



Aldenhamiana

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As this letter will be my last written in the Centenary Year of the OA Society, it is interesting to reflect on the various events arranged so far to mark this special anniversary which, by chance, has coincided with Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

OA Day on 19th May, in addition to the wider attendance, focussed on OAs from the 1920's and 30's and, at the opening Chapel Service, included two moving tributes to Donald Parren from former members of his House, John Handcock and Richard Bolt. Additionally this year, there was a special lunch for lady OAs. Both these events were well attended and DMP would, I am sure, have enjoyed the strength and quality of the singing in the Chapel.

Earlier in the year our Centenary AGM, kindly sponsored for us in the Tallow Chandlers' Hall by Peter Purton, approved formally the new Rules of the OA Society, including the revised subscription arrangements which start to come into effect this year. These revised Rules, which were published in the last edition of *Aldenhamiana*, take account of the launching of Phase II of the OA Website, details of which are included in this edition. We owe several members of your Committee our thanks for all the work they have undertaken to achieve these important changes, and I would encourage all OAs to take note of them now and to respond appropriately.

Not least in our Centenary Year, we enjoyed a very special and highly successful Celebration Ball at the School, thanks to the initiative and hard work of the Aldenham School Parents Association. The Ball was heavily over-subscribed and provided, on a glorious summer evening, the opportunity for OAs of many generations to meet again in the familiar surroundings of the School.



Pictured at the Celebration Ball, L to R **John Rimer (P56-60)**, **Tony Hunt (B49-54)** and **Jeremy Hawkins (B49-52)**

For the future, we have our OA Dinner which is to be held in the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on Friday, 15th November at 7.00 p.m. Again, OAs will find details of this event elsewhere in this edition of *Aldenhamiana* to which I hope many of you will respond, with your guests, as the concluding event of our Centenary Year and at which Sir Denys Roberts OA, has kindly agreed to be our Principal Guest.

It remains for me to thank all those who have organised and supported our events this year and given such valuable time and effort in your Committee, as we have prepared to introduce some important changes for the future. One thing that has not changed is that the OA Society is run for the benefit and enjoyment of its members. I hope, therefore, that we will continue to attract the interest and support of even more of you in the year ahead and that some of you may consider serving the Society on its Committee.

Dick Vincent

EDITOR'S NOTES

Once again, thanks to our enthusiastic readership, we have a full postbag and the opportunity to put together a varied and, we think, entertaining edition of *Aldenhamiana*. The 'housekeeping' first. You will find in this edition a flyer for the OA Dinner, to be held on 15th November at the RAF Club. It will undoubtedly be a splendid occasion - all Naval men such as I have long recognised that the light blue catering is top notch, which is presumably why they never deploy long enough to miss a meal! (outraged responses - Squadron Leaders and above - will be published!) Again, an ideal opportunity for you to assemble a table and enjoy excellent company in splendid surroundings.

Secondly, my standard plea to let us have your email address if you have one - and why not send us a brief summary of your news at the same time?

Attentive readers of recent editions will have noted the developments regarding subscriptions - a reminder now that the voluntary subscription routine will come into effect in September next year. More details in the next (February 2003) edition of *Aldenhamiana*. If OAs wish to remind themselves before then of the new Membership Rules (which were adopted at this year's AGM), they appeared in draft form in the last (February 2002) edition, they are also on the website, or if any OA wishes to receive a copy by post, then drop a line to the OA Office at the School.

This edition is peppered with some excellent photographs and I thank all those who have raided photo albums, shoe boxes, lofts etc to find images of Aldenham life. Indeed, thanks to all who have written or emailed. As always, the diversity of careers, hobbies and interests of OAs is remarkable. For those who have not recently written - be inspired! We would love to hear from you.

Finally, those OAs who switched on Breakfast TV on Friday 5th July specifically to catch the final stages of the Eros to Eros Run 'as it happened' will have realised that the BBC let us down, but I can now tell you that the OA entrants did the Society proud. A report and photograph appears within.

I hope you enjoy this *Aldenhamiana*.

Trevor Barton

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

Once again this year we have started with very pleasing examination results to report and with record numbers in the School. Our A level examination results maintained the very good performance of last year with over 40% A and B grades and over 60% A to C grades. At GCSE we had our best ever year in terms of results, with some 23% A and A* grades achieved. All of this represents excellent "Value Added". As I write at the start of the Christmas Term we have 456 pupils in the School, not counting our (growing) numbers in the Nursery and Pre-Prep Department.

It was a great pleasure to be able to meet so many OAs at the excellent Celebration Ball at the School in June, and Karin and I thank you very much for your support. We are looking forward to joining you again at the annual OA Dinner at the RAF Club in November. I hope then to be able to keep you up to date with our exciting plans for future developments at Aldenham, which include the opening of a Prep Department, the building of a new classroom block and Common Room facilities and also a new 6th Form Centre. All of this is the first part of an overarching ten-year strategy, which is currently with the local Planning Authorities,

and so we are still at the drawing board stage. However it is a very encouraging sign that we are able to contemplate such plans taking us confidently into the future and securing a new phase in Aldenham's distinguished history.

It seems fitting that the OA Centenary year should be one in which such plans are being prepared. It was good also to be together at OA Day on 19th May and to share with so many of you the Chapel Service and memorial tribute to Donald Parren. As ever in the fabric of a School's life, past, present and future are closely intertwined.

Finally you will find enclosed with this edition of *Aldenhamiana* a copy of *Aldenham Today*, which is a termly newsletter produced by the School. I am very aware that many OAs are keen to remain in touch with what is happening at their School now and I thought this would help to close some gaps. *Aldenham Today* is not intended to replace *Aldenhamiana* but rather to supplement it and keep you in touch with current 'goings on' at Aldenham.

Richard Harman

REPORT FROM THE OA WEBSITE

WWW.OLDALDENHAMIAN.ORG

I am pleased to report that we have taken delivery of the software for Phase II of the OA Web site (Scholastica), and that over the coming months we will be rolling out access to this new area of the web site to all members of the Society. (The current status of the roll out is displayed as a link off the home page of the main web site.)

Phase II is secured via a user name, pin and password and contains personal details which can be updated on-line. Members can choose how much or little information about themselves they want to share with other members (the default is just name, House and dates at the school) and can upload their own personal web page for others to view if they choose. Searches are available to enable OAs to contact lost friends, contemporaries or OAs living in the same part of the world as they are. In addition there are discussion forums, notice boards and the site will eventually include on-line credit card booking forms for events.

Distribution of user names and passwords (and instructions for use) will take place initially for all those OAs who have registered an e-mail address with the Society, and then with the next issue of *Aldenhamiana* (February 2003) for those for whom we do not have an email address. So, if you haven't yet registered your e-mail address, please go to the site and register. We only use e-mail to distribute the magazine and never pass the address to anyone else. The Society's main expenditure is printing and postage of the magazines and every e-mail address which is registered saves the Society valuable cash - especially for those OAs living overseas.

The main site continues to be updated and recently has a new section "Platt Revisited" which contains memories and memoirs of

those OAs who attended the School in the 1920's and 1930's. Also, you will find fixtures and results of the OA Sports Clubs and lists of forthcoming events.

Mark Jordan

We are always looking for new content for the site, especially photographs and other information - if you would like to contribute please e-mail oas@aldenham.com, or write to the OA office at the School.

OA SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

Summary notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Aldenhamian Society held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 9th April 2002, Tallow Chandlers' Hall, London. Field Marshal the Lord Vincent of Coleshill was in the chair and 22 members attended.

1. Matters arising

The President formally signed the minutes of the 2001 AGM, which were thus adopted by the meeting as a true record of the matters discussed last year. Lord Vincent requested that the Meeting observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Queen Mother.

2. Election of Officers

Tim McAllister and Jonathan Fiber retire from the Committee and thanks and best wishes go to them. All other committee members agreed to remain in their posts and the motion was agreed and seconded. John Rimer (Hon Treasurer) and Richard Hall (Hon Secretary) both noted their intention to stand down from their roles and welcomed applicants. Richard Hall noted that Paul Clemow would succeed him if possible in the Spring of 2003.

3. President's Report

The President welcomed all OAs attending the Centenary Year AGM which was now taking place exactly on the 100th anniversary of the Society's foundation. He was grateful for the special effort they had made to attend and, on behalf of all those present, he thanked Peter Purton for arranging the use of Tallow Chandlers' Hall for this special AGM and the Reception that was to follow it.

The President reminded the meeting that several important Agenda items, if approved, would carry forward formally some of the more important recommendations resulting from the Working Party established by his predecessor, Bishop Colin James, and chaired by Richard Hall. These matters included important changes to the Rules of the Society regarding the definition of Life Membership and the associated Subscription Charges, together with the transitional arrangements that would be needed for their implementation. Also to be considered was progress on the recently established OA Website and proposals for its further development. Not least, the meeting would receive an update on the various functions being planned to mark the Centenary of the

Society which he hoped would be well supported by its members.

