



Old Owenians Newsletter

Fourth Quarter—14th December 2011
Edition 4

Welcome to our fourth Old Owenians Newsletter—for all Old Owenians

To get you in the festive spirit, what better way to start than with a Christmas message from our Head, Dr Alan Davison and to enjoy this picture of “Der Weihnachtsmann” by Mrs Brenda Ainsley (nee Savoff), our speaker at the Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon, from her donated “Deutches Album” she created in 1946, shortly after starting school!



“Dear Old Owenians

On behalf of the current students, staff and Governors I would like to wish you all Season’s Greetings and a very happy and successful New Year. I am sure you will remember all the events that take place in school at this time. In 2011 this includes no fewer than 5 concerts: Junior Instrumental Concert and its Senior sister, the Choral Concert and the Junior and Senior Chamber Concerts, the Carol Service at St Mary’s Church in Potters Bar, the Gym and Dance Display, the Year 13 Fashion Show, the Upper School Play “The Country Wife” and, the highlight of any year, the Staff Panto “Robin of Owenswood”. All of this rounded up with Bill Hamilton-Hinds and the Senior Leadership Team dressing up as Father Christmas and elves bringing Secret Santa presents to an exhausted staff!

I would like to thank all of you for your support for our 400th emailing list (which stands at just under 2,000 Old Owenians signed up to date – only 3000 more to reach my 5000 target) and Newsletter initiative, which has received positive

feedback since its launch in March 2010. We have been overwhelmed by the warmth of your responses and the number of interesting articles submitted. We are determined that one of the legacies of the 400th anniversary will be our continued relationship with you! We hope you will continue to spread the word to your former classmates so we can include as many of you as possible. In the coming months we will be opening bookings for the 2013 events, in particular I hope you have the following two events in your diaries: 23rd April for taking the roof of the Royal Albert Hall off with the School song, and 13th July for the 400th Ball/Reunion. We will also be publishing the new history of the School written by the Reverend Gareth Randall with interviews with our most famous Owenians written by Rosie Millard.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the brilliant work of those involved throughout this year in establishing our emailing list, including Mandy English, our editor (and often writer) of the Old Owenians Newsletter and thank all our contributors—I hope you enjoy this bumper edition!

Dr Alan Davison”



Are you an Old Owenian still in full time education?

If so, in light of increased tuition fees, we’d like to remind you that you might be eligible to apply for one of the financial awards from the **EH Thompson Bequest** or for the **FE Beecham Award**. The E H Thompson Bequest is a Trust, which was originally established on 27 September 1969. On 1 January 2006, the assets of two other Trusts that were set up for the benefit of Dame Alice Owen’s School pupils undertaking university studies were transferred to the E H Thompson Bequest. These were the G A H Beams Bequest and the Maurice Daphne’s Bequest (Students’ Fund). The Trustee of the E H Thompson Bequest is the Brewers’ Company.

The FE Beecham Award is available only to students of Business Studies at a university who intend to enter the business world upon completion of their degree. For more details of how to apply for these competitive awards in 2012, please go to our website at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/sixth_form/higher_education.html. Shortlisted candidates are invited for an informal interview at Brewers’ Hall with an awards panel which makes the final decision on the allocation of awards.

400th Anniversary News...

...The Story of our 400th Anniversary Logo

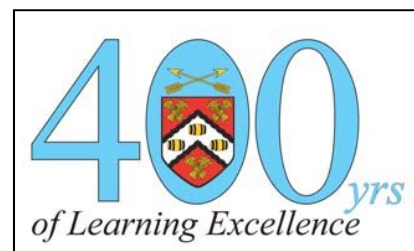


Back in June 2010, when we had our first meeting of the 400th anniversary committee, our chair, Gary Kemp, encouraged us to include students in the design of our logo. So, a competition, open to all students was held and subsequently won by a Year 7 student at the time, Lauren Makin (left). We were delighted with her hand drawn ideas (see left below) and our own Head of Art, Mr Steve Willcock, took on the job of digitising her work to come up with a logo that could be used on stationery and memorabilia (below, right).

We were very keen to stick as much to Lauren's original design as possible but several attempts at making her "all red" design didn't work as our badge seemed "lost". So, with her permission, we introduced the duck egg blue to "brand" the 400th and as a backdrop for Dame Alice Owen's red, black and gold shield. The words "400 yrs of learning excellence" spoke volumes to us of the standards set by the school all those years ago and how they continue today. We were conscious of the responsibility we had of producing something that Owenians could be proud of and our 400th anniversary committee heartily approved the final designs in June this year. The designs may appear simple, but defy the



hours of voluntary time spent perfecting them, so very grateful thanks to Steve, for his time and attention to detail in taking on this important task! Our letterhead and pen logo have been slightly adapted to fit their purpose.



...Results of our 400th Memorabilia Survey

Many thanks to all those who took part in the survey that was sent as a link in our last email alert at the end of September. We hope it gave you the opportunity to feel directly involved in some of our decision making! We had a very high response rate and clear feedback from you as to what you liked and what you thought wouldn't work! Your valuable comments were all carefully read and considered in the context of what we are trying to achieve and have affected what have chosen to produce, along with student and parent feedback.

Huge thanks must also go to our OSA (Owen's School Association) representative, who is leading the production of items, parent, Mrs Monique Choudhuri, who has children currently in Years 8 and 10. Working with OSA Chair, Mrs Ann Potter and member, Mr Steven Savaas, she presented final mock-up visuals to our 400th anniversary committee, who give their approval on the 6th December. We hope our exciting range of 12 items (including 2 glass items with etched logo) will be available to students, parents/staff and Old Owenians at school events from late Spring, to commemorate our special year. In addition, a specially brewed beer is being considered by the Brewers, although details are not yet confirmed—watch this space!

...News from the 400th Anniversary Committee

Our committee met on the 6th December with a packed agenda as usual. After our review of 400th memorabilia, Miss Emma Govier, Head of Drama outlined her initial ideas for the anniversary play, including a look through the ages from 1613 and with the aim to involve as many students from Years 7-10 as possible! In addition to our new history book, due for publication around October 2012, we are also hoping to have some sort of film of the year, made by an Old Owenian and possibly one made by students, which will record our key events.

Dr Alan Davsion reported that the contract with the Royal Albert Hall for our Celebration Concert is to be signed imminently – the RAH just have to agree their prices for 2013! Also that First Capital Connect have agreed for the school to have 2 trains in addition to their usual timetable to transport 750 students from Potters Bar to Moorgate for the Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's. Group tickets will be purchased for the additional 750 students and staff! Can you imagine the sight and the organisation involved?!

As you know, your main opportunity for you to reunite with fellow Old Owenians is our evening event at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 23rd April, 2013. However, we are also holding a Summer Ball for 400 people, in our to-be-transformed Sports Hall, fully catered and with top quality entertainment on Saturday 13th July, 2013. We hope Old Owenians who want to reunite for an evening of dining and dancing will be also able to join us on this occasion. At this stage, it is anticipated that tickets will be offered on a first come, first served basis with bookings by table.

Royal Albert Hall

So, now you have our Celebration Concert date, planned for Tuesday 23rd April, 2013 firmly in your diaries, we thought you might like to read a few interesting historical facts about how the Royal Albert Hall came to be built, (gleaned from a recent tour your editor attended), and a reminder that this really will be a significant occasion in our school's own history!

Did you know, for example, that Prince Albert decided to invest some of the profits from the Great Exhibition of 1851 to purchase the 35-hectare Gore Estate (now known as South Kensington), so that a complex of public buildings devoted to both the arts and sciences could be built, and that the Royal Albert Hall was just one of them? Prince Albert's legacy remains in the Royal Colleges of Art, Music and Organists, The Royal Geographical Society, the Imperial College and the Natural History, Science and Victoria and Albert Museums, also built on the estate.



Did you also know that, devastatingly, Prince Albert did not live to see the realisation of his dream, as he died of Typhoid Fever in 1861? Queen Victoria completed his vision and had a significant memorial built in his memory, directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall (below). She also incorporated an incredible 13,000 letter "A"s throughout the design of the interior (have a look at the wrought iron stair spindles when you next visit)—a true romantic at heart?!

Finally, did you know that the Queen's Box (she owns 20 seats and the only double box on the Grand Tier!) has three rules which apply to Royals and their guests visiting the Royal Albert Hall? They are:

1. No food or drink must be taken in the box—the Queen has her own Royal Retiring room for entertaining on the other side of the inner corridor
2. The Dress Code must be strictly adhered to—jacket and tie or formal wear for gentlemen and the ladies should dress in either long gowns or formal wear
3. Dancing is forbidden—the only person ever known to disobey this rule is **Nelson Mandela!** Attending a concert with African dancers as a guest of the Queen, Nelson Mandela got carried away and stood up to dance to his countrymen's performance. The Queen, made no mention of his faux pas and started tapping on her handbag as a reminder. When this was completely ignored, she simply stood up next to him and started swaying to the music to ensure her guest wasn't embarrassed—the perfect host!

More interesting facts in our next newsletter!

St Paul's News for our Old Owenians Overseas

For those of you who don't already know, a group of anti-capitalist activists under the banner of Occupy London Stock Exchange (OLSX), formed a camp outside St Paul's in October and are refusing to move. Since then, several prominent members of St Paul's have felt the need to resign since OLSX took hold of the land around the Cathedral. They caused the Cathedral to close its doors for the first time since the second world war for safety reasons and only reopened when negotiations persuaded the occupiers to

move their tents away from the exit doors for fire precautions.

The City of London Corporation have bought proceedings against them and the four day eviction hearing starts on December 19th.



We will be holding a 400th anniversary Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's on Tuesday 30th April, 2013.

...400th Anniversary Emailing List

Thank you once again to all Old Owenians who have “spread the word” and encouraged past peers to join our emailing list so that we can share our news and keep you up to date with our 400th anniversary plans. This quarter, Old Owenian, Andrew Porter (left), public policy editor from the Daily Telegraph joins us—he kindly visited Dr Davison in November to extend his support for our special year and will be taking part in the proceedings, along with parent, BBC political editor, Nick Robinson.



Our 2013th Old Owenian is still out there somewhere, with a commemorative certificate and complimentary item of memorabilia waiting when available in April!!! We hope to have your photograph for our March edition... You now all belong to a very distinguished group of 1,909 Old Owenians around the world. Please keep our momentum going by messaging your mates! Simply ask them to send their year of leaving date to us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Keeping those without a computer updated...

We are also very grateful to those Old Owenians who keep those who do not have access to a computer, up to date. As technology moves forward it is very important that we do not leave people behind. We rely on those with knowledge and access to IT, to support those who cannot use the modern tools that most of us now take for granted. The internet is a powerful communication channel which has enabled us to reconnect with you, as Old Owenians, in a way that just wouldn't otherwise be financially possible. **If you know someone who would like to join as a “Friend” of the school to keep an elderly Old Owenian relative or friend updated, please tell them email us with their Old Owenian's year of leaving date and we can keep in contact via them!**

Careers Talks Week 2012



Following our successful Careers Talks Week in June this year, we are repeating our opportunity for Old Owenians to share their career stories and tips for student's week commencing March 5th 2012. This coincides with [National Careers Week](#) (5th-9th March 2012) and is being held earlier in the year for us to give all our students in Years 9-13 (about 1,000 14-18 year olds!) a chance to participate. For those interested, please pencil the date in your diaries now!

We will be sending you an email alert in January, specifically inviting you to take part in our 45 minute lunchtime sessions for groups of guaranteed 15 students or more. A sandwich lunch will be provided and Mrs Carol Whiter (our Careers Advisor, pictured here) and your editor will gladly give tours of the school to those who wish in the afternoon. Some comments from this year's talks are below:

“The pupils I met and came across in my visit are a credit to all the staff at Owen's” - Graham Simmons

“I must say I found the staff particularly friendly and helpful and the students polite”—Mervyn Gilbert

“The information and the event was well organised and friendly”—Professor Jack Levy OBE

“I had a great time and was impressed by the quality of students and their questions” - Dr Helen Green

Work Experience November 2011

Many thanks to Old Owenian, Mr Alex Aiken, who generously hosted students on work experience placements this Autumn and gave them a tremendous opportunity to learn about life at Westminster Council. Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Carol Whiter, asked students to apply for the five positions, who had to give an account of why they wanted to attend in the selection process. Mr Aiken advocates taking our talented students for work placements and gave the following report:

“Westminster Council hosted five Owenians for a week in November who arrived early, stayed late and worked hard to make a success of their work experience. They were a pleasure to have in the office and a credit to the school. I'd encourage others to make their workplaces available for placements, and to set their interns some challenging tasks during the week. Our students – Hiro, Ben, Catriona, Sophie and Sarah all gave excellent presentations on areas of policy at the end of the week which were thoughtful and articulate.”

If you think you might be interested in hosting Year 11 students in November 2012, please ask Mrs Carol Whiter for more details by emailing her at: whiterc@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk

Old Owen's Association News!

- Why not come to Old Owen's in Northaw on a Tuesday night to catch up with some friends over a two course meal for £10? John Clark, Old Owen's manager, would like to remind you of his **special offer** – either starter or main course, or main course and dessert for just £10 per person. Simply ring 01707 644211 on a Monday to make your booking and state your preference, telling him you heard about it in the Old Owenians Newsletter!
- Old Owen's is also hosting a popular return of Alvin playing Elvis on Thursday 22nd March, 2012—this is a free event, so just turn up from 8pm onwards to join in the fun!
- Links with current students still remain strong—our Year 10's are busy arranging their annual Snowball at Old Owen's on Friday 13th January, 2012 in aid of the Kidney Foundation. With a smart dress code, they are sure to enjoy a great social event, dancing to our experienced Year 11 band, the Unarmed and Year 11 student DJ.

Special Offer to Old Owenians from this year's enterprising Year 12 Arrow Team!

“Dear Old Owenians,

The new Arrow Magazine Editing Team would love to give you the opportunity to purchase our upcoming publication, due to go to print in March 2012. No matter where you live, we feel you shouldn't be deprived of enjoying our magazine hot off the press; getting up to date with the recent happenings within the school; and reminiscing about the good old days!

To give you a flavour, you can read The Arrow 2011, which is now available online at:
http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/the_arrow.html *(issues posted online 9 months after initial publication).*

For just £5, we will package and post your own individual copy of The Arrow 2012, and if you pre-order, you are guaranteed to receive it within a week of going to sale. If you would like to purchase a copy of The Arrow, to be sent anywhere within the UK, you may do so at any time up until July 2012. However, we would advise you to pre-order as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, as we expect to sell out long before the end of the school year.

