



Aldenhamiana

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

My previous letters have sought to bring OAs up to date on the progress achieved with the Working Party set up by my predecessor, Bishop Colin James, to make recommendations on the future of our Society. This has been a highly relevant and timely initiative which, I believe, is now beginning to bear fruit in attracting the interest and support of more of the newer generations of OAs who also come from a far wider international background than those of us who were at Aldenham in the 1940s and 1950s.

In essence, with the full support of the AGM in March, we are now putting into effect the main proposals made in Richard Hall's very helpful Report. One welcome consequence of this was that, on OA Day, we achieved the largest turnout for many years - and with a far lower average age than in recent times! I am most grateful to John McAllister, with the strong support of his son, Tim, and Paul Clemow, for achieving such an encouraging response.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see details of the OA web site created so imaginatively for us by Mark Jordan. Please make full use of this excellent facility, which will list future OA activities. Do also ensure that our database is kept up to date. Please note that it will soon be possible to download both past and present editions of *Aldenhamiana* from our web site, thus saving the ever rising postage costs.

The OA Committee is also examining the basis of our subscriptions, both past and present, to consider if any changes may be needed to ensure that we sustain a buoyant and solvent Society at reasonable cost. The OA Dinner this year is to be held at the School on Friday, 17 November at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm with partners being most welcome to join us as well. Do please apply for tickets soon, as space will inevitably be limited, and also encourage any other OAs with whom you are in contact to do the same.

Looking further ahead, in 2002 the OA Society will be celebrating its first centenary. Your Committee will be working on some proposals for this important event in our history, but if any OAs have ideas or proposals to make themselves, do please let me know via the School address.

Finally, on behalf of all OAs I should like to extend to the new Headmaster, Richard Harman, and his wife a very warm welcome to Aldenham. He takes the helm at a time of many timely changes and developments, and we wish him and Mrs Harman a rewarding and very successful association with the School. Mr Harman has already found the time in his first few weeks to attend our recent Committee meeting and has kindly agreed to join us, with Mrs Harman, and to speak as our principal guest at the OA Dinner on 17th November. This year's

Dinner will therefore provide an ideal opportunity to meet the new Headmaster and to hear at first hand his vision for Aldenham as it reaches the fifth century after its foundation.

I very much look forward to seeing more of you in the year ahead.

Dick Vincent

EDITOR'S NOTES

Many OAs will be saddened to read of the death of **G.R. Bolt (CR 47-65)** who taught many generations of Aldenhamians and who was also very important in the success of the School in Fives. It is hoped that a fuller tribute to him will be included in the next issue of *Aldenhamiana* but readers will find him fondly remembered in a letter from **William Goodman (M 51-55)** elsewhere in this journal.

Members are asked to note that the Annual Dinner of the Society will take place at the School on Friday 17th November 2000, with Drinks in the Library at 7.30 pm followed by Dinner in the School Dining Hall at 8.00 pm. In a conscious effort to attract younger OAs the cost of a ticket has been reduced to £25.00 (to include wine with the meal) and members are warmly encouraged to bring partners and to get together to form tables.

The Editor has been asked by Mark Jordan to publicise the fact that the Society has its own web site (launched on 20th October 2000) and can be visited at <http://www.oldaldenhamian.org>. The site has been produced to keep members updated with current news and to complement *Aldenhamiana*. The site currently features OA Society news, information on forthcoming events and all the latest information of the sports clubs, along with current and previous issues of this journal. We have also added features to enable members to update their postal and add their e-mail addresses on-line. The site will be growing and evolving over the next few months - so please send any comments or suggestions to mark@compuhire.com.

On behalf of the OA Society the Editor would like to thank **Bishop Hewlett Thompson (B 42-47)** for the kind donation of the lovely collection of prints of the Houses at Aldenham, magnificently framed. The School also is very grateful and discussions are still going forward as to where would be their best abode.

There remain some copies of the *Aldenham School Register* and the *History of Aldenham School*. Prices of these works have been reduced to £19.50 and £7.00 respectively (plus postage and packing). Members wishing to purchase either or both books should contact Lindy Creedy at the School.

The OA Society no longer has a direct telephone line but Lindy Creedy remains the secretarial assistant to the Hon. Secretary and can be contacted by calling the School on 01923 858122.

As always, members whose addresses do not include their postcodes are asked to send that information to the School. The reason for emphasising the use of postcodes is because 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 do please contact us - whether by the more traditional route of a letter or via e-mail. It is of particular interest to many when they read about the activities and lives of their contemporaries and other OAs. There does appear to have been a decline in correspondence over the last few years and it would be beneficial to the Society and this journal if that trend could be reversed. It is hoped that the new web site and electronic communications will facilitate the exchange of information among members.

This issue of *Aldenhamiana* is the last one to be produced under the present Editor. 'Thank the Lord,' he hears many of you cry. He is fully aware of his manifold imperfections but thanks all who have worked so generously in the production of the last several issues. In particular both Lindy Creedy and Heather Sherman deserve the highest praise for commitment to the cause above and beyond the call of all rational duty.

Postscript: The Editor has been contacted by Mr Howard Shaw (who taught at Harrow School for 36 years) about his latest work, a piece of detective fiction entitled *Pageant of Death*. Set in an imaginary major public school about to celebrate its quincentenary, the entire community is rocked by a brutal death! Members wishing to purchase this whodunit are asked to contact Lindy Creedy at the School.

Jonathan Coates

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

I am delighted to have the opportunity of writing to you so early in my time here at Aldenham. Having just completed my first month in office I can report that both the School and its new Headmaster are in fine fettle. I am enjoying being here, as is my wife Karin and daughter Olivia, and I am pleased to report that the School is flourishing.

At some 420 the school is fuller than it has ever been, and this term sees the opening of the new Pre-Preparatory Department in Wilson House as well as the new Music School in the shell of the Old Chapel. This beautiful and imaginative conversion blends the best of traditional and modern design and is a fitting symbol of the way ahead for Aldenham. Its official opening is on 17th November, the same day as the OA. Dinner here at the School, so I hope to see many of you on that day.

There is a great sense of buzz and optimism about the place and the stage is set for the next phase of Aldenham's development. I am fortunate that my predecessor Stephen Borthwick has left me such a healthy legacy, and the school is indebted to him and the outstanding Chairman of Governors John Woodrow, who as

I write is recuperating in France from his recent illness. We wish him now a speedy return to full fitness. All those connected with the place, whether Governors, staff, parents, pupils or OAs seem to feel real affection for it and my sense is of a deep well of goodwill for its future.

I have been given an opportunity to speak about my vision for the future at the OA. Dinner on 17th November so I will not spoil things for those (many, I hope) who are coming to that event by writing at great length here. Suffice it to say that I feel privileged and fortunate to be leading Aldenham at such an exciting point in its history, and I look forward very much to meeting as many of you as possible in the weeks and months ahead.