Finally, the President was pleased to report that **Brigadier M Taylor CBE (S56-61)** had most helpfully agreed to take over the Presidency of the Society in due course when his own business and other commitments had reduced. The date for this change would be announced in due course.

4. Headmaster's Report

Numbers in the School

We started the year with 441 which is the highest on record from 11-18. Recruitment for next year is strong at 11+ and 13+ and we expect to be full once again at both of those entry points next year. In addition the Nursery and the Pre-prep continue to grow healthily, celebrating 10th and 2nd birthdays respectively this year.

Academic Achievements

Best ever A level results with 62% A to C grades and 45% A and B grades. Aldenham is not a school obsessed with League Tables and will always be an all-round school rather than merely an academic hothouse. Nevertheless it is pleasing to go up some one and half divisions in the Daily Telegraph A level table, even if I cannot promise you such record results every year, given that we have a broad intake as has always been the case. It is in Value Added that we set our store and here again we have had a very good year in so many areas.

Sport

We continue to maintain a strong fixture list against many much bigger schools and so at 1st XI levels results have been mixed although performances have been full of spirit. Some very encouraging results from the younger teams with U13, U14 and U15 football and hockey sides doing especially well. One of the hallmarks of the school is the breadth of activities we do and so it is good to see such sports as sailing, judo, basnetball and chess flourishing and fives retains its popularity.

Music and Drama

Music is very strong with the new Music School a wonderful asset. The Chapel Choir flourishes and both in choral and orchestral music there have been some fine performances, most recently in an outstanding Spring Concert at the Alban Arena. Two of our Sixth Formers are junior exhibitioners at the Royal Academy. This year's school theatre production was Grease, a huge success performed to a very high standard. This was the first musical for many years and the plan is now to perform one every other year, alternating with a straight play.

Development Office

OAs will be interested to note the establishment of a Development Office under the leadership of John McAllister and I hope this will be an important vehicle in the future by which you will be kept regularly in touch with the School as it is today as part of the whole Aldenham family. Several events are already planned and no doubt you will be hearing more about these in the near future.

Other

Other forthcoming events and plans to note include the Celebration Ball at the School on June 29th, which I hope many of you will attend - tickets are going fast! I hope by then I may have some detailed news of future building plans to include improvements to 6th Form facilities, bridging the 7 to 11 gap, new classrooms and new CR facilities for the staff. All is dependent on the planners and of course on good financial planning in what we hope will be a stable economy, but I do think that the next few years will see some very exciting developments as the School continues on its upward path.

5. Secretary's Report

Richard Hall briefed the meeting with a document from Mark Jordan about the new developments to the Website. He also went through the events of the Centenary, reported on the AROPS AGM, the OA Day events, which would include a memorial service for Donald Parren, and the exciting Summer Ball.

6. Treasurer's Report

John Rimer reported that the Society was currently exceeding expenditure due to the substantial costs of the Website, but it is hoped that the savings from reducing 'hard' publications and postage would improve the situation. Full details of the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure account were made available. The accounts were proposed for adoption by John Woodrow and seconded by Adrian Sturgeon.

7. The Aldenham School War Memorial Education Fund

John Woodrow reported that there are currently 3 pupils at the School whose parents are OAs receiving support, and 6 other grants are being provided.

8. OA Society Annual Dinner 2002

Sir Denys Roberts (ex President of the MCC) will be the guest speaker at the RAF Club 15th November in recognition of the winning Brewers Cup cricket side in 2001. We are hoping for a good turn out of cricketing OAs.

9. Election of Honorary OAs

To recognise their contribution to the School, 26 members of staff had been invited to become Honorary Members of the Society. Thirteen had accepted this invitation and the meeting was therefore pleased to confirm their membership.

10. Any other business

The date for the next AGM was set for Tuesday 11th March 2003 with then further thanks to Peter Purton for arranging the reception and Molly Barton for her hard work behind the scenes on behalf of the Society.

Richard Hall
Hon Secretary

OA DAY 2002

Highlights of a successful OA Day (see President's Letter) were the Chapel Service and special lunches for OAs from the 20s and 30s and for Lady OAs. Here are some photographs.



Apologies to the gentlemen OAs whose names were not recorded at the time the photos were taken.



L to R Owen Williams (M83-88), wife of Owen Williams, Karen Barker (K85-87) and Anna Keach (K88-90)



PLATT REVISTED

This year OAs who attended the School in the 1920s and 1930s were invited to help the GCSE History students at the School by recording their memories of life at Aldenham in the inter-war years.

There was a marvellous response and 60 OAs sent in their reminiscences which have been compiled into a booklet called 'Platt Revisited'.

If you would like a free copy of this booklet please write to, phone or email the OA office at the School.

Tel: 01923 858122, email: oas@aldenham.com

CLUB REPORTS

OA Golfing Society

Halford Hewitt 2002

11 April - 1st Round v Blundells at Royal St George's, Sandwich

Result: lost 1-4

Team: SGO Williams & J Bloomfield	Won 3 & 1
RA Alter & D Rawlinson	Lost 2 & 1
RJ Coombes & J Wells	Lost 2 & 1
SP Radin & DJ McMonagle	Lost 2 holes
G Green & PJ Easby	Lost 2 holes

A good match, closer than the score suggests. Williams and Bloomfield won again, Alter and Rawlinson - like Radin and McMonagle - never quite got on level terms whilst Coombes and Wells staged a great fight back from 5 down. Easby and Green found parts of bunkers other golfers cannot reach and were unlucky to lose despite Easby's hernia-inducing efforts.

Halford Hewitt Plate

We reached the Quarter Final of the Plate with Bloomfield and Radin winning all 3 matches.

12 April v St Pauls at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Won 2 fi - fi

Team: J Bloomfield & SP Radin	Won 6 & 5
RA Alter & R Steel	Won 2 & 1
G Green & PJ Easby	Halved

12 April v Winchester at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Won 2 fi - fi

Team: J Bloomfield & SP Radin	Won 5 & 4
RA Alter & DJ McMonagle	Won 2 & 1
G Green & R Steel	Halved

13 April v Lancing at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Lost 1-2

Team: J Bloomfield & SP Radin	Lost 6 & 4
RA Alter & DJ McMonagle	Lost 6 & 4
G Green & PJ Easby	Lost 4 & 3

It was a great team effort but thanks also to all those who travelled to support them

Other Results in 2002

Spring Meeting

The winners at West Hill on 23 April were:

Spring Challenge	W H Gamble (Net 70)
Cup Scratch Prize	C R Brown (84)
Stableford Prize	N R Prevost (35 pts)
President's Cup	ND Melvill & PK Rotheroe (37 pts)

Summer Meeting

The winners at Ashridge on 24 July were:

Ian Greig Trophy	D S Oram (Net 69)
Scratch Prize	K Whittaker (83)
Stableford Prize	R C Chaventre (39 pts)
Laurence Latter Trophy	ST Adams & MW Blake (41 pts)

Autumn Meeting

The last meeting takes place at Beaconsfield on September 13. The results will be in the next issue, or take a look at the OA website and the Sports Clubs section.

We are always keen to welcome new members - golfing ability, age and beauty are not assessed! If you are interested, contact the Hon Secretary; **details at the back.**

OA CRICKET CLUB

Unfortunately the OA Cricket Club was unable to enter a side in the Brewers' Cup Competition this year.

OA FOOTBALL CLUB

If anyone is interested in playing for the OAs then please contact Paul Clemow or Martyn Berg (details on the back page). You are always welcome to join us at our regular training sessions on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 pm on the Artificial Turf Pitch. Fixtures are played on Saturday afternoons.

HISTORY OF THE ARTHUR DUNN CUP COMPETITION

The competition will be one hundred years old next season. David Roy, Honorary Secretary, has contacted us to say that a book is being written to commemorate this, which he hopes will be published in July 2003. We hope to give more details in the next edition of *Aldenhamiana*.

M.R.E. Kerr	(B36-39)	14 April 2002
H.D. Law	(M44-47)	1 September 2002
A.P. Masterton-Smith	(S47-51)	7 February 2002*
L.B. Mellor	(B32-35)	11 June 2002
A.J. Pearce	(P46-51)	24 May 2002
O.J. Pritchard	(B36-39)	18 March 2002
M.J.F. Shaw	(M34-39)	20 June 2002
J.S. Varcoe	(B51-56)	8 March 2002
L.W. Whittome	(S32-34)	19 April 2002
G. Wilson	(M59-63)	5 February 2002
N. Yarnell-Davies	(P48-50)	28 June 2001

* = Correction

A P Masterton-Smith was previously recorded in the Deaths list in *Aldenhamiana* No.21 of October 2000. This was an unfortunate error and any distress caused is regretted.