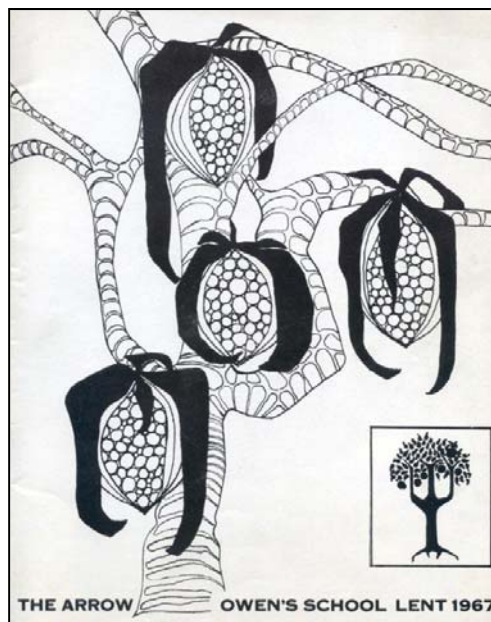
To allow us to include your guaranteed order in our print run, please order by Monday 27th February, 2012 by sending us your details—please state how many copies you require, your full name and delivery address. Cheques can be made payable to Dame Alice Owen's School, and can be mailed to:

*The Arrow Editing Team
Dame Alice Owen's School
Dugdale Hill Lane
Potters Bar
EN6 2DU*

We look forward to sending out your copies of The Arrow!

*Kind regards,
The Arrow Editing Team
arrow_magazine@hotmail.co.uk*

Tara Gibbins-Klein, Alice Robinson, Sophie Richardson, Helen Rampton and Charlie Hambling



Archive copy of The Arrow front cover in 1967 with pomegranates from the Wilkes coat of arms

Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion - Monday 24th October 2011

Many thanks to Mr Stan Gould and Mr Michael Harold for giving their account below of the Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion event for all Old Owenians, held in October. As organizers of this splendid event, we owe them much for giving up their time to arrange such a significant occasion in the center of London. The speech given by Old Owenian, Mrs Brenda Ainsley, who left in 1952, is also available for you to read following the Luncheon report and you can see more photographs on the Old Owenians page of our school website, taken by our governor, Mr Tim Rayner: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owenians_school_news.html

The date is set for the Half Term holiday to allow those in the teaching profession to attend the event, although unfortunately not being able to accommodate those that might be on holiday. However, with forward planning, we hope that you can put **Monday 29th October 2012** in your diaries now, so set a firm date for your attendance next year! How about some of you who left in 2002 getting together a few tables to celebrate your 10th anniversary of leaving school (we have fifteen Old Owenians on our emailing list who left in 2002, including your Head Boy and Girl!), or those who left in 1992, their 20th or 1982, their 30th—you get the gist!

"This luncheon provides a splendid opportunity for Old Owenians to get together with former class-mates, at what few would deny is a very convivial gathering. This year the event attracted 101 bookings and was held as usual at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square. The luncheon is now publicized on both the School and the Old Owen's Association web sites, which no doubt accounts for the attendance this year of a significant number of first timers. However, we believe that many are still unaware of this event and are missing out on a very enjoyable occasion, so we ask all of you who attended to spread the word around.

Aldon Williamson (Head, 1994-2005) chaired the proceedings, and in her address recounted the remarkable changes she has witnessed in her own lifetime. Many of these have made our lives better, particularly so for women whose former domestic drudgery has been so much reduced by modern appliances. Women have also been able to share more equally in the wider opportunities for higher education. However, Aldon does not feel the need, as many seem to these days, to share very personal thoughts with all and sundry over the internet!

We are very grateful to the Head, Alan Davison, for his continuing support of this event, and for bringing with him, as has become a very pleasant tradition, the Head Boy and Head Girl - this year Jim Tilby-Jones and Nikki Zhao. Both Jim and Nikki spoke to us enthusiastically about the wide experience and opportunities which their attendance at Dame Alice Owen's School has provided for them.

Alan outlined the ambitious plans being made to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Schools foundation. These include a memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral, a concert at the Royal Albert Hall, matches against an Arsenal and MCC teams and a summer ball. Alan also drew attention to a collection of School memorabilia which is being assembled for a Historical display, and said that the loan of any good quality photographs would be particularly appreciated. We were also told of the continuing excellent academic achievements at the School, which included the best ever A results and the winning of no fewer than 20 Oxbridge places.*



We are also grateful to former and present staff for their support. These included David Bolton (Head 1982-94), John Sparrow (1956-84), Graham Dove (1988-2004) and Richard Morley (current staff). School Governors present included Peter Martin, and Tim Rayner (the photographs he took at the luncheon can be seen here and on School's web site as above). We also thank Tom Morkill for representing The Worshipful Company of Brewers.

*This year marks the **125th Anniversary of the opening of the Girl's School in Islington**, so it was appropriate for Brenda Ainsley (nee Savoff, 1945-52) to describe what life was like at the school in the immediate post World War II years. Those who have attended the School since it became co-educational may find it amusing to learn that the girls at that time were forbidden to talk to their immediate neighbors in the Boy's School. A full account of her talk appears in this newsletter on pages 7 and 8.*

The toast to the Pious Memory of Dame Alice Owen was given by Reverend Gareth Randall, who took the opportunity to remind us of the meaning of the word piety when recounting the kind deeds of a very fine lady to whom so many Old Owenians owe so much.

Once again, Alan Locke took on the sad but inevitable task of reading out the names of those who have recently passed away. We thank him for his diligence in researching interesting facts about their lives and recounting them to us, not without some humour thrown in. Thanks are also due to Barry Hyman (1952-59) for the masterful manner in which fulfilled his role as MC.

To round off the proceedings, the Islington girls joined forces to sing two verses of the Girls' School song. This was followed by the singing of the current School song, which was also restricted this year to two verses. Given the customary volume and gusto with which it is sung, this may have been interpreted as an act of kindness by the Imperial Hotel waiting staff.



You may keep in touch with School events by logging on to: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk>. You may keep in touch with the Old Owen's Association by logging on to: <http://www.oldowens.com>. If you do not have access to the Internet, please nominate a nearby relative or friend to receive information from us. That way the luncheon organizers will do their best to keep you in touch with news and events.

Finally we would like to thank all those who attended this year's Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion for their support, and to stress that this luncheon is open to all Old Owenians and School staff."

Michael Harold or Stan Gould would be pleased to hear from you via their emails: michael.harold@btinternet.com or stanleysgould@gmail.com.

125th anniversary of the Old Girl's School and speeches by Mrs Brenda Ainsley (1945-1952)



The Old Girls' School 125th anniversary was commemorated by the Times, Potters Bar Edition in November, giving an account of the Harold Moore Luncheon and encouraging local Old Owenians to sign up for news our 400th anniversary celebrations in 2013.

Here, Brenda gives her account of life at school immediately after the war years and follows with a speech she made as an eighteen year old. Note the word "Owenienne" for lady Old Owenians...!

"The second world war that had raged across the globe came to an end in August 1945 and I entered a very bomb damaged Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School in Goswell Road that September, leaving as Captain of Wilson House (orange) and Vice Head Girl, in July 1952. These proved to be momentous years.

Hitler's bombs had removed our hall, library, and many classrooms, so assembly was in the gym, classrooms a trek past the coffin makers at the back of Sadler's Wells to Mt Zion, where climbed the stairs, moved the bibles along the trestle tables and settled to work. We were elevated to a room above a pub in St John's St in the next year. School dinners, as it was known, was a march down to the secondary school in Morland Rd, the kitchens had gone too.

We soldiered on through the intense cold and cutbacks of 1947, the smog, hats and gloves on compulsorily and NO SPEAKING TO THE BOYS - a hundred lines for any transgressor caught. We got round this on the buses to school and lifelong friendships were made.

*All this changed in 1950, when the boys' school produced *Midsummer Night's Dream*. It took three mistresses to guard our virtue as we auditioned, and then the flood gates opened. Miss Bedford arranged mixed dancing classes on Tuesday evenings (so much better than dancing with each other, ballroom style in wet lunches); we arranged sixpenny coffee meetings after, a rowing supporters' club (of which I was the mascot) and joint jaunts to opera and ballet round the corner.*

The Festival of Britain was heaven sent! I had a semaphore system from the roof of our school, where I climbed daily to man the weather station. We never looked back and there were no more punishment lines. Today's pupils would find all this laughable, the lengths we had to go to, to merge the schools socially. We even got a school dance!

In this time, Miss Packer died and the whole school trouped to her memorial service in 1950. Miss Packer entered the school in 1907, left in 1949 and really taught us scripture. In '51 we walked to St Pauls for a seniors' service. We always had a birthday service at Michaelmas, 29th Sept, wearing that flower and being given our shiney new beer money. In spite of lack of space, crowding, poor equipment, we had a marvellous education, for our staff were very rigorous and thorough. I am amazed how avant garde we were; theatre visits, field trips, art galleries, concerts, debates, politics and interest clubs were all part of our diet.

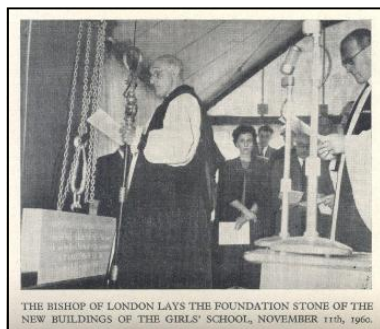
King George VI died on 6 February 1952, announced to a shocked and silent school at lunch in the new hut, thus the young Queen Elizabeth II started her reign, opening for us a new Elizabethan age. We lived through rationing, shortage, The New Look, emerging feminism, the birth of the National Health Service in 1948, smog, and were the products of the 1944 Education Act. You could travel again...

No wonder Oweniennes have done so much in their communities and with their lives. Loyalty and Service were the keywords, In God Is all Our Trust our motto- and there were TWO school songs! Dame Alice Owens is rooted in a proud past, a very successful present and looks set for a bright future. We can no longer sing 'Our School is set at Islington' but we can have a go at 'Lift Your Hearts'. Before we do, I should like to share this Visitation speech I had to write and make, as an enthusiastic eighteen year old in 1952 when the school was only sixty six years old...

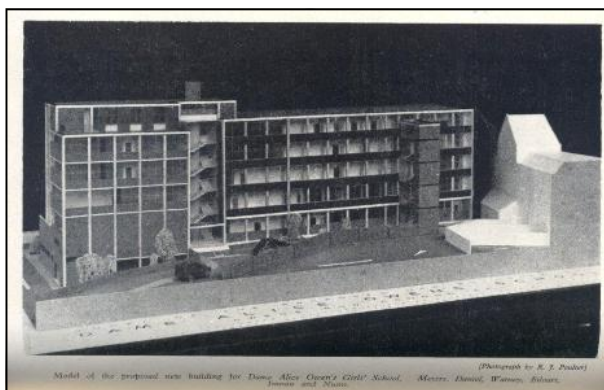
If this were 50 years ago, Mr Chairman, Visitation would be taking place in our own school hall. You would see us dressed in white, wearing gold coloured sashes and we each would have a buttonhole. Today, owing much to the kindness of the headmaster, our ceremony can still take place in an Owen's school. Not only have we a foundress and history of which we can be justly proud we now have the new Annexe and Library, our greatest pride and joy. For the first time since the original library was destroyed we can begin to replace the old treasured books which were lost. The library is invaluable to the Seniors as it provides a place to which we can retreat for silent study and research. We have too our new garden and rockery which add both dignity and beauty to our school. It is the governors we have to thank for these latest additions to the school.

Although I suppose none of us will ever be content until the new school is built, we have the huts, dining room, and kitchen which came into use three years ago. Those of us who remember trials of having to go out to other schools for our dinner fully appreciate the services of cook and her staff. We also have to sincerely thank Mr and Mrs Stanfield and their staff for keeping the building clean and tidy.

Because so much building has been done a certain amount of playground space has been taken. However, we still manage to play netball at school, even if miss we do have to keep the main doors shut while a game is in progress. It has always been our tradition to go to Oakleigh Park field for the majority of our sports. Here we play hockey during the winter terms, rounders and tennis during the summer. Although we do not always manage to beat visiting schools, at least the school teams display grim determination to do their best. To such is our enthusiasm one game of hockey was played in fog with visibility down to three yards. In spite of the bombing and present day shortages, we are satisfied that we have everything that is essential, but naturally we look forward to the time when we shall have a building worthy of the school."



Thank you once again, Brenda for your contribution! Eight years after Brenda left, building started on the new Girl's School (see left the Bishop of London laying the Foundation Stone in 1960). The Lent edition of The Arrow in 1960 pictured the model of the proposed building (also below) and you can see a photograph taken this year of the same building (right below), now the Centre of Applied Science, City and Islington College. Please read Dr Tom Jupp's contribution on page 27 - an Old Owenian who, amazingly, was Principal of the City and Islington College for eight years until 2001.



Science Society Lectures and student feedback

As you know, our Chemistry teacher, Mrs Kika Dorotheou arranges several evening Science lectures and some lunchtime sessions for students and the school community throughout the year, which provide extremely valuable extra support for learning. Five of our students have kindly reviewed some of the lectures already held this term below, which appeared in our Half Term Newsletter in October. We thought we'd like to share them with you again and a couple of new ones, in case you are inspired to join us on one of our future Science Society Lectures.

Reading Medicine at Imperial—by Jonathan Wise (Year 12)

Attending the lecture by Professor Laycock from Imperial College London was extremely interesting. It is unusual for a speaker to try to convince people not to do a subject, but this is exactly what Professor Laycock did; medicine is such a huge commitment of time, and so incredibly difficult, he said, one must be absolutely sure before choosing it, and he emphasized the importance of being open to other career paths.

However, it was not all doom and gloom; after his opening, Professor Laycock went on to give interesting and highly relevant information on the applications process, such as the importance of extra-curricular activities, and also about applying to Imperial specifically, something which I particularly enjoyed given that Imperial is a university I am especially interested in!

Overall, a great talk that I'm glad I attended. I would encourage any aspiring medics to grab all the opportunities they can get to attend this type of talk."

Review of the lecture: " Wonders of the immune system" by Luke Rogers (Year 12)

On Wednesday, 27th September, I attended the lecture on Immunology by Dr. Longhurst. It was a most interesting experience and I was very pleased to learn of information I had no previous knowledge of as well as being reminded of things I already knew.

Dr. Longhurst began by telling us what every student learns at GCSE, that pathogens are harmful foreign organisms that invade our bodies but already she began informing us of facts I had no inkling of before. For instance, parasitic worms are possibly the most serious health problem in the entire world - far eclipsing cancer in terms of the lives they have taken. Of course we are blissfully unaware of these deadly and horrific animals in our nice, clean, comfortable western homes.

After giving the details of a few unpleasant diseases, Dr. Longhurst began to tell us about the defence mechanisms our body has to combat pathogens. She reminded me of the existence of Neutrophils, the different roles of Lymphocytes in killing pathogens, co-ordinating the immune system and creating antibodies, the way antibodies bind to pathogens to hinder and help destroy them and the different types of antibodies and what they target.

