



Aldenhamiana

No 30

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Published by **THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY**

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Beevor's boys in the 1940s pose in Victorian cricketing gear - see the letter from Bishop Hewlett Thompson.

J L C Perry (B42-46), J S Berridge (B43-47), J A B Lambert (B41-46), R Dunham (B42-46)

J G Armstrong (B42-46), G H Thompson (B42-47), J T Noble (B43-47), J M Singleton (B42-47), J E S Hurst (B43-48)

P M Church (B42-46), R D Somerville (B43-47), P W Ball (B43-48)

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In my October 2004 letter, I said that several events during the year had shown the continuing strength and commitment of OAs, both to the Society and to the School. This was especially the case with the two well attended OA regional lunches for 2004, both smoothly organised by the Development Office. A Regional Lunch is planned for 30th March near Exeter, and now another on 18th May at the Dragon School. Please contact the OA Office for further details of lunches, although these will be posted on the OA Website in due course.

In an earlier letter, I outlined several of the important and innovative improvements made to the Society's affairs during recent years, especially in regard to membership and financial matters. I said that your Committee regularly monitors these improvements, to ensure that we continue to move forward in step with changing and challenging times. I am glad to say that the Society is in a very healthy state, both in terms of its overall membership and financial wellbeing. We will have more to say about this at this year's Annual General Meeting which will take place in the Whitbread Room at the School at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th March 2005. I hope to see you there.

The most recent major event was the annual OA Dinner at the Royal Air Force Club on 30th November, with some 112 OAs, their wives, partners and guests attending. This was a record number, certainly for recent years and I hope that it will become the norm! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, with highly entertaining speeches both from the Headmaster, Richard Harman, and our principal guest **Karren Brady (B85-87)**, Managing Director of Birmingham City Football Club. Of our other guests, who are listed in Ian Luetchford's report later in *Aldenhamiana*, may I particularly mention John and Glen McAllister. John is retiring from Aldenham in the summer. He has taught many generations of OAs, including some of our present OA Committee! He has also himself sat on our Committee for a long time, providing an invaluable link between the OA Society and the School. We are very grateful. Once again, I am most grateful to **Ian Luetchford (B48-51)** for his faultless organisation of the evening and to **Ambrose Barber (P44-48)** for arranging for us to have the use of the RAF Club. I hope that the 2005 dinner will be similarly well attended; in the meantime, your Committee will do its best to find a similarly interesting, amusing and attractive principal guest and speaker as for 2004!

Many OA footballers attended the Dinner to hear Karren speak. It was good to see them, and I would also, on behalf of the OA Society, congratulate them on this their Centenary Year.

Looking to the future, I hope that many of you will be able to support the events planned for this year. In particular, OA Day on 26th June will incorporate a Gaudy for those who left the School in the years 1970 to 1979.

If the 2004 Gaudy was anything to go by, this year's should attract

a large attendance - so it will be all the more important to send in your applications just as soon as possible, please, if you wish to attend the Gaudy lunch. Next, full details of this year's OA Dinner will be published on the website and in the next *Aldenhamiana*; however, I am able to say that, certainly for this year, the Headmaster has kindly agreed that it will take place at the School.

Finally, my thanks as ever go to all the members of the Committee for their unfailing help. I am especially grateful to Mark Jordan for his commitment in updating and developing the OA Website, which has now become a vital method of communicating with OAs all over the world. Next, to William Rouse and Richard Peart, as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, who - with John McAllister and Molly Barton of the Development Office - keep the routine business of the Society on track. Also to Trevor Barton, who - with Molly, ensures the quality and masterminds the production of *Aldenhamiana*. Not least, my gratitude extends to the Headmaster, Richard Harman, together with his academic and support teams, without whose positive, good humoured and patient cooperation the Committee's role would be impossible to achieve.

Mike Taylor

EDITOR'S NOTES

Fortunately the burglars who called, uninvited and unwelcome, on the Barton residence just before Christmas were unable to fit the assembled drafts and materials for this edition of *Aldenhamiana* into their swag bag (due no doubt to it being full of our children's Christmas presents which we had conveniently grouped together round the tree), so OAs can breathe a sigh of relief that the frantic January activity of editing, cutting and pasting was able to proceed and the GPO has called upon you once more to bring you New Year's tidings of great joy from WD6.

We have a stimulating edition for you this time - although perhaps a tad slimmer than we would wish, due to rather fewer contributions than we had hoped for. But New Year is a time for resolutions, and I am optimistic that those of our readership who have not written recently will resolve to remedy that in 2005.

As well, why not visit the School on OA Day on Sunday 26th June? It will be a particularly significant occasion for us OAs of the 1970s. OA Day will, as you will read elsewhere, incorporate a Gaudy Lunch for those who left the School in the 1970s. There are, lets face it, many of us (your Editor included) who have not done very well in keeping in contact with old friends from the School. This is an ideal opportunity to renew friendships and I hope many of us who remember those halcyon days at Aldenham, marked by collar length hair, flared trousers with turn-ups, jackets with wide lapels, the sound of Led Zeppelin echoing round the School, and some remarkable sporting triumphs will return to see what has changed, and what remains reassuringly familiar.

My thanks to those who sent Christmas cards to the OA office. We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2005.

Please write with your news, views and reminiscences. Our stock of photos is a little low at present, so delighted to receive yours so we can spice up the next edition.

I hope you enjoy this *Aldenhamiana*.

Trevor Barton

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

Dear OAs,

As I write the work on the new building on the site of the Shed is nearing completion. We hope to move in to it in the second half of this term and we are all looking forward to the end of building works in the centre of the School, as you can imagine! For those pupils studying English, Modern Languages, Classics and Media Studies this will be a magnificent new facility and, with the landscaping of the Yard, the heart of the School will be even more attractive that it was before. I hope many of you will be able to come and see it, perhaps on OA Day, at the OA AGM, or at any other time.

It was very good to see so many of you at the OA Dinner in November and it was fitting, as the School embarks upon its journey to full co-education, that the Guest of Honour was Karren Brady. It is good also to see increasing numbers of OAs with sons at Aldenham and now, of course, there is an opportunity for daughters to come at 11+, 13+ or in the Prep School as well as at Sixth Form level.

I am sorry that there were one or two OAs who did not hear about John Woodrow's Memorial Service in time. We did try hard to get the word around for what was a moving and memorable occasion. There are a number of opportunities for reunions coming up, including regional lunches in the South West and in Oxford, hosted by The Dragon School where John Baugh, OA and Governor, is the Headmaster. Past lunches of this kind have been very successful and I look forward to seeing many of you there. If you live locally, you will receive an invitation in due course.

Finally, may I wish you a Happy New Year and I hope you enjoy reading about OA and School activities.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Harman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Many thanks to those who have continued to support the Society by voluntary contributions. We now have 150 standing orders which bring in over £2000 a year. We have also received over £1500 in "one-off" donations. These are welcome additions to our funds. The Committee has decided that subscriptions should remain at the same levels for the time being.

Richard Peart

REPORT ON THE 2004 OA DINNER

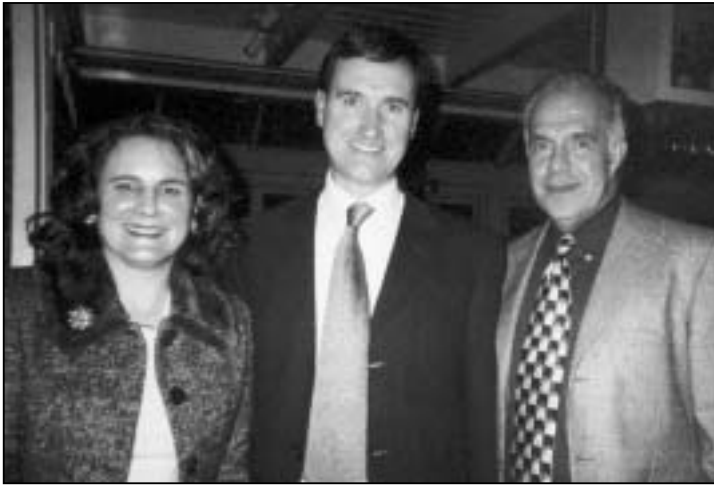
A bumper number of OAs and their guests attended the Annual Dinner at the Royal Air Force Club in November. Our President welcomed 112 in all, perhaps attracted by our star guest speaker Karren Brady. Our other guests were the Headmaster and wife Karin; John and Glen McAllister (CR67-) - John retires at the end of the Summer term and will be sorely missed by the OA Society Committee; also Dorothy McGinty the new Deputy Head and her husband; Daphne Woodrow and her daughter Sarah-Jane Costello (B82-84); Nick and Charlotte Pulman (CR77-); Ambrose and Joan Barber (P44-48) (our RAF sponsor) and lastly Head Boy and Girl John Boothby and Jenny Kehlbeck.

Karren spoke of her life since leaving school and regaled us with hilarious anecdotes of her time as Managing Director of Birmingham City Football Club. The Headmaster gave his usual enthusiastic resume of the School's activities and future plans.

My thanks go to those who organised tables, namely **Martyn Berg (B89-94)**, **Hanif Moledina (S82-87)**, **Tim McAllister (P88-93)** and **John Yule (S66-71)**.

Ian Luetchford





The Headmaster and Mrs Harman with **Bahar Uttam (B58-61)** during their visit to the USA at Christmas 2004

OA GOLFING SOCIETY

The provisional dates of meetings in 2005 are:

Thursday **Halford Hewitt**
7 April 1st Round v Brighton at Deal (2.25pm)

Thursday **Spring Meeting and AGM**
5 May West Hill

Sunday **Grafton Morrish Qualifier**
15 May Royal Ashdown Forest

Tuesday **Match v Old Leysians**
24 May Brookmans Park

Tuesday **Match v Littlehampton**
7 June Littlehampton

Wednesday **Over 30's v Under 30's**
29 June Porters Park

We are always keen to welcome new members - ability, age and beauty are not assessed!

If you are interested, contact the Hon Secretary whose details can be found at the back of *Aldenhamiana*.

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 FOOTBALL CLUB

"It's 100 years of playing the greatest game in sport. Yes the OA Football Club has now been thriving for that long.... It makes you wonder how many pints have been drunk in the Three Horse Shoes after a game...not enough I hear the footballers say. The OAFc has

Friday 13th May 2005

at 7.30 pm

BARBECUE

at Radlett Cricket Club, Cobden Hill, Radlett
(Opposite Cat & Fiddle Pub)

Enjoy a free barbecue while watching
the Radlett Cricket Club vs Aldenham School Common Room
limited overs match.

Cricket starts at 6.30 pm

Pay Bar at the Club

We need to know numbers for the BBQ!
So please tell the OA office if you will be coming.

to be one of the strongest and most accessible clubs for all OAs. At present we run three sides with players stretching over four decades. Andy Clare, Nigel Fenn, Martyn Berg and Daniel Shafron have all donned the glorious black and gold colours this season. The club never fails to attract casual supporters who have no intention of kicking a ball but enjoy the entertainment both on and off the pitch which surrounds the club. All OAs are welcome along in any capacity and if you fancy getting a game then there is always room for one more. The second team this season have already used over 25 players so the doors are wide open. They are also second in the league, so having a big squad works!

