



ALDENHAMIANA
ISSUE 48
October 2020

News from the
OA Society
Updates from the School
News and Features
Housemasters Feature

OA
REVIEW





Aldenhiana

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FROM THE EDITOR



Despite the tumult that 2020 has thrown at us so far, what always encourages me is the feeling of community that permeates from Aldenham. We are so lucky to have so many different ways to communicate now – the *OA Review* included – and I don't feel that the pandemic has done anything to dampen the sense of

belonging that attending Aldenham School gives us as individuals. If anything, I think our community is stronger than ever, with so many different ways for us to speak to each other. It was truly wonderful for the OA Committee to have their first ever Zoom meeting this year! I'm sure that, as a Society, we will continue to embrace new technologies to allow us to better communicate with you, our OAs.

Having said this, this year's *OA Review* is not quite the magazine I had envisioned to end my Editorship on. After much discussion, we felt it only right that you receive an *OA Review* from us at the same time in the same format as usual, although we have had to cut down on content this year. (I think you'll agree, scope for events, achievements and other news we usually report on has been limited due to the lockdown restrictions.)

For the final time, I must thank **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** for his support throughout my tenure as Editor, and **James Fowler** for allowing me to write every year about his School, which I love so much. Huge thanks must, as ever, go to my absolutely fantastic team of **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)** and **Sara Price (CR1987-2006)**, without whose amazing and voluntary efforts this magazine would not be possible. I shall miss working with you both so very much. Massive thanks also to **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)** for his vast contribution to this year's magazine, and to my favourite ladies in the Development & OA Office, **Ann Saffery**, **Jackie Wilkie** and **Heather Sherman**. When things return to some semblance of normal, I will be returning to spend an afternoon in your office with tea and biscuits!

Finally, thank you to you, our lovely OAs! Thank you for allowing me to write four magazines for you, all of which I hope you have enjoyed thoroughly. It has been fantastic to meet and speak to so many of you in various contexts, and I will no doubt see many of you at future OA events.

I am delighted to say that we have appointed a new Editor for the *OA Review*, **Claudia Greenway (P2011-19)**, who we will introduce to you later on in the magazine. Claudia has my full support and I hope that you will join me in wishing her well in her Editorship.

Wishing you good health and happiness for the future, see you soon,

Lydia Chapman (P2010-12)

Editor, *OA Review*

The President's Message



OA Society pin badge

I hope you and your families are safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Whilst reconnecting with you during these challenging and uncertain times, my thoughts and prayers are with those OAs who have lost their lives due to the pandemic and I would like to pay a special tribute in particular to two OAs who passed away this year due to COVID-19, namely **Charles Lassman (P1985-89)**, and **David Lazarus (K1969-74)**. We will always remember them and our thoughts are with their families.

How things have changed compared to this time last year with many of us having to think laterally, reinvent ourselves and be thankful for modern technology in connecting with friends, business associates and loved ones around the world.

Beevor's House should have been hosting this year's Gaudy on OA Day to celebrate its 125th Anniversary, the same year of 1895 as the second Chapel was built at Aldenham, now part of The Wells Centre and the first Proms Concert was held in London at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place.

This year also marks 40 years since girls started at Aldenham with accommodation for girl boarders opening in 1984 in Beevor's, Paull's and

Kennedy's and I am delighted to announce that, at the time of going to print, there are currently four female OAs on the OA Society Committee.

On 7 March, just before lockdown, eighty OAs and guests were fortunate to attend this year's OA Dinner at the School with an evening of tributes to **Richard (Howlett) Jones (CR1962-94)** who died on 4 November 2019. To commemorate his 32 years at Aldenham as Head of English, Housemaster of Paull's House and Deputy Head with the impact he had on the Aldenham Community, a medley of poems, tributes and music was arranged. We were delighted that Margaret Howlett Jones attended the Dinner as a special guest of the OA Society and there is a fitting tribute to Richard on p.42 in this *OA Review*.

8 May marked VE (Victory in Europe) Day and events of 75 years ago were remembered, especially those OAs who took part in the Allied invasion of Normandy between 6 June and 31 August 1944 known as Operation Overlord and often referred to as D-Day, the largest seaborne invasion in history. Similarly also we remembered the 75th Commemoration of VJ Day on 15 August

and those OAs who gave their tomorrow for our today. Incidentally there are over 120 OAs who, since 1914, have been awarded the Military Cross.

During this current worldwide pandemic where life as we know it has changed, possibly forever, on behalf of OAs worldwide I would like to pay a huge debt of gratitude to the Headmaster, **James Fowler**, and his dedicated team together with **Karl Mahon (2017-Present)**, Bursar, and **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)**, Chair of Governors, for steering Aldenham through this crisis with skill, determination and forethought. Aldenham is fortunate to have them.

We are hugely grateful to the NHS and other front line workers for their skill, bravery and dedication to duty during these times and we might pause to imagine how pupils and staff at Aldenham coped during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19.

Whilst we cannot all meet up at the moment we are staying connected via the OA website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and of course, the *OA Review*. The first OA Society Committee virtual meeting was held in May via Zoom and another virtual meeting is planned for the autumn.

My continued priority is to bring some of the 5,000 OAs closer together by connecting with them electronically. As such, in June, 24 OAs from as far afield as Nigeria, India, Switzerland and the USA plus 15 members of the teaching staff including the Headmaster recorded themselves singing the Aldenham School Song in Latin. The videos were then edited into a virtual rendition and streamed during Visitation Day. It was team effort at its best and helped boost morale and reconnect with OAs, staff and the Aldenham community.

At the end of June, I sent a personal video message to those students who had left Aldenham this summer welcoming them to the OA Society and hoping their connection with the School and the OA Society will last a life time.

OA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James James-Crook
Neil Sutherland OBE DL
John Edwards TD JP
Peter John Purton OBE
Richard Wood
Frank Rogers
Richard Peart
Chris Stern
Lydia Chapman
Daniel Andrews
David Hayes
Clare Yeabsley née McCarty
Glynn Humphreys
Alice Erman
Claudia Greenway
James Fowler
Emma Murray

Ann Saffery
Jackie Wilkie

President
Vice President
Vice President
Vice President
Vice President
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
OA Dinner
Editor, *OA Review*
Aldenham Connect
Committee Member
Committee Member
Mentoring
(Committee member proposed)
(Committee member proposed)
Headmaster
Deputy Head, Co-curricular
Sixth Form & External Affairs
Development & OA Manager
Development & OA Assistant

During a recent site visit I was able to see at first hand the current impressive construction of the new Prep School and to hear about the numerous facilities which will be available to those young pupils fortunate enough to attend when it opens early next year. This is a particularly exciting time in the history of Aldenham School especially as many of those pupils will, in due course, go up the hill to the Senior School.

Whilst on that visit to the new Prep School, I was able to inspect the site of the newly installed and highly sophisticated irrigation system for Cooke's Fields. I am pleased to announce that the OA Society has agreed to donate £7,000 equating to 50% of the supply and installation costs.

On behalf of the OA Society, I send a message of gratitude to **Lydia Chapman (P2010-12)**, Editor, *OA Review*, for her focused dedication in taking up the mantle of Editor in 2017, who steps down this autumn. Lydia, together with **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)** and her capable team, has continued to produce an innovative and informative magazine of which the OA Society should be proud. At the same time, I am pleased to welcome her successor, **Claudia Greenway (P2011-19)**, who will continue to take the *OA Review* forward.

Indeed with forward planning, we hope the OA Dinner will go ahead in March 2021 at the School though inevitably in a different and, above all, safe format. It will be great to see you there.

I would like to thank you as an Old Aldenhamian for your continued support to the OA Society and, as always, my appreciation goes to **Ann Saffery** and **Jackie Wilkie** for their hard work.

As we went to print **John Jarman (P1934-37)** celebrated his 100th Birthday on 18th September. He was delighted to receive a copy of the History of Aldenham book and an Aldenham mug sent from the School also flowers sent from the OA Society.

Stay connected. I hope you, your friends and your family stay safe and keep well. We will meet again. Long live Aldenham. Long live the Old Aldenhamian Society.

James James-Crook (M1968-72)
President, OA Society
jamesjamescrook@hotmail.co.uk

Honorary OAs

There are two more honorary OAs added to our community this year. Firstly, **Niamh Brewer (CR2014-Present)**, who has recently been appointed Housemistress of Aldenham's new House, Woodrow's;

and, Head of Maths, **Catherine Fulford (CR2014-Present)**. Catherine is from a long line of OAs, her father, brother, two uncles and her eldest son all being OAs, and her two younger children are still current pupils at Aldenham.

OA Day: Beevor's 125th Anniversary

Unfortunately, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, OA Day this year – which was due to be on the 6th June – celebrating Beevor's 125th anniversary, was cancelled. However, in keeping with the times and making good use of technology, the occasion was still marked by Aldenham, with two video presentations, one from the President of the OA Society, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** and Beevor's

Housemaster, **Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)**, and the other from James Fowler, Headmaster, wishing OAs health and good wishes, and for us all to be able to reconnect in person again soon.

We hope that OA Day 2021 will go ahead without any hiccups, but, in the meantime, you can see the OA Day presentations here:

<https://bit.ly/3iGrdFc>.

Is it time to renew your OA subscription?



New membership subscription arrangements were unanimously approved at the Society's AGM in 2002 to enable the Society to provide members with an improved service, in particular expansion and improvement of the OA website.

All existing Life Members who left the School twenty years ago or more are invited to pay a voluntary annual subscription to the Society. An appropriate sum would be £10 per

annum although the Society would welcome larger amounts.

If you left School in Summer 2000 or before, you are invited to start paying a voluntary annual subscription to the Society.

Should you wish to start a voluntary annual subscription, please arrange either online or by contacting the Development and OA Office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A Level Presentation Evening: TBC

Regional Lunch: West Sussex, TBD

OA Dinner: Saturday 6th March TBC

OA Day, Beevor's Gaudy: Sunday 6th June 2021



Aldenham Digital Archive

Thanks to the Aldenham Annual Fund, more historical information and visual material has now been added to the digital archive. The search facility has also been improved to make it easier to find the things of most interest. Whole school photos can be viewed and enlarged and pictures may be seen in a slide show.

The digital archive is far from complete, with a lot of memorabilia still stashed away in drawers and cupboards in the Development and OA office, but there are already a lot of interesting things to see.

Through the Aldenham digital archive you can read the very first school magazine, produced in March 1881 and the Register for 1836. By logging in, using your unique access details for the OA Society website and clicking on the

Archive link, you will be able to see a selection of issues of the School magazine, right up to the 2010 publication. The restricted archive contains photographs, albums and scrapbooks with pictures of the School and the people who have passed through it over many years. There are pictures of sports and activities, including the cricketers of 1913, the Football team from 1915 and the Officer Training Corps in 1916. There are reports from the Aldenham Boys' Club dated 1910 and the School's very first inspection report. Rule Books from 1938 and 1971 can be compared, the School Improvement Plan of 1963-64 makes fascinating reading, along with the 1937 Chapel Appeal.

Aldenham's Head of History, **Ben Frais (P&R2001-06)**, has now integrated the use of the digital archive into the subject curriculum, so the current students will use it for research and will learn from the real lives of their predecessors.

We hope that you will enjoy browsing this treasure trove from Aldenham over the years. Do let us know what you think – aesaffery@aldenham.com.



The swimming pool



Upper Dorm Paull's



View from the San

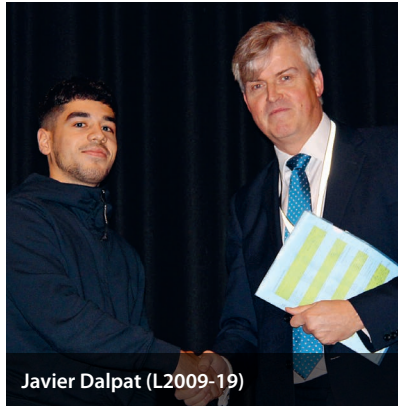
A Level Presentation Evening

Over 40 recent leavers returned to Aldenham just before Christmas to receive their A Level certificates from the Headmaster and Head of Senior School.

It was quite a celebration, with over 100 guests filling the Theatre to congratulate the students and hear a bit about their school days and an update on their experiences.

Welcome refreshments were served afterwards providing an opportunity for a proper catch-up with friends and to find out more about the benefits of the OA Society.

We hope to see these young OAs back for many events in future, including the Annual Dinner in the spring and OA Day in the summer. Well done and good luck to you all.



Javier Dalpat (L2009-19)



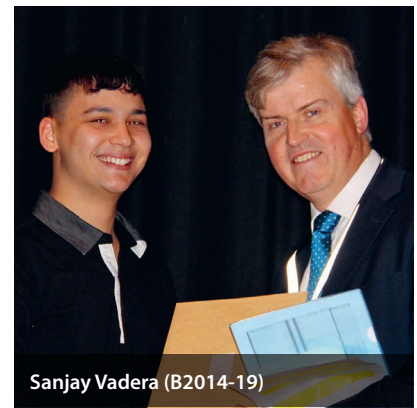
Patrick Duggan (L2014-19)



Rachel Crawley (P&R2012-19)



Ronni Ingram (P&R2012-19)



Sanjay Vadera (B2014-19)

Mentoring

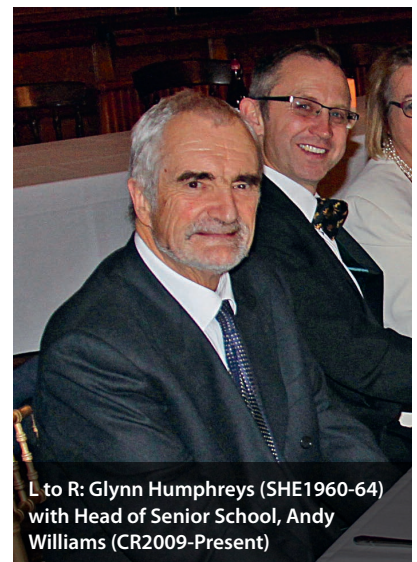
We have had several more OAs put themselves forward this year to be mentors, for which we are very grateful.

We would also like to introduce **Glynn Humphreys (SHE1960-64)**, who has volunteered to take the role of Mentoring Co-Ordinator on behalf of the OA Committee. He will stand for election at the next AGM in March 2021.

Glynn has just retired from running his family business in international removals and data management, which he co-owned alongside his sons, OAs **Justin (SH1984-86)** and **Matthew (SH1986-91)**. They are now focusing their efforts on commercial building and property management.

Glynn said of Aldenham: 'I have always enjoyed the whole community – staff and peers – and cherished the attitude the School has towards personal development. I left halfway through A Levels to go to college, and I was helped and encouraged by all of the teachers in this decision. I was involved in lots of different areas at School, being a boarder, in a music group and into athletics and I have stayed in touch with my contemporaries at School, and enjoyed networking with OAs since.'

If you would like to talk to Glynn about the mentoring scheme, please get in touch with oas@aldenham.com.



L to R: Glynn Humphreys (SHE1960-64) with Head of Senior School, Andy Williams (CR2009-Present)

OA Annual Dinner 2020

In a change to tradition this year, the OA Dinner took place in March 2020 and was enjoyed by almost 80 people.

The evening began with a drinks reception in the Aphorp Room, where guests gathered to be greeted by the President and Headmaster. It was a special pleasure to see so many former members of the Common Room as well as OAs on this occasion, for a tribute in memory of **Richard Jones (CR1962-98)**.

In the Waddell Recital Room, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** welcomed everyone and introduced **Richard Wood (CR1966-98)**, a contemporary of Richard

Jones, who regaled stories and memories from *'The Power behind the Thrones'*, a great insight into the trials and tribulations for Housemasters (and their wives) and teachers at Aldenham. James James-Crook continued by recalling fond memories of his English A Level studies with Richard Jones. His rendition of *Gus: The Theatre Cat* by T. S. Eliot was masterful. James was then joined by **Adrian Bridge (P1971-75)** to read messages sent from OAs and former staff who knew Richard. Impressive musical

performances by two current students and OA **Alice Erman (P2005-12)** completed the memorial to one of Aldenham's great teachers.

The Dining Hall was cheerfully decorated with spring flowers, which made a change from the usual autumn colours used at previous dinners in November, and the atmosphere throughout the evening was warm, happy and friendly, just what you would expect from OAs and Aldenham!



Cynthia Hunt & Norma Luetchford
(Guests of the OA Society)



Saul Charalambos (M2004-11), Daniele Kitchen (B2009-11), Tilk Malhotra (B2003-14), Jonny Bryer (B2010-15), Martyn Berg (B1989-94), Nick Belkin (M1989-94), Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present), Oli Jacobs (L2007-14), Jacob Haftel (R2007-14) & Jahn Ramis (R2009-14)



Photo tribute board to Richard Jones (CR1962-94) produced by Adrian Bridge (P1971-75)



Ann Saffery (Development & OA Manager), Adrian Bridge (P1971-75), Julian Bridge (P1970-74), Lindsay Gibbon (P1970-75) (hidden), Michael Hirst (SHO1946-50), Fred Hechtel (SHO1946-50), Simon Mitchell (K1970-73), Tanja Bridge, Andrew Hunter (P1972-77) & Barbara Hunter



James Fowler (Headmaster) & Richard Wood (CR1966-98)



Adrian Bridge (P1971-75) & Tanja Bridge



Mr Jones mid 1970s

The Power behind the Thrones

Richard Wood (CR1966-98)

I find myself now in the somewhat invidious position of being the oldest surviving Aldenham Housemaster, so presumably the next one to drop off the perch at which point I will pass the baton on to Austin Galvin.

I thought this evening as James and Adrian are going to talk about Richard as a man and a Schoolmaster I would be 'woke' and 'meme'! See dinosaurs can keep learning. This will be appropriate because we have four former Housemasters' wives present tonight, as well as Margaret from Paull's, there is Sue Barnard from Beevor's, Gill Wood from School House and Mary Galvin from Kennedy's. Mary's mother, Vera, was also the first Housemaster's wife in Kennedy's so Mary has had a double dose of experiences. What I want to try to show you is something of what was involved in running a boarding house back in the late 1960s, 70s and 80s when facilities and conditions in the houses, apart from Kennedy's (who had it cushy), were to put it politely primitive and to highlight the key roles that the Housemasters' wives played in the smooth running of Aldenham. So I give you, shades of Hilary Mantell: the powers behind the thrones.

When Margaret and Richard took over Paull's the School was still mainly boarding, a seven-day-a-week operation and with House not central catering. The School with Richard's appointment was in fact getting two people for the price of one as Margaret, the Housemaster's wife, ran the whole of the domestic side of the House, supervised the catering, the matron, the domestic staff, entertained parents and visiting dignitaries and fielded all incoming

telephone calls from parents etc. (at least there was no email and Twitter etc. then). This enabled Richard to teach and fulfil his extra-curricular duties.