She then came to what I found the most interesting section of the lecture, what happens when the immune system goes wrong - this includes the immune system failing to produce antibodies to combat an illness leaving you unprotected and with perpetual lung problems due to the bile that your body produces to try (unsuccessfully) to deal with the problem.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are allergies which are caused by certain antibodies producing histamine in response to harmless foreign bodies e.g. pollen. The histamine can cause quite a problem as it causes diarrhoea and runny noses which are great for removing parasites but not so good when nothing is wrong. Dr. Longhurst also told us how we deal with immune system failures including instructing us how to administer adrenaline shots to people having allergic reactions which could let us save someone's life one day.

She also gave instructions on how to gain a career in immunology and what paths there are in immunology which was very helpful for anyone aiming to be a researcher in this subject. I enjoyed the lecture very much, found it most informative and interesting and did not find it inaccessible showing what a good communicator Dr. Longhurst was."

Lecture Review: "Structural Engineering – How maths and physics are used to design buildings" by Rebecca Simpson and Stanley Mitchell (Year 12)

"Tuesday's Lecture by Dr Stephen Hendry on "Structural Engineering-How to use physics and maths to design a building" was a phenomenal success, being attended by 40 students, although the 12:1 ratio of boys to girls was somewhat worrying.

With an intriguing opening Dr Hendry took us to his roots, by discussing what makes an engineer and what engineering draws on, as it turns out quite a lot. Maths, physics and chemistry were a given and even biology was to be expected, but art was a little out of place among the laws, materials and equations, raising quite a few eyebrows. Luckily the good doctor consolidated this with many fascinating examples of aesthetics in use in modern structural engineering from the Australian icon Opera House to our very own Gherkin. This we were able to view with software analysis software that had branched off from the company Arup, at which he works, showing its structural integrity.

Continuing with English constructions he discussed the infamously known "Wobbly Bridge," explaining how the wind created slight swaying that was worsened by the stumbling of those walking on the bridge to produce sufficient motion to cause walkers to become ill at ease. This was quickly solved by the addition of dampers by (who would have guessed it?) engineers, showing that even when they get it wrong, a solution is quick at hand.

From buildings to boxes, he closed his speech discussing one of his past projects involving testing the structural integrity of thick steel boxes carrying dangerous material around the country, in a project funded by the government. This even involved driving a train at 100mph into it, and surprisingly the train came off the worse out of the two parties leaving the box with only a couple of scratches and dents, unfortunately the video of this was unavailable at the time. Overall the lecture was a great success organised by the Science Society teaching those who attended the origins of engineering, what it involves and the benefits of structural analysis software, for which many surviving trains are grateful."

Also, Ellie Disney (Year 12) wrote.....

"On Tuesday 4th October the physicist Dr Stephen Hendry gave an insightful talk on structural engineering and the maths and physics behind creating the buildings around us. I found it useful to see how the maths and science we may study at GCSE and A-level can be involved in the vast number of calculations and equations used to ensure a structure is safe before construction. On a personal level, I was pleased that Dr Hendry felt it was important that engineers should not only think about the stability of a structure but also its appearance."

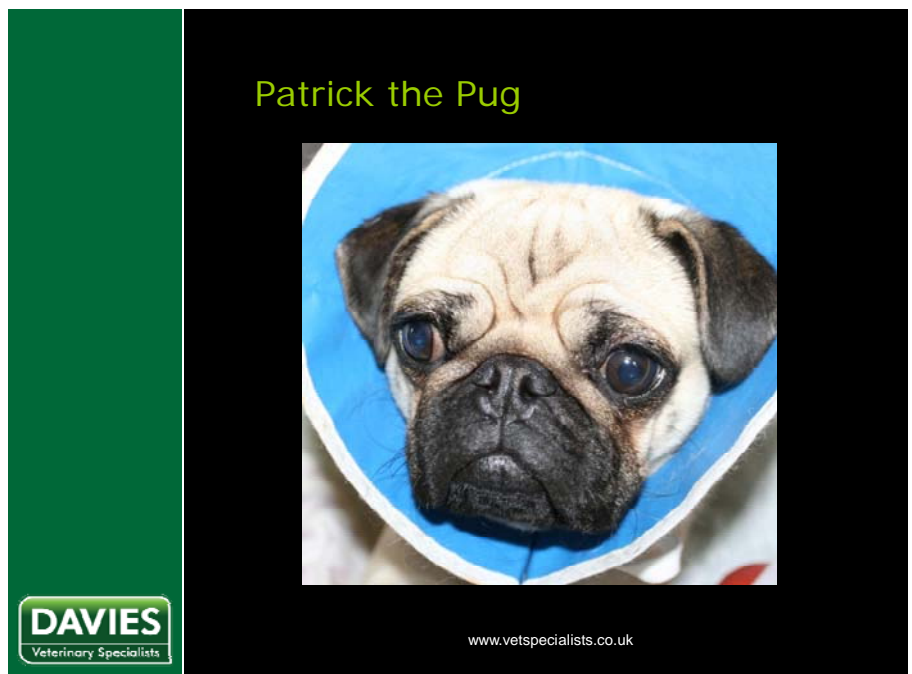
Lecture Review: “Using Symptoms to Make a Diagnosis” by Dr Elmwood and reviewed by Julia Brand (Year 10)

“In the lecture we learnt about how you make a diagnosis depending on the symptoms displayed by the animal, and also on the level on diagnosis required for the situation. For example out in the wild looking at a dog and deciding that it is rabid is good enough; where as in a clinic tests are necessary to diagnose specific problems and their causes so that the illness can be treated.

We learnt about specific cases and what had to be done to diagnose the problem, and the example we were given was a pug who had been suffering from abdominal pains. The general procedure that was described was the following: There were a few questions that are always asked such as; ‘how long has the animal been feeling like this?’ and ‘Has anything happened recently that could have resulted in this?’ In the given example the owners said that over the past few days their dog had been feeling unwell and that he had been to a barbeque recently before he started to feel ill. Then from the symptoms you can decipher which different illnesses the animal could have.

Unfortunately for newly qualified vets the next part can rely a lot on experience because depending on the likely hood of the animals having certain illnesses the vet then has to decide which illnesses to test for.

However some examinations can highlight or eliminate multiple problems, and can show problems that the vet was previously unaware of. Other factors can also affect the diagnosis, as older animals are more likely to have a whole range of problems and so it becomes harder to know what is wrong with the animal and what is just old age. The pug had a scan that showed a kebab stick in his abdomen.



Then depending on the diagnosis the vet has to make a decision on how to treat the animal in order for it get better. Also the diagnosis could be made by multiple specialists if the problems cannot be identified, and in some serious cases surgery is required for the animal. Surgery was required for the dog to have the kebab stick removed.

We were also shown in detail different types of diagnosis and a flowchart of how to proceed in different situations, which was very useful because the logical thinking skills are transferrable into many scenarios, not just in school or work, but in life generally.

The lecture was very relevant for those looking to become a vet and I found the information very useful and interesting. I also believe that having a professional talk to students about a their possible career allows the students to make the right decision about their future and gives students an advantage over others who are would like a career in the same profession.”

Lecture Review: “The most dangerous molecule in the world” by Dr D. Lewis from University College London by Hannah Last (Year 13)

“The most dangerous molecule in the world” was a really interesting lecture that as well as helping the students learn about carbon dioxide, it engaged people because there was a firm practical element to it.

The lecturer was very engaging due to the fact as soon as the lecture began he quizzed the audience on the knowledge they already had about our atmosphere and what it was made up of.



He then moved on to explaining that carbon dioxide often remains as a gas but can turn into a solid, he then proceeded to pour solid carbon dioxide into bowls around the class room and allowed us to explore the solid and see what information we could gather from it, this was a really good way to help people explore their scientific skills and engaged people into taking part.

The lecturer showed us how carbon dioxide is more dense than air by blowing bubbles into the bowl and watching them float just above the carbon dioxide.

Towards the end of the lecture he began talking about the environmental implications of how much carbon dioxide we are producing as a planet and explained that the best place to store it would be in the ocean, but then it would react with the water and form an acid which would kill the oceans’ sea-life.

Overall the lecture was really exciting and engaging and I learnt a lot about ‘the most dangerous molecule’ through practical experiments and the lecturer’s explanations.”

Forthcoming Science Society Lectures for your diary—Spring 2012

All Old Owenians, along with students and parents are welcome to attend—simply pre-register by emailing Mrs Kika Dorotheou at:

dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk, giving your name and number of people attending and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday 18th January—7-8pm, Main Hall

Guest Speaker: Prof. F Muntoni – Professor of Paediatric Neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Head of Neuromuscular Centre at UCL

Tuesday 7th February - 7-8pm, Main Hall

Guest speaker: Professor Michael Heinrich from the School of Pharmacy who is going to talk about the: “The interface between Herbal Medicine and Drug Development”. Professor Heinrich will also provide valuable advice and tips for admission to the School of Pharmacy.



The Scientific Society in 1956!

After researching some of the archives in the Old Library your editor discovered that Dame Alice Owen's students have been having Science Lectures for many years! The Arrow magazine, Trinity Term, 1956, reported on a talk by an Old Owenian and the Senior's visit to the Shell Training College at Teddington. The Junior Section had some problems getting mutually convenient dates for a visit to a British Railways depot, but the Michaelmas edition reported they had eventually been successful. The Seniors were treated to a trip to the E.M.I. factory at Hayes, seeing how records (RIP!) were made. Read about what inspired the Scientists of yesterday in these two Scientific Society reports of 55 years ago!

The Arrow—Trinity Term, 1956

The Scientific Society

EARLY this term, we were very pleased to welcome Dr. Frank Humphreys, O.O., who gave a talk on leather. Dr. Humphreys has been concerned with leather for over twenty years, both in the research and industrial fields, and so was able to present both sides of his subject with equal authority. Having described the properties and very widespread uses of leather (it is used in nearly every sport and most industries), Dr. Humphreys explained, with the aid of magnified sections of hide, the cause of these properties, and then outlined the oldest method of treating skins—that of vegetable tanning. This was originally done entirely by hand, and took several years, but now, with the use of machines and modern tanning liquids, the process is complete in a few weeks. As for the many other methods now available, as our lecturer said, it would have taken him several days to describe all of these. Dr. Humphreys ended his talk with a very appropriate film in which we saw the processes already described, and some of the ways in which leather is turned into useful articles.

During half-term, a large party, mainly from the Sixth Form, boarded a coach at the Angel, and was transported to the Shell Training College at Teddington. After being introduced to Oil in general and Shell in particular, we learned from films how oil is refined and the immense labour involved in the drilling of an oil well. This involves the erection of a derrick 100 feet high, capable of supporting a load of 500 tons, and may cost as much as £250,000, only to yield a few drops of water if the geologists have not guessed aright. Drilling for oil has not yet been reduced to an exact science! We were then shown round the Com-

pany's permanent exhibition, which includes a working model of an oil refinery, and specimens of the actual equipment used.

Finally, our coach took us a few hundred yards down the road to the Shell Sports Club pavilion, where a magnificent tea awaited us. It was a fitting end to an interesting tour, and our thanks are due to Shell for looking after us so well.

Later in the term, two films were shown. The first, "The Machining of Metals," explained the difficulties of shaping metals, and how these difficulties are overcome by the use of modern materials and lubricants. The second, "Project 074," showed how radioactive piston rings are used in measuring engine wear. The films were well presented in a way which made their rather specialised subjects appeal to everybody present.

THE JUNIOR SECTION

The outings which we had hoped to arrange last term unfortunately could not take place, as a date convenient both to us and British Railways could not be found. By the time that this article appears in print, however, a large party will have seen something of the way in which the railways are run.

Early in the term, P. J. Grievson gave an interesting talk on telepathy, when he demonstrated how easy it is to deceive people, and how scientific experiments are carried out so as to eliminate any risk of fraud. The talk was intended as a prelude to an investigation of telepathy in the school, about which more will be found elsewhere.

B. A. HANDS.

The Scientific Society

THE Scientific Society continues to function with undiminished support. At the first meeting this term, two films were shown. The first, entitled "Grease," showed how greases are made by adding a soap solution to oil, and how, by varying the ingredients, they can be made with different properties. The second film showed the various processes available for splitting liquids into minute drops—the process of "Atomisation." It included some very instructive slow motion sequences.

During half term, a small party visited the E.M.I. factory at Hayes. We were taken first on to the record floor, in which a million records a week are produced (E.M.I. make all the B.B.C. and most of the commercial discs), following the process from the stamping out of the record, through the inspection and edge polishing processes, to the final packaging in boxes ready for dispatch. This was followed by a visit to the cabinet making shops, where we noted especially, the excellent arrangements to keep the factory free from sawdust.

In another part of the building, we saw the radio and television assembly rooms, and the coil-winding floor. Each of these consisted of long benches extending for the whole length of the room. The factory workers (almost entirely women), ranged down both sides of these benches, were working at an incredible speed on some very intricate operations, some dealing with wire so fine that it could scarcely be seen with the naked eye. Each worker does one particular operation only, and in this way workers with no technical knowledge can be used and production increased. The products are continually checked and tested during manufacture and a final test is given immediately before dispatch.

We ended the tour with an excellent tea, having seen only a small corner of the 200 acres of the factory, much of which is bound with security regulations, for E.M.I. buy only raw materials; they make everything that

they use and sell, from buns and boxes to tape recorders and guided missiles.

B. A. HANDS.

JUNIOR SECTION

The first meeting this term was in the middle of October, when three short films were shown. The enthusiasm evident from the number attending was encouraging, but the films themselves, though good, were marred by poor sound tracks.

There was much support for a trip arranged to view the Camden Town motive power depot of British Railways. The visit took place on the Friday afternoon of half-term, the party of twenty-five, including Mr. Rose, assembling in the Entrance Hall. The party made its way by tube to Chalk Farm, from where a short walk brought it to the appointed place far too early. Eventually a guide was found and the tour began.

As the party discovered, by tramping along rows of engines which one never imagines to be so large until they are within arm's reach, the motive power depot is a brief rest house for locomotives on this section of the Midland Region. After hauling a train into Euston they arrive at Camden Town, where they are turned, re-coaled, watered and given a routine check. Then the fires are allowed to burn low, leaving enough steam for the engines just to move themselves, and thus they lie dozing for a few hours until duty calls again. The highlight of the tour was the inspection, five by five, of the footplate of a giant "Britannica" class un-named locomotive. For train-spotters this was the supreme sensation, and for the rest a welcome relief from the cold outside. The whistle came in for much use until the foreman said that the neighbours would complain! Another experience for the boys was a ride on the turntable with another locomotive. In short, it was a trip whose success will be often repeated if the Junior Section continues to flourish.

