



# Aldenhamiana

No 29

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Published by **THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY**  
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The officers of HM Submarine Statesman, Indian Ocean, 1944. Can you identify the OAs?

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In my February 2004 letter, I mentioned that there had been several events which had demonstrated the continuing strength and commitment of OAs, both to the Society and the School. I am delighted to say that the highly successful series of OA regional lunches has continued, organised by John McAllister and Molly Barton of the Development Office. The first such event for 2004 was the East Anglia Lunch held at Brome on 19th May attended by some 27 OAs. The next Regional Lunch is planned for a date near to Easter 2005 and is likely to be held in Exeter. Please contact the OA Office for further details of future lunches, which will also appear on the Website in due course. On the international scene, following the Canada and USA dinners of 2003, came the Melbourne Dinner on 24th July - the first official OA Dinner ever to be held in Australia! By all accounts this was a hugely enjoyable and successful evening, attended by some 14 OAs and their guests.

Of course, the major event of 2004 has been OA Day on 27th June. This was yet another great success, with some 140 OAs and their wives and partners attending, for which much credit must again go to the Development Team. As has become the tradition, the day began with coffee in Houses, followed by a moving and well attended Chapel Service. Afterwards, a Reception was held in the School House Garden, during which the Headmaster, Richard Harman, and your President addressed those present. This was followed by a very well attended Gaudy Lunch in School House Dining Hall for those who left the School in the years 1960 to 1969. During the day OAs had free access to the old and new areas of the School, where exhibitions from Visitation Day (the previous day) were on view. In particular, **Martin Field (CR 1989-)** had gathered together some interesting memorabilia of the School's close association with MV Glenartney during and after the last war. All in all, it was a most enjoyable day and your Committee therefore intends to retain the same formula for OA Day 2005. A Gaudy Lunch will be held for those who left the School in the years 1970 to 1979.

Unfortunately, this year has seen the sad death of **John Woodrow (B46-51)**. Our sincere condolences go to Daphne Woodrow and her family. John made a very powerful contribution to Aldenham over many years, both as a President of the OA Society and, latterly, as Chairman of School Governors. A Memorial Service for John's life will be held in the Chapel on 16th October. It will I am sure be attended by very many OAs and members of staff, and will be a moving tribute to the affection and great respect that everyone had for John. It is entirely fitting that the new Preparatory School house is to be named 'Woodrow House' in John's memory.

On the near horizon, we have the annual OA Dinner in the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on Tuesday 30th November at 7.00pm. You will find details of this event and an application form elsewhere in this edition of *Aldenhamiana* and on the OA Website. I hope that, as for OA Day earlier this year, many of you will be

able to attend, together with your guests. Our principal guest and speaker this year will be Old Aldenhamian **Karren Brady (B85-87)**, Managing Director of Birmingham City Football Club. I very much look forward to meeting many of you there for what promises to be a most enjoyable event.

Finally, my thanks go once again to all the members of the Committee for their superb assistance. As ever, I am most grateful to Mark Jordan for his continuing commitment in updating, developing and overseeing the OA Website. Next, to William Rouse and Richard Peart, as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, who - with the Development Office team - keep the business of the Society moving forward. Also to Trevor Barton, who continues to mastermind *Aldenhamiana* and maintain its high quality. Finally, our thanks must extend to Richard Harman, the Headmaster, together with his academic and support team, for their unfailing assistance and cooperation.

**Mike Taylor**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

In February, we found a splendid sailing photograph for our front cover. For this edition, I am indebted to **Bob Sproule (M37-40)** for letting us borrow and print the striking photograph on our cover - the officers of H.M. Submarine Statesman, two OAs among them, "somewhere in the Indian Ocean" in 1944. Please see Bob's letter which appears later in this *Aldenhamiana*. In my own time in the Submarine Service, in the 1980s, I saw (and wore!) some strange varieties of "steaming rig", but nothing quite so splendid as that worn by Bob and his fellow officers! No doubt eminently comfortable in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean.....

Sadly, our list of OA deaths this time seems rather longer than usual, and contains some truly remarkable men. I am most grateful to those who have written tributes. On a brighter note, we do also have a very good selection of contributions - just turn to the "OA

### Dates for your Diary

#### Tuesday 30th November 2004

OA Society Annual Dinner at the RAF Club, Picadilly

#### Tuesday 15th March 2005

AGM

#### Sunday 26th June 2005

OA Day (incorporating a Gaudy for OAs who left the School in the years 1970-1979)

#### Friday 8th July 2005

Eros to Eros Run

News, Home and Abroad" section (or, as one of our correspondents so neatly puts it, the "OA update-y bit"), and as always some great photographs which I hope will spark memories and prompt a few letters and emails before January rolls around and we are putting together the February 2005 edition. I have been most encouraged by the increasing correspondence from OAs living in many different parts of the world. Our own Christmas tradition is to be the earliest bearers of good wishes for Christmas to you..... and we look forward to receiving yours in return, plus news!!

Various notices, forms to fill in, etc. are as usual included - please forgive an element of repetition from *Aldenhamiana* to *Aldenhamiana* but, along with entertaining you with memories, it falls to me also to inform you on a regular basis of bits and pieces of admin and, more exciting, the plans your Society has for bringing you together with your friends.

I hope you enjoy this *Aldenhamiana*.

**Trevor Barton**

## **HEADMASTER'S LETTER**

This September we welcomed 659 pupils aged two to eighteen back to School, the greatest ever number of students, and if you have been a recent visitor to the School you will know that this is only one of the ways in which we are growing.

This year our Public Examination results were excellent, and at A level our Upper Sixth broke all records. These were comfortably our best ever results with over 50% of all grades at A and B and a pass rate of 97%. This represents exceptional Value Added given that Aldenham has a broader range of intake than is the case for many Schools with similar results. The AS results indicated that this year's cohort have the potential to match their predecessors, and that will certainly be their challenge in the months ahead. At GCSE our A\* and A rate at 27% was equal to that of last year which is very good news indeed and suggests that our focus on stretching the most able is certainly having an effect. Equally there were some very pleasing results from those whose goals were more in the B and C range, and the vast majority of those pupils who wish to progress to the Aldenham Sixth Form have been able to do so.

Last September we opened our Prep School accepting boys and girls at age seven, and this September we welcomed nine girls at age eleven, which means our first co-educational group at the junior end of the main School. These girls are now part of Martineau's House which is located in the refurbished Near and Far Old Blocks - as I write we are preparing later today for a double celebration of the official opening of Martineau's House and the re-dedication ceremony of the replacement Headmasters' portraits. We are expecting Richard Martineau, son of Jack Martineau (former Chairman of Governors and Benefactor of the School), to perform the official opening as well as welcoming

back to the School my five predecessors representing an unbroken line of 55 years' worth of Headmastering; surely a unique event in Aldenham's history?

The building of the new classroom block and Common Room extension on the site of the Shed is well under way, and we expect to have it in use by the middle of next February.

The former Martineau's House, which now houses the Prep School, is going to be renamed Woodrow House in memory of the long and loyal support John Woodrow gave to the School in so many ways including as a Governor and Chairman of Governors and Director of the Quatercentenary Appeal. The naming of a House after him is a fitting memorial to a remarkable man. We are welcoming his wife Daphne, who has so loyally supported him, to perform the renaming ceremony and we are looking forward to seeing many OAs at the Memorial Service for John at the School on Saturday 16th October at 3pm.

This reminds me, as we start the new academic year, how positive is the support given to the School by the OAs. In addition to the events mentioned by Mike Taylor, a few brave OAs returned again in July to run the Eros to Eros challenge and just before the start of term six OAs from School House, who first came through the School gates in September 1944, returned to celebrate with a 60th Anniversary Lunch - we would welcome any more groups who would like to hold small reunions such as this at the School. The OA/Development office will be happy to help with the arrangements. At the beginning of October the School is holding a Careers evening for Year 11 and 6th Form pupils and a multitude of different careers will be represented by OAs. I would like to thank you in advance for your willingness to give back to the School the benefit of your experience. I have also been very lucky to enjoy playing golf with a number of OAs at various events this year. Karin and I hope to meet many more of you at the School and around the country (and the world) in the future. You are always most welcome.

**Richard Harman**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In the field of voluntary subscriptions from those life members who left the school over 20 years ago, we now have 131 standing orders bringing in £1815 annually. We have also received one-off payments of £835. Many thanks to you all. Any more still welcome! The committee is planning to restructure membership to account for the fact that many members are now able to use the website, which results in a saving in printing and postage costs. We hope to tell you more about this in February. The general funds of the Society are fairly healthy at present and the committee has decided to increase the grants it makes to affiliated sports clubs etc.

**Richard Peart**

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

If you would like to join the OA Society Committee (and volunteers would be warmly received) please contact the Honorary Secretary, William Rouse, whose details appear at the back of *Aldenhamiana*.

## OA GOLFING SOCIETY REVIEW OF 2004

### Halford Hewitt

1 April v Sherborne at Deal

Result: Lost 1-4

Team: RA Alter & D Rawlinson	Won 7&6
SP Radin & PJR Marsh	Lost 2&1
RJ Coombes & RD Hall	Lost 5&4
DJ McMonagle & S Moffat	Lost 3&2
PJ Easby & SGO Williams	Lost 3&2

"Without Joel Bloomfield and Guy Green, we knew we would find the going tough but the team selected had a unique blend of youth and experience. For Bob Coombes, this was his 55th consecutive Halford Hewitt - what a stunning achievement! Phil Marsh, whilst not challenging Bob's record, has played many times and was recalled after an absence of seven years. Dick Hall and Scott Moffat both played in their first Hewitt although neither is in the full bloom of youth! We started strongly, Scott holing a magnificent 30 foot putt on the 2nd, but by the time we got to the 9th, we found ourselves down in all but the first match. Robert Alter and David Rawlinson played solid golf and duly thrashed the Sherborne sacrificial pair at the 12th. The remaining matches gradually edged away from us and it was all over before we got to the 17th. The team deserves credit for a spirited performance and it was a great match for the OA Barmy Army who, as usual, travelled down to Deal to support the team."

### Halford Hewitt Plate

2 April v Glenalmond at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Won 2-1

Team: RA Alter & RD Hall	Won 3&2
SP Radin & K Whittaker	Lost 4&3
SGO Williams & DJ McMonagle	Won 2&1

2 April v Kings, Canterbury at Princes, Sandwich

Result: Lost 0-3

Team: RA Alter & SP Radin	Lost 3&2
RD Hall & DJ McMonagle	Lost 5&4
SGO Williams & PJ Easby	Lost 3&2

"We got off to a great start again in the Plate with Ken Whittaker making his first appearance in the team on Friday morning (indeed, any appearance was quite remarkable after a night drowning the sorrows of the previous day!). In the afternoon, we came up against

a very strong Kings Canterbury side and we could not hold them. Ah well, perhaps next year?"

### Spring Meeting

29 April at West Hill

Results:

Spring Challenge Cup	RD Hall (67)
Scratch Prize	Not awarded
Stableford Prize	ND Melvill (35 points)
President's Cup	I Wilson-Soppitt & CJ Croxton (36pts)

### Summer Meeting

21 July at Ashridge

Results:

Ian Greig Trophy	JDL Yule (67)
Scratch Prize	K Whittaker (76)
Stableford Prize	CR Brown (41 pts)
Laurence Latter Trophy	CJ Croxton & K Whittaker (42 pts)

### **Remaining Fixtures in 2004**

Friday 17 September - Autumn Meeting at Beaconsfield

Tuesday 5-8 October - European Meeting in France

Friday 22 October - Captain's Invitation Meeting at The Berkshire

Thursday 4 November - Match v Old Hurst Johnians at Porters Park

## OA VETERANS FOOTBALL CLUB

"The OA Veterans Football Club enjoyed mixed fortunes last season as an early exit from the Arthurian Veterans Cup was followed by a run to the final of the associated plate competition. Aldenham were drawn to play local rivals Old Cholmeleians in the 1st round of the 2003/4 Arthurian Vets Cup, having knocked them out on penalties in the previous season's semi-final. Once again the match was very close, with Aldenham losing 1-0 in normal time. Victories against Harrow and then Lancing in the preliminary rounds of the plate competition earned a place in the final against Brentwood. However, complications finding a suitable date to play this fixture has meant that it will now be played early this season on 7th November at Old Brentwood's ground.