A few examples drawn largely from Margaret's experiences:

1. She had to deal with Spanish domestics who had little or no English, so clutching a dictionary in one hand, talking loudly in a combination of cod Spanish & pigeon English she would try to demonstrate what needed to be done.
2. Filled in when the cook was ill, having 60 hungry mouths to fill is a challenge.
3. Filled in when domestic staff had walked out on being asked to change their routines. One House Tutor received very short shrift when he complained that his wastepaper basket had not been emptied.
4. The flu epidemics in the 1970s. Those dealing with the present coronavirus scare might learn a few lessons in self-sufficiency here. The San was full, the House sick bays were too small, so dormitories had to be converted into sick bays. Feeding the patients, washing the sheets and moving boys from one place to another as they recovered or succumbed to the virus was a nightmare but daily life continued and eventually the crisis passed.
5. One incident remains firmly in Margaret's memory. At the end of a term a mother thanked her for looking after her son and said I want to give you a present, I am going to give you a pig. Being polite Margaret said thank you but very much hoped this might not happen. The next term the mother

turned up late in the afternoon and said, 'at last I have got your pig. I am in a hurry so we must get it inside.' No-one else was around to help as the boys and staff were in lessons so the mother said we will have to move it ourselves. She opened the back of the car and there was the carcass wrapped in a sheet oozing blood. Together they managed to lift it up and staggered into the kitchen of the house and dumped it down. 'I must dash,' the mother said, 'but as soon as possible you must hang it up on one of those pipes,' pointing to the ceiling, 'and let it bleed out.' Off she went. Later that evening Margaret, Richard and the House Tutor got a rope round the trotters, heaved it up and suspended it from the pipe with a bucket underneath. Margaret's last thought as she went to bed was, I must get up early to warn the staff about what is in the kitchen. Unfortunately she overslept and the whole house was awakened by screams coming from the kitchen where a Spanish maid had come across the pig hanging from the pipe and thought a boy had committed suicide.

6. They were amazing times and the boys were rarely a problem; Headmasters, bursars, domestic staff and occasionally parents could be far more troublesome. However the friendships that were made, the interesting people that were met, the lively pattern of the daily life of the House and the School more than compensated for the down times and the long hours. Margaret and Richard created a happy and successful house as all the tributes you will hear tonight will confirm. I ask you to remember though the contributions that were and are being made in the Houses by the power behind the thrones.

Old Aldenhamian Golfing Society



OAGS European Tour 2019

Every year, a group of intrepid OA golfers embark on a short golfing tour abroad, usually in France, Belgium or Holland but occasionally to more adventurous places such as Morocco and even South Africa.

This year, there was a group of nine, including **Marcus Blake (P1951-56)**, who was especially welcome having recently suffered the tragic loss of his wife, Lisa. We went to Bruges, which is a beautiful, historic city, and not the obvious location for a group of golfers but OA golfers are, of course, a different breed – well-educated, cultured, and (generally) well-behaved!

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2019

The first drive on Monday was over 400 yards, about 100 miles in fact via Eurotunnel to Bruges. The last 5 miles involved driving around Bruges along narrow roads, some of which were closed by excavations and others which were probably pedestrian zones judging by the looks we got from passers-by! Arriving about 1:30pm was the ideal time to check in at Martins Hotel and

explore the city. Our sightseeing ended in the main Square at Café Craenenburg, approximately two minutes from the hotel. We had lunch there and stayed for at least two and a half hours.

We didn't have long to wait before we headed out again, this time to de Gastro, a delightful restaurant run by an Albanian family from Kosovo since 2011. We ate extremely well.



L to R: Clive Simeons (SHE1952-56) (forehead anyway), Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P1958-61) (OAGS President), Neil Melvill (K1965-70), Ian Eggledden (SHE1958-63), Marcus Blake (P1951-56), John Yule (SHE1966-71) (Tour Organiser), Mark Weatherhead (M1954-57), Phil Murphy (K1965-70) and Michael Beavis (SHO1980-83)



L to R: Mark Weatherhead, Neil Melvill, Clive Simeons, John Yule, Ian Wilson-Soppitt, Marcus Blake, Phil Murphy, Ian Eggleden and Michael Beavis



John Yule, Ian Soppitt-Smith and Clive Simeons with the Prevost Salver

TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2019 – ROYAL OSTEND GOLF CLUB

We woke up to a somewhat windy day, cloudy but dry, and after a good breakfast, we set off for Ostend, just over 15 miles away. The golf course is the only links course in Belgium.

Playing in 3s, **Neil Melvill (K1965-70)** and **Phil Murphy (K1965-70)** challenged 5 handicap **Michael Beavis (SHO1980-83)** to a match. You can see the result in the photo below and, guess what Melvill did? Yes, a hole in one!

The good news for Neil was that the bar was closed all day. However, he bought all the beer and wine at dinner at Ribs 'n Beer, a superb restaurant serving exactly what it said on the tin. Neil then generously bought more drinks back at the hotel.

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2019 – DAMME GOLF CLUB

We arrived at Damme, a short drive from Bruges, where it started to rain. We set off and got extremely wet, although it did stop so we finished dishevelled rather than drowned rats!

It was a beautiful course and we were playing for the Prevost Salver, a magnificent silver trophy presented by our own **Nigel Prevost (SH1949-54)**. Played in pairs with the better score of the two counting at each hole, it was a close battle and won this year by **John Yule (SHE1966-71)** (again!) and Clive Simeons with 37 points, with **Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P1958-61)** and Marcus Blake in a close second with an excellent 36 points. After a nice lunch with burgers or omelettes washed down with local beer, John and Clive were presented with the trophy.

It wasn't long before we found ourselves back in Bruges ready for dinner. We went to a fascinating restaurant called 't Zwart Huis.

THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2019 – GOLF DE DUNKERQUE

This was the final day of the Tour and so we set off for Calais but stopped off at Dunkerque to play 18 holes, for once in bright and sunny conditions.

Having arrived at the Eurotunnel complex, we said our goodbyes before boarding the Shuttle and then driving home.

We all agreed that it had been a great tour and John Yule was rightly praised for arranging yet another really interesting and enjoyable tour. Thank you, John, and roll on 2020.

Hanc Aldenham!

Ian Eggleden (SHE1958-63)

Hon Secretary

October 2019



Old Aldenhamian Football Club

As you may have seen, the Football Association decided that, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, at our level of football (called the 'wider grassroots'), the 2019-20 season formally finished in May.

However, what you may not have seen (and what has been confirmed to me by the Arthurian League) is that the FA went further and decreed that leagues at the wider grassroots level were not allowed to extend the 2019-20 season into the opening weeks of the 2020-21 season, whenever that may restart. Consequently, the 2019-2020 season is now voided with no automatic promotion or relegation.

As it stands, we had finished all our matches and, barring a sudden and unexpected up or down turn of other teams results, we were neither likely to be promoted or relegated.

I want to thank you all for your commitment and drive during this season, our first as a one team club. This was especially true from January onwards, when we saw a very solid squad, with very few changes week to week, see us go on a three-month unbeaten run.

Normally at this stage of the year, we would be talking about an end of year awards and planning our pre-season but, as we are all acutely aware, this, sadly, will not be possible.

I am still very much of the mindset that we should have an end of season awards (maybe without awards) before the new season starts. I feel, as one of the only teams to fully complete their fixtures, we do deserve it. Obviously it will all depend on how the pandemic plays out as to if and when this does happen but I will revert in due course. What I will do is announce our only award we have voted on so far, which is player of the season. This year the Player of the Season award goes to **Jahn Ramis (R2009-14)**! Well done Jahn! A fantastic season for you, which started so promisingly playing in defence next to me.

Thanks to the OAFCl Committee for their unwavering support this season. It's been tough at times but, off the pitch as well as on it, the club has got stronger

through the season. A special thank you to **Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)**, whose drive to feed the OAFCl with great new young players has been both welcome and vital. While we're on the subject and as their studies with Aldenham School officially end today, I'd like to wish all the current Year 13s that have played for us over this season, notably **Harvey Dodd (B2008-20)** and **Theo Vickeridge (R&L2015-20)**, good luck in their next steps of education. Of course I hope, as they become fully fledged Old Aldenhamians, they will continue to play for this great and sociable football club for many seasons to come. Also on the player front, I do want to say a special thank you to **Charlie Hodges (K2015-19)**, **Alex Wilkinson (K2014-19)** and **Josh Weller (B2014-19)**, who repeatedly travelled back to London, especially to play for the team on a number of occasions.

I want to say thank you to the Headmaster for always offering to

support and help the club. Your continued backing for the club and advice is greatly appreciated. Thank you to **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, **Frank Rogers (M1953-58)**, **Richard Peart (SHO1955-60)**, **Ann Saffery**, **Jackie Wilkie** and all the OA Society for their very generous and unwavering support too. Your assistance and counsel is always essential and valued.

I just want to finish by saying a huge thank you to **Nick Baker (K1982-87)**. I don't think anyone in the club shows more commitment to the OAFCl cause than him. I think there have been times over the years when my wife thought he and I were having an affair with the amount of time we spent on the phone but when two people have the love for the club and game that we do, it becomes an inevitability.

Rest assured, once we are out the other side of this pandemic, the club will get back to the business of being a sports and social club that we can all be proud of.

Martyn Berg (B1989-94)

Chairman

Old Aldenhamian Football Club
Est. 1905

OLD ALDENHAMIAN FOOTBALL RESULTS

The Arthurian League					
07-Mar-20	Division 2	Old Rugbeians	5	Old Aldenhamians	2
29-Feb-20	Division 2	Old Harrovians II	4	Old Aldenhamians	2
22-Feb-20	Division 2	Old Chigwellians II	0	Old Aldenhamians	1
08-Feb-20	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	1	Old Chigwellians II	1
01-Feb-20	Division 2	Old Foresters II	2	Old Aldenhamians	2
18-Jan-20	Division 2	Old Merchant Taylors	2	Old Aldenhamians	3
11-Jan-20	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	3	Old Foresters II	3
04-Jan-20	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	2	Old Etonians II	2
21-Dec-19	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	2	Old Sennockians	0
23-Nov-19	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	0	Old Merchant Taylors	6
09-Nov-19	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	0	Old Rugbeians	4
26-Oct-19	Division 2	Old Carthusians II	4	Old Aldenhamians	1
28-Sep-19	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	1	Old Harrovians II	3
21-Sep-19	Division 2	Old Sennockians	3	Old Aldenhamians	3
14-Sep-19	Division 2	Old Aldenhamians	3	Old Carthusians II	2
07-Sep-19	Division 2	Old Etonians II	5	Old Aldenhamians	1

Aldenham Connect

Last year we relaunched aldenham.net under a new title and format: Aldenham Connect.

Spearheaded by OA Committee Member **Daniel Andrews (B2000-07)**, Aldenham Connect had its launch event on the 5th September 2019, when a networking event was held at Gallery 508 in Chelsea.

The event was set to be the first in a series of inspiring networking events for professionals, students and businesses to come together to share ideas and discuss topics across the professional landscape. Due to COVID-19 and the precautions of keeping each other safe, all face to face meetings have been put on hold and are likely to be revised again in the spring of 2021.

That said, the spirit of Aldenham Connect continues and we are welcoming OAs who have professional advice, thought leadership articles or content they would like to share with the community to send to aesaffery@aldenham.com. This content will then be shared on the OA blog, promoted via our social media channels and included in newsletters. Our community is full of professionals and experts from across all industries. During these challenging times it's really important we share our advice and learning, and the OA digital channels offer the perfect platform to keep the

Aldenham Connect program alive whilst we all need to be separated.

More events and other digital initiatives are in the pipeline but in the meanwhile we're looking for thought leadership content covering off anything from legal advice, financial, marketing and many other interesting topics for the business working professional and business owner. Watch this space, OA Connect continues digitally to connect all professional OAs internationally for the time being and we'll be keeping our website updated with latest details and upcoming events as soon as we can.

Aldenham Fives Club

The Aldenham Fives Club (The Heath) had another busy year with our ladder competition proving ever popular.

The ladder is played every six weeks and is particularly popular, with four to five courts regularly filled. Each winner is awarded the Phil Marsh Trophy, which they retain until the next ladder competition. These evenings are rounded off with a meal at the Akash Indian Restaurant which is always well attended by players and non-players alike!

Other highlights of the year included participating in the EFA Trophy and Barber Cup national competitions. Old Aldenhamians **Graham Pulsford (M1971-75)**, **Josh Rose (B1994-99)**, **Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)**, **Chris Cernuschi (K1998-2005)**, **Andrew Rennie (M2006-13)** and cousins **Nirav (P1991-92)** and **Darshan Patel (R&K2006-12)** reached the quarter finals of the Barber Cup but lost to the Old Olavians.

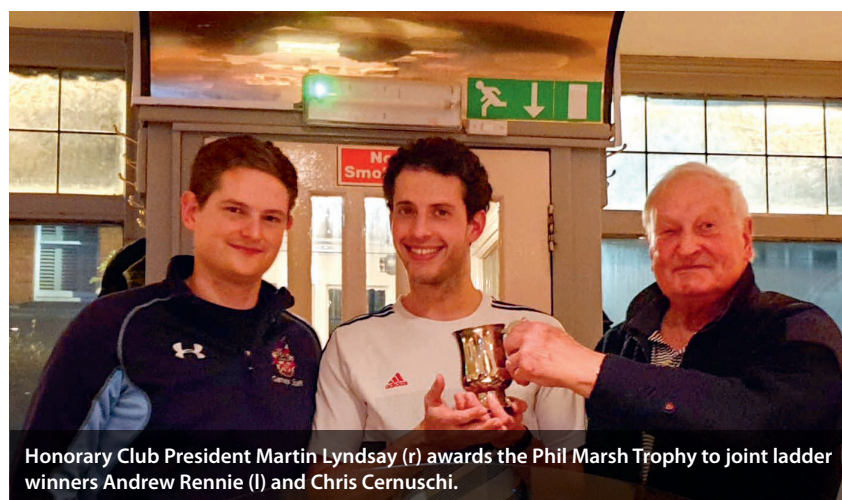
March this year saw a very competitive match against current Aldenham schoolboys with all six courts filled. A post-match pizza delivery organised by Head of Sport, **Andy**

Stephenson (CR1999-Present), added to a fun-filled evening. We hope that some of the boys will join the Aldenham Fives Club once they leave school.

COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the annual Heath Tournament, normally scheduled to coincide with the OA Day, but we will stage it once sporting

activities return to normal. The club play every Tuesday evening throughout the year (only Christmas and New Year preventing the full 52 sessions) and players from other clubs are very welcome to join us.

Phil Lyndon



Honorary Club President Martin Lyndsay (r) awards the Phil Marsh Trophy to joint ladder winners Andrew Rennie (l) and Chris Cernuschi.



Richard Platt Society

Members of the Richard Platt Society have kindly left a gift in their Will to the School.

Anthony Nettleship Hunt (B1949-54), Known as Tony, was a great supporter of the School and the OA Society. He was instrumental in setting up the 'Friends Association' and gallantly took on the role of Honorary Secretary, a post that he held until his death in September 2019. Tony and his wife, Cynthia, were familiar faces at the Annual OA Dinner and other events. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. A regular donor to the Aldenham Annual Fund, Tony also left a generous gift in his will to the School, which is unrestricted and will be used to support the development of the Vincent Building, which will house the Prep School children next year.

A similar gift from the will of **John Haines (SHO1944-49)** will also be used for the new Prep School building, due to open in 2021. Like Tony Hunt, John was a valued supporter of the Aldenham Annual Fund and previous

developments, including The Theatre and The Wells Centre. He and his wife, Ann, attended events in the South West, near to their home in Devon.

It is well known throughout the Aldenham community that the School's founder, Richard Platt, left orders in his Will for the establishment of the School and to acknowledge his own inheritance from his ancestors. It remains common myth, however, that only the rich and famous leave money to charity when they die. This couldn't be any further from the truth. The reality is that without gifts left in Wills by ordinary people, many of the charities we know and support wouldn't even exist.

A regular increase in charitable gifts would mean that Aldenham would be able to provide more bursaries and improve the facilities on offer. Most importantly, things could happen more quickly and the benefits would be immediate.



Cynthia and Tony Hunt

Your Will is one of the most important documents you'll write. It's a chance for you to provide for your loved ones and to keep making a difference after you're gone. The size of gift is irrelevant, whatever the reason and whatever the gift, a commitment of this kind will help to provide the Aldenham Foundation with a secure future.

For more information please contact:

Ann Saffery
Development and OA Manager
Aldenham School, Elstree,
Hertfordshire WD6 3AJ
Tel: 01923 851612
Email: aesaffery@aldenham.com

Old Aldenhamian Lodge

In March 2020, **Jay Thakrar (R2000-05)** was installed as Master of the Old Aldenhamian Lodge with the occasion supported by sister school members of the Public Schools Lodge Council, representing Rugby, Highgate, Bedford and Haileybury schools.

The OA Lodge meets four times a year in central London and we enjoy dining at the prestigious RAF Club in Piccadilly overlooking Green Park next to the Bomber Command War Memorial.

Please contact the Secretary for further information and membership enquiries.

Simon Mitchell (K1970-73)
Old Aldenhamian Lodge, Secretary
Email: smitchell1263@gmail.com
Mobile: 0787 656 2435





Letter from the Headmaster

It is fair to say that in the 422 years of Aldenham's history, the last School year will stand out as being unique. I cannot imagine that at any point in that long span could we have envisioned a situation where the school programme was brought to such an abrupt halt and in such difficult circumstances.

At the beginning of the week of March 15th, I was enjoying being on the terraces of Bromley FC where our excellent First XI footballers were winning the Elgin Cup with a spectacular win 4-3 over Alleyn's School. Yet just 48 hours later we were being told that the School had to close indefinitely along with all other English schools, and 48 hours after that we had to hold a very sad and extremely brief farewell to our Year 13 students who were needing to leave the School immediately with A Levels cancelled and their prospects very uncertain.

Yet, out of the dreadful disappointments of the end of March, came the emergence of a new and powerful Aldenham spirit which was of course determined to make the most of these circumstances. We immediately moved the education of all our pupils onto online learning and our staff worked incredibly hard to put in place sophisticated and highly engaging lessons which meant that, rather than falling behind in their studies our pupils were well able to keep up with their work.

The pupils adapted very quickly to the inevitably boring routines of being home learners, but worked hard and fruitfully each day to complete and submit work, develop some great projects and continue with any number of inventive group activities. They did of course miss their friends and the excitements of the Summer Term – Vis Day, Sports Day, the End of Year Ball and numerous house competitions – but showed great resolve in their attitude.