P. J. GRIEVSON.

Demonstrating our commitment to Science today, Physics students go further afield!

The European Organisation for Nuclear Research, based in Switzerland, was descended upon by Year 13 Physics students on this annual trip in October. Mr Adam Holden, Physics teacher, explains why we initiate this trip:

"At A2 level we study particle physics, which is a quite abstract top, so we feel that it would be good for them to get a tangible experience of how the ideas we discuss are developed. CERN is the best place for our students to get this experience!"

CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, is one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. Its business is fundamental physics, finding out what the Universe is made of and how it works. At CERN, the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments are used to study the basic constituents of matter — the fundamental particles. By studying what happens when these particles collide, physicists learn about the laws of Nature." <http://public.web.cern.ch/public/en/About/About-en.html>



Alice Detector Mural



The Globe



An old LHCb detector



LHCb detector



Particle accelerator



CERNs CPU farm



Remembering Old Owenians...



Our War Memorial in the school grounds by the lake, lists all those Old Owenians who sacrificed their lives for us in the First World War and our Book of Remembrance records 90 former students who died during the Second World War. A wreath of red flowers is laid during our annual memorial service (this year held on Monday 14th November) in commemoration.

We were so pleased to discover that our beautiful wreath was provided by Old Owenian, Ms Vikki Player, who personally delivered the wreath on behalf of Majestic Flowers in Potters

Bar, visiting the school for the first time in over 20 years.



And recognising Old Owenians in the Forces today...



In November, The Welwyn & Hatfield Times, Potters Bar Edition, reported that our former student Lt Grahame Flint, now 28, recently returned home to Potters Bar after seven months on board HMS Liverpool, where he was supporting Nato's mission in Libya.

The Royal Navy officer was a fighter controller on the warship directing aircraft from numerous different countries as they patrolled the enforced no-fly

zone, protecting Libyan civilians from pro-Gaddafi forces. Lt Flint joined the Royal Navy in 2005 and attended the prestigious Britannia Royal Navy college in Dartmouth, Devon where he was awarded the Queen's Award for being top of his class. He served on HMS Chatham in the Persian Gulf in 2008, on a mission to protect infrastructure off the Iraqi coastline.



From the Inside...interviews with current long standing members of staff

Before handing over to you for more of your fascinating memories and life stories, one of our Year 7 parents, Mrs Ruth Baker, has kindly volunteered, in her role as a writer, to interview some of the longest standing members of our current staff community for the next few editions of the Old Owenians Newsletter.

We start with Mr Peter Hutchinson, who, very fortunately for us, has now been with Owen's for just over 35 years. We think a significant number of you will undoubtedly remember a teacher who over and above everything else has the best interests of all students at heart. Much thanks must go to Ruth for helping us glean a personal insight of Peter's life at Owen's and his other interests.



PETER HUTCHINSON-JOINED 1976

"Peter Hutchinson, assistant head, is one of the longest serving members of the school. He joined Owen's in 1979 'right on the tail end of the transition from Islington to Potters Bar.' After all these years Peter might be entitled to feel a little jaded but he is still enthusiastic about his work at the school. "There are wonderful things to see every working week - musicals, plays, concerts, art exhibitions and sports fixtures.

"I regard myself as entirely privileged because of the students. It gives me incredible job satisfaction to see them go through seven years of education and emerge well rounded and prepared." Peter studied history and politics at Hull University in the 1970's. He joined the school straight after finishing teacher training at King's College London (although he has since gained an MA from the Institute of Education). He had fully intended to remain in inner London where he did his teaching practice but when he came out to Potters Bar he loved it so much that he stayed.

Peter, who teaches history and politics, is also very committed to pastoral care. He wanted to work with and help the students both outside the classroom as well as in. It was his interest in pastoral care that led him to become head of year and, later, head of the upper school.

Many of the events in his life have been closely linked with the school. In the early years, he shared a flat with Mr Roberts, the economics teacher, in Potters Bar. *"It was a dreadful place over a shop in Darkes Lane,"* he recalls. The PE teacher, Miss Fiona Campbell, became his wife; his best man was a colleague; and his three children, when they reached secondary school age, came to Owen's for their education. However, he does have interests that lie beyond the school walls. As a young man he gained his pilot's licence and he has an interest in classic cars.

Peter has seen many changes over the years. The students initially came from the Potters Bar area with only one class as the *'out of county form'* for children from Islington and Barnet. Now the school is a mix of children from North London, Islington, Potters Bar and other parts of Hertfordshire.

Over the years the school has always been growing. In the early days *'the science block was the school. It doubled as a dining room and assembly hall with a small staff room in the middle of the block. That was the whole school.'*

"I can't remember a year here when there hasn't been a building site. It's part of the school's success that it is always growing and doesn't stay still." He saw the Edinburgh building go up in 1960 (right); he saw the squash courts built and then converted into the music centre. He remembers the sound of pneumatic drills and cranes lifting huge concrete blocks over their heads during lessons in portacabins. *"The tractors came past piled high with dirt. The whole building was rocking,"* he says. Somehow lessons continued through it all.



Technology has changed dramatically over the years too, from the first years when teachers were *'considered trendy when they used coloured chalk,'* through spirit duplicators and the cutting edge technology of overhead projectors to the current era of computers and the Virtual Learning Environment.

A positive change Peter has seen in education is that the students are more involved in decision making than they used to be. He describes it now as a *'shared relationship.'*

Peter has had many trips away with the students. The school used to own a Sussex stately home, a gift for the 350th anniversary. *"Some of the happiest times of my school career were at Harrock House,"* he recalls. *"We got to know the students really well."* They took year 7 and year 8 pupils to Bodian Castle and on other outings.

Perhaps the most memorable trip was taking a group of students to China for the millennium. They visited the Forbidden City and saw the Terracotta Army. The students always gave a good account of themselves in public situations and people would come up to him in the street to praise their behaviour. *"For a history teacher the trip was great experience. China is such an exciting place. It sounds strange but we sang the school song on the Great Wall."*

Peter's worst experience at the school was driving the school bus. He was given the role because he already had a coach driving licence; Pete's father ran a coach company. *"The bus was shaped like a brick or a square box on wheels. We called it the shoe box. It was the ugliest thing on the road. It was quite humiliating to have to drive it."*

Another bugbear in an otherwise happy career has been the encroachment of bureaucracy. He has seen many Secretaries of State come and go over the years, far more than the four heads running the school during the same period. He said that at one point there were almost two a year, all with their own particular penchant.

Peter does not like the way that, as exam grades improve, people frequently complain that it is because the examinations have got easier. *"It takes away from the students' achievements and all their hard work. This country doesn't like children enough. We don't give enough credit to youth. There's a huge amount of fantastic stuff going on out there."*

Peter has a strong belief in Owen's students and his answer to critics is simple: *"Let them come here for a week and see what young people are really like."*

And now for your contributions......some have a WOW factor, some are humbling, some are funny, some talk of companies that no longer exist but were hugely influential in their day, but whatever the stories, you cannot fail to be touched by our Old Owenians accounts.....



ORLANDO GIBBONS—LEFT 2010 (HEAD BOY)

Many thanks to Mr Orlando Gibbons, who has taken the time to submit this incredibly inspiring account of his gap year, working for the Diapalante Project, Kaolack in Senegal, in between his first term's studies at Cambridge (reading Engineering). He attended our Prospective Parents Evening this September (still supporting the school!) to play in the Orchestra, and after sharing some of his news, kindly agreed to put pen to paper about his experiences.

"My name's Orlando Gibbons and I was lucky enough to be a student at Owens from 2003 - 2010 and become head boy when I was in sixth form. When the time came for me to start the daunting process of applying to universities in 2009, I decided that I didn't want to go straight into university from school but instead wanted to do something a bit different but just as challenging. My older brother who's two years older than me had just got back from his gap year in Namibia, where he taught for the year, and after having visited him whilst he was there and having talked to him about his time there, I was inspired to do something similar. So in 2009, I applied to the same charity as him, called Project Trust who send school leavers to projects all over the world, to teach in Senegal for a year. I originally chose Senegal as I wanted to perfect the French I had learnt in school up until AS level, and it's a country renowned for its music and love of football.



In 2010 I was selected to teach in Senegal for a year for another charity called 'Diapalante' with one other British volunteer. In order to go to Senegal, I had to raise £5000, which I did by cycling to Paris (350miles), organising a rock concert and various other fundraising events, which I did during my last two terms at school. I managed the £5000 target and left England for Senegal, very excited and not knowing quite what I was doing or what to expect, in September 2010.

The aim of the project was to provide a 'technology access centre' for the community in the town of Kaolack, the fourth largest town in Senegal, home to Africa's second largest covered market and Senegal's main producer of salt and peanuts. As it was the project's first year, we set up the centre and ran it ourselves, as well as teaching English and IT there. In the Diapalante project's first year, it became better and better known throughout the community and around Kaolack. We had a constant stream of people coming to sign up as members to the centre since we started and as a result, the centre was always and had a lively and enthusiastic atmosphere. The centre was certainly well used and well-spoken of in the community, which was extremely rewarding for us.

The members of the Diapalante centre have a very wide range of abilities - we taught people who had never been to school, young students, secondary school students, older people who work and have been to school, people who have never learnt English before, house wives, people who have only ever learnt at Arabic schools, so can't read or write and the list goes on. It was a challenge teaching people with such different abilities but also an absolute pleasure. All of our members dramatically improved their English during the time I was there, particularly their pronunciation, which is the hardest thing about the English language in our students' opinions. Also, all the students gained a lot of confidence when speaking English, because we encouraged them to practise their oral skills by getting them to do oral exercises in class and getting them to speak in English in front of the class.

We also taught our students IT in French and Wolof, the Senegalese language (quite a challenge!) so they can now all use computers. Some of them got to the standard when they were asking me questions I didn't have the answers to being far from a computer genius myself, but luckily the other British volunteer was. By the time we left, they could use Microsoft Word and the internet fluently as well as understanding how to carry out the basic tasks on a computer (copy, paste, create a new folder etc.) and they had a basic knowledge of excel. The first year of the project was a complete success, and I'm sure it will keep improving.

Throughout the year we didn't travel around very much because we were always needed at the centre, but in July 2011 we went travelling for almost a month around Senegal, as it was the end of their academic. It was incredible seeing the whole country, as culturally the south is very different to the north (many more Christians, but still Muslim majority), and the south is tropical whereas the north has an arid, sub-Saharan landscape.

The best parts about Senegal for me were living with a Senegalese family, who now consider me a member of their big family, meeting and spending my time with such positive, friendly, welcoming, fun and open people, as the Senegalese are, and learning their national language, Wolof (I didn't realise no-one spoke pure French to each other before I went - I'd never even heard of Wolof before I landed in Senegal!). Using the French and Wolof I learnt whilst I was there, I could be treated like a Senegalese person, talk with my friends, put smiles on the older people faces when they saw a white person speaking their language, and most importantly, not get ripped off in the markets and being treated like I didn't know anything because I was white and foreign! I also learnt a lot about Islam, as the family I was living with were strict Muslim and Senegal is a largely Muslim country (around 90%), which was a brilliant experience and very interesting.

It's was one of the best years, if not the best year, of my life working and living in Senegal. I will never forget it and how hospitable the family and the community I was living in were to me. I thoroughly recommend taking a gap year to anyone - it was one of the best decisions I've ever made!"



CHRIS ROBINSON – LEFT 1972 (HEAD BOY FOR ONE TERM IN 1971!)

At Christmas time, people's thoughts often turn to those less fortunate than themselves and we would like to tell you about one of our Islington Old Owenians, whose work is dedicated to improving the life chances and aspirations of disadvantaged children, young people and their families in London. Mr Chris Robinson, in his role as CEO of the Mayors Fund for London, supports 9 projects which aim to make a difference to those affected by poverty.

He tells us, *"I first got involved in volunteering when I was at Owens, actually. In our fifth year (Year 11) a number of us got involved in a local project called 'Task Force' which involved visiting elderly people around the Angel who allegedly were lonely. I am not at all sure what the old people thought of this! However, it showed we were being encouraged to get involved with our local community. I was also encouraged by my mum - who was always helping people and getting involved championing their cause. I can remember her saying to me and my sister, Pauline (who also went to Owens) - 'It's just what you do. You help people. What's difficult about that?'"*



Thanks to Chris for also kindly volunteering to speak at our Careers Talks Week in June earlier this year - although unable to attend, he hopes he can support the school at any future events and he has given us permission to publish his resume below from the Mayors Fund for London website.

"Chris was born and bred in London – and indeed was homeless as a child in the West End – and most of his education was in the city, too"... Following an Owen's education... "he went to Sheffield University for his B.A.(Econ) in political theory and then came back to London for his M.Sc. (Econ) at the LSE.

He was appointed Chief Executive of the Mayor's Fund for London in October 2008. He has been running charities in the UK for the last 10 years – most recently International Sport for Development, Right To Play, and the children's hospice service, CHASE. He helped to set up the highly successful homeless partnership 'Off The Streets and Into Work' before becoming its first Chief Executive. Chris is currently Chair of Trustees of the Social Research Unit at Dartington. In many ways, his latest role with the Mayor's Fund focusing on fighting child poverty in London brings him full circle."

The Charity states that... "630,000 children live in poverty in London (4 in 10 children) and the way out of poverty is a decent job. The ultimate goal of their programme is to help London's disadvantaged children towards better jobs. Building on their current programme, their focus going forward is on the age range minus 9 months to 12 years, developing the employable skills of literacy, numeracy, IT, communication and presentation skills." ...as photos from their website demonstrate below.



You can read more about their work on their website: <http://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/>



JEREMY BROCK—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Jeremy Brock who puts pen to paper on a significant birthday to bring us “Life After Owen’s”.



I’m writing this on my 70th birthday, sitting in a caravan in La Coruna, Spain. A perfect scenario for recalling one’s past achievements and misdeeds, and hopefully providing some pearls of wisdom for those bright young things about to leave Owens and go out into the big wide world.

Owens did me well, and I left with four A-level passes, two at Scholarship level, and a place at Selwyn College, Cambridge, to ‘read’ (ie, in theory, study) ‘Natural Sciences’ (ie, Chemistry). My three years at this august institution were thoroughly enjoyable, but I did a bit too much bird-watching (mainly, but not entirely, the feathered kind; I’d become a keen birdwatcher during my latter years at Owens) and a bit too little ‘reading’ of Chemistry, so finished up with a third class degree.

It soon became apparent that a 3rd in Chemistry, even from Cambridge, was not an instant passport to fame and fortune, and after spending a summer selling ice-cream from a van around the streets of London, I eventually landed a job as a lab chemist at the now-defunct Greater London Council’s sewage works at Beckton (to make it sound posher, I was officially called a Scientific Officer). In fact, the job wasn’t bad; I was paid well, got promoted twice in the three years that I worked there, and Rainham marshes were just down the road for a spot of after-work bird watching. They also allowed (and paid for) me to study for the Associate Membership examination of the Institute of Chemistry which, to my great surprise (and the even greater surprise of my tutors) I passed.