"This season we have been drawn against Ardinians in the 1st round of the 2004/5 Arthurian Veterans Cup. This match is scheduled to be played at the Bank of England Sports Ground in Roehampton on 21st November 2004. Any OAs wishing to support this fixture, or indeed the plate final, would be very welcome, although it would be a good idea to e-mail either of us in advance to confirm the match arrangements.

"The club continues to look for new players to ensure healthy competition and also keep the average age down! We are therefore very pleased to welcome Martin Davies, Nick Baker and Hanif Moledina into the squad this season. Any other OAs, who are now 35 or above and who would like to join the club are very welcome and should contact either of us for more information.

Unfortunately Paul Stenning has decided to call time on his distinguished OA footballing career and so we thank him for his commitment and efforts over the years."

### Results for 2003/4:

Arthurian Veterans Cup 1st Round  
Old Aldenhamians 0 Old Cholmeleians 1

Arthurian Veterans Plate 1st Round  
Old Harrovians 0 Old Aldenhamians 1  
N. Fenn

Arthurian Veterans Plate 2nd Round  
Old Aldenhamians 3 Lancing Old Boys 2  
N. Fenn (2),  
S. Goodfellow (Pen)

### 2004/5 Fixtures:

**Sunday October 10th vs Harrow** 11.00am Bank of  
England Sports Ground Bank Lane (off Priory Lane), Roehampton

**Sunday October 24th vs Powerleague** 11.00 am Aldenham  
School

**Sunday November 7th vs Brentwood** 11.00 am Old  
Brentwoods Sports Ground, Ashwells Road, Coxtie Green  
Brentwood, Essex  
(2003/4 Arthurian Veterans Cup Plate Final)

**Sunday November 21st vs Ardinians** 11.00 am Bank of  
England Sports Ground  
(2004/5 Arthurian Veterans Cup 1st round)

**Sunday January 16th vs Arthurian Veterans Cup 2nd Round  
or Plate 1st Round**

Mark Cox Alex Henchley  
(markacox@bloomberg.net) (ahenchley@ccnmatthews.co.uk)

## EROS TO EROS 2004

**Alan Phillips (M77-82)** and your Editor (K71-75) represented the OAs this year, taking 3rd and 5th places respectively in sub-two hour times (ITS NOT A RACE, HONEST!). The twenty or so strong field comprised current pupils, members of staff, said OAs, and was as ever supported by dedicated members of staff who got up before dawn had even contemplated cracking to transport us into London and then stand by with very welcome cups of water en route. Thanks to them, and to the School generally for allowing us to run (and for an excellent breakfast!). Any OAs wanting to run in 2005, please let the Editor know via the OA office.

## The Aldenhamian

Your most recent copy of *The Aldenhamian* had inserted in it a postcard to be returned if you wished to continue receiving the magazine. If you meant to do so but forgot, please send the postcard to the OA Office in the next month or so - or email the OA Office.

This in no way affects this publication *Aldenhamiana* or the arrangements for supplying it to OAs.

**60th Anniversary Reunion Lunch** - as the Headmaster mentions in his letter, a splendid lunch was arranged for OAs who joined School House in September 1944, captured in the photograph below.



Pictured left to right are: **John Hancock, Don Shield, David Brow, Richard Thwaites and Mike St. Aubyn** & their wives. **Alan Oliver** took the photo.

**1960s GAUDY - held on OA Day 2004. The following attended:-**

B J Alexander	M R King
R A R Arthur	A R Knights
A P Astor	R M O Lace
D N Barnes	M R L Laddie
W A Barrell	A R B May
D G Bennett	C N C May
N I Bonard	M C McNeill
D M Bonn	E B Middleton
L Brewer	P R J Milne Home
M F Broad	D L R Munk
P J Brunsdan	D P Norman
W S Cairns	E H Oatley
C S Carnaghan	S K Osborne
J J R Cockburn	A M W T Phillips
G H Cornfield	J D Rimer
J C Corp	R A Rushton
L D Corp	H A Scott

R F H Crabb  
T H Dale  
E F Donald  
I R Eggleton  
E J D Fielder  
P C F Gibbs  
S H Gifford-Mead  
G C G Gunton  
J W Hadfield  
C G F Hamilton  
R N Howgego  
G Humphreys  
I M Hutchinson  
B D Jarvis  
M J H Johnston  
R O C Keller  
R J Kershaw

P G Scott  
R J Stamford  
T P Starling  
D C Stedman  
M S W Stevens  
P W S Stevens  
M V L Stewart  
D W Swain  
M G Taylor CBE  
B J Uttam  
N A C Van Der Bijl  
C M Watson  
A N Wharmby  
S A R Wharmby  
G A Wilson  
R J B Wright

## Have you looked at the OA website recently?

[www.oldaldenhamian.org](http://www.oldaldenhamian.org)

You are invited to register on the members  
database.

This gives you access to current information on  
your peers, and also if you wish, enables others  
to contact you.

In addition to the database, there is much other  
news on the main part of the site.

## A REMINDER OF THE NEW SUBSCRIPTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR OA SOCIETY MEMBERS

You will already be aware that new membership subscription arrangements were unanimously approved at the Society's AGM in 2002, in order to put the finances of the Society on a sounder footing and to enable the Society to provide members with an improved service, particularly by way of an expansion of the web site.

Under the new arrangements, with effect from September 2002, pupils who wish on leaving the School to join the OA Society (or their parents) pay a lump sum which gives membership of the Society for a fixed period of 20 years. Thereafter such members will be invited to continue their membership by paying an annual subscription.

As a further part of these new arrangements, all existing Life Members of 20 years plus standing (i.e. who left the School twenty years ago or more) are invited to pay a voluntary annual subscription to the Society. Obviously this works on a rolling basis and, as the years go by, further batches of OAs will fall into this category. It is hoped that most OAs, once they pass the 20-year point, will be willing to pay the voluntary annual subscription. An appropriate sum would be £10 per annum. The Society would of course welcome larger voluntary subscriptions, particularly from those who wish to continue to receive *Aldenhamiana* in hard copy.

In conjunction with the voluntary subscription scheme we are continuing to encourage OAs to download future editions of *Aldenhamiana* from the web site in order to reduce printing and postage costs to the Society.

So, key points for existing Life Members:

- \* If you left the School in the summer of 1984 or before, you are invited to start paying a voluntary annual subscription to the Society.
- \* If you left the School after 1984, your 20 years is not up yet!.....but as each year passes the Society will invite another year's worth of Life Members to start paying voluntary annual subscriptions.

A Standing Order form for voluntary annual subscriptions is included in this issue of *Aldenhamiana* and will also be included in future issues and will be on the website.

## ASSISTANCE WANTED / CORPORATE HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITY

James Rigby, who has just begun his final year at the School, is progressing rapidly in the world of motor sport. He has been awarded his National B racing licence following a week spent at the Silverstone Driving School. He is now seeking to consolidate his transition from kart racing to cars - and that means he needs funding. One way of achieving this is by attracting companies who wish to provide corporate hospitality at venues such as Silverstone or Brands Hatch. This would also include livery and logos on the car and equipment. If you or your company may be interested in this, or in sponsoring James in any other way, please contact James at Riggs200@hotmail.com .

### HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS

Two OAs have been elected to high office in the same City livery company, the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers:- **John Corp (S56-61)** has been appointed Master, and **Alastair MacQueen (S76-81)** Upper Warden.

**Brian Parsons (M44-49)** was honoured to be awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 26th January 2004, for charity work for the vision impaired since 1976. He has chaired a fundraising committee in Melbourne which raised close to A\$1million. A letter from Brian appears in OA News, later in this *Aldenhamiana*.



Brian Parsons (on the left) receiving his medal from the Governor of Victoria, John Landy.

**Richard Cook (P73-78)** has been appointed a Trustee of the Starlight Foundation, a children's charity. See the letter from **Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P58-61)** later.

### ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement is announced between **Mark La Frenais (K89-94)** and Laura Jayne McDonnell.

The engagement is announced between **Paul Deverell (B83-87)** and Paula Megginson.

The engagement is announced between **Andrew Starling (K88-91)** and Suzy Hart.

The engagement is announced between **Nicholas Parker (M87-92)** and Jenny Francis.

### DEATHS

<b>W G R Ambrose</b>	<b>S36-40</b>	<b>14 September 2004</b>
<b>J G Armstrong</b>	<b>B42-46</b>	<b>16 Aug 2004</b>
<b>R L Bennett</b>	<b>M26-31</b>	<b>11 February 1999</b>
<b>E B Branwell</b>	<b>CR64-70</b>	<b>7 September 2004</b>
<b>G P S Brewer</b>	<b>P35-39</b>	<b>5 March 2004</b>
<b>M W Buchele</b>	<b>M66-71</b>	<b>4 February 2004</b>
<b>H A B Claypole</b>	<b>P27-30</b>	<b>23 August 2004</b>
<b>G F Cleminson</b>	<b>S38-42</b>	<b>26 March 2004</b>
<b>L P Cleminson</b>	<b>S30-34</b>	<b>15 February 2004</b>
<b>M Harris</b>	<b>S36-38</b>	<b>19 July 2004</b>
<b>R I Hunter</b>	<b>S43-45</b>	<b>8 March 2004</b>
<b>C P H T Isolani</b>	<b>S31-36</b>	<b>10 September 2004</b>
<b>T H Langford</b>	<b>S23-27</b>	<b>16 May 2004</b>
<b>D E Leech</b>	<b>P43-47</b>	<b>15 January 2004</b>
<b>T J Lennard</b>	<b>Bursar 65-72</b>	<b>5 June 2004</b>
<b>F C Maddox</b>	<b>B26-30</b>	<b>7 January 2004</b>
<b>C R May</b>	<b>S36-40</b>	<b>1 September 2004</b>
<b>M Mellenfield</b>	<b>S39-42</b>	<b>25 October 2003</b>
<b>P W B Mendelssohn</b>	<b>B60-64</b>	<b>6 March 2004</b>
<b>M F Murray</b>	<b>P30-33</b>	<b>25 September 2004</b>
<b>D H F Nelson</b>	<b>P51-55</b>	<b>14 September 2004</b>
<b>K A Nicholson</b>	<b>B24-28</b>	<b>30 Mar 2004</b>
<b>B G Phillips</b>	<b>M28-30</b>	<b>20 February 2004</b>
<b>J G Plackett</b>	<b>S50-54</b>	<b>22 April 2004</b>
<b>D E Pither</b>	<b>B39-42</b>	<b>19 July 2004</b>
<b>R H Purvis</b>	<b>B34-37</b>	<b>16 February 2004</b>
<b>D W Reed</b>	<b>S52-56</b>	<b>6 June 2004</b>
<b>R M L Reynolds</b>	<b>M57-60</b>	<b>13 September 2004</b>
<b>C D Riley</b>	<b>M54-58</b>	<b>13 February 2004</b>
<b>A D Roper</b>	<b>M47-50</b>	<b>10 May 2004</b>
<b>H Smedley</b>	<b>S34-39</b>	<b>16 February 2004</b>
<b>W Smith</b>	<b>M32-36</b>	<b>26 June 2003</b>
<b>G P Stockman</b>	<b>S41-46</b>	<b>19 August 2004</b>
<b>C W Vanstone</b>	<b>S30-32</b>	<b>30 September 2003</b>

<b>S R C Walmsley</b>	<b>P21 26 30 March 2004</b>
<b>N M Wilson</b>	<b>M64-68 2 March 2004</b>
<b>J M Woodrow</b>	<b>B46-51 4 July 2004</b>
<b>J H Young</b>	<b>S19-24 21 February 2004</b>

## OBITUARIES AND TRIBUTES



John Woodrow with his granddaughter Amelia.