Richard Harman

CLUB REPORTS

OA Football Club

Paul Clemow (K 88-93), Captain the OAFC, sent the following Report for Season 1999/2000:

Overall it was a disappointing season for the OAFC. The 1st XI have struggled to show the potential that the team possesses to gain promotion to the Premier Division and the 2nd XI had an inconsistent season.

The 1st XI did not really produce the football that was felt possible this season. The season began on a disappointing note with two losses by close scores. In the first game we were beaten 3-2 by Eton in the last minute and then lost to Haberdashers' 2-0 in the last fifteen minutes the following week. These defeats did not give us the ideal start and by December a number of injuries to key players (Andy Berg and Jason Clemow) and a loss of form meant we were struggling to find results. The situation did not improve after Christmas and against opposition we should have beaten we carried on losing.

It was felt even with the players who were available a winning season was possible but unfortunately the right standard of commitment and attitude were sadly lacking in a number of players and the level of fitness in several of the players was also poor. A marked improvement will have to be shown next season if any success is to be achieved. There were a few bright points with wins against Wellingborough Home & Away and a Home win against Winchester. We were also unfortunate not to beat the champions of Division One when after being 4-2 with 10 minutes to go, we let it slip to lose 5-4! It is hoped that a few younger recruits will be available for the upcoming season with Adam Malski, Stephen Bloom, Bradley Lutton & Sam Crane showing promise and an interest in playing this season. The future of the OA Football Club is based around players like these being involved so if any other recent leavers are interested in playing please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

The 2nd XI produced an inconsistent season, with the unfortunate situation of some weeks being able to field strong sides and in other weeks, weaker teams. It was an excellent achievement for them to consolidate their status in this division,

Halford Hewitt 2000

We enjoyed another excellent performance in the Halford Hewitt, the premier Old Boys' team event and the largest knock-out tournament in Europe, winning through to the last 16. As usual we had the dedicated support of a large number of OAs who travel to this magnificent event.

Our youth policy is really paying off now with Robert Alter and David Rawlinson featuring regularly in the team with our more 'mature' members. Jamie Wells, Adam Thrussell and Nick Corbett also featured with strong competition for places from other good golfers, not all young! Bob Coombes played in every match, this being his 51st consecutive year in the OA team. Welcome too to Richard Steel who played in his first Hewitt.

OA Footballers against the School, October 1999

back row (l to r) Chris Molyneux, Jason Clemow, Ben Thrussell, Ian Hubbard, Matt Butcher, Matt Jones,

front row (l to r) Martin Berg, Nik Corbett, Paul Clemow, Jason Lee, Zak Berman

with some fine performances against stronger sides in the final few weeks to guarantee they did not get relegated. A huge thanks must be made to Hanif Moledina for stepping in early on in the season and running the 2nd XI after the previous Captain, Mark Robinson broke his leg. It was mostly due to Hanif's efforts that they were capable of winning games against supposed better sides in the League e.g., Foresters II.

It is hoped that with the possibility of bolstering the club with the recruitment of younger players and a marked improvement in fitness and attitude by the present players this will be an improved season.

THE ARTHURIAN LEAGUE

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES (1999-2000)

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts.
Harrovians	14	13	0	1	56	19	37	26
Etonians	14	10	0	4	40	21	19	20
Haberdashers	14	7	2	5	36	30	6	16
Bradfieldians	14	6	1	7	33	27	6	13
Wellingburians	14	6	0	8	25	42	-17	12
Witleians	14	4	2	8	22	35	-13	10
Wykehamists	14	4	1	9	31	43	-12	9
Aldenhamsians	14	3	0	11	21	47	-26	6

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts.
Westminsters	14	12	1	1	66	13	53	25
Haberdashers 2	14	11	0	3	45	20	25	22
Foresters 2	14	6	2	6	34	21	13	13*
Aldenhamsians 2	14	6	1	7	34	53	-19	13
Foresters 3	14	5	2	7	33	48	-15	12
Hoaoovians 2	14	5	1	8	28	35	-7	11
Reptonians 2	14	5	0	9	27	44	-17	10
Cholmeleians 3	14	2	1	11	17	50	-33	2*

OA Golfing Society

Hon Secretary - **Ian Eggleton (S 58-63)**, 2 Merchant Court, 61 Wapping Wall, London E1W 3SJ (Tel: 020 7702 0028).

We were drawn to play Wellingborough at Deal in the first round on 6th April and we won 3-2. Playing against us was Jon Saxby, who spent a year at Aldenham and who played for the OA Football Club in the Arthur Dunn Cup.

S G O Williams & J Bloomfield	Won
R A Alter & D Rawlinson	Won
R J Coombes & R Wells	Lost
S P Radin & J Wells	Lost
P J Easby & G Green	Won

On Friday it was a closer battle against Trent and OA blood pressure was raised a few times. However, we won 3-2 in the end.

S G O Williams & J Bloomfield	Won
R A Alter & D Rawlinson	Won
R J Coombes & R Wells	Lost
S P Radin & J Wells	Lost
P J Easby & G Green	Won

A dismal day dawned on Saturday and we were unable to match a strong Merchiston team and lost 1-4.

R A Alter & D Rawlinson	Won
S G O Williams & N Corbett	Lost
S P Radin & A Thrussell	Lost
R J Coombes & R Steel	Lost
P J Easby & G Green	Lost

It was another memorable week in the history of the OA Golfing Society, which celebrated its 75th anniversary on 15th July this year. A special dinner is being held on Thursday 30th November at Boodles.

I recommend any OA with an interest in golf, and a strong stomach, to come to Deal to watch the Halford Hewitt. Details will be included in the next edition but the dates are 5th - 8th April, 2001.

See you at Deal next year.

Ian Eggleton

HONOURS ENGAGEMENTS MARRIAGES

The Society congratulates the following OAs:-

HONOURS

E P G Sherrard (S 65-69) has been elected to be Renter Warden of the Girdlers' Company for the coming year.

Professor M N Sweeting, OBE, FRS (B 64-70) has been admitted as a New Fellow of The Royal Society.

Major J S Hewitt (S 34-39) Chairman, Indian Army Association, was guest of honour at a luncheon held by the Fifth Indian Division at the Royal Overseas League, St James's.

The County Londonderry Lieutenancy entertained **Sir Michael and Lady McCorkell (M 38-40)** at dinner in Molenan to mark Sir Michael's retirement as Lord-Lieutenant for the County on 3rd May 2000.

Dale Winton (K 68-71) the television presenter who made his name on *Supermarket Sweep* and *Pets win Prizes*, is about to enter the world of political satire. *The Times* printed the following in April: "Winton has agreed to star in a comedy about the European Parliament called *My Honourable Friend*. He will play a "camp" Tory MEP who shares a Brussels flat with an old-style Labour leftie, to be portrayed by the actor Jimmy Nail. To prepare for the part Winton has watched hours of video featuring Michael Portillo and Neil Hamilton, although I can't imagine who inspired the following remarks about the part. 'I'm very nervous about it. I said to Jimmy, but darling, I'm not an actor. I'd like to be Ray Winstone, but the sad reality is that I'm probably much more like Julie Goodyear.'"