I thanked the GLC by promptly handing in my notice, and enrolling on a M.Sc. course in Microbiological Chemistry at Newcastle University. I learned three things from my highly enjoyable year in Newcastle; firstly, I was much more interested in biological science than pure chemistry; secondly, that I really enjoyed doing scientific research (the course involved a 6-month research project), and thirdly, that despite my Londoner’s prejudices, living up north was great; the beer and women were better and cheaper than in London, and there was fabulous bird watching on the Northumberland coast.

Having decided I wanted to do research, and with a M.Sc. now under my belt, I was able to get a job at the National Institute for Research in Dairying in Reading. Experience with sewage was obviously considered highly valuable for doing research on milk. I was once again labelled a Scientific Officer, but this time with the great attraction of being able to study for a Ph.D while working at the Institute. In those days funds for doing research were built into the job, unlike today when one must spend hours writing research proposals for funding agencies in order to get anywhere.

I don’t think I was the world’s greatest researcher at the Institute; I only got one small promotion and when I left in 1974 I wasn’t earning much more than I had been when I left Beckton 8 years earlier. But Reading, despite its rather boring reputation, wasn’t a bad place to live; most people living in the town were, like me, outsiders, so there was a good social life – and a very active bird club. I also got my PhD and, even more importantly, got married to Jeanette, and old school friend of my sister’s who had attended Highbury Hill High School – and wasn’t put off being dragged round sewage farms to look at birds.

After getting my PhD I had a long chat with my Head of Department who said, basically, that I wasn’t really cutting it for becoming a high flyer at the Institute, and I ought to think about looking elsewhere (I had a tenured contract, so he couldn’t sack me unless I set the place on fire or seduced the Director’s wife). But I still wanted to do research, and set about looking for another suitable job.

It was at this point I took what was probably the most risky decision of my career. I’d seen an advert for a job in a totally unknown research institute in the city of Zaragoza, Spain. The job advert said that a minimal knowledge of Spanish was required; mine was absolutely minimal, I was the perfect candidate and got the job. Jeanette and I both fancied a spell abroad, and so we sold up in Reading and, with most of our worldly possessions packed into a car and caravan we, plus our daughter of 14 months and a son-to-be of minus 5 months, set sail for Spain.

Now Spain in 1974 was nothing like the country anyone who has been there in the last twenty years would recognise. It was still ruled by the neo-Fascist dictator General Franco, administration was a nightmare, and most importantly, it was still in the Third World in terms of scientific research. But the lab was well-equipped, the small team very enthusiastic, there were plenty of funds for research and rather to my surprise I discovered that learning Spanish was a doddle and soon became proficient. And of the course, the bird-watching possibilities in a Mediterranean country.....

We stayed in Spain for what turned out to be four very productive years. For some reason, I discovered a drive and enthusiasm that had been lacking in Reading. It may have been that I was now running my own research group and thus able to develop my own ideas, rather than being beholden to those of my boss in Reading. But also I think it was the knowledge that being out in the research boondocks of Spain meant that if I didn't make my mark on the world of scientific research it would be almost impossible to move on, if I needed to.

And need to I did, because after the death of General Franco in 1975 the paternalism and economic isolationism that had ruled in Spain began to break down, and the funds for the research lab, which came from an old industrialist buddy of Franco, began to dry up. So it was back to job-hunting.

By this time our daughter was due to start school, and our son not far behind, so we agonised over whether we should look for another job in Spain and give them a Spanish schooling, or return to Britain. We decided that Britain was the better bet (this was in 1978; I'm not sure we'd have made the same decision today), and by great good fortune I got offered a lectureship in the Immunology Department at Glasgow University. The good fortune arose from the fact that the Head of Department, an autocratic professor of the old school, had recently become interested in a research project not dissimilar from what I had been doing in Spain, and more or less unilaterally decided to give me the job.

Spain to Scotland sounds like an awful cultural (and climatic) shock. But although the climate was indeed pretty dire, Glasgow is probably the most continental city in Britain, with its culture of living in flats, and going out for drinks and meals in the evening, and we soon adapted. The pay wasn't great, but the job was tenured, and I discovered I actually quite liked interacting with students.

I was able to continue and develop the research I'd been doing in Spain, I had great colleagues to work with, soon to be supplemented by a steady stream of graduate students from Spain, which was now starting to send its bright young people abroad in order to bring its scientific activities up to European standard. Once both our children were at school Jeanette enrolled in a degree course in History as a mature student – and eventually finished up with a PhD and a lectureship at Strathclyde University. Glasgow was great – an excellent cultural life, and some of Britain's most breathtaking scenery (and best bird watching) almost on the doorstep.

And there I remained until taking early retirement in 2001. I didn't retire because I was fed up with the job, but because the vagaries of the Universities pension scheme at that time meant I'd get a better deal if I went early. We moved to Gatehouse of Fleet, a small town in SW Scotland, and spend our time between Gatehouse, Spain, and travelling elsewhere.

What advice would I give to someone just leaving Owen's today? Firstly, don't knock the unfashionable. A first job in an East London sewage works after graduating from Cambridge doesn't sound great, but in fact the old GLC was very good to me; the pay was good, the unfashionableness meant that promotion opportunities were good, and they let me study for a qualification that opened the door to everything that happened subsequently.

Secondly, be prepared to move around. My year in Newcastle was an eye-opener, made me much more receptive to accepting the job in Glasgow. It's easy to say I can't leave London because of Mum/girlfriend or whatever, and thus shut the door on a lot of opportunities elsewhere. The old Londoner's saying that north of the Watford by-pass they swing from tree to tree is certainly not true!

Thirdly, if something sounds fun, go for it, even if there are risks attached. My move to Spain could have killed off my career, but in fact enhanced it immeasurably and provided a new dimension to my life. And if something sounds like fun, you're much more likely to enjoy it and make a success of it.

Obviously, things are tougher now than they were when I left Owen's – I never actually had a non-tenured job, which is almost impossible nowadays. But with thought, imagination – and of course an Owen's school education – anything's possible."



BARRY HYMAN—LEFT 1959

Thanks to Mr Barry Hyman **for the third time (!)** for contributing another gem, recalling a theatrical incident in 1957 and sending us a splendid photograph of him and his contemporaries in front of Dame Alice Owen herself.

Mr Hyman may or may not be delighted that your editor has sourced a couple of photos from old Arrow magazines (Trinity, 1957 and Michaelmas, 1957) of the very same plays in which he mentions and featured!



"This is a picture of four old codgers - Class of '52 - visiting Dame Alice recently. Left to right: Peter Dace, Moi, Ken Strongman, Geoffrey Arnold. Ken is Emeritus Professor in Canterbury NZ, and on a recent visit, I put him back in touch with Geoff and Peter, they having all been at Primary School together before Owens."

"So, the curtain..."

We were backstage staff in the Props box, Ken Strongman and I. We had been discussing literature [intellectual posers even at 16!] It was 'Twelfth Night,' in which presciently one John Broadhurst [a bit of a tearway] was untypically playing the Friar. Yes, the same Bishop John Broadhurst who recently left the C of E to join the Catholic Church. With the Friar in mind someone talked about Friar Tuck. 'That,' I said, 'is not a name to do a Spoonerism with!' Ken was convulsed. I went on to write silly poems and parodies.

Ken became a Professor and wrote countless books.

The props Box was some 8ft up a wooden ladder attached to the wall. You climbed it to meet two very narrow double doors. The left hand one was always locked, so you grabbed it and swung round into the Box through the right hand one. You exited the same way, swinging round on the left hand door and climbing down.

On another occasion, rehearsal was in full swing, this time on 'Noah,' a play which included boys in animal skins. I need to leave the box, so as usual I stepped half out and grabbed the left hand door. It swung wide with me attached and I was high and dry. With what I thought was great presence of mind I let go and made a grab for the huge heavy drapes, expecting to slide down them gracefully. I was on the plump side, a genuine sports and gym loather.



As I grabbed there was a momentary pause, then a huge 'R-R-RRIPP' noise as the curtain detached itself from its supporting rings and I did a Tarzan to centre stage. There was a shocked silence, then the actor playing Noah said, 'Welcome Monkey.'

Mr. J E Smith was not amused. My classmates were helpless in hysterics. I did not get a part until Mr. Sparrow took over the School Play! Nor was allowed near the props box ever again."





NIGEL EIDMANS—LEFT 1969

Thanks to Mr Nigel Eidmans for sending us a couple new photos and one old one to accompany his memories from the 1960's—we're glad he was incentivised by articles in our last edition!



I had been meaning to write to the Old Owenian for many a year. Two subjects in the June Newsletter finally galvanised me into action. I was surprised to see that the photographs taken in Islington did not include the two buildings that were once owned and used by the boys' school and that still exist today at the site of the old schools (photos attached).

The art and woodwork block, on the left-hand side of the playground when facing the school, provided my form room when I started in 2SVG, Stan

George being the woodwork master at the time. The building still exists and has been turned into an office block designated 7 Owen Street, which lies just outside the boundary fence of the new gardens called Owen's Fields. I was surprised to see that they have even retained and incorporated the single storey lean-to extension that was the army cadet office, in which I spent many a Friday break.

I attach a copy of the 2SVG form photo from 1962. I am ashamed to say that I can put very few names to faces. Does the school have records giving form lists? If so, I would be very keen to access the one for this group.

When I was in the sixth-form, our form room was in the disused Clown public house on St. John's Street, in the corner of the boys' playground nearest the girls' school. I am pleased to say that it has now been refurbished as the Mediterranean Kitchen (below) and one can again obtain alcoholic refreshment therein. It stands on the other corner of Owen's Row opposite The Brasserie, and still retains the curved bay window at the back that I remember well.



With me in the sixth form science group, I remember Ken Jones, Simon Pyzer and Trevor Harrington (a close friend with whom I still remain in contact - we both commuted daily from the northern reaches of the Piccadilly line). Physics and chemistry were studied in mixed classes on the upper floors of the new girls' school building in the company of three young ladies, Anne Hellen, Linda Hutton and Brenda Stannard.



The letter from Peter Salisbury took me back, but then Peter Eldridge's article confused me, as I can clearly remember being one of those 90 and yet he was the year above me (unless he left from the lower sixth!). However, having discussed this with Trevor, we are of the opinion that this happened to more than one year. As I recall there was some jockeying to avoid being at either end of the line, working on the principle that Derek Chant would start and finish strong!!!! I seem to recall that the reason for my year was just that we would not be quiet while in the wet weather classrooms that day, despite being told repeatedly to be so, but Trevor's recollection does not match mine - he believes too many of us were late turning up.

I also remember Peter Salisbury because of the day in October 1967 when I broke my nose playing basketball (supposedly a no-contact sport!), and he had to take me to St Bart's for an X-ray. As I recall it was his head that did the damage, me being rather slow and still bending to grab a loose ball as he came up with it.

I was a bit of a maths geek and was taken under the wing of Mike Smith, who seemed barely older than we sixth-formers. I remember being his cameraman for a film that we mainly shot at Harrock House in 68 or 69 and which was to be submitted for the Ten Best Amateur Films competition run by Amateur Cine World. I wonder if a copy of that film still exists? I remember spending weekends editing it in the film labs at UCL.



LES GIBBINGS—LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Les Gibbings for his contribution—he was inspired by some of the names he came across in the last issue and hopes some of his memories will be of amusing interest.

Oh those names.....to my great surprise, I thoroughly enjoyed the reminiscences in the last magazine. Some of them got me thinking and reminded me of events from Michaelmas terms across the years so here are a few reminiscences that might stir others to recall events and people from the halcyon days of yore....

*Is it the same **Bill Hamilton-Hinds** who taught Form 1DN maths after his 'graduation' from the Borough Road College? I do not think that my contemporaries and I have ever had it's due recognition for 'knocking him into shape' for the benefit of those who came after us in subsequent years.*

*Who remembers me crashing **Phil (the Greek) Woolway** down with a sharp left hook mid way through Bill's explanation of Pythagoras theorem, so that he lay for brief moment in perfect horizontal symmetry on the floor between the line of desks? Billy-boy remained as if fixated on the board despite all the turmoil going on behind his back and probably fearing what he might find and have to do if he turned around?*

*Is this the same teacher who in his regular shows of discipline sent **Bob Harness** out of the lesson for insubordination only for the rest of us left inside to enjoy the sight of him performing the role made famous by John Barrymore in the silent version of Jeekyll & Hyde when he transformed himself into the wild alter-ego, Mr Hyde?*

*Bill's attempts to explain whatever the present maths problem was, would be drowned out by a chanting of the class members (who I should point at this point out included the present Chair of School Governors, **Peter Martin**) imploring Bob to 'take the potion' and act out the role again and again. Until that is, when moving with astonishing but rather belated speed, he would rush to open the door just as Bob would be coming back into view above the wood panel in mid change and sending him to see the Headmaster or to the Teachers Common Room to await his pleasure !!*

*Hilarious....but then this was as nothing compared to the maths lessons in later years when I used to sit with Bob and enjoy **Mr Copping** and his illustrations on geometry involving flying in a **(Pete)Richards** tiger cub from **(Bernie) Leon-ville** to **(John) Richier-town** !! Looney tunes or what, but very, very affable and entertaining.*

*And so to **Mr Salisbury**.....I think one or two who played in the 'lost' cup final he referred to in the June issue, believe he got the opposition wrong but that's a minor matter. I remember his predecessor leaving. Mr Trigger was the name as I recall, or was it Tricker? I can hear the Headmaster, G. Jones saying even now that he, (Trigger), had had an illustrious career and had even played for the Arsenal in his younger days....and felt unable to resist adding (remember this was the early 1960's when all things red and white in football terms were a little forlorn regarding the winning of things) ..'when they were a good team!!' for which I never really forgave him.*

But I liked Mr Salisbury and although I daresay he would not recall at point so far removed but I believed he tried to use very unsubtle pressure to get me to make more effort at football. I would not go for lunchtime football training so I rarely got a chance to play in the 1st XI it being the rule that you must go. Then despite being an Ok forward content to lead the 2nd XI attack on Saturday morning matches (as I had would be playing in league games for other clubs in the afternoon and on Sunday's like many others), I felt that he tried to 'humble' me by even leaving me out of that.

During the match, against St. Aloysius 2nd X1 I think, where I had to suffer the indignity of being a 'reserve', the team found itself losing 2-0. I came on as a substitute scoring two goals and assisting (as the modern terminology goes) two others. But give him his due, when he got the feedback from Mr Williams as referee he did have the good grace to say 'I see you made your point today Les'.