We are grateful to **Peter Purton (B46-51)**, who has contributed this personal tribute to his old friend, **John Michael Woodrow (B46-51)**: "John and I first met in September 1946 when our respective fathers in their respective Rover 90s attempted the entrance drive to Beevor's House at about the same time. Fifty-eight years is a long time but our friendship never looked back. To sustain it we did not need to live in each other's pockets and from time to time our paths diverged but John's support and wise counsel were always available. I can only hope I was able to respond adequately.

"Seriously asthmatic as a child he never allowed that condition to interfere with anything he wanted to do. He was a most competent sportsman - cricketer (fast-medium), hockey player, tennis player, skier, golfer - and a good scholar to boot.

"John always claimed that on one particularly inclement day at School when we were busy devising a scheme for converting a prescribed long reservoir run into a short reservoir run - a feat requiring great skill if one was to escape Sarge's attention - we had discussed our future careers and agreed that we would both qualify as solicitors and practice in partnership together. This did not happen for some time as I went off to give Her Majesty some questionable support and John - denied that opportunity on health grounds - went to University. But we did both qualify and by 1965 we were Partners together in the well known International Law Firm of Norton Rose, which remained the case until our respective retirements some twenty six years later.

"I suppose that being driven by John down the Italian side of the St.Gothard Pass in 1954 in my 1937 Talbot Ten Coupe with Chris Arkell in the dickey and without a footbrake provided the most testing moment of our friendship, but his skilful manipulation of gearbox and handbrake was just another demonstration of his all round abilities and we survived to tell the tale.

"After his retirement John was never short of things to do, and it was no surprise to anyone when he turned up as the first ever non-Brewer's Company Chairman of the Board of Governors - a role which he carried out in the most accomplished way with all the skill, energy and charm which we associated with him. This included not least securing the success of the Appeal, which contributed to the introduction of preparatory schooling allowing the School now to provide a continuous Nursery to University curriculum. It will surprise no-one that the new Preparatory House is to be named Woodrow House. I can think of no more fitting tribute to his work.

"I remember that as a young man about town John had a penchant for charming girl friends with botanical names. I recall Marigold and Rosemary and I think there was a Fleur. This went on for some time until along came Daphne - plucked I always thought rather appropriately from the Garden Room at 10 Downing Street! They were married for forty years and thence came three daughters Sarah Jane, Caroline and Amanda (the first two also OAs) and two grandchildren Amelia and Hugo, who gave them both much happiness.

"John's last few years were plagued by a range of afflictions, to which he offered the brave resistance we would have expected of him but which eventually overcame him.

"He was a splendid Aldenhamian and an example to us all. We shall miss him greatly."

We reprint, with acknowledgements, the following from *The Times*:

**"Sir Harold Smedley (S34-39) Servant of the Commonwealth who tried to find a diplomatic settlement to Rhodesia's woes**



"Sir Harold Smedley represented his country's overseas interests for 34 years, ending his career as High Commissioner in New Zealand; yet only once, as Ambassador to Laos in the late 1960s, did he stray outside the Commonwealth. He was indeed a representative of a breed now almost extinct, an out-and-out Commonwealth man.

"Harold Smedley was born in 1920, the son of doctors who both served as medical officers of health in West Sussex. He was educated at Aldenham School and Pembroke College, Cambridge, but he completed his practical education with service throughout the war in the Royal Marines. He was an officer in 48 Royal Marine Commando, which landed in Normandy on D-Day, and took part in the advance to the Low Countries and then in the Walcheren landings to open the approaches to Antwerp to allied shipping.

"He was on garrison duty in Berlin in 1946 when he received a summons at short notice to join the Dominions Office, which was later subsumed into the Commonwealth (and still later the Commonwealth Relations) Office.

"After two years' service in London, Smedley was dispatched to the High Commission in Wellington. There he married a New Zealand woman, Beryl Harley Brown, and from there he transferred in 1951 to what was then Salisbury in Rhodesia. He served two years there, travelling widely in the country (as he did in all his posts) and developing a love of a land to whose tangled affairs he was to return later in his career.

"Within the narrow confines of the Commonwealth Office he was already marked out as a high-flyer, and at the age of 34 he was brought back to London to serve the Commonwealth Secretary as his principal private secretary. He stayed with him for three years, while the Commonwealth experienced and just survived the shock to trust among its members administered by the Suez adventure of 1956. Promoted to counsellor, he next spent three years in India, and then, after four years back in London, in 1964 he was rewarded with a mission of his own as High Commissioner in Ghana.

"Ghana was the first of the African colonies to achieve independence, in 1957, and at first it inspired high hopes and honest emulation. But by Smedley's time there both the conditions and relations with Britain were going downhill. He and his family still enjoyed everything the country had to offer - swimming daily off the Accra beaches in the South Atlantic's powerful waves - but in 1965 President Nkrumah, provoked by Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence, broke off relations with Britain. The Smedleys were bundled out of the country unceremoniously, to return a few months later after Nkrumah's overthrow in a coup during his absence in China.

"Smedley saw out his time in Ghana and was then transferred to Laos, where for three years as Ambassador he observed that

unhappy country's travails at close quarters, as North Vietnamese forces ravaged it by land and the US Air Force laid it waste from on high.

"In 1970 Smedley was brought back to London. By now there were hopes that Rhodesia, which he had got to know almost 20 years earlier, might move forward to a peaceful settlement between the races. The British Government appointed him secretary general of a commission to sound out opinion in Rhodesia about a political settlement for the country. It was an exercise which started with high hopes, but entrenched positions in all political quarters in the country denied it success. When the commission broke up, the country faced almost a decade more of turmoil before achieving majority rule and full independence in 1979.

"From this abortive exercise Smedley moved back to the sub-continent as High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, and then went back to a final appointment in the country where his career had begun, New Zealand. With his wife, with whom by now he had four children, he made a name for himself as one who knew and loved that country almost as much as his own. Lady Smedley captured all this, and much else of their lives together, in a memoir published in 1990 called *Partners in Diplomacy*.

"They travelled widely and got to know both islands intimately, and in retirement Smedley continued the connection with a six-year stint as chairman of the London board of the Bank of New Zealand.

"In retirement the Smedleys moved to Ferring, in West Sussex, the county in which he had grown up. He became a member of West Sussex County Council, and the president of the West Sussex Association for the Blind. He also served on the board of the Victoria League and as president of the Hakluyt Society.

"During his time in Wellington Smedley was appointed KCMG. He is survived by his wife and by two sons and two daughters.

"Sir Harold Smedley, KCMG, MBE, diplomat, was born on June 19, 1920. He died on February 16, 2004, aged 83."

An Obituary of **Dr Christopher Maddox (B26-30)**, which we reprint from *The Times*:

**"Energetic medical missionary who served in Bangkok and remained in China after the Communist victory**

"CHRIS MADDOX'S principal legacy is the Manorom Hospital, 150 miles north of Bangkok. It opened in 1956 with what was probably the world's first integrated leprosy programme. A specialist Aids unit was added in 1997, and an extended outpatients department opened in 2002.



"Built on a paddy field, the hospital was at first susceptible to fast flooding - on one occasion a surgeon was up to her knees in water before she could finish sewing up a patient and evacuate - but flood defences were later put in place.

"It was in 1936 that Chris Maddox joined the China Inland Mission, once derided in Parliament as "the pigtail mission" because its early members followed Chinese custom in growing a cue. Maddox, bound for China's hinterland, sailed to Shanghai from Southampton on the *Empress of Britain* on October 1, 1938, the day Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich promising "peace in our time". The Sino-Japanese conflict was already well advanced.

"Frederick Christopher Maddox, the youngest of four children, was born in Hampstead to missionary parents who had served in Uganda. He was educated at Aldenham School, Trinity College, Cambridge, and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

"As a student he was active in the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union. In his circle of close friends were the future Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan and the distinguished Islamic scholar Professor Sir Norman Anderson. The Christian Union was then leading a nationwide evangelical movement in British universities known as the InterVarsity Fellowship; its rise was to result in the gradual decline of the more liberal Student Christian Movement.

"Maddox's student days instilled in him a habit of daily Bible-reading before breakfast which he continued until he died. In 1948, after he had spent 12 years in China, his lifelong friend and mentor Douglas Johnson persuaded him and his wife Catherine, a fellow doctor, to spend a year on the staff of the Inter-Varsity Fellowship, inviting university students to consider missionary service.

"The rookie missionaries who sailed to China in 1938 were

unusually gifted, and they soon earned the nickname "the Sons of the Prophets". Besides Maddox they included Rupert Clarke, the last missionary to leave China after the Communists came to power; A. J. Broomhall, the historian of China; and the author David Bentley-Taylor. Maddox and Broomhall were posted to Paoning (now Lanzhong), in Sichuan province, with its 60-bed hospital serving 3.5 million people. There was no running water, no drainage, and no electric lighting.

"In 1950 the Communists took over the hospital. Amid controversy with mission leaders, Maddox and his wife chose to remain, donning the navy blue uniforms and peaked caps of the Chinese Civil Service, and attending re-education meetings. Suddenly, though, in 1952, they were given 48 hours to leave, and with deep regret they made their way out of China via Chongqing, the wartime capital, and on down the Yangtze.

"Early the following year they returned to Asia to settle in Thailand. Their passage between Singapore and Bangkok was memorably shared with a giraffe bound for Bangkok zoo, stabled on the lower deck but with its head on a level with the passenger deck from where it was fed.

"Manorom Hospital had not only a specialised leprosy wing, but also a resident evangelist to work alongside the medical team. Outpatients listened to an explanation of the Christian faith as they waited to be seen, and several Thai Christian leaders were converted there. A nearby church was started in 1962 and is now sending out missionaries of its own.

"Maddox had a pragmatic edge; he was a tremendous initiator and forged ahead with plans faster than the mission leaders could fully absorb and weigh them. His style of decision-making could cause difficulties with his superiors, and eventually in 1969 the Maddoxes resigned from the mission. His own gifts were never in doubt, however. "He was a Moses," said one colleague.

"Proceeding to Laos, they found the situation there a long way behind that in Thailand. Maddox formed a mobile medical team and then, in 1974, established a small medical centre, with government help, just off the north-south Highway 13, and close to the Mekong. This had to be evacuated the following year, though, when the Vietnamese-led Communists gained strength. Maddox was able to return twice, to hand over administrative responsibilities, and he and his wife received awards from the King. Maddox became the very last Knight of the Order of the Thousand Elephants of the White Parasol. In addition he was appointed OBE in 1980 and to the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand in 1984.

"He retired in 1987 to Chiang Mai, in north Thailand, where he made his home with one of several orphans he and his wife had unofficially adopted.

"He died back at Manorom Hospital, and is the first Caucasian to be buried in its cemetery. A biography of him by Stephen Hayes,

*Turbulence and Toeholds*, was published in Thailand in 1991.

"Catherine Simmons, whom he had married in 1946, and whose warmth of personality had often compensated for his aloofness, died in 1980.

"Dr Christopher Maddox, OBE, medical missionary, was born on May 5, 1912. He died on January 7, 2004, aged 91."

We are most grateful to his nephew **Basil Maddox (S51-56)** for supplying some more personal memories: "My uncle Chris decided to become a medical missionary while still at Aldenham. He went on to Cambridge, then to St Bart's Hospital, and thence direct to China. Ejected by the communists, he spent the rest of his long life in Thailand except for brief periods in Laos and in Africa, and his eventful life and works has been well covered in two biographical books - "Paddy Field Hospital" and "Turbulence and Toeholds". His memorial service was held at All Souls Langham Place in May, with half-page obituaries in the *Times* and in the *Guardian* which I have no need to duplicate. So what follows are my more personal memories of this wonderful man.