HONOURS & APPOINTMENTS

The Society congratulates the following OAs:

Peter Purton (B46-51) was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers on 2nd July for the year ensuing.

E P G Sherrard (S65-69) was been elected Middle Warden of the Girdlers' Company.

John Walton (B41-42) has been elected Honorary Treasurer of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

John Corp (S56-61) has been elected Renter Warden of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers.

Christopher Mitchell (M44-48), Chairman, Community Services Committee, has been appointed OBE for services to the Corporation of London.

MARRIAGES

Belated announcement: The marriage took place on Saturday August 4th 2001 between **Dr Nick Davey (S71-76)** and Dr Cicely Corke, daughter of Mrs Shirley Corke and the late Mr Hilary Corke, at St James's Church, Abinger, Surrey.

(You can find a letter from Nick later in the magazine)

DEATHS

R.C. Andrews	(M24-28)	4 July 2002
T.F.B. Barrington	(M29-33)	21 March 2002
R.A Covington	(B45-48)	17 March 2002
G.T. Crawshaw	(CR 47-74)	9 August 2002
W.M. Denham	(S23-23)	24 July 2002
D.N. Ewer	(S39-44)	12 March 2002
J.V. Franklin	(B40-41)	25 May 2002
C.W.E Hasse	(S19-22)	14 April 2002
W.R. Ide	(P26-29)	21 August 2002
J.R. Johnson	(B24-29)	1996

OBITUARIES

Sir Michael Kerr (B36-39) who died on 14th April 2002 was an OA, a member of the Common Room and a School Governor. The following obituary was taken from the *Daily Telegraph* 23 April 2002: "SIR MICHAEL KERR, who has died aged 81, served as a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1981 to 1989, having earlier become - as he was always led to believe - England's first foreign-born judge since the reign of Henry II.

"Kerr had spent the first 12 years of his life in Germany, where he grew up in a notably cultured milieu; but those ignorant of his background would not have guessed for one moment that English was not his first language.

"As one of the pre-eminent commercial barristers of his day, he appeared in virtually all the leading cases in his field. His advocacy was dignified and untheatrical, always elegantly phrased and highly persuasive, especially in the appellate courts, where he commanded the highest respect. On the bench, he presided over a stream of cases that became leading authorities in commercial law.

"Michael Robert Emanuel Kerr was born on March 1 1921 in Berlin into a family of Jewish descent. Michael's mother, a practising Christian, was a brilliant mathematician and pianist who also wrote two operas. Her father, Robert Weisman, was a former Secretary of State for Prussia in the Weimar Republic; his

traditionalist views clashed markedly with those of Michael's father, Alfred Kerr, the well-known socialist author and theatre critic for Berliner Tageblatt and Frankfurter Zeitung.

"A former pupil of the writer Theodor Fontane, Alfred Kerr had, before Michael was born, interviewed Emile Zola, spoken at Ibsen's funeral, written a libretto for a song cycle with Richard Strauss and become close friends with Albert Einstein, H G Wells and George Bernard Shaw. While Michael was growing up, the

Kerr house was regularly visited by the leading lawyers, writers and statesmen of the day.

"Alfred Kerr's books were later among those burned on the orders of the Fuhrer, but the family had by then long since fled Germany, fearing Nazi persecution. In February 1933, they travelled to Nice, and thence to Zurich and Paris. Michael's sister Judith, who later became a popular children's author and illustrator, gave a vivid account of their experiences in her book *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* (1971).



"After two years in Paris, the Kerrs arrived in England in March 1936. To begin with they lived off the proceeds of a film script which Alfred Kerr had written about Letizia, Napoleon's mother, which Alexander Korda bought for £1,000. This also paid the fees for Michael's first term at Aldenham School, before he won the first of a succession of scholarships.

"On leaving school, Kerr went up to Clare College, Cambridge, to read Law. In 1939, shortly after he had finished his first year, he was arrested by Special Branch as an "enemy alien" and interned in a camp on the Isle of Wight. Released in 1940, he enlisted in the RAF as an aircrew cadet pilot, flying Tiger Moths and eventually becoming an instructor at Scone in Perthshire. From 1944 he served with Coastal Command, as a flying officer with 612 Squadron, flying Wellingtons in operations against U-boats in the North Sea. Demobilised in 1945 in the rank of flight lieutenant, Kerr returned to Cambridge to finish his Law degree. He was naturalised as a British citizen in 1946 and the next year graduated with a First.

"He then read for the Bar. Called by Lincoln's Inn in 1948, he entered the chambers of Alan Mocatta at Essex Court in the Temple, and became pupil to John Megaw, the former rugby international and future Lord Justice of Appeal; Megaw announced two conditions of the pupillage: that Kerr should never call him "Sir" and never mention the possibility of paying a fee. Insofar as anyone made good progress at the Bar just after the war years, Kerr did. By the 1950s he was established as one of the leading junior barristers in the commercial field in the leading commercial set in London. He specialised in shipping and insurance cases - he was

considered the expert in "dry" (ie contractual) shipping cases - which he relished for their intellectual challenge. He was brilliant at distilling complex facts to their essentials.

"When Kerr applied for Silk in 1961, so too did John Donaldson (the future Master of the Rolls) from the same set. The Lord Chancellor indicated that both would be accepted, but only if the chambers split. So Michael Kerr QC became head of a new set at 4 Essex Court, while Donaldson remained at the old address next door. Both sets continued to prosper.

"Eleven years later, after gaining judicial experience as deputy chairman of Hampshire Quarter Sessions, Kerr was appointed to the High Court bench, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division; he was also appointed a judge of the Commercial and Admiralty Courts. He later served as chairman of the Law Commission of England and Wales from 1978 until his promotion to the Court of Appeal in 1981.

"Kerr also devoted much time to the London Court of International Arbitration, of which he was president from 1985 until 1994, helping to turn it into the force it is today. He was president of the British-German Jurists Association (1986-91); chairman of the Appeal Committee of the Takeover Panel (1982-86); and president of the Euro-Arab Association for International Arbitration (1997-2002). His publications included *McNair's Law of the Air* (1953 and 1965), an autobiography *As Far as I Remember*, shortly to be published by Richard Hart, and *The Macao Sardine Case* (1989), a fictional forensic fable written for the International Bar Association but whose citation as a footnote in a number of learned journals bestowed on it, as Kerr was amused to note, 'a measure of undeserved authenticity'. Kerr was knighted in 1972 and sworn of the Privy Council in 1981.

"He married first, in 1952 (dissolved 1982), Julia Braddock, an actress who played Jenny Owen in the radio soap *Mrs Dale's Diary*; they had two sons, one of whom, Timothy, recently took Silk, and a daughter. He married secondly, in 1983, Diana Sneezum, a solicitor; they had a son and a daughter - his "second edition", as he called them in *Who's Who*."

We are very sad to hear of the death of **Geoffrey Crawshaw (CR47-74)**, who died on 9th August 2002. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of *Aldenhamiana* - Editor.

Simon Barrington (M&K60-65) sent the following letter: "I have to report the sad news of the death of my father, Tom **Ferguson Barrington (M29-33)**, on 21st March 2002. I have written a few (probably too many) lines on his exploits and accomplishments, from which you may be able to find space for a selection in *Aldenhamiana*.

"Born 4th July 1914, he joined McGill's between the wars and I know he enjoyed squash, fives and remembered shooting at Bisley for the School. Leaving school he trained in aeronautical

engineering, following his father, Thomas Barwell Barrington who was closely associated with Rolls-Royce. Through the war he worked with Rolls-Royce, The Bristol Aeroplane Company, and Rotol, and for some time in Detroit, U.S.A.

"After the finish of hostilities, when British industry was rearranging itself for peacetime needs, 'Tim' was invited to join Slack & Parr Ltd, which at the time had seen an opportunity in the field of man-made fibre machinery. Here he became Managing Director and then Chairman for more than fifty years, bringing the company to the top in the specialist market of metering gear pumps for the growing industry which now produces fibres of nylon, polyester, polypropylene, cellulose acetate, acrylic and spandex for the world's textile industry.

"His management style was centred on a genuine concern for the people, their work, their families and their interests. He himself enjoyed occasional sea fishing and fly fishing - reminding me of his story of standing (in chest waders) up to his waist in a Scottish loch, with the spring snow flurrying off the hill, and the fly hook caught at the back of his coat collar - and knowing the he would have to get to the bank, remove enough clothes to get the hook out, and then return to the fishing - and he just wondered why he did it!

"Cars were another joy, which began he said, while he was at Aldenham, with a machine kept in a farm shed some miles from the school. He always had interesting cars, but some were more interesting than others: the Vee-8 Allard with its frightening performance, the wonderful early Jaguar saloons on the new M1, an open, metallic blue Ford Galaxy 500 (automatic), when his left leg was in plaster, and the big Turbo Bentley which ate miles beautifully but was poor on the fields by salmon waters, so made way for a Cherokee Jeep which he drove more or less accurately until a few months before he died.