P J Purton (B 46-51) has been elected as Second Warden of the Tallow Chandlers' Company.

Jeremy Llewellyn-Jones (M 69-74) directed an excellent documentary *Equinox: Meningitis - Search For a Cure*, which was broadcast in March on Channel 4 focusing mainly on the rapid response team at St Mary's hospital in London.

ENGAGEMENTS

S P Moffat (K 86-91) and Miss K J Fielden announced their engagement.

J M Mundy (M 82-87) and Miss J C Stein have announced their engagement.

S Nicholas (S 76-81) and Miss T Agricola announce their engagement.

MARRIAGES

P Stokoe (B 45-48) and Miss V Holbrook were married on 12th September 2000.

DEATHS

J H L Adams	(S 26-28)	1.9.97
Dr H C Baillie	(B 41-46)	4.2.00
D E S Bates	(P 41-45)	24.7.00
J T H Bingley	(S 61-65)	8.7.97
*G R Bolt	(CR 47-65)	24.7.00
F E Brander	(S 31-35)	8.8.96
F A R Carnegy	(B 14-18)	21.8.96
G G Coles	(S 20-24)	3.11.97
A D Conyers	(B 44-49)	11.2.97
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
J M Forrest	(M 48-51)	18.8.00
J A Fowler	(B 41-46)	13.3.00
R F Furber	(S 35-39)	11.6.00
A W Grant	(P 33-35)	27.1.00
R Harley-Smith	(S 23-26)	30.11.98
C J Harrisson	(S 28-32)	7.4.00
G R Harrison	(S 49-53)	4.98
R F Hart	(S 50-55)	9.2.00
Wing Cdr P G Hill-Turner	(B 38-42)	22.10.97
R B Holroyde	(M 40-43)	26.1.97
C M Hutchin	(M 36-39)	30.11.99
J A B Lambert	(B41-46)	11.7.00
I C Last	(S 27-30)	9.9.00
W A Leach-Lewis	(M 23-29)	12.1.97
Longden Sir G	(Gov 51-74)	16.10.97
J W Love	(S 31-33)	12.1.99
Councillor J J Maiden	(S 46-49)	6.6.96
R Markham	(P 30-31)	16.11.79
R J Marsh	(CR 44-47)	7.9.97
A T Marston	(S 56-61)	14.9.00
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
P F Myers	(?) (S 43-47)	3.6.00
D P Pickering	(S 32-32)	29.8.97
M B Poulter	(P 33-36)	23.12.96
D Proctor-Robinson	(CR 45-46)	5.10.00
Dr J I Pugh	(B 36-41)	13.3.97
A G Randall	(S 26-29)	21.3.98
Dr N J M Richardson	(P 49-54)	9.10.96
P J Sayer	(B 21-24)	25.4.00
J W L Seager	(M 27-33)	11.7.00
J A F Simpson	(B 34-36)	25.7.00
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
W J Spreull	(B 43-45)	6.10.00
P W Stanley	(P 26-29)	30.4.98
P J Stimpson	(B 37-41)	28.6.00
Van Zalingen	(S 54-57)	14.7.00
H S Vellacott	(S 18-23)	7.8.96
Dr D G Wilson	(School Medical Officer 60-75)	9.2.00
T M Wiswould	(B 25-27)	12.11.96
G D P Young	(P 34-38)	25.4.97

OBITUARIES

Arthur W Eagling (S 31-34) is remembered here by **Owen S Pearson (S 33-36)** who sent the following letter addressed to John Edwards and passed to the OA office: "As an Old Aldenhamian, I received yesterday the latest *Aldenhamiana*, and prompted by your delightful reminiscences of George Vasey, I wondered if I might ask you to publish a memory of Arthur W Eagling.

"My reason for this request is that his name appeared in the last issue of *Aldenhamiana*, amongst the short list of deaths of OAs, simply as 'Eagling A.W. ??', which saddened me. For he was not an OA but rather, together with Cecil Stott and Godfrey ('Tibi') Mead, one of the senior Classics masters in my time at Aldenham. He was in fact, with Cecil Stott, the Form Master of Group 1 (Classics) of the VI and Lower VI Forms. His name appears in the Ninth Edition of the *Register*, of which I possess a copy, but regrettably not in the Twelfth Edition. His dates were September 1931 - November 1934, and he later became Headmaster of Maidenhead County School from 1941 to 1954 and then Headmaster of Cambridgeshire High School for Boys.

"His form room was on the ground floor of the new Classroom Block, on the left of the entrance, and there he taught me how to compose a Latin Prose, led me through the delights of Juvenal's Satires, and brilliantly expounded on the history of the early Roman Emperors. He was a splendid teacher in what was then a strong Classics department of a very high standard.

"A.W. Eagling was a charming, kind man of great character. We much respected him and he understood us individually, being interested in us and befriending us. He knew that I had from a young age a deep interest in international affairs, and I have a vivid memory of him coming to me one morning as we were strolling about the field before Chapel (in the lovely little old Chapel) and announcing in his inimitable manner 'a momentous piece of news, [namely] that King Alexander of Yugoslavia has been assassinated on his visit to Marseilles, together with the French Foreign Minister, Marthow.' It was October 9th, 1934.

"I would be grateful to you if you could have some of this tribute to Arthur Eagling published either in *Aldenhamiana* or in *The Aldenhamian*. I feel he should be remembered as a fine Classics master. I personally am greatly indebted to him and to 'Tibi' Mead and Cecil Stott, and to Eagling's successor William Hall Kennedy, for I have been senior Classics Master in Preparatory Schools from 1948 to 1986, the last 20 years at Hillstone School, Malvern.

"I greatly enjoyed my time at Aldenham. I arrived as a new boy with George Riding as Headmaster, and benefited enormously from the discipline which it was evident that he imposed on the School from his first day. I must confess that I am very sad to note that there appears to be no Classics department at Aldenham now, and in fact nobody teaching Latin at all. [Editor's note: There is a small group of pupils who have chosen to take Latin and so a great tradition has recently been reintroduced].

"I do hope that you would be kind enough to publicise my memories of those halcyon days before the Second World War."

Umaru Mohammad (P 53-59). **Peter Hawkins (P 58-63)** e-mailed the following: "The correspondence in your obituaries section following the sad death of Moh jogged my own memories of the man dating back to my very junior days in Paull's Lower.

"One winter evening, I fell asleep half way through prep, probably due to the soporific nature of the Latin I was studying. I recall being roused from my slumbers by heavy text books being dropped by Moh close to my head and by his voice softly chanting wake up dozey Hawkins. Of course the laughter of the rest of the Lower also acted as an alarm. From that day on my nickname became Doss.

"Another memory of Moh involves a Paull's character called Nick Dodge who was about 18 months or so senior to me and who dined out on his wickedly accurate impersonations of Moh's voice and proclamations. He would normally regale his audience with these impersonations in the changing room after football or hockey.

