eyewitness account from Jaap de Wit now aged 84 year:

"As a boy of 14, I witnessed a German fighter during the night of 26 June 1943 shoot down a Halifax bomber piloted by Kenneth Gore (20 years). The burning aircraft crashed about 1km from our farmhouse. Early in the morning, I walked with my father to the crash site where a German soldier was standing to keep us away. We could see the destroyed wreck of the bomber very well. Not far away in the meadow, there were two men of the crew lying dead under their parachutes. We think these two men are now buried in Bergenopzoom; the other five in a mass grave near Bergen, North Holland.

The Halifax Bomber JB 843 DY-F crashed on a road under construction with a small canal on both sides. Pilot Kenneth Gore must have spotted these canals in the clear night, with stars and moon reflecting on the water. The 30m wide by 5km long strip would make a perfect runway, much better than landing in the North Sea about 7km further on. By doing so, Kenneth tried to save his life and those of his comrades. Coming into land, something went wrong as two men bailed out of the aircraft. It was too late; the aircraft had crashed on the so called Anna Paulownaweg (Anna Paulowna Road) between the villages of Anna Paulowna and Oudesluis, Schagen, North Holland situated between Den Helder and Alkmaar.

They were on their return flight from the mission to Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr valley."

Kenneth Gore was born 8 February 1923 in Totnes, Devon. His parents were Adrian Gore and Kate Muriel Ridster. He died 26 June 1943. Kenneth's brother Geoffrey Gore died about one year later in Belgium.

A Handley Page Halifax





## Did a WW2 Bomb fall on Aldenham School?

**Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58):** According to the *Bomb Sight*, the project to map the London WW2 bomb census between 7 October 1940 and 6 June 1941, a high explosive device fell in the garden adjacent to Paull's House.

Having asked numerous boys who were in Paull's during this period, no one could remember any such event and there is no record in the relevant copies of *The Aldenhamian* describing any such event.

The following appears in *The History of Aldenham School* by R.J. Evans (1948 Edition): 'During the next few months bombs were frequent and plentiful in

the neighbourhood of the School, but no actual hit on School premises took place. After the great fire raid on London in May 1941, this situation gradually eased. All told, about 50 oil and high explosive bombs were dropped within a mile of the School, the nearest being 150 yards west of the Chapel.' Therefore it fell near the Headmaster's back garden.

## Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund



This Fund was established by a Declaration of Trust on 13 November 1947 as a Memorial to OAs who died in WW2 and is administered by trustees, all of whom are OAs.

The Trust Fund represents money subscribed to the Trust as the result of an Appeal made in 1946 enhanced by subsequent investment growth. Annual income is between £10,000 and £12,000 which helps to provide grants and bursaries for between 6 to 8 pupils at a time. It remains open for further subscriptions and bequests from any person wishing to further its objectives, which are mainly to assist in the education at Aldenham of any pupil whose parents or guardian cannot afford to send their child to the School. The Fund can also assist in the further education, training or apprenticeship after leaving Aldenham of any pupil who has been educated there, and whose parents need financial assistance for that purpose.

Originally, priority was given to the sons of OAs who were killed or wounded in WW2 or were otherwise adversely

affected by it. The Trustees now give assistance in any deserving case to parents of boys and girls whom the Trustees consider will derive benefit from education at Aldenham School, whether such pupils are the children of OAs or not.

In 1988 the Trustees also established a system of bursaries for any children entering the main School who are considered likely to make an outstanding contribution to the life of the School in any direction other than pure scholarship. This is administered in tandem with the system of grants. All grants and bursaries are assessed on the basis of need and whether the pupil is to be a boarder, day-boarder or day pupil.

For further details please contact David Hayes by email on [dhayes.family@gmail.com](mailto:dhayes.family@gmail.com) or the School Office on [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com)

## Unsung Heroes of WW2

**Geoffrey Gerrard Prall (SHE1936-40)** writing to the Headmaster after attending this year's OA Day recounted, 'It had puzzled me for many years why there was no memorial to those boys who died in World War II.

There were so many of my contemporaries alone who lost their lives. On 7 June I was able to stand in front of the new memorial in the Chapel and see amongst others, my very special friend's name **Gordon Mathew (SHE1936-40)**. He and I came to the School together in Evens and went everywhere together. In fact, in School House, we were referred to as the 'heavenly twins.'

Gordon was heading for a career as a doctor in which he would have excelled. We never met up again after leaving Aldenham although we missed each other by 24 hours in Scapa Flow in 1942 when our ships were in company.'

Gordon Mathew died on 15 November 1943 flying in the Fleet Air Arm in the Mediterranean. He was 21.



# Memorial art project

**Charlie MacGinty (M2005-09)** works as a freelance carpenter building large scale scenery for TR2, Theatre Royal Plymouth.

During the summer of 2014, he was part of the team building the structure for the major art installation *Blood Swept Land and Seas of Red* at the Tower of London. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower of London's famous moat between 17 July and 11 November. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the First World War.

A whole school art project was undertaken at Aldenham to produce a memorial to the 163 Old Aldenhamians who lost their lives in The Great War. The end result was the installation of 163 poppies around the School Library door.

Students from the Prep and Senior School as well as teachers including the Headmaster and the Head of Prep School, support staff, office staff and ground staff all helped to make the clay poppies.

The poppies were then painted and arranged on wire before being displayed on the exterior wall of the School Library, which was built as a memorial to those who died in the First World War.



James Fowler, Headmaster of Aldenham School and CEO of the Aldenham Foundation and Vicky Gocher, Head of Aldenham Prep, making their poppies for the Library installation.



Andy Dawson (SHO & R1989-94), Aldenham Sports Centre Manager, with other staff members making their poppies.



## An update

From **Don Shield**  
(SHO1944-49)

After leaving Aldenham, Don spent some time in the RAF as a Pilot Officer and then went on to Durham University. Don's first love has always been farming and in 1980, he joined his brother, **Colin Shield** (SHO1945-49), in a successful farming partnership which lasted until retirement. Don was also Branch Chairman of the NFU.

Now semi-retired, he has more time to devote to music and has promoted and organised concerts at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and has taken up singing again as a bass baritone and has a keen interest in classic cars.

### Did you know?

According to a report in *The Times* of 9th March 1953, Aldenham School Football Club was founded in 1825. This would make it the earliest organised club in history.

They also reported that in 1873 the official uniform was 'white jerseys and trousers, black velvet turban with white piping and a black and white tassel' This would hardly seem the most practical of sportswear.

## Perth - OA Reunion Dinner

On Thursday 23rd October 2014 Headmaster, **James Fowler**, met OAs: **Terry Cashmore (M1943-47)**, **Brian Allnutt (M1952-56)** and **Paul Volk (SH & R1988-93)** and their guests for dinner at Jojo's Cafe in Perth, W Australia.

After the event, James Fowler wrote: "We had a storming good time, even if we were the last guests to leave the restaurant at around 9.30 p.m., lovely food and a great, waterside setting. The company was excellent and the news from Aldenham well received."

This was a small group, just seven in total, but none the less it was a very special occasion. Sincere thanks to Terry Cashmore for his help with selecting the perfect venue for this gathering. It was a great shame that the main instigator of the Perth event, **Michael Newfield (B1980-84)**, who visited Aldenham in April 2014, was eventually unable to be present due to a three month secondment to the Philippines. Let's hope that next time a few more OAs living in Western Australia will be able to join the gathering.



Michael Newfield and his wife Jenny outside Beevor's House

L to r: Pippa Volk, Paul Volk, Rosie Cashmore (daughter), Brian Allnutt and his wife, James Fowler, Terry Cashmore



# Sydney Lunch



View from the restaurant

The last Aldenham School reunion in Australia was held in Melbourne, in 2004, and those who attended voted to hold the next event in Sydney.

Ten years on and with 75 OAs, former staff and parents now living in Australia and New Zealand, it was time to organise another get together.

**Mark Broomfield (SHO1966-72)** & **Pria Viswalingam (K1975-77)**, who were both present at the last event were joined on this occasion by 17 others at Wolfies Restaurant in the Rocks area of Sydney Harbour. With great views across the water to the Opera House and in the opposite direction to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the group enjoyed an excellent lunch hosted by the **Headmaster, James Fowler** and his wife, Dr Charlotte Fowler.

James said: "It was a cracking event in every way, although there was mild panic when it appeared that the air conditioning wasn't working. Glad to report that there was at least one OA tie on parade"

The guest list spanned 60 years at the School with the oldest guest **Jack Waterfield (M1949-51)** sitting next to **Juliet Lewis (P2009-11)**, the youngest.

Many thanks to **Gordon Guy (P1982-86)** for initially suggesting a Sydney reunion way back in the Spring of 2013 and for helping to generate a good deal of interest in the event. He wrote afterwards: "It was a great event, if a tad warm and even with a cruise liner parked in the Harbour it was still

a great view. Let's hope it's not another ten years until the next one."

We send best wishes to **David Triggs (M1951-55)**, who wrote to say that he would be unable to attend the lunch at Wolfies due to his wife's poor health and a pending house move.



Tara Bolton, Justin Bolton (B1981-86), Caroline Lewis (Former Parent), Keith McKnight (B1956-60), David Lewis (Former Parent), Juliet Lewis (P2010-11), Jack Waterfield (M1949-51), Maureen Waterfield, Trudy & Ian Blair (SHO1956-56)

Pria Viswalingam (K1975-77), Charlotte Fowler, Mark Broomfield (SHO1966-72), Alan Marco (SHE1967-72), James Fowler (Headmaster), Gordon Guy (P1982-86), Marlene Guy, Gill Twelves & Jim Twelves (CR1975-94)



## Did you know?

During the late 1940s and early '50s there was a resident of Letchmore Heath who would exercise his right to use the public footpath which crossed the Top field. He always timed his walk to coincide with a cricket match which, as the path went across the square, caused a great deal of confusion for the players. Subsequently the School applied for a variation of the right of way which was granted by the local council.

## Heads up

**Paul Mason Willoughby (SH01961-65)** emailed this photo taken in 1965 in the scorer's hut by the 1st XI cricket pitch within days of leaving Aldenham.



From the top: Paul Willoughby, Nick Mullings (SH1960-65) and Nick Prall (SHE1961-65)

## Paull's Reunion supper

As recounted by **Hugh Shelton (P1967-72)**: "We don't meet that often but when we did, we agreed that it would be with a level of trepidation.

When we left Aldenham, none of us ever expected for us all to get back together again even though some of us had kept in touch. **Mike Hill (1967-71)** and **Peter Shaerf (P1967-71)** share career interests, Mike and I had seen each other on and off in the late 1970s, he even married my ex flatmate. I had sporadic correspondence with **Roger Harlow (P1967-72)**.

I think it was when members of staff started dying that our sense of time and mortality got the better of us and I know I used the internet to track some down, but I'm not actually sure how it all started. **Steve Spooner (P1968-72)** was the hardest to find as he had gone to Canada. It didn't help that there was another Steve Spooner in Canada who matched our physical expectations. Tenacity paid off.