"Tim settled at the small village of Costock in south Nottinghamshire and, with his wife, Dos, generated a family of two boys and a girl, rebuilt much of a pre-Stuart farmhouse, and will be much missed by all his family and friends at home and around the world."

John Sidney Varcoe (B51-56) sadly died on the 8th March 2002 and his sister sent the following obituary: "The 11th August 1937 was fixed for John's birth (Caesarean Section) so that his father, Vivian Charles, could take to the moors grouse shooting on the "glorious twelfth".

"John spent his childhood in Hertfordshire. He attended Preparatory School at Beaumont House, Chorleywood, before becoming a pupil and finishing his school in Beevor's House at Aldenham School.

From school John progressed to London University where he obtained his degrees in Physiology. His PhD Thesis was written whilst he was in the Department of Chemical Pathology, University College Hospital in 1965.

"1966 took John to Australia on the £10.00 settlement scheme with a job awaiting him at Monash University in the state of Victoria. After two years he decided to stay in Australia permanently moving from Monash to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. There he helped to set up and run the Medical Laboratory Science course. He remained at RMIT until he took early retirement at the age of 58.



"John purchased three acres of land in the Dandenong Ranges, 25 miles from Melbourne, building a house on the sloping hillside with views stretching across the plains below and as far as Mount Macedon almost fifty miles away. His land was surrounded by the 'bush' - mainly Eucalyptus and Wattle trees. Rosellas, Cookaburras, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos and Eagles were among the many birds who flew across his land. A magical place especially in the evening with the sun setting over the city, the cicadas calling and a drink of excellent red wine taken on his terrace. The 'racing green' Morgan car John purchased in England was shipped out to him and, for a while, he became the Secretary of the Morgan Club of Australia.

"Amongst the loves of John's life were his dogs, always Irish (red) Setters and his wine cellar - the latter full of wines from Penfolds, Tyrells, Coonawara, Delatite and many other wineries, these included the occasional bottle of the famous Grange Hermitage (Australia's best) and friendly discussions over the 'class' of the wines took place with selected friends. The main critic being a good friend, a wine imbibor and bon viveur, Patrick Neville by name.

"Every three years John returned to England to visit family and friends, to enjoy the English countryside and to visit Europe and beyond. St Petersburg, Prague, Petra, the Nile and the ancient sites of Greece and Turkey were some of his choices. Back in Australia John took Australian citizenship, became a founder member of the Melbourne Guinness Club and wrote a technical book on Clinical Biochemistry which was published by World Scientific Press in 2001.

"John was a man of many interests beyond his world of Biochemistry. Music, History, the Arts and Archaeology were within this sphere. Generous, warm hearted and with a wide range

of admirable friends who will sadly miss him now he has departed this world. A party to celebrate his 65th birthday was held, in his memory, at his home in Australia, on the 11 August 2002."

Nicholas Wilson (M64-68) writes: "In the last year both my father (**J Martin Wilson S26-30**) and my brother (**Garnet Wilson M59-63**) have died.

"As noted in the latest edition of *Aldenhamiana* my father died on 8 September 2001. He reached a good age of 88 years and his death came after a relatively short illness. The address at his funeral was given by his lifelong friend **Barry Cozens (P26-31)** who sadly died shortly after in November 2001. My father led a full life both in work and later in retirement and for many years was a member of the OA Golfing Society.

[Editor: Mr Wilson also sent an appreciative and affectionate obituary for his father from the Journal of the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys. Martin Wilson was a leading practitioner who became President of the Institute. The obituary shows clearly that he was highly regarded not only in his professional capacity, but also as a host, friend and leader.]

"Garnet on the other hand was only 56 when he died on 5th February 2002 and he had battled against cancer for 18 months. He moved to southern Africa in 1967 and spent the last thirty-five years of his life first in Rhodesia as it was then and then in South Africa ending up in the Western Cape.

Although a long way away my mother, my other two brothers and I take some comfort that we were able to visit him before his death. Garnet worked for a law firm in Cape Town and like me and my father enjoyed a career in Intellectual Property concentrating on Trade Mark law. He leaves his wife Kay and three children, Melanie, Michael and Karen.

"All in all not a very good year for the Wilson family."

OA NEWS, HOME AND ABROAD

The Editor is as always grateful to **Barry Liddiard (S53-58)** for his many contributions to *Aldenhamiana*. Amongst a number of items, this time he has sent us a book review from *The Times* of 31st July of **Simon Worrall's (K64-69)** book *The Poet and The Murderer* about the forger Mark Hoffman. He has also spotted and sent another recent article in *The Times* which highlighted the career of **Thomas Adalbert (S81-86)**, who founded and runs a successful company 'The Preference Service' which sells lists of addresses of people who have said they want to receive specific types of mail.

We thank all who wrote in regarding the mysterious Tim Kneuth (as referred to by **Jeremy K Wilkinson (S47-51)** in his letter published in *Aldenhamiana* No 24). Our correspondents **Peter**

English (B49-52), **Christopher Dodson (B48-53)**, **M A Jeens (S56-61)**, **Christopher Grenside (S50-53)** and an anonymous correspondent from Watford (another mystery!) have all identified the OA to be **Timothy Newth (B49-52)**. We are told he was a fine fives player and had a brother **Jonathan Newth (B52-56)**, who subsequently became a successful actor on stage and television.

The Editor is also grateful to **John Maggs (S39-44)**, **Christopher Dodson (B48-53)** and **B R Hazlitt (P47-51)** who sent in further reminiscences about Donald Parren. Mr Maggs described in his letter how DMP changed him 'from a timid stuttering youngster into a fourth generation bookseller' by casting him as the Usher in Trial by Jury - the confidence Mr Maggs gained from this stood him in good stead when appearing in later life at Sotheby's and on American television. Mr Dodson has similar memories - he says he suffered from a stutter which DMP cured by persuading him to take small parts in House and School plays.

Mr Hazlitt describes how DMP took the initiative in attracting advertising for *The Aldenhamian*, appointed a young Hazlitt and **K H Fowler (S47-52)** as Advertising Managers and helped them get some orders from local businesses. The highlight was attracting a full page advert from ICI for a few years (the Headmaster having invited Sir Wallace Akers to lunch). Mr Hazlitt concludes his letter '.....all great fun and DMP's dedication and enthusiasm were typical of this man of many parts'.

Many OAs will remember **Donald Newton (CR62-91)** who recently sent the following, for which we are grateful:

"WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.....!!!!!!

"**Charles Burgess Fry (1872-1956)** was probably the most talented of all British sportsmen. After a spectacular career at Repton, he captained Oxford University at Cricket, Football and Athletics and would have had a Rugby blue but for an injury just before the University Match. At cricket he went on to captain Sussex and England, to score 94 hundreds including 16 double centuries in six successive innings; he retired with a career average of over 50. He played football for England and for Southampton in an FA Cup Final and, for good measure, held the world long jump record for many years.

"Fry's life outside sport was equally remarkable. He was a brilliant classical scholar; he devoted 42 years of his life to the Training Ship 'Mercury', producing young seamen for the Royal Navy; he had a distinguished career as both author and journalist; most bizarrely, through his friend Ranjitsinjhi, he was one of India's three representatives at the League of Nations. It was during his time there that he was seriously considered for the vacant throne of Albania!

"But why the title of this piece? I quote from an early paragraph of Iaia Wilton's magnificent biography 'C B Fry - King of Sport' :

"Initially it was intended that, after leaving his Prep School (Hornbrook House), Fry should go to Aldenham, which had educated a large number of Whites (his mother's maiden name). Whether they were all related to Fry's mother is unclear, although it is noticeable that several excelled at sport and represented Aldenham at both football and cricket in the 1870s and 1880s. But things did not go according to plan. In an attempt to ease his way into Aldenham he was sent to Repton for practice - and ended up winning a scholarship there 'by mistake'."

Rob Murray (P81-86) emailed us his change of address and his news: "Went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge in 1986 to read Mathematics and left 3 years later with a useful piece of paper and a desire to do 'something in business'. Naturally went straight on therefore to 3 years of training to be a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte & Touche in Milton Keynes, which meant by 1992 I was really ready to do something exciting. I found my home advising on Mergers & Acquisitions, Management Buy Outs, Capital Raising, Flotations and Public Private Partnerships with Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance for the following 8 years, firstly in the City and then subsequently in Birmingham. During this time Lord Vincent might recall me as the squirt who had the audacity, whilst advising on a bid to refurbish the MOD building in Whitehall, to say 'we definitely need someone on the team who is credible and connected to the MOD.....'- a bit of a faux-pas considering who was sitting at the head of the table (well someone could have introduced him to me...).