Our parents stood by us to a remarkable extent and the vast majority of them were willing and able to pay their fees as normal, whilst giving us plenty of encouragement about the quality of what we were continuing to

offer. Their support for the School was very special indeed and gave us the incentive that we should aim to provide as much as possible even in a virtual way. So we held an online Open Day, an online OA Day, webinars for new pupil and parent induction, and we even managed to circumvent regulations to the extent of seeing 25 runners actually (not virtually) complete the Eros Run.

And we held our online Visitation Day on 20th June where we sought to replicate the sense of celebration that normally accompanies that day and allows parents to reflect on the value of an Aldenham education. I was therefore delighted to receive this note on that day from parents who have sent all four of their children to us:

'We wanted our children to go to a school where they were well known and valued by their teachers and peers, where they could be educated in small classes with excellent facilities, where they could thrive, be happy, make lifelong friends, discover their passions and reach their full potential and most importantly be able to always look back on their schooldays with wonderful memories. We feel we absolutely managed that by sending our children to Aldenham. All are so different in their personalities, abilities and interests yet all have grown into happy, well rounded young adults all following their own individual passions with dedication, confidence and ambition – Aldenham has played a huge part in that journey.'

And that sense of great support has ensured that we feel very confident that we will be able to recover quickly from the closure as we reopen the School this September. We will actually have more pupils in the School – over 640 – than we have ever had in the history of the School. We have only experienced a minor delay of eight weeks in the

completion of the new Prep School building which will allow us to commemorate the life and achievements of Lord Vincent OA in such a tangible way. We are this term opening the new Junior House – named in honour of the most committed of OAs – John Woodrow who was both President of the OA Society and Chairman of Governors. And our prospects for the future are excellent.

We are able to look ahead at potential entrants for Year 7 in 2021 by the number of fully paid up registrations for places. And whilst one might expect that this would demonstrate any sort of weakness in demand for our type of education created by the current pandemic crisis, it has in fact demonstrated precisely the opposite with more registrations in September 2020 than in September 2019 when COVID-19 was not even on anyone's radar.

Throughout all this I have felt hugely supported by the good wishes of OAs and the highly committed and professional Board of Governors, chaired by **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)**. It was therefore excellent to hear the news that the OA President, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, has been elected as a Governor from the beginning of this School year and I look forward to working with him in this capacity as well.

As always I hope that you will continue to keep in touch with us and, whilst visits to the School will be less easy to arrange than in previous times, we trust that when the current restrictions lift in due course it will be in time to see much of the next School year restored to normal. Fundamental to this will be the efforts of our 250 teaching and support staff who have been unstinting in their determination that Aldenham will emerge post-COVID as strong and vibrant as ever.

A-Level Grades

We were pleased that our Year 13s were able to return to School in August to receive their A Level results. Although no exams actually took place this year, overall the results were very similar to those achieved last year, with top grades and overall pass grades slightly higher this year. Around 80% of the year were accepted into their first- or second-choice university, and whilst many of the year were disappointed about having to miss out on their end-of-year and end-of-School celebrations, these

results still reflect all the hard work and effort that went into their final years at School.

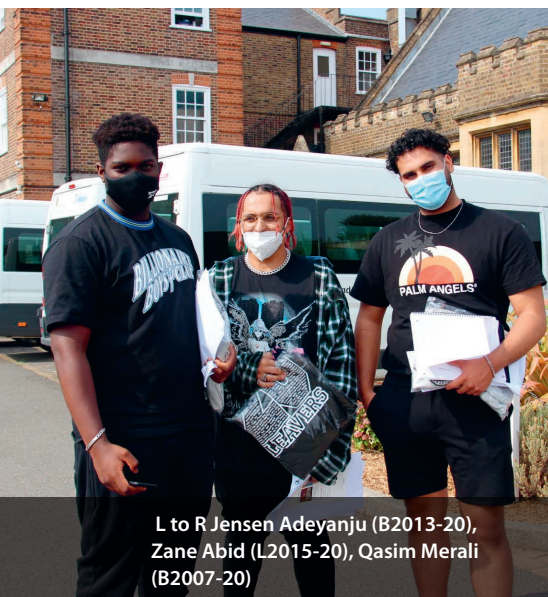
This year's top performers were:
Nick Davis (L2015-20) A*,A*,A*;
Emma Gillespie (P&R2011-20) A*,A*, A;
Luca Buttinger (L2013-20) A*,A,A,B;
Toby Freeman (M2015-20) A*,A,A;
Sarah McMahon (P&R2011-20) A*,A,A,
 some fantastic results.

Congratulations to all of our Y13s, and we look forward to welcoming you back in December to the A Level Presentation Evening (date to be confirmed).



L to R Danyal Hussain (M2015-20), Jack Vera, (R&M2013-20), Oliver Smith (B2015-20), Alex Chalton (K2018-20), Theo Theodoru (R&M2013-20), Bendy Clarke (M2015-20)

From the School



L to R Jensen Adeyanju (B2013-20), Zane Abid (L2015-20), Qasim Merali (B2007-20)



L to R Emma Gillespie (P& R2011-20) Sarah McMahon (P&R2011-20)

Aldenhome

When COVID-19 hit and the UK-wide government-enforced lockdown came into place in March this year, like everyone else, Aldenham had to adapt quickly to the 'new normal'. This led to the launch of Aldenhome, Aldenham's way of teaching virtually.

With just two weeks' notice during the Easter holidays, Aldenham had to come up with a way to teach its pupils via online lessons in a very short space of time, and the results have been quite remarkable!

Whilst virtual lessons are definitely not the same as teaching classes face-to-face, this has proved to be an invaluable tool whilst attending School simply wasn't possible.

The School was delighted to welcome back Years 10 and 12 once government restrictions allowed, and we welcomed back all pupils in September.

Aldenhome

- OVER 100 FREE A LEVEL LESSONS
- AROUND 6,000 LIVE LESSONS DELIVERED
- AND ABOUT 40,000 INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS SET, MARKED AND RETURNED TO PUPILS

YES 40,000!

There have also been around **6,000** recorded lessons delivered alongside teacher interaction through Teams Chat.

- We have also held virtual competitions in all our major sports, and in music and drama
- There have also been academic competitions using virtual quiz engines
- We have continued with Virtual Chapel Services and Assemblies.
- We continued to give full feedback to pupils and parents using our normal grading and reporting structure.
- Plus - a full Visitation Day event and Virtual Open Morning - all delivered whilst locked down.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO TEACH THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKER STAFF THROUGHOUT THE LOCKDOWN IN SCHOOL. AND AT THE END, UNDER GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, WELCOMED BACK IN YEAR 10 AND 12 FOR LESSONS IN SCHOOL.



Remembrance Day

Aldenham School was well represented at the Remembrance Sunday service on the green in Letchmore Heath, which was led by The Revd Robert Fletcher, Vicar of Aldenham Church. The Headmasters from both Aldenham School and Edge Grove, James Fowler and Ben Evans, contributed with a reading, whilst our School Chaplain, The Revd Jos Perris, led the prayers alongside representatives from the Bhaktivedanta Manor and the local Jewish Synagogue. The music was led by the Aldenham School Brass Band conducted by **John Rayfield (CR2016-Present)**, Assistant Director of Music. On a fine Sunday morning the cadets from Aldenham and Queens' School CCF looked splendid as they paraded alongside a lone piper.

Among the many wreaths that were laid was one from a parent who had lost

her stepson in Afghanistan, the recipient of a VC medal. In previous years, the central focus of the service has been Brian Hyde Senior and his personal memories of some of those who died from the village and from the surrounding villages. Sadly he died earlier this year. His son, Brian Hyde Junior, continued the family tradition and named all those who had died in both wars.

A Remembrance Day Service was held in School on Monday in true School tradition, remembering the 288 OAs who had lost their lives in both World Wars. Everyone arrived walking through a tunnel of flags representing the 50 or so different countries from around the world that our pupils and staff have affiliations with. Aldenham CCF were on parade which effectively set the scene beautifully for the service that followed.

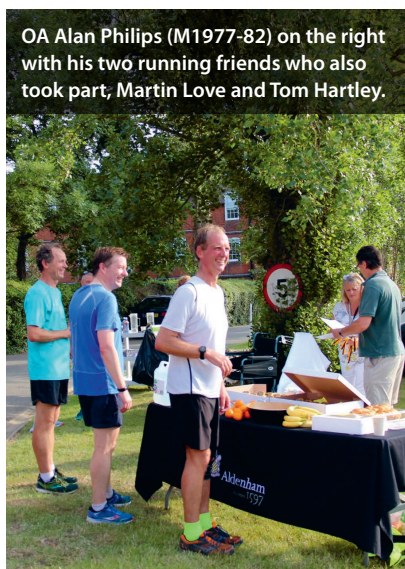




Eros to Eros run

Despite social distancing restrictions, we were delighted to be able, in true Aldenham tradition, to organise this year's Eros to Eros Run, which always takes place on the last day of term. The top three spots this year were all taken by current members of staff, although there were still plenty of OAs who took part. We were even able to hold a socially distanced certificate presentation on Top Field, showing that not even COVID-19 can stop Aldenham tradition!

A huge well done to all our runners, and we look forward to next year's race!



OA Alan Philips (M1977-82) on the right with his two running friends who also took part, Martin Love and Tom Hartley.

THE RESULTS

Position	Name	Year	Time hr:m:s
1	Kemp, Roland	Staff	1:41:07
2	Breeze, David	Staff	1:47:02
3	Dawe, Sam	Staff	1:49:48
4	Woodall, Solly	Staff (son)	1:55:00
5	Chana, Dillon	Year 12	1:56:07
6	Wells, Danny	Staff	1:59:15
7	Webber, Alex	Year 12	2:07:50
8	Murray, Emma	Staff	2:09:30
9	Buckland, Matthew	Staff	2:11:30
10	Rees, Milly	Year 13	2:14:25
11=	Hartley, Tom	OA/Friend	2:16:05
11=	Love, Martin	OA/Friend	2:16:05
11=	Phillips, Alan	OA	2:16:05
14	O'Regan, James	Year 12	2:16:39
15=	Warner, Jen	Staff/Friend	2:22:50
15=	Woodall, Sarah	Staff	2:22:50
17	Adye, John	Student's uncle	2:23:10
18=	McNeill, Ellie	Year 11	2:23:36
18=	McNeill, Chris	Parent	2:23:36
20	Webber, Paul	Parent	2:23:47
21	Nielsen, Kevin	Staff	2:25:15
22	McNeill, Douglas	Parent	2:26:45
23	Zentner, Lily	Year 11	2:31:37



L to R David Breeze (CR2015-Present), Roland Kemp (CR2019-Present) & Sam Dawe (CR2013-Present)

The Vincent building

Aldenham Prep School was established in 2000 in existing buildings on-site, mainly Wilson House – formerly the School Sanitorium – providing room for a Reception class and therefore for the Prep School to continue educating those above Nursery age.

Over the years, the Prep School has expanded, and the latest plans from the Aldenham Foundation are to provide a brand-new building for our younger children.

The new building – named in honour of **Field Marshal Lord Richard Vincent (SH1945-50)**, a great supporter of the School and notable OA, who sadly passed away last year – will provide an ideal modern facility, with its own Hall that will accommodate the whole school for assemblies and events. There will be 100 retractable seats that will turn the Hall into a mini theatre.

On Button Field we plan to provide a pavilion for shelter, refreshments, indoor play and much more. There will be seating for spectators and for picnics.

We also want to create the most attractive grounds, in keeping with the whole Aldenham site. There will be a multi use games area (MUGA), an amphitheatre and a wildlife area including a pond. The children love to be outside and we know that spending time in nature is proven to have a positive effect on academic performance as well as improving concentration, confidence and a feeling of wellbeing. A yurt and a tepee in the School grounds

will offer year round facilities for developing curiosity, creativity and connectedness, the foundations of learning.

Specialist classrooms will include a Science Laboratory, Computing Room, Creativity Room for art, pottery and technology. There will also be a Drama and Music Studio with three practice rooms.

The new Prep School will also have its own Library and dining area, essentials that previous pupils have had to share

with the Senior School. Children will continue to enjoy a close relationship with the Senior School and will have the benefit of using the main School Theatre and participating in master classes in various subjects.

Building on the new site has begun, although has been delayed slightly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the UK lockdown that stalled work. However, we are still hoping to open the new Prep School officially in early 2021.



Side view of the new Prep School

From the School



L to R Karl Mahon, Bursar (2017-Present), Trevor Barton (K1971-75) and James James-Crook (M1968-72)



Headmistress Vicky Gocher on-site

Letchmore Trust Art Prize

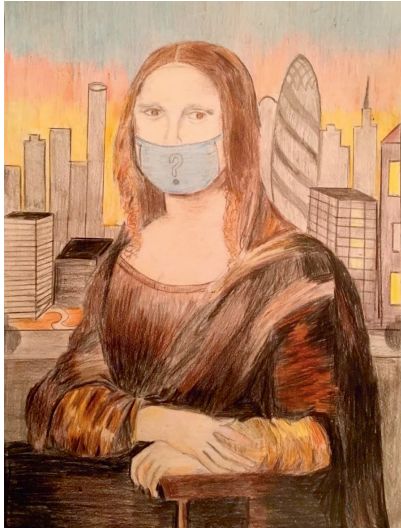
We're delighted to say that, despite the circumstances, the Junior Letchmore Trust Art Prizes still went ahead this year, with **Cameron Mahon (Martineau's 2019-Present)** taking first place; **Emma Zilberman (Martineau's 2018-Present)** second; and **Holly Williams (Martineau's 2018-Present)** and **Gabriel Alalouff (L2019-Present)** sharing third.

The Junior Letchmore Trust Art competition is open to all in Martineau's (Years 7 and 8) and the theme changes each year. This year's was 'Out of Place.'

Well done to all who took part, we look forward to seeing next year's!



Cameron Mahon



Emma Zilberman



Gabriel Alalouff



Holly Williams

From the School



Congratulations to **Grant Cornock (CR2009-Present)**, Housemaster Leeman's, and **Lowri Jones (CR2010-Present)**, Housemistress Ridings, who welcomed their daughter Sophie Olivia Cornock, born 13th January 2020.

GCSE Results

Much like this year's A Level results, despite any exams taking place, the GCSE results for Aldenham were very strong, with almost 50% of all grades awarded sitting at Level 7 or above (equivalent to A*/A grades) and over 90% of all results graded at 5 or above.

Andy Williams (CR2009-Present), Head of Senior School, said: 'We congratulate all our pupils for their outstanding academic achievements, their resilience during lock down and

their enthusiasm to engage with the learning process again on their return to School this September.'

Andy Williams, Head of Senior School



SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL – ALDENHAM ANNUAL FUND 2019/20

It didn't escape the notice of many OAs that we did not launch an Aldenham Annual Fund campaign this year. The reason for this was that we planned to focus all fundraising attention on the Vincent Building development. That said it is very pleasing to be able to report that, due to regular donations to the Annual Fund and some specific donations for the Senior School, a total of almost £22,500 was received.

Another generous donation from **Bruce Partridge (B1957-58)** means that we can award a major bursary to a Sixth Form student, so that they may continue their Aldenham education onto A Level studies from September this year. **Daniel St John (L2016-20)**, was the worthy recipient of this award for 2018-20 and he left us this summer with 3 As at A level. He plans to read Mechanical Engineering at Warwick University, having joined Aldenham from a state secondary school at the age of 13 and is very grateful for the all-round support he has received.

As there were no specific projects identified for support this year, the majority of donations to the Annual Fund will be used to provide scholarships and bursaries, in particular to students whose families who may struggle to meet the School fees, as a result of the pandemic. Where a donor



Daniel St John (L2016-20)

has specified the use of their gift it will of course be allocated for that purpose.

We are, as always, most grateful to OAs, parents and friends of the School for their continued support. It has been a difficult year for many and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will no doubt

continue to impact on lives for some time to come. This makes it especially important for us to be able to offer financial support where we can, in times of hardship, and any help that will enable us to do so will be very much appreciated.

We were very sorry to lose a dear friend and great supporter of the School, Ian Luetchford (B1948-51), who died in September 2019. Ian requested the School Chaplain to take his funeral service and it was an honour to be able to say a final goodbye to him in the School Chapel, with his wife Norma, friends and family.



From the School

Donors to the Annual Fund 2019/20 – THANK YOU

Christian & Monika Ahlborn	Mr David Massey
Mr & Mrs Trevor Barton	Mr & Mrs Melville
Mr Edred Bowman	Steve & Vanessa Michelin
Dr Chris Brown	Mr Paul Miller
Mr Tony Clemow	Bruce Partridge
Mr John Collis	Mr Richard Peart
Mr Richard Derrick	Mr Michael Platt
Mrs Lesley Duncan	Mark & Kelley Ralph
Mr John Edwards TD JP	Mr David Randall
Phil & Lucy Elder	Mr Dick Richards
Mr Lawrence Eta	Mr John Saxby
Fuller, Smith & Turner Brewery	Schiff Family
Mr Timothy George CMG	Prof. Sir Martin Sweeting
Mr & Mrs David Gibson	Mr Michael Tapper
Matita Glassborow	Fei & Caixia Wang
Patrick & Claudine Goldingham	Bill White
Charles Gowlland	Mr Wong & Miss Zheng
Mr David Greenhouse	Mr Xu & Ms Su
Robin & Karen Hall	
Socrates & Susannah Ioannou	Plus 2 additional anonymous donations
Mr James James-Crook	1 Gift in Kind

News and features

Coincidental meeting

On November 2nd 2019, Sue Barnard visited the *Fawley Towers Dining Experience* with her son, Tim, who was visiting from New York for a few days. On sitting down at their shared table, Sue was delighted to

discover that she would be sharing the experience with Helene Tyson, daughter of the late **Cyril Tyson (CR1952-87)**! Helene, who lives in France, was visiting her son and daughter, and they happened to meet by coincidence!



Sue and Helene at the experience with their families

Justin Apthorp

In February this year, we received this fantastic photo of **Justin Apthorp (P2011-19)** from his father, **John (P1949-53)**. Justin is currently serving as the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, a wonderful achievement, with a uniform to match! Thank you both for sharing!



Recreating a Photo



In March 2020, Jane Moss (née Robertson) wrote to us with the above photos. She said: 'As you may know, Helen Wright died in January. Sheila (my twin sister) and I went to the funeral as **Chris Wright (CR1950-67)** was her godfather.

'Obviously all of Chris and Helen's children were there but also Peter and Chris Tyson (Pascie's brothers), Sue Barnard, Jamie Gough (whose father was Housemaster of School House) and Caroline Mason (whose father was Headmaster). We had a lovely time reminiscing about our childhood days



at Aldenham, and also talked about maybe coming to OA day, which Sue Barnard told us was on 7th June.'