We miss **Mike Tombleson (P1967-72)** who is in New Zealand and **Azman Abu Bakar (P1968-72)**.

When we get together it has been rather extraordinary. Given there is little to be sentimental about regarding our years at School, the time we have spent has been nothing short of hilarious. Whilst we have all ended up as extremely normal and balanced individuals, the gags run thick and fast.

I think we all really like each other, so I really look forward to meeting up. The last time I laughed as much was when somebody rang the bell for chapel 10 minutes early and completely upset the time balance of the School and gave Chief (Gordon Williams, School Porter 1955-77) the heebie jeebies."



Entering our seventh Decade: From l to r: Richard Atkins, Steve Perry, Peter Shaerf, Mike Hill, David Howells, David Yeomans, Stephen Spooner, Hugh Shelton, Roger Harlow



An Unconventional Year: From l to r: Roger Harlow (P1967-72), Richard Atkins (P1967-72), Steve Perry (P1968-71), Peter Shaerf (P1967-71), Mike Hill (P1967-71), David Howells (P1967-71), David Yeomans (P1967-71)

# Beevor's House 1946 Entrants - Reunion Lunch

On Thursday 21st May 2015 a small group from Beevor's House who joined the School in 1946, gathered back at Aldenham for a reunion lunch.

**John Edwards (B1946-51)** organised an annual get together for the 'boys' and Daphne Woodrow, whose late husband **John Woodrow (B1946-51)**, President OA Society 1989-92; Chairman of Governors, Aldenham School 1995-2001; Captain OA Golfing Society 1994-95; Chairman and Trustee, Aldenham Club; Trustee Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund and Letchmore Trust; Hon. Sec. Friends of Aldenham School Assoc. had always been a part of the group. It was decided that this year they would have a 'School lunch', albeit rather different to the lunches in their day.

It was a glorious day and the group met in their old House for drinks with some current members of staff and students. They enjoyed a tour of the facilities, before wandering across Top Field for a private lunch in the Whitbread Room. They were delighted to see the whole School enjoying a 'Street Food Experience', which they couldn't even have dreamed of in the late 1940s.

After a splendid lunch, those who wanted to had a look at The Wells Centre, including the new Psychology classroom. There was also time to reminisce over some old School photographs before fond farewells were bid.

It was unfortunate that the organiser, John Edwards was unable to be at the lunch due to illness, he was missed. Those present for the lunch were: **Chris Arkell (B1946-52 & CR1962-93)**, **James Evans CBE (B1946-51)**, **James Fowler**, Headmaster, **Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)**, Beevor's Housemaster, **Peter Purton (B1946-51)**, **Ann Saffery**, Development and OA Manager, **Charles Thom (B1946-49)**, **Tom Williams CBE (B1946-49)** and Daphne Woodrow.

The School would welcome other small groups of OAs who would like to arrange a reunion lunch at any time – please

contact Ann Saffery or Jackie Wilkie in the Development and OA Office – [oas@aldenham.com](mailto:oas@aldenham.com)



L to r: Tom Williams (B1946-49), Charles Thom (B1946-49), Peter Purton (B1946-51), Daphne Woodrow (wife of the late John Woodrow (B1946-51 & Governor 1989-2001)), Chris Arkell (B1946-52 & CR1962-93), Sam Pennycook (Beevor's Housemaster), James Evans (B1946-51) & James Fowler (Headmaster)



# Paul's House Golden Years celebration

On Friday 7 November 2014, five Old Paullians gathered in The Wells Centre for a special luncheon to celebrate leaving Aldenham over 50 years ago.

**Graham Cornfield (P1957-62)** had arranged the reunion as **Jon Barrenger (P1957-62)** was visiting the UK with his daughter from his home in South Africa. Other OAs present were **Bill Fone (P1957-62)**, **David Smith (P1956-61)** and **Alex Titcombe (P1957-62)** and their guests were Carolyn Cornfield, Gill Barrenger, Melanie Fone and Margaret Smith.

The Headmaster was delighted to be able to join the party for welcome drinks along with the School Padre, **Simon Chapman**, and he stayed for lunch to hear stories from the past. Ann Saffery, Development and OA Manager and

Jackie Wilkie, Development and OA Assistant hosted the event.

After lunch the group retired to Paul's House to meet current Housemistress, **Emily Gratton**, Matron, **Janice Mills** and some current students – all girls of course as Paul's is now a girls' house.

On a tour of the House the 'old boys' spotted a cupboard they recognised which had a secret compartment. There was intrigue as to what may still be hidden behind the false back. The girls thoroughly enjoyed meeting the OAs who were full of interesting facts about their times at the School over 50 years ago.

Back row: Graham Cornfield (P1957-62), David Smith (P1956-61), Alex Titcombe (P1957-62), Jon Barrenger (P1957-62), Bill Fone (P1957-62), Melanie Fone, Carolyn Cornfield, Margaret Smith & Ann Saffery (Dev & OA Manager); Front row: Gill Barrenger



## University Challenge



**Osnat Katz (P2007-14)**  
as seen on University Challenge

At Manchester, University Challenge trials are highly competitive. After my friends encouraged me to try for the team, I was shocked at just how many people – over a hundred – wanted to be a part of it!

The first part of the trials consisted of a gruelling 100-question general knowledge paper and, as I handed mine in, I honestly didn't think I'd get through. Imagine my surprise when I got a call from the coach that evening asking me to come to the second part!

We'd been narrowed down to eight candidates to take part in a buzzer round. Although everyone was lovely, I was so nervous. Again, I didn't think I'd made the cut so, when a few days later I checked my email, I was shocked to find out that I was on the team!

As the youngest there and the only woman I initially felt a little out of place, but the rest of the team and previous contestants are all open and supportive. Meeting Jeremy Paxman was daunting, but he's far nicer in real life! I'm not best pleased with how we did, since I know we could have done much better, but I'm so glad I had the chance to compete at all and to meet so many lovely people.'

DEATHS	House and dates at the School	Died
R Allden	M1934-36	1 October 2015
D E Blake	P1939-43	21 May 2015
M P Brothers	SH01940-44	6 January 2015
J A Chamberlain	CR1982-2000	12 October 2014
N A B F Cochrane	SH01948-53	24 November 2014
R J Coombes	SHE1944-47	11 March 2015
D K W Cox	SHE1938-40	13 May 2015
C Creelman	P1943-46	28 December 2014
J L Crownshaw	K1964-66	18 September 2015
J G Dawe	B1941-45	29 March 2015
J G Dewes	B1940-45	12 May 2015
D J Ellison	SHE1946-51	1 January 2015
P English	B1949-52	19 October 2014
M L E Espir	SHE1939-44	1 July 2015
R J Evans	SH01943-46	15 November 2014
J Fitzsimmons	Beevor's Matron 1998-2015	21 June 2015
R C Francis	B1962-66	3 September 2015
R C Harding	SH01954-58	June 2014
G H Harding	B1936-39	5 January 2015
R E Harris	P1953-57	14 October 2014
S J Howells	P1975-81	27 July 2009
R G Huntsman	B1942-45	7 March 2015
M C H Jackson	SHE1939-43	3 January 2015
J C Joel	SH01946-51	3 March 2015
D Kelly	P2003-05	12 January 2015
H W King	B1947-50	10 July 2015
E H Kinmont	SHE1951-55	30 May 2014
A N Knowles	SHE1937-40	20 March 2013
R E Laird	SH01954-58	23 June 2015
J M Lavers	SH01947-45	28 December 2014
B N Liddiard	SH01953-58	30 December 2014
I J McDonald	P1954-56	6 October 2012
J B R Morris	B1942-46	25 March 2015
H V Nash-Williams	SHE1943-47	18 March 2014
M J B Palmer	SH01946-51	4 July 2014
M D Palmer	CR1958-63	8 September 2015
M R Pennington	B1939-43	15 April 2015
D B W Rawlins	P1932-36	25 December 2014
J M H Rees-Osborne	SHE1948-53	2014
R H C Robins	M1937-41	23 February 2015
R P P Shelton	P1965-70	11 December 2014
M Shirley-Beavan	SHE1937-41	13 July 2015
P F S Spencer	P1943-47	5 January 2014
P D Stannard	B1946-51	7 December 2014
R W Thoubboron	P1947-52	5 September 2014
D A Watford	K1965-69	31 May 2015
C M Watson	SHE1959-64	14 December 2014
F J A Watson-Baker	SH01935-40	23 April 2014
P N K Wells	P1948-52	2 January 2015
T Winfield	M1938-42	December 2002
R M Wingfield	SHE1935-39	10 August 2015





# John Dewes

England batsman who as a county and university player had a Bradmanesque hunger for runs

**John Gordon Dewes (B1940-45)**, son of **Sir Herbert John Salisbury Dewes (B1911-14)** and older brother of **Patrick Salisbury Dewes (B1942-47)**. Scholar, School Captain; Football XI 1942: Capt. 1943-44; Cricket XI 1941-43: Capt. 1944; Hockey XI 1942-43: Capt. 1944-45. St John's Coll. Cambridge: Law Pt II, Geog Pt I, CI 2, Div 1: Cricket Blue 1948-49-50, Hockey Blue 1950: Joseph Lamour Award Cricket for England 1945, 1948, 1950. Schoolmaster & Careers Master, Dulwich College.

The following is taken from the obituary in *The Daily Telegraph* Thursday, 14 May, 2015:

'John Dewes, the former England cricketer who has died aged 88, was a prolific opening batsman for Cambridge University and Middlesex after the Second World War.

A compact left-hander with a wave of dark hair, Dewes was a gritty rather than an elegant player, professional in approach even if amateur in fact. "I was a sticker," he admitted, "it wasn't beautiful stroke play." But what he lacked in flair he amply supplied in will and self-discipline. "I knew which shots I could play, and cut out the ones I found myself getting out to."

Dewes's first full season, 1948, was successful enough, as he averaged 45 for Cambridge University and 30 for Middlesex. He would scarcely have commanded a Test place, however, if England's batsmen had proved equal to Don Bradman's all-conquering Australians. As it was, when Cyril Washbrook was injured before the fifth Test, Dewes found himself opening the England batting with Len Hutton.

In the first innings, Keith Miller ripped through his defences when he had scored only one, the first wicket to fall as England were ignominiously shot out for 52. In the second innings Dewes struggled to 10 before being bowled by Ray Lindwall. England were comprehensively slaughtered.

At least, though, Dewes had the distinction of being on the field when Don Bradman, in his last Test, was bowled by Eric Hollies for a duck, leaving him with a final Test average of a mere 99.94.

In 1949 and 1950 Dewes himself showed an almost Bradmanesque hunger for runs. In later life he modestly observed that many of the county bowlers he faced had been tired, old professionals who had been in their prime before the Second World War.

Nevertheless, the press arrived in force at Fenner's, the University of Cambridge cricket ground, in the hope that the two young men would beat the world record stand for the second wicket, which had recently been set at 455 by KV Bhandarkar and BB Nimbalkar. But Doug Insole, the Cambridge captain, decided that it was more important to try to win the match, and declared at the overnight score.