"In 2000, I moved out of Deloitte to enter big business, joining The Boots Company plc as their Head of Group Risk Assurance, leading a team of risk management consultants. I married Sonia in 1997, one year after meeting her (and 10 months after the engagement), and we have two kids, Jasmine born in 1998, and Oliver born last year. Sleep deprivation is still a problem."

Simon Stanley (P53-59) wrote to us: "By chance I opened up an internet site, called *Friends Revisited* and found the Aldenham site, put my name down and have since had an email from Frank Rogers (S53-58). I have noted that I am one of the lost OAs, and this email remedies that I hope.

"After leaving Aldenham in 1959 I went to Newcastle University where I was awarded a PhD and then on to Oregon State University, USA and the Technical University of Norway in Trondheim for post-doctoral research in low temperature microbiology. I also spent nine months in the Antarctic with the British Antarctic Survey. After Norway I moved to the Scottish Marine Biological Association in 1970 and later became Assistant Director.

"I moved to Australia permanently in 1986 having spent a year in Townsville in Northern Queensland on a sabbatical from the Scottish Marine Biological Association in Oban. Whilst I was in

Townsville I was offered a job with the Tasmanian Department of Sea Fisheries in Hobart. We had to come back to the UK to make sure we were fit and proper people to come to Australia as permanent residents, and finally we moved out here for good in 1986.

"For twelve years I was with the Fisheries Department and responsible for the management of the State's aquaculture industry. I then took a retirement package and started on the next phase of my life - the establishment of a vineyard. The vineyard would have had its first harvest this year if we had not had the coldest summer for many years which meant the grapes did not set properly. Next year things should be better and we should be picking our first grapes in April 2003. We have also planted a 200 tree olive grove to produce extra virgin olive oil.

"We have enjoyed the move to Tasmania and though it may seem the end of the world it is a great place to live with wonderful opportunities if you are prepared to work. There cannot be many places in the world where you can still buy 28 acres of land with magnificent views for under 30,000 pounds - and only 30mins from a capital city.

"I have been back to the UK several times since leaving Scotland but each time I come back it seems busier than ever and one is struck by the increase in the number of cars on the roads. Maybe we have been spoiled by the emptiness of Tasmania which only has a population of only 450,000 and declining! One of my daughters still lives in the UK and the other has been in Hong Kong for ten years.

"Hope this news if of some use - at least I have returned to the fold!"

A letter from **Guy Gordon (P82-86)**: "I received my copy of the *Aldenhamia* via e-mail this morning and felt it about time I write.

"After I left Aldenham I attended Ealing College for 2 years to do a Business/ Finance course there. Enjoying the student life, I then attended Keele University in Staffs for a further 4 years where I did a degree in International Relations. It was during this time that I joined the Territorial Army with the Royal Green Jackets. I did my twelve years service during which I completed stints and short term engagements with our Regular Army counterparts in Canada, Cyprus with UNFICYP and Osnabruck in Germany. I was recently awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

"Jobwise between 93 to 98 I started off in Retail Banking within various branches of Lloyds TSB and moving onto the Royal Bank of Scotland International in the City. However the turning point in my life was when I met my wife to be, a South African national working in the UK (in those days a bit of a rarity, but now they call Wimbledon Springbokvlei.....!). We were married in May 1997.

Understandably after 5 years in London she became very homesick so we made a plan to emigrate to Cape Town in May 1999.

"At first it was very difficult for me as, although married to an SA national, I did not have the right to work or live in the country - despite the huge braindrain out of the country. During our first year in Cape Town I didn't work for 8 months while I tried to get the relevant stamps in my passport, flying backwards and forwards and spending the tune of R 50,000.00. In the end, along with other couples in similar situations, we jointly took the Department of Home Affairs to court saying it was unconstitutional to keep married couples apart based purely on their foreign nationality. We won, after a lot of procrastination on the government's part, and paved the way for couples in South Africa which include a 'foreign spouse'.

"Since that momentous year, I have found work with Old Mutual in the new banking division they recently set up and have been there for 3 years now. My wife has her own interior decorating business exporting a lot of her goods to the US and UK. We have been busy exploring this beautiful and diverse country. From the Kruger Park up in the Transvaal, hill walking in the Drakensberg, Great White Shark diving in Gansbaai and of course the natural beauty of the Western Cape.

"Last year we drove up to Namibia as far as Etosha near the Angolan border. We watched England beat Germany in Swakopmund in a small bar on Kaiser Willem Strasse. German is the first language there !

"Most recently I have set up my own travel business guiding clients around the Western Cape. Please visit my website www.gordonguytours.co.za. I would be more than happy to give OAs a discount on their trips to South Africa or to organise accommodation for them.

"Although I miss the UK I was fortunate enough to go back there for the first time last Christmas. I am in contact with **Rob Anderson (P83-88)** (at his wedding I met up with his brothers **James (P80-85)** and **Mark (P79-84)**). Recently I was fortunate enough to be visited by **Rich Warsap K82-86** and **Simon Fong (M81-86)**. I would like to hear from any OAs I was fortunate enough to spend time with on gguy@oldmutual.com."

A brief email from **Avi Daswani (B88-93)** in the the Canary Islands: "After my college days I ended up working for General Electric, and then moved back to Las Palmas to join the family business, where I am now."

Tony Barrett (M40-42) sent the following letter from Australia: "Congratulations on the 24th edition of *Aldenhamiana* which was extremely interesting.

"Inspired by the efforts of fellow OAs, I searched for and located the enclosed photograph which some may find of interest. The picture dated 1942 shows the Duke of Norfolk inspecting the school Rabbit Club which formed part of the Young Farmers' Society, most capably organised by **Godfrey Mead (CR14-44)**.

"The purpose of the Club was to supply the school with table meat to supplement the sparse wartime ration. Alas, most of the animals seemed to succumb to a variety of mysterious diseases and I doubt if any were ever eaten. Our sole income came from **S R Pollard (CR36-70)** who regularly bought corpses for dissection in his Biology classes!

"Members of the Young Farmer's Society worked on local farms in the afternoons instead of playing games. To enable us to reach our workplaces we were allowed to bring our bicycles back to school which had hitherto been forbidden.



"The writer is third from the left in the picture. It was his last term before enlisting in the Royal Marines. First on the left is **A W Verhoeff (M40-42)**. 'Hoofey' left at the same time and joined the Parachute Regiment. He was killed at Arnhem in 1944. Fifth from the left is **J G Tozer (M40-42)** whose death was reported recently. Subsequently he served in the Royal Navy. All three of us had lived in Golders Green and were in the Upper Houseroom of McGills at the time the photograph was taken. Second from the left is **J S Rollings (M41-45)** who was still living at the time of the 1997 register.

"On retirement in 1990 I moved from Melbourne to Creswick in the Central Highlands region of Victoria. Here I tend a two acre garden, breed German Shorthaired Pointers and attempt to solve cryptic crosswords. Winefride and I have been married for 52 years. We have six children all living in Australia along with 18 grandchildren. I should be pleased to swap reminiscences with any OAs living in the vicinity."*

* **Tony's and other OAs contact details are available from the OA Office at the School.**

Bryan Pasquier-Robson (M49-53) (aka 'Osborn') writes: "I kick myself for having lost the few photographs I took at Aldenham. They included sports events on Cooke's Fields and the 1951 Visitation Day tea on the HM's lawn. Cameras were relatively uncommon in my time - a source of lasting regret to myself and my contemporaries.

"I see that DMP, whom I knew very well, had been at Aldenham just six years when I joined as a new boy from Edge Grove. Now that he has gone to sign in for the Great Dress-rehearsal in the sky, there will be a flood of tribute and reminiscence. I hate to BORE ON about *Captain Eros*, but frankly it does provide vivid sketches of two Aldenham immortals: my housemaster, Bill Kennedy and - DMP. There are still four boxes of the first edition in the garage!

"I was not in School House, but, like a good many over the years, I experienced DMP both as teacher and as director of drama. I agree with Handcock about the difficulty of never quite knowing when one was being ragged by him - there is some of this in my book. I was shocked for instance when he said while we were reading *King Lear*, 'Let's get ON with this silly play.' (Could he really mean it?...)

"Oddly enough, when I wrote *Captain Eros* in 1995, I was rash enough to presume that DMP must be dead. I changed every name in the story ("to protect the guilty") except his, apart from the slight variation of Parren to Parran. Luckily - and significantly enough - there is nothing whatever to DMP's discredit in *Captain Eros*, so it didn't really matter."

David T. R. Booth (B65-70) sent in the following: "Just received *Aldenhamia* No 24, please note that I now have a new address. Lovely as the *Aldenhamiana* magazines are, even though there are often very few of my fellow 65 -70 Aldenhamians mentioned, I can see that the costs of production and postage would be fairly substantial. So I'm quite prepared to visit your new website when it's fully up and running, instead of receiving the posted version.

"After years sitting in advertising agency offices hammering away at a keyboard writing copy, I realised I could do the same from home and save myself the 'tedious' commuting across Sydney Harbour every day.