"Arriving at Aldenham in 1951, I was greeted by Cecil Stott with the question "are you related to the Maddox who was here in 1926?" I was impressed by his memory! My father's brother had been the reason I was 'put down' at birth for Aldenham, and although we met infrequently - for Chris made his home in Asia - I had as a child been at his wedding to another missionary doctor, and was much in awe of the fact that he could speak and write Chinese - supposedly almost impossible for a European to learn. He took me on a tour of Europe in 1954, and I received my 'O'level results by telegram while in Switzerland. I followed Chris to Cambridge, and much later he stayed several weeks with us in Cincinnati, for he was no reclusive missionary, but travelled the world to medical and Christian conferences so that his skills, both medical and evangelical, would be more effective back in Thailand. In 1992 my wife Jennifer and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in Bangkok, then stayed with Chris in his home in Chiang Mai, from where we drove all over Northern Thailand visiting the hospitals he had built, and the old refugee camps where he had been the only doctor for 15,000 people during the Vietnam war. We met Thai doctors and nurses he had helped to train, and ventured down near-impassable trails through the hills. Even at 80 he was tireless. We ate at places that a non-Thai speaker would not dare to sample. It was the trip of a lifetime for us, and he was a joy to be with. He regaled us with many of his travel adventures in a country where good roads are a recent invention, my favourite being when he had to walk for petrol after running out, leaving stranded his passenger - the Dutch ambassador!

"Chris not only emulated his own father by being decorated at Buckingham Palace, but he had the unique distinction of being decorated by two other reigning monarchs as well - those of Thailand and of Laos. He was also the most sincere practising Christian I have ever known, clashing with his evangelical

sponsors in London because he healed bodies as well as souls. Forty years after being expelled from China he was invited back as an honoured guest, and found to his surprise that he was well remembered by people now high in the Party, a hospital having been named after him.

"At the time of his death he was the only Western doctor licensed to practice in Thailand. They will miss him and so will we, as we thank God for a wonderful life."

**Michael Goodman (M44-48)** sent the following on behalf of several contemporaries of **W H (Bill) Keatley (M49-53)** whose death on 23rd April 2003 was recorded in the last edition of *Aldenhamiana*.

"Bill was the youngest of three brothers who were at Aldenham between 1944 and 1953 and after leaving Aldenham he did two years National Service with the 2nd Field Battery of the Royal West African Frontier Force in the Gold Coast (now Ghana). His general affability and popularity was evident even then when his batman had to be persuaded not to follow him back to the U.K. at the end of his service. After that he joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment T.A., which was part of 16th Airborne Division and in which his brother **Bryan (M44-48)** was already serving. He qualified as a paratrooper and was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1968 before retiring in 1972 with the rank of Major.

"After National Service he went up to St.Catharine's College, Cambridge (memorably associated with **T R Henn (S16-20)**) where he read Law. In 2000 he and his brother Bryan endowed the Keatley Bursary at the College. On graduating he joined the stock-broking firm of John Prust & Co. seeing it through various incarnations and name changes before being made Senior Partner, and later Chairman of Laurence Keen. In 1986 the partnership took the brave and successful decision to concentrate on private client investment management. In the process he became a non-executive director of Pershing plc. His final achievement was to merge the business with Rathbone's Bank plc where he served as Deputy Chairman from 1995 until his retirement in 1997. In all these moves his acumen and leadership skills were the deciding element.

"His concern for others led him to numerous charitable appointments such as the Council of the Iris Trust, an eyesight research charity where he served for twenty-five years, three of them as Treasurer. He also joined the board of the Church Army from 1989 reflecting the centrality of the Christian faith in his life, as did the Chairmanship of the Portman Trust in which post he raised over £2 million for the Women's Hostel in Marylebone.

"On retirement from London his charitable work was focussed on his county of Devon and he became a Trustee of the Calvert Trust, which provides adventure holidays for the mentally and physically handicapped, and a Governor of Grenville College, Bideford and the North Devon and Somerset Disaster Fund. This

work was in addition to many personal and discreet acts of philanthropy.

"Bill's hobbies and interests included fishing, skiing, beagling and the poetry of the 20th Century; his approach to them was of a piece with the relaxed manner and ready humour that he brought to the other aspects of his life. His garden was opened to the public through the National Garden Scheme in aid of various charities. He himself did some gentle pottering in his garden under the expert eye of his wife, Jane, with a special interest in his collection of ferns.

"Above all, Bill was a lively companion: clubbable, courteous and always cheerful with a ready chuckle and a humorous turn of phrase that were seldom absent for long. He had an enormous circle of friends and loved nothing more than to entertain them in his lovely home at Parracombe on the edge of Exmoor.

"His wife and their two daughters survive him."

Maxine Buchele, sister of **Mark Buchele (M66-71)** sent the following letter: "It is with sadness I write to advise you that my brother Mark Buchele died on February 4th 2004 after a long struggle against cancer. The latest copy of *Aldenham Today* was recently received and this prompted me to write to you. Although he did not keep up with activities of OAs due to the demands on his time in the Garden Centre and Gardens, he was always interested to read news from his old school.

"He had a great passion for music and reading and I believe the early interest he had was fostered and developed at Aldenham. Music in particular was his great love. He became an extremely knowledgeable plantsman, giving lectures and talks over a wide geographical area and created from nothing the wonderful gardens at Merriments and they will remain a testimony to his love of plants and flowers.

"He will be much missed not only by his family but by a very large circle of friends and fellow music and plant enthusiasts."



Ed. -You can visit Merriments Gardens and Garden Centre in East Sussex on their website [www.merriments.co.uk](http://www.merriments.co.uk) .

**Humphrey Roberts (S45-50)** recently received the Annual Report from King's College, Cambridge which included an obituary of **Peter Bedford (M45-49)**, his contemporary both at Aldenham and at King's: "Peter Bedford was born into a distinguished musical family in Hampstead in 1931, though it was not a happy day for his parents as he had arrived many weeks too early, and there seemed to be no way of feeding him. Fortunately there was nurse in attendance who was not prepared to give up easily, and with the aid of the dropper from an old fountain pen, she fed the tiny baby around the clock for days on end until he was strong enough to feed by himself - after which he grew to be the tallest and fittest of three brothers, never again requiring the services of a doctor until the very end of his life.

"Peter performed embarrassingly well at school and won a scholarship to King's, taking up his place after the inevitable two years of National Service. It seemed that he was firmly set on a career as a classicist when he took up a teaching post at Tonbridge School after graduating; but after eight years (during which he met his future wife Margie, the sister of one of the pupils at the school) he decided to give his attractive baritone voice a try, and auditioned for the recently formed National Opera School. He won a place, gave up his teaching career, and went to study for two years in Germany, before returning to England to join the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus and marry Margie.

"Music had always played a significant part in Peter's life, and there was a strong musical pedigree on both sides of the family. His early years coincided with the birth of the LP record, and these were very much sought after, so Peter devised a simple but effective method of expediting their purchase. Knowing that his father, as an engineer, was habitually given to bad language, Peter proposed a family swear box, where anything that could be described as swearing was to be fined a token amount, and the proceeds would go towards the record fund. All that remained to do was to provoke his father into finable language; and every few weeks Peter and his brothers would arrive at the music store in Leicester Square with 39/11d, sometimes made up of 479 pennies, to choose one of the latest releases. The collection that was built gave Peter considerable solace when he was on leave from his National Service.

"Peter had enormous energy, and he used this in the directing of operas. He had a skill for getting a show together in any circumstances, and worked under the umbrella of Opera for All, an Arts Council-sponsored enterprise which consisted of five or six singers, some rudimentary scenery, a pianist and a van. The worthy aim was to take opera to places which would never have been able to see a full scale production - Peter's own primary aim was to ensure that with himself as driver, scheduler and navigator, the cast would eat a meal en route to their destination at one of the establishments recommended in the *Good Food Guide*.

"Peter was able to combine his music with his gift for teaching,

which found an outlet in his work with the many opera companies with which he was associated. He directed operas for several small London companies, and took some of these productions to Cornwall and to Brownsea Island. He also lectured and gave classes at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he was Professor of Singing for 18 years, and he lectured on opera at many colleges of adult education, bringing his enthusiasm for opera and for life to every aspect of his work. He died on 26 November 2001."

following obituary for her husband who died on 2nd March 2004: "Nicholas spent all his working life with the firm, Withers & Rogers (like his father before him), one of the country's largest firms of Chartered Patent and Trade Mark Agents, in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and was a partner with that firm since 1980. He was due to take up the post of President of ITMA (Institute of Trade Mark Agents) this month (in March).

Nicholas leaves his wife Julia and two children, James (25) and Sarah (21)."

Julia Wilson, wife of **Nicholas Wilson (M64-68)**, sent the

**DO YOU WORK IN LONDON OR NEAR THE SCHOOL?**

**WOULD YOUR CAREER INTEREST OUR STUDENTS?**

**IF SO, WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK**

Every year, in January, our Lower Sixth students are given the opportunity of experiencing life in the workplace. A variety of companies have assisted in this for many years, and our aim now is to increase the number of companies and to broaden the range of work experience offered.

We are therefore asking for all Old Aldenhamians for help. If you work in or around London, and are in a position to offer a week of work experience for a Lower Sixth student in January, please fill in and return the tear-off slip below.

**CAREERS TALKS**

Each Wednesday afternoon of the School term, we invite representatives of various professions into the School to give Careers Talks to the Lower Sixth Form. We are always looking to improve and extend the range of topics and speakers, so if you would be happy to give a talk/presentation to our students on your career, please fill in and return the tear off slip below.

Of course, you are welcome to give both Work Experience Placements and Careers Talks!

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

**Bob Collins**

Head of Careers and Sixth Form

.....  
Please complete and return this form to:

**Amelia Benjamin, Careers Department Assistant, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ or email [rpc@aldenham.com](mailto:rpc@aldenham.com)**

Name .....

House and dates at Aldenham .....

Name of Company .....

Position ..... Nature of Business .....

Address .....

Telephone No ..... Fax No .....

I am willing to offer Work Experience / Careers Talk / Both (Please circle as appropriate)

If you want more information please telephone Amelia at the School tel: 01923 858122

Following the success of the Hove Regional Lunch for OAs from Surrey, Sussex and Kent, the Development Office arranged another lunch on 19th May 2004 for East Anglia OAs. OAs from Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire arrived at the Cornwallis Country Hotel and Restaurant, Brome, Eye, Suffolk on a beautiful sunny day for a memorable lunch. 27 OAs and former staff attended. Their names are listed below. Following on from this we hope to host the next regional lunch in or near Exeter around Easter 2005 - if you can help finding a venue we would like to hear from you. OAs living in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall should keep an eye open for their invitation in the New Year.