The problem was, of course, that House Rules at the time were that third formers were not allowed to listen in or pick up on what fifth formers were saying, let alone laugh! I seem to recall that laughing at Nick's impersonations of Moh resulted in me and some of my contemporaries being ordered to tidy up the room or clean the chags on more than one occasion. Such was life in Paull's in the late 1950s."

William Goodman (M 51-55) sent the following obituary from New Mexico: "Mike Payne at Cranleigh wrote and told me that **Geoffrey Bolt (CR 47-65)** had died recently. I was not at Beevor's, and did not take chemistry, so it was as an outsider that I first observed Geoffrey and saw him as an inspiring figure, unconventional, sanguine, forthright. I was fascinated by his accounts of summer visits to Monte Carlo in his shabby old taxi cab, where he used applied mathematics at the casino and at least managed to break even, even when living in style. (England in the fifties was no place for an Epicure). I might not have heard about this had it not been for **Peter Harrington (CR 49-64)** and **Michael Heckford (CR 51-56)** egging him on.

"Years later Geoffrey did not disguise his bitter feelings at the circumstances of Peter Harrington's tragic death, also at the fact that the School's bean-counters had chosen to sell off the Stanley Spencer paintings.

"I visited him on various occasions and was treated to his excellent cooking. In December 1999 he described a recent tour he had made of retirement homes in Dorset. He was characteristically scornful of almost all of them, since a good table was essential, and a decent cellar of his own choice. He found a place that looked promising, but did not live long enough to confirm this.

"Considering Beevor's food uninspired and wasteful he dreamed of the possibility of providing really imaginatively-inspired food at the same cost. He hinted that he had come close to persuading the administration to adopt his plan, which would have made school food a culinary adventure. What happened to the plan I have no idea.

"At some point Michael Heathford was going to paint a picture using pigments that Geoffrey had compounded. The only colour was cobalt blue.

"His passion for games probably reached its peak after he took up Royal Tennis. It is possible to imagine him, the warrior, reaching his deserved place in paradise, and

Team Elysium meets Valhalla
On the Royal tennis court.
Geoffrey Bolt with cunning valour
Introduced them to the sport.

"At the end of term, when schedules are disrupted, and classes end up with the wrong master - always something to look forward to - Geoffrey read us Saki and Stephen Leacock.

"Geoffrey Bolt, remembered with fondness and admiration."

R Foxell (S 50-55) writes: **David Wallace-Hadrill (CR 50-86)** and the coal: Word for word - 'What's the dirtiest thing you can think of? A lump of coal perhaps.' The point he was making was that however filthy we may be, God can clean us up, a fact I discovered to my eternal advantage some 20 years later when He saved me from the suicidal mess I'd got myself into. Wesley put it rather well - 'His blood can make the foulest clean'. My parents must have been there that morning, too, because I remember my father remarking that David rather spoilt the effect of his visual aid by rubbing thumb and fingers together as if to dislodge some dust.

"And do you remember Colonel Heck, the US Army Chaplain who began: 'If ah had a million dollars, ah'd build a mahnument a mile high and a mile deep and a mile wide, and on one side ah'd write SAMSON and on the other side ah'd write A FAILURE' (pronounced fail-ewer). Funny how these things stay in the mind all these years. What the reverend Colonel went on to say however totally escapes me.

"I gave up my job as a lecturer in the 1970s to renovate a 15th century cottage in deepest Devon. Since then it's been blessings, blessings all the way, and 1999 was the best year of my life so far. Feel free to drop in on us and I'll tell you all about it."

We received this tribute to **Michael S Forinton (S 40-43)** from **Adrian Sturgeon (S 48-51)**: "Michael Seymour Forinton (b. 4 Feb 1926) entered School House, Aldenham as a Scholar in January 1940, in the early days of WWII. In 1943 he went up to King's College, Cambridge, with an Exhibition. He obtained a BA with a Mechanical Sciences Tripos, Class II, in 1945 and an MA in 1947.

"In 1945-46 he worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, then for Sir William Halcrow and Partners, consulting engineers, and qualified in 1951 as a chartered civil engineer. After a period as personal assistant to Dr P L Boucher, chief civil engineer of Glenfield and Kennedy, he was senior engineer on site with The Dredging and Construction Company Ltd on North Kent coast sea defence works (1951-54). With this he began a period of some 18 years with several well-known and respected civil engineering contractors - Edmund

Nuttall & Co Ltd (1954-59), Marples Ridgeway & Co (1959-64) and W&C French Ltd (chief surveyor, 1964-69). In 1969 he transferred to the class of Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

"He was a keen skier and yachtsman and a *bon viveur*. In September 1966 he married in Wiesbaden his delightful German wife Ulrike (Ucki) Prussing who bore him three sons, Christopher, Patrick and Jonathan (twins). Having lived at Ightham, Kent, he had moved to Buckhurst Hill, Essex (1965) and they then moved to Hunsdon, near Ware, Herts (1967/8). He and Ucki moved to Cork, Ireland c. 1970 when he became an independent consulting engineer and author of various reference books on contractual and related matters in the construction industry. In 1983 they moved to Malaga, Spain. In 1986, he was divorced. He married in 1987 his Filipino wife, June (a widow with two children). They continued to live in Montemar Alto, Malaga, Spain and travelled extensively in Europe and Asia including keeping in touch with their respective families. Michael died on 14th August 1998. He was a loyal friend, always a delightful host, somewhat larger than life, and ever tried to enjoy life to the full. He is survived by June and by his sons."

Similarly from **Michael Sheeres (P 42-47)** there came the following fond memories of **Richard Rawlings (P 42-47)**: "I had the good fortune to know Richard all his life. Our fathers were both in the wine trade so it was not surprising that we were both tempted to follow suit. He had two older brothers, David and John, who preceded him at Aldenham and they too elected to join the family business in London.

"Judged by the limited details in the School Register it would appear that he enjoyed little success at school, but this is misleading. In retrospect he was the first to acknowledge the debt he owed the School for developing his character and for the many enduring friendships that were forged there. His two years' National Service, including several months in Egypt, also contributed to shaping the character of the very charming young man who entered his family firm in 1949.

"It was quite extraordinary how well suited to the wine trade he was. He had a wonderfully infectious personality which enabled him apparently effortlessly to communicate with people from all walks of life. It was almost as if he was unaware of this gift it was so natural and he was constantly in demand by his clients when representing the company. His great sense of humour, sharp wit and understanding of his fellow man made him an outstanding and entertaining speaker.

"Although he had not enjoyed the best of health in recent years he endeavoured to live a full and active life in which golf played a large part. He was quite simply great company and will be sadly missed not only by his family but by a host of friends."

