



Aldenhamiana

No 20 February 2000

Published by THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY
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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

OAs of many generations will have been sorry and concerned to learn that John Woodrow, a former President of the OA Society, and currently the first ever OA Chairman of Governors, has been unwell over Christmas and the New Year with several periods in hospital. John has made a unique contribution to Aldenham, particularly in recent years as he has led the Aldenham 400 Appeal so imaginatively and with such success.

But John Woodrow's outstanding contribution as Chairman of Governors has been to lead and inspire the regeneration of Aldenham which has been so ably put into effect by the Headmaster, Stephen Borthwick, who leaves the School at the end of the Summer Term to become Headmaster of Epsom College. I know that all OAs would wish me to send John Woodrow our very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery and to thank Stephen Borthwick for his outstanding stewardship during his tenure as Headmaster at Aldenham. We wish him and his wife, Glynis, a very successful and rewarding time at Epsom College.

I also cannot let this edition of *Aldenhamiana* pass without thanking Jonathan Coates for all his efforts as Secretary of the OA Society. After taking over as Housemaster of Kennedy's last year the demands on his time have increased markedly and I know that all OAs would wish me to thank him for everything that he has done on our behalf.

Since my last President's letter we have been working closely with those most concerned to start implementing the changes needed to rejuvenate our Society and, in particular, to encourage greater interest and support from the younger generations of OAs. To that end we have had several working meetings to consider how best to carry forward the imaginative ideas that have emerged from Richard Hall's Working Party and elsewhere.

I hope to put some of our new proposals to the OA Committee Meeting and, if needed, the AGM which are to take place at The City University Club at 50 Cornhill, London at 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm respectively on Tuesday 21st March. I do hope that those who are interested and can find the time will consider joining us for the AGM to let us have their views on our emerging ideas for the Society and to make their contributions to this important process. This is, after all, *your* Society and it needs *your* ideas, interest and support if it is to flourish in future years!

I cannot conclude this letter without thanking Ian Luetchford for all the excellent arrangements made for our very enjoyable and well attended OA Dinner which was held in The Royal Air Force Club on 17th November. Our next Dinner will take place at the School, again, with partners, on Friday 17th November

2000 and I do hope that as many of you as possible will join us for this special annual gathering.

Finally, do please note that OA Day will take place on Sunday 18th June with Chapel in the morning, followed by drinks, barbecue lunch and a cricket match in the afternoon, which I hope will attract a wide cross section of OAs.

Dick Vincent

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Society's AGM will take place at the City University Club, 50 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PD on Tuesday 21st March 2000 at 7.00 pm. It will be preceded by a Committee Meeting commencing at 6.00 pm at the same venue. The City University Club's telephone number is 0171 626 8571.

OA Day this year will be held on Sunday 18th June. There will be a Chapel Service in the morning and drinks before a buffet or barbecue lunch. **Tim McAllister (P 88-93)** is organising a cricket match of OAs against OAs! If interested in playing, please contact him via the School (Tel: 01923 858122); he would warmly welcome your participation. Further details about the OA Day can be found on one of the blue centre pages of this issue of *Aldenhamiana*.

Members whose addresses do not include their postcodes are asked to send that information to the OA Office (Tel: 01923 853124). If we were able to use 'Mailsort' (via the postcodes of *all* our members) we would reduce our costs by about 20% - a considerable saving.

News and views are always welcome, so please do write in to the office, particularly if you have recently gained awards or have any family events to report. There does appear to have been a steady decline in correspondence in the last few years and it would be beneficial to the Society and to this magazine if that trend could be reversed.

John R Edwards (B 46-51) has asked the Editor to thank all those who responded to his request a year ago for more information on **George Vasey (CR 09-44)**.

Finally, the Editor remains well aware of his editorial shortcomings and again craves the Society's tolerance and understanding. Mrs Lindy Creedy and Mrs Heather Sherman have worked magic to have this issue of *Aldenhamiana* come to print at all - but bear no culpability for any of the myriad errors and omissions that remain, responsibility for which rests firmly with the Editor.

Jonathan Coates

SCHOOL NEWS

February 2000

News of the School will have reached all OAs through the most recent issue of *The Aldenhamian* which covers the academic year 1998 - 99. This report covers the period since then.

The School began the new academic year with 410 pupils, once again the largest on record, with a fifth consecutive year of growth.

Public examination results:

Particular congratulations go to **Kerem Atasoy (P 94-99)** who gained a place to read Music at Pembroke College, Oxford. He is joined at Oxford by **Simon Wenzel (R 90 - 95)** reading for a D. Phil in Theology. It is notable that of the top six achieving pupils, all of whom got between AAA and ABC at 'A' level, three were outstanding sportsmen and five were Captains of House/Head of School.

Although the entry policy for our Sixth Form has been reviewed for September 2000 when the new AS and A2 levels begin, Aldenham has always enabled boys to continue into the Sixth Form with a minimum of four C grades at GCSE, in stark contrast to our neighbours, the closest of which insists upon at least three A and four B grades. Comparisons between schools' results take no account of this so I have agreed to publish our Value Added results for the first time. It shows that our achievement at 'A' level, judged by entry standard, is now well above average and supports our philosophy of "achieving potential".

Adam Malski (R 94-99) passed his RCB for Sandhurst and gained both an RAF flying and Army Scholarship. **Danny Sharpe (R, L6)** has been awarded both a Sixth Form and Flying Scholarship by the RAF. In addition, he was made the London Regional Cadet of the Year and the Lord Mayor's Cadet.

Music and Drama

The three musical highlights of the Christmas Term were the Pupils' Concert, the House Music Competition and the Carol Service. The number of pupils receiving instrumental tuition is at its highest level on record. The xylophone is growing in popularity since its acquisition as a result of the bequest of Jack Waddell, OA and Master for nearly 50 years.

The School Play was Peter Schaffer's production of *Amadeus*, directed by Mr Gary Taylor. The performances were a triumph, above all for **Danni Avital (L, U6)** as Salieri and **Adam Green (K, U6)** as Mozart.

Visits and Expeditions

The Sixth Form Industrial Conference was held at British Steel, in Llanwern just at the time of the merger announcement with Hoogovens. Arizona's Grand Canyon and the American West were the destinations for a group of Sixth formers during half term. White water rafting down the Colorado River, mountain biking in Utah, horseback riding in the Navajo Indian reservation and climbing in the Arches National Park were amongst the activities enjoyed by all.

Sport

The School played over 120 football matches, winning and drawing 51 of them. Best performances were by the 1st XI (10 won or drawn from 16); U16A (7 from 13); U14A (8 from 14). It was a particular pleasure to see the reintroduction of 1st XI fixtures against both the OAs and Corinthian Casuals.

Sam Crane (M, U6) and **Ashley Squires (R, 5th Form)** have reached the top at schools' football, as members of the national Independent Schools Football sides at U19 and U16 respectively.