"So here I am in front of an iMac, freelancing for agencies in Sydney and Melbourne via email. I noticed after my earlier comment about few fellow 65 -70 Aldenhamians that there is a photo on page 13 of **David Wicks (S65-70)** and **Martin Sweeting (B64-70)** both of whom I remember.

"I also had my 50th birthday last month and one of the guests was **Richard D'Avigdor's (SH 65-67)** sister-in-law who told me he, sadly, had been very ill with a brain tumour."

Andy Lawson (K73-78) wrote: "Hi Trevor, remember me? It was great to see your name in the *Aldenhamiana* after all these years. I have a very vague recollection of a party at the house in Letchmore Heath, including friends of my sister Sue, from Pipers Corner School - don't suppose you remember! [Er, no - presumably due to pre-party drinks in *The Three Horseshoes!* Ed.]

"I saw **Richard Seville (K73-78)** mentioned in the *Aldenhamiana* as coming over from Australia for the Eros to Eros run. You may recall I was a great friend of Richard in the 70's. Would you please forward his email address so that I might make contact again?

"For my part I work at Oracle Corporation where I am responsible for major consulting sales to large Utilities. I have had a number of business and project consulting roles in almost 15 years on and off with Oracle. I have been married to Jane since 1990, now with two children Emily (10) and William (7). My brother **Matthew (K81-86)** is now Chaplain at St. John's School in Leatherhead.

"I would be delighted if any of my contemporaries would like to contact me via email at andy.lawson@oracle.com."

Kofi Amegashie (P78-83) emailed: "After 15 years with the Chevron Texaco, I have joined the World Bank Group and now have responsibility for Small and Medium Enterprise Development in sub-Saharan Africa. I will be relocating to Nairobi, Kenya in June."

Paul Hardingham (S49-54) sent the following: "I have been living in South Africa since 1970 when the publishers William Collins (now HarperCollinsPublishers and owned by the dirty digger) sent me to manage the Cape Town office. I must say that after working for Billy Collins in London, the relaxed atmosphere of the "Fairest Cape" made me feel I had died and gone to heaven!

"Seven years in the Cape and I was promoted to Sales and Marketing Director and moved to Johannesburg. I am now retired, (thank God!), but still publish for the firm - Anglican Liturgy - for which we have the contract.

"Birding is however our greatest interest and we have become rather expert. We lead groups of birders on expeditions into the hinterland of the RSA and neighbouring countries. Any OAs visiting South Africa and who are keen birders can contact us and we will do what we can do to assist them. My great friend **Bob Breakell (S46-49)**, regularly came, with his wife Pat, to bird with us. Regrettably he died of cancer about 5 years ago. **Bruce Somerville (P29-32)** is a member of the same church, St Columba's Presbyterian of Parkview, and I see him almost every week.

James Oliver (S73-78) wrote: "I have recently become engaged to Maree Carey and we are due to be married on 27th September.

"Since leaving Aldenham, I qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and after various spells in the corporate world and taking the last recession off to circumnavigate the world with my brother, **Stewart Oliver (S76-79)**, find myself back in Hertfordshire in the Private Practice of Freeth Melhuish involved in commercial property matters.

"I maintain contact with a number of OAs playing Fives at the school on Tuesday evenings (highly recommended for anyone seeking some friendly sport), **David Goad (S73-78)** for whom I have the honour of being Godfather to his second daughter and **Andy Cox (S73-78)** and **Bob Brock (M73-78)** who have also ended up in the property world.

"My father, **Alan Oliver (S44-49)**, is enjoying his retirement spending most of his time in Spain and visiting other foreign parts and is in regular contact with **John** and **Michael Handcock (S44-47 & S45-49)**."

An email from **J R M Palmer (M62-67)**: "I have been out of touch for several years now. I last received *The Aldenhamian* when I was living in Eastbourne in Wellington, New Zealand. I moved to Hong Kong and the magazine was forwarded on but then suddenly stopped. I am now living in the UK again - albeit I am planning to return to NZ shortly. It would be nice to catch up with others in my year and House.

email jpalmer@symphonycourt.freeserve.co.uk.

And another email, this time from **Gary Brown (M81-86)**: "I now live in Brisbane Australia and work in finance out here for an Energy company. Have just bought a house and I am engaged to a wonderful girl, Annabel."

Edward Corp (S61-65) has written to say that he is now Professor of British History at the University of Toulouse having worked in various roles at the Ministry of Defence, a number of schools and the University of Paris.

Another email this time from **Ade Oyenubi (S80-82)**: "My experience at Aldenham was quite exhilarating, and I still hold the memories of the good times I had there, but I would be remiss by not mentioning those stimulating classes and teachers that I had. I made lots of friends but have lost contact with people such as **Raslan Mohammed (S81-82)**, **Andrew Fennell (S78-82)**, **Andrew Johnson (77-82)**, **Tim Chung (S78-82)**, **Harry Ng (S78-82)**, **Chukwumah (P77-82)**.... et al. If you guys are out there, please contact me. I am currently residing in Toronto, Canada, practising as a Barrister and Solicitor - aoyenubi@barexpress.net."

Guy Thomas (P69-74) has kindly sent a number of photos, two of which are published below. The first features **Crosbie Lorimer (P68-73)** and will bring back memories for all who were at the School pre-central catering.



The second is of what Guy describes as a 3rd XI 'retrogrades' team - are you one of them?



Nick J. Davey (S71-76) tells us: "A lot has happened to me in the last year. The most significant of these was that I married Cicely on a lovely sunny summer day in August (see Marriages). The Rev Dr Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, presided over the service and his words of wisdom in the address made it a remarkable and unforgettable day. I have never been much of a one for holidays, work trips maybe, but never holidays. So our honeymoon in Lamu, an island off the Kenyan coast, was an experience I hadn't really come close to before; complete relaxation and isolation. Cicely has convinced me that holidays are not only good things, but essential, and we're planning a similar get-away-from-it-all trip this year.

"Within four months of the wedding both Cicely's father and my mother had died. Real-life dramas like these certainly test the strength of any relationship and I'm glad that we had each other in our repective times of need; I don't think I would have coped on my own.

"We are now living in Quainton, a self-contained village about 50 miles northwest of London. I am a neuroscientist at Imperial College, London. I lecture medical students but my real passion is my research. I am interested in the way the nervous system controls voluntary movement and, in particular, how it is able to adapt after trauma such as spinal cord injury or orthopaedic pain. We have a long-term collaboration with the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and are beginning to understand how the brain can "rewire" itself in order to get the best functional recovery after damage to the spinal cord.

"I am also interested in dance training as a possible contribution to physiotherapy after trauma. Our group won a Science Art so-called "SciArt" award from the Wellcome Trust to study dance and dance-training. We have been working with the French dancer Kitsou Dubois in experiments conducted in zero gravity during "free-fall" in parabolic flight (see New Scientist, March 30th 2001). This has involved transporting our apparatus to Bordeaux and installing it on a special Airbus A300 aeroplane. In addition to the work itself, the publicity has been fun and this culminated with giving a presentation at Sadlers Wells in April."

A very brief email from **Matthew Cobham (S85-89)** to update his details on the OA database and to say he is now working as Senior Lighting Designer for Concord:marlin in London.

Mike Frey (S73-76), prompted by the photo on the front page of *Aldenhamiana* 24, sent the following: "I have often thought that I should get around to sending in my first letter since leaving Aldenham over 25 years ago but somehow have never got around to doing so. Then *Aldenhamiana* No 24 (Feb 2002) arrived. **Roger Lloyd-Taylor (S51-56)**, my uncle, mentioned my name in his letter. More worrying though is that I fear that I may be one of the unidentified few in the picture on the front cover taken on Visitation Day 1973! I really do hope that someone else will have written in claiming to be the person behind the Editor but in the absence of any such letter will have to admit my presence. I was certainly one of the members of the band that day.

"I left Aldenham after doing my 'O' Levels and went on to do an OND in Technology at Hendon College and then an HND in Civil Engineering (including Highways and Transportation) at Hatfield Polytechnic. Back in the early 1980's there were very few civil engineering jobs available for student trainees and since I never wanted to be a Civil Engineer in any case, I spent my industrial training period as a milkman and used the money earned to finance an HGV Class 1 driving course. After college, I spent three years working in this country in the winters and travelling and working in the USA as a camp counsellor in the summers.

"Eventually, back permanently in the UK living in Harrow, I worked as an HGV driver and then a car driving instructor gaining experience towards my ambition of working in the motor accident investigation field.

"In 1988, I was employed as a Consultant Forensic Engineer by a company called K W Alford Ltd which specialised in expert witness work in the field of civil litigation. Initially, I only dealt with motor accidents but as the company workload grew, I underwent various courses on Health and Safety. Over the last few years most of my work has been related to Health and Safety. In 1999 I set up in business on my own. In 2001, I completed an MSc degree in Occupational Safety and Health at the University of Greenwich.