OA NEWS, HOME AND ABROAD

Stephen C Thomas (S 67-70) sent the following note from Milton Keynes: "...I am still within the automotive industry, after a few short trips into other trades, and back in this country. My youngest son lives with me and has only got three or four

years at senior school left, although it only seems a short period of time has passed since he started school it is fact that more time has gone than has to go. It is these changes that make us realise how fast time passes all of us by, and how important the small things can be."

Barry Cozens (P 26-31) has been busy at his typewriter again and sent us the following: "*Aldenhamiana* No.19 carried several affectionate memories of **George Vasey**. Is it too late to add a gloss? He taught English and Latin to the lower orders, certainly no higher than the Shell. (Was he the Shell form master?) Unlike his Spartan colleagues Bertie Gilbert and Fred English, whose classroom windows were wide open in mid-winter, George liked a fug.

"His classroom then was ground floor on the left as one entered first block, roughly opposite the changing rooms and the 'Tin Tabernacle' (by then a museum). This classroom had sash windows, the bottom half of which were frosted and the upper half clear. Except for summer these windows were kept closed. It did not take long for thirty healthy bodies to render the room stuffy, and boys straight from Bertie's arctic zone would beg for fresh air. Any such request was rebuffed until one accepted George's implacable rule that no window might be opened until the clear glass upper half was as opaque as the lower frosted section; this was open to negotiation!

"R.J. St G. Sproule mentioned George's 'deadly accuracy with the blackboard rubber'. This reminded me that for his Latin lessons the books were kept in a pile on his desk and distributed when the occasion demanded. Any back row murmuring or obvious inattention could bring George's hand down on the pile and one, two, three, four projectiles would be launched with the speed and accuracy of a machine gun!

"On another note the only *School Register* missing from my series spanning the 6th to the 12th is the 9th. Would it be possible to slip in a note asking if any OA (or their executors) have an unwanted 9th Edition of the *School Register*? I would be happy to relieve them of it and even buy them a pint."

Barry also sent this interesting note on the Introduction of Hockey to Aldenham, worthy of a mention here: "Dipping into *School Registers* recently I came across two statements. The first was in Jock Evans's 10th Edition of 1969, page 213: 'Before hockey became an official school game in 1934 ...'. The second was in the Jack Waddell and Barry Liddiard 11th Edition of 1981, where it is stated below a photograph on page 153 - 'Hockey began at Aldenham in 1927 ...'. I believe both to be wrong and I can vouch for there being no hockey until 1930.

"In a very small way I was involved, being one of some half-dozen 'soccer-sick' rebels in Paull's House who made the first move. We had played hockey at our prep schools, and, bored by the tedium of a second term of soccer, we agreed to bring hockey sticks back to school in January 1930. At the age of 87 I concede that my memory is dim and I hope that those better equipped in that department will fill in the gaps of what follows and correct any errors.

"We presumably used to "knock up" in that Easter term on any vacant field, and it would appear that our efforts had some impact on both staff and boys, because in January 1931 hockey was unofficially on the menu. The 1930 nucleus from Paull's

included Pat Lewis, Derek Ide, Kenneth Goodacre, C Greviile Smith and myself. Four home matches had been arranged for 1931 against Downing College, Cambridge, Southgate Hockey Club, the Gentlemen of Herts and another Club the name of which I have forgotten. I played in two or three of these matches before being dropped to captain the 2nd XI against the Gentlemen of Herts away at Watford. I remember that we went to the cinema afterwards!

"Which usher was in charge of hockey? Could it have been Harry Roach or Brewster Owen? I have no recollection. I believe the side from Downing College was brought down by undergraduate/medical student/Soccer Blue W.V. Owen (OA). This hardly rings true because Owen was at St Catharine's College. Perhaps he just came for the beer! I was told that in the following year (after I had left) there was a 'proper' fixture list and that colours were awarded for the first time. Perhaps this can be checked from school records.

"Now who played in the 1931 prototype hockey team? The final side is listed on page 367 of the 8th Edition of the *Register*:-

P.A.A. Lewis (P) Captain and centre half. He had already played for Hertfordshire in school holidays.

H.E. Davies (S)

J.S. Follett (S)

K.H. Goodacre (P)

P.D.V. Hunter (S)

D.G. Ide (P)

G. Mathieson (M)

P. Ricketts (S)

C.G. Smith (P)

G.D. Sparke (S)

D.J. Sparke (S)

"In addition I have a hunch that **C.R. Morland (P)** and **J.M. Barrell (S)** had, like myself, played in one or more of the four matches. According to the *Registers* it would seem likely that Kenneth Goodacre, George Sparke and I are the sole survivors of the founders of hockey at Aldenham."

Tony Barrett (M 40-42) wrote from Australia with news about his Golden Wedding celebrations: "At Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Harpenden, Herts on 22nd April 1950 John Anthony Barrett to Winefride Florence (nee Beech). After celebrating the event with our six children and 18 grandchildren at our home in Creswick Victoria, a former gold mining town just north of the Dividing Range about 74 miles from Melbourne, we spent the next three months visiting friends and relations in Europe and the USA.

"Last June I attended my first OA Day for over 40 years and it was great to see so many improvements in the School since then. It was rather disappointing, however, to see such a poor attendance from fellow OAs of my vintage. We passed two memorable days in Jersey when we stayed with **R.G. Hill (M 41-44)** who was my best man in 1950."

Antony Wood (S 54-59) writes: "In the February newsletter Jonathan Coates called for more correspondence from OAs and here at least is one response, although the prospect of writing a

series of paragraphs all using the 'I' pronoun goes against my better inclinations as a trainer ... but still.

"The first thing is to say that I enjoyed my time at Aldenham and in turn the School was very good to me. I arrived as the nervy, dyslexic product of a country vicarage (my father was Rector of Elstree for many years) but the skill of our teachers (Donald Parren, Jack Waddell, Cecil Stott, Bill Kennedy *et al*) allied to Aldenham's relatively small size and its beauty (it is beautiful) helped me to prosper.

In my last year I was made a *Prae* (unusual in those days as there were only a dozen or so of us day boys and I think Dave Munday was the only previous day boy office holder). Also I was Captain of Athletics - a sport I kept going in the Army - and, in fact, my only real disappointment from those days came from the track where I had an early ambition to beat George Vine's record for the mile of 4 minutes 49.9 seconds. Towards the end of the season I ran in the triangular match (against Felsted and Harrow?) and was told I had run 4 minutes 49.5, technically one tenth outside the record. This was a pity as shortly afterwards the mile was replaced by the 1,500 metres and any record would have stood in perpetuity.

"As Editor of *The Aldenhamian* I got involved with Stanley Spencer's visit to the school at the inauguration of his painting of *The Crucifixion*. This in fact was two paintings, as beneath the larger canvas there was another depicting Cookham Parish Church and the painter himself, as a small boy, standing on kneelers to see over the pew. At the suggestion of Donald Parren I took down the artist's comments verbatim as he talked about the paintings. I wonder if anyone else remembers going up to the old Science block lecture room to hear this fascinating and highly eccentric talk - delivered in short, vaguely connected half-sentences - about the ideas and vision behind these two minor masterpieces?