Both senior sides enter four cup competitions, one of which is always the Arthur Dunn. They also have a full league programme throughout the season. The Arthurian League itself has six divisions making it healthy and competitive, who knows we could even start a third team. Take a look at www.arthurianleague.com and you can see all the clubs involved.

This is our Centenary Year and we are planning to celebrate on and off the pitch I'll drop a few names below and who knows it might persuade some OAs to clean those musty boots. If want to join in at training, play or just to watch you can contact me, Nick Baker, to find out what's happening, nickbaker12@hotmail.com (07876567798).

Some current greats are: Nick Howe, Nigel Marks, Daniel Shipton, Matt Butcher, Si Hunt, Mark Robinson, Matt Meil, Paul Brown, Dominic Stevens, Hanif Moledina, Andy Berg, Scott Goodfellow, Pat Harding, Mark Herbert, Alex Henchly, Paul Clemow and there are many more. To be honest it doesn't matter whose on the list, if you love your football in any shape all colour then the O.A.F.C. has plenty to offer the football junkie.

OA VETERANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Arthurian Veterans Cup (Quarter Final) - Sunday 23rd January

Aldenham 3 (A. Selwyn, P. Kerr,2) Forest 2

Match Report:

After a couple of months inactivity, it was back to the quarter-finals of the Arthurian Veterans Cup, against Old Foresters. The management were presented with a major problem on the Wednesday prior to the game. How to replace goalkeeper John Baugh? Sir Alex and Arsene have both been posed with similar problems in replacing Schmeichel and Seaman, with limited success. If the curtain is to finally come down on John's illustrious OA football career, the OAs seem to have found the man in Miles "the Cat" Gibson, who after nine gloveless years has picked up where he left off, and enhanced his "cat" reputation. Although competition is likely to heat up with the return of Andy Fennell (currently domiciled in Jamaica), Julian Allistone (teaching at Ampleforth College, York), and a potential come-back from Mike Mabbott, the 'cat' looks like making the position his own!



Half Time at the OA Veterans match against Old Foresters

Roger "The Dodge" Sugarman slotted into central defence following the retirement of Rob Hadrill, and backed up his Craig Bellamy like mutterings that the management had previously been playing him out of position. Fortunately, he had not resorted to the medium of the OA magazine to voice his opinion on the management, or lack of it. He had a blinder. Andy Clare, our "Mr Reliable", paired up with the Dodge to create a unit in which each complemented each others strengths. Roger's tackling, anticipation and "will to win" combined well with Andy's cool promptings and reading of the game. In the full back slots, Andy Mayson looked sharp, and a willing outlet to start countless attacks, while Mark Deverell, back from Australia, and playing in an unfamiliar left back role, performed solidly.

The dream midfield of Goodfellow, Wender, Selwyn, and Kerr was finally united. The medical team definitely deserve credit in sending out Goodfellow and Wender in able mind and body. Never easy with these two characters to get both parts working in tandem! The midfield is definitely a different place with Anthony "Keane" Selwyn around to nigger, contest and drive it forward. He always has to have a "head to head" with his opposing number. Kerr was his normal subtle and creative self, aligned with his strong running from wide positions. He has now added a cutting edge to his finishing! The physical attributes of Fenn and Cox upfront were reunited to complete the picture. Both providing "ample" targets to hit providing the ball was to feet! (please take note midfield!)

Eddie Carter was selected from the panel to referee, and suitably plied with Arsenal ticket offers in his Christmas stocking. However, Eddie was not for turning and was his normal impartial self, unlike one or two refs recently at Old Trafford!

Aldenham started the game brightly, putting some good passing movements together. However, Forest are an accomplished side and soon put Aldenham under pressure. Roger Sugarman, who was marking the guy who won Forest the Arthur Dunn Cup in 1997, soon set the tone for a resolute defence. He left his calling card! Fenn and Cox combined well on a number of occasions, but lacked the finishing touch after doing the hard work. Fenn even suggested that he had left his shooting boots at home! Cox, however failed to

back up his good positioning and occasional bursts of speed to penetrate the penalty area. Selwyn had a shot from twenty-five yards which their keeper struggled to deal with, while Wender continued to make good breaks from midfield. The defence managed to restrict Forest to a couple of chances in the first half, one whistled past the post with Gibson groping at thin air, and the other he turned well around the post.

Half time arrived with no goals to show for either side's efforts. Both Cox and Wender pleaded to come off, but were sent back on. Wender even completed a full ninety minutes, a rarity in itself. Aldenham had two good chances at the beginning of the second half, but failed to convert either. Cox eventually gave way (literally) for Henchley to join Fenn in attack. Forest were beginning to get their game together, and their two central midfield men started to see more of the ball. Roger Sugarman was fouled and, expecting a free kick stopped running. Eddie Carter waved play on. Forest would have scored, but for a goal saving tackle from Selwyn, which had to be seen to be believed! The Aldenham defence went to sleep at the resultant corner, and the Forest centre forward scored into the roof of the net, 1-0 down with 15 minutes to go. Miles Gibson then came to the fore. Their centre-forward strode through the defence, and it looked a certain goal, but Gibson saved with his legs. Aldenham fought to restore parity, but soon it was 2-0 to Forest. Henchley gave the ball away in the Forest half, they capitalised with a through ball and this time their centre forward made no mistake, drawing Gibson from the goal before coolly slotting home.

With 11 minutes to go, Andy Clare came off with a foot injury. Andy Mayson moved to centre-back with Nick Baker coming on as right back. Nick's entrance seemed to ignite the team. Selwyn played a ball into Fenn's feet, who held off two defenders but was fouled in the process. Step forward Selwyn for the free kick, 20 yards out. He lifted the ball over the wall and keeper, 1-2, Aldenham were back in the game. There was an extra effort from everyone at this point, and with 6 minutes to go, Selwyn played in Fenn, who laid the ball back to Kerr, who worked the ball onto his right foot 20 yards out. The ball rifled into the top right hand corner of the goal. 2-2. Only a few minutes of normal time remained and the prospect of extra-time was a disturbing thought for our Vets. With a couple of minutes to go, Forest committed another foul in midfield. Selwyn floated the ball into the box, their keeper made a hash of it, Wender battled with a Forest defender allowing it to come to Kerr, who promptly stabbed the ball home, 3-2. Three goals in seven minutes, what a comeback!

However, all was not finished, and Aldenham gave away a foul 30 yards out on the right hand side. Forest pumped it into the box, everyone missed it, and it looked destined to sneak into the bottom corner until Gibson thrust himself to his left, and turned it around the post. Eddie Carter blew the final whistle before the corner could be taken.

Aldenham have been drawn away to Salopians in the semi-finals. We beat them 5-2 in the quarter-finals two years ago on the way

to the final, and 4-1 in a friendly last year. We will play our semi-final against Salopians on Sunday 20th February at 11am. Salopians hope to book a pitch in the Cobham area but do not know exactly where at the moment. If anyone who wishes to come along and watch, contact by email Alex Henchley ahenchley@ccnmatthews.co.uk or Mark Cox markacox@bloomberg.net.

Bring on the Salopians!

Team:

1. Miles Gibson
2. Andy Mayson
3. Mark Deverell
4. Scott Goodfellow
5. Andy Clare
6. Roger Sugarman
7. Ant Selwyn
8. Matt Wender
9. Nigel Fenn
10. Mark Cox
11. Phil Kerr
12. Tony Cocozza
13. Nick Baker
14. Alex Henchley

EROS TO EROS 2005

This annual early morning extravaganza will take place on Friday 8th July 2005. Your Editor has not learnt his lesson and intends to run again, and is happy to co-ordinate OA entries. Please email to oas@aldenham.com.

The Aldenhamian

A recent copy of *The Aldenhamian* you received 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, if you have lost the postcard, send a letter or email to the OA Office.

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



Who are the TWO Common Room members in this photo of a University Rugby Team? Answers to the OA Office (You have to identify adequately to which figure in the photo you are referring).

**Have you looked at the
OA website recently?**

www.aldenhamian.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 at Christmas 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.

Dates for your Diary 2005

Sunday 20th February

Semi Final Arthurian Veterans Cup (for details of the venue contact Mark Cox or Alex Henschley - see OA Veterans' Football Report)

Tuesday 15th March

OA AGM, to be held in the Whitbread Room at the School

Wednesday 30th March

OA South West Regional Lunch in Exeter

Friday 13th May

Cricket Match & Barbecue in Radlett (see advert)

Wednesday 18th May

OA Regional Lunch at the Dragon School

Sunday 26th June

OA Day at the School including Gaudy for OAs from the 1970s

Friday 8th July

Eros to Eros Run

Wednesday 19th October

Old Aldenhamian Lodge Open Evening (see advert at back of newsletter)

Friday 18th November

OA Annual Dinner

OBITUARIES AND TRIBUTES

We reprint, with acknowledgements, the following from the *Daily Telegraph*: "**Kym Isolani (S31-36), who has died aged 87, was the British Army intelligence officer responsible for forming F Recce Squadron, the first Italian military unit to take up arms against the Germans occupying their country.**

"After the Allies landed at Reggio in September 1943, Isolani, a half-Italian officer attached to 1st Canadian Division, found eight parachutists of the Italian Folgore Division in the mountains in Calabria. In the confusion following the Italian armistice, they had been left to their own devices. The men resented their treatment by the Germans, despised the corrupt fascist authorities and were disgusted at the poor leadership in their own army. They had sub-machine guns and two trucks, and declared themselves ready to fight the Germans.

"Isolani found the staff at HQ Eighth Army "cheerfully and refreshingly unconcerned with the political implications of co-belligerence", and persuaded them to integrate the group into 13th Corps. The Italians became known as F Recce Squadron, and were put under the command of an Italian officer but were answerable to Isolani.

"Operations began in the Majella mountains north of the Sangro river, and the force quickly grew to about 120 men. Isolani escorted small groups through the Allied defences to the front line where they would cross, wearing civilian clothes, on reconnaissance missions.

"On one occasion, returning from an operation, his Jeep was fired on in error by USAAF Mustangs. "We played hide and seek around a prickly pear bush," he recalled afterwards, "until they eventually got bored and flew away."



DEATHS

J A N Addison	S65-69	5 July 2004
R M Bell	S22-23	8 November 2004
L A Birn	S39-42	27 April 2004
A F R Carling	B21-26	30 December 2004
J Chandler	P33-36	31 December 2004
H A Jefferis	S32-35	22 October 2004
R W S Jolly	S38-40	13 October 2004
A B deL King	S24-28	14 October 2004
G R Muirhead	B29-32	3 March 2004
M G Partington	S48-51	19 November 2004
J W G Phillips	M27-30	18 December 2001
W H C Ramsbottom	P40-44	31 October 2004
A F Ridpath	S43-47	10 January 2005
D G Robbins	S28-31	22 October 2004
W B Somerville	P29-32	1 March 2004
R A LeG Sprent	P33-38	2004
J K Stanton	P46-48	6 October 2004
B Stimpson	S24-27	28 September 2004
W N Williamson	P40-43	22 June 2004
J D Young	B32-36	2004

"Soon the parachutists were trusted to go on armed patrols, and began to take their first casualties. An officer and an NCO were captured and tortured to death; then many were killed in the final battle at Ferrara.