*I retained my place ever after I think, playing with the 'second string' (which included such notables as **Steve Bye, Mark Frankland, Keith Bartlett, Clive Lathrope, Ian Dowty, Bob Harness** and the redoubtable and still very good friend and everyone's 'best pal', **Vince Sartori**), even making occasional appearances alongside the footballing 'elite', which in those days included **Alan Droy** and **Richard 'Dickie' Bradford** and of course, the 'super-elite' of **Billy Morgan, John Sullivan** and **Ron Erwood** (being a year or so older than us).*

*There was also the Grammar Schools Hockey festival of 1968 that I believe was the first time a school team of any year had been entered in such an illustrious event, showing the new and rapid development of the sport at that time in the school. It was an event when **Mark Franklin** performed like some sort of proverbial 'billy whizz' on the wing, scoring in every round except the one that counted and we lost in the final. I played centre forward but it was impossible to keep pace with him and all any of us were intent on doing was to try and get the ball out to Mark and watch him go. Remarkable. It was a one-off as I recall and he or anybody never played like that before or since !!*

*And last but by no means least I recall reading the name of **Roger Biggs** in the last issue. He was what I may describe (and hopefully without causing any offence) as an amiable rogue and raffish kind of fellow. I do not recall how our 'association' started (I think it had some sort of link with him always being in the toilets smoking whenever you went into it, at almost any time of day) but the fact was that Roger, being in the 5th year when I was in the 1st/2nd, relied upon either me or my friends to avoid handing in our lunch tickets so he could re-use it and enjoy the fabled 'free lunch' and which he did many many times.*

Of course despite the well rehearsed routine of being chased round the quad and having our pockets emptied if we couldn't produce the appropriate ticket, the Christmas lunch ticket was something else. With the promise of a better than normal fayre (better than little else other than the school meals provided for the other 200 odd days each year) I recall Roger waiting on the stairs for us to emerge from the depths of the dining room, almost beside himself with expectation of the fabulous repast he might enjoy if we had eluded the lunch duty teachers efforts to ensure there was no re-use of 'spent' tickets.

We, of course, played upon Roger's heightened anxiety as much as we dared. His agitation getting the better of him and the 'goodwill to all school pals' concept seeming to dissipate before our very eyes as he virtually 'mugged' us to find the blessed tickets. He left us in stitches (of laughter, less anyone thought there was any real malice in any of this) as he hot-footed it into the dining area whilst smoothing out the ticket to reduce the risk of it being detected as it was on it's second time around. Good old Roger. He was a hoot!!

SCHOOL INTAKE—1950

It is at this point that special thanks needs to go to Mr George Sims from Harpenden, who has pulled together a "collection of recollections" from 28 Old Owenians, including himself, who joined the school in 1950. He explains how the 1950's group got together by chance and we give a huge thank you to all of them, who have been brave enough to share their thoughts and careers for more historical insights at a time when National Service was still compulsory (this was gradually ended from 1960). Mr Sims tells us...

"Having known Walter Wolfe for many years in Harpenden I only discovered he was an Old Owenian when he mentioned an item in his Old Boys Newsletter. He started at Owen's in 1931! This prompted me to rejoin the Association and I was astonished to see my name on opening the first copy of my Newsletter. Malcolm White had written an article "Where are they now" since only two of our year still belonged to the Association. I contacted him and between us we tracked down 11 (including ourselves) in England all of whom attended a Sunday lunch in Harpenden in 1992. We have continued to meet every two years together with a further similar number we have since managed to trace."

Thanks also to Mr Sims for this splendid photograph from 2008, during one of their Old Owenians (School Intake 1950) Reunions which are held every two years.

Mr Sims would be delighted to hear from anyone else who joined Owen's in 1950. Please send details to your editor at: 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we will forward your information on. (Mr Sims contribution is on page 35).



WARWICK BROWN – LEFT 1958
AssocRICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors), FPWI

"I attended Owen's School from 1950 until 1958. In those days there was little in the way of future education planning or careers advice, and having a somewhat lazy outlook I was therefore unsure of what might lie ahead. One thing seemed certain, however, and that was National Service, which then meant two years serving in one of the Armed Forces.

My father however, who was a Buyer for British Railways Hotels, was aware of the advantages of joining the railways, as apart from offering an interesting career, one could also qualify for reduced rate travel home when one was granted leave from the Army! Thus with the benefit of some advice from his colleagues I applied for an interview with the Eastern Region Chief Civil Engineer's Human Resources Advisor – in other words the Chief's Personal Clerk – that's how it worked in those days.

Having ascertained that I could tell which of his ink bottles were red, yellow or green (an essential skill for a railwayman) we then proceeded to question whether I was really interested in Civil Engineering (CE). The more we talked the more interested I actually became and I was then invited to become an indentured Student CE at King's Cross HQ.

The job entailed four years of training involving four days a week assigned to varying CE Departments. The fifth day was spent at a designated Technical College learning the theory of Mechanical, then Civil Engineering. Shortly after embarking on this almost accidental career National Service was terminated, and so I was able to continue with uninterrupted training.

From these unpromising beginnings I set out on what was to become a fascinating career covering a period of revolution in national transport systems – from steam trains on branch lines to Eurostar! In fact I had two careers because the CE also carried out Land Surveying for both records and for new works. This resulted in my qualifying as a designer of railway track layouts but later moving into Land Surveying working all over the country's railway network. I became the Chief Land Surveyor for the Southeast of England in 1979 and successfully introduced automated computer aided and satellite based surveying techniques to my Department.

On retirement in 1994 at the time of Privatisation I was invited to act as a consultant to one of the new Railway Maintenance Companies assisting them with the automation of their office based activities. At this time I quickly learned about databases and computer security that led to further consultancy for the new Network Rail organisation in setting up computer based management of railway infrastructure maintenance. I finally closed the doors of my consultancy in 2001 after 43 amazing years.

I now play quite a lot of golf that is far more difficult than anything I faced in my working career!

It remains to be said that I am confident that the education I received at Owen's set me up with the basic attitudes and skills needed to succeed in life, even if I had not obtained the highest level of educational awards in terms of GCE and University results. What I did gain was the ability to absorb and develop ideas and apply these to real life situations. Despite not being "top of the Form" it is still possible to get on well through the advantages of the quality teaching and learning environment of a school such as Owen's.



DALZIELL DAY—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thank you to Mr Dalziell Day for explaining his "tangled" way into engineering.

BSc(Eng) (Bachelor of Science, Engineering) MSc CEng (Master of Science, Chartered Engineering)MRAeS (Member Royal Aeronautical Society) MIET (Member Institution of Engineering and Technology) AMIMechE (Associate Member Institution of Mechanical Engineers)

Although I stayed in the VIth form I always felt that any boy expressing a desire to be an engineer was regarded as being beyond help. Then in a situation where the alternative to studying and doing well was a visit to the Labour Exchange I did just that and two years after leaving Owens had gained two ONCs, one with Aero endorsements, with Distinctions, a Technical State Scholarship and a Whitworth Society Prize.

What followed is rather a tangled story but I did get a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and later a Masters in Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics. I have been made redundant on a number of occasions but for the past 35 years have been employed, or latterly consulting, in the field of energy conservation, currently known as carbon reduction.

I did enjoy my time at Owens, although you will not find my name in any White Book of her favourite sons, and have had a degree of fun throughout my working life, quite often with hindsight.



BEN DIMOND—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thank you to Mr Ben Diamond for sharing details about his career in banking.

"Leaving school after taking my 'O' levels I joined the Civil Service as a clerical officer. National Service followed and shortly after demobilisation I started my career in banking, initially domestic and then international. During the next 30 plus years, along with studying for the relevant qualifications, I became expert in the application of computers to banking with my career spanning senior management responsibilities in both disciplines and in general management."



STEPHEN FRANKLIN—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thank you to Mr Stephen Franklin for documenting his life stories — he emigrated to New Zealand in 1954 and qualified in 1957 from Canterbury University College, Agricultural Intermediate (Chemistry, Physics, Zoology). From 1958 - 1962, he studied at Lincoln Agricultural College, B Agr Sc (Hort), which included 2 years' practical and other work and says he should have graduated 2 years earlier! He explains his career in Horticulture and how he also ran his own business before working with wheelchairs and finally retiring in 2004!

"1963 - 1992 Horticultural Advisor (later Consultant) with the NZ Ministry of Agriculture. Made redundant when Govt closed down it's MAF Advisory Services.

My first posting was to Oamaru in North Otago working mainly with Chinese market gardeners and European greenhouse tomato growers. While in Central Otago from 1965-1973 I worked mainly with growers of apricots and other stone-fruit, apples and pears. I was involved in early experiments and climate studies which led to the establishment of the successful grape and wine industry there.

Unfortunately I was transferred to Hamilton before the first commercial plantings were made. In the Waikato, I was involved in the development of the asparagus, blueberry and kiwifruit industries among various others. An advantage of being in Hamilton was easy access to scientists working in the same industries, at the Ruakura Research Station, in a 2-way exchange of knowledge.

I married Elisabeth Ann Shaw in May 1966. Progeny one of each, Kirsten, now 41 (HR Manager) and Stephen, now 34 (Solicitor and Partner). No grandchildren as yet.

Sept 1992 - Dec 2002—Owned and ran (into the ground) A1 Mowers and Chainsaws Ltd. Became a small motor mechanic of reasonable competence. Was forced to close down before becoming insolvent, because of the big hardware chain stores selling similar machinery at much lower prices than I could. All of the smaller mower shops went the same way. Having a Stihl or Husqvarna franchise is the only way to survive these days and even Husqvarna is dodgy.

March 2003 - April 2004—Worked part-time for a wheelchair supply and servicing company as a Wheelchair Technician (which must be superior to a chainsaw mechanic!) A most enjoyable job, assisting disabled people and working with Occupational Therapists (Seating and Positioning) but the appointment was only a temporary one. So then I retired.

I was a Rotarian for 20 years, and therefore Senior Active, but felt the need to resign while running the chainsaw shop, as I could not fulfil the attendance and activities requirements."



Dr CHAS R HART—LEFT 1957

Thanks to Dr Chas Hart who reflects on the benefit of his Owen's education, even at this stage of his life!

*"I attended Owen's School from 1950 to 1957. After the general education of the first few years we were required to choose a range of subjects; I chose the science subjects as they have always been an interest of mine. I studied these through into sixth form and obtained good 'A' levels to get to University College, London, where I took a chemistry course. I obtained a **B.Sc. and a Ph.D.** (doctoral degree) in chemistry from the university.*

There is no doubt that my Owens' education helped massively in gaining a university place and in my future career. Not just the sciences but also other subjects, such as history, that is still a hobby interest of mine.

In case this sounds all like work, I should point out that my favourite day of the school week was sports day when we all went to the school playing field at Chandos Avenue, Totteridge. I played football and cricket for the school and my interest in sport is still keen; I only gave up when I became a bit old for such exercise.

After leaving University College, I spent two years doing research at a Canadian university before being employed in the research department of ICI, then a large multinational chemical company. I worked on a range of products in both a technical and commercial capacity, visiting a range of countries in the process.

I have retired now but still use some of my Owens' skills, e.g. I can help my grandchildren with their science and Latin homework!"



DR JAMES F HARVEY — LEFT 1957

Thanks to Dr James Harvey for his news from Florida, where he now lives in retirement, having emigrated to the USA in 1966.

*"1957-1960 **B.Sc.** Chemistry, London University, 1960-1962 **PhD** Chemistry, London University*

Initially worked as a research chemist with 3M (a global science based company) in Harlow, Essex. Research included photosensitization mechanisms.

In 1966, having decided that I could take the socialist policies of the UK no longer, my wife and I emigrated to the USA where I worked for a defence contractor doing applied research in photoreconnaissance. My salary was so much more than in UK, making it possible to buy a house and start a family. We had two daughters five years apart.

I eventually became the head of the Division that dealt with all government work, but [Watergate](#) had a terrible impact on all intelligence related contracts, so in 1976 I joined the US Navy as a civilian heading up the Navy's Simulation research, development and procurement.

I had moved from Boston to Orlando, and my family loved the Floridian climate, but I couldn't take the stifling atmosphere of civil service. So after six years I joined GE (General Electric) as Program manager of contracts for developing parallel processing of real time computer graphics (remember that back in 1983 computing power was very limiting).

In 1984 I had the opportunity to take over an ailing small company that was providing engineering and technical support to the Navy Laboratories. It was an exciting time because not only was it basically bankrupt, it was also under some sort of investigation for improprieties. If it had been in great shape, I probably wouldn't have been able to take it over. However, after five years, I had stabilized the company, established integrity, and grown it to several hundred employees.

In 1989, I sold it to a large public company based in California, and stayed on first as head of the subsidiary company and later as a Corporate Vice President of the parent company. In 1996, we sold it to [Northrop Grumman](#). Although I was offered a huge job in Northrop, I remembered the atmosphere of the civil service, and this organization was so big that it was pseudo government. I decided to retire with my golden parachute.

I now live in SW Florida on the mouth of the Caloosahatchee river with my wife of fifty years. We are avid tennis players and awesome ballroom dancers. Life has been good so far."



DR TOM JUPP OBE—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950



Thanks to Dr Tom Jupp for his extensive resume, which gives us an insight into his wide range of experiences and how he came to be awarded an OBE for his contribution to education and training for ethnic minorities in 1978. Also, subsequently, his deep involvement in secondary education for young people in Islington and London and his role until 2001, as Principle of the City and Islington College, part of which (Centre for Applied Sciences, left) resides on the site of Dame Alice Owen's Old Girls' School...

...In March 2011 this year, the City and Islington College received a visit from Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. As part of the visit, The Queen unveiled a plaque announcing that the Centre was recently accredited by the National Skills Academy Process Industries as a Centre of Excellence for Biotechnology. Dr Tom Jupp tells us...

"EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND HONOURS

Dame Alice Owen School, Islington (see Tom in the 1st VIII, right)

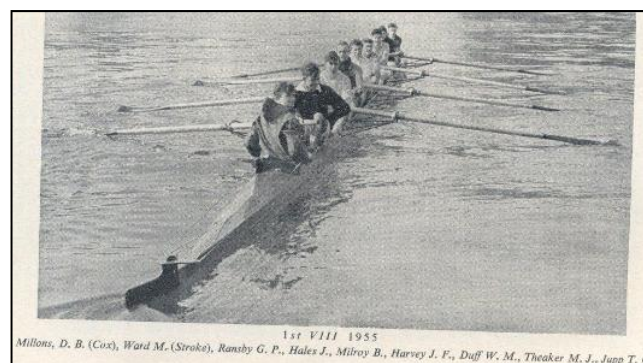
Kings College Cambridge BA English Upper Second Honours, MA.

London University Institute of Education PGCE (with Distinction) 1963

London School of Economics Qualifying Year only of MSc Economics 1969.