"After leaving Aldenham I joined the Army and served for ten years with an Armoured Car Regiment in a variety of places around the world and this period helped, I think, to consolidate the good work Aldenham had begun. Sport, especially cross-country skiing - where I won Champion All-Rounder - was the mainstay of life in those days, though I took my duties pretty seriously.

This was the start of a varied professional and business life and I have had careers in a number of sectors. In public service as an Army Officer; in the private sector in the Personnel and Purchasing departments of a number of large manufacturing companies; in the not-for-profit sector as Director of the Understanding Industry Trust and, as of now, very happily self-employed running a small training operation, dealing with education.

"I guess many of us never really find our *métier*. However the last five years have established that being self-employed and helping to train young people is very much me. With the additional blessing of a happy marriage (Ursula and I have three grown-up children, James, Eleanor and Hattie) I have been able to deploy an eclectic mix of strengths and weaknesses in the subtle art of helping people to discover their own potential. In some ways everything I have done so far has led to this and I wonder to what extent the pupils who went to Aldenham in the 1950s have found themselves happier running their own

operations. Something to do with the development of self-reliance and individual creativity perhaps?

"The training we do with young people is largely based on the gentle art of 'facilitation' and, in contrast to a rather prescriptive National Curriculum, is enjoyable and very flexible - dealing as it does with the needs of each student as an individual.

I have been much helped with the business side of the operation by **Steve Adams (P 52-56)** and it has been good to have the support of a fellow OA. Last year, as part of a programme of personal development and in order to learn more about the learning process, I gained an MSc in Training, via distance learning, from Leicester University.

"I hope this rather long letter is of interest and may spark a response from other OAs - either those of my generation or those for whom the odd remark has struck a chord."

Peter Milton (M 65-68) sent the following letter along with a press cutting: "I presently live in Perth, Western Australia, I am married and have three daughters aged 18, 16 and 14.

"I am currently the Head Professional at Melville Glades Golf Club Inc. in Leeming, 15 kilometres south of Perth. I have held this position for 16 years. Yes, my wife plays and has a handicap of 15. My eldest daughter has represented Western Australia in the State team and the School Girls and is the School Girls Champion and was selected for the All Australian School Team. She plays off a 5 handicap at present. My other two daughters are in the state squad and play off a 10 handicap.

"I read what little is written in the golf side in the Aldenham magazine and thought maybe this will interest you. Actually I took up golf at Aldenham because I was not a keen supporter of cricket and athletics! And I'm very glad I did and again if I'm correct I used to go to Potters Bar Golf Club.

"The main reason for writing is to inform you that my father **Robert Arthur Eric Milton (M 34-38)** passed away last year (25.5.99) and I have enclosed his book and an obituary from the *West Australian* newspaper. He achieved far more than me at Aldenham and I expect holds a place in a few Old Aldenhamian memories. Dad's biggest honour was to be awarded the Military Cross. There were only a few Air Force personnel who earned this medal.

"If you could include an article about him in an edition of *Aldenhamiana* and maybe put his book in the Library the family and I would be most appreciative.

The Obituary reads: 'British war hero Robert Arthur Eric Milton, winner of the Military Cross, has died in Bull Creek, aged 79. He was a Royal Air Force Squadron Leader in World War II. His exploits behind enemy lines became the subject of the book, *Robert Milton MC - The Man Who Stayed Behind*. His plane was shot down twice over occupied France, the first time after the Lockheed Hudson was struck by lightning and lost power. He was taken prisoner but managed to escape so many times his photograph was displayed on police station walls throughout France.

The Germans regarded Squadron Leader Milton as one of their

most troublesome prisoners and, at one stage, sentenced him to a month of solitary confinement in a hillside cave in total darkness. When he escaped, he joined up with the French underground, working with the famous British naval commander-cum-undercover agent, Pat O'Leary. He was responsible for scores of downed airmen making their way back to England via secret escape routes through France and Spain.

His work was regarded by the British as so valuable they ordered him to stay in France to keep the escape routes open. But the organisation was betrayed by British double agent Harold Cole. When the airman and agent learnt that Cole was talking to the Germans, they tracked him to a flat in Marseille and were preparing to execute him when he managed to escape.

With the underground movement betrayed, Milton escaped across the Pyrenees in the middle of winter and found his way back to England. He was given leave of a month before being transferred to Fighter Command. Four days after D-Day (the invasion of Europe), he was shot down while attacking a German convoy over Caen. He baled out but landed next to a Gestapo headquarters and was again taken prisoner.

The Gestapo also found Squadron Leader Milton extremely difficult to keep behind bars. He pulled off his last escape from a moving train while being transferred to a prison camp south of Paris. He and some fellow prisoners hid in the woods for several weeks until the Americans arrived on 6th August, 1944.

Milton rejoined his squadron on French soil, immediately endearing himself to his friends by fitting an auxiliary tank to a Mustang fighter, flying across the Channel, taxiing to a brewery, filling the tank with beer and flying back to his thirsty mates in France. His MC was awarded for his work with the French Resistance behind enemy lines. He died at his home on May 25, leaving wife Rosemary, son Peter and daughters Carol and Valerie."

John Kinross (M 47-52) writes from Cornwall after reading the last edition of *Aldenhamiana*: "You missed out one important item of Lord Vincent's career. He formed and ran the School Fire Brigade and I well remember one Sunday going to chapel to find the hut next to it smoking. I still have a page of burnt hymn book as a souvenir.

"The only OA I have met recently and unexpectedly was **C.S. Thom (B 46-49)** whom I had last met (unsuccessfully) in the boxing ring. I was taken into the interrogation room at Exeter Airport when the machine clanged as I had a silver paper knife in my top pocket. The interrogator remembered me well and we had a long chat. I had no more trouble with the knife, a present from Guernsey.

"Perhaps the OA Dinner should be arranged on some other date than the England v Scotland football match. Some of us had problems getting home and it certainly paid off to be a Scot that night.

F. John Fox (B 54-59) sent this note: "I thought a brief summary of my life since leaving Aldenham in 1959 would be appropriate. Unlike smart young men leaving school after 'A' Levels nowadays I had no particular calling to enter a

profession or even any desire to do anything at all! Fortunately **Derek Bayley**, a friend at Beevor's, suggested that I should consider a career at Lloyds of London. I was not alone in thinking Lloyds was only a bank, and thought this sounded a little dull.

"On hearing that Derek's father (G.V. Bayley) was an eminent Underwriter, and could introduce me to an OA, **Charles Morris Hutchin (M 36-39)**, who worked as a broker in the Marine Market, I decided to take Derek's advice and went for an interview. Derek had previously explained that at Lloyds an Underwriter sat down at Boxes all day, and a broker walked around all day. Without needing any further technical information I realised that walking around was definitely preferable.