The U15 six-a-side team won the Fair Play trophy at the ISFA tournament at Repton.

Stuart Atkins (M, 5th Form) has been selected to play for Saracens U16 XV - quite an achievement from a football school!

The New Music School

Within the shell of the old Chapel (in the past a gymnasium and then a technology centre) will be created a new Music School with facilities to include a Recital Room and rooms for recording, music technology, practice, offices and for teaching class music.

The Aldenham School Parents' Association (ASPAs) gave £8,000 toward the specialist equipment for the building, the money being raised through an Auction of Promises evening in November 1999. At that same evening, the Millennium Raffle organised by the Friends of Aldenham School Association was drawn by the stage and screen actress, Miss Lynda Bellingham (a current Aldenham parent). **John Collis (P 51-56)** became the proud owner of a new Peugeot 206 and the School benefited by £2,000, to add to that given by ASPA. Many grateful thanks are due to the hard working committees of both ASPA and the Friends.

The building work on the New Music School began in January 2000 and completion is expected by July 2000.

The Nursery and Pre-Prep School

As a result of the tremendous success and popularity of Aldenham School's Nursery, a Pre-Prep School is to be created within Wilson House as the Music Department moves to its new home in the Summer. This will enable boys and girls to be educated from two to seven years and to be prepared for entrance to the Junior part of senior schools, such as Haberdashers', as well as entry to our local prep schools, including Edge Grove, St Martin's and Northwood Prep.

The OA Society and the School

It is a particular pleasure to have five sons of OAs in the 3rd Form this year:-

Edward Ewer (K); father **Eric Ewer (S 71-76)**
Ben Hunter (P); father **Malcolm Hunter (P 75-80)**
Dominic Stevens (B); father **Peter Stevens (P 64-69)**
Herbie Tabor (R); father **John Tabor (M 71-78)**
Mark Turpin (B); father **Roger Turpin (B 71-75)**

The School and Society have a good working relationship, with valuable sporting links, especially in golf and football, and these are growing to everyone's benefit.

A number of OAs continue to be generous and wonderfully committed in their contributions to the School, and particular thanks are richly deserved by John Woodrow, John Rimer, Tony Hunt and the Presidents of the Society in my time at the School, Peter Purton, Colin James and now Dick Vincent. The President's working Party chaired by Dick Hall is creating the best opportunity for the Society to begin to achieve its own potential as a lively, energetic and forward looking organisation, less dependent on the great works of the devoted few but celebrating the commitment of an enthusiastic many. Glynis and I thank it and its members for all the personal support we have had over the past six years and we wish it well as it faces this great challenge for change in the coming months.

Stephen Borthwick

OA SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1999

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Aldenhamian Society held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd March 1999, at Aldenham School.

The Right Reverend Colin James was in the chair and 16 members attended.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were taken as read, approved and signed.

2. President's Report

The President spoke of his pride on the final events of the Quatercentenary. The OA Day/Festival of the Car had been a tremendous occasion and he thanked all those responsible but especially **Tim Glazier (P 47-51)**, **John Rimer (P 56-60)**, and **Jonathan Coates (S 64-69, CR 97 -)**. **Richard and Gill Wood (CR 66 - 98)** had been dined out in style by their colleagues; the Ball had been a very happy occasion; but the climax to the year had been the visit of HRH The Princess Royal. She toured the School, opened the ATP (Artificial Turf Pitch), met a vast number of people, and helped to make the day a magical one which she seemed to enjoy as much as everyone else did.

At this point **John Woodrow (B 46-51)**, Chairman of the Governors, thanked the President for providing good weather for all the events and informed the meeting that the School had received a very full letter from the lady-in-waiting stating that the Princess had been delighted by the day.

The President then reported on the Annual Dinner which had not only been enjoyable but had also made a profit, the first for several years.

He thanked Jonathan Coates, the Secretary, for editing his first numbers of *Aldenhamiana* and hoped he would be able to continue with this task when he became Housemaster of Kennedy's in September 1999.

He then thanked **Richard Hall (K 69-74)** for heading a President's Working Party to review the future of the Society and invited him to address the meeting. Richard Hall said he was honoured to undertake the task and outlined the present position. He had produced a broad age-range of OAs to serve on the working party and the opening meetings were to take place at the School on April 28th and May 12th. The issues they were to consider were:- the structure of the OA Society; Regional committees; Sports Clubs; the involvement of the younger OAs; the style and content of *Aldenhamiana*. He apologised for the time it had taken to get the working party up and running but assured the meeting that it would be extremely active in the ensuing twelve months.

The President then apologised for the absence of the incoming President, the **Lord Vincent (S 45 - 50)**, but he was entertaining the Secretary of State for Health at Imperial College. The Lord Vincent was then proposed as President of the Society by Colin James. The motion was seconded by **Sir Harold Smedley (S 34 - 39)** and carried unanimously.

John Woodrow thanked the outgoing President, Colin James, for all he had done for the Society over the past four years.

3. The Headmaster's Report

The Headmaster very much regretted that he was unable to be present; he would be attending the Spring Concert performance at Harrow this evening.

As a result of the recent scholarship tests, two sons of old boys have been awarded distinctions:

Ben Hunter, son of **Malcolm L Hunter (P 75-80)** (father and uncle both OAs); top scholarship; all-rounder.

Edward Ewer (grandfather, father **Eric Ewer (S 71 -76)**, two uncles all OAs); academic Exhibition.

Hockey

The season was nearly complete and out of a total of 58 games played, 33 had been won or drawn. First XI had been rather less successful than last season despite being reputedly stronger than last year's side, having won or drawn six and lost four so far. The results had been generally quite pleasing for a number of sides and this was at its most striking when the results of the three youngest A teams were reviewed, i.e. Under 14, Under 13, and Under 12. These three sides had played 19 matches with 18 wins or draws, and only one defeat.

It was here that the exposure to the new artificial turf pitch had been of most benefit and it was anticipated that great things would come as these boys moved through the School. In general terms, there had been a marked improvement in the enthusiasm of the majority of pupils who now found playing hockey an altogether more reliable and enjoyable experience. Though many still played on grass, much of their coaching took place on the ATP. Not only were the results improved, but there was a considerable increase in the numbers who voluntarily turned up for the many activity sessions. Unlike the previous few years, all fixtures were now being played against our competitor schools at top team level.

Matthew Hetherington (L 95-99), Captain, remained a member of the England Under 21 Squad and had been selected to play for the Eastern Division side.

Football

Sam Crane (M, U6) has played in both Independent Schools Football Association Southern Division and national Under 19 sides, which is a rare distinction.

Fives

It has been another good year for fives. The Abbey fives tournament, started as part of the Quatercentenary programme, was held again at Aldenham by common demand from other schools. The School's first pair went for an entire season unbeaten in all school matches, which is a very distinguished note on which to end their careers here. In the southern schools tournament for the Under 14s at Charterhouse, we had three pairs competing, with over half our boys involved being either a year or two below the age of other pupils competing. Our first pair were runners up in the National Championship.