"In a farewell message at the end of the campaign, General John Harding, the corps commander, wrote: "F Recce Squadron was the first Italian unit to take up arms against our common enemy and to show by its spirit and deeds that Italy would fight alongside the Allies to regain its liberty. You have written a bright page in the liberation of your country."

"Casimir Peter Hugh Tomasi Isolani was born on September 2 1917 in the Anglo-American Hospital near Milan. His father, Count Umberto Isolani, an Italian infantry officer, had met his mother, an Englishwoman, in the course of her nursing duties at the front. She was determined that her son should not become indoctrinated by the fascists.

"Young Casimir, or Kym as he was known, was educated at Aldenham before going to Clare College, Cambridge, where he took a First in Modern and Medieval Languages.

"At the outbreak of war, Isolani joined the Royal Artillery and was appointed ADC to the brigadier commanding Admiralty Pier, Dover, who put his name forward for intelligence work.

"Isolani was posted to the War Intelligence Course at Matlock, Derbyshire, where he was trained in intelligence-gathering, interrogation, air photography and captured documents before being attached to HQ 11th Battalion Staffordshire Regiment at Tiverton, Devon. The CO had some difficulty in defining Isolani's duties and arranged for him to be billeted in a country house and to take part in intelligence exercises.

"Isolani moved to 36 PoW Camp, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, as an interpreter. In 1943, he was attached to HQ Combined Operations to gather information in advance of the Allied landings in Sicily before being promoted captain and posted to 1st Canadian Division.

"He was given the name of "Arnold" because he had been an Italian subject until 1938, and risked being shot if he was captured. In July 1943, he took part in a landing near Pachino, Sicily. His landing craft got stuck on the sandbanks but the defences were lightly manned and there were few casualties. Isolani was ordered to reconnoitre the fishing port nearby. Returning by dinghy to his motor launch he came under heavy machine-gun fire.

"Ten days later, near Piazza Armerina, he was run over by a Canadian carrier which was trying to avoid an enemy air attack. His ankles were crushed and he was evacuated to a hospital in Tripoli.

"In 1944, Isolani entered Rome with S Force, a group formed to take over and run the media. He worked for the Psychological Warfare Branch and was put in charge of Italia Combatta, which broadcast to the partisans in northern Italy.

"He transmitted instructions for sabotage operations and also for the killing of notorious SS officers. The latter was carried out within a few days by partisans or other irregular forces and resulted in deteriorating morale among the retreating Germans. In 1945, after moving to Florence, he announced the capitulation of the German forces in Italy over the radio.

"Isolani was appointed head of the Allied Publications Board in the Veneto before taking command of Civil Liaison with the task of reintegrating partisans into civilian life. On demobilisation in 1946, he was appointed MBE (military) and made an "Honorary Partisan".

"Isolani joined the information section of the British embassy in Rome, where he demonstrated that he was a first-class press attaché. But he was concerned about his pension, and returned to London in 1961 to become Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies.

"Two years later, Isolani rejoined the Foreign Service with a nine-year posting as regional information officer at the British embassy in Paris. In 1972, he moved to Brussels as counsellor at the British embassy and to the UK Delegation to Nato.

"On retiring to London, he spent some years working for the United Nations University and was an active member of the Anglo-Italian Society. A modest, retiring man, he had a Christian faith which deepened in his later years.

"Kym Isolani, who died on September 10, was appointed LVO in 1961 and CBE in 1975. He married, in 1943, Karin Zetterström, who predeceased him; a son survives him."

There follows an obituary of **John Armstrong (B42-46)**, which we reprint with acknowledgements from the *Times*: "**Director whose *Song of the Clouds* civil aviation film was a landmark in the history of documentary.**

"John Armstrong was an influential and award-winning documentary film director and producer. A leading light of the Shell Film Unit in the 1950s, he went on to set up his own successful production company, Pelican Films, which won Baftas in three consecutive years in the mid-1970s.

"He was born in London in 1928; his father was an American, the works manager of Buick Motors. From an early age Armstrong began a lifelong affair with cars. Motoring was the subject matter of a number of his films, and a crowded wardrobe full of trophies bore witness not only to his film achievements but also to his fondness for racing; he competed against the likes of Stirling Moss.

"He was educated at Aldenham, then Loughborough, where he studied industrial engineering. A career in washing-machine design came to an abrupt halt when Realist Films arrived to shoot

OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BUFFET SUPPER

In the Whitbread Room at Aldenham School
Tuesday 15th March 2005 at 6.30 pm prompt

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th March 2004
3. Election of Officers
4. President's Report
5. Headmaster's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. OA Website Report
9. The Friends of Aldenham School Association
10. Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund
11. OA Day - 26th June 2005
12. OA Society Dinner 2005
13. Election of Honorary Members
14. Any Other Business
15. Date of Next Meeting

Followed by a Buffet Supper for OAs and their guests, for which there will be no charge, at 7.45pm.

*If you are unable to attend the meeting you are welcome to attend the Supper only
Please park in the School Yard - we hope the rebuilding will be complete by then.*

If you plan to attend the meeting and / or the supper please complete and return this form to the
OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ UK or email oas@aldenham.com

Name, house and dates at Aldenham: _____

Address: _____

Post Code _____

Telephone No: _____ e-mail address: _____

I shall attend the AGM / Supper / both, and will bring _____ guests to the supper.

(Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements)

a documentary at Loughborough. After persuading Realist to employ him as a runner, Armstrong left his course. He gained his union ticket by installing film projectors at night in cinemas across the country, and in 1949 he joined the Shell Film Unit, a hotbed of experienced and fledgeling talent headed by Sir Arthur Elton. He learnt his trade, working as a cutting-room assistant, a location assistant and then an assistant director. He was able to indulge his love of motor sport as an assistant director on *Le Mans 52* and *Mille Miglia* and as the director of *Coupe des Alpes* (1958) - a dramatic tale of the alpine rally, capturing the excitement of spinning cars, pierced petrol tanks and lost doors and bumpers.

"Armstrong prepared meticulously for the film, planning every complex camera angle and even adapting one of the cars so that he could film the race from the front. This had not been attempted before and provided stunning footage, even if the cameraman nearly died from the exhaust fumes.

"However, it was two years earlier, in 1956, that he had first made his mark as a director with *Song of the Clouds*, a landmark film in the history of documentary. A combination of impressive camerawork and highly charged editing gave a strong sense of romance and excitement to the subject matter - in this case the dawning age of international air travel.

"The film captured the public's interest and imagination and assured a far wider audience than Shell's usual aviation films. In 1959 Armstrong left Shell to broaden his film experience. He joined Worldwide and tried his hand at directing commercials. A number of successful campaigns resulted for Hovis, Sainsbury's and even Shell itself, but Armstrong's heart remained in documentary and he returned to Shell in 1961 as a freelance director for the South-East Asia Unit.

"He moved to Singapore for three years with his wife Judy, whom he married in 1957. In 1962 he made *Mekong - A River of Asia*. This was a beautifully lyrical study of the river, the regions through which it flows and the UN plans for their development. It was awarded the Mercurio d'Oro at Venice in 1964, the Gold Medal at Montevideo, the Blue Ribbon at the American Film Festival and a first at the International Film Festival in London.

"On returning to England, Armstrong directed *Underwater Search* (1965), also for Shell. This was the first of a number of films he made on the subject of the search for oil. As Sir Arthur Elton said of the film: "A company needs to be able to prove its worth . . . so the film was made to prove it by visual demonstration, on the grandest possible scale." Again, Armstrong's bold visual imagery and flair gave the film's material a sense of wonder which earned it the Mercurio d'Oro at Venice.

"Although his films often performed miracles in promoting the sponsor's corporate image, Armstrong was never really a corporate man himself. For this reason, he set up his own production company, Pelican Films. He usually worked with the same people, a small group of editors and cameramen whose talent and input he respected. He would work as many hours as it took to get things the way he wanted and then be dismissive of hours of footage that he had directed himself. Those who worked



John Armstrong is on the right

with him agreed that the experience could be infuriating, but always rewarding.

"Various industrial films followed in the late 1960s, including *O For Oxygen*, made for British Oxygen; *Concrete for the Cement and Concrete Association*; *The Engineers* (1968) for Hawker Siddeley and *Downstream* for the Petroleum Information Foundation, USA, concerning the transportation, refining and marketing of petroleum to Middle East oil producers.

"In Armstrong's hands these films, with their technical subject matter, were converted into eye-catching and fascinating stories that could appeal to the specialist and the schoolchild.

"In the early 1970s, Pelican Films received the first of a number of commissions from BP. *Location North Sea* (1973) was about the construction, towing and locating of the first oil platform in the North Sea. This was followed by *Sea Area Forties* (1975) - the story of the development of BP's Forties Field. These films both won the John Grierson Bafta award for best documentary.

"The next year, Armstrong went to Alaska for BP to make *The End of the Road*. This was a study of the Prudhoe Bay camp and oilfield in North Alaska. In sub-zero temperatures and tough working conditions, his determination never flagged.

"It completed the hat trick, earning another Bafta for Best Factual Film and also an Oscar nomination. It was followed by *Pipeline Alaska* (1978), the story of the world's biggest engineering project - the building of an oil pipeline from north to south.

"In the early 1980s Pelican was approached by BP to make its most ambitious project to date. *This Earth* was a series of four films on the world's formation and geology, climate, weather and people. Again, he adapted his approach to film-making and through an inventive combination of animation, special effects and retuned stock-shot material, was able to relate complex geological concepts to an uninformed viewer.

"He went on to make *The Flame Moves East*, about the harnessing of waste gas from the Abu Dhabi oilfields and its liquefaction and transportation to Japan. Then followed three films for the Qatar National Gas Company, in 1989, about the development of the world's largest offshore gas field.

"Armstrong had a great fondness for gadgetry and was always up to date with the latest technical developments. He equipped his homes with the latest in electronic front gates, intercom systems and garden-watering devices, and even a remote-sensored cat flap. Perhaps for this reason, he was thrilled to direct one of the first films in Omnimax, the dome-screened sister format to IMAX. *Picture Holland* (1986) was made with his customary flair to promote Dutch tourism using new film technology.

"In the early 1990s he recovered from a heart attack and moved with his wife to the South of France. Having been advised to give up work, he designed a spectacular new home, complete with the latest gadgets and labour-saving devices, which had panoramic views of the Gard region.

"His wife Judy and his son and daughter survive him.

"John Armstrong, documentary film director and producer, was born on September 2, 1928. He died on August 16, 2004, aged 75."

Hewlett Thompson (B42-47) wrote the following to add to John Armstrong's obituary: "John Armstrong, who died on 16th August, was commemorated in a three-column *"Times Obituary"* and a picture in which he was instantly recognisable by those like myself who had not seen him for 58 years. The register notes him as a documentary film maker of numerous award winning films. *The Times* notice shows how distinguished he was in the field, the result of being highly critical of footage he himself directed. I like to think that the iron discipline fostered by Fred English in his House was one influence in this.