Dewes and Doggart at least had the satisfaction that their stand remained a record for the second wicket in English domestic cricket until 1974, when it was beaten by John Jameson and Rohan Kanhai.

In 1950 Dewes did even better. When the West Indian tourists came to Fenner's, Dewes (183) and David Sheppard (227) put on 343 for the first wicket. A month later Dewes (212) and Sheppard (158) again made 343 together when opening against Sussex. That summer Dewes scored 1,262 runs for Cambridge at an average of 78.

The first four Cambridge batsmen in the Varsity match of 1950 were John Dewes, David Sheppard, Hubert Doggart and Peter May – surely the strongest ever undergraduate line-up. Nevertheless, rain enabled Oxford to achieve a draw.

Recalled that year to bat at No 4 in the England side for the third Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge, Dewes fell for a duck in the first innings;



in the second, however, he fought his way to 67 before succumbing to Alf Valentine's wiles.

He finished the season of 1950 with 2,432 runs at an average of 59, which made him third in the national figures, just ahead of Len Hutton. He was also one of seven players – the others were RWV Robins, Denis Compton, Bill Edrich, Jim Sims, Gubby Allen and FG Mann – to captain Middlesex that summer.

Although Dewes failed in the fourth Test against the West Indies, he was selected for the tour of Australia in 1950-51. Dewes began well Down Under, winning a place at No 5 in the first Test at Brisbane. But Keith Miller, whom he always found a more deadly bowler than Ray Lindwall, once again proved too much for him.

Some commentators believed that Dewes's back lift was too high against real pace, though Freddy Brown, the England captain, felt that the problem lay with his tendency to play strokes too far away from the body. Yet a battling 66 not out just before the second Test,

against an Australian XI which included Miller, suggested Dewes was not far off the mark. Indeed he was promoted to No 3 for the second Test at Melbourne; after he was dismissed cheaply there, however, his Test career was over.

In five Tests and 10 innings he had scored only 121 runs. He had been unlucky, though, in facing particularly stiff opposition.

John Gordon Dewes was born at North Latchford, Cheshire, on October 11 1926, and educated at Aldenham, where he was four years in the cricket XI. As captain in his last year, 1944, he averaged 74.0 with the bat.

Later that summer he made his mark at Lord's by scoring 107 not out for The Rest against Lord's Schools. The feat earned him selection for the Public Schools against a Lord's XI, a match notable for being interrupted by a flying bomb.

"I can still see the bomb heading towards us from Baker Street," Dewes remembered, "and us flinging ourselves on the turf as it landed on the Nursery ground. And then some of the mud flying up on to the main wicket." *Wisden*

relates that play stopped for hardly more than 30 seconds. The young Dewes also turned out for Grappenhall Club in Cheshire. It had been said that he ended up with Middlesex rather than Lancashire because the powers at Old Trafford did not take to his public-school accent.

In July 1945 he was invited to represent England at Lord's in one of the unofficial "Victory" Tests, a daunting experience for an 18-year-old. Dewes batted at No 3, after Len Hutton and Cyril Washbrook, and before Walter Hammond.

This was his first encounter with Keith Miller, who bowled him for 27 in the first innings and a duck in the second. Though Dewes was a fine outfielder, he remembered being admonished by Hammond for throwing the ball in long-hop to the wicket-keeper.

After National Service in the Navy, Dewes went to St John's College, Cambridge, in 1947. He won Blues for hockey as well as cricket; later, in the mid-1950s, he would represent Warwickshire in the first county hockey final.

### From *The Daily Telegraph* obituary: '

When, during his career as a teacher, Dewes, encountered a stressed parent or colleague, he would attempt to calm them by saying that this was nothing compared with facing Keith Miller with little in the way of protective gear, and roared on by 60,000 Australians.'

He left cricket to become a schoolmaster in 1951, teaching geography at Tonbridge, then Rugby, with a spell as Headmaster at Barker College in Sydney, Australia, followed by 25 years at Dulwich College, where he was a Housemaster.

John Dewes is survived by his wife Shirley (née Henderson) and their two sons – one of whom Anthony (Jim) won a Cambridge cricket Blue in 1978 – and three daughters.

John Dewes, born October 11 1926, died May 12 2015

## Aldenham's Test Cricketer Passes Away

From the School website: 'We were very sad to hear the news that John Dewes had passed away on Tuesday 12th May. At the age of 88, John had had a "good innings" in more ways than one. John was a most distinguished cricketer, appearing for England in the Ashes series against Bradman's Australians in 1948.

John last visited the School in the summer of 2010 to inaugurate the John Dewes Cricket Match, of a select XI against Aldenham's 1st XI side. This annual fixture in the School calendar continues to give our current players a chance to compete at a higher standard than they would normally experience in a school game. It has proved very beneficial and encourages a high level of achievement and aspiration amongst our players.

In his last year at Aldenham, John Dewes was Captain of the 1st XI. He went on to represent Cambridge

University and Middlesex County Cricket Club before playing five tests for England between 1948 and 1951 when he started a career in teaching Geography at Tonbridge then Rugby School. John spent a spell as Headmaster in Australia before joining Dulwich College where he remained for 25 years.

As a mark of respect for his passing a minute's silence was held at the 1st XI match vs Highgate on Saturday 16th May.

The annual John Dewes Cricket match was held at Aldenham on Tuesday 23rd June this year when Old Aldenhamians and parents attended and celebrated Aldenham's cricketing achievements over the years.





# David Eustace Blake

The following Eulogy was given by **Marcus William Blake (P1951-56)** cousin to **David Eustace Blake (P1939-43)** at the Service of Celebration for his life on 4 June 2015.

I had lunch with David most Wednesdays for the last 17 years, and practised Dentistry with him for 20 years before that – so you could say I knew him pretty well.

David Blake was a man for whom the rule book was an anathema, so I got him to write his own Eulogy and so with a few additions, this is it:

Educated at Emsworth House Prep School then at Aldenham, David achieved seven School Certificates to everyone's surprise and zero higher Certificates; but he had a love of all games.

From 1941-43 David and **John Dewes (B1940-45)** opened the batting for Aldenham and were rarely parted.

He lost his older brother, **John Phillip Blake (P1931-36)**, at the end of the war,

a Captain in the Royal Marine Commandos, off Yugoslavia, who was posthumously awarded the Military Cross.

David was brought up in an age when children usually did what the parents requested, so ended up in the Royal Engineers, when being an RAF pilot would have suited him better. He served without distinction in India, Malaysia, Java and Singapore, annoying most of his commanding officers – his worst punishment being the confiscation of his motor-cycle for doing 60mph in the campus 30mph limit! He was then sent to clear mines in an orchard and luckily found none. He blew up some Jap big guns successfully apart from one breach bloc, weighing at least

2 cwt, ending up in an Army camp some 500 yards away, to be returned on the rear seat of a jeep by a very irate officer.

The Army eventually discharged Lt Blake allowing him to take up Dentistry at Guy's Hospital, who accepted him on payment of £5 in lieu of the requisite Matric examination.

He spent four enjoyable years there, playing cricket, hockey, squash and bar billiards and met his future dental partner, Stuart Earl, who being similarly idle was easily persuaded to join David's family dental practice in Southsea.

In 1952 David married Sally, who was the daughter of John Nicholson, the boss of Camper & Nicholson, the world renowned yacht builders.

## David Eustace Blake, English cricketer - an overview



David was a left-handed batsman who played primarily as an opening batsman and as an occasional wicketkeeper.

Blake made his first-class debut for Hampshire in 1949 against a Combined Services team. In the same year he made his County Championship debut against Middlesex. Blake played regular matches for the county in the Championship over the coming years.

In 1952 Blake made his debut for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) against Ireland in Dublin. The following year he represented the Free Foresters in a single first-class match against Cambridge University.

By the end of the 1954 season Blake's appearances for Hampshire were becoming less frequent and in

1955/56 he toured the West Indies with EW Swanton's XI, and played against the national teams of Barbados and Trinidad and against a West Indies XI.

Blake represented Hampshire in a single first-class match in 1956 against Worcestershire. Also in 1956, he played for the Gentlemen of England in a single match against the touring Australians. In the 1957 season, he did not play any matches for Hampshire, but did play a single first-class match for the Duke of Norfolk's XI against Jamaica, in their tour to the West Indies.

In the 1958 County Championship Blake represented Hampshire five times, with his final first-class match for the club coming against Warwickshire. In his fifty matches for Hampshire, Blake scored 1,811 runs at an average of 21.81. Blake made one century for the club, which yielded his highest score of 100, as well as making twelve half centuries. Behind the

stumps Blake took 62 catches and 8 stumpings, though for his county career he was rarely the first-choice wicketkeeper.

In 1959, while representing the Free Foresters, Blake scored his second career century, making exactly 100 against Oxford University.

Blake represented MCC a further five times up to 1961, with his final match for the club coming against Ireland. In ten first-class matches for MCC, he scored 491 runs at an average of 23.27, making three half centuries and a high score of 76. Behind the stumps for MCC he took 15 catches and made 10 stumpings.

Overall Blake played in 73 first-class matches, where he scored 2,909 runs an average of 24.24, which included two centuries and twenty half centuries. He took 91 catches and made 30 stumpings.

David Eustace Blake born 27 April 1925, died 21 May 2015.



## Dr Michael Lucien Ernest Espir

**Dr Michael Lucien Ernest Espir (SHE1939-40)** who has died aged 89, was a neurologist and expert on multiple sclerosis and epilepsy; in the 1960s, his work on epilepsy and driving informed the guidelines on the subject.

Playing occasional cricket for Hampshire he went on 2 cricket tours to the West Indies. Once with an MCC side and once with the Duke of Norfolk's XI that included several well-known players such as Cowdrey, Graveney, Tyson, Ingleby-Mackenzie, Eager & JJ. Warr. In 1956 he also played for the Gentlemen of England versus The Aussies at Lords and was relieved not to have to bat against Keith Miller in his prime, as it rained 2 out of the 3 days.

Next came a bit more Dentistry when he enjoyed performing simple Dentistry to a high standard, acquiring many appreciative patients and their children. In 1966 the practice was joined by me after my time in the Royal Navy. And it must have been as happy a practice as any in the Country – work being the only inconvenience.

Sally produced three boys and the family had a new home built in Wickham. Sadly divorce followed in the 1970s and worse still the 2 elder boys died in their prime, Mike when enjoying his Karting, and Tim in the *Marchioness* tragedy on the Thames. Andrew, the survivor, with Carolyn has 3 girls, Ella, Daisy and Bee and Tim's wife Roohi had Sean and Sacha making 5 grandchildren.

Retirement came in 1986, together with his first new car and an ambition to play better golf. The car lasted 13 years – the ambition a little longer until realising that he was psychologically unsuited to the game! But he was still learning until 2006 playing weekly friendly golf – weather permitting.