Basketball

The School basketball team finished as the second most successful in the North London League, having won through to the North London semi-finals, playing ten and winning eight of their matches. They also reached the semi-final of the Independent London Schools Cup.

Judo

At the Independent Schools judo championships, the school won two bronze and a silver medal in the Under 16 age group.

Armed Services

Adam Malski, Riding's House Captain and Deputy Head of School, has been awarded a Royal Air Force flying scholarship and an Army University bursary.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The School is now a centre for the Duke of Edinburgh bronze awards and there is considerable growth in this area of activity.

Community Service

This has continued to thrive with several groups of Lower 6th boys and girls visiting local schools (and our own nursery) and old peoples' homes in the local towns. Many of these older people visit the school regularly and are entertained and given tea here. As part of the same scheme, several of the School's musicians travel to play for old people

Music

To follow the very successful concert given in the Barbican Hall in the City of London last year, the School is joining together with pupils from Northwood College and John Lyon School for a performance of Mozart's Requiem in the Harrow Speech Room.

Many more pupils are learning a musical instrument than was the case in the past with 102 regularly taking music lessons. Of these only 15% are in the top three years of the School, which shows that the policy of encouraging boys to take music in the early years is paying dividends. The range of instruments studied grows wider and it has been a particular pleasure to see three boys receiving tuition on the organ, one of whom holds the newly awarded organ scholarship.

OA Football

The school has agreed to give a 10% discount off the casual rate charges for both the ATP and the sports hall itself. This is in addition to waiving the normal fee for membership for a sports hall user. This is a considerable discount but was thought appropriate to encourage former members of the School to keep in contact.

The above report was presented in the Headmaster's absence by Richard Wood, the Acting Hon. Secretary.

Staff Appointments

New Head of Games is a national Fives player.

4. Secretary's Report

This was presented by the Acting Hon. Secretary as Jonathan Coates was on a residential course at Eastbourne College for Housemasters and Housemistresses.

He thanked Lindy Creedy for all the work she had done for the Society throughout the year. *Aldenhamiana* had been produced on time but not always within the estimates provided by CBC Print and Capricorn. In the coming year Jonathan Coates would not be able to commit as much time as previously to the Society and a new structure was proposed. If agreed, this would see Lindy Creedy acting as Membership Secretary, Linda Knights acting as Administrative Secretary, the Secretary continuing to edit *Aldenhamiana*, and various events such as the Annual Dinner and OA Day being run by specific individuals or sub-committees.

He announced that OA Day would take place on Sunday 13th June when all would be welcome but especially those of the 70s and 80s. As yet no fixtures had been arranged and there were difficulties with exams etc. The Annual Dinner for 1999 would be held at the RAF Club again and the date would be either Wednesday 10th or 17th November. Lord Vincent would select the date. Finally he asked all committee members to provide a pen portrait for the next edition of *Aldenhamiana*.

5 Treasurer's Report

This was presented by John Rimer.

The Society's income had totalled £9,968 (compared with £10,486 in 1997), and expenditure had been £14,852 (£10,997). There was therefore a deficit for the year of £4,884 (against a deficit of £511 in 1997). This deficit had arisen almost entirely as a result of the loss incurred on the Festival of the Car at Aldenham during the summer, which the Society had agreed in part to underwrite.

Further *Register* sales totalling £3,122 had been made during the year and after deducting despatch costs of £2,681 a surplus on the *Register* account of £441 had arisen. Following the decision of the Committee to cap this account at £8,500 a small surplus of £122 had been brought into the Society's income for the year.

Following this satisfactory financial outcome from the publication of the new *Register* the Society's liquid position had been reduced by the investment of a further £18,116 in British Government Securities during the year.

The Society's net assets at the year end amounted to £42,351 (£46,917 in 1997) represented by the Accumulated Fund of £33,851 and the *Register* account of £8,500. It was also noted that the Society's quoted investments now had a market value of £48,591 compared to an original cost of £42,094.

The Life Subscription to the Society for the coming year would go up to £120 (from £117).

On the proposal of **Adrien Sturgeon (S 48-51)**, seconded by **Tony Hunt (B 49-54)** the Accounts were approved. The Treasurer was thanked for all his efforts.

6 The Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Trust Fund

John Woodrow presented the report. Eight boys were currently being supported, six receiving Bursaries and two grants. The annual income is currently £13,000 per annum, but this will decline over the next five years as tax recovery is gradually removed.

7. The Friends of Aldenham School Association

John Woodrow reported that a grant of £100 had been made to the Kazakhstan expedition. Funds were being received in memory of Jack Waddell, including the collection at his Memorial Service. The form of his Memorial will be discussed when the total sum received is known. When the Appeal ended later in the year a Millennium Draw would be organised. Tickets for this would be sent out in September.

8. OA Day

As stated in the Secretary's report this was Sunday, 13th June 1999.

9. The Appeal

John Woodrow stated that this would be closed in the next few months following its third anniversary. There would be a 'mini-appeal' aimed at those OAs who had not yet donated and parents of pupils entering the school last September.

Although the ATP was still not fully covered it was hoped to raise sufficient funds to make it possible to start on the first phase of the new Music School (estimated cost c £100,000).

The President expressed his admiration of all that John Woodrow had done to make the Appeal such a success.

10. Election of Officers

The President thanked the retiring members for their services:- **Trevor Cinnamond (S 80-85)**; **Philip Marsh (M 58-60)**; **Samantha Phillips (B 85-87)** and paid tribute to the late **Stuart Birn (S 42-46)**.

Richard Hall (K 69-74); **Jonathan Fiber (S 81-86)**; **Tim McAllister (P 8 -93)** were proposed by the President, seconded by **John Westcott (P 50-53)** and elected unanimously.

Colin James was proposed as a Vice-President by **Patrick Llewelyn Jones (S 38-42)** and elected unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

(a) **Richard Berkley-Dennis (S 67-72)** said he was sorry that there had been such short notice given of the memorial service for Jack Waddell as he thought even more people might have attended had they known earlier. The problems of communication were pointed out and the fact that notices had been in *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. He also said he was disappointed that there had not been more participation by pupils in the concert at the Barbican.

(b) John Woodrow brought members up-to-date with the Eros situation. The recollections of Fred Allen, a retired member of the Maintenance Staff, had helped to identify damage to the leg of the statue and also some splashes of red paint. He thought that it was becoming more evident that the cast was the Aldenham statue stolen in 1978.

(c) The changes in the Secretarial structure were formally proposed by **Patrick Llewelyn Jones (S 38-42)**, seconded by **John Rimer (P 56-60)** and passed unanimously.

12. Date of Next Meeting

This would be announced when the dates of the Governing Body meetings were known.

ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

J.G.D. Bateson (K 75-80) and **S.J. Goodfellow (M 79-84)** have come to the end of their period of office but regret that they are unable to stand again because of work pressures. The President thanks them on behalf of the Society for their services. Four committee members have come to the end of their period of office and have kindly offered to stand again.

They are **C.E. Arkell (B 46-52)**, **J.R. Edwards (B 46-51)**, **M.H. Moledina (S 82-87)** and **J.A. Westcott (P 50-53)**. Nominations are invited for Committee members. Proposers and seconders must have the consent of the candidates. Please send nominations to the Hon Secretary at the School, to arrive as soon as possible.

OA DINNER

The Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, London, was for the second year running the venue for the Society's Annual Dinner on Wednesday 17th November 1999. More than seventy members and their partners enjoyed a most convivial evening of easy conversation, good food and wine.

The Society's new President, Field Marshal The Lord Vincent of Coleshill and his wife, Lady Vincent, were the Society's host and hostess and among the guests were the Headmaster, Stephen Borthwick, and his wife, Glynis (attending the Dinner for the last time before moving to Epsom College in September 2000). The Captain of School, Anthony Rance (K1995-) was a guest of the Society and performed the ritual of the Latin grace with aplomb. Also made very welcome as the Society's guests were **Geoffrey Barker (CR 65-99)** and his wife Jenny, both of whom in their time at the School gave so much dedicated service to Aldenham and its pupils for well over a hundred terms! Chief Guest and Speaker was Lord Oxburgh of Liverpool (whose wife sadly was unable to attend because of illness) who proposed the toast to the School and whose speech gave all the diners much on which to ponder and reflect.

The Society thanks all whose efforts made the Dinner such a success, especially Ian Luetchford for organising the event, including the table arrangements - potentially a thorny problem. The venue for the Dinner in 2000 shall be the School - for the first time since 1996. The date is Friday 17th November 2000. Further details and a tear off booking slip will be found in the October issue of *Aldenhamiana*.

CLUB REPORTS

OA Football Club

Paul Clemow (K 88-93), captain of the O AFC, sent a mid-season report:

"Overall it has been a mediocre start for the O AFC, the 1st XI have struggled to show the undoubted capability that the team possesses to gain promotion from Division One and the 2nd XI have had an inconsistent start. The 1st XI have not really produced the football that was felt possible at the start of the season, but with a few changes of positions for players and a couple of better team performances before Christmas the outlook for the second half of the season seems much brighter.

The 2nd XI have produced an inconsistent start with the unfortunate situation of some weeks being able to field strong sides and on other weeks weaker teams, and unluckily for them they have come up against stronger sides on the weeks when they have only been able to field weaker sides. It will be difficult for them to push for promotion. However, if they can stay in this league this season it will be an excellent achievement."

DIVISON 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts.
Etonians	7	7	0	0	26	10	16	14
Haberdashers	8	5	0	3	20	16	4	10
Bradfieldians	7	4	0	4	23	13	10	8
Harrowians	5	4	0	1	17	10	7	8
Wykehamists	8	2	1	5	14	22	-8	5
Aldenhamians	8	2	0	6	13	22	-9	4
Wellingburians	6	2	0	4	8	19	-11	4
Witleians	6	1	1	4	7	16	-9	3

DIVISON 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts.
Haberdashers2	7	7	0	0	34	6	28	14
Westminsters	8	6	1	1	31	12	19	13
Foresters2	9	4	2	3	25	12	13	10
Aldenhamians2	8	3	1	4	2	41	-19	7
Foresters3	9	2	2	5	24	36	-12	6
Harrowians2	7	2	1	4	10	20	-10	5
Cholmeleians3	7	1	1	5	8	18	-10	3
Reptonians2	5	1	0	4	9	18	-9	2

OA Golfing Society

Halford Hewitt 2000

This is the premier Old Boys' team event with 64 schools taking part in a scratch foursomes event - the largest knock-out tournament in Europe. Each school fields 5 pairs and Aldenham is renowned for the very large number of OAs who travel to support the Hewitt team. We have been drawn against Wellingborough this year and the match will be played at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal on Thursday 6 April starting at 12.40 pm. Please make a note in your diaries and do try to get there.

Other Dates for 2000:-

May 8	Spring Meeting at West Hill
July 12	Summer Meeting at Ashridge
September 15	Autumn Meeting at Beaconsfield

We are always keen to welcome new members - golfing ability, age and beauty are not assessed! If you are interested, contact the Hon Secretary - Ian Eggleton, 2 Merchant Court, 61 Wapping Wall, London E1W 3SJ (Tel: 020 7702 0028 (Home), 01923 205645 (Work))

HONOURS BIRTHS DEATHS

The Society congratulates the following OAs:-

Honours

Jean-Jacques Bénézit (S 71-72) is the agricultural attaché at the French embassy.

Sir Michael Bett (P 48-53), chairman of BT Cellnet, has been appointed as non-executive chairman of BT Cellnet from March.

Stephen Hitchins (B 64-69) - Triumphant Liberal Democrat Councillor, Steve Hitchins, took over as leader of the Council at Islington Town Hall in a dramatic Christmas coup.

Peter Purton (B 46-51) was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Millennium Honours, "For services to the Wine Standards Board of the Vintners' Company".

Engagements

Capt S N G Brining (K 86-88) son of **M D S Brining (S 47-52)** and Dr P A Salyer from Tennessee, USA have announced their engagement.

Deaths

J H L Adams	(S 26-28)	1.9.97
R M T Baker-Carr	(S 62-66)	23.10.99
F G Berkeley	(P 33-38)	14.11.99
J T H Bingley	(S 61-65)	8.7.97
F E Brander	(S 31-35)	8.8.96
F A R Carnegie	(B 14-18)	21.8.96
R A Claughton	(B 33-36)	29.11.99
G G Coles	(S 20-24)	3.11.97
A D Conyers	(B 44-49)	11.2.97
M W Cox	(S 40-44)	8.11.99
E H Dixon	(44-46)	
A M Drummond	(S 18-22)	9.9.98
C J Eagle	(S 26-27)	16.10.97
M S Forinton	(S 40-43)	14.8.98
The Very Revd T A Goss	(S 26-29)	8.1.99
R Harley-Smith	(S 23-26)	30.11.98
G R Harrison	(S 49-53)	4.98
Wing Cdr P G Hill-Turner	(B 38-42)	22.10.97
R B Holroyde	(M 40-43)	26.1.97
K F Howard	(S 17-17)	17.1.00
C M Hutchin	(M 36-39)	12.99
W A Leach-Lewis	(M 23-29)	12.1.97
Councillor J J Maiden	(S 46-49)	6.6.96
R Markham	(P 30-31)	16.11.79
R J Marsh	(44-47)	7.9.97
G R Mason	(Master 51-60)	5.11.99
A P Masterton-Smith	(S 47-51)	6.2.97
B C Mathiesen	(S 24-26)	26.5.97
D G Mead	(M 26-29)	4.11.98
D P Pickering	(S 32-32)	29.8.97
M B Poulter	(P 33-36)	23.12.96
Dr J I Pugh	(B 36-41)	13.3.97
A G Randall	(S 26-29)	21.3.98
R G Rawlings	(P 42-57)	31.1.00
Dr N J M Richardson	(P 49-54)	9.10.96
R S D Russell	(S 54-57)	1.1.00
A F W Sheffield, OBE	(M 21-25)	30.1.00
H Smith	(S 25-30)	16.12.96
J C P Smyllie	(S 38-39)	26.2.98
R K Somerville	(P 26-29)	8.5.98
P W Stanley	(P 26-29)	30.4.98
M P Stubbs	(M 28-33)	7.12.99
H S Vellacott	(S 18-23)	7.8.96
T M Wiswould	(B 25-27)	12.11.96
G D P Young	(P 34-38)	25.4.97