OBE for contribution to education and training for ethnic minorities 1978.

Doctorate (honorary) London Metropolitan University for contribution to education and urban regeneration in Islington, London 2001



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

January - July 1962

City of Coventry Secondary English Teacher King Henry VII School

August 1963 - November 1967

British Council English Language specialist Ministry of Education, Sudan (1963-66) and Istanbul Institute of Education, Turkey (1966-67)

July 1968 - December 1969

Thompson: editor/publisher of educational text books.

January 1970 - September 1974

London Borough of Ealing

Lecturer II Pathway FE Centre Southall/ Ealing Technical College.

October 1974 - December 1981

Director of the National Centre for Industrial Language Training (NCILT) Manpower Services Commission

Established national network of 24 units providing work-based ESOL training, supervisor and trade union awareness training in work places with large numbers of employees from minority ethnic groups.

January 1982 - April 1988

Inner London Education Authority

District Inspector for Further, Higher and Community Education

FE and Adult Education general responsibilities and specialist for all English teaching and English to speakers of other languages (ESOL).

April 1988 - May 1989

Inner London Education Authority

Senior Staff Inspector - Further education

Responsible for team covering 22 colleges and for 16 -19 across school sixth forms and colleges

May 1989 - March 1993

Chief Inspector and Head of Curriculum, Inspection and Direct Services Division, London Borough of Camden, Education Department

Grade: Second Tier Officer. Set up inspection and education client services for this, the most successful, new inner London LEA.

April 1993 - June 2001

Principal, City and Islington College

Merged four separate institutions to form a new college in 1993 and established the infrastructure for a newly incorporated body. Built the new management structure, a strong governing body, developed a new institutional culture, improved quality and dealt with major budget cuts. Worked with local school and universities. Planned and funded the rebuilding of the college estate. Strong inspection report received in 2001 including Grade 1s for management and for governance. CIC is now an outstanding Beacon college with a turnover of about £50m.

August 2001 - Feb 2003

Institute of Education, University of London

National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy. Tendered for and established the centre before the appointment and arrival of the permanent Director.

April 2003 -July 2004

Cabinet Office, Office of Public Services Reform

Managing two projects examining the implementation of government policy in further education colleges and work-based learning.

October 2005 – April 2006

Tower Hamlets College of Further Education

Interim Principal.

PRESENT PORTFOLIO OF PAID AND VOLUNTARY WORK

Independent Consultant

Specialising in: Interim Management; strategic planning; mentoring and coaching; 14-19 education, including young people not in education, employment or training (NEET); adult education and lifelong learning. Clients include colleges, local authorities, LSC, DfES, universities and other public bodies.

Recent work has included the merger of colleges in the City of Manchester and the commissioning of the national training programme for The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (attached to King's College London) and sponsored by the DfE.

Cripplegate Foundation London EC1

Governor and Chair of the Board from 2006 – 2009. A new director appointed, a stronger board built, and the strategy changed. The Foundation has become a more strategic and influential force in Islington. I now chair **Islington Giving** a coalition of six Foundations .

Central London Connexions Partnership

Independent Chair of the Board that consists of seven LEAs - appointed November 2004. Most successful partnership in London and impressive results with NEETs.

Society of Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies

Trustee and Treasurer of this recently founded international learned society. Also undertaking own research into social and political attitudes and values of 17 year olds in London.

WIDER WORK EXPERIENCE

Membership of advisory bodies: including Race Relations Board (1972-75), Department of Employment Advisory Group on Race Relations(1976-82), National Curriculum Council (NCC), Whole Curriculum Committee (1989-91), the Bell Educational Trust(1985-90), London Language and Literacy Unit (1998-2003), New Deal for Communities EC1 (1999-2001), Nuffield Commission 14-19 Education core group (2003- 08) and Employability Forum for Refugees (2007-09)

Trustee and director (voluntary) - previous

- (1) Anne Frank Educational Trust (Vice Chair and Chair of Education committee)
- (2) Hampstead Adult Education Institute (trustee and interim chair)
- (3) Aquaterra Leisure Trust. Delivering leisure services in Islington

International: a visiting lecturer or consultant to China, USA, Canada, India, Indonesia, Australia, Latin America and Eastern Europe on a wide range of projects to do with vocational education and training, English language teaching, and cross-cultural communication. Know the Middle East, Central Asia and western China well.

Publishing: Lead editorial consultant to Heinemann Educational Books for the setting up and development of their English language teaching list (1970 - 82)

PUBLICATIONS

Joint author of some 15 English Language Teaching and ESOL textbooks and readers (1969-1983)

General and academic publications include:

Crosstalk: a study of cross-cultural communication, NCILT/BBC 1979.

Language and Discrimination (with C Roberts and E Davies) a study of communication in multi-ethnic workplaces. Longman 1992.

Language and disadvantage: the hidden process (with C Roberts and J Cook-Gumperz in *Language and social identity* (ed JJ Gumperz) Cambridge University Press 1982

Widening Participation (with A Zera) in *Further Education Re-formed* (ed. A Smithers and P Robinson). Falmer Press 2000.

Key Policy Mechanisms and their Impact on 14 –19 Education and Training Nuffield Review Discussion Paper 7 2005

"You wouldn't expect a Maths teacher to teach plastering..." Embedding literacy, language and numeracy in post-16 vocational programmes joint author NRDC research report 2006

Change and Innovation in adult education in the Inner London Education Authority in Remaking Adult Learning: NIACE/Institute of Education 2010



BILL LIPPETT—LEFT IN 1956

Thanks to Bill Lippett for sharing his experiences in the Aeronautical industry and reflections about effort as a key to success—similar to today's Dame Alice Owen's growth mindset philosophy!

I left Owen's in 1956 with 6 GCE O levels. In those days there was no careers advice around, and my parents were in a quandary as to what to do with me. After a few false starts, my father said "You're crazy about model aircraft, we'll try the aircraft companies" and I managed to pass the interviews and exams and took aircraft engineering apprenticeship with Vickers-Armstrong's (VA) Aircraft at Weybridge in Surrey.

*This was a very wise decision, as it gave me a really rounded education in all aspects of engineering, the opportunity to get on the job experience and qualifications, and presented a range of career options. I finished the apprenticeship in 1961, with a **Higher National Certificate** in aircraft engineering, and working as a design engineer in the wind tunnel department, designing instrumented models for use in wind tunnel experiments, including the ill-fated TSR2 bomber, the VC10 airliner, and the Swallow, forerunner of the Tornado, and various other bits of related equipment.*

Two years later I transferred to the aerodynamics office, where I worked on airfield performance of the TSR2 and then the VC10 airliner.

*I left VA and became a freelance designer and structural engineer for a couple of years, and then got a job with Lockheed Aircraft in America, where I worked for four years as a structural analyst. This was excellent experience, as it exposed me to a completely different working environment and ethic, which was to stand me in good stead in future years. Whilst in the USA I became a **Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society** and a **Chartered Engineer**.*

I returned to the UK in 1970, and after 4 years of freelance structural design and analysis I took a job with Sperry Gyroscope at Bracknell. I stayed with them for 13 years, working on a variety of interesting projects, including modifications to the Polaris missile, a mobile laboratory for detecting contraband drugs, with forays into vibration analysis of all sorts of structures, and the design, analysis and testing of avionic and naval equipment.

When the Bracknell site transferred to Plymouth, I left them to it, and got a job with the Royal Aerospace Establishment at Farnborough, becoming responsible for the strength, safety and airworthiness of "unusual" (to say the least) installations in the varied fleet of RAE aircraft. (Fast jets, transport aircraft and helicopters).

This was a really interesting job. Companies, scientists, bright sparks from the Services would appear in my office with all sorts of equipment and expect to go flying with it. A lot of tact and diplomacy, and very quick redesign was often necessary to get it into the air safely. Sometimes major changes to the aircraft would be necessary, involving liaison extending over many months with the aircraft manufacturer and the supplier of the equipment.

I stayed with RAE, now [QinetiQ](#) until I retired in 2005.

I think that the attitudes that were hammered into me at Owen's, as much as the education itself, was a useful start in life. The "tool bag" that I left with was a good one, and was very useful and rewarding in later life. I have found that you get very little except by your own efforts, and that effort will (usually) be rewarded (if not in an obvious way).



DR ANTHONY LYNN—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Dr Anthony Lynn for informing us of his career as a Consultant Radiologist. He qualified with MB.BS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) at St George's Hospital with subsequent radiological training and FRCR (Fellowship Royal College of Radiologists), at the London Hospital. He became a Consultant Radiologist at QE11 hospital WGC and Hertford County Hospital with main interests musculo-skeletal imaging (i.e. MRI, CT and Ultrasound) and interventional radiology.



BRIGADIER GEOFFREY RANSBY—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Brigadier Geoffrey Ransby for explaining how he followed in his father's footsteps at school, the significance of rowing and life as a soldier.

"My father was a scholar at Owens during the First World War but was forced to leave early to enter the family firm whose workforce had been decimated by the deaths and injuries in France. We had always had property in Islington and it was therefore hardly surprising that I followed the family tradition and went to school in St John's Street. What is more surprising is that my father's house master - 'Flash' Hardwick (Flash to the boys of 1916 because he wore spats!!) - was to play a crucial role in my own schooling some forty years later.

Owens in the early 1950s drew its pupils from a wide area and an even wider social background. Its teachers in the main had excellent degrees from Oxford or Cambridge and the school had high standards, with a well proven structure of prefects and house captains to keep the more rebellious in order. Just as well because I cannot claim to have been a perfect pupil! Enter Mr. Hardwick - now Deputy Head - who in his inimitable way took me aside and left

me in no doubt that I was required to mend my ways! The result was that after that experience I was well prepared for anything that life might offer - good or bad. I am sure the same applies to Owenians today.



Sport was important and we were hugely lucky to have a thriving rowing club, and to compete against the likes of St Paul's and Westminster. That aspect alone stood me in great stead in later years when I captained the Army VIII and then coached the Sandhurst crew. So too with music and drama, and with a host of extra mural activities.



I was never a member of the cadet force (part of the Honourable Artillery Company) but many of my friends were and I was fortunate to row with someone who preceded me as a National Serviceman, and who gave me the good advice to "join the Gunners - they don't have to walk so far!" But to do that you had to be able to do the maths - and use a slide rule - and Owens had made sure that I could do that pretty well.

But more importantly we were, after a hard season's rowing, very fit and so when I was called up Army selection, which sent you around obstacle courses and the

like, was easy. (I made the mistake of going round too fast - only to be told not to sit around - go round again!) Much more important were the standards that Owens instilled in us all, and the ability to play a proper part in a team and not let others down. In those days we did not talk about "leadership" with all the mumbo jumbo that seems part of it now, because in the school it was all around you.

I never intended to be a professional soldier but that is what happened. I was commissioned into the Royal Horse Artillery and my service took me to almost every part of the world including Africa, the Far & Middle East, Hong Kong, South America, Australia, Germany and of course Northern Ireland.

I can look back on nearly 35 years as a soldier and not wish to change one day of it and throughout that time I had the privilege of commanding some quite amazing men. That I was moderately successful in my career, I owe in very large measure to Owens."



JOHN ROSE—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr John Rose for his concise contribution.

Regarding the last 25 years though, it has been comparatively successful.

For example, we invented various window specifications which were emulated within our industry and became standard, the latest being slim, ultra discrete triple glazing into traditional timber sash windows.

On another subject, what started as a hobby about 9 years ago, gained me a UK government Smart Award and a £50K grant to develop a system of psychological self-help which I had invented, still ongoing!



IAN SCOTT—LEFT 1957

Thanks to Mr Ian Scott for telling us how he came to qualify as a solicitor.

*On leaving Owens in 1957 I was due to start with the Bank of England in early September of that year. I had, however, taken the Civil Service Open Examinations and was offered a position in the Estate Duty Office which I accepted as one had to obtain a legal qualification and they had an arrangement with Kings College who accepted students as full students of the University although it entailed lectures four nights a week at either Kings, LSE or University College and tutorials two afternoons at Kings. I received my **LLB** degree in 1960 and as a result did not have to serve my queen and county through National Service.*

In 1963 I decided to leave the Civil Service and qualify as a solicitor. I obtained articles with a small firm in the City of London. Studying for the exams was by way of a correspondence course and I was admitted as a Solicitor in 1966. In early 1968 I was approached by a friend who although was not an Old Owenian played cricket for the Old Boys Association and who was already in private practice to join him and his partner by opening an office in Northampton which I did with the support of my wife.

I have remained in Northampton ever since and have no regrets.



GRAHAM SIMMONS—LEFT 1956

Thanks to Mr Graham Simmons for sharing his many varied experiences in the Surveying industry.

“On leaving school in February 1956, after getting the results of resits of GCE 'O' levels and not getting what was required for a professional firm of Quantity Surveyors I was offered a job with a Building Contractor to train as a Building Surveyor / Estimator under a Deed of Studentship until I was 21 years old. Whilst doing a normal days work I also had to attend evening school 3/4 nights a week during this time to gain certificates of qualifications with the City and Guilds Institute and Institute of Builders.

I have been involved with 6 companies over the years of my employment, only 3 for the first 35 years and then 2 over a period of 4 years (after redundancy in 1990 & 1992) and finished my career with my final employer for a period of 10 years until retirement 7 years ago.

My work has involved me working on many different contracts from kitchen extensions to building town centres (Stevenage)- offices to embassies- gambling casinos to churches.

Not only carried out surveying/ estimating duties but also in the latter years as contract manager, site manager, site first aider, buying materials and placing sub-contract orders and negotiating with clients.

I enjoyed my time with the industry and have no regrets despite the unwelcome periods of unemployment.



GEORGE SIMS—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks once again to Mr George Sims, this time for his own contribution, explaining how his degree in Physics and Maths led him to a varied career developing a wide range of systems and running his own company.

*“Having graduated at Queen Mary College in 1960 obtaining a **B.Sc** degree in physics and mathematics, I joined Elliott Flight Automation to work on the autopilot for the VC10 using an analogue computer. I became head of the VC10 Systems Group developing the automatic landing system and invented a system to more precisely hold the aircraft on track. Also worked on the BAC 1-11 and devised the autothrottle system for Concorde that was subsequently fitted to other aircraft including the Boeing 747 and 777.*

After five years I moved on to pioneer medical computing and became Manager of Elliott Medical Automation. A major project was to automate the hospital biochemistry laboratory. This was the first time chemical analysers had been directly connected to a computer in order to process the waveform and compare values with standard solutions to obtain accurate results. There was also a huge amount of software to produce worksheets, collate results, look up previous results etc. Also, unbelievably, this all ran on an 8K word computer with magnetic tape backing store.