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, they weren't able to meet again this year, but we hope to see you all at an OA event soon!

Nick Magliocchetti

In May 2020, following the outbreak of COVID-19, OA **Nick Magliocchetti (L1991-96)** got in touch to tell us more about his company, and how he has been helping with the pandemic:

'IDU was created by the team at **Motion Ventures Ltd** a tech company out of Guernsey. The solution was originally built for the finance and legal industries to facilitate the movement of Compliance and KYC documents between institutions and users/employees.

'In light of the COVID-19 epidemic the software was repurposed to allow corporations and groups to monitor the health status of their employees, through a set of questions and answers communicated over a number of popular methods including, SMS, WhatsApp, email and even WeChat.

'We don't believe that people will return to work as they did historically and that there is now a very clear Duty of Care requirement by employers to ensure the best practices and environment for their workforce.

'Since its launch, **IDFlu**, has been adopted by a number of companies including a major FMCG who has deployed the solution into its factory network to monitor the health status of its workers and its factory staff in hard to reach locations around the world.

'The company has created an easy to collect and export dataset which will

enable the safe passage of employees back to work including a proprietary 'health passport' which can even draw on medical and COVID-19 test results to create a passport in the form of a QR code which will enable this passage in a universally accepted manner.

Nick went on to say: 'I started my first company at 16 (just after Aldenham) and sold it on my first term at uni. Over the next 18 years I bought and sold over 58 businesses in various sectors. I ran a

small private equity portfolio for 4 of those years. In 2011 I took a position on the Selection Board of Microsoft ventures helping startups align with the company. I moved to Guernsey in 2016 to set up a fund but on the 1st Jan 2017 I started an airline, which was the fastest to market aviation business in Europe that year. I exited the company in 2018. In the last two years I have set up a new banking platform and Compliance monitoring business. When COVID-19 broke out, my team and I decided to see if we could help out.'

Thanks so much for everything you're doing to help, Nick!



18th February 2020



From left to right: A R Pike (P1959-64), B J Johnson (SHE1960-64), R C L Potter (P1959-64) A M Dron (P1959-64), N R Haines (P1960-64)

In February 2020, five OAs met at *The Butchers' Arms*, Priors Hardwick, Warwickshire, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their arrival at Aldenham. With a consistent enthusiasm for excellent pubs since leaving Aldenham, the reason the group met at Priors Hardwick was because it was the middle distance between their respective homes in Ludlow, Devizes, Lincoln and Cambridge. What a lovely way to mark the occasion!



OA Badge

In May 2020, we were contacted by Brian Mills, who, although having no connection to Aldenham, got in touch, as he had acquired a small badge relating to the School. It is a pressed/stamped metal badge, finished in gilt and enamel, and approximately 56mm x 45mm.

If you know any information about these badges, or have one yourself, we'd love to know more, so please do get in touch with us at oas@aldenham.com.

Fives fun



Graham Pulsford (M1971-75) Chris Cernuschi (K1998-2005)

Keith Fowler Receives an MBE

In November 2019, **Keith Fowler (SHO1947-52)** was invested with an MBE, awarded to him in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for a lifetime of voluntary service and work for charity.

On leaving Aldenham, Keith served as an Officer in the army in Egypt before embarking on a successful career in advertising and marketing communications, which included a short spell with Procter and Gamble.

During his working life Keith worked for and led UK and French marketing communications groups, often involving reconstruction, innovation, merger and recovery. After retirement from the corporate life, when he was 60, he became a consultant and Non-Executive Director with a number of companies in the marketing and communications sector, including working for the European Bank in the Baltic States and 3i in the UK.

Keith's involvement in charity work goes back many years. He has been intimately and still is involved as a Trustee of the media industry charity

NABS (National Advertising Benevolent Society), as well as a director of the Abbeyfield organisation, providers of sheltered housing and care homes, another role that he continues to pursue.

Close to Keith's heart has always been Winchester House School, a greatly respected and thriving prep school, located in Northamptonshire, where he was Chairman of Governors for many years.

At the age of 85, Keith is still heavily involved in his charity work and enjoys an active family life with his wife, Vicki, three married children and six grandchildren.

Many congratulations to Keith on this lifetime achievement. It is always a pleasure to see his smiling face at OA events and he is a welcome visitor to Aldenham, whenever his busy schedule enables him to attend.



Memorial Unveiling

On 9th June 2019, a memorial was unveiled in the Wye Valley in the Herefordshire countryside to commemorate a tragic plane crash involving Second World War scientists and airmen, which occurred on 7th June 1942.

A crowd of around 70 gathered to watch the unveiling of the Forest of Dean stone which bears the name of the 11 men who died in the wartime aeroplane crash. Amongst the names is that of Flying Officer **A M Phillips (SHE1935-37)**, who was co-piloting the plane when it came down. Phillips' son, **Mike Phillips (SHE1956-61)** was also there to witness the unveiling.

The flight in 1942 had been a top secret radar test flight, and of the 11 people onboard the adapted Halifax plane, six were radar scientists. Mike told us: 'The flight was part of a project led by Sir Bernard Lovell, and he was intending to fly, but gave up his seat to another who had not see the system they were proving in operation. There is much on the internet now about this event, but it was completely hushed up at the time on the instructions of Winston Churchill because they did not want the Germans

to know that such an important scientist, Alan Blumlein, had been lost to the Allies.'

The memorial, which was largely funded by the Hereford Times readers, stands on a public footpath, from which walkers can see the site of the plane's crash.



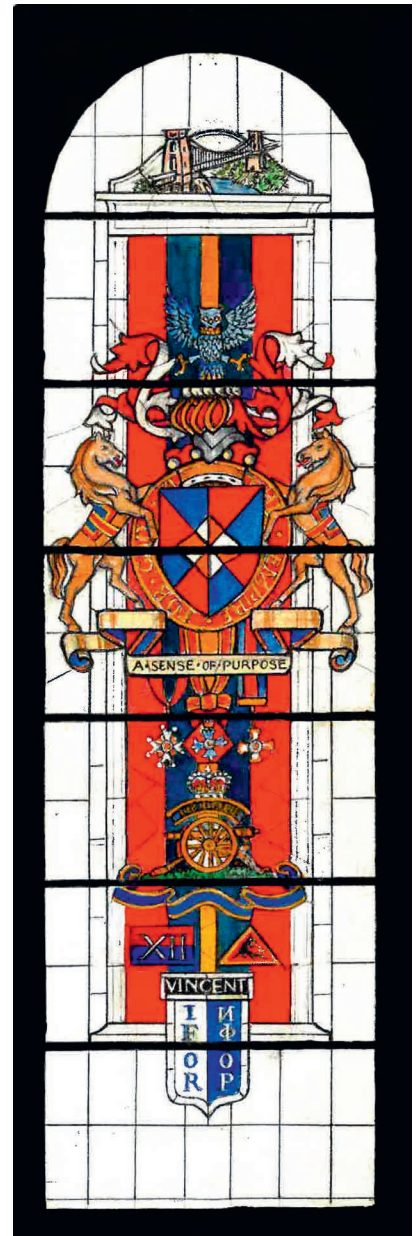
Mike speaking



Mike Phillips & Family

Dick Vincent Stained Glass Window

We reported last year the death of **Field Marshal Lord Richard Vincent (SH1945-50)**. Since then, a stained glass window has been made in his honour, which will be placed at Sandhurst to commemorate him and his achievements.



Previous Pandemics

How previous pandemics and epidemics were reported at Aldenham during the period 1918-1977

From the reports and eye witness accounts of previous infections there may be nothing to compare to the current pandemic but then it did take longer to communicate in former times.

It should be remembered that at the time of these events the School roll was 280-300 and aged 13-18 and was 98% comprised of male boarders. The pupils mainly came from all over the UK with a few from the rest of the world.

1918 SPANISH FLU

The first report appeared in the Edition Volume XV No. 7 (No. 158.) in the *Aldenhamian* of 1918, when the following was written:

'At the moment of writing we are all threatened on every side by the rapid advance of the all prevalent influenza germ, so far, we are glad to say, we are immune from the foul disease. It is our final wish that such good fortune may attend us throughout the remainder of the term.'

1919 SPANISH FLU

However in the next edition of the *Aldenhamian* Volume XV No. 8 (No. 159.) in 1919 the commentary had changed somewhat:

'In the last editorial it was announced with pride we had hitherto escaped the scourge of influenza. Precisely 11 days after that remark was made the School scattered to the four winds, with the exception of some unfortunates who had already fallen by the wayside. Fortunately, the epidemic was in most cases of a mild nature and the school was able to reassemble after a fortnight's interval.'

However all was not without sadness as this extract from the 12th Register shows:

The Headmaster was **Alfred Cooke (1900-1920)**. **Dr Wilson** was the School doctor and the first of three generations of Wilsons who were the School doctors.

'One day after the School House dinner we all stood up, Grace was said and the Praes were about to move off when the Headmaster spoke 'stop there is a case of influenza in every house. Dr Wilson says that he will not take the responsibility and neither will I. You will catch the 2.15 go' and so they went within half an hour the School is empty. But sadly several boys collapsed on their journeys home and one died later.'

1951 AVIAN FLU

The next epidemic in the UK occurred in 1951 and labelled A/H1N1. In the UK this started in Liverpool where it had a dreadful impact and in the UK the toll of fatalities was greater than the current one.

Despite this, no written reports can be found of this pandemic affecting Aldenham and **John Edwards (B1946-51)** has no memory of it.

1955 AVIAN FLU

The following flu epidemic which was reported in the *Aldenhamian* of May 1955 had no name and affected those under 50. It was not as severe throughout the UK but as this extract from 'Notes on the term' from the *Aldenhamian* records had a dramatic effect on Aldenham School life.

'During the early part of the term the School succumbed to influenza. At one time 150 boys were absent on account of the malady, and more than one speculation was advanced predicting that the surviving members of the School would return home. They were however, rapidly disillusioned by the staff, who on the whole, remain strong and very healthy, much to the disgust of the prophets.'

I should clarify that the use of the word 'surviving' was somewhat of an exaggeration. There were no fatalities. In the review of hockey written by **David H Robertson (CR1950-85)** from the same edition, he states:



From the Prospectus c1920



The whole School from 1977

'The 2nd XI, Colts and U15s were all badly hit by the flu epidemic and snow, so little practice was possible for any of them and many matches were cancelled.'

The writer's memories from School House were that only around 12 out of 120 boys did not at one time or another succumb to the flu. Those that were well became responsible for feeding and watering those that were ill. Whether advised to or not they took to wearing handkerchiefs to cover their nose and mouth so when they entered the sickbays they had some protection. Because of the convenient number of beds, the dormitories in Evens progressively turned into sickbays for boys. The management of this fell to **David Roberts (SH1953-58)** who remained free of infection. There was no demarcation between Odds and Evens or boys ages.

The 'malady' for each individual usually lasted a week to ten days and soon we were back into the regular routine.

Masters did suffer as well and some former masters who had retired returned. As one of those pupils who studied French I had the privilege of being taught by **Fred English (CR1915-51 and 55)** for some periods.

1957 ASIAN FLU

We only had to wait two years before the next bout in 1957. Labelled H3N2.

Once again there were no reports in the *Aldenhian* at the time but accounts from **Richard Peart (SH1955-60)** who was confined along with three others to the 'Old Dorm' in School House Odds were that it lasted a week or so. Richard does remember watching an amazing thunderstorm at the time.

Both **Adrian Scott-Knight (SHO1954-59)** and **Tony Mawson (M1957-62)** remember spending a week or so in the Sanitorium. Tony writes:

'I had a bad first night (fever, chills, dopey-feeling) and then seemed to recover fairly quickly but was there for nearly a week.'

1968 BIRD FLU

Moving on to the pandemic labelled A/3H3 or Bird flu, again, there is no mention in the main editorial and the Editor at the time **Robert Hill (K1964-69)** says he has no memory of it. This is echoed by **David Hayes (SHO1964-68)**. The only official written indication of the effect of the flu was an account by **Chris Arkell (B1946-52) and (CR1962-93)** who writing in the *Aldenhian* for May 1968 wrote as follows when reporting the Colts Hockey season.

'Retrospect'

'Writing as the 'flu epidemic seems to be dying down at last one cannot help feeling slightly disappointed that the illness has played such a large part in turning what had the makings of a good season into a mediocre one. A team which by midterm had 13 goals to its credit and only 3 against in four matches was obviously not one to be trifled with. Unfortunately the winning combination was destined never to play together again.'

1977 RUSSIAN FLU

This was categorised as an epidemic since it mainly affected children.

Once again the *Aldenhian* did not record anything although **Richard Wood (CR1966-98)** and VP of the OA Society writes:

'The 1977 outbreak was a major one with all the Houses having to turn dormitories into sick bays. The San had been shut by then and a small one set up in School House but that could not cope. It lasted several weeks and probably over two thirds of the school succumbed overall.'

I think it was as a result of that that the annual flu jab routine was set up.

Sue Barnard, Housemaster's wife and Matron of Beevors (1956-91), remembers the hard work involved in converting dormitories into sickbays together with the never ending need to wash the bed linen. In Beevor's the number of boys affected was around 40 out of the 60.

SUMMARY

During the period covered Aldenhian could be classed as a closed community and this combined with its isolated geographic location might have had an effect on the nature of the infections.

The reporting or lack of may reflect more on the individual reactions of those who were responsible for the editorial and articles than a reflection on the attitude of the people who had to accommodate the epidemics or it might have been how such events were generally viewed at that time.

However it would appear none of the previous pandemics or epidemics had such a dramatic effect on School life or lasted so long as the current one.

Researched, compiled and written by **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)**, Honorary Secretary of the OA Society, and **Richard Wood (CR1966-88)**, VP of the Old Aldenhian Society.

With thanks to all those mentioned in the article for their own memories.

OAs v Arsenal



In August 2020, OA **Graham Chapman (B1954-59)** sent over to the Development & OA office some fantastic photographs of the two games that Aldenham played against Arsenal FC.



We believe that the first game took place on 2nd December 1958, with a feature being published in *The Times* the following day outlining the match, but that matches were played on an annual basis for at least nine years, taking place until 1967.

Graham said: 'I have outstanding memories of a magical event for us schoolboys. I remember well some of the incidents from the games. Firstly, before the first game I had a kick-around with Tommy Docherty, the Scottish international. After just two minutes I was exhausted! During the game I had the Arsenal winger Danny Clapton against me; he was so fast he just left me standing as he dribbled by. Eventually Tommy Docherty came and whispered in my ear: "Just "hit" him hard, he is such a fairy he won't come near you again." The trouble was it was impossible to get close enough to him for a hard tackle!

'During the second game, **Mike Catchpole (HSE1955-60)**, our tough centre half, did a crunching tackle on their centre forward, Mel Charles (the brother of the Welsh international, John Charles). It put him out of the game for weeks. After that Arsenal decided it was

too risky to play a "friendly" against we schoolboys!

OA **Jo Stainer (M1956-59)** also wrote to us about the match: 'It was a great occasion not just for footballers of the School 1st X1, but for the prestige of the whole school. A brilliant touch by the unforgettable **Cyril Tyson (CR1952-87)**, working his contact with future England manager Ron Greenwood, who was senior coach at Arsenal Football Club, and a massive influence on the performance and football education of our players. Greenwood then gave his time to coach the First X1 on one day a week of the Football term.

'I presumed that none of the Arsenal players had been educated at Public School, so they were determined to have a fun day out, and duly arrived from changing to invade Cookes Fields sporting an array of School House boaters! Jack Kelsey, the great Welsh International goalkeeper – and a natural joker – positioned his boater at the back of his net and proceeded to do a few warming pull-ups on his own crossbar!

'Our skipper, **David "Bean" Barker (B1953-59 & CR1969-79)**, 7th Housemaster of McGill's 1974-79 (who was the current Kinnaird Cup Eton Fives

Champion with partner **Guy Vine (B1951-57)**) tossed the coin with Arsenal captain and Scottish international Tommy Docherty, and we were underway ... and very soon a goal down after barely touching the ball! Apart from the enormous gulf in talent and experience – it was the pace and crispness of their passing which left us as admiring onlookers for the first twenty minutes or so – and we were very soon trailing by 3 goals to nil.

'It seemed like the entire school was lining the touchlines, and our brilliant goalkeeper **Bobby Graves (SHE1956-58)** gave them plenty to cheer about with a string of superb saves, which were also loudly applauded by the Arsenal players.

'Half-time came and our tongues were on the ground after chasing red and white shadows for three-quarters of an hour. But thankfully the brains trust of Tyson/Greenwood had devised a format for the second half when we played Aldenham Defence plus Arsenal Attack versus Arsenal Defence with Aldenham Attack. It was a superb second half, and a true education for young footballers.

'We finished the second half all square at 2-2, and my abiding memory is of the constant vocal encouragement and cajoling from wing-half Tommy "Doc", who fed me a stream of pin-point passes on the left wing, and, crucially, a brilliant through ball inside the full back which I gleefully latched onto and crossed from the byline for **Tom "Stoke Poges" Garwood (SHO1954-59)** to lash home. The smile on Tom's face will light my football dreams forever!

'So, back to School House for post-match tea, with the Arsenal boys still wearing the boaters they had pinched and threatened to take with them!

'What a smashing crowd of lads, just earning a working wage in those days, and loving every minute of their football career.

'I was a Gooner long before this game



1958



1959 K A Mitcheson, Unknown, M. Burridge, R. Canepa-Anson, R. Arthur, M. Catchpole, G. Chapman, T.Garwood, I. Harford, P. Smith(?)



1959 Unknown, Cyril Tyson in track suit, M. Catchpole, G. Chapman, I. Harford



1958 (Aldenhamsians only) M. Catchpole, R. Graves, G. Chapman

– and a lifetime addiction was quite certain to follow.

‘Many years later in my role as Chairman/MC of The Belfry Sporting Club, I was delighted to welcome Tommy Docherty as our prime Guest Speaker, and his football stories from a great career as player and manager were a delight. Those one liners delivered in that broad Scots brogue reminded me of a golden afternoon on Cookes Fields at Aldenham School – and I still cherish a vibrant memory of one of the great days of my life.’

Anthony Wood (SHE1954-59) wrote an article for the *Aldenhamsiana* about 10 years ago on the Arsenal matches. He said: ‘Ron Greenwood was a qualified FA Youth Coach and in the previous season (1957-58) had started coming to School to coach the Under 16 team in which I played at left-half, not because I was that skilled but because I could run all day and hardly tire (which made up somewhat for my disinclination to head the ball). So, once a week during the season, Ron used to come out to Aldenham.’