M	Atkins	Common Room	1949-3	1953-3
G J	Barker	Common Room	1965-3	1999-2
T P	Barrett	Paull's	1955-3	1960-2
G H	Battle	McGill's	1948-2	1951-2
J L	Birkett	Common Room	1984-3	1995-2
J A	Cockett	School House	1941-3	1946-2
J	Debenham-Taylor	McGill's	1934-2	1936-1
A P	Goodfellow	School House	1933-1	1936-1
J J	Goodwin	Beevor's	1947-1	1950-2
P	Griffin	Former Headmaster	1962-1	1974-2
W J G	Hancock	Beevor's	1944-1	1948-1
A N	Hillyard	McGill's	1945-2	1949-3
R N	Howgego	School House	1964-3	1968-2
R G	Huntsman	Beevor's	1942-2	1945-2
A D	Massey	School House	1943-1	1947-2
I R	Muir	School House	1942-1	1946-2
J M	Page	Beevor's	1942-3	1946-2
I	Partington	School House	1952-3	1955-2
D C	Redfern	McGill's	1942-3	1946-2
P F	Rodwell	School House	1928-3	1931-2
J N	Sainsbury	McGill's	1943-1	1947-2
P G B	Scott	Beevor's	1951-3	1955-3
C H	Shield	School House	1945-3	1949-2
D H	Shield	School House	1944-3	1949-2
D M	Smither	Paull's	1962-3	1967-2
J G W	Utting	Beevor's	1950-3	1955-2
J C	Witter	School House	1949-3	1952-2



## OA NEWS, HOME AND ABROAD

We are grateful to **N J Mustoe (S52-57)** for setting the record straight:

"Dear Sir, In your photo on page 21 of the February 2004 issue you identify a good looking chap as N J L Mustoe, but I am afraid it is not. Of course, since the students are drinking and smoking, it is natural to suppose I would be there, but on this occasion I missed out.

"I have not seen anyone from Aldenham for many years. After leaving school with no qualifications and no prospects, National

Service took me away for two years, and then I went to America to bum around for a while, and it was seven years before I returned, equipped with a wife, child and an MBA.

"I have worked for a number of British engineering companies, and then with my wife running our own food manufacturing company, and then, I am not quite sure how, I have been lecturing in business at a number of private universities in London. I have, perhaps, two English students in all my lectures, all the rest are foreign.

"As one does, I have children and grandchildren to keep me

amused. My latest enthusiasm is cycling, and I cycle between the various universities in London, much to the benefit of my health. I don't know why people think cycling in London is dangerous, for I have only run over one pedestrian in the last four months, and then only because the fool stepped into my cycle lane.

"Yours faithfully, The real N J L Mustoe."

Ed. - The "good looking chap" has since been identified as **John Mustill (B52-57)**.

**Hugh Fraser (B53-57)** sent us a splendid email: "Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear! How cruel, with the honours heaped upon one in the twilight of ones years, to be sussed. There am I, Hugh Fraser, as the cryptic *Aldenhamiana* code has it, on page 9, as part of the first OA reunion in Canada, snowy haired and snowy bearded with the Queen's Jubilee Medal upon my breast awarded for services to music and young musicians (actually I left it off, as I can never remember the protocol), the only music critic in all of North America to be awarded a \$1,000 annual scholarship in my name and whose portrait has been hoist onto my home town's Gallery of Distinction after 37 years on the Hamilton Spectator newspaper ...and I've been sussed.

"Turn to page 21 and the ghastly truth is revealed. I am the second query (not even the first, who is one **M S Rosenberg (B54-57)**) in the the group of carousers illegally lapping up the suds at the Fisherman's Pub near Elstree reservoir. The third query is unknown to me.

"Alas, the truth is out. I wasn't a prime catch for Canada at all, but crossed the border barely ahead of the posse! What a line for one's gravestone. "He was the second query in a cutline."

"Mine was a mild and bitter, if it's anyone's shout."

**John Corp (S56-61)** wrote to say: "Prue (daughter of **Peter Mason, Headmaster 1949/61**) and I enjoyed our visit to the 1960's OA Gaudy in June. Peter celebrated his 90th birthday in February of this year - still going strong and formidably intelligent. Mary Mason is a little frail but we hope to pass the 90 mark in June next year."

**John Griffith (M57-61)** john@griffsonline.com writes: "I am now retired (5 years) after 27 years in accountancy as a chartered management accountant and subsequently 10 years running my own small business in financial services selling. I am now enjoying an indolent and very pleasant existence (sailing and singing Barbershop) in the Marina Alta, Spain, with Carol who has put up with me now for nearly forty years. Our daughter Dawn and her family have recently joined us here. I should be very glad to hear from any of my old friends, particularly any who may be living in the Costa Blanca area or just visiting.

"My brother **Bob Griffith (M59-63)** is living in Dorchester following a very active working life running several businesses. He is now semi retired from ill health having been rather badly afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.

"I would not want to put you to the expense of mailing the OA mag out here so would quite understand if you discontinue me from the mailing list, but would be happy for you to publish my news and contact info as appropriate"

**Robert Wildmore (M67-72)** sent us a long, entertaining and at points controversial letter, which may prompt some discussion (perhaps at the Gaudy lunch for 1970s OAs on 26th June 2005):

"I much enjoyed reading the recent (No 28) *Aldenhamiana*, with all the (pro-active) Editor's notes, and as I enjoyed reading others contributions, felt it was high time I sat down after 32 years and put pen to paper, (or rather digits to keyboard) to fill in the intervening years for your readers, so I apologise in advance for what may be a lengthy tome, (but taken over 32 years may be regarded as quite a précis)!

"Let me start with the successful and enjoyable grouping of many 1970's OAs, which I think perhaps should be called "The Reprobates". We were kindly invited up to the school last summer for a barbecue on the Gaudy day by The Headmaster and Mrs Harman. **Danny Ho (M 72- 77)** has been the driving force behind this group, and kindly arranged the day for us in liaison with John McAllister.

"The group met up in The Three Horseshoes which in my day was nicknamed The "Three Eddies" after the moustachioed ex- Spitfire Pilot, Eddie Dexter, the then landlord. Then up to the barbecue, which was a most enjoyable experience.

"This group (or rather a smattering thereof), including our regular stalwart and networker **Tony Laurenson (M 71-76)**, also met up in the Red Lion Pub in Duke Street St James's last October to welcome **James Tubbs (S 70-74)**, on a trip to UK from New Zealand, and once again a most pleasant evening was had by all. The Editor of *Aldenhamiana* was also in attendance and we recalled ( a la Village of the Damned, see *Aldenhamiana* No.28 ) living in Letchmore Heath as children, where our mothers were friends, incomprehensibly gabbling away in Dutch in the village shop, both having been born in Holland.

"In 1972, The Training College of St Bart's Hospital was re-located away from Letchmore Heath, so the constant stream of student nurses in the local pub dried up, only to be replaced by the all-pervasive chanting of the devotees of the Hare Krishna sect for whom George Harrison had bought the mansion called Piggotts Manor, the old student nurses' home, for £250,000 (now the price of a terraced house!). For an 18 year old in the village to lose such a ready supply of young lady companions was a great shame!

"The common bond of a shared experience, good or bad, as **Paul Griffin (Headmaster 1962-1974)** remarks upon in the last issue of *Aldenhamiana*, is indeed fascinating. The archetypal "Public School failure" managed to get into the lexicon, an all too negative sobriquet, for where was a similar cognomen for the "archetypal Public schoolboy success? I loved my prep school, Kingsfield in Oxhey (which now, thanks to Friends Re-united has a thriving old boy network, Old Kingsfieldonians - 'O.K.'s), which I am delighted to say has spawned a happy and interesting group of gents sharing and reliving a great early experience in their education. This group includes **Tony Dron (P 59-64)**, the racing driver and motoring correspondent whom I now see at regular "O.K." reunions. Tony is, co-incidentally, currently writing a piece on one of my cars for Classic Cars magazine.

"One reason we all enjoyed Kingsfield was that, by example, Wilf Sobey, the Headmaster (and ex- British Lions Hooker) encouraged all staff and pupils to engage in "free-flow" communication. This was definitely NOT SO at Aldenham 35 years ago! Paul Griffin may or may not recall, but Aldenham and I had our serious differences over this (and other matters), and I was frequently beaten for being "guffy" (which was where one was not allowed, as a boyee, to initiate a conversation with anyone more than a year senior!). I disagreed with much of the system and became a frequent visitor to RIS and PG's study which didn't make my life at Aldenham as enjoyable as it might have been, but for which I now thank Paul and the School's (then) ancient ethos, as it helped fashion me into a very resilient person and well able to fight my corner - a useful lesson for life.

"I should perhaps at this time state that the only reason I was able to stay the full five years at Aldenham was apparently due to the intervention of **Bernard Gordon (CBG) (CR 67 -90)** for whom PG had a high regard. I was Captain of both the School Libraries and as such, spent a lot of time with CBG, especially on the Friday 'activities' afternoons. CBG was Librarian and a Maths master who had previously been an HMI of schools and a senior master at Tonbridge before retiring up to Aldenham. I learnt much about the world from CBG, who had had a very adventurous youth including taking his wife (then girlfriend) in an overland adventure to Tripoli and beyond in the 1920s, riding all through Europe on an Ariel motorbike with sidecar!

"When CBG heard that I was "on my way out" (as PG had by this time had quite enough of my rebellion), he kindly put in a good word for me and I was able to stay at the School. PG's comment in that End of Term's report was "He has certainly not become a Saint since last year, but his will does seem bent on better things."

"The relationship I had with the School can be clearly summed up in PG's own words taken from my leaving report of 1972: "He can be a valuable asset to someone if he is allowed a fairly free hand; but when he comes to look more closely at his idea of what constitutes success he may find it less satisfactory than he does at present. Life in the end presents terms on which it can be lived and I am not happy that Robert has learnt to accept some of the terms here. Anyway, I wish him success (my sort)"

"I see several 60's and 70's OAs from time to time. Interestingly only one that I know of has decided to send his own children to Aldenham; I suppose that some of the "Tom Brown's Schooldays" memories from 35 years ago might be the reason - it was for me!

"When I left Aldenham I started studying for my Valuer's qualifications but quickly put my studies on hold as I got swept up into the vibrant "Barber Boom" days of the Edward Heath's government; in particular the investment and commercial property market in London where I worked for the hyperactive Elliot Bernerd, owner of Wentworth Golf Course and recent £1bn bidder for Chelsfield plc. Three hour expense account luncheons to conclude deals over, held at The Connaught Rooms, Simpsons, Overtons, The Ritz, Madame Pruniers and Wiltons (fully tax deductible in those days!) led to me having some incredible gourmet memories. Great days indeed, especially for a lad not long out of school!

"I inadvertently developed my lifelong love of wine at this time by "swigging back" a half finished bottle of wine left on the boardroom table. No sooner had the first few mouthfuls gone down than my taste buds exploded. I recall slowly putting this wonderful elixir down and staring at the label. Chablis Premier Grand Cru, 1961. I immediately set out on a wine quest and haven't stopped since. However, currently with five kids between us under 18, the Grand Crus, Y'quems and Pomerols tend to have given way to the quick satisfaction of the New World wines, produced by young Master Winemakers now practising what the French used to (blending), until stopped by "purist" European Laws!

"Well, the good times rolled, and apart from wonderful gastronomy I found myself driving more and more exotic machinery and being surrounded by ever more exotic young ladies. Life was GOOD!! However, trouble was stirring deep within the economy. By 1974, the inflationary spiral caused by Tony Barber's irresponsible printing of money led to high inflation, and the OPEC oil crisis, together with the miners' strikes, soon brought the dream to an end for many, myself included.

"The depressing reality of some clients taking their own lives, seemingly unable, like those who threw themselves out of windows in America during the '29 crash, to cope with the trauma and despair of having been millionaires one moment and broke the next, led me to urgently needing a sabbatical.

"I left these shores in early 1975 (with the FT stock market index at just 146 and Ferrari Dinos on the market for under £2,000!), selling my sports car to **Paul Drew (M 66-71)** - who still runs the family's bakery firm in High Wycombe - before I left. I decided to go off and explore America and went travelling on my own across the States. This trip left me with an enduring love of that country and the open and welcoming nature of its people. My son from my first marriage, Miles, now studies in Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico Coast of Florida, so fortunately I get over quite often and will probably follow him over there to live in due course.

"Eventually, some eighteen months later, I stopped my attendance of the University of Life (with all its attendant travelling, sailing, partying and general hedonism), resumed somewhat reluctantly my studies, and became a qualified Auctioneer and Valuer, later a Chartered Surveyor (MRICS).