"I'm afraid that I have lost all contact with my contemporaries at Aldenham. I haven't looked around the school since leaving in 1976 which is a little bizarre since I have attended the school sports hall on most Wednesday evenings for the last 10 years to play five-a-side football with a group of like minded individuals. Altogether I have been playing for about 22 years and only gave up running the group last year after 16 years at the helm. I regret that both time and age are beginning to catch up with me and as much as I still enjoy playing, my body reminds me about it for the following 48 hours!"

An email from **Kenneth Clive Snow (P55-58)**: "Been there and done that with flowers - too much work for too little return although enjoyable challenge to establish a new venture. Now onto the next one. Currently developing an Avocado orchard of about 300 plus trees. Cash flow in the meantime from Tamarillos (tree tomato). Family all well, including five grand children."

Brief email from **Dudley Harding (S59-61)**: "I have retired from PricewaterhouseCoopers after over 31 years with them here in Hong Kong. We are planning to stay on in Hong Kong for a few more years, while making more use of our apartment in Bath and our house in Bordeaux, France."

John McAllister (CR67-) recently went to see **Nicholas Maude (S86-89)** performing at the St Albans' Arena and gave the Editor this extract from the Programme: "Nicholas has recently finished performing in *The Phantom of the Opera* where he played the lead role of Raoul just short of 100 times at Her Majesty's Theatre, London. Other West End credits include understudying/playing Alec in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* at the Savoy Theatre and on the UK tour. This is Nicholas' first performance for *Brilliant Productions* and he is delighted to be performing once again with many old chums! On the amateur circuit he has appeared alongside almost all of tonight's cast in previous productions. These include such shows as *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Into the Woods*, *The Gondoliers*, *Me and My Girl*, *Annie*, *My Fair Lady*, *Ruddigore*, *The Boy Friend* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Nicholas has also performed professionally at the Pitlochry Theatre in Scotland for the annual Summer Festival. Fresh from camping it up at Reading's Hexagon Theatre where he played the role of the Emperor in last

Christmas' panto *Aladdin*, Nicholas is delighted to share the limelight tonight with his best friend Jeremy, who despite looking like Michael Ball, sounds nothing like him....."

EROS TO EROS

With the kind permission of the School, four OAs took part in the annual run, along with two guests of OAs. All acquitted themselves well over the 15 mile course, with the whole team arriving at Aldenham before 7.15 am after a 5.00 am start from Picadilly Circus. An excellent breakfast at School made it all worthwhile! All the OAs were from the 1970's - other generations next year? Most importantly the OAs through sponsorship made a significant contribution to this year's nominated charity, The Lowe Syndrome Trust.

Below is a photo of the intrepid OAs and their guests, just before 5.00 am in a dark Picadilly Circus. Left to Right: **Alan Phillips (M77-82)**, **Tom Hartley (guest)**, **Trevor Barton (K71-75)**, **John Miller (P71-75)**, **Neal James Crook (M70-75)**, **Mike Blastland (Guest)**.



Peter L Shoup (S50-51) emailed from the States to find out how the Centenary Ball went: "Dear Eds: Have been thinking of all the OAs swashing about a tent on the cricket pitch last night, celebrating 100 years of OAism, missing the Rest Of Us, and maybe, just maybe dropping a bet on the Old World vs New in the World Cup. We know how that one ended. Wish we could have been there with you.

"As a three term member of SH-Evens in 1950-51, I have many wonderful memories of Aldenham. Guess I was your first American, though I have heard rumours that David O Selznick's son was there for a few weeks before me.

"One of the highlights of that year for me was an Easter vac trip to France in "Sir" **Geoffrey Bolt's (CR47-65)** 1929 Renault London taxi (I was the only one with driver's licence). Besides Sir Bolt and me, we had aboard **Willie Grosset (S47-51)**, Johnny Osborne (Ed: can anyone identify Osborne?), and **Palmer (S46-51)** -- all from SH Evens I believe. I have detailed memories and lots of funny pics if you would like to see more on this epic trip to the Med.

"That was the wildest year of my young life. Thanks Aldenham. Any OAs visiting San Diego should call me on 858-756-3635"

Another OA discovering new technological talents is **Nigel Wright (M67-72)** who sent the following email: "Prompted to drop a short line having discovered the Web site - you may well laugh but a real achievement for one of my limited technical means. Can't quite believe that it is 30 years since departure and it makes me feel slightly middle aged ("sad" is I believe the term used by my sons).

"I continue self employed my feast or famine existence in the property / finance sector. My spare time is split between motoring events (in competition prepared classic cars) and walking in the Lake District, where we recently acquired a second home in Ambleside.

"My two sons, **James (B93-94)** and Tom are 22 and 19 respectively. James is technically an OA (Beevor's) though got time off for good behaviour! He has just completed his degree at Durham, where he rowed for the University and got as far as GB trials, and is about to start a career with HSBC Investment Bank in the City. Tom, being less fortunate than James and I (!) went to Haileybury and is off in September to Liverpool to study women, alcohol, football and hopefully Business Studies in his spare time.

"My wife Ann, having been a full time Mum for some years is now a fully fledged member of the BBC Symphony Chorus. Having recently performed at Buckingham Palace they are now warming up for the imminent Proms Season.

"Home is still Winchmore Hill in North London though I am not sure for how much longer - London becomes a less and less pleasant place to live, but I will not give reasons for my opinion for fear of arrest!

"Just around the corner from us lives fellow OA and brother-in-law **Simon Rohleder (S68-73)** who continues to lay waste to the property industry through his West End chartered surveying firm Rohleder Lumby! I am pleased to say that we see a lot of each other and often reminisce about the old days. I know he is regularly in touch with many OAs through both business and social (golf) activities.

"Having been a very enthusiastic OA "networker" in the past I have let things slip a bit in recent years - something I regret as I have friends second to none amongst the OA Community. Mea Culpa. Like every OA I have ever met, I have superbly fond memories of the school, its staff and the wonderful friends made during my time there. In fact, I have just resolved to look a few more up, just for old time's sake! Health and Happiness to the OA Society."

Robin Danvers Glasson Parry (P55-59) tells us: "I thought that I would try and sit down and like many older men, fell into a period of thinking about the past.

"On arriving in the mid fifties with **Chris Bett (P55-60)** and **Chris Abbott (P55-59)**, we were all three sent to **Cecil Stott's (CR24-58)** house in the village. It was splendid walking across Cooke's fields in the early morning, even if that meant arriving at Paull's with wet feet and shoes that wouldn't clean! Cecil Stott was kindness personified, both at that time, and later when I wrote a thesis on the growth of the English Public Schools. I do remember on one occasion seeing the more irritable part of his nature: Sunday morning and sleeping on for an extra hour, but the cats were about to mate with all attendant noise, when the window opened and a saucepan went flying with startling force and accuracy. The cats left us in peace for a time.

"Sport filled a large part of my life at Aldenham, and I regret that I chose to leave the choir and take up extra gymnastics because I didn't want to sing. However, it gave me an introduction to Sarge, (Sgt Major Buckingham) who remained a special part of my life throughout the following four years. A splendid character, whose physical capacities were slowly diminishing, but who could still climb a rope faster than most of us and grip the rope with his feet, fling his arms out and drop to within an inch of the floor at devastating speed. Later, **Neil (Jumbo) Davis (CR58-62)** took over and extended the activities to doing demonstrations over Land Rovers, a photo of which I shall send on to you.

"Cricket, hockey, football, squash, fives and tennis all fell into being tried, and at some I did well and others I enjoyed for the sake of playing. I still have most of the House and team photos of the time.

"Many of the masters of the time remain in my mind with great clarity. **Peter Harrington (CR49-64)**, not only because he was my form master during the first term, but because he was House Tutor at Paull's during my last term. For both of us it was a new experience, and he helped me enormously. I reminded him of my first term, when he had been demonstrative at the arrival of his class in his laboratory much later than should have been. Having all arrived he glared around the lab, brushed his flock of hair away,

and fixed his gaze on me, while speaking to the whole class. 'I hate boys. I hate boys who are late'. He came down the lab and held me in front of him and proceeded to kick my backside around the class. I may add it did not hurt in the least, and proved of great delight to the rest of the form.

"Jack Waddell was another master that I grew to like more and more with the passing of the years both at Aldenham and later, and perhaps was the only master who beat eleven boys in as few minutes. Someone had been smoking on an away cricket match. At the time it was an offence punishable by rustication or expulsion. Jack knew that smoking had been done. He called the whole team into his study, and gave us the option: three strokes each and he would forget the matter. He didn't want to know who had been smoking, which in the event would have meant a report to P G Mason.