"The interview apparently went well and I started my broking career at a small but well respected broking house called Pitman & Deane. I continued in Lloyds, experiencing many high points and a few low ones with several brokers until October 1996, when I took early retirement. My son and his family moved in 1998 to a lovely old cottage near Stowmarket, and my wife Valerie and I followed them up to Suffolk in May 1999, where we now live in a lovely 400 year old converted barn. We keep very busy (can't think how!) trying to take short break holidays as much as possible (finances permitting).

"Since leaving school I remained closely in touch with **Simon Russel-Ross (B 55-58)** (who went on to become a leading Underwriter in the Marine market). We have also seen **Rufus Plummer (B 54-58)** (years ago) who also lived in Suffolk. We haven't had a Christmas card from him for a couple of years and I wonder if you have a change of address for him? I enjoy hearing the school news via *Aldenhamiana*, and wish you well for the future."

Raymond May (M 37-39) writes to tell us he is "producing a 'spiritual website' concerning myself and my conversion experience to the Catholic way of Christianity. It is so good now to know that the C of E and Catholicism are now a mutual learning state of affairs after so long away from each other in their understanding of each other. I hope to pass this information when it goes online - aimed for Eastertide. Perhaps it will enlighten some. At least I trust it will not cause offence. I am told the truth never does.

"The School credo - 'In God is all our Trust' - has been like a shining beacon in my life and I owe a great deal to Richard Platt and others for this truism."

Michael Hinit (S 52-56) wrote to the Headmaster enclosing two booklets of photographs. "...I came across these in a drawer in my house and wondered whether they would be of interest to you and the School. Pictured from left (nearer the fireplace) - Jack Waddell, the House Tutor of School House (Odds). Left (nearer camera) Mr Griggs, the Senior Physics Master. He was a lieutenant in the R.N.V.R. and was i/c the R.N. Section in the C.C.F. Right (nearer fireplace) Mr Kirkwood. He was the Housemaster of Beevor's House and the Senior Maths Master. He was an ex-army Major I think in the Royal Artillery and was at one time i/c the C.C.F. but not at the time when I was at the School. At that time the o/c was Major

Crawshaw, who if I remember correctly was a Classics master. Right (nearer camera) Mr Pollard, the Housemaster of Paul's House and the Senior Biology Master.

"The other pictures in the book are interesting. With the exception of School House, all the Houses have been renamed. One of the pictures shows the quad with the Bursar's office on the left, and my study window is quite clearly shown. I shared this small room in about 1955 with Michael Rowe, who according to the School Register is now Chairman of a Bank somewhere in North America (or is it Canada?). Unfortunately I am not Chairman of any Bank either in America or anywhere else! I have a much more extensive source of income - the D.H.S.S.

"The Bursar at the time was Commander Pring R.N. (ret'd). I believe this gentleman had been in the, then, Supply and Secretarial Branch of the Royal Navy.

"The Tuck Shop is also shown in one of the pictures. I very much liked this establishment and patronised it regularly, too regularly according to my House Tutor D.M. Parson SH (Evens) who always called me, aged (approx) 14-15 years, 'Mr' Hinit and said I had more spending money than him! On reflection I think I probably had but did not see this as such at the time. I still like food or at least good food, but I was thin at school and I still am.

"The Old Chapel is also shown - at the time I attended the School this set up was in use as the gymnasium under Sergeant-Major Buckingham. I never really liked P; I was not much good at it and it used to be very cold in there in the winter. However, Sarge did a good job. On reflection I wonder whether he liked PT any more than I did. He had to shout his head off at the boys to get them to co-operate. I expect he would rather have been having a pint in the Battleaxes - SO WOULD I!

"In another picture the Library is shown. In the 1950s it was more than nice in there, it was always warm, comfortable and well lit. We were supposed to study in there; some of the boys did and I did for part of the time. I used to read the railway timetables; there was always a *British Railways Timetable* and a *Bradshaw* and an *A.B.C. Railway Guide*. I always liked the old G.W.R. West of England main line and used to read about this for hours. I was then, and still am, a railway enthusiast and, most unfortunately, do not think the School really approved of this.

"I think the School Chapel is shown in one of the pictures. I am sorry to say I never really liked it. I was for a short time in the Choir, then under Dr Hook, but discontinued this. However, I still very much like music, probably due to Dr Hook. I like almost any music from Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* to the *New World* etc etc. I could go on for hours about classical music but also very much like 1960s Pop Music. I like playing juke boxes in pubs. At one time in my life I thought I was very nearly going to end up as 'Chief Juke Box Attendant' in Rotterdam Harbour. That would, I suppose, have been better than ending up with *rigor mortis* in the Harbour.

"I hope the booklets are of interest to you and the School. Best wishes to all at the School. I expect the boys and girls do not know what is in store for them in the future. It can be a hell of

a life but I hope that the optimism and confidence of youth will conquer all."

David Thurston (K 82-85) e-mailed us back in March: "Having received yet another edition of *Aldenhamiana* via my parents' old address I thought that it was about time that I wrote with my current address and a brief update of my life so far.

"On unsuccessfully completing my 'A' Levels I worked for eight years in insurance in the City. This proved to be a lucrative career. My main hobby was flying aeroplanes as a private pilot. In 1996 I resigned from Skandia Life in order to train as a Commercial Pilot. For the last two years I have been enjoying a very satisfying career with Monarch Airlines as a First Officer on the Airbus A320."

Richard Jones (CR 62-94) wrote from Cambridge: "I was not sure whether it was known that **Dr D.G. (Tim) Wilson** had died. He was the School doctor in the sixties and seventies. I imagine that you must have had some awareness of him - he was not always gentle but actually a good man... There was a memorial service for him in Christ 's College here, where he had been a Scholar. I went to represent the OAs and School, claiming this role when I spoke to Judith, his widow."

John V Gomersall (S 42-44) sent this write-up following the Editor's request for more news and views in the last edition of *Aldenhamiana*: "After spending 21 years at *The Bottle & Glass* pub I retired in 1985 and have spent my time being a Small Business Consultant, which I still do. The booklet I wrote covers all the questions and answers that are never quoted in books and lectures on this subject. For instance, what comes out of net profit, the financial control of the business, the essential collecting of VAT to a separate account other than the business account etc. All this refers to sole traders.

"I have now got into computers and write simple, easy instructions to answer problems that no books or manuals or people who lecture on this subject ever seem to tell you about, e.g.:-

1. How to delete a file, folder or software programme on the C drive.
2. How to create a folder.
3. If one sets the top margin of a letter say 3 inches down from the top, so that headed address is cleared the other pages of the letter will be the same distance from the top, but one requires this to be only 0.5 inches from the top. How is this done?

"People who write instructions for computers should be those who actually work with these programmes.

"Incidentally, my twin brother, **P W Gomersall (S 42-44)** is still living in Mullion, Cornwall and enjoying every minute of it."

M.G. Taylor CBE (S 56-61) wrote of himself: "I retired from the Army in the Spring of 1998 as a Brigadier in Royal Signals, after some 37 years serving mostly in the UK and Germany. My final post as Chief of Staff of the Army's support organisation in Germany was an immensely rewarding four years, with a diverse span of challenging administrative, budgetary and command responsibilities.