"I commenced practice on my own account in 1979 as Robert Wildmore & Company in Watford. I was soon able to take full advantage of the Thatcher years, a real "gift" to all entrepreneurially minded spirits, which saw the "one man and a dog" operation I founded turn into a multi-million pound turnover group by the late 80's having expanded into corporate funding, financial services, management consultancy and other ventures. Good times indeed.

"I married Pauline (nee Temple) on 8.8.88, 8 having always been my lucky number, and as one of the OA guests, **Richard Dennis (S67 -72)**, who I believe emigrated to Poland (the land of his noble forefathers), mentioned at the time in *Aldenhamiana* "I watched Robert getting married in Ritzy splendour!" The reception was held at The Ritz, Piccadilly, a link with my great memories of my first halcyon years in business in St James's. One of our guests was in the film industry and his wedding present was a film of the whole day, distilled down to a three hour tape, including being filmed by a camera car taking an open horse drawn carriage around London en route to the secret honeymoon destination (the Honeymoon Suite at the Ritz after all the guests had departed). Then we flew over to California. The film is still an enjoyable reminder of those fun-filled (if rather excessive) days of the late 80's though the two stars have long since parted (but remain on good terms).

"Pauline and I settled down to our married life in my house in Oakridge Avenue, Radlett, where **David Sproule's (M68-73)** parents also lived. Our son Miles was born in 1989. Soon after, we discovered Miles had Asperger Syndrome, a form of Autism, and while we were devastated by this news at the time and for some time thereafter, it actually changed our lives incalculably for the better.

"The early 90's property crash and recession saw me and others fall to earth, and this prompted a complete re-think in my outlook on life, more or less giving up commerce to concentrate my efforts to get the help and assistance needed for Miles to be able help him lead as normal a life as possible in the future.

"Anyone with a child who has special needs will know that this is a soul-destroying time, full of despair, trials and tribulations, but in my particular case it led me to go through a cathartic period, eventually finding inner peace and leading to a far more enlightened and spiritual path through life, which came about after an intense period of focussing all my efforts to break through "the system" and get Miles the help he deserved.

"My focus changed from self towards helping others, and I started working with charitable projects to help the disadvantaged and in particular those families with autistic children, co-founding HARC (The Hertfordshire Autistic Resource Centre, now part of the National Autistic Society).

"Later, in 1996 I co-founded the Community Sports Foundation and helped to provide free sports and basketball facilities for kids in disadvantaged areas across the country. With the aid of the English Basketball Association and £10million from the Sports Lottery Fund, SportsMatch and Adidas, my colleagues and I managed to put in place over 8,500 facilities in and around Great Britain. Whilst hard work, this was a tremendously rewarding project to be a part of.

"After completion of the project, I retired (though still acting as a consultant to my eponymous real estate practice in Watford) in order to become a full time Dad to my two wonderful daughters, Anna-Louise and Amelia- Jane, now rising seven and five. This has been a most wonderfully rewarding period of my life. My partner Tania and I have now been together for 13 years. Tania's two children from her previous marriage, Sarah and Jessica (17 & 15) are now very grown up and self-assured young ladies, so the little ones have plenty of extra (s)mothering!

"I returned to the commercial world at the end of last year after this very enjoyable "sabbatical" of a few years as Amelia-Jane is now in full-time education. I am now again working towards setting up a system for raising substantial sums for charities. These days, charities find their resources have dwindled due to poor stock market performance and the decline in the "take" from the public that has gone into the National Lottery. This, coupled with the greater need for funds due to increased outflows to the increasing numbers of the less fortunate members of our community has put many charities under heavy pressure.

"I am now also working in conjunction with VarTec Inc, of Dallas, Texas, the world's largest privately held telecommunication company, to expand their European operations across Europe by showing people how they can provide themselves with an extra long term income to meet regular outgoings and to replace dwindling pension funds. I present business opportunity meetings and trainings for the company. Having been in self imposed "kindergarten exile" for some years, I have found being back in the thick of it somewhat challenging. I really empathise with executive Mums who come back to work after a career break. Don't underestimate what they are going through, guys! Being on stage at major events, sometimes in front of hundreds of people, when one's activity and audience for recent years has been limited to rolling around on the floor watched by infants, can be somewhat daunting!

"I head towards my 50th birthday on the 21st April (which I share with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth), finding myself busier than I have ever been, and again finding life tremendously rewarding and fulfilling. As the good book says, "It is better to give than to receive!"

"I would welcome hearing from any contemporary OAs who haven't yet joined our 1970's throng. Please feel free to e-mail me at [rwildmore@aol.com](mailto:rwildmore@aol.com)."

**Boonyarid (Bob) Chullasapya (M70-74)** would like to contact old friends. You can do this via the OA Office.

**Duncan ("Doughnut") Wallace (P63-66)** - (Paull's House 1960s vintage, Maurice Clift Prize for English) Now a university lecturer in Bulgaria, has written a novel (psychological thriller) set there. He would very much appreciate being contacted by any OA who is a literary agent or Publisher. Please contact him on concert48@hotmail.com .

**J R Joel (S65-70)** sent the following very welcome note: "After graduating in 1985, I qualified first as an adult teacher and then as a primary school teacher. I am now teaching at an inner city Primary School in Oldham, Lancashire with a 100% Bangladeshi intake which is, overall, satisfying."

**Derek Evans (P36-40)** sent some reminiscences under the title "Hanc Aldenham":

"The sad death of **Keith Tooley (B 36-40)**, reported in the last October edition of *Aldenhamiana*, reminds me of many coincidences that have occurred over the years resulting from my days at Aldenham. It is strange how I seem to bump into Old Aldenhamians all over the place. Here is a resume:

"While embarking on the Royal Daffodil at Dover on Feb.28th 1946 I passed Dicky Bird (**MA Bird P37-39**) and his inseparable companion **Geoff Gillot (P38-40)** disembarking on the adjoining gangway. Both had been in my house at Aldenham.

"During my sojourn in Egypt (Cairo) I managed a fortnight's holiday in Cyprus, at Kyrenia. One day (July 1st) my colleague and I hired bicycles and went for a ride to the Abbey, Belle-Paise. We stopped for a cup of tea at the English Tea Shop. I learnt that the lady owner of Newlands Farm, adjoining, had a son at Aldenham.

"When I was demobbed at the end of 1946 I lived with my parents and family at Worthing. I was articled to John Ellman-Brown FRICS at Shoreham-by-Sea for two years. I qualified in 1949 and became a Temporary Valuation Assistant in the Licensed Property Dept. of the Inland Revenue, located in Moorgate, London. Six months later I was posted to the District Valuer's Office, Bedford (March 1950). While in 'digs' a newcomer arrived and shared my table, he was **Gilbert C.W. Beazley (S 43-46)**. He was with Messrs Robinson and Hall, Chartered Agricultural Surveyors, St Paul's Sq. Bedford. He revealed that he was previously of School House, Aldenham.

"I joined the Riverside Tennis Club and became friendly with one particular young lady. In due course I invited her to my home in Worthing. She saw the Aldenham School photo "a hanging on the

wall". She suddenly pointed to one particular boy and enquired his name. I told her it was Keith Tooley and that he had been in my form, but not in my house. She said that she used to play tennis with him while in the ATS and on attachment to The Royal Corps of Signals at Uxbridge (1942). He was stationed there. Amazingly it appeared that their two families were distantly related.

"In 1952 we married and lived in Bedford, but in 1955 I left the Civil Service and joined the Gloucestershire County Council Estates Department. We sold our new house and moved to Gloucester. Fifteen months later I was successful in the Civil Service Open Competition for the position of Valuer in the Valuation Office, permanent instead of "Temporary". This meant a move. Hunton Bridge, near Watford this time (1956) as Kings Langley Valuation Office was to be my workplace. After ten happy years reorganisations were all the rage. I ended up being sent to the District Valuer's Office, at Hitchin, Herts. My wife's family lived and farmed in the Kempston/Wootton area of Bedfordshire.

"One day during a visit to my brother-in-law he told me "someone was enquiring of you.". It was Bill Beazley, FRICS, FAAS, now a partner in Warmingtons, Land Agents. I also bumped into him at one of the County Agricultural Shows.

"Then In 1976 I moved to the Luton District Valuer's Office. One day I was informed that there was someone in reception wanting to see the Valuer dealing with Luton, that being me I invited him up. Lo and behold! ...it was Keith Tooley. After dealing with the purpose of his visit, the valuation of his Mill, we chatted about Aldenham and then he said that he thought he knew my wife and had played tennis with her at Uxbridge while he was 'stationed' there during the war and furthermore he believed there was some distant family connection between his and my wife's family. I duly reported this to my wife. You can imagine her surprise.

"Several years later my daughter bought her own house in Weston, a village a few miles from Hitchin. It turned out that the Vendor was **John M S Adams (S 33-38)**. In fact he was Captain of the School during part of my time there.

"A few years later (c.1991) the bungalow nearly opposite my daughter's house changed hands and, surprise surprise, it was Keith Tooley and family who moved in. He invited us in and thanks to information from him and some research I was able to confirm that there was a very distant relationship. His grandmother was the sister of my wife's aunt's mother. Finally, my wife's nephew, a partner in Warmington and Co, runs their local office near Hitchin, and Bill Beazley is now one of the firm's consultants.

"I find it amazing how, in spite of moves, I kept meeting OAs, especially when you consider how big the world is and how small Aldenham is."



1st XI Football Team, approximately 1943. They are left to right:

Back row: **J A Cockett (S41-46)**, **D R Mackillop (B39-45)**, **?**, **E E de Garston (P40-44)**, **?**, **D E Blake (P39-43)**

Front row: **A H Watts (S41-44)**, **J O Velton (S40-44)**, **J G Dewes (B40-45)**, **?**, **N B G Clifford (P40-43)**

**Julian Allisstone (S78-83)** emailed to let us know his new address and sent the following note: "I continue my work as School Counsellor at Ampleforth College. I am also helping to develop football at Ampleforth, a predominantly rugby playing school. I am thus using my 1982 1st XI goalkeeping skills to good effect! I am married to Rosie, a garden designer and we have one child, Luke."

**Jo Polling (K83-85)** emailed us to suggest we note in the "OA update-y bit": "Following my divorce I have reverted to my maiden name of Polling. I am currently enjoying a "practice retirement" prior to a planned return to college to study Equine Management in October."

**Johnny Johnson (SH Odds 58-61)**: "Since it is many years since I last sent in an update (to Jack Waddell), here goes: "I settled down in Vientiane, Laos in 1966 and stayed there until towards the end of 1976.

"This was the height of the U.S. secret air-war there and the C.I.A.'s involvement through the Hmong clandestine army against both the Pathet Lao and the North Vietnamese use of Laos to transport troops and supplies via the Ho Chi Minh Trail to South Vietnam.

"After working there in the hotel and restaurant trade for a couple of years, I became involved in the freight business, handling personal effects and aid shipments for the various UN Agencies and Diplomatic Missions, until my company pulled out in 1974 after the Coalition Agreement was signed between the two Lao factions.

"After the Lao P.D.R. was formed in 1975, I spent a year running a furniture factory and working on tractor imports from the USSR. Returning to the UK, I worked with Hygena Kitchens Export Dept.

in Liverpool, looking after a French subsidiary, until seconded to Saudi Arabia in 1978 to help their distributor. After 4 years, I transferred to a Canadian kitchen manufacturer in Dammam, K.S.A. for a further 5 years, first as Operations Manager setting up the plant, then as Project Sales Manager.

"In 1988, I joined Motorola as Logistics Manager in Kuwait until the Iraqis decided to invade in 1990. After ten days, we escaped to Saudi. Motorola called us back in early 1991 to prepare for the end of the Iraqi occupation and after the liberation in March, we returned, supplying communications for the police, oil well fire-fighters and the UXO clearance teams.