Robert Baker-Carr (S 62-66) on 23rd October, 1999. His wife writes: "We came to the Reunion in 1997 with Robert bringing along one of his racing cars as part of the event. The School seemed to have much the same happy spirit that he so much enjoyed during his years at Aldenham."

Robert Alban Claughton (B 33-36) on 29th November, 1999.

P.H. Hawkins (P 22-26) on 26th January, 2000.

G R Mason (CR 51-60) on 5th November, 1999. We received an e-mail from Paul Griffin: "I see from 'UPPINGHAM', the organ of the the Old Uppinghamian Society, that George Mason died on 5th November while on safari in South Africa. This is G R Mason, who taught at Aldenham from 1951 to 1960, went on to be Headmaster of St George's, Jerusalem, and finished at

Uppingham, whence he occasionally brought over a Fives team during my time."

Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service for **Donald Hester Shearer** will be held at Inch Parish Church, Downpatrick. Co Down on Friday 24th March at 2.00 pm.

OBITUARIES

Umaru Mohammad (P 53-59). His friend **Peter Nelson (P 53-58)** writes: "I was shocked and deeply saddened to read in the latest edition of *Aldenhamiana* of the death of Umaru Mohammad, one of my closest friends at Aldenham. I am proud and privileged to confirm that I am the 'Peter' mentioned in his wife's letter. The 'Paul' she refers to is **Paul Hughes (P 54-58)** who like me was born in Radlett and has remained a lifelong friend.

"Moh' was a remarkable person whose passing brings back countless memories of our time in Paull's together. Like the vast majority of boys at the school when we started, I was not alone in not before having met a black person. But since that very first new boys' tea in Sam Pollard's sitting room, the question of colour remained transparent, such were Moh's strength of personality and resolve.

"Moh was a highly intelligent and kind young man which from the outset, his sparse command of the English tongue and diminutive size could not suppress. His marvellous laugh was reminiscent of a well-fed crow and yet few people could be more obdurate. How many times had consensus been obtained, only for Moh's characteristic "Well I don't think so quite frankly" to signal the death knoll of progress.

"At home during one infrequent exeat Moh developed a wonderful relationship with my grandfather **Frank Buckley (S 1884-87)** a fine Victorian gentleman. I never met anyone who was permitted to pull Moh's leg like 'Pop' did. "How are we to believe you have had a wash today Moh?" Pop would chortle and how Moh loved it. Indeed this badinage only seemed to establish a deeper mutual respect and affection between them.

"Of course it is for his pantheon of sporting achievement that Moh is rightly remembered. He was without question a fives player and footballer of remarkable talent. I will never forget our senior house football final in 1957 against a strongly fancied Beever's team. Neither side had scored at full-time and it was a question of extra time or a replay. As we huddled round Moh late on that bitter afternoon, Moh our only 1st XI player, led the debate and gave us a clear steer: the imminent cramp and cold were inclining him to the replay option. Eventually (and unusually) we persuaded him to change his mind. No sooner had extra-time started, than Moh with the ball at his foot, crossed into the Beever's half. Almost from there he struck the ball in the direction of the opposing goal to see it dimly through the gathering mist, hit the inside upright of the goal and ricochet into the back of the net. An improbable victory was ours and for some while afterwards, Moh walked on water in Paull's. On arrival in Paull's, it took strong and persistent coercion for Moh to wear football boots at all - unfamiliar accoutrements in his native Nigeria.

“Besides his particularly gifted football and fives skills, sport of every kind came naturally to Moh. Many were the hockey matches when 'little Moh' weaved his way through massed defenders to slot the ball past the hapless goalkeeper. Perhaps cricket was something of a 'weak link' in his sporting armoury; he managed only the 2nd XI for two years. Bowling in the image of Roche and Meckiff, he was quickly asked to espouse wicket-keeping. This he did with his customary vitality and skill - even if he never quite overcame the urge to appeal for almost every delivery!

“Moh was an athlete and gymnast of the highest calibre. Nor was that all. I vividly remember inviting him for a game of squash one Sunday morning during our first term. If truth be known there was an element of patronisation in my offer since I had played a few games at Prep school. Cocooned against the Arctic temperatures with some half dozen sweaters, Moh soon began to warm to the task. Having lost two games in rather quicker order and peeled off all my sweaters, I realised Moh had not shed a bead of perspiration whilst retaining his full array of clothing. He had it transpired "played a little bit before".

“Moh played his full part in the CCF and Field Days in particular. He had his own clear strategy concerning the links of engagement and armed combat. This was quite simply to capture as many rounds as possible from the enemy. Woe betide enemy personnel who became detached from their main body since there was always a strong chance of Moh emerging from nearby undergrowth to kidnap their ammunition. This accumulated plunder was put to good effect during the closing stages of the day which invariably found Moh a solitary figure, engulfed beneath his cape (it always seemed to be raining) firing off round after round to keep the enemy at bay.

“What a talent, what a personality - but most of all, what a friend.”

R M K Greig (P 54-57) also writes in response to the same letter: "The two fellow pupils mentioned in the obituary of Umaru Mohammad were certainly **Peter Nelson (P 53-58)** and **Paul Hughes (P 54-58)** who were contemporaries of mine in Paull's. Both lived locally, but only Paul was a dayboy. I well remember their kindness to Moh during exeats and half term breaks. Co-incidentally I came across Peter's brother, **J A H Nelson (P 49-53)**, recently when we both attended the enthronement of the Bishop of Southwell, at the Minster.

“**David Wallace-Hadrill (CR 50-86)** was Chaplain during the first part of my time at the school. He delivered highly emotive sermons, one of which introduced a large lump of coal which to our surprise left no mark when David proceeded to wipe it on his snow white surplice to amplify some particular point. Regrettably after all these years I am unable to recall the particular subject that this sermon covered!!!”