‘The following year when I was regularly playing as ‘right half’ in the

school First XI, Ron had the idea of varying his team’s training regime by getting them to come down to the School and on a misty day in early December 1958 the great Arsenal came to Aldenham to display their talents in front of the whole school. They really were great and talented.

This Arsenal side included three internationals in Jack Kelsey (Wales), Tommy Docherty (“the Doc”; Scotland) and Jo Haverty (Republic of Ireland), as well as Denis Clapton, brother of the England winger Danny Clapton, and people like Jimmy Bloomfield, Billy McCullough and Dave Bowen who were on the cusp of playing for their countries.

‘The local paper reported my Dad (who was the local Vicar) as saying, “My son hardly slept at all the night before the game!” which may or may not be true. The paper went on to say that for the first twenty minutes Arsenal played against our team – literally men against boys – and although they were only allowed to walk they put in eight leisurely goals, while we failed to score. Clearly there was a slight gap in ability here, which was rectified by mixing up

the teams so each side was comprised of some men and some boys. Thus I got to wear a “real”, albeit slightly sweaty, Arsenal shirt for the next hour. Not one of your shop bought, overpriced man-made fibre jobs with an unpronounceable foreign name on the back in capitals but the real McCoy. Had I been allowed, this is what I would have put at the top of my CV when trying in later years to list my achievements! After all how many people can say they’ve played football wearing a real Arsenal shirt!

‘After about thirty frantic minutes we eventually called it a day and both teams went off to shower before meeting up again to have tea in the Dining Hall. I remember Tommy Docherty, who was a larger than life character with a great sense of humour, being very funny about the strange ways and customs of boarding schools, and Bill Dodgin doing a pretty good imitation of the gloomy Eeyore in the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, only this was his natural manner!

‘And so it ended. A day big enough to remain in my memory over quite a few years now. Of course since then how could I be anything other than an Arsenal supporter and I really love coming up to the Emirates on a regular basis these days to see the heirs of the guys we met the day we played Arsenal!’

We’re still very much uncovering a lot of this story, so if you have any information, or played in any of the matches, we would love to hear from you!

Please get in touch: oas@aldenham.com

Janet Stewart Baptism Record

In June 2020, Janet Stewart (née Andrews) got in touch with the Development and OA Office, asking if we could help her find any record of her baptism. Janet, whose father was **Rev. W. S. Andrews (CR1940-45)**, lived in Elm Cottage on School site, and sent us in a photo of herself in the garden of the



house, and her father at the front door.

With some help from **Rev. Philip Green (CR2005-Present)**, we were able to find the entry of Janet's baptism in the School records (pictured), which took place on 17th May 1941. Needless to say, Janet was thrilled with this information, as are we!



Introduction to your New Editor



We are delighted to say that **Claudia Greenway (P2011-19)** will be taking over the role as Editor from **Lydia Chapman (P2010-12)** as of October 2020.

Claudia joined Aldenham in the Prep School in Year 5 and left Aldenham in summer 2019, having completed her GCSEs and A Levels. Having taken a gap year and travelled Australia with some friends from Aldenham after she left last year – which was unfortunately cut short due to the pandemic – Claudia will be starting a course at the University of Exeter in English and Geography in September 2020. In taking on the role of Editor of the *OA Review*, Claudia will be the youngest Editor to date and the second female Editor in the magazine's history.

We are looking to give Claudia some extra support in writing the magazine, so if you would like to help, please get in touch with oas@aldenham.com.

A. H. MERRILL & CO. LTD. Summer Term 1941.		REGISTER OF				SERVICES.				A. H. MERRILL & CO. LTD. Summer Term 1941.					
DATE	DAY	HOUR	SERVICE	OFFICIANT	NO. OF COMM. MEMBERS	PRESENCE	TENT	NOTES	COLLECTIONS:						
									For	£	s	d	£	s	d
2	May	Friday	9.30 School Service	W.S.A.		G.A.R.									
3		Saturday	8.45	W.S.A.											
4		EASTER III.	8	Holy Communion	W.S.A.										
			11.0	School Service	W.S.A.	12									
			7.0	W.S.A.		G.A.R.		Th. Lewis							
5		Monday	8.45	W.S.A.											
7		Wednesday	8.45	W.S.A.											
8		Thursday	8.40	G.A.R.											
9		Friday	8.45	W.S.A.											
10		Saturday	8.45	W.S.A.											
11		EASTER IV.	8	Holy Communion	W.S.A.										
			11.0	School Service	W.S.A.	32									
			7.0	G.A.R.		W.S.A.		John 1 st							
12		Monday	8.45	W.S.A.											
14		Wednesday	8.45	W.S.A.											
15		Thursday	6.30	Compline	W.S.A.										
16		Friday	8.45	School Service	W.S.A.										
17		Saturday	8.45	W.S.A.											
17		Saturday	5.30	BAPTISM by	Charles Claven.										
					of Janet Margaret Andrews.										
18		ROGATION	8	Holy Communion	W.S.A.										
			11.0	School Service	W.S.A.	44									
			7.0	G.A.R.											
19		Monday	8.45	W.S.A.											
21		Wednesday	8.45	W.S.A.											

News and Features



James James-Crook added to Governing Body of Aldenham

We are delighted to announce that the Old Aldenhamian President, **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, has been elected as a Governor of the Aldenham Foundation as of August 2020.

James has had a long affiliation with the School, with his father, brother and godfather all attending Aldenham. His very first visit was to an Aldenham OA Day when he was just six weeks old.

James is delighted to have been elected to the Governing Body and is very much looking forward to working with the other Governors and the School as well as continuing to serve as President of the OA Society.

Congratulations, James!

VE & VJ Day 75th Anniversary

On 8th May 2020, whilst still in lockdown, the UK celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, which marked the end of fighting in World War Two. On the day itself, those at Aldenham School celebrated with a large bonfire on the cricket field to mark the occasion.

In the December 1945 edition of *The Aldenhamian*, the Editor writes: 'VE day came, we rejoiced and gave thanks to Almighty God for that great victory. On the night of May 8th, we celebrated the occasion with a magnificent victory bonfire at the end of the cricket field, which lasted well into the night. However we quickly settled down again and were resigned to at least another twelve months of hard and bitter fighting against Japan, but with the advent of the Atom Bomb and the declaration of war by Russia on Japan, peace in the Far East came far sooner than we had ever dared to hope.'

'Now with the end of the war against the Axis powers, the lights have gone up, and the blackout come down. This is not the place to discuss the problems of peace, but we know one thing, we are now free from the menace of V1s and V2s, and the OAs are coming back home from all over the globe; we welcome them with all our hearts. This surely is a certain sign of peace.'

Of course, when Victory occurred in Europe in 1945, it was still some months before VJ happened, and we want to remember those for whom the fighting still continued whilst we were celebrating. Victory over Japan Day is applied to both of the days on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made – August 15 1945, in Japan, and because of time zone differences, August 14, 1945 – as well as to September 2 1945, when the surrender document was signed, officially ending World War 2.

Fighting in the Asia-Pacific took place from Hawaii to North East India. Britain and the Commonwealth's principal fighting force, the Fourteenth Army, was one of the most diverse in history; over 40 languages were spoken, and all the world's major religions represented. The descendants of many of the Commonwealth veterans of that army

are today part of multicultural communities up and down the country, a lasting legacy to the success and comradeship of those who fought.

The Japanese viewed the prisoners as expendable labour for their war effort and thousands died building roads, bridges, and working on other Japanese projects. The most notorious project was the Burma-Thailand railway or 'Death

Railway'. Opened in October 1943, it covered over 1,250 miles and cost the lives of over 15,000 prisoners of war and 80,000 native labourers who fought in the Asia-Pacific.

In total, 116 OAs gave their lives to the War. Their names are written on a marble tablet in the School Chapel, and their memory lives on through our remembrance of them.

OA Day

Sunday 6th June 2021



All OAs welcome.

Due to the cancellation of OA Day 2020, caused by government lockdown, we look forward to hosting the Beevor's Gaudy in 2021 instead. Housemaster **Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present)** will be hosting alongside his family and welcoming us back to Beevor's.

Personal invitations will be sent early next year to OAs who were in Beevor's and to all current and former staff who are or have been associated with the House.

Please ensure that the Development and OA Office has your correct contact details, including an email address and help spread the word about this special occasion.

The John Dewes Cricket match has been scheduled to be played on OA Day and a full programme of activities will be announced nearer the time.

You will be welcome to attend all or part of the day. Please register your intention to attend by email to Jackie@aldenham.com or calling 01923 851612/4.

Housemasters

As Aldenham prepares its next stage of development, with the new prep school preparing to open in early 2021, we take a look at the Housemasters behind the names of the houses.

The name of a school house is very important to the boys and girls in it. The procedure for deciding the name for Houses has changed from when the first of the School Houses were built, in the 19th century. Then, it was the pattern of most independent schools, Aldenham included, to name the House after its current Master, so that when a Housemaster, stepped down, retired or died in the role, the name of the House passed to the person to take his place. However, this changed in 1946, when it was decided that continuity for the House names was needed, and therefore they reverted to being named after their original Housemaster. This is a change that many schools – including Eton – now adhere to.

The change to the naming of the Houses after their original Housemasters actually came about due to **David Wallace-Hadrill (CR1950-55 & 1962-86)**. He was the first Housemaster of what is now known as Kennedy's House, taking over the position having held the chaplaincy of the School previously. Wallace-Hadrill suggested that his name was too long and cumbersome to serve as the name of a House within School, and therefore suggested that the Houses should be named after a distinguished member of the Aldenham community instead. This was then taken to the governors and Heads of School to decide.

As Aldenham prepares its next stage of development, with the new prep school preparing to open in early 2021, we take a look at the Housemasters behind the names of the Houses.

HERBERT MCGILL, MCGILL'S HOUSE

(founded 1887)

Herbert James McGill (CR1865-97) joined Aldenham in 1865, and became

Housemaster in 1887. A teacher of Classics, McGill was supported by his sister, Miss McGill, or Fan, in the daily running of the House, which housed around 50 boys.

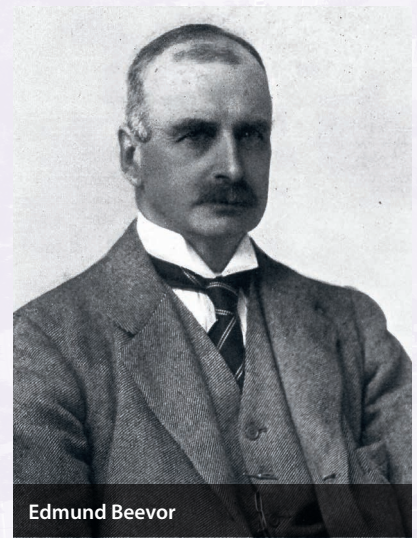
McGill was a well-loved figure during his time at Aldenham, and all accounts written of him available in various editions of the *Aldenhamian* refer to him as a brilliant man and teacher. One account, from the 1920 edition notes of McGill: 'All who had known him would remember his kindness and generosity, his capacious pockets, from which proceeded anything from a pot of jam to a potty bat'.

It is noted in the 1916 edition of the *Aldenhamian* that McGill donated 'his beautiful collection of moths and butterflies and other "crawly" things' to Aldenham. He is also noted as 'a naturalist of no mean order, whether the subject was birds, bees, butterflies or beetles, a skilled botanist, an expert photographer, a happy writer of verses, and a draughtsman with a style of his own', in the 1934 edition of the *Aldenhamian*. He also founded a Natural History Society at School, which was noted with being hugely successful and popular.

Herbert also served as Treasurer of the OA Society, and later Vice President.

After Herbert and Miss McGill retired, they returned to their hometown of Tunbridge Wells where they had lived as children and gone to school. Although not a keen sportsman himself, it is noted in the 1934 *Aldenhamian* that he was a 'constant spectator at the matches of his old school'.

Herbert McGill lived to the ripe old age of 93. After his death, his sister donated 170 books on natural history to Aldenham School's library, all having belonged to Herbert. McGill illustrated and annotated his Mark Books, some of which are displayed in the School Library.



Edmund Beevor

EDMUND BEEVOR, BEEVOR'S HOUSE

(founded 1895)

One of the few Housemasters to have attended Aldenham as a pupil and then returned as a teacher, **Edmund Beevor (SH1880-86, CR1899-1922)** spent over 30 years at Aldenham throughout his life.

After leaving Aldenham to attend Cambridge, where he studied Classics, Edmund returned to School in 1889 alongside his wife, Mary, and another OA, **E H Mariette (SH1879-85, CR1889-1914)**, who went on to succeed Herbert McGill as Housemaster. (For some time, McGill's was also known as Mariette's). He served as Housemaster of Beevor's for over 25 years, which was founded in 1895.

In the 1922 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, an article written about Edmund Beevor reads: 'From the first he threw himself with characteristic energy into every department of the life of the place, except that I cannot remember that he ever sang in the choir!'

Edmund taught Classics throughout his time at Aldenham, particularly Latin and Greek, and is noted for being a keen sportsman, including playing Fives and cricket. He also served as the



first Honorary Secretary of the OA Society for over 20 years, and he is also noted for writing and updating the School Register.

In the same 1922 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, the editor notes: 'The outstanding feature of [Beevor's] character, however, was his whole-hearted devotion to his old School. His affection for Aldenham amounted to a passion; never had school a more loyal son.'

At the OA Dinner 1923, Edmund Beevor was presented with a scroll of 225 OAs who had written a testimonial to his character, and a gift of money to note his true commitment to the School. With it, he bought a small car.

Following a long service to the School, alongside his wife, Mary, Edmund retired to lead a quieter life and enjoy his remaining years.



John Paull

JOHN PAULL, PAULL'S HOUSE

(founded 1906)

John Paull (SH1884-88 & CR1892-1925, OA Society President 1939-42)

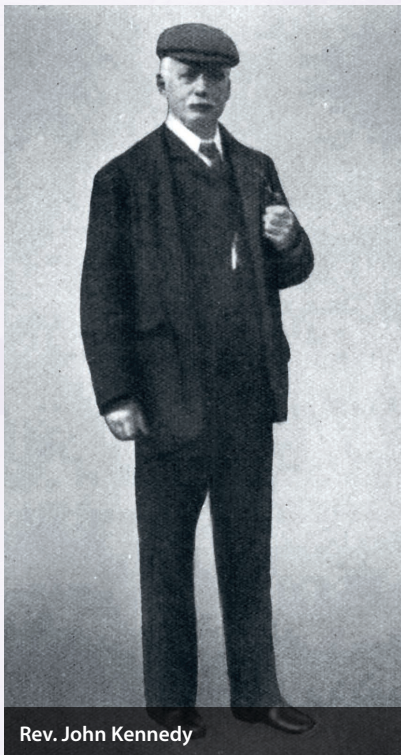
attended Aldenham as a pupil, and during his schooldays was noted as an indispensable member of the XI Football team, and 'won every open flat race in sports'.

After leaving Aldenham in 1888, John studied Classics at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where his sporting prowess continued to impress, and he earned a Blue for his talents on the football pitch. He left Cambridge in 1891 and went to study abroad for a year, then returned to Aldenham when the post of Modern Languages Master became available.

In 1906, following more than a decade's worth of serving as a House Tutor and Master in School House, John became Housemaster of his own House at School, named in his honour: Paull's. In the 1925 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, the Editor writes: 'No one could predict anything but success for a House with Mr Paull at the head'. In the 1907 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, the Editor writes: 'In Mr. Paull ... they had a House Master to whom all would do well to send their sons.'

After 33 years of service to Aldenham as a teacher, Paull retired to his home town, and it is noted in a copy of the *Aldenhamian* that there his 'services [were] being enlisted in public capacities, [as he] can't be idle.'

103 years after the foundation of Paull's House, it became one of the two Houses exclusively for girls. Girls started in the Sixth Form at Aldenham in the 1980s and Paull's had been one of the three houses to have had a handful of girls boarding from the start.



Rev. John Kennedy

REV. JOHN KENNEDY, KENNEDY'S HOUSE

(founded 1962)

John Kennedy (Headmaster 1877-1899) came from an affluent and scholarly family: his uncle was Headmaster of

Shrewsbury School, and his brother was Lord Justice Kennedy. John attended Eton College and then went on to study at Cambridge, where he was awarded the Bell Scholarship, was voted Union President, and became a Fellow of King's in 1872.

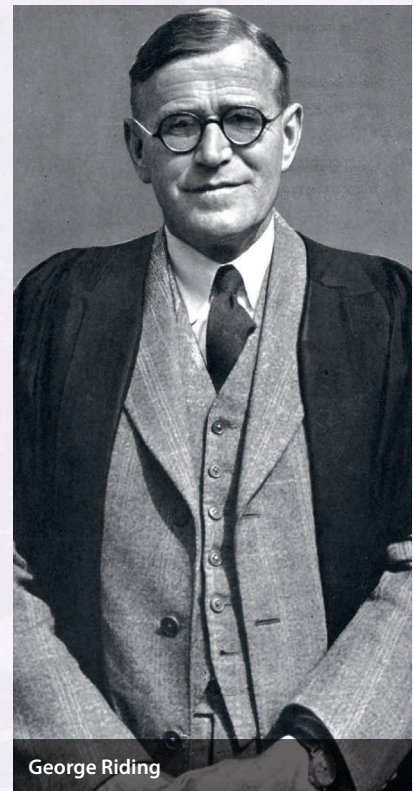
John joined Aldenham on 17th July 1876, following several years as a master at Sherborne School. He is noted with having increased the number of pupils at the School from 47 to 200 and is responsible for the building of Beevor's and McGill's Houses, a sanatorium, laboratory, the School dining hall and the clock tower during his tenure as Headmaster. John also added as a gift to the School a large swimming pool. John was a keen athlete, so it seems only fitting that this was a gift of his to Aldenham.

In the 1931 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, it is written: 'the chief mark of Kennedy's own character was, I think, his extreme vigour, both of mind and body. He had a horror of slackness in any form, and his own intense energy pervaded the School, both in work and play.'

After leaving Aldenham in 1899, John returned to Cambridge when the opportunity of Tutor at Pembroke College became available. In 1904, he finally settled in Charmouth, and three years later, on 12th February 1907, John married Ethel Reid. Aldenham master **H. Gilbert (SH1875-86 & CR1899-1933 Housemaster McGill's 1914-33)** acted as best man. Whilst living in Charmouth, it is noted that 'his house ... was always open to the Masters and Old Boys of the School, and not a few found it a second home.'

Whilst in Charmouth, John threw himself into parish life, serving as a deacon and helping with church services. He also continued to serve Aldenham on the Board of Governors throughout his retirement, until age prevented him from travelling.