A problem that became apparent was that blood samples are mixed up and patients not correctly identified so I came up with the idea of a barcode device. Since GEC, of which we were now part, was not willing to fund its development and the serious delay in producing the new range of computers was prejudicing the Company, an electronics engineer colleague and I set up our own company to develop it. There was clearly a wide range of applications but the Government Department responsible for supporting new developments insisted that "barcoding would never catch on"! We therefore had a very difficult time financially while we developed not only the reader and printer but also a terminal to enable it to be connected to a computer and then to get the first customers.

Although the NHS was not willing to go in for this technology at the time fortunately libraries were extremely keen and this application has remained a major part of our business. A major retailer we approached dismissed the idea completely but subsequently I gave a presentation to the group of European retailers who were proposing the idea of a European Article Number with which you are all now familiar. Meanwhile the Americans had implemented a system using a code that was not very good and needed high quality printing. Unfortunately they pressurised Europe into using a similar system although it is not used anywhere outside retail.

I had devised a code that efficiently represented the full range of computer characters and was easy to print and read reliably. The Americans came up with several different symbologies but since none are terribly good there is no single standard. No other country came up with anything at all. The 2D codes needing image processing have only recently become practicable.

The original terminal required a large number of components so we were one of the first companies to manufacture microcomputer systems which enabled us to provide a wide range of applications including a huge system to control British Airways spares. Involvement with many different institutions has been especially interesting.

Running your own company enables you to achieve your technical ambitions but has all the administrative, marketing and financial problems to go with it. When asked what I do I have sometimes said 'social worker'!

Patents: Flight control systems, Telepen barcode symbology, networked micro systems.

Book: Automation of a Biochemical Laboratory.

Appointment: Chairman of UK Barcode Committee"



IAN SMITH—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr Ian Smith for sharing his passions for rowing, jazz and computing

"I lived in Hackney (before it became even remotely popular..) and commuted daily on the number 30 bus to school at the Angel Islington. My academic achievements were not at all spectacular but I managed to work my way through the science sixth form mainly due to an ability at maths but not much else, possibly due to the distractions of playing piano for pocket money in the pubs around the Angel in the evenings and joining many small jazz groups in pubs and clubs in London.

At one time we had a weekly jazz club in a room above a pub in St Johns Street just round the corner from the school attended by a large number of our sixth formers and a corresponding group from the Owen's girls school opposite with whom contact was usually otherwise minimal, all unknown to the school staff who I'm sure would not have approved.

While at school I got my rowing and shooting colours. We used to row on the Thames at Kew, and we had a shooting gallery in the basement of the school where we competed using .22 rifles. Clearly the evening musical activities were not consistent with a good university entrance so my next step in life was, like most other young men at that time, a spell of National Service, as it was called.

Two years in the RAF as a meteorological assistant during which I spent nearly a year on the island of Gan, in the Maldives. I hear people pay large sums to go there now. We couldn't get off the place quick enough. When you're on one square mile of island for a year you get to know all the fish by name..

*Following demob, I decided to resume my education, more seriously this time, and went to what was then Battersea College of Advanced Technology, later the basis for the University of Surrey, and got a **first class degree in Maths**, and at the same time was introduced to the wonder of computers, which were few and far between in those days. Indeed, to know what a computer was in those days was to be in the forefront of technology.*

Next came three years as an Instructor Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and a short spell in submarines - the old smelly diesel electric ones, not the nice new nuclear ones - and enjoying the social life of a serving officer for a while before leaving to seek a career in the world of computers where my interests really lay.

1964 to 1967 saw me in Scotland getting my introduction to commercial computers in the form IBM360 series with disc operating systems that was a step up from the valves and paper tape of the college machines. 1967 to 1977 were years as a "computer consultant" doing work for numerous Scottish companies on a truly freelance basis before the days of agencies and contractors.

For a change of work and scenery, I worked for Marconi Avionics at Borehamwood for a couple of years, mainly managing teams working on airborne radar systems. The employee life, however, was not for me and in 1979 I was again freelancing, now based in Hertfordshire, where work was more plentiful.

In 1986, I was working for an American software house, designing systems for local authority housing departments when they decided to quit the market and I was given the opportunity to take over their housing systems software together with the staff and contracts. This was my start of being an employer, with all its attendant problems but promise of greater rewards.

We built up a solid customer base, and had one of our big councils using our software for over 20 years to control their rents, housing repairs, waiting lists and housing benefits, a good source of work and revenue over the years.

It never ceased to surprise me the number of diverse things you could become an "expert" in while designing computer systems for them, where the only common factor was the computer.

I now live in retirement in Buckingham and, e-mails apart, try to keep as much distance between myself and computers as possible. I still row now and then, having a scull at Bedford Rowing Club, and took up the piano again (keyboards, these days) to play some big band jazz and some small group stuff with other old codgers. Life's pretty good really!



MERVYN THEAKER— SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr Mervyn Theaker for surmising his career history and interests.

Liverpool University 1957-60

BEng degree in mechanical engineering

Represented the university at rowing, swimming and water polo. Captain of university boat club

Rolls-Royce Aero Engines 1960-2000 based in Derby

Various assignments starting in design, specialising in controls and mechanisms, graduate training tutor, a term in the USA on joint military project, purchasing of controls and ending up as Purchase Contracts Manager. Most of an aero engine consists of bought in parts.

*Interests mainly sporting and mainly rowing with winning at Henley Royal Regatta and **representing GB at the World Championships**.*

Retired 2000—moved to Wargrave near Henley on Thames and currently a rowing member and also secretary of Henley Rowing Club. Also member Hennerton Golf Club, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Thames Traditional Boat Society.



MICHAEL WEARING—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr George Sims for surmising Mr Michael Wearing's career history.

*"Having obtained a degree in anthropology at Durham University and a career in theatre management, Michael Wearing was appointed **Head of Serials Drama at the BBC**. He was Executive Producer for many programmes including the highly acclaimed *Pride and Prejudice* and *Our Friends in the North*. On leaving the BBC he continued as a film producer and is still working."*



NORMAN WEBSTER—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr George Sims for reporting Mr Norman Webster's experiences post Owen's.

"On leaving school Norman Webster was accepted into the Civil Service working at the Admiralty and returned there following two years in the Navy for National Service. In 1964 he took the bold step of giving up the security of the Civil Service to go into insurance and set up his own business providing the full range of insurances to personal and corporate clients. He conducted a successful business for many years selling in 1998."



MALCOLM WHITE—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

Thanks to Mr Malcolm White for his perspective on education, his delayed degree and value of his own educational experience at Owen's.

"For the majority of current Owenians the standard approach of GCSE, A Level, University or College remains the obvious path to follow. Indeed, with recent government legislation many young people will be forced to follow this path whether they wish to or not."

In the 1950's I and a number of my compatriots decided to leave school after the 5th Form (now year 10, I believe) and make our own way into the labour market. Many of these have been extremely successful in their chosen careers."

As one of the rebels, having spent the war years in the country, I couldn't wait to leave London and spent two years working in agriculture with a view to taking a degree in farm management. I soon realised that even with that qualification it would be difficult to achieve my aim and upon returning to London was offered a work in a Remand Home dealing with the miscreants from the East End. It soon became obvious that many of these youngsters required help rather than punishment!

My work led me to train as a teacher at Worcester College where I met my wife and having qualified we decided to travel in the Far East, Australia (teaching in Victoria and Western Australia) and in New Zealand where we ran a Maori School near Whangarei.

We returned to the U.K. in the 70's to continue teaching but by this time we had four young children and found that our salaries were insufficient to bring up a family and decided to change tack and purchase a retail shop with a sub post office. This proved to be profitable and within a few years we were able to build up a group of similar shops based in London and Oxford.

With the businesses under management I was able to take a **degree in economics** and I also trained as a barrister. This led to getting involved in local politics and being asked to stand in the 1979 General Election. In the 1980's we were becoming increasingly concerned with the standard of education and took over an Independent School that we ran until our retirement in 2006.

Since then we have spent time in Myanmar (Burma) where we help to provide funds for an orphanage in Thanlyin. It is doubtful whether any of this chequered career would have been possible without initial guidance from those dedicated teachers at Owens in the 1950's and I remember many of them with grateful appreciation."

Thanks to Mr George Sims on behalf of his contemporaries below for giving us highlights of their careers.



BRIAN BENNETT—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

*"Obtained a **B.Sc** in chemistry at Queen Mary College and after initially working in the pharmaceutical industry moved to the Nuclear Physics Department of Imperial College."*



DR TONY BERG—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Obtained a PhD in electro-optics and high speed photography at Imperial College and lives in California."



COL STEWART GRANT—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Joined the Army having been an enthusiastic member of the HAC Cadet Force and became a Colonel in the Australian Army."



DR RONALD HARMAN—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Became a financial journalist writing for the Telegraph and Financial Times (intends to write article when health improves)."



ROY HEDLEY—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Became an Accountant"



JOHN LODGE—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Ran a substantial family business"



LEON MARKS—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Became a solicitor."



PAUL MEUNIER—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Ran a large taxi and courier firm in London but sadly died a few years ago."



GAVIN MARTIN—SCHOOL INTAKE 1950

"Joined the British Oxygen Company on leaving school and attained a senior position there."



DAME BERYL GREY DBE (Dame of the British Empire)—
part educated at and Governor of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School 1960-77

Dame Beryl Grey was also Patron of our Performing Arts Appeal in 2001, which led to the Edward Guinness Hall being built and our Drama building. As part of their fund raising, a recipe book was produced, as was mentioned in our last newsletter, and Dame Beryl Grey made this contribution!

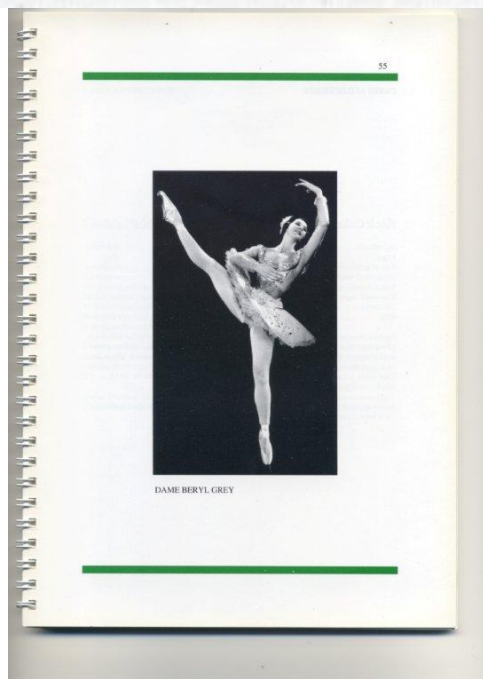
Alcohol Surprise

Ingredients:

½ pint of double cream
3 heaped tbsp ginger marmalade
4 fl ozs advocaat
3 tsp caster sugar
Gelatine (1 sachet or 1½ leaves)

Whip the cream (with the sugar) until firm. Fold in the advocaat and gelatine. Allow to set slightly before adding the ginger marmalade so that the marmalade is more evenly spread, rather than sinking to the bottom. Refrigerate to set until required. If using gelatine leaves, cut into small pieces and soak 3-5 minutes in 2 tablespoons of milk/half cream in a small bowl. Add a little cream and dissolve in a pan of water over a low/medium heat. Allow to cool and add to the mixture. I put the mixture to set into a pyrex basin which happens to fit exactly inside a silver rose bowl, looking beautiful to bring to table.

Recipe sent in by Dame Beryl Grey, DBE, patron. "This recipe was given to me by a friend and came from a country house in Kent. I served it, with great success, at a summer lunch party I gave for Dame Ninette de Valois and some of the founding members of the Royal Ballet in 1992. As well as being wonderfully easy to prepare, guessing its contents is an amusing source of conversation. It had no name, so we called it 'Alcohol Surprise'. I have served it many times since and it has proved very popular."



And finally....

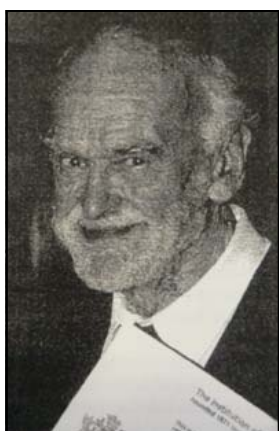
Once again thanks to our contributors, who will undoubtedly have moved and hopefully inspired you with their stories. If you would like to write an article for our next edition, please send to me by **Friday 9th March 2012** —all contributions extremely welcome—mail: 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Next year sees the **Queens Diamond Jubilee** (were you at school during her coronation perhaps, in 1953—what did we do to celebrate the occasion?) and the **Summer Olympics** returns to London in 2012 (were you at the Summer Olympics in 1948 when 59 nations took part—what was it like to be in London during the games then?).

One of our Sixth Form students, Jodie Williams, who joined us from Queenswood School in 2010, hopes to be involved in London 2012. Jodie is the World Junior 100m Champion and recently participated in the presentation to the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) in Monte Carlo, helping to secure the London bid for the 2017 World Athletics Championship. The Times reported on Monday 17th November, 2011, “For a young woman who has just turned 18, to stand in front of 26 power brokers and speak so eloquently was a triumph of maturity”.



2012 also celebrates **Alan Turing's Centenary, his Life and Work** (1912-1954), who is often



considered to be the “Father of Computer Science” and was key in deciphering the Enigma machine. It is interesting to note that Alan Turing OBE and our Old Owenian, Arnold Lynch BSc, MA, PhD, CEng, FIEE, (1914-2004), pictured here, both worked at Bletchley Park for the Government Code and Cypher School during the Second World War. Could it be possible that they knew each other?

Arnold Lynch, as an engineer, contributed to the building of Colossus, the world's first computer. Our Maths and Technology Building (photos right), completed in 2004, is named after Arnold Lynch, who worked for the Post Office Research Station from 1936 until his retirement in 1974.



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Can I also repeat a plea to put the date of next years Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon—**Monday 29th October, 2012**—in your diaries, which I certainly hope to make? On a personal note, apologies that a family holiday involving three generations on the island of Anglesey prevented me from attending this year. I will just tell you that apart from trying to persuade our teenagers NOT to win a goldfish at the Menai Bridge Funfair and failing, we rose well to the challenge of a week with mixed age groups (I'm sure some of you can empathise with this!) and had a great time. I will also just tell you, in case you're wondering, that our prize, Rodney, incredibly survived on a diet of breadcrumbs and flapjack in a kitchen mixing bowl for a week, endured a 4 hour car journey home in a large plastic drinks bottle and at last found safe haven in one of the teenagers homes (not mine, as our cats would have gone mad with delight!). So, anyway... I hope to make next year!

And, really finally, it just leaves me to wish you all a very happy Christmas season! I look forward to hearing from some of you in 2012 and thank you once again for your ongoing support.



Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer

P.S. Please help our 2012 Sixth Form Arrow team to break even on their magazine for the **first time** and pre-order your own copy of their exciting news—see page 5 for details! Any profits will go to charity.