So we celebrate the life of a remarkable man. My personal memories are of a fiercely independent and capable character, a very good engineer. He could mend anything, and did! He was a very aggressive driver who passed his Advanced Driving Test at the age of 85 and suffered most other drivers with disdain.

For all his frailties and all his sadness, he was always cheery and a friend indeed.'

Taken from his obituary in *The Daily Telegraph*, "Michael Lucien Ernest Espir was born into a secular Jewish family in Hampstead on April 1 1926 and educated at Aldenham School. Originally he had been one of three children, but his younger brother died in childhood of a mysterious condition which would later inspire Michael to investigate the neurological background to the illness while training to be a doctor.

During the war Michael was evacuated, with his mother and sister, to Canada. The family- along with 500 other women and children-travelled across the Atlantic in *The Duchess of Atholl*. Although he was only 14, due to the lack of men on board he was selected to man one of the ship's guns. It was an experience he never forgot, not least because a week later another ship carrying similar travellers was sunk with tremendous loss of life.

In 1944, aged 17, he went up to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to read Medicine. He was a gifted sportsman, but in his final year contracted polio during the 1947 epidemic. This left him with slight weakness in one leg, which ended his sporting ambitions but gave him a lifelong interest in neurology.

After Cambridge he moved to the Middlesex Hospital for his clinical studies in 1947. He qualified in 1950 with a First in Biochemistry. He obtained his MRCP in 1957.

Espir was one of a band of highly talented trainees who were the product of the outstanding clinical training in neurology afforded in the post-war years. In the days when there were very few specialist neurological units around the country his first consultancy job was in Leicester, where he developed a highly rated unit. From there he built the units

in Nottingham and Derby before going on to practice occupational health as a principal medical officer with the Civil Service Medical Advisory Service.

He had always had an interest in epilepsy and in 1967 he wrote an influential paper on the subject, "*Epilepsy and Driving*", which was published in the *Lancet*; as a result, people with epilepsy were permitted to drive if the condition was under control, rather than being subjected to a blanket ban. In 1983 he was a member of a DHSS working group on Services for People with Epilepsy and the resulting report, published in 1986, was a key document which led to improvements in the care of the condition.

Espir's other papers on the subject examined areas such as pregnancy and epilepsy and the effects of alcohol on epileptics. He was also involved in an eight-year study of the seizures associated with multiple sclerosis.

A meticulous and careful clinician who paid attention to all aspects of a patient's needs, in the latter part of his career he practised as a consultant neurologist in London, finally retiring at the age of 75.

He was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1971.

Michael Espir was a family man, a gifted cellist and an avid concert-goer. In retirement he enjoyed playing golf and bridge.

In 1958 he married Patricia Smouha, the granddaughter of Joseph Smouha, the Iraqi-Jewish cotton manufacturer who founded Smouha City in Alexandria. She died in 1999 and in 2003 he married Valerie Van Straten. She survives, along with the two sons and two daughters of his first marriage".

Dr Michael Espir, born April 1 1926, died July 1 2015.

## Alan Norman Knowles

Joyce Caswell contacted the OA Office to report that her husband, **Alan Norman Knowles (SHE1937-40)** had died on 20th May 2013 – just a month before his 92nd birthday.



Alan always enjoyed reading the OA Review, especially the Obituaries. He greatly valued the education he received at Aldenham enabling him to catch up after being shut up in a hospital for three years to recover from TB.

The family lived in Radlett so Alan was a day-boy, cycling to School because of the war shortages. He started training at de Havilland's in 1941 until 1943 when he joined the RAF as an Officer Cadet.

After a period in Egypt with the RAF, which he greatly enjoyed as he could explore the Pyramids and Cairo Museum, he returned to the aircraft industry with design. Eventually he joined the emerging nuclear industry as a design engineer in the late 1950s until his retirement in 1985. He designed a folding trimaran sailing boat which enabled it to be towed, with several being manufactured.

He had four children by his first wife Rosemary, who was tragically killed in a motor accident in 1977 – an event that he never overcame. He married Joyce Caswell in 1980.

His last ten years were not very happy due to a full leg amputation and later prostate cancer, but he bore these difficulties with courage and determination travelling between our two homes in North Wales and Cornwall. He was cared for in a lovely nursing home perched high above the cliffs overlooking the sea on the edge of the Lizard where he died.'

He is survived by his widow, Joyce, also by four children from his first marriage and eight grandchildren.



## Philip Donald Stannard

Born in Norwich, Norfolk on 9th August 1933, **Philip Donald Stannard (B1946-51)** was in Football XI 1949; Hockey XI 1949; Fives VI 1950-51 and Keeper 1951.

His widow, Angela has sent the following: 'Philip and I married in South Africa in 2003 and, seeing what a beautiful country it was, settled in the sun. He often talked of his days at Aldenham, in Beevor's House, and I understand he was very good at sports, especially hockey.

After Aldenham he did his National Service and then joined his father in Stannards Bakery, after which he studied food technology before working for Cadbury. Philip then worked in Switzerland and later on, worked in insurance in London.

Philip suffered ill health for the last two years of his life then passed away in the country he loved. He leaves behind two sons and a daughter and his wife Angela.'

## Peter Norman Kent Wells

**Richard Henry Kent Wells (P1972-77)** wrote to the OA Office in January 2015, 'It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of my dear Dad, **Peter Norman Kent Wells (P1948-52)**. He passed away on 2 January this year, after Alzheimer's robbed him of everything he enjoyed in life.

I know that he enjoyed his time at Aldenham and cherished many memories of friends and staff. Indeed, he chose to send me there as well. He had a wonderful life and is survived by his wife Ann, son Richard, daughter-in-law, Anne, and grandchildren Emily, Florence and Charles.'



Senior House Drama competition 1951 - Paul's House rendition of *Justice* by George Bernard Shaw

Standing from l to r: Peter Wells (P1948-52), Richard Thoubboron (P1947-52), Michael Smith (P1949-53), Alex Harley (P1948-53)

Front row: Richard Hollis (P1948-53) and Michael Andrews (P1948-52)



Bisley, National Rifle Assoc. 1955: 'Sarge' Buckingham giving advice to Barry Liddiard

## Barry Norton Liddiard

Jean Liddiard, sister of **Barry Norton Liddiard (SHO1953-58)**, wrote to inform us that her brother had died at the Marie Curie Hospice.

Barry was a Member of the English Team in the National match, Bisley, 1967-68. Joint Hon. Secretary OA Society 1970-73 and 1990-92. Hon. Secretary OA Rifle Club 1962-75. Official at Bank of England 1958-88.

Barry Liddiard, born Leigh-on-Sea 5 April 1939, died Hampstead 30 December 2014.

### Tributes to Barry Liddiard:

**Mike Taylor (SHE1956-61)** CBE TD DL, Vice President OA Society:

'I am deeply saddened to learn of Barry Liddiard's death. I knew him well – even though I was in Evens and he Odds. We were in the Shooting 1st viii, with me so much junior to him. Sadly, I recall a cruel trick played upon him based on a fake 'national audition' in the Chapel of his ability as an organist. Barry did a huge amount for the OA Society as Secretary and was an avid collector of OA obituaries.'

### Tribute from **Frank Rogers (SHO1953-58)**

I was almost a direct contemporary of Barry and in the last year at Aldenham, together with **Peter Williams (SHO1953-58)**, I shared Barry's study. Well, he was one term senior to us, such was his wry sense of humour.

Barry was always willing to give his time to listen and offer advice whether it was on the protocols in arranging a sports fixture with another school or in disciplining errant juniors. He was very logical and meticulous in dealing in matters – both traits that would have formed the basis of his career with the Bank of England in senior management in their Systems Analysis department.

His great passion was shooting and he participated in the "Queen's Final" on seven occasions during a ten year period from 1964. He won the *Conan Doyle* Statuette at 900 yards in 1963 and shot for England in 1967 and 1968 in the National match. He won the North London Rifle Club and the Open Championship of the City Rifle Club in 1967 also the Championship of Hertfordshire in 1968. Barry was Hon. Secretary of the OA Rifle Club for 14 years from 1962.

He loved Aldenham and was invited by **Jack Waddell (SHO1938-42)** & **(CR1954-86)** to join the Committee of the OA Society in 1970. He distinguished himself almost immediately by examining the Society's ability to fund the *Aldenham School Register* for 1979 with cash flow analysis and charts. In short, subscriptions were raised. Barry went on to become the joint Editor of the 11th Edition in 1981 together with Jack Waddell.

He also served as joint Secretary of the Society from 1970-73 and 1990-92 thus serving the OA Society for 22 years.

Given his background in IT, Barry was the Committee member responsible for the original transfer of records from paper to digital format. Barry continued to modernise the outlook of the OA Society; however, his ideas were ahead of his time.

Once retired from the OA Society Committee, Barry continued his involvement in OA Society affairs by scouring the daily papers for any news of OAs and passing the information on to the Society and School.'



## Peter English MBE

The following extracts are taken from the obituary written by Elaine English, widow of **Peter English MBE, CSTJ, JP, DL, FRICS (B1949-52)**

Born in Salisbury, Peter was the second son of Harold and Winifred English and brother of **Michael English (B1945-49)**. After Prep School at St Probus, Salisbury Peter went to Aldenham where his uncle, **Fred English (CR1915-51)**, was his Housemaster.

Following on from taking 'O' levels, his first job was as a trainee with John

Jeffrey & Son, Auctioneers in Salisbury before moving on to become a Senior Partner with Morris Marshall & Poole, Surveyors & Auctioneers of Newtown, Powys. He was appointed Magistrate for the County of Powys in 1969.

Peter enjoyed sport and played for South Wilts 2nd XI for 5 seasons though hockey was his real game and he was

President, Welsh Hockey Association 1983-84. He was High Sheriff of Powys 1995-96 and during '96 was elected as the first Welsh Trustee of the Shropshire & Mid Wales Hospice (now the Severn Hospice).

In 2004 Peter was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Powys and awarded an MBE for his work and service to the Community in Mid Wales.

Peter English, born on 20 April 1936, died 19 October 2014.

## Robert James Coombes (SHE1944-47)

Bob Coombes, born 23 March 1930 died 11 March 2015



Excerpts of a tribute read by James Hopper at the Service on 28 April 2015 to celebrate the life of Bob Coombes:

### Bob the golfer

"It seems fitting that I start my tribute to Bob with his remarkable record at the Halford Hewitt, a highly competitive golfing jamboree between 64 Old Boys teams, held each Spring at Deal on the Kent coast.

Bob was in his element at the Halford Hewitt. Everyone knew him. Bob played for his School, Aldenham, for 55 consecutive years. A record still to be broken. He was even playing for Aldenham in his 76th year which is astonishing given the very high standard of golf played today. This year was the first time in 63 years that he had not been at Deal.

In 1956 he played a match against my father when Aldenham played Whitgift. I customarily caddied for my father so I probably first met Bob when I was 12. Aldenham beat Whitgift that year.

He cherished his association with the Old Aldenhamian Golfing Society. He was Captain as far back as 1965 and President from 1994-2005. In 2003 the Public Schools Golfing Society invited Bob to present the Halford Hewitt Cup to the winners. This invitation was an honour – given only to very special people.