After John's death in July 1931, his wife, Edith, and his four children remained in Charmouth, and John's son, **W H Kennedy (CR1934-59)**, known as Bill, went on to be a Housemaster of McGill's from 1946-59. In 1962, Aldenham opened Kennedy's House, just over the road from School House, named in honour of two great Aldenhamians.



George Riding

GEORGE RIDING, RIDING'S HOUSE

(founded 1991)

George Riding (Headmaster and Housemaster School House 1933-49)

joined Aldenham as Headmaster in February 1933 from Warwick School.

It is noted in the 1949 edition of the *Aldenhamian* that George joined at a time 'when the School was passing through one of those periods of recession with which all institutions are familiar. He checked and halted this backward movement, concentrated and gave a direction to contrary forces and set the school going on the right road once more.'

George was a key figure in the School's history in terms of the buildings that were constructed in his time there. He erected a new School Chapel – the one that we all know and love today – converted the old chapel into a gymnasium, and the old gymnasium into a theatre and assembly hall. He also added a science block, new sanatorium and the tuckshop, and was considered a 'progressive thinker', changing the School curriculum shortly after his arrival, dividing the School into departments, with a master for each.

Plaster model of Alfred Leeman by Alfred Gilbert



Riding is also noted with having salvaged and reconstructed the Aldenham Club in Kentish Town, and served as Chairman on its committee for some years.

Mrs. Riding is known as being a generous Headmaster's wife, gifting items to the School including a cross and ornaments for the Lady Chapel, and an electric clock for the Sanatorium. She also is noted with having awarded prizes at various Aldenham sports events, and having founded the First Aid organisation, which saw the teaching of first aid and stretchers being placed in houses.

In the 1946 edition of the *Aldenhamian*, it is noted that George and Mrs. Riding should be congratulated on having been invited to Buckingham Palace to have tea with their Majesties.

George retired in 1949, and he and his wife moved to Cornwall to spend their happy days of retirement. His portrait still hangs today in the School Dining Room.

Riding's House was established in 1991, the year School House was divided into two distinct Day Houses. In 2018, it became a girls' day house, making it the second all-girls house at Aldenham, after Paull's.

REV. ALFRED LEEMAN, LEEMAN'S HOUSE

(founded 1991)

Alfred Leeman (CR1843-76) is known as the first true Headmaster of Aldenham, according to the 6th Register. He was Headmaster of 27 boys at Aldenham when he started his career at School, and 47 by the time that he left.

Alfred died on 26th July 1895, but his name lives on in the School house named after him. Founded in 1991, Leeman's remains a boys' day house, and, along with Riding's, replaced the houses that were originally School House Evens and Odds.

JACK MARTINEAU, MARTINEAU'S HOUSE

(founded 1993)

Jack Martineau's connection with Aldenham came from his position with the Brewers' Company. An Etonian, rather than an Aldenhamian, Jack was Managing Director of Whitbread's Brewery, a company that the Martineaus had much affiliation with, his ancestors having been partners or Directors of the company since 1812. He served on many committees associated with the Brewers and was heavily involved in the building of the third Brewers Hall.

Jack became a Governor of Aldenham in 1949 and became Chairman of the Governors in 1977. He served on the House & Finance Committee in 1958 and was also a Governor for Dame Alice Owens Schools.

Some of Jack's contributions to School include his joint donation alongside Colonel Whitbread to complete the School Chapel, and the commissioning of the Stanley Spencer paintings (sold during a time of recession for Aldenham, which got the School out of financial difficulty). Jack was also one of the Founder Trustees of the Letchmore Trust.

Martineau's House, just over the road from the main School, sits next door to Kennedy's House. Founded in 1993, the House provides a base for the lower years of the upper school, Years 7 & 8, and is split into eight houses, allowing inter-house competitions including music and sport. These sub-houses are: Beck, Collier, Elliot, Foster, Griffin, Mason, Neale and Swayne.

JOHN WOODROW, WOODROW HOUSE

(founded 2020)

John Woodrow (B1946-51) started his affiliation with Aldenham as a pupil. During his time at School, he is noted with having taken part in the Senior House Acting Competition for Beevor's in 1951, in a production of *'Murder in the Cathedral'*, as well as being in School teams for shooting and cricket. Much like Martineau, Woodrow House is one of the few School Houses named after a Governor, rather than a master or teacher.

He was appointed a School Governor in 1989. He held the position of President of the OA Society from 1989-92, Captain of the OA Golf Society for the 1994-5 playing year, and in 1995, he became Chairman of the Governors for Aldenham, the first OA to hold this position, and was key to helping the School regain its reputation after a period of difficulty.

John played a key role in the Quartercentenary celebrations, and was also Appeal Director, raising valuable funds for the Music School, opening of the Prep School – a building that still holds his namesake today – and the Design Technology building.

As if these contributions weren't enough, John also served on the Letchmore Trust, and the OA War Memorial and Jukes Funds. In his obituary in the 2004 *Aldenhamian*, Headmaster at the time **Richard Harman (2000-06)** wrote: 'John was a true gentleman ... his combination of humanity, courtesy and firmness perhaps sums up for me John's quintessential qualities. Great charm and helpfulness; generosity. A sense of humour and fun that preceded all he did ... 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.'

John's relationship with Aldenham was also familial. His daughters – **Sarah Jane (B1982-84)** and **Caroline (B1984-86)** – were some of the first girls to attend Aldenham when the Sixth Form opened to girls in the 1980s, and remain in touch with the School, as do his wife, Daphne, and his brother, Brian.

Obituaries and Tributes

As ever, we are always saddened to hear of the deaths of any OAs, but wanted to extend our condolences further to include those of you who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and whose loved ones have been lost or have suffered with the virus. The pandemic has had a widespread affect on so many, and our thoughts and hearts are with those of you who have been affected.

Deaths	House and dates at the School	Died
W G Batham	SHO1938-41	24 January 2020
S K Bowran	K1964-69	1 October 2019
D J Broadbent	SHE1948-52	7 December 2019
A W Buchanan	B1967-70	25 January 2020
P-L Chin	B1959-60	4 January 2020
N B G Clifford	P1949-43	29 May 2020
J A Cockett	SHO1941-46	16 February 2020
D B A Evans	SHE1943-48	February 2020
D N Eyre-Evans	P1936-40	13 September 2019
J V Gibberd	SHO1944-48	25 October 2019
J R Higgins	SHO1949-52	24 February 2020
S Hitchins	B1964-69	24 September 2019
R W S Humbert	P1966-69	Date Unknown
G B L Johnson	M1942-46	6 April 2020
R J Howlett Jones	CR1962-94	4 November 2019
P G Koralek	P1946-50	7 February 2020
C Lassman	P1985-89 (COVID-19)	April 2020
D H Lazarus	K1969-74 (COVID-19)	7 April 2020
I G Luetchford	B1948-51	22 September 2019
M C McNeill	P1955-60	13 December 2019
C R Mitchell	P1944-45	12 June 2020
D R Moore	SHO1952-57	31 December 2019
R J Noyelle	SHO1940-44	30 November 2019
R A M Ost	B1942-47	Date Unknown
J C E Pulsford	M1940-43	29 September 2019
H G Reading	P1937-42	13 October 2019
L K Scott	M1936-39	21 February 2020
D B Squire	SHE1953-58	20 March 2020
A C Stewart	SHO1934-37	August 2019
J L Stockwell	L1991-96	15 November 2019
J M Strouts	M1953-56	20 June 2020
R P Thwaites	SHO1944-49	11 May 2020
S J Waters	B1957-61	1 April 2020
C N H White	M1946-51	5 June 2019
A L Williams	K1987-89	11 November 2019
N J Wilson-Holt	K1970-76	7 July 2020
H Wright	Wife of Chris Wright (CR1950-67)	2 January 2020
<i>Omissions from 2019 OA Review</i>		
J G Walker	B1941-43	7 March 2018
M J Ward	SHO1949-52	April 2018
K R Warren	SHE1942-43	29 June 2019
J M Webb	P1935-40	2 October 2018
C F Williams	M1962-66	10 December 2017
R J M Willoughby	P1947-51	2 April 2019
<i>Corrections from 2018 OA Review</i>		
P C Dredge	SHE1941-44	7 May 2010
D R Pickett	K1972-76	13 June 2018
A J Pyke	M&K1960-64	2 May 2018

Helen Wright

Beevor's House 1956 – 1967



of staff that included the appointment of House Keeper, Cook and resident assistants. Friendships were formed and communication maintained for decades. Ann Steven, who remained as house keeper during most our time in the House, was a tower of strength to my mother, throughout.

Despite the role in the House, my mother was first and foremost an artist. She had trained at Chelsea Art School after the War and as the children grew older Helen would take the opportunity to paint again. Aldenham gave a wide opportunity of subject material and the family have treasured oil painting memories of this time.

Helen saw it as an important opportunity to help with the House plays, debating, choral societies and competitions. In the holidays, Helen helped us to convert an old hen house into a haven of a den for secret gang meetings. There would be dressing up, Halloween parties and pantomime productions. I remember when we invited all the neighbours to see our production of Aladdin. Helen took the lead role of Widow Twankey, doubling up as artistic adviser, as my sister directed in a room that was described as 'The Lower'.

Helen had really warmed to school and house life, something I know my father had been worried about back in the mid fifties, but by 1965 she would extend activities beyond the House to taking a large role in the Common Room play. She loved contributing towards

school life but also my father's fledgling career in local politics.

Early upbringing in a boarding school may not be considered to be ideal, however, speaking for myself, I can only say that I think my parents provided the perfect balance between a loving family life and the duties of leading a boarding House. The school was a close knit community in the mid-sixties and close family bonds were made with the Robertsons from Paull's, Wallace-Hadrills from Kennedys, Goughs from School House, Barnards (my parent's successors in Beevors) and the Tysons who retired together with my parents to East Kent.

I have a clear memory of the day we were told that the family were to be leaving Beevors, I can remember being very upset, but this was doubled when I saw my mother quietly crying when she thought nobody was around. The departure, just like the arrival must have been traumatic.

Helen moved with Chris from Aldenham to Bushey in 1967 only to take up a second House at Kent College Canterbury in 1969-79. Helen and Chris retired to Adisham, near Dover in 1980.

Chris died in 2000, and for fourteen years Helen lived alone with great support from old colleagues and friends Cyril and Odeile Tyson and family. Helen moved down to Cheltenham in 2014, living in care and closer to the family.

Helen died on January 2nd 2020, two days short of her ninety second birthday.

Written by Richard Wright, Helen's son.

Helen and Christopher Wright (d 2000) were appointed to Beevor's in 1956 to lead the House as a husband and wife pair. Like so many Housemasters' wives of this era, Helen assumed responsibility for a role in which she had received no training. Consequently she would have experienced a sharp learning curve, assuming responsibility for the well-being of 60 adolescent boys.

Helen was a young mother who had the upbringing of children as her main concern and the additional duties that her role assumed in the House must have resulted in a conflict of interests on many occasions. However, as a child I can honestly say that I never experienced this.

Helen embraced both the professional activities of the House and warm family life alongside each other. Both my parents held the philosophy that the House was an extended family and activities would be organised to embrace this. My sister and I would be encouraged to join the boys for Sunday lunch in the House Dining Hall, under the eye of old Mr. Beevor. My mother would sit at the head of a table, giving an example of how family and boarding school life could co-exist.

Helen enjoyed working with her team

Harold Reading

Harold Reading (P1937-42)'s early years were, not surprisingly, determined by the work of his father, **Eric (SH1907-11)**, who was an Average Adjuster, working in insurance/loss adjustment for the shipping industry. Eric had been in the North Staffordshire Regiment during the First World War, reaching the rank of Acting Major. He was Mentioned in Dispatches. He was Brigade Adjutant for the 39th Brigade, the key part of the Dunsterforce expedition to Baku, Azerbaijan in 1918 to secure the oilfields from the Turks, fighting alongside local Bolshevik forces. He was made a Freeman of the City of London subsequently as a result of his war service.

Following Harold's birth in Kent, his father's job took him to Liverpool, where he lived initially in Birkenhead and subsequently in the Sefton area of Liverpool. From the age of eight, Harold went to The Leas School in Hoylake, on the Wirral, where he was a boarding student. Harold enjoyed his days as a

prep-school student and flourished in the boarding school environment.

His father's work required another move back to SE England and the family home was established in Pyrford Woods, Woking (Surrey). At the same time, and now aged 13, Harold began his secondary school education as a boarder at the Aldenham School. His father had attended Aldenham, as subsequently did his two brothers, **David (P1945-50)** and **Michael (P1939-44)**, and his youngest son **John (P1966-71)**. He continued to enjoy all aspects of his schooling, including compulsory membership of the school's cadet force. He was in the Home Guard for the final year at school, and went on to serve in the Guides Cavalry regiment of the Indian Army in World War Two.

After returning home, Harold went on to read Geology at Oxford, where he graduated from in 1951, and then completed a PhD at Durham on the topic of Carboniferous Yoredale Group of

the Stainmore Trough, northern Pennines. Following three years of working as a geologist in Venezuela with oil company Shell, Harold went back to Oxford in 1957 as a lecturer in Geology.

In 1970, Harold was appointed a senior research fellow and lecturer at St. Peter's College, and later went on to hold the position of tutor and fellow in Geology, a post he remained in until his retirement some 20 years later.

Amongst his notable achievements, Harold penned the university-level textbook *Sedimentary Environments and Facies*, which is noted as one of the most influential textbooks in earth sciences. Harold was also one of the first geologists to understand the correlation between plate tectonics and the distribution of sedimentary rock.

Harold Reading died on 13 October 2019, aged 95. He was married to his wife, Bobbie, for 62 years, and was known as an outdoors man, whose greatest love after his family was his orchard.

John Pulsford (M1940-44)



John was born on 30th March 1927 to Dorothy and Leslie Pulsford at the family home in Radlett. He went to McGill's, and, in his own words, he found school work hard; he could recognise the silhouette of every WW2 aircraft, but academically he was near bottom of the class in every subject except for history, where he excelled. In sport, he had flair as a hockey goalkeeper and knew his way around the Fives court.

He left school in 1944 and applied to join the RAF, but, much to his dismay,

was turned down as he was colour blind, and couldn't differentiate between reds and greens. Army service followed and he joined the Herts and Bucks Regiment where he rose to the rank of Captain. He was invited to apply for the Guards Regiment on the basis of his hockey-playing exploits – by chance the Guards lacked a goalkeeper – and he passed muster as Major Pulsford. His last post was guard commander at Spandau prison, Berlin, in rotation with American and Russian forces. After service, John joined Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), then GH Smith and Partners, Smiths Ink, Holmes Brothers (London Ltd) and finally Meredith Contracts Ltd furniture, where he became Managing Director.

In his late 40s, John decided that he wanted to be master of his own destiny and to create his own company based on top class service, honesty and integrity. He started JPA Ltd in 1974, in the middle of the three-day week, and wrote out his first orders by candlelight late at night

on his kitchen table. He had four children whom he adored: **Graham (M1971-75)**, **Ian (M1974-79)**, Fiona and Gemma; and three special grandchildren on whom he doted: Jonathan, Izzy and Zander.

JPA Ltd was John's fifth child, now trading for 45 years, and he continued to amaze everyone by working a 40-hour week up until July this year. Graham, Ian and Fiona came to work in the business, but Gemma was sensible enough to get a proper job!

John's thirst for life saw him survive life threatening peritonitis, assorted cancers and a stroke. Our force of nature simply refused to be ill, refused to feel sorry for himself and refused to slow down! For John, life was all about people, treating them well and doing what he could for others whenever he was able.

John passed away peacefully on Sunday 29th September with his family by his side.

Written by **Graham Pulsford (M1971-75)**

George Bond (P1939-44)

George Bond had an infectious, dry humour, and classified his arrival into the world as a 'sort of Christmas present'. He was born in Hendon, the second son of Dr. Charles Eric Bond and his wife, Janet. Medicine ran in the family: Charles John Bond had been a distinguished scientific surgeon at Leicester Royal Infirmary, a man who cared greatly both for the individual and for the race, sentiments which George echoed throughout his life.

He recalled an easy, carefree childhood with his older brother, Alan. After five years at Aldenham School he went on to Cambridge for pre-medical studies, followed by three years as a medical student at St. Thomas' Hospital.

He qualified three days before his 23rd birthday in December 1949, which was just as well, as his fiancée, Pat, whom he had met at an overseas ball in London, had arranged their wedding for 5th January 1950. The ceremony made headlines in the local paper: 'London Doctor's Whitby Bride'.

An immediate first job in the ENT Department of St. Thomas' followed with the recommendation: 'Dr Bond has been a most successful, competent house surgeon with first-rate of knowledge of surgery, and derived much pleasure from doing the enormous work coming his way. Known as a delightful, most able colleague who should become an excellent doctor.'

After three years of various hospital jobs he felt ready for general practice, the direction he had always wanted to go in. His first practice, however, was a 'charlatan', as George recalled, and along with another GP, he applied for a partnership at Galtee More in central Barnsley, with an additional smaller surgery.

A typical weekday would start at 8:30am with a queue of between 40 and 60 people without an appointment. The doors would shut at 11am, followed by lunch and house visits, and there was then another surgery from 5pm until 7 or 7:30pm, followed by more house visits. There was also a Saturday surgery.

The evenings they spent decorating, making the Galtee More practice into a

decent surgery. And there was work to be done at home: George and his wife had bought a house with a large garden and a huge vegetable plot, much to the delight of friends and neighbours, as George was a dedicated and successful gardener.

He became a member of the local Committee and Executive council, as well as Medical Officer and Divisional Surgeon to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, teaching first aid to miners and glassworkers. He then took on the job of looking after a ward in a new geriatric hospital, to which he could devote most of his free time. Not that he had much of it: during one epidemic, George was seeing 100 patients a day and was on call every other night and at weekends. He had two weeks' holiday a year and £70 a month to spend.

After George's first partner departed, he formed a new partnership, but decided after three years that he himself wanted to leave. He thought of Toronto, Canada, which he visited following a trip to the New York World Fair, but after checking the job prospects there, and not liking what he found, he gave up the idea.

A year later, in 1965, he found a practice in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, which was single handed, but after two years he went into partnership with some local GPs with whom he had become friendly, moving in 1974 to the Local Health Centre.

George was now perfectly happy, with a reasonable workload, more income and more time off. He and Pat moved into a new house, with the challenge of designing and building a garden. This became George's main hobby and it remains a delightful legacy, a reminder of his gardening expertise.

George's knowledge of the nature and wildlife, the world of birds and butterflies was exemplary. He was also an enthusiastic traveller: Europe, a few cruises to explore Egypt, Turkey and in between exploring the Home Counties and Scotland.