"Returning to Thailand in 1992, I ran a publishing and import / export company with a couple of friends, plus doing consultancy for companies planning to do business in Laos, as I had maintained various contacts there after leaving in 1976.

"In 1996, I was asked to run a consumer product distributorship in the Lao PDR, which included the agencies for Unilever, Kimberley-Clark, Bridgestone, Volvo and Coca-Cola. Eventually we covered 14 provinces with 5 offices in key towns.

"Two and a half years ago, I joined an Australian gold and copper mining and production company, Lane Xang Minerals Ltd, in the supply & logistics area. It's the first real modern mine in the country, located on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the south of Laos, an area where UXO clearance is a full time job before you even plant a flower.

"Never much of an athlete at Aldenham, apart from a little fencing, diving and shooting, I am an avid Hasher (Hash House Harrier) and a founding member of the Vientiane Bush and Sepon Hashes. Laos will play host to the 8th Indochina & Mekong Hash 2005 and is a supporting country to the Chiangmai (& Mekong Region) 2006 Interhash bid in Cardiff in July 2004. Any OA Hasher coming to

Laos or the area and would like a run, please feel free to contact me, Mob: 020-551 5603 or Email: johnnylaos@hotmail.com."

Ed. - I "Hashed" in Saint-Petersburg, Russia while living there with Molly and our two daughters from 1994 to 2000. Each run was followed by a visit to a Russian "Banya" to recuperate. Both the running and the extreme temperature in the Banya gave one an enormous thirst. The slaking of which was the overriding objective.

**Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P58-61)** wrote to tell us that he maintains contact with Aldenham through continuing friendships made, dwindling links with OA football and, happily, continuing enjoyment of OA Golf, which he heartily recommends. He also kindly informed us that **Richard Cook (P73-78)** who has been very involved in the Starlight Foundation, a major charity which specializes in granting wishes for children (and is always looking for volunteers ..... ) has been appointed a Trustee of the Foundation. Richard is also a magistrate sitting on the Milton Keynes bench so is, as Ian says, a good example of a successful businessman who is giving back to the community.

**David Grenfell Brown (SH Evens 59-65)** writes: "Following Michael Hetherington's report on the death of the Revd Roy Stagg in your February edition of *Aldenhamiana*, may I add a few personal recollections?"

"I do regret never having taken the opportunity during his lifetime of thanking him for his influence during my Aldenham days in helping me towards a secure Christian faith. His was a very practical and robust brand of Christianity, evidenced by his Divinity classes which, more often than not, involved discussion of practical ethical and moral issues - no dry theology there! I also remember his encouragement to those of us who were interested to help plan and lead informal evening services in the Lady Chapel.

"I recall one particular occasion in Chapel on an Ash Wednesday morning, Mr Stagg came in to find that the hymn set for that day was, inevitably, "Forty days and forty nights". He took one look at it, said "Oh dear, not that dirge!", and changed it to "Onward Christian soldiers"!

"May I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Michael Hetherington for his quiet and steady Christian influence as house tutor of SH Evens. He did a tremendous amount to improve the ethos of the place and to remove some of the more barbaric aspects of "boyeing" etc. The house I left in 1965 was very different to the one this frightened little boy arrived at in 1959, running up the road from Letchmore Lodge to perform his cleaning "duties" and desperately, and usually unsuccessfully, trying to fill up the boxes on his "boyeing card" (and who will ever forget those scary "chivvies"?!). Thank you Michael"



A group of Aldenhamians take the sun by the outdoor swimming pools in the late 1930s / early 1940s. They are left to right: **Derick Burlingham Johnson (S39-41)**, **Patrick Llewelyn Jones (S38-42)**, **Colin Frost (S38-43)**, **John Searle (S38-43)** and **William Henley (S38-42)**. But who is the mystery diver?

**Tim Barrett (P55-60)** responding to the front cover of *Aldenhamiana* 28 sent the following letter: "The picture on page 1 of Issue 28 of *Aldenhamiana* made me realise the debt I owe to Aldenham in teaching me to sail. 4 boats back from the Aldenham Firefly is F2895 sailed by myself and my wife Hazel. In itself that is not remarkable, but the connections go on and on.

"My Firefly is named Crisis after the Cadet built by myself and **David Williams (56-60)** (bottom right, page 21 - same issue) (Ed. - another "query" identified! - see the letters from N J Mustoe and Hugh Fraser earlier) at Aldenham for the School sailing club. I well remember after a winter of hard work leaving the boat to be buoyancy tested by others whilst David and I sailed in an away match, only to return to find they had dropped a 56lb weight through the bottom. After frantic repairs the boat became a useful addition to the School fleet. The picture, by the way, was almost certainly taken outside the Fisheries Inn at the end of the reservoir.

"I was taught to sail by **Jeremy Gardner (M53-58)** who I still see from time to time as we are both members of Castaways, a club for ex-University of London sailors, of which I am an honorary member. Whilst still at Aldenham I crewed for **Rufus Plummer (B54-58)** in a school boys and girls regatta one summer, which introduced me to the joys of sailing in Suffolk. After leaving school I continued to sail in Suffolk at weekends, where I met my future wife.

"For many years we have sailed both Summer and Winter, with holidays spent at various championships. Team racing, which I learnt at Aldenham, was my forte and as Captain of Wembley SC we won many of the major team racing events in this country. This led to my being asked to join the London Pirates whose function is to team race and promote team racing, where I have made many close friends.

"I moved to Suffolk in 1981 with my wife and children and moved on from dinghies to the Squib, a 2-3 person keelboat and subsequently to a 707 (a 23' 4-5 sailing sports boat).

"In 1996 I became Commodore of the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club at a time of great change and was closely involved in gaining both European and lottery funding for building a marina. As past Commodore, Hazel and I spent the trip of a lifetime representing the club at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club centenary celebrations in what I can only say is one of the nicest cities in the world, inhabited by some of the nicest people in the world.

"In 1976 I founded the Pri-Med Group who own and operate 8 Care Homes in Norfolk and Suffolk, together with 3 sheltered housing schemes. To complete the connections, I am writing this sitting in my office looking over the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club out to sea in a building owned by the heirs of **Gordon Claridge (B26-29)**, another Old Aldenhamian, so thank you Aldenham for introducing me to a wonderful sport and pastime."

Ed: - Thanks to our correspondents in this edition, and also to **Philip Henderson (B52-56)**, **Peter Goodchild (B52-57)**, **Michael Rosenberg (B54-57)**, **Roger Turner (S56-62)**, **Frank Rogers (S53-58)** and **J A Vezey (S56-59)**, all the visitors to the Fisherman's pub in the photograph in *Aldenhamiana* 28 are now identified, and should report to the Headmaster immediately.

Some OA News from Down Under, kindly sent by **Brian Parsons (M44-49)**: "After serving in the Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments from 1950-1968, which included 18 months at the Australian Command and Staff College, and commanding a Company in Aden in 1967 not long before the British Protectorate gained its independence and where I was wounded during counter-terrorist operations, I retired from the Army in order to emigrate to Australia, arriving in September 1968.

"I was fortunate to obtain immediate employment with Australia's largest public company Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP - now BHP Billiton) as a Recruiter, initially at their Head Office in Melbourne and subsequently in Europe on two occasions, where I was first required to survey 14 countries, working closely with Australian immigration officials at their embassies and consular offices to determine where to concentrate their recruiting efforts; and later, based at their London office as Manager European Recruiting, to actively recruit people from a number of those countries for their steelworks, coal and iron ore mines and shipbuilding operations.

"Returning to Melbourne in 1973, I was in succession, until 1993, the senior Human Resources executive for Nylex Corporation (Australia's largest plastics manufacturer); PA Consulting Group, where I was responsible for the training and administration of all consulting staff in Australia, New Zealand and SE Asia, attended a course at their management training centre at Sundridge Park in Bromley and had to visit their Knightsbridge head office on a number of occasions; and finally Newcrest Mining Limited, one of the country's biggest gold producers, which gave me a fascinating

insight into the mining industry throughout Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, travelling vast distances by light aircraft.

"Retiring at the age of 62 in 1993, I soon found myself back in the work force and spent the next 8 years as a Management Consultant specialising in outplacement work and career transition, assisting people from all walks of life in their quest for re-employment following retrenchment.

"Since 1976, I have also been a volunteer for Victoria's largest organization for the vision impaired and for 21 years chaired a fundraising committee which in that time raised nearly \$1 million towards the cost of much needed services for blind and vision impaired clients. That work completed, I now am a voluntary reader on the Radio for the Print Handicapped, broadcasting live once a fortnight reading the daily newspapers. Earlier this year on Australia Day in January, I was honoured to receive the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for my community work for the vision impaired and was privileged to receive this award from the Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC, MBE, whom some more mature OAs may remember was pipped to the post by Roger Bannister in 1954 in the race for the first 4 minute mile, Landy breaking Bannister's world record later that year.



Pictured left to right are: **David Graham, Nambi Viswalingam, Pria Viswalingam, Michael Palmer, Robert Wadley, Jonathan Macleod, Brian Parsons, Simon Stanley, John Taylor, Tim McAllister, Richard Seville, Alan Marco and Joanna Law.**

I was also privileged to attend the first ever OA Dinner in Australia, which was held at the Naval and Military Club in Melbourne on 24th July. I pay tribute to those involved in organising this dinner, Molly Barton and John McAllister at the School and **Tim McAllister (P 88-93)**, on secondment to the chartered accountancy practice Price Waterhouse Coopers, here in Melbourne. 14 OAs and partners attended, along with **Joanna Law (Common Room 96-04)** and now teaching in Victoria) and the Vice Principal of Scotch College, a leading Melbourne public school with whom Aldenham has built up a strong relationship with a number of Aldenham leavers being employed at Scotch during their "gap" year prior to going to university. The OAs at the dinner spanned the years 1940-1993 and are listed below. Seated at round tables of 8, where possible with one's contemporaries, there was plenty of opportunity to reminisce and share memories of one's school days. There were 3 from McGill's and 1 from Paull's at my table, one of whom, Tony Barrett, had been in what was then Cox's House with my late older brother (**DA Parsons 40-45**), which was a nice link. Joanna Law was interested to confirm from me that her French and German

classroom in the Old Block had been Fred English's French classroom in the 1940s (and no doubt for many years earlier) and there were many tales exchanged of the teaching styles and idiosyncrasies of former members of the Common Room!