Bob joined Walton Heath in 1963. Along with his good friends John Thornhill, Tony Slark, Bill McCrea, Michael Bryant, and Tudor Davies he was one of the best players at the Club at that time, and soon afterwards, was joined by the young **Peter Easby**

(**SHE1962-66**), a fellow Aldenham team member.

During the 1970s Bob, now in his prime, won four Gold Medals. He won the 1978 Gold Medal when partnering me. I was a relatively new member and in awe of him. I recall he reprimanded me for marching forward ahead of him after I hit my shots. Bob was a very controlled golfer – never flustered, never hurried, very calm. He shot 73 that day and made the game look easy.

He became Captain of Walton Heath in 1990 and he was a proud member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, The Lucifers, The Cavaliers, Lloyds Golf Club, and The CIB [London] Golfing Society where he was Captain and then President. Bob was a founder member of the Elders Golfing Society.

He embraced his membership of these Clubs and societies, and was proactive in proposing and supporting the applications of his many friends to join them too.

For the OAs he organised annual tours, mainly to France but one year to South Africa.

### Bob in Business

As someone with such a good nature, perfect manners, impeccably dressed, and, most important of all, armed with a great sense of humour, you will not be surprised that Bob was very well suited for the Lloyds insurance world. He moved through the ranks to become, by the mid 1960s, a Board member of Antony Gibbs, a well renowned Lloyds Broker, and then he chaired their main UK Retail Trading Company."

Twenty four OAs from all over the UK attended Bob Coombes' Memorial Service including **Iain Robertson Muir (SHE1942-46)** who had travelled up from the South of France. **Alexis Shead, Master in charge of Golf, (CR2012-Present)** represented the School and **Ann Saffery**, the OA Development Office, not to mention Carolyn Chaventre, Judith Durden-Smith and Nicola Hoff, wives of OAs.



## Richard Mervyn Wingfield

Angela Wingfield, daughter of **Richard Mervyn Wingfield (SHE1935-39)**:

'Known for his sparkle, wisdom, humility, gratitude and generosity Bill, as he was known, passed away on 10 August, 2015. Born in London on 22 May, 1922 to Molly and Ernest Wingfield, he had two sisters, Sheila and Julie.

Bill loved to be on or near water. In his youth, his best friend at Aldenham, Dick Hare, **Rev. Frank Richard Knight Hare (SH1936-39)**, introduced him to sailing on the River Alde, near Aldeburgh. They sailed on *Fuss*, with its dinghy *Bother* in tow and would often have philosophical discussions.

Bill served in the Royal Navy during WW2, captaining minesweepers in the Mediterranean also for the Normandy landings and, after the war, apprenticed as a fourth-generation accountant at Fairbairn, Wingfield & Wykes.

With his wife, Pamela Southgate, he moved to Canada, where his daughters, Angela and Fiona, were born. He was international tax partner at McDonald Currie (Montreal), Peat Marwick (Jamaica), and Arthur Andersen (Toronto).

During retirement, he was active with Canusee Credit Union, Patrons of Wisdom, the Star-Scape Singers, Wingfield Family Society, Arts & Letters Club and Academy for Lifelong Learning.'

## Robert Edward Laird (SHO1954-58)

### Tribute from **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)**.

‘Friendships struck up at school last a lifetime and that is how I would describe Bob’s and mine.

We were Best men at each other’s weddings and Godparents to each other’s children.

Our frequent contact continued after Bob moved to Ireland in 2007 although our meetings were restricted to when he visited London to see his children and younger brother, **Peter Laird (SHO1956-61)**.

Bob joined Unilever after leaving Aldenham from where he attended Harvard. His career continued with various directorships based on his marketing and entrepreneurial talents. He became a Freeman of the City of London in 1984 and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Upholders the same year.

His interests were golf, genealogy and horse racing.’

Robert Laird died on 23 June 2015.



## Clive Creelman (P1943-46)

### A tribute from the Creelman family

‘Our Dad loved the simple things in life – His garden, his dogs, his wine, his pipe!

But the most important thing to him and the thing he loved the most was his wife and family.

Dad would willingly transport any of us to any sporting or social event and was always there for us and happy to give up his time to help us in any aspect of our lives.

Working in partnership with Mum, Dad taught all of us – right from wrong, manners, honesty, respect, the love of the country side, the love of animals. He also taught us that the most valuable things in life come free.

All these lessons have now been taught. So Dad, Rest in Peace. We love you.” Dorothy and children, Fiona, Ian and Ali. x

Clive Creelman passed away on 28 December 2014.

### Tribute from **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)**

‘My first meeting with Clive in “The Running Horse” in Davies St., the London

meeting place for the O AFC was the pre-season get together for 1959/60. During the return train journey with Clive I found that I had been interviewed for and agreed to become 2nd XI Secretary.

Clive had been appointed Captain of the O AFC for the 1958/59 Season.

An extract from *The Old Aldenhamians Football Club* by **Stephen Hitchens (B1964-69)** with assistance from **John Hawkes (B1944-48)**, 11th Edition of the Register:

‘It was very fortunate that the Club had Clive Creelman as Captain of the 1st XI, at this difficult time. It was to be 1963 before the Club won another Dunn match and long before Creelman’s task of rebuilding the 1st XI was completed. His strong, determined and confident approach mirrored in his play at right full back may not have suited all Club members, but it was undoubtedly due to him that the Club survived a difficult period.’

After he stepped down from the 1st XI Captaincy, Clive continued to play for the 2nd XI which started a trend that also strengthened the future of the Club.’

## John Langley Crownshaw

Sadly **John Crownshaw (K1964-66)** passed away on 18 September 2015. He was 64 years old. It was a most unexpected event as he had only recently retired and was loving his new role as a grandparent.

John spoke lovingly of his time at Aldenham and he always considered it one of the happiest times of his life. He was an avid sportsman and loved football. After Aldenham, John went to Berkhamsted for sixth form but decided against University.

As he told us on numerous occasions it was business and numbers that really excited him and he worked hard to gain his certifications as a Chartered Accountant. He spent time working in London at Nationwide, but

his love of the southwest of England led him to a firm called Bond Pearce in Plymouth during the mid-80s, where he spent the rest of his working life at this firm rising to become their CEO until his retirement in early 2014. He was to serve on the Board of Directors for multiple institutions including Plymouth University.

Beyond School and work, John had many incredible passions. His love of Watford FC lasted over 50 years and he was often found on the terraces at Vicarage Road. He was a steam railway enthusiast, avid mountaineer, photographer, golfer, and cyclist.

He is survived, and very much missed, by his wife Vivien, sons Simon and Jonathan and daughter Sarah.’

## Malcolm Brothers

**Malcolm Pearson Brothers, (SHO1940-44)** formerly Malcolm Pegg, passed away peacefully on 6 January 2015 aged 87.

‘It came as a shock as he had been showing some signs of improvement since his move to a nursing home at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight, close to Fiona, his daughter’

According to *The History and Register of Aldenham School Twelfth Edition*, Malcolm read Civil Engineering at University College, London 1944-46 then, in 1947, joined the RAF for Airfield Construction until 1951. Between 1953 and 1975, he was an Oil Company Executive.



## Colvin Maxwell Watson (SHE1959-64)



The third year of his course, spent in Aix-en-Provence, was disrupted – though no doubt made more exciting – by the 1968 student occupations and riots that nearly brought down the French Government. But it was in the far more serene environment of the Bank of England that Max began his working life, and it was in such world-renowned institutions – the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and Oxford University – that he spent the rest of his career.

Shortly after his marriage to Ann Money Penny in 1973, he spent a year at INSEAD Business School in Fontainebleau doing an MBA in economics and finance. This left him well-qualified to be seconded by the Bank of England in 1979 as Personal Assistant to the Managing Director of the IMF, Jacques de Larosière, who said that he will never forget Max's "extraordinary professional abilities: the quintessence of the best British international civil servant. His intelligence, his sharp mind, his diplomatic talent, did marvels." So, early in his career, Max was working at the centre of international financial policy-making.

Max returned to the Bank of England in 1982 but two years later decided to go back to Washington to become Chief of the IMF's international capital markets division. By then Larosière was one of the key figures leading the battle to contain Latin America's debt crisis, a crisis that brought several giant US banks to the verge of bankruptcy and threatened the whole of the global financial system. In his new role, Max

Known to everyone, except his mother, as Max, from Aldenham he went up to Christ's College, Cambridge to read modern languages.

developed the IMF's contacts throughout the international capital markets and helped devise a debt-reduction plan for more than a dozen over-indebted Latin American countries that eventually resolved the crisis.

Max and Ann settled happily back in Washington but in 1990 their family life was shattered when Ann died of cancer aged only 42, leaving Max with four young children. He was lucky enough to find another chance of happiness when he married Janny Bartlett in 1991.

Max worked at the IMF for another dozen years, focussing on the economic and financial problems of a wide range of countries, notably Japan – where he developed an interest in Japanese language and culture – and the former socialist countries that were trying to develop market economies. He was appointed a Deputy Director in 2001 but decided to leave the IMF at the end of the following year.

Max put this experience to good use when he moved to the European Commission in Brussels. He was appointed economic adviser to the director general for economic and financial affairs, Klaus Regling, and was quickly involved in the admission of the new member states to the EU, while at the same time warning of growing threats to financial stability. In 2006 he became coordinating editor of the *Review of the EU Economy*, which analysed the imbalances that were then emerging within the euro zone as Germany became more competitive, and France and Italy and others uncompetitive. This problem is something that would, in due course give rise to the euro zone crisis and threaten the very survival of the single currency.

Max's tireless appetite for life meant that retirement was never on his radar. When, in 2007, he decided to give up his post at the European Commission, he headed straight for Oxford University. There he raised funds for and created from scratch a new economic research

centre at St. Antony's College, the Political Economy of Financial Markets programme. As its first Director, he ensured that its publications were of the highest academic standard. He also invited not only eminent academics but also intellectual analysts from the world of hedge-funds as well as economists from both the public and private sectors to participate in its work. Its programme of actions will continue and grow, partly as memorial to Max's life's work.

As if Oxford was not enough, in early 2010 Max was asked by the Irish Finance Minister, Brian Lenihan, to prepare an independent report with Klaus Regling into the origins of Ireland's 2009 banking crisis. After the report was published, Max was appointed to the governing body of Ireland's central bank – the only member who was not an Irish national – and he became an influential advisor to Patrick Honohan, the Governor of the Central Bank, during the crucial period of the country's bailout. To his lasting regret, the European Central Bank and the European Commission prevented the Irish Government, and the Irish Central Bank, from imposing losses on bond investors, which would have greatly eased the enormous burden that has fallen on Irish tax payers of rescuing the country's banking system. Those who worked with Max say that his low-key delivery could not hide his razor-sharp intellect, and his expert knowledge of international economic affairs.