Life back in Bognor was also busy: he was a keen golfer and his enthusiasm was undimmed by the two coronaries he

suffered on the course. As a passionate bridge player, he was courteous and encouraging at all times, and valued integrity above all things.

In the late '60s, George's brother, Alan, had a small dinghy called the Enterprise, which they sailed together. They joined the Bognor Yacht Club and despite their almost total inexperience, embarked on their sailing career.

They took a navigator course, slowly improved and bought bigger boats, the biggest being a 27 foot Halycon. With friends, the brothers sailed the Solent, nosing around the little ports and going over to France. George eventually had one small boat he could sail solo.

George retired in October 1990 after surviving cancer of the larynx, thanks to the techniques of modern surgery, including laser treatment, a novelty at the time. It meant a year of silence, but after a full recovery, George enjoyed some locum work, spending his spare time theatre-going, dog walking, travelling abroad and his beloved gardening.

Sadly, after 60 happy years together, George lost Pat. He met Gaby through mutual friends, and she became his second wife. They were able to enjoy a number of years together with their varied and mutual interests.

George showed amazing fortitude during his long years of his final illness of heart and kidney failure, but he was able to enjoy the comfort of his home and garden to the last moment. He was a modest man of great charm. On close acquaintance, he revealed a polymath of interests ranging across a wide spectrum. His friends and family will recall his warmth and generosity and his great good humour.

Written by George's second wife, Gabrielle Ingram-Steel

John Murton Strouts

My brother **John Murton Strouts (M 1953-56)** died in the early hours of June 20th having reached the age of 80 with some difficulty but sense of humour intact. He would have appreciated the irony of passing the day before Father's Day! He has a son Bruce, daughter-in-law Jane Green and grandson Sebastian.

John retained many amusing stories of his time at Aldenham, stoking the McGill's House furnace until steam came out of the taps, incubating pheasant eggs in the boiler room, and many more. I recall my parents arranging for the Army & Navy Store to supplement the meagre House meals with shipments of food parcels.

John had an eventful if somewhat turbulent life living in Rhodesia as a member of the British South Africa Police (BSAP), weathering Smith's UDI, managing a forestry estate in Zimbabwe until he returned to the UK at the behest of Richard Booth (the self-described King of Hay-on-Wye) friend from his prep

school days, to assist in a hair brained scheme to reintroduce horses in lieu of cars. John loved horses all his life, riding until the very end. After the collapse of the Hay-on-Wye venture John took a desk job with the Bristol police where he stayed until his retirement, offering his horses and carriages for wedding events

or treating an American tourist to a carriage trip over the Avon Bridge.

John was married to Diana, affectionally known as Di, who died 10 years ago.

Written by **Robert Murton Strouts (M & K1960-64)**



Left: Andrew Lewis (M1960-64) Right: John Strouts

Dr Pe-Loong 'Peter' Chin (B1967-70)

It was back in 1971 when I came to Carlisle to work as a GP that I became acquainted with Peter. Probably my initial contact with him would be through my referrals made to the Elderly Care Department. My first impression of this department was that it worked extremely well. It seemed efficient, responsive and caring, and most of all, had the air of having been up and running for a very long time.

However, it came as a surprise to learn that until 1971, when Peter took up his appointment, the formal arrangements for care of the elderly in the district had been, to say the least, somewhat rudimentary. There had been no dedicated elderly care specialist until Peter's appointment, and it amazes me, even now, what he had managed to achieve in the 3 years before I came.

Starting with minimal junior staffing, he had set out to establish a service in East Cumbria which covered a very large

geographical area, comprising not only a busy District General Hospital, but also 6 other smaller peripheral hospitals which also catered for the elderly. It must have been a marathon task, but it was driven by a person we now know had a very clear vision of what was needed, and who, with a passion, put his life and soul into achieving that goal.

Whilst there are some who found the pace of change very challenging, there were many others who were inspired by this enthusiasm, and his drive to achieve his vision of bringing together and setting up an exemplary service, which met the needs of the elderly in the local community.

Peter was totally committed to the NHS and strove to provide holistic care to all his patients, not just in the hospital setting, but in the wider community too. To this end, one of his other major achievements was to set up a day care facility or day hospital to bridge the gap

between hospital and community too. It proved to be hugely successful and also provided a platform for rehabilitation, investigation and treatment of patients, as well as providing daytime respite and relieving the pressure on precious beds.

He also became involved with many voluntary associations and local charities, in particular the Stroke Club, which he played a critical role in setting up in Carlisle. Others, too numerous to mention all, included Age Concern (later to become Age UK), where he became local Chairman; also the Parkinson's Disease Society, where he was later appointed President.

At the same time, he found time to undertake many research projects, as well as teaching medical undergraduates. Apart from his work commitments, he also became an active member of the East Cumbria Branch of the British Medical Association, and frequently represented them at the

annual national conference, and later served as their Chairman.

I also got to know Peter through our friendship outside of work. It often involved a game of golf, with others too, and a regular group of like-minded golfers was soon established.

However, I clearly remember to this day a chance meeting I had with him in town soon after he had developed his all-consuming arthritis. He appeared rather a sad figure and I thought then that this would probably be the end of golf for him. I should have known better. Peter was never one to be beaten by his various health problems, and it wasn't too long before he was on the phone to

say: 'How about a game of golf?' Peter suffered great problems with his hands and wrist joints, especially his fingers. Even to this day, it remains a complete and utter mystery to me how he ever managed to hold a golf club effectively.

Peter was always good company and good humoured, and was an excellent conversationalist as he held a great interest in so many different aspects of life. He was kind, generous and supportive to others. But, for many years of his life Peter faced a series of debilitating health problems, often requiring major surgery as well as rehabilitation. He saw these as a challenge, and, like all the challenges

that he had faced in his work, he was never cowed by them, and always fought to overcome them or at the very least adapt himself to them in an amazingly stoical way. Defeat was never in his vocabulary.

With the devoted and steadfast love and care of Stella and Vicky, along with support from his Hospice at Home and his carer, Melanie, he drew near to the end of his life and ended his journey in the way he wanted most, namely in his own home, and in the company of those most dear to him.

Richard Murray

Richard Thwaites

One of the many blessings of a school such as Aldenham is the likelihood of forging lifetime friendships. Such a one was that which for over 70 years I enjoyed with **Richard Peter Thwaites (SHO1944-49)**. Richard lived with his two sisters, Jill and Carolyn, with their parents at Whyteleafe in Surrey. Richard's father, Peter Thwaites, was a GP in Whyteleafe, where he had practised for many years.

Richard came to Aldenham by reason of his friendship with **David Brow (SH1944-47)** with whom he had been at prep school. Richard was of a compassionate nature. He joined the party of OAs which a few years ago visited the Western Front at Ypres. They paid their respects at the graves of several OAs killed in that blood-soaked area. As the hymn 'O God our Help in Ages Past' puts it: 'Time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away' (the next line 'they fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day' this latter line was reputedly repugnant to George Riding and was at his instigation omitted whenever that hymn was sung in the School Chapel). Richard was much moved by this visit. For some years he was a volunteer at his local hospice, a fact which was generously acknowledged by the hospice chaplain who gave the eulogy at Richard's funeral.

I was delighted when Richard agreed

to be one of the six ushers at my wedding in 1956, only one of that band, **Alan Oliver (SH1944-49)**, survives, which takes us back to that same hymn.

Richard left Aldenham in 1949 and joined John Dickinson, paper manufacturer, at Hemel Hempstead where he ultimately became Company Secretary. After a spell he changed tack and became self-employed as a management consultant and financial advisor.

Richard married June Hendry on 19 January 1958, they having met at Peggy's and my engagement party. They settled in Berkhamsted where Peggy and I would frequently visit them for supper and for parties. One of the latter was following a pageant at Berkhamsted Castle in which both Richard and June took part. Among the other guests we were pleased and interested to meet were Norman Tebbit MP and **Peter Purton (SH1946-51)**.

Later Richard and the family moved to Barford in Warwickshire. By then the couple had produced two sons, Adrian and Nigel, and one daughter, Jennifer. We attended their baptisms at one of which I became a Godfather. Richard in due course became Godfather to my son **Jonathan (SH1979-83)**.

Richard was proud of his agility which he preserved into old age. He regularly played hockey for clubs in the vicinity of

his homes. He took up umpiring which he continued into his seventies. He also played a fair amount of cricket.

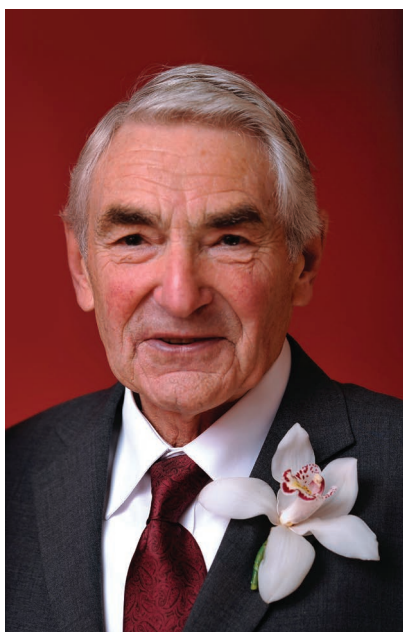
He was much addicted to flying, no doubt engendered from his AFC days at Aldenham. He would regularly holiday in the Middle East and when Nigel began working in Bratislava he and June would frequently visit him. Many holidays were spent with Michael and Carolyn and with all of them we used to enjoy spells at Crantock Bay in north Cornwall. The Crantock Bay Hotel had become a Mecca for the Thwaites family since they first discovered it shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War. To them, Peggy and I and our family owed the many holidays we spent there. Frequently we were joined by Alan Oliver and his family, creating many happy memories.

Over a number of years we joined Richard and June at New Year's Eve for dinner with Michael and Carolyn at their home in Maidenhead. By this time we looked upon Richard and June as members of our family.

With his tragic demise we shall miss Richard greatly. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

John Handcock (SHE1944-47)

Graham Brian Law Johnson



A tribute to **Graham Brian Law Johnson (M1942-46)** from his son Robert

*'He has a long row to hoe.'
'There are many lions in his path.'
'He greatly deserves success.'*

These were the prophetic, end of year conclusions of Dad's former Headmaster George Riding, words that would stay with him long after he left Aldenham.

And while he always agreed with the sentiment of that last remark, he reflected, with characteristic humility towards the end of his life, that success had never come his way.

On leaving the school, he was conscripted into the army and recalled with regret persuading one examining Medical Officer, who was clearly trying to do him a favour, that he categorically DID NOT have flat feet. So instead of being 'excused boots' he found himself posted to an infantry training battalion in Northern Ireland in the harsh winter of 1946.

As demob time approached, he set about finding gainful employment and was interviewed uncomfortably in his army uniform by the Managing Director of Massey Harris (later Massey Ferguson) and offered a role in its spare parts department.

So began a 45-year career with the company, which took him the length and breadth of the country, saw him rise to the vertiginous heights of Distribution Planning Manager and ended in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire with his retirement in 1993.

In a typically self-effacing farewell speech, he confessed to those assembled that he had 'started at the bottom of the company and had been working his way around ever since.'

Indeed, his love of wordplay, poetry and puns meant there was always a twinkle in his eye, not to mention a perfectly apposite saying for life's major – and just as likely, minor – events.

'Much better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool' he advised me on the eve of my own first day at

work, 'than to open it and put the matter beyond all reasonable doubt.'

During his long retirement, Dad spent what might only be described as an unreasonable amount of time in his garden and greenhouse, which routinely overflowed with geraniums, fuchsias and tomato plants.

Pertinently, his love of horticulture and the countryside that so greatly influenced his life and career was first fostered during his time at Aldenham. He spent his summer holidays helping out, or 'getting in the way' on a local farm in Chipperfield, to where the family had been evacuated in 1939.

Dad kept his final year school report. It revealed an unremarkable academic performance but included a statement from Mr Riding which turned out to be as fitting for his whole life as it was for his time at Aldenham.

'He has never sought or attracted the limelight but has quietly gone forward doing the job in hand.'

A private, modest and utterly selfless man, Dad passed away peacefully at home, aged 91. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, including Jenny – his wife of over 50 years, his son Robert and cherished grandson Theo.

I hope there may be some (very) Old Aldenhamians who will also remember him fondly.

Robert William Law Johnson

Paul Koralek

Paul Koralek (P1946-50) was born in Vienna in 1933. His family moved to Britain in 1938, and he attended Aldenham, where he is noted with having taken part in swimming, shooting and the Salvete, as well as having won Form Prizes in 1947 and 1949. After leaving School, Paul went to Paris to study for a year, before enrolling to study at the Architectural Association in 1951.

In 1956, Paul graduated from the Architectural Association, and shortly

after moved to New York. He returned to the UK at age 28, and co-founded ABK (Ahrends Burton and Koralek) alongside Peter Ahrends and Richard Burton, whom he met whilst studying, shortly after winning an international competition to design Trinity College's new library in Dublin in a Modernist style.

ABK won numerous other commissions, including the 1977 Keble College extension, as well as the National

Gallery extension, the British Embassy in Moscow and 12 Docklands Light Railway stations. His designs – often thought of as modernist or brutalist – established him as a well-respected and prominent architect.

Paul received a CBE in 1984, and was also a Royal Academician. Paul died in February 2020 at the age of 86. He was happily married to Jenny for many years, who died in 2017, and leaves behind him daughters Katy and Lucy.

Ian Gordon Luetchford (Luetch)



It is with much sadness we announce that **Ian Gordon Luetchford (B1948-51)** passed away on Sunday 22 September 2019 after a long illness battling leukaemia, fought valiantly.

Son of Leslie Frederick Luetchford, of Rustington-on-Sea, Ian arrived at Beevor's House in 1948.

Ian spent many hard working years as Hon. Treasurer, the Aldenham Club Trust (formerly known as the Aldenham Boys' Club in Kentish Town). He was also Vice Chairman and Volunteer for Victim Support Hertsmere. In recognition of his tireless work co-ordinating the OA Annual Dinner and loyal commitment to the OA Society Committee for nearly twenty-five years, Ian was elected as a Vice President when he stepped down in 2018. Ian and his wife, Norma, were

regular supporters and attendees of many OA related events.

A uniquely moving and memorable funeral celebrating Ian's long life was held on Tuesday 15 October 2019 attended by family, friends and many members of the OA Society and the Aldenham community in the Aldenham School Chapel, a first for the School.

I shall miss Ian's kindness and guidance shown to me during my OA Presidency and indeed his beaming smile.

James C N James-Crook
President, OA Society

FROM IAN'S WIFE, NORMA

Ian was a member of the Aldenham School community from his early teens until he died aged 85 in September 2019.

He enjoyed his time in Beevor's, making many lasting friends, joining The Army Cadets (which led to his National Service in The Artillery) and the Rifle Society, representing the School in many competitions.

I met Ian in 1968. Not all of our early 'dates' were successful. I wasn't impressed with damp days at Bisley

shivering under an umbrella whilst Ian lay on a waterproof shooting for the OAs (usually scoring highly!) However I gradually realised he was committed to Aldenham School and gave enthusiastic support to The OA club in Kentish Town, attended many OA activities and school functions and in later years organised the annual OA dinner at the RAF club in Piccadilly. He became a trustee and served on the committee for many years.

He absorbed the values and ethos of Aldenham and lived his life as a happy supporter of its continuing development.

We were married in August 1969 and I joined him in supporting such an outstanding school.

He would have been so touched and proud for the honour bestowed on him by Aldenham holding his funeral in his school chapel, and being surrounded by the school he loved and revered, and by his wide circle of friends.

I will still support the school as I know he would wish me to but also because I have grown to love it as he did.

Thank you Aldenham for giving me such a wonderful man with whom to share 52 years of happiness and contentment.

Derek Norman Eyres Evans



Derek Evans (P1936-40) was in the OTC and was promoted to corporal in January 1939.

The Headmaster's comments in his final report were 'He has won the respect of us all by being just what he is – an honest and determined person who knows what he wants and works hard to get it.'

On leaving school Derek worked at Handley Page and applied to join the RAF, but was rejected on medical grounds. He was called up in 1942 to the Royal Artillery at Towyn.

He joined the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and was stationed at various sites in Britain before being sent to Egypt in February 1946.

He was demobbed in October 1946 and returned to live with his parents and family at Worthing. He was articled to John Ellman-Brown FRICS at Shoreham-

by-Sea for two years and in 1949 qualified to become a Temporary Valuation Assistant in the Licensed Property Department of the Inland Revenue located in Moorgate. Six months later he was posted to the District Valuer's Office in Bedford where he joined Riverside Tennis Club. It was here he met Sybil who became his wife on 5th April 1952 at St Cuthbert's church in Bedford. In 1956 Derek was successful in the Civil Service Open Competition for the position of Valuer in the Valuation Office, permanent instead of temporary. This led to a posting to Kings Langley Valuation Office and subsequently to Hitchin and Luton.

He leaves a son and daughter.



Richard Jones (CR1972-87)

I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of my former long-standing colleague and friend.

After a rather heavy Wagnerian evening session with the **Reverend Peter Jackson (CR1982-89)** in my House Tutor's rooms in Paull's, I received a note next morning in my Common Room pigeon-hole which said only, '2 Henry IV, 3.2.209'. Having scurried to my Complete Shakespeare, I found that the line read, 'We have heard the chimes at midnight, Master Shallow.' That characteristically witty and erudite reproof was enough to prevent inconsiderately loud Wagner 'festivals' ever happening in Paull's again.

Richard was a memorable, indeed historic Housemaster of Paull's. At the House Christmas Dinner, his speech would always take the form of a story in which the name of every boy, girl and member of staff in the House was punningly referred to, an unusual yet personal way of promoting House cohesion. I was proud to be a member of Paull's, with its liberal ethos promoted by Richard. In gentle defiance of those traditionalists who could not see that both History and Ethics (and Economics!) were on the side of girls' entry to Aldenham, Richard appointed the first girls' House Captain and did his best to support Girls' Games. Girls had their own floor at the top of the House but otherwise, with Richard's encouragement, mixed freely and happily.

Senior House Members often came to dinner in that part of the House which was so stylishly and elegantly run by Margaret. Sunday lunches were particularly memorable, with outstanding food and wine, and lively company. However, if a dinner party went on for too long, Richard deployed

his secret weapon: Diccon, the dalmatian known for his powerfully flatulent ability to clear a drawing-room in seconds!

Richard and I worked next door to each other in the English Department for well over a decade. Our literary interests were similar and we both regretted the increasing governmental intrusions into curricular life, where trust in teachers who knew their subject became increasingly replaced by ever more trivial directives and reliance on statistics which often denied both the brilliant and the problematic pupil his or her individuality. His outstanding subject knowledge meant he was remarkably well respected in the classroom. While highly adept at poetry analysis, Richard loved Drama: he organised with effortless ease umpteen well-chosen visits to the London theatres and even, during my time as Head of Drama, produced a lively version of Brecht's 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle', a thoughtful work involving a large cast, to show that there was a welcome place for anyone interested, including an extensive stage and technical crew. Pupils in Richard's classes can be proud of the literary and linguistic liberal education they received.