"I am now well into a 'second career', running my own part-time consultancy business as a limited company and still being able to find the time for other interests. I joined the Dorset Policy Authority as an Independent Member last year, am a Regional Chairman of the NHS Complaints Review Panel and have recently been appointed as a Member of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal in London. It's all extremely interesting work and a rewarding way of using at least some of the skills and expertise of my previous career. My daughter, **Juliet (P 91-92)** and son, **Robin (P 91-95)** are both happily employed, the former at Victim Support's national headquarters in London and the latter with the Inland Revenue. All three of us bump into other OAs occasionally and are always delighted to hear from any of our contemporaries."

FREEMASONRY

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

Master: **Gary Taylor (CR 94-)**

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 Eggeden
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

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Hertfordshire WD3 6EU

Hon. Secretary: Richard Hall
126 Tattenham Grove
Epsom Downs
EPSOM
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01737 351639 (home)
0374 493389 (mobile)

STOP PRESS

The Hon. Secretary of the OA Society, Richard Hall, has written to bring to members' attention the following:-

“I would like to include on the web site and in *Aldenhamiana* another possible area of interest, the **OA Squash Club**. I have been made aware through AROPS (The Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies) that there is the **Londonderry Cup**, a squash cup competition which is open to all Old Boys' Societies and which has been played for since 1934.

“A team of **five** is required to enter, with the Final being played in the London area in April 2001. I do think it is another aspect of the OA Society's role to be attempting to resurrect the Squash Club, even if it is only just for this once-a-year competition.

“Similarly it would be worthwhile trying to regenerate the **OA Hockey Club**. Through the web site and *Aldenhamiana* we must find out whether there are any OAs who would like to galvanize this Club into action. It was exceptionally well supported throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and into the early 1990s. It was regularly included in the Easter Hockey Festival at Worthing and with the School having such a strong tradition in this sport I believe every effort should be made to have hockey once again represented among the Society's sports clubs.

“Please contact me if you are interested.”

Richard Hall's e-mail address is: rhall@vinexports.co.uk

01737 351630 (home)

0374 493389 (mobile)

OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2000

The President of the Society,
Field Marshal The Lord Vincent of Coleshill
invites members to attend
the Annual Dinner

This year the Dinner will be held at the School on

Friday 17th November, 2000

Drinks in the Library at 7.30 pm
Dinner in the School Dining Hall at 8.00 pm

Members are very welcome to bring partners

Dress: Black Tie
Tickets will cost £25.00 each, to include wine with the meal

Please use the tear-off slip below and return it by 10th November 2000

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

Name & telephone number:

Address:

.....

House & dates at Aldenham:

I require ticket(s) for the O.A. Society Annual Dinner
(Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements)

Cheques to be made payable to the Old Aldenhamian Society

O.A. SOCIETY LIFE SUBSCRIPTION DEBATE

The OA Society Committee has been debating the issue of the subscriptions that were paid by your parents for a Life Subscription to the Society. There has been increasing pressure on the resources of the Society and we also want to improve the services that we provide. There are several issues that have brought this matter to a head:

- * The O.A.Society is one of the few remaining Schools which have 'Life' membership literally for life
- * There are fewer younger members attending important events.
- * The new electronic age is opening new avenues to approach members
- * Increasing costs are not being covered by the current subscription (£126.00 for Life from 2000)
- * The Committee wishes to become more proactive in dealing with members' issues
- * The Society needs to be more informative and provide a better service to members
- * The Society must support various sporting clubs and other affiliated societies/clubs
- * The centenary of the Society in 2002 will require careful planning in order to produce suitable and significant celebrations of its anniversary

To raise more subscription revenue we basically have three options to consider: firstly to increase life subscriptions payable on leaving the School; secondly to restrict the period of life subscription to perhaps 20 years; or thirdly to adopt both proposals. The Society believe that it is important to point out that the current Life subscription equates to an annual fee of just £2.00 per annum - this does not even cover the printing and distribution costs of the magazines you currently receive. It was also felt that members would take more interest in the Society if they are responsible for paying their own annual fees.

The Society would appreciate your views about these issues and featured below is a series of questions to help form some ideas that need to be considered before the end of the year. Once these views have been taken into account the Society would like to adopt the proposals at the AGM at the City University Club on March 21st 2001. You will also find this debate on the new OA web site (www.aldaldenhamian.org) where you can also provide your answers to the questions posed. It is also an opportunity for you to give us some ideas of what you believe the Society should be providing for its members in this next millennium.

The Society is very aware that it must provide a better service to its members and that providing better inter-communication with old boys is a very important issue. The Society hopes to build a better database which would allow members to be aware of old boys who have similar needs. For instance, an old boy who lives in Australia visited the School and now has the addresses of the other 53 OAs who live in Australia. We could easily do the same regionally in the UK. The Society and the database could help revive the OA Hockey Club by giving support to a small group of OAs who would like to canvass the views of known past hockey players. Perhaps you want to know which OAs operate in the same sphere on business as yourself. Some younger members might want to ask other OAs about career opportunities. These are just some of the myriad ways the Society can help members, but it **will** require extra resources to ensure that we can provide the benefits. Could you please circle the preferred answer to the following questions and then forward these to the Hon. Secretary at the address given below.

John Rimer & Richard Hall

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1. Do you support the proposal of limiting the Life Subscription of the O.A.Society?
YES NO
 2. Currently does the Society provide value for money?
YES NO
 3. At what age should O.A.Members be asked for a further annual subscription?
38 45 50
 4. If you are already over the age of 38 would you agree to pay an annual Subscription?
YES NO
 5. What amount would you agree to pay (via Direct Debit) on an annual basis?
£7pa £10pa £15pa
 6. Please tick those issues in which you are more interested
 SPORT (please indicate which sports).....
 CAREER INTERESTS.....
 REGIONAL/COUNTRY CONNECTION.....
 SOCIAL INTERESTS (please specify).....
 7. Please provide any other issues you would like the society to offer the membership

NAMEHOUSEYEAR

Please reply to: The Hon. Secretary, The OA Society, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts. WD6 3AJ
or use the website: www.aldaldenhamian.org or Fax: 01923 4410

Diary dates 2000 - 2001

- 1. OA Golf Society, 75th Anniversary Dinner, 30th November 2000, at Boodles please contact Ian Eggeden for details.**
- 2. OA Society Committee Meeting, Wednesday 17th January 2001, in the Whitbread Room at the School, commencing at 6.30 pm.**
- 3. OA Society Committee Meeting, followed by the A.G.M. of the OA Society, 6.00 pm & 7.00 pm respectively on Wednesday 21st March 2001, at the City University Club, 50 Cornhill, London.**
- 4. OA Golf Society, Halford Hewitt Tournament, Deal, 5th - 8th April 2001.**