Although Max continued to devote so much effort to his work, he still found both time and energy for his family as well as other pursuits. He had a boat on the Norfolk Broads where he sailed and spent long weekends bird-watching with Janny.

Sadly, Max was diagnosed with cancer in the spring of 2014 and died peacefully in Oxford on 14 December, three days before his 68th birthday. He is survived by Janny and by Robert, Katherine, Edward, and Thomas, his children by Ann, and by his two step-children, Kate and Alastair Bartlett.

# Christ's College master a 'humble man'

**David John Ellison (SHE1946-51)** died on New Year's Day 2015. He was 81.

The following excerpts are taken from *The Press* newspaper:

'Christchurch knew two David Ellisons. From his arrival 45 years ago until his severe stroke in 1995, he was an eccentric and energetic Christ's College Master with total commitment to the boys' education and welfare.

In later years, frustrated by impaired communication and mobility but thankful that his life had been spared, he dedicated himself to helping the less fortunate. He was admired for his generosity. Summing up Ellison's 'first life', colleague Carville Stewart recalled: "It is rare to find anyone who made such a full contribution to the life of a school." Of his 'second life', in which Ellison vested the fortune that had grown from his frugality in a charitable trust, Stewart said: "It has been his life and joy to distribute funds to those in need."

David Ellison was educated at Aldenham School and Merton College, Oxford. From 1951-53 he did National Service in the Army. He was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Artillery and served in the Korean War. He then took a degree in mathematics at Oxford and started teaching at Cheltenham College.

A climbing trip in the South Island sparked Ellison's move to Christchurch in 1969. The boys of Christ's College benefited from the endless hours he devoted to them both in and outside the classroom. As well as teaching maths, Ellison was a live-in House Tutor, Master in Charge of Hockey, Rowing and the Cadet Corps, acting Director of Music and Lay Reader and Preacher at Chapel. He took skating and skiing trips for boarders, ran the mountaineering society and ski club, was in charge of the press (printing) club and played violin in the College orchestra.

He lived frugally, wearing second-hand clothes, driving a crude Skoda car and camping in a clapped-out Bedford van. After retiring in 1992 he shifted to a small cottage at North Beach. Staff used to joke about the local Bank of New Zealand sinking from the weight of his money.

He learned to cope and exercised regularly to regain strength but ill health plagued the rest of his life.

The realisation that he was lucky to have survived sparked Ellison's desire to help the less fortunate. He began by donating to various charities. Then he established the *David Ellison Charitable Trust*, which accepts funding applications for projects within and outside New Zealand. He was passionate about the trust and ran it personally as long as he could. He worked on an old typewriter, staunchly avoiding computers.

Ellison was Patron of ChristChurch Cathedral's Choir Society and a Canon Almoner (fundraising adviser to the Dean). He funded a scholarship for a chorister to attend Cathedral Grammar School.

In recent years he failed to look after himself properly. After the 2011 Christchurch earthquake he was taken from his cottage to a retirement home in Linwood. He returned to North Beach briefly but a series of heart attacks prompted his move to Rannerdale Home in 2012.

Ellison never married and had no relatives in New Zealand. His parents visited in 1970 and he flew home for his Uncle Gerald's inauguration as Bishop of London in 1973. A visit from his sister, Jill, after his stroke, was a great boost for him.'

David John Ellison born Hertfordshire, 1933; died Christchurch, 1 January 2015.

## Tribute from **Michael Hancock (SHE1945-50)**

I remember David as a fellow member of Group 3 in the 6th Form where we studied Mathematics. We spent a small amount of time together outside class where we compared solutions to maths prep to avert the wrath of **Hugh Kirkwood (CR1946-72)** for wrong answers.

I kept in sporadic contact with David over the years and my wife and I had the pleasure of spending the day with him on a visit to New Zealand in 1997,

after David's retirement, when he showed us round the College of which he was immensely proud and subsequently the Cathedral, sadly later destroyed in an earthquake.

David was very much involved with the Cathedral music to the end. His legacy was to set up and endow a Charitable trust with particular associations to the music at the Cathedral.'



David Ellison and Mike Hancock

## Michael Shirley-Beavan

**Michael Shirley-Beavan (SHE1937-41)**, much loved husband of the late Jennifer and father and grandfather, died peacefully at home on 13 July 2015 aged 91.

Scholar at Aldenham; Chartered Accountant 1951, then Managing Partner with Binder Hamlyn. His father, Frank Elliot Beavan (later Frank Shirley-Beavan) DSO, was married in 1922 and received the CBE and rank of Lieutenant Colonel; he died in 1948.

**George Riding (Headmaster and Housemaster SH1933-49)** was Godfather to Michael hence the reason he attended Aldenham, unlike the other boys in the family who went to Marlborough College.

# Remembering Jan Chamberlain

**Jan Chamberlain (CR1982-2000)** worked at St Albans High School and Edge Grove before coming to Aldenham in 1982. Girls had started in the Sixth form in 1981 and **Peter Boorman (Headmaster 1974-1983)** wanted Jan to supervise their PE and games sessions.

Jan was an all round sportswoman and taught the girls to play netball, hockey, lacrosse, badminton, tennis, rounders, swimming and athletics. She also coached the "Aldenham Ladies' Bicycling Society" who entered the Eros Run on bikes in 1986.

Jan was not a typical Games Mistress, when numbers of girls in the Sixth form were fluctuating wildly she would think of different things to do which would appeal to the girls. This sometimes included a shopping trip to Brent Cross. Even the girls who claimed to dislike sport were always pleased to see Jan, her enthusiasm was infectious, and they rarely let her down by not turning up for a session. During the years when the number of girls dwindled, boys were encouraged to join mixed rounders matches, there were always plenty of volunteers.

As well as sport, Jan entered wholeheartedly into Aldenham life. She was a Tutor in Beevor's House for three years which necessitated her coming back into School for evening duties at least one night a week. She helped with careers and work experience visiting, ferrying pupils to their placements, she conducted ISCO interviews, manned stalls at recruitment fairs and visited local schools to publicise Aldenham's Sixth form.

When it came to School plays, Jan would help with choreography, not an easy task when it included boys with very little sense of rhythm or timing. There was the time when in desperation she marked the tops of one of the boys shoes so he would know which was his left foot, not that he always got it right after that!

Jan was very generous – she lent her own wedding dress to the costume department for *Much Ado About Nothing* and she was genuinely thrilled that it was being worn again.

Before recycling was fashionable, Jan tried to get it taken seriously at School,

she ended up taking car loads of newspapers to the dump herself.

Jan left Aldenham in 2000 but she did not stop doing things. She enjoyed travel, and she continued playing tennis until 2012 when she had to have part of her foot removed in the hopes of preventing her cancer from spreading. Even after this Jan could be seen rushing round St Albans on her crutches and going for her daily caffeine fix at the coffee shop. She remained totally cheerful and positive until the end.

Jan died on 12 October 2014 and she had a private family woodland burial as she had requested. She leaves a son **Tim Robert Thomas Chamberlain (K1979-84)**, daughter Laura and grandson Harvey.

## Tributes to Jan Chamberlain

### **Peter Boorman (Headmaster 1974-83)**

Jan was brilliant and stood her ground versus the bachelor-like men in the Common Room at the time.

### **Andrew Fraser (Bursar 1994-Present)**

I still remember the great enthusiasm and commitment Jan had for girls' sport and various environmental projects, including borrowing equipment from the Maintenance Dept. and persuading a group of pupils to wade around in the Chapel pond to clear it out.

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

Jan was a truly lovely lady and a brilliant coach and 'house parent' (in all but name). It was so important to have someone like Jan at a time when 6th Form girl numbers were quite small and I know she was really valued and appreciated by them, and by the Housemasters – a real stalwart of the Common Room. I am sure her life will be celebrated by the School as it of course will be by the family.



Jan Chamberlain (CR (Prep) 1982-2000)  
c.1997 Netball team. Jan is at the far right  
of the back row

### **Vicki Lindsey (née Hopkirk) (P1982-84)**

Jan was a great joy to us girls in the early '80s. We all very much looked forward to seeing her for games and around the School. She was the most lovely person always good fun, kind and supportive.

### **Sir Martin Sweeting (B1964-70)**

Jan was a lovely lady and I have fond memories of her. I would see her most weeks when attending School Prefect meetings. My thoughts are with the family.

---

## Stephen John Howells

Younger son of **James Bletsoe Howells (P1938-42)**, **Stephen John Howells (P1975-81)** was

born on 1 November 1961. Shortly before going to print, **David Richard Howells (P1967-71)** wrote a tribute to his younger brother:

'After leaving Aldenham, Steve worked in the estate agency business firstly in London and then in Witney, Oxfordshire. He opened and ran his own estate agency in the town in the early 1990s which eventually became a casualty of the recession.

He was married to Gill and they had two fine boys, Jamie and Thomas. Steve's tragically early death at the age of just 47 was a shock to all the family.' He died on 27 July 2009.

# Ean Hardy Kinmont

The following tribute comes from **Tim Gwynne-Evans (SHO1950-55)**:

‘**B**orn 7 September 1936 and affectionately known at Aldenham as ‘Chimp’, **Ean Hardy Kinmont (SHE1951-55)** was a supreme athlete and acrobat, almost as happy walking on his hands, even up and down stairs, as his feet.

He was calm, gentle, understanding, reliable, a listener with a ready smile and immensely strong both in body and mind.

Ean married Ann in 1961 and their daughter Clare arrived in 1964. He shared with Ann a love of playing music, the beauty of walking in the Lake District and the Malvern Hills where they lived for much of their married lives and, above all, the caring for people on the edge, the care for creation and the respect for the church that are the values of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis.

After National Service, Ean worked with maladjusted children and later with the Adult Placement Scheme in Social Services. His quiet contribution to the lives of many will be sorely missed.

Ean was an Usher at my wedding to Sue 51 years ago and I was Ean’s best man at his wedding to Ann even longer ago. He and I shared a study in School House and we were both in the School Athletics team.’ Ean died on 30 May 2014.



At the wedding of Tim Gwynne-Evans to Sue in 1963, Tom English (M1947-52) is second from left and Usher Ean Kinmont is on the extreme right

## John Lavers

**John Michael Lavers (SHO1945-47)** passed away peacefully on Sunday 28th December 2014 after a long battle with Parkinson’s. He was 84.

John was a loving husband to Rosemary, father to Carlie and Sarah, stepfather to Susan, grandfather to five grandchildren and brother to **David Hamilton Lavers (SHO1951-55)**. A memorial service was held on Friday 16th January 2015 at St Peters Church, High Road, Bushey Heath.

# John Brian Roper Morris

The death of **John Brian Roper Morris (B1942-1946)** has been announced by his son, **Richard Morris (B1970-1974)**.

‘**M**y father went to Aldenham School in 1942. He enjoyed his life at the School and rose to become House Praeposter and Captain of Athletics in his last year. He loved athletics and held the School record for the Junior High Hurdles and the joint Junior 220 yds. He received his athletic colours in 1944, 1945 and 1946.