An e-mail from **Paul Bronwich (K 70-75)** in January also referred to the death of David Wallace-Hadrill: "I have just received my copy of *The Aldenhamian* and it is with great sadness that I read of David's death earlier this year.

“David will always hold a rather unique place in my family's memory; not solely due to the fact that he was my Housemaster during part of my five years in Kennedy's. My father was diagnosed as suffering from cancer at about the same time as

David. Unfortunately my father died of the disease in 1984 and my mother asked if David would conduct my father's cremation service. When I telephoned him to relay my mother's request he agreed immediately, despite there being little personal contact between the two of us during the intervening nine years since I had left Aldenham.

“He made the journey from Aldenham to Brentwood in Essex and back on one day but even though he was only present for a few short hours he somehow managed to become one of the family for the time he was with us. 15 years on my recollections of the funeral are somewhat patchy. Aside from his splendid red robe I can only remember one phrase from David's address at the service when he described my father as a 'modest, kind and gentle man'. That description would also fit David perfectly.

“My mother and I belatedly send our condolences to Vera and all her family.”

George Vasey (CR 09-44) - John Edwards Editor, Twelfth Edition of *The Register* sent the following: "I most appreciate letters from J P Perkins, M R Sharp, M G A Copeman, P H Crassweller and J J StG Sproule who all have affectionate memories of George Vaery and have been kind enough to send them to me.

“He was one of the last of that group of dedicated bachelors who gave the whole of their teaching life to Aldenham. He was a gentle and generous man and this particularly showed in his treatment of new boys - his kindness and humour at a traumatic stage of one's life is well remembered by several correspondents.

“He lived in a house next to the Battleaxes (from which unkind rumour asserted that there was a direct pipeline, he allegedly having a penchant for strong liquor). I wonder whether this house was The Knowle occupied by Fred English during his vigilant retirement. There he had a group of new boys as a Waiting House for McGill's and Beevor's. Mr Sproule wrote 'The accommodation was fairly Spartan but positively luxurious by comparison to the primitive conditions that prevailed in McGill's dormitories. Often, if we timed it right, George would stop when he saw the four of us wending our weary way along the road to give us a welcome lift 'home' in his diminutive car - a Hillman Minx, if I remember correctly. Supper was provided, frequently augmented by shallots (grown in the garden and pickled by himself) and lemonade made from almost insoluble crystals, and paid for, no doubt, out of his own pocket. Sometimes, when the meal was over, the table would be cleared with alacrity, chairs pushed back to the walls and 'ping pong' commenced - a wild and destructive activity (to the furnishing if not to life and limb) at which George himself excelled. He gave the boys breakfast and drove them to the School again in the morning.’

“His effectiveness as a teacher is also fondly recalled, including his deadly accuracy with the blackboard rubber. He also had on his desk, one writer recalls, a sawn off cricket bat, which he was too kind-hearted ever to use. He was a man kind and compassionate with a gentle sense of humour whose classes were always a pleasure. He taught in a rather gloomy school room down several steps, opposite to where the small rifle range used to be; Fred English was just above him. He is recalled as teaching English and Latin.

“Mr Crassweller remembers, ‘At cricket, he gave me the encouragement and confidence I badly needed. With one or two others, he would take us for early morning nets. Up at 6.30 am, we would go to his room at the end of Lower Passage for a reviving cup of tea, the materials for which were fished out of the innards of a grandfather clock. Our practice took place on a concrete pitch ... "Bowl straight and keep a good length" he would tell me, "and you are bound to get wickets". In the Summer of 1933 I played in a House Match and took several, including that of R G Hunt, later a Cambridge Blue. At the end of the match George came up to me in the pavilion, saying "I knew you could do it", and presented me with half a crown, the nicest tip I have ever had. We shall not look on George's like again. Kindly, helpful, straightforward, George was simply a good man, and, as Somerset Maugham says somewhere, it is very difficult to describe goodness.’

“Mr Sharp reminds us that George was Second Master when he joined the school as a pupil in 1937 and continued in that important post into the earlier half of the War.”

Adrien Sturgeon (S 48-51) wrote to us enclosing a cutting from *The Times* featuring **Donald Shearer**: "... I remember Donald Shearer well when he played in the OAFS team. Although of an older generation than mine, we should be proud that the School educated men such as Donald Shearer who used their relative wealth to pursue wide interests and to help the interests of others. An ethos always present at Aldenham in my day."

OA NEWS, HOME AND ABROAD

John Edwards (B 46-51) wrote following a recent visit to New Zealand: "My wife and I spent two weeks touring New Zealand South Island in a campervan at the end of last year. On the first day we attended the service at Christchurch Cathedral where we were greeted by **David Ellison (S 46-51)** (who has funded a choral scholarship there) who was my direct contemporary both at Aldenham and at Merton College, Oxford. David has spent his teaching life in New Zealand, mostly at Christ's College, its leading independent school, where he taught with verve and took a leading role in extra-curricular activities; sadly a year or so after his retirement he had a severe stroke from which he has made a remarkable recovery. We had a delightful day, guided through the places of interest and generously refreshed. Another Merton friend who became a director of P & O heavily involved in the New Zealand trade has described its people as being of great integrity; I have little doubt that David has contributed to that through his lifetime of dedicated service."

We received a letter from the mother of **Robert Gladstone (M 74-78)** who writes: "I am writing as an 'interfering Mother' of our son Robert, for whom we are still receiving and forwarding (!) *The Aldenhamiana* in spite of constantly urging him to notify you of his own addresses - his excuse being that he is constantly on the move!

“As he has obviously not kept in touch, I thought you might be interested to know, for your records, what he has been doing. After leaving school in 78, he took a year out, then spent three years at Christ Church Oxford, reading geography - and just missed a 1st on a viva-voce! - followed by taking a PGCE at Nottingham. From there, he went on to teach in Dudley, West Midlands for the next seven years. He married in 1990, and at

this stage decided to enter the Anglican ministry. Sponsored by Liarfi (spelling ?) diocese, he spent the next two years as deputy warden at a Christian Activity Holiday Centre in Georgeham, N. Devon (canoeing, climbing etc. etc by day, and discussion groups and study in evenings), where he had previously helped out on holiday revision courses and he was also very involved with the local church there. Then, back to Oxford, Wycliffe Theological College, for two years prior to ordination at Lichfield, and a three year first curacy at Trentham, near Stoke-on-Trent, where, for a large part of the time he was in charge during an interregnum! He moved from there to Holy Trinity, Norwich in September 97. The next move should be to a parish of his own, where they will hope to be settled for the duration of their children's education - Hannah now 7, and Sam, 4. Their present address is Rev R M Gladstone, 14 Trinity Street, Norwich NR2 2BQ, to which I hope you will send future copies of *The Aldenhamian*. I was going to return the last issue to you, but kept it here for him, and I must say how interested we were in articles about Dr Wallace Hadrill, Mr Waddell and Mr Barker - all at the School when Robert was there. Also about the Field Trip to Epping Forest, which is our 'home patch'! I hope this information will be of interest to you.”