"Having studied sciences, **Peter Mason (Headmaster 49-61)** didn't figure largely in my life, until the lower-sixth and sixth forms, where he taught me English. He gave me real pleasure one day. Having asked all of us to produce a title to a piece of literature that he had read to us, he carefully looked at the pieces of paper which we had handed in, and suddenly grabbed one, and asked who had written it. I hated being drawn to the attention of others in any class, but this I couldn't avoid. I had written *Winter's Carousel*, to describe a snow storm, which had been the theme of the piece. He seemed both excited and pleased, and today after almost fifty years I still feel his pleasure. At times I also felt the more acerbic nature of his tongue! I recall being asked to play tennis with him and his daughter (did she marry **Mike Catchpole (S55-60)**?) on his lawn which at that time was used as a tennis court. I had recently been awarded my tennis colours and during the first set, he suddenly called out, 'Glasson, we all know you've been awarded your colours: you can take your sweater off now.' In fact I was proud of them, but I had forgotten, and I regret that I told him I always wore my sweater for the first set. He was a far more approachable person than many of us recognised at the time, and I'm sure that none of us will forget his reading of the death of Socrates in the hall at assembly, nor indeed the following week when his predisposition to make noises in his throat before launching into his theme, was extended from an almost short 'mew' to a long and extended sound which first hushed the school, and then brought the house down with laughter, not at him, but with him.

"Many such human characteristics of the masters revealed themselves throughout their classes, and I recall reading one of Shakespeare's plays with **Mr Kirkwood CR46-72)**. **Henry Padwick (S55-60)** was reading at the time, and Mr Kirkwood interrupted to explain something. The next line was 'Quiet Varlet!' and Henry read it to perfection.

"I have already mentioned Donald Parren in an earlier note to you, but if I may add, that not only for the reasons previously mentioned but also for the following, he has remained with me throughout my life. It was he who quietly one day explained that

we would all of us wish that we had said something clever or correct at a particular moment. 'Ah.... L'esprit d'escalier', he sighed. How often has that thought and expression entered my life! As no doubt it will today.

"**David Robertson (CR50-85)** was another master for whom I have special memories. He taught me to use diagrams and drawings for geography, and in English he encouraged acting out the parts that he gave us. Reading Ibsen one launched into the parts and it gave him great delight. I took that part of me on into amateur dramatics later in life.

"In the science labs, **Ken Barnard (CR56-91)** and **Geoffrey Bolt (CR47-65)** became a part of my life. Ken with his pipe, puffing blue clouds of smoke as he entered after the 11.10am break, and Geoffrey with his mop of unruly hair. Both great teachers, and Geoffrey I got to know better when I was chosen for the tennis team. **Mr Griggs (CR44-71)** (with whose son I also arrived at Aldenham), and his I suppose nervous habit of clearing his throat, is another example of the excellence of the teaching staff, though I admit to counting the number of times he cleared his throat rather pay attention to his physics class. **Sam Pollard (CR36-70)**, who was my housemaster, and also my biology master extended my love of nature and it was in no small part due to him that I followed a career in agriculture for a long time, ending with my own farm which I managed to buy in 1974.

"Music also formed a large part of my life at Aldenham, and **Bill Hook (CR48-73)**, **Mr Wightman (CR52-57)**, **Mr. Turton (?)** and others gave me a feel for music that has never left me. There were so many people to whom I and I suspect many other OAs, owe a real and deep debt of gratitude.

"Of my contemporaries, I have most regrettably failed to keep in touch. Bringing up a family and working hard left only a small amount of free time. I have met some since leaving Aldenham, notably **David Hubble P55-59**), who also went into farming, and also like me, into the Insurance Broking industry. David invited me to his house after his marriage, and entertained me to a superb meal and also gave me the shock of my life! but enough said. **Chris Bett (P55-60)** walked up the garden path one breakfast time to find my mother at home, but she lost his address, and I deeply regret not getting in touch with him. **Rodney Knowles (P55-59)** and **Clive Snow (P55-58)** I also spent several evenings with, and watched Rodney playing Rugby at Pinner. **Steven Hitch (P54-58)** I met not far from the centre of London one day, when he was still studying to be an architect. **John Crawley (P55-59)**, I also met on several occasions, on one such occasion with a bevy of Portuguese girls. I tried to arrange a lunch with him in Wilton Street but time and worked prevented this on several occasions. **Patrick Wright (P56-61)** I wrote to only a few years ago, to ask for his help which he most generously gave me. Thank you Pat.

"I visited the Aldenham Boys Club on several nights after leaving and I have great memories of Eric Davey and Nobby. After

arranging the summer camp for them, as the school's liaison officer, they made me an honorary member of the club. I was thrilled. I think that it was **John Rimer (P56-60)** (or was it **John Galaud (P56-61)?**) who took over from me after I left. Does the club still exist?

"Rather like A.S. Woods, Aldenham made me feel that there was nothing I couldn't try. I started my career in Agriculture, changed to Plastics, and then entered Insurance. After five years I started my own brokerage, and then in 1974 sold up and bought my farm. Farming became a part of my life together with a small offset printing company, and doing consultancy work for the DHSS in West Wales. In 1984 I sold everything and emigrated to Spain. I had bought a house in Mallorca and it was where my sister lived, and so I set out to enjoy early retirement. Four years later, my three daughters had returned to England and finished their University education, and after twenty-five years of marriage I was divorced. When needs must, the devil drives, and I started working again, this time as a teacher of English as a foreign language for Inlingua International.

"In 1992 I was lucky enough to have met a most splendid Spanish lady, M^a José, who I was eventually able to persuade to marry me. As I sit typing this she is cooking paella for lunch! Between us we have five daughters, and we take it in turn to visit them on our travels. (I finally managed to visit Egypt last year and saw Tutankamen's tomb, which I had read about in the school library). In April 1992 I started my own language school, and then extended our activities to another two schools in different parts of Mallorca. It has been a good ten years, apart from my health, which sadly has let me down recently, with broken tendons, lumbar hernias and other problems which followed a serious virus infection. However, I'm in the process of selling up the business and my house and moving to Zaragoza, and devoting more time to writing, which I enjoy in all forms. I was pleased to have had one of my poems printed in London a few years ago, and now I have EFL teachers and students books to publish. I can't go on producing the numbers that are required on my computer! Any publishers out there?

"Well, my walk down memory lane should finish, although there is so much more that readily comes to mind, but I would like to say thank you to Aldenham, its masters and boys. I hope that I haven't bored you too much. P.S.(l'esprit d'escalier) Having attained Spanish nationality, the Spanish Government have given me the name as it now stands. There's no need to publish the fact. I'm still the same person!

LOST OAs

Aldenhamiana 24 was sent to the OAs listed below and subsequently returned marked "unknown at this address". If any OA reading this knows the whereabouts of any of them please could they let the OA office know or ask the OA concerned to contact the OA office or to visit the OA website and update their contact details there.

O. Abiola	(S82-83)
A.A. Ahmed	(S78-83)
T.F.P. Bell	(M31-33)
B. Bentum-Williams	(P87-89)
I.A.C. Blair	(B62-66)
G.A.P. Brown	(P45-49)
G.H. Carter	(B76-79)
J.P. Curtis	(M78-81)
J.S. Gibbon	(S73-78)
C.J. Goodchild	(B57-62)
R.C. Heysham	(S59-63)
M.R. Hick	(K78-80)
D.L. Lyons	(K94-99)
M.P. Macrae	(B50-53)
D.R. Morris	(P87-92)
R. Munn	(K88-93)
R. Murray-Leach	(B56-60)
H.B. Pickett	(B43-46)
W.H. Streets	(S45-50)
H.D. Tailor	(K94-99)
N.J. Tughan	(S69-73)
S.J. Whitehouse	(B75-80)
E.J. Whitehouse	(B79-84)

FREEMASONRY

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

Master: **F E Burlingham Johnson**

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:-
B S Tan, 5 Busch Close, Park Road, Isleworth, Middx TW7 6UE
Home: 020 8580 2966

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e-mail: paulclemow@aol.com

Club Captain - **Martyn Berg**
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OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2002

THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY
INVITE YOU TO THE ANNUAL DINNER
AT THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB, 128 PICADILLY, LONDON
ON

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER, 2002

7.00pm TO 11.00pm

WIVES, HUSBANDS and PARTNERS ARE ALSO INVITED

DRESS BLACK TIE

TICKETS COST £40.00 PER PERSON

(Includes half bottle wine, 3 course dinner & coffee)

**NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO 120 SO DO PLEASE COMPLETE AND
RETURN YOUR APPLICATION FORM BELOW IMMEDIATELY
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

Please complete and return this form together with your cheque made payable to "Old Aldenhamian Society" to: I G Luetchford, Esq., 41 The Rise, Elstree, Herts WD6 3JS

Name, house and dates at Aldenham:

Address:

Telephone No: e-mail address:.....

I would like tickets for the Dinner at 40.00 per ticket and enclose a cheque for

£

.....
(Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements)