"Did we who were his companions in Beevor's have any inkling of what was in store for this engaging character? He went round the School Certificate Course twice and left after a year in the Lower Sixth. *The Aldenhamian* has few mentions: as Lance-Corporal in the Junior Training Corps (and a keen bandsman, I remember), and as my stage wife in *The Grand Cham's Diamond* in the Senior House Acting Competition, of whom **Jeremy Noble (B43-37)** wrote that his was a particularly good performance as the romantic Mrs Perkins.

"My chief and lasting memory is of an episode in his last term. He organised some of us from the Senior Houseroom into a group photo on the cricket field's further reaches, all dressed in Victorian Cricket gear with the date 1884 held by the team mascot **Ronald Somerville (43-47)** squatting in front. [Ed: see our front cover] John took the photo by delayed action so that he could take his place, in boater, moustache and pipe in mouth. I salute him, and wonder how many of the survivors of the group still have their brown-tinted copies."

John Woodrow (B46-51) - A Tribute

This is the text of an address given by the Headmaster on the occasion of John's Memorial Service at the School on 16th October 2004:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man!""
(Shakespeare: Julius Caesar, Act 5 Scene 5)

"The first time I met John Woodrow was at Brewer's Hall. I was waiting nervously on the first floor lobby for my first round interview for the Headship of Aldenham School, trying to look confident and not appear too intimidated by the rather grand and formal surroundings of a City Livery Company. The big oak door of the Court Room swung open and out strode John, radiating humanity and friendliness and greeting me with such warmth that I was immediately at my ease. I suppose in truth I remained slightly on my guard because I knew he was an eminent lawyer and I expected that my defences would be tested later on (as indeed they were with some typically probing questions), but immediately I had a strong sense of how John went out of his way to know everyone and to make real human contact with them. And that sense has come through every conversation I have ever had about John with anyone since then. A sense that he was really interested in you; a sense that he really knew you and cared about your well-being. Anyone less obviously self-centred would be hard to imagine. I discovered later that John and I shared some common interests too: sports, particularly at that time golf, and we were both supporters of Arsenal Football Club. Shortly after my appointment, though, John made pretty clear to me his strong disapproval of the disciplinary record of Arsene Wenger's team! Naturally I took it to be the Chairman's early hint to a new callow Headmaster! But more typically, I was struck by his concern and care over Karin and Livvy's welfare as we faced the move to our new home and new world, and indeed it was largely due to the way John had handled the whole transition process that I knew in my heart this was the right place for us to come to, and that I was vindicated in having not a moment's hesitation when the phone call came from John offering me the post.

"I worked with John in his capacity as Chairman for only a short time, since his illness meant that he had to relinquish those duties quite soon after I took office, but he continued to serve Aldenham as a governor and in many other capacities right up until his death, and I have had the privilege of seeing, at close quarters if only briefly, the depth and range of this remarkable man over these past five years. His life has touched mine as it has, in ways both direct and indirect, so many people who have been connected with this school over the past 50 years. I'd like to reflect for a moment on John's impact as a Governor of Aldenham, and on the legacy he has left in this place which he loved so much and which featured so strongly throughout his life from 1946 when he arrived at Beevor's in his father's Rover 90. John was appointed a Governor here in 1989, not long before his retirement from Norton Rose in 91. In 95 he was succeeded by Tony Button as Chairman of Governors, and with Stephen Borthwick he worked very hard to raise the profile of the school and to bring it into a healthy position after what had been a difficult few years.

He was the first non-Brewer and the first OA to be Chairman. He was instrumental in the very important Quatercentenary celebrations and did some of his most vital work for the School as Appeal Director. What the appeal achieved in raising over £900,000 (a revitalised DT Centre, the ATP, the Music School, the opening of pre-prep) was to put Aldenham well and truly back on the map both locally and farther afield. My first official engagements as Headmaster in October and November 2000 were the opening of the Music School and the Pre-prep Department. Four years on and the decision to open the Pre-prep, taken when John was Chairman, can be seen as the first step on the path to the establishment of the Prep School, the provision on this site of education from 3 to 18, and the move to full co-education at Aldenham. This has all allowed for a growth in pupil numbers which in turn makes possible the kinds of building and development we can see in the School today. For this and many other reasons, John will surely go down as one of the most influential and important Governors and OAs, in the School's long history.

"The level of detail of John's involvement with the school has been extraordinary, as is evident from the many boxes of papers now piling up outside the Bursar's office! Daphne has told me also how his old school reports made mention of what a good organiser he was. In that connection, there was of course his work on the OA Committees. John was President of the OA Society from 1989-92, and Captain of the OAGS 94-95. It was really touching to see so many OA golfers at the service in Tring in the summer and I only regret that I never got to play a round with him myself! There was John's work with the Aldenham Boys' club; he was Chairman and Trustee of Aldenham Club trust and one of my predecessors Peter Boorman has written a passionate piece on this for the Aldenhamian magazine. Then there is the Letchmore Trust and the Friends of Aldenham School, groups which exist to contribute to and embellish the School and for whom John was a crucial player. But this may all sound to an outsider as though he was simply a committee man- nothing could be farther from the truth. His life and work was about people, and his contributions to these groups were always focused on how they could help others. All the time, he was giving back to the School that had meant so much to him. Through his work on the OA War Memorial and Jukes Funds, John was instrumental in helping to make a tangible difference to the lives of many pupils here. These funds helped their parents in hard times to send or to keep their children at Aldenham. They may well never know who it was that helped them, but through his tremendous hard work for others, John's legacy lives on in this place in the form of lives transformed. I think of one boy, a very talented musician now following that career, who would not have been able to continue at the School were it not for those trusts, and another, a good sportsman and academic who due to family difficulties would have had to leave were it not for John's help in this way. And these are only two of many examples. There is hardly an aspect of this School that has not at some time seen John's hand gently but firmly guiding it, and every person living and working here, whether they know it or not owes much to his dedicated service.

"John was a true gentleman, in the best Chaucerian sense of the word. His combination of humanity, courtesy and firmness (what Chaucer called "gentillesse") perhaps sums up for me John's

quintessential qualities. Great charm and helpfulness; generosity. A sense of humour and fun that permeated all he did. For John, diligence did not equal dourness; quite the reverse. He had, of course, that sharp legal mind that never missed a trick. And he hated waste; envelopes, I am told by those who worked for him, were regularly reused, and the back of any piece of paper was written on- in fact any spare space on a piece of paper, so that for a secretary it was often difficult to know which side you were meant to be reading! Most recently his eagle eye enabled us to secure some portakabin changing rooms from Ashridge Golf Club that are now in use as temporary classrooms while the building works are on. Never waste, never worry!

"John was of course a dedicated family man, and it is a great honour to have here Daphne and their three daughters- Sarah Jane, Caroline and Annabel and also Brian, John's brother and fellow OA, as well as other family members. I am so glad that you could all be here to share this special day of tribute to John's peerless contributions to this school. And I am delighted above all that the Governors agreed to the renaming of the Prep School building as a tribute to John. The name Woodrow will thus live long into the future for Aldenhamians of all ages to come, just as the legacy of John's work among us is all around. "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice." If you want a memorial, look around you. Woodrow House is a perfectly fitting tribute to one who dedicated so much of his life and energy to those in this School who owe him so much. "This was a man" indeed, one who will always be remembered in this place for what he has given back and enabled others to do. We are very proud and very thankful."

The following article was written by **Peter Boorman (Headmaster 1974-83)**, for the December 2004 edition of *The Aldenhamian*: "I would like to pay tribute to the work of John Woodrow, and in particular to his tireless devotion to The Aldenham Boys' Club.

"Ex-officio I found myself Chairman of the Club in 1974, though in part responding to the call of John who was the Secretary. The call was persuasive to say the least, coming from one who was so committed. John had been secretary for some years and had seen the Club struggle to maintain activities in the midst of difficult, largely financial, restraints. Those with any knowledge of the politics and economics of that time will know that problems pre 1974 were as nothing compared with the turbulent years which followed. These problems created special difficulties for the club.

"John and I attended management meetings at the Club - a good opportunity to mix with the lads of Kentish Town, and later the lasses. We appointed youth leaders from the increasingly limited number of applicants, many of whom had political agendas which were entirely unacceptable to both John and me. Throughout it all John was tremendous company; he remained constant in the pursuit of what he knew could be so worthwhile for the less fortunate young people of Kentish Town. We had many a good laugh!

"When Mrs Thatcher came to power the deficit grants stopped. Any plans we presented had to be properly and formally documented with surveyors' and architects' plans, leading to inevitable delays. No longer could we put in a bottom line figure leaving us a little over to spend on the young people. Profligacy of the early 70s became market forces of the late 70s, the Aldenham Club suffered very badly. Throughout this whole period John's work was the nearest thing to altruism I have ever seen.

"The Aldenham Boys' Club was born of the philanthropy of OAs. John was their chosen representative, and they could not have chosen better. There will doubtless be others who recall this aspect of his life. He was a genuine and tireless worker on behalf of others. I have been privileged to know him and to work with him so closely in this one aspect of his contribution to Aldenham. We are better for his like and the poorer for his passing."

John Edwards (B46-51) sent the following obituary of his old friend **John Stanton (P46-48)**: "John has sadly died at the age of 73 after a long illness borne with great courage and humour. He came to Aldenham older than his contemporaries having, while we were all pampered at our prep school, a remarkable early childhood. Half Norwegian, he was in Norway with his mother when the Germans invaded in 1940 and escaped across the mountains on skis to neutral Sweden and then to Russia. They travelled to Port Arthur on the Trans Siberian Railway (living largely on vodka and caviar, everything else appeared to be rationed) and were picked up by a ship sent by John's grandfather who was Norwegian Consul in Hong Kong. John was for a short while in a boarding school in mainland China and then joined both his parents in Hong Kong, just in time to be interned by the Japanese in Stanley Camp. He has written a fascinating account of this gruelling time, during which he saw numerous people have their heads cut off by the Japanese and existed on meagre rations. The account has been gratefully received by the Imperial War Museum - it is virtually the only example of a child's eye view of a prison camp they have.

"After Aldenham John went to the Harper Adams Agricultural College (where his granddaughter now is) and met his wife Joan whose parents had a beautiful 17C cottage nearby at Albrighton, on the border of Staffordshire and Shropshire which John and Joan inherited. John was an ebullient personality, full of humour and good at setting people at ease. His career spanned agriculture and sales, ending up, in semi retirement, working at the Coalbrookdale Museum where he was notably successful in entertaining school parties and showing how the various trades on display there actually functioned. He and his family were keen on country pursuits and a significant pleasure during his last years was staying at the delightful flat they had at Sandbanks, Poole Harbour. My wife and I saw them very regularly - the last occasion before he became ill being a marvellous evening at the Eton College Beagles Hunt Ball. John and Joan were game for anything and his death is a great loss."