Steve Hitchins (B 64-69) e-mailed us in January: "A letter to *Aldenhamiana* is long overdue and the recent issue has inspired me to share recent events. After being for a very long time in close contact with many OAs, first through the Football Club and then as Joint Secretary of the Society I have lately only kept in contact by reading of others' activities. The cause has been my increasingly active political career. In choosing a less obvious party than an education at Aldenham might suggest hasn't proved an insurmountable barrier to success - at least in local Government.

“I have been active with the Liberal Democrats since 1983 and filled a number of internal party positions, including both Treasurer and later Federal Vice-President. I was elected to Islington Council in 1990 with two other Liberal Democrats. In December 1999, nine hard but rewarding years later, I became Leader of the Council with a two-seat majority over Labour on the Council (there are no Conservatives in Islington!). This is widely considered to be a major political triumph for the Liberal Democrats and a considerable embarrassment to Labour and the result featured prominently in many national newspapers.

“I have not stood for Parliament and don't intend to. My wife, Sarah Ludford, however stood in both 1992 and 1997 in Islington South & Finsbury, unsuccessfully! In July 1997 she was invited by Paddy Ashdown to accept a life peerage from the Labour Government and was introduced into the House of Lords in October that year. In June 1999 she was elected as London's Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament. As you will see politics has taken up an increasing amount of our time. We have lived in Islington for almost twenty years and I bump into local resident, **Barry Liddiard (S 53-58)** every now and then. I would be very interested to hear from any other OAs, especially those who live in Islington. But please don't all complain about the Council Tax - I expect to cut it soon!"

Ronald Somerville, CBE (B 43-47) wrote at the end of December: "This is an update on my involvement with the City Technology College Kingshurst. This was the first of the CTC's. I have been the Chairman of Governors since the

College opened 12 years ago. The CTC's having been much criticised are now regarded by the present Government as Beacons of Excellence. The consistent results of the Kingshurst students have been truly remarkable and the College may well claim to be one of the most advanced examples of 21 Century education. During 1999 the CTC Kingshurst was the bid to take over a failing school in Guildford King's Manor, this will close in September 2000 and a new King's College of Arts & Technology will be created as a Voluntary Aided Comprehensive Secondary School. This will be a truly historic moment, as this is the first 'privatised' state school and may well point the way to the future.

"The CTC Kingshurst is also establishing a full scale crèche/nursery with one of the leading Housing Associations and this is planned to be a template for a chain of nurseries in part in areas of social exclusion.

"Having had the privilege of a good education at Aldenham, it is gratifying to be able to make some contribution to the less fortunate young people."

Colin Marshall (M 75-78) writes at the end of last year: "We've just finished a five year stint in Vietnam courtesy of my employer, BP Amoco. We lived in both Saigon and Hanoi, which are very different cities. Saigon is one of the most energetic cities in the world and Hanoi one of the sweetest. Common in both are obviously the Vietnamese, who are really fundamentally unique - they have not been homogenised like most other cultures. Strongly recommend a school trip to Vietnam; having read the account of the skiing trip, you'd have to make the downtown bar area off limits - far too tempting on a number of counts!

"We've just moved to Abu Dhabi. It's interesting to arrive here during Ramadan, as the whole country is fasting, 'dry' and quite subdued. This may well be the world's duller place to celebrate the Millennium - but the desert is beautiful and there is some good scuba diving only a couple of hours drive away! Not sure if I'll think of Aldenham as the Millennium changes over. In fact, not sure if I'll be awake - might just go to bed early!"

Jim Davies (S 27-32) writes from Switzerland - "I much appreciated the printing of my memoirs in *Aldenhamiana* of November 1999. Thank you very much.

"I am not asking for a postscript to be printed, but for the record I was promoted Major, Royal Engineers, in October 1944 and I was awarded the MBE in the Peloponessos and the MC in Italy in 1944. I am told I should not have omitted this information, but here it is and not that important."

Rob Alter (B 88-91). Another e-mail, this time from the USA: "At present I am working at The Breakers in Florida, USA on a graduate programme. I have been playing OA Golf ever since I left school in 1991 and will be playing in this year's Halford Hewitt for the ninth straight year. Last year I spoke to the Headmaster, Stephen Borthwick, at the tournament and he suggest that I write a few words." The Editor is happy to receive Rob's few words c/o the School at any time convenient to him!

Field Marshal The Lord Vincent GBE KCB DSO (S 45-50)

has kindly sent the following "pen portrait" of himself to the Editor, who feels it will be of interest to OAs: "Richard (Dick) Vincent was born in London in 1931 and educated at Aldenham School and The Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

"He joined Aldenham immediately after the Second World War in 1945 where he subsequently became Captain of School House Evens and First Keeper of The Fives Courts when Aldenham won The Public Schools Fives Handicap, thanks not least to the enthusiasm and encouragement of Geoffrey Bolt, the master in charge of fives at that time.

"The combined Cadet Force, in which he was a senior NCO, was compulsory for all medically fit boys in the aftermath of the war and with the encouragement of Hugh Kirkwood, who ran the 'corps' so effectively at that time, he opted for his two years compulsory National Service in The Royal Artillery in 1950, where he received an emergency Commission, which led subsequently to a Regular Commission in 1953. After Gunnery, Technical and General Staff Training in the early sixties he held a variety of staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence and a secondment to the (then) Radar Research Establishment at Malvern. He served later on the directing staff of the Army Staff College, Camberley, and the Royal Military College of Science, and has attended the Greenlands Administrative Staff College at Henley and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

"His command appointments have included a battery in the Commonwealth Brigade in Malaysia, Regimental Command in Germany and the United Kingdom (with an operational tour in Northern Ireland), Command of an Infantry Brigade and, as a Major General, Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science.

"In more recent times he served for four years on the Army Board as the member responsible for the acquisition of new land weapon systems and equipment and he took up his first Chief of Staff appointment as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff in 1987. In this latter appointment he was directly involved in initiating high level military contacts with the former Soviet Union, where he travelled widely in response to the Gorbachev reforms.

"He was promoted Field Marshal and appointed Chief of Defence Staff in April 1991. He was then elected to the NATO appointment of the Military Committee from 1993 to 1996 at a time when the Alliance forged closer relationships with the nations of central and eastern Europe and became increasingly involved with operations in former Yugoslavia, ultimately launching the NATO led IFOR operation in 1995.

"In addition to his military qualifications, he holds a DSc from Cranfield University, is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Aeronautical Society, Imperial College London, and The City and Guilds of London Institute. He is a Freeman of the City of London, a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights, an Aldenham School Governor and a Governor of the Ditchley Foundation. He is a Member of the Jordanian Order of Merit and the United States Legion of Merit.