"Tim McAllister gave an excellent rundown on the recent and planned exciting developments at the school and I was honoured to propose the Toast to the School. As I was the only one present who had been at Aldenham during the last months of the war, I spoke of some of the different things that I recalled of that time - attending 4 prep schools, the air raid shelters, the V1 "doodle bugs", the farming one day a week by junior boys, the ruins of the pub at the far end of Letchmore Heath which had been hit by a bomb earlier in the war, the absence of all signposts in case of invasion, the blackout, the poles sticking up out of the water at the Reservoir to prevent enemy seaplanes landing, the church bells ringing to signal the end of the war (ringing during the war was the signal to denote that an enemy parachutist had landed), the building and subsequent lighting of a huge bonfire near the library at the war's end and in particular my recollections of two whole holidays - the first going to London and mixing with the enormous crowds on VE-Day and the second going to Lord's to watch one of the Victory Tests in which **John Dewes (B40-45)** played, his selection following scoring an amazing 1000 runs for Cambridge in May if my memory serves me right. It was a most enjoyable evening and a time for those present to recognise the value of our education at Aldenham and the part that our Housemasters and various members of the Common Room had played in helping to shape our lives. Contact with other OAs in Australia having now been made, I am sure that further dinners would be welcome and if any OA in, near or visiting Melbourne would like to join me at my monthly luncheon with a group of business friends, many Old Boys of Scotch College, I would be pleased to hear from them (e-mail: [bridenny@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bridenny@iprimus.com.au))"

**Ruth and Robin Wilson P51-55** also emailed from Australia: "The Australia Dinner was a swell party and we're mighty glad we went! Tim did a great job. I am happy to be the Melbourne liaison "officer" after he leaves Melbourne Town. Any OA passing thro', or Gap Year traveller is welcome to a bed and a welcome. Telephone 03 98767741 or use the internet [rurub@alphalink.com.au](mailto:rurub@alphalink.com.au) "

The following OAs were present at the Melbourne dinner:

JA Barrett (McGill's 1940-1942)  
AH Marco (School House 1967-1972)  
BM Parsons (McGill's 1944-1949)  
JN Taylor (Kennedy's 1968-1973)  
RW Wilson (Paull's 1951-1955)  
RP Seville (Kennedy's 1973-1978)  
SO Stanley (Paull's 1953-1958)  
NJ Viswalingam (Kennedy's 1974-1976)  
DA Graham (McGill's 1957-1962)  
PA Viswalingam (Kennedy's 1975-1977)  
RA Wadley (Paull's 1960-1963)  
JD Macleod (Paull's 1986-1991)  
MC Broomfield (School House 1966-1972)  
TJ McAllister (Paull's 1988-1993)

**Michael Hetherington (CR59-94)** following up on correspondence relating to his 70th Birthday Party, wrote: "The mountain we climbed was Carn a' Gheoidh. It is situated near Glenshee and is 3199 ft. high. It was my final one and there are 284 in all. I deliberately left it till last because it is a fairly easy one, which is thus possible for some reasonably fit but inexperienced folk to attempt. In the event 24 relations and friends came to the top with me - on a gloriously sunny, warm day. ("The sun always shines on the righteous"! ) Those with Aldenham connections were : Susan Barnard, Arthur and Josephine Hearnden, John and Glen McAllister, Carrol Smith (PK's widow), Dick Beechener, Nick and Phil Kerr, Louise Waldman (Nick and Phil's sister) + her daughter Jessie, Liz Wallace (David Godwin's sister). Another 30 or so were waiting for our return in the car-park, where a modest amount of champagne, smoked salmon and birthday cake were consumed! They included the Kerr's mother, Mrs Jill Kerr; also Roger and Pippa Munyard (parents of OAs - and of course Roger was a Governor).



**Bob Sproule (M37-40)** writes, referring to the photograph on our cover; "I am sending a copy of a photo of the officers of HM Submarine Statesman taken in 1944 somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Two of us were OAs. Second from left is **RFN (Neil) Strouts (M35-37)**, DSC, First Lieutenant, and I am on the far right of the photo.

"The enclosed obituary (Ed. - extracts below) of our Captain (centre in the photo) gives some idea of what we got up to on our nine patrols. We were at sea on VE day (8th May 1945) and received a signal from the Captain of our Submarine Squadron - 'If you can't sink a nip, sink a tot' - and also on VJ Day (15th August 1945), warning us to remain vigilant in case not all the enemy had received the news.

"The photo appeared in the London Evening Standard later that year under the heading 'Submariners Go Native'. Incidentally, I also had been the proud possessor of a fine 'local' hat, but it had blown overboard previously and the Captain refused (unreasonably I thought) to allow us to turn back to retrieve it."

*Lieutenant-Commander Robert Bulkeley, who has died aged 83, held several submarine records; he launched the first missiles from a submarine, and fired more rounds from his main gun than any submariner in any navy before or since.*

*Bulkeley commissioned the newly-built submarine "Statesman" at Cammell Laird's, Birkenhead, in September 1943, and commanded her until the end of the war, based initially at Trincomalee and then at Fremantle.*

*On his first Far East war patrol, off Port Blair on August 22 1944, Bulkeley spotted a 5,000-ton tanker and sank her with a salvo of torpedoes fired at long range. He did not know at the time but this was the last enemy ship of more than 1,000 tons on the station, and he did not fire his torpedoes again in anger.*

*Over the next eight patrols he sank 44 vessels by gunfire or by boarding and scuttling. His First Lieutenant Neil Strouts and the boarding party became expert in their small boat. They were unfazed even when the appearance of a Japanese aircraft caused Statesman to submerge and leave them to hide in the fishing well of a junk carrying supplies for the enemy.*

*After returning from patrol with all his gun ammunition expended, it appealed to Bulkeley's scientific mind to fit rails to the side of the conning tower and experiment with firing surplus rockets intended for air-to-ground attack. But although he could point Statesman satisfactorily, Bulkeley realised that, as the rockets were designed to be launched at 200 knots, they would never reach their designed launch speed and stabilise in flight.*

*Next Bulkeley landed Statesman's reload torpedoes and filled their space with gun ammunition. After one patrol he returned, having emptied these spaces too. He also claimed to be the first to fire self-propelled missiles from any submarine. He took great pride in his gunnery.*

*He had a gunnery officer, Kit Fielden, who, Bulkeley reckoned, "had a fire-control clock in his head", and was able to make rapid and accurate alterations to range and deflection as Statesman and her victims swerved across the surface of the sea. Bulkeley claimed a 30 per cent hit rate, which compared well with many surface ships fitted with radar and sophisticated fire control equipment.*

*On April 5 1945 in the Malacca Strait, Bulkeley sank all seven landing craft of a Japanese convoy. The only other submarine commander to rival this achievement was Edward Young of Storm. Bulkeley was awarded the DSC that year for gallantry, skill and outstanding devotion to duty whilst serving on numerous successful patrols, frequently carried out in shallow depths and difficult waters and in the presence of strong opposition.*

*Robert George Pierson Bulkeley was born at Acomb, Yorkshire, on April 7 1920, of a long line of naval officers. Master Gunner John Bulkeley was one of the leaders of the Wager mutiny in 1741 and lucky to escape hanging; Richard Bulkeley was a survivor of*

*Nelson's San Juan expedition; and his son, also Richard, was wounded as a midshipman in the Victory at Trafalgar in 1805, after carrying a message to the dying Nelson.*

*At the Admiralty Interview Board in 1933 Bulkeley was asked by an admiral what the number of the taxi which brought him to the interview had been; Bulkeley gave the answer without hesitation. Years later the interviewer recognised Bulkeley and asked why he should have remembered such a detail, to which Bulkeley replied that he had not, but knew that the admiral could not have not known...*

A brief but most welcome email from **Michael Danso (P85-90)** to say: "I am alive and well working as a medical doctor (cancer specialist) at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre (Cornell University)" Michael would like to hear from other OAs working in New York City.

**John Strouts (M53-56)** spotted **Peter Leach-Lewis (M51-55)** his old school friend and colleague from the British South Africa Police in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the last edition of *Aldenhamiana* and was delighted to renew contact with him. Here are some extracts from his letter:

"I was rather worried that we had lost contact with each other having had Christmas Cards returned as address unknown. It would have been a great shame especially as I can remember you shouting 'Brace up and get the room ready for Call, BOYEES' and having to say 'Excuse me please, Leach Lewis, may I move the 6th termers table so that I can brush the floor'.

"I wonder how many of those traditions are still alive, I know boaters and the Corps are things of the past and there are girls and even women teachers at the School. How strange that would have been in our day, and remember both you and I were two of only three boys that had grandfathers at the school.

"I am due to retire in August having reached the magical age of 65 (you were a 6th termer when I was a first termer so that makes you + or - 67). Owing to the fact that Mr Mugabe has blocked what funds I had in Zimbabwe, which by now would be worth nothing, I had intended to carry on working at something other than a clerical job with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary. I still use my horses and do horse drawn weddings and I was hoping to do some tourist work with them at Tyntesfield with them.

"Tyntesfield is a National Trust property built in the 1830s. The building itself looks like something out of a Dracula Film but it is interesting and the grounds magnificent.

"Our son Bruce (32 yrs) is no longer in the Orkney Islands, he is now in Shrewsbury. He is still an occupational therapist but is now more involved with children and young people and even deals with young offenders in prison a couple of times a week."

## LOST OAs

*Aldenhamiana* 28 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.

D G	Beresford Jones	S79-84
A	Chakraborty	S83-88
D G	Cheeseman	P35-38
S I C	Clark	M79-84
M K	Graf	S65-67
S M	Hoy	B92-94
K	Masood	S82-87
M D S	Nuttall	K76-80
K A	Ofosu-Amaah	P86-91
R	Patel	P93-95
A J	Potts	M58-63
D	Roockley	S78-82
D H	Rose	M70-74
M P	Shah	S61-65
W A W	Watkins	S75-80

## 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

## SPORTS CLUB OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES

### Football

Chairman - Paul Clemow  
4 Harris House  
Himalayan Way  
Watford  
Herts WD18 6GS  
home: 01923 240792  
mobile: 07973 336073  
e-mail: paulclemow@aol.com

Club Captain - Martyn Berg  
Flat 5, 295 Ladbroke Grove  
London W10 6HE  
mobile: 07767 845261  
e-mail: martyn.berg@emap.com

Veterans Football - see report and email addresses earlier in the *Aldenhamiana*

## Golf

Hon. Secretary - **Ian Eggleiden**  
6 Pelican Wharf  
58 Wapping Wall  
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office: 01277 695852  
Mobile: 07789 030381  
e-mail: Ian.Eggleiden@ukgateway.net

## Cricket

Captain and Hon. Secretary - Hanif Moledina 13 Lincoln Road  
Northwood Middlesex HA6 1LB home: 01923 840368  
office: 01788 55440 mobile: 0410 239295  
e-mail: Hanif@moledina.freemasonry.co.uk

## Fives

Hon. Secretary - **Jon Knowles**  
13a Bishopswood Road  
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Home: 020 8341 3914  
e-mail: knowlesjonathan@hotmail.com

## OA SOCIETY

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c/o Aldenham School Elstree Hertfordshire WD6 3AJ  
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London SW5 0UA  
Email: William.Rouse@myrealbox.com

Hon. Treasurer: **Richard Peart**  
Strathyre  
Hadley Green  
Barnet  
Herts  
EN5 4PS  
Email: rwpeart@care4free.net

**STANDING ORDER AUTHORITY - Old Aldenhamian Society, Voluntary Membership Subscription**

**Name of Person/Organisation you wish to pay.**

Bank use

Name Old Aldenhamian Society  
Bank National Westminster Bank Plc  
Branch 72/74 High Street, Watford, Herts, WD1 2BQ  
Account Number 48759414  
Sort Code 60-00-08

**Payment Details**

Bank use

Amount of First Payment £ ..... Date of first Payment ...../...../.....  
Amount of Usual Payments £.....  
Amount of Usual Payments IN WORDS .....  
When Paid ..... Day/Month of usual Payment .....  
(Monthly, Quarterly, Annually etc.)  
Amount of Last Payment ..... Date of last Payment .....

**Your Bank Details**

Bank use

Name of Account (Your names) .....  
Bank Name .....  
Full Postal Branch Address .....  
Account Number .....  
Sort Code / /

**Instruction Details**

Bank use

Does this Authority replace an existing Standing Order or Direct Debit? Yes/No  
If yes please give details: .....

**FOR OA OFFICE AND BANK USE ONLY**

**BANK PLEASE QUOTE AS REF .....**

**Customer(s) Signature**

Bank use

Please Debit my/our account accordingly  
Signature: .....  
Date: .....

Please return the completed form to:  
**Mrs Molly Barton, Old Aldenhamian Society, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ**



# OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2004

At The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Picadilly, London  
**On Tuesday 30TH November, 2004**  
7.00pm to 11.00pm

**Principal Guest and Speaker**  
**Karren Brady (Beavor's 1985-1987)**  
**Managing Director, Birmingham City Football Club**

WIVES, HUSBANDS and PARTNERS ARE ALSO INVITED

DRESS BLACK TIE

TICKETS COST £45.00 PER PERSON

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

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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: .....

..... Post Code.....

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

I would like ..... tickets for the Dinner at £45.00 per ticket and enclose a cheque for

£.....

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements:.....

.....

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