Peter Dron (P62-66) emailed the following: "As was recorded in the latest issue of *Aldenhamiana*, **Murray Harris (S36-38)** died last July. I first met Murray soon after I joined the road test staff of *Motor* magazine in 1976. He strode about with the title of Advertisement Controller, and (despite the general, mutual antipathy between journalists and advertising hounds) everyone liked him. This was not entirely because from time to time he gave one of his three daughters a tour of the offices.

"One day when Murray was striding past my desk, he stopped and stared at my notice board, which was full of strange newspaper cuttings. One of these, from *The Daily Telegraph's* sports pages, read: 'ALDENHAMIANs THRASHED'.

"Why do you have that there?" Murray asked. It was then that we discovered that we had attended the same school, though in different houses and with a gap of about 25 years. In 1978 I bought a house in Cuckfield, the next village south from Balcombe, where Murray and his family lived in Kemp's House, a magnificent, draughty, 18th-century pile that he rented from The National Trust. I became a frequent house guest. Murray was a great entertainer, in every sense, and he generously offered the use of his house for my wedding reception in 1983. My wife and I enjoyed many parties at Kemp's, especially Christmas, where there were usually several dozen for drinks, of whom at least a dozen stayed for a splendid lunch. Murray was always interesting and amusing company, always keen on conversation, or even an argument.

"How Murray managed to survive into his 80s was a mystery, for various reasons, to all who knew him. During the war, he had served in the SAS in France, and although he never spoke about it much, he did once tell me that this mostly consisted of "shooting anything that moved." He nearly died about five years ago, being saved only by the partial amputation of one leg. His recuperation from this was remarkable. I last spoke to him by telephone a few weeks before he died. It turned out that I was interrupting him from watching the Ladies' Final at Wimbledon; he seemed more interested in the physical qualities of the blonde Russians than in the match itself.

"On one occasion, when we discussed Aldenham, it seemed that the only survivor from his era into mine was Mr Stott, the charming librarian. "Oh, you knew Scabby Stott, did you?" said Murray. I asked how he had acquired his unusual nickname, and Murray explained that it was because boys used to lurk in the library's gallery and drop bound volumes of *The Illustrated London News* (or it may have been the 1911 edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*) onto the unfortunate Mr Stott's bald pate. This seems to have been quite a sport in the pre-war era, points being scored only if the dropper managed to score a direct hit and then escape undetected through an upstairs window. The practice had fallen into abeyance in my day, perhaps because Mr Stott had long since avoided straying into the target area."

Humphrey Roberts (S45-50) spotted the following obituary of **Charles Hassé (S19-22)** which we reproduce with kind permission from the *King's College Cambridge Annual Report 2004*: "Charles William Edward Hassé was a pioneer of the British Film Industry and the editor of many of the famous Ealing films, one of which, *Dead of Night* starring Michael Redgrave, is now in the New York Museum of Modern Art.

"His parents lived in Hong Kong, but were Anglo Prussian, and Charles was a direct descendant of the seventeenth century composer Johann Hassé, once considered a rival of Handel. He was born in 1904 in Algeria, making him a French subject. This landed him for an awful two weeks as the beginning of the Second World War in the dreaded Cherche-Midi prison in Paris, on a charge of not responding to call-up papers for the French Army. His guardian uncle had won the Iron Cross in the Franco-Prussian war and was the German governor of Alsace-Lorraine, where Charles spent happy holidays before 1914. He remembered his south coast school being the object of a Zeppelin raid, and all the horror of the wasteful carnage at the Western Front.

"Charles was educated at Aldenham School before coming to King's, to read first History and then English, and to join the University Film society. He always maintained that it was King's that had really moulded him, and retained to the end of his life a sentimental attachment to the College so strong that a slide show of Cambridge on his ninety-fifth birthday moved him to tears. He treasured a much travelled and somewhat distressed scarf and blazer in College stripes.

"King's gave him not only a love of learning, but also a strong aesthetic sense that was later amplified by his long sojourn in Italy. At King's he acquired a fondness for elegant dress, with Huntsman suits, Jermyn Street shirts and silk foulards - his scrupulous care for his appearance could have seemed precious if it were not so unaffected. Charles also developed a lifelong enthusiasm for elegant means of transport. He had a 1923 yellow Rolls Royce which accompanied him in the 1950s when he went to Kuwait - a total enigma to the Kuwaitis, whose idea of obsolescence was last year's Cadillac. The exquisite taste shown in his films was apparent in all aspects of his life, including the decoration and ambience of his homes, lined with books and beautiful objects and decorated with the hare, central to his family crest.

"Charles was determined to go into films after King's, and when he confessed this ambition to the Provost, the Provost replied, bravely: 'I hope you become as famous as Mary Pickford!'

"After graduating in 1929 Charles became assistant to the cameraman Jimmy Rogers, and through Jimmy was introduced to John Grierson at the GPO, later the Crown Film Unit (at the heart of Britain's propaganda effort), where he directed and edited films until 1941. He used to attend meetings of the Film Society, and saw for the first time the avant garde films of the great Brazilian director and producer Alberto Cavalcanti, which he greatly

admired. They met in the 1930s and Charles agreed to invest in a feature film that Cavalcanti planned to make from the Lillian Hellman play *The Children's Hour*; due to objections from the British censor this project never came to fruition in Britain (although Sam Goldwyn later made it, as *These Three*), but it was the beginning of a lifelong friendship and working relationship with Cavalcanti.

"When Michael Balcon decided to set up a documentary unit, Charles and Cavalcanti were invited to join it, and they moved to Ealing Studios in 1942. Charles directed *Christmas Under Fire* with the Crown Film Unit, a poignant, lyrical portrait of Britain enduring the Blitz of 1940 and hailed as a small masterpiece, and at Ealing a documentary called *Greek Testament*. His help was required to interpret Cavalcanti's fractured English during the making of *Went the Day Well*. He also began to work on a film portrait of the ballet dancer Margot Fonteyn, which was the beginning of a three-year-long affair, although the project itself was later cancelled due to the D-Day landings.

"Charles returned to the cutting-rooms, becoming one of Ealing Studio's top editors, editing among others *My Learned Friend*, *Champagne Charlie*, *Dead of Night*, *The Captive Heart*, and *Hue and Cry*. Cavalcanti left the studio in 1946 to direct two independent films, while soon afterwards Charles signed up with Two Cities to edit Peter Ustinov's adaptation of Eric Linklater's novel *Private Angelo*, shot on location in Italy. The film was banned in Italy because it was deemed to reflect unworthily on the heroism of Italians in battle, but nevertheless Charles fell in love with the country at once, and decided to settle there with his new wife Judy. His enthusiasm for perfection in all things aesthetic led him to build a beautiful villa in Anacapri.

"Charles went on to edit another twenty features including *My Brother Jonathan*, and *Albert RN*.

"In 1958 Charles was recruited by the Film Centre to help form a film unit for the Kuwait Oil Company. Rodney Giesler was the writer and director, and Charles the editor. They had only limited editing facilities in Kuwait, and every few months Charles would disappear to London for post-production. He liked the good things in life and needed his little touches of European civilization - there was always a bottle of Evian water and a packet of Gauloise cigarettes on his cutting room bench, and his yellow Rolls Royce a regular feature of the desert skyline - but he worked extremely quickly and professionally, the ambience and climate of Kuwait suiting him admirably. Charles helped to give form and originality to a very challenging type of film-making in interpreting the oil company and its activities to the Kuwaiti population.

"Charles' retirement film, which he finished at the age of seventy-five, was a documentary of the making of the huge Kenana Sugar prospect in the Sudan for Tiny Rowlands; they took virgin desert, making a huge irrigation channel from the Nile. He was fascinated by Arab civilization.

OLD ALDENHAMIAN DAY

Sunday 26th June 2005

- 10.30 am OAs from the 1970s gather in their Houses for coffee
- 11.30 am Chapel
- 12.30 pm Drinks Reception on the School House Lawn
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- * Gaudy Lunch in the School Dining Hall hosted by the School for those who left the School in the years from 1970 to 1979. (Separate invitations will follow)
 - * OA Day Lunch for those not involved in the Gaudy will also be in the Dining Hall. The cost is £10.00 per person.
Please return the reply slip if you intend to have lunch
 - * Alternatively you may wish to bring your own picnic and, weather permitting, enjoy it on the edge of the Main Field.
- 3.30 pm Cup of tea in the School Dining Hall and carriages.

Please come for all or part of the Day and bring your wife / husband / partner

Please complete and return this form **by 1st June 2005** if you are not an OA from the 1970's (1970's OAs will receive a separate invitation) and if you want to attend the OA Lunch to: **The OA Office, Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts WD6 3AJ. Cheques should be made payable to "Aldenham School"**

OAS FROM THE 1970S WILL RECEIVE A SEPARATE INVITATION.

Name, House and dates at Aldenham:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Telephone No: email address:

I would like tickets for OA Day Lunch and enclose a cheque for £.....

I will bring a guest whose name is:

Please indicate if you or your guest have any special dietary requirements

.....

"Charles was interested not only in films but in a wide range of subjects, including poetry, anthropology and mysticism. A similar eclecticism attended his choice of lady friends, amongst them a Tsarist princess, who introduced him to Harold Monro's Poetry Bookshop. He met there many of the famous poets of the period, including Auden, Masefield, Drinkwater and others - some said that talking with Charles was like conversing with history.

"Even at the age of ninety-five Charles was a good-looking, glamorous man. He had a natural, slightly imperious charm enhanced by a quick wit, and a natural ability to make an entrance. He died on 14 April 2002, three weeks short of his ninety-eighth birthday, and was buried in Naples."

OA NEWS, HOME AND ABROAD

Ed: For those who missed **Karren Brady (B85-87)** speaking at the OA Dinner, the following article, reprinted with acknowledgements from the Times of 29 January, will illustrate the level of her achievements.

"Football's first lady still ready to fight her corner - BY RICK BROADBENT

Our correspondent meets the woman who broke boardroom mould

"The sniggering in the smoke-filled boardrooms stopped long ago and the natural suspicion that greeted the arrival in 1993 of the 23-year-old sidekick to a soft-porn baron has been supplanted by respect. No longer do people go along with the American comedian, Phyllis Diller, who said that women would never last in football because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.

"Karren Brady has been at the forefront of transforming Birmingham City from, in her words, "a bum club with a bum team" to a Premiership business without a single penny of debt. The figures may be "corner shop" compared with Chelsea and Peter Kenyon, the chief executive of the champions-elect, may have "laughed in my face" when she told him of her past profits, but tomorrow's FA Cup tie at Stamford Bridge is a match between two of the most successful clubs in the country. A Russian oligarch is fine and dandy, but a managing director who has twice sold her husband and seen off Freddy Shepherd and Robbie Savage this season helps, too.

"Savage is a raw point. He claimed that Birmingham treated him "like a punchbag" over his move to Blackburn Rovers; David Sullivan, the co-owner at St Andrew's, said he was greedy and could rot in the reserves. Brady, more pragmatic than both, told Savage to check an atlas when he said he wanted to be closer to his family.