After Aldenham he was an economics graduate at Birmingham University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He loved his career in the City of London

and was appointed a director and finally becoming Chairman of Woodhouse, Drake and Carey, dealing in sugar, coffee and cocoa. His career in these commodities enabled him to travel to many parts of the world. He was also involved in setting up the Financial Futures Market.

In the summer months he enjoyed sailing and swimming in the Thames Estuary as well as many family holidays in Cornwall where we went surfing and fishing as well. In the winter, as well as

regular skiing holidays, he tried to undertake a new interest. These weren’t all 100% successful and piano playing did not become his forte, lasting only one term!

With his usual enthusiasm, John took up painting watercolours at which he was very successful. His interest in the Arts led him to start up the local NADFAS group and he was their first Treasurer.

In retirement, John used his financial talents to offer himself as National

Treasurer to the ME Society, a role that he held for some while until the volume of work was so great that it had to be undertaken by a full time employee.

John had a passion for music, particularly ballet and opera. He and Pauline, his wife, enjoyed many evenings at Covent Garden and Glyndebourne with friends and family.

In 1970 Pauline and John bought a cottage in Suffolk where, for over 40 years, we as a family spent many happy holidays and weekends. Above all, John's life was underlined by his Christian faith, and he and Pauline were members of both their local church in Essex and

of their church in Suffolk. It is in the grounds of this rural Suffolk church that John was laid to rest.

Over 12 years ago John was diagnosed with diabetes; but, without fuss, he coped with his illness. However, two and a half years ago, John's sad struggle with dementia began. As a family, we think of him in times past before the cloak of memory loss covered him. His love of various sports, the Arts, his charity work, and his Christian faith were all founded at Aldenham School and for that, as a family, we thank the School.

He is sadly missed by Pauline, Richard, Beverly and Philippa.'



## Frederick John Arthur Watson-Baker

### Soldier, Barrister and English Gentleman

The death of **Frederick John Arthur Watson-Baker (SHO1935-40)** was duly reported to the OA Society by Kay Evans, his Stepdaughter and Executor. 'John, as he was known, died of pneumonia at home on 23 April 2014.'

The following extracts are taken from the *Curry Rivel Community* website: 'John was born in Hertfordshire in 1921 into a well-to-do family that owned a company manufacturing optical instruments in High Holborn in London. Like many of his contemporaries at that time he was sent to Aldenham. "Life was hard. We were brought up then to be tough and self-reliant, which certainly stood me in good stead later."

By the time he left Aldenham, it was 1939 and Britain was already at war with Germany. John volunteered for the Army but first went up to Balliol College, Oxford to read law. Because of the war the usual nine terms (three years) at university had been reduced to four terms and John received what was then called a 'wartime degree' in law.

In 1942, aged 21, he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery as a Second Lieutenant. As a linguist, who spoke French, German and Russian, he felt certain that he would be staying in England, but the Army had other ideas and he was soon on a troop ship to Cape Town.

By the time the war ended in August 1945 John's regiment was in Chazubama, India, where the temperature was 128°F (53°C) in the shade.

"We lost a lot of people there to the deadly krait, known as the bootlace snake." He eventually returned to England in 1946, when he left the Army and returned to Balliol College, Oxford, for another five terms, gaining an Honours degree in law.

"I found it very difficult to settle down again after my experiences fighting in the jungle, but at least I wasn't alone, as there were then so many others like me. I suppose these days it would be called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

John was called to the Bar in 1948, working in chambers near the Middle Temple in London dealing with general common law, including quite a lot of divorces, for which he received two guineas (the equivalent of £60.00 today). After several years John then advised the Institute of Shipping and Forwarding Agents and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) on possible changes to company law. During this time he also revised two reference books on law, including the standard '*Halsbury's Laws of England*', which consists of forty volumes covering the whole spectrum of English law.

For the next twenty five years John worked as a legal adviser to large national companies such as John Lewis, Formica Ltd, part of the De La Rue Group, and United Builders Merchants, based in Bristol. After five years he was made redundant from United Builders in 1975, but shortly afterwards he was then appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be the Chairman of the local tribunal for south west England which dealt with cases involving all aspects of employment law. Some of these cases made the National media at a time when the Trade Unions and the Government of the day were often at loggerheads.

At the age of 72, John finally retired in 1993 after nearly twenty years as the tribunal chairman. In 1967 he had married Anne, who came from South Somerset, but it was coincidental that they found themselves living in Curry Rivel. Both John and Anne, until her death in 2007, were much involved in the local community, with John accumulating nine years as a Church warden and editor of the church newsletter.



# Robert Robins MB, B.CHIR, FRCS

James Berry Prize, RSC; Fellow of British Orthopaedic Association; Consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro; Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons; President, British Society for Surgery of the Hand.

The following tribute was received from James Robins, son of **Robert Henry Cradock Robins (M1937-41)**.

One of the five founder members of the Second Hand Club, my father was a group of young plastic and orthopaedic surgeons who were instrumental in the development and professionalisation of hand surgery in the UK.

Robins and his contemporaries were unable to join the original Hand Club, whose 12 more senior members were keen to retain its exclusivity. The original group, which met at the Athenaeum Club in central London, was described as a 'dining club with hand surgery as gossip.'

The young upstarts of the Second Hand Club had more lofty ideals, however, opening up their club to other members and launching their own journal, the *Proceedings of the Second Hand Club*. This became the *Journal of Hand Surgery*, the first journal devoted to the specialty. The two clubs eventually merged in 1964, and four years later became the British Society for Surgery of the Hand.

For most of his life Robins continued his interest in the society. He served as President and attended meetings right up until he died. He designed the journal's cover (a design used for many years) and was on the Management Committee for 10 years. Robins was also instrumental in negotiating a joint subscription between the British and American Societies for Surgery of the Hand, travelling to the US at his own expense to persuade his counterparts of the virtues of the deal.

Robins read medicine at the University of Cambridge before training at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London and the Royal United Hospital in Bath. He was awarded the Luccock medical research fellowship and worked in Newcastle, where he claimed to be the

first surgeon in the UK to focus solely on surgery of the hand.

He then moved to Exeter, to the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, where he worked for Norman Capener, a forward thinking surgeon who helped establish orthopaedic surgery as a distinct specialty in the UK. After Capener's death, Robins, along with a few other admirers, established a travelling fellowship in his name. It was also at Exeter that he met his wife, Shirley, a physiotherapist. They married in 1953.

In 1961 Robins was appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro, where he continued his interest in hand surgery as well as doing general orthopaedic work. That same year he published a compendium on hand surgery, *Injuries and Infections of the Hand*. One reviewer commended Robins on his extensive experience of hand trauma.

Robins, known as Robbie to his friends and grandchildren, was a hardworking and ambitious doctor who, as one of only three consultant orthopaedic surgeons in Cornwall at the beginning of his career, was much in demand. He served on the regional and area health authorities, as well as being appointed a British Council fellow and travelling to Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the 1970s.

Robins was born in 1923 to Ethel and Hugh, a Bank Manager in High Wycombe. His hospital visits to his older brother, **George Canning Cradock Robins (SH1924-28)**, who had polio, are said to have inspired him to pursue a medical career. After Aldenham School he went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, to read medicine. He then did several trainee posts before being called up for National Service as a ship's doctor on the merchant navy route to South America.

Despite his busy professional career, Robins was a man with many interests and lived a rich life outside medicine. He loved his life in Cornwall, was proud of his garden—which he would open up to visitors occasionally—and knew many of the county's key intellectual figures, including Poldark author Winston Graham and the historian A L Rowse. Described by one of his sons as a consummate networker, he also befriended local artists, such as Patrick Heron, Terry Frost, and Barbara Hepworth. He agreed to smuggle some marble out of Greece for Hepworth on the condition that she made a piece for him. She was true to her word, and the object still sits on the sitting room table in the family home.

He played a key part in the establishment of the Duchy Hospital, Cornwall's first private hospital, and became Chair of the Council. When it was sold the £3.5m proceeds were used to set up a charitable trust, which gives grants to local charities and organisations. Robins served as its President up until last year.

Much to the bemusement of his children he enjoyed Morris dancing, setting up three Morris rings throughout his life. He was also a keen fisherman and sailor, although his seafaring abilities were often questioned. On one occasion, while out with one of his sons, the halyard holding up the mainsail broke, the notoriously unreliable engine failed, and the anchor chain gave way. The boat was dangerously close to some rocks in a strong swell, and after they had sent up three flares—the first two of which failed—the local lifeboat came to rescue them. Robins told his son not to tell his mother about the mishap, but the local press got hold of the story and it became front page news.

Robert Robins died on 23 February 2015 and leaves his wife, three sons, and one daughter.



# Richard Paul Penrose Shelton: A Brother's Thoughts

The following tribute comes from **Hugh William Masefield Shelton (P1967-72)**:

Sadly in December 2014, **Paul Shelton (P1965-70)** passed away following a long and arduous battle against colon cancer, after a remarkable life.

In many ways Aldenham School was the making of Paul. He came to the School from Emscote Lawn Prep School on a Cuthbert Heath Bursary and Paull's House was selected because **Anthony John Bingham (P1963-67)** had preceded him from the same school, such was the way that School and House selection happened in those days. Before Aldenham, Paul was never very confident and showed no more than better than average talents. He even failed his eleven plus.

Much has been written about the challenges **Paul Griffin (Headmaster 1962-74)** faced in the difficult period for the School that started in the late 1960s. The one thing he did get right was his strong belief that Paul Shelton possessed extraordinary leadership qualities. Paul was in all the teams but never scored the most runs or goals. He was always academically strong but never top at the class. Paul was never the best, except in one instance.

But when it came to leadership Paul was in a class of his own. Paul had the ability to be both liked and respected by staff and boys alike, even the unruly and the rebellious (of which there were a fair number in Paull's). Everybody liked Paul. He was fair, totally consistent, strong and extraordinarily likeable. The School gave him the right kind of confidence and he used it to great effect.

As a younger brother whose career at Aldenham was less stellar than that of his brother, it could have been difficult following Paul. But it wasn't. In fact it was a help for me, as he was such a good bloke.

Such was the Headmaster's determination for Paul to sit Oxbridge, he spent so long in the 6th form that it

was unreasonable for him to remain as School Captain or even stay at Paull's. So he moved into the home of Gillian and **Richard Wood (CR1966-98 & Housemaster SHO1974-89)** in Common Lane and became an outside student. Into Oxford, he duly passed.

In the 9 month gap before Oxford, Paul did another remarkable thing that was life changing (for both of us). Whilst our parents lived in the dull but affluent Northern suburbs of Johannesburg, Paul became a teacher at a world famous co-educational, multi-racial school in Swaziland called Waterford.

Remember this was 1970 with apartheid in full swing and Aldenham itself was years away from having mixed sex education. Here Paul was in his element. He was confident, he was likeable and most interestingly, he became enthusiastic about everything. It was a remarkable time and Paul and I both made lifelong friends with people we might never have encountered had he not gone there. It was a happy adventure for both of us. I'd hitchhiked 500 miles to stay with him in the holidays!