His nickname was 'Twitch', it was claimed because of a wry facial expression, though to my mind was more a contraction of 'twitcher', as Richard was a keen ornithologist. He was able to follow this hobby in spectacular conditions in the Scottish Highlands, to where he drove the school minibus, with complete imperturbability, several times a year for the best part of a decade on the expeditions I took for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and to introduce pupils to hill-walking and scrambling in genuinely testing mountain conditions. Richard negotiated the minibus down some of the most obscure byways in the country – on Skye, in Kintail, the Cairngorms, Glencoe and elsewhere – the bogging down of the minibus on the very remote Kinlochhourn road will not be forgotten – and was always, reassuringly, there where he should be on our return from our day on the hills, to ferry us to the nearest pub for supper more often than not minutes before they stopped serving. Richard's driving, done with characteristic unflappability, made it possible for what I estimate to be

about 1500 pupils over the years being introduced not just to amazingly beautiful parts of our country, but to educating them in self-reliance. Of course, Health and Safety regulations eventually took over, and extra colleagues, or flying to Scotland from Luton became the norm, so I should imagine that Richard's record of driving the minibus 582 miles in one day, from Achnashellach in the north-west of Scotland back to Aldenham, still stands!

Others will speak of Richard's Christian faith, which sustained him through many of life's 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune', and others will no doubt speak of his cricketing prowess: he was a tremendous all-rounder. I knew little of his role as Deputy Head, though I do recall his adroit expulsion of a very badly-behaved youth when the Headmaster was out of school for several days!

What I do recall most vividly was the excellence of his writing, his great talent for 'la belle tournure' (the adroitly 'right' expression) whether in penning a humorous poem, writing a piece for the *Aldenhamian*, or giving a character reference. Most of all, I simply remember Richard's goodness: someone dependable, steadfast, of ethical sophistication yet unobtrusiveness, all such qualities underpinned by subtle, ironic often satirical humour. While it is good that he has been released from his final illness, Richard's passing leaves a sadness in one's life that cannot disappear but can at least be qualified by admiring, respectful and happy memories.

Catherine Moorehead (CR1982-99)

OTHER TRIBUTES:

Gary Bartholomew (K1969-73)

I was so sorry to hear of Richard Jones' passing. As a hopelessly inefficient and disinterested student, he was the one person during my time at Aldenham School to inspire me. He was, quite simply, the person to ignite my later career as an author, and writing professionally was something I could discuss with him without any sense of awkwardness or risk of ridicule. His dry sense of humour apart, I recall clearly how he was keen to focus on any student having a sense of enthusiasm, always quietly encouraging them to pursue their interest.

Andy Clare (SHO1968-73)

I remember Richard with much affection and admiration. Along with **David Wallace-Hadrill (CR1950-55 & 1962-86)**, he managed to inspire, cajole and engage me in equal proportion so I could pass my English A Level. I also had – and still have – a great respect for his House Tutor/Master sensitivity during a challenging and volatile period at Aldenham.

Rod Haselden (B1965-70)

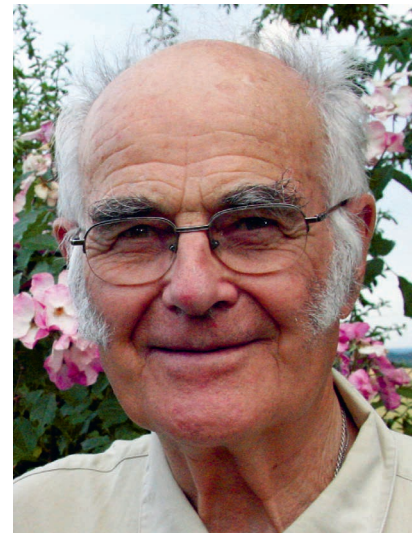
I remember Richard well, some 48 years after I left Aldenham, as a man who was one of those special people who lifted the spirits of those around him. It was a privilege to have been taught by him.

Jamal Ibrahim (P1972-77)

Richard and Margaret Jones were kind to me with regards to getting me adjusted to coming over from Malaysia. I'd just

come over at 14 years old from the rice fields of north-west Malaysia and they both ensured that my religious dietary requirements were accounted for at meals and not forgetting the changed eating times for me during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. Please pass my condolences onto his family.

William Guy Batham



William Guy Batham (SHO1938-41) 5th November 1923 – 24th January 2020
William Guy Batham (Guy) died peacefully on 24th January 2020 aged 96 years in Murwillambah, NSW. Australia. Guy attended Aldenham School in the 1930s.

Guy was born up country in Brazil to British parents. His father was an engineer who worked on building railways throughout Africa and Brazil. He was attending Aldenham at the outbreak of WWII. He enlisted into the Royal Navy Volunteers in 1941 aged 18. He was commissioned aged 20 as a sub lieutenant into 885 Naval Air Squadron. He flew supermarine Seafires – a Spitfire modified to fly from aircraft carriers.

He was part of operation Overlord as a bombardment spotter for the D Day landings over Normandy. He flew off the aircraft carrier and using map-reading skills would spot and then report where the bombardment from the allied fire was landing. The guns could then be

adjusted for accuracy. He was involved in an aerial gunfight with a German plane. After the troops moved inland, he continued spotting likely targets for further action to enable troop movement.

He completed further training and was sent to Australia on HMS Ruler for low level flying training. He then joined the aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable in the South China Seas. The carrier was hit by kamikaze pilots while he was on board. He is also credited with shooting down a Japanese aircraft.

HMS Indomitable was deployed to Hong Kong to secure it for the United Kingdom. He volunteered to go ashore and help clear the buildings of Japanese prior to the Japanese signing the Surrender Document in Hong Kong. From there he hitched a lift 4,000 miles to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where he married WRNS Officer Enid Skilling.

After the war he worked for a short

while in Brazil before settling back in England to bring up a family. He worked in Market Research for several large companies and he was a Market Research Manager for Lewer Brothers (Detergents) and worked on the development of the use of barcodes on retail goods.

He retired and emigrated to Australia with his second wife when he was in his 70s to start a new life with a young son.

Guy will be remembered by all who met him as a gentleman, he was always courteous and had a lovely smile. He always kept his personal belongings tidily and was very efficient and organised when packing; the family ascribed this to his Public-School boarding education!

Guy is survived by two daughters and two sons by his first marriage and a son by his second marriage, and eleven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Robert Ian Ashley Cox (B1974-77)



It is with great sadness that Ian Cox's family report that he died on 31st January 2020.

Ian was born on 31st July 1961 and joined Aldenham School in 1974. His elder brother, **Simon (B1972-76)** (lived 1958-2013), was also at Aldenham. Ian and Simon were both keen members of the School Sailing team.

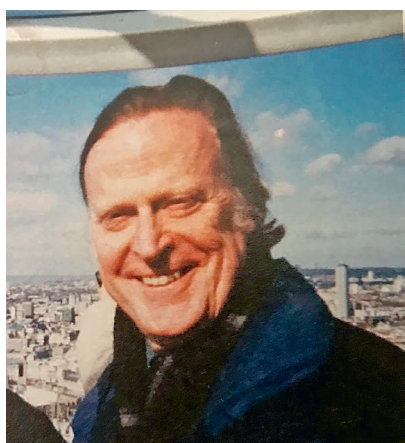
Ian graduated in Land Surveying from North East London Polytechnic, now the University of East London, and spent his early 20s working around the UK and in the Middle East. Whilst Ian thrived on the adventure of travelling, he finally settled in St Albans and worked as a scientist in the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association. Ian's work relocated to the Cotswolds and he really enjoyed living in Shipston-on-Stour. As his health began

to deteriorate, Ian turned his hand to his love of gardening and tended many local gardens. Ian played a thoughtful game of chess and ran a successful local chess club.

Ian was well supported in his determination to live independently, by both his family and the local community. Ian enjoyed keeping in contact with his school friends, and he met **Mat Baroudi (B1974-77)** in London in 2018.

Ian will be sorely missed by his children, Matthew and Helen, his parents, Bob and Isobel, and all the Cox family.

Written by Jane, Ian's sister.



David Roy Moore

problems. Soon after becoming ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Leicester, he took up a position as Deputy Director to the London Samaritans. For six years he worked with the Reverend Chad Varah to establish the Samaritans as an organisation of enormous value and international reputation. As well as counselling people in desperate situations, David undertook the training and supervision of volunteers, and spent time speaking about and publicising the work of the Samaritans.

In 1972 he took up a community position for 2 years with the Nottinghamshire County Council and became involved with social services projects, including Age Concern. During this time he began to develop his artistic talents in drawing and painting, alongside working on the production of cartoons ('Fred Cartoons') which were used to illustrate books and manuals written by a friend over a period of four years. David returned to parish ministry, and in 1980 he became Vicar of St. Paul's, Daybrook, in Nottingham. Later he became Vicar of St. Andrew's, Ham, in Richmond, and in his fifties took over as Vicar of Rothbury, in Northumberland, before returning, in retirement, to look after parishes in Nottinghamshire.

David was an exceptional and

much-loved parish priest. His sermons were full of spiritual learning, insight and wisdom, coupled with human understanding and gentle humour. He had a profound knowledge of the Celtic monastic traditions and, whenever possible, went on retreat; but he was also a practical man, well used to administration, and, wherever he served as an Anglican priest, he immersed himself in parish work. Throughout his life he was always prepared to help and advise parishioners needing support in the face of loss and adversity. This was especially evident in Northumberland when the foot and mouth outbreak of 2000/1 led to many hill farmers finding themselves in appalling distress and financial straits.

David enjoyed reading, writing, cooking, walking, poetry and travel; and throughout his long career he was fully supported by his loving wife, Corinne. With a background in health and social services, Corinne complemented David's work in the various places his Ministry took him. They have two children, Tiffany, a clinical psychologist, and Paul, a television sports producer, now living in Australia. In his last few years David became a much-loved grandfather to Saskia, Josh, Frey and Sam. He will be much missed.

Steve Hitchins

Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Islington on 21 November 2019

On a cold but dry November afternoon, more than 100 people gathered to remember the life and work of **Steve Hitchins (B1964-69)**. Almost everyone seemed to be connected through politics (predominantly the Liberal Democrats) or through local council, business and health care organisations.

The service celebrated Steve's time at Christ Church, Oxford where he read Engineering. Apparently, he was Captain of several College sports teams, there's a surprise!

Two Bach preludes opened the proceedings following which there were 12 speakers, all of whom had worked with Steve at some time during the last 30 years. Steve was, of course, a staunch liberal and he was a member of the Islington Council from 1990 for 16 years and leader from 1999 to 2006. From all the testimonies we heard, he was a formidable man who cared passionately about the borough and through tireless effort made a huge difference.

He was married to Baroness Sarah Ludford, herself a well-known figure as a Liberal Democrat MEP and she talked about how much he cared. The Duke of Cambridge (the pub!) was where everyone went to consult him and he was always happy to talk to them. His energy was immense despite being a Type 1 diabetic for most of his life. He even had to have a leg amputated and whilst the Committee he chaired was discussing how they would manage whilst he recuperated, the door opened and in came Steve! You can't keep a good man down.

Simon Hughes was one of the speakers to sing Steve's praises and even Jeremy Corbyn had sent a message to Sarah.

It was a genuine celebration of his political life and **John Yule (SHE1966-71)** and I were pleased to have been there. Steve was a great sportsman and he did so much for the OA Football Club in the 1970's. We salute you, Steve.

Ian Eggleton (SHE1958-63)

STEVE HITCHINS AND THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

After three Captains in five years **Stuart Murray (M1951-54)** who had captained the 1964 team in the Final of the Dunn, and now the OAF Club Captain decided it was time for a change and so **Steve Hitchins (B1964-69)** was appointed 1st XI Captain in 1971 and at aged 19 was the youngest ever. For a young Captain who had an abundance of self confidence the situation would prove promising as the stalwarts that had carried the club through the previous ten years were retiring and at the same time the School had a good set of players who had either just left or would do so in the next few years. Steve's drive and enthusiasm ably assisted, as acknowledged by Steve, by **Robert Hill (K1964-69)** and **Ian Eggleton (SHE1958-63)** gradually guided the team to gain more experience in the art of winning matches which led to them becoming the Arthurian League Premiership Champions in 1977.

Steve then handed the baton to Dick Hall and then Andy Clare who went on two years later to win the Arthur Dunn Cup in 1979.

Steve also found time to write the second instalment of the *History of the OAF from 1955-1979* which can be found in the 11th Edition of the Register 1981.

In this he was assisted by **John Hawkes (B1944-48)** who was Secretary of the OAF (1961-71) and **Cyril Tyson (CR1952-87)**.

Steve served on the OAS Committee as Joint Hon. Secretary from 1980-86 and in addition was the OA Dinner organiser during this period.

It should be said therefore that Steve served the OA Community with distinction having been instrumental in driving the club to the highest levels the OAF could achieve in League and Cup, during the years 1971-1979.

F.E. Rogers (SHE1953-58) (OAF 58-74)

FROM ANDY CLARE (SHO1968-73). CAPTAIN OF ARTHUR DUNN CUP WINNING TEAM OF 1979.

As most will readily acknowledge, Steve was the real architect of the Arthur Dunn Cup win. It was essentially a team he built and set up for success.

However, we could be forgiven for thinking he simply handed me the Captain's armband. He did a great deal more than that, and in so doing taught me a lot about authentic leadership – lessons that have stayed with me ever since.

When I think back now about Steve's leadership, it was his generosity that really stands out amongst many other qualities. He was generous with his time, his encouragement, his insights and knowledge. He was remarkably generous in sharing the praise coming his way for the Cup win. I imagine those who had the privilege of knowing Steve for much longer than myself would add that he had a naturally generous spirit.

In a world today where so many leaders appear self-serving, egocentric and morally 'mean', that generosity (which I am sure Steve maintained throughout his life) was, and is a wonderful, inspiring attribute.

Tony Hunt



It is a great tribute to **Tony Hunt (B1949-54)** that so many friends have come today to pay their respects. Tony's views on speeches at these events are clear, but it was decided that someone had to say a few words. So, while I am waffling on for five minutes, please collect your own memories of Tony and add them to my remarks.

Tony and I were at Aldenham School in the same boarding House, Beevor's. Tony was two terms senior to me and as the system was that year groups did not mix. It was not until we were in Sixth Form that we got to know each other. Tony was a high profile C. S. M in the cadet force and I have a wonderful photo of him marching proudly alongside the Aldenham contingent at cadet camp, and me looking grumpy in the front rank.

For the last year, Tony, **Graham Roots (B1949-54)** and I were in the Prefects' study. The three of us were summoned on the same day to sign on for National

Service in St. Albans. On the way there, they asked me what regiment I would apply for. I had no idea! So they said, 'we're applying for the Royal Artillery and you'd better do the same.' As it turned out, it was a good idea, despite the fact that they were A Level maths candidates and I had struggled with O Level, but it was amazing how you can improve your maths under a TARA Sergeant's pace stick. Tony and I were called up on the same day and our parents saw us off together from London, bound for a basic training unit in Oswestry, Shropshire.

After basic training, we moved to 17 Regiment R. A., still in Oswestry. After passing the selection board, we went on to Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot, and so off to our regiments as Second Lieutenants. My mother always said that if Tony had not been there to support me, I would not have coped.

After we were demobbed, we met occasionally. Tony had driven overland from Gibraltar when he left his regiment, and this started his interest in cars, hence his membership of the Morgan Club. I must say I did not find the Morgan very comfortable when Tony took me for a ride. Tony also signed on for a number of years to the Territorial Army. In the meantime, he had begun devoting himself to the life of the City, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He also used his expertise with the Old Aldenhamian Society and Abbeyfield.

I was delighted when he asked me to meet him in London and introduced me to Cynthia. They were clearly already devoted to each other and were to be

so for 51 years. It was a great joy to them when Alexandra was born and I remember coming to Chesham Bois with my mother when Alexandra was a few months old, and also to Bois Avenue when she was older. Tony was a devoted father and when Alexandra died so young, Tony and Cynthia were devastated, but their love kept them together and they bought the flat in Sidmouth as a memorial. I took my father to stay there for a few days. Tony and Cynthia were there to welcome us (after our long journey from East Sussex) then left. My father commented, 'what nice friends you have.'

I hope I have mentioned some of the reasons why and when you first met Tony. I know, too, that quite a few of you have been on holiday with Tony and Cynthia and got to know them well or experienced their generous hospitality in Bois Avenue. They have also been very kind and supportive to various members of the family. But we remember Tony as a loving and devoted father and husband, as conscientious, kind and supportive, efficient and modest. I always liked the way he came to greet you, a big smile on his face and hand held out for a firm handshake. He also enjoyed a good chuckle, and that's what he will be doing now if he is looking down on us. He will be saying: 'I told Cynthia I didn't want one of those boring tributes'; perhaps he was right!

Tribute by **Bill White (B1949-54)**, read at Tony's funeral on 23 October 2019.

Scotch Bob

Roy (Bob) Izatt 'Scotch Bob' died in 2019. He served in School House/Leemans-Ridings from 1972-2003.

'Scotch Bob' was one of a long line of loyal backroom staff at Aldenham who kept the domestic side of the school running smoothly through all sorts of conditions. He joined School House as

a Kitchen Porter under Mrs Myers and when the switch from House to Central Catering was made in 1975 he asked to transfer to the School House domestic staff. He rapidly became a stalwart of the House, dispensing the daily 'something', keeping order and dealing with the daily wear and tear on the building. For over 30 years he went about his work

cheerfully and conscientiously making a major contribution to lives of the boys and staff in the House.



Editor **Lydia Chapman**

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OA Annual Dinner 2021

Saturday 6th March (TBC) at Aldenham School

6:15pm Drinks Reception in The Apthorp Room of The Wells Centre with entertainment

7:30-11:00pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

Principal Guest Speaker: James Fowler (Headmaster)

Tickets: £50 PER PERSON (OA Society and guest)

£40 per person for those 25 or under on the day of the Dinner

£55 per person for Non-members of the OA Society

The OA Society will subsidise members and their partner

Price will include pre-dinner drinks, wine with dinner and coffee with mints

There will be a cash bar for additional wine and soft drinks as required.

Wine £10 per bottle.

To reserve your individual seat or a full table, please contact jackie@aldenham.com, or call 01923 851614. You can also pay through our website; please check oldaldenhamian.org for details.

Please also make us aware of any dietary requirements prior to the evening.