"The situation was handled badly by everybody," she said. "Some of our comments made it impossible for him to come back, but I've never known a player so obviously try to engineer his way out of a club. Robbie was taking advice from loads of different people and didn't know which way to turn, while David Sullivan calls a spade a spade and does not believe in spin-doctoring and hoodwinking. The thing with footballers is, in the end, they let you down.

"You bring them here, give them a good wage and treat them in a special way. They have unbreakable contracts. They can't come to you and say, 'I don't want to play for you any more' and you can't go to them and say, 'You're not playing well so I'm going to halve the value of your contract'. The term is fixed, the price is fixed, it's unmovable.

"Then a player gets a better offer or his childhood hero like Mark Hughes comes along and he wants out. You end up with an unhappy player. Money is your softener but it does not ease the moral blow and the indignation of someone wanting to walk away."

"Savage asked why his situation was any different from Birmingham persuading Steve Bruce to desert Crystal Palace, but Brady is unrepentant about another saga that ran a bitter course. "The most important member of staff at a football club is the manager," she said. "So when the chips are down you go for the best. That was Steve. I got him, paid a sizeable amount of compensation - £300,000 - and shook hands on the deal with Simon Jordan (the Palace chairman).

"The biggest decision I've faced here was getting rid of the manager, because who the hell do you replace him with? There are so few good ones out there. Then there are the compensation claims, the payoffs, the new signings for the new man. The costs are huge, which is why I know clubs who've stayed with their manager even though they don't think he's the answer."

"When she brought Bruce to Birmingham, Shepherd, the Newcastle chairman, rang Brady. "One day I'm going to want him," he told her. That day came this season, when Shepherd called back and asked if she was sitting down. Brady said: "There was £1 million a year in it for Steve, but I told Freddy that no amount of money was worth the risk to the club." She said that the primary reason Bruce stayed was loyalty.

"Brady is rarely short of an opinion. Her local newspaper column has spawned essays on Beslan, date rape and Prince Harry; her national newspaper one the suggestion that Footballers' Wives is too sedate. "In real life the heels are higher, the lips plumper, the boobs bigger, the hair fancier, the jewels clunkier, the fingernails longer and the deals craftier," she wrote.

"She has a soft spot for Kenyon and is looking forward to meeting him tomorrow, when Birmingham try to stop the Chelsea juggernaut. She thinks he is "isolated" and likened his position to a player in a game of Russian roulette, but calls him Mr Big and said he is the right man for the job. "You had someone (Roman Abramovich) coming in and initially he was ripped off," he said. "He was paying over the odds and that can make you bitter to start with. Then Peter arrived. He has a plan and, believe it or not, that is rare in football. Ask someone what they are planning to do next year and they say, 'better than this', but they have no idea how to achieve that.

"Everyone wonders what the long-term future is for Chelsea, but they've shaken things up and José Mourinho has added some class. He's almost as good as he says he is. Manchester United must be scratching their heads because things have changed."

"Birmingham recently announced record profits of £5.6 million and, while that is small beer down the Kings Road, it is some turnaround given that parts of St Andrew's had been condemned when she and Sullivan arrived. "If we wanted the best business plan in football we would be a middling first division club," she said. "We'd make a fortune, but that's not what we want."

"A new 60,000-seat stadium, courtesy of one of the new super-casino licences, is what she wants. That would take Birmingham to the next level, but she said it is about steady progress and cites Leeds United as a cautionary tale.

"Football is the business of chasing a dream and it's hard to quantify how much you're prepared to lose to achieve that," she said. "Leeds took a big gamble which almost paid off. It was the sort of gamble where you put it all on black and hope for the best. We're much more long-term."

"So much so that she will stay even if Sullivan leaves. They have been together since their days at Sport Newspapers, but Sullivan has been griping about the travelling from Essex. However, the woman who was once barred from entering the boardroom at Notts County in the days of old school sexism will not be jumping ship. She is settled in the area with her husband, Paul Peschisolido, and her children.

"So how did the Canada striker who now plays for Derby County - Brady transferred him to Stoke City in 1994 and to West Bromwich Albion two years later - take to being sold by his wife? "He wasn't best pleased the second time," she said. Savage, Shepherd, Jordan and Peschisolido - they have all found out that the First Lady of Football has a habit of having the last word."

Ed: Further to the obituary earlier in *Aldenhamiana*, **Kym Isolani's** son wrote to the OA Office: "I found something my father wrote from which it is clear that he looked upon his time at Aldenham with great affection, as it set him on the road to Cambridge, and he describes the extent to which he was encouraged by the dedication of the masters at Aldenham, notably Mr Evans to whom he felt he owed a great deal. He often talked about his time at Aldenham, always with great affection. He made lasting friendships there, notably his great friends John Nixon, Peter Crasweller, and also Marshal Cholmondeley Clarke, who he met again in 1975, as he and Kym worshipped at the same Church in London. My father described Aldenham as being quite a tough school in his day, but it was one in which he thrived as he became Captain of the School and won a Major Open Scholarship to Cambridge from it in 1936."

Mr Isolani's son gave the following address at his father's memorial service. It makes fascinating reading:

"The last member of our family to give this sort of address was my dear father when, eight years ago, he paid his eloquent and moving tribute to my mother Karin just a week after her death. Today as we honour him and remember his long and eventful life, I am comforted by the knowledge that they have been finally reunited.

"Many of you may have seen his Obituary in the *Daily Telegraph*. Today however at this Service to give thanks for his long life, I would like to give a more personal tribute to Kym as loving father, father in law, friend and, as ever, the wise thinker who never lost his intellectual curiosity about ideas, people or places and who went on making new friends until the end.

"A major formative influence on my father was his mother, Georgina Lyle Smyth of Barrowmore Hall near Chester. It was her interest in music and opera that first took her to Milan to train her voice, and when the Great War broke out she became a nurse at the Anglo American Military Hospital where, in the course of her duties she met, fell in love and in due course married my Grandfather Count Umberto Tomasi Isolani. It was there that on 2 September 1917 their son Casimir Peter Hugh was born. The name Kym was first used by his mother as a diminutive, and he was universally known by family and friends as Kym from that time on.

"His first few years were spent in the idyllic setting of a villa near Florence. He used to tell me about expeditions up the steep Appenine passes riding a mule called Pio Nono (Pope Pius the ninth), of his donkey Virgilio, and of days spent in their garden climbing trees and picking, and eating, a surfeit of peaches. Of a rather charming old fashioned rural life with his mother driving him into Florence in her little pony drawn carriage to go to church at the Baptist chapel, or to go shopping; of the wine and olive oil produced on their small estate, of Georgina's chickens and goats, and of fattening up one of the turkey's for Christmas. There were memories of his father teaching him to play chess, and starting him off on his love of the great Italian classical writers, such as Dante, which was to remain with him all his life. "There were also regular visits back to England to visit his mother's relations and in 1929 they all moved permanently back to live near Bexhill on Sea in Sussex.

"At about this time on a family seaside holiday at La Panne on the Belgian coast he first met the love of his life, my mother Karin. He was 12, she was 15, but he fell in love and as he told me he quietly decided then that he wanted to marry her. Well, they kept in touch and corresponded and when he was at Aldenham, and then at Clare College Cambridge they would occasionally meet; but it was not until he had joined the Coast Artillery on the outbreak of war, becoming first ADC to the Brigadier commanding Admiralty Pier Dover and subsequently the Intelligence Corps, that he really began to woo her. They would

often meet at Ivinghoe Beacon, she arriving by bus, he on his motorbike, and it was there that he proposed. They were married at Oxford on 14 May 1943 during his embarkation leave.

"Some three weeks later he embarked at Gourock for the invasion of Sicily: Operation Husky, as an Intelligence Officer attached to the First Canadian Armoured Division. He would tell me about these days at sea going up around the top of Ireland, out into the Atlantic and through the Straits of Gibraltar; of seeing flying fish; of an enemy submarine sunk by one of their escort ships; and of the terrific barrage before going ashore on the landing craft.

"There followed various incidents of varying degrees of danger, but despite the best efforts of the enemy they advanced across Sicily and across to Reggio in Calabria on the Italian mainland. It was there in the Aspromonte mountains that he came across and recruited a group of Italian Parachutists from the Folgore Division to carry out reconnaissance & general disruption behind enemy lines. From a group of 8 they grew to 120 and were integrated into 13th Army Corps as F Recce Squadron. General Sir John Harding commander of 13 Corps summed up their progress in words honouring their effectiveness, their spirit and their courage. My father stayed in touch with a number of them after the war, notably General Francesco Gay, and his friend Mario Fantini for the rest of his life.

"Other assignments followed, and new challenges were overcome, such as the time when returning from a mission behind enemy lines he was machine gunned from the air by USAF Mustangs, what today is known as friendly fire, but mercifully he survived the war and after demobilisation he joined the Foreign Service. He spent the first year of peace in Venice as Vice Consul, then Bologna before settling down as Information Officer at the British Embassy Rome in 1947.

"My mother and I (aged a few months) flew out to join him and we lived in a charming old flat from whose terrace we could see the Dome of St Peter's and the Borghese Gardens. My memories of Kym then were of a very hard working man, but of a most indulgent and loving father at home.

"Our conversations generally took place in the early morning when he was shaving before breakfast: he would tell me about Bexhill on Sea, about the recent War (which for all our lives was a shared interest which I was able to draw on when doing the first draft of his obituary), he would also test me on my maths tables before driving me to school.

"We would go fishing together in the mountains outside Rome, and sometimes go up to the Dolomites, as well as bathing off the beaches not far from Anzio. He loved Rome and knew it and the Italian political scene exceptionally well. Among my parent's friends were Babs Johnson (the writer Georgina Masson), the Italian artist Nino Franchina, and the Ambassador under whom he served and whom he both liked and admired, Sir Ashley Clarke.

"In 1961 we returned to London where he became Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies. Kym enjoyed those two years of London life, there were I recall outings to the theatre, visits to old friends and to his two remarkable aunts in Ireland near Letterkenny, but he rather hankered for another posting. So in 1963 he rejoined the Foreign Office and was posted as Regional Information Officer to the British Embassy Paris. This job which he greatly enjoyed took him all round France and he got to know that beautiful country very well. Strasbourg was a great favourite, as was Toulouse and of course Paris itself.

"Life in Paris was characterised from my perspective as a visiting schoolboy and undergraduate by outings to the races at Longchamps, visits to the Comedie Francaise, seeing the 14 July Parade on the Champs Elysees, and a great deal of entertaining at which my mother Karin excelled, with so many interesting people passing through our flat off the Avenue Georges V. The bilateral political atmosphere between UK and France was not of the best at that time, and Kym cultivated many opposition figures as well as government ones in an attempt to gain an insight into French government attitudes, - and occasionally to disrupt them a little.

"In 1972 he was posted to Brussels serving three Ambassadors as Counsellor to the UK Delegation to NATO, to the EC, and to the British Embassy. We lived in an attractive flat on the Avenue de Tervuren and Kym and Karin were able to rekindle a number of friendships, notably with John and Susanna Vernon at NATO, and many others.