Paul's time at Worcester College, Oxford was very productive. He met his first wife Sarah there, and **Hugh Parnell (K1966-71)** was also up at Oxford at that time. Along with **Alex Brind (P1966-71)** and **John Reading (P1966-71)**, they remained very good and true friends until the end. Paul also made a number of other friends at Oxford which set the pattern that, once a friend of Paul's, you were a friend for life. He left with a 2:1 in PPE.

Post Oxford, Paul joined Deloitte and became an accountant, later transferring to their management consultancy division. As at Aldenham, Paul's remarkable intelligence and people talents put him in good stead and over a number of years he benefited from a number of mergers and re-



organisations resulting in Paul ending up as deputy head of Europe at PwC. It was a stellar time.

After a merger with IBM, Paul moved on and took a number of high level jobs and non-executive board roles which lasted till he died.

Whilst his funeral was a sad event, it was also very happy and a true celebration. The church service was full to the rafters and remarkable in that it was attended not just by so many people, but also because they came from so many walks of his life. Even Tony Bingham, whom I had last seen in 1963, was there (their career paths had crossed post School).

Paul Shelton was one of those people who enriched your life. And in my view, it was thanks to Aldenham. I never thought I'd say that about my old School!

Paul is survived by his wife Sally-Anne and two sons, Jonathan and Christopher also by his mother, Jane.

Richard Paul Penrose Shelton, House Captain 1969, School Captain 1969, Cricket XI 1969-70; Hockey XI 1969; Fives VI 1970. Born 15 February 1952, died 11 December 2014.'

## Further tributes to Paul Shelton

### **Richard Wood (CR1966-98 & Housemaster SHO1974-89)**

'Paul was an enthusiastic, diligent student with an inquisitive and challenging mind ready to debate issues and fight his corner. He was also excellent company as my wife and I found when he lived with us for a term. His subsequent success at Oxford and the world of work came as no surprise.

We were fortunate to see him just before he died and the years rolled back as we talked, he even produced some of his old text books from his study. It was a privilege to have been a small part of Paul's life.'

### **John William Reading (P1966-71)**

'I was lucky enough to follow Paul as House Captain of Paull's House. I guess that much of my style came from the exemplary fashion in which Paul had done the job previously. But it was at Oxford that I got to know Paul best. I was a local and his room at Worcester was always a welcome home for a laugh, cup of coffee and a conversation. I recall many great days and evenings in his company, introducing my set of friends to his newly acquired friends from Oxford.'

### **Hugh Robert Parnell (K1966-71)**

'I knew Paul during my 6th form years at School, most particularly when he and I were preparing for Oxbridge in Autumn 1970 under the tutelage of **Richard Wood (CR1966-98 & Housemaster SH1974-89)**. We had great times testing and teasing one another, which continued when we were subsequently both at Oxford, both reading PPE. He was best man for my wedding in 1975 and our families stayed good friends for the rest of his life. Paul was genuine, straightforward and a great companion with a wicked sense of humour. His success in all that he did seemed entirely natural, made to look easy by his confident manner with which he accomplished so much. I miss him greatly.'

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

'Whilst friendly with Hugh Shelton at School my vivid memories of his elder brother, Paul, are of him as School

Captain. He was always very confident and smartly dressed and a real credit to the School.

More recently, Paul and I served as fellow trustees for the *Letchmore Trust* and paying my respects at the Celebration of his Life, I shall neither forget the courage of his mother, Jane, who read *Ithaca*, a poem by Constantine Cavafy, without faltering; nor indeed the huge number of family and friends from so many walks of life who filled the church and the very elegant reception held afterwards at Burhill Golf Club.'

### **Tony Bingham (P1963-67)**

'Whenever I bumped into Paul in later years we had a standing joke that although we were acquaintances rather than close friends we had so much in common that our paths were bound to cross frequently.

We were at the same Prep School and then at Aldenham in the same House. As Paul was 2 years younger he didn't register much at first but gradually I realised that he was a leader in his year and gifted in many ways, not least as a positive, sociable influence and as a team player on the sports field. It was clear that he would do well.

We both eventually went into accountancy but our paths diverged. I joined Coopers and it was some years later that, through merger, we found ourselves partners at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, though he was Consultancy and I was in Audit & Assurance. **Bryan Blackburn (M1948-1952)** was another Deloitte partner who joined Coopers and I worked closely with him for a time. Partner meetings would take place annually at various large venues in or around Birmingham and I would look forward to a convivial drink with Paul in the margins of the meeting. We discovered that we even had Johannesburg in common, he with his family and I because of working there for a time.

A feature of large accountancy and business services firms in the very competitive environment in which they operate is that they require good strategy, effective leadership and very efficient operating systems. Paul was always at the thick of it when it came to strategy and leadership for the

Consultancy practice, which went through challenging times because of changes in the "Big Ticket" corporate IT systems market.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, as the new merged firm became, didn't have the resources to compete at the top end and, with growing independence regulation issues to cope with as well, de-merged its Consultancy practice to IBM. After staying with IBM briefly the change of culture proved too much and it was time for Paul to move on and do his own thing.

Our paths diverged again. I kept in touch to some extent through *LinkedIn* and was pleased to see he was still actively dispensing his considerable business expertise. I was sad to hear of his death; a strong connection with so many of my own interests was broken. But it was uplifting to attend his funeral and meet his family and many of those who had lived and worked with him during his busy and successful life. It brought back many happy memories. I miss his brightness, good sense and infectious humour.'

## Neill Cochrane

An email from Andrew Cochrane – 'It is with sadness that I must report that my father **Neill Andrew Bennett Farrar Cochrane (SHO1948-53)** passed away suddenly on 24 November 2014, aged 79, after a short illness in hospital close to his beloved home in Ferragudo, Portugal where he had been living for the past 20 years.'

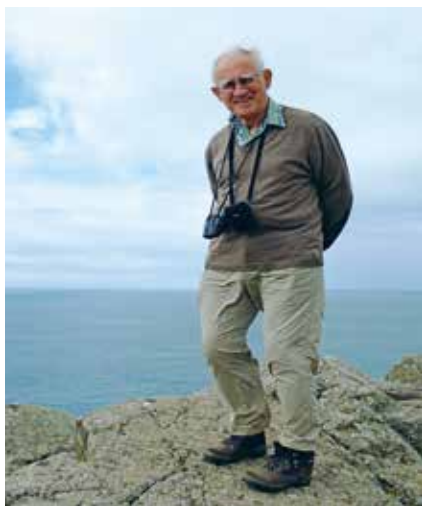
He played cricket for the First XI in 1953 also hockey for the First XI in the same year he went to the Sorbonne, Paris.

Neill had two brothers who also attended Aldenham – **Ian Thomas Farrar Cochrane (SHO1947-51)**, who died in 2001, and **Malcolm Farrar Cochrane (SHO1953-56)**.



# Michael Palmer

The following tribute comes from **Arthur Hearnden OBE (CR1959-67)**:



'**Michael Palmer (CR1958-63)** joined the staff at Aldenham straight from university and left five years later to pursue a highly successful career in the State sector, culminating in a Deputy Headship in Sussex and a Headship in Surrey. The son of a vicar, he had been educated at Ardingly, St Edmund Hall

Oxford and London University Institute of Education.

Michael was a historian and in the course of his career he had a number of books published, most notably on Henry VIII. With **Chris Wright (CR1950-67)** as Head of Department, history was taught with real flair and a good few Aldenhamians went on to read the subject at university. Chris was also Housemaster of Beevor's, 1956-67, where Michael was House Tutor, and this doubled the bond between them.

After a year at the School he married Margaret Drabble (the other Margaret Drabble!) and they settled in Common Lane in Letchmore Heath.

For the whole of his time at Aldenham Michael served in the Army Section of the CCF. (During National Service he had been commissioned in the Royal Engineers, specialising in bomb disposal.) As an addition to the military activities which took place on Friday afternoons, and at summer camp,

the Army introduced for the Easter holidays what was described as Arduous Training, outward bound style camping. Michael pioneered this for Aldenham, taking the first group of cadets to the Peak District. In subsequent years when term ended a larger group, usually with four officers, camped deep in Snowdonia (and occasionally deep in snow).

He was an above average footballer, a pretty decent watercolourist and extremely knowledgeable about butterflies. He was the star performer in the first of a series of lighthearted plays put on by the Common Room in aid of the Aldenham Boys Club in Kentish Town.

Above all Michael was a devoted family man with a deep religious faith. His early upbringing in Brixton where his father was a parish priest left him with an outlook firmly rooted in the Christian socialist tradition. He never paraded his religion but the Church was a large part of his life.'

# Paul Spencer



**Paul Francis Staveley Spencer (P1943-47)** was born on October 15, 1929 in the Bangkok Nursing Home. At Aldenham he learnt

to dance, box and develop his love of sailing. Throughout his childhood he suffered from bronchitis and asthma and missed so much school that he had to repeat a year and never took his Higher Certificate, so could not go to university.

On leaving Aldenham, Paul joined an agricultural training programme and spent 15 months there, a love of the land staying with him for the rest of his life. He was called up for two years' National Service in 1948 for the REME, winning his commission in 1950.

On being demobbed he applied for a job with the Borneo Company and, in

January 1951, left Britain on RMS Canton bound for Singapore; from there he took his very first flight (of what would be many hundreds in his life) on a non-pressurised DC3 to Kuching in Borneo, thence travelling to a small settlement in Sibul where he took up office in the Shipping Department.

As his career progressed, he became manager of the Sibul office; he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and eventually decided to return to the UK in 1964.

In February 1965 he went on a training course in London and found lodgings in Bayswater. He came down to breakfast one morning and met Hazel; they became engaged in June and were married in September that year.

Paul used his knowledge of the Far East to establish a career in the travel industry, working for Kuoni in Dorking.

Together Hazel and Paul enjoyed the house, garden and village for many years, also being with Hazel's family.

In the last few years of Hazel's life Paul cared for her and, after her death, he continued to do everything himself including shopping and cooking (he was a good cook). His garden remained one of his great loves and it was often open for the Peaslake Open Gardens Day. He was Chairman of the local Gardening Association and won many cups and prizes. In the Peaslake Millennium Book there is a photo of Paul holding a large pumpkin! He was also Chairman of the Peaslake Branch of the Royal British Legion. When he came out of hospital at the end of last year, he discovered that the Women's Section was threatened with closure and he spent many hours trying to prevent this happening.

Paul died on 5 January 2015.

# OA ANNUAL DINNER 2015

Friday 20th November at Aldenham School

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

6.30pm Pre-Dinner Speech by Alan Grieve CBE (SHE1940-45)

7.30pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

Principal Guest and Speaker The Headmaster, James Fowler MA

Tickets: £42 per person or £35.00 for those aged 25 or under on the day of the Dinner. £48 per person for non-members of the OA Society.

(Ticket includes pre-dinner drinks, wine with dinner, a cheese table & coffee)

Wives, husbands and partners are also invited

For booking details see p.32