"Since finishing his full-time military career in 1996 he was

created a Life Peer and appointed Master Gunner, St James's Park. He has also assumed The Chairmanship of the Court and Council of Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine and has taken up business appointments as Chairman of Hunting Defence Limited, Chairman of Hunting Engineering Limited, Chairman of Hunting-BRAE, and as a Director of Vickers Defence Systems. He became a Vice President of The Defence Manufacturers Association and the Officers' Pension Society in 1996 and is a consultant to Hogg Robinson Independent Financial Advisers. In 1998 he became Chancellor of Cranfield University and he assumed the Presidency of the Old Aldenhamian Society in 1999. He married (Jean) in 1955, with whom he has now moved 'home' 35 times during his military service; they have one daughter, one son (in the Army) and seven grandchildren."

PUBLICATIONS

Chris Wright (CR 50-67; Beevor's Housemaster 56-67) has very kindly reviewed *Nine Battles to Stanley*, the latest work of **Nicholas van der Bijl (B 50-54)**. He writes: "From small beginnings spring great deeds - witness the acorn and the oak tree. This, at least, must be the conclusion of **Christopher Goodchild (B 57-62)**. Both he and Nick were in Beevor's in my time, Nick in a junior position, Chris rising to be House Captain. Chris punished Nick for some transgression and gave him a 600-word essay on the Common Market, about which Nick had never heard. He spent, he says "hours in the library and enjoyed every minute of it. I then elected to do an 'O' Level on Roman Ancient History in November, achieving a good result but at the expense of almost everything else, except History and English".

"From that time onwards Nick has had a passion for historical research. *Nine Battles to Stanley* is his third book, the previous two being for military specialists on the Argentine forces in the Falklands and the Royal Marines (1939-93). He is about to have a local history book published shortly about the area near Weston-Super-Mare - he and his family live in Somerset - and is drafting a major work on the raids, landings and invasions of England since the Romans. Publication is timed to coincide with a presentation on TV. None of this would necessarily cut much ice with readers were it not for the fact that Nick was a Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps during the war in 1982. He sailed when the expedition left Portsmouth, amidst wild scenes on the quayside with relatives, friends and girlfriends waving Union Jacks and singing:

"We don't want to leave you
But we know you have to go"

in a jingoistic manner most of us thought had gone long ago. He landed with the troops at San Carlos on 21st May, and was with them, collecting vital Intelligence information, until the Argentinian surrender at Stanley on 15th June.

"After the surrender he and his team interrogated Argentinian prisoners in great detail. It is this interrogation together with his thorough knowledge of Argentinian research papers, at the time of the war, shown in his previous books, which makes *Nine Battles to Stanley* such a balanced and authoritative account of this extraordinary war. Nick's commander in the campaign, Major General Julian Thompson, writes an enthusiastic foreword.

"Nick's account of the war is not afraid to examine some crucial

parts and to query the generally received opinions about them. He calls the battle of Goose Green "tricky and pointless", and is particularly critical of Lieutenant-Colonel 'H' Jones, the most famous soldier of the campaign. Nick suggests that the Colonel had become too involved in detail to see the big picture and that his passionate belief in leading by personal example led to premature action: "As always Jones led by personal example, shouting, 'Come on, A Company, get your skirts off! Follow me!' Without telling anyone, or looking to see who was following, he set off ..."

"Nick then says that Jones was "badly wounded", but search how I could, I was not able to find a reference to his death. The passage describing Colonel 'H's' action shows the defects of Nick's strengths. His knowledge of detail is so encyclopaedic that he too makes it difficult for the reader to see the big picture. Nick quotes a vivid description of the final hours at Stanley by a Marine Captain who was present: "As if in answer to a Royal Marine's prayer, the whole thing ended unbelievably in a pub called the Globe Hotel. Having marched into Stanley to go on board a ship for a wash, we found ourselves in a smoky wooden bar-shaped room. 150 Marines, unshaven, dirty, tired, stinking and very lightly boozed - every man a can of beer in his hand."

"I would have liked more such flashes of light into the campaign and its aftermath. But that is not what Nick is about. He has provided the reader with the most minute and detailed account, which surely must rank as the definitive military account of the war. If, as surely will be the case, *Nine Battles to Stanley* is reprinted, could I ask Nick to include some general maps of the Falklands at the beginning, so the many excellent detailed maps can be studied in context?"

FREEMASONRY

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge, No. 4884 (founded 1926)

Master: **Boon Sin Tan (K 78-81)**

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge, which exists primarily for past members of Aldenham School, its Governors and its teaching staff, present and past, meets at 10 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 on the second Wednesday in January, the first Wednesday in March, and the third Wednesday in June and October.

Full particulars of the Lodge can be obtained from the Secretary:-

G N Norton,
246/248 Great Portland Street,
London W1N 6JN

SPORTS CLUB OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES

Football

Club Captain: Paul Clemow
The Old House
3 Watford Road
Croxley Green
Herts WD3 3DL
01923 710462 (home)
01923 720466 (office)
0973 336073 (mobile)

Hon. Secretary: Martyn Berg
Flat 5
295 Ladbroke Grove
London W10 6HE
020 8878 7888 (office)
0467 845261 (mobile)

Golf

Hon. Secretary: Ian Eggleton
42 Bridewell Place
Wapping High Street
London E1 9PB
020 7702 0028

Cricket

Captain and Hon. Secretary: Hanif Moledina
13 Lincoln Road
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 1LB
01923 840368 (home)
01788 55440 (office)
0410 239295 (mobile)

Fives

Hon. Secretary: Richard Ullman
38 Hunters Close
Tring
Hertfordshire
01442 822447

OA SOCIETY

President:
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Rickmansworth
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Hon. Secretary: Jonathan Coates
Kennedy's House
Aldenham School
Elstree
Hertfordshire WD6 3AJ
01923 858122

Diary dates 2000

**OA Society Committee Meeting
followed by A.G.M. of
OA Society,**

6.00 pm + 7.00 pm respectively
on Tuesday 21st March 2000, at
City University Club,
50 Cornhill,
London

Diary dates 2000

Halford Hewitt Golf

on

Thursday, 6th April 2000,
versus Wellingborough,
at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club,
Deal,
commencing 12.40 pm

Diary dates 2000

O.A. Day

on

Sunday 18th June 2000,
Chapel Service, Drinks,
Barbecue or Buffet Lunch,
cricket match and Tea!!

(Price: £12.00 per ticket)

To: **I G Leutchford, Esq. 41 The Rise, Elstree, Herts WD6 3JS**

Name (in capitals): House:

Address: Years at Aldenham:

.....

..... Tel:

Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements:

I require ticket(s) for the O.A. Day Buffet/Barbecue Lunch

Diary dates 2000

O.A. Society Annual Dinner
on
Friday 17th November 2000,
7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

*(N.B. Tear-off Booking Slip
will appear in the October
issue of Aldenhamiana)*