"In September 1977 my father retired from the Foreign Office and returned to live at 44 Pont Street. Many afternoons that first winter of 77-78 were spent at a quarantine cattery near Heathrow visiting their beloved black cat Pushkin who was serving time there and who had to be coaxed to eat by my mother feeding him chicken soup from a tonic water bottle! Of all, our pets over the years, Kym was particularly devoted to him and in his last sad weeks at the hospital, when he did not have much to smile about, a sure way of getting him to smile was to show him a photo of his old cat.

"Having retired Kym soon got into harness again joining the United Nations University London Office. This exposed him to the developing world and to cultures other than the English and European which ever open-minded and ready to learn he found most refreshing and instructive. He visited Japan which he found fascinating.

"In London my father took an active part in the activities of the British Italian Society, a cultural association born out of the anti fascist struggle of which he became Vice Chairman; he was notably devoted to the Church of St Simon Zelotes serving for many years as Treasurer under the Reverend John Pearce (this had quite a family feel as at the time I was myself Secretary, until I resigned when I was posted to the British Embassy, Helsinki in 1982)

"He also joined the London Library where he carried out research and spent long hours at home writing articles for various journals.

"A favourite place was Hyde Park where he and my mother would walk and sit near a Swedish Birch tree. Following her death in 1996, which affected him so very deeply, he would take a leaf from that tree and paste it into his diary on her Birthday.

"Once he had got over the first wave of overwhelming sadness following her death Kym settled into a quiet but quite gregarious way of life, making some new friends and rekindling old friendships. The St Simons Bible study group was a source of comfort, friendship and intellectual enquiry for him which I know he found deeply satisfying and helpful in his search for a deeper faith which I know he found and which enabled him to face his final illness with great serenity, as well as courage.

"His last sad and difficult weeks spent in and out of hospital were

characterised by patience and a deep yearning for God, and by concern for those he would leave behind, and as he often told me a feeling that he had had enough and wanted to "Go Up" . He never lost his sense of humour or his lovely smile: he was quite a favourite with the nurses and at his 87th Birthday they all sang Happy Birthday to him and he had some cake.

"Kym was deeply convinced that we live on in ways which we can never fully understand, that in the words of a beautiful prayer 'Life is eternal and love is eternal, and death is only a horizon and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight' "

Ed: Some months before he died, Mr Isolani kindly sent some old papers from his time at Aldenham to us. He wondered how 15 year olds these days would cope with the following:

5A ENGLISH EXAMINATION PAPER 1932

- When Kym Isolani was 15

1. Write down each of the following words and give an exact meaning for each:- ode, petrification, bastinado, amanuensis, fundamental, idiosyncrasy, clerestory, hull, gormandise, jettison, laminated, lambent, interstices, mortification, opportunist, stentorian, titivation, tribulation, adulation, tremulous. (40 marks)
2. Turn the following into a dignified formal acceptance of an invitation in the 3rd person:- Dear Mrs Higginbottam, Great show about the wedding! Fancy Aggie getting off as quick as all that! I'm on all right. Whenever the fizz is flowing Archie Nittwhitt is the first on the mat. Great show! Cheers! 17th wasn't it? See you at 2 o'clock if we don't meet at the church. Cheers. Archie. (10 marks)
3. Write about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page of elevated, atmospheric prose, describing a ploughman and his team at work in a field as night is falling. (20 marks)
4. Write a criticism of the following complete poem by Hilaire Belloc. You must explain what it means, and suggest the story that lies behind it.
"I said to Heart, "How goes it?" Heart replied
"Right as a ribstone-pippin!" But it lied.' (20 marks)
5. Write down the name of each of the following novels and give the author of each:-
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, The Cathedral, Martin Arrowsmith, My Brother Jonathan, Joan and Peter, Barchester Towers, Wuthering Heights, The Nigger of the Narcissus, Kim, A Man of Property, The Ebb Tide, Gallions Reach, The Auto-biography of a Super Tramp, Esmond, Bleak House, David Blaize, The Hill, Jeremy at Crale, Tono Bungay, Joe Farrell. (20 marks)
6. Describe
(a) A friend (real or imaginary) of strongly introvert tendency
(b) Ditto of strongly extravert tendency. (20 Marks)

Ed: Should any OAs wish to attempt the exam please send your scripts to the OA Office and I will liaise with the School to have them marked. Time allowed is 2 hrs, reference books are not to be used. Your participation (but not your marks) will be recognised in Aldenhamiana, and your Editor reserves the right to publish particularly fine examples of Archie's formal acceptance or the elevated ploughman.

ALDENHAM SCHOOL

INVENTORY OF CLOTHES

Name *C T Isolani*

Summer 1932

Number Suggested	Sent		Number Suggested	Sent	For Games
3	2	Coats (or Eton Jackets) (black)	3	3	*White Flannel Shirts
3	2	Waistcoats (black)	2	2	*Pair of White Flannel Trousers
3	3	Pair of Trousers	3		*Pair of Football Stocking
6	4	White Shirts, or	1		*Pair of Football Knickers
4	2	Flannel Shirts	1	1	*White Woollen Sweater
3	3	Pair of Pyjamas	1		*Pair of Football Boots
3	4	Vests	1	1	*Pair of Cricket Boots or Shoes
3	3	Pair of Drawers	1	1	*Pair of Gymnasium Shoes
(White)					
8	8	Pair of Socks 1			*Pair of Fives Shoes
12	12	Pocket Handkerchiefs			
12	12	Collars			
	2	Neck Ties (black)			OPTIONAL
1	0	Overcoat			
2	0	*Straw Hats (white)		1	Mackintosh
1	1	Dressing Gown		1	Blazer
3	3	Pair of Boots or Shoes (black)			
	1	Pair of House Shoes (<u>strong</u>)			
		Travelling Rug			

Each article, linen, cloth or flannes, boots and shoes, brushes, sponges, rugs, &c., **must be marked with Name and Initials. Shirts and vests to be marked on the neck. Boots and shoes should be marked with initials in small brass nails under instep.**

Only black coats and waistcoats are allowed. Gaudy socks are not permitted. These rules must be strictly observed.

*Straw hats, hat ribbons, caps, cricket and gymnasium belts and vests, &c., &c., are supplied by the School in the regulation colours.

Each boy must have a small bag to contain such things as are required for the first and last nights of term, the boxes being left for these nights at the Station.

It is particularly requested that in no case shall less than the regulation number of boots and shoes be sent.

INVENTORIES SHOULD BE MADE ON THIS FORM ONLY, AND SHOULD BE ENCLOSED IN THE PORTMANTEAU WHEN THE BOY RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Gilbert Beazley (S43-46) wrote to the Treasurer to enclose his voluntary subscription to the OA Society and included the following interesting comment: "On reading the OA News I thought the record of OAs serving as High Sheriffs in Bedfordshire was worthy of note and I enclose a note which I would be grateful if you would pass to the Editor:

High Sheriffs of Bedfordshire - This ancient office has been held by three OAs and by the Chairman of Governors and we have one over the border in Northamptonshire. Can any other County do better?

Gilbert Beazley DL (S43-46)

High Sheriff 1983

John Wells (Chairman of Governors since 2001)

High Sheriff 1989

Robin Willmott DL (S40-44)

High Sheriff 1990

Brian Woodrow DL (B51-56)

High Sheriff 1995

(Brian has also recently been appointed a School Governor)

High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 1999 - **David Reynolds (S54-58)**

Our Treasurer, **Richard Peart**, contributed the following:

"When I was at School (**SH Odds 55-60**), every new boy had to learn the inscription which is over the inside of the entrance door to the main library. I wonder whether this is still the case, certainly the present Headmaster was unaware of it!

"The inscription reads ECCE LIBER TVVS LVCERNA PEDIBVS MEIS. Latin scholars will recognise that this is a paraphrase of the 105th verse of Psalm 119, and roughly translates as "Behold, your word is a lamp unto my feet". Noble sentiments for a Library, but there is much more to it than that. Remember that Romans used V where we now use U and if you pick out the letters which are used as Roman numerals (just to remind you: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, D = 500, M = 1000), you can then add them up and the total is 1923. This is the year the library was opened! I was told at School that this remarkable device was attributed to C A Stott, who was still at School until 1958, but who came in 1924. Certainly he was the major influence in expanding the library to the pre-eminent position it held in the 1950s, but was the inscription added after the library was opened, or could it have been devised by H M Beck, Headmaster in 1923, and who was also a Classics scholar?"

Colonel Andrew Noyes (M61-66) continues to work for the Royal Marines as their Regimental Secretary after some 38 years with them, having joined as a young officer immediately after leaving Aldenham in 1966. Currently living in Emsworth on the South Coast, he intends to retire during the next two years to Cyprus, where he has purchased a house. Now that his daughter is a teacher in a comprehensive school in Shaftesbury, he writes that he appreciates how very lucky all those who attended Aldenham are.

"It is only with hindsight that one appreciates that, despite the Masters' encouragement many of us did not work as hard as we might, but the School still taught us many of the skills necessary for later life." He considers his years at Aldenham to have been vitally formative and has many happy memories of the school, albeit the majority revolving around the sports fields and recreational activities rather than the classroom and the excellent library. "Messrs Stokes (my housemaster), Waddell, Arkell, Wright, Barnard, Crawshaw, Hetherington and of course Paul Griffin, the Headman, all contributed enormously to those happy days in the safe and privileged environment of Aldenham. It proved an excellent foundation for my subsequent career in the Royal Marines Commandos, during which time I have served in and visited a wide range of countries and different environments ranging from the Arctic snows to the Arabian Desert to the jungles of South East Asia, with exercises in Europe and the United States with the US Marine Corps. Fortunately at 56 I now have a "Desk Job" in Portsmouth in the Royal Navy's Fleet Headquarters."

Chris Stern (P72-78) kindly sent us some paragraphs: "I continue to run a management consultancy offering independent advice to organisations who provide catering to their personnel. Aldenham has actually been one of our clients as we managed the tender process that resulted in the appointment of the current caterers. I understand that it has been a great success!

"I am in touch with a number of OA's, including:

Charles Ranaboldo (P72-78), who is an eminent surgeon in Salisbury

Richard Cook (P72-78), whose wedding I recently attended and a number of others who I saw at Richard's wedding including Andrew Singleton, Tekin Fuad, Danny Robbins, Richard Wells and Colin Allen.

"I organised a get together of ex Paull's people from 1972 to 1978 a few years ago, which was great fun. We managed to get all but about 3 from the year together in a restaurant. It proved amusing to see how easy it was to recognise people who have not met for 20 years, but the wine helped! Amazingly, we all got on very well and ended up in more or less the same cliques as we were in at school!

"I trust this is a helpful update and apologise for the way in which my English must have deteriorated since the advent of email!"

S G Hodgkinson (S32-35) wrote to the Treasurer: "I have been meaning to send you a donation for the Old Aldenhamian Society for some time now but events and advancing years have intervened. I left Aldenham at Christmas 1935 having spent my school years in School House Odds. I have spent the intervening years in the insurance field having joined the Royal Exchange Assurance in early 1936 eventually retiring in 1979. Apart from seven years in the Army during the war years the whole of working life was spent in the insurance world. I am grateful to 'Her Majesty' for the opportunity to see part of the world I would not otherwise have visited. It is perhaps for this reason that I have not felt the urge to write about my exploits."

Ed: The football team photo in the last edition of *Aldenhamiana* prompted some comment. Our queries have been successfully identified as (back row third from left) D J Grimsdell and (back row second from right) K Hawkins. Back row far right has been re-identified as J H Rich. Front row second from right is M L E Espir. I am grateful to Bishop Hewlett Thompson, Brian Savill, Humphrey Osmond, Alan Grieve, Robin Wilmott and Iain Robertson Muir for writing to us to solve this mystery.

Heirs and Rebels: Aldenham School 1973-1998

By Roger Payne.

Foreword by the Headmaster

Copies available at £10.50 including postage from:

Roger Payne
Lansdowne House
25 Grange Road
Bushey Herts
WD23 2LQ

Your Editor (whose years at Aldenham co-incide with the first few years of the period analysed by Roger Payne (CR71-2000) has read the book and found it fascinating: "After leaving Aldenham in 1975, I hardly visited the School for 25 years, yet I heard many rumours of how it had changed, and why. Roger's book provides authoritative insight into a turbulent period in the School's history, from which it has emerged, somewhat changed but now thriving. Woven into the lattice of this history are sections on sports at Aldenham, the role of religion in the School, and the development of the curriculum to meet the demands of the modern world. A very good read. Thank you, Roger."

Peter Hill (M52-56) wrote to the Editor to notify the OA office of his change of address and added the news: "I retired on 1st April 2004 after spending thirty years in the pharmaceutical industry, most of the time with Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd. (always on the sales side). Most of my time was spent with General Practitioners and Consultants in the Devon and Somerset areas and I enjoyed many hours of social golf with many of them - in fact we have just set up a new golfing society, namely SWARMS (South West Association of Retired Medics) of which I am unpaid Secretary acting for nearly 90 members."

Ed: If you are interested in getting in touch with Peter and would like his new address please contact the OA office.

We received a short note from **Jonathan Clark (B70-75)** with his new address in Chichester. He kindly also sent a copy of some biographical notes, which follow. Jonathan was a contemporary of

the Editor's at School, and now has 19 letters after his name (can anyone beat this?). Your Editor can just about raise 3 (one for each year of somewhat undistinguished attendance at Exeter University), so has resolved to investigate ways of acquiring more in 2005.

"Jonathan Clark is Senior Vice President for Crawford & Company's International Business Solutions Group. He is responsible for quality, training, marketing and Lloyd's market in all Crawford non-US operations. Jonathan remains a practising loss adjuster specialising in product liability and construction professional indemnity claims.

"He began his insurance career in Watford joining Thomas Howell Group in October 1981. He entered the insurance industry having taken degrees in biochemistry and biochemical engineering at Oxford University and London University respectively. He completed his ACII in 1987 and his ACILA in the same year.

"In 1989, Jonathan joined Ellis & Buckle where he held positions including Technical Director for Casualty & Construction, Director of Marketing and IT Director. He left Ellis & Buckle in 1997 to join Crawford & Company.

"He is a regular speaker on insurance-related topics and has addressed a number of audiences around the world. The subjects have included technical claims related matters as well as wider industry issues such as benchmarking and claims strategies.

"Jonathan has been a member of the Council of the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters and has chaired the Education and Technical Committee and the IT Committee of the CILA. He participated in the CILA Strategy Review and Constitutional Review, which led to the establishment of a Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct. He was an examiner for the CILA for many years and a founder examiner for the Society of Claims Technicians.

"Within the CII Jonathan participated in the Education Review that was presented by Bob Scott in 2001. He was a CII Vice President in 2002 - 2003 and in 2003 was elected Treasurer and is currently Chairman of the LIWP phase 3.

"Married with a daughter and a son, Jonathan is a life-long supporter of Arsenal Football Club and a keen sailor and fly-fisherman. His other hobbies include music and films. He was an active journalist in sailing for 10 years having a fortnightly column in a national sailing magazine and is a past member of the British Sailing Team. In sailing Jonathan has been Chairman of a major class association and has held senior committee positions within the sport. This has included an involvement with the Cowes Week race management team as a course setter. He is past Commodore of Castaways Sailing Club, a club founded for ex-members of London University Sailing Team."

An email and greetings from Hanover, Germany from Gisela Arenstedt-Rathenow, the mother of **Guido Arenstedt (M98-2000)**. "Guido has now graduated as a Master of Engineering (Computer Science) at Imperial College of London. We are very proud, and send many thanks to Aldenham School."

Gisela has kindly sent with her email a photo of Guido from the Commemoration Day Ceremony - 28 October 2004, which we publish below.



At the Toronto Dinner in October 2003, **Thomas Hilderley (S59-62)** gave the Headmaster a copy of an article from a local newspaper in 1933 describing the School's annual prize day. It may prompt some memories, if only of a different style of journalism. Not surprisingly for 1933, the OTC features strongly:

ALDENHAM SCHOOL CHANGES

Mr H M Beck's Farewell

Welcome to the New Headmaster

"The retirement of Mr H M Beck, headmaster of Aldenham School for the past 13 years, and of Mr H E Gilbert, house master, and a welcome to the new headmaster Mr G A Riding, formerly headmaster of King's School, Warwick, were the predominant incidents of the annual prize day held at the school on Saturday. Good fortune in the form of admirable weather proved a happy incidence, and the spacious grounds looked at their best. Mr F P Whitbread, Chairman of the Governors, presided over a large gathering, and was supported by Mr Beck and members of the staff, Mr G A Riding, the new headmaster, and the Right Hon Sir Dennis Herbert, MP, Colonel Buston, Major Christie, Mr P Gates, and Colonel Evans.

Football Traditions Maintained

In his annual report the Headmaster began by referring to the high distinction conferred upon one of their governing body, Sir Dennis Herbert, MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, who had been appointed a member of the Privy Council. Nine boys, he continued, obtained the Higher Certificate of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board in July last, one of whom J H Street, was awarded a major scholarship at Pembroke College, Cambridge, on the results of his examination. In the School Certificate 35 boys were successful in July, and 17 in December. With regard to the OTC it fostered

wholly admirable qualities - power of control, ability to give a clear command, cheerful and ready obedience to orders, pride in personal appearance, and the team spirit in its best development.

Referring to sport, which he described as important, but not all-important, the Headmaster said that the football team fully maintained the traditions of the past. That was no empty praise, for football was a game in which they had always excelled. Their half-backs had been as violent and unscrupulous as any he had known in a long experience. (Laughter.)

Now he came to the last and perhaps the hardest thing of all, and that was to say farewell. There were two men who had been intimately connected with the life of the School for a number of years who in a few weeks time would have earned their discharge and passed on - Mr Gilbert and himself. What Mr Gilbert had been to the School they knew very well. He was more than a master, more than a house master; he could be called an institution.

"An Invincible Optimist"

With regard to himself he could say that there was no man living who had had so long a connection with the School as a master as himself. For seven years he was under Dr Kennedy, the creator of the School, for 17 years more he served under Dr Cooke, and for 13 years it had been his great fortune and high privilege to preside over the destinies of the School. He had seen generation after generation of boys come there; he had talked with every imaginable type, and the result was to leave him an invincible optimist. They did aim, at Aldenham, at the highest, and the things which really mattered in life did count amongst them. If manliness, honesty, cleanness, keenness for work, vigour in games, loyalty and cheerfulness were blessings in a school then he counted that School was blessed. (Applause.) "I hand over to my successor, whom we are glad to welcome here to-day, with every confidence that he will find here a field for his great and proved ability. All that I ask is that I may be remembered here as one who has loved the School (Applause), and has served the School to the best of his ability," (Applause.)

OTC and Militarism

The Chairman said that the School had arrived at a very important epoch, in the change of reign of headmasters, and he wanted them to join with him in saying with how much regret they were bidding farewell to Mr and Mrs Beck after many years best endeavours and conspicuous success. (Applause.) The Governors came to a definite and unanimous conclusion to appoint as his successor Mr Riding, who was previously headmaster of Kings's School, Warwick. He was a man who would fully maintain, and if possible enhance, the high position Aldenham held and its true traditions - looking upon work as not altogether subservient to play, and a practical desire to fit its occupants as useful citizens. He could not stand the sort of tosh some people talked nowadays about the OTCs being a tendency towards militarism. Surely the encouragement and inculcation of willing obedience and discipline could hardly be described as the monopoly of the infantry. It was such rubbish! (Laughter.) Surely one could carry a sword or a rifle without being debited with all the vices of humanity. Yet they had grown men - like Mr Lanesbury - who talked this undiluted rubbish. That was

what was so sad. One would have thought that it was a domestic matter which should be well within the view of his somewhat limited range intellect. (Laughter.) Concluding with a reference to Mr Gilbert, the Chairman described him as a model house master, whose name would not be forgotten.

New Headmaster's Ideals

Mr Riding was accorded a warm welcome, in acknowledging which he confessed that he felt like the veritable new boy. He wanted to give all his thoughts and ambitions and energies to maintaining all things good and great in the School, and, if possible, to their enhancement. He acknowledged the kindness of Mr and Mrs Beck to Mrs Riding and himself. He only hoped that all the good Mr and Mrs Beck had done for the School would remain for ever, and that their names would be remembered with those who had unselfishly and gratefully served the School. (Applause.)

A welcome to Mr and Mrs Riding, and congratulations to Mr and Mrs Beck and Mr Gilbert, were voiced by the head boy of the School, P D V Hunter, on behalf of the boys."

LOST OAs

Aldenhamiana 29 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.

W G Batham	S38-41
P J P Croft	K62-66
J D O Dawson	B66-68
N N Dodge	P57-62
S H Fenn	B72-77
D Gough	S38-43
M G Handcock	S45-49
R M L Handcock	S75-80
M R Hare	B86-88
H Hassan	M81-86
P R Hayter	B70-76
M J Herbert	B89-94
M James	M52-56
S R Jay	B97-99
T J S Palmer	K88-93
M W Pickard	B48-51
J P Richfield	S75-80
N R Sloan	S58-63
I C H Thomas	K76-81
N Twyman	S73-77
D B White	B78-82
M G Willis	B43-46

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge No.4884

invites
Old Aldenhamians,
School Governors and teaching staff,
past and present
to an

Open Evening

and
sumptuous silver service
Dinner

on Wednesday 19th October 2005
at 6.00 pm

at
10 Duke St. Saint James's,
London SW1Y 6BS

6.00 pm	Welcome & Introduction to Freemasonry
6.30 pm	Talk on the history of the OA Lodge
7.00 pm	Pre Dinner Drinks
7.30 pm	Dinner
9.50 pm	Departure

The cost for dining will be £40.00 per head including an aperitif and wine with the meal.

If you would like to attend please contact
Simon Mitchell (K70-73)
for further details.

Email: smitchell@mitch21.plus.com
Phone: 01293 571998
Mobile: 0787 656 2435
Address: The Laurels, 21 Southgate Road, Crawley,
West Sussex RH10 6BL

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
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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

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36 Savoy Court
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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

